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Christmas Carol
Happy Holidays to All

No Turkey Trot

By Otto McLaughlin

This year the turkey trot was supposed to be on the 1st of November. Unfortunately, it was canceled because it rained the day before and the ground was too slippery. As a result, the school decided to postpone the Turkey Trot from November 1st to November 20th. When November 20th came around, there was snow on the ground. Mrs. Grady decided to cancel the Turkey Trot yet again. As it turned out, school was canceled that day anyway, and we haven't seen the grass since. At this point, the Turkey Trot has been postponed. We may have something in the spring but it hasn't been decided yet. The race will be a lot easier in 70-degree weather, but that means it's more difficult to beat the faster kids. Of course, the race is still fun, and I hope that they do reschedule it after all.

Rock Wall

by Zoey Lazzaro



The rock wall is a really fun activity to do in PE class. Anyways, for two days you have to do the rock wall, and then on the next day you do the beam. Also, people might say they are scared because they might have not done anything like this, or that they are afraid of heights. Some people might also say I'm not scared, but they probably are; they are just trying to sound brave, although some people are actually not really scared of things in general. Anyways, I will say as many things as I can right now and so that means I have to talk more about the rock wall and beam. So, I will talk about safety: you have to put your harness on, then you have to get a helmet, and then when you get all that on then you can start climbing the rock wall, or just wait in line, or you could go on the beam, or wait in another line. Also, I think that everyone liked the rock wall and the beam. To succeed, you have to be confident and believe in yourself.

Social Studies Maps

by Otto McLaughlin

Just recently in Mr. Driscoll's Social Studies class, we had to create our own country. It was quite the project because you had the permission to name your own country. What Mr. Driscoll assigned us to do was to make ten types of landmarks, ten bodies of water but the rule was you can't use the same body of water twice. You also couldn't do that with the landmarks either. He recommended we do these type of landmarks: volcanoes, plains, peninsulas, islands, mesas, etc. You also had to make two temples with cities, two hunting and gathering areas, and two farming regions. Also, you had to include ten types of rides or trails so the people who live in your country can get from place to place and transport food from one place to another. Mr. Driscoll also wanted us to make a compass rose on the bottom left corner of the page and he wanted us to

make longitude and latitude measurements. For each type of landmark, or body of water, or type of road or trail you had to make a symbol or logo for it and put it in a legend so people knew what they were looking at. The logo or symbol had to be somewhat related to the landmark or body water, because you can't put a road down on your country and put a chicken on the legend because first of all it doesn't match and doesn't correspond at all with a road. Mr. Driscoll gave us a week to finish this project, but if you missed a day as I did you can go up to him at plus block and ask him for an extension, usually for how long you were out. So if you were out with the cold for three days, you will probably get a three-day extension. He then wanted the students to find someone to go into Google classroom and grade their map.



Basketball

by Otto McLaughlin



Every year November there are basketball tryouts. The only students that are allowed to try out are boys and girls from sixth grade to eighth grade. Typically every year the boys A basketball team is filled with eighth graders and some seventh graders but not a lot of seventh graders. Surprisingly this year there were no seventh graders on the A team, but interestingly enough there was a sixth grader that made the team. His name is Ryan Close. This has been a big sixth-grade year for Ryan, because he and a young fellow named Garrett made the soccer team as sixth-graders, which hadn't happened in years. It's not like they just sat on the bench and learned the plays. They contributed to the team! Garrett scored many goals, and so did Ryan. This year, the man who is teaching these NBA prospects to get an SMS banner up in the gym is a man named Scott Buffum. The best team you can make is the A team for both boys and girls, but if you make the B team, don't worry because you will be gaining skills for next year.

