

Puma News



Puma Press

South Meadow School

Second Issue 2016-2017

October!				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 SMS Boys A Soccer Team At Home Against Litchfield	4 SMS Girls Soccer At Pelham SMS FH Home Against Boynton SMS Cross Country Home Against Well School	5 SMS Blue Soccer Team At Great Brook	6 SMS Girls Soccer At Raymond SMS Field Hockey At Hollis-Brookline	7 Puma Pride! SMS Blue Soccer Home Against The Well School SMS Boys A and Girls Soccer At Keene Middle School SMS Boys and Girls Cross Country At Amherst
10 NO SCHOOL Columbus Day	11 SMS Field Hockey At Sanborn	12 SMS Volleyball At Walpole SMS Blue Soccer Team At Boynton	13 SMS Boys A Soccer At Nashua Catholic SMS Girls Soccer Home against Ware SMS Field Hockey Home Against Derryfield	14 SMS Boys A and Girls Soccer Teams At Great Brook SMS Blue Soccer Team At Winchester
17 SMS Boys A Soccer Cawley SMS Girls Soccer Pelham SMS Field Hockey Home Against Pelham	18 SMS Field Hockey Great Brook SMS Boys and Girls Cross Country At Great Brook	19 SMS Boys A and Girls Soccer Teams at Jeffrey-Briggs SMS Volleyball at Home Against Vt. State SMS Blue Soccer Team at Home-against Vt. State	20 SMS Field Hockey at Keene	21 School Photos SMS Blue Soccer Team at The Well School
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Additional Events

October 15th;

SMS Volleyball - Milford Tournament

SMS Field Hockey – Keene Tourney

SMS Cross Country Tri County League Meet

STEM Event

October 22;

SMS Volleyball – Fall Mountain Tournament

SMS Blue Soccer Team – Fall Mountain Tourney

SMS Cross Country State Meet

Solar Cars

By Kendall Larson

In I.A.T, the seventh grade has been working on solar cars. This project teaches us how we can reuse recycled materials to build a structure, how solar energy works, and how to put two and two together and have fun with the outcome! We will even take some of the cars to competitions to compete against other solar cars! First, we could borrow some materials from Mr. Hammett, but we were required to bring in recycled materials from home to help build the basic structure of our car. Then, we watched a video that helped us understand how solar power works. The video explained the difference between passive and active solar energy, and which kind we would use to power the cars. Styrofoam, aluminum cans, egg cartons, milk cartons, and even old shoes were brought in from home and used to build our project. First, we needed to make a base, about five by ten inches. We were given one straw that we could cut in half to have a place for the axels to spin in. The two straw pieces were then glued to the bottom of the car, and they had to be perfectly straight. Next, we cut a metal rod in half, and placed each piece inside of the straws, as the wheel axles. We then hammered each wheel to the end of each metal rod. The basic structure of the car is now finished! The cars will have a small solar panel, which measures about ten inches by four inches, which is wired to a motor. The motor then turns a gear, which is connected to one of the back wheels. Hence, the wheels will turn and move the car around. Finally, with our new knowledge about solar energy, and the basic structure of the car set, we can start creating the design on top of the car! Besides the creative part, the finished project is required to hold one soda/seltzer can as “cargo”, was placed anywhere on the car. The can must be removable, not glued in place. Once you have finished building the design, placing the can on the car, and have the motor, panel, and gears assembled, it is time to test the car on a track! Outside the gym doors, there is a blue paved area designated for solar cars only. Two equal-length fishing lines are set up in order to make sure that the cars move in a straight line. Once the cars are placed on the fishing line, they are ready to go. The solar panels can be adjusted so that it can catch direct sunlight, and the wires can also be adjusted, to change the way the wheels spin so the car can either move forward or backward. After they have been tested, they are ready for competition. Even though everyone’s solar car is unique in its own way, only some of the cars are selected to go competition. In the end, even if your car didn’t go to competition, it was still pretty cool to learn about solar power and to get to build a car yourself. This project has been a lot of fun, as well as a learning experience. Everyone had an amazing time and wish to do it again!



SMS Clouds

By Nicky D.

