

# MITY TIMES

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## PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

By Staff writers Rohit, Sebastian, Drew, Malcolm, Julia, Minseo, Myla

We visited seven parks in eight days of reporting to investigate MITY's Highland Park community in St. Paul and here are some highlights:

### Mattocks Park

This large city block park has tennis courts, a big grassy sports field and several play areas, with good spacing between the three playground zones designed to appeal to different age groups: a swings area, a big kids' zone and a little kids' zone.

There are sidewalks on all sides, so that's good for strollers and little kids on bikes. There are some poems in the sidewalk cement there, too, and we didn't really get them. One was a metaphor for an empty cathedral and someone's heart.

### For Bigger Kids

In the bigger kids' zone, sand is a safe choice for the ground cover. We measured its depth, and in places it is 28 inches deep. That makes for great digging. Little kids often bury their favorite toys in the sand so their friends can't use them, but we discovered a lot of their buried treasure. And used it!

Most of the equipment is good on the bigger kids' zones. There are lots of choices for climbing, spinning and moving around for tag or a game of Sand Man. But there is one random useless structure: a concrete tree trunk that is hard to climb, scrapes your knees, is too tall for most kids to even reach the branch you need to start climbing, and it doesn't offer much once you do manage to get up there. There's only room for one person at the top. What



Continue on next page...

is this, the Time Out Tree? This seems very unsafe and pointless.

### For Little Kids

The little kids' zone has a slightly bouncy rubber covering. Two moms that we interviewed said that when sand spills on the rubbery ground cover it gets slippery and is kind of

dangerous, so they didn't like that. But the play structures include a little house, which is fun for little kids who like to hide. The house didn't appear to be built to include a sand bakery where kids could mold sand shapes into "cakes" but that would have been nice to include in the original design.

### Safety First

In the middle of all these good things the park has, there are also some unsafe things, such as rocks that you can climb—but if you fall you could get hurt. Also there are some loose boards on the little playground's bridge, and you have to be careful on the teeter totter. It also looked like there was some flammable and unsafe trash.

### Things We Would Change

Some of the things to change about the park include:

- do something more with the sports field—it seems so empty most of the time. But it is nice there are picnic tables in the shade around it.
- add posts for dog-waste bags
- clear sand out of the drinking fountain
- get better bathrooms
- add some kid-written poems to the sidewalk

### Groveland School and Community Center

#### There are two playgrounds

here, one for the school and one for the attached community center. The school is made of red metal tubing and ropes and seemed less logically laid out than most playgrounds, so it is a little confusing at first. It has wood chips as the substrate, which we don't like. They are pointy and could hurt you if you fell on them. There are more climbing rope structures than at other playgrounds, so if you like the challenge of climbing on wobbly, wiggly ropes, this is a good choice. The biggest drawback is that there is no shade here. So on a sunny day—look out! But Groveland





By Tob

Community Center is based in the school and its playground is just a 30 second walk from the school playground. Most of it seems designed for preschool kids—which makes sense—but it has an interesting climbing structure, a balance beam and a really fast spinny thing that seems like it might scare little kids. The Community Center in the school gives kids and families shade, working water fountains and bathrooms.

## Treasure Island

This is the best playground because it is the biggest, most complex and intriguing with its multi-level options for traveling vertically and horizontally. It's great for tag and hiding games. It is located at Expo School and was built as a community project with neighbors and school families volunteering to help pay for it and to do the actual construction. We like this idea. It shows what a community values: creating safe, exciting play spaces!

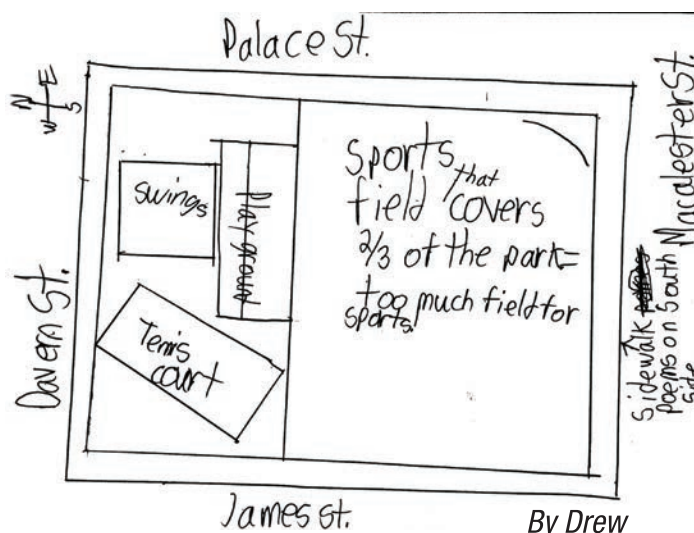
One thing to consider though, is that it might be a little frustrating or even dangerous for adults

playing with small children because there are so many small, twisting hiding places that adults might not be able to fit through to find their kids!

