



Lion's Tale

Student Newspaper
Fall/ Winter Edition 2007

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Interview with Mrs. Williams



By Holly Menna and Jess Kilian

Despite her very busy schedule, Mrs. Williams was able to take some time to answer our questions before the winter chorus concert.

Lion's Tale: How long have you been a chorus teacher? Were you ever anything else?

Mrs. Williams: I've been a music/chorus teacher for 29 years and at Thompson for 26 years! I knew way back in 8th grade I wanted to be a chorus teacher and followed my dream.

LT: What do you think of the 2006-07 chorus?

Mrs. W.: The 06-07 chorus has about 400 students and I am always amazed that so many students choose it as an elective. Most every student is trying very hard to learn how to read music and sing well. A few students need a little momentum but are coming around.

LT: Was it hard to select the very few Thompson Singers?

Mrs. W.: So many people auditioned for the Thompson Singers. It was very difficult to choose. I never like excluding anyone, but I'm looking for good voices and a good musical ear.

LT: How many people are interested in trying

out for a solo? How many make it?

Mrs. W.: There is a lot of interest in solos, with over 70 singers trying out for about 6 spots in the concert. I would rather have the concert be about the whole group singing and not so much the individuals.

LT: Do you have any messages you want to say to the chorus this year?

Mrs. W.: My message is that the A/B day gives us a difficult challenge to learn our music and movement by concert time, December 20. But one of the lessons in life is never give up and work as a team. I also wish the chorus luck this year as we look ahead to the May competition. We are always up against schools with 3 and 4 chorus teachers in a school, and chorus programs that have chorus classes grouped with good singers in one particular period. It feels so great when our kids, despite our schedule and some lack of earlier music training, do so well.

We want to thank Mrs. Williams for her time and effort. The winter concert was fantastic! Good luck in the competition in May!

Winter Band Concert a Success!

By Konstandina Tampasis

The band's annual winter concert on Thursday, December 14th was a great success. I am sure the entire band would agree that Mrs. Raguseo, the new band director, is doing an outstanding job.

The Thompson band worked really hard on the challenging pieces that they played. The band stays after school, comes in early,

and practices their hardest during the limited amount of time provided in school.

As a band member myself, I know first hand that it is very difficult to perfect our music with the A and B day schedule. We only practice about 30 minutes every other day, because it takes time to take out and put away our instruments. With limited time in school, the band requires individual practice at home to perfect

the pieces.

The music picked for the concert really got Thompson's holiday spirit revved up! Thanks to everyone who came out to support the band!



Halloween Costume Contest

There were many students in great costumes walking the halls here at Thompson on Halloween. The following students had outstanding outfits and won the annual contest:

Funniest: Nick Raguseo

Scariest: Meredith Bradford

Cutest: Lauren Matarazzo

Original: Brian Ruane

In addition, the Shower Group won for the best group.



The Top Six Favorite Candies this Halloween by Andrew Milne

1. Reese's

2. Hershey's Chocolate

3. Kit-Kat

4. Twix

5. Snickers

6. Junior Mints

Sports

The Wrestling Season Begins

By Daniel Russo

Wrestling season is beginning, and we would like to wish the team good luck. We have a super good team this year, and surely the team is ready to have a great season.

To find out more about the wrestling season, I interviewed Mr. Oxley, Thompson's wrestling coach.

Mr. Oxley has been a wrestling coach for a total of eighteen years and has been coaching at Thompson for five years.

Mr. Oxley says expectations are through the roof. Mr. Oxley looks for a lot of things in his wrestlers, but the most important thing he looks for is an individual who always gives one hun-

dred percent. I asked, "What is the most important thing you hope to accomplish this year?" He said he wants to turn kids on to a new sport and to teach wrestlers that through hard work comes success.

This year there was a turn out of one hundred and six kids at the tryouts. Mr. Oxley describes his position as coach "To be really organized and run a very hard but fair practice. At times they can be very drill sergeant like." He said, "It has to be this way due to the large amount of wrestlers."

Overall Mr. Oxley "Loves seeing the kids improve, work hard, and listen." When you visit a wrestling match this year, you will see some of Thompson's most dedicated athletes putting it all on the line in thrilling one-on-one matches.

By Graham Haliskoe



Cory Fulton Lidle 1972-2006

Cory Fulton Lidle was born on March 22, 1972. He was a pitcher in the Major Leagues from 1997-2006.

He debuted with the New York Mets, and in his 8 year career he played for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Oakland A's, Toronto Blue Jays, Cincinnati Reds, Philadelphia Phillies and, finally the New York Yankees.

He died at age 34 on a plane that crashed into a Manhattan high rise on October 11, 2006.

Did You Know?

Cory Lidle was a descendant of Robert Fulton, inventor of the first steamboat.

