



Purple Paw

April/May 2012



Justo Lamas Concert

By: Kali Oaks

On March 20th, eighth graders and ninth graders from the International Club took a trip to Homer Intermediate School to see the Latin-American singer Justo Lamas. Justo has a Spanish program set up for schools, where he emphasizes the idea that you can overcome any challenge life throws at you. He is an energetic person onstage. He definitely makes you want to sing and dance along with him while he performs. At his concerts, students have the chance to practice their Spanish pronunciation. Justo chose people from every school to be on stage with him. Jonny Phillips was chosen from our school. He asked them to try to say the name of one of his songs two times fast. "Te toca a ti, me toca a mi" was the name of the song. Jonny won, and he received a CD as a reward. He also saw if people could juggle a soccer ball. Ryan O'Neil was chosen for this task. Also, people got to dance with him onstage - Glenn Kenyon and Bronson Gagliano. You could tell that Justo enjoys what he does, and he got the audience involved. It was an awesome learning experience! Everyone I have talked to had a blast at his concert. "Te amo Justo!"



Relay for life

By: Carlotta Case

There is an annual fundraising event to help raise money to find a cure and to raise awareness for cancer; the event is called "Relay for Life." This group needs people to help, so invite your friends and family to join us. You don't need to be in the relay event itself. You can ask for donations and help us reach our goal of \$1,500. Yes, both teachers and students may attend the relay event. The Relay for Life team meets every Thursday after school in room 166. For more information please contact Mrs. Rhinehart in room 166.



The CHS Talent Show

Has been postponed!

The Talent Show has been postponed until further notice due to spring sports. If you wish to participate you should contact Mrs. Johnson and Mr. McSweeney.



"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March."

- Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*,

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, thus making it the most important Christian festival of the year. On the third day, Christ' tomb was empty, he arose, and people talked with him. Christians believe his resurrection means that they too will someday receive a new life after death.

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the Civil War, 1865.

Daisy and the Sweet Pea are the flowers of the month.

Washington inaugurated as the first President of the United States, 1789.

April cold with dropping rain
Willows and lilacs brings again,
The whistle of returning birds
And trumpet-lowing of the herds.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Easter

By Hannah Sidebottom

Easter is a very popular holiday which takes place on the second Sunday of April. This year it took place on April 8th.

Easter is the central feast in the Christian liturgical year, although not only Christians celebrate Easter. It marks the end of Lent, a forty day period of sacrifice and prayer. Easter is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the church year. The word "Easter's" origin is not certain but is most likely derived from Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. Another way Easter is interpreted is as a family holiday. In some families Easter is celebrated by coloring eggs as a family then the "Easter bunny" hides the eggs around the house for the kids to find. These are all very common Easter customs and were incorporated from springtime fertility. The eggs are a symbol of joy and celebration. Whereas the Christian's main celebration for Easter is the rising of Jesus Christ from the dead.

No matter how you celebrate, Easter is known to many as a family holiday.

Passover: Jewish festival of freedom

Passover, also known as Pesach, is the Jewish festival of freedom. It is held every spring to celebrate the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, where they had been Slaves, about 3200 years ago.

Passover is the eight day observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II.

A time of family gatherings and lavish meals called Seders, the story of Passover is retold through the reading of the *Haggadah*. With its special foods, songs, and customs, the Seder is the focal point of the Passover celebration.

Passover begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan. As the Jewish day begins at sundown the night before, for the year 2012, the first night of Passover was April 6th.

The Clique: A series

By: Kali Oaks

The Clique is a book series about Alphas. The Alphas are popular girls. When a new girl named Claire Lyons comes to town, and moves into Massie Block's guest house, trouble arises. The Pretty Committee rules Octavian Country Day School. It consists of Dylan Marvil, Kristin Gregory, Alicia Rivera, and most importantly Massie Block. Like the back of the book says, "The Clique: The only thing harder than getting in is staying in." Claire Lyons experiences this. Throughout all the books, she has problems with Massie. Even though Massie is supposed to be superior to Claire, Claire always seems to rise above her. Of course the girls are always worrying about boys, their status, and, well duh, their clothes! There is nothing more important to these girls than having the best outfit in school. They hate LBR's (Losers Beyond Repair.) Yeah, these girls are totally Alpha. I would recommend this book series to anyone. If you are thinking, "That's not my kind of book," that's okay. I didn't think it was my kind either, but now I can't put them down!

