



PUMA PRESS

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Drama



Are you interested in drama? Do you want to see a great play put on by people in your very own class? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then come see the *67 Cinderellas* put on by the school drama club. The *67 Cinderellas* is a comedic twist on the classic Cinderella story. The play will take place on March fifteenth and sixteenth at 7 o’clock and will be held in the gym. To purchase a ticket see the main office. Tickets are eight dollars for students and ten dollars for adults. The play is sure to be a blast, as the entire club has been working since the cast was announced after the tryouts on September fifth. The story follows the prince and his friends trying to find Cinderella after the classic ball dance of the original. With many mishaps along the way this story shows what it is truly like to be a princess.

FACS

By Kell McMahon

FACS, known as Family and Consumer Science, is taught by a teacher that works at Great Brook Middle School for half a year and then here at SMS. Her name is Mrs. Denslow. If you are here at SMS you only take Family and Consumer Science in your 7th and 8th-grade years for one quarter. Right now Mrs. Denslow is teaching the Driscoll and Norby advisories for the 7th grade. I am not positive on which advisory Mrs. Denslow is teaching for the 8th grade. If you had IAT, also known as Intergrated Arts and Technology, during the second quarter then you have FACS in the 3rd quarter. Mrs. Denslow is a nice teacher but a little strict, which is perfectly fine. The first unit she is teaching is on utensils, to make sure that every student knows their utensils in the kitchen.

We are now learning how to make a proper grilled cheese sandwich. Obviously, she is starting off small with the cooking, but I personally think that after time she will teach us to cook more advanced things. Once you are done eating your yummy sandwich you are responsible for cleaning everything up and drying the utensils and plates. Mrs. Denslow is nice enough to give us all of the supplies that we need to be successful. She does the shopping for us.

But cooking is not the only thing that goes on in FACS. Mrs. Denslow also is a master of teaching the art of sewing. She teaches the students how to make blankets, hats and little creatures. So when you are in 7th or 8th grade, look forward to having Mrs. Denslow for FACS.

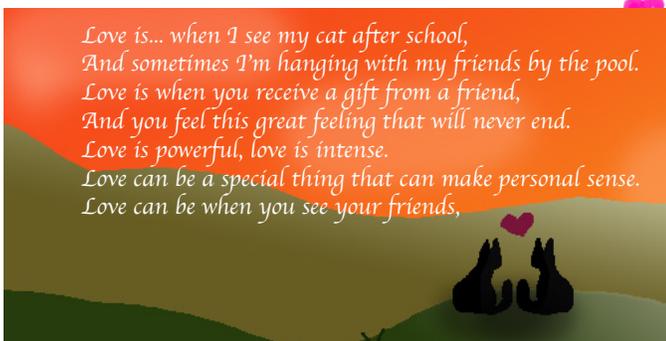
Chia Pets

By Alyssa Hamlin

In fifth grade art class we are making chia pets. Chia pets are clay animals/objects. You have to mold the animal or object then hollow it out. Then you close it up by putting water on it, scratching it, and then sealing it. Ms. McClan then bakes it in an oven for you. Next comes the planting of the Chia seeds on it. You have to wait for four or more days to see the seeds grow. The pets were then placed out in the greenhouse, where it is warm and sunny, to make the seeds pop and grow.

I am making a polar bear for my animal. You could make any animal or object like panda bears, balls, vases, a wolf or a turtle. It took us four or five days to create the animal. It was fun to work with the clay and create something that we will take home.

When we took our chia pets home they needed to be in a bowl of water next to sunlight so they would continue to grow. They dry out really easily, so everyday you need to drizzle water on their seeds and wait until they grow. The water gets absorbed as they grow. Once a week you need to put more water in the bowl. My pet is coming along very nicely.



