

KAMSC's

84

steps

Halloween 2013



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## Letter from the Editors

Prepare yourselves for the first-ever Halloween Edition of *.84 Steps*. We've had fun putting a spooky twist here and there, but don't worry – it's safe enough to read even after the sun goes down. Enjoy some hair-raising Horrorscopes and terrifying Top Ten Lists. Sing along with spine-tingling song parodies. Read bone-chilling reviews. Learn some not-so-frightening facts about our KAMSC teachers. Catch up on what's been happening in Student Senate, Cricket, and Earthlings.

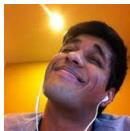
*.84 Steps* plans to bring you a mix of print and online publications this year. The print publications will be the traditional Fall, Winter, and Spring Editions. All of our publications can be found at [www.kamsc84steps.weebly.com](http://www.kamsc84steps.weebly.com). As always, new writers are welcome – just email [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com)!

Happy Halloween!

Your Editors,  
Genevieve Sertic, Humza Mirza, and Dhara Patel



# A KAMSC Horror Story



Humza Khan

Suspense

I drove home as fast as possible that day and almost got into an accident, twice. As soon as I arrived, I stormed upstairs and immediately began. It was October 31<sup>st</sup>, and I had nine hours to start and finish college applications. Luckily, I had already asked for letters of recommendation, sent my transcripts, and sent my test scores. I wasn't starting all the way from square one, but there was a substantial amount left to do.

I had gone downstairs to grab a bottle of Mountain Dew. It had been an hour since I began, and I had two sentences of an essay completed. Writer's block has always been my worst enemy. After about another half an hour, I found myself on a roll. I completed my first essay at 4:30 PM. Seven and a half hours to go. I cranked out three more essays within the next three hours. Only two more left to go. Just then, I received a text from a friend, "hey u study 4 the physics test yet" and had a panic attack. Physics and I didn't quite get along, so I had no other choice but to study for it.

Normally, I'm able to concentrate really well when studying. But right now, in my darkest hour, my mind was all over the place. I spent at least an hour goofing off when I had to study *and* finish my college applications. Over time, I was able to settle down and focus on physics. By the time I finished, the clock read 7:30 PM. I wasted three precious hours doing nothing, and I only had four and a half hours left to go.



I didn't feel like doing anything, but I found myself in what others would call "The Zone." Nothing could stop me, as I was again on a roll. I started to write about homework in one of the essays, which reminded me that I had math homework to do! Just as I was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, it quickly went away. Applications took priority over math homework, since I could stay awake after twelve to do the latter.

The last few essays were the hardest, so they took me longer. By the time I was finished it was 11 PM. It didn't take me long to finish the rest of the applications, and I was done by 11:59 PM. In a rush, I hit submit. Finally, the nightmare was over and I could live normally. I went downstairs to grab a bite to eat, as I hadn't eaten since I came home. When I got back upstairs, I decided to look at the applications one last time, like a victory lap.

I had spelled my name wrong.

# Top 10 Things That Scare KAMSC Students



Jori Gelbaugh

Top Ten

10. Lab practicals – you haven't experienced last minute cram-session panic until you've gone to KAMSC on a lab practical day.
9. When your calculator dies!
8. Syntax errors – ain't nobody got time for that!
7. Free time – it's just unnatural.
6. Our backpacks – because they typically weigh more than we do.
5. Stupid questions – there's no better waste of precious class time; not that I would know anything about that.
4. "Bad" grades – because anything below an "A" is just terrifying.
3. Looking up Pinnacle grades – what's even scarier is your parents' reaction.
2. Physical work – doesn't climbing up 84 steps count as a workout?
1. Having to miss KAMSC because of sending school requirements – not socializing with KAMSC kids all day? If that doesn't give you nightmares, nothing will!

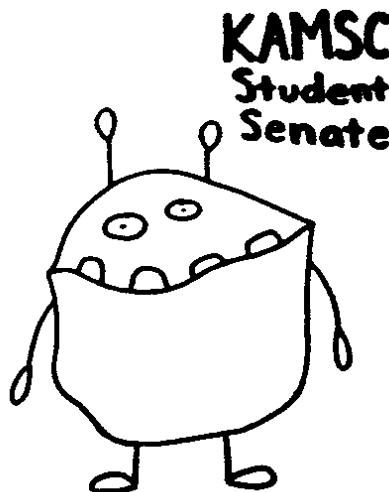


# Where's Blarto? Scramble Challenge



Genevieve Sertic

Puzzles



Meet Blarto, the new mascot for KAMSC's Student Senate. This rotund creature is the basis of our *84 Steps* Halloween Edition's puzzle challenge.

When you see Blarto's handsome face on a page, look for the word that is in a different font from the others and make a note of it. Like this. (Except that one doesn't count.) Find the word in a different font on all of the pages upon which Blarto appears. Unscramble the words to come up with a familiar sentence. Email your entry to [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com) with "Blarto Challenge" in the subject line, along with your name and year, by November 6. Your name will be entered in a raffle. Good luck!

Read on to learn more about Blarto from Student Senate's Boemin Park!

# Blarto Mythos

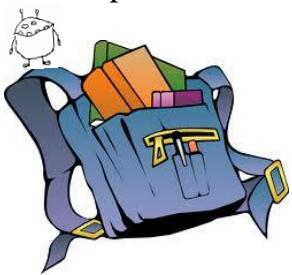


Boemin Park

## Student Senate

The exact origins of Blarto aren't known, but rumor has it that Blarto just bounced his way into the entrance of Vine Street one day and went up the 84 steps to KAMSC by hitchhiking on the backpack of a KAMSC student. Fearing loud noises and getting stepped upon, Blarto quickly ran away from the masses of people and scurried into one of the open classrooms, which happened to be Mr. Chopp's room. Blarto was just about to hop into a cage but a really weird, long thing came up and hissed at him, so he ran away into another room – Mr. Sinclair's. Tired from the excitement he had already undergone, he snuggled up in the pocket of Mr. Sinclair's lab coat and decided to take a long nap. Hours later, Mr. Sinclair was helping Sam and Tom during the KAMSC Student Senate meeting and was looking for a pen in his lab coat pocket. Blarto, who didn't like the random hand intruding on his nap, bit Mr. Sinclair and hopped out of his pocket. Because it would be very bad if KAMSC had random critters running around all over the place, Sam quickly ran after him and caught him. Tom, being the super genius he is and knowing how to speak Blartanian, Blarto's native language, talked to Blarto and invited him to the KAMSC Student Senate family. Blarto happily accepted, knowing that he would lead a happy life in Mr. Sinclair's room.

