

The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

Volume # 33 May 5th, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Monday, May 5 th	<p>Lunch Presentation: Centennial Football Coaches meet with interested Gr. 8 students about spring/ summer football camps Student Government: May Meeting @ 2:00 in Library Athletics: Badminton Practice – Recreational Team @ 3:15 Rugby Gr. 6/7 Boys Practice @ 3:15; Track and Field Practices Long/ Triple Jump – 7:45 – 8:15; Running Events – 3:15 – 4:15</p>
Tuesday, May 6 th	<p>Field Trip: Team Hokkaido Movie “Bears” @ 11:00 @ Silvercity Workshop: Go Girls Session # 2 @ 3:15 – 5:15 in Rm. 225 Athletics: High Jump – 7:45 – 8:30 Badminton Practice – Competitive Team @ 3:15 – 4:15 Rugby Team Practice or Game @ 3:15 - TBA</p>
Wednesday, May 7 th	<p>Camp: Team Quadra @ Camp Squeah Clubs: Me to We Leadership Team Mtg. @ 12:30 Athletics: Rugby Team Practice @ 3:15 Track and Field Practices- Long/ Triple Jump – 7:45 – 8:15 Running Events – 3:15 – 4:15, Throwing Event – 3:15 – 4:15</p>
Thursday, May 8 th	<p>Camp: Team Quadra @ Camp Squeah Homework Club: ABEd Program @ 3:05 in Drama Rm. Open to any Student looking for a quiet place to work with Assistance Athletics: High Jump – 7:45 – 8:30; Rugby Game – Gr. 8 Boys TBA</p>
Friday, May 9 th	<p>Camp: Team Quadra @ Camp Squeah Quest Speaker: Team Sicily Health and Sexual Education presentations Athletics: Throwing Events – 8:00 – 8:45 Badminton Practice – Competitive Team @ 8:00 Badminton Practice – Recreational Team @ 12:30</p>
Monday, May 12 th	<p>Athletics: Badminton Practice – Recreational Team @ 3:15 Rugby Gr. 6/7 Boys Practice @ 3:15; Track and Field Practices – Long/ Triple Jump – 7:45 – 8:15; Running Events – 3:15 – 4:15</p>
<p>Next Week: Mon. May 12th – 13th Team Skye @ Camp Zajac/ School Planning Council Mtg. # 2 @ 9:15; Thurs. May 15th District Parent Workshop Parent our kids in the 21st Century @ 7:00 @ Best Gym</p>	
<p>Two Weeks: Mon. May 19th Victoria Day Holiday; Wed. May 21st PAC Mtg. @ 7:00; Thurs. May 22nd Staff Appreciation Luncheon Supported by PAC; Fri. May 23rd Safeteen HACE Presentations for Gr. 8 students</p>	

Inside this Issue:

McFaul's Chat and Chew: Who wears short shorts?

Student Corner: Camping in the Skye – Tristan E.

Culture Beat:

- Mini Successes All Around
- Gr. 8 Leaving Ceremony Volunteers
- Academic Support – H.W. Club

PAC News:

- Staff Appreciation Luncheon Volunteers
- Mtg. Info and Thrifty Cards

Community News:

- Traffic Safety Notice for Monty Area
- Summer Learning On-Line Registration
- CPVPA In Motion for Cancer Run
- SD # 43 Summer Day Camps at Monty
- Parenting Our Kids in the 21st Century
- Centennial – Mossom Creek Hatchery Hot Trivia Night
- Place des Arts – Street Art Project
- Poirier Rec. Centre Programs

Special Author: Kiyomi A. – “The Fallen Soldier”

McFaul's Chat and Chew: Who wears short shorts?

As the wonderful weather blessed us last week with warmth and sunshine it also brings with it a reminder of how our staff and students should dress in a work place environment. Please trust me, you do not want me to be your moral weathervane on what type of clothing is appropriate and not appropriate for working at school, yet the task to review this concept falls upon me and thus I must raise the flag to draw the attention for all. As parents we are all extremely busy, often times with job demands we are not able to see our kids out the door and thus we may miss what they decide to wear to school that day. Some of our students have been noted to leave the home wearing a certain article of clothing and tucked away deep in the inner caverns of their backpack they have another garment that they change into once upon their arrival at school. Either way, the point is screaming out to all that the topic remains the same of having an open and honest discussion with your child about what is appropriate wear for school activities.

