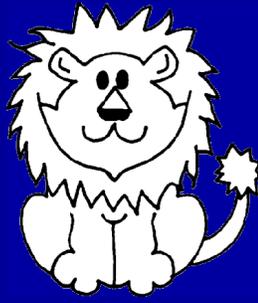


Individuality
distinctive
character, unique



A Lion's Life

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

3 / 2 5 / 2 0 1 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School News	1
Principal's Corner	2
Easter Seals, Book Review	3
Stay Healthy, Fun Fair, Who Am I?, Zoom, Zoom, Zoom	4
Student Surveys	5
Cooking Cor- ner, Cool Ani- mals, Spruce Goose	6
Spring Break Fun, History of Elephants, Linkin Park	7
Bracketology, Hedgehogs	8
Craft Corner, New Students	9
Important Dates, Lost and Found, Answers	10



Battle of the Books Encourages Reading

By Olivia B. and Katie W.

All over the state people have been reading the *Bluestem* and *Caudill* books. On April 13th, 5th-8th graders from District 105 will battle it out at the LaGrange Public Library! They were put onto teams at the Meet and Greet on March 7th. Kids from all 5 schools were randomly grouped by the books they read off four different lists. However, students could choose to read books with a partner and would most likely end up on the same team.

Teams will get a chance to meet their team and talk about the books they've read. When they get to the actual Battle, the teams will race against the clock to correctly answer as many questions about the books as they can. Teams get one point for answering the title of the book correctly, and an extra point if they know the author's name. This is an optional thing that children may choose to do only if interested. Last year Spring had about 8 kids par-

ticipate and this year Spring has 14 students joining the 50 other kids from the district.

We interviewed a few kids that went to the Meet and Greet a few weeks back. Danielle N. and Rowan C. (5th graders) said "We had a great time especially getting to meet and make friends with kids from other schools. We can't wait for the real Battle!" Jovita B (6th grade) also enjoyed meeting new friends and discussing the books that they've read.

Coming Soon: *The Music Man!*

By Jovita B. and Joanna Z.

The Music Man is a Broadway musical by Meredith Wilson. It's about a con artist named Harold Hill who poses as a boys' band organizer and leader. His plan is to sell band supplies to the inexperienced townspeople of River City, Iowa and then cheating them of their money. In the end he finds himself in love with Marian the librarian.

The Music Man has a long history. It became a hit on Broadway in 1957. It also won 5 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Since it was so profoundly

popular, *The Music Man* was adapted into a film in 1962, and a television remake in 2003.

All characters grow immensely throughout the play. They go from stubborn Iowans to a caring community. The one that expands the most during the musical is probably Marian, who finds her new self through her love of Professor Hill. As Professor Hill finds that what he thought was fake, as he cheated the townspeople of their money, ended up being true. Most of these feelings are confessed during the song "Till There Was You."

In conclusion, *The Music Man* is a touching story about true love and acceptance, and will be viewed by audiences and families for much longer to come. We suggest that you come and see the production of this musical that district 105 is doing on May, 18th and 19th.





Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



*I'd like to address a few loose items in which you may be interested: **Assessment Talk in April at the PTO meeting, Construction Thoughts, Planning for Next Year and Summer School Updates.***



In my Principal's corner, I'd like to address a few loose items in which you may be interested: **Assessment Talk in April** at the PTO meeting, **Construction Thoughts, Planning for Next Year** and **Summer School Updates**. Read on and feel free to contact me for any details or discussion points.

ASSESSMENT TALK: Come join us at the April 13th PTO meeting (new time is 8:40 a.m.) to learn more about overall assessments in District 105. We will review what assessments we use in this district and how they are used to help students best. We will talk about the differences between assessments and how we use different components to drive instruction. ALL are welcome. A PowerPoint will be provided on our website if you cannot attend.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: The Safety Assembly was very informative, and the students were shown what our building will look like when we reopen in the fall. Please find the PowerPoint from this assembly on our website. In the meantime, here are some reminders and answers to some of the students' questions: *(Their reactions to some of the drawings and slides were priceless!)*

- Our playground will be

- open for as long as possible, even for part or all of this summer.
- Our student bathrooms will be updated with new sinks, toilets, and a few other spruce ups! (This received a BIG cheer!)
- Our gym will get a fresh coat of paint and a good cleaning. (The floor finish will most likely be addressed during one of the holiday breaks.)
- All signs will be posted and all students must follow the directions on the signs on the fencing, even if a ball goes astray over the summer. (In other words, Keep Out means Keep Out, no matter what.)

