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Mr. Conway

By Daisy Ober

At this point, everyone at SMS has, most likely, become acquainted with Mr. Conway, or at least knows who he is. At the beginning of this school year Mr. Conway was appointed vice principal, following Ms. Parker's leaving. Mr. Conway worked in schools for ten years previous to this one, teaching PE and health at elementary schools. He worked at the high school for one of those ten years. He says that this job is very similar to coaching: "I'm just coaching the students and teachers now."

SMS is very similar to Mr. Conway's own middle school experience, just on a smaller scale. He went to McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford, NH, which had a larger student body than South Meadow, but was otherwise very similar. He has lived in New Hampshire for all 34 years of his life.

Mr. Conway says that he likes this job, and chose it because "...it gave [him] a chance to continue practicing [his] leadership skills in a positive way." "The best part [of this job] is getting to work with kids," Mr. Conway pronounced, "and the most challenging part? Hmm... paperwork." Our vice principal has his work cut out for him this year, with the behavior in the eighth grade seemingly worse than ever. Hopefully he continues to make SMS a better place.

7th Grade P.E.

by Oliver Wilson

In P.E. this quarter we have done a lot of different units and fun games. A couple of weeks ago we did a dancing unit. For that, we got into groups of three or four and made a dance routine to a song of our choice. My group chose the yodeling kid remix, and it was a pretty successful dance. We had lots of different moves, and we even made a human pyramid with this reporter on top.



We also had a week where we played a bunch of different versions of one game. The game had four goals set up throughout the gym, then four teams were picked. Some of the ways we played were playing soccer with the little dodgeballs and using the big yoga balls to roll into other teams goals, which ended up being really hard.

Very recently we had a week where we played a lot of tag games, which was pretty fun. We played one game where there were a number of criminals, medics, and secret agents. The criminals tagged people and the medic untagged them, but if the medic was tagged they couldn't untag any more people. Then the secret agent's job was to find the criminal and bring him to Mr. M. The third quarter is coming to an end, and that means the specials for those quarters are over. My advisory is finishing our last quarter of P.E. which is sad because it's the only class you can run around in. Personally, I would like it if somehow they found a way that P.E. could be a year-round subject. It was a really fun quarter of P.E. for 7th grade.

Easter Egg Hunt

by Maya.S

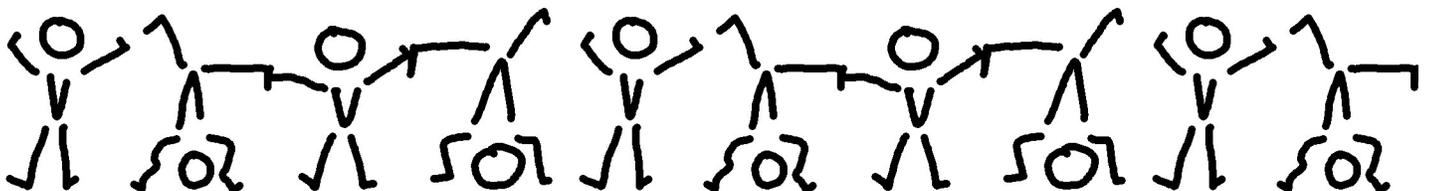
Once upon a time the Easter Bunny's mom was expecting more children; her only child at the time wondered who. So the Easter Bunny's mom planned to show her a fun way on Easter (which at the time was not called Easter and the Easter Bunny's mom was not called the Easter Bunny's mom). She knew the babies gender and names already, so she decided that the day before they were to be born she would put eggs colored blue for a boy and pink for a girl with names on them. These eggs were put in the garden and her child would need to find them to know who was joining the family. So on the day of the hunt, Mama Bunny got up very early to hide the eggs. She hid some in the grass, some in the trees, some in the empty garden and a few in the house. When the little girl woke, she found the first with a note attached in her bed. It read, "So many more to find, getting them all will be a grind, but to meet the family all the eggs you must see. Now out you go to hunt for eggs while I sit down and rest my legs." "Oh," said the girl, "Like a search, ok, well let's go." The second egg was in the garden, it was a boy, his name was William. There were two more eggs in the garden, John and Kaye, six in the grass, Bob, Jane, Sue, Les, Joe and Ben, one in the trees, Bella, and at last one with Mama Bunny, Jack. This was the first Easter, all for a girl named Ester who changed her name to Easter that very day. So there you have it, the creation and reason for Easter as you know it.



