

PVMS TIGER TIMES



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Advisors: Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. Sharp

February, 2010 VOLUME IV ISSUE II

Please enjoy the second 2009-2010 edition of *PVMS Tiger Times Newspaper* written by Putnam Valley Middle School students.

The second quarter ended quickly, we feel, but not without a number of events taking place for our staff and students. We are now getting ready to enjoy our February Winter Break to gear ourselves up to finish the winter season and move into the spring season.

Remember, we are always looking for new members to join our club. If you cannot commit to a weekly club, feel free to become a contributing editor. See Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. Sharp.

By Danielle Lopez

Save the Date Listing January - February 2010

1/15/10- Student Of The Month breakfast- students nominated for outstanding academic achievement will celebrate at a breakfast hosted by our Principal, Mr. Hallisey. Congratulations to all!

1/15/10- P.A.R.P. Kickoff event.
 1/18/10- School is closed for Martin Luther King Day.
 1/19/10-2/12/10- P.A.R.P. Program begins.
 1/25-29/10- No-Name Calling Week.
 1/29/10- The end of the first quarter.
 2/2/10- Groundhog Day.
 2/12/10- Student of the Month Breakfast- Students nominated for outstanding academic achievement will celebrate at a breakfast hosted by our Principal, Mr. Hallisey. Congratulations to all!
 2/12/10- Basketball Pep Rally.
 2/15 - 19/10- School closed for the winter recess.

That's all for now! Stay tuned for the March and April dates!

Articles of Interest

Student Achievement

- Student of the Month Awards

Student Awareness

- Hope for Haiti Cereal Drive
- Coat Drive Food Pantry Drive

School Events:

- No-Name Calling Book Fair
- Volleyball Pep Rally
- Chorus and Band Concerts.

Classroom Activities

- Invention Convention
- Reading Buddies

Extras

- Technology News
- Did You Know? Who's New?
- Poll Results Brain Teasers
- Writing Corner

Contributing Editors:

Nicholas Brugnoli
 Jelani Bridges-Butler
 Alexander Craven
 Christina George
 Danielle Lopez
 Matthew Scolaro
 Tyrique Scantlebury
 Dimitrios Tomais

Student Achievement

By Christina George

CELEBRATING OUR ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

Welcome back students of PVMS! For you PVMS students that don't know what *Student of the Month* is, it is an award that teachers give you when you do a great job academically that month. I was one of these students. When you get *Student of the Month* you get treated to bagels and juice. Mr. Hallisey, Mr. Hanna, Mrs. Greenstein, Mrs. Bale and Mrs. Castrillon read your certificate. After you receive your certificate, you have your picture taken.

The following students are Students of the Month:



November

Math	Science	ELA	Social Studies	Core Academics
Quinn Torres	Andrew Gannon	Bryce Fowler	Kevin Mansfield	Lucas deMey
Jessica Crotty	James Caposito	Brandon Quezada	Sydney Strickland	Juliana Torsiello
Jared Eliopoulos	Heather Olsen	Mariah McDonald	Jackie Brown	Mary Calabro
Robert Johnson	Justin Acosta	Marc Zadrina	Thomas D'Amico	Joseph Rusin
Romy Decimus	John Raineiri	Katoe Abe	Noah Kelvas	
Maija Knapp	Maija Knapp	Noah Kelvas	Madyson Winogradoff	
Kaitlyn Horyt	Kaitlyn Horyt	Madyson Winogradoff		
John Rainieri	Justin Acosta			

Student Achievement

By Christina George

CELEBRATING OUR ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS!



December



Math	Science	ELA	Social Studies	Core Academics
Justin Ortiz	Justin Ortiz	Divya Adukuzhiyil	Robert Phillips	Wyatt Beatini
Alessia Zegarelli	Alessia Zegarelli	Robert Phillips	Zachary Girvalo	Carly Carlsen
Brittany Case	Brittany Case	Zachary Girvalo	Brittany Case	
Cassandra Kuttruf	Emily Gragert	Alexei Smith	Luis Quizhpe	
Jillian Hartnett	Cassandra Kuttruf	Susanna Granieri	Bobby Johnson	
Matthew Lent	John Palicz	Andrew Gannon	Shannon Crotty	
John Montaldo	Mark Beck	James Caposito	Daniella Miele	
Rachel Merna	Anthony Gallo	Bridget Kelly	Nicolas Hernandez	
Jameson McLean	Jameson McLean			

Student Achievement

By Christina George

CELEBRATING OUR ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS!