## All Parks Get an F for Outdoor Drinking Fountains

One consistent low point for all parks we visited is the water fountains that are outside. None of them were working because they were jammed with sand and sticks. Engineers should design a water fountain that is jam-proof, because water at a playground is important. The presence of fountains is misleading: You might drive or bike by one day, see the fountains—think you don't need to bring water on your next trip to the park. Wrong! You do! We haven't found a

working water fountain yet that is outside and unattended. Groveland has water because the fountain is inside the school building. The same is true at the Highland Park Community Center play ground.



By Drew



# REGINA'S CANDY

By Minseo, Priyanka, Anjili, Tobi



By Radha

Founded in 1926 by Greek immigrants, Regina's Candy Store offers a great variety of candy and a wonderful minty, fruity, chocolate smell mix that greets you as you walk in— and so many colors! It is still run by the family that founded it, and family member Cindy was working there the day we stopped in. There is chocolate, gummies, jelly beans, hard candy, taffy and so much more

to choose from—and you can still buy a piece of candy at a time, just like in an old-time candy store.

When Regina's first started, Cindy's Grandma made creams and Grandma made chocolate and toffee. Over the years, some tastes in candies have changed. Sour patch kids and salted caramel are new flavors that are very popular now—but Cindy's



By Malcolm

grandparents would never have imagined them. One thing has not changed: They do the most business around the time of Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day.

While the colors of the room get your attention first, keep looking—there's more to see. The walls are lined with pictures that have sayings like "Caution, Chocolate May Make Clothes Shrink."

# CARBONE'S PIZZA

By Malcolm, Drew, Radha, Anjili

Carbone's Pizza on Randolph is a great family-owned business that has always been in Minnesota. It has used the same pizza and spaghetti sauce recipes since its founding in 1962. We tasted a pizza, we noticed the sauce was seasoned nicely, and though there was a lot of cheese on our test pizza, it was not overpowering. There are lots of choices for toppings—even a Reuben sandwich combo, including sauerkraut!

While there is a big variety in the menu, pizza remains the No. 1 seller. They serve square slices here—not triangles—because the crust is thin and squares give better support than triangles for lots of heavy toppings.

The grandma who helped start the restaurant, Delores Carbone, came from Italy. The St. Paul Highland Park store is the only one to still use Delores' original sauce. There are several other Carbone's stores in the metro area, and while they have the same name, they are not family owned.



By Tobi



# LEMONADE LOVERS

Story & Art By Julia



"Lemonade is a little treat and a little healthy," says Efrem, a little boy from St. Paul, who had a lemonade stand. He and his brother were selling

lemonade for fifty cents. They said that they just did it for fun. They used a desk from their house and painted the top of a box for their sign.

Lemonade stands are a fun way to earn money and interact with other people. Also who doesn't "love" to stop by little kids' lemonade stands!

## COLD FRONT

By Julia

Cold Front Creamery is an ice cream shop on Fairview Avenue near Randolph Avenue that opened in January 2015, in the same spot another soda shop had been, but closed last year. Cold Front has an old-timey soda-shop theme, and a machine from 1960 for mixing carbonated water and flavors to create sodas.

It has very good customer service and nice diversity in the menu, with many different items in many different sizes such as: flavored Italian ices, ice cream from Madison, Wisconsin, and homemade, hand mixed sodas that the Cold Front staff invented themselves. We tried the peach rhubarb soda and it was really good! Steve, one of the owners, is from Nebraska and really likes helping people and creating a fun atmosphere and great experience!





