

The Junior High Journal

Published By: Grayson LeDuc, Evan Meester, Aly Klosterman, Matt Blau, Jeff Hafermann, Emily Keeling, Taylor Schlichting, and Michael Thyne (7th grade publishing class)



Girls basketball season begins!

By: Grayson LeDuc

The girls basketball season has begun! This years coaches are Charlie Dickman and Ryan McKee. Dickman has been coaching for a few years but this is McKee's first year.

Alyssia Klosterman said her favorite thing about basketball practice is doing the warm ups and running, because they are easy. Klosterman also said "I went out for basketball just because it's fun."

Klosterman also said basketball is in her top three favorite sports.along with softball and volleyball.

Klosterman says she is pretty confident in her team because all of the girls on the 7th grade team have been in the same class for a couple of years, and they know each others strengths and weaknesses.

Klosterman said, "I kind of like the split season because if the guys were at practice i would mess around and be afraid to mess up."

"My favorite drill is the Michigan fast

break,"

Klosterman says, "it is my favorite because it's fun and shows my improvements from day to day."

The first basketball game was on Thursday, November 15. The seventh grade team lost to Red-Rock-Marble-Rock(RRMR), 17-18. The eighth grade won to the same team, 16-24.

Which gaming system do you like the most

By: Evan Meester

What is your favorite video game console? This question is one of the easiest questions you'll ever ask if you ask some serious gaming people. My favorite video game console is the Nintendo Wii.It was launched on November 12, 2006 and the game Super Mario Galaxy came one year after the launch. It went through several E3

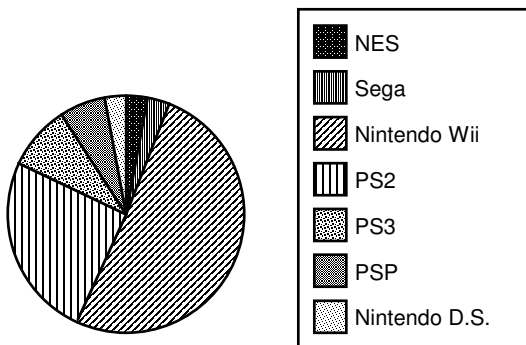
conferences. It also has other features, like Wiiconnect 24 so you can receive messages over the internet while the system is off and is the fifth major Nintendo console that they have released.

The Playstation 2 (PS2) was released in 1999, was the second system that came out for Sony and was one the first gaming systems to reach 100 million PS2's shipped out in 5 years and 9 months.

The Playstation 3 (PS3) was released November 17, 2006. It is the third system in gaming for Sony. In the market it is currently 3rd and can play Blu Ray disk, DVDs, CDs, HDDVDs, and SACD's.

The Playstation Portable (PSP) was released in the US and Canada on March 24, 2005. It is the first Playstaiton that is handheld and is the first handheld to use optical disks.

The Survey results spoke for themselves as the Nintendo Wii came in first, the PS2 came in second, Playstation 3 got 3rd and the PSP got fourth while Nintendo Entertainment System (NES), Sega, and Nintendo D.S. came in last out of 32 people.



Student Council: truth or fraud?

By: Matthew Blau

Do the students themselves come up with their own ideas in the student council or are they manipulated by the teachers?

The students come up with their own ideas, but they are also helped. They think about the ideas they get. Sometimes the students vote on the ideas they get.

The teachers, except for Ms. Huntbach and Mrs. Lamos basically just keep watch. The meetings are all in the first lunch period when the 5th and 6th graders are eating. The student council does things for the school but not for themselves.

What happens in the meetings are the students come up with activities for the school to do. The students for the most part feel like they are able to state any idea except for inappropriate things.

There are 14 members and all of them have fun during their meetings. The students all help the school make decisions for the school. The council is helped along by students that would like improvements in different parts of the school.

