

# CheetahZine

## Chenery Courtyard Blossoms!

By: Robert Powers

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As you walk down the hallway parallel to the cafeteria you might notice something. The courtyard has been transformed into a full-fledged garden, with a pond included!

It all started last year. Mrs. Solomon, a naturalist/teacher and coordinator at the Habitat Intergenerational Program, heard of a school gardening program sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. She thought this program had some potential to become something big, so she took

the information she had to the Habitat Steering Committee. Mr. Ligon, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher here at Chenery, is the representative for Chenery on this board and Mrs. Solomon is the chairperson of the board. The board gave them the response "Go for it!"

During the month of November Mr. Ligon, Mrs. Solomon, and a small group spoke with Mrs. Alexander. Mrs. Alexander gave them the go ahead and shortly after that an Intergenerational Steering Committee was



Photo by Robert Powers

formed and was made up of parents, seniors, teachers, a landscape architect, and students. That small group looked at other schools with courtyards for inspiration. Teachers and students also gave input and

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## An Interview with Mrs. Peterson: Nurse at Chenery

by: Angela Lai and Kathleen Zhu

Q: What inspired you to be a nurse?

A: I like helping people feel better, and that made me feel better.

Q: When did you start working for CMS?

A: I have been working at CMS for seven years. I have worked at Belmont Public Schools for 14 years in all.

Q: Do you like your job, why or why not?

A: Yes I love my job helping kids

study in school and learn well.

Q: What do you find interesting about being a nurse?

A: I find that I get to see a lot of people every day. I also see something special in everybody.

Q: How many kids come in everyday?

A: About 125

Q: What are some of the common illnesses for which people come in for everyday?

A: Colds and stomach flu.

Q: Do you have any other enjoyments, and what are they?

A: Reading books, walking and watching football.

Q: If you could pick another profession, what would it be? Why?

A: I would probably be a social worker so I could work with children and their families in a different environment.

Q: How would you change

Chenery Middle School to make it a healthier place?

A: I don't know ...

Chenery Middle School is already a very healthy place. I would encourage everyone to wash their hands frequently. And show them the proper way to wash their hands.

To sum it up, Ms. Peterson is a cheerful nurse, a helpful friend, and somebody you can always count on!

## Courtyard *continued*

finally, in the spring of 2003 the project got started! Even though the project is not quite finished the courtyard looks beautiful. There is still and will always be more planting to do. There is also still to be installed birdfeeders, art projects, and signs. "The courtyard will never really be done", says Mr. Ligon, "although we hope to get the main building projects done by next spring.

Mrs. Solomon and Mr. Ligon are both co-directors of the project and they both believe it is a great success. "Wow!" says Mrs. Solomon; she believes it is and will become a great place for learning, observation, and reflection. "I am very pleased with the courtyard," says Mr. Ligon. He thinks as more activities and people come then it will become "a great success".

Both Mrs. Solomon and Mr. Ligon hope that you all are fond of the courtyard. A lot of effort has been put into this by dozens of volunteers, and this has all been possible because of donations and a grant from the Belmont Foundation for Education. Mrs. Solomon says, "This has been a totally awesome experience for me!!"

### CheetahZine

Cheetahzine, a CMS student publication, is a mix of news and features about the school community.

**Staff Members:** Danny Alford, Jillian Allen, Alex Aroyan, Cassandra Biette, Katie Bloore, Madeline Dahl, Sebastian Das, Lisa Doe, Julia Harris, Victoria Kohler, Angela Lai, Emma Long, Joey Migeed, Drew Ohringer, Stephen Paolillo, Sam Pichette, Robert Powers, Emily Rutherford, Simone Steinberg, Nawal Traish, Kathleen Zhu

**Advisor:** Ms. Griffin

## Feedback – An Interview with Ms. Johnson

by Stephen Paolillo and Sam Pichette

We asked Ms. Johnson, Headmaster of the Lower School, a lot of questions about our school. We have the whole interview right here for you to see yourself. So before you read this ask yourself something you want to know about the school, and see if it comes up here.

