

# Big Hollow Middle School Newspaper

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By Alex L.

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## The Berlin Wall

Theresa F.

Imagine that you lived on one side of a town when your other half of your family is separated by a wall. This isn't just an imagination; it is an event during history. Berlin was separated in half by a wall, the Berlin wall was up from 1961 to 1998. Some people snuck onto trains and risked their lives, just to get back to their families or become whole again. If you were caught doing this, you were to be sentenced to death or even jumping the wall. Most people called it *the Death Strip*, many rebellious people wrote graffiti on the wall with interesting pictures. The west side (it was divided into east and west sides) called it "*the Wall of Shame.*" You ought to respect your parents or else you will be torn apart by a wall.



## Yttrium

By, Sean

The 39<sup>th</sup> Element on the Periodic Table, Yttrium, is a very strange element. You can find it in moon rocks, Uranium ore, and... in Xenotime, (Good luck pronouncing that. But really. Don't.) It was named after the village of Ytterby, in Sweden. It is combined with europium to create red phosphor used in your television. (Really, what's with the strange words?!) In 1787 Carl Axel Arrhenius found a stone. He brought it to a college chemistry teacher named Gadolin. But no one knew what it was for FIFTY YEARS! Fifty years later... "My word!" Said Carl Mosander, a Swedish chemist. "This stone is made of three different things! I'll call them yttrium, terbium, and erbium!" Soon later, terbium and erbium were not pure elements and therefore rejected. Turns out they were made of different things, which were made of different things. That stone contained ten different elements! Today, Yttrium is known as a Y on the periodic table of elements.

## Tips On Playing an Instrument

By Theresa F.

I would call myself an average player on my instrument. I found out that many people have problems playing their instrument. Well, I could give you some tips on how to focus more, so you can become more efficient playing your instrument.

- ♪ Don't participate in too many activities, that way you have more time to practice your instrument.
- ♪ Set up private lessons with a music teacher. You can set up lessons at a music store. This would fulfill the handbook expectations.
- ♪ Limit yourself to watching TV to about two and a half hours a day or less.
- ♪ Do well in school, so that way you don't have stress on your back.
- ♪ Be sure to get at least 8 to 9 hours of sleep each night, so you can concentrate on your instrument.



Remember, practice makes perfect! ☺

Some local music stores are:

Iggy's Music Store	located in Downtown Round Lake, IL
Pearl Street Music Store	located in Downtown McHenry, IL
Mike's Brass and Woodwind	located in Johnsburg, IL
Lake County Music	located in Lake Villa, IL



### Featured country: Togo

By J.D. L

Togo is a country in West Africa, and is one of the smallest countries in Africa. This country practices voodoo, and Togo's capital, Lome, sells monkey and snake heads for people practicing voodoo. There are also several bats in Togo, and they have weird names like halcyon horseshoe bats. People in Togo often stuff their pillows with leaves from a tree called a kapok tree. Also, about 65,000 Tamberma people live in houses made of mud. These houses look sort of like small castles.



### The Oculus Rift By Sullivan K.

Something has hit gaming that will revolutionize the way we play video games... Until something else comes out.

I am, of course, talking about the Oculus Rift. When I heard the name, I jumped on the internet, hoping the thing would be as epic as the name. And trust me, it is. The Oculus Rift is a head set... Yeah, that's a very simple way to put it. But, unlike a normal headset, this one doesn't cover your ears; it covers your eyes! The Oculus Rift is described as a "head-mounted display", used to give you the best 3-D video gaming experience. I personally think this is... Awesome. We're getting closer and closer to being able to really feel like a miner, a marine, or... I don't know, a fish. Yes, there are games where you play the role of a fish. It's scary. So, do you want this amazing piece of technology? Well, to bad! Costs \$350, so good luck persuading your parents to get you that. That's all for gaming news. Thanks for reading!

WAIT! BREAKING NEWS! They're already releasing a second version of the Oculus Rift! HOW SUPRISING!

# Starfish Disease

William E.

