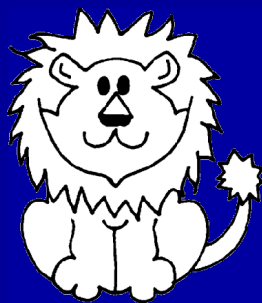


perplex
of something complicated or
unaccountable,
causing someone to feel
completely baffled.



A Lion's Life Newspaper

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Author Jennifer Holm Visiting Spring

By Grace B.

Guess what?! Jennifer Holm is coming to visit our school on Thursday, April 17, 2014. I emailed this creative author who has written books like... The Baby Mouse series, the Squish series, Our Only May Amelia, Penny from Heaven, Turtle In Paradise, and the Boston Jane Series. All these books are amazing. I love all of them. Baby Mouse and Squish are graphic novels and the rest are historical fiction.

My questions are in bold, Jennifer Holm's responses are labeled. J.H.

How do you pick or figure out what to write about?

J.H. I am inspired by my

childhood and family.

What advice would you give young writers who want to become authors?

J.H. Don't get stressed out about your first draft. The first draft is usually not really very good. Think of it as a starting point. The real magic happens during revising

You write with your brother for the Babymouse and Squish books. What do you like about writing with your brother.

J.H. Matt is very funny. He is also a very hard worker.

Do you have any other siblings?

J.H. Three other brothers



Author Jennifer L. Holm visits Spring on April 17, 2014.

What was it like for you growing up?

J.H. Crowded! I am one of five kids.

Turn to page 9 to read the full interview with Jennifer Holm.

Announcing the District Musical, coming in May!

By Josie B.

This Year our school musical is High School Musical 2 Jr.! In High School Musical 2 the characters are Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, her brother Ryan, Chad, Taylor. The Sharpettes are on summer vacation at Lava Springs Country Club, only it doesn't turn out so well. Everybody has to work, and they keep getting punished, except for Troy, because Sharpay is trying to help him get a scholarship, as well as have him as a boyfriend.

Gabriella goes away because in the beginning she tells Troy she wants to re-



member the summer in a great way with him and the Wildcats. Everything goes perfectly for Troy, but not for Gabriella, so she leaves Troy to figure out what went wrong. Then he realizes he has to fix what he did, even if it means him losing a scholarship.

The performance dates are Wednesday, May 14th at 7:30pm and Thursday, May 15th, with one matinee

performance during the school day and one evening performance at 7:30pm, in Aurand Hall at Gurrie Middle School. Our directors are Mr. Wydra and Mrs. Kay. The school performance during the school day will only be attended by 5th through 8th graders.

For more updates or news about the district musical go to our school website, Schools: Spring Avenue, and go to Extracurricular Activities: District Musical. Most importantly, wish the students in the play to break a leg (good luck).

The
students
are handling
the
productive
struggle
initiative in
very
positive
ways.

Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Webb

Dear Families,

I know you may be singing your own version of "Let it Go! Let it Go," right? Maybe it sounds more like "Make it stop! Make it stop!" My hat is off to you all for helping your students get to school on these many brutally cold days! WELL DONE, parents!! This takes a lot of extra work and patience and we are very appreciative. We truly appreciate that 98% of our students showed up on the power outage day. Phenomenal!

Students have been engaged and eager to learn during these challenging months, too. They are resilient and full of grit! The students are handling the productive struggle initiative in very positive ways. They are learning to think through the answers to "Why?" and "How did you get that answer?" on a regular basis. WELL DONE, students! Keep it up!!

Social workers and teachers are helping students work through conflicts on a regular basis. They share language to use, ways to stand up for themselves and friends, who to go to and what to do when they or a friend is being teased or bullied. We are working on the power of facial gestures, body language, and the differences between having fun, making fun of, and how to think first before "making a joke." If it's not funny to everyone, it's not funny (when someone is saying something and thinking they are "just teasing or kidding around"). This is an important social-emotional issue in K-6. You can help by keeping the lines of communication open and allowing your child to share his/her perspective with you about situations as they occur. Encourage them to share with an adult at school, as well. We practice accountability at school and use the terms: Own it, Fix it, and Learn from it. I have a young friend who said the next step should be "And move on!" Thank you for supporting this and for remembering there are usually more sides to any one story.

Thanks again for your support!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Webb

SPORTS PAGE



2014: The Best NBA All-Star Weekend

By Joe P.

The 2014 NBA All-Star Weekend was a show for the ages. There were many great events filled with superstars from past and present. Though it was a very successful outing, there was a lot of controversy as well. The events took on a different format this year, and there was much controversy about who should have and who shouldn't have made some events.

The historic weekend kicked off with the BBVA Compass Rising Stars Challenge. The Rising Stars Challenge is a battle of all the young stars of the league. The teams this year were Team Weber and Team Hill. Team Weber was led by sophomore Anthony Davis and Team Hill was led by sophomore Damian Lillard. It was a thrilling contest with some electrifying players. In the end, Team Hill triumphed 142-136. The Rising Stars was a great event, but it was only the beginning of one of the biggest weekends in pro sports.

Next up, to kick off All-Star Saturday Night, The Sears Shooting Stars Challenge. In this event there are four teams, two from the East and two from the West. Each team has a current NBA player, a WNBA player, and an NBA legend. The team puts a player at three separate stations to start. After they all make their shot they all try to make a half-court shot. Once they make it, the time stops. The fastest team from each conference moves on to the second round. The fastest team in the second round wins. After the first round Team Bosh of the East, who were last year's champion and have Chris Bosh, Swim Cash who is on the Chicago Sky, and Dominique Wilkins moved on. They edged out the team of Tim Hardaway Jr., Elena Della Donne, and Tim Hardaway Sr. Team Durant consisting of Kevin Durant, Karl Malone, and Skylar Diggins, moved on for the West. They beat out the team of Stephen Curry, Dell Curry, and Becky Hammon. In the second round, Team Durant posted a time of 43.6 but it was not enough to beat Team Bosh. Chris Bosh drained his half-court attempt to give his team the victory.

The Taco Bell Skills Challenge is a thrilling event. There are four teams of two. Two teams from the East and two teams from the West. Representing the West was the pair of Goran Dragic and Reggie Jackson. Also from the West was the pair of Trey Burke and Damian Lillard. Representing the East, was the pair of Michael Carter-Williams and Victor Oladipo. The pair of DeMar DeRozan and Giannis Antetokounmpo was also from the East. The object of the Taco Bell Skills Challenge is to complete an obstacle course full of challenges, such as dribbling or shooting tests. After the first round, the team of Lillard and Burke from the West and the pair of Michael Carter-Williams and Victor Oladipo from the East remained. Damien Lillard and Trey Burke barely edged out DeRozan and Antetokounmpo by 0.1 of a second. The 2014 Skills Challenge was

the most entertaining Skills Challenge I've ever seen, and I think many people would agree with that.

