

# THE MONTHLY JAG

On The Prowl ..... for the news!

Volume I, Issue 4

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**THE HARDWORKING LIFE OF A T.A.** by Jessica Ladd

There are T.As all over campus. Class and office T.As are constantly running errands, or helping the younger grades.

To get the inside on the ups and downs of being a T.A., Taylor Lewis and Brittany Gruenwald were interviewed.

Brittany was asked what the best part about her job was, and her response was, "I get to associate with other kids, and it's like a study hall period."

We also asked why she chose to be a T.A., over the other electives, and she told us "because my loser of a friend Chelsy Bryant, was going to T.A. with me, but she

didn't get picked."

We asked Taylor Lewis the same questions, and she told us, "You get to grade papers and know things no one else knows.", and "You get closer to the teachers you never knew."

As it turns out the T.A.'s don't have much of a say in what class they get to assist, so if students are interested in "T.A.ing", make sure you're cool with working in all of the available classes.

Kris says, "T.As get picked depending on



Taylor feels overworked and underpaid!

whether they have good attendance, grades, be responsible and keep out of trouble."

"T.A.ing" is a great way to get to know kids in younger grades. While working with kids, you get to help the teachers out, too. Sounds cool, huh? Consider choosing T.A.ing if you're interested.

**COME SEE THE SCHOOL PLAY!** by Mrs. Flint

Jackson Junior High Drama is pleased to present the classic American play *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. Directed by Mrs. Flint, *Our Town* features two rotating casts of talented 7th and 8th grade drama students.

Cast A stars Andrea Pappas, Hunter Affonso, Becca Elliott, Caitlyn



Becca and Hunter (Cast A)

Schaap, and Rebekah London. Cast B stars Tyler Bird, Andrew Phillips, Lindsey Burman, Morgan Hirshel, and Jennifer Gregory. The following students star in both casts: Darien Andrews-McKinney, Gabriel Bennett, Daniel Cunningham, Dillon Davis, Richelle Homo, Kim Kearns, Emily Miller, Mallory Six, Devan Pingree, Sheray Statnick, Bryte Stewart, and Ricky Van Dyke.

Shows are Thursday, January 18 (Cast A), and Friday, January 19 (Cast B), at 6:30pm in the Jackson Junior High Gym. They will last for about 2 hours, including



Lindsey and Andrew (Cast B)

two intermissions.

There will also be two performances at Amador High School on Saturday, January 20. Cast A will perform at 2pm, and Cast B at 6:30pm. Tickets will be sold at the door, and are \$3 for students and \$4 for adults. Please see Mrs. Flint if you have any questions. Come and support your friends!

Special thanks to the Amador Ledger-Dispatch for providing support to the JJHS Journalism class.

## ASK JOHN by John Rogers, JJHS Counselor

### *What can you do when your parents aren't getting along?*

I would think that it could feel pretty scary when your parents/caregivers aren't getting along, or are fighting. While it is normal and expected for some conflict to occur between people, long term or constant conflict is not healthy for anyone. Occasional conflict can teach us to recognize and deal with valid differences between people. Constant fighting may



mean there are other more serious problems in a relationship.

If you are caught in the middle, I

think it is very important for you to let someone know that it is stressing you out. If you cannot talk to your parents, a neutral relative may be your best choice.

They may even know something about the problem, or may be able to let others know that you are being affected.

If that is not possible, don't be afraid to talk to a responsible adult such as your teacher or your friendly counselor. It is important that you are able to express your feelings somewhere to somebody, rather than carry them around like a weight on your heart.

## RANDOM RANTS editorial by Lena Ong

In this article you will read an assortment of my oh so... "interesting" (random) thoughts.

To begin with, please tell me what is up with people ruining perfectly good cartoons! Come on, how many types of Power Rangers do we need? And what ever happened to the totally awesome PINK ranger, she's M.I.A! Also, how come there's never a girl playing the Red Ranger? In my opinion, the only good thing they ever did in the new show was bring back the totally awesome White Ranger in *Power Ranger's Dino-thunder* (playing the professor dude).

Even more frustrating is *Blues Clues*. Ever since they made the Joe-Steve swap, the show has been going downhill. What's with Joe always changing the color of his shirt and crayon anyways? Plus, in that new show *Blues Room* where Blue talks, Blue sounds like a dude. HELLO! Blue is a GIRL, people! And seriously, what's with the whole little brother thing? Come on!

