



# The 411

January-May 2004

Volume 2 Iss. 1

## Teen Zone Newsletter

[www.ci.broomfield.co.us/library/teenwebsite](http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us/library/teenwebsite)

### What is *The 411*?

It's the Young Adult Newsletter published by the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library & our Teen Advisory Board.

Inside you'll find:

- Calendar of Teen Library Events
- Reviews of books & movies
- Original articles by & for teens

Questions?  
Comments?  
Contact the  
**Teen Zone**  
at 720-887-2360

## Upcoming Teen Events!

### Fusing Identities

Melting Pot or Salad Bowl? What does it mean to be American? It used to mean that everyone who came to the United States adopted one "American" culture and became a melting pot of shared identities. Or is it a salad bowl where everyone brings their own flavor and contributes to a diverse, tasty cultural mix?

Being a teen is all about finding your own identity, but it's also about fitting in. Broomfield's Asian and Hispanic populations have doubled in the last few years and many minority teens also strive to find a balance between their native culture and teen culture; their parents' expectations and the need to rebel. Where do you fit in the spectrum?

Fusing Identities is a series of book and film discussions exploring the issues of bi-cultural identity and teen rebellion. Through reading and films, the

#### Bi-Cultural Experiences:

Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Feb. 28, 2004.

#### Teen Rebellion and Culture:

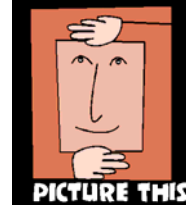
Mar. 4, Mar. 25, Mar. 27, 2004.

#### Fusing Identities Celebration:

April 17, 2004

This program is made possible by Libraries for the Future, Metlife Foundation and a partnership with Broomfield High School.

### FUSING



### Identities

program looks at common issues faced by bi-cultural and bi-racial teens, and how culture shapes your identity. Whether you're a recent immigrant, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> generation American, or just interested in the issues facing minorities, we hope you'll join us at the library for the next series in the Fusing Identities program.

### The Ballot

Your vote counts!  
Nominate a movie we should show for our **Cinema Summer** Teen Reading Program. (PG-13 or under)  
Vote for three movies....

Cut this out and drop it off  
..... at the Teen Zone.....

### Herbal Remedies

Have you ever been sick with a bad cold or flu and wished you could wave a magic wand and wake up healthy? If so, you might be interested in our Herbal Remedies program. Teens will work with a certified herbalist to learn how natural herbs can help to heal aches and pains, cold symptoms, relieve stress, enhance memory, and bring out that natural teen beauty. Enhancing their senses, teens will experiment with making herbal teas and creating exotic soaps.

**Saturday, January 24, 2004 2-4 P.M.**



### Handwriting Analysis

P is for penmanship! But it's also for personality. What can you learn about yourself and others by analyzing their handwriting?

Find out at this fascinating workshop on graphology.

Taught by graphologist Sallie Bolich.

**Saturday, May 8, 2004 2-4 P.M.**



### Feng Shui

What on earth is it? Feng Shui originated in China about 5000 years ago. The Chinese believed that by understanding and manipulating the invisible energy (chi) of

the cosmos, they could allow that energy to flow smoothly, thereby creating harmony between themselves and the environment. Our teen program will focus on the principles of Feng Shui in relation to each teen's own room at home. Come with a specific sense of your room in mind and leave with a new plan to reach chi nirvana, energetically that is!

**Saturday, May 15, 2004 2-4 P.M.**



### Forensics

Ever wonder what investigators do at a crime scene? Now's your chance to find out! Join us as criminologist Brenda Harris demonstrates how to dust for fingerprints, identify clues, and process a crime scene.

**Saturday, February 21, 2004 2-4 P.M.**

### Numerology

If you are looking for a tool to discover more about your life, your inner world, and your future, numerology offers an intriguing exploration! It's based on the idea that your birth name and birth date paint a detailed portrait of who you are. During this program, we'll explore our own numbers to find out more about ourselves!

