



CK Reporter of the Week
Wesley Schlachter, Boulder

Behind the scenes at a Super-G

(Part One of a Two-Part Story)

"Educate, inspire, and inform." That was the self-proclaimed purpose for Peter Graves, well-known sports announcer, as he worked during this season's Birds of Prey World Cup ski race at Beaver Creek.

I had the opportunity to shadow Peter and his broadcast partner, Olympian Doug Lewis, as they prepared for and broadcasted the Men's Super-G race for national and international media.

Though race organizers plan for this event months in advance, they also know that anything can change at any time

During the day, Peter, Doug and their co-workers all helped me learn about the hard work and teamwork that is required for just one day of this event.

Race day started early, as it had snowed overnight and was still snowing hard just prior race time.

While skiing in fresh powder might be fun for non-racers, ski racers are almost allergic to powder. The whole idea of ski racing is to go as fast as possible without crashing, and powder only slows racers down and causes them to lose momentum.

Though race organizers plan for this event months in advance, they also know that anything can change at any time, especially these dynamic weather conditions.

I spent the day in the timing shack, which is where the event is both timed and produced for broadcast as it happens.

In the timing shack, I met the video programmer, the audio programmer, the weather tracker/producer, the DJ, and of course the announcers, Peter and Doug.

The race was scheduled to start at 11 am, but the time got pushed back several times, finally to noon, because, due to the weather, the jury, a team of



photo/Vail Valley Foundation

international ski racing authorities, had to make the decision about whether the race would actually take place.

Luckily, Beaver Creek is home to the "Talon Crew", a large group of highly skilled volunteers who prepare the course for the race, clearing the excess snow and keeping the course safe.

"They have about 40 snowblowers on the course right now," said TJ, the main producer.

Each crew member braved the elements and course conditions to make the race happen.

Finally, the jury ultimately made the decision that the race would indeed take place, causing everyone to make their final race preparations.

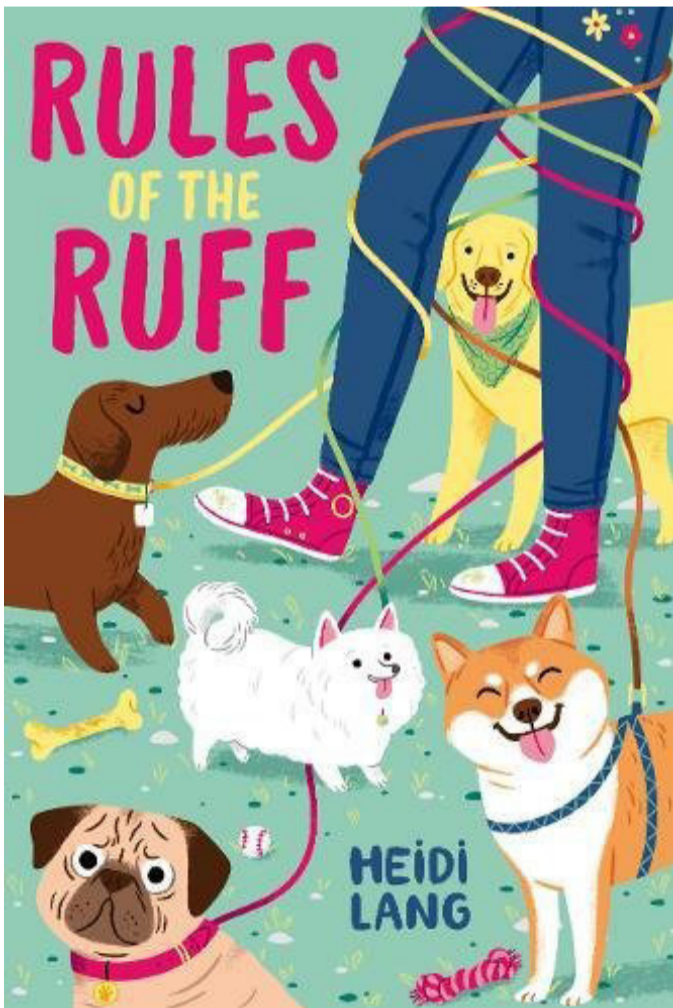
As I watched Peter and Doug get ready to start commentating on the race, I observed their preparation strategies: Peter used flashcards and sticky-notes containing racer information and facts, while Doug used online files to keep track of that same information.