Hunting In Iowa

By: Mike Thyne

Hunting is a very important sport in the fall. Some of the things you can hunt are ducks, deer, goose, pheasant, and turkeys. There are many types of ducks that can be hunted such as mallards, woodys, and teals.

"My favorite thing to hunt is pheasant," said Seth Berding, 7th grader at SCMT Middle School.

Berding likes to hunt mostly in the

morning at 8:00 a.m. because that is when it

opens.

Berding likes to hunt because it is fun to shoot at things that are legal to shoot at.

"I hunt with my dad and brother or sometimes with friends; I hunt on private ground," said Berding.

Berding said, "We use my dad's truck for transportation while hunting."

"I wear fluorescent orange so I don't get shot," said Berding.

Berding said he hunts mostly around Chapin; it is a 4 mile acreage.

"I don't know where I am shooting. I just aim and shoot," said Berding.

Berding uses three inch Federal shells because they are cheap.

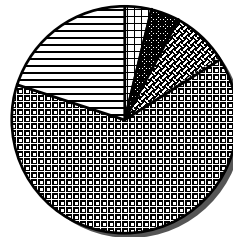
"I buy my shells because I don't know how to make them."

What's your favorite holiday?

By: Grayson LeDuc

So what is your favorite Holiday? Well mine happens to be April Fools' Day. I think this because you can play tricks on people. Two others think this also.

"My favorite holiday is Christmas," Evan Meester, seventh grade student, said, "Because Jesus was born and you get lots of presents." Sixteen others decided that Christmas was theirs too.



Derek Heitland, seventh grade student, said, "My favorite holiday is Easter, because I get to go Easter egg hunting."

Mr. Praska, Middle School principal, said his favorite was also Christmas. He said this because he likes friends, family, food, and presents.

Taylor Schlichting, seventh grader, said her favorite is her birthday, because she gets presents and it's her special day.

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Five more believe this also.

National epidemic: pop taken from schools

By: Evan Meester

This year pop machines will be removed from schools because of the obesity epidemic. The pop machines are going because the wellness policy no longer accepts high sugary drinks in their schools.

Mr. Praska, principle of SCMT Middle School said, "They are removing the pop machines as soon as they're empty."

According to Mr. Praska, the wellness committee ordered for the pop machines to be removed in October, but they will not remove them until all the pop is gone.

As a result of the moving of the pop machines, there will no longer be pop at sports games. Instead they will have juices, small bottles of Gatorade, and water.

"There will be no pop at parties or field trips," Mr. Praska said. "However, you can still have pop if the teacher or students provide it." No students have any say about the pop controversy whatsoever. Experts believe that the obesity problem will decrease if the pop machines are taken out of schools.

Miss Jones likes teaching art

By: Emily Keeling

Why did you go into the art business? Ms. Jones said I have a strong interest in the art I like to share with other people. ' Ms Jones if she likes teaching other kids she said. It is a fun interesting class for students were they can get good grades. she said she has good students that came through her doors the first half of the year.

How long does it take you to think of something to do for your class? She said she is thinking all the time so she can be prepared for her next class with the kids in middle school. ' Ms. Jones said when she was little she liked drawing on the bulletin board in church. Ms. Jones likes to teaching art to kids. She said when she was little she would draw all the time. She said she wanted to work in a school where she could teach other kids but the only one that was open for her was art. She said that it does not bother her to stand and tell

the kids what to do in her classroom.

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Lip Sync contests is great while contestants go wild!

By: Evan Meester

The “lip sync contest” is something everyone looks forward to it every year at SCMT middle school. This is one of the greatest booms that ever hit this school.

Everyone is judged on how good they do lip syncing and their dancing movements. Last year the top three groups were the “6th grade chicks” who came in third place, whose names were Taylor, Morgan Meyer, Grayson, Nikki. Then Maddy, Sarah, Nicole, Olivia, and Macy got second, and the person who got first was the Numa-Numa dancer, Evan Meester.

