

HKMS Blue And Gold Pages



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Ten words that you should know in life

- 1: Brobdingnagian: Extremely large.
- 2: Tatterdemalion: A child roaming the streets in tattered clothing.
- 3: Nescience: Lack of knowledge; ignorance; idiocy.
- 4: Schizophrenic: Multiple personalities within one body.
- 5: Paucity: Smallness of quantity or scarcity.
- 6: Ambiguity: To speak without being sure.
- 7: Puerile: To be childish or immature.
- 8: Adulation: Showing extreme devotion and/or admiration toward.
- 9: Hypocorism: The practice of using a pet name for someone, or the forms of speech imitative of baby talk.
- 10: Piquant: To be flavorful in a tart or biting manner.

Angry Student

Angry student: Snow Days and Vacation Loss: Negative Version. I am an angry student and I have been impacted by snow days. So have you, and every other person in this school, and the student's parents! These snow-days have affected the school in a terrible way. Seven days without school is too much for all of us to handle. I know you missed the February vacation. I definitely did! I had plans to relax before the CMT's started. Now we only have the weekends to relax and we just missed a break we could have used to absorb what we have been learning. Over what was supposed to be February vacation 7-2 got a giant test on meiosis, mitosis, and heredity. Do you think this is fair? I definitely don't. I shouldn't have to study my butt off when I could have been in Florida or a Decembrists concert. What were your plans? Skiing, sleeping, traveling, or going to see movies? This has also impacted our time in the classrooms. Don't you remember that week when there were only two and a half days of school and how the teacher reacted? We wouldn't have had all of that CMT review packed into our heads at the last second if we had just been at school. Whine, whine, and whine the teachers have to spend more of the summer with us. This will make them not as good teachers because they didn't have a normal amount of the summer. Aren't your parents freaking out about what your grades are now that the report cards are coming out? "Why did you only get a 67 on that math test? You are so good at doing the homework!" your parents will ask astonished. That was probably the one that you forgot to study for over the 4 day weekend that *there wasn't supposed to be*. I don't think any parent will believe that. "Grounded!"

By Julia Febos

Teacher interview: Mrs. Hanson

1. What is your favorite part about teaching?
My Students.
2. How long have you been teaching?
14 years.
3. When did you start thinking of becoming a teacher?
When I got out of college.
4. Why do you think teaching is a good profession to be in?
I like kids and I like teaching them.
6. Do you remember what you wanted to be as a kid?
I wanted to be a doctor.
7. Do you think teaching is a challenging profession?
Yes.
8. What are you going to miss once you retire?
All the students and my friends and fellow teachers.
9. What do you see yourself doing after retirement?
Working at a park as a ranger.



Remembering the Age of Text-Based Video Games

What to do with your OLD, DEAD Computer!

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you have an old computer that you can't do anything with? Of course you have! In this article, I will list fun and exciting (depending on your personality) ways to "use" your old useless chunk of plastic. Turn your attention to the text below, and open your imagination to the world of recycling!

- 1: Build a toilet paper holder! With enough modifications, an old computer with a disc drive can hold a roll of T.P. Just find a way to make the roll fit, and have the end come out of the disc drive.
- 2: Make a cat bed! All it takes is one of those old computer monitors. Take out the screen and hollow out any other electronics in there. Just be careful: Old monitors can hold a charge in their capacitors for months after they were last used, so shocks can be a risk. Every monitor comes apart differently, so you'll have to figure it out.
- 3: Make a keyboard lamp! Sometimes, the circuit board on the inside of the keyboard can be a nice blue-ish color. Wrap the circuit board around a light source and make a lamp! When I took apart my keyboard, the circuit board was clear. If this happens, you can use a colored light bulb, or just have a regular light. Makes a fun (yet somewhat nerdish) piece of home décor.
- 4: Make a sign! It is easy to pop off the keys on a regular keyboard. You probably can't do it with your hands, but they come off easily if you use a small knife as a lever. After that, you can snap the letters back on and make a message with them. You can also make them completely random and use it as a prank. If you don't have enough letters to spell something that you want to, the keys for most keyboards are interchangeable.