Basketball Season Begins

By Daniel Russo

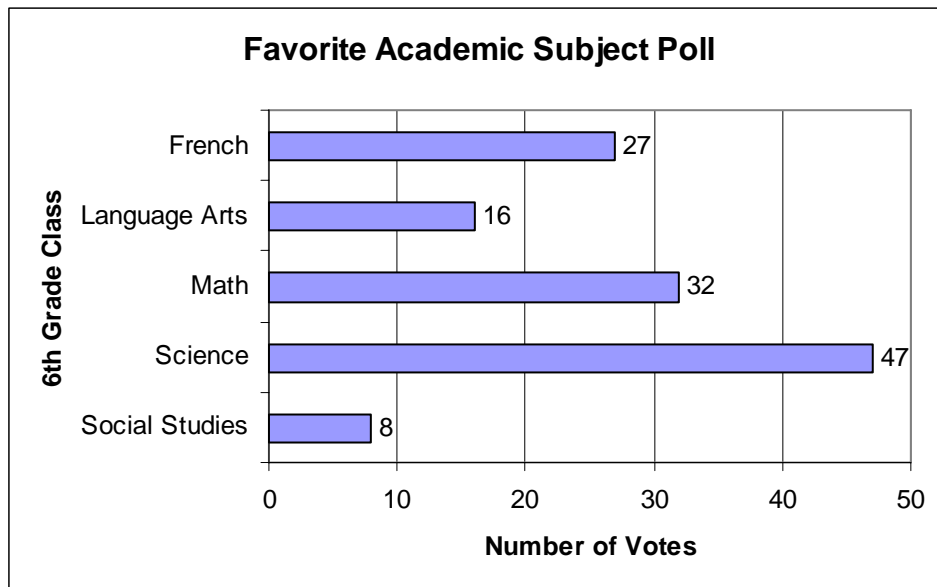
Did you know that about eighty to one hundred kids tried out for basketball? That counts both boys and girls. Believe it or not, out of those dozens of kids, only twelve to fifteen make each team. The tryouts were the only chance to make the team. Due to the large amount of kids that tried out, selecting the few who made the team was very difficult for the coaches, Mr. Spillane and Ms. Crowe. To those who made the team, we hope you have a great season and a fun time—good luck to you all. To everybody else, make sure to check the schedule to see a home game here at Thompson. Not only do you get to see great basketball, but the cheerleaders perform at the games too.

6th grade poll

By: Justine Sha and
Cristina Naha

We asked 130 random students in the 6th grade lunch about their favorite academic subject here at Thompson.

Most wanted to pick several, but they only got one vote. Here is what they said:



fashion News

By Paige Harris and Becky McAlary

Hey, all you fashionistas! We know you want the new trends lined up for you, and we've got them!

Skinny Pant— You HAVE to be able to pull it off! It looks really cool and with a high waist cami, you will look AWESOME! Remember you have to be able to pull them off!

Cowboy Boots—So totally in, and cute! Have a pair of jeans tucked into them with a cute top, and BAM—you're a fashion hit! Every celeb is wearing them and they are the coolest things this season! BEWARE: Wear them with skinny pants, otherwise its gets all bunched up and icky!

Square Flats— Adorable if you can wear it right. BEWARE: if you can't pull them off, they look pretty bad. We know because I (Becky) can't do it. They go great with Capris and jeans. Denim skirts look awesome with them, too!

Red— Red is very in this season because of the fundraiser RED. This is for HIV/AIDS victims in Africa. Buy something (RED) from GAP, Apple, Motorola, Emporio Armani, Converse, or American Express! So head on down to your nearest...well, one of these stores to help!

Leggings— One of today's must have accessories. With leggings you can wear all your skirts, but with a twist. Leggings come in a gazillion different styles, which allow you to mix it up! Create your own style and don't be afraid to stand out!!

Menswear— Don't go running for your brothers closet just yet! When we say menswear we mean masculine patterns. You can get them at JC Penney. Vests and hats are very cute and pretty accessories add to it!

Horoscopes

By Samantha Peterson, Kristen Palframan, and Paige Harris

Aries- Redheads or not, you Aries tend to be a little hotheaded. So put all that energy to good use and help someone out.

Taurus- If your life is getting a little crazy, just relax. There's nothing a nice shopping spree can't fix!

Gemini- Don't be nervous for that test. Just concentrate, study, and do your best. Also, the stars say eating pie will improve your scores.

Cancer- When you're getting paranoid, stop watching those old "horror" movies. Chucky isn't coming to our neighborhood anytime soon!

Leo- Are you feeling invisible? Super Girl can help. She advises you to cheer up! It's beautiful outside, so go out and make new friends.

Virgo- Trying to be perfect? Well no one is. So kick back, turn on that TV, and get out the cartons of chocolate and strawberry ice cream.

Libra- Rocking socks isn't easy, but we believe you can do it. You're totally not shy but are very quiet. Let your little secret out. Show the world how funny you can be. Believe you can fly!

