

Clever
Quick to un-
derstand, learn



A Lion's Life

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

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Bananas, Doctors, and Ellis Island

By: Sean M.

From bananas to doctors, Ellis Island is a big part of our school for third and fourth graders

In District 105's Ellis Island, third graders learn about immigrants who came from Europe on any kind of boat. They are assigned a character that they pick randomly from a jar. The third graders learn all about immigrants and how they went through stages, such as money exchange or the doctor's check-up.

Even before the real Ellis Island everyone will know loads of information from their Social Studies classes, and will only learn more through the experience. One special station is where they go to the library, to go on the

computer, and look at the Scholastic Interactive Tour of Ellis Island.

Also, don't forget about the fourth graders. They are the people that are running the stations such as money exchange, doctors, bag inspection, and people who run the ferry boats.

One fun thing is that you get to see all your friends from lower grades, but that isn't even the best part.

The best part is you get to see all your friends from Seventh, Hodgkins, and Ideal. It's a big day with lots of activities and a great learning experience. Most of your ancestors came through Ellis Island unless you are a descendant of a Native American or Asian American. My

ancestors were Irish, but there are still lots of places that other ancestors came from, such as Germany, Switzerland, and Spain. The list goes on and on.

Students are a huge part of Ellis Island and same with the teachers. I asked Ms. McGinnis "How do you think Ellis Island will go?" and she said "Every year it goes beyond my dreams and every year it gets bigger and better."

I also asked "Did any of the characters kill someone or do any unacceptable things?" She explained that "One was accused of wrongdoing someone but was found innocent."

I asked Ms. McGinnis another question, "Are you excited?" She exclaimed, "Totally excited and I can't wait!"

Spring Avenue Alumni: Nicole Nabor

By: Olivia B.

A lot was different in 1996. There were no cell phones, gas was sold for \$1.32, but one thing remains the same, Spring Avenue is still full of engaged kids always ready to learn.

I interviewed Nicole Nabor, who graduated 6th grade from Spring Avenue in 1996. "I loved how friendly and caring the students and teachers were at school," says Nicole. She remembers walking all the way down to Gur-

rie for art, which at the time seemed quite intimidating for her. Nicole loved doing experiments a school. Her favorite was in 6th grade when everyone in her class got a crawfish to take care of.

Nicole has a sister currently in 6th grade, so she gets a chance to see Spring Avenue at school functions. "There have been many changes to the school since I have left," says Nicole. The school added many new class-

rooms, new playground equipment and of course a new playground. They have also replaced hooks that hung outside with beautiful lockers for every student.

Nicole was inspired by the teachers at Spring Avenue and decided to become a teacher herself. She teaches 4th grade at Rhodes School in River Grove. She is working to become a principal, which requires a lot of hard work and dedication.



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb

"Everybody helping everybody!" This has been our theme for December. Students have come forward with ideas to collect items for our troops, support an animal in a shelter, donate blankets, coats, books and funds from candy cane sales to those in need. In addition, we have been discussing Random Acts of Kindness all around the building and even stretching these acts out to someone you may not know very well. (Sit with someone you don't usually sit with at lunch, play a game with someone you don't know very well, pick something up for someone when you pass by, hold a door, etc.). It's gratifying to watch empathy in action and we couldn't be prouder of our Spring Avenue students!

We are also very thankful and proud of our PTO! Parents get involved in so many ways and we really couldn't do it without you. Thank you for collecting canned goods at the Variety Show, for supporting students as they perform in concerts and in class, for joining us on field trips, helping with art awareness, for dropping off some goodies for the staff, for making sure we remember to stop and appreciate all we have around us with decorations, lovely gardens and most importantly these beautiful children who come prepared to learn each and every day. We appreciate you and are so very grateful for this community of adult and children learners. It's wonderful learning together!

