

Amiable
friendly,
agreeable, kind



A Lion's Life

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

12/17/2010

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Sixth Graders Travel to Vulcan Quarry

By: Toni M. and Jovita B.

BOOM,
BOOM! That was an explosion at the Vulcan Quarry. Vulcan Quarry is a limestone quarry. Vulcan searches for limestone to put in sidewalks, driveways, and streets. Vulcan is the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, which are small pieces of broken down rock. Vulcan makes crushed stone, sand, and gravel that are used in almost all forms of construction.

In 2007, they sold \$3 million dollars worth of their material. They have about 11,000 employees company-wide. There are 250 schools that go to Vulcan through the K-12 Adopt-A-School program. Over 44,000 people took the bus tour down into



the Quarry in 2007, most of them were children. More than 41,000 children and adults visit the Quarry each year. Vulcan Quarry is 300 feet deep and a mile wide. In Vulcan you can learn about anything you need to about limestone.

The Spring Ave. 6th grade classes took a field trip to Vulcan this Fall. There were 4 parts to the trip: A bus tour of the pit, one class explaining what Vulcan does, another class talking about how they will reclaim the land after they are done mining, and a class where they did an experiment. One part was

taking a bus tour into the pit where all the explosions occur.

The classes were interesting, and we did fun experiments that taught us about how to separate the different sizes of rock, and how Vulcan makes sure that the water they use is cleaned and doesn't get polluted.

Lastly, we went to another class explaining how Vulcan reclaims land after they are done mining it.

Vulcan is an important part of our community. Now you know a little more about what happens when you hear the booms.

Young Rembrandts at Spring Ave.

By: Samantha R.

Young Rembrandts is a class where students can go if they want to know more about drawing, and if they want to become a better at drawing. These classes meet on two different days, the days are Monday and Thursday. They meet at the Spring Cafeteria afterschool from

3:05-4:05.

The person who teaches it is Ms. Heiman, who also teaches art at Spring Avenue and helps in Ms. Parrino's room. Ms. Heiman knew that she wanted to teach an art class when she was working at her old job and started to think "I love art!"

She teaches a couple different grades in this class, first through third and fourth through sixth.

In the Young Rembrandts class you will learn to draw different things such as dogs and cats. Talk to Ms. Heiman for more information about this class.



Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



We wish
for you
joy,
happiness
and
good
health in
the
upcoming
New Year!
Blessings
and Peace!

Dear Families,

Happy Holidays to one and all! We appreciate the fantastic turnout for our programs, especially PTO meetings, Family Literacy Night, Open House/Music Programs and concerts of all kinds! We never take this for granted and we truly are very grateful to our supportive community! Thank you, everyone!

As you know, our children are very involved in the MAP testing at this moment and we truly appreciate all of your support. They are rested and motivated to do their best and it shows! We will be having any and all makeup tests after we return to school in January.

Equally important, the School Board of District 105 recently passed an approval for a certified staff member to be hired to help cover lunch and recess areas. We have had

teachers come forward to take these assignments and we can already see some positive results! The certified staff members that students will see on duty are:

1st lunch: Grades 3, 5-
Ms. Joanna Marek

2nd lunch: Grades 1, 2-
Ms. Amanda Heiman
or Ms. Sara Alberico

3rd lunch: Grades 4, 6-
Mrs. Nicole Manganello
or Mrs. Jennie Podgorski

We are very pleased and grateful that these teachers have given up their regular lunch to be with the children. The focus on helping students understand victims, bullies and bystanders will be a major focus for these staff members. In addition, we will incorporate any items for discussions discovered during these times of the day into our morning meetings.

Early entrance and indoor recess happen whenever it is below zero with wind-chill. If your child arrives at school at 8:20, we will let them in the building immediately. Please continue with the wonderful drop off procedures. Be patient and do not worry about students being late; we will make sure they get to where they need, so driving around another parent is not necessary. Let's keep children safe and as warm as possible. We appreciate your help with this.

