

The Charger

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Seniors love luncheon



Eighth grader, Kelly Barclay serves Japanese food to Itasca seniors during the annual luncheon on October 18, 2002. (Photo by Trisha H.)

BY JACKIE S. ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Mrs. Mann, Peacock's family and consumer science teacher, had been nervous beforehand. By all accounts, however, the senior luncheon was a great success. Held on Friday, October 18, the annual event served about eighty local senior citizens.

The seniors enjoyed the food and performances. Many of them look forward to it and hope to come back again next year.

This year, the theme for the luncheon was East Asian. Seniors were entertained with martial arts, a Japanese Tea Ceremony and Asian music. They also learned to say "Hello" in Japanese.

Some seniors said that they have been attending the annual luncheon at Peacock

since they began more than eighteen years ago. For others, this was only their first visit.

The seniors absolutely loved the service. They were very happy because their waiters always had smiles on their faces.

Dr. Cull, the district superintendent, was also very pleased with the food, but regrets eating too much. This was only his second year at a luncheon.

Dr. Cull liked the Tea Ceremony because it was relaxing and calm. He loved the artwork too, it reminded him of his visit to Japan.

He likes having the luncheon every year, because he feels it gives back to the community. The community supports the school so he believes we should keep having the luncheons.

See Tea Ceremony
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Adult view of bad bus behavior

Students acting stupidly endanger all

BY AMY E.

Over the past month or so, there have been several behavioral problems on two busses. Peacock's principal Dr. Nickisch took serious actions to deal with these incidents.

On Bus 1, two students threw banana peels out the window. The banana peels landed on another driver's windshield. The bus driver, Mr. Young, said that this had never happened before.

Mr. Marceau, the driver on Bus 5, said that the problem was yelling. Students made inappropriate jokes. Some students were walking around the bus and even jumping over seats.

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All this and more!

Leaves falling, wind blowing



(Photo by Carmen Z.)

St. Luke's teacher, Mrs. Peters, poses with students Alexis B. and Ryan R. at the Fall Festival.

St. Luke's sponsors Fall Festival

donations from the community, Mrs. Schmidt felt the Fall Festival was a huge success.

Miss Hoffman, the preschool teacher said the festival was well organized, with lots of entertaining games for the children and great food.

Miss Hoffman enjoyed the cakewalk the best, it's like playing musical chairs and if you won you got to choose any cake you want.

St. Luke students Ryan and Rhett R. said they had fun and it was cool.

Peacock student, Amanda M., sixth grade, had fun running the fishing game booth and helping with the cakewalk. Her favorite event was the rock climbing wall and when she won a goldfish.

Mrs. Cathy Zaccaria, preschool teacher, enjoyed running the singing jail. She said it was fun to watch the children put their parents in jail. The parents had to sing a song to get out.

When asked if the Fall Festival was a success, Mrs. Peters said, "Not only was it a financial success, but more importantly, we provided a community service. We were able to provide a Christian atmosphere along with loads of fun. I hope we reach more people in the years to come."

BY CARMEN Z.

The Lutheran School of St. Luke sponsored a fall festival to build fellowship and unity within their school and community.

The first of its kind, the Fall Festival was held on Saturday October 26, 2002, in the school gym at 410 S. Rush Street in Itasca.

Mrs. Karen Peters and her second grade class hosted the festival. Mrs. Mary Schmidt and Mrs. Lisa Krumwiede coordinated the event.

Mrs. Schmidt wanted to create a fun fair, such as those she remembered attending when she was a child.

There were many activities such as a fishing game, ring toss, miniature golf, bean bag toss, a singing jail and a rock climbing wall, just to name a few. There was also a cakewalk, which was a big hit.

Refreshments were available at a reasonable price.

With the help of many volunteers and

Council reps attend CC conference

Eighth graders learn how to be better people

BY KAITLYN L.

Ten eighth grade Student Council representatives recently joined students from many other local schools to discuss how to do the right thing and to make good decisions.

They were part of a Character Counts conference, held at the College of DuPage in Wheaton on October 15, 2002.

The discussion centered around the six the Character Counts pillars: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

After arriving, the representatives attended a huge assembly lead by "Dr. Mike." He spoke to them about issues such as how to get along with their parents.

After the assembly, the students split up into smaller groups, where they discussed how to make good decisions.

In many classrooms, there were games that were played or group discussions where students could meet new people.

After hearing many different groups speak, all of the schools came back together.

A group known as the Happiness Club sang and danced to different songs about Character Counts at the end of the day.

Nicole B. felt that the field trip was fun and so did many other students who attended.

Paige P. and most of the other students thought that it would have been a better trip if they hadn't been forced to wear T-shirts that were given to the attendees for the whole field trip.

All the Peacock students who attended said they trip had a good time learning about how to be better people.

