

# The Paw Newspaper

Griswold Middle  
School

Edition 7

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**“If you go through life without making any mistakes, then you have learned nothing.”**

**-Mr. Young**

Mrs. Cary

By, Nyila Carter, John Coleman, Mackenzie Florence-Kirk, and Frances Yeung

Question #1: Why are you leaving?

Answer: There was an opportunity at Canterbury Elementary School for principal. I wanted a chance to work with younger kids again, so I decided to take the job.

Answer: I'll miss all the people, staff, families, teachers, parents, and kids that I've known for 5 years. I'm also going to miss the high school kids coming over to say "Hi".

Question #2: What position will you have there?

Answer: I'm going to become the principal for kids ages 3-8 at Canterbury.

Question #8: What do you look forward to at your new job?

Answer: I'm looking forward to working at a small building, to build upon what's already there and to improve teaching there as well.

Question #3: How long have you been here?

Answer: I've been here for 7 years, and I've been principal at Griswold Alternative High School for 5 years.

Question #9: What are your goals for the school?

Answer: I don't know yet. I have to see what they need, but first I want to bring music and arts into the school. I'm also going to invite the family as much as possible.

Question #4: What were your most memorable moments here at GMS?

Answer: One of my most memorable moments was the Red Ribbon Rallies. I remember all the lights turning off, singing, dancing, and other fun activities. One year, we had a baseball game and they got a picture of me taking a swing with a bat. I also remember all the athletic events and musicals. I will always remember the kids walking down the hallways and seeing them grow mentally and physically.

Question #10: Do you expect to have any challenges with being the principal of younger students?

Answer: I've never had a problem connecting with kids, but it will be different.

Question #5: Did you accomplish your goal of remembering all the names of the 8th grade students?

Answer: I believe I'm at 90% for remembering all of the names.

Question #11: Do you plan on visiting GMS in the future?

Answer: Yes, I plan on attending the music concerts, plays, and other events.

Question #6: What were your challenges here at GMS?

Answer: My challenges here were being between 2 schools because I was sometimes needed at both places at the same time.

Question #7: What will you miss the most about Griswold?

Question #12: Was it a difficult decision to switch school districts?

Answer: I've loved the students and community here, and it's hard to leave.

**2014-2015**

**New Student Council Officers**

**John Coleman-President**

**Matt Spinelli- Vice President**

## Colorado Marijuana Legalization By, John Coleman

Colorado Marijuana Legalization  
By, John Coleman

In the Presidential election in 2012, in Denver Colorado, there was a question in the ballot asking the citizens of Colorado if marijuana should be legal for recreational use. Twenty-one states legalized marijuana for medical use, but Colorado made it legal for recreational use. Recreational use means that you can buy marijuana whenever you feel like it. That means the citizens of Colorado may buy marijuana at stores. I am not for the legalization, but I would support legalization for medical use.

On Easter Weekend, Colorado citizens gathered in Denver to have to celebrate 420. 420 is a festival where people can smoke marijuana and talk to the other people who are enjoying themselves by smoking marijuana. They were promoting their happiness that they could smoke Marijuana freely and not be arrested for doing this act. Other Colorado residents say "the whole sky was filled with smoke." That is doing harm to the environment and polluting.

The people of Colorado are doing harmful things to their brain and body. For example, when you smoke one marijuana joint, it is equivalent to smoking five cigarettes. The THC in Marijuana is

five times stronger than what it was in 1960. It hurts you because your brain is still developing if you are a teen and even as an adult. When you use it, it makes you hallucinate. You think some things are there, but they aren't. It makes it hard to breathe. It also makes you gain weight. Lastly, brain cells die off, making learning a lot harder.

The question is, why did lawmakers make Marijuana legal? Some states only legalize it so they can get out of debt. So far, Colorado has made two hundred million dollars in taxes. The state is using the tax so they can get out of debt and give the money away. "If the states use the marijuana tax for the state itself, it should be earmarked so the states can get out of debt, but the extra money should go to the veterans, or for education," says Mr. Miner, 7th grade teacher of Griswold Middle School. Earmarked means to have a written document stating that a certain amount of money will go to a specific cause. "Legal does not mean safe," says Mrs. Butremovcic, health teacher of Griswold Middle School.

