



DRAGON CHRONICLE

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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HOOVER MIDDLE SPELLING BEE

The Hoover Middle spelling bee started with 28 contestants. Although the first round didn't take anyone out, by the end of the second round there were only 17 people left on the stage. The third round took only 6 contestants out, leaving 11 on stage. However, by the end of the fourth round only 8th grader, Taryn Martorana and 7th grader, Jacob Brill were left up on stage. Jacob was the returning champion from last

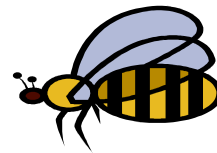
year's spelling bee and he looked determined not to give up his title!

Even with his experience from last year, it was sure a battle to remember! They fought back and forth for the championship with words like archetype, syndrome, and vendetta. In the end, Jacob Brill was able to successfully come out on top after spelling the word graffiti correctly! Jacob had won the spelling bee for the second year in a row!

8th grader, Taryn Martorana was this year's runner up, and she can definitely hold her head up high after a competition like that! Congratulations Jacob and Taryn! Jacob now has the has a chance

to qualify for the Script's National Spelling Bee.

By: Jonathan Duchene



Spelling Bee 2011 Champion: 7th Grader, Jacob Brill



Spelling Bee 2011 Runner-Up: 8th Grader, Taryn Martorana



Special points of interest:

- We have answered your questions! Thanks to Awesome Advice & Co., and keep submitting those questions to us in the box outside of room 243!
- Favorite Christmas Activity Survey!
- Student Electronics Survey!
- We are on the Web! Check us out on the HMS homepage!

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MILLER STRIKES BACK!

The Buffalo Sabre's star goalie returned to the net on December 4th with a game against the Nashville Predators. What does he have to say about it? "Eventful," Ryan Miller said in a post-game interview.

After missing 8 games because of a concussion, Miller led his team to a 3-2 win over the Predators. He stopped 32 shots. The 6'2, 175 lb. goalie now has 6 wins and 6 losses. "I'm happy to be back," Miller said. "I'm happy to get a win. It has been awhile since I have felt like I have put together a game I could pride myself in."

After the hit from Lucic that took him out for 8 games, he's lucky to be back. After the Nashville game, he's lucky to

be alive. Ryan Miller received another hit from Nashville's forward Jordin Tootoo that knocked him on the ice. Miller threw some punches while both teams piled up and fought. Tootoo was given a major penalty and a game misconduct. However, Miller did not lose his composure after that or his consciousness even when the crowd chanted "Miller's a baby!" In fact, he made a heart stopping save on Nashville's Sergei Kostitsyn that even had the broadcasters fooled.

It was a good victory that had everybody happy . . . Everybody but Lindy Ruff. "What happened in the game was a joke," Ruff said. "You have a guy coming off a concussion and you've got Jordin Tootoo running over your goaltender."

Lindy Ruff also said that he wonders what the league will do about this situation. Tootoo was suspended for two games. Was it enough? I don't think so and I'm sure a lot of people would back me up with this opinion. All that matters to me is that Miller is back and healthy.



By: Nick Manning

Aaron Rodgers

Aaron Rodgers is the quarterback for the Green Bay Packers. This season he already has 4,360 passing yards, and he also has 40 touchdown passes. The season isn't even over yet. His skills are highlighted by his team's record (13-1). Rodgers is a first round

draft pick, out of California. This is Rodgers' seventh season. His team (Green Bay Packers) is the defending Super Bowl champions. They also clinched the division.

Aaron Rodgers has the best QB rating in the NFL at 120.1. I even voted for Rodgers for the Pro Bowl.

I think Aaron wants another Super Bowl ring. The Packers are in the playoffs so you never know. What is your opinion?

By: Josh Prygon



NCAA Basketball



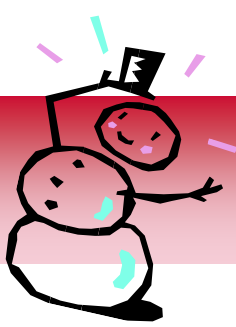
The NCAA season is off to a running start. Syracuse is already sitting atop the Top 25 ranking with an 11-0 record. Syracuse, while normally a Top 25 powerhouse, is still a surprise to be number 1. In second is Ohio State (10-1), and in third, Kentucky (9-1). Other surprises include the failing of Butler to make the Top 25 this year. After losing the national championship two years in a row, Butler was expected to have a

good year. However, after losing key seniors, Butler has fallen right out of the Top 25. However, the talk about college basketball has not been focused on the rankings lately, but on something that puts forth a tremendous problem for the NCAA.

