‘Tis the Season to Serve

Bake Sale Extravaganzas Aid Charities

By Jack Litchfield

Doughnuts, Krystals, and COD, oh my! Several Junior School advisories have already organized bake sales that have raised money for good charities and given 7th and 8th graders somewhere to play video games and pig out before school and during break! The four much-anticipated bake sales that have taken place so far have been very successful, starting with Mr. Russ’s bake sale on Thursday, October 7th.

Mr. Russ’s advisory kicked off the bake sale season with a boom. Since he was the first bake sale of the school year, students swarmed to his classroom to enjoy candy, sodas, and more. This bake sale raised $530, which will be donated to Children’s Cup International Relief. This charity is an organization with humanitarian food and medical missions in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Spiegl’s advisory was the next to host a bake sale on Thursday, October 28th. This Halloween-themed bake sale was decorated with spooky strobe lights and equally spooky decorations. A cool Halloween twist to this bake sale was showing The Simpsons: Treehouse of Horror. Students also stormed the Call of Duty section.

Ms. Vaughan’s class was the first seventh-grade class to host a bake sale on November 4th. Goods sold out fast and Halo:Reach was a success as well despite some technical difficulties with the Xbox 360. This bake sale was admittedly a learning experience for the seventh graders, but as class president I think it is safe to say that it was an achievement for Ms. Vaughan’s advisory. Our money will be donated to the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital to buy supplies and gifts to cheer up injured and sick children during the holidays.

Mrs. Christeson’s advisory organized a very successful bake sale on Tuesday, November 9. This highly anticipated event was centered on the release of Call of Duty: Black Ops that was made available in stores that night at midnight. Some were thrilled with the game while others were disappointed, but this was a great bake sale nonetheless. Six hundred dollars was raised to help Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

Harpeth Hall eighth graders had a joint service project on Saturday, November 13th to organize toiletries and other necessary items for Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Three hundred and eighty dollars was spent by Mrs. Christeson and two of her advisory members at Target where they bought socks, shampoo, diapers, soap and other items for the service project; the rest of the money was given directly to Mobile Loaves and Fishes to buy food for men, women, and children benefited by this program.

Congratulations to all the advisories who organized a bake sale for your hard work! They were all successful, and it is great that the money is going towards excellent causes. Students enjoy the candy, sodas, baked goods, and Krystals while charities are greatly benefited by the donations they receive from the fundraising. Bake sales are a great way to work with your advisory and help the community and I encourage you and your advisory to organize one.
Microbes Participate in Record “Race for the Cure”
By Matt Miccioli

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® is a special event raising money for its partner, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® foundation. Since 1982, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® has invested over 1.5 billion dollars in the hope of finding a cure for breast cancer. Because almost everyone knows someone who has been affected by this disease, the MBA community holds this event close to their hearts.

On a chilly October morning, over one hundred MBA students woke up early and participated in the Middle Tennessee 2010 Race for the Cure. The race started in front of the Maryland Farms YMCA and wove through the heart of Brentwood. Students ran in the race, donated money, and worked at the MBA table in an all-out service project, showing the student body’s commitment. The students’ work paid off; MBA was the leading donor with $28,654 raised, exceeding our goal of $25,000. This remarkable effort by MBA will benefit the foundation greatly and hopefully make a difference in the fight against breast cancer. The MBA students truly showed their service initiative and dedication to the community through this project.

8th Grade Service Project for Mobile Loaves and Fishes


Parks Ball and William Snow work with some students from Harpeth Hall.

Gregory Quesinberry, Charles Hunter, Ethan Rudolph, and Grant Myers

John, Josh Rickerman, and Nathan
Coat Drive Brings Welcome Warmth

By Daniel Bishop

As the exams and Christmas grow closer, we all have the privilege of a closet full of warm coats. Meanwhile, others do not have this privilege. Coach Cooper’s advisory has found a way to spread the privilege of warm coats to everybody in Nashville, a yearly coat drive. This is the eighth and most successful year so far. The advisory has collected two hundred coats so far and taken them to the Nashville Rescue Mission where the mission hands them out six days a week. The Nashville Rescue Mission is totally dependent upon donations and not only hands out coats but also serves three meals a day to the hungry. There is no limit as to how many coats a man needs, so the mission hands them all out with no limit per person. The coat drive will continue until December 3. With the last coat run to the mission being the following week. Thanks to all who have donated and spread the privilege of coats to the less fortunate. The people at the Rescue Mission greatly appreciate it!

Mr. Cooper’s advisory getting ready to head out with their truckload of winter warmth.

School Supply Drive Follow-up

By Aaron Kaplan

On October 25, 2010, I had the privilege of delivering many school supplies collected through last year’s School Supply Drive at MBA to the Caldwell Elementary School in East Nashville. Through generous donations of supplies and money, the drive collected over five-hundred dollars’ worth of supplies that will greatly benefit the school.

I have connected with the Caldwell School through the Shade Tree Clinic, a Vanderbilt-run clinic located in East Nashville. The clinic offers free and low-cost medical care to the people who need it. The clinic is primarily run by Vanderbilt students who donate their time and effort to help the people living in the neighborhood. The clinic not only provides medical care, but it also sponsors and organizes outreach programs in the community. Programs such as a football league and a community garden greatly enhance the lives of the local residents.

I had the honor of touring the neighborhood’s elementary school, meeting its principal, and seeing the students. In a needy neighborhood, the school offers a kind and educational environment for its students. The school, however, greatly lacks many of the resources to which all of us have had access throughout our careers as students. The school supply drive’s purpose was to give back to our community and enhance it. By donating educational resources to these needy children, we are changing their lives and making efforts to give them the educational experience that we have been so privileged to have.

Much credit is due to many of you – MBA students – for your generous contributions to this significant cause. I look forward to working more with the Caldwell School, and I hope that there will be future opportunities for MBA students to get involved.

Aaron Kaplan presents the donations from MBA to the principal of Caldwell School.
MBA Dominates USN Halloween Chess Tournament

By Alvin Zhang

On October 30, MBA sent a team of four students to USN for the annual Halloween chess tournament. There were people dressed up in costumes ranging from grim reapers to ghouls (and the occasional werewolf), but that didn’t make the tournament any less serious. The length of the tournament was fairly short compared to other tournaments (most tournaments usually last between 1-2 hours per game!), but for some, the thirty minutes each person had was quite long. This tournament was a “qualifier,” meaning that if you got 1st or 2nd place, you would qualify for the Nashville City Championship. This guaranteed a lot of tough competition, but in the end, MBA pulled through and took home first place for the high school section.

In addition, everybody on the MBA team got an individual award. Sal Neglia took first place after winning all five of his games; Stephen Bedard and Max Werthan became the first and second place unrated players, and Alvin Zhang received second place in the Junior High section after winning four of his five games. This was a great tournament and everybody had fun (except for the people from Hume Fogg). I hope next time more people from MBA can come to these chess tournaments.

MBA Takes First in Mathleague Competition

By Alvin Zhang

On November 4, a busload of MBA Mathletes attended the annual Mathleague competition, held at Pope John Paul II Catholic High School. There were sections ranging from Algebra 1 to calculus, so students of almost any math skill level could attend. Although there was a lot of confusion upon arrival, students quickly found their way to the right room to take their tests. After taking the forty minute test, students had an hour or two to go to the cafeteria for snacks (I liked the “Jungle Juice” they had there) or watch different schools compete one-on-one in timed math contests (with buzzers and everything) called quizbowls. After that the awards were announced, and MBA ended up taking first place in almost every section including a combined score of 190/200 for Algebra 1. This was a great victory for MBA, and I hope MBA can keep doing this well so we can win back some more math trophies.
All right, guys. The inevitable is approaching: mid-term examinations. They will be here before you know it, and the studying must begin NOW. Here are some tips for success, first by course, and then some general tips covering exams as a whole.

