

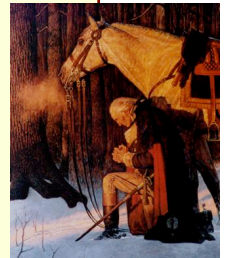
COVA CHRONICLE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

October 19th, 1781 The battle of Yorktown By: Alysa N.



Quick: What happened on July 4th? If you answered that our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence you're absolutely right! But do you know what happened on October 19th? You Probably do not. On October 19th 1781, something huge happened. Something happened that the entire world couldn't believe. Something happened that shocked Parliament and left King George speechless. What happened was The American's won.



The American's won the battle of Yorktown. General Cornwallis and 9,000 British soldiers surrendered, basically ending the revolutionary war. The war that had been waged for over six and a half years ended in one final cataclysm as the Americans mercilessly bombarded the British bunker at Yorktown. Cornwallis was trapped, with little food and water. After more than two weeks, Cornwallis was forced to surrender.

Negotiations began on October 18th and were concluded with the signing of the Articles of Capitulations on October 19th. General Cornwallis did not attend the surrender, instead leaving Brigadier General Charles O'Hara to offer the sword of surrender, Washington would not take it, but instead gave it to Benjamin Lincoln, who had been previously humiliated by the British. (1)

**“ If buttercups buzz'd after
the bee,
If boats were on land,
churches on sea,
If ponies rode men and if
grass ate the cows,
And cats should be chased
into**

When the King Rode on His Own Ass
also known as The World Turned Upside Down

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**holes by the mouse,
If the mamas sold their babies
To the gypsies for half a crown;
If summer were spring and the
other way round,
Then all the world would be upside
down.”**

The British fife and drum corps played a popular tune, "The World turn'd upside down"
The main verse went like this

**" If buttercups buzz'd after the bee,
If boats were on land, churches on sea,
If ponies rode men and if grass ate the cows,
And cats should be chased into holes by the mouse,
If the mamas sold their babies
To the gypsies for half a crown;
If summer were spring and the other way round,
Then all the world would be upside down."** (2)

The world had indeed been turned upside down. In the end a scrappy rabble of farmers, merchants, printers, and blacksmiths had defied and defeated the greatest empire in the world. The British nation had lost her colonies. America, which had been scorned as a bunch of backwoods savages, was now an independent nation, on an even playing field with France, England, Spain, and all the rest of the monarchies. They had set themselves up equal to the kings and queens, dukes and duchesses, they had fought a war to be able to look all men in the eye. And they had won. The world had indeed, turned upside down.



Sources

- 1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Yorktown
- 2 <http://www.contemplator.com/england/worldtur.html>

THE GLOBE TROTTER



The Turkish Side of Cyprus By: J. Daum



Most everyone has seen an ancient site in a book or on TV. However, have you ever visited history in person? A few weeks ago we went to Famagusta, a city on the Turkish side of Cyprus. Famagusta is a city full of rich history and wondrous sites.

One warm summer night in the middle of August 1974, the Turks started a surprise attack on the Northern side of Cyprus. Turkish Cypriots frantically fled from the South for fear that the Greek Cypriots would try to kill them. On the north side, Greek Cypriots hurriedly fled to the South so that their lives would be spared from the Turks. The War only lasted about ten days. The British, despite their Defensive Pact with the Citizens of Cyprus, refused to help out the Cypriot Army. The Turkish soldiers ended up capturing the best airport, the most fertile farmland, the nicest hotels, the loveliest beaches and half the Capital (Nicosia). There is currently a UN peace-keeping force on the Green Line.

As we crossed the green line, we drove into a Crusader's Fort. The moment I climbed the last step that led up to the top of the defending wall, I saw how the Crusaders were able to fend off enemies several hundred years ago. The view of the sea must have stretched out for at least forty to fifty miles to the horizon. Embedded in the walls, there were openings about a foot and a half wide. As the opening got deeper into the wall, it narrowed. It finally opened up on the other side of the wall with about a two to three inch crevice.

This, my mom said, was used for shooting arrows out of and not letting arrows get in. The walls were about twenty to thirty feet high and made of tan colored stone. The fort is now up for no other reason than tourist attraction.

After eating lunch in a clearing, we decided to visit Barnabas' tomb. When Barnabas died, people decided to bury him in Cyprus. The bones were later sent to Rome and got lost somewhere in the process. Stunningly however, Barnabas' coffin is still intact and can be seen in its original place. Barnabas' Tomb is underground and you can walk into it. A church now stands on top of it.

Just before departing back to Larnaca, we decided we would take a little dip in the beaches there. Mr. De Vries, our tour guide, told us that there use to be walls in the sea for the Roman ports. Sure enough, we could see the remains of a wall in the ocean. Also, if you looked hard enough, you could spot pieces of ancient clay pots in the sand. The water there was very clear and the sand was plentiful.

Famagusta is a city full of many historical events, places, and beautiful beaches. If this paper made you jealous, hey, look at the bright side, it gives you all the more reason to come visit the Turkish side of Cyprus.

Αυτό!

(pronounced [an-dec-oh], means bye in Greek)

PONYO

Released in
Theatres

August 14, 2009

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

Released in Theatres

September 18, 2009

FAME

Released in Theatres

September 25, 2009

TOY STORY & TOY STORY 2 IN 3D

Released in Theatres

October 2, 2009

GROOVY MOVIES

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

A Movie Review by Catalina B.

The last movie I watched was called Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. I picked this movie because it was one of the newest movies to come out. It's so funny. I would call it a comedy.

There is Flint who is an inventor. All his life he wanted to be a scientist and invent things. While he was young, he got made fun of by the other kids. When he grew up, he invented a machine that made any kind of food come out if you put water in the top. He lived on an island where everyone ate sardines. One day his machine blasted into the sky and it started raining food. At first everyone loved this because they could eat all kinds of different things and not just sardines. Flint was loved by everyone. The machine started to get crazy and it started to rain giant food. Flint and a couple of his friends had to fly up to the machine to stop it.

The lesson in this movie was that no matter what, Flint never gave up!

I think this was a very funny movie. There was a lot of different characters and lots of silly stuff. If you want a good laugh, go see this movie!

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Released in Theatres

October 16, 2009

ASTRO BOY

Releases in
Theatres

October 23, 2009

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Releases in Theatres

November 6, 2009

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

Releases in Theatres

December 11, 2009



Firebrand

A Novel By: Clarissa S.

Please note: this story contains war like descriptions.

Prologue

The clanging of swords and shouts of battle provided a harsh backdrop of noise and confusion for the three small figures that crept along the castle wall. A woman, heavy with child, rode on the back of a horse. Her husband led with a drawn sword and a stable boy gripping an oak staff with white knuckles followed nervously behind them.

“Are you ok Helen?” the man in front asked.

“Fine,” she answered with a weak smile. The fighting sounded fainter now, as most of it was concentrated on the opposite side of the castle, but it wasn’t faint enough to let any of them forget why they were fleeing. Winter trees casting eerie, claw-like shadows made them glance uneasily at the sky, fearing the menace that their enemies had brought upon them. Finally, after what seemed an age, they arrived at the door and were hailed by a grizzled soldier. The two men spoke in hurried tones while the boy and the lady waited silently. High above the castle, a huge shape rose up and blotted out the moon, letting out a plume of flame and a horrible

shriek before descending back down to the battle. The soldier made an emphatic noise causing the man to sigh and motion the boy to him.

“Jonathan, I’m putting you in charge of my greatest treasure and a kingdom’s last hope. Guard them well.” He said as he pressed something long and slender into the boy’s hands. He then moved and embraced his wife, knowing that this was the last time that he would ever see her. After a long embrace, the man stepped back and raised his hand in blessing.

“Go quickly, fly far, and don’t look back.” The man called this as he turned and followed the soldier back into battle. Jonathan dropped his staff to better hold the package and led the horse quickly out of the castle and into the shelter of the surrounding forest. The woman wept quietly as they walked further and further into the darkness. Suddenly they heard a horrific shriek.

The woman forced her horse to a stop and looked back. Jonathan tried to pull her around, but she put up a hand to stop him.

“If it weren’t for the baby, I would be there with him. I need to see how it ends so that I will know whether or not I can have hope.” The woman said quietly. Jonathan sighed and turned back.

The man had mounted the highest turret, and there faced a monster that seemed to have crawled out of nightmares. The monster gripped the tower in scaly claws and reared his head high

over the man, it's cruel smile revealing rows of razor-sharp teeth. The man wasn't looking at the monster though. Perched on the monster's back, another man glared down at the man on the tower. The wind carried each word to the first man's desperate wife.

"Sordan, can't there be peace between us? How much longer must we fight?" The first man's voice was peaceful yet commanding. All who heard it were inspired to fight all the harder for the man that they loved and served.

The man on the monster replied with a voice dripping hate,

"We fight until my tribe's every drop of blood is paid for in blood. We fight until the line that slaughtered my people's women and children is extinct. We fight until I have my vengeance! Once that happens, Jason, then we will have peace. Too bad you won't be around to enjoy it." His voice ended with a bitter laugh.

"Am I to be responsible for the sins of my grandfather, the neglect of my father? It brings me no joy to remember what they did. You, of all people, should know how I tried to atone for the sins of my sires. Again I ask, "can we not make peace?" The first man, Jason, pleaded.

"You know the answer however much you try to deny it. Everything you did was for your own glory. How could you know the suffering of my people when you yourself were raised in luxury, servants catering to your

every need? The damage has been done, and now you must pay." Sordan growled.

"Sordan, revenge will not heal the hurt. Let go of your hate and begin anew."

"Liar!" Sordan screamed, as the monster roared and killed Jason, son of Hogarth the Uncaring, grandson of Crispus the Warrior, king of Celteka.

"He was a good king." A voice said near Jonathan's ear. Startled, Jonathan whirled to face any oncoming attackers, only to relax when he saw a unicorn standing beside him.

"This land will miss him." Jonathan answered. He turned to check on the queen and took the opportunity to wipe away his tears.

"We need to go. They won't be far behind once they find that the queen is not in the keep." Jonathan said as way of apology as he started to lead the queen's horse away. The unicorn stepped with him and spoke.

"The Dreamsdancer sent me to guard the queen. I can take you to a place of safety. Climb on."

"Are you sure?" Jonathan asked.

I wouldn't have said anything if I wasn't. Get on." The unicorn turned, and Jonathan climbed awkwardly up.

"My name is Jonathan." He said once he was settled.

"My name is Moonbeam." The unicorn answered as he picked up a trot and then a canter, the queen's horse following close behind.

Helen wasn't the only one who wept as the grief-ridden party pounded through the night.

Weeks later, Jonathan, Moonbeam, and the baby that his mother had named Ivan came into sight of a small village on the edge of the kingdom. They barely paused before continuing on past this village that was like so many others they had passed through these last weeks. Jonathan and Moonbeam had just managed to stay ahead of the pursuit that had dogged them since the night the king had died, but it had cost them. The boy that had followed the king on an unknown errand bore little resemblance to the haggard man that now tried to calm the tiny child he held in his arms.