The following students attended: Kaitlyn L., Mari D., Paige P., Rachel R., Brendan T., Steve G., Michelle M., Nikki B., Nicole D., Agnes Z.

Railroad bridge construction

Noise pollution fills town center

BY KEVIN T.

The railroad bridge for the Metra railroad tracks northeast of the intersection of Walnut and Irving Park Road has been under construction this fall.

The noisy work has been a disruption to the residents and shopkeepers near by, such as 7-11, A Class Act beauty and hair

salon shop and several others.

The construction is scheduled for sixteen weekends. The owner of A Class Act said, "The noise wasn't that bad, except when we opened the door."

All of the business owners spoken to were looking forward to the work being finished.

Principal and drivers take on bus misbehavior

Continued from page 1

According to Dr. Nickisch, the students' behavior was wrong and punishable because it put not only the students but the driver and cars around the bus in danger.

Dr. Nickisch said that the first thing he did to deal with the bad bus behavior was to assign seats.

The banana peels landed on another driver's windshield.

He also gave a few detentions. At least five students received one day bus suspensions.

The next step, explained Dr. Nickisch, would be a five day bus suspension. He added that if the problems continued, the maximum of a ten day suspension would be used and then expulsion from the bus for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Nickisch wanted to make it clear that he was very disappointed in the students who behaved badly and that he never wanted this to happen again because students were endangered and the bus drivers were prevented from doing their job safely.

Mr. Young commented that Dr. Nickisch's way of solving the problem had helped. He said that he didn't think anyone got away without being punished.

If this ever happened again, Mr. Young added, he would have the principal do the same things he had done this time.

Mr. Marceau said that Dr. Nickisch's way of dealing with the incidents did the trick. He added that he hoped that this would never happen again on any bus.

Dr. Nickisch and the bus drivers commented that the bus problems were caused by students being stupid.

At least five students received one day bus suspensions.

Tea ceremony, martial arts and choir entertain guests

Continued from page 1



Eighth graders Kaitlyn L. and Susie S. perform a Japanese tea ceremony before lunch was served. (Photo by Mark G.)

Dr. Nickisch thought the food was outstanding and the service was great. He also said the artwork was "phenomenal."

His favorite dish was the party favors, which are called "pocky." His waitress was wonderful and fun.

Dr. Nickisch thought the artwork was unique and thought we should keep it up all year long. The Tea Ceremony was very relaxing and calm for him too.

"The luncheon is held every year to bring people back to school," he said. He has been attending the luncheon for fifteen years.

Dr. Nickisch loved the theme for this year. He thinks the students had fun in the process of making it happen.

Dr. Medwick, principal of Franzen School, thought the luncheon was wonderful. She especially enjoyed the chicken.

The Tea Ceremony and Martial Arts Exhibition was outstanding and she loved the costumes. It was an extremely positive

experience according to Dr. Medwick.

The students behind the luncheon were the following eighth graders: Lara C., Kaitlyn L., Andrew K., Briana L., Dee Dee C., Kenny

T., Annie M., Rachel R., Hannah O., Marina L., Kyle P., Dave K., Danny R., Joe F., Paul P.,

Jenny O., Cathy C., Nikki H., Mike N., Keith M., Kelly B., Tori C., Radvile R., Skyler M., Susie S., Ashley Z., Gordie H., Marcel M., Shannon P., Ana N., Shannon Torii, Eriko S., and Jackie S.

Dr. Cull liked the Tea Ceremony because it was relaxing and calm.

Dr. Nickisch thought the artwork was unique and thought we should keep it up all year long.

Will Saddam Hussein keep his word?

Or will war loom again?

BY STEVE G.

Citizens in the United States breathed a sigh of relief when Saddam Hussein said that he would allow United Nations weapons inspectors back in the country.

Many people, including President George Bush, say that this is not enough. Over the past fifteen years, Hussein has invaded Iran and Kuwait. Fortunately he lost both of these wars, which would have given him large amounts of oil if he had won.

In his own country, Hussein has slaughtered thousands of Kurds, an ethnic group that lives in Northern Iraq. He has lied to, murdered, oppressed, and stolen from

Afghanistan still needs help from America and should not be forgotten while it tries to heal its wounds.

to inspect for weapons.

In the war against Iran, and the attacks on the Kurds, Hussein has used biological weapons. Biological weapons use germs to destroy people, food, and animals.

Humans have used various kinds of biological weapons for centuries. They spread diseases, are cheap, and are very hard to control and detect.

They were outlawed in over one hundred countries after poison gas was used to kill thousands of allied and German soldiers in World War I.

Weapons inspectors were driven from Iraq in 1996, and the United States does not know what kind of horrible weapons Hussein may have created while no one was watching.

