



Puma Press

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

Art Class

By Otto McLaughlin

When your hand makes the perfect swaying movements and with your magical wand brush, you make a piece that is almost as good as Leonardo da Vinci's paintings. Art is a way to relieve stress and get confidence. But for some people art is a living nightmare. People might think that because they're not very Leonardo da Vinci with their paintings, and if you're not very Leonardo da Vinci with your paintings, you're probably not going to get a high grade, and if you don't get a grade, Mr Leonardo da Vinci wouldn't be too pleased with you. With me, my magical wand brush doesn't cooperate with me very much. I always have to yell at it. For example Come on brush! Why can't you be more like Leonardo da Vinci's brush? Dang! I actually don't do that, because that would be pretty awkward. Also, I would probably get spoken to, and that wouldn't be fun. The art teacher for fifth and sixth grade at South Meadow School is Ms. Russell. She is a very good art teacher and gives kids confidence in their attempts to make a piece as good as Leonardo da Vinci's masterpieces. Last year when I was in the fifth grade, she didn't teach art for the fifth graders. She taught grades six and up. The art teacher last year for fifth grade was Mr. Hammett. Who is the IAT teacher. Mrs. Russell has a big owl in her room. It's obviously not a real one, if so, kids would go crazy, and the owl would eat the little smaller kids. Owls wouldn't do that if the kid is too big to eat. Also the school wouldn't allow an owl in this school. She also brings a senior student from Conval and the senior just examines the room and receives questions and answers them. I think she draws or paints the Leonardo da Vinci Way, which is a very good way to draw or paint art.

Making Robots With the Fifth Graders

By Leah Krason

The fifth graders class with the eighth grade peer mentors has been going very well. Recently we worked on robots! Each peer mentor had a group, and we got to construct our own robots. There were mostly groups of three people, and each fifth grader got to make a robot, or work together. Making the robots was really cool, and I learned a lot. Seeing the robot "come to life" and begin to function was exciting, and being able to use the robots for a few days made the experience even better. Assembling the robots was a hard task, but it can be accomplished. Luckily, they were made of legos, so it was easy to undo any accidental damage. There were a lot of complicated and necessary steps, but all were important. One of the hardest parts about making the robots was the variety of pieces and how they all looked similar printed on the black and white paper. The kits were quite old, and many pieces were missing, meaning we had to search through extra legos to find them. Sometimes the directions were a little misleading, but they were mostly easy to understand, which made making the robots a fun challenge. When students started finishing their robots, you could see their interests peak. Being able to walk around, walking with the robot almost as if it was a dog, was really enjoyable. The robots held a lot of fun inside and were a fun thng to be able to make and fiddle with.

Robotics Team

By Connor Stajuhar

Hello, we are the robotics team. Our team members are Bryson Boice, Wyatt Beaulieu, and Connor Stajuhar. Our coach this year is Mrs. Brezovec, and our mentors are Brett and Jackson. Our research project this year is to figure out a way to help with the finding, transporting, use, and disposal of water. We chose to help with water conservation. The way in which we decided to help conserve water was by designing a "water recycler". It's designed for water that isn't very dirty, but still isn't drinkable, like somebody else's half-full glass. It would work by having water be poured into the top and be filtered into a holding tank at the bottom. This concept could be used in various different places, such as homes, restaurants, and schools.

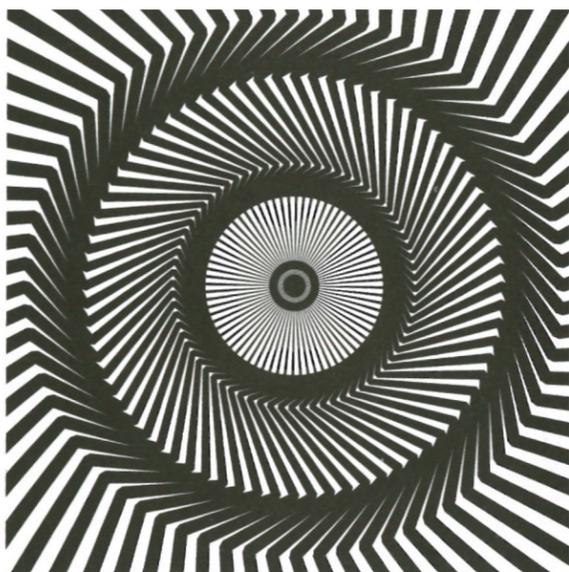
The first version of the system is meant for home use. This would be the smallest version of our machine. This could be placed in many homes and could be used for people to pour in their water from water bottle or half filled cups. This water would then be filtered through a type of filter called microfiber filter. This doesn't get rid of all of the viruses, but that isn't really be the job of this product. After all, you would NOT want to reuse water that someone sick has drunk from (even if it was filtered) anyways, so it isn't really the job of the filter to get rid of those things.

