

Compassion

sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

A Lion's Life

5 / 23 / 2011

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Bouncing Through the 4th grade

By: Katie L. and Danielle N.

Mrs. Faldani's class purchased exercise balls to sit on in their classroom instead of chairs, but they did not come one at a time they came in drips and drabs. It was exciting for the class when they got new shipments.

Mrs. Faldani has 22 ball chairs, one for every kid in her class. But she's not the only one, Mr. Arneson also has them. He is the one who gave her the idea from a video he saw. It is fun, but occasionally kids need to be reminded to stop bouncing.

Research says that the little movement from sitting on the ball chairs helps students concentrate. But this is a practice year. They have had them for 8 weeks. She hopes to keep them.

The 4th graders say: Maddie D. said "Yes! I like the balls because they give us



Mrs. Faldani, Katie and Danielle pose with the ball chairs.

freedom to move."

Natalie M. "Yes! I love the balls. But after a while they can get boring to sit on."

Max R. "Yes! They are so fun to bounce on!" Simon L. "Yes! Because you can bounce on them lightly."

Maggie G. "Yes, but the hard part is to stay still. But it helps your posture."

Claire G. "Yes! You can bounce on the balls lightly."

Sophie D. "Yes! Because chairs are stiff but you can lean on chairs."

Quincy J. "Yes, they are bouncy!"

Reno S. "Yes, they are fun to bounce on but some times they are distracting."

Kaitlyn O. "Yes! They are fun, but we can't bounce high."

Jordan F. "Yes! You can bounce on them and have fun."

Andrew P. "Ya, they are comfortable and they let your extra energy out."

Mrs. Webb said, "Students always have the option to take a break from the ball chair to a regular chair, but overall, they are a big hit so far."

Dough with Della is Fun and Tasty

By: Danielle N.

Dough with Della is a fun after school program where we occasionally speak a little Italian and make different designs made out of home-made pasta dough. Not only do you make things like pizza but you also make pasta.

If you like to work with food and eat it then I would definitely recommend dough with Della for an after school activity. You should also join if you like to have

fun.

After 3 is a program that the PTO provides for students. There are a lot of fun classes that you can take.

The students have a lot to say about the Dough with Della class:

Katie R., Third grade, "I do like dough with Della because you get to learn a little Italian also it is really fun."

Anna W., Kindergar-

ten, "I like dough with Della because the food is good."

Leah M., Third grade, "I enjoy doing dough with Della because it is fun to learn new things."

If you join Dough with Della, or any After 3 program you probably would agree.

Even Matt B, a graduate of Spring Avenue graduate agrees! Dough with Della is a blast!



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb

At last! March is here and maybe that means the snow will be on its way out! If not, we will continue to find ways to enjoy the snow and stay safe. Please continue to remind your child/children that they can play in the snow appropriately if they are dressed with the correct gear. (Snowpants, gloves or mittens, hats and boots).

We are happy to report that the pledge for our school goals has been composed. (Phrases and words were designed by the students over the last year in our Lions' Dens). We are in the process of having the words printed on a banner to display in the gym. We will recite the pledge or the motto on a daily basis. Please ask your child/children about our pledge.

What are Professional Learning Days all about? As a district and a staff, we are able to meet and accomplish powerful work that focuses on student learning. Our most recent

PLD (March 1st) was designated to Technology Instruction and Social Emotional data review, as well as planning and coordinating methods to improve. We continuously revisit our student data, goals and methods for instruction and improvements. We are happy to post our most recent dashboard on our website to help keep community informed of our goals, targets and performance. Please see a thorough explanation of this process on our district website as well. Moving children ahead at a rigorous and meaningful rate is our top priority!

Thank you to all the leaders, teachers and coordinators for the After 3 Programs. Many children are involved in these after school programs and this could not happen without all the hard work by these fine people!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! KINDERGARTEN

ROUND UP IS COMING MARCH 10TH. WITH FULL PARTICIPATION WE ARE ABLE TO PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR'S ENROLLMENT. Tell your neighbors, especially families who are not yet at our school, to attend this special event. They can also call in with information to help us get a complete count.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and interest in your child's learning process. Helping them feel calm and prepared during state testing is as important as listening to them read or assisting them with special projects. We also appreciate your support in building responsibility for them to remember their homework, gym shoes and instruments. Working together, the children are becoming extremely responsible and more organized, too. We know they need extra support on certain days, but overall they are improving! Thank you!