Science-IPS: 7th grade science is generally a pretty tough course due to the large number of formulas to master and memorization of rules/laws/theories. Those who master the aforementioned items are in great shape for the exam. Try to list, practice, and memorize all of the formulas covered in the first semester. Also review notes, especially charts or diagrams that your teacher has designated as important. Be sure to understand key concepts covered in each unit.

Science-Earth Science: This class requires knowledge of many terms and tables for classification of certain things. Few formulas are utilized, but the ones which are used are important. Be sure to go over notes in thorough detail, and review the tests and quizzes.

Math: For both years of math, many of the problems are similar, and the ideas build on each other. Review problems that have been on quizzes and tests, as these are the most likely ones to be on the exam. The best way to study for this exam is to actually do the problems that are important and/or discussed in class (or on the review sheet for some classes).

Latin: For most people, Latin becomes a challenge once they start forgetting vocabulary and the ending charts. Vocabulary should be drilled on a daily basis. Also, studying from old quizzes and tests is a great way to prepare. Practice translating by reading the Ecce Romani I book, and then translating it in its entirety.

English: The books/short stories/poems read and discussed should be reviewed thoroughly through the use of previous quizzes and tests. Notes from each day of class should be heavily reviewed, especially the themes or recurring ideas in books. Significant quotes need to be covered as well as plot elements.

Grammar/Vocabulary: The rules discussed in the Big Red Rule Book are very important, as well as diagramming. Prepare a review packet from old homeworks and quizzes/tests, and practice diagramming with sample sentences. For vocabulary, make a list of all of the words and their synonyms and antonyms, and study it daily. I know it seems tedious, but it helped me immensely last year.

History/Cultural Geography: In both of these classes, notes are a vital part to learning the material covered in class, so study the notes! Study your old tests and quizzes. Prepare a list of possible short answers/identifications/essays, and practice them. For geography, review map quizzes and locations of significance.

Now that each course has been covered, some general tips are below:

- It almost goes without saying, but GO TO HELP SESSION. Sometimes just listening to other students’ questions helps. Also, be sure to clarify any last-minute questions or concepts before the exam.
- Do not just study for the exam the next day, but study for all of the remaining ones as well.
- Go to sleep at a decent hour (no COD until 3am).
- Eat a good breakfast and get to school on time—nothing is worse than walking into an exam late.

Hopefully, through these tips I have offered you some insight on how to excel on your exams. Good luck!!! You will need it, 7th graders.
ON THE HILL

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Lord of the Flies

A Cast Member’s Perspective

By Harry Stewart

On Thursday, November 18, the cast and crew of the play Lord of the Flies, wonderfully directed by Mr. Morrison, bravely went into opening night. Tensions were running high, but the pre-show pep talk helped to ease some stress.

Let’s go back to the start of it all. Eight weeks before the show, the tryouts took place, and it was one of the largest turnouts in MBA history, probably due to the fact that everybody knows the story. Then, just a few days after the cast list was posted, the first read through of the script really started to show what the show could turn out to be.

The next big milestone in the show was the first off-book day, which means the first day to run through the show without a script. This practice really was a wakeup call to everybody in the cast. Then, a few weeks after that, the full run throughs of the show started. When these started, the show really began to come together.

With the opening night really getting close, dress rehearsals caused lots of excitement among the ranks. Although the first time the fog machines were used was just two days before opening night, everything was coming together. Also on Tuesday was the unveiling of the cast T-shirts.

The play had many great features; one feature that shocked me was the fact that the conch was actually real. Before the play, I was wondering how the actors were going to cope without a conch. Turns out, there was an actual conch which, according to Harry Stewart, was bought off the Internet. I believe the conch made the play much more exciting. I also enjoyed the stage, although I was perplexed at first, because I wondered how fire was being made on the green-blue part of the stage, because I thought it was water. I later figured out it was actually the forest/mountain. Another great effect was the use of the smoke machine under the stage. I also enjoyed the well-executed death of Piggy. The horror of Piggy’s death was heightened by the cast’s use of the Greek theatrical style. While the audience saw Piggy be pushed off the cliff, his death upon the rocks occurred offstage, allowing the audience to imagine his shattered body below.

Overall, the stage and the effects were outstanding, and the lighting crew, led by sophomore Paul Moore, was also excellent, as usual. The Band also did an exceptional job of providing background music and music during the intermission, not to mention that they composed the music themselves.

What more is there to say? Lord of the Flies was another great addition to MBA’s series of outstanding plays. Congratulations to the cast, band, tech crew, and Mr. Morrison for this exceptional play!

... and the Audience Responds:

By Kang Huh

In the week before Thanksgiving, the performances of William Golding’s Lord of the Flies directed by the illustrious Mr. Malcolm Morrison filled the week with excitement, as devoted readers and interested students alike flocked to the auditorium to see the play. The main characters, Ralph and Jack were played by Phillip Danieley and Ford Altenbern. In addition, many critical roles were played by Junior School students. The play featured the talents of Harry Stewart as Piggy, Luke and Ryan Barrick as Sam and Eric, Jackson Rich as Henry, and Lawrence Rogers as Perceval. Jess Darnell, Garrett Fuller, Nicholas Heim, and Henry Moxley were in the ensemble.

Finally, on opening night, there was a lot of stress, but finally the show came together and the cast was flooded with relief. The cast party after the play the next night was a huge hit. At long last, the fourth showing on Sunday arrived. After the set strike was a little depressing because everybody was sad to stop the show. Then, the poster signing took place, and the show was finally over.
Ford Altenbern and Phillip Danieley

Chris Goodrich as Simon

Jackson Rich as Henry

Luke and Ryan Barrick as Sam and Eric

Lawrence Rogers as Perceval

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Construction Update

by Kang Huh

On Friday, November 19, Aaron Kaplan, William Richardson, Cameron Travis, and I went on an exclusive hard hat tour of the construction that is going on our campus. We were led by maintenance director, Mr. David Norton, and construction director, Mr. Layne Fuson. We visited areas like the new road, pedestrian bridge, and the parking garage. Although everything doesn’t look like much right now, Mr. Fuson says the new buildings will be very large upon completion. As of now, the MBA construction is the second largest in Nashville behind the Convention Center with one thousand yards of concrete already applied to the campus, and one hundred more yards coming. This concrete is actually made from the rock debris that came from the blasting earlier in the year, so there is no waste here! According to Mr. Fuson, the Parent Company (the company doing the construction) has saved 75% of their funds. The use of these rocks is eco-friendly and cost saving, which helps everyone.

When we went to the parking lot construction site, we saw the concrete mixer. Even though we hoped it would pour concrete, it didn’t, lowering our morale, but we still moved on. We also saw the new pipe systems, one of which had water from the creek flowing out of it. On the way to the parking lot, we saw where the construction workers were working on a new pedestrian bridge across the creek. Then we went to the top of the parking lot area to the site of the future soccer field where we got a semi-aerial view. Speaking of aerial views, I tried to convince Cameron to harness himself to the crane and take a full aerial shot, but for some reason, he didn’t want to. Back to the soccer field, after the parking lot is finished, the construction workers will cover it with 9 more inches of concrete for the soccer field. However, the rifle area has not been constructed yet, sadly. After we saw everything, we went back to return our hats, concluding our tour. Overall, the hard hat tour was a great experience that let us know what would be happening to MBA over the years.
The restaurant was pitch black and everything was in a mess. The Star should have been full of customers at this time of day, but the windows were dark. Aadel’s mother sat us down.

