



NewsLink

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Student's Father Leads Team to Haiti

By Susan Rice

Last Thursday, Tim Rice (father of HomeLink students Susan and Nancy Rice) led a medical team to Haiti. The team included 4 doctors, a medical student, a disaster relief worker, a nurse, a counselor, and a chaplain. The team, from New City Fellowship Church, St. Louis, hopes to be an encouragement to the people of Haiti by bringing vital medical supplies and assistance. The team will be working with Pastor Dony St. Germaine, Mission to North America Haitian Movement Leader and pastor of El Shaddai Church.

Many obstacles blocked their way to Haiti, obstacles that would take a miracle to overcome.

"Miracles become more obvious when what you face is truly impossible. We all have experienced many impossible obstacles to date and have seen God open the doors. There are still many doors currently closed that only God can open for us to bring comfort and healing

to Haiti. -Tim Rice, M.D., associate professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at Saint Louis University, team leader on the trip to Haiti.

The team's preparations were certainly full of miracles. Jessica Bowers, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist at SSM Women's Center in Sunset Hills and Leah Swartwout, M.D., a family practitioner with St. Luke's Medical Group would not have been able to make it at all without a sacrifice that was huge in the eyes of Kevin Bowers. The Bowers and the Swartwouts, long-time friends, were planning a trip to Disney World when they felt the call to help in Haiti. How could they cancel their vacation with five children hanging their hopes on a trip to Florida? Their fears were put to rest, though, when Kevin, knowing of the possibility of his mother going to Haiti said to his father, "You know, Dad, there's no way I could have fun on those rides knowing that there were people dying."

Marie Miller, a fourth-year medical student at Saint Louis University Medical School, was in the Netherlands for an elective course when she felt the call to Haiti. How could she cancel her elective? How could she give up so many credits? "I feel an absolute calling. Turning on the news and seeing what's going on in Haiti, I can't imagine not wanting to go and do something." To her surprise, Miller's supervisor encouraged her to take this opportunity, saying he would give her credit for the remainder of the time spent preparing and serving in Haiti.

Indeed it was a miracle that everyone on the team could get time off work to serve, but they still weren't sure how they would get to Haiti. The team was hopeful that they could fly to Haiti via Missionary Flight International (MFI) and when Miller discovered that MFI was making flights to Haiti and that their team would qualify for discounts, it looked as though their way was

(Continued on pg.6)

The State of Homelink

By Cathy Mullins,
Homelink Director

I have been asked to write about "the state of Homelink"—kind of a "state of the union" message, I suppose. But first I would like to give a little Homelink history lesson.

As the homeschool movement grew, so did the need for upper level classes. Moms were constantly coming to Kerrie Tate and myself, bemoaning the fact that they really wanted to keep homeschooling their high school aged student, but felt dreadfully inadequate to attack such subjects as Biology, Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry and more. They felt like they had no other choice than to send their precious children to the public or private schools. They begged us to begin some kind of homeschool learning center that could assist them in any way.

Then came the first homeschool Expo in March of 2006. The featured speakers were Steve Moitzo and April Thome. One of their many accomplishments was starting a string of homeschool learning centers called "Homelink" and they were looking for other cities to

join their organization. Fortunately, God impressed Lee and Andria Porch to jump on this opportunity and Homelink-St. Louis was born.

Our first location was south of the present Homelink at Green Park Community Church. I'm not sure how many classes were offered, but Lisa Hummel (our science teacher) Carolyn Schaeffer (our math teacher), and Dianne Harry (our IEW teacher) were with us that first year and are still with us today! At the end of the year, Lee and Andria were told that Green Park Christian Academy would be starting up in the fall and that the classroom space would be needed.

But God is so faithful! By this time, SHARE had a very good working relationship with Grace United Church of Christ and we were able to contract with

them to use the entire third floor of their empty school building. Sadly, the Porches were called to another church in Springfield (Lee was a pastor) and they were unable to continue directing Homelink. I knew that these classes were important, so I decided to take over the directorship of Homelink, in addition to

running SHARE. Pat and Kerrie Tate said that they would help and so the second year of Homelink began (after much renovation during the summer of 2007!!!).

At the end of 2007, Mr. Moitzo called to tell me that he closing all the Homelink locations because it was loosing money. I then had to decide whether or not SHARE could operate Homelink. I decided to give it a try and to God's glory, it worked! We were allowed to keep the name, Homelink, and we have made various changes in how things are done, but Homelink is now in its fourth year and last year it doubled in attendance!!!!

