



# A Lion's Life

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## Fishy Friends Teach 5th Grade

By: Olivia B. and Danielle N.

Something fishy is going on in Mrs. Wanta's fifth grade Science class. Ideal School and Spring Avenue both have trout in their classrooms to help their Science class.

The life of the trout relates to everything they're learning in Life Science class. Mrs. Wanta received one hundred eighty-six eggs at the end of October.

It takes about two weeks for the trout to hatch. Six eggs died but the rest hatched into fingerling trout (baby fish). The fish are eating from their yolksac until



they are able to eat flake food. The trout will be released around March in a cold water stream in Rockford. The

schools plan on doing this program for the next few years, which gives students something to look forward to.

## 2016 Olympic Games heading to Rio

By: Joanna Z.

On October 2, 2009, the Olympic panel voted on where the Olympic Games will be held. Almost everyone in Chicago was hoping that the people of the panel would vote for Chicago. Others were hoping for Rio to win. A few other people wanted Madrid to win. People cried and cheered at the end first round. Chicago got eliminated. That left Rio and Madrid in the

voting process. People crossed their fingers on the second round. Most people hoping for Rio, some for Madrid. A lot of people were happy that day, when Rio won!!! Yep, in 2016 will be the first Olympic Games in South America.

A lot of people were happy that the Olympics are taking place in such a historical city. I'm happy, my par-

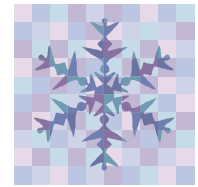
ents are happy, are you happy?

On the downside, if you were hoping to go to Chicago if the Olympics were here to see the great Olympians yourself, now you can't because they'll all be in Rio. Don't worry! It's still a possibility to see the Olympics! You have until 2016. Better start saving your quarters. It's a long way to Rio!!



# Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



***Our students are learning about setting goals and achieving them in many ways. Please feel free to ask your child about what they are doing in different subjects. From one who knows, please trust me when I say they can be encouraged to come up with something in answer to "What did you learn at school today?" Don't settle for "Nothing!"***

December always brings such excitement and joy! Even the new snow seems fresh and invigorating. With this, however, comes the need for all that snow gear! Please help your children prepare for the chill and make sure they have a change of shoes in their backpacks. As a reminder, they are allowed to leave gym shoes here if that is an option.

Safety becomes a focus with the frigid weather and we ask that you help us get your child to school between 8:20 and 8:30. They will be allowed to enter right away and will not have to stand out in the cold after about 8:15. Some clubs and safety patrol, as well as early bird groups do have to arrive a bit earlier, but this means we should make sure that all students are dressed warmly and come right to the front door.

Thank you for trying out the new drop off procedure or option of having your child come into the school through the front entrance. Please make sure you enter Spring Avenue from the Gurrie side. Spring Avenue is a one way street in the mornings.

As we finalize our winter testing, we will be gathering the scores and reporting them to you in January or at the early February conferences. Students should understand how they are progressing through many other daily and weekly assessments. Hav-

ing your child show you their work and talk to you about scores is another way to keep in touch with their progress.

Our students are learning about setting goals and achieving them in many ways. Please feel free to ask your child about what they are doing in different subjects. From one who knows, please trust me when I say they can be encouraged to come up with something in answer to "What did you learn at school today?" Don't settle for "Nothing!" Try some specific wording like, "What did you do in Math? Did you have a buddy or a partner to work with? What are you writing about in Social Studies? What's your favorite routine of the day? What did you discuss in morning meeting? What was for lunch? Did you eat your snack while you were talking or reading?" These are just some ideas about how to cue into some specifics. If these still aren't working, ask your teacher for some ideas about specific classroom activities.

After the holidays, we will be working hard to help students remember their items for the day. This includes instruments, homework and gym shoes. We strongly discourage parents dropping off items for their child/children. Working together with friendly reminders will be the best way to build this responsibility. Even the youngest

students are so proud of themselves as they remember everything they need for the day. This "rule" does not apply to food or medicine, and even in some circumstances, special projects.

