



PUMA PRESS

Staff: Daisy Ober, Zoey Lazzaro, Alex Cummings, Oliver Wilson, Ted McLaughlin, Otto McLaughlin, Maya Seaver, Kell McMahon

Snow Rap

Oliver Wilson

Snow comes falling down
 Over the small town
 It's becoming winter
 Now you won't get a splinter
 Because wood is covered
 With snow
 Welcome to the show
 Please have some fried dough
 And warm food
 Now you're in a good mood
 Let's go make a snowman
 No more need for a fan
 Because it's getting cold
 Just behold
 Because that snowman is getting taller
 It might be able to dunk like a baller
 The radio says it was the ninth caller
 There was a prize
 It got to see the beautiful skies
 Now there's a snow mountain
 And a water fountain
 In a snowy area
 Like Bulgaria
 Which is a place
 Just like space
 When you walk in snow you leave a trace
 Entering a ski race
 Getting a cold face
 And cold fingers and toes
 But you can't forget the nose
 Got to get in warm bathtubs
 This was OB DUBS

Snow Days

By Daisy Ober

We all know the feeling of waking up and being told that it's a snow day. It's one of the best feelings in the world, getting told that you have an unexpected day off, and there's snow! However, snow days really slow things down when it comes to planning classes and school days. Everyone's teaching plans get bumped behind a day, and the school has to stay open for a day longer in the summer. This year, we've already had a few snow days, we missed the Turkey Trot, and in most classes we're way behind. As I'm writing this, there is a chance of a snow day tomorrow, and there will be a major storm this weekend. In conclusion, snow days are fun, but they mess everything up, and they make us have to stay longer in the summer. So they actually aren't that fun in the long run.



Jazz Band performing
 at the Winter Concert

The 8th Grade Specials Switch Up

By Daisy Ober

Anyone who is in band this year felt the impact of the newest 8th grade special, General Music. Our FACS teacher, Ms. Couture, retired last year, and the school wasn't able to get a new FACS teacher for the first two quarters of the year. As a consequence, Mr. Lowy had to teach General Music to the 8th graders for two blocks per day. This impacted anyone who had a band lesson with Mr. Lowy, because the lesson schedule got all messed up. However, the band can rest easy for the final two quarters, because Mr. Lowy will no longer have to teach Music. Why? Because we got a FACS teacher! Similar to Senora Pacheco, Ms. Denslow

will be splitting her time between SMS and Great Brook. Unfortunately, having this switch up happen in the middle of the year means that only half of the 8th grade students will have music, and only half will have FACS. However, we all had music in 6th grade, and we all had FACS last year, so at least we've all gotten the experience of both. FACS stands for Family and Consumer Science, and the class is centered around cooking and sewing. If you're old school, or talk to your parents, it is similar to Home Ec. At any rate, we are all glad to have the class again, and Mr. Lowy is very excited to get his prep blocks back.



White Winter

By Maya Seaver

Once upon a time there was a princess called Sulla, and she was sitting at home thinking and waiting. She had been waiting for one and a half months. She was waiting for snow and was worried it would never come again. The last year there was only half an inch of snow, and this year there was not yet any. Sulla was very worried because her kingdom was the winning snow kingdom and the judge that comes every two years would be there in three days, but there was NO snow anywhere. She was very stressed. She had asked all the magicians in the kingdom but they all failed. She almost called another kingdom but realized that then they would know that she had failed her father's wish to be the one and only snow kingdom. She waited and waited, and finally a magician from who knows where called (nobody knew how) and told her that he would make it snow in exchange for food for his very poor kingdom. Of course she agreed, because she knew not any other way. Then ten minutes later the most miraculous snow you ever saw fall, and from it emerged a very beautiful woman, almost godly, shining in the whiteness of the snow. She herself was very white, she somehow trusted the lady with all her heart. Immediately began to give her all her most valuable things. The woman though was not pleased; she pushed it back and said this in the most incredible voice you ever heard, "I have come for your promise, the food for my kingdom." Stunned Sulla gave her pies and cakes and bread that would last for years. Then Sulla said very stupidly, "Are you the person who called me or are you the leader of his kingdom?" The woman replied, "I'm neither. I'm the goddess of snow and that man is my friend. He knows me very well. I did it all for him, now I must go, goodbye!" After that incredible happening, Sulla felt like a changed girl. She had never seen such a thing in her life she vowed to always remember the experience and treasure the memories forever and ever. She called the woman and told the whole kingdom of the event. The next day was judging day, and they got a special prize for most amazing snow ever seen. Sulla was very happy, and the whole kingdom was very grateful for the goddess and the princess. They all lived happily ever after. The End.



