

THE PURPLE PAW

MARCH 2011

Interview with Mr. Spring – Cortland Schools Superintendent

Cassidy Halpin

For the month of February students in Team 1 have been working on the “We are Cortland” project. The Tornado of Talent group had an interview with Superintendent Spring.

The group was made up of Ben Condit, Braden Jones, Devin Walker, Gabe Swindon, Charisse Farley, and Cassidy Halpin. They scheduled an interview during their English class. Mr. Spring kindly accepted their interview time. Mr. Lee took some pictures before, during and after the interview.

Some examples of questions they asked were under four topics, construction, personal, snow day, and education. Some examples are “How long until the turf field is finished?” and “What are the weather conditions for a snow day?” and “Are classes getting cut or added?” They also gave some great suggestions such as a tutoring center for students at lunch and study hall. Mr. Spring thought they were great ideas. The interview also included the students looking at a picture of the senior lounge and wind turbine plans.

The students felt the interview was fun and educational. However, if you don’t believe them or would like to know more, ask the Tornado of Talent group!



Team One’s “We Are Cortland” Project

Brian Barnes

The seventh graders on Team One have been researching on topics they have chosen pertaining to Cortland. For example, a time line, interviewing the police, and so many more ideas. During this period of time the students had to find information on their topic, outline how they were going to create the final project and discuss how they would present it to the class. After their projects were presented, the students learned much more than just boring old facts; they learned the history of the town that they live in today.

On March 10, 2011, the wait was over. The student’s projects were set and the tensions rose. A special guest from the *Cortland Standard* came to see the wonderful projects. They also wrote a great article on “We are Cortland.”

This project was created by Mr. Lee and from my prospective this project helped the students more than learn about Cortland. It was about taking responsibility, to take pride in their work, and most of all to be creative and have fun.

“Each leaf,
each blade of grass
envies for attention.
Even weeds
carry tiny blossoms
to astonish us.”
~Marianne Poloskey,
Sunday in Spring~



Stupefied Shirley by Muse



I AM NUMBER FOUR

Seamus Mulhern
TWO STARS

If you can picture an alien with random powers going to high-school, making friends with a UFO nerd and an annoying photographer, and fighting a weird Lindsay-Lohan- type creatures then you just saw this movie. *I Am Number Four* is a bad movie. Let me tell you why.

The film takes place in the (creatively titled) town of Paradise where an alien moves to escape the evil aliens who destroyed his planet. He goes to the local high-school where you're automatically weird if you don't play sports, become friends with a UFO freak, falls in love with an annoying photographer, and saves the day.

First off, I hated the performances. It's like they're reading their lines from signs. The film classifies teenagers as young adults who hate everything. The action sequences either have so many explosions that you can't see what's going on or no explosions at all. One more thing, Number Four's powers are incredibly random. He has all the general powers and weird lights that come from his hand. What's the theme?

Overall, this movie is terrible. I deplore *I Am Number Four*.

Wattpad: The Writers Corner

Are you creative? Do you like to write? Do you want people all over the world to read what you have to say and your ideas? If you do, have we got the website for you. Wattpad.com is a fun and easy way to post your own works whether it's creative writing to poems to whatever you want to write about. You can also read what other people write and comment on it. Two people on the "Purple Paw" have an account on [Wattpad](http://Wattpad.com). Their username is dictators101, and their story is called [Memoirs of Two Dictators](#). So go take a look at the site and at the stories.

The Catcher in the Rye

A novel by J.D. Salinger
Rosa Cleary

When I chose to read The Catcher in the Rye for an English assignment, I figured it would be your typical, boring, old classic novel. But the book turned out to be very different than I expected.

The protagonist is a misunderstood teenager named Holden Caulfield. He is perceived as some stupid rebel but is actually very deep and caring. He has just been kicked out of his boarding school for poor achievement. He cannot imagine his parents' reaction considering they have high standards and this has happened numerous times. During his last days at Pencey Prep, Holden gets fed up with the school and all the "phonies" in it. Since there are only a few days until holiday break, he decided to go to the city and "chill." But his stay in the city is far from relaxing. Holden gets into all kinds of trouble; going to bars and drinking, getting into fights, and staying at sketchy hotels. Finally he gets very depressed and misses his sister Phoebe who he absolutely adores. In the middle of the night he goes to visit her, almost gets caught by his parents and realizes that he can never face them again. Holden has always dreamed of running away, but can he really make it on his own, without his family and especially his beloved sister Phoebe?