January



Math	Science	ELA	Social Studies	Core Academics
Julia Bauer	Victoria DiRubba	Carly Bartelini	Kelly Greenwood	James Burlingham
Alessia Zegarelli	Christina George	Kelly Greenwood	Salvatore Lapeccerella	Rebecca Marro
Claire Campos	Brittany Angstadt	Brandon Case	Peter Leo	
Kristen Sepa	Jeremy Rios	Timothy Chizzik	Amanda Mascarelli	
Emma Longden	Rachelle Morel	Raquela Zimbaldi	Raquela Zimbaldi	
Gavin Kelly	Kaitlyn Phillips	Jacob Adukuzhiyil	Jack Chase	
Tiger Tang	Tiger Tang	Alyssa Carrow	Lukas Azcue	
Aurora Sopow-Alleyne	Aurora Sopow-Alleyne	Margalo Boltin		
Kevin Gallagher	Kevin Gallagher			

Student Achievement

By Alex Craven

SOTW



Student of the Week



Now, you may be wondering, “Why don’t any kids from Mr. Carlin and Mrs. Byrnes class get Student of The Month Award?” Well, Carlin and Byrnes have another system for giving kids awards for their great academic achievements. It’s called “Student of the WEEK (also known as SOTW)”. Mr. Carlin chooses one person from each homebase to be SOTW. This is an award for your great schoolwork and homework over the course of the week. When you become SOTW, you get your picture drawn by master artist, Mr. Carlin! Your picture gets put on the walls around Carlin’s room. Not only that, but you also get to sit in a super-comfy chair! It has armrests, cushions, and a swivel! Anyway, being SOTW is a wonderful experience (I know this because I have been one!).

If you become SOTW, you’ll get to sit in a chair like this (for one week)!



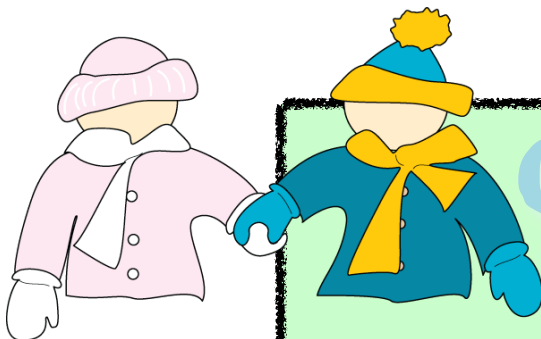
Some SOTW’s include: Me, Sam Alper, Steven Hefner, Tyrique Scantlebury, Rachel Stockinger, Emi Suzuki, Dimitrios Tomais, Joe Montano, and many more!

Tigers' Pride Continues to do good for our Putnam Valley Community

COAT DRIVE

By Jelani Bridges-Butler

The Coat Drive was an amazing and fun fundraising event. Before anything, I have to say, "good job to PVMS students for bringing in 210 coats." I also have to say a special "thanks to Mrs. Bale (the school social worker) for setting up the coat drive." Our goal was to donate coats to needy children and now 210 kids will have some warm coats for winter. I'm not really sure when the coat drive started, but I think it was somewhere in the beginning of December 2009. Great job to PVMS! 210 coats, WOW!!! That is a lot of coats! Keep up the good work, PVMS.



Coat Drive

By Danielle Lopez

This was a successful coat drive this year! All of the grades (especially the 7th & 8th graders) contributed coats for this. The reason the 7th & 8th graders contributed so many coats is because one of the Social Studies teachers, known as Mr. Gallo, told his students that if they brought in 150 coats or more, that they would get a free period in his classroom during his class time! When these students heard that they brought in 210 coats, they were very proud. Everyone did a great job. Thank you PVMS for bringing so many coats!

Tigers' Pride Continues to do good for our Putnam Valley Community

CEREAL DRIVE

By Tyrique Scantlebury

Snap, Crackle, Pop! This is the start of the Cereal Drive. The host of the drive is the Tiger's Pride [formerly the Student Council]. The Cereal Drive was created to give cereal to the needy who don't have enough money to buy cereal. The cereal we donate is given to the needy. The cereal drive was then turned into a competition. The competition was between the WHOLE SCHOOL!! When you bring in a box of cereal, you get a ticket to get entered in a raffle to win great prizes like a "Nerf" football or Rubik's 360. Here are the results:

Cereal Drive Results:

5th - 189 boxes 6th - 129 boxes 7th - 35 boxes 8th - 47 boxes
Total= 400 boxes

Also, like I said before, there is raffle tickets that you get when you bring in a box of cereal. Here are the Raffle Winners:

Beta fish-
 \$20 Simon Gift Card-
 \$10 Al Forno III Gift Card-
 Rubik's 360-
 Nerf Football-
 \$10 Michael's Gift Card-

Alexei Smith
 Madi Albu
 Mrs. Dreesen
 Rysheen Hagans
 Ryan Gannon
 Jackie Baum

Also, amazingly, did you know that Mrs. Bowe's class brought in more boxes of cereal than any other class!?
 Congrats!