Pat Zink become a vital part of Homelink last year and has been a huge blessing to Kerrie and myself. Pat's love for the youth has spurred her to start a Student Council at Homelink and this has caused a real camaraderie to arise among the students. It is so much fun to walk the halls and figure out the theme for the month!

For those who do not know, Homelink is not a "school" because classes meet only one day a week. It is not a "co-op" because the majority of our teachers are not



"The majority of our teachers are not homeschooling moms, but degreed teachers."

State of Homelink *(continued)*

homeschooling moms but degreed teachers. It is designed to assist homeschooling families in many ways including:

- Assistance in classes that are more difficult to teach at the highschool level (higher math, science, composition, etc).
- Classes with outside accountability for students.
- Assistance with classes in an effort to help homeschooling families continue to homeschool through high school, rather than enrolling in public or private school.
- An opportunity for homeschooled students to learn from someone else besides his/her parents (good practice for college).
- An atmosphere for friendships to develop among like-minded families.
- Giving parents with the "best of both worlds"—even though their child attends a Homelink class, the parent is still the source-of-record for the education of their child. That means they are still in control!!!

Homelink classes meet once a week on Tuesday or

Thursday. Although actual classroom time is only on these days, instructors give assignments to be done in the homeschool setting throughout the rest of the week. Teachers are available via phone or Internet to answer any questions their students may have between class meetings. They also issue grade reports at the end of the semester; however, it is parental choice whether or not to use these grades on their child's high school transcript.

For the 2009-10 school year we doubled the number of students from last year. We added many classes, particularly electives such as Healthy Cooking, Photography, and Government. Because of our growth, we were able to rent the huge fellowship hall so that students could have a larger room in which to eat lunch and talk. We were all happy to see our SHARE library go back to being a quiet place to study rather than the only place to go when you weren't in class!

Directing Homelink is a lot of work, especially over the summer when the schedule has to be laid out. Our desire for students to be able to take as many

classes as they wish causes us to pour over that schedule for days, looking for conflicts. It often becomes like a Rubix Cube but we eventually get to a place where we feel that we have made it work for as many as possible.

Directing Homelink is rewarding and a work of love. Parents are grateful to have the help of a degreed teacher assist in teaching the difficult subjects and the students are excited about seeing other homeschoolers and making new friends. It's a win-win situation for all! And we give God all the glory for making it happen!



**For the
2009-2010
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The Rice Bowl

A mish-mash of my thoughts on life.

Whipped up by Susan Rice

Petty Perfectionism

I am a perfectionist, to a fault. However, I am learning that sometimes its not worth the stress to be perfect. Take the cake I made on Saturday, for example; it was completely crazy. The mayhem started on Friday as I spent the whole morning designing the perfect 3D Optimus Prime Transformer cake and only to find out that my client changed his mind and wanted a St. Louis Blues cake. I have to say that, even though I was back at square one, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief; a Blues cake would be much simpler, or so I thought. First, I made the *perfect* chocolate cake from a special recipe, and cooked it until it was *perfectly* done and I even timed it just right so that they would cool while I picked up my sister from the skating rink and could begin frosting once I got back.

When I walked back into the kitchen to see if the cake was ready for the first layer of icing, I found the cake scattered across the floor, and Shadow, our dog, was slinking out of the kitchen. My rotten little dog had jumped onto the counter and eaten half of the cake, rendering it useless. Thanks to her, Saturday morning was spent mixing up box cakes instead of putting the finishing touches on my cake. Once I was finally ready to start icing, I found we were out of blue food coloring. A begrudging sister was sent to pick it up from the store. Precious time ticked from the clock. Ages later she returned, prized food coloring in hand, but as we began to make the icing, it was soon apparent we wouldn't have enough powdered sugar. My sister was again sent out to the store. More time slipped between our fingers. I began to freak out. How could I have a perfect cake, if I couldn't even frost it?

My sister returned, but we had about three hours of decorating to do in only an hour. A car pulled to our curb giving me a mini heart attack. I still had 30 minutes, it couldn't be pick-up time yet? To my relief, the car pulled away again, but half an hour later, Mr. Keoshkerian was knocking at the door to pick up his son's birthday cake. I couldn't give him an unembellished Blues jersey cake! It didn't even have the Blue's Note on it yet, and you can't tell it's the Blues without *that*.

