The Tell-Tale Traditions

By Samuel Brighton

Did you know that when Halloween was first created it was called All Hallows Eve? The costumes were because they used to believe that on Halloween all kinds of spirits would walk the earth, and people wore costumes so that the spirits would not harm them.

There are the classic traditions that most people in America do, like dressing up, trick or treating, putting up decorations, and going to parties. Around Kenai we have some traditions such as Trunk or Treat, when a bunch of people bring their vehicles and give kids candy from their car like trick or treating. Some people celebrate a Harvest Festival around the time of Halloween.

Now I will tell you the traditions that some KMS students have. Nathan Teates said that every Halloween he and his family watch *Hocus Pocus* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Tyler Van Sky and his family don’t celebrate Halloween here, but instead, for the past four years have gone to Mexico and celebrated Día de los Muertos there.

In Mexico, Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) is celebrated instead of Halloween. It honors dead loved ones and ancestors. Día de los Muertos is not just one day, it is actually three days, from October 31 to November 2. The holidays are similar but in Día de los Muertos they usually dress as skeletons, display fake skulls instead of pumpkins, and don’t go trick or treating.

The Irish celebrate Samhain, the Feast of the Dead, where they believe the dead revisit the land of the living and they have a huge feast. It takes place on November 1. During Samhain each family member puts a “perfect ivy leaf” into a cup of water then leaves it alone overnight. If, in the morning, the leaf is still perfect and has not gotten any spots then the person who placed the leaf in the cup gets one year of good health.

In Japan they focus most of Halloween on the costumes. Japanese people create lots of wild, impressive costumes and do things like zombie runs and flash mobs. (continued on page 2)
Halloween Traditions
(continued from page 1)

In Italy they dress up and go to parties instead of going trick or treating. They call the holiday All Saints Day or All Souls Day. Halloween is still kind of new to Italy, so they have not developed many traditions yet.

Halloween’s creation can actually be traced to Scotland. In Scotland, Halloween is all about the supernatural, stuff like witches, spells, and ghosts, and apparently they consider fire supernatural. During Halloween, it is also a tradition for newly married couples to put a nut in a fire. If the nut burns quietly they will have a good life together, but if it is loud they may stop loving each other in the future or have a very rough marriage.

There are many traditions for Halloween. So what are you going to do this year? What are you going to dress up as? I would love to know!

Information found on these websites:
Irish Genealogy, Historik UK, Trip Savvy, and Timeanddate.com

Dia de los Muertos
By Tyler Van Sky

My family and I visited this ofrenda when we went to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Well, you may be reading this here in Kenai, Alaska but I am in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and I will be telling you about Día de los Muertos. For the last five years my family and I have traveled here and have seen Día de los Muertos in person.

During Día de los Muertos people put up pictures of the dead to honor them. They also make goods that they liked when they were alive to put up next to the picture, such as bread, sugar skulls, drinks, and lots more.

When my family and I are here we just walk up and down some streets and see ofrendas (offerings) inside and outside stores and buildings! When we were here a few years ago we went to a town square at night and people put up hundreds of gleaming candles next to the pictures and offerings.

Halloween Movies
By Brooklyn Larsen

One of the best parts about any holiday is the movies, especially Halloween and Christmas movies! So, here is a playlist of the top five Halloween movies to watch this spooky season!

Hocus Pocus - PG
The Nightmare Before Christmas - PG
Halloween - R
The Addams Family - PG13
Casper - PG

Before Christmas - PG
Hallowreads
By Isabella Bond

In the KMS library there are some super scary books that can make you have a really rough night sleeping because your head is so occupied with the horrifying thoughts of the villains in the books coming out to torture you until you die like Count Dracula sucking blood out of his victims until they die in a slow and painful process. On the other hand, some of these books will keep you wanting to read more but send tingles up your spine and make you feel like someone is watching you 24-7. Anyway, here are some terrifying books that you absolutely should read on Halloween, but beware of what comes out of the book!

One for Sorrow by Mary Downing Hahn
Abduction by Peg Kehret
Nightmare Mountain by Peg Kehret

13 Halloween Tunes
By Nathan Teates

1. Thriller: Michael Jackson
2. Monster Mash: Bobby Pickett
4. A Nightmare on my Street: DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince
5. Werewolves of London: Warren Zevon
6. Time Warp: Richard O’Brien
7. Highway to Hell: AC/DC
8. Sympathy for the Devil: The Rolling Stones
9. The Purple People Eater: Sheb Wooley
10. Bienvenue a Halloween: Danny Elfman
11. Don’t Fear the Reaper: Blue Oyster Cult
12. Hells Bells: AC/DC
13. Runnin’ with the Devil: Van Halen

Anagram Scramble
By Mrs. Nabholz

What do all of these weird phrases have in common?

Once you figure it out, be sure to have one!

OH, WHALE PLAYPEN
WHALE HYENA PLOP
LONE, HAPPY WHALE
HELP A WHALE PONY
PHONY WHALE LEAP
HYPE A NEPAL HOWL
HYENA APPLE HOWL
A HOLY NEPHEW PAL
NEPHEW PLAY HALO
Opinion-8-ed
By A. Wyatt Cole

If you had a choice of any animal in the world, what would you have as a pet? Why?

