

The Patriot Press

SUMMER EDITION

P. J. GELINAS
25 MUD ROAD
SETAUKET, NY



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Science Olympiad Places 1st in New York State Tournament!

Grim faces; breathes hitched in anticipation. Twenty-six identical looks of utter determination. The heat of thousands of sweaty people waiting, waiting...pressed down upon the twenty-six member of the Gelinas Science Olympiad team. There were 60 middle school teams, but only ten would make the ultimate honor of being in the National Top 10 Science Olympiad teams. And as for Gelinas, the moment had never been so vital. Nobody wanted to think of a number, because we all knew Gelinas had never placed higher than 6th. "I think we placed 4th-6th," seventh grader Andrey Lukin said sagely. "I'm 90% sure." Nobody questioned him. Nobody wanted to. And as the top ten names of schools rolled on and on from the announcer's mouth, the Science Olympiad team grew more and more somber. The emotional members of the team buried their heads in their hands with each name called. No one seemed to care now. That's why when "Paul—" was called, the whole of Gelinas, Ward Melville, and other New York teams started screaming, clapping, and hollering with all of their might. There were identical broad grins across the whole of Gelinas' team. Disbelieving, our school team practically tripped over each other on the way down to the brightly lit, welcoming stage as we high-fived other teams along the way.

The proud team members representing Gelinas were: Rachel Gutman, Daniil Lukin, Phoebe McAuliffe (captains) and team members Michael Arato, Stephanie Chen, Justin Cooper, Brendan Diviney, Theo Gibbs, Kimberly Koon, Andrey Lukin, Nevena Marinkovic, James Napoli, Siavash Parkhideh, Alan Wei, and Dan Yu. Alternate members included Peter Chiang, Gerardo Cruz, Jessica Ju, Thomas Kao, Kieran McAuliffe, Amir Nassiri, Michael Truhlar, and Grace Zhang. Our medal winners were James, Brendan, Nevena, Siavash, Alan, Dan, Thomas, Jessica, Phoebe, Daniel, Michael, and Rachel. They did a fantastic job! However, we could not have placed as highly as we did without assistance from our outstanding coaches: Gary Vorwald, Monica Gerber, Edward Moloney, Jeannie Guglielmo, and Mark Suesser.

But what we all enjoyed the most, I think, was our elation after the awards. Never before had we been so close to first place! We had an excellent team this year, as did Ward Melville, and I think we'll be even more motivated next year to compete even harder and aim for that golden trophy.

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The Sound Of Music

This spring Gelinias put on its 26th annual musical, *The Sound Of Music*. It was directed by Mrs. Davis and Mr. Hayes, and the choreography was done by Mrs. Chase. There was a cast of over one hundred students and many more who worked behind the scenes in stage crew, pit orchestra, lighting, and set painting. This show was greatly aided by the Three Village Theatre Boosters, who worked tremendously hard to raise funds for this show.

The show opened with a single actress singing a Latin Hymn while the rest of the “Nun Choir” answered back. It set the mood for the more serious aspect of this beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that involves Mono Chants and 6 part harmonies. Past the abbey, there were also many unforgettable songs, such as “Do Re Mi”, where Maria is teaching the Von Trapp children about music for the first time, and “The Lonely Goatherd”, which is a number set in a puppet show with real human puppets. There was also a political aspect where Captain Von Trapp is drafted into the German Navy and the family must flee Austria to avoid this. All in all, *The Sound of Music* had a little bit of everything to satisfy all audiences.

The result? A show that people are still talking about months to this day. One that thoroughly entertained the audience and made them want to sing along. I had a great time playing Sister Sophia, one of the nuns who is worried about Maria’s dedication to the abbey in the beginning of the show and yes, steals a distributor cap from a Nazi car before the finale of the show. Most people believe that putting on a classic like *The Sound of Music* would be a breeze, but it did not come easy. It took 3 months of intense rehearsal time to get it to the level it was. Luckily, no one gave up. No matter who they played, everyone tried their hardest. Another thing that was amazing about the show is how many new people were involved! When I went to our first read through I could not believe how many people had never done the show before. These “Gelinias Theatre Newbies” included many seventh graders. All in all, *The Sound Of Music* was a great experience that I am very proud to have been a part of.