Blarto and the KAMSC students get along with each other fairly well, except when Blarto is hungry and eats the students' pencils and calculators. Blarto is exceptionally talented at making graphs, baking cupcakes, and break-dancing. In his free time, he likes to knit scarves and take naps. Blarto is not always the cuddliest character (when grumpy, he bites fingers and shreds worksheets), but deep down, he is one of the most loyal friends that a KAMSC kid could ever make. He's always there to help students pull through all-nighters, get over a poor test grade, and make it all the way up 84 steps. I hope everyone welcomes Blarto to KAMSC.



# Spooky Halloween Facts



Chang Yang

Halloweeno

- ❖ The fear of Halloween is *samhainophobia*.

❖ Jack-o'-lanterns originated from the Irish myth of "Stingy Jack." He continually tricked the Devil in life, and when he died, neither Heaven nor Hell wanted him. He was then forced to haunt the earth with a coal from the Devil to light the way.



- ❖ Jack-o'-lanterns were also originally turnips.

- ❖ A town called Hell, Michigan, has a Halloween store open all year. Ironically, Hell also has an excellent ice cream parlor.

- ❖ The Michael Myers mask from the movie "Halloween" is actually William Shatner's face. The movie was on such a limited budget that they purchased a Captain Kirk mask for \$1.98 and did cosmetic modifications for the Michael Myers character.



- ❖ Halloween costumes originate from the Celtic tradition where townspeople disguised themselves as demons and spirits, allowing them to escape the notice of real spirits walking the streets on Halloween.

- ❖ Many animal shelters in the USA ban black cat adoptions in the month of October, as the cats are often used as costume props (or even sacrifices), then abandoned after Halloween is over.

- ❖ Trick-or-treating originated from early All Souls' Day parades, where beggars would receive "soul cakes" from each house. In return they would pray for the family's dead relatives.

- ❖ In Belleville, Illinois, trick-or-treating for kids over the age of 12 is illegal. Teens trick-or-treating may have to pay fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.



# “Best Song Ever” by One Direction (KAMSC Twist)

Maybe it's the way she codes,  
Java, C++ and Python.  
She's also good at calculus,  
Just like Leibniz and Newton.  
I said, “Do you want to study with me?”  
She said, “Sure dude, lol, why not?”

Then we did our calc homework together.  
We knew every limit, now I can't remember  
How to integrate, but deriving's still easy.  
Now Milka's gotta keep teaching this forever.

I think I failed the Thursday quiz.  
I probably bombed the Monday test.  
Another test? Ohhhhhh... oh oh oh oh.

Asked what's going on in physics,  
Cuz she's been gone for days.  
Told her there is an exam,  
But she didn't freak like I did.  
I said, “Do you even know the history?”  
She said, “Yeah, duh, it's so easy.”

Then we did physics homework together.  
She knew how to find the force between us,  
Cuz she fell in love with how I remember  
How to format the physics lab reports.

I think I told her the wrong format.  
She's going to be so, so mad.  
She broke up with me ohhhhhhhhhh, oh oh oh oh.

You know, I make mistakes sometimes in life,  
And I know, you are, forgiving please forgive me.  
And you know, I love the way you do your coding,  
And I know, you know, we make the best team for EMU... EMU... (1, 2, 1, 2, 3)

EMU here we come with the best team ever.  
Our every line is so efficient  
But she's still a little mad about the physics lab report,  
So she betrayed me and went to another guy and his team,  
And I was left in the dust now I am so sad,  
So I quit coding, and did chemistry instead.  
Now this is not my forte, so I have to find a new partner.  
Oh, I guess it's another girl, and the story repeats...



Ansh Chaudhary

Song Parody

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$$



# Dear Katherine

Do you have issues? A secret that's burning you up inside?  
Send your questions to [kamsc84steps@yahoo.com](mailto:kamsc84steps@yahoo.com) to get them answered anonymously!

*Dear Katherine,*

*I heard about the tutor program at KAMSC, and I'm not really sure whether I want to be tutored or be a tutor. I want to help others, but I am not the strongest student at KAMSC. Which do I choose?*

*-Insecuritutee*

*Dear Insecuritutee,*

You can be both a tutor and a tutee! Ha ha, "tutee." But seriously, we all have strengths and weaknesses. You probably have subjects at which you excel and in which other students need help, and vice versa. It's great that you want to help! See Ms. Joyce to sign up, and if you have any other questions.

*Dear Katherine,*

*I don't understand the KAMSC spirit week dress-up days! "Man Candy Monday"? What the heck!? Why can't we have normal dress up days!!? Why doesn't Student Senate pick days that my friends and I want!?*

*-Miss represented*

*Dear Miss represented,*

Quit being such a Debbie-downer. KAMSC students are not "normal," so don't expect the spirit week days to be anything less than strange. The dress-up days are open



**by Katherine Wu**

to interpretation so, for example, on Man Candy Monday, you could come as a giant man of Snickers. Alternatively, you could dress up as everybody's dream guy. Dazzle everyone! Also, if you're feeling like Student Senate isn't listening to your ideas, question yourself: do you show up at the meetings and events regularly? Do you pitch your own ideas, and encourage your friends who have the same ideas to join? Do you want to run for office to get your ideas heard? It's great to want your voice heard, but make sure you're taking action, not just complaining.

*Dear Katherine,*

*I think I can see the future! Every night before a physics test, I dream that I'm going to fail. Then I always do actually fulfill my destiny and fail the tests!*

*-That's So Physics Student*

*Dear That's So Physics Student,*

I'm not so sure about your fortune telling abilities. Are you sure you're not just psyching yourself out? Try staying positive, and go to bed early the night before the test. Don't eat anything too crazy before sleeping. Maybe you should think about joining the KAMSC tutoring program, too! There's nothing wrong with needing a little help. Good luck.

# Halloween Music Reviews



Colby Hanley

Music

Halloween spirit is in the air! It's time for fall clichés galore! Time for sweaters, apple cider, costumes, corn mazes, and of course, some epic, creepy Halloween playlists! Whether you're trick-or-treating with your too-old-for-this-activity group of teenage friends, programming a Halloween-themed USACO program in your bedroom alone whilst eating handfuls upon handfuls of candy corn, or you are getting dressed up in one of many nerdy Halloween costume options and going to a Halloween party with all of your closest KAMSC friends, here is some awesome and creepy Halloween music for whatever you're doing this Halloween season! This edition of Music Reviews will be less of a good/bad review of current music, and more of a suggestion of amazing music for everyone's Halloween festivities!

