Comet “Tales”

Essays, Poems, Stories, Artwork, and More

The Creative Arts Magazine of Marionville Elementary and Middle School Students

2013 - 2014
Foreword

This is the second edition of “Comet Tales.” The purpose of this literary magazine is to celebrate the creativity of our very hard-working students in grades 3-8. We hope the writing presented can serve as an example and inspiration for students who attempt similar projects in the future.

A link to an electronic version of this publication is available on our school website: www.marionville.us.

Thank you to all the teachers who submitted student writing and art. Last year we included a brief description of the assignments, but we omitted the descriptions this year so we could include more student work. We hope you will enjoy the publication. Thank you to everyone who supports our annual book fair, as it is past book fair funds that pay for the publication---and provide a free copy for all student contributors.

The Editors,

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Cindy Mueller, PK-8 Librarian
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Cover Illustration by Ivan Jimenez, 5th

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Vietnam War

From 1957-1975 the United States participated in a devastating war known as the Vietnam War. It is also known as the “war we lost.” As one of the strongest military forces in the world, the U.S. struggled in their fight against Vietnam where they had the environmental advantage. The Vietnam War had a lingering impact on many U.S. citizens.

In the late 1800s, until 1939, Vietnam was a colony of France. As soon as France left, Japan invaded, but the Japanese left five years later at the end of World War II. The country was split into two due to political differences. North Vietnam wanted communism, while South Vietnam didn’t.

In 1945, political leader Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam independent. And because both sides had different ideas, they fought about what type of government Vietnam would adopt. It was essentially a civil war, but other countries decided to join. North Vietnam was backed by two powerful communist countries: China and the Soviet Union, while South Vietnam was aided by several anti-communist nations, which included South Korea, Australia, New Zealand,
“Domino Theory” states that if Vietnam were to fall to communism then neighboring countries would too.

At first many American citizens thought U.S. participation was a good idea because they feared the spread of communism. Although, as the war progressed American citizens had many reasons to oppose the war. Many opposed were students, mothers, anti-establishment hippies, and African-Americans. A lot of people believed the draft was racist because most of the people drafted were African-Americans. Civil rights activists such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X called for the United States to put an end to the war.

Our goal of ending communism wasn’t reached. In the jungle nations many soldiers lost their lives and it was hard to find the enemy. The war we lost was brutal and left a lasting impact on many Americans. In later years the United States has attempted to “bury the hatchet” with its old enemy.

Works Cited


Earnest Larkin, 7th
Around 8 A.M., Japanese planes filled the sky above Hawaii. After multiple bombs, bullets, torpedoes, and anything you could think of were dropped out of the sky, the alarms that signaled attack were blaring across Pearl Harbor.

All means of defense were destroyed early in the attack, but a row of planes that were loaded with ammo inside of their guns were found, and pretty soon America was in an all-out dogfight with Japan. Before being blown to pieces, anti-aircraft support was rattling out of the USS Arizona.

After the Japanese retreated from the first attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan came in for another round. The second attack on Pearl Harbor was commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Shigekazu Shimazaki. The second attack on Pearl Harbor was divided into three groups. Four of the planes that were intended to go into battle broke down. Several people of the Japanese army wanted another attack to commence, but Yamamoto and Nagumo declined this offer.

Both times we managed to make the Japanese retreat, but much damage was done to Pearl Harbor. Almost every ship was sunken and badly damaged. Years later every ship but the USS Arizona and USS Utah were found and repaired. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, one of the most remembered wars in history was started, World War II. The attack on Pearl Harbor is a day that will always be remembered.

**Works Cited**


Research Report Poster: Wesley Breedlove, 7th

Newspaper Editorial: Students Need to Respect the Headphones

During the current school year, Marionville Middle school spent hundreds of dollars on headphones that have been beaten and broken by students and are no longer working correctly. Marionville School could choose to put more money into the headphones, but as of right now it appears that they would only get broken again. “Students that were in my tech class didn’t respect the headphones like they would have if they were their own,” says sixth grader Morgan Barrickman.

Mrs. Beth Gillig, tech teacher, says, “If the students were required to bring their own headphones then the school wouldn’t have to spend more money, and the headphones would be taken care of.” And I agree with her, but the only problem with that would be that not all students have their own headphones or the money to spend to buy headphones. As a solution to that problem, Mrs. Gillig sells headphones for one dollar. She believes if kids can buy soda pop at lunch, they can buy a pair of headphones.

In order for all the headphones to be replaced, the teachers are going to need proof that the students can take care of the headphones. To prove that, the headphones that still remain need to be
taken care of and kept off the ground.
Another idea would be to raise money to buy headphones. Students could do fundraisers to raise their own money to pay for the headphones. After that, each pair of headphones could be issued to a specific student. If broken, then that student would be responsible to pay to get a new pair.

There are many ideas for how to raise the money to buy the headphones, but it doesn’t do any good to buy new headphones if they are just going to get broken again. With buying the headphones comes many responsibilities of the students. So do your school a favor: treat the headphones with respect.

Madylon Davis, 7th

Internet Rumor: Is the Giant Angolan Witch Spider Real or Photo-shopped?

The picture of a giant Angolan Witch Spider sitting on the side of a house is a hoax. It has been poorly photo-shopped by a man named Paul Santa Maria, who has even admitted it to be a fake. He confessed, “I was just having fun and not looking for attention or to freak people out.” Also, facts show that spiders cannot grow to be that big of a size, as they would not survive being that big. Lastly, the picture used in the photo-shop was taken off the internet. It was an Angolan Witch Spider at normal size, which is much smaller than it was in Paul’s picture.

Kiley Kesterson, 7th

Illustrated Math: Madison Williams, 4th

Eating Healthy

You should eat healthy because it’s very important. For instance, it helps with your skin. Drinking water and eating lots of fibrous fruits and vegetables will help. In 48 hours you could have brighter skin, brighter eyes, less puffiness, and fewer blemishes. In addition, healthy food can increase your energy. If you stop eating sugar and processed carbohydrates, then it will increase your energy. This might take up to two or three days. Also, eating healthy helps you with your positive attitude. People have more positive attitudes when they eat healthier choices. Even if you have not lost one pound, if you do decide to start eating healthy, then these are just some steps that will happen.

Source: Life.gaiam.com.

Justise Boehne, 6th
Sports

There are 3 seconds on the clock. You have the ball. The score is tied. You go for the shot and you win the game for your team! How would you like to be this person? Well, you can! Are you ready to play sports? Sports are so much fun. Football is a pretty tough sport, but will make you strong and fast. Baseball is not as physical of a sport as some of the others, although it can still be physical at times. It’s a lot less physical than tackle football, but a little less than basketball. You should give basketball a try. Have you thought about soccer? Maybe you would like to try cheerleading. There are many different sports to play. Which one will you pick?

Logan Shepard, 6th

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is defined as a person tormenting, harassing, threatening, and embarrassing another person using the internet. A huge amount of kids are affected by cyber bullying. For example, 13% of kids say someone has sent them an aggressive message. Also, more kids are being cyber bullied than one would think. Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online, and one in four has had it happen more than once. Finally, parents need to limit the use of cell phones by kids. Over 80% of teens use cell phones regularly, making it the most common form of cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is a terrible thing. Stand up and do something if it is happening to you or if you see it happen! Sources: dosomething.org / convenanteyes.com

Kaylee Neveln, 6th
Keeping Wild Animals as Pets

Owning exotic animals is not fair to the animals. People could get hurt and even die by owning these animals. There have been 75 deaths and 543 injuries to these wild animal owners and their friends and family. No one has the right living space for wild animals. Animals like this are stuck in a tiny cage less than a fifth of the size of their natural habitat. More animals are killed because people kept them. Fifty five animals have been injured and 200 animals have died for injuring or accidentally injuring their owner. People say when they get attacked it is the animal’s fault—after they watch that animal suffer in the tiny cage they put them in. Imagine dying young like that.

Source: National Geographic.com

Eden Macarthur, 6th

How Much Sleep Do We Need?

Most people get tired during the day. Newborns, infants, and toddlers need the most sleep. Newborns (zero to two months) need twelve to eighteen hours of sleep, infants (three to eleven months) need fourteen to fifteen hours of sleep, and toddlers (one to three years) need twelve to fourteen hours of sleep. Preschoolers and school age children needs lots of sleep too. Preschoolers (three to five years) need eleven to thirteen hours of sleep, and school age children (five to ten years) need ten to eleven hours of sleep. Teens and adults don’t need as much sleep. Teens (ten to seventeen years) need 8.5 to 9.25 hours of sleep and adults need seven to nine hours of sleep. Everyone needs a lot of sleep.

Source: Sleepfoundation.org

Riley Heston, 6th

Birthmarks

Birthmarks are unique and strange. Birthmarks come in many shapes and sizes. They can be raised or flat, make shapes like squares, and can be big or small. Birthmarks also come in many colors. They range from black to pink, but the most birthmarks are red. Birthmarks are very mysterious. Birthmarks aren’t caused by anything, can’t be prevented, and are mostly harmless. As a result, birthmarks are going to continue to confuse us.

Source: Kidshealth.org

Amanda Burnley, 6th

Cinquain: Missourian Rose O’Neill

Artist, Illustrator
Writes, Paints, Creates
Famous, Loves to write
Kewpie Doll

Taylor Hardin, 4th
Animal Tails

The tail is very interesting to learn about. Animals use their tails for many different reasons. Dogs use their tails to communicate with humans by telling us they are happy or sad. Monkeys use their tails for an extra hand when they swing on trees. Cats use their tails to help them keep balance when they walk. It may not seem likely, but before humans are seven weeks old, we have tails inside the womb. Our tails grew until a little before seven weeks old, and then before we are born the tail will fall off. There are also many different animals that do not have tails, including frogs, chimps, and gorillas. These animals do not have tails because the environments they live in do not require them to have one. The tail is very interesting to learn about because there can be short tails, long tails, skinny tails, and even fat tails. Source: National Science Foundation.

Amber Ormsby, 6th

How to Make Jelly Beans

There are three steps to making jelly beans. The first is to mix together the ingredients: starch and glucose with sugar heated at 350 degrees. The second step to making jelly beans is to make the jelly bean mold. To make the mold you need to take the ingredients that you already mixed and create a starch mold shaped like a bean. When the molds are done, you put them in a spinning machine and add grains of sugar about four times. The last step is to make the tasty shell. To do this you need to add granular sugar, which is processed sugar, to the mold. When the shell is finished, you need to add waxes to give it a nice polish. That is how jelly beans are made.

Source: National Center for Family Learning

Alyssa Mays, 6th

Volcanoes

Volcanoes can be very devastating. They destroy and take many lives, two hundred and sixty thousand people in the past 300 years. Molting lava flows out the funnel and down the mountain. Lava flows so slowly because it is cooling. When it cools, it forms rock. Many volcanoes were formed over the years. They were formed by lava spills. When thick magma and large amounts of gas build up under the surface, eruptions can be explosive, expelling lava, rocks and ash into the air. Ash and toxic gases can cause lung damage and other problems. About 1,900 volcanoes on Earth are considered active. They show some level of activity and are likely to explode again. Source: WeatherWizKids

Logan Shepard, 6th
Haiku Pairs

Smell the fresh cut grass
of the nicely mowed lawn and
see the grass clippings

The flower blooms
and the bees come out to work
for the sweet honey

Amanda Burnely, 6th

Swimming in my pool
I splash my mom in the face
Then she threw some dirt

Running through the field
Without any shoes to wear
I stepped on a thorn

Katie Stafford, 6th

Over the mountain
lies the mean old crow
in the bellies of the trees

The blue jays sing their
beautiful song sways in the
breeze to hypnotize

Erika Lindblom, 6th

The wind is blowing
the trees are shaking fiercely
tornadoes have come

The rain has begun
the lightening has touched ground
the roof is shrieking

Kaylee Neveln, 6th

Bear scratches his back
and runs to the fast river
then drinks with a grin

Elephant stomps away
from the dangerous cheetahs
Elephant stays safe

Tyler Dillon, 6th
Dairy Cows

Dairy cows are not only used for milk, they are also used for food. There are a variety of dairy breeds. Dairy cows are mostly known for their milk and their meat. The farmer feeds the cows different types of food. In a cow’s life there are farmers that take care of them, feed, and milk them every day and night.

There are a variety of dairy breeds that roam this country. One of the oldest breeds of dairy is the Brown Swiss. The brown Swiss came from Switzerland and was first imported into the U.S. in 1869. Holsteins were found in the Netherlands and were imported between 1621 and 1664. Jersey is the smallest of all the breeds. They were found on the Isle of Jersey, which is located in England, and they were imported in 1815. In my opinion, Brown Swiss is the best and calmest breed of them all.

A cow can give several gallons of milk when they eat. A cow that is milking eats about 100 pounds each day. The cows could eat hay, grain, silage, ad proteins, plus vitamins and minerals. Cows also need fresh, clear water. Dairy cows need water so they can make milk for us. The cows need all the food, but they need a certain one the most: protein. The cows need protein to keep the body strong. Cows eat protein, grain, silage, vitamins, and minerals so that their muscles and bones grow strong.