There will be other details that will add to the overall work from this construction project and these items have been identified throughout the bidding process. Please see updates on the website.

SUMMER SCHOOL CHANGES: Our summer school program has received a complete overhaul as the district has been researching ways to improve this program and reduce regression from the summer break. Please see the flyer and website for specific dates and times of the new and improved program. If you child is recommended for summer school, please make every effort to join this very important pro-

gram. The dates are closer to the opening of the new year, rather than follow up of our current year. (July 18-August 11th)

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR: As you may know, Spring Avenue staff places a lot of care and planning into the groupings of students for each school year. We use what we know, what we have learned and observed, data, and other important information to compile preliminary class lists. Parents have a chance to share their thoughts about how their child learns and peers that may work well to help their child in a learning situation. Please look for the Student Profile sheet (to be attached to the website) for you to put your thoughts about your child. Each form is handled confidentially and considered carefully as we group students. Since ALL teachers are excellent educators and are amazing teams, we ask that you not request specific teachers in this process, but your opinions and observations of how your child learns are very important to us.

As always, it is an honor to work and play at Spring Avenue School, and I thank you for your sincere dedication to helping us be our best!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Webb Peterman

Easter Seals Provides Place for Learning and Fun

By Devon W.

You know how spring is such a merry time? All the running around, swimming, and skipping among the flowers. Well during that time, have you ever thought of the people who can't do those things? Or at least can't do them as easily as you. Yes, people like that are out there. In fact, there are millions of them. Some with disabilities more severe than others. The smiling young lady pictured here is Amy Liss. Because she had a stroke before she was born, Amy now has a form of cerebral palsy and is unable to use her legs. Cerebral palsy is a condition caused by injury to the parts of the brain that control our ability to use our muscles and bodies. Cerebral means having to do with the brain. Palsy means weakness or problems with using the muscles. Often the injury happens before birth, sometimes during delivery, or soon after being born. Cerebral palsy does not get worse over time.

Cerebral palsy can range from mild to severe. Those with a mild form of the condition can walk, but may have a limp or may need a special leg brace or a cane. A person with moderate or severe injuries may have to use a wheelchair and other special equipment. Cerebral palsy occurs in about 2 out of every 1,000 babies born. There are several organizations that have been formed to help people who have these, or other disabilities.

One of these organizations, National Easter Seals, was first formed in 1919 by a man named Edgar F. Allen. Edgar originally created Easter Seals as the National Society for Crippled Children. Easter Seals now serves thousands of people with disabilities. People of all ages, all sizes, all shapes, and all different problems, can always go to Easter Seals for help. Both Amy and her twin sister Kelly work at Easter Seals DuPage and the Fox Valley Region in Villa Park.

I interviewed my friend Amy about Easter Seals, and here is what she said. She is 28 years old and has been going to Easter Seals since she was 5 months old! That is a long time. She was born three months early and because of that early birth, her brain was damaged. She cannot sit, stand, run, walk, or feed herself without help because her muscles cannot properly work.



From left, Kelly and Amy at an Easter Seals event.

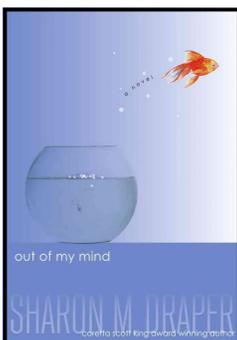
Easter Seals is helping her become more independent every day. With Easter Seals, she has become able to walk with a walker! Though it may seem little to you, it is a huge accomplishment for her. She loves Easter Seals because she said "I wouldn't be who I am today without Easter Seals." Amy's twin sister, Kelly, said, "Having a sister with disabilities is the same as having one without. You just have to learn to do some things differently."

Kelly works as a special events manager at Easter Seals. That means she helps plan and design fundraisers for Easter Seals. Kelly also said that her job can sometimes be a little stressful, but very fun because she works with great people and for a great cause.

See now what Easter Seals does for people! If you want to learn more about this wonderful place, go online to eastersealsdfvr.org.

