

## Pride

A sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect.



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

# A Lion's Life

10/20/2010

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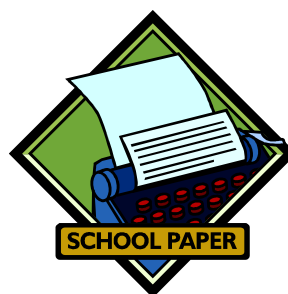
## Third Year and Going Strong

By: Ms. Marek and Mrs. Faldani

The Lion's Life Newspaper staff is pleased to present the first issue of The Lion's Life this school year!

The very first Lion's Life was a project by four students who had a dream of creating a school newspaper. Their ideas and vision inspired the current version of the newspaper. In the past few years, dedicated Spring Avenue student writers have put together newspapers filled with school news, features, reviews, and quality writing. Thanks to all the students who worked hard to make each issue the best it could be.

This year, Ms. Marek, Mrs. Faldani, and Mrs. Webb are excited to welcome back last year's staff and see new faces on the newspaper staff. The Lion's



Life newspaper club teaches students about journalism skills, such as how to write a detailed, factual article. Students are learning about photography and how to upload photos into the paper. There are also layout/design jobs where students learn to format the newspaper and edit articles to make sure they read fluently and fit appropriately. Some students have also become editors, in which they strengthen their writing skills to help fellow students write

the best articles possible.

Above all else, the newspaper club accomplishes tasks as a team!

The newspaper will be printed every other month during the school year. If you are interested in joining our newspaper club or submitting articles as a guest writer, please contact Ms. Marek or Mrs. Faldani. New students in 4th—6th grades are always welcome to join the staff! Newspaper club meets every Tuesday after school.

You can find this issue and our past issues of our newspaper online on our Spring Avenue website under the About Spring link.

Continue to read our articles and look for new topics and additions to the Lion's Life. Enjoy!

## District Intramural Volleyball Begins

By: Rowan C.

If you walk by the gym, you will see lots of bumping and setting happening in intramural volleyball!

The District's Intramural volleyball started four years ago. You don't need to know how to play volleyball when you join the team because you learn while you play. Mrs. Blazek is the supervisor and organizer of the program. She wanted to work

with this program because she likes to help kids learn new things and meet new people.

There are six teams in the league with 10 kids on each team. The teams practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There are 60 students that joined intramurals this year. Students from all the elementary schools are mixed up on the teams, and the teams play in each other

in the Spring and Gurrie gyms. Volleyball intramurals are in October and November. Basketball intramurals are in the Winter.

"Intramurals give kids confidence to try out for sports at Gurrie," says Mrs. Blazek.

The first game is on October 26, 2010. Come cheer on the intramural teams. Go District 105!



# Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



We believe that every child is like the leaves surrounding us: different, changing, unique and beautiful!



October brings great changes to our surroundings: colors, leaves, weather, data, improvements, and the anticipation of winter!

Along with these, we have been working to change some of our own opinions or misconceptions when it comes to bullying. As much as we wish that bullying wasn't a part of all schools, it is. It's troublesome, frustrating and we are determined to make a difference. You can, too! Some of the projects, discussions and ideas we've had going at school are:

- reciting our new motto on our new banner,
- meeting in mixed age groups, called our Lions' Dens, to talk about the meaning of the phrases on the banner, (Focusing on "Celebrating our Differences" and "Leading by Example" as key phrases)
- talking about respect on a daily basis in our classroom morning meetings,
- arranging games and taking turns at recess,
- talking about including others and being the bigger person to try something new,
- thinking before we speak,
- thinking about what it

would be like to be in another person's shoes,

- purposefully creating teams, partners and groupings in the classroom for math games, practice, projects and other activities,
- respecting one another's choices and opinions for teams and preferences,
- focusing on careful word choice and language that helps and doesn't hurt,
- practicing words, instead of physical reactions when frustrated or upset,
- planning and reading as a staff for speakers, social work lessons, and more.

Sometimes, the little adjustments of how someone talks or reacts to someone else make all the difference in the world! If someone asks another child to play, the answer is yes. Sure! If someone drops something or needs help, stop and help! If someone tries something new and different, really think about how it felt and the courage that went into it. Congratulate a friend, extend a helping hand, smile at another student, keep negative thoughts or opinions to yourself, and take the higher road!

Please talk to your

child about these and other things that help them feel good about the choices they make.

Also, with the help and support of our PTO, we hope to have some very inspirational speakers and workshops available this year! Please feel free to check out the links posted on our website to help support these topics and more!

We believe that every child is like the leaves surrounding us: different, changing, unique and beautiful! As always thank you for your support!