One Quarter Down, Three More To Go

By Ted McLaughlin

Quarter one is finally over. All of the learning about seventh grade and getting used to the schedule is over. Besides that, we also did a science project about elements which was fun but stressful. I picked Nickel, but I wish I had chosen something like Boron, with a low amount of electrons so it would be easier to make a model. My element, Nickel, had 28 electrons which wasn't too hard, but I had to get rid of some ideas just because of the amount of electrons. We also had to do an essay in LA about sharks, which was pretty exciting. We spent

most of the period on a story called *Rikki Tikki Tavi*. It was a great story, and writing and learning about it *and* the author was pretty cool. We also have had three math tests and are taking a fourth right now; this one is about percent equations and percent proportion, which is very exciting. In Social Studies, we are making up maps and naming our land. The idea is to create an "ancient civilization" that is original but also historically accurate. We have to create different bodies of water or different parts of land. I named my land "Puckington" because I play hockey and we use pucks in hockey. Anyway, quarter one is finally over and quarter two is under way. This is Ted, have a great day.



Pens and Holiday Fair Ornaments

by Alex Cummings

With the holidays coming up, many people are starting to think about gifts. Luckily for them, the members of Mrs. Brezovec's Tinkercad class had a perfect idea. They have been working for quite some time on two different projects that happen to make great gifts. The first of these gifts is one of the biggest projects that the class has taken on: a 3D printed pen shell. This pen shell included more than 100 shapes all of which had to be placed perfectly for the pen to have the proper features. To build this pen, students first created a sphere. They then set the height and width. After doing so, they duplicated the shape and moved the clone up 1 millimeter. They continued doing this until they had 10 shapes. Students then grouped those ten shapes and duplicated them over and over until they had the first step towards their completed shell: 132 millimeters worth of pebbles. After finishing that, they flattened the bottom and the top of their pen using a 1 millimeter box hole. Then the tip of the pen needed to be created. To do this, the students created a cone shape. For the final step, students created a cylindrical hole. Finally, they adjusted the hole to end right at the tip of their pen, aligned the hole to center it, then turned it in. After the students' first pens were done they worked on a second, except this time they added customizations of their own to make their pens more personal and even more eye-catching. With both of their pens completed, the students moved on to the next gift, Festive Decorations. In this assignment, students were to make decorations that could be placed around or on the miniature tree in the EHP room. Since this was not a lesson and there were no instructions, students had to use the skills they have been building since the start of the year. With these skills, students created a variety of different ornaments and decorations. While there was practically a limitless possibility of different things to create, some of the most popular were snowflake ornaments and presents to go under the mini tree. However, some less popular but equally creative designs included mugs of hot chocolate and even trains. Overall this was a very fun project that not only let the young learners develop their skills and creativity but also made a great gift for the holiday season! Interested in having this amazing opportunity? Talk to Mrs. Brezovec in the EHP room at your next available PLUS block to receive information on the Quarter 3 Tinkercad sign-ups!



Recess

by Zoey Lazzaro

When I think of recess I think of outside, and I also think of indoor recess. What I am going to talk about is how recess is going on right now. So for recess in the winter we do different things like gym, or you stay in your advisory. Sometimes you will go outside and do whatever, but you can't go in the snow

if you don't have boots on. If you don't have snow pants you can not play in the snow. If you do have boots you can still walk in

the snow. If it is your grade's turn to go outside you can choose to go into the inside room (also known as Mrs. Fortin's room). You can also go to the library and hang out, I guess. Also the activities you can do outside are four square, tetherball, tag, basketball, and wall ball. You can do many things in the gym: you can play basketball, hang out with friends, and do other fun things. In your advisory your teacher decides what you can do.

In my advisory we have fun; sometimes we play ping-pong, and sometimes we can draw (or at least I do), and we can also do other things.



