

Miscoe Makes Upgrades

Looks Like a "Gas Station"

By: Jessica Powers and Lilly Rezek

Are you wondering about the new solar panels the school put up? If so, we have answers!

We interviewed Mrs. Meyer to know more about the solar panels. A solar panel is a panel

designed to absorb the sun's rays as a source of energy for generating electricity or heating. We asked her how much money we would save using solar panels. She replied, "\$100,000 a year!"

We also asked her what they are planning to do with the saved money. She said we can use the money to improve things in the district like curriculum, athletics, building repair, and programming. "We think the solar panels are a great addition to the school and it gives 100% electrical power to Miscoe and 98% to the other schools in the district!" said Mrs. Meyer.

Mrs. Meyer was told the panels would be finished before school started, but unfortunately they need to finish the wiring.

We agree with Mrs. Meyer that putting up the solar panels is a definite benefit all around.



Solar panels, new lights, and upgraded WiFi are a few of the school improvements. Photos by Gillan Campbell

Miscoe's Latest Upgrades

By: Kate Watchmaker

This summer, the light bulbs were replaced and Wifi was upgraded at Miscoe. Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Marshall knew that the Wifi was not up to speed, and the superintendent received approval from the school committee to make upgrades to both.

"It looked like a bowl of spaghetti!"

-Mr. Marshall

The upgrades took the whole summer! Mrs. Meyer stated that the light company that came in paid for all the light bulbs, saving thousands of dollars.

Mrs. Myer explains, "When the wifi was being used by more than half of the school, it would drop." During the upgrade, wires were everywhere! Mr. Marshall said, "It looked like a bowl of spaghetti!"

Mr. Marshall explained, "I knew at least a year ago the Wifi was going to be updated, but the school has certain goals. The way the goal is achieved is to go through a committee and they have to agree." It was definitely worth the effort!



Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Meyer are excited about all the upgrades and improvements done at Miscoe over the summer. Photo by Gillan Campbell

Home of the Braves

Contributing Staff

WRITERS:

Alyssa Rideout
Julia Brereton
Ella Calvey
Tyler Clare
Zach Condon
Gillan Campbell
Josie Delongchamp
Sarah Flynn
Kevin Galicki
Kate Julian
Astrid Lee
Ava Lozeau
Allie Martin
Jenna Meleedy
Delaney Mortimer
Carly O'Connell
Lauren Plumb
Jessica Powers
Megan Reilly
Dillon Reilly
Lilly Rezek
Naomi Singh
Cecelia Van Norman
Luke Venable
Kate Watchmaker
Olivia Webb

AD DESIGN:

Josephine Abongwa
Daniel FranSen
Casey McGowan
Lisa Wang

Advisors:

Karen Arnold
Jodi McGowan

Teacher Interviews

Mr. David Quinn

By: Naomi Singh

I interviewed Mr. David Quinn, who is the new Director of Technology Intergration for the Mendon-Upton Regional School District. He travels between four schools, Memorial Elementary, Clough Elementary, Miscoe Hill Middle School, and Nipmuc High School.

I asked him a few questions such as, what inspired him to do this job? "I used to be a teacher and I wanted to make my classes more interesting. I decided technology was a good way to do that," he replied.

Why did you decide to work here? "It was the job I decided really was a good fit. I heard good things about the students and teachers here."

What exactly is your job? "My job is to help teachers and students develop ways to use technology to make learning more interesting." What do you think of Miscoe? "I think Miscoe is fantastic." Mr. Quinn seems like a great teacher. We can count on him.

An Ordinary Editor

By: Alyssa Rideout & Olivia Webb

Have you ever wanted to contact an author? Mr. Rogers, a sixth grade teacher contacted an author named Daniel Kenney about grammatical errors he found in one of his books, he was reading off of Amazon.

How did you feel when he first replied to your email? "I was pleased," said Mr. Rogers. "When I first emailed him, I felt like I had to be careful. You don't know how someone's gonna react when you say, 'hey, look, there's something wrong with what you wrote.' Some people say, 'tell me what I need to fix,' but others might say, 'who do you think you are'? I had no idea what would happen. He ended up being thankful that I found the errors and was willing to listen."