Next Week: The Race is on!



By Margaux Dempsey,
12, a CK Reporter
from Arvada

Learning some ruff lessons about boy drama



"Rules of the Ruff" by Heidi Lang is a very inspiring book.

I loved this book because it has so many adventures and it was about dogs, soccer, and boy drama.

The main character's name is Jessie, and her and her cousin Ann are the best buddies ever.

But someone messes up their relationship. Lorelee is the meanest teen on the earth -- well for Jessie she is -- because she takes away her soccer buddy, her cousin Ann, and it feels like everything.

Jessie is sad, bored, and hopeless but she finds Wes, a very strict person who runs a dog walking service and has the secret to understanding dogs.

Wes takes Jessie on as a dogwalker, but makes her life very difficult starting with picking up lots and lots of dog poop and holding all the dog leashes.

But she will not give up because she wants to get revenge on Lorelee, learn the rules of the ruff from Wes, and earn her own dog.

"Rules of the Ruff" has a lot of descriptive words and the author, Heidi Lang, can paint a picture in your mind.

She describes the dogs and the dog poop in such detail you can see them and smell it.

This book is inspiring because it encouraged me to never give up, even when people like Wes and

others are being frustrating and bossy.

Jessie shows both good and bad ways to deal with friends and frustration.

The revenge Jessie takes is really fun to read about, though you shouldn't actually do it in real life, which is one of the reasons that, as a 10 year old reader, I would say this is about a 4th grade and higher book.

There is rude language, bad behavior, and some kissing, but, even with that kissing, I think both boys and girls would like this book.

Note, however, that it is very long it took me months to read in addition to my homework.

I really enjoyed this book because it was funny, had crazy adventures and boy drama. I hope that Heidi Lang will write more adventures for Jessie and the dogs.

I can't wait to see what trouble Jessie causes next time.



By Kylee Burks,
10, a CK Reporter
from Highlands Ranch

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Tech contest also test of determination

The second book in the "Click'd" series is here! "Swap'd," by Tamara Ireland Stone, is a fabulous book that captures every emotion.

The story starts off with Allie, a coder, finding an advertisement about a Hackathon.

She immediately knows that she wants to sign up.

But when the submission forms need Allie's latest game she wishes that she had a newer game than Click'd, the game that busted before the last competition.

The author portrays Allie's emotions of determination, love, and confusion so well that you feel like you are going through the same things.

Allie doesn't send in the application, in hopes that she can create a new game before then.

But the Hackathon has reminded her of Courtney, her friend who moved to Phoenix, so she calls her and they make a plan to persuade their parents to buy Courtney a ticket to California.

The tickets turn out to be way more expensive than expected, and the adults want the kids to think of a way to buy the tickets themselves. Allie feels hopeless.

But she soon realizes that her coding teacher's assignment of reusing others' codes and adding on her own codes can help make money.

Soon, Swap'd is up and running.



It is an app where you can trade things from other students for five minutes per item. The buyers get new things and the sellers get cash.

There is even a place for pick-up and drop-off. Plus, Allie gets 10% of the sales.

But things get a little more complicated than Allie expected, and she is also starting to have a crush.

The author portrays Allie's emotions of determination, love, and confusion so well that you feel like you are going through the same things.

"Swap'd" is the second book in its series, but I like that you don't necessarily need to read the first one to understand the story.

I do wish that the author would have explained more about how the game from the first book, Click'd, works, however, because Allie talks a lot about it.

This book is a little long, so I would suggest it for older readers.

I absolutely loved this book and I will even recommend it to friends.

Even if you do not code, you will still understand it.

