

The Raider Review



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The Raider Review

Winter 2005

Hurricanes Devastate Gulf Region

By Vivian Dai

After August 29th, New Orleans and other Gulf Coast cities will never again be as busy and prosperous as before. On that day, Hurricane Katrina attacked cities along the Gulf Coast. It broke the levee system that protected New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain, and the lake's waters then flooded the city. The hurricane, which had winds of over 145 miles per hour, also caused major damage to other areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. There



have also been at least 36 confirmed tornadoes associated with Hurricane Katrina. It will cost over \$200 billion dollars to repair, and the death toll has crossed 1,300. Survivors were sent to the Louisiana Superdome for shelter, where there was barely enough food and other reinforcements for the people there. This has made Hurricane Katrina the most destructive and costly natural disaster in the history of the United States.



Then, on September 17th, a new hurricane made its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane Rita, with winds of about 120 miles per hour, affected areas such as the Bahamas, Florida, Cuba, Arkansas, and Mississippi. It caused over 120 deaths, and \$8 billion in damages. It is recorded as being the strongest measured hurricane to enter the Gulf of Mexico.

As if that weren't enough, yet another hurricane, Hurricane Wilma, developed and on October 15th, with the most destructive effects felt in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico, Cuba, and the U.S. state of Florida. There were about 30 fatalities.

To help with hurricane relief efforts, you can go to RedCross.org, OperationBlessing.org, or Salvation-Armyusa.org. They need as much help as possible!

Hurricane Katrina Relief Group Collects Donations

By Rachel Berkrot

From September 19th to the 23rd, members of the Hurricane Katrina Relief group stood outside the cafeteria collecting donations to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina. For a few days, the walls were lined with posters suggesting that you donate to three different charities. The first option was the Humane society that helped the animals in need after the hurricane. The second option was Habitat for Humanity where the money will go to building homes for people who have lost theirs. The last charity was Americas, helped with everything that they might need, including food, clothing, toys, medicine, and supplies. The Hurricane Relief group collected a lot of money to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Everyone that donated has a card with their name on it hanging in the hallway. Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to the enormous effort!

Walk A Mile For Hurricane Katrina

By: Alex Reinhard

Have you ever wished that schools could do more fundraisers for natural disasters? Yes, well Dolan Middle School was one of the first to have a walk-a-thon for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders plowed the field of Dolan on September 20, 2005 to walk 5 laps (one mile) around the Dolan Field. Kids who participated had to bring in at least one dollar for pledge money to qualify for the walk-a-thon. One enormous prize went to the top seller in each of the grades. Even most of the teachers at Dolan participated in the walk-a-thon and together the school raised about 4,000 dollars. The top sellers in Dolan Middle School were Samantha Lyons, Brock Merdita, and Jacquelyn Hoyt. Most of the schools around the U.S. do fundraisers for disasters, but I think that Dolan Middle School's was probably the most effective of all the years that we participated in any fundraiser.

Rat Race Excites All

By Kristin Anderson and Allie Robles

This years Rat Race was held in the gym. It was between four homerooms from each grade. In 6th grade it was between Ms. Morrissey Omega 6, Mr. Nobile Omega 6, Mrs. Peterson Delta 6, and Mr. Senese Delta 6. The winner of the 6th grade was Mr. Senese. In the 7th grade it was between Miss Bodnar Omega 7, Mrs. Lessin Omega 7, Mrs. Bonardi Delta 7, and Mrs. Palumbo Delta 7. The winner of the 7th grade was Mrs. Lessin. In the 8th grade it was between Mr. Knowe Omega 8, Miss Eisemen Omega 8, Ms. Summons Delta 8, and Mr. Lerner Delta 8. The winner of the 8th grade was Ms. Eisemen. The three winners will receive a pizza party

Yearbook Club

By Emily Morales & Kaitlyn Czelada

The yearbook club is very important because they are the people that make a book of memories for us kids and our best times at Dolan Middle School. The kids that make this possible are Katie Henkel, Gabe Bottazzi, Guarav Majmudar, Amanda West, Kevin Morales, Erica Bortot, Dazquan Gainer, Frank Gentile, Shannon Hussey, Trevor Kane, Hallie Parrent, Latoya Person, Shayna Colon, Arielle Feinstein, Amanda Gleckas, Simon Mekonen, Isaias Reyes, Rocki Colacurcio, Alex Beltran, AJ Velarde, Steven Granja, Leo Garcia, and Claudia Perez. One reason to join this club is because of the two great and wonderful teachers Mrs. Corbi and Ms. Bodnar. Mrs. Corbi has been doing this for 4 years now. She likes yearbook because she likes to make a good yearbook and she wants everyone to like it. Mrs. Corbi also has experience with cameras because she took photography in high school. Ms. Bodnar has been doing the yearbook club for 4 years also. She likes it because she likes to take pictures. She does have experience with cameras because she did yearbook in high school.