When did you discover he sent you a set of books? "I got home and there were two boxes on my porch. I wondered where they came from. So, I called Amazon, we went through so much, but couldn't figure anything out. Later I got an email from Daniel asking if I got the books he sent me." The mystery was solved.

Mr. Paul Schwab

By: Jenna Meleedy

Meet one of Miscoe Hill's newest teachers, Mr. Paul Schwab! He is now the 7th and 8th grade technology teacher, taking over for Mrs. Wernig who has retired over the summer.

Hailing from Shrewsbury, he is a huge Star Wars, Guns N' Roses, James Taylor, and Patriots fan. Before Miscoe, he got his start as a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher in Leominster and Fitchburg. He became more interested in electronics and got the chance to teach a class called Research and Technology.

"That's where I began, and I really liked it. I got certified in technology and when this chance came up to teach it at Miscoe Hill, I thought it would be a good move from History," he said.

But before Miscoe, he reverted back to teaching history at Princeton, a school in the Wachusett District. He was the only teacher who received a one-to-one iPad classroom, or a room with a cart of iPads that students would share with each other during class.

He liked that Mendon-Upton has a good reputation for integrating and utilizing technology in our schools, especially with our iPad program. He looks optimistically towards the future of technology saying, "I think technology is something that can bring people together, and if we learn to use it appropriately and for good things, that it can actually make the world a better place."

I think I speak for us all when I say, welcome to Miscoe Mr. Schwab, may The Force be with you.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert

Wall of Nature

By: Josephine Delongchamp

Mrs. Lambert is a sixth grade Science and Social Studies teacher at Miscoe Hill Middle School. The Wall of Nature is a wall with things that Mrs. Lambert found out in nature and she displays them! She is a great influence. I had an interview with her and learned more about her Wall of Nature.

Mrs. Lambert's interest in Social studies started when she was a child, and she loved old things and the stories behind them. Mrs. Lambert stated, "It has taken me two whole years to collect all of my items, except for the porcupine quill. I've had that longer." Mrs. Lambert has a love for nature and wants it to rub off on her students. When she was just a kid in school, her favorite subject was Art but then it became Social Studies and Science. Mrs. Lambert has a love for these subjects, which inspired her Wall of Nature.

Visit The Miscoe Hill Website

Do you want to know about Miscoe Hill Middle School? Check out the Miscoe Hill website! Go to www.mursd.org to get all the answers!



MURSD
Calendar



Lunch
Menus



MURSD
Athletics



MURSD
Alumni



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Closings

Teacher Interviews

Mrs. Alice Gentili Beauty Around the School

By: Delaney Mortimer

Have you noticed the beautiful art around the school? Students and our art teachers work hard to fill the boring white walls with artwork by choosing from hundreds of pieces of student art to display. It must be hard

to choose only a few of them to put around the school. Mrs. Gentili, the 5th and 6th grade art teacher, said that she chooses based on students effort, what was learned, and what projects stand out. "I would rather put the art around the school rather than leaving it in a closet until it goes home," she says. Mrs. Gentili explains that she picks the artwork if the

student tries his or her hardest and does the best that they can do. "My favorite part of decorating the school is the color and the way it fills the blank white walls." She says that she loves to make the school a pretty place. So the next time you are in the hallway, take a look around you and see all the pretty creative art displays!

Mr. Jon Hansen Welcome to Legoland

By: Julia Brereton

By now, most of you probably have seen the artwork in the 5th grade hallway near Mr. Hansen's room. This isn't regular artwork though...this artwork is made out of legos!

During my interview with Mr. Hansen, he said he was inspired by a teacher he found online named Tricia Fuglestad, who created lego murals. Mr. Hansen wanted to apply for a MUEF grant and have "artwork on rotation in Miscoe" and lego murals were the perfect way to do that!

With the assistance from the 7th and 8th grade Art Club, Mr. Hansen created six murals. The colors of the legos vary from pink to black. Mr. Hansen has been hoping to include some female artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Annie Leibovitz, and Faith Ringgold. The two murals are artwork from two of the artists. Each mural contains 6,144 legos! Although, there was a quick calculator check to make sure.

Sadly, Mr. Hansen has never actually been to Legoland, but he sure wishes he had! Go check them out now!