Welcome back to Will's Awesome Report Thingy!(W.A.R.T.) Let's get started! Real report voice thing in 5 4 3 2 1..... A mystery disease is turning a record of starfish into "goo" all along the West Coast. The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (D.E.E.B.) think the disease is bacterial. Scientists have pointed out that "We don't know if it can affect humans." Once the bacteria is inside of the starfish, it is found that the bacteria will kind of tear apart the starfish until it is broken into goo. When the arm is goo it is washed away into the ocean and cannot regenerate because of the disease problem. Marine Biologist Jonathan Martin was scuba diving in August,2011 on a Saturday and first noticed a dead starfish at the bottom of the ocean floor that looked like its arms were chopped off. Surprised that it hadn't regenerated, he told National Geographic. He posted photos to Facebook and sent video footage to YouTube. The disease has wiped out entire species of starfish. I could type forever but I will run out of time so I will put more information on here quickly. It went from Maine to New Jersey when it started. It's a real NOT pretty thing to be looking at, folks. Sorry to tell you about it, I don't have any time left and I will talk, I mean type, to you next time with Will's Awesome Report Thingy!(W.A.R.T.)



## Geo-quiz

By J.D. L

1. Which of these countries is landlocked?
  - A. Switzerland
  - B. France
  - C. Canada
2. What was the first capital of Poland?
  - A. Warsaw
  - B. Krakow
  - C. Moscow
3. What is "snurfing"?
  - A. Snowboarding
  - B. An exotic sport
  - C. Eating with a cow that speaks Latin

## History of UGG!

By: Lainie N.

Did you know that UGG is the most famous for their boots? In 1978, an Australian invented boots out of sheepskin. Country Leather, promoted UGG outside Australia for distributors to sell UGG. The Southern Californians had a relaxed and casual lifestyle so Brian thought that the boots would be a perfect fit. So he shipped them out to California and they were a big hit. They started in San Diego and then went on to big cities and small towns all over. UGG soon became symbols of lifestyle. In 2000 UGG was the casual lifestyle of the world.



**Subway — Famous for their sub sandwiches**

If you've ever gone out to eat or eaten at a mall, you probably have eaten at Subway. You can buy their specialty subs or you can make your own. Choose your bread, choose what meats and veggies you want, and add dressings. If you want, you can add chips and a drink.

**Wendy's — Famous for burgers, frostys, and chicken nuggets**

If you like burgers, Wendy's is the place to go. They have many burgers, salads, and two types of chicken nuggets. For dessert you can get a Frosty. Do you have younger siblings? You can get a Kids Meal. They have a burger or chicken nuggets, fries or apple slices, milk, and a toy.

**Ancient Architecture: The Hanging Garden of Babylon By: Ian W.**

The hanging garden of Babylon is the only one of the seven wonders of the ancient world that might not have existed. For all the others, it is still there or there is documented or physical proof, but for the Garden, there is no documentation or physical proof that it existed. Still, most archeologists acknowledge that it existed.

The Garden was supposedly built by King Nebuchadnezzar as a gift for his wife Amyitis, who was homesick for the lush, green lands of Medes. The name "The Hanging Gardens of Babylon" was not the original name for the garden. Probably because its name is a misinterpretation of the Latin word 'pensilis', which means not only *hanging*, as in suspended by cables, but also *overhanging*, like in the case of terraces.

The Hanging Garden of Babylon is a marvelous work of architecture, not only for the ingenuity of it, but also for the ability to water the garden every day. To be able to water the garden, they must have had to bring a lot of water from the river Euphrates, and that would require an engineering marvel at the time, huge water pumps. To sum up, The Hanging Garden of Babylon is an amazing example of architecture, engineering, and the ingenuity of 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. rulers.

**NASA Might Have Discovered Alien Life on Mars**

By Jackson B.