On the news, there were reports of a fourth grader bringing Marijuana into school and selling it. They have claimed they took the Marijuana from their grandparents stash. Lots of children do not

know what Marijuana can do to you. Children are going to keep taking Marijuana from their relatives with them not even knowing. Even Representative Dan Pabon of Denver states, "We are making sure that we kept this out of the hands of kids, cartels, and criminals." But he did not keep his promise. How can he say that, even though kids can get it without anyone knowing?

The marijuana legalization states you have to be twenty one or older to buy and possess up to an ounce at a time. Non Colorado residents can purchase up to 1/4 of an ounce, and Residents can grow up to six plants in their residence. These are some rights Colorado citizens have. There will be no more arrests for Marijuana possession. If you are driving, they will reduce the problems associated with the illegal market. If people are high, they can refute the DUI charge. The only way they would have to take a D.U.I is if you are a danger for the people around you.

As a writer, I believe that Marijuana should only be legal for medical use, not recreational use. What do you think?

## 8th grade Teacher Interview

### By, Kiera Anderson and Lindsey Oldenburg

#### What inspired you to become an eighth grade teacher?

Kathy Brunelle- "I wanted to teach math since that was what my degree was in. There was an opening in the middle school for a math teacher in grade 8 and I applied. I love teaching 8th grade."

Elizabeth Foy- "I became a science teacher because I had so much fun in my school science classes. I thought about being a veterinarian but after working in the summer rec program I realized how much I liked working with kids. I decided that teaching would combine my love of science and allow me to continue working with kids."

Jennifer Socha: "Actually, I never thought I would become an eighth grade teacher. I did not think I would like it. I was assigned to teach eighth grade, because a teacher was needed to teach both Algebra and Language Arts. I have really enjoyed teaching eighth grade. It has been a great and rewarding experience for me. I always feel that I have the opportunity to observe this particular class grow and mature from second grade, to sixth grade, and now eighth grade."

Krista Thivierge: "Well, I mostly teach 7th grade but am lucky enough to have an 8th grade class with some of my kids from last year and I have gotten to know others that I didn't have. I was inspired to teach by the passing of my Environmental Science professor. I saw how many lives he touched when I attended his funeral and the ripple effect of his teachings. I wanted that. I wanted to make a difference. I picked middle school because I feel it's a critical age to hook kids into their education and help them determine their path."

Kathy Nine: "I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was a young girl. At the beginning of my career I taught first grade and moved up to fifth. Several years later I was placed, in eighth grade. Boy was I scared!!! Now I would never want to teach another grade!

#### What was your greatest success in life?

Kathy Brunelle: "I think I've had many successes in my life, but the greatest is being a mom who has survived cancer."

Elizabeth Foy: "My greatest success came on the court and field. I played basketball and softball at UCONN and loved the competition at the college level."

Jennifer Socha: "My children are my greatest success in life. Being a parent is the only experience in life where you get to be everything from a doctor to a teacher or from an athlete to a superhero! It is the most challenging thing in life to do, as well as, the most rewarding. And, it definitely keeps your reality in check!

Krista Thivierge: "My greatest success in life was to be the first in my family to graduate college, not only with a Bachelor's but a Masters too."

Kathy Nine: "My greatest success in life is having three wonderful, successful children and a beautiful granddaughter!"

#### What advice would you give to your graduating class?

Kathy Brunelle: "Be true to yourself. Believe that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to doing, and you can reach any goal in life that you want to achieve."

Elizabeth Foy: "Keep working hard. The good habits, manners, and work ethic you develop now will translate into many opportunities in the future. It may be a great job, a scholarship, a place on a team, or good relationships with friends. You never know, so keep working hard."

