



Volume 3

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[Haiku Valentine Contest](#)

The MRHS Library held its Annual Valentine's Day Haiku Contest and received over 200 entries. A number of English teachers incorporated the contest into their lessons and others encouraged students to participate on their own. Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry consisting of three lines. The first and last lines have five syllables, and the middle line has seven syllables. They rarely rhyme. Students created valentine poems on hearts using the Haiku format. The Haiku hearts have been on display in the library for the past week and the winners were announced on Valentine's Day. We would like to thank all the teachers and students who participated and congratulate our winners: Runners Up: Sweetest – Tara Mott; Most Humorous – Arwa Ensour; Strongest Emotion – Manushaque Ndreico; Heartbreaker – Blerina Pushkule; Judges' Pick – Naya Bagley; Winners: Third Place – Yuliana Camacho-Aguilar; Second Place – Kayla Elias; First Place – Sandy Le.



Students Hear How Forgiveness Changes Lives

On Wednesday, February 15, tenth and eleventh graders were treated to a compelling presentation by an organization called "Breaking the Cycle." It was comprised of three speakers who had life-changing experiences that caused them to see life and relationships in a new dimension. The first speaker was Hashim Garrett, CEO of "Wisdom & Understanding," who was a gang member during his youth, and had been shot and paralyzed from his waist down when he was 15 years old. The second speaker was Ann Marie D'Aliso, a mother whose 16 year old son committed suicide in 2004. The third speaker was Charles Williams, a former police chief who told his personal story about the healing power of forgiveness. All students received a free book, *Why Forgive?* by Johann Christoph Arnold, containing the speakers' and others' stories.



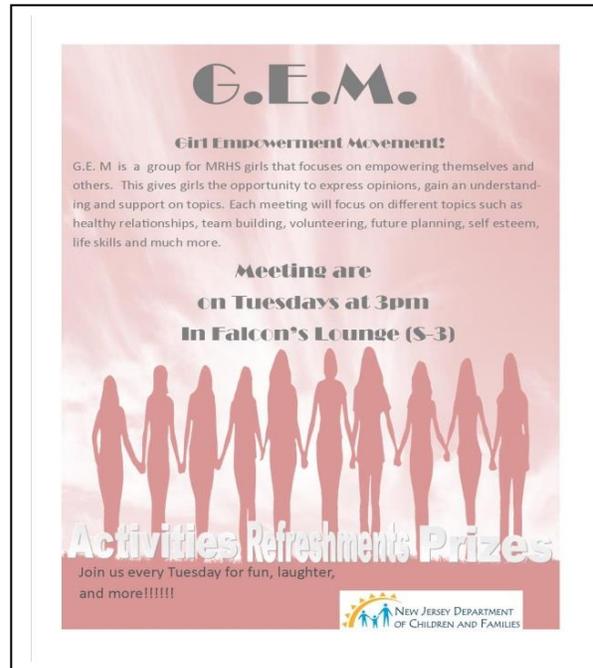
Charles Williams addressing students



Students getting their books autographed

Girls' Empowerment Movement (G.E.M.)

The Falcons' Lounge started an all-girls group called Falcons' Lounge G.E.M (Girls' Empowerment Movement). The purpose of the group is to provide girls a place to discuss topics together. The first meeting was on February 7th, and it was very interesting as they discussed their expectations and goals for the group. The group will continue to meet every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. in the Falcons' Lounge. Come and join!



Choral Ensemble at Prospect Park

The Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Ms. Persenaire, is singing on Saturday, February 18, for the Prospect Park Black History Month program. They will be singing *Wayfaring Stranger*, *Southern American Folk Song*, and *Arms Around the World*, a Gaither/Franklin gospel song.



[Creative Volcanoes](#)

Mrs. Petrillo-Ala's STEM class finished their unit on volcanoes. Students represented an engineering firm given a task from "city planners" to create a model of a city they would like to build around a volcano. The model included the volcano, a village, a lake, crops, trees, and livestock. As requested by the city planners, the students could only use everyday materials found at a typical home to build the model city because they wanted the project to be cost efficient. In addition to building the model with everyday materials, the students were asked to simulate the volcanic eruption using easily accessible materials and chemicals. Students were also asked to incorporate a protective system (i.e., barrier, escape route, etc.) to keep the residents safe from harm if the volcano were to erupt. Students successfully followed all the steps in the engineering design process to complete their task.



[Students Say No to Teen Dating Violence](#)

On Tuesday, February 14, the Falcons' Lounge hosted an Improv Teen Dating Violence Workshop. Students from Mr. Bamford's Theater Arts classes acted out scenarios and participated in a discussion about different relationship types. Students who attended found it to be very meaningful and enlightening.



Winter Door Winner

This month, Student Council sponsored a Winter Door contest. We had some very elaborately decorated doors. Teachers, staff, and students voted for the winning door. And, the winner is Room 209, Mrs. Petrillo-Ala. Her homeroom class will be provided a free breakfast from Student Council.

