

# PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL CUB CHRONICLE

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## New ASB officers

By Ursula Montes

As many of you have noticed, Park Middle School has new ASB officers. The treasurer, Emma Hubbard (8) is the only one who did not get removed from her position. We now have a new president, Sophia Clinton (8); vice-president, Mercedes Johnson (7); and secretary, D'Anna Smith (8).

The ASB officers at the beginning of the year got removed from ASB. According to the new ASB officers, they did not reach the requirements to be an ASB officer. Some of the requirements are to have a 3.0 or higher, be a good leader, and take responsibility.

As an ASB officer, you talk about what is going on in the school and plan school activities. The ASB president contributes ideas that benefit our school to the classroom representatives. The vice-president also contributes ideas. The treasurer signs papers to purchase school-related items. The secretary takes notes on the meetings.

As an ASB officer, you get to help with lots of fun things. However, if there was ever a meeting on a test day, you would have to make it up on your own time. Some of the ASB officers believe that more students should get involved with ASB.

## Goodbye WASL; hello new test

By John Adams

Many people are wondering why we might not take the WASL in 2010. An announcement made by our newly elected top educator, Randy Dorn, stated that he wants to change the way students are tested in the state of Washington. Dorn intends to replace the WASL with a test named the Measurements of Student Progress. Dorn wanted a name that couldn't be turned into an acronym as done to the WASL.

Dorn says that kids in grades three through eight will be taking the Measurements of Student Progress, while tenth graders will take the High School Proficiency Exams.

There are no details on whether the test is going to be like the WASL, but some people are assuming it will be similar. For one thing, the test might not even be a go. The test still has to be negotiated with the private company that has a contract to administrate the WASL for the state. Dorn brushed off that issue as unimportant.

"Right now there is a lot of speculation concerning what the new test will look like. Will it look like the MAPs test? Will it look like the WASL, only on the computer? None of us really know at this point. One thing we do know for sure, we will have some type of test, and it will measure the same standards that the WASL does – other than that, we'll have to wait and see," said Mr. Pierce.

This test will be made to meet the standards and the tenth grade graduation requirement. The test will not be harder than the WASL. Also, instead of writing on paper, it will be taken on the computer. Like the WASL, it will be a state test.

## Concession stand sells snacks

By Erik Chavez

Have you ever been to a Park game and noticed a stand at the end of the band hallway? You might want to see what they have available; they have snacks such as chips, candy bars, cookies, lollipops, and sour twists. The items at the stand are averagely priced at 50 cents, so if you have a dollar, you might as well go ahead and buy a couple of things.

The money earned at the stand goes to the Park PTO and sometimes Orchestra, as a fundraiser for the group. But if you do buy something at the stands, make sure you throw away wrappers, bottles, or any other trash you carry with you. There have been littering problems in the bleachers and other areas in the school.

The stand is open for two hours, and it is always there during Park home games. Expect to see it during the spring games as well. It'll probably be somewhere around the field.

Stop by the concession stand whenever you have a chance. They have a large assortment of snacks, and the funds keep the PTO running. So, when you go to Park home games, make sure you buy something.

## New high school options

By Daniel Barnes

There are more choices when it comes to high schools. The two new schools are Delta and Phoenix.

Delta is a new S.T.E.M. school. It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as that is the focus of the school. Getting into this school is not like going to Kennewick or Southridge High, because you can't transfer into the school. You can only get in when going from eighth to ninth grades. You will even get interviewed to see if you are the one that wants to go to the school and not your parents wanting you to go. The school is located by the Richland library, so if you are thinking about this school, you might want to go look at it. This is also the first year the school is starting, so if you go there you will be in the first graduating class. The school is funded by businesses in order to promote more science, engineering, tech-

**Please see "High School Options"  
Continued on page 6**

## Kids have fun after school

By Itzel Gonzalez

What's the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program? It's an after school program with a lot of fun activities for kids at Park. This is a program for students who have nothing to do after school.

A lot of students enjoy this program. "It is a great program, I have a lot of fun," said Michaela Andersen (6). However it is not just fun and games. They get time to finish their homework and get help too. Students get 45 minutes of Homework Zone. They can also hang out with friends and try different activities in this program. There are around 80 students who have joined this program.

There are six different activities in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. "I like break dance, because I like helping the younger kids with the routines," said Ismael Perez (8). After a certain period of time, the students can switch activities. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century gives the students a place to go to after school. "I really like the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program because it keeps me out of trouble," Mae Calderon (6) admitted.

If you have nothing to do after school, you should think of joining the program. If you decide to join the program, you can contact Holly Boyce in room 217 for more information.

## Eighth graders trippin' over careers

By Sierra Bailey

Eighth graders recently got a chance to see the real world. They took a field trip to WSU Tri-Cities and Columbia Basin College (CBC). Recently, Park also hosted a Career Fair for the eighth graders.

The field trip took place on February 27. The trip was for eighth graders to become more familiar with local college opportunities. Half of the eighth graders went to CBC, and the other half went to WSU Tri-Cities. At CBC, the students were given tours around the campus, visiting the atrium, the fitness center, the arts center, the HUB, and the V building. At WSU Tri-Cities, students were given a quick tour of that campus as well. They met in the Presentation Room and were given a presentation on the SATs and the ACTs. Afterwards, the students were given a short lecture on which majors correspond with which careers.

The eighth graders spent lunch at Howard Amon Park in Richland. There they had fun hanging out with their friends. After lunch, both prides (Champions and Voyagers) switched, and the Voyagers headed off for CBC, and the Champions left for WSU Tri-Cities.

Students attended the Career Fair on March 6. The purpose was for students to learn about different careers and get a better idea of what classes they might want to take in high school according to a certain career. Visiting were law enforcement officers, news reporters, firefighters, nurses, doctors, radio hosts, and more. Students chose which five, out of the many careers, they might be interested in. They then visited those careers and were given a presentation about that job. The Voyagers leaving first thing in the morning and the Champions leaving after lunch, the eighth graders were off to Tri-Tech. At Tri-Tech, they were taken around to different areas of the learning center. They learned about career fields such as health care, teaching, video production, and more.

# Park's got PDA

Britany DuVon

What exactly is PDA? Personal digital assistant? Personal desktop appliance? Personal data assistant? Or is it Philippine doctor's association? No, actually PDA means Physical Demonstration of Affection for another person. The actual dictionary definition is showing love or affection in public display.

