

Jubilant
feeling or
expressing
great joy



A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

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Our Lovely Paraprofessionals

By: Claudia M.

The paraprofessionals at Spring Avenue are part of what make our school such a great place to be. Now you can to know two of them a little better.



Mrs. Panice has worked at Spring Avenue as a paraprofessional for 5 years. She went to San Francisco State University. When Mrs. Panice was a kid, her favorite hobby was reading. Mrs. Panice's favorite book is *The Good Earth* By Pearl S. Buck. Thanksgiving is Mrs. Panice's favorite holiday. Mrs. Panice's family includes her husband and her son, Jackson. Before working at Spring Avenue, Mrs. Panice

worked with the stock market. She grew up in San Francisco. One reason Mrs. Panice likes working here is because she gets to make new friends. During her Spring Break, Mrs. Panice plans on cleaning out her basement.

Another friendly face at Spring Avenue is Ms.

Ahern who has worked here for 1 year. Ms. Ahern went to the College Of DuPage and Concordia University. When Ms. Ahern was a kid, her favorite hobby was collecting rocks. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is Ms. Ahern's favorite book. Ms. Ahern's family includes her mom, dad, one older sis-



ter, one 15 month old nephew, and two dogs (Goldendoodle and a Cockapoo.) Before working at Spring Avenue she worked at Argonne National Lab in their daycare and at Brookfield Zoo as a cashier. The kids are the main reason Ms. Ahern likes working at Spring Avenue because "they're always putting a smile on my face. Also, the teachers always give me a great advice on how to be a great teacher like they are." During Spring Break Ms. Ahern will be staying at home and helping her sister get ready for her wedding in July.

We are thankful for all the paraprofessionals we have at Spring Avenue, and now you know two of them a little better.

What Spring Avenue is Reading

By: Joanie M.



These are the books the students at Spring Avenue are reading this month. You can keep track yourself on Destiny Quest. When you open up the Library catalog, click on the Library Quest on the left hand side of the page. There you can see what books students are reading and what is brand new to the library shelves. You can even go on Destiny Quest from home! Visit the Library Learning Center page to find the link!

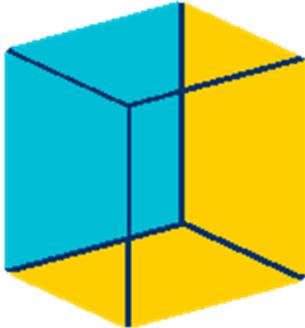
Month of March, 2013

6 Optical Illusions to Trick Your Mind

By Abbey P.

Optical illusions are pictures that seem to trick your mind. The ones below really tricked my mind and are sort of hard to figure out. Some famous ones are “Rabbit or Duck?” or “How many legs does this elephant have?” Let’s get on with the optical illusions!

1. Is the shaded part of the cube on the side, or the front?



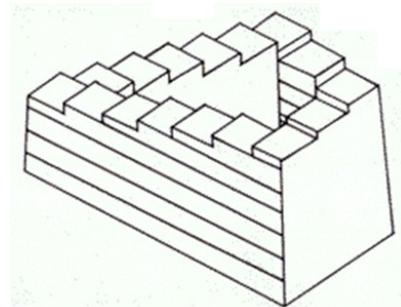
2. Who’s the liar?



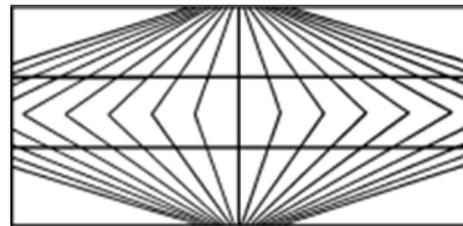
3. Read this out loud. Then look closer!



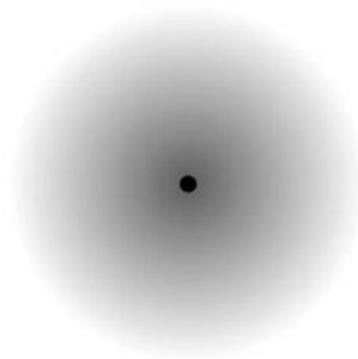
4. IT NEVER ENDS!



