

Sleepy Hollow Middle School

The Horsemen Herald

Local News

School Clubs

-Dashley R.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Math Club

Math Club is open. Math Club is run by none other than the hilarious and cool, 6th grade math teacher, Mr. Large. This club takes place every Thursday in room 306S. Don't be intimidated to come; it's fun!

Math Club is a wonderful way to learn new math skills. You'll have fun while learning to enhance your math skills! Math Club is a great way to challenge yourself. Mr. Large is a fantastic teacher. Believe me, you can really learn in there! All in all, this is an awesome club to join.

Pennies for Patients

Aracely P.

Over the years cancer survivors have increased dramatically.. Not everyone can afford all the treatments and therapy that is needed for their child. That is why The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has created Pennies for Patients. It's an organization that involves schools that are in your local area. With the help of the student council at Sleepy Hollow Middle School, we have made a difference in the lives of many individuals living with cancer. As a school, we raised over three thousand dollars.

Students collected spare change to help anyone who has blood cancer. The whole experience was a three week process. Throughout the 14 years that this experience has been happening, Pennies for Patients has

Environmental Action Club

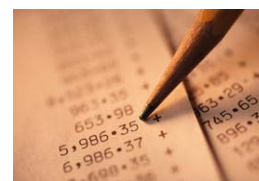
Guess what? Environmental Action Club is open! Environmental Actions Club (E.A.C.) is run by 7th grade science teacher, Mr. Garguilo and 7th grade English teacher, Mrs. Linteau. This club meets every other Thursday from 3:00-4:00 in room 203S. Come and join! It's awesome!

E.A.C. is a great way to get involved! This club not only helps provide more ideas to being green, but provides fun experiences for students. Mr. Garguilo and Mrs. Linteau are amazing teachers and they sure can come up with some awesome ideas. Believe me, if you join E.A.C., you'll love it, and surely won't regret it. All in all, if you're looking for a club to be a part of and want to have a wonderful time, I believe you've found your opening!

been able to raise over \$100 million. In the 1980's only a small portion of people have been able to survive blood cancer. Now, 30 years later, that small portion is the amount who does not survive.

This organization is in many of our local areas. All you have to do is go to Leukemia & Lymphoma's website and type in your zip code and it can give you information all about your area. Each year, 12 million students in the Westchester County/Hudson Valley have participated in Pennies for Patients and now SHMS has joined the ranks as well.

Pennies for Patients has helped several patients who have been diagnosed with blood cancer. Congratulations, SHMS for donating to such a worthy cause!



Special Interest Articles:

- *Check out our local, national, and international sections!*
- *Read the highlights about our school and community*
- *See what's going on around the word!*

Individual Highlights:

Movie Review – 2

National News – 3

Technology News – 4

Pop Culture – 5

International News – 6

International News, cont'd. – 8

Petsalive

By Alex



Man's best friend has a whole new sanctuary, cats are making a comeback and all animals in Westchester are finding new homes thanks to the best animal shelter in the county.

Petsalive Westchester is one of the Petsalive shelters in Elmsford and Middletown. They only do one thing, help animals in need of homes or a better life. Located just behind Sam's Club it isn't too far away. Their motto says it all: "We pledge to always provide a comfortable, safe haven to all those creatures who find their way to us through abandonment, injury or mistreatment. No matter the health or age, for all these lost, confused, and frightened souls, we pledge to always provide loving care and sustenance, to acquaint those who have only known misfortune with the joys of cultivating new relationships. We believe in the right of all creatures to live secure, healthy lives and work tirelessly in our attempts to make this so." They have 275 or so dogs and 400 cats/kittens and occasionally guinea pigs and rabbits. This law applies for every single animal at this wonderful animal safe haven.

When you walk through the front doors, you see only a few things: a desk with dogs wandering around and three giant windows. The receptionist is extremely nice. All the dogs wandering around her

Movie Review

Review of *Whale Rider*

Viewed at the Jacob Burns Film Center

The film's plot follows the story of Paikea Apirana, or Pai for short, a 12-year-old girl who is the only living child in the lineage of her tribe's Chief following the death of her twin brother and mother when she was born. By tradition, the leader should be the first-born son—a direct patriarchal descendent of Paikea, the *Whale Rider*—*he who rode atop a whale from Hawaiki*. However, Pai is female and she cannot inherit the leadership.

