
The Nova Herald

Volume 2 Issue @

Editor: Timothy
Palumbo

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR: RECREATION, HARDWORK AND COMMUNITY

Timothy Palumbo

A few weeks ago Dr. Polonskaia and I talked about what direction the *Herald* should be going in, and came up with a clear focus for the newspaper. That direction was to align the paper with our school's presence in the community and our students' passions-- academically and personally. A fun thought then was incorporating some anecdotes from the lives of our students, some little chunks of what makes them people and not just highly motivated students. As we prepare to bid another school year farewell, it seems fitting that most of the writers here chose to write about recreational activities that keep them refreshed for all that strenuous study time. Eddie and David chatted it up with us about their favorite sports, swimming and tennis. Similarly, Fahad and Isai shared with us some of their memories regarding soccer and basketball, sports that they hold near and dear to their hearts. In fact, after reading about these boys' passion for sports you may find that you want to put together some type of SchoolNova sporting teams. But that's not all our writers enjoy; at the opposite end of the spectrum, David Bershadsky took some time to illuminate us to the world of video games. Instead of telling us what she likes to do, Anya offered us, the readers, a chance to unwind with a small fantasy story of Magiclandia. Of course, while some of us think longingly about recreation with the summer coming, others delve harder into their studies. Faisal Karim and Trevor Leong were happy to share with us their plans for an academically rigorous summer that will see them visiting college campuses and Manhattan to get a leg up on some of their peers. More relaxing summers are planned for Gilda and Noel. While Gilda will venture to Beijing with family, Noel will be camping out as much as possible and just saying no to papers, homework and electronics. Finally, Amrita Raval ponders the growing responsibilities of getting older as she sets her sights on middle school.

Aside from our students, our faculty members are also reaching out and staying motivated. Our school's impact on the community continues to grow as well. I am happy to see our growing involvement with the community and Stony Brook University in particular. More than half of our families are faculty or employees from Stony Brook University or Brookhaven National Lab, and a number of SBU departments actually mention our program to attract faculty with children. We continue to grow in influence in the Three Village Central School District as well due to a number of our teachers participating in Science and Technology Night at W.S. Mount and Minnesauke Elementary Schools. In fact, inside you'll find Andrey Gromov's notes about just what our teachers did at those schools. Our teachers really serve as ambassadors of science and academics in the area, and continue to promote educational well-being. We are proud to be a center for 5 different math and language competitions and welcome everyone (including competitors who are not our students) to participate. Our principal, Dr. Marina Polonskaia also chairs a resource committee at the Three Village Chapter of AGATE (Advocacy for Gifted and Talented Education in NY State). Last year SchoolNova's teachers and parents also opened a science camp. I'm confident we will continue to thrive in an area that is loaded with ambitious students and talented educators.

In closing, I want to recognize that yet again we were very active participants in a number of academic competitions, both for languages and mathematics. At AMC 10/12 we had 29 participants from both our school and community; we claimed 11 participants for AMC 8. At the Kangaroo International Math Competition we had 106 participants from our school and community. Notably, we had 13 on the State winners' list and 7 on the National list of winners. SchoolNova had 7 participants in the Russian Language International Competition, and at Le Grand Concours (the National French Language Competition) we had 23 participants, with 11 students scoring a top 10 nationally. One of our students, Sophia Abanov is the National winner at her level. Congratulations, Sophia, and thank you to all who helped encourage our students' success in these competitions.



SPORTS MAKING YOUNG SCHOLARS HAPPY

English students share their experiences with the joys of sports.

Fahad Karim

Everybody pursues happiness. I pursue happiness by playing basketball. I started when I was in 2nd grade. One day my friend asked me to play basketball with him. He taught me how to play from then on. I loved basketball and love all the ways to play it. It makes me feel happy to play and when I score a basket my teammates get proud of me. I get proud of me too. Even if I lose I *still* feel happy! This is because I get to play with my friends. Without my friends I wouldn't be playing at the level I am today. They were the ones who encouraged me, if they didn't I wouldn't know a thing about basketball. We have the best times together. We play all day long. I even convinced my parents to take me to the Barclay Center to see the Nets in Brooklyn this winter.

