

# PATRIOT POST

SEPTEMBER

ISSUE 1

## *The Day That Shook America*

By Connor Ross

9/11. If you ask someone off the street, they're definitely bound to know what it is, unless you ask a toddler, or an infant. It's a plight that completely ravaged the hearts of Americans, usurping their emotions and clouding them in fear. It's a plight that changed the world as we know it forever. It is the September 11 terrorist attacks inflicted on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Only recently did we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the fallen towers. And while it is positively bad, there are some good things being unclocked for the anniversary. To start with, there's the One World Trade Center, known colloquially as the Freedom Tower. On the day the towers fell, NYC mayor Rudy Giuliani stated, "We will rebuild. We're going to come out of this stronger than before, politically stronger, economically stronger. The



skyline will be made whole again." In late 2006, construction began on the 1 WTC, and it was named in 2009. Workers say the building will dethrone the Willis (Sears) Tower by becoming the tallest building in America and one of the loftiest in the world, achieving a height of 1,776ft by its completion in 2013/2014. The planned height of the 1 WTC references the year that America won independence. This new addition will also include the National

Sep. 11 Memorial & Museum in remembrance of the tragic day.

With the attacks also come a good handful of memorials. One of these memorials, which were one of the first, is the Tribute in Light, an installation of 88 searchlights at the footprints of the WTC. On the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the Pentagon Memorial was made available to the public. The memorial consists of a landscaped park, with 184 benches faced toward the Pentagon. A private chapel and indoor memorial were also included in 2002 where the plane had struck. Joining the list is a permanent Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, which, according to plans, will include a grove of trees sculpted into a circle around the crash site, bisected by the plane's path, with wind chimes that bear the name of the victims. Every anniversary of the attacks, a list of the victims' names is read against a background of somber music in the Big Apple. The US President attends a memorial service at the Pentagon every year as well.

So, while the day of September 11 is undoubtedly one of the worst events in our recent history, there's also some silver lining in the clouds, a silver lining that will continue to educate the future generation of US so we may better understand it.

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## Extracurricular Extravaganza!

By Zoey Colglazier

For those of you who don't know about the absolute tons of extracurricular activities that are available, we here at the Patriot Post have compiled a list of the many choices RMS provides.

Two of the most popular clubs are Builder's Club and Student Council. Mrs. Hertenstein runs Student Council, and Mrs. Renkes oversees Builder's Club. Some events Student Council plans are school clean-up days, and carnation sales. Builder's Club is affiliated with Kiwanis, so they help with the community. They walk in the Alzheimer's Walk, the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, and the Cutest Pet Contest. Student Council and Builder's Club are both on Wednesday mornings alternately.

There is also Band, which is during homeroom for all grades. They have different events throughout the school year. Concert Choir also is available, and they go to a competition every year.

Yearbook Committee is going to be overseen by Mrs. Pace and Mrs. Longan, and more information will be available by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the office there is Hall Monitoring. If you are chosen for this activity, you would go to the office during your gym hour and run messages. You can also help in the lunch room, washing trays and such.

RMS has various sports, including cross country and volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and track in the spring. Track are only available to seventh and eighth grade.

Scholastic Bowl and Patriot Post are only for seventh and eighth grade. Scholastic Bowl is basically a version of jeopardy, with teams competing in math, social studies, science, literature, and vocabulary. There are some other genres, including agriculture, geography, and home economics. Patriot Post is the school newspaper. They meet every Wednesday after school until 3:15 PM.

We really love having you in these extracurricular activities, so please join!!

## More Jobs, or Not

By Michael Gale

President Obama has recently proposed a bill that is to promote job growth. The bill is supposed to supply more jobs to the country. Some people aren't happy that it is going to cost the United States \$447 billion.

The main point of the bill is to reduce payroll taxes. Payroll taxes are taxes that must be paid by the employer and employee before getting their paycheck. By reducing the payroll taxes Obama hopes that employers will hire more employees.

The other main part of the bill is that Obama wants to give state governments money for various different uses. One of which happens to be education. Part of that goes to schools to hire more teachers and retain other teachers. Some other things that the money will be used for is to build new roads and transportation. There are some other things that the money will be spent on too.

Overall, most Democrats support the bill and most Republicans are against it. Democrats are the minority in the House of Representatives right now so the bill might not get passed. They might pass bits and pieces of the bill that Republicans agree with. Obama said that parts of the bill have been supported by both Republicans and Democrats in the past.