Jennifer Socha: "The advice I would give my graduating eighth grade class of 2014, is first, to always be honest, as trust is one of the most important character traits. Second, I would say to work hard, as hard work builds good character. Third, select a career that you will enjoy doing, then it won't seem so much like work. Fourth, I would say to surround yourself with good friends and supportive family, because it is important to laugh and have some fun, too. My final piece of advice is to take risks, moving out of your comfort zone, sometimes. You never want to look back on life with regret by saying, "I should have done this" or "what if I had done that?"

Krista Thivierge: "Advice that I feel would help someone in this graduating class is that no matter what happens to you, you have the power to succeed. Trauma, drama, money, and anything that seems to stand in your way, is only a speed bump on your way to being successful if you want it badly enough. I am living proof of that and I would love to see my students also become living proof of that as well!"

Kathy Nine: "My advice to this eighth grade is to strive to be the best you can be at all times and to live life to the fullest!"

## Mr. LaBossiere Interview

By Frances Yeung, Mackenzie Florence-Kirk, Hailey Evens

Question #1: What is your current position?

Answer: My current position right now is a campus wide activities and athletics director.

Question #2: How long have you had this job?

Answer: I was a campus wide activities director for 3 years, and an athletics director for 5 years.

Question #3: What made you decide you wanted to change your current job to become assistant principal?

Answer: I come to the middle school a lot, so I've grown to love the middle school and this age level of kids.

Question #4: What is your favorite thing about GMS students?

Answer: My favorite thing about students here is that I like seeing them

come in as 5th graders and grow up to become 8th graders.

Question #5: What are your goals for GMS?

Answer: My goals for GMS would be to continue to make this school a place where kids can learn and have fun, along with build a foundation of education for what lies ahead.

Question #6: Do you plan on being assistant principal, along with helping out with campus wide activities and athletics directing?

Answer: No, but I will attend most of the sports events held.

Question #7: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Answer: I enjoy spending time with my 3 daughters and wife. We go hiking, kayaking, and play sports together a lot.

Question #8: How do you feel about your wife being moved to GES?

Answer: It was a family decision that we discussed together one night. I think she's going to do great over there and she likes working with younger kids as well.

Question #9: What experiences do you have working with kids?

Answer: I never left the school. I've been at school for 21 years from going through school, college, teaching, and to coaching.

Question #10: How long do you plan on being assistant principal?

Answer: I've been here for 21 years and I'll probably be here for the rest of my life. I'm a "lifer."

## Dear Rachel—The Wonders of Middle School

**Q: I'm in sixth grade and I was wondering how 7th and 8th grade will be like. People told me it was really difficult and scary and I wanted to know if it was true.**

**Sincerely,**

**The Wonders of Middle School**

A: Dear Wonders of Middle School,

Don't worry, it's only one level above what you know and are used to doing. Though, be prepared for new challenges and obstacles that you will face along the way. These new grades are meant to be challenging so it's okay if you stumble along the way. You must always keep your head held high because if others could do it, you can, too. Also, remember that there is no shame in looking for help if you need it. Going through these grades, or any grades for that matter, are a lot easier when you understand what you are learning and are organized. The most important thing is to always do your homework, since it will affect your grade a lot more than you would think in the long run. But don't always just focus on work though. You have to remember to have fun along this journey as well. There are so many opportunities and it is important to get involved as much as you can before high school. Getting used to such activities and events can be a useful experience before you enter high school. And even though it may seem daunting at first, it is very fun and the teachers are willing to do everything that they can to help you succeed. Overall, the rest of middle school is as fun as you make it, so make the most of this experience, it will be a good one.

Sincerely,

Team Rachel

## World War O by Vanessa Swepson

Hmmm... Day 46. It's been 14 days since I've seen anything human-like. Once in a while I see these creature things in the shape of octagons called octonaunts. Lately they have been rounding up citizens and keeping them hostage on giant coordinate planes! The reason? Its simple- octagons hate us because we are not classified as polygons and will do anything in their power to destroy us.

