

KAMSC's



STEPS



Halloween Edition 2014

# Table of Contents



Letter from the Editors.....	Page 2
Halloween Book Review.....	Page 3
Halloween Video Game Review.....	Page 3
Halloween Survey.....	Page 5
Funny KAMSC Quotes.....	Page 6
Earthlings Update.....	Page 7
Student Senate Update.....	Page 7
Happenings Around Kalamazoo.....	Page 8
Sports Corner.....	Page 8
KAMSC Teacher Facts.....	Page 9
Tech News.....	Page 11
Dear Grace.....	Page 13
KAMSC Halloween “Horror”scopes.....	Page 14

# Letter From the Editors

Happy Halloween to all! We bring you our second “84 Steps” edition of the school year during one of the most exciting times of the school year: Halloween time! The leaves are turning colors and falling, the jack-o-lanterns are being carved, the costumes purchased, and most importantly the first quarter of school is coming to an end. Our ever-talented staff of KAMSC writers has taken time from their busy school schedules to write humorous, intriguing, and entertaining articles related to a variety of fall and Halloween topics. We pride ourselves in excellent writing and fun articles and this Halloween Edition certainly showcases both of these!

The fall is a very busy time at KAMSC. The beginning of a new school year, high school sports in full blaze, Halloween and fall activities galore. We hope that this edition of “84 Steps” provides a great insight into the bustling, awesome fall and Halloween season our KAMSC students are enjoying currently. If you ever are interested in joining our writing staff, just email us at [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com) and we will add you to our staff right away! We can also be found online at our website: [kamsc84steps.weebly.com](http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com) wherein you will find online articles, website links we enjoy, and a list of our editors and supervisors. Thank you so much for grabbing a copy of our Halloween Edition of “84 Steps”, we hope you enjoy it as much as our KAMSC students love their pumpkin spice lattes and Instagram pictures of fall trees!

Sincerely from Your Editors,

Colby, Miles, and Pete



# Halloween Book Review

Written By Lily Katigawa

Halloween is known for its spooky and eerie sounds. However, unfortunately, beside Halloween, sound is largely ignored. On vacations, tourists visit monuments and sculptures, not empty concert halls and anechoic chambers. Such oversight is not for lack of destinations; sound certainly has multiple landmarks which showcase its quirks and unique abilities. *The Sound Book*, by sound engineer Trevor Cox, takes the time to both outline these astonishing audible wonders and explain the science behind the sound.

The study of sound is often pushed aside until an unwanted noise comes about. Nobody thinks about how the wonderful babbling of a brook is produced, but everybody notices when an auditorium has bad acoustics. As such, prior to Trevor Cox has spent his entire life trying to suppress sounds. In *The Sound Book*, he takes a new approach. Rather than muzzle sound, he describes places all around the globe that highlight its special features and exemplify its importance. In doing so, Cox travels into of study, elucidating how sound relates not only to physics, but also to cognitive science, human anatomy, history, anthropology, and Essentially writing a tour book for what he dubs “the sonic wonders of Cox describes his travels to reverberating chapels (yet an abandoned oil takes the prize for longest reverberation), roads designed to make cars song, ancient pyramids that produce distinct bird chirps, baths said to rob his or her senses, organs that make their music by banging on and the sewers below London that create sounds that can only be spiraling, just to name a few. But, far from spending the entire book acoustic anomalies half a world away, Cox explains why these landmarks create the sounds they do and offers try-it-at-home experiments that recreate the experience. He features the sounds of everyday life, telling readers how a drop of water produces sound, how the echolocation techniques employed by bats is helping blind people navigate, the reason the sand squeaks when one saunters onto the beach, how the absence of sound can make people go mad yet simultaneously be considered music (consider John Cage’s famous composition 4’33”, which is literally 4 minutes and 33 seconds of rests,) and why everybody sounds so amazing singing in the shower. By giving readers the knowledge of the true nature and magnificence of sound, *The Sound Book* challenges readers not only to visit acoustic destinations and discover their own sonic wonders, but also to become overall better listeners.



other realms  
architecture,  
archeology.  
the world,”  
storage tank  
produce  
one of all of  
stalactites,  
described as  
detailing

# Halloween Video Game Review

Written By Sam Canfield

Ever wanted to know what it feels like to be in the “Alien” movies? Ever wanted a game that perfectly encapsulates the atmosphere of a revolutionary film style? Ever wanted to die at the hands of a perfect organism that kills humans for fun? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then *Isolation* is just the game for you. If you only answered yes to the last question, then you may need some form of counseling. If not, then you’d better get used to it: *Isolation* is no one-shot game. Prepare to die. A lot. Usually because the Xenomorph scares its targets into the fetal position, making for easy prey.