In Peer Mentors we have been working on “SMS Clouds”. “SMS Clouds” are posters that will be hung in classrooms in the building. The posters feature words that are traits of good students at SMS, so that students will look at the poster and see what kind of things good students do. These posters are in the same style as the “Grit Clouds” that you may have also seen around the building (One of them is in Mrs.Norby’s classroom). To make one of these clouds, we are using the program InDesign. InDesign is similar to Photoshop, except Photoshop is used for pictures and InDesign is for text. InDesign is also used to create the newspaper. On Anni’s and mine poster (she was my partner) we made most of the words black and white, but the words “South Meadow School, caring, cooperative, and respectful” were a very SMS-y blue color. There are over thirty one words and phrases on the poster, so we had to change up the fonts on them so that they would stand out. We also made some of the words bigger and some of them smaller. After we finished our rough draft poster Mr.Bless, the librarian, helped us print the poster really big so that we could look them over and see what corrections we needed to make. I thought that we did a perfect job the first time, but it turns out we actually repeated some of the words three times! Doing something like the clouds takes a lot of time and effort, but it is worth it when you see the final product.

8th Grade Mock Election

By Maddy Cilley

Have you always wished you could vote, but you're just not old enough? Now your wish is coming true! The eighth grade is hosting a presidential election. The date of this election is still being decided, but the date being talked over is Halloween. However, don't panic if you know you won't be in school that day! There may be absentee ballots, which means that if you will be absent on that date, you can still turn in a ballot on the next day you are in school. Voters will use ballots that are similar to ballots in the real world. The candidates are Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine (Democratic), Donald Trump and Mike Pence (Republican), Gary Johnson and William Weld (Libertarian), and Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka (Green Party). You do not have to be a part of this, and the ballots will remain totally anonymous. To participate in this election, you have to register. However, the team behind this election is still working on how voters can register. All students can vote, as long as they register first. The goal of this project is to see what would happen if SMS were the US. The results will be posted in the newspaper and on the announcements, so keep an eye out, because there will also be a follow up article about the election when we know more information!

Girl's Soccer

By Meara McClusky

The girls soccer team has had a great season so far. The team of seventeen players started out with two non-league games against Jaffrey and Great Brook. They have also had three league games so far, and won two of them. Bow was their first real game this season, and the girls played really well, but they lost 2-1. The next two games against Keene and Weare were more successful, with scores of 3-0 and 6-0. Since then, the team lost to Cawley and Litchfield, tied Raymond, and won against Nashua Catholic. This year's team captains are Nikki, Reagan, and Florence. The captains were chosen by the coach, Curt Martens, who is a new coach for the girls. If the team does well enough this season, they can get into the playoffs. Last year, the girls placed fourth overall, so the team is trying to get first place. They are very excited for the rest of the season!

Sweatshirt Patches

by Gabby Oja

Did you ever wonder what happened to the South Meadow School sweatshirts for the last couple of years? A couple years ago we were happily using the company Jane's in Stitches. The owner was a man who ran it with his wife. The man got sick and stopped doing most of his orders, but he kept doing the SMS sweatshirts for a couple of years. He became too sick to continue doing the sweatshirts, so we had to switch to a company in Vermont. The Vermont company was a very big company, and they had so many customers that it was taking too long to get our sweatshirts back. So no sweatshirts were bought for two years. The Peer Mentors decided this year that we want our sweatshirts back, so that's what the 8th grade Peer Mentors are doing. Seventh and eighth grade Peer Mentors have an optional Peer Mentor special for Quarter One. During that time they have been working for hours with the sweatshirts. Mrs. Brezovec found an embroidery company named Buttercup Embroidery, and we will give them the embroidery designs that we want and so they can put them on the sweatshirts for you. Because we are using a new company, we have to find all new patches. So the 8th grade Peer Mentors have to search through thousands of embroidery designs to find the right one for each club here at SMS. They also had to find two sweatshirt designs, one with a zipper and one draw-string, that the patches will be put on. Each student finds their favorite sweatshirt, picks their favorite patches for every club, individually, and puts them all on a Google Docs document for the club leader/supervisor to pick their favorite. We will then make a sweatshirt form that you can fill out to order your sweatshirt and the patches for each club that you are in. In all it was a lot of work, and I hope you order a sweatshirt!

