

# Puma News



Puma Press

South Meadow School

Fourth Issue 2016-2017

## Doodle For Google

*by Leah Krason*

Until the beginning of December, South Meadow students will be working on the Doodle for Google contest. Doodle for Google is an annual contest held by Google that lets kids in kindergarten through twelfth grade try to make the best doodle for their website search engine. The winners are separated by age so the contest is more fair. The national winner gets their doodle featured on the website along with a 30,000 dollar college scholarship, 50,000 dollar award for their school or nonprofit organization, a trip to Google Headquarters, a Chromebook, and an Android Tablet. Finalists get a trip to Google, a 5,000 dollar college scholarship, and an Android Tablet. State and territory winners that are not finalists will have their doodles featured in the doodle gallery (as will other winners) and receive an Android Tablet. Students at South Meadow are doing things like animal cities or new technology. You can either do yours on-line and send it from the website, or mail a drawn copy. You have the chance to create one during school in both E.H.P. and Ms. Russell's art class. If not, this can be done at home. All you have to do is look up Doodle for Google and read about the contest, then create yours. All of the doodles have a chance to win, and it is a fun project to work on. We encourage you to try because doing this is a great experience! So start creating, and you may win.

## Harris Center Field Trip

*by Lorien Tyne*

The eighth grade science classes took a field trip to Norway Pond in Hancock with some staff from the Harris Center for their unit on freshwater macroinvertebrates. Macroinvertebrates are organisms in ponds, lakes, streams, etc., that don't ever grow a vertebral column. Some of these species include Dragonfly Nymphs, Caddisfly Larvae, and even Mayfly Nymphs. Such a study is important because different kinds of invertebrates have different levels of tolerance for water quality (pH). This makes it so by sampling muck or piles of leaves from the bottom of a freshwater source, you can tell how good or bad the water quality is. This is exactly what the eighth grade did. They split into groups and went to separate parts of the pond's shoreline. Once they had assigned jobs, they got to work. A few students put waders on and went into the water to collect the samples, which other students sifted through to find the macroinvertebrates. The rest of the group identified each one and tallied up the numbers of the kinds of species they found.



After the field trip, in science class the groups put their numbers together to figure out the water quality of Norway Pond. Overall everyone had an exciting learning experience putting class lessons into real life scientific work. It was nice to spend a beautiful day outside doing science and learning in a different way.



## Halloween Minion Pumpkins

by Jack McLaughlin



In Ms. Wall's advisory, the students made minions out of pumpkins. Ms. Wall bought 20 pumpkins for everyone to paint. She passed out purple and yellow paint so if you wanted to do a yellow minion you can do a yellow minion, or if you wanted to do a purple minion you could do a purple minion. On the first day of the project students chose what color paint they wanted and with the color that they chose they painted the whole pumpkin. Once everyone was done with painting the students would set their pumpkins on a



piece of paper and write their name on their piece of paper. After a week of allowing the paint to dry, the student started painting the pants and goggles on their minion. If a student wanted to paint a purple minion, they would paint goggles and a mouth. If a student wanted to paint a yellow pumpkin, they would paint goggles or blue pants on their minion. At the end of the day students would take their minion home and use them as a decoration, put them outside of their house for Halloween, or give them to their parents as a gift. Ms. Walls advisory worked very hard on these pumpkins, and almost every student enjoyed painting them!