Here at Park a lot of kids show PDA, but only few people get in trouble for it, because they're the ones who get caught. Whitney Hicks (8) says, "The rules we have against PDA are stupid; I don't think this school should be so obsessed over it." But then there are kids like Josh Cardenas(6) who said, "Yes, there should be rules, so that we are safer, and keeps boys and girls from touching."

Here at Park, the consequences are Step Four con-

tracts. But a lot of the students don't think there should be any consequences. Jesus Garcia (8) said, "There shouldn't be anything; especially not a contract."

Now some teachers don't allow PDA, because they think it might affect students' learning. "PDA doesn't affect their learning unless they let it, and you have to be smart enough not to let it," says Garcia (8). Davonte Morris (8) agreed saying, "It's called responsibility."

Kids say when other kids show PDA it doesn't bother them, because they understand why they are doing it. We show PDA, because we like a person and want to show it. Hicks (8) says, "No, it doesn't bother me. If teachers can show PDA, then why can't students? It's the same thing, seriously." "Personally I like it,"

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Ramos (8).

The other thing that frustrates some people is when they get in trouble for hugging a friend. "A friendly hug doesn't mean anything at all," said Ramos (8). "At this school we only get in trouble for girl on boy hugging, not girl on girl, or boy on boy hugging, and that's not fair," says Hicks (8).

In South Africa it is against the law for anyone under the age of 16 to take part in any public displays of affection. So I would be glad that our rules aren't that harsh. But if we keep it up, they might become like that. But, let's hope for the best!



# Mystery Profile

By Kylan Becho

Knock, knock. Who's there? Guess. Guess who? No guess. O.K. here's the next mystery person of the *Cub Chronicle*, so listen up. Who is she? She has worked at Park for an astonishing 11 years. She has dark brown hair and her favorite book is the hit book that sold 1.3 million copies in one day and sold a total of 17 million copies...the book that every girl loves: "Twilight" by Stephanie Meyer.

She is a computer expert; she knows all about the computer from the inside and out. Every time a class sees her on a certain day every two weeks, she has a new program she shows us on the computer, and she helps run the school website. She is very nice and she loves everything about Park, including the students.

She has two children and is married. She has been married for 25 years and is married to a man whose name is Ron. She has one boy and one girl whose names are Kyle and Staci. All together she loves her family.

She loves books, and everyone in the school has met her at least once. She's worked with Mrs. Stites for 11 years. She works in the library and organizes tons of books.

I know what you're thinking. That's right. It's Mrs. Wandling. If you already figured it out by now, then good job. But if you didn't, well, better luck next time.

# What's in a Name?

By Mckenzi Ham

Many people in our school have some very unique names. Most of them are from different cultures, and some are just from their parents. A few of the parents made up the names or got it from T.V.

Some kids might get their names in the hospital. Ixallana Garcia(8) said, "My mom said she got my name from the T.V. while she was in the hospital." Imagine that... what if your mom was watching Spongebob?

Others got their names from the Bible or a book. That

is the case for Janai Gomez (7) and Tanis Mech (6). Some people like Khadra Ali (8), Itahiri Dominguez (8), Mirsada Hasanovic (6) and Tamar Bugal (6) got their names from their culture. Ali's and Bugal's names are from Africa. Dominguez's name is from Guatemala, while Hasanovic's name is from Bosnia.

Lakisha Love's (7) parents told her a story about how she got her name. "My first word was 'key', then my par-

ents put the words La and Sha to it to make Lakisha." she said. Names could have different meanings in other languages. For example, Ali's: Khadra means green.

Many of the students said they liked their name except for just a few. A lot of the people with interesting names said that it was hard to spell their name when they were little. Imagine trying to spell Selvaggia at age five, or maybe Boddhisattva, and if you think I'm kidding go to [alternativebabynames.com](http://alternativebabynames.com).

## TOP TEN baby names for girls in 2009:

- Ella
- Grace
- Emma
- Elizabeth
- Lorelei
- Riley
- Rory
- Isabella
- Chloe
- Anna

## TOP TEN baby names for boys in 2009:

- Aiden
- Jayden
- Dylan
- James
- Gavin
- Benjamin
- Caleb
- Nathan
- Jack
- Andrew

# Old school teachers

By Drew Moore

Have you ever wondered how your teachers got to where they are now teaching you? The answer to that is they went to school just like you are right now. But the funny thing is that there are many years between the time when they went to school and the time now. That means that there are many differences between the old times and our the new times.

Did you know that in Mr. Parker's school years in middle school, he was forced to take showers, while today we don't have to think about even stripping? And the P.E. teacher really did come around and whip you with a wet towel.

They were allowed to, especially if you didn't want to get in the shower. Another difference is that the teachers had the power to use corporal punishment if you goofed off, as in not getting in the shower and have to be whipped by a wet towel. Corporal punishment is defined as physical punishment, as spanking, inflicted on a child by an adult in authority, and is now illegal in school.

But that's not all. When Mrs. Coomes went to P.E. she got to swim and play ice hockey. Now, how fun would that be? Can you imagine stepping into the locker room and your P.E teacher telling you to put your swimsuit on? Mrs.

Coomes also described middle school back then as very fun, but middle school today as chaotic and stressful.

Mrs. Dyer believes that the expectations back then were very different in the fact that the grading scale (see sidebar) was totally changed. "The grading scale has changed considerably," said Mrs. Dyer. Also, with today's learning, Mrs. Dyer said that there is more technology incorporated with our learning.

Mrs. Mann, on the other hand, thought that then and now are similar by the fact that the teachers were difficult during both time periods. Mrs. Mann also said that she would

have loved to have Tutorial when she was a kid. So, be thankful for Tutorial, Park Middle School students.

Then and now are very different, so we should be thankful that there is no corporal punishment. But wouldn't it be fun if we got to swim during P.E?



## Grading Scale Then

- 90 - 100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60 - 69 D

## Grading Scale Now

- 93 - 100 A
- 90 - 92 A-
- 87 - 89 B+
- 83 - 86 B
- 80 - 82 B-
- 76 - 79 C+
- 70 - 75 C
- 67 - 69 C-
- 64 - 66 D+
- 60 - 63 D
- 59 - 0 F

# Park kids see “stars”

By Jacob Hittinger

Oh my! Oh gosh! It’s him! It’s her! Did you know, critics consider Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez to be the most famous teen pop stars? Well, here at Park, half of that is true. Out of all the teen pop stars in the world, the students at Park consider Miley Cyrus and David Archuleta to be the most popular teen pop stars.

