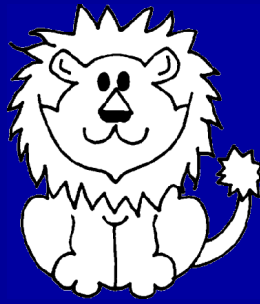


festive
cheerful and
exciting



A Lion's Life Newspaper

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

12/17/2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School News	1
Principal's Corner	2-3
Stories	4-5
Happy Holidays!	8-11
Student Survey	13
Bullying, World Health	14
Teacher Spotlight, Eminem	15
Nature News	16-17
Comic	18-19
Important Dates	20



THE GIFT OF A GOOD STORY.

Enjoy these stories from our newspaper staff.

Jerry and Jingles' Holiday Adventure

By Jeanne M. and Margaret P.

One Christmas Eve, Jerry and Jingles were helping Santa with his last presents. Then they had an idea!

"Have you ever wanted to be a part of another holiday besides our Christmas?" said Jerry.

"Yes, but where in the world?" said Jingles! "Like where?" "Mexico and

Italy?" said Jerry.

"Sure.

Lets' go!" Jingles said excitedly.

Off they went soaring in the sky.

"Where do we go first?" said Jingles.

Turn to page 6 to read more.



A Christmas Story

By Maggie B. and Maggie K.

Once upon a time there were six children, one dog, and two parents. Their names were James, Sarah, Kate, Abby, Annie, and Lily. The parents were Mary and Sam, and the dog's name was Buddy.

The whole family shared one cramped house. Their house was a one story

house and had one mini bathroom, three tiny-tiny bedrooms, one wee-bitty living room, and one puny kitchen.

It was Christmas Eve and the family and their dog were going to their grandparent's house.

Turn to page 6 to read more.



Dreams of East Ocean

By Alejandra M.

Soft, fluffy snowflakes fell down from the dark gray sky, falling on the green frozen ground. Kids rushed out preparing to make snowmen, others stayed inside sipping warm hot chocolate. Rachel Ker sat at her bedroom window gazing out her window. Her best friend had moved that summer, and Ra-

chel had never felt so lonely.

"You wait and see I'll convince my parents to move back, just wait." She had said. She still hadn't completed her plan. Yet.

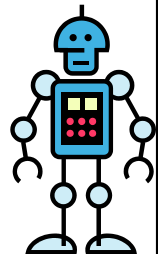
Turn to page 7 to read more.



Lego Robotics

By Olivia G., Alexa H., and Margot P.

Do you like Legos? If you do we have a club for you. It's called Lego robotics!



You can start in any grade. If you're four-eight years old, you will start by just putting things together and you have a topic on what you need to do. If you're nine and up you are going to be (if you are in Lego robotics) an intermediate - that's when it gets harder. You have to build a robot that does some stations that the robot has to do, and you have to build the stations. You can choose from 10 different stations and you only need to choose three stations.

There are four jobs: board, project, programing, and schedule. For more information go to www.ilfirst.org/fll.

There are many reasons why we like Lego robotics club. First, we get to build Legos. Next, we get to compete. Then, we get to go to different places. Finally, if you get to the last competition you go to Missouri. That's why we like Lego robotics club.

The most important part of the plan is that it is truly a continuous improvement plan. We always strive to improve and are getting better at using the tools and training around us to do so.



Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Webb

Dear Families,

The holidays are surrounding us in so many ways. Students are excited for their programs and open houses this week. Please see the calendar and join us for the Primary Program on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 and the Intermediate Program on Thursday, December 18th at 6:00. Families will see their child/children demonstrate some wonderful holiday pieces in our music program, followed by an opportunity to visit your child/children's classrooms. In the past, we've actually had to cancel one of these events due to weather, and I'm hoping this is not the case this year! I wish each and every one of you and happy, healthy, family-centered holiday!

Included in this newspaper, we are sharing the SIP plan. This is on the website in case you haven't had a chance to view it. The School Improvement Plan is the process we use to determine where we are, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there. An older version of the SIP has been available on the website, but this new one will clarify some of the most important parts - the alignment to the District Strategic Plan and the idea of how we determine our SIP and our Greatest Areas of Need (GAN). The most important part of the plan is that it is truly a continuous improvement plan. We always strive to improve and are getting better at using the tools and training around us to do so. See also the Dashboard available for a review of data, surveys and comparison schools.

Additionally, I have been sharing information about the upcoming CEC visit (January 22 and 23, 2015) where the Consortium for Educational Change is working with us to do a site visit. During this visit, parents, students, and teachers will be interviewed to talk about our school and our processes. If you wish to be a part of this process, please contact me and I will get your name on the list. We are going to be drawing names, as needed, to complete the list of parents. You will be notified if your child will be one of the students selected to be interviewed by the visitors from CEC. These CEC visitors are teachers and administrators from other districts, and the learning process is twofold. They learn from us and we learn from them! If you have questions, please contact me, and I can share details about the presentation I shared with the PTO on December 10th.

Happy Holidays! Thank you for the support and kindness you always share!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Webb

Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Webb

School Improvement Plans are based on current data, including surveys, and relevant needs that have been determined through our **District 105 Strategic Plan**. (See District website.) All schools are aligned to this plan for greater focus and careful use of resources, including professional development, technology, teacher academies (for building Common Core Standards and plans), SMART Goal training, and parent involvement. This increased transparency through our open and consistent communication is the key to success in all of these areas. Our district involves all groups of stakeholders on committees that support each of these areas.

All schools should work on increased comprehension, better problem solving, zero bullying practices, a clear writing focus, and integration throughout all subjects, as outlined in our past Action Plan. In addition to this, we are able to determine specific areas of improvement based on many data points, trends, and data analyses. Creating a School Improvement Plan through the SMART goals process has allowed us to focus on the most important needs, or **Greatest Areas of Need (GAN)**. Within this SMART goal plan, we include:

FY14 Team SMART Target	Research-based Strategies and Actions	Who is Responsible/ Target Date	Support/Professional Learning	Evidence of Effectiveness
------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------

The most important part of the School Improvement Plan is our constant reflection on our progress toward our SMART goals. Staff members revisit the plan and its components at every meeting, whether in staff meetings or during our institute days, to consider next steps and needs. The critical part of the plan is that we discuss, plan, and consider each and every child. We use daily observations, data, grouping, differentiation, consultation, and collaboration in order to keep the plans current and alive.

