

The Bengelnator Gazette

1/18/12

Hooplah! The First Term Has Started!

2011 was a year to remember.

2011 was a crazy year for many reasons. First, there was the last Harry Potter movie that premiered in July. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part Two. It was the end of an era. So many people said that Harry Potter was their childhood. People from ages eight and up have read the books, seen the movies, and have fallen in love with this series. It is a beautiful story of an orphaned boy who learns he is a wizard, goes to a wizarding school, makes friends and enemies, conquers death over and over again, and eventually kills the vilest wizard of all time. This movie broke several records including for opening day (previous was Twilight: New Moon) and opening weekend. The movie was basically all the big battle at Hogwarts where eventually Voldemort gets killed quite dramatically by Harry Potter.

There was of course the Kim Kardashian scandalous marriage and divorce. Kim and Kris Humphries got married on August 20th. It was a very lavish wedding with many celebrities. The wedding, like most of Kim's life was showed on E! & 2 days later, Kim filed for divorce. That shocked almost everyone. Seventy-two days of marriage! Everyone said that that would be it for her career because it was inevitable that they would lose fans because of this. Obviously they didn't think marriage was a big deal. Kim's mother was on many talk shows being interviewed that week on shows like *New York Live*. The interviews were originally scheduled to talk about her book that was released just before the big blow but it ended up that she mostly talked about Kim and Kris. It was said that Kim didn't realize Kris's true colors. She said he was lazy and partied too much. Did she not know this before marriage? It seems to most people that celebrities need to value marriage and treat it with respect and commitment.

Another big blow was the news of Katy Perry (27) and Russell Brand (36) getting a divorce after 14 months of marriage. They announced the split in

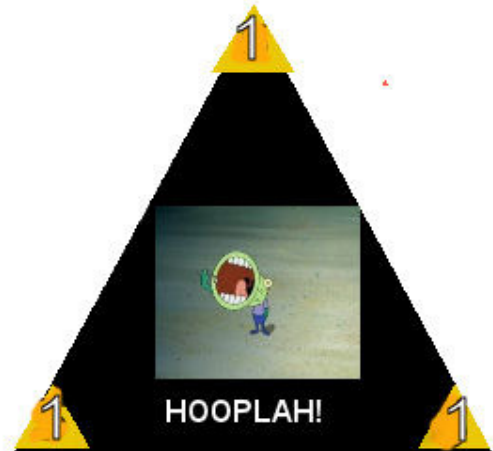


Table of Contents:

Front Cover:	Cover story
Page One:	Advice and Interviews
Page Two:	Interviews cont.
Page Three:	Blurbs from Chandni
Page Four:	Scribe Happenings
Page Five:	Poll: How far would you go with the color green?
Page Six:	Money News

late December after months of rumors. In early December Russell was on *Ellen* and denied any problems with Katy. Ellen read some magazine blurbs and headlines from the internet and he denied all of the rumors. He said that marriage is for life and that he is still alive. As usual, he made a joke about it which lightened the mood in the room. He was spotted without his ring a couple times after that and he and Katy spent the holidays apart. Katy's very religious parents were furious about their split.

On a happier note, Lady Gaga started a Born This Way foundation against bullying and discrimination. She also gave a speech at the White House concerning bullying. She released her third CD called Born This Way in earlier 2011. This is an inspiring CD with songs like ScheiBe (empowerment to women) Born This Way (empowerment toward anyone who feels weird, different, hurt by others, or just not good enough) Judas (a song about forgiveness and love and how we must forgive the ones we love) and many other gorgeous tunes.

Taylor Swift went on her Speak Now world tour this year. It ended November 22 2011. Speak Now is an album that she wrote over two years and mostly on her Fearless tour. She wrote every song herself which is quite impressive. This album includes songs like Speak Now, Mean, Sparks Fly, Never Grow Up, Back To December, Innocent, Haunted, Long Live, and Mine. It is a country/pop CD full of peppy tunes, slow ballads, and everything in between. Taylor Swift inspires many people with her story of becoming famous after being bullied and out casted for almost all of her school career.

