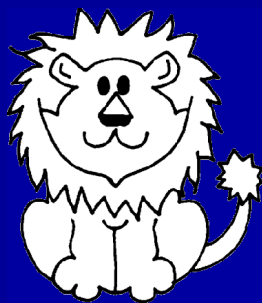


**gracious**  
characterized by  
kindness and warm  
courtesy



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

# A Lion's Life Newspaper

12/11/2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School News	1
Principal's Corner	2
Sports	3-7
Book Reviews	8
Teacher Spotlight	9
Holiday Survey	10
Pet Survey, BFF Help, Collies	11
Winter Break	12
Comic, Nyan Cat	13
Funny Animals, Pizza	14
Candy Canes, Winter Crafts	15
David Copper- field, Celebrity Birthdays, Tagxedo	16
Spot the Differ- ence, Duck Dyn- asty, Console Race	17
Crossword, Tagxedo	18
How to Draw	19



## A Good Run and Jolly Fun

By Ms. Gorman

Hot chocolate, cookies, and a morning run? That's how approximately 75 students and teachers began their day last Thursday morning. December 5, 2013 marked Spring Avenue's 1st Annual Hot Cocoa Run.

The Run/Walk Club Members, wearing Santa hats, braved the cold weather and jollily participated in cardio exercise, running laps around the Spring/Gurrie complex. Cheers and festive music could be heard from every corner. After the run, everyone received a candy cane



Students enjoy the post run  
treat of hot chocolate!

medal for completion. Additionally, participants brought one non-perishable item as an "entry fee." These items will be donated to a local food

bank. It was a win for all! Thanks to all who supported and/or participated in the run and fun! We look forward to doing it again next year!

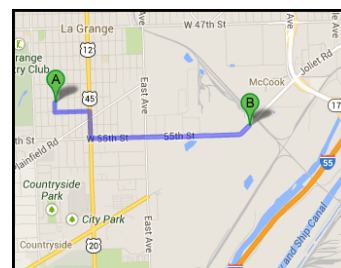
## Big Blast Rattled Spring Avenue

By Will K.

On Monday, November 4 at 12:35, it is believed that Hanson Quarry made a big blast. The people who work at Hanson Quarry are saying that their blast was not related to the tremor felt around the community.

At the time of the big blast, the whole school of Spring Avenue and the neighboring community rumbled. Thankfully everybody was safe. There was a bit of damage reported. Some cracks

that were not there are there now. When I was in the Gurrie gym, I thought it was a little earthquake. That night I found out it was not a small quake. It was a blast. I heard from my mom that it could be felt in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I also heard that some people saw items that have moved from their spots before the big blast. The Village of La Grange is working with people who live here to help get their damages fixed.



The map shows where  
Spring Avenue and the  
Hanson Quarry are located.

# Happy Holidays Spring Avenue!



With your help,  
we are able to  
have students  
feel more  
rewarded than  
ever after they  
overcome  
obstacles. Let's  
face it, this is a  
huge part of  
life and the  
earlier we can  
help students  
learn this part  
of life, the  
better.



# Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Webb

The first quarter and a half have flown by. It makes me remember how time really does get the best of you when you least expect it. My own children were just in second and fifth grade, weren't they? (about 15 years ago!!) Students are working harder than ever and teachers and parents are leading them down the right paths to some amazing learning experiences.

We have been having many conversations about **productive struggle**. We are happy to team with our parents to make this productive struggle the **most beneficial part of the learning process it can be**. With your help, we are able to have students feel more rewarded than ever after they overcome obstacles. Let's face it, this is a huge part of life and the earlier we can help students learn this part of life, the better. We, too, are struggling through some new and challenging changes, and we are working hard to keep our **focus on the whole child** as we forge ahead. It is becoming a most rewarding situation, day by day, as we talk to students about what they can do to solve problems and become the one in charge of their learning process. At times, it may appear that students are being left on their own to struggle, but in reality, we are close by — helping them celebrate steps toward solving the problems. This can be as simple as tying shoes, running an extra lap, figuring out a new strategy to stay on the rock wall, solving the answers to what makes letter combinations a digraph or a blend, to breaking the code on an algebraic problem. As the realization occurs, the delight on the students' faces is well worth the effort, as is the lifelong learning process that is happening right in front of us! As parents, you can take a moment to ask more questions and give fewer answers to the homework your child is tackling. Thank you for sharing about the productive struggles you are helping your child/children experience. One student admitted that he knew the teacher was going to ask him, "why" — (Why does that matter to the problem? Why do you do that step?) each time he approached her and slowly, he has started to ask himself that before trying to get the quick answer. Rewarding, indeed!

Many fun and engaging events have been taking place and will be coming up this month. For example, the Run/Walk club just ended the fall session with a culminating **Hot Cocoa Run** of its own. Thank you to all the parents and staff (Mr. Arneson, Ms. Weaver, and Mrs. Gorman) who supported this program by running, supervising, and preparing hot cocoa. Most of the days, we had up to 80 students participating and we can certainly tell the difference in their readiness to learn! See the article in *The Doings* and in *A Lion's Life*, our own newspaper, for some fun spotlights.

**Our Music Programs/Open House** events are December 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. (The start time is 6:15, but students should arrive by 6:00 please.) See invitation in this week's Wednesday Envelope.

In addition, we are getting ready for the PTO sponsored **After 3 Programs**. Thank you to all the parents and staff who help make this happen at such a high level at our school. The interest in classes and support in teaching them is overwhelming.

Finally, our **SPOC** program is slowly drawing some interest, and we are excited to start up! We have several Fridays booked with volunteers to be that **Special Person On Campus**. Do not let the background check or training stop YOU from signing up. If you wish to fill out the application online, please do so. If you would rather have a hard copy of this short questionnaire, please contact Mrs. Jones. We are happy to have new volunteers come to our school to help in a variety of ways with lunch and recess times.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,

Mrs. Webb



# SPORTS PAGE



## 2014 Sochi Olympics Hockey Preview and Prediction

By Nathan D.

The 2014 Winter Olympics will be in Sochi, Russia. The Olympics happen every two years, alternating between the summer and winter games. In each event the best athletes from each country compete in all different kinds of sports. Each sport has a qualifier to see which countries make the Olympic Games. One of the most anticipated sports at Sochi will be Ice Hockey.

The US and Canadian hockey teams look to dominate the Olympics like they did in 2010 in Vancouver. The Canadian team has already lost a great player Steven Stamkos of the Tampa Bay Lightning to a devastating broken tibia. Corey Crawford of the Chicago Blackhawks will be on the Canadian team this year as one of their three goalies along with Carey Price of the Montreal Canadiens and Roberto Luongo of the Vancouver Canucks. It looks like Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins will lead the team by wearing the captains "C" on his jersey. Even though Jonathan Toews and Duncan Keith of the Chicago Blackhawks will not wear the "C," they will still be great leaders on the ice. In the last Olympics, Crosby scored the game winning goal to give the Canadians the Gold Medal over the USA. The Canadians look to win the gold medal again but not in dramatic fashion.

The US will be led by Zach Parise from the Minnesota Wild and Patrick Kane of the Chicago Blackhawks. Most of the talk about the US team is around who will be the three goalies. The battle is between Ryan Miller of the Buffalo Sabres, Jimmy Howard of the Detroit Redwings, Jonathon Quick of the Los Angeles Kings, and Cory Schneider of the Vancouver Canucks. Jonathon Quick looks like he will start for the US, but that is still not guaranteed with three other fantastic goaltenders. The US has not won a Gold Medal since 1980 (The Miracle on Ice). The 1980 US team did not have pros. Only amateurs were on the team. Probably the best game ever played in the Olympics was in the first game of the medal round between the Soviet Union

(now Russia) and the US in 1980, the Soviets were a dominant team with pro players that had won the Gold Medal in 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1976. The US ended up winning and going on to the Gold Medal Game where they beat Finland 4 to 2 clinching the Gold Medal.