Along with our GAN of increasing progress of high achieving readers, we will work on the following: (in response to surveys, conversations, observations and data)

(District Strategic Plan, Long Range Goal 1)

- Increasing student involvement in setting and achieving goals in all subject areas
- Differentiating in math and reading, moving all students forward in all areas

(District Strategic Plan, Long Range Goal 2)

- Constant focus on respect throughout the building in every setting
- Helping students solve their own problems by providing strategies and support (in math, homework, project selection, planning, and peer relationships)

(District Strategic Plan, Long Range Goal 3)

- Consistent communication with parents to share their child's progress and needs

(District Strategic Plan, Long Range Goals 4 and 5)

- Collaboration with specialists at Big Team Plan meetings to align standards, plans, and strategies
- Increased knowledge and implementation of Common Core Standards

SPORTS PAGE



College Football Playoff Predictions

By Drew C. and Garrett R.

This year college football is adding playoffs. The top four teams in the nation compete in the college football playoffs. The top four teams make the playoffs mostly by beating teams ranked higher than them. The college football selection committee is the one who decides the college football rankings. The first seed and the fourth seed play in the All-state Sugar Bowl, and the second seed and the third seeds play in the Rose Bowl. We predict that the teams in the college football playoffs are Oregon, TCU, Alabama, and Florida State.

Oregon – Oregon deserves to be in the college football playoffs



because they average 46 points a game. Also, they have one of the best QB's in college football, Marcus Mariota.

TCU – TCU deserves to be in the college football playoffs because they are #3 and their record is 11-1.

Alabama – Alabama deserves to be in the college football playoffs because they just beat #1 Mississippi State, 25-20.

Florida State – Florida State deserves to be in the college football playoffs because they're undefeated (11-0).

Notre Dame Football

By Adam K.

Notre Dame Football was founded in the year of 1842. The school's main colors are green, navy blue and gold. Their mascot is a Leprechaun, but was not always the mascot, they used to be the Irish terrier dogs. Notre Dame Football is also known as the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame has won more championships than any other team in the country in the years of 1943, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1966, 1973, 1977, and 1988. The Notre Dame Football stadium has a capacity of 80,795. Currently Brian Kelly is the head coach of the Football team.

The Notre Dame football team holds the highest winning percentage among college football programs, and have 13 national championships recognized by the NCAA. This means they are tied for first most championship wins. A record seven Notre Dame Football players have won the Heisman trophy and



the program has produced an NCAA record 97 consensus All-Americans and 33 unanimous All-Americans. As of the 2014 NFL Draft, Notre Dame Football has produced and has had drafted the most NFL players of all time.

All Notre Dame Football games are televised on Notre Dame Football on NBC.

Notre Dame is the only individual school to have its own television contract. They declined an invitation to join the Big Ten Conference to join the conference, they are the only independent program to be part of the BCS coalition and is guaranteed payout. These factors help make Notre Dame Football one of the most financially valuable Football programs in the country.

Notre Dame is a good school and football team. When I grow up I want to play for Notre Dame.

Information from this article was taken from Wikipedia.org

Soccer Star: Mia Hamm

By Grace K., Meah L., and Ella R.

On March 17, 1972 Mia Hamm was born! Mia craved soccer. Her dad was an air force pilot, so she was forced to move a lot. But despite all the moving, Mia kept her love for soccer.

At the age of 15 Mia was playing on a national soccer team. Four years later, at 19 years old Mia won the World Cup with the American women's team. In 1995 Mia was named MVP of the



World Cup. At the age of 24 Mia and her teammates won the gold medal at the 1996 summer Olympics.

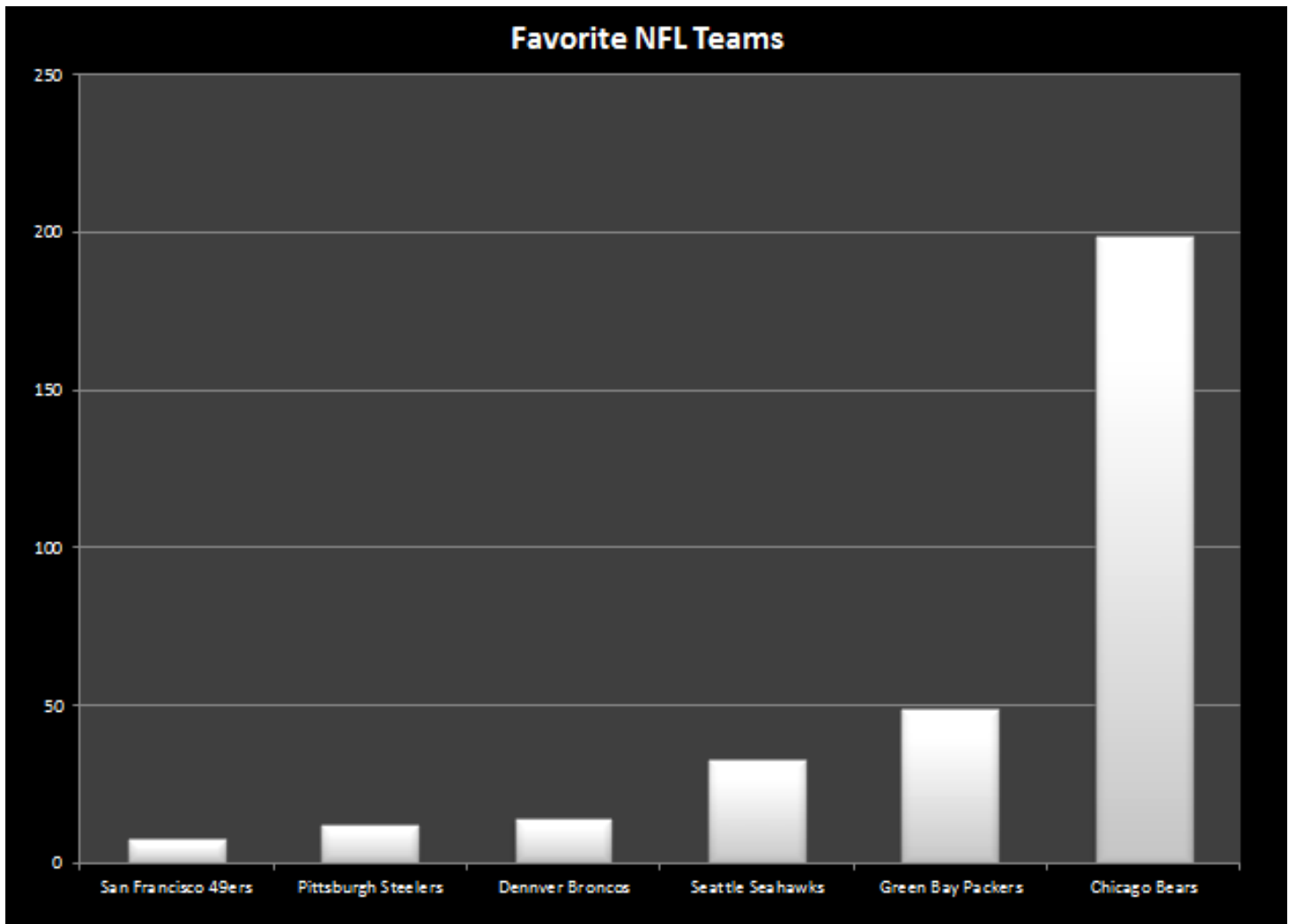
In all Mia made 108 goals for the USA women's soccer team. She was even elected USA's soccer Female Athlete of the Year four years in a row (1994-1998)! I wish I could become as good as Mia Hamm, do you?