The Catcher in the Rye was a very provocative and daring story for its time. Even though it was published in 1945, it feels very current. Teenagers could relate to Holden and his feelings of pressure, depression, rebellion, and being misunderstood. He acts like many teen-aged boys today by obsessing over girls and using profanity ever time he opens his mouth. I found that the story was very compelling. It is not difficult to read and very enjoyable. I would recommend this book to any young adult who wants a good reading experience.

Purple Paw is Back!!

The Purple Paw:

A paper of the students, for the students, and by the students of Cortland Junior High.

Then:

The junior high newspaper -The *Purple Paw* - was successfully revived by Mr. Winchell two years ago in an electronic-digital format and provided students with an outlet for ideas and creativity. It was well-designed and well-appreciated by readers. This year, Mr. Winchell's work and family obligations caused him to reexamine his priorities and he reluctantly had to give up the paper. He asked Mr. Lee and Mrs. Rice if they would 'take-over' the *Paw*.

Now:

The new advisors were not sure that they could obtain the quality of the online version that Mr. Winchell created so they opted to start with a paper 'paper' that would also be available on the website entitled: Purple Paw via the junior high website. They also wanted to give students as much control of the content as was possible and to see what readers wanted. So tell us what's on your mind? What do you want to read? We need your ideas, comments, questions, and support.

Staff Meetings: Wednesdays After School – 2:35-3:30pm - Room 169



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7th Grade Advice

Amanda Reyngoudt

Question: If you were to give advice to a 6th grader about 7th grade would you say it was easy or hard and why?

EASY

"I think that 7th grade is easy. If you do what you are supposed to do you should be fine. Just listen and keep up with your work and you might even find it enjoyable."

BAILEY WINDHOUSEN

HARD

"I think that the transition from 6th grade to 7th grade was hard because there's a lot more homework and the school is a lot different from elementary. You are also treated differently from your old school and the new school is bigger."

MICAYLA STANLY

My Advice on How to Have Fun This Year

Amanda Reyngoudt

Want to know how to survive school this year with almost NO embarrassing moments? Well as Greg's brother Rodrick from the movie *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* would say, "It's real simple: don't talk to anyone, don't look at anyone, don't go anywhere, don't sit down, don't raise your hand, don't go to the bathroom, don't get noticed, and don't choose the wrong locker."

Well, you could do that but school isn't supposed to be that boring. Think about how your day would be with the same thing every day happening over and over and over again.

You could have a lot more fun. You could try some new sports or join a club. You might meet new friends or discover a new talent you didn't know you had. My advice is to put yourself out there. Sit with new people at lunch; try band, orchestra or chorus or maybe a language that you thought you would never like. The possibilities are endless! You could make your junior high experience really great with awesome friends **or** you could take Rodrick's suggestion and practically sleep walk between classes. The choice is completely up to you. Junior high is our last time to be a kid, so make the most of it. Have the time of your life and have fun doing it.



German Class Crisis

Connor Beattie and Ezra Engst-Mansilla

There is something unfair and foolish going on at Cortland Jr. /Sr. School this year. Something that many will rebel against, and fight with all their power to stop.

The German program might get cut because of the budget of our school. As you might know there are not many people in the German 7 classes. There are only two classes, period 1, and period 3. The school is deciding to make cuts for next year. They are cutting classes that are not very popular, or don't seem to be popular. German, being one of those classes might get cut and that has made many people angry, like Maxwell O'Connell, Team 2, who said, "I want the German course to stay because the seventh graders who really like it will miss out on the great experience of going to a foreign country and exploring their culture firsthand."

Many seventh graders who chose German last year could end up having to take two years of a new language in one year. This would make it harder for these students to maintain a higher average in this course. We would like to protest against them taking away the German program.

