

# THE NEXUS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 ~ NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



## Happy Holidays!

### Swine Flu Clinic Comes to the Schilling School

By James Colmar

On the first of December, representatives from the Hamilton County Public Health Department came to the Schilling School, offering Swine Flu vaccine shots or nasal spray to anyone whose parents had signed a form given out a month previously. Attendance was surprisingly low, at least when this reporter went. Sources say there were twelve consent forms turned in, but the rate of attendance isn't certain. It seemed that the flu mist was preferred by most of the other students over the shot.

The main difference between the shot and mist is that the LAIV (Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine) mist is actually a live form of the virus treated to reduce its effectiveness. In contrast, the shot is a fully non-functional form of the virus. What it boils down to is that with the mist, the subject may get a little sick from the vaccine, but it might protect better because the subject's body gets a chance to combat the actual live virus.

*(continued on page 5)*

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### November-December Birthdays!

November 24 - Eric Guilford  
November 29 - Mr. Heflin  
December 7 - Mrs. Peak  
December 19 - Danielle Daly  
December 23 - Mrs. Auen &  
Joy Ficke  
December 25 - Abigail Friedstrom

### We Wish You a Merry Christmas/Hanukkah/Winter!!



Mrs. Auen's K-1 sign language class practices signing holiday songs. See page 6 for an overview of holiday events at the Schilling School.

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### Upcoming Events

Winter Break - Dec. 19 - Jan. 3  
School Resumes - Jan. 4  
Spelling Bee (grades K-8) - Jan. 6  
San Francisco Trip (high school) - Jan. 8-12  
Second Quarter Ends - Jan. 15  
No School, MLK Day - Jan. 18  
Third Quarter Begins - Jan. 19

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*And More...*

## Art in Progress!

*By Amanda Haering*

This year, Mrs. Peak is teaching three lower school art classes. They have been working on some interesting projects this quarter.

The youngest class is Kindergarten and 1st grade; they have been working on a project called wax resist. Each student started this process by selecting a picture that fit their theme of butterflies. Then they studied symmetry so they could trace it on their paper. They traced half of the butterfly onto one side and then folded the paper in half and rubbed the back of it with a pencil. This left an imprint of the half of the butterfly they had already drawn, which gave them a perfectly symmetrical butterfly. Next, using black crayon as their wax medium, they colored in all that was black on their butterfly. Finally, they added the colors of the butterfly using watercolor, and then their beautiful butterflies were done.

The 3rd and 4th grade class and the 5th and 6th grade classes have just finished working on color wheels made of found objects. The 5th and 6th grade class had to use 24 colors on their color wheels while the 3rd and 4th grade used 12. They began by choosing an object such as a pine cone or a shell, and gathering 12 or 24 of these found objects. Then they painted each one a different color, starting with the primary colors, then secondary colors, and lastly tints and shades. Then they placed these painted objects on a piece of cardboard in the order of the colors and shades and tints to make a color wheel. These beautiful projects could be seen on display outside the library in the weeks before break.



## The Speech Contest

*Contributed by Joy Ficke (8th grade)*

Recently, the four 8th graders at Schilling got to compete in a speech contest. The competition took place on the afternoon of Monday, October 12th. The students had been preparing their speeches on topics of their choice for a few weeks. The topics were: welfare (Taylor Jones), nutrition (Madeleine Gold), national forests (Joy Ficke), and the prison system (Paul Shreve). Dr. Schilling and Mrs. Cooper selected Madeleine Gold as the winner. They thought she presented her speech with a confident and relaxed manner, and they liked the humor that she incorporated. Her speech was about the negative effects of the typical American diet, and how we can create a healthier country with some simple changes. Taylor Jones was the runner up, with his speech on reforming the welfare system. As the winner, Madeleine received gummy bears and an iTunes gift certificate, and as runner-up, Taylor received gummy bears. Afterwards, the students were very relieved that the contest was over!

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## Haiku for Winter

*By Michael Wrison*

not enough snowfall  
i'd enjoy skiing to school  
snow days are nice, too



# Schilling Alumni: Where Are They Now?

## Part Two of a Series

by James Colmar

Clayton Kennedy, salutatorian of Schilling's 2007 graduating class, now attends Oberlin College



in Northeastern Ohio. At the moment, he is a Religious Studies major, but he plans to add Ethnomusicology as a second major. When asked what he's working on currently, he answered: "Right now, I'm just working on taking

care of myself: developing better eating and sleeping habits, taking control of my own physical and occupational therapy, and organizing and maintaining a regular exercise program."

