The “Selfie” Craze

By: Amaia Holbrook

Most of us are guilty of this, taking pictures of ourselves at random moments throughout our lives. The world has started to call these “selfies”. The process of taking a “selfie” was introduced in 2002, but did not become really popular until around 2012. But, I bet you did not know that “selfies” can actually be extremely dangerous. Believe it or not, there are people out there that actually take them in the car while driving.

To take a “selfie”, you just flip on the camera and snap a picture that is pointed at yourself. This is dangerous when you are supposed to be focusing on something else, especially driving. Take a look at social media websites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. “Selfies” are everywhere.

According to Selfieblog.com, more than 600,000 people are taking “selfies” in the car while driving. The truth is, people really do not need to see you at a time when safety should be on your mind. This includes when you are at a stop light or stop sign. Also, CNN.com reported, after a search on Twitter, that hundreds of selfies are taken daily. The scariest part, though, was that they are also being taken by drivers of motorcycles, boats, and even planes!

Even celebrities are risking safety for a quick “pic”. Reality star Kendall Jenner posted a “selfie” and commented on her own picture while she was driving her SUV. Following her sister’s risky lead, Kylee Jenner posted her own car “selfie”. This is not setting a good example for their young fans if you ask me.

It seems people everywhere are taking part in this trend. But it’s time for us to ask ourselves if a “selfie” is really worth it. Next time you, or someone you care about start to take a “selfie”, think, “Is this really safe at this time?”

“Teens and adults need to focus on what is safe when on the road, not how pretty they look”

-Mrs. Just

The Department of Transportation reported that more than 3,300 deaths every year are caused by distracted driving.
This new year, 2014, has a lot to offer when it comes to music. This year is going to be the year for pop music. There are some amazing male and female artists on the music scene.

1. Lorde

This female artist was completely unknown until 2013. Then, all of a sudden, this 16 year old from New Zealand became the most popular new artist of the year. When people heard her smash hit "Royals" they went nuts! Kids and adults love her album. Her newest song on the radio is called "Team."

2. Beyonce

In 2014, Beyonce made news with her new album. Everyone listening said it was phenomenal. She was the first one in history to put out a surprise album without promoting it first. She put it on iTunes and let people listen to it for free for one week. Everyone was hooked and that kicked off her success in 2014.

3. Aloe Black

This pop singer was born in Southern California. He started off by learning how to play the trumpet as a kid. He got serious about music once he had to pay for his first trumpet. As a kid, his inspiration was LL Cool J. On the news, he said that all that ever mattered to him was making music! You can hear his new hit song "I'm the Man" on the radio right now.

Other Popular Artists:

1. Pharrell Williams
2. Bruno Mars
3. John Legend
4. Ellie Goulding
When Martin was a little boy, he had two best friends. They were not the same color as him. One day, Martin was going to his friend’s house. When Martin got on the porch, his friend’s mom opened the door and told Martin “you can’t play together anymore.” Martin asked her, “Why?” She said, “We’re white and you’re colored.”

As Martin got older he started to understand why the woman said that to him. Martin started high school when he was only 13. Martin also won a speech contest. He was very smart.

One day, on the way home from school, Martin and his teacher had to give up their seats to white people. Why? They were black. “No,” Martin said. Martin wasn’t afraid, but his teacher looked ready to cry. Martin got up because he didn’t want his teacher to be scared or hurt. He realized what he did was not right.

When Martin was 15 years old, he went to Morehouse college in Atlanta. Martin wanted to be a lawyer. Martin had a very good teacher. He was a good student and a smart kid. He was also a very nice person. So, after college, he went to school in Pennsylvania. He studied to be a minister. He made all A’s, but he still had questions.

Next, Martin studied in Boston. There, he met a girl, her name was Coretta Scott. She was pretty and smart. On their first date, Martin asked her to marry him. You know she said, “Yes”. In 1953 they got married. It was 10 years before his big speech. In 1954 they moved to Montgomery, Alabama.

Martin Luther King, Sr. was born in December of 1899. His real name was Michael King. He was born in Stockbridge, Georgia. In 1926, King started his work to become a minister at the Morehouse school of religion. A minister is a person who leads the people in a church.

King was a member of the Baptist church and decided to become a preacher after seeing how ministers were starting to stand up for racial equality. MLK wanted racial equality. This meant he wanted black and white people to be treated the same and have the same opportunities. He was not assassinated. He died of a heart attack in Atlanta, Georgia.

Martin Luther King Jr. had 3 children named Yoki, Marty, Dexter. Martin Luther King Jr. was born.

In 1962 Black and white people marched in Washington D.C. Martin said “We march for effective civil rights for our children!”

In 1963 Martin gave his most famous speech to a large group of white and black Americans in Washington D.C. He said, “I have a dream that one day all Americans would be equal. Let Freedom ring! One day all of God’s children will join hands and sing “Freedom at last!” Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

In 1964 Martin won the Nobel peace prize. His whole family went to Norway with him to get the prize.
**What is ISTEP anyway?**

By: Alexis Spurrier

Every school year, students in the 3rd through 5th grade take a test called ISTEP. The whole state of Indiana takes the ISTEP test. ISTEP is a big test for kids. It is given in two sessions, one with writing and one multiple choice. The questions focus on math, reading, writing, social studies, and science. Writing is my favorite subject. What is your favorite subject on the ISTEP test?