Ski Club

By Zoey Lazzaro

Ski Club is when you ski or snowboard and have fun with your friends. You also have to ski or snowboard with friends, or you can not ski or snowboard. This is for safety in case someone falls; then a friend is there to help you down the mountain. If you do fall and hit your head, you have to report it to an adult so you can get checked out for a concussion. Mrs. Brophy wants everyone to be safe while having fun.

You have to check in around 4:00 and 4:30 in the lodge. There are adults to take attendance at this time to make sure everyone is ok and takes a break for a bit. Most of the students have some food at this point. Some teachers go that do not ski to help with the buses and check-in. You also have to help with unpacking and packing the bus even if the things are not yours. You can get rentals for skiing or snowboarding, and also you could get most of the things that you need for skiing or snowboarding. The trails that you can ski on depends on your ability to ski. Some of us take lessons so we don't get hurt, or if it is your first time skiing. You must stay on the trail. If you bring your snowboard or skis, you have to put them in a bag so the equipment isn't all over the place. Lessons, if you take them, end at four, and then you check in and off you go skiing the mountain. The teachers said that if you are a better skier you might not want to ski or snowboard with your friends that are a beginner. This is so the beginner skier doesn't get hurt trying to keep up with you. Ski Club began on January, 8th, and ends sometime in February. During ski club, you can also take any chair lift you want. The bus leaves the mountain for SMS at 6:30, and your parents pick you up at 7:00.



Lost and Found

By Oliver Wilson

As most of you know, we have a lost and found here at South Meadow School. They have a wide variety of weird items ranging from Birkenstocks to cheese balls. A lot of people here at South Meadow lose a lot of things. What I don't get is why you wouldn't come looking for your shoes if you



lost them. Personally, I've only lost a few things, and I've always been able to find them. About three times a year they give e v e r y t h i n g

away to less fortunate people. I think this is good because it means that some kids that aren't as fortunate can still have some clothes to wear that keep them warm in the winter. It can be kinda funny because of some of the things people have lost. For instance, there is one Birkenstock that was just sitting there for half the year. Most of the stuff includes sweatshirts, water bottles, and school supplies. There are a lot of sweatshirts. Some kids have about five sweatshirts hanging up in the lost and found. There isn't really a lot of time to go to the lost and found to see if your stuff is there. If only the students would start putting their names inside of things, then we would know whom it belongs to. Because of that, I think that there should be something where advisories take turns going down to the lost and found at a plus block or in the morning. Overall, I think the lost and found system is pretty good at South Meadow. The only thing is the name: "lost and found" makes no sense. Last year Mrs. Groleau had a little container of lost things and called it "lost and still lost," so I think we should make that the name instead of lost and found. So the lost and found is an important aspect of our school. Thanks to Mr. Iwanowicz for taking this on. This is ob dubs signing off.

HAT DAY

Friday, February 1

\$1 to wear a hat

Raffle \$1 or 6 for \$5
 Boston Red Sock's Hat
 New England Patriots

A Christmas Carol

By Oliver Wilson

In Mrs. Cutter’s 7th grade LA class, we read a play called, *A Christmas Carol*. It was by Charles Dickens and was about some guy named Scrooge. First, we read the book in class. Mrs. Cutter played a recording of someone else reading everyone’s parts to us. A lot of the students said that we should each play a character and read it like an actual play, but Mrs. Cutter said that we couldn’t due to time restrictions. It took about three days to read it in class, and then we had a little packet on it. A couple days after that on December 18th, we went to the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. The bus ride to the theatre was a party, as field trip bus rides usually are. The play started with the characters singing a lot of Christmas songs and dancing. When the talking part started the first scene was with Scrooge and Bob Cratchit (Scrooge’s Clerk) who were at work. That’s only the beginning, which isn’t as exciting as everything else, so I’ll skip that part. At night Scrooge was in bed,

when the ghost of his old partner Jacob Marley, who died seven years ago to the day, came for a visit. The ghost is called Scrooge a greedy and selfish person and said three ghosts were going to visit him and teach him a lesson. He said the first one will come at one a.m. the second at two and the third at three. On the stroke of one the ghost of Christmas past came and showed him a bunch of scenes that were from different Christmases in the past. Some were sad and others happy. After this Scrooge started to get a little better and realized some mistakes he’d made.