The next event was the Foot Locker Three-Point Contest. Representing the West were Marco Bellineli, Kevin Love, and Stephen Curry. Representing the East were Bradley Beal, Joe Johnson, Aaron Afflalo, and returning champion Kyrie Irving. There was some controversy about whether Toronto's Steve Novak should have made it. In the three-point contest, you

have to make as many three-point shots as you can. Each shot you make is worth one point. You take the balls from each of the racks stationed at different areas of the court. There are five racks and they each have five balls. Four racks have one money ball. Money balls are worth two points. However, this year a new component was added: each player gets to choose an area where a rack is all money balls. After many close calls, there were two players remaining. They were San Antonio's Marco Bellineli and Washington's Bradley Beal. The championship round was a thrilling showcase of skill and perseverance. After two amazing runs, Bellineli and Beal were tied at 19. In the tiebreaker round Bellineli caught fire. He scored 24 points, which was too

much for Beal who only scored 18. Bellineli was one of the least likely to win this event, but his showcase shows that you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

The final event of All-Star Saturday Night and the most anticipated one was the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest. The participants from the East were Paul George, returning champion Terrence Ross, and John Wall. The West was represented by Damien Lillard, Harrison Barnes, and Ben McLemore. The format changed this year and instead of an individual event, the dunkers represented their conference in a team with other players from their conference. I personally did not like the format change, and I wish they kept the same format as the past years. There was a freestyle round where players performed dunks with their teammates help. The East won that portion. Next came the battle round. In the battle round, every player faced off against each other to see who could perform the most difficult and stylish dunk. Players got help from celebrities like the rapper Drake and NBA legends like Shaquille O'Neal. In the end John Wall performed the best dunk, showing off his skills. The East won the whole event by a landslide, bringing pride to their conference.

The All-Star Game took place the next day. The East rallied past the West 163-155. Kevin Durant hit six three-pointers for the West, but it wasn't enough. Kyrie Irving won the honor of MVP, putting up 31 points and 14 assists in a great showcase of the NBA's biggest stars.

The 2014 All-Star Weekend was very successful. Every event kept me on the edge of my seat, and this year's showcase turned out to be one of the best ever.



SPORTS PAGE



Jim Boeheim and the 'Cuse

By Nathan D.

As Syracuse, or the 'Cuse, continue on one of their best seasons under long time Head Coach Jim Boeheim, they have C.J. Fair, one of the top seniors in the NCAA. Jim Boeheim and the 'Cuse are most famous for their two-three zone that cannot be beaten. One of the star point guards in the NCAA and the leader in assists in the ACC, Tyler Ennis, has played outstanding in his freshman year under coach Boeheim. This year Ennis had one of the best buzzer beaters against the Pitt Panthers. With 4.4 seconds left, Ennis got the inbound pass, dribbled up the right side of the court, and swished a 35 footer with time running out to keep Syracuse undefeated.

Although the Syracuse Orangemen are not undefeated anymore because of recent losses to Boston College and Duke, this year has been one of the most historic years in Syracuse history, and it is being compared to the 2003 season with Carmelo Anthony and guard Gerry McNamara. The first game against Duke ended up going into overtime when Rasheed Sulaimon sank a three pointer to send it into overtime where Jerami Grant led the 'Cuse to a three-point win. Jim Boeheim is not famous for getting tossed out of games, but in the 'Cuse's



loss in their second game against the Duke Blue Devils, he had some unfriendly words for the official when Syracuse star senior C.J. Fair went up for a game-tying finger roll. With time winding down Fair was called for an offensive charge. Boeheim was

not happy with the call and got double technicals, which sealed the deal for Duke because they made three out of their four free throws, got the ball, and got fouled.

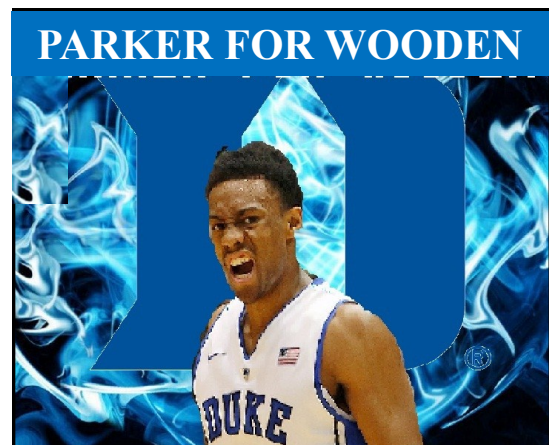
Despite their great season, Syracuse has had some challenges. The most recent problem they had was on their roster at the center position. It mainly started when Dajuan Coleman got an injured leg and was done for the season. The three man rotation at

center was slimmed down to two players Baye Moussa and Jerami Grant. More trouble was created when the 'Cuse's center Baye Moussa Kieta got a sprained ankle and was not able to play against North Carolina State and the Pitt Panthers. Now Kieta is back on the court, but is still not back at full strength. Syracuse might not be on a great run right now, but they are on their way to playing better, being a top seed in the NCAA tournament, and winning one more NCAA title before coach Boeheim retires.

The Chicago Bulls

By Alex V.

The Chicago Bulls are a professional basketball team from Chicago Illinois. Their team was founded on January 26, 1966. There are 13 players on the team. Their mascot's name is Benny the Bull. The Bulls won the NBA championships in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, and 1998. Michael Jordan won all six of them. My favorite players are Michael Jordan, Derrick Rose, and Scottie Pippen. Their home colors are white and red, and the away colors are red and white. The Chicago Bulls went to the playoffs in 2013. Joakim Noah was picked for the 2014 All-Star game in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was on the Eastern team. The colors were neon green and black. This year the Bulls were on a five game winning streak, unfortunately on February 23, 2014, the Miami Heat broke that five game streak by beating the Bulls 93-79. The Bulls won an NBA record-72 games in the 1995-96 season. The Bulls rivalries are the Milwaukee Bucks, Detroit Pistons, and recently the Indiana Pacers, and the Miami Heat. Derrick Rose and Michael Jordan have both won the NBA Most Valuable Player Award.



By Liam R.




By Joe P.




Top College Basketball Teams

By Ben E.

