

Monumental

Great in importance,
extent, or size.



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School

12 / 12 / 2012

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Leadership Club Begins at Spring

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

We got together with Mrs. Webb to ask her about a new club rising from the already high kingdom of Spring Avenue.

We asked Mrs. Webb about different aspects of the new leadership club. When we asked her where she got the idea for leadership club, she said, "It came from this group of kids, because there are so many leaders in this group (6th Graders). We wanted to make a sort of student council, but to help them

become bigger leaders." We also asked her what the leadership club does throughout the year. Her response was, "Activities that they come up with that represent the left-side banner in the gym."

Next, we asked her who can be in leadership club. Her response was simple, "Any sixth grader who would like to participate in leadership activities may join." The final question we asked was what makes a leader? After some thought, she replied that

a leader is, "Someone who has ideas to make things better and can lead others to action." Some things the leadership club will be doing in the future are sending relief supplies to Hurricane Sandy victims, raising awareness of animal cruelty, and other cool stuff. Any 6th grader out there reading this, has the potential to be a leader. Do something about it! Join Leadership Club! To join, contact Mrs. Webb, Ms. Ahern, or Ms. Melone.

Spring Avenue Tales of Teachers' Pasts

By: Sarah L. and Melissa R.

Have you ever wondered what your teacher did before they started teaching you? We found out about some Spring teachers' pasts.

Ms. Daly was a D105 SAIL teacher. It was hectic but interesting for Ms. Daly to be a SAIL teacher because she travelled to different schools and did not have her own classroom. The best part was getting to know kids and teaching at different schools. Mrs. Daly changed to a 2nd grade teacher because she missed having her own classroom. Her least favorite part about teaching SAIL was carrying stuff from school to school. She likes teaching 2nd grade better than SAIL because she gets to know kids a little bit better. While teaching SAIL, Mrs. Daly got to do

accelerated math and advanced reading.

Mrs. Webb was a 3rd grade teacher in Salt Lake City, Utah and Naperville, Illinois. Her favorite thing about being a 3rd grade teacher was that she got to teach the children the "big kid" stuff. Her least favorite thing about being a 3rd grade teacher was grading papers. She wanted to work with all grades. She likes both jobs.

Ms. Faldani was a Technology and Differentiation teacher in D105. The best part was working with different grades and different students. Her least favorite part about teaching technology was not always finishing projects. Mrs. Faldani liked both parts of this job a lot. She changed to being a 4th grade

teacher because she wanted to work with one group of students all year long.

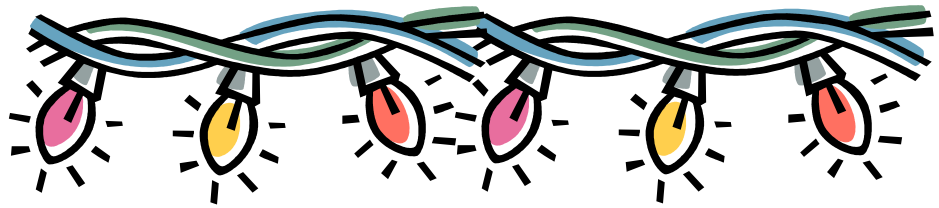
Mrs. Manganello was a 3rd grade teacher at Spring Avenue. Her favorite part was Ellis Island, Apple Valley, and working with Miss McGinnis. She changed to being a reading specialist because after she had her son, AJ, she was ready for a change. She likes both jobs equally. There was no part that she did not like about 3rd grade. She chose 3rd grade because there was an opening.

Here are a few more teachers who had other teaching jobs: Ms. Folliard — 4th grade at Spring, Ms. Charlton — 5th grade at Spring, Mrs. Gorman — 4th grade at Ideal, and Mrs. Haymes — 5th grade at Spring.



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



In District 105, we have driving questions that help us as we plan our lessons for all students. Back in the day, long ago, teachers simply followed the set lesson plans in the teacher's edition and then students went along with the flow. For the past while, we have realized the value and importance of meeting students where they are and moving all students forward. Therefore, we ask ourselves these questions:

What do we want our students to know?
(based on the Common Core, core curriculum,
unit concepts, etc.)

