

The Royal Review

Winter 2020/2021



Mrs. Kitzman, September Teacher of the Month

By Addison Bonnewell

Every month, we get a Teacher of the Month, for the month of September, our winner was Mrs. Kitzman. Mrs. Kitzman is a 7th/8th grade social studies teacher. I got to interview her about her win. I asked her if she has ever been teacher of the month before, she said she hasn't been a teacher of the month before. I also asked her how she felt about winning, she said that she was really happy! At the time, she was sick and it made her day when Mrs. Renkes told her. I asked Mrs. Kitzman she had been teaching 8th grade for. She said this is her 5th year of teaching 8th grade, but she has taught 6th and 7th grade too. I wanted to know what grade was her favorite, she said, "I love both 7th and 8th grade. I like 7th grade because the students are really kind and it's the curriculum that I've taught for over 20 years. I like 8th grade because I had many of the students last year and enjoy getting them one more year in class!" The last thing I asked her was what was the best part of being a teacher. She said, "The best part of being a teacher is honestly making a difference in some of their lives. I love it when their eyes light up when they see me as they walk into the room. I love being their "go to person," if they ever need help or guidance. I love it when they come back years down the road just to say "hi, or I've missed you." This answer made my heart really happy. She ended the email by saying that she hopes we are okay. Mrs. Kitzman is a really kind human. She is a great

SPELLING BEE

By Aydrienne Lahey

This year's Spelling Bee will be held on January 21. The top-10 spellers are Jordyn Brandenburg, Joshua Coss, Quinn Flanagan, Cyrus Gehlbach, Kathleen Keeseey, Bryndle Lottman, Lani Stader, Nathan Stauter, Owen Winters, and Landon Zinke. This year's Spelling Bee will be unlike any other because there will be no audience, but it will be live streamed for classrooms and parents to see. The winning word of this Spelling Bee was stalagmite, spelled by Kathleen Keeseey! She will be in the Lee/Ogle County Regional Spelling Bee representing Reagan Middle School.

Interviewing Mr. Hamel, October Teacher of the Month

By Hayden Fulton

I interviewed Mr. Hamel recently and asked him a few questions. Mr. Hamel is a great teacher, and he is fun to learn with.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: My favorite subject to teach is Social Studies.

Q: What have you taught before moving to Reagan?

A: Reagan has been my only home in my teaching career!

Q: Why do you like to teach?

A: I like teaching because I am passionate about helping students grow and develop lifelong skills.

Q: What do you find difficult about teaching during quarantine?

A: The most difficult thing about teaching during quarantine is not being able to see students. Being in person allows for me to help students immediately, and I can recognize students that are struggling even if they do not say it.

Q: How do you feel about going full remote?

A: In terms of going full remote, I am not thrilled about it. I understand the need for it and agree that everyone needs to be safe and healthy. Teaching to a full remote class is very difficult in many ways, but it is a necessary evil at this point.

We are all grateful to have an amazing teacher like Mr. Hamel here at Reagan, and we will hope he stays for many years.

Interview with Mrs. Abell, November Teacher of the Month

By Nylah Todd

1. How is it being a teacher?

I love being a teacher. Every day is different and I am never bored. I enjoy working with middle school students and the staff here at Reagan is amazing.

2. What year did you become a teacher?

I graduated from NIU in 2004, but did not begin teaching until 2006.

3. What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

Outside of school I enjoy going for walks and being outside. During a normal year, I love going to sporting events and watching my kids play basketball and softball.

4. What is a couple of hobbies of yours?

Planting flowers and working in my yard are my favorite activities. I don't like going outside in the winter though.

5. What's your favorite movie and tv show?

I enjoy watching The Voice, Food Network, or any type of sports that may be on tv. I have many favorite movies, but I love Disney.

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6. What is your favorite book?

7. What's your favorite movie series?

The Hunger Games

8. What inspires you to be a teacher and if it was a who then who?

I started out teaching tumbling and realized that I really enjoyed working with kids. I taught physical education for many years before I switched to science.

9. How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 15 years.

10. What's your favorite animal?

My favorite animals are cats and dogs. I have two dogs and one cat. They are such a fun and sweet addition to our family.