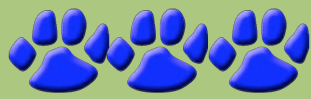
Tigers' Pride Continues to do good for our Putnam Valley Community

Hope For Haiti

By Matthew Scolaro

During lunch periods, the **Student Government** has been collecting change for Haiti. As you already know, there was an earthquake in Haiti. Its 7.0 magnitude affected the whole of Haiti, especially Port-Au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. Its "aftershock" was a 6.1 that toppled buildings and leveled trees. A lot of Haiti was destroyed. Many lives were lost and many people were hurt. At lunch, all grades were asked to donate spare change into a jar that will go to either the Red Cross or UNICEF. If you have any change that you don't plan on using for a gumball or anything cheap, donate a portion of it to Haiti for a good cause.





Bake Sale

By Danielle Lopez

Mrs. Pratt's class held a bake sale before our Christmas break where all the proceeds would benefit our local Putnam Valley Food Pantry. To find out more, I spent some time talking to Mrs. Pratt.

Q: What were you going to do with the bake sale money?

A: We decided to have the bake sale and donate it to the Putnam Valley Food Bank.

Q: About how much did you sell?

A: We sold everything. We had Rice Krispie Treats, brownies, cupcakes, chocolate cookies, ginger bread cookies, and more.

Q: Did you bake everything for the bake sale?

A: Yes, we baked everything for the bake sale.

Q: How long did it take for you to bake everything?

A: We spent 4 days baking goodies for the bake sale.

Q: What was your students' reaction to this?

A: They loved it. They like to do anything that makes a mess.

Q: Where did you and your students bake everything?

A: Everything was baked right in the school.

Q: What did you like about the bake sale?

A: It was really exciting that kids made everything.

Q: What was their favorite part of the bake sale?

A: They were excited about counting the money and selling all the goodies.

Q: What do you plan to do next year?

A: We hope to do the same thing next year.

Q: What are you going to do different next year?

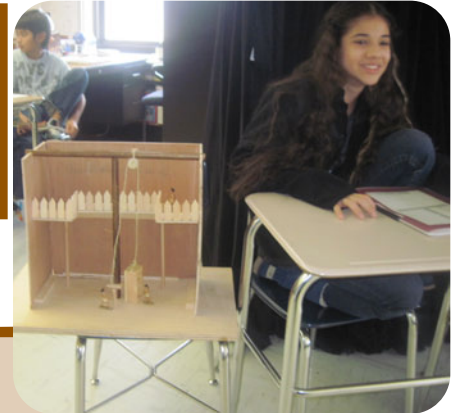
A: We will definitely try to get more goodies and try something different.



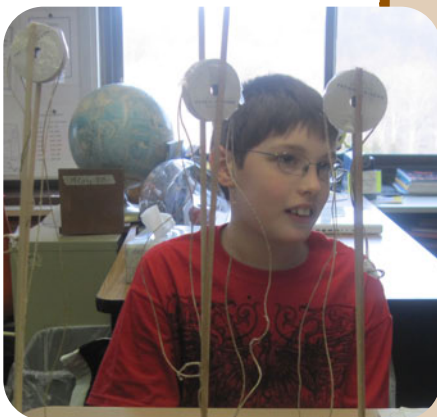
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Invention Convention



By Matthew Scolaro



It's time for the "Invention Convention"!

Mrs. Brothers and Mr. McCarty's Grade 6 classes are taking part in the "Invention Convention", a project where you take on the role of an Assyrian, Sumerian, Babylonian, Chaldean Babylonian, Phoenician, or Egyptian. You must create an invention that will change your society for the better.



Good luck to all 6th graders.



Here are a few photos of the events. Check out the creativity of these 6th graders. Truly amazing!





CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Reading Buddies

By Jelani Bridges-Butler

For about two weeks my class has been reading with a 7th grade class. I think Reading Buddies are cool. My partner, a seventh grader, and I take turns reading whatever book I pick to each other. I think my reading partner is cool. I don't like reading too much, it is not my favorite subject, but reading with her is fun. The Reading Buddies is a good program, especially for kids like me that don't like reading.



NO NAME CALLING WEEK

By Danielle Lopez

“No Name Calling Week” was fantastic this year. The seventh graders made posters that said a mean name inside a circle with a line through it. It symbolized that these names are mean and hurts other’s feelings.

Day 1- Color Day

Each grade was assigned a color to wear that day.

5th Grade- Pink, 6th Grade- Yellow, 7th Grade- Green, 8th Grade- Purple

Day 2- Switch Lunch Day

Each grade received a sticker that said a saying like, Responsibility, and had to sit at the table with “Responsibility” on it. This was done so you would make new friends and start conversation.

Day 3- Twin Day

Kids dressed up like their “twin”.

Day 4- Superhero Day

We dressed up like a superhero that we like, or made up a superhero.

