



Puma Press

-Issue Number One-
-Newspaper Staff-

Leah Krason, Meara McClusky, Nicky DiNino, Jack McLaughlin, Teddy McLaughlin,
Otto McLaughlin, Sarah Knowles, Daisey Ober, Kendall Larson, Mairin Burgess

Peer Mentor Class With the New Fifth Graders

By Leah Krason

We are finally back at school, ready for the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. After a great summer break, it is now time to get back into school and into our classes. The past years' eighth graders are up in the high school, and last years' fourth graders have now joined South Meadow School. For the new fifth graders, almost everything they see is new, from Puma Pride assemblies to the rotating schedule. The first few weeks as a fifth grader may need some settling in. One thing that is a different experience for all of the students at South Meadow School is the fifth grade special taught by Mrs. Brezovec. Mrs. Brezovec originally came to the school as a fifth grade self-contained teacher, moved to a 6/7 loop, then began the Expanding Horizons Program, an opportunity for a fun different style of class with broader subjects to teach. She is continuing the beloved E.H.P program, but for the first quarter this year she is also teaching a new special for the fifth graders, alongside some peer mentors. For a new experience, the fifth graders are getting a taste of the many opportunities the classes in that program has to offer. The class is both taught and planned by most of our eighth grade peer mentors with the guidance of Mrs. Brezovec. The basic idea of the class is to create a spark of interest in joining a specific E.H.P class in the second quarter this year. The new fifth graders will also be taught basic skills that will be applied throughout the rest of their school career. The eighth graders spend most of their time with a small group of fifth graders that changes over the course of the forty five day quarter. The idea of a peer mentor with a small group of fifth graders doing a wide variety of projects mirrors the normal bi-weekly meetings between a peer mentor and their fifth grade group a lot. Unlike in those classes, in this class the peer mentors are trying to teach the fifth graders valuable skills that may create the beginnings of an interest in a certain class. This functions quite well, as towards the end of the quarter, meaning the specials are switched, the fifth graders interested in a certain E.H.P program have the chance to sign up for whatever class they are interested in. Options for fifth graders include Newspaper, Web casting, or Simple Machines. The eighth graders will be teaching the students a number of things, including topics like navigating most core google platforms, creating a document in InDesign, working with some of Mrs. Brezovec's robots, making a slide for the morning announcements in Photoshop, learning to take photos, and potentially writing something for the newspaper. The first activity we did in this class was create with the fifth graders a grit cloud about the rules in EHP. In addition to the main project the students have also been exploring things like Gmail and Google Drive, which are valuable skills especially for school. Last year the eighth (previously seventh) graders created the grit clouds that students and teachers will see in the hallways and classrooms. Last years' project took a lot of work, as many students were having their first experience with the program. This year, the eighth graders knew what they were doing and were able to teach their small fifth grade group how to simply create a poster using fun fonts and colors. For this project I ended up with the elite roll of Mrs. Brezovec's lovely assistant, meaning I walked around and examined the other students' work, helped them if they were confused or there was an error, and did small projects for Mrs. Brezovec. With this role, I really got to see how the different groups functioned. Even though the basics of the project were the same, and the idea of each creation is similar, the end products really do come out drastically different. Some are neat and pleasing to the eye, you could even spot a couple attempts at a rainbow order, while others clearly had lots of fun exploring different fonts, colors, and sizes. Groups with a little extra time and a knowledgeable peer mentor even implemented the use of other tools to create effects such as shadows or a background. Looking at what the fifth graders can already create with the guidance of an eighth grader has made our group of peer mentors excited to teach the students more, as there is definitely more to come.