Joey Apple. November Student of the Month
By Nylah Todd



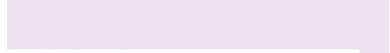
1. *What is it like being student of the month?* It isn't much different than before I was. Everything pretty much stayed the same.



2. *Do you get special treatment for being student of the month?* Not really, only a few congrats from a few teachers, classmates, and family members.



3. *How old are you?* 13



4. *Do you like Regan Middle School ?* Yes I do like Reagan. I think all the teachers here are great and helpful.



5. *Are you excited for high school?* I am very excited for High School. I think it will be a very fun experience.



6. *What's your favorite color?* Purple.



7. *What are your hobbies?* like to play basketball and talk to friends and family.



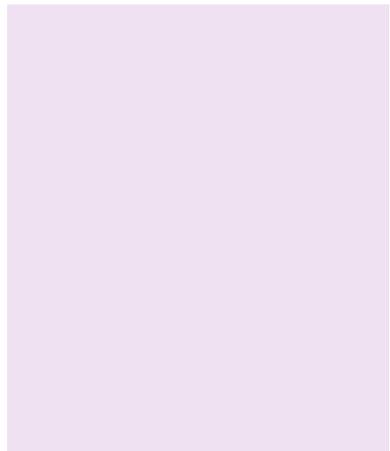
8. *What is your favorite food?* Sushi.



9. *What is your favorite animal?* Dogs or birds.



10. *What is your favorite subject?* Math.(sorry Mrs. Renkes.)



December Student of the Month: Grace Ferguson

By: Siena Kemmeren

Students that are chosen for student of the month are smart, kind, and hardworking, and this month is no exception. Grace Ferguson, the student of the month in December, is a very hardworking student in 8th grade. I got to ask her a few questions about her opinions of some things. The first question I asked her was how she felt about being chosen for student of the month. She is really excited because she thinks she worked hard this year to get good grades and she is glad her hard work has paid off. The second question was if she could change/make a rule, what would she do. Her response was that she wouldn't change or add any rules because all the rules we already have are great. My third question for her was her opinion of remote/hybrid learning. She said that she doesn't enjoy it, but she is glad that we still go to school twice a week instead of not at all. My last question I asked her was, what advice would you give to new/upcoming sixth graders? Her response is that she would tell sixth graders to try new things, make new friends, and join clubs and sports now that they are in middle school and have more options. Although this year was tough, we still have our hardworking students that can be recognized.

Aaron Conderman, January Student of the Month

By Nylah Todd

1. What do you think you did to deserve Student of the Month?

I think I was chosen because I worked hard and always tried my best.

2. What is your favorite part of RMS and why?

My favorite part about RMS is the clubs and sports I am involved in because they are fun and they are my favorite thing to do at RMS.

3. What are you most excited about for High School and why?

I am most excited about cross-country for High School because I will be with new teammates and I will have more competition.

4. What is your favorite food and why?

I don't really have a favorite, but I enjoy eating pasta.

5. What is your favorite thing to do and why?

My favorite thing to do is run because I enjoy the sport, I have a lot of fun, and I have met a lot of people.

6. What's your favorite subject in school and why?

My favorite subject is History because I find it interesting to learn what has happened in the past.

7. What is your favorite place to visit and why?

My favorite place to visit is Colorado because the scenery was so amazing and it just seemed so fresh.

8. What is your favorite thing to do when you are off of school and home with friends and family?

My favorite thing to do when I am off of school and home with friends and family is play games and just have a good time.

Covid-19 Vaccination

By Hayden Fulton

The COVID vaccine is important for all of us to gain immunity to Covid-19. There are many companies that have vaccines in phase 3 of testing. These vaccines have been moving very quickly compared to most other vaccines, so that makes some people worry about getting the vaccination. The choice seems to be split evenly between getting it and not. People seem to be wary about getting it because it was created so quickly, but the CDC does recommend getting the vaccine and said that it is completely safe. The CDC stated all the safety precautions are the same for the covid vaccine as any other vaccine, and that the known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine. Some of the people I have talked to said they would wait until the high-risk people get it first then they would get it later, because of the vaccine may be limited. The CDC said if the supply is limited there will be certain groups will be required to get the vaccine first. Even though the vaccine is not out of the testing phase, yet the CDC and other organizations are planning on distributing as soon as the vaccine is done. The CDC has required all states to turn in their plan for distributing the vaccine so they can make sure that the plan is fair and equitable. These plans may change over time and as more information is learned about the vaccine and the virus itself.