Dairy farmers do a lot for dairy cows, so they do a lot back. The primary duty of a farmer is to manage dairy cows so they produce maximum qualities of milk. Some farmers may grow and harvest feed for the dairy cows. They often grow wheat, corn and silage. They may also breed and raise their own heifers. Some dairy farmers sell their bulls so they can make more money. Dairy farmers work day and night, just for dairy cows.

Farmers would do anything for the cows. The cows would agree with me on that. Cows are mainly used for milk and their meat and there are different breeds of dairy cows. Dairy cows are needed for their milk so you can make cheese, butter, and your favorite ice cream.

Works Cited

Kelsie Grimm, 6th

Henna Hands: Elena Rodgers, 6th
Did you know the surface temperature of the sun is 702 million degrees Celsius? Supernovas are highly dangerous. They can demolish planets. Supernovas produce lots of materials. The cycles of stars are very interesting. All in all supernovas are one of the strongest things in the universe.

Supernovas are very dangerous and can shatter planets. Supernovas produce gamma and cosmic rays, both very deadly. When supernovas explode, they jettison matter at 9,000 to 25,000 miles per hour. A supernova is very hot. The average supernova is 750 million degrees Celsius. Clearly supernovas are highly destructive.

Supernovas produce many things we use in life. Supernovas produce a lot of elements. They produce elements that are heavier than iron. Stars also produce hydrogen and helium. That is why stars explode into a supernova. White dwarfs produce different gases than hydrogen and helium. They produced CO2 and O2. All in all, these are important materials.

Stellar stages are the life cycle of stars. Supernovas are dead stars. A supernova is a star that ran out of hydrogen and helium. They will stop exploding after a long period of time. Supernovas will turn into a white dwarf. A white dwarf will burn up after a long time. They will turn into a black dwarf, which will die out. That is the life of a star.

Supernovas are highly destructive and amazing. They are so powerful they can melt lead. They produce many elements in life. Also they have a very interesting cycle of life. Ultimately, these are the amazing facts about supernovas.

Works Cited
One Direction

The band One Direction sold 153,965 copies of “What Makes You Beautiful” in just one week. One Direction formed on a popular TV show. The band has improved tremendously since then and is currently one of the most popular boy bands in the world.

One Direction’s music is getting more and more popular. One of the band’s most popular albums is *Up All Night*, the sixteenth biggest album of the year in 2011. One Direction’s third most listened to song, with 176,000 sales in one week, is “Forever Young,” from their third album *Up All Night*. One Direction is currently on their 2014 tour. Their St. Louis concert tickets sold out in minutes. Their albums are loved by many young people.

One Direction’s journey to becoming famous has been a great experience for them. In 2010 Niall, Liam, Harry Louis, and Zayn were on the “X Factor” in the individual category. None of them even knew each other. When none of them won, Simon Cowells suggested they form a group and enter in the group category. One Direction came in third in the groups. Even though they didn’t win, they still had hundreds of fans.

One Direction’s career continued after the “X Factor.” One way their career took off was when they aired on a Nickelodeon show call “iCarley” in 2012. They also auditioned for a new TV show called “Big Time Rush.” They wanted to be the band. The final thing that helped their career was when they were guests on the “Tonight Show.”

One Direction has had long journey from being ordinary teens to huge pop stars.

Works Cited

Alyssa Mays, 6th

Silver Dollar City

Have you ever been to an amusement park that started as a hole in the ground? Silver Dollar City, located near Branson, Missouri, on Highway 76, was founded by a miner. Over many years SDC has become one of the world’s greatest amusement parks. This is because millions of people visit each year. Most of the people that go to SDC come back say that it is very fun!
Silver Dollar City is a magnificent place to visit. SDC started as a cave called Marvel Cave. Since that time in the 1800s, Marvel Cave turned into an amusement park. They called it Silver Dollar City! Today, SDC has over 125,000,000 people visit each year. SDC has 30 rides, 60 shops, 12 restaurants, and over 1,500 employees. Before SDC had many rides and shops, it started out with a blacksmith shop, and ice cream parlor, and a doll shop.

Silver Dollar City was founded by Hugo and Mary Herschend and their two teenage sons Jack and Pete. Back in 1967, the “Beverly Hillbillies” filmed five episodes at SDC. In 1988, SDC was given the Applause Award for top theme park in the world! Hang tight, because there are a few more facts to come.

Another reason why SDC is a fun place is because of its amazing festivals. Some of the most popular festivals are World Fest, Bluegrass and BBQ, and An Old Time Christmas. SDC festivals are a great chance to have fun and be with your family and friends. During the festivals, you will hear music, eat yummy food, dance, and you might even sing!

Marvel Cave and Silver Dollar City are fascinating places to visit. So now that you know a little about SDC, go buy a ticket and have the best time of your life!

Works Cited
Amber Ormsby, 6th

Gun Control

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to have one of the greatest tools of survival taken away from you because people won’t obey the original laws of the government? Today, gun control is a big issue. The government is debating whether they should have strict laws on guns or not. I do not think we should have strict laws on guns. People around the world know that a lot of dangerous acts in the past were caused by guns, but I don’t think so. I believe the individual behind the gun is the one who decides where the bullet goes. Guns would be appropriate to keep for self-defense, making money, both for yourself and gun store owners, and for special or popular hobbies, such as hunting.

First, we should keep guns for the safety of others, but also for the safety of ourselves. If we didn’t, a lot more innocent people would get injured or killed by the person attacking. People say experienced gun owners or users would use guns for self-defense more than anything. Gun owners should only use guns for self-defense and only if it is needed in the situation. Anyone who would like to...
purchase a gun should have to go through a class on how to handle one. What President Obama and Vice President Biden did to safely have guns for self-defense is that they ruled out some gun laws and put new ones in, but still kept guns available for that reason. Some of these ruled out and new laws are limiting the guns available for sale, required background checks, limits on the size of gun magazines, and to not allow people with mental illnesses to own a gun.

Next, we should keep guns to provide more jobs and to make more money. This money could be for you or for gun store owners. People can make money off their guns by going to gun shows. Gun stores wouldn’t be able to make the money off of them if they were banned. Other than violence, people will want a gun for other necessities. Guns could bring in profit since it’s such a popular purchase. Also, people would lose their job. If those people sold guns for living, they wouldn’t have any guns to sell and eventually they’d go out of business. David Keene, National Rifle Association (NRA) President stated, “We get less money from the industry than we’d like to get... but we get some. We get more than we used to.” Contributions from the gun industry are increasing by the millions today.

Finally, people use guns for nonviolent hobbies and would prefer a gun rather than any other tool. A lot of people hunt, and if guns were not allowed, hunting with guns would no longer be an option because guns are an easy weapon for hunting. Those who hunt for food would starve because their main weapon was taken away. People would also have to adapt and find new ways of whatever hobby they are involved in. And going back to the money subject; if no guns were permitted, hunters couldn’t make any money off of the animals they kill.

Even though many shootings in the past have occurred, I still believe this can change as long as the government sticks with the limits they put on the laws. A lot of these “accidents” were based mainly on emotion, not reason. So this goes back to my earlier statement: it is not the gun that kills; it is the one behind it that decides where the bullet goes. I would recommend stricter background checks and make sure gun sellers get a good idea of who they’re selling to. And gun control will only make it harder to get a gun, it won’t stop the violence. Violent people don’t need a gun to be violent. Taking a gun away from them is just taking one of thousands of ways to hurt or kill someone.

Works Cited

Natalie Baker, 8th

Toucan Painting: Roberto Mayorga, 3rd
Opinion: Individual Rights for All

The Declaration of Independence states that every American citizen should have the “unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” These three liberties are the basis of the United States which was founded on the idea of freedom. America has freedom of religion and freedom of speech, why should the freedom to marry who you want be any different? Same-sex couples have the constant struggle to get back the rights they were born with. The ban on gay marriage creates financial disabilities, is dictated from the opinion of one religion, and limits the equality that was promised in America by our Founding Fathers. I feel that two individuals, unrelated and of age, should be able to be committed to each other by law if they choose to do so. According to Ron Paul, a United States Congressman, “…rights don’t come in groups. We [American citizens] shouldn’t have gay rights. If rights were for individuals, we wouldn’t have this major debate going on. It would be behavior that would count, not what person belongs to what group.” This quote explains that society focuses more on labels of the stereotypical cliques, than actual etiquette in life. I believe that if the United States has rights then there should be equal rights for every individual person, not being defined by what social group you are put in.

Michael Crawford, director of online programs at “Freedom to Marry”, a website supporting gay rights says, “They [gays and lesbians] are at a disadvantage legally and financially.” While some people don’t see this as an issue, it greatly affects same-sex couples. The disadvantages include: an increase in taxes, problems in Social Security, and home possession and residence planning issues. The government denies social security to same sex couples because their marriage is not acknowledged federally. After the death of her partner of 40 years, Edith Windsor, an 83 year old woman, was required to pay more than $363,000 in federal estate taxes on the estate that she acquired in 2009 because, according to Advocate.com “taxpayers in same-sex relationships who transfer their assets to a surviving spouse are not exempt from the estate tax.” Had her commitment been admitted federally by the province of Toronto in Canada, no residence tax would have been owed. The ban against gay marriage not only took away her rights, but caused her to lose a lot of money in the process, which is in no way an example of equality or decency.

“Gay marriage shows why we need to separate church and state,” says Howard Moody, a minister of Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan, New York. The definition of civil rights states, “A citizen is to have political and social freedom and equality for all,” which is not controlled by any one religion. If the United States has religious freedom, one religion, being Christianity, should not dictate over the whole country. While the Bible says that homosexual acts are an abomination to God in Leviticus 18:22, it also says that a woman wearing a man’s
clothing is an abomination in Deuteronomy 22:5. These verses say that the punishment for these crimes is death. A woman should then have to undergo the death sentence if she chooses to wear a man’s shirt, which many women still do today. Why is one statement in the Bible any more important than the rest? The state does not ask what or who you worship or what religious group you belong to. It only requires you to sign a legal contract. Therefore, religion should have no say in the government that exhibits the idea of fairness and the same treatment for all.

The United States stands for equality among people. The freedom for a person to be gay is no different than the freedom to worship whomever or to be a certain race without judgment. We cannot call ourselves a free country if not everyone has equal rights. One reason that the law restricts the marriage of same-sex couples is because they are different and therefore “unnatural.” In history this has happened over and over. The holocaust is an example. Adolf Hitler and his Nazi followers took away the rights of innocent people because they didn’t believe what he did. African-Americans were enslaved and had their rights stripped from them because of their skin color. This is happening today with others discriminating against same-sex couples and taking away their rights because they are different from what society wants.

Overall, the freedom to be able to marry a person of your choice should not be anyone’s decision but your own. Every U.S. citizen should be treated equally and with respect without the risk of their rights being taken away. Gay marriage hurts no one and in fact is just a paper that binds two people together in the eyes of the law. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be appointed to governmental office, said, “It takes no compromise to give people their rights…It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression.” This quote states that there really is no reason to restrict the rights of same-sex couples because it doesn’t affect anyone except the two individuals. It is only right that we have equality, understanding, and respect for every American citizen.

Works Cited


Emily Geisendorfer, 8th

Toucan: Tyler Thompson, 3rd
Newspaper Article: History Students Compete in “Olympics”

At the beginning of third quarter, history teacher Annie Koenig changed her style of teaching to a new unique way that motivates students to do more homework and improve their grades. The class is divided into teams and participates in a class “Olympics.”

When Koenig was asked how the system works, she said, “Well, you can earn badges, and they can be used for things in my class. Medals are earned through projects. A certain medal earns a grade in my class: gold for an A, silver for a B, and bronze for a C.” Examples of projects students have done to earn badges and medals include creating a game, teaching a lesson, and taking a states and capitals test.

How did she come up with the idea? “I went to a conference that had an idea of games, and I thought of medals and thought that can go with the Olympics.” Koenig said she planned everything herself, but added, “I went to my husband and to Mrs. Gillig and asked if it would be a good idea.”

The students seem to like Koenig’s new system. When seventh grader Morgan Essary was asked how she felt about it, she answered, “It is much more cooler than the old way.” Also, seventh graders Lindsey Delaney, Gracie Fiddyment, and Lauren Robinson think there has been less homework and their test grades have improved. Koenig says there has actually been more homework, but that it has been more fun. She also agrees that it has improved grades.

Hailey Sharp, 8th

Perimeter Art: Bailey Pollard, 3rd

Opinion: President Obama Needs to Pull All Troops from Overseas

According to Friends Committee on National Legislation’s website, 6,251 U.S. troops have been killed in war since 2001, 4,474 of those deaths being in Iraq. The other 1,695 deaths were in or around Afghanistan. Not to mention the 45,170 U.S. troops who have been wounded since 2001. Also, the cost of overseas military operations is outrageously high. The U.S. spends about $10 million ($4,000 a second) per month on food, ammunition, insurance, medical procedures, and more.

Another reason we need to pull troops from overseas operations is because the lack of veteran jobs. If we hurry and get troops home, they can find a job. Some troops, who get home and can’t get a job, money, or a place to live, often develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Over 4,000 young troops have died after returning home because of depression, suicide, or drunk driving.

