



# Puma Press

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-Newspaper Staff-

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## DISCLAIMER:

This paper is an April Fool's Issue! All joking articles have green titles, so don't get confused!

### Big Money Donations

By Jack McLaughlin

This random gesture of kindness that SMS received recently is a surprise to everyone, and we think we did a good job managing it. An unknown person donated 2 billion dollars to the school for upgrades and renovations. At first we didn't know what to do with all of the money, but eventually we figured it out. The first thing the school did was add an extension for a cafeteria and added a lot more options for food from Italian to Mexican. If you want a certain food we now have it. The second most popular thing that students wanted was coach buses. Students always ask if the field trips they are going on is using a coach bus for a bus, but it usually isn't. To solve this problem, the teachers decided that every bus used for any purpose is a coach bus even if it's taking you to a place a mile away. The school also decided to redesign all the walls. Instead of having basic old blue and white bricks the school decided to make the walls out of silver. No one really asked for this, it just looks really cool. Another extension that the school added, and no one is disappointed about this investment, was a movie theatre. It will be used during recess as an option instead of going outside because it might be cold. Another investment the school put in, to make traveling from class to class a whole lot easier, are moving sidewalks so you don't have to waste energy walking to class. Instead you can just stand, and when you get to your class, you get off. Kids have a ton of fun moving from class to class, which makes another reason why students are eager to get out of class. The school also decided to put in a whole second floor, and Mrs. Brezovec has already taken advantage of it. She has put her studio upstairs and a balcony so the newspaper crew can take beautiful pictures for the school website. The rest of the upstairs still hasn't been used, but it shouldn't take long for teachers and staff to take advantage. One of the most useless purchases that the school made, in my opinion anyway, was buying everyone in the school customized Adidas Yeezy shoes that say SMS on them. Although the shoes do look really nice, there was no point in buying them since everyone already had a pair of shoes. Other purchases that the school made were a pool, MacBooks for every student, personally designed lockers for every student, a mirror in the seventh-grade boy's bathroom, pet ducks for Puma Pride™ winners, and many other small purchases that would make this article a novel if I explained them. The school feels that they did a great job of using the money that they received and would like to give thanks to the person that donated all of the money.

### Movie Follow Up

By Mairin Burgess

The movie about how great the school is? Well... Emma, Meara, Leah, Caitlin, and I lost. All that hard work down the drain. The dream of a puma roaming the school hallways vanished. Dang. Three other groups from your good old South Meadow did this project as well, and one group won! That's 750 of the big bucks to EHP! WOOT WOOT!

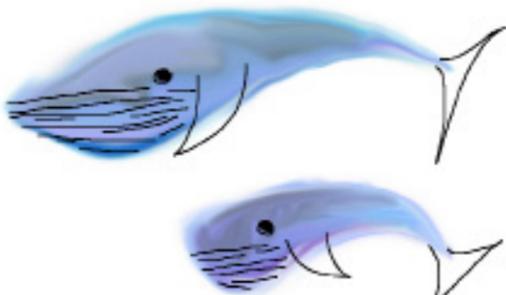


Me being an 8th grader, it's pretty likely that most of the money won't be used when I'm here. Even if it's used this year, it will most likely but put towards the robotics class, because they're the ones who won. Makes sense I guess. There were 35 other entries by other students from different schools. I will really miss this project. It really was a blast.

### Wake Up, South Meadow!

A Very Important Article by Kendall Larson

Whoopsies! The Superintendent of ConVal School District has changed the schedules and school times throughout the district. Actually, the superintendent only changed the start time of South Meadow School. Instead of starting school at 7:20, school will start at 6:20. Sharp. It really stinks because if you are a second to a minute late, you get to make up the time on Saturday. If you are more than a minute late, you get to come to school during break. So now our new school slogan is "South Meadow School: Be on time, or you'll get time!". I would recommend waking up at 4:20, so that way you just can't be late. This gives you a full two hours (not counting driving) to get ready for school. You might take a nice shower, eat one or twelve mini muffins, just chill you know. But you can't chill for too long, or SMACK! CRACKLE! POP! Now that you get up so early, I would recommend going to bed earlier. I think kids need about 9-11 hours of sleep each night, so you should really be going to bed anywhere between 5:20 and 7:20. In the "afternoon". If you play sports after school and get home at 4:00, then you're a little screwed, because you literally have an hour and twenty minutes before you go to bed.



