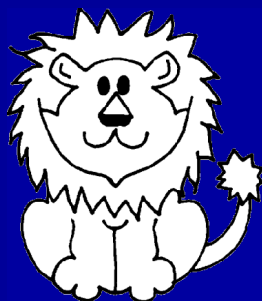


vivid

very strong or bright,
having the appearance
of vigorous life



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

A Lion's Life Newspaper

5 / 14 / 2014

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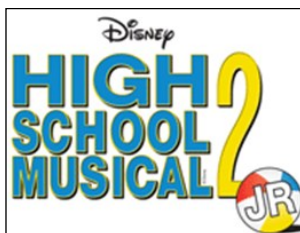
High School Musical 2 Jr.

By Angelina G.

We all know everyone is super excited to see an amazing performance this year! District 105 will once again perform a remarkable musical. As always, tons of effort and time are put into this performance. Preparation starts at the end of January and from there it takes about four months. That means four months of practicing, perfecting, and fun! This year the district will preform High School Musical 2 Jr.!

Instructing it all are Mr. Wydra and Mrs. Kay. Every year Mr. Wydra and Mrs. Kay love instructing the musical because they both enjoy theater and adore teaching kids to love theater. A special bonus is they get to teach their passion. Their favorite part of instructing the musical is seeing kids improve their drama skills and having fun. Also, they

love seeing how all the hard work kids put into the musical comes across during the performances. With a job they love, our District 105 Musical is better and better each year.



Ever wonder how they choose the musical? Mr. Wydra and Mrs. Kay have informed me that they ask Gurrie students to meet with them and help choose based on

what kids want to do and what they are capable of doing.

I know one of my favorite parts of the musical is seeing the exquisite costumes. Parents help out with the costumes but some students even get their own costume. What helpful parents and creative students!

Come see the District 105 Musical May 14th, tonight, at 7:30 pm and May 15th, tomorrow night, at 7:30.

It's going to be a great show!

The Last Mile

Running Club Fun Run

By Grant S.

The whistle goes off! The runners start running! The crowd starts cheering. It is a proud moment for Running Club because coming up is the Last Mile.

The Last Mile is a fun run that is going to take place in the field by the playground at school on the morning of June 5 at 9:00. Running Club members will run and other students will cheer them on.

This year a lot more kids joined Running Club. A lot of kids joined because of a sport they play like football or soccer. Running Club helps get them in shape.

I hope it will be a good run. I will be so sad when Running Club ends this year, but I will see all the runners there. I wish all the runners good luck and hope to see them again in Running Club next year.

Newspaper Club: the First Step to Fame

By Joseph P.

I have been in Newspaper Club for three years. Almost every Tuesday after school I have gone to the library and typed articles with my friends. Since this is my last article, I would like to tell you about my experience.

Ms. Marek and Mrs. Faldani have been the advisors for my whole time in Newspaper, and have inspired many of my articles.

This year's papers have had a record amount of very interesting articles in them. A Li-

on's Life Newspaper provides information about academics, athletics, movies, and much more.

If you are going to be in 4th grade or above next year, you can join Newspaper Club. You'll have between five and six weeks to create articles about almost anything you want. It will improve your writing skills and let you speak your mind.

Don't worry if you don't know what to write about, Ms. Marek and Mrs. Faldani

will help you. A newspaper containing yours and everybody else's articles will be given to the school and your name will be in it. It's the first step to fame. There are too many great things about Newspaper Club for me to name them all.

I would like to thank Ms. Marek and Mrs. Faldani for giving me this opportunity and for making Newspaper Club as great as it is. Honestly, after three years I am thrilled about joining Newspaper Club.

With the continued partnership of our involved parents, we are able to achieve greatness.

We are the luckiest school on earth!

Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Webb

Dear Families,

2013-2014 has been a great ride, as Ms. Kim would say. Our Spring Avenue family has grown by more than 100 students over the last eight years, and we are so lucky to embrace these new families and learn how to continue to do the best we can to support all learners. Staff has been working around the clock to learn how to provide rigor and increase engagement at all levels. WELL DONE, Staff!

The most important part of Spring Avenue is the STUDENTS! They are ready for school, thanks to parents, and they bring a positive attitude and an eagerness to grow each day. With this, we can keep them learning and growing to their greatest potential. And that's what the staff at Spring Avenue does! With the continued partnership of our involved parents, we are able to achieve greatness. We are the luckiest school on earth!

Students continue to work on their social-emotional awareness using the "Own it, Fix it and Learn from it" philosophy. Even our youngest students are able to understand how this philosophy helps them be accountable and involved in the process of growing up.

Spring Avenue students were able to select goals this year, based on their individual needs and data. It's quite a marvel to watch a first grader explain his/her own reading goal, for example, know how to monitor this goal, and even how to adjust it when he or she has met this goal. We celebrated this goal setting right before spring break with an all school Popcorn and Movie party. WELL DONE, Spring Avenue students!!

This almost goes without saying, but we can never stop saying this: We have the MOST involved families in the world. When sharing all our PTO and parents do for our students with outside educators, there is a look of awe and wonder! From our SPOC program where DADS, GRANDPARENTS and AUNTS came to school to help out, to the continual volunteer spots across the board, to all the successful fundraisers, we are never without support from the families. We believe our families are their children's best advocates and we applaud your care and concern. WELL DONE, PARENTS, and FAMILIES. Thank you!!!

From our Strategic Plan, we continue to focus on the following goals:

We want *each student to feel that he/she is a valued member of the school community prepared for future academic and career success.*

We want *our communities to feel pride in our work and express confidence that we are good stewards of their resources.*

We want *each staff member to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and their families.*

Thank you, EVERYONE, for joining in this worthy work and exciting journey!!!

With love and gratitude,

Mrs. Elizabeth Webb, Principal
Ms. Casimira Gorman, Assistant Principal



By Josie B.

Day: June 6th - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!!

Time: 1:15 to 2:15 pm

Ben E. – “We will dominate all the teachers, and they will have to get prepared for us.”

Abbey P. – “I love kickball, so I am very excited.”

Joseph P. – “It’s fun, and I can’t wait to cream the teachers.”

Olivia W. – “I am very excited to crush the staff, especially the sixth grade teachers, and I am very happy I get the chance to be a part of this.”

Liam R. – “All of the 6th graders are going to crush the teachers, and it will be pretty emotional after we win. Also it is going to AWESOME!”

Natalia Z. – “I am excited to see everybody in 6th grade actually work together to cream the staff.”

By Alex V.



The Chicago Bears are a professional NFL (National Football League) team from Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Bears were founded in 1919. Their home games are in Soldier Field. Their home colors are navy blue, white, and orange. Their away colors are white, orange, and navy blue. Their alternate colors are navy blue and orange. Their longtime rivalry is the Green Bay Packers. Their other rivals are the Indianapolis Colts, the San Francisco 49ers, the New York Giants, the Cleveland Browns, the Minnesota

Vikings, and the Detroit Lions.

A long time ago, the Chicago Bears' home games were in Wrigley Field. Soldier Field is 100 yards from the end zone all the way to the other end zone. The Chicago Bears were the NFL champions nine times.