- **"Thriller" by Michael Jackson**

What is more Halloween-themed than "Thriller"? Just Google the music video. Michael Jackson dancing with zombie/undead/creepy creatures in a dark alley of some sort singing about "Thriller"? It doesn't get more cliché Halloween than this song so, yes, this song should be on everyone's Halloween playlist until, well, eternity.



- **"R U Mine?" by Arctic Monkeys**



Unless you listen to alternative rock, you have probably never heard of Arctic Monkeys. They're an alternative rock band from England, and all of their music has a nice creepy, spooky, off-beat vibe to it. "R U Mine?" is, essentially, a love song of sorts, but it's perfect for Halloween because of its vibe. Just listening to the song makes you feel like you're listening within a

creepy, dark alley in the streets of London. This song is an automatic on my personal playlists, and it should definitely make it onto everyone's Halloween playlists; it doesn't get spookier than Arctic Monkeys, just take my word for it.

- Anything from “Rocky Horror Picture Show”



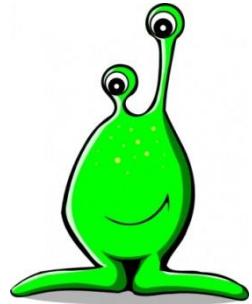
If you haven't seen this movie/play, you've committed a crime. This movie and play is a Halloween classic: spooky, funny, goofy, and it has an AMAZING soundtrack. So, no, I didn't pick a specific song from this soundtrack, because they all fit. No matter where you are on October 31, 2013, you need to listen to a little “Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

- “Disturbia” by Rihanna

Remember middle school? Well that's when this song was released, so here's a little blast from the past for all of us! Rihanna has never gone out of style, and neither has “Disturbia.” It is still as spooky as ever and great for dancing and having fun! So this is certainly a top pick for teenage Halloween playlists everywhere.

- “E.T.” by Katy Perry

As a teenage girl, I had to shout-out along with Katy Perry. This song is a classic for many of us, once again from our middle school years. This song is super galactic and spooky and definitely a must-have for any playlist meant for some good dancing and parties on Halloween!



- “Hands in the Air” by Miley Cyrus

How could we leave off a little Miley Cyrus? Nothing gets creepier than Miley Cyrus with her hair in little blonde buns wearing a flesh-colored swimsuit dancing on stage at the VMA's with background-dancer bears. So, one of her songs needed to be included. This song is going to be better for Halloween parties as opposed to trick-or-treating or late-night studying. It's got a slower, slightly creepy air to it and it's just perfect for a little dancing and having fun on Halloween, which is what we should all be doing that night!



# Halloween Fun Facts about KAMSC Teachers



Aayushi Priya

**Survey**

I surveyed KAMSC teachers with various questions about Halloween. Thanks to all of them for their time! Here are the questions and their replies:

1. What was your favorite Halloween costume that you wore as a kid?

**Ms. Kalnins:** Pippi Longstocking. I had two braids and I ran wires through them so that I could have them stick out from the side of my head—just like Pippi!

**Mr. Chopp:** Teen Wolf.

**Mr. Cardwell:** As a kid, I have no idea. As a college-age person, I was the Jolly Green Giant and a friend who was just a tad over five feet tall was the Little Green Sprout. We were painted entirely green. If only I could have figured out a way to simulate having big ears...

**Mr. Sinclair:** The Mummy. Definitely.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** I had this ghoulish mask that fits over my whole head, black hair, etc. I used to love to scare small children with it. I still have it and yes, I still love scaring kids with it.

**Ms. Hach:** I don't really remember a favorite costume....it just wasn't a big deal then....but I think I was Cinderella once!

**Ms. Hampton:** My most memorable costume was a Ghost Bunny.

2. What is your favorite Halloween candy?

**Ms. Kalnins:** Heath Bars.



**Mr. Chopp:** Apples. They don't rot your teeth, they keep the doctor away, and they are in season.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, OF COURSE!!!

**Mr. Sinclair:** Snickers bars...and not the fake little ones; the real ones!

**Mr. Houtrouw:** Snickers, Tootsie Rolls, 3 Musketeers, Milky Way, Butterfingers...

**Ms. Hach:** Butterfinger bars.

**Ms. Hampton:** Twizzlers.

**Mr. Alshehri:** M&M's and Snickers.



3. What is your favorite horror movie?

**Ms. Kalnins:** *Poltergeist*—it was so over the top that I laughed through most of the movie. The steak crawling across the kitchen counter was ridiculous. I really don't like horror movies.

**Mr. Chopp:** *Psycho* by Alfred Hitchcock.

**Mr. Cardwell:** *The Shining*.

**Mr. Sinclair:** *The Cabin in the Woods*. I wanted the merman.

**Mr. Houtrouw:** Don't know if I have a favorite, but the movie that kept me for years from going into dark basements and cellars was the original *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* (1973, I was eleven at the time). That one still gives me the heebie-jeebies!

**Ms. Hach:** *The Exorcist* or *The Omen*.

**Ms. Hampton:** I don't really like horror films, because they scare me!

**Mr. Alshehri:** I avoid horror movies.

4. What do you fear most?

**Ms. Kalnins:** Large piles of ungraded papers.



**Mr. Chopp:** Phobophobia.

**Mr. Cardwell:** Students who procrastinate? ... or maybe some sort of perpetual grading purgatory.

**Mr. Sinclair:** I'm not particularly afraid of anything. I personally don't like idiots, snakes, or both (i.e., politicians).

**Mr. Houtrouw:** Apples with razorblades.

**Ms. Hach:** I don't fear dead people at all; it's the live ones that terrify me!

**Ms. Hampton:** Those horror movies that are based upon real-life events (i.e. Amityville Horror).

**Mr. Alshehri:** Zombies.



5. Would you rather be a ghost, vampire, werewolf, or witch?

Why?

**Ms. Kalnins:** Witch, so I would have the ability to place spells on people. I would also have the ability to place a spell on the ungraded papers so they would grade themselves.

**Mr. Chopp:** Not a vampire because of blood borne pathogens. I would like to be accused of being a witch even though I'm just a biology teacher. Like on Monty Python. (Please see the next page for an adapted version of a scene from Monty Python that Mr. Chopp wrote for KAMSC.)



**Mr. Cardwell:** Shadowhunter, because we Nephilim get to interact with ALL of those Downworlders and we can see all of the cool stuff.