Magazine Drive Raises Money

By Kristin Anderson and Allie Robles

Every year all students are invited to participate in the magazine drive. This year it was from Sept. 7th to the 22nd. You have to sell magazines to people that you know. Students are given a ticket for every magazine they sell and then they can turn in the tickets for prizes. Students sell magazines to get weepuls on turn in days. This year's weepuls were the seasons. The homerooms that sell the most magazines get to participate in the Rat Race. This year the top selling students were Carsen Winn in 6th grade, Dan Corrigan in 7th grade, and Monika Czytowska in 8th grade.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Victoria Pesiri and Shreya Das

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is when a tumor develops in the breast. There are only five techniques used for curing breast cancer they are: surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, and biologic therapy. All of these procedures have certain risks and scientists are still looking for a safer cure for this disease. Over 45,000 women in the U.S. alone and over 150,000 more women are diagnosed each year. Breast cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in women.

Breast cancer will strike more than 200,000 times this year and claim 40,000 lives, but there is one reason to have hope more women are surviving than ever before and fewer are seeing their bodies severely affected. There are many fundraises for breast cancer during this month. Stamford did Survivors in Fashion. Survivors of cancer model to help raise money for cancer. Celebrity chefs and sommeliers will serve food to help raise money for cancer. In Tampa Bay, San Diego, Arizona, and Atlanta they walk 60 miles to raise money. Stamford had PAINT THE TOWN PINK and they had activities from Sept. 29th to Oct. 29th. Since 1993 Making Strides has been the American Cancer Society's get together. In that time more than 2.5 million people have gathered across the country to raise more than \$160 million. Breast Cancer is rare before age 20 and is rarely diagnosed in any one 25 and younger. About 1 in 8 women in the U.S. and Canada will develop breast cancer. The rate of breast cancer has rose 24% since 1973 until 1991 while morality from breast cancer did not increase. As fundraising efforts increase and continue so does the success of finding a cure.



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Dolan Band Marches On

By Laurie Pochette

Most people think of school bands as just a group of kids who play the trumpet, clarinet, flute, piccolo, guitar, and drums, and walk in parades. Well the people who think that aren't entirely right. Other school bands might be like that, but not the Dolan band. Band at Dolan is where a bunch of kids from sixth through eighth grade get together at a certain time to play their instruments. But the students also have fun by either dancing crazy, singing sour notes, or doing something wild that Mr. Genovese tells you to do. Mr. Genovese, the band instructor who is also a music teacher at Dolan, is a very enthusiastic man who knows how to make his students laugh. He turns band into a fun activity that's not only about music. Usually when the end of the school year is nearing, each cog has a band party celebrating what they've accomplished in band. According to other students who are currently in the Dolan band, they've said that it is a fun band and activity to join and take part in.

Knitting Club

By: Francesca Caterino

Knit, purl, slip stitch, cast on, bind off – if you know these terms you have probably joined the knitting club. The knitting club meets in the cafeteria during activity period.

Many people enjoy knitting, and why not? Did you know that knitting happens to be very relaxing? It's very relaxing; it's great if you're stressing out at school or anything for that matter!

Madam Sloane, the French teacher, is the perfect teacher for knitting. She is so patient if you don't understand something at first. Mrs. Kliewe, a Dolan volunteer also helps the students work on their projects. New knitters are welcome to join and experienced knitters come out work on projects like belts, scarves, hats, and headbands.

Believe it or not, if you are a kind hearted person who is sad about Hurricane Katrina you can help them by knitting someone clothing. Remember something as simple as a sweater or a scarf can mean a lot to a victim of Hurricane Katrina.

Entertainment Books Popular Fund Raiser

By: Laurie Pochette

Two years ago, Dolan had another fundraiser besides the Magazine Drive and Cold Stone Creamery Night. That fundraiser was selling Entertainment Books. Entertainment books have several different coupons and great savings on dining, shopping, movies tickets, attractions, car washes, dry cleaning, video games, and much, much more. Students were given a sample of the Entertainment Books to show people exactly what they were getting. The price of Entertainment Books this year was 25 dollars. You'll get over 25 dollars in savings when you purchase an Entertainment Book. It's all worth it.