Finally, whether you are staying in town, traveling to different states or far away, we wish you a very safe and happy holiday season.

We wish for you joy, happiness and good health in the upcoming New Year! Blessings and Peace!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Webb
Principal



Dragons, Shades, and Kings, Oh My!

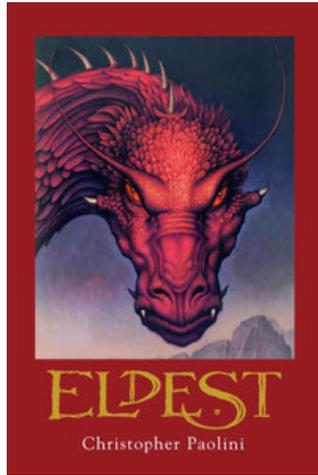
Book Review of *Eldest* by Christopher Paolini

By: Kathleen C.

Do Sapphire, the fierce and last free dragon, Eragon, the last free dragon rider, The Varden, the good and strong army, evil shades that try to take over sound familiar? Do you and want to learn more? I am guessing that you have read the amazing first book Eragon. If you thought that your splendid adventure had ended with Eragon and Sapphire then you are wrong.

The adventure goes on in the second book, Eldest. In Eldest the adventure gets very interesting with a family betrayal in the end. Eragon's adventure also continues when Roran, Eragon's cousin, finally sees Eragon. Roran earns the nickname, Strong Hammer, because he carries a hammer and not a sword. Also Eragon meets an old dragon rider, Oromis, and his equally old and injured dragon Glader. Glader and Oromis train Eragon and Sapphire. They train them by teaching them more magic, and making them more mature and powerful. They go into battle and help The Varden along with some other powerful beings.

I like this book because the author is very descriptive, and I can picture everything in my mind. Another reason why I like this book is because I like to



read about great heroes and noble kings.

That brings me to my next subject, another character you will meet. The noble, great, and brave king Orin who is a great friend of Nasuada, Who is now a lot more responsible after a surprise in the beginning of the book. After you read this thrilling book your adventure still does not have to end! You can read the third book Brisingr.

I would recommend this book to kids or adults alike who enjoy and can stick with long books, also people who like suspenseful journeys and thrilling adventures will also like this book. Those are some reasons you should read the book Eldest by Christopher Paolini. I love this book and I hope you do to.

Who Am I?

By: Karol G.

- ? I was born on February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky.
- ? I moved to Illinois in 1816 from Indiana.
- ? I had an older sister.
- ? My mother died in 1818.
- ? My sister died the same year as my mother.
- ? In 1828 I was able to make a flatboat trip to New Orleans.
- ? A Native American killed my grandfather.
- ? I was 22 when I left home to go to New Salem.
- ? I was a President.

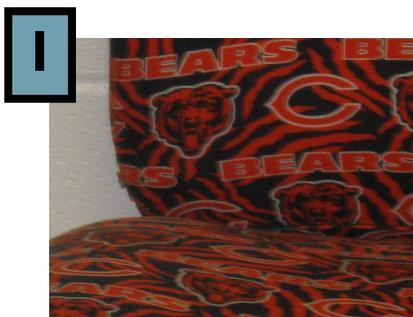
Do you know who I am? Turn to the last page to see if you're right!



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

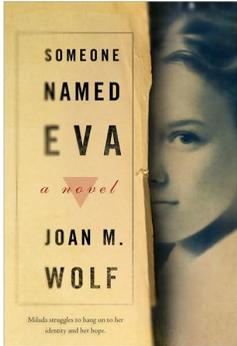
By Rowan C. and Danielle N.

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



Book Reviews: Someone Named Eva and Finally

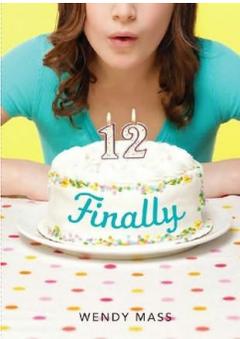
By: Olivia B.