How will we know if they have learned this?

What will we do if they haven't learned this?

What will we do if they already know this?

From here, we group our students according to their needs for these major concepts. Then we mix in what kind of learners the students are. Are they auditory, visual, kinesthetic? We make plans for mixing methods to meet those learning styles. Then we look at appropriate grouping and worthwhile methods of building upon this knowledge. Should we group by abilities, learning styles, rate of learning, interest areas, for example? All along, we are working at using the best ways to engage each child, help each child, and move each child ahead.

As a learning team, we are working to help students understand their individual goals, strengths and abilities, as well as learning styles when appropriate. Feel free to talk to your child/children about their individual goals. They may have lengthy descriptions of their goals in writing, reading, and math, as well as socially and behaviorally. We are seeing more confident students grasp at exciting learning opportunities as they grow in this knowledge of their learning power! Let us know what you discover when talking to your child/children!

We wish each and every one of our Spring Avenue Families a very Merry, Joy-filled, Safe and Wonder-filled Holiday! Thank you for sharing the gift of your child with us every single day!

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knowledge
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learning
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The Latest Buzz on Greek Mythology

By Jennifer B. and Devon W.

Do you want to know about some famous gods who are actually quite rowdy and a little wrong in the head? This is the perfect Greek god article for YOU!

In the classical Greek myths, there were 12 Olympian gods and goddesses. But, like always times have changed A LOT. Now, there are several minor gods and goddesses, for instance: Nemesis, Hebe, Iris, Janus, Asclepius, Enyo, Eros, Nyx, Pan, Persephone, Thanatos, Khione, and many, many more. There are WAY too many to name if you want to have this article less than 200 pages. So we are just going to be focusing on the 12 main Olympians. The “Big Three” or the three superior gods (for the most part) are Zeus: Lord of the sky, Poseidon: lord of water, and Hades: lord of the dead. The other gods and goddesses are: Hera, Aphrodite, Hephaestus, Dionysus, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, and Hermes. Hestia is also technically an Olympian. But she didn’t have a throne, seeing as how she gave hers up for Dionysus. Hades’ throne is in his palace in the underworld, not on Olympus, but he is still too major to not be considered an Olympian. Olympians are the 12 major gods, by the way.

Hera is the goddess of marriage and family. She is also Zeus’ wife. Her sacred animal is the peacock. Aphrodite is the goddess of love and beauty. She is married to Hephaestus, but she is often disloyal, clearly showing a preference towards Ares. Hephaestus is the god of blacksmithing. When he was born, he was so ugly that his mother, Hera, threw him off Olympus. He was raised by nymphs, and he grew to become a blacksmith, or metal worker. Dionysus

is the god of spirits and madness. He is a son of Zeus, and he was always a somewhat rouge god. He is particularly angered by those who refused to worship him properly as a god. (Although who really would want to praise such a malicious, crazy god in the first place?) Dionysus’s followers [the Maenads] are vicious, young women who often get crazy and act quite like him with the insanity and all. Ares is the god of war, and particularly brutal. He has a liking towards Aphrodite; he is powerful and proud. Though he has some bad qualities, he is a strong warrior and a vicious ally, definitely someone you want on your side in a fight. Athena is the goddess of wisdom and battle strategy. Her sacred animal is the owl; she was born from Zeus’ skull.

And Poseidon is the god of seas. His parents are Kronos the god of time and Rhea. He is a brother to the gods Zeus, Hades, Hestia, and Hera. The gods have this habit of marrying their own children and siblings. (Be warned that these stories have been passed around a lot and may have been varied a lot from stories you may have heard. They are all the same basic story though.) The gods fought a full scale war against their own parents. Their parents tried to kill them. They threw their parents and elder family members into Tartarus (a big pit or sort of “jail” for the ancient Greek powerful dangerous beings), and by the way, there’s a god of just about everything in case you were wondering.

So that’s the latest buzz on Greek myths! This article was all just our views on these myths. There may be other stories out there that are a little different. Thanks for reading!



Check Out These Wacky School Facts!

By Nayeli V.



Largest school by pupils is in India. City Montessori School has 39,437, pupils ages 2-5.