I heard that China came up with a way to stop them, but how would you destroy a 10 foot geometric figure set on destroying humanity? There has to be a place without them. I'm sorry I'm rambling, my name is Sheldon Minot and I'm an engineer at MIT. The only way I survived is by creating a bunker in my backyard. I'm staying here with my best friends Leonard Tarus, Howard White, and Raj Mouse. My theory is we dress up like octonaunts and we flee California. I know my friends won't though, they think it's a horrible idea. But I have to do something- I think I see 3 coming this way and I don't want to be seen. I run into my bunker in my backyard and yell to all 3 of my best friends to run into the bunker.

"Leonard, Howard, Raj! Come into the bunker! The octonaunts are headed this way! Hurry up!" We realized that the octonaunts were starting to roll toward us in a line; their main defense is gathering up and rolling towards us humans, crushing them in their path with their pointy sides.

As you see it looks sort of dangerous. And trust me, they are. These ten foot giants have no emotions and will crush all humans in their path, no mercy.

"Sheldon, we have something that you might find of interest." Howard told me, barely scared at all although we were being chased by many octonaunts.

Unable to breathe, I didn't care to answer so I climbed up to the bunker and when we all caught our breath; Leonard passed me a syringe and then explained what it was.

"It's an antidote for the octonaunts, making them friendly, nice, and helpful. However, it will be very complicated to get that close to an octonaunt without it crushing you to your doom."

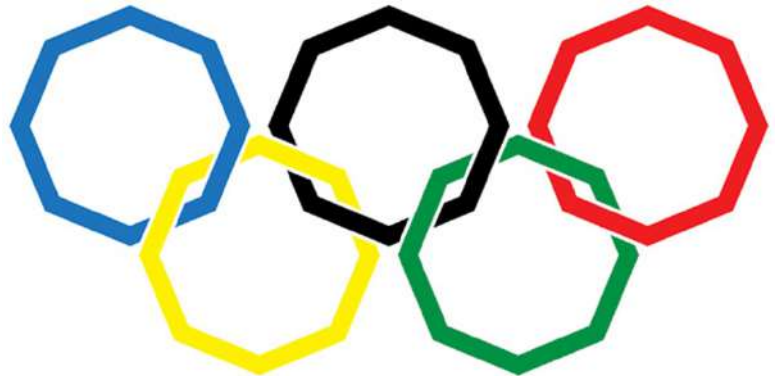
Reluctantly, I had an absolute value. "Guys, the only way to stop them is to run towards them and use the antidote even if it costs us our lives. They will spread the antidote back to their home base and the other octagons will be infected."

"This will surely kill us, but okay. I'm up for it," replied Raj.

"Are you crazy? You will never make it out of there alive!" answered Leonard.

"I'm with those guys," said Howard.

"Leonard?" I asked, unsure if he was with us or against us. He quickly changed his mind and we all raced to stop the despicable octagons. I quickly injected the octagon with the medicine, he freaked out and blew up. Seconds later it reformed into a happy octagon. Finally all the octagons became happy and lived in harmony with the other humans despite our irregular shape. As for Raj, Leonard, Howard, and I, we all lived but we were in the hospital for weeks because of direct contact to the antidote.

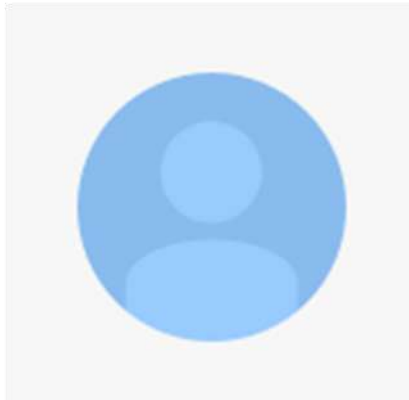


## Bios

**We present to you our magical Paw staff of 8th graders. We bid them fond farewell as their path takes them to new adventures in the big house- Griswold High School.**

### **Jared McShane:**

**Jared has been in the paw for 2 years and will be leaving us for high school. Last year he was a lead writer and this year he wrote articles.**



### **Derek Taylor:**

**Unfortunately, Derek is only able to be with us for 30 minutes every Thursday. He currently has not written any articles, nor is involved with the tech program. He spends his limited time closing programs on people's computers and poking people.**