Early Hominids

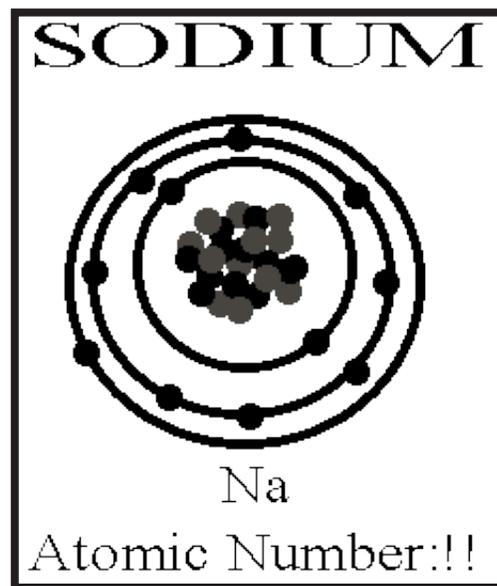
By Jack McLaughlin

Way back in the day, when humans didn't even exist, humans were actually being created. The first human-like animal that we found was discovered by a man named David Johansson. He named this first human like animal Lucy because when he discovered Lucy he was listening to the Beatles song "Lucy in the Sky of Diamonds". Lucy was a lot smaller than we are at a size of 3 feet and 7 inches tall. She had the looks of a monkey, but her feet were like ours. One of our biggest advantages is our ability to walk on two feet. What made Lucy the closest animal to a human are her feet, which were shaped like ours, which gave her the ability to walk on two feet instead of knuckle-walking like most apes. The second group of humanoid animals were discovered by Louis and Mary Leakey. They named this group "Handy Man" because this group of hominids were smart enough to make tools. Handy Man were taller than Lucy; their brains were twice the size of Lucy's. They also looked more like humans than Lucy did and roamed the world about 1.5 to 2 million years ago. Scientist found remains of Handy Man only in Africa, and some skeletons they found were in groups. This means that they took care of each other. If one Handy Man was hurt, they would take care of that hominid. Handy Man was also able to make tools, which does take some thought to do. They mostly made simple tools, such as a hand axe with a rock, shovels made out of animal bone, and a sharpened rock for a knife. What they could do with these tools include digging a hole for an animal trap, digging into dead animals with the hand ax, and cutting animals open with the knife. The third type of early hominids were found by a Dutchmen, Eugene Dubois, in 1891. This hominid stood straight up like a normal human. It had lots of human features, and it took care of other hominids like a doctor would take care of us. Homo Erectus or "Upright Man" was taller and thinner than the other hominids and were most likely the first hominid to migrate out of Africa. We assume this because the first two hominids were found in Africa, but these hominids were found East Asia. Upright men were also good walkers and runners. We have knives, shovels, all sorts of weapons, and tools, but our biggest weapon and tool is fire. We are the only animal attracted to fire. Scientist believe that Upright man discovered fire. They believe this because they migrated from Africa to Asia, which means they had to go through some cold weather, so wouldn't they freeze to death?. Upright Man would also cook animals to get more nutrients, making the animal easier to eat. The early humans kept growing and growing. Then they discovered art. Humans were the first animals to discover art. Humans would communicate or just draw on walls with clay, mud, and even blood sometimes. This version of communication led us to speak a language, which is a big separation between us and other animals. Humans have grown and grown and grown. They went from being a normal ape to being the most intelligent creatures on the planet. Let's admit it, the whales aren't going to be making iPads anytime soon.

Seventh Grade Atom Models

By Leah Krasnodar

The seventh grade is beginning a big science project that is done at the beginning of every year. We are making an atom model! The seventh graders have two weeks to create an atom model of their choice. They will be looking for inspiration from past creations and then they will make their own. On October fourth, the day the project is due, the models will be hung around Mrs. Van's room, and everyone will do a little presentation. Students can choose whatever element they want, and there are one-hundred-eighteen choices! The bigger the atomic number, the harder, and most kids are staying within the range of five to twenty-five. We can be sure that no two projects will look alike. Everyone is excited to see how they turn out!