The world’s greenest school is the Bali Green School. This school is literally outside. They drink fresh water and they reuse almost everything to try to save the environment.



The world’s oldest school is Chengdu Shishu High School in China. It was built in 143-141 BC.



The world’s oldest teacher, is Father Schneider who is 100 years old. He lives and teaches junior high and high school in Australia.



The world’s smallest school is in Dasu village, Longjing in China. This school only has one student and one teacher!



The world’s youngest teacher is Adora Svitak. She started teaching adults at age 12. She can’t get a teaching job because she is still too young, but she does teach some classes using a web cam.



Book Reviews



Among the Hidden: Book One in Series

By: Elizabeth T.

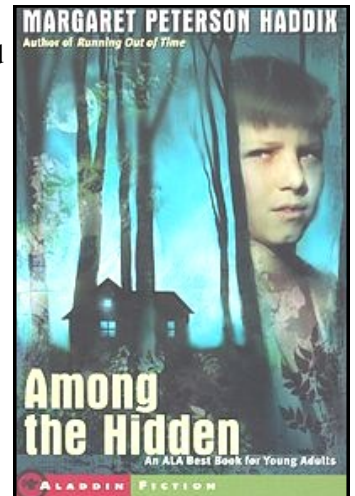
Up in the attic of a house far into the woods laid a boy...

This boy's name is Luke. He has two brothers, and cannot go to school because he'd get caught and could get killed. Luke is not even supposed to be alive because in this science fiction story, families can only have two children and can't have any pets because the government thinks that all the food will be gone soon.

Luke is very lonely up in his room and can barely sneak in a meal with his family. One day he sees a girl in his neighbor's window, but the thing he didn't understand was that in his neighbor's house there were already two boys. So one day when his brothers were at school and his mom and dad were out of the house, he went across the street and went through the back door of the neighbor's house. They met, and Luke found

out that her name was Jen, and she was also forbidden. Jen and Luke became good friends and continued to see each other a lot. Jen had an idea to go to the government with a lot of other kids like her and protest for their right to go to school and not be forbidden.

If you want to know what happens next, check out this book at the Spring Avenue library. The book is written by Margaret Peterson Haddix, and is the first book a series called The Shadow Children.

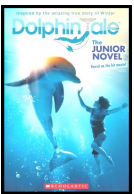


What We're Reading at Spring Avenue

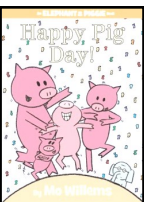
By: Joanie M. and Alejandra M.