### **Hunter Bossie**

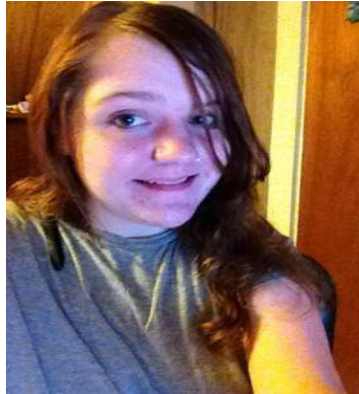
**Hunter has been in the paw since 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He was the co-technical director and helped create the actual, physical newspaper. He helped write the article Olympics and will be joining his friends at Griswold High.**





**Katelyn Kennedy**

**Katelyn officially started with us this year. She wrote a review of Dreamland by Sarah Dessen. She was absent for a while but when she came back she wrote a fabulous review of her favorite band, All Time Low. She is great, funny, and cute and will be missed.**



**Vanessa Swepson**

**Vanessa has been with the Paw for two years and is also going to Griswold High school. She has written: Kansas Spanking, Follow up on Kansas Spanking (Op-Ed) Mystery of the Malaysian Airlines and Road Trip. During her time at the Paw she has worked as a photographer, editor, typist, and writer.**

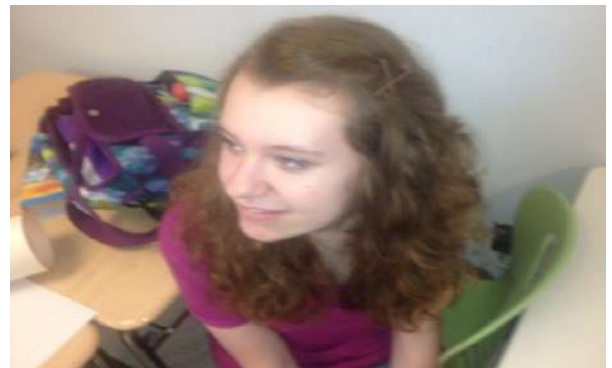


**Emily Leslie**

**Emily joined the Paw this year. She has worked on the Women on the Street, Dear Rachel, and American Airlines Tweet. She is planning on going to Griswold High School next year. She plays soccer and volleyball. When she grows up she would like to be a doctor, lawyer, or teacher.**

**Libby Merchant:**

**Libby joined the paw 1 year ago and is leaving for high school at the end of this year. She worked on Dear Rachel, and wrote articles including the American Airlines Tweet. She is planning on going to Griswold High. Some of the things she enjoys are singing, acting, and listening to music, when she grows up, she would like to be a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, child psychologist, or on interior decorator.**



## MORE Bios!?



**Frances Yeung**

**Frances has been here from the start, 2 years, and will be going to GHS as well. Frances has worked on Mystery of the Malaysian Airlines, Promotion Dance, and interviews on our Griswold staff. She has had many jobs including photographer, editor, writer, and typist.**

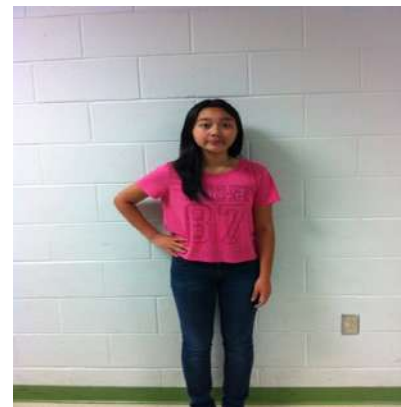


**Mackenzie Florence-Kirk**

**Mackenzie has been in the Paw for about 2 years. She has not been able to attend many meetings in 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to some family issues. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade she was one of our main photographers and took most of the pictures included in the Paw. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade she edited many articles and took part in many interviews including the interviews with Mr. LaBossiere and Mrs. Cary. She, as well as most of our staff, will be attending Griswold High School in the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Derek Janca**