Book Review: Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

By Olivia B.



I have recently read the book Out of my Mind by Sharon M. Draper. This book is the story of eleven year old Melody, who has a photographic memory. She's the smartest one in her class, but no one knows it. Almost everyone just assumes that she isn't capable of learning anything. Pretty much only her family truly believes in her. She has been learning the same

things for years in school. If only Melody could tell everyone what she's thinking.

Melody can't write, she can't talk, and she can't walk because she was born with cerebral palsy. That is until she discovers something to fix that problem. Now that she has a way of communicating, will her voice be heard? Or will they all just continue thinking she's some no-brained, different person in a wheel chair? This is a truly amazing book that you don't want to miss, because it tells the story of a girl who rises above challenges to make a difference. I strongly recommend it!

Student Council Shares 10 Ways to Stay Healthy

By Danielle N.



1. Limit junk food
2. Get plenty of sleep
3. Eat a healthy breakfast
4. Brush your teeth three times a day
5. Exercise weekly
6. Wash your hands
7. Laugh a lot
8. Cough into your elbow
1. Be a good friend
2. Drink plenty of water

For more information, check out the Student Council bulletin board in the hallway outside the Spring Avenue office doors. Stay Healthy!

Fun Fair is Fun For All!

By: Clare C.

If you went to the Fun Fair then you probably had so much fun! There were so many games, and there were about 15 raffle baskets so you had a good chance of winning. There were also a lot of things you could get to eat with your tickets. You could also win some delicious treats if you won the cake walk. The cake walk has always been my favorite game.

Even if you didn't win the raffle, you still went home with so many prizes from the games you played. The Fun Fair has been going on for more than 25 years. Mrs. Jones' oldest daughter went to it when she was in kindergarten, and now she is 24!

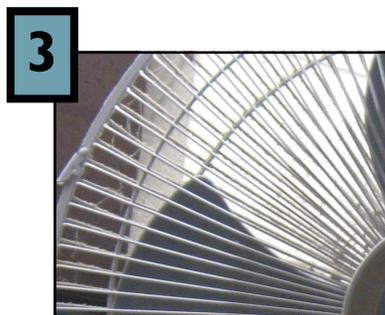
Special thanks to Mrs. McDermott and the PTO for making this such a special and fun night for everyone!



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

By Olivia B.

Look closely, can you guess what the objects are at the right? To find the answers, go to the back page. Good Luck!



Who Am I?

By Clare C.

- ? I was born on March 14, 1879.
- ? In 1905 I received my doctor's degree.
- ? I became a United States citizen in 1940.
- ? In 1896 I entered the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School in Zurich, Switzerland.
- ? I was offered the Presidency of the State of Israel, which I declined.

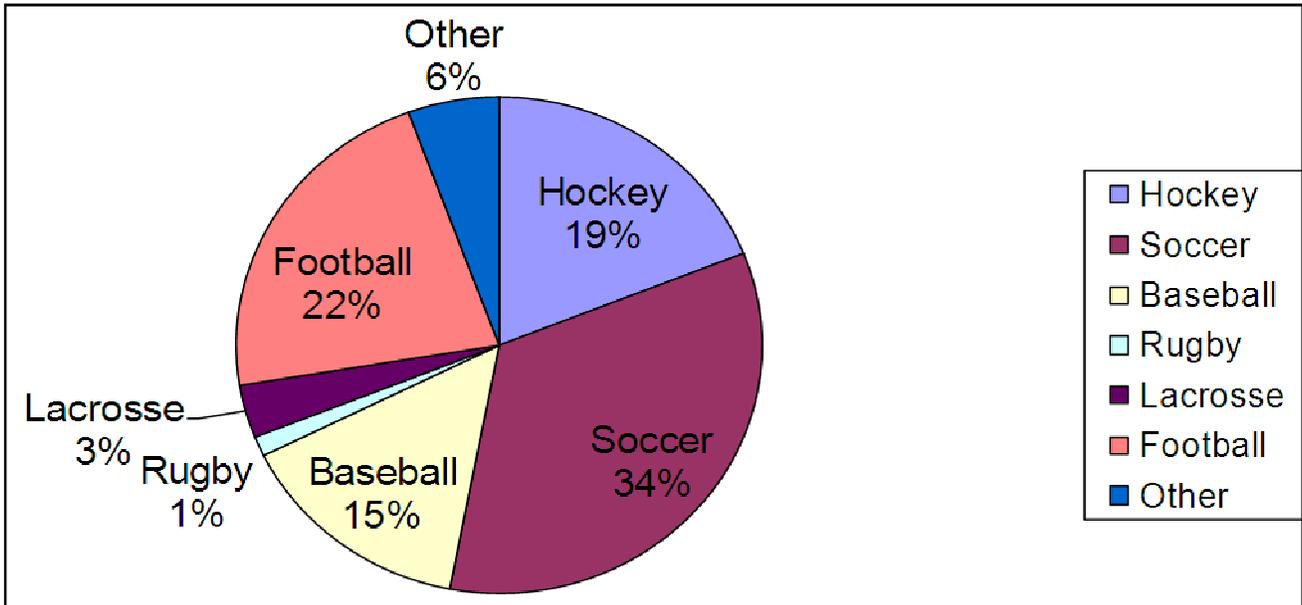
Do you know who I am? Turn to the last page to see if you're right!