Pai's grandfather, Koro Apirana, or "Old Paka" as his wife calls him, is the leader of the tribe. He is initially angry at losing his grandson and being left with a "worthless" female. While he does later form an affectionate bond with his

granddaughter, carrying her to school everyday on his bicycle, he also blames her for many of the troubles facing the tribe. At one point, Paikea decides to leave with her father because her grandfather is mistreating her. However, she finds that she cannot bear to leave the sea as the whale seems to be calling her back. Pai's father refuses to assume traditional leadership; instead, he moves to Germany to pursue a career as an artist. Pai is interested in the leadership, so she learns traditional songs and dances, but she is given little encouragement by her grandfather. Pai feels she can become the leader, although there is no precedent set for a woman to do so. In the end, Pai is determined to succeed.

Overall, the film is captivating both visually and in meaning. The characters are believable and the message is clear: don't give up on your dreams. Catch this film if you can!

"The money raised will be used for the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC."

The School Store

The School Store
-Danny M.

Have you forgotten your pencil case again? Did you run out of paper in your binder? No need to fear, the school store is here.

Located in the 8th Grade wing, the school store is a great place to get any school-based products you could possibly need.

Although the store is small, there is a broad based range of products on sale including healthy snacks, drinks, school supplies, locker accessories, and many more useful items. Even better, these items are on sale for remarkably low prices ranging from \$0.10 to \$2.00. You can't get better prices anywhere else.

The top selling items are Spike pens and the lowest selling item is filler paper.

You may be wondering where the idea for a store came from. The creators of the store decided that it was an effective way to raise money for school programs. The money raised will be used for the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC. The store hours are 8:00-8:15 a.m. and 3:00-3:15 p.m.

The staff of the store has many exciting thoughts about the future of the store. The staff is planning on selling items such as apparel and various school spirit based products. They also plan to eventually involve more students with the management of the store.

The next time you need that loose leaf paper you forgot or a new pen, come to the school store!

National News

Tornadoes in Tuscaloosa

By Julia S.

Imagine sitting in your living room peacefully one afternoon, and the next minute having everything that was there gone. On Wednesday, April 27th, 2011 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama a series of devastating tornados hit. This was an event that changed people's lives for not only those who were involved, but also for people in the rest of the world. With hundreds of houses and buildings devastated, lives lost, and given the probability that such events will occur again, the future of the world will greatly change. The series of tornadoes in Tuscaloosa was clearly a very important event to everyone.

The tornadoes in Tuscaloosa had a huge impact and significance to Alabama. On that day, many houses, buildings and other objects were swept away and were devastated as tornados tore through. With record winds and powerful forces, the town of Tuscaloosa took a big hit. In *Tuscaloosa News*, a restaurant owner said, "We saw [the tornado] spinning across the street. The next thing you know the building was crumbling down all around us. Then we just climbed out of the rubble..." (pg. 1). This shows how the tornadoes came and destroyed a huge portion of the city. This tornado has a huge significance to the state of Alabama and will require a lot of work to restore the homes and businesses.

The tornado in Tuscaloosa greatly impacted the individuals involved. Hundreds of people lost their homes and possessions. It is going to take years to fix what the tornado has done to these people, and many people's lives have been altered and changed because of this it. The *Tuscaloosa News* says, "Some people were walking through the wreckage, trying to reach people on cell phones, but service was out. A lot of people were crying, rushing toward businesses to look for people" (pg. 2). This quotation shows

how people don't just have to now worry about their homes and possessions, but their family members and keeping safe as well. Many lives were lost. Those who lived through the tornados will never be the same. Even weeks later, people are still realizing all of the devastation. Clearly, this tornado will impact the lives of the individuals involved in the tornado.