For starters, this game is absolutely gorgeous. Creative Arts built a beautiful engine just for this, and every digit of that code was put in place to perfectly recreate the dimly lit, grainy, low-fi Sci-fi feel of all the classic movies. Except for "Alien<sup>3</sup>": we don't talk about that one. Anyways, the modeling is great, it looks pretty good on even the lowest graphics settings; the *people have streaks of sweat* streaming down their faces based on how much they run. The glass and smoke effects look *really* good, and add perfectly to the intense atmosphere. The soundtrack, too, is appropriately spooky. Enough with art, though, this is Halloween: we want horror.

My three main criteria for criticism in games are story, gameplay, and art. I've already touched on art, so onward to other two. In terms of story, this is something so canonically sound that I would feel completely happy with a movie spin-off of this spin-off of a movie. Briefly summarized, it's about Ellen Ripley's daughter, Amanda. She's the protagonist who is (predictably) searching for her lost mother and whatever killed the crew of the *Nostromo*. The other people you come across over the course of the game will help or hunt you, and each with very justified and not "because-the-plot-said-so" reasons for their actions. Although there are a few instances of convenient timing of events or appearances of the Alien, the story is otherwise a rock-solid piece of writing fit for a solitary, deranged king.

The gameplay will either make or break the game, depending on your stomach and tolerance for horror. Not even jumpscare, but horror. *Five Nights at Freddy's* is a scary game, *Slender* is a scary game, but Alien is the only one that instills true fear. It's a kind of Edgar Allan Poe-like atmosphere: dramatic build-up and intensity are scarier than a jumpy flash of light and sound. The sheer fact that this is a video game makes it all worse; you always have that sense of "well, it's the main character, so they're immortal" sense with movies and TV and unless you're watching *Game of Thrones*, that is completely true. But, of course, you can die at any point in a game. I did the first time I saw the Xenomorph. In times since that first encounter, the Alien has gotten more creative and varied in the ways it kills me; usually it has to stab me in the back because I panic and run away. Or it cuts me off by running through air vents. Or it just makes some scary sound and charges while I sit still in my seat, hoping that somehow my real-life silence will factor into the game somehow. It's so unsettling that I have (on multiple occasions) watched several episodes of *Parks and Rec* to calm down afterward. The responsive soundtrack only adds to the movie-like horror; staccatos of violins and the Xenomorph's snarl work together to effectively prevent any form of sleep for the next night or three.

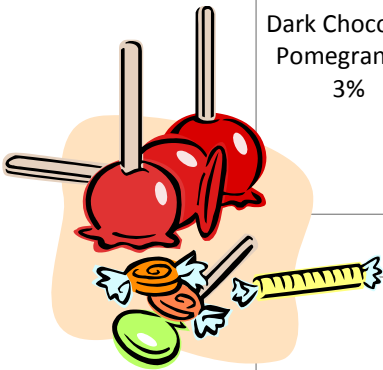
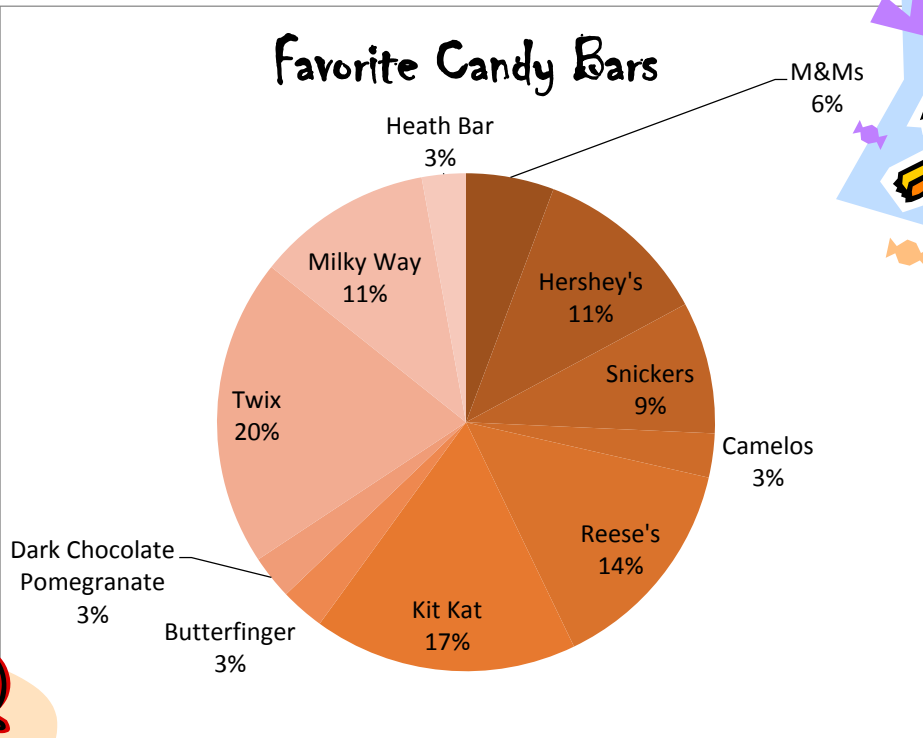
*Alien: Isolation* is a game that is *awesome* in the full sense of the word, which is, according to Merriam-Webster, "causing feelings of fear and wonder." Thank you, Mr. Merriam and Mr. Webster, I couldn't put it better myself. Truly awesome. If there is one thing to take away from this, it's that *Isolation* is the game that captures horror the way that would make Ridley Scott proud. At any rate, if you love horror, the lore and feel of the *Alien* movies, a game that is truly *awesome*, or any combination of these, then do yourself a favor and get *Isolation*.

