

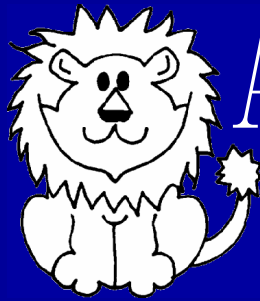
Word Power

Benevolent - (adj)

Characterized by or expressing goodwill or kindly feelings: a benevolent attitude; her benevolent smile.

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School
Newspaper

WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2009

Singing Dr. Seuss classics in *Seussical*

By: Anna S.

Seussical is a musical mostly about Dr. Seuss's books Horton Hears a Who and Horton Hatches an Egg. It's directed by Mrs. Kay and Ms. Swikla. Mrs. Copp is the choreographer.

There are two performances of the district musical: one on May 20th at 7:30 and one on May 21st also at 7:30. There will be an in-school performance on Thursday May 21 in the afternoon for the 5th and 6th graders. All the performances will be in the Gurrie gym. It is free to come to the show.

Here is a list of the cast:

Bird Girls: Nicole P., Abbie K., and Hayley P.
Gertrude McFuzz: Alicia W.
Horton the Elephant: John C.
Mayzie La Bird: Tess W.
Mr. Mayor: Samantha T.
Mrs. Mayor: Eve G.



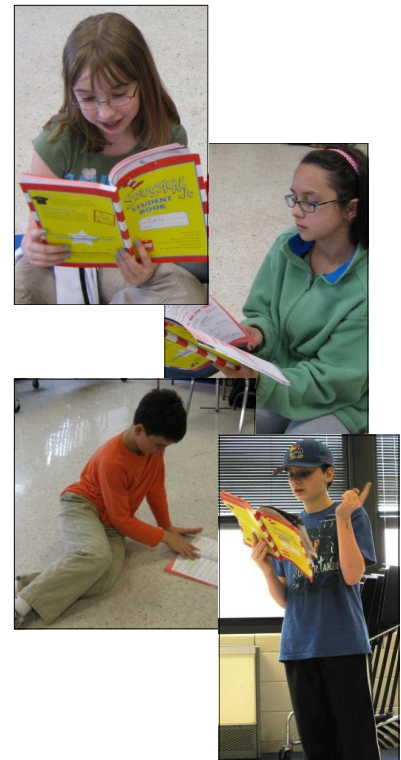
Sour/Young Kangaroo: Sara Y.

The Cat in the Hat: Eamon C.

Wickersham Brothers: Mia C., Emily M., Anna S., and John W.

Chorus: Jackie B., Christina C., Hannah M., Olivia P., and Kristin F.

Pictured Right: Emily M., Olivia P., John C., Eamon C.



Building a Better Future at Spring Ave

By: Toni M.

The Spring Avenue construction started on March 23. First, the fence was put up, and then the playground was taken out. Finally, the blacktop was taken out. If the construction goes as planned, it will end on July 31.

Students have been flexible with recess during construction. For recess, we may be staying inside, doing



relay races outside, walking around the block, playing on the tennis court, or playing in the field. But all this depends on the weather.

We did the construction because Spring Avenue School is growing and we are

getting more kids. Also the playground was getting old, so we needed to get a new one.

Mrs. Webb picked kids, parents, and teachers for a construction committee. Mrs. Webb thought it was important to have kids on the committee, because kids are going to be using the playground, and matter the most.



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb

Greetings from Mrs. Webb! I believe the sun is finally here to join us on a more frequent basis. Thanks for your patience in helping your child/children prepare for the weather!

We are underway with the end of the year assessments in every grade level. Please remember to help out by having your child get enough rest and to arrive on time and ready to do their best. We are seeing wonderful growth and are able to analyze individual needs based on this data.

As an update on the construction, we are happy to report that even when the weather hasn't been completely agreeable, builders are busy working on the addition. Students peek in at the progress and some are even journaling what they see.

Our playground representatives are busy, too, working to design a creative and fun playground. With the help of Cathy Johnson, our District Business Director, we are learning about how to set up our criteria for a playground and how to put our playground "out to bid." We will be having a pre-bid presentation for interested builders on May 12, 2009 when students will be sharing their ideas for equipment. Thanks to Jamie M., who is our lead student representative, we will be able to share a PowerPoint presentation at the PTO Auction Night and again for the students at a morning kick off meeting. We will



Students gather around a project on Math and Science Night.

post this presentation on the website so everyone can see the ideas.

