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

Newspaper

By Kell McMahon

The EHP Newspaper class has been around for sixteen years at SMS. The newspaper covers all of South Meadow School's latest activities, school sports, or just current things happening at our school. Now that sounds like an easy thing to do, but it isn't. If you are in Newspaper, you know that just writing an article in Google Docs is not even close to being the only thing to do. First, you must write a school-related article. If it is a big subject you must write about 700 words. If your subject is small it has to be up to 300 to 400 words. You have one week to finish writing these. The expectation is for each article to have a photo related to it, or you can draw a graphic to go with it. Zoey is our graphic person right now, but we are all learning how to create one. All of the little people you see in the paper are done by Zoey at the moment. At your next EHP meeting you put your article through grammarly by copying and pasting, and you make the corrections that the app suggests. However, the app does not catch everything, so you need to read it yourself again or have a friend read it for you. Once you are done you give your article to Mrs. Brezovec. She will spell check it and make sure that all grammar and facts or info given are correct and relevant. Then you use InDesign. The program is used to layout the newspaper or other writing-related things.

There are lots of requirements in order to make your article in the newspaper good. You must pick the correct font which is Times New Roman. Your title must be a font size of 18 and bold. The article writing must be a font of 12. You must use text frame options to make a border around your writing. The pictures need to be cropped, resized and then saved correctly before placing in the paper. When you add the photos you have to have the text wrap around it. These are only some of the requirements in In Design.

The next step is putting your finished piece in a folder so Daisy, an 8th grader, can retrieve it from the server to put into the main paper. Fitting all of the pieces into the paper takes some time, and then each article needs to be edited again. Finally, once Mrs. Brezovec is done fixing the articles, the paper is printed and hung up for anyone in the school to see. You may find these articles by the gym, main entrance or even in your grade wing. The newspaper is also on our school website, and Mrs. Brezovec tweets it.





The Volleyball Team

Art with Ms. Russell

by Alex Cummings

Over the years there have been many fun and interesting projects in art class. However, perhaps the most interesting is happening right now. The bird or fairy house project is one that requires attention to detail and skill. In this project, students are required to create a bird or fairy house out of clay. The house had to be at least four inches long with a maximum of six-inches long. In order to create their bird or fairy house, students had to first use graph paper to plot what they wanted to create. The options were practically limitless, although Mrs. Russell provided a few examples of different architecture such as the Roman Arch. Once they had plotted their houses on their graph paper, they could now roll their slabs. The first way to do this was by using the slab roller. However, if the hand roller was in use students instead rolled their slabs out by hand using a kitchen roller and double stacked rulers to ensure that their clay slabs were approximately one and a half inches long. With the strips of clay, students then created side walls, back walls, ceilings, and floors. The next step in creating the perfect house was waiting until the clay was leather hard and then adding texture using special texture strips designed for building clay houses. Once texture had been added, other important details such as windows and doors were added. After that, the popular technique of scratch and slip was used to cement the walls, ceilings, and floors together. To finish off this project students had their houses fried in the kiln, and then glazed them to add the final touch. Overall, this project was certainly a blast and sure helped students learn a whole lot about architecture.

Drums in Music

by Zoey Lazzaro

In music, we are doing drums. We are learning about different beats and how to keep the rhythm going. We will sing while playing the drums. Also, there are the shakers. Once everyone is comfortable with the pieces we put them all together and it sound pretty nice.



For the low, high, low, you hit the middle of the drum, then the rim of the drum, then the middle again. Sometimes Mrs. Fortin splits the room up, and then one side does low, high, low. The other side keeps the rhythm going. After that Mrs. Fortin just switches up the room again, and says that one

side of the room did low, high, low, and then they would keep the rhythm going.



For the shakers you start when low, high, low goes. The beat you keep on doing is, shake-a-ra-shake, other hand. You do the same thing over, and over again. When you put that all together it

sounds great.

There is also singing, and the song goes like: "As I was passing by, my brother called to me, and he said to me you better take time in life, better take time in life, better take time in life because you got a far way to go." You sing that once then you keep playing after you finished singing.

Everything sounds good when we do it, and next we are doing Garage Band. This will be fun, but everything else is fun too.



5th Grade Health Class Presentations

By Alyssa Hamlin

In 5th-grade health class, we are making posters or Google slides in the classroom for our presentation. We each have a partner and picked a body system. My system is the Urinary System. My partner is Kaylie. We could pick any partner in our class.

We each got to pick if we wanted to do a Google slide in the classroom or a poster on a big paper with our partners. I picked the poster. Most of us had already shared. Some of us are going to share this Monday.