The Difference

By Ted McLaughlin

Hi, my name is Ted McLaughlin, and I am currently a sixth grader. Sixth grade is really fun, probably better than fifth grade, because you have a lot more responsibilities. For some students fifth grade was probably better because it was a lot easier, and you had less responsibilities. But for me having more responsibilities is actually kind of fun. In LA you choose your AR instead of the teachers setting your AR. Also, instead of doing work that you didn't finish in class, you have to do it at plus block, so people that didn't finish their work don't slow down the class. In the middle of fifth grade I heard teachers talking about doing that, but then they decided not to do it. I can see why, though. A lot of kids weren't finishing their work, and they didn't have enough time at plus block. The special blocks change, too. Instead of A and B block, it is E and F block. Which isn't really that important, but you don't have Mr. Hammett as an art teacher, you have him as an IAT teacher. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Fox are the art teachers. But that is for classes. There is so much more to do in sixth grade. In fifth grade you can do chorus, but in sixth grade you can try out for select chorus. Select chorus is when Mrs. Fortin picks thirty of the best singers in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. There are only six kids in select chorus from sixth grade. Also, in fifth grade you can only try out for cross country, wrestling, and maybe football. But in sixth grade you can tryout for baseball, soccer, field hockey, basketball, and football. But for soccer they have an A and B team. A team is obviously better than the B. Usually the case for sixth graders is that you can't make A team as a sixth grader, so when you are in 7th and 8th grade that is when you have a better chance of making A team. But if you are really good, like insanely good, Sil might let you on the A team. That has never happened yet but you can be the first. With lunch and recess at first it is really annoying, because in fifth grade you had lunch first and then you can burn off the calories. But this year you have recess first and then lunch. In a way it's better because for the rest of the day, as you are not hungry for the rest of the day. But when plus block is over you just want to eat, but recess first and then lunch. Out of all of these differences I think being able to try out for a sport is probably the best difference, because ever since the beginning of fifth grade I have wanted to be able to try out for a team and now I can and I have. I play soccer on the B team. It is so much fun. You get to play as many game as A, but still being able to play for a team for your middle school is pretty cool. Playing away games are also fun, because if it is far and the game is at 3:30 we get to leave at 1:45 or 1:30 or even 1:15. After the game if it is late we get to stop somewhere to eat with our team. This might happen this Friday because we are playing Boyton, New Hampshire, and I really hope is the case. But yeah, those are the differences between fifth and sixth grade.

Riddles

By Mairin Burgess

A king has no queen, no daughters, and no sons. For this reason, the king must choose who will take the throne after he dies. To do this he decides that all the children in the kingdom will get a single seed. Whichever child has the largest, most beautiful plant will earn the throne; this being a metaphor of the kingdom. At the end of the competition all of the children came in with beautiful and enormous plants in hand. After he looks at all the children's plants, he finally decided that the small girl with an empty pot will be the next queen. Why did he choose the small girl over all the other children with their beautiful plants?

Because the king gave everyone fake seeds and the girl was the only one who was honest and didn't switch seeds.

All five sisters are busy. Rose is reading a book, Mary is cooking, Katie is playing chess, and Ann is doing the laundry. What is the fifth sister doing? Playing chess with Katie.

The Endangered Animals: The Oncilla

By Sarah Knowles

The Oncilla, or what scientific literature refers to as *Tigrinas*, is probably an animal name you have not heard commonly used. The reason is most likely because it lives in South America, and can be found from Venezuela to northern Argentina. The population is going down due to poaching and deforestation. They can have coats ranging from light brown to rich ombre. Their spots and blotches go from very dark brown to black. Every once in awhile there is a melanistic oncilla. Melanistic is the opposite of albino, dark pigmentation instead of white pigmentation. The average height is eight inches. The length from their head to their tail is fifteen to twenty-three inches. Their tails are seven point eight to sixteen inches long. They weigh about four to eight pounds. In 2013 scientist discovered four sub-populations of oncillas. That includes the northeastern oncilla that lives in grasslands and savannahs, and the southern oncilla that lives mainly in Brazil's mountainous forests. The northeastern oncillas coat is slightly lighter with smaller rosettes, which are markings. It was mentioned earlier that these cats can be found from Venezuela to northern Argentina. A large portion of that is Brazil. There is a separate population from central Costa Rica through Panama. The spread is pretty even though patchy in the Amazon basin. In the protected parts of the Amazon rainforest the density of the oncillas is less than outside the protected areas. Scat tracks and camera trappings were found where Pumas, Ocelots, and Jaguars are not around. Home ranges found are bigger than suggested by the body size of the cats: for the female's point six miles to one point seven miles, the male's three miles to ten point six miles. Residents of these homes range from one to five cats per sixty-two miles.