And, of course, my favorite: *Scooby Doo*. Why did they have to change everything with the new shows? Shaggy sounds like a girl. Hey, maybe he and Blue should

change voices! Fred, Velma, and Daphne are just plain M.I.A, plus the creators changed their clothes. You do not get rid of Fred's mascot and not expect consequences!!!!

*Scooby Do* was way cooler when it was set in the 70's. Is it me or do the cartoons just keep getting stupider and stupider? Okay, sure, I'll admit there are some goods shows like *Invader ZIM*, but what happened to creativity, people!



Next: please enlighten me, why do all the Disney stars think they can sing? Everywhere I look, some Disney star, who's never even played a good role or starred in ONE movie, is coming out with a new song or CD, which no one even likes. Ever since Walt Disney died, the shows have become more fake and just plain stupid.

In *Pirates of the Caribbean 2, Dead Man's Chest*, I want to know, "What's with the whole Elizabeth- Jack thing?" Please no snooty love triangles.

Is it me or does everything seem fake nowadays? Barely any pro sport players play for the love of the game. It's all about the cash. And people wonder why so many teams stink.

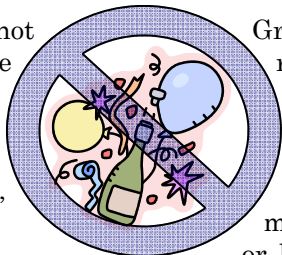
Last but not least, why does everyone always blame Bush? Sure, I want to see him out of office, and have someone elected who can actually run this country, but in case you didn't notice, he didn't start this whole war thing, the president before him did. We had to go back into Iraq because the first Bush did a bad job and left too early. If he had stayed a little longer, we wouldn't be in right now. Not that we ever should have been there in the first place. Next time let's try to solve our own problems before we try to "SAVE" everyone else!

In my opinion, there are serious problems in the world, and too many people act like a bunch of hypocrites.

Okay, well, thanks for reading my randomly stupid rants.

## OH GREAT, ANOTHER YEAR! editorial by Trevin Helmig

To me, New Year's is not that exciting. Yeah there are parties and celebrations, but usually on New Year's Eve, adults drink too much, eat too much, and go crazy.



I want to know, "What are we celebrating? A new number?" For one night you get to say, "Yeah! A new number for a new year!"

Great! But the year isn't really renewed is it? I don't think so. There is still school, there is still work, nothing really improves. It might be fun to celebrate or have a party, but there really isn't a reason to.

New Year's just means you have gotten through one year. Now you

have to go through another one! To me, it is kind of a depressing holiday, because you still have a lot of years ahead of you, and lots of them will not be worth celebrating!

So if you think New Years is a lot of fun and it's great, you really need to think it over. If thinking it over doesn't work, hit yourself over the head with a baseball bat.

## TEACHER INTERVIEW: MRS. PETERS by Samantha Jones

*Samantha Jones interviewed Mrs. Peters, who teaches 6th grade and Life Skills.*



**Q.) How long have you been working at JJHS?**

A.) This is my first year.

**Q.) What other jobs did you have before working here?**

A.) I used to work at the County Assessor's Office as an auditor appraiser for property taxes.

**Q.) Do you enjoy working at JJHS? Why/ why not?**

A.) Yes, very much. I enjoy the

staff and the people I work with. I've had a very good year so far.

**Q.) Did you enjoy working at any of your other jobs? Why/ why not?**

A.) Yeah, because they are all different.

They have their advantages and disadvantages, but I'm pretty happy here.

**Q.) What are your hobbies?**

A.) I have 3 kids so they take up most of my time, but I like to play and coach sports.

**Q.) Do you have any pets?**

A.) Yes, I have 2 dogs, 1 cat, 2

fish, and a guinea pig in my classroom.

**Q.) What kinds do you have/ would like to have?**

A.) My dogs are mutts, my cat I bought from the pound, my fish are black and gold, and my guinea pig is black and brown.

**Q.) Where did you go to school at?**

A.) I started in Sutter Creek and I graduated in Amador.

**Q.) Did you like the schools? Why/ why not?**

A.) Yes, I had great teachers and grew up with the same friends that I have now.