“Aadel, your father was at a hardware store when it happened,” she began. “He was getting a new part for the oven when a terrorist came in. He ordered them to get down.” Her entire body was wracked in sobs.

A man got up from the counter. He had been there the whole time, but we hadn’t noticed him. By the looks of him he was a policeman. He said, “Aadel, what she’s trying to say is that your father is dead.”

Aadel dropped to his knees with a look of horror on his face. I understood what he was going through. One second you are having a normal day with your family, the next they disappear. The police officer elaborated saying that his father heroically tackled the terrorist, and in the confusion was shot by the terrorist. He died instantly. The government gives the family time to say goodbye and then puts the body in a cardboard coffin to be placed in the city graveyard.

We went back to The Star after the funeral. The phone rang and Aadel’s mother went to get it. After a minute she rushed back in with incredible news. The ambassador of the U.S. had heard about Aadel’s father and wanted to eat at the restaurant. When she told him about me, he immediately offered to take me home.

I was shocked. Here I was sitting with what I thought was my new family and then out of the blue an opportunity to go home was at my fingertips. I looked at Aadel and he had become a shade of white. We went up to his room, and sat down.

He said, “I knew that one day you would leave us. I just didn’t think that it would be so soon.”

“Me neither, Aadel. I thought I would live with you my whole life. I’ll always think of you as my brother.”

“Well, let’s make the best of our time together, shall we?”

The next day went by in a flash. We were working extra hard for the ambassador. The ambassador walked in.

He was a tall man around the age of 50. He had a certain warmth about him. He said, “Alfred, it is an honor to meet you. To be so young and to see such violence must have been appalling. And to top it off, you started a new life here.”

He continued to console Aadel about the death of his father saying how he was a hero. Then an explosion rattled the streets. Men wearing turbans walked down the street with AK-47s gunning down anyone and everyone who moved. A man with a walrus mustache came in. The man was none other than Khaatamul Anbiya. He pointed a gun at the ambassador and said, “You won’t get away this time. Do you have any last words, you American swine?” And then he gunned the man down. “No, you don’t deserve to say anything to me.”

He looked at Aadel and said, “And this is for what your father did to me.” Aadel froze with a silent scream as a bullet ripped through his head.
Over the course of this year, bedbugs have invaded the United States of America, wreaking havoc on their fresh, warm-blooded meals. *Cimex lectularius*, the common bedbug, has been used in common sayings such as ‘don’t let the bedbugs bite,’ but now, jokes like these are literal. Now, these merciless cretins really will bite you with their tiny proboscis intruding into your skin and sucking your blood; try imagining that next time you go to sleep.

The bedbugs are in New York, Chicago, Toronto, and Ohio; the main point is that they’re everywhere; they are an omnipresent force you just can’t get rid of. If you don’t know what bedbugs are, they are tiny parasitic insects like fleas and ticks that feast on your blood every time they touch you. Bedbugs are in these areas because the cities like New York are cold and have a presence on a large body of water, making a perfect spawning place. Bedbugs are an issue to these cities because they drive tourists away. For cities like New York, no tourism is equal to $30 billion dollars lost revenue (as of 2008). Places like the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel (and others) have been raided by bedbugs. Luckily, they have been eradicated, but they should always be prepared for more, because the battle is not over. Bedbugs can make a fresh new army of 400 in days. Bedbugs are like plants, per se, weeds, that have to be taken out by the root. Bedbugs can’t just be killed by the bug; they have to have the eggs removed to get the job done. But, there are also more bedbugs around you, so more bedbugs from your surroundings will probably invade you again.

One question that arises is that of how the bedbugs infest areas. One way a bedbug can decisively enter the home is via the house pet. Whether the pet is taking a stroll on the lawn or tearing its way through a forest, bedbugs see a pet as a free ticket to heaven and latch on to the animal and come to the home, soon finding that there are more, even larger hosts. Basically, the bedbug has “struck gold” and will breed and infest the home. Bedbugs can also invade by traveling with a human going from one place to another for vacation, perhaps. The bedbug can get in the luggage and clothing and invade either your or the other’s home, depending on who had the bedbugs to begin with. Finally, the most obvious means of invasion is by the bedbug’s traveling from one place to another, much like the traveling human. Overall, once the bedbug enters the home, it will wreak havoc on the household, unless evasive action is taken.

Another important question that presents itself is how to exterminate them. The most obvious way is to call the exterminator. If you’re too stingy to spend a couple dollars, you’re in luck. There are numerous “home remedies,” which include plastic bed wraps, tape (preferably duct tape), and plastic bags. The first step is to wrap the mattress in plastic bed wrap. Then, seal the plastic with duct tape. Then, wash all of your clothes and secure them in a plastic bag, as bedbugs can migrate. Do not sleep on another place like the couch, because bedbugs can not only be in beds, but can also be in couches, so do not sleep on the couch unless you want more bedbugs and more mayhem.

Overall, bedbugs are pesky parasites that are easily killed if drastic measures are taken. My advice is to always keep some Raid handy, because you don’t know when an invasion will occur.

Bedbug MADNESS

by Kang Huh
Carter’s Top Five Holiday Hit-the-Slopes Hot Spots

By Carter Lovvorn

It is winter again and time to go skiing and snowboarding. After doing much research, I have come up with a list of the best places to go skiing in 2010 from all different aspects of the resorts. These aspects are difficulty, powder, village/night life, and best-kept secrets. The resorts I chose are Crested Butte, CO; Squaw Valley, CA; Snowbird, UT; Jackson Hole, WY; and Whistler/Blackcomb, BC, Canada.

At number five I have Crested Butte, Colorado. This mountain is rated as one of the most difficult mountains in the USA and Canada. It has rocky chutes and cliffs up to forty feet high making it respected by its skiers. Crested Butte is a well-kept secret by locals to help keep lift lines short. Despite the locals, this mountain is starting to get internationally noticed for its excellent snow and terrain. “The Butte” will no longer be a secret in years to come.

Falling at number four is Squaw Valley, California. This mountain’s claim to fame is its nightlife and excellent restaurants. This mountain is great for beginners and experts with its varied terrain. The secret of this mountain came out in 1960 after it hosted the Winter Olympics. Due to its history, Squaw Valley is one of the most popular ski resorts in the USA and Canada.

Number three is Snowbird, Utah. Snowbird is internationally known for its excellent powder. With its massive bowls, Snowbird has a lot of terrain so everyone can get some of the powder. The mountain is filled with expert terrain, making it a difficult mountain to ski. Snowbird is an excellent mountain, but its slopes get more crowded every year. This overcrowding might become a problem in years to come.

At number two is Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This mountain is one of the best-kept secrets in the world. Jackson Hole has a difficult trail map stuffed with expert terrain. Located in the Teton Mountain Range, the mountain is scenic and filled with wildlife. A short drive from the mountain, the town of Jackson has wonderful food and nightlife. The food ranges from trout caught in the local Snake River to elk from the local reserves. With a challenging mountain and excellent village life, Jackson Hole is a sure fit for number two.

Finally, Whistler/Blackcomb, BC, Canada is number one. Hosting last year’s alpine events for the Olympics, these are excellent mountains. Connected by the “Peak 2 Peak” gondola, the two mountains have lots of terrain mainly for experts although it has a prestigious children’s ski school. The mountains have many bowls filled with powder and great tree runs. The night/village life is Whistler’s best aspect. Whistler is an incredible village with restaurants and nightly entertainment. Whistler/Blackcomb has all the aspects of an excellent resort giving it full rights for number one.
Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse salt
- 4 ounces milk chocolate chopped
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon pure peppermint extract
- 3 large eggs
- 45 each round swirled peppermint candies coarsely crushed

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 325. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl; set aside. Melt chocolate and butter in a heatproof mixer bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Attach bowl to mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Add sugar, extracts, and eggs; mix on medium-low speed until combined. Reduce speed to low; mix in flour mixture. Stir in one-third of the candies. Refrigerate dough until firm, about 30 minutes (or wrap in plastic and refrigerate overnight).