Veterans Day Breakfast

By Kell McMahon

Each year at SMS the 7th grade invites the local veterans to a Veterans Day breakfast. Each student will be given a veteran to talk to and ask questions of and thank them for their heroic work for our country. Mrs. Norby (7th grade science teacher) made it possible that if you know a local veteran and would like to have them as your veteran pair, you may either request them, or you can give your veteran to someone else--CJ Tillman gave a request for Oliver Wilson to have his dad as a veteran pair for the breakfast; that has been the only example of that situation I know. The real breakfast wasn't until early December but all of the 7th-grade students wrote letters to their assigned veterans in a special way. They're using a rubric to make a nice letter that's cool and thoughtful. And they have to have questions like what did you do as a student, or what was your military branch? What's your favorite sport, what you do in your free time? What's your favorite food? Nice appropriate questions. During the breakfast, you have to be at top behavior to your veteran. Some veterans have great stories: Alex Cummings has a veteran that played in the MLB (major league baseball.) During the breakfast I'm sure that they will talk about his experience in the MLB. Once you send your letter to your assigned veteran, there is a possibility they will write back. It is exciting when you get a letter from your veteran. Sometimes there are so many veterans that some students have to have two veterans. It's not that different: you have to write two letters. You can keep their names on both or write it one to one; it's the students choice. Before sending the letter you must share it with Mrs. Norby, and it must be correct. In the letters, you are not allowed to change the font or color. Most veterans are old and have a possibility of having seeing problems, so you are required to have the size of the letters at least as big as 18 point. Students only get to eat food once everyone else gets their food (the students get second dibs). All students and staff are very excited to get to meet and learn about their local veterans coming.



S.L.A.N.T

by Ted McLaughlin

Slant is a new behavior system which--each letter in the word "slant" stands for something. S means to sit up, which is obviously about good posture and shows the teacher that you are either paying attention. L means to lean forward which is another way of showing good posture and showing the teacher that you care about his or her class or are at least trying to. A means to ask questions, which shows the teacher that you are participating in class, and it is not just asking the teacher questions it is asking your peers questions about the topic or last topic or even last class. It shows you're participating and are intrigued by what the teacher is teaching. N stands for Nod your head--this is yet again another posture example. By nodding your head you're showing the teacher that you are in agreement of what they are talking about or you are just paying attention. So you are showing another way of participation to your teacher which is very important: you can get an added five points on your report card final grade if you show more or any participation in class. T stands for track the speaker; tracking the speaker is following the speaker with your eyes; not creepily, just staring at him or her watching their every step like a hawk would seem pretty creepy. But you just need to follow the speaker. You need to follow the speaker as they walk around while giving directions. This again shows the teacher you are participating and wanting to listen to them and what they are teaching. But with doing all of these

five parts of slant you get this slip called a puma pride paw which is a little slip that says Puma Paw on it which represents one paw and you need 60 paws from your class to get a certain award given by the teacher. For social studies we made it to 60 paws, so we get to watch a movie for the class. For Spanish we did not make 60 paws so we do not get an award for our behavior. But Senora Pacheco said we behaved very nicely. Then we have an exclamation mark at the end of SLANT!. That exclamation mark represents an upside down i which stands for ignore distracting behavior.



A Tree's Life

By Maya Seaver

One day, many years ago, there was a Christmas tree that lived on a tree farm that was going out of business. He was very sad and lonely because his mom was cut down when he was born and his dad was re-planted in a different farm many miles away. So he was left with the few cousins that were still alive and his silent aunt who hadn't spoken a word since her husband was cut down. So the tree had no friends and a very small family to live with. Most trees live sad horrible lives due to loss of family, but he did his best. Yet every year was another chance to get chopped down, but due to his ugliness, he had to grow up lonely waiting to be cut down. The saddest time he could remember was when his sister was cut down when he was three. He heard her screaming, saw as she fell to the ground, and was forced to see how they dragged her to the car. He never forgot that horrid day his entire life, and now here he was standing straight up watching them drag away his aunt and he heard her last breath just as she disappeared forever. One day a year later a young tree by the name of Maria was planted next to him and it was love at first sight. They lived together for a year and produced many seeds but of course she was so pretty that she was cut down before she lived a year there, and the tree continued living alone forever aching for his lost girl. Of course did anyone want him? No. They didn't care in the slightest that he was even there, so he lived there until he heard the very sad news that his home was going out of business and the last people he saw had kids that threw rocks and made him scream, but they couldn't hear him, because humans can't hear trees and they never will. But that night has different: he was moved to a new home where he made friends and never worried again. Do you know where he was planted? The forest. He lived for a long time and one day in early spring he met a tree who said she was his sister's friend, and she asked him about her.