There has been great college basketball lately. I think the top four teams are the Florida Gators, then undefeated Wichita St. Shockers, the 3rd team is the Arizona Wildcats from the Pac-12, and the Virginia Cavaliers round out the top four. They have all performed great under pressure and all played great against other very good teams. Each team has star players.



Right now the number one team in the country is the Florida Gators. They have a great coach named Billy Donovan. The Florida Gators are terrific on the defensive side of the ball with a great press. They only allow 58 points per game, and that is 6th best in the country. The Gators have some great players like Casey Prather, Scottie Wilbekin, and Dorian Finney-Smith. They also have some key wins against Kansas, Kentucky, and Memphis. Right now they are on a winning streak of 17 wins in a row. The Florida Gators leading scorer is Casey Prather averaging 15.7 points per game. Their leading rebounder is Dorian Finney-Smith averaging 7.3 rebounds per game, and the leading assist man is Scottie Wilbekin averaging 3.7 assists per game.




The 2nd best team in college basketball is the Wichita St. Shockers. They are the last undefeated team in Division I college basketball. They are a very good defensive team altogether. The Shockers aren't in a power conference like the other teams. They are at the top of their division by four games, and the second team in their division is Indiana St. They have some really good players like Cleathony Early, Fred VanVleet, and Ron Baker. Their top scorer is Cleathony Early averaging 15.8 points per game. Their top assist man is

March Madness Graphic


By Liam R.



Fred VanVleet averaging 5.3 assists per game, and their top rebounder is Cleathony averaging 6 rebounds per game. Their coach Greg Marshall has motivated his team to play with an angry attitude.



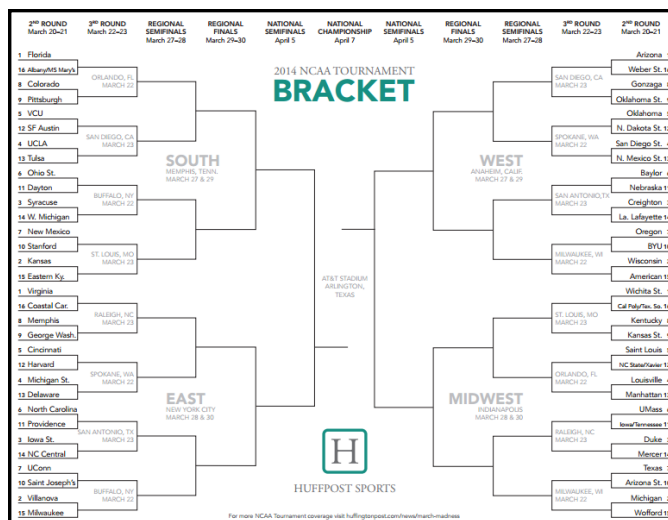
I think that the 3rd best team in college basketball is the Arizona Wildcats. They recently lost one of their best rebounders and scorers to a foot injury that cost him the rest of the season, but they have a freshman replacing him; his name is Rodney Hollis-Jefferson. The Wildcats have some key wins against Duke, San Diego St., and UCLA. Arizona is the Pac-12 champions with their latest win over Stanford. They are a great rebounding team; the Wildcats are 20th in rebounds. Some of their star players are Nick Johnson, five star recruit Aaron Gordon, and TJ McConnell. Their leader in scoring is Nick Johnson averaging 16 points per game, and leading in rebounds is Aaron Gordon averaging eight rebounds per game. TJ McConnell is leading in assists with an average of 5.5 per game.

The logo of the Virginia Cavaliers, featuring a large blue 'V' with orange and white stripes, and two crossed orange sabers below it.

I believe that the number four team in the nation is the Virginia Cavaliers. They have some key wins against VCU, Syracuse, and Pitt. The Cavs are a great defensive team at home and they are 16-1 in ACC play and 15-5 overall. They have some good players like Joe Harris their great three point shooter, and Malcolm Brogdon is leading in scoring, averaging 12.6 points per game. The leading rebounder for the Cavaliers is Akil Mitchell, averaging seven rebounds per game. Virginia's leading assist man is London Perrantes averaging 3.8 assists per game.

March Madness Bracket Revealed

With parent's permission, go online to view the bracket.



SPORTS PAGE



March Madness: Upset Special

By Liam R.

Usually there are some teams that nobody has even heard of, that make it far in the college basketball tourney known as "March Madness." Last year Florida Gulf Coast was the surprise when they beat the two seed Georgetown and made it to the Sweet Sixteen, only to later lose to Florida. Here are the teams I believe could bust the bracket this year.



SMU

SMU this year has beaten some ranked teams, and I believe they have some fight in them. They beat Cincinnati who was ranked in the Top 10, and they also beat Connecticut (#17) and Memphis (#21). They have a solid record, too (19-5). SMU has a great scoring point guard named Nick Russell. He can shoot the three and can play defense. I don't think SMU will make it to the Final Four, but I think they will upset a few top seeds.



Texas

Texas has beaten lots of ranked teams and is used to pressure because they won at North Carolina and at Baylor. They beat two top ten ranked teams (Kansas #6 and Iowa State #8). Freshman point guard, Isaiah Taylor doesn't miss a shot and leads the team in points. He also comes up in the clutch. Those skills will help Texas go far and probably make it as far as the Elite Eight.



Stanford

Stanford is all focused on the post. They have a great power forward named Dwight Powell who leads in points, assists, and rebounds. Stanford has beaten Oregon (#17) and came just short of beating #1 Arizona losing by three points in a shootout. Stanford will probably only make it to the Sweet Sixteen but may knock off a top seed in an upset.



St. Louis

St. Louis can flat out shoot the ball. Even though they haven't beaten a ranked team, they have beaten teams by big margins. They lost to #10 Wisconsin by six and lost to #12 Wichita State by five. Their best scorer's name is Jordair Jett, a point guard, who averages 25 points per game, and leads the team in assists. St. Louis has stayed under the radar in the rankings because they are in a smaller conference, but I believe they may make it to the Final Four as a huge bracket buster.



Connecticut (UConn)

Connecticut has lots of play makers who come up in the clutch, such as Shabazz Napier and Lasan Kromah. Shabazz Napier is very athletic and is probably the best player on UConn. Lasan Kromah has stepped up to play a great role on this team. There is also DeAndre Daniels who can shoot the three very well. UConn has the skill, now they just need to use those players. UConn might make it to the Final Four mainly behind Shabazz Napier.



Iowa

Iowa is a solid team and has many strengths on the bench, probably the best backups in the Big Ten. They have a solid record in arguably the best conference (7-4). The Hawkeyes have beat lots of ranked teams, but their biggest wins were versus #10 Michigan and #3 Ohio State. They have a great playmaker named Roy Devyn Marble. It's possible Iowa could make it to the Elite Eight, but will probably not make it farther because of their inconsistency.