Shorts are way too short , so much so that when young ladies walk down the hallway to class tugging on the frayed threads of their cutoffs to pull them down because the garment is riding far too high and thus creating discomfort and social awkwardness. When young men have their muscle t-shirts with no material in their underarms to absorb the dripping sweat they produced from their game playing at lunch and the liquid residue is pooling on their desktop, then we need to re-think what is respectful, healthy and purposeful. These are just some key examples and with all of these the student is struggling to be comfortable, to try to fit into social fashion and inevitably draws an inappropriate amount of attention to themselves, all for the wrong reasons. The group mentality is a powerful force amongst young teens and they will support one another in their attempts to push boundaries of respect and function, this is modelled for them in their music videos – thanks Miley Cyrus, and enhanced with the growing trends towards selfies as examples of promoting the central idea that looks and style overrule substance and character.

Later on this month we have some presenters coming to do workshops with our Gr. 8 students that focus on healthy relationships, assertiveness, sexual harassment, intimidation and avoiding violence by stepping down with dignity. The goal is to have every girl think and act like a "Wise Woman" and every boy to think and act like a "Solid Guy." To build their self-esteem through strategies that teach verbal and body language skills, building and respecting boundaries, standing up and speaking up without violence to help them realize that they have the power that lies within each and every one of them to be their own person.

We have no air conditioning in our old school; however, we do have expectations of respect, we do have an understanding of personal responsibilities and we do have a population of kids who need guidance in their decision making and they need to have healthy conversations with those they love and trust in regards to presenting a picture of who they are and how they define themselves. Please take some time to help in this search for their definition by making sure your child can perform the tasks of school like walking, bending, and sitting and working without the restrictions of their clothing holding them back.

Team Update: A Student Perspective

Camping in the Skye: Update from Team Skye by Tristan E.

The sun is shining in the Skye. As the school year comes closer to an end, it is getting warmer and the kids are getting excited about the summer. However, there is still work to do and Team Skye is busy with school-work and with fundraising for Camp Zajac.

In the past few weeks we were all very excited about Camp Zajac. This is a two-day camping trip that will take place on May 12 and 13th. There will be plenty of fun activities, including archery, campfire sing-alongs and swimming. There are even some high ropes and a climbing wall. It promises to be a fun two days. Some of the kids in Team Skye will not attend Camp Zajac, but they will have just as much fun in Ms. Patching's class where they will develop and perform a skit, a comic strip or a game show.

Team Skye is flying through the academic work, and getting it done fast and efficient, with great teachers helping us through when we get stuck. For example, in Ms. Redlich's math class we are learning about collecting, presenting and analyzing data, about leaf graphs, means, medians and modes. In Mr. Hanna's class, they are leaning about mass, volume and density and the properties of matter. Because it all matters in the Skye!

Nowadays, people text so much, that we do not learn about facial expressions or social interactions, except clicking the smiling face button. 😊. As we grow up, it is important to learn about social interactions because that's how we keep good relationships. We spend a lot of time in HACE with Mr. McFaul learning about people skills. We also learned about personal safety and healthy living.

Quick. Think fast. Which is better the book or the movie? Well, we'll let Ms. Patching's class decide as they are doing the project right now and will have an answer by the end of May.

We started with a Camp and we'll end with a Camp. Camp Read to be exact. This was a fun day of reading activities, including building a tent or a fort out of blankets and pillows. Kids brought their favorite children's book as well as the book they were reading currently. Fly High Team Skye!

Culture Beat: **Events and Activities.**

Mini Successes All Around – This past Wednesday was a very busy day at Monty as we hosted the first district **Mini Track and Field Meet** of the year. The weather was perfect and our team of coaches/ organizers Mrs. Davis, Ms. Carruthers, Mr. Hanna, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Hutchinson and Mr. Nordby put forth a great day of events allowing many students from around the district to test their skills in competition and to measure themselves against the required district standards. Our athletes found the heat to be an added opponent as they performed their events in the first real day of sunshine. Up next is the District Track and Field Meet later this month at Coquitlam Town Centre.

Last Wednesday our **Beginner Band** travelled to Pitt River Middle to perform in the district Band competition to see how all of the students perform and challenge themselves in district wide performances. Mr. De Vita was extremely pleased with our small group of musicians and the powerful volume and clarity of sound that they produced during their show.

