

## Dust Storm

By Connor Carlson

On Tuesday there was a terrible dust storm that swept across Phoenix, Arizona. The storm caused lots of damage, three pileups involving many cars and trucks on a major interstate. During the storm, authority counted that one 70 year old man died, and about 15 others were injured. A dust storm may not be as strong as a hurricane or a tornado, but it can definitely cause some damage, as we saw in Phoenix. A dust storm is a huge mile high wall of dust that totally blankets a city. On Tuesday when the dust storm hit you were not able to see very well because of all of the dust. Visibility is extremely low there. Many people are saying that this was a small dust storm and that they were lucky to walk out of it with only one death, it could have been a lot worse. Fun fact, a dust storm is also called a haboob!!! Many people were without power for long periods of time. This one was considered to be small; it was about 5 miles long and about a mile high! People are still cleaning up a little, but it is getting there. There is a lot of dust in Phoenix. A storm may start to be very small but along its path it will pick up the top layer of dirt and just keep building up until it is a massive wall of grit and dust!!

## Seussical

By Emily Brooks and Erika Renkes

The Seussical was performed for the entire school on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the weekend before that. A few big parts were the Cat in the Hat (Samuel McCullough), Horton (Josh Payne), JoJo (Jared Harrison), and Gertrude McFuzz (Savanna Steder). They had been working for a while and they came together well on stage. Everyone knew their parts and performed well. Good job to the Seussical cast!

## Christmas Walk

By Erika Renkes and Emily Brooks

This year the annual Dixon Christmas Walk was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The night began with the lighting of the Christmas Tree at KSB Hospital in which the Reagan Middle School Choir performed at. As the night went on the usual Christmas events happened downtown. For example, the Great Snowball Drop, seeing Santa, and other things to get you into the holiday spirit.



### Student Council Update

By Erika Renkes

Lately, Student Council has been planning a dance for the winter. It will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. The admission fee is two dollars and two canned goods, or three dollars if you forget canned goods. Also, the dance will have activities such as bags, concessions, and a cookie walk. Student Council would love for all students to come, so mark the date on your calendar and attend!

### What's going on in Builder's Club?

By Katie Hammitt

The RMS Builder's Club is very busy. During the holiday season, they run charity called The Season of Giving. From the beginning of December 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have 3 barrels in the cafeteria. Each will have a banner on it, showing where the final contents of that barrel will go. This year, the donations will be going to the Dixon Food Pantry, Granny Rose Animal Shelter, and the P.A.D.S. Shelter (a homeless shelter). Recommended donations would be:

Food Pantry – Any canned or boxed foods that won't spoil

Animal Shelter – Dog or Cat food, toys, leashes or collars

P.A.D.S. Shelter – Travel size shampoos, soaps, deodorants, and tooth paste

We appreciate your donations! Thank you for showing some Holiday spirit by helping out the Season of Giving!!

## Entertainment

### Gifts Galore

Lauren Turffs

Amazing Gifts! Fa la la la la lala la... Yep you're right! It's that time of year again and time to get some gifts for your totally awesome kids! All over the worlds people give and receive gifts as part of their season of giving, but where dads might like a new lawn mower or 3D flat screen TV, we kids want something different. Something like an iPod Touch or a Wii. While parents are searching for gifts for their children, they might find that a lot of the hottest gifts have a celebrity theme. Items like Justin Bieber posters, his albums or maybe they have a TV show item like the new GLEE karaoke Wii game. While surfing the Internet for these teen gifts I came across something quite unusual. There was a photo of an iPod Touch with a plunger stuck to the back of it! Curious I clicked on the photo and it took me to a website where they sell accessories that can stick or suction on to your iPod for decoration! Enough of the technology though, while thinking about what teens all over the world want for Christmas I thought what about the new fashions? Hoodies, skinny jeans, dresses, and shoes! Clothes rank as one of the most popular gifts that are given in the season of giving whether it's to teens, tweens, or adults, people of every age love to be in style! I told you about the iPod with the plunger, but I think the weirdest gift I came across was box of stink bombs! You heard me! Stink Bombs! So teenagers everywhere want things from Wii games to posters to stink bombs for Christmas!

## Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 Review

By: Caleb Plumb

It's another year, and with another year comes another Call of Duty. This time they go further with the Modern Warfare series with Modern Warfare 3.