## Libya: Recent News

By: James Huisheere

We all know that there have been some things going on in Libya, but even with Gaddafi gone, new things keep arising. You know that poor girl that was killed? If not, here you go. Hana, Gaddafi's adopted daughter, was killed, (reportedly), three years ago in a U.S. bombing raid. Gaddafi told everyone this, but, as released on September 22, the girl was found alive and well.

If that's not enough, there have been executions by Gaddafi's supporters in one of the towns Gaddafi still controls. In Sirte, anti-Gaddafi civilians grouped together. Sirte is Gaddafi's hometown and is one of the few towns where his supporters stand. Rebel fighters fired machine guns and rockets on the outskirts of the town while Gaddafi's soldiers were moving like gangs through the streets.

On Wednesday the 21, a chemical weapons site was discovered. This was one of Muammar's last strongholds, and hopefully, one of his last hopes. Jufra was supposedly liberated, but this last secret of the place still remained. In early 2004, all the chemical weapons were supposed to be destroyed under Gaddafi's rule, but apparently they were not. Hopefully, the rebels can use this against him and I'm sure they'll try.

## Alzheimer's Walk

By Erika Renkes

On September 24, 2011 Builder's Club and Student Council walked at the Alzheimer's Walk. Also, the members raised \$540 for the Alzheimer's Association. On Saturday, the ceremonies started out by picking a flower and each color of the flower meant a different reason (Blue-I have Alzheimer's. Orange-I support the Alzheimer's Association. Yellow-I am taking care of someone with Alzheimer's. Purple- I know someone who died of Alzheimer's.) After, people wrote their personal thoughts or messages on the flowers, the volunteers made a flower garden out of them. During the opening ceremonies, many people were thanked and thought of, but most importantly they announced how much money we had raised, which was over \$38,000. After the opening ceremonies ended, we walked around Lowell Park and back. Thanks to all who helped/attended the Alzheimer's Walk!

## Student of the Month

By Hannah Acker

This past week many eighth grade students were given a piece of paper asking them a few questions about how they're involved in the community, how they are a good student, and why they should be Student of the Month. Students are nominated by their teachers based on the way they take on responsibility, their behavior during school, and of course their grades. The eighth grade teachers from each side choose their student of the month each month. At the end of the school year, the students that were nominated each month for Student of the Month must prepare a speech to read to all of the teachers in the school. At the last Awards Assembly of the year, the Student of the Year is announced. He or she will then recite their speech at graduation. To earn Student of the Month would be a great accomplishment, and students that were nominated should be proud!

## Mrs. Hall: New Sixth Grade Teacher

By Michael Gale

This is Mrs. Hall's first year teaching at RMS. Mrs. Hall has been teaching for four years and this will be her fifth. She teaches sixth-grade special education and she co-teaches language arts and math. When she was in school, her favorite subject was social studies. Mrs. Hall's favorite sports are baseball and snowmobiling. She also enjoyed the book The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. Her favorite holiday is Christmas because she likes to spend time with her family over break. Mrs. Hall's favorite movie is Field of Dreams. Mrs. Hall has an Alaskan Malamute. His name is Samson. She is very close to her family and enjoys spending time with them. She has an identical twin sister who is also a teacher. She grew up in Woodstock, IL.

## Miss Polte: New Sixth Grade Teacher

By Emily Brooks

Maybe some of you have questions about your teachers; well I have some answers on one of our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Miss Polte. She teaches math and she says that she has always wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a little kid. When I asked her if she liked the classes that she taught, she responded by saying, "I love math." As a kid, her favorite subjects were math and reading at a school called JFK for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Spring Valley. Miss Polte also teaches volleyball and even though the season is over now, I still asked her what it was like having to teach and coach volleyball. She said that she thought they were very similar. "You're teaching kids skills and both are very rewarding," she said to support her point. Miss Polte didn't just volunteer to be the one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coaches for no reason. She grew up around volleyball because her mom coached and she said that she started coaching five years ago. So now you have some answers; maybe not all, but some.