# KAMSC's Favorite and Least Favorite Candy Bars Survey

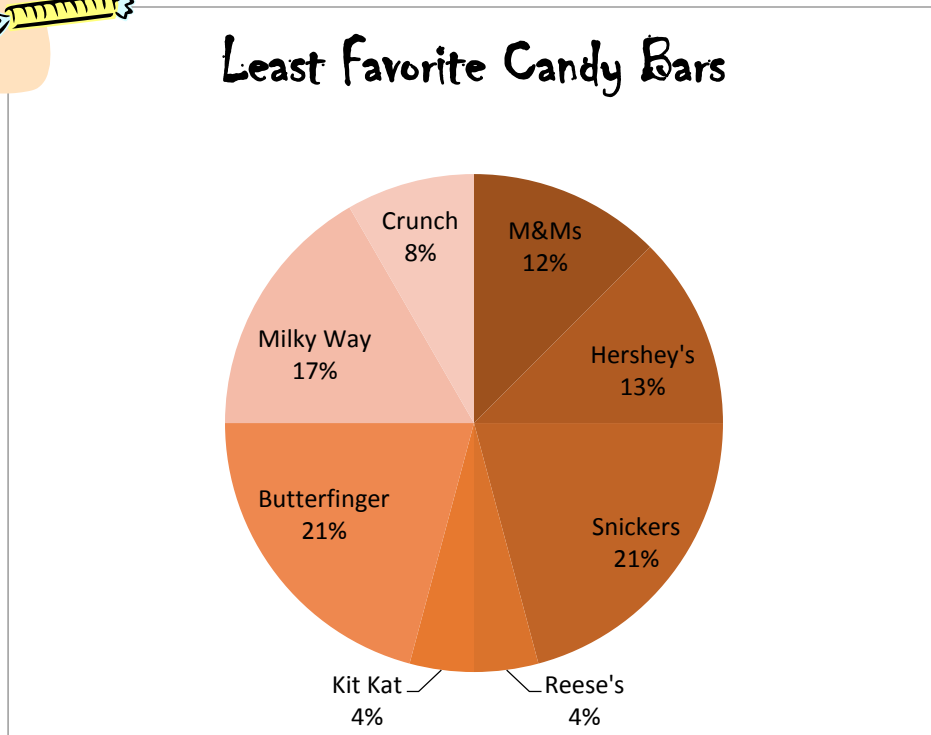
Written By: Aayushi Priya



## Favorite Candy Bars



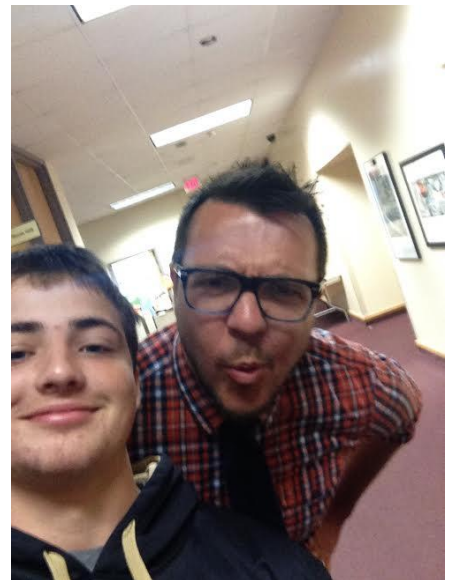
## Least Favorite Candy Bars



# Funny KAMSC Quotes

Written By Boemin Park

- “At this time of year, my priorities go letters of recommendation, juniors, and then the freshmen.” -Mr. Cardwell
- “I would never drop a tomato on someone’s head. Instead, I’d drop a balloon filled with honey, because then the bees would go after you.” –Mr. Sinclair
- “On C Day, it won’t just be my talking because that’d be enough to put anyone to sleep including me.” –Mrs. Kalnins
- “Guys, rock, paper, scissors to see who you get as a lab partner.” “Oh, looks like I’ll have to cut my hand off.” –Ms. Hampton and Vaughn Taylor, Sophomore
- “You KAMSC kids are the ones that are going to start World War III...” –Hannah Teerman, Junior at Portage Northern
- “I love people-watching at Fourth Coast Café. I can just watch the hipsters in their natural habitat.” –Ellie Reid, Senior
- “That sounds like a scream of pain from Mr. Houtrouw’s room!” “That’s odd, if it were from Sinclair I’d just think he got his nurture stick out.” –Michael Tarn, Junior, and Mr. Cardwell
- “For this lab, you’ll have to dance on the tables to get the string up... it’s part of the college preparatory program here at KAMSC!” -Mrs. Kalnins
- “What if KAMSC had sports teams... hahahaha” –Gabby Perrin, Senior
- “Darn it, my mother figured out how to sign up for grade reports over email.” –Connor Sloan, Junior
- “I think I just failed that physics quiz. Awesome.” –Riley Martell, Junior
- “If you ask me a question about something on the test and it turns out that problem was on the homework, then I’ll know you don’t do your homework and that’ll be an awkward situation.” –Mrs. Kalnins
- “I saw a guy with a Mohawk mullet yesterday and I was just like, ‘Dude, your Harley better be intimidating!’” –Mr. Cardwell
- “He’s standing behind me like a father figure.” –Andrew Keene, Junior, looking at his PIV picture of him and Darth Vader
- “Oh gosh! I assaulted a student! I am in so much trouble! I hope you don’t start swelling from that...” -Mr. Houtrouw after throwing candy to a student in his CS class
- “Give me sci-fi film fest or give me death.” –Lyric Kleber
- “I had to get fifteen stitches in my head this morning yet here I am, doing a physics lab...that’s some dedication right there.” –Rachel Torres, Junior
- “Density, you the real  $m/v=p$ .” –Some random Twitter account
- “(Labored breathing.)” –KAMSC kids after climbing up the stairs.



Thank you to Connor Sloan, Junior and Mr. Chopp for the lovely photo!



# Earthlings Update



Written By Simran Singh

The next Earthlings meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, in Ms. Hach's room at 6 pm. We will discuss possible future events such as speakers and a shoe drive for Earth Day (April 22). There is also a possibility of an Earthlings hosted movie night. At the meeting on October 22, we discussed how we will recycle.