5. Are the lines bending inward, outward, or not at all? The answer is... NOT AT ALL!



6. Stare at the black dot in the middle. The mist on the outside fades away!



Sources: eyetricks.com

World's BIGGEST

By: Sarah L.

Big Mac or a jumbo sized slushy, there, are plenty more super-sized things. I am going to show you some of the world's biggest stuff.



This enormous 50 foot rubber duck is right by the London Tower. The purpose of this duck was for the government of the U.K. to bring fun to the country. Information found at www.bbcamerica.com.

This huge ball of rubber band took 6 years to make. It is 6 feet tall and weighs 9,032 pounds. It is located in Florida. The inventor got his inspiration by seeing the world's biggest rubber band ball drop contest and was inspired to make an even bigger rubber band ball.



Information found at www.boston.com



This huge cake was made for Legoland in California's 10th anniversary. It is real cake! Information found at allworldbest.blogspot.com

This gigantic piñata has over 2 tons of candy in it, is 3 stories high and is found in Philadelphia. Information found at cruisetalk.org



This big tree house, can be found in Crossville, Tennessee, was made by Horace Burgess, a landscape architect. Found at www.mostbeautifulpages

World's Smallest

By: Alejandra M.

Have you ever wondered, what is the smallest dog or smallest snake? Well here are some things that might be interesting! Look and enjoy!!!



This is a very small bunny, very small!

<http://www.petsugar.com/Pygmy-Rabbits-Face-Extinction-13641191>

This is a small pony!!

http://horseracing.about.com/od/harnessracing/ss/aa081608a_7.htm



This is a very small Violin!!

<http://www.mediaite.com/online/newsbusters-paints-bob-mcdonnell-as-washington-posts-victim/attachment/worlds-smallest-violin/>

This is the world's smallest cake!!

<http://www.flixya.com/photo/1906140/worlds-smallest-cake>



Look at this little snake! Awesome!

<http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/forums/snakes/737912-worlds-smallest-snake-thread-2.html>

The Famous Apollo 11

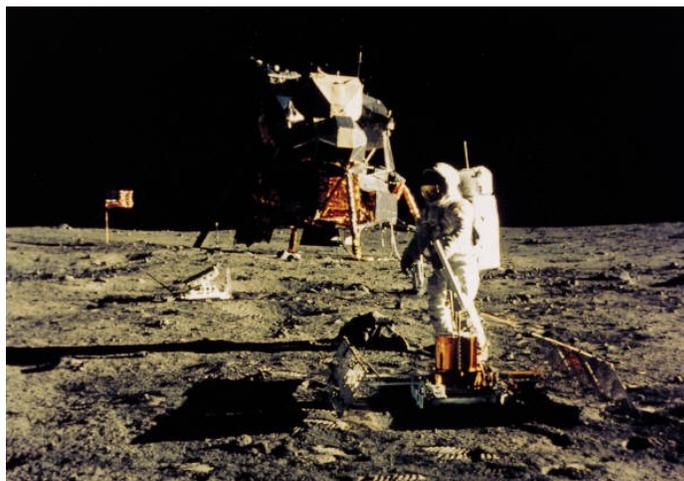
By: Olivia W.

Many of you have heard of the famous Apollo 11, but if you haven't and want to learn about it, I'm here to inform you! Apollo 11 was the first spacecraft that landed humans on the moon. The spacecraft launched on July 16, 1969. The group of astronauts consisted of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. The spaceship took off on July 20, 1969 and Neil Armstrong was the first man to step on the moon. He stayed out of the spacecraft for 2 ½ hours, and Buzz slightly less. Armstrong's first words on the Moon were "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind" Together, the two astronauts, collected 47.5 pounds of the Moon to bring back to Earth to show off.



Armstrong's footprint on the Moon when he landed.

