

Prescott Valley



Charter School

VOLUME 4,

ISSUE 2

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 13
2009

Creative spirits
have always
been met with
violent opposi-
tion from me-
diocre minds
-Albert Einstein

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The Lion Times

Believe-Achieve-Succeed

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. By wearing red ribbons and participating in school drug-free events, students pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena's memory. To celebrate this event, we started it off with an assembly. The PAL class presented it to

the entire school. We showed a video about choosing natural highs instead of drug-induced stimulants. When you choose a natural high such as sports or music, this leads to a more stable and happy life. A drug-

induced high leads to addiction and self destruction. PALS educated students on how harmful drugs and alcohol are, and hosted activities, including: poster, bookmark, and poem contests. Inside this edition, you will read personal accounts of some of our students, and how drugs not only affect the person using them, but the entire family. Also, check out the collage of our red ribbon contest winners on page 10.



Congratulations Junior High!!



The junior high home economics class made a quilt that won 1st place in the Yavapai County Fair group quilt category. Mrs. Erdmann's class enjoyed creating this beautiful quilt, which is displayed in the front office. Be sure you take a few minutes to check it out.

Current Events

The Moon: Blown up! by Matt Pilny

Recently (and this has been a somewhat controversial decision among the people of our great country) NASA bombed the moon. I know. How could NASA bomb the moon? That's just unthinkable, right? On October 9th, 2009, a Centaur rocket exploded on the surface of the moon. Actually, the rocket exploded in a crater. The chief objective of NASA, was to discover if there was water vapor in the rising debris. This is still under subjection. NASA specialists have said that by mid-November the results should be seen clearly, because as of now, they are unsure whether they saw water vapor in the debris, or something else-not extraterrestrial. E.T followers, this is my question: there have been only two men on the moon in thirty or forty years, so why can't we send a couple of astronauts up there to verify it? Surely there would be leftover evidence from the blast in the crater, or at least along the sides of the crater. I don't know the atmospheric pressure so I am just speculating here. Maybe the atmospheric pressure thing isn't even a factor. Then again, I'm not a scientist, and therefore my opinion really doesn't count.



Ethnology by Malina Jones

Before I can elaborate on several foreign cultures, it only seems appropriate that I provide a brief definition of what culture means. One way to describe culture is the overall attitudes, customs, and beliefs that characterize a specific group of people. Languages, material objects, rituals, institutions, and art are all factors that influence the way a culture is set up. Another well-known definition of cultures is the integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thought, speech, action, and artifacts, and depends upon the human capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations.

If you are interested in a specific culture, there are many interesting ways to explore and experience it. A common way to learn about this certain culture is to seek out information from the encyclopedia, library resources, or even try talking with someone who is knowledgeable to the culture. Trying different types of food and clothes based on the foreign community can be a unique way to experience an exotic lifestyle, such as tasting a Mediterranean recipe, or wearing the countries latest fashion trend. Watching films that were made on that culture, or from that culture, is an entertaining way to attain facts. A step further into digging deep into a culture is to be a host to a foreign exchange student, or even become one. If this is of any interest, there are plenty of websites to check out, such as www.ayusa.org.

In my next article, I will be writing about India which will include an interview from Mr. Holtom, who visited there.



16 Pieces

Ethnology: The study of contemporary cultures, in order to develop a theoretical framework for analyzing human society.

Student News

Feature Teacher: Mr. Young By Ben Grimes

Ben Grimes: Where were you raised?

Mr. Young: *Arizona. Phoenix actually. I moved to several states, including New York, New Jersey, and Colorado.*

BG: What's your most interesting or funny memory from your childhood? Or, from adulthood?