My favorite players are Devin Hester, Jay Cutler, and Walter Payton. The team's mascot is the bear. Their headquarters is in Halas Hall in Lake Forest, Illinois. The Bears won the Super Bowl in 1985. In 2014, the Chicago Bears first game was against the Bills. In 1962, the "C" was introduced as a logo for the Chicago Bears.

By Will K.

“Let’s go Hawks!” It’s the 1st period against the Dallas Stars on Tuesday, March 21st. Andrew Shaw scores! He gets one behind Campbell from the side for the first goal of the game! “Yeah Pat that was a great play by Shaw, he was right there at the right time for a goal.”

The fans were excited about that goal. Sharp wins the next face-off. He passes it up to Hossa, he passes back to Seabrook, now up to Brookbank, off the side to Keith, up to Kruger, he shoots the puck and scores! Yeah!

The reason I am writing this article is because I had so much fun at this game! I was in standing room only. In the third period I went down to the 200 level with my dad! In the 3rd period Hossa made an empty net goal to win the game! With 47.7 seconds left Brandon Bollig was in a fight with a Dallas player. The game ended well for Chicago; the Hawks won with a score of 4-2!



Photo source: <http://blackhawks.nhl.com/club/gallery.htm> id=44329&location=/photos&pg=3

SPORTS PAGE



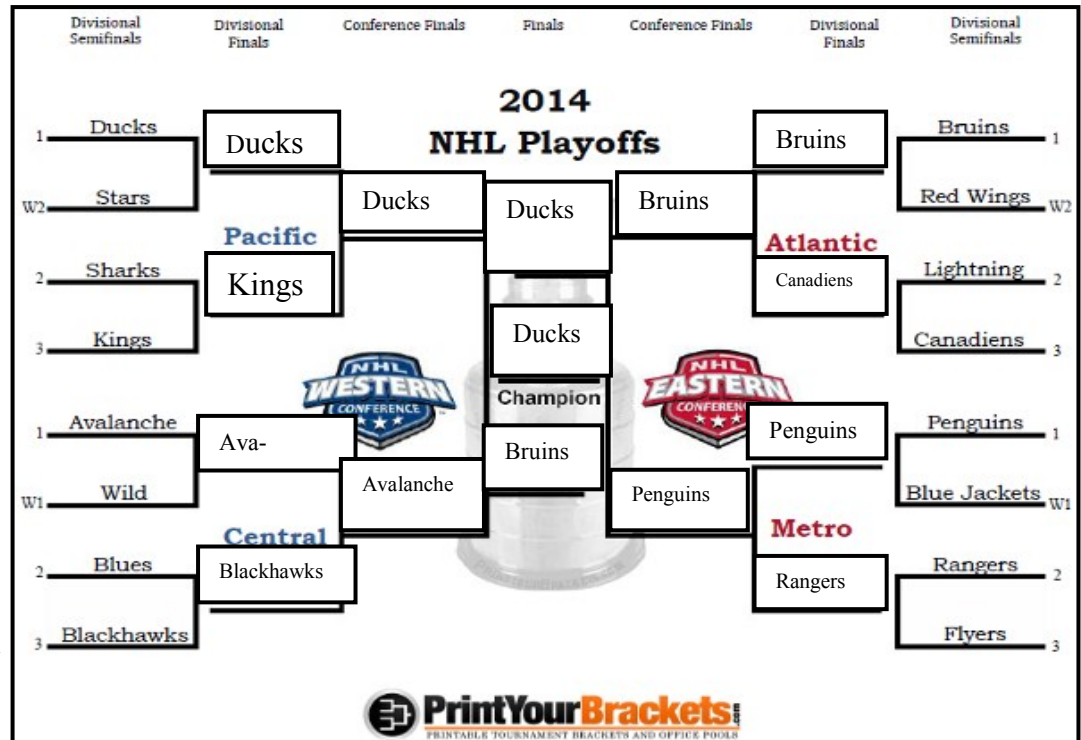
NHL Play Offs Predictions and Bracket

By Nathan D.

This season has been action packed with great plays and trades. One trade that affected the Rangers and the Lightning was when the veteran Martin St. Louis went to the Rangers for the young superstar Ryan Callahan. This trade was pretty foolish on the Rangers part because the Lightning got a sniper and a former captain and the Rangers got a future Hall of Famer, but he is losing skill every day.

Another big trade that was completed right before the trade deadline was when Ryan Miller was traded to the Blues. He has been a great addition to the Blues and has played exceptional since the trade. Alex Ovechkin has had a great season with a total of 51 goals. Another player that has burst out this season is Sidney Crosby with a total of 104 points. There have also been a lot of standout goalies this season who have lead the league in a few different statistics, including Josh Harding with 1.66 goals allowed a game and a .993 save percentage, and Tuukka Rask with a total of seven shutouts. Another standout goalie was Semyon Varlamov of the Colorado Avalanche with a total of 41 wins. Another thing to look out for in the playoffs is the Montreal Canadiens and their amazing goaltender Corey Price. Another player on the Canadiens who can give a spark is skilled defenseman P.K. Subban who can beat you with his shots and can beat you down the ice with his speedy outlet passes.

These are my predictions for the playoffs. Starting with the series between the Ducks and the Stars in the Western Conference, it will be full of offense from both teams with Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin of the Stars and Ryan Getzlaf and speedy Corey Perry of the Ducks, but because of the Ducks offensive speed they will win the series in six games. Moving on to the second series between the Kings and the Sharks the Kings have a flashy goaltender in Jonathan Quick and the Sharks have an experienced goaltender in Antti Niemi. Another advantage the Kings have is the solid defender from Miami Ohio named Alex Martinez, who will allow the Kings to pull the series out in seven games. Moving on to the Central Division in the Western Conference, we have the Avalanche and the Wild. The Avalanche have a young star who can give them a spark at any time in Nathan MacKinnon, and the Wild also have a former Saber in Matt Moulson who can give them power. The Avalanche will win the series in seven but it will be tough. Now the series between the Blues and the Blackhawks will be very physical. The Blues have the American hero in T.J. Oshie, but the Hawks have



a veteran captain in Jonathan Toews and a dangler in Patrick Kane, so the Hawks will win the series in six games. Now moving on to the second round in the Western Conference. Based on my predictions in the first round the Pacific Division Finals will be between the Ducks and the Kings. Although the Kings have experience in the playoffs, the Ducks have a veteran player named Teemu Selanne, also known as the Finnish Flash, who will lead them to a hard fought series where they will finish it off in six games. In the other division final the Blackhawks will play the Avalanche. The Avalanche have a new coach who knows how to work in the clutch and can beat the Blackhawks at their own game, so the Avalanche will win the series in seven games. In the Western Conference Championship, I think the Avalanche will play the Ducks. The Avalanche have two star players in Paul Stastny and Matt Duchene, but again the Ducks offense will be at full pace, and the Ducks will win the series in seven games putting them in to the Stanley Cup Finals.

