



Smoke Signals

Back to School 2010-2011

Volume VI, Issue I

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T'was the night before school started,
When all through the town,
The parents were cheering.
It was a riotous sound!
By eight, kids were washed
And tucked into bed...
When memories of homework...filled
them with dread!

New pencils, new folders, new note-
books, too!
New teachers, new friends...their anxi-
ety grew!
The parents just giggled when they
learned of this fright
And shouted upstairs-...
GO TO BED-IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT!



Sanford Public School

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Dear Community:

It is exciting to have another school year underway. The halls are once again filled with the laughter of students and teachers. I am confident that your children will receive a great education at Sanford School. I would like to welcome back those returning students and welcome those who are new to our district. We are working diligently to provide you with an education that will prepare you for the 21st Century and give you the foundation necessary to be successful in your post-secondary pursuits.

I would like to share with you some basic beliefs of the Sanford School District:

Our Mission: *The Sanford School District shall strive to provide a safe environment, meaningful opportunities, and innovative educational programs for all students so that they reach their learning potential, including that they meet or exceed state and district content standards, through partnerships between home, school and community.*

Our Vision is to provide: *Exceptional education, challenging you to succeed.*

Core Values:

- *All opportunities for student learning exist within an environment of respect, honesty, and integrity.*
- *Our main purpose is to improve student academic achievement.*
- *We maintain high expectations for all staff and students.*
- *All students have the right to be challenged to achieve their full academic potential. With our help, at risk students will achieve at the same level as those not at risk.*
- *Effective instruction makes the most difference in student academic achievement.*

I want each of you to feel welcomed at Sanford School District. It really is a great place to be a part. Working together, we have the opportunity to shape the future.

Have a great year!

Kevin Edgar
Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the week of September 7th, your child took tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, language usage, mathematics, and science.

Your child took the tests on a computer. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth.

Each school year, students in grades 7-10 take the tests in September, October, December, and March. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

Sincerely,
David Judd
Principal



Mr. Judd's Message

Athletics

Sports schedules are now available on our district website. Go to <http://www.sanfordschools.org> and click on Activities; then click on Athletics; and finally, Sports Schedules. The website will be revised quite often, so please visit it frequently.

Sports schedules may also be picked up in the front office.

We are excited to tell you about Friday Night Feats – a national video contest sponsored by State Farm. From now through Nov. 24th, high school football fans can submit videos to YouTube that capture the biggest plays from the 2010 high school football season. Winning entries will be announced in December, with the winning school receiving \$17,500.

Last year's contest garnered nearly 350 entries. State Farm awarded a total \$160,000 to 52 schools, including grand prize winner, Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT. Until this year, Mount Mansfield never had a home football game. Now it will, thanks to the State Farm-sponsored Friday Night Feats high school football video contest. The school used its \$17,500 award to build its first football field.

This year, we're looking for more great plays. Don't miss this opportunity to help your local school.

Complete contest details are on www.fridaynightfeats.com.

Homecoming 2010

9-23—Parade 1:00 - Pep Assembly

6:30 - Bonfire to follow

9-24—FB vs. Sierra Grande 7:00

Preschool News

We are very excited about the upcoming school year. As we learn about each child, we are better prepared to plan for his/her learning. We will be learning the skills needed for kindergarten through fun activities, as well as modifying activities for our younger children as needed. As partners in your child's learning, we will have a successful year. Our activities will include language, math, pre-writing skills, social/problem solving skills, science, and fine/gross motor skills.

It is very important that we keep the lines of communication open between home and school, so we can help your child have a successful year. Please look in your child's backpack daily for work done at school or important information.



For the safety of our children, please respect our one-way traffic procedure. The sign is posted on the fence next to the buses.

Lytle's Kindergarten News

School has started, and students are coming in with excitement written all over their faces. It is such a joy to start a new year with brand new students who are ready to learn. Kindergarten has been fun to say the least. I know that we are all getting used to having a set schedule and starting a new year. The students are learning how to write each letter of the alphabet and learning what sound that letter makes. When we do our letter for the day, we also have a fun story to match that letter. Students are also being introduced to a rubric. This is to help them know how to slow down and do their best work. I know that every one of these students is capable of doing his/her best. If students receive a smiley face, they are doing exactly what they should be doing. If they receive a face with a line, they are very close to what they should be doing, but still need extra practice. If they receive a sad face, they need to slow down and try again. In math we are learning to not only know the names of the shapes, but to also be able to describe them. For example, a rectangle has four sides that are long side, long side, short side, short side. Parents: I appreciate your work with your children at home. Please go through your child's papers, and if he/she is receiving anything other than a smiley face, that is an area that your child needs extra practice. Thank you for all you do!