The United States should pull troops from all overseas military operations because of the amount of deaths, and injuries. Since 2001, the U.S. has had over 6,000 troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, been killed in battle. We have also had over 45,000 soldiers injured; 2,300 privates working for the Pentagon have also died from war related injuries. They year 2010, was the deadliest year of the war, with nearly 500 U.S. soldier deaths, just in Iraq. And in 2011 the United States had 375 deaths in the first four months of the year, in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Although, some people may say the United States needs to keep troops overseas to keep the foreign countries protected, we don’t need to protect them. There are less than 100 Al Qaeda, the extremist Islamic terrorist group who took blame for 9/11, left in Afghan territories, and over 600,000 Afghan and international forces there to fight them.
Another reason to bring home troops is that the cost to keep troops overseas is outrageously high. The U.S. government spends around $10 million per month to provide the troops with food, ammunition, insurance, medical procedures, etc. That means the U.S. is spending around $120 billion per year of war, and in the decade that the war has been going on, the United States has spent around $6 trillion. Instead of using that money on fighting wars for another country, the United States could be spending that money on houses, food, jobs, health care, and many more things, for veterans who have fought in a war, have come home, and can’t find jobs or a place to live. Some people may say that money isn’t a factor in war, and that we need troops over there to make sure we keep our alliance with that foreign country intact, in case we ever need their help in a time of war, they’d be there to help us. They may also say that the money being spent over there is for a good cause, and it has to be spent to insure of our troops’ safety. But, we don’t need to spend $10 million per month to keep our troops overseas and in danger.

Finally, the last reason we should bring all of our troops home is because of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, also known as PTSD. A lot of our troops who have experienced something very tragic have developed PTSD. PTSD can lead to some things that aren’t good. It can cause drinking problems, depression, thoughts of suicide, and the lack of previous skills. Statistics show that one in three troops who have returned from overseas operations have developed PTSD. Some side effects of PTSD are exaggerated startle response, loss of memory, sleep disorders, flashbacks/images of the traumatic incident that keeps coming back to haunt you, poor concentration, hyper vigilance, hypersensitivity, and many more.

According to WRAL News in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Aubrey Hand, a Senior Airman for the U.S. Army suffers from PTSD after his tour of duty in Afghanistan. “I had a flashback, came to about an hour and a half away from my house in full battle-rattle. I don’t remember leaving. I don’t remember anything, didn’t know where I was. I was off the highway in the woods.” On average, 18 veterans commit suicide per day. Although, someone may say that we need our troops over there no matter what, because they could always get help when they got home. Some people also believe that PTSD is curable, but it takes many years and a lot of treatment. Our troops shouldn’t have to experience what they do.

In the end, you can conclude that we do need to bring home every last one of our troops because of money concerns, the high number of deaths, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The US government needs to bring all of the troops home because they’re spending $10 million per month, the U.S. has lost over 6,000 troops, and because of the things people develop because of war, and things they never should have had to see, or go through. Our troops need to come home to ensure their safety and our safety. Hopefully, President Obama will follow through and bring home all the U.S. troops from overseas by the end of this year.

Works Cited

Wyatt Shiveley, 8th
Picasso Style Portrait: Addison Biers, 3rd

Martin Luther King Jr.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Martin Luther King Jr. was very famous for fighting for equal rights between blacks and whites. He accomplished many successful things and has been honored to this day. King was an American Civil Rights Movement leader who helped blacks in America gain rights and was an inspiration to many all over the world. Martin Luther King Jr. was and still is a very famous man.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 and was born in and lived in Atlanta, Georgia. He lived in a large Victorian house with his two other siblings and his grandparents who raised them most of the time. Martin’s first name was Michael, after his father, but Martin and his father both changed their names to Martin Luther in honor of a great protestant reformer. The King family was very religious and went to church every Sunday, and Martin Sr., was a preacher at two different churches. Martin Jr. and his two other siblings, Willie King and Alfred Daniel King, were born into a financially stable middle-class family and received a higher education than most children of the same race. While growing up, Martin Luther King Jr.’s family taught him about slavery and segregation and motivated him to take notice and make a response to lack of fairness between the races.

Martin Luther King Jr. was and still is important because he was one of the most important voices in the American Civil Rights Movement. From the time he was in high school, he fought for equal rights for blacks in America using harmony and non-violent ways. King was the youngest person to ever receive a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 because of his great ability to inspire people that “all men are created equal,” and to never give up fighting segregation laws. Martin is probably most famous for his speech famously titled, “I Have a Dream,” that Martin gave at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963. The speech was a factor in helping the federal civil rights legislation being able to be passed by Congress; granting the blacks to have equal rights as the whites. This historical speech drastically changed America and helped change the laws on segregation and slavery that we no longer have today.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated at Lorraine Motel in Memphis Tennessee. Martin was in Memphis preparing for a march on behalf of striking Memphis sanitation workers. He was leaving his hotel for dinner at the home of Memphis Minister Samuel “Billy” Kyles, when Martin was suddenly shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. After King’s death, there were many outbreaks of racial violence and more than 40 people died during that time. President Lyndon B. Johnson honored Martin Luther King Jr. by calling out a day to recognize Martin’s death and honor him for what he has accomplished for many people all over the world. In the end, Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most famous leaders in the American Civil Rights Movement. He helped change the lives of others and America today. King gave many speeches that inspired America and received awards for fighting for what he believes in. He is honored every year and is celebrated by many public places.

“All men are created equal,” because of Martin being a part of the movement for civil rights. America has and always will honor Martin for giving people equal rights and changing the world.

Whitney Floyd, 8th
Yellow Fever of 1793: The Impacts on Society and Businesses

By Kennedy Stringer, 8th

What is Yellow Fever?

- A viral infection passed on from a mosquito bite.
- Yellow Fever causes damage for the liver and other organs inside the body.
- Some symptoms of Yellow Fever are headache, and vomiting.
- This can be a deadly disease.

Impact on Business

- In 1793, Yellow Fever had an enormous impact on local businesses in Philadelphia.
- Orphanages were built for children who lost parents or guardians.
- Hospitals and Isolation Hospitals were built for the sick people.

Impacts on Society

- Throughout Philadelphia there were a lot of sanitation problems.
- Some laws were made to make sanitation better.
- Most of the population moved after the sickness swept through the city.

Yellow Fever Changed Waterworks

- The first waterworks were designed in the United States because of Yellow Fever.
- People who lived on the water side of Philadelphia had to move.
- Human wastes were seeping into the wells which were used for drinking water.
- This was a major problem in Philadelphia.

Bibliography


Florida Fun

Imagine sand as white as snow, and the sound of waves crashing up to shore in Destin, Florida! That is only the beginning of the greatest place on earth. There are fun places to go to and family activities to do.

Popular places to go in Florida are the mall, Fudpuckers, and Dippin’ Dots. First, the mall is super big. It has stores like Hollister, Aeropostale, and much more. Second, Fudpuckers is a restaurant that is always busy. The reason it is a popular is because there is a place where you can feed alligators and take pictures with them. Also, Dippin’ Dots is always busy as well. Dippin’ Dots are ice cream that is formed into little balls.

There are many great beaches in Florida, but there is one that seems to be everyone’s favorite. The reason it’s a great beach is because most of the people there are friendly. Also there are stands that have food, drinks and snow cones.

Florida is known for having many activities. Some of these activities are dolphin tours, boat rides, and putt-putt golf. Dolphin tours are where boat drivers take people who have a ticket out on a boat to find dolphins. Boat rides are when a boat driver takes paying customers on a boat to snorkel, fish, swim and whatever else you want. Putt-putt golf is great for a family activity. It’s great for little kids or even adults.

Florida is a wonderful place to visit and is also a very beautiful place. The beaches are irresistible, the food is wonderful, and the activities are great. Better book your flight to Florida before they’re sold out!

Audrey Shiveley, 6th
**Justin Bieber**

“Baby, baby, baby, ohh.” Many people are familiar with this song and the artist. Justin Bieber was found on YouTube by Scooter Braun. His mentor is Usher. Learn how he was mentored and how he made it to the top. Justin’s journey from Day 1 to today is interesting and practically a roller coaster ride.

After Justin was discovered on YouTube, he rose so fast! He eventually performed at Madison Square Garden, the place that only the biggest stars perform. The tickets sold in 20 minutes. “Never Say Never” was performed featuring Jaden Smith. The MSG concert was a big step in Justin’s career.

Along with performing at MSG, Justin also had his own movie called *Never Say Never*. In the movie, Justin was shown as a child before he became famous. His many church and street performances were added to the film. Along with his childhood, Justin’s visit back to Canada was included. He stayed with his grandparents and visited with his friends. Around Christmas, Justin’s new movie, *Believe*, is coming to the theaters.

Justin had many ups and downs, including injuries. One of the most dangerous was losing his voice. If Justin proceeded to sing, yell, and talk, he could never sing the same or not sing at all. Justin’s next concert was in three days. He ended up having to skip that concert. At first, Justin refused to skip the concert, but he had to or his fresh career would be ruined.

As you can see, for such a young person, Justin has a very unique life. After having such big performances, scary injuries, and risk taking choices and decisions, Justin is a huge star. I believe he’ll remain in the spotlight for years to come.

*Emily Harris, 6th*
A Person I Admire

I admire my Grandma Paula for several reasons. For one thing, I admire her courage in raising three kids. I also admire her strength and her ability to fight. She had a major surgery and still works. She fights through her pain to have a happy life with her family, friends, and clients.

One thing I admire about my grandma is her courage. She had three kids; my dad, my uncle, and aunt. She raised these kids and worked. When my dad graduated my uncle was about my age (12) and my aunt was about eight or nine. When they fought, they would call my grandma and she would say, “Work it out. I’ll be home later.” When my aunt got older, my grandma and grandpa got divorced. My grandma raised my aunt by herself through my aunt’s graduation. My aunt now lives in Chicago and is a type of doctor. My grandma is so proud of her little girl.

I also admire my grandma for her strength. Not too long ago, my grandma had bypass surgery in her legs. The surgery went fine, but my grandma got really sick and was taken to the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). There she had amazing doctors. She had to have her gallbladder and two other things taken out. She stayed in the ICU for about another week, and then she got better and was put into a regular room. She stayed in there for one more day. She got better and she got to go home. She still works cutting hair, but she doesn’t work as much.

Another reason I admire my grandma is because she fights through difficult times. She still has staples in her stomach, and she has to take very good care of it. They still hurt her every once in a while, and a doctor comes to check on her. Even though they hurt her, and I know that, she fights through the pain to enjoy her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. She knows that her family will take care of her.

My grandma has been through a lot of good stuff and bad stuff. She is a very kind, nice, and amazing grandma. She loves her family and her family loves her. She fights for the amazing life and family she has, and that is why I admire her.

Dodge Schapeler, 7th

Illustrated Idiom: Lake High, 4th
Comet Newspaper Article: Sleep is Important

Have you ever had a sleepless night that carried over to the next and affected your day negatively? This has been most likely due to the fact that sleep wasn’t your main goal. Many students neglect sleep on a daily basis, causing them to do poorly on certain things during the school day. Lack of sleep can cause coordination failure, lack of focus, and alertness among other things. This can lead to grades dropping due to lack of focus. It can also affect your ability to perform in sports due to coordination failure. Lack of sleep is also why most kids can’t stay alert in class. Mood is often affected as well.

Many sufferers either deny or don’t acknowledge the problem, with statements such as “It doesn’t affect me!” or “I can deal with it,” which just adds on to the problem. Not addressing the problem makes it harder to fix the problem.

It may not seem important, but if you don’t address this problem, you will be affected, so get at least 6 hours and at most 10. When you do get your rest, then not only will you be more alert, but you may also have a better mood.

Wyatt Killman, 8th

Diagram of the Sun: Joey Goodman, Danielle Dockery, 7th
**Halloween… Help!**

It was a freezing cold rainy night. I was in my room secretly eating potato chips when there was a BANG on the door. I ran down stairs and peeked through the curtains but there was no one there. So I walked back up the stairs. When I got to my room MY CHIPS WERE GONE! I checked everywhere except my creepy closet, which I have been afraid of since I was five years old. I’m ten now! As I walk up to the closet door--BOOM! The door burst open and I felt a cold breeze on my face.

That night I could not sleep because of what happened. Since I couldn’t sleep I thought I should go down stairs and watch TV for a little bit so I did. After thirty minutes, I got tired, so I turned off the TV and fell asleep on the chair. Then I heard the TV turn on. It scared me so much that I ran up to my room and hid under my bed and fell asleep. When I woke up, it was six o’clock in the morning. Mom and Dad were at work, and I was home alone.

I saw a dark figure at the foot of my bed. I got up and ran down stairs and hid in the cupboard. I heard footsteps coming down the stairs. I opened the cupboard door a crack and there was nothing. It was quiet. Then mom’s glass vase flew across the house and broke. My mom was going to be so mad. She will think I broke it. So I got the house phone and called 911. The police said they would be here right away. Now I was scared, I had never had this happen before. I am still waiting. The police aren’t coming, Mom and Dad won’t answer the phone, and there’s something strange in my house. HELP!!!!!

Kaylin Williams, 5th

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**Fear of Halloween Night**

It was the night before Halloween. My parents had just begun setting up decorations. I was marking off the days on the calendar, when I saw that tomorrow was Halloween. My heart raced. I liked candy, but I hated all the blood, zombies, and witches of that dreadful night. I sat down and thought about what I was going to do. Then, my parents walked in.

“Zack! Put on your clothes, we’re going shopping for your costume tonight!” called my Mother. I almost fainted, but I went along and followed her orders.