I have recently read the book Someone Named Eva by Joan M. Wolf. It is about a girl named Milda who is taken by the Nazis during World War II.

She was living a great life with friends and family in Czechoslovakia until the Nazis took her. Everyone taken had blonde hair and blue eyes. She must learn to be a perfect German girl by learning to speak German and to hail Hitler. Once she learned everything she needed she was adopted. Can you imagine being taken from your family and not even knowing why?

This is a sad, but great book about a brave girl. I strongly recommend it!



Can you imagine falling in a drainpipe and getting saved by a scary old lady with a duck-shaped birthmark on her cheek? Well that's what happened to Rory Swenson in the book Finally, by Wendy Mass.

Rory can't wait to turn 12 and get everything she's always wished for, like wearing make up, getting her ears pierced, and attending a boy/girl party. But things aren't working out the way she planned. You'll have to read the book to find out if her birthday turns out the way she had hoped.

This is a great book about a girl going through big adventures while trying to grow up. I recommend it to girls 9 through 12 years old. Look for it in our Spring Avenue library!

LaGrange History Corner

By: Kelly C.



The LaGrange Theater was built in 1925, one of three theaters in LaGrange. It was originally a stage show theater. The admission at the time for adults was fifty cents and for kids it was fifteen cents. Nowadays, it is \$5.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

As the entertainment industry changed, the theater was converted to motion pictures in the late 1940's and

early 1950's. The first movie theater in the world was the Nickelodeon which opened on June 19, 1905 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The movies could be expensive to go to during the Great Depression but this was one of the only ways people could catch up on their news.

However, once in a while, people would manage to sneak into the movies just for fun.

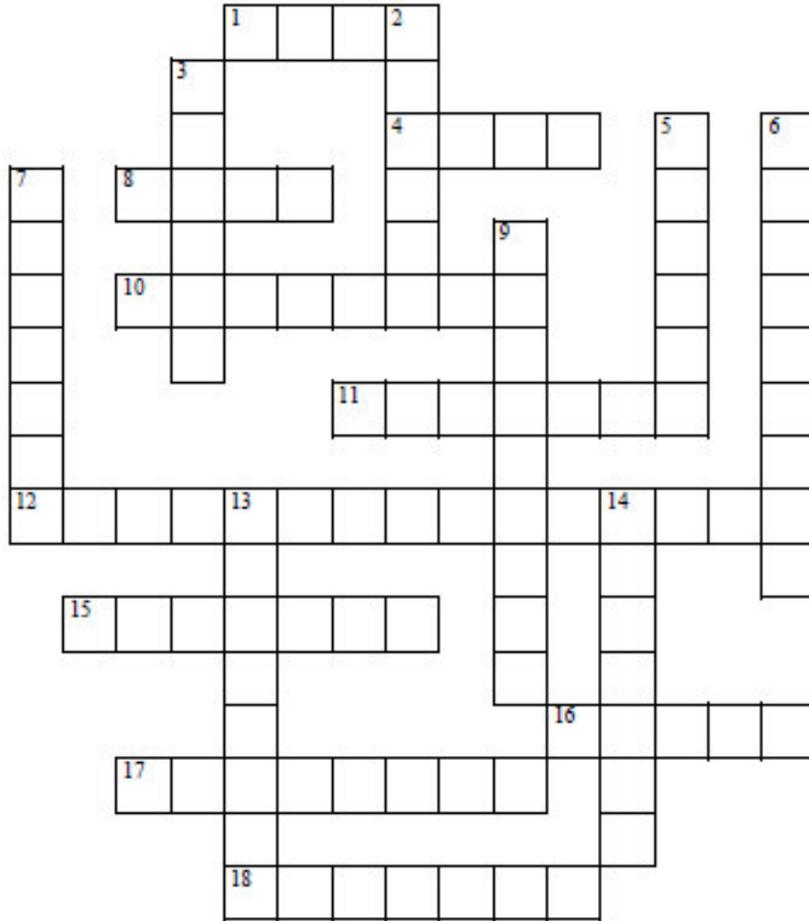
When movie theaters first came out they could really only play silent movies. Some people think silent movies are pretty boring, but back then people thought movies were special, and they didn't know that they could add sound, color, and lots more effects.