VCU

VCU if you remember has made it to the Final Four and was ranked very high at the beginning of the season. This team has an amazing coach named Shocka Smart. VCU has a great record (20-5), and the team can prove itself to be in the discussion of bracket busters through their season series with St. Louis. They still have to play St. Louis twice, and if they beat them once they earn more credibility. I believe they might make it to the Elite Eight.



UMASS

UMASS was ranked very high in the beginning of the season, and the team is still ranked. They aren't in an amazing conference, but they have a very good record (19-5). They are 19th in the nation at assist per game (APG), and that is a very good stat. I think UMASS will beat lots of top-ranked teams and hopefully at least make the Elite Eight.



SPORTS PAGE



Olympic History: The Story of Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding

By Selma B.

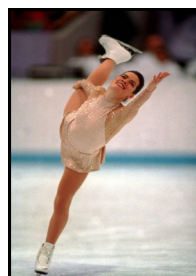


In the history of ice skating there are a lot of stories. This is one of them. Twenty years ago, two American figure skaters on the USA Olympic team were practicing at the Cobo Arena for the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, when Nancy Kerrigan was attacked by Tonya Harding's ex-husband Jeff Gillooly. Gillooly attacked Nancy Kerrigan with a bat on the knee. This was very scary for a lot of the Olympic athletes.

While the police were investigating the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding was getting interviewed a lot. The same question came up in almost all of the interviews: "Do you know anything about the attack on Nancy Kerrigan?" Tonya Harding kept saying that she wished that whoever attacked



Lillehammer is in Norway.



Nancy Kerrigan

Nancy Kerrigan would get caught.

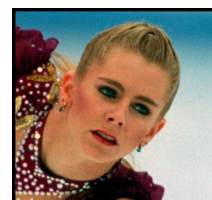
In the Winter Olympics of 1994, Nancy won a silver medal. Tonya came in 8th place after she had a hard time skating because her ice skate shoe lace was broken

Later, the police found out that Tonya was part of the attack. Soon after, the United States Figure Skating Association told Tonya Harding

that she could not come to the Olympics ever again,

After Nancy left the Olympics, she got married to her agent Jerry Soloman. She retired from skating and has three kids.

Tonya Harding got married to Michael Smith, got divorced, and finally married Joseph Jens Price, and has one child with him. Now, both skaters don't talk about the attack and live their lives in peace.



Tonya Harding

Will NHL Players go to South Korea in 2018?

By Nathan D.



The USA Hockey team didn't win a medal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, but there were some exciting moments. T.J. Oshie had an amazing shootout against Alex Ovechkin and the Russians. With a great rule in Olympic play after the first three shooters anybody can go. Oshie took advantage of his chance and scored four out of his six attempts.

The question is will NHL players be allowed to go to South Korea in 2018? There were multiple injuries to players that included stars like the leader in scoring for the New York Rangers, Mark Zuccarello, and defenseman of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Paul Martin. Many teams did not want their players to go in 2014, but they just decided to let them go despite the risk of injuries. The problem is if you are a playoff contender and you lose your best player in the Olympics, you are down your best player and will not be able to stay in the playoff race.

I think it is a great idea to let NHL players go to the Olympics, because if they were not able to, the Olympics would just be the World Junior Championships all over again. Also the NHL players would not be able to represent their counties.

Malcolm Smith

By Johnny B.

Malcolm Smith was drafted 242nd overall in the 2011 NFL draft. At USC, Pete Carroll was Malcolm's head coach. Now, Malcolm and his coach are reunited. He was not a starter at USC for long, one or two years at the most. He did record a 62 yard pick six in a game against UCLA in 2009, though. He wasn't really that well known until this year when he came in and made some key plays to help the Seahawks win the Super Bowl.

First this season, he made his first NFL pick six against the Rams which he returned for 37 yards. He had another interception the following week, not a touchdown, and it was only returned for 32 yards. Those plays helped, but his star plays came in back-to-back games. First, he came up with the NFC Championship clinching play with an interception on a pass tipped by Richard Sherman. Then, he had a 69 yard pick six in Super Bowl XLVIII to make it 22-0 Seahawks. Smith also had a fumble recovery, making him Super Bowl MVP.



Author Jennifer Holm Visiting Spring, *continued*

By Grace B.

Why did you become an author?

J.H. I love to read!

What authors inspire you and what are some of your favorite authors?

J.H. I love Lloyd Alexander.

Who is a person that inspires you?

J.H. My late father.

Do you have any pets?

J.H. A cat named Julius Ceaser Augustus. We call him "Auggie."

How do you get a book published?

J.H. With a lot of perseverance and luck.

What is your favorite book genre?

J.H. Graphic novels and historical fiction.

Also what is your favorite book?

J.H. The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander.



What is your favorite book you have written?

J.H. The Fourteenth Goldfish – it comes out in August.

We are excited for Ms. Holm's visit! If you are interested in ordering a book of hers to be autographed when she's here,

look for the order form in the library. Orders are due on Wednesday April 2, 2014.



Check out Jennifer Holm's books from the library!

QUIZ: WHICH DESSERT ARE YOU?

By Olivia W.

Read the questions below and circle the answer that fits you best. Go to the back page for your answer.

What do you prefer as a snack?

- a. Popcorn
- b. Apple
- c. Fruit Roll-Up
- d. Pretzels
- e. Crackers

What shoes would you wear every day?

- a. UGGs
- b. Gym
- c. Colorful High-Tops
- d. Ballet Flats
- e. Slippers

What are your most favorite colors?

- a. Green or Brown
- b. Yellow or Blue
- c. Pink or Red
- d. Brown or White
- e. Purple or Blue

What ice cream flavor sounds good?

- a. Mango Pineapple
- b. Cherry Cinnamon
- c. Strawberry Lemon
- d. Blueberry Shortcake
- e. Caramel White Chocolate Chip Chunk

5. What sport would you like to TRY?

- a. Rock Climbing
- b. Skiing
- c. Ultimate Frisbee
- d. Tennis
- e. Archery

What kind of music do you listen to?

- a. Hip-Hop
- b. Rock n' Roll
- c. Pop
- d. Jazz
- e. I'll listen to anything

What app do you wish you created?

- a. Jetpack Joyride
- b. Paper Toss
- c. Flappy Bird
- d. Instagram
- e. ICEE Maker
- f.

What animal do you favor most?

