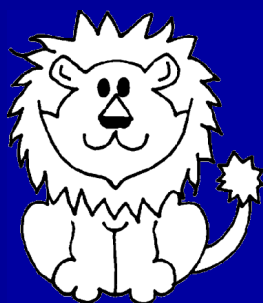


stamina

strength, power
to endure

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A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

4 / 18 / 2012

Spring Avenue Wishes Mrs. Zale Well!

By: MacKenzie B. and Maddie D.

Spring Ave. was very fortunate to have Mrs. Zale as a first grade teacher. Our school will miss her greatly when she retires. As our teacher from 1st grade we had such a great time and enjoyed every minute of the fun learning environment.

Mrs. Zale has been working at Spring Avenue for 14 years. Her favorite memory of working here was all of the fun she had recycling the milk jugs and seeing the finished masterpieces. She has not only been a teacher here, but when she first started she taught at Canterbury Elementary school where she was also a 1st grade teacher. Mrs. Zale said "the hardest thing about leaving will be knowing that I will never be back to set up my classroom in the fall. I always looked forward to setting up my classroom and the excitement of meeting a brand new group of 1st graders."

Mrs. Zale has a lot of things that she will miss but the one she will miss the most



is "Probably bus evacuation drills. ... just kidding. I will definitely miss all of the wonderful students I have taught and all of the supportive parents I have met along the way. I will also miss witnessing all of the teeth that fall out in 1st grade." Her favorite activity is watching her students grow and learn. Also seeing the kids build up their confidence to perform for their moms at the Mother's Day show was always a treat. Also performing 20 skits without a script in hand proved the students could do anything if they

set their mind to it.

Mrs. Zale is looking forward to all the spare time she now has! She plans to travel at any time of the year. She is also going to take classes and learn something new like: how to tap dance, cook with a flair, explore photography, and try out for the show Dancing with the Stars! She also plans to spend more time with family and friends, play tennis and exercise more, volunteer, finish writing a children's book, drive a trolley around Chicago, get a total makeover, and throw away her alarm clock! As always, Mrs. Zale is a busy gal, and even though we will be sad to lose her, she will always be in our hearts and remain one of the most fun, happy, energetic, loving, caring, and friendly teachers to ever walk through the doors of Spring Avenue. For that, we thank her. We will love you always Mrs. Zale, and have fun during your retirement!

Thank you Mrs. Zale for all that you do, and don't forget us at Spring because we love you!

Red Mango is a Sweet Spot in Downtown LaGrange

By: Erin C.

There is a new smoothie and frozen yogurt shop in downtown La Grange called Red Mango. I went there with my dad one time and had the most delicious strawberry-banana smoothie I've ever tasted.

Their smoothies are made with all natural nonfat

yogurt and fresh fruit. YUM! And they have all sorts of toppings for their award-winning nonfat frozen yogurt. They also have fruit and yogurt parfaits, probiotic beverages such as iced tea and lemonade, hot chocolate, and more! Red Mango makes everything with all natural ingredients.

Red Mango is not just in La Grange, lots of other cities have them too! They are open Mondays through Thursday, and Sundays from 10:00am to 10:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00pm.

So head on over to Red Mango today!



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb

If a child can talk about data and show his or her own personal, special needs and strengths, and a teacher shows them how to accomplish growth in these areas, then the result is success. Pure, complex, wonderful success!

As a staff, we have lengthy discussions and study sessions trying to find out the best ways to help children. Teachers never tire of learning more and trying harder to reach students in the best ways possible, especially our District 105 teachers. Sometimes, I wish I could bottle up that never ending energy and enthusiasm and share with the world.

Recently, our School Improvement meeting centered around progress and engagement. When teachers at Spring Avenue have an opportunity to share, the sky is truly the limit. From PE skills, drills and games to fine tuning math facts, or selecting the right book titles, all the way through writing fiction, poetry and especially nonfiction pieces, the ideas are rich and caring and expressions of dedication. Teachers want to be able to share and learn from one another in order to prepare and tweak ideas within their own classrooms. At this meeting, teachers shared how students can use flashcards in new ways, how to help students reflect on their own efforts and track progress and how to score their own pieces.