“A cat because they are cuddly.”
-Imogen Roberts

“My cat. Because he is guaranteed safe and is already mine.”
-Nathan Teates

“A teacup chihuahua because they're small and cute.”
-Chloe Grimm

“Dogs, because they are a man's best friend.”
-Koby Anderson

“I would have a dog because they are really loyal, fun, sometimes fluffy, and cuddly!”
-Emaline Cruickshank

“Probably a dolphin so I could ride it.”
-Izzie McClure

“A bird, to wake me up out of bed.”
-Ethan Pyatt

“If I could have any animal in the universe, I would have a dragon. I would want a dragon because then I could fly high above the idiots in the world, where they couldn’t bother me. I would also want a dragon because they could help me hoard books, and gold I guess. And yes, I know that dragons are not in the real world.”
-Willow Patrick

“A rhino because you could ride it and it could be your bodyguard.”
-Trenton Wight

“A panda, because they are cute and awesome.”
-Alex Brown

“A sloth, because they are super cute and cuddly.”
-Nora Sonderland

Hydromania
By Natalia Polanco

The Hydro Flask is an amazing water bottle! It can keep cold drinks cold up to 24 hours, isn’t that cool? So now you don’t have to worry about your water getting warm when you leave it in the car for the 10th time.

Anyway, the Hydro Flask is also a great accessory if you want to spice up some of your outfits, but you can also dress up your Hydro Flask too with...STICKERS! Yes, just when you thought the Hydro Flask couldn’t get any better, you can now dress it up. A lot of people tend to decorate their Hydro Flask based on their personality, or when they go on vacation they use the stickers as souvenirs.

By reading this you are maybe thinking that the Hydro Flask is a pretty cool water bottle, but the Hydro Flask is also good for the environment. Since the Hydro Flask is made of metal, it's a lot more healthy for the environment, because if you use a regular plastic water bottle and it breaks, the plastic can pollute the earth. Plastic bottles are also made from a chemical called BPA (bisphenol A) which causes health problems and brain damage.

I had the chance to interview a KMS student named Cadence Fischer who has an actual Hydro Flask. She has about 14 water bottles and some of the stickers on her water bottles describe her as chill, trippy, and rad. As you can tell, Hydro Flasks are kind of trending right now, so I asked her why. She thinks it’s part of the image of the VSCO girl. Her dream Hydro Flask would be so big that she can swim in it!

Now on a more serious topic, I asked her if she could have all the Hydro Flasks in the world what she would do with them. She answered, “I would donate them to charity because people need to stay hydrated.”

* * * * *

“Mommy, everyone says I look like a werewolf.”
“Please be quiet and comb your face.”
A Gift from the Sea
By McKenzie Koliba

Mr. Verkuilen just got a sea lion skeleton in his room, and he needed a name for her, so he held a contest for choosing the name. Mr. V’s students could get three chances to win. They would put three female names on a piece of paper and their name and if they win they get a pizza. Mr. V chose and the winner was Peyton Cowie with the name Pearl. Good job!

In February 2019 Mr. V got an email from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. They asked him if he wanted a female seal lion, because they were making changes and didn't have room for it. Mr. V replied and said yes, but he had to ask Mr. Dosko. Mr. Dosko said yes, it would be cool to have it, so he started the federal papers. In May 2019 they had to get a permit.

During the summer Mr. Dosko and his wife went to Seward with a big cargo truck from KPBSD to pick it up. Mr. Dosko said it was not as heavy as it looks. It was difficult to get loaded in the truck because it was such a difficult shape and he didn’t want to drop it because it’s very fragile. The sea lion got to KMS in the summer and has been sitting in the lunchroom until they could find a way to put it up. The borough maintenance had to figure out how to put it up, before putting up. Finally the sea lion got hung up a couple weeks ago. We are glad to have Pearl as part of our school now!

* * * * *

September Correction: A note from Melody; I would like to personally apologize to Jason Johnson and his family for misspelling his mom’s name, and for saying that his siblings like board games. So apologies to Karrin and to Jason’s sisters, who do in fact, not like board games.

Phobia Land
By Demon Mother

Welcome back to the column where I draw a random phobia as a character, and then talk about why I added certain details. This time, the phobia is Cyberphobia, which is the fear of the internet/ technology. I’d like to think that the reason behind it is because of how devices can record you, how easily things can be hacked, or how disturbing things or events based around the internet can be.

In this character, I decided that I didn’t want to draw someone who has the phobia, but instead a small idea of what the actual phobia as a character would look like. I incorporated several different internet and technology based things into the character, the most noticeable things being a few well-known applications: Google Chrome, Instagram, Gmail, Twitter, Facebook, Amino, Snapchat, Tinder, and Pinterest.

Google Chrome was set as the character’s eye because it seems to be the current most powerful company on the internet and is attached to almost everything surrounding it. Instagram is a camera around the character’s neck for obvious reasons, and Twitter is the blue perching bird. Along with all of these, the character is a robot with a screen for a face to take another nod toward the technology half of the fear, and if you look closely, you can see the red recording circle on it.

Some of the details might be hard to see in the monotone, printed version of the paper, such as the Snapchat logo. I encourage you to check out the online version of the Purple Pages for a much better image!

Did you notice what medium this was ironically drawn in?
Locker Queens
By McKenzie Koliba

A lot of kids love having their own locker. The lockers are like their own little space. Some people maybe will put up a few pictures, but others go all out to make it their own.

A 7th grader, Ella Schlachter, has a very spooky and scary locker. She has ghosts, a cauldron, orange ribbon, cotton balls, marshmallows, and much more. One of the reasons why she decorated it was because she loves to decorate and she really wanted to be in the Purple Pages.

Ava Gruber, a 7th grader, has a very nice and pretty locker. She decorated it so her locker wasn’t so normal and she wanted to spice it up. She has white patterned wallpaper, pretty magnets, white boards, and pictures.

Stella Selanoff, a 7th grader, has a cool decorated locker. She has all kinds of things in her locker, like a mirror, white board, lots of pictures, and really cool magnets. Stella says “that a plain locker is boring” so she decorated it.

