



**Wildcat News**  
 Hixson Middle School  
 Hixson, TN

Mar/Apr  
 2015

www.hixsonmiddle.com

INFORMING HIXSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

# Principal's Corner

Dear Parents & Guardians,

WOW! It is hard to believe this year is in its final weeks. The students and staff have worked very hard this year and I am so proud of each of them!

As we approach the end of the school year, we have several assessments scheduled. It is very important that students are not absent and arrive on time for these testing sessions. These assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge. We appreciate

your support in ensuring students are present and prepared for testing.

Thank You,

LeAngela Rogers  
Principal



### Bye, Bye, Birdie

Bravo! Another outstanding HMS production  
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### 3.14.15 Pi Day

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### Student Section - Achievements

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## Principal's Corner Continued....

### Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP)

TCAP will occur on Tuesday, April 28 – Thursday, April 30 and will assess English Language Arts, math, and science. School wide testing is scheduled from approximately 7:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. each day. Times will vary depending on which content area is being tested. The exact schedule is pending from the district on what day we will test each subject. The results of these tests do count for 15% of students' Quarter 4 grade.

### Algebra 1 EOC

This assessment is only for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are in the Algebra 1 class. This test will be given on Monday, May 4 in the morning. It is not a timed test so the ending time is dependent on the student.

### Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Social Studies Field Test

This test will occur on Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 15. While this test will be conducted under the same protocol as the regular TCAP testing, the results will not count towards students' grades due to the transition to updated Social Studies standards. Due to the online format of this assessment, testing will take place in computer labs.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will test Monday, May 4 – Wednesday, May 6.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students will test Thursday, May 7 – Monday, May 11.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will test Tuesday, May 12 – Friday, May 15.

### Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

MAP testing will occur by grade level during social studies classes throughout each day on Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 15. The results of this test determine students' qualification for intervention services based on the state's Response to Instruction and Intervention program.

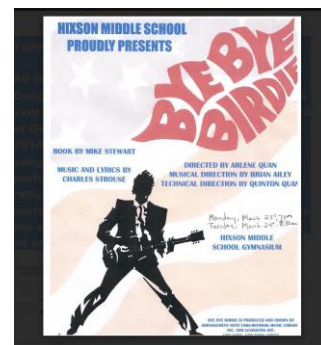
8<sup>th</sup> grade students will test Tuesday, May 5 – Thursday, May 7.

## HMS Chorus News

**Congratulations to the cast and chorus of "Bye Bye Birdie"!!** Also, many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Quan for their many hours of rehearsing the actors and building the sets! This year's production caused us all to "Put On a Happy Face"!

The chorus **Spring Concert** with awards presentation is set for **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the gym**. This year, the concert features a salute to "The Wizard of Oz" upon its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, and its overall legendary effect on American culture! Featured performances include songs from "The Wiz", "Wicked" and the 1939 film, "The Wizard of Oz".

Everyone is invited to this wonderful concert! It will surely take you "Over the Rainbow"!!



# Bye Bye Birdie! *Fun Fabulous Fantastic*



## Bye Bye Birdie 2015

Directed by Arlene Quan  
Musical Direction by Brian Ailey  
Technical Direction by Quinton Quan

**Cast:** Jarad Dove, Zy'Drea Hunter, Drew Doge, Hannah Vaughn, Connor Mosburg, Hali Clark, Max Parker, Parrish Pacetti, Aubrey Ford, Madison Küberg, Renea Ramsey, Sara Burhans, Hailey Wallace, Anthony Bates, Olivia Erli, Brayden Walker, Kaislyn Gunnels, Cora Yarborough, Mollie Flint, Cerys Mooney, Kiya Kellam, Brooklyn Jones, Gracie Hess, Emily Ho, Kiernan Thurman

Plus the chorus and other stage & production support.

**Awesome job!**

SCHOOL CALENDAR



ATHLETICS:

## Meet Amelia Harris

Hixson Middle School student Amelia Harris has been a competitive swimmer since age 8, swimming for Red Bank Swim team in the summer and for McCallie GPS Aquatic club year around. Amelia has consistently placed in the top 16 and top 8 in the city and also in the top 20 in the past in the Southeast among swimmers from Auburn, Nashville, Georgia and Knoxville. Amelia aged up recently and has some big challenges ahead of her for the 13/14 age group. Her goal is to qualify for the Southeastern Championship meet this summer in at least 4 events. She excels at long course meters, back stroke and breaststroke.



