**Teacher of the Issue**

Written by: Chloe Beauchesne and Cecily Kunicki

Mrs. Rogers (the Consumer Science teacher) was picked to be the teacher of the issue! Chloe and Cecily interviewed Mrs. Rogers and here are some of her replies!

**Q:** When did you start teaching?

**A:** Mrs. Rogers expressed that she started teaching long ago on a distant planet.

**Q:** What is your favorite part of teaching?

**A:** "When the kids get it. Once they figure out how to use the sewing machine. When they figure out how to cook themselves, and don’t need someone else to do it for them. And then they take it the extra step, instead of just doing, they start experimenting and going beyond. I think that’s exciting!"

**Q:** What’s the weirdest thing you’ve ever had your class cook?

**A:** "A chemistry lab which is fun, where everybody, each kitchen group makes chocolate chip cookies with the same recipe and everything is the same except the fat is different. One group uses crisco, one uses margarine, one uses butter, so each kitchen has to use a different fat, and then they have to compare them using the scientific method, they have to have a hypothesis ahead of time and they have to figure out which one is the best. That’s kind of fun. Crepe lab is fun. We don’t use spatulas, that’s when the fire started. It was fun we had a good time, we flip them once they get their courage up. I don’t do anything really crazy I don’t do anything crazy. Celebrity chef is fun. Different teachers come in and cook for our classes. They make one of their specialties, they stand up here at the island. That’s probably the craziest thing. We have to keep it safe.”

Every year Mrs. Rogers hosts the ever popular pillowcase palooza! This is an event to make pillowcases for children who are in the hospital. The pillowcases made are donated to Boston Children’s hospital. It was a hectic and fun atmosphere as people from all grades and volunteers from outside the school pinned, cut, ironed and sewed. This year at pillowcase palooza, they made and donated 134 pillowcases!

---

**Serve, Set, Spike!**

By: Cecily Kunicki

Volleyballs flew through the air, bouncing off the walls and rolling on the ground. On February 16th the gym was full of seventh and eighth graders during second to fourth period for the yearly volleyball tournament that takes place in the gym. Teams competed against each other to go on to compete against the teachers afterwards. During sixth period some teams played against the teachers. The crowd was excited and loud. They were like a stampeding herd as the bleachers shook. It was a close game but in the end the teachers were victorious. Seeing all the people gathering to compete or to cheer on a team really showed Dracut pride. If you missed out on this year’s tournament you should really sign up next year! It’s sure to be another great tournament of heated matches and lots of fun.
RICHARD MEYER LISTS TO DRACUT MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Written by: Lily Soriano

If you didn't know already, Richard Meyer is an amazing composer of orchestra pieces for younger players like me. He is very creative in writing a piece of music, (especially when it comes to the titles). Last year, the elementary orchestra (5th grade) in Dracut played Ninja, by Richard Meyer. We had practiced so much, the rhythm got stuck in our heads which resulted in humming the piece all the time! My brother, who wasn't even in the elementary school orchestra (just one of the high school volunteers at practices), even got it stuck in his head, and we would hum it dinner! Kids at one school told the orchestra teacher Mrs. Mallory that they often sung it at recess. That is what inspired Mrs. Mallory to contact Richard Meyer for a possible Skype meeting with the orchestra, which, is sort of what happened the next year.

The next year, Mrs. Mallory surprised the middle school orchestra with a field trip over the hills and through the puddles of the school parking lot to the high school, were we would get to "meet" Richard Meyer! I think we all saw this coming, but the Skype wasn't connecting or something else technical like that wasn't working so it resulted in a phone call over the speakers. But still, not a lot of musicians in the world can say they got to perform for the composer of the piece they were playing, got feedback and a standing ovation! We played Holiday Waltz, a new piece we were working on by him, as well as Ninja of course! Richard Meyer was so nice and it was super fun performing for him. Thank you for the cool opportunity and we will continue playing your interesting, fun music, Richard Meyer!

A common trend today is buying books online instead of buying or borrowing paper books. Libraries are going out of business and being shut down all over the world especially in America. Electronic books may save ink and paper but they are still bad for people in an many unknown ways. Should paper books be substituted for electronic books?