SPORTS PAGE



Student Survey

By Emmett D. and Patrick E.



What Am I?

By Niko S.



Do you know who I am?
Turn to the last page to see if you're right!

- ? I am a Marvel super hero.
- ? My suit is red and black.
- ? I got bit by a radioactive animal.
- ? I have a lot of enemies.
- ? I am super smart.



THE GIFT OF A GOOD STORY.

Enjoy these stories from our newspaper staff.



Jerry and Jingles' Holiday Adventure

By Jeanne M. and Margaret P.

From page 1

"I've always wanted to see the leaning tower of Pisa," said Jerry.

"Then we are going to Italy! We can meet Alberto the elf," said Jingles.

"Then we can hit the tower after," said Jerry.

When the two elves arrived in Italy they saw Alberto and he told them about their Christmas celebration!

"You have Santa but we have Befana. She is an old and kind witch. Al-

so, some believe in Babbo Natle," said Alberto. "Did you know that kids dress up and reenact baby Jesus in the manger?"

The elves were very intrigued with the information they learned with Alberto, and they could not wait to see Rosa in Mexico.

When they arrived in Mexico, Rosa the elf was waiting for them on a lizard. The two scout elves went with Rosa to learn about Navidad which means Christmas in Mexico.

"Each night for nine nights, children and adults gather in a parade.

They hold small figures of baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph," said Rosa. "Did you know that each night children do a piñata?"

"Thanks for the information," said Jerry.

Then Christmas day came and the elves were full of information.

Merry Christmas!



A Christmas Story

By Maggie B. and Maggie K.

From page 1

When they finally got there, the kids said hi to everyone, and then they went to play upstairs.

About an hour later, the kids' parents looked around suspiciously then ran out the door. The kids saw this and followed them outside. They soon saw their mom and dad, and quickly but quietly followed them.

Their parents ran inside of a really big house. The kids followed them in-

side. A door slammed and they realized that they went outside the back door. After that, they heard a loud bark coming from outside the front door, they opened it up and saw their dog waiting outside! He must have followed them when they were coming to the house! They let him in and forgot that this house was brand new and the dog was completely covered in mud, the dog ran around covering the white walls, and white carpet with brown mud and snow!

Finally, their parents came

back inside, they saw the kids and dog, both completely covered in snow and muck!!! After that, the kids' parents told them this house was a Christmas present for the whole family.

The kids got in trouble for the mud, but enjoyed a nice Christmas in a new house.

Three years later... They were still living in their nice house with a new pair of twins!



Who Am I?

By Niko S.



Do you know who I am?
Turn to the last page to see if
you're right!

- ? I am an animal.
- ? I am a cartoon character.
- ? I have big ears.
- ? I live in a hole.
- ? My name starts with a B.



THE GIFT OF A GOOD STORY.

Enjoy these stories from our newspaper staff.



Dreams of East Ocean

By Alejandra M.

From page 1

Rachel's thoughts were interrupted by her mom calling her down for dinner. As Rachel walked down the stairs she crashed into her dad who was carrying a box downstairs. He grabbed the railing and managed to save the contents in the box.

"Rachel," he huffed impatiently "Watch where you're going." Rachel nodded and hurried away.

The dinner table had a turkey in the middle, and it was elegantly set as if it were Thanksgiving. Rachel's mom sat at the end of the table, and Rachel's older sister sat on her mom's right. Her little brother sat on the left in his white high-chair. Rachel took her seat next to her sister who only glanced up at her and turned back to her phone. Roxy was a moody freshman whose thoughts only consisted of cheerleading and her phone. Her brother Rex was one and a half and had recently learned how to talk. Now he was blabbering to his mom who only half listened.

"Girls, I have exiting news!" Her mom said. Roxy grunted and turned back to her phone. "Roxy put away your phone," Rachel's mom continued Roxy texted her friend another message and turned it off. Rachel sat up straighter and

turned to her mom.

"You all know that we've been squeezed for space in this small house," Her mom started. "Roxy and Rachel have shown us that they can't share a room and Rex can't keep sleeping in the family room, and your dad can't have his office in the garage."

Rachel was nearly leaping out of her chair with happiness "We're moving!" She screamed. Her mom smiled and nodded. Roxy leaped out of her chair with equal excitement but her shriek told everyone that she was not pleased.

"We're moving?" She grabbed her phone "No, no, no way!" I have to live a whole year off the cheerleading squad?"

Roxy fixed Rachel with a glare "This," she said pointing at Rachel "Is your entire fault! Ever since Maggie moved, moving is all you ever talk about!" With that she jumped up from her seat and flounced off to her room.

Rachel was bursting with happiness, "Mom," she said "Are we moving to East Ocean?" East Ocean was a town that featured huge houses, and it was the place Maggie was.

Her mom nodded again "We're moving there!" she said.

"We're moving there?" Rachel asked looking at the old gray house that was huge but gloomy. Her mom nodded.

Rachel pressed her cheek up against the window and Roxy burst into tears for the fifth time that day and whipped out her phone.

"Ugh I'm calling my friend!" Roxy said, and Rachel for once, wished she had a cell phone too.

Rachel's mom dangled the keys to the house right in Rachel's face. "It may look bad on the outside but it's pretty on the inside."

Rachel's mom was right, it was pretty on the inside. Plush white carpet covered the first floor and pretty light blue paint covered the walls. Rachel's room had wooden floors and light purple walls. A bed was made out of the window seat, and her whole room looked like a dream. Rachel ran over to the bed and sat on it.

Her mom walked over to Rachel and smiled "You should get some sleep tomorrow you have your first day at your new school."

Rachel smiled. Tomorrow she would see her best friend Maggie, and with that thought, she curled up and fell asleep.

Border Collie Rescue

By Grant S.

Have you imagined what it feels like to be a dog? If you are looking for a dog, you are reading the right thing. Mid-West Border Collie Rescue is a rescue organization for dogs. You may wonder, what is a Border Collie? A Border Collie is a type of dog breed from England. It gets its name because they were found in between the border of Scotland and England. And that's how the Border Collie earned its name. Border Collies are the world's smartest dogs. The Border Collie

was mostly a working farm dog. It's job was herding sheep. It was good at herding sheep because it gives the Border Collie something to do. Border Collies won many dog shows too because they listen to their owners.

If you are looking for a Border Collie, go to mwbc.org to find out more.

I have rescued two Border Collies named Roy and Sheba, and it is a fun experience, and I enjoy it too.