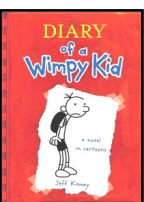
Kindergarten AM, Devin W. — Scooby Doo



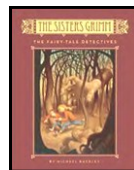
Kindergarten PM, Kate C. — Dolphin Tale



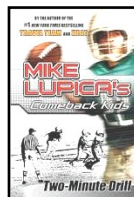
1st Grade, Annie P. — Happy Pig Day



2nd Grade, Adam K. — Diary of a Wimpy Kid



3rd Grade, Calista O. — Sisters Grimm #1



4th Grade, Jonathan H. — Two Minute Drill



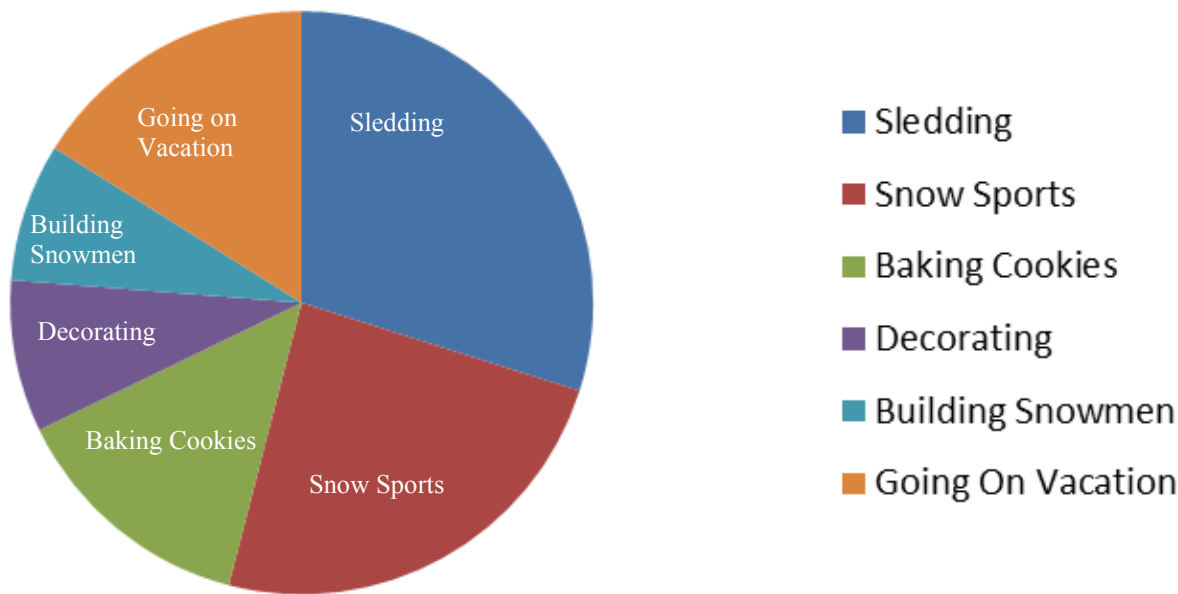
5th Grade, Abby F. — Every Soul a Star



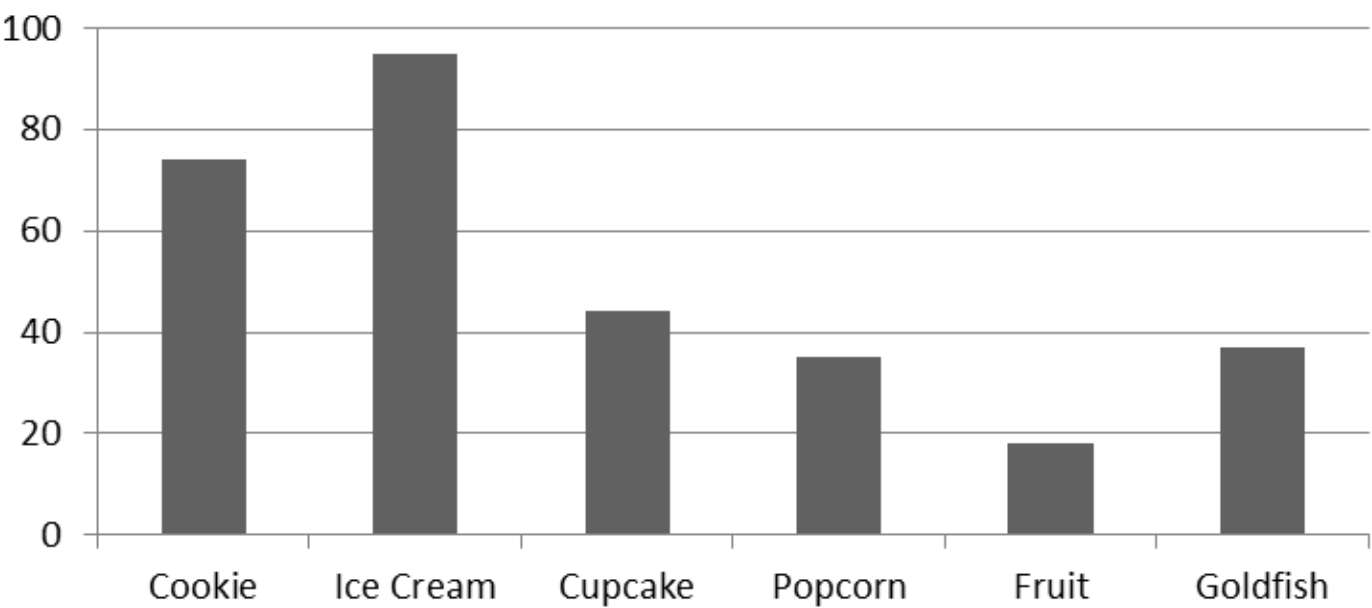
6th grade, Luka B. — The Lost Hero

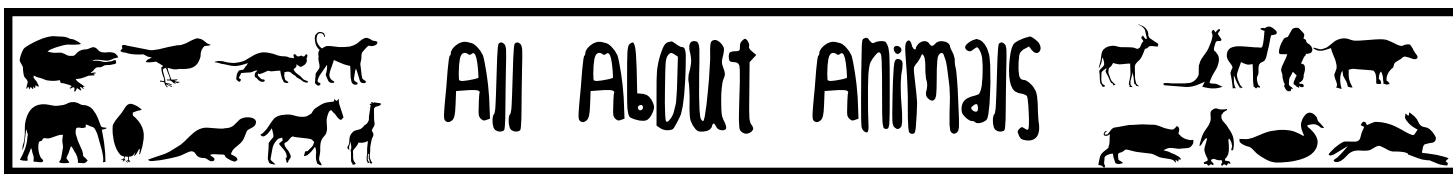
We Asked You Spring Avenue!

What Do You Do During Winter Break? By Elizabeth T.



What is your Favorite Snack? By Abbey P.



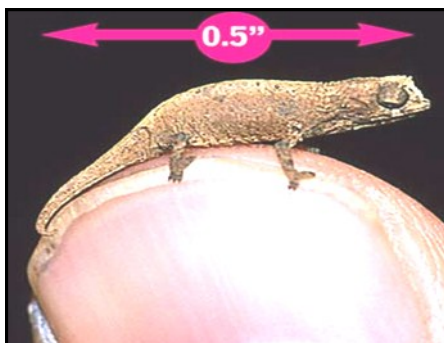


Animal Facts: Crazy But True

By: Sam M. and Will T.

TINIEST ANIMAL

The Dwarf Chameleon is one of the world's smallest animals, and is an endangered species. The maximum length of a dwarf chameleon is 16mm. They are found primarily in Madagascar.



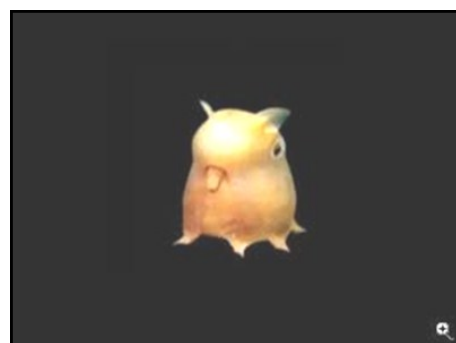
MOST FEARED ANIMAL

