

Student of the Month

Rachel Gross

By Emily Brooks

Rachel Gross is a new student at Reagan Middle School and she is one of the first two Students of the Month along with Jamie Altenburg. Rachel said that it is very hard to be a new student at school because she had to figure out the rules and how things worked. She added that she had only been going to public school for two years because she was home schooled and that she was going from a small school between Ashton and Franklin Grove to Reagan Middle School and a lot of things were different. Although Reagan is very different from her old school she said that she liked the classes, teachers, students, and sports programs. Rachel is involved in volleyball, basketball, and track for Reagan and Lil' Duchesses Basketball. Her favorite subjects are math and language arts. After she graduates high school she wants to go on to be a pediatrician, a professional basketball player, or something to do with art. When I asked how she felt about getting Student of the Month, she said that she was grateful, thankful, and really excited because it was something she wanted for at least a year. Rachel is a very well rounded student and she interacts with students very well. It was a good for her to get Student of the Month.

Jamie Altenburg

By: Jacqueline Fazekas

Each month, from submitted applications, the 8th grade teachers select two students, one from each team, to be that month's Student of the Month. One of the lucky students for September is Jamie Altenburg.

Jamie is 13 years old and her favorite subject is Language Arts. She is on the RMS volleyball team and notes that she intends to try out for volleyball again in high school. During gym in first quarter, she was a hall monitor. Jamie plays the clarinet in band but also shows an interest in the flute. When asked about her goals for high school, she replied by saying, in a nutshell, "I won't be in the honors classes, I won't have the highest GPA; I just want to get through high school doing the best I can."

Remarking that being chosen as Student of the Month, "feels amazing," she adds that she's still a little nervous about making a speech to the teachers. Described as nice, funny, and crazy by her friends, she is definitely a person of good character and deserves the title Student of the Month.

BP Oil Spill 1 Year Later

By: Caleb Plumb

About a year ago the oil spill caused by BP was stopped. After 4.9 million barrels of oil spilling out into the ocean it was finally capped. It started on April 20, 2010 when an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 of the workers at the oil well. The spill caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats and to the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries. The spill is the worst environmental disaster the US has faced, according to White House energy adviser Carol Browner. Starting on August 3rd, 2010, first test oil and then drilling mud was pumped at a slow rate of 320 Liters per minute into the well-head. Pumping continued for eight hours, at the end of which time the well was declared to be in a static condition. On August 4th, BP began pumping cement from the top, sealing that part of the flow channel permanently. On September 19, 2010, BP effectively killed the Macondo well. The relief well being drilled intersected the blown-out well Thursday, September 16, and crews started pumping in cement on Friday, September 17th, to permanently plug it. Then it was said, that BP's well was "effectively dead". They added, "Additional regulatory steps will be undertaken but we can now state definitively that the Macondo well poses no continuing threat to the Gulf of Mexico". However as this may be the biggest oil spill in the U.S.A. it is not the biggest in the world. The biggest was in Kuwait at Kuwaiti oil fires (ironic name) it went on from January, 1991 - November, 1991 which is a very long time, 5 months longer than the BP oil spill leaking between 42,000,000-63,000,000 gallons.

Bullfighting in Spain

By Connor Carlson

There have been many disputes over whether bullfighting should stop or keep going. People in Catalonia have banned bullfighting in that city. They took a vote and obviously the side that chose to get rid of bullfighting won. Other Spanish cities are still having these bullfights due to their tradition. Many people in Spain believe that it is one of the old traditions that they do there and that they should not take that away from them, but there is also the side that says that bullfighting is a gruesome tradition and should be stopped immediately. They don't like that these people are killing these bulls for fun. They think that it is a terrible thing to kill bulls just for entertainment. The economy in Spain has also affected bullfighting, because there economy is so bad the attendance for these bullfights has gone down drastically. People just don't have the money to pay for the tickets nowadays. The people in Catalonia have had their last bullfight. They will no longer have anymore. The rest of the country thrives in the sport of bullfighting.

Time Capsule

By: James Huisheere

Most of us have heard of the time capsule being buried. We took the paper, filled it out, but what's running through some people's heads is, "What exactly is the purpose of this?" Well, I'm going to answer that question, with the help of Tom Shaw. The original idea, Tom says, came from Mrs. Ann Lewis, the Reagan Centennial activities Chairperson for Lee County. The time capsule will be buried November 11th, and opened on the day of the DHS class of 2011 fiftieth year reunion, in 2061. This is being buried to, "leave a historic legacy to our community from this Reagan Centennial year", as Tom puts it. Sounds like a great idea. The selected area for the time capsule will be a secluded spot in Heritage Crossing Riverfront Park, in November... then closed to all for fifty years and then opened to the public once again.

I also was able to talk to another person who is helping with this. Steve Boll, DHS school project advisor. He says that there is a paper that is being read at the high school games. Here's some of what it says, well, that you don't know already from this article. "After the items from the class of 2011 are put into the time capsule, all remaining space will be available for a participating donation," so, if your family wants to donate to this, go to a high school football game to learn more. All the more reason to go and support our team!

Food Drive

By Lauren Turffs

Food Drives are really important. They're important because they help put food in the local food pantries that feed our homeless and less fortunate people in the area. If you want to help these people but don't know how, here is a good opportunity! There are bins for the pantry in the main office, cafeteria, and near the counselor's office. The food pantry needs items like canned goods and peanut butter. Mac 'n' cheese and rice are also good because they are non perishable which means they are good for a really long time. You never know when it could be someone you know who could be the one who needs help from the food pantry. You never know when it could be you. So the next time there is a food drive, you should try to donate to the best of your ability. All these items would be appreciated to be turned in by October 6th. Thanks so much for you're supporting of the food drive!