Later that same day we held our **Gr. 5 Parent Orientation Evening** for incoming new students and we were overwhelmed with the positive response we had as the turnout of students and families was large and very

enthusiastic. We had several student speakers explain to our audience how our school works this year and the type of culture that our staff and students work hard to develop and support through the many programs, extra-curricular activities and our in class project based learning focus. Thanks to Ms. Sviatko and Mrs. Davis for organizing our Monty ROCKS CREW members who acted as ambassadors for the evening.

On this same day being the last day of the month we also submitted our final fundraising total for the BC Heart and Stroke Foundation which is one of our charities that we support as an outside giveback opportunity. With the crazy antics of our Jump Rope for Heart leaders Ms. Patching, Mrs. Sievers and Mrs. Perry our students brought in a total of \$1033.55 to be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We thank you as parents who supported this very important charity with your generous donations.

Gr. 8 Leaving Ceremony Volunteers – The end of year is quickly approaching and the tradition at Monty is to celebrate our Gr. 8 students with an assembly in the afternoon joined by the whole school and then refreshment sharing after the event of appetizers and punch. We are calling for parent support to help volunteer for this event with plans for organizing, donating and hosting the after ceremony social. If you would like to help please contact Ms. Patching @ apatching@sd43.bc.ca

Academic Support – We have available on Thursdays through our Aboriginal Education Department in District # 43 a after school homework session, whereby students can drop in and have a quiet place, have computer access with adult support to do their individual work. Students need to report to our Youth Worker Mrs. Davis and bring their materials to get down to the task.

PAC News and Events: Our Next PAC Mtg. is on Wed. May 21st @ 7:00 .

To: Montgomery Middle Families

The Montgomery Middle School Staff Appreciation Luncheon is Thursday May 22nd. The luncheon is an Italian theme and we need your help in showing the wonderful staff at Monty how much they are appreciated. We are looking for donations of food, money and helpers for set up and take down. Some food suggestions would be an Antipasto tray, Pasta dishes, Pizza, Caesar Salad, Pasta Salad, Green Salad, Fruit tray, Veggie tray, Bruschetta, Biscotti, Pellegrino water, Italian Sodas, Tiramisu cake, etc...

If you prefer you can make a cash donation towards the luncheon and the money will be used to purchase items. Cheques can be made out to Montgomery Middle PAC – cash or cheque donations should be in an envelope marked with your name, staff luncheon and handed into the office by May 16th.

If you are able to provide a dish, make a donation or help with set up or take down, please send an email and let us know so we have an idea of what food will be coming.

Please email Elaine equereng@hotmail.com **or Deb** debmueller@shaw.ca to let us know what you can donate, if you can help or if you have any questions.

With our appreciation,

Elaine Querengesser and Deb Mueller

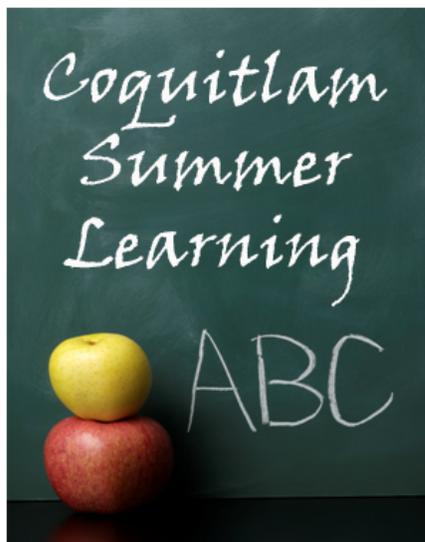
Thrifty's Smile Card Fundraising - Montgomery PAC has received approval for this year's Smile Card Fund Raising. All pre-existing cards are ready to load for this school year. 5% of \$\$ loaded at any Thrifty Foods will be paid to Montgomery Middle PAC.
Cards can be obtained by e-mailing Elaine at equereng@hotmail.com. Ordered cards will be left at the office for pick-up.

Community News: Please see the following list of community events.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD ACCESS INFORMATION:

Re: Edgewood from Lakeview St. to Glenholme St.

A new 6 inch water main will soon be constructed by the City of Coquitlam Capital Works Construction Crew involving replacing existing water main along Edgewood Ave from Lakeview to Glenholme. Residences along Edgewood will be affected by parts, pipe, materials, trucks and equipment parked in front of their property and along the roadway. You will have access issues to your property and at times, temporary road closures. You will also experience temporary water service interruption usually with 24hrs notice during construction. Surrounding residents will be indirectly affected by the construction. You will experience temporary water service interruption with 24hrs notice, increased traffic and temporary road closures. Utility work will be done Monday to Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with no construction on weekends or statutory holidays. Pipe and parts will begin to show up on site Tuesday April 22nd 2014 in anticipation of the work to be done.



