Patriot Post

JANUARY ISSUE 5

Time Warp

By Zoey Colglazier

If you watch CNN Student News, you may know what I'm talking about. Samoa and Tokelau, two island countries off of Australia have hopped over the International Dateline, effectively skipping an entire day. Since islands can't move, the International Dateline was moved over the islands. The reason for this skip is evident. Samoa and Tokelau do most of their business and trade with Australia and New Zealand. By being on the opposite side of the Dateline, they are 21 hours behind. So by hopping the line, they are now just 3 hours ahead, making business smoother and easier. Samoa in past years has taken other measures to align itself with Australia, such as driving on the left side of the road instead of the right, as it had done previously.

Many island nations moved across the International Dateline in 1999, vying for the coveted spot as the first place to greet the new millennium. The International Dateline is an imaginary line runs north to south, zigzagging her and there to accommodate countries demands. If a traveler were to travel west over the line, they would lose a day, like Samoa and Tokelau. If traveling east, you would gain a day, much like a giant daylight saving time leap.

Iowa Caucuses

By: Caroline Costello

As you know, the 4th year Presidential Elections are coming up, and the Republicans have to vote on their candidate for the running. The Iowa caucuses where held on 1/3-4/12 and Mitt Romney was the winner by 8 votes over Rick Santorum. Ron Paul, the Independent, came in at third. The Iowa caucuses are just the first of the caucuses to select the Republican candidate for the Presidential Elections; the next stop for the candidates is in New Hampshire for the New Hampshire caucuses. Michelle Bachman was the one and only Republican candidate to drop out of the race after the Iowa caucuses.

So, as you can see, the two front runners for the Republican race are Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum, but there are still many states that they have to go thought before the votes the final decision is announced.

Spelling Bee

By Michael Gale and Connor Carlson

On Jan 20th we had a spelling bee at Reagan. The participants were Lauren Turffs, Roy Smith, Katie Hammitt, Katie Lawton, Zoey Colglazier, James Huisheere, Erika Renkes, Jacqueline Fazekas, Lexy Newman and Racquelle Fazekas, with the alternate Mary Bone. The winner was Lauren Turffs, with a runner-up of Zoey Colglazier. In a while Lauren will go to the Regional Spelling Bee at the high school and hopefully will win. This year's Bee took almost 2 hours. Other notable facts were that all of the contestants were in eighth grade except Racquelle, seventh, and Lexy, sixth. Also there were only two boys, Roy and James. Congratulations to everyone and good luck to Lauren!

Brand-New Look

By Zoey Colglazier

If you've been in the office recently, then perhaps you've noticed: the office has a whole new look! Behind the counter is wood-like flooring, easy to clean and roll on in an office chair. The rest of the office is carpeting. Says Mr. Bullock, "The old carpet was worn, and was a tripping hazard. It had been here since the building was built."

The carpet also is a good impression on visitors, too. It is safer, and aesthetically pleasing. So next time you're in the main office, take a look at the brand new look.

Mayans and 2012

By Connor Ross

Well, as we all know, it's 2012, and that means the world is ending!!! Just kidding! As most would know, ancient artifacts have revealed the Mayans predicted the end of world, set on December 21st, 2012. Sadly, this can't possibly be true. First of all, December is a month on the calendar created by Julius Caesar during his reign over the ancient city of Rome. And while the Mayans did come after the heyday of Rome, their civilization was untouched by Europeans, and they couldn't have possibly heard about this calendar. Secondly, the Mayans didn't even have a decimal system, so the number 21 would be a foreign word to this ancient civilization. And finally, with limited tools of stone and bronze, with no machinery to be spoken of, these calendars were carved by hand, and don't you think they could have just gotten tired of chipping stone all the time!

Congratulations Connor!

By Michael Gale

Connor Sperling is December's Student of The Month! Connor is involved in wrestling at school. He has also helped to choose the music for the school dances. He enjoys hanging out with his friends at the YMCA in his free time. His favorite book ever is Little Brother, but he forgot the author. His favorite subjects are Social Studies and Algebra. Connor is planning on playing football, wrestling and baseball in high school. He says that he might be in one of the high school plays. HE is thinking about going to NIU or the university of Illinois. He says that he wants to be "Something that brings in the moolah."

