



P.O. Box 5189
Columbus, GA 31906
1-800-654-1052

Visit us on the web at
www.patrickspress.com

Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

The Middle School Weekly is published in 34 4-page issues from August 29 to May 1 - except for two winter issues plus the summer bonus issue for a total of 35 issues.

February 11, 2008

Volume 22/23

1) In which country did hundreds of migrant workers returning home for its most festive holiday Feb. 7 face long train delays because of its worst snow storms in 5 decades south of the Yangtze River?

Answer: China (southern China is unaccustomed to such heavy snowfall).

2) Name China's most festive holiday, which this year began on February 7, and in importance is like Christmas in the U.S.

Answer: (Lunar) New Year (or Spring Festival).

3) Name the former British colony with a rhyming name where China has agreed to allow the U.S. warship *Blue Ridge* to make a port call for recreation 2 months after it refused another carrier.

Answer: Hong Kong (refusal seen as retaliation for U.S. aid to Taiwan).

4) Name the country whose spiritual leader, Archbishop Christo-doulos, just died at age 69, having headed its established religion, a branch of the Orthodox Church, since 1998.

Answer: Greece (state religion is officially the Greek Orthodox Church).

5) Identify the country with the world's largest Muslim population, whose former brutal dictator Thojib Suharto recently died at age 86 after ruling it for 30 years.

Answer: Indonesia (Suharto was its dictator from 1968 to 1998).

6) What does *archipelago* mean as used to describe the geographical makeup of Indonesia?

Answer: Collection of islands.

7) What word beginning with A names Australia's original inhabitants, such as the children the government once took from their families to be adopted and "civilized" and to whom it now says it will offer a formal apology for taking their culture from them?

Answer: Aborigines (from 1910 to 1970 government removed some 100,000 Aboriginal children).

8) In what country have 6 workers died and 4 been injured during construction of its so-called "Bird's Nest," the 91,000-seat stadium being built for the Summer Olympics?

Answer: China (its new architecture includes TV headquarters resembling "a tube folded in space," an aquatics center dubbed the "Water Cube," and a theater called the "Eggshell").

9) Name the U.S. city whose Millennium Park with its 110-ton reflective sculpture called "the bean" is currently featuring a Museum of Modern Ice with a massive ice wall and whose park between Soldier Field and Lake Michigan is offering dog sled exhibits.

Answer: Chicago (park's "Cloud Gate" sculpture looks like a bean).

10) Complete the name *New _____* that a group of gold prospectors in California use for themselves, paying tribute to the nickname given 19th-century miners of the Gold Rush.

Answer: 49ers (many are again searching for gold now that it's at a high of \$900 an ounce).

11) Name the continental U.S.'s largest island, from which a developer hopes to build a 16-mile underwater tunnel to link it to New England so travelers can avoid NYC traffic.

Answer: Long Island (toll tunnel would run under Long Island Sound to Rye, NY, cost travelers \$25).

12) Name the British rock group whose song "Across the Universe" was just broadcast by NASA into deep space in honor of the song's 40th anniversary and NASA's 50th.

Answer: The Beatles.

13) Give the Latin name of the star to which the Beatles' song "Across the Universe" was just broadcast, though it will take 431 years for it to reach this point at the end of the Little Dipper's handle, or the north celestial pole.

Answer: Polaris (it is 2.5 quadrillion miles from Earth).

14) Which planet was just found to have both scars from volcanic action and a plateau dubbed "the spider" with ridges radiating out of it in photos taken by NASA's *Messenger* in the 1st ever look at this side of this planet closest to the sun?

Answer: Mercury (*Messenger* was launched on its journey to Mercury in 2004).

15) Name the NASA probe that in 1975 sent back photos of about 45% of Mercury's surface in what was the last flyby prior to 2008. Its name means "seafarer," as in the title of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient _____."

Answer: *Mariner*.

16) In January of which year did the U.S. launch its first successful satellite, the *Explorer 1*, four months after the Russians launched *Sputnik*?

Answer: 1958 (*Sputnik*, the 1st manmade satellite, was launched Oct. 4, 1957).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - February 11-17 (Questions 17-24)

17) On February 12, a wreath is placed at the door of the symbolic cabin representing Abraham Lincoln's birthplace in the town of Hodgenville in which state?

Answer: Kentucky.

18) In which year were Utah women granted the right to vote in political elections, 50 years before the 19th Amendment was ratified?

Answer: 1870 (on February 12).

19) Identify either the famous Civil War photographer who, on February 14, 1849, became the first ever to photograph a President in office or the popular 1970s TV sitcom combined family or "bunch" with the same surname.

Answer: Mathew Brady or the Brady Bunch.

20) Identify the Western state that entered the Union as the 48th state on Valentine's Day, February 14, in 1912. Hoover Dam sits on its border with Nevada.

Answer: Arizona.

21) Name the Italian astronomer who was born on February 15, 1564, and gathered evidence to show that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun.

Answer: Galileo.

22) From which country did the U.S.S.R. essentially complete its withdrawal of troops on February 15, 1989? It's bordered by Iran, Pakistan, and 3 former Soviet republics.

Answer: Afghanistan.

23) Name the Apache chief who led raids in Arizona and New Mexico and died while confined by the U.S. Army in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on February 17, 1909.

Answer: Geronimo (on February 17).

24) Which state capital, east of Atlanta, surrendered to General William T. Sherman on February 17, 1865? It's named for Christopher Columbus.

Answer: Columbia (South Carolina).

25) If $\frac{5}{8}x = 24$, what is $\frac{5}{16}x$?

Answer: 12.

26) What is the greatest number of acute angles that a triangle may have?

Answer: 3.