Sound of a caravan reached the tired travelers and Moonbeam stepped off the road to make way for them. Gone were the days when he could run all day without breaking a sweat, now undernourishment and exhaustion made it so that standing took effort.

The first riders of the caravan passed by, barely glancing at the weary travelers that were like so many others now. Next there came wagons filled with mothers and children. Moonbeam swayed and crumpled, knocking Jonathan to the ground. Dimly, Jonathan heard the sound of running feet, and Ivan's plaintive cries.

The next chapter will be featured in the December COVA Chronicle.

ONE CRAZY BABYSITTING JOB

By: Ashley W.

Addison got the call while she was studying for her final exams for school. Even though she was frustrated and didn't really want to go over, she knew that this couple really needed her help, and that she was the only person they could get. So Addison picked up all of her books and shoved them into her backpack. It probably weighed eighty pounds, and she got in the car where her mother was waiting for her. Addison was a good student, she was smart and well behaved. She was popular with all the students. Her parents saw her as perfect, and this being the only time Addison had ever had problems in school, they were almost too eager to help. Addison and her mom chattered along about test tips that Addison could follow. Addison already knew all of them, but she listened and answered politely anyway.

When they got to the house, Mr. and Mrs. Peters were already rushing out the door with two suitcases and coats. They told Addison the basic things that parents tell babysitters, where they'll be staying, how she could contact them, and who she should contact in case something went wrong with the children.

"Gage, and Henry are both asleep. They'll probably sleep through the night. Hopefully, we'll be back in the morning if our son's condition isn't too bad." Mrs. Peters said

hurriedly. Addison nodded and smiled, waving them off as they drove away into the night. She hoped that their son, who was going to boarding school in Idaho, was alright. The story was that he had been in an accident during a school science event. Addison spread her books and work out on the kitchen table. Then she went into the rooms that Mrs. Peters had pointed to when she told Addison where the babies were. One of the boys was at least four years old and was sleeping in a bed with rails on each side, a sort of combination of a regular bed and a crib. The other boy was younger, not even two years old. He was in the room next to Gage, and looked perfectly sound. Addison hoped that they slept through the night so that she could get some work done.

She was half way falling asleep a couple of hours later. She found herself dozing off and using her books as pillows. She wanted some coffee, but she didn't want to use the Peters' coffee machine without their permission. So she went into the hall bathroom and splashed cold water on her face. When she went back to the kitchen she saw that it was almost 2:30 am. One of the babies started to cry. She saw two bottles that Mr. Peters had set out for her to feed them. She took one and warmed up some formula for the baby, who she had seen was Henry. When she tried to feed the baby, he knocked it out of her hands onto the floor. She bounced him in her

arms to try to soothe the little boy, but he cried anyway.

Addison didn't usually get angry, but it wasn't really a normal week for her. She did everything she knew how to do to try and put the baby to sleep, but the baby continued to wail. She put the baby back down and went back to her work. She closed the door behind her, but Henry's cries came through loud and clear. She sat down and tried to concentrate, but she worried about the boy. He cried for twenty minutes. In that time, Addison got to her math work. She hit a brick wall, coming to a complete stop on one of the problems. She couldn't think of how to solve it, and Henry's crying wasn't helping any.

Finally pushed over the limit, Addison went into the bedroom and grabbed the child. She squeezed his little sides, and almost started to shake him. Henry's little brother, Gage, walked in rubbing his eyes. Addison regained all of her control and put the baby back down. He stopped crying then, and Addison was able to feed him a new bottle. After he fell asleep, she put Gage back to bed. Soon, it was completely silent in the house. With her head feeling clearer, she was able to finish studying and felt confident in all of her hard work. She knew she'd be exhausted tomorrow, but at least she was done. It was about 8:00 am when the couple got back. They found her asleep on the couch with all of her books packed up. Gage was watching

cartoons with a bowl of cereal on the floor. Addison was glad she went to help the family. She was glad she made it through that crazy night of babysitting.



Pee Wee Hockey
by Williams

When I was no more than five years old, I started to go to the skating rink at our local YMCA. At this time in my life, skating was no more than putting my feet down and demanding that my parents drag me across the ice than actually gliding myself. To minimize the pain of falling down, I would wear a layer of undergarments and then over that, a heavy parka and snow pants, which would add up to easily two inches of padding.

My parents recall spending more time padding and wrapping me in clothes than actually skating with me. When I was in the toddler stage, before I started skating, I was always crashing into things no matter how easy it was to avoid them. So, on the ice, (and sometimes on land) my parents required me to wear a full-cage hockey helmet. I was

never keen on the idea, but I understand that if it weren't for that trusty Jofa hockey helmet, I would have been in the hospital more than on the ice. Once I was a confident skater, I met an elderly couple who enjoyed skating, too. I made my way around the rink with them, clutching onto the wall many times, before I started playing hockey.

Soon after, my parents could no longer hold me up, so they signed me up for the learn-to-skate program. The learn-to-skate program at the Y has many different levels, which teach you how to march, glide, turn, and go backwards. Marching, the first step in the process, was quite unlike skating. I would vertically pick up my feet, and slowly move across the ice in a Mao-like march, the threat of falling constantly on my mind. Gliding was the second step, and at first it was more march than glide. But slowly, my march became a method I could actually call skating. I was now a fairly good skater, and when I finished the basic learn-to-skate, I felt like I would be more than ready to start hockey. But, I was not nearly good enough yet.

Eventually, after many months of renting skates, I had become a much more accomplished skater so my mom bought me my own skates. For me, earning my skates was quite an accomplishment. From then on, every time I completed a learn-to-skate level, I would receive one piece of hockey equipment. Once I

completed enough learn-to-skate lessons; my parents allowed me to start playing on a hockey team.

My first team's jersey was light blue, one of my favorite colors, but I was so excited to have a real jersey, I probably didn't notice. Stepping onto the ice for my first game felt like I had finally reached the moment I had been waiting for for years. Once on the ice, I didn't care whether another seven year old was a better player or not. All I cared about was that my family was in the bleachers and I was going to score a goal! As the buzzer rang to mark the beginning of the game, I wiggled in my bulky pads that made me double as wide as I should have been. As the action started, I remember becoming confused as to which direction I should skate. Most of us went the opposite direction of the puck. Then, when I finally hit the puck, I lost my balance and went over backwards from the momentum of that whack, feeling the ice and it's wonderful coldness. One of the funny things about first-grade hockey is that all the learning that happens in skate classes usually is not reflected in games. Seventy-five percent of the whacks hit at that age send the whacker over backwards. But I couldn't lie there for long, because I could hear my coaches rasping voice yelling at me to get up and come to the bench. After the game, I struggled to the locker-room sucking the sweet taste of water off my mouth-guard, realizing how hockey was so much harder than it looked.

Our team that year was not hugely successful, (we lost every game) but it was my first season of a game I had waited two years to play, and I was playing it!

I found in those first weeks of Pee Wee hockey a love of the game that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Outdoor Fun

by
Jimmy C.

There are so many fun things to do outside that it is hard to pick my two most favorite. I enjoy playing outside because on a nice day the fresh air on my skin feels refreshing! I always get very excited when I finish my schoolwork and get to go outside to play. Out of all the fun things to do outside, water balloon fights and riding my bike are the most fun.

Water balloon fights are especially fun because I get to do my favorite thing, get wet. When I get my dad's hair wet, he grabs the water hose and drenches me and my mom to the bitter end. It makes me laugh my butt off when I use my mom as a human shield against the fearsome attacks of our nemesis Dad the Terminator. It is really funny when I pop holes in the balloons my dad is filling because he gets sprayed in the face with water.

When it comes to riding my bike, the street is my domain! I love the rush I get when the wind sharply brushes my face as I pick up speed. Every time I try a new extreme trick it takes a

couple of minutes for my adrenalin to go back down. The best thing about riding my bike is that when I burn rubber, I burn calories too.

I am very fortunate to live in Colorado for the many opportunities I have to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. No matter what season it is there are always many fun and exhilarating things to do outside. Playing outside is not only fun, it allows you to enjoy breathtaking scenery. Now you and all your friends should go outside, ride a bike, and get wet!!!

The Puppy Storm

by
Emma Gaydos, 4th Grade



Puppies are so cute, and I have always wanted one. Having four cats and many fish is nice, but my house can fit in more animals, I'm sure. My grandma has a dog. Her dog is an Italian Greyhound named Misty. Whenever grandma comes over, I play with Misty. So do my sisters, Laura and Paige. My brother, Daniel, also plays with Misty. (The name Misty is short for Mist On The Nile.)

One day, my family decided that we would get a puppy. We went to the pet shop in Chapel Hills Mall, and Paige pointed to the one mom and she had liked. This puppy was golden, with curly fur. She was small, and very cute. My

dad decided to get her. Paige, Laura and I carried her out to a bench outside of the pet shop. "What should we name her?" Paige asked. We all put on our thinking caps. Suggestions like "Golden", "Cutie" and "Goldy" were made. Eventually, I said, "Well, she does look kind of like golden clouds. What about "Cloudy"?" Paige and Laura said that they liked "Little Cloud" better, but we could call her "Cloudy" for short.

While driving home, Little Cloud bit our ears. It didn't really hurt. She was so scared, yet so cute. When we got home, Little Cloud explored. She had her first taste of cat food (even though we didn't want her to). She learned how to chase cats (and at the same time how to get yelled at). Little Cloud is a Cockachon (A Bichon Frise and Cocker Spaniel mix).



Of course, all the family fell in love with Little Cloud. One night, my mom slept with her. Unfortunately, my parents had to keep Cloudy in the kitchen after that. She started to go potty on our stuff, and chew on things. But some nights, I took my sleeping bag into the kitchen and slept with her. She would crawl down to the bottom of my sleeping bag, curl up, and sleep there.



We began to think of Cloudy's sister in the pet shop, all alone. But the parents didn't take us to get her. One day, Paige and I were watching television. My dad came into the room holding a puppy. "Hi, puppy." I said. Then Paige looked more carefully. "Is that Cloudy's sister?" she asked. "Yes." My dad said. At that moment, we were hugging and carrying Cloudy's sister. "Let's name her Snowy!" said Paige. We agreed on Snowball, but Snowy for short. Cloudy was happy. I know it. "First comes the mist, then comes the clouds, then comes the snow. But what about after the snow?" I thought.



A few months later, my dad said, "Why not get a rescue dog?" and another day a few weeks later, Daniel, Laura and I went to Target. Of course, because Petco was right next to Target, we went there. A small dog rescue was in Petco at the time, and my dad found a chiweenie (Chihuahua and dachshund mix) that he wanted to get. We bought him, of course. He was tiny. He was like a vicious dog at first, but then he became a cute and kind member of the family. We named him

Sunshine, but we call him Sunny for short. We also made up the nickname Sunny Bunny, and with that, we began to call him "Bun".



So, first came the mist, then came the clouds, then came the snow, and then, it cleared up, and the sunshine came. Also known as Misty the dog came first, Cloudy the dog came next, Snowy the dog came third, and Sunny the dog came fourth.

Amazing Animals Pink Elephant!

By: Kathleen (Katie) D.



A pink (albino) baby elephant has been caught on camera in Botswana.