Y: *My buddy Greg and I were deer hunting up near the Grand Canyon. He had a Chinook, basically a Japanese version of an RV. We were around South Kaibab, going to get supplies, when we got a flat tire. When we pulled over, the ground was really muddy. Greg put a jack under the axle to replace the tire, and when he got under the truck the jack slipped and he got trapped in the mud. I was able to jack the truck back up and get him out, and he was fine. The funny part was, the whole time he was under there, all you could hear was this muffled voice frantically saying 'Jackitup!' (laughs)*

BG: How did you come to be interested in Biology?

Y: *Well, I went to college to be a doctor, Pre-Medical. That was my major. I kind of became interested in Biology somewhere along the line when I was about to go to medical school. One of my professors at ASU talked me into staying to get a PHD in Biology.*

BG: What led you to become a teacher?

Y: *I was studying in graduate school, and as part of paying for it I made money assistant teaching at ASU. I felt that I enjoyed teaching more than doing research, so, here I am.*

BG: What are some of your hobbies or pastimes?

Y: *I enjoy fixing up old sports cars and motorcycles. I have a '74 Corvette; it has a Chevy big block engine. I also play guitar.*

BG: What other kinds of sports cars or vehicles do you have?

Y: *The '74 Corvette, of course, and the Volkswagen you've probably seen. I have a 2002 Mustang, a 1994 Ranger truck, a 1968 Harley-Davidson XL, and the other two vehicles aren't very exciting. I have a golf cart and a Mitsubishi tractor. (Laughs)*

BG: What kind of music are you in to?

Y: *Rock and roll, anything pre-1975. Credence Clearwater, Led Zeppelin, The Doors. I really like The Doors, and Credence. I also like Jimi Hendrix. My absolute favorite, though, is Eric Clapton. I saw him live down at ASU.*

BG: That's awesome. Were you in any bands before?

Y: *I've played in a lot of bands, actually. I played different things with each band. With Dixieland I played bass; with some bands, I'd play electric bass, others, I would play electric guitar. I'd also play saxophone with a jazz band. I've played a little bit of everything.*

BG: Were any of them more successful?

Y: *No, just stuff we did in high school. It was good for making money on Friday and Saturday nights. Especially around Prom season, we'd have like six or seven proms to play at.*

BG: Did you write any originals or just covers?

Y: *I played with a band called Page And Company, and our lead singer was a guy called Joe Page. This guy had a neat talent to play guitar, make up lyrics in his head, and write as we went. So we played our own stuff. It was pretty fun, and pretty interesting.*

BG: Do you have any family?

Y: *Just my parents, really. They live out in Dewey, so that's another reason I moved here.*

BG: Ah. Well, I have no idea what else to ask you about, so I'll let you get back to work.

Y: *Alright, thanks for the interview.*



Creative Writing

Student Artist: Leo Lopez By Kim Sotelo

Why do you like to draw? *It helps me relax.*

How long have you been drawing? *I've been drawing since I was nine.*

What inspires you to draw? *I'm not sure anything inspires me, its just something I like to do.*

Do you plan on doing anything in your future career that has to do with drawing? *No. It's just something I like to do.*

Have you ever won any awards or certificates for your drawings? *No, I've never tried to enter my drawings in any contests.*



Student Artist: Jacob Hersh By Kim Sotelo

Why do you like to draw? *Because it is fun and I enjoy doing it.*

How long have you been drawing? *About two years.*

What inspires you to draw? *Other artists are what really got me started!*

Do you plan on doing any thing in your future career that has to do with drawing? *Maybe, when I'm done with the Civil Air Patrol, I'll do online college, and study graphic design.*

What is your favorite thing to draw? *Anime*

Why do you like that type of drawing? *I just enjoy doing so.*

Have you ever won any award or certificates for any of your drawing? *No, I haven't entered my art work in any thing.*