7th Grade Art

Oliver Wilson

In 7th grade Art Class you do many different things. So far we have completed two units, typography and 3D cars; my favorite was 3D cars. Typography was an ok unit. There we picked a font and wrote it down on either a gray piece of paper or on our art folders. We get graded on our final draft, practice drawings, participation, and so on. At the end of every unit, we have a celebration of learning. What happens is that Ms. Russell reads the nominations of students who have done a wonderful job and then picks a random one, and that person who was nominated gets a prize. Then she picks one person to be the DJ and lets them play any music. In the typography unit I made mine in the Ghostbusters font, so out of the O came a little ghost. We focused basically all around the writing and different fonts. I would say about a third of the grade just ended up being about how sparkly and nice the colors were. Another third was participation and behavior. Finally, the last third was the actual writing. There was one font called breakdance graffiti, and it was insanely hard to do, but even if you did it you could still not get a good grade if you did not color well enough. The next project was cars, which were actually really fun. What happened was you picked a car you liked and first sketched it. After you finished your sketch you started coloring. Coloring only took around two days and was pretty easy. You could do a background for extra credit if you wanted. After that you were pretty much done with the project. All we did after that was have a celebration of learning and passed everything in.



EHP Sales

For sale: hats, patches, headbands, pencil cases

LA

By Kell McMahon

Right now the 7th grade is having their annual time to learn about Yoko Kawaeshima, who escaped Japan during the Korean War. She is the author of a popular book called *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. This is a nonfiction book. This true story is so realistic and informative in all of its detail that Mrs. Cutter (our 7th grade language and arts teacher) had to send an email to all of the 7th graders parents' for permission to be able to even read the book. There is some explicit language and other content that I am not allowed to write in the article. Most students were given permission to read the book, I'd guess about 98% were given permission. I personally like the book. There are some sad parts and gross and violent things happen, but it's a true story and has many details. It's filled with adventure and suspense, and truly it's just an awesome book. Many students like the book; for example, Jackson Henley thinks it is intriguing and interesting. Mrs. Cutter spoke to Yoko, and she will



be coming to visit here at SMS. She was going to come earlier but due to health reasons she couldn't. She is 85, so she is probably very cautious about her health. This book is so popular in the 7th grade that Mrs. Cutter is selling the books brand new for seven dollars, and you can get your book that you purchased autographed by Yoko herself. Each year when she comes to SMS she wears her formal kimono, and she shows the students pictures of her homeland. She talks about her adventure from her small village in Japan to Seoul and how she reunites with her family. This annual event is so big that we 7th graders are assigned projects. This is a annual thing for SMS and everyone in their 7th grade year looks forward to this moment. Everyone, including teachers, are excited for Yoko to come and tell everyone about her stories.

Peer Mentors

by Alyssa Hamlin

At the beginning of fifth grade we were each given a Peer Mentor. Peer Mentors are for helping you throughout the year. Some of the ways they help fifth graders is by teaching us the ways around school. They also help us meet new people, make new friends, and they tell us about clubs and any other important information. We always have the same peer mentors; mine is a girl. She is in sixth or seventh grade, but I am thinking seventh. She told me a lot about the clubs at school and asked if I was interested in them. I find the EHP club and chorus interesting. I am not in band, but I find that interesting, too. I like photography, and I like to sing. So I think these are good clubs.

This year, almost every Friday we meet in the fifth grade area. We play many board games, which help us to get to know our peer mentor better. We work in three to four member groups with one or two peer mentors. We work with other groups to get to know other people, too.

