Everybody’s Blogging

Middle school students are finding their voices online

by Suzannah Tarkington and Elizabeth Bogue

When you think blogs, you may think “computer geeks.” Together Mrs. Deisley and the seventh graders have proven it to be just the opposite.

The seventh graders started blogs in their English classes early second semester. The new bloggers have thoroughly enjoyed this new experience. “You’re able to express yourself on the internet and get constructive feedback about your thoughts through commenting and posting,” said Stacey Sampson, a seventh grade blue team student. These blogs have very few rules and regulations, allowing the students to post freely on any subject they feel passionate about. The students may post videos, and have links connecting the reader to other relevant sites.

“Blogs live online and therefore you can add your thoughts or people can comment 24/7, even from the other side of the world,” said technology consultant Mrs. Laura Deisley. Blogs are always accessible. Wherever there is a computer, you have access to your friends and their thoughts.

However, the seventh graders aren’t the only ones blogging. The eighth graders led the way this year with their English blogs. You can access these blogs by going to the Lovett resource network blog at: http://msresourcenetwork.edublogs.org/, and all of the class blogs are on the right hand side bar. Whether you are in Atlanta, or across the world, blogging is a great way to stay connected.

OPERATION LAPTOPS

by Nicholas Cancilliere

Wouldn’t it be cool if we all had our own laptops? We would use these computers for all of our school work, including written assignments, power point presentations, and all of our homework. Every student would have his or her own to take home every night. Just imagine!

Well, believe it or not this might actually happen. For the past year the 4th grade has been experimenting with the use of Apple Macbooks, and it has been a great success. All the students are very enthusiastic and always look forward to working on the high tech devices.

Lower School Principal Mrs. Mary Baldwin had great things to say. “It has really helped the students learn, and they are always really excited and invigorated to learn on these great devices,” she says.

Next year chances are that both fourth and fifth grades will use the laptops. It is unsure when these computers will be coming to the middle school, but I got the inside scoop from one of the leaders of this operation, fourth grade teacher Mrs. Laurie Smilack. She told me that the laptops might be coming to the middle school some time in 2009, when the new middle school building is coming up. Our future is looking bright for technology.
ACADEMIC TEAM AND MATH COUNTS: TWO GREAT CLUBS
by Alek Wobeck

Both Academic Team and MathCounts are competitive clubs that are part of Lovett’s extracurricular activities. They are both a lot of fun and a great way to get involved at school. Here are some of the pros and cons of each:

**Academic Team**

**Pros**
- Test out your random knowledge with your friends four days a week.
- Compete against your peers, and in tournaments compete against other schools in the Atlanta region.
- Mrs. Drinkard and Mr. Morrison host it.
- Have fun competing and talking during lunch.

**Cons**
- At the tournaments there are always some schools that have amazing prodigies.
- Many people have joined so there are less questions during meetings.

**MathCounts**

**Pros**
- Mr. Jones hosts it.
- Compete at Georgia Tech.
- Socialize with members of other schools in the Atlanta area.
- Compete to be a member of the eight players on the team and later the “elite” four.

**Cons**
- You have to compete against Westminster, and they’re amazing.
- You have to do math on the weekend.
- You compete in college classrooms, which may seem fun, but you are with about sixty other students, and a lot of them have colds.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU AUDITION FOR AMERICAN IDOL!
by Cecilia Ward and Halle Payne

When you visit seven cities and audition over 100,000 Idol contestants, you’re bound to see and hear a little bit of everything. Randy, Paula and Simon found this to be true in Atlanta, too! During the Atlanta auditions, we had everything from a pageant queen to a nurse who rode Harley Davidson motorcycles! Most people weren’t so lucky but some were almost as entertaining as Simon’s looks and comments.

So, just in case you plan to try out, let’s see if we can learn anything from a few of the more “memorable” Atlanta auditions.

Eva Miller, 28, from Atlanta claimed to have it all - “looks, voice, presence - everything”. As she was singing “1,000 Miles” by Vanessa Carlton, she slipped and “fell”. When Simon accused her of faking, she pretended to cry. She quickly turned from sad to mad though - when she realized she wasn’t getting a golden ticket, she ripped up the paper she had slipped on and stormed out. Maybe it takes more than just lots of self-confidence to get through.

