Labor Day Speedway

By Eterick Stonely

Over 100,000 people flocked downtown Baltimore over Labor Day weekend as the Inaugural 2011 Baltimore Grand Prix (pronounced free) started its engine and sped off. The event took place over Labor Day weekend, starting on Friday the 2 and ending on Sunday the 4 with the awe-inspiring IZOD Indy Cars. The preparations for the race had slowed downtown traffic to a dead crawl for almost a month. And it was all to have some cars speed around at 180+ mph.

The City Council said that if this Inaugural Grand Prix was successful, it would be continued for the next five years. Judging by the massive turnout, I would say that it was quite successful. The Grand Prix investors raised $423,000 by themselves to fund the race and planned to raise 1.5 million more for future events. Baltimore has a projected goal of $70 million in earnings for the next five years. Approximately 100,000 tickets were purchased for the event. Hotel revenue went up by 44 percent due to the race and the race alone.

It all started on Friday: consisting of a bunch of boring meetings, practice races, and qualifying laps. It was like the calm before the storm. (Kind of).

Saturday: more practice laps for the Indy Car series, and then the main event for the day: The American LeMans Series! This is the race that featured the showrooms cars: the big baddies like BMW’s, Porsches, Corvettes, and Ferraris. Lasting more than three hours, this was the longest race of the weekend. It could have been the loudest too; screaming down the main straight on Pratt Street, eardrums burst with even the biggest ear protectors. But there was more to come...

Sunday: this day promised to be the biggest and “baddest” of the three. And it was. One Midtown student who attended said, “It was loud, hot, dirty, and totally awesome!” That sounds right to me. 45 drivers sped around the track, each of them belonging to one of the 10+ teams. The Indy Cars were what got the attention of the crowd the fastest, cruising at speeds of 190 mph! The race was 75 laps around the 2.0 mile track, approximately 150 miles of pure, unbridled speed!!!! The winner of the race was Will Power, who led 70 of the laps. If you enjoy speed and noise, then the Baltimore Grand Prix is the place...
Artists of the month

Mindless Behavior
By Taylor Carter

Roc Royal, Ray Ray, Prodigy, and Princeton. Do these names sound familiar to you? In the tradition of Jackson 5, New Edition, and B2K, they’re the new vanguard for pop. They’re Mindless Behavior! On Comcast’s “Get Up and Dance,” Ray Ray said, “Mindless Behavior is a lifestyle.” They just came out with a new album in September 2011 called “#1Girl.” Did you get it? I did! My favorite song is “#1Girl.” I am a big fan of Mindless Behavior. I like their songs, and I like them. Who wouldn’t? They have a fan number: 323-319-6060. They are also on tour, the Scream Tour, with New Boys, Diggy Simmons, and OMG Girlz, which is in Baltimore Today (October 7, 2011). Are you going? I am, and I can’t wait. The tickets were sold out very fast! On their website, you can buy mindless behavior shirts and necklaces.


OMG girlz & Diggy Simmons
By Jada Kelly

Who’s America’s next big thing? This year we have a lot of “little” stars, including Diggy Simmons and OMG Girlz. Many new stars are in the Closest To My Dream Tour (CTMDT). This tour is sponsored by 106 & Park, a TV show.

Diggy Simmons was on the Run DMC TV show with his family. He calls himself a “jetsetter.” He is 16 years old and a rapper, and he has done a song with Mindless Behavior. Here are some of his songs: “Copy Paste,” and “Great Expectations.”

The OMG Girlz started singing when they were 12 years old. Their names are Beauty (Bahja Rodriguez), Lolo (Lourdes Rodriguez), Star (Zonnique Pullins), and Baby Carter (Reginae Carter). Baby Carter and Lolo have left the OMG girlz. So now, it’s only Star and Beauty.

Also Diggy Simmons, Jacob Latimore, mindless behavior, and the OMG Girlz are here in Baltimore today!! (Friday, October 7). You should check them out at Pier 6!!

Jacob Latimore
By Aziza Fahie

Jacob Latimore is a 15-year-old artist who had recently launched his career. He is best known for his hit single “Like ‘Em All.” In October, Jacob will be touring with Diggy Simmons, Mindless Behavior, OMG Girlz, and New Boyz for the Next Generation tour. Jacob Latimore was born on August 10, 1996 and ever since he was little, he knew he wanted to be a singer when he grew up.