## Floor Plans

By Sarah Knowles

In 7th grade IAT we are working on floor plans for a house using a computer program called Versa-CAD. CAD stands for Computer Aided Design. Versa-CAD lets you draw on a computer on graph paper. First, when you open Versa-CAD you go to Palettes, then select the three palettes that don't have a check mark next to them: constraint, construct, and dimension. Once you have the six palettes up that you need, organize them how you want. Next, on your construct tool bar, there should be a little symbol that looks like a grid, next to a tool symbol that is three dots. Double click on the grid tool, and a screen pops up. Change absolute to relative, and the measurement drop down to feet. Then click OK. A grid will appear. Down in the bottom left there is a tool with four arrows pointing out; click on that once. Then, find the double line tool-it's symbol is two lines next to each other, then double click on that. Change the width to six inches and click join and continuous. Then there is a box with three rows of symbols. In the first row click the second box; second row, click the first box; and the last row is the same as the first. Then click OK. Go over toward the left and up, but not too far, and click anywhere to start your rectangle. When you click, look at the coordinates box. It automatically changes to zero. Go down to 24" and click. Then over 36", and click, then up 24", click, over 36". There is your inner and outside wall to your house. To make your walls within your house, using the double line tool still, do the same thing, but sized to the dimensions needed. Once you have all your inner walls done, you can go through now and add doors and windows. Go up to Architect, click on Doors and Windows. Once the pop up opens, click on the door or window you want and size it to your liking. Once you have chosen and sized your door or window, click OK. You can also choose to put down multiple. Click the single line of where you want your door/window to start, then click the line parallel to it. It will automatically size it. Once you have all your doors and windows down, you can go through and do details: toilets, kitchen counter, couch, bed, bedside, or other any detail you may want. For a toilet find the rectangle tool, then in your bathroom, find where you want your toilet and draw a narrow rectangle. That is your tank. Then, find the oval tool to make your toilet bowl. To delete anything, go to the cursor tool and click on the thing you want to delete and hit the delete key. For a bed, use the rectangle tool. In the bedroom, draw a rectangle about the size of a bed. Then, for pillows, draw smaller rectangles on the bed. For a dining room table, draw a rectangle with little rectangles or circles for seats. You can experiment and be creative. Versa-CAD is a really neat program, and if you ever get to use it, have fun with it.

**be thankful haiku:)***by reagan riffle*

in this special week  
we should all take a quick peak  
at all of the small  
and big things we have  
in our spectacular lives  
to be thankful for

here at sms  
students have so many things  
to be gracious for

our teachers are neat  
they work harder than us all  
and they always smile

what about recess?!  
not all other schools have it  
be thankful for that

and ehp, too  
there's something unique to us  
the classes are great

and last but not least  
be thankful for all your peers  
who better to spend  
an amazing four years with

the long lasting friends  
are what bring us all together  
so thank everyone  
you can, this thanksgiving week

**Improv Club***by Nicky DiNino*

One of the great things about SMS is that there are so many opportunities. If you like sports, you can play sports. If you like robotics, join the robotics team. And I think that if you like having a good time, then you should join improv club. Improv club is a club that was created by Mrs.Koban. It started in September, and it goes on until May. It's an after school activity where you do all sorts of fun games that help you with your improvisation skills. In case you don't know, Improvisation is where you make things up on the spot. One of the most fun games is called, "Story, Story, Die". In this game five people go up to the stage. The audience picks a genre and a title for the story, and then one of the five people starts to tell the story. The leader will then pick someone else to keep telling the story from where the last person stopped. If this new person repeats the last word that the other person said, then they are out, and they have to do a dramatic death. Eventually, there will be an Improv Club performance.

**Edgar Allan Poe***by Kylie Johnson*

The Eighth Grade has done a tremendous amount of research on Edgar Allan Poe-we have read some of his stories and poems, and we watched a movie that was all about his life. Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, MA, in 1809, and he died in Baltimore, MD, in 1849. His parents both died before Poe was even three years old, but he soon got brought into the Allan household. John Allan, his foster father, sent Poe to the best boarding schools and later to the University of Virginia, where Poe excelled academically. But, after less than one year of school, Poe was forced to leave the university when his foster father refused to pay Poe's gambling debts. Poe had returned back home, but his relationship with Allan deteriorated. In 1827, he moved to Boston and enlisted in the United States Army. The very first collection of his poems were published that year. Then, in 1829, he published another collection. Neither