One of the murals
in the process of
being created.



ATTENTION! PTO MEMBERS WANTED!

The Miscoe Hill PTO is looking for new members and general Members! Spots are open for the 2016-2017 Miscoe PTO. General membership is always available for 5\$. Meetings are one night a month so join us! Share ideas, tell your friends, and help continue make Miscoe great for our kids!





TREE LIGHTING

WHO: 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th chorus

WHAT: Christmas Caroling

WHEN: Friday December 2 at 6:30pm

WHERE: Founder's Park, Mendon MA

Come Celebrate The Season!



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Meet the Guidance Counselors



Ms. Ann Blackney

By: Megan Reilly

Miscoe has three guidance counselors who take care of all of us (which is more than 800 students). I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Blackney to interview her about her job.

Mrs. Blackney told me that she started at Miscoe last year as Mrs. Beauregard's intern and decided to come back this year and help Mrs. Allen with 5th and 6th grade for the beginning of the year. Sadly she has now left the school. Mrs. Blackney and everyone else who works in the guidance department needs help. Lucky for them, they have each other to help with certain problems, paper work and more. All though they work together a lot, they still have their individual responsibilities. I asked Mrs. Blackney what her most and least favorite part of her job is. "My favorite part of being a guidance counselor is getting to know the students. I really enjoy learning about each student's interests and being able to help them through their problems," she said.

The part Mrs. Blackney finds boring, like any other teacher, is paperwork. In conclusion Mrs. Blackney told me every day can be different in their room, like lunch with the students, meeting with parents, teachers and more. Every day is a new!

Mrs. Kathleen Allen

By: Katelyn Julian

After talking with Mrs. Allen I learned a lot about what it's like to be a guidance counselor. First I asked her, "What is your favorite part about being a guidance counselor?" Her response was, "I love talking with students in the spring, I love to meet the 4th graders that will be coming to Miscoe." I learned that she only works with grades 5 and 6.

If you are interested in the mentor/mentee program, it started last school year. There were about 70 pairs of students and if you are part of the program you can play games and go into the gym to play sports or games. The 7th and 8th graders help the 5th and 6th graders with academics and learning the ropes.

The last question I asked was, what is lunch bunch? Mrs. Allen explained, "Kids can come down to my room during lunch and can say what's on their mind or what's bothering them and play some games." So, if you need someone to talk to or just have some fun, go see Mrs. Allen in room 128.

Mrs. Victoria Beauregard

By: Tyler Clare

When I finished interviewing Mrs. Beauregard I came out of the office knowing more about her and counseling.

An interesting thing about Mrs. Beauregard is that when she was a kid, she wanted to be a lot of different things. When she was a little girl she wanted to be a dancer. When she was a little older she wanted to be a nurse (mostly because her mom and sister were nurses.) Mrs. Beauregard also wanted to be a cruise director, but she always loved helping people and kids feel better who were getting bullied.

I also thought this might be pretty cool to know about Mrs. Beauregard is that she was inspired to be a guidance counselor because she loves helping people and kids realize that not all problems in life are their fault. She loves helping children and parents with their problems and difficulties.

A very intriguing thing about Mrs. Beauregard is the different types of problems she is asked to solve. Some of the problems are how to get into different high schools, what activities people could join, what career choice people should consider and finally, a very common problem students have are problems at home.

Mrs. Beauregard likes and supports the iPads as a learning tool. She believes it helps students and makes them feel more grown-up or mature. But, Mrs. Beauregard still thinks it's important for people to have real-life experiences. Even just talking on the phone with your friends can be a little better.

This article has given me a new angle and view at counseling, and I hope it did for you too!





The Cross Country runners in action. Photo by Gillan Campbell

Cross Country Fever— Catch it!

By: Allie Martin

Cross country is really fun. It's a team sport, although runners don't pass any balls to each other. The team can be crazy sometimes, like giving each other piggyback rides around the track, or crossing the finish line like they are Superman.

It's awesome and everyone else thinks that, too. "I love hearing kids say how much they love being on the team," says Mrs. Pike, cross country coach. "I love helping kids love to run. I have loved to run since middle school and I want others to feel that way about running, too."

