

# INSIDE ALS



An A. L. Stanback Middle School Newspaper Staff Publication

Managing Editors – Michele Johnson, Susan DeBartolo & Joyce Gilbert

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## Hearing & Vision Exams

Linda Joseph, RN, BSPH,  
NCSN, School Nurse

During November and December, routine vision screening of the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade will take place. Only parents whose children need a referral for further testing, will be contacted with results. Please contact Linda Joseph, school nurse at (919)644-3200, extension 31065 or via email at [linda.joseph@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:linda.joseph@orange.k12.nc.us) if you have any questions or concerns or would prefer that your student not have a vision screening.

## HELP!

## A Plea for Proctors

We anticipate a need for parents to proctor our upcoming End of Grade tests in May. If you are willing to proctor EOG tests this year, please contact Ms. Breeze in the main office. We would truly appreciate your help in this matter as there will be about 40 proctors needed beyond the resources of ALS. You can also visit our district's Public Information page on our website to complete a volunteer request.

# Football Team Encourages School to Dress in Pink

*Students and Staff Demonstrate Support of Breast Cancer Awareness & Research*



Over half of the students and staff chose to wear pink as a show of support for breast cancer awareness.

## Uncommonly Pink Support

Jody Chamberlin,  
Cheerleading Coach & 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade social studies Instructor

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, thanks to a wonderful idea that the A L Stanback Middle School Football Team designed, much of the school was wearing pink. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead must have had this school in mind when she stated this. Even students who do not own pink came up with creative ways to show their support

for breast cancer research. Walking through the halls one could see people in complete pink outfits, people wearing pink socks, pink shirts, and even pink wrist bands. Students who did not have pink items made pink wrist bands out of duct tape, put pink ribbons on their shirts, and even painted and spray painted skin and hair to show their pink pride. Many if not all of the staff members had pink on in some form, whether it was a shirt, a wrist band, or a pink ribbon.

Statistics state that one in eight people are at risk for getting breast cancer. The football team encouraged students to go home and ask the women in their lives if they were aware of the statistics and to get a

mammogram. Then they encouraged everyone to wear pink to show support on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>. Together the faculty, staff, and students raised money during lunch. In one day, the school raised over one hundred dollars for the Susan G Komen fund.

Walking through the hallways, one could hear stories of people who have been affected by cancer. As a school, we took a picture of staff, students, and faculty wearing their pink and showing their support. To see that such a large part of our school made a commitment to simply wearing a color on a certain day shows that this small community of people could certainly change the world!

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Gloria Jones, Ed. D., Principal  
Craig Paul, Assistant Principal

Our first nine weeks have seen many successful events. This past Tuesday we hosted our Hispanic Parent Night which was very informative.

The School Improvement Plan has been updated and presented to the School Board with the help of many parents and staff members. Thank you to the parents on our School Improvement Team - Ali Braswell, Miranda Danku, Ashley Nissler, Teresa Edwards, and Roger Green. The staff members on the team were Beth Moss (chair), Katie Ward, Joyce Gilbert, Chris Tovell, Matthew Fry, Lori Clark, Rebecca Smith, Meredith Newlin, Mary Dunson, and Penny Flake.

Our sports teams are completing the fall seasons and we have had our first benchmark tests this week. The bands and chorus have performed very well in front of a packed auditorium. There are dozens of other exciting happenings that we hope you are aware of and able to participate in this year. Thank you to everyone for supporting our students and staff.

## Desde el Escritorio del Principal

Gloria Jones, Principal  
Craig Paul, Asistente del  
Principal

A medida que nos acercamos al final de las primeras nueve semanas hemos tenido muchos éxitos. El pasado martes fuimos anfitriones de la Noche de los padres hispanos que fue muy informativa.

Hemos presentado a la junta escolar nuestro Plan de Mejoramiento Escolar el cual fue actualizado con la ayuda

de muchos padres y miembros de nuestro personal. Gracias a los padres del grupo de Mejoramiento Escolar - Ali Braswell, Danku Miranda, Nissler Ashley, Teresa Edwards, y Roger Verde. A los maestros del equipo ellos son Bet Moss (presidente), Katie Ward, Joyce Gilbert, Chris Tovell, Mateo Fry, Lori Clark, Rebecca Smith, Meredith Newlin, Mary Dunson, y Penny Flake.

Nuestros equipos deportivos han casi terminado sus temporadas

de otoño y hemos tenido nuestras pruebas comparativas esta semana. Nuestra banda y nuestro coro han hecho unas muy buenas presentaciones frente a un auditorio lleno. Hay docenas de otros acontecimientos interesantes que esperamos que sean conscientes y capaces de participar en este año. Gracias a todos por su apoyo a nuestros estudiantes y a todo nuestro personal.