One of the reasons the U.S. is so intent on ousting Saddam Hussein is that he might give these weapons to the Al Qaida network or other terrorist groups.

But why do we care so much? Iraq doesn't have the capabilities to shoot a missile around

the world to the U.S. Yet.

Hussein could still fire one into parts of Europe and Asia, if what some analysts say is true. This could kill millions of people, and maybe start a nuclear world war.

Hussein temporarily avoided war with America when he submitted and re-allowed weapons inspectors to be in Iraq. The Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov said that the UN successfully avoided war with Iraq.

Many officials from countries such as Kuwait do not think that it is enough. After all, Hussein has broken a number of treaties over the years, and should not be trusted. After the Persian Gulf War we thought that Hussein was no longer a threat, but we were wrong.

Support for the war on Iraq is slowly growing in congress and the UN, but Russia, Germany and most other countries in the U.N. still strongly disapprove.

Now though, the public is even less sure about what will happen. If we accept another treaty, it will probably be like putting a Band-Aid on the problem.

The military is ready to invade Iraq, but they may not have the chance.

Meanwhile, the CIA is searching for Al Qaida agents in Yemen and the surrounding areas. Yemen is Osama bin Laden's ancestral home.

It is believed that Al Qaida has mostly broken down, but there are still a few groups of renegades roaming the Middle East.

Humans have used various kinds of biological weapons for centuries. They spread diseases, are cheap, and are very hard to control and detect.

Now the war on terrorism will be more of a covert war with CIA agents and the Delta Force (the US Army's special anti-terrorist unit) attacking terrorist groups all over the world.

Arrests of several suspected terrorists have taken place in Germany.

Unfortunately, there has also been increasing violence in Afghanistan. Remnants of the Taliban have had several shoot-outs with Afghan soldiers.

Afghanistan still needs help from America

and should not be forgotten while it tries to heal its wounds. It has only received one third of the money pledged to it from various countries.

This worries people, because they are afraid that Afghanistan will once again become a haven for terrorists.

The new government is still struggling, and still needs foreign aid if Afghanistan will ever become a prosperous nation.

Irrigation systems need to be repaired, and roads need to be rebuilt. Reconstruction has done well, but there still is a lot of work to do.

I hope that I have explained the situation clearly so that people will understand what is happening in the Middle East right now. It is a complicated issue, and there are many sides to it.

Band, chorus perform pops

BY AMANDA M.

On October 16, 2002, the Peacock chorus and concert band performed their Fall Pops Concert.

A few of the songs that the chorus sang, were Asian pieces, such as "The Four Seasons," which was made up of four Japanese haikus.

The concert band played a number of songs also. Two of them were "The National Anthem" and "Mambo Number 5."

A short music booster meeting also took place. The upcoming dance, the poinsettia sale and future concerts were all discussed.

There was a bake sale going on too. They were selling all sorts of sweets, including brownies and cookies.

The chorus will perform their holiday concert on Wednesday, December 4, at 7 P.M. The band will hold their concert the following Sunday, December 8, at 3 P.M.

For more on Pops concert, See Features, Page 10

New tech wiz at Peacock

BY STEVE G.
NEWS EDITOR

Mr. Cousineau taught industrial technology at Peacock Middle School for more than five years. He left to teach high school in June. Mrs. Sislow has served as a long-term substitute.

Ms. Lea Smith has now been hired to take the job on full-time. She will begin teaching Monday, December 2, 2002.

When interviewed recently, Ms. Smith said, "I love the town of Itasca. I've lived here since 1995. As a child, I used to live in a remote town called Battle Creek, Connecticut. It was far from a city so Itasca is a great town."

Ms. Smith attended college in Kalamazoo, Michigan and received her masters degree from Roosevelt College in Chicago.

She has taught before, but only corporate business to adults. She has been in the printing business for twelve years.

Ms. Smith was interested in teaching at Peacock because she would be teaching kids not adults, and she loves teaching.

She hopes to bring many new things to industrial technology, including music and even nutrition.

Since her background is in printing, she wants to study color and printing.

Some special activities Ms. Smith plans for the class include bringing in people from different businesses and using different technology.

Ms. Smith has many different interests. She enjoys all sorts of music including world music from South Africa and the Middle East.

She plays the flute for the Arlington band and at the Methodist church. She enjoys biking, skiing, and even likes to write fiction.

Ms. Smith has two black cats. Her niece Jena, who attends the College of Du Page also lives with her.



BY LAURA B.
COLUMNIST

Character counts?

Character Counts is a slogan used to present Peacock as a happy, healthy, safe, and caring learning environment, when in truth, it's not.

The elements of character are not brought out to the students attending Peacock in any way, other than through the posters on the walls, that some people seem to have damaged.