Full Remote

By Hayden Fulton

These days we are all stuck at home even for school. We have just finished a few weeks of going full remote and I asked some students how they feel it is going.

One student replied with, "It feels like they slowed down the whole learning thing so we could get used to out Chromebook." They also said that they don't feel like he has learned that much compared to a normal year.

Another student responded with, "I think that the teachers are doing an excellent job, but the most efficacious method is easily in-person instruction. Zoom cannot compensate for in-person instruction because we are not doing as many interactive and hands-on activities. Discussions with peers cannot be replicated with a screen. I hope that we get back to in-person sooner rather than later."

One other student stated, "Remote learning definitely makes it a bit more difficult overall, and I would much rather be at school and see my friends, but it's for our safety."

A student said, "Ok- I feel like it's a little bit more stressful because we are kind of teaching ourselves some of the work. But also, it's safer for teachers, staff and students. I'm glad we're doing remote learning because I feel like it's going to build character and make it easier for us in the future to adapt."

The final student I asked said, "I feel it is going well." T

his year may be crazy, but the teachers are doing well this year for the hand they were delt. Most of the students understand why they we need to be full remote and are trying their best to learn in these conditions. I feel that we can get through this if we work together and just be kind to each other.

Covid Canceling Sports! By Aydrienne Lahey

Due to this year's new COVID-19 VIRUS our district's schools and other schools around are postponing our sports seasons. I and many more are outraged by this news, because some of us have basically put or whole life into doing sports. Not having our school's sports seasons doesn't mean we still can't play them at home. Here are some ideas to help you get off the couch and go outside!

- Play football with your dad
- Play tag with your siblings
- Go for a run with your dog
- Play volleyball
- Play baseball
- Play basketball
- Host a neighborhood football game (Remember to wear a mask!)

Quarantined During

Christmas

By Allie Maldonado

Christmas is finally coming, which means this year is finally coming to an end, but what happened when we need to still quarantine ourselves? Usually a holiday such as Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, we spend time with relatives that we don't get to see year-round. Sadly these plans have been taken from us and do to Covid we have the chance of getting it by seeing relatives. However if anybody does see relatives it would be most recommended to sanitize and lessen contact from each other.

Christmas will definitely not be the same this year since some of us may go out places and do special things but this year so things may be off limits. We won't be able to see friends or cousins we may not be able to go outside depending on the weather and what ever is happening with the virus. Unfortunately some people may not even get Christmas present due to their jobs being closed or them being fired causing money loss. All we can do is hope that things will get better and keep those we love close, but not too close there is a virus out after all.

Holidays in late 2020

By Addison Bonnewell

Last year was a lot, to say the least. Some of us thought it would be over in a few weeks. Little did we know. It would carry into a new year, and with that, our holidays would have to be adjusted.

Halloween: trick or treating?

People spend forever deciding what costume they will wear on Halloween, this year, we didn't have much to wear them for. Trick or treating is a big thing that many people are excited for, so when that gets taken away for some, the day is boring. Some people when trick or treating and others went partying. Others stayed home and got candy from Walmart and watched scary movies.

Thanksgiving: family reunions?

So many families have big gatherings on Thanksgiving, and they have a big celebration. This year that as looked down upon because we are still in a pandemic. Other families just had their family at home to celebrate with. Some people just didn't celebrate it or don't celebrate it in general.

Hanukah: Anti-Semitism strikes harder

Every single day of Hanukah 2020, there was an Anti-Semitic attack. Anti-Semitism is the prejudice against Jewish people, many attacks were performed by Nazis and Neo Nazis. In New York, a Jewish school was doxed, parents' social security numbers were released, credit card info, addresses, personal information was leaked. Swastikas were everywhere, the school's website was covered with holocaust references, and they were called slurs. "The only memorial to Holocaust victim Anne Frank in the U.S. is in Boise, Idaho. This week, it was plastered with stickers depicting a swastika. The life-sized bronze statue of the Jewish diarist shows her holding her diary and looking out the window of the annex in which she hid with her family for 761 days." says Jewintheconomy.com.

