

Empathy

the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others.



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

A Lion's Life

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Fourth Grade Far Away Friends

By: Olivia B.

Ms. Eck's fourth grade class has been participating in a pen pal letter exchange with students from Harpenden, England. Ms. Eck was part of a program called "Full Bright." In this program two teachers switch places for about three months. Ms. Eck switched with a teacher in England named Ms. Maisey. She taught at a school named Aldwickbury School. After Ms. Eck and Ms. Maisey switched, they decided to have their classes stay in contact by having their students write to each other as pen pals.

Aldwickbury School has many differences from Spring Avenue. For one, Aldwickbury is a day and boarding school, which means they can live there at the school or leave after the school day. Aldwickbury students also have to pay tuition to go to the school. Another thing that is different about their school



Aldwickbury School in Harpenden, England is located northwest of London. Photo from their website.

is that it's an all boys school. The hours are from 8:25 – 3:55 which is close to the hours we are at school. If you were to go to school there, you would have to stay till about 4:00pm!

Ms. Eck's class and Ms. Maisey's class write back and forth about five times throughout the year. Ms.

Maisey's students are a little younger than Ms. Eck's. They are about at a second grade level, but they make it work. Ms. Eck's students tell them what they learned and Ms. Maisey's students write back what they are learning about. It's a fun part of fourth grade writing that everyone looks forward to!

Spring Avenue Welcomes Jane Kurtz

By: Olivia B.

Spring Avenue is very excited to welcome Jane Kurtz on Thursday, April 29, 2010. Here are some quick facts about our visiting author:

- Jane Kurtz was born in Portland, Oregon, but when she was two years old, her parents moved to

Ethiopia. Jane grew up in Maji, a small town in the southwest corner of the country.

- When she was in fourth grade, she went to boarding school in Addis Ababa.
- She has written over 25 books, including an

American girl book, called Lanie.

- Now she often speaks in schools and at conferences, sharing memories from her own childhood and bringing in things for the children to touch and taste and see and smell and hear from Ethiopia.



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



Over the next few weeks, students will be completing their district assessments. This continues to be a very important part of the process for collecting information about each and every child's progress.

Happy Spring! So much planning and preparation has to precede our special family and community events and we know many people work together to make these happen! Thank you!

We are also extremely grateful for the fun and learning activities that formed our Math and Science Night. The experiments and activities that were planned for this special evening helped students learn even more about math and science. The students are still buzzing about this great event. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers that worked so tirelessly to provide another successful evening! A special thanks goes out to Celeste Pearson for all her work and dedication to our school.

Over the next few weeks, students will be completing their district assessments. This continues to be a very important part of the process for collecting information about each and every child's progress. Please continue to encourage your child to do their very best. Plenty of rest and a nutritional breakfast, along with some extra encouragement help students perform their very best. Thank you for your support with this, as well.

At this time, we are planning out the details for our summer school programs. The surveys you returned helped us gather information about the interest for an enrichment portion of the summer school.

We are excited to have the library open during

the summer! Let's keep the reading going all summer long. We will be working with the PTO to provide students with another great title for each grade level! In addition, our staff will be compiling lists for summer reading for students. Parents and students have been designing activities and ideas for students to stay in the learning mode over the summer. Please be looking for these ideas on the website beginning mid-May.

As you know, planning for 2010-2011 has begun. As a part of the process, we appreciate parents' input and encourage all parents to fill out a child profile form about their child/children. If you care to fill this out, look for the

form online beginning May 1st. I will read and consider parents' ideas about their child/children's learning needs and styles. Please remember that teacher request is not a part of the process as we have great teams of teachers working with students at each grade level.

As always, thank you for your suggestions, ideas and support! We truly appreciate our families and all their support!

Pictures below from our Spring Avenue Beautification Day on Friday April 23. Top left: Ally S., Top right: Ben K. and Brendan H., Bottom: Shea W., Rhys W., Grace K., and Maggie K. Many thanks to all!





Calling all Poets!

By: Toni M.



Spring Avenue celebrates Poetry! Each morning at our Kick Off, students have been reading their favorite poems. Many thanks to all the students who have read a poem.

