



The Picco Press

For Students, By Students

Piccowaxen
Middle School

Seventh Edition
Spring 2009



Wii vs. XBOX 360

written by: Austin Gore, Dedra Hammond, & Victoria Hurd

Which do you choose, the Wii or XBOX 360?

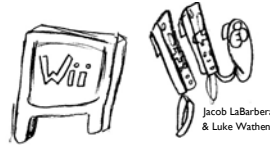
Microsoft released two versions of the XBOX 360 in November 2005: the XBOX 360 Premium Package and XBOX 360 Core System. Since then, the lineup has undergone some changes. The Premium Package is now known simply as the XBOX 360 console. A new Elite system hit store shelves in April 2007. Also in October 2007, Microsoft announced another new system, the XBOX 360 Arcade. The XBOX has become popular among many people ranging from ages 8 to adult.

For units sold however, the Wii is beating the XBOX 360. According to *gamer.blogger.com*, in January 2009, the Wii has out sold the XBOX 360 by 370,000 units. Global, since both the systems were released, the Wii has outsold the XBOX 360 by 500,000.

However, the prices per game were about the same for both systems. So, with the battle between Wii and the XBOX 360, it looks like it is a tie. A 6th grader at Piccowaxen stated, "I like the XBOX 360 because it has more graphics and it is higher in definition." Another 6th grader stated that, "I like the Wii because you can move around with the game." When asked about which one he prefers, Mr. Marchione says, "I like the XBOX 360 because it has Halo." Another teacher, Mr. Buter (or to some, he is known as The Gaming Expert), said that he prefers the Wii over the XBOX 360. Nine out of ten students and staff members at Piccowaxen, when asked, said that they enjoy the XBOX 360 to the Wii.

References:

- *The Washington Post*
- *howthingswork.com*
- *Gamer.blogger.com*



Jacob LaBarbera & Luke Washen

TEXT MESSAGING DICTIONARY

written by: Michela Green & Kayla Getgen

Most of us in middle school today have a cell phone and text each other instead of calling. Here are some text messaging shortcuts for you to try and have fun with while texting.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| ♣ Phone-FONE | ♣ Laugh out loud-LOL | ♣ Well done-WD | ♣ Any-NE |
| ♣ Text-TXT | ♣ Please write back-PWVB | ♣ Thank you-TY | ♣ What about you-WBU |
| ♣ People-PPL | ♣ In my opinion-IMO | ♣ Thanks-THNX | |
| ♣ Because-BCZ | ♣ See you later-CUL8R | ♣ Please-PLZ | |
| ♣ all my love-AML | ♣ Straight-STR8 | ♣ Anyone-NEI | |



Jacob LaBarbera

ONLINE GAMES

written by: Troy Rose, Jimmy Eppley, and Jacob LaBarbera

There are many types of online games, like flash games and RPG games that include Worlds of War Craft and stick RPGs. Many of us today find ourselves spending more time online playing games.

One really fun online game is Roblox. In Roblox, you are like a Lego-person, whom you can buy clothes for with the tickets you gradually earn each time you log on. In Roblox, you can send friend requests and messages to other players, and you can even create your own home or game field to invite other players to visit. There are two types of games: recreational and obstacle courses. You can add your favorite games to your favorites. The

games are 3-dimensional Lego-based fields that each have their own objective. Certain games and hobby courses may have tickets as prizes. You can find this game at www.roblox.com.



Jacob LaBarbera

The game *Line Rider* is well-known from the popular McDonald's commercials. The character Bosh, or Boy on Sled, will ride the lines you make. The red lines will propel him forward, the blue lines will just serve as a line, and the green lines are for decoration and he will not touch them. Found at <http://playlinerider.net/>.

Another popular online game is

RuneScape. RuneScape is a massively-multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG), set in a fantasy world of warring races, ravaged landscapes and sinister powers. Having chosen an adventurer, players are free to find their role within it, which is to live by the sword and face hundreds of enemies; to further the storyline in *RuneScape's* quests, or to train in any of a number of skills. *RuneScape* is one of the top online games in the world. *RuneScape* offers both free and subscription content and is designed to be accessible from any location with an Internet connection and to run in an ordinary web browser without straining system resources.

