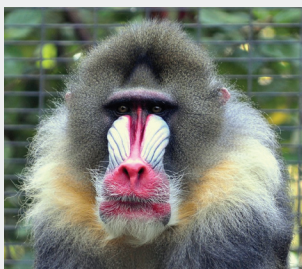


Why are some monkeys' and apes' faces so colorful?



Unforgettable!

The colorful face of the male mandrill is pretty hard to forget, and that may be why this cousin of the baboon has such a remarkable face while other monkeys' faces are the color of their fur or skin.

Biologists at UCLA wanted to find out if there was a reason for these differences, so they spent two years comparing the faces of monkey and apes and trying to find a pattern.

What they found was that the animals with the least unusual looking faces were also the ones who lived alone or in small groups. Orangutans, for instance, live alone and their faces aren't at all colorful.

But mandrills live in groups called "hordes" that can have as many as 800 members. Apparently, if you're just going to be a face in the crowd, it helps to have a memorable one!

Photo/Dirk

# ColoradoKids

November 26, 2013



CK Reporter  
Lauren Barth,  
Lakewood



WERE YOUR PARENTS  
IN BETTER SHAPE  
AT YOUR AGE?

You've heard all the complaints: Kids today spend too much time playing video games. They eat too much junk food. They spend too much of their school days taking tests instead of having gym or recess.

Now some scientists have compared how modern kids shape up next to their parents' generation, and the results are not good news.

While kids may have similar strength for lifting weights or the same ability to do activities involving coordination or flexibility, when it comes to distance running, today's kids would be left behind if they raced kids from 20 years ago.

Between 1970 and 2000, kids' endurance fell about 6% every decade, and today's kids are about 15% less physically fit than their parents were at the same age.

It's not about racing, however. It's about having a healthy heart later in life.

Start jogging! Photo/Pedro Dias

## DEATH'S TALE OF A BOOK THIEF

"The Book Thief," is a captivating, heart-wrenching, and at times humorous film that keeps your eyes glued to the screen. After all, when Death tells a story, it's hard not to listen.



By Andrew Onodera  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial

The story is set in Nazi Germany during World War II.

Death, an oddly appropriate narrator, tells the story of Liesel Meminger, a young girl who finds her own way to deal with the loss of the ones she loves.

She becomes a book thief.

At her brother's burial, she steals her first book. At the time, she does not even know how to read.

Separated from her family, Liesel moves in with her foster parents.

Her new family consists of Rosa Huberman, her "thunderstorm" mom who is always rumbling, and Hans Huberman, her dad who introduces her to the joy of reading.

Once Liesel finally get used to her new life, Max Vandenburg comes along to change every-



thing once more.

Max is a Jewish man who is seeking refuge in the family's basement from Hitler's reign of terror.

This secret could mean death for the entire family.

This movie is appropriately rated PG-13. Although there is not much violence or bloodshed, the movie has very intense concepts.

For example, death is always present and characters live with fear as part of their daily lives.

Yet, there are several moments of laugh-out-loud humor mixed in with the intensity.

You do not have to read the book to understand and enjoy the movie.

You just have to be prepared to experience many different emotions in the span of two hours.

You will leave feeling like you just rode a roller coaster ride of emotions, glad that you took the ride, but still a little bit shaken up from it.



# 'Break Bomber Battlefield' offers some intense fun

Getting ready for action: Ready, Shoot! "B-Daman Crossfire Break Bomber Battlefield" made by Hasbro is a well-thought-out toy for kids 7 and up.



By Yejin Campbell,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Brighton

This intense toy is great for action lovers!

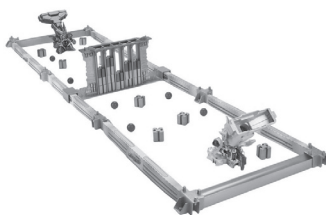
The main goal is to blast 3 red blocks into the enemies territory.

ry. In the set, it had everything you need to battle, along with some extras.

I thought this toy was fun and enjoyable, and even my younger siblings understood the toy very easily by just watching me.

However there were several problems with the toy.

First is that the set was challenging to keep together.