The Megalodon is three times larger than a great white shark, but now is extinct. It once bit off the head off a sperm whale.



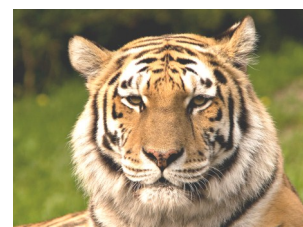
WEIRDEST ANIMAL

The Dumbo Octopus is a crazy little octopus that floats above the sea floor looking for crab-like animals.



Endangered Species Spotlight: Tigers

By Angelina G.



Some of you may know that the whole tiger species is endangered; they're hunted for their fur and other body parts that can be used in traditional medicines. Their habitat has dwindled because humans are taking their land. The scientific name for tigers is *Panthera Tigris*. Habitats for tigers can be found in India and southeast parts of Asia. These wild cats can live up to 26 years.

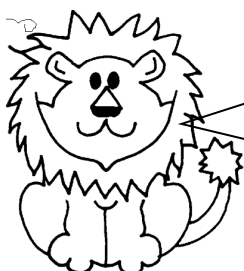
There were eight different species of tigers, but now there are only five. Caspian, Bali, and Javan tigers are extinct. They're the largest wild cats in the world. Tigers weigh up to 720 pounds, stretch 6 feet long, and have a 3 foot long tail. If tigers live in cold northern areas they are bigger and heavier than tigers that live in tropical habitats.

