



Leaderboard changes after Math Club event

By James McKay

On Tuesday, G. Ray Bodley High School's monthly meeting of the Math Club teams proved to be an exciting one. Team "Crystal Math" came in as the first-place defenders, but it turns out no lead can last forever. At the end of the day, "McAce's Inferno" ended up pulling into first with "Defying Asymptotes" only a half point behind. This just goes to show anything can happen at Math Club.

In order to incorporate the December theme, club advisor Mrs. Ryan took the initiative to provide small gifts to all of the day's participants, and played Christmas music in the background while teams competed. All of the day's problems were also Christmas-themed, challenging contestants to calculate an elf's workday, the concentration of flying juice in a reindeer's magic potion, and exactly how much money was spent buying gifts for the twelve days of Christmas (\$25,000 in the first five days).

In the end, no one really seemed to worry too much about who won. The day was about students getting together over their love for math.



Brian Garrett, right, takes a watere break as teammate Nick Tallents continues to work on one of the Christmas-themed projects at Tuesday's monthly meeting of the Math Club. (James McKay photo)

Students design bridges in MST class

As many students prepare for midterms and other exams given before the big break, the students in Mr. Morse's Math Science Technology (MST) are preparing for a different type of test.

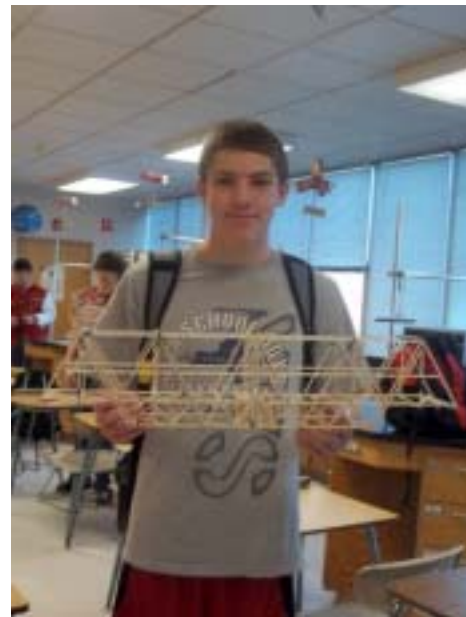
The MST class is putting their finishing touches on bridges they have been constructing since mid-September. Although the MST class is testing their bridges in December, they will be constructing a second bridge which focuses on the weak points of their first design and bringing this improved bridge to a statewide competition at SUNY ESF in Syracuse in early spring to test.

These bridges are built from balsa wood at different densities in order to make them the lightest, yet most efficient bridge possible. These different densities come in three colors; red, which is the most dense at around three grams per piece of balsa wood, green which is in the middle weighing in at about two grams per balsa wood, and purple, which is the lightest balsa wood, weighing in around one gram.

The bridges are tested on a mechanical bridge-breaking machine, which can hold weight that exceeds 100 pounds. Although there are many variables to such an in depth project, there are also many ways to make the bridge the most successful. These include strong glue joints, using weights to compress glue into the balsa wood grain, and overall design of the bridge, which are key factors in the competition.

Overall MST is a class that lets the students experience the hard work of constructing a time consuming and tedious project, yet to see that hard work and effort pay off as the bridge is tested in front of one's fellow classmates.

By Hunter Gorton



Junior Nate Hudson displays his balsa wood bridge, a project for the MST class where students get to design, build, and then test their work. (Hunter Gorton photo)

Opinion

Don't wait for Jan. 1 to make changes

By Brenna Merry

As December is dwindling down, so are the last days of the year 2010. With a New Year fast approaching, people are beginning to think, "What should my New Year's resolution be this year?" Ranging from getting healthy to stopping procrastination, every individual hopes that with a new year will come a better life full of changes.

When it all boils down to it, January first is a day just like any other, aside from the fact that you now need to get used to writing a new date on the top of your homework.

One may wonder, what is the significance of choosing this day to make improvements to your life? The reasoning behind it is nothing more than giving your self an evident deadline or allowing you to have a month to binge on whatever you plan to give up before the year turns



make it any easier. People should consider beginning their New Year's resolutions months prior to ensure their success.

"In life, change is the only constant," it has long been noted. With the passing of each minute we are a different person from who we were before, constantly learning and growing as individuals. Choosing New Year's resolutions is much like going on a fad diet, good in theory and bad in practice. Make it your New Year's resolution to hope to change your life on a day-to-day basis. Try to wake up every morning with a new goal in your head and with yesterdays bad experiences behind you.

RaiderNet

Daily

Bizarre News of the Day

Cardboard cutout policewomen aimed at lowering the amount of accidents, cause twice the amount of accidents than before. A project to make road junctions in the Czech Republic safer by placing cardboard cutouts of female traffic police by the road has backfired because the miniskirt-clad officers have proved to be such a distraction that accidents have doubled.

