

NEW ELLENTON MIDDLE STEAM MAGNET SCHOOL



THE CLAWPRINT

~A MONTHLY STUDENT PUBLICATION~

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NEMS ADJUSTS TO PANDEMIC

By Zoey Hall

There are new cosmetic changes in the corridors and throughout the building at New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School.

On the front door of the school, there is a sign that reads, "Masks must be worn." Also at the front door, teachers greet students as they pass the threshold. Hand sanitizer is given to students upon their entry into the school. Students either go to the cafeteria for breakfast, or they go directly to their first period class.

On the corridor floors are large dotted arrows that are spaced 6 feet apart. The arrowed dots line each side of the hallway. They are a constant reminder to

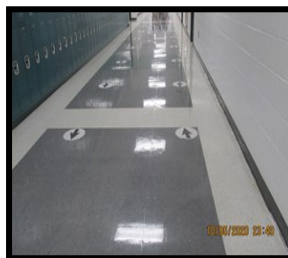
students to remain 6 feet apart and to walk on the right side of the hallway.

Other noticeable changes that are seen throughout the school include no locker or water fountain usage.

The original water fountains that require students to push a lever just to drink water are encased in plastic bags. Instead, there are touchless water fountains near the restrooms and in the cafeteria. Water bottles or nalgens are simply placed underneath the spouts and water trickles down into the containers.

Inside the classrooms, hand sanitizer stations have

SEE Pandemic on Page 3



Arrows line the sides of the



Hand sanitizer station near front



Cafeteria seats marked off

PANDEMIC REMINDERS:

- *Wear your mask in classroom and in corridors.*
- *Remember to social distance whenever and wherever possible.*
- *Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Sanitize your hands when entering all classrooms.*

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HYBRID STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

By Yiraisa Castillo and Madison Freund

For eight weeks some students have attended school two days a week— either on Mondays and Tuesdays or on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Those groups were known as Blue and Red Cohorts.

Beginning on October 26, the Red and Blue Cohorts have merged together to form a purple cohort. Class sizes that were as few as six students have increased to as many as 26

students in a classroom.

With COVID cases on the rise, some teachers and students have stressed their concerns about how to remain safe during the pandemic.

When students were asked their opinions about attending school more than 2 days a week, some of the students felt that the hallways would be too crowded and that social distancing would be difficult to do.

Despite how the students and staff may feel, the school has taken additional measures to keep everyone safe. Having touchless water fountains, limited number of students in the cafeteria, and requiring students sterilize their hands throughout the day are just a few ways that all are kept safe. Teachers sterilize students' desks and high touch areas throughout the day. Although COVID is present, instruction is almost back to normal.

NEMS BIDS MR. BATES FAREWELL

By Isabella Piccolino and

Josey Pierce

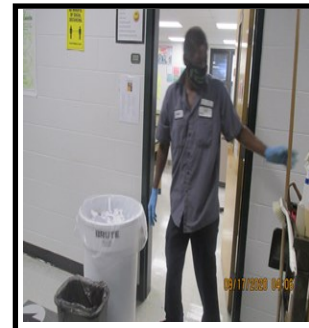
For 24 years there has been a friendly face greeting the students at 7:30 in the morning as they entered New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School. Before the students, staff, teachers, and administrators arrived at school, the building was well-lit, and ready to receive its daily occupants.

Corridors and classroom lights were on, with heating or air conditioning units running and waiting for students and staff

members. The friendly door greeter has been none other than Mr. Bates.

Mr. Bates has been a custodian at New Ellenton Middle for the past 24 years. The faculty, staff, and students will never forget how clean and lovely he has made the school. He says that the compliments about our school is something he will miss most about retiring. He kindly advises students and faculty to live their lives to the fullest.

Thank you, Mr. Bates, for all you have done for NEMS!



Mr. Bates conducting his afternoon duties in one of the classrooms.

SEE Bates Farewell on



Mr. Bates, 24-year custodian at NEMS

MEET OFFICER TUPER

By Da'Lawrence Jackson

During the 2019-2020 school year, New Ellenton Middle School had a new edition to its faculty and staff. Officer Joshua Tuper was added as the School Resource Officer. Before coming to New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School, he served as a police officer for six years. When asked what made him become a resource officer,

he responded, "I wanted to become a resource officer to help kids go down the right path instead of going down the wrong path."