Visitors to Peacock will look at the walls and see Character Counts posters displayed throughout the school, and they'll think that we are learning about the Six Pillars, and that we are being taught about what character means and how to use it in our lives everyday. Are we?

There are Six Pillars of Character, but most kids asked can name about three correct ones. Does that give you an idea of how effective this program is? Upon looking them up, I found that the six pillars are respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship.

So, what is this program doing for us and how does it affect Peacock students in their lives? Truthfully, Character Counts does not affect me in any way.

Now, I can see you may be wondering where I am going with this article, and why I bothered to write it, if the whole basis of it doesn't affect me in any way.

I decided to write this, because if the program is going nowhere, and doing nothing for us, why have it at all?

It is a nuisance for Peacock students to walk by the same slogans every day, knowing that they don't have meaning in their lives.

I wrote this article based on peoples' *opinions*, mostly my own, so if you disagree, don't let this article get to you.

The Charger

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Behind the wheel at 16?

BY JESSICA L.

The state government is thinking about changing the driving age from 16 to 18. Should they change it? Here is what a few seventh graders have to say.



BY ALEX B.



I think they should keep the driving age at 16 because some teenagers are responsible enough to be allowed the privilege.

- Rachel M.



I think the driving age should be 16 because some people who are 16 have jobs and they shouldn't have to depend on their parents to

drive them to work.

- Alex D.



I think the driving age should be 16 because 16 is closer to my age and I want to drive.

- Ernie K.



I really don't care what the driving age is but I'd like it to be 16 because I want to drive earlier but I also want it to be 18 because I won't have enough money to buy a car when I'm 16.

- Samantha M.



I think it should be 16 because I want to drive sooner.

- Alissa D.



I think the driving age should stay at 16 because I want to drive sooner.

- Kevin H.



I think we should get to drive when we are 16 because all of our siblings got to drive when they were 16 and our parents and siblings aren't going to want to drive us around until we're 18.

- Frank C.



I think the driving age should stay at 16 because when you are 16 you can have a job and when you're 18 you will be in college.

- Laura D.



I think it should remain 16 because that's how it's been for a long time and that's the way it should stay.

- Tony R.



I think the driving age should be 16 because it's not fair that our older brothers and sisters got to drive at 16 and we get to drive at 18.

- Megan S.

Do we like hot lunches? Students surveyed

BY PETER D.

For most of the students, lunch is the best part of the day because you can hang out and talk with your friends. Plus, there is never any homework.

You get to sit in your seat with your lunch box and pull out a sandwich and chips. Sometimes, you get a hot lunch from school.

There are times when the hot lunch tastes awesome and there are times when it is just OK. So a survey was taken to find out what students really thought about hot lunch.

Twenty-six sixth grade students were asked three simple questions. The first question asked: How would you rate the hot lunches we have had in school?

The survey showed 8 people thought the pizza was great and 18 thought the pizza was good. No one thought the pizza was bad.

The survey also showed that 10 people thought the chicken nuggets were great while 13 thought they were good. Again, no one thought the nuggets were bad.

The second question asked students to rate their favorite places to eat. There were eight restaurants listed. Students were asked to rate them from 1 to 8 with 8 being the highest.

The average scores were: McDonalds, 4.46; Subway, 5.27; Burger King, 4.77; Quizno's, 4.85; Wendy's, 4.88; Tree Guy's, 5.08; Taco Bell, 5.00; Pizza Hut, 5.88.

The big winners for future hot lunches were Subway, Chinese food and pizza.

This survey shows that the students like all

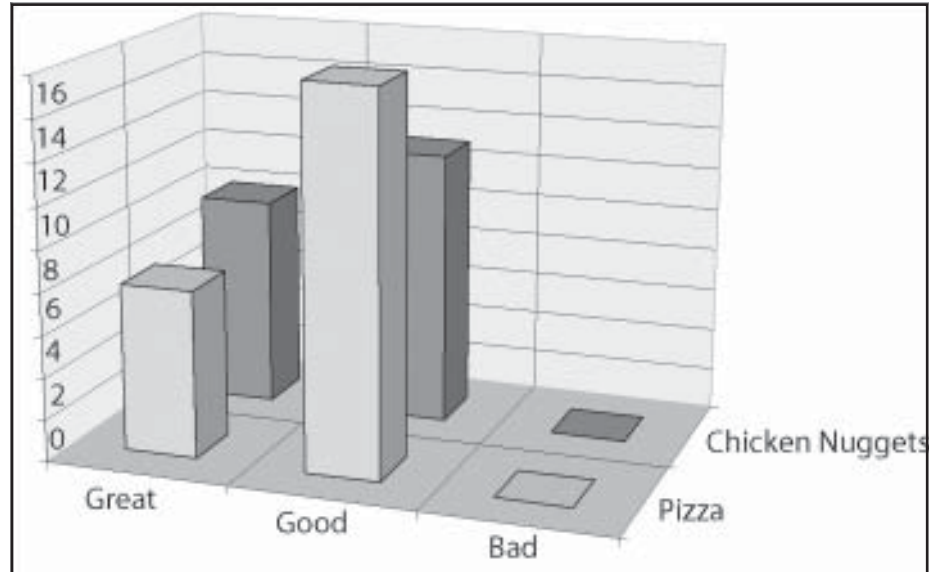
kinds of different food. There was no big favorite.

