

# Titan Talk

Issue 2 Volume 10

Ridgeland High School

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## Our Real Life Karate Kid

by Holli Gill

If you were at the homecoming dance and saw a random guy doing a bunch of flips, well, this is him. Parker Andrews has been taking Taekwondo for nine years, extreme martial arts (or XMA) for six and a half years, and jui-jitsu for three years.



Andrews is a freshman this year at RHS. He was home schooled every year until this year. He moved to Ridgeland this past summer.

Andrews started Taekwondo when he was six-years-old,

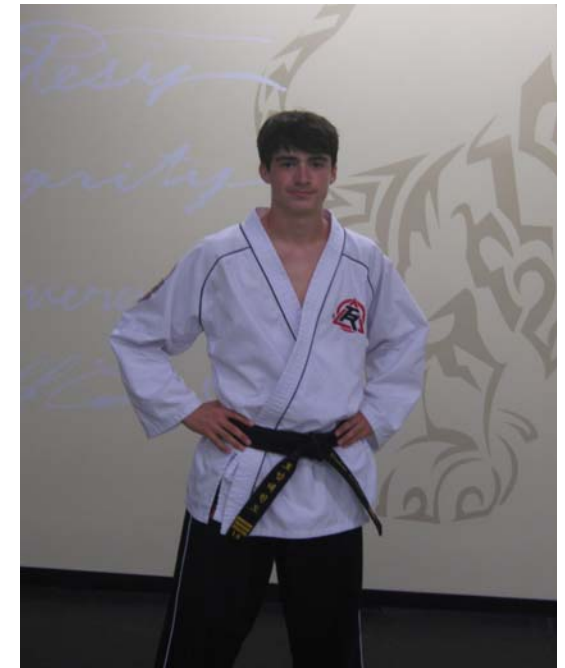
because it was very interesting to him. He's a level four-third degree black belt in Taekwondo and a high-ranking instructor. Andrews joined the instructor team about four years ago because a lot of other people started which inspired him to do it.

He is also a green belt in jui-jitsu which took him about two and a half years.

Andrew started doing flips when he was three-years-old. His mom once taught gymnastics, so he learned by listening to her.

Some of his favorite flips are back flip, corkscrew, and double leg. A corkscrew is where you swing your leg up in the air off of one foot and then do a 540° turn while sideways. A double leg is when you're doing a side flip with your legs straight and together.

He is also part of our school's soccer team. We're proud to have such a talented new addition to our school.



KEEP RECYCLING, RHS!

WE WANT TO WIN \$2000 FOR OUR  
SCHOOL.

## What We Really Need

by Jamie Logan

Al Qaeda. Jihadists. Terrorists. They go by many names, but the instigators of 9/11 are dangerous to say the least. The war against them has become a touchy subject, especially now that news that American troops might be coming home has spread. Everyone has an opinion on what should be happening. Many advocate the return of troops to U.S. soil, but some say that they should stay exactly where they are.

In theory, the return of our brave men and women should be the best possible thing. Families will be united once again now that the Iraqi citizens have been liberated. But what most people don't seem to consider is that terrorists will never stop.

Many of them follow a radical version of Islam or the Muslim religion. Typical Muslims are peace-loving and truthful. They believe that women's bodies should be covered and a few other seemingly foreign principles, but they value many of the same things that Christians and Jews do. These radical Muslims, on the other hand, are much different and much more violent. America, a land

where freedom is taken to every extreme possible, seems to go against their very religion. Add that to personal slights against individual people, and you have a motive. Many of them think that because we are people who represent everything that they dislike, we should be eliminated.

Now, I don't know about you, but I can't imagine the kind of fury it would take to dedicate your life to killing off a race of people. Someone who hated America that much wouldn't give up on the war just because our soldiers came home. They would bring the war here. Terrorists would seem to disappear while they built up their supplies and prepared for attack. Then, they would strike when we least expected it.

The last thing we need is another 9/11. With the anniversary last month, the terror of that day was recently on the forefront of everyone's minds. The war gives us a chance to stand up to the terrorists who mercilessly murdered our people that day. We should take full advantage of this chance and prove to them that we aren't afraid to fight for what we believe in.

## Can You Smell That Smell?

by Kristine Bishop

Here's a story: An innocent passerby walks swiftly passed the art hall knowing the terrible fate that is to come. The moment he steps foot in front of the open doors, he smells it...an overwhelming stench that comes from deep in the art hall. He falls to his knees gagging...