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Vancouver Olympics

By: Kelsey S.

The Olympics are here! The 2010 winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver, Canada. Officially called the XXI (21) Olympic Winter Games, include,

On snow:

Biathlon (cross country and target shooting), combined downhill, cross country, downhill, freestyle aerials, freestyle moguls (freestyle skiing with bumps and jumps), giant slalom (just like downhill but the gates are further apart), Nordic combined (cross country skiing and ski jumping), slalom, snow boarding, ski jumping, and super-G (downhill with speed).

On the track:

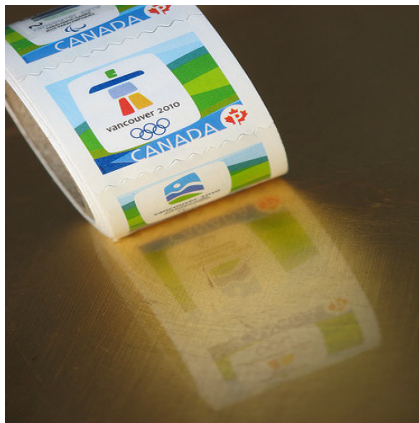
Bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton (head first).

On the rink:

Curling, figure skating, ice dancing, ice hockey, speed skating, and short track.

The Olympics ran from February 12, to February 28. The trials started in January. The trials see who will compete in the Olympics. For example, the figure skating trials will be held in Spokane and they will be held from January 14 to January 24. You can watch the Olympics on your local NBC channel.

I asked people at Spring Avenue about the winter Olympics and here are some



thoughts. Are you excited about the Winter Olympics? Mrs. Kay – “Yeah, I think they are fun to watch!”

Do you like the winter or summer Olympics better?

Mrs. Faldani- “Winter because they are shorter and I like the downhill sports.”

What is your favorite winter Olympic sport?

James, custodian, - “The bobsledding.”

Sadly a luger from Georgia (the country) passed

away on a practice run. His name was Nodar Kumaritashvili. He was going at about 90 mph and lost control. The other luger from Georgia withdrew from the race. After the accident the luge track was changed. There are now boards up around the pillars. The men are starting from the women’s starting point and the women start even lower on the track. Some lugers say now it’s boring because they are going slower but they are still reaching speeds up to 80 mph.

Fun Fact:

Canada had never won a gold medal on home soil until Alexandre Bilodeau won the gold in Men’s Moguls!

Students across Illinois vote for favorite book

By: Olivia B..

Students from all over Illinois are reading the same books. February 19th kids voted for their favorite book that they read off of their list in hopes that it will win.

Kindergarten through 3rd grade will vote on the Monarch books, and 4th through 6th grade will be voting off of the Caudill. You have to read or be read at least 5 books to vote for the Monarch award. If you are voting for the Caudill you have to read at least 3 books to vote. You can see video book talks on the school library website.

I got a chance to read a Monarch book called: A Day with No Crayons. This book is about a kid who gets her crayons taken away because she drew on a wall, and has to find a way to draw with no crayons. I read this book to my kindergarten bud-

dies and they loved the book. I recommend it and so do they.

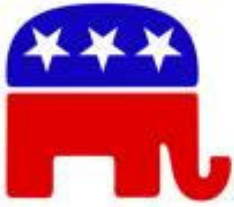
I also got a chance to read a Caudill book called: The Mozart Question. This book is about a kid who wants his father’s violin hidden in his parents room which unlocks a hidden secret so bad that it changed his parents’ life. Once the secret is out the family becomes closer.

The students of Spring Avenue voted for their favorite books. Here are the winners:

Monarch: Scarvey Squirrel by Melanie Watt

Caudill: All the Lovely Bad Ones by Mary Downing Hahn

Ms. Marek already has the list for next year!



Political Corner

By Brandon H.



WHO WILL BE TAKING THE SENATE SEAT?

When Barack Obama (D) was elected President, and could no longer keep his seat in the US Senate, a man named Roland Burris (D) took the seat. Now, election time has come again, and Mark Kirk (Republican) and Alexi Giannoulias (Democrat) are competing for the seat.