Canned Food Drive Supports Community

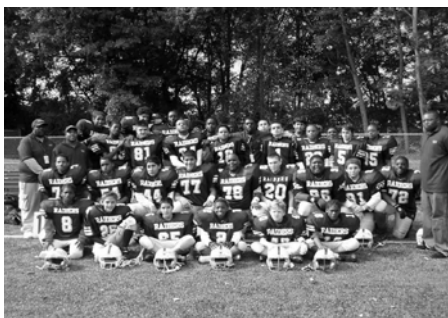
By: Laurie Pochette

Annually, Dolan participates in the Canned Food Drive to help many others in need of our support. This year, many of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade took time out of their day to collect cans from home. They then brought the cans from home down into the Gymnasium the next day; bright and early just in time to get to class. T. The turnout was average.

Dolan Football Season

By Rrok Merdita

This year, both of Dolan Middle School's Football teams have been triumphant. It has certainly been a successful season



for the Junior Varsity team with three wins one tie and only three losses. The varsity team's season was also a good one with three wins and four losses. There are six varsity teams as well as six junior varsity teams that Dolan played against during its football season. All of Dolan's games were

held on Saturdays and Sundays at various times. Dolan deserved the excellent season that they played after all the hours of hard work that they put on during football practice everyday after school. Football wasn't just about doing well athletically though. Grades and progress reports were made available to the head coach so they could track those athletes who are not performing well in class. This was to make sure the activity they were involved in was not seriously affecting their school performance. All in all, Dolan is happy with its varsity and junior varsity seasons.

By Shreya Das and Victoria Pesiri

We interviewed Mrs. Nuzzo and Mr. Casolo, some of the new teachers at Dolan Middle School. Victoria and I had a great time chatting with them. We learned a lot about them and their lives. It was a fabulous experience.

Mrs. Nuzzo

Mrs. Nuzzo, the social studies teacher for Delta seven, was born in Stamford, Connecticut. For elementary school



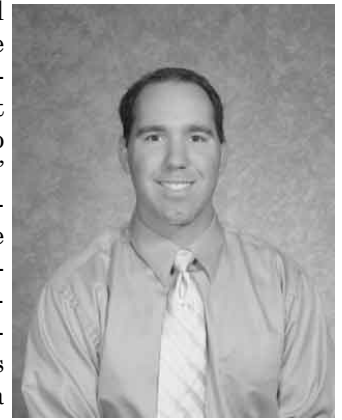
she went to Brookside in Norwalk. All her education was in Norwalk, Connecticut. She went to Roton Middle School. For high school she went to Brien McMahon High School.

She adores her mother very much because she had very good values and she taught her to have great morals. Her favorite teacher was in elementary school. That one teacher showed her she could do anything and she really cared for all of her students. She is an only child in her Italian family, but she had many cousins and other family members. She became a teacher because she wanted to make a difference in her student's lives and she would like to inspire them. When she was younger she wanted to have every job in the world. She frequently changed her mind to what she wanted to be when she grew up. So far her experience at Dolan has been fabulous. She loves the students and the overall enjoyment. The other teachers in Delta seven have been helping her since she is a new teacher. She loves all kinds of music because her son is a DJ. She hopes to have a great year at Dolan and hopes to make a difference in every student's life.

Mr. Casolo

Mr. Casolo, the Delta eight math teacher, was born in Stamford, Connecticut. All of his education was right here in

Stamford. For elementary school he went to K.T. Murphy, middle school he went right here at Dolan, and for high school he went to Westhill. His childhood hero was Don Mattingly, the Yankees' first baseman. He was most inspired by his parents when he was young. His family was absolutely wonderful and full of support. He became a teacher because he wanted a job that was fulfilling and he wanted to be a part of the community. When he was growing up he wanted to be a professional athlete and very rich, but his thoughts have changed. His experience at Dolan so far is excellent and is a challenge everyday. He loves to travel with his family and loves eating large family dinners.



Fall Poems

By: Laurie Pochette

These are some fall poems that I picked out that I thought would interest the Dolan student body.

Fall is Here

By: Helen H. Moore

Fall is here.
 Another year
 is coming to an end.
 Summer's finished,
 Summer's gone,
 Winter's round the bend.
 Fall is piles of crunchy leaves,
 orange, gold, and red.
 Fall is sweaters with long sleeves
 and blankets on the bed.
 Fall is football,
 Fall is pumpkins,
 Fall's where summer ends.
 And
 Fall is coming back to school,
 and seeing all my friends.