The Presidential Race

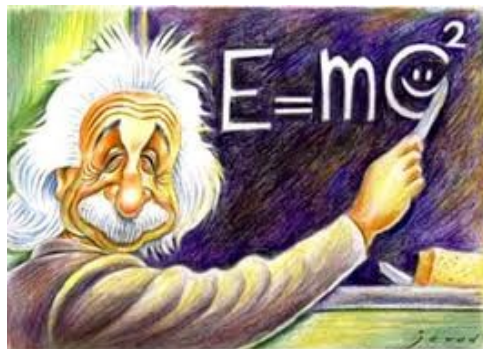
By Racquelle Fazekas

Candidates from all over the country have been trying to win America over to become this country's next president. The new president will be elected on November 6th of 2012, and the Inauguration will be held on January 20th of 2013. Inaugurations are formal ceremonies to mark the beginning of a leader's term of office. Primaries for each state are held to elect which candidates get to run in the Presidential election. The Illinois primary will be held on March 20th of 2012. The top candidates you might have heard of; here they are: Republicans: Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Michele Bachmann, Gary Johnson, Fred Karger, Andy Martin, Jimmy McMillan, Tom Miller, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Buddy Roemer, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, and Vern Wuensche. Democrats: Randall Terry and Barrack Obama. Libertarians: R. Lee Wrights, Carl Person, and Roger Gary. Socialist: Stewart Alexander. Current president Barrack Obama will be running for office again. It's up to America to decide whether or not he serves another term.

Einstein's Theory

By Lauren Turffs

Okay, so everyone knows Einstein, right? Also, everyone knows his famous equation: $E=mc^2$, too? Well guess what! Scientists have supposedly found a substance called neutrinos that travel faster than light! Amazing isn't it? Scientists in Chicago had found this same phenomenon in 2007 but there were too many other flaws in their theory so that it underscored the scientific significance of it. Other scientists who were not directly involved with this experiment could not believe what they were being told so they are now demanding that scientists around the world try to replicate the experiment to see if their findings are true. These now infamous neutrinos are said to have been clocked at 186,282 miles per SECOND! That officially smashed the cosmic speed barrier into smithereens! In a lab in Italy, where this experiment was conducted, these neutrinos traveled sixty nanoseconds faster. So for all you science and math nuts out there, Einstein's theory of relativity is proven wrong!



Titanic Necklace Stolen!

by Jady Erb

A necklace that was owned by a survivor of the Titanic has been stolen! The necklace was part of the "Titanic - The Exhibition" at Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens amusement park. The necklace was taken from the showcase and the alarms were not set off. The gold-plated necklace is worth about \$20,000 but would not be able to be sold as the piece is known around the world. The piece had been worn by Eleanor Widener who was aboard the Titanic when it went down in the Atlantic Ocean after hitting an iceberg while on its maiden voyage 99 years ago. The Widener family was one of the richest families aboard the ship. Investigators believe that the person or persons responsible for the theft were not professionals as the showcase had other jewelry showcased that was much more expensive. A reward of \$1,380 has been offered for the safe return of the artifact.

Michael Jackson's Death

By Connor Carlson

Michael Jackson's death was sad for a lot of people who admire him and also who look up to him as their hero. Supposedly the doctor that was helping Michael also tried to kill him. He said that he wasn't sleeping well so he gave Michael an overdose of a sleeping drug. He could have meant to help but he could also have meant to kill. The drug that we think killed Michael was Propofol. It is a drug where you use to put someone to sleep in a surgery or something like that. Dr. Murray claims that he did not do it, but time will tell. His trial will decide if he is innocent or guilty. If he is charged guilty, then he will have to serve 4 years in prison and he, also, will be violated for involuntary manslaughter. Michael died in 2009. We will always remember him. Dr. Murray will always remember him too! Some controversy is that while Dr. Murray stepped away for a while Michael self-administered the Propofol. In that case the doctor is innocent. Another case is that Dr. Murray did it himself either not knowing or he just did it for reasons we don't know to get rid of Michael. There are many of different stories about his death but only one is true and we will soon find out which one is. His trial is possibly going to end this week so time will tell.

The Amanda Knox Trial

By: Caleb Plumb

In 2007 Amanda Knox moved to Perugia, Italy, to study Italian at the University for Foreigners. She shared a house with a student from England, Meredith Kercher. On November 1, 2007 Meredith was killed. Five days later Amanda was arrested. She was in jail for two years before her trial. She was found guilty and was sentenced to twenty-six years in prison. She served two of the twenty-six years before she was released on October 3, 2011. There were issues surrounding the DNA evidence used to link Knox to the alleged murder weapon too. Experts suggested that the forensic scientists had made errors. All of these things gave Knox and her legal team grounds to appeal the convictions. Defense lawyers managed to successfully argue for an independent review of the forensic science used during the trial. It found the original handling process of the DNA had an error meaning it had been contaminated. As a result, the jury cleared both Amanda Knox of the murder.

Yearbook Committee

By Michael Gale

If you join the yearbook committee, you get to take pictures for the up-coming yearbook. The people working on the yearbook also get to help make the actual thing. The yearbooks are actually produced by JostenYearbooks.

This year, the yearbook committee is run by Mrs. Longan and Mrs. Pace. Previously, Mr. Noack was in charge. Mr. Noack taught the 5th/6th grade computer classes, and then 8th grade social studies before he left. Mrs. Longan teaches 7th grade math and so does Mrs. Pace. It will be fun to see the changes that are made to this year's yearbook.