**Derek has also been on the Paw for 2 years and will leave for GHS this year. He has been our Chief Technical Director and editor. He is known for his notorious pranks on Mrs. Lear and shy yet amusing attitude.**



**Nyila Carter**

**Nyila has had a major influence on the Dear Rachel articles. She is in control of most of the editing which is a big contribution on her part. Nyila will be attending Griswold High, and will be dearly missed from the Paw staff. Not only is she involved in the Paw, but also has had lead roles in the musicals here at GMS.**





Kiera Anderson

**Kiera is 14 years old and was born in Virginia Beach. She has been in the Paw for 2 years. Kiera has worked on articles such as Dear Rachel, Woman on the Street, and many interviews. Some of the interviews she has done were for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and Mrs. Palonen. Next year, she will be attending Griswold High School. Kiera enjoys soccer, listening to music (such as One Direction and 5 Seconds of summer), and playing her flute in Jazz Band and Concert Band.**

Paw Perspective

The Paw Perspectives is a new addition to our newspaper. We travel around the school asking individual students from each grade new questions and write down their answers. This week, we asked students “What is one thing in this school that you would change and why?”

Eight Grade

Andrea Sherman – “I think we should have shorter classes. We already have too much work and science and social studies should be on the same day. I would rather have longer exploratories.”

Kiera Anderson – “I think we should

have recess at least once a week. We are trapped in a building about 35 hours a week and we never get any fresh air.”

Seventh Grade

Amber Reid – “We should have better quality in our food in the cafeteria. Over the years that I have been in this school I have found a lot of hair in my food and my friend has even found small pieces of glass in her food.”

Sixth Grade

Roland McCall – “We need more recess every day. We are given too much work and we need time to play outside.”

Fifth Grade

Autumn Pepin – “We really need less homework, we are given too much. If I don’t understand the concept, I don’t want to do homework on it because I need actual help.”

Q: What is one thing you are looking forward to at the end of this year?

**Kiera Anderson:** “I look forward to graduating and becoming a high schooler.”

**Vanessa Swepson:** “Summer and Disney World.”

**Emily Leslie:** “I look forward to the many different field trips we will be taking. I also look forward to the barbeque at the end of the year.”

**Frances Yeung:** “I look forward to Holiday Hill and graduating.”

**Hunter Bossie**: “I am looking forward to the promotion dance at the end of the year.”

Sydney Hungerford: “I am looking forward to summer and summer camp that I will attend.”

**Brianna Evans**: “I am looking forward to graduating and knowing I have successfully passed every grade.”

Mr. Miner: “I am looking forward to good weather, summer projects, and traveling.”

**Mrs. Casey**: “Probably spending more time with my grandchildren.”

Mrs. Wraichette: “I am looking forward to the art show, eighth grade Newport trip, good weather, and exploratory jeopardy.”

**Mrs. Efthimiou**: “I am looking forward to my brother’s wife having a baby, eighth grade Newport trip and warm weather.”

Mr. Knolhoff: “The warm weather and being able to do outdoor activities.”

**Mrs. Shea**: “Hanging out with Timmy, sitting by my pool and seeing how far my students have come in math.”

Mr. Weldy: “Seeing my students prepare for sixth grade and giving independence to my students.”

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## Have American Airlines gone to far?

### By, Libby Merchant and Emily Leslie

The most recent account of internet idiocy has been awarded to a girl from the Netherlands by the name of Sarah. On the 13th of April, she posted a message to American Airlines on her Twitter account (@QueenDemetrix\_) saying, “@AmericanAir hello my names Ibrahim and I’m from Afghanistan. I’m a part of Al Quida and on June 1st im gonna do something big bye.” This eventually got over 20,000 retweets. To say it in other words, this news went viral.

American Airlines soon responded saying “@QueenDemetrix\_ Sarah, we take these threats very seriously. Your IP address and details will be forwarded to security and the FBI.”

Sarah quickly responded by saying, “@AmericanAir..... I was kidding” and “@AmericanAir I’m so sorry I’m scared now.”