He was patient though and talked with my mother while we frantically tried to finish the cake. 15 minutes later, it was recognizably a blues jersey with Matt's name on it and a 6, his age, but it was still rough around the edges. To my way of thinking, I needed at least another half an hour, but how long could I make him wait? We rushed for another five minutes and made it into a decent cake, but a far cry from what I would have consider perfect.

But looking back on it now, I don't think we could have done better, considering all the hassles we ran up against. Six year-olds aren't going to care, anyway. Why should I fret about perfection, when I am the only one who cares or maybe even notices? Perhaps I was taking it too seriously. I could have enjoyed it more if I hadn't striven for the unattainable. The cake was a good cake. And I'll leave it at that.

FEATURES

Collections and Collecting

By Geddy Avery

Collecting is one hobby that a lot of people do. It seems to be universal, and since anything is fair game to collect, it actually is.

Common collections include the ones that everyone has heard of, like stamps, coins, pins, and baseball cards. Collections that don't seem to be collections include collecting comic books, video games, memorabilia, and other things like that, such as having a lot of LEGO, keeping a garden, or having a book of autographs by famous people.

Uncommon collections could be collecting napkins from restaurants, collecting old issues of magazines, or even collecting spoons.

The value of a collectible item depends on how many people want it. Rare collectible items can sell for quite a lot if a lot of people want it. Common collectibles tend to sell for a lot less. The market for any kind of popular collectible illustrates the system of supply and demand in a very small- or large- way. People will spend large amounts of money to get the perfect item for their collection.



Disney Rewards Volunteers

By Andrew Goewert

What would you get if you give a day of service to some organization? If you answered, a warm feeling from having helped someone else or the pride of having completed a task and doing it well, you'd be right. But this year, you can also get a FREE one day ticket to Disneyland or Walt Disney World!

With Disney's new Give a Day, Get a Disney Day program, each person who gives a day of service, is promised a free ticket to a Walt Disney World theme park or a Disneyland theme park. A list of the things you can do can be found at <http://www.disneyparks.com>.

The program began on the first of the year and runs to December 15, 2010 or when tickets run out. There are black-out days that are generally around holidays, so be sure to read the fine print. The individual registering must be at least 18 years of age and all volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please know that your service must be verified by the agency you volunteer for and that tickets will take four to six weeks after you volunteer to get to you. One last note, Disney will provide only one ticket per person no matter how many hours or days you work, though are certainly still welcome (and encouraged) to continue to volunteer!

Haiti (continued from page 1)

“Miracles become more obvious when what you face is truly impossible.”

clear to go. On Tuesday, the team found out that MFI borrows most of its planes from NASCAR, and because the race car season is starting up again, NASCAR's jets were no longer available. They also found out that there was a 2,500 person waiting list for the remaining planes. Undeterred, the team continued to make preparations; "We are waiting for God himself to make a way. He cares more for those suffering in Haiti than we ever can," said Rice.

Whoever said the shortest distance between two points was a straight line, clearly was not interested in the value of taking the scenic trip of miracles God has in store for us when we put our lives and plans in His hands..." -Carrie Jones

While Miller was organizing everyone's shots, documents, contact information, and supplies, Mark Bowers, husband of Mrs. Bowers, a team member, was actively searching for transportation to Haiti. Mr. Bowers saw two main ways for the team to get to Haiti; the team could fly directly into Port-au-Prince, Haiti, using a private plane or fly into the Dominican Republic on Spirit Air and pay a staggering \$1,600 round-trip bus fair into Haiti. But Mr. Bowers was still making connections; he contacted

Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, Chairman of the Missouri Tourism Commission, who contacted Sabreliner Corporation. Sabreliner Corporation offered to donate the aircraft, fuel, flight team and flight planning, worth between \$25,000 and \$30,000, said William Poe, a spokesman for Sabreliner. The jet could carry six passengers in addition to the two pilots, and the \$100,000 worth of medical supplies the team was taking, so the 3 non-medical team members decided to take Spirit Air and meet up in the Dominican Republic. Both parties left on Thursday, February 4, 2010 and made it into Haiti on Friday, February 5, 2010.

For more updates go to <http://ncfbridge.org/index.php>, or see the next article in March's edition of NewsLink.