Did you know that Miley Cyrus has a heart disease called Tachycardia? Tachycardia makes a person’s resting heart rate faster than normal. “The type of tachycardia I have isn’t dangerous. It won’t hurt me, but it does bother me. There is never a time onstage when I’m not thinking about my heart,” says Cyrus in her autobiography, *Miles to Go*. Some of Park students’ favorite songs from Cyrus include “Best of Both Worlds”, “Fly on the Wall” and “The Climb”. Cyrus became a teen pop sensation after Hannah Montana debuted in March, 2006. Following the success of the show, in October 2006, a soundtrack CD was released in which she sang eight songs from the show.

Did you know that David Archuleta started singing at age seven, but stopped for several years when he discovered that he had a paralyzed vocal chord? Archuleta’s mother is from Honduras, and much of the music he listened to as a child was Latin-influenced, including watching his mom sing at events with her sisters. She also, “was big on dancing.” According to Archuleta, she would make him dance to traditional music with his older sister. He also listened to jazz, gospel, pop, rock and soulful music. In a later interview, he said that his father was a jazz musician.

The Jonas Brothers are also a big teen hit. They have gone on many tours. They got their fame from the Disney Channel. Also they have turned out many hit songs. “The Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience” made over \$12.7 million. They also opened for Hannah Montana’s 3D concert and made over \$31.1 million last year.

You should keep in mind that teen pop stars are normal people. They are just like everyone else, except they are well known by just about the whole world, whether they worked hard to get there like the Jonas Brothers, or they were born into fame like Miley Cyrus.

# Fashion wars at Park

By Ilse Martinez

Abercrombie and Fitch, Zumiez, Hollister, Aeropostale, and Kohls; all weird names, but yet so famous. These are some of the names of students’ favorite clothing stores here at Park.

Zumiez came in as the number one favorite clothing store. Zumiez is a store where you can find an assortment of skating- and snowboarding-influenced styled clothing, a.k.a. bright colorful skater clothes.

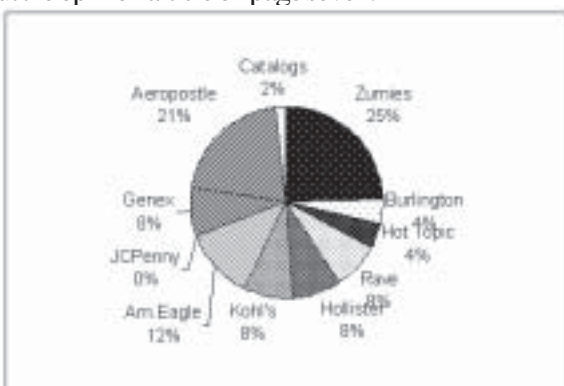
PacSun, an abbreviation for Pacific Sun, has skater and surfer styled clothing. Even if you have never set foot on a board or fall off every time, you can still enjoy their clothes.

For those concerned about status and the labels on their clothes, Aeropostale has long been one of the “in” brands among teen clothing stores. Their clothing for both genders tends toward the “preppy” look. Compared to other “preppy” stores at the mall, Aeropostale is one of the more reasonably priced.

Hot Topic is the place to go for clothes that are a little out of the ordinary. If you like your clothing dark and brooding or maybe a little punk, Hot Topic is for you. Neon pants and studded belts are just a few of the things you can find on the racks. Even those who shy away from the full “goth” look turn to Hot Topic for the store’s unique selection of t-shirts featuring hot bands, pop culture icons, and humorous sayings.

Other students chose to shop at JCPenny’s, Kohl’s, Burlington, or even from catalogs. If you’re looking for a new look or just are bored at the mall, some day you should check out a couple of these stores.

Wow! I sure am labeling people in this article. Why don’t you check out the opinion article on page seven.



# STORY CONTEST WINNERS

## The Hobo that Lived in a Dumpster

By Travis Watkins

Once upon a time there was a hobo that lived in a dumpster and his name was Hobo Stinky. Stinky is a hobo because he lost his job as a butcher because he got caught cutting the head off of a cow.



He always wanted to hang a cow’s head above his mantel, so Stinky took Boomer’s head and hung it on a shelf in his dumpster.

Then one late and stormy night stinky got very, very, very hungry. Stinky started to hallucinate and thought that Boomer was talking to him and trying to convince Stinky to eat him. Stinky jumped up and ripped Boomer’s head off the wall and threw it out in the rain. Boomer landed in a very large puddle. Stinky looked out of the top of his dumpster and thought that Boomer was floating on the top of the water, because Boomer’s soul had come back to steal his head back from Stinky.

Stinky freaked out and quickly threw his dumpster in the near river and then jumped in after it, and they both sunk to the bottom, and that’s where he lives for all eternity.

**2nd Place - “The Princess Mermaid and the Prince” by Angelique Armstrong**

**3rd Place - “Alexandria the Fairy Who Knew Love But Had None” by Cami Gamble-Ausmus**



## Speak

By Audrey Caryl

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you could talk to animals? This is that story.

I woke up to a screaming alarm. “5:30?” I whispered to myself. “But it’s Saturday.” As I got out of bed to turn off the alarm my dog Peppa came running excitedly to my feet.

“Who’s a good girl?” I said patting her on the head.

As I walked into the kitchen Peppa rushed ahead of me and opened the kitchen cupboard. She pulled out a box of Fruity Pebbles and put it at my feet. “No cereal for you, but I will have some,” I said tiredly.

I poured the Fruity Pebbles into a bowl and got the milk from the fridge. I sat down on the couch and turned on the T.V. It was on Disney Channel, so I thought maybe mom was happy before she went to work, because she hadn’t turned on her soaps yet.

As I started to eat the Fruity Pebbles my ears started to ring. About a minute later it suddenly stopped. Peppa was looking at me with an excited face as if she knew what was happening.

“Did it work?” she asked happily.

“You can talk!”

“Of course I can, silly,” she said laughing. “I have always been able to talk to you, but you just couldn’t understand me.”

I was so confused. I turned off the T.V. and looked out the window. There were seven birds, four cats, three dogs, six squirrels, and a bunny on my front porch. All of these animals looked like they were waiting for somebody to come outside.

“Are you gonna go greet them?” Peppa asked me sadly.

“Me?” I asked. “What do I say, what do I do, why are they here?”

**Continued on page 6**

## Ibbi on the Loose

By Adilene Santos



Once there was a little spider called Ibbi. She was a funny spider and made students laugh.

One day Ibbi came to Mr.Mendarno’s class. Mr.Mendarno was giving out instructions for his class. Then Ibbi decided to do one of her pranks. She took all the pens and pencils away so he couldn’t find any of them. The students knew who took them, but they didn’t tell. Ibbi made the students laugh even more by flickering the lights on and off. Ibbi was having so much fun, but she was afraid to get caught by Mr.Mendarno.