Scientists say that the harsh weather conditions in Africa may hurt the little elephant or perhaps kill it. If not, as far as we know, this Baby may be the only living one of its kind.

The Writing Assignment

By: Avrie O.

**Avrie is in Mrs. Lori Hall's
Homeroom Class**

My Rice Crispies and I were chilling in our morning usual. I saw my mother's soundless face

forming words. I had no idea what she was saying but I was ok with that. She, however, wasn't ok with that and ripped off my head phones. I protectively pulled my crispies closer to me and inquired to my mother, "What?"

My mother sternly stated, "I have been trying to talk to you for several minutes now!" At that moment her eyes reminded me of Darth Vader and she asked, "Did you hear a word I said?"

I shook my head no and said, "I was jamin' and crunchin' ma."

I pointed to my crispies and then made a thumbs up. My mom held back her smile.

My mom got her serious eyes on and said, "You need to get started on your writing sample."

I curled my lip and let my spit drop to the table. It gave me a sudden excitement in my gut. So, I had to share how I felt with my mom.

"Ha ha ha! That's so cool huh ma?" Mom just stood there with less excitement.

For a moment I forgot crunch time was limited. So, I slammed a big mouth full and then picked up the bowl to chug the milk. With the back of my hand, I wiped my face and the job was done.

My mom gave me a warning look. The kind of look that stated, "If I Don't Get Up In My Bedroom Now And Start My Essay, I'm Grounded" look and warning.

She pointed upstairs to my room and growled, "Your essay is due tomorrow!"

I did a nod at her and took my dish to the sink. I dashed up the stairs and heard her call, "Don't leave that bedroom unless you have to use the bathroom!" I gave a long sigh and walked to my room.

Then it hit me. All I have to do is finish my essay fast and then I will be free. I quickly got to my desk, ripped out some paper and started writing. I started tapping my pen on the table, trying to think of awesome stuff. I tapped my pen faster and realized the beat reminded me of a band. Suddenly I heard people shout my name, "Yeah, Jay!" I stood there with an electric guitar, in front of thousands of people. I thought to myself "we don't want these people shouting for nothing." I got a good hold of my guitar, for the coolness I have to give everyone.

Then, something kept hitting me in the face non-stop. I heard a weird little squeak right next to me. I zoomed back into the world. But still, I was getting slugged with something. I heard a small voice laugh at me. I put my arms up to block, as if I was at battle with a boxer. I jumped out of my chair and rolled to the floor. I finally got a glance at what was hitting me over and over. It was a very weird site to see. It was my 3 year old little sister, and I'm guessing my Mom just got her out of the bath. Her hair was wet and she was butt naked. The thing she was hitting me with was her underwear.

She stopped hitting me and topped it off with a sudden

scream. Then, she took off running for the door. I got to my feet and walked around for a moment. I had to shake that one off. Whew! Back to work. I got back in my chair, and gave it another shot. I started listing the things I like which included food, skating, sports, Rice Crispies and television. I looked around my room. Two things caught my eye which were my Bruce Lee and my Spiderman posters. Yes, I'm a little old for Spider Man, but that guy is awesome. I thought to myself that maybe I could write something about them, but how would I do that? I had to use my imagination on that one. I got this gnarly thought. How awesome would it be if Bruce Lee was Spiderman! I thought it was the best idea I've ever had. I whipped out of my chair and said proudly and boldly,

"Oh yeah!" Then, I flicked out my wrist with the upside down rock on sign and said very hero like, "Go-web-go!"

I got back to my regular stance, and went back for the chair. I pulled out some fresh paper, and a newly sharpened pencil. I got to working on my killer essay about Bruce Lee being Spiderman and him saving the world from this hardcore ugly creature from outer space. Mr. Ugly has been planning on blowing up the Earth for almost a million years now, or at least two weeks.

I worked on my essay for a long while. For that long while, I realized there is something I am needing. I needed to get some

grub. My mom now came in as if she heard what I was thinking. She had some cold milk and cookies. I looked at her with a happy smile. My mother giggled at me as if the smile I was giving her was funny! Mom left for the door, leaving the terrific snack she came in with. I picked up a cookie and shoved it in my mouth. Tasty it was.

I looked down at my paper, read it over real fast and noticed that my paper was done! I picked it up feeling proud of my essay, but then saw that something was missing. That something was the famous last words....The End.

My Face on a Stamp!

An excellent writing sample

by Rayden M.

Disclaimer: Rayden isn't a self-centered person and just took on this view for fun.

Rayden is in Mrs. Wermer's Homeroom Class

It should take someone with wicked skill to see their mug on a letter!

"WHOLY AWESOME!" is what you would say if you saw the coolness that is Rayden Alexander Morris on a stamp. I think that I deserve to be on a stamp for three amazingly awesome reasons.

The first reason I think that my eye-catcher of a face should be printed boldly on a postage stamp is because of my charisma.

The way I act towards other people in a kind and very welcoming manner is totally cool and deserving. Almost every person I meet likes me right off

the bat because of how I speak and act towards them. For instance, I just met this kid named Conner a month ago, and he's already one of my best friends.

The next reason I should be awesomely incarcerated on a stamp is very important. This reason is that I am supremely and completely attractive! My face would make people (my fans) stare at it for days without blinking! My hotness would be quite the sensation for any person who likes awesomeness!

Furthermore, have I mentioned I have a beautiful set of straight A's in school? I work VERY hard on your everyday difficult school work and pass with flying colors! All the time I work for a brighter future, so I can get into college and learn to be a car designer (for Ford, Toyota or Subaru) to become rich and help my family and my life!

My face should be on a stamp because I am attractive, charismatic, and work hard for a better future tomorrow. My face should be on a stamp due to my simply being me!



Once Upon a Fiction Fix

STELLAR STUDENTS

Star COVA Student Aspen D.

Aspen is in Jennifer Jonson's Homeroom Class

Aspen, a seventh grader here at COVA, is a truly multifaceted person. I guess the first thing most people know or learn about her is she has been an ice skater since she was five years old, competing in local, regional, and national events. Skating does not define her life. It is her creativity that does that. A constant reader, who goes nowhere without a book in hand, she has turned her love for reading into a love of writing. She plays the piano, and is teaching herself to play the guitar. She enjoys a good Disney movie, but would pass on one to see the next Twilight, Transformer, or Pirates of the Caribbean movie. Her music

taste varies from Taylor Swift and the Jonas Brothers to Dave Villano (a violinist) and the Trans Siberian Orchestra. Aspen loves eating out and goes out for sushi with her dad almost every weekend. In her free time, she likes drawing, shopping, riding her bike, and spending time with her friends.



Star Student Olivia H.

Olivia is a student in Deb Sudbeck's homeroom

Olivia is a 10 year old 5th grade student has been home schooled her entire life. She enrolled in Colorado Virtual Academy (COVA) in the 3rd grade and has loved it ever since! COVA has enabled her to pursue her talents and dreams. This past summer she performed 75 shows as "Annie" at Boulder's Dinner Theater (Oscar nominee Amy Adams,"Enchanted", got her start there!) In addition, she is the lead role in the upcoming feature film Olivia Rox! (www.oliviarox.com). The most unique aspect of this film is that the music soundtrack consists of her own compositions. Olivia is featured performing her songs throughout the film! Besides singing, songwriting and acting, her other passions include helping others through charity work, animals and the environment.

What is so inspiring about Olivia is that in spite of her talents, she remains very humble and compassionate. One of her recent songs "Love in Our Hearts" was inspired by an encounter with a homeless person. Shortly after writing this song, she was chosen as one of The Best of the Best Young Artists in Colorado in 2008 and was invited to perform at the charity benefit concert for "Cherish Our Children Intl." Each performer was enabled to raise their own money for the charity and Olivia achieved the highest number of donations! Following her performance, she was approached by the producer of the event, Jerry Fishman, for permission to use her song as the theme for Cherish Our Children International. Subsequently she was invited to perform the song in NYC for the organizations biggest fundraising event. Due to her commitment to "Annie", Olivia could not physically attend the event but still performed the song live via satellite from Boulder to NYC!

Her mission in life is to use her music to help others. This inspiration was spawned while watching Oprah's special on South Africa in 2004 with her Mom. Her Mom was so inspired she dropped everything and flew across the globe to lend her talents as a photographer first hand to help raise awareness. Olivia prepared presents & backpacks for her Mom's visit with the children all across South Africa. This was the beginning of Olivia's pay-it-forward approach to life. From there she became actively involved with numerous charities including Cherish Our Children International, The Humane Society (where she's an active volunteer), Acres of Love and Unicef, to name a few. Olivia frequently visits nursing homes and sings to the elderly people, because she loves to make them happy. She has a tour of the Denver metro area Children's Hospitals coming up this Fall 2009. Olivia's dream

****More on this STELLAR STUDENT on page 13**

STELLAR STUDENTS

is to make a difference in this world. Her heart is in the right place.

Olivia has a very unique life. Attending a virtual school enables her to travel on her Dad's tours where she's been singing on stage in front of thousands of people since age two. This has given her an open minded & optimistic view of the world, which shines through the heartwarming and positive lyrics in the 75 plus songs she has composed. Completely uninhibited, she will sing to anyone who wants to listen, whether on an airplane, hotel lobby, nursing home, or on stage in front of thousands... wherever her life takes her. In every instance her magnetic personality captures the listener, and they want to know who she is to remember her. Currently she is working on her own CD, which will be finished by early 2010. Proceeds from the sale of the CD will be donated to her favorite charities.

Olivia loves COVA and being taught by her Mom and Dad, and the special bond that it creates. Her favorite

subjects are Literature, spelling and history. Olivia loves to read, she is a spelling whiz and says she loves History because it tells us about our ancestors and learning about everything that they went through in the past, and hopefully we will learn from their experiences to help us have a better future."

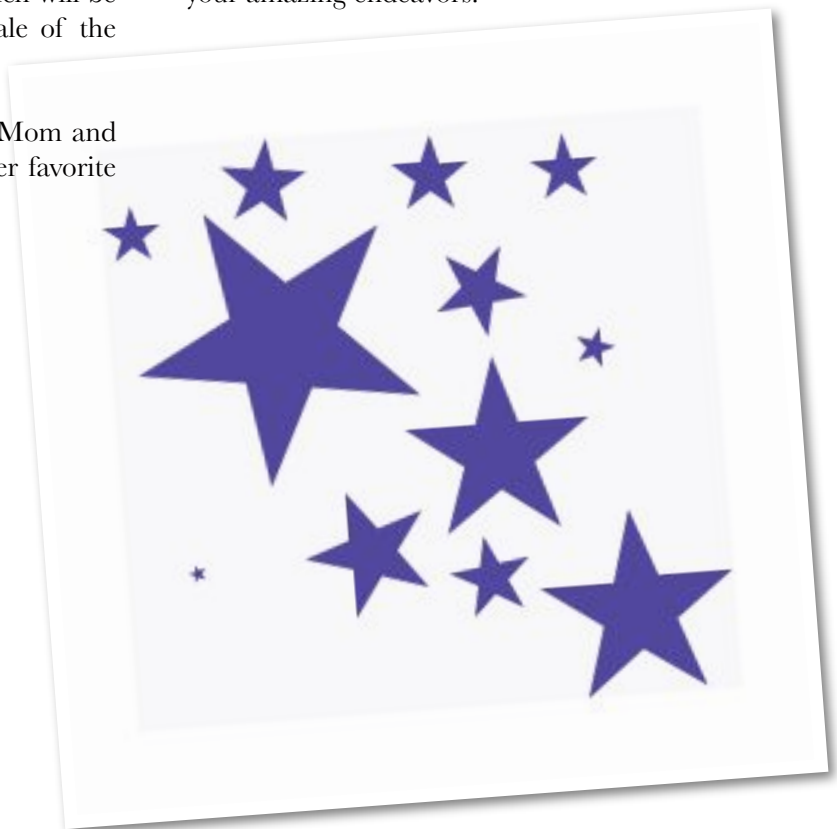
Her hobbies include singing, acting, writing songs, dancing, writing stories, drawing, swimming, hiking, sewing, horseback riding, gymnastics, playing with her two dogs, cat, Fantail guppies, and guinea pig, and family nights of playing games and going to movies with my Mommy and Daddy! She also loves to travel.