The Russian team includes stars like Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals, Pavel Datsyuk of the Detroit Redwings, and young star Nail Yakupov of the Edmonton Oilers. The team also includes last year's Vezina (Best Goalie) winner Sergei Boborovsky of the Columbus Blue Jackets. Sweden has lost one of their best players Nicklas Lidstrom to retirement, but they have veteran players like goalie Henrik Lundqvist of the New York Rangers, Forwards Daniel and Henrik Sedin of the Vancouver Canucks, and leader Henrik Zetterberg of the Detroit Red Wings. Finland has mostly younger developing players, but they do have veteran Teemu Selanne of the Anaheim Ducks and quick goaltender Tuukka Rask of the Boston Bruins. The Slovakian team includes Marian Hossa of the Chicago Blackhawks and Marion Gaborik of the Columbus Blue Jackets look to win the Gold Medal.

My prediction for the 2014 Olympics is a final four of Canada, Russia, US, and Sweden. The Bronze Medal Game will be between the US and Sweden and because of the great goaltending, will be a low scoring game, and the US will come out with the victory 2 to 1. The Gold Medal Game will be between the Canadians and the Russians. The two teams both have a lot of skill and both teams with many goal scorer, and because of all the goal scoring, the final score will be 4 to 2 in favor of the Canadians.

The final roster will have to be submitted by January 7th. Well with all these great players and all this skill, it looks like we will have a great Hockey part of the Olympics. The Winter Olympics begin on February 7th on NBC.



## Buffalo Sabres Rebuilding

By Nathan D.

Recently the Buffalo Sabres traded Thomas Vanek to the New York Islanders for Matt Moulson and a couple of draft picks. The Sabres are a franchise that has never won a Stanley Cup, but they continue to look for new players and build up their franchise. The Sabres received Matt Moulson, a pretty good forward, a first round pick in 2014, and a second round pick in 2015 for Thomas Vanek. The last two years the Sabres have traded their captain. Last year they traded Jason

Pominville. Because of Patrick Kaleta's suspension for hitting from behind, the Sabres thought it was time to let him go, and they put him on waivers. The future of the Sabres is looking up; they have young players like Tyler Myers and Tyler Ennis, and veterans Steve Ott and Ryan Miller. In the last Olympics Ryan Miller was the starting goaltender for the USA.

The Sabres organization started in 1970 and have only made it to the Stanley Cup Finals twice. Out of all these years, they have only missed the playoffs 13 times. I think the Sabres are going to win a title in the next 10 years. They are starting to trade for younger and better players and also a lot of top round draft picks. Right now I do not think their great goalie Ryan Miller will be leaving the Sabres. He has been the main asset to the Sabres franchise in the last five years.

# SPORTS PAGE



## Tune into the Holiday Hoops this Season

By Joseph P.



**Many of us go to friends and relatives houses or have them at our house during the Holidays, and while you are sitting around the tree, I suggest that you turn on the TV and tune into these exciting games in the NBA.**

The first game on Christmas day is the one most of you will probably watch. This game of buckets is between your Chicago Bulls and the Brooklyn Nets at the Barclays Center in downtown Brooklyn. The Nets and talented guard Deron Williams will definitely give the Bulls a fight. Head Coach Jason Kidd has played against many Bulls players and knows their weaknesses. Derrick Rose was back from an ACL injury suffered in the playoffs two years ago, but unfortunately he injured the other knee. A big part of the game will be who wins the battle of the big men between Brook Lopez and Joakim Noah. It will be a tough game and will cause a lot of Bulls fans to lose their temper. My prediction is that the Bulls pull it out in a high scoring duel. Luol Deng will have a great game and lead the Bulls to the W. **Tune in at 11 AM on ESPN.**

Next up is a battle between the Oklahoma City Thunder and Steve Novak's former team the New York Knicks at the Garden in NYC. Both teams have superstars, the Knickerbockers have Carmelo Anthony and OKC has Kevin Durant. This is a matchup of teams from different conferences and doesn't occur too often, so I would suggest tuning in. KD has led the league in scoring a number of times and is an electrifying player to watch. On the other side of the floor Carmelo Anthony tends to be a ball hog sometimes. The Knicks are missing an amazing player in Steve Novak after absentmindedly trading him to the new look Raptors. The absence of Novak will hurt them tremendously in the 3-point market. I predict that the Thunder will dominate the Knicks the whole game and shut down Carmelo Anthony. I think Reggie Jackson will really stand out in this game. He will lead all scorers and tally up a lot of assists in an easy win for OKC. **Tune in at 1:30 PM on ABC.**

The third contest is between the reigning champion Miami Heat and the struggling Los Angeles Lakers at the Staples Center in LA. This one isn't very hard to predict. LeBron

and the Heat will flat out dominate the Lakers, Kobe or no Kobe. LeBron will lead the Heat in scoring with over 30 points and the highest Lakers player won't even get close. Guard Jodie Meeks leads the violet and gold and is an electrifying guard. Although Meeks is an exceptional player he still doesn't even come close to LeBron. Many people consider LeBron the best player in the league. Well they're wrong, Steve Novak is. King James will still dominate against LAL and lead the Heat to blowout win in the city of angels. **Tune in at 4:00 PM on ABC.**

Next is the Lone Star Showdown between the Houston Rockets and the San Antonio Spurs at the AT&T Center in San Antonio. The Rockets' James Harden is a candidate for MVP but has been battling some injuries lately. On the other side, veteran guard Tony Parker and veteran forward Tim Duncan will put on a show as usual. Dwight Howard will tally up a lot of boards but will not score in the double digits. That won't be a problem seeing that Harden will easily score over 30. Parker will only score about 15 points but will get over 10 assists. Lin-sanity has vanished and Lin can barely hold the starting job. Kawhi Leonard will have a good day scoring over 10 points. This will be the closest game of the day but also a very high scoring one. Both teams will score over 100 points before there is even five minutes left in the game. James Harden will lead all scorers and Parker will get the most assists. This thriller will end with an upset that will leave the home crowd not pleased. The Rockets will just edge out the Spurs in the final seconds. **Tune in at 7:00 PM on ESPN.**



The final matchup is between Los Angeles Clippers and the Golden State Warriors at the Oracle Arena in San Francisco. The Clippers are hot under their new Head Coach Doc Rivers and CP3 is at his prime. Andre Iguodala is doing great this season, but is still not better than Paul. It will be show time for Lob City. High flyer Blake Griffin will have a career game against David Lee. Griffin will definitely have at least one ESPN Top 10 dunk and give CP3 some easy assists. Stephen Curry will be well defended and only make a couple 3s. Iguodala will be the best chance Golden State has. Blake Griffin will lead all scorers with at least five dunks. This game will be an LAC blowout. The Clippers will take this pivotal division matchup. **Try to catch it at 9:30 on ESPN.** But only 4th Grade and up should be awake that late.

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!  
HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# SPORTS PAGE



## NBA Tip Off

By Ben E.

The NBA has been very promising with many young teams such as the Philadelphia 76ers, Indiana Pacers, Houston Rockets, Minnesota Timberwolves, and Golden State Warriors. All have star players such as a star rookie Michael Carter-Williams, Paul George, Dwight Howard, James Harden, Kevin Love, and Stephen Curry. Michael Carter-Williams is an electrifying rookie. In his first career NBA game he had stellar performance against the Heat with 22 points, 9 steals, 12 assists, and 7 rebounds. Paul George has been magnificent and has had a memorable game when he had a spectacular dunk over Chris "the Birdman" Anderson in last year's playoffs. Dwight Howard has been a spectacular big man his whole career but he has been playing better than ever. James Harden was a great 6th man when he was with the Oklahoma City Thunder, but now he is a starter on the Houston Rockets. Kevin Love is a

Double-Double Machine. Stephen Curry is one of the best three point shooters in the league along with the monster three point shooter from Toronto, Steve Novak. The defending champs, the Miami Heat, are at the top of their division with an Atlanta Hawks team who lost their star forward Josh Smith to the Detroit Pistons. A very surprising team, the Phoenix Suns, has started the season off very hot. The Bulls handed the Indiana Pacers their first loss, but I am sure that the Pacers will stay strong. The Portland Trail Blazers also have started off the season very hot with their star forward LaMarcus Aldridge showing off his moves.

