

The Kensington Times

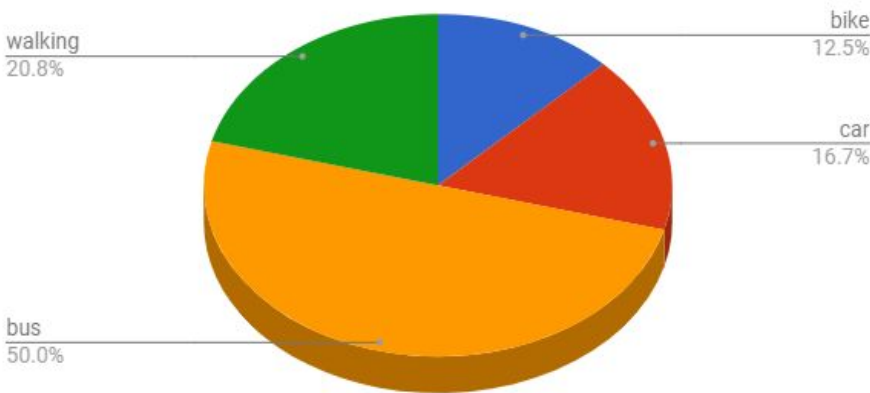
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School is up and running!

Come September, come Kensington Times! We have a new issue. Our team has grown, and we have more ideas. Enjoy!

Alex G., Annie S., Grace W., Sydney A., Ryker MG. contributed to this issue.

Count of How do you get to school?



Poll Question

by Alex G.

We created this poll question for Mr. Judson's 4th grade class, Mrs. Coughlin's 3rd grade class, and Mr. Haag's 5th grade class. 24 people responded. Here is a pie chart of the responses.

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Doug the Crossing Guard

by Alex Ganzer

Crossing guards are important in keeping people safe. I have met 5 of them, and they are all very friendly. If, after school, you are going West, the easiest way takes you by Crossing Guard Doug. He is cheerful, contented, easy to like, and playful. Mostly he has a question of the day for the kids. He is also responsible, and makes sure that everyone gets safely across the road. He was very willing to be in the newspaper, so we sat down after his shift one day outside the Lake Road Market and talked.

Do you have to be a police officer to be a crossing guard? No. That's a good question. I am a retired Cleveland policeman. I was a policeman for 23 years.

How do you become a crossing guard? Well, to be a crossing guard, you have to go to the RR police station, you have to fill out an application, and then you're interviewed by the control person there, and also the chief of police. He interviews you, to make sure that everything's good.

Is there any special training? What they do, is they have you shadow another school crossing guard. Last spring I was here, and a nice lady was with me, and she watched what I did, how I controlled the kids, and now she's a school crossing guard at Shoreland and Wooster. So, yeah, there is a certain amount of training, because you have to know what to do, how to control the kids, and also how to control the traffic, the cars. People get a little forgetful. Especially right at this intersection, you have people coming into the sun in the morning, they're blinded, so I have to take a couple extra seconds after I see them stopping to make sure I step off correctly. Because you don't want to blatantly go across if they don't see you. Mistakes happen.

How long have you been a crossing guard? This is my third year.

How old do you have to be? Well, you have to be over 21, although most of the time it's people who are a little bit older, retirees, because usually people have other careers going on. This is only a couple hours a day, so it's not going to actually put food on the table, so to speak. But, it's a worthwhile cause, it's needed, people depend on you, so it's worth coming to school. And I get the same days off that you do! Same vacation, same days off, that's great!

Do you enjoy being a crossing guard? I do. I really do. I enjoy talking with the kids. And to be honest with you, I had a dog, and he passed away when he was 16 and a half, and I didn't know what to do with myself, and I drove down here shopping. I talked to the guard here, and she told me what to do. When I first signed up, I signed up as a substitute, because all the positions were filled, and then she retired, that same fall, and they said, "would you like to take over full time?" And I said sure.

Yeah, I do like what I do. How can you not like what you do if you're out here in sub-zero weather in January and February and the snow's this high and the wind's blowing. Yes, you have to love what you do.

What's one thing you want to tell the students of Kensington? There's only one thing that every school guard wants. All they want you to do is to listen to them. Listen to the guard. Sometimes kids go on the green, against traffic. Thank God, most of the people here see the kids, they know the school's here, but there are

times when it's pretty close. So, my one thing is, stick with me, I'll make sure you don't get hurt. If you break the law, you cross when it's green and you shouldn't cross, and something happens, of course they're going to yell at me. However, that doesn't take away from your injury. So, if you take your time, like you'll always see me saying, "Hey guys, wait for me, I'll be right back, I'm crossing those guys, then I'll cross you." I've got two different directions, two different light changes. So, all I want is that you be a little bit alert, hang loose, listen to me, and everybody gets along fine. Right?

Every once in awhile, somebody gets locked out of their house, and I always tell them, you can come back here. One year there was a third grader, she went home and her mom's car was in the driveway, but no one was home. She came back here, she was upset. I told her to sit tight here, and at a quarter after three, I would walk her over to the school. We went over there, the office was still open, and they managed several phone calls later, to contact her mom. This is your safety net. I am here. And if somebody's going to say, something happened, I fell down, somebody around the corner needs assistance, we'll take care of them. So, we want to take care of everybody.