So what exactly *is* that smell? That smell, my dear readers, comes from the one, the only, the band hall.

What? The band hall? The room with all those weird nerds in it? Yes...that room. And though I am a member of said band, I must proclaim that it is like a huge Petri dish: nasty, smelly, germ infested.

This is to all of us band members: CLEAN YOUR STUFF. Who knows what squirmy creatures lie in the

dark crevices and corners of old socks and used reeds.

\*congregation shouts "Amen!"\*

I suggest that everyone keep a pocket-sized Febreze with them everyday for their own protection. Also, it wouldn't hurt to have a giant bottle of hand sanitizer in each cubby because quite frankly, there are way too many people getting sick and spreading it around.

Hopefully, by writing this and making it public, the band hall will be spotless by the end of November, and everyone will be back to good health.

Shamefully, I must confess that I too am involved in the act of cluttering the instrument room, but this is a disgusting problem that *must* be solved! (Insert giant waving American flag and presidential music.)

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## A story of Halloween

by Holli Gill

When you were younger, most of you probably went around your neighborhood dressed in a cool costume and demanded candy from neighbors. Now, that you're older, you might go to a friend's party and bob for apples or carve Jack-o-lanterns. Have you ever stopped to think about where these traditions came from?

The Roman church created a holiday specifically for the worship of spirits. They named November 1 All Saints Day to honor the saints of the church. One Roman festival was a day to honor the goddess of fruit trees, Pomona. Her symbol is the apple, so this is where we get bobbing for apples.

Celts celebrated the end of the light half of the year with the festival of Samhain which they observed during the October/November lunar cycle. After the Romans took over Britain, the British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and changed the date of Samhain to November 1. All Saints Day became known as All Hallow's Eve.

Trick-or-treating came from a 19th-century European custom called Souling. On All Souls Day, November 2, Christians would walk from village to village begging for soul cakes, which were small pieces of bread with berries. At the time, it was believed that when someone died, the soul would be trapped between Earth and Heaven and that prayers could help a soul's passage to Heaven.

Costumes and treats were not only a part of English tradition,

but Celtic as well. The English believed that All Hallow's Eve was a time for the spirits of their ancestors to come back and haunt them. They would dress up in masks and costumes to keep the spirits from recognizing them. On October 31, Celtic villagers would put out the fires in their homes to make themselves undesirable to spirits that wanted to possess them. After that, they would dress up in all sorts of ghoulish costumes and parade noisily around the neighborhood, being as destructive as they possibly could in order to frighten away spirits. As belief in spirit possessions faded, the practice of dressing up as goblins, ghosts, and witches took an more of a ceremonial role.

The Jack-o-lantern custom comes from an Irish folktale about a man named Jack. He tricked Satan into climbing a tree, then carved an image of a cross in the tree's trunk, trapping the devil. He offered the devil a deal: if he would never tempt Jack again, Jack would let him down from the tree. When he died, Jack was denied entrance to both Heaven and Hades. He was forced to wander through the darkness of the lost, so the devil gave him an ember to light his way. The ember was put in a hollowed out turnip so that it would burn longer. This led to the Irish creation of "Jack's lanterns". When the immigrants came to America, they found that pumpkins were far more plentiful than turnips, so they used pumpkins instead. When Roman tradition mixed with Celtic tradition, so did their festivals, creating what we know today as Halloween.

## Advice by Lexi

Dear Alexi,

Last time, you told me to talk to my girlfriend to see if she was cheating on me. I took your advice and found out that she wasn't. Then, she got mad at me for asking and dumped me. Now, she's dating her ex again! Your advice is horrible and useless!

Dejected and Dumped  
(Concerned Car Owner)

Here we go again...

The problem isn't me, it's you. Here are two things you should know. One, I'm always right. Two, you're always wrong. I never make mistakes. Being perfect, I'm above that sort of thing.

Love, Lexi

P.S. By the way, did you ever get your car fixed?

Dear Alexi,

I recently made friends with a new girl at school. We get along great, but unfortunately she's also friends with a girl who doesn't like me. Anytime the three of us are together, they ditch me to go hang out. I try not to feel jealous, but it's really starting to bother me. What should I do?

Alone and Lonely

Dear Lonely,

Finally, someone with a real problem! My genius has been wasted on the rest of these losers. I suggest telling them about the problem to see if it's intentional. But if you find out that it *is* on purpose, you obviously need new friends. Can't help you there. Sorry.