International Disaster Relief Agencies working in Haiti

A variety of agencies are working hard to help in Haiti. If you want to help, please consider a donation to one of the following agencies:

- Action Aid USA
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- American Jewish World Services
- American Red Cross
- Beyond Borders
- Care
- Catholic Relief Services
- Church World Services
- Clinton Bush Haiti Fund
- Concern Worldwide
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Evangelical Lutheran
- Church in America
- Feed the Children
- God's Littlest Angels
- Islamic Relief USA
- Kids Alive International
- Lions Club International
- Lutheran World Relief
- Mercy Corps
- Operation Blessing International
- Oxfam
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Project Hope
- The Salvation Army
- Save the Children
- World Relief
- World Vision

Or a charity of your choice!

Book Review

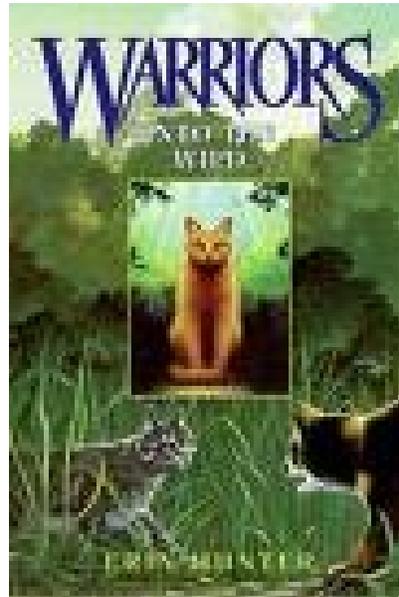
By Bowie Avery

Warriors, Into the Wild
By Erin Hunter

Warriors, Into the Wild is the first book in a great series by Erin Hunter. It is about a house cat named Rusty who wants to live in the forest behind his house. Rusty soon discovers that there are four clans of cats living in that very forest. He joins one and is off on the adventure of his life.

The four clans are sometimes at war and each have a leader. Rusty joins Thunderclan and becomes an apprentice called Firepaw. Firepaw and Greypaw, who is another apprentice, become friends and help the clan survive.

I would recommend this book to all ages, especially those who like cats. The next three books in this series are called; Warriors Fire and Ice, Warriors Forest of Secrets, and Warriors Rising Storm.



Video Game Review

By Tyler Schneider

Game: Assassin's Creed

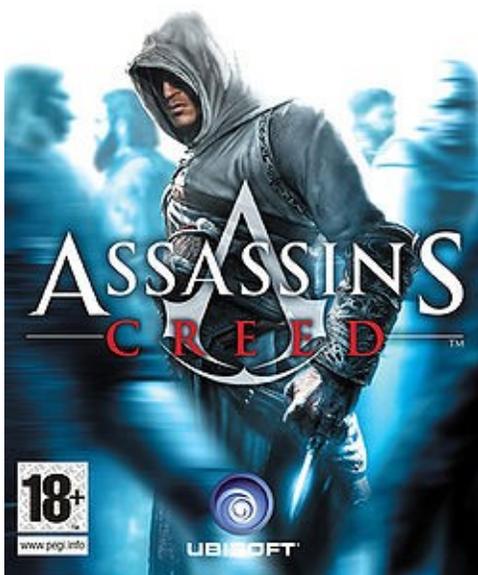
Score: 9.0 of 10

Game rating: M for Mature

WARNING: This game may be inappropriate for young children! It contains strong language, blood and gore, and violence.

Assassin's Creed was released in 2007 by Ubisoft. It is a great game that will give you hours of fun gameplay. Even though it is almost three years old, it's one of the greatest games I've ever played. The game takes place in the bible times. You are an assassin who belongs to a group called assassin's creed. I'm not going to tell you anymore about the story. The only flaw in this game is that it is repetitive on some parts. Other than that, it's a great game with great gameplay, great story, and great characters. You will have HOURS of fun with this great game.

HAVE FUN!!!!



Superbowl XLIV

SPORTS

By Austin Beam

This year's superbowl match-up was supposed to be the showdown of the quarterbacks. For the Indianapolis Colts there is Peyton Manning and for the New Orleans Saints, Drew Brees. Manning, known for his accuracy and completion ratio, versus Brees, the undersized quarterback from one of the most unlikely Superbowl Contenders, the "Ain'ts."