## Desde el

# NEWS



Wesley Poole and Terry Hackett came to talk to us about construction run off and how to keep the environment clean

## What is Earthwalk?

Kristie Mabry, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

ALS 7<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Earthwalk on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> in order to learn how to conserve and preserve nature and natural resources. Earthwalk has an almost 30 year tradition in Orange County and each speaker spends time talking about how we can use natural resources to make better/smarter decisions. Students rotated through six speakers' presentations in 25 minute intervals, breaking for lunch and encore classes.



Above: Jake Pressley talks to us about wildlife and fires. Below: Gail Hughes organizes Earthwalk...finds the speakers...and leads a learning station. At this station, students learned about run off. She had a model of a farm and surrounding area and she used cake sprinkles and chocolate powder to show us what happens when it rains.

# Earthwalk 2011

Alex A., Science 7 Student

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Earthwalk was a great experience for kids and adults. We listened to and interacted with speakers from Soil and Water Conservation, Sediment and Erosion, Piedmont Electric, Orange Recycling, Environmental Health and NC Forestry. Each speaker's focus was to pass on Eco tips for the future and to encourage us to take care of the earth.

Students learned about preserving trees and preventing fires. They were able to see how Orange County groundwater is cleaned using a Faircloth skimmer. Recycling tips were also shared along with facts about why recycling is now a mandatory law. Students were able to learn why it is important to plant trees and how that affects the runoff of water. They also learned about groundwater and how contamination can impact those with well water.

Ms. Hines and Mr. Berry from Piedmont Electric explained best ways to save energy and cautioned the students about our everyday use of electrical items to make sure students know how to avoid getting injured or accidentally shocked. They even showed an interactive example of what can happen if a power line falls.

Ms. Willeman from the Orange County Recycling Center came over and gave us the 411 on today's recycling methods and how to reuse things in an artistic way.

Ms. Hughes explained how everything we put on the ground will soon end up in our water. She demonstrated with a display using food items you can get around the house to represent certain environmental hazards.

The weather was beautiful and we had a great time talking with the presenters and appreciate this year's Earthwalk speakers:

- Gail Hughes and Lisa Pope from Orange County Soil and Water Conservation
- Muriel Willeman from Orange Recycling
- Sarah Fallin and Anne Clancy from Orange Animal Control
- Jake Pressely and Justin Bennett from The Forestry Department
- Terry Hackett and Wesley Poole from Planning Sediment and Erosion
- John Hines and Jay Berry from Piedmont Electric



Below: Hunberto watches a demonstration of how a Faircloth Skimmer works on construction sites.

## A Hillsborough Invention!

A Faircloth Skimmer, in use at right, is an inexpensive tool that filters out debris from water runoff. The skimmer floats on top of the storm drain and rises and falls and the area fills with filtered water. Runoff containing rubble from nearby construction sites pours into the skimmer and exits through the filter free of bits and pieces which would clog the storm drain and create sediment pollution in streams. This ingenious invention was created by Warren Faircloth right here in Hillsborough!



# NEWS



Decades of College Dreams

Melissa Ronches, AVID Instructor

This year, we introduced the AVID club to our Friday offering of clubs. Any student was invited to sign up for either the Fall or Spring semester section and we are pleased to welcome several new students to the AVID experience. So far, students have learned to write

Cornell notes, to organize their binders with sections for each subject and how to use a homework folder. Also, students are learning why their binders should remain neat. Students look forward to joining the AVID students on their college field trips. Finally, they have had the chance to practice their public speaking skills with an impromptu presentation where they had one minute to speak on a random topic, such as "A Day at the Zoo."

In the AVID elective class, students focused on developing

collaborative learning teams and building their AVID "family". Students decided on the group norms they should follow when working together, along with assigning responsibilities to each member of their team. These skills are routinely used during their weekly tutorial sessions and classroom projects, which have led to very successful learning experiences. One project, in particular, students were asked to research and create a flyer using Microsoft Publisher to highlight the cultural differences between Spanish speaking countries. Students realized that effective

## Peer Mediation Debut

Aviva Scully, Social Worker

We are excited to roll out our Peer Mediation program at A.L. Stanback. Will Dudenhausen, of the Dispute Settlement Center of Orange County, has trained 16 seventh and 16 eighth grade students to serve as peer mediators. Peer mediators

facilitate a positive meeting of the minds between fellow students in conflict. This model is a great way of equipping adolescents with appropriate communication skills and brainstorming potential outcomes that help them resolve conflict without administrative involvement. Skills learned through Peer Mediation are in accord with notions of accountability and responsibility and we welcome your support. We will be happy to answer any questions. Please contact Aviva Scully at 644-3200 ext 31067.

