

## Word Power

### **Compassion** - (noun)

Identifying and understanding of another's situation, feelings and motives.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School News	1-3
PE News	2
Principal's Corner	4
Local News	5
Travel Log	5
Arts & Entertainment	6-7
Book Talk	6-7
Write to Learn	8
Lion Listeners	8
Important Dates	9
Lost & Found	9



# A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School Newspaper

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 31, 2008

## New Life for The Lion's Life

By: Ms. Marek & Miss Maschmeyer

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

The Lion's Life Newspaper/Journalism club was initially started with the expectation that the paper would be staffed with a small number of student volunteers. Ms. Marek, Ms. Webb and Miss Maschmeyer were stunned and pleased to find that almost forty students decided to take part in the club!

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 strengthened 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, with the goal of increasing to every month next year. Students continue to learn new skills and develop their writing potential.

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

## When Kids Have Power For An Hour

By: Kelsey S.

During Power Hour, kids can read, write, work on homework, and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, do math practice. "We think Power Hour is a time to help kids build their reading skills!" says Mrs. Faldani and Ms. Eck. Power Hour is usually an hour where students can read and meet in small groups with teachers in their grade. There are also other teachers such as Mrs. Manganello, who does Rewards.

Power Hour just started last year. Before power hour started, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers mostly did literature circles, silent reading, or conferences in small groups, because they couldn't teach a

variety of subjects in one small time in the day. Instead they had to spread it throughout the day. "The purpose of Power Hour is to make sure every student gets everything they need for reading," answered Ms. Eck and Mrs. Faldani.

What is so good about Power Hour? Getting to see the other class and meeting everybody's needs. Now, what don't the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers like? "The time is too short," answered Mrs. Faldani and Ms. Eck, "We want to have the rooms closer together, to make it easier to move."



Mrs. Faldani (4th grade teacher), Kelsey S. (5th grade), and Ms. Eck (4th grade teacher) pose together on the playground.



Baskets full of novels that students can enjoy during Power Hour.



*"I always care  
how students  
feel about trying  
new things."  
-Mrs. Webb*

# Kick Off - Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?

By: Brenna S.



**Students line up in the Spring Ave. gym at 8:20 am for Morning Kick Off.**

Fun, fun, fun is the way students and staff start the morning with Morning Kick Off. Morning Kick Off is where students and teachers come together. Kids enter the gym at 8:20 am and they start the school day at 8:30 am. When they start, two fourth graders say their name, the date, lunch menu and birthdays. Next, the principal makes her announcements. Then all students say the pledge and recite the school banner that says "Manners Matter, Kindness

Counts, and Respect Rocks." Classes exit through the gym door and some go through the lunch door. The school then starts their day!

Mrs. Webb thinks that Kick Off is a success and enjoys it very much. She says she expects students to talk and visit with each other before Kick Off starts, but she's happy that students are then exiting the gym quietly when it's over. Ms Webb's favorite part of Kick Off is getting to say the same thing to almost everyone at the same time. She would like to focus on making sure the information that is shared with the school is important. She mentioned that if she could change something about Kick Off, she would make sure everyone could get the same news at the same time. (Accelerated Math classes in the fifth and sixth grades have to start during Kick Off time).

Ms. Webb says, "The purpose of Kick Off is to get the community and family feeling throughout the school. I always care how students feel about trying new things."



**Students stand for the pledge and recite the banner to start off their day.**



## PE News and Happenings

By: Mr. Arneson



which will be echoing from the Spring Avenue gymnasium!

Within the curriculum being taught this year, the emphasis will be on "Becoming Active For Life." What this means is that the children will be exposed to as many sports and activities as possible. The hope is that the kids will find at least one sport or activity interesting and pursue this activity outside of school in a competitive or non-competitive setting (i.e. extra-curricular). In addition, the desire is that this interest carries on not only in their youth, but down the road as they grow up as well.

Every couple of months the physical education department (of one) will be keeping you (the parents) informed on the movements and sounds

Here is a list of the activities which your children will be participating in during the first semester:

- Throwing and Catching (Football, Frisbee)
- Rock Climbing
- Scooters
- Lacrosse
- Golf
- Basketball
- Invasion games
- Cooperative games/activities
- Recess games and more!