volume received much public attention, nor did Poe collect any money from it. Poe was soon admitted to the United States Military Academy, but was forced to leave for a lack of financial support. He then moved to the home of his aunt, Maria Clemm, and her daughter, Virginia, in Baltimore. There, he became the editor of the Southern Literary Messenger in Richmond, in 1835. In 1836, Poe married Virginia, who was 14 at the time. Over the span of the next ten years, he would edit a number of literary journals, and he also established himself as a poet, short-story writer, and also an editor. In 1847, Virginia suffered from tuberculosis (called 'consumption' at the time) and she died, and Poe's issues with depression and alcoholism worsened. In 1849, Poe briefly returned to Richmond and then set off to Philadelphia for an editing job. But, for unknown reasons, he stopped in Baltimore. On October 3, 1849, he was found in a state of semi-consciousness on the sidewalk. Poe had later died of "acute congestion of the brain". Many people who have read his stories or poems lean towards the idea that Edgar Allan Poe was crazy, but nobody can say for sure he was. What do you think? Find a book written by Edgar Allan Poe and read it, but remember what he had been through in his life.

## Robot Timeline - Robotic Pumas

by *Bella Schwabe*

The first competition robotics team at South Meadow School is competing at their local competition on the 19th. As competition is rapidly approaching, the team is preparing by finishing up their research binder and programs. The team has changed their robot many times since they started creating it in April. To show this to the judges, they created a robot time line. In order to make this, they created an InDesign document and gathered all of their photos of the robots in various stages in its development. They then set it up in chronological order with labels saying the month as well as giving a brief summary of what was going on with their robot at that time. It begins in April, when they created a rather simple and basic robot design that they could easily add to and make more innovative. Next, in May, they began experimenting with the idea of a cage over the robot. They did this because many high scoring teams that they had seen last year used cages. They used cages because they can easily multitask and complete multiple tasks at once. Then, there is a bit of a gap because of the summer, but they start right back up in September. In September, they scrapped the idea of the cage because it was not strong enough and was too big for what they wanted to accomplish. Instead of the cage, they went back to another simple design, although it was still different from their original design. In October they felt as though the robot was far too heavy and slow, so they removed the unnecessary pieces as well as the gear train and adjusted their programs to be suitable for this change. At this point the team is doing well on the board and is very excited for their competition.

## F.A.C.S Cooking Unit

by *Meara McClusky*

The seventh grade F.A.C.S students previously had a unit on cooking and nutrition. So far they have been given a tour of the kitchen, done pre-tests on nutrition and cooking, and have made some food! The first dish the students made was applesauce. Using fresh apples, they created the dish from a recipe, and worked in teams of two to three. Each group was assigned a different part of the kitchen, and had to work together to create the applesauce. The next thing they made were grilled cheese sandwiches. The groups used white and wheat bread, American cheese, and butter to make the sandwiches. Everyone got to make their own sandwich, whatever way they liked it. Next, Mrs. Couture had the seventh graders make roasted potatoes. But first, they got to pick fresh parsley from the garden. In their groups, some students prepared the potatoes while others cut up the parsley. After the potatoes, the classes made soft pretzels. Each student got to help make the dough and shape their own pretzels. It was really fun! After the pretzels were done baking, everyone put butter, salt, and cinnamon sugar on them. Before this unit, we didn't know all of the cooking utensils, like pot holders, for example. After this unit, many students learned a lot about cooking and the things used in cooking. They also learned more about My Plate, which is a guide to the proportions of food groups. Now the seventh graders know the five food groups, and what foods belong in those groups. The students know a lot more about cooking and nutrition, and they want to learn even more!

## Stuff A Bus

By *Maddy Cilley*

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to wake up on a holiday morning, only to find that your family couldn't afford any presents this year? This is a feeling that Cheryl (the director of the Stuff A Bus fundraiser) wants no child to ever feel. So, she created Stuff A Bus. Every year around the time of the holidays, anyone can go to the Walmart in Amhearst on 101A and buy a toy or two and put it in Cheryl's bus. Gift cards work, as well. The bus will be parked outside of the store on **November 26 and 27** this year. The toys are then donated to help families in the community. Any donation is much appreciated. The Peer Mentors worked on a sign for Cheryl and have done this for the past few years. This is a wonderful event that we are proud to be associated with. Thank you Cheryl!