# Student Senate Update

Written By Colby Hanley



Exciting things are happening in our KAMSC Student Senate! The beginning of this year has brought many new and classic Senate events. We began our year with a meeting that was packed full of students and free Sweetwater's donuts provided by Student Senate. Since this first meeting we have had a very solid number of students attending our meetings: thank you to everyone who has been attending! We have many things developing currently such as...

- KAMSC Apparel: Once the madness of Class Clash dims down, we will begin having voting forms available for our KAMSC students to vote on their favorite KAMSC crewneck or ¼-zip sweatshirt design (voting between senior students' Kimberly Kwon and Patrick Callahan's designs). Look out for these forms and subsequent order forms for some awesome KAMSC apparel available for all students!
- KAMSC Spirit Week: Our KAMSC Spirit Week is fast-approaching during the week of November 3-7. This is reminiscent of Homecoming Week for other home schools of KAMSC students and it is the week before our Class Clash on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Spirit Days are as follows:
  - Monday: Hat and Pajama Day
  - Tuesday: Fandom Day
  - Wednesday: Disney Day
  - Thursday: Harry Potter Day
  - Friday: KAMSC Spirit/Class Color Day
- \*This year we are having class colors for Clash and these colors are as follows:
  - First Years: Neon Green
  - Sophomores: Neon Pink
  - Juniors: Neon Orange
  - Seniors: White
- KAMSC Class Clash: One of our most exciting events of the year! Class Clash is KAMSC's version of Homecoming. On Saturday November 8 Class Clash will be held from 1:30-4:00 PM in the gym downstairs from KAMSC on the first floor. Events will include Capture-the-Flag, Three-Legged Races, Nerf Sharpshooter, Dodgeball, Tug-of-War, and Scavenger Hunt. All KAMSC kids first years-seniors are



encouraged to come and participate in the games and represent their grade! These events are fun for KAMSC kids of all grades so please come join us!

- KAMSC Class Clash: We also have a Class Clash Dance! This dance will also be held on November 8 from 8:00-11:00 PM. KAMSC students can purchase tickets ahead of time from the KAMSC secretaries for \$8 or for \$10 at the dance and let know Dr. Tanoff know if this ticket pricing is a burden for you and your family and KAMSC can assist in the payment for tickets. \*EXCITING NEWS FOR CLASH DANCE.\* This year's dance has a theme: black lights/neon! There will be many black lights all over the gym in order to give the dance a cool, backlight feel! This is also the reason for class colors being neon: there will be glowsticks given out at the doors of the dance that correlate with each of the grade colors (the seniors will receive yellow glowsticks). Light refreshments will also be available at the dance like water bottles and puppy chow (YUM!). Come and join us for a night of fun and dancing a few hours after we have a great time at the Class Clash events!