Students have taken an active role in their own learning after teachers have shown them the way! Students in all grades are able to articulate what they are learning and why, as well as how they can do better. Setting goals is another area that has shown vast improvements all the way around. If a child can talk about data and show his or her own personal, special needs and strengths, and a teacher shows them how to accomplish growth in these areas, then the result is success. Pure, complex, wonderful success!

And parents are an enormous part of this success. When we work with children all day long, we know they will go home and work a bit more with their parent (s) and that truly makes the full circle of working hand in hand in this amazing community one that is proof of everyone's hard work! So, thank you, parents, for caring and sharing in this endeavor of success. We most certainly appreciate the team approach for students!

Student + Parent + Teachers and Staff = SUCCESS!

As a side note, please consider signing your child/children up for CONNECT! We believe this is just one more way to help students all the way through the summer weeks. We know you work and play with your child and for that we are grateful. With CONNECT, we take it one step further together! Join in the fun and stay CONNECTED!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Webb, Principal

Greatest Summer Olympics Moments

By: Hannah H.

Starting on July 27, the Summer Olympics will be taking place in London, England. The Olympics feature athletes from around the world competing in many different sports, such as gymnastics and swimming. Two of the greatest Olympians include Nadia Comaneci in gymnastics and Michael Phelps in swimming.

One of the most exciting Summer Olympic sports is gymnastics. This is a combination of four events: beam, bars, floor exercise, and vault. One great Olympian is a young girl who started at age six and accomplished a perfect score in the Olympics seven times in a row. She gained three gold medals in 1972, 1976 and 1999 in both a group competition and by herself. Her name is Nadia Comaneci. She was the first person in history to get a perfect score. Despite her perfect scores, Nadia was in a group competition so her country of Romania came in second place.

In 1975 Nadia Comaneci (age 13) was a European champion. One of Nadia's first competitions involved a balance beam routine that was a part of a team competition with a score of 9.9. She continued with great scores for floor and vault. The last competition event was the uneven bars, which was where she achieved perfection. Out of all the best gymnasts, I believe Nadia Comaneci is the most talented ever.



Even though Nadia was the greatest Olympian at gymnastics, Michael Phelps can be considered the greatest Olympic swimmers ever. He has won 16 medals: six gold, two bronze, and the rest silver. Michael Phelps holds the record for the most medals. In 2004 and 2008, Michael won eight medals. Michael Phelps has also been the World Swimmer of the

Year six times and American Swimmer of the year a whopping eight times.

In all, Michael has won 66 medals: 54 gold, nine silver, and three bronze medals. Michael's achievements as a swimmer lead to Sports Man of the Year in 2008. A few strokes in swimming that Michael does are called the, back-stroke, freestyle, and the butterfly.

Michael Phelps's nickname is the "Baltimore Bullet" for his outstanding speed in swimming. A few more fun facts are that Michael's full name is Michael Fred Phelps; Michael was born in Baltimore, Maryland on June 30, 1985, and is 6 ft. 4 inches tall. Lastly, 2012 is Michael Phelps last year of being in the Olympics.

These are just a few of the great summer Olympic sports that are coming up very soon. Be sure to watch the Olympics in London, England on July 27– August 12.

Starved Rock State Park is Great for Everyone

By: Meredith B.

This past Spring Break my family visited Starved Rock. Starved Rock is a State Park located about 90 miles away in Utica, IL. We wanted to start easy, so we took advantage of some of the more moderate hiking trails and saw many beautiful sights including Plum Island and a dam. The first trail we hiked was to the actual Starved Rock. I had not realized how the State Park had received its name.

The story behind the name is one you couldn't make up. During a battle of two Native American tribes, one tribe, a group of Illiniwek, climbed to the top of a 125 foot sand butte thinking they would be safe up high. The other tribe surrounded the rock at the bottom, stranding the Illiniwek; they had no food, therefore dying of starvation and giving the rock its name... Starved Rock.

After we finished that trail we went to the French Canyon. This was no ordinary canyon. It was scary just looking down. The trails were narrow and the peaks were high. The canyon was also very wide. This would be a great challenge for a rock climber.

