

Cub Quarterly

December 2011



Price: Priceless

False Alarm

By Michael DeFlorio

On November 28th at 8:15 am, a fire alarm went off at Columbus Elementary School. I had a chance to talk to Mr. Cunzio to find out what happened. He said that a balloon from Turkey Bingo set off a sensor in the gym. The strange thing was it had been there for many weeks and this was the first time it had set anything off. Mr. Cunzio explained that there is a different kind of sensor in the gym than in the rest of the school. This sensor shoots beams of light from one sensor to another. The balloon blocked the light and that is what set off the alarm. Mr. Cunzio said even though there were backpacks on the floor, everyone did a great job of getting out of the building. It was hard getting outside because you had to watch so you didn't trip over a backpack.

After we got outside, it was about 15 minutes before the first truck showed up, a Tahoe from Thornwood Fire District. Two minutes later, a Dodge Durango showed up from Valhalla Fire District. About 5 to 10 minutes later Engine 88 from Thornwood Fire District arrived. Two minutes after that, a Hook and Ladder from Valhalla Fire District also came (see photo)

I also had a chance to talk to Mrs. Talusan. Her students' lockers are in the fifth grade wing and her classroom is in the third grade wing. Mrs. Talusan said 5 of her 15 kids were in the room. She grabbed them and said, "Let's go!" She was going down the stairs as kids were walking up. Mrs. Talusan told the children, "Drop your stuff. Let's go!" She walked past the lockers and picked up more kids. She went out the front. There was more trouble since kids were getting dropped off by their parents. She couldn't go across the driveway. She had to go down into the side parking lot. She counted and 11 of her 15 students were there, the other 4 hadn't come to school yet. At 8:35 everyone was brought back in the building no one was hurt.



Photo courtesy of Ms. Armisto

The Turkey Bingo Incident

By Owen Ryan

On November 28, 2011, the fire alarm went off at Columbus Elementary at around 8:15. There wasn't a real fire. What happened was a balloon from Turkey Bingo passed in front of a motion sensor in the gym, causing the alarm to go off. I decided to ask Aaron Blizzard from Mrs. Fornara's class and Kenny Dronzek from Ms. Ketchum's class about their experiences that morning.

Where were you when the fire alarm went off?

Aaron: I was in the classroom getting ready.

Kenny: I was in math class.

What happened next?

Aaron: I went outside and waited while almost the whole fire department came.

Kenny: The fire alarm went off and my class quickly walked outside.

How were you feeling when the alarm went off? Why?

Aaron: Nervous. I didn't know what was going on.

Kenny: Nervous, because the alarm doesn't often go off in the morning.

How do you think CES handled the situation?

Aaron: I didn't like that they didn't tell us what was going on, but I think they did well.

Kenny: I think they over-reacted.

While the fire alarm made people nervous, it made me feel safe. Why you may ask? Because if there ever was a real fire I now know that we wouldn't be harmed.

Who's Who at Columbus?

STUDENT COUNCIL INTERVIEW WITH MS. ARMISTO

BY EDDY GRECO

The Cub Quarterly spoke with student council leader, Ms. Armisto, to find out what exciting plans are in the works for Columbus Students. Here is what she had to say:

Eddy Greco: What new events are coming up?

Ms. Armisto: I still have to talk to Mr. Cunzio but we have some great ideas.

Eddy Greco: Who's going to run the school store this year?

Ms. Armisto: This year the school store will be run differently. Fifth graders will run the 5th grade school store, 4th graders will run the 4th grade school store and 3rd graders will run the 3rd grade school store.

Eddy Greco: How do you feel about the new school schedule this year for students and teachers?

Ms. Armisto: I think it's hard for the students to get to where they are going (with little passing time).

Eddy Greco: Are there any new field trips coming up this school year?

Ms. Armisto: Fleet day. We go and observe the county's equipment like the fire trucks.

Eddy Greco: How do you feel about being the head of the student council?

Ms. Armisto: I love it! I get to work with so many kids, I like getting the kids excited about their community. How exciting!

Mrs. Chambers

By Willow Ostman and Kaylee Zheng

In the beginning of December, we interviewed Mrs. Chambers to see how she likes the new schedule of working in Hawthorne and Columbus. This is what she had to say:

Kaylee: How do you like Hawthorne?