The campaign starts out right where Modern Warfare 2 left off, and right from the beginning it is action packed. You play as many different soldiers in the war against the Russian terrorist, Vladimir Makarov. My favorite level in the game is one called "Turbulence" it reminds me of the movie *Inception*, because the plane is going crazy and there is no gravity and you are floating all over the place, like the hallway scene from the movie. All in all, the campaign is fun, and I would recommend it to you only if you have played the first two already. I would give the campaign 8 out of 10.

Next is Special Ops (aka spec. ops). The normal missions on Spec. Ops are fun, but the true star of Spec. Ops is survival. Pretty much zombies from Call of Duty: Black Ops, but with people instead of zombies, obviously. I only got to wave 2 so far, because I am really bad at these types of games, but I am guessing that it gets way harder the farther you get. I would give Spec. Ops 6 out of 10.

Next we get to online, sadly it wouldn't connect me to a match so I don't know what the online is like, but what I heard from my friends and the internet I can't wait until I get the game to go online. Since I have no experience online I won't rate it.

Altogether the game is great; in my opinion the game was much better than Call of Duty: Black Ops. I would easily recommend it to anybody that likes games like this.

I give Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 a 7.5 out of 10.

## Batman Arkham City Review

By: Caleb Plumb

**\*This is a spoiler free review\***

How many of you have ever dreamed of being Batman? If you have then I have the game for you, Batman Arkham City.

Starting off with the campaign all I can say is wow. The story line is fantastic, with a jaw dropping ending. Right from the start you get right into the action starting 18 months after the events in Batman Arkham Asylum. The game is jammed packed with many different villains like Two-Face, The Penguin, Mister Freeze, Ra's Al Ghul, Harley Quinn, and the star of the show The Joker. At some points the story kind of drags on, but I would still recommend it to any one. I would recommend playing it over the weekend, because once you start playing it you won't want to stop. I give the campaign 9/10.

Next is the Riddler's Revenge. It is like a challenge to see how many points you can get while beating up baddies. You download different characters through Xbox Live and the Playstation network. I Pre-ordered the game from Best-Buy so I got Robin, the boy wonder, and all new copies of the game come with the catwoman DLC, Downloadable Content, so if you buy it used you don't get the catwoman codes. I give Riddler's Revenge 8/10.

So if you ever wanted to be Batman or if you are just looking for a fun game to play over the winter break, I think you should play Batman Arkham City, But you might want to play the first game, Batman Arkham Asylum, before you play this one. I give Batman Arkham City 9.5/10.

## F.I.S.H

By: Caroline Costello & Caleb Plumb

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- G.W. fell off a skateboard and did a mid-air flip.
- B.R. made shark faces at other people though a glass window.
- D.A. was asked weird questions by a random kid.
- K. B. Broke a glass window by accident while acting.
- M.G. fell up a staircase while acting.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- A.M. spilled milk all over his pants.
- J.W. fell off of his crutches while trying to sharpen his pencil.
- M.P. demolished three mini cupcakes.
- K.B. declared that pirate talk is the only language.
- J.P. toppled down the stairs while dancing.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- B.J. ate purple jellybeans in slow motion at lunch.
- S.S made a tiny pair of scissors break while cutting cardboard.
- T.L. fell over air molecules.
- D.W. twirled randomly throughout the hallways.
- E.M. ate an oddly wrapped baked potato.

## Amazing Book!!!

By Lauren Turffs

The Leviathan by: Scott Westerfeld is an awesome beginning to a great series. IT takes place in the midst of World War I. Instead of the technology used during that time, Scott Westerfeld decided to create his own new technologies to use in his book. Part of the world is “Clankers” and use large overly complicated machines to fight in the war. The other side in the war is the “Darwinists” that use fabricated animals to aid them in the war.

Leviathan is in a new genre called steampunk. The steampunk genre is a mix of historical fiction and science fiction. The steampunk genre includes books based in the Victorian era that have some futuristic technology. Without the mix of the Victorian era and better technology, steampunk wouldn’t have been created because it would just be science fiction or historical fiction.

## Mystery personage!

Lauren Turffs

Can you guess who the mystery person is?

