

# Cougar Scratches

Volume I, Issue II

October 2008

## Halloween Fun

by Tory Peyton



### SCHOOL JOKES

by Austin McKee

**Teacher:** Lisa, when was the great depression?

**Lisa:** Last week when I got my report card.

**Q:** What subject do witches like?

**A:** Spelling!

**Q:** What is the first part of a geography book?

**A:** The table of continents.

Every October 31st is the most dark and spooky holiday, Halloween! It's one of the oldest celebrated holidays in history.

It is thought that the Halloween colors, orange and black, are the Halloween colors because orange is associated with harvest (Halloween marks the end of harvest season) and black for death.

Halloween is also known as: All Hallow's Eve, The Feast of the Dead, The Day of the Dead . . . . But don't let that freak you out YET!

Some people used to believe that if you saw a spider on Halloween night, it could be a dead loved one watching you. . . . Are you scared yet?

The first Jack O' Lantern was made out of hollowed out turnips!

The fastest pumpkin carver in the world was Jerry Ayers of Baltimore, Ohio! He carved the pumpkin in 37 seconds!

The biggest pumpkin in the world tipped the scales at a whopping 1,446 pounds! It was weighted at a pumpkin festival in Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada.

Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other states, with 545 million pounds of pumpkins in 2007! California and Ohio grew 100 million pounds of pumpkins in 2007!

Magician Harry Houdini died on Halloween 1916!

When trick-or-treating first became popular in the U.S. around the 1800's, more children played mischievous pranks than asked for candy! (Don't get any ideas!) But by the

1950's the focus changed from pranks to sugar hyped candy collecting!

36.1 million is the estimated number of potential trick or treaters—ages 5-13 who will go out across the United States for this holiday. The number is down 45,000 from 2005. Of course some children older than 13 and younger than 5 may be trick or treating too!

About 98% of pumpkins sold are made into Jack O' Lanterns! Helpful hint: If your pumpkin shrivels up you can restore it by soaking it over night in water to re-hydrate it.

Halloween is fun! Get out tonight, collect some candy and ENJOY!

### Mock Election Results

McCain and Palin 412  
Obama and Biden 171

84% of the 6th grade voted  
71% of the 7th grade voted  
63% of the 8th grade voted

Students enjoyed using the voting booth from the Board of Elections for voting privacy and the "I voted today" stickers provided.

## Mrs. Spinelli Ready to Go Again!

by Hannah Brown

Have you ever wanted to be weightless? Well one of our very own teachers here at EMS had the chance last week! Mrs. Spinelli, one of our 8th grade science teachers was chosen 1 of 240 teachers in the country! She and 60 other teachers got to fly out of Chicago at a private airstrip next to O'Hare airport. They had attended a 1 day workshop where they were told what to expect. It was the same

kind of flight that astronauts go through for training.

Mrs. Spinelli was weightless which she said was like being on a swing at the top and you lift off the seat but it lasts longer. (25 seconds. A couple people got sick but Mrs. Spinelli didn't. She got to toss another woman around in space.

Students got to enter a de-

sign for a patch for her to wear on her suit. She had us all sign the flag she took up with her! But they wouldn't let her take it out of the plastic bag!

She has great photos and stories from the experience to share! The Chicago Daily Herald and Chicago NBC 5 interviewed her. The Middletown Journal and Space Times Magazine did too!

# A Personality Test

by Tess Gibbs



## We Made a Difference in Trenton!

What do you like to do with friends?

- A. Shop
- B. Skateboard
- C. Go to Skateway
- D. Listen to Music

What brand of clothes do you wear?

- A. Aeropostle
- B. Old Navy
- C. American Eagle
- D. South Pole

Do you think people in band are “band geeks”?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I.D.K.. (I don’t know)
- D. I’m in band!



Mostly A’s: People think you’re cool, except people in band.

Mostly B’s: People think you are very cool, even people in band.

Mostly C’s: You need to start doing more things and getting to know more people.

Mostly D’s: You’re very cool, people appreciate you a lot, and you appreciate music!

Saturday, Oct. 25th was the 10th Make a Difference Day in Trenton! Many of our students helped around the community with everything from painting to park clean-up to help at the animal shelter (where HowlFest was going on).

Pizza and refreshments were served at the end of the day to celebrate a job well done.