Scarecrow Festival

By Connor Ross

As most of you should hopefully know, the Scarecrow Festival rolled around again just about a month ago on a chilly morning, becoming even bigger than last year's events. The name of the Scarecrow Festival owes to the scarecrows that many of the businesses downtown make from whatever they can find. And while there were many scarecrows to look at, the prize went again to Wilson's Tap, a local bar, who managed to make a grandma, getting run over by a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Besides looking at the scarecrows, there was quite a bit to do at the festival as always. Kids could choose pumpkins and paint them, and they also got to enjoy a bounce house. The First Baptist Church sold free popcorn and lemonade across from the Courthouse, whose lawn was used to house the Dog Zoo this year, which managed to increase to approx. 50 breeds, with some of the dogs from the Dixon K9 Unit. The author of this article helped to represent the Brussels Griffon breed. Chalk was also available for children to draw on the streets, and as expected, there were dog treats. It was great to see the festival manage to come back again, and if you went, hopefully it was fun

Oktoberfest

By Racquelle Fazekas

The Oktoberfest, the largest fair in the world, attracts more than 40 million people each year. The Oktoberfest is a festival that originated in Germany, but is now celebrated worldwide in late September and early October. Some even call it (and it partly is) the worlds biggest beer festival in the world. The biggest Oktoberfest in the United States was in Cincinnati Ohio that attracted more than half a million people in a day! On average, people drink an average of 1.5 million gallons of beer, eat 200,000 pairs of pork sausage, and 480,000 roasted chickens in Germany during the two-week (16 day) extravaganza.

The Oktoberfest in Galena has been celebrated Saturday, October 1, 2011 and lasted from noon to 10 p.m. at Depot Park, Galena, Illinois. Three thousand people (and 105 dogs) attended the 4th annual Galena Oktoberfest in 2010. This year, the Oktoberfest featured a Ceremonial Tapping of the Keg; non-stop live music; hot dog races; polka lessons and dancing; bean bag tournament beer drinking contests; bounce house, pumpkin decorating, mural making and bubble gum blowing contest for the kids; lots of food and beer; and a raffle with lots of prizes.

Homecoming

By Zoey Colglazier

Homecoming this fall was very eventful at both DHS and Reagan Middle School. Students dressed up according to Spirit Week, with an abundance of Twins, Mix-Matches, and Duke Pride. We even saw a semi-truck with Dixon Dukes' colors!

Thursday was a half-day, and many students walked from Reagan to McDonald's decked out in the Pride gear. Friday we had off, but there were a lot of students in attendance at the Homecoming game against Ottawa. We lost 20-7, but played a good game. The actual Homecoming Dance was on Saturday, and most of the high school went.

I have included some pictures I took of the spirit shone during Pride Week. We had so many kids showing off their purple and white that I couldn't get all their pictures!

Homecoming Court

Queen – Kate Johnson

King – Dirk Spence

Attendants – Senior – Rose Thompson, Anthony Augustine, Liz Greenwalt, Nathan Jagitsch

Junior – Shelby Cruse, Xandier McGlown

Sophomore – Jesse McKingly, Maribella McCarver



New

Old



Steve Jobs

By Michael Gale

Steve Jobs was the CEO of Apple Inc. Steve was born in San Francisco. He was an adopted child. Even Steve had his hippie period where he traveled to India to seek enlightenment. He recently died of pancreatic cancer. He was one of the co-founders of the company Apple Inc., then grew to be a major company in today's economy.

Apple started in his garage where he made the first Apple computer. After a lot of work and time, Steve Jobs became the CEO of Apple Inc. Apple began to flourish once they came out with the iPod... Even though he is most credited for being the CEO of Apple, he was also the CEO of Pixar. Steve jobs did many great things in technology throughout his life.

D.C. Trip!!!!!!

By Zoey Colglazier

As practically all of the eighth grade knows, Mrs. Renkes is taking a large group of graduating eighth graders to Washington, District of Columbia at the end of this school year. There was a meeting on Oct. 20th, but if you missed it here's a quick recap:

The date is June 7th, 8th, and 9th, and it costs a total of \$1079.00, with an additional \$105.00 added on if you want refund guarantee. If you register by November 11th, you can use the payment plan instead of paying all at once. Brightspark Travel is the company going with us, and they have lots of safety measures to make sure we remain safe, like a security guard on our floor in the hotel, someone to meet us wherever we stop, etc. Their website (where you can register online) is www.brightsparktravel.com

Everyone must wear a hat, which is \$6.00 approximately, and always travel with a buddy. We go to all of the monuments and memorials, which include the newest one, the Martin Luther King Memorial. We will visit Mount Vernon, the Capitol building, (hopefully) the White House, the Smithsonian Museums of American History and the Air and Space, Arlington National Cemetery, and maybe even the Library of Congress!

Doesn't that sound tiring? Of course it does, and there is more. We also get to go on a night tour of all the monuments, and a ghost tour of Alexandria, VA, which is right across the river from D.C.

We will ride a charter bus to the O'Hare airport, then fly as early as possible to the Reagan National airport in D.C., so we can begin our day right away. We don't waste time. On the way home, we will fly out of Reagan National, land in O'Hare, and take a charter bus back to RMS, after which you can go home and sleep.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please talk to Mrs. Renkes in room 139.

IMEA

By: Caroline Costello

A gigantic congratulations to Katlyn Bay, Katie Hammitt, Patrick Johnson, and Renata Young for making it to the Illinois Music Educators Association District 8 Music Festival at DeKalb High School this November 19th. Katie Hammitt, Patrick Johnson, and Renata Young will be performing in the band, and Katlyn Bay will be singing soprano in the choir. Katie Hammitt will be performing on the trumpet; Patrick Johnson on the tuba; and Renata Young on the flute. IMEA is a festival held in DeKalb to promote instrumental and singing artists in the grades 6th-12th. In order to be able to perform in this festival you have to go to auditions and compete against other students in your instrument or pitch category, and these competitions have two divisions: Middle School (grades 6th-8th) and High School (grades 9th-12th).