The Lion's Life Newspaper also hosted a poetry contest. Anyone was able to enter. In order to be fair, the poems were judged according to grade level and ability. So, a second grader wasn't judged like they were a fifth grader. The newspaper

staff did not know who wrote the poems when they were being judged. There were over 15 poems submitted to the contest!

It was challenging to pick them; we were only able to pick three! Below are the three poems the newspaper staff chose.

If you're interested in reading all the poems that were entered in this contest, look at the Lion's Life Newspaper Archives on the Spring Avenue website.

I Am

By: Claire G.



I am the center of attention,
They pass me all around.
I go up and down,
And I pound on the ground.
I hit the backboard,
Then I bounce right off.
I swipe through the net,
Then a loud buzzer sounds.
But I am used to it now,
Because I am a basketball.

Sneaks and Elmo

By: Sarah G.



He's black.
He's white.
He's my cat.
He hates hats.
Elmo, Elmo is big and fat.
He hates bats.
Super duper both they are.
They always go far.
They're never alone, with their
great tone.
That's my cats Sneaks and Elmo



My Dog Maya

By: Natalia Z.

My dog Maya brings me joy,
Maya loves her jaguar toy.
If I don't have Maya, I'd always be blue,
Maya, sweet Maya, you are sometimes stubborn, but I love you.



Political Corner

By Brandon H.



THE RACE IS ON! The Republican and Democratic nominees have been found for Governor of Illinois. The voting for this race will be held on November 2, 2010. Here are the nominees:

Pat Quinn



Birth name: Patrick J. Quinn III

Birth date: December 16, 1948

Birthplace: Hinsdale, Illinois

Party: Democrat

Other jobs: Governor, Lieutenant Governor

Bill Brady



Birth name: William E. Brady Jr.

Birth date: May 15, 1961

Birthplace: Bloomington, Illinois

Party: Republican

Other jobs: Illinois Senator

Musicians of the Issue: Black Eyed Peas

By: Brandon H.



From Left to Right:

will.i.am, Fergie, Taboo, apl.de.ap

Photo from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Eyed_Peas

Members:

William Adams Jr. (aka will.i.am)

Alan Pineda Lindo (aka apl.de.ap)

Jaime Luis Gomez (aka Taboo)

Stacy Ann Ferguson (aka Fergie)

Years Active: 1995 – Present

Genres: Hip Hop, Electro Hop, Dance, Pop, R&B

Formed in: Los Angeles, California

Famous Songs: Boom Boom Pow, I Gotta Feeling, Don't Phunk With My Heart, Don't Lie, Where is Love?

Former Members: Kimberley Lockett (aka Kim Hill)

Website: www.blackeyedpeas.com

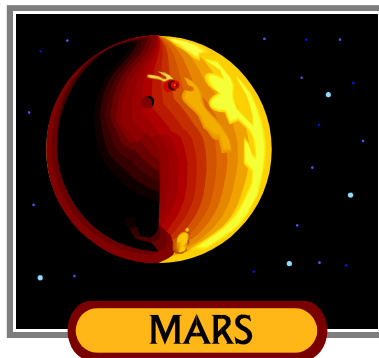
Sixth Graders Blast Off to Mars

By: Anna S. and Kelsey S.

The sixth grade Mars unit is when students in sixth grade are broken into groups (isolation, data, medical, life support, and communication) and do activities and experiments. At the end of the unit they go on a field trip to “Mars” at the Challenger Learning Center in Indiana.

Before the sixth graders get to go on the field trip, they watch videos and learn about what life would be like on Mars. They also watch videos about the Challenger. The Challenger Learning Center was built in honor of the Challenger.

Ms. Hessler's favorite part of the Mars unit is seeing the students use



everything they've learned in class and put them to use at Mars. She likes this unit because you get to learn about many different aspects of science in one big unit.

“Hopefully in the next 10 to 20 years some of the 6th grade students may become astronauts, and it would be cool to see a former student be on the first manned mission to Mars,” said Ms. Hessler.