**Saturday, March 13, 2004 2-4 P.M.**



### Teen Writers Group

Do you have writer's block? Join this new program where teens can share their writing, develop their creativity and writing skills, and get help on works in progress. Meet on the first Friday of every month from 3-4:45 P.M.

**February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7**



These programs are for teens in grades 6-12. Registration is required. Call 720-887-2360 or visit the Teen Zone to sign up.

## Sneak Preview of Teen Summer Reading Program 2004

Believe it or not, we have a theme for our Teen Summer Reading Program! (June 1-August 7, 2004) It is going to be, "Cinema Summer." We're still planning it, but there's going to be lots of movie related prizes and programs. We're even going to be showing FREE movies at the library! So, keep a look out for more information or you can help us plan it if you'd like. See the ballot (top right) to vote for your favorite movies.

# The Teen Zone Update

## Your Summer Reading Program Donations at Work

Those of you who finished our Summer Reading Program may remember our "Beyond Fourteeners" program. For every level beyond the regular Summer Reading Program, a dollar was donated to one of three charitable organizations: Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center, The Birds of Prey Foundation, or Broomfield Health and Human Services.

We raised enough money to help the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center rescue two young male Black Mane (Barbary) lions from a facility in California that was seriously abusing them. Their names are Samson and Shane and they are now loving life at RMWCC with plenty of food, affection and other lions in their pride.

Through teen summer reading donations, we were also able to adopt a Burrowing owl named "Peek-a-Boo" who was found with a severely damaged leg. "Peek-a-Boo" is pictured on the left with his bird buddy, a young American Kestrel. In addition to "Peek-a-Boo", we were able to sponsor the adoption of five orphaned Screech Owls that were admitted to the Birds of Prey Foundation after the tree they called home was felled. They are doing well under the care of their foster mom Charlotte.

Teens who read above and beyond the Summer Reading Program parameters, raised funds to purchase 70 books. These books were sent to Broomfield Health and Human Services who distributed them to impoverished Broomfield families.

We'd like to congratulate Broomfield teens on a job well done! If you'd like to find out more information on the charities that our reading programs donations went to, here's some info for you....

**Birds of Prey Foundation**, 2290 S. 104th St., Broomfield, CO 80020 [www.birds-of-prey.org](http://www.birds-of-prey.org)

**Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center**, 1946 WCR 53, Keenesburg, CO 80643 [www.wildlife-](http://www.wildlife-)



## What's Hot and What's Not by Angela Oza

What's hot for this winter season? In the fashion industry, like every other winter, sweaters are a big hit for both guys and girls. They keep you warm and snug, while giving you a stylish and classy look that just fits your character. The new craze in the pants industry is cords, or corduroy. Everyone wants a pair and who can blame them? With the soft touch and stylish look, these pants will never go out of fashion. Outside of fashion, activities such as skiing, snowboarding, sledding, snowball fights, reading by a fire, or watching a movie with close friends, rank at the top of teen's to-do lists this winter. There are some great new movies and books coming out in



the spring as well, so be sure to check them out!

What's not so hot? Well, just like the last issue, I'll give you my opinion as well as some other teens' opinions, but the rest is up to you. Some not so cool fashions are things like ski suits and snow pants. They are just great for when you actually do those activities, but do you really need to wear them to school? Teens also say that they don't want to be bored this season over winter break. They would rather go back to school than sit at home for two weeks and watch the same soap operas every day.

Some ideas for a good time that don't cost much are: rent a movie and have a large gathering with all of your favorite foods; go outside and make snowmen or snow forts; get out your favorite book from two or three years ago and read it again while you drink hot chocolate with marshmallows.

## The Otaku Note by Amanda Chin

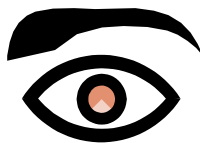
"The Otaku Note" is an article touching on the world of the otaku. Now, as a background, "otaku" in Japanese generally is referring to the fanboys and fangirls of anime (Japanese animated shows), manga (Japanese comics), and gaming. In the past the term "otaku" was used negatively, as a word of psychos and geeks. However, here in America, otakus wear their name with pride and their interests could range from girls comics to Jpop music to RPG gaming.