## WHERE'S THAT RASCALLY CAT ON CAMPUS? by Nick Deegan

Last quarter, I'm sure you saw the orange cat on our campus. Well, it turns out that Mr. White and his daughter found the cat on the field. They showed it to Glen, and Glen decided to keep it.

Glen left the name of the cat up to a few girls to name it. They gave it the name Rascal. Unfortu-

nately, Glen's bosses, Matt and Randy, made him get rid of the cat. They were worried that kids could be allergic to it, or a kid could get hurt by it.

Everyone was pretty sad that the cat had to go. Brandon Hawkins said, "It is sad because it is Glen's cat." Justin Booker said, "I wish it

could stay." Mr. Molin said, "I hate to see the cat go and I would like it to stay." And I think we all agree.

Before Christmas break, a few rumors went around that Mr. White might be taking the cat, and it turns out that is what happened. YUH!

## BASKETBALL SEASON IS UP AND RUNNING by Mallorie Hayes

Jackson Junior High's basketball teams are now up and running!

The 8th grade coach is Rick Smith, who also coached the 8th grade girl's basketball team. The players on the team are Austin Johnson, Andrew Phillips, Anthony Cabri, Peter Cain, Conor Frederick, Seth Van Agren, Noah Pinochi, Russ Ellyson, Zach Ditty, Hunter Alfonso, Joe Hickman, Lucas Hlavaty, and Mike Vicari. They have been working very hard and have played in tournaments. "We will be a lot better than last year. I am also excited to

see how well we do," said Andrew Phillips. Austin Johnson agrees: "Our team plays more like a team and we work well together."

The seventh grade team is coached by Mr. Mathany. They are working hard, too, practicing almost everyday after school. They are hoping to win a lot of games.

The 6th grade team is coached by Argonaut teacher Matt King. The 6th graders have a great team and are working toward their first few wins. When asked about the

new team, Broc Hayes answered, "I am excited for the new year because I like playing basketball, and I also like the coach and players." Matt Hlavaty said, "The team rocks and the players are pretty cool!"

Come see the hard working teams here at Jackson Jr. High. If you would like know more about the teams or see when the home games are, ask one of the team players or ask the office. CONGRATS TO ALL THE BOYS WHO MADE IT AND GOOD LUCK!!!!!!!

## WINTER WONDERLAND by Christy Mancuso and Christina Morris

On Friday, December 15th there was a Winter Wonderland dance from 7:00pm to 9:30pm.

There must have been a lot of people on the "No Dance List," because there weren't a lot of people at the dance.

Brandon Rosales said that the dance was a lot of fun, and he wished that more people could have been there, but the "No Dance List" got in the way. Taylor Lewis said, "The dance was pretty

awesome."

At the end of the dance there were two different raffles. One of them involved raffle tickets that were given to some people after they paid to get in.

Also people were given a piece of paper to sign and put in a box for the raffle. There were eight winners with three big prizes and five smaller ones.

The big prizes were an I-pod, a

\$25 gift certificate to the Jackson Cinema, and a \$50 gift certificate to Victory Sport's.

The small prizes were one \$20, and 4 \$10 gift certificates to Wal-Mart.

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at the dance, and hopefully everyone who went to the dance had fun! Next time, try your best to NOT get on the "No Dance List" so you can enjoy the dances as well!

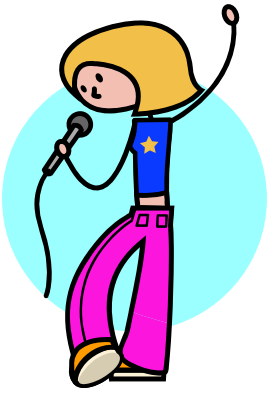
## LET'S TALK TALENT by Lindsey Petty

Who wants to talk talent? Well, then, let's talk talent.

On December 14, 2006, JJHS had its yearly talent show. All the contestants were very talented and did a great job. These kids were very brave for going up in front of the school and showing their talent.

Becca Elliott sang a beautiful version of "Jingle Bell Rock." Ashleigh Goldstein and Aniko Dunne (who were awarded third place) did a totally awesome dance routine.

Alex Soares and Kevin Rasso did a hilarious reenactment of "White



and Nerdy." Cassandra Hall did a beautiful dance, which awed us all. Miranda Ornouski sang wonderfully to "Sunrise."

Rachel Chase played terrifically on her flute, and Rebekah London sang "Jericho" beautifully. The ever so talented Morgan Hirshel sang "Leave the Pieces."