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Ms. Riggle

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

written by: Alex Byrd, Kendall Lemmert and Vicky Miller

Everyone give a shout for Ms. Riggle, the new seventh and eighth grade Language Arts teacher here at Picco.

She attended Gannon University in Erie, PA where she was a U.S. History major. After doing well on exams, she switched over to English and decided to teach Language Arts. While in college, she had the opportunity to spend a semester studying overseas at The University of Limerick in Ireland. After her hard work studying, she became a student teacher at McDowell H.S. in Erie for a U.S./World History class. "My mom

and my aunt are teachers, they were very inspirational." This is her reasoning for becoming a teacher.

When she's not singing in the halls here at school, she's either practicing piano, writing, playing soccer, dancing, or involved with theater. As one might guess, Ms. Riggle loves to read. Her favorite authors are Douglas Adams and Kurt Vonnegut. When she's not reading, she likes to watch "House" or her 2 favorite movies, "Labyrinth" and "Singin' in the Rain."

One interesting fact that you don't

hear every day is that Ms. Riggle tends to fix grammatical errors on public fliers.

Ms. Riggle is not from around here. She grew up with her two older siblings, Katie & Danny, back in Ohio. "Ohio will always be home, but here in Maryland everyone is nice and it has better weather."

Ms. Riggle is enjoying Picco very much, as she stated, "It's the best school I could be at for my first time in Maryland." And Mr. Rowland has made her feel welcome here, also: "He is like a big brother to me."

Sean's



Lunchbox

recipe by: Sean Bowie

Bowie Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 large eggs
- 1 can (15 oz.) LIBBY'S® 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 can (12 fl. oz.) NESTLÉ® CARNATION® Evaporated Milk
- 1 box (3 oz. - small) vanilla pudding – not instant – cooking kind
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

Directions:

Mix sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in small bowl. Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Add pudding mix. Gradually stir in evaporated milk.

Pour into pie shell.

Bake in preheated 425° F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350° F; bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate. Top with cool whip or ready whip (optional).

SCIENCE CORNER: CRYPTOCOCCUS

written by: Kathy Kamin

Cryptococcus is an infection caused by inhaling the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*, which is most commonly found in soil contaminated by pigeon or other bird droppings. The disease is mainly inhaled in the lungs, but frequently spreads throughout the body. It can often be fatal if it infects the nervous system since it can cause inflammation to the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

When cryptococcal fungus enters the lungs it can cause three things. The immune system can heal the body without a need for medicine, the disease can stay in the lungs, or

it can spread throughout the body. This can cause a weaker immune system which can cause other diseases or even death. The fungus can remain dormant in the lungs and later cause and infection that can spread to other parts of the body, most commonly the brain and central nervous system. It can also spread to the kidneys, bone marrow, heart, skin, lymph nodes, urinary tract, adrenal glands, blood, and other areas of the body. Since symptoms can appear gradually over a period of two to four weeks, people affected by Cryptococcus often mistake this disease for other diseases.

Cryptococcus is rare in the U.S. but not so much in other countries around the world. Since it is a non communicable disease it is ok to hang around people infected by the disease.

It is important to understand what people affected by Cryptococcus go through to understand what they are dealing with. These people have to go through a ton of medicine injected into the body by an IV and it isn't always curable.

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOWS

written by: Brianna Wineke & Myra Hazard

On weekends you may turn on the television and just watch some of your favorite shows. Some popular middle school shows are: *iCarly*, *Drake and Josh*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, *That 70's Show*, *Hannah Montana*, *Suite Life on Deck*, *Life with Derek*, *Cory in the House*, and more.

One of the most recent new shows is

iCarly. It is a favorite show to many of us. The main characters are Carly, Sam, and Freddie. Also, if you like *iCarly* then you can go to *iCarly.com* and view the shows whenever you like or play games.