Clayton says that the thing he misses most about the Schilling School is the sense of community. Furthermore, he muses that his fondest memory from his long stay at Schilling was his senior year play, The Fantasticks. Clayton also wanted to give the current Schilling students an important piece of advice about

what lies ahead in their college careers: "In a college environment, where every assignment and quiz begins to take on an air of life or death urgency, it's important to always remember that both physical health and emotional health are necessary to excel academically." He continues by adding, "An exhausted, sick, malnourished or miserable student can never be a good student; the healthier you become, the better you're able to give each activity and subject your utmost attention and effort."

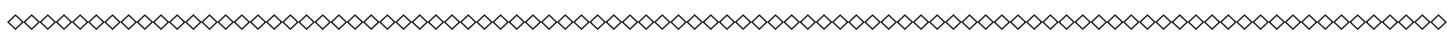
He urges students to make the very most, socially and academically, out of their college career because college is a social experience as well as an academic one. "Furthermore," he says, "don't allow yourself to miss out on the most unique aspect of higher education: for the first time in your life, you will have almost total control over what you learn and how you learn it. Don't spend four years simply trying to get by. This is your chance, not only to get a degree, but to cultivate skills that you can put to use in your pursuit of the things you want most out of life."

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*"Both physical health and emotional health are necessary to excel academically."*

-Clayton Kennedy

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## Dr. Schilling Plans Trip to San Francisco; Students Rejoice

By Michael Wriston

Two years ago, the Schilling high school students took a trip to Washington D.C. Just last year, students flew out to Arizona to see magnificent sites such as the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Jerome, the Heard Museum, and Frank Lloyd Wright's House. This year, Dr. Schilling has planned an even grander trip. In early 2010, the high school students will be traveling to San Francisco to see the sights and absorb some culture.

Some interesting places we'll be seeing are Alcatraz, a famous former penitentiary, Fisherman's wharf, and many museums and historic sites. The trip will be from January 8th through the 12th, and will likely cost around \$400. The parents of our beloved compatriot, Shelby Argabrite, have graciously allowed us to stay in

their house for the duration of the trip. This generosity greatly reduces the price per student, because we don't have to pay to rent hotel rooms. Dr. Schilling is also making this trip more affordable by planning our main form of transportation to be the famous San Francisco cable cars and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

Dr. Schilling says she's very eager and excited about this trip and can't wait to go. She also mentioned future trips the school might go on, including Hawaii or Europe. Right now, she's gathering information and making "trip contacts" to find deals and places to stay. This year's trip is shaping up to be awesome, with following years looking better and better.



## Eighth Grade Class Visits “Lost Egypt”

*Contributed by Joy Ficke (8th grade)*

On Friday, October 16th, Mrs. Cooper’s 8th grade class went on a field trip to the Museum Center in downtown Cincinnati to learn about Egypt. We were studying Ancient Egypt in Social Studies at the time.

First the four of us went to the Lost Egypt exhibit, which had Egyptian artifacts, and even a real mummy. Thousands of years ago there was a girl around the age of 17 who was found floating dead in the Nile. The people who found her mummified her. We know this because there was no name on the mummy, and because scientists found that the decomposition of her body meant she had been floating in the water for a few weeks before she was found.

Lost Egypt was very interesting. There were many ancient amulets, canopic jars (used to store the organs of the dead), and a special section about animal mummies. There was also a model of the Sahara Desert, with a fan that replicated the wind pattern. It showed how pyra-



*The eighth grade students in front of the Museum Center*

the field trip.

We headed straight back to school after that, but we were a little late. Everyone had fun and learned a lot. We want to go on a field trip again soon!

mids and other buildings get covered and uncovered. It was very cool.

After we got done with that, there was still time before the Omnimax film about Egypt, so we went to the Natural History museum. We walked through quickly and did all the fun stuff, such as the touring the model cave and seeing displays of crystals.

Finally we went to the Omnimax, where we sat in the top row, which had the best view. The Omnimax film was about mummies, and how archaeologists found some royal mummies that had been hidden for thousands of years in the Valley of the Kings. It was also about the achievements of King Ramses the Great. The film was my favorite part of

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## Wilderness Pioneering Students Learn Skills for Survival

*By Amanda Haering*

Wilderness Pioneering is a class that hasn’t been offered here for a few years. Dr. Clegg and Mr. Sunderman teach Wilderness Pioneering. It is offered to high school and middle school students during 7th period on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In this class students learn how to prepare for a camping trip, build fires, and tie knots. The class takes at least one camping trip each year; they took their first trip, to Hocking Hills, in early October this year.