Richell Homo (coming in second place) danced to "Amigas Cheetahs." Jake Guidi did an awesome performance of singing as well. Four sixth graders, Taylor, Heather, Jessica, and Megan, played their flutes and clarinets.

Alea Christenson did a wonderful

performance of singing "Kiss the Girl" from the classical Disney movie, *The Little Mermaid*. Olivia Ornouski recited a beautiful poem, and Kelsey Long sang "My Immortal" by Evanescence.

Jessica Bear and her friend, Kara Fairwell sang "Silent Night." Lindsey Burman (awarded first place) did a belly dancing routine to beautiful Japanese music.

The wonderful people who put this together should be acknowledged, too, right?

So, thanks to Andrea Pappas and Tyler Bird for helping with sound. They did a wonderful job. Chelsy Bryant was the assistant director, and Ashley Gregorius was on crew. But special thanks to Mrs. Flint for putting this all together.

## TALK TO VIKKI by Chelsy Bryant and Ashley Gregorius

Did you ever wonder about Vicky?

Well she loves her job so much that she never gets tired of all of the students bombarding her all of the time.

Her favorite part of her job is just being around all of the students and the wonderful staff members. She says that her job isn't hard - unless you don't know what you're doing - then it's hard.

She says that you just have to pay attention to what you're doing, and know how to deal with the students. She has to multi-task at all times.



Vikki hardly ever gets any complaints from parents, teachers, or students. She works eight to nine hours a day, but her actual schedule (the times when she's at school) varies. It all just depends on what is going on in school. If

there is a big event going on at school, then she's here forever!

She has two children of her own, daughter that is twenty six and a son that is twenty two. She works all through June, has July off, and gets back to work in the beginning of August.

She is so excited about the

construction, because everything is so new and clean.

Her job is busy most of the time but not all the time. About 99.9% of the time she is busy and the other 1% she is not busy.

This year for her is easier than last year, but she said that it gets easier every year. She's worked in the office for about six years. Before that, she was a class aide for about six years also.

She loves her job. She said she will hopefully be here until retirement. That's still a long way away for her, but if she's managed this long, she can make until retirement.

## TV REVIEW: INVADER ZIM by Amanda Pillsbury

*Invader ZIM* is a TV show about a alien kid who tries to take over the world but never succeeds. Whenever he tries to, this kid named Dib finds out and tries to stop him.

Dib's sister Gaz plays her video games all the time, and she never helps him. Dib's dad is a super genius. ZIM's little robot, Gir, is sort of stupid but funny, and is obsessed with tacos and pigs.

In one of the shows, ZIM tries to take over the world by being Santa Clause, and by draining everyone's mind of what they



know about Santa.

ZIM is an extraordinary alien, but always gets in trouble. *Invader ZIM* is not a show for younger

kids, because it has some weird images and is somewhat disgusting.

I like this show because it is funny and gross at the same time. It is funny when ZIM tries to rule the world, but can't quite get his finger on how to succeed.

It is somewhat gross because, in some of the shows, he takes out kids' organs with a device he makes.

*Invader ZIM* is on at 7 p.m. on Nicktoons everyday.

If anyone wants to try to rule the world, they should definitely watch this show.

## BOOK REVIEW: THE RESCUE by Jessica Ladd

AR B.L. 5.4, Points 15

The book *The Rescue*, by Nicholas Sparks (author of *A Walk to Remember*) is a romantic tragedy about a woman who has to raise her language-challenged child by herself, without a family to help her.

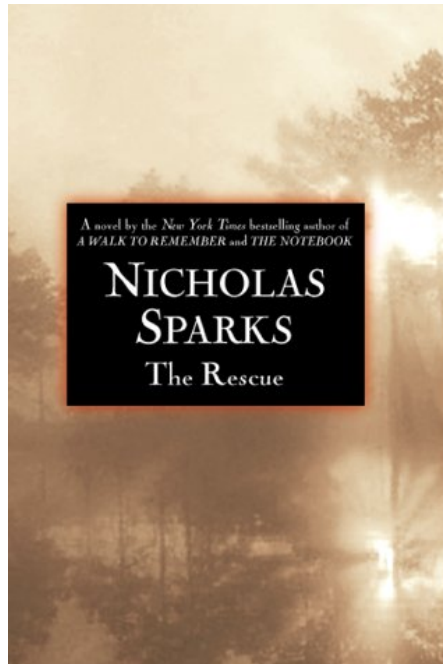
In the beginning of the story, Denise Holton explains how her child Kyle was born without warning. She tells of going to a party with a friend, meeting a guy, and ending up pregnant.