Taylor Schlichting, 7th grader, who last year got third said, “I enjoyed the lip sync contest although we lost.”

Michael Thyne, 7th grader, said “It was fine; it was boring at some parts but it was fine.”

“I thought it was great,” said Jeffrey Hafferman, 7th grader.

So the majority of people liked the lip sync contest. I hope that this year we have a great lip sync contest again.

Cooking safety: very important

By: Alyssia Klosterman

Cooking safety is very important. I know a person who knows a lot about that subject. It is Mrs. Payton. She is the Family Consumer Science teacher at SCMT.

According to Mrs. Payton, Mrs. Beck, her FCS teacher in high school, taught her everything she knows about cooking safety, which lead her to become an FCS teacher. She has said that from when she was taught to now, the rules have changed so the students keep learning new things instead of learning the same thing year after year.

Mrs. Payton said, “The most important tips I could give a student are wash your hands, do not put metal in microwaves or toasters, and use dry pot holders because those are the ones that keep you the safest!”

Mrs. Payton chose to teach FCS because she enjoys cooking and the things you get to cook and experience.

Mrs. Payton also said, "The tips I teach are probably the ones that keep you the safest at home and in the classroom."

"I get very frustrated when a student doesn't follow directions because I know they weren't listening and could get hurt!" Mrs. Payton.

"I demonstrate the rules and tips in class so the student can see what they need to follow and learn from," Mrs. Payton said.

Mrs. Payton thinks that students enjoy class when they are being safe because no one likes to get hurt.

"There are consequences when a student doesn't follow directions," said Mrs. Payton. "These certain consequences are sweeping the FCS floor and detention because then maybe the students will listen next time."

Mrs. Payton follows the safety rules at home because she doesn't like getting hurt as well and when you practice something it is bound to become a habit!

Some of the other tips that can be given to someone are remember to turn the pot handles in so they are not sticking out over the floor where a small child or toddler can dump it over and always follow the directions on something.

Mrs. Payton doesn't like it when we call Family Consumer Science Home Economics. Do not mix the two up because there is a difference between them.

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Split Season Specticle

By: Jeffrey Hafermann

The school has had a split season for about six years.

Mr. Praska , the SCMT middle- school principal said "The split season has been here before I was but I think it has been here for about six years.

Our jerseys will be the same as last year. The girls and the boys will both have twelve games and will be coached by Charlie Dickman and Ryan Mckee.

The only disadvantage to having the split season is that we can't play schools that don't.

"Some advantages to having a split season" Mr. Praska, the middle school principal said, "are scheduling practices and gym space."

If we would play a season at the sametime the boys would have to play opposite the girls.

What is your favorite Christmas gift from the past?

By: Alyssia Klosterman

What is your favorite Christmas present from the past? My favorite Christmas present has to be my first pair of earrings. They were my birthstone, which is

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opal.

Grayson LeDuc, seventh grade student, said her favorite Christmas present was her first Beanie Baby because it started her collection.

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“My favorite Christmas present from the past is my big

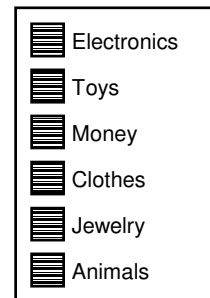
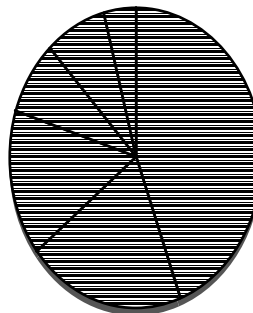
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wheel,” Mr. Praska, principal at SCMT, said, “because it was fast and I could feel the wind blowing through my hair, at the age of three!”

Mrs. Williams, teacher at SCMT, said, her favorite Christmas present from the past is a ring with her March birthstone, because her husband got it for her.