# Dear Maddy

by an Anonymous Cougar Scratches Reporter

Ever have a problem with something that you’re really confused about? You felt like you needed confidential help? Your worries are over, just ask me!!!! I’m Maddy and I’m the new advice columnist for Cougar Scratches and my specialty is adolescents. I answer their problems through ANONYMOUS letters they write to me. Your name will never be mentioned in my re-

plies. It’s easy to ask me. Just write your letter and sign it with a pen name. (I don’t care if you use the name Ham-burger Head.) Just please make sure it is school appropriate! Thanks!

Then drop it off in the Dear Maddy box

in the library.

Hopefully, my advice will help you and others. And remember, your name will not be mentioned in any way.

Love you very much, Maddy

Look for Letters to Dear Maddy and Maddy’s responses in the next issue of: Cougar Scratches!  
Your letters are welcome!

# Say No to Drugs and Wear Red

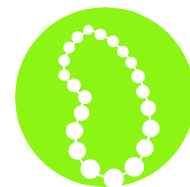
by Kyle Hooker

This week has been Red Ribbon week at EMS! Student council sponsored fun themes for each day to remind us to say no to drugs.

Monday was slipper day to “Give Drugs the Slip”, Tuesday was “Sock it to Drugs” day with people wearing crazy socks. Wednesday was an inside-out day. “Don’t let drugs

turn you inside out.” Thursday was “Put a Cap on Drugs” and students got to wear their favorite hats. Friday is wear red and there is a dance from 2:30—4 pm.

I think we should say thank you to Mrs. Cox and her student council members for doing something special for us. It was fun!



Buckeye

Necklaces

For Sale \$6.00

In Room 304

# Marvelous Monthlies: The September Special

By Jake Miller

**Book of the Month**—Brisinrg by Christoper Paolini

**Song of the Month**—Bad Girlfriend by Theory of a Dead Man

**Movie of the Month**—Eagle Eye

**6th Grade Teacher**—Mrs. Gambrell (we got your note)

**7th Grade Teacher**—Mr. Oney

**8th Grade Teacher**—Mrs. Spinelli

**Videogame of the Month**—RockBand 2

**Food of the Month**—Pumpkin Pie

**Subject of the Month**—Math

**TV Show of the Month**—C.S.I.

**Website of the Month**—Runescape.com

**Color of the Month**—Black

**Celebrity of the Month**—Criss Angel

## Teacher's Picks

**Word of the Month**—election

**Biggest News of the Month**—The Edgewood Cougar Bus Crash

**Restaurant of the Month**—Skyline

**The Author of the Month**—James Patterson

Special Thanks to Kalen Dowdy, Kaila Covey, Jake Haas, Mrs. Phares, Ms. Conte and everyone who voted for this month's Marvelous Monthlies!

## 2008-2009 Yearbook Sales by Gina Haney

If you're going to get a yearbook this year, here is some exciting news. The week of November 3rd through November 7th the yearbook will be sold in the cafeteria during lunch. If you cannot get on e that week they will also be sold on November 6th at parent-teacher conferences. No extra books will be ordered so be sure to reserve one.

The yearbooks will cost \$30 each. They will have a hardback cover

and over 52 pages of photos and memories. The yearbook staff this year consists of these 8th graders: Jamie Davis, Nick Haas, Matthew Harris, Mackenzie Lednick, Monica Henry, Bailey Joseph, Maria Resendes and Kourtni Roberson. 7th graders on the staff are: Codi Lunsford, Kasey McCall, Grace Meyer, Patty Mor-

gan, Sophie Moryl, Blake Meyers, Kaitlyn White and Ben Warner. 6th graders on the staff are: Lily Banks, Natalie Hahn, Ashley Hensley, Mackenzie Keith, Wyatt Ross, Stefanie Schumacher and John Winter.

Mrs. Creekbaum is the yearbook adviser.

*You can purchase and order your yearbooks at lunch next week or at conferences on November 6th.*

## Halloween Comic Strip created by Austin McKee at [www.makebeliefscomix.com](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com)

## Cougar Scratches Reporters tell their REAL Ghost Stories!

### GHOST OF SAVANNAH by Jacob Campbell

Savannah, Georgia is a beautiful place to visit. It has some cool site-seeing places and it is also a wonderful place to find . . . GHOSTS! ! I went to Savannah a few years ago with my dad and my brother. I told my dad I wanted to go on a haunted tour. He took us on one and it was quite an experience! I remember it like it was yesterday. Savannah has many different tours but we went on one called "Ghosts and Gravestones".

