

# Bret Harte Pioneer

Issue #3

November 13, 2013

## 7th Graders Prepare For Castle Walk

By Leanne Peou & Ashley Torres

On November 13, there will be an event for the whole community called Castle Walk. Castle Walk is when the 7th graders build a castle at home. This is Bret Harte's 25th year doing the castle project.

8th grader, Helen Nguyen, said, "The hardest part of making a castle is when you gotta put everything together and cut it out to build the gates and stuff."

Also 8th grader Leslie Gonzalez agreed, "The hardest part is building it."

Most 8th graders agree that building the castle at home is easier than building it at school.

"I built the castle at home because I don't get distracted by people," said Helen Nguyen

Xavier Battle says, "The castle project was easier to do at home it was a more of a working environment and easier to focus at the school because there's usually a lot of talking"

Certain students like 7th grader Roman Romo have there own opinion on their castle project, "Well, it's fun but it takes a long period of time to finish it and Mr. Fitz only gives us a short period of time."

7th grader, Danielle Mumma, disagrees. "It's stressful because you sometimes start late."

Mr. Fitz said, "It gives the students the opportunity to show their castle off and all the hard work they put in. It's also by the way, the most well intended community event held annually at Bret Harte, last year we had over 350 people."

His thoughts on how long it would take to build a castle was, "It Depends on how good you want it to be. Some people gather it in a day and it doesn't look very good. You would think since its half their grade you think that they would spend you know quite a few hours to put it together."

Mr. Fitz finds it a great way to teach about the Middle Ages, "It gives kids alternative assessment, they get to make something instead of being tested on it, it's very enjoyable."



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**Missed a past issue of the Bret Harte Pioneer?**

**Read them at**

**[www.brethartepioneer.weebly.com](http://www.brethartepioneer.weebly.com)**

Top: A Norman style castle created by former Bret Harte Student Lauren Wilson  
Bottom: Another view of the castle  
Photo Credits: Claire Chao

## Syria's Sarin Gas Attack

By Jess Hutcherson-Wilcox

President Obama gave a speech on August 13th, 2012 about chemical weapons, according to *The Atlantic*. He said that if Syria used these weapons, like sarin gas, that would be a "red line" that would warrant U.S. military intervention.

So what is sarin gas? *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* reports that sarin is a toxic chemical that affects the nerves. It is part of a group called the nerve gases according to *ocw.core.org.cn*.

Scientists at IG Fabre made it in 1938 in Germany when they were trying to create a stronger pesticide, according to *Daily Kos*.

If inhaled, or you come in contact with, or swallowed, the victim loses control over his or her bodily functions, making them vomit, poop, and urinate uncontrollably and making their nerves stick on one signal. The victim also cries and drools. Eventually, the loss of control will paralyze and then suffocate its victims.

Also according to *ocw.core.org.cn* sarin exposure may be "cured" using Atropine, which helps only when immediately delivered and will not help with large amounts of sarin exposure. Atropine is also poisonous and deadly in large amounts. Atropine's effects are basically the opposite of sarin.

On August 21, 2013, the Syrian government against its own people reportedly used sarin. However, the United States has not taken military action because Syria has agreed to destroy its chemical weapons.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, winners of the Nobel peace prize this year, sent inspection teams to Syria starting the second week of October. They are currently in the process of destroying the chemical weapons and the machines that create them.



Victim of Sarin Gas in Syria

Photo Credit: Google Images

## Bret Harte Honors Students For Being Respectful, Resilient, and Hardworking

By Claire Chao

Even if you're not on the honor roll you can still earn a certificate for being resilient and respectful, but the hard working awards are mainly for students of perfect attendance for that class period or on the honor roll.

This assembly is planned to be done every marking period. The idea mainly came from what is called the Climate and Culture Committee. They help work towards making the school a more inclusive and positive place for us students.