Gartrell's Kindergarten News

We are off to a great start in kindergarten. We have fourteen eager-to-learn students. Each morning they arrive with great anticipation for what the day might offer. I have loved watching their excitement to learn new things. It is a great reminder of why we are all here. We are learning and reviewing each letter in the alphabet to prepare us for the road to reading. We have also learned what it is to be a good friend during our unit on friendship. Each student created a friendship owl that expresses how to treat others. As we are approaching the beginning stages of reading, I would ask that each parent take the time to read with his/her child each night. I am really looking forward to an awesome year. I know many great opportunities are ahead of us, and I can't wait to see how far my kindergarteners grow.



Mortensen's Fourth Grade News

We are hard at work in Mrs. Mortensen's fourth grade class. There are 16 students in our class this year. Our class consists of ten girls and six boys. We are happy to report that we have a new student in our class. Welcome to our school, Maddison Caldon. Her uncle, Tommy Caldon, is the quarterback of our football team. She also has a whole bunch of cousins at our school! We are very happy to have Maddison.

Parents: please remember to check over your children's planners each night. Check to make sure all their assignments are complete. This really motivates students to stay on top of things. Also, sign their planners each night. This signature proves to me that you saw or listened to them read for the 20 minutes assigned. Have you looked over their packet of work that goes home on Thursdays? Please look these over and discuss their work with them weekly. This will show them that you do care about the quality of work that they complete. I look forward to having a fantastic year!

Blinzinger's Fourth Grade News

Our class has a sports theme this year. We are learning how to have good "teamwork" and to show good "sportsmanship." The starting line-up for the year is: Alexis, Brady, Karley, Lauren, Donny, Hannah, Regan, Tiffany, Sergio, Melody, Sheela, Lauri, Dillon, Kacee, Malorie, Daniel, Casey, and Gavyn. We've already learned new science and social studies concepts, read some great new stories, and we are reviewing lots of math skills. We will soon start our MVP Program.

Everyday our class gets to hear a chapter or two read from the novel *Hatchet*. Each chapter seems to leave us in suspense, and we can hardly wait until the next day to find out what happens! Time zones and coordinates on a map are a little confusing at first, but we are getting the hang of it. Soon our parents won't even need a GPS Navigator. During our first week of school, we had the chance to make models of plant and animal cells, and we'd love for you to come see them on display in the hall. Timed tests on times tables – what a tongue twister and brain bender! We are practicing really hard to learn these. As they get harder and harder, we have to practice more and more. We are busy all day long, but we have a great time.

Each week our class will have an MVP. The MVP will get to take home the game ball and will be responsible for a bulletin board in the hall. That special team member will get to write four paragraphs – one for each base and home plate. He will get to tell about himself, his family, something exciting that happened to him, what his hopes and dreams are, or anything else he thinks we'd like to know. We also hope that there will be some pictures or souvenirs to go along with the great writing our MVPs will be doing. Parents are invited to help their children decorate the board when the time comes. We are so excited to share with each other and look forward to our chance to be the MVP!

Fourth grade is awesome; we are awesome; we make a great team; and we are having a great year. Play ball!



Canty's Sixth Grade News

Even though I am new in Sanford it doesn't feel like it. I already knew all the kids before I even started school here. I like the lunches, recesses, music, and P.E.

I have a lot of friends here like Ryan and Derick. One of my favorite things about Sanford is that there is no school on Fridays.

Casey McDaniel

Welcome back! School is great now that I'm in 6th grade. My teacher is Mrs. Canty and she is awesome! She teaches me everything I need to know. In P.E. we are doing a volleyball unit for volleyball next year. Music has been great too. Mrs. Valentine is so much fun.

Writing is awesome! Mrs. Canty is making it so great. I'm glad she is my teacher. This year the 6th graders are the best of the best in the elementary. This year is going to be great in art too. We are going to do a lot of great ideas. I'm hoping this year I will do a lot of learning and have fun while doing it.