The mission was a success! Friday April 9, 2010, the sixth graders went to Mars. There were many positive comments spoken by the students, like this was their favorite field trip, and that they really enjoyed it.

This was a great field trip!
We all had fun pretending to be as-
tronauts and mission control!

■ Cooking Corner: Something Salty, Something Sweet

By: Katie L.



Bacon Cheese Balls

Ingredients

- 1 (1 pound) loaf unsliced round Italian bread
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 5 bacon strips, cooked and

crumbled
1 garlic clove, minced

Cooking Instructions

Cut top fourth off loaf of bread; carefully hollow out bottom, leaving a 1-in. shell. Cube removed bread and set aside. Combine the remaining ingredients; spoon into bread bowl. Replace top. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour or until heated through. Serve with reserved bread cubes.

Monkey Bars

Ingredients

- vegetable cooking spray
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon light brown
sugar
1 cup rolled oats

- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup whole-wheat flour
1/2 cup unsweetened apple
juice
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup warm water
1 ripe banana
1/4 cup dried currants

Cooking Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350°F. Spray an 8-inch baking pan with vegetable cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, beat the butter and sugar together until creamy and add the oats, cinnamon and flour and mix well.
3. In a small bowl, combine the apple juice, vanilla extract and 1/2 cup of warm water. Add this to the dry ingredients and stir to combine. Stir in the banana and currants.

Put dough in prepared pan.

4. Bake until the top is golden, about 1 hour.
5. Cool on a wire rack. Cut into 12 squares and serve. These bars can be made ahead and stored in the refrigerator for up to one week.

**Have a favorite
recipe?
Submit it to A
Lion's Life
Newspaper
for our summer
edition of
the paper.
Thanks!**

Q & A With Ms. Kim and Mr. Jinx



Magical Ms. Kim

By: Danielle N.

Did you know Ms. Kim has been working here for nineteen years? She previously worked at Brookfield Zoo as a tour guide, and she loved to visit the sloth because it was her favorite animal.

Ms. Kim always has time for her family. She has two kids, a daughter named Jessica and a daughter named CJ. Her husband's name is Jim and she has two dogs named KC and Snickers.

Ms. Kim enjoys vacationing in Florida. In fact, she went on vacation to Florida last month! Ms. Kim did a lot of shopping and saw some hockey games. She visited one of my favorite places, and probably one of yours, the wonderful Disney World.

Hopefully Ms. Kim will stick around here for many more years, since she's such a great help to our school!



Janitor or Undercover Singer?

By: Toni M. and Joanna Z.

Did you know that Jinx has a whole life outside being a janitor? If Jinx had a choice he would rather be a full time band member than a janitor. Jinx has been in a band for 2 years. (The band doesn't have a name.) Some instruments he plays are the mandolin, violin, and the banjo. He doesn't play in front of big crowds. Some of the songs he plays are *Old Joe Clark*, *Fox on the Run*, *Salt Creek*, *Haste to the Wedding*, *Over the Waterfall*, *Paddy on the Turnpike*, and *Big Rock Candy Mountain*. Jinx's favorite musician is Warren Hood. He enjoys being with his band members.

Jinx likes being a janitor, but it's sometimes hard being one. It's also messy. He has worked at Spring Avenue for fifteen years. Jinx's favorite part about working here at Spring Avenue is being able to work by himself. You're never going to believe that what the weirdest thing he ever cleaned up is – it was a wild animal carcass! Isn't that strange?!

Jinx also has an older and a younger brother, I bet you didn't know that? Did you? Make sure you tell Jinx thank you for all the hard work he does for the school.



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

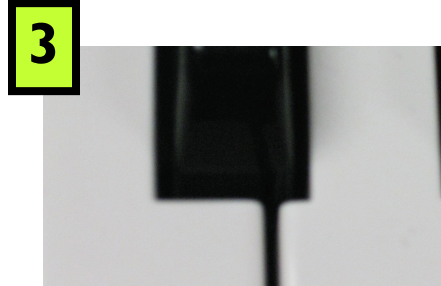
By: Kendall F. and Keely S.