Alexi Giannoulias



Born: March 16, 1976

Birth name: Alexi Giannoulias

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois

Party: Democrat

Other jobs: Treasurer of Illinois

Website:

www.alexiforillinois.com

Mark Kirk



Born: September 15, 1959

Birth name: Mark Steven Kirk

Birthplace: Champaign, Illinois

Party: Republican

Other jobs: US Representative,

Navy Commander

Website: www.kirkforsenate.com

Elections to the United States Senate will be held on November 2, 2010,
for 36 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate.

Musicians of the Issue: Green Day



By: Brandon H.



From Left to Right:
Mike Dirnt, Billie Joe Armstrong, Tre` Cool

Members:

Billie Joe Armstrong
Michael Ryan Pritchard (aka Mike Dirnt, Van Gough)
Frank Edwin Wright III (aka Tre` Cool)

Years Active: 1987 – Present

Genres: Punk Rock, Pop Punk, Alternative Rock

Formed in: East Bay, California

Famous Songs: American Idiot, Minority, 21 Guns, Basket Case, Know Your Enemy

Former Members:

John Kiffmeyer (aka Al Sobrante)

Website: www.green day.com

Photo from:

http://assets.nydailynews.com/img/2009/03/31/alg_green_day.jpg

Cooking Corner: Delicious Desserts

By: Toni M.



Chocolate Chip Cake Mix Cookies

Ingredients

1 (18.25 ounce) package
chocolate chip cake
mix with pudding
2 eggs
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup rolled oats
1 cup mini semi-sweet choco-

late chips

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Mix together the cake mix,
eggs, oil, raisins, oatmeal and
chocolate chips. Stir well.

Drop by teaspoonful onto a
greased cookie sheet (Baking
stones yield best results).

Bake for about 8-10 minutes.
Remove from oven and let
cool for 1 minute before re-
moving from cookie sheet.

NOTE: For even more choco-
late, put a large chocolate
kiss in the center of each
cookie 1 minute before re-
moving from oven.

Pineapple Bars

Ingredients

1 cup crushed pineapple with
juice
1 cup white sugar
2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup water
3/4 cup shortening
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups rolled oats

Directions

To Make Pineapple Filling:
Mix 1 cup crushed pineapple
and juice (8 1/4-ounce can), 1
cup sugar, 2 1/2 Tablespoons
cornstarch, 1 Tablespoon
butter, and 1 cup water in
saucepan. Cook until thick-
ened, cool.

Preheat oven to 400 de-
grees.

Cream together shortening
and sugar thoroughly.

Stir in flour, baking soda
and salt.

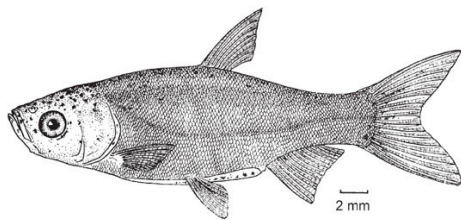
Mix in rolled oats.

Press and flatten half of
the mixture over bottom
of a 13 x 9 1/2 x 2 inch
greased pan.

Spread with cooled filling.
Top with remaining
crumb mixture, patting
lightly. Bake 25 to 30
minutes, or until lightly
browned. While warm cut
into bars and remove from
pan.

The fight against the Asian Carp invasion

By: Keely S.



Indiana's Attorney General will support Michigan's effort to keep the Asian carp from getting into Lake Michigan through the Illinois Waterway. These Asian carp can grow from 80 to 100 lbs.

No Asian carp have been found on the Great Lakes side of the electrical barrier. However, recent DNA samples taken from the water prove that the carp have crossed the barrier at some point.

There are four different kinds of Asian carp: there's the Big head carp, Silver carp, Grass carp, and last but not least there's the Black carp. Silver

carp jump 10 feet out of water. These Asian monsters are eating our fish and they have no natural predators in our Great Lakes.

According to the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, "Due to their large size, ravenous appetites, and rapid rate of reproduction, these fish could pose a significant risk to the Great Lakes ecosystem."