Student Offices

By Emily Brooks

For Builder's Club and Student Council, the members voted on officers and this is who won. Hannah Acker won secretary for both Student Council and Builder's Club. Katie Hammitt is President of Builder's Club and Josh Payne is the Vice President. For Student Council, Erika Renkes won President while Frida Gonzalez won Vice President.

Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader?

By Lauren Turffs

I know this is a very frequently asked question, but Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? It sounds like a cliché, right? The show Are You smarter Than A Fifth Grader premiered in February, 2007. Seems like such a long time ago but it really isn't. The show is estimated to have 12.7 million people watch it each episode! Kathy Cox and George Smoot are the only people who have ever won the full one million dollar prize but other people have won, just less money. Here is the question that made Kathy Cox a millionaire:

"Who was the longest reigning British Monarch?"

Do you know the answer? Drum roll please! The answer is Queen Victoria! If you knew the answer, then give yourself a pat on the back! Guess what! You *are* smarter than a fifth grader!

Review of Foster the People

By: Caleb Plumb

About 5 months ago a little band called Foster the People released their debut album Torches. A great album with many good tracks, their more famous song is "Pumped up Kicks".

The first song is "Helena Beat", a fun upbeat song, but I have to be honest the lead singer, Mark Foster, kind of sounds like a girl in this one. The next song is my favorite, "Pumped up Kicks", I am not all too sure what this song is about, but it's got a good beat. Next is "Don't Stop (Color on the Walls)". Not all too sure what it has to do with coloring on the walls, you might know this song from the Nissan Versa commercials. The last song is "Houdini", oddly enough it doesn't really have anything to do with the magician, besides one line "Sometimes I Wanna Disappear."

Up for Some Rap???

By: Katie Hammitt

Scott Free and Shoeless Jeff are rapping partners who enjoy rapping about things related to the United States, government, politics, and the economy. They are lots of fun to watch. They use fun costumes and lyrics, making learning fun. So who says you can't listen to music to help you learn? Schoolhouse Rock is really popular, and it is listened to in classrooms everywhere. I hope you look at the links that I have included, and if they are covering something you are learning in Social Studies right now, you should suggest to your teacher that you watch them. They are LOTS of fun, and 100% purely hilarious.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a67Wm_qms2I (Presidents)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl6R1KD4E0> (Bill of Rights)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjuMlolaKo4> (Stock Market)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCB8EOY5d48&NR=1> (Three Branches)

History of Halloween

By: Caleb Plumb

Halloween, celebrated each year on October 31, is a mix of ancient Celtic practices, Catholic and Roman religious rituals and European folk traditions that went together over time to create the holiday we know today. Halloween is a time of celebration and superstition. Halloween has long been thought of as a day when the dead can return to the earth, and ancient Celts would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off these roaming ghosts (they seemed a little crazy!). In the 19th century, Halloween began to lose its religious connection, becoming a more community-based children's holiday. Although the superstitions and beliefs surrounding Halloween may have changed over the years, as the days grow shorter and the nights get colder, people still look forward to parades, costumes and sweet treats. I know I do!



Halloween Horrors

By: James Huisheere

We all enjoy a good story, right? Well, while perusing the internet for some pretty good ones, these are some of the best that I've found. For more details on these stories go to www.halloween-website.com/scary_stories.

Covert's Corpse

In New Castle there's a bridge called Covert's Cross. One night a newly-wed couple, (married on Halloween, at midnight), were driving across the bridge in a horse-drawn carriage. The bridge was a narrow, one way bridge, and halfway across, there came a car. They saw it too late and obviously they couldn't pass it... so they crashed. Badly. It just so happened that the hubcap from the car came towards the woman... and cut her head clean off. The police found neither the bride nor the groom, but it is said that you can see the bride, at midnight searching for something she once had. Whether it's her head or her lost groom nobody knows, but if you're up for a dare, go to Covert's Cross and find out!

The Midget Clown

In upper Illinois, not too terribly far from Dixon, two teenagers were watching a couple of children late at night. It was getting to be late and the teenagers were getting kind of spooked, so they sent the kids to bed and started to watch television. It had been a while since the one boy had gotten a drink and felt a little parched, so he got up to get a drink. Well, on the way back to the den, he thought he heard the front door slam. He went to investigate... and nothing. So he went back, sat down, and started watching again. Then he started to get hungry and went to get a snack. When he went into the kitchen, he saw a dark silhouette of a little figure sitting on the stool next to the counter, dressed like a clown. His first thought was that it was one of the children, because they had been playing circus earlier and the kids had clown suits. But then, the figure put his hand up... and in his hand was a knife. The boy screamed and closed his eyes, the scream being a little high pitched for his age, and the other boy started running in. But the figure was gone, and there was no trace that anyone besides them and the kids were in the house, except a tiny niche in the walls, where the knife had barely missed the boy.

Best Costume

By: Caleb Plumb

When you are asked what you want to be for Halloween there are many different options, but when it is narrowed down to 5 it's not so hard of a choice. These are the top 5 voted for Halloween costumes.

5. Wizards- The first is a wizard like Harry Potter, either from the books and the movies or just a normal wizard that has nothing to do with Harry and He Who Must Not Be Named.

4. Vampires- When dressing like a vampire you have a few different options: you could be sparkly like the vampires from Twilight, or you could be the normal more evil vampire like Count Dracula.