Jacob Latimore has recorded popular songs such as “Best Friend,” “Nothing On Me,” and “Superstar,” which has been listed #5 on the R&B sales chart.

Jacob Latimore also sponsors a singing contest and reaches out to fans to become young superstars.

Wii love the playstation
By Avery Williams

When I ask you the first thing that comes to your mind when I say Nintendo, would you say Mario, Nintendo64, GameCube, DSi, or Wii? Well, something new has come out from the Nintendo and the Sony companies. The one from Nintendo is called Wii U. It’s a portable device that transfers the game from the TV to the device so you can play your game while someone else watches TV. Unlike the Wii remote, this device can help you play the game with more precision because it’s sturdier. The new system for Sony is the PSP Vita. Now this is better than the regular PSP because it has a screen on each side and has a six-axis motion sensing system on each side. Pictures of the PSP Vita and the Wii U systems can be found below. These systems are not yet in stores, but it is believed that they will cost more than the Wii and the Playstation 3, which sold for $250. This new
A WEEK IN THE WILD

BY JORDYN ALDERMAN & TAYLOR TYNES

8th graders are ready for their week in the wild. From October 3rd through October 7th, The Midtown Academy 8th graders will be going on The Urban Expedition, which is a great experience.

The Urban Expedition was first established in 2006 by Outward Bound. Before that, Outward Bound was strictly a wilderness based program. Urban Courses have allowed Outward Bound to serve more of Baltimore’s youth. They accept the ages of 12-16 year olds.

The Outward Bound mission statement is as follows: “Outward Bound Baltimore’s Mission is to build leadership capacity within communities by providing students, educators, school administrators, community leaders and professionals within the metropolitan areas served by Outward Bound Baltimore—with opportunities to develop a better understanding of their capabilities and value to their community. This mission will be carried out through challenging experiences that are safely structured to enhance leadership, self-esteem, self-reliance and concern for others, service to the community and care for the environment.” This information was given to us during an interview with Liz Millenholen, the Program Director at the Outward bound foundation.

We also interviewed Ms. Penny who had some surprising answers to our questions.

Q: What did you think of the Urban Expedition experience?
A: “I thought the experience was amazing for the girls and me. It took all of us out of our element, which forced us to enjoy things that sometimes get lost in the fast pace of everyday life.”

Q: Do you think it will be a wake-up call for the 8th graders? Why or Why not?
A: “Maybe, just because being away from electronics and simple luxuries may be a challenge for some.”

Q: How was the walking from an adult point of view?
A: “Fine, if you wear your backpack properly, you don’t even feel it on your back.”

We can’t wait to see how this will turn out in the end when Jordyn and the rest of the eighth grade

A WEEK TO REMEMBER

BY TAYLOR CARTER

The sixth graders are going to go to North Bay on October 10, 2011. They’re sooooooooooo excited! They have Ms. Saunders, Mr. Moore, and the North Bay staff to chaperone them during their trip/visit. And I have heard the food is great! We have heard North Bay Live is really fun as well.

North Bay Live

North Bay Live is an entertaining show, which carries the messages of character development and environmental stewardship to students in the evening. Hosted by professionally stage-trained co-hosts, the show addresses the dangers of Future Killers, such as dropping out of school, drug usage, dangerous relationships, peer pressure, and their impact on students’ everyday lives.

INTERVIEWS:

KYRA SMITH:
Q. Are you ready to go to North Bay, and why or not?
A. Yes, I want to taste the food because I heard it was really good. And I love getting FREE FOOD!!

BATURI GOODMAN:
Q. Are you ready to go to North Bay, and why or not?
A. I’m ready, because I’ll be hanging with my friends and no boys!!
The race is on; the election for a new president has begun. The elections are in one short year, and take place in November of 2012. For many it is a tough choice; do they want to reelect our current president or elect a new one from the Republican Party? My job as a political reporter is to give you the facts and to be impartial. As people begin to prepare to run against are current president, Obama is now becoming a less popular candidate (see graph below). With this steady gain of Republican favor, Obama favor has fallen significantly. Only 68% of Americans think the country is on the right track. However after his job speech, his favorability rose from 43% to 47%. Favor for Obama has stayed roughly between 43-51% for more than a year, according to a poll by Reuters.com.

