



Smoke Signals Newsletter

Kawameeh
Middle School
2016-2017



The NJHS Makes a Difference! By: Kaithlyn Johnson

The 8th grade members of the National Junior Honors Society have done (and will continue to do) a lot of good for the community this year. In an event called "Four Centuries in a Weekend", students devoted their time volunteering at the Caldwell Parsonage House. Here they read historical and informative scripts which educated the visitors. They were sort of like tour guides for the day. Also, for Thanksgiving each member of the society is bringing in packaged goods to create Thanksgiving baskets for a few families who are in need of food this holiday. In addition, every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m., fellow students are in in Room 206 ready to help any student from any grade with academic help. Please come to peer tutoring in the mornings- don't be shy just stop by!

KMS Seventh Graders become "Outsiders" for a day!

Recently, KMS seventh graders read the novel, The Outsiders, written by S.E. Hinton. Throughout the novel, The Outsiders, the author tells a story of class warfare between two gangs: the Greasers and the Socs. It also discusses friendships, violence, and family. The book has so many strengths, but one of the best aspects is how the author describes the characters so well. Many would recommend this book to young adults because it teaches readers a valuable lesson. Just as Cherry Valence says, "Things are rough all over!"

On Friday, October 7th, many 7th graders participated in "Dress like an Outsider Day" in their English classes. Some dressed like Greasers (with jeans, white t-shirts, and hair grease) while others dressed like Socs (with madras shirts and preppy dresses). Students were excited to end the novel with such a fun activity! Coming up next, students will complete the novel Hoot. The culminating activity for this book involves an environmental fundraiser and a highly anticipated community outreach program! Stay tuned!

Are Cats "Jerks"? By: Maria Barmina



When I think of cats, I think adorable little kittens purring sweetly and sleeping on the bed. However, I also think of huge cats slapping their owners, biting babies, and purposely pushing glass objects off a table- not even being the least bit guilty! I know from personal experience that some cats are simply sweethearts, but some are impossible jerks. There are countless Youtube compilations of cats being extremely rude and mean. A recent study shows that cats can recognize their owner's voice, but often, they don't feel like responding. This study also says that cats have not evolved to become

domesticated enough to obey human orders. The study suggests that the reason for this is because cats are historically loners who essentially "domesticated themselves." In addition, it states that when a cat wants the owner's attention, they'll simply knock things off tables. Lastly, cats hate the one thing that everyone loves them for; petting and cuddling. Being petted stresses out most cats, and for them it is better to live with other cats, not humans. So the next time you think your cat is acting like a total jerk, remember, it isn't you- it's science!

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Week of Respect 2016

During Week of Respect, our students and staff engaged in a variety of activities designed to promote respect among the school community. Students and staff were all surprised with positive affirmations on their lockers or classroom doors on the first day of Week of Respect. It was our hope that this would get the week off to a positive start! We also had our "Take what you need" posters and "Give/take a compliment" flyers throughout the building. During Advisory on the last day of the week, students were reminded of the power of words, both negative and positive with our "Wrinkled Heart" activity. Students had the opportunity to see how words can cause damage that cannot be repaired no matter how many times "I'm sorry" is said. They were encouraged to think before they speak, because it is hard to heal a wrinkled heart!



Week of Respect 2016



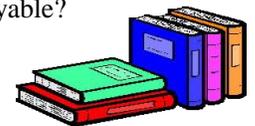
Books vs. Movies

By: *Kaitlyn Johnson*

Many people in life, especially students, tend to believe that watching a movie is better than reading the book. In my opinion, the book is usually so much better than the movie. In a book, you can imagine things the way the author described, while in movies you are given certain characters that play the part without freedom of imagining who you believe to be perfect for the part. For instance the book titled, The Giver, is a better book than it is a movie. I certainly liked the plot of the book better; in the

movie, very enjoyable elements were cut out or changed completely. In books, there can be fictional elements such as a character flying, however, in movies enjoyable parts of books have to be edited or cut out because they are impossible to recreate in the real world. Relating back to the book title mentioned, after reading the novel, the reader can view how much different the movie is. Avid readers such as myself become angered when a movie does not meet up to the standards of a book. Another example is the novel Hoot, and its movie. The characters envisioned in the novel were so enjoyable to read about,

however, after seeing the movie with actors playing the roles, my feeling on the whole story had become less enjoyable. If anything, the movie disappointed me. I can't give any spoilers especially for the seventh graders who will be reading these novels, but if you would like to view my point and opinion, watch the movies and read the books. Which do you find more enjoyable?



Inside the TeePee:



PTA News



The KMS PTA is looking for your help so we can reach our budget goal for this school year. Events such as the 6th & 7th Grade Ice Cream Socials, KMS Staff Holiday Luncheon and other great events are sponsored by the PTA. We support our Township schools Performing Arts Clubs by purchasing Playbill advertisements. Our largest expense each year goes to our own 8th Graders, by providing graduation portfolios for each student, making a donation to the yearbook committee and purchasing the prestigious Kawameeh Chief Awards.

The Kawameeh PTA Executive Board would like to continue to raise money to meet their budget by holding events like a Clothing Drive, a Spirit Wear sale, a Lunch Time Raffle, a Snack Sale and visits by the Kona Ice truck.

Also, there is still time to become a member of the Kawameeh Middle School PTA. Our next meeting is scheduled for **December 2016**. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the school library.

In order to provide our students with great events, your support and participation is needed. Membership and Donation Flyers can be found on the PTA page of the KMS website.

<http://kawameeh.twpunionschools.org/KMS-PTA-/index.html>

Thank you in advance to the families who have joined the PTA and have also sent in their family donations. Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to the PTA Mailbox at: KMSPTA.UNION@yahoo.com.