THE LAST WORD

“Bully-Cide”

Have you ever been bullied? I have. It is the worst feeling in the world to know that someone thinks they are superior to you, and that they think they can control you.

I have been bullied ever since third grade, significantly this school year and last school year. Teachers and parents say it is best to tell an adult about the bullying situation. All of the times except for once, a teacher has been told about the situation I'm in, and I have gotten in trouble. This has happened to other people I know as well. People who bully stay on everyone's good side so that they will believe them and then the target gets in trouble. What is the point in teachers telling you to inform them about the situation, when you end up getting in trouble and the bullying keeps going on?

Bullying happens a lot. I was curious why people get bullied so I did some research. It happens to people who are lonely, do not fit in, and do not have many friends or people supporting them, like me. It happens to them because they are scared of the bully and they do not stand up for themselves. I know that I do this because I'm afraid that the bully will bully me even more. Anyway, bullying happens over and over again to kids for these reasons. Most people who get bullied, bottle it all up inside. For some people, they cannot take it. They become too miserable from not being able to express their feelings, and they kill themselves. This has become so common, that some people came up with the name 'bully-cide'.

If schools and other local areas do not take action now, this could start happening more and more. People will drop out of school, kill somebody else, or kill themselves. Worse things could also start developing. It all comes down to people need to know that everyone has a right to be different. Some people just do not understand that. Do you?

“One Nation under God”

Gianna Marks

“One nation under god, with liberty and justice for all,” millions of school age children recite this every morning. I believe the verse, “One nation under God,” should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. Why “One nation under God?” Why not Allah or Buddha or any other deity? I don't think that Christianity should be specifically promoted like this to young children. This phrase is also extremely unfair to atheists and people of other religions. This phrase has also created a lot of controversy about the Pledge.

The phrase, “One nation under God,” wasn't even included in the original Pledge of Allegiance when Francis Bellamy wrote it in 1892. It wasn't added until 1948 by attorney Louis Bowman.

Not only is this phrase unfair but it can also get people who refuse to recite it in trouble. For example, in one instance in Cortland High School, allegedly, an atheist refused to say the pledge because of this phrase. As a result she was given a referral and told to go to the office. It is extremely unfair that a student was punished because of her beliefs, especially because America is supposed to have freedom of religion.

The phrase, “One nation under God,” should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. It is unfair to other religions and promotes Christianity to young children, and until it is removed the Pledge will continue to cause controversy and arguments.

THE STAFF:

Reporters, Writers, & Editors

Brian Barnes, Connor Beattie, Rosa Cleary, Ezra Engst-Mansilla, Cassidy Halpin, Gianna Marks, Seamus Mulhern, MUSE, Katie Musci, and Amanda Reyngoudt

Advisors: Mrs. Stacy Rice and Mr. Bill Lee

Junior High Debate

Rosa Cleary

Should rewards be given to kids for good behavior in school?

NO. I don't think kids should have to get rewarded, because if they get rewards for doing good deeds than they would only do things for rewards. They would never learn to do them because it was the right thing to do.”

Alexis Burnham, 7th grade, Team 2

YES. I think kids should get rewards for good behavior because it gives them an incentive to work hard and act maturely. Things will get done faster in class and it makes it run much more smoothly for well behaved kids.”

Charisse Farley, 7th grade, Team 1

JUNIOR HIGH FRUSTRATION

Seamus Mulhern

While the brand new Senior Lounge sparks up hope for the high school juniors, the junior high students are left wondering what the heck happened. The juniors may be happy about this, but the junior high students are left with the old and plain cafeteria for the next four to five years. Say what you will about the junior high's frustrations, but their arguments truly bring up an interesting topic... where's the Junior High Lounge? Although the idea probably hasn't been considered by higher authorities, it is an idea that could happen in the next few years.

Although the idea does come with problems. For instance, how much will it cost? Two lounges are sure to be a price to pay big time for. Even if someone could pay for it, who would? Come to think of it, where would it go? Yes, it seems we may never get a Junior High Lounge (at least in my opinion). Well, congratulations to next year's seniors on the lounge. Unfortunately, to my fellow junior high students, the next four or five years are sure to be a long, long time.