The systems we got to pick from are: Endocrine System, Urinary System, and the Nervous System. Our presentation needed to be in color and have at least two pictures, facts, and writing or typing that explained our subject. It needs to be neat and not messy. We got our information from articles that Mrs. Grady had for us to read. We got the pictures from the paper she supplied for us, as well. For our Google slides we got the information from the same articles or pieces of paper with information about our systems that we picked. For the pictures for our Google slides, we got them from the computer. For the posters, we could write the facts or cut the information from the articles that we were given. We also need a big title, facts and important information on the system.

When we were done, we presented them to our class. When we explained what was on the poster the class took notes to learn about all of the systems. Some of the systems are interesting, and it was a nice way to learn about them by teaching each other.

That's what 5th-grade health class is right now.



Wacky Day

by Zoey Lazzaro

Wacky Day is a very crazy day. Wacky Day was on Thursday before break and you had to wear something really wacky like crazy. It was like crazy hair day or mismatch day.

Wacky day was on the day of the fifth and sixth grades competition. So, what the sixth graders did was dress wacky for half of the day, and then changed into their competition clothes.

For wacky day you should be the wackiest you could ever be. For each student who dressed wacky your advisory would get a point. Students wore clothes that didn't match, like your socks or shoes. Some did funky things with their hair. You saw many different things in school that day.

Wacky day was a pretty fun and interesting day to do! I think everyone enjoyed it. This should have been one of the easiest days to do since you just needed to find anything that was mismatched, or just different. This is what wacky day was all about.



Some
Happy
Photos.

A
little
dragonfly
and
a
photo
taker
having
fun.



Have
a
Great
Day!



EHP Special

By Daisy Ober

I wrote an article earlier this year about the “8th grade specials switch up,” but, unfortunately, we have had to add another special again. Due to the oversize of the 8th grade P.E. and art classes, we’ve had to add EHP as a special for a group of 16 students. Though the EHP special is fun, it means that Ms. Brezovec has less time for traditional EHP classes and had to redo her whole schedule. However, there are good things that came out of the class, no matter how difficult it was to fit into everyone’s schedule. So far, we have written poems for Valentine’s Day and made backgrounds on Photoshop. These poems were submitted to NPR for their Valentine’s Day poetry reading in the morning. These poems were then printed on the backgrounds we made and mailed to our special people. The return address was a photo of us in front of a created slide using the green screen in the room.

We are currently learning how to make a webcast, which is the live broadcast of the morning announcements. We have to use Photoshop again to make our slides to sit in front of, learn the program wirecast, pick music to play and practice how to speak slowly and clearly. We are doing all of this with puppets as an extra challenge.

Ms. Brezovec’s classes are always fun, so it is nice to have it every day. Personally, I love learning more about Photoshop, and I am hopeful that we will learn more about the program and about editing photos in it. The whole EHP environment is so welcoming, with the music and low hum of voices as students work together or with Ms. Brezovec. At the beginning of every class, we write in our designated journals for 5-10 minutes, and then start on a project. On D days, we teach the 7th grades how to use the program mBlock, which is the start to working with robots. The class is really fun, and worth the schedule change.

Groleau Advisory



mBots

by Alex Cummings

Have you ever wanted to learn to code? How about creating a movie or making a robot move on your command using simple blocks of code? The 7th graders, during Mrs. Norby's science class, are being taught by Mrs. Brezovec and some 8th graders how to do just that using the mBots program. The first day of the course students got to know the program. They created small movies by moving characters called sprites. The sprites themselves could be customized and swapped with one and other by either picking them from a selection already on the computer or by drawing them yourself. In order to make the sprites animated, coders used a variety of different blocks to make them do different actions such as: say hello, move forward or glide to a certain spot of the screen. The background the sprites move on can also be customized, by either downloading an image off the internet, drawing one, or selecting one from the application. Using their new sets of skills students had the option to create a longer movie that could be given to Mrs. Brezovec to possibly be shown on the morning announcements.



The second day of the course students went more in-depth by coding an actual robot to move. After getting a small briefing on how to make sure not to break the robots, students connected their computer and robot using a special USB. With their computer connected to the mBot, they began to follow a set of instructions to teach their robot what to do when certain buttons were pressed on the computer. When finished, the code told the robot to move forward when the up key was pressed, backward when the down arrow was pressed, right when the right key was pressed and left when the left key was pressed. After

making sure the robot worked, students began to explore with different controls. Some adjusted the speed of the robot, while others experimented with changing the color of the LED lights on the robot. Needless to say, whether changing the speed or the color of the robot, the course is a blast, and students are surely looking forward to the next class.