Good job, Olivia! We wish you the best of luck in all your amazing endeavors!

Star Student Tally D.

Tally is in Mrs. Mancina's Homeroom Class

Outside of my regular school work, I have several other pursuits. First, I play piano and take violin lessons one day per week. In November, I will be competing in a fiddle contest back in Wisconsin where I used to live. Also, I am a member of the Boltz Swim Team here in Loveland; I swim with the team six days per week all year. In the spring and summer months, I ride and race mountain bikes, and I am a member of the Riverbrook Momentum Team. Lastly, I enjoy cross country skiing and compete in several races such as the Junior Birkie in Hayward, Wisconsin, and the Gold Rush in Frisco, Colorado. These extracurricular activities are really fun and help me to be a better student.

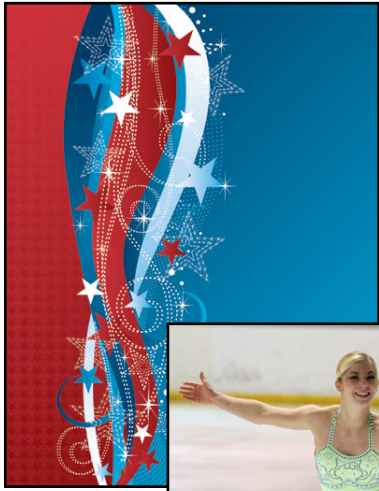


Good Luck Tally with all of your upcoming contests!

STELLAR STUDENTS

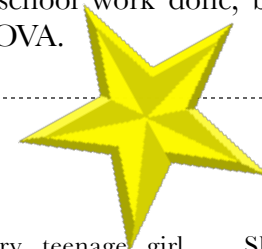
Star COVA Middle School Student

**Lexie is a student in Jen Jonson's Class*



Lexie H. is a very busy eighth grader!! She has chosen the life of an ice skater. She skates about 3-4 hours a day, 6 days a week, and has 10 coaches. She has all her double jumps and is now working on her first triples. She also includes ballet and modern dance, yoga, gymnastics, running, and private stretching classes as part of her training. Her ice time is split between free-skating and pairs. This year as an Intermediate skater she has competed at Denver and Colorado Springs, CO; Dallas, Texas; and Chicago, Ill. Her most recent event was the Southwestern Regional Championships at Dallas in October.

Last year she also had the role of the Snow Queen in a production of The Nutcracker on Ice. This year she has won the lead role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and is just starting rehearsals for the December performances. Lexie also finds time to play with her beloved pets, two dogs and a sand boa. With all that she has going on, she still manages to get her school work done, but she couldn't do it without the flexibility of COVA.



Star Student Christina B.

**Christina is in Jen Jonson's homeroom class.*

First and foremost, Christina is an happens to be blessed with talent, determination, results in some pretty Academically, she is a GATE student 4th grade. She is currently in the 8th academic scholarships for a prestigious athletics! She has been a gymnast Champion in levels 5 and 6. her from state at level 7. She is Colorado Springs. She hopes for a scholarship. She is also a weightlifter. championships competing in the the Olympic Training Center and is a Club. Her long term goal is to Olympic Games in 2016 in Rio in



ordinary teenage girl. She just which combined with her focus and outstanding accomplishments. in COVA and started COVA back in grade. She hopes to attain many university. She is also very good with since she was 7 1/2. She was the State Unfortunately, an injured knee kept currently training level 9 at Aerials in Division 1 NCAA gymnastic She has earned many state snatch, clean and jerk. She trains at member of the Pinnacle Weightlifting represent the United States at the weightlifting.

Other than all this, she volunteers at Puppy Mill Rescue, participates on many church service products and is currently training to volunteer at the Humane Society. She has a pet hedgehog named Gwin who recently took Reserve Grand Champion at the largest hedgehog show in the world. Who knew! She prefers to sleep in, loves reading, hanging out with her friends, doing crafts, shopping, listening to music and being outdoors. Currently, her project is looking for the "perfect" dog to replace her passed away Springer (Penny) and Pekingese (Pookie).

Good job, Christina! We hope to see you at the 2016 Olympics!

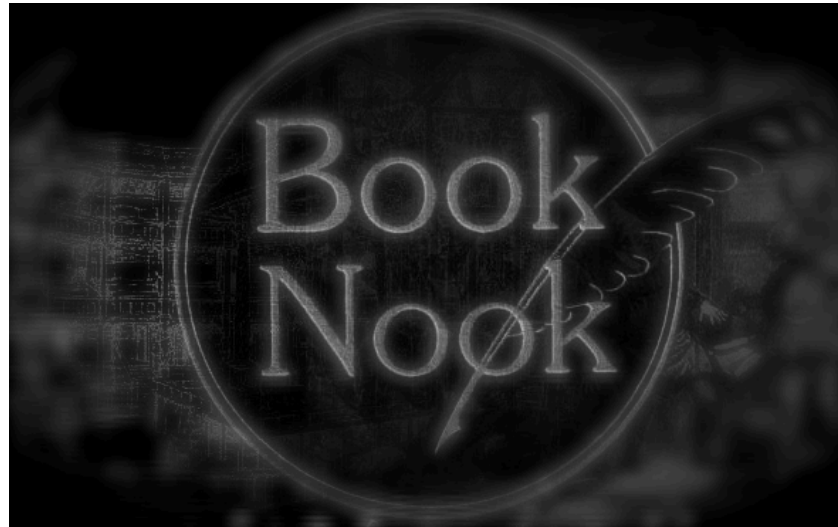
Many Doors...
A Book Review by
Sonja H.

In the fantastical book ***The Door in the Wall*** by Marguerite De Angeli a boy finds his inner knight. The story is set in medieval times, and starts with a young boy, Robin, whose parents have left for their respected jobs for the country and king. Robin was supposed to go train with his uncle to become a knight, but then he falls ill and loses the use of his legs. He has people to take care of him, but he is whiny and they end up leaving. Robin is left with no-one to feed him, but then Luke shows up. Luke is a monk, and he helps Robin out by bringing him to his monastery. With the help of Luke, Robin starts to regain the use of his legs and learns to read and write. Awhile later, they head out on a long journey to the castle of Lindsay. During their stay at Lindsay, Robin finds out that even if he is not a knight, he can help his country. With the help of his new found skills, he undertakes a quest to save the castle of Lindsay.

Looking for an interesting read?

Try ***Animal Farm***, by George Orwell. An intriguing parody of the

Soviet Union's origins and history, ***Animal Farm*** uses farm animals to portray important



characters in Russia's sometimes ironic, sometimes heroic history. Less than 125 pages long, ***Animal Farm*** is a captivating tale that is nearly impossible to put down. If you are in the eighth grade, the novel could even qualify for one of your four yearly school reads!

A fascinating story, ***Animal Farm*** will continue to inspire thought long after you close its cover.

Review By: Owen M.

The Mysterious Benedict Society

A book report

by James A.

The Mysterious Benedict Society is written by Trenton Lee Stewart. It is an adventure book. I chose this book because it is big and mysterious.

Some of the main characters are Sticky, Renyie, Kate, Constance, Mr. Benedict, and Mr. Curtain. Sticky has glasses but is extremely smart. Renyie is a good leader, motivating, and good at puzzles. Kate carries a bucket full of

stuff and is active. Constance is stubborn, short, and throws temper tantrums. Milligan is sad and he is protector of the children. Mr. Benedict and Mr. Curtain are twins, but Mr. Benedict is good and Mr. Curtain is bad.

One day, the kids see an ad in the paper to take a test. Only four of the students got through the tests. Their names were Sticky, Renyie, Kate, and Constance. The first two tests were paper tests. The third test was to walk across a room without walking on the yellow squares. The fourth test was a maze. When the tests were done, the remaining kids formed the Mysterious Benedict Society. Then they learned their mission ...to go to LIVE. This section includes Sticky and Renyie turning into messengers. It also includes sticky getting caught cheating and his trip to the waiting room.

The theme is teamwork and that family isn't always the people that give birth to you. The lesson is that all people have useful qualities. My favorite part is when Constance is in the whisperer. I encourage other kids to read this book. It may seem big at first, but once you start reading it you can't stop. I can't wait to read the sequels. I give this book four out of five stars.





PIECES OF POETRY

COVA

by Jack M.

COVA is so sweet and cool
 You can do school at a pool
 You can go to someone's house
 Where you can do school on
 their couch

You can do school on a hike
 You can do school on a bike
 You can do school on a mountain
 You can do school near a
 fountain

You can do school near and far
 You can do school in a car
 COVA is the best by far!

Proud

by Lily O.

Sometimes when I'm happy

And when I'm having fun,

I think of all the good things

That I have done!

"The Night Cat"

by Olivia C.

The Night Cat covers the deep
 night skies.

The stars glow in his eyes.
 He comes from the moon
 with a **"flash"** and a **"boom!"**

The night cat is black
 as he waits for his attack.

"Boom, Boom, Boom!"

He covers the moon.

"Flash, Dash, Smash!"

he meows.

"Smash, Flash, Dash!"

he calls.

"Boom, Boom, Boom!"

he says to the moon.

"Never come back!"

says the Moon.

"Never dreaded Black Cat!"

October

by Jacqueline M.

Here we are in the midst of
 October,

And the leaves are mutating
 from green

To orange,
 We are watching the
 pumpkins grow

And expand in size.
 We see the grass once green,
 slowly

Start to die.

We rake the leaves of colors
 multiple,

And jump in large pile that
 they make,

And then the leaves are back
 where they started,

As are we with our rake.

Oh, the crisp feel of October
 is what

Makes our hearts feel light,
 As we watch the falling of

gentle leaves

With colors that are bright.
 Here we are in the midst of

October,

And we are filled with sheer
 delight.

"When the Frost Is on the Punkin"

James Whitcomb Riley

Submitted by Christine M.