Day 5- 60’s Day

We dressed up like it was 1960 all over again. With our tie dye shirts and our far-out peace signs, we had a groovy day!

Enjoy a few photos of the week’s events.



NO NAME CALLING WEEK



2

NO NAME CALLING WEEK



Dramatic December Volleyball Game

By Alex Craven

On December 22nd, 2009, the final school event before our Winter Break, there was an epic volleyball game! The teams? Team Teacher! AND... Team Student! Note that all of the teachers and students that didn't play were spectators. Some students were even Sportscasters, announcing the playing events. These games were a test of athletic skill and teamwork that was very fun to watch. Team Teacher was the winner, but Team Student put up a good fight! All of the players seemed to be having a good time, which is good!

Kudos to both teams!



VOLLEYBALL PEP RALLY



Photos by: **iVoice**
putnamvalley

VOLLEYBALL PEP RALLY



5th and 6th Grade Chorus Concert

By Nicholas Brugnoli

Beautiful singing voices, great effort, and nice winter accessories. Those are just some of the wonderful things about this year's 5th and 6th grade chorus concert. There was also pizzazz, zestiness, zing, and flavor. Everyone worked very hard practicing for this lovely concert.

The concert was on Monday, December 14, 2009. It was originally scheduled to be on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, but we had a snow day, so the date was moved.

There were singing soloists, maracas soloists, and bells soloists. In my opinion, the soloists must've been pretty brave! I have to admit that I don't have the guts to do a chorus solo! The chorus members practiced and dedicated themselves for a very long time, and it all paid off! Mrs. Craane (aka the chorus teacher) gave the 5th grade a score of 92 on the concert, and the 6th grade got a 94. Without Mrs. Craane, this spectacular concert would never have happened. Let's give a big thanks to Mrs. Craane!



The 6th Grade Band Concert

By Tyrique Scantlebury

With all the instruments and musicians, this was a great concert. The Band Concert was led by the band teacher, Ms. Kraus. All the band students worked very hard for this concert. There were three songs played: "Winter's Snow", "Stonegate Overture", and "Stately March". All their practicing paid off and everyone did a great job.

If you're wondering, some of the instruments in the concert were flutes, saxophones, (played by yours truly!) french horns, clarinets, trumpets and more!

This was a great concert and everyone played very well!

7th & 8th Grade Chorus Concert

By Danielle Lopez

I would like to congratulate the 7th & 8th grade chorus members on doing a fantastic job! This year we sang a very popular song called, "The Christmas Song." We also sang, "Hanukkah Night", "Sleigh Ride", "Bidi Bom", and "Festive Fa La La". I would also like to thank Mrs. Craane for making this an unforgettable night, and for not giving up on us even when we were at our worst.

There are a lot of chorus members this year. They all deserve a round of applause.

Good job you guys! Keep up the good work!



BOOK FAIR

By Tyrique Scantlebury

Ah, reading! Who doesn't like reading? The Book Fair is a fair that happens every year. At the Book Fair you can buy anything from books to posters to knick-knacks. The Scholastic Book Fair started on December 1st and ended on December 4th. There were a lot of great books and a lot sold. I observed the Book Fair sales and saw that a lot of Suzanne Weyn's very own *Distant Waves* were flying off the shelves. Plus, on Friday a whole slew of people showed up with copies of her book or an index card to get them signed by Ms. Weyn. Some other cool books I saw were:

39 Clues series

Simpsons books

Distant Waves

Ultimate Cheat Codes

Science: Physics

The Battle of the Red Hot Pepper Weenies and Other Warped and Creepy Tales

... and more!!!

All in all, the Book Fair was fun. I can't wait until next year!

Who's New?

**Dimitrios
meets a
new teacher**

**By
Dimitrios Tomais**

Dimitri [me] sat down with Ms. Kraus to ask her some questions since she is new to our school. Ms. Kraus is the new band teacher here at PVMS. We are happy to have her as part of our school. Here are the questions and answers.

Dimitri: How many instruments can you play?

Ms. Kraus: 14, some are the piano, flute, clarinet, trombone, and guitar

Dimitri: Have you ever taught band before you came to teach at Putnam Valley?

Ms. Kraus: No, I haven't.

Dimitri: What college did you go to?

Ms. Kraus: Ithaca college.

Dimitri: Were you in band when you were in school?

Ms. Kraus: Yes from 4th grade to the end of high school.

Dimitri: Did you go to college for band?

Ms. Kraus: Yes.

Dimitri: What inspired you to teach band?

Ms. Kraus: I always wanted to teach and I love music.

Dimitri: Have you ever been in a band other than in school?

Ms. Kraus: No

Dimitri: Who is your favorite musician?

Ms. Kraus: I love many different types of musicians.