Christmas: Leave your family at home

Many families had people over on Christmas. Covid spikes went up. Are we surprised though? Other than the families coming over, not that much happened on Christmas.

New Year's Eve/ New Year's Day- Stop going to parties

Again, social distance people! We are in a global Pandemic, stay safe, wear a mask, don't go partying, please!

New Year's Resolutions

By Hayden Fulton

Every year many people make New Year's Resolution. They will make promises to themselves to change for this upcoming year. This all started with the people of Rome making promises to the god Janus. Then in the medieval era the knights took the peacock vow to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry. They took that vow at the end of the Christmas season. Then fast forward a bit to the end of the great depression about one quarter of American adults made New Year's resolution. At the start of the 21st century about 40% of Americans made one. With all these people making resolutions how many finishes their resolutions. In 2014 it was reported that 35% of people who made resolutions did not complete them, 33% did not keep track of their progress, and 23% completely forgot about it. So, how do you keep your New Year's resolution you may ask. Many people say to first set realistic goals. Then keep track of your progress, and finally do not give up or get discouraged if you fail just try again.

Movie Review

By Addison Bonnewell

I watched a lot of movies over the holidays with my family, and I had to share one of my favorites. The subject movie is called “Happiest Season.” “Happiest Season” features Kristen Stewart, Makenzie Davis, Dan Levy, two beautiful drag queens called Jinkx Monsoon and Bende-lecream, and more. I would give this movie an 8/10 because it was funny and enjoyable. I thought it was a little stereotyped, but I would watch it again. Some of my favorite parts of it would be when Dan Levy’s character, John, was on the phone with Kristen Stewart’s character, Abby. Those little moments are hilarious. Another part I liked was Abby at a drag show. This movie is PG-13 but I think that anyone over 11 or 12 could watch it and be fine. The reason for it being labeled PG-13 is because of profanity and smoking/drugs. I would label the movie as a romcom, LGBT, and holiday. I think it’s more funny than romantic, and I enjoyed that. This movie is 1 hour and 42 minutes and I cried twice during the last 30 minutes. Overall, I liked the movie and I most likely will watch this movie again in December.

Winter Fun

By Siena Kemmeren

Winter can get boring, but winter can be quite the wonderland. Snow only falls during this time, so take advantage of it! Build a snowman, igloo, or even challenge yourself! If siblings won’t get off your back, go set up a snowball fight in the backyard to cool off some steam, literally! Snow gives so much to offer, yet we don’t like it because it’s cold. If you really don’t

like the cold, grab blankets, hot cocoa, Netflix, and friends to do a movie marathon. You can even just hang out with family and play games! Christmas deals are happening, so go shop with friends. This pandemic makes everything so much more complicated, so even though stores and restaurants are closed, try to stay a little active and have some fun!

Bestseller From the Past

By Gabbie Stone

The Lord Of The Rings series is still a must-read for teens and tweens, the story is compelling and full of action. The series can be quite monotone at times, but the action packed battles will sweep you off your feet. The books are much more detailed than the movies, and are a good read that will entertain you for hours!

There are some things you should know before taking the plunge into this beautifully built world. The author likes to take his time while writing to fit in all the details, thus making LOTR a longer book to read. There are many characters in this book, and even more names to learn. The series is actually six books bound into three!

I would recommend this book to anyone with time, patience, and a love for the fantasy genre.

Rime Ice

By: Siena Kemmeren

In the past month, fascinating ice formations have been popping up everywhere in the Midwest. This ice formation is called rime ice. Rime ice is all the small, soft snow/ice spikes on your trees, cars, house, and everything outside. To happen, the object and the air are both below freezing and liquid drops/fog must be present. Rime ice usually doesn't last very long, only staying for a day or two. Recently, it stayed for about half a week and everyone is taking pictures. The next time it happens, make sure your finger is warm and touch the ice, it may seem to stick to you! Rime ice isn't very common, so when it happens again, make sure to get a picture!

Scholastic Bowl

By: Siena Kemmeren

Every year starting third or second quarter, a team comes together and competes. It's called scholastic bowl. The team goes to other schools, or stays at ours, and competes. The way they compete, is with random facts. This year is a little different though. We currently don't have any meets scheduled, so this year is most likely just for fun or get used to it. If you want to join, but nervous, it's perfectly fine. Scholastic bowl questions are about anything. History, math, poetry, science, animals, etc. The scholastic bowl team is for everyone, no matter if you only know war history or math, it's still good info!