A 7th grader, Maddie Malone, has a cute decorated locker. She decorated it so when she opens her locker it’s organized and she knows it’s hers. She has pretty gold wallpaper, pictures, a big white board, a shelf, and magnets.

Sources of Strength
By Rylee Novak

You may have heard of Sources of Strength, but maybe you don’t know what it is. Well, no worries, because today I shall inform all who read this article exactly what Sources of Strength is about.

Sources of Strength is a program made up of students and adults who are prepared to help and provide advice for the rough times in life. Their goal is to “spread hope, help, and strength into every corner of our community.” Sources of Strength is a great program to join to help with self-confidence and add more positivity in life.

Students were nominated two ways. One way was teachers could suggest a student for it, or another student could suggest another kid to be picked for it. They already had one meeting last month, and since I was not there to attend it, I asked Lola McEwen about it. “Why did you join?” I asked her.

“I think it’s cool to be in,” she said. She and her brother both went to the meeting last month. At that meeting they played strategy games all day, basically games that helped teach them trustworthiness and teamwork, so it was fun but also taught them all a lesson.

She thought it was fun, since they got to learn about everything the leaders had to teach them. She also said that she would go to another meeting, since it was inspirational and helped her to be aware of many issues. She liked that the leaders were honest and not afraid to talk about things, but not about to get deep and emotionally attached with every student, which she thought was good.

She thought the group leaders (Mr. Dosko, Mr. Beck, Nurse Dixie, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Navarre, Mrs. McCown, Mrs. Adair, Mrs. Rininger, Mrs. Nabholz, Ms. Hutchinson, and Mr. Tilly) all did a nice job of teaching everyone and not being scared to talk about big topics. The main goal for Sources of Strength is to spread positivity and help encourage people to speak up about their feelings and get help when help is needed.

If you’d like to read more about their plans and goals, you can visit their website at sourcesofstrength.org, if you would like to see if there’s something within Sources of Strength for you. Since their goal is to help people and spread positivity, maybe there’s something that could pique your interest, so give it a go and see what comes out of it!
Otaku Nyusu
By Kai Adkins

Hello, I have returned again with more news. This time we’re doing manga and I have interviewed Miya Gottschalk. Miya reads a lot of manga; it’s actually her preferred reading material.

Miya says that if she had the books or went to the library enough she would only read manga (understandably) and she likes the “the diversion of it.” She likes manga because “it’s like a picture book but more interesting.” I asked her what her favorite mangas are, and she said Fairytale or Naruto but her favorite characters are Shikimuru from Naruto and Gray from Fairytale and Aizawa Shota from BNHA (Boku No Hero Academia) or My Hero Academia. If she could live in a manga world, she would live in BNHA.

All right, now let’s talk about BNHA or My Hero Academia. It’s about a boy who is “quirkless,” which means that he has no powers. People who have quirks or powers can do the job everyone wants, becoming a superhero, which means there is also a huge burst in criminal activity. Deku (the main character) has no quirk and is bullied for it. If I say any more I will get hunted down by the diehard BNHA fans.

Anyway, read the manga and watch the anime (it’s on Crunchyroll and many other streaming services). I use Crunchyroll but there are a lot of other anime apps along with manga ones (cough cough MANGA ROCK cough cough.) Here’s a picture of the class 1-A.

Recently TATU started, but what exactly is it? TATU stands for Teens Against Tobacco Use and is a club that focuses on spreading awareness of drugs and their effects, short and long term; Nurse Dixie runs the KMS program, which is made up of 8th graders.

TATU is a fantastic opportunity if you want to help people, because TATU certainly does that. “We have a really great group of kids this year,” Nurse Dixie informed me. “It’s a great program for kids to teach other kids.”

If you like the idea of TATU, maybe look into joining it! You could end up helping someone, or making friends. So if it intrigues you, and you’re an 8th grader, maybe give it a shot to see if it’s something for you.

The students in TATU include:
- Nora Sonderland
- Lexa Adami
- Caitlyn Martin
- Isabel McClure
- Lorenzo Elias
- Hally Elder-Hanson
- Samantha Avery
- Jody McKinney
- Brooke Hall
- Vance Johnston

The students in TATU include:

Students celebrating Red Ribbon Week by wearing red and having tattoos and mustaches!
First Choir Concert Ever
By Melody Cox

Friday, October 10, 2019

Sometimes after lunch, students go to the choir room to sing. Matthew Krol and Grace Asi were practicing for the song “Hands Are Knocking,” and Mrs. Vollom-Matturro was having them switch vocals so that she could find out what sounded the best for the song. Then she had everyone there join them, including Beverly Roney, Lola McEwen, Caitlyn Crapps, Dominique Russel, Ollie Boersma, Dakota Wisnewski, Brooke Hall, and Caitlyn Martin. We sang “Hands Are Knocking,” “Why We Sing,” and “One Voice.” Peyton Cowie, Megan Hutchings, and Kendall Loggins joined us as we started singing “One Voice.” Silas Freeman is performing a duet with Caitlyn Martin and their voices blend together perfectly. She had the rest of us join in when the solos were over. After we finished that song, Beverly was playing the piano. When we were done with that we sang “Why We Sing,” and when we sing that song you can just hear us telling you all the reasons we love choir. When we finished Mrs.V was fan-girl ing over how we sounded!

Friday, October 10, 2019

We had our first combined choir and it went well. It took us a little while to get in the correct concert order. After we did that, we went to the cafeteria to practice for the concert. The concert is in four days and we still had to perfect our songs. We all were doing well, but we needed to improve our enunciation on a couple of our songs. For “Hands Are Knocking” the words are a little hard to remember. For “Adoramus Te” we needed to work on which set of words went where. I think we’ll be done by the time the concert rolls around.

