

DRAGON CHRONICLE

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HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HMS Geography Bee 2012

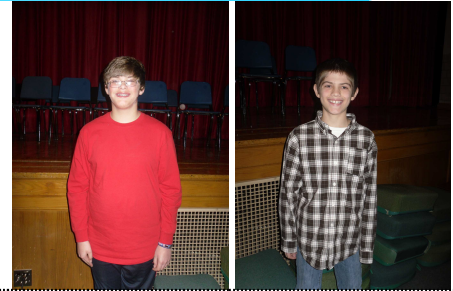
30 STARTING CONTESTANTS
ONLY 1 WINNER!

The Geo Bee was very exciting and fast moving this year. Trivia was flying through the auditorium! Competitor George Hill was absent from the event so he was replaced by Colin Lynch, who was eliminated in round five. In round one (U.S. Geography) five people were eliminated. In round two (U.S. Geography Comparison) six people were eliminated. In round three (Physical Geography) three people were eliminated. In round four (Continents) several others were eliminated. There were no choices given in this

round. After a fifth round, we only had four contestants left! 7th graders John Bressette, and last year's champion, Jimmy Dahlke were eliminated to leave the final two contestants to battle for the title. Tension was soaring on the stage! Then, 7th grader Matthew Sternin was suddenly eliminated. The 2012 winner was 6th grader Mike King!

When asked how he felt about being runner-up, Matthew Sternin said, "Believe me, I was excited. Even I didn't think I would get that far!"

So for another year the Geography Bee continues to



Runner Up-7th Grader Matt Sternin

Winner-6th Grader Mike King



have a sixth grade champion! Congratulations to Mike King!

By: Cameron Markott

ROARS ASSEMBLY

The ROARS assembly happened on Friday, the 20th. There was a Wheel of Fortune spoof/skit, which featured the newspaper's very own Sara Breene! Mrs. Merklng, Mrs. Austin, Mr. Strauss and Mr. Yemma all made appearances but none as grand as the famous **RAPPER C!!!** (Mrs. Crusan) There were several messages in the assembly, the most obvious of

which was ROARS and what it means. But it was also a thank-you to the students, teachers, and staff for their hard work so far this year.

When I asked Mrs. Boehm, one of the teachers who organized the event, if she wanted to say anything, she said "A big thank-you to all students, faculty and staff who

work hard to do their best every day. Hoover is a wonderful school, a place where every student can be successful." I completely agree with her, and I enjoyed the assembly a lot. LONG LIVE HOOVER!

By: Matthew Sternin



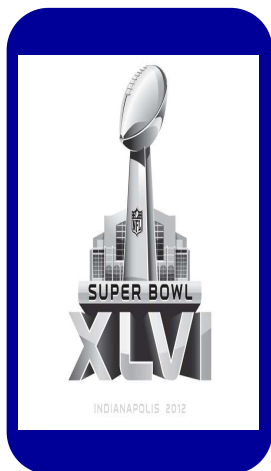
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Special points of interest:

- Check out our Awesome Advice!
- Our Amazing Wintery Word Search!
- Check out the Winter Sports Survey!
- Don't forget to write in to Awesome Advice & Co., and leave your questions in the box outside of room 243!
- Komodo Dragon Facts!

NFL Playoffs



Well if you live in Colorado, after you watched the wildcard game of Denver vs. Pittsburgh, you wanted to convert from Mountain Time, to Tebow Time. While this game was by far the most stunning, other games were almost as interesting. While Denver may have shocked the US in overtime, the next week was a different team. The New England Patriots beat the Broncos 45-10, then continued to win the AFC Championship. In the NFC, the 49ers, who have had troubles in the past, showed up to play this year

and made it to the NFC Championship before losing 20-17 to the NY Giants in overtime.

