

VMS Eighth Grade Projects

Eighth grade students from Vernonia Middle School presented their Eighth Grade projects on Friday, March 22. This year's subject was Nobel Peace Prize winners. Alfred Nobel created the Nobel Prizes in 1895 and awarded the first prize in 1901. The Eighth Grade Project required students to research a person, or persons, who won a Nobel Peace Prize, create a tri-fold on their subject, and make a short speech about what they learned. The Eighth Grade Project is similar to the Senior Project that is required for high school graduation.

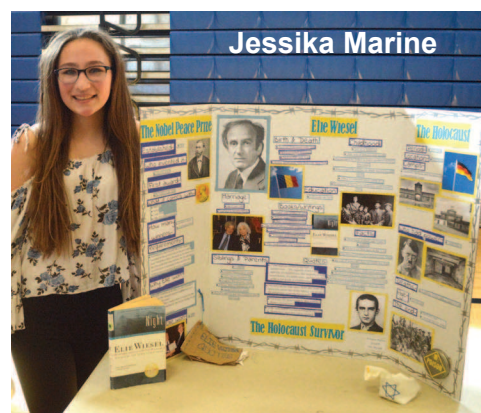
There were many very good projects this year. The following are a few examples of students' projects.

Kylie Haney did her project on Mikhail Gorbachev, the former leader of the Soviet Union, who worked with U.S. President Ronald Reagan to bring down the Berlin Wall and end the cold war between their countries. For this work he was awarded the Nobel Prize. Later in his life he worked for social justice and helped organize The Green Cross which protects the environment and assists victims of natural disasters.



Torey Tolonen did her project on Cordell Hull an American politician from Tennessee who fought in the Spanish American War and served as the U.S. Secretary of State. In 1945 he helped create the United Nations to help end wars and was awarded the Nobel Prize for this work.

Jessika Marine studied Eli Weisel, a holocaust survivor and noted author who won the Nobel Prize in 1986. He spent time in the German concentration camp at Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and depicted his time there in several of his books; Jessika read his book *Night* as part of her research. He won his prize for bearing witness to the holocaust and exposing the indifference to the genocide by the Nazis.



Bailey Nordahl researched Rigoberto Menchu from Guatemala who won the Nobel Prize in 1992 for her work to alter human rights. She grew up during the Guatemalan civil war and lost many family members during the conflict. She moved to Mexico and eventually to France where she became an international spokesperson for human rights.

Kortnie Adams studied South African President Nelson Mandela who won the Nobel Prize in 1993 for helping end the apartheid regime and racial segregation and discrimination in South Africa. He was arrested in 1963 and made a famous speech, "I am Prepared to Die," while on trial; he was imprisoned for 27 years. He was elected President in 1994. Mandela was part of the African National Congress and founded the Youth League and Spirit of the Nation League. He started the first black law firm in South Africa.



Jayden McCamont did her project on Jane Addams, an American author, philosopher, physician, and social activist who won the Nobel Prize in 1931 for promoting world peace. She was the first American woman to receive the award.

Linus Ota studied Theodore Roosevelt, a United States President who won the Peace Prize in 1906 for helping negotiate the end of the Russo-Japanese War. Roosevelt fought in the Spanish American War, famously leading the Rough Riders in battle.

David McCallum researched John Hume and David Trimble, Irish politicians who were co-recipients of the Nobel Prize in 1998 for helping find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland, known as "The Troubles," between Irish nationals and the British.



Grace Groshong studied Albert Schweitzer who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 for his humanitarian work. He was born in a part of Germany that now belongs to France. When he was young he was not well behaved or a good student, but eventually learned he wanted to use his life to help others. He became a successful musician and composer, and used his earnings to found a hospital in French Equatorial Africa. He continued to serve as a medical missionary for the rest of his life.

Seth Scheuerman did his project on Carl Von Ossietzky, a German journalist, newspaper publisher, and pacifist who won the Nobel Prize in 1936 for his efforts to halt Germany from remilitarizing prior to World War II. He was imprisoned for espionage after revealing details of Germany's violation of the Treaty of Versailles, where he contracted tuberculosis and died shortly afterwards.

Kaylee Whiteman researched Willi Brandt, a German politician and former Chancellor who won his Noble Prize in 1971 for improving relations with the Soviet Union, Poland, and East Germany. Born Herbert Ernst Karl Frahm he changed his name and fled to Norway to escape persecution by the Nazis.

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