### Jump Rope for Heart

Spring Avenue will be hosting this event January 30th within each child's P.E. class. We have booked a very special mystery guest, and are looking forward to this event becoming a huge success! More info will be available on helping out with this event as we near the approved date.

### Sports Club

Also, beginning in April, I am planning on starting an after-school sports club that would meet one night per week for an hour, until the end of the year. This would only be available to the *fifth* and *sixth* grade students. Activities which would be explored include rock climbing, volleyball, juggling, flag football, soccer, kickball, roller-skating, lacrosse, running (possibly a 5k) and more. More information will come as the year moves forward.

An update about our climbing wall: we are hoping to have this installed during a Professional Learning Day. We will keep you posted.

Thanks for your time and interest,

Mr. Arneson



# Q & A With New Teachers

By: Hannah B.



## Mr. Arneson or Mr. Cheese Head? You Decide!

**What is your favorite football team?**

The Packers and Brett Farve.

**What is your favorite baseball team and why?**

The Brewers because they have the best stadium in all the land.

**What do you like to do on the weekends?**

I like to stay active, so I like running, biking, hanging out with friends, and playing guitar here.

**What college did you go to?**  
University of Wisconsin, Madison.

## Let's Look In a Book to Learn About Ms. Marek

**Ms. Marek, What is your favorite book?**

I'll just say all of them.

**What book would you suggest to a kid?**

I would ask what the student was interested in, and then I would make a recommendation.

**What is your favorite color?**

Green

**Do you participate in any sports?**

I like to run and ride my bike

**Who is your favorite athlete?**

I really admire triathletes.



## Ms. Hessler is Happy Teaching at Spring

**What is your favorite color?**

Dark bluish/purple

**What do you do on the weekends?**

Read, and I watch all my favorite shows, and I like to spend time with my friends and family.

**Do you have any pets?**

No

**Where did you used to live?**

I used to live in Columbus, Ohio.

**Where did you go to college?**

Ohio State University

**Do you enjoy teaching?**

Of course, I love it!

## Look Here to Learn All About Ms. Kranzler

**Ms. Kranzler, What is your favorite color?**

Baby Blue

**What College did you go to?**

Indiana University

**What do you do on the weekends?**

I usually go to the movies, see my friends, or go to dinner or the gym.

**When is your birthday?**

May 6<sup>th</sup>

**Do you enjoy teaching?**

Yes, I love teaching!



# Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



*As I've shared with some of you, the start of this year has gone very well. Students are eager and learning at very good rates.*



Fall greetings! As I've shared with some of you, the start of this year has gone very well. Students are eager and learning at very good rates. We've had our first round of data collection, and we have students in groups working on the skills they need. This will be one topic of discussion for conferences, and you will receive copies of all data in your report cards on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

New students have been spotlighted on the front hall bulletin board. We are excited to welcome our new families to this amazing community. Hopefully, everyone is feeling comfortable and welcomed. Please browse our website and come to our PTO meetings. The family events are always fun and entertaining. See upcoming dates for a list of these events. Thank you to everyone who has already put in time and energy to help our school year kick off with a wonderful start!

As you know, our community has been growing and so is our staff. We have added another team teacher for kindergarten and two additional paraprofessionals. Welcome to Jenna Sharp, as our kindergarten team teacher and to Gina Madonia and Lisa Gerstner as our paraprofessionals.

We are always looking ahead to plan for the future and we appreciate any information we can gather about our community. In this light, we will be asking all parents to register next year's kindergartners THIS

NOVEMBER at conferences (November 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.) Please look for the table in the front hall to register your 2009-2010 kindergartner child. Even if you believe we know about a sibling, we would like everyone to fill out a pre-registration form during the fall conferences. You'll have a Book Fair to visit, registration to fill out, and parent teacher conferences to attend.

Birthday celebrations are going well with books donated to honor a child, as well as stickers and pencils for that special birthday student. Thank you for sending in inedible treats or a birthday book, if you wish. Please do not send in candy or edible items.