## A. L. Stanback's Giving, Again

Aviva Scully, Social Worker

The Holidays are just around the corner and our ALS Community will be sponsoring families in need with our annual Giving Tree and Food Drive. The Giving Tree will be up in the lobby before Thanksgiving. Please pick an ornament from the tree to sponsor a child in need and spread some Holiday cheer. Our Food Drive will begin after Thanksgiving and continue until Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be collecting both canned and

boxed food items, including, but not limited, to vegetables, pastas, cereal, peanut butter, jam, macaroni and cheese, fruit, tuna, soup, beans, and rice. All items will be collected through students' homerooms. Student Council members will also be helping with the Food Drive.

## Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) seeks your help!

We are excited to launch our School Wide Incentive Program as part of our PBIS Initiative. PBIS encourages our A. L. Stanback community to follow the expectations outlined in our PBIS "BARK" matrix. Our incentive program will reward students who demonstrate the components of "BARK" – Believe in Yourself; Actively Learn; Respect Self & Others and Keep Order. We are seeking help from staff, parents and community members in gathering prizes for rewards. Please contact Aviva Scully with any questions or suggestions at: 644-3200, ext 31067.

## Our Fall Sports Banquet

will be held on **November 8th, 2011.**

Cross country and Volleyball families should bring entrees. Soccer and Cheerleading members should bring side dishes. Football should bring drinks.

## Honor Roll and Recognition Assemblies

will be held on the following dates:

- 6th grade November 10th at 9 a.m.
- 7th grade November 21st at 9:00 a.m.
- 8th grade November 10th at 2:00p.m.

Please contact the school or visit our online calendar if you have questions about any information in this message.

# Perspectives on the New School Year

## Interviewing Sydney G.

Alexa P. and Brooke M.

Why did you try out for the team? "I gave up dancing so I could try something new."

How did you feel when you made the team? "Excited, really happy!!!"

What was the best thing about being on the team? "Hanging out with the other players and managers!!!"

Is there anything you could change about the fall season? "NO, it wasn't the perfect season, but it went well."

Are you going to try out for volleyball next season? "YES, YES, and YES!"

How did you feel playing those seconds of the last game? "There was a lot of pressure because it was the last game of the season. I REALLY wanted to win."

What are your plans for winter sports? "I am going to try out for cheerleading."

## Hannah's Viewpoint

Robin R., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

In clubs I sat down with Hannah, a new 6th grader at ALS, and talked to her about how she liking middle school.

Do you like middle school so far? Yes, I like my teachers, having a locker, and I like the club I'm in.

Who's your favorite teacher? Mr. Capps (social studies)

Are you going to try out for a sport next year? Yes, I'm going to try out for the volleyball team. I a manager this year.

Do you like middle school better than elementary school? Yes; there are more opportunities in, like sports and clubs.

Thanks for talking to me. I'm glad you like middle school so far.

## Another Perspective

Elizabeth S., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

I interviewed Jeshuron M.. Below are her responses to my questions.

Q: How do you like ALS so far?  
A: I like ALS so far because it's so different from elementary school, and there are vending machines that students can use.

Q: What are some of your expectations for this year based on what's happened so far?

A: Some of my expectations are that I'll make new friends, I'll have new teachers, I'll have new classes, and all of the local elementary schools come together, which means I'll meet new and different people.

Q: Who is your favorite teacher?  
A: My favorite teacher is Ms. Ronches, because she has celebrations, she teaches you how to study, she's really fun, and she makes up fun activities.

Q: What is your favorite subject? Why?

A: My favorite subject is math because it's my best subject, I get good grades in it and my teacher, Ms. Glascoe, likes to kid around.

Q: What would make you like ALS more than you do now?

A: I would like ALS more if the lockers were bigger.

Q: What are a few of your favorite things about ALS?

A: Some of my favorite things at ALS are pep rallies, fundraisers, and sporting events.

Q: Based on your sixth grade school year so far, what are some of your expectations for seventh and eighth grades?

A: My expectations are that we will get new teachers, new friends, new people, and new teams.

Q: What were your predictions about ALS?

A: My predictions about ALS were that we would get lockers, it would be a bigger school with more classes.

Q: What did you find was different between ALS and your predictions?

A: There aren't as many classes as I predicted, our lockers are smaller, and I didn't think we would get to sit with anyone on our team at lunch on Fridays; I thought we would always have to eat with our class.

