



Puma Press

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7th Grade Classes

by Zoey Lazzaro

In seventh grade there are some student doing 8th grade math, and some are doing 7th grade math. I am writing about just 7th grade classes, and 7th grade classes only.

First is science. I have Mr. Mayo, but Mr. Mayo and Mrs. Norby are doing the same things. So right now we just finished doing an element superhero. We had to write a story about that element hero and how they got their powers. Then, when you draw the element hero, you have to color it, and it has to relate with the element you chose. Another coloring project is a physical change or a chemical change. You have to draw the change before and then after. You also have to write a one or two sentences about the drawing.

In Mrs. Norby’s math class we were learning how to do guessing the amount over the actual amount. Then you subtract, you then divide the answer of the subtraction by the actual amount. It gets easy once you know how to do it. Then we did a really fun activity by guessing the amount, but then Mrs. Norby told us the actual amount after, and then we do the math. Also, we won a math competition against the other classes, and we voted on ice cream and a free block. That was fun, but two times before that we won a movie. It was Hidden Figures, and it was such a good movie.

In social studies we learned about the Ancient Sumer Civilization. There was a packet on it, and we are now writing an essay about it. We had to take many notes, but it is going to pay off in the essay. The packet was called, “Was Ancient Sumer a Civilization?”. We had to go over TIDE and POW to know more on how we are to write the essay. In social studies we have already done an essay. That essay was about, “How are humans different from animals?” We did the domestication of animals; also, this is part of the Neolithic Revolution. We also did the domestication of plants and a packet on the Neolithic Revolution.

In language arts we just read, *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. That was one of my favorite books ever. It is based on a true story by Yoko Kawashima Watkins. She wrote another book called, *My Brother, My Sister, and I*. That was a really good book too. At the beginning of the year we worked on verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc.. We read, *The Christmas Carol*, and it was good, then we saw the play of it. The Friday after the play we watched one of the versions of, *The Christmas Carol: The Mickey Christmas Carol, Muppets Christmas Carol, or the original Christmas Carol*, and I think that there is one other movie that played in one of the rooms.



This is almost all of the things that we do in 7th grade classes. I probably forgot about something, but this is a lot so far. Maybe I will write an article about the classes in the third and fourth quarter.



January 24th is the End of Second Quarter



Puma Pride on February 7th

The Christmas Carol

by Zoey Lazzaro

The Christmas Carol is a play that the seventh grade saw on a field trip on December nineteenth. This was held at The Palace Theatre in Manchester. Before we saw the play we had to read, *The Christmas Carol*, in those big books full of stories. The Friday after the play, we watched one of five versions of *The Christmas Carol*. Either, the *Mickey Christmas Carol/ Smurf, Who Invented Christmas*, the *Disney Christmas Carol*, the *Muppets Christmas Carol*, or just quiet games.

The play was really good, and I am not making this up. I thought that it was better than the book we read. They had a lot of good actors. The actors were performing in the aisles and on stage. There was a live band playing the music. At the end when we clapped, and the actor who got clapped for the loudest and the loudest was Scrooge. He was a really good actor, and remembering the lines he had to say was a lot of work.

Did you know that the actors only have four days to a week to practice for the play? I know a lot about the Palace Theatre. Did you also know that underneath the stage there is a room in the basement, and that is where all of the actors wait before they perform? That room is called the green room, and in that room you have to be silent, because if you are in the audience you can hear the actors talking in the green room. On the bus we sang Christmas songs. Some people screamed, and some actually sang; anyways it was fun.

If you are in sixth grade, or fifth grade you should look forward to this trip. You should go on it, it is so much fun! But after all of the fun stuff, we have to write a compare and contrast paper about the movie, play, or book. By the way, you only have to pick two of those options.