Tigers wait until dark to hunt and can see well in the dark. Their meals consist of deer, turtles, frogs, buffalo, or antelope. In just one meal they can consume about 12 pounds of meat. Tigers can eat up to 60 pounds of meat in one night. Male tigers are larger than females. To cool off, tigers soak in streams or pools of water. You might not think that tigers swim well, but they do. Females usually have one to six cubs per litter.

Fun Fact

No two tigers have exactly the same pattern of strips!

Next Endangered Species Spotlight: GIANT PANDA!

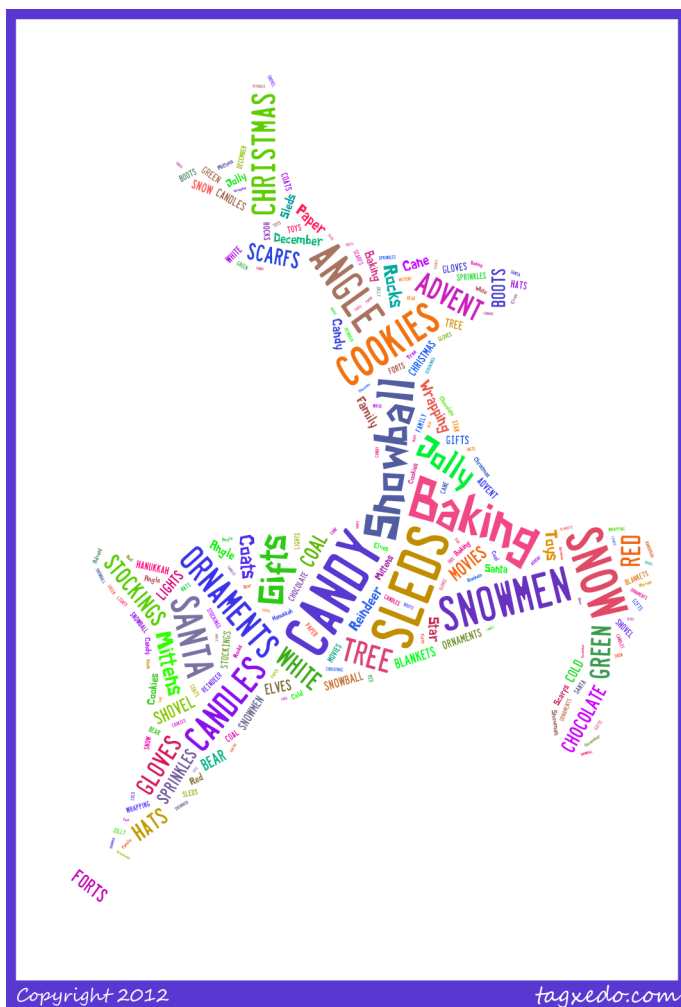


Hey, 4th-6th graders,
there is still time to
join Newspaper Club!
Talk to Ms. Marek or
Mrs. Faldani!

Holiday Tagxedo

(make your own at www.tagxedo.com)

By: Alexis H. and Allison T.



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tagxedo.com

HOW TO BUILD A SNOW FORT

By: Daniel C.

Have you ever been bored and had nothing to do until the holidays? If it snows, you can make a snow fort! Snow forts are ways of getting outside and active in the winter months.



The first things you need are a shovel, and something that you can carry snow on. This next part is fairly simple: you should pile up snow with your shovel until you think that you could fit inside the pile. I usually use a sled to collect snow because you can slide it anywhere. When you have that part completed, take your shovel back out and dig through the pile of snow. You should dig through it as soon as you can because it will freeze overnight. When you have that completed, scrape the inside until it is smooth and roomy.



When you know how to do that part, you can make pretty much any snow fort that comes to your mind. Last year I made a huge snow fort, with multiple rooms. It lasted for a couple of months, before it melted. All you have to do is get outside and who knows what you could make.

Holiday Garland Craft

By: Samantha R. and Gabby S.

This wonderful Christmas garland will spruce up your holiday Christmas tree and give your family an even more beautiful tree to look at until Santa's visit. Below there will be the directions to make this beautiful garland.

You will need:

Colored Construction paper (any color you want)
Hole punch
Yarn or twine

The steps for this craft are:

- Cut your paper into 1" strips.
- Fold each strip accordion style

- Punch a hole through the entire accordion.
- Thread into yarn or twine, alternating colors.
- Tie at the ends and you're ready to decorate your tree!