On December 10, 2011 a huge surprise shocked the NCAA and viewers. In a game like any other, there were a few seconds left with Xavier Musketeers leading the Cincinnati Bearcats 76-53. With 10 seconds left after a play that put the

ball out of bounds, a Xavier player pushed a Bearcats player to the ground, which began a brutal fight in which players came off the benches to stop the fighting. Suspensions have already been handed out, but some players may be charged with assault. This was a rare but extremely serious event not often seen in basketball, especially the NCAA.

By: Colin Lynch



Christmas Around the World

Ho Ho Ho!!!!

Hello. New writer here! Well, sort of. I'm new to this year's edition. Last year I began my journey as a reporter under Hot Topics. Today I bring you incredible material on an very interesting issue. That's right...

CHRISTMAS IS HERE!

And also Chanukah/Hanukah, and don't forget Kwanza. Long story short, the holidays are back, and I'd like to fill you in on a bit of knowledge about **WORLDWIDE** Christmas, taking you around the world in about 180 seconds. Let's begin!

I'm going out on a limb and assuming that you know how Americans do X-mas – big lights, big parties, big calorie-saturated (and delicious) dessert tables.

Surprisingly the Canadians do it the same way. But instead of cake they have delicious bottles of maple syrup to feed to their children. Can you say, "SUGAR HIGH?!"

Feliz Navidad, mi amigo, as we travel south to Mexico. The people of Mexico have a more religious take on Christmas; instead of Santa stuffing their stockings, children hope to get a sight of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, or other famous Christian figures. And of course, what would a Mexican fiesta be without a piñata?

Der Deutsche Leute (the German people – I hope I got it right) celebrate Christmas pretty much the same as us, however the festivities begin on December 6th, or St. Nicholas Day. Also, instead of ornaments, German trees are decorat-

ed with candies, apples, candles, toys, and "tree pastries". The Germans are also fond of gingerbread. Oh, Tannenbaum!

Bonjour, mon amour, and welcome to France. Christmastime in France is mostly about what Christmas should be more about here – being with family, charity, worship, generosity, and candy. The French celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th like the Germans, but in France it is called, "Epiphany". French kids put their shoes in front of the fireplace in hopes of finding a gift from Père Noel in the morning.

Well I sincerely hope you enjoyed your trip 'round the world with me! Happy Holidays!

Time to Get in the Christmas Spirit!

This is the most wonderful time of the year. It brings family closer together and promotes the spirit of both Christmas spirit and giving. It is finally time to get a tree, decorate the house, bake, and spend time with the family. Depending upon your traditions you will probably either host or go somewhere for Christmas dinner. All those Christmas songs on the radio

just cheer me up and make me want to get everyone into the spirit of x-mas. Just remember that it is not just the time to give and receive, but to think about other people who may not have somewhere to go.

On Christmas, Santa will deliver all the presents to all the good girls and boys and eat the cookies we leave out for him. Here is a quote from one of

my best friends Krystena Cassiol, "Even though I love to receive gifts I always make sure that no one in my family is left out in the cold and I make sure to include them in all our holiday traditions." That quote really speaks out to the heart and soul that it is better to give than to receive!

By :Faith Brancato



Santa Claus

Santa is known by everyone, he is the big chubby guy that wears a red suit and has a white beard. He represents Christmas for most and all little kids love him. Santa has nine flying reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Santa delivers toys to all the good children on Christmas Eve and if you are bad you get a piece of coal. He and his wife Mrs.

Claus live at the North Pole with all the little elves and reindeer. The elves that live up there all have pointy ears and are really short. The elves are known for making all the toys that Santa delivers.

Santa is also known for riding his sleigh to deliver the toys to your house, and if you leave out cookies and milk they will be gone on Christmas morning. His favorite cookies are chocolate chip cookies and for

the reindeer, celery and carrots are said to be their favorites.

Merry Christmas!!!



By: Page Phillips & Christina Dang



Playoffs Already!

The NFL just finished week 15 of the season and there are already 7 teams with a playoff spot: The San Francisco 49ers; New England Patriots; Pittsburgh Steelers; Baltimore Ravens; Houston Texans; Green Bay Packers; and the New Orleans Saints. If you want to know where your favorite team is in the standings, take a look at this!