We asked her, "What year do you think kids should enter middle school?" She replied, "In a lot of ways, I like how the students enter in fifth grade and leave in eighth."

We asked her, "What do you think is the behavior of the Lower School, and would that change your answer to the first question?" She told us, "The fifth and sixth graders behave very well, and no, that does not change my opinion on the first question.

We asked her, "Did you make up any of the clubs?" She answered, "I was the first to supervise the Math Club."

"Do you like being the headmaster of the Lower School?" "I like it very much."

"If you had a choice, would you choose to be in charge of the Upper School?" "I really like the Lower School, but I'm sure that if I started out supervising the Upper School, I would like it better."

"Do you deal out punishments, and if you do, what are they?" "I don't usually give out punishments, but sometimes I have to talk to students, sometimes I have to send a letter to their parents, sometimes I have to give them detention, sometimes I make them call their parents, and sometimes, in very rare cases, I give them a suspension."

"What do you do when you are not watching over the lower school?" "I visit classes, I meet with teachers, and I meet with Mrs. Alexander."

"What was your job before you became headmaster?" "I was an eighth grade math teacher. I also taught history."

"When did you enter middle school, and what middle school was it?" "I entered junior high in seventh grade. In that school, there were only three grades- seventh, eighth, and ninth. My school was called Bloomfield Hills Junior High."

"Do you like one specific club better than all the rest?" "I like the math club. I love math."

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## What's cooking up in Chenery?

By Alex Aroyan and Madeline Dahl

Many people in Chenery ask that same question, what's cooking up in Chenery? Well, for all of you that are wondering, and those of you that aren't, here's your chance to find out. The school has a new milk machine featuring regular, chocolate, double chocolate, vanilla, and coffee milk. We still have the juice machine as well, supplying water, fruit punch, lemonade, ice tea, and other drinks. Snacks such as chips and ice cream are available for \$0.50 to \$1.00. We have the same lunches from last year and according to Mr. McAllister, head of the lower school student council, the student council will be choosing two new lunches every month. Remember, pizza days are on Fridays! Chicken Nuggets, salad, wraps, and sandwiches are available every day. Have a great lunch!



# How Much Do You Know About The Chenery Family?

By Victoria Kohler and Emma Long

Have you ever wondered about Winthrop L. Chenery- the person who our school's named after? He's the 8<sup>th</sup> generation in the huge Chenery family! There is a whole time-line of history behind the Chenery family that even you may not know.

Lambert Chenery was the founder of the Chenery family. Lambert was born in 1593 in England. He later settled in Watertown in 1630 with his wife and two sons, John and Isaac. After many generations, Winthrop L. Chenery was born. Winthrop L.'s parents were Winthrop W. Chenery and Frances L. Fillebrown. They both purchased land from his mother Lucibia Chenery to build "Walnut Hill House." Winthrop L. also had three cousins Charles E.,

George W., and Franklin W. The four cousins were ten years apart from each other except for Franklin W., who died in 1872.



Photo by Robert Powers

Winthrop L. Chenery was born in 1845 and died in 1915. Winthrop was a former assessor, school committeeman, town clerk and town treasurer in Belmont. The Winthrop L. Chenery house used to stand where Lambert Road stands today, and was moved to #19 Fairmont Street a little after 1910.

In 1923, the Winthrop L. Chenery Elementary School was built. Then, in 1969, the building

connected to the junior high school that was next to it, and became the Chenery Middle School. The new building was considered the safest school in the country. This was because all the classrooms were built around the assembly hall, which is where the courtyard is now, in the center of the building. Doors leading outside were built onto each classroom. The building was also one story high, instead of the three stories it is today. The members of the Chenery family have been a very important part of history to Chenery Middle School. Now you know more about the history of the Chenery family, that you may not have known before!

## Cheetahzine Online

Click on Cheetahzine under News/Calendars at [www.belmont.k12.ma.us/chenery/](http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/chenery/)

# The Truth Behind Mr. McLellan and the Band

by: Dan Alford and Drew Ohringer

With two-hundred ninety seven kids in the band, twelve ensembles, and twenty-eight new members of the band, you might think Mr. McLellan has a lot on his hands, but he still has time to make sure the band is as good as it can be.