Overall, the experience was magnificent! I would recommend spending a day at Starved Rock. If you are interested in visiting, the parking lots and parks are free to the public. Dogs are allowed if they are on a leash. The parks are open all year from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and the trails are open from dawn until dusk. Starved Rock also has lodging. Starved Rock is a great place to be for everyone!

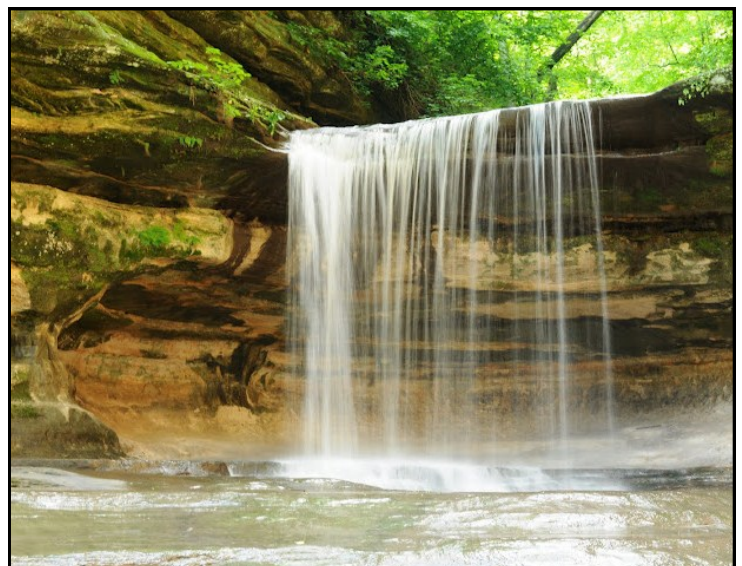


Photo Credit: <http://www.starvedrockstatepark.org/>

Who Am I?

By: Taylor S., Allison T., and Nora W.

- ? I was born in 1904.
- ? I was an author.
- ? I wrote 46 books.
- ? My birthday is celebrated every year in March.
- ? I used a pen name.
- ? My books have been translated into 20 different languages.
- ? 4 of my books have been made into movies.
- ? There is a statue of me in Springfield, Massachusetts.
- ? One of the characters in my book is mean and grumpy.
- ? There was an exhibit about me at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Do you know who I am? Turn to the last page to see if you're right!



March Madness Champions

Going into the history of March Madness

By: Sean M.



2012 Kentucky	1980 Louisville
2011 Connecticut/UConn	1979 Michigan St.
2010 Duke	1978 Kentucky
2009 North Carolina	1977 UNLV
2008 Kansas	1976 Indiana
2007 Florida	1975 UCLA
2006 Florida	1974 North Carolina State
2005 North Carolina	1973 UCLA
2004 Connecticut/UConn	1972 UCLA
2003 Syracuse	1971 UCLA
2002 Maryland	1970 UCLA
2001 Duke	1969 UCLA
2000 Michigan St.	1968 UCLA
1999 Connecticut/UConn	1967 UCLA
1998 Kentucky	1966 Texas-El Paso
1997 Arizona	1965 UCLA
1996 Kentucky	1964 UCLA
1995 UCLA	1963 Loyola, Illinois
1994 Arkansas	1962 Cincinnati
1993 North Carolina	1961 Cincinnati
1992 Duke	1960 Ohio St.
1991 Duke	1959 California
1990 Nevada-Las Vegas/UNLV	1958 Kentucky
1989 Michigan	1957 North Carolina
1988 Kansas	1956 San Francisco
1987 Indiana	1955 San Francisco
1986 Louisville	1954 La Salle
1985 Villanova	1953 Indiana
1984 Georgetown	1952 Kansas
1983 North Carolina State	1951 Kentucky
1982 North Carolina	1950 CCNY
1981 Indiana	

Frozen Four: NCAA Hockey Championships

By: Nathan D.

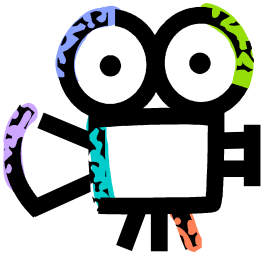
Everyone knows about the NCAA Basketball championships, but did you know there are NCAA hockey championships too?