SUMMER LEARNING 2014 ONLINE Registration Dates (6:00 a.m. Opening)

Middle Skill Building (Hillcrest, Scott Creek, Centennial, Charles Best):
May 29th

Grade 9 & 10 Skill Building (Charles Best): May 27th

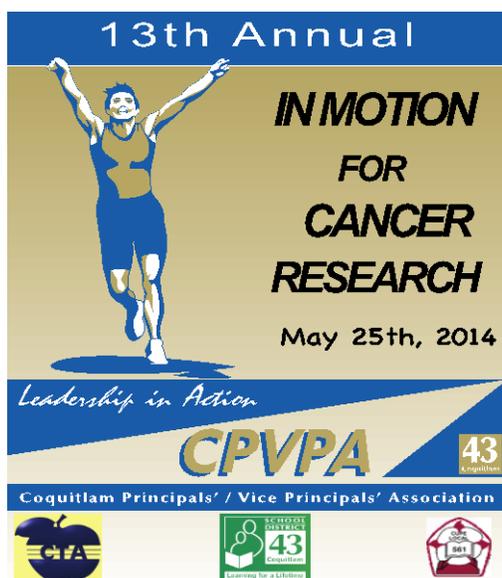
Students must have an account with our online system **BEFORE** registering for courses. Please visit our website and create/update your account **now**.

We are offering courses in Art, Band, Computers, Creative Writing, Drama, English (LA and for beginners), Math, PE/Leadership, Science and Tech Ed (*held at Charles Best and Centennial for students moving into Gr 7 or 8) and more to come!*

Program Dates: July 8 to July 25

Visit www.summerlearningcoquitlam.ca

Montgomery Middle 1900 Edgewood Ave. Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 2Y1
Phone: 604-939-7367 Fax: 604-939-7930 Web: www.montymiddle.ca
Principal: Mr. Rob McFaul Vice-Principal: Ms. Dawn Holden



Coquitlam Principal's and Vice-Principal's Association 13th Annual *In Motion* Event for Cancer Research Dedicated to Tom Davies

The Coquitlam Principals and Vice Principals Association 13th Annual *In Motion* for Cancer Research event will be held Sunday, May 25th at 9:00 am at Terry Fox Secondary School. There are three routes for participants: 2km, 5km, and 10 km

Come run, walk, ride or roll with us!

This 13th anniversary year's event will be the best yet, with individuals and teams participating on behalf of members of the School District 43 family who have been affected by cancer. We have always enjoyed good staff and student participation and are hoping for another large turnout this year. In 12 years we have contributed over \$100,000 to the **Canadian Cancer Society**. Individual registration forms will be available soon at any school site/website or at the board office. Donations received at the door or online (site address announced soon) will be matched by Scotiabank up to \$5000

Feel free to join a school team or for more information about forming your own team contact Darlene Proulx by e-mail at dproulx@sd43.bc.ca or by phone at 604-941-3408



For 75 years, the Canadian Cancer Society has been with Canadians in the fight for life. We have been relentless in our commitment to prevent cancer, fund research and support Canadians touched by cancer. From this foundation, we will work with Canadians to change cancer forever so fewer Canadians are diagnosed with the disease and more survive.

Montgomery Middle 1900 Edgewood Ave. Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 2Y1
Phone: 604-939-7367 Fax: 604-939-7930 Web: www.montymiddle.ca
Principal: Mr. Rob McFaul Vice-Principal: Ms. Dawn Holden



SCHOOL DISTRICT #43 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS'S SUMMER DAY CAMP 2014

Community Schools are pleased to offer Summer Day Camp Programs. Camps will be held at the following School locations:

WHERE: CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL: 2260 Central Avenue, Port Coquitlam
LEIGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 1230 Soball Street, Coquitlam
MONTGOMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL: 1900 Edgewood Avenue, Coquitlam
MILLER PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL: 800 Egmont Avenue, Coquitlam

TIME: 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM (DOORS OPEN 8:45 AM & PICK UP BY 2:45 PM)
MILLER PARK CAMP: 12:00 PM – 2:45 PM