When we interviewed Mr. McLellan who had just returned from helping kids with their progress in band, he told us many things including where he gets his crazy words to what his expectations are for the band this year.

Mr. McLellan, who uses many funny words when teaching, such a goober, told us they come from Russian and Venutian, the language of his homeland, Venus (or at least that's what he tells us!). Mr. McLellan's expectations for the band this year are that the kids make progress and pass at least four levels (a group of different musical pieces that increase in difficulty). Obviously, Mr. McLellan thinks that these expectations are being fulfilled for in his own words, he told us, "The band is doing pretty darn well this year."



Photo by Robert Powers

# Chenery Cheerleading!

by: Cassandra Biette

In November, Lera Navickas, Alex Reilly, Anna O'Doherty, and Stephanie Cortina started running a cheerleading clinic for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Come Tuesdays all year from 2:30- 3:30 in the small gym, any time all year, and learn some cheer dances, motions, and sometimes even some stunts and tumbles. One of the things that they are doing now is a routine with music. This is a free program overseen by Mr. Donovan, the librarian. Right now, about ten kids participate. There are no tryouts, no uniforms, or competitions. All the girls that are running it are cheerleaders. Lera cheers for the MGC Starlites, Alex cheers for JAG, Anna cheers for JAG, and Stephanie cheers for Pop Warner. All of them are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at CMS. Leah Coconides, a cousin of Lera Navickas has never been a cheerleader before but really enjoys the clinic. She's a flyer on the squad. Leah highly recommends the clinic for fifth and sixth grade girls. Christina Masse, a team base, has never cheerleaded before but likes cheerleading because it is fun, keeps you healthy, and stretches your muscles. She'd also like to say that the squad needs two bases, one back and one flyer. The team back, Maggie Scenna has never participated before but her favorite part of cheerleading is stunting and learning cheers. This program has been around for a while, and this year, Lera decided to do it herself. This is a great cheerleading program for girls to try!

# Endangered and Unendangered) Species

By: Julia Harris

You've probably noticed that there are a lot more skunks around than there used to be. Maybe you've even spotted a coyote. But I doubt that you've encountered a water shrew lately!

Two endangered species in Massachusetts are the water shrew and the bald eagle. The water shrew is given its name because it is hardly ever found more than a few yards away from the water. It is classified as a Species of Special Concern. One reason for this is that wetland areas are being altered or polluted, (this not only affects the shrew's habitat, but also its food supply; it eats aquatic insects, various types of flies, beetles and their larvae, and sometimes other water creatures). Another reason is that they may be being introduced to new predators, like bass. The bald eagle also lives in wetlands. In 1995, there were nine pairs of bald eagles in Massachusetts. For the survival of these regal birds, we must not disturb their nesting areas.

On the other hand, coyote and skunk populations are rapidly rising. In fact, in 1999, a coyote was found in Central Park in New York City! Although they are associated with the West, the coyote has moved east. It did that because it thrives in open space, and in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it began to take advantage of new territory that agriculture and logging had provided. Also, its predator and competitor, the gray wolf, has shrunk in population. The skunk population is growing here because of all of the "food" opportunities: garbage, compost, pet food, gardens, bird feeders, etc. They also like to eat white lawn grubs. To top it off, humans have an extra bonus: ready-made shelter, like the space under a deck. On a vacation at Cape Cod, I saw a skunk just inside a building at a mini-golf course, and under a picnic table at an ice-cream place. So if you smell a skunk, don't be surprised, but don't expect to see a water shrew around any time soon!

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**Poetry Corner**

By: Sebastian Das

<p><u>When you're mad</u> My mom and dad are mad, Their intelligence is sad, They need to see a pro, To make their intelligence grow</p>	<p><u>Mom's morning lecture</u> Get your pencils, Get your rulers, Get your stencils, And be nice with your schoolers,  School is school, For your lunch here is a bun, You don't think school is cool? You're no fun.  Now go to Chenery, And be the best that you can be Do it for me.</p>
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## Johnson Interview *continued*

"How long have you been the headmaster of the Chenery Middle School Lower School?" "This is my seventh year. I started in 1997."