To start with, I will be describing some common misconceptions I have heard from others and will try my best to clear them up.

Comment: The characters' eyes are the size of giant saucers.

Well, this isn't necessarily true for all anime or manga, as seen in comics such as "Paradise Kiss" by Ai Yazawa or "Mars" by Fuyumi Soryo. But in the cases where they are, Japanese manga-ka (manga artists) normally draw big eyes to indicate that a character has the ability to cry. Japanese media is described as "wet" because of the fascination they tend to have for extreme emotion, or just emotion in general. The Japanese believe that if a person can cry, they are essentially a human, and have the ability to be "yasashii".

"Yasashii" is a term used for people who are "warm, without a hint of evil and malice, pure in their hearts, and blessed with those unique Japanese antennae, always sensitive to each other's feelings which never need to be spoken." The Japanese use the term "yasashii" to describe their mothers (whom they value highly) as well as themselves as a nation.



## Crippled at Age 15 by Jennifer Buchtel

I see it every day at school. Students bent fully in half from the weight of their backpacks filled with large textbooks and heavy binders. Maybe I'm just another teenager complaining about too much homework, but it's just something I've noticed.

Why are backpacks so heavy these days? They never were before. Is it really that there is more homework than necessary, or is it that the books have gotten heavier? Who knows? All I know is that something should be done about it. Yes, rolling backpacks are an option, but not at schools where they've been outlawed because they make the hallways too crowded.

My theory is that if teachers balanced out the homework load more, students wouldn't be forced to carry 75% of the contents of their lockers home everyday. Even the books themselves are too large--is it really possible to get through a 1500 page Biology book in 9 months? Last year, my British Literature book was over 2000 pages and we didn't even cover half the book. Yet, for most of the school year, we were forced to carry these back and forth from home and school.

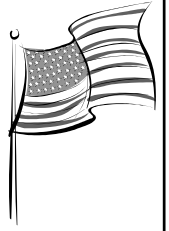
Backpacks are supposed to be less than 15% of our body weight. Most days I laugh at that idea--with three books in my backpack, it's already over the 15% percent mark. Maybe it's just me, but I really don't want to have back problems before my next birthday.



# Patriotism in Schools

## The pros and cons of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in school

Freedom of speech is a very fragile, yet potent right. It causes probably more controversy than any other amendment simply because it is what distinguishes the United States from other countries. Americans have recited the Pledge of Allegiance for over a century and now this is being moved up a notch, to students reciting this in class. Does this violate a student's right to free speech or does it expand patriotism to schools? You be the judge. In this column, an issue will be presented and then argued from both standpoints in an effort to educate you to make an informed decision. However, it is important to stress that these opinions are not necessarily those of the writers, or the library, and are simply presented to showcase a point alongside a counterpoint.



### Pledge of Allegiance: First Amendment Violation by Magdalena Wegrzyn

Teens all over Colorado public schools are struggling with issues of patriotism and individualism, as a new law forcing the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance is enforced in schools. This controversial "Pledge Recitation law" is now being implemented into most schools within Colorado, as well as across the nation. However, as this new law is implemented, one must ask if it is even constitutional, not to mention invasive. When students in public schools are forced to recite words that they may not truly believe, their right to free speech, religion, and general expression of opinions is challenged.

Certain students may object to the words, "under God," in the Pledge. These students may not believe in God or simply may not want to express their beliefs in school. When a school forces a student to utter this phrase, that student's right to choose their religious affiliation is

violated, as the idea of one central God is promoted to teens who may have other beliefs.

There is also the simple fact that certain students are not comfortable pledging their allegiance to the United States. This may be for personal reasons or because a student believes that the USA has committed atrocities in the past and does not wish to support the country. This has nothing to do with being patriotic, but rather deals with a student's right to refuse to merely grumble words that they don't believe in.