# Wildcat *Sports*

GO WILDCATS!



## Upcoming Sports

4/20/2015

- Track meet at Ooltewah

4/21/2015

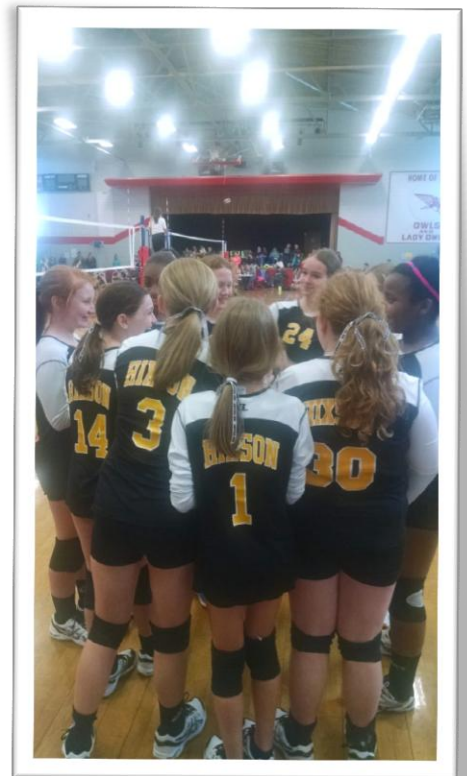
- Golf vs Ooltewah at Creeks Bend
- Baseball vs Tyner at Hixson

4/23/2015

- Golf vs Hunter at Bear Trace
- Baseball vs Hunter at Hixson

## Cheerleading

Cheerleading tryouts were held this past week.



JV Girls Volleyball

# Academic Update

## Spanish

Spanish 1 class is beginning their Spanish project #2 where the theme is *My Family* project. Students will be identifying their family tree (All members of their extended family including their pets and close relatives). Students will express themselves where they will get to talk in Spanish about themselves and each family member. Students will use descriptive adjectives, learned in previous chapters, they will begin to use regular and irregular -ar, -er, and -ir verbs in Spanish and include other prior knowledge from the Realidades book 1. Students will play a realistic use of family vocabulary in a personal context. By doing this, they will discover more about their family and ethnic origins. They will also convey information and interesting aspects of their family. Students will reinforce grammatical concepts used in the discussion of family for the 2nd semester. Students will be introducing their family tree (Aqui esta mi familia or Aqui esta mi arbol genealogico.) Students will tell and show how many relatives they have. (Yo tengo dos padres, tres hermanos, cuatro abuelos, etc)

Students will show each person selected for discussion from their family tree and present them to the class (Aqui esta mi padre) and repeat for other members of their family.

This is going to be an exciting project for them, because they will get to show how extended their family tree is to others and be proud of doing it in Spanish. Pictures will be taken while students work on their project during the trans-course of the project.

Sincerely,  
Nilca O. Billow

## 6th Grade

### Science

Sixth graders will spend the next few weeks investigating and experimenting with any grade level concepts that interest them. Students are required to present a project, an experiment, a model or a demonstration pertaining to a sixth grade science standard by May 14th. Directions and a rubric will be sent home with your child.



Faith Curtis demonstrates the power of air pressure using a beaker and a boiled egg.

## 7th Grade

### World History

7th Grade World History students have worked very hard all year. Students are prepared for the TCAP in the next few weeks. Students are currently analyzing how early people lived in the Americas. Students will end the 4th quarter learning about the Industrial Revolution. 7th grade World History and ELA students will complete a collaborative 4th quarter project focusing on the Industrial Revolution. More details will be given to the students in the upcoming weeks. Continue to encourage your student to study and work hard every day. Let's make the final half of this 4th quarter a great one

Thank you to the family of McKenna and Riley Rominger and Grace Chemical for copying the leveled packets of poetry for our poetry clubs! Our readers love having their own copy to annotate!

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

FREE Language Arts tutoring will be offered in Mrs. Bishop's classroom, 7207, Monday through Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. All seventh grade students are welcome to attend. Please make a reservation so Mrs. Bishop can plan meaningful activities for you.

The Language Arts TCAP is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## SUMMER READING 2015!!!