The store was a nightmare! Ghosts, cats with their backs up, head-chopping guy decorations everywhere! So I picked the least scary costume there was: a raccoon. “Are you sure you want that?” Dad asked. I nodded. “Yes.”

I was relieved when we finally got home. I quickly went to my bedroom when I got in. I was happy to finally go to bed and let my worries pass by. As I put on my pajamas, I thought about my Halloween Party tomorrow at school. Then I climbed in my bed and fell asleep.

When morning came, I got up before my mom came in my room to wake me up. I was so excited about the party that I went to the bus stop right after I put on my clothes. As I rode the bus, I thought about tonight, Halloween. I remembered that my mom told me that Halloween is just a fun, traditional holiday. “Maybe tonight won’t be so bad after all...”

Danielle Smith, 5th
Newspaper Interview of Classmate: Lake High, 4th

Natural Landmark: White Desert

The location of the White Desert is in Ethiopia and Egypt, which are in Africa. The White Desert was formed by the harsh desert winds. The White Desert is made of chalk. It is 200,000 years old. The White Desert is 6,000 Square kilometers long. Here are some interesting facts about the White Desert. First, it is a natural reserve. It is also known as the Sahara El Beyda. It is situated 45 kilometers from Farafra. Finally, it has some formations that look like ice cream cones, frogs, etc.

Sources:
egypsies.ordpress.com
2travel2egypt.com

Jacob Will, 4th

Natural Landmark Summary: Gorge du Verdon

Gorge du Verdon is found in France. It is made of limestone sediments. It was formed by the Verdon River. The Gorge du Verdon is 250 to 700 meters long. It is one of the most attractive places to visit in southeastern France. Another name for the Gorge du Verdon is Grand Canyon of Europe. It includes forty-three towns. A full loop around the canyon is just over 100 km.

Sources: lesgorgeduverdo.org / famouswonders.org / gorgestovisit.com

Jacksen Smith, 4th

Life Style Facts About Jackson Smith

Life History
Jackson Smith is ten years old. He was born in Springfield, Missouri. Jackson's birthday is May 29, 2003. Jackson has lived in Marionville, Missouri his whole life. Jackson has one sister and two brothers. Their names are Seth, Garrison, and Allye. Jackson's parents names are Bryant and Shana Smith.

"Fourth grade is awesome!"

Jacksen Smith

"Get The Scoop"
Mrs. Daniels Class Edition

Reported By:
Lake High

November 14, 2013

Life Today
Jackson's favorite foods are steak, Chinese, and Japanese food. His favorite hobbies are riding dirt bikes, playing sports, and playing with friends. Jackson's favorite books are Diary of a Wimpy Kid and sports books. His favorite subject in school is science. Jackson's friends are Lake, Jacob Gray, Eric, Zane, Dakota, Jakey, Devin, Matteo, Koy, and Wyley. His favorite color is orange. The hardest subject in school for Jackson is language arts. Jackson's favorite after school activities are playing with friends and playing sports.

Cool Facts About Jackson
Other facts Jackson would like to add is that he loves to be outside and play with family and friends.

In The Future
Jackson doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up. Some goals Jackson wants to accomplish this year is to get superior at reading and spelling. Some day Jackson would like to visit Hawaii. A wish Jackson would like to have for the future is to have a sports career.
**METAPHOR**

**My kitten is a ball of fur**

**Eggs are nouns**

**To a kid, toys are the world**

**Apples, fresh off a tree are kiwis on a shortcake**

**Pie is a wonder**

**Horses are skinny cows with more hair**

**Our walls are strong bricks**

**Roads are white, bumpy cows**

*Breanna Johnson, 7th*

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**Tornado**

Whirls around with a loud whistling noise  
Twists around corners make a bam  
Taking down buildings with a slam  
Move out of the way  
This is no clear summer day  
Away you must go  
In your shelter  
In your home  
Safe is not here  
Go away  
Until  
Clear

*Sara Thompson, 6th*

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**Silly Possum**

This day is awesome,  
Just like my possum  
And my awesome song.  
I am awesome,  
just like my possum  
and my lonesome friend.  
My friend is awesome  
Just like my possum  
And my awesomeness.  
My parents are awesome  
just like my possum  
because they bought my lonesome friend.  
My ball team is awesome  
Just like my possum  
And my awesome parents.  
My dog is awesome  
Just like my possum  
And my dog ate my little possum.  

*Wesley Breedlove, 7th*

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**Bumble Bee**

I’m a busy little bumble bee  
Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz  
Flying to the top of the tree  
Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz  
Making honey for you and me  
Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz  
Spreading pollen through the air  
Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz  
I hope it doesn’t get in your underwear  
Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Plop

*Caden Adams, 6th*

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**VALENTINE’S DAY**

**Valary**

**And**

**Leo,**

**Everything is**

**Not what it seems,**

**Together**

**In a**

**Never**

**Ending love, “Well**

**Say it ain’t so” Shiann teased, the

**Day everything happened**

**And now look at**

**You, lovin’ someone yourself**

*Breanna Johnson, 7th*
A Civil War Nurse’s Day

The yellow flag flows high outside our temporary ward. 
The sounds of battle are heard like a vicious lion’s roar. 
In the North we have it better, 
Or so they once said. 
I do not believe them after seeing these men dead. 

My stomach twists in knots, but my straight face must stay, 
As I greet the wounded soldier on the cot as he lay. 
Bend down. Check his dressings 
Get up. Say the blessings. 
Move on to other men for my twelve hour work day. 

Two more men rush in, demanding to be saved. 
Bullets to the chest and their eyes start to glaze. 
But the surgeon rushes in, 
Stops the bleeding quick. 
Put the men aside to rest with the sick. 

I do my rounds and duties that accompany them later. 
Until one man asks of me a small, slight favor. 
A letter to his wife, 
Signed a wounded soldier. 
Then I move on to another man to whom I must cater. 

Injured from the battle stumble past to the surgeon. 
He makes the quick decision before the wound can worsen. 
Perform amputation. 
Nothing to ease the pain. 
Send him to lie down and rest, the sights stay in my brain. 

My break time arrives and leaves without stopping. 
There is no time for cleaning, eating, or dropping. 

Exhaustion creeps up. 
Like the men’s vitals. 
Many nurses have to quit and need a quick swapping. 

Stomachs rumble with hunger and the men need to be fed. 
Give them what little we have of water and stale bread. 
Supplies are needed greatly. 
This is obvious to us now. 
Volunteers want to help but clearly don’t know how. 

A search party goes out to find the wounded men. 
They walk the battle fields, reluctant to begin. 
Check the uniform. 
Check the pulse. 
Bring them back to the ward once again and again. 

My shift is almost finished when a young boy stumbles in. 
Only 18 and lucky a bullet only grazed his skin. 
Bring him in. Get his name. 
Fix him up. Lay him down. 
Finish this day’s very last and very final round. 

Emily Geisendorfer, 8th 

Picasso Style Portrait: Madison Williams, 4th
Power Point: Research for the novel, *Fever 1793*:
Jacob Macarthur,
Sydney Davis, 8th

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**BUSH HILL**

Power Point By: Jacob Macarthur & Sydney Davis, 8th

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**BACKGROUND OF BUSH HILL**
- Andrew Hamilton designed Bush Hill as well as Independence Hall.
- Bush hill was once occupied by Vice President John Adams and his wife.
- Stephen Giard became a famous financer who organized the estate into a hospital.

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**Stealing at Bush Hill**
- $160,000 in gold and bank notes were taken from Bush Hill.
- Isaac Davis stole the gold and bank notes and was later expelled from The Carpenters’ Co. as punishment.
- The money was later returned back to the Bush Hill vault.

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**Yellow Fever Breaks Out**
- The slang word for Yellow Fever was Yellow Jack.
- The fever was spread by mosquitos.
- Yellow Fever died off in the fall, but came back until 1830.
- There was three types of fever: those who had it a day or so, those that died within three days, and those who slowly die after three days.

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**Efforts to Cure the People**
- Some doctors would drain about 126oz (4qt.) of blood.
- Some would clean/get rid of bedding and clothing of the victim.
- Others would burn them with hot bricks or boiling water.

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**Purging the Patients at Bush Hill**

Different purging tactics:
- Doctor Rush: had the tactic of purging 4qt of blood.
- Doctor Devese: Purged blood only when needed, and mainly used hot bricks.

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**Stephen Giard**
- Acted as a nurse when the fever was at its peek.
- Gave money to fever victims.
- Used his own carriage to take people to Bush Hill.
- Stephen Giard transformed Bush Hill from “a dirty hellhole to a clean and efficient infirmary” (Carl G. Karsch).
- He risked his life saving people from fever.

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Future Cover Letter: Chocolate Factory

Dear Mr. Wonka,

I would like to work for your company. I like candy because it is sweet and good. Plus I have been eating it since I was 5 months old, when I lived in Edwardsville, Illinois.

My skills are that I have been tasting chocolate since I was 16 years old. I have been good at eating candy fast since I was 5 years old.

My education and training is that I graduated at Hershey’s College and got my master’s degree. Next I went to Jolly Rancher College and got my doctorate degree, and then went and started my own candy factory in St. Louis, Mo. My other experience is Man vs. Candy in Marionville, Mo.

My character and personality are fun to be around. I would be best for this job because I am trustworthy, smart and reliable. One of my many skills is I can also eat 50 pieces of candy in 25 seconds. Thank you for your time, your patience and your consideration.

Wesley Breedlove, 7th

Future Cover Letter: Aurora Newspaper

Dear Mrs. Fleming,

I am a great writer and have a love for writing. Anyone who is looking for a writer, I am their first pick. I would be perfect for writing for the Aurora Times and won’t let you down. I recently graduated from Writers University in Chicago and just moved back.

I was writing for a magazine called “Seventeen” and quit to finish school. Now I am finished with school and am looking for a job. Yours came to mind first. I’m used to deadlines. I am a disciplined person and I’m motivated to do my job right.

I will be in Aurora visiting family. I can call you on the 23rd and arrange a date to meet. Thank you for your time and for considering me for the job.

Harley Delaney, 7th
Future Cover Letter: AKA Talent Agency
To Whom it May Concern,

I have a dream to become a famous actor, and I think I fit the bill. I have the ability to hold the audience in the palm of my hand, and I have plenty of experience.

I was part of speech and drama classes in middle and high school. I have recently graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in theater.

I have the qualities to being an actor. I am comfortable on stage in front of crowds, and I work well with others. I have had lead roles in numerous amounts of plays in the Springfield Little Theater, and have gotten many compliments on my performances.

I think I’d be perfect for you to take aboard, as I am entertaining, and every audience I have performed for have been quite fond of me. I will be in L.A. next weekend, and I hope I can meet someone to talk it over. I will call and arrange a time and place for the meeting to see if we can hopefully seal the deal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kiley Kesterson, 7th

Original Product & Ad: Audrey Brown, 6th

Cover Letter: UCLA Med Center
To Whom it May Concern,

I am applying and hoping to get an internship at UCLA Medical Center. I heard about your offer at www.Californiahospialinterships.com. I definitely know that I am your best candidate for the internship.

I graduated from Marionville High School in 2019. I went to Stanford College and medical school. I also graduated first in my class. I did volunteer work for a local hospital during my junior and senior years.

My personality is perfect for the job. I have a good heart and get very involved with my patients, but I also understand very well that you will always have a bigger risk of losing them than saving them. I am kind but also very intelligent.

Overall, I hope you can tell that with my outstanding personality and amazing intelligence I make the best candidate. Please contact me at 417-888-1234. Thank you for your time, and please consider me carefully.

Alexus Buckert, 7th
Future Cover Letter: Navy SEALS

I am interested in becoming a Navy SEAL. More specifically, SEAL Team 6. I have wanted to be a SEAL since I was 12 years old.

I am a sharpshooter with an M4A1 carbine, an AK-47 rifle, and M14EBR (Enhanced Battle Rifle), and a variety of pistols. I am also an expert grenadier. I can also be quiet when need be, which makes it easier to sneak around without being seen.

I graduated from Marionville Middle and High School. I am also on my 2nd year of college at Missouri University. I am going for my Bachelor’s degree and my major is World Geography.

My experience is Call of Duty Modern Warfare 1-3, Call of Duty Black Ops 1 and 2, Medal of Honor, and Splinter Cell Conviction and Splinter Cell Blacklist. These experiences have taught me what war is like. They have also helped me master a large variety of weapons.

My character is just the kind of thing you are looking for in a Navy SEAL. I am smart, which helps me not die while in action, and a dead soldier doesn’t do a whole lot of good! I am physically and mentally strong, which will help me overpower the enemy and remain calm during wartime.

I would appreciate if you could call me and tell me when training begins and where.
Earnest Larkin, 7th

Future Cover Letter: Houston SPCA

I saw your ad in the morning newsletter and thought I would apply. I am very good with animals, especially aggressive animals.

I have had many experiences with animals. I was a dog sitter and walker for almost three years and I went through horse training for a year and gave lessons.

I have recently graduated from Strayer University in Houston, Texas. I am a very hard worker and love animals very much. I can solve many problems and can do anything needed.