## Happenings Around Kalamazoo

Written By Simran Singh



- October 25, 2014 – Campus Classic at WMU
- October 25, 2014 – Jack-O'-Lantern 5K/10K Trail Run in Portage
- October 26, 2014- Halloween for Kids at Bronson Park
- November 1, 2014 – Scholar Scare at WMU
- November 1, 2014- Sunrise Zombie Run at Comstock High School
- November 8, 2014- Class Clash/KAMSC Dance! At KAMSC
- November 16, 2014- Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis in Portage
- November 27, 2014 – Turkey Trot in Portage
- December 4, 2014 – Run Through the Lights in Kalamazoo

## The Sports Corner: Another MSU vs. Michigan Game Not Worth Watching

Written By Jawad Aqeel

Michigan vs. MSU, the battle for the state, and two potential in-state landing destinations for anyone attending KAMSC. This rivalry has become more lopsided every year in football, ever since former running back for Michigan Mike Hart stated that he saw MSU as the little brother of Michigan. What is surprising about this is the fact that their rivalry in basketball has actually heated up as both schools have two of the top basketball programs in the nation. MSU has beat Michigan for the past 4 years, and this year was no different as Michigan was again pounded by MSU in a blow-out game not even fun to watch anymore.

This year, Michigan came into the game with a dismal record of 2-3 and with talk surrounding the school's AD potentially being fired due to his weak relationship with the student body (this because of increased ticket values as the performance of the team has been going down) and because of the mishandling of a recent football game where Michigan put in a QB into a game while he had a concussion. In addition,

there has also been talk about their coach Brady Hoke being fired as the program has become progressively worse under his coaching after he took the reins from Rich Rodriguez. On the flip side, MSU has been a powerhouse team in recent years, winning the BIG 10 Championship a few times and being consistently ranked in the top 25 polls. With the two programs going in the opposite directions the game was bound to be ugly with the result already written in stone.

Despite the difference in talent among the two teams, the game started off well with Michigan hanging in there as they only let MSU score twice, while they also scored a field goal; however off the scoreboard, Michigan was doing terrible with -2 rushing yards at the half and dismal passing stats by quarterback Devin Gardner. After this half, things took a turn for the worse, as Gardner was just hurling terrible passes all over the field. On a game-changing drive he threw a interception, swinging the game in MSU's favor drastically as they scored a pick-six off of this pivotal drive when Michigan was only down 14-3. After this mistake, MSU started clicking on all cylinders. Their passing and running games were working well for them as they were consistently gaining yards on offense. Michigan on the other hand could not gain any yards as Gardner could not accurately throw the ball all day. Due to the differences in the offensive production, MSU took a 28-3 lead. At this point, Michigan just started playing for prides sake and did not settle for any field-goals, going for it on 4<sup>th</sup> down in red-zone territory. Michigan did manage to salvage some points by the end as the final score was 35-11.

Despite Michigan scoring at the end, this game was not pretty by any means. It was painful to watch Michigan on offense as they could not get anything done. Only watching one team perform and the other suffer is never fun, as fans we want our teams to win in the end, but we also want to be thoroughly entertained, which was not the case in this game. Michigan's offense was so bad it sucked all the life out of this game, despite the in-state rivalry the two teams have. The rivalry didn't make the game more competitive, and if MSU keeps dominating like this, it may end up making this rivalry more and more irrelevant.

## Random KAMSC Teacher Facts

Written By Maggie Benjamin

### 1. What was your first pet? What was its name?

**Mr. Sinclair:** A Norwegian elkhound named Lady.

**Ms. Hach:** My first pet was a kitten named....get ready for it.....Tiger that I got when I was four. She lived until I was 23, so she was truly an old cat when she died.

**Mr. Cardwell:** A dog named Max. I don't remember him. I remember a dog named Happy.

### 2. What would your superhero name and power be?

**Mr. Sinclair:** *The Blind Stumbler*; invincibility.

**Ms. Hach:** My name would be Energia and my power would be unlimited energy. I would not have to adhere to the Second Law of Thermodynamics!

**Mr. Cardwell:** I think control over time has to be the power. Mr. Relativity just isn't very catchy, though.

### 3. Have you ever been on TV?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Yes.

**Ms. Hach:** I have been on TV, being interviewed when I passed my National Board certification.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Yes. My family thought it was really cool the first time. After that they thought it was really boring. I probably was.

4. **Do you prefer sunrises or sunsets?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Sunsets.

**Ms. Hach:** Sunrises

**Mr. Cardwell:** Sunsets. More relaxing.

5. **What is your favorite joke?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Knock, knock...

**Ms. Hach:** I can't repeat it for a family-minded periodical, but trust me, it's really funny!

**Mr. Cardwell:** An engineer, a physicist and a mathematician ... it goes on from there. Let's just say the mathematician doesn't fare so well in the end.

6. **Can you ice skate?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Yes.