2. Using an 1 1/2-inch ice cream scoop, form mounds of dough; dip tops into remaining candies to coat. Place cookies, candy sides up, on baking sheets lined with parchment paper, spacing 2 inches apart. Bake cookies until just set, about 15 minutes. Let cool on sheets on wire racks. Cookies can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature up to 3 days.

These cookies are a great Christmas treat. The peppermint candies melt and re-harden to form a chewy yet crunchy peppermint layer that anyone will love.
Dear Dr. Luv,

Whenever I go to Mixers or sporting events, I can’t figure out how to start a conversation with this girl I like. What are ways to get conversations started?

It’s simple if you just follow these instructions:

1. Look nice so you will have confidence to talk to her.

2. Wear cologne because girls love cologne.

3. Be neat, no facial hair (especially you, Nadir)

4. Brush your teeth!

When first approaching a female mate, start off the conversation by asking a simple question. Don’t bombard her with questions; a question such as “What music do you like?” could spark a conversation like a wildfire. Once the conversation has started, listen to what she has to say. Girls don’t dig it when you try to act too cool for them. Pay attention so you will have something to say in response to her words. Most importantly just be yourself! Be nice! Be gentle and don’t be gross!

Mr. Cooper’s Dream Car

By A. Nonymous

Mr. Cooper shocked us all when he revealed his ultimate dream car, the Mini Cooper. I guess that the name choice of “Cooper” could be part of it, but I had to inquire more about this, so I decided to question him.

Me: Why a Mini Cooper? Why not a Bentley or a Rolls?
Mr. Cooper: Well, it is actually a saner choice than you think, because the Mini is actually a race car.

Me: A race car?!
Mr. Cooper: A race car. In fact, the Mini Cooper was named after John Cooper, a race car driver who tweaked the Mini’s engine, creating the Mini S.

Me: Did he race it?
Mr. Cooper: Yes, he did, and he won at Monte Carlo three times with it. In fact, there is an annual Mini Cooper race every year.

Me: But isn’t the Mini Cooper awfully small?

Mr. Cooper: Well, thanks a lot!

Me: Sorry, just wondering! Thanks for the explanation, anyway!
Mr. Cooper: You’re welcome.

I ran away before he could throw chalk at me.
Violent Video Games

By Nathan Sharp

We’ve all had our parents give us the whole “Video games will turn your brain to mush” speech, but what if this saying actually has a little bit of truth to it, especially when talking about violent video games? Now don’t get me wrong; I myself think some of these games are fun but there are others that might be crossing the line with pointless violence. Video games are of course better than TV (in most cases) because video games stimulate your brain. However, some video games stimulate your brain in the wrong way. Many studies on this topic have been done, and the results are a little bit shocking. One experiment dealt with kids while the other experiment dealt with college students. The study done on the kids was done using an MRI. Half of the kids played Need for Speed, a non-violent game, while the other half played Medal of Honor: Frontline which is an extremely violent video game. The test subjects played the games for thirty minutes, and immediately after the games were finished, the kids were all given MRI’s to look at their brain activities. The half of the kids who played Need for Speed had no changes in their brain activity, while the half that played Medal of Honor: Frontline did, however, reveal a change in brain activity. Their brains showed a marked increase of emotional arousal and decreased brain activity was noted in areas that were responsible for self-control and attention span. Even though the kids only played for thirty minutes, the effects were already clearly visible.

The researchers of this study are not sure if the effects will stay for any period of time or if they are even permanent.

The second study focuses on the lingering effects of these video games. The researchers Brad Bushman and Bryan Gibson picked a group of students and randomly assigned them one of six video games, half of which were violent and half were not. The students then proceeded to play their games for twenty minutes. As they left, half were told to think about their video games for the next 24 hours, and half were told not to. When the students came back the next day, the students who did not think about the video games (violent and non-violent) both tested negative for greater aggression. The students who played non-violent games and thought about them tested negative for raised levels of aggression. However, the students who played violent games and thought about them tested positive for raised aggression levels a full 24 hours after playing them. This shows that the effects of violent games do linger after increased periods of time. Keep in mind that these people only played for twenty minutes and the effects were already apparent. Imagine what the effects would be after multiple game sessions of greater lengths such as two hours which some gamers (our very own Jackson Rich) experience daily.

One of the most important things to remember if you do play violent video games is that they are not anything like real life. These games are fun, but do not let them take control of your life. Parents, the next time your child asks for one of these games, the most effective tool for making your decision is your judgment. Some “M” games are fine to play while others are not. It is up to you to decide.

I hope this article was helpful and if anyone, from gamers to parents, has any questions e-mail me or find me at school.

References:

Renowned gamer, Jackson Rich, shows obvious signs of video game overload.
**The Deathly Hallows Part 1 is Movie Brilliance**

By Conner Huff

_Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1_ is a thrilling movie based on the book _Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows_ by J.K. Rowling. This movie tells the tale of three wizard friends’ (Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger) quest to find and destroy Voldemort’s (the antagonist) seven horcruxes. As Harry, Ron, and Hermione are placed in difficult situations, you are sitting on the edge of your seat excited to see how they slip through the hands of death. The movie follows the book accurately except the plot sequencing is different. The way that they portrayed the scenes from the book in the movie matched most of my imagination especially the Ministry of Magic. This movie was very similar to _Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix_ and _Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince_ but is different from the others. These three movies relate because they are all dark due to Voldemort taking over the wizarding world. Also, the special effects shown during the wizard duels and with the creatures throughout the movie are amazing. _Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1_ is only a set up for part 2 but is still as adventurous and entertaining as the rest of the movie series. This movie has brilliance in every aspect from special effects to following the plot of the book.

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**Skate 3**

By Charles West

On May 2010, EA Sports released _Skate 3_ for Xbox 360 and PS3 gaming systems. This game is the sequel to the earlier games _Skate_ and _Skate 2_. The video game is a third-person skateboarding game with single player and online game modes.

When you first start the game, you will create a character which you will be skating with and your own skateboarding company. The objective of the game is to sell as many skateboards as you can and make your company the biggest in the world. You will have the option to make your own skate logo, create a name for the company, and then you go right to selling boards. The way you sell boards is by completing challenges which appear on the challenge map, or when you pause the game. Some of the challenges are grind all six rails, get a 5,000 point trick on the ledge, or play a game of SKATE against an opponent. This is a game like horse in basketball; you have to land the opponent’s trick if they land, and if not, you get a letter.

_Skate 3_ has new features that were not on the previous game. One of these interesting features is create a park mode. In this mode, you can add new objects and ramps, or you can delete them. In doing this, you can design a skate park just right for you. Also, there is a new challenge in which you can try to beat a professional skateboarder in a skateboarding event. If you win, you get the certain skateboarder’s custom shoes, skateboards, wheels, and much more.

Although EA Sports has added many new and great features, they have done some bad things as well. The graphics are a lot worse than I had hoped. Some of the objects in the game you cannot even tell what they are. It also has glitches in the gameplay. One of these is when you crash, the video image sometimes stays on the fallen body, and your person begins to move around weirdly. The game play is also very boring. It keeps on repeating the same type of challenges and events over and over again. These are some issues that I think EA Sports can work on.