Health

by Ted McLaughlin

In the third quarter one of my two specials has been PE for the second time this year, and Health is making its first appearance of the school year. It is a very fun class for most of the kids, and especially for me. Mrs. Grady is an amazing health teacher. She follows the school teachers' rules. We do not watch inappropriate videos like I thought we would in the beginning. She also engages in conversation really well with kids. When it gets out of control she has a four line rule. She puts four lines on a chalkboard, and when she starts talking if everyone else starts to talk loudly with her she wipes off a line on the chalkboard and when we lose all of our lines we stay in for recess. This has not happened yet and hopefully never will. A couple days ago we had one line and then everyone went completely silent. But we were talking about the reproductive system so everyone was "wildin' out" in class. Mrs. Grady put it to a stop, but not in an uncontrollable way. She just went over to the chalkboard and wiped off a line. She might give us a little lecture, but after that we just continue with the class. In this class we have learned about social anxiety, the reproductive system, smoking and secondhand smoke.



Eye of a Goddess

by Maya Seaver

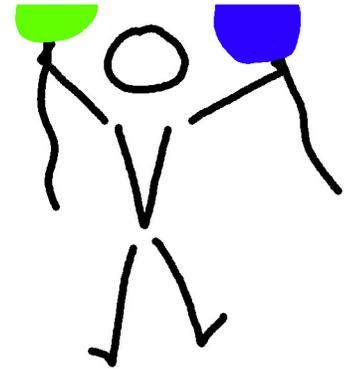
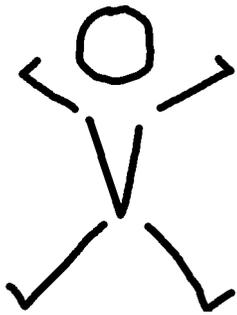
I am Maria. It's been another bad day at school with kids (and teachers) calling me, "alien", like it was my name. But, at home it only got worse. My brother, Jerry, found my secret escape plans (they were never to be used or seen by anyone). Half of the problem was that he wasn't surprised. The other half was Mom. She saw my plans and grounded me, a whole lifetime in my room. It got so bad that they put a TV in my room finally. I think I'm starting to lose it, but I decided that now is the time to escape. I decided to climb up the fire ladder to the roof and jump off. Here goes nothing! Ok, I'm alive, and, well, I'm jumping now. "Ah! Huh," it seems that I've stopped falling, what's going on? Oh my back is really heavy. I'm still in the air but my back is really heavy so I'm looking at it. Um, I'm nervous to say it, and please don't call me crazy for saying this, but I have wings back there. I'm flying, so I'm going back in through my window. I'm looking in a mirror and taking a picture because I'm too ugly to really have wings. Ok, I looked and the picture shows two wings bright white with golden tips and the most surprising thing is the words on them. It says, "I am a goddess!" I have no idea what to do, but I decided to enjoy this time and fly around and see if the wing's message changes. I'm going out to fly. "Weeeeeeeeeeee," that's really fun. I'm going inside to see if the words left. Ok, they are gone but there are new ones now. It says, "Smile and look at you in the mirror". Wow, umm, ok, here goes: I've really never smiled but I think I know how from school. OH MY GOD! I look so good! Like a completely different person! Oh no, now what will I tell Mom? I have to run. Fast. I'm going out the window and, going to my treehouse that I built, Mom would never be that nice to me. I feel like Cinderella locked up in this horrible place. Hopefully, mom doesn't notice, but she probably doesn't care anyway. I am here, this will be my new house, but I have to get my stuff. Fast. Mom will be up soon, oh dear. I've been flying back and forth for half an hour and I think I have everything. I even got my TV in here! I feel insanely strong after flying in and picking up my TV. I'm gonna sleep.