At NEMS, Officer Tuper serves many roles. His first role is talking to students and teachers as well as making sure everything is safe and secure and make sure he does not see any types of crime while on school grounds. In addition to

making sure that everyone learns in a safe and orderly environment, he also finds time to provide entertainment to the sixth graders during lunch time. He has provided music to the students when they have to dine in the classrooms.

New Ellenton Middle appreciates the support and talents that he shares with the faculty and staff.



Officer Tuper

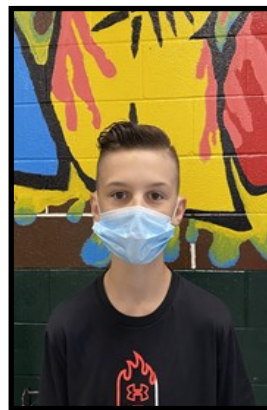
MEET THE OCTOBER ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



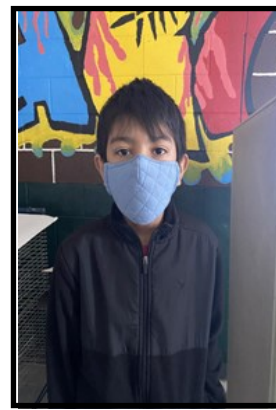
Nicholas Nunez



Umaymuh Muham-



Rain Gardiner



Uriel Soriano-

PANDEMIC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

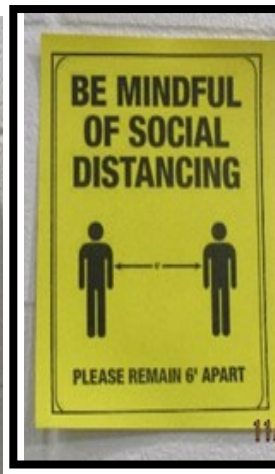
been installed. There are multiple measures that are being conducted to keep the students safe from COVID-19.



The water fountains covered in plastic.



Flyer about washing hands posted in restrooms.



Social distancing poster in hallways



Poster encouraging proper sanitation and social

ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSES SAFETY MEASURES

By Katie Kirk

Running a school during a pandemic is no easy task. The administrators, teachers, and staff at New Ellenton Middle School have had the task of planning and preparing for a challenging school year. According to Mr. Kyle Blankenship, assistant principal, many safety measures have been put into place.

"At New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School, we have been following the Center for Disease Control guidelines by social distancing our

students and staff, wearing masks throughout the school day, and we are making sure that everyone is sanitizing their hands regularly.

There are arrows on the floors of our hallways. They are there to direct students which side they should be on to make sure that we social distance in the halls just as well as everywhere else."

Despite the restrictions that the corona virus has imposed on social and athletic activities, NEMS has many safety measures in place to ensure the safety of its athletes.

"This year has been harder to keep our activities and clubs available. If anyone were to have symptoms of coronavirus or has been in contact with anyone who has a confirmed case, then they would be expected to go home and quarantine."

With all these measures in place, the administrators are certain that the school is a safe learning environment.

WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL GUIDELINES BY SOCIAL DISTANCING OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, WEARING MASKS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY, AND WE ARE MAKING SURE THAT EVERYONE IS SANITIZING THEIR HANDS REGULARLY.
~MR. BLANKENSHIP

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH — PINK OUT

In October Halloween is not the only thing to talk about. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Here are some facts that individuals, both male and female should know about breast cancer. First, males can get the disease the same as a female. Breast cancer does not discriminate.

According to the American Cancer Society, men are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer in their 70's. Doctors do not know what causes the disease in men, but doctors have found that genetics and aging play a part in this.

On October 29, the New Ellenton Middle student council and the entire school wore pink in recognition of

Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



LIBRARY NEWS — HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

By **Katie Kirk and**

Josey Pierce

Hispanic Heritage Month — From September 15 to October 15, the NEMS Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month.

There was a display of books celebrating Hispanic Heritage available for checkout in the library as well as an online collection available through Schoology.

Students were encouraged to participate in the “Hispanic Heritage Flags and

Independence Day” worksheet for their chance to win a prize.

The flags of countries celebrated during Hispanic Heritage Month were featured on the library doors and students had to guess which flag belonged to which country.

Students were also asked to figure out the Independence Day for each Hispanic country represented.



Library door decorated with various flags



Hispanic book display

UPCOMING NEMS BAND EVENTS

By **Silver Hamic**

The NEMS band will be performing this year! Although the students have to stay six-feet apart and cannot have live audiences, the band has figured out a way to record the performances virtually. They will be shared with their audiences.