It was time for lunch. Mr.Mendarno didn’t bring any food, so he took school lunch. He got a slice of pizza, carrots, milk, and a cookie. That was Ibbi’s favorite stuff to eat. Mr.Mendarno forgot his napkins. When he came back all his food was gone. Ibbi got full of eating, and she got sleepy, so she went to sleep. After lunch was over the students came back. The students were waiting for her to play more pranks on Mr.Mendarno. She took his book. He looked and looked but never found it. Everybody was laughing and laughing. They couldn’t stop until Mr. Mendarno called the principal. He came in and said, “Why are you messing with Mr. Mendarno’s stuff.” No one answered. The principal asked, “What was the book called?”

The book popped under the doorway. Mr.Mendarno checked outside if someone had dropped it. He put the book in his hand. Ibbi landed on top of his book and smiled at him.

**2nd Place - “Duck War” by Will Bagley**

**3rd Place - “The Dark Night” by Jessica Spindola**

## 8<sup>th</sup> girls end season

By Yelena Mantay and Jacob Miller

The girls basketball season is finally over. Both A team and B team had a great season and improved a lot.

The A team had a record of 5-5. They played seven schools this year. Coach Oatis said that the best game was against Horse Heaven, and the hardest was against Enterprise. The team has worked very hard this year. Although, "Many players shined in different games," Coach said, the best offensive player was Sophia Clinton, and the best defensive player was Whitney Hicks.

They have practiced many drills including dribbling, shooting, offense and defense. They need to improve a little on the turn-overs, he said. The team met the expectations for the season. Team member McKayla Sanders thought that Chief Joe was the hardest game. She also said that Horse Heaven was a really fun game, because the scores were really close.

The B team had a record of 5-5 also. Their best game has been against Highlands with a score of 25-12. Jackie Contreras thought that the easiest game was against Ochoa, and the hardest game was against Chief Joe. The B team coach, Mr. Hale, said the best player was Maria Torres. Torres said that the easiest game was against Highlands, and hardest was against McLaughlin. She also felt that they needed to improve on working as a team.

The girls basketball season went great for both teams.



## 7<sup>th</sup> girls play hard

By Eric Law

January 28 to March 4 was girl's basketball season. The seventh grade A team won two out of ten games. The B team won four out of ten games.

The coaches for the A and B teams were Mrs. Mann and Mr. Cummings. They were very proud of their teams. The teams played many good games and tried their hardest. Coach Cummings said that his team played their best game at Garrison Middle School in Walla Walla. On the other hand, Coach Mann said that her team played their best at Highlands. Both teams worked as a team at the games.

They worked on many plays in basketball practice. The A team works on the plays *High, Clear, Special, High Low, Ice, Short*, and out of bounds plays. The B team works on plays called *One, Two*, and *Chicken*. The girls tried harder to master all the plays so they could win games. One of the A teamers, Kyanne Jensen, stole the ball twice and made a lay-in in the last few seconds at the game against Garrison.

One of the best times the B teamers had was when they were throwing medicine balls at each other during practice. And according to some A teamers, every practice was funny. Another funny moment for the B team was when Jessikka New-Jay kept falling during a game.

Overall it was a good season. The girls had a good time and tried their hardest. The coaches taught them good skills.

## Park's wrestlers excel

By Rachel Ivanoff

Take downs. Cradles. Half Nelsons. These are words some wrestlers use on a daily basis. Mr. Persinger would describe wrestling as, "A sport that requires one person to move or control another to score points."

Persinger and Mr. Moon are the wrestling coaches, and this year they are very enthusiastic about their team.

"We have exceeded my expectations," Mr. Moon commented. "A middle school that picked up technique and actually did it was a blast for me!" Finishing up the year with an about 210-211 score is a great way to end the season. Moon expressed how he isn't actually allowed to keep score, but if he had to guess, Park would probably have to rank up in the

top two schools at least.

Park's wrestling team seems to have really enjoyed their year so far. "I learned a lot, but I have had some fun," Jonathan Waggoner (7) admitted.

Now I know what you're all thinking... why would anyone in their right mind wrestle in those creepy little outfits? (At least, that's what I'm think-



have a fixed opinion about the outfits.

ing.) So as an added bonus you will now know the truth behind the singlet. A wrestling singlet (or simply singlet) is a one-piece, tight-fitting, colored uniform, usually made of spandex or nylon. The uniform is tight-fitting so that it doesn't get grabbed accidentally by one's opponent. Most of the wrestlers

"It feels like we're naked!" Jordan Powers (8) explained. Waggoner, Ty Smith (7), and Brant Powers (7) all expressed their opinion on how revealing the singlets were. Most of the wrestlers highly dislike the singlets, yet they still play the mysterious sport of wrestling. I guess one would have to be part of that distant world to understand.

## Mr. Moon

By Tara Szendre

Mr. Moon is one of Park's wrestling coaches and also teaches computers. He has been coaching wrestling for 34 years. He has taught at Kamiakin, Pasco, Burbank, Kennewick, Juanita, Sammamish High Schools, as well as Park. He enjoys coaching wrestling and plans on coaching sports until he retires, which is about 12 years longer.

Moon has coached middle school soccer and girl's softball. Coach Moon played sports as a kid as well. He played Little League Baseball, cross country, track, and wrestling, of course. He also did wrestling for three years for Kamiakin, two years for CBC, and two years for UNC.

Moon is married with four children whose names are Amanda (25), Zach (19), Jake (18), and Hannah (16). He enjoys fishing, hunting, and ATV 4-wheelers. His favorite movie is *Forest Gump*, and his favorite book is *The Lord of the Rings*. He also likes to read a good book in his spare time. Moon is a very talented, experienced wrestling coach, and our players are in good hands.



COACH  
PROFILES



## Mr. Persinger

By Tara Szendre

Mr. Persinger is a sixth grade math and science teacher and one of the wrestling coaches. He's never coached wrestling before, but decided to try it out when Mr.

Moon asked him to help out. He has coached bowling and is currently coaching the First Tee program here at Park. Persinger enjoys coaching and likes helping people learn and grow.

When Persinger was a kid he played Little League Baseball and AJBC Bowling. He never did any school sports programs.