Selena Gomez had a big year. She had a world tour as well. Also, her new album, When The Sun Goes Down came out earlier this year. A movie that she starred in called Monte Carlo came out as well. On a less pleasant note, an insane man stalked her and followed her to her work. He claimed to have had talks with God about killing the young star and eventually there was a restraining order put in place.

Some other events from 2011 were as follows: Ellen DeGeneres published and released her third book this year. *Seriously..... I'm Kidding* is a funny memoir of everything that happened in her life since her last book *My Point.... And I Do Have One* came out. There were odd trends like planking in the summer, leather jeans were in style this fall, several days in a row of temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, a snowstorm just before Halloween and warm weather surrounding Christmas.

These are just a few of the many events that made 2011 a big year.

By: Alexis Eades

Dear Anonymous Advice

Dear Anonymous,

I am unemployed! I applied for a job before the term started, but I didn't get the job I wanted! I'm lacking in funds for a home fit now, and I'm worried! Please give me some pointers!

Sincerely,
Jobless

Dear Jobless,

Uh oh. Sounds like you didn't have a great enough opportunity to get a job. When filling out an application, make sure you pick more than one job. For the new term, especially, you shouldn't sign up for a job someone in your class already has, because you won't get the job then. Of course, you could always pick up odd jobs until the end of the term, or write some articles for next term's newspaper! Entrepreneurship is also another option. Hope this helps, Jobless!



Advice by Trolls Anonymous

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Interviews

Close Up: The Unemployment Line
Christina Gaudino

Although the economy is currently thriving under the watchful eyes of our Grand Benevolent Dictator, poverty lives on among society. For a number of unfortunate souls whom have been forced onto the long, difficult road of unemployment, life is not an easy task. They spend their days scrounging for small odd jobs to fulfill, such as cutting out currency and checking for spelling errors. Their eyes must remain plastered to the small "Help Wanted" sign at all times, watching, waiting. The unemployed must live their lives always one step behind, watching with heavy hearts from the sidelines as their peers continue onwards to become successful businessmen and women. Indeed, being jobless is a trying, burdensome lifestyle that does not end well for all. Stephen Boylan is a citizen who was never given the opportunity to be an employee and work full time at a steady job. Please find below a few snippets of our conversation regarding his daily battle to survive the mini economy.

Q: Was this the fate you had originally planned for yourself?

A: No, not really. But it's working out well.

Q: If not, what was your first choice?

A: Originally, I had hoped to become a lawyer.

Q: What crossed your mind the moment you learned all three of your job applications had been DENIED?

A: Sadness. I felt like I didn't achieve.

Q: What are you currently doing to support yourself?

A: Small jobs like cutting out the paper currency and spellchecking articles.

Q: Have you just given up hope, or are you still searching for a job?

A: Not yet, I'm still looking. I plan on beginning an internship with my friend Andrew Kong. He works as a banker.

Q: So I hear that you are faring well, financially.

A: Yes. (Grins mischievously) Right now, I'm the second richest man in the mini economy. Not bad, considering my occupational status.

Q: Do you have any plans for the future?

A: I want to start my own business, eventually.

I recently interviewed a librarian and a therapist. Here are the interviews.

Hello. What is your name and job?

I'm Briana Nunez and I'm the therapist.

Do you get many customers?

Not recently, but I plan on getting more.

Why do you think that is?

Cause I'm a mean person. (Laughs) No, don't write that. Umm. Because I haven't advertised enough.

What are you trying to do to improve sales?

I plan on putting an article in the newspaper.

What do you do as a therapist?

I listen to people's feelings and give feedback and try to make them feel better. I want my clients to feel better about life.

Hello. What is your name and job?

My name is Christina Pierson. I am a librarian. My name is Christina Pierson and I approve of this message. You better not put that part in, Alexis.

Do you get many customers?

No.