This is a great read, even if you haven't read the first book. I guarantee that by the end you will have a smile from ear to ear.



By Izzie Intriago,
10, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

Fun, but expensive, way to learn coding



Root is a robot to teach kids how to code.

There are lots of programs in it, but one flaw stands out: The robot itself costs about \$200, and to continue to learn to code, one must pay an additional \$5 a month, although there is a free trial, which I used to test the next levels.

That free trial allows the user to unlock more coding levels. The coding levels, however, are not quite finished.

Root has three different levels. The first one is basic block coding, the second is a little more intricate block coding, and the third is simplified JavaScript.

For now, Root's coding lessons only apply to younger children, the "Level One" stage in coding.

The things Root can do are quite unique.

For example, one can use other users' code to make Root act a certain way, light up a certain color, or say a

certain thing.

Aside from the costly program, Root is a wonderful way to learn coding. It is simple enough for younger users, while at the same time hard enough for them to learn a multitude of things, from what coding means, to how coding works, to building code blocks.

I would recommend the Root Robot to anyone above the age of 5 or 6, and even anyone older!



By Essie Lamar,
13, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Big Nate



Astronaut recalls the time he called 911 from the ISS



In a recent interview, Dutch astronaut André Kuipers revealed a funny, slightly embarrassing story about his time on the International Space Station in 2012.

Kuipers was no rookie: He had been aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft in 2004, eight years before his time on the ISS.

But anyone can make a mistake.

Astronauts on the ISS can make phone calls back to Earth, to check in with family and friends.

However, those calls have to be routed through Houston, since the ISS is constantly changing its position over the planet.

So you start by dialing "9" to get a line in Houston,

and then, if you're calling overseas, you dial "011" for an international connection.

And if your finger misses that 0, you've just dialed 911, which is what Kuiper did, touching off some panic and confusion 250 miles below.

He had hung up and redialed his call, but in a few minutes, an email came from Houston saying, "Did you call 911?"

Apparently, they'd asked everyone at the Space Center and only had one more possibility.

In the interview, Kuiper joked that he was kind of disappointed that no first responders hurried up to the ISS to see what was wrong.

photo/NASA

Novel opens a window on WWII experience

As we join Chaya Linder, a Jewish courier, in the book "Resistance" by Jennifer A. Nielsen during the war between the Nazis and the Jewish citizens of Poland she embarks on a dangerous journey through the Nazi-occupied Poland and the ghettos. At the beginning, the author starts with a flashback. I thought that this was helpful for me as the reader to be able to understand Chaya's past and what her world was like before the war. In the flashback, it tells of Chaya's family and what her

I learned what the war was like from the Jewish peoples' perspective and I thought that it was a very worthwhile read.

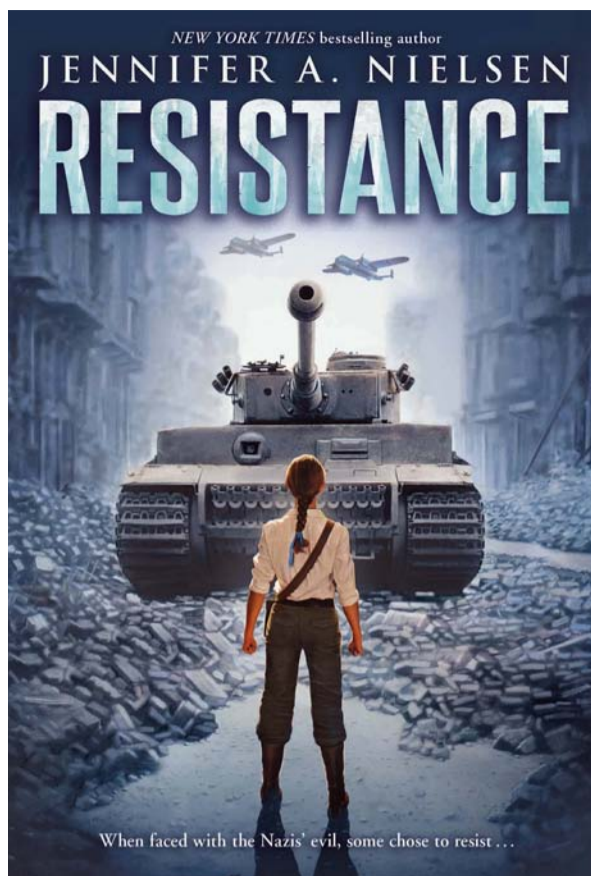
home felt like to her. Also, it includes how the Jewish people were treated and how they were herded into the ghettos.