This tornado will not only impact Alabama and the individuals who live there but today's overall society and the future as well. With the lives that were lost and with the hundreds of neighborhoods and streets destroyed, this natural disaster has reminded all of us that nature is very powerful. Our society will have to deal with not only figuring out how to recover and rebuild so many lost buildings and homes, but also will have to learn what to do when these disasters hit again. The people in today's society and in the future must continue developing new techniques and strategies to reduce the amount of disaster in Tuscaloosa for other tornadoes that will come. It has also showed how people must be there for one another in times of crisis. In an *ABC News* article, Emergency Manager, August says, "We are opening shelters throughout the state to make sure folks who have nowhere to go tonight will have somewhere to go out of the weather."⁽¹⁾ This quotation shows that with all of the damage caused by the tornado, everyone in the world must help by donating their time, energy and resources as well as by giving the victims hope. Clearly, the world and everyone in it has been impacted by this tornado, and everyone must try to help.

The tornado in Tuscaloosa is a devastating event for not just the individuals involved but also for the world everywhere. Whether it is restoring the towns damaged, helping the victims and their families or finding new ways to prevent damage for future tornadoes, this event has surely proven to be one of today's most significant current events.

"The tornado in Tuscaloosa greatly impacted the individuals involved."

Playstation—Hacked: One Viewpoint

Playstation Hacking
Griffin G.

Can you imagine if your address, birthday, e-mail, password, and credit card information were stolen? This happened to around 77 million who subscribed to the Sony Playstation player, which is a gaming device where users are able to go online and compete. On April 26th, 2011, Playstation was hacked revealing 70 million gamers' information and 7 million people's information that have a Sony television. When this happened, all of Sony's online features were shut down angering gamers. The Playstation hacking was an

unfortunate event that put millions of people's identities and privacy at risk.

This event is a major event in our history because of all the people who are susceptible to identity theft. CNN reports that, "This is the biggest data breach ever." This tells us that never before have we ever had so many people at risk. Rumors on the Internet are saying that 2.2 million people's credit card numbers were stolen and 77 million had their email, address, birthday, and passwords taken. Although Sony hasn't confirmed or denied this occurrence, it is more than likely that credit card numbers were stolen, and if so, this is the biggest and worst data breach ever.

Sony: Breach in Security; Another Viewpoint

Sony Security Breach
By Spencer S.

“The Sony security breach is a huge recent event that will affect tens of millions of people.”

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

In the past two weeks, there have been many important events that have occurred, such as the royal wedding, the tornadoes in the south, or the killing of Osama bin Laden. But I am focusing on another important topic that occurred recently: the Sony security breach. The hacking of the PlayStation Network is a very important event, which will affect tens of millions of people worldwide.

The PlayStation Network is an online network that connects millions of PS3s to each other. Users create an account, and give Sony a lot of information. “Although we are still investigating the details of this incident, we believe that an unauthorized person has obtained the following information that individuals provided: names, addresses (city, states, zips), countries, email addresses, birth dates, PlayStation Network/Qriocity passwords and logins, and handle/PSN online IDs.” This quote from a Sony representative explains what might have been stolen from over 70 million people in many countries. Also, credit card and debit card information may have been stolen from each of these accounts.

There are an awful lot of people who can be affected by this. For one, Sony, and everyone who works there will start to have a bad reputation for security problems. Sony sales

Technology

Technology: Is it Helpful or Hurtful?

By Zoe K.

Is the new “technology craze” beneficial or harmful? In the May 1, 2011 New York Times article, “Quality Time, Redefined” by Alex Williams, the reader learns about the use of electronics and how some individuals think that technology is beneficial and how others disagree. Throughout the article, the reader finds out facts about the average use of these devices and why some think emailing someone sitting next to you is easier than talking. Furthermore, we learn who is affected in this technology overuse and can infer what will happen in the future. Clearly, Technology use is an important event which impacts and affects many.