Scorpio- If you play your cards right, this could be your month to shine. Keep your eye out for your bad boy/girl crush! Also, love your pet, love yourself.

Sagittarius- Do something different. Don't be a follower. Start your own trends! Look to the stars for reassurance and balance.

Capricorn- Dance, Dance! Time to show off some of your new crazy moves and also bring back the old ones. The sprinkler, anyone?

Aquarius- Hey Aquariuses, bring out your pipe cleaners and glue. Winter is the perfect time to get creative and make everything sparkly! Retro clothes are so in. So pull out your mom's old platform shoes and sparkly headbands.

Pisces- Get off that couch, you potato! Find a new hobby. We suggest collecting smelly candles or stamps... or you could just find your own.

ASK WHO?

Dear Who,

HELP! I like a boy who is one grade older than me, but I have a boyfriend. Plus the kid I like knows my boyfriend. Should I tell my boyfriend we're through, or should I stop flirting with my new crush?

From,

Extremely Confused

Dear Extremely Confused:

This question is hard. Let me give you some advice. Talk with your boyfriend, and then talk with the kid that you're flirting with. Whoever gives you butterflies or makes you feel like the champion of the world — Go with! If you can't decide, then don't. Go with neither. You'll find the right guy soon. Who knows? You might even marry him. I am sure you'll do the right thing.

From,

The Who Crew

If you have a question for the Who Crew, please deposit it in the confidential box in Guidance.

Dear Extremely Confused,

This question is hard. Let me give

The Big Question By Justine Sha

with Scott Meeker

Q: What are you going to do as President?

A: I hope to make Thompson more fun for everyone while staying within the rules.

Interview with Mrs. Siwiak

By Cristina Naha and Sydney Sachs

Up - close and personal with super cool L.A. teacher, Mrs. Siwiak

QUESTION ~ Is it different being a G+T teacher? If so, how? Which grade level do you prefer and why?

A: ~ Any teaching position is challenging, and I'm really enjoying this new challenge. Both grades are delightful to teach.

Q: ~ What is your favorite thing that your class will learn?

A: ~ Right now we are studying a unit on intelligence and disability. We have many interesting projects planned that will illustrate these concepts.

Q: ~ In what ways do you show your Thompson spirit?

A: ~ I haven't missed a Thompson basketball game in three years. I love supporting the school.

Q: ~ Do you enjoy teaching? What is your favorite thing about it?

A: ~ What I love most about teaching is that it gives me the opportunity to teach and learn at the same time. Helping children to understand the concepts of language arts is a wonderful experience.

Q: ~ Do you think Thompson is a good school?

A: ~ Thompson is the best! We are fortunate to have such a great faculty, administration and, of course, students!

Movie Reviews

By Becky McAlary

Wondering which movie to go see or rent next? Good thing I'm here, because movies are my specialty!

Happy Feet – This movie was really cute. I would not necessarily recommend this movie for guys though. It's very cutesy.

Happy Feet is about a penguin named Mumble, who can't sing for the life of him. For these Emperor Penguins of Antarctica, singing is a need.

One thing Mumble can do, though, is tap dance. This isn't what seems like a gift to all the other penguins. It certainly isn't going to replace the heart song he must sing to attract a female. Gloria, though, is still impressed.

I give it a B+, for failing to have a manly side to it.

The Prestige (PG-13)*– One of the best movies of all time. Dueling magicians steal secrets to become number one. Twists and turns are all through the movie.

The opening scene is kind of confusing, but it is all explained by the end. Death, romance and lust put this movie together. The one thing about this movie though, was that it was too easy to figure out the ending.

I say A (not A+) because it was so easy to figure out.

Casino Royale (PG-13)*– James Bond all over again. 007 battles out and beats the bad guys yet again. This one though, it actually makes sense! I wasn't waiting for explosions and bad guys pointing guns.

The only bad part was how weird the villain was. He cries blood. EWW!

Definitely an A for how much better it was than all the other James Bond movies.

*Remember to check with your parents before renting or going to a PG-13 movie

What Does Your Favorite Color Say About You?

By Danielle Marino and Jaqueline Cappuzzo

Warm colors:

Red: Most of the time you are strong and independent.

Orange: You are usually very creative and outgoing.

Yellow: In general, you are shy and mellow.

Pink: You are usually hyper and upbeat.

Cool Colors:

Blue: You usually go with the flow and don't mind change.

Green: Generally, you are down to earth.

Purple: You usually want to know what is going on at all times.



Lion's Tale Trivia Contest

Answer three easy questions to have a chance to win free cookies from the Cafeteria. Simply fill in the blanks, cut out the form, and submit it in the office

1. What was the third most popular Halloween candy? _____
2. How long has Mr. Oxley been a wrestling coach? _____
3. What fashion accessory comes "in a gazillion" styles? _____

Name _____ Grade _____ Homeroom _____