Suprisingly to most analysts and football commentators, the Saints swept the Colts in a 31-17 victory!

Superbowl 44 (XLIV) was the first ever appearance for the Saints and they made it a big one! Two of the biggest plays of the game were the onside kick recovery for the Saints and the interception taken away from Peyton Manning in the fourth quarter.

Drew Brees, the Saints quarterback had a very good game out throwing Manning with a higher pass completion percentage. Also, Reggie Bush the Saints running back had 75+ yards rushing and receiving.

It was a great game having been both exciting and surprising.

Goooooo Saints!

Superbowl Ad Bonanza

By Geddy Avery

Did you know that a 30 second commercial in the Super Bowl cost about 2.5 *million* dollars? That means about 160 million dollars will have changed hands after the last touchdown.

Last year, the audience of the XLIII Super Bowl was about 150 million. That's a huge amount of exposure after all; the population of the USA is about 300 million. That means about half of the US watches the super bowl- and the commercials that go along with it.

Whew! Let's take a look at

this year's commercials.

The super bowl is a good place to debut new shows, products, and movies, and we certainly saw that this year. Two new movies and a few new shows were introduced. There were:

- 13 car commercials,
- 7 computer-related commercials,
- 4 clothing and shoe commercials,
- 2 hair commercials,
- 3 phone,
- 7 movie,
- 19 food (mainly Doritos),
- 15 commercials advertising a website,
- one lawn care commer-

cial, and

- 35 commercials about shows.

Out of all these, Google had its first ever super bowl commercial and the controversial commercial for the government census aired.

If you want to watch any of these commercials again, go to cbssports.com/superbowlads.

After you view the ads, be sure to vote in our email poll. Your responses are due by Febraury 27! Results from the poll question will be printed in our March 11 edition.

The Push for the Playoffs

By Andrew Goewert

Although the National Hockey League playoffs are months away, each and every game for our St. Louis Blues is hugely important. Each game won adds two points to their standing and will determine whether or not they get into the Western Division Stanley Cup playoffs. As of 2/6/10, the Blues

are in 13th place with 59 points (2 points per won game, one point for overtime loss). For the people who are unfamiliar with the NHL, you have to be in 8th place through 1st place to be in the playoffs. As of 2/6/10, the lineup for the playoffs(1st-8th) in the West is San Jose, Chicago, Vancouver, Phoenix, LA, Colorado, Nashville and Calgary. In the East, the

lineup is Washington (DC), New Jersey, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Ottawa, Montreal (Habs), Philadelphia and Tampa Bay. Every game is crucial to our chances into the playoffs.



**St. Louis Blues
Hockey**

NewsLink Opinion Poll

Each edition, the staff at NewsLink will ask your for your opinion on a specific topic and will report the results of the poll back to you in the next edition. Answers to this edition's question must be submitted no later than Saturday, February 27!

This week's question is: What was your favorite Superbowl Ad this year?

- The Doritos shock collar?
- Snickers Betty White football?
- Doritos don't mess with my mama?
- Budweiser Clydesdale and steer best friends?

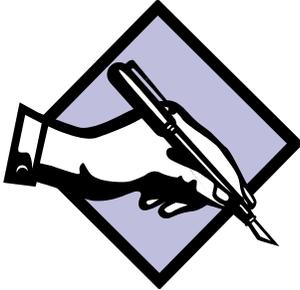
***Vote for your favorite Superbowl Ad at
pollquestions.panthernewshl@hotmail.com***

All responses must be received by Saturday, February 27!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted!

PANTHER NEWSLINK NEEDS YOU!!!



- Do you write well?
- Do you have an opinion that you are dying to share?
- Maybe your friends tell you that you are a fabulous artist or photographer.

Students of any age and grade level are invited to be guest contributors to Panther NewsLink. Here's what you do:

If you have a message you need to get out to your fellow students, consider placing a classified ad!

Just email us at panthernewshl@hotmail.com

- Email your article, opinion or other material to panthernewshl@hotmail.com for inclusion in our next edition.
- Please include your name and phone number in your email so we can contact you.
- Submissions due by March 6, 2010 for inclusion in our March 11 edition!

St. Louis County Library Teen Advisory Group

T.A.G.

St. Louis County Library Teen **Advisory Group**

Join the Cliff Cave Teen Advisory Group! Be involved in planning library activities and choosing resources just for teens. Each month, we do something different.