The next version of this system would be designed for restaurants. This would let restaurants reuse half-filled glasses that people don't finish. It would be similar to the home system, but it would use a distiller as well as the microfibers, to kill bacteria and viruses. This would allow for a lot of water to be reused as many people don't finish their water.

The final system would be in schools. It would be large scale, and have a huge distiller to make sure that it is cleaned perfectly. It would have a huge water tank as well. It would have many intake locations. For example, it might intake water from water fountains around the school. First, it would collect all of that water that just goes down the drain when you use a water fountain, and you could put up a sign telling people to pour their water bottle into it.

Optical Illusions

By Sarah Knowles



Focus on the central dot and move the page toward your eyes. What do you see?

The illusion came from a book called 500 optical illusions, by Keith Kay and the Diagram Group.

Pink Day

By Meara McClusky

Friday, October 20th, was a day of pink. The whole school was supposed to dress up in pink to raise awareness for Breast Cancer. Sadly, not everyone wore something pink, like one unnamed newspaper member. However, the people who participated in Pink Day went all out. Lots of people were entirely pink- pink socks, pink shirts, pink everything. Many even brought stuffed animals to complete their outfit. Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, Mrs. Grady wore pink on pink day, and on every day in October. Just wearing a small bit of pink everyday is a very kind gesture to show support for people with breast cancer. Next year, hopefully South Meadow can be entirely pink; everyone can dress up. We should all follow Mrs. Grady's example and wear pink everyday to show support. Thanks to all participants!

The Boi\$ Zone

Nick Pix the Three Worst Books in History

By Nicky DiNino

Books are really great aren't they? Books can transport you into another land or another time, that you would never know about otherwise. Books can tell stories of a person's life or a great historical event. It takes a lot of hard work to become a great writer, and some authors spend years and years trying to write a great book. Some of them clearly don't. First I'm going to tell you about three books to avoid at all costs, and then I will go over the three you should definitely read. PS: For those of you saying that I didn't pick six, try putting 3+3 into a calculator and seeing what comes up.

#3: *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

So I read the first book in this series *The Giver* and it was pretty good. It had an interesting plot and an incredibly exciting cliffhanger ending. I was very excited to start reading the second book *Gathering Blue*, so I got it and let me tell you it is just a little less interesting than watching paint dry. The first book *The Giver* takes place in a future society where everyone has a job and there is no fooling around whatsoever. The second you turn 12 you get a job. Everyone rides bikes to work everyday so that they can be in peak physical shape. When you turn 90 you are forced to leave the city so that there is no one in the city who can't do work. It appears to be a perfect Utopian society but eventually the protagonist Jonas figures out the creepy truth about the city and escapes. The second book starts with a random girl named Kira who lives in this forest society. In the forest society they are not allowed to leave their area of the forest because if they do the "beasts" will eat them. Every year there is a big ceremony in the forest where this strange chubby man sings a long boring song about how the city was created. Kira is recognized by the city government because of her ability to knit and is taken to a special apartment building for people with talents. This is where the book loses me. They find this little girl who is really good at singing, and she becomes this annoying background character who the author clearly thought was going to be a real fan favorite but is exactly the opposite of that. Suddenly at the end of the book they throw in the fact that the trees in the forest are alive, and Kira gets attacked by trees! Keep in mind, they don't even mention the first book once, so there was no point even reading this boring atrocious mess.