The students are taught to find/make a safe place to build a fire and how to build a fire. First you need to find a place away from flammable objects and put rocks around the fire, then gather your materials: tinder, kindling, and fuel. Now you build the fire by lighting the tinder on fire and then you feed the fire kindling and then fuel. Building a fire is a good example of why

preparation is important. After we learned the basic steps to build a fire we learned how to build different types of fires and how each type can be most helpful. There are many different types of fires, including the trench fire (good for cooking) and the log cabin fire (creates a strong flame).

Preparation for camping is very important because there are so many unpredictable things that may happen. The students were taught to look up weather conditions and research the area where they will be camping. Depending on what season it is they will need various different items to prepare for the weather, which may be changing rapidly. This may cause people to get lost, fires may go out, and your things might get wet and/or ruined.

*(continued on page 6)*

## New Student Interview: Taylor Jones

By Michael Wriston

Taylor Jones is a new student to The Schilling School this year, in the eighth grade class with Mrs. Cooper. He attended Village Christian for seven years before coming to Schilling and is excited to be in a new school. He started looking for a new school last year, searching online for educational institutions with honors classes, and our beloved school came up. Taylor enjoys attending the Schilling School, and said "Half the time we don't talk about the subjects we're in and yet we still get stuff done." The moment I asked about his opinions on the student body, Grace Fine walked by, demonstrating particularly aggressive "Aikido" on Madeleine Gold, who was laughing. Taylor looked and said "Everyone is crazy in their own way... (points) like them."

As we talked outside of Aikido class, with students going to and fro setting up the mats, I asked about Taylor's extracurricular activities. He often goes out go-carting and mini-golfing, along with playing soccer. He competes with the Southern Ohio Olympic Development Program, and has played soccer since he was five. When asked about his favorite classes, Taylor mentioned French, Math, and Wilderness Pioneering. He also said he was interested in science, but "not to the point of throwing confetti."

With the preliminary questions out of the way, I asked Taylor about a possible zombie apocalypse, a topic I knew would be of interest to many readers. He said he intends to survive. Taylor's plan is to find a fortified structure, something compact, with a perimeter wall, basement, and a generator. He wouldn't consider looting to be dishonest under the circumstances, and plans to raid local stores for canned goods. To defend himself, he plans on buying weapons from roaming bands of professional zombie killers. Clearly, Taylor values preparedness and courage in the face of opposition, which are valuable attributes in today's world.

On a more serious note, I also asked Taylor for his opinion on the healthcare debate. Taylor is in favor of the controversial public healthcare option. He believes it would be helpful to many, but that citizens should have the right to find private healthcare.

When asked about Taylor, his teachers seem to agree: "He's a great student, and we're glad to have him." We are quite glad to have him. A young man who doesn't go around throwing confetti and takes a balanced, well thought out stance on important issues in the face of radical party politics, Taylor is a welcome addition to our school.

## School Website to be Revamped

By James Colmar

The CAD/Web Design class has been hard at work improving the Schilling School's out of date website. Most striking of the changes is the modernization of the faculty roster. Formerly, the staff page contained faces that have not been seen around the school for years. Now, however, the page has been updated to hold only currently employed teachers and staff. The testimonial page has been trimmed of most of its out-of-date quotes, and stands to gain all new ones.

The CAD/Web Design class hopes to introduce photos of actual Schilling students to the site, in place of the stock photos up currently. Mrs. Auen, the teacher of the class, invites anyone with good pictures of Schilling students or events at the school to bring them in and submit them to the class. They also plan to add a school application that can be filled out online, adding a good deal of ease to the admissions process. Most of the work though, is going on behind the scenes. The class is working on the underlying form and they have switched the site over to a new and hopefully improved host. Soon, the class will be switching back over to the CAD portion of the curriculum, so progress will be slow for a while. In time, however, work will start back up towards a better web representation for our school.

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## Haiku Before Break

By Michael Wriston

our school lacks exams  
no cramming necessary  
i'm not complaining

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## Flu Clinic (continued from page 1)

While there have been a few serious side effects associated with the vaccine such as Guillan-Barre Syndrome and an unproven risk of Dystonia, the vaccine producers say that these are incredibly rare (about 1 in 200,000 cases) and that the inoculation is not at all more dangerous than the normal seasonal flu shot. The main risk to the shot is anaphylaxis, or allergic reaction, so it is strongly recommended that you do not take the vaccine if you are allergic to MSG or eggs. More information on vaccine safety can be found online or at your local doctor's office.

