



“The History of Mardi Gras”



The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced back to medieval Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries to the French House of the Bourbons. On March 2, 1699, French-Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville arrived on land sixty miles directly south of New Orleans and named it “Pointe Du Mardi Gras” when he and his men realized it was the eve of the holiday. Bienville also founded “Fort Louis de la Mobile” in 1702, and in 1703, Fort Louis de la Mobile celebrated America’s first Mardi Gras. In 1718, New Orleans established by Bienville. By the 1730s, Mardi Gras was celebrated openly in New Orleans but not with the parades it has now. By the 1830’s, New Orleans held street processions of maskers with carriages and horseback riders to celebrate Mardi Gras. Mobile natives, who formed the Mistick Krewe of Comus, brought magic and mystery to New Orleans with dazzling floats, known as tableaux cars. Newspapers started to announce Mardi Gras events days or weeks in advance. In 1872, a group of businessmen invented a King of Carnival, Rex, to preside over the first daytime parade. To honor the visiting Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff, the businessmen introduced Romanoff’s family colors of purple, green and gold as Carnival’s official colors. Purple stands for justice; gold for power; and green for faith. This was also the Mardi Gras season that Carnival’s improbable anthem, “If Ever I Cease to Love”, was cemented, due in part to the Duke’s fondness for the tune. In the following year, floats were being constructed in New Orleans instead of France. In 1875, Governor Warmoth signed the “Mardi Gras Act”, making Fat Tuesday a legal holiday in Louisiana, and it still is to this day. All floats seen at the parade are completely funded by private social clubs with restrictive membership policies. New Orleans calls it the “Greatest Free Show on Earth!”

“Seventh Grade Profiles”



Our first seventh grade profile for the month of March is Matthew Taylor Hughes. Matthew was born on January 21, 2001, making him thirteen years old. Better catch him fast, ladies, because Matthew is currently available! To win him over, you need to pop in his favorite movie, *Fast & Furious 6*, or make him some deer steak, which happens to be his favorite food. He also enjoys watching *Duck Dynasty*! Matthew's favorite teacher, Mr. Michael, just happens to teach his favorite class, science. In his spare time, Matthew likes to hang out with his best friends, Ryan Applegate and John Hamilton. His favorite senior is Tiffany Ricketts, and his favorite color is black. He would like to end by saying, "I'm a redneck kinda guy."



Our second seventh grade profile is Miss Aaliyah Smith. She is currently twelve years old and was born on July 13, 2001. Sorry, guys! Miss Aaliyah's heart is taken by the Magcon Boys! Maybe you could win her over by fixing her favorite food, spaghetti, or maybe even popping in her favorite movie, *21 Jump Street*. Aaliyah also likes to watch the ever popular TV series *The Walking Dead* and *Teen Wolf*. Her favorite teacher is none other than Mrs. McFarland, and her favorite class is art. In her spare time, Aaliyah likes to hang out with her best friend, Darrington White, or her favorite senior, Haylee Adams, who is also her cousin. Her favorite colors are blue and purple. She would like to end by saying, "Bye!"

“9th Grade Profiles”



Our first ninth grade profile is Whitney Richmond. She was born on July 17th, 1999, which makes her fourteen years old. She is single, guys! You may be able to win her over with her favorite food, pizza! Her favorite TV show is *Courageous*. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Applegate, and her favorite class is also math. She has many best friends, including: Xena, Hannah, Leah, Shyanne, and Cassie. Her favorite senior happens to be Kari Foster, and her favorite color is purple. She would like to end by saying, “Just a country girl who loves to ride four wheelers and be outdoors!”



Our second ninth grade profile is Brendon Kessler. He was born on April 4th, 1999. He’s single and currently taking applications, ladies, so you better snatch him up while you can! He likes to eat his favorite food, carrots, while watching his favorite TV show, *The Walking Dead*! His favorite teacher is Mr. Applegate, and his favorite class is math. His closest friends are Nick Huron and Jase Thatcher. His favorite senior happens to be Rainelle Casey. His favorite color is blue. Brendon would like to end this by saying, “Yolo.”

Hannah Rideout

“Junior Profiles”



The first junior profile is Miss Hannah Purdon; she was brought into the world on August 5th, 1996. Hannah is currently single! Her favorite food is soft tacos, and she loves watching *Coneheads* and *Dance Moms*. Hannah's favorite teacher is Mr. Knauff, but she looks forward to chemistry the most throughout the day. Hannah has many friends, but her best friends would be Tera, Brooklyn, Laramie, Stephanie and Keisha. As for seniors, Hannah's favorites would be Alyssa Spires and June Frost. Hannah would like to end by saying, "Remove the decal!"