These past couple of months have been full of the reasons we all love Spring Avenue: from the PTO sponsored Variety Show, to the Band, Orchestra and Choir concerts, the Book Fair, our own PTO planning meetings, bowling for little ones and other extra curricular events, we thank all of the parents and staff members who have supported these programs and opportunities for the children! We appreciate you!

In closing may I repeat myself by reminding everyone how grateful I am? I truly am and I thank you! I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday, full of family laughter, some reading of favorite stories, and good old-fashioned fun! Enjoy and be well!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Webb Peterman  
Principal

# Cooking Corner: Turkey Cookie Treats

By: Toni M.



**Prep Time:** 1 hour 15 min.

**Total Time:** 1 hour 15 min

**Makes:** 2 dozen cookies

## Ingredients

1 pouch of (1 lb 1.5 oz.)  
Betty Crocker sugar cookie  
mix  
½ cups of butter or margarine, softened  
1 egg  
1 container (12 oz) Betty  
Crocker Whipped chocolate  
frosting  
Candy Corn  
1 tube (4.25 oz) of Betty  
Crocker yellow decorating  
icing  
Miniature candy-coated semi-  
sweet chocolate baking bits  
1 tube (0.68) of Betty  
Crocker black decorating gel

## Instructions

Heat oven to 375°F.

In medium bowl, stir cookie  
mix, butter and egg until soft  
dough forms. On ungreased  
cookie sheet, drop dough by  
rounded tablespoonfuls 2  
inches apart.

Bake 11 to 14 minutes or  
until edges are light golden  
brown. Cool 1 minute; re-  
move from cookie sheets to  
cooling racks. Cool com-  
pletely, about 15 minutes.

Frost and decorate 1  
cookie at a time. After  
spreading frosting on  
cookie, add candy Corn  
for feathers. Pipe yellow  
icing for beak and feet.  
Add baking bits for eyes;  
pipe black gel for center  
of each eye.

Eat and enjoy!

How could you make a  
similar cookie for the  
Winter holidays?

Submit your favorite reci-  
pes to A Lion's Life!



# Movie Review: Where the Wild Things Are

By: Elizabeth C.



**Rating:**



"Where the Wild Things Are" is about a boy who runs away from home. Then he gets on a boat and finds an island where wild things are. He sees one named Carol wrecking homes made out of sticks. Max (the boy) runs out and starts helping him.

Everyone thinks he is a king and so he became the king of the wild things. Carol became Max's best friend. Then all of the wild things built a village from one thing Carol made.

When the village they were making was almost done, everyone finds out that Max is not a real king. Carol then goes psycho and tries to eat Max.

After he calms down Max decides to go home to his family. So Max sails home on a boat to see his mom and sister. He gets home safely and never leaves again.

The book Where the Wild Things Are is pretty different than the movie. Max runs away from home gets on a boat sails to where the wild things are. Then he lies that he is a king so he doesn't get eaten. That's in the movie. The book is different. Max's room turns into a jungle and he gets in his private boat then finds the island. Then he meets wild things who try to eat him.

In the movie he goes to the island and they do want to eat him, but he lies to them that he is a king. So instead of leaving he stays and becomes the wild thing's king. The similarities are in both the book and the movie Max gets on a boat and goes to an island where he meets the wild things.

In conclusion, "Where the Wild Things Are" is a great movie and book. I hope you see or read Where the Wild Things Are and enjoy it.

# **We Asked YOU!**

## What are you doing over Winter Break?

By Olivia B.

Anna W., Kindergarten – Playing in the snow

Sarah L., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Going to San Francisco

Stella C., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Going to Grandparents house

Claudia M., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Playing in snow

Christopher C., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Going to Peoria

Maggie K., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Making a snowman and sledding

Hannah K., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Going sledding

Jenna S., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Making a snowman

Andrew H., 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Maybe going to Wisconsin

Natalie M., 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Going sledding

Jeremiah P., 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Playing video games and sledding

Brenna S., 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Going to Michigan

Tommy E., 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Spending time with my family

Mac C., 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Spending time with my grandparents  
visiting from Texas

## What is your favorite Christmas Present?

By Danielle N.

