

**Mira Loma Middle School**  
Part of the Jurupa Unified School District

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# Mountain Lion *Talk*

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**Volume 2, Issue 2**

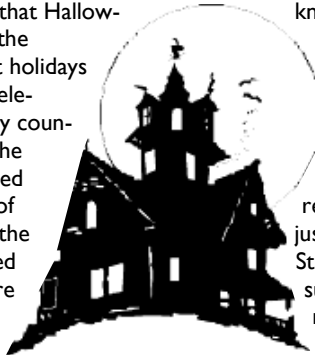
**October 31, 2007**

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## Halloween!

Legend has it that Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays and it is still celebrated in many countries around the world. It started with a group of people called the Celts who lived in Ireland more than 2,000 years ago.



Eventually these old traditions were combined with Holy days newly created by the Catholic Church. They celebrated three occasions known as the Eve of All Saints, All Saints, and All Souls. Together they were

known as Hallowmas, which was made to honor the passing of the dead. Today, most people don't celebrate Halloween because of religious reasons; they just want to have fun. Still, there are many superstitions and myths about Halloween and most people have strong beliefs about them. Deputy Roth has some ideas to help you stay safe and still have a good time. One of them is to stay in groups so you are less likely to get lost or kidnapped. Try to not stay out

past curfew, because you're at a higher risk for something bad to happen if you stay out too late. Another good idea is to watch your surroundings so you know what's going on around you, and who's around you. I know you've probably heard this a million times before, but you might want to check your candy in case some freak stuck something in there. You should also avoid wearing a lot of dark colors, or you could get hit by a car. There are a lot of people out during Halloween, so if you keep an eye out for others and your surroundings, you should be able to have lots of fun!

**By Jocie Bernal and Larry Ozaeda**

### Coming in November!

- 1st-9th AVID Cookbook Sale.
- 1st-4th AVID Food Drive.
- 3rd Classic Car and Bike Show.
- 10th Mira Loma Pageant.
- 13th-30th Music Club Fund-raiser.
- 19th-23rd Thanks Giving Break.

## Channel 7 comes to MLMS!

**By Devon Walton and Karissa Loo**

On Thursday, October 11th channel 7 came to MLMS to interview Jenifer Lopez, a former 8th grade student, for the "Cool Kids" piece showed on KABC news. She was chosen because of her good grades and her dedication to school.



Having them come over here gave us a great opportunity! We got to interview Danny Romero who covers the "Cool Kids" piece for KABC news.

He told us he wanted to be a journalist at a very early age, but being in front of an audience was his true passion. The first thing he started was taking acting classes, then for a little while he was a radio announcer. All of these things led him to be a T.V journalist.

How does he feel about being a T.V journalist? He says, "I love everything

about my job the only thing that is hard is waking up early in the morning." Romero goes on to tell us that the key to becoming a T.V journalist is taking a lot of writing classes, "If you can't write you can't make it to the top." He says.

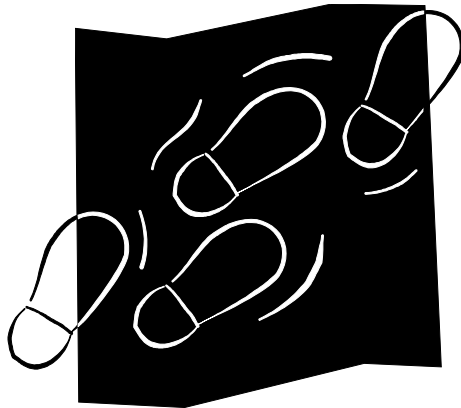


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# School Dropouts

Jacqueline Flores and Janelle Gama

If you had to choose between dropping out or going to college, which one will you choose? Hopefully you will choose going to college. College will give you opportunities for different jobs you may enjoy. "If you don't go to college, you could end up working at McDonalds or construction," says Mrs. Fletcher. You may think that those are some good jobs, but you also have to think of how annoying it would be waking up and going to a job that you wouldn't even like. You also have to think on how much money you would be making, would it be enough to sup-