"James Whitcomb Riley
 (1846-1916) is called **the
 Hoosier Poet**. A native of
 Indiana, he learned the mid-
 western farm dialect of that
 region. His most popular poems
 were down-to-earth poems which
 used this dialect. Audiences
 loved to hear him recite his
 poems about home life and "the
 good old days"-especially "When
 the Frost Is on the Punkin,"
 "Little Orphan Annie," and "The
 Raggedy Man." "

Continued on Page 17

"Words to Know"

Punkin- pumpkin

fodder- cornstalks or straw left over after the ears of corn and grain are harvested

shock- a heap of cornstalks or straw (fodder) piled together to dry

guiney (guinea)-a kind of hen

stock- livestock; the animals on a farm

tossels (tassles)- the rust-colored, hairlike tops of corn

stubble- short stumps of corn-stalks left standing after the ears are harvested and the fodder cut

furries- furrows. Crops are planted in these long, narrow grooves.

reaper- a machine for cutting grain

When the frost is on the punkin
and the
fodder's in the shock,

And you hear the kyouck and
gobble of the
struttin' turkey-cock,

And the clackin' of the guineys,
and the
cluckin' of the hens,

And the rooster's hallylooyer as he
tiptoes
on the fence;

O, it's then's the times a feller is a-
feelin'
at his best,

With the risin' sun to greet him
from a
night of peaceful rest,

As he leaves the house,
bareheaded and
goes out to feed the stock,
When the frost is on the punkin
and the
fodder's in the shock.

They's something kindo' harty-like
about
the atmusfere

When the heat of summer's over
and the
coolin' fall is here-

Of course we miss the flowers, and
the

blossums on the trees,

And the mumble of the hummin'-
birds and

buzzin' of the bees;

But the air's so appetizin'; and the
land-

scape through the haze

Of a crisp and sunny morning of
the airly

autumn days

Is a pictur' that no painter has the
colorin'

to mock-

When the frost is on the punkin
and the
fodder's in the shock.

The husky, rusty russel of the
tossels of
the corn,

And the raspin' of the tangled
leaves, as

golden as the morn;

The stubble in the furries-kindo'
lonesome-like, but still

A-preachin' sermons to us of the
barns

they growed to fill;

The strawsack in the medder, and
the

reaper in the shed;

The hosses in theyr stalls below-
the
clover overhead!-

O, it sets my hart a-clickin' like the
tickin'

of a clock,

When the frost is on the punkin
and the

fodder's in the shock!

*Taken from
Spelling Vocabulary & Poetry 5
Teacher Edition
A Beka Book*

SPRING

By: Diane B.

Ah, the spring!

No more cold.

Winter now seems

far and old.

I hear a robin,

in that tree.

Singing his song

for you and me.

LATE SPRING

By: Diane B.

O dear, O dear!

I'm getting hot.

The breeze was nice

but this is not!

Where is the shade,

where did it go?

I really wish the

wind would blow.

SUMMER

By Diane B.

Summer is sunshine, quite a
bunch.

Summer is hot dogs and ice
cream to munch.

Summer is swimming, fun at the
pool.

Maybe the beach, now that is
cool!

Summer is hot! Like a fired up
grill.

In summer you can hear birds'
calls, they're shrill.

Summer is fairs, you can tell from
afar,

when all the fun music floats into
your car.

When the rain comes, little
drums are a-tapping.

If it's windy, waves might get
white capping.





TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Marcee Taylor-Westwood

By Jordan S.

Mrs. Marcee Taylor-Westwood is standing in our Teacher spotlight this month! In this article, we will learn about her past and what she enjoys doing today. Mrs.

Westwood is a very interesting person. I hope you enjoy learning about her.

Mrs. Westwood, in her past, didn't really enjoy school. She had a hard time focusing on things and sometimes she didn't really see the value of what they were learning in class. She did, however, enjoy classes with more relevance. Now, her favorite subject in school is literature.

Mrs. Westwood first learned to drive when she was fifteen. She says she went to fast. She was driving a Chevy. Mrs. Westwood feels now that it was a mistake to drive at fifteen; she now wants people to have to be eighteen before they can get their drivers license.

In her twenties, Mrs. Westwood lived in London. That is where she met her husband. She told me that this the one moment she would like to relive.

The loveliest things Mrs. Westwood ever saw was her kids when they were first-born and when they are sleeping. Her favorite color is cranberry red.

Mrs. Westwood is quite the person! I hope you've enjoyed learning about her in *Teacher Spotlight*.

Marah Merrill

by Jordan S.

Ms. Marah Merrill is a wonderful teacher for Cova. She has been teaching with Cova since 2001. She has an interesting past that I would like to share with you.

Mrs. Merrill was born on the Hill Air Force base in Utah. She moved to different places until she was three when she finally settled down in Bennett, Colorado. She went to Christian Elementary School and then to a public school for 5th grade, middle, and high school. She went to Colorado Christian University for college.

Mrs. Merrill has five siblings! Her sister is fifteen months younger than she is. They were only one grade apart, so both always had a friend in each other. Mrs. Merrill's four other siblings were adopted when she was just starting high school. She met her fiancé at church; she was in her senior year in high school. They married when Mrs. Merrill was in her sophomore year of college. They now have four children. Hannah is eleven, Lydia is nine, Wesley is seven, and Acacia is six.

Mrs. Merrill plays several instruments and sings. She also loves sports. She was able to graduate high school and college as a valedictorian. Mrs. Merrill is a wonderful person. I am delighted you took the time to read about her in *Teacher Spotlight*. Did you know that Ms. Merrill's favorite color is purple?

More Teacher Spotlight Continued on Page 20



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Hofmann
By: Daiquiri P.

This issue's spotlight teacher is Mrs. Hofmann. She was born on April 12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her family includes her, her three brothers, one sister, two children, and her husband. When she was younger her family called her Nik, but today she is known as the K-8 Director of Education.

Mrs. Hofmann's favorite color is purple. She enjoys mysteries and historical fiction. When she was in school she enjoyed socializing, theater, choir, and reading about history. That was then. Now she enjoys spending time with her family. They go camping, watch movies, and bond in many other ways.

Do you know the loveliest thing you've ever seen? Well Mrs. Hofmann does. "It was when I held my son and daughter for the first time," she said. Another lovely sight is the beach where Mrs. H would love to live. She says she enjoys hearing the water and walking along the beach.

An interesting fact I learned about our principal is who in history she'd love to meet. Turns out she would love to meet Abraham Lincoln, Queen Elizabeth, Leonardo Da Vinci and several others. Most of the people she mentioned were artists and rulers. It was amazing to learn about Mrs. Hofmann because she is an interesting person and a great addition to COVA.

Mrs. Thorsen
By: Angela R.

This article is about Mrs. Thorsen who is my homeroom teacher as well as one of this month's chosen COVA Chronicle's Teacher Spotlight! Mrs. Thorsen is a native of Denver, Colorado, and was born on August 27, 1977. She has an older brother named John and a younger sister named Stefanie. While growing up, she enjoyed riding bikes around the neighborhood with her friends as well as playing soccer, watching movies, going skiing, and listening to music.

One of her fondest memories as a little girl was when she used to spend the night at her grandparents apartment on a weekly basis while listening to them snore loudly through the night. This is what made it so fun and special. Mrs. Thorsen is from a large Greek family and very close to each and every one of them. Family is first and foremost to Chrissy. She is married to Mark with 3 precious son's Adam, Luke, and Michael. Some of her favorite times are spending time with her family. It meant everything to her wanting to be a stay at home mom and becoming an English teacher as she has been able to accomplish both of these goals. Mrs. Thorsen graduated from Denver University; she started teaching at 21 years of age and has been with COVA for 4 years.

Not only is Mrs. Thorsen a beautiful person but she is an inspiration for all the encouragement she gives towards continuing to move forth and reach high for goals.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Star Teacher Mrs. Cicco

By: Angela R.

This article is a short story about Ms. Cicco who is one of COVA'S teachers and also one of this month's chosen for teacher spotlight. Ms. Cicco was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She moved around because her dad was in the navy. Some of the places she has moved to were Virginia, Great Lakes, Illinois, and San Diego. She recently moved to Colorado three and a half years ago. She says she loves living here and enjoys the beautiful views of Pike's Peak everyday from her home.

Ms. Cicco also has a little sister named Leah who she's had some good times with when they were little. They used to play things like store, library, and bank. Something's her and her friends did for fun as a child were making tents with sheets and lawn chairs. They also had snowball fights in the winter. She also enjoyed playing outside with her friends during the summer. Ms. Cicco is very family oriented. She is married to her husband Anthony and they have 2 boys named Michael and Domenic. Her and Anthony got married in 2001 and were best friends before that.

Some of Ms. Cicco's favorite activities to do in school were making a model of the solar system. She also enjoyed being in a special reading group where she enjoyed reading neat books with cool stories. Her favorite was Cap O' Rishes. Other activities include her first job which was babysitting. She loves kids! At 16 she got her first real job at a coffee house in San Diego called Soho. Her dream job is her job now. She loves being a teacher.

She has been teaching with COVA for 3 years. Some of her favorite things to do now are teaching her boys. She also enjoys working around the house installing door knobs, dimmer switches and more. She just moved into a new house! Last but not least, she enjoys yoga, painting, and reading in her spare time. COVA is very lucky to have Ms. Cicco as an elementary teacher.

Star Teacher Mrs. Holly McCann

By: Miranda S.

The Star High School Teacher for the Month of November is Mrs. Holly McCann. Mrs. McCann is in her second year with COVA and teaches American Literature, American Literature Honors and Journalism.

Mrs. McCann was born 26 years ago in November in Lewisberg, Pennsylvania.

She has one sister, currently living in California teaching Elementary Special Education. She went to college at Millersville University in Millersville, Pennsylvania. Her first job was as an English and Creative Writing teacher at Hempfield High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