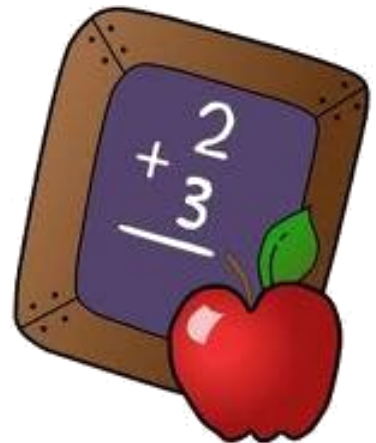
Briana Deluna

The first day of school is always the worst, because you know you have a million more to go! But, it can also be very good. This year I made new friends and had a great time. At recess we played a single person volleyball game. I went undefeated. On the first day Mrs. Canty taught me a lot. (she is the best teacher ever!) I learned and still had fun all in the same day. I love school. Ha Ha! Who would like school? Just kidding!!

Kirsten Faucette

Wowser! School is back already? It still feels like its summer vacation. School is great. We have three new students this year. Yeah!! Their Casey McDaniel, Mckenzie Caldon, and Cheyenne Peterson. I got to see my old friends again. They haven't changed a bit, thank goodness! We have a new teacher who is Mrs. Canty, and she is a blast to have. That's what it was like on our first day of school. Hip Hop Ho-rary!!

Mario Lucero



Forster's First Grade News

Mrs. Forster and Mrs. Rogers sure enjoy working with this new first grade class! All of the first graders are excited about reading. In September we will take the Star Reading test and begin our AR Reading Program. We have already been working hard on our curriculum this year! We have almost finished a unit of science about the five senses. We plan to begin a new unit in our Core Knowledge Curriculum in social studies and science. We are planning a field trip to the Sand Dunes on September 30th. We will have the Sand Dunes Educational Specialist, Melanie Rawlins, teach us about animal habitats. We are planning on having a great year!

Conejos County Department of Social Services Gives to Sanford Schools

This year the Conejos County Department of Social Services donated backpacks and school supplies such as markers, crayons, rulers, etc., to our elementary students. The students were thrilled to get these supplies. Sanford Schools, along with the parents, would like to thank the Conejos County Department of Social Services for their generous donations. Times are tough, and parents were very appreciative for the generosity. The halls are now adorned with black, pink, red, and blue backpacks. The smiles on the kids' faces are a lot bigger now that they have everything that they need to gain a better education. The teachers are also grateful now that the kids have all the necessities to further their education.

New Staff/Positions

Coach Larsen, along with being the head basketball coach, has taken on the role of head football coach. He said he took the responsibility because of his love for football, working with high school students, and the way the high school boys show dedication and good leadership. The thing he enjoys the most is working with his players and developing long-lasting relationship with them. He is very proud of the senior leadership shown from the team's co-captains: Tommy Caldon, Jon Morgan, and Cameron Crowther. This year the Sanford football team has 16 players to lead the team to victory. Coach Larsen is excited about the upcoming season and is certain that his team will perform extremely well. Sanford fans, get ready to cheer on our great football team. Go Big Green!

Coach Seth Vance:

What are you coaching?

Football, wrestling, and baseball.

Are there a lot of kids in the sports you coach?

Unfortunately, the numbers are down on all teams, but I'll take quality over quantity.

Do you like coaching?

Coaching is very challenging and rewarding...Gotta keep getting better.

How long have you been coaching?

Two years football; five years wrestling; and four years baseball...Most seasons with Sanford.

What are your thoughts on the year?

I have always believed, "Sanford doesn't rebuild. Sanford reloads!" I am very optimistic about this year.

Do you like the sports you coach?

Of course. I am driven to be a student of the game and share that with others.



Mrs. Signs, also referred to as Jenny, may be a Centauri graduate, but she loves her new job here at Sanford. She loves working with all the kids, employees, and everyone else here. She is especially fond of her new trainer, Brianna, who is also working in the office. Although Jenny is working, she is continuing her education in business by being an online student at Adams State College. She is a Sanford resident with her husband Mark and their son Carter.

Favorites and Interesting Facts

Favorite color: pink

*** Blonde**

Birthday: March 5th

Favorite drink: Pepsi or Coke

Favorite Food: Pizza...NO fruit

Favorite car/s: Plymouth Prowler/T-Bucket

- Youngest child in her family**

Coach Hall has been coaching football for 14 years. He definitely loves coaching. According to Coach Hall, he likes seeing the different interactions with the boys out on the field. He says, "They are different out on the field than in the classroom." He is enjoying being back immensely. When he took time off from coaching, he missed it very much. Coach hall has two daughters and one granddaughter. He was asked how he thought the season would turn out. He responded, "We will have a successful season." Coach Hall quit coaching for three years because he felt like he needed a break. He came back because he was asked to, but he also missed it. "Working with the boys is fun," he said, "and I love it."