3. Pirates- Tied with Vampires. You could be just like Captain Jack Sparrow or just your own pirate.

2. Zombies- Brains! Zombies come next. These flesh eating monsters just want to give you a big hug then eat your brain.

1. Coming in first place is ... Ninjas! You can't see you hear them so they could be right behind you at this very moment and you could never know.

Those are the top five costumes so I expect to see some ninjas out this year!

Unknown Holidays

By Erika Renkes

Those holidays that you don't know about and don't celebrate, you know, the ones you forget about. Unknown holidays help celebrate many things whether it's organizations or for fun. They are important even though you don't hear about them because if they weren't important they wouldn't be listed as a holiday.

World Card-Making day-October 1 st	National Grouch Day-October 15 th	
World Farm Animals Day-October 2 nd	World Food Day-October 16 th	
World Habitat Day-October 3 rd	National Cake Decorating Day-October 17 th	
Improve Your Office Day-October 4 th	National Chocolate Cupcake Day-October 18 th	
Balloons Around the World Day-October 5 th	Hog Fish Day-October 19 th	
Mad Hatter Day-October 6 th	Information Overload Day-October 20 th	
World Smile Day-October 7 th	Reptile Awareness Day-October 21 st	
Universal Music Day-October 8 th	Make a Difference Day-October 22 nd	
Leif Erikson Day-October 9 th	National Mole Day-October 23 rd	
International Newspaper Carrier Day-October 10 th	World Development Information Day-October 24 th	Haunted Refrigerator Night-October 30 th
National Face Your Fears Day-October 11 th	Sourest Day-October 25 th	Halloween-October 31 st
International Moment of Frustration Scream Day-October 12 ^t		
English Language Day-October 13 th		
Be Bald and Be Free Day-October 14 th		

Aaron's Computer Corner 2

By Aaron Faivre

I thought I would talk about tablets in this article. When you think about tablets you think off the Ipad, when you think of the Ipad it makes you think of the Iphone, and when you think of the Iphone you think of the Ipod touch and all the other great stuff apple makes. Well, the other option is the Android tablet market. There are so many different Android tablets, and so many different brands. You can basically get what ever size you want in an Android tablet, apples products are set in stone (you get what you get). If you are planning on writing any apps for an Iphone/Ipad/Ipod touch expect to pay a hundred bucks for the membership, wile there is no membership cost if you were planning to write apps for Android tablets. If you were planning on buying a tablet consider an Android tablet, because they are considerably cheaper and you can get something that does all those cool things that the ipad does, but you almost lose all bragging rights. For example: "I just bought a Ipad" and you respond "Well, I have a Android tablet" and if a third person was listening they would assume the Ipad was better because they see those "imagine more" Ipad commercials that state all these amazing things you can learn, and why you should buy this computer for five hundred plus dollars. I would also like to state that tablets DO NOT replace laptop computers. Why? Because the idea of a tablet is replace paper essentially. It is a media consumption device. In other words you don't really create anything with a tablet; you just view what other people created, while a Laptop is great for that sort of stuff. Say if you had to get a considerable amount of writing done, you would have better luck using a Mac 128k rather than an ipad. Also, I heard Amazon was coming out with there new tablet, so check it out.

This Month in History

By Zoey Colglazier

- Oct. 1st, 1869 – The first postcards were issued in Vienna.
- Oct. 2nd, 1540 – Venice and Turkey sign a peace treaty.
- Oct. 3rd, 1739 – The Treaty of Nissa brings an end to the Russian-Turkish War when it is signed by the Ottoman Empire and Russia.
- Oct. 4th, 1974 – John Lennon releases “Walls & Bridges” album.
- Oct. 5th, 1511 – Eedgenootschap signs an anti-French Saint League.
- Oct. 6th, 1866 – First train robbery takes place in the U.S.
- Oct. 7th, 1849 – Edgar Allan Poe dies today in Baltimore. He was 40 years old.
- Oct. 8th, 1945 – President Harry S. Truman reveals that the atom bomb secret was shared with Canada and Great Britain.
- Oct. 9th, 1000 – Leif Erikson discovers “Vinland”.
- Oct. 10th, 2006 – Google buy Youtube for \$1,260,000,000.
- Oct. 11th, 1689 – Peter the Great becomes the Tsar of Russia.
- Oct. 12th, 1861 – Confederate ironclad Manassas attacks the Union Richmond on the Mississippi.
- Oct. 13th, 1860 – First aerial picture of U.S. taken. It was shot from an n overhead balloon.
- Oct. 14th, 1975 – President Ford barely escapes injury when his limousine is struck broadside.
- Oct. 15th, 1860 – Grace Bedell writes to Lincoln telling him to grow a beard.
- Oct. 16th, 1781 – George Washington takes Yorktown.
- Oct. 17th, 1492 – Columbus sights isle that comes to be known as San Salvador.
- Oct. 18th, 2006 – Microsoft publicly release Windows Internet Explorer 7.
- Oct. 19th, 1862 – Auguste Lumière makes the first movie.
- Oct. 20th, 1603 - A Chinese uprising in the Philippines fails, killing 23,000 people.
- Oct. 21st, 1923 – The 1st planetarium opens up in Munich at the Deutsche Museum.
- Oct. 22nd, 1746 – Princeton University receives its charter.
- Oct. 23rd, 1091 – Tornado strikes the heart of London killing two and destroying the London Bridge, which was made out of wood.
- Oct. 24th, 2005 – Rosa Parks, civil rights activist, dies at 92.
- Oct. 25th, 1861 – Battle of Wilson’s Creek, MI.
- Oct. 26th, 1901 – First use of the getaway car after a hold-up in Paris.
- Oct. 27th, 1775 – The U.S. Navy is formed.
- Oct. 28th, 1492 – Christopher Columbus discovers Cuba.
- Oct. 29th, 1990 – An earthquake in Algeria kills 30 people.
- Oct. 30th, 1873 – The “Greatest Show on Earth” PT Barnum’s Circus debuts in New York City.
- Oct. 31st, 2011 - Halloween!!!!

www.hisdates.com

Haunted Places of Illinois

By: James Huisheere

Scary places can be very fun to visit. The thrill of knowing that at any moment something could pop out, whether it is a headless lady or a scary old man. Here are some haunted places within Illinois that you can visit any time for a nice old scare.