Much love, Lexi

## Not Another Transformers Movie

by Audrey Hall

*Real Steel* is a film about a washed-out boxer, named Charlie, whose business has been taken over by robots. In order to pay off his debts, he gives away the rights to his child in a deal that requires Max to stay with him for a little while. During their time together, Charlie tries to jump into the robot-boxing business, and isn't successful until Max stumbles upon a robot named Atom. Together, the father-son duo repair him and pit him against the best fighting robots until they find themselves against the proclaimed champion: Zeus. But, by then, Charlie's begun to realize what's important and works to help bring the name of the underdog back into the ring alongside his son.

Well. The first thing you should realize about *Real Steel* is that it isn't *Transformers*. Not even close. I mean, sure, there's a lot of robot-bashing and fight clubs and intense music, but that's actually all there is. The actors strive to create a moving show and do their job well, but it's hard when they're constrained by a mediocre script and plot lines

that have been stolen from several other films. That's made even more money. Which is sad by the fact that the cast is a stellar group. Hugh Jackman (*X-Men*) as Charlie, Evangeline Lilly (*Lost*) as Bailey, Dakota Goyo (*Thor*) as Max, and Anthony Mackie (*The Adjustment Bureau*) as Finn provide a talented main cast. It isn't their fault that the script was so formulaic. Lilly's character spent the entire time talking about the old days. It was hard to find reasons to like Charlie, as his harsh and selfish personality overshadowed his determination and struggle to push past his difficulties. Goyo's performance as Max was endearing and applause-worthy, despite the fact that his relationship with Charlie was cheesy and badly written. Besides the script's missteps, *Real Steel* manages to please by providing great fight scenes and graphics, as well as good chemistry between the various actors. My advice is to watch it if you're going for a good round of robots breaking robots. There's plenty of that! I give it a 5 out of 10.

## Just Another Zombie Apocalypse

by Holli Gill

*Ashes* by Ilsa Bick is a well written, yet depressing story. The book grabs your attention at chapter one and holds it until the end.

Alex, the main character, goes camping in order to fulfill her parents final wishes of scattering their ashes over lake Superior when an unexpected EMP attack occurs. She meets an eight year old named Ellie and a former soldier named Tom, and together, they try to survive. They face many challenges and in the end only Alex makes it to safety. Once there, she begins to adjust to her new life, but her rebellious nature takes over. She runs

away into the woods only to find a shocking experience waiting for her.

This story has a lot of action, death, guns, and even a very small amount of romance. It's depressing because almost every character dies. Just as things start going well for the main character, someone either dies, gets kidnapped, or eaten by a zombie. If you like books about the apocalypse, EMP's, death, and zombies, then this book is for you. Also, if you want to be depressed, then I recommend this book. If you don't like these things, then I definitely don't recommend it.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE: RANDOM FACTS

by Kristine Bishop

1. Owls are one of the only birds that see the color blue.
2. Slugs have four noses.
3. It cost three cents to make a one dollar bill.
4. The song "American Woman" was written by a Canadian band.
5. You can start a fire with ice.
6. There's a community in Western Kentucky called "Monkey Eyebrow".
7. Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows.
8. Leonardo DiCaprio got his first on-screen kiss by a man.
9. Coffee beans aren't beans. They are fruit pits.
10. The odds are 1 out of 7 (14%) that you *think* you saw a UFO.

## 15+1 Crazy Things to do on Halloween

1. Sit on the roof and spray passing trick-or-treaters with silly string.
  2. Let a rabid dog loose on trick-or-treaters.
  3. Write "life" on lemons and throw them at strangers.
  4. Put ants/itching powder in someone's costume.
  5. Dress up as a demonic Easter Bunny and charge at children.
  6. Pass out last year's Valentine's Day candy.
  7. Dress up as Voldemort, point your wand at people, and yell, "Avada Kedavra!"
  8. "Move it like Bernie", dressed as Scream, in an old woman's yard.
  9. Scream hysterically as you throw a headless dummy off your roof.
  10. Drop plastic and/or real spiders, snakes, and bats on people with lame costumes.
  11. Cover yourself profusely with sparkles and carry a sign that says, "I Hate Wolves".
  12. Get a group of people, dress as Slipknot, and jump out of dark allies.
  13. Dress up as Darth Vader and pass out cookies.
  14. Play creepy music and when trick-or-treaters come by, jump out in a cow costume.
  15. Turn your sibling's room into a haunted dungeon.
- +1 Steal Coach Frazier's Bieber costume.