Today, we take our video games for granted. We don't think about the long hours of programming that went into animating our characters when we play Halo, or Call of Duty. This article is to appreciate the video games of the past, when any picture at all was a thing of the far future. Have you ever heard of a text-based video game? Gameplay was drastically different. There were no joysticks, or motion control. In fact, the only controls were your mouse and your keyboard. A typical text-based video game would look something like this:

"West of house"

"You are standing in an open field in front of a white house, with a boarded front door. There is a small mailbox here".

>Open mailbox

"Opening the mailbox reveals a small leaflet"

>Read leaflet

In this manner, players would progress throughout the game with text commands. Often, these games would consist of a giant labyrinth in which it was simple to get hopelessly lost. Some classic examples of text-based adventures are Zork, Zork II, and Zork III. I recommend that you play one of these games, and get a wider understanding of the origin of the games that you play today. There is a link to the game at the following website:

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art6095.asp>

Have fun!

By Ben Sodergren

6th and 7th Grade Band Concert

The 6th and 7th grade band concert was on January 27. The songs that the 7th grade will be playing are: Count Rockula, *AFTERBURN*, Finale from the Fire Bird Suite, A Little Night Music, and MA-oz Tsur (Rock of Ages). The eighth grade songs are: Chorale Elega'nt, Mighty Mite, Adagio for Winds, I saw Carmen Kissing Santa Claus, and Arabian Dances. It will be in the auditorium (middle school) and it starts at 7:00 pm. So go see the 6th and 7th grade band concert, it sounds great!

by EJ Adametz

The History of Valentine's Day

Children are born knowing that February 14th is a special day: Mommy and Daddy have to be alone and their older brothers or sisters may go out with someone of the opposite sex. As we get older, we start to celebrate the holiday of Valentine's Day ourselves. However, many people don't realize that, originally, the holiday had no romantic linking's whatsoever.

Although the Roman Catholic Church recognizes 3 Valentines or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred, the one most likely known as Saint Valentine was a Valentine of Rome. The most probable tale was that he was taken a prisoner of war, yet not executed immediately because he gave the jailor's daughter (who was blind) sight. However, he angered the jailor by trying to convert

READ TO GROW

One week in February you probably donated books for a book drive but, did you really know why there was a book drive?

The reason for the book drive was to donate books to an organization called Read to Grow. Read to grow is a state-wide non-profit organization that believes that children should be exposed to literacy right from the start. They believe that if children are exposed to literacy from the start it can develop strong language skills and later reading and writing abilities. Read to grow also provides books for kids in need from birth to middle school ages.

During the book drive the Middle School donated 2,977 books. Now I'll show you how many books each team donated.

5-1= 736 books

5-2= 191 books

5-3= 384 books

6-1= 315 books

6-2= 631 books

Student Council Candy Bags

The student council sold candy bags to students on the 10th and 11th of February. They were sold to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation! The candy bags were sold at one dollar per bag. These Valentines' gifts had two mint chocolates and many more candies. You filled out a Valentine's card to put in the bag and they thoughtfully delivered the completed valentine to *'that person'*, on the afternoon of February 14th.

By Deming Rohlfs

him to Christianity and was executed immediately. Since this provided no loving connections, however, modern times have added a legend that St. Valentine fell in love with the daughter and, the night before his execution, sent her a love note signed "From your Valentine." The first interpretation of Valentine's Day as a day of was in 1382 to honor the King's engagement. The first report of somebody mass-producing greeting cards was in the early 19th century.

This tradition soon spread to other countries, mostly Western. Many countries have other traditions. The one that was most interesting to many of the members of the "Blue and Gold Pages" was Asia's. Valentine's Day in Asia consists of women giving chocolate to men. Then, on March 14, the men returned the favor by giving something of greater value back. On April 14th, people who didn't receive anything on either day go out, eat black noodles, and "mourn their single life."

Valentine's Day, being my birthday, is my favorite holiday. I hope you also enjoy it more because of this article. Don't forget to mourn your singledom!

By Cristina Vincenty

7-1= 494 books

7

-2= 717 books

8-1= 89 books

8-2= 69 books

The grade that donated the most books was the fifth grade. If you want to know more about read to grow you can visit their web site at www.readtogrow.org.