We Asked You: Spring Avenue's Favorite Sports

By Toni M.

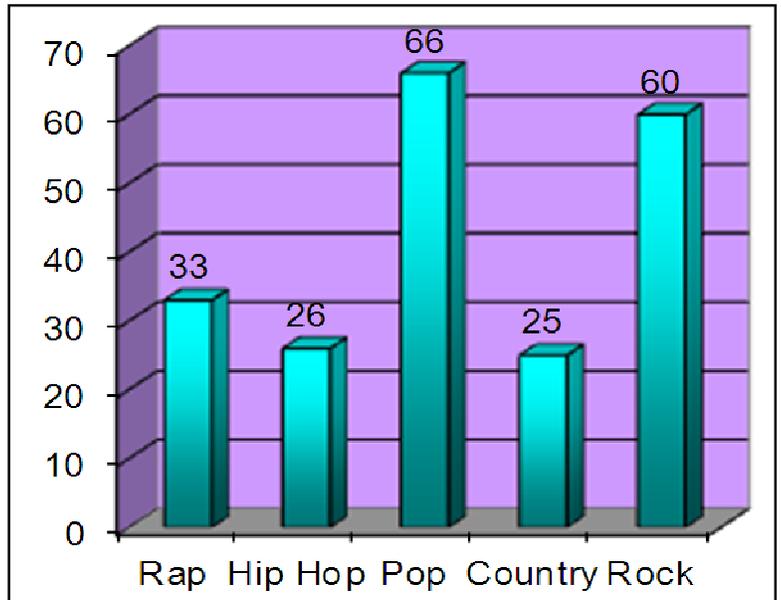
The whole school took a survey about their favorite sports, and the sport that had the most votes was Soccer, it had 79 votes. The other ones were Hockey with 44, Football with 51, Baseball with 34, Other sports with 13, Lacrosse with 8, and in last place is Rugby with 3. So thank you for participating in the school wide survey.



We Asked You: Spring Avenue's Favorite Music

By MacKenzie B. and Karol G.

The students at Spring Avenue took a survey to see what music they like best. First place was Pop, with 66 votes. Second place was Rock with 60 votes. Third place was Rap with 33 votes. And coming in fourth and fifth places were Hip Hop with 26 votes and Country with 25 votes. Thanks for taking our survey and telling us about your favorite music.



Cooking Corner

By Taylor S. and Nora W.

Ants on a Log

What you need:

1 plate
Some celery sticks
Peanut butter
Raisins



How to make this tasty snack:

Put a few celery sticks on the plate.

Spread a little bit of peanut butter on the celery sticks.

Put 4 raisins on the peanut buttered celery sticks.

Eat!

The Spruce Goose

By Owen F. and Joey P.

We just learned about a colossal World War II contract, introduced as the Spruce Goose. Nicknamed the White Elephant because of its prodigious size, this plane was powered by 8 giant engines, and was made to carry 700 soldiers to battle. You might be thinking, who would build such a legend? Billionaire Howard Hughes.

This two hundred ton monster of a plane was made entirely out of ply wood, and had the wingspan of over a football field. This was an unlucky war plane, because by the time it was finished, the war was over. In 1947, Hughes took flight over 70 feet above the water. It had flown about one mile, then it never flew again.



