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Cook bakes millionth sweet treat

By KELLY BOGGS

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Each day, hundreds of Roncalli High School students line up to buy cookie specialist Mary Brown's sweet creations.

Brown, a school cook for nearly 20 years, reached a milestone last week: her 1 millionth cookie.

Brown has been perfecting her recipe since the mid-1980s. She rotates each tray of cookies during baking and pulls the tray out of the oven while the cookies are still soft. Her final step is to slam the tray down to separate the cookies that have run together.

The signature move has earned her the nickname "Smack Down Brown" among her coworkers.

Cafeteria manager Lani Cummings recently got curious to see exactly how many cookies Brown had baked at the school.

She had a record of how many cookies had been baked in the past eight years. For numbers before then, she did some research and estimated how many cookies would have been sold based on the number of students at the school each year.

Her results? Nearly 1 million cookies.

Valentine's Day was chosen to celebrate the cookie-maker's milestone, and Brown was given a special apron with a picture of a chocolate-chip cookie that reads, "I've baked a million!"

The cooks packaged a Wonka-like golden ticket in with the designated 1 millionth cookie.

Freshman Anthony Godshalk bought the cookie and received a \$50 credit to his lunch account.

Other students won prizes if their cookies came with a ticket.



Mary Brown, top, a cook at Roncalli High School, has baked 1 million cookies. Freshman Anthony Godshalk, above, bought the milestone treat.

TEXT ED

Students find classrooms are perfect place to hone phone messaging skills



Ashley Curtis, a Center Grove High School senior, can pull out her cell phone during class and text message a friend behind her back (top) to avoid attracting a

teacher's attention. Students say many of their peers have their phone's key pad memorized and can send a message without looking at the letters.

By SHERRI EASTBURN
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"It's fast. There's no 'Hi, how are you?' like with a phone call. You just write: 'Meet me at the mall.'"

Kaylee Baugh, senior,
Center Grove High School

Teenagers addicted to text messaging have memorized the sequence of tiny letters on cell phone key pads.

Instead of passing notes during class, students can punch out a message to a friend without looking.

Ashley Curtis, 18, a senior at Center Grove High School, is quite the texting whiz.

Her talents are reflected on her family's monthly cell phone bill.

"My parents pay for my minutes," Curtis said. "I pay for my text messages. So if I go over, they can't really take text messaging away from me. I pay for it."

Messages are limited to 400 characters. Most cell phone providers charge customers a dime each time a text message is sent or received.

A dime here and there may sound like pocket change, but it can add up quickly. "My text messaging alone was like \$43

last month," said Kaylee Baugh, 18, a senior at Center Grove High School.

But that doesn't stop her fingertips from flying across her phone pad.

"It's fast," Baugh said. "There's no 'Hi, how are you?' like with a phone call. You just write: 'Meet me at the mall.'"

Audi Chastain, 16, a sophomore at Center Grove High School, didn't expect to get caught up in the fever of text messaging since she loves to talk on the phone.

"But once you start texting, you can't stop," Chastain said. "It's addictive."

Though he prefers to chat on the phone instead of typing, Andrew Duvall, 17, a senior at Center Grove High School, says he regularly uses up the \$10 monthly allotment for text messaging built into his cell phone plan.

Inside a movie theater, text messaging is an asset because it won't disturb other people, he said.

Text messaging is also handy for contacting friends late at night, Duvall said. If a friend is sleeping, he won't be awakened by a phone call. But if he is awake, Duvall will receive either a return text message or a call.

He has also utilized text messaging to sneakily show interest in one girl while spending time with another one, he said.

Curtis relayed a time when she and a friend sat on either side of a couple getting too close for her comfort.

Curtis text messaged her pal that she wanted to leave. She pressed the "send" button and waited for a nod from her friend. They got up and left without saying a word.

Vince Markowicz, 18, a senior at Center Grove High School, is in the text messaging minority.