Isai Bala

When I was 3, I played my first soccer game. I was on the dark blue team and our team's name was The Lightning.

I was center on offense to start off. When the referee blew the whistle I started kicking as hard as I could, but I didn't kick hard enough. My buddy Cody recovered the ball and passed it to me, I had no choice, everyone was covered and took the shot and scored my first goal! I was happy when I scored, but at that moment it started to rain. The game went on anyway and our opponents, the Leprechauns had the ball. I tried to defend our goal but they passed me. My friend Anthony kicked the ball away from our goal though and we won 1-0. I had a lot of fun and was happy.

This was important to me because I scored my first goal at my first soccer game, it's like a souvenir.

SUMMER PLANS FROM SOME OF OUR STUDENTS

Faisal Karim: Some people go to foreign countries, others just stay home for the summer. If you ask me what I'm doing this summer, let me tell you: I'm going to take a test! Well, I should be more specific. I'm going to a summer school in New York City to take a Regents course in Biology. Starting in early July, I will take classes from Monday through Friday to prepare for the Biology Regents.

The Regents are state exams; they are given for all of the major subjects. Most people begin taking them in eighth grade. Science Regents include Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. I will be taking my Earth Science Regents in June, and because of this class, my Biology Regents in August. The reason I am choosing to take this summer course is because it will let me take the Biology Regents sooner, and I will be able to take more Advanced Placements exams in my high school.

Trevor Leong: This summer I am going to CW Post for a summer camp. There I can learn new things, and will make new friends. There are 3 grade groups that kids are separated into; I go into the 6th-8th grade group, since I am in 6th grade. I'm taking classes on chocolate, entrepreneurship, rocketry and mystery writing.

The first class will teach me about the fair trade of chocolate in Kenya. The second class, Rocketry, will teach me to build rockets. I will study trajectory, projectile motion, and will learn to fly rockets into the sky. Next is my class on entrepreneurship. I will create a product and market it, advertise it, and find my own resources to power the company. I will learn how to be an entrepreneur like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet.

Finally, mystery writing will help me learn how to write like Poe or Christie. I will use different story elements to make my mystery writing better.

MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

Noel Calamas

This summer, I'm doing everything differently. Every year, summer ends up going so fast, too fast. So I'll simply do hardly anything electronic, because that's where I waste my time. This year, however, I'm going to stay outside for so long that I'll have to make a camp even if it kills me. I'm going to make up for the ten months of hard work I do sitting at a desk.

First, the first night of vacation I'll go straight to my backyard. I'll have a lighter and all of my homework, tests, and assignments that I don't need or want. I'll put them all in my fire pit with a log or twig then set the work on fire. I'll roast marshmallows over it. My siblings will contribute to the bonfire as well.

Next, I'll probably just laze around for a few more weeks. That's it, until the Fourth of July and smoke bombs, sparkles, fireworks, and a whole big barbeque. My neighbors come over and we go in the pool. There's a whole lot of eating and festivity.

For the rest of the month, it's usually the same routine. Sleep in, get up, eat, sleep, eat and swim some more after that. The next big celebration comes in August and since I'm the only child with a summer birthday, I end up having a barbeque, a big blowout. My mother's birthday is ten days later. She ends up usually wanting something small, so we have a small party.

I like the summer because many of my friends hang out with me. On rainy days, we'll watch TV, however I don't want to watch much of that because in August they show back to school commercials and it gets depressing.

I plan to relax just how I explained because the school year is so painful. I want to make up for it.

SWIMMING AND TENNIS

Eddie Yan writes and David He chat with the Herald about their favorite sports: tennis and swimming.

Herald: What sport or activity has impacted your life the most?

David: Swimming.

Eddie: Tennis.

Herald: How long have you played?

David: 5 years.

Eddie: 6 years.

Herald: What does the sport do for you that other activities do not?

David: It refreshes me and relaxes me.

Eddie: Keeps my mind sharp.

Herald: What was the greatest challenge this sport presented to you?