Goooooooood morning world! Today I am a completely different person, my name has become Marie instead of Maria (or alien as I was often called). I think today I'll try and see how high up I can fly. If I fall, I can catch myself. Here we go..... ok, so...I'm on top of my school, I think I'm gonna fly in and say, "I'm new," maybe I can make friends. Only one problem, I gotta hide my wings! Let's see what can I use... well I got nothing, so maybe I can just brag about them. This should be cool. "No, don't let anyone know of you." Hold on one second, who the heck was that????!! "It is I, your real mother. I know you want friends but it's not safe. You must go back." No... it couldn't be. My mom died before I was born. Hey! How did I live if my mom died before I lived? Ooh gosh not this again. Well I guess I'm not going in. "Sooooooooo mother, why are you here now, and where were you when I needed you most?" "I asked. "That can all be explained but not now, I must go." said my mother. Practice flying so when I come back you will be ready for your quest." Uh, what?!! How could this be happening??UHH.....it's been five months!!! Where is my mom?! I'm worried about her, she's making me sad. Oh, there she is! "I've decided that you are in too much danger entering this quest, so your brother will take over. I don't want you getting hurt." But he's not a god. Oh dear.....now he'll get hurt. I hope she's talking about Jerry, but still I was so excited about this, This is the most disappointing thing in my life!!! "URGG!" "What is it my dear?" "Oh nothing, Mom, it's nothing really I'm just well disappointed. You understand don't you?" "Yes I do my dear, but we all have times in our lives were we feel disappointed," "I know, but my whole life I've been waiting for something like this mission to give me purpose, and now my only chance is gone. Don't even try to apologize. I need to go think about this for a minute. ALONE!" I stormed off and since that day I always come back, but not once have I seen my mother, I don't know if I should miss her or be glad that liar is gone. That is my sad, sad story. Now you go home and tell your own moms, but remember don't do what I did or you'll find yourself in the same position.

Being a Twin at SMS Vol.2

By Otto McLaughlin

A lot of things have happened since the first volume of this series. I have grown eight inches, but haven't hit a growth spurt, and so has my twin brother Ted. But more importantly is what has changed at SMS and what hasn't changed on being a twin here. Well, one of the things that didn't change is that people still get my brother and me mixed up. Some days when people call me, Ted I just go with it. I mean, in elementary school teachers would mix us up even though we didn't switch teachers. But I've gotten used to it. Some of the things that have changed are that people don't align us next to each other and see which one is which. People stopped playing games with us meaning if they get us right they don't get a tally. Another thing that has changed is that Ted and I don't compete for grades anymore, nor do we race at recess to see who's faster, because we all know who is faster and that is me. Something that hasn't changed is that I'm still the better looking one. Something that has always happened is that if Ted and I are on the same team for a recess game or in fourth grade when we were in the same advisory for P.E., people would get mad because back in my day when we were together they called us O and P. A new thing that has happened with Ted and me is that we are twins. We live under the same house, and we mess around a lot. When we do that at school and when teachers spot us, they say, "Hey, I know you guys are twins but I need you guys to stop." They do it in a laughing voice. Then they try to tell which one is which, but it's better than hearing, "Go to Mr. Conway's office."



Championships for Ski Racing

by Zoey Lazzaro

So I ski race for Crotched Mountain. I made it to champs, and so did other students in the school. We all did a pretty good job. I will list the names of the kids who made it to champs.

Elena is in sixth grade, and she is a U12. Ben is also in sixth grade, and he is also a U12. Rocco is in fifth grade, and he is in U12. Ava is in seventh grade, and she is a U14. Then there is Jennifer. She is in seventh grade, and she is also a U14. All of these students are really good racers, and there were more that made it to champs, but they go to a different school.

My race team had to get ready, and it was a long hike to the building where we were meeting. I had to carry a really heavy bag, and two skis and one pair of poles. Everyone really had to carry the items. The chair lift was slow, but you could see the racecourse from the chair lift and see what it was going to be like. It was packed in the building with all of the racers who were excited to compete. When people ate it got really messy in that building, and this was the same place you had to get ready in. I do not know how the U14's did because their races were at another mountain.