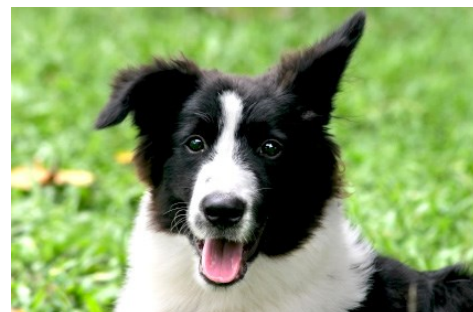


Image Source:

<http://wooftown.com/breeds/border-collie/>



HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPRING AVENUE!



Christmas Gifts Quiz

By Ava M. and Lindsey P.

Do you want to give a gift to your friend but you have no idea what? Take this quiz to find out!

1. How does your friend usually spend Friday nights?

- a. At a party
- b. Doing homework
- c. Sleeping
- d. Playing sports
- e. None of the above or I don't know

2. What is their favorite color?

- a. Rainbow
- b. Black
- c. Pink
- d. White
- e. None of the above or I don't know

3. Are they an organized person?

- a. Of course not!
- b. Of course!
- c. Pretty organized
- d. I think she/he is organized
- e. None of the above or I don't know

4. What is their favorite subject?

- a. Art
- b. All of the subjects!
- c. Math
- d. Gym
- e. None of the above or I don't know

5. What is their favorite after school activity?

- a. Shopping
- b. Study or homework
- c. Take a nap
- d. Go on a jog
- e. None of the above or I don't know

6. What is their favorite sport?

- a. Volleyball
- b. Board Games
- c. They don't like sports much
- d. All sports
- e. None of the above or I don't know

7. What is their favorite genre?

- a. Magazines
- b. Nonfiction
- c. Comics
- d. Realistic fiction
- e. None of the above or I don't know

8. Why are you friends?

- a. He / she is funny
- b. He / she is nice
- c. We are both lazy
- d. We both love sports
- e. None of the above or I don't know

9. What movies do they like?

- a. Chick-flicks
- b. Educational
- c. Funny
- d. Scary
- e. None of the above or I don't know

10. How many siblings do they have?

- a. 4
- b. 2
- c. 1
- d. 3
- e. None of the above or I don't know

RESULTS:

MOSTLY A'S

Your friend is a party animal! They would love to receive a craft or a gift card to their favorite store.

MOSTLY B'S

Your friend loves learning. You should get your friend a book!

MOSTLY C'S

Get your friend anything soft or fuzzy!

MOSTLY D'S

Get them something to do with their favorite sport!

MOSTLY E'S

If most of your answers were I don't know, find out more about your friend before taking this quiz again. If most of your answers were none of the above, your friend is very unique! You should get them or make them something that matches their personality.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPRING AVENUE!



Christmas Mad Libs

By Michael S. and Aidan W.

This year my brother _____ and I got an elf on the shelf, we named
 him _____. We also got a jar of _____ that were very _____. If I had got-
 ten that new game system, I would've been so _____! But my mom said "_____!"
 We begged and begged for a puppy, but our parents said "_____” for the millionth
 time. We were so _____! So, on Christmas Eve, when our parents were asleep,
 we _____ out of the house to the dog pound. We got a dog that was about _____ pounds
 and was the color of _____. So when our parents _____ on Christmas morning, they
 woke up to a(n) _____ surprise...a dog, in the living room.
 Our parents were so _____ at us. They _____ loudly at us. And that was our
 awesome Christmas.

How to Make an Ornament

By Grace K., Meah L., and Lilly M.

Materials:

Old ornament
 Brown Paint
 Black and red Sharpie
 Green / blue paint

Step 1) Paint your old orna-
 ment green or blue. Then let
 it dry for three hours.

Step 2) Dip your thumb into your brown paint then softly press
 it on the ornament.

Step 3) With your black sharpie draw eyes and antlers.

Step 4) With your red sharpie draw a nose.



Who am I?

By Grace K., Meah L., and Lilly M.

Do you know who I am?
 Turn to the last page to see if
 you're right!



- ? I have a white beard.
- ? I love cookies and milk.
- ? I have tiny workers.
- ? I leave things under your tree.
- ? I have 10 magical pets who pull a sled.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPRING AVENUE!



Teachers' Winter Break Plans

By Sophie P. and Ella R.

Mrs. Faldani - Watch movies

Ms. Charlton - Play with friends

Ms. Marek - READ!

Miss Dickerson - See family

Miss Halfpenny - Relax

Mrs. Caylor- Read

Ms. Parrino - Travel with friends and family

Mrs. Richardson - Reading with hot cocoa

Mrs. Daly – See family and friends

Ms. McGinnis - Hang out with friends

Mrs. Dalhin - Skiing

Miss Melone - Go to the movies

Mrs. Haymes - Spend time with her daughters

Ms. Eck - Travel

Mrs. Walsh - Playing in the snow

Ms. Folliard - Read, Cook, Exercise

Mrs. Demer - Spend time with family and friends

Ms. Johnson - Read

Ms. Wanta – Read and hang out with friends

Mrs. Blazek - Spending time with family

Mrs. Wieland - Sledding and having hot chocolate after

Mrs. Wiegand - Hanging out with family

Mrs. Tracy - Read

Mrs. Manganello - Baking with her kids

Mrs. Podgorski - Baking cookies

Mrs. Bernson - Board games

Mrs. Mindy - Going to the waterpark

Ms. Kim - Sledding

Mrs. Webb - Being with family

Mr. Meyers - Sleeping in

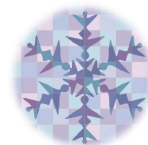
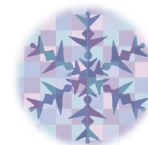
Mrs. Jones - Shopping

Mrs. Kay - Going to see family

Mr. Arneson - Skiing

Mr. Jim - Practicing music

Ms. Weaver - Relaxing with family and friends



Weird Animals You Didn't Know Of

By Michael M.



The Kiwaidae also known as the Yeti Crab, because of its hair, is a decapod (another name for a scavenger that lives deep in the ocean). This crab mostly lives in the deep sea in cold seeps, deep places at the bottom of the ocean. The Kiwaidae was originally found in 2005. Also this crab was known to be living more than 12 million years ago. These animals typically feast on bacteria.



The Atheris, otherwise known as the bush viper, lives in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sadly these animals are suffering because they are endangered. These animals feast on lizards, birds, and other small rodents. These animals should be avoided because of their venomous bites which could lead to blood clots and possibly death!



The Grimpoteuthis, otherwise known as the Dumbo Octopus, lives deep underwater just off the coast of Oregon, and the Philippines. These fish live in the deep depths of the Pacific Ocean. These animals eat pelagic copepods, isopods, and more. The largest ever recorded Grimpoteuthis was 5ft. 9 inches, although the average length is 20 to 30 centimeters. So this animal isn't that big.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPRING AVENUE!