## Student Services: What Could it Be?

By: Katie Hammitt

There are many changes at Reagan this year, one of which is the student services office. "What is it?"- You may ask. Well, Student Services is a separate environment for students that have been referred to the office for behavioral issues during class. We hope that you never have to go there, but if you do, it is on the bridge, which is over the cafeteria, next to Mrs. Conklen's room. Officer Quadraro, Mr. Magnifici, and Mrs. Sward are all located in this new office now. The old office is still the main office, only it is strictly business now. The counselors-Mrs. Droege and Mrs. Langloss- now have offices in the main office. "I don't dislike it, but it doesn't really matter to me..." one student says, showing that not many people have an opinion on this new addition, but it isn't affecting many students. So- next time someone asks what Student Services is, you'll know!

## Aaron's Computer Corner

By Aaron Faivre

Terminology: Kernel=Operating System  
O.S. = Operating System

Have you ever wondered if you had to use the operating system (O.S. For short) that came with your computer? Most of you probably use a version of Windows (not my favorite) or some Unix kernel (the O.S. on Mac). Say your computer failed, what do you do? Your first choice would be to rebuild it and start over with your backup CD(s), so it can either die on you again or you could actually be careful this time and not click the button that pops up on a website that says "We have detected a virus entering your system, click OK to remove". I will just get to the point, Linux. Linux is an open source O.S. That you can run on almost all computers, its mascot is a penguin named Tux. There are many different types of Linux operating systems you get: Ubuntu, Kubuntu, Linux mint.... So your probably thinking "why is this better?" well, it's not better, it's different. But you can do serious work with a Linux O.S, it is actually my main operating system and there is few other people around the school (you know who you are) that use it more than Windows. This page was typed in an open source Linux application, actually. You also might be thinking "Is this for real? Do people actually use this?" well, a lot of Americans use a Linux kernel without knowing it, Linux is at the heart of the Android smart phone line! Linux has a very good game engine to, if that's what you care about the most (I know I do), but the major, game companies don't write there games to run on Linux, mainly because there are so many types of Linux operating systems you can get, and that none of you guys have tried it (except for the select view). Windows does not have superiority over everything! But sadly it is to popular to make fun of so I wont get into that, though the Unix kernel (Berkley Unix to be exact) found on most Mac computers is closely related to Linux (insert awesome face here). So what will you use?



## The Bad Beginning: a Book Review

By Jadyn Erb

The Bad Beginning is the first book in the Lemony Snicket "A Series of Unfortunate Events." This book was published in 1999 and is the first in a series of 13. If you like sad stories and suspense, then you'll like this book. The Bad Beginning is about Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire who are enjoying a day at the beach, when Mr. Poe, a banker tells the children that their parents have died in a mysterious fire. The children are taken in by Count Olaf, a greedy villain with clever disguises and over the top schemes. He is bent on swindling the Baudelaire orphans out of their family fortune. As the children stay longer with Count Olaf, they want Mr. Poe to remove them from Count Olaf's care. When Count Olaf is told he tells the children that he would like them to participate in the play 'A Marvelous Marriage'. In actuality 'A Marvelous Marriage' is a trap and might cause the death of one of the orphans. Do they escape? Do they live happily ever after? The first line of the book says: "If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book." I really enjoy this series because you never know what is going to happen next for the Baudelaire children. Lemony Snicket keeps you guessing from one book to the next.

The books in the series include:

A Bad Beginning	The Vile Village
The Reptile Room	The Hostile Hospital
The Wide Window	The Carnivorous Carnival
The Miserable Mill	The Slippery Slope
The Austere Academy	The Grim Grotto
The Ersatz Elevator	The Penultimate Peril
	The End

## Unusual Holidays

By Erika Renkes

Now, you know the regular holidays, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, etc., but do you know the quiet, uncelebrated ones? Have you ever heard of Calendar Adjustment Day? I bet not! This day is celebrated on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The reason we have holidays is to observe them, so why don't we let the world know about these ones? You don't know what would happen if we did. In fact, we might just end up having a Calendar Adjustment Festival!