Thank you for letting me talk to you. Absolutely, anytime you want to.

The Cat on The Windowsill

by **Sydney A. and Annie S.**

I'm sure you've seen the "Kensington Cat" around. Here's some information on him. He is white and gray with short fur. You could've seen him on an outdoor windowsill. Also, he was up in a tree a couple of times.

We interviewed some people about the cat at the bus loop doors. The first person we asked was Danica W.

Sydney: What do you think of the cat that hangs out by the bus loop doors?

Danica: I think it was lost, but now it's probably found because we haven't seen it in a while...

Sydney: Thank you for your answer!

Next we interviewed Ryker MG.

Annie: Do you know anything about this cat?

Ryker: Well, I know Thor has an owner.

Annie: So the cat's name is Thor?

Ryker: Yes. He is an outdoor cat.

Annie: **Ok. Thanks for your help and information!**

There you have it! We found out that it is true that the cat, Thor, is an outdoor cat. But, where does he go or what does he do when we don't see him for a while? That still remains a mystery. We have made some "could happen" guesses. One is it might be too cold outside so Thor's owner is keeping him inside now. Or he has a different location that he hangs out at.

Teacher Q&A: Mrs. Jones

By **Ryker MG**

Q: What's your favorite color? **A: purple**

Q: What's your favorite TV show? **A: Myth Busters**

Q: If you were stranded on an island, what are the three things you would bring?
A: Suntan lotion, a good book, and some bottled water.

Q: What's your favorite movie? **A: Forest Gump**

Q: If you could save one object in your house from a fire, what would it be?
A: Pictures

Q: What do you like most about being a teacher? **A: Working with kids.**

Activities To Do When You are Bored

by **Sydney A.**

I'm sure you will get bored some time this year. Keep busy with a dozen tips that are electronics-free!

1. **Read!** Reading can help your imagination.
2. **Drawing!** Studies have shown that doodling helps you concentrate.
3. **Writing!** Write a poem, play, story, or something nonfiction. The ideas are endless!
4. **Playing sports or practicing them!** Exercise will be fun.
5. **Bicycle ride!** (Be careful when you cross roads.)
6. **Crafts!** Duct tape, straws, origami, hot glue!
7. **Walk!** More exercise.

8. Baking or Cooking! Cook or bake something for your family.
9. Listen to music or dance! Dancing is another form of exercise.
10. Go to a park! (Like a playground or a nature trail.)
11. Sewing! Ask someone to teach you who knows how to sew.
12. Organize stuff! It is surprisingly fun!

Books for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders

by [Annie S.](#), [Grace W.](#), [Sydney A.](#)

Books we suggest for 3rd graders

- **James and the Giant Peach (Roald Dahl)**
- **Charlotte's Web (E.B. White)**
- **Frindle (Andrew Clements)**
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Jeff Kinney)**
- **Because of Winn-Dixie (Kate DiCamillo)**
- **The Boxcar Children (Gertrude Chandler Warner)**
- **Wonder (R.J. Palacio)**

Books we suggest for 4th graders

- **BFG (Roald Dahl)**
- **Stuart Little (E.B. White)**
- **Matilda (Roald Dahl)**
- **Number the Stars (Lois Lowry)**
- **The Tale of Despereaux (Kate DiCamillo)**
- **The One and Only Ivan (K.A. Applegate)**
- **The Witches (Roald Dahl)**

Books we suggest for 5th graders

- **The Phantom Tollbooth (Norton Juster)**
- **Island of the Blue Dolphins (Scott O'Dell)**
- **Walk Two Moons (Sharon Creech)**
- **Tuck Everlasting (Natalie Babbitt)**
- **Where the Red Fern Grows (Wilson Rawls)**
- **Hatchet (Gary Paulsen)**
- **The View from Saturday (E.L. Konigsburg)**

Mad Lib!!!

By **Alex G.**

Mad-Lib : Fill in the blank corresponding to the part of speech required.

DO NOT DRINK MILK WHILE READING THIS!

When you are doing a mad-lib, you have to pay attention to

what you (verb) _____ while reading the finished

(noun) _____. There are (adjective) _____ consequences if you

don't! For example, one (noun) _____ was doing one about

(plural noun) _____ sitting on a table, and he was (verb ending in

-ing) _____ milk and eating cookies. He ended up with a

wet piece of paper and (food item) _____ crumbs all over the

place. Sometimes, mad-libs can become outrageously

(adjective) _____, so they tend to make a (noun) _____ if you

are (verb ending in -ing) _____ or drinking something. If you do end

up (verb ending in -ing) _____ milk while reading the finished

product of this, limit yourself to (number) _____ (unit of liquid volume measurement)

_____ tops, or else your laughter will end in you

squirting (liquid) _____ out of your (body part) _____, possibly

along with some (bodily fluid) _____. Don't say I didn't

(verb) _____ you!

Comic of the Month

By **Ryker MG**



Author of The Month

By: **Grace W.**

The writer of the Month is Annie S. for always thinking of new articles to write every day. She goes above and beyond to make our newspapers great and funny. See her new article The Cat on the Windowsill. We greatly appreciate all the work you do. Great Job Annie!