



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.

March 3, 2008

Volume 22/26

1) Name the part of Serbia having a mostly Muslim population that just declared its independence and celebrated with chants of KLA, standing for its now disbanded rebel _____ Liberation Army.

Answer: Kosovo (U.S., some of EU recognized it; Russia, China didn't)

2) In which city did rioters recently set fire to the U.S. embassy to protest U.S. support of Kosovo's independence? It was the former Yugoslavian capital and is now Serbia's capital.

Answer: Belgrade.

3) Name the leader who just officially ended his 49 years of rule, having already temporarily given his brother Raul power in 2006.

Answer: Fidel Castro (Raul has now been named Cuban leader).

4) Give the 7-letter word from the Latin word for "barricade" that designates the U.S. ban on trade with and travel to Cuba imposed in 1962 and strengthened in 1996.

Answer: Embargo (U.S. prohibits citizens from spending money in Cuba).

5) Name the country where a vanity license plate with number 1 on it was just sold for \$14 million at a charity auction in Abu Dhabi. It's sometimes referred to by its 3 initials.

Answer: United Arab Emirates (often referred to as UAE; Abu Dhabi is its capital).

6) Name the 4 rapidly developing nations grouped in the business world under the acronym BRIC, made from their initials letters, since some say they will be the world's richest countries by 2050, only one of which is in the Western Hemisphere.

Answer: Brazil, Russia, India, and China (often referred to as BRICs).

7) Name the 6-year-old U.S. prison or detention center in the Western Hemisphere that has come to be known as a place of evil and hopeless imprisonment in pop culture as in the title of the new movie *Harold and Kumar Escape from _____ Bay* soon to be released.

Answer: Guantánamo (it's now featured in 20 books and half a dozen movies and plays worldwide).

8) The BBC just ended its shortwave radio service in Europe promoted by King George V 75 years ago in a speech written by which author known for his *Jungle Books*?

Answer: Rudyard Kipling (also known for poem "Gunga Din"; BBC is British Broad casting System).

9) A new Senate bill includes an apology to American Indians for government mistreatment. Identify the other 2 groups of Americans to whom the government has apologized, one for internment in WWII and the other for the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani in 1893.

Answer: Japanese Americans (in 1988) and native Hawaiians (in 1993).

10) A traveling exhibit has just been launched to celebrate the 225th birthday of the Great Seal of the U.S. Identify either the Roman numerals appearing on it to commemorate the birth of the U.S. or the U.S. currency depicting both sides of the seal.

Answer: MDCCLXXVI or \$1 bill.

11) Name the Treasury secretary whose 1802 home the Grange is soon to be moved from one Harlem site to another in what was part of his estate before being killed in a duel.

Answer: Alexander Hamilton (home now between other structures will go to 141st St. near a park).

12) Name either the duelist who killed Alexander Hamilton in 1804 or the U.S. bill featuring a portrait of Hamilton as the U.S.'s 1st secretary of the Treasury.

Answer: Aaron Burr or \$10.

13) Name the ocean current whose rush of 8.5 billion gallons of water per second is being tested as a possible source for creating energy about 15 miles off the coast of Florida.

Answer: Gulf Stream (flows from Caribbean through Gulf of Mexico, then north up U.S. East Coast)

14) Name the engine with a shaft powered by blades that are turned by a flow of water, such as those to be put on the ocean floor to harness the power of an ocean current.

Answer: Turbine.

15) Scientists are puzzled by similarities between a fossilized dinosaur-age toad found in Madagascar and modern South American ones, since theory says the continents had by then split from earth's one land mass known by which name from Greek for "all earth"?

Answer: Pangaea (or Pangea; because it's the size of a bowling ball, toad was named "Devil Toad").

16) Identify either the 13,400-foot-high dome named for the 100-eyed giant of Greek myth where the Chinese have set up their Plato observatory or the so-called "bottom of the world" where the dome is located. The latter is the coldest and driest place on Earth.

Answer: Dome Argus or Antarctica (plateau has little air turbulence interfering with viewing).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - March 3-9 (Questions 17-24)

17) On March 4, 1893, which President was inaugurated for his second, nonconsecutive term of office? His surname designates a large city on the banks of Lake Erie.

Answer: Grover Cleveland.

18) President Roosevelt appointed Frances Perkins as the first woman Cabinet member on March 4, 1933, naming her head of which department overseeing the U.S. work force?

Answer: Department of Labor.

19) On March 4, 1789, the first U.S. Congress met in New York City, and on April 1, the House of Representatives had enough members present to conduct business. What word designates the members that must be in attendance for official decisions to be made?

Answer: Quorum (a quorum was obtained in the Senate on April 5).

20) Which Soviet dictator died on March 5, 1953, after ruling for 24 years? His birth name was Joseph Dzhugashvili.

Answer: Joseph Stalin (he became dictator of the Soviet Union in 1929).

21) In a speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, on March 5, 1946, what 2-word name did Winston Churchill give to the closed Soviet border?

Answer: Iron Curtain.

22) In which of the following decades was Alexander Graham Bell granted a patent for his invention of the telephone on March 7: 1830s, 1850s, 1870s, or 1910s?