A Peaceful End

By Connor Ross

World War II, Vietnam War, Civil War… The United States has had its fair share of wars. And finally, our most recent war, the Iraq War, drew peacefully to a close on December 15 after almost nine years of brutal fighting. Peacefully, the US troops brought down and rolled up the flag of command in Baghdad, and all troops were out by December 18. The war was started in 2003 on the grounds that Hussein was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. More than 109,000 lost their lives in the war, a sharp contrast to the tranquility of the war's end.

Reagan Middle School Lockdown

By Connor Ross

It's been a while since this happened, and the author apologizes for getting this article in late. On December 5th, at 2:20PM, a man committed armed robbery at the local Cash 4 Gold store, showing the pellet gun and grabbing an undisclosed amount of cash then ran south on Galena Ave. Police dogs were sent in from Mt. Carroll and Dixon to track his scent, finding that he was moving east towards the school. At 2:35PM, a lockdown at the school was prompted, and Superintendent Mike Juenger made sure that an automated phone message was sent out to all parents of the students. Even the buses were at a standstill during the period of the lockdown, which finally ended near around four, with many kids getting rides from their parents or taking the buses. Since then, the robber, William J. Kirby, 34 years old has been caught, and was apparently already sitting in Ogle County Jail on an unrelated burglary case. In 2009, Kirby was sentenced to three years of prison for stealing a laptop, and was also convicted in 2004 and 2006 on a case of aggravated battery. Kirby had also robbed a house on Dec. 3 on South Third Street. Looks like he will be doing time again…

Syrian Uprise

By Connor Ross

Syria… One of the fifteen sections of the "cradle of civilization", a nation home to arid weather and sunny beaches… However, not everything has been all gumdrops and rainbow unicorns in the small nation, located in the Middle East. Since January 26, 2011, Syria has been linked to a chain of protests known as the "Arab Spring". What is the Arab Spring? It is a revolutionary wave of protests that is currently occurring in the Arab world. The countries Egypt and Libya are just an example of the Spring. And why are the protests being held in Syria? Most of the protesters want Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad and their current form of government out, while others want to keep it. Since Jan. 26 of last year, anywhere from 700-6900 civilians have been killed under the fire of tanks and snipers. What will be the outcome of this feudal uprising? Only time will tell.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

New Hampshire Caucuses

By: Caroline Costello

The New Hampshire caucuses were a fight for second place after Mitt Romney took the lead of the poles the week after the Iowa caucuses. This was very disappointing to the republican candidate, Jon Huntsman, who had skipped the Iowa caucuses and focused mainly on the state of New Hampshire. Mitt Romney placed first, Ron Paul, the independent, placed in second, taking Rick Santorum's original spot in the race, and Jon Huntsman placed third.

Newt Gingrich came in at fourth place, just barely coming in ahead of Rick Santorum, who placed second by eight votes in the Iowa caucuses, and then Rick Perry came in the last. Former candidate, Michelle Bachman, dropped out of the republican presidential candidacy race after a disappointing turnout in her direction after the lost Iowa caucuses. Now the candidates must focus on the state of South Carolina, who had picked the republican presidential candidate since 1985!

Mrs. Hertenstein

By Zoey Colglazier

Mrs. Hertenstein has been a teacher at Reagan for many years. But this year is different. This year, on January 13th, end of the second quarter, Mrs. Hertenstein is retiring. So, I sat down with her before she left to find out how she feels about leaving.

Mrs. Hertenstein said she will definitely miss the eighth graders the most, and not just because we're awesome, but because that's the grade she teaches. She loved to come in and watch us grow as the year passed. Her favorite memory of Reagan, though, was when Mr. Geeves finally brought in food to share. "I just couldn't believe it!" she remembered.

When asked about her plans for retirement, she replied that she was eager to go spend some time in Florida, and volunteer at either the Food Pantry or Meals on Wheels. She also said she will definitely spend time with her family, and looks forward to subbing in the future.

Weird Weather

By Michael Gale

Many meteorologists have predicted one of the worst winters for the Midwest. They said that an uncommon weather pattern would come through this year called La Nina. It is a differing wind pattern that would blow the worst storms toward the Midwest instead of the New York area. We have only had 2-3 days of snow this winter. I haven't noticed anything like the "Worst winter ever." Lately, it has been proven wrong by several warm fronts coming through. Were the meteorologists totally wrong, or is La Nina still going to emerge this winter? We will find out soon.