When Kyle's father, Brett, finds out what has happened to her, he tells her flat out that he would pay child support, but that she shouldn't expect him to do anything else.

After Denise has Kyle, she decides to move away from her home in Atlanta to Edenton, North Carolina. Now living in a home that her mom has left her, Denise gets a job working the night shift at "Eights" diner.

Denise and Kyle continue their normal routine, until one night driving home from the "Eights" diner. A deer stands out in the road, forcing her to swerve off road, causing her and Kyle to crash into a tree. When Denise becomes conscious thanks to Taylor (a volunteer fireman), she considers herself lucky.

When she goes to thank Taylor, and ask him where her son is, he looks at her strangely. Obviously



confused, he looks at her and says, "What kid?"

Immediately she starts to panic, asking herself questions like, Where is he? Why did he leave the car? What was he thinking? They spent almost all night searching for him, when Taylor (the same guy who found Denise) finds Kyle in an old duck blind.

Throughout the rest of the book, Taylor and Denise do things like go out to dinner, and take Kyle to the beach. Taylor takes her to her job at "Eights" every night.

Although, after they get together, Taylor starts edging farther and farther away from her, as memories of his past haunt him.

At the end of the book, Taylor and his best friend Mitch get in a huge fight, ending when Mitch dies in a huge fire they were both called into.

Shortly after, Mitch's wife and kids move closer to her parent's home, leaving Taylor to face Denise, alone. After hearing the news, Taylor looks to Denise for moral support. He goes to her house, and tells her about how his father died when his house caught on fire as a child.

He tells her how he blames himself for his father's death, which is the reason he won't allow himself to love, thinking he doesn't deserve it. Not knowing what to say, she simply strokes his hair until he falls asleep on the couch.

How does the story end? I can't tell you. Read the book! Don't worry; books that long aren't that scary.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the occasional romantic tragedy. This story is a "romantic page-turner" as said in *Glamour Magazine*, and contains "All of Sparks's trademark elements-love, loss, and small-town life-are presented in this terrific read," as stated in *Booklist*.

This is a terrific book, and is a great read for anyone who is in the mood for a heart warming story, (although prepare to cry!)

## CD REVIEW: TWO LIGHTS by Taylor Hayward

If you like light rock, then this is the CD for you. Five for Fighting's newest album "Two Lights" has ten songs on it: "Freedom Never Cries," "World," "California Justice," "The Riddle," and much more.

The song "Freedom Never Cries" is a song where John Ondrasik, singer, piano player, and song writer, just rambles on about a lot of things, like, "I took a flag to a pawnshop for a broken guitar." It has a very slow beat to it, but it is a good song.

The song "World" starts out very different. It talks about starting over and beginning a new world. A lyric from this song is "History starts now." Personally, I like this song because of this lyric.

The song "California Justice" talks about John killing two men and running from the police. In the song he goes to Tahoe City and kills another man. The song is rather depressing.

One of my favorite songs is "The Riddle," which talks about a lot of things. It is hard to explain but all in all, it is just a good song. The song talks about a man dying then growing up. Then the song talks about John growing up and talking to his kids.

My other favorite song is "Johnny America" because I like the beat. It has a very good message to it. It talks about not ever giving up, just keep going. The song you should NEVER listen to is "Policeman's Xmas Party." John should have never even written



this song because his falsetto (high pitched voice) is way too high in one part.

Personally I would buy this CD because it has some great songs on it.

I would give this CD an 8 ½ out of 10. Overall this CD is very good.

# LIFE IN THE SIXTH GRADE by Elizabeth Doyle

We have all been there before, and we all know how it feels to be a 6th grader.

So how is this generation of 6th graders doing? In this article you will find out.

Leah Aparicio Peterson and Colton Merriman are both in the 6th grade. When asked how they liked 6th grade, Leah replied, "I don't know. It's okay." Colton thinks "it's pretty cool."

Leah's favorite thing is being on the basketball team, winning

tournaments.