New Schedule Change

By Aydrienne Lahey

Our school's schedule is about to change for people going two days a week. People going throughout the days of the week will be switching back and forth and going on different days the next week, including Fridays. People who are remote will be on the same schedule unless they start going to school, then they will be on the same schedule as everyone else. As a mandatory rule, students will still wear masks even though school has opened back up. All the teachers know that Covid-19 is real and even though some do not believe it, you should at least keep safe for your safety and for others' safety.

Drugs

By Nylah Todd

Drugs can be very harmful to anyone. They can mess with your brain and make you go crazy, drugs can get you very high and if you go out in public or try to drive a car then you could get caught or die. If you take pot which a lot of adults take, it's legal because it's not harmful (it's a plant) but anyway if you take pot, then you should for sure stay home because if you go out high you could get hurt or be very confused and something bad could happen. If you are taking harmful drugs and can't stop taking them then contact someone to help you before the addiction gets worse. Don't ever take drugs it will really mess with your brain and body. Only take prescribed drugs that the doctors ask you to take. Stay happy, safe, and healthy.

Inauguration of The President

By Hayden Fulton

Every four years on January 20th a new president is inaugurated. Inauguration is mandated by the constitution. This day is the formal transition of power between presidents. When Washington was first inaugurated it was on April 30th, 1789 then Washington was elected once again on March 4th, 1793. Inauguration day was on March 4th because it gave enough time to collect all the votes. It was changed to January 20th when a quicker way of counting and collecting votes was created. This year we had a new president to inaugurate. This past January 20th, 2021 President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn into office. Inaugurations have been going on for years and they keep many traditions. A few examples are the inaugural address which is a speech that the newly sworn in President gives, there is a parade, and a ball. The parade is usually viewed by the president and vice president. It features civilians from and military members from all fifty states. Inauguration balls started in 1809 at the inauguration of James Madison. Since the inauguration is such an important event there is always security, but this year due to the reascent raid of the White House there was more security than other Inaugurations. They have many guards watching to make sure that no one tries to harm the president. Inaugurations are an important part of our history, and there will be many more in the future that may add new traditions or change history in other ways.

PSAT Testing

By Allie Maldonado

By 8th grade each student will take the PSAT Test helping you get ready for taking the PSAT Test in 10th and 11th grade. The difference between the PSAT Test that you take in 8th or 9th grade now compared to other times is that this one has a lower scoring and there will be no scholarship associated with it. Highschool teachers use the PSAT Test scores to determine what classes you will be taking and how high leveled the classes you will be taking are. They don't look at lower grades, so it is suggested that you do try your hardest when taking the PSAT Test. Once you reach 10th and 11th grade, you'll be taking what's called the PSAT Test and later taking the SAT Test. Scores for the PSAT Test range from 430 EBRW and 430 Math, 50% (Ok); getting a 500-510 EBRW and 490-500 Math, will give you a 75% (Good); getting a 570- EBRW and 540-550 Math, will give you a 90% (Excellent), to finally a score of 650+ EBRW and 660+ Math, will give you a score of 99% (Top). Taking the PSAT Test not only tests your knowledge from both your strengths and weaknesses but it also helps set you up for high school and college years. For 10th-11th graders you will take the PSAT Test and will take it in the spring rather than the fall. This test will help determine your college classes and how high leveled they will be much like the PSAT Test 8th-9th is testing your knowledge for high school. However, the PSAT Test for 10-11th does not qualify for those of the National Merit Scholarship Program. 10th-11th graders are also given the chance to do the PSAT/NMSQT Test to measure readiness for college, access scholarships, and practice for the SAT. The SAT Test is to measure a high school student's readiness for college and to provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare other applicants. The total score range for the SAT is 400-1600 in 10-point increments, this consists of two sections EBRW and Math, whose scores ranges are each 200-800. If you were to get a score of either 1460 you would be at the below average scores for Harvard but would still be taken into consideration while as if you have a 1580 score you are at the above average score and have a better chance of being accepted into Harvard.