For more information on Asian carp visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/invasive/asiancarp/>

Fishy in Fifth Grade: Brown Trout Update

By: Kendall F. and Joanna Z.

Hello my name is Kendall. I recently went with my friend Joanna to interview my teacher, Mrs. Wanta, about the 5th grade trout.

There are still 105 trout living out of the 189 trout that we started with. There is one trout that has a different quality than all the others, it's silver! At first we thought that it was this color because it was at a different stage than all the others. Soon, we learned that it wasn't a

brown trout like all the others, it was a rainbow trout!

We went on with the normal routine for a couple weeks. We had deaths and high ammonia. Then...Gasp, later on that year, more fish came from the trout hatchery now we're back at number 100. The new trout were bigger than the others and ate one of the smaller fish.

Some facts about the brown trout are that the brown trout are carnivores and they

usually eat fish, or other brown trout. But, when they are younger they eat invertebrates.

They are also native to Europe and Asia. Also they have nicknames in certain countries (find these nicknames at www.bbc.co.uk/nature/species/Brown_trout). The last fact I have for you today is that the brown trout is not endangered but close.

Stop by Mrs. Wanta's room to see the fish up close!

Who am I?

By: Keely S. . and Joanna Z.



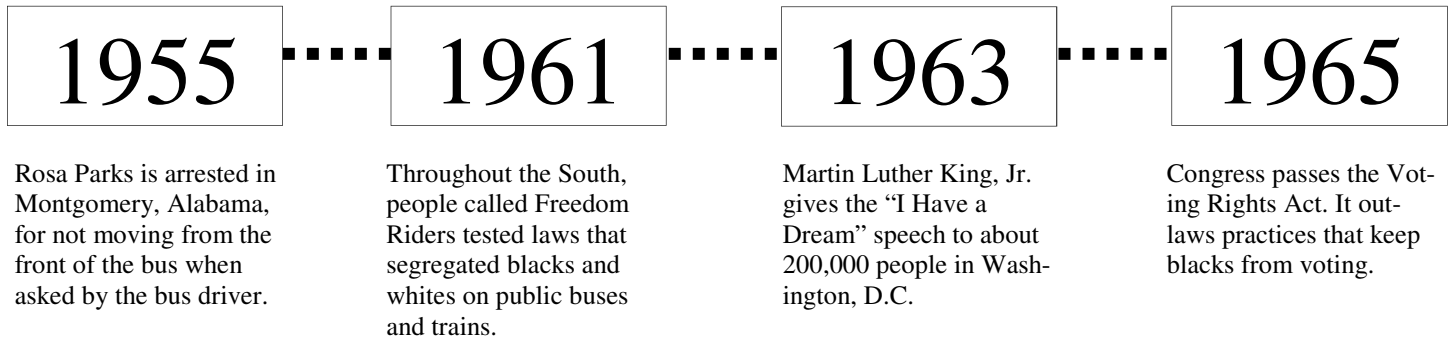
- I was born June 8, 1977
- I was born in Atlanta, Georgia
- I am an African American rapper
- I am 32 years old
- My hometown is Chicago, Illinois
- I am a Gemini
- My name means "the holy one" in Swahili

(answer on next page)

Black History Month Timeline

By: Keely S. and Joanna Z.

February is Black History Month. African Americans were not always treated fairly in our nation. Here are some highlights of the civil rights movement.



Timeline from Time For Kids, January 29, 2010

Lost and Found

By: Toni M.

<p>Pink/muddy shoe White socks Black Gloves Black Headband Red Sweater Gray Sweater Blue Sweater Black and Gray Hat Black Scarf Navy Sweater</p>	<p>Pink Sweat Shirt Purple Glove Chicago Blackhawks hat Size S/M Cubs hat Bulls hat Blue hat Fuzzy mitten</p>
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Important Dates

By: Toni M.

March 5th — Fun Fair
 March 9th — Band Concert
 March 10th — Kindergarten Round Up
 March 11th — Choir / Orchestra Concert
 March 17th — Fun Lunch
 March 22nd-26th — Spring Break



Who Am I?
Kayne West



A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff

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 Kendall F.
 Brandon H.
 Katie L.

Toni M.
 Danielle N.
 Keely S.
 Kelsey S.
 Joanna Z.

Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
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