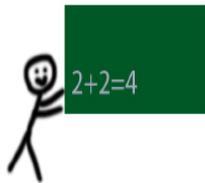
Math Websites

Oliver Wilson

In eighth grade math there was recently a project where we made websites about endangered animal species. All the eighth graders except for the ones in ninth grade math did it, along with some of the seventh graders that do eighth-grade math. There were a bunch of different animals that we could choose from. For instance,

I chose the Tasmanian Devil. We made the websites on Google Sites and were taught how to make graphs on spreadsheets. We had to make three different graphs for speed compared to predators, speed compared to prey, and population compared to similar animals. We made these graphs on google spreadsheets and then copy-and-pasted them onto our website. Some people made more than three graphs because they wanted to use a pie chart on their website.

Some other animals people chose included the Cross River Gorilla, Spider Monkeys and sea turtles. The website was a really fun project, and I think most people really enjoyed it. There was a rubric shared in google classroom for the websites and also one given to us when the project was introduced. We had a couple days to work on the project in class but then the rest of the time that we worked on it was at plus block or at home. The two eighth grade math teachers are Mr. Martens and Mrs. Keating. Mrs. Keating teaches one block when it's mostly just us seventh graders but still with a couple eighth graders mixed in. Our class behaves pretty well and are the only one of Mrs. Keating's blocks without assigned seats. Overall, I feel like the endangered animal website project was really fun and a good choice by the teachers.



Two Down Two To Go

By *Ted McLaughlin*

Just a couple weeks ago quarter two ended. It was a very up and down quarter for the most part, more up for me. Thanksgiving happened, Christmas came and went. Plus its a new year. 2019... I am up for the challenges. But anyways quarter two is usually always the best quarter with all the holidays and events. This quarter was a blast both within school and without. It was really fun. But i look forward to the new quarter as a new day strikes upon me.

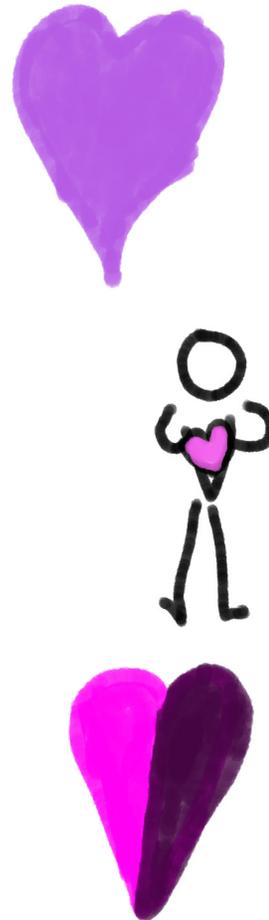
P.E.

By *Ted McLaughlin*

Quarter three is now upon us, and with the new quarter come new specials. Last quarter I had Art and Spanish. But this quarter I have PE and Health. I have always loved PE, because I am a very active run around type of person. So being able to run around for forty minutes is a blast. It releases a lot of energy for the next class. So it is a win win for the students and the teachers. With the winter we do not get to go outside and run around like we did in September, October and November due to ice or the temperature. So with PE it is a needed energy drainer.

Right now we are playing Nitroball, a game where there are volleyball nets but lowered to the floor. We use an enlarged fake volleyball as the ball in the game. Like volleyball we have to serve but it has to hit the ground once before you can volley the ball back to the opponent.

There is a new student teacher named Mr. Fields. He is a great student teacher. It is as if he has been teaching here for years. He speaks in a firm voice that is not too loud, likes to joke around here and there and does not take backtalk from the students. He is also a very nice person and a good person to have around the school. Everyone likes Mr. Fields. Next week he said we are doing a hockey unit, so I am really excited for next week.



Spirit Week!

by *Zoey Lazzaro*

During Spirit Week at SMS, we do many fun things, and I mean many fun things. We do things like games against the other advisories in your grade. The 6th graders have to show the 5th graders how to do the activities. Also, there are multiple activities you can sign up for. You can sign up for only three, or maybe four activities, depending on how many activities there are for each person. There are really fun things to do, and I remember doing it last year, when the 6th graders showed us how to do all the activities.

Your advisory gets a certain color, one advisory in one grade will be blue, and another maybe green. You can dress up in that color, and it depends what your advisor wants to do, but you could have many other things than just a shirt of your advisory. You could have blue headbands/sweatbands.