Overall, I give _Skate 3_ a rating of six out of ten. The game is fun for awhile, but you eventually start to notice the major flaws. I hope EA Sports will come out with another _Skate_ game, and fix _Skate 3_’s problems. This game is a pretty fun game, and I recommend it to any of the people who like the previous _Skate_ games.
MEDAL OF HONOR

By Jackson Rich
Xbox Live Gamertag: jrich767

Medal of Honor looks like a great idea on paper, a mix between Call of Duty and Battlefield. Unfortunately mixing two entirely different styles of fighting doesn’t always work out right. Of course, this is just the multiplayer I’m talking about. The single-player campaign is MUCH better. First I’ll talk about the single-player. The campaign oftentimes takes clichéd approaches to levels, (sneaking through the woods with your bearded companion while using a silenced sniper rifle) but some levels are very original and creative. Also the game was trying to be as realistic as possible, and it turned out to be the most realistic game I’ve ever played. With missions that would fit perfectly into the ongoing war in Afghanistan such as rescue missions, gathering intel, providing fire-support from helicopters, and even a level that features a full-scale invasion of one region is immensely detailed and accurate. Unfortunately, this in-depth single-player short-changed itself by, despite very good graphics, having a lot of unpolished bugs, and having a campaign that is even shorter than most first-person shooters.

Now on to the multiplayer...don’t even know where to begin in this endless maze of disappointments and failures. I guess I’ll start with the one good point: it is as realistic as its single-player mode. As for everything else.... The graphics are decent, but not mind-blowing, the system for creating your own classes is very, very limited, and also unimaginative, and the game play never seems to flow right. I’m sure almost everyone who is reading this knows that Call of Duty’s online style is run out of pieces then he is out.

Now, MBA has put a whole new spin on the dreidel. Students have decorated the dreidels with their own unique style. Students also compete to see whose dreidel can stay spinning the longest. They also do tricks with the dreidels such as spinning them upside down and performing bunny hops and flips. However, with this great new game also comes demerits due to excessive spinning. So, remember, respect the dreidel.
Secretariat:  
Great Horse,  
Great Movie

By Benton Dodd

Secretariat by Walt Disney Pictures chronicles the journey of Secretariat, one of the best racehorses of the 20th Century and his journey en route to winning the 1973 Triple Crown. The movie begins as Penny Chenery, played by Diane Lane, mourns the death of her mother and inherits the family stables from her ailing father. While sorting out the affairs of the stables, she discovers that two horses are pregnant. She also finds an old agreement between her father and a rival trainer in which a coin toss would decide who received the first pick of the offspring between a male horse of the rival trainer and two of her father’s female horses, Somethingroyal and Hasty Matilda. The rival won and selected the child of Somethingroyal, and Chenery gets the child of Somethingroyal. The foal of Somethingroyal turns out to be Secretariat. Chenery then fires the old trainer because he has committed fraud against the stables, and she has to find a new trainer. On the recommendation of a friend, Chenery hires Lucien Laurin played by John Malkovich. Laurin then trains Secretariat for his first race, but when he finishes third, the old jockey is fired. Some said the horse wasn’t ready to race yet. Laurin described him early on as lazy, fat, and willful. For that reason Secretariat is dubbed Big Red by Chenery and the stable hands until the day he died.

After a new jockey is hired, Secretariat’s career takes off, and everyone’s fears vanish. In his first season he finishes 7-1 and wins Horse of the Year honors. In his next year, other than a loss at The Woods because of an abscess in his mouth, Secretariat is equally successful leading up to the Triple Crown. Entering the races, hype on Secretariat is high, and he delivers on the hype, going on to win the first two Triple Crown races, the Kentucky Derby and The Preakness, establishing record times. Then to complete the Triple Crown, Secretariat wins the Belmont Stakes by thirty-one lengths, a record that still stands today.

I loved watching Secretariat, but it was also great on a technical scale. The soundtrack was excellent and matched the mood and situations presented perfectly. The cast was also great, with Diane Lane and John Malkovich leading the way. Lane was an excellent lead portraying realistically the dramatic parts of the movie. Malkovich served as a perfect comedic relief for Lane, and their chemistry was obvious. The supporting cast was also strong led primarily by Scott Glenn and Marg Martindale. The story was also very well told and I especially liked a part at the end where a slideshow showed the lives of the real life characters after the events of the movie.

My only issue with the story was that while trying to portray Chenery as a housewife learning to manage Secretariat, Cheney’s family was shown very few times, so believing that she was a loving mother was at times a stretch. Although at times there are emotional parts with her family, these are few and far between.

In terms of believability, for a Disney Movie Secretariat really surprised me and wasn’t cheap or cheesy at all. I would highly recommend Secretariat as a great movie to watch with your family. Your younger siblings will understand the plot, and your parents will be pleased with it as well. I give Secretariat a 9/10. It was truly a great movie, and I hope you will take the time to watch it.

In addition to being a great movie, there is also an interesting connection to MBA. One of MBA’s teachers, Mr. Gordon Chenery, is actually Penny Chenery’s second cousin. I met up with Mr. Chenery and asked him a few questions. He said that although he and Penny were never really close, she had been portrayed well by Disney. He also said that he liked the movie, but that he had a few comments. One he said that the Chenery family farm’s beauty wasn’t fully captured by the set design. Two, he said that he thought the conflict between the trainer and Chenery wasn’t as tense, nor as in depth as in real life. He did say that most of the events of the movie were realistic and didn’t stray too far from fact, and that it was a good movie.
Happy Holidays Crossword

Across
1. A kind of African hyena - unlike other hyenas, it mainly eats insects
5. Light particle
6. ____ like teen spirit. Strange name, great song
9. In a ____ Idiom for "in a short summary".
11. The Baker rifle was named after ____ Baker
13. Norse god of thunder
14. The Chevrolet Impala is currently on its ____ generation

Down
2. The formal name for "&"
3. One with clumsy hands
4. The oldest American automobile marque
7. The value of the golden ratio
8. Thousands of these cells make up a scab
10. The lowest-scoring super bowl ever was played by the Dolphins and the

12. A group of whales is called ____


Call of Duty: Black Ops

By Werner Bradshaw
Rating: 8.8/10

Call of Duty: Black Ops, made by Treyarch, was one of the most anticipated game releases this fall. The game was released November 9, 2010. It would be nearly impossible for any game in the Call of Duty series to live up to its hype. Black Ops is not a perfect game, as expected, but it satisfies the needs of most gamers.

For those of you who don’t know, Black Ops is a first person shooter game based in the Cold War. The campaign is one of the game’s strongest features. In the campaign, there is a twist. You have been brainwashed. You do not know where you are. Also, you are fighting through flashbacks. There is very little room for improvement in the campaign, although the campaign is not perfect.

Also, Zombie Mode is back! New maps have been added to this feature of the game, along with old maps from Treyarch’s previous game, Call of Duty: World at War. In this mode you are a soldier trapped in a certain building and you cannot get out. To earn money, you have to fight off zombies that are constantly attacking you. The money you earn can unlock better weapons and more areas to maneuver to on the map. You can also be President Kennedy and fight off zombies from your office in the Pentagon.

Finally, is the multiplayer option. The multiplayer is completely redesigned. There are, of course, the “core” game modes of Domination, Team Deathmatch, Search and Destroy, and Ground War. Also, there is a new addition of the Wager Match. On Wager Match, players only get a certain type of weapon and have to put their COD points on the line. COD points are a form of currency in Black Ops. Players earn these points by completing challenges and contracts. COD points are used to buy weapons, weapon attachments, camouflages, contracts, and much, much more. But, there are some downsides to the multiplayer. The graphics are much worse than previous games in the Call of Duty games. Also, the maps are too simple. Treyarch spent too much time worrying about the customization and not the core necessities for a good game. Overall, the game is an exciting one, and I recommend this game to anyone looking for an exciting, first-person shooter gaming experience.