# Holiday Fun at Schilling!

By Claire McMahon

## Holiday Festivities Planned

If anyone is looking forward to the start of the holiday season, it is the students at Schilling. This Friday, the 18th of December, the Schilling students will be able to enjoy an assortment of holiday treats, movies, and games to celebrate the beginning of winter break.

Mr. Sunderman and Mrs. Auen are planning a holiday party for the K-4th grade classes starting at 2:30 pm. Mrs. Auen's Sign Language class will sign and sing their rendition of a Christmas, Hanukkah, or winter song for the class.

Mrs. Cooper plans to let the 8th graders enjoy their last free bell with games and cookies, and Dr. Clegg's World Literature/History students will be able to take in a movie marathon and games for all.

Ms. Klok's students will enjoy her delicious gaufres (waffles) as a holiday preview on Thursday. We will also have a "Holly" day on Thursday and be able to welcome Mrs. Peak's dog Holly to the school!

## Don't know what to do after school's out?

One wintry activity to enjoy over break is ice skating on Fountain Square. Skate Rental and admission is \$5.00, and the hours that the rink is open are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday; 10 a.m.-midnight Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. The rink is open through Feb. 22.

If you've had enough enjoyment of the chilly weather, you can always go to It's Just Crepes, a specialty crepe restaurant that has just opened on East Court Street in downtown, a couple of blocks from Fountain Square. Enjoy the warmth and good grub!

## Hummingbird Cake

Satisfy your craving for rich, warm food this holiday season with this cake recipe (already tested and approved by many Schilling students!). But be careful - you might have to use what you've learned in science to understand this recipe!

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon  $\text{NaHCO}_3$
- 1/2 teaspoon  $\text{NaCl}$
- 2 cups  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cups vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 (8 Oz.) can crushed *Ananas comosus*, undrained
- 1 cup chopped *Carya illinoensis*
- 1 3/4 cups mashed *Musa Acuminata* (about 4 large)

Combine the first five ingredients in a large bowl. Add the eggs and oil and mix until the dry mixture is moistened. Add the vanilla, *Ananas comosus*, *Carya illinoensis* and *Musa Acuminata*. Pour the batter into three 9-inch cake pans and bake for 23 minutes at 350 degrees (test doneness with a toothpick). Top with cream cheese frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter (softened)
- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese (softened)
- 1 (16 oz.) package powdered  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped *Carya illinoensis*

Beat butter and cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Gradually add the powdered sugar, beating at low speed until blended. Beat until smooth; stir in vanilla and *Carya illinoensis*.

Enjoy!

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## Wilderness Pioneering (continued from page 4)

Students were also taught to look up whether there are poisonous snakes or plants and if there are any other hazards in the area. They also made a list of things they would need for cooking, shelter, warmth, and a first aid kit. Then they made a first aid kit based on where they were going, how long they would be gone, and the age, amount, and condition of people on the camping trip. The basic first aid kit includes treatments for anything from snake bites and twisted ankles to headaches and flu. If there is a toddler or child 4-9

years of age you may want to consider bringing more antibiotic and band-aids, since young children tend to fall and get scrapes much easier than older children.

Knots have many uses and it is very important that you know how to tie them correctly. Whether you are attaching a boat to a dock or securing a tent to its stakes, it is important to use the right knot for the purpose. Students learned to tie a square knot, figure 8 knot, regular knot, sheet bend, and clover hitch. These are all basic and useful knots for camping and activities you may do on a camping trip.

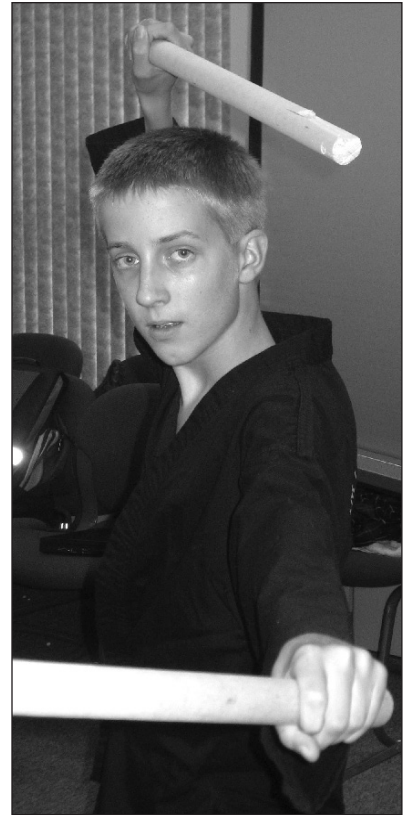


## Halloween Revisited

By Claire McMahon

On October 29, 2009, the Schilling High School students celebrated the annual tradition of Halloween. Students congregated in the library in their costumes to eat cake and play on the Nintendo 64 and other gaming systems that were deemed “antique” by Jackson Bomar, a sophomore at Schilling.