![Graph showing election results]

Because of this recent boost, it is difficult to pick a winner for the 2012 campaign. The poles continue to change. To see what candidate people on the third floor and school staff like, I ran a poll (see results below). I used the top three Republican candidates from the Iowa Straw Poll. (Rick Perry did not get any votes so you won’t see him on the chart)

![Poll results chart]

Remember the election is not that far away so I can’t stress this enough, you need to follow the news and polls so you know who you want to vote for in November of next year. If you are 18 or older you really should vote; your vote really does count towards the election! Get out and vote!

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**What a World**

By Jada Kelly

Six weeks ago, we had a really bad hurricane, and a lot of trees fell down. So kids, when you walk home, be careful when you go to and from school! Here’s what you can do to keep yourself safe during a hurricane: stay away from low-lying and flood prone areas. Always stay indoors during a hurricane, because strong winds will blow things around. Leave mobile homes and go to a shelter. If your home isn’t on higher ground, go to a shelter. If emergency managers say to evacuate, then do so immediately. A hurricane is a huge storm! Each hurricane usually lasts for over a week, moving 10-20 miles per hour.

My first interviewee is Aziza Fahie. My first interviewee is Aziza Fahie. My first interviewee is Aziza Fahie.

Me: How did you feel when we had Hurricane Irene?
Aziza: I was scared because a big tree fell in my backyard. Thank you Aziza. Now we have interviewee Lauryn McBroom.

Me: Did your power go out during Hurricane Irene?
Lauryn: No, it did not. Lauryn: What were your emotions?
Lauryn: Well I was sad because I know that they were going to close school and I really wanted to go. Thanks Lauryn. Now we have Mrs. Mitchell.

Me: How did you feel about the hurricane?
Mrs. Mitchell: I was shocked that we had a hurricane! Mrs. Mitchell: Were you brave?
Mrs. Mitchell: Yes I was.

Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye." The center of the storm or "eye" is the calmest part. It has only light winds and fair weather. When they come onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds and large
Letter from the editor’s desk

Hi! I’m James, the new editor of The Academy News. If you want to be the editor you have to be very dedicated to the job. It is not as easy as it sounds. You have to give everyone their laptops and put them away. You also have to begin your work 5 minutes late and stop 5 minutes early. You really have to be speedy when it comes to writing articles (did I mention you have to write two, and for me, all before Urban Expedition?!) This issue includes two new columns: the “Knowledge Corner” and “Political Headlines” in addition to the infamous “Kids Korner,” continually run by Paul Hager (for 7 quarters, woow!!) We also have some very interesting new articles including an exciting article about the Grand Prix by Eterick Stonely and one about what to expect from Urban Expedition by Taylor Tynes and Jordyn Alderman. Our next issue promises to be just as exciting, featuring an article about Baltimore high schools and another addition of “Political Hey Midtown! Welcome to another fantastic school year of 2011-2012! You must be excited to start a new grade with a new teacher. But, you might still be thinking about your three months of summer! What did you do this summer? Did you go swimming, camping, go out of town, or just relax and chill out in the sun? Well, if your summer didn’t involve any of these great activities, next year you can come on down to the MARYLAND STATE FAIR!!

This year was my first time going to the Maryland State Fair. It was loads of fun. We saw the World’s Biggest Rat, went on a lot of rides, and pet some animals like cows, pigs, and horses. But the best part about the fair was the funnel cake and the food. I had to share my funnel cake with my brother, and our funnel cake was topped off with sugar powder and chocolate syrup. Yum!!

I also went on tons of rides!! My favorite ride was the Teeter Totter. I had to wait in a long line to get on the ride, but it was worth it. My brother only went to 2 rides, (but you didn’t hear it from me!) and wasn’t as anxious to get on any rides like I was. He was more interested in seeing animals, such as cows and pigs.

The Maryland State Fair has been around ever since 1878 and ever since it has been the most popular event in the state! It’s an 11 day event that starts around late August and ends around Labor Day. This year, Selena Gomez, Blake Shelton, and the band “All Time Low,” performed at the Maryland State Fair. So next year, you need to go to the Maryland State Fair! I interviewed my classmate, Taylor Carter, on her experience at the fair two years ago.

Q: What was your favorite part about the Fair?
Taylor: It was fun! I got to meet Justin Bieber and ate so much funnel cake! My favorite ride was the Teeter Totter.

Well, next year when you’re not doing anything for the summer, make sure you You gotta be there: the

Shake it up

By Anne Beck

Hi! I am Anne. Did you know an earthquake struck Maryland on August 23, 2011? I will tell you some cool earthquake facts.