One must ask, how will students be more loyal to their country if their constitutional rights are violated? How can you ever expect there to be an increase in patriotism if the fundamental ideas of the Constitution are endangered? And finally, how does saying a few phrases, without any conviction, strengthen America? After all, I can say that the United States is an idealistic society, but what weight does that carry if I don't believe it?

### "One Nation Under God" by Jennifer Buchtel

The American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance have always been symbols of American patriotism- giving students a chance to express respect for their country. Unfortunately, people are questioning that patriotism, calling the Pledge in schools fascist.

What is wrong with believing in your country? The main problem that people have with the Pledge is two small words, "Under God." Are these people forgetting that America was founded on principles of divine providence? The Declaration of Independence mentions the word "God." Our national motto states "In God We Trust." If we eliminate "Under God" from our Pledge of Allegiance, is the next step to rewrite the words on our money and redraft our founding documents? The plan to get rid of the Pledge doesn't make much sense when you move past whining and *think* about what it would accomplish.

Students shown giving a fascist salute during the Pledge were not only being immature, but they were wrong. Their reason for giving the salute was to protest students being forced to say the Pledge. This opinion is wrong because students don't even have to say it. The Supreme Court ruling stated that *teachers* were supposed to lead their classes in the Pledge. If a student does not want to say it, they can stand quietly while the class recites it.

My peeve concerns the students, who gripe about the Pledge, rather than standing quietly while it is recited. To them, the government is imposing itself on them, the definition of fascism. Do they realize that if America were fascist, they wouldn't be allowed to speak up about an issue? The Supreme Court is listening to the arguments against the Pledge, just because these people say is that "it's unconstitutional."

If you don't want to say the Pledge, don't. I'm sure that you think you're patriotic enough as it is.

## A Beginner's Guide to Middle-Earth by Mindy Weed

Clueless about Lord of the Rings? Here's your ticket to a basic understanding of the main characters in the epic.

**Sauron**- the embodiment of evil, he created the One Ring so he could conquer Middle-Earth. He was temporarily delayed by Isildur, a human who cut off his hand and took the Ring

**Ringwraiths**- neither living nor dead, the nine who were once men, they were corrupted by Sauron and are now always searching for the Ring. The Witch-King is their "leader"

**Gandalf the Grey/White**- a wizard who helps Frodo and the Fellowship on their quest (part of Fellowship)

**Frodo Baggins**- a hobbit who must take the Ring to Mordor to destroy it (part of Fellowship)

**Samwise Gamgee**- a hobbit and close friend of Frodo who stays with him throughout his journey to Mordor

**Merry Brandybuck, Pippin Took, (hobbits), Boromir, Aragorn, (humans), Legolas (elf), and Gimli (dwarf)**- the Fellowship that accompanies Frodo for part of his journey

**Saruman the White**- once on the good side, he was corrupted and wants the Ring for himself

**Elves**- an immortal people, tall, graceful, known for archery skills and beautiful language

**Dwarves**- short, sometimes obstinate, known for mining

**Hobbits**- a short, simple people who are known for their love of gardening, pipe weed, food, and other simple pleasures

Hopefully you understand who's who a bit better now. Be sure to check out [The Lord of the Rings](#), [The Book of Lost Tales](#), [The Silmarillion](#), [Unfinished Tales](#), and other Tolkien books!



## Writers Corner

Snow by Will Fulton

Snow is a haze of white-covered days  
A thing made of glimmering air  
Making snowballs for all of my days  
A wonderful joy to share

Covered in layers of warm fuzzy coats  
I lay in the snow and play  
Building up castles and giving them moats  
Boy, this I could do all day.

If there is one thing that I'd like to do,  
It's to stay in the white world all day  
Playing outdoors in the snow wet and new  
Frolicking as long as I may

But the fire in the house crackles at me  
Beckoning me to come in  
And so I shed my coat quite happily  
And bask in the warmth with a grin.