By Scott Elliott

Mrs. Cormier Interview

1. What is your favorite part about teaching?
“When I see students get excited. Like when they get letters from France or we are moving around the classroom.”
2. How long have you been teaching?
“40 years.”
3. When did you start thinking of becoming a teacher?
“Not until after I graduated from college and I was looking for a job.”
4. Why do you think teaching is a good profession to be in?
“It’s challenging and requires you to be creative so you discover yourself. I like having relationships with the younger students and play a part of that discovery. For me it was a good profession to be in for a mother since our schedules were about the same.”

SNOW DAYS AND VACATION LOSS: POSITIVE

Snow days; who doesn’t love them? You can just go back to sleep, and lounge around for the rest of the day. Snow days have a good impact on school, as well as your mood. For example, do you ever feel so burnt out that the thought of getting up, (let alone taking on the CMTs) makes you want to crawl into bed again? Would a day-long break make it all better again? Yes, I thought so too. It also makes the general school better when you go back. You feel more rested, and ready to learn. When we have snow days and vacation loss, three good things happen: Not having to make it up in the summer, feeling rested and ready, and having more lesson time. Since we had so many snow days, we would have to make them all up in the summer. In other words, we’d be in school on the 4th of July. Instead, they decided to just take our February Vacation away, which is a great idea because we would rather be in school when it cold and windy out, than when we have Spring Fever. The effect on our school was minimal, and it was a good impact overall, because now we could just do the work then and not have to make it up later. Also, we didn’t have to go into the summer with our school days. Feeling ready to take on the world is paramount when starting your day. If you’ve had a day off, I guarantee you will have a better shot at feeling this way. You’ve had some time to rest and relax, and now you feel energized. You also have had some time to study up for an upcoming test, or do some homework that you were going to hand in empty. This would bring up your grade, and improve your teacher’s outlook on you for the day. Having more lesson time is crucial to getting more information about the topic you are discussing in your classroom. When your teacher is on a roll, and class ends, you’ll probably hear, “Ok, we’ll finish covering this tomorrow!” as you scramble out the door. Sometimes, topics don’t get covered because teachers don’t have enough time; they have to move on.

By Emily Denvir

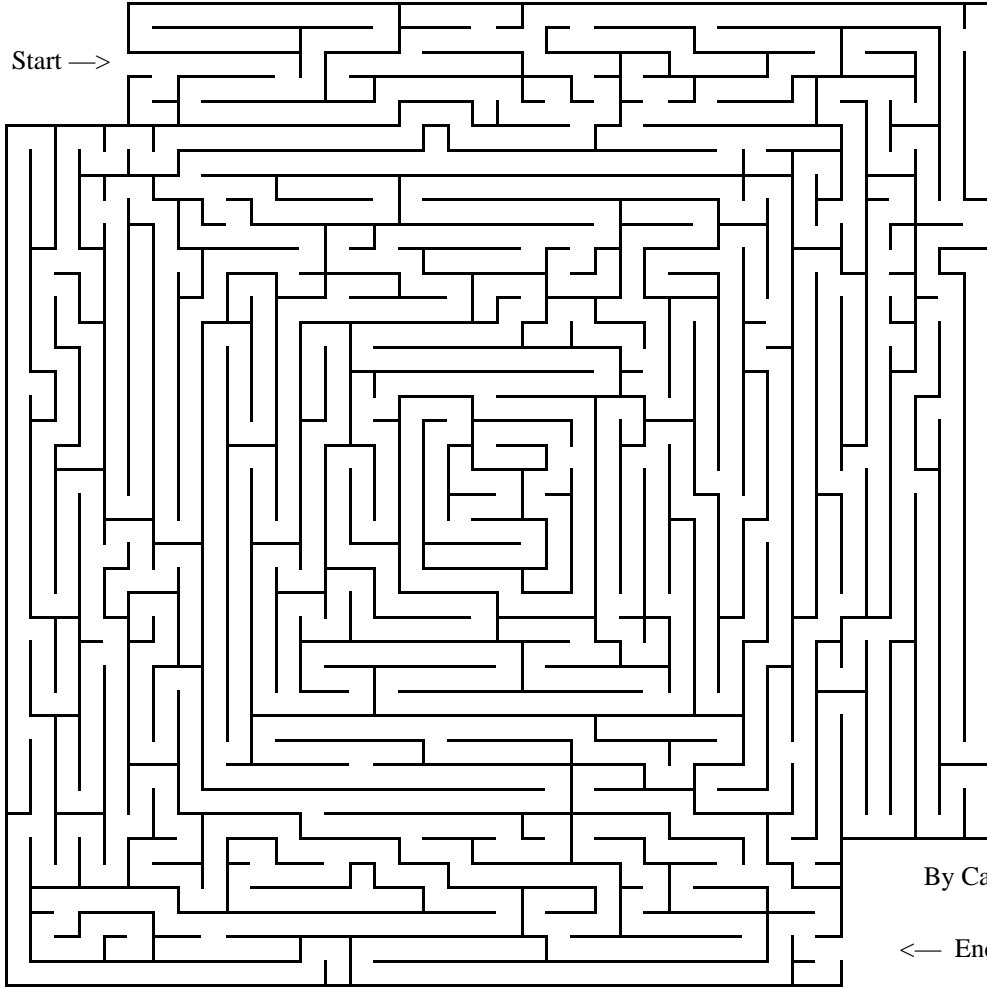
5. Do you remember what you wanted to be as a kid?
“When I was really little I wanted to be a ballet dancer. And then I dreamt I would be a concert violinist, since I played the violin.”
6. Do you think teaching is a challenging profession?
“I think teaching is a very challenging profession, you are always looking for a new way to explain and new ways to make connections with students. It’s not an easy job but it’s worth it.”
7. What are you going to miss once you retire?
“I will miss the connections with my students. I’ll miss the ‘aha’ moments when a student says, ‘Aha! I get it!’ Another thing I’ll miss will be our French correspondence. I’m also going to miss my colleagues.”
8. What do you see yourself doing after retirement?
“I’m thinking of volunteering, going to the gym. I’m also looking forward to travelling and I like to paint so I might get into the hobby.”