The Czech capital of Prague decided to put cardboard women officers "on duty," with stop-and-go signs at a variety of dangerous junctions after it was decided that traffic lights were too costly. But with their raised hemlines, high heels, stockings and lipstick, the police officers have become crash-magnets.

One driver involved in a crash denied he was ogling the cut-out, saying: "I admit I was looking at her, thinking what the h is she wearing a miniskirt for in this weather?"

By Morgan Firenze

"Make it your New Year's resolution to hope to change your life on a day-to-day basis. Try to wake up every morning with a new goal in your head and with yesterdays bad experiences behind you."

over. Many say, "This year was already full of bad behavior, might as well finish it off the same way."

The idea of a New Year's resolution is one of hope that all humans should create. Everyone should strive to better themselves and kick nasty habits. However, every morning is the dawn of a New Day. Why not develop these resolutions whenever it hits you that they need to be done? People should be living their lives constantly trying to improve as every day passes, not just once a year.

The procrastination that is involved in New Year's resolutions attributes to their ultimate failure. Most of the time people have the same resolution every year saying, "This will be the year I'll actually stick to it!" Attempting to quit bad habits or start up healthy ones cold turkey is nearly impossible. The fact that the year has changed does not

Quote of the day:

"Friendship...is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

Muhammad Ali

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Tron, Yogi on the big screen



The long-awaited arrival of Tron and Yogi Bears arrival on the big screen highlight this weekend's new movies, as the countdown toward the big holiday movie season continues.

TRON: Legacy - a 3D high tech virtual reality set in a digital world that's unlike anything that has ever been featured on the big screen. Sam Flynn (Garrett Helund)

the tech savvy 27-year-old son of Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges) who

looks into his father's disappearance and finds himself pulled into the digital world of Tron where his father has been living for 25 years. This is a sure to see movie on the big screen this weekend.

Yogi Bear - Hanna - Barbera's beloved picnic-basket-stealing bear make shis big screen debut in this live-action/ animation mix children's flick from Journey to the Center of the Earth director Eric Brevig. The tourist aren't just flocking to Jellystone Park like they used to, and when the budget gets tight, Mayor Brown (Andrew Daly) brings down the axe. But while the mayor can certainly make a quick buck selling the land, what about the families who like to spend their summers in the great outdoors? This is when Yogi (Dan Aykroyd) and Boo-Boo (Justin Timberlake) discover they need to team up against greedy Mayor Brown.

How Do You Know - Revered TV and film producer/writer/director James L. Brooks (As Good As It Gets) directs this ensemble comedy that stars Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson, Paul Rudd, and Jack Nicholson for Columbia pictures. If you are looking for a laugh out loud comedy this weekend, this big screen picture is sure to deliver.

Seniors! Stay in touch with your class! Check out the new website for the senior class at <http://grbclass2011.blogspot.com/>

Students see classic movie come to life

The beloved movie *A Christmas Story* was brought to life for seniors in Mr. Heindorf's AP English class and Mr. Lescarbeau's Drama class on Tuesday as they were given the opportunity to watch the theatrical rendition of the classic tale by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark. Although there were some hopes for a massive amount of snow to fall in Fulton, over Monday night, this was not to be. Students woke up Tuesday morning to find no school closings and only a few sporadic delays. Those who had planned to attend the play were happy at the fact that school was not cancelled and that "the show could go on," but obviously disappointed that they did not wake up to a snowday.

The play followed the storyline of the movie, with extreme emphasis on the "official Red Ryder 200-Shot Carbine Action Range Model Air Rifle with a compass and this thing which tells time built right into the stock." It followed Ralphie's efforts around Christmas time to persuade his parents, teacher and Santa Claus himself to think that him having the BB gun was a good idea. The play also reiterated the famous line, "You'll shoot your eye out!" time and time again. There were many funny bits, such as when Ralphie's father wins a "major award" and when Ralphie is forced to wear a pink bunny suit.

On the way home from the play, the bus made a lunch stop at Heid's of Liverpool. The establishment has been going strong since 1917, selling unique Heid's hot dogs and earning great reviews. While the restaurant is spoken so highly of, it didn't seem as though the food matched the description on this particular day. Within minutes of being served, the cheese on the cheese fries became cold and stiff. Many students did not finish the macaroni salad either, claiming that it didn't taste good. For a prime tourist spot which is so highly acclaimed, one may just write yesterday's short-comings off as a bad day for the eatery.

Although Heid's was a minor disappointment, the play was very good and worth seeing, providing some good laughs and entertainment just in time for the holidays.