### 5th Grade Science Fair

By Zoey Lazzaro

5th graders are having a science fair. On March 22 we are presenting our experiments. There are so many experiments to choose from. We have a lot of due dates on when certain things have to be finished. A lot of kids are doing the Coke and Mentos experiment. I am doing the Melting Ice experiment I am testing whether salt or sugar can melt ice faster. I think that the one I am doing is going to be the same as the Coke and Mentos experiment. I am pretty sure this science fair is going to be a really cool science fair. A lot of us are working on our backboards. We worked on our hypothesis, question, materials, and procedure. We typed it, and it's ready to go. We can choose if we want to buy a backboard or if you want to take one from Mrs. Decibus. We are not working on our project at school. We have to make it at home unless there is a due date for the next day. We have to do a lot of research. There is a lot to do to get ready for the science fair. You have to get your backboard ready to present. Also, you have to think about your question so you don't get off topic. You have to be ready to present your experiment. Maybe practice to your parents or a sibling. You can say all the details you want and then you will be ok and have no pressure. I think that everyone will do a good job. In science we are learning about the moon. The moon is very interesting. It is cool, one reason why we are learning about it is because Mrs. Decibus likes the moon. (I do too because it seems fun. We haven't talked about the moon so much yet.) There are some study sessions after school where you can do things on your experiment like research, catch up, or work on your backboard and more. You don't have to have a partner; you can be you want to. I think that this an opportunity to do our very best for the class, to show them that we can do an good experiment. I think the best thing about the science fair is going to be presenting our experiments, or designing our backboards. The science fair is at the best time for me. We have a long time till this whole experiment is due. The best time is going to be the day before presenting. I think that my classmates are going to like this experiment and like the other experiments. The science fair is going to be cool because there are going to be so many experiments that some people haven't seen before. There is going to be the best science fair ever.

## Mini Golf in Art

By Jack McLaughlin

In the eighth-grade art class, students are making their own miniature golf course. Each student paired up with one of their peers and created a team name, folder, and the design of their course. Actual mini golf holes have one special part to them, such as the classic windmill where the player has to put the ball through it while the blades spin in a circle. Each team has to make at least one thing that makes their hole better than all the others. Once the team is done with their special item, they add a fake grass mat and test out their design. If everything goes well, they will put it into the gym where the seventh graders will play an actual round of mini golf with every project the eighth-grade students made. Ms. Fox wants creativity from all of the teams' projects and so far there has been a ton of it. Some students have decided to put meaning into their project. For example, a student decided to make a replica of her favorite stuffed animal since she was a little kid. Other students were more into making a joke out of their project such as a group that made the White House, with a blown up face of Donald Trump on top of it. There are a ton of amazing projects that are starting to come together and, from the looks of it, the other grades are going to have a ton of fun playing this school made a miniature golf course.



## Winter Slam

By Meara McClusky

The basketball season is almost over, which means the Winter Slam is happening. Both the girls and boys blue teams have already played in their Winter Slams. The girls won their first game in the Winter Slam 11-4! Although that was the only game they won in the tournament the team and fans were very excited. In the girls' Winter Slam, Great Brook and Westmoreland won their brackets. This means that they played Monday, February 5th in the SMS gym. For the blue boys Winter Slam, Waldorf and Milford were the winners. The boys blue team regularly has 16 players on the team, but for this tournament, the team was split in half because the games were only fifteen minutes long. One of the boys' teams won two games in their bracket. Sadly, the second South Meadow boys team did not win any. Waldorf and Milford played at SMS after the girls. Everyone enjoyed

this tournament a lot, both as players and fans! On February 10th and 11th, the boys and girls white teams played in their winter slams. Those slams went very well for both teams; they each won their bracket! On Monday, February 12th, both teams played in the SMS gym. The girls then played Jaffrey-Rindge, who they have played twice already. Both times they played JRMS previous to the Slam, they lost, although both games were quite close. The boys played Keene shortly after the girls. Sadly, both teams lost their championship game. The girls' game started out rough. Katie Carey, one of the captains, got a bad concussion and could not play the rest of the game. Although they put up a fight, they ended up losing 49-11. Keene won the boys' game by about fifteen points, so the night did not end well. Even though they both lost, the teams never gave up and played their best.



