

Puma News



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South Meadow School

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The Importance of Poetry

MRR

In a middle school society, the concept of writing is often demeaned to be boring, unnecessary, and geeky. The lessons that writing teach are underestimated amongst students and when they are taught basic writing concepts in class, their understanding and tolerance of the beautiful skill are extinguished. Because of the countless essays and writing tasks assigned to students on subjects outside of their personal interest, students are accustomed to think that writing is purposeless. Lacking interest, students never learn to practice writing for personal gain. They fail to appreciate the endless number of doors writing opens to youthful minds. That is why students who truly do adore the skill, go unnoticed. Some of South Meadow's students go incognito with their works because of the popular, negative connotation placed on them. Anonymously, I intend to share some of the most thought-provoking pieces written by our very own writers.

33117

anonymous

tears almost seem to fall at a similar
rate as the snow
climate change is real, and so is this

at a time where you need to prove
yourself
proving yourself morphs into finding
yourself
and then into rewriting yourself
but never can we simply,
be ourselves

One Word...

by Gabby Oja

If you could describe yourself in one word what would it be? One day my best friend asked me that, and I had no clue what to say. It was very difficult to explain myself in one word. I started to realize that I, and everyone else around me, is more than just one thing, one description. You can't describe someone's whole life in one word, you can only describe moments in their life with one word. Everyone could have a whole book just written about their personality. And so, every word I could come up with to describe myself could also be interpreted in a different, and sometimes "bad" way. For some, maybe the first thing they could think of to describe themselves would be "outgoing". However, outgoing could mean excited and funny, but also rude and obnoxious.

We decided that we would ask some students what their word would be, if they could only describe themselves in one word. Other people were having a hard time as well. There were some words that were extremely thought out, while some words were more carefree. When we continued asking people the question they would just stand there, thinking about it. Almost everyone would try to think of all these words that could be used to describe themselves and find the perfect one. Many times they didn't find the "perfect" word and decided to settle on a word they still did not necessarily believe could perfectly describe them.

However, after thinking for a long time I came to a conclusion. It doesn't matter if your word could be interpreted in a different way. It doesn't matter what someone else thinks about your word. The only thing that matters is how you would describe yourself, and how you think of yourself as a person. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you shouldn't care at all what others think. It is sometimes good to reflect on how others perceive you. Nonetheless, it is extremely important to occasionally think about yourself and how your own actions and words can affect you.

A List of Cages

by Bella Schwabe

rating 10/10!

A List of Cages by Robin Roe tells the story of Adam, a kind and popular eighteen year old with ADHD who is working as the school psychologist's aide for his senior elective. The school psychologist asks Adam to track down a freshman who is avoiding her. When Adam finds him he realizes that the troubled boy is Julian, his former foster brother, whom he has not seen in five years. Julian, the quiet, small boy with a colorful imagination, is similar to how Adam remembered him: he still writes stories, reads books meant for children, and has messy handwriting (due to his untreated dyslexia). However, Julian is unwilling to open up to Adam due to their complicated history. Although Julian had missed Adam, there is an uneasiness that lies within him because Julian is under the impression that Adam and his mother had Julian removed from their home after both of his parents died in a tragic car accident. In reality, Julian was taken from Adam's home because his uncle came forward and claimed custody of Julian. As time goes on, Julian warms up to Adam once again, but he seems to be keeping secrets, like what his uncle is like and where he goes at lunch. All Adam wants to do is help Julian, but his assistance could put both of their lives in danger.

This book provides the reader with an unexpected and surprising story that has an immense realness to it. Each character is well-rounded and complex, and the alternating points of views are well managed. Roe expertly and carefully gives out information about the boys' lives as the book progresses. This makes it so you are fully engaged from start to finish, waiting to find out the origin of Julian and Adam's complicated friendship. Roe's writing is raw and emotional and shows what it means to be a friend. Because Roe is a social worker, the incredibly well written story was very authentic. The story showed how much they needed each other and the ups and downs of reuniting with someone. This story is one of loss, grief, love, and is incredibly thought provoking. This story is both heartwarming and heart-breaking and is one that should not be overlooked.