Dimitri: What's your favorite type of music?

Ms. Kraus: All music

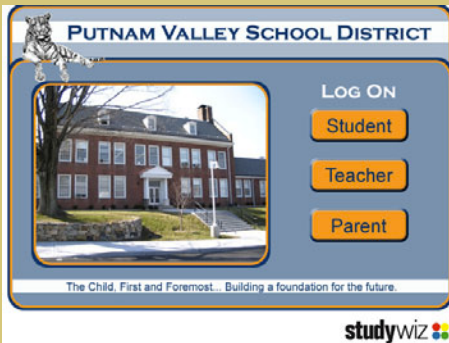
Dimitri: What grades do you teach here at PVMS?

Ms. Kraus: 5th and 6th.

Thank you Ms. Kraus for your time. Like I said before, we are happy to have you as part of our school.



Poll Results



Super Bowl XLIV

POLL RESULTS

By Nicholas Brugnoli

From December 5th to December 22nd, I put up a discussion board on Studywiz, along with the help of Mrs. Sherwood. It was a discussion board running school wide about which two teams you thought would go to this year's NFL Super Bowl. Well, the results are in!

There were 134 different responses. Of those 134 responses, the majority of the people who replied picked the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts to make it to the Super Bowl. And guess what?



They were correct!

Those people who predicted that the Colts and the Saints would be in the Super Bowl were very clairvoyant, (which means you're a psychic). The people who predicted the New York Jets or the Minnesota Vikings were somewhat clairvoyant, because they were only one game away from making it, which is very sad for their fans. ☹

On Sunday, February 7, 2010, the Superbowl was held in Miami, Florida. It was a very exciting game, especially for the New Orleans Saints, who were the winners.

Congratulations to the Saints, and let's hope next season is as awesome!

Did You Know?

Blue Moon

By Alex Craven

Blue Moon alert! Blue Moon alert! On December 2nd, 2009, we had a full moon. On December 31st of 2009, there was a Blue Moon! A Blue Moon is the 2nd full moon in a month. Now, you may be wondering, why is a blue moon called a BLUE moon? Well, when astronomers found one, they saw a bluish tint near the moon (it was probably water vapor). Blue moons are very rare! Too bad it was cloudy that night!



Groundhog Day

By Matthew Scolaro

On February 2nd, it was Groundhog Day! According to legend, if a certain groundhog emerges out of its burrow and doesn't see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that Spring is near. If it sees its shadow, he will run back into his burrow and there will be 6 more weeks of winter! This year, he did see his shadow, and that means 6 more weeks of winter for us this year.

Source: [Groundhog Day - Wikipedi#1C5758](#)

Hi! I'm
Punxsutawney
Phil! Hope to see
you in February!



Did You Know?

Hanukkah, the Jewish Holiday

By Tyrique Scantlebury

Hanukkah is a cool holiday. Hanukkah starts December 11. It lasts for 8 days. The symbol of Hanukkah is the Menorah. A Menorah is a candle with 8 lights. Every night you light one candle. Well, if you actually look at a Menorah it has nine branches. The middle branch is called the Shamash. The Shamash is used to light the other branches. The Menorah is not allowed for non-religious use like for just lighting a room when it's not Hanukkah. Have you ever wondered why the Menorah is the symbol? Well, a long time ago a Syrian king named Antiochus tried to outlaw the Jewish religion and he took over the holy temple in Jerusalem. A small group of Jewish rebels, called the Maccabees, fought off Antiochus' soldiers and took back the temple. There was a problem though. When the Maccabees tried to light the holy temple's lamp, there was only enough oil to keep it burning for one night. Amazingly, it burned for eight nights, which gave them enough time to get more oil and keep the flame lit. It was a miracle. This is what we use now as the symbol of Hanukkah. The Menorah was an old treasured item.

There are many activities associated with Hanukkah. There are different songs, foods and games. Some songs played during Hanukkah are "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" and "Chanukah, Oh Chanukah". Some delicious foods are latkes, and in other places there is jelly-filled doughnuts. On Hanukkah there is a special game that you play. In the game you use a four-sided spinning top called a Dreidel. On each side there is a Hebrew letter. The game involves you spinning a Dreidel and betting on which side the Dreidel will land. You can bet just about anything. You can bet from a pot of gelt to candy and raisins. If you're wondering, gelt is edible chocolate coins wrapped in gold-colored tin foil. On Hanukkah you can get gifts like on Christmas but in a different way... sort of like doing "Secret Santa". You get gifts for someone and trade them. It's really cool! Well, looks like I hit you with a lot of information so to all of you that celebrate Hanukkah, hope you had a happy Hanukkah. Thanks for reading!

Sources: www.brainpop.com www.wikipedia.com

Did You Know?