Thanks you for your time and I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss my qualifications and answer any questions you have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Gracie Fiddyment, 7th
Landscape: Madyson Garoutte, 5th

Best Boat Ride of My Life!
I got onto the boat. My hands were trembling and my heart was beating faster than it ever has. I was nervous because I have never been on a boat that is as big and as tall as that one. As we sat down, many more people began to sit as well. The boat driver talked to us about what we were going to do while aboard this ship. After he was done explaining, the adventure began.

The boat began to move across the salty ocean, and I became less nervous. Before I knew it, we had already stopped to go snorkeling. I grabbed the equipment and jumped off the boat. I started to snorkel but couldn’t see anything, so I started to pick stuff up off of the bottom and take them above water to look at them. My mom, Chrystal; my step-dad, Beau; my older brother, Wyatt; my little brother, Carsen, and I swam up to the shore and hung out for a while until it was time to go searching for dolphins.

While we were searching for dolphins, I was standing at the side of the boat staring down at the beautiful sky-blue ocean water. I heard my mom say, “Look, Audrey! It’s a dolphin!”

My head turned toward where her finger was pointing. I cheered in excitement. It was the first time that I ever saw a dolphin in my whole life. We saw one after another. They were hopping out of the water like a pack of kangaroos! Not only did we see dolphins, we saw sea turtles too. They were huge, like the size of a school desk—but round. We weren’t seeing anymore sea turtles or dolphins so the boat driver decided to entertain us even more than he already had. He was letting kids drive the boat with his help. I didn’t drive, but I didn’t enjoy the circles that we went in. Soon enough, the trip was over and we had to head back. The drive back was the second best part; dolphins were the first.

One the way back, I made my way to the front of the boat. The wind was blowing my hair into my face. The water was crashing up against the side of the boat and hitting my skin. The boat driver turned on music that we could dance to, so we started dancing. It was kind of scary because the boat was rocking back and forth, but that didn’t stop anyone from having fun. We arrived at the loading area and unloaded. I was upset that the ride was over. After that amazing experience that I had, I realized that being on a boat in the ocean is more fun and adventurous than being on a boat in the lake.

Audrey Shiveley, 6th

My First Marching Band Show
I eagerly hopped off the bus with the band members and could smell a misty scent on this frosty October morning. I felt a tingly feeling that there would be trouble. Hesitating, I zipped up the back of the uniforms of the marching band members. When the band was ready to take the field, the band director told me to take the props to the field and wait for the band. When I reached for the prop I was responsible for, that tingly feeling of trouble came back to me. I thought of dropping the prop and leaving before any trouble came my way, but I wanted the band to win, not lose.

Pushing my feelings of worry away, I headed toward the field, knowing now that there was no turning back. As I walked to the field with the giant prop, a gust of wind hit. The closer I got to the field, the stronger the wind grew. A blast of wind hit me. I felt the prop go loose. Fear spread across my face. Instead of
telling the band director that the prop broke, I kept pushing it toward the field. As the wind roared and the prop two-feet off the ground, I felt like I was wind-surfing. I knew that the wind was only about to get worse. I was struggling to keep the prop on ground; the band director noticed I needed help. He called out Zac and Kayla to help the props survive.

Zac noticed the prop was loose. He tried to put it in place in a wild breeze of wind. To his surprise, the prop completely broke. It was their time to reach the field, so Zac and Kayla left, leaving me nothing but the remains of a prop that snapped faster than a mouse trap. When the two left, the band booster’s moms help me carry the broken prop to the trailer.

I was told by the director to go to the stadium and watch the show. I walked in from the stadium and saw deep fried Oreos, mini-flags, and products with Webb City’s marching band show title on it. I went to grab mocha and sour straws to eat during the show. When I sat on the stadium seats, I felt a dark and lumpy cloud above me and the tingly feeling I had before. The marching band finally was on the field to play. Their show was amazing and took my breath away. The sound of the vibes sent chills up my spine. Flags were fluttering and flying. The music was soft, then tense like a roller coaster. Marching lines combined and were in perfect sync. The first song was a Beethoven melody that was soft and easy to listen to. Then the rhythm changed as the band played a song form The Phantom of the Opera. That song had a significant drum break. Finally the show’s amazing finale was an up-beat song the lighted everybody up.

When the band was over, it was time to back to the bus. I walked toward the bus and felt a drip and then a drop. By the time I met up with the band, rain started to pour. The members quickly got out from their uniforms and were ready to go home into dry clothes. A few members stayed in case we won any awards, but no luck. I returned home with nothing but wet clothes and an upset face.

Sara Thompson, 6th

**My Big “Brotherly” Vacation**

Do you have older siblings? If so, you know that they won’t “play” with you. Well, last year, during MAP Tests, I went to Panama City, Florida with my mom, Rick, Audree, Owen, Jessica, Gavin, and Luke.

One day we went to the beach, which was right outside our hotel. You could smell the salty, ocean waves wash against the sandy shore. I ran into the chilled water. I pulled my boogie board along with me and dove into the biggest waves I saw. Mom, Owen, and Audree were sitting along the shore, on their phones. “Come on, Owen!” I yelled. “No!” he replied, with an attitude.

I begged and begged. Eventually, Owen came slowly into the chilling salt water. Owen grabbed the string on my boogie board. He slowly pulled me farther into the water until he saw a big wave coming. Then he would run toward it and go under the water until the wave had finished pushing me around.

“Stand up!” Owen laughed. “No. I will just fall.”

“I know,” he said with a smirk.
I placed a foot on the board to satisfy Owen. I immediately fell into the cold, salty ocean. “Happy?” I said sarcastically. “Very,” Owen laughed.

I waited for Owen as he ran to shore. I wasn’t sure what he was doing, but he was asking Mom something. When he came back, he was carrying a boogie board. We held onto each other’s board strings and ran into the monstrous waves. Afterwards we would ride the smaller waves back to where we started out and over again. We thought the smaller waves would just push us back, so we dodged them and awaited the “roaring monsters.”

“I wish we could live here,” I yelled over the crashing water. “I do too!” Owen yelled back. Owen and I charged at the wave. Right as we reached it, we jumped up and fell onto the giant wave. I felt as if I were flying. It pushed us pretty close to the shore.

I looked back to see if Audree and Mom had seen that. They were taking selfies. “Of course! Their noses are in their phones!” Owen said. “No surprise.” The only time Mom had actually looked up was when she told us it was time to go. “One more wave!” I begged. “Fast!” Mom said, cleaning off her towel.

The last wave wasn’t all that great but it was the perfect size to carry Owen and I back to shore. That is the best part about Owen. No matter how old he gets, there will always be that one thing he enjoys doing with me. Most of the time he wants to play video games, so I feel special when Owen does “play” with me.

Emily Harris, 6th

Nicolas Copernicus, Jr.

Everyone in class had to pick a famous scientist. I picked one of the world’s most famous scientists, Nicolas Copernicus. I chose this person because, well, we share a name. I love astronomy and math too. I will tell you about Nicolas Copernicus’ life, his ideas, and how he changed the world—literally!

Copernicus had an interesting life. Nicolas was born on February 19th 1473 in Poland. When his father died, his maternal uncle took care of him. Although he was trained in medicine and law, he was more interested in astronomy and math. In 1491, he went to college at the University of Cracow. The courses in mathematics, astronomy, and astrology inspired Nicolas’ mind. He had no children and no wife, but he was the youngest of four siblings. He died on May 24, 1543.

Nicolas Copernicus affected science in huge ways! In Copernicus’ life people thought the Earth was in the middle of the universe. He decided it would be correct if the Sun were placed at the center of the universe instead of Earth. (Back then they didn’t have the same technology we have today.) He also said planets revolve around the Sun and quote, “Earth is a moving planet.” He shared ideas with other Europeans. He published his very smart idea in a book called The Resolution of Heavenly Orbs.

Nicolas’ ideas had impacted the world—seriously! His idea literally moved Earth millions of miles! Even though he had the idea, back then they didn’t have the technology to test his theory. His idea that he thought of hundreds of years ago, has influenced so many space explorations today. His idea was correct!

After all of my research, I have a conclusion in my writing. Copernicus’ ideas changed the idea of space, and also impacted space exploration. He wrote a book about his breakthrough idea. I’m glad that I learned about Nicolas Copernicus, Jr. He is one of the most important astronomers in all of history! He loved his work. Even though he had no children or a wife, his ideas were fantastic and they have inspired many scientists.

Sources

Nicholas Guldner, 5th
Position Paragraph: Ethan Lindblom, 4th

Recess is Important

Recess is a school related issue. I believe that if the kids don’t get a long recess, we will get really lazy. According to Coralee Adams, who wrote on the website Scholastic Instruction, “Recess is not only keeping kids healthy, it is fun and teaches kids how to socialize with other people.” All work has not set well with a lot of teachers and parents. Also a child’s attention span is not mature enough to sit in a classroom all day. Researchers found out that a little fun causes kids to focus more. Recess is a healthy thing. Kids need it. I think that we should have two recesses a day.

Source: Scholastic Instruction.com

Lake High, 4th

Vandalism is a Problem

Schools have a problem with vandalism. In the restrooms there are things written on walls. Vandalism is also considered criminal damage and graffiti. You can go to jail or juvie for vandalizing. Vandalism can lead to property damage. It can also lead to paying a lot of money. The website Wikipedia states, “Vandalism is also defacement directed toward any property without permission.” It also says, “Vandals risk injury and arrest.” The website Popcenter.org says that “84,000 public schools reported at least one incident of vandalism, totaling 99,000 separate incidents of vandalism.” Vandalism should stop. Source: Wikipedia

Miles McMillan, 4th

Stop Bullying

I am going to talk about bullying. I think bullying should stop immediately. I have been bullied before. I was eating breakfast and this girl came and sat by me. She said, “Give me your banana now!” I said, “We can’t share food.” She said, “Fine I didn’t want it anyway. I may end up as fat as you.” I cried and went to the principal’s office. The girls got in big trouble. Bullying is “the use of force, threat or coercion to abuse, intimidate aggressively to impose domination over others.” Bullying has happened all over the USA. According to the website Wikipediacom, “55% of kids get bullied every year.” I think that there should be a monitor inside and outside so we can catch kids bullying and stop kids form bullying. If somebody bullies, tell an adult.

Yvette Wilbanks, 4th
Easter Lunch Story: Carson Peavey, 3rd

One day Payden, Olivia, and my dog Buddy and I were in our house playing with a big tent house. We were having so much fun, and then we had a very big snack. The snack was Cheeze-Its, and Buddy got bones. Then we went outside. Suddenly a big huge twister came and took all of us away. Then you could just see black. It stopped and we were in a beautiful place. Then we fell into a tree hole and we were sliding. We fell on each other and we saw a bunny house. It was the Easter Bunny’s house. He was making candy food and Easter eggs. One of the eggs was real. It was saying that it loved Easter. Then it came and gave us a big hug. Then we went outside and we found eggs. We were grabbing them. Then we saw a big rainbow and coins were falling out of the sky. It was so beautiful.

Kristlyn Smith, 3rd

The Beautiful Day

Once upon a time there was an Easter Egg. She went on an adventure in Easter Island. She had to swim across the seven seas. (She almost got eaten by a shark!) The reason she swam across the seven seas was to get colored. Let’s go to Easter Island.

The first person she met was the Tooth Fairy. “I’m going to name you Eggy,” said the Tooth Fairy. The second person she met was the Easter Bunny. “I’m going to name you Eggward,” he said. Then they argued over her name until she said, “I want to be named Eggy.” The Tooth Fairy said, “Ha, ha, ha. I won!” Then they went on their way to find the coloring machine. “I know where it is,” said the Easter Bunny, “I live here.” They found their way through the woods of Easter Island. It was spooky. Finally they were there. They met Easter Bunny Jr. and they went to the coloring machine. “What color do you want to be?” asked the Tooth Fairy. Eggy said, “I want to be pink with white and blue stripes.” In three minutes she was colored. “Thanks guys,” said Eggy. And they lived happily ever after.

Olivia Hopkins, 3rd
The Candy Colored Face

On Easter morning, I woke up and saw that the Easter Bunny came in the night. I got dressed and S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-D. Then I went downstairs and got breakfast. “Mmmmm, yummy,” I said. Then I brushed my teeth.

Then I went outside and got my basket and searched for eggs. I found some eggs and opened them. Candy was inside. I ate the candy. I went inside and I looked in the mirror. My face was candy-colored! I screamed. Mom, Dad, and Becca came running in the room. “What’s the matter?” they all said. “My face is candy-colored,” I said. “Oh,” they said, “Your eyes are blue. Your ears are red. And your lips are pink, bright pink!”

Grandma came over. She gave me broccoli. I’m normal again.

Easter Story: Payden Blevins, 3rd

The Hidden Egg

One day I woke up and remembered it was Easter. My friend and I were going to have an Easter egg hunt. We were going to have the hunt at an old farm. My friend invited her family. We had already started the hunt. My friend and I were helping her little cousins pick up the eggs. We had to count how many eggs we had.

My friend and I were running for the old barn to get the prizes. Suddenly, my friend tripped and hurt her arm. She had to sit out and announce who won the Easter egg hunt. Then my friend and I were going to go to the old barn to read. Then I spotted something beautiful near the old barn. I went to see what it was. It was a big Easter egg! It was really colorful.

We went home after the Easter egg hunt. My friend told me she took the egg home and didn’t tell her parents. She hid it somewhere really safe. After that it was never to be seen.