Mrs. Webb and the Spring Avenue Staff

## Websites to browse and use for discussion:

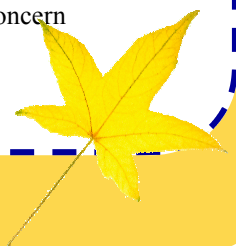
[www.kidsareworthit.com](http://www.kidsareworthit.com)  
(Barbara Callaruso, last year's speaker)

[www.parentsconnect.com](http://www.parentsconnect.com)

[www.kenrigby.net](http://www.kenrigby.net)

He talks about the Bullying Interventions that can be used in schools:

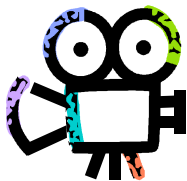
- the traditional disciplinary approach
- strengthening the victim
- mediation
- restorative practice
- the support group method
- the method of shared concern



# Take to the Sky

Movie Review of *Legends of the Guardians*

By: Devon W.



*The Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'hoole* is a movie based on the books by Kathryn Lasky. In case you don't already know about this flaptastic tale I'll give you a brief summary.

The Legend of the Guardians is basically about an owlet named Soren who is kidnapped by soldiers for

an army of evil owls who call themselves The Pure Ones. Not long after he is taken, Soren very quickly witnesses something he wishes he had not seen. Soon after that, he and a small elf owl fly off to find the legendary guardians and convince them to help save the owl kingdoms.

Along the way he meets some new friends who agree to help them. Together they find the guardians and learn to fight. During training, they unexpectedly must set out for war. After a sad betrayal and a lot of amazing moves Soren, his friends, and the powerful guardians bring peace back to the seven owl kingdoms.

If you want to see this tale for yourself, fly into your local theater. I know you will love it.

# Who Am I?

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

- ? I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 1, 1752.
- ? I left school as a teenager, and got a seamstress job in Philadelphia.
- ? I had seven daughters.
- ? When my husband died, I took over his upholstery business.
- ? I helped hurt soldiers, and provided food and water during the Revolutionary War.
- ? My birth name was Elizabeth Griscom.
- ? My grandson William Canby made me famous.
- ? I made the first official American Flag.



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



# Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

By: Kendall F. and Toni M.

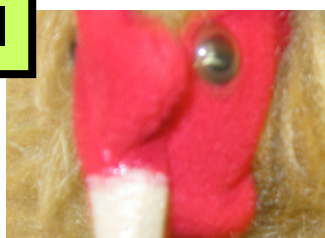


Look closely,  
can you guess  
what the objects  
are at the right?

To find the answers,  
go to the back page.

Good Luck!

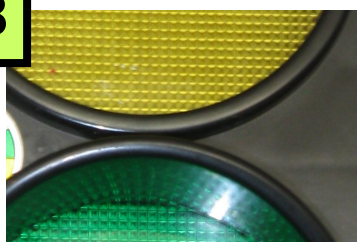
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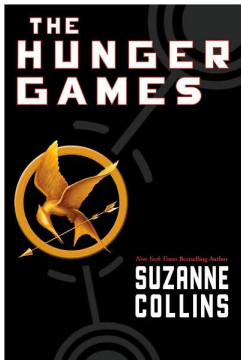


3



# Book Review: The Hunger Games wins readers

By: Katie W. and Joanna Z.



The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins, is one of our favorite novels about the future.

In the remains of what was once North America lays the nation of Panem, with a shining Capitol and 13 surrounding districts. A devastating war destroys District 13 and brings the Capitol to make the decision that every year each of the 12 remaining

districts must randomly choose a boy and a girl to be a tribute and compete in an event called the Hunger Games. The Hunger Games is a "game" where the tributes fight to the death. Every moment is filmed by hidden cameras and shown on television through Panem. It's kind of like a scary reality show.

When 16 year old Katniss Everdeen enters the

Hunger Games to replace her sister, Prim, she regards it as a death sentence. Even worse the boy tribute for District 12 is Peeta, who did a very kind act for her when they were children. Now Katniss is doomed to compete in the Hunger Games with Peeta.

Will she win? As the Gamemaker says in the book, "May the odds be ever in your favor."

## LaGrange History Corner

By: Kelly C.



I have lived in LaGrange all my life, and I love the old buildings and have read lots about the history of our town.

To my surprise, I have discovered there were famous people who lived in our town.

First, there were the Marx Brothers. They were a comedy team that appeared in Vaudeville, stage plays, movies and television. They were five brothers named Groucho, Harpo, Chico, Gummo and Zeppo. Around 1917 the

brothers bought a chicken farm near Joliet and LaGrange Roads.