*Own Tie Breaker

Z-Clinched Division

Y-Clinched Playoff Spot

AFC EAST:

Z-New England Patriots 11-3 .786

New York Jets 8-6 .571

*Miami Dolphins 5-9 .357

Buffalo Bills 5-9 .357

AFC North:

*Y-Baltimore Ravens 10-4 .714

Y-Pittsburgh Steelers 10-4 .714

Cincinnati Bengals 8-6 .571

Cleveland Browns 4-10 .286

AFC South:

Z-Houston Texans 10-4 .714

Tennessee Titans 7-7 .500

Jacksonville Jaguars 4-10 .286

Indianapolis Colts 1-13 .071

AFC West:

Denver Broncos 8-6 .571

*Oakland Raiders 7-7 .500

San Diego Chargers 7-7 .500

Kansas City Chiefs 6-8 .429

NFC East:

Dallas Cowboys 8-6 .571

New York Giants 7-7 .500

Philadelphia Eagles 6-8 .429

Washington Redskins 5-9 .357

NFC North:

Z-Green Bay Packers 13-1 .929

Detroit Lions 9-5 .643

Chicago Bears 7-7 .500

Minnesota Vikings 2-12 .143

NFC South:

Y-New Orleans Saints 11-3 .786

Atlanta Falcons 9-5 .643

Carolina Panthers 5-9 .357

Tampa Bay Buccaneers 4-10 .286

NFC West:

Z-San Francisco 49ers 11-3 .786

*Seattle Seahawks 7-7 .500

Arizona Cardinals 7-7 .500

St. Louis Rams 2-12 .143

By: Bobby Wolfe



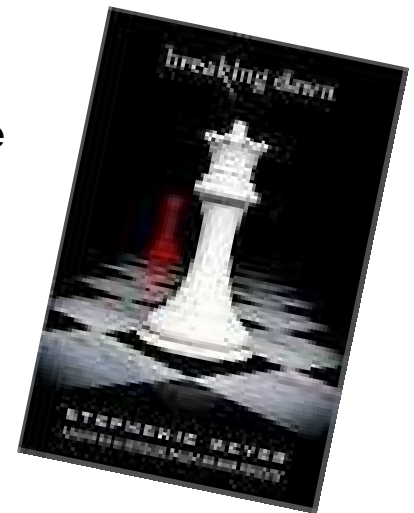
Hottest New Movie

There are many movies you can pick from when you go to the movie theater. The hottest new movie right now is, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1*. Do you wonder what will happen next in 2012 for the last part of *Breaking Dawn*?

The movie is about Edward and Bella. They are expecting a child who may become a threat to the Wolf Pack and the town's people

of Forks. Some of the actors that starred in the movie are Kristen Stewart (Bella Swan), Robert Pattinson (Edward Cullen), Taylor Lautner (Jacob Black) and many more.

People rated this movie to be 4.7 out of 10 from an iPhone app called IMDb. The director is Bill Condon. The genres for this movie are adventure, drama, fantasy and romance.



If you read all the books and saw all the other movies, you should see this one!

By: Arian Roseboro



Neighborhoods- Blink 182

The famous punk-pop band, Blink -182, has come out with a new album *Neighborhoods*. The songs on the album are, "Ghost on the Dance Floor"; "Natives"; "Up All Night", "After Midnight"; "Snake Charmer"; "Heart's All Gone Interlude"; "Heart's All Gone"; "Wishing Well"; "Kaleidoscope"; "This Is Home"; "MH 4.18.2011"; "Love Is Dangerous"; "Fighting The Gravity"; and the last song on the album, "Even If She Falls".

The song "Heart's All Gone" has that old style Blink punk sound. As lead singer Tom Delonge said, "We released "Heart's All Gone" to go "Hey, there are a few things on the record that if you only want old stuff from us, it's still here." Delonge also said something about the song "Up All Night". "We released 'Up All Night,' which is very progressive for

us. It's different than anything we've ever done, and we wanted to basically show people that we're pushing the band forward." (azcentral.com)

Delonge was asked "This is your first album since 2003. Was it hard to get back into that creative headspace as a unit?" He responded back, "About halfway through, it became very evident how it needed to work now, just because we live in different cities. At first, we started and people got frustrated from having studios in different cities. Then, I went on tour and I came back, and Travis went on tour, and Mark was leaving in another week to do his TV show ("Hoppus on Music"). It took a little bit of juggling but I think in the end we all figured out how it would all work best and that's

what needed to happen because how we work best now is dramatically different than our last record, where we all sat in a house for nine months together."