About the no dance rule in 6th grade, Leah said that she doesn't care, she can wait. Colton said, "I think we should be able to go, I don't like it."

When asked if they were planning to go to the last dance, Leah said, "I don't know," but Colton said, "Yeah."

Everyone has a favorite subject, either it's math, science, or history. Leah said "probably P.E.," Colton said, "math."

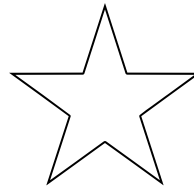
They are both looking forward to 7th grade, when there will be "more people to be around instead of 6th graders."

They are excited about going into the 7th grade and meeting new friends.

Well, just a note to the 6th grade: Life in the next two grades is pretty much the same. All there is, is more teachers, periods, more homework, and of course dances.

See you later 6th grade!

## Monthly Horoscope



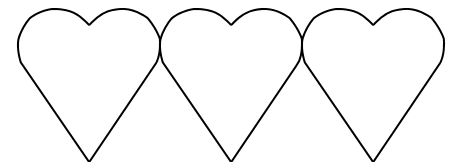
BY KLUISY AND DITSY STAR, ASTROLOGERS

### January Birthdays!



Hunter Affonso	1/11/1993
Darien Andrews-McKinney	1/12/1994
Sarah Barnes	1/14/1993
Valerie Blanchard	1/5/1994
Ana Cardona	1/8/1994
Madison Carlson	1/15/1993
Daralyn Cunningham	1/31/1993
Noah Edmunds	1/30/1993
Kyle Fox	1/24/1993
Jacob Garrett	1/4/1993
Hayley Helton	1/29/1993
Rosie Howard	1/4/1994
Lucas Hutcheson	1/11/1993
Trinidad Jimenez	1/18/1994
Jessica Ladd	1/31/1994
Brittany Landry	1/13/1993
Rebekah London	1/25/1994
Lindsey Miller	1/13/1993
Leah Peterson	1/20/1995
Megan Rosales	1/7/1993
Cody Salvador	1/2/1993
Mathew Smith	1/28/1993
Tiffany Spaulding	1/25/1994
Kaitlynn Stanger	1/6/1994
Sheyanne Walker	1/22/1994
Whitney White	1/21/1993

<p><b>Scorpio</b> Oct.23-Nov.21 Color: Pink School Month: We're back to school but you are still in vacation mode. Concentrate on school. Words of advice: Concentrate. Golly Gee!</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b> Nov.22-Dec.21 Color: Green School Month: Your grades are fine, keep up the good work. Words of advice: Learn to have fun!</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> Dec.22-Jan.19 Color: Blue School Month: This month you will learn who your true friends are and your grades might slip. Words of advice: Be careful.</p>
<p><b>Aquarius</b> Jan.20-Feb.18 Color: Silver School Month: Focus on your friends for now, your grades are fine. Words of advice: Don't play in the street!</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> Feb.19-Mar.20 Color: Yellow School Month: Your friends love you, and your grades are fine. Words of advice: Live in the moment!</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b> April 20-May 20 Color: Lime School Month: Concentrate on your grades. You are stressing too much about other things. Words of advice: Don't make life difficult!</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b> May 21-June 21 Color: Purple School Month: Your grades are fine, try focusing on your social life! Words of advice: Watch where you step, you're kind of clumsy.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b> June 22-July 22 Color: Grey School Month: Grades are fine, but you need to keep them that way. Words of advice: Laugh more than you cry.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> July 23-Aug. 23 Color: Violet School Month: Make new friends, and keep your old ones. Words of advice: When life's hard, get a harder helmet.</p>
<p><b>Virgo</b> Aug.23-Sept.22 Color: Brown School Month: Grades are fine, social life is good, but love life isn't so great. Words of advice: Don't be afraid to have fun!</p>	<p><b>Libra</b> Sept.23-Oct. 22 Color: Teal School Month: Your grades aren't doing so well. Stop focusing on your social life. Words of advice: Learn to live!</p>	<p><b>Aries</b> March 21-April 29 Color: Turquoise School Month: When life is tough, turn to your friends. Words of advice: Live to learn!</p>



### Essay Contest for Valentine's Day:

In 250 words or less, describe the person you love the most. First Place: \$15; Second Place: \$10; Third Place: \$5. Winning essays will be published in next month's newspaper.

Deadline for entry: January 31. See Mrs. Flint with questions.