I wish each and every one of you a very happy and safe holiday. Times may have been challenging for you over this last year and these hard times touch more and more people. Know we are here for you and we want to help in anyway we can. Happy holidays to you and your families, however you celebrate in your home, may it be with a light heart and continual joy and wonder of children surrounding you! Safe and healthy 2012 to all!

We
appreciate
you and are
so very
grateful
for this
community
of adult
and
children
learners.
It's
wonderful
learning
together!

Favorite Football Hall of Famers

By: Nathan D.



Jim Kelly, Quarterback, Buffalo Bills.

Kelly was born February 14, 1960. He grew up in East Brady, Pennsylvania. In high school, Kelly won all state honors for 3,915 passing yards and 44 touchdowns. Jim Kelly was the third quarterback drafted in the 1983 draft. He led the Buffalo Bills to four straight Super Bowls in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, but he never won one.



Franco Harris, Fullback, Pittsburgh Steelers.

Harris was born March 7, 1950 in Fort Nix, New Jersey. He got drafted by the Steelers in 1972. He was the 13th pick overall. He had 100 TOUCHDOWNS, he caught 307 passes and rushed for an average of 5.6 yards a carry. Harris' dad served in World War II.



Joe Greene, Pittsburgh Steelers, Defensive Tackle.

Greene was born September 24, 1946 in Temple, Texas. He was the 4th pick of the 1969 NFL Draft. Greene was Rookie of the Year in 1969 and NFL Player of the Year in 1972 and 1974. In his career Greene had 78.5 sacks. An interesting fact is that when Greene played, sacks were not an official statistic. Sacks were not official recorded until 1982.



Greene had 16 fumble recoveries. He got his nickname from his college, University of North Texas, he was called the Mean Green.



Walter Payton, Chicago Bears, Running Back.

Born in Columbia, Mississippi. Payton was drafted in the first round by the Bears. In the 1977 season, Payton ran for 1,852 yards. Also in that year, he broke OJ Simpson's record for most yards in a game, rushing for 275 yards. This record stood for 23 years until Corey Dillon of the Cincinnati Bengals ran for 278 against the Broncos in 2000. Adrian Peterson currently has the record of 296 yards.



Payton played 13 seasons with the Bears. In the 1978 season he won Pro Bowl MVP.



Mike Ditka, Bears, Eagles, Cowboys, Tight End, Head Coach

Born in Carnegie, Pennsylvania on October 18, 1939. Ditka was the 5th pick in the first round of the draft. Ditka won the 1961 Rookie of the Year. In his whole career, he had 5,812 yards, 43 touchdowns and 427 receptions. As a player he led his team to three NFC/NFL Championships.



Ditka also coached the Bears to the 1986 championship where they beat the New England Patriots 46-10. In 1988 he won Coach of the Year award, and he also coached the Saints.

Geography at a Glance: The Southwest

By: Ana P.

The southwest is the driest geographical region. It stretches from the southwestern United States to Northern Mexico. The region includes mountains, mesas, canyons, and deserts. It receives little rainfall, and it has extreme temperatures.

Mesas are elevated areas of lands with flat tops and sides that are usually steep cliffs. Mesas are formed by weathering and erosion of horizontally layered rocks that have been uplifted by tectonic activity.

Cotton Cloth is what Hopi women wore to stay cool in the summer. They used plants to make many colors such as: orange, yellow, red, green, and black. The men wove the cloth for blankets and clothing.



Who Am I?

By: Olivia B.

- ? I was born on February 4, 1913.
- ? I was born in Tuskegee, Alabama.
- ? My great grandma was a slave.
- ? People called me "The Mother of the Freedom Movement."
- ? I got married in 1932.
- ? I worked for NAACP.
- ? In 1999 I won the Medal of Honor.
- ? I died in October of 2005.

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



Facts about Bats

By: Violet M.

- ◆ The white winged vampire bat prefers the blood of birds. This bat also can carry rabies.
- ◆ The common vampire bat does not live in Illinois. The common vampire bat is found in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- ◆ Not all bats drink blood like the vampire bat. Many bats eat insects, which means they are insectivores.
- ◆ The smallest bat is a bumble bee bat.
- ◆ The biggest bat is the fox bat.