**Ms. Hach:** I used to skate as a teen.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Yes.

7. **Do you have any little known talents?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Yes.

**Ms. Hach:** I have many talents. Among them is the ability to sweat pipe fittings and wire electricity.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Yes. But I have more "known little talents".

8. **Have you ever sleepwalked?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** No.

**Ms. Hach:** No

**Mr. Cardwell:** I don't think so.

9. **Do you prefer green grapes or red grapes?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Red grapes.

**Ms. Hach:** Red, seedless

**Mr. Cardwell:** Green.

10. **What is your favorite accent?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Scottish.

**Ms. Hach:** Irish

**Mr. Cardwell:** Count Dracula.

11. **Have you ever milked a cow?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Yes.

**Ms. Hach:** I have, but it's harder than you'd think.

**Mr. Cardwell:** No.

**12. What is the best/funniest Halloween costume you can think of?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** The Black Knight from Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

**Ms. Hach:** I like to see men dress up as nuns. For some reason that cracks me up!

**Mr. Cardwell:** I once went with a friend as the Jolly Green Giant and the Little Green Sprout.

**13. What are your plans this year for Halloween?**

**Mr. Sinclair:** Grade papers.

**Ms. Hach:** I plan to get out of town. I hate trick-or-treaters!

**Mr. Cardwell:** Eating all of the Peanut Butter Cups from my daughter who doesn't like them.

## Technology News

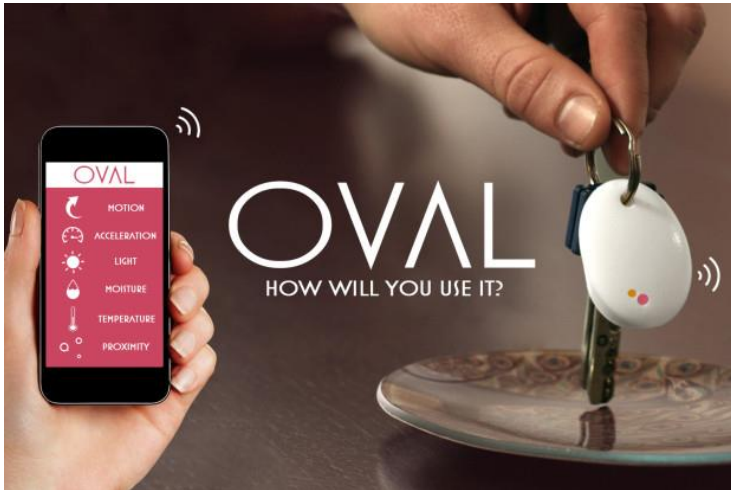
Written By Chang Yang

Having just survived our first month back to school (9<sup>th</sup> graders, it gets better; seniors, only seven months to go), we may all be looking for shortcuts to make our lives much easier. Technology is never one to disappoint—you might buy the following inventions because you need them, but we won't judge if it's just because you *want* one.

The **Livescribe 3 Smartpen** has an infrared camera in its tip. This means that you can take all those class notes and have them automatically transferred to your phone or tablet, a lifesaver for students who lose notebooks and papers often. Your handwriting is recorded and synced into the Livescribe+ mobile app; this app is pretty high-tech, however, and works best with iOS 7 or newer, iPhone 4S or newer, iPad 3<sup>rd</sup> gen. or newer.



Really amazing innovations have been made possible by crowd-funding, and the **OVAL Smart Sensor** is no exception. This small device can detect changes in temperature, proximity, motion, acceleration, light, and even moisture, and includes a location-tracking feature. A versatile invention, the OVAL can be placed on, stuck on, or hung up on things that you want monitored. Not only can it tell you if your sibling's been in your room again, but these features make the OVAL a perfect monitor for any lab experiments you may be conducting for KAMSC.



Every KAMSC student has had a morning where they wake up to their alarm, turn it off, and oversleep, possibly being late for school. That's what makes the creatively-named **Clocky** different from your smartphone alarm—it gives you one chance to wake up by yourself, before taking manners into its own, er, hands. If you try to get five more minutes with the Snooze button, Clocky will roll off your nightstand and wheel around your room, looking for a hiding place while beeping annoyingly at the same time, forcing you to either endure the noise or get out of bed to turn the thing off. (I still haven't decided whether I'd love or hate this product.)



## Dear Grace

Written By Grace Beverage

We all know getting through the school year can be tough, and that some dilemmas need a second opinion. Submit any of your questions, qualms and queries to 'Ask Grace' at [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com) for anonymous & amateur advice. I also accept questions in the form of sealed letters quietly slid across tables, no questions asked.

Dear Grace,

I've developed a bit of a problem over the first month of school, my sleep patterns have become a sporadic mess of late-night studying and social media. Last week the average time I went to bed was one, and I wake up at six. How am I going to get through the rest of this year without taking the sleeping beauty approach to first hour?