1. I have big ears
2. Hannah Acker is my “best friend”
3. I love Cross Country/basketball
4. Live outside city limits
5. My favorite color is blue
6. I have a sister that I love dearly
7. I have a cat named ‘Boots’
8. I’m in all of the Accelerated classes
9. I’m in seventh grade
10. Some of you might have had my mom for a fourth grade teacher

answer: Evan Tschosik

## Winter Wonder?

By Zoey Colglazier

There are many myths surrounding winter: take Persephone and Hades. Or the Abominable Snowman. Or Grandma getting run over by a rogue reindeer. All myths and legends about the snowy season after fall.

**Persephone and Hades:** In Greek mythology, there is a tale about the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of harvest. Persephone was walking the earth one day, and out of the middle of nowhere, this random dude shows up and drags her down to the Underworld. As it turns out, that guy was Hades: and he had seen Persephone and fallen in love. This is a problem because Hades rules the Underworld...which is full of dead people. Persephone's mom, Demeter, goes absolutely nuts when she leaves, and everything dies, so mankind has nothing to eat. Hades agreed to let Persephone return, but Persephone had already eaten like 6 pomegranate seeds; you eat things from the Underworld, you're going to have to stay in the Underworld. So, Persephone gets to stay with her mom for part of the year, and that's is when Demeter is happy and everything is green. When she leaves, Demeter is sad and everything dies. This was how the Greeks explained the changing of the seasons,

**Himalayan Yeti:** The Yeti ( also called the Abominable Snowman) is an ape-like cryptid, meaning it looks like a giant person covered with hair. Like a gorilla. Cryptid means that we are not sure whether it exists or not. It lives in the Himalayas, over in Asia. The yeti is usually brought up around wintertime, because of it's nickname is the Abominable Snowman. The Khumjung Monastery boasts a supposed Yeti scalp, and if you go to the Himalayas, You can try and find a yeti yourself! Doesn't that sound fun?

**Jack Frost:** Jack Frost is a character that sets winter into motion. He has a pink or blue nose, depending on the temperature, and is known for freezing flowers and such. He likes to nip peoples nose and cheeks, turning them bright pink or red. He adds bite to the wind, and just makes everything a whole lot colder.

**Suzie Snowflake:** Suzie is kind of like Jack Frost, but there is one major difference: She causes snow. Snowflake usually comes out after Jack Frost, and she loves to dance outside as it snows. But Suzie is not vicious. She is a little girl, an ice fairy, of sorts, and usually quite friendly.

**Old Man Time/ Baby New Year:** At the end of the year, you may hear people talk about Old Man Time and Baby New Year. Baby New Year is a symbol that represents the coming of the new year, the freshness, the clean slate. By the end of the year, Baby is old, and has become Old Man Time. Old Man Time takes care of Baby New Year until New Year's Eve, when he dies and the new year begins. Baby grows older over the year, repeating this cycle.

**Father Christmas:** These people are called by different names, but generally refer to a figure spreading Christmas joy. Father Christmas is from English-speaking countries, but has nothing to do with children or gift-giving.

**St. Nicholas:** Sometimes called St. Nick, actually has his own day in the beginning of December, but doesn't sneak down chimneys and fill stockings. He actually is a 4<sup>th</sup> century saint, and is said to have resurrected three children that were butchered during a famine for food.

**Santa Claus:** He lives in the North Pole, eats tons of cookies and milk, employs elves, drives a sleigh, has magical reindeer, and delivers presents to good kids on Christmas Eve.

**Grandma gets ran over by a Reindeer:** This is just a song that was in a movie. Grandma is fine: she was never involved in a reindeer accident.

## The Science of Snowflakes!

By: Caroline Costello

The science of snowflakes is really amazing! Snowflakes are made up of as many of 180 billion molecules of water. To form, water droplets in clouds must reach less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water freezes, it creates snowflakes out of crystals. Just as with raindrops, a snowflake begins as a droplet of water which condenses on a speck of dust. The droplet freezes and more droplets condense and freeze on it. If the cloud temperature stays below freezing; enough droplets will freeze and collect to form a snowflake. Most snowflakes are six-sided because of the way that water molecules fit together. When the snowflake gets heavy enough inside the cloud it drops down to the Earth.

Meteorologists discovered that it was the conditions and location within the cloud which determined the type of snowflake that would form. In the highest clouds where temperatures are lowest, snowflakes take the shape of six-sided columns sometimes with the ends capped. Slightly warmed temperatures in the middle cloud layers will produce both a column shaped flake and a flat six-sided shape, this is called a hexagonal plate. The lowest clouds that have warmest temperatures create snowflakes with hexagonal plates, short columns, long thin needles and stars. The snowflakes that form in warmer areas of the clouds are usually the largest snowflakes, and are also very sticky. Great for making snowballs and snowman!