David: Having to make the cuts as I moved into a new age group.

Eddie: Learning how to serve with a continental grip because you need to twist your wrist to hit the ball.

Herald: Do you intend to keep playing?

David: Yes. Even if I don't swim competitively, I will swim forever.

Eddie: Yes.

Herald: What is your greatest talent in this sport?

Eddie: The volley

David: The backstroke.

Herald: What have you learned about yourself from this sport?

David: I am a bit competitive because if I don't do well I feel I haven't trained enough

Eddie: I have a lot of mental strength because I keep trying even if my opponent is winning.

MY TAKE ON VIDEOGAMES

David Bershadsky

Videogames are awesome! There are many types of videogames: first person shooters, mystery, strategy, action, fashion, life, wildlife, and quests. Most of these types of videogames are fun, though some are very stupid and boring. One of the old but fun first person shooters is Modern Warfare 2.

First person shooters are fun if the weapons are not overpowerful, which means that one weapon can take out 40 people in one shot. In first person shooters you run around killing people. These games can also be considered as strategy or action games.

In most mystery games you need to find a strategy to be able to do the puzzles or challenges. These challenges can be very difficult or easy. Mystery games can also be considered as strategy games. These are fun most of the time.

From the information above you can see that there are many different types of videogames. In conclusion, anyone should be allowed to play videogame as long as they want, because world population is more than 7 billion and growing. If everyone is at their computer there won't be pollution at interesting sites all over the world, and the historic monuments will be preserved.



NOVA TAKES SCIENCE TO THE¹

SCHOOLS

On May 14th, several of our staff participated in Science and Technology Night at some Three Village elementary schools. Andrey Gromov tells us how it went:

It has become a tradition for SchoolNova teachers to participate in the annual Math, Science and Technology night at W.S. Mount elementary school. Our teachers - Tatsiana Mironava, Sasha Abanov, Sergei Suchalkin and Andrey Gromov- demonstrated a variety of fascinating physics and chemistry experiments to students of Mount school and their parents.

These experiments included: making ice-cream from whole milk and liquid nitrogen; creating non-Newtonian liquids from corn starch; making smoke rings; launching a small –but very fast! - rocket made out of a soda bottle and demonstrating a device called “levitron”. The latter was characterized by both parents and children participating in the event as a real magic. It was a great event that united children and grown-ups by their mutual curiosity about how the world around us works.

Below and to the left, Nova faculty are having fun with students at Science and Technology Night at W.S. Mount Elementary School:



SUMMER IN BEIJING

Gilda Delbianco

This summer, my mom, my dad and I are going to China. We will stay in Beijing for a few days then go to Shenyang where our family is for the rest of the summer.

The morning we leave we wake up very early, get ready, and go. We will get to the airport about an hour later. We will go through all kinds of security check to make sure there aren't any weapons on us, after that it is time to wait more.

Once our plane has arrived and is ready for boarding the wait is over. A flight attendant checks our tickets and we can board the plane. It will be a 16-18 hour ride and we can watch TV, play games, read, and sleep until we land.

When the plane lands in Beijing we will get the luggage, check in to a hotel and play for a week until we leave for Shenyang.

After a few hours on the plane we'll arrive at Shenyang and will be overjoyed to see my grandparents and cousins at the airport. It is necessary to get over jet lag due to the 12 hour time difference in China and American. After some hard work, we get over jet lag.

During vacation I will eat, play with friends on Wii, play piano, violin and take math lessons. In Shenyang, there's Asia's biggest indoor water park that has all sorts of fun ride, almost like the water park version of Six Flags. There's also a very large mall over there, it's about 20 times larger than my school! This mall is called Joy City.

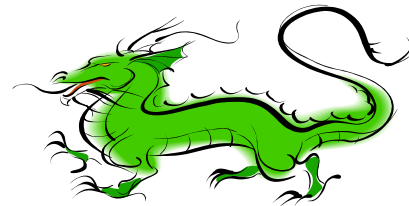
Eventually it will be time to leave and come back to New York by another long, long plane ride. From there it will be time to start another school year.