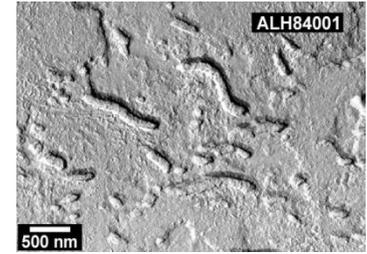
*(A picture of the Mars Rover)*

NASA launched a rover called the Curiosity Rover on to Mars. The Curiosity Rover is a \$2.5 million, car sized rover that explores Gale Crater on Mars and was originally part of the Mars Science Laboratory mission by NASA. This rover has discovered evidence of a humongous lake that is in Gale Crater. Space scientists started their research by studying the rocks at the base of Mount Sharp which is a three mile high mountain, and is in the middle of Gale Crater. The result of the scientists' research determined that there used to be a lake, but it drained out over millions and millions of years, and the rock had imprints of small worm like creatures.

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**Mini Martians-***Picture taken by the Curiosity Rover of Microbes*

The findings of the Curiosity Rover show that the water in Gale Crater could have lasted long enough that tiny forms of life, called microbes, could be formed. These tiny microbes could be half the size of tiny worms. This life on Mars obviously had to be millions of years ago because there is no water currently on the planet. So, presently there is no life on Mars.....



...That We Know Of!!!

**The Arduino By: Sullivan K.**

About two years ago, I received (as a present) a small, blue square-like-thing. No, I am not done describing it. Almost immediately I recognized what it was. Have you ever popped open a calculator, and seen a little green chip? It probably had red and green wires running all around it. You don't just find them in calculators. You find them in almost every electronic. If you still don't know what I'm talking about, look at the picture. That's an Arduino. Arduinos are electronic boards (like one you would find in a calculator). These boards are used to tell an electronic what to do. They're the things that contain the code you would write. An Arduino is one that had no code on it, and with the help of a special program, you can write and upload your own code. If you're interested in things like this, I highly, super mega highly recommend getting one of these. And there are tons of these things! Tons of different kinds of them that do tons of different things. Seriously. There's one that has wheels. It's called the Arduino Robot. And, maybe you have no idea how to code. No problem! If you buy the starter kit, it comes with a little booklet that helps you through tons of projects, and shows you how to write code. The best thing about it is how deep it goes to explain every little thing and how it works. Again, if you are interested in this kind of thing, I highly recommend getting one of these.

**Chicago Has Had Enough...  
Trestman, Emery, and Kromer Fired!****By: Jackson B.**

After their horrible season the Chicago Bears had ended their season with a record of 5-11 and were definitely not going to the playoffs. The Chicagoans all pointed their fingers toward the Bear's new head coach Marc Trestman. The Bears knew they can't have another horrendous season like they did in their previous one and, they were just as upset about their horrible season as the Bear's fans were. So, the Bears simply fired the Bears' head coach Marc Trestman and their general manager Phil Emery. The Bears had also decided to fire their offense coordinator Aaron Kromer. Hopefully the Bears will have a better season next year.

TrestmanEmeryKromer**The Quiz**

By J.D. L.

Would you like to take a quiz? If so, the trick questions in this quiz will be excellent exercise for your brain! Shall we begin?

1. How do you fit a giraffe in a refrigerator?

(You open the door, put in the giraffe, and close the door.)

2. How do you fit an elephant in a refrigerator?

(You open the door, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant, and close the door.)

3. The lion king is hosting an animal conference. All the animals come but one. Which animal does not attend?

(The elephant, because he's stuck in the refrigerator.)

4. You are on an adventure when you come to a river that is known to be full of crocodiles. It is too long to go around. How do you cross it?

( You simply swim across. All of the crocodiles are attending the animal conference.)  
Did you like the Quiz?



## Delicious Valentine's Day Treat By Elis L.

It's past Valentine's Day and everyone will be giving out presents and candy. Having trouble creating a treat? Grab your popcorn and get ready to make a delicious Valentine's Day treat in ten easy steps!