We hope this answered a few of your questions. If you want to know anything else about any other part of the Chenery staff, just send a note to the Cheetahzine, and we'll get on it right away!

# Two Teacher's Lives Before Teaching

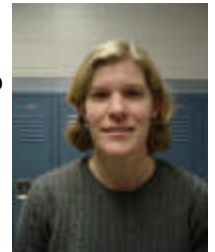
by: Katie Bloore and Lisa Doe

Ms. Zmijewski is an eighth grade social studies teacher. She wanted to be a teacher because she wanted to do something that would be fun, help people, and have the summer off. She used to work at an ice cream shop and she was a student. Before she and Tufts University for graduate field hockey coach. They have been teaching for eight years and the opportunity to learn and to likes to change the lesson plan the children.



Ms. Zmijewski

She was a teacher she was a successful student at Holy Cross school. Currently she is a Junior Varsity practice everyday. Ms. Zmijewski has no plans to stop teaching. She loves meet new people while teaching. She also every year to keep things interesting for



Ms. Green

Ms. Green, a seventh esting life before teaching. Ms. enced by her former job at the Sea nia. She used to teach field trip enjoyed teaching kids and could consider teaching as a career. This science teacher's other former activities relate to what she does now. She would baby-sit, was a tutor in math, and taught swimming lessons for four years. All of these things relate to science and teaching. Ms. Green also worked at Mass General Hospital in the doctors' department. She enjoyed these jobs because she likes working with kids and experiencing new things all the time. Ms. Green has been teaching for five years in all. She taught one year in Florida and has taught for four years here in Belmont. This teacher's favorite thing about her job, like many other teachers, is that she likes working with kids. She's a real people person!

grade science teacher, had a very inter-Green's teaching profession was influ- World in Florida and the one in Califor- classes and later discovered that she really

	<u>Ms. Green</u>	<u>Ms. Zmijewski</u>
This teacher's favorite color is...	royal blue	green
This teacher's pets are...	5 fish	none
This teacher prefers Brady/Bledsoe...	Brady	Brady
This teacher's favorite sport is...	ice hockey	field hockey
This teacher used to play the	piano/violin	clarinet
On the weekend, this teacher likes to	spend time w/ family	likes to go out,
	quilt and take photos	enjoys Korean food
This teacher's favorite book/author is...	Tom Clancy	Moonstruck

## Meet Ms. Platt!!!

By: Jillian Allen & Nawal Traish



*What grade do you teach? What other teachers do you work with?*

I teach the 6<sup>th</sup> grade blue team, and work with Ms. Haesy and Mrs. Walker.

*What did you do before coming to Chenery?*

Before coming to Chenery, I lived and taught in San Francisco, California.

*What subjects do you teach? What were your favorites when you were a kid?*

I teach language arts and social studies. My favorite subject was English.

*Is Chenery what you expected/imagined? What do you think of this school so far?*

I love it! The students are very respectful, good kids. It definitely exceeds my expectations!

*Did you know you wanted to be a teacher when you were a kid?*

Everyone in my family is a teacher, and originally I didn't think I was going to pursue that type of career; I was more into interior decoration. But I am glad that I decided to be a teacher!

*What are your hobbies?*

I love doing things outdoors: bike riding, running, skiing, and sailing.

# Book Review: The Dragonriders of Pern

by: Emily Rutherford

Dragons...spaceships...mutiny...discovery...adventure...danger...yes, a little bit of romance... Does this sound like the latest Harry Potter book? Or maybe something brand-new by Orson Scott Card? Well, how would you react if you were to discover that all these amazing things of which I speak aren't necessarily part of the latest hot fantasy, and are never on the "If You Liked *Harry Potter*" or "If You Read *Lord of the Rings*" lists? Brace yourselves – all this is from *The Dragonriders of Pern*, a science fiction series by Anne McCaffrey that has been in the works since 1967!