Now in the Eastern Conference between the Bruins and the Red Wings, the Red Wings have a veteran in Henrik Zetterberg. The Bruins also have a star defenseman in Zdeno Chara and a speedy forward out of Miami Ohio named Reilly Smith who can give a spark so the Bruins will win the series in five games. Moving on to what looks like a competitive series between the Lightning and the Canadiens. The Lightning have a star Canadian forward in Steven Stamkos, but the goaltending from Carey Price and the Canadiens prevail them to complete the series in a sweep.

Story continued on next page.

SPORTS PAGE



NHL Play Offs, *Continued*

By Nathan D.

Now for the Penguins and Blue Jackets, although the Blue Jackets have a force on offense in Brandon Dubinsky, the Penguins have one of the best players in the NHL in Sidney Crosby, so the Pens will win the series in six games. Now for the Flyers, Rangers series. Although the Flyers have had some deep playoff runs in the past, the Rangers have a newly added veteran in Martin St. Louis, so the Rangers will win the series in seven games. In the second round the Bruins will play the Canadiens, although the Bruins have a great playoff history, the Canadiens have an even better playoff history. Regardless, the Bruins will win the series in seven games. Now in the other semifinal in the Eastern conference, the Rangers will play the Penguins. The Rangers do have a guy who can score at any time in Rick Nash, but the Penguins have a great defender in Kris Letang, so the Pens will win the series in seven. Now for my predictions in the Eastern conference final; Bruins will play the Penguins. This series will be hard to win and go forth to the end, but the Bruins will be the stronger team and win the series in seven games.

Now for the Stanley Cup Final: the Bruins will play the Ducks. These two teams are very different in their strengths because the Ducks have a great offense and the Bruins are outstanding on defense and in the net, but I still will go with the Ducks and their speedy offense to win the rights to raise the Cup.

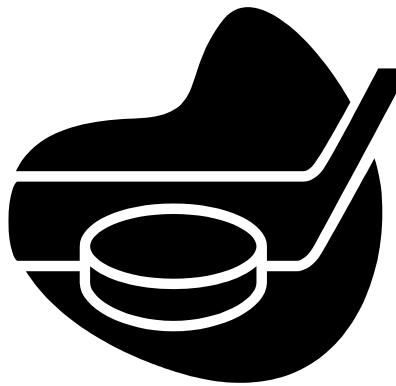
These playoffs will be very intense and competitive. Fists will fly, fans will be loud, and they all want one thing, the

Stanley Cup. There have been a lot of teams who have been playing well in the last few years, one is the Chicago Blackhawks. The Hawks have some great skilled forwards like Marian Hossa and Patrick Kane. Marian Hossa is closing in on his final NHL seasons and will keep being a force on the Hawks until the day he retires. Patrick Kane is developing as a player and is starting to be known for his dangles and his flashy shots on the forehand and the backhand. The Hawks are not only great on the offensive side of the ice, they are also getting better every day with talented players like Brent Seabrook, Duncan Keith and another young developing player in Johnny Oduya.

Another team that is on the rise is the Boston Bruins. They have one of the best captains and defenders in Zdeno Chara who can plant you into the boards or break your shin with his wicked slap shot. On the offensive end, the Bruins have star forward, including Brad Marchand, Milan Lucic, and Patrice Bergeron.

Another talented player they have on the offensive end is the veteran Jarome Iginla. The Bruins also have the flashy Finnish goaltender Tuukka Rask.

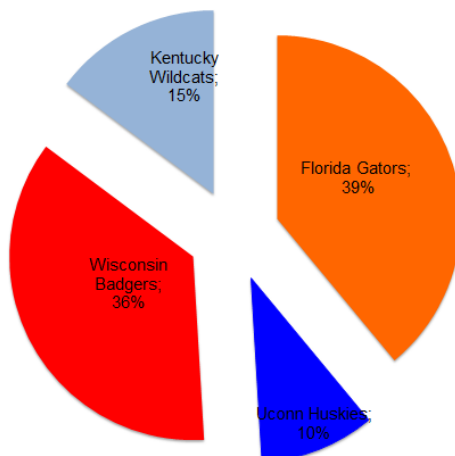
The last team who will win a Cup in the next couple of years is the Pittsburgh Penguins. On the offensive end, they have a player who scored the most points in the NHL this year in Sidney Crosby and a Russian who played with Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin. On the defensive end, the Pens have Kris Letang and Brooks Orpik. The Penguins, Blackhawks and Bruins all will win at least one Stanley Cup if not more in the next 10 years.



Final Four Prediction

By Rhys W.

The week before the Final Four games, I asked Spring Avenue students to predict the winner of the tournament. This graph shows which team students thought would win. If you didn't choose UConn—you missed the winner!



Blake Bortles Graphic

By Liam R.



SPORTS PAGE



The Contenders for the NBA MVP Race

By Liam C.

This year the MVP race is pretty tight. There are great passers who can grab up some assists, people who can slam it down, and athletes who can get buckets like Uncle Drew. Congratulations to Kevin Durant, who won MVP This year. Here are my pre-announcement predictions:

I believe that it will come down to these six contenders who have led their teams down the stretch. LeBron James, Blake Griffin, Carmelo Anthony, Damian Lillard, Paul George, and KD (Kevin Durant). WHY ISN'T LEBRON JAMES IN THE CONVERSATION?! LeBron James has won it too many times and the commissioner is tired of it and LeBron has all of the talent around him and his team. The Heat aren't at the top of the standings, they are behind Paul George and the Pacers. If you look at how LeBron did around little talent, look at him on the Cavaliers. They never won a ring and that is a big factor. LeBron will probably come in second.

In third is Paul George. Paul George has led his Pacers team from always being the team that couldn't beat the Heat to the team that is leading the Heat in most categories. Paul George is a great all-around player and had that amazing 360 windmill dunk that caught everyone's attention. He has a talented team with George Hill, Lance Stephenson, and Roy Hibbert. If they go on a run in the playoffs, he might jump over King James into the 2nd spot but for now, he's sitting at three.

At four is Blake Griffin. Blake Griffin has had the best of

his amazing years even without his assist man, Chris Paul. If Chris Paul wasn't injured as much then he would be here. Blake Griffin had an amazing All-Star Game that caught many people's attention. His West All-Star team lost, so nobody on the West could have won the MVP. Blake Griffin has averaged more points than he ever has, and his Clippers team is surging to the top of the standings.

In the 5th spot is Carmelo Anthony. Carmelo has led his Knicks to the favorite in getting the last playoff spot. The Knicks flat out stink. They are one of the oldest teams in the NBA, they have lots of back-ground distractions, and they have a lazy defense. Despite all of that, they are close to getting the last spot in the playoffs. And you know who led them there? Carmelo did all of it. He hit clutch shots and even scored 62 points in the process. He's so good that the Knicks realize they need him. They are probably going to release a bunch of players to get him back to the Big Apple.

In last, but not least, is Damian Lillard. Damian Lillard was the Rookie of the Year and is just as good as last year, maybe even better. He has a great team that surprised many people how good they were. They can contend with anyone, the Thunder, Heat, Pacers, and Spurs all have a hard time competing with the Trail Blazers. Damian Lillard works well with LaMarcus Aldridge and Nick Batum. If the Blazers go far in the playoffs then maybe Damian will be moved up but once he gets more experienced then he will become a very dominant player.



Baseball Season is Back

By Ben E.