This year, some of the underdogs failed to prevail in the end and the two best teams in the NFL are ready to face off on February 5th at 6:30pm at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. However, both the Patriots and Giants fought hard to get to this point. Both played extremely close games in the NFC and AFC semi-finals. The Giants won by only a field goal in over-

time against the 49ers after a 14-10 lead going into the fourth quarter, but the Giants tied things up to send the game into overtime. In the Patriots game, the Ravens lost after Lee Evans dropped a pass in the end zone then Billy Cundiff missed a 32-yard field goal. On February 5th, all of America, as well as other parts of the world, will be glued to their TV screens watching the Super Bowl (Hopefully, watching the Patriots lose).

By: Colin Lynch

Bills Blow the Season... Again



The Bills are an epic fail again. For once the Bills looked like they were having a promising season and they blew it. Will they finally get a big draft pick and maybe make the wildcard, ending the playoff drought? The Bills who started at 5-2,

dropped 7 in a row and finished 6-10. The Bills, who have the longest playoff drought in the league really makes you wonder if they are ever going to get a star. Every season there are less and less Bills fans. One playoff season would

restore the fans and guarantee the Bills not moving. Everyone in Buffalo needs the Bills to have a big improvement.

By: Jacob Brill

Sabres in a Losing Streak

In December of 2011, the Buffalo Sabres went 4-10 in the entire month. The leading scorer of the Buffalo Sabres is Jason Pominville with 40 points, 13 goals and 27 assists. He is also the captain of the team. Jason Pominville is from Repentigny, Quebec, Canada. He is 29 years old.

The Sabres actual record was 4-6-4 when the losing streak started. People were saying that coach Lindy Ruff needed to be fired, but it never happened. I am hoping that now that we have started 2012 that they will start to do better soon. What do you think? Do they have any chance of making the playoffs, or winning a Stanley Cup? We will have to wait and see.

By: Brock Kowalski

LSU Got Shutout?

On January 9th, 2012 the #2 Alabama Crimson Tide shutout the #1 LSU (Louisiana State University) Tigers 21-0. Alabama beat LSU so Alabama took the #1 seed in the league, after the game reporters called it "The College Game of the Decade."

Before the game, the average prediction was 34-28 in favor of LSU and we know they were WAY off. Watching the game, I thought it was VERY one-sided and boring. Congratulations to Alabama and their title and we'll hope we will see some of them in the NFL soon.

By: Bobby Wolfe



8th Grade High School Orientation

If you're in eighth grade and decided not to go to orientation...well, that probably wasn't the smartest move you've ever made. I'm going to Ken West so I can't really say much about the East orientation, but the Ken West one was pretty fun and filled with a ton of information. The orientation started with a power point presentation that covered every thing from the IB program, BOCES, AP classes, credits, and extra-curricular activities. After that was over, there

was a student panel in which a small number of students sat on the stage to answer questions. At the beginning portion of the student panel, a teacher asked the students a long list of commonly asked questions. Then, the audience was given the chance to ask anything they were still unsure about. Finally, the eighth graders had the opportunity to go into the cafeteria, where multiple different clubs and sports had tables set up and talked to the eighth graders about

being in their particular club. Some of the clubs they had were drama, chorus, Spanish and French club, cross country, and FACS.

All in all, the West orientation was definitely worth going to. At the East orientation, I heard that students had the opportunity to meet some of their potential future teachers, so it sounds like it was a fun experience as well.

By: Whitney Spencer

“The Ken West (orientation) was pretty fun and filled with a ton of information.”

Uglies Book Review

Imagine this: a world in which everyone thinks they are ugly. A world where you can barely stand to look at yourself in the mirror and think the word *beautiful* at the same time. A world where it is normal to hate yourself and long for your sixteenth birthday to come, the day when you become beautiful. This is the world Tally Youngblood lives in.