Another popular show is *Degrassi*. Well, I have a little information that may surprise you. Like, did you know

there was more than one *Degrassi*? They had *Degrassi Junior High School*, *Out Degrassi*, and *The Kids of Degrassi Street*. But unfortunately, none of those shows come on anymore. At the end of season two of *Degrassi Junior High*, a baby named Emma Nelson was born, so they decided to make the more recent episodes revolve around Emma.

WORD SEARCH

written by: Allison Hayes, Jessica Hirst and Erin Potter

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

Look for words horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

1. ALOOF
2. ARROW ROOT
3. BABOON
4. BATHROOM
5. BAREFOOT
6. BEDROOM
7. BOAT
8. BOOKMARK
9. BOOKS
10. BOOTS
11. COLD
12. DOOR
13. FOLD
14. MSA
15. NARROW
16. NEWS
17. PICCOWAXEN
18. REALLY
19. ROOT
20. SCHROECK
21. SCHOOL
22. ZOOM



LEPRECHAUN, LEPRECHAUN!

by: Rebecca Mace and Troy Rose



DEAR SAMMY written by: Sammy

Q: Where has all the ketchup gone?
~Anonymous

A: It was taken away because you were naughty children.

Q: I have a boyfriend and there's a rumor that I'm cheating by dating this other guy, but it's not true.
~Love and Confused

A: Well, if your boyfriend seems upset by this rumor, talk to him somehow (but not by note) and tell him the truth. Make sure he knows that it is just a rumor. If you tell him he will be sure that it is just a rumor.

Q: I have a huge crush on someone. He is so cute. I tried flirting with him, but it just makes me feel desperate. How do I ask him out because it's just so hard. Please write back soon. HELP!!
~Anonymous

A: If you're going to ask him out then the best way do it is face-to-face. I know it sounds hard, but it's the best way. A note could get around to anyone, and having a friend do it for you could start gossip. Be completely honest with him, and let him know how you feel.



Jacob LaBarbera

DO YOU NEED ADVICE?

Drop Sammy a letter in our "Dear Sammy" box located in the cafeteria. If you are lucky, your letter could be one of the ones answered in our next issue. Letters will always be kept anonymous unless you specify otherwise in your letter.

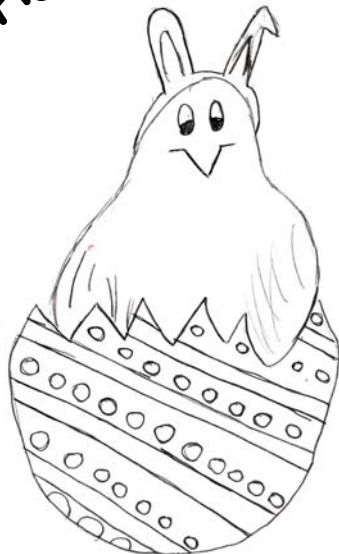
Please make sure the letters are school appropriate and NO FAKE LETTERS!!!!!!

Q: I know this sounds common, but I have a problem. I like this boy, but I'm not sure if he likes me. How can you tell if a guy likes you and if he doesn't, how do you deal?

~Anonymous

A: Guys are really black and white. If a guy likes you, he will seem to be around you a lot. He also talks to you a lot and tries to make you laugh and smile. He will probably show off in front of you too. If he likes you, he definitely will put himself out there for you to notice. If he doesn't, don't worry. It's not the end of the world; there's a lot of fish in the sea. This probably doesn't work for everyone, but for me rejection helps me get over them quicker. And if things don't work out, you two can always be friends.

Holiday Chicken



by Vicky Miller
Kendall Lemmert and Alex Byrd

MORPH WEBSITE REVIEW written by: Luke Wathen

Just about everyone at Piccowaxen Middle School plays online games. Sure, there are some cool games like Peggle, Zuma, and RuneScape, but has anyone ever heard of Morph Thing? Morph Thing is probably one of the best websites of all time! You can morph celebrities' faces together in order to make hilarious, creepy, and sometimes just plain disturbing results! They have just about every celebrity you can think of: George Bush, Al Pacino, Elvis, Brad Pitt, and even Yoda! So why just sit around and play the same old games when you can go to morphthing.com and bust a gut!