Teacher interview: Mrs. Jepson

1. What is your favorite part about teaching?
Getting students interested in new things.
2. How long have you been teaching?
Almost one year.
3. When did you start thinking of becoming a teacher?
I began thinking of becoming a teacher when I was about seven years old.
4. Why do you think teaching is a good profession to be in?
I get to see kids learn new things every day.
6. Do you remember what you wanted to be as a kid?
I wanted to be a ballet dancer.
7. Do you think teaching is a challenging profession?
Yes.

By Unknown

Puzzles!



By Cade Webster

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

$\frac{E}{M}$
 $\frac{\Sigma}{\Sigma}$
 $\frac{A}{\vartheta}$
 $\frac{\zeta}{T}$
 $\frac{\zeta}{T}$
 $\frac{Z}{M}$
 $\frac{\Pi}{X}$
 $\frac{O}{K}$
 $\frac{A}{\zeta}$
 $\frac{-C}{Y}$
 $\frac{\Sigma}{\zeta}$
 $\frac{C}{\Delta}$
 $\frac{O}{Y}$
 $\frac{A}{A}$

$\frac{C}{\zeta}$
 $\frac{Y}{Y}$
 $\frac{C}{\zeta}$
 $\frac{T}{T}$
 $\frac{K}{K}$
 $\frac{A}{A}$
 $\frac{\zeta}{\zeta}$
 $\frac{A}{A}$
 $\frac{?}{?}$

By Ben Sodergren

WARNING! Answer Key Not Provided

Spelling Bee Has Two Sixth Grade

On February 4th, 2011, the school's annual Spelling Bee was held. The winner, 6th grader Jeremy Fleig, will next compete in the state competition. If he wins that, he goes on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. In all, there were 24 competitors in our bee. The runner-up, also a 6th grader, Briana Vertucci, gave a great effort. Interestingly enough, they are both on 6-2, so congratulations to Ms. Mills for teaching her students so well. The last remaining 8th grader, David Baird, a friend of mine, said he was "disappointed" that he didn't win, yet "glad a younger kid got the chance to win." As for the newspaper's own nerd, Ben Sodergren? He got out on the word "boulevard," adding an "e" at that crucial last moment, and says "It is acceptable to spell it that way in Australia".