The Race Gone Wild

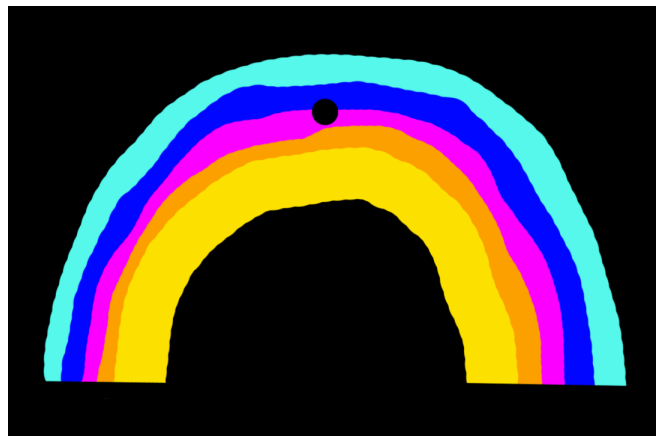
by Jack McLaughlin

I'm running really, really fast
 I'm running really fast, but I'm still lost
 Then I jumped on a car
 And went really far
 Then I fell off
 I'm on the ground and I hope I don't cough
 Now I'm really sad
 So I call my dad
 He didn't pick up
 So then I tried calling my pup
 He did pick up
 Yup, yup, yup
 All he said was, bark, bark, bark
 My pup's name is Marc
 So I hung up
 Yup, yup, yup

Incredible Illusions!

By Kendall Larson

Stare at the black dot in the middle of the neon rainbow for 20 seconds, then look at the ceiling. Blink hard for two seconds but keep your eyes on the ceiling. Do you see the full rainbow?

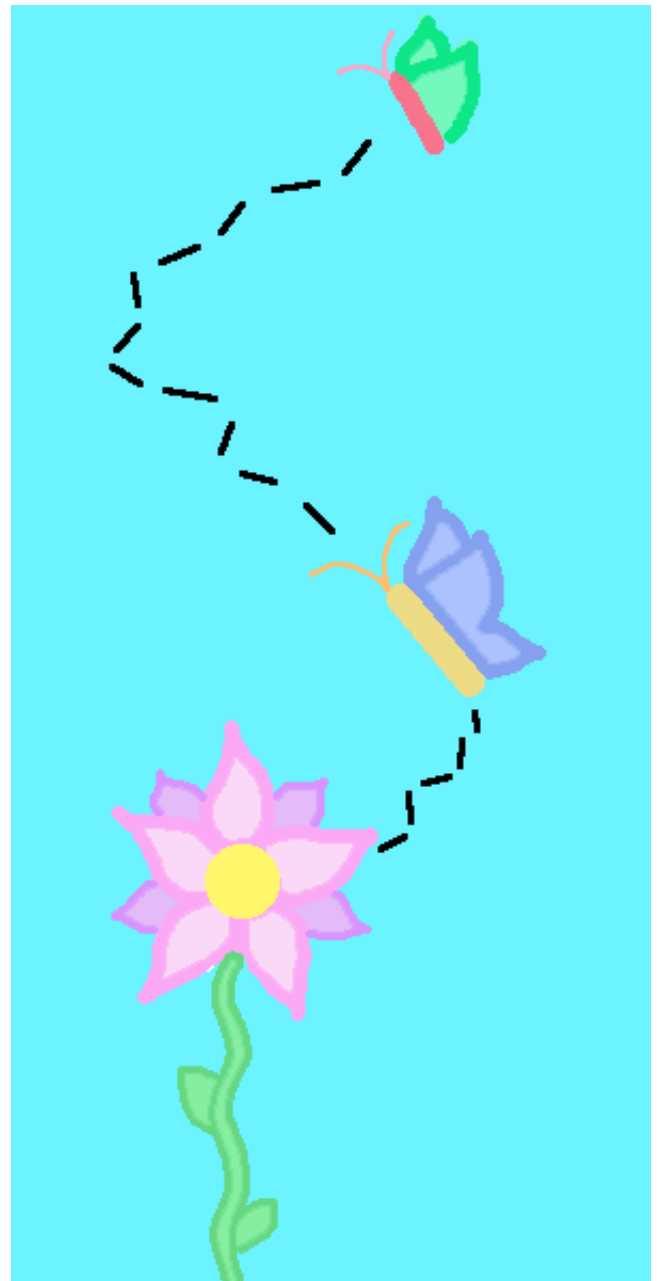


A man turned 70 in the year 2000, but in 2010 he turned 60 years old. How can this be?

