



# Puma Press

by: Zoey Lazzaro, Alex Cummings, and Ava Cronin

Issue 3

November 2019

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## Quarter One Done and Here Comes Quarter Two

by Zoey Lazzaro

Can you believe it, quarter two is here. I think that the first quarter flew by really fast. We should all have goals for every quarter, so you should always try your hardest, because the quarter will fly by fast. So try to get A's or B's. You need to be here, so you should just do your work.

If you have been in this school for a long time, then you know that you have to have a conference with you, your teacher, and your guardian. In all grades the students are leading the conference, as in you are talking to your guardian, and you are doing everything. It is held with your advisory teacher.

Basically, in the conference you are telling your guardian what your strengths are and what you need to improve on. Explanation of your goals will happen, plus what you hope for next quarter. Now let's talk about specials. We switch specials every quarter. So that means that you are going to get something different. But if you have art, or P.E, you will most likely have those two again for the second quarter.

The quarters go by very quickly, so enjoy all of the classes. You may get the same special twice, but you may not. So enjoy the class while you are there.

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How many turkeys can you find in the newspaper? Go to Mrs. Brezovec's room, and tell her how many turkeys you found for your prize. One winner per grade level.

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## 7th and 8th Grade Band

by Zoey Lazzaro

Seventh and eighth grade band is a big step up from sixth grade band. The main big step up from one band to the other is that in 7th and 8th grade band you also have to do marching. It is really fun, and I will write more about marching.

For our songs we are doing: *Wizards in Winter* and *Skaters Waltz*. These are both really good songs, and we are holding off *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* to the spring. For marching, the percussion section has to memorize all of the songs. Eight of them. We had to practice over the summer, and we practice during rehearsal, as well.

The concert is on December 10th this year. You will hear 6th, 7th and the 8th grade band at the Winter Concert. This is the rehearsal schedule: 6th grade band (Monday), 6th grade band (Tuesday), 7th grade band (Wednesday), 8th grade band (Thursday), 7th and 8th grade band (Friday). For me I like this schedule because we have all the plus blocks available. For two weeks the schedule changed because of the eighth grade field trip, on the two Fridays. We only had 7th grade band on Wednesday, and a 7th and 8th grade band rehearsal on Thursday. We have been practicing and will be ready for the December 10th concert. Students are excited for it.





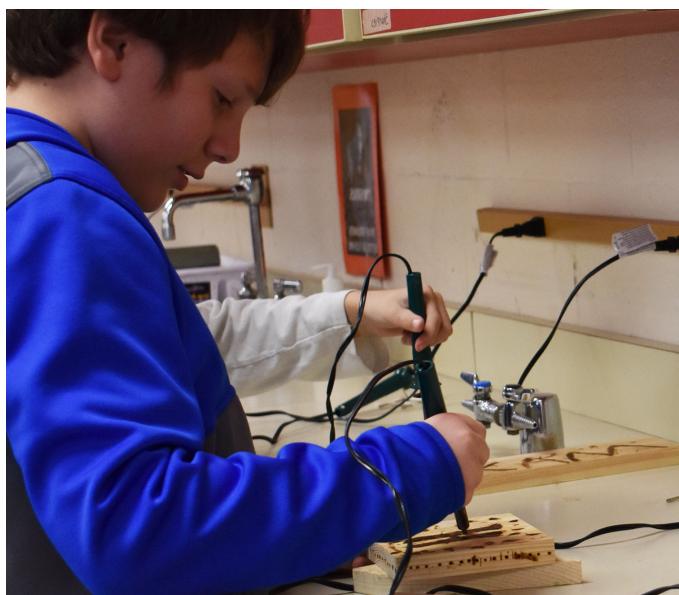
The 6th grade art class is making printouts. They carved a special pallet and put some ink on it, and then printed it on paper. In the photos they are doing a practice print.



Thanksgiving  
Break Starts  
November  
27th.



Ms. McClean's RTI  
Wood Burning



RTI with Mr. Moneault

## CARDBOARD ART STRUCTURES WITH MR. MOORE



# Happy Thanksgiving



## Marching in 7th and 8th Grade Band

by Zoey Lazzaro



In seventh, and eighth grade band you have to do marching. The percussionists have to actually march in a parade, but we marched to the town hall. The other band members were in their places in the town hall ready for us. We played for the town of Peterborough for Veteran's Day. This went really well, except we forgot to turn back on the snare, so you couldn't really tell. When we had to walk up the stairs onto the stage. It was hard to walk up those stairs carrying our drums. It was easier to walk down stairs the stairs.