Spirit week is like a Puma Pride week. During Spirit week each day is something different, and the advisory get points as to how many students dress up for that day.

7th Grade Math

by Otto McLaughlin

The teacher in charge for math in seventh grade is Mrs. Goodell. Right now she is teaching the seventh graders about fractions. We are just reviewing the basics of fractions, so we can get into more complicated math problems. She lectures on the math and then we practice it on a packet or piece of paper she gives us.

She recently divided us up into groups and we have four stations and in those stations she gives us a mini-lesson or we watch a video on what we are learning about. The third one is using a packet. The packet consists of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems. There might be more than just that in the packet, but I've only done addition and subtraction so far. The last one is skill, and you do skill after you are done with the mini-lesson. I haven't been to that station yet, so I don't know what goes on. But I think it's just practice on what Mrs. Goodell just taught you.

Just recently we played a game. We had four groups, and we were able to select our groups. There were five students per group. If you answer the question correctly, you shoot a basket. Each team got a certain amount of points, and if you make the shot you get to erase two points from the team you choose. This game lasted two days, and it was fun.



WinterSlam

Puma Pride

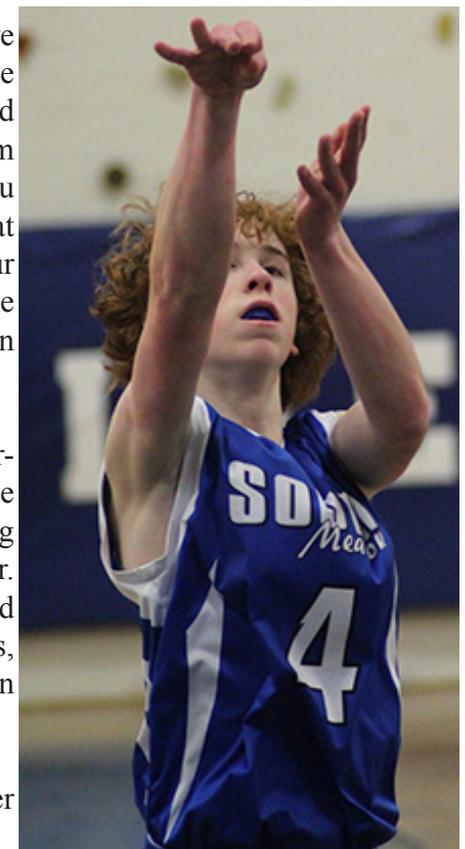
by Zoey Lazzaro

Puma Pride is an event at SMS we do every month. In Puma Pride, PRIDE stands for P: Personal Responsibility R: Respect, I: Integrity, D: Dedication, E: Empathy.

We have Puma Pride assemblies the first Friday of the month. Awards are given out to students who exhibit the things that PRIDE stands for. Every one goes to the gym. Mrs. O'Bryant reads the certificates that have the award written on them. When your name is called you go to the middle of the gym to receive your award and get your picture taken with her and the pumas. You get this little baggy which contains a rubber duck, a pen, and a magnet that says Puma Pride 2018-2019. The pen has a soft end so you can use it on your chrome books. Then you go and sit on the stage, and after that when everyone gets their awards, you get another picture taken with everyone who got an award.

Puma Pride is a good thing our school has, and it goes with the motto, Caring, Cooperative, and Respectful community of learners. Also, at Puma Pride assemblies sometimes we do many fun things. Sometimes we have a yelling contest by saying different things and then you have to get louder, and louder. One thing we yelled was, "We love the Patriots, we couldn't be prouder, and if you can't hear us we'll yell a little louder." You would say that three times, and you would start off saying it lighter then you would get louder, and then just a lot louder.

The assemblies are awesome, and everything is arranged well by the peer mentors to make the assemblies amazing and run smoothly.



Spirit Week Agendas!

by Zoey Lazzaro

For Spirit Week, here is what we will do on different days:

Monday is cozy day, and you have to wear your coziest clothes.