It explains that because the "rooms" in the ghetto buildings only housed four and Chaya's family had five members, she was sent away to live with her grandmother.

Soon after, Chaya stumbles upon a farmer's house. Or so it seems.

When Chaya joins Akiva, a resistance group led by Dolek, she is assigned a cell number (*The cells were a group of people she was assigned to do a specific task with.*)

Akiva sparks most of the resistance groups both inside and outside of the ghettos.



As the story continues, the author develops her characters very well. I quickly became attached to Chaya as a person.

Her actions and thoughts to try and help out the people of the ghettos was very inspiring.

I admire the way that she always tries her best and goes above and beyond.

Esther, a character who is introduced later in the story, is eager to prove herself loyal and worthy to the resistance.

The supporting characters, even though they are in the background, contribute a lot to the plot and to Chaya and Esther's journey.

I enjoyed this book and thought that it was also very informative.

I learned what the war was like from the Jewish peoples' perspective and I thought that it was a very worthwhile read.

Characters were developed well and the storyline had many surprises along the way.

This book contains topics and circumstances that younger children probably should not read.

This is a historical-fiction but it is based on true stories revolving around WWII.



By Avery MacKenzie, 13, a CK Reporter from Fort Collins

Dino-killing asteroid made mile-high tsunami

The largest wave ever recorded on Earth was 78 feet tall, but a University of Michigan researcher has estimated that there was once a wave a mile high, 68 times higher than that 2018 wave in New Zealand.

Molly Range presented her findings at the annual convention of the American Geophysical Union in Washington, DC, last month.

The stone that caused this enormous ripple was the Chicxulub asteroid, the huge piece of space debris that struck on the coast of what is now Mexico at the end of the Cretaceous Period some 66 million years ago.

This event is considered to be the end of that geologic period and of most of the dinosaurs who lived on Earth at the time.

The nine-mile wide asteroid, and the crater it punched in the floor of the Gulf of Mexico, are named for a Mexican town on the Yucatan Peninsula near the impact area.

According to the simulation that Range set up, the impact created an enormous wave, a mile in height, that rocketed across the Gulf of Mexico and out into the Atlantic Ocean, as well as through a waterway that, at the time, connected the Gulf to the Pacific Ocean.



The wave caused by the Chicxulub asteroid was far bigger than the monster wave in this famous wood print by Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), but there were no humans alive then to record it.



The massive wave went around the world, still as high as 46 feet in the North Atlantic and South Pacific, about half the size of the tsunami that struck Indonesia and Thailand in 2004 but with thousands of times as much destructive energy.

Then, as anyone who has thrown rocks into the water knows, the first wave leads to others.

After that gigantic tsunami emptied the crater, water rushed back in and set off smaller waves that were still incredibly large and destructive.

Meanwhile, the asteroid had crashed through the Earth's crust, melting rocks and triggering seismic activity around the world.

As astonishing as this impact would have been, it was the later results that led to the mass extinction of dinosaurs.

Enormous ash clouds were thrown up into the atmosphere, blocking sunlight across the globe for years and causing a mini-ice age.

While small animals, including some prehistoric reptiles, were able to survive the destruction of food chains, the larger dinosaurs were not able to get through this long period of hunger and cold.

Geologists continue to examine the 93-mile wide, 12-mile deep Chicxulub Crater in hopes of better understanding this disaster.

Sudoku

	2				3
	6		1		
			6	3	
		5			
1		3			6
				1	

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.