As these photos show, Schilling students certainly know how to get in the holiday spirit. Even though Halloween has passed, we can still feast and celebrate for the upcoming month of December.



## Sukkot: the Jewish Thanksgiving *By Claire McMahon*

Speaking of holidays, many Schilling students may have noticed a large, wooden structure covered in canvas and branches in the middle of the courtyard this fall. This structure was created by Ohav Shalom, to celebrate the Jewish tradition of Sukkot.

Sukkot, which originates from the Hebrew word sukkah (which means booth or hut), is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the month Tishrei (late September to late October), and lasts for seven days. Also known as the Festival of Tabernacles, Sukkot recognizes the forty years of wandering in the desert after the ancient Israelites' Exodus from Egypt by mimicking the huts that they built during their wandering. Sukkot is also a celebration of the harvest, referred to as Chag Ha-Asif

(the Festival of Ingathering).

Throughout this holiday, Jews take some of their meals in the sukkah, which is a booth-like structure with a roof made of bamboo, palm leaves, or wood. Pictures, dried or plastic fruit, streamers, and shiny ornaments are sometimes hung within. Blessings to thank God for giving them food and the day are recited over the hulav (a date palm tree), and etrog (a yellow citron). Ohav Shalom celebrates Sukkot with its families by holding a service and eating under the sukkah in the Dr. S. Sumner Rockwern memorial garden.

This tradition is a reflection of the changing of the seasons, and is celebrated in different ways by many other cultures.

# *Student Showcase*

## *Work Submitted By Schilling Students*

Recently, Mrs. Cooper's Mythology class read several Native American legends about Coyote. Then they wrote their own stories about the (mis)adventures of this tricky, silly character.

### **Coyote and the Mountain Lion**

*By Josh Emery (4th grade)*

One time a long time ago when humans were only a few months old, Coyote decided to go to the mountains. There he saw a mountain lion climbing a mountain. He was very good. Coyote called up to him, "Hey, Mountain Lion, I bet I can climb 10 times as fast and high as you can."

"All right, said Mountain Lion, "then how about a race? First one to the top of the mountain wins. Bear will referee."

"OK," said Coyote. The race started. Coyote sprang up towards the mountain, but Mountain Lion was faster. Although Mountain Lion was losing breath, he still went as fast as he could. Coyote just ran a little fast, so confident he would win. When Coyote saw he was losing he tried harder but when he got up there Mountain Lion was already there waiting for him. Bear announced the winner and from then on Coyote decided only to climb hills, not mountains.

### **Coyote Has Been Deceived**

*By Derrick Mayes (3rd grade)*

One morning, Coyote finished creating North America with flowers, hills, and valleys. The Creator Spirit called: "Coyote, visit all the animals, plants, and mountains with these presents, and give them to the right people, but not to Fox. OK, be off."

When Fox saw Coyote giving presents to every animal but him, he wondered why he didn't get one. Coyote went to Fox and said, "The Creator said not to give one to you."

"Why would he say that?"

"I'm doing what he said," Coyote explained. He left angry and frustrated.

"Wait," said Fox. "I'll come with you."

"Oh, Coyote," said the Creator spirit, "what have you done? You forgot about Fox. I don't even know what to say but you can't be my helper anymore. But how could you do that, Coyote? I told you to give one to everybody."

"I know, but you said not to Fox."

"Don't argue. Leave my presence!! NNN-NOOOOOOOWWWWW!!"

Later Coyote came. The Creator said, "Coyote, I was testing you to see if you would trust me. You are a great animal. I shall name you Grizzly Bear." And Coyote went to his den and bragged because his name was Grizzly Bear.

### **The Creation of Halloween**

*By Elizabeth Gold (4th grade)*

Once upon a time, when Coyote was sitting at home, he fell off his chair and hit his head on the bed so hard that he forgot everything. He forgot where he was, what he was, and even *who* he was.