They are small, agile and good climbers. They walk in a fast paced, head first position like the Margay, which is a small cat also native to central South America. A study in the Brazil, specifically the Atlantic rainforest, showed that in the semi-arid thorn scrub the oncillas are active in day time hours. In the forest they are active by night, more active at night in the areas where the Pumas, Ocelots, and Margay, the larger cats, do not seem to be around. The cats are more active in daylight where the larger cats are found. Oncillas seem to like the edge between the forest and grasslands, which contains a high number of small animals for prey.

The female's period lasts for several days, during which males are aggressive toward the females. Pregnancy last about seventy-four to seventy-six days. That is in captivity. One to three kittens in litter is common, weighing point thirteen pounds to point twenty-six pounds. The kittens are weaned at about two to three months and eyes opens around seventeen days. At around one year maturity is effective.

Easily mistaken for a Margay or young Ocelot, the oncillas are difficult to tell apart out of these three species. Only the most knowledgeable native people and former hunters can tell the differences between these three animals. The first picture of these oncillas in the wild was taken in 2003 by a camera trap in Brazil. In the Amazon the recordings of these cats are scarce. Maybe this is due to their natural rarity, scattered distribution, or a lack of sightings or evidence. The vast land has been searched for any signs of these animals. Their range overlaps with the Geoffroy's Cat, or the *Leopardus Geoffroyi* as referred to in scientific literature, in southern Brazil with some evidence of cross breeding. It was shown in a report on South America about cat fur trade between 1976 and 1982 that oncillas are the most heavily hunted out of the four small cats. It can be hard to feel bad for these cats when there is little known about the oncilla. When coffee plantations are established they are often established in the cloud forest habitat. Observers of the oncillas on the outside of eucalyptus plantations and deforested areas show that the cats might have adjusted to the habitat change. Habitat loss is caused many different reasons, two being cattle ranching and agriculture. I hope this information has been helpful to learn about the oncilla. The source that was used was the International Society for Endangered Cats (ISEC). Thanks for reading.

Girls Soccer Team

By Meara McClusky

On the first day of school, twelve girls showed up for South Meadow School soccer tryouts. And because eleven people play on the field at a time, the team only had one sub. Although they only had twelve people, the first practice went well. The new coach, Josh Guion, had the girls run through different dribbling and passing drills. Both were relatively basic drills to see what their skill level was. There was one passing drill that everyone kept messing up at, but in the end the team kind of understood the drill. After they went through all of the drills, the team scrimmaged 6 v. 6. In the scrimmage, there were many good plays, as well as quite a bit of tripping. Nonetheless, the first day of tryouts went very well. Only one of the team's manager showed up, so the team is still waiting to see the other manager. Day two of the tryouts was almost the same as the first day. Still with only twelve girls, the team started another day of practice. Just like the first day, the girls did two laps around half of the field while singing. The singing part was not necessary, but it is fun to sing High School Musical excessively. Josh (the coach) was late to practice, so the girls coached themselves for a little while. Once Josh showed up, practice actually began. After the long weekend, practice started again on Tuesday. This time, sixteen girls showed up for soccer, which was a big improvement. Tuesday was an extremely hot day, and many girls forgot their water. Josh, now called Joshie or the Guionosaur, let the team play lightning. Neither manager showed up that day, so the team has only met one manager. Sadly their next practice got canceled due to rain, so the girls only have three days until their first game against Pelham. The team also played the boys Blue and White teams in a scrimmage. They lost to the White team 2-0, but they definitely did better than their scrimmage against the boys last year. Beating the boys Blue team was fun be-