Remembered Forever by Matt Pilny

I feel so alone	Take this life	Wash it	Take this life
Cut off from world and home	We never surrender	With the grin of insanity	We never surrender
Space between us vast	Never surrender	Take this life	Never surrender
Never ever ask	Lay and Cry	We never surrender	Lay and cry
In the land of the honey	We'll be remembered forever	Never surrender	We'll be remembered forever
In the land of the steel	Remembered forever	Lay and cry	Remembered forever
There is someone waiting	I feel	We'll be remembered forever	Take this life
To give you a thrill	Something's wrong	Remembered forever	We never surrender
Toss it	Coming out of	Sometimes we see	Never surrender
To the dregs of society	This coma of loneliness	Life in black and white	Lay and cry
Wash it	Toss it	What we don't realize	We'll be remembered forever
With the grin of insanity	To the dregs of society	Is that everything is grey	Remembered forever

Creative Writing

The Quest of Sir Lanthey Scottgran By Matt Pilny

Sir Lanthey Scottgran paced around his now bare living room, muttering under his breath every so often. His servant, a small English boy called William, peeked around a corner, saying as softly as he could,

“Sir?”

Sir Lanthey whipped his head around at the sound, and then relaxed when he saw who it was. “Ah, it’s you, William. Finally somebody who hasn’t taken something from me that I cherish. Come here, boy.”

William obeyed, walking out from behind the corner. “If I may, Sir...”

Sir Lanthey nodded. “Yes, boy?”

William coughed, and Sir Lanthey noticed that something was going on, for he said again, “Yes?”

“Well,” William began, “it’s about your...um, it’s about your...”

Sir Lanthey stepped forward and put his hands on William’s shoulders. “Boy, tell me this instant. Is it my mink rug?”

William lowered his head. “It might be.” Sir Lanthey stepped back in shock. “Those insignificant, low-life...”

As William listened to Sir Lanthey rant and rave, even pulling at his hair at some moments, he realized that the knight had just lost every possession that he called his own. Sir Lanthey finally made himself take a deep breath, but as soon as he let it out, he started to rant again. “Those English mudpies had no right to take my mink rug! I hope they...” William heard someone shouting outside through the open door then.

“Keep your thoughts to yourself, *Scottie!*”

Sir Lanthey heard that and he rushed outside. “You want a piece of this *Scottie!*? Come back here, you English punk!”

And William just sat in the doorway, watching a terrified Englishman running at full speed into the sunset, a absolutely miffed Sir Lanthey right behind him, face as red as a beet.



Fall Friends By Misty Baker

Summer falls and winter springs

Upon us without fail

From summers

Warmth and gentle wind

To winters rain and hail



The fall, it brings its falling leaves

To bid a sad adieu

So summer takes its brilliant sun

And autumn takes its cue

The seasons change and so do we

As school begins again

And though we choose to come and go

Our friendships never end

So love your friends and keep them close

No matter what’s outside

If rain or snow or brilliant sun

Just keep them by your side

Student News

Holly Wood By Matt Pilny

On Saturday, September 19th, at 8:57 a.m. my niece, Holly Wood, was born. I couldn't be at the hospital to see her first moments, because I was helping my dad's friend. I got to see her Sunday, however, when I first saw her, I literally couldn't think of anything to say. I just felt this immense fondness in my heart when I saw my six pounds two ounce newborn niece moving her tiny arms and legs. When my sister said I could hold her, at first I refused. Not because I didn't want to, but because she was so small and fragile, I didn't want anything to happen to her if I held her. If something had happened to her, I would have never forgiven myself. I have to tell you, if any of you are aunts or uncles, you know what I mean. When she first came home on Monday, I stayed by her side at least half the day. I just loved to look at her, because she represents something that I want to be- Innocent. Not that I'm a bad man, but I want to be able to be as spotless in conscience as she is, because I know that I've done things I seriously regret now. So this is a shout out to my niece; you're the most perfect thing on the planet, and you mean everything to me.



Cyclones by Kim Sotelo

Sports are really important to me! It helps me spend time with my family and make new friends. I like playing volleyball, football, basketball, and soccer. My favorite sport is soccer, it means a lot to me and my family. We watch soccer on T.V. and also play it! When one of us plays, our whole family has to be there to watch! It's a really good experience to go out, and play something you really like to do. Soccer is really lots of fun if you like to run! If you don't like to run, then soccer really isn't for you.