Meetings are on the first Monday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library, Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph Road; St. Louis, MO 63129.

Contact (314) 994-3300 for further information.



February—March 2010

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

- 2/12—FUSE Valentine Party; 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- 2/13—Parent's Sweetheart Dance; 7 to 10 p.m.
- 2/23—Winter Young People's Concert
- 3/2—FHE Rally at the Capitol!
- 3/8 — Homeschool Mornings at the Magic House
- 3/9—SHARE Support Meeting
- Chess Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month!
- 3/11—Next edition of NewsLink is available!

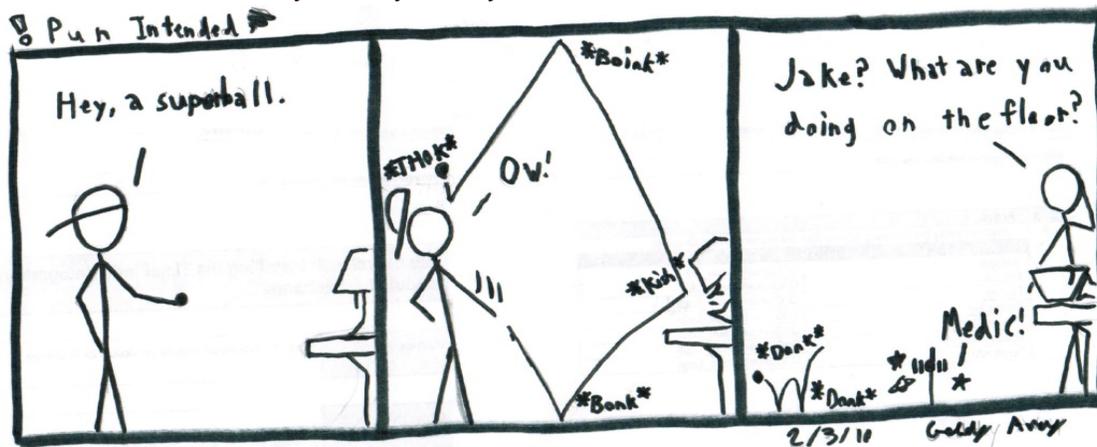
So....Tired.....

By Austin Beam

Have you noticed that in the middle of winter everyone always seems to be so tired? This is caused by the weather. In the summer people go outside and play while in the winter people stay inside and relax. If you relax too much you will get very tired and you'll want to sleep more. This is sometimes called the winter doldrums. Almost everyone is affected by these doldrums and they are very annoying.

Some ways to get out of the doldrums are by joining a winter sport or just playing in the snow. It's easy to find physical activities to do in the winter for example, a snowball fight, sledding, or just building a snowman. Doing physical activities helps get rid of the winter doldrums. I was very tired but by swimming on my swim team I have had more energy. Maybe you should start getting active as well.

Pun Intended by Geddy Avery



A Note from Our Advisor

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to our first edition of 2010! I want to begin by recognizing and thanking Mrs. Darnell for supporting the Newspaper Class last Fall. Thanks to her, we have built a wonderful foundation for our newspaper and our students are excited about being writers and reporters.

As you read through our first 2010 edition of the Panther NewsLink you will note that we have a new look. The students have worked very hard since coming back from the holidays to develop our new style, critically examine content and think about what our readers may want and expect to see in a newspaper. The work you see in this paper is theirs! We will have a student editor and co-editor for each edition that we publish, and every student has written at least one article or feature for this edition. I'm very proud of them and I'm grateful that they allow me to have a ton of fun working with them every Thursday to produce their newspaper.

The students have made the commitment to publish four editions this year; this one in February, and others scheduled for publication on March 11, April 15, and May 18. After looking at the calendar, they also decided to publish a special "fun" edition this semester and are planning to produce an edition that is ready on the first day of classes next fall.

As you read through this edition of the paper, please know that we need your help. Each of you plays an important role in this newspaper (even if you aren't in class!). You can be a guest contributor or columnist, you can submit story ideas, write an editorial or place an ad to help support printing costs.

Please know that you are always welcome to contact me or the newspaper staff by emailing us at panthernewshl@hotmail.com. You can also contact me directly at (314) 416-7005.

Warmly,

Karen Goewert

**Watch for the
next edition of
the Panther
NewsLink
March 11!**