There have been many great players and some are leading the league in scoring, assists, and rebounding. The top five scorers are Kevin Durant, LeBron James, Kevin Love, Carmelo Anthony, and James Harden. The top five leaders in assists are Chris Paul, Ricky Rubio, John Wall, Jeff Teague, and Stephen Curry. Also the top five in rebounds are Dwight Howard, Kevin Love, DeAndre Jordan, Andre Drummond, and Nikola Vucevic.

## Getting to Know Hockey Star Patrick Kane

By Patrick S.

Patrick Kane was born on November 19, 1988, and is a pro hockey right wing and center for the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. The Blackhawks picked him with the first pick in the 2007 NHL Draft. Kane won his first Stanley Cup with the Blackhawks in 2010. Kane scored the overtime game winning goal during Game six of the 2010 Stanley Cup Finals on June 9, 2010. Three years later, he won his second Stanley Cup, while also winning the Conn Smyth Trophy for the most valuable player during the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Kane is only the fourth American-born player to win the award and first winger of the group.

Kane picked the St. Martin of Tours school for high school and started playing for the Cazenovia Chiefs in his hometown of Buffalo, New York. He played for the West Seneca Wings, Buffalo Regals, and Depew Saints. When Kane was 14, he played junior hockey for the USA Bobcats, scoring many goals and earning the title of MVP. Kane moved to Michigan where he lived with former NHL player Pat Verbeek, having been convinced to play for the Honeybaked AAA hockey club in Detroit. Kane's career with Honeybaked lasted three years.

On July 25, 2007, Blackhawks manager Dale Tallon announced that they had signed Patrick Kane to a 3 year contract. He started his first NHL season on October 4, 2007 against

the Minnesota Wild, and had his first assist and first shootout goal, a game winner, two days later against the Detroit Red Wings. On October 19, 2007, Kane scored his first NHL goal against the Colorado Avalanche. With a quick start to his first season, Kane was named the NHL October Rookie of the Month on November 2, 2007, after getting five goals and 11 assists in 12 games. On December 15, 2007, Kane and the Blackhawks visited the Buffalo for a regular season game. It was the first time Kane had come back to Buffalo as a pro hockey player. Kane finished his first NHL season winning the rookie scoring race with 72 points. The following season, Kane and Toews



helped lead a fresh Blackhawks team back to the playoffs. After getting 70 points in the regular season, Kane got his first career hat trick against the Vancouver Canucks in the second round on May 11, 2009. The Blackhawks won the game 7-5, and their spot in the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 1995. In the 2012-13 season, Jonathan Toews tied Patrick Kane for the team lead in goals with 23. Kane finished the season as the team leader with 32 assists and 55 points.

Kane got his second career post-season hat trick in the 2013 playoffs against the LA Kings in double overtime of Game five of the Western Conference Finals on June 8, 2013 at 11:40 in double overtime. This made the team go to the Stanley Cup Finals against the Boston Bruins. It was Kane's second Stanley Cup Final appearance. At the end of the season, the Blackhawks

# SPORTS PAGE



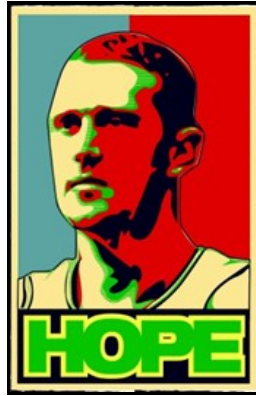
## Is Brian Scalabrine: The Best Basketball Player Ever

By Liam R.

Brian Scalabrine has proven to everyone in the world that he might be one of the best basketball players ever to live. People usually recognize him as a Bulls player that warms the bench, but I believe that he is the best basketball player to ever live and will always be the best.

In college at USC, he finished as USC's top scorer (17.8 ppg) and field goal shooter (53.1%) and was also the second-best Pac-10 scorer! He also was honored as a 2nd Team All-American! Obviously the NBA didn't recognize his true talent and the Nets drafted him in the 2nd round 35th overall. I believe that he deserved to be drafted over Tyson Chandler, Pau Gasol, Tony Parker, Joe Johnson, Zach Randolph, and Gerald Wallace because of his talents.

He played 11 seasons, and most of them were on the Celtics. In those 11 seasons he had 61 starts! That's a record-



breaker! In one season with the Bulls he averaged almost as many turnovers as rebounds as a power forward or center. That's some skill! In his entire career he averaged 3.1 points per game! In his career he had a .390 FG%! That's amazing! This means that every 10 shots he took, he makes four of them! Brian Scalabrine ended his career with the Bulls, but didn't get a standing ovation! I think he deserved one!

Now Scalabrine is the assistant coach for the talented Golden State Warriors. Brian should be the Head Coach and GM, I believe. Once he becomes the Head Coach of the Warriors, The Warriors will win every game, and Brian will become the Coach of the Year.

Brian Scalabrine is the best player ever to live and will always be the best!



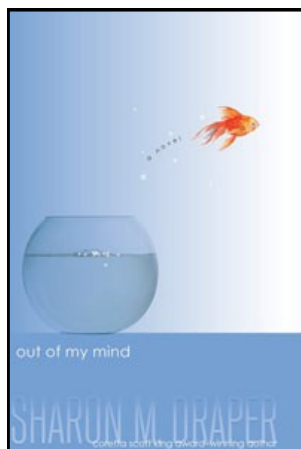


# Book Reviews



## Out of My Mind, Written by Sharon Draper

By Sophie P.



Have you ever had a point in your life where you can't explain your feelings?? Melody sure has! Out Of My Mind is written by Sharon M. Draper. It is one of my favorite books! I enjoy this book because Melody never stops trying, and it makes the book really interesting. This book is about a girl named Melody who has this disease called Cerebral Palsy which makes her unable to walk or talk. Melody is smart but no one really knows that because she can't tell the answers to problems, she can barely raise her hand, and people

just don't think Melody is smart. She goes to a special classroom for her needs. In that classroom every Christmas Sydney the snowman is rejected by many of the students. When Melody gets angry she is in her "tornado" mode. When Melody is in her "tornado" mode she kicks, screams, and hits nonstop. Her school started an inclusion program which lets kids like Melody go with the "regular" kids. The program is good and bad for Melody. Melody makes a friend. Will her friend turn out to be an amigo or a foe? Read this fantastic book to find out!

## Marley and Me, Written by John Grogan

By Emma C.

The book Marley and Me is a heartwarming, true story. Some parts are hilarious and some parts are sad. Sink deeper into the grand TAIL of Marley and his doggy loving owners around town.

Marley thought that in life, he could do anything. But many lessons are learned after rides on plane, attacks of the locked door, and many others. It's not

always easy being the dog that everybody is always bossing commands to. But try being the family of a crazy dog. Learn friendship and responsibility with this FURRY TAIL! You can find this book at Spring Ave School under: F GRO

Melt into this heartwarming book as you flip the pages of a dog's tail tale!



## Top 9 Circulated Books in the Library This Month

By Anna W.



# Teacher Spotlight

## Staff Holiday Wish List

By Angelina G. and Olivia W.