When we connected the yellow line pieces with the connectors, it wouldn't stick together and came out crooked instead of straight.

Also the marbles felt heavy and bounced off very easily when I was playing at a smooth surface.

When a ball bounced off our table it often got lost. Tip to not losing the balls: playing on the

carpet would be safer and probably the balls won't get lost.

There were times when I got bored of the main mission, and often changed the mission to something new and creative.

However when you start playing and shooting, you get carried away on just your determination to defeat your opponent.

The price is decent for what you get in return. Depending where you go the price ranges from \$20 to \$25.

If you love action, shooting toys, this is a toy for you!

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## BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

Colorado Kids is featuring reviews of toys that kids might get for the holidays. Look through today's paper for an ad for something that you have owned or gotten to try out. Write an honest review for that product that would help other kids know if it was a good thing, or just a waste of money.

## Good camera for small photographers

I'd recommend the "Playskool Showcam" for 3 to 6 year olds because it has good features for little kids.



By Innagen Roberts,  
10, a CK Reporter  
from Lakewood

The sides of the camera have grips for small hands. Also it's so durable that, if you smashed it on the sidewalk, it would probably be scratch-free.

Even though it's durable, that

doesn't mean it's heavy though: Brilliantly, it's very light, like a feather!

Enough with the pros, I'll move onto the cons:

The screen is so tiny that you can hardly see your picture unless you project it on the wall.

The pictures can get a little blurry and dim, though the effects you can add are great.



Also, it's hard to change the batteries. You have to find a tiny screwdriver and keep turning it for about an hour.

And, though I love the silly noises the camera makes, I wish it had a volume button so that I could turn down the volume; it gets a bit

annoying.

Overall, the Playskool Showcam is fun and would make an excellent Christmas present.

## 'Nerf N-Strike Blazin' Bow' flames out

For anyone looking for a bow and arrow with "real bow action" or "arrows that shoot up to 40 feet," keep looking.



By Colin Colaizzi,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Lakewood

The "Nerf N-Strike Blazin' Bow" is supposed to have these features but doesn't even come close.

This toy blaster comes in four pieces that, when assembled, form a plastic bow with a

twenty inch wingspan so it feels comfortable to hold.

Unfortunately, this is the only good thing about the product. It comes with three giant foam arrows, and, to fire, you remove an arrow from its holder and place on the knocking point, then pull back the string and let go. This will launch the arrow forward at your target.

However, the arrows that are supposed to shoot up to 40 feet never covered more than six

feet.

Also they tore apart very easily and were useless after only a few times being gently used.

After awhile the bow became uninteresting because of its minimal capabilities.

Of multiple people who tested it, only one said that it was remotely fun.

Overall, it is not enjoyable nor satisfying to play with the bow and it doesn't take long for it to fall apart.



# Japan has a brand-new island - maybe

Japan is a nation made up of 6,582 islands. Or, at least, it used to be.

Now, it might be a nation made up of 6,583 islands, but we'll have to wait a little while to be sure.

Last week, a volcano erupted in the Pacific Ocean, near the tiny uninhabited island of Nishino-shima, and now a small piece of land is poking out of the sea.

Japan is on the "Ring of Fire," a long, looping area that goes around parts of the South Pacific Ocean, eastern part of Asia and the western coasts of North and South America.

This huge area is home to three-quarters of the active and dormant volcanoes on Earth and about 90 percent of its earthquakes.

The particular area where the new island has burst from the ocean is about 620 miles south of Japan and had volcanic action in the 1970s. An eruption in 1974

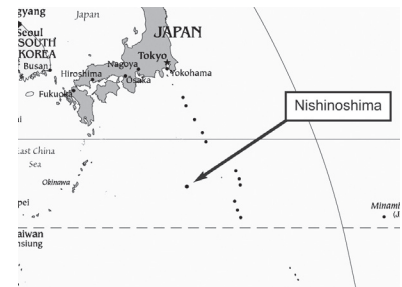
added more to Nishino-shima, which means "western island" and is also the name of a larger island between Japan and the Asian mainland.

A Japanese official said the new island would not get an official name until scientists were sure it was going to stick around.