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2020 Predictions From The Past

by Alex Cummings

Lots of people had high hopes for 2020, as far as scientific and technological advancements go. Predictions for 2020 may have varied depending on who you asked, but there are some common predictions. According to a *Wired Magazine* article written in 1997, 2020 was to be the year man landed on Mars. However, right now we know this prediction to be more than a little off. Due to the fact that Mars is some 150 times farther away than the moon, traveling there would take a lot longer. Some other obstacles in reaching Mars include sustaining human life for such a long time in space and overcoming the radiation from the sun. Another prediction made comes from an article from *Forbes Magazine*. They predicted ten million self driving cars would be on the road in 2020. To understand how far off this prediction is, we must first understand the levels of autonomy in a car. The first of course is zero, which is no autonomy at all. At the other end of the scale there is the level five autonomous car. This car does not contain a steering wheel at all and is fully autonomous. Right now in 2020 we are only at level three of autonomy with cars being able to drive themselves for short amounts of time on highways or places not filled with frequent turns and pedestrians. It is possible we will make advancements toward the level five autonomous car, but unlikely that we will reach it this year. The final prediction was not so far off. In 2013 the world population was predicted to have reached eight billion by 2020. In fact, the current world population is around 7.7 billion, with an annual increase of around 1.05 percent. Overall while the past had high hopes for 2020 that may not have been reached all we can do is keep moving forward to achieve these goals.



Puma Moments

by Ava Cronin

On December 13th we had a puma pride assembly, and they introduced something called puma moments. This is where teachers acknowledged students who had done good deeds. Here are some of those puma moments:

Watching a kind student stop their running during the Turkey Trot in order to help another student who had tripped.

A student that stopped mid conversation with me after most of the class had left to help another student that was extremely upset put away their things and get to their next class.

A group of students would stand at the back door every morning holding the door and greeting students as they came into school.

A student was saying negative things about herself, and I overheard a boy say to her that maybe she should say more positive things because she is a good person.

A student makes other students always feel welcome, sitting with them at lunch if they are alone and other examples of kindness.

An 8th grade PE student noticed a 5th grade student struggling to figure out how to throw a ball. This 8th grade student was able to help the 5th grader understand how to throw the ball correctly, and I was excited to see this student take a leadership role!

A student who is always willing to sit and help a peer who is struggling with the material.

An injured student was shown support by another student by being helpful in assisting the injured student getting from class to class and being supportive.

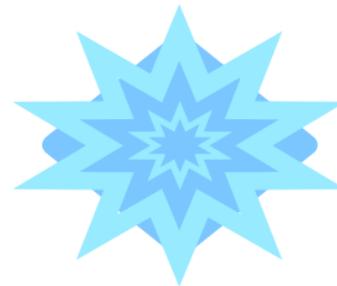
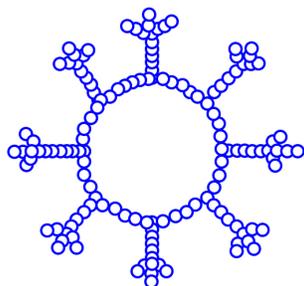
A student was waiting in line for class, dropped his binder, and papers went all over the floor. Two students put their things down and helped that student clean up.

Three students relocated to a table where another student was stationary to ensure that another student was able to be included in the game that they were going to play.

During PLUS block, after I had helped a student with a paper, that same student then turned around and assisted another student complete the same paper without being asked.

I dropped my basket of peaches, and an 8th grade student who had just arrived to school put down their things and took the time to help me out.

The Puma Pride assemblies are a way to spread Puma Pride and acknowledge kind students. The teachers nominate three students per grade for a puma award. Puma awards are a certificate with your name and why you were nominated. The three students for each grade are called down, and Mrs. O'Bryant reads the certificate out loud. Before the assembly, the homeroom teachers tells us the assembly rules, such as to clap when someone finished speaking and not talking while others are speaking.



NWEA Testing February 12th, and 13th.