Now for the spaceship information!!! The spaceship had three parts, the Command Module, a Service Module, and a Lunar Module. The Command Module had a cabin for the three astronauts, which also happened to be the only part that landed back on Earth. The Service Module helped the Command Module with electrical power, oxygen, and water. The Lunar Module was for landing on the Moon. On July 24th, the astronauts returned home



aboard the Command Module Columbia, just before dawn, and landed in the Pacific Ocean. A Sea King helicopter lifted the astronauts into the helicopter one by one.

President Richard Nixon was aboard the *Hornet* to personally welcome the astronauts back to Earth. He told the astronauts, "As a result of what you've done, the world has never been closer together before." Years later, it was revealed that Nixon had prepared a speech to be given in the event the Lunar Module failed to lift off from the lunar surface. On August 13th, the astronauts rode in parades to honor the historic space landing, in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City. On the same evening in Los Angeles, there was an Official State Dinner to celebrate the flight. President Richard Nixon honored each astronaut with a presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. On September 16th, 1969, the three astronauts spoke on Capitol Hill. They presented two U.S. flags, one to the House of Representatives and the other to the Senate, which had been carried to the surface of the Moon with them. I hope you enjoyed learning about Apollo 11!

How to Make an Origami Ninja Star

By: Daniel C.

Have you ever wanted to make something that was origami, but never had the skill? Well this is your lucky day because I will teach you step by step how to make an origami ninja star.

The first thing you need to do is get two different colored pieces of paper. (You don't have to have different colors; I just think it looks cool!) Then after that, you want to fold the paper in half, then unfold it and fold the paper the other way in half so it has four square boxes.

Now cut out the boxes on the creases you just made. You should now have four cut out boxes. Take one of the boxes and fold it diagonally in half so that it makes something like a triangle with some excess paper sticking out. Get some scissors and cut off the excess paper, open it. Now you can unfold it and you have a perfect square.

Now you want to fold it straight down the middle, then open it. Then fold it diagonally in half and open it. Do the same thing, but on the other side. Then fold the squares top two corners so that they are mini triangles that meet at the center line that

you folded earlier. Now fold it in half so that it sort of looks like a paper airplane. The next step is to fold the other side in.

Do that eight times (you only need two pieces of paper if you do it right to make eight parts). So now this is the fun part, connecting the pieces to make the trance forming ninja star. Get two parts and hold one so that the flat part is on the top, next get the other part and put the nose of it and where there is an opening with two flaps. Then slide it into the other one and fold the flaps in on the base part. Do that until you complete this and use all of the parts.

YOU JUST MADE A TRANSFORMING NINJA STAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now all you have to do is know how to work it. At first it will look like circle. Take an end and see what is directly across from it. Take that and slide them in carefully, keep doing that till you slide all of them in then you have an awesome ninja star. You can do the same thing and slid it out and it goes back to a circle.



For a video on the process described above and for many more origami projects, visit this website:
<http://origami.wonderhowto.com/how-to/fold-transforming-eight-pointed-ninja-star-out-origami-paper-408942/>

Happy Snoopy!

By: Josie B.

Everybody knows Charlie Brown, but what's surprising is that more people know who Snoopy is (Charlie Brown's amazing beagle) than Charlie Brown himself! But enough about Charlie Brown, this is about Snoopy.

In the first few years of *The Peanuts*, Snoopy was just an average house dog, but later on Snoopy kind of became a human dog. Also Snoopy used to not talk! as you know, later on that changed, . The creator of Snoopy made him a happy dog. He even has a happy dance.



See! I found this picture on from the cartoon strip. Snoopy thinks Lucy is jealous of him because she is not as capable of all the happiness he has, and Snoopy thinks she wishes she could be as happy as he is.

Snoopy has 7 siblings. Most people only know five of them though. There's Andy, Belle,

Marbles, Olaf, and Spike. A lot of people know Spike. Molly and Rover are the ones who never appeared until the comic strip Snoopy.

Dictionary & Thesaurus Search



By: Melissa R.

Look at the definition of the words below. Circle the word you think is the right one.