AGE OF CAMPERS: 6 YEARS TO 12 YEARS

ONLINE PAYMENTS ACCEPTED: VISA OR MASTERCARD OR INTERAC/DEBIT
PAPER REGISTRATIONS: CASH AND CHEQUES (MILLER PARK- CASH ONLY)

CONTACTS: Central Camp: Dasha Belskaya- dbelskaya@sd43.bc.ca

Montgomery/Miller Park Camp: Paul Dondo- pdondo@sd43.bc.ca 778-229-9273

Leigh Camp: Steve Brown-John- sbrown-john@sd43.bc.ca 604-230-1233

Montgomery Camp- will run 6 weeks: July 2nd to August 8th 2014

M-1 Week / Camp 1	Wed. July 02 – Fri. July 04	\$60	3 Days	Wed - Fri
M-2 Week / Camp 2	Mon. July 07 – Fri. July 11	\$95	5 Days	Mon - Fri
M-3 Week / Camp 3	Mon. July 14 – Fri. July 18	\$95	5 Days	Mon - Fri
M-4 Week / Camp 4	Mon. July 21 – Fri. July 25	\$95	5 Days	Mon - Fri
M-5 Week / Camp 5	Mon. July 28 – Fri. Aug 01	\$95	5 Days	Mon - Fri
M-6 Week / Camp 6	Tues. Aug 05 – Fri. Aug 08	\$80	4 Days	Tues - Fri

Miller Park Camp- will run 3 weeks: July 8th to July 25th 2014

MP-1 Week / Camp 1	Tues. July 08 – Fri. July 11	\$40	4 Days	Tues - Fri
MP-2 Week / Camp 2	Mon. July 14 – Fri. July 18	\$50	5 Days	Mon - Fri
MP-3 Week / Camp 3	Mon. July 21 – Fri. July 25	\$50	5 Days	Mon - Fri

About the Camp

Weekly activity schedules will be available the first day of camp and will vary between the different sites. The examples of daily/ weekly activities will reflect the following areas:

- Recreation and Games, Arts and Crafts, Science Activities
- Field Games and outdoor sports - weather permitting/Park Outings
- BBQ / fun day
- Field trips to local community events and centers (fees apply) form will be sent home each session/week
- Weekly big screen movie with popcorn and juice
- Possibility of guest leaders with special activities or presentations

Camp participants **MUST** bring the following items each day:

- Lunch and snacks
- Change of clothes
- Sun Screen
- Water Bottle labeled with your Child's Name
- Hat
- A Smile

Please ensure that your children do not bring money (unless requested) or personal items to camp. (Please no cell phones, iPods, etc.) Community School's will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Camp hours are: 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM. **Drop off at 8:45 AM and pick up by 2:45 PM**

Miller Park Camp hours are: 12:00 PM–2:45 PM. **Drop off at 11:45 AM and pick up by 2:45 PM**

Parent, caregivers or legal guardians will be required to sign their child(ren) in and out each day. If your child(ren) is/are allowed to wait or walk home on their own we must have a written and dated consent. A child (ren) will not be released until the adult, who has signed in their child(ren) that day, arrives to pick them up or contact has been made for an alternate arrangement. Ministry of Children and Families guidelines will be strictly followed for children who are not picked up on time.

How to Register

Our **Community School Summer Day Camp Registration** is now online and will accept payment using **Visa; MasterCard or Interac/Debit** from most major banks.

You can get instant confirmation of your spots in the summer day camp at the location you choose. You will require an email address in order to get your confirmation # and print out a receipt for your payment.

To register online please visit the **appropriate school website as listed below** then click on Community Programs, which will lead to the Summer Camp Registration button. Karelo provides the online registration service.

Central Camp: www.sd43.bc.ca/central
Leigh Camp: www.sd43.bc.ca/minnekhada

Montgomery: www.sd43.bc.ca/maillard
Miller Park Camps: sd43.bc.ca/millerpark

School District No. 43 Safe Schools Steering Committee
An Invitation to the School District Community
Thursday, May 15th from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Dr. Charles Best Secondary, Coquitlam, B.C.

Parenting our Kids in the 21st Century

Presented by Kevin Cameron
Director: Canadian Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response

The 3rd of a Three Series Event sponsored by The Ministry of Education,
School District No. 43 and the partner groups listed below.