Blue slips are given to students as they show good citizenship and make good choices. They may receive them from any staff member anywhere in the building. These are collected in our baskets and once a month I will draw 12 students to join me for each lunch. In addition, I will be drawing one student several times this year to be the Principal for the Day. Our first Principal for the day was Riley Carroll! Congratulations to all blue slip recipients so far!

Students are becoming more responsible now that routines are setting in. Please remember that students should not return to school after school hours unless there is a special event or special circumstance. Our doors are locked and many meetings

are underway on most afternoons. The office staff will not be available after 4:15. Please also help keep your child safe by not sending them back on their own.

Parking and traffic continue to be a priority for safety. Please help us keep the children stay safe. There is no parking on 52<sup>nd</sup> street or Kensington or in the staff parking lot. Do not rush around other cars as this causes huge safety problems. We will not mark your child tardy for the first few minutes, and we will always help them start off in a positive way. If you arrive after 8:30, simply drive around the block and enter Spring Avenue on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street driving from Gurrie. Drop your child off ONLY on the school side of the street. They can ring the bell and we will greet them and get them into school.

We have had some close calls with cars, and the cause appears to be due to rushing or rain. Believe us when we say we understand that some mornings are crazy, but we must keep children safe! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. See the website for our specific traffic pattern! PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ALL STOP SIGNS!! PTO has discussed the option of lining our streets with safety signs. Please come to our meetings to hear more about that.

Respectfully,  
Mrs. Webb  
Principal



# Fenwick Friars Brought Their "A - Game" to Homecoming

By: Grace L.



**Fenwick Friars playing a winning Homecoming game.**

Touchdown for Friars! Congratulations to Fenwick High School for a wonderful win on the homecoming football game on October 4. Friars played against Saint Ignatius High School.

In the first quarter Fenwick had some ups and downs, but they got through it. One of the good things that happened during the first quarter was that Fenwick had a

great touchdown by Michael Maienza, number 30, at the last few seconds. This touchdown put Fenwick in the lead at the end of the first quarter. One bad thing that happened in the first quarter was that Saint Ignatius got away with a touchdown by Luke Ronser, number 26, who ran from the other side of the football field all the way to the touchdown zone.

In the second quarter, Fenwick was making so many touchdowns, it was like there was no tomorrow. Fenwick made four touchdowns by Art Sundry, number 24, Pat Bindon, number 32, Michael Maienza, number 30, and Mike Lanan, number 8. Ignatius was getting burned.

In the third quarter Ignatius was trying to catch up to Fenwick with two touchdowns by

Mike Morris number, 54 and J.T Vilus, number 44. Also Fenwick had two amazing tackles by James Gancer, number 41 and Tom Doherty, number 26, which kept Ignatius from making more touchdowns.

In the last quarter Fenwick had a phenomenal touchdown by Connor Caldicott, number 14, which made the Friars win the Homecoming game. At the end of the game Fenwick Friars had 28 points and Saint Ignatius had 14 points.

Even though Fenwick won this game, they still need to get ready for more competition and fun!

## Travel Log

By : Emily A.

### Visiting SPAIN

People have been talking about going on some cool vacations, but there is one vacation that you will really like! AnnaJean Pittman and her family have gone to Madrid, Spain! It is one of the largest cities in Europe and is the capital of Spain. It is about 4190 miles or 6745 kilometers away. Spain is very different from the USA. They have bullfights! Their language is different than ours. There are 400 million Spanish speakers today. There is also a lot of history in Spain. For example, it was the seat of a global empire.



**Bowl from Spain**

Spain does have some similarities to the United States. People in Spain play sports just like here in the U.S. They play games such as basketball, football, tennis, handball, and motorcycling. There are also many dancers and dancing in Spain.