Sylvia Mayorga, 3rd
The Character Traits of Templeton the Rat

Character traits are very important for good character. Character is the way in which a person thinks, feels, and acts. The six basic character traits are fairness, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and respect. By having good character, you promote your mental and emotional health, along with the health of others. Your character traits not only show good character, but they show who you are.

One character trait that is important is responsibility. Responsibility is having something you are supposed to do, and doing it. Accountability comes with responsibility. Accountability is willingness to answer for your actions and decisions. You may be responsible for feeding the dog or doing dishes. As you grow older, your numbers of responsibilities grow. Being responsible is important because it shows that you can be trusted with things.

Another important trait is respect. When you show respect for someone, you are being polite and showing them that they have authority. Showing respect for your peers by letting them speak when it’s their time to speak is an example of being respectful. With respect, comes with tolerance. Tolerance is the ability to accept others as they are.

I believe that the most important character trait is trustworthiness. Trustworthiness is important because when you are trustworthy, you are trusted. I believe that trust is the foundation of a relationship, even if it’s a friendship, or just a relationship with your parents. You can be trusted with many things—a secret, a key, or maybe even an object. If you are trusted, you are also showing responsibility. People who are trustworthy are also reliable. They follow through with promises that they make and if they can’t do it, they will let the other person know. Integrity, doing what you know is right, also comes with being trustworthy. It shows that you will do the right thing when someone else may not. These characteristics are all very important to being trustworthy. All of these things can make you a trustful person and proves that you are good hearted.

Templeton, from Charlotte's Web, possesses the character trait of resourcefulness. He possesses this trait so he can help Charlotte get the things she needs to help Wilber easily. Templeton may not be trustworthy or responsible, but he is very resourceful. When he goes out to get words for Charlotte, Templeton doesn't need anyone’s help to go and find a word because he knows where to find them. At first he is a bit reluctant to find the words and use his skills, but later on, his resourcefulness comes in very handy. In the film, Templeton's resourcefulness is important. Without him, Wilber wouldn’t have lived as long as he did. Templeton, being the smart rat that he is, used his knowledge and resourcefulness to go out and find words for Charlotte to put in her web. This also helped them spell the words. If he wasn’t resourceful, Templeton wouldn’t know where to go to get words for Charlotte. This was very important for the survival of Wilber. It also shows friendship between the barn animals and the scavengers. Templeton saved Wilber’s life and made friends with Wilber and Charlotte due to his resourcefulness and him being helpful.

In conclusion, character traits define who you are. This makes them very important. Everyone has them, no matter if they are good or bad. Every trait is very important to who you are and who you will be in the future. Even the worst people have character traits that can make them good, like Templeton, even if the intentions aren’t the best.
Dear Seria,

As you know I have been a slave girl for a while, but I don’t know what’s going to happen next for me because of the terrible thing that happened in Pompeii. It all started when my master sent me to the forum shops for Tido’s birthday. I noticed a peculiar dog staring at me. I didn’t think much about it until I came out of the bakery and was about to go back to my master to celebrate Tido’s birthday. That is when the most uncommon thing happened.

I remember it like it was yesterday. The ground started to shake hard, almost like the Earth’s ground was starting to belch. Then I saw the same dog giving me the same strange look. At the time, the ground was shaking harder and harder until it knocked me to my knees. After that, the dog ran to me and was nudging me and pulling on my clothes. I looked over at him and I saw the volcano erupting and ash falling everywhere. Then I knew that the dog was trying to help me. Also it all made sense to me. I had noticed the volcano barometer acting strangely and many people in the forum had been saying that it was going to erupt, but no one had listened. So I let the dog lead me to the rowboats at sea.

We had been sailing for what felt like days and I had been watching the dog for he got on the boat too. I had also been looking for my master but I could not find her or Tido. I assumed she either didn’t get on a boat or she had been trapped in her house with Tido. I finished looking for my master and I turned around. The dog, which I decided to name Savor, was sitting at my feet with some type of food in his mouth. I took it out of his mouth and saw that it was a little cake that was difficult to find, at least for me. I gave it back to him and he nudged it on the top of my foot. I split the cake with him and he scarfed his half up. He jumped on my lap and I started to pet him until he eventually fell asleep.

If we find out that my master didn’t make it, I don’t know what is going to happen to me next.

Elena Rodgers, 6th

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Letter from Zeomara to Seria, Aug 27, 79 AD

Dear Seria,

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Elena Rodgers, 6th

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Letter to Caesar from his soldier, Kufru, Aug 27, 79 AD

Dear Caesar,

The soldiers and I have done our routes through the streets of Pompeii every day with no trouble. The people of Pompeii were not concerned about Mount Vesuvius, but I felt something was wrong. Later, a person was acting strange. It was a cameo cutter named Attilio. He was telling the people in the forum they should be concerned. A day later, I was in the forum doing my route when the ground started shaking. I went to my house and ate bear stew. Suddenly, I heard screaming going past my door. I opened the door and lava was flowing in a bright red color. The ash and smoke were suffocating. I ran to the shore and sailed off in a boat. Now I am in Greece. In a few days I will sail back to Rome. I saved two slaves and they will sail back with me. It will probably take three days, maybe four. Please send some supplies to Greece.

Caden Adams, 6th
Dear Aunt Tigris,

Hi again. It’s me, Eva. I know I’ve already written you recently, but something terribly bad has happened. It was a normal day. I ate a slice of raisin cake for breakfast then went to the forum with mom and modeled clothes for Uncle Alexander. He used to live in Rome but then Uncle Alexander lost his job and moved in with us. He makes clothes for the city. Mom, some of the slaves, and I model the clothes. After that I went to the house of my best friend, Cornelia, to play catch and soccer. At 6:00 I went back to my house and got my stuff for the night. I ate dinner with mom and then walked back to Cornelia’s. For dinner I ate bear stew and a slice of bread. Cornelia and I stayed up until 11:00. Then we were out.

I woke up and the air scratched my throat as I took a breath. I remember someone saying that the cloud of smoke atop Mount Vesuvius was taller than usual, but no one worried about it so I didn’t either. Cornelia woke up shortly after I did. We went outside after we ate breakfast. The air scratched Cornelia’s throat too. The air was thick and foggier than usual. Cornelia’s mom thought it was a sign of a really bad storm. Cornelia walked me home, but no one was there. The ground was rumbling like the roar of a dinosaur. This was normal, but not usually this loud. I thought mom went to the forum without me, so I went to go look for her. Before I could walk across the street, a huge crowd of people ran by, like a stampede of boars. I had to find my mom! All of a sudden, it started raining ash, and I knew the volcano had erupted. Cornelia heard her mom call her name and she told me to come with her. I said no. I had to find my mom.

I headed toward the forum and found my mom and uncle stuck under a boulder. Some slaves and I got them and we all ran toward the marine gate. Mom fell and Uncle Alexander tripped over her. They were stuck. I stopped to get them free, but then Cornelia’s dad, Marcus, was in my sights. He was running toward me and I didn’t think he was going to stop. He didn’t! He scooped me up and stated running with Cornelia and her mom behind. My mom yelled to me, “Never give up! Never give up, Eva!” Those were the last words she ever said to me. In a matter of 45 seconds, my mom was covered in ash, stuck there forever. When we reached the marine gate, Cornelia was right by my side comforting me. We got on a boat and floated out to sea.

Now I’m writing to ask if I could come live with you. I’m going to have to start a new life. When I got to shore, I didn’t know where I was. All I know is that I’m somewhere in Rome.

Erika Lindblom, 6th

Picasso Style Portrait: Krystlyn Smith, 3rd
The Best Football Team of the 1990s

In the 1990s, the Dallas Cowboys were the best team because the Cowboys had two of the best players, Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman. Emmitt Smith was a great running back. Smith broke the all-time leading rushing record. Walter Payton held the record until Emmitt Smith broke the record. Emmitt Smith is the best running back that ever played in the NFL. He was the best running back there was because he had the most yards and scored a lot of touchdowns. Troy Aikman played with the Dallas Cowboys. He was a great quarterback. Troy Aikman was good at throwing the ball accurately. Troy Aikman was an awesome quarterback. Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman were great players for the Dallas Cowboys. Emmitt and Troy both had good attitudes. They would cheer their teammates up if they did something wrong. If Emmitt Smith and Troy did something good, they would not brag. Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman both won two Super Bowls with the Cowboys. The Dallas Cowboys were unstoppable with Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman.

Parker Bettinger, 6th

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

This story by Jon Scieszka is about how the wolf is telling the reader that the real story of the three little pigs is wrong. He tells his side of the story. I relate to the big bad wolf because my mom blames me for stealing her work papers.

Alexander T. Wolf says that he knows the real story of how it all went. He ran out of sugar, so he went to his neighbors, which were pigs. When he got to the first house, he remembered that he had a bad cold. All of a sudden- A-Choo! The house made of straw blew down and a pig lay there dead as a doornail. You can’t just leave perfectly good ham just lying there, so he ate the pig. At the second house the same thing happened. At the third house the police pulled up right as he was about the sneeze. He got put in the newspaper. He said he was framed.

I relate to the big bad wolf when he got framed. I too got framed for doing something I did not do. My mom, every time she loses something, she looks at me and accuses me of stealing her stuff. I feel like it is just not fair. That is probably how the big bad wolf felt when his name was put in the newspaper when he got framed.

Rylee Moseman, 6th
“I’ll be back before you know I’m gone,” my father told me as he was leaving. He decided to join the war effort and help fight for our freedom. The war started in 1775 and had been going for eight years now. My father, Franklin Washington, married my mother, Sue, and had two children. I was 12 and my younger brother, Roy, was a mere 6 years old. My brother didn’t resemble my appearance much. We both had brown eyes and blonde hair, but he was much shorter and thinner than I was. I knew things would be different around my house after my father left. I would have more chores to do and so would Roy which meant less time to play our games like blindman’s bluff and spinning tops. The last thing I remember my father telling me before he left was, “Take care of the family John. I’ll be back soon.” Now all I wished for was the war to be over so he could come back.

After my father left for the war, things changed dramatically in my life. I usually went to school every day to learn how to read and write and to learn about the Bible. Once my dad was gone I quit going to school. My mother started teaching me how to read and write in the evenings, after all the chores were finished. We lived in a small log house just outside of town. The chores and jobs around the house that my father usually did became my responsibility. Fall was just ending so I knew winter would be coming fast. There were many things that needed to be done before my family was ready to take on the cold weather winter would bring. The hardest job by far was cutting and stacking the wood to be used in the fireplace. Once temperatures started dropping and nights became colder, we would burn more and more wood every day. I had to use an ax that felt like it weighed more than the tree I was cutting down, and once I had cut the tree down I had to chop it into small enough pieces that it would fit in the fireplace. It was backbreaking work but I got the hang of it and could do it in less time every day.

One day when I was caught up on my chores and needed a break I decided I would walk into the town to see my friends. I hadn’t seen any of them since I had quit going to school. Back when I saw them a lot we would play fun games after school was dismissed. We flew kites, spun tops, played marbles, went swimming, played leapfrog and did whatever else we could find to entertain ourselves. Once I got to town, I headed for the school. It was about to get out so I knew I would see my friends walk out the door. When the door finally opened, only my old teacher walked out. I asked her “Excuse me Miss, where has everybody gone?”

“Hello John, haven’t see you in a while. Most of the kids quit coming because their fathers also went to war. They needed to stay home and help out around the house just like you did,” she said with a sorrowful look.

I walked all the way back home wishing the war would end soon so my life would get back to normal. The next day my mother woke me up early in the morning. She told me my brother was sick, so I needed you to help with some of his chores. I didn’t argue. I got up and put on my pants, cotton shirt, and vest. I went into the kitchen and ate a big breakfast of boiled rabbit and potatoes. She told me my first job was to clean out the privy. This was my least favorite job of anything I had to do. It made me want to vomit every time I went in that thing. It was hard work and took up the majority of my day, but at last I was finished. Next, I had to gather the eggs, milk the cows, and feed the chickens. Once I got that done I was exhausted. I decided to skip the school lesson that day and go straight to bed.
When I woke up, my mother had me run some errands in town for her. I was going to get some supplies from a small shop on the town square. When I walked in there was a man talking to the guy behind the counter. They were talking about the war and what might happen. I hadn’t heard anything about the war since my father left. I hoped it would end soon so my father could come home and my life would calm back down. I decided to listen to what the men had to say about the war so I stood to the side and listened in on the conversation.

“You heard any big news about the war effort lately?”
“I heard the Patriots have been giving the redcoats more than they wanted,” replied the customer.
“What do you mean by that?” asked the store clerk with a curious look.

The customer leaned in close and began to whisper in a hushed tone to the store clerk. “General Washington has come up with a plan he thinks could end the war. The patriots have been harassing the redcoats in the south. Washington told his men to retreat back to Yorktown and they were going to ambush Cornwallis and his men. Both the French and Patriot troops are blocking all the exit routes so the British will either have to surrender or fight. Either way we have them beat.”

A new look of excitement came over the store clerks face. A look of excitement also came over my face. I desperately wanted the war to be over and for my family to be back together again. I imagined going back to my old life, being able to play games with my friends again, not having to do near as many chores, and having less stress. Something the clerk asked brought me back to reality.