The new overuse of technology is a significant event today. In the article, we learn about the Dianne’s Vavras point of view on a family who uses electronics daily. Dianne’s family includes a ten-year-old daughter and an eight-year old son who both play games on the Wii, iPod touch, and other electronic devices. Ms.Vavra states that one night after dinner the family sat down on the couch, and there were four devices and four people. Dianne believes that this is a positive way of communicating. Many homes are like this today. For example, the author states, “Brad Kahn...said he often communicates with his wife, Erin, even when they are seated a few feet apart on the sofa with their laptops. He will cut her off if she starts instructing him orally...and ask her to

will probably start to go down in more than just the PS3. Also, Cnet.com, a popular tech website said “[A] computer attack...exposed the information of as many as 77 million PlayStation Network accounts two weeks ago.” So, for 77 million people, you have to worry about your credit card number being used without you knowing, or somebody trying to steal your identity with all the other information about you.

This event will change today’s society and the future in a few ways. For one, CNBC wrote “Sony says the attack has led it to begin rebuilding the system.” In other words, Sony is reconstructing the PlayStation Network to have better security to prevent future attacks. Also, most online multiplayer gaming sites will start to up their security to prevent this from happening to them. Security will be stronger, and personal information everywhere will be stored more carefully. Another effect the security breach has had is to make people think twice before giving a company all of their personal information.

The Sony security breach is a huge recent event that will affect tens of millions of people. It will change the security used for online sites. A hacking as huge as this definitely deserves a lot of attention. Sony will probably suffer a lot, and people will be left to worry that their credit card number was taken. But it will make many companies strengthen their security systems, and will make consumers be more cautious with their personal information.

send it electronically” (pg.12). This quote shows the importance of technology to communicate today. When someone wants to talk a distant friend or relative, or even someone just a block away, they are just a few taps and a “send” away. Thus, the new overuse of technology is a significant event today.

The use of electronic devices has affected many individuals. First, every person who uses any sort of devices, such as a phone or computer, is affected by technology. A plethora of people use electronics numerous times a day, more than you might think. For instance, on page 12 in the article, the author states, “Nearly 60 percent of American families with children own two or more computers, and...A third of all Americans log on from home multiple times a day, nearly twice the number that did so in 2004.” This quote shows how Americans use and are affected by technology. There are many ways which one uses these devices. Numerous individuals use electronics while working, so looking at a screen every day might become a habit. A man working for a company in Los Angeles can video chat with them while working at home. Also, kids use smart boards in school, use phones to contact friends or parents daily, and read a book



Technology: Is it Helpful or Hurtful? (cont'd.)

electronically. In addition, important news flashes can be read within seconds of the event, good or bad. Therefore, the use of technology has affected many individuals.

Lastly, the use of electronic devices has a huge impact on today's society and our future. Today, instead of a child calling up their friend to hang out, they might shoot a text or an email their way. This has an impact on spelling across America and will most likely continue in the future. Also, many today don't communicate verbally as much as they used to. For example, Joanne Cantor, a professor and director of the Center of Communication Research at the University of Wisconsin, says, "We all had conversations [while watching TV] during the commercials, even if it was just to say, 'Wasn't that stupid?'" (pg. 12). This quote means that people talked, verbally, to each other even to say small

Anthony Robles

Sheer Courage
By Harry B.

Have you ever heard of Anthony Robles? He has quite an amazing story. Imagine this, a *one legged* wrestler that wins an NCAA championship. Now that's cool. This man is significant to everyone who thought they could never reach their dreams. Everyone should think of Anthony Robles as a hero. People thought he didn't stand a chance once he became a cripple, but he sure did show them. Every kid should have Anthony Robles as their hero.

Anthony Robles's story gives everyone a feeling of joy. As Robles says, talking to the Today Show before he wrestled in his champion match, "I was terrified, but I knew I could do it." He didn't care that others thought he couldn't do it, he believed in himself. Furthermore, Robles affected everyone involved in a cheerful, fascinated way. Everyone should be cheerful to hear his story.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon- New Born Twins

By Emily T.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon gave birth to twins, one a girl and one a boy, on April 30, 2011 at around 12:00 pm. The names for the babies have not yet been decided. Each baby weighed about five pounds each and about 18-19 inches long. The new parent re-newed their vows at the hospital because the babies were born on Mariah and Nick's 3rd anniversary. Mariah and Nick couldn't be happier over the birth of their two beautiful babies.