Why do you think that is?

Cause people don't want books. No, I'm just joking. (Laughs) I think people need to be more interested in reading. Go and get a book.

What are you trying to do to improve sales?

I am going to make posters to advertise interesting books.

What do you do as a librarian?

I organize the library and I advertise books.

As you can see, neither of them got costumers yet. They both said that to improve their business they will be advertising more. But, how persuasive and effective are advertisements on paper? If Briana posts a lot of sign all over the room then you would assume everyone would become familiar with her being the therapist. Some people, however, do not think this way is effective. When you see an ad on a billboard, the product does not get stuck in your head. You will forget what the billboard stated in a second. However, many people all over the halls at school sing jingles from ads they've heard on the TV or radio. "[877-393-4448!](tel:877-393-4448)" Is what the Vonage commercials sing over and over again. Therefore, for the rest of the day that number is stuck in your head and there is no way to get it out. There are signs all around and posters everywhere in classrooms. "Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference" reads one in Mrs. Birmingham's room. Another in the 6th grade hallway reads "So you can read this sign. Now try a book." Many people do not take the time to read signs and notice the things around them. Perhaps that is partially why jingles get stuck in our heads more than billboards and flyers. Part of it is that songs are catchy and hence get stuck in our heads easily. Another part of that though is that you can listen to a jingle and do other things at the same time. No one has patience any more. No one stops to read things or observe the world around them. Maybe people won't even read the ads they paid great money to get onto the walls and windows. Most of you reading this probably don't even know where you are. Ok, so that probably isn't true. However, you probably did not take the time to read the nearest sign or put the proper heading on your papers, or notice what a lovely shirt your best friend is wearing. People are not patient. They can't even sit through a theme song when watching a show. It used to be that you had to sit through a minute long song. Few shows still have real songs now. Recently we now have to sit through a two second "Hey." And three seconds of drums and guitar.

In conclusion, try to wake up and smell the coffee. Notice things around you. Don't let life pass you by without trying to notice little things like what people are wearing, signs and posters all around you, the color of your classroom or local ShopRite walls. Slow down and enjoy everything life has to offer.

By: Alexis Eades

FEELINGS? TALK ABOUT IT!

Have you been feeling overwhelmed, overjoyed or just over emotional? Then now would be the perfect time to visit Briana Nuñez, the therapist. When you come and visit the therapist she will listen to you and help you with anything. If you are stressed at anytime all you need to do is plan a 5 minute session and talk. It is quite simple. You speak and she will listen and help you out. Any feelings or problems you have such as job loss, productivity, or even positive things, such as pay raises, you can go to her for a session. At that session you will be asked how you feel, why you feel that way, and what might have been the true cause of these feelings. The cause isn't always obvious especially because you will be seeing it through your own eyes, but with another set of eyes you will realize the truth. This may also cause you to feel better because you will find the true reason of your emotions. Don't forget to drop in whenever you feel happy, sad, or anything in between!

Blurbs from Chandni

The 9%. What on Earth does that mean? For the remaining 91%, it really doesn't mean all that much except, "The group of people that we don't belong to because we have jobs." Ok, this might be an exaggeration, but the sentiment is basically the same. For the unemployed, life is hard. It's almost agonizing, to be honest. However, it's difficult to point out what exactly is the worst part about it. What's the hardest part of being unemployed? Perhaps it is the degrading shame of being destitute? Or maybe it's the feeling that you're worthless and you can't seem to do anything right no matter how hard you try? Or maybe it's the longing that burns into your soul when you see those around you becoming successful? And then there's that question that seems to drive us poor humans out of our ever-loving minds: why? What is the cause of all this? Why am I meant to suffer? What did I do so wrong? I fear that these questions will never be answered; perhaps they can't.