An Interview with... Mason Revis

What does it feel like to be part of the HKMS swim team? "It's good, because all the kids who live near me are there. We got a state record together 4x100 Freestyle Relay: 3:52 new from 3:57- it's 5 seconds faster. Stuart Stritzel is really fast- he's improved a lot. He is a sprint freestyler and breaststroker."

What is your favorite stroke?

"Butterfly, because I'm really good at it, and I won the state championships. It's the hardest stroke because it takes more energy, uses your whole body, and it's front to back the whole time. My best 200 fly time is 2:15:50 (two minutes, fifteen and fifty one-hundredths seconds)."

What is your fastest distance?

"Freestyle. There are 6 events for this stroke: 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, and 1650 meters (1 mile). I'm 18th in the country for the mile!"

What is your favorite pool to swim in?

"Wesleyan University- it's fast. The whole set-up is great; I like the blocks."

Is swimming your favorite sport? If so, why?

"Yes, because I'm good at it. Swimming is 2 hours a day and every weekend. I play basketball, too, but it's only 2 practices a week and 2 games a week."

What other competitions do you do?

"Besides Middle School, I swim for the Cougar Aquatic Team at HKHS, and there are other meets at different pools. The states have different rules than we do. We don't travel far away, but there is a meet in Boston, so I may go to that by myself. I never stop practicing so I don't lose my time."

What is your slowest distance?

"Breaststroke- I made 5 events for Zones (it's a meet for the top 3 swimmers in the state in every event). Breaststroke is the only stroke I didn't place in the top three. I can only swim six events at state meets."

8. What are your goals?

"I want to break the state record in 200 fly and break the mile record. When I get older, I want to make the Olympic team and win a medal."



State Record Holders (400 meter boys freestyle)



Mason Revis swimming the Butterfly

CMT's

Everybody has a different view on the CMT's. Some think CMT'S are bad, but some think they're good. This is what I think of CMT's

- I think they benefit students because they help students improve their skills and can motivate students to do better than last year if they didn't do well.
- I think CMT's should be taken in just two to four days because in other countries, they take multiple tests in one day.
- The last thing about CMT's is that they are also good because they can evaluate a student's skill level.

By Scott Elliott



COCO KEYS

On the 23rd of February I visited Coco Key, an indoor water resort, in Danvers, Massachusetts. From Haddam Killingworth Middle School, it is about 2-and-a-half hours by car.

The two Coco Keys in Connecticut are not as big as the one in Danvers. The Coco Key in Danvers has four water slides instead of three like the other Coco Keys in Connecticut. There is also a lazy river, a river you float along while riding on tubes, in Coco Key. The one in Danvers is longer than the two in Connecticut. The Danvers's lazy river is about a tenth of a mile long, which is two tenths longer than the ones in Connecticut. There is a Parrot's Perch, a water playscape, which is also bigger than the two in Connecticut. On Parrot's Perch, there are about five mini slides and three water shooters. There are bridges connecting two separate parts of the playscape. At the very top of the playscape tower, there is a fifty gallon bucket just waiting for the right time to tip over, drenching everyone on the playscape with water. All in all, the Coco Key in Danvers, Massachusetts is larger than the two in Connecticut, and bigger is better.

The Danvers, Massachusetts Coco Key also has cabanas; cabanas are rooms inside of Coco Key. They are reserved areas separate from the rest of the activities. Cabanas include a TV mounted to the wall, a couch, and a table set for four. There are two different kinds of cabanas; one that can hold six people and one that can hold ten people. In the cabana, people can just lie down and rest. The cabana is the perfect place to rest. People can also eat in the cabana. In Coco Key, there is an area near the door where two food shacks stand. The food shacks sell drinks, pizza, French fries, burgers, and ice cream. The food can be enjoyed in the cabana!

My visit to Coco Key was excellent! I visited every part of Danvers's Coco Key. All of the parts of Coco Key were interesting and exciting. I had so many things to do and had a lot of fun doing them.