The NCAA hockey championships are made of the five Conference championships and then the top 11 teams that did not win their conference. Unlike the 66 teams that make the basketball tournament, only 16 teams make it into the hockey tournament. Teams are divided into four regions just like basketball. Then each team in the region is ranked from one to four.

The rounds of 16 and 8 are held in the same location. The final four teams go to the "Frozen Four." Boston College, Minnesota, Union and Ferris St. are all in the 2012 Frozen Four. This year's Frozen Four was held in Tampa, FL and Boston College beat Ferris St. 4 - 1.

NCAA Hockey championships do not have as much "madness" as basketball, but for hockey fans, they are just as fun.





The Hunger Games Movie Review

By: Kate H. and Devon W.

As we all know, and if you didn't, you know now, The Hunger Games movie came out on March 23rd this year. That's right people, The Hunger Games! As in the world-wide phenomenon that is the book is now a movie. Let that sink in, The Hunger Games= totally epic book+ movie where you can see story come to life. Add it together, and you get The Hunger Games movie, A.K.A., awesomeness so epically epic it may awe you for life! Sorry, kind of excited here. Anyway, the biggest question is, "Are the book and the movie alike?" or was it Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief all over again? Seriously, Percy Jackson was a totally epic book, but the movie ruined it in our opinion. But back to the point of this review, "Are the book and the movie alike?" That's the question we are answering.

The movie was very good (in our opinion), not too many differences from the book, (and we think we can all agree, the actors were awesome!) though there were a few minor edits made, probably because the producers needed to keep it at a PG-13 rating (full story was too extreme). One of the main character differences is that Madge was completely cut out of the movie. In the movie, Katniss got the Mockingjay pin as a gift for Prim



at the Hob, instead of from Madge as she did in the book. That decision might cause some problems in the upcoming sequel Catching Fire. Another change was in the level of graphic content included. Since the studio wanted a PG-13 rating, they cut out a lot of the graphic violent shots. It's understandable. A few minor edits were the appearance of the mutts, Katniss finding Peeta and a water source faster than in the book, and the Avox girls back story being cut out. Also, there was not as much Gale, and there weren't as many tributes in the career pack as there were in the book.

But getting to the point, the movie was a tremendous success. It set a new world record on its opening weekend for making the most money on a movie that was not a sequel. The craze will continue, as The Hunger Games continues to pull in fans around the world. Suzanne Collins should be pretty proud of herself. The answer to the question:

"Are the book and the movie alike?" has been answered, and clearly, (if you were listening, which you should have been) the answer is "yes!" Other than minor changes, the movie is perfect! Happy Hunger Games, "And may the odds be ever in your favor!"

RAINY DAY FUN

By: Karol G.