J.P. Tjelmeland, 20, from AL was back for a second time. Three years ago, he was two seats ahead of Carrie Underwood and they became “audition buddies”. He sang “Me and my Gang” by Rascal Flatts, which FELL flat with the judges. As Simon sarcastically said, “That’ll get people on their feet.” I guess sitting near a past IDOL winner isn’t enough either.

Finally, there was Nathan Hite, 16, from Savannah who might have taught us the biggest lesson. Simon called his singing of “Paralyzer” by Finger 11 a “bedroom audition”. When Nathan asked Simon (not too politely) to explain, Simon said it was like when you close the door to your room and sing to the radio in front of the mirror. In the end, Nathan went home empty-handed and Randy and Paula had to deal with Simon who was not in the best mood after all of Nathan’s back talk.

So, it takes more than luck and confidence to make it to Hollywood and while “attitude” might be helpful, you’d better be sure it’s a good one.

SEVENTH GRADER WILLIAM SMITH SPELLS HIS WAY TO MACON!
Reporting by Chelsea Kim

Lovett’s spelling bee winner this year was 7th grader, William Smith. After winning Lovett’s bee, he headed to Woodward to compete against other Atlanta area winners. Earning a spot in the top ten at Woodward, William then headed to Macon to compete in the state competition where he once again performed well. When asked about the competition to get to the state level, William said, “The competition was tough, and the words were extremely hard!” Great job, William!
THE PAINFUL INCIDENT
by Leslie Espenscheid

It all started with a little cramp. I figured its ok I mean I had run a lot that day. It was nothing unusual. Boy, was I wrong.

I was halfway out of the door ready to go to the Lovett football game when I suddenly cried out: my side hurt so bad that I could hardly move. All I could think about was the pain the excruciating pain. I had to lie down. As I lay down on the sofa I knew something was wrong, but I figured I was just imagining things. My stomach gave a great lurch and I ran to the bathroom. I threw up in the toilet.

That became my routine for a few days, and my mother was worried. She took me to the doctor. My regular pediatrician was out so we had a substitute doctor fill in. She couldn't see anything wrong except that I was very very thin. She therefore sent me to the hospital to get examined for I.V. fluids. When we got there the doctor said he would give me I.V. but he wanted to know why I was that sick. I had to take some tests and go through a scanner, that's when they found out that there was something wrong.

The doctor came into our emergency room and told us that my appendix had ruptured and I was going to have an appendectomy. He said that I was lucky, my appendix had ruptured on Friday and I was just coming to the hospital on Tuesday. If I had waited very much longer I would have had a much more serious hospital visit. As it was I would be fine.

They took me to a room much like a very small hotel room. I had to wait until that night to have my operation. I was worried sick. I knew I needed this operation but I was scared for the moment to come. When the doctors came to take me down to the operation room I almost cried. They took me down to the operation area and my parents had to leave me. They took me to this bright white room, and they changed my I.V. fluid to a drug that would put me to sleep. The last thing I saw was fuzzy tv screens.

I woke up at one o'clock in the morning when they were pushing me back to my room, before I fell asleep I remember saying, “Gatorade, I want an orange Gatorade.” I did have my Gatorade but not until the next morning.

I was ok! I had had the operation and everything was going to be ok, but I still was in pain. They changed my I.V. to a tube that went through my arm into my body. My body hurt, and I screamed about the pain. The doctors were trying to calm me down and I was unaware of the things happening around me. Turns out I had a guest during that time, a youth minister from our church.

When I was ok again and I had calmed down, one of my friends came to see me. She brought me gifts, and I could see she was scared for me. A few of my different friends came to see me, and I want them to know that I am thankful. I still have not found out what caused my incident, but after my appendectomy I feel lucky for everything I had.

Weekly Wisdom

The secret to concentration is the acceptance of endless distractions.
FAREWELL LOVETT LEGENDS

This year, we say farewell to three legends of the middle school, science teachers Becky Spotts, Nancy Walton, and Sara King. These three teachers have almost 90 years combined experience teaching at Lovett, and have touched the lives of well over 6500 students.

We will miss you!