The ghost of Christmas present came next at two a.m. This time the ghost showed him the Christmas that was happening now with people he knows, his nephew Fred and Bob Cratchit. After this, he realized that people really didn’t like him very much. At three a.m. the third spirit, the spirit of Christmas future came. This time it was sad because Scrooge found out he was dead and, worse, Tiny Tim had died. Tiny Tim is Bob Cratchit’s son who is “crippled” as they say. After this Scrooge just sees overall he was an awful human being, and then he starts to fix it. What he does is he sees a boy on the street and gives him money to go buy the huge prize turkey. Then Scrooge puts in a huge donation for the poor and pays the boy half a crown to deliver the turkey to the Cratchits. The play ends on a happy note, because Tiny Tim is saved! This is ob dubs signing off.

SPIRIT WEEK COLORS FOR COMPETITION DAYS

Hayes	Kneeland		Martens
		Goodell	Mayo
	Jones	Driscoll	Lyons
Iwanowicz	Brophy	Cutter	Keating
Hautanen	Groleau		Townsend
Decibus	Koban	Norby	Hopgood



Student Council Carnation Sale

January 22 - February

\$1 each

Delivery on Valentine’s Day, February 14th

6th Grade Science

by Zoey Lazzaro

In 6th-grade science we are doing a poster of the layers of the atmosphere. You have to have many things on the poster. You have to have the temperature of each layer, the layers' names, and the height of each layer.

In the Troposphere, you have to have: birds, clouds, weather, and a weather balloon. In the Stratosphere you have to have: the jet stream, and a supersonic jet, and also the ozone layer. In the Mesosphere you have to have: burning meteoroids, and that is it for that layer. In the Thermo-sphere you have to have: the Ionosphere, the Exosphere, the Magneto-sphere. In the Ionosphere you have to put the Aurora Borealis/ Northern Lights, you also have to have radio waves. In the Exosphere; you have to have the International Satellite Station. So for this project, you can use a poster or a box. (I used a poster.) What you

do is draw a scale on the side of the poster, then you draw a line at the height of that layer, then you have to draw everything in that layer, then you color the color of that layer. Every student, when done has to grade themselves from the rubric given to us. This then goes to Mrs. Jones. Now it is her turn to grade the project. She has a lot of projects to grade.

Also, for the box you do it just like the poster. You have to have a scale on the side of the box, then you can do whatever you want really with your box, but you have to have all the requirements. On the back of the box, you can put the construction paper. Then after that, you have to write tiny note cards about the layers of the Atmosphere. You have to have more than one card, and you also need four cards for each of the layers.

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“Conversation” Project in Spanish

By Daisy Ober

To end the 2nd quarter, the 8th grade Spanish students are creating a project. The idea is to create a video entirely in Spanish, with a script that meets certain criteria. Part of the criteria is that there have to be three greetings, (hola, adios, etc.) and we have to say the time, weather, and use adjectives with the verb to be. The term ‘verb to be’ is the part of speech that words like “am,” “are,” and “is” are defined by. An adjective with a ‘verb to be’ could be used in a sentence such as “I am happy,” or “You are nice.” In Spanish, these sentences would be “Yo estoy feliz,” and “Tu eres cordial.” There are other criteria that must be met, but using the ‘verb to be’ is the most important part. Everyone learned about the verb to be and adjectives at the beginning of the quarter, so this project is really tying everything we’ve learned together. However, writing and reading in Spanish is a lot different from talking in the language, and this project is a real test of our pronunciation. Though Senora Pacheco will be gentle with grading our pronunciation, it is still going to be difficult to make it understandable. Once the script is written, the students will record their videos either using the chromebooks at school, or their phones at home. However, the script has to be graded and revised before we can start creating the video. As the end of the quarter grade, there is a lot riding on this project, so everyone is trying their absolute best to make the best video possible.