## Puma Pride Assemblies Now Weekly!

By Daisy Ober

Due to the incredible amount of Puma Pride recipients, the SMS staff has decided to hold a Puma Pride assembly during advisory time every Friday. When this starts, it will be mentioned in the announcements. The staff is psyched for this change in our SMS schedule. The aim is to raise school spirit and make everyone feel like good behavior will always be rewarded. Aren't you pumped!!!! The Puma Pride assemblies will not change, except the pep rallies will be held monthly. One assembly per month will be extended into the first block for an SMS pep rally! The Dance Team will perform a dance for us, and Mrs. O'Bryant and Mrs. Parker will each present a speech. There will be one other change, though. You can nominate someone for a Puma Pride award. Your nominee might not get an award, but you can still try! You will have to submit a form saying the student's name, grade, advisory, and what they did that you think they should get a puma pride award for.



Mrs. Brezovec, the mind behind the new weekly assemblies, is working around the clock to get everything ready for the first assembly of this new schedule. The first one will be a pep rally, although the exact date hasn't been decided on yet. As mentioned before, it will say on the morning announcements when the new schedule has started. Until they start, there isn't a lot more I know. I hope that you all are pumped!!!

## American Heritage Tour

By Sarah Knowles

The American Heritage Tour, or AHT, is a yearly trip the eighth grade takes down to Washington, D.C. Along the way, they stop in Philadelphia to look at the Liberty Bell, Gettysburg, and a few other places. The entire experience is a lot of fun, being away from your parents, with friends, seeing cool sights. Overall it is a trip to remember. Well, this year is different. The rumor has it that Mr. Lowy is thinking of canceling this year's trip due to the lack of people interested in going. Eighth graders say they are excited to go and they cannot wait, but deep down, eighth graders do not want to go. Next, the eighth grade does not know this, but even if the trip is canceled they still have to do the roll-a-ton and the research paper. Also, the payments are still due, so even if we are not going, you are still paying like you are going. Finally, the parents. Our poor parents, they are not even aware of this unexpected cancellation. Our parents will not know until the day of that we are supposed to leave. We are all sad to hear this news but the truth must be told, eighth graders are just are not interested in going this year on AHT, so Mr. Lowy must make the tough decision of canceling this year's trip.

## T Swizzle vs Kay P

By Otto McLaughlin

If you don't know, T Swizzle is Taylor Swift and Kay P is Katy Perry. If you've been living under a rock recently, T Swizzle and Kay P do not like each other. If you don't know, they are both singers and they make multiple kinds of music. They are not fans of each other. It all started when T Swizzle made the song Bad Blood back in 2014. But Kay P wasn't gonna back down, so she made a song called Swish Swish. Every time she said "Swish Swish" she would then say a very naughty word that rhymes with itch. After that, things just went off between them. They had a ton of Twitter feuds. But now they are coming to our school to settle the beef by having an epic rap battle. They decided to come to our school because they saw which teacher had the most Twitter followers. They saw Mrs. Brezovec with 4 twitter followers, (Follow Mrs. Brezovec @SMS\_EHP) and they were like "wow" those are a lot of twitter followers. So then they called up Mrs. Brezovec to see if she would want T Swizzle and Kay P to finish their beef. She agreed because she thought that the epic rap battle would bring her up to 5 twitter followers. The epic rap battle will take place in the legendary gym where Mrs. Goodell couldn't catch a drumstick, and where Mrs. Hopgood almost killed someone with a drumstick. The epic rap battle will be after April Fools day because April Fools day is on a Sunday and we obviously don't have school on Sunday. I think T Swizzle will win because she has bad blood so you can't touch her, but Kay P has a very big roar in her arsenal so it is going to be a good and loud fight, and I would bring headphones because Kay P's roar is gonna damage your eardrums. I bet T Swizzle has wild dreams of beating Kay P, and Kay P will probably have a party with fireworks if she beats T Swizzle which is unlikely because she has bad blood. So cast in your vote in your mind to see who is gonna win the epic rap battle. Kay P or T Swizzle?