#2: *Mosquitoland* by David Arnold

I started reading this one because I thought it would be funny. Funny is literally the last word I would use to describe it. Mim is a regular kid living in Ohio. Suddenly her parents get a divorce, and she is forced to move to Mississippi with her dad and her stepmother. She really does not like it there. At school one day she is called down to the principal's office. She overhears her dad talking to the guidance counselor, and he says something about her mother being sick. Mim hears this and immediately without telling anyone runs away from home and makes it her quest to get to Ohio where her mom lives. My problem with this book is that it thinks it is this big philosophical journey that is both a metaphor for growing up and a metaphor for life as a whole, when it really is just this incredibly dull story with my least favorite characters in any book ever. The characters in this book are always just yelling out stupid philosophical things about religion and all kinds of important topics that maybe deserve more time than a throwaway line in a terrible kid's book. Mim is constantly talking about how she needs to "focus on her goal" and "complete her objective" of getting to her mom in the hospital, yet she still has time to have multiple chapters worth of philosophical nonsense. I paid for a comedy, not. Then at one point she meets this kid Walt who lives in the woods. He is just the worst. Whenever I got to a part where he was talking I skipped ahead a couple lines. Avoid this book at all costs.

#1: *The Entire Percy Jackson Series* by Rick Riordan

I am going to tell you the plot of a book, you think in your mind what book I am talking about. A skinny 11 year old boy with dark hair who has never quite fit in finds out that he has magical powers and needs to go to a special place where he can work on mastering his powers and meet other kids like him. He makes two friends, a funny boy and a smart girl. You probably thought I was talking about Harry Potter. I am not, I am talking about Percy Jackson. Percy Jackson is a book series by author and professional strange man (look up a picture of him) Rick Riordan. It takes the stories of old Greek myths and brings them into modern day through the use of the main character Percy, who is just your average edgy teen main character. One problem I have with Percy is that he can do anything that the story needs him to do. If he needs to be an incredible sword fighter, boom!, He's an incredible sword-fighter. If he needs to be able to fly he will probably pull out a magical "Belt of Flight" which we didn't know about until this very second and fly away. It's just so lazy. It's lazy that he stole the plot from Harry Potter, it's lazy that the only original parts aren't original, they are taken from preexisting Greek mythology, and it's lazy that he won't just put everyone out of their misery and end the series. I mean come on Rick! Isn't 17 books enough for you? Are you really just so greedy that you must keep stealing from the pockets of children until the day you die?



Jack's Radical Ways

By Jack McLuaghlin

This new article series for Da Boi\$ Zone is going to tell students all around the world how to be radical like me. Every other week I will, give advice to kids that has something to do with the current time period. This week is all about style since school is starting up you have to set a STUNNING first impression to let people know you are extreme. The first tip that is probably the most important tip is confidence. You have to walk into the room with confidence so everyone knows that you are THE GUY. You pretty much want to walk around like Johnny Bravo, and if you don't know who Johnny Bravo is then you better go look him up. So stop reading this for a second, go to Google, and look up who Johnny Bravo is. Then come back and keep on reading. The way Johnny Bravo walks into the room is with his chest puffed out and his head held high so everyone knows that this guy is THE GUY. If you don't have a lot of confidence and you struggle with the Johnny Bravo concept, there are

plenty of ways to boost your confidence way up. The first tip is get some snazzy clothes that makes you stand out. A fanny pack is a great way to boost confidence because it looks great and it's super useful. You can put pencils, food, fidget toys, and much more while looking snazzy. The next super useful tip to boost your confidence is to dress up as the job you want not the job you have. Instead of dressing up like you're going to school dress up like you're going to cook by wearing clothes a chef would wear. If you look and feel like something you enjoy your confidence is going to go through the roof and people are gonna notice and be like, "Oh my lordy he's cooler then Johnny Bravo!" One last way to boost confidence is to smile. When people notice you're happy, they will want to be as happy as you are. Plus, being happy is very easy and when you are happy, you feel good, which makes you more confident, which makes you more like Johnny Bravo, which makes you THE GUY. In the end, confidence makes a great way for a great first impression and a great year in all.