The next time you watch a movie think about how much work and thought people have put into it.

GAMES PAGE

A Lion's Life Crossword Puzzle

By: Rowan C.



Read the articles in this newspaper to find the answers to the crossword.

ACROSS

- 1 Close up picture
- 4 Found
- 8 Supply for craft
- 10 Western springs
- 11 Hip hop teacher
- 12 This day in history
- 15 History corner
- 16 Artist in music
- 17 Video game
- 18 Technology

DOWN

- 2 Someone Named Eva
- 3 Book review
- 5 Field trip
- 6 Educational word scramble
- 7 Young Rembrandts
- 9 Ingredient in cooking corner
- 13 Teachers spotlight
- 14 Student survey

Rockin' Word Scramble

By: Toni M.

- Mlieonste -----
- Eednamtrisy kcro -----
- Apmrichmeto ockr -----
- Dimtensse -----
- Neusigo orck -----

Teacher Spotlight

The Story Behind Mrs. Kuharic

By Erin C.

I sat down recently with Spring Avenue's art teacher, Mrs. Kuharic. I found out that she first got interested in art when she was in grade school. Mrs. Kuharic took lots of art classes over the years where she did a lot of projects. Her favorite art medium is paint. The M.O.M.A (Museum of Modern Art) in New York is Mrs. Kuharic's favorite art museum. And that's the story behind our wonderful art teacher, Mrs. Kuharic.

Perfect PE Teacher

By: Taylor S. and Nora W.

There is a new P.E teacher at Spring Avenue. Her name is Miss Lenardi. She also helps out in second grade. Miss Lenardi grew up in Norridge, Illinois. Later on, she attended Eastern Illinois University.

Her favorite sports team is the Chicago White Sox. Her favorite subject besides P.E. is history. Miss Lenardi's favorite part of teaching is all the students she gets to teach. Her favorite book is Marley and Me. Miss Lenardi's favorite food is chopped salad.

In her free time, she likes to run. Can you believe she just completed her first half marathon? She also likes to spend time with her friends and play with her pug, Auggie. Her favorite color is hot pink. She is one of the best gym teachers the fourth graders have ever had!

The Marvelous Mrs. Demer

By: Simon J.

Spring Avenue is excited to have Mrs. Demer as our 5th grade teacher this year. Mrs. Demer became a teacher because she likes working with kids. When Mrs. Demer was in high school she went on a trip to Appalachia. While there, she worked with kids in a school and she decided that was her calling. In 1985, Mrs. Demer graduated from college and was a guest teacher for a year. She had her first full time job in 1986. She married Mr. Demer in 1990, and now has four children, two sons and two daughters. They have a Gordon Setter dog named Hawkeye.

Mrs. Demer is a wonderful teacher, and I think she is the best. I hope to become a teacher like her. We hope she stays at Spring for a really long time. Any younger students reading this, you want to have marvelous Mrs. Demer.



New Music Review: Mike Posner

By: Keely S.

Most people that I know have listened to a song called "Cooler Than Me" by Mike Posner. It is a very fun song, and it's a really good song to dance to because it is a high beat song. I

just so happen to really like this song. You can buy his album Cooler Than Me probably at Borders or anywhere that might sell albums. Mike Posner has a new album called 30 Seconds to

Takeoff with Please Don't Go on it.

Mike Posner is a Duke grad. Also he was born on February 12, 1988, raised in Southfield Michigan. He plays the

piano and sings vocals.