I'm on two different soccer teams and it is a lot of fun for me. One of the teams I play on is an indoor soccer team. It's five players against five players. The other team is outdoor soccer, which is eleven players against eleven players. I have been playing soccer since six years old. Soccer has fascinated me since I was a little girl. I would say that indoor soccer is a little bit more fun than outdoor because of the way it's played.

The difference between outdoor and indoor soccer is that, for one, there are different rules. Indoor soccer has walls everywhere, and you can hit the ball on the walls. With outdoor soccer the lines represent out-of-bounds. In outdoor soccer, you don't really run as much as you do playing indoor soccer, because you have a lot of players. Indoor soccer, you play in a smaller area, but there are fewer players so you run all over to get open for the ball. Outdoor soccer has three referees running everywhere and indoor soccer has only one referee. The referee can stand in one place. So indoor soccer and outdoor soccer are really different, either way, watching it or playing it, soccer is my favorite sport.





GO LADY LIONS!



All of our players have awesome skills. Our team this year consisted of Malina Jones, Haley Mayer, Nyssa Miller, Vanessa Miller, Chelsea Peters, Breanna Ranft, Heather Rushing, Sheldyn Savage, Kim Sotelo, Dani Strand, and Emma Tonn. Thank you Ms. Marcie for being our new coach, and for being so fantastic. Lady Lions competed with other teams in our league, and did awesome! On Friday, October 30th, the volleyball tournament was hosted at the Trinity High School Gym. The Lady Lions proudly placed 3rd place. This season has been good and competitive and our teamwork stayed strong!



Youth Chamber

Book Sale By Brandie Lucky

The Service Learning team has had a great book sale the last few years. This year they had their final sale. They had around five-thousand books of all kinds, from children's to non-fiction. Though they did well, there was still some great help from non-member students, for that, the Service Learning team thanks you.

The book sale was a small success, but any profit supports the team and supports other non-profit organizations. As for those who bought books or cds you have done the team and yourself good.

So saying good-bye to the book sale, just remember you can always help support the Service Learning team. There are always other fundraisers available that need the help of other people.



Tour De Pee Vee By Annie Dyer

On September 19th, the Service Learning assisted in the 7th Annual Tour de Pee Vee. This event helps raise funds to support the Boys and Girls Club. It consisted of a half-marathon (13.109 miles), 10k (6.2 miles), 5k (3.1 miles) and 2mile walk. Our own hip-hop teacher, Beth Pargas, participated in the 10k along with many other people from the Prescott Valley community. I talked to Berrett Sears about his experience and this is what he had to say.

Annie: Was there anything aside from the races themselves that you remember?

Berrett: I noticed that most of the people that participated in the walk were all supporting dog adoption.

Annie: What did you help with this year?

Berrett: I helped take ankle timing chips off.

Annie: What did you think of the event?

Berrett: It was fun and we got to help the community and we got to meet new people.



Blood Drive Celebration By Malina Jones

On Wednesday, September 16, the Youth Chamber was invited to the High School Challenge held by the United Blood Services. Around 8:30, we arrived at the Chase Field, anticipating for the ceremonies to start. Preston Smith, a comedian from Scottsdale, started the day with a speech about how blood saved his life. We all got to participate in several activities that had a moral lesson behind each one. For an example, we each had to pair up in teams and chose six out of ten survival items; this demonstrated the importance of team work and decision-making skills. Throughout the day, everyone had the pleasure to watch a skit called "Grease 3." The skit was about how to successfully prepare a blood drive and encourage people to donate blood. After approximately two hours of activities, it was time for lunch where the awards were to be given.

