

Muppets volunteer to sell good food to their fans



First Lady and friends

It's not quite a case of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." It's more like "If you can't beat 'em, play the same game only harder." First Lady Michelle Obama has added some kid-friendly All-Stars to her team in the effort to get kids to make smarter food choices and help cut childhood obesity.

Elmo and Rosita appeared with the First Lady to announce that the Muppets are donating their images to fruit and vegetable growers to help them compete with junk food. In most cases, companies have to pay large sums to use popular characters in their advertising.

The First Lady pointed out a study that showed kids were more likely to choose an apple as a snack if it had a sticker of Elmo on it. New fruit and vegetable ads will begin next year. *White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson*

ColoradoKids

November 19, 2013



CK Reporter
Zoe Zizzo,
Highlands Ranch



LOOK UP, AND THEN LOOK UP AGAIN!

Crisp, cloudless nights make this time of year a particularly good time for star-gazing, but right now, there is more to see in the night sky than just stars.

Two separate comets are coming through our solar system at a time which makes getting to see them an exciting possibility.

Comets are chunks of ice, rocks and dust that go around a star in a long, narrow orbit so that some, like Halley's Comet, only return every 75 years, while others make their loop around the sun more frequently.

The two arriving this month are Comet ISON, a newly discovered comet seen in the photo above, and Encke's Comet, which returns every three years, though not always at times of year when it can be easily seen.

Both will be viewable with binoculars soon and maybe the naked eye, if you get away from city lights. ColoradoNIE.com has viewing tips.

Photo: Naval Observatory

HOW TO CREATE 'BIG NATE'

Have you ever wondered how a cartoonist makes comics?

So did I, but now I know: I got to interview Lincoln Peirce, creator of "Big Nate."



*By Cynthia Wright,
14, a CK Reporter
from Lakewood*

Peirce started making his own comics in 3rd or 4th grade, showing them to his friends and family, so he's had many years during which to form a creative process for making his comics.

First, he comes up with the dialogue and storyline, then he sketches the comic strip.

Peirce usually has simple sketches because he has been drawing Big Nate for so long all he needs is a general idea of how the strip will look.

Once the strip is to his liking he inks it in with a pen called a Staedtler pigment liner. If he makes any big mistakes while inking he uses a "patch," a piece of paper taped on top of the frame with the mistake.

Peirce exaggerates the problems, situations and characters while simplifying the dialogue. This gives the reader a funny



Lincoln Peirce in a screen shot. To see the video, visit ColoradoNIE.com

situation with exaggerated characters in few words, making the comic memorable and short.

In "Big Nate: Game On!," as in other books, Nate is portrayed as a very competitive athlete.

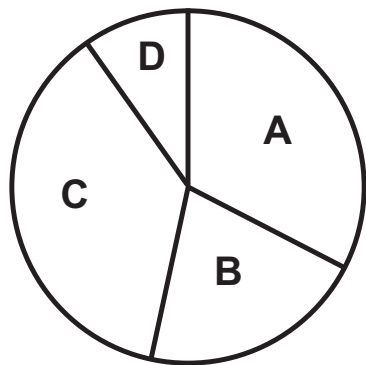
Peirce has played sports his whole life giving him an inside perspective on youth sports.

"I've always thought sports give rise to a lot of very funny and very dramatic situations," he says.

Nate and his teams rarely win, however. I asked Peirce why this was and also why Nate still plays all these sports if he is not good at any of them.

Peirce responded by saying that his hero, Charles Schulz, never let Charlie Brown win at anything, and he agrees with the idea: "A comic strip featuring a kid who gets straight A's and wins all the time wouldn't be funny. Losing and frustration are much funnier than winning and satisfaction," he says.

Unlike Charlie Brown, Nate sometimes wins, but not often. "I actually do allow him an occasional victory," Peirce says. "But it's more fun for me to write about Nate's reaction when things go wrong. Usually, he's not a very gracious loser."



When it comes to helping, CK readers do

There seems to be plenty of generosity among CK readers, when it comes to helping the less fortunate.

Only nine percent felt they were too young to help out, and it is worth remembering that some of our readers really are pretty young.

The rest split among those who volunteer, those who help raise funds and those who make donations.

You're a generous crowd! Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

What is your most frequent approach to helping the less fortunate?