Delicious Desserts

By Jade B. and Emme M.

Banana Bread Recipe

Preheat oven to 375 degrees, Mix,
Bake for 1 hour



Ingredients:

2-3 very ripe bananas peeled
1/3 cup of melted butter
1 cup of sugar (can use ¾ cup or ½ cup if you want it less sweet)
1 egg beaten
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
1 teaspoon baking spoon
Pinch of salt
1 ½ cups of all- purpose flour

Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

Preheat to 350
Bake for 8-12 minutes



Ingredients:

2 ¼ cups of all- purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
½ cup granulated sugar
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
2 cups (about 12 ounces) semi sweet and/or milk chocolate chips
2 large eggs

Directions:

- In a bowl whisk together flour and baking soda, set aside
- With electric mixer combine the butter with both sugars, beat on medium speed until light and fluffy
- Reduce speed to low and add the salt, vanilla, and eggs
- Beat until well mixed about 1 minute
- Add flour mixture
- Mix until just combined
- Stir in chocolate chips
- Put cookie dough balls about 2 inches

apart on baking sheets lined with parchment paper

- Bake until cookies are golden around the edges but still soft in the middle 8-12 minutes
- Remove from oven and let cool on baking sheet

Homemade Quick and Easy Acorn Recipe

Ingredients:

Frosting or Nutella (add powdered sugar for thickness)
Wafers, like mini Nutter Butters
Mini chocolate chips
Hershey kisses



Directions:

Put frosting on both sides of wafer
Stick mini chocolate chip on top
Put Hershey kiss on bottom

Brownies Recipe

Preheat to 300 degrees
Cook for 45 minutes



Ingredients:

4 eggs
1 cup sugar sifted
1 cup brown sugar sifted
8 ounces melted butter
1 ¼ cocoa sifted
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
½ a cup flour sifted
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Directions:

- In a mixer beat eggs until light and fluffy
- Add all remaining ingredients left
- Mix together well and pout into greased pan

Christmastime Mythology

By Brandon H.

A Christmas connection:

A book written in the 1800s suggests the Nisse gave gifts at Christmas. This idea grew in popularity and gave rise to a term known as jultomten. These Nisse visited homes every Christmas to give presents to children.

Important figures:

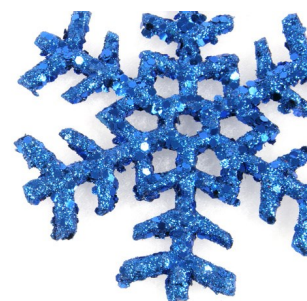
Achilles: when he was born, his mom dipped his whole body in the river thought to provide immortality, except for his heel. When he got older, he became a brave and famous hero. Sadly, he was killed in the Trojan War with an arrow to his heel.

Finn MacCool was a hero of the Irish people, he formed a band of warriors into the ultimate fighting force to defend Ireland from invaders.

Theseus was a Greek hero who slayed the Minotaur in the labyrinth.

Zeus is the Greek king of gods. He is the husband of Hera the goddess of marriage. He is also the son of the titans Cronus and Rhea. Lastly, he is god of the skies.

Centaur are savage forest creatures that are half man half horse.



Spot the Six Differences!

By Carter H.



Check the last page for the answers!

What Am I?

By Niko S.

Do you know who I am?
Turn to the last page to see if you're
right!

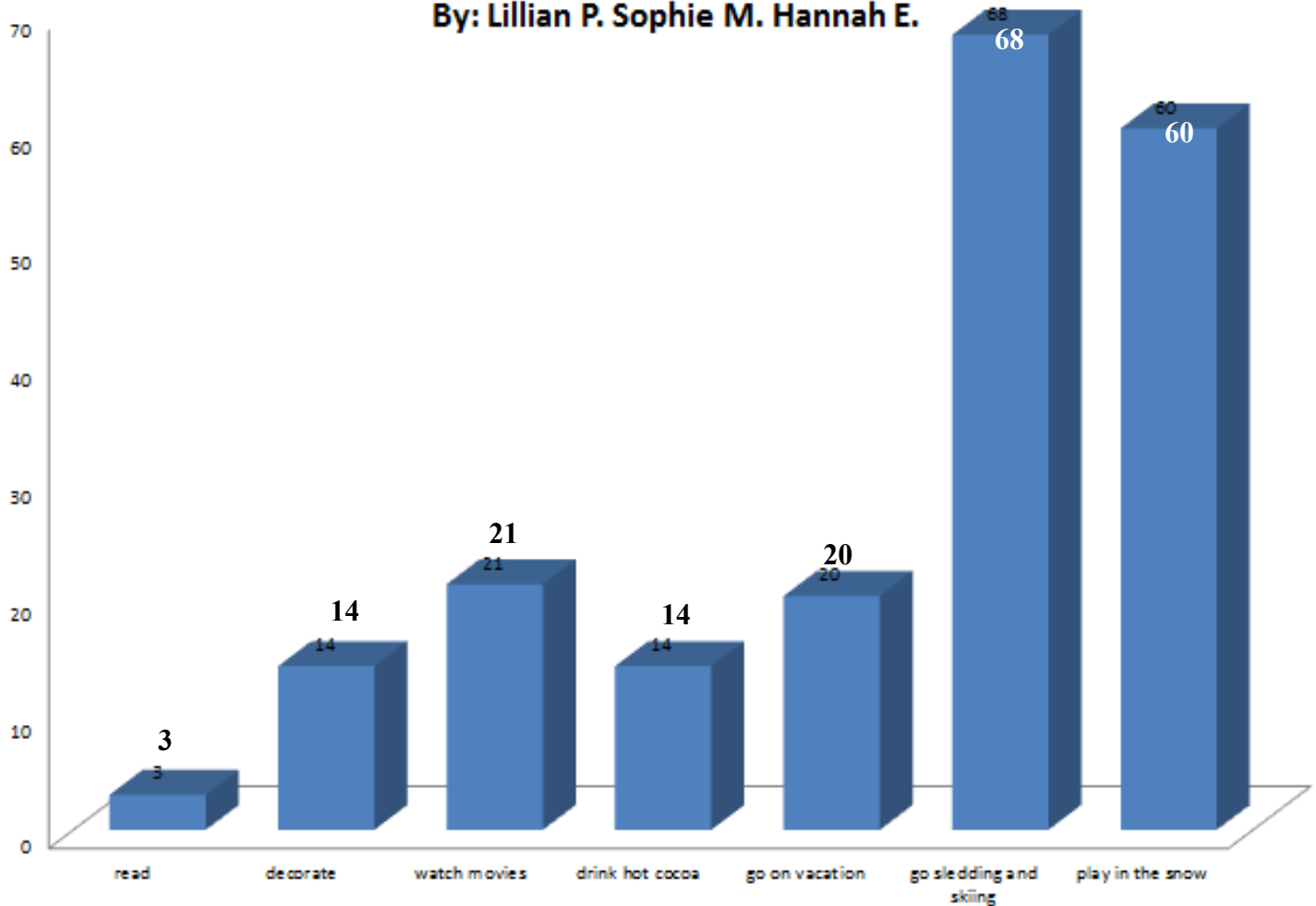


- ? I am famous.
- ? I am well known for Apollo missions.
- ? I am an astronaut.
- ? I am the first person to walk on the moon.
- ? My first name starts with the letter N.