Acrobots with the Fifth Graders

By Leah Krason

This quarter some of the fifth graders have a special with Mrs. Brezovec, which the eighth grade peer mentors help out with as one of their specials as well. We have done many things, like teaching them about Google drive, making a word cloud in InDesign that includes the expectations of EHP. Then we did AcroBots, out of LEGOs. AcroBots are robots that we got to build from scratch off an RCX, which is the “brains” of the robot, following a set of directions. Though it was fun, the directions are very specific and need to be followed. The fifth graders built the robots in pairs, with the help of an assigned eighth grader, to build one robot. In a pair took that took about a week. Then another

week to explore using them and driving them. You drive the robot using touch sensors that are attached through a long wire that have LEGO pieces on either end, one attaching to the RCX, the touch sensor end in your hand to drive it. It was fun to take your robot for a “walk”. We were given the challenge to try and keep the robot on one row of tiles and drive all the way down in the EHP atrium. It is not easy. Some of the kids had races down the hall just for fun. Overall it was a two week project to build, add on different attachments, try out different wheels, and explore the different things to do with your robot. We all had fun and there is more in store for us.



Chrome books: A 7th grader's perspective

By Daisy Ober

When I heard we were getting chrome books this year, my initial reaction was, “No more papers? No more pencils?” Now, I realize that we will still have pencils and papers, just not as many. I think that’s good, as we won’t have to keep track of so many papers, books, and folders. The chrome books will also make communication between students and teachers much easier, and we will be able to take AR tests and check power school more often, as we’ll have much more access to a computer.

My opinion at first was very negative towards the chrome books, because I was afraid of making the next generation too dependent on technology; but really, computers are the next generation. In school, we already rely on computers for EHP, standardized testing, and even some classwork. We also rely on them to check Power School and to do AR tests. At home, most people have a phone, iPod, or some other electronic device for communication and entertainment. We use a computer system in our TVs, our phones, and most of our cars. So I realize that the chrome books are simply the next step.

My teachers have mostly talked about how the chrome books will make communication between students and their teachers easier. Through email and Google classroom, everyone will be able to access their teachers outside of school. I think that this is an improvement in our school’s communication system, and though some students already have access to email at home, everyone will benefit from the chrome books.

Another way that I will use the chrome books is for AR tests and Power School. AR is closed after 2:30, and I rarely find an open computer in the library at PLUS block, so now I can take AR tests more often. Power School will also be more accessible to students who don’t have a computer or phone at home. Power School is helpful because you can preview your report card grades. I think that having at-home access to Power School will greatly improve the grades of a lot of students at SMS.

Overall, I think that everyone being able to have access to a chrome book is a good way to improve the learning of middle school students. In my class, we’re learning how to use them, and we have been experimenting with programs on the chrome books so we’ll be familiar with them when we get them this October. At first, I didn’t love the chrome book idea, but now I think that having chrome books is a great way to improve our education.

Turkey Trot

By Meara McClusky

It is almost Thanksgiving, which means South Meadow prepared for the Turkey Trot. Each year, all students run or walk a course around South Meadow and ConVal. This can be a fun run/walk, or a competition. The top five boys in a grade and the top five girls in a grade get a t-shirt. A turkey is awarded to the boy and girl who finish first in the race. Students who finish in 30th place and up will give points to their advisory. The advisory with the most points at the end of the race will win the Turkey Trot for their grade level. For a prize they’ll get a banner with the advisor’s name on it, and bragging rights. Hopefully, everyone had a safe, fun run.

The Turkey Trot turned out to be a really fun afternoon! Most students ran or walked the race, and those who couldn’t held up signs for the racers. A few walkers found fungus with the help of Mrs. Lyons. Here are the winners for each grade level:

Grade Level	Girl Winner	Boy Winner	Overall Winner
5	Ali Burgess	Ryan Close	Iwanowicz
6	Elise Robbins	Oliver Wilson	Jones
7	Avery Beard	Carter Rousseau	Norby/Lefko
8	Kathy Carey	Tyler Beard	Keating

Luckily, no one broke a collarbone or got hurt this year. Nice job to everyone who participated



