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# Special Interest Newsletter

\* Cedar Cliff High School \* Winter 2005 \*

\* Produced By: Susanna Bagdasarova \* Teacher: Ms. Angela Maxton \*

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## KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN TEAM TAKES THIRD

Congratulations to the Cedar Cliff KMO team!

On Wednesday December 7, a group of 19 students succeeded in achieving the highest score in Cedar Cliff's history of KMO participation with a 1630 out of 2000. Not only is it the highest score the school has ever had, but the team placed



third in the state out of 79 schools and 32 out of 792 in the world. KMO, or Knowledge Master Open, is a computerized academic competition of 200 questions with worldwide participants. The team is judged in every field of knowledge, from physics to world languages to literature.

A list of the participants and their grades follows (pictured above left to right):

Paul Gibson, grade 10; Colin Reynolds, grade 11; Alex Rovnyansky, grade 11; Robert Kosarowich (captain), grade 11; Stephen Hyder (co-captain), grade 12; Tom Marcucci, grade 9; Joseph Gribb, grade 9; Luke Stone, grade 10; Drew Tomes, grade 9; Michael Wagman, grade 10; Susanna Bagdasarova, grade 10; Katie Savage, grade 9; Leann Hyatt, grade 9; Cameron Blackburn, grade 9; Robbie Matthews, grade 9. **Not pictured:** Greg Potteiger, grade 11; Vinnie DePalma, grade 9; George Holevas, grade 9; and Steve Patrick, grade 9.

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## Mathlete Update

Throughout the school year, a number of students have been participating in the PA Math League Competition. This competition is comprised of six tests of six questions each, challenging students with advanced mathematical operations. These tests, administered by advisor, Ms. Angela Maxton, are scored, and the top five tests are compared to those of other participating schools.

Four tests have been administered so far this year and the top scorers from the latest test are:

Megan Specht, Alex Rovnyansky, Mike Mumper & Robert Kosarowich. Upcoming competitions are on March 14 and April 11.

### Table of Contents

Stock Market Game-----	2
Independent Study-----	3
Anthem-----	4
Scholastic-----	4
Author Profile-----	5
Student Writing-----	5

# Playing the Stock Market Game

Annually, several teams of Cedar Cliff Special Interest students participate in the Pennsylvania Stock Market Game. This is a competition aimed at high school students to sharpen their investing skills. Each team is given a starting amount of \$100,000 to invest. The teams must then purchase stocks and observe the stock market as prices go up and down. This challenge, nerve wracking as it is, educates students in the nuances of investing.



**2nd place: Tom Marcucci, DJ Rowe and Luke Stone**

Cedar Cliff has produced several great teams in the past several years, and this year is no exception. Cedar Cliff's third place team of Andy Maxwell and Ben Leach chose to purchase some unusual stock in the form of the WWE. The WWE, or World Wrestling Entertainment, provided the duo with 7,805 shares starting at \$12.67. With the end price of \$14.70, this team managed to finish third in the Cedar Cliff competition.

In second place, the team of Tom Marcucci, DJ Rowe and Luke Stone invested in Google. Always a strong choice, this stock went from \$319 to \$409 per share.

The first place team from Cedar Cliff, Alex Rovnyansky and Jeff Wise invested much of their money in the OM Group.



**1st place: Alex Rovnyansky and Jeff Wise**

This is a corporation that produces chemicals, powders, cobalt and nickel. The two bought 14,500 share at \$13.5 and finished at \$18.02. This was a 33.23% gain and landed them in first place for Cedar Cliff and third place out of 139 teams that competed in the region.

The Stock Market Game provides a challenging forum for the virtual application of economic theory. The students must learn how to invest money, create portfolios and understand the flow of the market.

Says participant Michael Wagman, "The game is a way to learn to use the market without losing anything." People planning to invest in stocks when they are older should try their hand at this exciting competition. It allows students to experiment and understand the market and investing on a virtual scale, so that they are smarter investors in real life.

Congratulations to all the participants for braving the market and a special kudos goes out to the top three winners, all of whom did an amazing job.



**3rd place: Andy Maxwell and Ben Leach**



# Special Interest:



*Katie Savage, Leann Hyatt, Joe Gribb  
and Amy Rundle*

## First Block

**Katie Savage (9)** entered scholastic writing, participant in the stock market game, completed Flash animation tutorial, created an original animation, composed using garage band, read and discussed Anthem by Ayn Rand.