Mrs. Chambers: It was a huge change, being with younger kids and meeting with almost 900 students a week. It is very hard to memorize all of the kids' names. Two schools and two art rooms are a big challenge.

Willow: Which school do you like more?

Mrs. Chambers: I like all of the different things in both schools.

Kaylee: Is it difficult working at two schools?

Mrs. Chambers: It is very difficult having thirty-six classes per week.

Willow: Which school is easier to teach at?

Mrs. Chambers: Everyone is easy to teach because everyone loves art.

Kaylee: Would you like to go back to the old schedule, teaching full-time art at Columbus, or the new schedule teaching art to both schools?

Mrs. Chambers: I believe every school should have a full time art teacher.

Willow: Is it hard to teach at Hawthorne because the students are younger?

Mrs. Chambers: They're so hyper and cute, and are excited to be learning art for the first time.

Kaylee: How did you react to the new schedule when you first started it?

Mrs. Chambers: I was sad to know that I do not have as much time to spend with the teachers and the students at CES.

Willow: How is it going to and from the big kids to the little kids?

Mrs. Chambers: It is neat to see brothers and sisters from both schools.

Now we realize that although it is really challenging for Mrs. Chambers to work at both CES and HES, it is also fun at the same time.

Top 5 Holiday Gift Requests

By Dylan Ahern

Third Grade

1. Laptop
2. Pony
3. Puppy
4. Football Jersey
5. Princess Doll

Fifth Grade

1. iPad 2
2. Nintendo 3 DS
3. iPhone 4S
4. Xbox 360
5. Dog

Funniest Wise-Guy Votes

1. Penguin
2. Purple Pony named Bob
3. Help Us!
4. World Supply of Ice Cream
5. Every Electronic in the World

Fourth Grade

1. Laptop
2. iPad 2
3. iPod Touch
4. Xbox 360
5. Cell Phone

Overall

1. iPad 2
2. Laptop
3. Puppy
4. Xbox 360
5. iPod Touch






For the person who voted for a life...I hope they get one!

Gifts to Get Grandma

By Dylan Agosto and Lauren Sala

Have you ever wondered what to get your grandma over the holidays? Well here are some ideas!



-  Anything Home Made- She'll love a gift from the heart.
-  Pictures of their Grandchildren- When she sees them everyday; it'll put a smile on her face.
-  "#1 Grandma" Merchandise, mugs magnets, etc. - It will remind her everyday of how special you think she is.
-  Gift Cards to stores, restaurants, etc. - She'll get her favorite things for a low price!
-  Baked Desserts- Especially if she has a sweet tooth!

Top 5 New Year's Resolutions for Columbus Elementary School

By Anthony Scaglione & Michael-Brandon-Zulli

Michael and I surveyed the Columbus Elementary school kids to see what the top 5 New Years Resolutions are. Here are the results:

1. Be kind
2. Do not fight with siblings
3. Share with others
4. Be awesome
5. Be a good kid

It looks like everyone is going to try to improve in these areas!!!



Third Grade Thanksgiving Feast

By Lauren DeMartino

Hi my name is Lauren DeMartino from Mrs. Fornara's 5th grade class. I interviewed my cousin Diana DeMartino from Mrs. Baldinucci's 3rd grade class. Columbus held their annual Thanksgiving feast on November 18th. The 3rd grade classes and their parents were invited to attend. I asked my cousin Diana to tell me all about the feast and what she remembered most about it. Diana really enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast. She especially liked that parents were invited and that they saw how hard they worked to prepare for this day. They were able to eat a great meal cooked by Chef Gus that included turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, bread, salad and more. "Chef Gus did such a great job preparing this meal," Diana said. She thought that the turkey and salad were the best she ever had. Diana said that she had a really fun time at the feast. She said, "The feast was excellent," and that she would never forget it. She even mentioned that she would like to have another feast next year for 4th grade. Listening to Diana brought back memories from my 3rd grade feast. It was a fun time for me too. A special thank you to Mrs. Baldinucci for allowing me to interview Diana.



2011 Cub Quarterly Winter Edition Play Review: **A Christmas Carol**

By Bryan Mesquita

On November 18 and 19, the Westlake High School Players performed their drama play for the year, **A Christmas Carol**. I was able to interview two students that performed in this play, Kevin and Andrew Mesquita.

Q: Andrew, how did you feel when you got such a big part, when you are only in 9th grade?

Andrew: I felt happy that the Westlake Players accepted me to play this character. They made me feel welcomed.