# Horoscopes

by Kylee

**Libra(September 23~October 22):** Please realize that screaming "NO HABLA INGLES!" at police officers isn't going to help.

**Scorpio(October 23~November 21):** This is your month to shine. That redneck contest at Pearl has your name written all over it.

**Sagittarius(November 22~December 21):** You're going to find some extra cash this month. Better share with Leo.

**Capricorn(December 22~January 19):** Do you ever shut up? You have the right to remain silent, use it already!

**Aquarius(January 20~February 18):** Pay attention in class. Your teachers are starting to doubt that English is your first language.

**Pisces(February 19~March 20):** Celebrate your nerdiness. You're going to rule the world someday.

**Aries(March 21~April 19):** Okay, you're awesome. I've got to admit it. Be amazing, let everyone else sit in their jealousy and be jealous.

**Taurus(April 20~May 20):** This month, don't worry about going easy on the pie. Clothing's running large now.

**Gemini(May 21~June 20):** Slipknot called. They want their face back.

**Cancer(June 21~July 22):** Give it up. Sit in your jealousy and be jealous.

**Leo(July 23~August 22):** Cry a river, build a bridge, and then learn how to swim.

**Virgo(August 23~September 22):** Cry a river, build a bridge, and yell encouragement when Leo tries to swim.

## DEAR NERDS AND TREKKIES OF RHS,

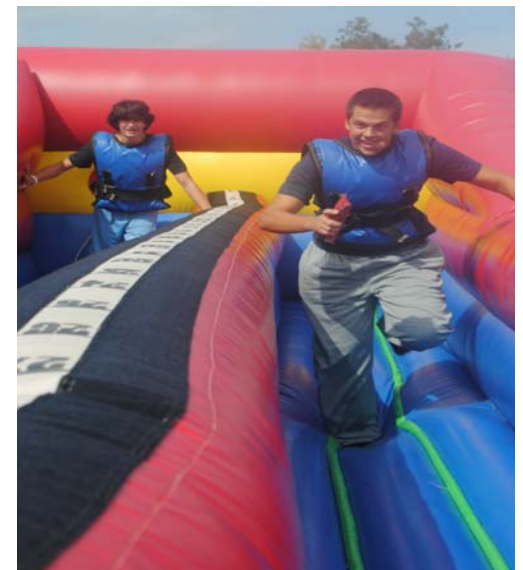
Your savior has come in the form of a club, an anime club to be specific.

The anime club, though not completely formed, would include: competitions in cosplay, art, and animated shorts. Also, to add to the nerd experience, we will declare new anime related releases for that month.

But, do not get too excited because, although this would be a very culture filled and interesting club, it must be approved by our wonderful principal, Mr. Boozer, and our wondrous teacher, Mr. Berry.

So if you really want to have an awesome anime club to express your secret nerd desires, then please support this worthy cause.

Sincerely,  
Your fellow nerds, Devin and Kristine



**RHS STAR party fun**  
Pictured left to right : Parker Lohman  
and Philip Rafferty

## Just Run...

by Marian Cancio



Zach Gosnell finishing a race

“Cross Country was invented so water would taste better.” When the typical high school student thinks of sports, the last thing to come to mind is Cross Country.

However, now that I have been exposed to the amazing hardship of this sport and the admirable capability of this team, it’s a whole different story.

So far, the boys have outdone themselves by not only beating

Brandon for the first time in five years but by beating them three out of the four times they have run against them. The girls are not far behind, also making the school proud by beating JC Shores for the first time in six years. The best current runners from the boys’ team are Martin Cobb 18:24 with three top 10 finishes in the last five meets and Alexis Gaytan 18:45 with two top finishes in the last five meets and from the girls’ team Rachel Harris 16:21 with three top finishes in the last five meets.

The team, ranked seventh in the state, has officially started gearing up for the State meet, running everyday after school under hail, rain or snow so that they can represent Ridgeland High School to the best of their abilities. The newspaper staff wishes them the best of luck November 5 on the MHSAA State Championships.

## Road to the Playoffs

by Marian Cancio



Tyler James throws a pass during the Starkville game

The snap of the ball, the silence of the crowd as the play is underway, and the excitement when a touchdown is made are the moments that a football fan lives for. This was in abundance on September 23 when our football team went head to head against the Canton Tigers. We definitely showed some major improvements when the game ended with a score of 36-6.

The next week was no exception. We dominated the game with 14 points in the first half and 7 points in the last half over Lanier. The highlight of this game was Quardarius Armour’s 55 yard run. We beat Lanier 42-6, bringing home a very well deserved victory. This was a definite upgrade, compared to the start of the season.