The event that has just taken place is a great sigh of relief for Nick and Mariah because these are the couple's first children and come after a miscarriage in 2007. For example, Nick Cannon wrote, "I'm in the happiest place I've ever been in my life." Nick is relieved and joyous that his babies were born healthy. Also, Cannon said as well, "[T]he greatest gift on earth is a child." Cannon is filled with happiness over his new baby twins.

things. This is unlike now, when one uses technology to comment on anything interesting, as seen in blogs and tweets. One can predict that this laziness will result in a society that will be unable to communicate verbally, let alone have social skills. This is a major problem for our future and people should be cautious about using too many electronic devices. Therefore, the use of technology has a huge impact on today's society and our future.

Conclusively, technology use is an important event which impacts and affects many. First, the overuse of electronics is a significant incident. Also, the use of these devices has affected a plethora of individuals across the country. Finally, technology use has a massive impact on today's society and our future. One can hope that technology and electronic devices benefits us, not hurts us.

Anthony Robles impacts today's society and future very much. Americans across the world don't believe in themselves, to start knowing they can do things if they focus, they can follow Robles and say, "hey, if he can do that, I could do that". As Robles says on the Today Show, "practice really does make perfect." This quote shows that Robles is a determined person, and that determination pays off. Furthermore, Robles's story will help our society now, and in the future.

Anthony Robles is an amazing person. Showing that a one legged wrestler could win an NCAA championship is a Cinderella story for everyone to hear. He positively affected others, and positively helps our society and will help our future. If everyone were half as determined as Anthony Robles, our economy would be ten times better.

This event is going to effect the new parents for many reasons. One reason being they are going to have to take off their careers for a short amount of time to get to know the babies and take care of them. Mariah being a singer may get an excellent opportunity to write some songs while she is at home taking care of the children. For instance, a baby blogger says, "The good news is that taking care of a baby's basics needs, particularly as a newborn, is very simple." Mariah will have plenty of time to work on new songs to sing. As for Nick, he has many jobs. For example, "A promising young actor who has demonstrated box-office appeal to both black and white audiences, Nick Cannon has been called the Tom Cruise of his generation. In addition to performing, he has also written and produced material for television and film and has written and recorded an album," says a blogger. It will be hard for Nick to take off from his work but it is likely that Nick will find time for his son and daughter.

Gaddafi

“Knowing what the rebels are capable of is just part of the war. Knowing what they will do is totally different.”

International News: Bombing in Libya

The Rebel Bombing In Libya

By John W.

On Sunday, May 1st, 2011, it was reported that the 29 year old son of Gaddafi, Saif al-Arab, was killed along with three of Gaddafi's grandchildren in Tripoli. The NATO attack was targeted on Gaddafi but didn't succeed. The missiles completely destroyed the villa in which Gaddafi was staying. Somehow Gaddafi made it out unscathed.

The significance of the death of Gaddafi's son is that now that Gaddafi has lost a son he will fight harder or try to end the war in fear of losing other family members. For example, a source states, “ Early on Saturday, NATO rejected a ceasefire offer by [Gaddafi], saying there was no room for negotiations as long as government forces continued to threaten civilians.” Yet Gaddafi said after this (on the same website), “ [Gaddafi] repeated on Saturday that he would ‘never stand down and never surrender.’” The death of Gaddafi's son also shows how powerful the rebels really are. The NATO air strike must have been planned very well in order for it to nearly kill Colonel Gaddafi. It shows the intelligence of the rebels as well. This tragic event is only another part of the war in Libya.

This conflict has affected many individuals besides Gaddafi, for instance his family. The death of Gaddafi's son and three grandchildren has given the rebels something to cheer for and Gaddafi's family something to mourn for. This event will be viewed by different people with different opinions, but will always be a loss. Another human being dead doesn't help anyone in the long run. Gaddafi is going through a very dark period of the war and will never forget what

happened as no one else will. The rebels lined city streets to celebrate the death of Gaddafi's son, while the family of Gaddafi stayed inside to comfort each other and weep over what happened to the four individuals killed in the NATO missile attack.