-By Sarah Barnitt



Harry Potter World

Calling all Harry Potter fans! Grab your wands, and lets go on a journey to place where we have all dreamed that we would be someday. It’s called “Harry Potter World” located in Universal Studios in Florida. One ride in this park that is in fact, my haven, is called “Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey.” In this ride you will take a journey into the school that our own Harry Potter grew up in. It is the place where he found happiness, friends, and family. In this voyage you will go through such rooms in Hogwarts that you only dreamt of going in such as: Dumbledore’s office, the Defense Against the Dark Arts Classroom, the Gryffindor Common Room, the Room of Requirement, and so much more. You will ascend above the castle ground with Harry Potter and his friends on an incredible expedition when you meet up with magical creatures that live in the wizard world. The next remarkable venture is back to Harry’s 4th year at the Triwizard Tournament that Harry Potter took part in. It’s called “Dragon Challenge.” It refers to one of the events where Harry took on one of the most dangerous dragons in the tournament. On this ride, actually 2 separate rides, you will twirl, circle, and almost collide with the other “dragon” (rollercoaster), much like our hero, Harry, did during his dangerous encounter with a wicked dragon. Another ride found in the park also includes a mystical creature that Harry met throughout his adolescent years. This magical individual is a hippogriff. On this ride, you will surpass our very own Hagrid’s iconic hut while he instructs on how you may approach an animal such as a hippogriff. Next, you will take a “training flight” on a ride called “Flight of a Hippogriff.” It is a captivating and enchanting ride for families when you fly and dive around Hagrid’s hut. When you get hungry, you can always visit Harry, Ron, and Hermionie’s favorite place to go in Hogsmeade, The Three Broomsticks. When you want to bring home a souvenir of this magnificent and thrilling park that brings back memories of such an unforgettable book, you can shop at places that are also found in the book such as Dervish and Banges, Honeydukes, Zonko’s, and so much more. This glorious park’s grand opening is June 18th, and I for one am going to attend this world of imagination sometime in the near future. Yes Muggles, you to can enjoy such a fantastic place where your fantasy can come alive!

-By Kaylie Gazura



American Idol- Season 9 Season 9

-By Nicole D'Onofrio



We had finally arrived at the last and final round. Voters all over the country brought us down to our final two Season 9 American Idol contestants. Crystal Bowersox, age 24 of Toleda, Ohio, and Lee Dewyze, age 34 of Mount Prospect, Illinois, went head to head sharing the same dream: being the next American Idol.

As it wound down towards the season's end, we look back upon another great year of American Idol. The beginning started with the talented contestants: Aaron Kelly, Andrew Garcia, Casey James, Crystal Bowersox, Didi Benami, Katie Stevens, Lacey Brown, Lee Dewyze, Michael Lynche, Paige Miles, Siobhan

Magnus and Tim Urban. This season has also been full of excellent performances including singers Just Bieber and Jamie Foxx. In addition, American Idol stared the hilarious talk show host Ellen DeGeneres!

Traditionally, the show included a Frank Sinatra week and the generous "Idol Gives Back". Forty-five million dollars was raised this year on April 21st, 2010 for "Idol Gives Back". The outstanding two hour fundraiser benefited many charities such as "No More", "Children's Health Fund", and "Feeding America". There were also performances by The Black Eyed Peas, Alicia Keys, George Lopez, and Mary J. Blige. Even President Barack Obama and First Lady Michele

Obama made a special guest appearance.

It all came down to the final week- Bowersox vs. Dewyze. They both had to give all they had to offer and prove to America why they are the next American Idol. Viewers were anxious to watch the performances by the finalists and to find out who would be their next American Idol. At the American Idol Season 9 finale on May 26th, the American Idol winner was announced in the last five anticipated minutes. The winner came to be Lee Dewyze, by only a 2% difference in votes. This was the closest in Idol history! I think I speak for all of America, when I say, they were both extremely talented!

NCIS

Have you ever heard of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service? It is also known as the hit TV show NCIS. It is a hit amongst adults and teens of all ages. It is a crime scene show, and at the same a drama about many different people who work in NCIS. From a crazy British coroner, to a computer whiz, to an agent whose been married 3 times, this show has it all!