Top 5 Deadliest Animals

By: Jon K. and Joey P.

The Box Jellyfish

This deep sea swimmer has a deadly sting and toxins attack the heart, nervous system and your skin cells. Plus, the pain of the sting is so powerful that if you got stung in the water you would go into shock and drown before you could swim to the shore. Also called the sea wasp, unlike other jellyfish it can stride through water instead of floating.



Great White Shark

It is one of the biggest sharks in the world.

When it smells blood it gets really excited and uses all of its 3,000 teeth to chomp on anything that moves. They are torpedo-shaped with powerful tails that can shoot them through the water at up to 15 miles per hour. They sometimes mistake humans for seals.



Blue Ringed Octopus

This tiny demon is only the size of a pea at birth and the size of a golf ball as a fully grown adult. Despite its size its little bird-like beak can tear through your wetsuit! After being bitten by one, you will feel nausea and your vision will blur, seconds later you are entirely blinded. The worst is, when you lose your sense of touch, then can't talk or swallow! After 3 minutes you are paralyzed and are unable to breathe. You can only see its rings when it's too late.



Saltwater Crocodile

They have three eyelids; they use two for swimming because they can see through the two eyelids. Their diet consists of birds, fish, crabs, insects, snails and frogs. They are more likely to flee than bother humans. When it prowls through the water for prey, its eyes and nostrils are only visible, apart from its usual 22 cm snout. You can find them in: Everglades of Florida, Southern Mexico, the Caribbean, and Northern, Southern, and Central America.



Poison Dart Frog

When its back oozes neurotoxins it has enough toxins to kill 10 men. Although it's only about the size of a tennis ball it is an extremely deadly animal. Its vivid colors are a warning to larger predators to keep away.



Movie Review: *Puss in Boots*

By: Meredith B.

Puss N Boots is a great family film. We first met the character, Puss, in the second *Shrek* film, as a villain for hire. This film goes back to Puss's beginning to tell the story of how Puss became the sword fighting kitty cat with a big heart.

The movie includes several classic nursery rhyme characters, but the story focuses on Jack & Jill, and Humpty Dumpty. In *Puss in Boots*, Jack & Jill and Humpty are not the characters we remember, they are just the opposite, mean and conniving, trying to find the magic

beans from Jack and the Bean Stalk to find the goose that lays the golden eggs. We also meet a new character, Kitty Soft Paws, who catches Puss's attention.

I enjoyed this movie, especially the telling of how Puss and Humpty met as children in an orphanage and became "brothers." The movie has something for all ages, but most importantly it has a great moral of friendship and how you should always believe in yourself.