People have said in the past that misfortune is blind and points its finger at random. Unemployment seems no different. But at the end of the day, the cause of the problem holds little weight. At that point, we must focus on the solution. Many of the jobless grumble and complain about doing menial tasks for little pay. They don't realize the important part of that sentence: pay. Yes, my fellow paupers, no matter how much you may hate the task or errand that you're assigned to, you're getting *paid*. You are getting a source of income, albeit it most likely isn't steady. Also, entrepreneurship has started! This means that it's time to stop whining like Moaning Myrtle and actually *do* something. It's a rough start, I know. There's a lot of risk and a lot of disappointment involved. *It will be difficult*. But I see this as the first step. In order to build a castle, you must first mix the mortar to cement the stones. In time, I believe that the bottom class will be able to drag themselves from the dark ditches that they inhabit and prove to the rest of the world that they too can be great.

By Chandni Khawaja

Expectations. One of the most wonderful and terrible thing any student can be faced with, especially a gifted student. You get it from all over: your parents expect nothing lower than a ninety on a test. Your peers expect you to always get the answers right. Your teachers expect you to tackle every challenge every time and always come out successful and unfazed. After a few years of this, you start to forget who's expecting what from you; instead, you bring it solely upon yourself. At that point, it's not your parents who are expecting above a ninety, it's you. It's no longer your teachers who think that you can take on all of the challenges; you start to believe that you truly can. Actually, I sometimes find it pointless for certain parents to berate their children for a low test grade since their child has already beaten themselves up inside. And why do they beat themselves up? Partially because of the fact that they feel like they've let their parents down, but I believe that people like that, people like *me*, feel like we've let *ourselves* down.

I'm a bit on the fence as to whether or not this state of thinking is wholly good. It seems like a perfect recipe for depression, if you ask me. But many of us, including myself, forget one key fact: we are still human. We are going to make mistakes; we are going to overlook something; we are going to fail. I have very few fears, but one of my biggest fears is the fear of failure. That being said, it's often hard for me to admit that I'm going to mess something up at some point in my life; that I'm going to disappoint a teacher or that I'm going to forget a homework assignment or I'm going to be severely destitute in the mini-economy. I also know that I'm not alone in this. But for all of those people like me, I entreat you to heed what I say: don't beat yourself up, especially if you know that you're trying. When you know that you're making effort into what you're doing, that alone is sometimes relief enough. Others may make a perception of you because they don't see the work you put forth; but my philosophy on that is this: "Hey, I'm sorry I don't dictate every aspect of my life to you. I'm sorry you don't know about everything that I do once I'm out of your sight. But that doesn't mean that I'm not trying." As they say, 'Haters gonna hate.' Don't let them bring you down; don't let anyone bring you down. Remember that you are a gifted and wonderful human being who will undoubtedly make this world a better place; and as long as you put forth the effort, no one can tell you otherwise.

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Scribe's Corner

Under the Grand Benevolent Dictator, the first days of the Mini-economy have opened to the Flaming Icecubes G&T class. Students are ecstatic about the opening of the economy. And most citizens got their first or second choice for their career. Alex Eng, an accountant who is calculating the current tax rate, said that his job is “exhilarating.” The local banker said that he enjoys his job, and that he is happy with the amount of work that he has to do. He claimed that it is not that hard. As the banker he is required to make monetary accounts for all the citizens in his economy. “Eventually, when everybody gets their pay-checks, it will require more written work it will get harder.” He said, “For right now though, it’s not too challenging.” This would appear to be the mood around the economy; students enjoy doing the job they’re required to do without being over-worked. And as the first term of the economy ends, talk of new ideas and businesses begin to take place, showing a promising future for the mini-economy.

By: Brian Phillips

How far are you willing to go with the color green?

By: Alexis Eades

All the way- 55%

Halfway- 20%

Just a hint- 25%

The following results are generalizations that apply to almost everyone in that category but not every single person. The results are based on asking the question of both students and teachers.