Fallout: New Vegas

By Jackson Rich
Xbox Live Gamertag: jrich767

Ever since I first stepped out of the vault and into Fallout 3’s capitol wasteland two-and-a-half years ago, I have been in love with the fallout universe. The sequel to Fallout 3’s resounding success is Fallout: New Vegas, a free-roaming game set in post-apocalyptic Las Vegas, now known as New Vegas. However, the actual Vegas strip is very small, and the vast majority of the game is played in the Mojave Desert. New Vegas doesn’t have an online mode, which was a turn-off for a lot of people, but its single player is so action packed with so many quests, challenges, and places to explore that it takes easily takes over 200 hours to play. I probably have somewhere around 20 hours logged into the game and haven’t even beaten the main storyline, never mind the side quests. The game has a staggering number of collectable items and side quests, but the Fallout universe is also filled with a large number of funny characters and zany moments. The game has a ranking system where as you earn XP for killing baddies or completing quests, you rank up and you will unlock new weaponry that can be bought, perks, and upgraded abilities. The game’s graphics are not great, but that is because the map is so unbelievably huge. The graphics don’t really bother me though, because everything else is so fun. New Vegas’ campaign basically lets you work for four factions vying for control over New Vegas and the nearby Hoover dam: The New California Republic, which has a system of government based off of pre-war ideas of government: Caesar’s Legion, a group of ruthless slave traders trying to unit all of apocalyptic U.S. under one banner: Mr. House, the mysterious overlord of the strip or yourself. When you begin the game, it seems like the obvious choice for a player with good morality would be the NCR, but, as the game progresses, you learn more and more about all the Factions, making the answer not so clear. Now this game is HIGHLY addictive and if you have a love of free-roaming games, I ABSOLUTELY recommend that you buy this game. Overall I give it a 9.5/10.
MLB Baseball Recap

By David Gaw

The baseball season has finally ended after a tough 7 month season. The predictions did not match the results. If you had picked the San Francisco Giants and the Texas Rangers to go to the World Series on Opening Day, people would have told you that you were crazy. Even when the playoffs began two and a half weeks ago, a Giants versus Rangers World Series seemed like a huge long shot, but it happened. The World Series was a one-sided affair. The Giants almost swept the Rangers, taking four out of five games from them, and winning their first World Series ever. The Giants won the Series by solid fielding, clutch hitting, and overall great play. Not one player on the Giants was star, but they had many good players who all helped to contribute. You would expect the World Series MVP to go to someone like Tim Lincecum or Buster Posey but the honor went to veteran Edgar Renteria whose 3-run bomb in Game 2 secured a 9-0 victory for the Giants.

College Football: Always Crazy and Exciting

By David Gaw

College football is as tight as ever because there are four undefeated teams left vying for a spot for first and second in the BCS polls. Right now, the contenders are Auburn, Oregon, Boise State, and TCU. Oregon and Auburn are in the driver’s seat since both are in strong conferences, the PAC 10 and the SEC. Boise State is third in the polls while TCU takes fourth. Also, there are the one-loss SEC or Big 10 teams that might have a jump on TCU or Boise State since they have a much stronger schedule. Every year there are those LSU’s and Ohio State’s that might hop over the undefeated Non-AQ teams in the computers. There is so much arguing about this topic. Should the one-loss SEC team jump the undefeated Mountain West team? People are saying college football should have a playoff to settle this, but I don’t agree with that idea. What makes college football, college football is the dispute between people about who is number one. A playoff would not make college football as unexpected and exciting as it is. Even if you are for or against this dispute, you can’t beat the craziness of college football.

The “Year of the Pitcher” has concluded and the results for the AL Cy Young award are in. There were so many great pitchers this year. David Price, C.C. Sabathia, and Cliff Lee were all great candidates, but they fell short to “King” Felix Hernandez. The NL has chosen also. Up in the debate were Josh Johnson, Ubaldo Jimenez, Adam Wainwright, Roy Halladay, and MBA grad R.A. Dickey. Halladay won, capping off another awesome baseball season.
Michael Vick: Road to Recovery

By Steve Wood

In 2001, Michael Vick was selected by the Atlanta Falcons as the number one draft pick in the NFL. His combination of skill and athleticism made him the perfect pick for the Falcons. In his time with Atlanta, Vick threw for 11,505 yards and 71 touchdowns, along with 3,859 rushing yards and 21 rushing touchdowns. However, Michael Vick’s dynasty with the Atlanta Falcons came to a screeching halt in 2007. That July, Vick faced federal charges for interstate dog fighting and was promptly suspended from the NFL. Vick was found guilty and spent almost two years in prison.

After being released from prison, Michael Vick wanted to continue his NFL career. Despite his tarnished reputation, the Philadelphia Eagles decided to give Vick a second chance. On August 13, 2009, Vick signed a two year contract, and on September 3, he was granted full reinstatement into the NFL. In his first year with the Eagles, Vick was fairly unproductive; he threw one touchdown and rushed for two. This year though, after a few quarterback changes, Michael Vick has moved from the bench and is becoming more than just a starter; he is becoming a leader. Then, on November 15, 2010, Vick had the best game of his career. He threw for 333 yards and 4 touchdowns, rushed for 80 yards and 2 touchdowns, and his offense combined a total of 592 net yards. The Eagles are now 7-3, and are first in the NFC East. Vick is now the Eagles’ starting quarterback and will likely remain a starter in the NFL in years to come.

Michael Vick did a very bad thing, and he paid his dues in prison. His reputation will never be the same, and some people will never forgive him for what he did. Still, there is nothing Vick can do about it. He is making the best of a bad situation, and people may be able to look past his mistake and see the good work he is doing today.

Titans Update

By John Triplett

The Tennessee Titans are 5-5 through ten games this season. There is an interesting development going on after this past loss against the Washington Redskins 19-16. Vince Young, the Titans starting quarterback, hurt his thumb during the 4th quarter of the past game. Young got upset after Jeff Fisher refused to put him in at the end of the game. Young was so upset that at the end of the game he threw half his uniform into the stands, and he also did not attend the post-game meeting. Along with these acts of immaturity, Young also tore a ligament in his throwing hand. This injury requires season-ending surgery, and on November 22 the Titans placed Young on Injured Reserve. Young was also blasted by Jeff Fisher at the post-game press conference when Fisher said, “I was not impressed with his ability to control the ball.” Fisher also bashed Young for acting immature. Despite this unnerving development, there is still hope for the quarterback position.

Rusty Smith, the 6th round draft pick out of Florida Atlantic University, will be the starting quarterback for the rest of the season, and as seen in the Redskins game, Smith will throw the ball to Randy Moss while Young did not even look at Moss. Although Moss was double covered some of the time, he had single coverage. Rusty Smith is a decent, young quarterback who will play well enough and learn from his mistakes. Smith showed some great potential last week with a great pass to Randy Moss which was called back, and he had another beautiful pass to Nate Washington for about fifty yards. Smith will be a pretty good quarterback.

Some predictions are that Smith will lead the Titans to a 9-7 record and the second wild card spot in the AFC Playoffs. The Titans will also cut Vince Young at the end of the 2010 season. The Titans will also be an even more run-based team during the second half of the year with a young Rusty Smith at the helm. Chris Johnson will be pounding the ball for the majority of the game while Smith will mostly throw on long third downs and play action situations. If the Titans are to get a wildcard spot, they need to win at least all of their divisional home games for the rest of the year. I also predict Rusty Smith will develop into an amazing quarterback who will lead the Titans to many playoff runs.