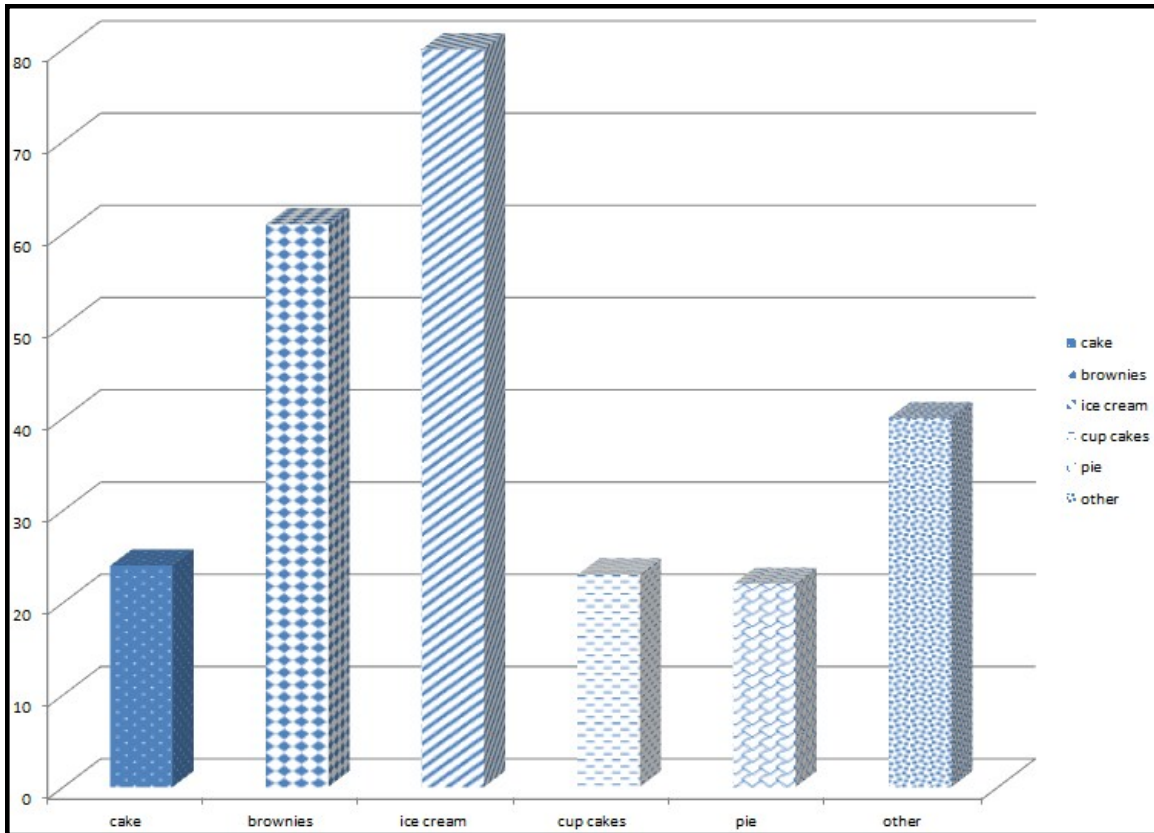


Hate those days when it's been raining all day and don't know what to do? Well this is an article for you. Here are some things you can do on rainy days:

- Turn up your radio and dance or sing to your favorite song
- Get some paint or crayons and color
- Play some board games
- Ask a parent's permission to make cookies, brownies, or cakes
- Write your own book
- Make up your own song
- Make things out of duct tape
- If you have a karaoke machine at home use it to sing songs

What's Your Favorite Dessert Spring Avenue?

By: Kathleen C. and Gabriella S.



I SPY: Can you find the hidden pictures?

By: Olivia B. and Maddie D.