The third question asked what hot lunches they would like in the future. The big winners for future hot lunches were Subway, Chinese food and pizza.

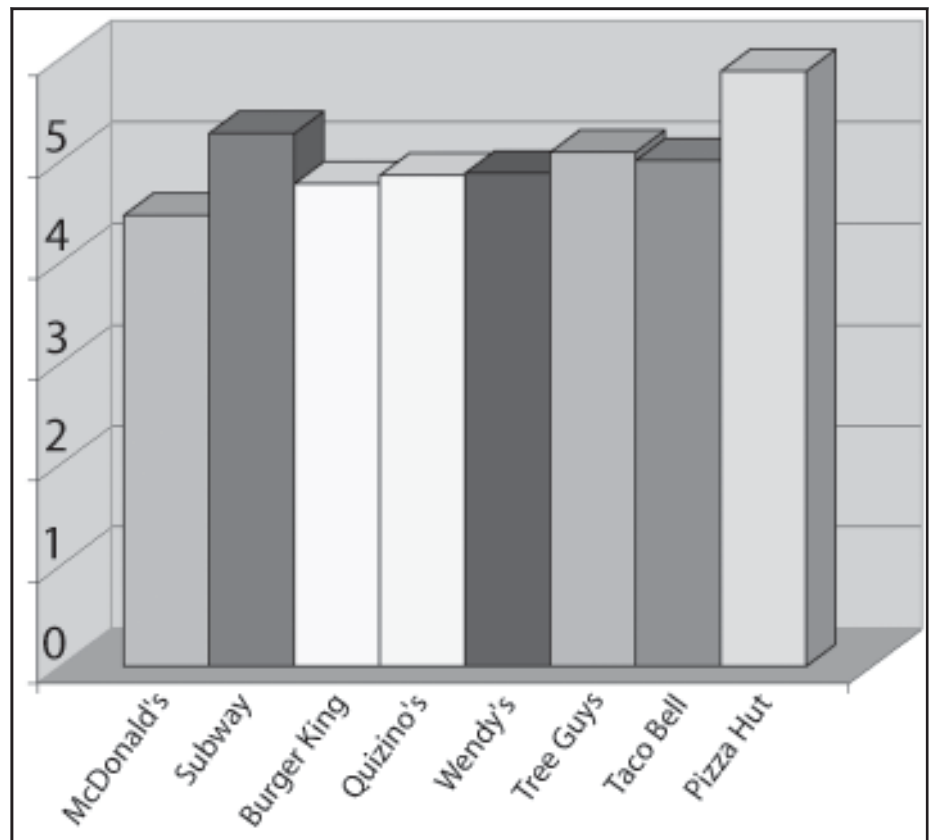
Hot lunches should continue being served in the school. The students like to have hot lunches, but there should be a better variety to choose from.

The students should get Subway, Chinese food, and pizza along with their other favorites that were voted for in the survey. This will make the students happy and lunch will still be one of their favorite periods of the day.

How would you rate our current hot lunches?



Students rate their favorite places to eat



GUMMI!



Dr. Nickisch has threatened "to eradicate" the gum policy

Gum chewing was officially permitted throughout the building on October 7, 2002. Although rules still applied to gum-chewing, most students were ecstatic.

Gum, however, is now being found all over the building, and Dr. Nickisch, the principal, has threatened to remove gum-chewing privileges by the end of the second quarter.

The Leadership Council, a committee of students, teachers and administration, will ultimately decide the fate of the gum rule when they meet again in December.

The "Gum" rules

- Gum may only be chewed in designated areas
- Gum is not allowed in computer labs, gym or encore classes
- Do not chew gum in a rude fashion
- A half-hour detention will be issued for each violation

DISGUSTING NUISANCE



I think gum is great!
Trisha
8th grade



I think that the children have abused the privilege. I have found gum on the floor and on the walls. It's disgusting.
Mr. Raschik
Head Custodian



People put their gum in drinking fountains and it's disgusting.
Jessica
7th grade



Though it hasn't been a problem in my room, I have seen it throughout the building.
Mr. Larson
7th grade science



I don't think they should take away the gum.
Abigail
6th grade

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Concert was a hit with performers and audience

BY JOANNA M.
FINISHING EDITOR

A few days ago you might have heard a few students singing songs in class or while in the hallway. What was going on?