## Ben R.'s Experience

Sydney G.

Q: what position do you play?

A: I play all position

Q: have you made any plays?

A: yes I have but one didn't count.

Q: how many days is practice?

A: 3 days not counting games.

Q: do you love to play soccer?

A: yes I love it!!

Q: what is your favorite position on the field?

A: I would have to say midfield.

Q: from 1 to 10 is winning important and why

A: I would have to say one because it is not all about winning its about having fun with your peers and friends on the team.

# NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Hockey Need I Say More?

Caitlin H. and Dillon I.

It's almost a compulsive need, a kind of fever that won't wear off. That need to hoist that thirty-five pound cup over your head screaming *I've won the Stanley Cup!* like a complete madman. It's almost addicting, so addicting that men everywhere will sacrifice everything to get it. They start very early on their journey to live their greatest fantasy.

Almost every child wants to be a sports star at one point in their life, but not all think about Hockey. Some children are fascinated by this sport, others not. Hockey can be a

full contact sport and that potential danger may draw some interested players away. It all depends on the interest. The daily life of a child hockey player is much different than that of a professional. Practice is still very important but not as rigorous. It is advised to always eat healthy when being involved in any competitive sport, this includes hockey.

Practices can be held anywhere from two times a week to six times a week. Game times depend on the organization and involvement of the team. In minor ice hockey there are seven main levels, Mini Mite ages between 5-6, Mite 7-8, Squirt 9-10, Peewee 11-12, Bantam 13-14, Midget Minor 16 and Under 15-16, and Midget Major 18 and Under 15-18. Many children join a team at the ages of 7-10 and play until High School and even College. Hockey needs devotion and time but like any sport practice and hard work can really pay off.

Cameron Hallee and Luke Hernandez, both sixth graders come from different areas of the country but yet they are brought together by hockey. They both play in the Peewee division for the Triangle SportsPlex's youth hockey team. They practice two times a week and travel all over the triangle playing other teams. Even though the practices are rigorous and tiring they love the game even more.

By the time kids who play hockey are about thirteen they are having serious thoughts of training for the pro's. Whether that be the AHL (American Hockey League) or the NHL (National Hockey League) they dedicate almost all of their time to training. Shooting cans hanging off of nets with tennis balls and going to training clinics near their area usually take up the younger kids time. Sidney Crosby, number eighty seven for the Pittsburgh Penguins, spent most of his time shooting balls into a dryer in his basement when he was a kid. After the initial ice addiction has set in, hockey becomes their life from then on.

## Mortana Boy

When I was born, every person in the room let out a groan of despair. I was born a male instead of the female everybody was hoping and praying for. Hoping and praying that my mother and father would be blessed with a tenth daughter of the tenth daughter and the tenth son, for its good luck and that daughter would have extraordinary powers rather than her other sisters.

It's very rare for this to happen, and when Da and Ma thought they were expecting a girl, they showered themselves in pink lacy things, even more excited than my nine older sisters. Wanting to name their new, power-excellent, girl, Gwhen Stephanie, my parents engraved and embroidered those initials on all her things. But when a boy was born, they quickly had to think up two names that started with the same letters. I ended up being named Gertrude Stepan, but I like to be called Gertie to save myself from being called a girl. But what I'm called by my nine older sisters hurts much more than being called a girl: Mortana Boy.

'Mortana' means 'heavily differed,' and my sister a year older than me, Anabelle, is the sister that calls me 'Mortana Boy' the most. And it's all for her own enjoyment. "Mortana Boy, go do the dishes!" "Mortana Boy, go find..." is all I hear every day. But being mortana isn't all that bad. I get my own room, and don't have to spend countless hours learning spells and how to wave a wand a certain way. This is my life... my life as Mortana Boy. "Gertie! Get your lazy butt up and get down here!" Da shouted from downstairs.

"I'm coming, I'm coming!" I shouted back, a hint of irritation in my voice. He has been calling me downstairs for the past five minutes! My sixth-eldest sister, Haileene was blocking my way out of my bedroom, laughing every time I grunted in frustration.

"Haileene! Let me through! You're going to get me in knee-deep trouble!" I yell.

"Mortana Boy, I already told you what you have to do to get by! Get down on both your knees and tie my shoes!" she laughed, emphasizing my horrible nickname.

"Your eighteen-years-old! Do it yourself!"

"Haven't Ma and Da told you? My back has been aching terribly and I cannot bend over without getting assistance to get up again. And you're the only one short enough around here to do it!"

"Bah! You frustrating bug!" But I bend over anyway, and tie her multi-colored shoe laces. "Hope your happy now. Do you want me to clothe you, also?"

