

# What's Up With Kids!

## Roselle Public Library Youth Services Winter, 2009

Logo by- **Kaela B.**



The First Halloween  
by **Zachary K.**, age 11

As I was getting ready for Halloween, buying candy and getting a costume like every other year I wondered where Halloween came from. As I wondered, I decided to find the source. And this is what I found..... Halloween started in the early 800s when the ancient *Irish* Celts sat around bonfires chanting songs and hymns and wearing costumes to try and scare evil spirits away. This was originally an old Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in). Samhain meant "summers end". The ancient Britons had a similar summer's end festival called Calan Gaef (pronounced kalan-geyf). Samhain celebrated the "lighter half" of the year and was sometimes thought of as "Celtic New Year". Over the years the English name of Hallowes' even replaced the older names. In America Hallowes' even became Halloween. Today America, Britain, Ireland and other western countries celebrate Halloween even though most people in those countries don't know its history.

The original celebration was a festival of the dead. The Celts believed that the border between this world and the underworld or spirit world became Samhain. This allowed spirits to cross over into this world. Both harmful and friendly spirits could cross over. Family's would honor their dead ancestors and invite them home. At the same time harmful spirits were warded off. It is thought that to ward off the evil spirits celebrants would wear masks and costumes. They believed it was a good idea to disguise yourself so the evil spirits did not know who you were.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Featured Reporter

Featured Reporter - *Zachary K.*

Age - *11*

School - *Saint Walter*

Favorite subject in school - *Social Studies*

Favorite teacher - *Mrs. H.*

Favorite Television Program - *Mythbusters*  
(it's on Comcast Channel 48)

Favorite Sports Team - *Vikings*

Favorite Book - books about *Manfred Von Richtofen*

Hobbies - *Collecting Historical War Items*

Best Friends - *Kyle, Michael, Sam, John Noah and Brandon*

How Long On Newspaper - *1 year*



## Happy holidays!

picture by **Zachary K.**, age 11



## *Esperanza Rising*

A book review by **Maggie G.**, age 8

I read *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza is a girl living on a ranch in Mexico and her family is very wealthy, but then her father is killed and her home is burned down. Esperanza and her mother run away to California to escape Esperanza's mean uncles. In California, they have to work very hard picking crops to make money. Esperanza's mother gets sick and Esperanza learns how to take care of her family. She also learns that being rich is not always good and that there are more important things than money and possessions.

I liked the book, except for the sad parts. I would tell my friends to read it.

That's all for now folks!



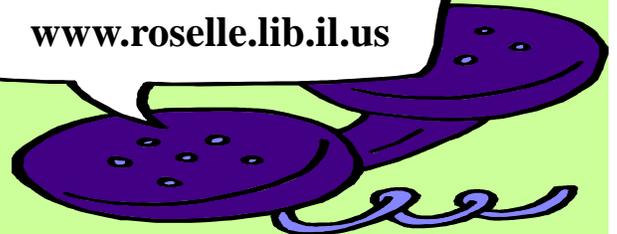
## *Halloween* by **Zachary Koptik** (continued from page 1)

Another purpose of Samhain was to take stock of food supplies and slaughter animals so there was enough food for the coming winter. Large bonfires were lit and all other fires were put out. Then families would re-light their hearths from the bonfire. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into the bonfire and sometimes two bonfires would be lit side-by-side so people and their livestock could walk between them in a cleansing ritual.

Halloween has changed over the years. The Celts did not go trick or treating and go from house to house collecting candy. We do not need to collect supplies for the winter and most of us do not have livestock to slaughter. Still, some of the history of Halloween lives on in our costumes, ghost stories and burning jack-o-lanterns.



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## The Friendship Story by **Claudia H.**, age 8

Once there were two kingdoms. One of the kingdoms was in a town named Screka and the King's name was Sir Bunny. The other king's name was Sir Penguin and his kingdom was named Zooka.

One day the people in Screka wanted to go to Zooka because there was a library in that town. Sir Bunny wanted to build a library in his kingdom but they had only twenty nine books in the library. The Zooka library had almost 30,000 books in their library and barely had enough room to fit the 30,000 books.

Sir Penguin was nice to Sir Bunny and gave him 5,000 books. That was the start of a new friendship with Sir Bunny and Sir Penguin.

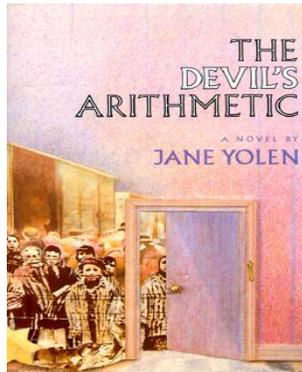
*“The Devil’s Arithmetic”*  
Book Review by **Katerina K.**, age 11

The *“Devil’s Arithmetic”* is a book by Jane Yolen. It won the National Jewish Book Award. It is a story about a Jewish girl named Hannah. Hannah dreads her family’s Passover Seder meal. Passover is a Jewish holiday similar to Easter.

