

BA Today

A publication of Bessemer Academy's Creative Writing Class

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Snow-Delayed Valentine's Edition

Snow Decisions: A Chat with Mrs. Kelly

by: Warren Rocksvold

Lately the weather has presented us with a bit of a fiasco. BA Today asked Mrs. Kelly about some of the details of the "snowmageddon." We asked about who makes the decisions to close the school and some of the procedures involved in school closings. Mrs. Kelly is the one who ultimately makes the decision to close the school when dealing with inclement weather. With that said, she says she uses all the information resources available throughout the Jefferson and Shelby County to her when the time comes to make it. She also knows that she needs to give parents an hour warning on school closings, so given the spread out nature of the school's population, she tries to plan accordingly, and she always wants to err on the side of caution.

When it comes to closing the school, once the students are gone, it's business as usual for lock up and leave, with a little bit of extra precautionary measures to make sure no damage comes to the school like letting faucets trickle or wrapping them up so they don't freeze and burst or turning on the heat in the rooms. Mrs. Kelly also said that she LOVES the school cast system, saying it was the best purchase made recently for the school. She loves the fact that all the numbers listed for parents can be called in a matter of minutes, and word about events such as school closings can quickly reach those who need to know about it.

Mrs. Kelly said her main concern last week was for the high school drivers on the frozen roads. She was afraid that the inexperienced drivers wouldn't know what to do on the ice and may come to harm. Though some got stuck, there were no injuries to the staff or students during the snowstorm last week.

And in a word to the students, Mrs. Kelly wishes to remind us that the decisions she makes are made deliberately with the information she has, and most importantly, with our safety in mind.

Weekly Poll

by: Staff Writers

Due to lack of participation, our weekly poll has been discontinued.

2 Sentence Scary Story Winner

by: Warren Rocksvold

The winner of our contest is junior Garrett Moore. He wins a gift certificate to Books-A-Million. Congratulations!

I dropped the phone on the floor. As I reached for it, a skeletal hand drew it under the bed.

Teacher of the Week: Coach Boyd

by: Tila Vines

What led you to BA?

A GPS and the great people

How did you spend your snow break?

Walking home and helping others on my fourwheeler

If you could live anywhere on the planet, where would you live?

Definitely Florida.

If you could be any celebrity, who would you be and why?

Jack Nicholas, because he is an excellent golfer.

What is your dream car?

Anything with a driver.

Who would you like to see as teacher of the week? Or what crazy question would you like us to ask? Text or email batodaystaff@gmail.com

Lunch Menu this Week

Thursday, Feb. 20

Corn Dogs, Fries, Dessert

Friday, Feb. 21

Grilled Chicken, Baked Potato, Peas,
Dessert

Monday, Feb. 24

Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese,
Dessert

Counselor's Corner

by: Shannan Higgins

SENIORS: Don't forget to give me a copy of all acceptance letters and scholarship awards even if you don't plan to attend that school or accept the award. Text or email your questions to shigginsbessemeracademy.com or drop by her office.

Tech Talk: A New Heart Option for Valentine's Day

by: iZac

According to the CNN website, scientists at the Texas Heart Institute are developing an artificial heart that could hopefully replace the need for human hearts entirely. Currently, the only available artificial heart is the Syncardia which acts only as a temporary bridge while a patient waits on a heart transplant. The Syncardia operates by emulating the functions of a real life heart. On the other hand, the device that the scientists at the Texas Heart Institute are developing does not operate by emulating the heart at all. Instead, this device operates by spinning a small turbine that propels the blood through the blood stream. The first test device worked and operated quite well, but it had certain flaws.

However, in 2011 an Australian biomedical engineer presented a gadget similar to the original apparatus that the scientists at the Texas Heart Institute had developed. This device led to the design of a new artificial heart that is being collaborated on and might just be a hope for patients who have heart failure. While the device is still currently in development, it is projected to be release within a few years from now. Please refer to <http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/04/health/permanent-artificial-heart/> for more information.