Brainteaser

Today is the birthdate in 1929, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., so our answers this week will begin with "D" for dream, because everybody needs one.

1. A physician who specializes in teeth
2. Australian wild dog
3. A long period without rain in which lack of water creates problems
4. Author of "Tale of Two Cities," "Great Expectations" and "A Christmas Carol"
5. A house that is actually two separate homes in one building
6. Last name of a German dog breeder who created a large, muscular short-haired black and brown dog noted for police work.
7. Dry skin on the scalp that often flakes off and shows as white bits on shoulders, but can be treated with special shampoos.
8. Western Slope county noted for its fruit orchards; its main city shares its name
9. Escaped slave who became one of the leading abolitionists, writers and public speakers in the fight against slavery.
10. Copenhagen is the capital of this European nation

(answers on Page Four)

True allergies are rarer than people think

It seems more people than ever are allergic these days, but a recent study suggests that the number is much less than you might think.

In fact, researchers from Northwestern University said, one person in 20 has an actual food allergy.

But twice as many people -- one in 10 -- say they have a food allergy.

What's going on?

In a way, it's just playing with words: There's a difference between being allergic to something and being intolerant of it.

However, those are words you shouldn't play around with, because an actual food allergy can be dangerous and even life-threatening.

If you are lactose intolerant, that's a real thing, and drinking milk or eating ice cream will make you sorry a few hours later when you have gas, diarrhea and other dietary problems.

But actual allergies to things like shellfish or peanuts don't just make you sick. Allergies are caused by an antibody thinking that the food is an attack on your body and springing into action in ways that can result in being unable to breathe or swallow or worse.

If there is a food or other thing that gives you problems, it is very important that you go to a doctor and find out if it is intolerance or an actual allergy.

Either way, avoid it. But if it's an actual allergy, you need to take it far more seriously.

photo/Frits Hoogesteger



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Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report

<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography

<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

The 911 in Space

The Chicxulub Impact

Allergies and Intolerance

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

Au Pays d'en Haut (To the High Country)

Chapter Seven – Rendezvous

(Our story so far: After a wet, hilarious traditional ritual welcomes the new men into the brigade as true voyageurs, the weeks go by as spring begins to turn into early summer on the route to Grand Portage.)

The spring passed in endless days spent loading and unloading canoes, paddling where the river permitted, towing the canoes by ropes when the current was too strong, and portaging where the river would not allow canoes at all.

Gradually, the spring wildflowers were joined by grasses and the leaves on the trees and bushes grew full-sized.

The five great canoes of the brigade turned towards Lake Nippissing, then passed down the French River into Lake Huron, a trip that seemed to require more portaging than paddling.

The heavy waves of the lake made them hug the shoreline for safety, but, despite that precaution, the canoe just ahead of theirs nearly turned over as a cross-wave filled it with water. The brigade turned for shore so it could be unloaded and checked for damage.

The most experienced of the clerks was left behind to direct the men in opening, drying and re-packing the cargo from the swamped canoe. The four other boats continued along the shore, through Sault Ste. Marie and on along Lake Superior until, as summer was just beginning to flourish, they arrived outside the tall wooden palisades of Grand Portage.

Back in Lachine, Antoine had been shocked at the loud, drunken party before they left for the pays d'en haut. Now he saw spread out across the grassy meadows around the post an even larger, more uncontrolled celebration, as the voyageurs in the great canoes from Montreal and those in the smaller canoes from trading posts far up country came together.

But in seven weeks on the river, he had learned a lot about his fellow voyageurs. He still did not want to join in the drinking, but he wasn't frightened by the rough, good-hearted joking and horseplay.

He even enjoyed it, and for the first few days, as they waited for more canoes to arrive both from the high country and from Quebec, Antoine sang, he danced, he even got in a wrestling match with a tough young pork-eater from another brigade and won, to the cheers of the men from his own crew.

Enough was enough, however, and as the days went by, things got louder, the wrestling and boxing matches became more violent, tempers were lost and drinking continued almost without pause.