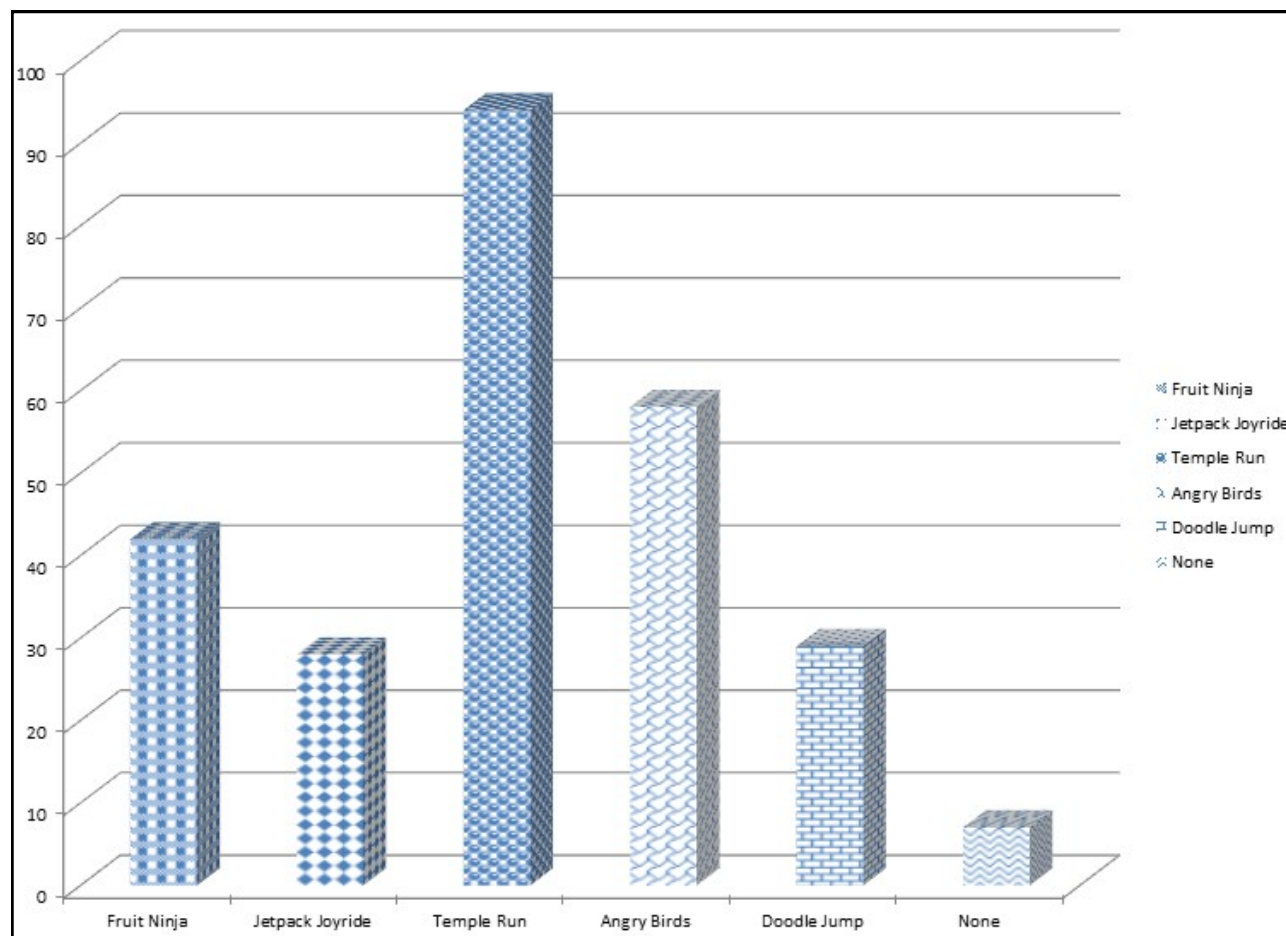


Hidden Pictures:

- ◇ A lion
- ◇ A paper clip
- ◇ A butterfly
- ◇ An egg
- ◇ A price tag
- ◇ An apple core
- ◇ A pineapple
- ◇ A crayon
- ◇ A bamboo bush
- ◇ A ghost
- ◇ A worm
- ◇ The Statue of Liberty
- ◇ A hat
- ◇ A ring
- ◇ Guinea pig
- ◇ A bone

What's your Favorite App Spring Avenue?

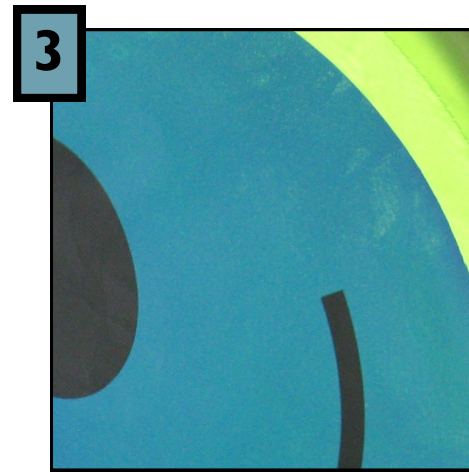
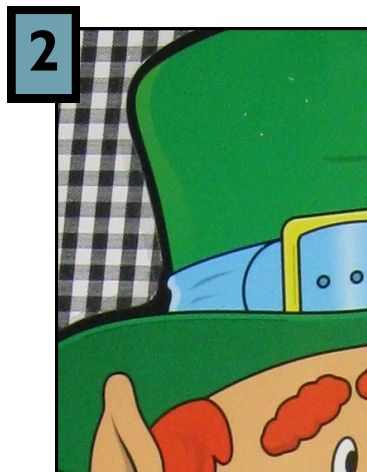
By: Jon K. and Joey P.