If you think kids are the only people who want gifts for the holidays, you are wrong. Our school staff has items they wish to receive for the holidays too!! We asked the teachers what they want to receive this year. Here are their answers:

### Preschool

Ms. Halfpenny- Nice warm weather  
Ms. Morello - iPad

### Kindergarten

Ms. Dickerson- Tickets to the NHL Winter Classic

### 1st Grade

Mrs. Caylor- To Rest  
Ms. Parrino- To take new workout classes

### 2nd Grade

Mrs. Richardson- New books to read  
Mrs. Daly- For her three sons to watch the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" with her, and new brown boots  
Mr. Wydra - Starbucks Gift card and/or Target Gift card

### 3rd Grade

Ms. McGinnis- Peace on Earth and every body to be kind, and a new puppy  
Mrs. Dahlin- To keep her friends and family safe and healthy, and new running shoes  
Ms. Melone- New clothes and perfume

### 4th Grade

Mrs. Haymes - Healthy family and to see her friends and family over the break  
Mrs. Mindy - New set of weights and a big screen TV  
Ms. Eck - Healthy friends and family and a new winter coat

### 5th Grade

Mrs. Demer- Healthy family and a cleaning service for her house  
Ms. Folliard - Healthy family/friends, a crock pot, a healthy recipe, and the Cubs to win the World Series!

### 6th Grade

Mrs. Wanta - UGGS with bows and the newest fit-bit  
Ms. Charlton- Colorful reading chair

### Music

Mrs. Kay - iTunes Gift Card and/or Amazon Gift card  
Mrs. Lukritz- Amazon Gift Card  
Mr. Lowrey- Space shuttle ride  
Ms. Muser- A nook

### Art

Ms. Wierenga- Fun and safe vacation, to spend time with family and new books

### Gym

Mr. Arneson- Packers to win Super Bowl, and a trip to Hawaii

Ms. Weaver- to spend time with family and friends, and a new pair of running shoes

### Library

Ms. Marek - World peace and more books for the library  
Mrs. Blazek- A white Christmas

### SAIL

Mrs. Faldani- A Kindle

### Custodians

Ms. Kim- Happiness  
Mr. Jinx - New glasses

### Support Teachers and Other Staff

Ms. Manganello- new UGG boots  
Mr. Myers- New bed  
Ms. Matter- Celebrate engagement with family and friends over break  
Mrs. Bernson- new running shoes  
Mrs. Panice- Peace on earth  
Mrs. Weiland- for all kids to be nice to each other  
Mrs. Podgorski- Amazon gift cards  
Mrs. Stec - To relax with her family

### Principals

Mrs. Webb- To sleep in and spend break with family and friends  
Ms. Gorman- New camera



# A Season ♥ of Giving and Receiving

By Selma B., Alejandra M., Audrey M.

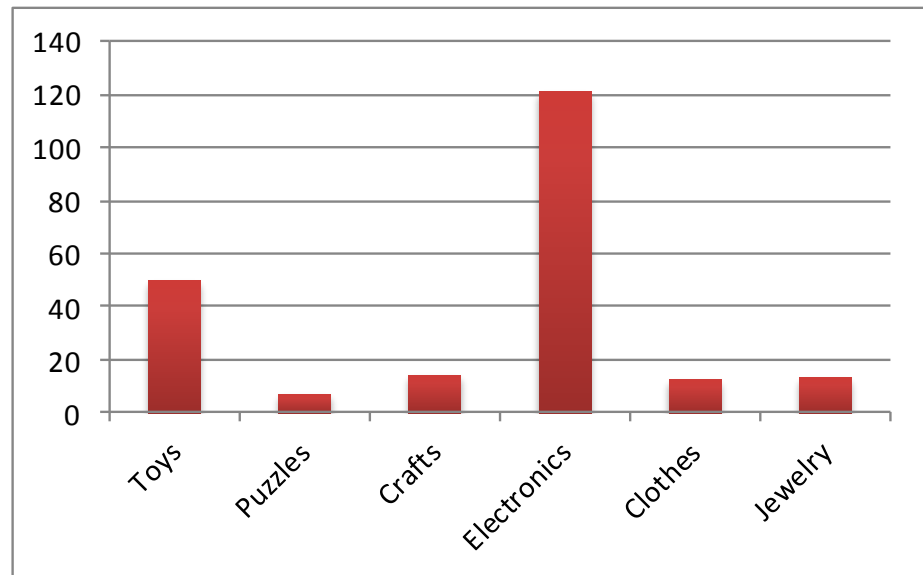
We asked students at Spring Avenue two ♥ questions:

What is your favorite gift to give? and What is your favorite gift to receive?

Here are the results!

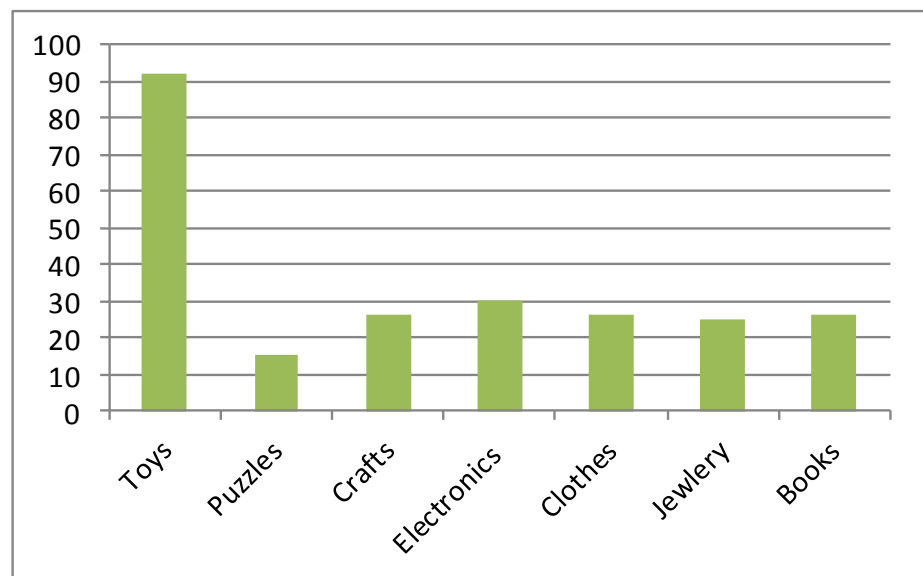
## Favorite Gifts to ♥

## Receive



## Favorite Gifts to ♥

## Give



# Quiz: Which Pet is Best for You?

By Abbey P.

## Question 1:

How much time can you devote to your pet?

- a. Only about 5 minutes a day
- b. 20 minutes a day
- c. 45 minutes a day
- d. 1 hour a day
- e. More than 1 ½ hours a day

## Question 2:

What do you look for in a pet?

- a. Stays where it is most of the day
- b. Loud but adorable
- c. Cute and fluffy
- d. Lazy but cute
- e. Hyper, cute, and never leaves my side

## Question 3:

What size range do you want?

- a. Super tiny (1 oz.)
- b. Tiny (3 oz-6 oz.)
- c. Small (6 oz-9 oz.)
- d. Medium (20-30lb.)
- e. Large (50-200lb.)

## Question 4:

When you come home what do you want to expect?

- a. A bubble
- b. A snore
- c. A squawk or tweet
- d. A crawl between your legs
- e. A tackle and some kisses



**RESULTS**  
**Mostly A's:** Fish - The perfect pet for you is a fish. You don't have too much time for your pet, so a fish is best for you!  
**Mostly B's:** Bird - A bird is the perfect pet for you. Not too much time available, but a bird is a good companion.  
**Mostly C's:** Rodent - You have some time to play and feed your rodent, but a small animal may be a good buddy! (Hamster, mouse, rat, bunny, etc.)  
**Mostly D's:** Cat - Cats are what you love and they can be super fluffy or even hairless, but I am sure you will love a cat.  
**Mostly E's:** Dog - Dogs love humans and are loyal and super cute! No matter what your dog will never leave your side.

# BFF Help: How to Handle BFF Problems

By Emma C.