**Ms. Sinclair:** Darth Vader...or a werewolf. Because they're both bad!

**Mr. Houtrouw:** Those are all boring. I'd rather *be* a fighting Urak-hai for Saruman!

**Ms. Hach:** I'd rather be a witch! I'm more than halfway there already!

[Ed. Note: We agree with you if you are talking about the kind of accomplished and capable witches found in Harry Potter, Ms. Hach!]

**Ms. Hampton:** I would rather be a happy spirit (ghost)! First of all, vampires cannot enjoy the sunshine and they cannot truly rest. In addition to that, they drink blood. Oh my goodness, that's gross! Werewolves undergo too many transformations (i.e. between human and dog) and it looks painful on television! Witches call on too many gods and they always seek revenge!



# Monty Python Witch Scene Script

(adapted for KAMSC by Mr. Chopp)

**Cast:**

**Dr. Tanoff**

**(King) King is Arthur, King of the Britains!**

**(W) 'Witch' is Mr. Chopp**

**(P1,P2,P3) Peasants one (Mr. Cardwell), two (Mr. Milka) and three (Mrs. Kalnins)**

**Peasants:** We have found a witch! (A witch! a witch!) Burn him burn him!

**Peasant 1:** We have found a witch, may we burn him? (cheers)

**Dr. Tanoff:** How do you know he is a witch?

**P2:** He looks like one!

**Dr. Tanoff:** Bring him forward. (advances)

**Mr. Chopp:** I'm not a witch! I'm not a witch!

**Dr. Tanoff:** Ehh... but you are dressed like one.

**Mr. Chopp:** They dressed me up like this!

**All:** Naah no we didn't... no.

**Mr. Chopp:** And this isn't my nose, it's a false one. (**Dr. Tanoff** lifts up carrot)

**Dr. Tanoff:** Well?

**P1:** Well we did do the nose.

**Dr. Tanoff:** The nose?

**P1:** ...and the hat, but he is a witch! (**All:** yeah, burn him burn him!)

**Dr. Tanoff:** Did you dress him up like this?

**P1:** No! Yes. A bit (a bit bit a bit) But he has got a wart! (**P3** points at wart)

**Dr. Tanoff:** What makes you think he is a witch?

**P2:** Well, he turned me into a newt!

**Dr. Tanoff:** A newt?! (**P2** pauses & looks around)

**P2:** I got better. (pause)

**P3:** Burn him anyway! (burn him burn him burn!) (**King** walks in)

**Dr. Tanoff:** There are ways of telling whether he is a witch.

**P1:** Are there? Well then tell us! (tell us)

**Dr. Tanoff:** Tell me... what do you do with witches?



**P3:** Burn'em! Burn them up! (burn burn burn)

**Dr. Tanoff:** What do you burn apart from witches?

**P1:** More witches! (**P2** nudges **P1**) (pause)

**P3:** Wood!

**Dr. Tanoff:** So, why do witches burn? (long pause)

**P2:** Cuz they're made of... wood?

**Dr. Tanoff:** Gooood. (crowd congratulates **P2**)

**Dr. Tanoff:** So, how do we tell if he is made of wood?

**P1:** Build a bridge out of him!

**Dr. Tanoff:** Ahh, but can you not also make bridges out of stone?

**P1:** Oh yeah...

**Dr. Tanoff:** Does wood sink in water?

**P1:** No.

**P3:** No. It floats!

**P1:** Let's throw him into the bog! (yeah yeah ya!)

**Dr. Tanoff:** What also floats in water?

**P1:** Bread.

**P3:** Apples.

**P2:** Very small rocks.

(**Dr. Tanoff** looks annoyed)

**P1:** Cider.

**P3:** Grape gravy.

**P1:** Cherries.

**P3:** Mud.

**King:** A Duck!

(**All** look and stare at **King**)

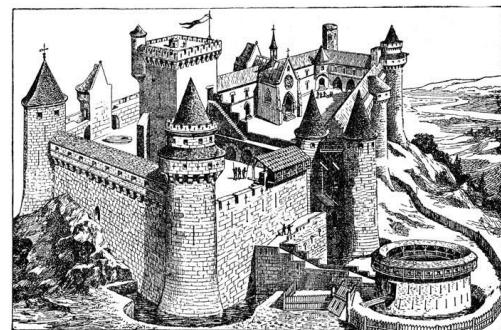
**Dr. Tanoff:** Exactly! So, logically...

**P1**(thinking): If he weighs the same as a duck... he is made of wood!

**Dr. Tanoff:** And therefore... (pauses & thinks)

**P3:** A witch! (**P1:** a witch) (**P2:** a witch) (**All:** a witch!)

**Dr. Tanoff:** We shall use my largest scales.



# Book Review: *Chike and the River*



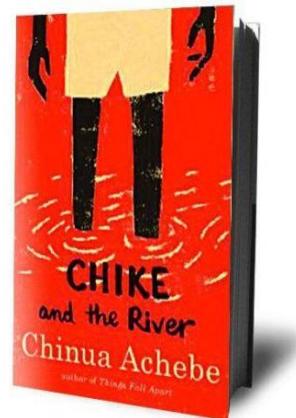
Humza Mirza  
**Literature**

In this short novel, *Chike*, a young Nigerian boy, chronicles his way through a story of wits and African culture. Chinua Achebe, best known for his novel, *Things Fall Apart*, describes the life of a young Nigerian boy who takes advantage of his English pen pals, discovers Western nursery rhymes, and helps to save the day for his village. Although a simple tale of trickery and adventure at first glance, the novel expresses the mature themes that intelligent KAMSC readers will easily grasp.

The novel is a quick read. With a mere 96 pages, the avid reader can tackle the text in an hour or less. Achebe is known for his cultural novels that help readers understand postcolonial as well as pre-colonial African culture while putting emphasis on the specific culture of the geographic setting. Chinua Achebe is also an artist, seeing as how he simultaneously utilizes a storyline to help guide the reader through his many endeavors.

Although this novel is short, it goes through numerous mature themes. By drawing emphasis to American nursery rhymes and sayings, the book, when read by an older audience, presents a very different message. The novel can be compared to a fable, teaching a valuable life lesson at the end of the story, but at the same time to say that the book merely intends to teach is an understatement. Chinua is an excellent writer

and uses his linguistic skills to create a piece of art; the pages fly by one after another as you smile at the little illustrations. At the same time, Chinua has integrated the mature themes of jurisprudence and the significance of “nursery rhymes”, complex topics that few younger readers would understand.