Alton, (Lovejoy Monument Cemetery): Here there are some pretty spooky characters. For one, a small girl who died mysteriously from an unknown disease. It’s said that in the night the little girl wanders around the grave headstones, playing hide and seek, darting away. When hidden, the ominous, creepy giggle let loose from the ghost sends chills down your spine and sends you running for the hills. Now if a crazy little stalker girl doesn’t scare you, then I’m sure this will do. You can see the ghost of Elijah P. Lovejoy himself walking about at night. If he sees you, he will disappear. However, if you catch him off guard you can see his cross in hand as he walks the roads, warding off demons. If you’re really lucky, you may even see the demons.

Amboy, (Franklin Blacktop): In Amboy, (twenty minutes from Dixon), there’s a house sitting kitty-corner from the 4-H center. In that same house, a couple hundred years ago, a man was brutally murdered inside, and was then buried five hundred feet away. Okay, so a murder inside a house, big deal, happens all the time, right? Well, that’s not all. If you can somehow gain access into the house, there is a room, commonly called the “heat” room. It got its name by the fact that, even when the other rooms are cold, incredibly cold, the heat room’s unbearably HOT!!! Now, okay, I realize that that is not that weird, maybe the heat system only works in that room. But for this next one, you have to realize that this house has not been inhabited for years. If you are outside of the house, looking up to the top floors, you can see a bright light, moving from room to room, and by that light you can sometimes see a dark silhouette moving along with it.

So, if you can bear it, I ask you that, when you’re bored, go to these places. Don’t go alone, so that way, someone can hear you scream...

Halloween Fun Facts

By Connor Ross

- Halloween is that fun season of year where you dress up and eat candy until you throw up. Yep, that's pretty much the basics. But did you know...
- Orange and black are the colors of Halloween because orange represents the fall harvest and black represents death?
- Bobbing for apples originated as a festival that honored the goddess of fruit trees?
- Candy sales for Halloween average around 2 billion dollars?
- The tradition of wearing costumes began with people dressing up to avoid being recognized as human by ghastly spirits?
- Pumpkins come in orange, white, blue, and green?
- The movie "Halloween" was shot in just three weeks?
- Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America?
- The first jack-o-lanterns, made to ward off spirits, were made from turnips?
- Owls were thought to be witches in medieval Europe? They said if you heard an owl's cry, someone was about to die.
- Halloween is short for Hallow's Eve?
- Ireland is thought to be the birthplace of Halloween?
- In Salem, Massachusetts, they executed many women on false suspicions of them being witches?
- "Witch" derives from "Wicca", which means "wise one"?
- Spiders were used to "cure" leprosy and plague?
- If you have samhainophobia, you have a fear of Halloween? (Why fear it? You get candy after all!)
- Mexico celebrates the "Days of the Dead"?
- Halloween has been around for nearly 6,000 years?
- Salem, MA, and Anoka, MN are the self-proclaimed Halloween capitals of the world?
- In many countries, Halloween is seen as an unwanted American influence?
- The Village Halloween Parade in NYC is the biggest Halloween parade in the US, with 50,000 participants and 2 million spectators? The spectators alone are about ¼ the whole population of the Big Apple!

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A Thump in the Night

By Connor Ross

It's time for Halloween, and in this article, we'll be rolling through the ghosts of history. You met banshees, dragons, and vampires in the monster articles, so get ready to meet the specters, the phantoms, the ghosts, the apparitions of history!

The First Ghost- Bloody Mary "Bloody Mary...Bloody Mary... Bloody Mary..." That's how the story often goes and how most people try to see a ghost for the first time. The woman Mary in those three sentences refers to the ghost of a lady who killed her children long ago. It is said that you are supposed to stand in your bathroom, look at the mirror, turn off the lights, and chant "Bloody Mary" three times, sometimes at midnight and sometimes with a "come and get me" after every "Mary". A popular icon, it has been adapted into several films, such as *Candyman* and *Beetlejuice*. You might also see Mary if you've seen any of the commercials for the new *Paranormal Activity*.

The Second Ghost- The Vanishing Hitchhiker So, imagine, you're driving down a road (fine, imagine you're 16 and driving down a road). You're just driving; chilling, minding your own business, it's pouring, the stereo's cranked, and you see a woman on the side of the highway, her thumb extended. Hesitantly, you wave her over and tell her to hop in. You talk her up and she tells about her, and then says she lives in whatever house on whatever street. Naturally, you drive there, open the door, and she's gone! Bewildered, you head to the door and talk to her parents. "Why, she's been dead for twenty years. She died on that very road when she was hit by a drunk driver."