Tuesday is twin day, and this straight forward: it is where you and your friend dress similarly.

Wednesday is blue and white day, and you got to wear blue and white. Many of you have a Puma Pride shirt or a sport shirt that you can wear on this day. There is also a pep rally on this day.

Thursday is wacky day. You have to wear something wacky. On wacky day we also have 5th and 6th competition day!

Friday is sports day. You have to wear something sporty. This is also 7th and 8th grade competition day.



Puma Pride Assemblies: An Opinion Piece

By Daisy Ober

Every month, we have a Puma Pride Assembly. They are a great way to show school spirit, and they celebrate all the good things our school values. Ms. O'Bryant always get super hyped up for the assemblies, and it's so fun to see her so full of energy and spirit. It is encouraging and her good mood rubs off on the teachers and students. However, I think that there are a few flaws to Puma Pride, that, if addressed, could make the assemblies that much more enjoyable for the students.

First of all, there is the issue of the nominees. Sometimes the same people get nominated over and over again, and other students who might deserve a nomination don't ever get one. I was recently nominated for the first time, even though I have done many of the things that other people have been nominated for in the past. It all comes down to the teacher, but it can make kids feel bad if they aren't nominated for something when someone else is nominated for that exact thing. Sometimes, students who have a record of office referrals, bad behavior, and even detentions and suspensions are nominated, and students with perfectly clear records aren't. I think that students feel that the system is unfair.

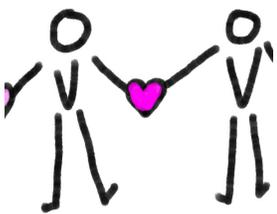
Secondly, I think that Puma Pride assemblies should be a time to really celebrate school spirit, like Ms. O'Bryant always does. Ms. O'Bryant always dresses up, and so do the teachers, and they encourage students to wear blue and white as well. It's really fun to see all the school spirit coming from our teachers and staff. However, a lot of students either forget to do so or just don't want to. To encourage students to have more school spirit. I think it can be turned into a contest. During the last assembly, the grade that yelled the loudest during the school chant and had the most school spirit was dismissed first. I think that having this prize motivated the grades to show more school spirit. If everyone showed their school spirit, Puma Pride assemblies could feel more united and fun.

A lot of students at our school are not entirely happy with how the Puma Pride assemblies are organized right now. For the 8th graders, it is just routine, something that almost never changes, and I think that a few changes would improve the whole experience a lot. Puma Pride assemblies are a part of our culture, and if we can improve them, I think we should.

Valentine's Day

By Maya S

One week before the 14th of February, Jodha Bailey was very stressed. This was because he was worried since he thought nobody liked him. But he liked everybody and found it very stressful when he found everybody smart and kind while they thought of him merely as an orphan who did not belong in their "perfect" town. He especially liked a girl called Sadie Gashe. She was very beautiful and kind and smart, caring and a great leader. She had everything everyone loves about people, and Jhoda loved it. She was secretly in love with him. She would never say it because of her friends who tried very hard to avoid him and called him names. She felt very very bad for him and wanted to help but had no courage to stand against her friends. Then one day before Valentine's Day Jhoda couldn't stand it anymore and he worked up all his courage to ask Sadie to hang out for Valentine's Day. What she answered surprised everyone near enough to hear it. She said, "Yes, of course, I would love to," and it was such a kind thing that her friends didn't even get upset with her. The next day, February 14th they went together to the school dance. Sadie chose her best dress without knowing it and when she saw Jhoda her mouth gaped wide open. He looked so handsome in his suit even though she knew it was probably some hand-me-down from an older brother. It was clearly too big for him. They walked up to each other slowly, and since



neither of them knew how to dance they sort of just copied Sadie's friends trying to keep up with the music. Although they were struggling, they danced rather well

and when the music ended they got a huge surprise, they won the dance-off against the whole school!

The poems that you see were done by 6th and 8th grade students. These poems were submitted to NHPR to be read on Valentine's Day!