So it is awesome that we did good and made it to champs. The thought that we made it to champs is amazing, and the top 25 girls in my division made it there. There were 108 girls racing in total, and so that made it a harder competition. I do not know how many girls there were for U14's. They took 29 boys for U12 in the division, and there were a lot of boys there. The same for the girls; there were a lot of people.

I hope you enjoyed this article, and congratulate the kids that made it to the championship for ski racing.

67 Cinderella's

by Zoey Lazzaro

The play that drama did is called 67 Cinderella's. So I am writing this before and after the play is done, and so right now I am going to say I think this is going to be a good play, and it sounds good from the title, and a little bit interesting, like a lot of princesses.

So, now the play is over, and I am going to tell you what I thought about it, how cool it was. I knew from the beginning that this might be a really good play. I thought it was pretty good. It was really long, but overall it was entertaining. My favorite part was at the beginning when everyone was dancing to the music, and enjoying themselves. I thought that this was a good part of the play, and when Cinderella showed up it was cool, then she left and lost a shoe. Of course they had to have everyone try on the shoe, but that did not take so long. There were many princess' trying to marry the prince but they were all found out.

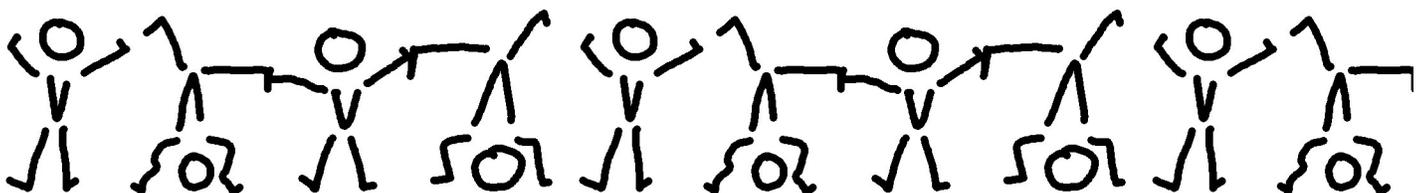


Have a Nice Break Everyone!!

Polar Bear's Essay

by Alyssa Hamlin

In language arts we are writing about how polar bears adapt to their bitterly cold habitat and what features they have to support their existence and how they survive. We don't get any help with this essay other than our teachers (Mrs. Joseph and Mr. Iwanowicz) giving us a video about polar bears' different features, and two different articles on how they survive. Otherwise we're on our own because it's a test. They want to know what we learned and what we can do on our own. If we didn't have any help, how would we make the essay and what would we change when we edit instead of them doing it for us? We can put two different features of a polar bear together that can be explained in the same way like nose and eyes. A polar bear's nose and eyes can smell/see 90 miles away! Some of the body parts some of us talked about in our essays are teeth, claws, paws, nose, eyes, fur and skin. We can write any number of paragraphs, but it doesn't matter how long. We also had to use resources. We got to make our own plan or checklist of what's needs to happen. Personally I like the checklist better, so when I'm done I can read over it and check what I have done and make any changes to our essays. We had only from Thursday to Monday. The twist is that we can't work on it during plus or at our houses or any other time besides class time. If our essay is not done by Monday, it doesn't matter. We still have to turn it in even if it's incomplete. Whatever we have turned in determines our grade, and no changing or redoing are permitted. We also can't finish our essay no matter what our grade is. We couldn't use wikipedia or any google searches. We couldn't use any of our knowledge about polar bears, only what is in the article and video. That's what Language Art's for fifth graders right now.