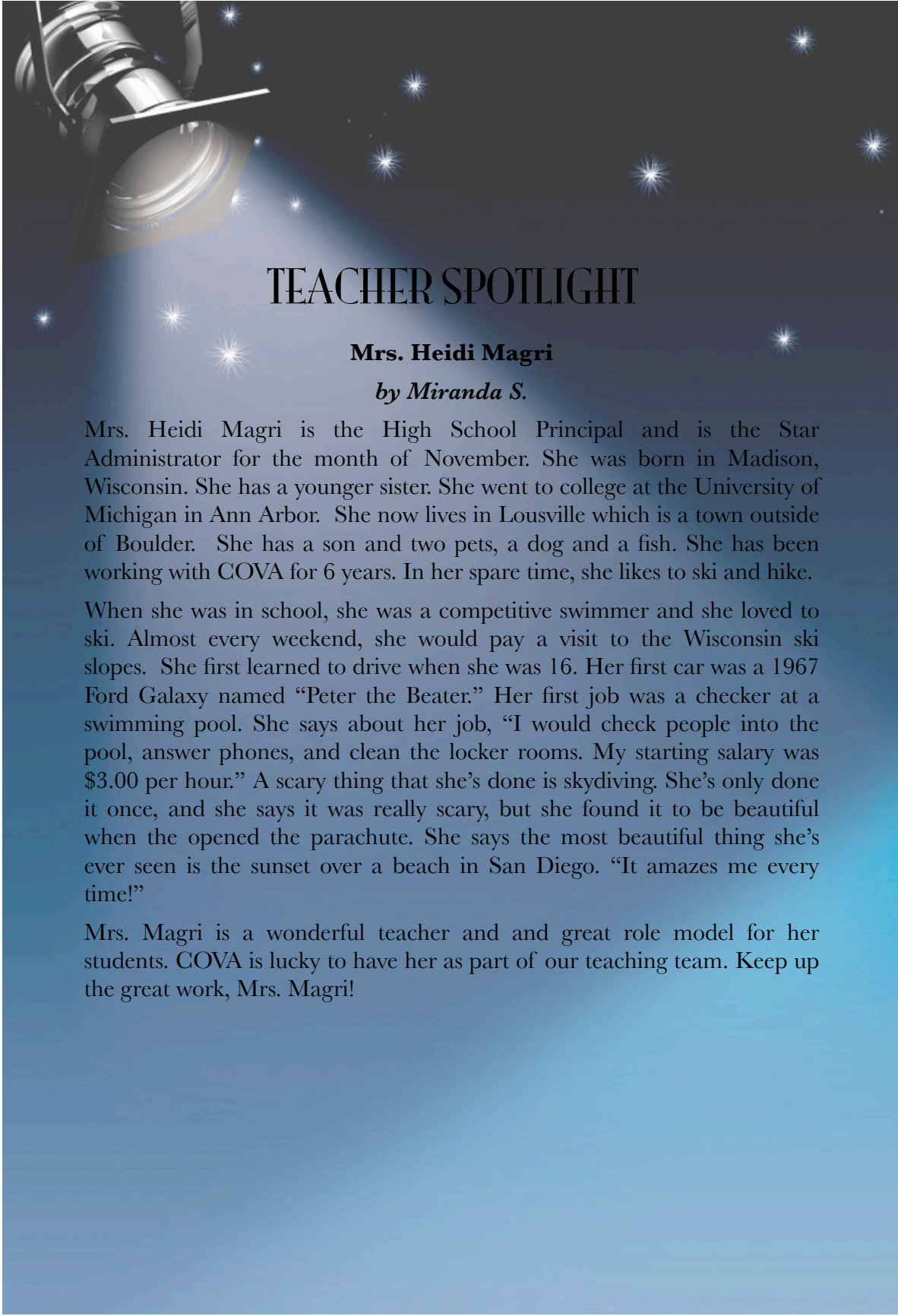
She currently has a husband named Tyler and two cats named Janis and Zoe. She is living in Golden, Colorado, and studying for a master's degree in Creative Writing so she can chase her dream of becoming an English College professor.

As a child, Mrs. McCann liked swimming and gymnastics. When she was in school, she liked drama. She was in school plays and musicals. She remembers a time in fifth grade at camp when she and her friends were told a scary story, "and then they spooked us by having someone jump out. We all fell to the ground rather than run away! I never forgot that."

Mrs. McCann says about her first car, "I first drove a Chevy Nova, but not a nice one, just an old red clunker. And, I drove way too fast!" Today, she likes working and helping animals. She works with animal organizations like Table Mountain Animal Shelter. She also likes to read and learn. "I enjoy being a student and a teacher at the same time!"

Mrs. McCann is a wonderful teacher and a well-rounded individual. She enjoys making a difference with the animals she works with and the students she teaches. COVA is lucky to have her on the teaching staff, and her students are lucky to have her as a teacher. Happy Birthday, Mrs. McCann!

More Teacher Spotlight Continued on Page 22



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

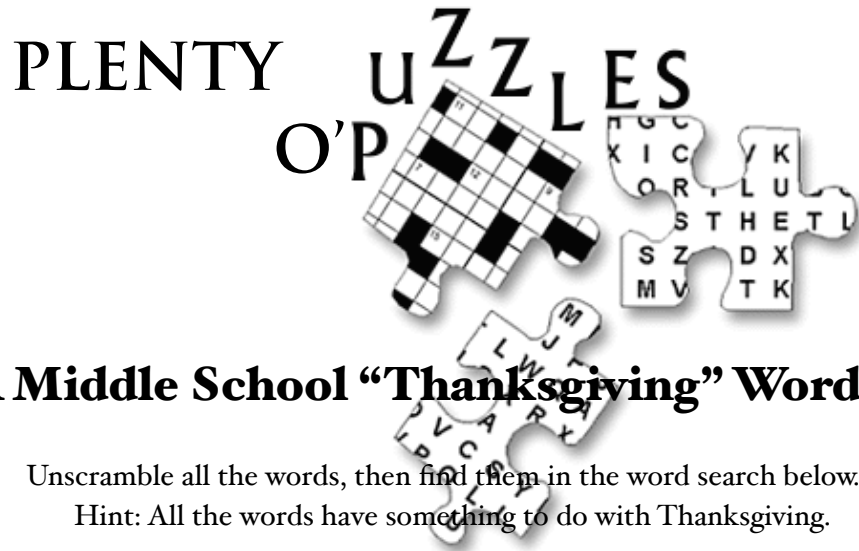
Mrs. Heidi Magri

by Miranda S.

Mrs. Heidi Magri is the High School Principal and is the Star Administrator for the month of November. She was born in Madison, Wisconsin. She has a younger sister. She went to college at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She now lives in Louisville which is a town outside of Boulder. She has a son and two pets, a dog and a fish. She has been working with COVA for 6 years. In her spare time, she likes to ski and hike.

When she was in school, she was a competitive swimmer and she loved to ski. Almost every weekend, she would pay a visit to the Wisconsin ski slopes. She first learned to drive when she was 16. Her first car was a 1967 Ford Galaxy named "Peter the Beater." Her first job was a checker at a swimming pool. She says about her job, "I would check people into the pool, answer phones, and clean the locker rooms. My starting salary was \$3.00 per hour." A scary thing that she's done is skydiving. She's only done it once, and she says it was really scary, but she found it to be beautiful when she opened the parachute. She says the most beautiful thing she's ever seen is the sunset over a beach in San Diego. "It amazes me every time!"

Mrs. Magri is a wonderful teacher and a great role model for her students. COVA is lucky to have her as part of our teaching team. Keep up the great work, Mrs. Magri!



COVA Middle School "Thanksgiving" Word Search

Unscramble all the words, then find them in the word search below.

Hint: All the words have something to do with Thanksgiving.

USC VGN IFFUTSIXOUFM
 GAXEENXALCFPARADEJ
 DKO OYAPPLECIDEROKF
 XVSYYBTURKEYSCNDDS
 NNTHURSDAYNPJSFRUN
 MDBYHREWOLFYAMSLOG
 UGURAPYNAOXUFXEIUU
 TTPYEMVRJJEMVOTAXK
 USZTKCSHRYTPVAOJEV
 AEQYQAULXELURFVDLG
 AVHOLIDAYYBBUENZLE
 NRMIZGQRMBENSM SHAQ
 IAIIFZVORLTVAKPIVA
 VHRRVEUFEMCBORKDIV
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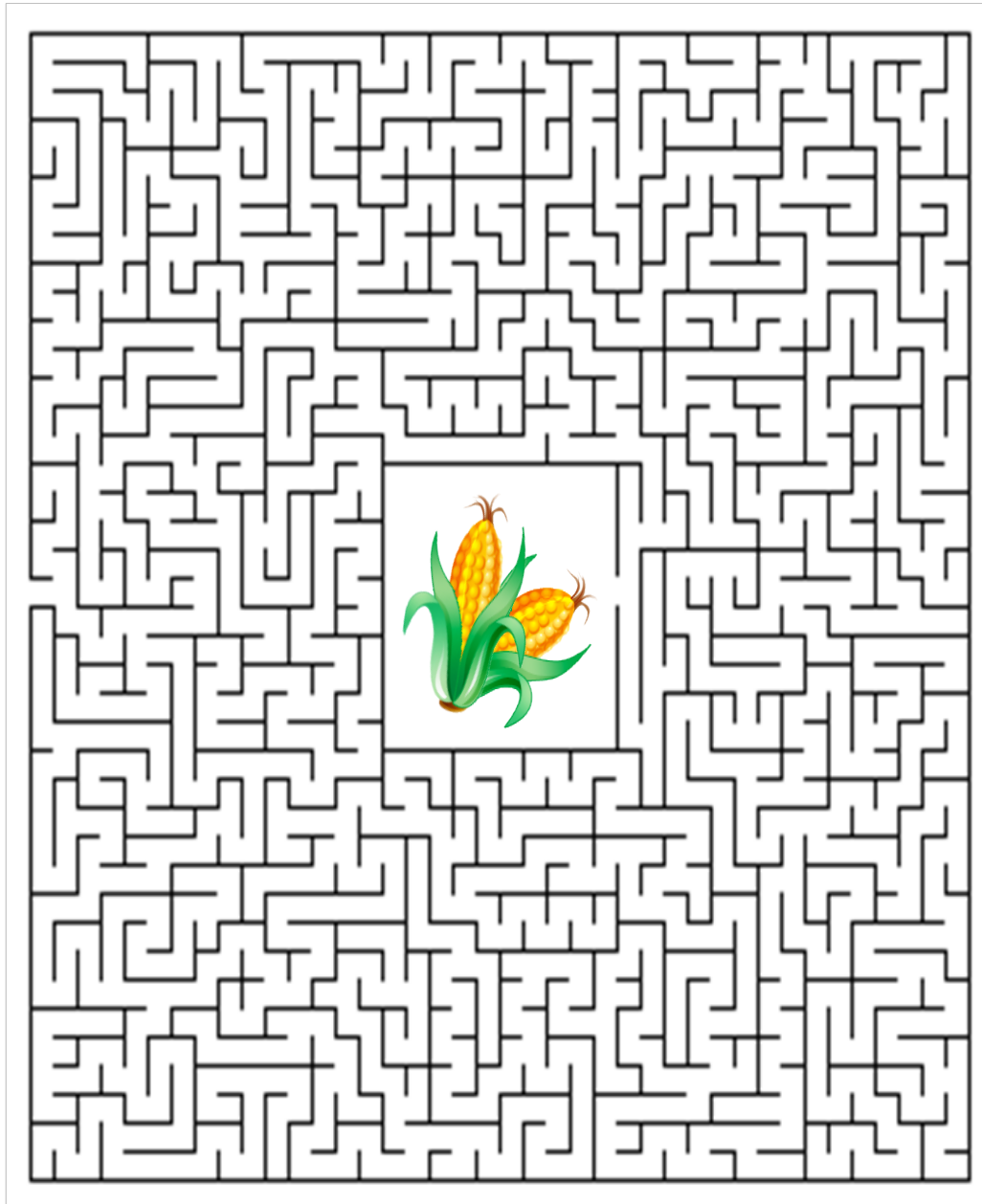
ACORN
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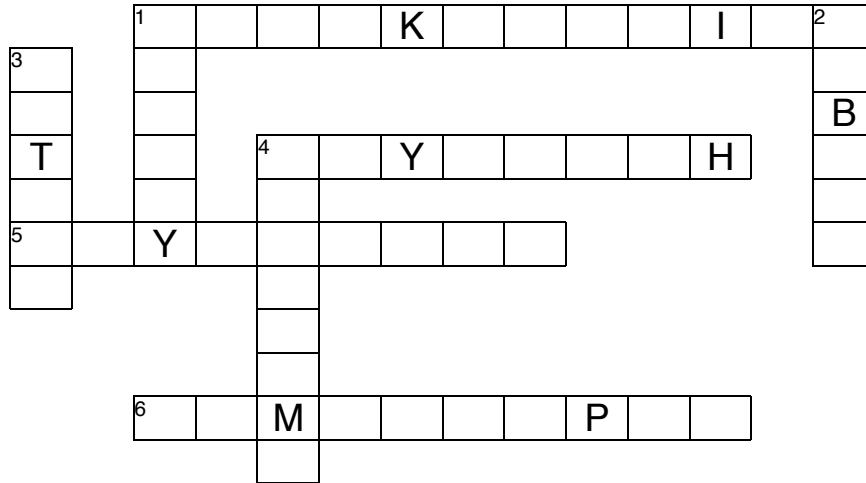
Help Tom find his lunch.

