

Put that phone AWAY!

By Marnika Gates
 First Place, Opinion Writing
 Division: Middle School

Last week I was in math class and a girl was texting.

She was texting a girl who, by the way, was sitting right in front of her.

I could hear the vibrations and the annoying clicking of her fingers pushing the buttons. I don't know about others, but I found it hard to focus. How could SHE focus?

She was listening to two conversations at once. She was supposed to be listening to the teacher, and she was having a text conversation with her friend in front of her.

After school that same day, I got a phone call from her. She called me to ask me to teach her the math lesson! Wasn't she supposed to be listening to that lesson? So I ended up being affected by her fault.

Should texting in class be banned? Of course!

Most students disagree with me on this though. They say that they can multi-task and text and listen to teachers at the same time; but studies show that 47 percent of students text in class and 40 percent of those students



say that it doesn't affect their learning.

That is actually the exact opposite of what actually happens. Forty percent of the students who text in class are affected by it, and their grades show it. What is the point of texting in class anyway? You can probably wait until the period is over and tell that person what you wanted to tell them. I just think it's a dumb idea. You should pay attention in class.

The NCAA board of Public Schools is overturning the rule of the ban of cell phones in class. Now the rule is you can only

receive messages and not send them out. That is so ridiculous!

Obviously if the person you received this message from is in school, then they are disobeying the rule. They could be cheating for all we know. Some may think this, but this rule is not benefiting them at all. It is hurting their grades because this multi-tasking generation is not so good at multi-tasking. There should be no texting in class.

The author was seventh-grader at Vacaville Christian Middle School when this was submitted in February 2008.

Nursery a great place to grow plants, grow up

By John Mikolajcik
 First Place,
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 Division: 3-4 Grade

How many of you had a job at age 9?

I'm going to tell you about my job at Mid City Nursery.

Mid City is a plant nursery. My dad owns it with my grandpa. My great-grandpa and grandma started the nursery in 1954. My great-grandpa worked at a plant nursery when he was younger, and he wanted to start his own, so he did. My great-grandma and her dad built the building. It is located in American Canyon on Highway 29.

What do we sell at Mid City Nursery? We sell flowers and trees, bushes and seeds. We sell house plants and fertilizer, garden knee pads and gloves. We have soil filled with stinky chicken manure, and pots for plants as big as I am. (I am approximately 4 feet 6 inches tall.)

You can buy things like flags and other decorations for holidays. You can even buy garden shoes called "Sloggers" if you forget to wear your shoes to the nursery.

That has happened to me before. I forgot my shoes once and I had to buy a pair of "Sloggers." My dad gave me a really

good deal! We also have really neat fountains to decorate your yard.

It's fun to go to the nursery. I like to catch frogs. I name each frog I catch "Kermit," I call it my own personal job. I also put tags on pots, and I help put the seeds in the right bags to sell. I like to play with the pricing machine. Sometimes I put price tags on myself, stand on the bottom shelf and try to sell myself. No one ever buys me, and I don't know why.

You may see many unusual things at the nursery, especially when I'm there. You may see my brother and I riding on our scooters. You might even see Precious, the nursery dog running by. Past visitors have met the nursery ducks, Mr. and Mrs. Quackenbush. They lived at the nursery in a pond in the back for about four years. Unfortunately, they are no longer with us, a raccoon ate them. It was very sad.

Someday I hope to run our family business, and not just run around in it. By the time I am old enough, I'll be able to tell you about each and every plant. I love our family business! By the way, you can come on down anytime.

The author was a third-grade at Foxboro Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

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