Mike Posner has been on the Wendy Williams show, Regis and Kelly, America's Got Talent, and also The Late Night Show with Jimmy Fallon.

Helpful Gadgets

By: Owen F. and Joey P.

By Owen F Joey P

Our first gadget is the braille mouse. We think this mouse is special because it will let the blind surf the web! The way this is done is by a rotating wheel that has bumps (braille pieces) that pop up beneath the blind reader's finger when he or she scrolls over something!

Our next gadget is the Life Straw it clears 99% of germs in waters that are unclean, and it saves many lives in places like Africa and Haiti where drinking water can sometimes be contaminated.

Western Springs Football

By: Will H.



Hut, hut, hike! Boys interested in playing football should join The Western Springs' Football league.

The league is open to 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th and 8th graders from the surrounding vicinity. There are 3 leagues, one for grades 2-4, one for grades 5-6, and one for 7th and 8th graders. It is also open to cheerleaders. Practice is 2 days a week on Tuesday and Thursday.

There are 8 games a season. There are 12 teams.

The games are played at Spring Rock Park. They make sure 2nd graders don't get crushed, because if you are 85+ pounds you can only play on the line. For 5th or 6th graders over 105 pounds the same rules apply. This makes sure everybody stays safe.

Football is fun to play and teaches you discipline.

Creative Corner: Make your own Yarn Ring

By: Jovita B.

Materials:

Plastic fork, piece of yarn that is 24 inches (color of your choice), another piece of yarn that is 6 inches (same color)

Directions:

Take your fork and the 6 inch piece of yarn and thread it through the middle hole of your fork.

Next, take your 24 inch piece of yarn and tie it together with one end of the 6 inch piece of yarn.

Start weaving the longer piece in and out of the holes until you get to the edge, then wrap it around the end and keep going until you have about 3 inches left.

Then, grab the end from the top and the bottom and carefully slip it off. Use one end to wrap it around your weaved pattern twice to create a bow shape. Ask someone to take the two ends and tie it around your finger.

Now you have a beautiful ring. Enjoy!

Jump Your Way into Hip Hop Dance and Have Fun!

By: MacKenzie B. and Clare C.

It was exciting to have a hip hop dance class with Mr. Arneson. He had two friends from his college in Madison, Wisconsin come and help him teach the kids some hip hop moves. He wanted to start the

dance club to give the Spring Avenue students a new experience.

There were 115 kids doing it. He thinks that dancing is healthy because it gets you moving, gets you active, gets

your heart pumping and is fun.

Mr. Arneson has a lot of favorite types of dances and dancers but his most favorite type of dance is uncoordinated hip-hop. Mr. Arneson has a lot of favorite dancers but his favorite