Unfortunately, the same couldn’t be said on October 7 when we played Starkville. Although we had a good lead, as Coach Burton said in an interview with the *Clarion Ledger*, “We’ve got too much inexperience and do not know how to finish.” The game came to a devastating conclusion when Starkville scored a touchdown on three of its last four possessions, erasing the 23 to 5 lead. The game was a close call with the final score of 26 to 23. Even though Starkville took the win, this did not let spirits down. They were put to the test on October 14 when the team took on Callaway. The boys worked extremely hard to win this game, and although they didn’t exactly look well put together, our defense held it together to get us through with a victory of 21-13 over the Callaway Chargers.

Because of this win, the hope for Ridgeland to host the third consecutive playoff game is still alive.

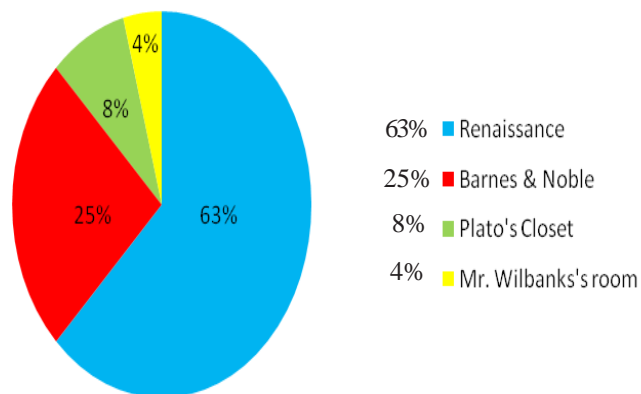
## Student Surveys

The *Titan Talk* newspaper staff gave a survey to find out the most popular trends of 2011, favorite places to go in Ridgeland, and if students prefer Apple or Android products.

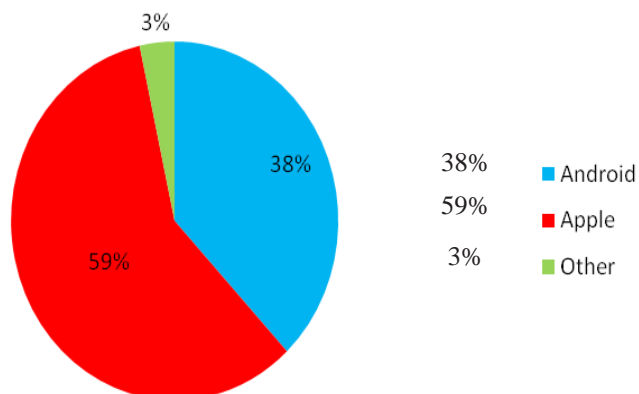
**Favorite place to go in Ridgeland:**  
 “Mr. Wilbanks’s room”-Sam Palmer

**Most popular 2011 trends:**  
 “Apple Bottom Jeans”- Zach Gosnell  
 “Pajama Jeans”- Seth Blackwell

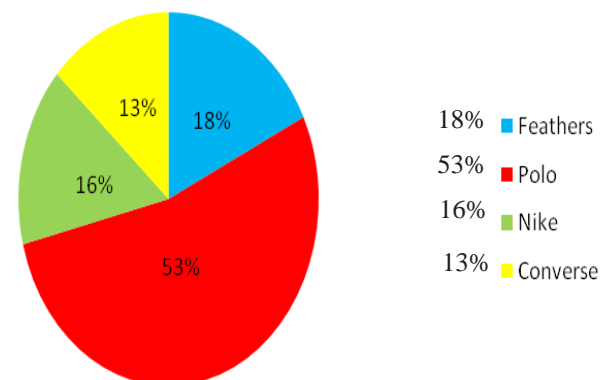
### Favorite Places to Go in Ridgeland



### Apple or Android



### Most Popular 2011 Trends



## Top Honors

NATIONAL MÉRIT  
SCHOLAR



*Piero Bracamonte with  
Mr. Boozer*

PORTICO STUDENTS



*From left to right: Millie Adams,  
Kristen Dupard, and Rachel Harris*

RHS is home to wonderful students. Piero Bracamonte was recently named National Merit Semi-finalist. This is a major accomplishment for seniors across the country. Congratulations Piero.

Millie Adams, Kristen Dupard, and Rachel Harris were featured in the September issue of *Portico Magazine's* 25 Students That Will Change the World. We are proud of these seniors and know they will do just that.