*Dropping out will have you walking towards a future of very limited career options.*

port your future family? If you go to college, you can get a job that you will enjoy and when you are waking up in the morning, you won't have to whine. You will be more than happy to get out of your house to have some fun. Before you know it, you could be making thousands and even millions of dollars! Most kids don't drop out in middle school but that's when they start getting the idea from peer pressure. Mrs. Freeman says, "It's best to make kids feel successful so that in high school they'll feel confident." Mrs. Freeman also says, "Kids

probably dropout because of failing grades, drugs, or family problems. But Mrs. Fletcher says, "Kids dropout because of lack motivation or they simply just don't care." Mr. Schumacher says, "Too many people dropout because they are lazy and just don't want to do the work." He even went so far as to call these lazy students "whiney crybaby punks!" While he admits that laziness might not be the reason for many dropouts, he adds that whatever the reasons are it will "...severely limit their career options." He does have a point. When someone drops out they probably don't think of anyone else who cares about them. They selfishly only think about the fun they could have now, and they don't realize that dropping out will seriously jeopardize their future. So are you going to work hard to finish high school and maybe go to college, or are you going to be a whiney little quitter?

# Child Abduction and Safety Tips

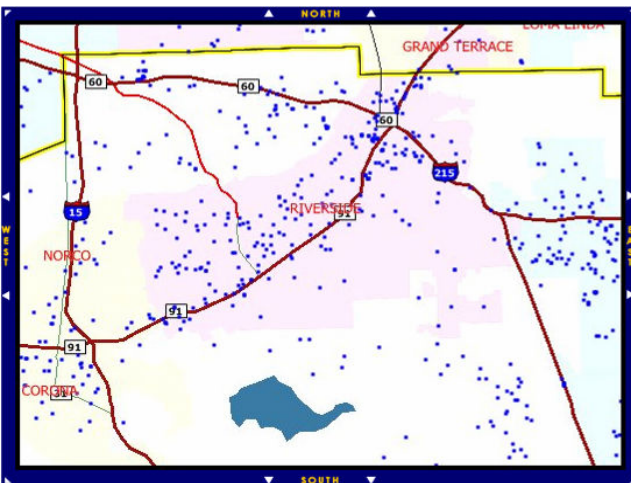
By Cassie Moore and Christian Valencia

Did you know that every forty seconds a child is reported missing? And that's only in America. According to kidsave.com, the majority of kids come to harm within three hours of being kidnapped.

A child molester is someone who sexually assaults kids. It can be a

woman, man, or even a child! In fact, there are children under the age of twelve that are child molesters. Approximately 400,000 molesters live in the U.S.A. In a recent survey taken by <http://childluresprevention.com>, each male offender who abducted girls had an average of 52 victims. Each man who abused boys had an average of 150

predators love to go to internet sites where children gather, for example MySpace. Even a small amount of information and a few pictures can be enough for someone to find out who you are. A website reported that the operators of MySpace found 29,000 child molesters on the site so far, but that there are about 160,000 new member profiles started everyday.



Every one of those blue dots is a registered sex offender. For more information about registered offenders in your area, visit <http://meganslaw.ca.gov>.

victims. Forty-nine percent of children under the age of six were molested by children under the age of eighteen. The molesters were family members. A sheriff interviewed child molesters and most of the time they preferred children on the brink of puberty. "Give me a kid who knows nothing about sex, and you've given me my next victim", said one of the men.

MLMS School Resource officer Deputy Roth said a common problem is internet predators. Internet

**Deputy Roth provided these tips to help you stay safe:**

- ◆ Always walk with a friend
- ◆ Never talk to any adult you don't know
- ◆ If someone grabs you, **scream, fight, and try everything you can to get away.** If he gets you in his house or car-It's over
- ◆ If you get away, or if someone you don't know comes up to you, run to a nearby house.
- ◆ Call 911 **IMMEDIATELY**-don't wait.

# What do you want to be when you grow up?

By Chelsea Garibay and Michael Duran

Many people already know what they want to be when they grow up. These students know exactly what they want to be.

Ignacio Godino wants to work with kids at a juvenile detention center. He wants to do this because he would like to help other people get a better life. Christian Torres has dreamed of becoming a DJ for a long time. He's always wanted to create his own beats and present them at parties and clubs. They have both set their goals and are working towards them. It's good to start planning what career you would like to have early. This way, you won't be struggling to find a job when you get older.