Calendar Adjustment Day-Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Stay Away From Seattle Day- Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>
National Lazy Mom's Day-Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	International Eat an Apple Day-Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>
Newspaper Carrier Day-Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Hug a Greeting Card Writer Day-Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>
Be Late for Something Day-Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Talk like a Pirate Day-Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>
Another Look Unlimited Day-Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup>	World's Alzheimer's Day-Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>
Salami Day-Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Elephant Appreciation Day-Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>
International Literacy Day-Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Hug A Vegetarian Day-Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Wonderful Weirdoes Day-Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Punctuation Day-Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>
National Lacemaking Day-Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	National One-Hit Wonder Day- Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>
Remembrance Day(9/11)-Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Johnny Appleseed Day-Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>
Video Games Day-Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Google's Birthday-Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup>
International Chocolate Day-Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	National Good Neighbor Day-Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>
National Crème Filled Donut Day- Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	National Coffee Day- Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>
Felt Hat Day-Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ask a Stupid Question Day- Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>

## Seuss!

By Zoey Colglazier

This year's musical is all about Seuss! Horton and the Whos, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird, the People of the Jungle of Nool, the Cat in the Hat, and all your other favorite Seussian Characters.

Everyone who auditioned made the Seussical! The callback auditions were September 16<sup>th</sup>, and the results are posted by the cafeteria and the near the 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl's bathroom.

Horton the Elephant: Josh Payne

The Cat in the Hat: Sam McCullough

JoJo: Jared Harrison

Gertrude McFuzz: Savanna Steder

Mayzie LaBird: Emmaline Linton

Sour Kangaroo: Missy Goken

Bird Girls: Katlyn Bay, Katie Hammitt, and Kora Heitzler

The performances are set for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, with snow dates on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The first practice is Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## The Recipe of the Month: Apple Pies on a Stick

By: Caleb Plumb

Prep Time: 20 Min

Total Time: 1 Hr

Makes: 16 to 20 pie pops

1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1 box refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box

About 1/2 cup apple pie filling (from 21-oz can)

16 to 20 lollipop sticks

1 egg, beaten

3 tablespoons turbinado sugar (raw sugar)

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Heat oven to 425°F. Spray cookie sheets with cooking spray, or line with silicone baking mats.
2. Sprinkle flour on work surface. Unroll pie crusts onto surface. Using 3-inch wide drinking glass or cookie cutter cut rounds from crusts; place on cookie sheet. (Leftover pastry can be rolled in a ball and rolled out with a rolling pin. Cut to make additional rounds.)
3. To make each pie pop, lightly press lollipop stick into crust round so that it rests in center. Top each round with 1/2 teaspoon apple pie filling; cover with second crust round.



With fork or lollipop stick, press around edges to seal. Brush tops of pops with beaten egg; sprinkle with sugar.

4. Bake 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from cookie sheets; cool completely on cooling racks.

Any pie filling will work for this recipe.

<http://www.pillsbury.com>

## The Library Ghost

By: Katie Hammitt

Now, those of you 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders looked at this heading, and knew exactly what this article was about. 6<sup>th</sup> graders? Not so much. So- here is a recap of who the library ghost is, what he does, and why he is so famous at Reagan.

The library ghost is named Reginald Ferdinand Bloomwood. He was born in 1845 and died at age 61. His wife Marie Bloomwood lived until she was 70 and it is unknown where she is buried. Together they ran the town library. Reginald was killed for his bag of gold and left in a dark alley. Because he didn't have a proper burial Reginald became an angry ghost. Then, sometime in the 1900's the Madison School library was built on top of him and reminded him of his past. After reading a few books and scaring a few students, he gave up his evil ghost hood and became a happy ghost. To this day he haunts the RMS library. He can sense if you are scared of him, and if you are, he will stay away, so do not fear the library. Last year, Reginald went on a major expedition around the globe to find his wife. After about two months, he found her! He also found his old friend Ernest Vandy in the process!

This month, Reginald would like to welcome all of the students back, and gives a friendly hello to all those who are reading. He would like to tell everyone his great news.

"I went out over the summer, and visited with my wife a bit. As we were talking over a nice cup of tea, I dropped the question of her coming to visit the library. It has been so long since my Marie has seen a library; I was sure it would bring back some great memories and make her very happy. So, naturally, I was overjoyed to hear her answer. She will be coming at some point this month, and I will give you the details next month!"

At this point, our resident ghost started smiling so widely, I had to smile, and some random laughing fests echoed through the library. We shook hands, grinned, and laughed some more, then parted ways. The suspense is building as we wait for next month's interview so we can hear Marie and her story...

## Advice Column

So I know you all have heard of a “Dear Abby” column. You know, where you write a question about something going on, and “Abby” answers it. Well let me set two things straight here.

In no shape, way, or form is my name anywhere CLOSE to Abby. Please- Write the letters to Scarlett. (Two T’s people!)

The article I was describing above- well, that’s what this is.