Student representatives for the playground committee are: Toni M., Camille C., PJ H., Caroline T., Kelly C., Samantha T., Max L., and Jamie M. Our parent representatives are: Tara B., Ann Marie C., Celeste P., Susan M., Peggy S., Chrissy C., Dave L. and Lucy K. Since building a new playground is such a rich learning experience we celebrate the ideas of students and parents. Thank you for your support, your time and your suggestions.

Math and Science Night was a huge success, and this was another event that was so positive and promising due to the hard work of our parents. A special thanks goes out to: Catherine M., Kaveh S., Mandy K., Suzi W., Evelina S., Peggy B., John and Cindy O., Rose N., Daniella D., Liz M., Annie and Marc O., Celeste and Keith P., Michele F., Anne Marie C., and Janet

B. The effort, creativity, time and energy you put into this program is remarkable and we are grateful for each and every one of you! In addition, our own district Science Coordinator, Celeste P., deserves a hearty thank you for organizing, motivating, aligning and caring so very much about this event! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Please see pictures of some happy and busy students from this special night of learning and fun on the next page.

Ralph Fletcher is arriving for the day on May 21st, 2009. You should have received the opportunity to buy one of his own books to be autographed upon his visit. If you did not, please feel free to purchase a book you love, written by Ralph Fletcher, to have signed by Mr. Fletcher. We ask that you send the book into school with your child's name the day before his visit so he can have time to sign them. Mr. Fletcher will

**Ralph
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Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb

also be joining parents and staff members for a book study conversation about reluctant writers and his book, *Boy Writers*. If you wish to join us for this lunch talk, please notify Mrs. Webb as soon as possible. I do have some extra copies of his book and you are welcome to purchase them and join in on the fun!

Our book study will meet on May 5th and 7th. This author visit has been made possible through the PTO, meaning YOU and your support, contributions and donations. We are very thankful for this opportunity and believe it will help us all become even better writers. Thanks to Ms. Joanna Marek who has been reading many books by Ralph Fletcher to the students in every grade level. Posters with our own book reviews will be displayed during his visit.

Please check your calendars for other important events coming up in the near future! We are looking forward to a busy, focused, exciting end of the year!

SUPER CITIZENS for BLUE SLIP winners:

Daniel C.
Luke W.
Olivia P.
Alex R.
Alexis H.
Joey P.
Joe D.
Jocelyn V.
Nicole C.
Andrew P.
Sophie D.
Karol G.
Jacob H.
Natalie M.
Sarah O.



Top From Left: Owen F., Will H., Rose N., Bottom: Josie B., Max K., Joseph P., Elizabeth T. at Math and Science Night.

Will S.
Will B.
Kelly M.
Joanna Z.
Claire M.
Olivia P.
Jhadira V.
Michael C.
Anna S.
Daniel V.
Jovita B.

Sixth graders will be receiving a separate opportunity to be rewarded for their citizenship at the end of the month. Their suggestions

include a salad bar and picnic time outside. More discussion will be held soon.

In addition, Nora W. will be with the Principal for the Pal of the day this week! Congratulations to all!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Webb
Principal

Please check your calendars for other important events coming up in the near future! We are looking forward to a busy, focused, exciting end of the year!

Sweet Spots for Spring Break

By: Emily A. and Ginny S.

A lot of your classmates went to some pretty cool places for Spring Break this year.

Daniel T. from 6th grade went to Jamaica. The average temperature there is 85 degrees year round. Jamaica is an island that is located right next to Cuba.

"It was awesome in Jamaica!" said Daniel.

Anna S. from 5th grade went to Puerto Rico. The average temperature there is high 80's.