# Teen Advisory Board

# A couple of questions ...

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is a group of teen volunteers who meet twice a month on Mondays. This group is responsible for thinking up fresh ideas for teen programs at the library. If you're interested in joining the Teen Advisory Board, stop by the Teen Zone for more information.

Here's a small window into the minds and stomachs of our TAB members: We asked them, "What are you reading and what's your favorite junk food?"  
Joe- Flame by Victoria Hanley; Gummi Bears with ice cream  
Sam- Obernewtyn by Isobelle Carmody; chocolate chip cookies  
Christine- Hamlet by William Shakespeare; Gummi Bears  
Angela- Second Time Around by Mary Higgins Clark; cookie dough ice cream  
Will- Loamhedge by Brian Jacques; double chocolate chip cookies  
Natalie- The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke; cheesecake  
Jennifer- Othello by William Shakespeare, Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen; chocolate ice cream  
Maggie- Changeover by Margaret Mahy; chocolate  
Mindy- The Hostile Hospital by Lemony Snicket, Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, History of Medieval Europe by some professor; CHEETOS!



## Smash or Trash? Teen Reviews



### Loamhedge: **The Newest Redwall book!**



#### **by Will Fulton**

Loamhedge is a brilliant new Redwall novel by Brian Jacques. In the beginning, we meet Martha, a young haremmaid who is confined to a "wheeled chair". She has been this way ever since she and her brother Horty arrived at Redwall many seasons ago with their aged nurse.

After Martin the Warrior tells her to watch for the return of two travelers who may be able to retrieve the formula for her cure, she is ecstatic to see two Redwall legends, Bragoon and Sarobando, return to the Abbey.

The two wanderers undertake Martha's quest willingly, but they unwittingly pick up three rebellious young Redwallers. Almost immediately after the five adventurers leave, Redwall is besieged by vermin.

Can they survive without any trained warriors and the outer wall captured? What of the mysterious badger stranded after an attack by Searats on the Northeastern coasts? Read this wonderful new Redwall story that enchanted me as I am sure it will you!

### **Prisoner of Azkaban** **Movie Preview** **by Natalie Osborn**



Watch out this summer, for something wicked this way comes... Well that's what the slogan says for the next installment in the Harry Potter movie saga, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Lots of things have changed since Harry entered the Chamber of Secrets, and along with all of your old favorites, here comes a whole new cast of characters!

First of all, replacing Christopher Columbus is the new director Alfonso Cuaron who did *The Little Princess* (definitely a must see). Also entering the picture is the infamous Sirius Black, for whom the movie is titled, played by Gary Oldman. Replacing Richard Harris as Dumbledore comes Michael Gambon.

Yet another defense against dark arts teacher, the best one yet, Mr. Remus Lupin, is played by David Thewlis. If any one person is worthy of the title "evil," it is Peter Pettigrew, whose role is filled by Timothy Spall.

Don't know what a demontor or an animagus is? You're in for a nasty shock! Or if nothing else I've said makes sense, you obviously haven't read the book yet, for shame, but you have until June 4th to catch up so hurry!

If you don't, Aunt Marge just might sick Ripper on you, and yes that is a bad thing, those crazy muggles.

### **Kodocha Review by Sam Martin**

Kodomo no Omocha or Kodocha is a ten volume manga series by Miho Obana. The main character is an hyper-active eleven year old girl named Sana Kurata who's living out a normal life... That is, if you consider "normal" having a famed writer for a mother, being a famous actress yourself, and having weird little things scattered throughout your life, like a pet squirrel who lives in your mom's hair. And then, to top it all off, you have to deal with the school bully, Akito Hayama. Okay, so maybe Sana isn't exactly normal.

Though Kodocha is considered a romance story, its main appeal is probably comedy. So even if you're not really into romance, give it a try because it's hilarious.



Yu-gi-oh! drawing by James Ivey



Would you like to **meet Tony Hawk in person?** Visit the Teen Zone for contest information.