Student Survey

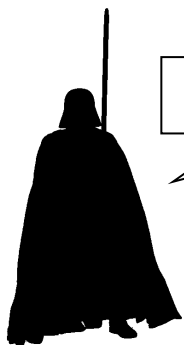
What is your Favorite Thing to do over Winter Break Results

By: Lillian P. Sophie M. Hannah E.



Who Am I?

By Niko S.

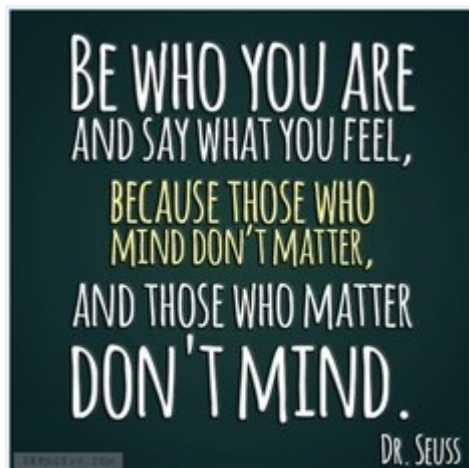


Do you know who I am?
Turn to the last page to see if you're right!

- ? I am from Star Wars.
- ? I am a villain.
- ? I can't breathe without gas tank.
- ? I have a red light saber.
- ? My name starts with a D.

Bullying Is Not Cool

By Shea W.



<http://www.quotesvalley.com/quotes/friendship/page/196/>

You have probably heard Mrs. Webb say “bullying is not cool,” but have you really thought about that? Bullying is a horrible action filling up many schools with hurt feelings and in some cases hurt bodies. We have all heard about bubble space, and at first we think it’s no big deal and then bullying comes in. Entering someone’s space, without permission can cause people to be annoyed.

As we get into the snowy time of year, that big pile of snow by the field has people on it 24/7, but I know for a fact that the older grades, such as 3rd and up, may begin to push people off the pile. I’m not saying everyone is doing this, but some people are. Another issue is that out on the field, students are destroying other peoples’ creations, and it isn’t nice when those giant balls of snow that we pack together are wrecked. We don’t feel that good because we worked really hard, and

hearing someone say something like “I was just kidding” doesn’t make up for it.

Apologize sincerely and think about how you would feel the other way around. Whatever you do, don’t apologize when you’re not ready because you don’t mean it, and that’s just as bad as not apologizing at all. You can stop all this, and you may think it’s hard to stop bullying, but it’s not.

This quote ties into my paper because it’s almost a summary of what I’ve been saying all along.

“BE WHO YOU ARE AND SAY WHAT YOU FEEL BECAUSE THOSE WHO MIND DON’T MATTER AND THOSE WHO MATTER DON’T MIND.” by Dr. Suess.

Stop bullying because someone has to do it, and if we all team up we can beat this.

World Health Update: Ebola Virus

By Ava P. and Joanie M.

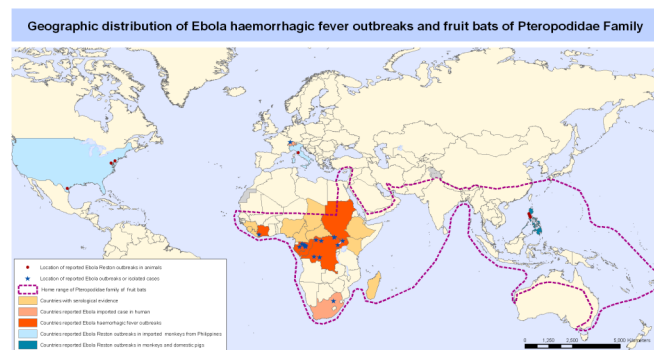
Ebola is a very deadly, rare, and life threatening virus that has spread across parts of the world. It has affected many countries like Spain, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, D.R. Congo, and the United States. Only a few people were infected in the United States, but are now cured. The only US cities that had cases of it were Dallas, Texas and New York City, New York

If you are worried about getting this disease, don’t be, because it is not in the United States anymore, and because you have to get blood or body fluid in or on you from someone who has Ebola.

Scientists are searching like crazy for a cure. Just for safety reasons, we should always

- Wash our hands
- Keep our hands out of our mouths
- Don’t share water bottles or anything you have put your mouth on
- Use hand sanitizer more often

For more information visit this website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html>



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: Global Alert and Response Department
World Health Organization
Map Production: World Health Information
and Geographic Information Systems (WHIS)
World Health Organization

© WHO 2009. All rights reserved.

<http://motherboard.vice.com/blog/the-ebola-virus-kills-60-in>

Mark Your Calendars!

READERS

ARE

WINNERS

Family Battle of the Books Literacy Night

February 26,
2015

Teacher Spotlight

Ms. Johnson, 6th Grade Teacher

By Selma B., Stella C., and Olivia M.

Ms. Johnson is an extraordinary 6th grade teacher. She encountered a challenge that she has faced involving a life changing swimming injury.

Splash! I jumped in the water and started my 400 IM. Suddenly, my shoulder started to throb and ache. I pushed with my legs and closed my eyes and before I knew it I was at the end of the pool. When I slid out of the water, I felt some pain in the back of my shoulder. I wanted to pursue my dreams so I decided to not tell anyone. Three days later, I finally told my coach, Patty Redig but it was too late, my painful shoulder stopped moving. Patty let me do some easier practices so I could still swim with my horrid shoulder. It was a challenge to swim without my shoulder's help.

Three years later my sister broke the news to me that my best friend thought I was faking my injury to get easier practice. That broke my heart but I would rather be forgiving than angry all the time. So, I worked twice as hard to show my best friend that I was not faking, and I was doing the best I could. I wanted to keep swimming so, at 17 I swam in state with an injured shoulder and forgot about my past and did my best. I was extremely nervous at first but when I found out where I placed, I was very proud. I placed 4th overall. When I got older and my other shoulder started to throb, I went to the doctor and found out that because of my

right shoulder's injury my left shoulder had tendonitis and bursitis. My doctor explained to me that if I continued swimming, I would not be able to carry any of my children, if I ever had any. I knew what I had to do.....I quit my swimming career.

Two years later my shoulder was getting better so I've been attempting to swim ever since.....