The Story of Santa Claus

By Matthew Scolaro

One day, in Holland, a long, long time ago, there were rumors around town of a man who gave gifts to the people in a poor part of Holland. His name was Sinterklaas. No one believed this myth. One night, two children left their wooden shoes out on their porch. The next morning, it was filled with goodies, such as oranges. Oranges were very important to the Dutch because they were a foreign food and were hard to get. Everyone realized the spectacle and repeated what the kids did by leaving their wooden shoes outside of their door. The next morning, they were all stuffed. The people called Sinterklaas "Santa Claus". Eventually, the name stuck. That's how Santa Claus was created.

Source:

Christmas Trivia

By Dimitrios Tomais

- Did you know that Christmas comes from the old English language word "Cristes maesse" meaning Christ's Mass?
- Did you know that British children know Santa Claus as "Father Christmas"?
- Did you know that Christmas has been celebrated all around the world for many centuries?
- Did you know that the holiday "Christmas" is celebrated for Jesus's birth?
- Did you know that some countries have their own Santa?
- Did you know that no one knows Jesus's actual birthday? We just picked a day to celebrate it on.
- Did you know according to Christian faith, that Jesus is the son of the Lord?
- Did you know that the first Christmas feast was in Egypt?
- Did you know that Santa Clause originated from Dutch settlers?

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03724b.htm>

<http://www.timetravel-britain.com/articles/christmas/santa.shtml>

Technology

How to Make a Frowny Face While Typing.



By Nicholas Brugnoli

Have you ever been typing something that required a frowny face and didn't know how to do it? Well then you're in luck! I'll tell you how to make a frowny face for a price of just \$19.95. I'm just kidding! But seriously, here is how you do it:

Step 1: Open up a document like Word, or just any document that you can type on.

Step 2: Press the **Shift** key and hold it down.

Step 3: While holding down **Shift**, press the ":" key and don't let go.

Step 4: As you are holding down the **Shift** and the ":" keys, press the "9" key.

Step 5: You will then see a frowny face appear on the document where you typed it.

If it worked, then it was a success!

But if it didn't work, then you failed epically, and you'd better read the directions and try again!

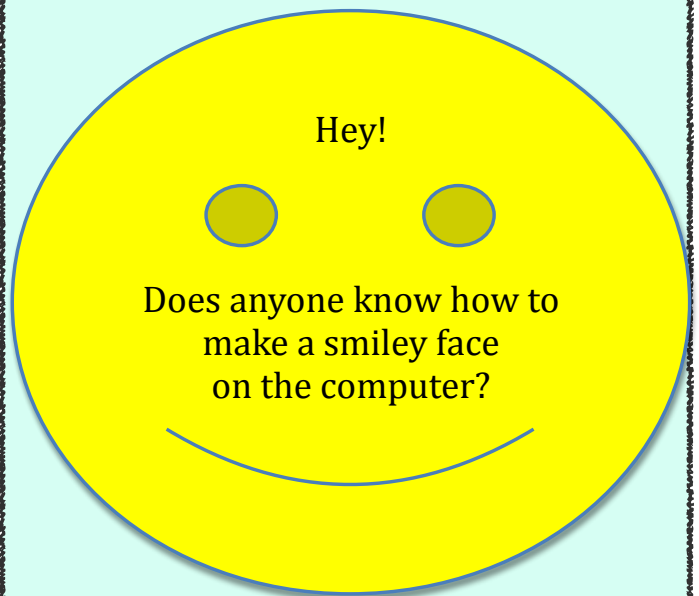
Anyway, I was glad to help, and I hope you learned something from this experience!

But if you learned absolutely nothing, then you need help!

I'm Nicholas Brugnoli, and I approve this article.

How to Make a Smiley Face While Typing.

By Tyrique Scantlebury



Well if you want to know how to make a smiley face pay attention!

First Step: Open a word document to test it out. Make sure you have an open spot to type.

Second Step: Hold down the shift key. You are going to need to keep holding down the shift key.

Third Step: Then press the ":" key and the number zero at the same time while also still holding the shift key. Tada!!! You have now made a smiley face!

Technology

New Super Mario Bros. Wii

By Alex Craven

On November 15, 2009, a legendary and rare kind of game was released! Many people have been awaiting this certain game, “NEW SUPER MARIO BROS. WII”. The game begins at Princess Peach’s birthday, where Bowser’s and capture the princess! You (as Mario) out the Mushroom Kingdom to battle This game is legendary because for the friends can play simultaneously through tween Blue Toad, Yellow Toad or Luigi to worth your moola, as it will take you a IS SO HARD! It’s fun, however.