Later, they bought a house near Wrigley Field because they had to admit farming really wasn't for them. I guess they preferred baseball instead of chicken farming. Their old movies are on DVD. I recommend checking one out from the LaGrange Public Library.

Another famous person who lived in LaGrange and graduated from Lyons Township High

School was actor David Hasselhoff. He appeared in the television series called Knight Rider and a few other television shows. He most recently was in Dancing with the Stars.

Many famous people have lived in our town, and we should treasure our history for as long as we can. It's not just about them, though, there is so much more to learn about our town's history, so maybe you should be the next person to find out.

## Cooking Corner: A sweet and sour Halloween Treat!

By: Kendall F.

### Ingredients

- 12 lady apples, cored (or 2 Granny Smith apples cored, and cut into 6 wedges each)
- 1/2 stick unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar or Sherry vinegar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

-4 whole cloves

-Sour cream as garnish

### Directions

Preheat oven to 375.

Melt butter in a small saucepot. Add vinegar, honey, cinnamon and cloves. Cook over medium heat for 2 minutes, until bubbles

slow down and caramel lightly coats spoon. Remove from heat and add raisins.

Line a baking sheet with a foil sheet cut into a 12 x 24 rectangle. Place apples on foil sheet in two rows, lengthwise in the center of the pan. Spoon raisins into apple cores. Pour remaining

marinade over apples. Fold foil over apples and seal three remaining open sides to form a semi circle.

Bake apples for 45 minutes or just until apples are soft when pierced with a paring knife. Serve hot with a dollop of sour cream.





# Welcome New Teachers!

## A Window into Second Grade

By: Clare C., Olivia B., and Danielle N.



Mrs. Walsh, our new second grade teacher, grew up in a small town called Pella, Iowa. This is where Pella windows are made. She attended Columbia College in Chicago, and then later went to National Louis University.

Mrs. Walsh is married and has one dog named Barley, and a cat named Peanut. Before teaching at Spring Avenue, Mrs. Walsh was a journalism major, writing for ABC News. Mrs. Walsh knew she wanted to be a teacher after she took a child psychology class. Plus she's always enjoyed learning about kids.

Mrs. Walsh's favorite part of second grade is all the kids and team

members. Her favorite subject is a tie between reading and writing, but she enjoys all subjects. Her favorite book is Roses, by Leila Meacham. Mrs. Walsh loves many movies, but Once would have to be her favorite. The best vacation she has ever been on is when she went to New Zealand.

In her free time, Mrs. Walsh loves to be outdoors with nature. Two of her favorite hobbies are gardening and kayaking. Mrs. Walsh's favorite sports team would have to be the Chicago Cubs.

Mrs. Walsh is a great addition to our second grade team, and we are glad she is here!

## Fantastic First Grade Teacher

By: Samantha R., Danielle N., and Olivia B.



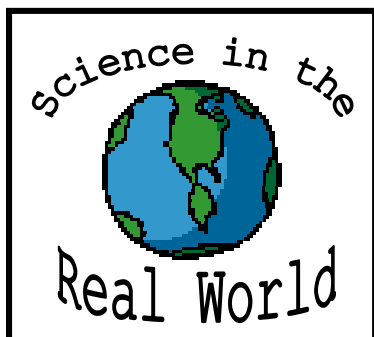
Spring Avenue welcomes a new first grade teacher, Miss Parrino. Ms. Parrino has been a first grade teacher for seven years and was also a reading specialist for one year in another school district. She has always had an interest in teaching, ever since grade school. Ms. Parrino enjoys the first grade because they're learning how to read and write.

She has no pets because her building doesn't allow any. Her favorite color is yellow because it is so bright and cheery. Spaghetti is Ms. Parrino's

favorite food because it is so good. Her favorite movie would have to be the *Sound of Music* because it's not all rock music and is very classical. Ms. Parrino loves to sing along to country music and her favorite band is Pat Green because he is always fun to see at a concert.

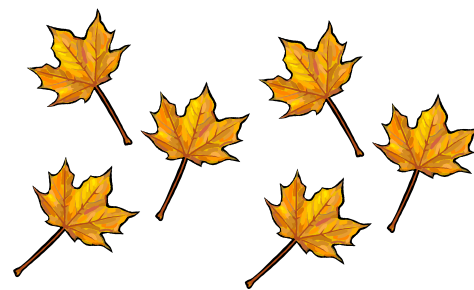
One of Ms. Parrino's good friends lives in South Africa and she dreams of going on a safari there.

We are very thankful Ms. Parrino is here helping our Spring Avenue students!