Rusty Smith-The Titans’ future.
The Impact of Randy Moss

By Sam Carey

On November 1, 2010, Randy Moss was released from the Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings coach, Brad Childress waived him because he had not been producing in the three games he had played and because of some comments in a post-game interview. Moss basically said he missed playing in New England with his old friends. Because of this statement, Childress released him. This decision was not well thought-out because Randy Moss is without a doubt one of the best wide receivers in the NFL.

On November 3, just two days after being released from the Vikings, the Tennessee Titans picked up Moss. One reason the Titans grabbed him was because of Kenny Britt’s hamstring injury. Without our top receiver, the Titans would have been in trouble. The other reason for picking Moss up would be to loosen up the defense. Chris Johnson had an amazing season last year of over 2,000 rushing yards and wants even more this year, but he is not on track. The reason Johnson was so productive last year was because most teams underestimated him, so they did not watch him as closely as they should have. Now everybody knows what Chris Johnson can do, so teams are bringing more men into the box, so they can stuff the run. This method of shutting down Johnson has worked so far, but now we have Randy Moss, a top receiver in the NFL. With Moss bringing two or more defenders to him, it leaves more space for Johnson.

The defensive coordinators will have a tough decision on whether to put more men on Johnson or Moss. In Moss’s first game as a Titan, he did not even catch a ball until the third quarter. At the end of the game he had one catch for 26 yards. It was not exactly his best game ever. The Titans lost 29 - 17 to the Miami Dolphins.

In game two of Moss’ career as a Titan, Moss caught 6 passes for 106 yards. Unfortunately, that was Santana Moss of the Redskins with the 106 yards. Randy Moss did not even catch a single ball. Although Randy didn’t produce yardage for the Titans, he did open the defense up for Chris Johnson, who had 130 yards in the 16 - 19 loss to Washington. Whether Randy is drawing extra defenders or making plays, he will always have a huge impact on whatever team he is playing for.
Sports

NFL Update

By Aaron Kaplan

• Statistic Leaders:
  o Passing yards – Philip Rivers – QB (San Diego Chargers)
  o Rushing yards – Arian Foster – RB (Houston Texans)
  o Receiving yards – Brandon Lloyd – WR (Denver Broncos)
  o Tackles – Jerod Mayo – LB (New England Patriots)
  o Sacks – Clay Matthews – LB (Green Bay Packers)
  o Interceptions – Asante Samuel – CB (Philadelphia Eagles)

• Division Leaders: (by Win – Loss Record)
  o AFC
    ▪ North – Baltimore Ravens, Pittsburgh Steelers
    ▪ South – Jacksonville Jaguars, Indianapolis Colts
    ▪ East – New York Jets, New England Patriots
    ▪ West – Kansas City Chiefs
  o NFC
    ▪ North – Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers
    ▪ South – Atlanta Falcons
    ▪ East – Philadelphia Eagles
    ▪ West – Seattle Seahawks

• Recent News
  o Wade Philips is fired from head coach of the Dallas Cowboys to be replaced by Jason Garrett.
  o Brad Childress is fired from head coach of the Minnesota Vikings to be replaced by Leslie Frazier.
  o Vince Young suffers season-ending injury and may not return to the Titans after the season due to complications with Coach Jeff Fisher.

• Team Progress:
  o The Atlanta Falcons, New England Patriots, and New York Jets lead the NFL with 8-2 records. The Dallas Cowboys are stepping up their game with new head coach Jason Garrett, having won two games in a row. The Cleveland Browns pulled off surprising upsets over both the New England Patriots and the New Orleans Saints. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Jacksonville Jaguars, and Oakland Raiders continue to amaze with surprisingly good records after disappointing seasons last year. The Buffalo Bills are starting to recover from their 0-8 start, but the Detroit Lions and Carolina Panthers show little improvement at the bottom of the NFL standings. Despite the addition of Terrell Owens to the Cincinnati Bengals, the Bengals are struggling to continue last season’s successes.

*Information was collected on November 23, 2010.*
College Basketball Preview 2010-2011 Season
By John Triplett

This season of college basketball is a very intriguing one. There are many interesting and unique teams this year. Here are some of my rankings and predictions for this upcoming season.

Top 2 teams in each major conference:

**ACC:** 1: Duke 2: UNC
Duke is the clear #1 here while UNC will recover from last year’s disappointment with amazing freshman Harrison Barnes.

**Big Ten:** 1: Michigan State 2: Purdue
Tom Izzo’s Michigan State will be strong as always, but Purdue will be very close to Michigan State because of their great senior trio.

**Big 12:** 1: Kansas State 2: Baylor
Kansas State will be great this year with Jacob Pullen who scored double digits in all of K-State’s games, and Baylor will also be very good with their great guard LaceDarius Dunn and overcome Kansas who lost Sherron Collins and Cole Aldrich.

**Big East:** 1: Pittsbur gh 2: Villanova
Pittsburgh will be great this year with a ton of returning players, and Villanova will lose some talent with Scottie Reynolds but will rebound with a good year.

**Big 12:** 1: Kansas State 2: Baylor
Kansas State will be great this year with Jacob Pullen who scored double digits in all of K-State’s games, and Baylor will also be very good with their great guard LaceDarius Dunn and overcome Kansas who lost Sherron Collins and Cole Aldrich.

**Pac-10:** 1: Washington 2: Arizona
Washington will dominate this weak conference with their three returning starters while Arizona will be good but not great with returning Derrick Williams who is a force.

**SEC:** 1: Florida 2: Tennessee
Florida has all five starters returning with a good recruiting class coming in, and Tennessee has a great recruiting class, which includes the #7 recruit Tobias Harris, and they also have a good player in Scottie Hopson.

Here are a few low-lying mid-major teams that could make some noise come March.

**Murray State:** They beat Vanderbilt last year in the first round, and they almost beat Butler in the second round, losing by only two points. This team dominates the Ohio Valley Conference year in and year out and will be a bracket buster this March.

**Utah State:** They only lost one starter from a great 27-8 team last year. This team usually dominates the WAC. They are a team to look out for with their ability to cause big upset or a potential bracket-busting game.

**San Diego State:** This team will break out and dominate the Mountain West conference. They return four starters that include the very talented forward Kawhi Leonard.

Here are some freshmen to watch for this season.

**Harrison Barnes:** This 6-7 210lb freshman forward committed to North Carolina, and he is ESPNU’s #1 recruit. He scored 14 points in his debut. Barnes was also put on the Naismith Trophy preseason watch list. He is a scary good player, and he may have a John Wall-like impact. He is also the only freshman since 1986 to be named Preseason First-Team All-American.

**Kyrie Irving:** This 6-2 175lb point guard out of Elizabeth, New Jersey, who is the #4 national recruit, was picked up by Duke. He is the #1 point guard recruit in the nation, and he is an explosive player and mostly likely the best freshman point guard in the nation. Coach K thinks so highly of him he even said, “He reminds me a little bit of Chris Paul with his toughness and his ability to change directions with the dribble…He is a very, very good player.” This player is very special indeed to get a sparkling review from Coach K who is possibly the best men’s college basketball coach ever.

Overall this college basketball season is going to be a very exciting one with many exciting teams producing down-to-the-wire games and nailbiters.
Rifle Season Update

By Matt Miccioli

The Big Red Rifles have completed half of their season, which ends with the state championship in March. After the MBA Rifle Classic, the Junior School Rifle Team resumed its dominance in another match hosted at MBA, this time, against Hume Fogg. The Junior School fielded a four-man squad and three individual shooters in the Sporter category and one shooter (Nathan Sharp) in the Precision category of the three position match. The Sporter Rifle Team handily beat Hume Fogg team with a dominant performance of 1710 out of 2400. Charles Hunter led the four-man squad to victory with a blazing personal record of 464. Shooters David Bright, Nathan Sharp, and Ross Rochford also shot personal bests in the match.