YeeRah Choi—Our latest exchange student

This year we are lucky enough to have received a foreign exchange student from South Korea. Her name is YeeRah Choi. YeeRah is fifteen-years-old and is from Daejeon, South Korea. She is currently staying with Lucas and Amy Larson for a period of ten months. She started her journey to the United States on August 15, 2010; altogether her flight was 25 hours long! She traveled from South Korea, to San Francisco, to Denver, to Alamosa. When she arrived, she noticed that there were big trees, and it was very peaceful in comparison of South Korea. Schooling in Daejeon is much different than in Sanford! The eight-hour days we struggle through are nothing compared to the 14-hour school days in South Korea. YeeRah commented, "It is nice to have a four-day week. In South Korea we went six days a week." YeeRah is allowed to speak to her parents twice a week through phone calls and email. She likes McDonald's, loves orange juice, and enjoys playing cards. We are very excited to learn more about YeeRah and are also extremely delighted to have her in our Sanford family!



FFA News

Our FFA chapter attended the State Convention in Craig, Colorado, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. At the convention we had the opportunity to see the current state FFA officers give their retiring addresses, see the new officers be installed, listen to very inspiring speakers, and participate in workshops and activities that helped us get to know the FFA chapters in our state better.

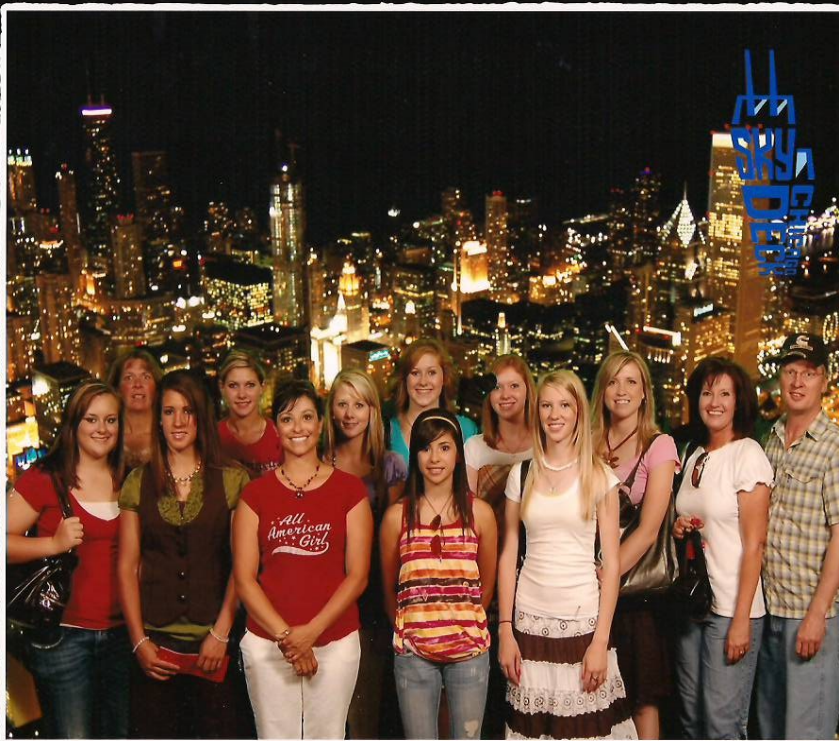
This school year we have a new officer team. Jon Morgan is the president; Tommy Caldron is the vice-president; and Cameron Crowther is serving as the chapter sentinel. Jerrica Barr is the treasurer; Morgan Neese is the secretary; and Kelli Canty serves as the chapter reporter.

At the San Luis Valley Fair, the Alamosa FFA Alumni put on the FFA Blue and Gold Showmanship. The showmanship consisted of four showmanship events: sheep, goats, swine, and cattle. Current FFA members and members wanting to join FFA are welcome to do so. It is an annual event.