Questions for our tech guru? What would you like to see in the next issue? Text or email batodaytechtalk@gmail.com

Feel the Wind?

by: Tila Vines

It's very hard to believe in something we cannot see, feel, or physically hear. Many people say its silly to believe in something we can't see. We can't see wind either but we can see the effects of wind. It is the same thing with God. Look around, we can see the earth and know that that is God's wonderful creation. God is just like the wind and air, invisible but always there. We can see the effects of God every day and how He moves and changes our lives.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:20

**Gamer's Corner:
Lego Marvel Super Heroes**
by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of Wikipedia

Traveller's Tales continues its streak of making every one of its games better than the last. Traveller's Tales and Warner Home Video Games have once again created a fantastic game for Lego lovers, *Lego Marvel Super Heroes*. This game features an open and explorable world set in many iconic Marvel locations as well as 15 story pages in self-contained areas. If a gamer has played previous Lego games then they already know what to expect from this game. In *Lego Marvel Super Heroes*, the game soars through an original story crossing all the Marvel families.

Players will take control of Iron Man, The Hulk, Spider Man, Thor, Captain America, and other well-known Marvel characters as they try to stop Loki and a host of other Marvel villains from assembling a super weapon which they could use to control the earth. Also, Traveller's Tales has stop dabbling with the series' core gameplay and started to refine the game itself. First, the levels take you through iconic areas like Stark Tower, Asgard, X-Mansion, and other iconic locations in the Marvel universe. Second, the roster in previous games has always been impressive, but in *Lego Marvel Super Heroes* the player is offered more than 100 different characters that are actually worth playing. It is almost impossible to miss the amount of time and love that the creators put into the characters. In addition, besides story mode there is free play and other side missions. This is where the player will be able to choose any character that they have unlocked and free play around any iconic Marvel location. *Lego Marvel Super Heroes* perfectly captures the fondness of the silly and fantastic characters and the visual and colorful world of the Marvel universe.

I personally recommend this game to anyone who loves Marvel comic book characters and loves Legos.

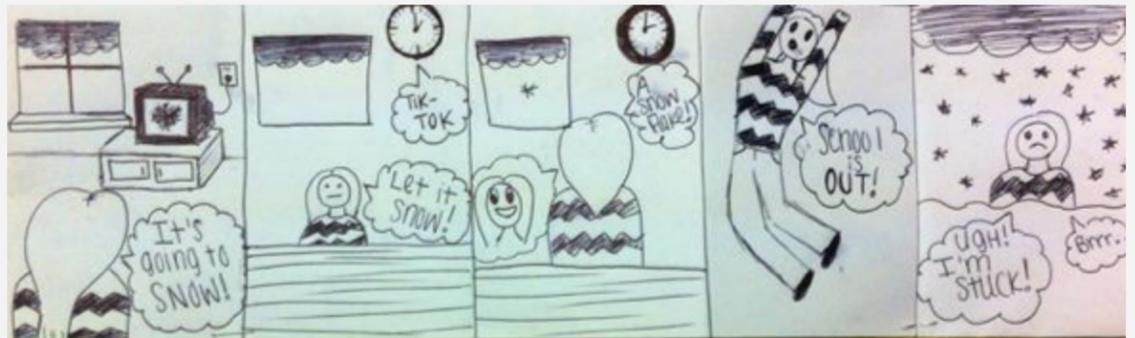
Agree? Disagree? What game would you like to see reviewed in the next issue? Email batodaygames@gmail.com

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 12. Cards | 3. Hug |
| 11. LoveSong | 4. Valentine |
| 10. SweetHearts | 5. Flowers |
| 9. TeddyBear | 6. Chocolates |
| 8. Date | 7. Kisses |
| 3. Heart | 2. SinglesAwarenessDay |
| 3. Hug | 1. Love |
| Across | Down |

No peeking!

Private School Probs by: Casey Burnette



Snow Break 2014 by: Emily Harrison

As most of you remember, the entire state of Alabama shut down for the two inches of snow we received. So what is the best part about being stranded for four days straight? It's the awesome pictures the students at Bessemer Academy get, of course!