You all know the famous song “The 12 Days of Christmas”, a song that talks about giving gifts and being around the ones you love. In 2007 it is very expensive to buy

all of the gifts this certain song talks about. According to the Globe Gazette if you bought all of the items in the song it would cost you around \$78,100. That is a lot to spend.



Birthdays for the 2nd quarter

By: Taylor Schlichting

- Emily Keeling -November 3rd
- Tanner Tuttle - November 6th
- Alan Lahner -November 10th
- Evan Dye - November 11th
- Laura Thorson -November 18th
- Brooke Fish - November 21st
- Cody Grant - November 29th
- Miranda Brass -November 30th
- Collin Arndt - December 3rd
- Jerad Lerdal - December 9th
- Hunter Uhde - December 11th
- Lindsey Peterson - December 17th
- Hunter Myers - December 19th
- Georgi Eckhardt - December 20th
- Alex Berding - December 27th
- Jordan Hubka - December 27th
- Cassie Reiter - December 27
- Michaela Sullivan - January 2nd
- Max Alcott - January 5th

Tyler Johnson - January 5th
Markus Wogen - January 5th
Johnathon Ohrt - January 9th

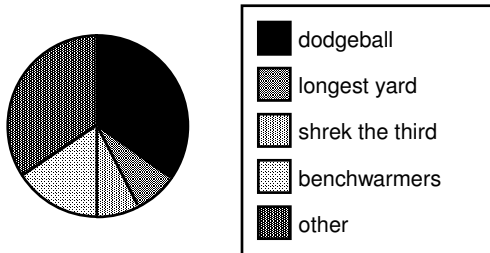
Happy Birthday!

Favorite Movies

By: Jeffrey Hafermann

Movies, they are what bring a family together. Whether you're at theater or sitting on the couch, they're fun to watch. What with the new animated movies or the older real life ones.

37% of the population I surveyed said that Dodgeball was their favorite movie. As you can see by my chart the top four movies were Dodgeball, Longest Yard, Shrek the Third, and Benchwarmers.



first time coming to Thornton for school. For some it was probably a big change from Sheffield and elementary to Thornton and Middle school.

Lea Carlson, a 5th grader at SCMT middle school, who lives in Meservey with her mom and also lives with her dad in Thornton.

She likes middle school better than elementary because she thinks there's a lot more to do, and it's easier.

Carlson said it's not hard switching rooms like she thought it would be.

Carlson's favorite things about middle school are breaks and getting to be with her friends.

"I like Mrs. Johnson because she's funny, and Mr. Amble because he's funny also", said Carlson.

"I don't like computer, I hate that class! I think I really like social studies because I like history," "After lunch, is my favorite because we get out early sometimes" is what Carlson said.

Carlson likes middle school because, "There's a lot more things to do and you get to see your friends more instead of being in one room."

New 5th graders in Thornton

By: Taylor Schlichting

This year the 5th graders came to Thornton for school, for some it wasn't the

The new grading scale in SCMT school?

By: Evan Meester



Taylor Schlichting, seventh grader, said her favorite kind was chocolate

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because she loves chocolate and it tastes really good!

The seventh grade's favorite kind was chocolate. The runner up was chocolate chip cookie dough.

Alyssia Klosterman, seventh grader, said her favorite was Take 5 because she likes the Take 5 candy bar, and

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she likes her ice cream with caramel and chocolate .

Emily Keeling, seventh grader, said hers was a blizzard because you get a whole bunch of ice cream, but if you eat it too fast you get a brain freeze.

Matt Blau, seventh grader, said his favorite was chocolate cookie dough because the dough is really soft and the ice cream gives it extra taste.

What is your favorite kind of candy bar?

By: Alyssia Klosterman

What is your favorite kind of candy bar? My favorite kind of candy bar is Twix.

Mrs. Williams, teacher at SCMT, said her favorite kind of candy bar is Twix because she likes the wafer cookie, caramel, and chocolate all mixed together.