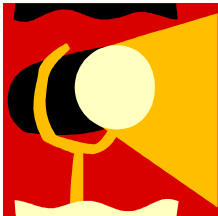
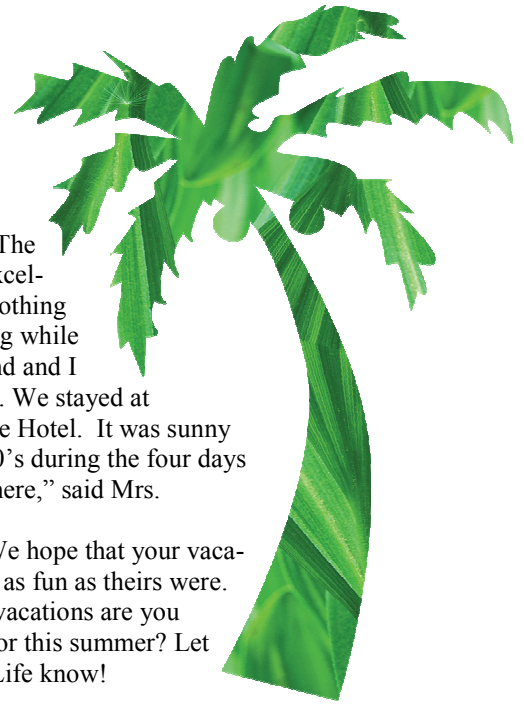
Puerto Rico is an island in between North America and South America. Anna had an amazing time in Puerto Rico.

Hannah B. from 4th grade went to Italy. The average temperature there is the high 60's. Italy is located on the southern half of Europe. Hannah really enjoyed her trip to Italy.

Mrs. Battaglia, who teaches Kindergarten, went to Las Vegas. The average temperature there is high 80's. Las Vegas is a city in Nevada.

"The trip was excellent, and nothing went wrong while my husband and I were there. We stayed at The Encore Hotel. It was sunny and low 70's during the four days we were there," said Mrs. Battaglia.

We hope that your vacations were as fun as theirs were. What fun vacations are you planning for this summer? Let A Lion's Life know!



Teacher Spotlight

By Keely S.

MS. WITTE

What do you like to do on the weekends?

Run outside. Spend time with family and friends.

If you were stuck in a jungle what jungle would you want to be stuck in?

A warm weather jungle with lots of sun and amazing wild-life.

What is your favorite movie?

All Disney movies

If you had to live in a circus what would you want to be?

Acrobat on a trapeze!

What is your favorite song? Who is your favorite singer?

Don't have one! I love all types of music, especially upbeat songs that make you want to get up and dance.

Who is your favorite actress?

Julia Roberts

MRS. JONES

What do you like to do on the weekend?

Hold and play with my beautiful new Granddaughter.

If you were stuck in a jungle what jungle would you want to be stuck in?

I would want to be stuck in the jungle from the Jungle Book.

What's your favorite movie?

The Sound of Music.

If you had to live in a circus what would you want to be?

I would want to be in the Ringling brothers.

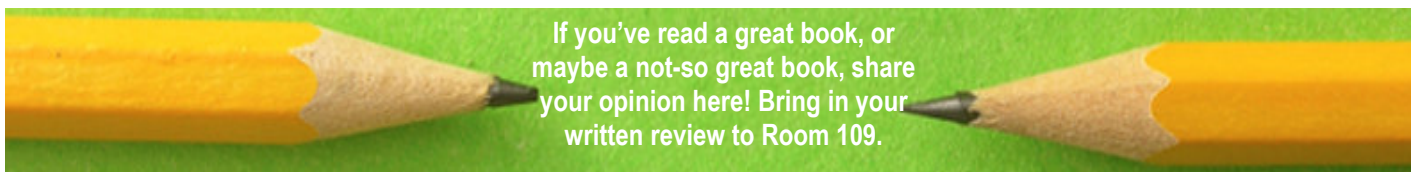
What's your favorite singer?

I don't have a favorite singer at this moment.

Who is your favorite actress?

Julia Roberts

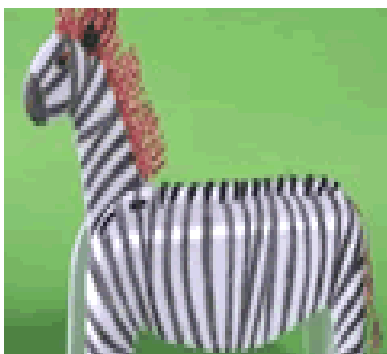
If you've read a great book, or maybe a not-so great book, share your opinion here! Bring in your written review to Room 109.



Creative Corner

By: Hannah M.