If you have read any of Chinua’s works before, this novel is a definite read. It’s a rewarding read and allows you to breeze through the pages due to its simplistic nature. However, it is also important to realize that Chinua is one of Africa’s best novelists. As many know, novelists developed out of the British education system; the main form of writing in Africa is poetry and intricate stories described in parables. Chinua integrates the cultural writing style with the British formal writing patterns through all of his works.

Whether or not you’ve heard of Achebe’s works, after you read *Chike and the River*, Chinua Achebe will likely be your new favorite pseudo-novelist. Due to his artistic descriptions, vivid storyline, and his complex themes through simplicity, every KAMSC student should take the opportunity to skim through some of Achebe’s work.

# Technology News



Kitu Komya

Technology

Undoubtedly, technology has brought great advances.

We're now at the point where we realize that technology is becoming more of a necessity than an enhancement every day. Assembled below are sweet gadgets that are sure to rock your world.

**3Doodler (\$75 and up)**

[the3doodler.com](http://the3doodler.com)



This 3D Printing pen allows you to draw your creations in air as a plastic creation forms...bringing your artistic abilities to a whole new dimension!

**LG Mini Mobile Printer (\$150)**

[lg.com](http://lg.com)



The pocket-sized printer connects to your phone to print your photos right from your phone! How dandy...go Android!

**Freedom 2000 Charging Case (\$80)**

[mycharge.com](http://mycharge.com)



Available in six colors, this phone case charges your iPhone with twice its battery power...that's a total of nine hours of battery power! Plus, the hardy case will adequately protect your phone.

**LED Ceiling**

[inhabitat.com](http://inhabitat.com)



In bed but can't sleep? Want to change the ambiance to your mood? Here's a cool invention that allows you to paint your ceiling with LED lights.

# Top Ten Nerdy Things to Give Out for Halloween

*Because who needs candy when you can get an education!?*



Katherine Wu

**Top Ten**



10. *Protractors!* Kids have all sorts of uses for protractors on Halloween. They can map out their candy route, and then find trajectory to walk at in order to navigate the shortest route to maximize candy. They will be so grateful!

9. *Periodic Tables!* You can get some pretty nifty periodic tables: colored tables, ones that list the electron configurations, etc. These are a sure hit with the kids!

8. *T-Tables and Z-Tables!* You can bet kids will be doing statistical analysis around the holidays. What would be better than getting a handy table to perform significance tests on-the-go? Plus, it doesn't cost much to print them out.

7. *Pumpkin Pi!* That's right, pumpkins carved with the pi symbol! Kids of all ages will definitely appreciate the cleverness and amount of effort put into this treat.

6. *Wire test tube racks!* These will be great for storing suckers gathered on Halloween but, even better, they are super useful in the lab! I mean, what little kid doesn't have a test tube set at home?



5. *Telescopes!* These will be perfect for the astronomy-lovers. Hopefully, Halloween will be nice and clear so kids can observe the stars and planets with these handy telescopes.

4. *Nerf guns!* Not only are they fun, but I bet young physics students will find them helpful in their studies of kinematics.

3. *Books!* Knowledge is the best gift you can give, right?

2. *Flash Drives!* These are for high-rolling Halloween fans, but they are a great treat for kids. Every child deserves a few more gigs on which to store his or her programs.

1. *TI-89 Titanium Calculators!* These calculators will be perfect for kids doing calculus homework on a Halloween night! Also, at \$130 apiece, kids will be fighting on your doorstep for your treats.

# Student Senate Update



Humza Khan

Student Senate

Hello  
KAMSC!  
I'm here

to update you on what's going on in Student Senate.

For those who don't know, the Class Clash is an annual event wherein each class gets to compete against one another in a pie eating contest, a scavenger hunt, a relay race, tug-of-war, and dodgeball. If that doesn't fulfill your daily dose of fun, there's also a dance afterward at the same location. Both are on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Class Clash is from 1 PM to 5 PM, while the dance is from 8 PM to 11 PM.



The scoring system for Class Clash will be as follows: 4 points for first place, 3 for second place, 2 for third, and 1 for fourth. This system also applies to each class's participation in the dress-up days PER DAY (this is new). So each class will earn points every dress-up day, and the class with the most points (obviously) wins. This portion of the event is restricted to KAMSC students only.

The Dance will be semi-formal and will cost \$5 per person. "Tickets" will be sold by Sam Peters, Tom Sandell, Michael Elluru, Ally Peirce, Cara Knasel, Colby Hanley, and Jori Gelbaugh. "Tickets" is in quotes because it's not a physical ticket. The sellers will write the buyer's name on a list. If there are any

song requests, please email them to Sam Peters at samp805@gmail.com. EACH STUDENT IS ALLOWED ONLY ONE GUEST. Guest forms will be available very soon, and they'll be posted in the office.

The dress-up days for the week of 11/4 to 11/8 are:

#ManCandyMonday,  
#TransformationTuesday,  
#WomanCrushWednesday,  
#ThrowbackThursday, and  
#FastForwardFriday.

These are patterned after recent social media trends. What you dress up as is entirely up to you, based on how you interpret it, not on anyone else's definition. So have fun with it!



In addition, there are two other projects about which we are excited. First, we are planning on painting a mural in the student lounge. It will be designed and painted by students, and we are still looking for designs. If you have a good one, don't be shy to submit it! Second, the student lounge will undergo some renovations. We are only waiting on Facilities Management to give us the go-ahead on that project.

Most importantly, come join Student Senate! Tell your friends! Not only is it fun, but it's also helpful. This is your chance to influence important events around KAMSC. We hope to see you soon!

# Kerbal Space Program: A Review



Chad Blackwell

## Games

Ever lay awake at night, fantasizing about how perfect your life would be if you could just correct your lander's orbit around the moon? Me neither, until I tried Kerbal Space Program. KSP is a space simulator which lets the player build, launch, and command his or her own rockets, satellites, landers, space planes, space stations, and rovers. The game is focused on extreme realism, despite the fact that the Kerbals you control resemble green Twinkies in space suits.

The game starts with a simple, beginner's set of rockets which you can launch for very basic flights if you wish – or you can build your own. The vehicle assembly is very easy and actually quite fun, because you are capable of building

anything. Really, anything. You can make anything from an engine about as powerful as a mouse's sneeze to something capable of de-orbiting a moon. The building process itself consists of click-and-dragging pieces together, featuring 1- to 8-way symmetry for placement. You can also see the centers of gravity, thrust, and lift.