You may ask why they are they now starting to hand out certificates. Well Mr. Moses said, "Since I have been working at Bret Harte, we haven't had many formal ways of recognizing students for what they do well in school. With the new school-wide values and culture we are inputting into the school, we as a staff thought it would be a great idea to get students motivated to be more respectful, hard-working, and resilient by handing out these awards. We hope that it makes students feel recognized and will help all Bret Harte students strive to represent our three values."

Principal Mr. Hughes talks about how it went and what could've gone better ; "I would like things to be a little tighter in terms of organization and maybe calling smaller numbers of students up. Also would like a better beginning and end. Overall for our first

time I think we did okay."

"Some students like 8th grader Xavier Battle agrees, " The assembly went well, I really liked the awards assembly because it finally recognized the kids who are doing what they need to do.

But other students such as 8th grader Helen Nguyen says, "I didn't like the assembly as much I was kind of bored, and annoyed by all the noise when students tried to receive their awards."



Mr. Hughes and the Bobcat at Honor Assembly October 18, 2013

Photo Credit: Claire Chao

# Features

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## New iPhone iOS.7 Worth the Download

By Andres Avila

On September 18, 2013, Apple's brand new iOS operating system, iOS 7, was released. Just a couple days later, the iPhone 5S and iPhone 5C were released to the public. iOS 7 has been out for about seven weeks now, so I feel like its time for me to give my full opinion on iOS 7. Let me start with the biggest changes from iOS 6 to iOS 7. The most notable change in my opinion is the design. Unlike the previous iOS systems, the style of iOS 7 seems more flat and brighter than the 3-dimensional and glossy iOS 6. Personally, I have mixed feelings about the design. While I do admit that iOS 7 is brighter and more visually appealing to look at, I'm just too used to the design of iOS 6 to appreciate this new direction that Apple is taking.

And then there's the new features introduced in iOS 7. Again, the most notable one is the Control Center. It is, just as the name says, the main control center for iOS 7. Users can adjust brightness, volume, use a built-in flashlight, quickly access built-in apps, and turn Bluetooth on and off, and so much more all in one screen. Swiping up from the very bottom of the screen can access the Control Center.

Another new feature is iTunes Radio. It has all the features of Pandora and other radio apps, but it's built in to the iPhone and is completely free. While it is pretty handy to have a radio app without downloading one, I still find myself using Pandora more often, simply because it seems that the suggestions that Pandora gives me make more sense to me.

Another big new feature is Airplay which lets you play content from your iPhone on your TV; in conjunction with Apple TV, which is pretty much iOS for your TV.

There have also been some pretty big updates given to Apple's built-in apps; Most notably Safari. Besides its brand new icon, Safari has been given a plethora (in other words, lots of) new features

Its new search bar only appears when you scroll up, or when needed. This helps when reading a long article and when you want to read without anything getting in your field view. Safari also has a new simpler design. Your open tabs are now ordered top-down instead of left right. Overall, iOS 7's Safari app is a big improvement over the last Safari. The music app has also been given a new design and accessibility improvements. The iPhone camera has been given a cool HDR feature for iPhone 4s users and onward. Pretty much every built-in app, (Game Center,

Weather, Notes, etc..) have gotten numerous improvements.

Now as with anything, there are some flaws with iOS 7. The biggest one for me, is how iOS 7 runs on a iPhone 4. Compared to the iPhone 4s, 5, and onwards, iOS 7 runs a lot slower on iPhone 4. Apple was aware of this too. They purposefully downgraded some iOS 7 features on iPhone 4 due to the inferior hardware. Some visual enhancements, such as the transparency effect seen on the Notification and Control Center, and the dynamic wallpapers featured in iOS 7 are not present on the iPhone 4. So if you haven't updated yet, and you have an iPhone 4, I suggest not updating.

Overall, iOS 7 is definitely worth the update, but if you have an iPhone 4, I suggest waiting a little and deciding whether the jump to Apple's new iOS is really worth it. For iPhone 4s users and later, iOS 7 is a definite improvement the previous iOS 6.