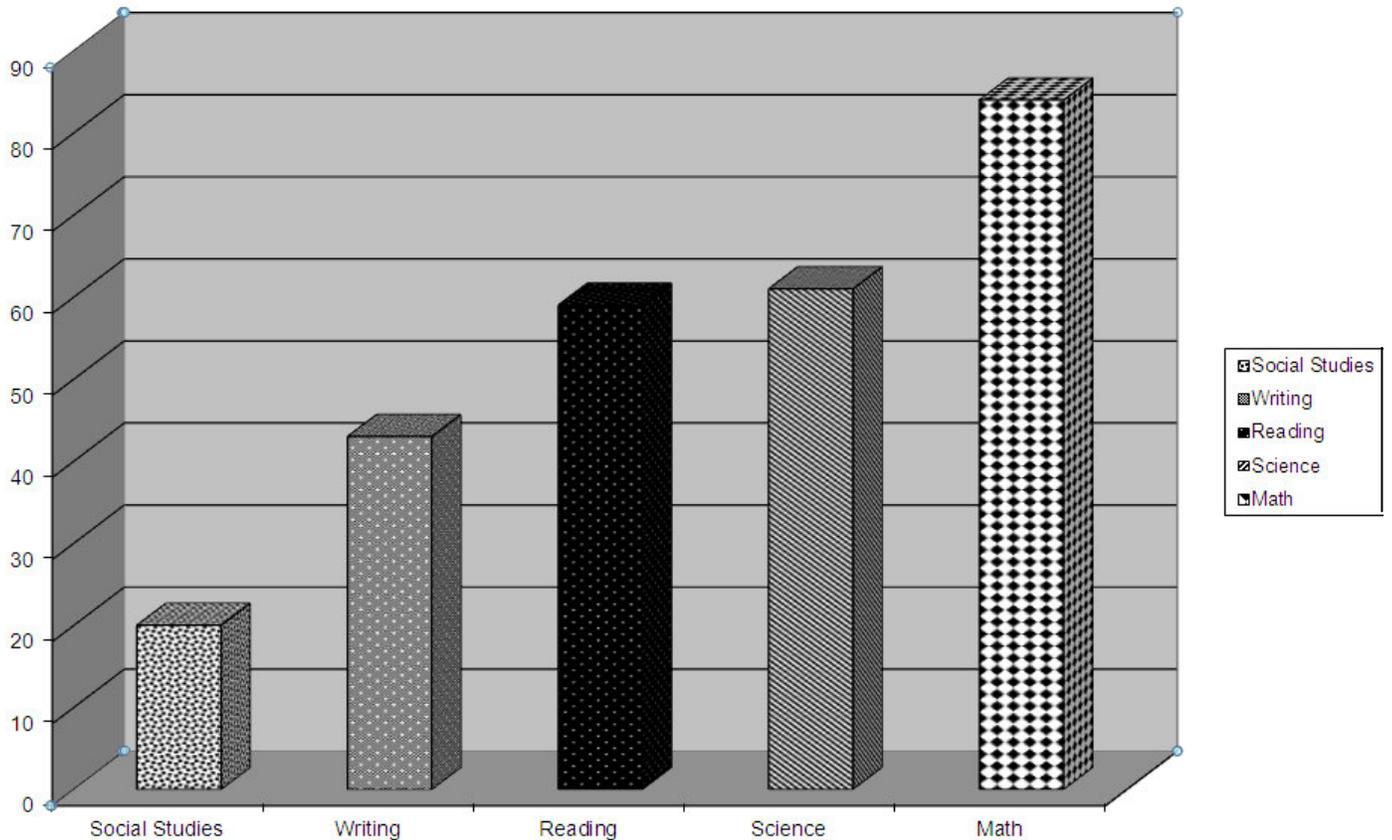
is Michael Jackson. According to a lot of the people who went to the hip-hop dance class, they said it was a lot of fun, and they also said they learned a lot of cool moves. We hope to have another class like this one again!

Student Survey: What is your Favorite Subject Spring Ave?

By: Danielle N.

265, 266, 267. Out of all 267 students who took our survey about favorite subjects we found one winner! MATH! Math is our winner with 84 votes! In second place is science with 61 votes! Coming a close third is reading with 59 votes! Then writing came out with a total of 43 votes! Last but not least social studies falling behind with only 20 votes, but we still enjoy it! Well thank you for participating. Sadly, a couple of votes were not able to be counted because of double circling.

Favorite Subjects



Video Game Review

The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess

By: Devon W.



If you're the type of person that longs for adventure but does not want to take the risk of any real injuries, then *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess* is a game that you should try. *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess* is one out of the many Zelda titles in the series but critics all must agree, *Twilight Princess* definitely stands out in a good way.

Like most titles in the series, your character is a seventeen year old boy named Link (or at least that is the name that first pops up when you first begin), you can op-

tionally change the name, but I left it the same.