I like ISTEP. Some kids think ISTEP is hard and some think it is easy. Is ISTEP hard or easy for you? I think ISTEP is easy and hard for me, depending on what subject it is. Kids do struggle on ISTEP sometimes. They may be nervous even though they know what they need to know. Other kids don’t struggle at all. I know that it is good to be a little nervous. If you have paid attention in class and asked for help along the way, you will probably be okay.

The point of ISTEP is to find out how much students have learned from their teachers and also how much they have participated in learning at school. ISTEP is a very serious test and if someone misses school they may have to take two sessions a day. It may be a long ISTEP session. Make-up tests mean a long and tiring day of all testing. So, the point is, always come to school! If you do not come every day you can miss very important things!

Our next ISTEP test comes in May. Now you know how important it is. Make sure you are working hard every day and coming to school every day! Good Luck!

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**Stop Bullying!!!**

By: Brooklyn Brown

I think bullying is a horrible sight. It can hurt people and their feelings really bad. They might wish they weren’t around any people at all. Bullying includes mean actions like name-calling, hitting, spreading rumors, and other actions that can make other people be sad or scared.

Have you ever heard of the Rachel’s Challenge? Rachel was a girl who was being bullied and had no friends. During lunch, she sat outside of the school by herself. One day something happened outside and she was badly hurt because of where she was eating.

Would you want that to happen to you or someone you love? If you ever see someone being bullied, or if you’re the one being bullied, do something about it. Take a stand, get an adult to help, and do not let it happen again.

If you find yourself being a bully that’s out there, put yourself in their shoes and try to see how it feels. It doesn’t feel good at all and you will end up in a big amount of trouble. I know I have bullied once or twice and I’ve seen how it feels. We made up and now we’re friends. It will never happen again.

Bullying is never right. Just because something bad has happened or is happening in your life, you cannot take it out on other people. Never make someone feel bad just because of you. Now just take a moment and think about it. Please don’t bully it’s not right at all. Please help stop the bullying and take a stand.
Survey Says...

By: Lilly Carkuff

Hi, I am Lilly! I conducted a survey of 24 fifth grade students to find out who prefers tanks or turtlenecks. In other words, who wants it to stay cold and who wants it to become warm? These are the results of the survey!

Facts

Hey girls! Did that little bit of warmer weather leave you standing in your closet wondering, “What am I going to wear?” Well, no need to worry, the fashion killer, Lilly, is here to help! She found ten great fashion trends for Spring 2014.

- floral prints
- flowy tops and maxis
- crop tops and tanks
- graphic tee
- neon skinny jeans
- animal cases for phones
- army green
- Keds
- sporty tops and tees
- flannel shirts

“I got these trends from the websites of Justice, Aeropostale, and Abercrombie.” -Lilly
**Cousin Terio**

By: Lance Hardin

Terio is a young rapper and dancer that can be found on Google and YouTube. He became famous for making videos of himself singing and other things. His cousin started putting his videos on Vines.com, a website where people post short, funny videos. His nickname is “Cousin Terio” and he is only six years old. Terio has gotten so popular that he got to meet NBA players Dwayne Wade and Lebron James.

**X-Plane.com**

By: Will Carkuff

X-plane is a flight simulator and game found on x-plane.com. If this sounds interesting to you, the X-plane 10 game has a free demo version and a $60.00 full version available on the website. It is a game where you can fly planes like 747-400 Cessna. There are 40 different jets. There are big jets, fast jets, small jets, and weird looking jets.

When playing, you fly around different things. There are buildings, cars, and offices. There are small buildings, big buildings, skyscrapers, wide cars, big cars, buses, bigger buses, and even double-decker buses. Any kind of person may like this flying game. There are bigger, more difficult jets for adults to fly, and smaller, easier jets for kids to fly. All kinds of people can have fun on this website.

**Sweet Facts About Skittles!**

By: Cody Burgess

One of the most popular candies around is known as Skittles. You probably know them by their slogan,” Taste the Rainbow!” When Skittles first came out in the United States, they came in five flavors. The flavors were orange, Lemon, Lime grape and strawberry. Beginning in 1982, skittles were manufactured in the United States.

Today there are more varieties of skittles that have been introduced. Tropical Skittles come with flavors like banana, kiwi, mango. Wild Berry Skittles come with raspberry, wild berry, and strawberry flavors. There are also Sour Skittles that come with sour versions of the flavors lemon, orange, grape, and green apple.

Skittles are made from ingredients like sugar, corn syrup, oil, Less than 2 percent of citric acid, modified corn starch and other natural and artificial flavors. Right now they are made in America by the Wrigley Jr. company.

**Here is a list of all of the versions:**
Original, Sour, Dark Side, Wild Berry, Tropical, Smoothie, Chocolate Mix, Ice cream, Crazy Cores, Blenders.
Hi, my name is Shawon. I am going to tell you about the new WWE Network on television. This is a channel that is going to mean a big future for the WWE and the fans of WWE. This new network will give kids and grown-ups a new, better, way to watch some of the biggest matches in WWE history.

In the past, when I wanted to watch the big WWE fights on TV, my parents or grandparents would have to pay a lot of money to order the show. Now that there is going to be a WWE network, people can buy a subscription to the channel all month long for only $9.99 a month. This is cheaper and also means you can get to see all the big matches without ordering them every time.

The next big show is going to be in New Orleans. It is called Wrestlemania 30. I heard that it will be hosted by Hulk Hogan. If you like the WWE or are curious about it, you can watch this big show on the new WWE Network!