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Middle School Monthly

An Unexpected Visitor

By Lena Palladina

The Middle School journeyed to Fort Worden for the beginning of the year Odyssey trip. While there, they encountered an unexpected visitor with a humorous personality. It all began with a joke. The sign on the rented hundred year old house read: "Colonel Charles Bailey". One student said, "he probably haunts the house." We should have taken that statement more seriously. One night after the beach, Ms. O'Brien's bedroom door was locked. "I didn't lock the door," said O'Brien.

The keys to all the bedrooms were locked inside the room. Naturally, everyone denied locking the door. Several students put their ear to the locked door and heard knocking and voices from inside the room. Student Sara Briedenbach said, "I heard scratching. It was scary". The park ranger was called to open the door. The next morning, the girls' bedroom door was locked. Jokingly, they blamed it on the boys, but honestly, were a bit scared. Later that night, Mrs. Borden's ceiling light was glowing green.

Who is Colonel Charles Bailey you might ask? The Middle School does not know. He was not found in the Fort Worden cemetery, nor in any military records. The Middle School believes Charles was a soldier, a good natured person, and most importantly, a friend. Charlie has become part of the Middle School's daily routine. He's very friendly, come meet him if you like. All in all, Charlie has made our Fort Worden a memorable one.



House for 8 Sleeps 12

By Jackie Wilson

The Middle School rented a house at Fort Worden. The house had four bedrooms and two bathrooms on two floors. All the bedrooms were upstairs. Each of our teachers lucked out and had their own room while the four girls had one bed and a deflated air mattress! The six boys had two beds and the rest were in sleeping bags. "I did not mind, but it was stinky at times," said Torre Flagor. Although there were two fireplaces in the house, we chose to have our

fires down on the beach where we cooked our sandy meals of hot dogs and s'mores. We had the food experience of a life-



time! While on the trip we cooked 9 community meals. "The hotdogs tasted like real hot dogs, but the corn was a little sandy – just the way we

like them!" said Katelyn Culbert-O'Leary. The kitchen was smaller than most of our own kitchens but it had nice new appliances. Unfortunately, there was no dishwasher (imagine!) and we had to wash all the dishes by hand. What a drag! The next time the twelve of us sleep in a house fit for eight, we will plan better and bring more bowls and utensils. The experience really brought a new level of responsibility to each one of us and by working together, it brought our class closer.

Boot Camp

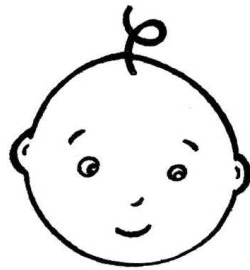
By

Sara Breidenbach

Running was just plain torture. When we got to Fort Worden, we were supposed to run around this field in front of the house. My guess was the field was about fifteen acres or more. We had to wear comfortable clothes like sweat pants, a t-shirt etc. "It was evil," said Daniel Donahue. We got up at 8:30 every morning to run before breakfast. We would run two to three laps around half of the field. We would speed walk or jog. Sometimes we would get tired or get side cramps and that would make us stop for a little bit. Then we would keep on running. On the second day though, we walked on the beach to select our power rocks instead of running. Power rocks are rocks that we think represent our personal power. We chose a rock and wrote our personality trait on it. Although the running made us tired, we still needed the blood flowing to our heads. We also needed the wake up factor. Overall it was fun.

Babysitting 101

What is Middle School Babysitting? This is the question I get almost every week. Well lucky for you I am here to answer your questions. Hello, my name is Katelyn and I manage the babysitting at Arbor. Babysitting is one of our three fundraisers that fund our end of the year trip. The first thing we do for a babysitting event is advertise in the school newsletter. Then we put the big



white board in the dismissal area that announces the next date. We sometimes add a flyer to the newsletter. Next we put out the sign in sheet at the front desk. If you would like to sign your child and his/her sib-

Beach Blast

What's a trip to Port Townsend without a good night at the beach? On the second day of the trip, the middle school packed up, and ran to the sandy



lings up you may e-mail, call or go in person to the front desk. Kristina will be happy to help you. About a week before the event, the manager plans with the other babysitters the activities, food and chaperones for the event. On the night of the of the event, the babysitters meet at school around 4:30. We set up the Holly room with crafts, and prepare the sign in sheet. At about 5:00 the students start to file in. The parents sign their child in and off they go for a night out. For the children it is the start of an awesome night. We begin with crafts which range from, beading to making fun science goop. At 6:00, our main chef starts cutting the apples, carrots, and puts the cheese and pepperoni pizzas in the oven. While he/she is cooking, the kids shift to play outdoors. We set up cool games such

By Katelyn Culbert— O'Leary

as "Middle School Bowling" or dodge ball. All of us have fun. At about 6:30 we have dinner. After dinner we give a choice of two movies, pop popcorn and watch the movie. At 10:00 none of the kids want to leave. "Please mom, wait until the movie is over!" When everyone goes, the middle schoolers sit down and balance the sign in sheet with the cash received. We also talk about what we could do better the next time. As a team we clean up and go home for a good night's sleep. On Monday morning we deposit the money and start thinking about what activities we are doing for the next month's babysitting event. We would like to thank you, the Arbor parents that have contributed to this fundraising event. I hope this article answers any questions you might have. We hope to see you this Saturday night for the "Thanksgiving Blowout" at 5—10 p.m.!