1. The largest recorded earthquake in the United States was a magnitude 9.2 that struck Prince William Sound, Alaska on Good Friday, March 28, 1964.

2. The largest recorded earthquake in the world was a magnitude 9.5 in Chile on May 22, 1960.

3. The earliest reported earthquake in California was felt in 1769 by the exploring expedition of Gaspar de Portola while the group was camping about 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles.
Knowledge corner
By Avery Williams

The Letter A

Did you know the letter A is the first letter in the Phoenician, Hebrew, and Greek alphabets? The origin of the word alphabet is made up of the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha (A) and beta (B). The letter A didn’t always look the way it did; first, it was sideways, then it was stood straight up by the Greeks. By the time the Romanians changed it, the letter A became the way it is now.

Aerodynamics

Aerodynamics is the science that examines what happens when air, or any other gas, is in motion. Like the letter A, the word aerodynamics comes from the Greek words meaning “air” and “power.” But before we even understood aerodynamics people realized that air pushed/moved things and put it to work using things like sailboats and windmills. Aerodynamics has opened so many ways to put wind to work such as airplanes, helicopters, and all hovercraft, besides balloons which are lighter than air and able to float in it.

Agriculture

When I say agriculture most people would think farmers, but they are only half correct. Agriculture is so much more! It’s the tank driver who delivers milk to dairy processing plants. It’s the people who pick cotton, rubber trees, and tobacco. The common things in the agricultural regions of the U.S. are big farm machines. There are many important agricultural products like human foods such as wheat, meat, grain, rice, and vegetables. An interesting fact about fruit is that the banana is the most commonly eaten in the world. While the banana is a popular fruit, the most popular vegetable in the world is the tomato, even though it is considered a fruit. Farmers have gotten together and actually demanded the government to stop pushing farm prices lower and push them higher instead.

Fall for fashion
By Lauryn McBroom

Fall fashion has begun and it’s cooler than ever. Here are the latest trends to watch out for this fall and winter.

The first trend is the 20’s trend. This trend is starting to travel back into the future. Here are some items that are inspired by the 20’s trend:

Art deco pants: Art deco pants are pants that have patches of art on the pants and fun prints that you would find in your house. These pants are a cool splash of color but they are a little risky.

Sequins: Sequins are so fun and they add any boring outfit a unique twist. You can wear sequins in a cardigan style or a shirt style. You will light up the room.

The second trend is 80’s style. This trend has been out for awhile so it’s not a surprise it’s back. Who doesn’t love the 80’s?

Message tees: Message tees are simple if you are feeling lazy and don’t feel like dressing but you still want to look cute plus they have some great messages. Messages you can find on a message tee shirt is: make the world peaceful, you are beautiful, and be your self.

Neon everything: This trend is a little bold for fall because usually you wear naturals but if you want to still wear neon you could wear a neutral outfit example: something with lots of black and wear a belt that is neon.

The last trend is the varsity. This trend is so cute and sporty at the same time.

Varsity jackets: Varsity jackets are very cute and you don’t even have to be on a sport’s team to have one.

Flirty skirts: Flirty skirts look so fun and cute with this trend, and it adds a flirty touch with this item.

Here are some trends I think are really cute but even if you don’t want to follow the trends you can follow or incorporate them with your personal style. The stores you can find most of these trends are (also these are reasonable places that are inexpensive): Forever 21, Marshalls, H&M, Aeropostale, Charlotte Rouse, Nordstrom Rack, and Target.

Some of my favorite fashion staples for the fall are blazers, anything animal print, and flare jeans. Fall fashion is so trendy. Hope you well be trendy too and express your personal style.

You can find an outfit like this at forever 21
Noah Parker — October

Paloma Hunter — September 21

Troi Ratchford — September 21

Paul Hager — October 13

Kirsten Russell — October 5

Mrs. Lock — September 14

Mr. Michels — September 11
Word Scramble

1. dytsingu
   ______________________
2. cohsol ______________________
3. rainnegl ______________________
4. ecstrhae ______________________
5. rlcasmbe ______________________
6. mattcesimha ______________________
7. necscie ______________________
8. hatumisine ______________________

Word Search

Chair
Desk
Friends
Geography
Gray
Humanities
Learning
Lecompte
Math
Middleschool
Moore
Paper
Pen
Pencil
Puzzle
Saunders
School
Science
Teachers
Students
Students
ward