You will need:

- 2 TB vegetable or coconut oil
- ½ cup popcorn kernels
- 4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 1 TB butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- Assorted sweet and salty toppings, such as dried fruit, nuts, small candies, citrus zest, candied ginger, and crushed pretzel sticks



Instructions:

1. Heat oil over medium-high heat in heavy-bottomed pot and add popcorn kernels.
2. Cover pot with a lid leaving a small crack for steam to escape. Listen for popping and remove pot from heat as soon as popping stops or slows to a few seconds between pops. (An adult should handle this step.)
3. Spread popcorn in an even layer on a foil-lined baking sheet and sprinkle with salt. Set aside.
4. Melt butter and chocolate in a double-boiler set over simmering water or a heavy-bottomed pot over a very low flame. Stir to combine. Remove from heat as soon as the chocolate is melted and watch for scorching.
5. Scrape chocolate mixture into a quart-size plastic bag and squeeze the chocolate into one corner of the bag.
6. Cut off the very tip of the corner of the bag containing the chocolate.
7. Gently squeeze the bag to pipe the melted chocolate over the popcorn -- an older kid can do this with supervision.
8. While the chocolate is still warm, sprinkle the chosen toppings over the popcorn.
9. Chill the tray of popcorn in the fridge until the chocolate is set.
10. Once the chocolate has melted and you've finished putting on your toppings, you can put the popcorn in a jar and decorate.

You can also change the color of the M&M's to white and green for St. Patrick's Day! 



### Name That Celebrity by: Sarah W

My apology for missing the last paper, but for the winner of the September/October issue was Libby C. in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The answer from the last "Name That Celebrity" was Barbra Streisand. Congratulations! Get ready to name that celebrity!

- \*Is a male member of the cast of Glee
- \*Birthday-February 5, 1987 (28 years old)
- \*Girlfriend-Mia Swier
- \*Co-owner of Starkid Productions
- \*Starred as Harry Potter in "A Very Potter Musical"

Write your first and last name and grade level on a slip of paper and turn it into Mr. Champion's room, G108. The winner will be announced in the March/April issue.



Barbra Streisand aka Fanny Brice  
in Funny Girl

### Inspirational Quotes by Sarah W.

"Prejudice is just ignorance."

-Glee

"Sometimes you just have to catch the right wave in the perfect storm."

-Chris Colfer

"Never give up and always know that the definition of success is when preparation meets opportunity."

-Naya Rivera



# MilitaryAlphabet

William E.

Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliet, Kilo, Lima, Mike, November, Oscar, Papa, Quebec, Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, X-Ray, Yankee, Zulu

That’s right... there is a bonus report from Will’s Military Dedication Reports, (W.M.D.R.). This is a file I decided to make for my dad, who has been in the Navy for 15 years and is going to be promoted in May to Officer. He joined the Navy at 19 years old and he is 34 years old now. I would like to dedicate reports for people who serve for us, regardless of how long they served. To say bye, we will take a moment to reflect our thanks for those men and women

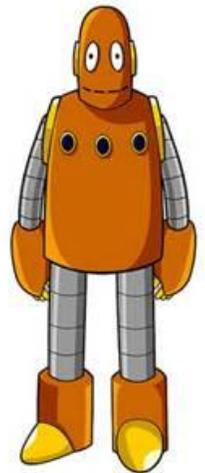
.....  
..... Goodbye everyone and thank you Military for serving.

## My Robot Theory

By J.D. L.

I believe that I have come up with a theory of how to create a human robot! My theory is as follows:

A robot should function like a human, so it should have the features of a human. By this I mean that a robot should have the appearance, organs, and functions of a human. However, I do not mean that a human should donate his organs or anything; I mean that a robot should have mechanical versions of these functions. Like, for example, the robot’s “brain” would still be inside the robot’s head, but it would be replaced by a computer program. The robot’s “blood” and “nerves” would be replaced electrical wires. The robot would be charged by a cord that hooked up to the mouth via a charging port. Another cord would run from the inside of the mouth to the heart, which would pump the energy throughout the body like an extension cord. Maybe one day someone will create a robot like this one. Until then, we’ll all be waiting for it!



## Geo-quiz answers

1. Switzerland doesn’t border a body of water; it is landlocked.
2. Krakow was Poland’s first capitol.
3. “Snurfing” was the first word for snowboarding