At the lunch room we had another speaker, Special K, who is an on-air personality from KISS F.M. She introduced to the audience the top videos that each school created for the benefits of doing a blood drive. Then we had a teenage speaker explain how blood has saved her life and made her life less difficult. The day finally ended with awards given out to each school group by the percentage of blood that was donated by each blood drive. Our school was proudly the number one school with the most blood and was given a Platinum award. I'm grateful for having the opportunity to experience how much of an impact giving blood is to others.

PAL

Top Ten Teen Problems By Chelsea Peters, Malina Jones, and Matt Pilny

In PAL class, we have come up with what we think are the top ten reasons teens feel pressured. We have presented our ideas to each other in class and now we would like to share them with you:

1. **Depression/Suicide**- All the situations listed below are vital factors that can cause depression in teens, and even adults, in this generation. Depression is one of the most serious issues among teens because it affects them in so many ways.
2. **Drugs/Alcohol**- So many teenagers are using drugs and drinking alcohol because of the stimulants in them that can fade away any unwanted feelings. Drugs have become a greater issue than alcohol because they're now more available to minors than alcohol. Teenagers not only do it to alter their senses, but because they want to have a "good" time with their friends. Remember drugs and alcohol are very addictive and ruin lives. Stay drug free and alcohol free!
3. **Family/Friend Issues**- In some cases, parents set too high of standards for their children's needs. In other situations, the child thinks that they know more than the parents, which causes arguments. Friends sometimes also cause issues in other friend's lives. They may start an argument and become too stubborn to apologize and solve the problem.
4. **Violence/Weapons**- The use of weapons illegally in school is becoming a greater problem than ever before. Incidents such as Columbine and Virginia Tech simply illustrates how our society is used to such violence from the media. Violence outside of school is an even bigger problem. It makes us wonder how people today deal with conflicts.
5. **Peer Pressure**- On a daily basis, teens interact with their peers, and this can lead to situations dealing with pressure. Peer pressure is a problem because teens feel like they need their friend's approval, and they want to be accepted.
6. **Gossip/Drama**- Gossip is when someone, or a group of people, talk about someone or spread a rumor around. This can lead to hurtful conflicts between people, and creates a lot of drama.
7. **Pregnancy/Abortion**- The rates for teenage pregnancy have gone up in the past 10 years, thus making teenagers more pressured than ever. Having a baby can be life-changing. Several girls are getting an abortion thinking it's the right thing to do. Most of them do not realize the emotional damage that may occur after they have the abortion.
8. **Fitting in**- Most teens feel as if they are not included in activities and groups if they do not "fit in". They may think that having the right clothes or the right attitude may make them fit in. Life lesson to this is that true friends do not care what you wear or what you look like. They like you for your true self.
9. **Relationships (Physical and Emotional)** - Relationships can be distracting and, most of the time, there is a physical and/or emotional problem involved. They may lead you to make bad choices in some situations.
10. **School work**- Schoolwork can be time consuming, and this can be a problem for students who have a job or an after school activity. For example, you are given an essay that is due the next day. You may have to spend hours doing this essay. This can lead to stress, havoc and even in some cases staying up all night.





Red Ribbon Week!



First Place

Second Place

Third Place



Guessing Jar winners!



Sarah and Fantasia's Stories



About My Dad By Sarah Clark

I want to tell you about my real Dad. All I know is that he was a very good man. He loved me very much and he loved my mom and two sisters that weren't even his kids. The only thing that was wrong with him was he was in pain all the time so he took pills and he became addicted to them. My mom left him when I was one and came out here. He would talk to me on the phone as much as he could and he promised that I would get to meet him someday soon. Then, I was around five when we got a call from my grandma saying my Dad died of a heroin overdose. We think he did it because he had a stroke and he couldn't move or see. He was in so much pain that he could not take it anymore.