Carrie Bishop [Bishop\\_C@hcde.org](mailto:Bishop_C@hcde.org)  
Subscribe to Remind101 by texting @6ab4f6 to [423-285-8191](tel:423-285-8191)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Math

8th grade Math: Our pi projects went fantastically! Please review the year's tests that are on Edmodo so that your student is prepared for the TCAP that is

coming up! Ms. Ellis still has tutoring after school on Wednesday's until 3:30. The next project will be completed during class and it is a Comic Strip Project using mathematical concepts that students have learned this year. After TCAP the students will be working on geometry concepts that they will need.



Hixson Middle School participated in the regional Science Olympiad tournament on Saturday March 28th.

**Ethan Praytor** -- First Place in Dynamic Planet -- Oceanography

**Ethan Praytor** -- First Place in Road Scholar

**Maggie O'Rear and Erin Riley** -- First Place in Disease Detectives

**Kenny Zheng and David Robey** -- First Place in Bio-Processing Lab

**Connor Mosburg and David Robey** -- Second Place in Can't Judge a Powder

**Hope Hembree and Edward Lewis** -- Third Place in Entomology

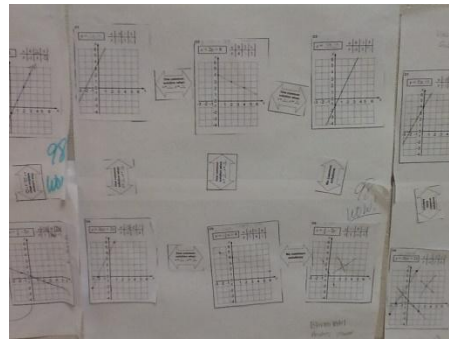
**Science Olympiad is a national program to encourage student interest in and knowledge of the sciences.**

**THE NATION'S MOST EXCITING K-12 SCIENCE COMPETITION**

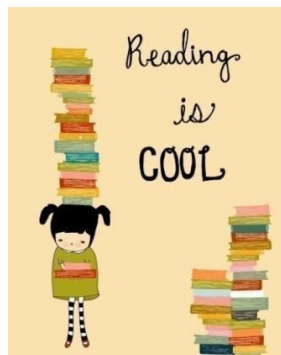
## Academic Update continued

### Pi Day 2015!

Pi Day 2015 (3.14.15) was a special day because it extended the mathematically significant number pi two extra digits and will not happen again within most of our lifetimes. Our students celebrated the event with some gorgeous artwork showing the symbol for pi.



### Hixson Middle School Summer Reading 2015



*This summer you should read as many books as you can.*

### Summer Reading Sneak Peek

Summer reading 2015 is going to be our best yet! A list of book choices, book clubs, books at discounted prices delivered to you! Students get to choose the books they want to read from the lists, and they must read a minimum of two books. There will be an opportunity to pre-order summer reading books at a discounted price, and books will be in students' hands before school gets out. Book lists and order forms will be going home soon! Each student will participate in a book club of his/her choice when we return to school in August. Book clubs will consist of groups of 15 students or less, and be facilitated by a teacher who read the book! Be on the lookout for more information!



## Calling All Students to Join the PTSA's TCAP ESCAPE

What: Each grade level will rotate 1 afternoon in each of the following areas from 12:30 pm until 2:15 pm:

- **Cafeteria** – dance, social, table games and photo booth. Some card games will be provided but favorites can be brought from home. Handheld games such as DS, Phones, iPad, etc. can be brought from home but have to be kept in locker until escape time.
- **Gym** - dodge ball and four square
- **Outside** – obstacle course, flag football, kick ball or any other outside activity such as frisbee, volleyball, soccer, etc. (balls, frisbees, etc, will need to be brought from home)

When & Where:

	<u>Tuesday, 4/28</u>	<u>Wednesday, 4/29</u>	<u>Thursday, 4/30</u>
6th Grade	Gym	Outside	Cafeteria
7th Grade	Outside	Cafeteria	Gym
8th Grade	Cafeteria	Gym	Outside

We will sell wristbands for \$12 for all three days or \$5 for a single afternoon. Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday, April 21 through Monday, April 27 during lunchtimes. **No tickets will be sold after Monday, April 27 as to not interfere with TCAPs.** We will also have concessions available for sale throughout the week.