Welcome to the Dear Scarlett column. In the office there will be a nice little box that says “DEAR SCARLETT” on it. Please drop your questions there. I will choose my favorite 3 to 5 questions and they will be published in that month’s issue of the Patriot Post, along with my witty and charming answers. If asked, in your letter, names will be changed. If not, we only will put your first name. OK people- one thing for you to remember, we can’t do this article without your help! We NEED you to send us letters! Please make them appropriate, but don’t be afraid to be creative. Here are two examples for you to read!

Dear Scarlett,

Lately, I’ve been falling behind in my classes, and I don’t know how to catch up. I’ve been working really hard, but I just don’t understand. My mom isn’t very proud of me right now. She says I need to try harder but I do! Please help me and give me tips on how to start improving my work.

Sincerely,  
Egbert

Dear Egbert,

You should try to talk to your teachers about getting extra help before or after school. Your mom will be much happier if she hears about the extra advice, because then she knows for a fact that you are at least trying. Also you could go online to your textbook’s website. I hope this helps you, and thanks for writing!

-Scarlett

Dear Scarlett,

*A few days ago, in math class, my left pinky started itching, and it hasn’t stopped. I’m not sure what the reason for this sudden itchiness is, but it’s getting very annoying. I would really like some advice on how to get it to stop. Thanks!*

Yours Truly,  
Gertrude

Dearest Gertrude,

I believe that the most probable cause to your mysterious case of the evil itchy finger. It is-drum roll please- a rash. A rash is an area of reddening of a person’s skin, sometimes with raised spots, appearing especially as a result of illness. I sincerely hope that you are not ill, so I will just say that the rash is most likely just as a result of an allergy to a certain product such as soap or lotion you are using. As always, thank you for writing!



## Today in History

By Zoey Colglazier

- Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1557 – Jacques Cartier, French explorer, dies.  
Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1192 – Sultan Saladin and King Richard the Lion-hearted sign cease-fire.  
Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1752 – This day never happened. Neither did the next ten as England adopts the Gregorian Calendar. People riot, thinking that the government stole 11 days of their lives.  
Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1778 – The city of Amsterdam signs trade agreement with US Rebels.  
Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1698 – Russia's Peter the Great imposes a tax on beards.  
Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863 – After 59 day siege, Confederates evacuate Ft. Wagner, SC.  
Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1896 – First closed-circuit auto race at Cranston, RI.  
Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1974 – President Ford pardons former President Nixon on all federal crimes.  
Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850 – California becomes the 31<sup>st</sup> state.  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863 – Georges Bizet's opera "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" premieres in Paris.  
Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.  
Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 0490, BC – Athenians defeat the 2nd Persian Invasion of Greece at Marathon.  
Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1503 – Michelangelo begins work on statue of David.  
Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1964 – Walt Disney is awarded the Medal of Freedom at the White House.  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1620 – Mayflower sets sail with 102 pilgrims.  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1989 – Hurricane Hugo begins 4 day sweep of the Caribbean. It killed 62 people.  
Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1769 – Boston Gazette reports on first US piano.  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1502 – Christopher Columbus lands on Costa Rica during his fourth and final voyage.  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1928 – Walt Disney's "Steamboat Willie", with Mickey Mouse, premieres for the first time.  
Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1946 – First ever Cannes Film Festival.  
Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1327 – King Edward II of England is assassinated.  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1692 – Last of 8 people hanged for witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts.  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1997 – "The Adventures of Pinocchio" becomes the first DVD with DVD video games.  
Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – Hurricane Rita hits Gulf Coast just a month and a half after Hurricane Katrina.  
Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1639 – First printing press in America.  
Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1888 – T.S. Elliot, poet and playwright, is born.  
Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1995 – US Treasury unveils new design for the \$100 dollar bill.  
Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1678 – "Pilgrim's Progress" is published.  
Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1895 – Louis Pasteur dies.  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1659 – According to Daniel Defoe, this is the day Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked.

Thank you to [www.Hisdates.com!](http://www.Hisdates.com!)



## Reagan Runners

By: Caroline Costello

Students who are participating in RMS's cross country team are running all over! Both the boys & the girls' teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Oregon meet, and the girls team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Freeport Invitational while the boys placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, meaning both teams brought home trophies for RMS! Upcoming meets include: Erie Invitational (Top 10 runners), Sectionals (Top 7 runners), and State. This season has been one of the greatest for both the girls and the boys' teams, and hopefully next season will be even better!