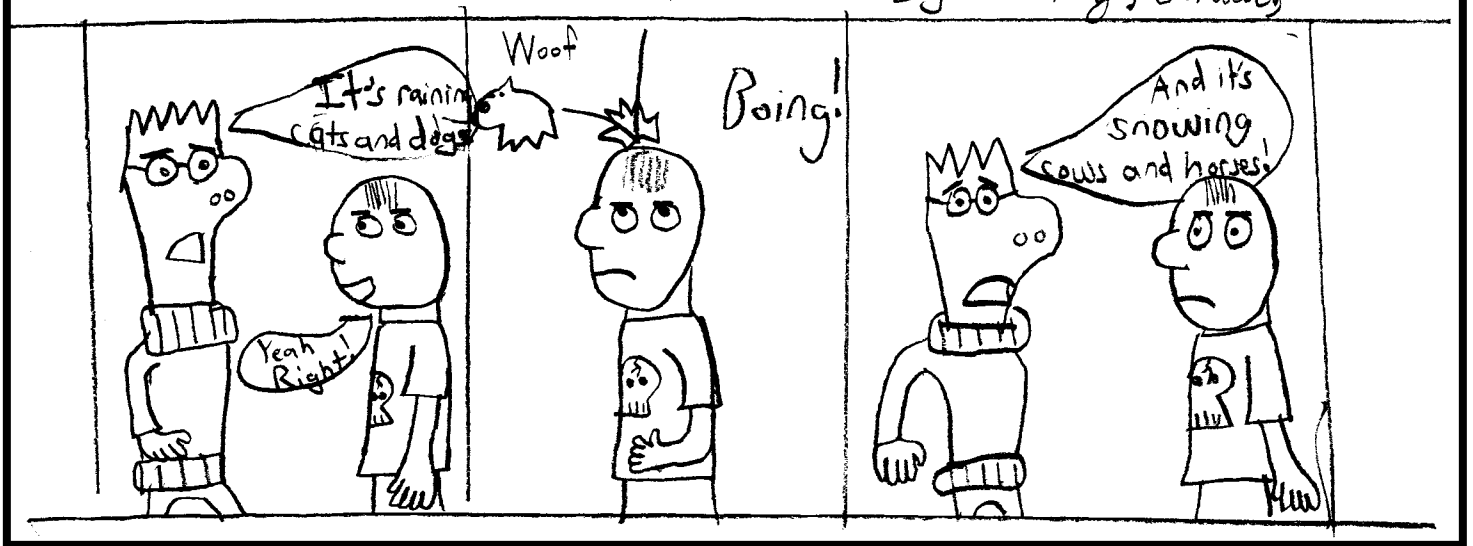
It is very hot in Spain and is normally reaching 45°C (113°F) in the summer.

Whenever you have a free weekend, Spain is a great place to take a break, have fun, and to relax. There is not one thing missing from a great vacation in Spain.

# Arts & Entertainment

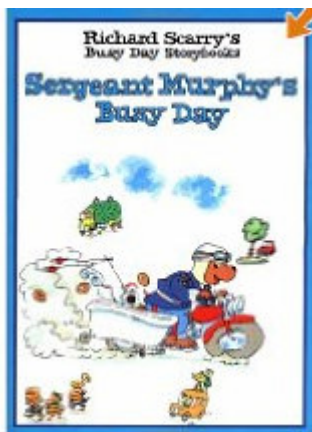
## It's Raining Cats and Dogs

by: Nick Z, Thad,



## Sergeant Murphy's Busy Day

By: Riley C.



Sergeant Murphy's Busy Day, by Richard Scarry is another thrilling day in Sergeant Murphy's life, but today he just keeps forgetting his whistle!

Sergeant Murphy goes through traffic jams, bicycle directing, soccer coaching, and many other adventures. If you want to find out what happens, read the mystifying end.

I would rate this book as 4 bookmarks. It's a great

This book is rated:



**4 out of 5 Bookmarks**

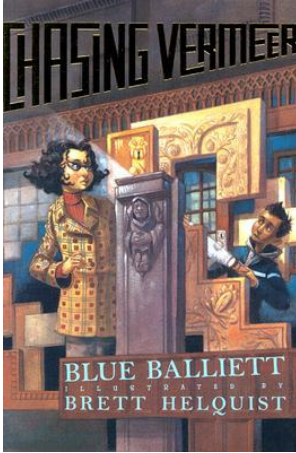
book, but at certain parts it's hard to understand what's happening.

Overall, this book is well written, grasping, and makes you want to read more! Sergeant Murphy's busy day, will make your day a, well, busy day!

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.

# Chasing Vermeer

By: Riley C.