Well, since the beginning of the school year chorus and band members have been hard at work memorizing songs for the first concert of the year.

"I practiced for the concert by going to all the chorus and band practices" commented seventh grader Megan L., who played the trumpet and sang along with many other students.

Many students like Megan had to do twice the work because they had twice the amount of music to learn before the concert.

But, many students like seventh grade chorus member Pam R. practiced at school in the morning and practiced at home afterwards.

Now some people would think that performing in front of a hundred or so people (including students, parents, and teachers) would make you nervous, but some of the members weren't worried at all.

"I wasn't nervous because I knew that I might mess up or something, and if I did I wouldn't worry about it" said Pam's classmate

Julia N., a chorus and band member. But not many people thought like that.

"I was really nervous because I was afraid that I might forget a line or squeak by accident" said Pam.

As you can see, some of the students were nervous while others weren't, and some were both.

The songs sung by the chorus on October 16 were all very good, but the two favorites had to be "May You Always Have A Song" and "Alphabetics"

"I was really nervous because I was afraid that I might forget a line or squeak by accident" said Pam.

"I didn't have a favorite song that was played by the band because they were all really good" said Megan afterwards.

Many of the members and parents enjoyed the concert.

"My favorite part had to be when I was singing with the

chorus when not watching the band play" said Pam, while Megan commented that she liked being with her friends at the concert.

Even though about half the students at Peacock go to chorus and/or band, some people would like to see more students participate.

"I think that more students should participate in the chorus because it's a lot of fun, and you get to do something at school," Pam suggested.

Sixth graders love cultures project

BY MICHELLE S.

The social studies project that the sixth graders are doing is excellent.

According to the students, this project is an "easy A."

It is about the culture of Mexico, and after the students are done with Mexico, they are going to repeat the project with another country.

Even though it is counted as a test grade, Social Studies teacher Mrs. Kabat says that you can add accessories, such as a four course Mexican dinner.

Students have already brought in at least five homemade piñatas. And one girl even brought in an American Girl doll.

Every student in each group has to write about four to six topics, and if they want to, they can bring in accessories.

The students have about three weeks to put together a report that has to be about ten pages long and it counts as a major part of their grade.

Even though it is a large part of the grade, it is probably the most fun project that the sixth graders will do all year in Social Studies.

Students have already brought in at least five homemade piñatas.

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ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 4PM

Hitting the books with Ms. Craft

Itasca librarian is here to help

BY BRITTANY O.

Ms. Craft is head of youth services at the Itasca Public Library where she has been working for a year and a half.

Overall, she's been working at public libraries for eight years.

Her responsibilities are ordering new books, keeping books organized, and making sure people are always available in the department.

Her favorite thing to do at the library is helping kids.

Her least favorite thing is cleaning and straightening books.

She hopes students come to the library to find a book they enjoy so much they won't be able to put it down.

Ms. Craft discussed some current and upcoming activities at the library students can look forward to. There is a Reading Royalty and a book exchange, and a Scuba Diving underwater program for sixth graders.

Rikki Pollock, another librarian at the library, hosts the Scuba Diving underwater program. Any students needing service hours

can sign up to volunteer at the library for Session 2 which begins November 13.

Ms. Craft thinks students sometimes read to escape from their regular life. She would like to improve the library by having more junior and high school services.

Ms. Craft does a lot of activities in the summer at the library. She leads story time



Photo by Brittany Olenek

and conducts library camp with the little kids. She enjoys story time with the little kids the most.

On a personal level Ms. Craft is interested in singing, shopping, and taking guitar lessons. Her favorite kind of book is fantasy. She doesn't like books about talking animals.

A Japanese film retrospective

Festival shows some of the greatest films ever made

BY PAUL P.
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Music Box Theater in Chicago showed a film retrospective on Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune. The Japanese director/actor team has made some of the greatest movies of all time.

The retrospect began on October 26, and will end on November 22. The movies themselves encompass the years from 1948 to 1965.

The films of Kurosawa and Mifune have inspired such classics as *Star Wars*, *The Magnificent Seven*, and *A Fist Full of Dollars*.

Most of the films feature rogue samurai in feudal Japan. Mifune shines in his many different roles.

The lone and deadly samurai Sanjuro (*Yojimbo*, *Sanjuro*) is completely different from the wild-eyed warrior Washizu (*Throne of Blood*).

Neither have anything in common with the crazy swordsman Kikuchiyo (*Seven Samurai*).

All of the films look and sound better than ever. New translations have also been added.

Out of the four films that I saw, there was only one bad translation ("We'll kill them dead!").

The work of Kurosawa and Mifune as well as the supporting casts have made some of the best films of all time possible.

Cool new students come to Peacock

BY URSZULA M.