When girls ask if he received their text messages, Markowicz shakes his head no. "My dad says it's a waste of time, so I don't have text messaging on my phone," he said. "I'd rather talk to people anyway."

TAKE NOTES

Business club students advance to state contest

Members of Center Grove High School's Business Professionals of America club have advanced to the state business competition:

- **Brittane Gartner**, fifth, fundamental accounting
- **Dan Wlodkowski**, seventh, legal office procedures; third, graphic design
- **Corey Foster**, first, C++ programming
- **Andrew Zabel**, eighth, C++ programming
- **Josh Lofgren, Josh Spindler, Kyle Garza, Cole Britton**, second place, small business management



Students of the month named for January

Center Grove Middle School North students of the month for January are:

- **Sixth grade:** Rachel Smith, David Hilligoss, Brayton Wilson, Olivia Lindsey, Sean Horgan, Kaitlynn Walker, George Whirley, Tyler Donaldson, Jordan Garcia, Jessica Gottlieb and Mark Garrett
- **Seventh grade:** Laura Clay and Nick Roeder, Abbi Stiffey, Josh Cox, Kelsi Carlson and Corey Ford
- **Eighth grade:** Cynthia Zubia, AJ Heck, Sarah McCloud, Eric Stoner, Hilary Curtis and Jared McElroy

Preschool accepting new students for fall

Enrollment for fall preschool classes begins at 9 a.m. March 1 at Concordia Lutheran Church, 305 N. Howard Road in Greenwood.

Classes for 3-year-olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday; 4-year-old classes meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

A registration fee of \$50 is due with the enrollment form.

Information: 881-4477

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHERRI EASTBURN/seastburn@thejournalnet.com

FYI: 411 on txtin

Common text messaging shortcuts:

b — be	n — and
b4 — before	ne — any
bfn — bye for now	sup? — What's up?
brb — be right back	ne1 — anyone
cu — see you	qt — cutie
cuz — because	ru — are you
every1 — everyone	sec — second
iluvu — I love you	thnx — thanks
im — I am	u — you
jk — just kidding	u2 — you too
l8r — later	y — why
lol — laugh out loud	2day — today

SOURCE: Lena Dobbins, Center Grove High School senior



"I don't like tomatoes. I don't like the taste and it feels weird in your mouth."

Breanna Martlage, 10, daughter of Brian and Cheryl Martlage of Greenwood, fourth grade, Center Grove Elementary



"I don't like mushrooms. I don't like the texture and the taste."

Brad Wolfred, 10, son of Fred and Denise Wolfred of Greenwood, fourth grade, Center Grove Elementary



"I don't like the cheeseburgers and the chicken fajitas (at school)."

Adrienne Gallamore, 11, daughter of Barb and Mike Gallamore of Greenwood, fifth grade, Center Grove Elementary



"Mexican burritos. Cause they are disgusting. All the beans. They are really bad."

Brandon Speece, 11, son of Bob and Cindy Speece of Greenwood, fifth grade, Center Grove Elementary



"I don't really hate any food. My favorite food is probably spaghetti."

Chad Carney, 8, son of Melissa and David Carney of Greenwood, third grade, Center Grove Elementary



Kid clutter be gone

Home organizational tips from a professional

Professional organizer Candita Clayton says children need places to put their belongings.

From blocks to backpacks, everything should have somewhere to be stored, and putting it there should be an enforced rule.

Tips from mother-of-two Clayton, whose business is based in Rumford, R.I.:

DEVELOP A SYSTEM for attending to children's belongings.

SELECT SPOTS that are easy for children to reach and access.

TEACH CHILDREN to be the keepers of their own belongings.

INSIST THAT once a task is completed, its pieces immediately are returned to their designated spot.

DON'T LET "FOREIGN OBJECTS" move into designated areas.

— The Associated Press



To keep toys like blocks from being constantly scattered around the house, insist children put them away after playtime.