The Third Ghost- The Flying Dutchman Well, as if the hitchhiker wasn't enough, you decide to vacation to South Africa, and command a private yacht you have set up at a timeshare there. Like a pro, you head out into the deep waters, a brave adventurer; you're Indiana Jones for all you care! A storm settles in. And not a little pour, but a typhoon. The wind gales around you, hail plummets, icy rain stings. A ship appears on the horizon. It gets closer; it's going to ram you! Suddenly, it switches courses, and only now do you notice the ghastly green glow. A skeleton appears on the starboard, stares into your eyes, and disappears. Congratulate yourself, you saw the Flying Dutchman. Specifically, the Flying Dutchman refers to a ghost ship doomed to sail the ocean forever, never had making it to port. If hailed by another ship, the crew of the Dutchman will try to summon the long dead. Today, now considered tall tales, it has been featured heavily on *Spongebob* in the form of a ghostly pirate, and in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, captained by Davy Jones, no, not the Monkees singer.

The Fourth Ghost The Brown Lady Yes, she is named for wearing brown clothes. I'll just answer that question right off the bat. In 1936, she set the benchmark for the photography of specters, and remains one of the most credible of photos today. Haunting Raynham Hall in Norfolk, England, she was supposedly never let out of the house by her overbearing husband (for whatever reason) and still haunts the house after death.

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Our Local Solar System

By Jacqueline Fazekas

Most people think that our solar system has eight planets and a sun, and that's all that matters. Well, there's a lot more in our region of space alone than anyone thinks.

First of all, everyone knows we have the Sun, which makes life possible on Earth. Now that Pluto is no longer a planet, but a dwarf planet, we have eight planets in the Solar System. In order, from the closest to the Sun to the farthest, they are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. What most people don't know is that we also have three dwarf planets. Ceres is located in the asteroid belt. It's about the size of an asteroid, and the only thing that classifies it as a dwarf planet is its spherical shape. Pluto is out past Neptune, part of a family of icy bodies known as the Kuiper Belt. Eris is about half again as far out from Pluto as Pluto is from the Sun. It's the largest dwarf planet.

Way further out than the Kuiper Belt is a hypothetical "cloud" of comets called the Oort Cloud. The Oort Cloud surrounds the Solar System. It's referred to as a "cloud" of comets because the comets in that ring are close together and have wide, long, tails. The Sun creates a kind of solar wind that "blows" through the Solar System. This wind blows a kind of bubble around the Solar System which extends to 3 times the distance of Pluto from the Sun. This is called the heliosphere. Termination shock is where the wind starts to mix with interstellar space, in another big bubble that encompasses the heliosphere, called the heliosheath. The heliopause is at the edge of the heliosheath, and that's where true interstellar space begins.

Now, picture all that; everything inside the heliopause. Now imagine it as a big speed boat. Picture that speed boat moving in a semi-circular orbit around a buoy, which represents the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. The bow of the boat creates a triangular wake spanning out behind it. It's the same with everything in from the heliopause. As that bubble moves around the center of the galaxy, it creates a wake of plasma, spread out much like what you see when a space shuttle re-enters the atmosphere. This "wake" is called the bow shock, and could be found around any orbiting star with sufficient mass.

So there it is a brief summary of the outer workings of our Solar System. Not as simple as a sun and a few lumps of rock anymore, is it?

Eighth Grade Football

By Lauren Turffs

So I'll bet that you have all been wondering the same question. How good is our eighth grade team that is soon to be the new freshman team? They are actually really good! When I was interviewing Connor Sperling, Isaiah Robey, and Riley Mehrens for the paper, I noticed something that kept coming up. Rock Falls seems to make good practice for our team at games! From the players I interviewed I also gleaned that they are united in the fact that Morrison is their best rival. They are an evenly matched set of teams that put on a good show and an even better fight. Hopefully as football season starts to come to a close the eighth grade team will have a score of 8 wins to 2 losses. This is not an official score but an estimate from the players. I don't want to forget the sixth grade team though! So far this season they have a score of 4 wins to 3 losses. (There are only nine games in a season for these folks.) Defensive Coach, Wayne Rogers stated that Byron "walked all over us". These football teams are all completely extracurricular and your eligibility for the team has absolutely nothing to do with school or grades. So will our eighth grade team lead us to victory next year? I guess we'll have to wait and see!

RMS Cross Country

By Connor Carlson

It is getting close to the end of the season for the cross-country athletes. Our runners have done pretty well throughout the season, and now some of them are off to the state meet. At sectionals the girls got 1st place and the boys got 3rd. So the top seven runners for the girls and Owen Vanhorn went to state representing RMS. Owen placed 7th in sectionals and 86th in State. Claire Thorpe, Megan Barnhart, Caroline Costello, Allison Stanchfield, and Mckenzie Harden all went to state. Unfortunately no one moved on from that meet but most of the have another chance next year to do it again. These people got recognized in the Pep Rally on 10\14\11. Hopefully most of the people that are running now will run in high school. Great job to all of the runners that made state! Keep up the good work Cross Country team.

Undefeated Team!

By: James Huisheere

Many people watch football. In fact, it's one of the most watched sports in the U.S.A. There are some pretty good teams out there, but only one undefeated team. Of course, by the time you read this it may have changed, but on October 17, 2011 the only undefeated team is the Packers!

Last year's Super Bowl champion, the Packers have not yet lost a game! Close behind are the Lions, having only lost one game so far. So far the worst team in the NFL this year is the Vikings. This team has only won ONE GAME and was recently just blown away by the Bears, Illinois residing major league football team.

As of October 17, 2011, the Bears have only won two games, one against the Vikings, as was just mentioned.

Duke Pride!

by Jadyn Erb

The 5th grade Dixon Junior Dukes football team played against Sterling Blue in the I5 Conference Championship game on October 8th at the Morrison Sports Complex. The boys played hard in a very intense game and earned the win with a score of 14-6. The entire team worked together and got the win. The 5th grade team is the FIRST to bring home a Conference Championship win for the Dixon Junior Dukes!