BROS. WII”. The game begins at Princess Peach’s birthday, where Bowser’s kids crash the party must go through many worlds through Bowser’s kids and rescue the princess! first time in a 2-D Mario game, your levels! Your friends can choose be-aid Mario. Now, this game is definitely while to beat because... THIS GAME

MY SCORE 9.4 out of 10.0

New Laptops in the 5th Grade

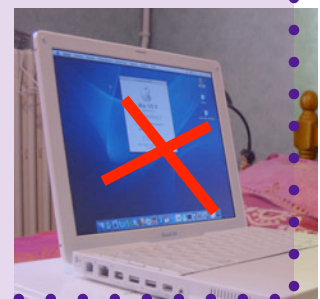
By Jelani Bridges-Butler

Mrs. Sepa’s 5th grade class just received the new MacBooks. They are much better and faster than the iBookG4s. I like the new MacBooks. I was one of the people who got a new laptop. It has many more applications. The new laptops are very expensive! I really like the new laptops because they have cameras. The iBookG4 did not have that feature! The other 19 kids like them too, mostly for the same reasons as me.

Some of the online applications that we have been using are *Study Island*, *phschool* and *ixl*.

Unlike the iBookG4 the new laptops have *Safe Eyes*. If you go on to a site that is not allowed, the *Safe Eyes* program blocks it.

The new MacBooks are very cool and I hope that the rest of the class can also get these new laptops soon.



Crystals and Winter

By Alex Craven

Prologue

A windy, chilly wind blew across the deserted palace. Deserted, except for one. An old king was slumped on his throne. "This legacy of the crystals must continue!", the frail king coughed. "I pass my legacy on to... my hidden son! I must write a letter to him." The king then took out clay and a stylus, and then began to write. "*Dear Crystallis II, my time has come. I must leave this world. But my legacy of the crystals must continue! You must come to Crystal Palace and rule the Shiver Region! Please son, please! Your father- Crystallis I.*" The king uttered two final words, "My... son".

Chapter 1

Crystallis II woke up with a mail-penguin saying, "DELIVERY!". Crystallis II, annoyed, said, "Let me sleep!!!" "No. This is my job! I get icicles for this! So... DELIVERY!!!" The penguin said. Crystallis finally gave in. "Okay! Okay! Give me my stupid delivery!" The penguin gave Crystallis the package, who looked at it. "Another job don-" "WHOA!!!" Crystallis shouted. "THIS IS A LETTER FROM MY DAD, CRYSTALLIS I!!!" The penguin looked puzzled. "Crystallis I? Our Crystal King? Didn't he die last night?" Disbelieving, Crystallis II said, "Huh? My dad?" "Yeah! He died last night! What did you say about being his son again?", the penguin asked. Crystallis uttered a croaky "No!" and began to cry. "Hey, it's okay..." "No it's not!" Crystallis exclaimed. "My father... wants me to take his place as... as..." "As what?" The mail-penguin asked. "AS THE NEW CRYSTAL KING!!!" Crystallis shouted. "Wait a... hold on a..." The penguin began. "I can't believe it! I am a king! ... But I'll have so much responsibility! How am I going to handle this?" Crystallis asked the Penguin. " ... I could escort you to the sacred palace." "That would be great!" "So, why are we standing here? Lets go! Oh, and my name is Mailio." Then the two set off on their journey.

MY WINTER BREAK

By Matthew Scolaro

Ah, wintertime...snow, sleds, and hot chocolate. One day a little boy named Calvin and his friend, Ashley, were playing in the snow. They were waiting for their friends, Joe and Alfredo. "When in the world will they get here?" Ashley griped. "Relax, they'll be here soon." Calvin reassured her. Just then, they heard a tapping. Then, around the corner, they saw two llamas trotting over. Ashley and Calvin jumped back in fear. Why were these llamas here? The female of the pair trotted up to them and said, "Hello, mortal." Ashley shakily replied, "Hi, llama." Then the llama spat on her and said, "WHY DO YOU CALL ME A LLAMA?" Ashley silently removed the spit while the llama said, "I'm known by names like, "The Ruler of the Stables, The...uh..... um..... never mind that!" "You will call me Storm, and my friend here is Bumpy. Now, BEGONE!!!!!!" Suddenly, a flash of light swept them away to the UFL (Underworld For Llamas). The area was dark, but Ashley and Calvin could see Joe and Alfredo trapped in a cage. "You see, mortal, I am a llama soul." Storm said. "I keep mortals who misuse our race in this world." "If you and your mortal friends want to get out of here, you'll have to defeat me with an item that is found on Earth." It is called a Soul Medallion. It is a silver coin that says, "Two will become one, and peace shall come to the world of mortals. It is wrapped in a silver coil." Suddenly Ashley blurted, "Wait, I found something that looked like that today in the park where you met us." The two llamas were star struck. "WHAT!" Storm shouted. "But that's nuts!" Bumpy exclaimed. "I hid it on the park bench." Everyone stared at him. "What, nobody sits there these days." Bumpy added. "APPARENTLY, THESE MORTALS DO, YOU KNUCK-LEHEAD!" Storm said. Ashley said under her breath, "Time to finish them." Ashley shined the medallion so that its rays hit the llama souls square on. The llamas gave a low wail of terror that soon rose to a higher screech. Then out of nowhere Calvin pulled a sword and lunged at the llama souls. He cut a slit right through the souls. The souls split in half and dissipated. The cage dissipated as well. Joe and Alfredo were saved at last. Calvin and Ashley slapped hands and said "WE DID IT!!!"