By Daniel Donahue

beach. After hours of burying each other in the sand, making sculptures, and having general fun, we started a fire. The class also wrote about their own fears, strengths, and unique gifts. The teachers didn't say what we would do with the writing, but the class had their thoughts. Next was roasting hot dogs over the fire. The food was delicious, and of

course, the middle school ended the meal with s'mores. The chocolate, marshmallow, and graham cracker mix was all we needed to end the night. Or was it? Before packing up, what's better than burning your fears? Everyone threw their fears in the fire and told stories about life experiences and strange happenings. Everyone listened, everyone had fun.

The Underground Maze

Besides scaring Mrs. B. out of her wits, the Middle Schoolers had the time of their life at Fort Worden's batteries. Batteries as you might know, are not just things you put in a Game Boy. Military batteries are dark, scary and cold bunkers. When you first walk into a room it is pitch black and you don't know what's in there. Imagine, a dark echoing chamber, where you hear the stalactites dripping water. You see a light at the end of the tunnel and you move toward it. Then someone jumps out at

you and you see the rough outline of a face. You recognize that face and you say "Kele!" and he scampers off to go scare you at the next corner. "The batteries are the best place to be scared!" said Katelyn Culbert-O'Leary. The batteries at Fort Worden were built in the early 1900's for the defense of approaching enemies to Western Washington. The gun batteries filled the hillside with canons and guns. The larger guns had a range of several miles to sink enemy ships. They purposefully made Fort Worden

across from Fort Casey and Fort Flagler to make it impossible for ships to come into the Puget Sound. Artillery hill is another set of batteries that were used to store artillery. Each battery had guns and soldiers. At the front of Fort Worden's museum, there are two 16 inch plates projectiles that could be launched and fired 30 miles to sink enemy ships. The guns were amazing and deadly. I learned a lot about the batteries and would like to go there again. The middle school had so much fun.

History of Port Townsend

I'd like to tell you a little about Port Townsend's history. Port Townsend was originally named by Captain George Vancouver in 1792. It was also called "the city of dreams." Early settlers hoped Port Townsend would become the largest harbor on the west coast. I really couldn't tell if it was or not. At first, Native American tribes inhabited the area but 90% of them died during the 1700-1800's from disease and the rest were killed by the settlers when they

were too weak from disease. I'm guessing that's why we didn't see any native buildings. When the white settlers arrived, one of the native tribes who lived there was ruled by a man named S'Hai-ak. He granted permission for the white people to settle on his land. Soon after he gave the permission, he drowned. After he drowned his younger brother Chetzemoka took control. Like his brother before him, Chetzemoka was kind to the settlers and helped them a

lot with tribal relations. By the late 1800's Port Townsend was a well known seaport. Port Townsend later had a decline in population as its economy died. It has many old houses and buildings, most with the ornate Victorian style. You can still see these houses today. We got to live in one of these houses when we stayed at Fort Worden. Today, Port Townsend isn't a very major city. It became a little town that you can visit and just relax.

By Torre Flagor

Personal Music Goes Illegal

Editorial by Alex Dunatov

In 2005 teachers Mrs. B. and Ms. O. declared personal music banned in the classroom. Middle School students cannot listen to music downloaded from iTunes on our laptops. iPods and Mp3 players are also banned. Most people who are into their music think this is drastic. Music helps many people to work. The teachers banned personal music because they said people were too glued to their music and not to their work. One advocate of music in the classroom said, "we had music last year why not this year?" My personal opinion is that it helps me work when I listen to music. When I listen to music it gets rid of all the other sounds and makes me concentrate. That is why I listen to music when I do my homework. That's why I believe personal music should be put back into the middle school world.



Excitement on the Field

At Port Townsend we played lots of team building activities like football. We played football every day even at the beach. The other games we played were spud, the hula hoop game and commonalities. We played spud at the beach which made it more fun because we could dive head first into the sand and dodge the ball to not get caught. The idea is you all get in a circle and one person yells out a last name of a person and throws the ball in the air.

Then everyone else runs in the opposite direction. The person whose name was



yelled out has to grab the ball and yell "spud! Everyone stops and the person it tries to get someone with the ball.

Commonalities is a game where the teachers would ask us a question like if your

By Kele Best

were wearing blue. If you were wearing blue, you would run across the beach. The hula hoop game was fun too. You needed to link hands and form a circle. The object of the game was to get the hula hoop around the circle without dropping it. It took a long time before we actually did it because people kept messing up or letting go of their hands. If we let go we would have to start all over.

Everybody learned a lot about each other and had fun while doing it.

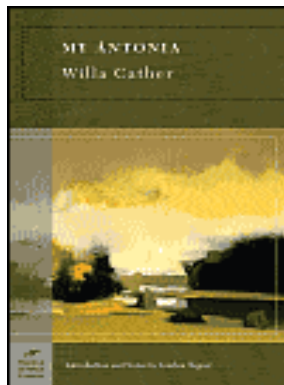


Seminar Book Review

By David Shaw

This year's "season opener" for the middle school is "My Antonia" a novel by Willa Cather. The book takes place in the 1800's when a boy named Jim Burden moves from Virginia to a town in Nebraska after his parents die to live with his Grandparents. He meets a girl the same age, named Antonia, who just emigrated from Bohemia. Several events happen between them which causes an even closer friendship. The book finally picks up about half way through

and becomes more interesting. The writing finally got steadier and didn't jump around so much. Although



the first half is slow for Jr. High readers, I do think it

would be good read for an older person that finds interest in historical fiction. I think this book is not very popular with young people because the first part of the book is boring and dull. Overall, this is not the best book for teen readers. Lena Palladina says, "This book is kinda slow and is too hard to follow." We have read worse. If I had to rate "My Antonia", I would give it a 3 out of 10 stars.