Q: Kevin, because this is your last year doing the Westlake Drama, did you think you "went out with a bang?"

Kevin: Yes, I was given an excellent role in the play, I was Fred, Scrooge's nephew. My character was funny at parts and really serious at others.

Q: Do you guys think that you told the **TRUE**, not a cheesy version, of **A Christmas Carol**?

Andrew: We actually were using an EXACT copy of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**.

Kevin: Yes, however, we made a few changes and adjustments in the way we said it, so people today can understand the play.

Q: Do you think everybody REALLY acted or felt their characters when the Westlake Players performed?

Andrew: The Westlake Players always tried their best to BE their characters, not just ACT as their character.

Kevin: Yes, we all became our characters when the play started. Some of us even used our characters' names instead of our real names off stage.

Q: Do you think that when we reach high school we can do as good a job as you did in the play?

Andrew: Of course you can, just believe in yourself. You will always be backed up by all the people that helped us like Mr. Cutrone, Mrs. Puocc and others.

Kevin: Yes, with a lot of practice and determination, I am sure you can do even better than we did.

So that wraps up my interview. I hope you enjoyed the play for people who went. If you didn't make it this year you, can always go next year.

Dear Miss Bridget...

By Kylie Gottlieb

Dear Miss Bridget... This is an advice column where you ask for advice and we try to help!

Dear Miss Bridget,

My friend is being bullied, what should I do? Should I back away or stand up?

From, Catlove

Dear Catlove,

Of course you should stand up for them! If you feel you can, do it! First, though, tell a teacher or a safe adult who can set the matter straight. Never use physical violence, just say 'Back off!' or 'Stop!' If they talk back, just walk away! Simple, easy...it's perfect. Never get yourself into trouble with bullies. They feel small. Maybe they want a friend, or they're having trouble. Never be like the bully. Stooping to their level is worse. J

Next question:

Dear Miss Bridget,

My best friend just moved away. I can call her, but I really feel I have no friends now.

Signed,

Unfriended

Dear Unfriended,

This may seem weird I'm saying this... but this is not too bad! Yes, you may miss her, which is totally normal. But, it gives you an opportunity to make new friends! (this goes out to everyone) If you do sports, do after school activities or are in a club, this is a nice chance to meet someone with the same hobbies as you. Tell them a joke, ask about their life. Remember, don't wait for them to ask you!

Thanks!

p.s. for all the people who submitted odd questions, here are the answers. There are billions and billions of people in the world, look at a calendar to know when holidays are, and you can't stop sneezing...that one's just plain wrong. J

The Duck Tape Craze

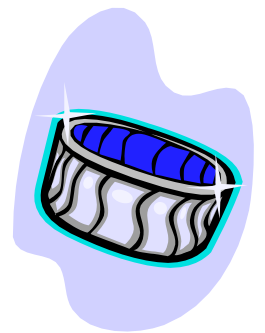
By Richie Petrillo And Gianni Garritano

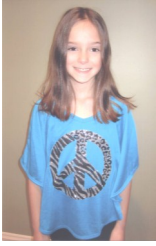
Who would have ever believed that good old fashioned duck tape, typically used for household chores and taping up packages that are ready for shipping, could be used to create fashionable jewelry? But that is just what has happened. Thanks to our own, Columbus Elementary student, Lauren Demartino and a few of her friends .

All you have to do is walk around Columbus during recess to see Lauren and her crew hard at work. Everywhere you look you can see girls and even some boys who have gotten in on the action making duck tape bracelets? They come in a variety of patterns and styles to accommodate all different tastes.

Thanks to computers the duck tape craze has become even more exciting and widely followed. Simply known as "Kristie" on the popular u tube website, people have been taught and have learned how to make other items using duck tape such as wallets, headbands, and single stemmed flowers to name a few.

In our opinion, we think this is a great idea gone too far. What's next? This craze sooner or later may turn into duck tape shoes, and other clothing. If the idea goes any farther our blankets and pillows will no longer be soft. We think Lauren's idea was a great one, but leave the tape for bracelets and to stick the things that need to be stuck.





FASHION AT COLUMBUS

By Samantha Karlosky

Style comes to Columbus with new fashion trends. Poncho shirts and fine feathers are in right now.