- a. Shark
- b. Dog
- c. Rabbit
- d. Cat
- e. I like all animals



Hey, 3rd graders, think about joining Newspaper Club next year! Talk to Ms. Marek or Mrs. Faldani!

Teacher Spotlight

Teachers' Favorite Animals

By Maggie K. and Lilly M.

Kindergarten

Ms. Dickerson- sea turtle

First grade

Ms. Parrino- giraffe

Mrs. Caylor- dolphin

Second grade

Mrs. Walsh- dolphin

Mrs. Richardson- panda

Mrs. Daly- polar bear

Third grade

Ms. McGinnis- elephants

Ms. Melone- dolphin

Mrs. Dahlin- dolphin

Fourth grade

Mrs. Haymes- giraffe

(Mr. Meyers- dog)

Mrs. Mindy- dogs

Mrs. Eck- panda

Fifth grade

Ms. Folliard- squirrel and puppies

Mrs. Demer- dog

Sixth grade

Mrs. Wanta- dog

Ms. Charlton- Wolf

Custodian

Mr. Jinx- Bats

More teachers

Mrs. Faldani- panda

Ms. Marek- cats

Mrs. Blazek- dog

Mrs. Kay- her dogs

Mrs. Jones- zebra

Gym

Ms. Weaver- elephant

Mr. Arneson- badger

Teachers' Spring Break Plans

By Ava P.

I know everybody is excited for Spring Break. Well at least I know I am! It is from March 22nd to March 30th. I decided to interview all the teachers to see what they are doing for Spring Break, and these are the results.

Preschool:

Ms. Halfpenny: Going to New Orleans, Dallas, and Washington D.C.

Kindergarten:

Ms. Dickerson: Going to the Florida Keys, helping out at a turtle hospital, and swimming with dolphins

First Grade:

Mrs. Caylor: Staying home and driving daughter to airport
Ms. Parrino: Going to Florida

Second Grade:

Mrs. Richardson: Getting ready for the birth of her new baby girl
Mrs. Daly: Cleaning
Mrs. Walsh: Going on vacation

Third Grade:

Ms. McGinnis: Going to Santa Bell Island, Florida
Mrs. Dahlin: Hanging out with my new niece
Ms. Melone: Might go to New York and hanging out with friends/ family

Fourth Grade:

Mrs. Haymes: Home with her new baby
Ms. Eck: Going to Galena
Mrs. Mindy: Walking kids to school and hoping for some sunshine.

Fifth Grade:

Ms. Folliard: Coaching some High School softball games and reading
Mrs. Demer: Going to Disney World with daughter to see older daughter play in a band concert

Sixth Grade:

Mrs. Wanta: Relaxing with family
Ms. Charlton: Relaxing and catching up on work

Physical Education:

Ms. Weaver: Staying home and going to a track team practice

Office:

Mrs. Jones: Celebrating granddaughter's 5th birthday

Principal:

Mrs. Webb: Going to see mom in Florida

Advanced Reading/Math:

Mrs. Faldani: staying home

Librarian:

Ms. Marek: Reading and Relaxing



Principal Spotlight

The One and Only ... Mrs. Webb!

By Angelina G. and Audrey M.

We interviewed our Spring Avenue principal Mrs. Webb. She has been the principal here for eight years. Throughout the years of being a principal and teacher, she has a few funny memories.

First she remembers a student from another school, "One day a first grade boy who had an English accent and was from another school was once again in the office. I asked him why he constantly talked to a girl during class. His response was 'I love her and I'm going to marry her.' I was startled at first, but then informed him that in order to marry her he would have to be well educated and provide for her. His second response was almost as startling. 'Well, then I'll need BUCKET loads of money!' While trying to control my urge to laugh, I made him promise to try his best in school so he could make BUCKET loads of money for his wife."

Mrs. Webb also reflected on

another funny story. "There was a little boy in third grade who could dance the multiplication dance better than anyone. His technique was to shake his back-side side to side!"

Mrs. Webb didn't always know what she wanted to be when she grew up. In fact, she said "At first I wanted to be an equestrian, then an actress, but after working at the YMCA with children, I knew right away it was my destiny to work with kids, so I started the process of becoming a teacher."

Even though Mrs. Webb has only been here for a short time, she has been in education for much longer. Mrs. Webb informed us about her past career. "I had been a teacher for 23 years. I was a teacher mostly in Salt Lake City, Utah and Naperville, Illinois. After being a teacher for all those years I went back to school to get my Type 75 – a principal certificate."

Her hard work paid off because

her studies showed her a different perspective of education. "In the class I started becoming very intrigued with the leadership of being a principal. I love being a principal right here at Spring."

Mrs. Webb's journey through her teaching career had led her to Spring. In fact, she said "We found each other."

Before she was at Spring, Mrs. Webb was working with students and teachers to support the subject of writing. "I was a trainer for writing. I came to District 105 several times and enjoyed myself very much. One day Dr. Schlichting told me about an opening for a principal here at Spring Avenue. So I went through the interview process, and now I'm here!"

Spring Avenue is sure glad to have Mrs. Webb here. We're glad Spring Ave found her. We hope she stays for much longer. If you have anymore questions find Mrs. Webb at a convenient time and visit with her.

A Springtime Poem

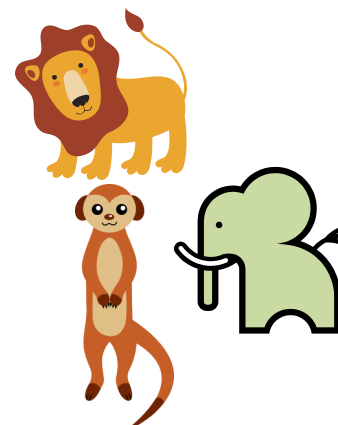
By Grace K.

Spring raindrops hit the ground,
drip, drop is the sound!
flowers bloom,
their sweet scent fills the room!
the easter bunny hops around,
without making a single sound!
Spring has sprung!

Top 10 Zoo Animals

By Lilly M. and Sophie P.

1. elephant
2. lion
3. meerkat
4. tiger
5. giraffe
6. penguin
7. gorillas
8. sharks
9. rhinoceros
10. crocodile



Source:
www.thetoptens.com/zoo-animals

The Legend of the Sun Stone

By Abbey P.

Growls arose from the tan, furry bodies of the wolves of the southern pack. Both packs had found a large elk, big enough to feed both clans for days. One of the southern wolves pounced at the elk but in midair, Lila jumped after him and pinned him to the long, grassy ground of the valley.