Intro to the Modern Art Era

By *Bella Schwabe*

The modern art era is art that was produced from 1860's to the 1970's. Anything after is referred to as either the postmodern era or as contemporary art. Influential artists from this time include: Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque and many more. Before the 19th century, artists were mostly paid to create art for churches and wealthy people, and they depicted mythological and religious scenes. In the 19th century artists began depicting places, people and ideas that excited them. After this, many artists began exploring their subconscious and dreams for inspiration. During this time, artists began developing personal styles and creating very unique works of art. The goal of art in this time was to expand upon previous ideas and to take a new approach to art. Overall, the modern era was a critical time for artists to express themselves creatively.



just one leaf

By *Reagan Riffle*

it's the time of year again
when the beautiful season has dawned to begin
the red, the orange, and the yellow
is nothing compared to the kindness between fel-
lows

but there's just one perspective
that should be an objective
to think about this season
simple reason...

who thinks about us leaves?
humans are thieves
they take us and rake us
and sometimes just break us

please people, please
you're making us wheeze
be kind to us leaves

we are your piles
miles of fall fun
protect us and praise us until the season's done

for who truly knows, the power we hold
this beautiful season could turn to straight cold

PAINT!

By *Kylie Johnson*

Painting in the art community is huge. Everyone knows what it is and how to use it (hopefully)! There are so many different types of paints; watercolor, acrylic, oil, tempera, spray paint, gouache, and many more! The first paints ever used occurred around the time of cavemen, where they would use red or yellow ochre (an earthy pigment containing ferric oxide to give a pale brown color), hematite (like the iron ore-also contains ferric oxide), manganese oxide (a combination of tons of atoms = black coloring), and also charcoal (we use it today too!). Paint continued to evolve after that, and more and more people started creating more types! In 1718, a guy named Marshall Smith invented a machine that grinds colors and materials together to create paint. We don't exactly know how it works, but we know what it did! Soon companies started selling paints using machines like the one Smith created. It wasn't until around World War II where they found a cheap and easy way to create paints, and also to make the color last for a long time. They made them using artificial resins or alkyds, which they had invented at the time. Painting styles have also evolved immensely throughout time. The art you see today is extremely different than way back then. In history, realistic landscape paintings were very popular, but the occasional artist who did not create realistic landscapes popped up every now and then. Now, the possibilities in painting are endless! You could get a big white canvas and get tiny brushes and just cover it in multicolored lines, and it can be considered art-or even get weird materials like spoons and try to create something. Anything can be art if you look at it a certain way, and everyone sees it differently, remember that!

RTI and Wednesday advisory

By Lorien Tyne

The new whole school advisory schedule is a little different. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays students have RTI, which is a time for extra help or practice in different subjects. However, in the seventh grade classrooms they call it Puma Time. In Mr. Townsend’s RTI group they made a book. Everyone wrote a 100 word short story with the prompt “Today is the first day of the rest of my life”. With their piece, a drawing or picture was required, as well as an introduction. Ms. Keatings class is working on math, as well as Mrs. Foeking’s. Mrs. Hopgoods RTI is reading and working on fluency. Mrs. Woodward is helping with each of the math RTI groups. This time is meant to focus on math and language arts, with each student getting better where they can improve. After two weeks RTI groups rotate to another classroom with a new teacher. These advisories are a great time to practice all kinds of different skill sets from writing to team work!

On Wednesday everyone stays in their advisories and works there or plays games, except the peermentors who meet with their mentees or the people in NHDI. During one Wednesday, Mrs. Hopgood’s class played a team building game called The Human Puzzle. Each student took a large wooden puzzle piece and brought it into the hallway. The rules were that you couldn’t touch the ground at all but you could talk. The end product would be all the pieces together making a rectangular shape. The class had to figure out a way to move while standing on the pieces. They managed to scoot around on their wood cut outs to finish the puzzle. Afterwards, they talked about how they could have completed it more efficiently and productively, as well as what each individual could have done differently.



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