“When’s all this supposed to take place?”
“Washington and his men are set up now. They expect Cornwallis and his men to arrive sometime late tonight or early tomorrow morning.”

I was so thrilled I could hardly stand it. I finished buying my items in the store and raced home. Once I got home I told my mother all about what I had heard at the store. She was almost excited as I was. My brother was also thrilled to hear the good news. That night I stayed up most of the night just thinking about what would happen tomorrow.

The next day as soon as I woke, I jumped up and got dressed as fast as I could. Then I threw on my clothes and ran into town to the same small supply shop. There were a lot of people in the streets running around looking very happy. I went in the shop and asked the man behind the counter if he had heard anything about the war.

He replied “Haven’t you heard? We’ve won boy! Cornwallis surrendered to Washington late last night. The soldiers are going to return home at some point this afternoon. Our country is finally independent from Britain!”

I was speechless. I ran home and told my mother we had won. She jumped and yelled for joy. She was the happiest I had seen her in a while. She went inside and put on her best clothes. My mother, Roy, and I all walked into town so we could see the soldiers arrive. We had been standing there for what felt like an eternity when we saw men in the distance. Some were walking and some were riding horses. They took off running when they saw the people of the town waiting on them. Families were reuniting everywhere but I had not yet seen my father. I was looking around begging to worry when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and saw my father holding my brother with the biggest smile I had ever seen. I was the happiest I had ever been. After a long hug he looked down at me and said, “I told you I’d be back before you knew it”.

Jake Redus, 8th
“Where are we going?” Eli, my seven year old brother, asked with a raspy voice.

“We are going to live among the Patriots, so your father can join them in war against King George,” Mother said.

The ship rocked back and forth on the waves in the big ocean. Clouds were rolling in; I could tell that a storm was near. We were going to live in Pennsylvania so my father could fight alongside General Washington and his troops. Father was fed up with King George’s abuses to the colonies, and thought that he should be stopped.

“Land,” The sailor in the crow’s nest screamed, “Land!”

The sailors prepared for land, and the passengers began to gather their things. I found Eli and my parents in the cabin getting our things. We felt a halt on the ship. We had finally reached land! I peered out the window and saw a dock filled with many ships and people. We unloaded from the ship and started our new lives.

My family, along with many others, was politely greeted by many people as we walked past. I could see that war had not yet struck the city, and the people were too happy! But, sadly, it would soon happen. I saw the look of sorrow in everyone’s eyes, but yet they were smiling and talking as if nothing was happening outside of the city’s limits.

When my family and I had finally reached our new home, I checked the rooms, put my bedroll down, and soon, I was fast asleep.

I awoke in a cool sweat. I could hear gunfire and I knew that the fighting was getting closer. I flew down the staircase to see Eli and Father hugging. Mother was tearing up and I knew the occasion. Father was leaving for war. He had a musket and a small pouch by the door frame.

“Come to see me off, Hannah?” Father said, looking me in the eyes.

“Don’t go, Papa!” Eli shouted.

I ran to hug my father, I kissed him on the cheek, and bid him farewell. I could feel hot tears running down my cheeks as Father calmly shut the door behind him.

My mother spent the next three days in silence sitting on her bed, occasionally accepting the food I would bring to her. I cared for Eli as the days went by until Mother was out of her trance.

“I wonder if Papa will see William!” Eli exclaimed when Mother came down the stairs. William was my older brother who had stayed behind in England to support King George. Will-for short- had become a soldier for the British army when he was 19; about the time Father
started talking about joining the Patriots. Many thought it was just William rebelling against our parents’ decisions, but it wasn’t.

“Eli!” I screeched and handed him a small bowl of steaming oatmeal.

“What? I miss him!” Eli whined, “I want Papa to bring him home!”

“We all do, Eli,” Mother said in a tired, drug out tone, “We all do.”

I handed Mother a bowl of oatmeal and a mug of coffee. Mother only drank coffee and water since the Boston Tea Party, though she didn’t quite fancy the taste of coffee. I sat down to enjoy my own. We ate our breakfast in total silence; until Eli opened his big mouth.

“When will father return home?” He asked.

Annoyed, I groaned and left the room. I went upstairs and started to sew a blanket. There wasn’t much to do in town, so most of my day was spent doing chores or sewing. Around nightfall, I found that I had sewn a blanket that could cover Eli. I decided to stop my sewing and prepare for bed.

“Hannah?” Mother called up the stairs, “Are you awake?”

I didn’t feel like doing anything, so I lay down and covered up. I didn’t say a word to Mother, so she must’ve thought I was asleep. In the quiet, I thought of the war, wondering what really happened. I wanted to see it, to be a part of it. In my thoughts, I decided I would see what the war was.

That night, when I was sure that everyone was asleep, I packed a small bag and left my house. I had to find the war and see what it was about. Plus, I needed to make sure William was alive and well. I set off, following the sound of blood curling screams and gunfire.

Emily Quist, 8th

Research Poster: Duane Hammonds, Phillip Helt, Breauana Forrester, 5th
**Fable: The Smelly Animals**

Once upon a time there was a mouse named Ray. Ray had a bunch of friends, but they stopped talking to him, all but one. It was Sherry the Turtle. She talked to Ray every day. One day they were in the park walking and they noticed that all of their friends were playing in a group without them. Sherry and Ray walked over, but their friends all ran away. All but one; it was Peter the Rabbit. Peter said, “They have been so mean to me all day, saying that I smelled like a dead armadillo.” Peter cried with tears. Their friends moved to the baseball field, so the three decided to just go home. When Ray got home, he took a shower, combed his hair, ate some cheese and went to bed. But Peter and Sherry just ate and went to bed. The next morning they all went to the park again. Their friends were there too. The friends played with Ray, but not Peter and Sherry. Those two went to the pool. The water turned brown and had bugs in it as soon as Peter and Sherry got in. Then they went back to the park where they all started playing with each other again, just like they used to. (Moral: You should always wash.)

Shelby Webb, 4th

**“Seussational” Lorax Door Project: Breanna Schapeler, 4th**

**D.A.R.E. Essay: Make the Right Decisions**

I have had a great time during D.A.R.E. The things officer Corporal Swadley has taught us are important and interesting. I would like to explain how I will use the Dare Decision Making Model, and my thoughts about D.A.R.E.

A few things I have learned during D.A.R.E. are how to say no to peer pressure. Peer pressure is when a friend or someone your age pressures you to do something you don’t want to do. I have learned to think about what someone has asked me before I make a decision, decide if it is bad or good, and make my choice. Communication styles are important too. The unsure style of communication is when a person doesn’t know what to say. The demanding style is like bullying, as in yelling at someone and not caring about their feelings. Confident is the way to go. You know what to say and you care for what others are saying.

I have also learned facts why it is wrong to use alcohol and drugs. First of all alcohol is illegal for the ages under 21. It slows down the brain by memory loss and poor judgment. It also damages your body by slowing reflexes and weakening muscles and heart. Tobacco is also illegal for ages younger than 18. There are more than 200 known harsh chemicals in cigarettes. Smoking is the largest known cause of
death in America. The effects of tobacco are it interferes with the brain, causes heart disease, it also causes lung cancer. I could go over a million reasons not to use drugs and alcohol.

I would like to share my knowledge of the Dare Decision Making Model. The DDMM is something that helps people make the right decisions in life. I have used the model not only to not use drugs, but for other things too, like bullying or making hard decisions. I could’ve used the DDMM for the problems I had before D.A.R.E. Like when I had to choose between a sports game and a birthday party. I thought about it and chose the birthday party, but it was tough. I plan to use the Dare Decision Making Model in the future to further avoid drugs and other hard decisions.

I would like to talk about safe and responsible choices. I have had to make safe and responsible choices before. My mom and I were at the water park in Republic, when my friend showed up. I wanted to go see him, but I knew my mom would say no. I stayed by my mom because it was the safe and responsible choice. My sister wanted to take my mom’s wallet to buy a doll. When she tried, I told her no and told Mom. Do you think it was the safe and responsible choice? I thought it was. To make more safe and responsible choices is to avoid strangers, listen to your parents, and stay away from people who do bad things.

As I’ve said, I have learned a lot of valuable lessons in D.A.R.E. Peer pressure is an avoidable thing if you have the right steps. Communication styles help improve your conversations. I learned the reasons why drugs and alcohol are harsh for your body, and I learned to make safe and responsible decisions. Thank you D.A.R.E. I have had fun with this program and I pledge to never do drugs and alcohol, and use the Dare Decision Making Model for future problems.

Nicholas Guldner, 5th

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**D.A.R.E. Essay: Be Safe and Responsible**

*Did you know your brain stops growing at the age of twenty-five? I learned this in D.A.R.E. It is a program that teaches kids not to do drugs and drink alcohol. The D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model is a step by step model on ways to make hard choice that will lead to being safe and responsible.*

*During D.A.R.E, I learned to not do drugs because every cigarette you smoke you lose five minutes of your life. Also your brain stops growing at the age of twenty-five. If you drink before 25, you have a possible chance of losing your brain. Also did you know that when you smoke you are smoking rat body parts? The companies that make the cigarettes do not have time to clean all the rat poop and body parts out, so they get mixed in with other things to make the cigarettes.*

*The Decision Making Model uses an acronym. D stands for define, which means describe the problem, challenge, or opportunity. A means assess your choices. R means respond by using the facts and information you have gathered. E means evaluate your decision. Did you make a good choice? I plan to use the DDMM in life to make safe and responsible decision. We use the Decision Making Model when we do questions in our D.A.R.E. books.*

*I am going to make safe and responsible decisions by using define, assess, respond, evaluate. I am going to use the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model when I cross the road, get the mail, and things like that. The DDMM has helped me make safe and responsible decisions, like not eating things that I should not eat. I think all of these things will lead me to be a good person and to teach other people about D.A.R.E. I think that is pretty cool to know that your brain stops growing at the age twenty-five. Corporal Swadley tells us lots of stories about being a cop. There are some that are funny. Corporal Swadley is really nice. I love D.A.R.E.*

*Jena Tilson, 5th*
**Making Choices**

Did you know that kids in 5th grade are already getting pressured to drink? Most teens don’t drink though. I learned not to drink using the Dare Decision Making Model.

I learned a lot of things in D.A.R.E. like most teens don’t drink. Most kids don’t drink, but the ones that are drinking are pressuring others to drink. Some kids smoke. Kids who smoke are smoking over 200 harsh chemicals. There are still chemicals in cigarettes that we don’t know of. Kids who started smoking recently might have been forced by peer pressure. Peer pressure is when someone your age forces you to do something you don’t want to do.

Have you heard the D.A.R.E Decision Making Mode? It is made up of four parts: define, assess, respond, and evaluate. When you define you look for the problem. After you define, you look at your choices or assess. After you assess, you respond or make a choice. After you respond, you evaluate or look over your choice and see if you made a good choice.

A lot of people don’t make safe and responsible choices because they don’t use the DDMM. I make some bad choices but everybody does. Adults make bad choices like drinking and using tobacco. The safe and responsible choice would be to not use any of those substances.

These are some of the many things I learned in D.A.R.E. with Corporal Swadley. I pledge to never use harmful drugs like tobacco and to never drink.

**Phillip Helt, 5th**

**Dealing with Stress**

In this D.A.R.E. program I have learned a lot with Corporal Swadley. I have learned to use my D.A.R.E decision making model to help me never do drugs in the future.

I have learned how to deal with stress and how to see signs of stress. Some signs of stress are frustration, blushing, nervousness, embarrassment and you might get shy. You might even act differently. You might talk a lot, hide, yell, or throw things. How to deal with stress is close your eyes, count to ten, rest for a minute, or take a deep breath in.

I have gone through peer pressure and I have learned how to deal with it. If you know places where drugs are used stay away from there. I have also learned why drugs are bad for you. There are over 200 chemicals in cigarette smoke. Cigarettes contain nicotine, and over 400,000 Americans die from smoking each year. Drugs can really hurt your body.

I have used my D.A.R.E Decision Making Model for things like if I should get an account on an online game or what I should send on my phone. I plan to use my Decision Making Model in the future to make safe and responsible choices.

In the D.A.R.E. program, we have to make safe and responsible choices. I have made some safe and responsible choices. In D.A.R.E. Corporal Swadley has taught me to trust my gut and always do the right thing. Some safe and responsible choices I have made are not sending any pictures on my phone. In conclusion, Corporal Swadley has taught me a lot about how to be safe and never do drugs. I pledge to never do drugs and be safe in the future. I pray that the Lord will help me keep this promise.

**Erin Blevins, 5th**

**Toucan: Lyndsey Hankins, 3rd**
Illustration of the poem “The Gardener”: Katie Stafford, 6th

Fun and Exciting Words

My class and I just finished a book called Punished. It’s about a boy whose name is Logan, and he gets punished by a man named Professor Robert Wordsworth. To get rid of the curse he has to go on a mission. On the mission he has to find some new and different words. Some words that Logan learned are oxymoron, palindrome, and pun.

A word that Logan learned is palindrome. A palindrome is a word or a sentence that can be forward or backwards and say the same thing. Here is an example of a palindrome “race car.” (Race car can be forward or backwards.) Another example is “Was it a cat I saw.” A final example that I know is the word “eye.”