Mark your calendar now so your student can "escape" some of the TCAP stress...

To make this a successful and enjoyable event, we need your help! If you can volunteer your time on any or all of the afternoons, please signup for a time slot at the following website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/1oCoD4EAEA723AAF85-hmstcap/>. Or you can email Sheila Rector at [fssrector@icloud.com](mailto:fssrector@icloud.com). It's a great way to help the PTSA support our school enhancement initiatives, plus, it'll be fun for your child! Hope to see everyone there!

*Student Council*

*Presents*

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance*

*Theme: Luau*

*May 8th*



Open to any 8<sup>th</sup> grader who has not been suspended

## Young Southern Student Writers Awards



Each year UTC and the Southern Lit Alliance sponsor the Young Southern Student Writers Competition. This year they received over 4000 entries! Hixson Middle had a number of winners. Awards were distributed at the Tivoli on April 14.

- Makayla Love
- Britlee Skiles
- Dianna Elsea
- Abigayle Henson
- Diego Galvan
- Raiya Robbins
- Lake Davidson
- Josephy Collins
- Josiah Morgan
- Riley Collins
- Katie Sullivan
- Mia Weger-Long
- Bradley Shropshire
- Paul Newton
- Erin Riley
- Madison Kuberg
- Aren Desai
- Noodle Markum
- Austen Holritz
- Skylar Ellis-Gilliam
- Megan Lowenthal

**Thank you to our wonderful, dedicated, writing teachers, Mr. Topping, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. Devore and Mrs. Smith.**



## The Student Section

### Celebrating Student Achievements

**We are so proud of you!**

Winners of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards from Mr. Topping's 1st quarter "Aspiring Authors" RTL class.

- Samantha Eddy – Honorable Mention in FLASH FICTION
- Samantha Eddy – Honorable Mention in FANTASY
- Shelby Mahoney – Honorable Mention in MEMOIR

**Two Hixson Middle School students are finalists in the Letters About Literature Contest! Samantha Eddy and Emma Reagan both won Honorable Mention in the Tennessee Letters About Literature contest! These two writers were two of 32 Honorable Mentions awarded out of 662 7th and 8th graders! Samantha Eddy wrote to Ellen Hopkins, the author of Perfect. Emma Reagan wrote to Barbara Baker, the author of the poem "A Spike of Green." Congratulations!**



## State Student Council

Two Hixson Middle School students attended the State Student Council Convention, Natalee Castro and Amrit Pagar. Student Council is also looking for student suggestions on how to make HMS a better place to learn.





## Student Writing

Thank you, Mrs. Bishop, for submitting and to the students for their thoughtful work.

### Separation Craze

(Rosa Parks Poem)

Megan Loewenthal

Whites sit in the front, colored in the rear  
That's how it's been for all these years  
If the whites needed more seats  
The blacks were kicked into the streets

Many colored disagreed  
Few fought to be freed  
Although those who protested  
They were arrested

December 1, 1965

A dauntless colored woman sat on a bus to ride  
But then more whites came on to be seated  
The colored were to get up and move, so mistreated

The others around her left  
But the one woman decided it was best  
To stay where she was, she refused to move  
Despite how society said she was to

Rosa Parks was the woman's name  
She was arrested, like the others the same  
Then Edgar Nixon, part of the NAACP  
Had bailed her out and she had become free

Though a lot happened after that  
She became respected because of her brave act  
Rosa worked with Martin Luther King Jr.  
They're huge parts in help for a better future

Though Rosa Parks died in 2005  
She is still remembered now as if she were still here, still alive  
People like her shouldn't only be remembered on these days  
But every day, for their hard work to finally get us out of this separation craze