1. A high, steep wall of rock or bank on a coast: (ocean) (cliff) (cement)
2. Fall in drops: (drip) (water) (hole)
3. To pull along with effort, to pass slowly, to haul: (pull) (drag) (bring)
4. Not wealthy: (poor) (strong) (sorry)
5. Ready before something: (late) (ready) (early)
6. A small amount or size (huge) (cute) (small)
7. To leave something immersed in liquid mixed with water: (soak) (water) (science)
8. Random, by chance: (haphazard.) (change) (cool)

Look at the words below and circle the part of speech.

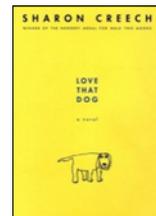
9. Few: (noun) (adjective) (verb)
10. However: (adverb) (noun) (pronoun)
11. Yesterday: (proper noun) (adverb) (pronoun)
12. Host: (adjective) (noun) (verb)
13. Color: (pronoun) (noun) (proper noun)
14. Rainbow: (proper noun) (verb) (noun)
15. Guest: (noun) (verb) (adverb)
16. Proof: (adverb) (noun) (verb)
17. Quixotic: (adjective) (verb) (noun)

Find the answers on the back page!

Top Five Book Recommendations

By: Elizabeth T.

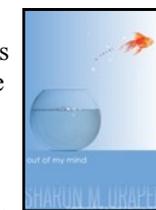
Starting my countdown, the **fifth** best book I read in 2012 is Love That Dog by Sharon Creech. I love the voice in this book, and I love how Sharon wrote the book in a poem. It doesn't take a long time to read, but I would read it slowly to enjoy every little beautiful moment.



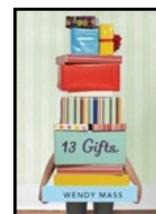
The **fourth** book on the countdown of the best books of 2012 would be Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. This book was really funny and it is a good book for very one between the ages 9 and 50! I believe that anyone that reads this book will be laughing out loud of at some parts and completely balling his or her eyes out at others.



The **third** best book I read last year was Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper. I read this book over the summer and gained confidence that one little girl can do the impossible and can ignore what everyone says about her. I would recommend this book to 3rd through 6th grade, because of the emotions expressed.



The **second** best book I read in 2012 was 13 Gifts by Wendy Mass. I read this book over winter break because I wanted a long time since it was a very long book. Don't get thrown off by the total of pages because it was all very worth it! This book was one of my favorites because of all the mysteries; I was at the tip of my chair the whole way through. This book is best for 4th through 6th graders.

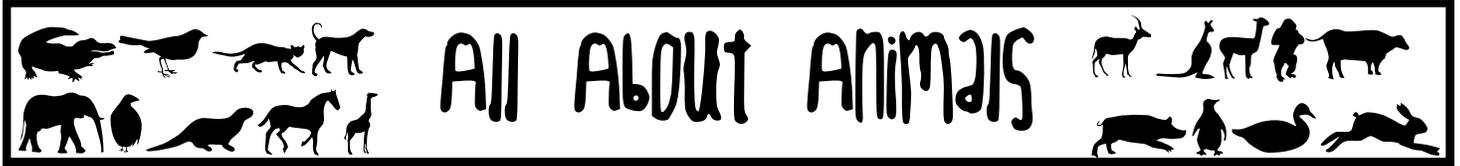


My **absolute favorite** book of 2012 is... THE HUNGER GAMES! By Susan Collins. This book had my heart racing! I couldn't put the book down. This book is strong with emotion so I would recommend it for grades 5 and up.



What were your favorite books of 2012?





All About Animals



Endangered Species Spotlight: Polar Bears

By: Angelina G.

Polar bears can be found in the Arctic ice sheets; one of the planet's coldest environments. Sadly the ice sheets are melting, causing the polar bears to be stuck where they are on the ice, which may or may not be close to land. There are many reasons the ice is melting. One reason is because we cut down forests. This decreasing the amount of trees that are taking in carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen, causing more carbon dioxide to stay in the air and carbon dioxide warms the Earth. This warming is also caused by pollution coming from cars, factories, etc. and the carbon dioxide coming from different places causes a lot of carbon dioxide in our air. The melting ice is causing the population of polar bears to decrease and now their species is endangered.