Some of the staff at MLMS wouldn't mind switching jobs. Since age eight, Penny Short loved to travel. She went to college for a while to be a flight attendant. Unfortunately, she didn't become one, but she found another job that she likes as well. If she could switch jobs, she would like to become a Youth Pastor. Since middle school, Ms. Alferrez wanted to be a news broad-

caster. If she could switch jobs, she would still like to be one so she could inform the world of recent happenings.

Deputy Roth has always wanted to be a cop. She wouldn't switch jobs for anything. Since, 5th-6th grade she has always thought being a cop was an interesting, exciting, and different type of job. The school nurse, Nicole McDowell, wanted to be a defense attorney or a teacher since she was in middle school. If Ms. McDowell could switch jobs, she would like to be a chef because she loves to cook.

The most interesting story we found was from Mrs. Harris. When she was in 9th grade, she wanted to be a mother



A great way to give yourself a lot of job options is to prepare now to go to college.

and a model. She wanted to become a model because her mother told her she couldn't. She had to prove her wrong. Mrs. Harris was a model for 20 years, working at car and sport shows. She enjoyed being a model before, but now she wouldn't

want to switch her current job as the school's librarian. Most of our staff are satisfied with their jobs, but some still have a dream job. Until they decide to switch, we will continue to enjoy having them as our staff.

# Violence in Video Games — Do they make YOU violent?

By Gareth Brooks and Carl Hernandez

Don't you hate when your parents don't let you play video games because of some violence or a few adult themes?

Many people believe that violence in media, especially in video games, can actually cause kids to become desensitized towards anger and aggression due to the fact that they have to actively participate in the game. "Spending hours shooting humans and creatures must have some kind of affect on the player," says Jonathan L. Freedman from the Department of Psychology in the University of Toronto.

It affects them by having the game teach them that this form of violence is acceptable and a

right way to solve personal problems. This can make the gamer insensitive to real violence which can cause them to become more aggressive and more violent towards themselves." Games could also teach you how to use weapons and other objects in a very deadly way. Even though it shows



you how to use them in the game, it doesn't necessarily mean that you know how to use a real life weapon. Before we wrote this article, we thought that violent video games had no affect on the gamers, but after we saw some research, we realized that violent video games actually could change people. Now we believe that video games could have some affect on gamers, but not a huge effect. Most gamers understand the difference between the game and reality, and they know that you just can't act in real life like you might act in a video game.

# Love: It is complicated!

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By Veronica Soto and Yvonne Robles

Have you ever fallen in love with someone? When you are near that person, lots of things can happen: your cheeks get red, your heart beats faster, your hands get sweaty, and you get that "Warm Fuzzy" feeling inside. But what makes us fall in love? Well, according to scientists, part of it is because of something called human pheromones. Scientists call this our "sixth sense." These are



odorless chemicals that are detected by an organ in the nose. Essentially, we "smell" a person without even knowing it. Pheromones may be found in sweat, or just sent out from the skin. The smell, when combined with several other things, can help us have the sensation that we are falling in love. When people fall in love, there are physical effects. Often, they can't seem to concentrate and they may also not get hungry. Some people may even need less sleep.

What makes us like someone? Research says that men go for women with symmetrical faces and a waist to hip ratio of 0.7 even if men don't notice that. Women on the other hand, look for guys to give them protection and love. How fast can all of this happen? Pretty fast! It can take only 5 minutes and 30 seconds to decide if we really like someone. 55% of our decision is based on how we see body language, 38% is the way we speak, and 7% is what we say. Unfortunately first-loves don't usually last forever...but just wait for it, the person you least expect might be the special one for you.

## Fun Corner!

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B	P	A	H	M	A	E	R	C	S	G	G	H	O	S	T	H	E	E	Q
M	A	Y	R	A	N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E	V	C	U	I	L	M
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- blood
- boo
- candy
- cat
- chainsaw
- chuckie
- chupacabra
- clowns
- costume
- dead
- dracula
- eek
- evil
- frankenstein
- freddie
- friday
- ghost
- goosebumps
- guts
- halloween
- icabod
- it
- jackolantern
- jason
- leatherface
- Mayra
- nightmare
- october
- pumpkin
- quiver
- scary
- scream
- skeleton
- spooky
- treat
- trick
- vampire
- werewolf
- windy
- witch
- yikes
- zombies