There are several sixth grade students who are new to Itasca District 10. I recently spoke with four of them.

Molly C. moved from Roselle to Itasca with her older brother and sister.

She thinks Peacock is a really great school because it has lots of nice kids and fun activities.

Molly wants to be in volleyball and cheerleading. She has also been on the Itasca Dolphins swim team for the past

three years.

Mike P. moved here from Chicago. He has a sister in eighth grade at Peacock. He has not joined any activities yet.

Brandon's favorite classes are lunch and gym. He really likes gym.

Mike's favorite subject is math. His favorite classes are gym and math. He also likes the teachers.

Mike thinks Peacock is really cool.

Kelsey M. comes from Itasca, but attended a different school before.

He has one brother and thinks Peacock is a whole lot better than his old school.

He is currently in band.

Kelsey loves math. His favorite part about Peacock is the amount you learn.

Brandon C. comes from Colorado. Brandon has one sister. He thinks Peacock is a great school.

He is in basketball, baseball, and soccer.

Brandon's favorite classes are lunch and gym. He really likes gym.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is quite interesting

BY JACKIE S.
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets was not as good as I expected. They left out many important scenes that were included in the book.

The acting was absolutely wonderful. Daniel Radcliffe fits the role of Harry Potter well, yet again.

The special effects were also superb. Although the effects were cool, the snake and giant spider seemed very unreal and imaginative.

The first Harry Potter movie is better. This one is good too, but if you have arachnophobia, the recommendation is not to see it.

Overall, it deserves three and a half stars.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets was a very good movie, and let's hope the third



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movie is even better.

Sweet Home Alabama is a romantic comedy

BY MARI D.

In the movies, you always hear about small town girls who want to leave when they grow up. Well Melanie Carmichael, played by Reese Witherspoon, wanted to do just that.

She grew up in Alabama, and then moved to New York to become a fashion designer.

While in New York, she meets the mayor's son, Andrew Hennings (Patrick Dempsey). He gives Melanie the perfect marriage proposal at the famous Tiffany's jewelry store.

Before she could get married Melanie had some unfinished business back home in Alabama. She had to finalize her divorce with her husband Jake played by Josh Lucas.

He was her high school sweetheart. He refused to sign the divorce papers and was still trying to get her back.

Not telling Melanie, Andrew came down to see her in Alabama.

He then found the truth about Melanie. She was not a rich girl from Alabama. She was a small town girl whose parents, played by Mary Kay Place and Fred Ward, live in a trailer.

Andrew still wants to marry her even though he knows the truth. But, on the day of the wedding there is a problem with her divorce.

Will she find her dreams where she left them in Alabama or will she start a new life?

This romantic comedy gets three stars. I recommend "Sweet Home Alabama" for people who like to laugh while seeing a cute romantic story.



<http://www.sweet-home-alabama.com/>

Tuck Everlasting hit theaters big

BY CASSANDRA D.



<http://disney.go.com/DisneyPictures/tuck/>

My mom and I recently went to see the movie *Tuck Everlasting*. It was just as good as I expected. Both my mom and I liked it.

Tuck is a romance/adventure film. It takes place in the early 1900's.

A girl named Winnie Foster (Alexis Bledel) runs off into the forest behind her house. She gets lost and meets a boy named Jesse Tuck (Jonathan Jackson).

Later on in the movie, Winnie meets Jesse's family and finds out their secret. She is forced to keep the secret and to help rescue his parents. Something terrible and unjust happens to them.

Tuck Everlasting is rated PG. *Tuck* should appeal to a wide-age group. It is a good adventure movie, but it also has romance in it. Girls will probably like this movie a lot more than guys would.

On a scale of one to four, I would rate this movie a four.

The Ring

Not for amateurs

BY SUSIE S.

The Ring has to be one of the best frightening movies of the year. The scares in this movie will give you chills up your spine.

After her niece's death, journalist Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) discovers a videotape her niece watched seven days before her death. Intrigued by the mystery of the video, she watches it.

The video is an array of bizarre scenes and pictures, especially one very odd scene that just shows an unusual ring of light.

After watching the video, Rachel gets a phone call. A suspicious voice on the phone says "seven days."

Rachel Keller has seven days to figure out the mystery behind the video to save her life, and after her son accidentally watches the video, his life too.

The Ring will certainly give you nightmares, and will leave you looking around the corners before you enter a room. The surprising ending, though it may not be the best, is

Super Mario Sunshine is fun and the best!

BY EVIN S.

Super Mario Sunshine is a very well written game. It has level after level of great graphics, game play, and difficulty.

This game is harder than the other Mario games but overall, Super Mario Sunshine is the best.

The story starts out as Mario, Peach, and Dr. Toad go on a well-deserved vacation.

When they arrive they see a look alike of Mario, he is spreading goo all over. You must get the flood nozzle 2000.