I never got to meet him or even tell him I love him for the last time. There is not one day that goes by I don't think of him. I also think about how my life would be if I had met him, and I really wish I could have. He is the reason I have not, and never will, try any type of drugs. He is also why I try and help people that I care about so that I don't lose them like I lost him. Some people say that they wish they didn't know their dad because of what their dad does, but they are lucky that they do. It stinks when all you know about your dad is what you have heard, and all that you've heard is not true. For those who know your parents, be thankful that you have them, you have met them, and that you have found out the truth about them on your own. No matter what they do, always love them. For those of you who haven't met your parents, and wish you could, don't blame yourself for anything they have done. Things happen that we can't stop no matter what.

Michael Nicholas Walters By Fantasia Taylor

Since it's Red Ribbon week, I would like to take the time to share with you what happened to my brother, Michael Nicholas Walters.

On September 23, 2008, I found out my brother died in his sleep. He died with six different drugs in his system. The doctors had no idea which one killed him, so they said any of them could have killed him. A lot of people, including me, think he killed himself.

We think this because the week before it happened, he was giving all of his clothes away to his friends. He also gave his step mom an angel pin and one of his basketball pictures in it, and the card said, "Everything will get better, I promise!" That same week he gave his dad his dog tags with his name on them, and he told him, "Never take them off."

When I went to Oregon for his funeral, I didn't say anything, and to this day I still regret not saying anything. I never said anything, because I never knew him too well. The only thing I remember is going to Disneyland when we were little kids, and he came to visit me, my mom, and my dad in Missouri when we were still little kids, and we fought over the Playstation because he didn't want to take turns.

Anyway, I just wanted to say if anyone you know is doing drugs, please try to help them realize that they're not good for you and they're a complete waste of time. When they're doing drugs and they die from them, they will be gone forever.

Red Ribbon Week Editorial By Matt Pilny

We've all seen those videos about how drugs are bad and can seriously damage and even kill you. Our parents have told us that countless times. But do we really take that to heart? Do we really listen to what they are saying, instead of thinking, *This won't happen to me. I won't get hooked.* I'm betting that at least 75% of drug users said that at one point or another, and where are they now?

More Student News...

USB Interfaces pt.1: Behringer UCG102 By Ben Grimes

As a musician, I like recording myself playing for writing ideas, harmonizing with myself, or just listening to enjoy my work. But unfortunately, until recently I have only had an Olympus hand held voice recorder, which makes my guitar sound weak and buzzy. I have found ways to make it sound better, like plugging my amp into my computer's microphone input and recording with free online programs like Audacity. Although it does take care of the complications of a hand held voice recorder, its sound is still far from professional. Lately, I have been researching how to record with a computer and found various ways to make professional recordings. One of the least expensive ways, which I would like to share with you all, is USB interface recording. I found many different companies who offer these, including Line6, Behringer, Tascam, and M-Audio. I can't review all these products in one newsletter, so I'll write reviews in a series.

I'd like to begin with Behringer's Guitar Link UCG102 USB interface. Bob at Pop's music in Prescott very awesomely let me demo this for free to get a feel for using USB interfaces. My copy came with a recording program called Kristal Audio, a mastering program called Audacity, Native Instruments guitar combos, and the ASIO driver for the interface. There's a lot of helpful information on Behringer's website (www.behringer.com/EN/Products/UCG102.aspx) as well as in the owner's manual.