GROWING UP: NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Amrita Raval

Everyone is growing up everyday. We all grow from babies, teenagers, to adults. As I grow up I learn more. I learn the most in school subjects like math, science, social studies and English. I also get more responsibilities like making sure I am ready for the next day.

My birthday showed me that I am growing up. One week after my birthday this year I was given a new task to do at home: to get my dad's stuff ready before he wakes up. I mean his keys, his phone and his breakfast plate. Next year, I will be going to middle school. I feel a little scared but I'm sure the teachers will help me. Middle school has a lot more classes and responsibilities. I wonder how many more responsibilities I will have to take care of then?



ALBUS' POTION

-FICTION

Anya Yakimenko

One day a sorcerer said to his friend Albus, "I'm going to brew a potion that turns people into dragons." Albus thought that would be pretty hard, and told his friend just that.

After their talk, the sorcerer was convinced that he could make his potion. He got a piece of paper and started to write. In an hour he was done. He poured all the ingredients in his best cauldron but when he poured the lava in, the cauldron melted in the blink of an eye.

After that experience, the sorcerer took all the ingredients he needed for the potion except lava. He climbed the highest peak in Magiclandia, which was apparently a volcano. It was as tall as Mt. Everest, and it took him days to climb. When he got to the top, the sorcerer poured all of his ingredients into the volcano. A few minutes passed, and then something amazing happened...a dragon popped out! This was even better than turning people into dragons---he could make his own!

SIGMA CAMP

SigmaCamp is a weeklong math and science sleepaway camp for students ages 12-15. SigmaCamp gives campers a unique opportunity to learn math and science from professional scientists. It was launched last year by SchoolNova teachers and parents. This year the Camp will run in June 22-29 at Quinipet Camp, Shelter Island, New York.

The camp is rising in popularity with this year's enrolment of 72 children. The lucky campers were selected on the basis of their entrance exams. From the first year's 45 alumni only 2 are not returning this year. Students are coming from as far as Florida, Chicago, California, Canada and even France. We wish SigmaCamp a very successful season and a nice weather!

STUDENTS WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING EVENTS, HOSTED BY STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY:

- Public lectures at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics. Several times a year the Center organizes public lectures given by leading scientists coming to the campus. The lectures are announced on the Center's web site <http://www.scbp.stonybrook.edu/> and also by posters.

- Lectures on Astronomy, Physics, Geosciences, Ecology and Evolution are given almost every Friday night during school year. These lectures are targeted to the general audience and are given by faculty of the University on topics related to their research. Schedules and information can be found at: <http://www.astro.sunysb.edu/openight/opennite.html>

CELEBRATING 9 YEARS OF LEARNING

Marina Polonskaia

It is hard to believe but we are 9! On June 9, 2013 SchoolNova will celebrate the completion of its 9th academic year. 213 students attend more than 60 classes of different levels in Math, Physics, Earth Science, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Advanced English classes. School also offers Art classes for children 6 years old and up. Very young children have their own unique enrichment program.

At the closing ceremony this year we will have a Moving Up ceremony for our younger children and an Award ceremony to celebrate the successes of our students in five different math and language competitions during the past year. The School will also celebrate the great achievements of its 3rd Graduating Class. For 6 students the day of June 9, 2013 will be the last day of classes in SchoolNova: Alec Douglas, Andrey Lukin, Conor Ryan, Dasha Shavarina, Mohit Singh, Ilya Yurchenko and Natasha Zaliznyak. Four students from this class were at school for 9 years. We are all very proud of them and wish them the very best of luck in everything they undertake!

Below, students of grades 1-12 solve problems of Math Kangaroo competition.



NEXT YEAR

SchoolNova Fall 2013 semester will begin on September 15, 2013. The registration for the next semester is open online: www.schoolnova.com. If you are returning student you don't have to re-register. If you would like to change a list of subjects you take, please, contact school director: info@schoolnova.com or leave a message at (631) 615-4215.

Spread a word about our program, invite your friends and neighbors. The first day of classes is always free of charge for new students. We wish you a great and safe summer. It was a real joy to work with you!