It's about time, baseball is back. There have been many changes in the off-season with the rosters of teams and some rule changes. Some of the biggest offseason changes were that the committee expanded video replay. One of the biggest signings was Robinson Cano. The star second baseman signed with the usually bad Seattle Mariners, and a former Yankee, Curtis Granderson, signed with their cross town rival the New York Mets. The Seattle Mariners also got a rising star named Taijuan Walker. After the two Yankees stars left, the Yankees came back signing a great catcher in Brian McCann and a star centerfielder Jacoby Ellsbury. Miguel Cabrera signed the biggest contract in sports history (10 years, \$292 million). Many surprises have already happened this year.

Some of the new rules in the MLB are that the committee expanded video replay and made a very big rule about play at home plate. The rule at home plate is that catchers cannot completely block the plate, so that limits home plate collisions. Also the committee expanded video replay so that they can replay any close call, but the umpire doesn't get to see the replay. They have to call a person at the MLB headquarters and they tell if the call should be reversed or stay the same. Also the manager gets to challenge close calls. That has made a very big

impact on the whole league. There have already been close to 100 video reviews all over the MLB.

In the off-season the Chicago White Sox picked up some very young stars like Jose Abreu. The Tigers and the Rangers had a big trade when the Tigers sent Prince Fielder to the Rangers and the Rangers sent their second baseman Ian Kinsler to the Tigers. The Atlanta Braves needed pitching badly. They picked up an average pitcher named Ervin Santana. The New York Mets lost their star pitcher Matt Harvey to an elbow injury. Yu Darvish the fantastic pitcher from Japan now is on the Texas Rangers. He started the season on the DL (disabled list) and missed his opening day start. The New York Yankees also signed a Japanese pitcher who had a 24-0 season. There are many pitchers who had a big impact on their team, but now they will be having Tommy John surgery (surgery on the elbow), and those players will miss the whole season. Also two star players might be out until June with broken fingers; those players are Josh Hamilton of the Los Angeles Angels and Bryce Harper the young superstar of the Washington Nationals.

There were many good and bad changes around the league. I have a feeling that the whole season will be very entertaining.



Harry Potter Quiz

By Grace B.

- What is the main characteristic that describes you?
 - Brave
 - Loyal
 - Cunning
 - Intelligent
- What are your favorite colors?
 - Gold and red
 - Yellow and black
 - Green and silver
 - Blue and silver
- What are you most likely to be found doing during your free time?
 - Going on an adventure
 - Doing a scavenger hunt
 - Finding trouble
 - Reading a book
- What is your favorite book genre?
 - Adventure
 - Friendship Story
 - Mystery
 - Nonfiction
- What is your favorite animal?
 - Lion
 - Badger
 - Snake
 - Owl

The answers are on the right. If you have a tie, choose the one you like the best!

If you got mostly 1's you are a Gryffindor!

The sorting hat sings:
You might belong in Gryffindor,
Where dwell the brave at heart,
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry
Set Gryffindors apart

If you got mostly 2's you are a Hufflepuff!

The sorting hat sings:
You might belong in Hufflepuff,
Where they are just and loyal,
Those patient Hufflepuffs are true
And unafraid of toil

If you got mostly 3's you are a Slytherin!

The sorting hat sings:
Or perhaps in Slytherin
You'll make your real friends,
Those cunning folks use any means
To achieve their ends.

If you got mostly 4's you are a Ravenclaw!

The sorting hat sings:
Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw,
If you've a ready mind,
Where those of wit and learning,
Will always find their kind

Favorite Yogurt & Ice Cream Places

By Maggie K. and Sophie P.

There are many frozen yogurt and ice cream place in La Grange! We wanted to know what your favorite one is. Read this article and find out!!!!!! We both like the new frozen yogurt place: Andy's. Look at other peoples recommendations and go to one today! Ask your parents first!

KINDERGARTEN: Lucie G. likes Tates. Luca P. likes Red Mango.

1ST GRADE: Catie B. likes Tates. Kara L. likes Red Mango. Maddie M. likes Andy's.

2ND GRADE: Andrew P. likes Andy's. Reese M. likes Andy's. Isabel W. likes Andy's.

3RD GRADE: Lillian P. likes Red Mango. Roland C. and Aidan C. like Trugurt.

4TH GRADE: Anna W. likes Andy's. Grace K. likes Cold Stone. Patrick S. likes Tate's.

5TH GRADE: Joanie M. likes Red Mango. Alejandra M. likes Forever Yogurt. Jake O. likes Di Nico's (Trugurt).

6TH GRADE: Olivia W. likes Andy's. Abbey P. likes Red Mango. Ben E. and Liam R. like Andy's.

And the winner is Andy's!!!!

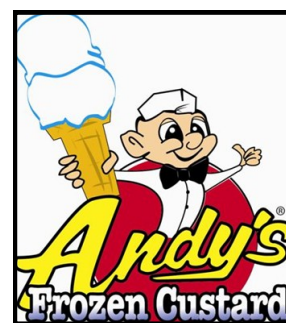
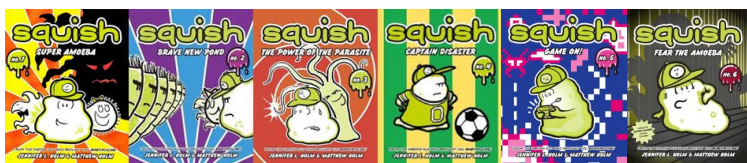
The Squish Books



By Emma C.

Squish is an amoeba, and he has two BFFs! One is Peggy and one is Pod. Peggy is kind of like a sunbeam, and she is so cheerful she makes kittens jump over rainbows! Pod is kind of a serious dude, and he doesn't like kittens or rainbows. Squish has many adventures with his friends.

As you all know, Jennifer Holm came to Spring Ave. on 4/17/14. She and her brother, Matthew Holm, write and illustrate many books. When she came, I learned that they debated to find the perfect green for Squish. Then, they had all that fun finding the perfect shape for Squish. Squish loves Twinkies and he just likes to chill. Well, I would give away more but I want you to read the book for yourself! Happy reading!



The Legend of the Sun Stone

By Abbey P.

PREVIOUSLY ON

LEGEND OF THE SUN STONE...

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

He gasped.

"Lila! You've... You've got wings!" Lila blushed and nodded. The two wolves sat there for a while in silence until Alpha spoke up.

"You should probably get, uh, flying. The city in the sky needs attention."

"Oh, right!" Lila said. "Bye Alpha!" Lila flew off and into the sky. She stopped and looked back at her clan.

"Goodbye Western Pack." Lila muttered to herself. "I'll miss you." Lila continued to fly.

Lila flew for what felt like forever. When she finally got to a huge silver cloud, she flew closer. A huge golden temple rested at its peak. Four pedestals stood around a pond with crystal clear water. Three wolves stood upon them, and one was empty. Lila climbed the empty one only to notice at the bottom of the pond was a mosaic of a compass. A red southern wolf was at the south point. A gold northern wolf sat at the north point. A black eastern wolf at the east point. Lila looked at how they sat. She sat like them. Wings out, chest puffed, and facing forward. Her amulet glowed. A purple beam shot to the mid-

dle. Along with a blue, green, and orange. They met at the middle forming a huge crystal. The four wolves including Lila looked at it.