Keegan C., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Molly's American girl doll bed

Grace M., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Rainbow in my room

Alejandra R., 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Barbie Bathroom Set

Michael C., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Lego Castle

Natalia Z., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Laptop

Kathleen C., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Big teddy bear

Ryan P., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Peanut Butter

Owen F., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Motorcycle

Claire G., 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Camera

Sarah G., 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Nintendo D.S.

Alec G., 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Laptop

Nicole P., 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Nintendo D.S.

Morgan M., 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Chair pillow

Danny V., 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Motorcycle

## Book Talk: Lemonade War By Jacqueline Davies

By: Olivia B.



Jessie and Evan are brother and sister. If you have a brother or sister you know it has ups and downs. Jessie is going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Evan is going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Jessie is really smart and is going to skip a grade when school starts. In the summer the family gets a letter telling them that the school has a small enrollment and that Jessie and Evan are going to be in the same class.

Evan is upset by the news because he does not want

to be in the same class and sharing the same friends with his little sister. Evan yells at Jessie, and Jessie tells him she can make her own friends in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Jessie goes out and finds a nice girl in Evan's grade. Next thing you know they have a lemonade stand together. Evan sees their stand and gets mad. He decides to make a lemonade stand with one of his friends.

When Jessie and Evan are both home they make a deal

that who ever makes \$100.00 in lemonade stand money gets the winner's money. The deal is on, but can they make \$100.00 in just few days? The book is also a great book to learn about money.

This is a great book to read. I give the book 4 bookmarks!

**This book is rated:**



**4 out of 5 Bookmarks**



# Q & A With Music Teachers



## Mrs. Kay

By: Katie L.

How would you like to get to know Mrs. Kay? I had a chance to talk with her. The first question I asked her was what her favorite music is, because she's our music teacher. She said she enjoys a variety of music. Her favorite musician is Bobby McFerrin, who is a singer. Her favorite song is "Telephone" by Menotti. I've never heard of it, but I bet it's a good song. Although she teaches different types of music, she prefers music that is played by a marching band outside and music that is played inside by instruments in an orchestra. Her favorite instrument is part of the orchestra, which is the piano. She thinks you can do a lot with the piano.

I also learned some personal things about Mrs. Kay. She has an Australian Shepherd named Strider. Strider is a name from "Lord of the Rings." Her favorite book is How The Grinch Stole Christmas. She loves to watch movies, such as "Star Wars," with her husband and play with her puppy. But, what she loves the most is to sing. She likes to exercise by dancing. She has done many types of dance, such as ballet, jazz, hip-hop, musical theatre, and lyrical. One day she would like to do tap dancing. Mrs. Kay has been here for three years and has taught us a lot about music. We hope she never leaves! Picture at Right: Mrs. Kay with new puppy Strider.



## Miss Andrick

By: Joanna Z.

Last week I interviewed Miss Andrick, the new orchestra teacher for Gurrie and Spring Avenue School. This is her first time teaching orchestra, but she has student taught before. Miss Andrick's favorite composer is J.S. Bach. Even though her favorite composer composes classical music, she loves to play jazz. Miss Andrick plays 5 instruments, but her favorite, and the first one she started playing, is the violin.

Her favorite song that the orchestras played for the winter concert were Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 (concert orchestra) and Dragon Hunger (intermediate orchestra). Miss Andrick thinks people should join orchestra to just get together and play, and to learn more about music. She recommends any instrument. Miss Andrick thinks that everyone should play their own kind of instrument that they want to play. Welcome to Gurrie and Spring Miss Andrick!



## Mrs. Nendza

By: Danielle N.

Let me introduce you to a very important person at District 105: Mrs. Nendza. She is the band teacher. Even when she was younger she wanted to be a teacher, but she also had different interests besides music, like Math, Science, and P.E. Her own band teacher, Mr. Philip, motivated her to be a band teacher.