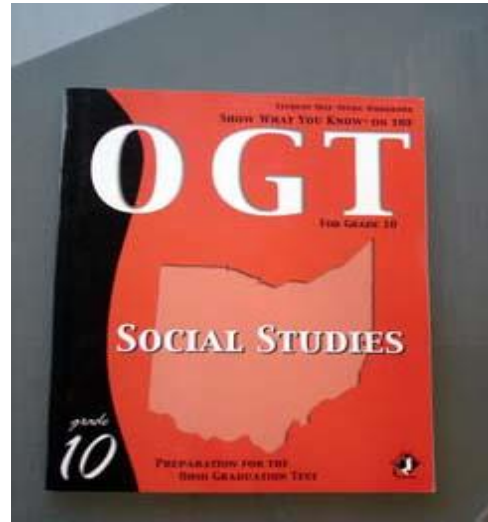
Nick Hoskins is the second of our junior profiles. He was born on June 6th and is sixteen years old. Nick is happily in a relationship with Katie Fetters. He loves going to McDonald's to get some of his favorite foods. Nick's all-time favorite movie is *Pineapple Express*, and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Lovejoy. He enjoys weight lifting class the most throughout the day and looks up to Tyler Brummett as his favorite senior. Nick would like to end by saying, "I didn't know what to say, so I put this...."

“MHS Track”



Track is going quite well for the hounds this season. Practices have officially started for the 2014 season. Coach Cook and Coach Sucher have begun to work hard for their upcoming meets. Their first meet was April 4th at Ripley and the MHS track team got one first place in boys, and the girls won as a team. Seniors for this year's track team include: Sierra Farley, Billy Streetman, Ryan Day, Daniel Brinker, and Zach Slatton. Everyone should come out and support our 2014 track team and see what they have to offer. They have been working very hard in preparation for the season. Good luck, runners, Coach Cook and Coach Sucher, on your season.

“Sophomores Take the OGT”



This month, our sophomores took the OGT. They have been preparing for these tests for their entire high school career. I have recently asked a sample of the sophomores how they think they did on their test, and they all feel that they did very well and think they passed every single part. When I asked them which test they felt they did the best on, a majority agreed that they did the best on the social studies. They felt the hardest was the writing test, due to the difficult essay prompts. Because of the many snow days, a four day tutoring “blitz” was held after school to prepare students for the exams.

-Zachary Slat

“MHS Softball”



The softball team is advancing on their fundamentals and is now able to get the batting cage down in the elementary gym. Because of the weather, the team is forced to have inside practices. The girls are working mostly on hitting, and each day they learn new techniques to use in a game. Coach Erin Reed and the assistant coaches, John Henley, Mark Johnson, and Katie Friend, worked together to get the girls ready for their first scrimmage. The first Scrimmage was on March 20th, and it was against Ripley at their home fields.

We have three new freshmen and one new junior on the team this year. The freshmen are Kylie Lucas, Miranda Schiltz, and Kelsey Friend. The junior is Brook Grooms. They have only been on the team for a short while, but they are already drastically improving each day at practice. Many players are returning back to their spots, such as: Delaney Young at first base, Brook Henley on the pitcher's mound, Brooklyn Chaney behind the back stop, Brett Himes at second base, and Morgan Johnson at short stop. Some other players will be returning to their spots as well. As for the new players, they will be put in new spots each day to see where they will be playing when the first game comes around. The team is ready to see what the future holds for their season. Good luck, lady hounds!

“Burger King Baby Looks for her Birth Mother”



When Katheryn Depril was just a few hours old, she was abandoned by her birth mother at a Burger King restaurant in Allentown, PA. Today, Depril is now twenty-seven years old, married and a stay-at-home mother of three. Depril was found in a Burger King bathroom on September 15th of 1986. A customer had heard crying coming from the bathroom and immediately told the staff, who walked in and saw the little baby lying on the floor.

The story had gotten several articles in many newspapers, which her adopted mother saved and used to compose a scrap book. "I am so thankful that my birth mother didn't throw me away. She didn't put me in a dumpster," Depril said. She is not angry with her birth mother but would actually like to thank her. "She could have been very young and felt very scared. ... I can't even imagine being in her shoes and being alone and having to walk away from her baby."