"My favorite kind of candy bar is Take 5," Evan Meester, seventh grade student said, "because it has a great blend of taste mixed together!"

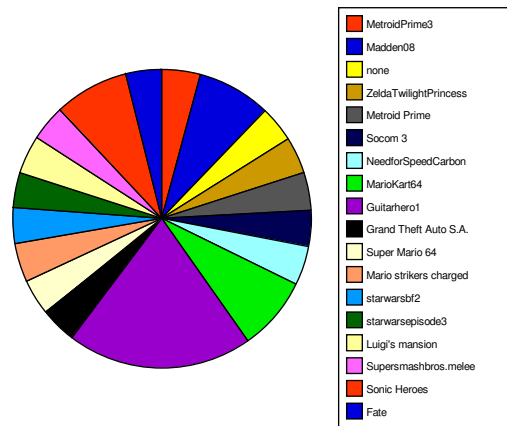
Matt Blau, seventh grade student at SCMT, said "My favorite kind of candy bar is Reeses Peanut Butter Cups because I like the peanut butter taste."

"Need a moment? Chew things over with Twix!" You all have probably heard that saying before. It is the Twix commercial on television.

Mrs. Staley, teacher's aid at SCMT, said her favorite candy bar is Hershey's Almond because of the way it melts in your mouth then you get a crunchy almond to chew on afterwards.

one they all have some unique characteristics about them.

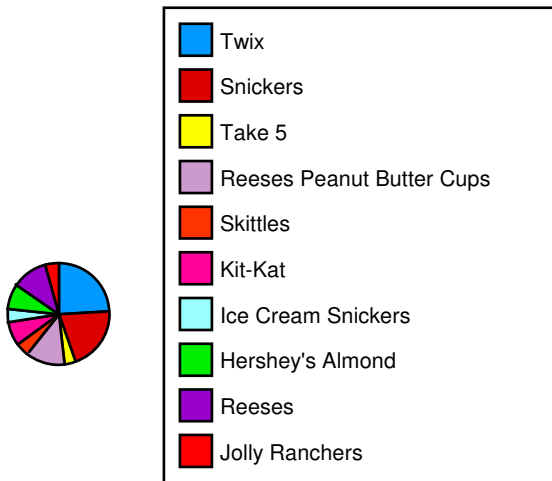
These are the results of 25 people.



Each game has different controls depending on the console. Each person liked to play on consoles that they owned, but sometimes they would have a favorite on a different console. Each and every game console has different control maps (what happens when a certain button is pushed) These maps can sometimes be changed to the players liking if they don't!

The games all teach hand-eye coordination which also helps develop reflexes to help in everyday life. Video games also provide a workout for fingers and hand muscles. They also help with some reading disabilities, color recognition, and sometimes how to save money. The newest console, the Nintendo Wii also provides not just exercise for the hands, but also for the wrists, arms, and shoulders. While the consoles today are pretty expensive it is worth the payment to get the console for someone or yourself because they provide hours of entertainment and a little bit of exercise.

Some people think that video games are a waste of time because they don't know what useful capabilities can come from playing video games. Some games are actually used to teach students in education. These games aren't usually used in the systems that are used more often for games that are just for people's entertainment. Most games that are on the market today are just for people's entertainment. The ratings for all games are as follows: KA kids to adult, E for everyone, E10+ everyone 10 and up, T for teen, and M for mature. Each rating is decided by a company called ESRB. The company has certain ages in mind for each rating but they aren't usually enforced on the people who play the games (gamers). T is meant for people 13 and up, M is meant for age 17 and up. I myself have played and beaten a T game when I was 8 years old. Right now I am working on a game called Halo 2 which is rated M. But I'm working on that at a friend's house. When at home I play games between the ratings E and T. The friend who has Halo 2 is 14 years old which is in itself another example that the ratings aren't



The results are in for the game critics!!!