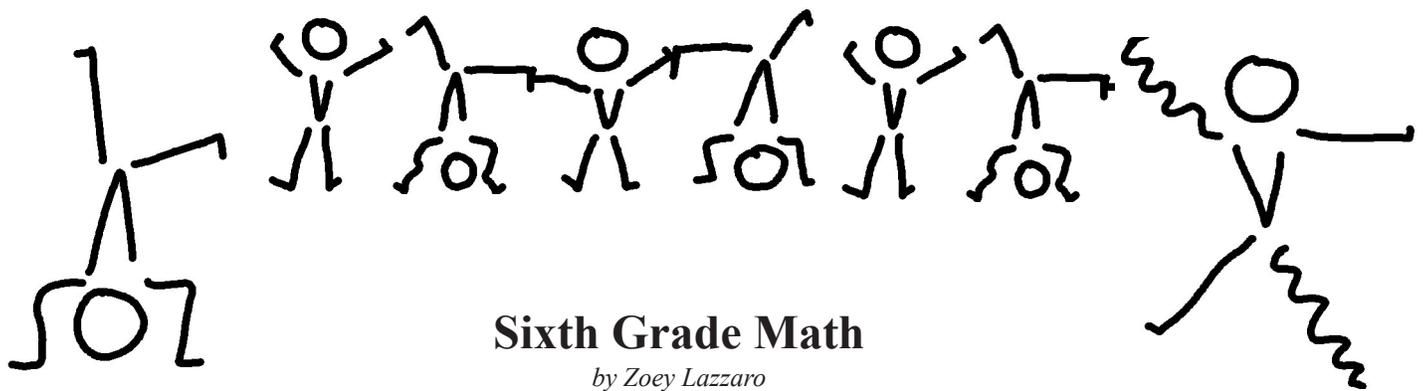
Current PE

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, and only stick to stick contact is allowed when you're on defense. The goalies don't have a glove. But there are some bright parts to the activity. There is a pretty big amount of game-play. Mr. M, the new SMS physical education teacher not only lets us play a full game, but he also teaches us some small skills, like stick handling, shooting, and passing. These skills are not taught at all like real hockey but they are still somewhat fun to do. Finally, you are not allowed to step into the crease. Every penalty is two minutes long.



But floor hockey is not the only thing that is currently happening. Along with floor hockey the 7th grade is also playing sabakiball. 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 arm's length away from the opponent. I don't know why, but you have to. The object of the game is to knock down the other team's cone and score the most points. You are not allowed to move with the ball during game play. The goalie has to be in one position during the game as well. It's a fun game, and if you are looking forward to PE here at SMS, be excited for floor hockey and sabaki ball.

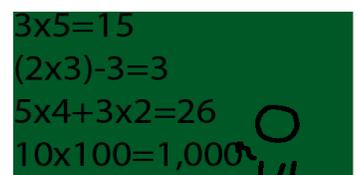


Sixth Grade Math

by Zoey Lazzaro

In math we did a hidden picture out of coordinates, and then you would write the coordinates down. You then would turn it in, and Mrs. Brophy would copy it on a piece of paper, so you would not know who the person was who made it. The one I had to do had a lot of coordinates, and so I did not finish the one I had to do and never got the chance to discover what it was.

I thought that it was a fun way to learn how to do coordinates on a coordinate plane. Also, I thought it was fun because I like to do activities in academic classes, and I also like to do games that help you learn. Playing games to learn helps some kids be active and learn.



Mrs. Brophy gave us a coordinate plane, and explained how we were supposed to graph down the coordinates: you had to figure out what design you wanted to do, and you had to have at least twenty five coordinates. The due date was April 1st, and the next day we did other peoples coordinates. We got the coordinates from the other classes Mrs. Brophy has. Then, if we finished or got close to finishing, Mrs. Brophy would show us what it is supposed to look like, and you could compare the differences.

3D Critters

by Zoey Lazzaro

In EHP the students who do Tinkercad are doing a contest, and they have to make a really creative critter. I have seen a couple of them so far, and they look really cool. I have seen some students working on theirs, and I am going to keep on saying this, but they look really cool. I am pretty sure that if you do not do Tinkercad in EHP as a class, you can still do the contest if you have done Tinkercad before.