## Drama Club

by Nicky DiNino

Last week, rehearsals for the annual school play started. This year we are doing, “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe”. On the first day, all we did was read through the script, but I can already tell that Mrs. Koban did a good job with casting. Before reading the script, I was not familiar with the story of the play, and I must say that it is something to see. It is funny, it has action, and it has heart. I am extremely excited to continue going to rehearsals. “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe 2016-2017 SMS production is what keeps me going. It reminds me that on a sad Sunday night I can go back to school the next day and do what I love.” said Leah Krason about the play. When everyone gets a chance to see the play next year, I think and hope they will love it!

## Harris Center Field Trip

by Lizzie Rizzotti



Recently, South Meadow and the Harris Center collaborated to take the 8th graders on a field trip to Norway Pond. The 8th graders are observing macroinvertebrates and the quality of the water. Most of the information that the 8th grade has collected has proved our thesis. Norway Pond and lots of other ponds in the New Hampshire region do not have the best water quality, due mostly to of man-made changes over the years. The problem with Norway pond is, Moose Brook River carries water into the pond at the same point where the water leaves. This exemplifies that the water does not filter therefore effecting the water quality in lakes and ponds worldwide. Next time you swim in a lake or pond, you are also swimming with the creepy crawlies that live there.

## The Controversial SMS Bathroom Scandal

By Nicky DiNino

In the seventh grade, kids really like looking at themselves in the mirror. For girls, this is no big deal: when you're in the bathroom you check yourself out. For boys, however, we have to either: Go into Mr. Driscoll's classroom, or go to the 6th grade bathrooms, because there is no mirror in the 7th grade boys bathroom.

Some people wake up, and their hair is all messed up. When I wake up my eyebrows are messed up. When I'm at school I am constantly thinking, “How do my eyebrows look?” “Do I need to fix my eyebrows?” If I could just pop into the bathroom and check them out, then that would be great. The weirdest part of this whole thing is that there is a hook on the wall where a mirror would have been. But, the soap dispenser is in the middle of where this mirror would have been.

My theory is that somebody wrote a swear word on the mirror and they removed the mirror, and put the soap dispenser where the mirror used to be so that nobody would be suspicious.

## Puma Pride Winners for October



## Drama Cast

Reagan Riffle	Daniel McCall	Elizabeth Petrov
Emma Rodenhiser.	Inaya Vaidya	Mackenzie Mullins
Nicky Dinino.	Florence Colantino	Ava Rondeau
Will Thompson.	Avery Pope	Liliana Juarez
Rylie Marshall.	Arwyn Kelley	Emily Clark
Anna Taylor.	Leah Krason	Ruth Cross
Ayla Laro.	Kendall Sullivan	Raven Fleck
Nick Merzi.	Taylor LeClair	Violet Fletcher
Elli Ward.	Katherine Craig	Kaitlyn Stone
Hunter Contois.	Avery Swasey	
Savannah Affeldt.	Amia Knowles	

## Improv Team List

Improv Team List	Kermit Pope
Sophie Clayton	Nicole Spear
Katherine Craig	Liliana Juarez
Inaya Vaidya	Caden Cilley
Raven Fleck	Savannah Affeldt
Race Cantor	Grace Phillips
Ruth Cross	Leah Krason
Nick Dinino	Arwyn Kelley
Will Thompson	Elli Ward
Avery Pope	

## Robots or Pollinators?

*By Lorien Tyne*

The Robotic Pumas are competing this year in the First Lego League Competition and they are building and programming, right? So why are they studying pollinators? See, each year FLL not only challenges the teams to program different things for their robots to do but also presents them with a question or problem that they have to solve. For example, this year, the problem is focused on animals. Each teams job is to create a solution to a situation where a human and animal interaction could be improved or maybe it isn't good at all. The Robotic Pumas picked pollinators because believe it or not they need our help. All types of pollinators are becoming endangered like some kinds of bats, bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. So South Meadows very own robotics team has put their heads together and came up with several ways just about anyone can help these beings that we are actually very dependent on for things such as food and oxygen. Now that you know, bee helpful and research more about pollinators and the projects you can make for them like bat boxes, bee hotels, salt licks, bumblebee houses, hummingbird feeders, and butterfly feeders.

## Dance Team First Place