Basketball

by Brayden Boice

The SMS basketball season has started. The tryouts were huge with about 35 kids; everyone was trying to make a team and doing their best. The coaches were able to create four teams this year, two B teams and two A teams. This year's A teams have two veteran coaches, Mark Bemont with the girls and Scott Buffum. Kevin Monroe,



one of SMS's P.E. teachers, stepped up and is coaching both B teams. The 6th graders have showed some great talent with four of them making the A team with Max Cail making boys A and Ellie Smith, Rowan McCluskey and Anna-Kate Curtin making the girls. The boys B team had a particularly great tryout group with 14 kids on the team. The girls were running a little low on people, though, with about eight players. The boys A team is starting their season out strong with a record of 4-4. The Boys B team record is doing pretty well with a record of 2-5. The girls B team has a record of 2-5, while

the A team is 4-4. It's almost Winter Slam time in February! The girls B team will be playing on the 1st and the boys B will be playing on the 2nd. Their championship will be on the 3rd. The Boys A will be on the 8th, with the girls A on the 9th. Their championship will be on the 10th. I hope everyone will come to see the Basketball teams in the Winter Slam and support them!



Student Council (2019-2020)

by Josiah Conley

This year in student council there are currently 13 representatives and six officers. Our school President is 8th grader Nathan Klonel, and our Vice President is 8th grader Justin Borges. Student council meets every Thursday after school as an entire group, and the officers meet on Wednesday during lunch and recess. Currently in Student Council we have been visiting the nursing home and doing mustache sales. We visited Pheasantwood on Halloween to give the residents small bags of candy, read books, and pass out stickers. The group recently made lanterns that we are going to pass out to the resident at Pheasantwood this Thursday. Mustache Sales, which took place on November 22nd, went extremely well. We bought a lot of different types of stick on mustaches, and they were sold for only \$1. Every day in Student Council we start with attendance and then we usually play a game. Our chairperson Ben Michaud picks out many different team building games for us to play. After we have played the game, we discuss possible fundraisers we may do, or trips to the nursing home we may go on. Some of our largest events in Student Council include visiting Pheasantwood, Carnation and Candy Cane sales, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Fun Friday or a dance. Mrs Decibus and Mrs Hopgood are the teachers that run Student Council and help a ton. Student Council has recently been selling candy canes for 50 cents, or 5 for 2 dollars. There are different flavors including regular, Sour Patch Kids and Starburst. I have really enjoyed doing Student Council for the past two years and hope to be able to continue through 8th grade and hopefully gain a higher position.

Piano

by Harlan Bielagus

In the new year, the fifth grade will continue to practice their keyboarding skills on the piano. This unit is an exciting and fun way to learn how to play the piano and read notes. Students have learned acronyms for the notes E, G, B, D, and F such as Empty Garbage Before Dad Flips, Elephants Go Bouncing Down Freeways, Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge and others besides to help them remember. Another acronym to keep in mind is FACE or F, A, C, E. This acronym is for remembering the notes that are on the staff (the five horizontal lines with spaces in between), the notes get progressively higher on the staff so that the letters are each on a different line.

The songs that the fifth grade play require only the right hand, which is challenging, but a lot easier than playing with two hands. Playing with two hands is much more difficult because when you play two hands, you can't focus on one hand only, and you have to read two different staves simultaneously.



Playing the piano also challenges your hand-eye coordination because you must keep your eyes on the notes so you know what to play, rather than focusing on your hands. By doing so, you can't concentrate as well as you could if you were looking at your hands. This makes it very hard to know where to place your fingers. However, the more you practice the easier it gets because of muscle memory.

I have enjoyed this unit so far, and I am excited for the chance to learn something new.



Student Showcase on 3D Design at the Christa McAuliffe Conference

Five students from the 3D design class in EHP represented South Meadow School at this year's Christa McAuliffe Conference in December. They were part of the student showcase. These students talked with attendees about what they do in class and showed a variety of items that they had made. Many liked the veterans keychains as well as the ornaments on the tree. Other items on display self-watering pots, maze puzzles, boxes, rings, pen holders and unique critters.

