

THE SHOOTING STAR

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Student Council

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School News

Seal A Smile by Hannah Brown



Recently the Seal A Smile program was at our school. The Seal A Smile technicians visited classrooms and taught the students about how to

properly take care of their teeth. Another part of the program was having the students have their teeth cleaned by the Seal A smile dental technicians. Afterwards the students were given a timer, tooth paste and a toothbrush to help them take good care of their teeth. Many of the students told me it was a great program and that they enjoyed learning about how to maintain good oral hygiene.

D.E.A.R. Day by Sheila Caminitti

Drop Everything and Read day was held on November 22. The sixth grade had a wonderful D.E.A.R. day. The day began with sixth graders being paired up with kindergartners. While the sixth graders read to their younger partners they



enjoyed a snack of donuts and juice. After the kindergartners returned to their classrooms the sixth grade students were able to get cozy and read a book of their choice. While reading they enjoyed hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies. Before lunch the students watched video of an interview with Diary of a Wimpy Kid author Jeff Kinney. After lunch Mr. Stevens read the story The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. After that the students were allowed to do either a crossword puzzle or to continue reading their chosen book. D.E.A.R. day in sixth grade was literally a great success.

Drama Club by Jared Frament

Drama club this year is working on skits to get the students ready to begin working on production for the end of the year play. Soon the students will be getting the script for the play. Right now Mr. Stevens is keeping the play a secret. I'm sure it will be a fun play to watch and to act in.



Working for the Car Wash by Alonna Silvia



The sixth grade is holding its' second fundraiser this year. They are selling Hoffman's car wash tickets. The students are working hard selling the tickets so they can use the money for their end of the year trip. This reporter alone sold one hundred and fifty six dollars worth of car wash tickets. The tickets make great stocking stuffers and it really is nice to have a clean car in the winter.

Beginning Band by Randall Clarke



Beginning band is fun. Students in beginning band get to learn notes that they practice on their chosen instruments at school and at home. Once they

learn enough notes they then can learn how to play songs. Students learn how to play their part of the music so they can be part of band B. Band B will be playing together at the spring Concert.

The Bully Free Band Status by Jenna Brazie

The fifth and sixth graders have been getting bully free bands this year. I was interested in how many bully



free bands each class has earned. What I found out is that the sixth grade is ahead of the fifth grade in individual student bully band achievement. In the fifth grade Mrs. Hofer's class has earned 12 out a possible 24 bands. Mrs. Castle's class earned 10 out of 23. Mr. Travers' class has earned 5 out of 22. Mrs. Swyer's class has earned 6 out a possible 25. In the sixth grades Mrs. Tallmadge's students have earned 24 bands out a possible 24, or 100%. Ms. Lloyd's has 14 out of 23. Mr. Steven's students have earned 19 out of 24 and Mrs. DeLollo students have 14 out of a possible 24 bands.

The Winter Concert by Hannah Linacre

The winter Concert was held this year on Thursday evening December 16, and on Friday



morning, December 17. This reporter was in Band A playing in the percussion section. I was playing the bells. The band played the songs, Jingle Jolly Christmas,

Green Sleeves, and Tidings of Joy. There were also several instrumental solos and ensembles including single instrument solos with the trumpet, the flute, and piano. The chorus followed Band B. The chorus was made up of all the fifth graders and the members of the afterschool choral group. They sang the Cannoneer Song, This Land is Your Land, Let it Snow, and Christmas, Christmas, Christmas. Our band director, Mr. Roberts, and the choral director, Mrs. Collett told me they were very pleased with the performances.



Faces and Places



From Sixth to Fifth by Madison Soroka

Mrs. Haggerty, who taught fifth grade last year, has taken this school year off due to the birth of her baby boy, Timothy. Mrs. Castle, who taught sixth grade last year, has now taken her spot in fifth grade. I spoke with Mrs. Castle about her new position. She told me she likes teaching fifth grade but would enjoy teaching any grade just like she enjoyed teaching sixth grade the last couple of years. She said she likes this year's class. She enjoys being with them because they make her laugh. Her favorite subject is social studies. She particularly enjoyed teaching sixth grade social studies. She also likes teaching reading and writing. When asked what grade she would prefer to be in she smiled and said that she likes both.

My Little Brother by Kahlysa Parsons

I have a little brother named Samad. Samad likes to play games like tag and hide n' seek. He sleeps a lot. He is friendly and he likes when people come to visit us. He is two years old. Samad was born on July 3, 2009. I really like having a little brother like Samad.



Did You Know?