Monday, October 14, 2019

We had a normal day in choir, and we went through our normal choir routine. We went to our concert spots, and then we did our choir warm-ups. For our warm-ups we do weird things, but if we don’t we might hurt our voices. After that we practiced our songs, then we practiced going on and off the stage. We also worked on our enunciation, which took up most of the rest of the period. On our way to put away our folders, we sang “Siyahamba,” in choir we have four groups; soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. As we are walking we have to sing our parts, even though it’s kinda hard to focus because we are all walking away from our group. I think that we need to work on a few parts but we sound great.

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

On Tuesday we walked across the lawn to the high school, to practice our concert and finalize our songs with Mr. Nissen. We left around ten minutes after 2nd period, after we did roll call and talked a bit about where we were going and what we were going to do. Then we left, it was freezing! When we arrived (continued on page 9)
there we sorted ourselves into the concert order and then we entered into the auditorium rehearsing and we suggested changes. Then we practiced going from the risers to the balcony, where we would wait until we joined for “Siyahamba.” After that we sang “Adoramus Te” and then the 6th graders joined us for “Why We Sing” and “One Voice.” After that we started to head back so we wouldn’t be late for 4th period.

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

The concert is finally tonight. I don’t know about you but I’m really nervous and looking forward to hearing the Chamber Choir sing. The Chamber Choir is the high school’s elite singers. I have heard (from Mrs. Vollom-Matturro) that the Chamber Choir is really fun to listen to. They are going to sing with us on “Hands Are Knocking.” Personally I have never heard them sing, but my brother has heard them sing and he enjoyed it.

The Concert from a 7th Grade Choir Student’s Perspective

We had to be at the high school by 5:30, but I got there early. I wanted to be able to talk to Mrs. Vollom-Matturro about how the concert was going to work. I arrived about ten after five. Alliyah and I were running around flapping our “wings” (aka our very long choir sleeves) although we were supposed to be professional.

The concert was a lot of fun, but it was a little confusing. An example of this was that after we sang “Siyahamba” we were supposed to go up onto the balcony and watch the high school choir and chamber choir perform. Instead we went to the gym and were there for at least 45 minutes just playing around. I was really overheating in my choir robe; they may be comfortable but man, they are REALLY hot. The choir robes are purple with a gold and white collar-like thing (for lack of a better description).

The first song we sang for the concert was “Adoramus Te,” then the 6th graders joined us for “Why We Sing.” After that the 6th graders left and the Chamber Choir joined us for “Hands Are Knocking.” After that we went back to the gym and sat down in the risers. The risers were kind of cramped, but after Mrs. Vollom-Matturro talked to us for a while we were set free. Most of the students were just sitting around talking, but a couple of students (definitely not me) were running around like crazy people, about 15 minutes before the concert ended, we all started to take off our robes. By the time all of us had taken off our robes, it was time to go.

We got out there and started to sing “Siyahamba,” and after that Mr. Nissen (KCHS choir teacher) spoke to the audience. Then it was time for “One Voice” after the solos were over, the rest of us joined in on the singing. After we finished that song we left the room and went back to the gym to grab our stuff and reunite with our beloved families. After that my family picked me up and we went to Dairy Queen and I bought a cookie dough Blizzard. Then we went home and I went to bed ’cause I was exhausted.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

The day after the concert we had a study hall in choir. I fell asleep on my friend’s shoulder so I don’t know exactly what happened that day, but I do know that Mrs. Vollom-Matturro was telling us about how the concert went. We got to take a cookie, donut hole, or Dum Dum, but I didn’t really want one so I opted out of having one. I heard that we did great and were very professional. Mrs. Vollom-Matturro said that the guy who was controlling the lights thought that we were just as professional as the high schoolers.

I think that we could have made the concert run more smoothly, but all in all I’d say the concert was great. Next time I know that we will be even better, because we will have had more practice. Mrs. Vollom-Matturro will be more knowledgeable on who should go next to whom so that we sound better, and our voices will blend together more evenly. I am really excited to hear our new songs, and I am looking forward to our next concert. I hope you will come to our concert, we love your support!

#KMSHashtags

#peppapig
#halloweenscarymovies
#boystachedasvscogirls
#trickortreatsmellmyfeet
#crazycostumes
#sealionskeleton
#pearlagiftfromthesea
#thirdworldproject
#teachersareawesome
#mathisscary
#weirdsquad
#thanksgivingissoon
#christmasiscoming
This XC season was quite possibly our strangest one yet (in the sense that all the eighth graders were weirder than ever, plus some of the seventh graders.) Out of all the 29 amazing people on the team, our fastest people improved so much, they couldn’t improve their places! Our coaches, Ms. Gann and Ms. Hutchison, are credited with many of the improvements for the team. Our collective hard work and determination made our team the champs once again! Here are the top 15 results from XC boroughs.

**Top Boys**
1. Gregory Fallon  
3. Jack Laker  
6. Chase Laker  
12. Zane Pellegrrom  
13. Nathan Teates

**Top Girls**
4. Emilee Wilson  
5. Tania Boonstra  
11. Mya Taylor

Here are some KMS XC quotes about the season:

**What was your favorite road trip and why?**
- Wyatt Cole, “The Seward one, because I saw the Axe-Murderer.”*
- Robert Carson, “The Seward one, because I was able to actually go on the ride back.”
- Layla Pearson, “The first bus ride when I went to Safeway and hung out with Daisy Samples and my brother, Kyler Pearson.”
- Elijah Cooper, “From Seward to Kenai because everyone was acting weird.”
- Eliseo Castro, “The trip to Kenai was my favorite trip because it was the longest trip.” (he’s joking… I think)