Antoine moved away to the quieter fringes, where voyageurs were repairing clothes, swapping items with the local Ojibwe or napping in the sunshine.

He wanted some time with Marcel before the huge canoe they had shared was filled with bales of furs from the north and began its trip back to Montreal. Antoine and Jean-Baptiste were going home, but Marcel was headed for Athabasca, deep in the wilderness.

At last, he saw his two companions in the tall grass at the edge of the brush. Marcel was sitting up, smoking his pipe, while Jean Baptiste lay back, his hat over his eyes, but still talking.

"Did Campbell find you?" Marcel asked as Antoine sat down. "Do you still want to winter in the high country?"

Antoine's eyes must have answered, because Marcel went on: "One of the men who was supposed to go with us broke a leg yesterday doing something drunk and foolish, and another one has deserted. We could go with one fewer, but not two."

"Yes!" Antoine responded, and Jean Baptiste's voice came from under the hat, "Foolish boy!"

"I told Campbell you would," Marcel said, "but you need to let him know. I'm sure he's in the tent at the docks. You'll have to sign a new contract."

"Don't let them add any time," Jean Baptiste warned, raising his head and lifting the hat for a moment. "They'll try to sign you to three more years. Make sure you just change your agreement to winter over, nothing more."

Antoine looked down the hillside towards the tent. "Do you think he'd write a letter to my family for me?" he asked.

"I'll write you one," Marcel said.

"You can write?" Antoine asked, and Jean Baptiste laughed.

"You don't know about Père Bouchard?" he said. "Can you picture our friend here in a black robe?"

Antoine looked back to Marcel, who just smiled and shook his head at the teasing.

"I studied to be a priest," he said. "Obviously, it didn't happen. But, yes, I can read and write. I'll be happy to write a letter to your family. This fool can take it to St. Sulpice on his way home to Rivière des Loups."

"Thank you!" Antoine said, then paused. "Would you mind writing three letters?" His friends both looked at him puzzled, and he stammered, "I promised ... a friend ..."

"A friend!" Jean Baptiste laughed so hard that he began to cough and had to sit up. "You promised to write if the wedding had to be postponed?" he asked.

Antoine blushed. "No, just ... letters get lost."

"They do indeed," Marcel agreed. "One copy for the company to deliver, one for Jean Baptiste to carry ..."

"Michel Pelletier got in two days ago from Fort St. Louis," he said. "He's going back to Repentigny."

Marcel looked uncertain and Jean Baptiste reminded him. "Red hair, cut half his foot off with an axe at Lac à la Pluie the winter we were there."

Marcel laughed. "Him! Well, he can probably carry a letter without hurting himself," he agreed, then said to Antoine, "You'd better find Campbell or none of this will matter."

As he walked towards the large building in the center of the trading post, Antoine thought how quickly his life had just changed. He would have been home in eight weeks. Now it would be a year and eight weeks.

Text c. 2014, Mike Peterson – Illustrations c. 2014, Dylan Meconis

For a teaching guide, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ckserial>

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!



1. dentist 2. dingo 3. drought 4. (Charles) Dickens 5. duplex
6. Doberman 7. dandruff 8. Delta 9. (Frederick) Douglass
10. Denmark

ColoradoKids

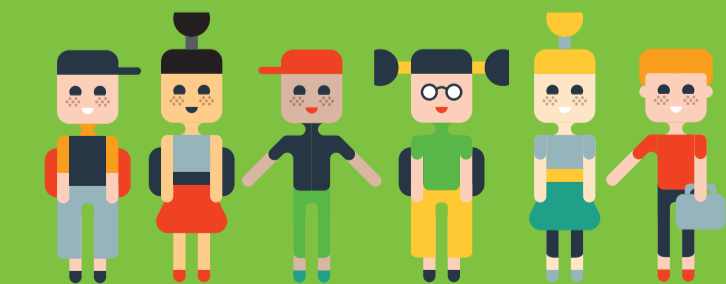
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