



# Puma Press

by: Zoey Lazzaro, Alex Cummings, Ava Cronin, Brayden Boice, Harlen Bielagus, and Josiah Conley.

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## Ski Club

by Zoey Lazzaro

Ski club started the second week of January. In ski club you get to ski or snowboard with your friends, but you have to come into the lodge and check in at four o'clock. If you do not sign in the teachers get really nervous, because they do not know where you are. Then you could eat or go back out skiing/snowboarding. While you are skiing you have to stay safe so you don't get hurt. You need to stay on the trails, and if you see someone get hurt you need to take that person in to get checked out by ski patrol and

notify the teachers so they can call the parents.



If you got a pass from the Ski club program, you can use it after ski club ends, too, on the weekends or weekdays. Crotched is not open for that much longer after, though. Ski club is so much fun; I suggest that you should join it next year. You can rent equipment if you don't own any and you can also take lessons. You take the lessons til four o'clock. Then you can meet up with your friends, after you check in with the teachers. You can stay after ski club later if you have a note from a parent/guardian.



The year ski club was really fun. I think that a lot of people enjoy ski club, and if you are in the fifth, sixth, or seventh grade, look forward to next year in ski club.



# Spirit Week

*by Zoey Lazzaro*

Spirit week is one of the best weeks in school. I personally think that it is so much fun. Some people might think that it is not that great. You get to compete with your homeroom, and maybe win the competition! My homerooms in the past two years have not won, but this year we are going to win. By the way, Spirit Week starts on Monday the seventeenth of February.

Your homeroom will have a certain color. My homeroom is yellow, but for the past two years I was blue. In tug or war last year my homeroom/advisory, beat Mrs. Brophy’s boys group. By the way we are really strong group of girls. We swiped away the other girls so quickly!

So now I am going to talk about the dressing up part of spirit week. I think that it is so much fun! There is a new theme everyday of the week. On Monday it is Cozy Day, Tuesday is Twin Day, Wednesday is Blue and White Day, also the Pep Rally, Thursday is 7th and 8th grade Crazy Day, but 5th and 6th grade competition (they wear their competition color), Friday is 5th and 6th Crazy Day, but 7th and 8th grade competition. My favorite day is Twin Day, it just is so much fun! The runners for the 5th, and 6th grade competition are; Nathan Klonel, Justin Borges, Evan Martus, Destiney Jimenez, and Miranda Fiore. The runners for the 7th, and 8th grade competition are; Josiah Conley, Nathan Janis, Sydney Borges, Scarlett Rogers, Ava Van Horn, and Olive White.

Most students dress up for Spirit Week. I think that most people like to dress up for Spirit Week. My favorite part of Spirit Week is the competition, it is awesome to watch people get points, and see who wins. They will announce the winning homeroom the next day or it will probably be at dismissal, or in the morning. I hope you have a great Spirit Week!



# Drama Club

*by Ava Cronin*

Drama club is performing Law and Order; Fairy Tale Unit on March 20th and 21st. Mrs. Underwood is the drama club teacher this year. Also Ella McCullogh and Nicky Dinio are directing the play. It is a fun twist on Law in Order with all your favorite fictional characters. Here are some of the members that we know of:

- Ben Michuad - HD [Humpty Dumpty]
- Avery Moore - Cindy [Cinderella]
- Autumn Moran- Stiltskin [Rumpelstiltskin] and Ugly D [Ugly Duckling]
- Lucy Braby - Zel [Rapunzel] and Peep [Little Bow Peep]
- Jordan Sweets -BB Wolf [Big Bad Wolf] and Jack
- Esther Janice - Gretal and Merm [Little Mermaid]
- Casy Moore - Intense Voiceover/narrator and Doc



## Spelling Bee 2020

*by Josiah Conley*

The Spelling Bee occurs once every year and usually in January or February, but lasts all the way until May if you make it to the National Spelling Bee. Every year the Spelling Bee starts in your homeroom, and the top two spellers in each homeroom qualify for the grade level spelling bee. At the grade level spelling bee the two winners are chosen to represent that grade at the school spelling bee.