Puzzle Submitted by Aspen D.



COVA Elementary "Thanksgiving" Crossword

Use the clues below to fill in the missing letters.



ACROSS

- 1. American holiday; the 4th Thursday of November.
- 4. The Pilgrims landed at _____ Rock.
- 5. The famous ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World.
- 6. A yummy Thanksgiving dessert; best with whipped cream.

DOWN

- 1. Ben Franklin thought it should be the national symbol.
- 2. What 1 DOWN says.
- 3. Another name for Fall
- 4. Celebrated the first Thanksgiving with Native Americans.



COVA FAMILY TRADITIONS

Submitted by Kristen S-G., mom to student Dominic G.(Kindergarten)

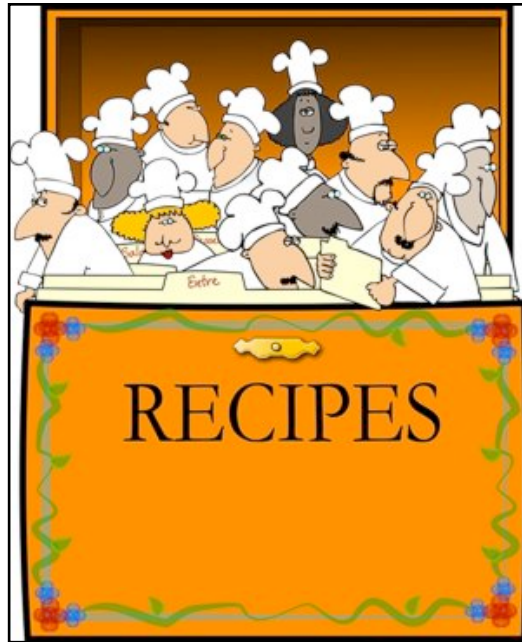
During the end of fall, our family honors those who have passed on before us by celebrating with something called a "Dumb Supper." We set a table with the best dishes and linens we have along with an elaborate feast for the ancestors and bread and water for the living. The table is typically set outside on the porch and each family member visits the table in silence allowing for time to commune with our beloved dead.

At Thanksgiving, we cut strips of pretty wrapping paper where each person in attendance writes something they are especially thankful for. The strips are then added to a paper chain that was begun when my parents celebrated their first Thanksgiving together. The chain is then placed on our holiday tree.

Brownies

Submitted by Daiquiri P.

- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, plus more for pan
- 6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups solid-pack pumpkin
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup chopped hazelnuts or other nuts



These brownies taste so good!!!

For further directions you can visit marthastewart.com

Raw Truffles

Submitted by COVA parent Mary R.

- 1 1/2 cups raw cacao powder (available at Amazon Foods)
- 3 rounded Tbsp. coconut oil
- 3 Tbsp. raw almond butter
- Agave to taste

Blend all ingredients and spoon onto lined sheets... refrigerate.

Hint keep them in the fridge!

Also we have made it a family tradition to share things we are grateful for at the Thanksgiving dinner table...it brings up some interesting conversations - sounds simple and it is...it just takes some prompting for some:-)

Sopillia Cheese Cake

Submitted by Karen and Maxwell M.

- 2 (8 oz.) pkg. crescent rolls
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

1. In a 9 x 13 inch buttered pan mold one of the 8 ounce crescent rolls to the bottom.
2. Cream 1 (8 ounce) cream cheese with 1 cup sugar. Add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Spread mixture over bottom crescent rolls.
3. Mold other crescent roll "sheet" on top of cream cheese mixture.
4. Combine 1/4 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Sprinkle on top of top crescent rolls.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

RATING: Fun and easy - KID FRIENDLY - a KID CAN COOK THIS-

Dad & older teenage brother liked it TOO :)
(had me make more after 1st one "disappeared")

few ingredients, economical

Crustless Pumpkin Pie Cheesecake

(Low Fat and Low Sugar)

Pie recipe originally from "Hungry Girl"

Topping recipe by Kristen Sherman

Submitted by Kristen S-G.

Ingredients:

One 15-oz. can pure pumpkin
One 12-oz. can evaporated fat-free milk
1/2 cup fat-free liquid egg substitute (like Egg
Beaters Original)
3/4 cup Splenda No Calorie Sweetener
(granulated)
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine all ingredients in a bowl, and mix thoroughly.

Place mixture in a baking dish (8" X 8" works well) sprayed lightly with nonstick spray, and bake in the oven for 45 minutes. (It will remain a little soft, like pie filling.)

Topping:

1 8 oz. tub of Sugar Free or Lite Cool Whip

1 package of instant Sugar Free Fat Free Jello
Cheesecake pudding

Mix dry pudding mix in with the Cool Whip until thoroughly blended. Spread on top of cooled pumpkin pie.

Once ready to serve, cut into 9 pieces.

Serve and enjoy!

MAKES 9 SERVINGS

Caramel Apple Cake

*Submitted by the Burshek
Family*

1 3/4 cups flour
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp vanilla
3/4 cup margarine or butter,
softened
3 eggs
3/4 cup milk (add more if the
batter is too thick)
1 1/2 cups finely chopped and
peeled apples
(Optional - 1/2 c nuts, 1/2 c
raisins)

FROSTING

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/4 cup milk
3 cups powdered sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla

Heat oven to 375F. Grease and flour 13x9-inch pan. In a large bowl, combine all but apples, nuts, and raisins. Beat 3 minutes at medium speed. Stir in apples (and nut/raisins if desired). Pour into greased pan. Bake at 375 for 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely.

For the frosting, melt butter in a medium saucepan. Add brown sugar. Cook over low heat for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add milk. Continue cooking until mixture comes to a rolling boil. Remove from heat. Gradually add powdered sugar and vanilla, mix well. If needed, add more milk 1/2 tsp at a time for desired spreading consistency. Frost cooled cake.

Pumpkin Pie

Submitted by Addy

Filling:

- 1 can pre-spiced pumpkin pie filling
- 1 packet instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 cups whole milk

Crust:

- 1 crushed graham cracker : 1/2 tsp melted butter

Line 9" pie pan with graham cracker crust. Chill crust. Mix all filling ingredients in mixing bowl. Mixture must be smooth. Pour into pie crust to approximately 3/4 full. Let filling set in refrigerator for 3-4 hours (until firm like a mousse or thick pudding). Top with whipped cream. Enjoy!

Deb's Fruit Tart

Submitted by Lori Hall, COVA teacher

- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup Crisco
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder

Peach or cherry pie filling for 9 in pie

Blend all ingredients except the pie filling, flour and baking powder on high for 3 min. Stir in the flour and the baking powder. Spread 2/3 batter in large 15x10 baking pan. Spread fruit on top. Spoon remaining batter over the fruit and swirl it.

Bake 45 min at 350*

Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 drops almond extract

Pumpkin Cream Cheese Muffins

(from fresh baked pumpkins)

Submitted by Brooke C.

Mix streusel:

- 4 1/2 TBSP flour
- 5 TBSP sugar
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 3 TBSP butter
- Set aside

Beat filling:

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 TBSP brown sugar

Mix batter:

- 2 1/2 c flour
- 2 c sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/3 c pumpkin
- 2 tsp all-spice
- 1/3 c olive oil (or substitute)
- 2 tsp vanilla

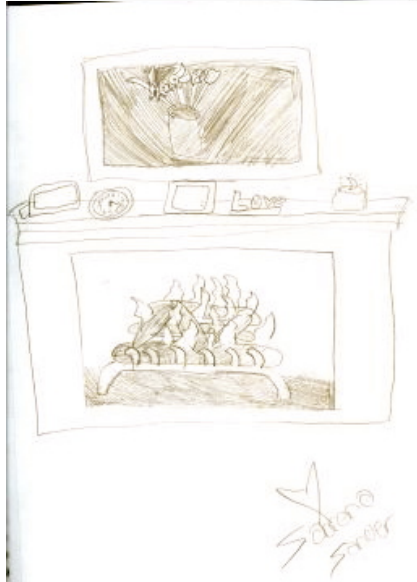
Fill greased muffin pan with 1/2 batter, 1 TBSP filling and cover with streusel. Bake at 375 for 20-25 minutes.

ART
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ARTS
ANGLE

November Leaf Magic

By: M. Vigil

- 1.. Find a nice leaf
2. Put it on a flat surface
3. Cover the leaf with a piece of paper
4. Crayon on the paper over the leaf
5. The leaf will magically appear



EYE ON SPORTS



Denver Broncos Stampede to a 6-0 Start!!

By: Ashley L.

The Denver Broncos started the season with a 6-0 lead. The first week they played was against the Bengals. 4th quarter, 34 seconds left, Orton looks to throw it to Marshall but it gets tipped but Stokley who caught it to get a touchdown. Denver wins 12-7.

Next week was against the Browns. The score was 27-6. Week 3 was against one of the Broncos division rivals, the Raiders. The final score was 23-3. Week 4 was the Cowboys and the score was 17-10. Week 5 was a great win for the Denver Broncos coach, Josh McDaniels, as he beat his former team the New England Patriots. The final score was 20-17. Week 6, the Broncos traveled to San Diego for Monday night football to face the Chargers. The final score was 34-23. The Denver Broncos will go into the by-week with a start of 6-0 so far.

Did you know that the Denver Broncos have won more games in the regular season than any other team in the NFL since the 1960s? So, all you Broncos fans keep cheering for your Denver Broncos!

The next game is November 1st at 11:10 am, against the Baltimore Ravens. Don't miss it!

En Pointe by Emilee C.

Here are a few tips on being a ballerina. If you want to be a ballerina, you need to be serious about your feet, your hands, and how you look. Your hair needs to be in a bun, nice and neat. You must wear pink tights, (unless you're

a boy, then you wear black pants), black leotard without a skirt, and pink ballet slippers with no bows. It takes a lot of work to be a good dancer, so don't complain! Practice every day! You'll only get better if you do! Practicing will help you become stronger and more flexible from your head to your toes! Eat healthy meals and snacks and limit

candy and sweets. Drink lots of water too. Never skip class and try to be on time. When in class, be respectful to your teacher and don't play or talk. It's distracting and very rude.

It's a lot of fun to dance and if you work hard you will feel confident, strong and happy. Being a ballerina is awesome!