Persinger was married, but is now separated. He has two children, Donald and Danielle. He likes to do many things including, bowling, playing golf, reading, writing, and gardening. He doesn't particularly like TV, though he can sit and watch a TV program or movie. He also likes books. Some of his favorites are *They Shoot Canoes*, *Don't They?* and *The Da Vinci Code*, and any book that is about history. Persinger enjoys doing anything in his spare time. Park is excited to help Persinger become a great coach his first year.

# Midnight Jammers break out

By Emma Hubbard

How many of you have actually tried to break dance? Well, the group Midnight Jammers competes in battles. They practice after school with one of the original B-Boys. They are currently working on a new routine with him.

They started break dancing about five months ago during soccer practice. Bryan Reyes (8) and Luis Magana (8) were messing around with music from a student's cell phone, but they really started this club when Mr. Gregory suggested they should try out for the talent show for the honor roll assembly. Usually they start battles during the socials, but this time they decided to come up with a routine and work together as a group.

They have worked on basic steps and footwork, but now they work on new

routines. Some of them are even teaching other boys after school to improve their teaching skills and help others learn about break dancing.

Break dancing is a dangerous sport; you can injure yourself by doing power tricks like stalls and other crazy moves. They came up with the name from Mae Calderon's (6) dad. "Bryan and I were in a different group, but they couldn't break, so we made our own group," says Magana.

They are hoping to keep this group together as long as they can so they can get better at what they are learning. They have been working on footwork,



basic steps, and transitions in the Commons after school. They have committed to go after school, because they are determined to learn more and get better at it.

For the most part they get along with each other, "but we have times that we are mad at each other," said Dao Bautista.

Now, you have seen them perform at the honor roll assembly or maybe the socials. Who knows? You might see them on the streets starting battles or on America's Best Dance Crew on MTV.

# Park competes in AAU

By McKayla Sanders

AAU is a league of sports that some students at Park participate in. Jarrod Molnaa (8), Devven Ramos (8), and Chase Molnaa (7) play AAU basketball. It is not just basketball, though, but actually many other sports. AAU stands for Amateur Athletic Union. Unlike school ball, in AAU you get to travel out of town like Spokane, Pendleton, Hanford, Walla Walla, Burbank, and Idaho for tournaments and games.

The main difference between school basketball and AAU is that it's harder. Also, you can get first, second, or third place depending on how well your team does. AAU does not interfere with school basketball, because they practice at nights and have games during the weekend. They practice two or three times a week and have games or tournaments every other weekend.

Jarrod Molnaa (8) plays for a ninth grade team. "I like school ball better, because it is more competitive, and you get to play for your community," he said. Ramos and Chase Molnaa do not agree though; they like AAU better. "AAU is better and more fun, because you get to play better people," said Ramos.

Chase Molnaa plays for a team called ECU. Chase Molnaa's favorite part about AAU is just playing basketball, while his brother, Jarrod, likes scoring and traveling out of town the best. Ramos plays for the Kennewick Hawks and loves everything about AAU.

If you want to join AAU basketball you can sign up at [www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org) but you will have to try out. Also, one of the coaches might watch you during a school basketball game and recruit you to their team.



## What is 4-H?

By Troy Hammond

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program. This program helps young people develop life skills. The five basic life skills are...building self confidence, developing an inquiring mind, setting goals and making decisions, relating to other people, developing a concern for the community. Their motto is "To make the best better." the motto is intended to inspire young kids to learn and grow. The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The "H" stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health – the foundation of all 4-H programs.

## Head, Heart, Hands and Health – the foundation of all 4-H programs

There is a Club Leader who is an adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the club. The group colors are green and white. Green symbolizes life, springtime, and youth. While white symbolizes purity. 4-H is for boys and girls in kindergarten through grade 12.

4-H members must make at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. Most project clubs have at least one meeting per month. A member is required to exhibit at the fair to complete their project. A project is selected based on interest, needs, and capabilities.

Awards are given to 4-H members at the Annual Achievement Night held in the fall. Ribbons are given according to performance.

Budget cuts at Washington State University could jeopardize 4-H programs that serve more than 1,200 children and teens in Benton and Franklin counties and close WSU Extension offices statewide, officials say. "Essentially, if the extension offices close, in all probability 4-H would cease to exist," Franklin County Extension office Director Lauri Sherfey said in a recent Tri-City Herald newspaper article.

# March Madness 2009

By Sophia Clinton

It's March Madness! April 6, 2009, is the championship game and the winning team gets to walk away with the traveling trophy. There are 327 teams in division 1 college basketball, all with the hopes of becoming America's next top college basketball team. They have to make it into the field of teams and be invited to the tournament. Sixty-five men's teams and 64 women's are granted an invitation. Both girls' and boys' teams are chosen by a selection committee which is made up of athletic directors and conference commissioners.

Once you start the tournament, you can only have two losses until your team is out of the tournament. Soon after, they have the "Sweet 16", where the final 16 teams play. There are two separate brackets that play in March Mad-

ness. There is a winning bracket and a losing bracket. The winners play each other, and the losers play each other.

You may think that March Madness is just a bunch of teams that sign up to play in the tournament, but it's not. There is a whole process that each team goes through to find out what team they will be competing against. It's called the "pods and seeds" selection. Seeds refer to the placement of a team in one to four regions. Pods are the grouping of each team in the first and second round. The same committee that chooses each team to enter the tournament chooses the pods and seeds.

Each region has teams placed in a seed of 1-16. The best team gets one seed. For each region there are four pods. One pod includes seeds

1, 16, 8, and 9. The second pod includes seeds 4, 13, 5 and 12. The third pod includes seeds 2, 15, 7 and 10, and the fourth pod includes seeds 3, 14, 6 and 11. It may sound complicated, but the truth is the teams aren't worried about how complicated the matching up is. They are more focused on beating every team they can and avoiding the losers bracket.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournaments are an American tradition. The year that March Madness was officially started was in 1939. Oregon was the first team to win, beating Ohio State with a score of 46-33. Oklahoma was the runner up team for that season. Some of the more recent winners are North Carolina (UNC) beating Illinois in 2005. Sean May was MVP for that game.

Florida beat UCLA in 2006 with Joakim Noah as MVP. Last years' winning team was Kansas State.

Most kids at our school think that either Duke or UNC are going to win this year. Jarrod Molnaa (8), Jordan Powers (8), and Dylan Tennancour (7) all think that Duke will dominate this years' March Madness. They also think that Tyler Hensbrow from UNC will take MVP.

The final four teams play on April 4, 2009. They are called "The Final Four". The four teams will be playing at the Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan. Each year, the final four play at a different location. If you want to know more and keep up to date with the brackets, just tune into your local ESPN channel on your television or search it on the Internet.