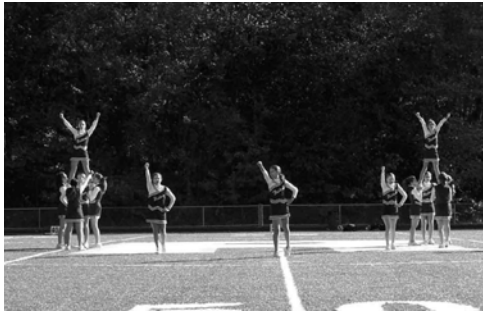
An Autumn Day

By: Carmen Lagos Signes
 Pumpkins in the cornfields,
 Gold among the brown,
 Leaves of rust and scarlet
 Trembling slowly down;
 Birds that travel southward,
 Lovely time to play;
 Nothing is as pleasant
 As an autumn day!

Cheerleading

By Maddy Lyons

On the Varsity Cheerleading Squad there are about 18 girls on the squad. Their names are Katie D., Kaley W., Adrienne P., Rachel C., Cassie M., Sarah E., Jessle V. Niki D., Alex S., Victoria M., Rocki C., Michelle M. Kayla V., and Katrina D. We can't forget our coaches Brittney Pia, Adrianna Robles, and Mrs. Defrancesco. Most of our varsity games are at Rippowam Middle School. We play all of the other middle schools in Stamford. Our team is 0-2 right now. We have played Rippowam and Cloonan.



Dolan also has a Junior Varsity squad. They are Emily C., Becca J., Katie H., Sarah B., Amanda W., Megan D., Keriann S., Rachel L., Kathryn M., Caela R., Jackie H., Ashley M., and Fiona O'C. Krissy R., Kelly J., Chantasia M., Tamika C. The coaches are Ms. Sileo, Alison Curcio, and Alyssa Wintergarden.

Our practices are held at the same time. On Tuesday's and Thursday's. The times that we have practice are from 3:00 to 4:30 in the gym. JV games are at Rippowam, too and some may be at Stamford High. At our practices we go over new cheers and learn new stunts. We also put together dances to do at half time and at exhibitions.

About two weekends ago the cheerleaders had there annual exhibition. All the cheerleaders from Stamford were there. It was held at Westhill High School. Every cheerleader who participated received a trophy. Unfortunately the season has ended for this year. For all the eighth graders we will miss you.

Top Ten T.V Shows

By: Liz Coughlan and Allyson Magda

- 1.Laguna Beach
- 2.Tr1
- 3.Suite Life of Zach and Cody
- 4.My Super Sweet Sixteen
- 5.That So Raven
- 6.Gilmore Girls
- 7.Full House
- 8.Small Ville
- 9.The Real World
- 10.Punk'd

Book Review

By Liz Coughlan and Rachel Berkrot

The book that we are reviewing is Carl Hiaasen's thrilling novel, Hoot.

If you are a person that enjoys reading fiction, adventure, and mystery than Hoot is the book for you. This is a story about a boy that has moved to Florida and has to endure bullies, his family, and a whole new town. When Roy spots a boy running away on his own with no shoes, Roy thinks that the strange boy may be the only thing that can get his own problems off his mind. Eventually, Roy meets this strange boy, along with his stepsister. Together they embark on an adventure to take a stand against environmental issues. Carl Hiaasen finds a way to twist two tales into one story and end up with a perfect ending. On a scale of one to ten, we would rate this story an 8.5. Critics also agree that Hoot is a story that deserves a rating of four ½ stars. If you liked this book, we also recommend Carl Hiaasen's new book Flush.

Fall's Ins and Outs

By: Allie Robles and Liz Coughlan

For Men

- | In | Outs |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1.Abercrombie | 1.baggy pants |
| 2.Etnies | 2.sweatpants |
| 3.Pac Sun | 3.gray sneakers |
| 4.Journey | 4.long hair |
| 5.Ralph Lauren | 5.big jewelry |
| 6.Clogs | 6.big shirts |
| 7.Converse | 7.striped shirts |
| 8.Jeans | 8.yellow shirts |
| 9.Hats | 9. painted nails |
| 10.Rolex Watches | |

Women

- | In | Out |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.North Faces | 1.bagging pants |
| 2.Polo's | 2.outside pants |
| 3.Abercrombie | 3.to tight jeans |
| 4.Journey | 4.Uggs with fur |
| | 5.skirts to short |
| 6.Converse | 6.big t-shirts |
| 7.Jeans | 7.unbrushed hair |
| 8.Huge Sunglasses | |
| 9.Jewelery | |
| 10.Spirit Wear | |

War In Iraq

By: Erica Tat

"American used to dream of building a strong, unified, pluralistic Iraq. Now the possibilities are a very loose federation, or violent disintegration." On October 15, 2005, a constitutional referendum was held in Iraq. It is a voting event for a draft constitution to turn Iraq into a democracy.