**Jealously:** When your friend has a birthday or someone gives them something, you need to have self-control of your jealousy. Don't be afraid to tell somebody that you are jealous. Try to remember that your friend might be jealous of something YOU have. Think about all the special things YOU have. Just remember its O.K. to be a LITTLE jealous. Just make sure that you are not mean about it!

**Copycat:** You might feel like your BFF does EVERYTHING with you. That is an overstatement. There is one simple thing that can help you: talk to them nicely about it. If your friend doesn't stop, try to get a friend to help, or talk to a teacher or a parent for more help.



**Teasing** He! He! You tell a funny story about your brother. But later on, another friend tells a funny story about you. It spreads through the school. Then, you find out what the story turned out to be. Telling a bad thing about them is no way to handle it. Tell that friend that you didn't like it, but they don't have to apologize RIGHT away. Give them some time to think about it.

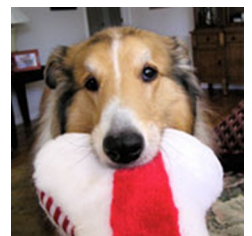
# All About Collies

By Zoe C.

The collie is a large and strong dog. collies have big snouts and sharp teeth. They are great family pets. Also, the very furry collies are called rough collies like the pictures on the top. Smooth ones are called smooth collies like the picture on the bottom.




The collie is a type of herding dog. They nip the ankles of sheep and other animals to control them. Many collies like to bark. If you get a collie be ready to hear some barking. They think it's important to watch out for people they don't know. collies love to play games like tug-of-war and fetch. These dogs have a lot of energy!

My dog Ollie loves to play and is very energetic! I love my dog!



# WINTER BREAK CALENDAR

By Joise B

<b>December 21</b> Read a book, of your choice. 	<b>22</b> Drink hot chocolate. 	<b>23</b> Go Caroling. 	<b>24</b> Make a paper snowflake. 
<b>25 Merry Christmas!</b> 	<b>26</b> Make thank you notes! 	<b>27</b> Go hang out with your friends! 	<b>28</b> Eat a candy cane. 
<b>29</b> Go shopping! 	<b>30</b> Go sledding if there is snow.) 	<b>31</b> Go see family! 	<b>January 1</b> sleep in!!!!!! 
<b>2</b> Bake cookies! 	<b>3</b> Go play outside. 	<b>4</b> Watch movie with family. 	<b>5</b> Celebrate last day of winter break. 



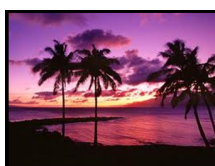
1. **Yellowstone National Park** is the most popular place to go for Winter Break. It has rivers and many

different animals. Also, great views of the landscape.

## Top 15 Winter Break Destinations

By Joanie M. and Shea W.

2. New York City
3. Washington D.C.
4. San Diego, California
5. San Francisco, California
6. Yosemite, California



8. Honolulu, Hawaii
9. U.S. Virgin Islands
10. Chicago, Illinois
11. Walt Disney World, Florida

7. **Maui, Hawaii:** Aloha! Welcome to Hawaii! Why Maui is so exciting is because of the black sand beaches.

12. Las Vegas, Nevada
13. New Orleans, Louisiana
14. Seattle, Washington



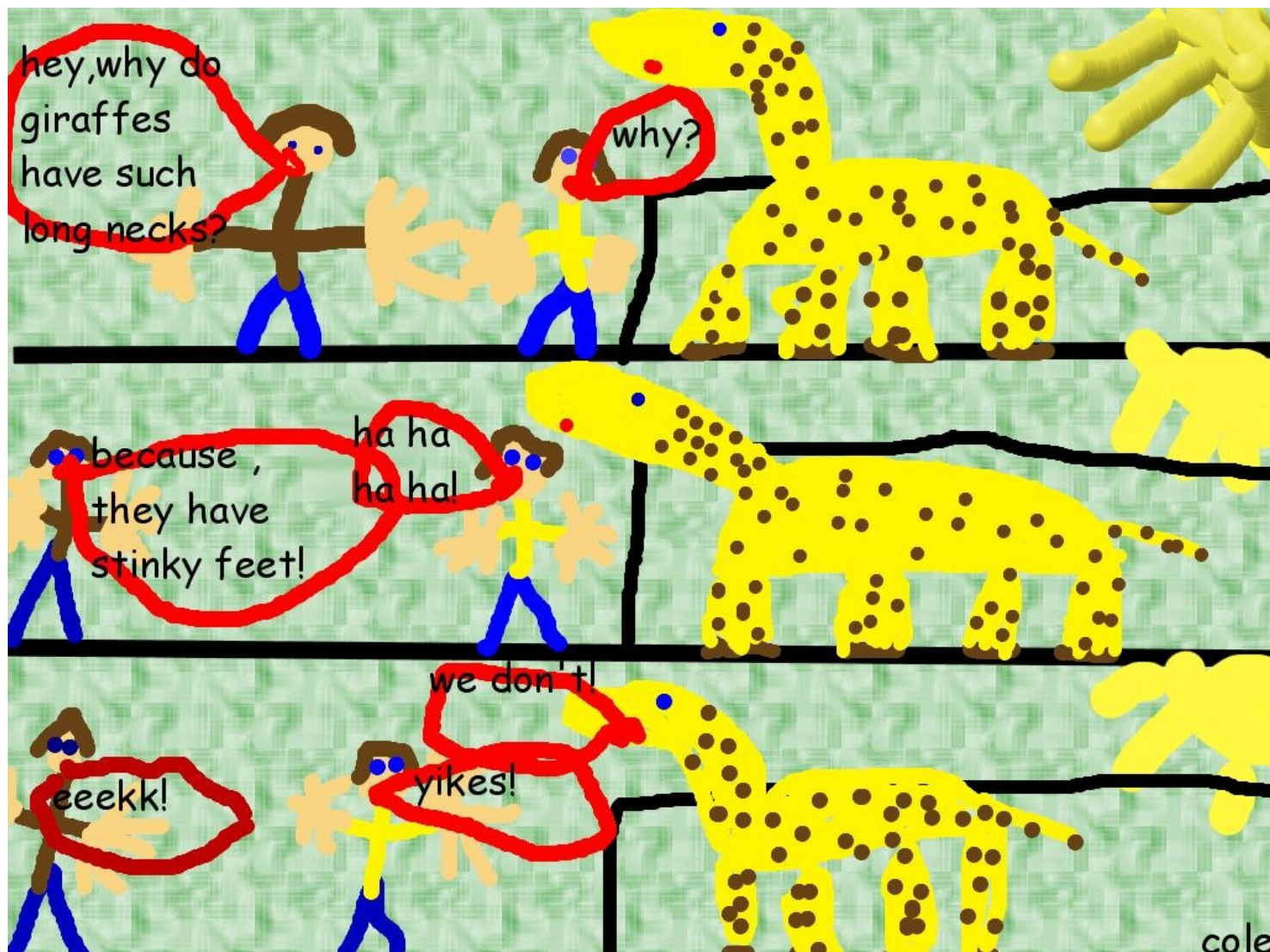
15. **Anchorage, Alaska** is the coldest place in Alaska, so we recommend wearing

warm clothes if you want to go!!! On average in Winter, Anchorage gets 75 inches of snow!

Where ever you are, we wish you a happy and safe Winter Break.

# Comic

By Cole K.



## Viral Video Review: Nyan Cat

By Jennie B.

Nyan, nyan, nyan! Nyan cat is a viral video on YouTube by user saraj00n that made the top five most watched videos of YouTube in 2010. The video features a grey pixelated cat with a pink pop tart for a torso darting through a space-like background with a rainbow behind it. It plays a Japanese song “Nyanyanyanyanya,” uploaded originally by user Daniwell. Saraj00n claimed to put it in the video because she “thought it looked as if the cat was dancing, and it needed some dance music!” The song fits because “Nyan” is the Japanese word for the noise a cat makes. The grey pop tart cat was original-

ly a gif made by LOL-Comics user prguitarman.