EPILOGUE

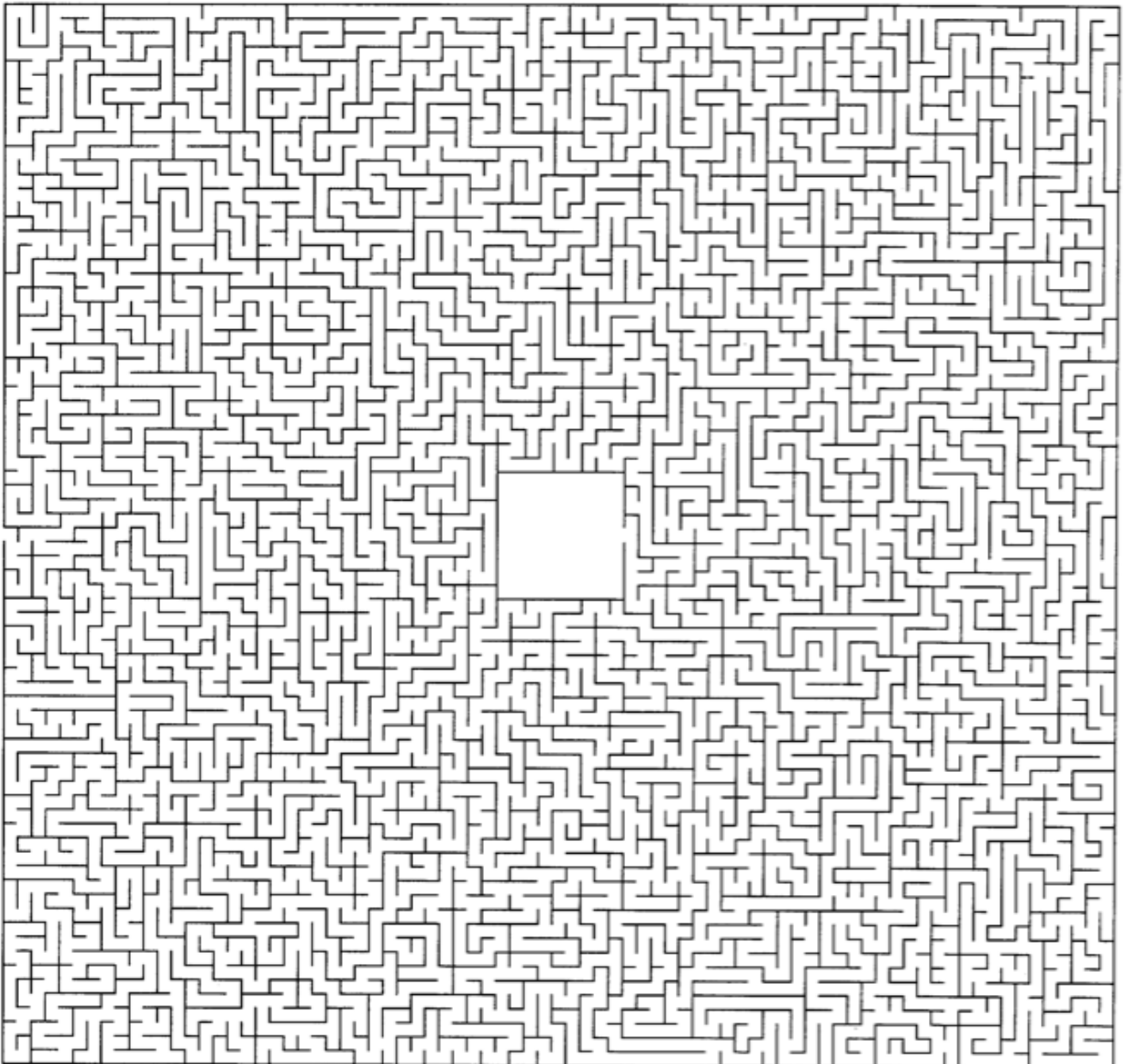
Now you're probably wondering how each of these characters lived after this story. Ashley and Calvin got married, while Joe and Alfredo became explorers of the supernatural. They lived their lives like normal citizens, and they never spoke of it again.

The End

Brain Teasers

Escape The Menorah

By
Mathew Scolaro



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