Iraqis had started to vote at 7 A.M. on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Iraqis had to only answer one question in the ballot and it was: "Do you approve the draft constitution of Iraq?" In order to vote, Iraqi citizens have to be over the age of eighteen and registered to vote by mid-September, the deadline. The constitution will pass if two-thirds of the voters in any 18 provinces of Iraq approve. But, if two-thirds of the voters disapprove, the constitution will fail. If the constitution passes, another election will be held in December for new Council of Representatives where new national and regional governments will be established. The national elections will be held by December 15th and the new government must be in office by December 31st. If the constitution fails, another National Assembly will be elected to write a new constitution within a year and another national referendum will be held.

Before the voting event, many innocent soldiers and Iraqis were killed in violent attacks like bombed car incidents. These events happened before the constitutional referendum. Numerous had died because the Sunnis insurgents had caused all this chaos. The Sunnis dislike the constitution and their Muslim leaders recommended other Sunnis to reject it. A majority of Sunnis are located in four out of the 18 provinces in Iraq. If all of these Sunnis say no to the constitution, the possibility of the constitution failing will be very high. The Sunnis are causing a huge problem, but if people have faith, Iraq can become a democracy. "We are all putting ourselves in danger, but that is the price that must be paid for progress. The burden is on all our shoulders for a successful election, a democratic Iraq." says John Norris.

Zombie Teachers From Alaska

By Rachel Berkrot

It was first period of the day that all of the teachers turned into zombies. We all sat in the same boring social studies class as Mrs. White read us a current events article. I was only half listening, and half looking forward to science where we'd get our real science teacher back. Our class hadn't seen her for weeks because she'd gone on a trip to Northern Alaska. Mrs. White read us some thing about a chemical reaction in the water in Northern Alaska that may have been affecting the penguins there, as the bell rang. We all got up to leave.

"Wait! Sit down! I haven't dismissed you yet," Mrs. white called.

She then concluded that a chemical imbalance had spilled in the water and the penguins that lived up North were being dangerously affected. We were all dismissed to science.

The class was loud and excited because today, we'd be able to do some actual science experiments, instead of busy work with a sub. We were ready to see a familiar face enter the room when a different face walked inside. It was Miss Brown all right, but she looked different. Her usual sleek, neat hair was tangled like a nest. Miss Brown looked paler than usual and there were dark circles around her eyes as if she hadn't slept in weeks. Her eyes were her strangest feature of all. Their cool blue color had become dark and blood-shot. The whites of her eyes practically glowed red. When she spoke, her voice sounded almost robotic.

"Hello class," said the strange unfamiliar voice. "Today I am going to share with you some things that I learned while I was away..." I tuned out her voice.

There was something wrong here and everyone knew it. We just stared, mesmerized, and silent for the first time this year. Our teacher was either sick, or playing a sick joke. I looked over at my brainiac friend, Kat, to already find her skimming through the pages of a research book about Alaska. Kat would find out what was going on. That's why I went to ask her as soon as the bell rang.

"According to my research," Kat began when I asked her about Miss Brown, "Our science teacher has become some mutated *thing* from Alaska. The water can do that to you there."

When I heard water and Alaska I immediately thought of Social Studies class. Even though I was only half listening, I knew that the water was doing some thing to the penguins. What if the water could do something to humans too?

"Kat, Miss Brown turned into a zombie teacher from Alaska!"

We turned to where a staff meeting was taking place. Practically all the teachers were in the room with that zombie teacher. Stories said that Zombies were only capable of making more zombies! If things turned out in the zombies favor, the whole school would turn out just like Miss Brown!

When the staff meeting was over at 12:00 the teachers piled out of the room. Our worst fears had come true! Every teacher had the same red tired eyes, and pale skin as Miss Brown. Everyone in the hall stopped dead for thirty seconds before running. Kat got away from me, so I tried to fun after her, but everything went black.

I woke up on my own couch, in my house the next day, thinking that I was still in the school.

"Zombies," I groaned. Then I realized that I was missing Halloween at school. "Mom," I said "I've got to get to school. It's Halloween!"

"The school's closed today. Plus you fell and hit her head really hard." My mom explained. When I looked at her with a question my mom explained, "The school is closed because of an extreme case of pink eye. All the teachers have it."