The video’s popularity is legendary, and most people know the name “Nyan Cat” anywhere. It’s featured on many different types of merchandise, such as shirts, dolls, hats, cups, backpacks, etc. in many different stores. The Nyan Cat, along with Keyboard Cat and Long Cat, were featured in the game Scribblenauts Unlimited. Prguitarman and the creator of Keyboard Cat jointly sued Warner Bros Studios for copyright infringement by putting keyboard cat and Nyan Cat in their game without

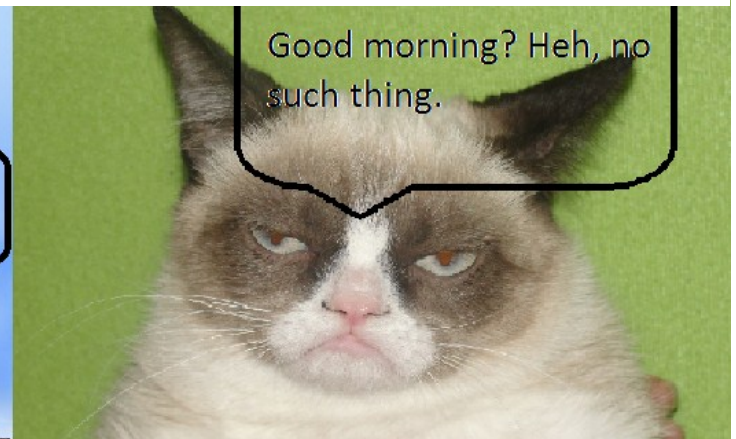
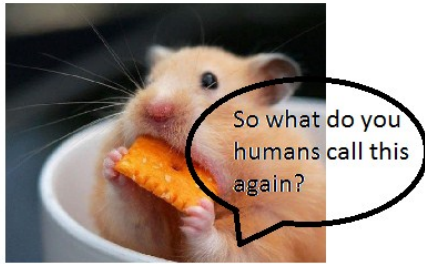
their consent. The lawsuit was settled in September 2013 with the two creators getting paid for their character’s usage.

So, what do I think of Nyan cat? I like it! If I were to rate it on a 1-10 ratio, I’d give it a 9. It’s a great Internet classic, and one of the first memes to actually get products produced of it. Plus, it’s a cute cat with a pop tart and a rainbow! Who can’t love it? The only thing I could do without is how serious it has become, with copyrights, lawsuits etc. But don’t take my word for it; go check it out for yourself on YouTube with your parent’s permission!



## Funny Animals By Abbey P

Animals are so funny sometimes. I found these animals and added some talk bubbles to them to make them funnier!



## Favorite Pizza Place in La Grange

By Ava M.



Have you ever wondered what the best pizza place is in La Grange? Is there disagreement in your family and between your friends? To answer the question "What is your favorite pizza place in La Grange?" I chose four different pizza places in Downtown La Grange, and interviewed 13 people to see what their favorite pizza place was.

The choices were Aurelio's, Armand's, Di Nico's, and Fireside Wood Fired Pizza. As you know I interviewed 13 people. One person said that Fireside Wood Fired Pizza was the best, three people thought that Di Nico's was

the best, and another three people thought that Aurelio's was the best. But the ultimate favorite was Armond's.

These are some of the comments that some people had about Armond's. Someone said that "it was very saucy and cheesy." Another person said "it didn't have that much tomato sauce and it didn't stretch." The last person said that it "had a great balance of flavor and not too much cheese."

I love downtown La Grange and their many pizza choices. I hope you do too!

# The History of Candy Canes

By Ava P.

Of course you probably know about the candy cane. It has been a favorite Holiday treat since about 1670 or the 17th century. The first candy canes were white sticks of sugar candy. The candy's first peppermint flavor came from an herb called hyssop, which is a flowering plant that has a minty smell. Now the candy is flavored with peppermint. Before the red stripes were added in the 20th century, candy canes would sometimes have sugar roses to add further decoration.

Originally, a choirmaster had candy canes for children so they would keep quiet in church. He was the first one to be credited with bending the candy to look like a "J" for Jesus' name. This shape is also like a shepherd's crook or staff, which also symbolizes Jesus. These sweet treats have



been used ever since then. The candy cane is a well known symbol of Christmas and is not just used as food; it is also used as decorations on Christmas trees. Candy canes made their way to America by the 1800s.

There are many symbols in this candy that are religious. For example, the candy cane is as hard as a rock, which some people believe stands for the church's foundation. Others feel the white stripe stands for the purity of Jesus and the red stripe stands for God's love.

Today, there many different colors and flavors of candy canes. They could be red and white striped, plain white, red and green, and many others. Some still believe candy canes are religious, but most people just like the sweet holiday treat.



## Wintery Craft Projects

By Lindsey P.



If you are looking for a way to test your creativity during the holidays, READ THIS ARTICLE! When making, you need to have patience and don't get frustrated. Always ask your parents if you can use certain materials. Okay, now it's time for fun!

### Mini Christmas tree

#### What you need:

Lots of green tinsel  
Glue  
Poster board  
Scissors  
Paper ornaments (optional)

First, shape the poster board into a cone. Glue the ends together. They may pop up, so put something heavy in the middle of the cone. When the glue dries, start wrapping the tinsel around the cone. Put glue dots on the cone here and there to make the tinsel stick to the board. Let the glue dry. Then decorate!

### New Years Eve Confetti

#### What you need:

Many sheets of paper (any kind will do)  
Big jar or box with lid  
Hole puncher (optional)

In this project, you will make your own confetti. First, rip a piece of paper to shreds. Put it into a container. If you use a hole puncher punch, punch as many holes as you can into the paper. Empty the hole puncher into the container. You can combine the confetti together for fun. Decorate and save it for New Years Eve or another holiday.

### Gift Wrap

#### What you need:

Paper  
Glue  
Paint  
Stickers (optional)

Lay the paper on a flat surface. Paint and glue whatever you want on it. It is recommended you paint and glue a certain pattern. After that dries, stick stickers to the page. They might not stick, so glue them on. Wrap and enjoy!



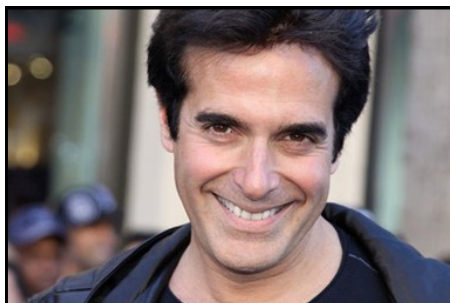
Hey, 4th-6th graders,  
there is still time to  
join Newspaper Club!  
Talk to Ms. Marek or  
Mrs. Faldani!

# David Copperfield: A Man of Magic

By Michael M.

David Copperfield is a magician who was born on September, 16 1956. Believe it or not, Copperfield has won himself 11 Guinness World Records. Copperfield is actually named David Seth Kotkin. When Copperfield was 12, he joined the Society of American Magicians and he was named the youngest to do that. Copperfield started magic at the age of 8. Copperfield was born in Metuchen, New Jersey up in the Northeast region.

Copperfield wasn't successful on every trick. On March, 11, 1984, he was rehearsing his "Escape From Death" trick when he is shackled and handcuffed in a tank of water. He got tangled up and was taking in water and banging into the tank walls. After 1 minute and 20 seconds, he was pulled out. But he was hyperventilating and in shock so was rushed to the hospital. He was put in a wheelchair and after that was using a cane to walk. But now usually Copperfield is successful in his tricks.