The red wolf said, "What exactly is it?" She looked confused.

The gold wolf replied saying "The Unification crystal. My tribe's library has a book about it." He ruffled his wings.

"Never thought I would be the one to see it." Lila was amazed. It was a sparkling stone shining in the sunlight. The black wolf was confused.

"You know, how am I supposed to work with you guys if I don't even know your names?"

"Oh! I'm Lila!" She said. The gold wolf introduced himself too.

"I'm Griffin."

"Scarlett." Piped up the red one.

"Uh, I'm Shadow." Replied the black one. Scarlett jumped into the pond and swam toward the ruby pedestal holding the enormous blue gem. She jumped onto the side and called the others over.

"Shadow! Come here!" Shouted Griffin. The three wolves glanced over at Shadow. He was low on the ground and backing away.

"Uh, I-I uh I can't swim." Shadow stammered.

Griffin stared in disgust. "What wolf can't swim?!" He

raged.

"Um... Me."

"THEN FLY!" Griffin was agitated. His wings were ruffled. He was baring his teeth. Lila didn't exactly like him so far. Scarlett felt bad for Shadow. "Uh, yeah! Those silver-tipped beauties aren't there for nothing!" Scarlett shouted over to him. Shadow gulped and flapped his wings. He clumsily flew over to the ruby platform.

"Took you long enough..." huffed Griffin. Scarlett play-punched him in the shoulder.

"What was that for?"

"You're being a bit mean, don't you think?" Scarlett was the friendly-type wolf. She was standing up for Shadow.

"Exactly why my clan dislikes yours. You are all hot headed!" Lila was mad, too. "Just stop fighting guys. What are we supposed to do here, anyway? City in the Sky. My pack doesn't know anything about this so called "city." It doesn't even look like a city! Where are all the wolves for howl's sake? Who in the moon is the alpha? I need to have a serious talk with him!" Lila was in rage mode. When she looked at the others, they were shocked.

"Heh... Sorry. I'm just so confused. What is our purpose here?" Griffin sighed. He stepped up to Lila and shoved his muzzle into her face.

"You are the chosen one of the

Continued on next page →

The Legend of the Sun Stone

By Abbey P.

West. *You* should know why we're all here. And judging by the emptiness of this city, *you* should know what's going on! We were all sent up here from destiny. I for one *do* know why we're here. And that reason is a simple reason. Look at this city. It's abandoned. Clearly something is going on here. And if you want to sit here raging on, you can. Because I have a city to sa—."

Griffin was cut off by loud screeching howl. A huge hoard of wolves came running toward the stone-keepers. They all stared at the stampede of scraggly gray, but as they got closer, they realized these wolves were a bright crimson color and covered in ashes. Their leathery bat wings stretched out as they jumped into flight. Two black horns poked out of their heads. Only two words could describe the beasts: Demon wolves.

Lila jumped into the air to fight, but Griffin nabbed at her tail and brought her down.

"Are you crazy?! Those are demon wolves! The most powerful beings in the universe. They may not have amulets like us, but they're super strong. We need maximum power."

Griffin had a stern look on his face when he said that. A few demon wolves had reached the pond. One of them touched the water with its paw, but it started smoking with the stench of burned fur. Shrieking, the other demon

wolves started to leap into the air and fly toward the unification crystal.

"They're after the crystal!" Shadow cowered. He got down low and covered his eyes. Lila started to fend off the wolves as Griffin used magic to power the crystal. It glowed a bright flash that even the demon wolves couldn't bear. A staircase of light beamed down to the surface. When the demon wolves saw it, they went for it.

"Oh no!" Cried Scarlett. "My magic wasn't enough! We need all of our magic to fully power it up!" Just as he said that, a demon wolf jumped onto Lila's back. She bucked like a bronco. But the demon wolf grabbed her amulet and flew toward the huge castle on the other side of the city.

"My amulet!" Lila shouted. The black tips on Lila's wings faded to a brown as the feathers molted away. The wings disappeared with a faint flash. The other wolves gasped. Her back was now wingless. Without her amulet, her wings wouldn't be there.

Another demon wolf jumped on Griffin's back. Without effort, he flung it right off. But another came. And another. He kicked and even tried going in the water, but they got his amulet and flew toward the castle. He jumped back onto the platform while he watched his very own wings disappear. The red tips faded into black before the

feathers fell. With another dim flash, he too was, wingless.

"My wings! My beautiful wings! They're gone!" He was panting at the sight of his, once again, wingless back. Another one tried jumping on top of Shadow's back, but he dodged it. Whimpering, he took off the amulet and handed it to the demon wolf. It too flew away with it. The other wolves glared at him.

"What?! I was scared." Shadow's wings withered away as Griffin rolled his eyes. Scarlett was now the only one with an amulet. But that changed in a snap. A demon wolf snuck up behind her and grabbed it right from around her neck. Her wings wilted away with the demon wolf. He jumped right into the water as another demon wolf grabbed it and flew toward the castle. These four wolves were almost powerless now.

All the demon wolves were gone. Well, for now at least. Lila, Griffin, and Scarlett started over to the castle. Shadow however stayed on the pedestal.

"Uh, wolves? I still can't swim!" Griffin rolled his eyes. Lila jumped in and carried him to the other side.

When the four wolves got to the castle, the first thing they saw was their amulets on little displays. Leather cushions lined the case. The case was completed with a gold plaque that said-

Continued on next page →

The Legend of the Sun Stone

By Abbey P.

Magic Amulets:

9,067 bits for one

“Can you believe this? They’re selling our amulets for almost ten thousand bits each! Not only is that expensive, but they’re SELLING THEM!”

Griffin huffed. Lila could practically see smoke coming out of his nose. His face was, as a matter of fact, red.

Griffin then tried to break the glass. He jumped on the case and started to hit the surface. Scarlett tried to tell him to get down which turned into a big altercation.

Lila eventually started to get mad and yelled “STOP IT! If you guys want to get anywhere we can’t waste our time by arguing! Now get your head out of your tails and let’s go!”

The three of them stared at her in disbelief. Lila trotted down the hall as

they followed.

The hall led to a room with closed doors. Shadow started to open it, but Lila stopped him. She put her ear up to it to listen to the conversation going on inside. As did Scarlett.

“Do you think the amulets will sell?”

“Of course! Any wolf would die for an artifact like that! Not to mention there’s only four.”

“Yeah that would be nice...”

“Darn right it’d be! We’d be rich!” Lila had heard enough. She lifted her ear off the door and whispered to the others.

“On the count of three we burst in. One... Two...” Lila was interrupted by Griffin.

“THREE!” The four wolves burst into the door to see a large group

of ugly wolves. The largest had a black banded amulet and tried to shoot lasers at them. But Lila was too quick and dodged it, causing it to hit the wall.

“Where’d the rat go?” Said the wolf who tried to hit her.

“Right here!” He turned around to see the silver wolf in pounce position. She jumped on him while the others fended off the other demon wolves.