MEET THE NEWSPAPER TEAM:

Lori Hall:

Lori is the COVA teacher in charge of the COVA Chronicle. She helps organize the monthly publications and gives the newspaper team guidance with their articles. Lori has been teaching with COVA as a MS English teacher for the past three years. Lori grew up in a very small farming community called Idalia, Colorado. There were only eight kids in her graduating high school class! Lori played basketball, volleyball and ran track in high school. Lori currently enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with her family which consists of three small children ages 6, 4, and almost 2. As a child, Lori also loved to make mud pies and can't wait to make her next pie with her daughters. I do miss hiding money in the dirt roads so it would be there to buy that special toy on shopping day.

Alethea Crane:

Alethea helped design the COVA Chronicle, plugging in all the spectacular articles and stories written by our talented students, filling in photographs and creating the page designs. She is a very talented artist and graphic designer and has been recognized with

various awards for both her art and photography. Her interests include reading, yoga and spending time with her fabulous family ~ husband James, daughter Emilee [a COVA 2nd grader and Chronicle contributor!], 6 month old daughter Abby, and Miniature Schnauzer son, Frank.

Trish Coberly:

Trish serves the newspaper team as the webpage designer. She designs webpages for many business. Her site is <http://www.cob-webcreations.com/>. Trish is amazing at digital scrapbooking and greatly enjoys spending time with her two sons and husband. As a child, Trish loved to make mud pies and her parents had a flock of Ostriches. Trish played basketball and volleyball in high school and has known Lori Hall for the past 32 years. They played as babies and used to hide money in the dirt road...long story.

Aspen D.

Aspen is in the 7th grade in Mrs. Jen Jonson's homeroom class. Aspen's favorite cereal is Peanut Butter Captain Crunch. Someday, Aspen hopes to be an author and professional Ice Skater. She placed 4th in the National Skating Competition this August. Aspen brings a beautiful

writing style to the newspaper team.

Owen M.

Owen is an 8th grader in Mrs. Tara Abramson's homeroom class. He enjoys his Raisin Bran and likes the color blue. He hopes to become an inventor or graphic designer. He likes to do model railroading and likes to read. He also enjoys hiking, biking, rock climbing, kayaking, working with Lego's and doing computer design. He really, really likes pickles. Look for Owen's excellent works throughout the COVA Chronicle.

Angela M.

Angela is a 4th grader in Mrs. Arndt's Homeroom Class. She loves Cinnamon Toast Crunch. She hopes to become a singer and songwriter or a Psychologist. She loves cats, swimming and painting. Classical music is her favorite. She has a waterbed and loves the retro 70's style. Look for her unique writing style in the COVA Chronicle.

Angela R.

Angela is an 8th grader in Mrs. Chrissy Thorsen's Homeroom Class. She loves Frosted Mini Wheats. She hopes to become a lawyer and have her own law firm. She is also considering becoming a Pediatrician. She enjoys

cheerleading, dance and gymnastics. She has an autistic brother whom she loves dearly. Angela brings charisma to the COVA Chronicle.

Ethan C.

Ethan is in the 3rd grade in Mrs. Beach's Homeroom Class. He enjoys his morning bowl of frosted flakes and likes the color of dark blue. He hopes to become an Imagineer for Disney. He likes to do Tae Kwon Do, baseball and rock climbing. He has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Ethan brings a great imagination to the COVA Chronicle.

James A.

James is a 5th grader in Mrs. Tamela Verlare's Homeroom Class. He loves to eat Cookie Crisp. He hopes to one day become an electrician. He enjoys football, reading and learning about animals. He has held a baby tiger and his papa is currently working in Africa. James brings an interesting writing style to the COVA Chronicle.

Adrianna (Addy) D.

Addy is an 8th grader in Mrs. Tara Abramson's Homeroom Class. She will eat just about any cereal for breakfast and her favorite color is blue. She hopes to become an actress and singer. She enjoys playing the violine,

singing, reading and randomly drawing. She is interested in playing the guitar. She knows all the words to 43 Jobro songs and all the words to most of the songs in Time Burton movies. She has an interesting style and personality which can be seen in her COVA Chronicle articles.

Catalina B.

Catalina is a 4th grader in Mrs. Dible's Homeroom Class. Her favorite Cereal is Cinnamon Toast Crunch and she loves the color blue-green. She hopes to one day become a famous artist. She enjoys drawing, reading, playing and doing crafts. She has a mini dachshund named Jasmine. Catalina brings a fresh writing style to the COVA Chronicle.

Daiquiri P.

Daiquiri is a 7th grader in Mrs. Tara Abramson's homeroom class. She loves her Crunch Berries and likes the color light blue. She hopes to one day become a Pediatrician. She likes drawing and surfing the web. When she was in the second grade, she had a poem published. Daiquiri brings a great writing perspective to the COVA Chronicle.

Ashley L.

Ashley is a Freshman. Mrs. Trajtenberg's is her advisor. She loves to eat

Lucky Charms and enjoys the colors purple and green. She hopes to make it big time as a news reporter for a newspaper. She enjoys playing softball, sleeping, writing, playing on the X-box 360 and drawing. Ashley has lived in three states. Look for her great articles in the COVA Chronicle.

Clarissa S.

Clarissa is a Junior. Her advisor is Mrs. Piotrowski. Her favorite breakfast is Frosted Mini Wheats and she loves the color blue. She hopes to someday become an author. She enjoys reading, drawing, writing and horseback riding. Interestingly enough, she has six younger brothers and sisters and her favorite animal is the unicorn. Look for her amazing novel in the COVA Chronicle.

Sonja H.

Sonja is a 7th grader in Scott Tomko's homeroom class. Her favorite cereal is Count Chocula and favorite color is purple. Her dream job is still undecided. She has plenty of time to make that decision! She loves writing, reading and taking pictures. She covers the walls of her room with posters. Look for her creative writing style in the COVA Chronicle.

Abby W.

Abby is a 3rd grader in Ms. Deb Sudbeck's homeroom class. She loves to eat Honey Nut Cheerios. She hopes to become an author and enjoys roller skating, drawing and starting clubs in her free time. Interestingly enough, this young lady has already written 14 books! Look for her attention catching articles in the COVA Chronicle.

Alysa N.

Alysa is a Junior. Her advisor is Ms. Melissa Rojo. She loves Chex for breakfast and enjoys the color midnight blue. She hopes to become a writer. She loves writing! She has two dogs. Wonder is a cross between a husky and a beagle and Tigger is a miniature pincher. Look for Alysa's excellent writing style in the COVA Chronicle.

Eden N.

Eden is 6th grader in Alexis Rubin's homeroom class. She enjoys Captain Crunch for breakfast and loves the color purple. She hopes to become a singer, actress or fashion designer. She enjoys scrapbooking, reading and writing. She once won a second place medal in an ice skating competition. Eden has an excellent writing fashion

which can be found in the COVA Chronicle.

Kathleen D.

Kathleen is a 5th grader in Molly Kennedy's homeroom class. She loves Corn Pops in the morning and the color turquoise. She enjoys cartooning and doing comic design. She also likes sewing, singing and dancing. She has a pomeranian that looks like a wolf! So scary! Watch for her excellently written articles in the COVA Chronicle.

Francesca G.

Francesca is a 2nd grader in Ms. Dibel's homeroom class. Her favorite breakfast consists of Fruit Loops. She hopes to someday become a doctor and an author. She loves reading, drawing, singing and dancing. For Halloween, she is going to be a cat and her sister is going to be a puppy! So cute! Look for her great editions to the COVA Chronicle.

Kelsey D.

Kelsey is a 4th grader in Christina Perkins homeroom class. She loves Marshmallow Maties for breakfast and hot pink is her choice of color. Kelsey hopes to become a Veterinarian Zoologist. She enjoys crafts, horseback riding, geocaching, playing with friends, hiking and

mountain biking. She has lived in three states and plays the drums. She has flown an airplane, her dad is a pilot, and has a Guinea Pig named Buddy. Look for Kelsey's wonderful works in the COVA Chronicle.

Ferris F.

Ferris is a 5th grader in Ms. Lynne Sommer's homeroom class. Ferris loves to eat porridge for breakfast. Ferris hopes to become an artist or author and loves drawing, writing, reading and playing with the pet kitten. Ferris has talent in jumping rope, playing the recorder and writing poetry. Ferris has never, yes, NEVER had sugar! Look for Ferris's excellent editions to the COVA chronicle.

Emilee C.

Emilee is a 2nd grader in Ms. Lynne Sommer's homeroom class. She loves Life Cereal and the color pink. She hopes to become a professional ballet dancer and wants to teach Horseback Riding. She enjoys art, music, dance, swimming on warm summer days, riding her bike, playing in the snow, creating characters for stories and playing with her baby sister, Abby. Watch for her excellently written articles on ballet in the COVA Chronicle!

Jordan S.

Jordan is a 6th grader in Mrs. Marcee Taylor-Westwood's homeroom class. Jordan's favorite color is purple. She likes acting and writing. Jordan absolutely despises math but does it anyway because she knows she needs to learn it to have a bright future. Jordan's articles for the COVA Chronicle are very inspiring.

Miranda S. Is an 8th grader in Mrs. Lori Hall's homeroom class. She

loves a good bowl of cheerios and the color purple. She hopes to become an engineer and writer. She enjoys writing stories, reading, doing karate, dancing and horseback riding. She also likes to build with Lego's and do yarn crafts. She went on a cruise to Mexico in early September. She remembers getting free ice cream! Look for her amazing writing talent in the COVA Chronicle.

Joshua D.

Joshua is currently a 7th grader. He is a former student of Mrs. Lori Hall. He is currently serving as a missionary in Cyprus with his family.

Ben B.

Ben is a 7th grader in Mrs. Wingard's homeroom class.

Noah B.

Noah is a 6th grader in Mrs. Hall homeroom class.

Olivia C.

Olivia is in Mrs. Matthew's homeroom class.

Sydney C.

Sydney is a 3rd grader in Mrs. Cicco's homeroom class.

Estrella C.

Estrella is an 8th grader in Mrs. Rianda's homeroom class.

Lydia F.

Lydia is a 7th grader in Mrs. Hall's homeroom class.

Angela M.

Angela is a 4th grader in Mrs. Arndt's homeroom class.

Jacqueline M.

Jacqueline is a 7th grader in Mrs. Jen Jonson's homeroom class.

Lily O.

Lily is a 5th grader in Mrs. Tamela Valare's homeroom class.

Amanda R.

Amanda is a 7th grader in Mrs. Thorsen's homeroom class.

Sebrena S.

Sebrena is a 7th grader in Mrs. Matthew's homeroom class.

Jessica S.

Jessica is a Senior. Her advisor is Mrs. Harr.

Michaela V.

Michaela is a Freshman. Her advisor is Ms. Posedek.

Ashley W.

Ashley is a Freshman. Her advisor is Ms. Posedek.

COVA Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 21st, 2007

Lorem ipsum dolor sitamet

August 30th, 2007

Lorem ipsum dolor sit

October 2nd, 2007

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March 15th, 2008

Consectetur adipisc

May 19th, 2008

Consectetur adipisc dolor

April 3rd, 2008

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