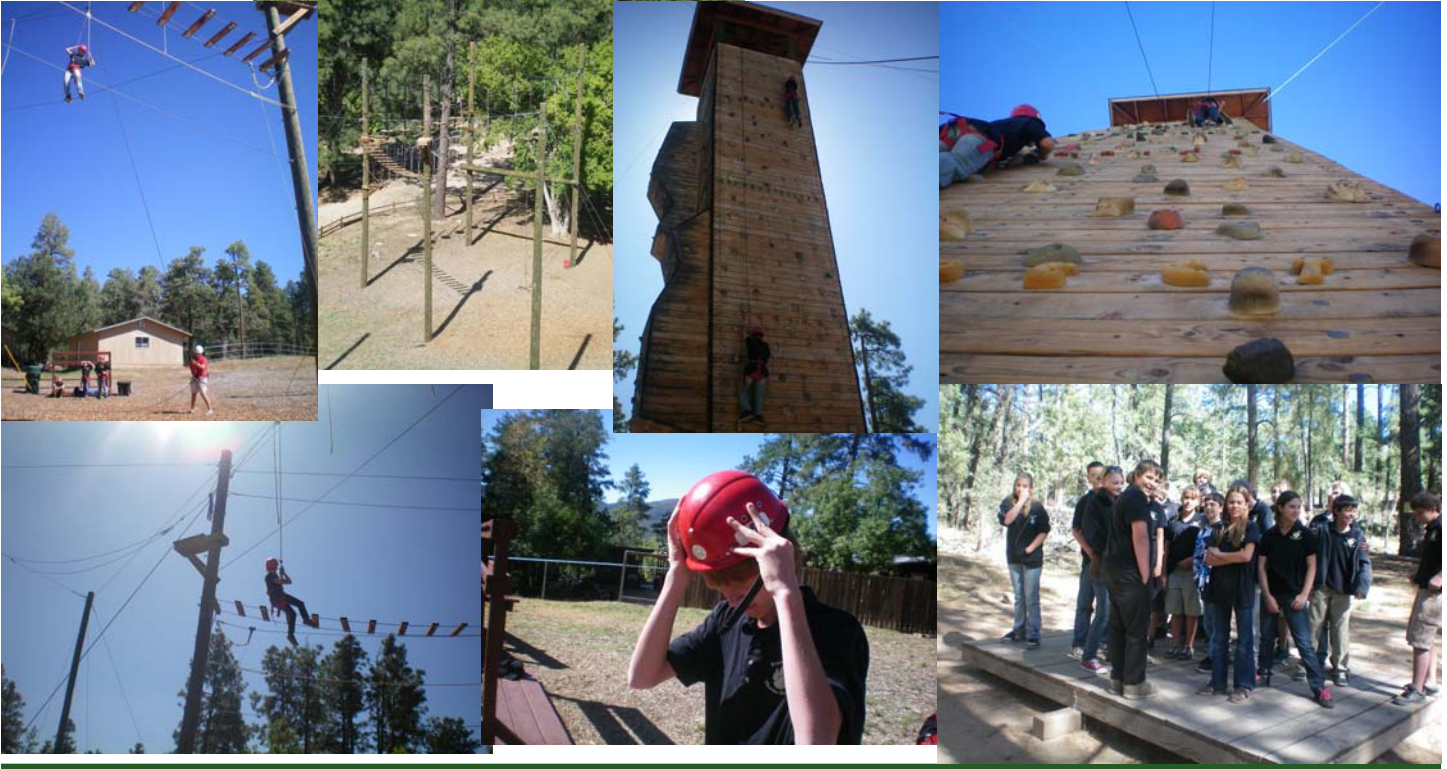
I installed the driver and all the software, and plugged the interface into my USB port. The little blue led light turned on to let me know it was working. So, I plugged in my guitar and clicked into the NI guitar combos programs. I played all three models, and they sounded pretty decent. No, not phenomenal or amazing, but a milestone better than a cheap ten watt Wal-Mart amp. The high gain sounds weren't what I would want from a metal amp, but it was good for hard rock. The clean sounds were very nice though. You can get plenty of nice rock, blues, jazz, and funk tones with the software amps.

The amp programs sounded pretty decent when recorded with audacity. I wish I could have recorded with the Kristal Audio engine, but it refused to record or play back. There are a few cons about the product, though: there was a very small amount of latency between my guitar and the programs. Also, you can only record guitars with this interface (duh) so you can't use a microphone and record with your amp, record vocals, or drums. Other than that, this is a good introduction to USB interface recording, and a good product you may want to check out. Behringer charges 60 dollars MSRP, but you can find it at Musician's Friend for 40 dollars.



Just For Fun

Jr. High Field Trip Sky- YMCA Camp



That's Crazy By Jessica Rumsy