You may have noticed many students are wearing poncho shirts. For those of you who love these shirts, they're here to stay. They're already in stores in the new spring line. I wanted to get the scoop on these poncho shirts. I talked with Mary Lyons, a fifth grader in Ms. U's class, to find out why she likes them so much. Mary said, "They're comfortable, fashionable and here to stay." She found a good selection at Joyce Leslie. So try one on and see if it's just right for you.

Feathers, feathers, feathers! This year, kids came in with feathers in their hair, and by November, almost everyone had them. But where did this feather trend start? It all started in 2010 when Dakota Hills saw the beauty of these fine feathers and started selling them. Then they were all around the country. Everybody loves the detailed pattern on the feathers.

These are just some of the trends that are going around. Look around, there might be another one just right for you!



Duck Tape Trends

by Rachel Lubrino and Serena Sam-Zee-Moi

The Duck Tape trend is getting very popular these past few months. People have been talking about this since October 1st. This trend started in fifth grade and traveled to fourth grade.

People have been making different kinds of creations with Duck Tape. Some of these creations are: wallets, bracelets, rings, bookmarks, purses, hair bows, etc. Some people even put it on their backpacks.

Duck Tape is just like regular "duct" tape, but it comes in all sorts of patterns and colors. Some of them are: zebra striped, paint splatter, hot pink, dark sporty blue, dancing reindeer (for Christmas), neon green, gold and lots more!

Duck Tape has been causing trouble for some classes though. Some teachers have been banning Duck Tape from their classrooms.

We interviewed our friend, Lauren DeMartino:

Serena & Rachel: How did you come up with the Duck Tape idea?

Lauren: Well, I started it at home. I started with making Duck Tape bookmarks. I brought them to school and everyone wanted them.

Serena & Rachel: When did you start making the Duck Tape creations?

Lauren: I started making it towards the beginning of the year.

Serena & Rachel: What is your favorite Duck Tape creation?

Lauren: Well, I LOVE all the creations so much. I don't have a favorite.

Serena & Rachel: How do you feel about Duck Tape being banned?

Lauren: I am sad, but it was nice having a new fad in school. I had so much fun making them.

We had fun too! Thank you for answering our questions, Lauren.



All I want For Christmas is an iPhone 4

By Deanna Falcone, Katie Burns, Kyra Higgins

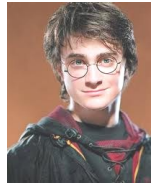
(In tune of 'All I want For Christmas Is My 2 Front Teeth')

All I want for Christmas is an iPhone 4, an iPhone 4

Oh an iPhone 4!

Gee, if I could only have an iPhone 4,

Then I could text you a Merry Christmas!



The 12 Days of Harry Potter

BY: KATIE BURNS

(In tune of 12 Days of Christmas)

On the 1st day of Christmas Harry Potter gave to me a Sorcerer's Stone under a trap door...

2 Hungarian Horntails

3 Flying cars

4 Whomping Willows

5 Golden Eggs

6 Hogwarts Castles

7 Harry Potters

8 Dark Lords

9 Dancing Death Eaters

10 Forbidden Forests

11 Chambers of Secrets

12 Horcruxes



Holiday / Winter Word Search

By: C.J. Baucó & Riley Stauss

A	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	Z
W	H	D	H	E	W	K	I	L	S	C
A	A	Z	N	A	W	K	F	K	J	H
E	M	Z	A	C	C	B	F	W	J	R
E	C	L	N	Y	A	X	O	F	A	I
R	G	I	F	T	S	N	R	S	E	S
T	F	G	H	A	S	I	D	I	T	T
C	H	A	N	U	K	A	H	L	R	M
S	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	Y	E	A
N	J	Z	C	S	A	N	T	A	E	S

Kwanzaa
Candles
Snowman
Ice

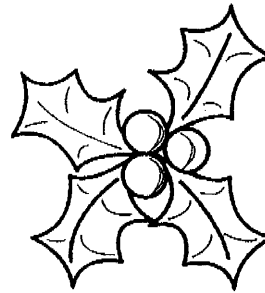
Tree
Snowflake
Christmas
Santa

Chanukah
Snow
Gifts
Elf

Christmas Word Search

Caitlin McGibney

O	B	E	A	Y	H	A	R	E	E	S	P	G	L	R	T
F	R	Q	N	G	L	E	T	O	B	A	R	N	R	V	I
C	W	N	I	A	I	I	T	N	Y	M	E	I	U	S	N
M	O	E	A	N	C	E	M	E	A	T	S	F	D	T	S
Y	L	O	D	M	L	Y	N	A	U	S	E	F	O	H	E
S	L	E	K	T	E	M	D	R	F	I	N	U	L	G	L
O	E	L	S	I	I	N	K	N	U	R	T	T	P	I	C
R	U	I	O	H	E	E	T	T	A	H	S	S	H	L	A
F	M	H	C	H	Y	S	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S
S	E	I	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	S	E	V	L	E