**What was your favorite trail to run on and why?**
- Vail Coots, “The Seward trail was amazing! The view was absolutely stunning, and the woods were very peaceful.”
- Lynnea Hack, “Homer, since it was so pretty and had boardwalks and bridges.”
- Grace Kahn, “My favorite trail was Kenai because I already had that course memorized, but the Homer Trail was super scenic.”
- Daisy Samples, “Kenai because it was the easiest.”
- Gregory Fallon, “The Seward Trail because it looks really cool, it is really fun to run on, and it has the Axe-Murderer.”*

**What is your best memory from this or any other season?**
- Brooke Summers, “When I passed my stepsister and then fell. I don’t know how she didn’t laugh at me then.”
- Mikey Nutter, “My favorite memory is traveling to where we ran.”
- Chase Laker, “The bus ride back from Seward because we got Nutter Butters!”
- Chase Johnson, “Ride because we got to sit by our friends.”
- Mya Taylor, “That I got tenth in Nikiski.”
- Nathan Teates, “When Greg, Jack, Zane and I ran the Community Race at Seward with our sweatpants down at our ankles.”

*The Axe-Murderer is a story the XC coaches tell all the new kids to spook us. (This guy is no joke, he actually is a real person, and probably dead.)
More of the Muddy Marathon
By Isabella Bond

First of all, Purple Reign, our amazing KMS Kenai River Marathon team, placed 2nd out of all the relay teams at the Kenai River Marathon on September 28, 2019. Great job, Ms. Beeson, Ms. Mucha, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Felchle. At Kenai Middle School little did we know that Ms. Laurie Winslow and Ms. Jamie Beever also ran in the Kenai River Marathon.

Ms. Laurie’s relay team, called the AK Sole Sisters, placed 7th out of the relay teams. She did see Mr. Felchle and Mrs. Smith during the touch-go for Mr. Felchle. She ran the 2nd leg of 7 ½ miles and she is very proud of this because this was the first time ever that she ran it without stopping. She had never run a Kenai River Marathon race before, but she has run other races before, like one out of Anchorage called Her Tern. She is also very proud of herself for signing up for the race in the first place, finishing it without stopping, and definitely doing better than she thought she would.

Ms. Beever ran the half marathon. She decided to do the race because her best friend Katherine flew up from Arizona to run the race, so she felt motivated to join her. Her training includes a fun run once each month, but that’s it. She enjoys running because her parents inspired her to better herself, and running does that for her. She confesses that she accidentally “cheated” at the end of the race and beat her friend because her head was down and the course was not well marked. Katherine was shocked to see Ms. Beever at the finish line ahead of her, but overall they agreed that it was a great experience!

Great job to all the teacher athletes who participated in the Kenai River Marathon. Good luck in any other races you happen to run! Plus, most importantly, have fun when you run your races.

Best AP in AK

Congratulations to Mr. Beck, who was just selected as the Assistant Principal of the year for the entire state of Alaska! We are very proud to have you here at KMS as part of our awesome school community!

Random Facts
By Kai Adkins

1. The saltwater crocodile is as long as a giraffe is tall. (the Sarchsuchos was around 40 feet)
2. The cornea in your eye is the only part of your body that blood doesn’t deliver oxygen to; it receives oxygen directly from the air.
3. The blue-ringd octopus has a poison 10,000 times more potent than cyanide (a pill that can kill you in a heartbeat).
4. When you blush your stomach also turns red.
5. On average a person will swallow around eight small spiders in their lifespan.
6. When you drink water if it’s cold you can’t drink as much as lukewarm or room temperature water. (The reason is your body has to turn whatever you eat or drink to your body temperature.)
7. You can save up to 15% on car insurance when switching to Geico.
8. The average brain has more than four terabytes of information in it.
9. One human brain sends more electrical impulses to the body than every phone in the world combined.
10. Black and white aren’t colors, they’re shades.
Kelsie Easling
By Tyler Van Sky

Kelsie Easling is 12 years old and lives with her mother and father, Kiana and Will, and her three brothers Jeffery, Kaleb, Josiah, and her sister Shelby. She also has two dogs and one cat. Kelsie and her family used to live in Oregon and moved to Alaska when Kelsie was in first grade.

Her best friends are Madison Goodrich, Isabella Kroto, and Jocylin Reid, and they normally go on long walks around the block or to the store. They also go to each others houses, text each other, and sometimes they just hang out and make coffee.

Kelsie and her family traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada last year in November. When she was there she said that her favorite part about the trip was shopping at H&M, JC Penney, Old Navy and more! When she was at the stores she bought a bunch of clothes.

In her spare time she watches horror shows on TV because she thinks that they are entertaining, and she watches YouTube videos about art. She loves freestyle and abstract art. She also loves chicken because of the taste and seasoning her family puts on the chicken.

Kelsie’s future goals are to go to college and become a veterinarian because she loves animals and wants to help them.

A Day in the Life of Brynnen
By Hannah Autry

Today we are going to be in the life of Brynnen Hanson, a KMS 6th grader. When she first wakes up she brushes her hair and then hops in the shower. She normally wears a tank top under her shirt tucked in, with a pair of jeans or sweats. Next she blow dries her hair and either leaves it straight or curls it. Then she sprays about two sprays of perfume on. She uses Waikiki Beach Coconut, because it smells really good. For breakfast she normally has a bagel with strawberry cream cheese, or for cereal Cheerios or Fruity Pebbles.

Then she heads to school, where her favorite classes are math and art. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Rolph, because she is really nice. Some of her classes are science, language arts, reading, geography, and gym.

When she gets home she does her homework if she has any. After, she might watch a movie like Peppa Pig, or Stranger Things, or she might jump on her trampoline. Her favorite tricks to do on a trampoline are a backflip and back handspring. She would normally organize and clean her room too.