By: Kelli Canty—2010-2011 Reporter



On July 3-8th, nine Sanford High School students and FCCLA adviser, Jamie Mortensen, (Ali Canty Makenna Canty, Kelli Canty, Kelly Crowther, Amberly Edgar, Paige McDaniel, Tori Mortensen, Kendra Neese, and Nicole Salazar) attended the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The students took the highest gold medals in their STAR events in Denver at the State FCCLA Conference held during the first week of April which qualified them to compete at Nationals. They were the only students who qualified from the San Luis Valley and represented their school exceptionally well by being the second highest school in Colorado who earned the most gold medals at the conference events. This includes all Colorado High Schools! On the National level, all of the students received silver medals in their events. The conference had over 6,000 participants representing all fifty states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The students wish to thank the following businesses and individuals who sponsored and helped them meet their financial goals which allowed them the opportunity to attend this worthwhile event and visit the city of Chicago: **Jack's Market, SLV Regional Medical Center, Conejos County Hospital, Roger's Family Mortuary, Rio Grande Savings and Loan, La Jara Pharmaceutical, La Jara Hospital, Parts Plus, Reed Tire, Baroz Auto Service, Colorado Realty, Caldon Farms, David Faucette Farms, La Jara Trading Post, Marjorie Reed, and Tammie & Maurice Crowther.** The students also appreciate the support from Sanford High School administration for allowing them this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and experience.



Picture: From the top of the Sear's Tower Sky Deck (Willis Tower, the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere), From left to right Kendra Neese Pam Canty, Tori Mortensen, Ali Canty, Anna Salazar, Amberly Edgar, Kelli Canty, Nicole Salazar, Makenna Canty, Paige McDaniel, Kelly Crowther, Jamie Mortensen, and Shane Mortensen.

Reminder: All students joining FCCLA must have their registration forms and \$20.00 turned in to Mrs. Mortensen by Thursday, Sept. 30th, 2010.

Cameron Crowther

What is your full name? Cameron Leon Crowther

When is your birthday? August 10, 1992

How many brothers and sisters do you have? One brother and one sister



What is your shoe size? 9.5

What is your favorite food? Steak and potatoes

What is your favorite dessert? Ice box cake

What is your favorite animal? Mongoose

What is your favorite sport? Football

What is your favorite quote? "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway" - John Wayne

What is your favorite movie? *Step Brothers*

What is your favorite song? I like too much music to like just one song

Who would you like to meet? Anyone I do not know

Who is your hero? My dad

Future plans? Serve an LDS mission and go to college

Advice to underclassmen? NEVER miss a good chance to shut up!

Whitney Canty

What is your full name? Whitney Sue Canty

When is your birthday? September 3, 1992

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Two brothers, two sisters, two brother-in-laws, two sister-in-laws.

What is your shoe size? 8 1/2

What is your favorite food? Chicken lo Mein from May Wa

What is your favorite dessert? Cheesecake and chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream.

What is your favorite animal? Horse

What is your favorite sport? Basketball

What is your favorite quote? "The happiest people don't have it all, they are just happy with what they have."

What is your favorite song? "Fireflies" by Owl City

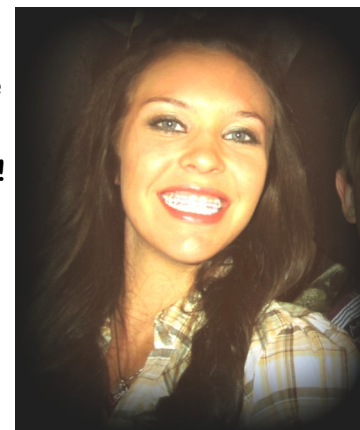
What is your favorite movie? *Unicorns Fly With Their Feet* and *New Moon*

Who would you like to meet? Dwayne Wade

Who is your hero? Ryan Miller for his "geniousness"

Future plans? Attend college in Utah where I plan to meet and marry a hot, rich man!

Any advice to underclassmen? Be immature now. You have the rest of your life to be mature.



Allison Wonser



What is your full name? Allison Nicole Wonser

When is your birthday? July 16, 1992

How many brothers and sisters do you have? One brother and

One sister

What is your shoe size? 9

What is your favorite food? Parmesan chicken pasta

What is your favorite dessert? Apple pie

What is your favorite animal? Dog

What is your favorite sport? Softball

What is your favorite quote? "Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

What is your favorite song? "Love the Way You Lie" by Eminem and Rihanna

What is your favorite movie? *The Last Song*

Who would you like to meet? Any new people

Who is your hero? Friends and family

Future plans? Go to college

Jordan Larsen

What is your full name? Jordan Michelle Larsen

When is your Birthday? December 16, 1992

How many sisters and brothers do you have?