On Friday, December 21, we are having a special holiday breakfast. It's for fifth graders and their peer mentors. This special event is to thank and celebrate the special club at our school, because they help so many of us fifth graders. Parents are making this possible for us to with their donation of time and food. I think this is a good way to help us adjust to a new school. It helps me get used to this new school. Now it's easy to get around school and do more things that I probably wouldn't be doing without these peer mentors. I think this is a great way to start the holidays.





Holiday Trees

By Alex.C

With the holidays just around the corner it is time to start to decorate! The local schools and business of Peterborough have already begun this process by creating a Holiday Festive of Tree. These trees were displayed at the Peterborough Community Center from December 8th through December 9th. Although all the trees were quite cool, some of the best ones came from our very own school. In fact SMS created five trees to go on display. The first tree “3D Pink” was created by Mrs. Brezovec’s A Day Tinkercad class. The tree was decorated with white 3D printed ornaments, and even had a 3D printed train going around the bottom of it. The second tree SMS put on display was by Mrs. Brezovec’s RTI group. It was decorated with a mixture of toys and animals made out of LEGOs. The next tree was created by Ms. Jones. It was a small plain tree, with some creatively placed pieces of fabric and a Santa hat that turned it into a festive penguin! The fifth grade has a puzzle tree that was

blue and white, the school colors. The final tree created by SMS was made by Mrs. Brophy’s after school group. It was a simple tree that was decorated with only ornaments made of soda cans. Overall all the trees made by SMS were very incredible and if you want to see them yourselves you can go next year to the Peterborough Rec. Department. Happy Holidays!

EHP

By Daisy Ober

Our school has a lot to offer as far as extra curricular activities go. There are multiple different sports teams and clubs, and some in-school choices as well. A few of the many to choose from include band, jazz band, chorus, and EHP. EHP is a program that is unique to SMS and gives many students opportunities that they wouldn’t have otherwise. The whole program is supervised by Ms. Brezovec, and though some may not know her, anyone in EHP knows what a great teacher she is. EHP includes Newspaper, Webcasting, Robotics, and Tinkercad, along with many other groups, so there is something for everyone. EHP is such a big part of our culture at SMS, and it has really embedded itself into the hearts of many students. It also has opened up opportunity for students to do more with their skills and interests. For example, the Robotics Team is a wonderful chance for kids who like technology to expand their skills. They also get to compete with their team, and learn about team-building and sportsmanship. Competing often works to expand a student’s interest in their sport or activity, and it also pushes the student to do their best work. The Robotics part of EHP is one of the only ways that students can show the world their skills in technology through school. In another part of the program, students learn about webcasting, which is the production of live broadcasts. These students create the morning announcements, and there is a lot more to it than you see on the screen. Some of the students choose and buy all of the music; others are in charge of the filming and slides. Then, there are the students who are brave enough to sit in front of the cameras and broadcast themselves live to the whole school. Not only is EHP a learning program, it is also an opportunity to expand social skills and feel more comfortable competing or being filmed. Unfortunately sign-ups are over now; they were at the beginning of Quarter 2, but if you are interested, anyone can sign up next year at that time. It’s an amazing experience.



Happy Holidays!



Passion Project

Oliver Wilson

For the second quarter, there is a select group of seventh graders doing the Passion Project. There are around ten students in the group. The teachers chose this group of students because they felt we could handle being independent workers. The idea is to choose a topic that you are passionate about. Some of the projects that kids are doing include science, obesity, GMOs, and Robot Rights. I am doing my project on Civilization on Mars. Once we've picked our topics, we have to answer questions like "what do you know about it," or "what do you want to know about it." We have to put together a project to present to everyone else. For my presentation I'm