Finally when all the ugly wolves had fled, the big one finally surrendered and handed over the amulets. They put them on causing a very bright flash. They had the magic back. Their wings had returned. They freed all the patrons who lived in the village.

Everything was back to normal. But most importantly the demon wolves were long gone...

For now.

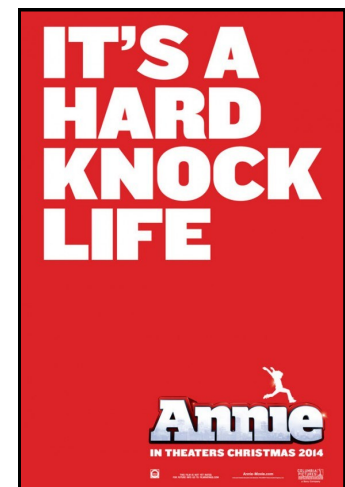
Movie Review: It's Hard Knock Life

By Ava M.

Do you think the new Annie movie is going to be good? I think it will be! I interviewed 26 people including myself and 10 people said yes, six people said no, and 10 people said I don’t know.

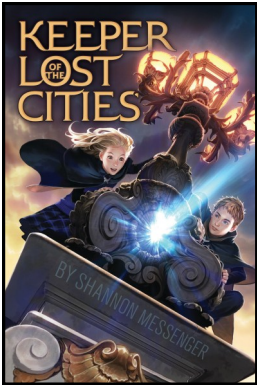
If you don’t know what Annie is then read on! Annie is a movie about an orphan who has a guardian named Miss Hanagan, and Miss Hanagan does not like Annie. When a millionaire (who Annie calls Daddy Warbucks) wants to adopt her, Miss Hanagan gets super mad! Annie is looking for her parents when Daddy Warbucks wants to adopt her, so she isn’t sure she wants to live with him.

The movie is awesome, quirky, and cool! I hope you see the movie!



Book Review: Keeper of the Lost Cities

By Alejandra M.



Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger is an action packed book that I highly recommend to readers. The book is about an 11 year old girl who has been able to read people's minds since second

grade. One day a young boy comes and tells her to come with him explaining that

she is an elf. Sophie enters a world of strange creatures she struggles to fit in with the elf empire. She wonders who created her and why, as she is not fully a human being. Sophie also struggles to stand up for herself because the kids at her new school call her a freak. Sophie also loses the parents she grew up with, though they are not really her real parents. Sophie will soon discover the truth about her true identity.

Keegan C. says: "The book was really good; I couldn't put it down. It was so awesome! I loved how Shannon Messenger combined myths into modern life."

I also interviewed Alejandra R. who said "Sophie is a strong and inspiring character who inspired me to stay strong during hard times. Sophie is amazing, and the book is very well written."

I think so too! I hope you choose to read this book, even though it is quite long, you will be thirsty for more! If you have already read this book there is a second book in the library called Exile and a third one is to be expected sometime soon called Everblaze. Please read this book because you will surely love it!

How To Make Homemade Popsicles

By Anna W. and Grace K.

Since it's warm outside you should refresh yourself with a **HOMEMADE Popsicle!**

Ingredients:

Your favorite juice

Popsicle stick

Freezer

Plastic container or paper cup

Tin foil

First, pour juice into your cup or container.

Next, cover the top of your cup with tin foil.

Then, poke your popsicle stick through the tin foil into the cup.

Put your "popsicle" in the freezer until it is frozen solid. (Check it every once in a while.)

When your popsicle is done /

frozen put it under hot water to take the cup off. Enjoy your homemade popsicle!



Lunar and Solar Eclipse

By Zoe C.

I looked at my calendar and saw that on April 15th there was a total lunar eclipse, and I wondered what it was. So I did some research and here is what I found. . .

A lunar eclipse is when the Earth's shadow crosses the moon and it turns the moon blood red. It turns red because the moon copies the sun's rays.

Lunar eclipses only occur when there is a full moon. If you missed the last lunar eclipse there will be another on October 8th from 8:55 pm to 12:55 am.

Solar eclipses are like the opposite of lunar eclipses. The moon goes in front of the sun which makes the sun cast a shadow on the Earth. You can't see solar eclipses with your eyes.



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

6th Grade Field Trip to Mars

By Olivia W.

3....2....1....BLAST OFF! This quarter, the 6th grade classes traveled to the Challenger Learning Center (aka Mars). In Science class, we learned about the jobs we could apply to be during the mission. The jobs are: Communication Officer, Isolation Specialist, Life Support Scientist, Navigator, Probe Technician, Medical Technician, Remote Team, and Space Weather Specialists.

Each student chose their three favorite jobs and applied for those. Mrs. Wanta, the Science teacher, assigned us our jobs, and gave us our jobs a few weeks later. This year I was a Communication Officer. You also got "your group," who are other students who have the same job as you, and you receive a packet to work on. In this packet were activities that will help you train for your job at Mars. At the Challenger Learning Center (CLC), we went on a mission to Mars. The Communication Officers (my group!) were important because we had to make announcements over the loud-speaker. Also we got to wear headsets, which I thought was super cool!

The Isolation Specialists used robotic arms and recorded data about the shuttle and other things that needed to be monitored. The Life Support Specialists made sure that everything on board the ship was going okay. The Navigators led us around in the ship. They needed to be good at math, which our Navigators this year certainly were! The Probe Technicians put together the space probes during the Comet Mission, and they needed to have strong mechanical skills. The Medi-



al Technicians monitored the health and conditions of the members of the space crew. They made them launch to Mars' moons named Phobos and Demos. They analyzed data and performed important tests. The Remote Team collected samples and analyzed data obtained from remote location. They needed to have good math skills and eye-hand coordination. Finally, there are the Space Weather Specialists, and they monitored the solar flares from the sun. They were responsible for the crew's safety throughout the trip.

In Mars Control, you got to find out information and send messages through an emailing system to the Communication Officer in your Control. I got all the messages and had to send them to the Spacecraft for messages to the workers there who have a hands-on experience. When the Spacecraft had reached Mars, we switched crews and the former Mars Control turns into the Spacecraft Control. My favorite part was the Spacecraft because I got to supervise all the jobs and yell at the people when the other Communication Officer from the new Mars Control had a message for a certain team. I liked watching the Isolation team use the robotic arms and take samples and the Medical Person monitor the crew's health. The Life Support team also took samples and analyzed data. The Space Weather Team monitored the solar flares from the sun.

Overall, the Mars experience was very fun, and I really enjoyed it. I'm sure that the new 6th graders next year will have a ton of fun!

Here's what some of the other sixth graders thought of the trip:

Natalia Z: I liked Mission Control better than the Spacecraft.

Grace B: I liked that the teachers were the senators who decided if we did a good job or not.

Ben E: It was fun and I liked all the activities.

Liam R: I liked that there were many jobs and many dangers involved that we had to overcome.

Movie Review: Frozen

By Shea W.



Frozen is an Oscar winning movie for best animated feature. Also according to *Variety* magazine *Frozen* is the most viewed Pixar movie ever made (and there are a lot of those).

Frozen is filled with adventures, fun characters, silly scenes, and tells the story of love and friends.