Erin Riley

### Underwater Imprisonment

Darkness enveloped me as I broke through the water's surface. The bubbles rose past me as fast as evaporating water. The lake water had silenced the outside world, flooding me with its eternal darkness. I had never touched the

bottom of the lake before, and I have never wanted to either. A part inside of me did wonder about what was at the bottom of the murky water. Was it solid like the bottom of a pool? Maybe it was soft like mud. I had never thought of it before. I dived down with miraculous speed until suddenly, my breath was gone. I scrambled to the top as fast as I could, not noticing a dark, lingering object. I was stopped by an obstacle as I reached the top, the Great Big Mable, a giant scarlet raft that could hold almost five people. I pounded my hands on the Mable, hoping to push it up and get some air. The red vinyl was blocking my exit, my fingers were gradually starting to relax with defeat. It was no use, my lungs were burning for air, pleading that they would greet the cool oxygen once more. I swam to one side only to find that I took the wrong way. Fear grabbed my heart and held its firm grip. My eyes were closed but I wouldn't see any better if I opened them. My legs were aching with pain and my arms were still searching for a way to give my lungs air. My throat was now flaming as well as my lungs. Fear gripped my heart even tighter. I wanted so desperately to open my eyes and see the sky. My arms continued to search for an opening, I had never noticed how large the Mable was. My weary fingers weakly clutched the edge of the Mable. My arms were tired of searching, the fear had been pushed away and its grip released. Cool air rushed into my lungs once more as I pulled myself up. Coughing, I swam to the ladder. This time, instead of being enveloped in darkness, I was being enveloped in light. Now I realize that the Mable sort of represented problems in our life. We feel like we're drowning and about to give up but we fight and overcome our problems. We feel like we're about to give up, and some do, but there are some who keep fighting and win. They overcome their problems and are covered in success and triumph.

Noodle Markum

### Are You There?

I remember one of the worst days of my life. I was in Cleveland with my dad and his friends to watch the Super Bowl. My dad's friend Shawn had two daughters who I was good friends with, even though they were a couple of years older than me. Their house was a trailer, it was a light brown color, it had a tin roof and a big front porch with hammocks that Cameron and I would swing in all the time when it would rain. On the inside there were two leather couches one was smaller than the other one, and the other couch was bigger. I didn't watch the football game so Cameron and I went outside to ride go carts. We raced and played for

what seemed like hours. The day turned to night and we went inside to get some rest.

"I will sleep on the little couch." I said to my dad. Slowly opening my eyes I leaned up on the couch. My dad wasn't there. "Dad?" I said searching through all the rooms. I this was this was the first time that when I called he wasn't there. Frightened I bolted outside and asked Cameron where Shawn and my dad were.

"Calm down noodle they are just out getting some groceries." this calmed me down a bit not I was still on edge. Soon after, my mom showed up to come and get me from Shawn's house she looked very upset so I didn't ask many questions. But my mom wasn't taking me home she was taking me home; she was taking me to my nana's house. Our preacher from our church was there. A chill went through my body. My nana started walking toward me.

"Hayden... your dad he um... he got in a car wreck and he got hurt, and he got hurt so bad that god decided to bring him home." It seemed like time slowed down for a couple of seconds.

"NO!" I screamed and ran into the shed and lay down next to my nanas dog. I sat there for I while. Sometimes I still call out for my dad waiting for an answer, knowing that one won't come.

### A Genetics Limerick

By Paul Newton

There once was a man named Mendel  
Who had strength in the realm of mental.  
He planted some peas,  
And now we all see,  
That traits pass through means parental.

### Hades

By Bradley Shropshire

The gods of the underworld  
Have many slaves.  
From women to children  
To warriors and braves.

Soldiers and fairies,  
Hellhounds as well.  
An army of corpses  
From the deaths of hell.

Minatours and harpies,  
A cerberas or two  
Lost souls and demons

Gorgons too.

He has sirens to lure  
Men to those dooms  
Demons for killing  
That hide in the gloom

Mindless and violent,  
The army of dead  
They'll tear off your arms  
And rip off your head.

He feels no regret  
And kills with ease  
The god of the underworld  
The mighty Hades.

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## The Big Day

By Madison Kuberg

Previously, my dad and mom divorced, and my dad remarried to a nice high school friend. Her name was Jessica. She had two kids named Jaden and Destiny. If you count all the kids that makes five (Destiny, Jaden, Madison, Abi, and Cole). One year later, the wedding was planned. It was time to go to Gatlinburg (that was where the wedding was planned to be). Although instead of staying at the cabin that my grandparents owned we rented another cabin closer to the church. This cabin was much different than the cabin we owned. The bath was in the living room, and a full game room downstairs.

The day after we got to the hotel room it was time for the "rehearsal" wedding. We did not actually rehearse anything. We got to eat pizza, and my mom even bought all three girls dresses for the rehearsal. Finally, it was the wedding day! We left early too go to the salon, and it felt like we spent the whole day there.