Our tour guide made us all get in a big circle before the ride and told us a little about Savannah and

what we would be doing. Then she asked my brother to close his eyes, but he wouldn't do it, so I had to do it, and she put a rock in my hand that had an ancient symbol on it. She told me it was a fortune and then we all got on the trolley and took off. When she told us some ghost stories my brother started flipping out. It was funny.

One of the ghost stories was about "The Marshall House" which is a very haunted hotel. It was built in 1851 and during the civil war it was occupied by General Sherman and was actually a Union hospital.

In 1864 it was a harshly cold year and the ground was frozen, so doctors were forced to put the amputated limbs under the floor boards.

Some visitors have reported a union soldier with one arm wandering around the lobby, looking for a surgeon.

If you and your family like ghosts are considering a vacation, go to Savannah, Georgia. And hey, if you're lucky, you might just have a ghostly encounter yourself!

### GHOST ON THE LOOSE! by Cate Siry

When I was ten years old I was visited by many, many ghosts. This is about one.

My Papaw visited me. I was freaked out because I'd never seen him before. He died before I was born.

The whole thing started an hour after I fell asleep. My room was all of a sudden very cold. Then I heard the sound of footsteps in my room. I

thought I imagined it. I felt sick.

For a while nothing happened. Then I was starting to fall asleep again. Just as I was dozing off I felt something on my bed like someone sat on it. So I thought it was my mom.

Then someone was brushing my hair. I thought to myself, "Why is my mom brushing my hair at midnight?"

Then my Papaw said "You look so much like your mom . . . But you're both so different."

I woke up and my hairbrush was on my bed next to me and I knew I had left it on my dresser.

**THIS IS A TRUE GHOST STORY!!!!!!!!!!**



### A DOUBLE GHOST STORY by Amanda Scudder

One time when my mom was a teenager, her family moved and she had to leave her boyfriend. Of course she was sad.

When she finally got to her new house she was sitting on the couch watching TV and there was a room by the TV. When she looked over she saw a "transparent looking per-

son" walk out of the hallway and go through the door and disappear. She thinks this may have been a poltergeist who came because she was so very sad and depressed.

My grandpa died of lung cancer in the living room at our house—so my mom decided to move into his

old room. My mom called to one of our cats to come into the room with her. The cat started walking toward her. Then the cat must have seen something because she freaked out and started running. She jumped onto the table before the bed and almost missed the bed and started peeking over to see if "it" was still there. **TRUE STORY!**

## Halloween Haunts by Emily Eby

Halloween has arrived and if you're looking for a scare, The Land of Illusions in Middletown, Ohio is the place to go! You can choose between four terrifying attractions.

My favorite is the Middletown Haunted Trail. The trail takes 40 minutes to an hour and costs \$15 per person.

Another spine chilling attraction is Dr. Psycho's Haunted Estate. It takes only 10 to 15 minutes and costs \$10 per person.

Killer Clowns costs \$10 and the Temple of Terror costs \$12.

The Land of Illusions opens at dusk. Ticket sales stop at 1 a.m. and the park closes at 2 a.m.

It is still open until November 2nd—so hurry in!

You do have to pay \$3.00 for parking but there are package rates if you do 2, 3, or all 4 attractions. You can do 4 attractions for \$30, 3 for \$25 and 2 for \$20.

The address is 8762 Thomas Road.

Be afraid, be very afraid!



## Do You Believe in Ghosts and Vampires?

by Amanda Scudder and Cate Siry

We did a survey of EMS students and teachers and asked if they believed in ghosts and/or vampires.

75% said they believe in ghosts or spirits. 25% do not.

15% said they believe in vampires. 85% said they do not.

## What Are You Going to Be for Halloween?

by Kayla Crace

I interviewed 36 people and this is what they said they were going out as for Halloween:

Dead Things—17

Vampires—6

Devils—2

Angels—10

Band Mates—1



## Our Art Teacher, Ms. Brann by Devin Campos

Ms. Brann is new at EMS this year but she has been teaching four and a half years.

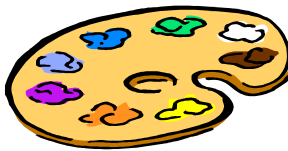
She wanted to be an art teacher “to inspire kids to have appreciation for a subject that I love with a passion”.

She went to Miami University.

She has one sister. She has a husband named Nick. They have a

little boy named Casey.