Sincerely,

Sleepless in September

Dear Sleepless in September,

While I usually try to stay off the stuff, a nice cup o' Joe can be a nice pick-me-up on truly tired mornings. You can also fit in short 20 minute naps in the afternoon if really needed, just be sure to set an alarm! Other than those two tips, the best thing to do for yourself is to minimize distractions and wasted time so you can hit the hay as quickly as possible each night. When there is no way to avoid sleep deprivation, accept that being awake is really rough sometimes, but it has to be done. Chewing gum, drinking water and tapping your foot can keep you functional in a class you're tempted to sleep through.

Dear Grace,

I'm having an existential crisis. I can't possibly do my career paper this year, I have NO idea what I want to do with my life. I'm only a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and I can't make these decisions right now, I'm definitely not ready to start considering the rest of my life.

Sincerely,

2 Confused 2 Choose

Dear 2 Confused 2 Choose,

There's a reason that Mr. Cardwell and Mrs. Joyce put so much emphasis on this project: they don't want you to be a stressed out senior. The career you pick to research this year won't limit you or create any commitments. If you end up finding that you don't want to pursue the first career you research, that's normal. The point of this exercise is more to work on your interview skills and to give you a bit of guidance that you'll be grateful for in a few more years. Interview a neurosurgeon, an astrologist, or your first grade teacher. The world is your oyster, have fun with it!

Dear Grace,

I'm really stressing out because I'm already struggling in all my classes! I have an hour of homework in each class every night and there isn't enough time to get caught up with my studying. Test and quiz grades have already been low and I'm starting to feel like I'm slipping academically. My lab data never turns out right, I make silly mistakes in math and I'm a chapter behind in readings. How do I shake off this start of the year funk?

Sincerely,

Freaked out in Fall

Dear Freaked out in Fall,

Firstly, take a breath. Fighting through the difficulties of a new school year is always an uphill battle. Allotting each assignment and class specific amounts of work time on should help you pull through the upcoming weeks. However, the painfully honest truth is that not everyone can ace every class, and difficult classes especially have their own difficulties. Talk with your teachers and peers about concepts you're having trouble with and don't feel embarrassed to admit what you don't know. Tough classes are your chance to prove your academic grit, you'll be better in the long run for having stretched yourself. Keep trying and best of luck!

## Halloween KAMSC "Horror" scopes



### **Aries - March 21 - April 19**

In your opinion Halloween is an opportunity to dress as who you wish to be. In your mind you have three costumes prepared. First, as your favorite villain, whether you choose to go as Darth Vader, Voldemort, the Joker, or Cruella DeVille. Second, the future President of the United States wearing the suit you wore every single time you won in Debate. You even go so far as to put propaganda posters in your yard, they fit right in since it is election time! Last, your favorite costume; The Ruler of the World! This is great for you because well, not to brag, but you would *own* that. After carefully stitching a suit made of flags from every country you tell the neighbors that you are dressing as a diplomat. They give you extra candy and look so proud. If only they *knew*.

### **Taurus- April 20 – May 20**

Let your nerd shine as bright as the sun when it reflects off your glasses! So maybe you aren't going trick or treating unless you're accompanying your younger sibling. Watching a Ghost Hunters marathon at home in your sweatpants is *fun*, it's not your fault you're too scared to watch American Horror Story instead. Asylums



are not your jam, unless you want nightmares. But you have a math test tomorrow so you have to go to bed earlier than the kiddos you were stuck handing candy out to.

### **Gemini – May 21 – June 20**

Body paint is amazing, and of course it was a great idea to go as a Smurf! Or the Hulk, or an Oompalooa, or anything with body paint in general! Who cares if you spend two hours in the shower trying to get it off, or that your white sheets are now light blue? It was great and *definitely* tasteful.

### **Cancer- June 21 – July 22**

Every year your costume features a political statement. Last year your whole outfit was made of rainbows, the year before you were homeless desperately pleading for candy, and this year you are protesting against animal cruelty. Bringing your adorable black lab with you, affectionately named Hubble, you make sure to remind anyone who pets it that someone right now is committing animal abuse and that is not okay. Three neighbors in the next month tell you about how they recently adopted from a nearby shelter.

### **Leo – July 23- August 22**

You aren't good with remembering dates therefore it isn't surprising that you didn't remember it was Halloween until you got to school. But there is no way you are missing trick or treating. That leaves you two choices. A ghost or a cat, those were your options last year too. You promised yourself this wasn't going to happen again! But still you take the scissors and make jagged holes in a sheet while your mother glares at you. The neighbors all sigh and look at you, giving you significantly less candy than the kid before you. If only you had a better memory your jack o lantern might be as full as your three year old sister's.