Meanwhile the limousine was preparing to come pick us up. We got in the limousine and there sat Jessica's mom, and her two sisters (April and Ashley). April, Ashley, and I were the bridesmaids. They had there dresses on too! The silky, soft, green, and purple dresses fit so nicely to my body. I was blocking out all the conversations and saw the worry in Jessica's eyes.

Waiting, a man opened the door, and we all got out. I saw my dad, my cousin, my two brothers, and my dad's friend. I got very mad when I saw the cokes they had in their hands (I look back now and think of how much of a baby I was). A few minutes later, I had a special talk with my sister I directed, "when you are walking down the aisle throw

the flowers!"

She replied, "Okay," in a confused tone.

It was time for the wedding, and I was the first person to go. I walked very slowly, and I was nervous. Then came Jessica's sisters, then my big sister, then my sister came! It was a disaster, but at least she didn't throw the whole basket. In fact, she didn't even throw the flower pedals. It was funny though, because the priest ran grabbed the basket and threw the pedals really fast. Then came the bride, she was beautiful it was like every one gasped at the bride. My dad smiled, and his smile went from cheek to cheek. When they released the doves I saw a tear in my dad's eye, but he said he had sweat in his eyes (I knew he didn't).

Eventually it was time to go to eat. The tables had green and purple table cloth that lightened up the room. When we got in line my dad was next to me. I saw a coconut, and my face was ecstatic! I have always wanted to try a coconut, but I could never find one. My dad knew this, so he put the whole coconut on my plate (later I realized the coconut was not easy to eat). That's when it hit me! My dad was in love, and that smile and the tears explained it all. I didn't want to ruin that so I told him to go sit with Jessica, and that I could handle my plate.

We even got our own father daughter dance, and he took turns twirling us, and at the end my cousins, my big brother, little sister, my aunt, and I went home to go sit in the Jacuzzi. This was by far the best day of my life! After all the struggles of my family I realized no matter what I will always love my family!

We may be weird but that's what makes life fun! I don't care about being the same as everyone else!

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## Six Flags, The Day my Fear was Tested

By Austen Holritz

I've had this vast, illogical fear of heights since I began to walk. Which is funny, because I love being able to see the world from up high. Maybe it's more of a fear of falling. This trip, however, affected my fear in general.

I remember seeing the behemoth of a ride for the first time. The neon orange metal tracks, rising high into the atmosphere. My heart beat quickened, far and awe practically radiated off me. The Goliath. One of Six Flags tallest rides, the Goliath lasted for three minutes, went seventy five miles per hour, and was two hundred feet tall. It was the time of the sixth

grade band, chorus, and orchestra trip, and my friends expected me to mount this colossal ride.

My friends encouraged me repeatedly, wanting me to partake in the experience, I refused. "C'mon," Jacob begged, "You've got to do this!!" Ricky came up to me, "Hey, I'm scared too! But I'm still doing it!" Thomas joined in, "Yeah! You've got it, Austen." I shook my head vigorously. "Nope," I denied, "I can't do this!" I felt sick.

Eventually, they rode the Goliath without me. I simply watched them ascending up, up, up, and then rocketing towards the ground. After the dismount, the next thing I knew, I was standing in line to ride. These weren't butterflies flying around my stomach; these were vultures gnawing at my courage. Once I was locked into the ride, there was only one thing that gave me reassurance; I couldn't get out of this. There was no backing down.

I'm not quite sure how long it took to climb the hill, but it seemed like an eternity. Eventually, we reached the apex of the climb, and then we fell. All of the fear and nerves I had during the ascension were left at the top of that hill. At that point, it was pure excitement. That is, up until the corkscrew. The car began to turn sideways with the track, and we started another descent.

My vision become grainy, until all I could see was a pinpoint of light. Then, darkness. I woke back up as we entered the station, exclaiming, "I'm pretty sure I just blacked out!"

The photo that was taken of me at the end of the ride confirmed my suspicion. In this photograph, everyone around me had a look of giddiness and excitement, whereas my face was devoid of any expression. My eyes were closed and my head hung, limp to the side. I had passed out.

I did learn something from this experience, I learned about my fear. I learned that fear is just something we make up. An arbitrary concept that doesn't have to affect us! Fear is merely our brain playing a little prank on us.