Year	Champion
1988	Kansas
1989	Michigan
1990	UNLV
1991	Duke
1992	Duke
1993	North Carolina
1994	Arkansas
1995	UCLA
1996	Kentucky
1997	Arizona
1998	Kentucky
1999	Connecticut
2000	Michigan State
2001	Duke
2002	Maryland
2003	Syracuse
2004	Connecticut
2005	North Carolina
2006	Florida
2007	Florida
2008	Kansas State



# Dear Miss Concerned

Dear Miss Concerned,

I have a friend who lies about everything, and then the next day she says she never said anything like it. I'm not sure if she even likes me as a friend anymore. I like to hang out with her because of all the popular kids. Should I still be her friend?

Sincerely,  
Wonder Gurl

Dear Wonder Gurl,

If your friend is lying and she won't stop, then don't take anything she says to heart. If you feel comfortable, ask her if you are still friends or not. Hanging out with a person just to be with the popular kids is not the way to go. If you really like her, not just her friends, then tell her how've you been feeling lately.

Sincerely,  
Miss Concerned

**Things can be hard growing up, and sometimes talking to someone else for advice helps you feel better. There are some students from Park who wrote to me to ask for some advice. Take a look at what they wrote. Maybe you are struggling with the same thing. If you ever need advice, remember that you can always talk to a friend, your parents, a counselor, or a teacher.**

Miss Concerned

Dear Miss Concerned,

I have a major issue with one of my "friends". She is so two-faced. One day she's all nicey nice to me and then the next she is telling everybody my personal problems. I want to try and talk to her, but that's the time when she's being nice to me, so I know that the next day she'll go and tell everyone what I was trying to fix, but it's just making the problem worse! What do I do?

Sincerely,  
Confused

Dear Confused,

If talking to her hasn't been working, then I would stop hanging out with her. A real friend wouldn't be "two-faced". If you're up for a real dare, approach her calmly while she is being rude, and ask her nicely to stop talking about you. If that doesn't work, ask an adult for help.

Sincerely,  
Miss Concerned



Dear Miss Concerned,

MySpace seems to be the only way that people can talk to each other and I feel like a loser, because I don't have one. My parents won't allow me to have one. They think that it's not very safe. I want a way to keep in touch with my friends and I don't know how else to talk to them. What should I do?

Sincerely,  
Left Out

Dear Left Out,

To have a MySpace, you have to have an e-mail, so all your friends should have an e-mail address. Get their e-mail and stay in touch that way. Your friends should understand that you can't have a MySpace. Try negotiating with your parents. See if you can have one if you let them check it whenever they want.

Sincerely,  
Miss Concerned

Dear Miss Concerned,

I have been struggling in math since the beginning of the year. My parents don't help, and I don't seem to understand the way that my teacher teaches. My grades get lower and lower every quarter. What should I do?

Sincerely,  
Ms. Struggle

Dear Ms. Struggle,

Tutorial is available after school for every grade, until 3:30. Don't be afraid to ask questions during the lesson or after class. All the teachers are here to help you learn and would love to help.

Sincerely,  
Miss Concerned

## Spring Break

March 30 - April 3



### STORY CONTEST WINNER

#### Speak

#### Continued from page 3

"Them? They are the welcoming committee," Peppa informed me.

I went out onto the front porch and all the animals' faces lit up like a lantern in a dark room.

"You must be Melody," they all said in unison, "Very pleased to meet you."

"My name is Tweet," said one of the birds, "and these are my six brothers Chirp, Loop, Max, Mack, Acat, and Brad. My sister over here is Harmony. She is sorta shy."

"I am Sam," said a shabby cat from the crowd. "The others are Mat, Mike, and Sunny."

The six squirrels introduced themselves as Nut, Acorn, Shelly, Sis, Rain and Willow, and three dogs were Peanut Butter, Chocolate Chip, and Dusty. Last of all, the bunny said her name was Silver.

"That's a lot of names to remember," I said, "But, first I want to know what is going on."

"You can talk to animals and understand our languages!" said Silver.

"How?" I asked I was very confused.

"Peppa put a drop of Kryptonite in your cereal when you went to get the milk," Tweet explained. "The small amount of Kryptonite made it so you can understand us."

"Wow," I said. "I thought Kryptonite weakened people."

"That's just Superman," Peppa interrupted.

"Either way, this is fun, and I like it!" I said happily. "Let's go have some fun!"

**2nd Place - "Go Cart" by Josias Johnson**

**3rd Place - "Lost" by Jessica Steinwand**

#### High School Options

#### Continued from page 1

nology, and mathematics learning.

The other choice for high school is Phoenix. Phoenix is a small project-based school. This means that instead of sitting at a desk, you work on big projects. Then the project you made will earn parts of credits for different types of classes. Unlike the S.T.E.M. school, you can transfer into the school at any time, not just during your freshman year. The school was formed because too many students were dropping out, because they were bored with school and not learning anything relevant to what they want to learn. The school is near the Spaghetti Establishment in Kennewick.

If you know what you want to do in your future or if you don't, these two schools are great choices. Phoenix is great for people who are still trying to find what they want. Delta is for those who want to do more science- and math-related jobs.

#### Mystery Pic #3

The first person to correctly identify this mystery picture (be specific), wins a prize. Report to Mrs. Bissell no sooner than the start of 7th period.



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Adviser - Mrs. Bissell

# Don't be a label maker

If someone sees a person walking down the street in ragged clothes, messed up hair, and dirt covering them from head to toe, usually their first impression is he needs help, he's gross, he's poor, or something of that nature; but that's not always the case. By the way, when we say 'label maker' we mean a person who labels other people, not a device that makes labels

that you can stick on things.

We think it's wrong to label people because you shouldn't judge other people by how they look.

What if there were no labels on food packages? You'd take some home and try them out before you decided if you liked it or not. You'd throw out what you don't like, and you'd find new things

that you do like. This can apply to people too. So, don't put labels on someone. Get to know them first. If you don't like them, don't hang out with them. If you do like them, try to become friends with them.

People label other people for different reasons. Opinions vary on why labeling happens. Why do you think labeling happens? Perhaps, because they don't take

the time to get to know someone. They just judge what they see on the outside.