In general, the people who chose Just a Hint were shy people. Most of them were laid back people who go with the flow. The people in that same group also do not like the spotlight and are not flashy people. All of the Halfway people are quiet individuals. Everyone who chose Halfway said they were "scared" or "frightened" or said that I was "crazy" when I asked them. They analyze things and think before they speak and act. They also are people that have a tad more trouble with creativity and using their imagination. Generally, they are the people that take things literally. Every single person who said All the Way was outgoing, creative, entertaining, and a talkative person. These people are no better or worse than the others, but just are completely different. As you can see, most people said All the Way. That says something about the people in RMS. For the most part we are a daring bunch of teachers and students.

I asked some people what went through their heads before they answered. Mrs. Bennington, who chose All the Way, said that when I said green she immediately thought of two things. She thought of 'it's not easy being green' and 'geniuses think green'. Perhaps that is why many people involved with the mini economy chose All the Way. Another person who chose All the Way said that she instantly thought of recycling and going green. A couple others said the same thing. Someone that also said All the Way said she chose that option because she directly thought of money. A boy that chose Halfway said that he chose that only because he didn't like the color green. He assumed the question was about fashion. A girl that chose Halfway said it was because she was afraid of taking it all the way but also thought that Just a Hint was too boring. A peer of that same girl said Just a Hint. She said that taking anything All the Way is absurd because it could get "dangerous" and that she never does things halfway. "If you are going to do something, you should do it to the best of your ability. Not halfway." This left Just a Hint which she said was the "safest choice."

Most of the people involved with the mini economy said either Halfway or All the Way. Therefore, of the people involved with the mini economy, most of them are either deep thinkers who analyze and think before acting or speaking, or they are bold and outgoing. With that being said, it can be assumed that this economy is going to flourish.

Currently our currency is pink. However, could green be the new pink?

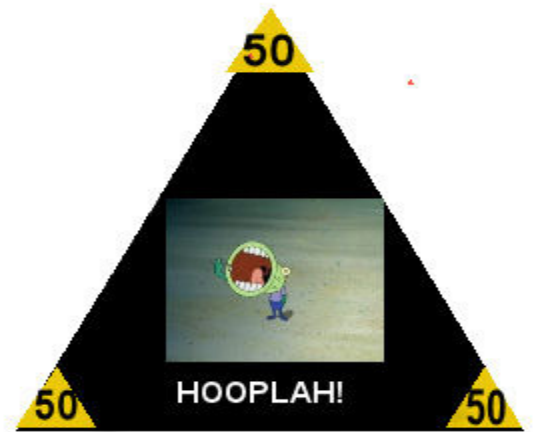
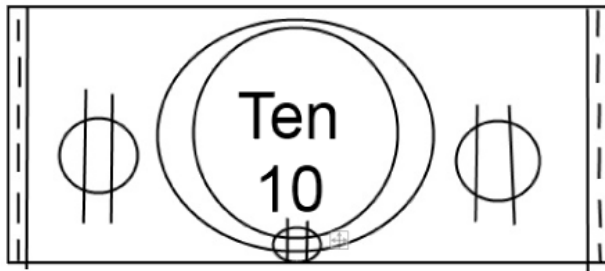
Trololo! Hooplah!

January 17, 2012

Attention all citizens in the eighth grade class! Our official currencies have been released: the Trololo and the Hooplah! The Trololo, equivalent to the American Dollar, comes in three amounts: 1 trollo, 5 trolos, and 10 trolos. On the front side of the bill is a clever little symbol devised by Ryan VanDoren of the flaming Icecubes. At this point in time, we assume that all citizens are accustomed to the “Trololo” song. If not, for the good of the community, you are implored to look it up as soon as possible, as it will only result in a deeper understanding of society.

Next, featured on the Hooplah, or equivalent to a cent, is the “Hoopla Fish” from the popular comic film series, “Spongebob Squarepants”. The currency is available in .1 hooplah, .5 hooplas, .10 hooplahs, .25 hooplahs, and also .50 hooplahs.

Christina Gaudino



Let's give it up for Ryan Van Doren and Chandni Khawaja for creating the eighth grade's fantastic new currency!!!