Some other words Logan learned are puns. A pun is a joke that a lot of people just kind of groan at. An example is “I read about one in the news-pepper” (Instead of newspaper, he said news pepper.) A second example is “House about I’ll see you later.” A third example is “I’ll try to beehive myself”.

Finally the last word that Logan learned about was an oxymoron. An oxymoron is a phrase that is made up of two words that are opposites. An example of an oxymoron is “Student Teacher” (Student and teacher are opposites, but they make up one word together.) Another example of an oxymoron is “Jumbo Shrimp.” A different and final example is “Pretty Ugly.”

Those are a few words that Logan learned. I honestly really liked this book. You should read it sometime. You can learn some different and new words. Let’s just hope you don’t get cursed like Logan, or it will be your turn to find all the oxymoron’s, puns and other fun words!

Taylor Hardin, 4th

Witches Brew

I was home alone on Halloween night. My parents said I was too old to go Trick-or-Treating, so they stuck me with handing out the candy. It was getting dark and I hadn’t had anybody come to the door for at least 15 minutes, so I thought it was time to turn off the lights and head upstairs to my room. Boy was I wrong! Just as I opened the door to my room, I heard the strangest noise.

It sounded like, “Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble.” It was a witch’s brew! I said to myself “I have to get out of here.” So I ran to my grandmother’s house. There was a witch there too. So I ran to school. “What is that AWFUL smell?” I asked. Then I saw the cauldron full of bubbling purple liquid. It was a magical brew that will make a spell. The spell will make you turn anything into what you want it to be. So I turned a frog into a dog. Then I turned the dog back into a frog.

It turns out that I’m pretty good with brew.

Kylie Johnson, 5th

The Ghost

I took off my Halloween costume, washed the paint off my face, put on my pajamas, brushed my teeth, and went to bed. I was almost asleep when I first heard the sound “Wooooo.” I shouted to my little sister, “Ha, ha very funny, Sis, but you don’t scare me!” Then I heard a loud bang, so I tip-toed over
to the door and right when I reached to open it—-whoosh. My door flung open, making me fall back. All of a sudden, a shadowy figure flew into my room and out my window. I laid there in fright hoping that the ghost wouldn’t come back. “Wait did I say GH- GH- GH ghost? “Impossible,” I murmured to myself, “Ghosts aren’t real.”

Just as I finished my sentence, I heard, “Bang Boom, Bang, and Crash!” coming from downstairs in the kitchen. So I went to see where the racket was coming from. As I looked in the kitchen, it felt as if time were frozen. I saw a black figure throwing pots and pans, wooden spoons, ladles, cookie sheets, foil and plastic wrap. My eyes closed, thinking it will make what I saw go away. “No! Not my mom’s china dishes!” I shouted loudly. The shadow figure stopped and came over to me. I looked at him and he looked at me. I told him the truth, “My mom and dad are out trick-or-treating with my little sister, I was told to watch the house and not mess it up and look what you did! Now they are going to think I am irresponsible and I won’t be able to go to my friend’s Halloween party tomorrow!” The ghost started bawling, “I’m so sorry, I didn’t mean to mess up your house. I was just having fun. I’ll help you clean up so you don’t get in trouble and so you can go to the Halloween party.”

So the ghost and I cleaned the whole house and my parents were very proud.

Jaxi Brown, 5th

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A Pumpkin’s Point of View

Hi! My name is Jackie! Now, have a seat. Have ever thought about a jack-o-lantern point of view on Halloween? Probably not, right? Well it’s not easy! Oops! I forgot to tell you that I’m a pumpkin! Anyways, a pumpkin has a lot of things to worry about! Like “The Headless HorseMan”! That guy gives me the willies! And then there are some pumpkin smashers! They killed my Auntie Seeds! Now pumpkins like the fact they’re one of the main parts of Halloween, but one of the things all pumpkins do NOT look forward to is BEING CARVED TO DEATH! They take our guts and just toss them! Then after Halloween they just throw us away!

But on the bright side, I get a nice warm candle; I also get to see some great costumes! And sometimes little Halloweeners drop some candy for me. Hey, don’t judge me. Being a jack-o-lantern makes me hungry! So technically it counts as a snack. Happy Halloween to all and to all and Good Fright! (wink) P.S. If you pick a pumpkin this year do a favor for me and pick me, AND DON’T throw me away. The least you could do is bake me into a pie, I’m sure I would be yummy! (wink) Keep up the great work and great costumes! One more thing, make sure you stay in school!

Tatum Vanderpool, 5th

The Spooky Night

It was the night before Christmas—-I mean Easter—or is it Thanksgiving? Is it Halloween? Is that with the leprechauns and unicorns and butterflies? No, it has the ghost, goblins, Boogey Man and the Ghost Busters. This is where the story starts--so go to the bathroom, have a soda, some popcorn and a blankie and get ready for the scariest story ever.

It all started on a street called Ping Pong Ding Dong Here Comes King Kong. There was kid named Tom. He had 92 sisters he was the only boy in his family. His best friend was Jerry, just like
the show Tom and Jerry. So those two went to get their costumes. They’re going to be Ghost Busters.

When they got the costume store, they saw an old creepy man. He was staring at Tom. Tom ran as fast as he could. Jerry asked, “Who is that old fart?” Tom said, “That was Old Man Franklin. If the myth is true, every Halloween night he turns into the Boogey Man and his evil goblins.” They went back to Jerry’s house after his sister picked them up. The next day, it was Halloween so Tom and Jerry went out. They went to 86 houses. That was a whole street. But there was one house left: Old man Franklin house. So Jerry and Tom went up to his house. They heard loud footsteps. Something grabbed them. They were never seen again.

Illustrated Idiom: Abigail Whitlow, 4th

Famous Missourian Report: George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was born around 1965. No one knows his birth date because he was born a slave. He is one of the most famous scientists in the United States of America. George Washington Carver was a teacher at Tuskegee Institute. He died January 5, 1943.

Journey to Fame

George became famous because of his scientific inventions. George Washington Carver went to an agricultural school, a musical school, and an art school. He was a scientist who discovered over 300 products out of sweet potatoes. He also discovered over 100 uses for peanuts, including face cream, gasoline, oil, peanut butter, and many more.

Missouri Connection

George was born on a farm in Diamond, Missouri. He has one sibling, his brother, and had a mom and dad. His father’s name is Moses Carver. George has a monument called The George Washington Carver National Monument. It’s near Diamond Missouri.

Struggles and Successes

George’s father died before he was born. A week after his father’s death, George and his mom got kidnapped by raiders. He never married to anyone. He had successes in his life too. He got famous. He helped many farmers grow crops. He made hundreds of products out sweet potatoes and peanuts.

Other Interesting Facts

George Washington Carver went to four different schools and got turned down by one because he was an African American. George liked to play music. He played the piano and more. George liked to paint art. He spent the rest of his life in his laboratory. When George was kidnapped he was going to be sold in the state of Arkansas. He is remembered throughout history.

Sources


Jacob Gray, 4th
Winter

O dreary winter
Your heart is especially cold
Lashing out at the innocent
And nearly killing the bold

Your weaponry is dangerous
But fragile to the touch

I won’t miss you when you’re gone
At least not very much

Your warmer twin brother
Is just as bad as thee
But with him we can adjust
From you we’d rather flee

But winter I still love you
As cruel as you may be
Your beauty is beyond compare
As you blanket fields and trees

Spring, summer, and autumn
Stick with me like a splinter
But secretly in my heart
I adore the raging winter

Morgan Essary, 7th

Comet News Article: MES Principal to Retire

Marionville Elementary school will be saying goodbye after this school year to their principal, Ms. Christy Short, who plans to go into retirement after a total of 6 years in Marionville and over 30 years in school departments.

After the 2013-2014 summer school session, Short plans on beginning on her road to retirement. She says that during her retirement, “I’d like to maybe take up teaching a few college classes and move closer to Lebanon where my parents live. They are getting older. I want to spend as much time with them as I can.”

Short has over 30 years of experience in different school departments. She worked at Stoutland for four years as a special education teacher, Waynesville for fifteen years as a special education teacher, Camdenton for seven years as a special education teacher and seven more years as an assistant principal, and her last six years were spent at Marionville as the elementary principal.

While Short is retired she says she has a few hobbies she would like to continue doing such as yoga, selling Mary Kay, and doing crafts such as making burlap wreaths. She also says, “I’d like to spend time with both my sons who live in Kansas City and in St. Louis, and spend time with my two Shih Tzu’s, Paxton and Jack. Paxton is 1 and Jack is 7.”

Short will be greatly missed but won’t be forgotten. She has greatly influenced Marionville Elementary School and all the children. They are all very thankful for all she has done and wish her the absolute best.

Madylon Davis, 7th

Comet Newspaper Article: Practice Affects Students and Coaches

Participating in school sports has benefits, but it also comes with some negative effects, not only for the players, but for the coaches too. Practice can make students look better than before and make students work harder to reach goals. When asked how practice affects him seventh grader Alex Gracia said, "It makes me a better athlete, and I work harder on my school work so I don't get bad grades." Alex was on the A-B honor roll for working hard on his school work and doing it right.
Another effect of practice is a student’s physical ability and appearance. When asked how practice affects her physically, seventh grader Gracie Fiddyment said, “It makes me really tired and worn out, and then I can’t really focus on my school work.” However, not all effects are bad; seventh grader Madylon Davis says, “It gets me in shape.”

The third effect of practice is emotions toward school and sports. Seventh grader Landon Minge said about the sports practice, “It makes me get stressed over my school work if it is not done.” Another emotion is anger. As Coach Larry Wycuff clearly stated, “Practice makes me angry, because the athletes are always getting injured.”

So why do sports anyway? Some people do it to learn, and others to get in shape. Whatever the reason, the effects of practice are everywhere. A lot of students and coaches deal with them. It is a way of life.

Morgan Essary, 7th

Using a Dictionary

A dictionary can have several uses. One use is finding the spelling of a word. Another is finding the meaning of the word. You can also use a dictionary to find what part of speech it is. A fourth use for a dictionary is how many syllables are in a word. To practice using a dictionary, I found the word sundown on page 756. The guide words on the page are summarize and sundown. This means they are the first and last words on the page. The dictionary told me this word is a noun. One definition for this word is “another name for sunset.” There are no other definitions listed. This word has two syllables. I’m glad I did this dictionary activity because it is fun.

Elizabeth White, 3rd

Newspaper Article: Marionville Participates in Academic Competition

The Marionville Academic team competed in an academic competition at Stockton High School against multiple schools on Wednesday, February 19, after weeks of preparation. Students Emily Geisendorfer and Wyatt Killman placed in top ten Individuals in middle school, and the high school placed second team with Payton Stringer and Boyd Maples placing in top ten Individuals.

This event is held annually with Marionville’s second trip being this year. Mrs. Grumadas, the middle school sponsor said, “The event was the greatest thing ever. I have never been so proud and I can’t stop smiling.”

This competition allows students to showcase their academic knowledge. The students compete by answering questions in an event against others in an academic and controlled environment.

The students that participated from the middle school were Wyatt Killman, Emily Geisendorfer, Natalie Baker, Sydney Davis, Haylie Mason, Kymbrah Bowers, Kennedy Stringer, Dodge Schapeler, Laythen Utke, Chase White, and Wil Ghan.

Chase White felt that “it was nerve racking at first and I almost regretted signing up but was fun in the end and I really enjoyed it.” Another competitor, Laythen Utke, said, “I think we did pretty well for our second time going and personally I think it was fun and that I did ok.”

Wyatt Killman, 8th
“These are a Few of My Favorite Things”: Song Lyric Re-Writes

Fun Skateboarding and wearing comfy vans,
Eating yummy Smarties while playing loud music,
Playing guitar while lying in a soft bed,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Beautiful blue eyed huskies in the hot summer,
With nice family wearing silky hoodies,
Hungry minions and eating sour skittles,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Swimming with my lovely family and playing Minecraft,
Smelling spring water and glamorous perfume,
Cuddling with cute animals and chatting with friends,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Eating steak and rice while drinking yummy drinks,
Playing awesome basketball and eating some smarties,
Dogs and Smurfs what wonderful things,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Taylor Hardin, 4th

Monkeys and elephants, Toms and frogs,
Roccos and pasta, Power-aid, and red velvet cake,
Listening to Miles Davis music,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Snowmen and flowers, sweet tea and snickers,
Polar bears and planes, shopping at old navy,
Building igloos in freezing cold weather,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Kiora Alaimo, 4th

Soft serving cake with creamy ice cream,
Watching TV and playing on the Wii,
Funny ladies dancing with ladies that sing,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Bacon with eggs and butter on toast,
Squishy pancakes with cream peanut butter,
Going to Florida to see Mickey Mouse,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Jacob Gray, 4th

Illustrated Math: Shelby Webb, 4th

Playing the drums and playing the guitar,
Painting on paper and drawing in notebooks,
Fun loving family while playing at Grandma’s,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Eating steak and rice while drinking yummy drinks,
Playing awesome basketball and eating some smarties,
Dogs and Smurfs what wonderful things,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Breanna Schapeler, 4th
## Contributors

The following students have writing or artwork displayed in this publication.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING!

<table>
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<th>Caden Adams</th>
<th>Lyndsey Hankins</th>
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If we have failed to acknowledge the work of any student contributing to this magazine, we apologize in advance for the oversight.