making a slide show; some may even call me the slide show master. If you read my latest article in the November newspaper, it included a song called O' Oxygen. The song was part of a slide show my friend and I made in science. My plan is to make it funny by adding funny pictures to go along with serious information, and maybe add a song in there for some fun. So, what happens is that in the morning when RTI is happening some of us go to the atrium outside of the EHP room and sit at the tables and work for the time other kids are in RTI. We aren't completely unsupervised (no one would trust seventh graders to be) but we have Mrs Brezovec to check in on us and make sure we are behaving and ignoring distractions. I think that the teachers picked a good handful of kids who will get it

done and not slack off. Sometimes some people in the group may get a little talkative and it may get too loud so Mrs. Brezovec will remind us why we are there. Luckily the rest of us use SLANT! behavior and ignore distractions. Everybody that's in this passion project is very happy to be in it and enjoys it very much. It's a lot of fun, and I'm not excited for the second quarter to end so soon. Usually, there's at least one thing I look forward to on a normal school day, and this passion project has been what I look forward to this second quarter. Everybody's been doing a really great job to work on their projects. I can't wait for the day that we are all going to present our projects. For some reason, I really like presenting projects, especially slide shows. We are starting to get farther along on our projects and getting closer and closer to finishing. RTI is a pretty short block, so we don't have much time, but we make the most of it. Since I'm doing a slide show I would say I get anywhere from three to ten slides done in a day. I wish I could do ten a day every day, because then it could be over in less than a week, but instead I usually only get three or four. If you walked over to where we are working, I think you would feel good vibes from the young minds hard at work. This was Oliver, bye.

8th Grade Tile Project

By Daisy Ober

As you walk through the hallways of SMS, I'm sure you've noticed the tiles on the walls. The tiles, like Puma Pride or Blue and White, are part of our culture here at South Meadow. They give the 8th graders a chance to put their mark on the school and preserve their middle-school selves forever upon the walls. In Ms. Russell's current 8th grade art classes, the students just finished their tiles. Other students will make theirs' when their chance to be in her class rolls along. Before we started our tiles, we had to create an "outline" or an idea of what our tile

was going to look like by completing an assignment on Google Classroom and creating a sketch. Next, we "primed" the tile with a sort of white paint. After letting that layer dry, we began to paint the background. The background was supposed to be a solid color but some people got more creative with it and made stripes, or a sky, or other patterns. After the background layer dried, we began to paint details. Some people brought in pictures or drawings to glue to their tiles, while others just painted their details on. Overall, the project took about three weeks to complete, and everyone made a tile that was beautiful and reflected their personality.



Winter Concert

by Zoey Lazzaro

When I think of the winter concert I think of band, jazz band, chorus, and select chorus. Well this year the winter concert was on December 12th. Also, that means that all the band, and all of the chorus people have to get practicing, because you have to sound great for everyone. Also your parents want to hear something awesome that will make them shocked, and think that you did amazingly. You want to be excited to show everyone how hard you worked on your songs. You also need to know that you are going to love all of the songs in band and chorus. On November 26th, 6th grade band set up the risers so you can see us better. (I guess.) Also, the 5th grade band did not play in the concert. I will list the songs just in case you forgot. First 6th grade band: The March of the Tin Soldiers, A Hanukkah Festival, and Fardole. The 7th and 8th grade band performed songs from *The Greatest Showman*. I know it is hard to read your notes sometimes, so if we band kids mess up we do not mean to, we just do. We should practice enough to not really mess up. This winter concert is a fun thing so I think that's why it went so well. Anyways, I just think that if you put your mind to it you can do it, that is what I will say to all of the band and chorus people.



The Raffle

by Izzy Jobin

Thank you to all the students, teachers, and faculty who participated in the EHP raffle. Out of the money that we have accumulated, one hundred dollars goes to the food pantry. Another two hundred dollars is going to the community fund. We appreciate all of the support we have received from the South Meadow community. Good luck to all the participants in the raffle. If you did not participate in this raffle, we are hosting a spring raffle around Easter. There will be one female specific box, one male specific box, and one children's box. Please come buy a raffle ticket later in the school year.



November Puma Pride Winners