# FASHION TRENDS

Story & Art By Radha and Anjili

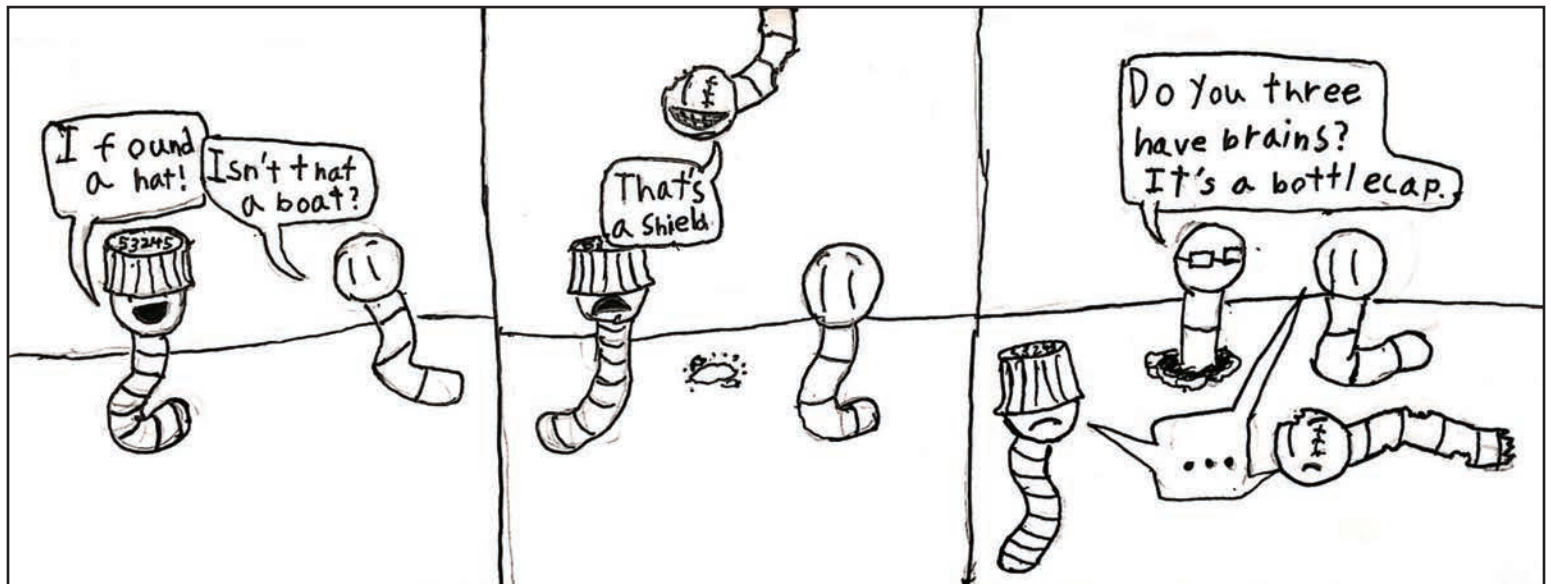
Fashion. Who doesn't like fashion? We want to share some stylish outfits that have been trending throughout 2014-2015.

- **Fall** - As the leaves change colors you are changing your style for something cozier. like... cute t-shirts or tanks with cardigans, leggings, and Uggs. Or add a thin sweater.
- **Winter** - You can stay warm and stylish even in the cold season. For example, combat boots with knee high socks, jeggings, leggings, jeans, warm sweat shirts, or peplums. Stay calm and keep warm.
- **Spring** - Spring is the season to get those cute skirts, and those high-waisted shorts back in style. There are so many cute and comfy outfits that are ready to be worn. For instance, crop tops, tees, dresses, tanks, high waisted shorts, capri, skirts, peplums, flower headbands, flip flops, and of course bows!