I asked her what was the hardest project she ever did in college art. She said it was a “non-object sculpture made out of foam”.



## Cougar Football by Kyle Taylor

I got to do a pre-game and post-game interview with Brandon Marcum, #16 for the Edgewood High School football team and starting quarterback for the Oct. 3rd game.

Before the game I asked him if it was hard playing under pressure. He said not really. He is a calm

person. I asked how he could play with all the noise. He said he can't hear it. He is “focused” on the field. He can remember all of the plays because of lots and lots of practice.

After the winning of the game he said he felt good. He said he thought the team worked well together.

I was going to ask him what the team needs most to work on but I got to ask Coach Channell that question.

The coach said, “Tonight's game went very well but we need to do a better job of completing the game on both sides of the ball.”

Go Cougars!

## What's In

by Natalie Hahn

Many things are in right now for fall. Here are some ideas for what you may want to wear:

**Tops:** Wearing graphic tees, long sleeve tops with short sleeve shirts over top, tank tops with see-through shirts over top of them.

**Bottoms:** flare jeans with cool belts.

**Jewelry:** beads, funky cool earrings, long earrings, crazy colors.

**Make up:** dark eye shadow, mascara, bright and energetic lipstick, also bright nail polish.

**Extras:** funky, bright totes and purses.

## Presidential Facts

by Austin McKee

Did you know the following presidents had these pets?

Bear: T. Roosevelt

Bird: T. Roosevelt

Cat: Lincoln, Clinton

Cow: Taft

Dog: Johnson, Bush and Bush

Donkey: Coolidge

Pony: T. Roosevelt

Did you know the following president played these musical instruments?

Piano: Truman

Trombone: Harding

Saxophone: Clinton

Did you know the following presidents had these hobbies?

Diary writing: J.Q. Adams

Flying roosters: Van Buren

Juggling: Garfield

Riding an Electric Horse: Coolidge

Stamp collecting: F. Roosevelt



## Holes A Book Review by Brittany Duff

In Mrs. Mangino's homeroom class we read the book Holes.

The author is Louis Sachar. He has written a total of 21 fiction and educational books. Holes has won the Newberry Medal and National Book Award.

Most people will agree this is a good book, I rate it a 10. It is especially a good book for people who enjoy adventures. Most of the peo-

ple's favorite part is when Stanley and Zero find the treasure and the boys get released.

Stanley and Zero are the main characters. They have to go to Camp Green Lake. This camp is no picnic! They have to dig hole after hole after hole.

One day Zero runs away and Stanley follows him. They try to get to the top of a mountain. This moun-

tain is shaped like a hand with the thumb sticking up. Once they finally get there they find water.

While they are missing the counselors try to erase their files. The boys have to decide whether to go back to camp or die out in the desert. There is a lot of suspense in this part of the book.

I hope you will read Holes if you haven't already. The movie is very enjoyable too.



## Our Science Teacher, Mr. Mac

by Lucas Young

When I interviewed Mr. Mac he was in a really big hurry, but I found out a number of interesting things.

This is his 15th year of teaching. Besides teaching science he has also taught reading and social studies. I found out that he is a football

coach. Football is also his favorite sport.

I asked him about his family. He has a wife and four children. I asked this question because I had heard he had a large family.

Time for my final question. At the beginning of the year he had

told us he liked fishing. So I asked him, "What is the biggest fish you've ever caught?" He proudly said, "A five pound bass."

After that I said "Thank you for your time and have a good day."

Until next time, Lucas Young, over and out.



## Interview with Mr. Steiner by Doug Ferguson

I asked Mr. Steiner, special education teacher in Room 202 the following questions.

**Q:** How do you like Edgewood so far?

**A:** I love it. It is the best school I ever taught at.

**Q:** What do you teach?

**A:** CCRR—Cross Categorical Resource Room

**Q:** What other schools have you worked at?

**A:** Learning Centers in Clark County, the Educational Service Center and Warren County Learning Center—3 years

**Q:** What are your favorite subjects?

**A:** English and science.

**Q:** What are your favorite colors?

**A:** black and beige

**Q:** What is your favorite food?

**A:** chicken cordon blue

**Q:** What activities do you enjoy?

**A:** Going to concerts, writing and performing music, I have been in a band for six years, acted in a short film and I am a professional D.J. I watch a lot of movies too.