The impact of this event on the world may not seem very high to some, but others may think differently. The sense that the rebels launched a NATO attack on the villa where Gaddafi is staying is very significant, for they haven't taken an offense that great this far into the war. They would've had to search hard to find Gaddafi's villa. In the future Gaddafi will probably hide himself in a more remote location with his family. Again it just goes to show how powerful and intelligent the rebels really are. In the future many will probably hope this doesn't have to happen again. The rebels will also be more cautious of what they do.

The NATO attack that killed Colonel Gaddafi's son and three grandchildren is very tragic. The rebels need to be more cautious with the way they attack next time, if there is a next time. They have just given Gaddafi a greater reason to attack the rebels. He tried to call a ceasefire, but was too stubborn to give in to democracy. This conflict has affected just about everyone around the world. Knowing what the rebels are capable of is just part of the war. Knowing what they will do is totally different. This war has not made an impacted the rest of the world until now. Right now Colonel Gaddafi should be glad to be alive and the rebels should be glad Gaddafi hasn't launched a surprise attack on them in revenge.

Israel and its War with the Arabs

By Daniel M.

Right now, as you are reading this article, the men and women of Israel are fighting against the neighboring Arabs. This war has been going on for more than 63 years. From 1948 to present day, Arabs and Israelis have been fighting for an incredible amount of time. Lots of people favor the Arabs, but most of them don't know all the facts.

Since 1948, Arabs have started five wars, each losing. Israel has defended and won each war. Arabs believe that the Jews in the land of Israel have taken the land from them. What people overlook is that the state of Israel was founded in 1312 BC. This was 2,000 years before Islam was created. Jews have been living in the land of Israel for over 3,000 years.

People have said that in retaliation, Israel has bombed cities, killing Arab people. Arabs have started all five wars. In war, there is death. Killing is inevitable in war. Israel has an extremely powerful military. The job of

the military is to protect the nation.

Overall, this war must stop. Everyone agrees. The people of Israel want to stop this war. The people on both sides are affected by this war. There are certain areas in Israel were people are somewhat afraid to go to sleep at night in fear of a bomb falling.

This conflict has a huge overall impact on today's society and the future. In the U.N, this topic is always argued about. The outcome of this war will change Israel and its future generations. Today's society is talking about ending wars and such. What we all should do is try to end the war between Israel and the Arabs.

In conclusion, many believe this war must stop. For the sake of Israel's future generations, and the generations of the Arab states. Unfortunately, the Arabs are persistent, and will stop at nothing to capture the land of Israel. Let us all hope that this conflict will end soon, for the sake of everyone.

The Royal Wedding

By Natly V.

Can you imagine being a regular girl one day and then a princess another? Kate Middleton, a young girl who had a normal life is now the princess of England. As days passed, everything began to change. Prince William and Kate Middleton fell in love! On November 16th, their engagement was announced. They were married on April, 29th. This event has changed Kate's life forever. She has to change from a regular; ordinary girl to a proper princess. This also affects the society today. It affects the people in England, because she is their new princess and might also be, the future queen. The people have to accept her as their princess and William's wife. Kate Middleton, the princess of England, is the future queen.

Seal Bludgeoning in Canada

By Claire B.

Did you know that thousands of harp seals are killed for their pelts each spring? Every year, tons of harp seals migrate from Greenland down the coast of Canada, stopping in the spring to give birth on the ice. Sadly, when the seals arrive in Canada ready to begin their new lives with seal pups, money-hungry bands of fishermen arrive too. They repeatedly bludgeon the seals, some of them only a few weeks old. These greedy fishermen then take the usually half-alive seals and skin them. Next time you go to buy a pair of seal skin boots, or a waterproof winter coat, think about where it's really coming from.

The annual seal bludgeoning is extremely significant. The harp seal population is already dropping an immense amount every year, and it is predicted that they will soon become endangered. PETA, (The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), has created a petition site to stop the seal hunt. A quote from an article on the site says, "The seal slaughter exists because of the overall demand for fur." This quote is saying that the seal slaughter wouldn't exist if it weren't for the high demand for their fur, basically. The only reason these poor seals are being brutally murdered in the first place is because of cruel fur buyers out there. Also, some of these poor seals are only a few weeks old and haven't even eaten their first solid meal or taken their first swim yet, and are watching seals all around them being killed without knowing that that could and most likely will be them. Therefore, that is why the seal bludgeoning in Canada is significant.