"Get the elk!" She shouted at her pack. The elk ran away but the wolves chased after it. Panting, the elk tripped, and fell. Just after that, Lila knew she had helped the clan out a lot.

When back at the den, Alpha trotted up to Lila. He was only a few years older than her, and you needed to be his age to hunt. But Lila was so skilled, she got in early.

"Lila, you did great on hunting today. If it wasn't for you the southern pack might've gotten away with that elk," he said as she turned around.

"Thanks Alpha." Lila responded. "I try to do my best."

"How'd you like to level up in your hunting skill?" asked Alpha

Lila's eyes widened. That was her lifelong dream! The next level of hunting was the highest—stealing food from other clans.

"Yes! I'd love to!"

"You're in!"

The next morning, Lila woke up in her den to Alpha's wakeup howl. She went outside, only to see it was still dark out. Multiple families were outside their homes looking up at the alpha den, won-

dering why so early?

Alpha announced, "The eastern pack has stolen our amulet!" A chorus of gasps came from the pack. The amulet was the pack's prized possession. Multiple wolves have tried it on but it failed to spark. Only one wolf is destined to wear it.

"Someone must go to get it!" one wolf shouted.

"Alpha can go!" shouted another.

"No! I mustn't go! I need to protect the clan. But I know of someone who can!" He pointed directly at Lila.

"Me?!"

Lila was on her way to the eastern pack when she saw smoke in the distance. She ran over to see two black wolves—eastern wolves. Lila was a part of the western pack. She was silver coated with a gold earring in one ear. Legend has it that whoever claims the amulet, earns wings that can take them to the heavens. To the city in the sky.

Daydreaming, she hit her head into a tree.

One wolf from the eastern pack whispered, "What was that?"

"I don't know. Let's go back." He put out the fire and they ran deeper into the woods.

Lila followed the two wolves, but could hardly see them. They were so dark; all she saw was the silver anklets around their paws.

Later, a huge clan came into view. Their alpha asked them, "Do you

have the amulet?"

"We sure do,"

"Good. Put it in the alpha hall,"

Lila waited until no one was looking, then ran to the alpha hall. Peeking around the corner, she saw them placing the amulet on the stone pedestal. As they left, she walked up to the pedestal. She clamped her teeth around the gold band and it vibrated. The blue gem started to spark. Scared, she put it down. She nudged it with her nose, and tossed it around her neck. The gem lit up and sparks swirled around her. A huge flash lit up the mountain range and forest around it. Yet no single wolf noticed but her. On the ground she lifted up her head, feeling different.

She turned around to see huge silver and black, feathered wings. She gasped. The amulet gave her wings and the power to fly to the city in the sky! She crept out of the alpha hall and swished her new wings a couple of times, and jumped into the sky, wings heavily beating.

When she got home, she walked up to the Alpha Den and called Alpha out.

"Lila! You've returned! With the amulet too!" Lila extended her wings to show Alpha.

He gasped.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

Want more Lila? Read the next newspaper for Legend of the Sun Stone, part 2!

The Perfect Dog for You!

By Ava M.



Have you ever begged and begged and begged your parents for a new dog, and they said no? (I know I did.) If you talked about it so much that they finally told you to be quiet then you're in luck because here is some information for you to use next time!

The King Charles Spaniel is a small, loving, cute, soft, and cuddly dog. Even though sometimes they can be a little crazy, they do not need a lot of space.

Boxers on the other hand are big dogs, and they need a lot of space. So, if you are looking to buy a Boxer you might not want to have a small yard. Boxers need to run around a lot, but can also be very lovable at the same time.

Pit Bulls are just like Boxers but a little bit smaller. They like to run a lot too!

Last but certainly not least is a Lab. A Lab is a kind dog who is medi-

um-sized. They are fun to be around and very friendly! Now that you have more information, circle the kind of dog you want below.

King Charles Spaniel: Yes No

Boxer: Yes No

Pit Bull: Yes No

Lab: Yes No

The Inspiring Life of Nelson Mandela

By Joanie M.

This story is tragic to the many people in South Africa and around the world. Nelson Mandela died on December 6, 2013, at 95 years old. He was the first black president of South Africa. He had been suffering from a lung infection for over 10 years.

In 1951, Mandela became involved with the African National Congress (ANC). He and other young members of the ANC soon realized that polite petitioning by the few members of the ANC was having no impact on the racist ruling.



The reason why Nelson Mandela was the first black president because the power of presidents belonged to whites since they had first settled in South Africa, 342 years ago. He suffered in jail for 17 years after being arrested for protest-

ing and fighting segregation. He was in jail from 1962-1981 with other members of the ANC. As diverse as any other country, a group of proud survivors from many years of fighting for equal rights began their work of electing Nelson Mandela first black president of South Africa. They were successful!

This is how Mandela lived in his years as a legend in the making. The job as the first black president in South Africa was very rewarding. I hope you enjoyed this life montage of one of the best and favorite men in the world.

How To: French Braid

By Anna W.

Do you want to know how to do a French braid? If you do, you should read this step by step article.

What you need:

Hairbrush
Spray bottle (optional)
Hair band

First, make sure your hair is brushed out. Second, you take the top hairs and split them into threes. Third, you braid it a couple times. Next, you grab hair from one of the sides of your head and add it to your braid, and braid those pieces of hair, and you do that till you have no more hair to add. Lastly, you braid it normally until you reach the bottom of the hair.



Earth Friendly Craft: Making Crayons

By Zoe C.



Looking for a craft idea that's fun and recycles natural resources? You can make exciting crayons using broken crayons. Crayons are made from petroleum oil, which is a valuable natural resource. Instead of throwing away old, broken crayons, here is a fun way to keep them out of the landfill!

You will need:

Broken crayon pieces
A baking mold (silicone or non-stick) or cupcake tin
An adult to help

Instructions:

1) Collect broken crayons. Remove all paper from the crayons. If you want solid colored crayons, sort the crayon

pieces by color.

2) Place the crayon pieces into the mold or cupcake tin. If you are using a silicone mold, place it on a cookie sheet to keep it from moving.

3) Put the mold in an oven and bake at 250°F for about 15 minutes.

4) After the crayons have fully melted, remove them from the oven and let them cool.

5) As they cool, the crayons will contract or harden and become easy to remove from the mold.

6) Remove the crayons and enjoy!

The Conflict Between Russia and Ukraine

By Will K.

Right now in Ukraine, Russians are invading the country. After hosting the Sochi games

and showing greatness, they invade this small country. There is a reason for this.