Cell Phones in School?

by Jack McLaughlin

Here at SMS, students are not allowed to use phones during school. What if students could use their phones during school? Students could contact parents, improve education, and save the school money. Let's say you go to school and you forgot your trumpet. With the no phone rule you will have to walk to advisory, ask your teacher to call home, call your parents, and your parents might not pick up so you leave a message. Then, throughout the day you are wondering if your parents got your message. Meanwhile at home your parents get your message and bring your trumpet into the office and the office calls down and you grab your trumpet and this happens after your lesson. If you had your phone with you, you could just text your mom or dad on the bus instead of waiting to get to school and call. Phones will also improve education. When a teacher is giving a lecture about division problems in math class, students might not be able to remember all the notes. Instead of students writing down the notes and maybe missing some things, they can take a picture of the notes and write them down later. Students can also use their phone as a calculator and a dictionary. Students could even record lectures if they learn better through hearing the material more than once. Some students enjoy listening to music during class while doing work, whether it's reading, writing, or even homework. Although some may ask, "Wouldn't students be tuning out their teachers?" Teachers can always just tell the students to put their phone down and to unplug their ear buds. Teachers can also tell their students they don't want phones in their class. Bringing phones into class also raises concerns about cheating. Teachers can ask students to hand in their phone before the test begins and then hand them back out at the end of class. Letting kids use their phones during school saves the school money. Instead of paying money for iPads, students can use their phones instead. A phone has a built in dictionary, calculator, and can get educational apps. Another question that draws attention is the fact of browsing inappropriate websites. Teachers can force students to use the school wifi so that certain websites will be blocked. If students use their phones inappropriately during school, they can get it taken away until the end of the day. Having a phone is a huge responsibility and kids should learn how to have responsibilities in school. When you get older you need to take care of your car, family, and many other things, so students should learn at least one responsibility while young so they know what its like to have responsibilities. Letting students use their phones will help them begin to learn about these numerous responsibilities. In conclusion, SMS should allow students to use phones in class because students can contact people for help, improve education, and save money.



What to do Over Spring Break (If You Are Not Going Anywhere)

by Maddy Cilley

If your friend keeps talking about how they are going to Hawaii over April Break, and you're not going anywhere, don't fret, just read this article! There are so many things you can do over April Break, without an exorbitant amount of money or travel. First of all, if you have nowhere you need to be for a week, you can finally catch up on sleep, after being deprived of it for the past month and a half. When you have to go to school, you have to get up early, and stay up late doing homework, but over break you can sleep in as long as you want!

In addition, while staying home for a week you have lots of free time, so you can finally complete your community service hours. This may not be the most fun option, but when you get back from April Break, time flies. Before you know it, your hours are due. You will be so much better off if you complete the requirement when you have some down time, so you can secure your spot on the year end field trip. Once your hours are completed, you do not have to stress any further about finding the time to complete them.

Furthermore, during break there is plenty of time to find a new hobby, such as embroidering or rock climbing. With all the time spent doing homework and normal extracurricular activities, there is not a lot of extra time to find another activity you enjoy, and break provides the perfect opportunity for this. You may be surprised to find that you enjoy something such as cycling.

Also, over the course of break you should go outside! During the school day you are kept inside almost all day, but while on break there is no excuse for staying inside. Spring has finally arrived, and lately it has been gorgeous outside. So spend some time outside, whether it be walking your dog, going on a bike ride, or just reading in the sunshine.

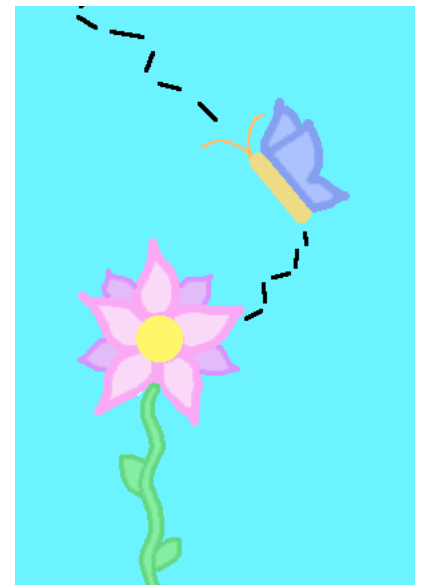
Furthermore, between extracurricular activities, homework, and school itself, there is not a lot of time to practice your instrument. So if you're in band, then use this free time to practice your music, and come back ready to take any test Mr. Lowy can throw at you. Break is the perfect time to master your music so you're all ready for the spring concert (which is in just a few weeks).