Interview Questions

Do you have any pets?

A cat named Cookie and dog named Chloe.

Do you have any siblings?

A sister named Sarah- She made Ms. Johnson go zip lining even though Ms. Johnson is afraid of heights.

Do you have any superpowers?

She can predict the weather because of her shoulder injury. When it hurts badly storms occur.

Do you have a boyfriend?

Pete. AKA fireman Pete. Age 24.

How old are you?

23 years old.

What's your favorite color?

Green.



Photo taken by Stella C.

What is your favorite animal?
Polar Bear

What is your favorite movie?
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (3rd movie of the Narnia series)

What's your favorite song?
Sound of Music soundtrack.

What is your favorite book?
Picture book = Jessica
Novel when young = Ella Enchanted
Novel currently = Harriet the Spy

Who's your favorite author?
Meg Cabot.

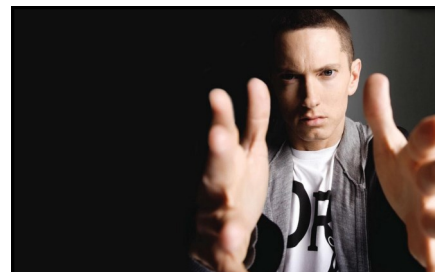
Eminem

By Roland C.

Eminem is a good rapper but he started his life and career with some challenges. A lot of music was hateful and angry. Eminem's music changed when he was in his mid-20s. People loved the big

time rapper! He won two Grammy awards in 2000. He lives in suburban Detroit, Michigan in a HUGE mansion!

My favorite song he wrote and performed is "Lose Yourself." It has a life lesson in it. His songs are explosive with lyrics and rhythm. Many believe he is on the list of top ten best rappers.



<http://rappingmanual.com/how-to-rap-like-eminem/>



Why are Monarch Butterflies Disappearing?

By: Zoe C. and Audrey H.

Did you know that monarch butterflies are disappearing? Fewer milkweed plants, deforestation, and severe climate change are some reasons for their disappearance.

Milkweed is very important to butterflies because it gives them a place to lay their eggs and gives the caterpillars food when they hatch. Fewer milkweed plants means more Monarch butterflies will die. An example of why there are fewer milkweed plants is because when farmers put herbicide-based pesticides on their crops, they kill the entire milkweed population there.

Deforestation is another problem for Monarch butterflies. If there is deforestation in Mexico, the monarch butterflies don't have anywhere to land and rest for the winter. Butterflies migrate because when it gets cold where they are they must travel south to a warmer place. If the monarch butterflies can't travel to this place in time, they will die.

Climate change is another reason why the monarch butterflies are disappearing. Climate change means changes to long term patterns of temperature, wind and precipitation. This has a big effect on monarch butterflies because during their migration journey there can be unexpected weather changes or the timing of seasons might change. When the weather is cold and suddenly unsea-



Image Source: goodmorninggloucester.wordpress.com

sonably warm for a few days the flowers think it is warm and time to open. The next day it turns cold again and the flowers die. Flowers are food to butterflies on their migration journey, so without flowers the butterflies would die. Also, climate

change can cause big snowstorms and the monarch butterflies freeze in the cold.

To save the monarch butterflies there is a lot you can do to help. You can plant native flowers. This will help the butterflies find food. One native flower you could plant is the butterfly bush. If you plant this, you may see butterflies for yourself. You could also plant milkweed to feed caterpillars. You can even plant a butterfly garden!

Did you know we have milkweed in front of our school and native flowers in our school garden? You can also help monarch butterflies by preventing deforestation. You can buy products made from recycled paper, wood that comes from well-managed forests (which means when they cut down a tree they plant a new one), and even use the back of a piece of paper.

Finally, you can prevent climate change by using less energy, like turning off the lights or walking to school instead of driving. There is so much you can do to help save the monarch butterflies.

World's Largest Ocean Reserve

By Sammy K.

Hooray nature! The date is September 25, 2014, and President Barack Obama has just created the world's largest ocean reserve. It protects an area in the Pacific Ocean. The area is about twice the size of Texas. The reserve limits commercial fishing, deep sea mining, and drilling. He decided to create the reserve to make sure our generation uses the ocean to serve us the same ways it served past generations.



The reserve is home to over 130 underwater mountains and seamounts. Usually most undiscovered species are often found close to seamounts. So, because of that there may be new species in the reserve. Also, the reserve is home to many coral reefs and a large amount of marine life.

This wonderful idea will hopefully provide us with many survival needs, some beautiful nature, and new species for many generations to come.

Mallard Ducks

By Lilly R.



www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar340340

Mallard ducks are one of the most common wild ducks. This duck lives in shallow ponds and wetlands. These ducks can be found in parks and public ponds.

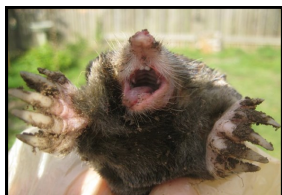
Mallard ducks usually grow 20 to 28 inches long. They have a white ring around their neck. They also have a chestnut colored breast. Their tail feathers are black. Males are brightly colored. Female are more dull looking with brown feathers.

Females lay 8 – 12 eggs in spring. They eat seeds and plants for most of the year.

Moles

By Leo W.

Moles are strange creatures that not many people think of or know much about. Moles



are small mammals that have adapted to a subterranean life. A mole's life span can be as long as six years. Their tails are about three cm long. Moles are omnivores which means that they eat both plants and animals. The mole is common to see in the UK. Moles mostly eat earthworms because they spend so much time in the ground. Another fact about moles is that they are considered as pests. Moles have to store about a hundred earthworms to get them through the winter.

Fun facts about Moles:

- Moles are eaten at many places, but their meat is not tasteful.
- Moles have very small eyes but their sight doesn't really matter because they spend most of their time in the dark.
- Moles often become prey of reptiles, mammals, and birds while crawling on the ground.
- The biggest moles are the western moles of North America which can reach up to 9 inches.

Wood Thrush

By Lilly R.



animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/wood-thrush/

The wood thrush is a medium sized bird that lives in forests and woodlands. They feed on worms and insects. This bird is recognized for

its well flowing song. They mate, then lay egg towards winter. They make their nests with plant fibers and rootlets. Then they strengthen it with mud. They can be reddish-brown or grey. Their beak and feet can also be brightly colored.



Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

By: Gabby L.



Deforestation is a big concern. Since 1978 the rainforest has been in trouble. 750,000 square kilometers of the beautiful Amazon Rainforest are GONE!!! WE have been doing this across Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana. This is destroying the home of more than 10 MILLION species of animals, plants, and insects. Do you want this beautiful rainforest to disappear?