One Down Three to Go

By Ted McLaughlin

Wow! First quarter is already down. That felt very, very quick. We did a lot though, we met new teachers and some new friends. It has been a great first quarter, but with some bad sides. In my opinion I do not like science this year, but I love social studies, language arts, and math. But math right now is my favorite. I have a 95 in it but in social studies I have 100, language arts I have a 98 and in science I have a 94. But the classes weren’t the only thing we did. Today is the Turkey Trot; I am really nervous; I came in 3rd overall, 2nd in boys last year, so I am feeling confident. But I am still really nervous. Yesterday we had the Fall Sports Banquet, but I couldn’t go because I had hockey practice and a D1 high school coach was going so I had to go. But Otto (my twin brother), and I both won an award. I happen to win best positional player, and Otto won best offensive player. There was another kid on our team named Gage who won Coaches award, so did my brother Jack (older), but he is on the A team, and Otto and I are on the B team. We went 5-7 on the season which is a lot better than I thought it was going to be. We had at least four kids who had never played soccer but did really well. I think I won best positional player because I played every position including goalie, and did pretty well at all the positions I had played. But on a different note, It has only been two months, and we have only had one puma pride assembly. It’s always mostly 5th and 8th graders winning awards so there isn’t anything really to get hyped about. But overall it's been a fun and new first quarter, I’m also hyped about next year because one of my friends (Oliver), is joining next quarter. So I’m hoping that this quarter is like all the rest. Signing off and goodbye.

The Ultimate Cleat Feud

By Mairin Burgess

Nike Mercurial Superfly V CR7 FG

COST:\$325

Fits true to size, pretty comfortable but not amazing, runs more narrow, and not too durable. It was given an average of 4.2 stars out of the five people who wrote reviews. Martin B says that these boots were very tight and thin, gave him blisters for two weeks. On the bright side, Trippy.perez says that it's not for wide feet but great for speed. Overall, these cleats are great for the game but not so great for your big wide feet and rough and tumble soccer life.



Copa Mundial

COST: \$150



Comfy, little big, little wide, but almost perfect quality. With an average of 4.5 stars, 226 people who wrote reviews really like these bad boys. Jake 23 says that his personal coach recommended these to him, but his mom was worried about the price. It all worked out in the end though, because they lasted for ten years, as well as getting them for his little brother. T-Bone the Ripper said that these cleats didn't live up to the quality expectation. What a disappointment. Most people agree that these guys won't let you down.

Nike Mercurial Superfly V iD

COST: \$330

With a 4.5 star review, many people say these cleats are the way to go. LaraC, says that Nike are her favorite brand ever and that she would never go to different cleats. JasonK was not so lucky. He said that he wasted his money and they started to rip within his 1st practice, and completely ripped after his 1st game. Watch where you waste your money kids.



Mercurial Superfly V FG

COST: \$270



The sad two reviews that this cleat got said that they run small, a little narrow, and overall comfy with a good 4.5 stars. Jflo says that they are comfortable with a nice back seam. Also, AvaK says if you got narrow feet, the better. She uses them everyday, and they stay comfortable and in style. These neon masterpieces will blind someone out on that field.

Adizero Afterburner 4

COST: \$100

These goldies are true to size, run a little narrow, mostly comfortable, and just a pretty good quality shoe. Chicken-nuggetswag says that they are comfortable, and the material on the heel allows almost no dirt in them, and the only bad thing is that they are hard to get on. Trickytay says that they are light and not that wide but a good looking cleat.



All of the cleats have different reasons to be loved and a spicy style. Who won the ultimate cleat feud? The world may never know...

Canned Food Drive

By Daisy Ober

It's that time again! What time? The time for the SMS band's annual food drive. Each year Mr. Lowy organizes a food drive for the holidays. The food drive is put in the form of a competition to encourage participation from everyone. To win, your advisory simply has to donate the most canned food. If everyone pitches in and donates, your advisory could win the trophy.

The food drive is arranged to give food to families struggling over the holidays. Donating foods like canned cranberry sauce or packaged stuffing could make someone's Thanksgiving ten times better.

Each canned food item is worth one point, except for Ramen Noodles. Ramen is worth one point for every ten packages. The advisory that has the most points by the time the food drive ends wins. Here are some good foods to donate:

- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Soup
- Cranberry Sauce (Remember, it has to be in a prepared, sealed package!)
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Peanut Butter

Don't forget to bring in canned and pre-packaged food for the canned food drive. Bring in a lot of food and get the best of two worlds; winning, and making someone else's life better.



SMS HATS!

Hats with amazing quality, high levels of comfort, and a lot of style are now on sale! Support your school by spending 15 dollars on a paw print hat, only in the E.H.P wing.