The factors that can negatively influence child and adolescent behaviours are far more prevalent now than when most parents were children themselves. Recently the McCreary Centre Society of B.C. identified a **set of factors which support youth** and their physical and mental health. These include:

- School connectedness – ensuring all students felt welcome and involved in schools
- Positive family relationships
- Ability of youth to look for help, with teachers in a crucial role
- Positive peer relationships
- Good nutrition
- Feeling engaged and valued
- Stable home
- Adequate sleep (9 hours)
- A safe neighbourhood
- Cultural connectedness.

Building on this work, research and practice, the district is pleased to welcome Kevin Cameron back to the district on May 15th. Please plan to attend this event at Dr. Charles Best Secondary School, 2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. Seating is limited to 700. Child minding will be provided.

Please note that Kevin has requested questions from parents. If you have questions, please email them to Myra Crosley, mcrosley@sd43.bc.ca.





Friday, May 23

7- 9:30PM, Centennial School, 570 Poirier, Coquitlam

HATCHERY'S HOT TRIVIA NIGHT

Hot Fire... Hatchery's Gone... But Not For Long!

Come bring your friends, play Trivial Pursuits, win door prizes, enjoy a sweet treat and help Rebuild Mossom Creek Hatchery. **MP Fin Donnelly** will MC this night of friendly competition.

Team of 6 - \$120 (student \$50), Individual \$25 (students \$10)

Tickets/Donations online: <http://www.mossomcreek.orgtrivia>

Questions? Cleone Todgham 778-223-2357 todgham@shaw.ca
or Rhian Piprell 778-227-4132 piprell@gmail.com

May 2014 School Newsletter Information: Middle and High Schools

Youth Arts Council Street Art Project

Saturday, May 3, 12 – 4pm

Sunday, May 4, 1 – 5pm

Place des Arts' Youth Arts Council invites you to celebrate Youth Art Week at its *Street Art Project!* Come paint your talent – be it singing, dancing, drawing, sports or even making funny faces or graffiti – on a brick in the amphitheatre behind Place des Arts. Each individual brick will be incorporated into a larger, collaborative street-art mural. Paint brushes and nontoxic, washable paint provided, as will music plus refreshments and snacks courtesy of Place des Arts and Tim Horton's. Free admission!

Poirier Community Centre:

Art Journaling 101

Youth will learn the basics of Art Journaling. They will learn the different techniques such as; Ink play, colour combinations, collage, layering and others used in this art form to express themselves. Each session youth will create an entry that represents them.

Dates: Wednesdays, May 14-Jun 18

Time: 4:45- 6:00 pm

Barcode: 460917

Cost: \$39.50

Art - Drawing (10- 14 yrs.)

Explore the various methods and techniques of drawing using different tools and materials each week. No prior experience needed.

Dates: Thursdays, May 15-Jun 19

Time: 6:30- 7:30 pm

Barcode: 457930

Cost: \$33.25

Location: Poirier Community Centre- 630 Poirier Street, Coquitlam

To register contact: 604-927-4386 or Online at www.coquitlam.ca

Editor's Note: Please take a moment to read the fine writing by one of our Gr. 8 students as she submitted this work for her studies on the Middle Ages. You will be amazed at the quality of writing and style and engaged with the depth of the storyline. Move over Game of Thrones and check this sample story out.

The Fallen Soldier

By Kiyomi

I am human, like anybody else.

Though the things that I have done may say otherwise, I am a better person than to stoop as low as being inhumane. But I will admit that I am a murderer. If God can forgive me, I don't know if I myself can. But I will never forget the voice of the battle. The battle of the Normans and the Anglo-Saxons; the Battle of Hastings.

My name is Cedric Alton, a wealthy man living in England. I have a wife, a few serfs, and a beautiful young daughter named Annabelle. Though I provide enough for my family, it comes at a cost. I am expected to protect my serfs and my family, and I am a dedicated supporter of my king, King Edward. It is my duty to support him in battle, even at the cost of my life. King Edward is a powerful ruler, strong-willed and wise. England has been buzzing with rumors though, as to the King's health. We are worried that our beloved King is dying. With no direct heir to the throne, who will claim King Edward's position?

The most obvious choice was one of my great friends, Harold. He was brother-in-law to King Edward, and an Anglo-Saxon citizen. There was another candidate for the throne, however; the cousin of King Edward, Duke William of Normandy. But it was insensible to hand over the entire kingdom to a Norman like William. He wasn't even English, after all.

But little did I know, that everything was about to change.