One brother and three sisters

What is your shoe size? 8 1/2

What is your favorite food? Hawaiian haystacks and Frito pie

What is your favorite desert? Angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream

What is your favorite animal? Turtle

What is your favorite sport? Dance

What is your favorite quote? "Nobody gets to live life backward. Look ahead. That is where your future lies."

What is your favorite song? "Down" by Jay Sean

What is your favorite movie? *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*

Who would you like to meet? George Strait

Who is your hero? Kella and Chera

Future plans? Attend college

Advice to underclassmen? Do something worth remembering!



Support Our Great School!

Sanford Schools participates in both programs: Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. Both programs benefit our school a lot. Each Box Top gains our school \$.10, and each label gives our school points for free “stuff.” Community members: Please collect your Box Tops and/or Labels for Education and bring them to the school. You can send them with your child to his/her teacher; you can mail them to the school; or you can bring them to the Central Office. This money and “stuff” will benefit everyone in the school in one way or another. Please do your part to better the school; thus, benefiting the Sanford community and its kids as well.



Earn cash for your school!

it pays to be **BOX TOPS** for **EDUCATION!** **passionate**

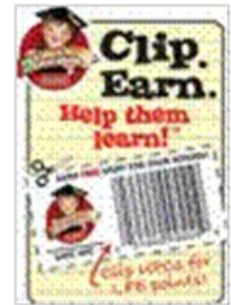
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America's schools have earned over \$250 MILLION through Box Tops for Education. That's cash to buy books, computers, support the arts, and so much more!

Join the millions of others helping to make our schools a better place.

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BOX TOPS for **EDUCATION!**



FBLA

On July 3rd—8th Amberly Edgar had the opportunity of attending the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee and competing in Spreadsheet Applications, attending workshops, and visiting many historic sites. Each state is allowed to send the 1st and 2nd place winners from their state conferences. Congratulations to her for placing 6th at

Nationals.

Just a reminder, forms and dues of \$20 are due by Sept 30.



Jokes and Illusions

Look at the chart and say the COLOUR not the word

YELLOW BLUE ORANGE
BLACK RED GREEN
PURPLE YELLOW RED
ORANGE GREEN BLACK
BLUE RED PURPLE
GREEN BLUE ORANGE

Left - Right Conflict

Your right brain tries to say the colour but your left brain insists on reading the word.

Knock, knock

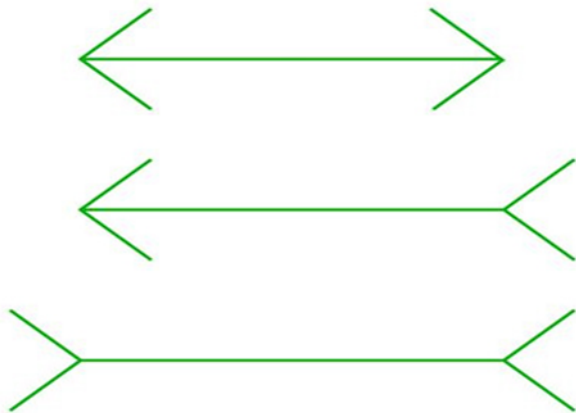
Who's there?

Little old lady

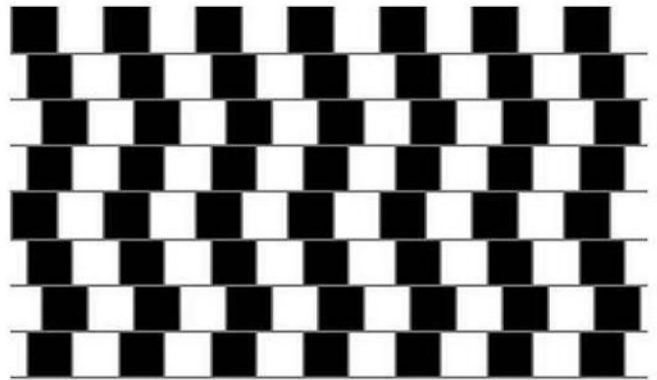
Little old lady who?

Gee, I didn't know you could yodel!

Johnny's mother had four children. The first was April, the second was May, and the third was June. What was the name of her fourth child?



Which line is the longest?



Are the lines straight? Get a flexible ruler and see!

2 You are in a cabin, and it is pitch black. You have one match on you. Which do you light first, the newspaper, the lamp, the candle or the

Answers - 1. Johnny 2. The match

The lines are the same length and are all straight.