- A. I like to volunteer and help out in person. 32%
- B. I participate in fundraisers. 20%
- C. I donate money or things like canned goods. 38%
- D. Maybe when I'm older. 9%

Now here's our new question:

Football season is winding down. What are your thoughts about the Broncos playing in the Super Bowl in January?

1. I've got Orange Fever!
2. Shh! You'll jinx it!
3. Nah, it'll never happen.
4. Super Bowl? What Super Bowl?

To answer this question, go to www.yourhub.com/NextGen

ck Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at www.ColoradoNIE.com

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We welcome your comments.

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BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

Today starts a series of toy reviews in CK called "Gauging the Gifts 2014." Look through today's paper for ads promoting something you'd like to give someone in your family. How could you find out if it is any good? Make a list of things you would hope to know about the item before you made a purchase, then look online to see how many of your questions you can get answered.

GAUGING THE GIFTS 2014

'Ultimate Rainbow' good for the price ...

The "Play-doh Ultimate Rainbow Pack" is a fun gift for ages two and up and good for its price, which is approximately ten dollars depending on where you get it.



By Sophia Morfin
8, a CK Reporter
from Denver

The set is fun because it contains 33 small sticks of different colored Play-doh.

But the down side to this is

that if you want to make something very big of just one color, you probably will not have enough.

Another potential problem is that I had to use tools from other Play-doh sets because this set did not include any.

However, I still really like this set because you can save your Play-doh without it drying out,

by sticking it back in the container with the lid.

The 33 colors allow you to make almost anything such as rainbows, animals, and even a whole landscape.

Overall I

thought this was a fun toy, it had good value and may help you with your holiday shopping.



... but 'Perfect Twist' is far from perfect

Here's a tip: don't buy this for Christmas! The new "Play-Doh Perfect Twist Ice Cream Playset" isn't all it looks to be.



By Tripp Ceysseus,
11, a CK Reporter
from Arvada

Sure, it shows two kids on the box having fun, but it isn't really much fun.

The set is very difficult to put together and, in my box, there were pieces missing.

When I first tried the ice cream maker, it made a mess and the ice cream did not go

into a neat swirl like the box depicted.

I tried the new Play-Doh Plus, which is supposed to be softer and easier to use, but it wasn't really an improvement, it was just stickier.

It also did not help in putting two colors together as you still can't get them apart, making a giant blob of some weird color.

The sprinkle maker wasn't much better, seeing that the sprinkles didn't stick to the ice cream after it was made.

What you do with the ice cream after you make it is also a problem, because the little spoons they included don't actually pick up anything, so you can't even pretend to eat it.

The last bad thing about it is cleaning the machine. You have

to do most of it with a toothpick and the sprinkle-maker holes each have to be picked out.

Overall, I would give this toy a thumbs down. This is going to be a Christmas disappointment for kids.



Island nation at the center of the storm

News reports of the typhoon that struck the Philippines last week were frightening.

The most powerful storm in history went across this island nation, leaving thousands dead and many more homeless.

The world is rushing to help, and it is a good time to take a look at a distant nation that has been part of our history for many years.

The Republic of the Philippines is a series of 7,017 islands (an “archipelago”) and is home to 98 million people, making it the 12th most populous country in the world.

Because of its location, it has long been a crossroads and has been influenced by many nations and cultures.

It first came to the attention of the West in 1521, when Magellan landed there on his attempt to sail around the globe. Though Magellan was killed by natives, other Spanish explorers returned and took over the archipelago, which they named for their king,

Philip II.

In 1898, the United States won the Spanish-American War, and many Filipinos thought this meant they would be given their independence, but that was not to be and, after a brief rebellion against the new “owners,” the Philippines were under US control for a half century.

The Japanese drove out the Americans during World War II and then, after the war and the return of US forces, the nation finally gained its independence on July 4, 1946.

Today, the Philippines is a mix: In its cities, a very modern, highly successful Asian nation, and, on some of its remote islands, quite rural and undeveloped.

It has two official languages, Filipino and English, and eight dialects, and an elected government based in the capital, Manila.

Many Filipinos live in other countries, working and sending money home. These farflung citizens will likely take an active role in helping to rebuild their nation.



Survivors of the typhoon camp on metal sheets under a fallen tree while waiting for a chance to get to a safer area in the Philippines.

AP Photo/Bullit Marquez



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Brain teaser



This is the 150th anniversary of one of the most important speeches in U.S. history, so our answers will begin with “G.”