Check out these Cool Animals!

By Keely S.



This is a capybara. Some of their closest relatives are chinchillas and guinea pigs. Adults can grow to be 130 centimeters (4.3ft), and they can weigh up to 140lbs. Females are slightly heavier than males.

Capybaras are herbivores so that means they mostly eat grass and aquatic plants. Capybaras are awesome swimmers and can survive completely underwater for up to five minutes. A capybara can sleep underwater, keeping its nose just over the waterline. They barely sleep usually dozing off throughout the day.



This creature is an Angora rabbit. It's one of the oldest domestic animals. This rabbit is bred for its soft wool. It was popular in France in the 18th century. The Angora first appeared in America in the 20th century.

These rabbits can weigh up to 4-7lbs. Because their fur is so thick that it needs to be groomed twice a week. Their facial features make these rabbits look like they have beards!

Angoras are common as a pets because they are very calm in nature. They are great pets because they are very playful and love being with people. Angoras love playing with all kinds of toys, such as an old glove, or pine cone, or even a stuffed sock. They can live up to 5-7 years.



This cute animal is an aye-aye. An aye-aye is a lemur. They are native in Madagascar. This little guy is the world's largest nocturnal primate. They are quiet and the only sound they make is the tapping of looking for food. Aye-ayes tap on the trunks and branches of the trees they visit up to 8 times per second, and then they listen to the echo produced to find hollow chambers inside. After a chamber is found they will chew a hole into the wood and get grubs out of the hole with their narrow and bony middle fingers. The aye-ayes also eat fruits, fungi and nectar.

This cutie is near threatened because of deforestation and because some of the native people in that area find these little critters a nuisance.

Spring Break Fun: Ideas for the Whole Week

By Taylor S. and Nora W.

Don't have plans for spring break? There is plenty to do in Chicago. We are going to give you a list of fun things to do over spring break.

One fun thing to do over spring break is going to the Museum of Science and Industry. Have you heard about the new "Body Worlds" exhibit? We have, and it is very cool. The museum even has a dead human with its skin cut off (we know, we know, a little disgusting)! Something else at the Museum of Science and Industry is the Omnimax Theater. The movie playing during spring break is "Tornado Alley." In this movie, you ride along with some guys

researching tornados. We're sure you will like chillin' at one of the best museums in the world!

Another fun thing to do in Chicago is hangin' at the Field Museum. There is a program called Romance of Ants. In the Romance of Ants program, you will discover lots of interesting facts about ants. This activity is for all ages. It lasts from July 30, 2010, until January 1, 2012.

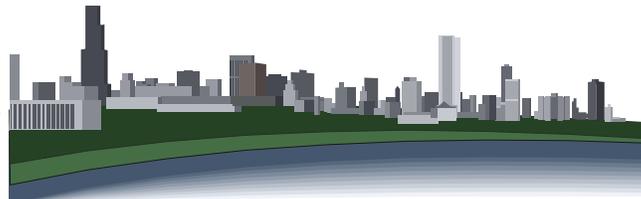
This program comes free with museum admission.

The best place we will tell you about is the Skydeck of the Willis Tower. Here are some fun facts about the Willis Tower. The Tower is 1,450ft. (1,730ft. including twin antenna towers.) The Willis Tower opened in 1973 and is the 8th tallest building in the world. The Skydeck is 1,353ft. above the ground.

On a clear day, you can see 4 states - Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

We hope you have fun over spring break if you do any of these ideas.

Happy spring break!!!



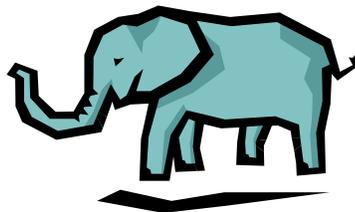
The History of Elephants

By Alexis H. and Allison T.

There are two kinds of elephants Asian and African. Elephants are the largest land animal on this earth. They are the only animal with a very large nose and they use it for putting food in to their mouth. The mother elephant uses her trunk to stroke her baby and to spray water for a shower. Also when there are two male elephants that both like the same female they fight and whoever wins is the husband of the female elephant.