**Leann Hyatt (9)** Completed a history unit on Events that Changed the World focusing on Revolution and Disaster, participated in the stock market game, read and discussed Anthem by Ayn Rand.

**Joe Gribb (9)** Entered scholastic writing, participated in the stock market game, created a musical arrangement using the Sibelius, computer composing program, learned the basics of Danish

**Dan Avetta\*(10)** Completed a fighter pilot project, researched and wrote a Roman Senate simulation

**Kyra Fallon \*(10)** Completed an SAT prep. unit, created a resume, completed an imovie tutorial

**Paul Gibson\*(10)** completed garage band computer composing tutorials and created an original composition

**Amy Rundle\*(10)** Wrote scholastic writing pieces, completed flash animation tutorials, created an original animation

**\* Students who participated in Independent Study out of Test Taking Strategies**

## INDEPENDENT STUDY FIRST SEMESTER STUDENTS AND PROJECTS **Second Block**

**Vinnie DePalma (9)** Created a resume, participated in the stock market game, created a power point on meteorology, completed a Spanish unit, created an original video

**George Holevas (9)** Created a resume, participated in the stock market game, completed a Spanish unit, created an original video, and researched Alexander the Great

**Steve Patrick (9)** Created a resume, completed a Latin project, created an original video

**AnnMarie Hamlin\*(10)** Completed scholastic writing entry, studied the basics of Japanese, completed a recording of Fahrenheit 451, completed photoshop tutorials

**Joe Lucas\*(10)** completed a German enrichment study, completed a resume

**Luke Stone\*(10)** completed Flash computer animation tutorials and created an original animation summarizing the plot of *Julius Caesar*



*George Holevas, Joe Lucas, Vinnie DePalma,  
Steven Patrick and Luke Stone*

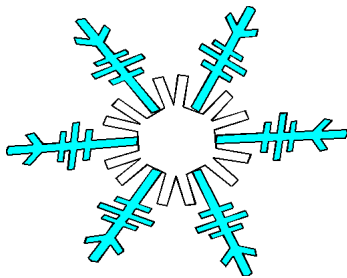
## Fourth Block

**Kristen Becker (9)** Entered scholastic writing, completed a resume, completed tutorials using Final Cut Pro computer editing program, created an original video using Final Cut Pro

**Kevin McNulty (9)** Participated in the fall PA Stock Market Game, completed a resume, researched topic for history day competition- "Taking a Stand in History," completed video for history day, researched careers

**Corrigan Faley (9)** Completed resume, worked on reverse engineering and programming languages

**Ayron Jungren 9-** completed resume, worked on web design using XML, worked on programming with firefox extensions



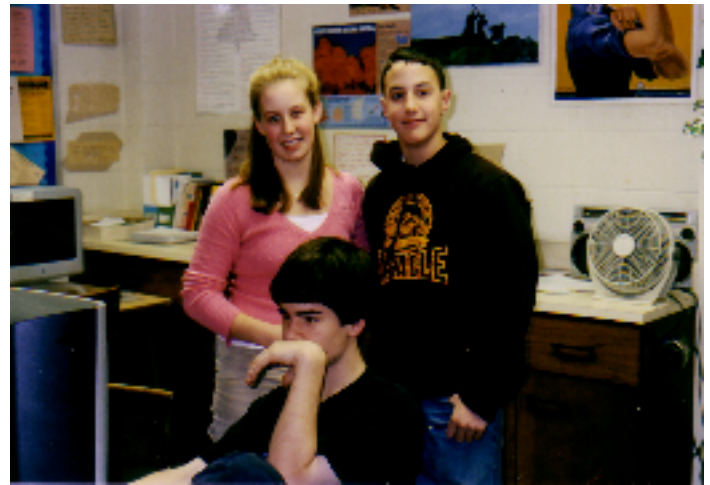
### Anthem

"It is a sin to write this...."these are the first words of the powerful novelette Anthem by Ayn Rand. Written as a philosophic and political statement, Anthem is an American classic. Annually, the Ayn Rand Institute holds the Anthem and Fountainhead Essay contests.