The annual seal bludgeoning has greatly affected the individuals and animals involved in it. People living on the coast of Canada sadly have to witness seal bludgeoning occasionally, and it surely isn't a pleasing sight. Also, the greedy Canadian fishermen who bludgeon the seals and sell their skin are making tons of money off of seal pelts, which is doing nothing but encouraging them to repeat the seal hunt every year until harp seals are completely extinct. Even when they're extinct,

Kate Middleton and Prince William are married now. This event happened in Westminster Abbey in London. Much attention was focused on the fact that Kate was an ordinary girl marrying a prince and being a part of the Royal family. The Royal Wedding was attended by many guests. Sources state, "It was attended by most of the Royal Family, as well as many foreign royals, diplomats, and the couple's chosen personal guests." This event was a very significant event in the Royal family, Kate's family and for the people of England itself. The Royal family has a new member; a princess. This is significant to Kate's family, because the ordinary family is now related to the Royal family. This is a huge difference for both the Royal and Kate's family.

these fishermen will find some other type of animal to salvage skin off of and make a profit from. They're just that greedy. Once again, from an article on the same PETA petition site, a quote states, "Most people are horrified to learn that baby seals have their skulls smashed in or are shot to death each year during Canada's annual war on seals." This quote means that besides people being affected by the seal hunt, the seals themselves are tremendously affected. Thousands of seals die every spring, and unless the seal hunt comes to an abrupt stop it doesn't look good for the future of the harp seals. Therefore, that is how the individuals involved in the annual seal hunt have been affected.

In the near future, harp seals will most likely be on the endangered list. Judging by how many are killed each year for their pelts, they don't have a terribly bright future. Besides affecting society in the future, they also greatly affect society today. A quote from an extension of peta.org states, "...taxpayer money is wasted promoting a product that Canada loses money on every year." This quote shows that Canada is losing valuable money advertising and promoting seal pelts and furs. Money that Canadian citizens pay that *should* be going towards things like schools and the community is being wasted on promoting seal pelts! This greatly impacts society, and should be immediately stopped. Therefore, that is how the annual seal hunt has an impact on today's society and on the future.

The annual seal hunt greatly affects people (and seals) all around. It is significant because the seal population is dropping drastically, and innocent seals are being brutally killed for no reason. The seal hunt has affected the individuals and seals involved, because the fishermen killing the seals are just making money off of the pelts and nothing is stopping them from going back and repeating the cycle every year. This issue also impacts society today by wasting Canadian taxpayer dollars. We should all try our best to fight against the seal hunt and try to stop it!



A mother seal with her baby

"The harp seal population is already dropping an immense amount every year."

In the United States, there are many problems in the environment that are caused by Americans. In the United States, recycling and caring for the Earth is not a top priority and is not cared for much by Americans. Another environmental aspect that is terrible in America is the pollution. One American alone contributes 3,285 pounds of pollution a year! This is horrible and needs to be changed. There are many things we can do to create less pollution in America, like recycling or carpooling with a friend. Therefore, there are many environmental issues in America, including pollution, which can be reduced by doing little things.

In the United States, there is a huge amount of pollution. 40% of America's rivers and 46% of America's lakes are too polluted for fishing, swimming, or aquatic life, according to Grinning Planet, The Daily Green, CBS News, and Green Net World. Not only that, but by polluting into areas that have fresh water, we create less drinkable water for people. Americans should be able to stop their pollution by using less wasteful products. For example, Americans generate 30 billion foam cups, 220 million tires, and 1.8 billion disposable diapers every year. All of these products end up in landfills and just pile up more and more every year. By using these products, instead of ones that can be reused, one American produces 3,285 pounds of waste every year. Our waste ends up in landfills, which 80% of the waste in the landfills can be recycled. Another way Americans produce waste is through the air. Every year in the United States, factories release over 3 million tons of toxic chemicals into the land, air, and water. Not only does this waste affect our environments, but it affects people's lives. This air leads to respiratory complications and other health problems. It also pollutes the rivers and lakes so much, that it is too polluted for people to swim in. Thus, Americans pollute a gigantic amount in landfills in addition to the air and create less drinking water for people.