Wild elephants spend most of the time eating; they eat about 300 pounds of plants a day such as grass or leaves. All elephants love to roll in mud, and always bathe in rivers. Elephants have long curved upper teeth called tusks. People use to kill elephants for their tusks. The people did this because they carved the ivory tusks into jewelry or other things to sell for money. Now it is against the law.

A very long time ago the elephant was the size of a pig but over the years it has changed a lot. Male elephants are called bulls, and female elephants are called cows. The younger elephant is called a calf. Elephants may seem like they are slow but they can move at amazing speeds when they want to. The elephant is very smart. It has the largest brain out of any land animal. The strangest thing about the elephant is its feet. People say the elephant makes a lot of noise when he or she walks, but guess what, the elephant is always walking on its toes.



Linkin Park: Behind the Music

By Kendall F.

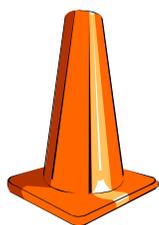


Linkin Park is:

Mike Shinoda — vocalist
 Chester Bennington — vocalist
 Phoenix Farrell — bass player
 Joseph Hahn — D.J.
 Rob Bourdon — drums
 Brad Delson — guitar

Linkin Park was originally a bunch of guys that loved music. In 1996 Brad Delson and the not so famous Mike Shinoda started a band called Xero. Later, other musicians got interested and then that's how Chester, Phoenix, Joseph, Rob all became Linkin Park.

My favorite songs are "Numb," and "What I've Done." Their albums are: *Hybrid Theory*, *Meteora*, *Minutes to Midnight*, and *A Thousand Suns*.



Construction News!

Spring Avenue will be undergoing construction this summer to update the building and add a new kindergarten classroom. Check the school website frequently for updates!

Bracketology: The Study of Brackets

By Will H.

Do you know what March Madness is? March Madness (a.k.a. The Big Dance, Road to the Final Four) is the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship tournament. This tournament first started in 1939, and it is one of America's favorite sporting events. It is made up of 68 teams and they all have the same goal, to win the championship game on April 4, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

The teams come from four regions – Southwest, West, Southeast and East. All the games these teams will play are laid out in a bracket. Teams are seeded or ranked by their team record. Bracketology is the study of this bracket and the teams playing. There is even a National Bracket Day! This is the day before the tournament starts and it is the deadline for having your bracket completed. I consider myself a Bracketologist because I have filled out many brackets in my lifetime and

have also researched many of the teams competing.

My family loves watching college basketball and every year during March Madness we have a fun family competition. Everyone fills out a bracket and makes their prediction of who will win. The winner usually gets bragging rights for a year.

It is always fun to learn about the different schools and where they are located. This was a great way for me to learn my United States geography!

So get your family together and fill out a bracket or just watch a game. It is fun and you will love it!



Hedgehogs Are Peculiar Yet Fun Pets

By Kelly C.

What swims, climbs walls and can run away from predators at the speed of 4.5 miles per hour?

Hedgehogs! These are definitely peculiar little creatures. With their sharp quills and small bodies, hedgehogs can do just about anything. From swimming to climbing walls and running away from predators.

Hedgehogs are found around the world. They are found in Europe, Asia, Africa, and also New Zealand. They live in warm climates with many predators. They have an interesting diet that includes lots of insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs, lizards, eggs, and much more.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means that they sleep all day long and wake up during the night to search for breakfast. While searching for food they rely on their senses of hearing and smell.

They rely on those senses because their eyesight is very weak. In order to survive from being eaten by predators, they use their quills for protection. When they get afraid they will curl up into a ball position and poke their quills out of their bodies. The hedgehog looks like a cactus when it does this and scares predators away.

When hedgehogs are born there are up to seven born in a litter. When born, hedgehogs' quills are surprisingly soft and short. After birth the spines harden, becoming stiffer, sharper, and longer. A



hedgehog's quills are simply strands of hair that are coated in the same material that human fingernails are made of. Hedgehogs are not the smartest animals. They get scared very easily.

I have lots of experience with hedgehogs because I have one as a pet. They can actually be potty trained to use a litter box. My hedgehog usually eats meal worms, crickets, cat food, lettuce, fruits, and a few other things. Every night my hedgehog Bella wakes up at about 11:00 pm and is on her wheel for three hours nonstop. She then goes to bed when we wake up. Bella will get up whenever you want her to, though. Sadly hedgehogs are becoming endangered. People around the world are trying to help them.