When you get that, you spray the goo and out comes a piranha plant. You spray it in its

certainly one of a kind.

Discover the mystery of *The Ring*, because after seeing this movie, your life may depend on it.

Overall Rating (on a scale from 1 to 4)- 3

Genre (type of movie)- Thriller

Rating- PG-13

mouth and you get a "shine". You get a "shine" after every level you beat.

You have to go through mazes, fight the evil Mario, go on coin hunts and get, yes you guessed it, Yoshi!

In Super Mario Sunshine all the characters are back.

Here are some cheats: There is one level where you have to fight

a humongous manta ray, keep squirting it when it turns purple it will attack you, go under a tent and do a spin jump an hold the squirt button, you should beat it easily. For more hints go to gamefaqs.com.



<http://www.amazon.com>



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Animal Crossing is exciting and awesome

BY ALEXANDRA B.
ART EDITOR

“Welcome to the world of Animal Crossing, the game that’s happening every second of the day, whether you’re playing or not!” Sounds interesting, eh?

That’s because it is. You see, Animal Crossing is a new game for the GameCube system, one that includes tons of activities and mini-games to keep you entertained, which keeps track of time all by itself (similar to the Gold/Silver version of Pokemon.)

The game starts when you meet a weird cat, called Rover, on the train. As you chat with him, you can enter your name, the day, month, and the year, and if you’re a boy or a girl.

Rover also gets a “close friend” of his, Tom Nook, to sell you a house. Unfortunately, you don’t have any Bells (money)! This starts a cycle of days and months as you work to pay off the rent you owe Mr. Nook by working in his shop.

After you finish a couple of errands for him, you can do a variety of things, like find fruit, catch fish and bugs, and sell things you find to Nook in his shop for cash.

Besides paying off the rent, you can also talk with the citizens of your town. They all have things to say. They will change moods depending on the others around them, and will sometimes give you gifts!

You can also work on your house by collecting furniture and arranging it. There are many different sets of furniture, as well as music, mini video games, wallpaper, and carpet!

You can even make clothes for your character to wear, umbrellas to use during rainy days, and faces for some animals you meet on the train!

There are also tons of other things to do. Animal Crossing is definitely worth playing!

Overall Rating: 10 (Great game!)

Graphics: 9 (Very cute graphics!)

Sound: 8 (the sounds the animals make when talking can get kind of annoying, but the environment sounds are really good.)

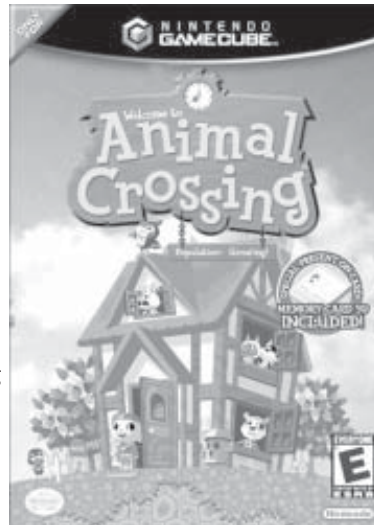
Play Control: 10 (Easy to navigate)

Fun Factor: 9 (Fun to play) S.R.P: \$40-55 (Pricey, I know!)

Number of Players: 1 Player (you can have 3 other players on one memory card, if they’re in the same town, but you cannot play

at the same time.)

Challenge Adjustable: There is no difficulty! My six-year-old cousin can play this!



<http://www.amazon.com>

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Sixth and seventh graders are out to win

BY SAMANTHA M.

She shoots...and she...SCORES! These few words were on everyone's minds at the Tuesday, October 22, and Thursday, October 24, games.

Tuesday's game was won triumphantly.

Thursday's game was played well, but was lost by one point.

Coach Poremba believes that the team will have a very successful year. They will play twelve games this season.

Under Coach Poremba's direction, the team practices every day after school for two hours.

When asked how long players will generally play in a game, Coach Poremba answered, "It will vary from player to player because there are a total of twenty-four minutes in a game."

"Some girls will get to play a little bit longer

than others," he explained.

"This group of sixth and seventh grade girls is a pleasure to coach." "They are a very hard-working team," said Coach Poremba.

The sixth and seventh grade team is made up of fourteen girls. The team loves the game as much as their coach, but they still have their complaints.

Jess D., seventh grade, said, "I love being with my friends on the team and playing in the games."

When asked what she doesn't like about the team Jess said, "I don't like the long practices after school because

I have to rush right to swim team practice afterwards."

Her classmate Blaise M. loves everything about the team. Blaise commented, "It's so much fun and I'd dedicate more of my time to the team if I could, except when I have soccer practice."

"This group of sixth and seventh grade girls is a pleasure to coach."

CHARACTER COUNTS!



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