Here is a quick summary. Elsa and her little sister Anna grow up together as children. When Elsa's ice powers get out of hand she hits Anna in the head! Anna is taken to trolls who save her, but removes her memory of magic.

Elsa then shuts Anna out for her own good. Then their parents go on a boat and are killed. Years later Anna

falls head over heels for Hans, a guy she met that day, and wants to marry! Elsa tells her that she can't marry him. Anna gets mad because she loves Hans and she makes Elsa mad. Then Elsa gives up trying to hold in her powers and she sets off an eternal winter. Anna then is forced to find her and make things right.

Frozen will make you smile. If you liked this article look for my name next year.

The Great Chicago Fire

By Patrick S.

The Chicago Fire was on October 17, 1871. Three-fourths of Chicago's buildings were burned down. The total amount of money of destroyed property was \$1,000,000. Over 100,000 people were forced to evacuate Chicago. Firemen had to put out fires for two days. Joseph Medill was elected as mayor of Chicago and was prepared to help rebuild Chicago. Exactly 330 people died in the fire. Scientists' theory is that Katherine and Patrick O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in their barn which caused the fire to spread. The fire was news all over the country and made a ton of front covers on newspapers. One resource which failed was back then they tried using steam pumpers to get water to the fire-fighters.



The water tower and the pumping station were the few towers to survive. From all the smoke a very bad up-draft was made. Other theories scientists have are a meteor hit or a human caused it, but their main theory is the cow. Parts of buildings mostly wood or bricks were sources of the fire spreading. Inhaling the smoke in the air killed or left people knocked out.

Tagxedo: Words to Describe Spring Avenue

By Angelina G.



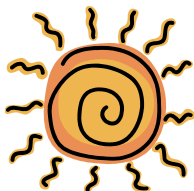
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tagxedo.com

Summer Poem

By Shea W.

When summer is to come,
All there awaits is fun!
Get a swimsuit go to the pool
Once you splash you feel cool.
You hear fireworks and you feel great,
Summer is the perfect time to celebrate!
As the months go one by one,
you remember all your time in the sun.
So, in class when you feel down,
When your smile turns to a frown.
You remember all the fun you had,
So you don't feel so bad.



Top 20 Kids Movies

By Maggie K. and Ava P.

For the week of April 5, 2014

1. Monsters University
2. The Little Mermaid
3. Planes
4. Rio
5. The Jungle Book
6. Wreck It Ralph
7. Brave
8. Tangled
9. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2
10. The Croods
11. Turbo
12. Finding Nemo
13. Peter Pan
14. Monsters Inc.
15. Lady & the Tramp
16. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
17. Despicable Me 2
18. 101 Dalmatians
19. Despicable Me
20. Bambi

Source: <http://www.officialcharts.com/childrens-video-chart/>



What Am I? Candy Edition

By Maggie K. and Ava P.



1.

I snap when I break.
I am coated in chocolate.
I have alliteration in my name.
I come in different sizes like king size and bite size.
What am I?



2.

I am a roundish cylinder-like candy.
I have caramel in my center.
I am very small.
I am brown.
What am I?



3.

I have peanut butter in the middle.
I have crimped edges.
There are many ways to eat me.
What am I?

Turn to the back page for the answers!



Who Am I?

By Michael M.



?

I was born on October 17, 1938 in Butte, Montana.

?

I was raised by my grandparents until the age of 6.

?

I have loved stunts since I was young.

?

On my 13th birthday, I got my first motorcycle, but I crashed into a garage and almost burned myself.

?

I was always getting in trouble with the police but in a humorous way.

?

I broke my collarbone and shoulder in a motorcycle race, then I started to work as a insurance salesman while my wounds were getting healed.

?

On New Years Day 1968, I jumped over the Ceasers Palace Fountains.

Turn to the back page for the answers!

Graphic Design

By Jennie B.



SUPER ANIMALS

By Liam R.

Tillman the Bulldog

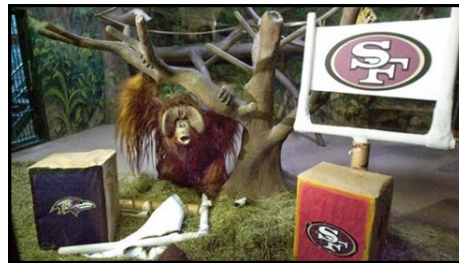


This is Tillman the bulldog. He is a triple-threat bulldog. He can surf with ease, skateboard like it's nothing, and he can skimboard like a champ. Tillman can do more sports like tether ball, snowboarding, and

wrestling, but the first three sports are his strengths. If you don't know, when you skimboard you glide on the waves of the water on a thin surf board. It's pretty hard! Whoever trained this fine bulldog has talent. Tillman is a male bulldog who is eight years old. He lives in Oxnard, California, which is by the California Bay. His favorite foods is food rolls. The reason I love this pup is because of the way he skateboards. Also, I have a bulldog of my own. Tillman is in his prime so watch out for this dog because he's going to do some damage in the record books.



Elijah the Orangutan



Elijah is a very talented orangutan. Elijah is a predicting machine. He predicts all of the Super Bowls and he is 5-1 in picking the teams, his only loss coming last year

when he picked the Broncos.

If you're wondering how he picks the teams, there are many situations. There are usually footballs with bananas inside and a logo of one of the contending teams on the front. Elijah knocks over one of the footballs and enjoys his treat. Last year he opened a crate and enjoyed some bananas. He started out by picking the Steelers in 2009, who ended up beating the Arizona Cardinals by four in the clutch with Holmes' amazing catch in the 4th. People started believing in this guy. Then he picked the Saints who came up in the clutch with a late pick six. Now people think that Elijah is the answer. Next he picked the Packers, the Giants and the Ravens. Now Elijah is known worldwide. But Elijah's hot streak came to an end when he picked the Broncos. Elijah was not affected by this mistake and is still predicting games as well as ever.

Historical Perspectives: Learning about the Holocaust

By Joanie M.

The Holocaust was a very tragic time for Jewish people. It took place from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945. It was the mass murder of the Jews. The Germans murdered almost 6 million Jews in this event. Hitler killed kids and adults without blonde hair and blue eyes, because Hitler believed that people with blonde hair and blue eyes had the true German look.

A Nazi is a member of the National



Socialist Party in Germany during Hitler's time. The idea of Nazism is basically the same as fascism. Fascism is political philosophy that glorifies power, military might, and nationalism and that is different to socialism and equality.

The UN General Assembly made April 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the people who died in this time. Hitler was killed on April 30, 1945.