# Bottlecap

By Malcolm



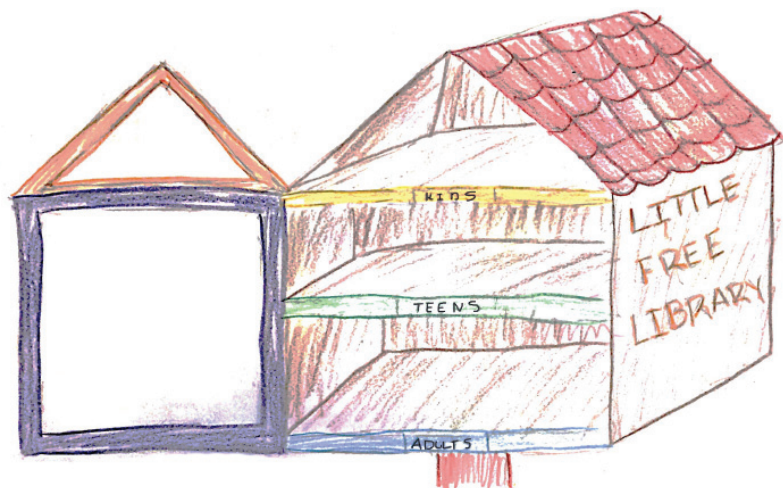
## Recommended Books for Summer

By Myla

	Fantasy	Sci-fi	Mystery	Historical Fiction
<b>8-13</b>	<i>Wildwood Imperium</i> series - C. Meloy	<i>Goliath</i> series - S. Westerfield	<i>The Redeemer</i> - J. Nesbo	<i>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</i> - J. Kelly
	<i>Golden Compass</i> series - P. Poleman	<i>Uglies</i> - S. Westerfield <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> - M. L'Engel	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> - T.L. Stewart	<i>Out of the Dust</i> - K. Hesse
<b>14-18</b>	<i>Red Queen</i> - V. Aveyard	<i>Delirium</i> - L. Oliver	<i>Papertowns</i> - J. Breen	<i>Catch-22</i> - J. Heller
	<i>A Court of Thrones and Roses</i> - S. Maas	<i>The Reckoners</i> series - B. Sanderson	<i>The Good Girls</i> - S. Shepard	<i>Beloved</i> - T. Morrison
<b>19-25</b>	<i>Vampire Academy</i> - R. Mead	<i>The House of the Scorpion</i> - N. Farmer	<i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> - J. Asher	<i>Unbroken</i> - L. Hillenbrand
	<i>Hush, Hush</i> - B. Fitzpatrick	<i>Across the Universe</i> - B. Revis	<i>Monster</i> - W.D. Meyers	<i>Fallen Angels</i> - W. Meyers
<b>26-35</b>	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> - L. Carroll	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> - R. Bradbury	<i>The Silent Girls</i> - E. Rickstad	<i>Prisoner B-3087</i> - A. Gratz
	<i>The Night Circus</i> - E. Morgenstern	<i>The Time Traveller's Wife</i> - A. Niffenegger	<i>Asylum</i> - M. Roux	<i>Edge of Eternity</i> - K. Follett
<b>36-50</b>	<i>The Passage</i> - J. Cronin	<i>The Giver</i> - L. Lowry	<i>The Duet</i> - M. Connelly	<i>Kindred</i> - O. Butler
	<i>The Final Empire</i> - B. Sanderson	<i>Shockwave Rider</i> - J. Brunner	<i>Another Summer</i> - G. Bockoven	<i>Orphan Train</i> - C. Kline
<b>51+</b>	<i>Neverwhere</i> - N. Gaiman	<i>Uprooted</i> - N. Novik	<i>Fleur de Lies</i> - M. Hunter	<i>With the Old Breed</i> - E.B. Sledge
	<i>Assassin's Apprentice</i> - R. Hobb	<i>1984</i> - G. Orwell	<i>And Then There Were None</i> - A. Christie	<i>Blood Meridian</i> - C. McCarthy

# LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES SHOULD EXPAND READING RANGES

By Myla



Little Free Libraries can improve a community. But I feel that sometimes these little libraries are not libraries for everyone. The libraries mostly include books for adults and not many books for children and teens, sometimes excluding them altogether. I drew a Little Free Library that includes books for kids and teens but not forgetting about the adults either, so that way the whole community can enjoy them. Take parks, for example. Parks can be enjoyed by all ages, even though they are mostly for children. Parks also make a neighborhood a better place just like these libraries. With the improvement of our Little Free Libraries, we can do a little improvement to our community.....

## Common Good Books

By Julia



Do you like to read? Well if you said yes, then you should go to Common Good Books in the city of Saint Paul. Common Good Books has many different types of books. They have travel, nature, lives, cooking, America today, politics, economics, God, science, pop culture, humor, letters, philosophy, writing, poetry, children's, history, art and garden. One of the customers in the store said she liked to go to the bookstore because she supports independent book stores, walking around the store relieves stress, she loves to read and reading is good for her career and her personal development.