In order to enter, a student must read either Anthem (9-10 grade) or The Fountainhead (11-12 grade) and write an essay on one of three given topics. The deadline for the Anthem essay contest is March 20, 2006 and the grand prize totals \$2,000. The entry deadline for The Fountainhead is April 25, 2006 and the grand prize is @10,000.

Check out the Special Interest website under links for more information.

**Deadlines are coming up so start reading!**



*Kristin Becker, Kevin McNulty and  
Corrigan Faley*

## Scholastic Submissions

Once again, its Scholastic time. The annual Scholastic Writing Competition is held every year to showcase the finest writing of middle and high school students. Fourteen students entered through the Special Interest Program and their names, entry titles and awards are listed below.

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**Jeff Wise** - The Shadow Sword

**Margaret Phenicie** - History Buffs (Gold Key)

**Katherine Savage** - The Way the Wind Blows  
(Certificate of Merit)

**Michael Wagman** - Shatterpoint of Forever

**Stephen Hyder** - Urban Badlands (Silver Key)

**Daniel Wilson** - The Emperor's Son

**Joe Gribb** - Attitude Assault

**Annmarie Hamlin** - A Knight to Remember

**Amy Rundle** - Silver Lucidity & Full Circle (Silver Key)

**Susanna Bagdasarova** - Irony in Inspiration; The Hidden Holocaust; Blanche (Certificate of Merit);  
Ancient America & Paradise Lost (Silver Key)

**Kristen Becker** - Nothing Better to Do at 5 a.m.  
(Certificate of Merit)

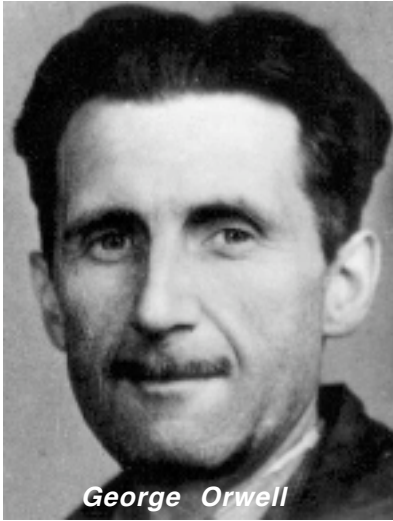
**Taylor Breslin** - An Age-Old Tactic (Certificate of Merit) & Under a Bridge: A Voice from the Epidemic

**Justin Keller** - True Love & The Purest of Faith

**Tom Marcucci** - The Gladiator Fights

# AUTHOR

## P R O F I L E



George Orwell

George Orwell, a name many of us know so well, immortalizes one of the greatest and most famous British writers. Orwell, born Eric Arthur Blair, was born in Bengal, India on June 15, 1903. His young life was spent in England with his mother and sisters while his father continued to work as part of the British Civil Service in India.

In 1922, after failing to win a university scholarship, Orwell moved to India and joined the Indian Imperial police while continuing his education. After serving five years, he resigned because of growing dislike of British imperialism.

He began to write from a very young age and had several publications in college newspapers. After his return from India, Orwell, destitute, decided to become a professional writer in 1928. He became a contributor to the the *New Adelphi* and created the name "George Orwell" in 1933.

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear..."

His first novel was *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933) and he wrote *Burmese Days* in 1934 while being a schoolteacher. By 1936, Orwell had married Eileen O'Shaughnessy and adopted Socialist views. Ironically, Orwell sided with the Marxist Party in the Spanish Civil War and it was this war that led him to hate Communism and go on to write influential novels on the topic. A book on Spanish politics, *Homage to Catalonia*, was published in 1938.

Orwell served as a sergeant and journalist in WWII and wrote his famed book *Animal Farm*. *1984*, his most successful and classic work was written shortly after. Orwell died in London on January 21, 1950 of tuberculosis.

## Student Writing

### **AN AGE-OLD TACTIC**

*by: Taylor Breslin*

This escape is like an antique.  
Quiet, classic, and rich,  
Warm, like skin against metal,  
Resonant, like the echo of the breaking  
of bonds.  
I'll hold its framework deep and close,  
A smooth embrace of vintage ideas,  
With silk scarves for decoration and  
mystery,  
A vanishing act of humble proportions.  
And I'm driving a carriage as fast as it  
will go  
Out of Florence and down the  
countryside.

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