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Ski Club Part Two

by Zoey Lazzaro



I already wrote an article about this, but I forgot some information. So, Mrs. Brophy runs the whole ski club and does many things to get this club going. The work for ski club actually starts in September. Everyone should thank Mrs. Brophy for getting this all together. She does more than you think, as well as all of the teachers that spend their Tuesdays at Crotched Mountain. They leave the school early to monitor the buses, they do the sign in, or they supervise the skiers on the slopes.

Your first sign in at the mountain is at 4:30, to make sure everyone is safe. Then you sign in again at 6:00, so the teachers know that you are ready to go home. They will hold the bus back to wait for you if you are not there. You have to bring in a note if you are going to stay to ski or snowboard more, because the teachers are responsible for your safety.

If you get rentals, you have to put the equipment back to the right spot. Also when you get dressed to go out to ski you need to make sure your belongings are neat and tidy and not thrown everywhere on the floor. You can have your parents pick you up at Crotched Mountain as well. Thank you to Mrs. Brophy and all of the teachers that come to help so we can ski. It is a lot of fun.



January Puma Pride Winners



6th Grade Language Arts

by Zoey Lazzaro

In 6th grade language arts with Mrs. Koban, we are doing an essay about Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor was a very rough time. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and that is what this is going to be about, us learning about Pearl Harbor, and then writing an essay.

In Mrs. Koban's class, we read three articles about Pearl Harbor. One was titled, *Road to Pearl Harbor*, the second one was, *The Attack on Pearl Harbor*, then the third one was *Franklin D. Roosevelt's Address*. (Address means speech.) Then we had two classes to write the essay. We also had to do 5-7 sentences per paragraph, and we had to have five paragraphs in our essay.

Mrs. Koban would take the essay no matter how finished it was, or however not finished it was. We got good notes because we highlighted a lot of good details. We do not highlight everything, just words that you feel are important, and you do not need to highlight these words: and, or, that, the, etc. There is no word limit for this writing piece.

This is all we had to do to write this essay. Also, Mrs. Koban will always make sure you understand what you are writing about.



What Goes on In the 7th grade

By Otto McLaughlin

Seventh grade. What goes on in this wing? Well for starters, the teachers are Mrs. Norby, Mr. Driscoll, Mrs. Goodell, and Mrs. Cutter. Mrs. Cutter is the new language arts teacher this year. Mrs. Goodell teaches math and we are learning about integers. Her room is right next to Mr. Driscoll's room. In social studies, we are learning about Sumerians.

Mrs. Norby teaches science, and right now we are learning about how magnets work. Mrs. Norby's room is next to Mrs. Brezovec's EHP room. Sometimes when the morning announcements are on Mrs. Brezovec comes into our room to see what the announcements look like. She probably sees if the audio or camera quality is doing alright as the announcements are happening.

Mrs. Cutter's room is right next to the library, so in that hallway there is a lot of traffic jams, of course not with cars, but just with students. You see a lot of students from Mrs. Cutter's advisory in the library or lined up against the wall waiting to go into the room for class.

At the last Puma Pride Assembly last month two 7th graders were nominated for the award. There were no 7th-graders nominated the previous month so it was pretty exciting. At another assembly Francisco Jaimes got an award. We have a Puma Pride Assembly every month, so we have four more months to get an award. The seventh grade winners for this year so far are: Beau Olesky, Dylan Seavey, Eric McGrath, Justin Borges, Kermit Pope, Lucille White, Miles Higgins, Nathan Klonel and Taylor McGrath. Then you have those students on the front page in the photo of this month's winners.

7th Recap

By Otto McLaughlin

There have been many things going on this quarter for the seventh grade but not all of them are good. One of the good thing that happened was the *Christmas Carol* the week before Christmas break. I think most people are aware on who Ebenezer Scrooge is and if you don't he is anti-Christmas. He feels that, "every hour wasted with Christmas is an hour wasted earning money." The seventh-graders definitely figured out who he was because we watched, read, and listened to Scrooge.

In Language Art class with Mrs. Cutter, we read a book called, *So Far from a Bamboo Grove*. The main character is Yoko Kawashima, and she is still alive to tell the story. She came to South Meadow School to tell us about what she went through when the Japanese were under attack. It was sad because she was affected by the war; her mom died and her dad was in a soldier in the war. Her hearing was affected by the war because a shard of a bomb hit her in the ear, and she is pretty much deaf in one ear. She gave the 7th grade a nice talk.

We were all sad that the Turkey Trot was canceled in November due to school closing and snow and ice. I couldn't show off my cheetah speed. Hopefully I will have a chance in the spring.



A Puma Pride winner gets a photo taken with the pumas. Each winner gets a duck, pen and magnet. If it is your second time you get a hat, bag, shirt or a pair of socks.