Only days later, King Edward was finally declared dead. The solemn whispers throughout the city stood out like black and white as they pierced through the air. It was all I could hear as I entered the city. To my disapproval, I saw a small group of children playing, and talking anxiously among themselves. It wasn't their behavior that had disappointed me, but simply their conversation.

"Now that the old goon is dead, who do you think's going to be the new King?" a boy said.

"Who cares? I just hope we get a new King who is actually *exciting* for once!" chirped a little girl to her companion.

I shook my head, staring at them for a moment, and turned back. I froze in my tracks as the city instantly silenced itself at the arrival of a newcomer.

It was Duke William, cousin to King Edward, and a foreigner to the Anglo-Saxons. Could this man be our new King? No. It couldn't be. My eyes widened in disbelief as the crowds of people parted for the Duke to pass through.

I was interrupted by a tapping on my shoulder. I found myself face to face with a rather flustered squire, with a small and rounded appearance. His cheeks were flushed red from exhaustion.

"King Harold requests your presence." The squire reported.

"King Harold?" I raised an eyebrow.

"King Harold was declared the new King, due to Duke William's lack of English citizenship. He requests your appearance immediately." The squire explained quickly. "Now please, come with me. He wishes to see you."

I followed the squire to the royal castle, where I would reunite with my old friend. Although I trusted him, my concern lingered. Harold was a strong-willed man, quite stubborn at times. He wasn't the wisest or the kindest, but he fought for what he believed in. Perhaps with more experience, he could become a great ruler. Though I was haunted by Duke William's sudden appearance, I would have to rely on my old friend in the meanwhile.

We found Harold perched on his new throne, a smug grin on his face. He seemed almost bored with his new responsibility, hardly fazed. His interest peaked when we entered the room.

"Cedric! Consider me entertained." Harold smiled. He cleared his throat and I bowed awkwardly, unused to treating my friend so formally.

"It's good to see you, old friend." I replied lightly. Harold nodded in agreement.

"You must be wondering why it is that I've requested you," Harold began.

"Well, yes. Assuming the pleasantries are over and done with, you've always known that I'm a straight to the point type of man." I agreed.

"I want you to--"

"This is an outrage!" A voice yelled from afar. The doors to the throne room were slammed aside, smashing into the walls with a loud bang. Duke William strode into the room, his eyes cloudy with anger. I should have known he'd be making an appearance sooner or later.

The Duke's angry gaze settled on Harold. "How *dare* you steal my throne! England is mine, and everybody knows it!"

Harold laughed coldly. "*Your* throne? England could never fall into the hands of a weak foreigner. We need a true leader to guide us, a powerful one. Only I can fill such a position!"

"I may be a foreigner, but I am more of a leader than you will ever be. You don't have the first idea as to what you are doing, and who you are up against, *King* Harold." snarled William.

"The only way you'll ever win England from me is prying my country from my cold, dead hands." Harold sneered.

"That can most certainly be arranged," William answered darkly. "This is *war*, Harold."

"So be it." replied the King.

My stomach twisted into a knot at the surreal reality of battle. No doubt, Harold was mindset on an all-out war against Duke William and his Norman troops. And if England was on the brink of war, there was so much to be lost.

"King Harold-" I started.

"Ready my soldiers, Cedric! We are going to war!" Harold announced sharply, turning to me. Cold dread coursed through my veins. There was nothing I could do, not without being arrested for treason. Harold was my King now.

I took in a shaky breath. "Yes, your majesty."

My muscles burned from the weight of the trek, sending a wave of exhaustion over me. Fatigue gripped my senses. Harold and his great army had been walking for three days now. Even though I was a part of his forces, I wasn't entirely in support of it. I was only here simply because of my position. This was my duty.

We had traveled almost sixty-five miles over the course of seventy-two hours. Many of the men were overworked and tired, almost unable to stand. Harold was determined to reach the field in which the battle would take place, which was closely located by a nearby village called Hastings. Harold wanted the upper hand of the battle, and was hoping to arrive at Senlac Hill, near Hastings, before William's troops. Any advantage would ensure Harold's victory.

Murmurs of uncertainty rippled through the mass of soldiers. It was Friday the thirteenth, after all. Many thought that the battle would be lost, due to the terrifying omen. Harold had dismissed the ‘nonsense’ of course, still blinded by his arrogance. I shook my head at the thought. Lots of the men that walked alongside me would fall, never to see their loved ones and family again. There would be much suffering in the aftermath of the war.