cause some girls had siblings on the team. Last year, South Meadow girls soccer earned runner-up in the league, losing a close game to Raymond. Hopefully, the team can win the whole thing, or at least beat Raymond. Riding the bus is always a really great experience, too. Everyone has to be prepared to either sing along the whole bus ride, or tune the singers out the whole bus ride. Even though it may sound a little bit strange, the bus is a really great part of the season because of all the team bonding. On the bus, you really get to know the team even better than you already do. The season got off to a great start on Tuesday, because the girls beat Pelham 1-0 in their game. Everyone played very well, even though it was a hot day. The goalie, Mairin Burgess made some amazing saves. New captains Katie Carey and Kendall Larson denied many opportunities from the other team. Kryslyn scored the winning goal in the first half thanks to an assist by Cami Hendrixson. As a team, the girls played an awesome game and worked very well together. Their win was also helped by all of the fans who showed up to watch. It was really exciting to see the girls work and play together in a real game. Congratulations to the team for their first, and hopefully not last, win! Thursday, September 14th, the girls are playing Bow for their second game. It is an away game, so they will be leaving school fifteen minutes early to catch the bus. This means that they only have one more day of practice this week, seeing as they also have a game against Great Brook on Friday. The game on Friday will be extra fun because many players on both teams know each other. This makes for both a fun and very competitive match. This season will be an amazing season for the South Meadow Girls soccer team, thanks to the coach, fans, and players. Good luck to all players!

2017 Field Hockey Roster

Brisa Evans 15
Violet Fletcher 11
Makannah McPherson 1
Ada Stephens 5
Emma Carpenter 4
Callie Boisvert 18
Natalie Tremblay 19
Gwyneth Inglis 10
Morgan MacLaren 9

Savannah Lee 8
Maeve McGinnis 17/35
Emalee Naylor 14
Veronica Colburn 3
Hailee Wade 2
Addison Lustenberger 12
Liliana Juarez 6

Coach: Lisa McGinnis



The Boi\$ Zone

Nick Pix Six Reasons Why Coming Back to School is the Worst

By Nicky DiNino

“Nick Pix Six” is a series of articles where, as the name implies, Nick Picks Six

Summer is the best. Not a care in the world, running around with your friends, going to the beach, but every summer must come to an end. Towards the end of August most of us start to dread the idea of coming back to school. In my opinion these are the six main reasons that coming back to school is so terrible.

#6: *Having to Memorize an Entirely New Schedule*

Memorizing the new schedule is on the list because it is very annoying. I'd say that I usually don't memorize my schedule until mid-October, and by the time I do it is a different quarter and the schedule changes slightly. It is pretty embarrassing to walk into the wrong class and then see that you aren't usually in class with any of these people. However, it is at the very bottom of the list because there is a super easy life hack for this one. You know those planners they give us that we stop using two days into school? Well if you use those like you are supposed to and write down what classes you have for every day of that quarter, you don't have to remember, you can just look in your book. But since no one does that, this is on the list.

#5: *The First Quarter is the Worst Quarter*

The first quarter of the year is never great. There always seems to be a problem with paying for your lunch, teachers either let us out of class a little too early or late, and the computers seem to not like us very much. Every class is just going over expectations and rules for the first week or so, and once we get into the real subjects it is usually review of last year. Basically what I'm trying to say is that first quarter is not the best. In the end it is probably a good thing that it is like this because it eases everybody back into school after doing nothing for two months, but while it is happening everyone is just waiting for the next vacation...which isn't until next quarter.