P.S. if you like you can decorate the strips of paper with designs or stickers or even scrap-book paper.

Now you are ready to start decorating your Christmas tree!



A Winter Comic

By: Joise B.





This Holiday's Hottest Toys

By Olivia W.

Got anything on your "Holiday Wish List"? Here are some suggestions from www.amazon.com



Number one on this list is LeapFrog LeapPad2 Explorers, the #1 tablet for kids: It just got better with more memory! (Capture your world in 2 ways with front & back cameras/video recorders! Trace, create and play with your finger or the stylus on the 5 touch screen.) Try this amazing electronic that can take kids exploring!



Number two on Amazon's suggestion list is, Alex All Duct Out: Fab, fashion fun!! Includes 8 rolls of duct tape to make belts, jewelry, headbands, purses, and much, much more! This can bring out girls' imagination in designing!



The third hottest toy on Amazon's list is Spy Net Ultra Night Vision: Spy Net's original award-winning technology: see up to 50 feet in complete darkness. For the first time ever, switch from Night Vision mode to Daytime Surveillance to spy day or night.



Amazon's fourth choice for kids is Mattel Princess Cinderella Transforming Pumpkin Carriage: Inspired by the Disney animated movie, CINDERELLA. Girls will love creating their favorite scenes from the movie.



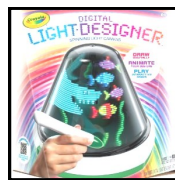
Fifth on the list is, Nerf Laser Tag Twin Pack: Battle in a Solo Campaign, Team Campaign or Multiplayer Battle. Pack includes 2 blasters, 2 iPhone/iPod Cradles, Lazer iPhone and iPod skins along with a Game Guide.



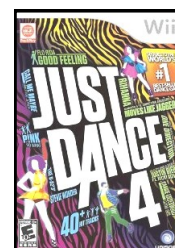
The sixth hottest holiday toy on Amazon is Fisher-Price Master Moves Mickey (M3): M3 wows his audience with 360 spins and his signature one-handed handstand, the Windmill. Little kids love the original Disney Mickey Mouse and will LOVE this awesome toy.



The seventh on the top list is Mattel WWE Brawlin' Buddies: A soft pillow you can lay your head down on to take a nap. This toy is soft enough to squeeze but bold enough to throw down. Boys from 3-6 grades will love this toy if they are into wrestling.



Eighth on Amazon's suggestion list is Crayola Light Designer: You can create your own masterpiece with colorful lights. Parents love this toy because they don't have to clean up. The round dome you draw on challenges kids' creativity.



Amazon's ninth suggestion is Ubisoft Just Dance 4 for Wii, Xbox and PS3: Top of the charts - Just Dance 4 has more than 40 all-new songs, between current Billboard hits, all-time favorites, and dance party tracks! Just Dance-Off! - Challenge your friends in 6 rounds of dance battles with the new battle mode!! Bring Your Crew - Each player can get his own moment to be a star with unique choreographies and moves for each member of your dance crew. Just Sweat It Out - The popular Just Sweat mode gets a huge upgrade with brand new workout sessions, personalized programs, and live feedbacks.



Next (10th on the list) is Color Splasherz Design Station: This AWESOME toy includes, 1 Design Station 15 Color Splasherz beads, 4 color-change pendants and settings, 135 non color-change beads 4 necklaces, 4 bracelets, 1 sticker sheet and activity sheet. Girls will love this toy to make their own jewelry and show it off to all their friends!



Amazon's 11th suggestion is LEGO Ninjago 9450 Epic Dragon Battle: This is a great fun LEGO toy for kids from the ages 7-10. This LEGO set includes 2 minifigures, a snake prison and the Ultra Dragon which measures 20" (50cm) long, 14" (35cm) wide and 9" (22cm) tall. The Great Devourer features a flexible body and opening mouth with space for a minifigure. I'm sure kids will love this awesome toy.



Amazon's final suggestion on their list is the Monster High School Playset: You can explore the scary halls of the Monster High School. The two-stories include the mad science lab, creepateria, a casketball court and lockers. You can be creative and use the included stickers to turn the creepateria into the best dance spot of all time. Parents, don't worry, this set folds up neatly for EASY storage!