When we played a Veterans' branch's song, they would rise and salute the flag. It was nice that we were able to be a part of the celebration. We did a nice job. I would do this again, it was so much fun. We had nothing to worry about. Everyone was very supportive of us middle schoolers. Good luck next year sixth graders in marching. It is easier if you practice over the summer.

## 7th Grade World

by Zoey Lazzaro



In 7th grade we have a lot going on. We already went on a field trip, and somewhat a lot of projects. I think that this year is going to be really fun.

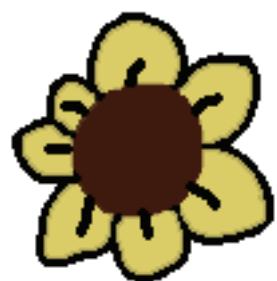
In science we did one project on the Atoms family, like Neutron, Electron, and Proton. We are doing another one in science about the periodic table. We have to choose an element, learn as much about it as possible, and then we have to make a cool model that Mr. Mayo or Mrs. Norby will hang up in their rooms. We did a blowing bubble lab, and a ball bouncing lab as well. Both were exciting and fun.

In math with Mrs. Norby we have not really done any projects, but we did do a couple tests. Some fun math things like, BINGO, a long solving problem, as in like one problem would lead into another whole set of envelopes, and then you solve, and solve. It was fun.

In language arts we read a packet about Jackie Robinson, and we had a couple quizzes, about pronouns, nouns, and a separate one about verbs. We started reading, *So Far From The Bamboo Grove*. It is really good so far, and after reading the book we might be able to meet Yoko Kawashima Watkins.

In social studies we are learning how to take notes and have taken a couple tests, two packets, and now we are doing a map. We have watched a movie about early hominids. Then we watched a movie about the gatherers and the rulers.

I will not talk about specials, because everyone has different ones. This is all that we have done so far, I think that this is going to be a good year.



## 7th Grade Veterans Breakfast December 6th.



7th  
Grade  
  
Winter  
Concert  
December  
10th

## Culture Committee

by Alex Cummings

About a year ago a group of teachers set out with a goal: Make SMS the best school in the state. To reach this goal the Culture Committee was formed. The Culture Committee plans to reach this goal by creating an environment where students look forward to coming to school. While this is an ambitious goal, it can certainly be reached with better communication between students, teachers and parents. Seeing this, the Culture Committee wanted to better this communication. They plan to invite parents to the committee in the next year and have already invited 12 students to attend the last meeting of every month.



Representatives were picked based on their ability to respectfully communicate the preferences of their grade level on topics happening in school right now. Their job is to discuss whether their grade level likes the changes being made and overall to communicate the opinion of the majority of their grade to the teachers and faculty on the Culture Committee. The first meeting that the students were invited to they discussed topics including programs provided by the school, about the safety of the school and topics surrounding student life at school. The first meeting went very well, and a lot was accomplished. With the first meeting being a success the future of the Culture Committee is certainly going to be a great one.

Turkey Trot Winners for the 8th Grade





The 7th Grade Advisors

**Parent Teacher Conference**

by Alex Cummings

This year the format of the Parent Teacher Conferences is changing. This year the conferences will be student led. While some students see it as an inconvenience, there are many benefits to a student led Parent Teacher Conference. The first of these benefits is knowledge. Of course who knows the student better than the student themselves? With a student led conference the student can be allowed to express how they are truly feeling academically, not how they are perceived. This of course improves the communication between the student, teacher and parent, something essential for a successful academic career. The second benefit to a student led Parent Teacher Conference is showing student accomplishments. When the student is running the conference they can provide work samples of what they believe to be the most impressive thing they accomplished this quarter. Instead of showing work from just their core classes, students have the opportunity to show work from EHP or other extracurricular activities. Also, students have the option to talk about non tangible things they are proud of, such as development in certain areas in school, academic or not. Overall, while it may seem like an inconvenience to students who simply want the day off, in fact all students are better off because of this change in the Parent Teacher Conference.