## Fantastic Mr. Fox? More like Fantastic Play!

By Stewart Johnson, SMS Play Critic (Nicky DiNino)

This year's play was an absolute hit. The play was "Fantastic Mr. Fox." It was a book written by Roald Dahl originally and was more recently turned into a movie. The story of the play is basically a combination of the book's story and the movie's story. It's the best of both worlds. The basic plot is that there is a fox who is constantly being hunted down by three disgusting farmers. The fox needs to figure out a way to get food for his family without leaving his underground home because if he does the mean old farmers will shoot him dead. The school performance of the play was on March 15th, and it was just great. All of the actors had their lines memorized excellently, and the gorgeous sets made it feel like I was really in the world of Mr. Fox and his animal friends! The two-weekend performances were just as good if not better than the school one. On the Saturday performance, Nicky DiNino's performance moved me to tears. I will give this play 5 stars! Okay, now until next years play, I am going to go back into the ceiling where I live, goodbye!

## Dissection

By Sarah Knowles

In eighth grade science, we have just finished dissecting a squid and a worm. For the squid, we first, with partners, removed the tentacles by cutting them off. In the center of the tentacles, in the mass of tissue, is the beak. We pulled the tissue apart to take a better look at the beak. After that, we cut off the mass of tissue that the beak was in. We then cut a long slit up the lighter side of the squid in order to gain access to the organs inside. Once we had made the cut from the bottom of the squid all the way to the top, we pinned back the flaps. We then carefully looked and removed the different organs. Underneath all the organs is the pen. It is thin. It was fun to get a hands-on experience to learn the anatomy of a squid. I definitely learned something. For example, squids have beaks hidden in a mass of tissue in the middle of the tentacles. The squid dissection was something that will not be forgotten. Next, we dissected a worm. The worm was definitely much harder due to the size difference. First, we pinned the worm diagonally across the pan with the darker side up. Then we made a cut below the clitellum, which are the raised bumps on the back of the worm. The cut was about an inch long. Then we cut from through the clitellum up through the head. The cuts have to be really shallow so that the organs are not damaged. Next, we identified the different parts of the worm. For example, there are the setae, which are the very small little legs on the body of the worm. The anterior end is the rear of the worm, and the posterior end is the front where the mouth is. Dissecting is so much fun. It is a great hands-on experience.

## Art Class: Quarter 3

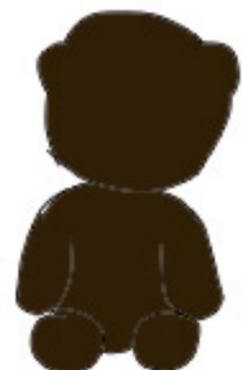
By Ted McLaughlin

Third quarter: Currently in art we are doing 3D robots. It is fun to practice, but I stink at art. My dad said he was bad at art, so he thinks the genes passed on, which is something that doesn't really drag me down. But it would be nice to be somewhat good at art. But anyways, in art I sit next to one of my better friends Zach Pease. He is pretty good at art, which makes me feel disappointed. He makes really good 3D robots which can be hard for less artistic people... like me. But when we do the walk around, everyone has really good art. One of the kids in my class made a 3D robot dragon, and it is really cool looking. It is super detailed with all of the nuts and bolts, and nails, with like the 3D fire coming out of its mouth. It's just amazing. A real piece of art. But if I had to talk about everyone's art, it would take me over an hour to explain what everyone is doing. But my robot, is the real deal. It is a 3D trash can robot that picks up trash with his hand or handle or claw, whatever you want to call it. It has a ramp 10 feet long and 20 feet wide that picks up everything: trash, abandoned toys, etc. Charlie, the trash can robot, also has a duster or sweeper, to dust things off the high shelves because his arms can expand to great lengths. He also has a winter hat, that says "Robots Rule the World". He is pretty legit in every way. He has Michelin wheels that last for an eternity. His favorite singer is John Cafferty, but that's irrelevant. Anyways, now we are drawing people. Since I am not good at art everything is pretty hard for me even drawing people. But Mrs. Russell does a good job at teaching and motivating people to do better art, to meet their full potential. Pretty much everyone is getting there. Figure drawing is fun. I like it more than Robot 3D art, because you can draw your friends, family, someone famous, or even a caveman. Or you could do random people and let your imagination run wild. I drew my friend Zach, and I would say it came out pretty well, but it didn't look anything like him. It kind of looked like a 15 year old kid who is socially awkward, with the long bowl cut and the peach fuzz. But it didn't look anything like him other than the hair. But I snooped around to look at everyone else's work and it was really good. They are a lot better than mine, which isn't that much of an achievement but they were still looked really good. Zach's are always pretty good. We have only had two units but his art has always looked good to me and apparently everyone else because he was voted in the Celebration of Learning, which we have each year, for having really good art, and he was nominated by Mrs. Russell. He was very excited about this. I have no idea what we are doing next, probably something to do with structures, statues, open lands, skylines, or something that is more complex, because Mrs. Russell has been showing us Leonardo Da Vinci and all of his artwork. So I am actually, surprisingly, looking forward to what we are doing next. Anyways, art has actually been really fun for me. I know it has only been two units but it's been fun for me.