#4: *Having to be in Class When it is still Real Hot*

You would think that when school starts it isn't summer anymore, it is fall. Well, that notion is wrong for two reasons. Reason one is that in reality summer goes until September 22nd. The other reason, the reason which is relevant to this article is that it is still very hot when we come back. There is nothing worse than sitting in class, trying to focus, when it is like 90 degrees out. I shouldn't have to be sweaty when I don't have PE and haven't gone to cross country yet.

#3: *Deadlines*

During summer not too many things need to get done. Aside from some chores here and there you can just relax and not do anything that isn't fun. But that ends on the first day of school. The first assignment you get is the end of your freedom. Once you have a deadline for a project that is all you can think about. You try to strategize “Oh I will do it all tonight” or “If I do three problems today, two tomorrow, and one on Thursday, I can be done by Friday!” or the classic “If I do the entire thing the day before it's due I will be fine! It's not even that hard anyway!”. Whichever way you go about it, it is going to haunt you until you hand it in.

#2: *Homework*

After getting home from school all you want to do is not think about school. You want to pretend it is still summer and just hang out. Maybe see what your friends are doing. But then you remember you still have to do your homework. When I leave school I want to be done with it for 14 hours until I have to go back, I don't want it to follow me home like a stalker. I have always said (if Mrs. Saunders is reading this please take what I'm saying into consideration) I would be willing to stay at school an extra hour and make every class 15 minutes longer, as long as it meant no homework. And I realize that we need the extra practice for a lot of subjects and that homework really does help; but I'm not saying it's not helpful I'm just saying it's annoying and I don't like it.

#1: *Waking Up Early*

In the summer I sleep very late. I have been known to sleep as late as 12:00. So It is no surprise that I don't like waking up at 6:30 a.m. I really shouldn't be complaining though because I know kids who get up at 5:00 a.m. Around November when it stays dark for longer in the morning, I am getting up in the pitch black darkness and heading off to school. Something about the darkness makes it seem even earlier than it really is. The reason this bugs me is because elementary school aged kids need less sleep and they wake up earlier anyway. Us teens need more sleep and in most cases we sleep later. The easy fix is to do a switcheroo and have the elementary schools on our schedule and put us on their schedule.

Boys Soccer Team

By Jack McLaughlin

As the summer comes to an end and everyone starts waking up early for school, another activity starts up as well. This activity is SMS soccer. On the first day of school soccer tryouts for SMS started. A total of 29 students came to tryout this year from a range of 6th graders and 8th graders. Tod Silegy, the boys white soccer coach is hoping to bring his team to a championship this year and possibly win one. The three days of soccer tryouts started on the first day of school (August 31), continued on Friday (September 1) and ended on Tuesday (September 5) because of Labor Day on Monday. During the tryouts Sil tested each player's skill with speed and endurance drills, dribbling drills, and game play. For the speed and endurance drills Sil would set up cones each five yards apart from each other. The players would form two lines on each and would have to race each other to the first five yard cones and then jog all the rest of the 30 yards up and 30 yards back. Once everyone did the first set of five the players would have to run to the next ten yards and the next 15, 20, 25, 30 yards. Once they reached thirty they would sprint to the first 30 and then go around the cone and sprint the first five yards back and repeat the process they did before. For the dribbling drills Sil would have everyone get their own ball and dribble in the penalty box area with their ball. Sil would also teach us moves and have us do those moves after he announces them and then continue dribbling. In some other dribbling drills we would line up against the goal line with a ball and when he said go we would speed dribble up to where he was standing and dribble back. For the game play and shooting drills Sil would set up passing keep away games and have us pass to the players on your team. Sil also did a scrimmage round robin to have the kids actually play games. An example of a shooting drill he had us do was that the players would make two lines against the penalty box, and they would have to touch the ball towards the middles and kick it with