The reason is that the Ukraine president was siding with Russia. Then the Ukrainian people disagreed with this relationship between the two presidents, so they ran the Ukrainian president out of office. Then Russian troops moved in since they had no president. Another reason is that some Russians are living on the Crimean Peninsula which is part of Ukraine. Now Ukraine is in trouble.

The U.S. government is trying to stop this since the United States thinks Russia should not be going into another country. It would be devastating if we had a World War III.



The Crash of Roswell, New Mexico

By Grant S.



On July 2, 1947 a strange object fell out of the sky. What was this object? Was it a plane? Was it a bird? No it was a UFO. UFO stands for unidentified flying object.

Many people think the object is real, but some people do not. That night in July there was a bad storm and a farmer heard a big boom. This Farmer was named William W. "Mac" Brazel. William rode to the hill with his seven year-old neighbor and saw pieces of shiny material.

Some people think it was a surveillance balloon sent by the U.S. Government, and others think it was an alien spacecraft. Some people think that it was a fake because you can make fake pictures.

We don't know yet, but do you believe in ALIENS?

A Boxer History Lesson and Funny Boxers

By Shea W.

You might think boxers have nothing to do with Ireland or St. Patrick's Day, but they do have a connection to Ireland. This breed of dogs helped the troops during World War I and World War II working as messenger dogs. It was after World War II the dogs really became popular all over the world, especially here in the United States.

Here are some funny dog pictures, including a few boxers!



Yo



BALL!!!!!!



BACON?

I must have bacon!



collie explorer
has tamed the hippo of the sandpit

What will I defeat next, wait what am I doing here!



Did you see me catch that wave?

Sources:

timmwps.wikispaces.com/Funny+Things+forums.somd.com/dogs/145412-our-boxer-lovers.html
www.pinterest.com/shotopsail/boxer-dogs/
www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6J4dedtP2M

Fun Recycled Crafts to Make

By Lindsey P.

"Un-erasable" Pencil

You will need a pencil, a white crayon, and paper. First, draw/write whatever you want with pencil on a piece of paper. Then, color all over the pencil marks with the white crayon. Try to erase. The marks might fade a little, but won't completely vanish.

Noisemaker

You will need strips of recycled paper. First, lay a strip of paper on a solid surface. Then, blow from different angles. It should make a noise.

Notes: works best on wood. The thicker the strip, the lower the sound.



Top Ten Spring Break Destinations

By Joanie M.

1. Hawaii/ Cancun:

Hawaii is a beautiful, tropical state, often called the Aloha State. Some sites you can see are the Mona Loua volcano and black-sand beaches.



2. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

3. Daytona Beach, Florida

4. South Padre Island, Texas

5. Puerto Rico: Puerto



Rico is a very beautiful place. It is very popular to the people of the U.S.

6. Jamaica

7. Biloxi, Mississippi

8. Costa Rica

9. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

10. **The Bahamas:** Lots of people go to the Bahamas over Spring Break.

It is a very fascinating place. It's PACKED with beaches everywhere.

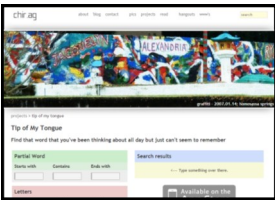


Happy Spring Break!

Five Amazing Websites to Explore

By Jennie B.

I see so many new amazing websites every day that I've never seen before. Today, I'm here to give five of these undiscovered gems a chance in the spotlight. You might want to try them out, but be sure to get your parent's permission first!



Tip Of My Tongue

chir.ag/projects/tip-of-my-tongue

Tip Of My Tongue is a website that helps you remember those words that are just at the tip of your tongue. Can't remember a synonym for frying that starts with a C? Tip Of My Tongue is just the site to go to. Complete with 12 unique settings to help your quest for the right word, I simply can't ask for a better writer's tool.



Google Gravity

www.mrdoob.com/projects/chromeexperiments/google-gravity

Google gravity is a website that is more for your enjoyment than for function. It

takes the appearance of the normal Google search interface and completely and utterly wrecks it. You can then drag all the separate buttons and logos around, just for fun. Another feature of this entertaining little site is that when you attempt to search something, a few of the links and images from that search fall down from the top, giving you a chance to also drag these widgets around as well.



Silk

weavesilk.com

Silk is a creative website that lets you make amazing swirls of color. Every picture you make will be unique, guaranteed. It has many settings for colors, mirroring, and all sorts of symmetry. With this amazing tool of perfect symmetry, making beautiful pieces of art is easy!



SumoPaint

<http://www.sumopaint.com/app/>

SumoPaint is a drawing program that makes drawing from your computer

much simpler for those who don't have a drawing tablet. With all of the settings that you couldn't even find on some professional drawing programs, this site is just an absolute wonder. I personally have created many pictures on here easily, so why don't you try your hand at SumoPaint?



The Whale

http://img0.liveinternet.ru/images/attach/c/5/3970/3970473_sprite198.swf

This website is very simple, it has no settings, and it only does one simple thing. This website is simply a whale that follows your cursor around. The whale's physics are pretty nice, and there isn't one person I've shown the whale to that hasn't been completely enthralled by it. No one can resist but to play with the whale for hours on end. So, will you dare to try the whale?



How to Make an Ice Cream Sundae

By Grace K. and Anna W.



Ice Cream sundaes are perfect deserts. They are yummy and fun to make!

Ingredients

Ice Cream
Sprinkles
Hershey's Ice Cream Syrup
Cherry (optional)
Bowl
Spoon
Whipped Cream

First, scoop ice cream into a bowl.

Next, put whipped cream on top.