The new blink-182 album, *Neighborhoods* is for sale on iTunes for \$11.99, on Amazon MP3, \$9.49, and on the Android Market, \$11.49.

For more information go to : <http://www.azcentral.com/thingstodo/music/articles/2011/09/22/20110922blink-182-interview-tom-delonge.html#ixzz1fmjKTviF>

By: Trevor Balbierz



The Boom Doggles

I am in a band called The Boom Doggles. The members of The Boom Doggles are Derek Haberer, Matthew Marshall, Tyler Stein, and Jordan Marshall. Derek bangs on the drums, Matthew shreds on the guitar, Tyler keeps an awesome groove on the bass, and Jordan sings like an opera singer on the vocals!

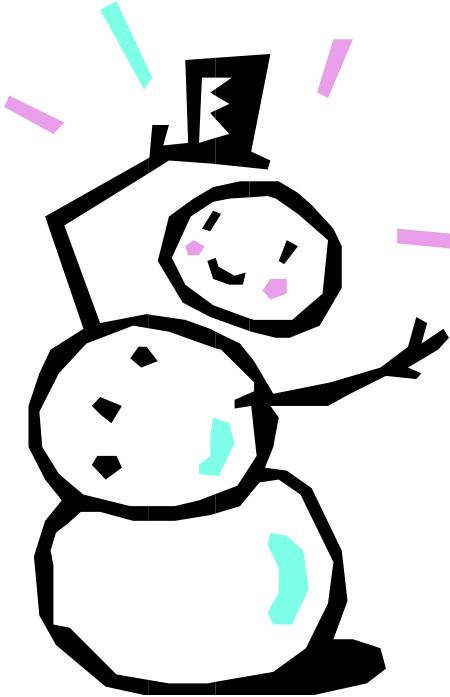
Our first album was called, *Smooth 39 Clues*. The songs, "Ich Will Bonbon", "Sie Muss Sterben", "Die Kreature", and "Ich Hast Du" were written by Derek. "Die Baumhaus" was written by Jordan. "Wo Ist Das Bonbon?" was written by the co-manager, Mrs. Marshall also known as

Jordan and Matthew's mom. Two songs called "Ja" and "Nein" were written by all four rockers of the band!

Our second album named, *Here Comes the Bomb... Boom!* has half anger and half pain type of songs. This album's first single, "The Shoe Drops!" was written by Jordan and Derek. Another all-time favorite single, "What the Heck Is Going On?" was written by Jordan about his pain about people hating him.

By: Derek Haberer

Awesome Advice



ENJOY YOUR WINTER BREAK!!!

Dear Awesome Advice and Co.,

I have a crush on this one girl and I don't have the guts to ask her if she likes me back. What should I do?

From, Scared Boy




Dear Scared Boy,

First you should get to know her. Say hi when you see her, or chat in the halls. If you are her friend for a while, you may get an idea of whether she likes you or not. Then, after a while, you can ask her. That way, it won't just be out of the blue!

From, Awesome Advice and Co.



Electronics Survey

Name of Product:	Students who like the product
 Xbox	32%
Apple iPod 	20%
PlayStation 3	16%
 Apple iMac	12%
DELL Laptop	10%
DELL PC 	10%

Favorite Christmas Activity

By: Cameron Markott

50 people were surveyed.

Question: What is your favorite Christmas activity?

Making Cookies	Decorating	Shopping	Other
30%	8%	24%	38%

Making Your Own Band- in 7 Steps!!!!

1. Figure out what type of music you want to play. (country, pop, rap...)
2. Find trustworthy friends who want to play the same kind of music. Make sure you cover all the needs of your band. (singer, drummer, guitarist...)
3. Find a place to practice! Somewhere you can be loud and is easily accessible for your instruments.
4. Agree that no one is in charge, even the person who created it. Band members work together.
5. Make a cool, catchy, agreeable band name!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
6. Start practicing, and figure out a consistent practice schedule.
7. Finally, look for places to perform! Start with a concert for friends and family!!!

By: Mary John