Basically, we think that labeling others is wrong; unfortunately it is in human nature to judge. The assumptions made from labeling can be dead wrong, sorta true, or true. It's not wise to think that all of your assumptions are right. If your assumption is bug-

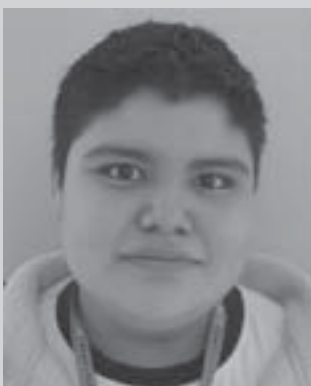
ging you so bad, go up to them and try to learn a little bit about them.

Labeling others can really hurt them, even if what you think is true. It's just plain rude to call someone names, give racial remarks, etc. Some people say 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,' but that's not true. Words do hurt.

## KIDS IN THE HALL

What do you think about a person labeling other people?

"I disagree with people like that." - Berenise Ramirez (8)



"It's bad." - Raul Contreras (8)

"They're mean." - Natalia Palomera (7)



"It's not right." - David Castro (7)

"It's not right, because you have to get to know someone first." - Cassandra Contreras (6)



"You should get to know them first before you start judging." - Esther Rodriguez (6)



## Letters to the Editor

We accept all signed letters to the editor. You may place them in Mrs. Bissell's mailbox in the office.

Dear Editor,

I think that PDA is a good way to show friendship and that you like someone. PDA should be allowed in this school, (during breaks, not class) it's not bad, and it doesn't disrupt anyone.

William Perez (8)

Dear Editor,

I was wondering why we have a dress code. I think that it's really stupid. What if the only shirts you have are plain colored, or that's all you can afford? What would you do? Come to school half naked? If your mom bought you the only thing she could, wouldn't you wear it? Also, when I pass a sixth grader in the hall who is wearing a plain black tee shirt, I wouldn't assume that they're in a gang. If I could, I would change the dress code to something that people would actually follow.

Khadra Ali (8)

Dear Editor,

The bells at our school are a big problem. There are a lot of bells during fourth and fifth hour. Sometimes we're taking a test, and a bell goes off, or our teachers are giving us instructions that we can't hear because the bell's ringing. There are about 21 bells in a school day, three per period: a release bell, a one minute bell and a tardy bell.

The best thing to do is get rid of the release and minute tardy bell. Our teachers should know when to release us, and the one minute bell will tell us to get to class. If there wasn't so many bells, the teachers would be able to give instructions without interruption, and we won't have a distraction during tests. I think that just having the minute bell is a lot better.

Bianca Flores (6)

Dear Editor,

Teachers are leaving kids on steps for too long. Teachers are only supposed to leave students on for three to five minutes, not ten for just talking a tiny bit. Teachers also need to treat the students fair they shouldn't put kids on steps just because they think they're bad students. During points and concerns our teachers shouldn't say that our concerns are wrong. Students are getting put on steps for doing something really small; I don't think that's right. Step fours should be given out less often. Someone talks once, and then they're on a step four. Teachers really need to do "Make Your Day" correctly.

Kayla Kima (6)

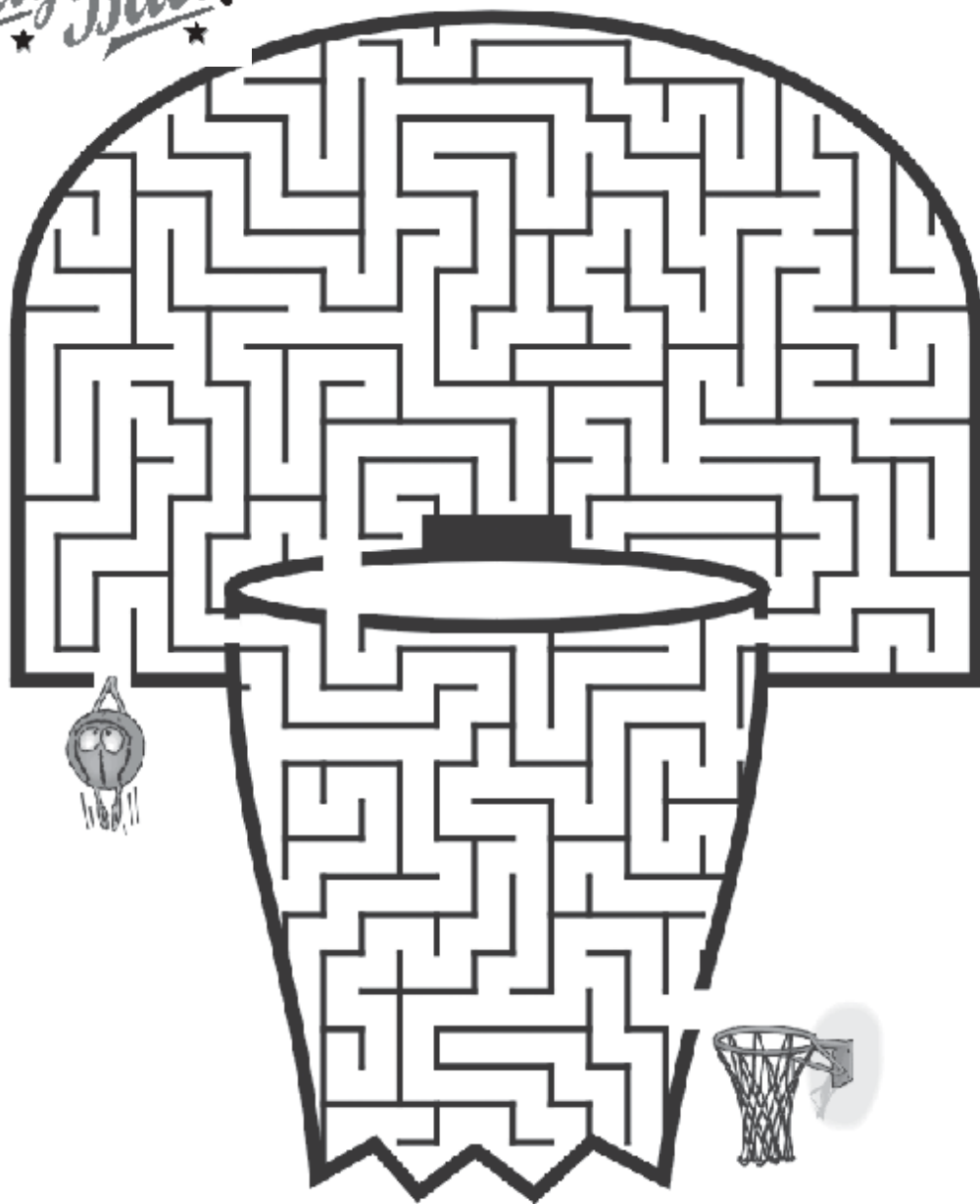
Dear Editor,

I think that we should be allowed to spend more time outside at lunch. We get to lunch, then we have to wait in the line, then we have to eat, and as soon as we step a foot outside, the bell rings. By the time we even get our lunch, ten to fifteen minutes has passed. So more time should be allowed.