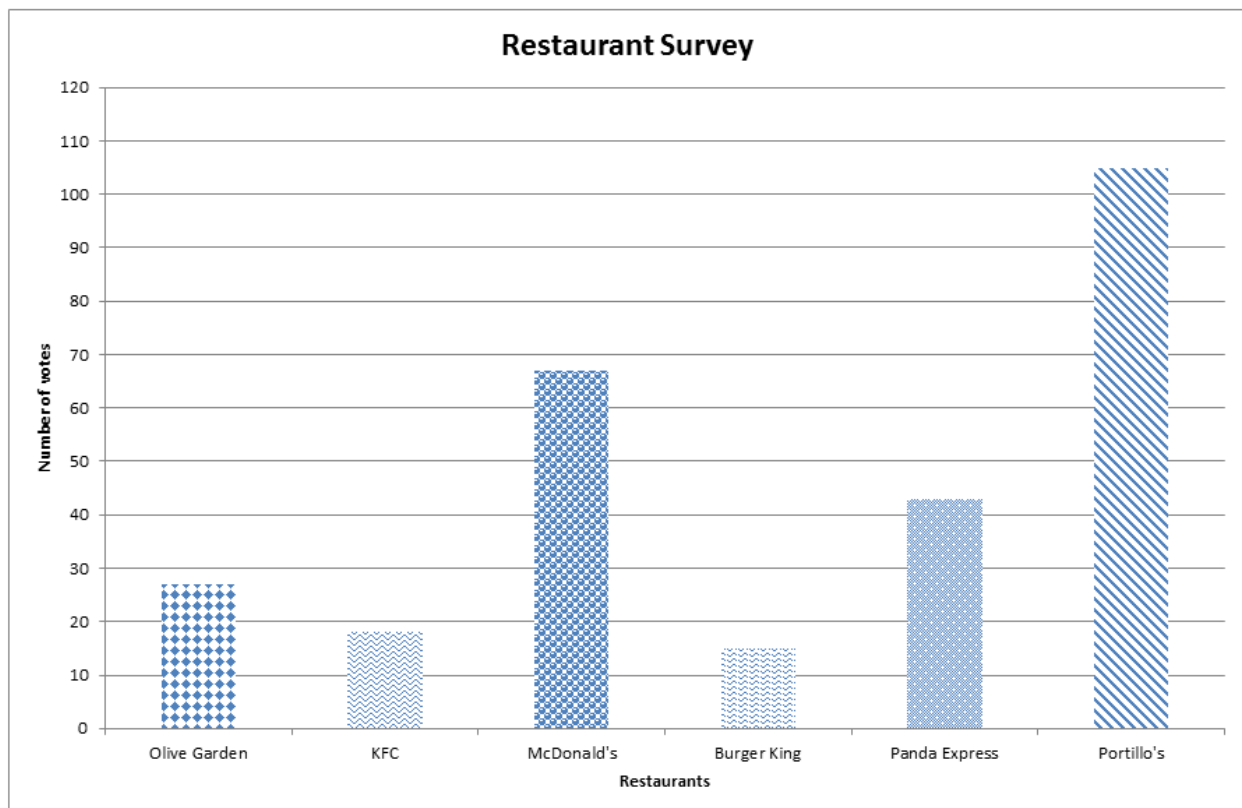


I give it 2 thumbs up!



What is Your Favorite Restaurant?

By: Ana P.



Teacher Spotlight

Ms. Klecka

By: Angelina G. and Natalia Z.



Ms. Klecka was born in Hinsdale, IL, and went to school at Trinity Lutheran College in Burr Ridge, IL. Life growing up for her was fun. Some activities she did were playing music a lot, basketball, volleyball, softball, and running. She also took dance class and ballet. Ms. Klecka started playing violin at about 3 years of age. She has one older sister that works at the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Klecka has a dog that is one and a half years old, and his name is Indie. He is a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever.

Ms. Klecka has many accomplishments, but a big one is that she completed 5 years of college in 4 years. It was challenging and she had to work very hard.

One moment of her life that was her happiest was when she graduated college and got a job. Throughout her life, Ms.

Klecka has learned that she has to be patient, work hard at things she loves to do, and stay connected to friends and family. She is connected to her family and friends, and she is glad. Something Ms. Klecka is proud of is that she is still playing her instrument. When she was younger, she imagined that she would be a performer, but instead she became an orchestra teacher. She still performs and teaches, so really she is doing the best of both worlds. Ms. Klecka's favorite instrument is the violin.

Her orchestra teacher inspired Ms. Klecka to become a teacher when he had her tutor three kids in violin when she was 16.

Classical music and classic rock are her favorite types of music. One reason Ms. Klecka really likes classic rock is because her father would play his guitar all the time in her house when she was growing up.

Ms. Hillgamyer

By: Karol G.



If you want to know about Ms. Hillgamyer well here you can learn why she loves art. She teaches 1st and second grade art and 8th grade math she says it's difficult but she has a lot of fun with them.

As you can see Ms. Hillgamyer's favorite subject is art, her favorite color is green, and her favorite artist is Banksy, he does street art but in a good way! She loves to give to her students a stain glass window for an art project. At one time, she wanted to be a Biology teacher because she loves nature, but then she found out that her passion was art.