candycane	ornament
chimney	presents
Christmas	reindeer
cookies	Rudolph
cranberries	Santa
elves	sleigh
family	stockings
holly	stuffing
lights	tinsel
mistletoe	turkey



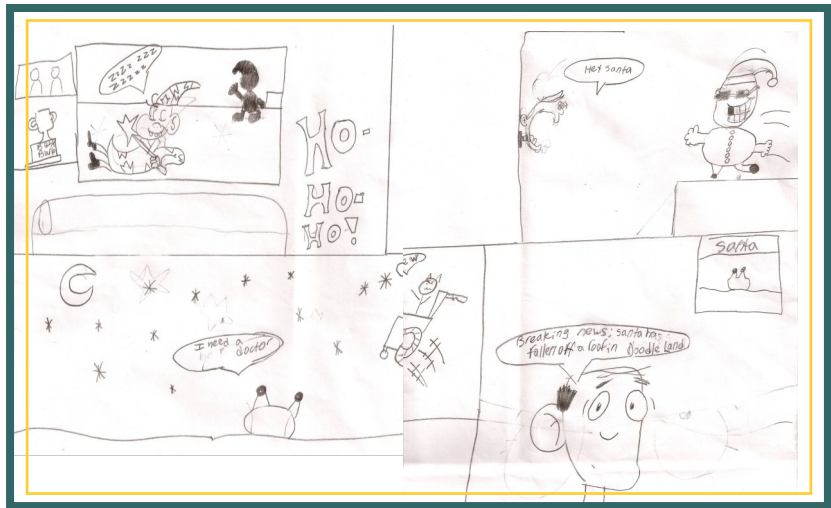
Westlake Varsity Basketball

By: Justin Avella and Aaron Blizzard

Westlake Basketball kicked off its season with the Holiday Classic. Westlake played Hen Hud and Hastings and won both games. This was something that has not been done in the last ten years. Steve Pesick has been coaching the basketball team for the last thirteen years and Larry Hogan joined him seven years ago. Both coaches practice with the team every day and stress the importance of discipline and hard work. The team captain is Point Guard Rich Maio. Rich Maio has been playing on the varsity team since 9th grade. Rich has played both Ken Fisher and CYO Basketball for the past eleven years and does intense training throughout the year. Rich Maio is a fantastic Point Guard and averages about 21.5 points per game helping the Wildcats to a 2-0 record. Rich Maio is a leader both on and off the court. Senior Captains Michael Bombace and Jason Cosentino both feel honored to have this title. They know the importance in making sure the team plays well and always tries their best. Michael plans to play basketball in college next year. The week of December 5th Westlake took on Valhalla. The players started to warm up an hour before the game. They listened to music and took shots on the net. Coach Pesick and Team Captain Rich Maio had to keep the team spirits up. After the 1st quarter the score was 9-15 but by the end of the 2nd quarter it was 27-25. Rich Maio had a lot of shots along with Tommy Hopkins and John D'Onofrio. In the 3rd quarter Westlake was strong and set up a lot of good plays. Maio had some 3 point shots. The score was 45-43 so everyone was happy. It wasn't until the 4th quarter when things changed. Valhalla had scored at the very end to cause an upset. The final was 57-53. Westlake will take on Hamilton this week at home.

Santa

By Joseph Calandrucci



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

Winter Word Search

By Cynthia Briggs

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| advent | dancer | joy | reindeer | tinsel |
| baubles | dasher | lights | Rudolph | toys |
| Blitzen | December | merry | Santa | tree |
| cake | Donner | mistletoe | sing | turkey |
| carols | eggnog | north pole | sleigh | vixen |
| chimney | elves | peace | snow | wreath |
| Christmas | gifts | pine | snowflake | |
| cold | holly | Prancer | snowman | |
| comet | ivy | pudding | star | |
| cupid | jingle bells | red nose | stocking | |