27) A worker who earns \$14.70 an hour for regular time earns how much per hour at time-and-a-half rate?

Answer: \$22.05.

28) Given the equation $y = x^2 - 8$, what value(s) of x yield a value of 8 for y ?

Answer: 4, -4.

29) What 3-letter word means both "to polish" and, as in the case of the moon, "to grow larger or fuller"?

Answer: Wax (to wane is to grow smaller).

30) What word is used to describe a plant that feeds on rats, insects, and lizards just as it describes animals that eat other animals, or are "flesh-eaters"?

Answer: Carnivorous (a rare carnivorous plant was recently found in Australia).

31) Scientists warn against use of hot tap water for cooking or drinking since heat dissolves contaminants more quickly and pipes may contain what harmful element known as Pb?

Answer: Lead (warning, of course, also applies to water used to mix baby formula).

32) Complete the term *hypo*_____ used to designate the descent of body temperature to an abnormally low level, resulting in loss of appendages or even death?

Answer: Hypothermia.

33) Identify the country whose famous State Hermitage Museum, dating to the era of Catherine the Great, is slated to have a redesign of its art displays.

Answer: Russia (museum is in St. Petersburg; Andrew Jackson's Nashville home is also the Hermitage).

34) What is a curator in charge of, as in the case of the 10 curators who just gathered in New York to learn to think not about art but about the business aspects of their jobs?

Answer: A museum.

35) What does the abbreviation DIY stand for in the lingo of Lowe's and Home Depot?

Answer: Do It Yourself.

36) What does *LDS* stand for in the obituary of Gordon B. Hinkley, the Mormon leader who just died at age 97, having led the LDS church, or Mormonism, for over 25 years?

Answer: Latter-day Saints (church is officially called Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

37) Complete the term *un_____* used to describe an unranked player in a tournament, such as tennis player Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who made it to the 2008 Australian Open finals.

Answer: Unseeded (Serb star Novak Djokovic defeated him, winning his 1st Grand Slam title).

38) In which country, then called Zaire, did tennis star Tsonga's father witness the 1974 Muhammad Ali vs. George Foreman boxing match called the "Rumble in the Jungle"?

Answer: Congo (Tsonga's father is Congolese).

39) Which team was just awarded the Vince Lombardi Trophy for its 17-14 victory in Super Bowl XLII?

Answer: New York Giants (defeated New England Patriots; Eli Manning was MVP).

40) What color were Americans asked to wear on February 1 in honor of the American Heart Association's awareness campaign for heart disease, the No. 1 killer of women?

Answer: Red.

V AS IN VALENTINE

Vikings Scandinavians who raided the coasts of Europe in the 8th to 10th centuries, reaching Greenland in the 900s and North America in 1000

V-A-C-U-U-M . . . Spelling of the word for a space having no matter within it

Venetian Native of the rapidly sinking Italian city known for its canals

Voting Rights Act . . . 1965 congressional act outlawing poll taxes and literacy tests for suffrage

Valedictorian . . . Latin-based term for the top student in a graduating class

Vixen A female fox, or Santa's reindeer whose name begins with V

Verb Word that is inflected, or changed in form, to show tense

Venus Roman goddess of love

Variable Mathematical symbol like *x* or *y* representing a quantity that can have any one of a set of values

V-E-N-E-Z-U-E-L-A Spelling of the name of South America's biggest oil producer

Vincent Van Gogh Dutch artist known for his painting *Starry Night* and for self-portraits

V-E Day Name given to May 8, 1945, the day Germany surrendered to the Allies

Vagrant* One who lives on the street, without a home or job

Vatican City World's smallest independent country

Vaya con dios . . . Spanish farewell phrase meaning "Go with God"

Venison Name for the flesh of deer when eaten as meat

Vernal equinox . . Day around March 21 when day and night are approximately equal

Vertex Point at which the sides of an angle intersect

V-E-R-S-A-I-L-L-E-S Spelling of the name of the 17th-century French palace known for its Hall of Mirrors where the treaty ending WWI was signed

Victorian Name for the period from 1837 to 1901 as well as its moral code and architecture, as derived from the name of England's queen at the time

Villain Fictional character who conflicts with the hero

Volley Tennis shot made before the ball hits the ground

*Or *vagabond*

February 5, 2008

Dear Valued Subscriber:

Please keep in mind several things before we get to the point of this letter.

We may not be back in the fall because of the downturn in the economy, and so far the January 1-March 15 sale is not doing as well as last year's. If we are somehow able to stay in business, we are considering sending next year's *Weekly* publications by e-mail to save money.

We would like your input as we make this decision. Please complete the bottom of this form and send it via mail, e-mail, fax, or phone to let us know your stance on a possible change to e-mailing rather than first class mailing.

If you will also give us your e-mail address, we will send you a sample *Weekly* issue for you to try out before you make your decision. It matters not to us whether the e-mail address is the school's, the media center's, your home computer's, or a friend's. Please note that **we do not sell our e-mail addresses** and only infrequently use them to send you information about our products.

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SAMPLE COPY: *Accent on Academics* or *Middle School Weekly*

(circle one) _____

If we do switch, we will reduce the cost of each *Weekly* by \$5.00 and, as always, we will reduce the cost another \$5.00 if you order before August.

Also, please consider ordering from our sale brochure you recently received and from our new **ONE ITEM, ONE WEEK, ONE PRICE** web special at www.patrickspress.com (click on offer site on 1st page) or www.myspace.com/johnpcampbelljr, where 2 potpourri questions a day are posted (you can print an order form from several places on our web site).

SURVEY/COMMENTS:

Will subscribe regardless of how offered _____

Will not be subscribing if *Weeklies* are only by e-mail _____

Will not be subscribing next year regardless of offer _____