### **Virgo- August 23- September 22**

The best part about Halloween is scaring others and if anyone tells you otherwise they're lying. Your costume repertoire consists of the Scream, Slender man, and a horrifying clown. Although you lurk in the shadows when the young ones walk past you make sure to carefully pick your targets. This year in particular you enlisted your best friend. One of you would walk past a family in a slender man suit into the trees. A minute later your friend would stand at the far end of the streets. Nothing is more satisfying then hearing thirty-something year olds scream very loudly while their children laugh at them.

### **Libra- September 23-October 22**

Everyone has a favorite part about Halloween. With your naturally artistic abilities it's no surprise that your jack o lanterns are beautiful every single year. And every single year some young upstarts who think they are cool because they're 'middle schoolers now' decide to smash your beautiful babies. This year you will get them. Standing guard in the window you carefully watch to see who dares to destroy them this year with a broom clutched tightly in your hand. People think you're quiet, maybe even timid, and you'll prove them wrong. You gave up trick or treating for this and you will have victory. The suspects sneak up to the porch and

just as a foot begins to lift above your pumpkin you rush out the door with a triumphant roar. You chase the sixth graders around the house approximately three times before they promise to never touch your pumpkins again. The next day the young kids who pass you whisper in hushed tones, all you hear is 'the witch'. You smile.

### **Scorpio- October 23-November 21**

Too often you are denied your opportunity to be the princess you know you are. That is what Halloween is for, to let your inner goddess shine! The dim lit street is your runway tonight. Teetering on your heels you elegantly hold out your designer purse to be filled with candy. Dress sparkling a little girl asks you if you are a real princess, modestly you reply that yes in fact you are.

### **Sagittarius- November 22- December 21**

Although you would define yourself as a thrill seeker you weren't exactly keen on the idea of breaking into the nearby abandoned building when your friends brought it up. However, you go along with it, even helping buy spray paint. You last a total of ten minutes before you swear that you see something out of the corner of your eye. Dropping the spray can in your hand you run screaming for your car. Without looking back you don't realize the can broke covering all your friends. It's a good thing you were scared enough to not hear their choice of words before you drove off.

### **Capricorn- December 22- January 19**

Okay, not to brag but your costume is amazing. After raiding the nearby Salvation Army and hitting up Walmart you were ready to take on the dimly lit streets. Yes, for the fifth year in a row you are going as a Grandma. Using your Grandpa's walker you pretend to teeter down the streets. The supposedly nice elderly lady down the street refuses to give you candy. How rude!

### **Aquarius- January 20- February 18**

You had approximately thirteen well thought out costume ideas in May, written down and neatly designed. See, the thing is a month before Halloween you lost all the papers your ideas were on. With school starting everything has been busy. Ever since the eighth grade you decided unless you had a good costume trick or treating wasn't going to happen. So guess where you are? Your couch, seriously considering rejecting that policy because watching *the Shining* is not more fun than getting candy thank you very much!

### **Pisces- February 19- March 20**

You haven't gone trick or treating since the seventh grade. Instead you hand out candy. Others might find that boring but nothing compares to the heart-warming feeling of seeing a baby dressed in a pumpkin costume. Eagerly you smile at the cute baby, your smile stretching even farther when you see the dog leash clutched

tightly in their hand, a wiener dog dressed a hotdog staring up at you. When you coo at the baby you try not to feel hurt when she begins to cry very loudly. Just because you like kids doesn't mean they like you. With a heavy heart you decide to save the kids from the calories by eating a fourth of the candy bag.

# Our Staff

Thank you to Mr. Sinclair (faculty advisor) and Dr. Tanoff (director)!

## Editor-in-Chief:

Colby Hanley



## Assistant Editors:

Pete Schultz



## Junior Editor:

Simran Singh



Miles Pruitt

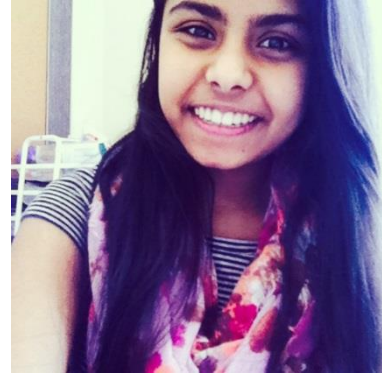


## Writers:

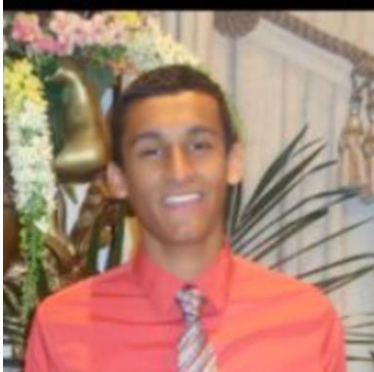
Grace Beverage



Nikita Bhatia



Jawad Aqeel



Aayushi Priya



Lily Krone



## Not Pictured:

Chang Yang, Emma Scheller,  
Lily Katigawa, Sam Canfield