Make Your Own Animal



What you'll need:

- Plastic-foam tray
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Cut-able paper
- Needle
- Yarn

How to Make It:

Step 1

On each curved end of a plastic-foam tray, bottom-side up, draw an animal's body with legs, it can be any animal you want it to be. In the center of the tray draw the animal.

Step 2

Cut out the pieces.

Step 3

Decorate the pieces, and add details with crayons, and cut-able paper

Step 4

Place the head between the two body pieces, and carefully sew them together at the top with yarn, have a parent help you. Leave the rest open so the animal can stand up.

Yummy Brownies!

Ingredients

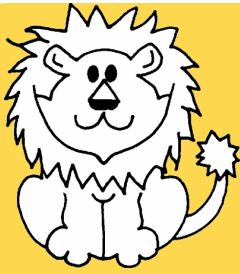
2 squares baker's chocolate
1/3 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
3/4 cup flour (sifted)
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp salt

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°

Put the two squares of chocolate and the shortening into a measuring cup and microwave it until melted. In a bowl combine flour, baking powder and salt. In another bowl mix together the sugar and eggs. Blend the chocolate mixture into the sugar and eggs. Then add the dry ingredient to the chocolate mixture. Mix together until mixture is smooth. Lastly pour the mixture in to a 9x9 baking pan. Bake at 350° for 30- 35minutes. When the brownies are done baking enjoy them.





Lion Listeners

Dear Lion Listeners,

There is a person, and she thinks I am her BFF, but I really don't like her and she keeps bugging me! I tried to ignore her but I just can't! What should I do?

-Being Bugged

"Tell her you do not want to be friends right now. Ask her nicely to stop bugging you."

- Keely S., 4th grade

"You should give her a chance."

- Anna S., 5th grade

"You should think about how you would feel if you were that person; put yourself in his or her shoes."

-Mrs. Blazek, LLC

Want to voice your opinion to help a fellow classmate? Stop in Room 109 to help the newspaper staff. You must be willing to give your kindest, mature, and most honest advice!

Celebrate National Poetry Month!

By: Brenna S. and Hannah B.

The Race

Super at breaststroke
Working on backstroke
Off the block I go
Will it be my best time yes or no?
Coaches are cheering
Swimmers are swimming
I'm having fun;
And guess what? I won!!!



I Am Me

I am very fast like a cheetah
But friendly like a dolphin
I am cute like a puppy
And smart like an elephant
I am made of two ingredients,
Athletics and helpfulness
But when it comes to who I am...
I know the answer
I am who I am
I can only be me!!!

Important Dates

By: Kelsey S. and Abby Y.

April 29 — 6th Grade Field Trip to Mars

May 5 — Spring Band concert

May 7 — Orchestra/ Choir concert

May 14 — District Writing Festival,
Student Council Meeting

May 21 — Author Ralph Fletcher Visits

May 22 — LaGrange Public Librarians
Visit to share about Summer Reading
programs

May 25 — No School Memorial Day

May 27 — Half Day

May — Student Council Meeting

June 1 — Fun Lunch and Field day

June 4 — PTO meeting, 8:45 am

June 5 — Last day of school!!! 1 Hour!!!!

Lost & Found

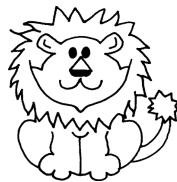


By Maddy P.

Found:

- Size Small Cherokee jacket
- Black ear muffs
- Size Small Fuzzy brown sweat jacket
- Size Small Pirates of the Caribbean sweat jacket
- Fuzzy checkered pink and black sweater
- Size Medium black sweat jacket
- Pink hair bow
- Ice pack
- Black cell phone case
- Size medium Spring Ave. sweatshirt
- Size Small blue shirt that says on it "I have decided to put myself in charge"
- Black jacket (a little furry)
- Navy Blue sweat jacket
- Blue shirt that says "I'm not bad just misunderstood."
- Black winter hat
- Soccer sweatshirt
- 1 green mitten
- Size Small blue justice sweat jacket
- Puma sweat jacket
- Black snow pants
- Chicago Bears winter hat.

Please contact the Spring Avenue office if any of these items belong to you.



A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff

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Thad P.
Ginny S.
Abby Y.

Layout/Design:

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Maddy P.
Kelsey S.

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Hannah M.
Toni M.
Anna S.
Keely S.
Brenna S.
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