Finally, take some time over break to find a good book that you really enjoy, and read it. Reading is good for you in so many ways, and you would really benefit from sitting down with a good book and taking the time to read it. In summary, there are plenty of things to do over April break, even if you're not going to Hawaii. You can sleep, complete your community service hours, discover a new hobby, go outside, practice your instrument, or read.

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Word Search

by Teddy McLaughlin



ghosted*anonymous*

would you like to know what my biggest fear is?
 ghosts.
 those who linger but are never lost,
 those who will never leave but were never here,
 those who permanently scratched you and burned you,
 but left no scars open to a naked eye.

beautiful boy,
 treacherous, dangerous, devastating, boy.

ripped and unseamed you left me exposed
 the very strings of my heart you carefully, carefully
 unwove with feeble fingers, so delicate
 yet so deadly.

subtly, unbeknownst to the naïvest of minds
 you occupied a fraction of my stitched happiness,
 you owned it.

even though she heard,
 she knew that this boy, this beautiful boy,
 was a reaper of emotional embroidery,
 the girl was undeniably fearless and blinded by the call of a challenge;
 she was going to change him, and she was going to be different.
 with these words, she gracefully allowed him to stitch the needle-
 below her very own hazel eyes.

but suddenly her heart wasn't valuable enough for the loot he was
 scavenging.
 she had become a fool, a servant, to his mischievous affairs.
 a toy to a child; so meaningless, but so willing to be used.

so when he ran,
 in search of another independent, to depend on him
 the stitches were left unrepaired - torn and damaged.

she gathered the strength to forcefully stitch by stitch,
 mend the bond between her smile and her scowl.

but the beautiful boy
 the dangerous, beautiful boy,
 left his own pattern along the garden of her happiness.

pesticides to the flowers that haunt all of her decisions.
 she may feel them,
 but this girl will never see them.

SLIME!*by Daisy Ober*

I have been experimenting with
 several different slime recipes, but
 only one really worked for me.

For this slime recipe you only need
 4 ingredients.

Ingredients:

Glue (Elmer's School Glue works
 best)
 Shaving Cream
 Laundry Detergent (Tide works
 best)
 Water

(You will also need food coloring
 or acrylic paint if you want it to be
 a certain color.)

Step 1: Pour 2 tablespoons of glue
 into a container/bowl.

Step 2: Pour in a teaspoon of water
 and mix thoroughly.

Step 3: Add color and mix again.

Step 4: Add 1 t-spoon of laundry
 detergent. Mix until the slime be-
 gins to not stick to your bowl/con-
 tainer.

Step 5: Add 2 teaspoons of shaving
 cream and mix again.

Step 6: Use your hands! Take the
 slime out of the container/bowl and
 knead it with your hands until the
 slime doesn't leave any residue on
 your hands.

Step 7: Enjoy your slime!

Wonder 2: The Shrektacular Experience

anonymous

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Part 1 Enter the Knight

Little Auggie is laying on his bed, a mist rolls in through the window. There he is, the big-man. Auggie has never seen a man as big as this man; he is nine feet tall. He is wearing a mask. Auggie says, "What are you hiding under that mask?" The man takes off his mask... It's Shrek. Shrek says, with a twinkle in his eye, "I'm your real father, Auggie".

Part 2 Fiona

"Aye you have too come with me, back to Father Onion!"
 "Who's Father Onion?" Auggie asked.
 "Father Onion made me, and you, and even the whole world!"
 "But Mommy says..."
 "Your mother is Fiona!" Auggie is very confused by all of this. He immediately forms a connection with Shrek. All of a sudden another magical mist rolls through the window. It's Fiona!
 "Hello there Baby Boy!" says Fiona as she walks over to Shrek. She gives him an incredibly oniony hug.
 "Auggie, we are your real parents. The parents you know are just foster parents!" Auggie suddenly realized that the reason he looks so weird is because he is an ogre as well.
 Auggie asks "Daddy, is that the reason I look so weird? Am I an ogre?"

Part 3 The Consensus

"Aye, your transformation from ogre to human did not go so well. You became a half ogre. We could not keep you in The Swamp because there was a war between ogres and the fairies. But now we need to bring you back to the swamp for the Summer Games!"
 "Daddy I want to be a real ogre!"
 "There is only one person who can turn you back into a real ogre. Father Onion!"

Part 4 Father Onion

Auggie hopped on Shrek's back and they flew out the window. The journey is long and far they flew over rivers and mountains. As they fly Shrek and Fiona sing the famous ogre flying poem,

*Somebody once told me the world is gonna roll me
 I ain't the sharpest tool in the shed
 She was looking kind of dumb with her finger and her thumb
 In the shape of an "L" on her forehead*

Well, the years start coming and they don't stop coming... You know the rest!

