

Cleaning our Community

Student Council Cleanup on January 30th



1. A Handy Helper

Sharon Majetich (8th grade teacher) helps the student council with their trash cleanup project, January 30. Majetich organized the activity after realizing that there was a large amount of trash littering the school grounds. "We hosted this cleanup because the grounds needed to be cleaned and someone had to step up and clean it. We cleaned about half of the school grounds and picked up about 40 lbs of trash." Majetich said.

2. Looking for More

Addie Jaeger (8) carries around a trash bag and searches for more garbage surrounding school grounds, January 30. This was an excellent opportunity for people that are passionate about helping the environment, and help the environment they did. "I enjoyed being able to help my fellow students and staff of Rocky Heights by making it a cleaner place. In a way, it made me and my friends safer knowing that our school environment was almost trash-free, and picking up waste was actually really fun and heartwarming." Jaeger said.

3. Walk for the Plank

Brock Martin (7) scrunches his face after finding an old, wet wooden plank, January 30. Despite his awkward facial expressions, it was actually quite a good find, for the school needed it picked up. "We actually found a lot of interesting stuff for this experiment. Skylar Smith (7), found a shoe behind the sheds, and I found a couple of wooden planks and some cans hidden in the bushes. Throughout the day, we started to realize that people really did not care about what they threw on the ground. In fact, there was more trash on the ground than there was in the trash cans. It feels great to make a difference in the school by cleaning up the surrounding area, and it was quite fun too." Martin said.

A Helping Hand

Student Aids help out Around the School



1. To the Rescue

Ada Hanley (8) hands Ms. Freeman a note, February 12. Every year teachers will choose two students to be in charge of delivering notes to teachers. I wanted to be an office aid because I wanted to have more time to work on assignments and help around the school," Hanley said.



2. Staple Star

Nicole Sykes (8) helps staple posters in Ms. Legg's class-room, February 12. Students fill out an application and demonstrated responsibility to become an aid but, only two people per semester were chosen. "My favorite part about being a student aid is hanging out with friends and helping teachers finish tasks when they don't have time," Sykes said.

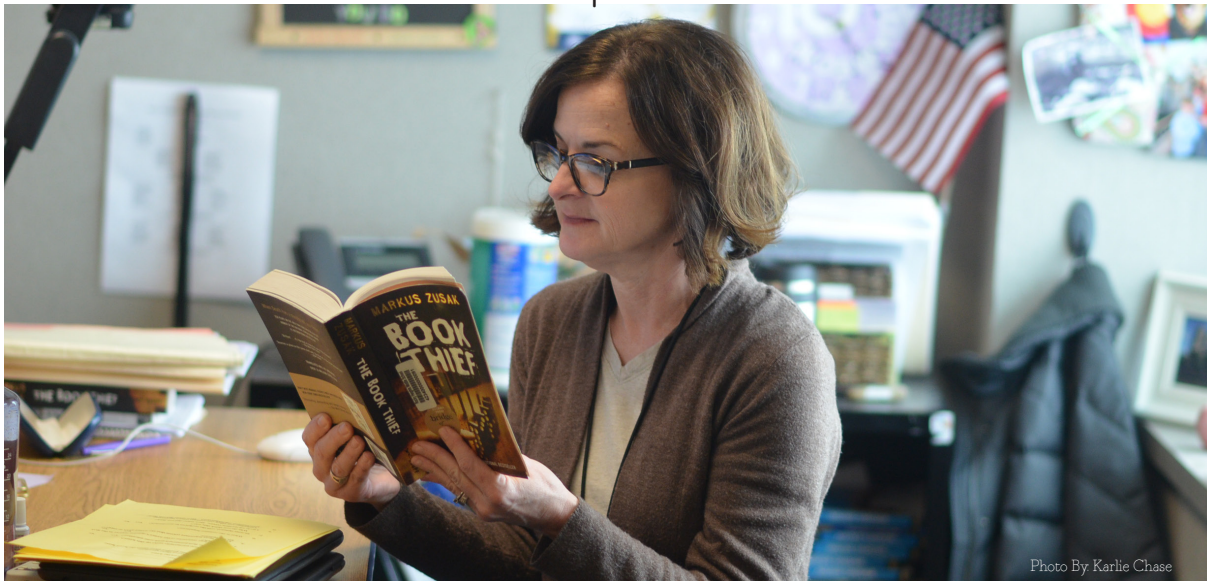


3. Filing Friends

Macy Watterson (8) and Nicole Sykes (8) file papers for Ms. Legg, February 12. Watterson and Syke are student aids for the Navigator team, every day they help teachers with tasks such as clean desks, grade tests, and help organize the classrooms. "I wanted to be a student aid because it sounded very exhilarating from past student aids," Watterson said.

A Day for Remembrance

Holocaust Survivor Speaks to the Seventh Graders



Mrs. Williamson reads *The Book Thief* to her class, Feb. 12. The Seeker team read *The Book Thief* during the 3rd quarter to prepare them to listen to their Holocaust speaker, Jack Adler. Adler was born in Poland in 1929, four years prior to the war starting Jack survived two concentration camps, Auschwitz and Dachau, and today speaks at schools, churches, and military bases. He feels that it's very important to teach future generations about the Holocaust so nothing like it happens again. Prior to the speaker, the Seeker team spent lots of time learning about the Holocaust. Reading *The Book Thief* was part of their preparation. *The Book Thief* describes a young girl who is placed in a foster home and becomes friends with a Jewish man. This book explains the horrors of the Holocaust and gave the students an overall understanding of the event. In social studies, they worked on different writing pieces and watched a documentary, called *Paper Clips*. *Paper Clips* is about a middle school in Tennessee that collected 6 million paper clips to represent the 6 million Jewish people killed by the Nazis. All of the preparing that the students did, helped them become familiar with the event before they heard a first-hand story. "Treating people who are different from you poorly shouldn't happen," Williamson said. Mrs. Williamson was interested by how the survivors of the Holocaust live with the trauma they have gone through. She is amazed that survivors are able to keep on going everyday, as they have gone through way more than any of us can even imagine. "Silence does the harm. If people would've stood up for Jewish people during the Holocaust, it wouldn't have been nearly as bad as it was," Williamson said.