These mammals can live 25 to 30 years. Polar bears weigh 900lb to 1600lb and are carnivores. Being a carnivore means they eat meat. In order to keep warm in the cold arctic, polar bears have a layer of fat that keeps them warm and a thick coat of insulated fur. Their white colored fur provides camouflage in all the arctic snow, which may help them catch a meal. A meal for polar bears might include seals or other sea animal carcasses. They don't need camouflage to hide from their predators like most animals do, because they don't have any natural enemies, their only predators are humans. Polar bears are strong swimmers, which you could probably guess considering they

have to swim in the Arctic waters to catch their prey. Their front paws are faintly webbed and are large to help them paddle while they swim.

Female polar bears give birth in the winter. They will usually have two cubs (twins). The mother will dig dens deep into the snow that protect the cubs from the freezing Arctic weather. Her cub(s) will live with her for approximately 28 months. During those 28 or so months, the cub(s) will learn survival skills. Mothers will aggressively protect their cubs but their male mate won't help raise the cubs at all. So for mother polar bears, it's like being a single mom for us humans.

Fun Facts

- Polar bears have black skin under their fur that help absorb the sun's heat rays.
- Fur grows on the bottom of their paws that help protect them from the ice or other cold surfaces and get a good grip on the ice.
- Male mates sometimes kill their young cubs or other cubs of their species

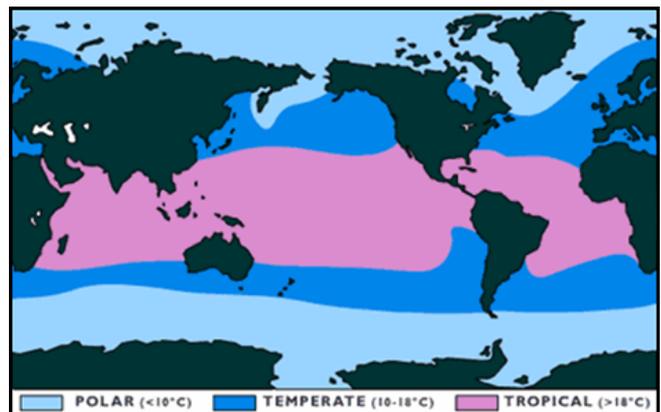
THE NEXT ARTICLE IN THE ENDANGERED ANIMAL SERIES:
THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT!!!!

All About Puffer Fish

By: Michael M.

Puffer fish are quite unique fish. Some people prefer to call this fish a Blowfish. Puffer fish are really poor swimmers. They are easy prey for predators, so they gather a bunch of water in their mouth and their body becomes bigger than its regular size. This makes the Puffer fish harder to swallow. They also have poisonous spikes that are all over their body which prevent predators from eating the fish and swallowing it.

The colors of a Puffer can be blue, brown, grayish, and greenish with yellow or white bellies. The average Puffer can grow up to 10 to 20 inches. All types of Puffer fish have two teeth: an upper tooth and a lower tooth. Puffer fish use these two teeth to eat small crabs. Puffer fish live in tropical seas that have a temperature of more than 64 degrees Fahrenheit.



Left: <http://marissafh.com/tag/porcupine-puffer-fish/>
Right: <http://thefloodedfishbowl.com/category/stream-ofconsciousness/>



All About Animals



Learn More about the Newfoundland

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

If you are looking for a family pet, you probably want a dog. The question is, what kind of dog do you want?

Well, you're in luck, because we know a good breed you could have—the Newfoundland.

A Newfoundland can be brown, black, or black and white. They are very calm, and especially loyal. Newfies are practically the definition of gentle giants: huge, heavy, and muscular, but very loyal. They have droopy lips and jowls and humongous lungs for breathing. Massive webbed paws complete the look. Originally, they were bred in Newfoundland, Canada to help fisherman. This breed are natural nursemaids. They are one of the best dogs with children of any size, even though adults are probably going to bigger than the children.