their right or left foot depending on which line you were in. These drills showed Sil which players would be on which team. The two teams that the players could make were the boys white team coached by Mr. Sil and the boys blue team coached by Mr. Lefko. No players didn't make either team which means everyone gets a chance to play soccer this year. Once the tryouts were over Sil posted two lists with names of all players that tried out. On Wednesday morning everyone that attended the tryout would look at those two lists and see which team they were on. On the same day both teams would start practicing. A little problem happened with the weather as it was pouring rain and the fields were too wet to play on so Sil had to cancel all practices on that day. The next day the teams met up and started practicing. On the next day the teams scrimmaged each other because the first game that the boys white team would have was on Monday and Sil wanted them to get the feel of playing a soccer game again. The first game was the boys white team versus the girls team. Nobody was keeping score because it was just a practice and Sil wanted everyone to see game play and that was what really mattered. The second game was played by the boys white team and the boys blue team and the point of that game was the same as the one before. As the two teams played, the team that wasn't playing was practicing on the practice field. After the second game the boys white team went over to the practice field as the boys blue team and the girls team played each other. Once everyone was done with either practicing on the side or playing a game everyone would pack up their stuff and head home. The players enjoyed their weekend, and the boys white soccer team would play against Pelum on Monday and beat them 5-1. Overall the new teams looked just as good as last year if not better.

Being The Big Kids (8th Graders)

By Kendall Larson

To be honest I never thought I would make it this far. I remember being in fifth grade and having to avoid a collision while weaving through all these sweaty Godzillas. You could hear the boys yelling and friendly shoving and the girls laughing all huddled in groups. I look at our grade last year; and I thought we could never be eighth graders, we're too short! I don't know whether we all grew a bunch over the summer, or maybe we're just the exact same kids, but I watch us in the hallways and see us exactly like the old eighth graders. It hit me then that we really are actually in eighth grade. I was so unprepared, like this is the highlight of my life or something. This is your chance to do well and actually get noticed or fail miserably and really pay for it. I've been in eighth grade as little as one week and I've had so much fun and felt so stressed at the same time. Well, that's really saying something if in the first week there is more activity than the first month or so of seventh grade. Or at least it feels that way. I've heard from people that eighth grade is dreadful, and I've also heard it's where you be yourself and do what the heck you want and no one can judge you. Personally, I doubt it will be "dreadful", but we'll have to see I guess. No way of telling yet, that's for sure. For sports, on the other hand, it's especially different. Doing well in games, representing our school, I want to look good. I really do. Helping other girls out, it's all up to me, it's all up to us. We're in eighth grade now, but before you know it, we'll be in High School oh my goodness. I'm not ready for that at all. I know I have "a long, long, long, LONG" time before that happens, but based on how quickly seventh grade passed, I might as well wake up tomorrow and start High School. All in all, we should really enjoy this time being eighth graders, do as well as we can academically, and try something new we can only do in middle school. Having fun, such as school assemblies where we all dance and do the wave, it's really something we won't get to do anymore. Cheering at the competitions for spirit week, painting our whole face blue and white, this is our last chance. I intend to make the most of it. For academics doing my best in classes so that I might be able to take honors classes in High School. Try something new. Join student council, SJC, or NHDI, because why not? I might as well. With one week past us we only have so many more. Make the most of it.

The Season for Season Premiers

By Kendall Larson

It's nearing the end of summer, and with the end of summer comes new seasons of the best shows. For season premiers in September and October, the dates and times of many popular TV shows are listed in order. A few of the show's times are not listed because I searched and searched but could not find a confirmed time. Many of these shows air on either ABC, NBC, CBS, or Netflix. If I missed your favorite show, or a movie coming up, feel free to tell me so I can put it in next time.