Matthew Blau

The people have said their favorite games, so these are within the people's top choices today. The games are for various systems and not just for

enforced. People who like to have a challenge tend to play games that are higher in rating. Games that are higher in rating are sometimes 1) more difficult and 2) much longer than other games.

Is homework too much or too little?

By: Evan Meester

Homework: we all hate it don't we? Well I hate it but you might be different. Anyway is it too much? I asked a group of 7th grade girls if they got too much homework, their response, was, "Yes we get too much homework."

Taylor Schlicting, 7th grade girl said, "Yes, because it takes so much time that there is no time to do what you want, like go on MSN."

"No," said Mr Tudor, social studies teacher, "I don't think they get a lot of homework. They just don't do it in class."

Now I agree with Mr. Tudor on this to a limit, but I sometimes think they don't assign it early enough so you can barely do it.

Mrs. Williams 7th grade L.A., reading and publishing teacher said, "I don't think I assign too much homework because I give time for them to do it in class; some kids just don't take advantage of that time."

"Yes, we get too much homework," said Matt Blau, 7th grade student, "because, my hands hurt after I am done with homework."

I don't like homework, but I myself am not sure if we get too much or too less.

Ah the good old days of gaming. . .

Why did these games have to lose their touch of entertainment to the games of today?

By: Matthew Blau

The times when nobody would laugh at you because you don't have very good graphics on your game console have long gone. But still people enjoy the games that aren't out on the major consoles but these games are online and of course collector's disks, but wait there are a couple more sources for playing the classic games, Xbox live and also on the newest console the Wii. The downside of playing the classics on Xbox live or on the Wii are that getting the games cost points which you can purchase at stores like Wal-Mart, Target, K-mart, and other major stores that sell gaming supplies.

After purchase all you have to do to get the points is register the card online and you have as many points as are shown on the card. These points are saved until completely used but just getting the points can get very expensive unless the cards are for 12 months (Xbox live) or if they are the cards that have the most points on them like 10,000(Wii). Classic games such as Combat, Donkey Kong, Mario, Super Mario 64, Super Metroid, and of course a major series The Legend of Zelda. The classics have been remade but with improvements such as Combat has been remade but has many more levels and uses today's graphics instead of the blocks that were used on the Atari. Of course you can't forget that classics can still be fun even if they are old. No matter what game it is there is a classic that inspired it to be made along with warfare, imagination, and of course a lot of people to program them. Where would we have fun with technology without video games? We would be in a world of boredom where the most we would move is to get what is needed, to go to work, and of course to get around the house or wherever you are. But there are some

disadvantages to getting classics on the Xbox, Xbox 360, or Wii. When you get a game you have to wait for the game to download and the game takes up space on the console which could be used for storing memory for other games. But if you just want to store games on the console then you can get a memory card to store all of the game memory. Thus memory cards are very useful to have especially if you have a console which has no extra space left on it to store game memory. There is an option to get rid of a game that is downloaded if you don't want to get a memory card but you have to erase some download(s) in order to do so. But actually the choice is all yours and yours alone unless you wish to share the choice with someone else. But before you erase go through and see which ones you play more often, these are the games that you want to keep and the games that you rarely play or don't play at all, these are games that are basically just taking up space on your console.

This tip is very useful to people who would like to conserve space. Actually sometimes if you use a console that doesn't have the option to download a game, i.e. the Gamecube for example, you can move the memory around if you have multiple memory cards to free up some space to be able to save a game that you don't have enough space to save your progress for the game which I personally have had to do to be able to save a game that recommended that there be 51 free memory blocks to save so I went in and moved the game memory that I had around till I was able to save the data. I would think you are probably wondering what the game was that took so much time just to be able to save. Right? Well the game case only said that there would need to be 42 free memory blocks but the game recommended 51 to save other things like configurations and other options available. This game which I got quite cheap while it was on sale was called The Hobbit.