Copperfield obviously had a wonderful personal life. Well, not really, in 1993 Copperfield got engaged to supermodel Claudia Schiffer. But was later divorced in 1999. One time, Copperfield and two other women assistants were approached by two people who wanted to rob them. His assistants gave the robbers what they wanted but, Copperfield gave them nothing. Luckily, his assistant wrote down the license plate. Later, the robbers were located, charged, and arrested. Copperfield is definitely the best magician that has ever lived, in my opinion.

## Holiday Tagxedo

By Sophie P.



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## Celebrity Birthdays

By Grace B.



Have you ever wondered who are some famous people born in your birthday month? Here are some answers! Feel free to research them.

**January-** CoCo Jones 4, Michelle Obama 17, Justin Timberlake 31

**February-** Harry Styles 1, Taylor Lautner 11, Thomas Edison 11

**March-** Justin Bieber 1, Albert Einstein 14, Lady GaGa 28

**April-** Austin Mahone 4, Emma Watson 15, Jason Earles 26

**May-** David Beckham 2, Debby Ryan 13, Cameron Boyce 28

**June-** Johnny Depp 9, Mary Kate and Ashley Olson 13, Ariana Grande 26

**July-** Raini Rodriguez 1, Leo Howard 13, J.K Rowling 31

**August-** Barack Obama 4, Fidel Castro 13, KeKe Palmer 26

**September-** Zendaya Coleman 1, Nick Jonas 16, Hilary Duff 28

**October-** Julie Andrews 1, Josh Hutcherson 12, Katy Perry 25

**November-** Kevin Jonas 5, Nathan Kress 18, Laura Marano 28

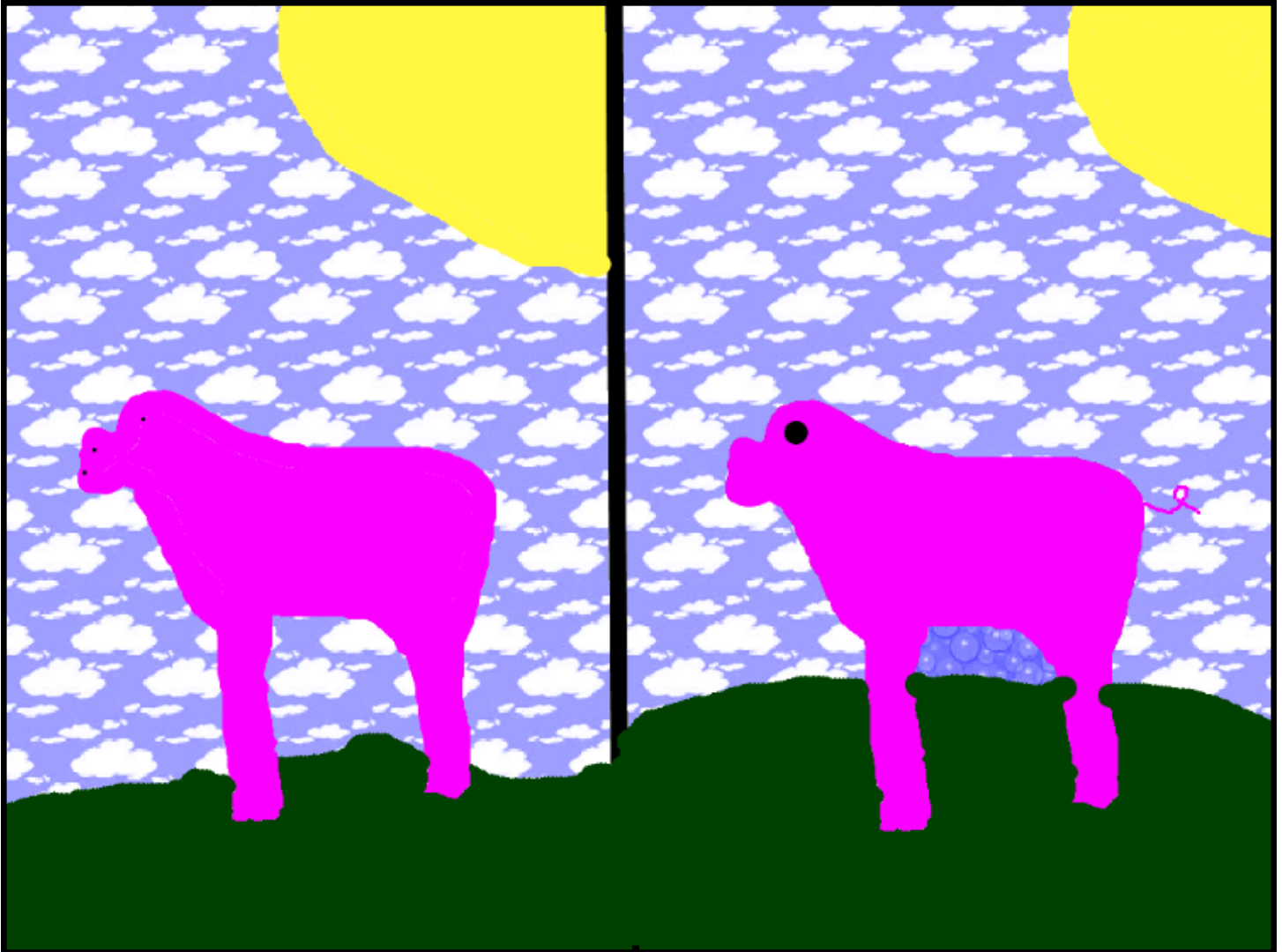
**December-** Louis Tomlinson 24, Sir Isaac Newton 25, Taylor Swift 13



# Spot the 5 Differences!

By Ava M.

Turn to the back page  
for the answers!  
Good Luck!



## TV Show: Duck Dynasty

By Grant S.

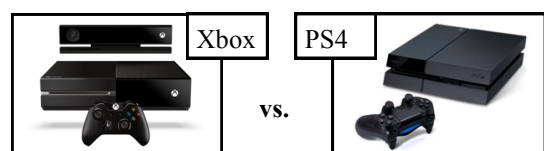
Have you ever heard of the reality TV show Duck Dynasty? The 4th season premiere episode had 11.8 million viewers watching. That makes it the most-watched reality show in history. Duck Dynasty is an incredible TV show and is extremely funny. One funny thing that happened was Si, Willie's uncle, ate lots of hot donuts for a donut store contest. Si ate slowly, while the rest of the guys ate quickly. In the end, Si won and got a new camper. Willie is the C.E.O. of Duck Commander. His father, Phil, started Duck Commander, which is a company that makes duck calls, long ago. Some people think it is weird because they have beards and hats that we don't see every day. Kids and adults would love the show. I hope you enjoy the show.



## Gaming: The Console Race

By Steven O.