## Fantastic Fall Facts

By: Owen F. and Will H.



**Have you ever wondered how leaves change color?**

**The answer to that is chlorophyll, xanthophyll and carotene.**

What do these big words mean? The yellow packages are xanthophyll, the green packages are called chlorophyll, and the orange packages are called carotene. These big words are the packages in leaves that make them different colors. You see the leaf doesn't change its color, it just loses

its green which is the chlorophyll. The tree makes it through the process of photosynthesis.

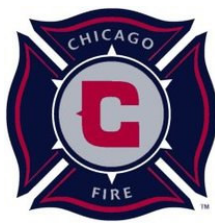
During the winter there is not enough water or light for photosynthesis so the trees will rest and stop making food. Then the green chlorophyll disappears and you will see the different colored packages.

Only red and purple are different. Cells build a wall to cover over the tube in the leaf's stem, so the water could not get in and glucose gets trapped in the leaves. The sunlight and cool nights of autumn causes the leaves to turn the glucose into a red color. The sap in the tree uses the same tubes to feed the rest of the tree.

It's easy to explain brown leaves. They're dead.

## The Chicago Fire Soccer Team is Smoking Hot

By: MacKenzie B. and Karol G.



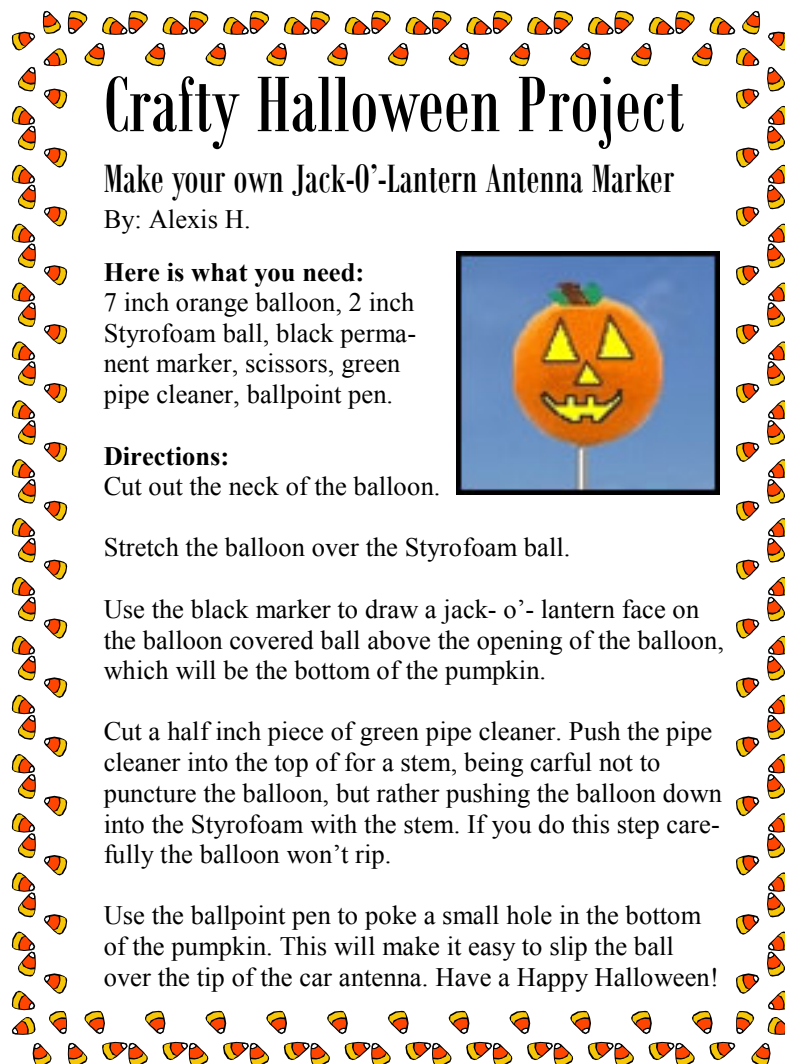
The Chicago Fire is a major league soccer team. We were excited to interview the assistant coach Mike Matkovich for this article.

Coach Matkovich has been playing soccer since he was 13 years old. He got started playing with his neighbor in their backyards. He started coaching soccer when he was 25 years old. Winning and being a part of player development is his favorite part of being a coach.

Coach Matkovich remembers when the Fire played Toronto during his first year in the league. The team's record was 0-4-0, and in the home opener, the Fire scored the first goal in the Club's history! The stadium was sold out and 21,000 people were cheering for us.

Playing soccer takes dedication and passion. Coach Matkovich encourages young soccer players to do their best and to "put the hours on the ball." He is inspired by Pierre Litbarski who played for the German National Team.