Recycling in Japan

By Mio I.

Paper, plastic, and metals...those can be considered the main categories of recyclables in the States. Most garbage ends up in landfills, piling up and mixing in with many items that should've ended up in the helpful blue plastic bins. How many people stop to contemplate the difference in material of brown glass beer bottles and clear glass jars that once held your grandma's homemade jam? Not many. But in Japan, everyone does.

In the city of Yokohama, the number of garbage categories was increased to ten a few years ago. Residents were given a 27-page booklet on how to sort their trash, with detailed instructions on 518 items.

Some of the items are as follows: lipstick tubes, only empty ones "with the contents used up," go into plastics. Hold that kettle—we have to measure it first! If it's less than 12 inches, we toss it into the small metals. If the kettle is more, than it goes into bulky metals. Socks? If there is only one, it is considered a burnable, but if there are two, they go into the used cloth section, as long as "they are not torn and the left and the right sock match." Are you done with that bottled soda? Remember to "take off the wrap first; that goes into the paper section, and the bottle cap and bottle are separate, too."

In Japan, garbage bags aren't black; they are

This pollution doesn't just form itself. The habits Americans have are a major to cause this pollution. One of the things that cause pollution is harmful pesticides. When chemical pesticides are used in agricultural production and sewage treatment, they often end up in water and used in food. On February 2nd, 2010, a study was done by the Environmental Science and Technology. It showed how terrible pesticides are for the environment. The study proved that pesticides were linked as the source of river pollution in many areas and that it has increased to high levels in many bodies of water. The dangerous chemical pesticides have been one of the main reasons for pollution in America for a long time. Another thing Americans do to (not purposely) ruin the pollution, is set up big businesses. Although you may think they are harmless, they account for some of the most widespread pollution the world has ever seen. If these top companies had to pay for all of the pollution they caused, 1/3 of their total profits would go to the pollution cleanup in America. One of the ways these huge businesses are making waste is by using factories to produce products and disposing their waste in contaminating ways. Factory related pollution is the number one source of pollution in America. Factories pollute everything from our air to our water. By giving off deadly gases, people and animals can die.

Americans create an enormous amount of pollution. One American produces 3,285 pounds of waste every year. One of the ways Americans create pollution is through dangerous pesticides. Another way is through the top businesses and factories. Also, car and truck driving, which the most air pollution is given off to the Earth's atmosphere by an American, creates a massive amount of waste. By changing American's habits, we can easily create less pollution in America. For instance, 80% of the waste in a landfill can be recycled. Hence, Americans are gigantic contributors to pollution, but if people change their ways and their priorities of caring for the environment, that can change.

mostly clear so garbage collectors can see what's inside. "Is that a milk carton I see in there?" If an item that can be recycled is found in your garbage bags—sorry—they'll leave your trash right there. Better wait until next week, when you'll have double the garbage.

Recently, a new idea spread among many companies that sold shampoo, lotion, facial products and other products that come in plastic bottles. Instead of buying a new product in a new plastic container, you could buy a "refill," the desired product in an aluminum bag in which you cut a slit into the tip and refill your old bottle, not a new one. This saves plastic and decreases the amount of garbage thrown away.

But, Yokohama's ten categories are nothing compared to Kamikatsu, a small town populated by 2,200 people in the mountains of Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands. They currently have 44 categories, in an extreme effort to reduce waste.

Kamikatsu has gotten much cleaner because of the new garbage policies. 76-year-old Masaharu Tokimoto, a resident, stated that, "It's a bother, but I can't throw away trash in the mountains. It would be a violation." The Japanese work hard to preserve their natural landscapes and are working on many ways to be environmentally friendly, or "eco."

So, when it comes to recycling, Japan can be considered the most efficient among other countries.