During the Seder Meal someone has to open the door to the house and invite the prophet Elijah in to the celebration. In the story, Hannah is asked to open the door and invite Elijah in.

When Hannah goes to open the door she is *time warped!!!* Hannah is transported to a Polish village. The year is 1942! Hannah knows that this is the time of the Holocaust in World War II. Hannah knows that the Holocaust was when the Nazis were murdering the Jews because of their beliefs. Hannah and her family soon find themselves in a concentration camp where Jews were put to death. Hannah knows of the horrific things that await them.

The story only gets better. I liked reading this book very much. I won’t tell you how the story ends or what happens to Hanah and her family. I hope you will look for this book and read it to learn what happens to Hanah.



*“ Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”*  
Movie review by **Maggie G.**, age 8

Here is my review of *“Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.”* It was so funny I fell back in my chair. Ha!

In this movie, an inventor named Flint Lockwood tried to invent many things, most of them didn’t work, but a few did. The invention in this movie is a machine that gives food from the sky. A weather reporter named Sam Sparks is sent to report on this. Flint and Sam like each other and have fun in a Jello house. The mayor got fat and ordered the machine to break and go crazy. Flint and Sam stop the machine and save the town.

I liked the part when Flint’s invention worked and hamburgers flew out of the sky. It was really cool to see food falling from the sky. I also liked it when a giant fortune cookie dropped from the sky and rolled towards them. The Fortune was *“You are about to get crushed by a giant corn.”* The giant corn fell from the sky and rolled towards them. This part was very funny!

Another part I liked was when giant pizzas were chasing people. This looked cool in 3D because Flint comes right at the screen.

My favorite part is when the gummy bears were attacking the plane Flint’s monkey had a dream of eating gummy bears and this made his dream come true. The gummy bears were cute and the monkey was funny.

We have the DVD at the Roselle Public Library.



**SO MUCH TO SEE!**  
**SO MUCH TO DO!**  
@your library

*The RAMAYANA*  
An Indian Legend told and written  
by **Ananya S.**, age 8

A long time ago the beautiful kingdom of Ayodhya was ruled by the kind king Dusharatha. He had 3 queens but no children. He longed for children so he performed a ceremony. The ceremony was to ask the gods to grant him a child or children. A god appeared and gave him a holy liquid. If the liquid was drunk by his queens they would have children. So they did. Kausalya his 1<sup>st</sup> queen had a son named Rama, his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Kaikeyi had a son named Bharat, Sumitra his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife had twin boys named Lakshman and Shatrugna.

The boys were well trained in arts, religion and war-crafts. Once when the boys were 16 a saint came in and requested Rama and Lakshman come and kill the monsters disturbing his prayers. They were successful in slaying the monsters. The saint took them to a contest. The contest was that any king or prince that could sling a giant heavy bow could marry Sita, the beautiful adopted daughter of king Janaka. Many kings and princes tried but failed. When it was Rama's turn he slung the bow with ease. He was married to Sita the next day. The rest of Rama's brothers were married to Sita's sisters.

King Dusharatha had now become old so he crowned Rama king. When the news reached Kaikeyi she was joyous. She told her maid Mantra how happy she was. Mantra scowled "Have you lost your senses, now you will have to bow to Kausalya!! Kaikeyi's happiness washed away. "but how will Dusharatha let Rama go??" Do not forget the boons Dusharatha granted you when you saved his life" replied Mantra. Kaikeyi told Dusharatha her boon was to banish Rama into the forest for 14 years so her son Bharat will become king. Rama went into the forest and Sita and his brother Lakshman went with him.

One day in the forest the dear sister of Ravana, king of Sri Lanka sneaked up on Rama in his hut at night. She was about to kill them all when Rama woke up and cut off her nose and ears. She fled to Ravana and he decided to take revenge. He sent a monster to lure Rama and Laxshuman into the deep forest so he could capture Sita known for her grace and beauty. When Rama and Laxshuman returned from the deep forest and found the hut empty; they learned what happened.

They decided to go to Sri Lanka to fight Ravana and get Sita back. On their way to Sri Lanka they met up with the monkey king Sugreeva and his army of monkeys. Sugreeva decided to help Rama so he sent the powerful and brave Hanuman to Sri Lanka. Hanuman came back with the news that Sita was in Ravana's garden thinking only of Rama. Rama and Sugreeva's forces marched into Sri Lanka. A horrible battle for Sita was fought. Finally Rama's arrow hit Ravana's heart and the war was over.