The band just recorded a performance for New El-lenton Middle School's first Pep Rally, and it will be shared soon.

Currently, the band is working on music for Veterans' Day, and they will give some kind of performance for the Winter Night of the Arts.

Although Mrs. Berley, the band director, has not made the decision if it will be in person or virtual. The band performances can be found on the school's website and will also be shown during the morning news!



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS COMPETITION

By **Katie Kirk and**

Josey Pierce

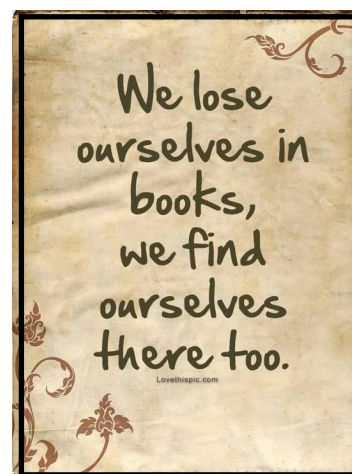
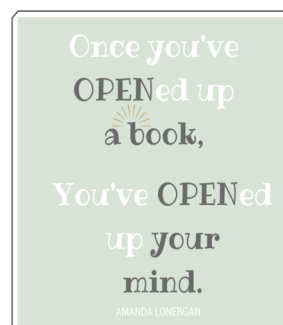
The NEMS Library kicked off the 2020-2021 season of Battle of the Books in September. Several students signed up and discussion groups started in October.

There are 10 books on the Battle of the Books reading

list, which is pulled from the South Carolina Book Award Nominees list. Participating students are asked to read at least 7 of the 10 books in order to participate in the school battle.

The winning team will go on to the district Battle of the Books competition, facing off against other Aiken County

middle schools. This will occur sometime in spring 2021.



LIBRARY NEWS — SOUTH CAROLINA BOOK AWARD NOMINEES

By **Katie Kirk and**

Josey Pierce

Every year the NEMS Library promotes several of the titles on the SC Book Awards list. Our focus is on the books from the Junior Book Award List, which is where the books are chosen for the Battle of the Books competition.

Due to the wide range of reading levels at NEMS, Ms. Glessner, the librarian,

will purchase titles from the Children's Book Award List as well as the Young Adult Book Award List.

The following books are in the media center and available for checkout. Explore the various diverse titles and get lost in a good book!

- The Benefits of Being an Octopus
- Deep Water
- Ending: The Last
- Every Shiny Thing
- Everything Else in the Universe
- Front Desk
- Genesis Begins Again
- A Good Kind of Trouble
- Harbor Me
- I Am Still Alive
- The Jigsaw Jungle
- Lifeboat 12
- The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl
- The Night Diary
- Not If I Save You First
- Shouting at the Rain
- Small Spaces
- Amal Unbound
- Betty Before X
- Blended
- Caterpillar Summer

OCTOBER LIBRARY PROMOTIONS

By **Katie Kirk and**

Josey Pierce

The NEMS library had two October promotions. The library was promoting scary books throughout the entire month. Students were encouraged to read them and then take a Reading Counts quiz.

The other promotion was the "Two" Scary Chilling Challenge. Students were asked to write the scariest story they could, but they had to compose the story in only 2 sentences.

Students were instructed to submit them online using the link on the NEMS

library webpage, or they could handwrite their stories and give them to Ms. Glessner in the library.

The deadline for all stories was Friday, October 23rd. NEMS students and staff voted on the scariest story October 29.



COCA-COLA REWARDS WANTED

By **Katie Kirk and**

Josey Pierce

The NEMS Library is collecting Coca-Cola Rewards from all students and staff. Coke Rewards are usually found on the cap of a drink or the cardboard of the box.

The library staff inputs

the codes and can get money for the library to purchase new books, as well as materials for the take home fun activity kits.

The past month, the library staff entered in 9,645 bottle caps! As more students bring them in, the library will begin their

weekly drawing where students have a chance to win.



Introducing Zenspire Art

By Madison Freund
and Kirsten Freeman

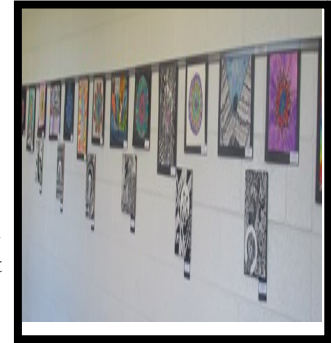
The Art Department is bustling with much excitement this year! In sixth grade art Dr. Fontanez, the art teacher, taught her classes about the elements and principles of art.