Answer: 1870s (on March 7, 1876).

23) In which country did riots and strikes on March 9, 1917, in St. Petersburg mark the beginning of the revolution?

Answer: Russia.

24) Name the President whose tomb on the Hudson River in New York City honors his role as commander of all Union armies, to which he was appointed on March 9, 1864.

Answer: Ulysses S. Grant.

25) What 6-letter word is used for the amount of cubic units a rectangular solid holds?

Answer: Volume.

26) In college basketball, hitting 5 three-point field goals and 3 free throws is equivalent to getting how many 2-point field goals?

Answer: 9.

27) $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{2}{3x} = \frac{5}{12}$ when x has what value?

Answer: 4.

28) 60% of 120 is how much smaller than 120?

Answer: 48.

29) What does a dialysis machine cleanse, or remove impurities from, when it functions to perform what healthy kidneys do?

Answer: Blood (blood flows from an artery to machine for cleansing, then returns via a tube to a vein).

30) The explorer who found the shipwrecked *Titanic* in 1985 and returned 30 times to film it just died of an aneurysm, or blood clot, in the body's main artery. Name it.

Answer: Aorta.

31) Astronomers just found 2 new planets orbiting a star half the size of our sun, leading them to believe there are other such solar systems in our galaxy. Name this galaxy.

Answer: Milky Way.

32) Name the toxic element found in trace amounts in the new spiral fluorescent bulbs consumers are being urged to use for energy savings and also often found in fish.

Answer: Mercury (EPA urges paper, no broom or vacuum, for broken bulb cleanup, then plastic bag).

33) Identify the metal named to complete the metaphor _____ *hand* used to describe how Fidel Castro ruled Cuba, imposing his own will for almost 5 decades. Its symbol is Fe.

Answer: Iron.

34) What 2 words give the common English for the Latin term *mea culpa*, as used to describe the memo the new Tribune Company head sent to the Los Angeles *Times* staff after using offensive slang in talking to reporters?

Answer: My fault (acknowledgement of a personal flaw or mistake).

35) Which state has a town named Washington Crossing in honor of the 1776 event that took place there and is commemorated in Emanuel Leutze's famous 21-foot-long painting *George Washington Crossing the Delaware*?

Answer: Pennsylvania (Dec. 25 crossing led to a surprise attack on Trenton, NJ, the next day).

36) Name the state whose town of Berkeley Springs in the eastern panhandle has been drawing visitors to its healing mineral waters since the pre-Colonial era, even boasting a tub of rocks indicating where George Washington bathed.

Answer: West Virginia (which, of course, was part of Virginia until 1863).

37) Gunmen recently stole off the wall of a museum in Zurich, Switzerland, 4 paintings by Cézanne, Degas, van Gogh, and Monet, all of whom used which style of art capturing what the eye sees at a glance, painting rapidly from real life, often while outside?

Answer: Impressionistic (2 of the 4 stolen paintings were found in a car parked nearby).

38) Name the fiery, passionate dance linked with Spain and guitar music featured in a recent New York festival, with some dancers in traditional ruffled dress and bolero jacket.

Answer: Flamenco.

39) Name the awards recently given out by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences on the show's 50th anniversary?

Answer: Grammy Awards, or Grammys.

40) Which presidential candidate just won his 2nd Grammy for spoken word album, for his audiobook *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*?

Answer: Barak Obama (he won in 2006 for his audiobook *Dreams From My Father*).

SUPERLATIVES

Hilary Clinton 2008 presidential candidate who won the spoken word Grammy in 1997 for her audiobook *It Takes a Village*

Jimmy Carter Former President who won a spoken word Grammy in 2007 for *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*, 6 years after his Nobel

Bill Clinton Former President with 2 spoken word Grammys, in 2005 for his *My Life* and in 2004 on orchestral *Wolf Tracks* recording for children

Emmy(s) Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' annual awards for excellence

Tony(s) Annual awards for "best" in stage plays, both musicals and dramas

Oscar(s) Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual awards for excellence, recently awarded for the 80th consecutive year

Ratatouille* This year's Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature Film of 2007, featuring the rat Remy as chef

Architecture Field in which the Pritzker Prize honors excellence, in 1989 won by U.S.'s Frank Gehry, known for L.A.'s Disney Concert Hall

Most fearful Superlative of the adjective *fearful*

Unique** Superlative of the adjective *unique*

Valedictorian Top student in a graduating class

Sam Snead U.S.'s all-time top PGA golfer, with 82 PGA wins, and initials S.S.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar All-time top scorer, formerly named Lew Alcindor, with 38,387 pts.

Barry Bonds Major League Baseball's all-time top home run hitter, with 762

Emmitt Smith NFL's all-time leading rusher, with 18,355 yds. and 164 TDs

Martin Luther King Youngest man to win the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1964

John F. Kennedy Youngest man to be elected President, in 1960

California U.S. state with the most people, and thus, the most electoral votes

***No Country for Old Men** won Best Picture ***Unique* cannot be compared since it means "one of a kind."

CORRECTION: Issue 22/26, #39 Leonardo da Vinci's drawing is "Vitruvian Man," not "Vitrurian Man."