



Smoke Signals Newsletter

Kawameeh
Middle School
2016-2017



"LIVE" Famous Person Biographical Research Project!

Is Cracking Your Knuckles a Bad Thing??

By: *Kaitlyn Johnson*

According to a study conducted by Donald Unger, cracking your knuckles is not a harmful thing to do. For sixty years he cracked his knuckles only on one hand. His study proved no more arthritis in one hand than the other. In between your knuckles is something called synovial fluid. As you stretch out the joints in your fingers, a gas is formed inside this fluid. Inside, a bubble is formed and when you crack your fingers, the bubble pops and the gas separates. In order to crack your knuckles you must wait twenty minutes for the gas bubble to form once more. So, as Donald Unger proved cracking knuckles to be unharmed, he was rewarded with the Nobel Prize for medicine.



On Friday, May 26th, 7th grade students in both Mrs. Kelly's and Mrs. Winters's Honors English classes participated in a culminating activity to wrap-up the end of their year-long biographical research projects. In September, students selected the famous person of their choice (living or dead) to conduct research on. With the help of KMS Library Media Specialist, Ms. Lewis, students completed monthly submissions on their chosen famous person. They used MLA format to write their research papers and also

used various library databases and Noodletools to generate an appropriate bibliography. Throughout the course of the year, students evaluated authoritative sources and had to determine what was current and relevant to their famous person.

Once all students submitted their final work, they were asked to dress up as "wax" figures of their famous person! Other 7th and 8th grade classes were able to "meet and greet" these famous people and ask them questions pertaining to their lives and legacies!

The Final Stretch – Surviving June By: *Caroline Menho*

The sun is out, the birds are chirping, and alas, the long winter has ended! The annual outbreak of spring-fever has spread! In these last three weeks of school, most students (including myself) just want to throw out their textbooks and get outside, but it is important to stay focused and continue working hard throughout the year. Here are some tips for staying on top of the game as the school year comes to a close. **Set goals:** Even though we are finishing up testing, and the 4th marking period has almost ended, setting goals for yourself can still help you stay focused and attentive. Whether it's bringing up grades, making a friend, or just joining a club and learning a new skill, these

goals will keep you motivated until summer starts. **Don't wish time away:** Although summer is exciting, we should also try to enjoy today and live in the present. We often end up regretting when we wish away time, so trying to find the best in every day can help. **Have fun!:** The best way to survive school is to try and make it enjoyable. Come up with a new way to spice up your schoolwork and projects. It is fun for you, and it will boost your grade!

By trying to use these three tips, summer should be here in no time. You'll look forward to school and seeing your friends, and before you know it, you'll be lounging by the pool!

Perspectives on Kawameeh *By: Kaitlyn Johnson*

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Tala Odeh is an ESL student, in the 7th grade, at Kawameeh Middle School. She entered a story in Elizabeth Claire's Easy English Newspaper contest (a newspaper for English language learners) and won! She is published in the May newspaper and received a \$15.00 check. Great job and congratulations, Tala!

Every year students enter and leave Kawameeh Middle School. I was curious to see the difference between a soon to be 7th grader versus a soon to be 9th grader, so I interviewed two of my friends. One of which will be leaving Kawameeh at the end of the year and the other will be starting another year in Kawameeh in the fall. After interviewing both Madylaina and Joe Paoello, I found out the following information:



Joe Paoello Interview (current sixth grader):

1. What has been your favorite memory so far in Kawameeh?
2. What are you most looking forward to doing in middle school?
3. Are you going to miss being in the same school as your sister for the remainder of your Kawameeh years?

Answers:

- My favorite memory so far in Kawameeh was building the 3D aircraft carrier puzzle in the library.
- Next year, I look forward to joining the baseball team and the marching band.
- I won't miss my sister one bit!

Madylaina Paoello Interview (current eighth grader):

1. What has been your all-time favorite memory in Kawameeh?
2. What will you miss most about Kawameeh?
3. Is there anything in particular that you would like your brother to experience during his years in Kawameeh?

Answers:

- My favorite memory in Kawameeh was definitely the eighth grade dance.
- I will miss being a part of the chorus the most.
- I would love Joe to experience everything that he can. I hope he will have as much fun as I did!

Disabilities Awareness Week

By: Ahron McReynolds

In May, KMS recognized Disabilities Awareness Week. In an effort to educate more people in our school, Kawameeh hosted our first ever Disabilities Awareness Week. Staff and students hoped to promote awareness to our school population to help educate everyone about appropriate attitudes and interactions needed when serving people with disabilities.

Throughout this designated week, Kawameeh students participated in many ways. For example, there was a "Pajama Bottom Day", Teamwork Day, Crazy Hair/Mismatch Day, Autism Awareness Day, and Visual Impairments Day all conducted to help spread awareness. Thanks to all who participated!



Let's Talk Chalk *By: Caroline Menho*

Recently, the 7th grade English classes engaged in a unit on poetry and figurative literature. Students created "Poe-trees", a series of poems branched together on a cartoon tree. Tying in with the theme of nature, students chose one poem from their tree and were able to pick a sidewalk square in the front of the school. Students wrote the selected poems in their squares and were able to decorate with chalk with complete artistic freedom. After the last poem was written, the entire lot was covered with beautiful artwork and poems, ranging from humorous acrostic poems to meaningful haikus.

This was certainly one of my favorite projects of the year. Watching everyone put their hearts into their work and create something special for all of the school to see was truly beautiful. It was a great way for the students to decompress and have fun while learning about poetry. Kailey McDonough, from Mrs. Kelly's 3A class says, "I love writing poetry, and I think this project was a great way to beautify the school." This was an activity our 7th grade class will never forget!



Inside the TeePee: *Relay for Life*

Throughout the course of the 2016-2017 school year, Kawameeh Middle School students and staff embraced the #kmsOneTribe motto by participating in fundraising for the Relay for Life. During the final week of fundraising events, students donated to dunk Mr. Malanda in a dunk tank or hit Mr. Shaw with a pie! Donations for the year totaled over \$3,000, and many turned out for the Relay for Life event held at Union High School on Saturday June 3rd. Way to go tribe!