*Dragonriders* all started out 36 years ago, when McCaffrey published her first short story, "Weyr Search," in a science fiction magazine. It was a big hit, so she made it into a book, *Dragonflight*, released the following year. Since then, there have been nineteen *Dragonriders* books set in all different time periods in the *Dragonriders* world, and four companion books have been written by different authors about Pern, the planet on which everything takes place.

The *Dragonriders of Pern* books are all about an imaginary planet, involving imaginary creatures and a really weird diplomatic structure, so they're undoubtedly fantasy, right? Wrong; they're actually science fiction. Though it only comes up in a few of the books, all the people in *Dragonriders* are descended from normal humans on Earth. Around the time that *Star Trek* takes place, about two or three hundred years in the future, a bunch of people decide they want to colonize a new planet across the galaxy, to get a way from all the wars that are occurring nearer to home. They set off on a fifteen-year voyage, and finally come to Pern. The thing is, though, after just a few generations, all the colonists forget about where they came from, and many of the books, which take place about two thousand years after the original settlement, center around the rediscovery of technology and the arguments that come up because of that. Basically, *Dragonriders* has adventure, and cool music, and romance, and sci-fi aspects too, for the people who just like to have a good time while reading; but it also has lots of political intrigue and indecisiveness and fear of new things that seem to almost parody our contemporary world.

However, even though I have been singing the praises of this series for the past page and a half, I will warn you that it hardly has a G rating. I'd give it a PG-13, probably. It's got some sort of violent and gory bits, and some romance-related stuff that could be inappropriate and that you may want to ask your parents about before reading. There's one *Dragonriders* trilogy (the "Harper Hall" trilogy, which includes the books *Dragon-song*, *Dragonsinger*, and *Drumdrums*) that's meant for kids, and they'd probably be rated PG, but the rest of the books were actually written for adults, which, though, by no means makes them bad.

Now, drop this article, grab your library card, and run as fast as you can (or bug your parents to drive you) to the public library, and check out *Dragonflight* or *Dragonsong* or *All the Weyrs of Pern* (my personal favorite) and get into some really *fantastic* reading!

# Get Ready for G5 Power!

by Joey Migeed

Ready for G5 power? Well, it's here, and it's only from Apple! It's a hot new computer that's going to blow you away with its 64-bit processor and hot new features, like 8,192 megabytes (8 gigabytes) of memory (RAM) and USB 2.0 (A faster version of USB).

They call the PowerPC G5 the "G5" because that's the chip it's based around. It was developed by both Apple and IBM (yes, the PC giant). Betcha never thought that would happen, eh? No sir, a PC manufacturer helping out Apple, never! Well, it's been going on for a while, actually. The G5's full name is the PowerPC G5, and the original PowerPC was developed in the early 90's. Every Macintosh since has used a PowerPC. The real groovy thing about this daddy-o is that it's 64-bit, not 32-bit, like all the other PowerPCs. That's twice the power, so that means twice the processing action! When a processor is 64-bit, that means it's really fast! The first Macintoshes were 16-bit, then the PowerPCs were 32-bit, and now the G5 is 64-bit! The really nice thing about this computer is that it can hold 8 gigs of ram, twice the amount of those old 32-bit processors.

Let's check out some more of the G5's really unique features: You can get this with a really fast 2 gigahertz processor. Megahertz are the measurement of processor speed. "But this processor is measured in gigahertz," you exclaim. Technically, this has a processor speed of 2,048 megahertz, but to save space, we just use gigahertz. One gigahertz is equal to 1,024 megahertz. In the future, when processors are unbelievably fast, we'll use terahertz, which is a thousand gigahertz! Don't forget, this machine has a 4X SuperDrive, which is a CD-ROM drive with super capabilities, tailor made for burning DVDs. You can tape stuff with your camcorder, upload it to the Mac, edit it with iMovie, then burn it to a shiny purple DVD! No videotape for you! And to finish up, you get FireWire 400, USB 2.0, and a headphone jack on the front! All in all, the Macintosh G5 rocks!!