It's James Bond! Oh, Just Some Civilian…

By Connor Ross

James Bond and the other spy movies are becoming truer every day. Forensic sciences, laser pens, jetpacks? Yes, that is correct; jetpacks! Called the Jetlev Flyer JF 250, this jetpack runs on water, using a powerful four-stroke engine and a water nozzle reaction force, which in turn creates a stable flight you control with your feet; perhaps some of you have seen this on CNN Student News. A standard Jetlev can reach heights of 33ft and a speed of 29mph, and has a cruising duration of 2-3 hours, all depending on the weight of the controller. So now, when you need to escape your enemies, you can buy a Jetlev…if you have $103,000.

Mystery Person

By Katie Hammitt

Eighth Grade
Brown hair
Favorite Color-blue
Blue eyes
Does track
Female

Seventh Grade
Short hair
Cross country
Blue eyes
Initials-C.C.

Sixth Grade
Blonde hair
Blue eyes
Cross country
Initials-L.D.

F.I.S.H.
By Katie Hammitt
S.W. fell up the stairs
B.P. and L.D. had the same birthday
A.F. said yes to chocolate or vanilla
V.S. has a fish at her house
B.R. overslept for an hour
E.B. tripped over her dog
C.C. misheard Z.C.
A.F. blew up his pen and it hit H.A.
M.G. got asked a stupid question
M.F. doesn't have a fish
R.T. chewed through a pen

8th Grade Girls Basketball Spotlight: Mackenzie Barnhart

By Erika Renkes

Mackenzie is an eighth grader involved in Basketball, Student Council, Builder's Club, Volleyball, Softball, and Soccer. Her goals for the upcoming basketball season are to win most of their games, and work hard to get better at basketball. She has been playing her favorite sport, basketball, for four years on seven different teams, and plans to continue in high school.

Scholastic Bowl

By. Zoey Colglazier

For those of you who don't know what Scholastic Bowl is, think of it like the middle school version of Jeopardy. Random questions, some about math, others science, reading, literature, farming, consumer economics, home ec, vocational education, etc. The list is quite lengthy of the different categories. The team is made up of seventh and eighth graders, (sorry sixth grade!) with 6 captains.

This year's team:

Seventh Grade: Ben Drezen, Patrick Johnson, Caroline Costello, Caleb Plumb, Megan Barnhart, Evan Tschosik, Kaylee Rice, Jadyn Erb, Cameo Dixon, Racquelle Fazekas, Mary Hildebrand

Eighth Grade: Zoey Colglazier*, James Huisheere, Josh Payne*, Jazz McGlown, Connor Carlson, Brendon McCrory, Devin Attig, Michael Gale*, Katie Hammitt*, Jacqueline Fazekas*, Aaron Faivre, Lauren Turffs, Connor Ross*

*Captains

Regifting is Impolite

By Michael Gale

Just imagine, opening a gift that has someone else's name scratched off with yours scribbled next to it. That is the horror of regifting. Regifting something is an outright way to depreciate something that you got. If you don't like what you got, then why would someone else want it? If the person that gave it to you finds out that you gave away the gift that they gave to you, they will feel really bad about giving you something that you didn't want. Why would you be so mean to someone that tried to give you something? Regifting is a terrible thing to do, but it is done all the time.

Girl's Wrestling-Against

By Emily Brooks

Some people believe that wrestling shouldn't be a girl's sport. Well, this year two girls signed up for wrestling at our school. Whether you like the idea or not, this is a dangerous sport for anyone and some people believe that having two new girls to the RMS wrestling team could be a hazardous idea! Do you agree or disagree?

Girls Wrestling: For

By: Racquelle Fazekas

Imagine a school wrestling team. What does it look like? Is it a team of tough looking guys? That's not how it looks this year. Two sixth grade girls signed up and have joined the wrestling team. I believe in this action because it is a way to say that girls are just as good as boys, and that there is nothing guys can do that girls can't.

I also think that it would also be a good idea for our school to have a separate girls wrestling team. I think it would be a great way to encourage other girls to try out sports that in the past have mainly been just for boys. If there was a team for girls, it would be an opportunity to encourage other them to build self esteem and set an example to other schools.

All in all, I am all for girls wrestling. And to those two girls that actually are wrestling, I say keep it up and good luck to you!