A Recipe for a Healthy Diet by Bethany Livsey



One of the unhealthiest habits is unnecessary eating. This can lead to obesity and serious health problems. The well known food pyramid has recently been replaced by a new idea. This new idea is called My Plate. The idea is of a plate divided into four sections with each section being a food group along with a side of a dairy product. I believe that the old pyramid idea was easier to use because it included physical exercise along with the four food groups. In a well balanced diet there are always servings of fruits, vegetables, (green ones are especially good for you) proteins such as fish, nuts or meat, grains like bread or cereal, and dairy products such as milk, yogurt or cheese. It is okay to have an occasional sweet treat dessert. There are better ways to satisfy your sweet tooth such as through eating a piece of fruit. Also, to maintain your healthy diet you should include daily exercise such as walking or jogging. When you are enjoying a dessert eat it slowly to enjoy it and don't take seconds. When buying a food product always look at the nutritional facts on the label. Look for small amounts of sugar and use portion control. Drink water instead of sugary drinks like soda. Remember to eat healthy and enjoy life.



Use Less Gas by Christopher Nicolay

When people use less gas they are helping to save the environment because fewer chemicals are being released into the air. These chemicals that come out of the exhausts of automobiles can harm the environment by polluting the atmosphere and causing plants to die. This can then cause a chain reaction in the food chain. When plants are affected then so are the herbivores that count on eating plants to survive. Once the herbivores are affected then the carnivores who eat the herbivores are placed under greater stress to survive. Both plants and animals as well as human beings can benefit from all of us using less gas.



The History of Skittles by Alina Orlioglu

Skittles were first created by Frank C. Mars and his wife Ethel. They came up with the flavorful, chewy, gummy center in their own kitchen. In 1977 they decided to put a hard candy shell coating on the gummy center. Skittles were first sold in Europe in 1974 without the candy coating. After becoming famous in Europe



Skittles came to the United States in 1978. Skittles now belong to the Mars Candy Company. When manufacturing Skittles it takes over eight hours just to put the candy coating onto the gummy center. There are over two hundred million Skittles produced in an average day. This amounts to about forty seven thousand bags a day. This takes a lot of skilled workers. The original fruit Skittles which came out first was then followed by the tropical and mixed berry skittles. These became very popular and Skittles

customers began clamoring for more flavors. Skittles sour came out in 2007 but it was not that popular. Skittles smoothies flavors came out in 2005 with a line of creamy skittles. These are very hard to find. The purple colored skittles are grape flavored in the US but black current flavored in Europe. The green Skittles were introduced for a short period in 2001 with a green apple taste. Customers did not like the very sweet taste of the green apple, preferring instead the taste of lightly tart lime. The Skittles manufacturers often changed or added to their product based on what their customers wanted. Thus Skittles have evolved from a candy that was created in someone's kitchen to the international favorite it is today.

Snow

by Justice Williams

This reporter is a fifth grader who is originally from Crowley, Louisiana. Down in Louisiana it is very hot and it does not snow in the winter time. Having recently moved to Watervliet I am really looking forward to seeing it snow. During my first ever snowfall I'm planning on curling up with a warm blanket by the fireplace with a nice cup of hot chocolate and watching it snow.



The New Soda Machine

by Kaden Cavanaugh



There is a new soda machine at the Five Guys restaurant in Colonie Center. It has one hundred and fifty flavors of soda and juice. It uses a process where it is able to blend certain flavors together to make more exotic drinks. The flavors I

tried were very good. Mr. Roberts told me his daughter really liked using the machine. When you go to Colonie Center be sure to check out the new soda machine at the Five Guys there. If you are a fan of drinking soda or juice you will find it very rewarding to your taste buds.

The History of Mario and Luigi

by Patrick Ethier



Have you ever played the video games Super Mario or Donkey Kong? These games began back in 1980 when Nintendo of America (NOA) released Radar Scope the arcade game. The game was not a success. To keep the company from going out of business Hiroshi Yamauchi, the Japanese president and CEO of Nintendo, asked a staff artist by the name of

Shigeru Miyamoto to design a new game using his own ideas. This game was entitled Donkey Kong and Jumpman. Jumpman was a character in the video game who was a carpenter that was red and blue. Sound familiar. NOA had to prepare the game for the American market. This included naming the characters in the game. The name chosen was Mario after a landlord named Mario Segal who was looking for overdue rent while the Nintendo staff was developing the game. Miyamoto gave Mario a hat to avoid having to make Mario's hair move realistically. If you play these games I'm sure you've heard of Luigi who was named by the American team before the release of the game in the United States. Mario's enemy, Wario, was named after the combination of the words Mario and warui. Warui means bad in Japanese. The next time you play this game think about how a simple idea can become famous over time.