Approximately one month later, the Big Red Rifles braved the five-hour drive to Griffin, Georgia, to shoot in the Ole Mill Invitation. This tournament is second in size only to the MBA Rifle Classic, but MBA’s shooters were not intimidated and gave a stellar performance. MBA fielded a four-man squad comprised of David Bright, Matt Miccioli, Wesley Tseng, and Ross Rochford. John Triplett and James Matthews shot individually for MBA in the Sporter division, while Nathan Sharp shot Precision. Everyone on the team shot personal records in a valiant effort against juniors and seniors from across the country. The four-man squad shot a team best 1748 out of 2400 led by the 464 of David Bright and the 454 of Matt Miccioli. The Big Red Rifles have concluded the first half of their season on a successful note and will continue after the dreaded winter exams and Christmas Break.

I can’t wait until the second half of Riflery Season!
A Team Soccer Strikes Again!
Seventh Consecutive Year as HVAC Champs

Deadlines for this issue occurred the day that the Microbe A team won the HVAC championship; therefore, a comprehensive article will appear in the next issue. In the meantime, we, the staff of *Top of the Hill* feel these pictures are worth a thousand words. Great job, guys!

*A jubilant Coach Cheevers and Coach Klausner*

*Seventh graders, Chase Meluch (left) and Christian Williams (right) proudly hold the HVAC soccer championship plaque.*

*Photos Courtesy of Faye Meluch*
Undefeated B Team… Again!

By Anthony Swenson

The 2010 Microbe Soccer B Team finished the year with a perfect record of 7-0. Led by Coaches Paolicchi, Lanier, and Eppstein, the team was successful against all opponents. After only one practice, the team faced its first match at USN in the rain. Sam Carey contributed to the 4-1 win with two early goals. Next, they played at CP A. The team dominated the whole game, winning 4-0 with great games by goalies Zac Jernigan and Grant Myers. A tough match against Ensworth followed. The team won by a tight score of 2-1 behind the stone wall defense of William Snow, Sam Smith, David Gaw, Luke Wooten, Chris Estes, Alex Dunn, and Bronson Ingram.

Later in the season the team faced BA. Anthony Swenson put in two early goals, and Daniel Bishop scored on a rocket to contribute to the team’s 3-1 victory. The B Team traveled to a cold, windy BGA game and won 4-0. George Lazenby shot a laser into the goal within the first fifteen seconds due to great teamwork. Russell McGinn tapped in a late goal to confirm the victory. Anderson Bruehl had another great game playing midfield. The last game of the season was another wet and cold game at BGA. The new and improved BFA team was a tough opponent against the MBA team. Steve “The Crossbar” Wood finished a ball at the end of the first half to give the team momentum. Joseph Coakley assisted a late goal to give the team a 2-0 win. Peter Briggs and Chris Saxon had great games playing midfield. Throughout the season, the team progressed immensely because of great coaching. Congratulations on an undefeated season!

Microbe Soccer C Team

By Michael Milam

On the exciting fall night of October 21, 2010, the MBA Microbe Soccer C Team challenged FRA’s B Team. The air was tense, and our first game led to the team’s first win of the season. After this exciting milestone, we went on to play BA, FRA again, CPA, and even the MBA B Team. In the game against the MBA B Team, a stellar performance by the team was obvious. Even though the B Team won the game 4 to 0, the C Team put up a valiant effort, but fell short of victory. Throughout the season the goalkeepers George Hunt, Hunt Smith, and Neil Richardson all performed admirably, and they saved many tricky shots on goal. Billy Lynch, Werner Bradshaw, and JB Lund did a great job as the center defense. Jackson Wooten, Benton Dodd, Alex Hilburn, Jack Sonday, and Michael Milam worked hard to guard the goal by playing additional defense. Our midfielders Wes Richardson, Adam Young, and Nadir Saleh did an amazing job as well. Our outside midfield, Conner Huff and Grayson Lester also performed excellently. Finally, in the forward position, Jesse Turner, Jackson Hughes, Reid Parker, and Harrison Wachtler had multiple shots on goal. Through exceptional playing and hard work, the team had a very successful season. We would like to thank our generous coaches for giving their valuable time and effort to help us succeed this season. We would like to thank Coach Jeff, Coach Garrett, Coach McDonald, and Coach Fitz for aiding us throughout our season. A big thanks to all of the people who came out to watch many of our games and to the soccer staff for arranging our games. We had a great season, and we will get you next year B Team!
Microbe Grapplers: Total Domination

By William Richardson

The Microbe wrestling team finished the first half of its season on Saturday, November 20, at the HVAC tournament. The season began with dominating victories over Franklin Road Academy (78-6), Battle Ground Academy (66-12), and Ensworth (66-18). Then came the real challenge: red flag day. The wrestlers engaged in a 90-minute workout testing not only their physical but also their mental toughness of everyone on the team. After such an intense workout, Coach McMurray brought the team nine dozen donuts and five gallons of milk, and the team ate the entire snack.

The next week, the Big Red faced Harding Academy and defeated them 60-21. After a fantastic 4-0 start, the Big Red wrestlers hosted the MBA Middle School duals with eight teams from across the Middle Tennessee area. MBA’s first match was against Cookeville, winning 63-18. Then the microbes prepared for what would be their toughest opponent so far, Nashville Catholic (which is really like six schools combined into one team that wrestles year-round). The Big Red were handed their first loss of the year, 62-12. Next, the microbes defeated FRA 66-12, and placed 2nd in their pool. In the cross-bracket section of the tournament, the Big Red then wrestled and defeated a very tough Hendersonville team to go on to the championship against NCW. In the championship, MBA was defeated by the same previous score of 62-12. MBA placed 2nd to NCW, and the only starter to go undefeated in the tournament for the Big Red was William Richardson at 160 lbs. The next match was against Brentwood Academy. Due to illness and academic problems, the team was lacking two starters. Despite this setback, the Big Red rolled through BA’s middle and heavy weights, getting pins from 127 all the way up to 225. Sam Bellet, Chip Brothers, Tracey Mathis, Jake Keen, Mike Lacey, William Richardson, TJ Jefferson, and Ben Kelly all won by pin in this match. These winners allowed the Big Red to win the match by a score of 48-33. After this match, the JV wrestlers faced NCW’s JV while the starters had a practice of their own. That weekend, the JV traveled to Harpeth Middle School to compete in the Harpeth Invitational. James Throckmorton placed 1st, D’on Coofer placed 3rd, Stephen Richey placed 4th, and John Kelly placed 4th at that tournament. The same day, the varsity went to the HVAC Tournament at BA. MBA did exceptionally well, putting ten of thirteen wrestlers in the finals. Seven of those in the finals were crowned champions, and the Big Red won the tournament with a score of 194 points. Individual winners and other news are available on the website under Athletics>Team pages>select a sport>Wrestling-microbe>News. Please come to some matches and support the team throughout the rest of the season!
Ben Kelly pins his opponent in the match against Brentwood Academy.

Photos Courtesy of Scott Richardson

In the 2nd round of the HVAC tournament, Jake Keen pins his opponent from BGA.

William Richardson pins his opponent from Hendersonville during the MBA Duals.
North Pole Infirmary

When will these people learn to stop lighting their chimneys?

Hey you! Fetch more bandages!

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