The show goes through the process of forensics and computer GPS tracking - even carving up dead bodies to find evidence. But most of all, it shows how people are arrested and interrogated while proven guilty or innocent. Leroy Jethro Gibbs is the main character. He leads the group of agents through investigations and brings down criminals. He has been married three times and has served in the Marines. He is famous for his "Gibbslap." This is simply a thing he does to his agents when they do something or say something stupid. It consists of a slap to the back of the head and a quick "sorry boss" from the victim. His senior agent, Anthony DiNozzo, is a man caught up in a life of women. He is the main victim of the "Gibbslap." He is always getting himself into trouble. Third is agent Ziva Davi. She is always criticizing



DiNozzo, and the second on the list of most "gibbslaps." Fourth is Tim Mcgee. He is the computer whiz/ probe. He always solves things for Gibbs and is always being envied by DiNozzo. Fifth is Abby Sciuto. She is the forensics specialist and is always drinking "Cafpow." She is truly goth, but is very happy and is so loveable. She is always hugging people. Finally, is Dr. "Ducky" Mallard. He is the coroner and is always boring everyone to death with his life long stories. He is one of Gibbs best friends and they have known each other for a long time. As you can see, the cast of characters is very interesting.

I totally suggest this show for those who like comedic cop shows. In fact, I would give it 5 stars!

-By Billy Spitz

Music in the Parks



The sound of violins, trumpets, and singing was what students heard when they traveled to Pennsylvania to compete in Music in the Parks. On May 21st, the musical performing groups of Gelinass traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania to compete in Music in the Parks and participate in a day of fun. At 5am, drowsy students departed for the park on coach buses. The 4 hour bus ride to the school was made bearable by movies, iPods, and friends. In their boredom, some people became closer; in particular the Vocal Vikings. While on the bus, they made up a spiffy dance! The first destination was the Pennsylvania Middle School where the Orchestra, Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble were to compete. Despite some nerves, each group performed as they had at rehearsals—beautifully. Weeks of preparation and practice aided the groups in their performances. Everyone was anxious to reach the park, but the Vocal Vikings was yet to perform at a Church. Finally, when all Gelinass' musicians and vocalists had performed, the buses headed for Hershey Park.

We passed the sign for Hershey Park. No one could wait to get off the bus! Finally the bus pulled into the parking lot, and we stepped out into the sweltering 90 degree-heat.

Teachers explained the few limits to our freedom. Students were allowed to wander around the park. There was free catering that provided yummy food. The huge size of the park made it easy to get lost.

The main excitement of the trip was the rides. Daredevils went on Fahrenheit, Great Bear, and Storm Runner. Every time a rollercoaster took off, you could hear the screams of the people on it. If you weren't big on the fast, up-side-down coasters, there were other things to do, such as rides like the Mouse Trap. Throughout the park, there were refreshments such as lemonade, ice cream, and kettle corn. Yum!

At 4:00, everyone met in the arena for the awards ceremony. Schools showed spirit by doing the wave and screaming support for their school. Every time the announcer announced the ratings for a musical group, we waited anxiously to see who would win the award. Gelinass won several awards, for Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Vocal Vikings.

After the awards, it was back into the park for another 3 hours of roller coasters. Of course, if you wanted to buy souvenirs, chocolate was the way to go. Eventually, our stay in the park was over. We went on our last rides, bought our final snacks, and piled onto the buses for the long ride home. There was no one who didn't have fun on the Music in the Parks trip, and returning 7th and 8th graders will be sure to go again next year.

-By Caroline McBrien

Tips for Finals

Compiled by Billy Spitz and Kaylie Gazura

-STUDY STUDY STUDY! This one test counts an entire quarter, that's a whole three months of school!

-Index cards are very useful! They are portable, organized and great study tools!

-Don't stress out, this anxiousness could deprive you of sleep, which makes matters worse for you the testing day.

-Go to extra help! Keep in mind that your teachers know what is on the test! They can really help you as well as re-teach topics that you forgot.

-For 7th graders that are in history in particular: KEEP ALL MATERIALS FROM 7TH GRADE! Next year, you will be taking a state test on all the material you have learned in 7th grade as well as 8th.

-For future reference, start studying early; little steps at a time. This may help you in the long run and you won't feel overwhelmed.

-Eat a good breakfast the day of the final. It will give you the energy to focus.

-Although you may not want to, study after your finals on final week. Make it fun! Go to the beach and study with your friends, or make up a review game that will make studying fun! Even invite over a study group with all your friends, it's a chance to ensure that you do well on your final while not procrastinating.

-Every night, study for each final! Although you may be drawn to study for only the final you have the next day, it is in your best interest to study for every one. Though, it would be best to take extra time to study for the final which is coming up the fastest. GOOD LUCK!