Dancing with the Stars- Monday, September 18th, 8
The Voice- Monday, September 25th, 8:00
Big Bang Theory- Monday, September 25th, 8:00
The Goldbergs- Wednesday, September 27th, 8:00, ABC
Modern Family- Wednesday, September 27th, 9:00, ABC
Speechless- Wednesday, September 27th, 9:30, ABC
Criminal Minds- Wednesday, September 27th, 10:00
Grey's Anatomy- Thursday, September 28th, 8:00
Saturday Night Live- Saturday, September 30th
Shark Tank- Sunday, October 1st, 8:00
The Middle- Tuesday, October 3rd, 8:00, ABC
Fresh off the Boat- Tuesday, October 3rd, 8:30, ABC
Black-ish- Tuesday, October 3rd, 9:00, ABC
Once Upon a Time- Friday, October 6th, 8:00, ABC
America's Funniest Home Videos- Sunday, October 8th, 8:00
Stranger Things- Friday, October 27th



Cross Country

By Otto McLaughlin

Run! Kids! Run! This school is filled with runners that run for the SMS Cross Country team. I don't know if that is a good thing or a bad thing, but hopefully that it is a good thing because if it is that is a very good thing for the cross country team that is filled with a ton of kids that run. The kids that run for the SMS Cross Country team are:

5th Grade	6th Grade	8th Grade
Aaron Perkins	Aiden Campbell	Chi Fowler
Allison Burgess	Amia Knowles	Dhanesh Airi
Aramis Olivo	Brody Thompson	Emma Stevenson
Ben Fraley	Elise Robbins	Ethan Weber
Chloe Ward	Hunter Hall	Hudson Osgood
Connor Haney	Jennifer Hopkins	Julielle Cabana
David Forero	Justin Borges	Kaiden Thompson
Elliot Featherstone	Laura Philips	Molly Tyle
Garret Rousseau	Liza Petrov	Nick Merzi
Isabelle Jobin	Logan Bergeron	Nick Dinino
Jason Bouyounes	Nathan Klonel	Thomas Sennett
Kiernan King	Oliver Wilson	Tyler Beard
Kristen Powell		
Maeve Finn		
Maxx Telofski	7th Grade	
McKenna Requa	Alex Olivo	
Merrit Kotula	Avery Beard	
Mia Osgood	Daniel McCall	
Mitchell Boisvert	James Powell	
Owen Beaulieu	Odin Gray	
Ryan Close	Ruth Cross	
Sam Lang	Rya Collins	
Sylas Olesky	Sophia Hatmaker	
Zach Collins	TC Geddes	
Zoey Cusac	Tyler Sullivan	
Zoey Lazzaro		

bold names = Race Team

Go
Pumas!

Happy Fall to All

Boys Blue Soccer Team

By Otto McLaughlin

In the beginning of the year, there was a soccer tryout for sixth graders to eighth graders. The tryouts begin on the first day of school and are four days long. This year the tryouts started on a Thursday then ended on a Tuesday. Then Mr.Sil (soccer coach) would post the teams in the locker room. There are nine eighth graders, and six seventh graders but no sixth graders on the A team. There are five eighth graders, one seventh grader, and eight sixth graders on the B team. There were no cuts so everybody who tried out made a team.

The B team only has ten games this year, so the team usually has two games a week, but sometimes there is only one game. Right now the B team record is 0-2 and are having a game against Boynton on Friday, and from what I've heard Boynton is supposed to be one of the better teams in the "league". The first two games, the B team played the Vilvas, and the Well School. The games were close but we lost 3-1 against Allstead Vilvas, and lost 6-5 against the Well school. The score against Boynton was a lot to a little. They played very well and our team played, I would say played "alright". But in the second half we played better than we did in the first half. The legitimate score was 7-1. It was a hard fought second half. The Boynton team was filled with 8th graders and they had a full bench. We have six eighth graders and have three players on the bench, but we only had two people on the bench because one kid stayed home because he was sick. So nobody was really tired on the team.

The coaches for the two soccer teams are Mr.Silegy, and Mr.Lefko. They're very nice people because they take a few hours out of their day to coach 11 to 14 year olds how to learn or help them develop the game of soccer, or what they over yonder call futbol.