I hope you decide to take Amazon's advice and add some of these fun and awesome gifts onto YOUR Holiday Wish list!! Happy Holidays!



Fun Games to Play on the Road

By Grace B.

The Name Game: Start with the first letter of the ABC's then say a name, place, and thing that starts with the letter like "A: my name is Abbey, I come from Australia, and I sell apples." Then go on to the next letter in the ABC's and so on, and so on. For an extra challenge, repeat what the other people said for the letters before your letter

This game is called **Punch Buggies** where you look for punch buggies or yellow cars. When you see a yellow car you say "Tweet," (in honor of Tweety Bird from the Looney Tunes). When you see a punch Buggy, you say, "Punch Buggy no punch backs!" (There are different ways to say this.)

Another fun game is called **Eye Spy**, where you look around the car and look for an object. When you find one, say "I spy with my little eye a red object." Then people will look around and try to guess the object you picked. You can give as many clues as you want.

Another game is called **20 Questions**. The first player thinks of a person, place, or thing, and then says a clue about what it is (person, place, or thing). Next the other players have twenty questions to guess what it is. At 10 and 19 questions, the first player gives another hint. Players have to ask only yes or no questions. If the players don't get it right after 20 questions, the first player can tell them what the object was!

The License Plate Game. In this game the players try to find license plates from different states. The best places to play this game

are tourist attractions, amusement parks, and famous landmarks. You could even put money into the game. For example, the state you are in is the least amount of money and farther away states can be worth more money.

The Topics Game- This game is like the name game. The rules are exactly the same as the name game but you only say the name and not what they sell or where they're from. (Try to do movie or cartoon characters.)

Another great game is **Tic Tac Toe!** Here's how to play: someone is 'x' and someone is 'o.' The two players have to try to get three o's or x's in a row depending if you are an 'x' or and 'o.' Draw a grid that looks like a big number sign to play!

Another game is called **Fortunately and Unfortunately**. First you say a statement that is negative, then a person has to counter it with a positive statement that is similar to the first one. (Example: "Today I will eat a sour apple," and the other person can counter it by saying "No you won't I will stop you!")

Finally, a fun game is called **Team Storytelling** where a person starts a story with a line like "Once upon a time there was a princess." Then another person has to say the next line in the story like "She was a toad." As the players take turns telling the story it will get longer and funnier!

Who Am I?

By: Nathan D.

? I was born May 15, 1975.

? I am a middle linebacker.

? I went to college at Miami (FL).

? I am number 52.

? I won the Super Bowl in 2000.

? I won the Super Bowl in 2000.

? I am on the cover of Madden (05) video game.

? I was on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 2006.

? I am the only player to have 40 sacks and 30 interceptions in a career.

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



Important Dates

December 3-21 — MAP Testing
 December 12 — PTO Meeting, 8:45 am
 December 20 — Holiday Parties
 December 24-January 4 — Winter Break
 January 1 — Happy New Year!
 January 7 — Classes Resume
 January 16 — Fun Lunch
 January 16 — PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm
 January 17 — Cultural Arts Assembly
 January 17 — End of 2nd Quarter
 January 18 — District In-service Day, No Student Attendance
 January 21 — Martin Luther King Jr Day, No School

Lost and Found

Please check in the office or with Mrs. Jones if you have lost any items at school. Thank you!



WINTER WORD SCRAMBLE

By Elizabeth T.

Unscramble the words and write them on the line.

wnos _____
 oldc ahtewre _____
 wson tsrof _____
 yhoilads _____
 tho oocac _____
 oates _____
 thas _____
 timnest _____
 rznefo _____



**Happy Holidays
 Spring Avenue
 Families! Have a
 great Winter Break!**

Answers: Snow, Cold weather, Snow forts, Holidays,
 Hot cocoa, Coats, Hats, Mittens, Frozen

Who Am I?



Ray Lewis

Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
 Email the advisors:

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Mrs. Faldani
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A Lion's Life Newspaper Staff



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Special Thanks to
 Molly Smith, LT
 student