## My Valentine's Day with Mister E Update

By Mairin Burgess

Isn't Valentine's Day the best day of the year? Well, it certainly was for me. Mister E and I really had a good time. As soon as school ended, we went to the bowling alley. We bowled all night long. We ordered a whole pizza for just the two of us. It was good. After we continued to bowl. The Mr. E spent \$20 trying to get this darn teddy bear out of one of those grab machines. He gave it to me, and I named it after him. After that, he drove me to my home. He brings a real big bear, and I accidentally touched it. He turned into my teddy bear. He turned around and said, "HaHa APRIL FOOLS!" With Hallelujah playing in the background, Owen came out with his tambourine and started singing Love Handle from Phineas and Ferb. Then Kendall, Emma, Caitlin, Leah, Nicky, Jack, Zach, Anni, Meara and Sarah came out of nowhere and started singing, I Ain't Got Rhythm. What a day it was.



# Have a Great April

## Michael Jackson is Back in a Big Way!

By Anonymous (Nicky DiNono)

Ever since Michael Jackson died tragically in 2009 I have been a wreck, emotionally and physically. I cry myself to sleep every night thinking about Michael, and I have gained 80 pounds from stress eating thinking about how the Jackson family must feel about his death. Now, I don't know if I should be saying this. I don't know if the government will be happy that I am divulging this sensitive information with you, but to be totally honest I don't care anymore. It all started when I was sitting in my room when I suddenly heard a knock at the door. I said, "Hey! Who could be knocking at my door at this hour." I walked over and opened the door. As I opened the door a flash of lightning erupted in the sky, filling the world with light. There was a figure standing there. I couldn't believe my eyes. It was him, Michael Jackson. Well, he didn't look anything like Michael Jackson, but I could feel it in my bones that it was him. He had a long white beard, and he was bald. He was wearing nothing but a one-piece old-fashioned men's bathing suit and a hat. He said in a gruff voice "Hey, can I stay here for a while?" I asked him, "Michael Jackson is that you?" he winked at me and a knowing smile spread on his face. I let him in. Ever since then he has been sleeping sprawled out on the kitchen table. I offered him the fold-out couch but he wouldn't take it. He says this way he can eat any food he wants. He has been eating so much food that we have had to spend upwards of \$600 dollars on groceries every two days. My father wanted to kick him out, but I explained to him that he was Michael Jackson. Now my father and Michael Jackson are great friends. Whenever I ask Michael to sing anything he say "Not today, kid," and gives me a wink. I am starting to become suspicious that he is not really Michael Jackson. Yesterday Michael Jackson brought four of his friends over. Michael's friends would laugh every time I referred to him as Michael. I didn't think anything of it. Later that night I overheard one of his friends talking to him and they called him...Charlie. I burst into tears I yelled "YOU AREN'T MICHAEL JACKSON! GET OUT! GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!". He looks at me, clears his throat, and then sings the greatest rendition of "Beat It" I have heard in my entire life. We embraced, and now Michael Jackson is my best friend in the whole wide world.

## Consumer Challenge in Science

Oliver Wilson

In 6th grade science, we are doing the consumer challenge science fair. We pick a consumer product to test. The products you can choose are Oreos, chocolate chip cookies, ketchup, cat litter, paper towels, and microwave popcorn. Everybody gets a partner selected by Mrs. Jones. The most common product to test is Oreos, the least common product is probably cat litter. My partner is Colton Webb, and we decided to test cat litter. We decided to test it because it's the least common, and it seems like the most fun. We are going to have a big science fair around the end of March. Each person will be making their own backboard that they will display at the science fair. First, we are doing research on our product, and then we will start on our experiment. For most products, there are three different brands, but for Oreos you just test normal Oreos and double stuffed Oreos. Before the Consumer Challenge in science started we worked on making bar graphs and line graphs. We did an example experiment testing which tape is the stickiest. For my group, Duck Tape won. Back to the Consumer Challenge. For cat litter, the brands are Tidy Cat, Arm and Hammer, and a store brand. We are seeing which one of them is the most absorbent. My hypothesis is that Tidy Cat will be the most absorbent. So far the Consumer Challenge has been fun. For chocolate chip cookies you test which brand has the most chocolate chips. The brands are Chips Ahoy, Keebler, and a store brand. For Oreos, you test if double stuffed Oreos are actually double