## Bump, Set, Spike!

By: Jady Erb

Volleyball season is well underway at Reagan Middle School. We've got 7th grade, 8th grade and 5th/6th grade intramurals. A couple of girls have shared their thoughts on the season thus far:

"I want to play volleyball in high school and get a scholarship, says Alyssa Hummel 7<sup>th</sup> grade. "We're having a really fun season and Mrs. Victor is a fun coach." When asked if the team has any good luck traditions I was told that they cheer on each other every game. The team has lost 3 games and won 1. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is working really hard and trying to play better according to Mackenzie Barnhart. "We're having a good season, but we don't keep track of wins or losses." The 5th graders from Jefferson and 6th graders from Reagan are participating in 5th/6th grade intramurals. Teams started practicing the end of August and play weekly games throughout September. They are learning the basics along with general knowledge of the game. All teams are working hard during practices every week. They are focusing on bumping, setting, serving and teamwork. They are showing great improvement at each game. It would be great to see more students show up at the home games to support our teams and show school spirit.



## NFL Football Kickoffs

BY Jacqueline Fazekas

Apparently, the Bears don't believe in following the rules, at least, as far as new rules go. There have been a couple rule changes to football this season. The one that most impacts the Bears is the rule that moves the kickoff from the 30 yard line to the 35. It impacts them because they didn't seem to want to recognize it. When the Bears played the Bills in their preseason opener on Saturday, Aug. 13, they kicked off from the 30, not the 35; and they did it twice in the first half. The Vice President of the NFL did put a stop to it though, calling in and saying they must kick from the 35 yard line. They ended up beating the Bills 10-3.

So far, since the start of the regular season, the Bears have only one win to two loses. However, there are three undefeated teams: the Green Bay Packers, Detroit Lions, and Buffalo Bills. I guess they somehow found a way to work with the new rule. Oh well. Good luck Bears!

## RMS Choir

By Jacqueline Fazekas

With the start of a new school year comes the start of all RMS extra-curricular activities. Choir is one activity that probably gets overlooked because of sports. However, they are always in need of new participants.

A message for the boys: Singing is not girly or embarrassing! Just because of the fact that it's in school does not mean it should be treated like poison. As of now, there are only 5 or 6 boys in choir, and they could always use more.

Some upcoming events are, as always, the Winter Concert in December. They are also looking to perform some pieces during the school lunch hours, but there is still no date set.

Whether those people are in choir for their awesome teacher, or because they like to sing, there is one thing they all agree on: Choir is enjoyable. If anyone, especially boys, are interested in joining the RMS choir, it's never too late. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch hour, and after, you would eat with the eighth graders and then return to class. For full info, see Mrs. Wirchnianski. She hopes to see you then!

## PATRIOT POST— POINT/COUNTERPOINT

### Block Schedules: Confusing Mayhem

By Zoey Colglazier

Everyone has noticed the new scheduling, which differs from grade to grade. 6<sup>th</sup> grade has different time for homeroom than 7<sup>th</sup> grade, which is different from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and so on and so on.

Well I'm sick of it! I mean, come on. Can't you see the gray hairs sprouting on our teachers' head as they try to juggle the schedule with no bells? You have to be constantly looking at the clock, or the door, hoping you don't see students waiting outside your door. It's got to be maddening.

And the new schedules aren't just a pain for teachers either. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have complained that they wish their homeroom was at the end of the day, not the very middle. A lot of students don't where watches, and without bells, it's hard to tell how much time you have to get to class.

Mrs. Bovey, our beloved librarian, isn't even sure when her lunch hour is! As she says, "It varies from week to week." Should we be putting this much stress on our faculty? I didn't think so.

### Block Schedules: Do people like them?

By Connor Carlson

As everyone probably knows, we have a new schedule this year. It is divided into one hour long periods. I interviewed some people and they seem to agree with it. Most of the eighth graders like it because the long time period gives them more time to get homework done. Very few of the sixth graders like the schedule, but for the few that do like the block schedules it's because they get their homework done in class. The seventh graders have a mismatched opinion. The people who agree with it say that the longer periods gives more time to learn and more time to get homework done. Overall, I think more students agree with the block schedules than disagree. Teachers have also said that they like the schedule because they only have one subject to teach and more time to teach. For the majority, students and teachers like the block schedules.