Since a snowflake is composed of over 180 billion molecules, odds do not favor 2 snowflakes having exactly the same shape. It has proven by many scientists that no 2 snowflakes are exactly the same, Wilson A. Bentley, a scientist in the 1800's, proved this fact when he studied the structures of snowflakes by taking over 500 photographs of snowflakes and categorized them according to what kind of cloud level they came from. During this experiment he concluded the theory that no snowflakes are exactly the same. This is the science of all the snowflakes that fall out our sky!

## Weird Weather

By Zoey Colglazier

You have probably heard your grandparents say rain is on the way because of such and such. But did you ever think they might be right?

There are some well-known things about weather. Low pressure means rain, and storms and such usually move from west to east. So if you see red skies in the morning that means that the good weather is leaving and we should expect rains. How can we tell? The red we see is caused by dust particles in the air. If low pressure (rain and moisture) is around, it would have cleared the dust away, leaving clear skies. If you see red sky at night, more towards the west, the good weather is just now entering our area. Other ways to tell when rain is on the way? You see a rainbow in the west. When the sunlight from the east strikes moisture coming from the west, it creates a rainbow, indicating that wet weather is heading in.

There are some more unusual ways though. Such as using a pig's spleen to predict weather six months in advance. But it's never been proven how this in fact works, so I can't include much about it. Or there is arthritis. Many, um, older citizens with arthritis would say that on days when they have joint pain, a storm is usually on its way. Though not proven by science, many people rely on this method.

## The History of the Candy Cane

By Lauren Turffs

The mystery of the Common Candy Cane. Questions like, Where do they come from? When were they invented? And Where did they get their stripes? Are all good questions that no one bothers to answer! I'm here to help answer every single question you might have about candy canes! Let's start at the beginning: Candy Canes were an idea born into a European society when people would decorate their Christmas trees with food items like cookies and so forth. They originally were plain old sticks of white sugary candy, but they eventually evolved into the candy we know and love. In 1670 a choir master at a Christmas celebration took sticks of white candy and bent them to look like a shepherd's crook and gave them out. Though still, they did not have their conversant red stripes. As the ages went by past the 1800's and 1900's they still didn't get their stripes until the early twentieth century. The mystery of the stripes seems to be a myth lost to time because no amount of sleuthing can uncover a singular way of how the Candy Cane got its stripes. Some say that the three little stripes are for the stripes of scourging Jesus received and that the big red stripe is for the blood shed by Jesus on the cross. There are many different theories for how the infamous stripes came about so we can never be sure which one may be right. Now that, my friends, is the true history of the Candy Cane.

## Snowmen Creations

By Connor Carlson

I could tell you how to make a good snowman with all of the carrot nose and the coal eyes, but that would just be boring because you probably know the story of Frosty the Snowman, and it pretty much just tells you how to make a good one. No, I am not going to tell you what you already know; I am going to tell you how to make an extreme snowman! First of all I will tell you all of the supplies that you need: a crane, huge bowl, dump truck, boulders, very large spike, gigantic hat, and most of all a whole lot of snow! Okay then, now that that is over with I have to tell you how to make an extreme snowman. First you have to get the dump truck and fill it up with snow. Then you pour all of it into the huge bowl that you have. After that you need to pack the snow down until it is in the shape of a ball. Then you hook up the snowball to the crane, lift it out and set it onto the ground where ever you wish. This could be really hard for some people or really easy for others. Now you must make two other smaller snowballs and set them up on the first one that you set onto the ground. After that is all done you must do the precise work of putting all of the little touching onto the snowman. You put the boulders in as eyes and mouth. Then you pit the very large spike in for the nose. Then when you think that you are about finished you put the hat on. When this is all over the snowman should be about 300 ft. tall. And when you think that it is all over, well it' not your wrong. You now must make a friend for the one that you just made.

## Patriot Post!

By Michael Gale

If you are reading this, then you know that the Patriot Post is the school newspaper. It is organized by Mrs. Renkes. Its editors this year are Erika Renkes and Zoey Colglazier. Zoey and Erika make the newspaper and run to meetings, while Mrs. Renkes Supervises.