I think that if you had tried it, it is sort of confusing, but you can get really good at it. I have tried Tinkercad before, and what I see happening now is amazing. I think that Tinkercad is a fun and brings out creativity in students. The kids who are doing this are really creative and smart to think of what they are designing. Many drafts have been printed so the students can go back and fix the critter to make it better. Each critter has to have its own story and the students have to explain the personality of it.

Each creation is unique, and it has to be for the contest. If it isn't an original design, it won't be considered. Most of the kids are painting their creations with nail polish on part of their creatures to make them colorful. The main color is what color filament is being used. There is a time limit, so if students haven't started it, then they will run out of time for drafts to make it better.

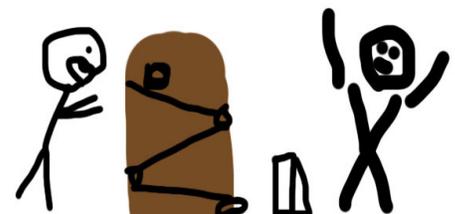
This is an awesome thing to do in Tinkercad, and I don't know if I could ever do that.

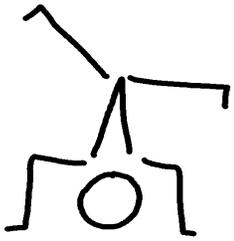


Rube Goldberg Projects

by Oliver Wilson

In 7th grade science, we have recently been introduced to the Rube Goldberg Project. What we have to do is pretty much make a complex way to do an easy thing, for instance, popping a balloon or feeding a dog. We started by learning the six simple machines. In our project, we have to have at least four of them. With that, our machines have to have at least six steps. Mrs. Norby showed us some pictures and videos of them from past years. It looked like what a lot of people had done was make theirs on something like a tri-fold display board and then have it going down to the bottom using different simple machines. Then at the bottom, it had that task that it did. Mrs. Norby also said we could make one somewhere else, then take a video of it and send it to her. Personally, my task is going to be turning on music, and I'm going to make a video of it because it's going to be too big to bring into school. We watched a couple of videos of ones that lasted for minutes and just kept on going. Also with the project, we have to do research on Rube Goldberg. The projects will be displayed at the open house on May 2nd and are due at school on April 30th. The projects are done at home and then brought into school to display at the open house. I think the project is going to be really fun but also educational because you have to really think about it.





Rube Goldberg Project

By Alex Cummings

Have you ever wanted a better way to compete a simple task such as buttering toast, or turning on a light switch? Seventh graders are coming up with ways to do just that in the Rube Goldberg Project. Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist who created an estimated amount of 50,000 cartoons. He became famous for his cartoons of incredibly complicated machines, made to complete incredibly simple tasks. He is known as the man who, “Knew how to get from A to B using every letter in the alphabet”— Art Spiegelman. Rube Goldberg had his very own type of machine named

after him, the Rube Goldberg machine. Using four to six simple machines through six or more steps, students will create a Rube Goldberg Machine to complete a simple task of their choice. With very few limitations on this project, students are able to let their imaginations run free to create almost whatever Rube Goldberg machine their minds think up. In addition to creating a Rube Goldberg Machine, the students also must create a sketch of their machine and also write an essay on Rube Goldberg. Overall the Rube Goldberg machine project is very interesting and certainly inspires students to use their creativity to solve problems as small or big as they may seem.



Planters created in 3D class.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest

by Daisy Ober



Two SMS students submitted 1000 word essays into the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest in December. Both of these students, one sixth grader and one eighth grader, placed first in the regional branch of the contest, and their essays will now go to Concord to compete with students all across the state. At the small ceremony in Jaffrey where the awards were given, there were students from Jaffrey Ringe Middle School as well as the SMS kids. Others placed first as well, and will also continue on to states.

The essay was about Women’s Suffrage, the campaign that got women the right to vote. The assignment was to place yourself in the shoes of someone living at the time, and write a story from their point of view, giving information about the campaign throughout the story. The essay had to be between 600 and 1000 words. The students had a block every six days to work on their essays, and spent a lot of the time researching and learning about the subject with Ms. Brezovec. The students worked hard and deserved this win, and will stay tuned to hear about their placement in the state contest.