Carey Price Number 31

by Justin Cusson

Carey Price is a young but extremely talented goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens. He is only 24 years old. He is slowly gaining his way



to the top of the list of great goalies that played for Montreal. He is adding his name to a list of legends that includes Ken Dryden, Patrick Roy and Georges Vezina. Price recently had a chance to hand a banner to Patrick Roy when Roy had his number 33 retired forever. Whenever Price does really well and gets a shutout people say that the price is right. Price is also very involved with his community. He supported the fight against bladder cancer by growing a mustache. During the month of October he wore pink goalie pads to show his support for the battle against breast cancer. He also wears brown old fashioned pads on old timers' day. Price started out as an offensive player when he was young before switching over to the defensive position of goaltender. I am a hockey player and I did the same thing. This is just another reason for me to admire and want to be like Carey Price or, as the saying goes, the price is right.



Harry Tucker
by Jeffrey Clermont

Harry Tucker dedicated his life to the youth of Watervliet. He was born on September 9, 1910. He passed away in 1997. He was a lifelong resident of Watervliet. He graduated from Watervliet High School in 1929. He was good in many sports. He was the shortstop on the baseball team and the point guard on the basketball team. He served in the Air force during World War II. He played baseball on the Air force team. After the war he worked for the railroad. For over thirty he attended many, many sporting events held in the city of Watervliet.



A Veterans Day to Remember
by Jeffrey Bisner

On November 11, 2011 two college basketball teams and the U.S. Navy gave us a night we will never forget. It was called the Carrier classic. Not



only was this an anticipated matchup between two of the games greats, but it was played on an aircraft carrier floating on the Pacific Ocean. The deck of the USS Carl Vincent was transformed into an outdoor basketball arena. On this night there were no planes on the flight deck. Instead there was a basketball court and seats for seven thousand veterans. President O'Bama and the first lady were there to watch as the University of North Carolina played Michigan State University. It was incredible to watch the Tar Heels and the Spartans battle on the flight deck of this mighty ship. There were a few times when the court became slippery from the mist off the water but overall it was a very exciting game. All of the servicemen and women seemed very aware that they were part of making history as they were continually taking pictures on their cell phones as they cheered for their favorite team. In the end it was UNC taking down MSU 67-55.



Happy Feet 2: A Movie Review
by Cierra Newman



The sequel to Happy Feet returns us to Antarctica. The voices include Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Pink, Sofia Vergara, with Brad Pitt and Matt Damon as the

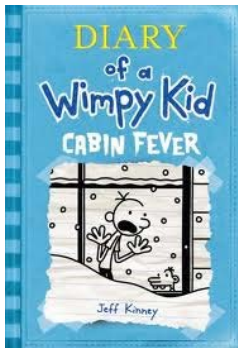
krill. Mumble, the tap master, and his son Erik, who is afraid to dance, test their father-son relationship through the movie. On the way Erik meets a “flying penguin” named Sven. I liked this movie because it is one that will make you laugh.

**Movie Review: Puss N’Boots
by Justin Nelson**

This movie is about a talking cat named Puss who wears really cool boots. He is a cat who robs the rich to give to the poor. Basically he is a Robin Hood cat with a twist. In the movie Puss meets up with his old enemy, Humpty Dumpty. Humpty hires Puss to steal the golden eggs from the giant in Jack and the Beanstalk. Will Puss succeed or will he fail? Watch this very entertaining movie to find out.



**Catching Cabin Fever
by Michael Flanigan**



Recently I had the pleasure to read the Diary of a Wimpy Kid-Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney. In the story The main character, Greg, wants kriterer kash for a game called Net Kriterion. In the process he gets a surprise. I loved reading this book because it revealed lots of secrets.

**Jack and Jill-A Movie Review
by Ciera Neumann**

Jack and Jill is a great movie. The cast includes Adam Sandler, Al Pacino, Katie Holmes and David Spade. It is about a woman named Jill who goes to visit her brother



Jack. Jill stays until New Years and Jack doesn't like it. This movie is hilarious. I recommend this movie to anyone who wants a good laugh.

 **The Animal World** 

**Archelon, a Type of Prehistoric Turtle
by Josie Munhall**



Long ago Archelon lived in a prehistoric world. Archelon, unlike most modern day turtles, did not have a solid shell. Instead he had a skeletal frame which

supported a leathery boney carcass. Archelon was a strange and fascinating creature like many of the life forms that existed back in prehistoric times. He was different from modern day turtles in many ways even though we know very little about him. The size of Archelon was very large, much bigger than any turtle alive today. He was the length of about five diesel trucks in a row and about four desks wide. Archelon lived in a time when animal forms were very large, the time of the dinosaurs.