There are many reasons to join the Patriot Post. First and foremost, you get to talk to your friends as Erika tries to make you pay attention. Along with that, writing articles for the Patriot Post helps to improve your writing skills. The extra practice has helped me a lot with my ability to write well. If you type your articles on the computer, you get plenty of keyboarding practice too. Feel free to come to a meeting. They are after school until 3:15 on Wednesday although; it is a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade activity.

## Aaron's Computer Corner

By Aaron Faivre

I was doing a survey on the electronic devices that fifty people were going to ask for this holiday season, I may do a larger survey, but this will have to do. This is what I came up with:

- 24%- Ipad
- 6%- Ipod
- 8%- Xbox 360 Slim
- 8%- Some sort of e-reader
- 14%- New laptop (Macs and Windows based)
- 14%- Iphone
- 4%- Games
- 4%- Play Station Portable
- 2%- Play Station 3
- 14%- Other: Spy toys, toy puppy, new phone, etc
- 2%- 8gb of DDR3 Ram and a new graphics card!

So, If you thinking about getting something cool this holiday season, but can't think of anything, browse this list and find ideas!

## World Holiday Traditions

By Connor Ross

Krampus, celebrated in Austria and Hungary, is pretty much the opposite of Christmas. A red devil with cloven hooves and horn is said to punish the bad kids by wrapping them in chains and dragging them to the underworld.

Ganna is how the Ethiopians celebrate Christmas. A brutal ball-and-stick game, the balls are made from olive wood and leather and can easily knock you out. Apparently, they first played ganna when they heard of the birth of Jesus, but it's far from peaceful, actually lacking any rules.

Zwarte Piet: Santa's black African or Moorish slave who helps him distribute gifts but also whisks naughty kids to Spain. Celebrated in the Netherlands, the role has recently been fortunately down-toned into something more politically correct.

KFC for Christmas Dinner; in the hustle-bustle of Tokyo, Japan, a traditional Christmas dinner isn't of ham or turkey...it's KFC! The remnants of a 40-year old campaign that persuaded them into thinking this was the traditional US Christmas dinner, the legacy still lives on.

Mummers is a tradition in Latvia, a small European country, where hundreds of dancers, dressed as bears, gypsies, or zombies, parade through the streets, stopping at each house to perform. Having mummers play at your house meant good luck and fertility for your crops, a tradition centuries-old.

We return to Japan with Coming of Age Day that celebrates and congratulates those who turned 20 the year prior, and help them understand what being an adult is like with traditional ceremonies.

National Snowman Burning Day is a day mainly celebrated in Switzerland on March 20, where it is tradition to burn snowmen to cast winter into the past. This is also celebrated in certain places of the US, which means your little sibling could wake up one day and cry because their snowman is being set on fire.

### Sources:

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/worlds-strangest-holiday-traditions/8>

<http://urbantitan.com/10-weird-holidays/>

## Worst Winter Ever?

By Zoey Colglazier

It's pretty much agreed that Illinois winters are long, cold, and snow-filled. Long-range forecasters predict that this upcoming winter, now fast approaching us, will be the worst the Chicago area has ever seen. And by Chicago area, that includes Dixon. Temperatures will be 2-3 degrees colder than average, and we should see roughly 50-58 inches of snow. Don't think that's much? That's almost 5 feet! Try driving to school in that. Guess we'll be forced to stay home...drink hot chocolate....make snowmen....yeah, it's a rough job, but somebody's got to do it.

### Christmas Laws

By Emily Brooks

Most people know of the laws in the United States. All the time, but what about those only enforced during Christmas? In Maine, you will be fined if you have your Christmas decorations up after January 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, in California if you have your Christmas lights up after February you will be fined two hundred and fifty dollars. Massachusetts also outlawed Christmas one year. Another one is in Indiana that it is prohibited to bathe during the winter. Holiday laws may not seem normal, but they do happen.

Dear Scarlett,

My friends hate me. I do not know why. Please help.

-Joebobfredsteve Jr.,

Dear Joebobfredsteve Jr.,

Maybe you should figure out why your friends hate you, and approach them about it. If you don't want to do this, then you only have two other options- you can either make new friends or be a loner for the rest of eternity.