Next, you test your rocket. You can take it to the launch pad and send it sky-high. One can control the amount of thrust the engines receive, the trajectory of the rocket, and the staging. Be sure to get the staging order right, though. I learned the



hard way that it's a bad idea to deploy a parachute while going 1,000 meters per second straight up with my engines still running. If something rips itself apart, like my rocket did, no problem. The game features a revert feature, meaning that you can go back to a time before anything bad happened, but only for the first part of your rocket's flight.

Once you get a functioning rocket, be sure to get into a stable orbit. Scott Manley, a rocket scientist who plays KSP, has plenty of tutorials on YouTube for how to do this. There are seven planets and nine moons to explore, so it's not a one-and-done kind of game.

The modding system for Kerbal is not only easy, but it's safe and supported by the developers of the game. The Kerbal Spaceport, an officially-managed website, offers free downloads of pre-built spacecraft, user-made parts, and the Kerbalizer, which lets you create your own Kerbal.

Kerbal Space Program is available for download for \$23. Kerbal is computer exclusive (sorry, consoles), runs on Macs and Windows, and is currently in the alpha stage of development. I would highly recommend this game to anyone who likes space, simulators, rocket science, or just wants a change from the usual game genres.



# Funny Quotes Overheard from KAMSC Students and Teachers



Ansh Chaudhary

KAMSC Life

"Humza, I want to draw a parabola on you so badly." - Tom Hurst commenting on Humza Khan's checkered shirt

Katherine Wu's phone rings in the middle of a senior meeting... "THAT HAD BETTER BE ISAAC NEWTON!" - Mr. Sinclair

"You're getting finger Eulers all over the board!" - Carter Chamberlain

"Have you ever had tacos?" - Jacob Naranjo

"You decide on which bathroom to use based on which one has better Wi-Fi connection?" - Mr. Sinclair

"He gave us a black packet. It took me forever to do, though, because it's really hard to read the letters." - Humza Khan

Student: "The limit goes to infinity." Student 2: "AND BEYOND!" Mr. Milka: "Buzz Lightyear was a nitwit."

"This is human Carter... this is stapler Carter." - Carter Chamberlain

"Senioritis is when you don't even finish your..." - Tom Sandell

"As I'm sure you know, the government came to a screeching halt last night... This means I will no longer be able to watch Panda Cam..." - Mr. Milka



"You know you're at KAMSC when half the class is talking about [the recent release of] Pokémon X and Y, and the other half is discussing an intense game of Diplomacy."

- Hanna Rumora



"You know you're Mitchell Curtiss when you have trouble adjusting to your new calculator because of your emotional attachment to your old one, so you compromise and use the new one for one math class and the old one for your other math class." - Mitchell Curtiss

"Q.E.D. and the crowd goes wild!" - Mr. Milka

# Earthlings Update



Genevieve Sertic

## Environment

### Share the Warmth

Earthlings is collecting, until October 30<sup>th</sup> by KAMSC's main office, gently-used coats. All donations will be given to the Salvation Army's "Share the Warmth" campaign, which freely gives the coats to those in need within our community. In the past, children's coats especially have been in high demand. Please donate if you can. Thank you!



### Native Plant Information Cards

To make the Earthlings garden a better educational tool for the Summer Science Program's younger children, we have made information cards with stakes. The plants are pictured in bloom, along with their common names, scientific names, bloom times, and interesting facts. The stakes can be put in the ground to identify the plants in the summer. Earthlings is grateful to Project GREEEN for the grant that purchased the native plants, and one way the garden can pay it forward is through education.



### Recycling

Thanks to everyone who is using the bins in the classrooms for recycling! This remains an important Earthlings initiative.

### Meetings

Visit [www.kamscearthlings.weebly.com](http://www.kamscearthlings.weebly.com) for meeting information (most Wednesdays during Open Lab) and upcoming events.

### "Changing Climates"

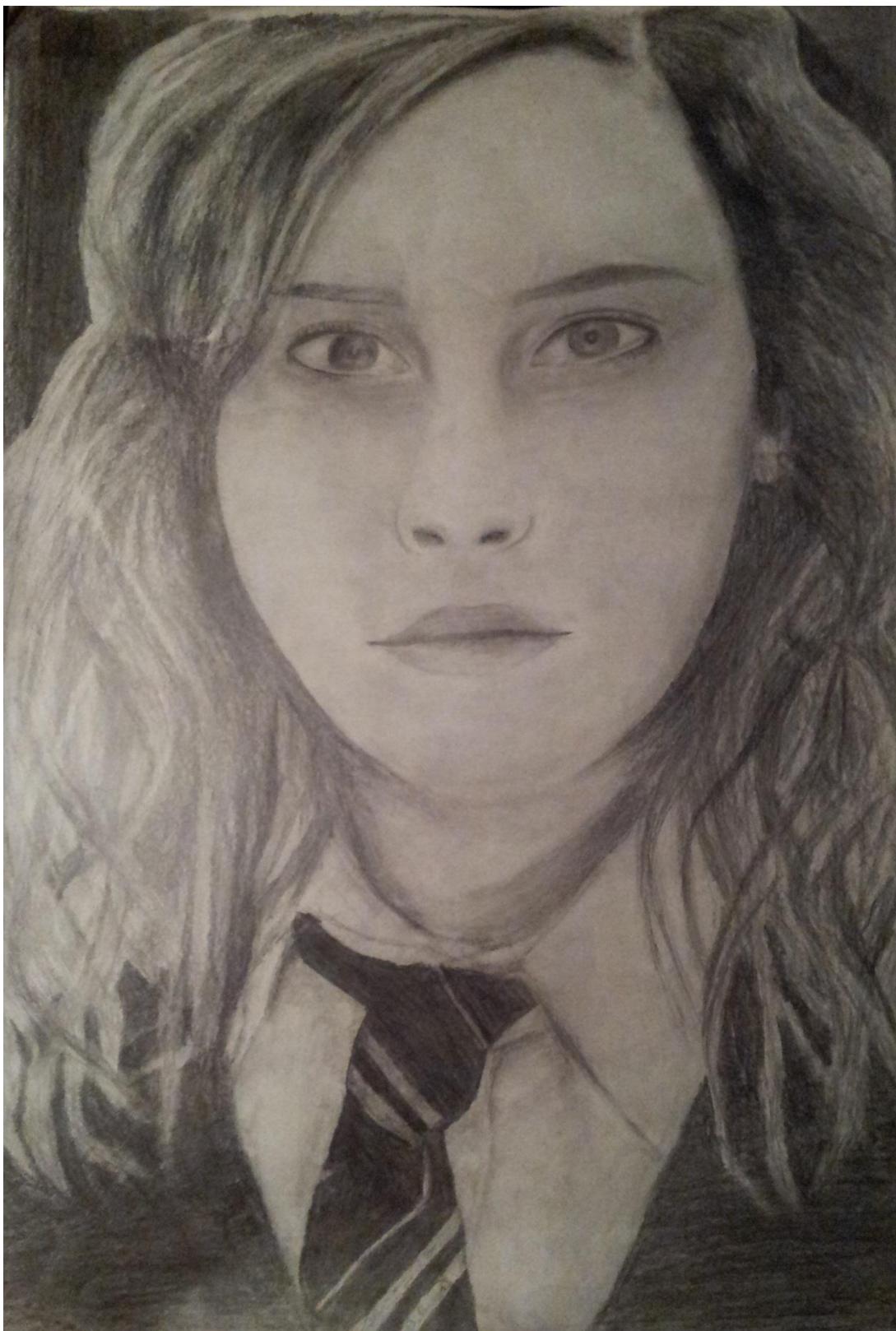
"Changing Climates" is a series of talks focused on our changing global environment and how best to respond. The series is sponsored by Western Michigan University's Center for the Humanities, and all events are free and open to the public. I attended Mr. Bill McKibben's October presentation entitled "Notes from the Front Lines of the Climate Fight" and found it extremely interesting, compelling, and motivating.