I, also, love running. I am in the fifth grade and on the middle school cross country team. It's hard at times because nearly everyone is older than me, but everybody shows team spirit and cheers for everybody else. The team members run together sometimes, and say, "good job," when they pass each other. It doesn't matter if they are slow or fast, everyone is important on the cross country team.

Sometimes you have a bad race and sometimes you do great. Sometimes you beat your friends, sometimes they beat you. No matter what, you are somebody, and you are awesome.

Miscoe Sports

Behind the Scenes of Basketball

By: Kevin Galicki

If you want to learn about the girls basketball team, then this is the place to be. I interviewed the girls' basketball coach, Mr. Rosenau. I asked him what it is like when you are the coach and how is it different from being fan watching the game. He said, "I think that when you are a fan you just want to see your team score but when you are the coach you need to think about situations in the game. If I try something in the first quarter and it does not work, I know that in the fourth quarter that it might work."

I also asked Coach Rosenau what are the rewards and the doubts about being a coach. "I love seeing how much the kids have grown and developed and seeing them play from the first practice to the last game. It is so rewarding how much they have grown and changed. I could talk so much more but I would take up this whole newspaper."

A huge thanks to Mr. Rosenau for making this whole thing possible.

Field Hockey— From a Coach's Perspective

By: Ella Calvey & Lauren Plumb

Do you want to know what it's like to be a coach? Our reporters asked Miscoe's 5th-6th grade gym teacher, Mr. McInnis about coaching. He has been coaching the sport of field hockey for five years. Although his favorite sport to coach is baseball/softball he is the varsity girls field hockey coach for Nipmuc High School.

The girls on his team have won 13 games with zero losses, which makes them undefeated. They also tied four times. On the team there are three captains; Jill Carey, Lea Peterson, and Rebecca Rausch. These girls not only have a big commitment to the varsity team but they also help out with Mrs. Hardcastle's girls town team.

But they're not the only ones doing more. Mr. McInnis is holding a field hockey after school enrichment class. He also teaches it in gym class.

If this seems like a sport you might want to play, here are some basic rules of the game:

1. On the stick there is a flat side and a rounded side you must only hit the ball with the flat side.
2. Never hit the ball higher than your knees.
3. Have fun!

Winter Concerts



Grade 5 winter concert: Tuesday, Jan 17

Grade 6 winter concert: Wednesday, Jan 18

Grade 7 winter concert: December, 13

Grade 8 winter concert: December, 14

Creative Writing at Miscoe

A Little Mystery...

By: Sarah Flynn

Thoughts swirled in Alice's head, she could not find out why these mysterious letters were being mailed to her! The letters were filled with strange symbols she could not identify. These letters started coming exactly one week ago and she was bound to find out what they meant.

On Monday morning Alice walked outside to walk her dog, Bella. As soon as she and Bella walked outside a man in all black caught her eye. She paused to wonder why he was at her mailbox and then it hit her, she called "Why are you here?" Once he heard her he ran, she chased after him as he ran around the street corner. She quickly tied Bella's leash to a tree. The man took another turn and ran into the woods. Alice was getting closer...

Sticks scraped them all over, they were both slowing down as their scrapes multiplied. The man fell and rolling down the rest of the hill. Alice caught up with him and started to question him. "What were you doing? Are you the one sending the letters?" He started answering her. She realized how odd it is that he has a ski mask on, it was 90 degrees. He pulled off his ski mask and she was overwhelmed, she recognized him...

You continue the story: Finish the story by submitting your conclusion in 75 words or less to Ms. Arnold at karnold@mursd.org. Submissions will be printed in the next issue!

Poetry Guess the Theme

By: Zach Condon

It quietly goes hunting
because it has no feet,
it doesn't go walking
but it can still find things to eat,
they can be colors from yellow to red
what's also interesting is that its skin it can shed,
if someone finds one in their pool
they might say eww or they might say cool,
it can be really thick
or be as thin as a stick.
What is it?

Haiku

By: Carly O'Connell

Thanksgiving is a
Very special holiday
Eat lots and give thanks.



Miserable

By: Luke Venable

Leo sat in the back seat of the family van. Rain dropped like rocks on the roof of the shiny black vehicle. The minivan pulled up at a rickety shack. There was nothing around.