By Tyler Crandell

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Sports

Long day ahead for indoor track teams

It will be a long day on Saturday for the indoor track teams as they are traveling to Hamilton College this weekend to participate in the John Arcaro Memorial Invitational. The bus leaves at 6:45 a.m. so Saturday will be anything but a day of rest for the Raider runners. Normally the team wouldn't travel this far for this meet, but Manley Field House in Syracuse closed its door to Section 3 indoor track meets and now has become the Syracuse University football practice facility.

This is good for SU but bad for the high school runners who are lacking a local place to host indoor track meets. Now the closest place with an indoor track is SUNY Cortland, which is still an hour and a half away by bus. Indoor tracks have dry air, which is a harsh factor during races and with the team having to switch venues constantly it is hard to adjust to one tracks climate if the team only goes every two weeks.

Last weekend the team traveled to SUNY Cortland to participate in the Jack Morse Relays with disappointing results with the girls scoring no points and the boys only scoring one that was garnered by Andy Failmezger and Nick Morse in the shot put.

The boy's team started off the day with the 4 x 200 meter relay composed of Craig Weaver, Alan Cronk, Phil Field and Jim Ireland. Weaver started out strong but the baton was knocked out of his hand, which sent the Raiders back to last place and they could not recover from this loss of position. When Ireland got the baton he gained two places with his 25.7 second 200, the fastest leg of the day.

The 4 x 400 was a team of newcomers with only returning indoor track member on the team but they put forth their best effort and all ran decent times, but sadly they were disqualified for not making the pass in the handoff zone. The sprint medley relay team also suffered from a slow start as the leading runner was boxed in by the competition and the two middle runners struggled to gain ground. It wasn't until Craig Weaver took the handoff and then regained the lead and finished third in the heat and a 14th place overall finish.

School record holder Morgan Cooper led the girls relay teams to a strong finish with great performances in the 4 x 400 meter relay and the 200-meter leg of the sprint medley relay that is composed of a 400-200-200-800 meter laps. Other notables on the relay team were Mary West, who ran the 400 leg later and placed fifth in her heat of the 1600 meter relay



Fulton's 4 x 400 relay team will be looking for a good showing on Saturday at the John Arcaro Memorial Meet in Hamilton. Pictured from left are Alan Cronk, James Ireland, Phil Field and Craig Weaver.

and Brittany Lamie, who held the lead for the sprint medley relay and finished the heat in first place. The boys and girls look forward to

a different type of competition this weekend with the focus being less on relay teams and more on individual runners.

USA faces Germany in U-18 tournament

Israel, Germany, France and the United States are competing in a four-team friendly tournament in Tel Aviv, Israel. However the players in action aren't the senior national team players, they are the Under 18 national team players for their country. The Tournament opened December 14 with the USA losing 3-0 to France and Germany destroying Israel 7-0. On Thursday, the young Americans ground out a 0-0 tie with Israel. They will be finishing out their tournament, when they challenge the Germans on Saturday.

An interesting thing about the U.S. youth level teams is that they are chosen from a basic player pool. The pool consists of 26 players who play either college or club level soccer. The oldest player in the group is an Oregon native who plays for East Side United F.C. His birthdate is January 21, 1992. The youngest player is from Michigan, born on January 24, 1994. While these players are young, they must exhibit some outstanding abilities to get recognized at the national level. The player pool is determined through head coach Mike Matkovich's training camps. Potential players are recognized here as well as drawn in from U.S. Soccer's Development Academy. The team does not compete in any world championship but they do compete in friendly international tournaments.

The results against France and Israel don't seem great and the prospect against Germany does not look very promising either. However the U.S. national teams have been climbing the world ranks in recent years and that is the product of a great youth system and a strong domestic league. The U.S. academies and MLS soccer allow players to develop within the borders of the country where they can be watched and assessed by national team coaches.

While youth levels are interesting and perhaps a glimpse of the future, most everyone would agree that they would rather see the full national team in action. Fans will get to see the U.S. men play Chile on January 22. The game will be played in Carson, California's Home Depot Center and should be a good one. Both teams competed in the 2010 FIFA World Cup over the summer and this match up should prove to be a good game.

By Tyler Crandell

School of Thought compiled by Colin Shannon & Tyler Crandell

What did you do during Thursday's snow day?



"I shoveled a lot."

Jared Hyde



"I went Christmas shopping."

Anna McKay



"I made a Digiorno pizza."

Mark Bailey



"Watched Lost."

Jenna Doherty

Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the upper-20s.
Record high-no data
Avg. high-36

Tonight:



Snow showers. Low in the mid-20s.
Record low-5 (1991)
Avg. low-20

Tomorrow:

Cloudy with snow showers. High in the mid-20s.
Record high-55 (1971)
Avg. high-36

Sunday:

Cloudy with a few snow showers. High around 20, low in the mid-teens.
Record high/low-59/-7 (1957/1973)
Avg.-35/20

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*