When the school spelling bee starts there are only eight students, two per grade. When the pronouncer says the word you are allowed to ask for the part of speech, a sentence for the word, the word to be read twice and for the definition. You are expected to repeat the word when you start and finish, capitalize anything that needs to be capitalized and add hyphens or other punctuation. The words will start easy such as bobcat, jolly or pardon but the longer the spelling bee lasts the harder the words get such as, laryngitis or hydrargyrum.

This year at the spelling bee there was Paul Simpson and Sophia Judd from 5th grade, Josiah Conley and Megan Millbauer from 6th grade, Kyle Austin and Maeve Finn from 7th grade, and Aiden Campbell and Zoe Ortiz from 8th grade. This year the winner of the spelling bee was Zoe Ortiz who will be advancing to the state spelling bee. Second place was 6th grader Megan Millbauer and third was Maeve Finn. This year the spelling bee lasted many rounds and was exciting and fun!!

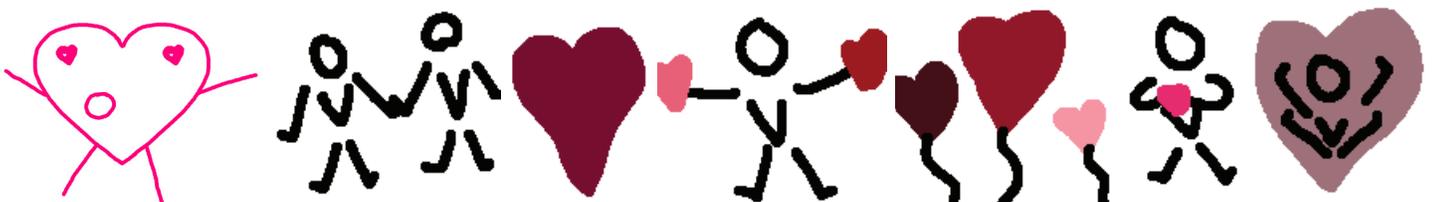
The one winner of the school spelling bee qualifies for the NH State Spelling Bee. Only one person in all of NH qualifies for the National Spelling Bee. The winner of the National Spelling Bee gets a trophy, \$50,000 and a Merriam Webster reference library.



## Impeachment Trial

*by Alex Cummings*

The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump began on January 22. While nobody knows for a fact how the trial will end there are a few facts that may provide some insight into the verdict of the trial. First we must understand that the senate is broken into political parties. The largest party in the Senate is the Republican Party. While divided into parties the senate is still expected to vote unbiasedly. Whether or not they will remains to be seen, as a politician betraying their political party would most likely mean the end of their career. The impeachment trial will be overseen by the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts. Despite the fact that John Roberts is the highest ranking judge in the U.S. he does not play a large role in the impeachment trial. Roberts can make a vote in the impeachment trial but any vote he makes can be overridden by the senate. Additionally one interesting thing about the trail is there are no set rules. This fact will certainly play a large role in the verdict, as the senate can steer the trial by adding new rules. We have seen this already when the portion of the senate against President Trump spoke of voting to bringing live evidence to the trial. Overall it is uncertain how the trial will end, however, it will be an interesting process to watch no matter which way the wind blows.



## Playing Guitars

by Harlan Bielagu

Part of the fifth grade curriculum is learning how to play the guitar. My fifth grade class has started studying this section of music and will continue studying guitars until this quarter ends. This unit started with my class learning about the guitar in general and how to read basic guitar notes. We learned about how the parts of a guitar include the head, tuning keys, neck, body, a sound hole, frets, and a fretboard. The class also learned how to read and play basic guitar songs such as, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, and This Old Man, He Played One. The fast learners in the class have also started on Polly Wolly Doodle.