Leo looked out the rear window, and seeing the rickety shack that was to be his new house he almost cried. Leo had known that moving from a crowded city like New York and going to an out of the way place in Texas would be tough. His parents had told him that they would have a nicer house with more room in the country, but looking at this house he doubted that that was true. Exiting the car he raced through the rain towards the door of the house. His parents ran up after him and his father tried the key he had been given to the door. The key went in fine but the door refused to budge. He tried again but with the same results.

Since the entire family was soaked
Leo's father did not heed
his request to try the

key again and went back to the car, Leo and his mother followed. It was late at night and getting dark so usually Leo's dad wouldn't have wanted to travel. But because they had not eaten dinner he agreed to go to the closest restaurant, a Burger King that was an hour away.

Leo, again in the back seat of the minivan, pulled out his journal, the only thing he had brought with him that wasn't in a moving van. He opened it to the last page, also the only page left. He wanted to put something really meaningful to him there. He wrote his traditional start to every entry, "Life..." And then he thought. He pressed his pen back to the paper and was about to write something when the car skidded to a halt.

Leo's dad opened the front door and lifted the hood. Leo scooted out of the car to see what his dad was looking at and groaned. There was something wrong. Since they were already only half a mile away from Burger King, they would call for someone to come pick them up there and a tow truck to bring the car to a

mechanic while they walked the rest of the way to Burger King through the rain.

When they reached Burger King it was only an hour before Leo would normally go to bed and they still had to get back home. So you can understand why Leo didn't really care if they ate or not anymore he just wanted to go home. Leo was so hungry that he ordered three burgers and his parents did the same. But when they left the restaurant Leo slipped and dropped all of the food on the floor.

They went back to the restaurant but it was closed. They arrived back at the house around midnight, after trudging the whole way home. They still couldn't get in the house, and the car was going to be at the mechanic for a day or two, so they had to sleep on the porch, though thankfully it had stopped raining about an hour ago. Leo pulled out his journal, which he had had in his pocket the entire time, and finished his sentence for the day and the final page of his journal. "Life is miserable."

Welcome to Middle School - A 5th Grade Perspective

By: Ava Lozeau

Middle School can be exciting and scary when you're new. I sat down with Hannah Laurence from Clough Elementary and Ava Smith from Memorial Elementary to get their perspectives about transitioning to middle school.

When asked if they were nervous to start middle school they had different answers. Hannah said, "Yes, because I was afraid of losing my best friends," while Ava said, "I was not nervous to start middle school because I have a lot of friends in my class."

Both girls feel they have more freedom in middle school than in elementary school. They also agreed Miscoe could be difficult to find their way around in the beginning. Hannah and Ava are both enjoying their new school. Hannah thinks her teachers "are amazing." Ava is "loving middle school because of all the nice friends and teachers."

I found out that Ava loves math and Hannah loves band. Both of the students have made many new friends. They both enjoy using their iPads because they find it easier to research information.

Hannah was most excited for Nature's Classroom and Ava was most excited about making more friends.

I had fun learning about their experiences and hope you did, too!

It's Showtime!

By: Cecelia Van Norman

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a director? I've wondered the same! So, I asked Mrs. Appleby, the Miscoe Hill School theatre director, about her past and what it takes to be a director.

Mrs. Appleby has a theatre minor and started directing in college at the Wheelock Family Theatre for about eight years. Then, she started working with costumes and helping the previous director of the Miscoe Hill Youth Theatre. After some budget cuts, Mrs. Appleby didn't want the program to die, so she volunteered to be the director.

Mrs. Appleby used to teach in a behavior program for the FLLAC Collaborative in Clinton, MA. She had four children, so she wanted a job closer to home. She applied, was interviewed, and was offered a job to be the school director all in the same week!

Mrs. Appleby loved putting on the play Cinderella. She said that all the kids were so excited to come see the show and meet Cinderella, and that many of them came dressed in their



The cast of Fame. Photo by Cecelia Van Norman

own princess and prince costumes. She also loved the part of the song where it says, "It's possible! . . . Impossible things are happening everyday!" She stated that both as a teacher and director, she gets to see things that seem impossible at first become possible for the students at Miscoe.