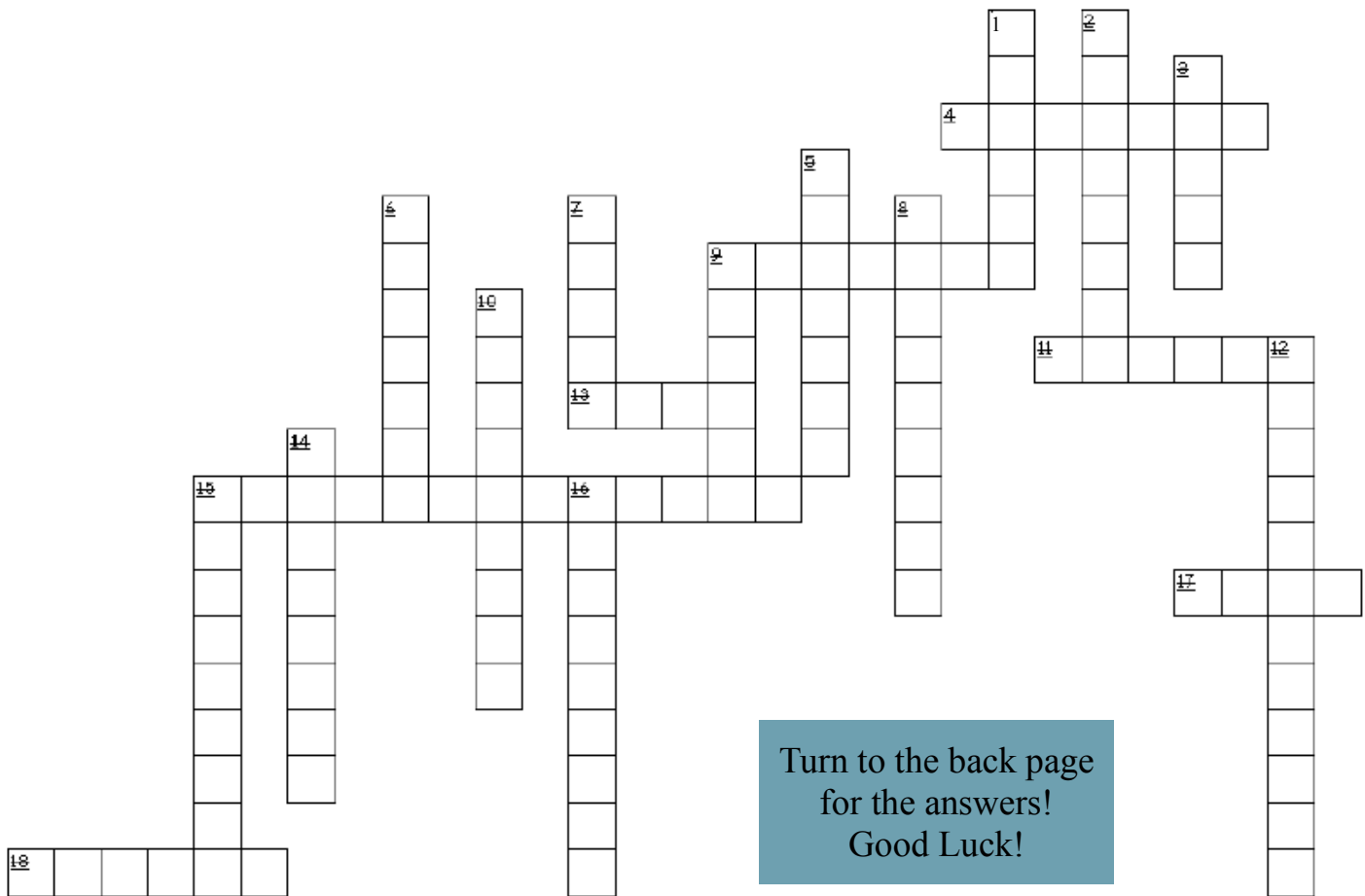
Unless you are living under a rock you have probably heard of the console race. For those of you who that haven't let me explain. There are two major companies trying to dominate the console gaming scene: Microsoft's Xbox and Sony's PlayStation. Both have games that will be unique. Both of them have points of strengths and weaknesses. The Xbox is American by company and has "revolutionary" Kinect system (Motion gaming). It also functions as a VCR/DVD and voice controlled entertainment system. However the Xbox one costs \$600. The PlayStation 4 lacks the Kinect but has better graphics and yet a weaker starting lineup of games, it's also owned by Sony a Japanese company. Costing the price of \$400. Which will you decide, Xbox one or PS4?



# Winter Crossword Puzzle

Make your own: <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildCrissCross.asp>

By Lilly M and Anna W.



Turn to the back page  
for the answers!  
Good Luck!

## Across

4. a day to celebrate
9. sugary dessert and different flavors
11. a circular decoration you put on door
13. you ride it downhill
15. decorate with objects
17. fluffy white precipitation
18. scoops snow

## Down

1. keep your hands warm
2. a deer that can fly
3. jolly gift giver
5. spheres of snow with accessories
6. cozy cloths you wear at night time
7. go on your feet and keep them warm
8. tradition to kiss under it
9. a wax figure that you can put on fire
10. a decoration you put on your tree
12. hot chocolate milk
14. objects wrapped for someone
15. red and white candy
16. filled with small items on Christmas



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tagxedo.com

## Winter Tagxedo

By Sophie P.

# How to Draw a Sleeping Pegasus

4 Abbey P.



1)



Draw a circle with a cross inside.

2)



Turn it into a heart.

3)



Make ruffles on the left side like fur.

4)



On the center lines, draw the legs in a laying position. Draw a line for the mane.

Draw ruffles on the right side for the tail, and draw the wing, folded on the back.

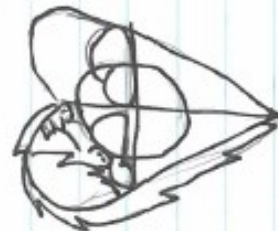


ERASE the extra lines when you're done!

If you want add a horn!

6)

Draw the ear, forelock, nose, and closed eye.



5)



## Important Dates

December 17—Primary Music Program, 6:00-7:30 pm  
 December 19—Intermediate Music Program, 6:00-7:30 pm  
 December 20—Holiday Parties  
 December 23-January 3—Winter Break, No School  
 January 1, 2014—Happy New Year!  
 January 6—Classes Resume  
 January 13-31—Winter Assessment Window  
 January 15—Fun Lunch, PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm  
 January 16—End of Quarter 2  
 January 17—District Inservice Day, No School  
 January 20—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School  
 January 27—Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 pm  
 January 29—Next edition of *A Lion's Life*!

## Lost and Found

Please check the office before Winter Break to find any lost items.



## ANSWERS

### Across

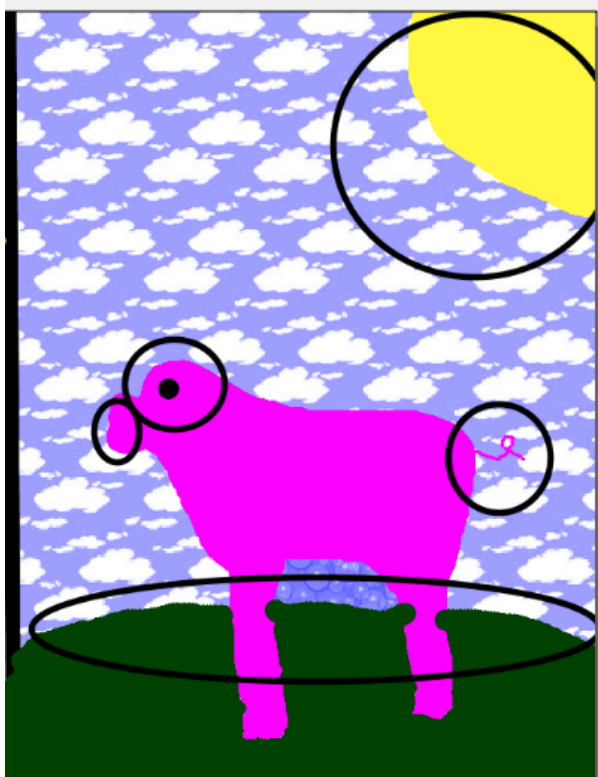
4. Holiday  
 9. Cookies  
 11. Wreath  
 13. Sled  
 15. Christmas Tree  
 17. Snow  
 18. Shovel

### Down

1. Gloves  
 2. Reindeer

3. Santa  
 5. Snowman  
 6. Pajamas  
 7. Boots  
 8. Mistletoe  
 9. Candle  
 10. Ornaments  
 12. Hot Chocolate  
 14. Presents  
 15. Candy Cane  
 16. Stockings

### Crossword Answers



## Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!  
 Email the advisors:

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 jmarek@d105.net

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## A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff



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 Ben E.  
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 Cole K.  
 Michael M.  
 Alejandra M.  
 Audrey M.  
 Joanie M.  
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 Ava P.  
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 Joseph P.  
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 Shea W.  
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