Screenshots of the new iOS 7 update. Photo Credits: Adriana Villegas

**Have you missed last week's issue?  
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to:  
[www.brethartepioneer.weebly.com](http://www.brethartepioneer.weebly.com)**

# Features

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## BETTER KNOW A STAFF MEMBER: MS. GAYLE

BY MEYOKO EVERETT

**A-Do you like Bret Harte?**

**Q-Yes.**

**Q-How many years have you worked here?**

**A- 7 years.**

**Q-Do you have kids?**

**A-Yes a boy and a girl.**

**Q-How old are you?**

**A-NYOB.**

**Q-How many years did you go to college?**

**A-2 years.**

**Q-What do you like to do on your free time?**

**A-Play with my dogs.**

**Q-When is your birthday?**

**A-April 4.**

**Q-What is your favorite holiday? Why?**

**A- Christmas because of the decorations.**

**Q-Do you care for money?**

**A-Yes I love it I wish I had more of it.**

**Q-What do you want people to know the hardest thing about your job is?**

**A-Dealing with attitude.**

**Q-Do you wish you can stay home and get paid?**

**A-YES who wouldn't?**



Photo Credit: Claire Chao

## BETTER KNOW A STUDENT: RACHEL WHITE

BY VALENTINA LEGASPI

**Q: How old are you?**

**A: 12.**

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in school?**

**A: Hanging out with friends.**

**Q: What are you going to do during the vacation?**

**A: Readmanga.**

**Q: What is your favorite manga character?**

**A: Natsu.**

**Q: In five words or less explain your personality?**

**A: Better Than Everyone Else.**

**Q: What are you proud of?**

**A: Learning how to beat my brother.**

**Q: What are you afraid of?**

**A: Being forgotten.**

**Q: What is your favorite subject at school?**

**A: Science.**

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

**A: Everything.**

**Q: What is your favorite TV show?**

**A: None.**



Photo Credit: Valentina Legaspi

## Dentists ask kids to donate candy for soldiers

By Meyoko Everett

Halloween trick or treating is always fun every year at our house, because of the scares from ghosts, goblins, princess and vampires I've seen though the years. Recently, I learned about another reason to like Halloween. I found out about a program called "Operation Gratitude" by dentists to buy candy from kids and their parents and send it to soldiers overseas.

Last year, dentists took in and had over 500 pounds of candy according to Operation Gratitude.com. This candy was then given over to Operation Gratitude, which puts it care packages sent to our troops overseas. Dentists buy candy packs for \$1 a pound for the cheapest hard-candy treats. They buy Reese's Cups and Twix for around \$3.80 a pound.

Operation Gratitude first started March 2003. They bought so much candy that they got to make 100,000 care packages according to operationgratitude.com. Carolyn Blashek was the founder of Operation



Photo Credits: Google Images

Gratitude, and it won a award this year called Cox Cares Foundation Grants. Lots of people wanted to help with it. It spread to New York at the YMCA, and lots of school wanted to do it, too. Companies helped by putting announcements as ads.

According to operationgratitude.com, dentists do not want people to go out and buy candy; they want people to help raise it. The only thing that dentists encourage you to buy for soldiers is dental hygiene products and a first aid kit. The dentists encourage that because by not having healthy teeth make the soldiers very sick.

Dentists don't necessarily think that it's not a good idea for children to go wild and eat candy nonstop and get cavities and bad teeth. I think that Operation Gratitude is good because instead of stuffing yourself with candy you can have some money in your pocket and having healthy teeth. You can send a treat to your friends and family that is helping our country and put a smile on their face.



Photo Credit: Google Images

## What is creepy pasta?

By Valentina Legaspi

Lately there's been this Internet fad (something that has gone viral) of creepy pastas. What is creepy pasta? A creepy pasta is a short story that is posted on the Internet and is designed to unnerve and shock the reader. The name "creepy pasta" comes from an internet slang word "copy pastas" which is a block of text that gets copied over and over again pasted from website to website.