The 8th grade Dixon Junior Dukes football team played against Rochelle in the Consolation games on October 9th at Volunteer Field. They ended up winning the I5 Consolation game! Congratulations to the 8th grade team!

Obesity: Is that scary or

what?

By Zoey Colglazier

Halloween. That deliciously scary day that comes around every October. Movies become scarier, houses become haunted, and candy becomes much more accessible. But is everyone's favorite holiday making them sick?

Today it is estimated that over 300 million people worldwide are obese, and that statistic just keeps on rising. And being overweight can lead to Type 2 diabetes (also known as adult-onset diabetes), heart disease, sleep apnea, high blood pressure, and low self-esteem.

Halloween is the start of a long procession of holidays centered on food. First, you begin with the children and candy, something that can jump-start cavities, and "sweet-tooth". Next, we have Thanksgiving, celebrating the harvest, which is loaded with gravies, bread, and butter. A lot of people admit to splurging on Thanksgiving, then sitting on their couches all day watching football. Binging-and-purging is one of three major eating disorders, which include bulimia and anorexia. After Thanksgiving, comes Christmas, filled with cookies, family, and absolutely no good weather to allow kids to get outside and play.

Also, America is a very food-centered culture. We obsess about what we eat, when we eat, how much we are eating, how much we weigh, diets, weight-loss, being skinny, and so much more. And Halloween starts that fanaticism at an early age. Candy is everywhere, and you can always tell parents are upset there is so much "temptation" around when they are on a diet.

So how are kids going to keep healthy when everyone they know is freaking out about food? It is going to take a lot of work, I can tell you that. However, there are some programs to encourage kids to take action in keeping themselves fit. Extracurricular sports, YMCA programs, and daily gym classes are helping. Gym classes throughout the country are taking part in the Presidential Fitness Challenge, where you have to run the mile, perform sit-ups, chin-ups, the shuttle run, and work towards deepening their stretch.

So, yeah. Halloween is making our generation and the generations that follow obese and giving us all sorts of health problems. Sounds pretty scary, now doesn't it?

Halloween: Not Obese

By Lauren Turffs

Halloween. It's such an exciting time of year, right? Well not for the kids whose parents won't let them go trick-or-treating, or buy the candy those stores have sitting on the shelves around this holiday, because they don't want their kid to get obese. Well here is some news for those grouchy-Halloween-ruining parents: Halloween will not make your waistband expand! Here are some tips for how to make this happen: try buying and consuming hard candies like mints or Jolly Ranchers or lollipops/suckers. These are good choices because they aren't loaded to the hilt with trans-fat or calories. Another tip would be to eat the smaller three-bite-size candies and not the whole bar. Some people would like to say that Halloween is a fattening night but people can buy candy at all times of the year that would stretch out the pants. The candy part is not such a big deal because we, as people, can choose to not even eat the sweets and if we do, we just have to make sure that it is in moderation and not in truckloads! There are millions of ways to prevent your waist from enlarging on All Hallows Eve so it could be proven that the accusation that one Ghostly Night is making Americans obese is superfluous. Long Live Halloween!

Too Much Technology?

By: Katie Hammitt

Everybody loves technology. I mean, what would we do without our computers, and phones, or even TV's? The thing is, has anyone ever thought that maybe, we have *too much* technology? Maybe our technology could be the thing that will one day be our enemy! Could technology really be all that bad? I never thought it could be harm to us until I saw a news report on preschoolers. Not just any preschoolers though- preschoolers who use Ipad's in school. Someday, this school will run out of money and the kid will have to pick up a pencil. What if the internet is down? It's pretty sad if your fourth or fifth grade teacher is the one who teaches you how to use a pencil. There are just so many flaws in this plan. What happens to the kids social skills?! I'll tell you what. They go straight down the drain. I mean, what happened to the people in Wall-E? They talked to a screen. What happened when even one little thing went awry? I can't tell you because I won't spoil the movie, but let me tell you. It wasn't pretty. Believe it or not, there are websites that have all of the reasons to buy an ipad for a *baby!* The one quote that really got me was, "What more could a baby want than to touch a picture of a pig and hear it say oink?" I can tell you exactly what would make them happier! How about, oh I don't know, taking them to an actual farm or petting zoo, and hearing a *real pig* say oink. So, no, I'm not completely against technology. I don't know what I would do without my computer and such, but I don't think it should be dominating anyone's life. People still need to go places and do things with their friends.

For Columbus Day: Totally!

By Connor Carlson

There is some controversy over whether students should have Columbus Day or go to school. Many other schools have already quit having the day off. I think that we should because we are celebrating the birth of our country. I think that we should have the day off because some kids just need that break and others could probably do it but it is still nice to have a small break. Columbus founded our country and I think that he needs to be recognized for his accomplishments. He may not have actually thought that he found America but he definitely counts to us because we get a day off because of him. We don't need to sit in our class rooms 5 days a week every week we deserve a day off. Thanks to Columbus we have a day off and we also have a good country to live in because of him. Columbus wasn't the only one to find our home but he was the one that it commemorated for it.

Against

Columbus: Liar

By Michael Gale

Did Christopher Columbus really discover America? Many People have made it there before him. It obviously wasn't him that discovered America if the Indians were already there. They had been there for thousands of years!

Columbus wasn't even the first European to reach the Americas. Amazingly, the Vikings made it to America before Columbus. No matter how primitive you thought they were, they were good sailors! Columbus may be credited for it, he didn't actually discover America.

Columbus also committed many crimes. He did horribly things to the natives that he called Indians because he believed he was in the Indies. He brought many diseases over to the Americas that killed thousands of people. He even took some of them back to be slaves. We shouldn't honor a man that would do such a thing.