Now here’s some fun facts about Brynnen. Her favorite color is yellow. Her favorite gum flavors are bubble gum and spearmint. Some things she might do at sleepovers are jump on her trampoline, go on a long walk, watch movies, and talk about school.

Jace Appelhans
By Brooklyn Larsen & Keisha Connor

Jace Appelhans is a 6th grader at KMS. Jace has two older brothers, Evan and Cade. He is kind of close to his brothers, and gets along with them well. When Jace is together with his family, they all like to have a family dinner.

Jace is enjoying KMS so far; he says it’s fun and that he gets to move around more than he did at his last school, K-Beach. His favorite subject in school is science because it’s very hands-on, and there’s tons of stuff to do. His favorite teacher so far is Mrs. Tews. Some of his closest friends at KMS are Trae Pitsch, Andon Wolverton, Evyn Witt, Robert Hayes, and Sawyer Vann.

Jace has been playing hockey since he was two years old; he plays left wing. This season he is playing for the Northstars U12aa major in Anchorage. He enjoys playing for an Anchorage team. Jace says that the best part about playing hockey is the exercise, which is also why he likes playing left wing. The number one hockey player that Jace looks up to is his oldest brother, Cade. Tampa Bay Lightning is, in his opinion, the best NHL team.
Terrific Tews
By McKenzie Koliba

Mrs. Tews was born in Idaho and never moved houses or schools until after she graduated high school. After college she moved to Bethel, Alaska in 1999 and stayed for 13 years. Then she moved to Soldotna and has been here for seven years. She teaches three sections of 6th grade math, one section of science for 6th grade, one section of social studies for 6th grade, and one section of reading for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Mrs. Tews has been a teacher for 20 years. One of the reasons why she became a teacher was because when she was little she would always play school and really liked it. She also really likes kids and helping them. If Mrs. Tews wasn’t a teacher, she would work in business and help companies. I asked her what advice she would give her students and she said, “Try hard things.”

Mrs. Tews loves being a mom. She has four kids: Gabbie is a sophomore at KCHS, Zane is an 8th grader at KMS, Olivia is a 4th grader at Soldotna Montessori, and Sofia is a 3rd grader at Soldotna Montessori. She and her family love to travel, go camping, downhill skiing, and lots more. She loves to be outdoors, like biking, hiking, swimming, paddle boarding, and lots more activities. Speaking of travel, last summer Mrs. Tews and her family traveled to a few different countries in Europe for a month, including Germany, Italy, Austria, France, and Iceland.

Mrs. Tews liked living in Bethel but loves living here more. She says she can be more active here and it fits her lifestyle better. She also says, “KMS is the best school I have ever worked at!”

Students of the Month
By Jaycie Castillo

For September’s Student of the Month we have eleven students. These kids were picked because they participate in class and challenge themselves to try harder. Earning Student of the Month doesn’t necessarily mean you have to always be good and get good grades, well it does, but there’s more to it. You have to be willing to help around the class and help others, be the kid who doesn’t give up after a mistake, and want to get up and try again and again after failing.

6th grade:
Chase Johnson, Vail Coots, Ellsi Miller, and Aurora Cronk

7th grade:
Cole Langham and Avia Miller

8th grade:
Owen Smith, Coby Anderson, Keith Sees, Victoria Sargeant, and James Wright
Dozens of KMS students had the chance to visit the Hay Maze tunnels at Solid Rock on October 23rd and 24th. The field trips are an annual KMS fall tradition, and so many students want to attend that they are split into two different groups based on grade level.

The 7th and 8th graders went on Wednesday. According to Mrs. Newton, the hay maze was a blast. It took her and Ms. Hutchinson awhile to build up enough courage to go through it. Luckily, they had Trapper, Stella, Ava, and others to guide them through to safety. They took the teachers over a bridge, into the hangout room, and down a metal slide with a huge drop off. Mrs. Newton was really glad that she used her boots to slow herself down on the slide! It was definitely one of her favorite days of the school year, and she’s sad that it’s over!

The 6th graders attended on Thursday with Mrs. McCown, Nurse Dixie, and Mrs. Rolph. The weather was great and the hot dogs were better, but the s’mores stole the show. The trip was totally hay-mazing!

Some of the 7th graders had fun memories to share. While they were waiting for the last people to come out, Kate Wisnewski said that it was fun blasting music and playing “Down by the Banks,” which Landon Turner won. Ella Schlachter went in blind with no light and crawled into a dead-end cubby and hid in the loose hay. Lincoln Nelson freaked out when he felt someone grabbing at his ankles through a hole in the hay. It turned out to be Stephanie Huffer and Dale Bryant, but then Dale let out a blood-curdling scream when Ty Morris jumped out from the bridge. Ty was the first person to find the upstairs area, so he had fun scaring people, but he did state, “Now I can’t get hay out of my hoodie!”

13 Uninspirational Quotes

By Keisha Connor

- If you keep following your dream, it is going to file a restraining order.
- If you never believe in yourself, you will never let yourself down.
- Enjoy the good times because something terrible is probably going to happen.
- If you can’t laugh at yourself that’s okay because the rest of us will laugh at you for you.
- Never. Give up.
- It probably can get worse.
- It’s never too late to go back to bed.
- If at first you don’t succeed it is probably never going to happen.
- The best things in life are actually really expensive.
- If you can’t handle me at my worst, unfortunately that is also my best.
- Working out is a great way to make your slow march to death a little more attractive.
- Looking at inspirational quotes to make you feel better is like looking at a treadmill to lose weight.
Mind-A-Mazing
By Quest 6th Graders

Mind-A-Mazes Long-Term Challenge
By Aurora Cronk

Mind-A-Mazes is a district competition in which we built a machine working to a certain goal. This year’s goal was to make an instrument play. What was more challenging (for most groups) was earning points with steps. The hardest for most groups was making a chain reaction. Each team had to use at least five steps. All of the teams from KMS used more than five steps. Some steps we used were a pendulum, a ball or car rolling and hitting an object, and a lever raising or lowering an object.