Creepy pastas are terror parodies of a games, cartoons, myths, legends, etc. Some creepy pasta like Suicide Mouse and Sonic.Exe are parodies of games. Squid ward Suicide and Cupcakes are parodies of cartoons. So basically, creepy pastas are creepy.

According to creepypasta.wikia.com, the first creepy pasta made was the Boogie Man.

Also, according to creepypasta.wikia.com the two best creepy pastas are Jeff the Killer and Squid ward Suicide.

Jeff the Killer is creepy pasta of a psychopathic murderer with a weird face that kills in the dark. Normally, Jeff would kill people in their sleep. He would enter the room watch the person sleep, then says "GO TO SLEEP!" and kill him or her before they can even scream.

Suicide Squidward is a terror parody of Sponge bob Square pants. It's when Squidward wakes from a nightmare and then starts crying

for about 2 minutes. At the end, Squid ward gets a rifle out and shoots him dead.

Here's what some students think about creepy pastas,

"Creepy pastas are basically campfire stories in my opinion," said 8th grader Jesus Valencia-Ramirez.

"Creepy, just creepy," said 8th grader Kaitlin Ashford.



A character being pastiest by creepypasta  
Photo Credits: Google Images

# Features

Issue #1

October 9, 2013

## FALL

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

Candy  
Fall  
Mashed  
Potatoes  
Stuffing  
Turkey

Cranberry  
Orange  
Scare  
Thanksgiving  
Decoration  
Leaves

Halloween  
Pie  
School  
Tree

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Claire Rebecca Chao

News Editor:  
Andres Avila

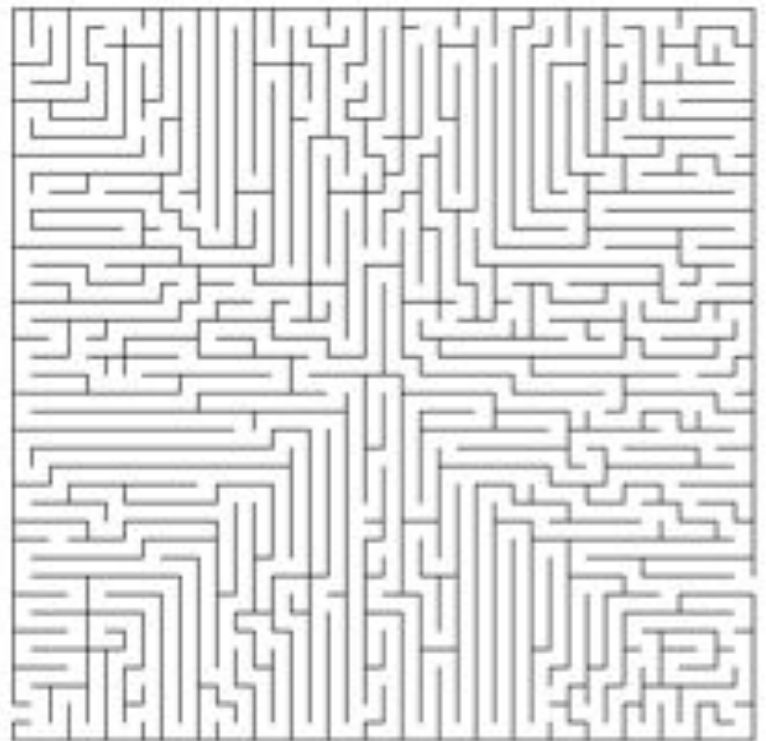
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# Features

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## DR.HARTE

How do you choose between four boys/ Need help!!!  
~Crazelnsession



**PICK THE ONE YOU REALLY LIKE. THE ONE THAT YOU HAVE THE MOST IN COMMON WITH. GO UP TO THEM AND SEE WHICH ONE MAKES YOU SMILE MORE. THE ONE THAT MAKE YOU SMILE CAN BE THE ONE FOR YOU.**

**JUST GET OVER IT. EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW YOUR CRUSH YOU CAN DO SO MUCH BETTER. IF HE/SHE CAN'T SEE THAT YOU LIKE HIM/HER MOVE ON. SOMEONE WILL LIKE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE, YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHO'S WORTH YOUR TIME.**