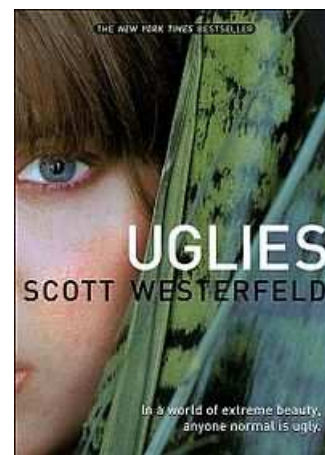
When Tally's friends become "pretty", they have to leave her and

move to New Pretty Town, where all the new pretties go. She doesn't see them again. At least, not until she gets the pretty operation herself. She isn't even allowed to visit them. Tally is all alone, until a girl named Shay walks into her world. She becomes best friends with her, filling the void in her heart where her old friends used to be. They played tricks and games and normal things together, until Shay starts saying mysterious things, like *'I don't want to be*

pretty'. Tally becomes suspicious, and soon gets sucked into a crazy world full of breaking friends and making enemies, escaping and deceiving. Will she ever find her way out?

I recommend this science-fiction novel, written by Scott Westerfeld, to anyone who enjoys an adventurous, suspenseful ride where you never know what will happen next.

By: Leanne Hanlon



Mr. Strauss Interview

We interviewed the very nice and caring 6-1 teacher Mr. Strauss. He turned out to be a perfect teacher for an interview. He just started working with team 6-1 this year. His subjects include math (with Mr. Pray) and social studies (with Mrs. Falkowski). He is a wonderful teacher while being fun. He is always prepared and sincere. We asked him a few questions. His favorite thing about being a teacher is interacting with students. He got inspired to be a teacher his junior year of high school.

We talked to Mr. Norton about his co-worker, Mr. Strauss. Mr. Norton loves Mr. Strauss' jovial attitude.

Mr. Norton has known Mr. Strauss for four years. Their best memory together was when Mr. Strauss was directing traffic on the QEW in Toronto when one of the busses broke down.

We also interviewed the 6-1 teacher Mrs. Coley about her co-worker Mr. Strauss. She likes how Mr. Strauss is helpful, fun and cares about his students and co-workers. Mrs. Coley has known Mr. Strauss for about eight weeks. Their best memory together was the car ride to lunch. We were informed that there were four grown men, Mr. Strauss, Mr. Pray, Mr. Norton and Mr. Sylves while Mrs. Coley was driving. It was

very funny!

We enjoy having Mr. Strauss teach us. He is an amazing teacher. He shows that he really loves what he does. He cares about each and every student. Sadly we will be moving groups and we will no longer be seeing Mr. Strauss in our social studies and math classes. We appreciate how much of an outstanding teacher he has been! Thank you!

By: Madison Kaifas-Steiner & Rylee Hooker



"We never switched classes in elementary school, so it was a huge surprise."

What do 6th graders think of Middle School?

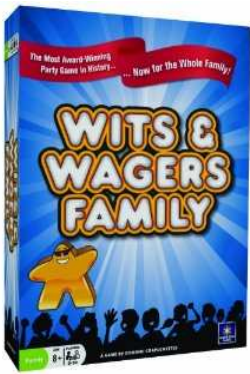
This year to the new 6th graders may have been crazy with changing classes and having lockers and a bunch of teachers. This may be the first time that people have lockers or even have to walk to classes by themselves. I decided to interview a 6th grader. The first girl I interviewed was a good friend named, Julianna Argenio.

The first question I asked her was what is the main thing you are concerned about as a 6th grader? Her response "If I can't open my locker in time to get to class." The second question was who is your favorite teacher and subject? The answer "Miss. Falkowski in social studies and my favorite subject is science with Mrs.

Ventrice". I totally agree. (Sorry Mr. Pray You are still my fav.) My last question to Julianna is what is the main difference from elementary school to middle school? The answer is ... "we never switched classes in elementary school so it was a huge surprise."

By: Faith Brancato

Wits and Wagers Family Edition Game Review



The world's most award winning party game now available for the whole family. Wits and Wagers Family is a fun trivia game with the use of cute little Meeples. 150 cards have interesting, outrageous questions. Everyone writes their guess on their mini dry erase board and lines them up. Then you place your Meeples on the guess or guesses that you think is correct. The

Meeples are little wooden people shaped playing pieces. If you think that another player knows better, then bet on him or her. If you are positive that you know the correct answer, then bet on yourself. Whoever has the closest answer without going over wins. For scoring, the person gets one point for answering the question the closest. Then your big Meeple is worth two points and your small Meeple is

worth one point. So even if you don't get the question correct if you bet on the closest answer you could still get some points for the answer. Whoever gets the most amount of points by the end of the score board wins! Also if you are very interested in trying this game come and ask Mrs. Farley in room 243 if you can play it!