By now the 14 years of banishment was over so they went back to Ayodhya. It was night when they returned. The villagers hung lamps outside to welcome them. The streets were brightly lit with oil lamps. This day became known as Diwali which means festival of light. Bharat was happy to give Rama the throne. The End!

*My Imaginary Cat*  
by **Mindy W.**, age 9

First of all my cat is named Flower. She is only four years old. Her birthday is on Feb. 16th. Did you know she is black, white and gray? Did you also know that she is big for her age? Well, she is both of these things. Every day, or almost every day she plays with me. I take her with me wherever I go. She has fun with me. I bet you would have fun with her if you had her.

My cat is so excited when people can see her. Most of the time people can not see her. I know that if you ever did see her, you would love her. I hope that she sees you.

She is the best cat in the world. She listens to you and is a good cat to take care of. You don't even have to do much to care for her. If she is sick I take care of her and if I am sick she lays on my lap. I also like to read to her when I am sick.

I hope all of you love her. If you do love her, I think you are awesome.

I hope you learned a lot about her.

*My Imaginary Cat*  
picture by **Mindy W.**, age 9



## FIRST LIBRARY

This report by **Isabella K.**, age 9

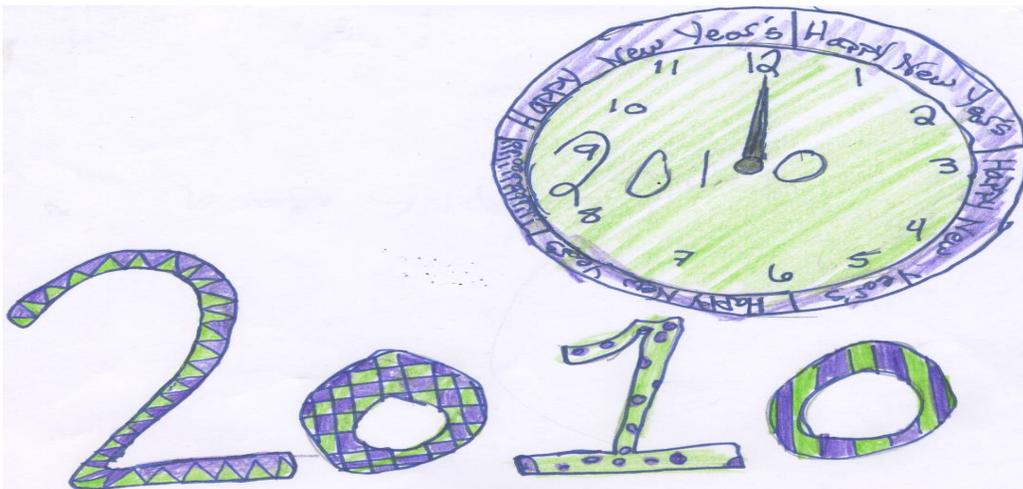
Every month the "What's Up With Kid's" group meets in the library. That made me wonder, where libraries came from.

A library is where books, videos, CD's, and fun activities can be found. The very first libraries were found in the Middle East. One of the oldest was created by the old civilization of Sumaria. The Sumerian library had special writings on clay tablets talking about crop records and other inventories of the people. Also, there were libraries in ancient Egypt that had records on papyrus. Papyrus was the first paper.

There was a huge library in Egypt in the city of Alexandria. That library had many important books and writings including copies of works from the ancient Greeks. Unfortunately, the great Alexandrian library was burned in a war. All of the great works, and writings were destroyed. There were also libraries in Greece, and Rome. Does it ever occur to you that maybe some of these writings and tablets are still around? I think so because of the books in our library. They took a long time to make. but the old writings and tablets took even longer to make. It took about 20 years to make some tablets. Many tablets were made when Queen Cleopatra was alive. At that time there was no library.

In America the first library was the idea of a founding father, Benjamin Franklin. Ben Franklin founded the first library in Philadelphia. It all started because Benjamin had a big room that was filled with books. He started lending these books to friends who wanted to read about new things. Ben lent his books to people but they had to bring them back when they were done reading them. Just like our library. He had about 1,000 books in his library. He had books on religion, history, art, science, and government. Mr. Franklin was a very smart man, and I admire him for bringing us the library.

Happy New Year! picture by **Katarina K.**, age 11



*A Yummy Season is Coming Up !*  
picture by **Isabella K.**, age 9



**We'd like to have you join us!**

*Do you like to draw, write poetry, review movies or books? Perhaps you like to write your own stories or take photographs.*

**Join us at the next "What's Up With Kids!" Organizational meeting.**

**Thursday Jan 21, 2009, 6:30 – 7:30p:m**

**in the Youth Services Storytime Room**

*Grades 2-6*