If you're looking for a water dog, Newfoundlands flat out beat the other competitors. They were bred to be water dogs. There is no ordinary doggie paddle programed in these dogs. To give them maximum power with every stroke, they use sort of a modified breast stroke with their webbed paws which gives them the power to propel them through the water. Their droopy facial features allow themselves to carry something in their mouth through waves and breathe at the same

time. Also, they can swim long distances because they have enormous lungs.

Newfoundlands are one of the most heroic breeds. In fact, a Newfie saved Napoléon Bonaparte when he fell in the ocean on his way back to France from exile. Another cool fact is Newfoundlands are the only American Kennel Association registered breed with natural lifesaving abilities, which makes them obvious lifeguards. Their lifeguard abilities are natural. So, you can take your doggie on your annual trip to Michigan and he can be on lifeguard duty. Just don't swallow any water; he doesn't know CPR.

Now for our least favorite topic; health problems. The Newfoundland is in fact a minor shedder. Good for Mommy's vacuum! But, they are prone to bloating. In this case, take your huge dog to the vet immediately. Also, be on the lookout for joint problems because he has a lot of weight to hold up. Overall, the Newfoundland is one of the sweetest, friendliest, trainable dogs that you could find on your hunt for a new best friend. They do have some health problems, but none that you couldn't handle. Their heavy, thick coat will be a bit of a pain to maintain so brush daily and bathe about twice a week, roughly 104 baths a year!

Remember the Newfoundland when you're choosing your new dog or puppy. Also, this breed produces the cutest puppies! Good night Spring Avenue!

Macaroni Penguins

By: Sam M. and Will T.



Macaroni Penguins live in the Antarctica seas. The adult penguin is usually around 28 inches tall, but the weight differs from the gender and the time of year it is. It has fairly long wings, around 8 inches, but of course, it cannot fly. It would be awesome, though, seeing a large penguin with a stylish yellow uni-brow, flying around the arctic waters, catching fish.

The diet for Marconi Penguins consists of squid, crustaetions, and krill. To us, they look fairly fat... If they see a seal or a killer whale, they PRAY that it is not hungry. If it is, one less macaroni penguin is living in the world. The seal or whale, however, is very full. These penguins molt, or replace all their feathers, once a year. They have to gather fat for a couple weeks before, because they cannot feed while they molt.

Macaroni penguins are so cool, they got put in *Happy Feet 2*. There once were 3 million pairs of penguins meeting together on the South Georgia island! Some penguins even ski down ice glaciers! Penguins are NOT dumb, though. They have competitions to see if the water is safe by pushing each other off the edge and running away.

Picture: <http://www.arkive.org/macaroni-penguin/eudyptes-chrysolophus/>

Tapirs

By: Joey P.



When someone asks me what my favorite animal is, I think about it and tell them that it's a tapir. They then say: what's that? Well the truth is, the reason that they don't know about this animal, is simply because it is SO endangered! It is actually

so endangered that ALL four of their species are endangered and are close to extinction!

These species include the Bairds tapir, the Brazilian tapir, the Malayan tapir, and the Mountain tapir. Tapirs are just simply wonderful and just flat out interesting! First off just look at how cute they look! These animals are actually very smart, like for example, they use their long snouts as snorkels when they are swimming in water. They also have a very unique foot, which is owned only by them!



All tapirs have oval, white tipped ears, stubby tails, and splayed, hooved toes. The way their toes are set up, help them walk on muddy, and solid ground! As you can see, these are simply wonderful, and fascinating animals, that should be preserved. Spread the word, and tell people to think about these beautiful animals!

Picture: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/allereb/5553593723/>



Top 10 Video Games



By: Jennie B. and Devon W.

This article is our personal description of our favorite video games out so far. These might not be your favorites, but these are our personal favorites.



Number 1: Minecraft

You can build anything, destroy anything, do pretty much anything. The world is yours. You are not alone in this world. There are some nice animals (cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, and villagers.) But then there are some not so nice animals. (Creepers, ender men, slimes, skeletons, zombies, HEROBRINE, and giant spiders.) It's a big endless world out there in the game, Go discover it.