You might be asking yourself what does Ms. Hillgamyer do out of school? Well, she likes to play Scrabble with her friends, go snowboarding, eat Mexican food, listen to "Hotel California," and the band The Eagles.

She also loves to read on her Kindle, watch the Bears play football, and the show "Buffy The Vampire Slayer." Ms. Hillgamyer loves to be with her family for the holidays. Her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving.

Looking forward to Winter Break

By: Kathleen C. and Alexis H.

Have you ever wondered what your teachers do over winter break? Well, now you can find out! Over winter break Mrs. B is having family over for a party and getting ready for the holidays. Mrs. B likes a medium amount of snow.

Mrs. Zale, on the other hand, is going to travel to Paradise Valley and loves snow because she likes to ski.

Mrs. Dahlin is celebrating the holidays with her family. She is going to enjoy the sun and warm weather in Palm Springs.

Ms. Folliard is going to spend time with her family. Ms. Folliard is also going to go out on a pancake breakfast with her nieces and nephews.

One of our awesome 6th grade teachers, Ms. Wanta, wants to read and relax. She is going to spend time with

her family. She does not like snow.

One of our gym teachers Ms. Lenardi is going to Colorado, and is going to work out. She is also going to spend time with family, and she is looking forward to sleeping in. Ms. Lenardi loves snow.

Now our very favorite secretary, Mrs. Jones, doesn't like snow that much. She loves winter break because she has time to do things she wants.

Ms. Eck, like Mrs. Jones, doesn't like snow that much. Ms. Eck doesn't know what she is doing yet, but likes to relax and snowshoe over the winter break.

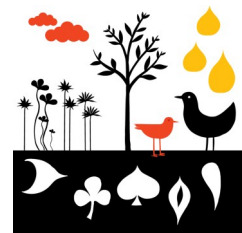
Mrs. Daly, on the other hand, likes snow and is organizing her house over winter break. Mrs. Daly's favorite thing about winter break is not having to wake up early in the winter.

Some students from 1st grade,

such as Adam K., said that he likes snow and Christmas. Isabella A. said that she also likes snow, and she likes presents. Katie H., in second grade, said that she likes snow and enjoys making snowmen. Anna W. from second grade said she likes snow and likes presents. Keegan C., just like most of the other kids, said that she likes snow. Keegan also likes Christmas. Trenton V. in third grade said that he likes snow and he also likes having snowball fights. In fourth grade, Aiden S. and Elizabeth T. both like snow, but Elizabeth likes opening presents the best. Jane M., in fifth grade, likes snow, like Jackson P., and she likes to build things in snow. Jackson also likes to have snowball fights. Two sixth graders, Sophie D. and Maddie D. both like snow, but Maddie likes seeing the tree and Sophie likes having no school.

Nature: A Poem

By: Nicole C.



A breeze across the sand, sunlight beating down on my face, it brings joy and laughter,

Something you never want to erase, when a meadow's in bloom, when marine life's

Flourishing, as the stars shine so bright, in the deep dark night, a flame burns with

Fluorescent colors, and shines with hopeful rejoicing, a brook has clean blue crisp water,

It roars down the river like strong powerful horses afraid of nothing and never holding back,

The sun is bright and shining, bold and daring, playful and caring; it illuminates the world, to help life grow,

Earth is very gutsy, but really quite humble, usually it's really kind, but it can give you quite a tumble, Air is

something powerful and strong, but most importantly free, it can go

Anywhere it pleases, flying to the north, south, west, or the east, anywhere its curious attitude wills it to go,