Peer Mentors setting up items for the Puma Pride Assembly

Social Studies Essays

Oliver Wilson

In seventh grade social studies, we are writing five paragraph essays on Sumer. What is Sumer you may ask? Well, Ancient Sumer was the first civilization. In social studies, we spent a lot of time learning about Sumer. We learned that there are seven characteristics that make up a civilization. We started the essay by writing our three body paragraphs, which were just three of the seven characteristics that we chose to write about. For example, I chose social structure, religious system, and complex culture. Then after we wrote the body paragraphs we wrote an introduction and conclusion paragraphs. In Google classroom, Mr. Driscoll posted instructions that said, "write your introduction paragraph here" or "write your conclusion paragraph

here." Then we could read each other's paragraphs and say what we liked about them. In language arts, we revised five-paragraph essays that we wrote earlier in the year, so we were kind of prepared for writing ones in social studies. In class we read a couple of example essays and then graded them on a rubric. In my class we read two paragraphs that were fine but not exemplars. Then a student volunteered and Mr. Driscoll brought up their essay and we all read it and graded it. Mr. Driscoll then told the class what that person could have done better. Overall I feel like the essays were a good assignment that extended people's understanding of writing and Sumer. This was OB dubs signing it off.

Box Top Challenge 2019!!

We will be having a contest to see which advisory can bring in the most box tops! The contest will run from February 5 th – March 1 st . The Advisory in each grade that collects the most Boxtops will have a popcorn party (and of course bragging rights!) The more tops that are submitted, the more money for the school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!!!

When: Saturday, February 16th from 10am-2pm

What: Winter Fest Event

Where: Oak Part in Greenfield.

You may attend for the full 4 hours or could do a shift (10-12 or 12-2). This is an all outdoors event and first come, first serve. You may be expected to help set up an obstacle course, manage the clipboard, organize a snow shoe game and more. advisor. If you have any questions please see Mrs. Smart.

Stranger Saga Stories

Ryan Charron

There was a noise coming from the basement...

I carefully stepped down the stairway, feeling my way through the blanket of complete darkness.

The sound became increasingly more deafening every second...

The vibration of the rough concrete walls scraped up my sweaty palms as I felt the corner of the basement. The rumbling was so ear-splitting that I could not hear my own breathing. And I could barely hear my own cry for help when the ground gave way below me and I began plummeting. Glancing down, there was no visible end to the fall, just pitch black...

Winning Story

Things To Do During February Break

By Alex

Not traveling over February break? Want to change up tradition? Take a look at some of the most popular places in the area:

Crotchet Mountain: A very popular skiing mountain, with a variety of trails and gladesmakes, this is the perfect mountain to learn to ski or snowboard on or just to have fun with your family. Depending on what time you order your lift ticket and whether you are renting equipment, the prices range from about \$20 to about \$80. If you are interested in taking lessons you can either pay for half day priced at \$79 or a full day priced at \$130. Find more information on their website, <https://www.crotchedmtn.com>

Granite Gorge: For those who are interested in downhill skiing Granite Gorge offers cross country skiing and snowshoeing trails with prices around \$10 - \$20, depending on whether you are skiing or snowshoeing and if you are renting or not. Granite Gorge also has an area for tubing for \$25. If you are interested, check out their website at <https://www.granitegorge.com>

Great Wolf Lodge: If you are willing to travel a little farther and are looking for an indoor experience with your family try Great Wolf Lodge. The Great Wolf Lodge is a hotel with an indoor water park and many other amenities such as an indoor rock wall and even a ropes course. Check out their website at <https://www.greatwolf.com/new-england> to see more amenities and pricing.

Ice Castle: Located about 2 hours away in North Woodstock are the Ice Castles. These incredible castles/caves are made entirely out of ice and are gigantic. Tickets are priced between about \$10 and \$18 depending on your age and whether you go on your weekend or weekday. To see more details visit their website at <http://icecastles.com/newhampshire>.

Not traveling over the break? Consider some of these options to help pass the time. Each of these places/activities are geared toward fun for the whole family and would make great activities to do over the break.

Shadow on the Wall

By: Ella Darowski

This is a place where fear lurks. We can't live without it. I used to be scared about what's under my bed.

Shadows on the walls. The only thing separating us was my mattress. They would listen to my breathing. Different monsters came every night, except one stayed. That same shadow every night. I heard it sob. Its shadow on the wall, shaking. I was scared. My hand fell beside the bed. His cold hand touched mine, we held hands in the dark. His sobs stopped. The next night, no shadows. The screams began.

No more monsters visit my bed.

Until Death Do Us Part

By Daisy Ober

The moisture of the ground soaked through my pants as I knelt at my parent's tombstone. Through the fog I could see the faint outline of a new grave beside theirs, but I couldn't make out a name. I peered closer, curious, and watched as the mist slowly cleared. Except... it was my name on the gravestone. I looked around at my wife, standing behind me, but her eyes were cold.