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

By: Alexis H. and Samantha R.

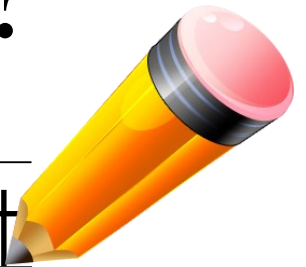
Look closely, can you guess what the objects are below? To find the answers, go to the last page. Good Luck!



Have an Idea for an Invention?

By: Jennie B.

Drawing Contest



Can you draw? Do you have an invention idea? Read this!

Did you ever have an idea for a cool invention, a flying backpack, a hat that makes juice? Well, if you draw it on blank paper and submit it to Ms. Marek by Friday May 4, and it may be in the last newspaper!

Springtime Craft: TP Roll Bee

By: Alexis H. and Samantha R.

Here's what you'll need to make a TP Roll Bee...

- Toilet paper roll (TP roll)
- Black and yellow paint (tempera or acrylic)
- Brush
- Scissors
- Google eyes or black marker
- White construction paper or cardstock

- Put your painted TP roll on the white paper and then draw your wings around the bee. Cut them out in one piece, since you will be sliding them into the roll.
- Cut 2 slits into your TP roll, opposite of each other. Then slide your bee's wings into the slits.
- Glue on your google eyes, or draw on its face with black marker.



Here's how you make your TP Roll Bee...

- Paint your entire TP roll yellow and let it dry.
- Paint on your black stripes. Leave the top of the roll yellow for the bee's face.

For this craft and other fun spring crafts, check out this website: http://www.babycenter.com/210_toilet-paper-roll-bee_15287.bc

Ask Abbey Column in Next Issue!

By: Abbey P.



Have a question? Ask me! I can give you helpful advice to help you solve your problem. All you have to do is send your question to Abbey care of jmarek@d105.net and an answer to your question will be in the next newspaper. If your question and answer is not shown look in the following edition.



Your letter must have the following:

Dear Abbey

Question

Signed, your name or initials

By: Jennie B.



Important Dates: Looking Ahead to the End of the Year!

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

April 19th: Battle of the Books

April 20th: 6th grade field trip to Robert Crown

April 28th: IGSMA State Concert Band Contest

May 1st: Midterm of the 4th Quarter

May 2nd: Choir/ Orchestra Elementary Tour

May 3rd: Choir/ Orchestra concert, Aurand Hall

May 4th: Concert Band Tour, Elementary schools

May 5th: IGSMA State Jazz Band Contest

May 6th- May 12th: TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

May 8th: Band Concert (All Bands), Aurand Hall

May 9th: PTO Meeting, 8:45 AM

May 10th: Writing Festival

May 12th: Choir/Orchestra Music Festival, Great America

May 16th: District Musical, Aurand Hall, 7:30

May 17th: District Musical, Matinee, Gr 5-8, District Musical, Aurand Hall, 7:30

May 23rd: TEACHER INSERVICE, PM

May 28th: NO SCHOOL, MEMORIAL DAY!

May 30th: Awards Assembly

May 31st: Field Day, Fun Lunch, Stepping Up, 6:30 PM

June 1st: Author Jim Aylesworth visits Spring Ave

June 4th: Ice Cream Social, 3:05 PM

June 5th: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

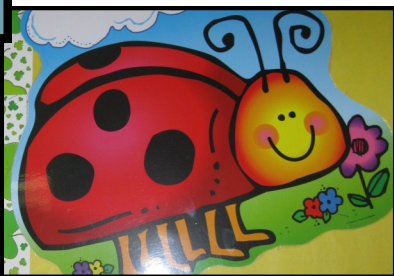


Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers



1



Ladybug

2



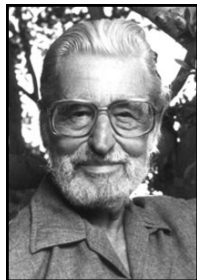
Leprechaun

3



Smiley Face

Who Am I? Dr. Seuss



Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisors:

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Tom Schoder,
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