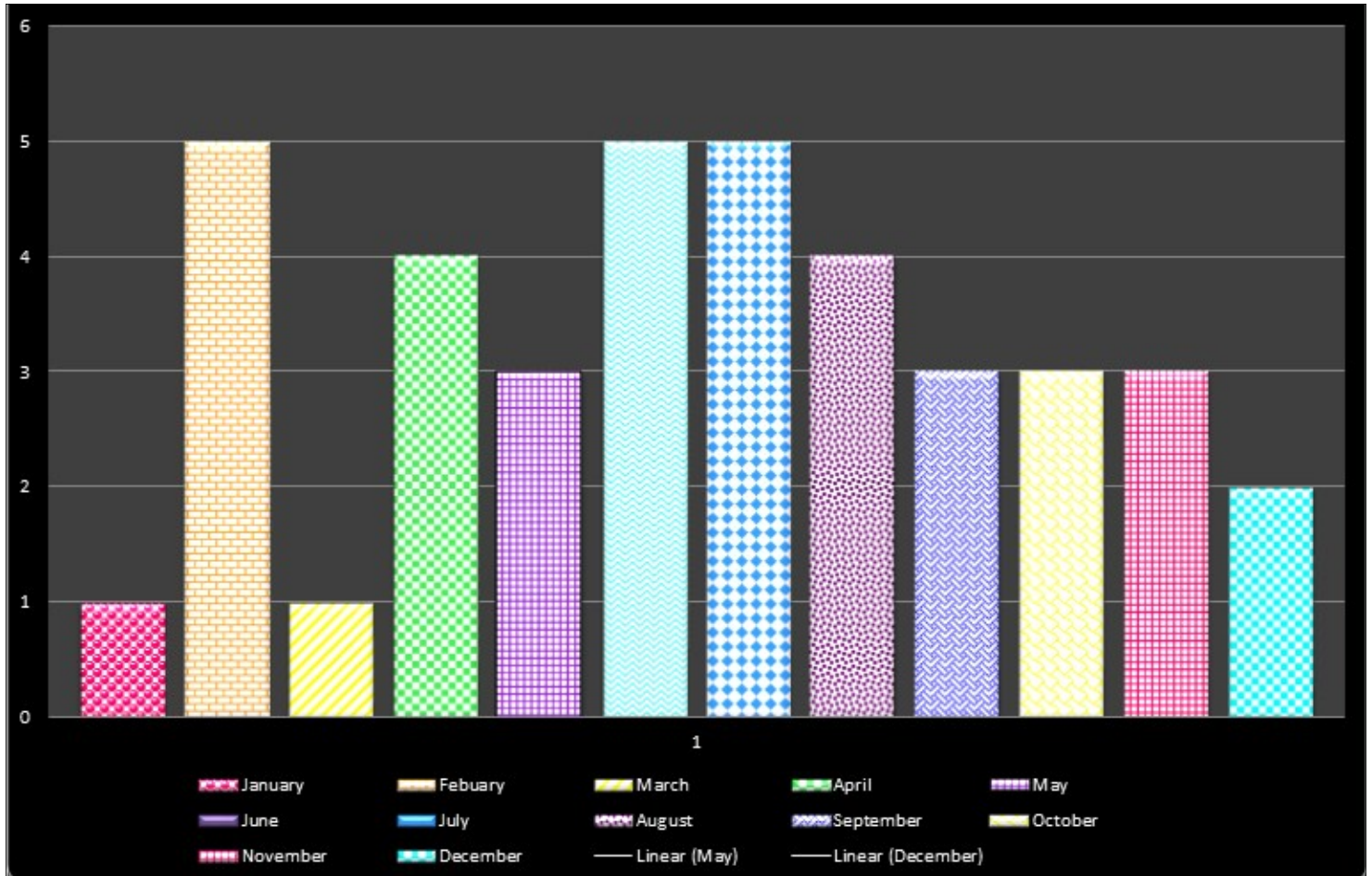
blowing rapidly, eroding rock or giving passengers a cool breeze while crossing through the desert, all the

forces of nature are great, because they all come from

EARTH

Spring Avenue Teacher Birthday Graph

By: Olivia B., Clare C., and Danielle N.