Number 2: The Legend of Zelda, Ocarina of Time

In this amazing adventure, you are Link, as you have been in all the Zelda games. You must save princess Zelda from Ganondorf's castle. Our only problem with this game is the annoying fairy that doesn't ever stop talking, that most call Navi.



Number 3: Go Vacation

Go vacation is a game where you are basically, well, on vacation, on Kawaii island, where there are four resorts, plus the villa grounds. There is a Mountain resort, a Marine resort, a Snow resort, and a City resort. In the city, you can engage in modern style activities, such as skateboarding, pie throwing, dance, and much more. The resorts mostly stick to their certain type, but there is bungee jumping everywhere.



Number 4: Mariokart

A racing game. You get power ups to attack other players and boost yourself. You have a variety of different cars and bikes to choose from, and you can also play as many of your favorite Mario characters.



Number 5: Guitar Hero

You can play your way to awesomeness in this music-based game. A lot of this is hand eye coordination, as you play the cords and strum your way along to popular rock songs. You can also sing and play drums if you have the right gear. It is the ultimate virtual rock party!



Number 6: Pokémon Black & White

A great new Pokémon game where you catch little monsters and use them to become the ultimate Pokémaster. Works on DS and a fun game for most ages.



Number 7: Petz Nursery 2

This game is an adorable simulation of pets with fun mini-games to tie it together. You can adopt exotic animals or regular dogs and cats in your normal life.



Number 8: Guilty Party

Guilty party is a mystery based game. With a ton of logic, interesting mysteries and problem solving.



Number 9: Scribblenauts

In this game you play as a character named Maxwell and you must go around helping people with your magical notebook that makes anything you write on it come into the world. You get a starite (point system) for each person you help and get new characters throughout the game. Very interesting and good for all ages.



Number 10: Dungeon Land

In this game, you play with your friends as you either are playing as one of the brave heroes trying to escape dungeon land and defeat the dungeon master or playing as the dungeon master trying to defeat those annoying heroes.



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

How To Draw a Dragon!!

Step 1 - Draw the snake-like body.



Step 2 - Draw the face.



Step 3 - Draw the loong mane.



Step 4 - Draw the teeth and the firey breath.



Step 5 - By the Face, Draw a crest.



Ta-Da! There you GO!

Important Dates

- March 25-29 — Spring Break
- April 5 — Battle of the Books
- April 9 — Teacher Institute Day, No Student Attendance
- April 10 — PTO Meeting, 8:45 am
- April 12—5th Grade Field Trip to Robert Crown
- April 12 — Fun Fair!
- April 19 — 6th Grade Field Trip to Robert Crown
- April 22-May 3 — MAP Testing
- May 2 — Choir/Orchestra Concert, 7:30
- May 8 — PTO Meeting, 8:45 am
- May 15, 16 — District Musical, Alice In Wonderland
- May 22 — Early Dismissal, 11:45
- May 22 — Writing Festival
- May 27 — Memorial Day, No School
- May 31 — Last Day of School!

Answers:

Dictionary and Thesaurus Search on page 7.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Cliff | 12. Noun |
| 2. Drip | 13. Noun |
| 3. Drag | 14. Noun |
| 4. Poor | 15. Noun |
| 5. Early | 16. Noun |
| 6. Small | 17. Adjective |
| 7. Soak | |
| 8. Haphazard | |
| 9. Adjective | |
| 10. Adverb | |
| 11. Adverb | |



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers



1



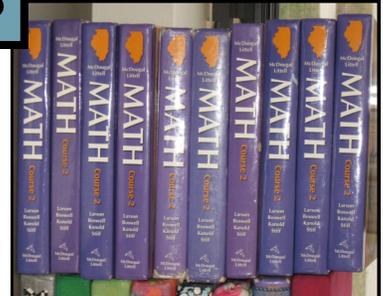
Xylophone

2



Lion in the Gym

3



Math Textbooks

Have a happy and safe Spring Break!



Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisors:

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jmarek@d105.net

Mrs. Faldani
vfaldani@d105.net

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