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Drama Club Performance

67 Cinderellas

Friday, March 15th at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 16th at 7 p.m.

THE CAST



Ashley Biathrow
Lucy Braby
Katherine Craig
Ada Davis
Elena Ellia
Violet Fletcher

Raven Fleck
Abby Higgins
Esther Janis
Lilianna Juarez
Caitlin Marshall
Rylie Marshall

Ben Michaud
Megan Millbuaer
Aeryn Moon
Avery Moore
Lottie Moore
Autumn Moran

Mackenzie Mullins
Beau Olesky
Emma Rodenhiser
Kaitlyn Stone
Avery Swasey
Inaya Vaidya
Chloe Ward

Anti-Bullying

By Alex.C

On January 4th, Jessie Chris, a country singer from Massachusetts, came to speak at SMS about anti bullying. First she told students about how she was bullied and treated terribly just because she wanted to follow her dreams to become a country singer. Jessie then went on to say that sometimes the bullying would get physical and how she would come home every day in tears due to her classmates' hurtful words. After telling students a little bit about her background, she explained that she was still bullied, but that she developed broad shoulders and learned not to take heed of the negative things others said about her. Jessie then asked students to promise her three things. First, if and when they meet someone different they should go out of their way to tell them that they are awesome. Second that they should be kind to everyone. And third to never give up on their dreams no matter what anyone says. Promises aside, Jessie read the crowd her very own children's book.



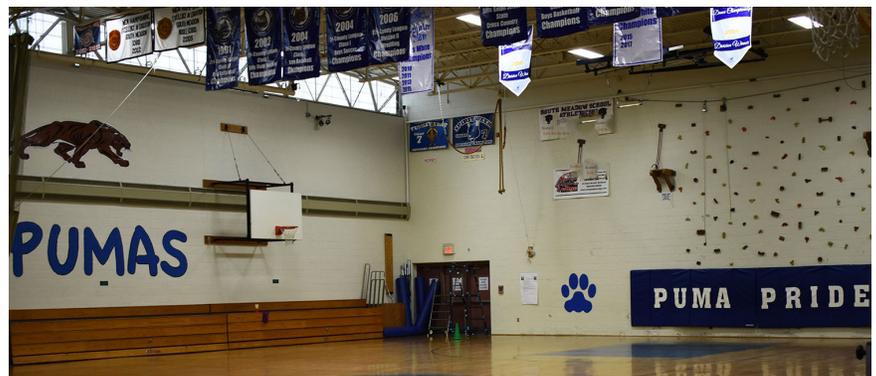
The book told the story of Jessie's life, how first she was very proud to be a singer but then as the bullying persisted she started to lose confidence. Eventually she gave up on music, but then realised that without music her life was boring. The book then explains how once she started playing again she developed a tough skin and learned to grow from the putdowns. After reading her very own children's book, Jessie told students a little bit more about always being kind to others and how her previous bullies are regretting their actions and want to be friends with her now that she is a successful country artist. Finally, Jessie sang the excited crowd a few songs about overcoming challenges and hardships. Overall SMS students enjoyed the music and walked out of the gym knowing a little bit more about why they should always treat others, no matter how different, as equal.

Current PE

By Kell McMahon

Recently, the 2nd quarter PE classes of the 7th grade have been doing floor hockey. PE floor hockey is nothing like real hockey. The rules are different; you can not lift your stick above your knees, only stick to stick contact when you're on defense. The goalies don't have a glove. There are some bright parts to the activity. Mr.M, the new SMS physical education teacher not only lets us just do a full game, but he teaches us some small skills. Skills that he teaches are: stickhandling, shooting, and passing. These skills are not taught at all like real hockey, but they are still somewhat fun to do. There is a penalty when your stick goes higher than your knees. A penalty is two minutes long. Only stick to stick contact is allowed. Finally, you are not allowed to step into the crease (this is where the goalies are allowed).