By: Cameron Markott



Awesome Advice

Dear Awesome Advice and Co.,

I really like this one boy, and I really want him to like me back. I know it's "not appropriate for middle school" so please don't say that and actually give me good advice that I can use, please. But so many other girls like him, I know, and I don't want to be like another one of the girls--I think he thinks I'm different. He smiles at me a lot and talks to me a lot--can you give me some pointers on how to get him to be MINE?
From, What do I do??

Dear What Do I Do,

I understand the way you feel. If he does think you are different, as he may, you will be able to tell if you keep talking to him. After a while, ask him for his e-mail/cell number to text. You want to be friendly and nice, but don't go overboard. If you do all this you will

be able to tell if you should just be friends or something more.

From, Awesome Advice and Co.

Dear Awesome Advice and Co.,

Someone keeps making fun of me. What should I do?

From, Dr. Fuzzy

Dear Dr. Fuzzy,

Bullying is definitely wrong. If you feel that this is serious, talk to a teacher, counselor, parent or friend. They can help even without the bully knowing you were the one to speak up. If it isn't serious, tell the person to "cut it out", without being too harsh

or nasty.

From, Awesome Advice and Co.

Dear Awesome Advice and Co,

My friend pulled a prank on me. I'm not talking to them. What should I do?

From, Dr. Phil

Dear Dr. Phil,

Your friend may have just been joking. If it wasn't super nasty and you weren't hurt, talk to them. Explain that you didn't think it was funny. If it was very mean or you were hurt, think about if it is worth it to let it lose this person as a friend.

From, Awesome Advice and Co.

Reflecting on 2011

On January 1, 2011, at 12:00 a.m., the New Year began.

January

January 5- Hockey World Juniors end in Buffalo, NY.

January 11 - Flooding and mudslides in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro killed 903 people.

January 24 - 37 people are killed and more than 180 others wounded in a bombing at Domodedovo International Airport in Moscow, Russia.

January 29- Terry Pegula purchased the Buffalo Sabres for \$189 million from Tom Golisano.

February

February 22 - March 14 - Uncertainty over Libyan oil output causes crude oil prices to rise 20% over a two-week period following the Arab spring, causing the 2011 energy crisis.

March

March 11- A 9.1-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tremors hit the east of Japan, killing 15,840 and leaving another 3,926 missing. Tsunami warnings are issued in 50 countries and territories. Emergencies are declared at four nuclear power plants affected by the quake.

April

April 29- An estimated two billion people watch the wedding of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey in London.

May

May 1- U.S. President Barack Obama announces that Osama bin Laden, the founder and leader of the militant group Al-Qaeda, has been killed during an American military operation in Pakistan.

May 21- Judgment day

predicted by Harold Camping.

August

August 5- NASA announces liquid on Mars.

October

October 5- Steve Jobs dies at the age of 56.

October 20- Muammar Gaddafi is killed at age 69.

October 23- A 7.2 magnitude earthquake occurs in Turkey killing 604 people and damaging 2,200 buildings.

December

December 15- The United States formally declares an end to the Iraq war.

By: Trevor Balbierz & Nick Manning

2011

2012- Fact or Fiction?

Hello. My name is Sara Breene. I wrote the last issue's article about "Christmas Around the World" but SOMEONE forgot to include it!! ;D ANYHOW, along with my acquaintance John Duchene, I shall write to you about an increasingly popular topic, especially since the year 2012 has come. Yes...WILL WE ALL DIE ON DECEMBER 21ST 2012 AT 11:11? OR WILL THE 2009 MOVIE '2012' BE MOVED TO COMEDY CENTRAL? 'Tis a question that we'll have to wait to see the answer to... Wait for about 11 months...