Pulling her brown, blonde-streaked hair into a tight ponytail, Haileene grins. "No thank you. Already done."

"Ah, go on somewhere."

I run down the twenty-seven-step staircase, buttoning up my blue, red and white plaid shirt to the third-to-the-last button and licking my hand and running it through my red hair, making it perfectly messy. "Morning, Da. Morning, Ma. What's for breakfast?"

Already around the table, all my sisters sit in birth-order around the large oak-wood table: Anabelle, Rozzlyn, Samantha, Margret, Suzanne, Haileene, Collins, Charlotte, and Zoe, all a year older than the last. My parents wanted no more than ten girls, all having their own special power, whether it be fire or water.

"Nice to finally see you, Gertie. Have a seat and eat your toast."

But before I sit down, I brush my hand over the back and seat of the red-velvet chair. Finding no noise-makers or strings, I sit down, only

to be greeted by a sloppy glob of pink gum falling into the palm of my hand when I push my hands against the bottom of the table to move it ever so slightly.

"Anabelle!" I mumble. She starts to giggle along with Rozzlyn. But Collins comes to my defense. "Ah, will you guys leave him alone? It's bad enough Haileene made him tie her shoe."

"Yeah, because my back has been 'aching!' Can't believe you fell for that, Gertie!" Haileene giggled, her ponytail swishing side-to-side on her head.

"Haileene! That was just terrible!" Collins slaps her sister's leg. Haileene grinned with devilishness. "Thanks!"

I roll my eyes and bite into my buttered toast. How terrible my sisters are! Being mortana can be a big burden. Sometimes I think about asking them how would they feel if they were the only girl in their family if it were switched around. But it's against the law to speak like that, and by the rate my sisters treat me, I would be in jail the next day. If only...

"Well what does everybody have planned today?" Ma asks. "Going to Leena's house around three." Anabelle says.

"Going to clean and organize our room. So nobody come in while I'm in there." Rozzlyn warns.

"Me and Margret are going to practice our spells." Samantha says, throwing up her wand and catching it with flourish.

"Jason and I are going to movies around seven." Suzanne said, smiling.

"Going to sing at the Cherry Marching Band all day." said Haileene.

"Charlotte and I are going to the charity breakfast to pass out food." Collins said.

"Oh, um... I'm going to Teenea's



house to help her fix her radio." Zoe said.

"I hope you all have fun. What about you, Gertie?" Da says.

"Probably going out into the woods and read," I sigh. "Again."

"What book?" "I don't know. Probably one of the girls' third-level spell books. Collin's can I borrow yours?"

"Sure! Why third-level?" Collins asks, pulling it from her small brown purse. The book was spiral-bound and purple with gold embodiment. It was about the size of a large kitten and read 'Wizardry Third-Level' on the front in gold lettering.

"I have already read the first two levels." I reply, taking the book from her.

"Don't get in trouble, Gertie." Ma warns.

"I won't. I promise. Just might as well study them for the future." "But that's twelve years from now!"

"I don't care, Ma."

I walk out the front door, only to meet face-to-face with a black-cloaked man. "Hello, Gertrude." his low voice said.

By the time they're in high school they have college scouts looking for the next best center man, goalie, or whatever they may be lacking at the time. Chances are if they like the players skills the college will approach the player offering a scholarship much like any other sport. In some cases the really good players will be approached by one or more colleges. In that case they will turn to their dream college team, U-Maine, Michigan etc. From then on they will be watched skeptically by the professional leagues who will analyze their playing like a vulture. This is where the pressure begins to creep up on them.

If they are deemed worthy by whoever makes those decisions they will be put into the NHL draft for the next season or they could start with the AHL and play occasionally in the NHL whenever they call upon him in the team's time of need. Suddenly the pressure is kicked up tenfold for the player. Now that he is playing professionally the player has to constantly watch what he's eating, how much he's working out, how fast he can skate, if he can pass to the correct person, the list really goes on forever. If the player isn't watching these things his play can slip along with his job. His job depends on his performance.

Of course when he has control over this his team may or may not sky rocket right to the top, in this case though it does. His team continues to beat the other teams and their place is slowly rising. Pretty soon it's June and he's competing to win the Stanley Cup for his team. It's a long tiring battle with many close games and a scratchy beard that has long since grown out since the first game of the first round. Before he knows it it's game seven of the Stanley Cup finals and he's just dying to touch it. The crowd is excited and fans at home are on edge. He goes out there confident and comes out a champion. Living his dream never felt so good even if he had to sacrifice everything.