Upcoming presentations are:

- November 21, 6 p.m. | Kenneth Chang | Knauss Hall 2452, WMU | "News Judgment vs. Opinion: Do I Have an Agenda When I Write about Global Warming?"
- February 20, 2014, 6 p.m. | Peggy Shepard | Knauss Hall 2452, WMU | "Advancing Environmental Health & Justice: A Community Perspective"
- March 13, 2014, 8 p.m. | Sandra Steingraber | Dalton Theatre, Light Fine Arts Building, Kalamazoo College | A Reading from *Raising Elijah: Protecting Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*
- May 15, 2014, 6 p.m. | Osama Madany | Knauss Hall 2452, WMU | "'No Country for Old Men': Shifting Cultural Borders in Egypt"

Download a brochure with more details at [http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/humanities\\_events/13](http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/humanities_events/13)



***Hermione***  
Artwork by Aayushi Priya  
24

# “Get Lucky” by Daft Punk (KAMSC Twist)



Humza Khan

Song Parody

I'm starting to get this feeling  
Keeps my head spinning  
I can see myself failing  
And I just want to sleep in

We've come too far to give up who we are  
So let's raise the bar and our cups (of coffee) to the stars

She's up all night 'til the sun  
I'm up all night to get done  
She's up all night with no fun  
I'm up all night to do homework

We're up all night 'til the sun  
We're up all night to get done  
She's up all night with no fun  
We're up all night to do homework

We're up all night to do homework  
We're up all night to do homework  
We're up all night to do homework  
We're up all night to do homework



My heavy eyes are closing  
I've got to keep on going  
But I don't see an ending  
Don't wait till the last minute

We've come too far to give up who we are  
So let's raise the bar and our cups (of coffee) to the stars

She's up all night 'til the sun  
I'm up all night to get done  
She's up all night with no fun  
I'm up all night to do homework

We're up all night 'til the sun  
We're up all night to get done  
She's up all night with no fun  
We're up all night to do homework



We're up all night to do homework  
We're up all night to do homework  
We're up all night to do homework



# Horroscopes



Chang Yang  
Astrology

## Aries (March 21-April 19)

You decide to train in advance for Halloween by eating a ton of candy. As a result, you get at least five cavities and your mom puts you on a strict diet of only raisins as punishment.



## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your friend coughs in your face right as you breathe in. Gross.

## Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's late at night. You're trying to do homework but your little brother keeps laughing very loudly from downstairs. Annoyed, you yell at him to shut up only to remember you don't have a little brother.

## Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You realize late at night that there is a physics exam the next morning. On a *completely unrelated note* you get sick the next day. [Ed. Note: What are the odds?]

## Leo (July 23-August 22)

You're out trick-or-treating and horking down a ton of candy. Unfortunately, you choke on a piece and your friend is forced to perform the Heimlich maneuver on you right in front of your whole neighborhood. You survive the accident but later die of embarrassment.



## Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your chemistry teacher asks you if you've heard about the dihydrogen monoxide poisoning in the news. You freak out, only to be told "dihydrogen monoxide" is another expression for water. You can never look your chemistry teacher in the eye again.

## Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your friends want to confess something over dinner. Concerned, you come over. You realize too late that they've switched to cannibalism, and that "having you for dinner" was a literal phrase.

## Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You get a solid F on your next physics exam. Good news: Psych! You were just sleeping. Bad news: You were just sleeping. *In physics class.*



## Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You go to the zoo and visit the reptile section, only to find that the boa constrictor has escaped from its exhibit. Now, totally convinced you're Harry Potter, you try to communicate with the snake but realize too late that you can't speak Parseltongue and that *wow, this snake is squeezing really tightly...*

## Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

One day, your friend comes over and shows you the Slender Man game. You get a creepy feeling because you've definitely seen someone like that before...

## Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You decide on a reckless, impulsive streak to slide down the handrails on the stairs, but you discover that other people have gotten the same idea and are sliding down right behind you. You form a human sandwich.

## Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You're late coming out from class and really need to use the restroom. However, the bus returning to your sending school is about to leave, and you have no other ride. Making an executive decision, you catch the bus just in time, but then have to endure an excruciatingly long return trip when every stoplight is red.

# KAMSC Halloween Survey



Nikita Bhatia  
Survey

I asked KAMSC students some questions about Halloween. Here are the results!

## What is your favorite Halloween candy?

The answers included Snickers, Kit Kats, Skittles, Sour Patch Kids, and more! Someone said “I don’t care about what type of candy; I only care about how much candy I receive!” I am sure that many other students completely agree with that statement!



## What is the nerdiest costume you have ever seen?

“I once saw someone dressed up as one of the older versions of the Mario Brothers Game!” Another response was, “A nerd; I was one last year.” I am excited to see all the nerdy costumes that KAMSC students will wear!

## What is the best thing you have received when trick or treating?

Most people said that king-sized candy bars were the best treats that they had received. Someone mentioned having received an IPod Touch cookie with headphones made out of Twizzlers. How cool is that! Another KAMSC student received sixteen Reese’s peanut butter bars because he was the only person to visit that house!

## What is your favorite Halloween program?

One of the most popular Halloween shows for KAMSC kids is “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown”. If you haven’t already seen it, I recommend you

do; it’s one of the best family Halloween shows out there! Some of the other answers were “Halloweentown” and “Nightmare before Christmas”. One student even said that his favorite Halloween show was “Mean Girls”!