-Scarlett

## Sports/Extracurricular

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Spotlight

By Connor Carlson

Basketball is almost over, and we are interviewing Riley Mehrens, a point-guard on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team. Another sport he plays is football. So far the basketball team has a record of 12-2. One of the 2 losses was against Morrison. He said that was a memorable game because in football they were beat by Morrison, too, and the year before in basketball. "We really wanted to win," he said, but they lost by one point which isn't that bad! I also asked him how his season has gone overall, and all I got was, "Pretty good!" Finally, he said that he will continue to play in high school.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Wrestling Highlight

By: Caroline Costello and Caleb Plumb

Most of the time when you think of wrestling you think of it being a guys sport, but not anymore, but this girl signed up to prove you all wrong.

Kalei Williams, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, has joined, because she is a tough girl and she wants a challenge and I think that she got one. She signed up, because she thought it would be fun, but she doesn't think that next year she will sign up. The experience's she looks forward to the most is winning and the takedowns. She also plays basketball.

So when wrestling starts go watch this girl kick some butt!

## Patriot Pride

By: Caroline Costello

Many people are wondering what the big corkboard with students pictures on it is doing outside of the office. Well, this is all about the three R's; responsibility, readiness, and respect; and some of the students that follow them. Every month the staff at our school are going to pick one student from each grade in each of these different categories. These people will be called to student services to have their picture taken with the big patriot pride sign to be hung up for everyone to see. Now, the next time you pass the board you will know all of what it is all about! Maybe, if you follow the three R's next time you pass the board your picture will be there, just remember we always stay respectful, responsible, and ready at Reagan Middle School!



## Patriot and Intermediate Band Concert

By: Jacqueline & Racquelle Fazekas

The RMS Patriot Band and the Intermediate Band performed on Tuesday, December 6th. The fifth grade beginners from Jefferson also joined us for this holiday performance. They played a Hanukah traditional, Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel; Hot Cross Buns; and Good King Wenceslas. The Intermediate band played four songs. They were Bells, Bells, Bells; Toyland; Jingle Bones, featuring the trombone section; and It's Holiday Time. Our one and only Patriot Band played these four songs: The Name's Claus, Santa Claus; The Moon of Winter; The Abominable Snowman Chase; and Jingle Bell Jazz. Both band directors, Mrs. Schult and Mrs. Johnson, complimented the progress of all their students and all the practice they have done. Be sure to congratulate them for all of their hard work! The middle school band will be playing on our last day of school before the two weeks Christmas Vacation, December 20th, during an assembly at the end of the day. The Patriot Band is going to play two of the three featured concert songs. You will find out for yourself which ones at the assembly. Wish them luck!

## PETA vs. Mario

By Zoey Colglazier

Most recently, the non-profit organization PETA has sued Nintendo. Why? Because of an offending costume that Mario has worn in several of his games. The fame Tanooki suit, which is basically a raccoon-like outfit. PETA is suing on the grounds that Nintendo is saying it is okay to wear fur, which of course it isn't. They also say that the real-life Tanuki are raccoon-dogs that are mercilessly skinned for their fur. By wearing a suit that looks like it's made out of the fur of murdered raccoon-dogs, Mario isn't looking so cool anymore. Animal abuse is a major issue and needs to be taken seriously. Would you wear a costume made out of brutally killed animals? I hope not, because not only is it showing support to the poaching industry, which is illegal by the way, it is just disgusting. And totally wrong. It's sickening to think that a beloved video game character is stooping to such a level.

## PETA's Issue with Mario-Against

By: Caleb Plumb

I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that most of you know who Mario is, if not all of you. If you heard about the whole PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, thing than you know what this article is going to be about. In more than one of Mario's adventures he wears the Tanooki suit, a raccoon suit; it was first introduced in Super Mario Bros. 3. When you wear it you can hover in the air, and if you have the special kind you can turn into a statue.

PETA is angry at Nintendo, because they think that it is teaching people that it is okay to skin raccoons. I think that this is crazy; I never would have even put the two together.

Maybe because I am such a huge fan of Mario and Nintendo itself, I find this extremely wrong PETA is out of their minds for doing this. They didn't freak out at Nintendo when he wore it in any of the other games, but they think it's wrong now when he wears it in his new game Super Mario 3D Land.

The other thing is that it's just a video game, for goodness sake. It doesn't even show him skinning it. I always thought it was just a costume. It would be like if PETA yelled at people for wearing animal costumes for Halloween.

The last thing I have to say is look at this website and tell me if you think that what they are doing is wrong or not.

<http://features.peta.org/mario-kills-tanooki/Default.aspx>

That's why I think PETA is out of there minds for being mad at Mario