This is a new feature to the newspaper. Can you guess what the object is at right?



Look closely to see what the objects are. To find the answers, go to the back page.



Good Luck!

How Well Do You Know Lady Gaga?

By: Katie L.

In school Lady Gaga was bullied so she changed her complete image. She went from brown hair to blonde hair and normal clothes to unusual clothes. Her real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta. She was born March 28, 1986. She is the oldest child of Joseph and Cynthia Germanotta. Gaga is of Italian American descent through her father, and French, German, and English heritage through her mother.

At age 17, Lady Gaga gained early admission to the New York University's Tisch School Of Arts. There, she studied music and im-

proved her songwriting skills by composing essays and analytical papers focusing on topics such as art, religion, social issues and politics. She is known for glam rock. She also has a classical side. In some of her live performances she also plays classical piano.

Germanotta had initially signed with Def Jam records at the age of 19 after Island Def Jam Music group Chairman and CEO L.A. Rapid heard her singing down the hallway from his office.

"Every day, when Stef came to the studio, instead of saying hello, I would start singing 'Radio Ga Ga. '

That was her entrance song. I typed 'Radio Ga Ga' in a text and it did an autocorrect so somehow 'Radio' got changed to 'Lady'."

By 2008, Lady Gaga had relocated to Los Angeles, working closely with her record label to finalize her debut album "The Fame."

"The Fame" itself had been nominated for Album of the year and won the Grammy award for best Electronic/Dance album. I bet you didn't know that much about Lady Gaga or Stefani. Now you do!

Information found at Wikipedia.com.



Once On This Island, Jr. to debut in May

By: Joanna Z.



This year's musical is called "Once on this Island, Jr." It takes place in the Caribbean, and is about a peasant girl named Ti Moune. She is sent on a journey by four gods, Asaka (mother of the earth), Agwe (god of water), Erzulie (goddess of love), and Papa Ge (demon of death), to test the strength of love against the power of death.

On accident, Ti Moune falls in love with a very wealthy man named Daniel when she finds him after a car crash. Ti Moune watches and cares for Daniel. The other peasants in her village don't like that she's

spending all her time with a rich man. After Daniel heals and goes back home, Ti Moune is determined to find her love and stay with him forever. When she does find Daniel, all of his friends find out and get angry because they're spending all their time together.

Eventually Ti Moune meets Andrea. At first, Ti Moune thinks nothing of her, but then she finds out Andrea and Daniel are getting married. Out of anger, Ti Moune almost kills Daniel and almost lets death overpower love. Yet, she doesn't and lets the person she loves live. With a

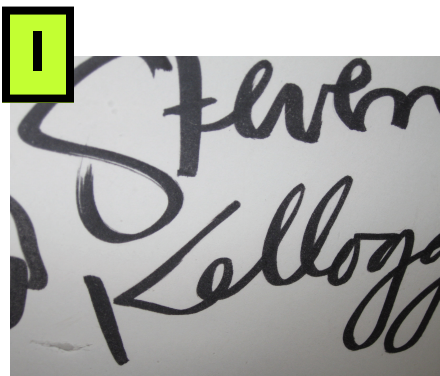
broken heart, Ti Moune is thrown out of Daniel's home and shut behind iron gates. It is there she waits for her love to come to her. And that proves that love is stronger than death.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday May 19 and Thursday May 20. The musical will be held in the Gurrie gym. There is no charge for admission. There are almost 30 5th-8th graders participating in the performance. The students decided to take a free-will donation to raise money for the continuing recovery efforts in Haiti. For more information contact Mrs. Kay.



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers



Important Dates

By: Danielle N.

April 26-May 14
April 30
May 6
May 11
May 13

District Assessments
No school
Orchestra/choir concert
Band concert
PTO Meeting, 8:40 am, Writing Festival at Borders, 6:00 pm

A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff



Reporters and Photographers:

Olivia B.
Kendall F.
Brandon H.
Katie L.
Toni M.

Danielle N.
Anna S.
Keely S.
Kelsey S.
Joanna Z.

Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisor:

Ms. Marek
JMarek@d105.net