## Would you rather scare someone else or be scared yourself?

There was no question about it; the majority of people I surveyed would rather scare someone else than be scared themselves. Scaring people is one of the best parts about Halloween! You can dress up and scare people with your costume or you can pull funny pranks on people. However, a few people did admit that they’d rather be scared! They said that it was one of their favorite things about Halloween.

## What is your favorite part about Halloween?

Of course, the answer was candy! Who doesn’t like receiving free candy? Another person said, “The best part about Halloween is getting to dress up and look fabulous and ridiculous. You get to walk around with your friends completely free of judgment.” Overall, almost everyone loves Halloween, whether it is for the candy, costumes, or even the pranks!



# Scary Movie Reviews



Jori Gelbaugh

Film

**DISCLAIMER:** I have realized that I am actually a wuss when it comes to scary movies. So, some of these reviews may be slightly inaccurate, based on the fact that

I was closing my eyes for half of the movie.

## Final Destination 2 (2003, R)

Rating: 1/5

The special effects were terribly fake and the plot was more than sketchy (I've been admitted to multiple mental illness institutions and not one of them let me leave the institution whenever I wanted), but if you're looking for highly unrealistic scenarios, a good laugh, and the strangest outlook on death that I've ever heard, this is the perfect movie.

Scary scale:

- 1-laughable
- 2-goosebumps
- 3-screaming
- 4-nightmares
- 5-scarred



## The Conjuring (2013, R)

Rating: 5/5

If you need a real scare, this is the movie to see. Actually, I'm basing that completely from the trailer because I wasn't able to watch most of the movie through my fingers.

## Insidious (2010, PG-13)

Rating: 5/5

I was planning on seeing Insidious 2. But after watching the first, I knew it would be a waste of money, considering I'd probably be too scared to finish all of it. I don't suggest ever watching this movie when you're alone... or if you ever want to sleep again. This is a great movie to watch with a group of friends if you all really want a scare!

## Carrie (2013, R)

Rating: 3/5

As far as horror movies go, this one was definitely more intense rather than terrifying. I did jump a couple of times, but not enough to say that I was truly scared. The special effects weren't even that great in my opinion, but the acting certainly made up for it. It wasn't a horrible movie, but it definitely wasn't a "horror" movie.

## Mama (2013, PG-13)

Rating: 2/5

I think KAMSC kids could've made a movie with better special effects. It made the entire movie less scary and, honestly, silly...the children were scarier than Mama was. If you're new to the whole scary movie thing, this may be a good one with which to begin.

# Calling all Cricketers, Again: Cricket Update!



Humza Mirza

Sports

Have you ever heard of cricket before?

You know, the KAMSC sport that the whole state knows about? If you have no idea what I'm talking about, take a second to read through this article to get a little update on the KAMSC commitment to the sport of cricket.

Cricket is a sport very similar to baseball, though it is older in origin. Being the second most-watched televised sport in the world behind soccer, cricket is played in numerous countries across the globe. Four years ago, Mr. Sinclair, the KAMSC physics, calculus, geology and astronomy teacher, worked with Dr. Earhart to make KAMSC cricket the school's official club sport. Utilizing two sets of wooden stumps and wooden sticks inserted into the ground, batters defend their stumps within their boundaries. A "bowler" or pitcher throws a leather-wrapped ball at the stumps in an attempt to get the batter out. Unlike baseball, cricket is played for long periods of time.

If you attended the last meeting for the KAMSC Cricket Team during open lab, you would know that KAMSC has held the state championships for Michigan cricket at the high school level for the past four years. In preparation for our upcoming championships in the spring, KAMSC has decided to have a friendly match with the Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center. Besides having a blast playing with all your KAMSC classmates, cricket is a great sport to help you stay in shape and meet new people.

If you would like to sign up for KAMSC cricket, see your respective captains or

Mr. Sinclair for more information. As the sport is a club initiative, it is understandable that some people may not be able to attend all meetings for their team. However, it is necessary to meet with your captain so that he or she can help organize a practice schedule that will help all students attend the maximum number of matches.

As games in cricket can go on for days on end, most twenty-first century matches are held in "twenty twenty" style, meaning twenty innings for each team. Although these matches can take hours to complete, players and spectators love the game and, despite popular belief, twenty twenty cricket matches can be very fast-paced.



Interested in cricket by now? Contact Humza Mirza (upper class men), Ansh Chaudhary (underclassmen), Genevieve Sertic (upper class women), or Dhara Patel (underclasswomen) for more information on practice schedules, team commitments, or just some basic information about why cricket is one of the best sports in which to be involved during your high school career. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming meetings and don't forget to practice your googly!

# Top 10 Nerdy KAMSC Halloween Costumes



Nikita Bhatia

Top Ten

10. Your favorite KAMSC teacher!: It would be the perfect excuse to walk around wearing a lab coat and some safety goggles.
9. The Macintosh or even an old IBM PC: The best part of being an old PC is that most people won't be able to guess what your costume is!
8. TI-84 Graphing Calculator: I'm sure KAMSC students will love the idea of being their favorite math aid.
7. Windows or Mac: Who wouldn't want to pretend to be an operating system for a day?
6. A famous cricketer: A bonus of being a cricketer is that you will have a uniform ready for KAMSC Cricket Championships!
5. Your favorite character from a science-fiction TV show: I know that some of the First-Years would love to pretend to be a Time Lord or his companion.
4. Your favorite character from a science fiction movie: If you are going to be someone from Star Wars or Star Trek, I would recommend you be either Darth Vader or Spock.
3. Pi: Nothing beats being your favorite irrational (and transcendental) number!
2. iPhones, iPods, and other devices: You could even pretend to be an app like Angry Birds!
1. Google Chrome: Don't even think about being Internet Explorer!

# Top 10 Halloween Pick-Up Lines



Kitu Komya

Top Ten

Pick up more "candy"  
this Halloween...

10. I want to ask you out, but I've got butterflies in my stomach...and worms...and maggots.
9. Are you a ghost? Because you've been haunting my dreams.
8. You've stolen my heart. No, seriously, can I have it back?
7. Witch you be mine?
6. You must be a broom, because you just swept me off my feet.
5. You are looking boo-tiful!
4. Honest! I AM interested in your brain...
3. You are so sweet that you're going to run the Halloween industry out of business.
2. You don't need to dress up this year...you're already an angel!
1. The skeleton over there didn't have the guts to get your number, so here I am.



# The 84 Steps Team

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