KMS Teams
Air-Bending Cardboard Duct-tapers: Kacey Cunningham, Alex Gist, Chase Johnson, Isaac Potton
AK BEArs: Aurora Cronk, Brytin Hall, Ellsi Miller, Alice Ogden, Kayani Whicker
Dangerous Drummer Boys: Blake Gillis, Mikey Nutter, Nino Stapp, Cooper Tallent - Darling
VSCO Peppa: Vail Coots, Chase Laker, Marissa Moffis, Daisy Samples

Congratulations to the VSCO Peppa team for winning 2nd place at the district meet out of 43 total teams!

Mind-A-Mazes Spontaneous Challenge
By Nino Stapp

I enjoyed the Mind-A-Mazes challenge because it was interesting. I like all the ideas that teams made when they were faced with a hard challenge. The teams worked hard together and listened to each other, and with teamwork they were able to finish. Some people like the team “286 tries and it still doesn’t work” tried their best but they were disqualified because the challenge was hard.

I also liked all the unique ideas that I saw while I was spectating. They used unique items and turned them into things I never even thought of doing, like using a trash can as a base, or using peg boards to put everything in order.

I also liked the spontaneous challenge when people were given the following items and used them to make cardboard shoes: a cardboard piece, a yard of string, two pipe cleaners, an envelope, scissors, and stickers. I liked all the unique ideas to make the shoes even though our shoes didn’t last long in the challenge. Some people made sandals, some people made snowshoes (only I did), and one person even put her foot in an envelope as a shoe.

I can’t wait until the next Mind-A-Mazes because I liked to see how all the teams work together.

Mind-A-Mazes Memories
By Vail Coots

I enjoyed Mind-A-Mazes, because it was a fun challenge. It presented a situation that was very alike with real-life economy and jobs. We were presented with a task with a deadline, and we had to get it done. We were constantly tweaking and changing small things about our machine, always trying to make it as good as possible to present to our peers.

Also, Mind-A-Mazes taught me an important lesson about teamwork. You need to compromise and trust your teammates if you want to get anything done. Two of our teammates, Daisy and Marissa, took home our musical machine, and added many new things to it. I trusted them with taking charge of our team, and operating the machine, and our team won second place.

The final thing I enjoyed was spending time with my friends, and meeting new people from all different schools across the peninsula. It gave me a chance to grow my social skills, and learn more about different people. I am looking forward to the next Mind-A-Mazes event and hope to make even more happy memories!
**Extra Cheese, Please!**
By Jaycie Castillo & Natalia Polanco

Are you a pumpkin? Because I want you to squash me in a hug.
Are you religious? Cause you’re the answer to all my prayers.
I seem to have lost my number. Can I have yours?
Are you a parking ticket? Cause you have fine written all over you!
Can you grab my arm, so I can tell my friends
   I’ve been touched by an angel?
Are you from Tennessee? Cause you’re the only ten I see.
Can you bring me to the doctor? Because I just broke my leg falling for you.
Might as well call you Google because you’re everything I’ve been searching for!
Do you like this shirt? Thanks, it’s made out of girlfriend/boyfriend material.
Can I have your Instagram? My parents told me to follow my dreams!
Have you been to the doctor lately? Because you’re lacking some Vitamin Me!
Somebody call the cops, because it’s got to be illegal to look that good!

You breathe oxygen, too? We have so much in common.
You’re the most boo-tiful ghost I’ve seen all night!
Do your legs hurt from running through my dreams?
Do you work at Starbucks? Because I like you a latte.
Are you my phone charger? Because without you I might die.
If you were a vegetable, you’d be a cute-cumber!
Are you an omelette? Because you’re making me egg-cited!

I’d say God bless you, but it looks like he already did!
Thank God I’m wearing gloves because you are too hot to handle.
Is your name Ariel? Because I think we mermaid for each other.

* * * * *

The **KMS Purple Pages** . . .
is brought to you by Kai Adkins, Hannah Autry, Isabella Bond, Sam Brighton, Jaycie Castillo, Wyatt Cole, Keisha Connor, Melody Cox, McKenzie Koliba, Brooklyn Larsen, Emelia Malone, Rylee Novak, Natalia Polanco, Gabe Segura, Nathan Teates, and Tyler Van Sky, with support from Journalism advisor Mrs. Nabholz. Illustrators for this issue include Emelia, Nathan, and Rylee. Thanks also to the parents and teachers who provided news and photos!

“I want to be something really scary for Halloween this year so I'm dressing up as a phone battery at 2%.”
Anonymous Confessions
By Cookie Cannibal

“There was a girl… she was walking up a wall… she made it 2 mm up… and then she fell… sucks for her, I love singing but nobody knows…, Road work ahead? Uh, sure hope it does, hi! I married to Dave the magical dino-hotdog-man-olive, I see you, I want beans, if you're reading this, stop. I SAID STOP. GO AWAY AHHhh! I love the way you eat frogs not dogs. Do you like my thoughts? So my crush like someone else, what should I do, suffer or go potty, help I’m running out of papes.”

-NEENOONEENS

NEENOONEENS,
“Just because your crush “like” someone else doesn’t mean you should suffer, you should go potty (your problem, not mine). You don’t need to tell me this, I already know your personal life, although I did not know that you liked beans.”