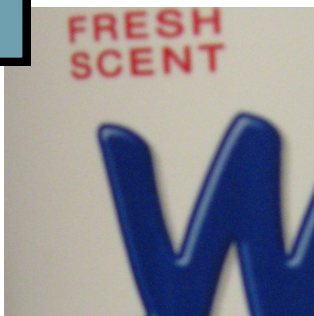
Zoom, Zoom, Zoom



By MacKenzie B. and Rowan C.

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

1



2



3



Movie Review: *Soul Surfer*

By: Samantha R., Gabby S., and Allison T.

Surfs up! This is a story about a girl named Bethany Hamilton.

At first, Bethany was having a normal day at the beach when suddenly... Snap!! A shark attacked. Bethany and her friend were screaming! Then when Bethany's brother and her coach got her on land they realized Bethany's whole left arm was gone. The shark bit the whole arm straight off! Then they put her on the surf board and took off to the car to bring Bethany to the hospital.

The doctor had to break it to Bethany that things would be very different. The doctor said that since her arm was gone she could not do a lot of things. When Bethany got home she realized that the doctor was right. She could not do all the simple things like brushing her teeth and cutting apples.

An advertiser called the Hamiltons and gave Bethany a hope that would soon disappoint her—it was a fake arm.



When she tried it on and surfed with the arm, it did not work. Then she threw it on the ground and walked away, and that was the end of the fake arm. But that accident gave Bethany a new goal. Bethany decided to keep surfing so she entered in the upcoming surfing competition.

These are things we loved about the movie...

- Allison liked all the action in the movie, and she also liked how it was based on the true story.
- Gabby liked the special effects and the

message it told.

- Samantha liked that Bethany did not give up and that she is still surfing today.

In summary this story is about a girl who follows her dream and never gives up even though she only has one arm.

Watch The Movie !

Lost and Found

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

Blue Lunchbox

Orange Vest

Gray Jacket

Red Jacket

Black Vest

Blue Hoodie

Blue Knit Vest

Black Sweater

Blue Coat

Red Gap Hoodie

Gray Hoodie (5)

White Nike Hoodie

Gray and Blue Hoodie

Hair accessories

Black, blue, pink glove

Striped Pink Glove

Yellow "Dear Lisa"