Spring Avenue wishes the Chicago Fire a great season and good luck especially against their biggest rival the DC United team.



## Crafty Halloween Project

**Make your own Jack-O'-Lantern Antenna Marker**

By: Alexis H.

### Here is what you need:

7 inch orange balloon, 2 inch Styrofoam ball, black permanent marker, scissors, green pipe cleaner, ballpoint pen.



### Directions:

Cut out the neck of the balloon.

Stretch the balloon over the Styrofoam ball.

Use the black marker to draw a jack-o'-lantern face on the balloon covered ball above the opening of the balloon, which will be the bottom of the pumpkin.

Cut a half inch piece of green pipe cleaner. Push the pipe cleaner into the top of for a stem, being careful not to puncture the balloon, but rather pushing the balloon down into the Styrofoam with the stem. If you do this step carefully the balloon won't rip.

Use the ballpoint pen to poke a small hole in the bottom of the pumpkin. This will make it easy to slip the ball over the tip of the car antenna. Have a Happy Halloween!



## What are you going to be for Halloween?

By: Toni M. and Jovita B.

### First Grade:

Shea W. is going to be Rapunzel.  
Beau B. is going to be Scooby doo.  
Cano R. is going to be a Pumpkin  
Zombie.

### Second grade:

Kate F. is going to be a Super Girl.

### Third grade:

Kaliegh R. is going to be a Go-go  
Girl.  
Jonny B. is going to be the Hulk.

### Fourth grade:

Katie. R is going to be a Gangster.

### Fifth grade:

Jacob H. is going to be a Pat-a-  
Poh.  
Hannah H. is going to be a Gypsy.

### Sixth grade:

Jason W. is going to be an Insane  
Bears Fan.  
Caitlyn M. is going to be the  
Grudge.

# Happy Halloween Spring Avenue!

Here is our schedule of events for the October 29th Halloween Parties:

**1:45 p.m.** Room parents who have signed up for this party may begin arriving. Please arrange this with your classroom teachers.

**2:00 p.m.\*** Students will begin putting on their costumes at school.  
(\*The time may vary slightly as directed by the classroom teacher.)

**2:15 p.m.** The parade will begin followed by classroom celebrations.

We recognize Halloween as a tradition and encourage students to celebrate in the spirit of the day. We want that spirit to be positive so we are asking for your help with the following:

**Room Parents** have been planning for the parties and will have treats for classes. Please do not send in any additional food items on this day.

### Safety

Student safety is of utmost importance. We would be concerned about having large numbers of adults in the building on Halloween, some of whom may be in costume and difficult to recognize.

**Therefore, room parents who are on the list for this party must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge before going to the classrooms.**

Other parents are invited to watch the parade outside along the sidewalk.  
(If it is raining, we will parade around the gym.)

### Costumes

We will provide time for the students to put on their costumes at school. It would be helpful if the children were able to dress themselves in their costumes and refrain from the use of elaborate makeup. This can be saved for after-school activities. We suggest that costumes reflect uplifting themes such as storybook characters, historical figures, or heroes.

Violent costumes are discouraged; we ask that all weapon props be left at home. Please do not send your child with a mask that covers their entire face. This, too, can be saved for after school activities.

Kindergarten students may wear their costumes to school because their time at school is shorter than the other students' time at school.

## Have a happy and safe Halloween!





## Important Dates

By: Danielle N.

### October

27<sup>th</sup> Beginning Band rehearsal

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> No school

8<sup>th</sup> Conferences/Book Fair

10<sup>th</sup> Conferences/Book Fair

11<sup>th</sup> Picture Day Retake

18<sup>th</sup> Family Literacy Night

24<sup>th</sup> – The 25<sup>th</sup> No School

### December

1<sup>st</sup> K-3 Open House/Music Program

2<sup>nd</sup> 4-6 Open House/Music Program

7<sup>th</sup> Choir/Orchestra Concert

## Lost and Found

By: Rowan C.

Pink sunglasses

Baby sock

Purple rubber band

Rainbow drug free bracelet

Orange neon bracelet

Dragon

Green jacket

Navy blue shirt

Diego sunglasses

Black Indiana sweat shirt

Red champion jacket

Red and white umbrella

Two star wars water bottles

Pink flower barrette

Navy blue jacket

*Please claim your lost items from the Spring Avenue Office.*



## Zoom, Zoom, Zoom



### Answers

1



Stuffed Toy Rooster

2



Lost and Found Items

3



Traffic Light

## Who Am I? Betsy Ross!



## Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!  
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