**Q:** What did you do before you were a teacher?

**A:** Managed a movie theater for 18 years.

**Q:** Have you ever been interviewed before?

**A:** Yes, many times.

**Q:** Where do you live?

**A:** Fairfield.

**Q:** What is your favorite movie?

**A:** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. I really like science fiction horror films too.

**Q:** What are your favorite bands?

**A:** The Newsboys, Erasure and the Pet Shop Boys.

## Mulan Field Trip A Successful Outing!

by Brittany Duff

7th graders study Ancient and Medieval China in social studies. Mrs. Ann Brown's classes got to go to the Taft Theater in Cincinnati on Tuesday, Oct. 28th to see Disney's version of an old Chinese folktale.

Mulan is a young Chinese maiden who learns that her weak and lame father is to be called up into the army to fight the invading

Huns. Knowing that he would never survive the rigors of war, she decides to disguise herself and join in his place. Unknown to her, her ancestors are aware of this and try to prevent it. A dragon called Mushu is sent to try to get her to give up on her plan but he becomes her friend and helps her instead.



Lunch was at Wendy's. Two buses ate at the Wendy's on Tylersville Road. The manager is Mr. Brann, Mrs. Brann's husband.

Mrs. Weber's students have a field trip in November to a play in Dayton about immigration to America.

## Band News

by Nick Alcorn



Hello fellow students at EMS. This article is about the EMS concert band. If you've never seen the band, December is the time! Our concert is December 11th. We are practicing Jingle Bell Rock, Bell Carol Fantasy and Santa's Big Adventure! Hope to see you there!

## Congratulations to this Year's Show Choir!

Mrs. Wolf thanks ALL who auditioned! It was a close race!

Those who made it are as follows - 7th grade: Taylor Bowman, Danielle Fletcher, Annie Gentry, Cassidy Harris, Kayle Helton, Britni Kenny, Lindsey Laird, Codi Lunsford, Grace Meyer, Brooke Rosenberger, Melanie Short, Angela Stevenson, Morgan Wise. 8th grade: Jordan Barker, Hannah Brown, Clancey Butts, Madison Couch, Kayla Crace, Sara Drake, Kelsi Fields, Samantha Fletcher, Brittany Goad, Megan Lawson, Ashlyn McIntyre, Kristine Neal, Sadie Powell, and Alicia Walton!

## **Mock Election**

### **Write-In's Provide Some Interesting Nominees**

by Jake Miller

On October 16th and 17th EMS voted for president. Most people voted for the actual nominees of the Democrats and Republicans but we also got a few write-in ballots.

Emily Briscoe and Kasey Vonstein—two 7th grade girls seem to have voted for themselves

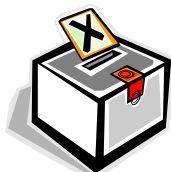
Sponge Bob—a sponge from Bikini Bottom got one vote.

Chuck Norris-got one vote.

Our own Mr. Steiner got one vote.

And Ralph Nader got two.

One person didn't mark their ballot at all and another wrote "I'm moving to Canada."



## **Slavery and Escaping** by Brittany E. Goad

We all know about the Civil War and how it came about. But as a special treat the school allowed us 8th graders to take a trip to the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati. The Freedom Center is located on the border line of Kentucky (where slavery was legal) and our Buckeye State. This was a learning experience I personally will never forget.

We walked up a spiral staircase with our guide then merged with another of our groups. We came to a mural on the wall where we were told to pack in tightly and sit down. "This is how the slaves were packed in on the ships," our guide exclaimed, "So tight, they could not move. This statement is not meant for embarrassment but ladies...gentlemen, all bodily fluids happened where you lay. You were stripped of your clothing and were also stripped of your dignity." After the mumbles ended, he continued, "The smell was said to be so bad, you could smell a slave ship a mile away."

We then shuffled into a restored slave pen. Men on one side, women on the other. I will tell you something here and now, I've never in my life been so ashamed of my country. Males 12 and older were separated from their families and taken to 2nd floor and chained to the floor. Anybody know by what? Their hand? No. Their foot? No. Let me save you the suspense, their neck. Men 12 and up separated from their families.

Our groups parted ways. From a balcony we overlooked the Ohio River. "This is what slaves had to endure. Water, hills, rocks and slave catchers," said our guide. Looking in admiration, I see why they did this. Why they left their families and homes. To be free..

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**Election Time Cartoon** created by Austin McKee at [www.makebeliefscomix.com](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com)