Sarah didn’t stop with just these responses, though. She kept replying only getting more and more frantic as she realized the true impact of her “joke.” These responses included things like, “@AmericanAir I was kidding pls I’m just a girl pls,” “@AmericanAir I was joking and it was my friend not me, take her IP address not mine” and “@AmericanAir and im not from Afghanistan.”

Her last tweet was just as pathetic as her “joke.” It read, “@AmericanAir I’m not going to tell my parents, they’ll tell me to delete my acc omg that would be the end of my life.”

American Airlines was not joking though with what they said, as Sarah was soon arrested in Rotterdam, Netherlands. At this arrest, the police found that she was, in fact, just a 14 year old girl.

Some people thought that this arrest was unfair as she was just a minor. They started to send their own messages to various airlines like Southwest and American Airlines. Some of the thousands of tweets that were sent included things like, “the bomb goes off in 3 hours,” “@wesleywalrus is going

to bomb your next few flights,” and finally, “Hello im Eduardo. Ago a couple of weeks ago you were warned, I’m ignored. You will pay the consequences. BOMB!! Hahahaha”

Even though these people thought that they were helping prove a point, they did not realize that all of their information is now being tracked down and that they are now being watched. However, American Airlines as a company believes that they did the right thing. Their policy states, “At American Air, the safety of our passengers and crew is our number one priority. We take security matters very seriously and work with authorities on a case by case basis.”

When asking members of The Paw and Griswold Staff what they thought on the issue, the majority thought that she should go to jail. We also pulled some comments from viewers of the popular YouTube channel, Sourcefed, from the video they did that explained this topic. These comments consisted of:

People that had similar opinions to those of the Paw Staff, like these people:



**mugenXZY2012** 1 week ago

Just another bratty, idiotic teenager who wants attention. She sure got it, right?

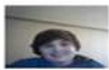
Reply · 19 likes · 1 retweet



**Undertaker9711** 1 week ago

honestly, i think she should do a couple months of jail time. just to really show her that this isnt a joke. also she should be banned from Twitter for life (or until it eventually dies, we all know its not gonna last forever)

Reply · 25 likes · 1 retweet



**mike palic** 4 days ago

I think it's good she's In jail even if it was a joke because she could have been serious and she is just stupid to put that out in public

Reply · 1 like · 1 retweet

## Others have opinions in the opposite direction, like these people:



**Aigars Dzerviniks** 1 week ago

The girl might not be the smartest person in the world, but the people who work at that airline must be completely mental to actually think that it is a threat. The airline should be punished for their stupidity.

Reply · 4 likes · 1 retweet



**David Jeffers** 3 days ago

All generations do stupid <sup>stuff</sup> like this, the difference is that this generation has the internet to make fools out of themselves on. She needs a reality check, nothing serious. It was an april fools day prank that she stupidly put on the internet to be tracked down for, and shouldn't have done at all. But all generations have had that kind of problems. fake bomb threats have happened in any generation



1 week ago

Meh, kids are dumb. I was dumb. You were dumb. We were all dumb when we were kids. As much as she needs to be made aware of the gravity of her actions, the punishment shouldn't be too severe.

Reply · 1 like · 1 retweet



**Justin Faust** 1 week ago

I think taking away her Twitter is good enough, if she can't wield that properly, she doesn't deserve it... until she grows up at least, even though I'm pretty sure the terror of the initial response from the airlines was enough, she definitely needs to be made an example of, can't have that kind of stuff thrown around nonchalantly.

In conclusion, we as the Paw staff believe that Sarah was at fault, and that she does deserve to be sentenced to jail for several years due to her actions.

## Budget Troubles by Derek Janca

Many of you have heard of the proposed budget for the 2014-15 school year. However... there will certainly be more cuts. Proposed at the hearing for the budget earlier this year, the school wanted an increase of 2.29% or \$576,450. The 2013-14 budget was over \$25 million. The budget focused on three unfunded mandates – Common Core, the Smarter Balanced testing, and teacher evaluations.