Sometimes, a volcano will cause an island to form, but it will mostly be mud that washes away back into the sea, or it is made up of individual stones that don't stay above the water.

But many Pacific islands were formed by volcanoes, and not just small, uninhabited ones like Nishino-shima, but, for instance, the islands that make up the state of Hawaii.

It's unlikely anyone will ever live on this island, which is only 660 feet in diameter, but Japan uses its tiny islands to prove it should have control of the portion of the ocean around them.



Above, a photograph taken by the Japanese Coast Guard Nov. 20 of the world's newest island, 620 miles south of Tokyo. *Associated Press*

**ck** Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at [www.ColoradoNIE.com](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

## Teachers!

It's time to register for the Colorado Council for International Reading Association Conference

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- 18 Featured Authors
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- Vendors
- University credit



Visit [CCIRA.org](http://CCIRA.org) to register.

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## Sudoku

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only. The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.

5		3	2		
2	6				
				1	4
3				2	
1	3				
					5

# ACTION RETURNS IN 'HUNGER GAMES' SEQUEL

“Catching Fire,” which opened in theaters this past weekend, is based on the second book in the Hunger Games series, and features the leading characters from the first movie.



By Hannah Skurcenski  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial



Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) find themselves home after being declared victors of the Hunger Games, but suffering from the stress of those games.

They had been the last two left in the games, and instead of killing one another, Katniss proposed they kill themselves with poisonous berries so there would be no winner.

They succeeded in the bluff, but the capital questioned

whether this was an act of defiance.

Katniss and Peeta argued that love has no boundaries and that was the reason for their decision.

Now, at the start of “Catching Fire,” they are preparing for their victory tour, where they are to visit each district to cheer on their success and dedication to the rich capital city.

Before they leave, President

Snow (Donald Sutherland) warns Katniss that they must convince the districts, and him, that they really are in love.

Katniss is very concerned because she and Peeta have rarely spoken to each other since they have returned.

Every 25 years, there is a Quarter Quell, which is the Hunger Games played with previous winners, and President Snow decides to use this to

force Katniss to go back into the arena and be destroyed.

The movie goes along the same plotline as the book, but there are a few changes to keep you surprised.

There are many twists to the story and the special effects are incredible.

However, you do not need to see the first movie or read the first book to understand “Catching Fire” because they do a good job of recapping what happened before

It is rated PG-13, for bloody scenes and some minor language, but the violence isn’t in depth and it goes by quickly.

The characters seemed very real, and it made me feel like I was experiencing the same things that they were in the movie.

“The Hunger Games” was great, but this movie has taken things to an extreme level of greatness!

## Sometimes, taking a stand can mean taking a seat

Do you ever feel over-scheduled, not having time to do things that you adore doing, or exhausted from lots of activities? Well, someone can relate to you!



By Kira Zizzo,  
9, a CK Reporter  
from Highlands Ranch

Take a break and have some rest and relaxation while read-

ing “Jack Strong Takes a Stand,” by Tommy Greenwald!

Jack’s schedule is engulfed with extracurricular academic and exhausting sports activities.

Sometimes, he wants a break, but his dad says firmly, “No Jack, I want you to be well-rounded for college.”

Jack can’t stand all these activities any longer. He bravely starts a bold boycott that is very courageous of him.

The boycott starts off as a silly act, but then escalates, like

a crescendo, resulting in a situation that becomes critical: He lives on the couch for 10 days!

Jack refuses to get up unless his parents let him escape a handful of activities.

Find out what happens when the local news reporters are notified about this inspirational young boy!

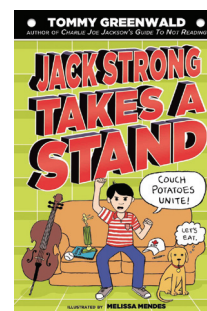
Will Jack win this battle and gain himself some

free time?

This book is highly recommended for kids eight and up who are stressed out and need a break from their busy, over-booked schedules.

Your attention will be captivated by Jack’s world and you won’t want to put it down!

Maybe, you will want to share this clever, inspiring, irresistible novel with your own parents!



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