**Sixth Grade Specials**

by Ava Cronin

Last quarter I had Health and Art for specials. In art we did many different projects such as Sandra Silberzweig portraits, Keith Haring drawings, angular colors practice, and prints. To keep track of all of these we kept a notebook. We kept the notebook to do sketch drawings and to write notes on the different components of the art we are trying to make. We have art for two quarters, so we will learn many different drawing, painting, and other art related components. My favorite art project that we have done so far was probably the Keith Haring drawings. Keith Haring drew simple drawings of people moving. The drawings were very easy and fast to draw, so in his free time he went down to the subway and drew them on the subway walls. His drawings were inspired by his love for break dancing. During the project we looked at some of his drawings that inspired us and tried to create some of our own. Art is very fun and definitely a class to look forward too.

In Health last quarter we covered some very important topics. We covered nutrition, stress, substance abuse, puberty, HIV/AIDS, allergies, and asthma. We only have Health for one quarter every year. In Health we also had a journal, and at the beginning of every class we got a journal question. After everyone had written down what they thought the answer was, the teacher, Mrs. Grady, would tell you the correct answer. I know health is not the class everyone looks forward to, but it is very important. Health teaches you to make the right decisions and to be aware about the world around, because it can be very dangerous. Health is very important and is a class everyone should take.

## Turkey Trot

by Zoey Lazzaro

The Turkey Trot was on November sixth. Last year it was in the spring, because they kept on having to cancel it due to the weather.

So, how this works is that the seventh, and eighth grade run together. And fifth and sixth run together. You start up on the hill, then go around the school, up the big hill that cross country does, through a little path, around the high school, down a dirt road, through the woods, out of the woods, on the hill where you start, through a little cut through the woods, then out through the woods, and finally you will see the end. Honestly it isn't that long of a run, or walk, but by my explaining it looks like a really long run/walk. How we start is by Mrs. Grady blowing her whistle, and then we are off, running or walking.

This is what happened at the Turkey Trot: The fifth and sixth graders went first for running in the Turkey Trot, and the seventh and eighth graders went second to run in the Turkey Trot. This year was fun, and Mr. M dressed up as a turkey. Get it, because it is a Turkey Trot. Ok, so the trail we took is a good trail because you can see where you are going. Even in through the woods there are roots, they are noticeable. The Turkey Trot might not be fun for you, but I enjoy running and participating in the Turkey Trot. I think a lot of people like the turkey trot.

It is so nerve wracking figuring out which homeroom won for the Turkey Trot. These are the winners; Iwanowicz (5th), Chidester (6th), Norby (7th), and Keating (8th). I hope you liked this article about the turkey trot, and congratulations to the homerooms that won! Congratulations, also to the top five boys and girls from each grade level.

### 5th Grade Winners of the Turkey Trot



First Puma Pride Assembly is  
on December 13th



## Turkey Trot

*by Ava Cronin*

The Turkey Trot is an event we do at SMS where we run around SMS and Conval. I am new to the school this year so it is my first time doing it. It wasn't very hard but definitely a workout. I jogged half and walked the other half. It was very fun, and I know many people look forward to it every year. This year the winner of the sixth grade Turkey Trot was Mrs. Chidester's class. You can win the Turkey Trot by having the most people in your class that got into the top thirty. If I had won the Turkey Trot this year I would have been very proud of myself because it is a fairly long way to jog. Even if you walked it, it was still a long way to go. I think the Turkey Trot is a good way to promote kids to exercise and get some fresh air. So many kids don't like exercise or gym class and don't think fitness is important. The Turkey Trot is a great way to encourage kids to exercise. During the Turkey Trot the teachers stand near the cones and cheer you on. It is a great motivation to keep going. The Turkey Trot is one of the amazing events we do at SMS and a great way to encourage kids to exercise.



## 6th Grade

## Indoor Recess

*by Zoey Lazzaro*

Indoor Recess happens if it is either snowing, raining, or something dangerous outside. The rules are usually that you go and sit down, and be quiet. You could read, color, or play quiet games. You might have your teacher in the room, or an other teacher that does recess. Some homerooms go to the gym on their scheduled day.