Floor hockey is not the only thing that is currently happening. The 7th grade is also doing sabakiball. In this game there is a cone. The cone is behind the goalie. The goal is to knock down the cone as many times as possible. Players need to throw a dodge ball type ball at the cone to try to knock it down. Before the real game starts you play pass with a partner so you can warm up your arm. To play defense during the game you must be an arms length away from the opponent. You need to be at a distance for safety reasons. You are not allowed to move with the ball during game-play. You have to pass the ball to move it. It's a fun game, and if you are looking forward to PE here at SMS, be excited about floor hockey and sabakiball.



Behind The Scenes-News-casting

By Alex.C

Have you ever wondered how the morning announcements are created? How the cast and crew are able to broadcast and record them in such a short amount of time? In today's article of behind the scenes, we will take a look at how the morning announcements we have come to know and love are put together.

First the news: the news must be written. This is done by Ms. Bennett who works on creating the script overnight. If there is any additional news that teachers would like to add to the script, it has to be in before 7:10. Once 7:10 hits the script is divided into parts for each of the cast members. After the parts have been assigned, the cast have about 10-15 minutes to practice them. In that same time frame, the crew also has to set up the starting music and make sure the green screen and cameras are in position in time for the broadcast at 7:25. The starting

music is run from a different computer attached to a large RCA Bass Reflex speaker. The green screen is set and run by Avery Swazey on the day I was there. At 7:25 the show is on the air. It is recorded with two 1080 HD Logitech camera. They are placed approximately 35" apart and raised about 17 1/2" by two lego pillars. This two camera method of filming allows the transitions between slides to be more fluid because time is not lost while students are moving to get into position for the camera. While the morning announcements are being broadcasted they are also being recorded so they can be sent to the office to put onto the SMS website for parents to view. Overall, there is a lot of work put into creating the morning announcements, and it is a very interesting and well thought out process. Ask to see if you can go in one morning to watch it in the EHP room.



A student in the Mind Puzzles class is successful solving a puzzle.

HAVE
A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!

December Puma Pride Winners



!ATTENTION READERS, NEW DISTRICT PROPOSAL!

By Alexander Cummings

Would you like an extra hour of sleep in the morning? A new schedule proposed by the school board might offer just that. This schedule would set the starting time of the high school and both middle schools to 8:30 a.m., allowing students to get some much-needed sleep and preparation time in the morning. This much-needed sleep might even improve the work quality of older learners and also help them feel better overall. There are many sleep-related benefits to incorporating a later school start time, such as acknowledging the importance of the recommended amount of sleep required for maximum performance and reducing the negative effects of sleep deprivation.

There is significant importance of getting sleep at any age, but sleep is most important as a teen. As you are growing up your body needs more energy and sleep to function. The recommended sleep time for a middle or high schooler is 8-10 hours per night. In your younger ages, this is not a problem, seeing that you go to bed early and get up at a reasonable time. However, once children hit their teens, their sleep patterns start to change. They no longer feel tired until about 11 o'clock but due to current starting times have to get up around 6 a.m. or 7 a.m. to be to school on time. On nights with uninterrupted sleep students are getting a maximum resting time of eight hours. If voted in, this new schedule would allow students to get an extra hour of sleep, allotting a maximum sleep time of around nine hours. And while this would not only

allow teens to wake up feeling more refreshed, studies show that this would improve their work quality.

There are multiple sources and countless studies that show when teenagers do not get enough sleep their mindset is negatively affected. One article by Child Mind Institute says that lack of sleep clouds up the brain like a haze. This brain "haze" or sleep deprivation can affect the mind of a teenager in many different ways. For those old enough to drive, lack of sleep can affect your reaction time making you more prone to accidents. Lack of sleep has also been proven to make teens more irritable and have less control over their emotions. Finally, many studies have shown that sleep deprivation can affect your ability to learn. The schools that have delayed their starting time reported that there were fewer absences, students were calmer and that grades were raised a small amount.

There are many different benefits to incorporating a later starting time for schools, such as acknowledging the recommended hour of sleep for peak performance and reducing the chance the students will suffer from the many side effects of sleep deprivation. There are many different problems associated with lack of sleep that can be fixed by starting school, just an hour later. In short, changing our starting time to 8:30 would help make our school a calmer and even more enjoyable place to learn in.



Left: Peer Mentors
Above: A Puma Pride Winner