Chasing Vermeer, by Blue Balliett, is a thrilling mystery where Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay unite. As they go through school, they notice things they didn't notice before. Now, with logic, skills, and blue m&ms, Petra and Calder must solve a ravishing art mystery that baffles everyone, even the thief. I would rate this book as 5 bookmarks, because there's an adventure around every corner. This is also based on my opin-



This book is rated:

5 out of 5 Bookmarks

ion towards art, and art fascinates me, so this book is the book for me. Anyone who loves art, mysteries, and blue m&ms, should read this mixed up tale. It will make you feel like you are really chasing Vermeer.

# Ratatouille

By: Thad P., Nick Z., Tuck M.

Ratatouille is a movie whose main character is Remmy. Remmy hopes to one day become a professional chef. But there is one little problem, Remy is a rat, and his dreams may be a little bigger than his body. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and his idea of success is a boy named Linguini. When people watch this movie, they learn about Paris, how hard life can be for a chef, and how hard life can be for a rat. Remmy teaches viewers of all ages an important lesson - to put forth great effort and to always believe in oneself. While Remmy was teaching this lesson to the viewers, he was trying to teach it to the characters in the movie too.

Ratatouille can be classified as comedy, fantasy, and educational. You may have to watch the movie more than once

to understand the main idea of the story, just like you have to read a fable a couple of times to get the final moral.

I found Ratatouille very entertaining. It showed the hard life of a rat in a children's movie. Ratatouille was also very dramatic. Sometimes the drama overwhelmed the movie. There were numerous people in the movie which can confuse even the older viewers. (I couldn't keep the names straight half way through the movie!) Although the movie was mostly practical, it showed how hard being a rat can be.

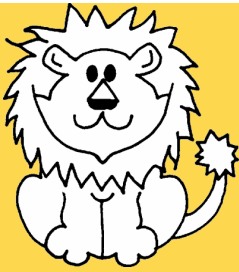
I would recommend this movie to those who love a happy ending, and to those bold enough to except the cruel treatment of rodents today. I'd give this movie a 3 1/2 stars. I hope to see you all watching it!



Rating:







## Lion Listeners

By: Ginny S. and Keely S.

Dear Lion Listeners,

**I really want a dog, but my parents won't let me get one! How can I convince them?**

*From, Dog Lover*

"Try showing responsibility around the house by doing chores without being asked."

*-Ms. Eck, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

"Get good grades and show your parents that you are responsible."

*-Grace Latner, 6<sup>th</sup> grader*

"1) Let them know how much you want a dog. 2) Do research. 3) If I were you I would make a deal with my parents. Like if I accomplish something, my parents would get me a dog."

*-Mr. Arneson, P.E. teacher*



Dear Lion Listeners,

**There's a girl on my swim team that keeps swimming into our lane. How do I make her stop?**

*From, Swimmer Girl*

"Ask why she is being mean or just forget about her."

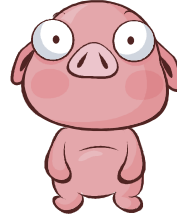
*-Ms. Kim, janitor*

"Write a card that says stop."

*-Kendall Fresca, 4<sup>th</sup> grader and  
-Toni Mendez, 4<sup>th</sup> grader*

"Be assertive and show empathy."

*-Ms. Hessler, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*



## The Three G.P's and the Butcher

By: Anna S.

Once in an ordinary town on an ordinary farm the extraordinary happened. There where three pigs Mud, Curly, and Snort. Their names DID NOT fit them. This was mostly because they where genius pigs. All around the farm they where known as the G.P's.

One day the news around town (a.k.a the farm) was that the Big Bad Butcher was coming!!! He was coming to get three fat pigs to cook for his fat wife. Which was unlucky for the G.P's since they where fat! But that did not stop them! They where not scared, but they still set up traps to be safe.

"Cock-a-dodde doo! Ba bome ba bome. Oh no! It's the BIG BAD BUTCHER!" said the sissy sheep, Bobby.

"Aaahhh!" said Mud the least intelligent of the G.P's. (Oh yeah, about the not being scared part, um yeah, well, that is true for Curly and Snort.)

"It's o.k.! We set up traps! Remember?" Snort said. "OHHH!! It's the Big Bad Butcher!!!"

Then the Big Bad Butcher loudly exclaimed "Little G.P's, Little G.P's, please let me in!"