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My class has learned the proper form for holding and strumming the guitar. Mrs. Fortin provided the class with foot rests so that it would be easier to achieve proper form. The foot rests we use are small rectangular stools that you place your left foot on so that your left thigh is higher than your right, thus making it feel more natural to rest the guitar on your raised leg.



Actually playing the guitar once you know all this is not terribly hard. The music you read corresponds with the frets on the neck of the guitar, so you know exactly where to place your fingers. For instance, there will be six lines going straight down the paper representing the six strings. Then depending on the chord, there will be a number of horizontal lines intersecting with the vertical ones. These horizontal lines represent the fret bars. Together these lines make a grid which tells the student where to put their fingers by showing dots on the strings, with numbers beside them, counting up

from one. Each number corresponds with a finger, like this: your left pointer finger is dot one, your left middle finger is dot two, your left ring finger is dot three, and your left pinky finger is dot four (although so far my class has not yet moved on to the more difficult songs that require the pinky finger). The class also learned that it is important to apply pressure straight down and not from an angle, so your music sounds better. The class has begun to learn chords. A chord is a set of notes played on an instrument simultaneously. My class has learned the chords C and G7 although several people have advanced on to chords G, D and D7.

All in all, learning how to play the guitar is a very enjoyable way to understand more about music and start an incredible new hobby.



## Kevin Wanzer(The Special Speaker)

by Zoey Lazzaro

Kevin Wanzer is a funny, kind person, who came to the school on Friday the thirty-first. On Thursday the thirtieth Mr. Driscoll showed us a few videos of him. He is a motivational comedian, and he was so funny!

Mr. Wanzer is really funny, in different ways. It might be the way that he speaks, or he just has a sense of humor. He made up a thing called, OHANA, and OHANA means family, so for every letter there is a meaning. The ones I remember the most are ACT and HA. ACT, is Ask, Care, Tell, that is something that you can do if you think someone is down, and sad. HA, is laugh; you just have to laugh. Mr. Wanzer said that a child smiles 300 times a day; he also said that an adult smiles at least 17 times a day.

Mr. Wanzer made us sing the *ABC's*, *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, and *Baa Baa Black Sheep* at the same time. If your birthday is in January, February, March, or April, you have to sing the *ABC's*, if your birthday is in May, June, July, or August, you had to sing *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, and then if your birthday is in September, October, November, and December, you had to sing *Baa Baa Blacksheep*. All of those songs have the same melody. I thought that singing the songs was really fun!

He also told us a story on how he had turned in his own keys, that he had found on the table. I thought that this was really fun, and I enjoyed watching. He had many stories to tell, and his message was simple: just be nice.

## Vex Robotics In EHP

by Brayden Boice



Big changes are happening to the EHP Robotics program at SMS! At the end of this year and into next year the robotics team will be switching from FIRST Lego League robotics program to VEX robotics. The team and Mrs. Brezovic decided a switch from the FIRST Lego robots to Vex would entice for more students to join the robotics program. The new implementation would allow for the flexibility of students to play sports and participate in the robotics program. Vex is much easier to complete than the FIRST competition as there is less requirements. In the FIRST Lego program you have to do a research project which takes a good amount of time. And meet with community members to do research. The few students in robotics right now have been working exceptionally hard on figuring out the



new robot program. On the first day we spent the entire time reading through all the instructions and ensuring we had all the pieces that should be included in the new kit. Then the next day we started building the outline of the board. The board is what the robot run on during the competitions. Then, after all the setup we finally began to work with the kits and started building the robots. We have one robot per group of two students. When we first opened the kit and saw all the pieces it look challenging, especially since we were used to working with Legos. It took us at least three days to build a basic structure.

Then we tried out the new controllers. In the FIRST program we programmed our robot to do what we wanted in a sequence of commands. With the VEX competition you have to use a remote controller. We have not begun working with the computers to see how we program that controller. That is our next challenge. I am exceptionally excited to be participating in robotics this year at SMS, and I am excited to see what the Vex program and the competition will look like in the future.