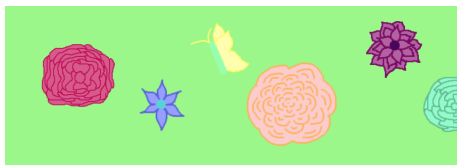
They end up at a giant cave in the side of a mountain. Shrek says "Aye, there he is son, Father Onion!" As August turns his head he sees a giant onion-shaped beast floating towards him. In a loud booming voice Father Onion says, "Aye Shrek I have not seen you in years. How are things going?" Shrek gets down on his hands and knees in respect for the great onion, "Father Onion I need you to change my boy back into an ogre!" "Anything for you Shrek." As he floats over to August he holds out his long oily onion finger and touches the little boy's forehead.

Part 5

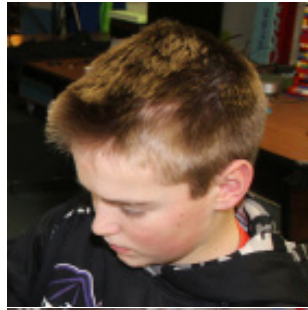
Auggie's Transformation

Auggie gets lifted up into the air. He spins around faster than light as his skin starts to turn a rather ogre-like green. Two little ears pop out of the top of his head. His hair falls off, since ogres don't have hair. He is now more ogre than human. He has developed multiple new and exciting layers. Sweet and sour, crispy and juicy, and of course his Shrek layer. Auggie falls to the ground. He looks up at Shrek. "It's all ogre now" says Auggie. "It's never ogre." says Shrek.

THE END?



Draw a line between the puppy and their friend on the Newspaper Staff!



A

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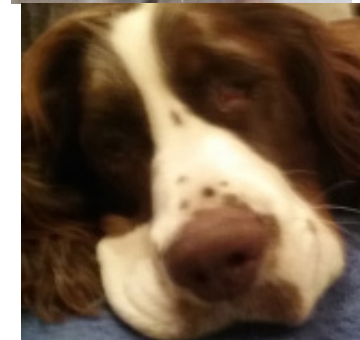
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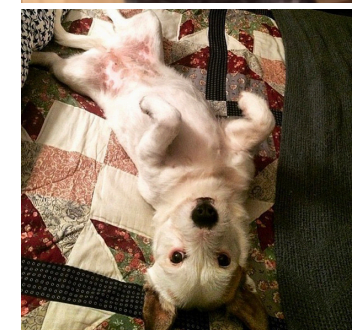
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F

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SMS Baseball Team

by Otto McLaughlin

Last year the SMS baseball team went 11-1 but when they lost it was a scrimmage so, it didn't really count. So one could argue they went 11-0. We're hoping these kids can bring us a banner and a trophy.

Elias Niemela	Jack McLaughlin	Austin knight	Sam Scheinblum	Zach Burgess
Isaiah Michaels	Spencer Newsham	Thomas Fagiano	Lorien Wright	Liam Eliot
Ben Kriebel	Zach Allard	Michael Gutwein	Wyatt Hutchinson	

The SMS baseball tryout are held in late March to early April. There were about twelve, 6th graders. But usually 6th graders don't make it, not because they're not good, which might be the case, but I think they don't make the team because they have not played on a big diamond before. There were several 7th graders trying out for baseball, and about eight 8th graders trying out. In all there were about 27 kids trying out for baseball.

The coach of the SMS baseball team is Mr. Cipolla; I'm pretty sure they call him Cippy. I think he is a good coach because he is the head coach for the Salem Hurricanes U12 team. Also, when we had a dodge ball activity in gym, he told us how to throw a dodge ball and it looked like he knew what he was doing.

The expectations for this team are really good. At least I think that because I played with most of the kids in REC baseball and All-Stars, and they are all really good ball players. I don't know about the 8th graders, but I heard really good things about them. Cippy will probably make them the best team they can be and make them reach their full potential.

The practice schedule for the SMS baseball team is every day of the week. The practices start at 2:30PM and end at 4:00PM. The Baseball team's first game is early May or mid May. When they had indoor baseball practice, the practices started later because of the softball team. So when the softball team was practicing the SMS team had a study hall.

Hopefully this SMS baseball team can bring us a banner and a trophy. I am pretty sure they can do it, and I can't think of another team better than they.