Paper books have many advantages over electronic books including one thing you would probably never think of. Health. Electronic books harm your eyes with the blue light in electronics. Paper books save your eyes from being damaged. Blue light has been known to damage the retinas in eyes. According to Anam Qureshi MD, one of the doctors interviewed for the “How Blue Light Affects Your Eyes” eyes article by Kristine Thompson, the blue light always damages all the way to the back of eyes.

Electronic books may be preferred over paper books but they also hurt the eyes of many. The blue light in electronics can do serious damage to an eye. The cornea and lens of the eye does not protect the light sensitive retina. This statement is from the article “7 Blue Light Facts.” by Gary Heiting. This is a problem because the retina of your eye is extremely important though blue light is proven to damage retinas along with other parts of the eye.

Though many would rather read a paper book than a electronic book paper books have many problems. Paper books contain usually hundreds of pages of paper which is very harmful. So much paper means that many trees have to be cut down which harms the environment. Trees are what filter the air and prove the homes of many animals. Paper books may be preferred over electronic books but they are very harmful the animals and the filtering of the air on earth.

Over all throughout comparing the pros and cons of paper versus electronic books many things have lead to paper books being the better option. Paper books do not just allow you to experience the smell of old paper and ink. Real books save your eyes from being damaged from dangerous lights found in electronics.
“My Heart”
By: A.R.

A letter to my lover,

My heart a fortress of pains and scars from the past.

You have broken down the walls and lit the rooms with your grace.

You have stolen my soul.

A smile on your face and stars in your eyes.

A thief stealing my love.

I never thought I could fall so quick.

But I never knew I could love anyone like this.

The gods crafted you with cupid at their side.

The beauty of Aphrodite with stardust in your soul.

No ordinary person could be so exquisite.

Your onyx eyes so deep.

So mesmerizing.

Tunnels digging into my heart.

Your heart so big.

Your laugh so perfect.

Oh that smile.

Your voice alone can melt my soul.

You know me so well.

You always seem to know just how to make me smile.

You make me stay awake at night wishing on what we could be.

I spend hours daydreaming all the ways I can make you smile.

Of all the things I can say just to hear you laugh.

Your power over me is undeniable.

Loving you.

Its my addiction.

I need you.

I need your kiss,

Your touch.

Your love is my personal drug.

I need you.

Can't you see it?

You’re my everything.

My heart isn't whole without you.

You made me realize love is not just heartbreak that love is infinite and strong.

My whole life I have been afraid to step over the line of normalcy but you set me free.

While most desire a sun to their earth.

Someone to bring light and safety to their love.

I desire a moon.

You are my darkness.

You bring me adventure on the wild side of life.

No matter how many fights and losses we endure,

My darling it is too late.

I have loved you too much for far too long to leave you now.

My heart is yours.

Your heart so big.

Your laugh so perfect.

Oh that smile.

Your voice alone can melt my soul.

You know me so well.

You always seem to know just how to make me smile.

You make me stay awake at night wishing on what we could be.

I spend hours daydreaming all the ways I can make you smile.

Of all the things I can say just to hear you laugh.

Your power over me is undeniable.

Loving you.

Its my addiction.

I need you.

I need your kiss,

Your touch.

Your love is my personal drug.

I need you.

Can't you see it?

You’re my everything.

“My Heart”
By: A.R.

A letter to my lover,

My heart a fortress of pains and scars from the past.

You have broken down the walls and lit the rooms with your grace.

You have stolen my soul.

A smile on your face and stars in your eyes.

A thief stealing my love.

I never thought I could fall so quick.

But I never knew I could love anyone like this.

The gods crafted you with cupid at their side.

The beauty of Aphrodite with stardust in your soul.

No ordinary person could be so exquisite.

Your onyx eyes so deep.

So mesmerizing.

Tunnels digging into my heart.

Your heart so big.

Your laugh so perfect.

Oh that smile.

Your voice alone can melt my soul.

You know me so well.

You always seem to know just how to make me smile.

You make me stay awake at night wishing on what we could be.

I spend hours daydreaming all the ways I can make you smile.

Of all the things I can say just to hear you laugh.

Your power over me is undeniable.

Loving you.

Its my addiction.

I need you.

I need your kiss,

Your touch.

Your love is my personal drug.

I need you.

Can't you see it?

You’re my everything.
Creativity in Focus