"Until death do us part," She said. "A fake death is the same thing, right?" And with a quiet laugh, she turned and vanished into the fog.

On this page are entries for a contest called, Stranger Sagas. The contest was through Young Writes.com. We look forward to the book in which the the writing will be published, titled, "New Hampshire Young Writes: Stranger Sagas. This was done with Mrs. Hopgood, grade 8.

Too Late

By Rylie Marshall

I needed to tell someone the truth before it was too late. The truth that I withheld in my brain was one that could either save or destroy this world. I needed to find the High Commander! As I sprinted over the top of a hill, I saw that the rebels were already here. They had followed me through the desert! As they surrounded me, I threw my mind out and tried to take control. Somehow they blocked me. One of them raised a pistol to my head and fired, saying, "Nighty-night." Everything went dark, and my mind fell away.

By Violet Fletcher

Since birth, darkness was all I had ever known. The sun only existed in stories. There was no one alive today that remembered the Other World, and many doubted it even existed. But resources were growing thin, disease plagued our community, and the temperature was rising. Yet the elders keep digging. Deeper and deeper into an abyss of darkness, and farther from the only thing that may bring salvation. For years I've been traveling up, with nothing to guide me but an ancient map. Finally, after decades of travel, I see light. The sun was blazing, I must be close...

By Sophia Davidson

We watched from the space station as Earth exploded. You're supposed to cry when bad things happen, right? Everyone else was, their tears floating freely around me in small blobs. But I was a vertical corpse, numb and tearless. I felt disconnected from my own body. I stood like that, for a moment, until an emotion finally found me. Rage. "Why?" I yelled to no one in particular. "Why would they destroy our home?" But before anyone could answer, I saw them in the distance. The foreign spacecraft was approaching. I quickly composed myself and prepared for battle.

By Avery Swasey

Earth was dying, and we were all dying with it. The president assured everyone that we were safe. The government built some sort of protective dome that will save us, but they lied, there was no dome, no safety, only my dad's plan. His science team created a ship, that could carry people through space to a new planet they found. There was a minor setback with the plan though. It was only large enough to carry the team and their families. We left everyone on a damaged planet to die then we watched from space as our home exploded.

Social Studies

By Ted McLaughlin

Social Studies is by far my favorite class of seventh grade. We do so many fun things in that class. We made maps from when hominids were alive and studied the evolution of humans from early hominids which at first I thought was going to be very boring. It was actually very exciting and fun to learn about. But in order to have a fun class you have to have a good teacher, and Mr. Driscoll fills that roll perfectly. He lets the students talk for the first five to six minutes, but right when he rings a bell no one talks, not even the loud kids. It is an amazing system, at least to me.

The past two to three months we have been learning about Ancient Sumer which somewhat piggybacks on early hominids. We have had multiple tests on the subject and Mr. Driscoll lectured a lot about Sumerians. There is just so much to talk about with Sumerians themselves, the gods and their beliefs. Included in their technology is the plow which helped turn up the soil and made it easier to grow crops, but they also created the wheel. The wheel was a huge invention especially for carrying cargo from place to place. They also used the wheel for making clay or pottery. What we have learned the most about is the irrigation system, to better help grow crops and keep them protected. This included levees to keep the waste from destroying the crops when it would flood, but they also used levees to water the crops. Plus they would build canals to hold the water and use it whenever they needed it. It is still a very popular way to grow crops pretty much anywhere. These people also created crowns, bracelets, necklaces, and even mirrors to sell.

Spelling Bee

By Daisy Ober

Our school is somewhat centered around assemblies. From Puma Pride Assemblies to charting country singers performing, we have an assembly for everything. Our most recent assembly was for the school-wide Spelling Bee. Each advisory administered the initial test, where everyone took a spelling test that would decide if they went to the gradewide bee. Each grade did their spelling bee a little different, but it all resulted in the same outcome, two students from the grade going onto the school-wide Spelling Bee. The final spelling bee was held on Friday, January 25, in the SMS gym. It was hosted by our librarian, Ms. Stearns. Ms. Howe came back to play the role of ‘announcer,’ and the judges panel was composed of Ms. Weston, Ms. Brezovec and 8th grade’s own Mr. Townsend. The spelling bee started out with easier words like “street” and “loaf,” and got increasingly harder. After the first few rounds, the contestants started dropping like flies. The bee moved pretty quickly, and before we knew it, there were only two contestants left. The final two were Lilly Colon from 8th grade and Megan Milbauer from 5th. The two went head to head for nearly ten minutes, and several rounds. Finally, Megan misspelled a word, and Lilly



was able to spell the last two words correctly, crowning her winner. Lilly has been the runner up in the past, so the 8th grade was proud to see her win this year. Megan was the runner up, which was impressive for a 5th grader, and a first since I’ve been at SMS. Lilly will move up through the competition on a state level, and she might even get to country level! The Spelling Bee has always been an important part of our culture at SMS, and we hope it continues to be.