As a child, Depril had always known that she was adopted, but it wasn't until she was twelve that her parents decided to shed some light on what happened by giving her the scrap book. Even though Depril was adopted and happy, she still had questions about her birth family. A few weeks ago, her adopted mother suggested that she take her search to Facebook. She posted a photo of her holding a sign that read: "Looking for my birth mother. Please help me find her by sharing my post." More than fifteen thousand people have re-posted the photo in order to help Depril's cause.

Kristin Darnell

St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th. This is the day that marks the accepted date in 493 CE of St. Patrick's death. Millions of people wear green and celebrate the Irish with parades. St. Patrick's Day has nothing to do with the actual man. St. Patrick wasn't even really Irish. He was born in Britain around A.D 390 to a Christian family.

At sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped and sent overseas to tend sheep as a slave in Ireland for seven years. Patrick's work in Ireland was tough. He was constantly beaten by thugs, harassed by the Irish royalty, and scolded by his British superiors. After he died on March 17, 461, Patrick was largely forgotten, but slowly, mythology grew around Patrick, and centuries later he was honored as the patron saint of Ireland.

According to St. Patrick's Day lore, Patrick used the three leaves of a shamrock to explain the Christian holy trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today, St. Patrick's Day revelers wear a shamrock out of tradition. People in Ireland, hoping to wear an authentic shamrock, are running low on luck.

Angel Rigdon

“Need for Speed Movie Review”



Need for Speed has been a greatly anticipated film by both fans of the original video games and those who have not been exposed to them. There was a lot of hype surrounding the movie – especially about the fact that no green-screening was used in the film. Every stunt in the film was actually performed (the professional drivers and stunt doubles deserve lots of credit for this).

In fact, I entered the movie theater rather skeptical about the film. *Need for Speed* could not be as good as everyone claimed it would be; people were being generous with their ratings because of Aaron Paul (from *Breaking Bad*) or Dominic Cooper (*Captain America*). I was blown away by how wrong I was.

The movie started off a bit cliché; the pacing not quite right but picked up within the first half-hour. The racing scenes are a bit confusing at first: the way they cut the scenes together made it hard to keep up at times, though I think this decision was intended to make the audience feel as caught-up in the race as the characters behind the wheel.

There is only so much one can do with a racing movie, but *Need for Speed* managed to pull off the stereotypical requirements for such a film in a way that was unique enough to keep me interested. Aaron Paul’s character was interesting, and the whole cast gave a great performance that sold the idea in a way that the storyline didn’t quite manage.

Films in this genre are normally very testosterone-fueled. This means that the love interests are normally women that do not take charge the entire movie but just offer emotional support for the lead. *Need for Speed* managed to provide a strong, believable female lead that had character development (it was almost as pro-feminist as the *Fast and Furious* movie franchise, in fact).

Need for Speed had a great music score, a plot that managed to build itself up despite the fact that it started out a bit weak, and the cars were beautiful – in fact, I almost wept at the fate that befell some of the vehicles.

Emerald Proffitt

“The World’s First Flexible Smartphone”



Over time, cell phones have become a part of our everyday lives and have changed dramatically, not just by the looks and size but also by the technology that has been built into them. It's remarkable how a cell phone was once just for calling and turned into ten electronics that are put into one hand-held device. Just from the development of phones from the past two years, we found that the bigger the better and the better the quality the more popular the phone will be. Now there's something that's new to the cell phone world: the first flexible smartphone, the LG G Flex.

Instead of a square or rectangle, the G flex has a curved shape. This curved screen is 6.0", it has a bright, vivid display; and it is also bendable, to an extent. One of the main reasons the screen is curved is to make the phone feel more comfortable when talking into it or even holding it in your hand. The curved shape helps the performance of the quality of the in and out going voices. The small gap that is in between the mic and your mouth helps the other person on the line hear you better.

Not only does the curved design make this an outstanding phone, but what's built inside and the features it has makes it even better. It has a battery that is like no other because it can bend along with the phone and has a long-lasting 3,500 mAh of life. Instead of pushing a button to turn on the screen, it just takes two taps of a finger. Another cool feature is the intuitive rear key. It's placed on the back for better convenience, and it has an LCD notification light that you can personally change to know what notification you have just by looking at the light. Overall, this phone is great and will bring many new ideas to the phone industry.