## Book Reviews

By Priyanka

### Percy Jackson and the Olympians:

#### The Lightning Thief

Twelve year old Percy learns that he's a demigod, half-human and half god. He also learns that he's been accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt. In ten days, Percy and his friends will go on a quest to find the bolt and its thief in order to stop the war that is imminent among the gods. I recommend this books to anyone who enjoyed reading Harry Potter. Even though it's targets towards middle schoolers, anyone can enjoy this book. In conclusion, Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief was an interesting book filled with action, humor, and a creative modern twist on Greek mythology.

#### Throne of Glass

Throne of Glass follows assassin Celena Sarthodien, who has been brought to the castle to win her freedom by beating twenty three other competitors through battles and tests. If she wins the competition, she will proclaimed the king assassin and be released. A few years later, she will learn about the magic that has been outlawed and the beast that has been killing her competitors one by one. This book is targeted towards middle and high schoolers. People who like Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter will enjoy this book. Celena is a funny, witty and strong character who everyone will enjoy reading about.

#### Throne of Glass 2

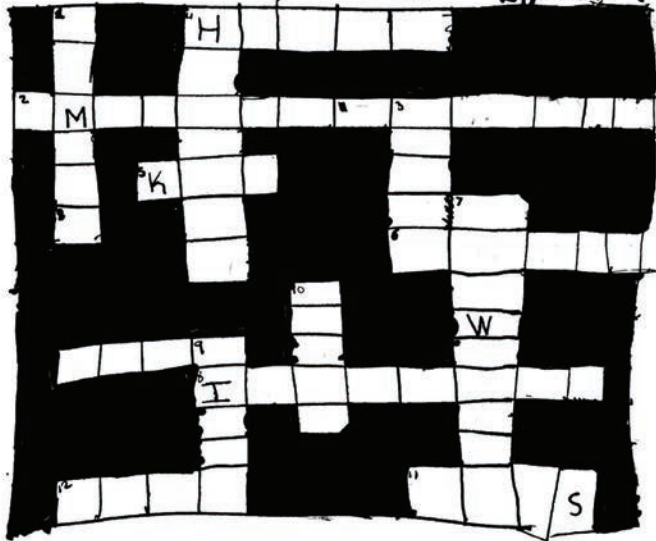
When we start off the book Celena is a starved, overworked and broken-down slave working in the mines for the crimes she committed. She seems frightening and a little crazy. But as the book progresses she goes through a lot of character development and we learn that everyone would be a little crazy if they suffered what Celena went through. People will be delighted by Celena's quick comebacks and happy to find out she's not just a killing machine. The book isn't just about the competition though. There's a beast dwelling in the castle and it's been leaving very gory scenes of her competitors around the castle and Celena wants to find out who has been unleashing the beast and why. In conclusion, this book was a lot of fun to read and hard to put down.

Down	Across
2. Family	2. small business
3. Safety	4. House
4. Helping	5. Kid
7. Knowledge	6. Young
9. Livly	8. icecream
10. Games	11. Pets
	12. Play
	9. Life



# Community

By: Tobi P



## Down

1. Mom, Dad, sister, brother
3. Protection
4. Working Together
7. — is power
9. Happy, Jumpy
10. Some thing fun to do with your friends

(Answers on page 7)

## Across

2. Family owned business
4. where someone lives
5. Child
6. Not old
8. Frozen treat
11. Owned animals
12. very fun
9. Trees and animals live

# Color Me By Drew



The Aerobic Newspaper is written and illustrated by kids who just finished 4th, 5th and 6th grades, most of whom just met each other because they go to different schools throughout the metro region. All are enrolled in the Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth's (MITY) ExplorSchool Aerobic Newspaper class. The class was created by Anne Brataas, a longtime MITY teacher who is President of The Story Laboratory, LLC ([www.thestorylaboratory.com](http://www.thestorylaboratory.com)), a St. Paul science writing, curriculum development and e-learning company. Graphic Designer Paige Sandvik helped design the newspaper. Writing and Movement Editors Kip Hathaway, Yusra Murad and Aaron Hathaway kept us creating kinetically.

**Rock on to all Aerobic News Staff Writers, Illustrators, Photographers and Cartoonists!**



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