What do I do about my crush? He like someone else and my heart is broken!  
~computer geek 911

Why do people hate One Direction so much?  
~yourman 732



**I THINK PEOPLE HATE THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE HELLA PERFECT AND THEY'RE JEALOUS OF THEM. ONE DIRECTION ATTRACTS MORE PEOPLE THAN THEM. THEY JUST WANT TO BE HATERS. OTHER PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE GAY OR SOMETHING.**

**#1. YOU CAN TELL IF YOU GUYS TALK LIKE COOL FLIRTY FRIENDS CLOSE FRIENDS.**

**#2. IF HE FINDS A REASON TO TOUCH YOU LIKE YOUR SHOULDER OR SOMETHING.**

**#3. IF A GUY MESSES WITH YOU A LOT LIKE A LOT.**

**#4. IF A GUY TRIES TO IMPRESS OR SHOW OFF TO YOU.**

**#5. HE MIGHT GET VERY NERVOUS WHEN HE TALKS TO YOU.**

How can you tell if you have chemistry together? What are the top 5 clues to tell?  
~ Secret Lover Girl



If you have any questions for Dr.harte please put them in the box located in the office.

## Good Side of Miley Cyrus

By Emily Huante-Palomino

Miley Cyrus, the well known star of one of Disney Channel's old shows "Hannah Montana." She used to be a good role model for all the children that watched her show. She would always write inspiring music for kids to listen too.

"I get inspired when I hear the song "When I look at you," said Brenda Escobar. Miley Cyrus has also said some inspiring quotes. For example, according to Goodreads.com, Cyrus said, "If you believe in yourself anything is possible."

Another inspiring quote that Miley Cyrus has said is, "Everybody needs inspiration, every body needs a song. A beautiful melody, when the night's so long. Cause there is no guarantee, That this life is easy."

Something Miley Cyrus has done for people with cancer, is she cut her hair and donated it to charity for cancer. According to an anonymous user at Teen.com "Miley Cyrus donated her hair to a Cancer charity. And you're calling her "ugly". Trust me, she's more beautiful than you. Make a change.



Miley Cyrus when she was on Disney channel as Hannah Montana

Photo Credit Google images

## Bad Side of Miley Cyrus

By Zam Zam Shariff

Although Miley has been an inspiration, she has now been ruined. Miley has been smoking weed, twerking, and has started mentioning drugs in her music videos.

Some women around Miley Cyrus's age commented on what they think about Miley.

Lillie Eiger, 18, said, "I feel she is being really immature about the way she is carrying herself, with all that twerking business. Everyone thinks it's a big joke and I get that she thinks it's a big joke as well - I think she's trying to be the joke. I think her video is pretty raunchy and I know that if I was a mother I wouldn't want my daughter to be doing that. It's about self-respect." I really think that Miley is going way to far with her twerking and clothless music video.



The way Miley Cyrus looks now that she's 20

Photo Credit Google images

## New soccer team comes to Bret Harte

By Luis Martinez Garcia

A new soccer team was made at Bret Harte for the students who are interested in soccer and want to play in the Middle School After School Soccer League.

According to after school director Mr. Jason Arenas, "There are 20 students participating in the soccer team. The team has 20 games they have to win by showing hard work and effort. The team

practices Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. The team's coach is Mr. Samuka a coach from Brazil. Students and adults help the team. The team will play against United 2 in their first game in the season."

According to a student participating in the team, 8th grader Michael Adeyeye, "The team is very good we just need more players to join. The practice is not very hard, but it trains a lot. Yes I like the team. I chose soccer because it is fun."

According to the soccer team's coach Mr. Samuka, "Some kids have good skills, working on things. The season starts Saturday."

8th grader Carlos Jordana is another student participating on the team. "The team has good quality. We work hard in practice. I like the team. I chose soccer because it's my favorite sport." he said.