If you want to find out more about hedgehogs you can go to our local library.

Craft Corner: Marble Magnets

By Alexis H. and Allison T.

Materials:

Circle cutter and cutting mat, double sided scrapbook paper with desired, small print, clear, large craft marbles (flat, one sided commonly found in the floral department), and glass bead bonding glue, small and strong magnets and medium sized wedding bag for storage.

Project:

Choose an image (it can be printed, you can draw it or get it from a magazine) you

want, position your cutter, cut your image out and prepare to attach it to a marble with your glass glue. Put a bead of glue on the center of your image and “squish” your marble down on top. Keep pressing until the glue spreads to the edges of the entire image with no air bubbles. Now, turn the marble over and glue the magnet down.

This is where the double sided paper comes in handy. The back of your magnet will have a uniform finished ap-

pearance. Allow the project to cure or “set” for 24 hours. You can put them a wedding bag or some other type of bag to put them in for gifts or you can keep them and put them in lockers or on your kitchen fridge. You can easily can make dozens of chunky, beautiful magnets to give for Christmas, birthdays, or to store up for other times in the year.

Of course you will want to keep your favorite magnets for yourself.

Enjoy and Share!

Spring Avenue Welcomes New Students and Familiar Faces

By Danielle N. and Rowan C.



Top Row from Left to Right: Danny Collins, Kohl Kubina, Kory Kubina, and Kley Kubina.
Front Row from Left to Right: Kody Kubina and Aidan Collins.

This week we were able to interview all 7 of the newcomers to Spring Avenue! Kody in kindergarten, Kley in 2nd, Kohl in 3rd, and Kory Kubina in 6th. We also talked to Aidan and Danny Collins in 1st and 3rd grades.

We asked these guys all some questions to get to know them better. They all answered they love the song “Dynamite,” by Taio Cruse, which is a favorite, but Danny likes the song “We R Who We R” by Ke\$ha which is also good song, along with “Just the Way You Are” by Bruno Mars, which is Aidan’s favorite song.

Now this is tough, we have the 4 kids from the Kubina family as Cubs fans, but the Collins family is a fan of the Sox, but there are no hard feelings. They all like the color blue, but Kory has a special liking for purple.



From Left to Right: Jason and Andrew Cowsky.

The Cowskys are back at Spring after being gone for a short time. Andrew Cowsky is in 3rd grade, and Jason is in 1st grade. Spring Avenue is lucky to have all of these new students. Let’s give them a nice Spring Avenue welcome!

Important Dates

March

March 28– April 1 — Spring Break

April

April 8 — Math and Science Night

April 13 — PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm

April 13 — Battle of the Books at LaGrange Public Library

April 22 — No School

April 25 — Student Attendance Day (make-up snow day, previously scheduled as Inservice Day.)

April 25-May 13 — Spring Assessment Window

May

May 11 — PTO Meeting, 8:45 am

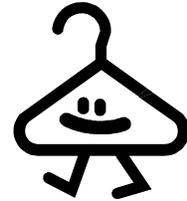
May 18, 19 — District Musical

May 25 — Student Attendance Half Day

May 26 — Stepping Up

Lost and Found

There is an abundance of Lost and Found items in the office. If you have lost something, please come into the office to claim your items.



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers



1



Soap Dispenser

2



Fire Extinguisher

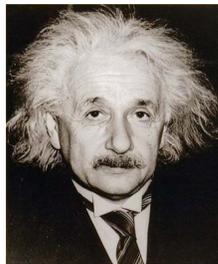
3



Fan in Lunch Room

Who Am I?

Albert
Einstein



Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisors:

Ms. Marek
jmarek@d105.net

Mrs. Faldani
vfaldani@d105.net

A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff



Reporters and Photographers:

Allison B.
Jovita B.
MacKenzie B.
Olivia B.
Erin C.
Clare C.
Kathleen C.
Kelly C.
Rowan C.
Kendall F.
Owen F.

Karol G.
Alexis H.
Will H.
Simon J.
Toni M.
Danielle N.
Joey P.
Samantha R.
Keely S.
Taylor S.
Allison T.
Devon W.
Katie W.
Nora W.
Joanna Z.