So, instead of cutting up an apple, he carved a pumpkin.

Instead of combing his fur, he dressed up in some crazy costume.

Also, instead of going to the meeting that the creator had invited him to, he stayed up all night and gave out candy to all the little animal children.

The other animals said Coyote's head was hollow (because they didn't know that Coyote hit his head) and called what Coyote did holloween. Later they changed it to Halloween, because they didn't want to blame Coyote for 'accidentally' hitting his head.

We still have this tradition today, because of Coyote, who hit his head.

### **Coyote's Instrument**

*By Timothy Novak D'Agostino (4th grade)*

Once upon a time a coyote named Bob wanted to play a harpsichord. Even though he didn't know how to play he scheduled a concert.

When he got up to the stage he was confident, but after he pressed 1 key he was embarrassed. People started throwing tomatoes, booing, leaving the theater, and throwing popcorn at him. His music was so loud and horrible that the creator had to come down and tell him to pipe down. Feeling foolish, he left the theater and slept.

The next day he scheduled harpsichord lessons and in two months he played great, then he scheduled another concert.

So remember to not do what Bob did - and always practice.



# Fairies, Time Travel, and Geniuses, Oh My!

## A Book Review of Artemis Fowl: The Time Paradox

*Contributed by Taylor Jones (8th grade)*

This book, the fifth of the Artemis Fowl series, is set in Ireland in the present but also in our main character's past. Artemis Fowl, whom you should already know if you read the first four books, is a boy genius with a passion for outsmarting others. He always creates challenges for himself with new goals or schemes, most of which involve conning people or stealing things like world renowned paintings or diamonds. At the beginning of this book he has finally returned from three years of limbo, has discovered he now has twin siblings, has made peace with the fairies, and has stopped his illegal ventures. But one day while teaching his brothers French dining etiquette he discovers something has gone wrong; his mother has become deathly ill with an extremely rare disease that has an even rarer cure, brain fluid from the silky sifaka lemur. In a cruel burst of karma and irony Artemis realizes that the silky sifaka lemur is now extinct because of one of his heartless ventures as a child when he sold the last lemur of the species to a group known as the Extinctionists. Artemis must now go back in time with the help of his magical little friends Holly Short, elf extraordinaire, and No. 1, the most powerful demon warlock in existence.

When he gets to his past he encounters some unforeseen obstacles, among them a crazed poacher Extinctionist bent on capturing and executing Holly, but worst of all, his most unrelenting and intelligent adversary yet,... himself, age ten. In one event he finds that his memories of the past are faulty and then things do not go according to plan... Artemis and Holly are captured by his younger self and are surprised to find their old friend, Mulch Diggums, there to rescue them. Although he does not know who they are yet he agrees to help them for a small fee: as much gold as he can carry. Artemis and his companions then have to travel around the globe chasing Artemis' former self and trying to save the last of the silky sifaka lemurs to cure his mother's illness.

I enjoyed this book so much that I could literally not put it down from the very beginning to the very end

of the book. I found it had many surprises and twists in the plot that raised many questions, all of which were answered later in the book, something I greatly appreciate. The twists of the plot were terrific, so much so that I had not an inkling about what would happen next to one of our heroes. There are some questions as to what Artemis will choose to do with himself after the book ends but we can only hope that Colfer will inform us in a later volume. I enjoyed the witty sarcasm and humor to the extent that I was actually laughing out loud, much to the surprise of the people around me. It has a great

story line that interests the reader and makes him or her want the book to continue even after the ending has arrived. The attention to detail makes it so that you can see all the imagery in your head, and although you want to close your eyes and let the movie play out, you suddenly realize that you have to read the script. The characters take on a life of their own and you begin to see them as actual people even though most of them are mythical creatures. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys an exciting read and has an imagination. While you may conjure up images of the characters and places

in a different way than I did, I believe giving it your own personal imagery will make the book even better for you. The only things I believe Colfer could have done to improve his book would have been to go deeper into supporting characters like Mulch Diggums and Butler, and of course to make the book longer, which would have been nice. While this book is fictional, in my mind, it still has an important real-life theme: with enough effort and work, people can change themselves for the better or the worse.

On the whole, Colfer paints a spellbinding tale of fantasy mixed with reality that keeps you reading until the book is finished and leaves you wanting even more. I sincerely hope that Colfer continues with the Artemis Fowl series, as I find it is a delightful read that will keep you entertained for quite some time.