Common Core Standards include “what is to be learned.” These are based on career readiness and the goal of students not having to take “remedial” classes in college. This is a noble pursuit, but reports from students, parents, and teachers alike show that these aren’t all they’re talked up to be. I’ve heard reports of students learning in kindergarten what their parents learned in first grade. These programs will

re-allocate over \$45,000 in textbooks and materials.

Smarter Balanced... all I can say is, it does get better. This year was rough, challenging to learn, and well, just annoying. It was a pilot. In fact, Griswold Schools described this year as a “field test.” They were hard... because they were based on common core; things that we started to implement *this year*. Next year is also reserved for testing. This will be targeted in later years. GMS has received a tech grant this year.

“A Teacher Evaluation System is crucial to encourage our teachers and administrators to improve. However... the current mandated program is time consuming, expensive, and unwieldy,” says Paul Smith. And, not to mention every teacher I have talked to hates it. Really, how tough can it be? It has been described as “stressful” on multiple occasions. The funding for this program, going into full force in the 2014-15

year, cuts out of the other mandates.

Many new proposed costs include new textbooks, including those for a math coach. Currently, none is present in the entire district. A total of 5 new staffing positions were considered. Four new textbook sets will also be included. Seven proposed items are set aside for common core.

In addition, several things were noted but not included nor suggested, but as what “students need that is not currently supported” to be successful. Magnet programs for GHS were here, along with e-text support and extracurricular activities for GES and GMS.

So, should you want to have all of these amazing opportunities available to you in your remaining school years, and to others for generations to come, please vote “yes” for the... what is it, third time! ?

## G.M.S 8th Grade Promotion

The 8th graders are having their promotion ceremony on Thursday, June 19, 2014. These wonderful students will be on their way to high school and even perhaps college.



*"If You can imagine it,  
you can achieve it. If  
you dream it, you can  
become it"*

*-William Arthur Ward*

## *What made Teachers Who They Are Today...?*

You think you know your teachers, but do you really? Going around the school, we interviewed several teachers. Most of them said that they got their inspiration from teachers they had in the past. What does this mean? The high school teachers seemed to influence them the most. Maybe this is because they are the freshest in their memory.

Mr. Young: Unlike others he was inspired to be a teacher from his 2nd grade teacher. His teacher suggested math, because he has always had a spark in knowledge for it. He loves seeing kids learn and understand. Since he's so young, he can relate to them and treats it as an advantage.

Mr. Miner: Mr. Miner has had a very good schooling experience. This drove him to be what he is today. He has been teaching for 25 years and still counting. He calls his students the future of our generation.

Mrs. Shea: Mrs. Shea is made of numbers. She enjoys teaching at the middle school level and loves to see other kids enjoy learning. Many students enjoy having her as company.

Mrs. Socha: She never thought she would become an 8th grade teacher, and she didn't think she'd enjoy it. She appreciates the maturity her 8th graders possess. Her children are her greatest success in life. Also the advice she gave to her graduating class is to always be true to yourself, surround yourself with good people, and to live life to the fullest.

Ms. Efthimiou: She was inspired by her high school Spanish teacher. She said that her teacher was caring and always included everyone. Ms. Efthimiou always knew that she wanted to be a teacher, but in high school realized that she wanted to teach Spanish.

Ms. Wraichette: She was also inspired by her high school teacher. She does art for a lot of reasons, some of these are that it's a creative outlet and to express yourself. Overall, Ms. Wraichette loves middle school students. She says, "be who you are and don't change who you are."

There are many reasons why teachers became who they are. Teachers inspire us to become who we are for the future. They help us realize what interests us and to spark our greatest capability. Without them we would fail, we wouldn't know what we are good at. Sometimes it's good to know who they are and what made them do what they do today.

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## **Thanks for Following The Paw!**

This is our last edition of The Paw. It's been an amazing year, and we're letting the current seventh graders continue it next time. You can look for The Paw next year, or go online to [www.thepawgms.wwebly.com](http://www.thepawgms.wwebly.com).

Sincerely,

The Paw Staff