Anyway, after you begin, you're walking in a peaceful village called Ordon, this is your home. After a few activities and a small but urgent adventure you get in trouble with Ilia, the girl your age in the town. After you follow her, you both have a brief exchange of words along with Colin, one of the towns' younger children. But it doesn't last long; because you all of a sudden get attacked by a horde of evil monsters from the realm of twilight. The creatures make off with Ilia and Colin but fail to notice you, however that doesn't mean they don't know you're there, somewhere. So the leader calls upon another beast. This one finds you and pulls you through the wall, sealing you in the world of Twilight; it is



there where the game starts to rise to its purpose. In the Twilight world you zoom through puzzles, battles, and discoveries all leading up to the final battle to reclaim light to the world.

Rated T (Teen) for fantasy violence and realistic use of weapons.

Cooking Corner: Big Blueberry Muffins

By: Allison T. and Alexis H.

Equipment:

measuring cups & spoons, cutting board & table knife, small saucepan & pot holder, wooden spoon & table fork, paper liners & 12-cup muffin pan, mixing bowls, rubber spatula, large spoon & toothpick, oven mitts & cooling racks.

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups butter (2 ½ sticks), cut into three equal pieces
2 cups of all purpose flour,
1 ½ cups plus 2 teaspoons of sugar,
1 tablespoon of baking powder,
1 ½ teaspoons of salt,
1 cup of milk,
1 egg,
¾ teaspoon of vanilla extract,
1 cup of blueberries, rinsed and dried.

Directions:

Put the butter pieces in the small saucepan and set over medium heat. Stir with the wooden spoon until melted, 1 to 2 minutes.

Using the pot holder, remove the pan from the heat and set it aside to cool.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

Put the paper liners in the 12 muffin cups.

In medium mixing bowl, combine the flour, ½ cup sugar, baking powder and salt. Mix with the tablespoon.

In a small mixing bowl, combine the milk, egg, and vanilla. Using

the same fork, beat until well blended.

Add the milk mixture, melted butter, and blueberries to the flour mixture. Using the rubber spatula, stir gently until the ingredients are just blended.

Spoon equal amounts of the batter into the muffin cups.

Sprinkle the extra 2 teaspoons of sugar evenly over the tops.

Bake the muffins until they are golden and have risen nicely, 18 to 20 minutes.

To test, insert the toothpick into the center of a muffin. If it comes out clean, the muffins are ready.

Using oven mitts, remove the muffin pan from oven and place it on the cooling rack.

Let the muffins cool for at least 15 minutes before removing them from the pan.

Gently turn the pan over, letting the muffins fall out on to the rack.



Album Review: Animal by Kesha brings a variety of styles

By Joanna Z.

“Animal” is one of the very few songs by Kesha that actually has some kind of meaning. You probably know Kesha from “Tik Tok” or “Take It Off” and don’t see her as the kind of singer that you would listen to. It is true that Kesha is an eccentric person and sometimes tries a little too hard to be different; yet, she is extremely successful and liked by people everywhere. For those of you who already love the upbeat songs that she sings, I would recommend this song to them because it’s a different song with a different message.

It is a slower song that shows a more relevant situation to her life behind the lyrics. The first few lines of the song are: ‘I am in love/With what we are/Not what we should be.’ Already you can tell that this is no “Tik Tok,” although it seems more and more like it as the lyrics near the end.

As I listen to this song, I wonder what her inspiration for “Animal” was; what made her to decide to write a more powerful song than her other music? After all she is just a normal girl, even though it may not always seem so.

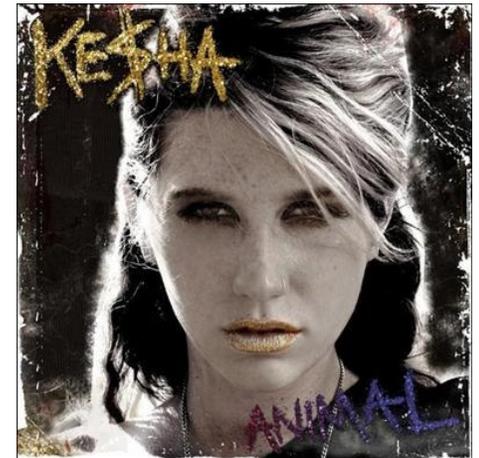
Kesha Rose Sebert was born March 1, 1987 in Los Angeles, CA. She is the

daughter to single mom, singer and songwriter, Pebe Sebert, and younger sister to her brother, Lagan. Her mom had a hard time trying to support all three of them, but secured a new publishing deal for her songwriting in 1991, then moved the family to Nashville, TN. Kesha’s little brother, Louis, was born shortly after. Kesha’s mom encouraged her to sing and write songs, and often took her to the recording studios.