Students had to create a *Zenspire* design with sharpies and watercolor paints.

The prefix Zen means calming, so the artists had to create a calming art piece that applies to them.

When asked about her artwork, Alaina Felkel stated that she feels like she could have done better by making some of her areas darker in her Zenspire. Meanwhile, Umaymah Muhmmmed replied, "I could have added a little more details to my artwork."

The sixth grade art students said that they feel as though Dr. Fontanez taught the Zenspire design very well. When they did not understand what to do, Dr. Fontanez was highly organized. The art students said they enjoyed doing this and cannot wait to do more.



FEATURING MANDALA ART

By Madison Freund

In seventh grade art the students' goal was to create a Mandala art piece using the elements and principles of design. Students had to use the media of pencil and watercolor.

A Mandala art design is a group of designs that can be interpreted as being dreamy.

A mandala style of art is used in many cultures and religions around the world.

Finally, in Art 1 the eighth graders had to get a better understanding of the principles and elements of art just like the other grades. They had to create a Zen tangle. This is a form of doodling that has patterns and tangles.

The Art 1 students had to use paint for their project.

These creative works of art decorate the walls along the entrance of the school.



THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

By Bailey Lancaster and Emma Riede

As you probably know, modern day Halloween celebrates costumes and trick or treating. The nationwide celebration is one of the most popular holidays. But how did

Halloween start?

Halloween used to be known as *All Hallows Eve*, a day that celebrated Samhain, the first day of winter. The ancient Celts celebrated this by dressing up in costumes and lighting fires to ward away ghosts.

The day starts on October 31st and ends on November 1st. This is one little known fact about the background of Halloween!



2020 Volleyball Pictorial Highlights

By Da'Lawrence Jackson

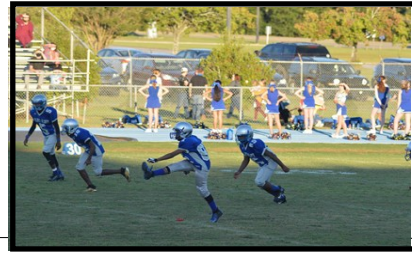
Despite the pandemic that has caused sports events to have limited attendees, the NEMS volleyball team has performed before sell-out crowds. In pictures are some highlights from the volleyball games.



2020 FOOTBALL PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Da'Lawrence Jackson

Enjoy some of the picture highlights from the football games. Congratulations to our Bullpups and cheerleaders for a good season.



Volleyball Team

Madisun Brown
Ja'Mea Chavous
Jayce Foster
Shailyn Glover
Allie Harm
Jordan Hodges
MyKalah Kirkbride
Brianna Ogle
Ashanti Pulido-Herrera
Emma Stone
Olivia Stone
Aaliyah Washington

Cheer Team

Aaliyah Washington
Keyton Washington
Trinity Wilson
Shailyn Glover
Sarah Gentry
Madison Brown
Ja'Mea Chavous
Breanna Sullivan
Ariel Timble

Football

Team

Quarran Anderson
Ridarius Blocker
Tristan Butler
Garris Chambers
Zachary Dicks
Khamijae Flowers
AJ Fontanez

Hayden McMillian
SaVion Miller
Mason Moore
Daryl Smith
Khalil Taylor
Jordan Williams
Zykee Williams



The Clawprint Staff

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**"JOURNALISM IS
THE FIRST ROUGH
DRAFT OF HISTORY."**

- Philip L. Graham
Co-Owner of The Washington Post

The CLAWPRINT is a student publication. The newspaper articles are written by the students and edited by the student editors and the faculty advisor. The students interview students, faculty, and staff, draft the articles, and take the photographs.

Two Sentence Scary, Chilling Story

Winner ~ Marlee Utter

Congratulations!!

I can hear his footsteps, and I can see his shadow creeping up behind me. I can feel his eyes staring at me from the shadows.

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MR. BATES — NEMS FAREWELL CELEBRATION

The New Ellenton Middle faculty and staff bid farewell to Mr. Bates at a school-wide celebration. The faculty all spoke words of encouragement and how they will miss Mr. Bates' helpfulness during the day.



Mrs. Dugar and Mrs. Matthews express kind words to Mr. Bates



Farewell cake congratulating Mr. Bates on his retirement



Faculty and staff express their farewells to Mr. Bates