JOKES, JOKES, JOKES!! written by: Kayla Getgen and Blain Hoffman

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May!

Q: Why did the banana see the doctor?

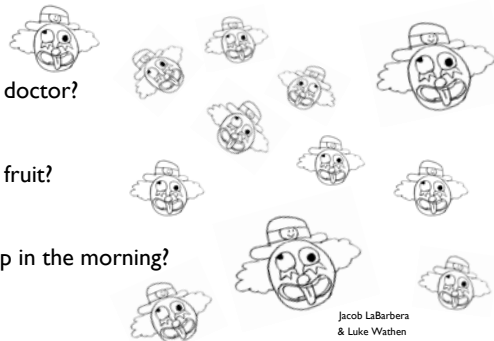
A: He was not peeling well

Q: What is a vampire's favorite fruit?

A: Neck-tarinnes

Q: What time do ducks wake up in the morning?

A: At the quack of dawn



Jacob LaBarbera & Luke Wathen



**Piccowaxen
Middle School**

DANCE PICTURES
photos taken by: Courtney Hayes and Dedra Hammond

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- | | |
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| Dedra Hammond | Cindy Miller |
| Allison Hayes | Vicky Miller |
| Courtney Hayes | Troy Rose |
| Myra Hazward | Kate Sine |
| Jessica Hirst | Luke Wathen |
| Blaine Hoffman | |

NO DANCE PICTURES POSTED ON THE WEB

WHAT IS THAT?

Look closely and try to figure out what this might be a picture of. It's something that was found inside Piccowaxen.



by: Michela Green, Sean Bowie and Vicky Miller

Last issue's picture was a picture of the controls for the fire system in the front of the building.

SPRING POEM

 written by: Kate Sine

Green grass,
 Memories pass.
 April, March, and May;
 Three months that start the warm days.
 All spring birds come and sing their tunes,
 But sadly, it all ends in June.



FAVORITE CANDY

 written by: Michela Green and Allison Hayes

Who has a favorite type of candy? Well, I do. For chocolate, there's Hershey Bars and Kisses, Reese's, Tootsie Rolls, Snickers, Twix, Three Musketeers, Milky Ways, and so much more.

burst, Nerds, and Sweet Tarts. Though my personal favorite is Tootsie Rolls, there is a lot of candy out there for everyone's liking!



Luke Wathen

If you love more than just chocolate, there is also Laffy Taffy, Skittles, Star-

SPRING & SUMMER SPORTS

There are many spring/summer sports, but two popular ones are wakeboarding and lacrosse. Wakeboarding is a fun sport that involves riding a board over water. When you wakeboard, you are pulled by a small, speedy, sports boat. You can jump over the waves that the boat makes and do tricks in the air too. The reason that you don't fall off in mid-air is because your feet are strapped into boots that are screwed into the board. When you wakeboard, you are usually riding on a small body of water like a lake or a pond, with no waves. Wakeboarding takes a lot of practice and is very hard, but I have heard that it is kind of like snowboarding. Maybe you could be a great wake boarder!

Lacrosse is also a fun and fast-moving sport. You have to be coordinated and athletic to play lacrosse. Also, there is a lot of running involved. You have to practice a lot because there is always something you need to improve. If you want to have fun and make friends then playing lacrosse may be the sport for you.

written by: Clay Gordon, Aaron McElhenny, & Nick Boyles

TONGUE TWISTERS

Try saying all of these 3 times fast!

- A diabolical Dalmatian destroyed Drake's dozen dying daffodils.
- Ladies lick lollipops lingering by the lollipop shop.
- Maggie Margaret made a mess mashing millipedes.
- Danny digs dirt down by demolition derby.
- Tuba Tommy took ten tubas today.
- Kelly cooked cookies while cooking cake.
- Harry had hundreds of happy hamsters.

written by: Cindy Miller and Blaine Hoffman