Mrs. Nendza plays all the instruments in the band, but the oboe is her favorite because of its unusual sound. She said it drove her mom crazy! Also, her favorite song is Suite by Holtz. Holtz is one of her favorite composers along with Dvorak, Elliot, and Del-Borgo. Mrs. Nendza likes Elliot because he is usually bold. Dvorak's melody is nice, and Mrs. Nendza likes Holtz's folk song style. Her favorite type of music is country, jazz, 70s, 80s, and 20<sup>th</sup> century band music.

Now let me introduce you to Mrs. Nendza's family. She has a husband named Norbert and two sons who are married. She also has four grandsons. Working with kids is what Mrs. Nendza likes most about Spring Avenue because they are always ready to learn. Three Cheers for Mrs. Nendza! Hip Hip Hooray!



By Brandon H. (created by memory!)

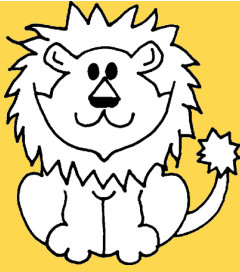


George Washington  
John Adams  
Thomas Jefferson  
James Madison  
James Monroe  
John Quincy Adams  
Andrew Jackson  
Martin Van Buren  
William Henry Harrison  
John Tyler  
James Polk  
Zachary Taylor  
Millard Fillmore  
Franklin Pierce  
James Buchanan  
Abraham Lincoln

Andrew Johnson  
Ulysses Grant  
Rutherford Hayes  
James Garfield  
Chester Arthur  
Grover Cleveland\*  
Benjamin Harrison  
Grover Cleveland\*  
William McKinley  
Theodore Roosevelt  
William Taft  
Woodrow Wilson  
Warren Harding  
Calvin Coolidge  
Herbert Hoover  
Franklin Roosevelt

Harry Truman  
Dwight Eisenhower  
John Kennedy  
Lyndon Johnson  
Richard Nixon  
Gerald Ford  
Jimmy Carter  
Ronald Reagan  
George Bush  
Bill Clinton  
George W. Bush  
Barack Obama

\*Grover Cleveland was the only president to have two non-consecutive terms.



## Lion Listeners

By: Kelsey S.

I was sort of mean to my friend.  
What should I do??

*Regretfully Mean*

"Tell her you're sorry for what you did and let her know it won't happen again."

Jhadira V., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

"You should forget that you were mean to her and do your best to be really nice to her."

Abby Y., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

"Always be a good friend. Discuss the problem with her. And always be a bucket filler, not a bucket dipper."

Ms. Kim

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!

## Riddle for Riddle

By: Kendall F. and Joanna Z.



DOCTOR: What is your problem?

PATIENT: I like bow ties.

DOCTOR: Is that all? Thousands of people like bowties. I prefer them myself.

PATIENT: You do? What a relief! How do you like them boiled or fried?

What kind of kitties are the best bowlers?

*Alley Cats!*

I am something that always increases, the more I am shared with others. What do you think I am?

*Happiness*

How can you tell if a dinosaur is a carnivore or a vegetarian?

*Lie down on a plate and see what happens*

## Variety is the Spice of Life at Spring

By: Anna S.

The variety show is a show where students can perform, like a talent show except no one wins. The variety show happens once every two years. There were many different acts that lasted for up to three minutes each. This year we had many interesting and fun acts. Here is a list of this year's acts:

- If you're happy and you know it!
- I've Got a Feelin'
- The Climb
- Party in the USA
- Yes, We Can-Can
- Cotton Eye Joe
- Lights of a Dream
- Raider's March from Indiana Jones
- Spring Avenue's Got Talent I
- The Cha Cha Girls
- Irish Passion
- The "New" Village People
- Spring Avenue's Got Talent II

- Inchworm
- T-Birds
- This is Me from Camp Rock
- KISS
- Pirates of the Caribbean vs. Star Wars
- Final Countdown
- The Wedding Dance
- Oreo
- Hot Shots
- Rock vs. Pop vs. Hip Hop I
- Ice Cream Freeze
- Knock, Knock
- Ebay Song
- Rock vs. Pop vs. Hip Hop II
- Soda Girls
- Evolution of Dance Light Show

They all did so well! I hope you got a chance to see the show! If not, you can check out a video of it at the library.

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