When I asked what it is like to cast the roles, Mrs. Appleby replied, "Casting is very hard. Normally, a few students just seem right for a particular part. Then comes the laborious task of shifting and re-shifting people around until I have a combination I think will work." She always feels badly when a good actor/actress isn't right for a larger part.

I asked Mrs. Appleby what advice she gives to kids who might want to audition in the future? She said, "Be

prepared! You need to do more than memorize a part. You need to convince me you are the part. I'm looking for students who are loud enough to be heard from the back of the theater. I'm looking for lots of expression in your voice. I'm looking for natural body movements to go along with the dialog. I'm looking for someone who shows a difference between the characters when they read multiple parts. I'm also looking for someone who is flexible and takes direction well. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and be a little crazy. Also I hope all the students who try out remember, there are no little parts in theater. Every play is made up of lots of people working together, and it takes everyone to make a great play!"

Miscoe Hill Youth Theatre Presents.....



FAME JR

WHEN: DECEMBER 9 AND 10

WHERE: MISCOE HILL AUDITORIUM

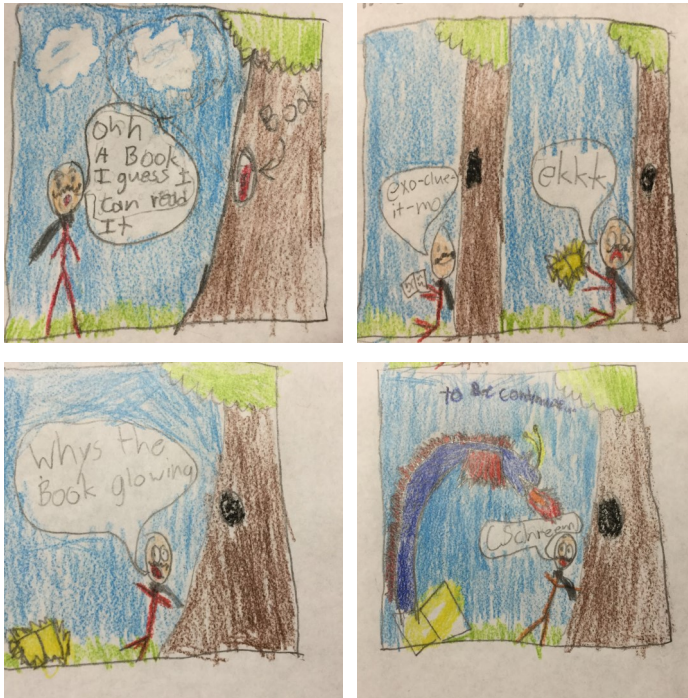
TIME: 7:00 pm

TICKETS: \$7 adults, \$5 kids & seniors



COMICS

By: Dillon Reilly



By: Astrid Lee



Home of The Braves

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

Printing: Thanks to the Mendon
and Upton Cultural
Councils and
Smartfish Group,
Waltham



Questions or comments?

Contact us!
karnold@mursd.org

Want to be part
of our staff?

An email will be sent with
information about our next
issue.

10-Minute Cakes

By: Gillan Campbell

The first in a series of 10-minute
cakes.

This cake takes a total of five minutes,
is gluten free... and it's also a mug
cake!

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup of hazelnut meal
2 tablespoons of Dutch cocoa powder
2 tablespoons of caster sugar (ground
up sugar)
1 1/2 tablespoons coconut oil at room
temperature
1 egg
1 tablespoon of milk
1 tablespoon of Nutella (optional)
powdered sugar to dust
Vanilla ice cream to serve with

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Combine the hazelnut meal,
cocoa powder and sugar in a medium
bowl. Add the coconut oil, egg and
milk. Mix until smooth. Spoon 3/4 of
the mixture into a microwave safe
mug. put your Nutella in. Cover with
your remaining mixture



Step 2: Microwave on high (on full
power, in most cases you don't have
to change a thing) for 1 minute.

Step 3: Serve sprinkled with the pow-
dered sugar and topped with your
vanilla ice cream. Take caution as the
cake is hot. You may need to add
more Nutella or ice cream according
to your preference.

Step 4: ENJOY