By Caitlyn VonFeldt

Unified Sports Tournament

On 3/11/11, HKMS hosted their first Unified Sports Tournament. Unified Sports is an organization that combines approximately equal numbers of individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on the same sports teams for training and competition. Unified Sports aids the community by helping to break down the barriers that have allowed differences to push people apart. Unified sports helps encourage and give joy to people with disabilities. Unified Sports also teaches kids how to help people with disabilities. The schools that were at the sports tournament were Haddam- Killingworth Middle School, Woodrow Wilson Junior high from Middletown, Wilbur Cross HS from New Haven, and New Haven Middle school. Mrs. Michelle Ouellette and Mrs. Holly Nicoletti were in charge of the festivities.

At the beginning of the tournament, the HkMS select choir performed the National Anthem. Next, HK carried their banner. The people who carried the banner were Jack Lipuma, Jessica Zargo, Max Kops, Michael Klein, Alex Breton, Mikayla Dacosta, and Molly Spooner. Then, Daniel Elliott read the athletes' oath, and the last preparation was the lighting of the inflatable torch. The people who lit the torch were Krista Cholewinski, Griffin Tatore- Glass, Sarah Blewett, and Megan Becker. The games were then played. Each team played three or more games against teams at their skill level. HK had multiple scorers.

The Haddam-Killingworth Middle School won the "Rookie School of the Year" award for Unified Sports. Mrs. Ouellette, Mrs. Nicoletti, and some students will attend the CIAC Dinner to receive their award from the State of CT.

By Scott Elliott

HOSTILE TAKEOVER AND FRIENDS BENEFIT CONCERT FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

The metal band, Hostile Takeover, performed at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School on Friday, April 1, 2011 in a benefit concert for Relay for Life. The band members, Tyler Shinn, drums, James Wettemann, guitar, Sam Evans, Guitar, Connor MacDonald, vocals, and Ian McMahon, bass are all students at Haddam-Killingworth High School and graduates of the Middle School.

The concert was held to benefit Team Hostile Takeover for Leslie. Leslie is Leslie McMahon, mother of the bass player, who is a cancer survivor. The team has raised almost \$1000.00 for the American Cancer Society.

Hostile Takeover played many of their own compositions including Meet Your Fate, Conspiracy, With Clenched Fists, War Torn, and Death By 1,000 Cuts. They also played The Trooper by Iron Maiden and Fire by Jimi Hendrix.

Opening for Hostile Takeover was Pro Forma. Band members James Spinetti, guitar, Chad Parker, drums, Mike Umba, bass, and Chet Crocco, piano and vocals are all freshmen at Haddam-Killingworth High School and graduates of the Middle School. They played older rock covers including Purple Haze, Johnny B. Goode,

The audience was a mix of high school students, middle school students, parents, and friends of the bands. The concert raised \$512.00 for Relay for Life.

By Mrs. Greene



Unified Sports Meeting

In January students and teachers participated in several leadership workshops. The students and teachers were Mrs. Oulette, Alex Breton, Kyle Sullivan, Julia Quatrano, and Julianna Rushford. The meeting was held at Wesleyan University. The meeting was held to talk about unified sports and about how personalities can help people overcome their disabilities. One of the speakers was Jim Fitzgerald, a very motivational speaker whose message was, "Attitude is contagious, make yours worth catching." I thought this was a good saying because it is telling people that one good personality can make it better for a lot of people around you. The afternoon included lunch and very moving remarks by Sara Wolfe about her struggles living with a disability. Sara also talked about how she overcame adversity.

I thought it was cool to learn how people living with disabilities can be very positive even though sometimes they might be mistreated. When the members from the meeting came back, they were motivated to accept others for who they are and to celebrate differences regardless of ability.

By Scott Elliott



Fantasy Author Visits HKMS

Author, Jake Halpern came to HKMS on Friday, April 15th to talk about his books *Dormia* and *World's End*. The 36-year old Halpern has written countless articles for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *the Smithsonian*, *Sports Illustrated*, *GQ*, *Forbes*, *Psychology Today*, *The Boston Globe Magazine* and more. His hour-long radio story, *Switched at Birth*, has received many accolades of praise. We were very fortunate to have him take time out of his surely busy schedule to talk to us. He was very entertaining in the stories he told, all of which were true. I thought that my family was strange in our stories, but we're normal compared to him. He told us about where he comes up with his inspiration, mostly his past life and kids. There was also an opportunity for book signings afterwards. If you would like to read Jake's books, they are available at the school library, though there is, currently, a wait for them.