Kesha attended high school in Tennessee and was, as she said in an interview, “a very studious girl.” However, she did drop out of high school at 17, but earned her GED after that.

At 18, Kesha’s demo was given to some record producers through connections that her mom had in the recording business. The producers were interested in her sound and liked what she was doing with the songs she was writing. Kesha moved back to Hollywood to start a music career.

It turns out that the songs Kesha writes are more about what kind of person she would be if she chose a different path. I find this information surprising and interesting because it was something that I wouldn’t expect.



Kesha wasn’t really noticed until her appearance in 2009 on a number one single by Flo Rida. After all those years of singing backup and writing songs for other artists, she finally had her break. And after all this information I researched on her, I think she deserves it because of all the hard work she’s done over the years.

You can hear Kesha’s song “Animal” on her album Animal.” I hope you enjoyed learning more about Kesha and the songs she writes.

A Rockin' Comic by Katie W.



Important Dates

December

Dec 20-Jan 3—Winter Break

January

Jan 10—After 3 Classes Begin

Jan 11—Basketball Intramurals begin

Jan 12—Fun Lunch

Jan 17—No School

February

Feb 1,3—2:00 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences

Feb 11—Valentine’s Day Parties

Feb 21—President’s Day, No School

March 3

March 3—Kindergarten Roundup

Lost and Found

By: Kendall F.

Blue and Black gloves

Black Winter Coat

Pink Sweater

Blue Sweaters

Blue shirt

Black Polar Fleece

Green Sweater

New items are added daily. Please check often.

You can claim your lost items from the Spring Avenue Office.

History Fact

The **Great Depression** was a severe worldwide economic depression in the decade preceding World War II. The timing of the Great Depression varied across nations, but in most countries it started in about 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s or early 1940s. It was the longest, most widespread, and deepest depression of the 20th century. Taken from Wikipedia.org



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Answers

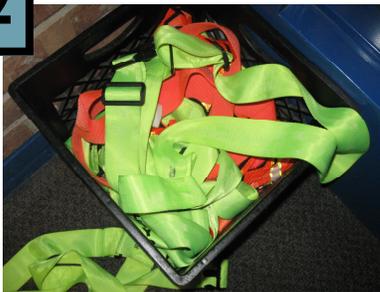


1



Bears Chair

2



Patrol Belts

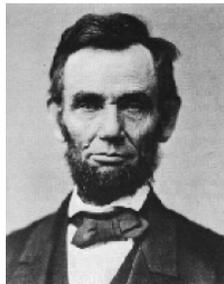
3



Water Fountain

Who Am I?

Abraham
Lincoln



Reader Feedback

Please share your thoughts!
Email the advisors:

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Keely S.
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Allison T.
Devon W.
Katie W.
Nora W.
Joanna Z.

ANSWERS

Crossword

On Page 5

- | Across: | Down: |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Zoom | 2. Milada |
| 4. Lost | 3. Dragon |
| 8. Yarn | 5. Vulcan |
| 10. Football | 6. Limestone |
| 11. Arneson | 7. Drawing |
| 12. Great Depression | 9. Blueberry |
| 15. Theater | 13. Teaching |
| 16. Kesha | 14. Subject |
| 17. Twilight | |
| 18. Gadgets | |

Word Scramble

On Page 5

Limestone, Sedimentary Rock,
Metamorphic Rock,
Sediments, Igneous Rock.