-Cookie Cannibal

“I hate how long announcements take.”

-Anonymous

Anonymous,
“Me too, I especially hate the anonymous confessions announcements. I’m going to protest the column, I might even take it out.”

-Cookie Cannibal

“I anonymously confess, I wrap my giraffe’s neck around my thigh and feed him froot loops.”

-Bartholomeus the purple cactus

Bartholomeus the purple cactus,
“First thing, are your thighs thicc? Also, are the froot loops off brand or the real deal?”

-Cookie Cannibal

“Last day I ate my friend’s pinky when he wasn’t looking. Hopefully he doesn’t notice.”

-Tim the goat

Tim the goat,
“You’re so mean, that was my pinkie! As they say, a pinkie for an eye!”

-Cookie Cannibal

Days for All You Single Peeps
By Natalia Polanco

National Calzone Day- Nov. 1- Celebrate with your friends and family by making some delicious calzones from scratch.

National Doughnut Day- Nov. 5- Doughnuts aren’t only for police, enjoy your day, relax with doughnuts and milk.

National Spicy Guacamole Day- Nov. 14- Forget old bland guacamole, spice things up a little by adding some zestiness to your guacamole.

National Chicken Noodle Soup for the Soul Day- Nov. 12- You think you can only eat chicken noodle soup when you’re sick? No, to make it even better have a little bit of soda with your meal.

Mickey Mouse Birthday- Nov. 18- Happy Birthday to the famous Mickey Mouse!

National Sardines Day- Nov. 24- Does it smell weird in here? Oh wait, it’s just my fishy friends.

National French Toast Day- Nov. 28- If you like toast and the French, this day is perfect for you.

National Personal Space Day- Nov. 30- STAY AWAY!!!

* * * * *

What does a panda ghost eat?
Bam-BOO!

What is Dracula's favorite fruit?
A neck-tarine.

What music do mummies listen to?
Wrap music.
Happy Halloween

By Gabe Segura

Halloween Jokes

By Isabella Bond

Q: What is the most important subject a witch learns in school?
A: Spelling.

Q: What do you call a fat pumpkin?
A: A plumpkin.

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
A: Frostbite.

Q: Why did the skeleton cross the road?
A: To get to the body shop!

Q: Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road?
A: He didn’t have any guts!

Q: What do you get when you cross a duck with a vampire?
A: Count Quackula!

Q: What do ghosts eat for supper?
A: Spooketi!

Q: Why are ghosts so bad at lying?
A: Because you can see right through them!

Q: What do you call a monster who poisons corn flakes?
A: A cereal killer.

Q: Who are some of the were-wolves cousins?
A: The what-wolves and when-wolves.

Q: What is a scarecrow’s favorite fruit?
A: Straw-berries!

Q: What room does a ghost not need?
A: A living room!
Hello fellow students, here is some important Mo’cабulary. Some of you might not know what Mo’cабulary is, well it is simply “more vocabulary.”

Ceeze - when you are halfway between a cough and a sneeze

Arrowgance - when you are arrogant with a bow and arrow

Twiggered - when you are triggered by a branch

Supudiscious - when you are suspicious of a spud (potato)

Bankey scream - when a banshee screams but it is in key and has perfect pitch

Mintoes - mints for your toes

Dragoon - a dragon's doom

Squag - when you squeak and brag

Hompkey - when a honk is happy

Careot - when you care a lot about a carrot

Halnoonk - a hawk balloon

Cowsand - a thousand cows

Hevill - an evil hill

Cornicorn - a unicorn made out of corn

Hrush - when you crush someone in a hug

Sapdy - when you are both sad and happy

Freacklie - when you freak out Mr. Felchle

Snosage - when you are eating sausages and they go up your nose

Nyea - when you try to say no and yeah at the same time

Verkisland - Mr. Verkuilen’s island

Fangs for the Funnies!

Who do vampires buy their cookies from?
The Ghoul Scouts.

What happens when ghosts get lost in the fog?
They are mist.

What’s the problem with twin witches?
You never know which witch is which.

What do skeletons say before dinner?
Bone appetit!

Which part of the street do zombies live on?
The dead end.

Why do ghosts like to ride in elevators?
It raises their spirits!
“I’m mad he won’t say why he ate the doll heads in the first place.”
“What else should I say about forks?”
“I promise you that you’re stupid.”
“Tape it like you’ve never taped anything before!”
“I have two molars coming in. I’m a big boy now!”
“Walking through the 6th grade hallway is like walking through a swarm of tiny spiders.”
“Me being able to legally drink when I grow up isn’t something that should happen.”
“Run along and go get the feathers.”
“I’m always losing my smilies, but on my face.”
“Why is a carrot more orange than an orange?”
“My burp tastes like lunch.”
“I’m going to go change my shoes. I think I gave myself ankle cancer.”
“You don’t say ‘oops’ in another person’s document.”
“I was looking everywhere for my glasses. They were on my face.”
“Bloody penguin.”
*in a British accent*

Bloody Penguin*

Have you ever heard of the game Bloody Penguin? No, of course you haven’t, since it was just invented by Sawyer Vann and Kylee Verkuilen two weeks ago. The game was inspired by Poison, but they were in a classroom instead of the gym, so they had to make do. Here’s how to play the game:

1. Use a tiny foam football instead of a basketball
2. Use a trash can instead of a basketball hoop
3. Play with two or more people
4. Take your turn and try to throw the football into the trash can
5. If you air ball (miss the can), then you lose your turn or you are out
6. If you score, you say “bloody penguin” and the other players have to freeze
7. After they freeze, throw the tiny football at them and try to hit them so they are out
8. *Most importantly, whenever you say “bloody penguin” you must speak in a British accent!"