Bracelet

Batman water bottle

Helmet

Camelback water bottle

Pink Sweater

"Oh the Places You'll Go" Shirt

North Face Glove

Sox hat

Blue gloves

White hat

Lunchbox

Green water bottle

Black Gloves

White lunch Box

Black Hat

Green Gloves

Grey Gloves

Pink Gloves

Black Gloves with orange circle pattern

Black and Blue Gloves

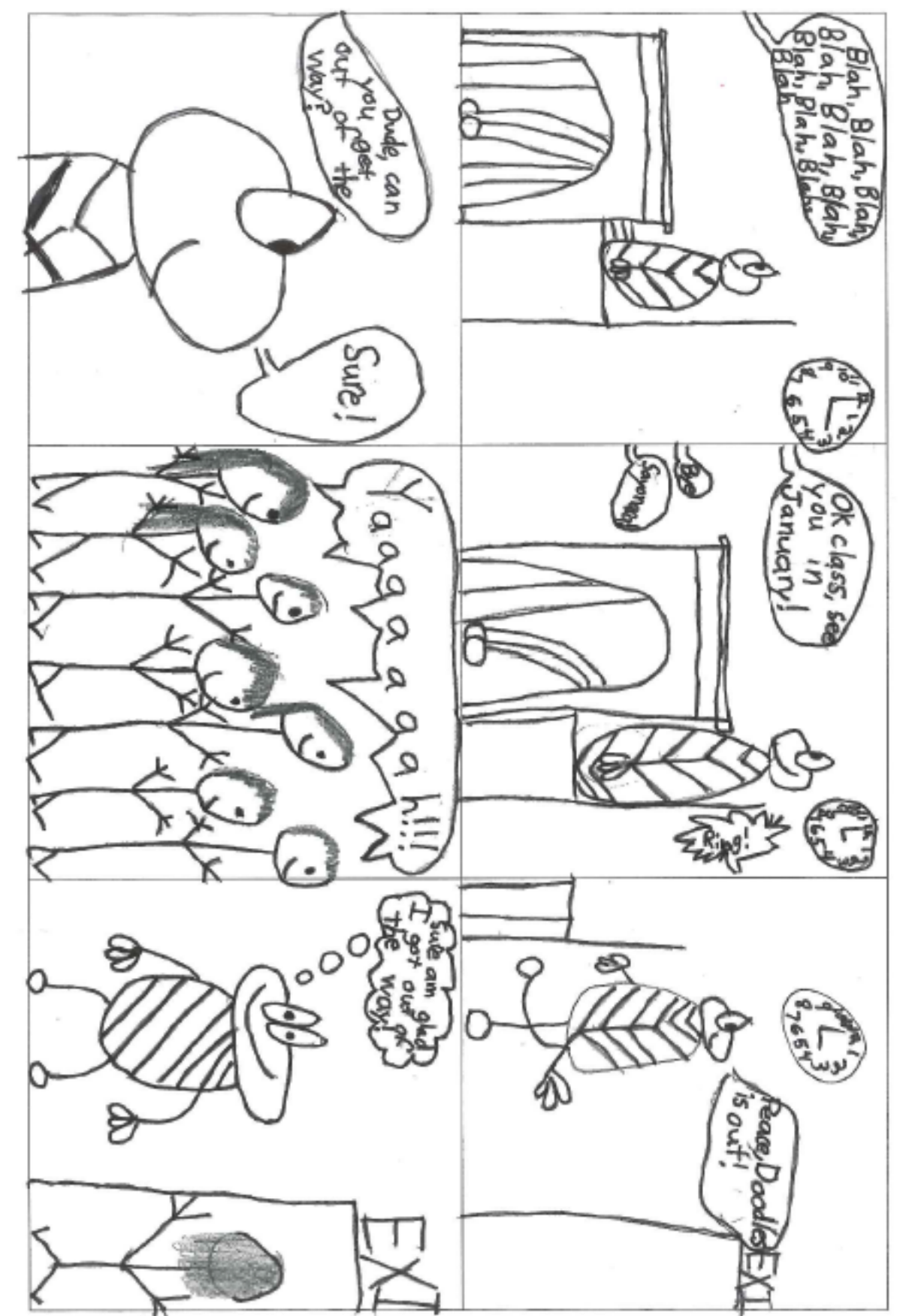
Glasses with case

Please visit the office or call Mrs. Jones if you believe any of these items belong to you.



Comic

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.



By: Clare C.



Important Dates

By: MacKenzie B. and Danielle N.

December 23- January 8- Winter Break

January 9 - Classes resume

January 13- Family Fun Night

January 16- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School

January 18- Fun Lunch

January 18- PTO Meeting 7:00n p.m.

January 20- End of second quarter

January 25- Teacher In-Service, early dismissal

January 25- Wilma Rudolph Assembly, 9:30 AM

January 28 - PTO, Adult social

February 7- Early dismissal/ Parent teacher conference

February 9-Early dismissal /Parent teacher conference

February 14 - Valentine's Day Parties

February 16-Music program/Open house grades K-3

February 20- Presidents Day, No school

February 23-Music program/Open house grades 4-6



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers



1

Wet Ones Wipes



2

Office Copy Machine



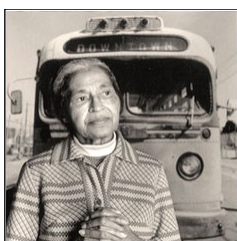
3

Dry Erase Markers



Who Am I?

Rosa Parks



Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!

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Devon W.
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Lion's Life
would like to
give a special
thank you to

Tom Schoder,
LT Senior

MaryCate Most,
LT Junior

for their help
and support.