How Do Jr. High Students Feel about State Tests?

The past two weeks Jr. High Students have been tested and tested again by New York State. Here is how they felt about having two tests in a row, and what and how they felt about the tests themselves.

Many students were happy to get it out of the way, but they didn't like that it was back-to-back. They thought state testing was stupid and pointless.

One 7th grade student said, "I dislike it very much; having them back to back because it doesn't give us much time to study for both, but then again it gets it out of the way. I thought the English one was pretty easy – able to use common sense, but the math - not so much!"

Another 7th grade student said, "I didn't mind the ELA, but I DO NOT like having back-to-back state tests. I felt like the ELA had a lot of reading and writing, and I don't understand why that is so important and the math was hard."

An 8th grader said, "For the kids in Algebra R that are in 8th grade, the math test was way too easy. I don't think we should have to take it."

Student perception of the NYS tests is pretty clear!



EARTH DAY - April 22 What did you do this Earth Day?

April 22 marked the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Events all around the country took place this year on Sunday, April 22, 2012 – Earth Day. People chose ways to commit to protecting their environment and making it a better place to live.

A local event that took place was at Lime Hollow Nature Center. They invited the community to help come plant trees and clean trail ways. I challenge you to find ways to reduce your carbon footprint each day, not just on Earth Day. Let's make Earth a safe place to live way into the future.

If you have any comments or opinions that you would like to share send to srice@cortlandschools.org



Original One-Act Play Festival Reaches Teen Years

The Original Student-Written One-Act Play Festival has become "a teenager." When actors take the stage on Thursday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 5th they will be the thirteenth group to create, write, stage, and perform their original scripts. Cortland may be the only school in Central New York where this is done. Performances are at 7:00pm in the Auditorium with a matinee at 2:00pm on Saturday.

There are five plays this year: **THE WOLF** by Lizzie Maxwell; **THE DEAD AUTHORS** by Hannah Zhang; **WHAT COULD HAPPEN?** By Elyssa Gerchak; **DOES IT END?** A Musical by Molly Wagner and Rachel Pallassino; and a special advisor play **COMMITTEE WORK** by Mr. Bill Lee.

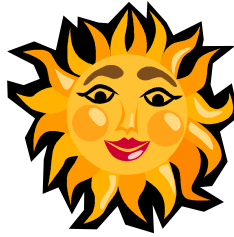
Brian Barnes, an eighth grader (and staff member of the Purple Paw) will perform in two plays.



Heat Wave

By Hannah Sidebottom

It was March and the temperatures reached all time highs! The weeks of the 12th and the 19th had the warmest days in years. Everyday a new record was broken! The highest temperature was 83 degrees F! That's about 30 degrees above normal! That's crazy! At school kids right away pulled out their shorts and put away their winter gear. Most kids loved the weather. The only downfall to the warm weather was for the kids that love skiing, snowboarding, and just the snow in general. The local ski resort in Virgil didn't get much business this winter because of the warm climate. They weren't able to produce any snow for the customers. Unfortunately for the people that loved the warm weather it quickly changed back to normal the week of the 26th. It dropped back down to the 40s and 50s where it usually is around this time. It was a wild month of March and who knows what April and May has in store for us.



End of April

By Phillis Levin

Under a cherry tree
I found a robin's egg,
broken, but not shattered.

I had been thinking of you,
and was kneeling in the grass
among fallen blossoms

When I saw it: a blue scrap,
a delicate toy, as light
as confetti

It didn't seem real,
but nature will do such
things
from time to time.

I looked inside:
it was glistening, hollow,
a perfect shell

Except for the missing
crown,
which made it possible
to look inside.

What had been there
is gone now
and lives in my heart

Where, periodically,
it opens up its wings,

Who's Room? By: Cassidy Halpin

- This person's room has many lab tables
- This person's room also has a connecting room between his/her room and another teacher.
- Another clue is that their computer is next to a big glass cabinet
- My last clue is that the room is located in the same hallway as the LMC!



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