1. What was that famous November 19, 1863, speech?
2. This small Colorado county is home to Central City.
3. The largest moon in the solar system, it belongs to Jupiter.
4. In “Lord of the Rings,” this wizard leads the Fellowship
5. This type of antelope includes “Tommies” and springboks.
6. Another term for “peanut,” it’s the title of a song Southern soldiers sang in the Civil War.
7. This nation shares a border with Mexico.
8. Cold soup from Spain, made from tomatoes and other vegetables and sometimes served with yoghurt or sour cream.
9. These hamster-like “desert rats” are popular pets.
10. A nickname for New York, it’s also Batman’s hometown.

(answers on Page Four)

SUCH SWEET CHOICES!



Photo by Natalie Huttner

If you have a sweet tooth, or you are just in the mood for a treat, cupcake places are a great place to go.



By Natalie Huttner,
10, a CK Reporter
from Englewood

There are many places in the Denver area that serve delicious cupcakes.

One cupcake store is Tippy's. Tippy's cupcake store is in the Shops at North Stapleton mall.

The special thing about their cupcakes, is that some, intended for adults have alcohol infused in them, while their others are either kiddy flavors which are specially designed for kids, or are just normal, non-alcoholic cupcakes.

After you have finished dinner, or seeing a movie at the movie theater next to the cupcake store, you can go purchase your yummy dessert at Tippy's.

Another store, Cake Crumbs, is at 2216 Kearney St., in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood.

Cake Crumbs is not just a cupcake store, but a full bakery that serves delicious pastries such as cakes, brownies, and cookies.

After you order your yummy treat, you can find a table in the restaurant to eat at.

Topping off our "Cupcake Wars," is Big Fat Cupcake, 129 Adams St., which is in Cherry Creek.

Big Fat Cupcake has a variety of flavors, including their signature flavor, buttercream.

They are also very seasonal, meaning they have special cupcakes for each holiday.

Big Fat Cupcake can also be found on the road, because they have a van where they sell cupcakes to customers on the spot.

There are many cupcake stores in our area and world-wide, so, if you are in the mood for a sweet treat, go visit a cupcake store!

FINDING OUT WHO YOU CAN REALLY COUNT ON

In her new book, "Counting by 7s," Holly Goldberg Sloan tells the story of Willow Chance, a twelve-year-old genius going into 6th grade who finds it calming to count by sevens.



By Asher Hoyt,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver

When Willow takes a standardized test for the state of California and hands in the test booklet in exactly 17 minutes and 47 seconds (notice the sevens) she is thought to have cheated.

She is sent to a counselor named Dell Duke who only eats microwaved meatloaf and is a classic example of a hoarder.

He also places all of his students into four categories: Misfits, Oddballs, Lone Wolves and Weirdoes.

Willow is so different from anyone Dell ever met that he has to make up a new category just for her: Genius.

In one of her counseling classes, Willow meets Mai, a Vietnamese-American in high

school who is staying for her brother Quang-ha's session with Dell. Quang-ha is one of Dell's students.

Mai and Willow almost immediately seem to like each other, even though Mai has many other good friends in high school and Willow has none.

This is when her life really takes a turn.

It is with her strange counselor and her new friend that Willow is dropped off at her house only to discover the

police waiting to tell her some terrible news.

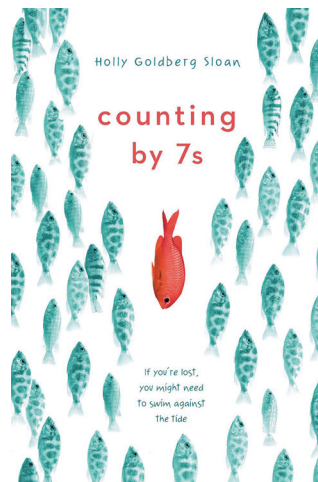
Holly Goldberg Sloan is a very powerful author who makes you not want to stop reading.

I loved the way she described situations in a humorous way even though the book is about a tragedy.

Read the book to see if Willow can overcome

what seems impossible to ever get over.

"Counting by 7s" is the right book for you if you enjoy reading about something terrible happening that changes the way the character and the reader thinks and about how they could possibly heal their wounds.



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Brain teaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow! 7 right - Great! 5 right - Good
3 right - See you next time!

9. gerbil 10. Gotham (City)
6. Goober Peas 7. Guatamala 8. gazpacho
3. Ganymede 4. Gandalf 5. gazelle
1. (The) Gettysburg Address 2. Gilpin