READING GIVES YOU SUPERPOWERS



Springs

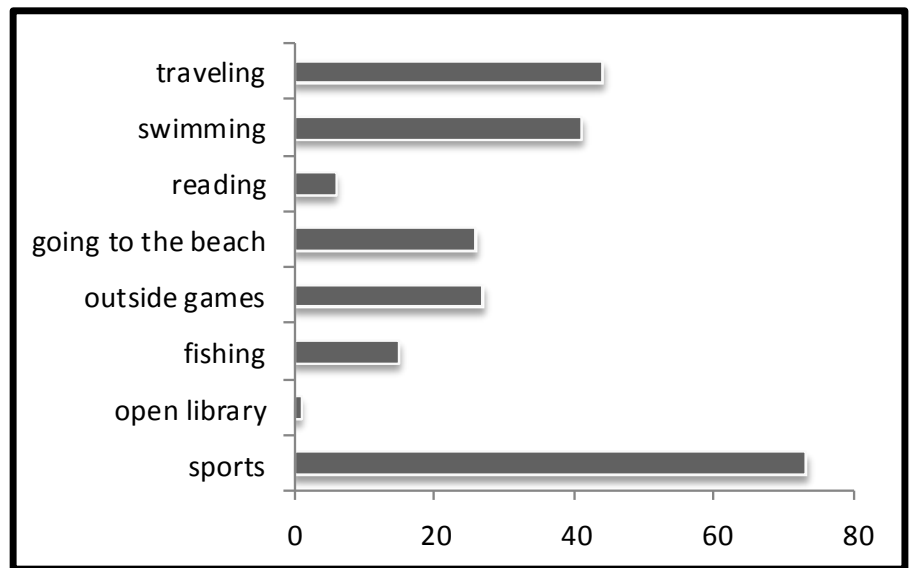
Avenue

Elementary

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2014
MONDAYS 1:00-4:00, WEDNESDAYS 4:00-7:00

What is Your Favorite Summer Activity

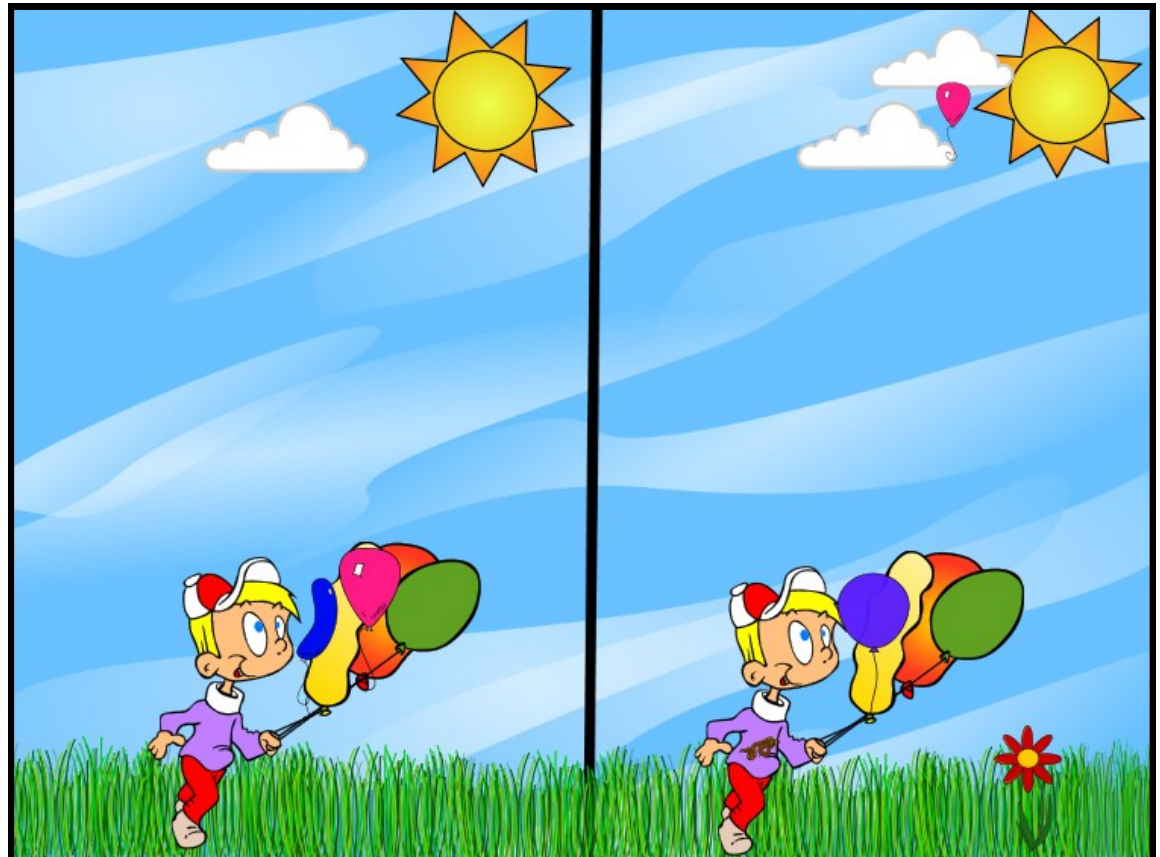
By Grace K.



Spot the Difference

By: Maggie K. and Sophie P.

Study the two pictures and see if you can find **six** differences. Turn to the back page for the answers!



Important Dates

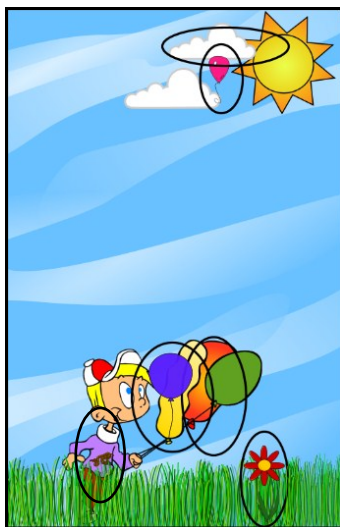
May 14—Early Release Day, 11:45
 May 14-15 — District Musical, Aurand Hall, 7:30 pm
 May 16 — 2nd Grade Bike Registration with Police Dpt.
 May 19 — Board Meeting
 May 20 — Writing Festival, LaGrange Public Library, 6:00
 May 21—1st Grade Field Trip, DARE Graduation, District Spelling Bee, 4:00 pm.
 May 26 — Memorial Day, No School
 May 28 — PTO Meeting, 8:45 am, Awards Assembly, 9:45
 May 30 — Fun Lunch
 May 31 — Pet Parade
 June 2 — Flying Up, Kindergarten Graduation, 10:30, 2:15
 June 4—Yearbooks, Field Day, Gurrie Graduation
 June 5 — Fun Run, Stepping Up
 June 6 — Last Day of School! Kickball Game, Ice Cream

Lost and Found

Please check or call the office for any missing items. Any unclaimed items at the end of the year will be donated.



Spot the Difference Answers



NEWSPAPER CLUB



WANTS YOU

Illustration by Joseph P.
Calling all incoming 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! We want you to join Newspaper Club next year!

What Am I? Candy Answers

1.



2.



3.



Who Am I?

*Evel
Knieveel*



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



Grace B.
 Josie B.
 Jennie B.
 Selma B.
 Johnny B.
 Zoe C.
 Emma C.
 Nathan D.
 Ben E.
 Angelina G.
 Grace K.
 Maggie K.
 Will K.
 Michael M.
 Alejandra M.
 Audrey M.
 Joanie M.

Lilly M.
 Ava M.
 Steven O.
 Ava P.
 Abbey P.
 Lindsey P.
 Sophie P.
 Joseph P.
 Liam R.
 Grant S.
 Patrick S.
 Alex V.
 Anna W.
 Rhys W.
 Shea W.
 Olivia W.