stuffed. For paper towels you test which is the most absorbent. For that the brands are Bounty and two other brands. If you test ketchup you test which is the thickest; the brands are Heinz, and a two store brands. If you test microwave popcorn you test which brands have the most unpopped kernels. The brands are Pop Secret, Newman's Own, and store brand. On the back table of the room, there are plastic bowls or plates for each type of product. The ketchup bowls get really gross because it's just a blob of dried up ketchup. We had to write down our lab outline on the google doc on a Chromebook. Once we finished that Mrs. Jones printed them out, and we set up the title on our tri-fold boards. We worked on writing our conclusions. First we answered conclusion questions and then wrote a rough draft conclusion and then we added them to our lab outline before Mrs. Jones printed them. Before we glued them on our boards we had to back them up with colored paper, and then we would glue them down. We got different colored letters that we made our titles out of. You could also make your name out of them. We also made an images document that we put images about our product in. Then Mrs. Jones would print them at her house so they could be colored.

## MBots in 7th Grade Science

By Daisy Ober

We all look forward to C days in 7th-grade science. On C days we skip the normal routine and go to Mrs. Brezovec's room for science class. We are working with little robots called Mbots. The first day that we came to EHP, we got our partners or groups and opened the app called mBlock\_v3.4.11. We basically programmed this little-animated scene. But this was just to get us prepared for a bigger project. The next time we came, (which was a few weeks later, due to testing,



schedule changes, and snow days) each pair or group received a small robot called an mBot. We again opened the mBlock app and plugged a flash drive into the computer. Next, we began to program the robots by dragging "puzzle pieces"

together. For example, we would drag out a piece that says "when space pressed" and then connect a piece that says "move forward." We could also change the key that would be pressed, e.g. "when forward arrow pressed." Once we were finished creating the commands, we started up the robots. Starting up the mBots was simple enough; we flipped a switch on the side from 'off' to 'on.' Finally, we got to try out our robots. In the future, we will probably have the chance to run our little robots through an obstacle course, but for now, we're just testing them out on the ground. Unfortunately, due to snow days and weird schedules, we haven't actually had a C Day where we could go to EHP for several weeks now. I know that we are all looking forward to when we can go next!

## Spirit Week

By Leah Krason

In the days leading up to February break we did our annual Spirit Week! Other than just our competition and pep rally, there are different themed days that we dressed up for, to earn our class points. The days went in this order: Wacky Day, Twin Day, Blue and White Day, Character Day, and Decade Day. Every day your teacher tallied the percentage of students that dressed up, and that will help you win Spirit Week. For Wacky Day, the goal is to just dress as wacky as possible, and whether it was your hair, outfit, or something different entirely, it was easy to help your class with this one. For twin day you are going to need a partner, and wearing as many matching clothes as you can would get you a point. Blue and white day is also our pep rally, because it is awesome to see the masses of blue and white in the bleachers. Character day and decade day both take a good amount of creativity; on character day you would pick your favorite person in a book or movie, and on Friday you choose any decade, and dress like you're from it! The dressing up is great, but it is only part of the fun. The pep rally and games are two of the best South Meadow School traditions we have to offer. The pep rally gives recognition to the many sports and clubs available at our school. Each was called by Sil and ran down the middle of the gym, and after there were a lot of yelling competitions. The competition are split up by grade, with fifth and sixth competing on Thursday, and seventh and eighth graders having their games the following day. The competition are full of many relay races and some other fun activities. There were things like wheelbarrow races, birdie balance relays, basketball relays, scooter relays, jump rope relays, a hula hooping competition, and of course, the crowd favorite, tug of war. We found out who had won when we came back to school. For the fifth graders Mrs. Hayes' advisory won. Mrs. Brophy won in the sixth grade competition. In the seventh grade there was a tie between Mrs. Norby and Mr. Driscoll. Finally, in the eighth grade, Mr. Townsend's class took home the trophy. Spirit week is many students' favorite time at SMS, and this year was no exception. I will miss it next year!

# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April Fools Day 	2 National PB&J Day 	3 Tweed Day <i>Tweed Day</i> 	4 Tell a Lie Day 	5 Dandelion Day 	6 Sorry Charlie Day 	7 No Housework Day 
8 Zoo Lover's Day 	9 Name Yourself Day <i>My new name is Freddy!</i> 	10 Golfer's Day 	11 Submarine Day 	12 Licorice Day 	13 Friday the 13th 	14 Scrabble Day 
15 Pecan Day 	16 Librarian Day 	17 Pet Owners Independence Day 	18 Juggler's Day 	19 High Five Day 	20 Look Alike Day 	21 Kindergarten Day 
22 Girl Scout Leader Day 	23 Take a Chance Day 	24 Pig in Blanket Day 	25 World Penguin Day 	26 Take Your Daughter to Work Day 	27 Arbor Day 	28 Great Poetry Reading Day 
29 Greenery Day 	30 Puppy Day 					

## Vicuna Chocolate Movie

By Caitlin Beal

Looking for something new and exciting to learn, our movie making class decided to enter the What's So Cool About Manufacturing video contest. This annual contest showcases local businesses while teaching students about manufacturing and why it's cool. Eva McCollough, Lili Juarez, and I chose to do our video on Vicuña Chocolates, here in Peterborough. Before we went, we brainstormed questions, practiced using the cameras, and looked through all of the rules and requirements for the video. During our visit, we got a tour of the facility and interviewed a couple employees. Afterward, we went through all of the clips and decided what to use in our video. It was a very time-consuming process narrowing down about 30 minutes worth of clips into a 3-minute video. It was also hard deciding what clips we didn't need and making sure the video is revolving around why manufacturing is cool. We started the video in November, and it was finally finished in February. Our video showcased the chocolate making process, which is unique to Vicuña. They source cocoa beans from about 7 origins, but only use beans from one origin in each type of chocolate. After receiving the beans, they are roasted, cracked and winnowed, and ground. The product of those steps is then melted, molded, and packaged. Seeing and talking to the owner and an employee showed how much passion they have for making chocolate. Their love of their business led them to receive the 2017 Yankee Magazine Editor's Choice Food Award and was named the Best Chocolatier by Yankee Magazine in 2015. As they are receiving more positive feedback, they are also expanding. You can buy their chocolate at the San Francisco airport, and hopefully even more places in the future. As employee Kelly Akerly says in response to the question, "Where do you see Vicuña in ten years?", "I see Vicuña being a national brand. I see it being as big as Hershey's, but in the gourmet food." Wherever Vicuña ends up, I know that they are going to be innovative, inspiring, and, obviously, have incredible chocolate. Overall, making this video was a very eye-opening experience. We learned so much about a local business, video editing, interviewing, manufacturing, and so much more. We are beyond excited that our video won second place! It shows that our hard work paid off and that South Meadow School is a force to be reckoned with!

## Science Project: 8th Grade

Kendall Larson

On Thursday, March 15th, the Seventh and Eighth Grade Celebration of Learning science fair was originally scheduled. BUT WAIT FOR A SECOND! We had two snow days before we were supposed to have the science fair, so the date had been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 21st. This was really good news for many, because it gave us more time, which many of us desperately needed. The project was due the Friday before, so that the teachers could have time over the weekend to grade them. Lots of students worked during recess that week to try and finish up, although that week only had two days because of all the snow days. We have been working on these projects almost every week since October, so I felt a lot of pressure because they had to be nothing short of AMAZING. Also, these projects are a big part of our grade for every subject. I kept worrying that if anyone did really poorly on this, they wouldn't be able to graduate. Anyways, we went to the high school during the day for ten minutes to set up. I don't think the trip was necessary since we could have just bought our project there when we came at night. The seventh graders and eighth graders from SMS went, as well as the seventh and eighth graders from Great Brook Middle School. Everyone was really nervous, especially since all the people I asked said that they had just finished last minute. There is a big rubric that we have to follow, including expectations from all four class subjects. The rubric consists of basic requirements like an introduction, charts, data, materials list, and a conclusion. We are also graded on how well we present and speak. Once they grade us at the fair, we are allowed to leave. All in all, it was really cool to have everyone packed in one gym, both parents and students. All of the projects were well done, and it was fun presenting to parents. It was a lot of pressure to have them well done anyways because we had all year. I am glad we did it, and I am excited for the seventh and eighth graders next year because it was a good experience.