Many "reliable" internet sources have said that in fact, the world will expand or contract or combust or just plain explode on that date. As

most of you probably don't know, people predicted that the world was going to end in the year 2000 (so tonight we're gonna party like it's 1999, even though that song was produced around 1985) and about 14 other dates. The point is, people everywhere have been Facebooking "End of The World" dates since before many can remember. But why?

Some believe that they are religious dates when God will descend upon earth and judge good from evil using earthquakes and tsunamis and other devastating natural disasters. And what a fine coincidence - Japan had an earthquake AND tsunami recently. Other crazies believe that aliens will end the world using mind control,

ray guns, and all that jazz. Some even believe global warming and pollution are at fault. Most people, however, believe the ending of the Mayan calendar is to blame.

I say: NO. Keep your pants on, folks. In my opinion, the world will stay as is for quite a while. So you will live to graduate, get married, have children, get a job, and fulfill are your life aspirations (eh...) without apocalyptic disturbance. Well, this concludes my ramblings about 2012 speculations. I bid you farewell and I thank you for enduring the school year thus far...

Goodbye Hugs,
Sara Breene :-)





Favorite Winter Sports Poll

- Hockey 50%
- Basketball 10%
- Skiing 20%
- Snowboarding 10%
- Ice skating 10%

We're on the Web! Just go to the Hoover Middle School Homepage and click on the Dragon Chronicle tab!

Komodo Dragon-Did you Know?

The Komodo dragon is the world's biggest, heaviest lizard. A Komodo dragon is a carnivore and is the top predator in its range. The most dangerous thing about the Komodo dragon is its drool – yes, its drool is actually poisoned!

Their prey is the water buffalo which is actually twice its size. When the Komodo dragon bites its prey the animal is poisoned and in about two weeks when the water buffalo is finally down, the Komodo dragon has a meal for weeks or even months! Occasionally if a baby Komodo gets in the adults way while they are feeding, the baby could become its meal! When there are leftovers, it is common for adult males to fight over who will get them.

By: Marissa Pistello, Arianna Roseboro & Natasha Perez

Christina and Paige's Wintery Word Search

P X G A E M R K S G N T S R B N X E V T
 W H R X S K W N G C Z B W X V H B M O U
 P U X I R D O Q D P I D E M B R I H P J
 P B C X Z W A Z D W U W A H N W M B K R
 W P D V B Q Y G J T J S T U I Q G Q U M
 H Z H O N U U H K S P N E A F L D B X E
 Y Z A G T G A O D R K R R B F D P I T R
 R R G Q B P L O G I N T S I P H D G O U
 D S J S E V O L G U J H Z F Q B J L E G
 M C F J S T J M U U A R B M L B F Q R R
 S D F A C B I J E S I X I E F N Q Z S I
 O A C O C T O H P E F D O G G J E Y E B
 C P Z E D L S G P G N O Y H F K A Q W N
 K L W O P G N K K I L T E I O Y B P M K
 D I R W Y I K W I C D S V X Y U E N O W
 M E C B D U W G U S D P D M M L B O X J
 A R W D S Y D A Z L K E V E S A D A E X
 C J E L D N E C V R T W Y C N X F S S M
 G L E S L T O B D B K X U Z D G D X S U
 S J Y P Q C G W C K X U V P C S Z E E K
 U G G S O A D N M I A O X X S L W P L K
 V G O W N N S D I E H H T K I L I S K G
 Q W O P D D R F F Z N V A I B E J A R U
 D N J I C Y Y F R J E T M C L B X Z A C
 S P S A X C V J D A I E I E B H Y K P R
 C R Y S T A L S F N C B R S C Z S B S J
 R P A Y U N T A G Y D S X F K O H Y B N
 X T X F Z E D D S L E B D Y R V I A X C
 T G T W Q S D W V J N D Q B C Q W P J M
 Q P M C E Y X W A H O T T D G K A U Z J

Word Bank

BELLS CANDYCANES CRYSTALS FREEZING GLOVES
 HOTCOCAO ICE SCARF SKATING SKIS SLEDDING SNOW
 SNOWBOARD SNOWMEN SPARKLES SWEATER UGGS