Community Service

By Daisey Ober

Community Service. Contrary to common belief, community service is more than a chore, it is an opportunity. Though not every student jumps at the idea of working for no wage, it can still be fun. For instance, you can help out at a place that interests you, such as the library, the humane center, or even at your elementary school.

Now, think about how community service is being done all around you, in small and big ways. Our very own school board is full of volunteers. If you think hard enough you can come up with several examples of community service and volunteering. Think about Hurricane Harvey! There are hundreds of volunteers risking their lives to help victims of the major hurricane, and if you think about it, they are basically doing community service.

They are called The Cajun Navy.

The Cajun Navy is a group of hundreds of volunteers who help major hurricane/tropical storm victims. They are regular people who donate their time, supplies and boats to people in need. The Cajun Navy formed 12 years ago, after Hurricane Katrina, and have reunited to help Hurricane Harvey victims. They are just a group of volunteers, but they wanted a name so they decided to call themselves “The Cajun Navy.” The majority of The Cajun Navy volunteers live in Louisiana, but some have traveled to Texas from as far as Virginia.

The Cajun Navy is working in Texas to save lives, but you could help out in other ways, like sending care packages, donating money, or simply raising awareness by helping your friends and family understand how devastating the Hurricane was. Also, the Student Council has put together a fund raiser to reopen and rebuild schools that were destroyed in Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. You can pay a dollar to wear a mustache on Monday, (mustaches will be sold at school,) support our school on Tuesday, (wear blue and white,) be wacky on Wednesday, participate in Throwback Thursday, and show up in your “comfy clothes” on Flannel Friday. Though you won’t get community service for participating in this, you will get to have fun with your outfits all week long, and help everyone who is suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. You might not think five dollars is much money, (like, a half pound of candy is more expensive than that!) but if everyone pays a dollar every day of the week that’s over \$2,000 towards a great cause.

Remember how I said community service could even be fun? Well, here are some ways to make it fun. You could babysit or pet sit for free, or volunteer at a horse farm. You could help out at a summer camp next summer, and gain community service hours for the 2018-19 school year. Raising money for a community project can produce hours of community service. One way to raise money is to make objects or food to sell. For example, you could have a lemonade stand, or a booth at a craft fair.

The Boring Stuff

Now I’ll just give you a few basic “need-to-knows” about community service.

First of all, you should know that you can carry over hours from last year, IF you got more hours last year than you needed. You can carry up to over half of the hours you will need this year. (For instance, if you are in 6th grade and you need ten hours, you can carry over five hours from last year.) Ask your advisor to help you if you’re not sure how to carry over.

Secondly, it’s necessary to know where you can get a community service sheet to write down your hours. You can get one from your class (ask your advisor where they are) or you could get one online and print it out. Here is the link: <http://sms.convalsd.net/school-information/forms/>

Finally, you should know how many hours you need. Starting in 5th grade, the amount of hours you need increase by five annually, so here’s a little chart to help with the math.

Your Grade	Hours Needed
5	5
6	10
7	15
8	20

Community Service. Once a chore, now an opportunity. Once limited to school, now you see it all around you. Once boring, now fun.

I hope you see community service in a new light, and I really hope you’ll have fun with it this year. Good luck!



8th Grade Tiles

By Sarah Knowles

Currently, in the 8th grade art world we’re working on our “leave a mark tiles”. As you might have noticed that all the 8th grade tiles are hung around the school and there are more and more every year. Your tile can be a quote, pictures of you and your friends, abstract, or basically anything that shows your originality within some parameters. Like no copyrighting designs on their own, meaning that you can not have just Spongebob, but you can have Spongebob with your own design around it. It is fun to make the tiles, but it can be hard to generate ideas of things you want to do. We have already primed our tiles and have started on painting our backgrounds. After that we will start on our design that we created. There are different ways to put your design onto your tile. There is carbon paper, which is special paper that can be used to transfer your design the exact way you want it. Or you can freehand it, drawing just by looking at the design. We are still working on painting our backgrounds and starting to put our design onto our tile.