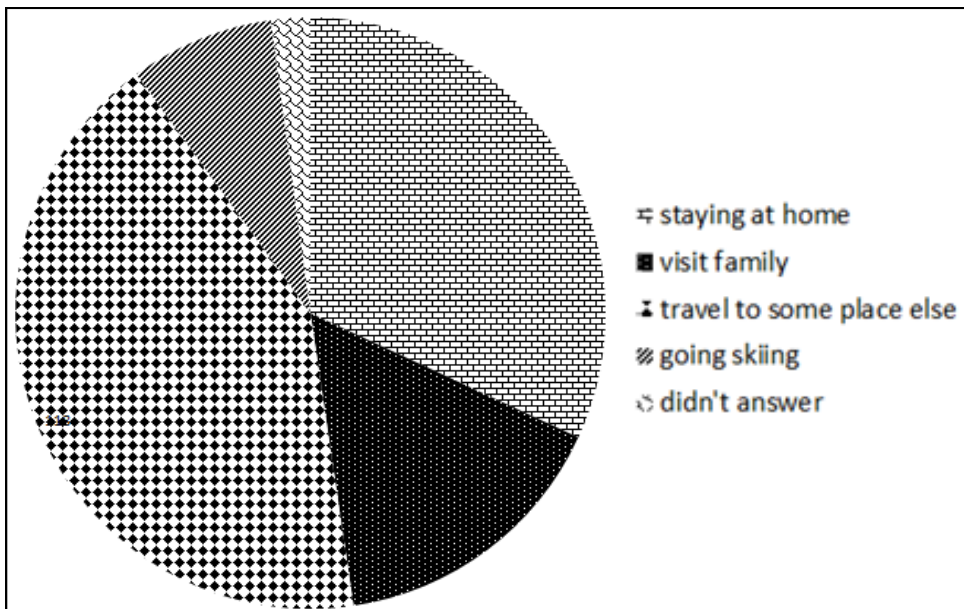
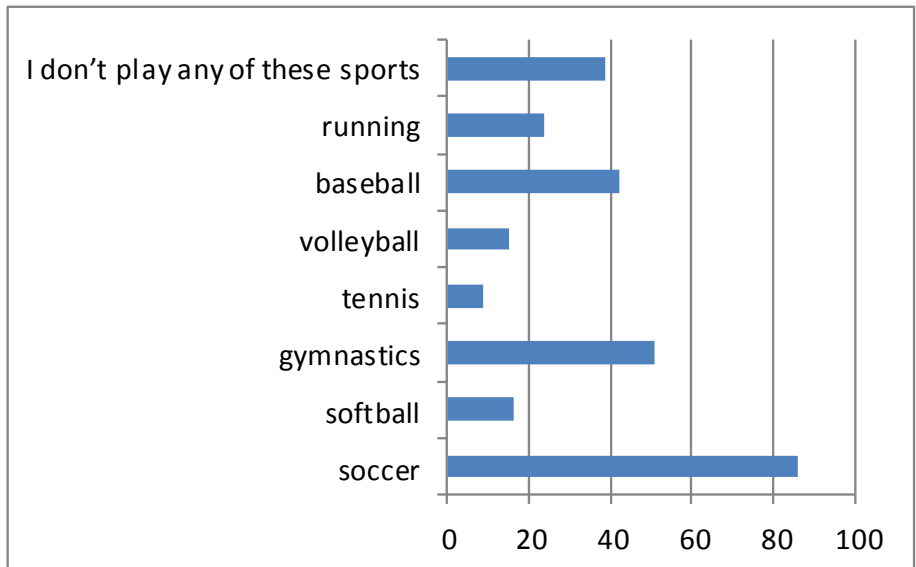
Then, drizzle the syrup on.

Next, sprinkle sprinkles on top.

Finally, put the cherry on top and eat your sundae!

What is Your Favorite Sport to Play?

By Sophie P. and Anna W.

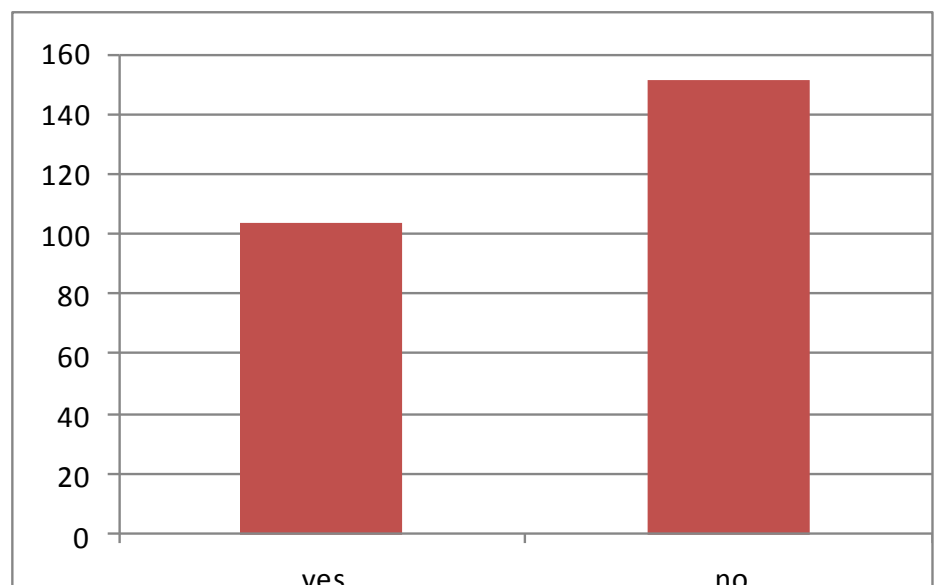


What are you Doing for Spring Break?

By Rhys W.

Do you get an allowance?

By Abbey P.



Important Dates

March 20 — Math and Science Night, 6:00-8:30
 March 21—Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring Celebration
 March 24-March 28—Spring Break
 April 9—PTO Meeting
 April 11 — Battle of the Books
 April 11— 5th grade to Robert Crown
 April 11—Fun Fair, 6:00-8:30
 April 15—Parent Involvement Presentation, 6:30-8:00
 April 16—Grade 6 Parent Orientation at Gurrie, 7:00-8:00
 April 17 — Band Aid Concert, Aurand Hall, 7:30pm
 April 18—No School
 April 21-May 9—Spring Assessment Window
 April 25—6th grade to Robert Crown
 April 28—Board Meeting

Lost and Found

Please check or call the office for any missing items.



Which Dessert Are You Quiz Answers:

Mostly A's: You are a Hot Fudge Sundae. You are very adventurous and love to take risks. Just like a hot fudge sundae, you are wanted everywhere, and people love you!

Mostly B's: You are a Popsicle. You are sporty and athletic. You love every sport and there is and give everything a try. You are always ready for anything to happen.

Mostly C's: You are a Banana Split. You are outgoing and super fun. You are creative and love everybody. You enjoy trying new things, and above all, you love hanging with your buds.

Mostly D's: You are a Chocolate Cake. You are sophisticated and mature, and you are also very polite to others. You are always looking for new things to learn, and you are always positive.

Mostly E's: You are a Milkshake. (Any kind you'd like) You are sweet just like this yummy treat. You are quiet and nice to others. You're quiet around adults, but when you're with other kids, you're a fun friend to have.

Jennifer Holm Book Order Form

Spring Avenue is excited to welcome author Jennifer Holm to our school on Thursday, April 17. The book order form is available on the website.



Return completed order forms to the Spring Avenue Office by Wednesday, April 2.

Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisors:

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jmarek@d105.net

Mrs. Faldani
vfaldani@d105.net

A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff



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