Valentin Bermudez (8)

# Play Ball!

l i t o e h c l o l d h o r f  
 g o y w s s o l a l o d a o l  
 n t c t t l l b l m r b o l e  
 i t o a r e l a e a k t k s r  
 m o b u i n b r o s b r s e s  
 m u g s k y u b n a o e c s o  
 i c o b e n e o l b l c s i f  
 w h a l g t w l c g o a l a t  
 s d l l a b t e k s a b u o b  
 i o y k a n w o d t s r i f a  
 v w s o f r e e t h r o w d l  
 o n r e r k k f o r w a r d l  
 e d d d k c i k i s s k c c u  
 e o o b u m p k c l w f t k o  
 d h t w o n s w p i l c r o f



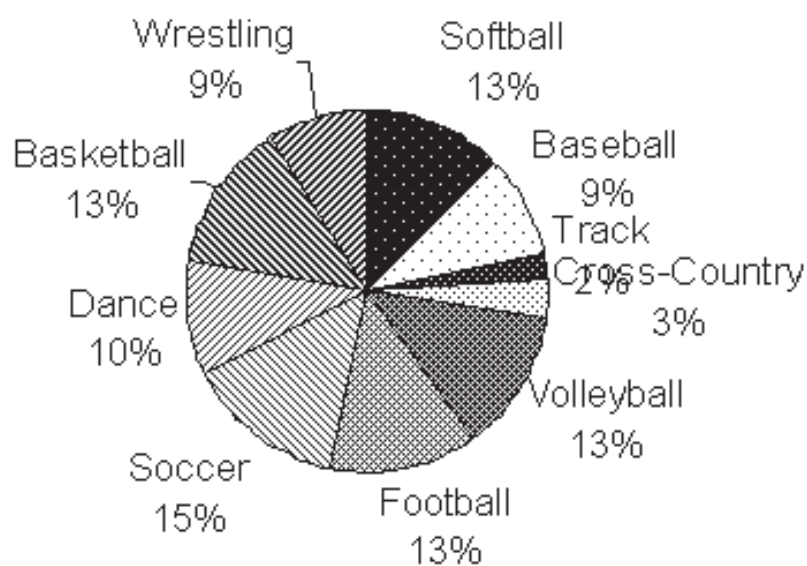
- |            |            |              |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| baseball   | basketball | softball     |
| track      | swimming   | soccer       |
| volleyball | football   | crosscountry |
| snowboard  | skateboard | ski          |
| foul       | touchdown  | goal         |
| spike      | homerun    | freethrow    |
| bump       | firstdown  | strike       |
| kick       | goaly      | forward      |
| snow       |            |              |

**Unscramble the sports words below:**

- falosltb \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaalbeb \_\_\_\_\_
- abslketlba \_\_\_\_\_
- ayblollevl \_\_\_\_\_
- flatbloo \_\_\_\_\_
- crsceo \_\_\_\_\_
- oryrcsnotsu \_\_\_\_\_
- wnlirgets \_\_\_\_\_
- iswmming \_\_\_\_\_
- nedac \_\_\_\_\_



**Park Students' Favorite Sports**



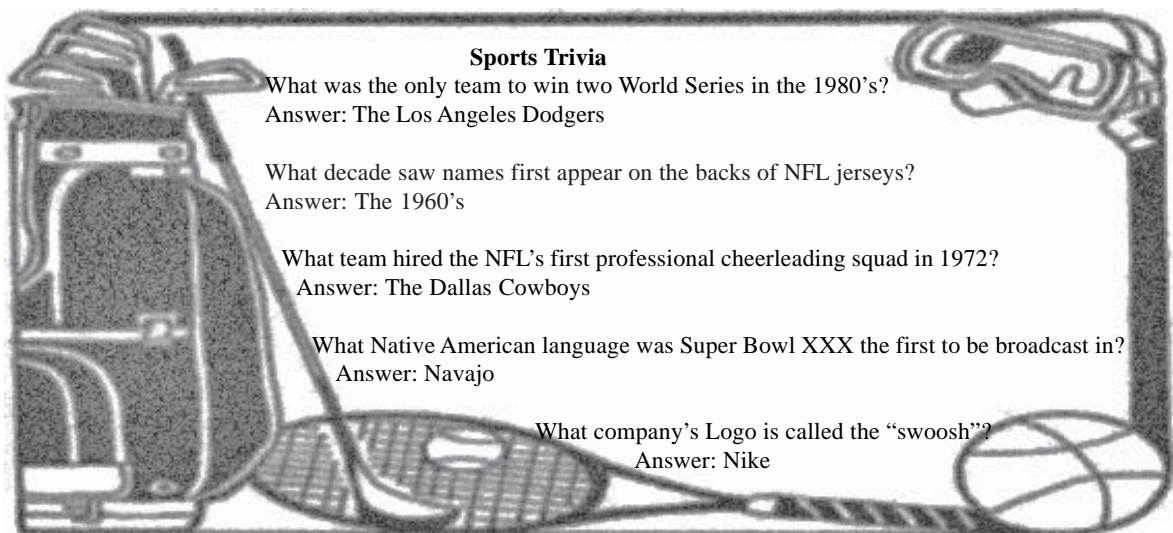
## Sports Sudoku

E	I		W		T		S	
		W	L		S			E
G	S		I		T		R	
S		R	T		L			W
W				R		I		
	N		W		E		G	L
N		S		G		L		R
	R			L		N		
	E	I	R		N		W	

This is a word Sudoku. The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct letter. There are three very simple constrains to follow.

- Each row of 9 letters must include all letters of the word WRESTLING
- Every column of 9 letters must include all letters of the word WRESTLING in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all letters of the word WRESTLING.

Hint: the word is wrestling



**Sports Trivia**

- What was the only team to win two World Series in the 1980's?  
Answer: The Los Angeles Dodgers
- What decade saw names first appear on the backs of NFL jerseys?  
Answer: The 1960's
- What team hired the NFL's first professional cheerleading squad in 1972?  
Answer: The Dallas Cowboys
- What Native American language was Super Bowl XXX the first to be broadcast in?  
Answer: Navajo
- What company's Logo is called the "swoosh"?  
Answer: Nike