"Did he just call us Jeeps??" Said Mud.

"Not the point!" shouted Snort.

All three pigs yelled "Not by the surgical glasses on our watery, watery eyes!"

Then the Butcher, very aggravated, yelled "Then I'll smash, and I'll bash, and I'll crash your pen door down!"

"Hia!" screeched the Big Bad Butcher. BUZZZZZ!!! The second that the sole of the Butcher's shoe hit the hi-tech titanium pen door, BAM! The shock absorb-

ers turned on! Boom! The Big Bad Butcher hit the floor.

"Hurry!" called Snort to Mud from the pen next door as Mud struggled to get over the wall that separated the two pigs.

After about an hour of gazing at the Butcher who seemed dead, he was awake and back in action.

"To the second pen!" Thought the Big Bad Butcher to himself hoping that the pig behind the second pen door was dumber.

"Little G.P's, Little G.P's let me in!" exclaimed the butcher.

"Did he just call us...?" Started Mud. "Once again, Not the point!!" Butted Snort.

"Not by the surgical glasses on our watery, watery eyes," yelled the G.P's.

"Then I'll smash, and I'll bash, and I'll crash your pen door down!" said the Butcher.

"Ohyyyy" Bang! Mud whacked and slammed the Butcher on his un-shaved face with a pan. When it hit the Butcher, he decided he was going to need a better plan.

So after agreeing to come back from their labs in 21.5 minutes the three pigs and the Butcher went back to their stations.

So after 21.5 minutes in his so called "lab" the Butcher was back in action. Mud, Curly and Snort did the same after meeting up.

"Little G.P's, Little G.P's, let me in!" screeched the Butcher. "Not by the surgical glasses on our watery, watery eyes!" replied the G.P's. "Then I'll smash, and I'll bash, and I'll crash your pen door down!"

Slam! The three G.P's gave the Butcher a good serving of sleeping gas.

"Hurry!" screamed Curly. The three G.P's unlocked all the animals and they all trampled the butcher.



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!



# Important Dates and Upcoming Events

By: Matthew K.

## October

**Oct. 31** - Halloween (parade and parties)

## November

**Nov. 4** - Professional Learning Day, No School

**Nov. 7** - Report cards sent home

**Nov. 10 & 12** - Early dismissal, 2:00

Early registration for 2008-2009 Kindergartners at Parent Teacher Conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Book Fair in LLC during Conferences

**Nov. 14** - Honoring Veteran's Day, No School



## November, continued

**Nov. 20** - PTO Meeting, 8:45 am

Spotlight on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**Nov. 21** - Pasta Pronto Dinner Family Event

**Nov. 24** - School Board Meeting 7:30 at Gurrie Middle School

**Nov. 26-28** - Thanksgiving Break, No School

## December

**Dec. 8 - 19** - Winter Assessments, continued in January

**Dec. 9 & 11** - District 105 Music Concerts: Orchestra, Chorus, Band

**Dec. 11** - PTO Meeting, 8:45 am

**Dec 15** - School Board Meeting 7:30 at Gurrie Middle School

**Dec. 16 & 18** - Music Programs and OPEN HOUSE

**Dec. 18** - Holiday parties

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 2** - No School, Winter Break

**Dec. 25** - Christmas

**Dec. 31** - New Years Eve

## Lost & Found

By: Maddy P.

### **LOST:**

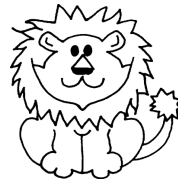
- Blue digital camera
- Red jacket with black stripes down the sides (Size: medium)

- Gray and Black checkered zip hoodie (Size: small)
- Light blue sweatshirt (Size: large)

### **FOUND:**

- White Old Navy fleece sweatshirt (Size: 16)
- Orange Gap zip hoodie (Size: small)

- Gray Reebok sweatshirt
- Camouflage jacket (Size: small)



## A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff

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Camille C.  
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Grace L.  
Hannah M.  
Tuck M.  
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\*Special thanks to Mary Kate C. for her wonderful suggestion for the name of this publication. And thank you to Michael C. for his creativity and expertise with the newspaper.

### **Reader Feedback**

Please share your thoughts.  
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