People are debating to keep the

Amazon or destroy it. Here are three reasons to destroy it. The world's population is increasing and people need wood for homes. Another is people get money for rainforest wood. The last is people need room to build houses. Here are three reasons to KEEP the rainforest! Animal species will die without the shelter and the fruit the trees provide them. An-

other is indigenous people will lose their homes. The last one is the loss of trees makes the air temperature rise.

Here are some fun, easy ways YOU can save the rainforest: have a fundraiser to raise money for the rainforest, use less paper and use both sides of paper, and ask your parents to buy products that are grown in a sustainable way.

For more ideas go to:
www.rainforest-alliance.org/education/documents/kids_easy_ways.pdf.

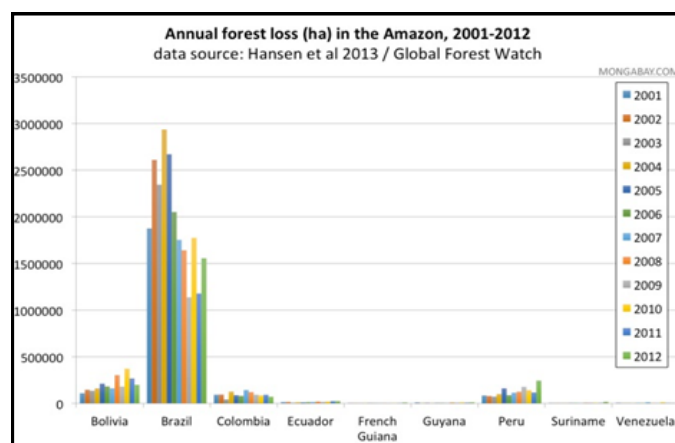


Image Source: <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/>

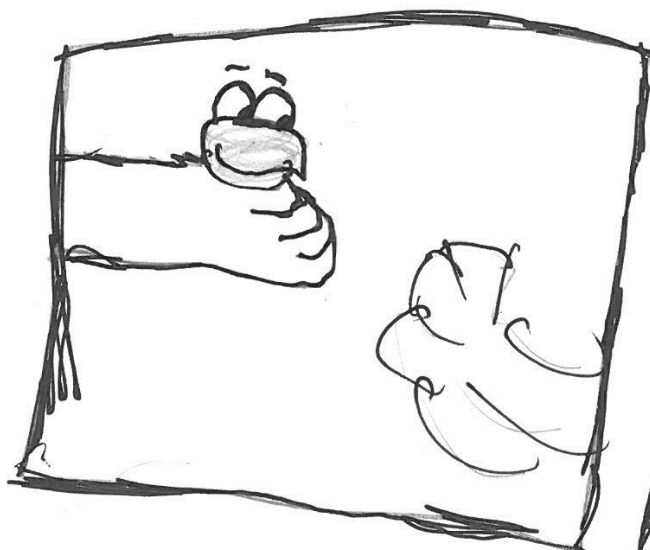
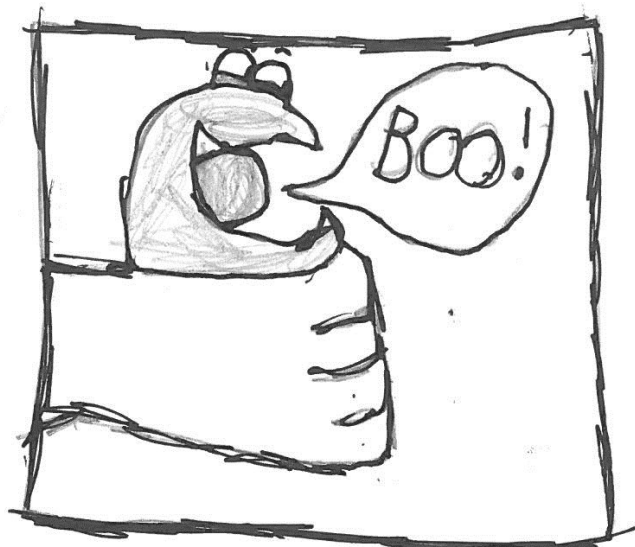
FRED and Ally!

By: Cam R.



I want you to meet Rocky.

Fred...you do realize that's a rock?



Why did she run?



Who Am I Answers:



PAGE 5: Spiderman



PAGE 6: Bugs Bunny



PAGE 9: Santa Claus



PAGE 12: Neil
Armstrong



PAGE 13: Darth Vader

Important Dates

December 18 — Intermediate Holiday Concert
and Open House, 6:00-7:30

December 19 — Holiday Parties

December 22-January 2 — Winter Break

January 5 — Classes Resume, After 3 classes begin

January 12-30 — Winter Assessment Window

January 14 — Half Day, 11:45 dismissal

January 16 — Spring Ave Battle of the Books

January 19 — MLK Day, No School

January 22-23 — CEC Visit

January 30 — PTO Flying High Night, 7:00-10:00pm

February 6 — District Inservice Day, No School

February 10, 12 — Parent Teacher Conferences,
2:00 Early Dismissal

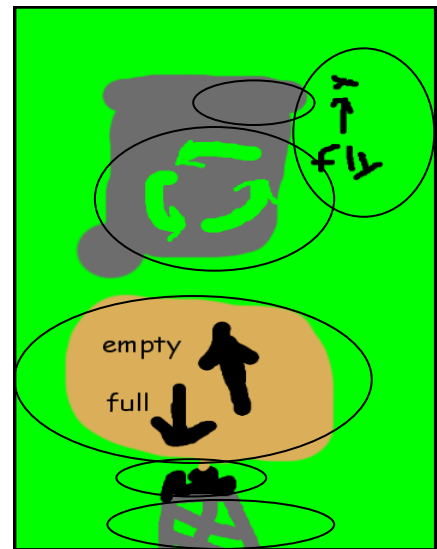
February 11 — PTO Meeting, 8:45am

February 13 — District Battle of the Books

February 16 — Presidents' Day, No School

February 26 — Family Literacy Night: Readers are Winners

Spot The Difference Answer:



A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff

Jade B.
Maggie B.
Selma B.
Drew C.
Zoe C.
Roland C.
Stella C.
Emma C.
Emmett D.
Patrick E.
Hannah E.
Charlie F.

Olivia G.
Carter H.
Alexa H.
Brandon H.
Audrey H.
Grace K.
Maggie K.
Sammy K.
Adam K.
Meah L.
Gabriella L.
Joanie M.

Jeanne M.
Emme M.
Olivia M.
Alejandra M.
David M.
Lilly M.
Sophie M.
Ava M.
Margaret P.
Ava P.
Lindsey P.
Sophie P.

Margo P.
Lillian P.
Lilly R.
Garrett R.
Cano R.
Ella R.
Michael S.
Niko S.
Grant S.
Leo W.
Shea W.
Aidan W.

Advisors:

Ms. Marek
jmarek@d105.net

Ms. Charlton
echarlton@d105.net

Mrs. Faldani
vfaldani@d105.net