SMS Softball Team

by Daisy Ober

Congratulations to everyone who made the South Meadow School Softball Team! We are proud to have such a great team of girls to represent our school.

The lineup of this year's team is:

2017 South Meadow School Softball Roster

Breanna Hutchinson	8	#2	Kendall Sullivan	6	#22
Morgan Bemont	6	#13	Annika Madeja	6	#11
Mairin Burgess	7	#18	Morgan Bemont	6	#13
Emma Carpenter	7	#4			
Anthea Curtis	7	#5	Coach: Tod Silegy		
Savannah Lee	7	#17	Assistant Coach: Dick Ellingwood		
Bailey Levesque	7	#12	High School Assistant Coach: Callie Plourde		
Juliette Cabana	7	#7			
Rya Collins	6	#8	Managers: Regan Riffle, Ayla Laro, Lilly Schwabe, Katie Carey		
Makennah McPherson	6	#1			
Lily Mandel	6	#21	Thank you, Mr. Sil, for putting together such an amazing team.		
Kryslin Stearns	6	#15			

May



sunday	monday	tuesday	wenesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 National School Principals' Day Mrs.Hopgood's Bday NEHT	2 SMS Vice Principle Day	3 National Lumpy Rug Day	4 National Star Wars Days Mr. Silogy's Bday 8th grade harris	5 Cinco De Mayo Puma Pride assembly	6 Do a Cartwheel Day
7 Mrs. Decibus's Birthday	8 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Door Decorating	9 National Teacher Appreciation Day Decibus & Iwanowicz Boston	10 Give Mrs.Brezovec a high-five day Spring concert	11 SMS newspaper appreciation day	12 National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day Great East	13 National Crouton Day
14 Mothers Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 National Love a Tree Day Hayes/Hautanen Boston	17 International Day Against Homophobia	18 Give Mr.Townsend a penny Day	19 National NASCAR Day	20 National Armed Forces Day
21 National Take Your Parents to the Playground	22 International Day for Biological Diversity	23 National Lucky Penny Day	24 Brothers Day	25 Geek Pride Day	26 National don't fry day	27 Cellophane tape day
28 Amnesty International Day	29 Memorial Day no school	30 National Water a Flower Day	31 National Macaroon Day			

LEAH'S KITCHEN CORNER

Welcome to Leah's Kitchen Corner! This monthly column will be full of some of the newspaper staff's favorite recipes. We hope you enjoy reading and creating what we have for you!

Strawberry Shortcake

This is a super easy recipe that tastes great!

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds of strawberries, quartered
- 5 tablespoons of sugar
- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 1/4 cups of heavy cream
- Whipped cream

Directions:

- Mix the strawberries with 3 tablespoons of sugar, then set in the fridge for at least thirty minutes.
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees fahrenheit.
- While the oven is heating and the strawberries are sitting, sift together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar into a bowl and whisk.
- Add the heavy cream and mix until it is combined; it will be a sticky dough.
- Put this into an ungreased 8 inch baking pan, and out it into the oven for 18 to 20 minutes, until it is golden.
- Let this cool, then slice into at least six pieces. Take these pieces and slice them down the middle, as evenly as possible.
- To assemble; put some strawberries in the middle, like a sandwich, and finish with the other half, a dollop of whipped cream, and a few more strawberries for good measure; lemon zest is optional but tastes great

Then you are done! Enjoy!

Cranberry Cocoa Nib Brownies

This is a great brownie recipe from Real Simple!

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks of unsalted butter
- 8 ounces of bittersweet chocolate chips
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 1 cup of dark brown sugar
- 2 of teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 of teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup of all purpose flour
- 1 cup of fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1/3 cup of cocoa nibs
- 1 tablespoon of extra cocoa nibs

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees; and cover a 9 by 13 inch tray with baking paper, then cover that with any cooking spray
- Melt the butter and chocolate chips; stirring on a medium heat for about five minutes
- In a large bowl, whisk the eggs; add in the sugars, vanilla, salt, and the slightly cooled chocolate mixture, and stir until combined
- Fold in the flour, cranberries, and 1/3 cup of cocoa nibs without overmixing
- Spread the batter into the pan and sprinkle on the tablespoon of cocoa nibs
- Bake in the oven until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted, about 40 minutes
- Let cool completely in pan
- Holding both sides of the parchment, gently pull the brownies out and cut into roughly 24 squares

And that is it!