

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 6-8

### 1 Facebook

Last week the United States Secret Service asked Facebook to take down an Internet poll that asked, "Should Obama be killed?" Facebook removed the application that allowed a user to create the poll. Meanwhile, the Secret Service, which is responsible for protecting the President, is trying to find out the identity of the user. Look through the eEdition and find examples of different ways people make use of the Internet. Think about ways you and your friends use it. As a class, talk about good and bad ways people use the Internet, the potential dangers it can present and whether or not the government should be allowed to regulate how people can use it.

Learning Standard: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying democratic values, anticipating consequences and working toward making decisions.

### 2 Outer Space

Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, was launched into space on October 4, 1957. It was the first man-made object to leave the Earth's atmosphere. Sputnik was the size of a beach ball and weighed 183.9 pounds, and took about 98 minutes to go around the Earth. Find an article in the eEdition or online about a recent event or discovery that has to do with outer space. It can be about space travel, a planet, the sun or anything else. Write a summary of the event or discovery, including what led up to it and what implications it has.

Learning Standards: Explaining how we learn about the universe; comparing and contrasting our planet and sun to other planets and star systems; describing and explaining how objects in the solar system move; explaining scientific theories as to the origin of the solar system.

### 3 Olympics

Different cities around the world — including Tokyo, Japan; Madrid, Spain; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Chicago, Illinois — have spent the last few months making a case for why each should host the 2016 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee announced the chosen city last week. Read articles in the eEdition about the Olympics and what the cities did to attract the Games. Write a paragraph explaining why a city would want to host the Olympics. What benefits does the worldwide sports competition bring?

Learning Standards: Organizing, analyzing and synthesizing information to draw conclusions and implications based on investigation of an issue or problem; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

### 4 Champion

Professional golfer Ken Green lost a leg in a car accident over the summer, but he doesn't plan on letting that keep him out of the Champions Tour. In an interview last week, Green says that he's anxious to start practicing and hopes to join the tour, a series of events for golfers age 50 and up that is run by the Professional Golfers' Association in the spring. Find an example in the eEdition of someone who has had to overcome obstacles in order to succeed. Write a short biography of that person and present it to the class.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to compositions, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, lab reports, and poetry.

### 5 Print, e-Mail, Download

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Learning Standards: Building on productivity tools to collaborate and interact with peers and other audiences using telecommunications and media; describing uses of technology in daily life.

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