I shoved my way through the crowd, approaching Harold, who was walking with his brothers. They were discussing the battle and their strategy and tactic.

“Your majesty,” I interrupted briskly. Harold and his brothers glanced at me.

“What is it, Cedric?” Harold asked in annoyance.

“Are you certain that you want to go through with this?” I said carefully. “We don’t even know what to expect. There is a lot to lose.”

“I will not surrender to a mere *Norman!*” Harold scoffed. “Nor will I lose at his hand. Now get out of my sight, before I begin to question your loyalty.”

I nodded glumly, turning my back on my King and allowing myself to be swallowed up in the crowd. A burning sensation gnawed at my stomach. Something, just something about me knew, that this battle might be Harold’s last.

I nervously gripped my battle axe as a few of Harold’s men lifted a banner up on the hill of which we stood on. From our altitude, we had a clear view of William’s men at our opposition. From where I was, I could clearly see our enemy. Deadly Norman knights on horses dotted the horizon of William’s army, alongside archers and foot soldiers. French and Italian Norman knights had flocked to William’s side, just for the battle alone. I remembered our scouts reporting that William had built a fleet of ships to sail across the English Channel with men, horses and all. Undoubtedly, the battle would be most difficult to win.

Harold stood directly in the center of his army, unfazed by the difficult task at hand. I was furious at his calmness. Thousands of men were about to die at his disposal, for the most ridiculous of excuses. I had lost my respect for my former friend- now my leader.

My heart tightened in my chest as a trumpet sounded, announcing the start of the battle. My grip on my axe tightened as thousands of voices shouted battle cries, and the war began.

My axe ripped through the air as it made contact with a Norman knight’s armor. Metal clashed against metal in an eerie symphony as the cries of dying men pierced the sky. I grunted, deflecting a heavy blow from a Norman foot soldier, and instead embedding my axe into the soldier’s neck. The soldier collapsed, not having survived from my attack. The guilt was overwhelming. I had just killed a man in cold blood, and for what? Nothing.

Absolutely nothing.

I felt something weighing me down, and to my surprise, it was an English soldier. I shrugged off the soldier, and almost shrieked at the sight I saw. The soldier was dead, a Norman arrow sitting in his throat. His eyes were glazed over, his armor streaked with blood. As I looked closer, I realized that it was one of Harold’s brothers. I screeched in disgust, flinging the body to my opposite side. It was then I noticed that our armies were so tightly packed together, our dead soldiers had nowhere to fall.

I was interrupted by a sharp pain in my left arm. As I turned to look, I saw a Norman arrow buried deep in my flesh. Instinctively, I grabbed the arrow’s shaft and pulled, removing it

from my arm with extreme pain. The battle seemed to carry on for what felt like forever, false retreat after false retreat, body after body.

“Don’t give up hope, my men!” I could hear Harold shouting to his troops. “Prove to our country that our blood is pure and our hearts are strong! We will be victorious!”

A bloodcurdling scream shot through the sky, causing the hairs on my tattered skin to rise. I pushed and shoved my way through bodies and battling beings to find King Harold on the ground, clutching at his face. My stomach lurched as I saw the arrow sticking out of Harold’s eye. Scarlet blood poured from the wound, staining the earth beneath him red. I leapt out of the way as four Norman knights appeared, cutting Harold down. His screams were fading away into nothingness, drowned out by the noise of the battle.

I clung to my axe, frozen. Harold was dead, and the Anglo-Saxons had no leader. William had won. It was finally over. Relief began to wash over me.

I cried out as sharp, cold steel cut through me. Pain shot throughout my body, spreading like wildfire and turning my blood to flame. I felt the metal slide out of my chest, and I collapsed, unable to stand any longer. Black dots danced in front of my eyes as a fuzzy image of a Norman knight riding away registered in my brain. I was dying, dying, dying.

The pain started to dissipate, fading away and numbing me. My breaths were shallow and uneven as I lay there, slowly slipping away.

In my last moments, I smiled. I thought of my lovely wife and daughter, how happy they were. I prayed that they would be safe and live a happy life, even if I couldn’t be there to join them. Tears brimmed at my eyelids, and the sounds of battle were beginning to die down. I took in a shaky breath, and exhaled. My vision blurred into nothingness, and I allowed death to overtake me. All the lives that I had taken today would be avenged with my very own...

And maybe now, now that I am dead, the world will truly know peace.
