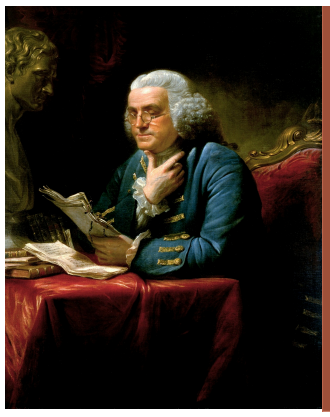


Ben's Pen

Spring Edition, Volume 8, Issue 2 A Publication by Benjamin Franklin Middle School Students

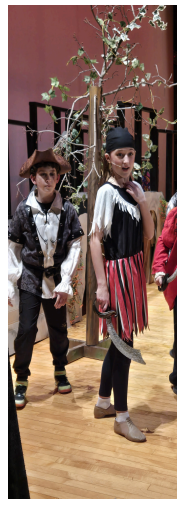
My Musical Experience By Aubrey Brant

This year's musical was Peter Pan Jr. My character was to be a lost boy, and it was great experience! It was a whole lot of hard work, memorizing the dances and lines, and it came out to an amazing result! Some teachers have said that this year's musical was one of their favorite shows. I hope you enjoyed it, because I know I did. Great job to everyone who was in the musical! If you were not in the musical this year, that is okay. There is always next year. If you do the musical next year it is sure to be a blast! I strongly recommend that you consider joining the musical in the future if this is something you would be interested in.







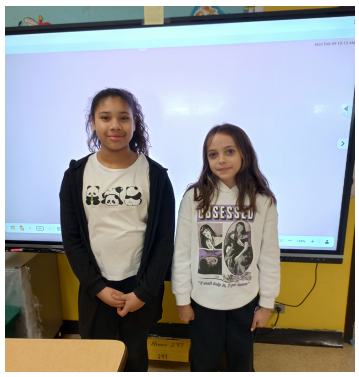




Olympic Spirit Week

Wear White Day - Monday, February 9 - by Sonya Das

The start of spirit week was the beginning of the winter Olympics. Students wore white to kick off the start of the week, and also because the Winter Olympics had started. The white background of the Olympics sign represents peace and universality. According to olympic.com, the next Winter Olympics will be held in 2030, in the French Alps.



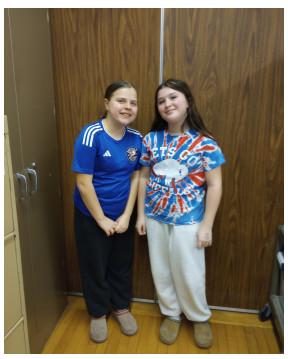


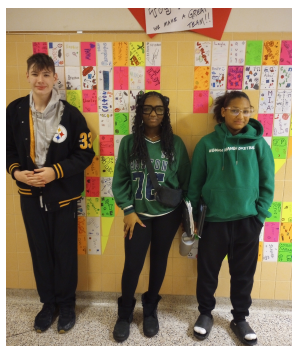





Teammate Day - Tuesday, February 10 - by Avery Wich

On Tuesday some students wore sports clothing and jerseys for multiple sports during Olympic Spirit Week. I saw people wearing clothing related to the Buffalo Sabres, multiple basketball teams, other hockey players, and some football jerseys. There was a lot of support for local sports during our Olympic Spirit Week.




Let's go, Buffalo!





Olympic Color Ring Day - Wednesday, February 11 - by Zoe Lewis

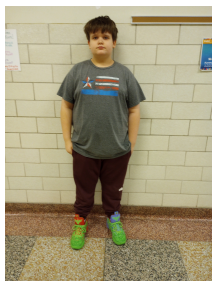




To prepare for Olympic Color Ring Day, Mr. Murphy reminded his class about the colors of the Olympic Rings. Everyone in Mr. Murphy's class wore the colors that Mr. Murphy talked about previously in class. As you can see in the picture to the right, they wore the same colors as the Olympic ring, in the same color order, which is blue, yellow, black, green and red. One student suggested that people loop their arms to represent the rings. Everyone in Mr. Murphy's class did a wonderful job of participating in the Olympic color ring day. Many other students in our school wore the Olympic ring colors as well.

Spectator Day - Thurday February 12 - by Pearl Karki

On Thursday during the Olympic Spirit Week, some students wore comfy clothes for spectator day. On spectator day you could wear comfy clothes that you were comfortable wearing. Some people just wore sweatpants and a hoodie but some people also wore pajamas as well. As you see in the pictures, people wore leggings, hoodies, pajamas, and just overall pretty comfy stuff. There was a lot of people who wore comfy clothes on Thursday Spectator Day.





















Olympic Spirit Day - Friday, February 13 - by Catherine Mayr

On this day, students had assigned colors for their grade. Fifth graders wore white, seventh graders wore red, and sixth graders wore blue. Those are the colors of the American flag. Also, two of the colors, red and blue, are colors in the Olympic rings! It was exciting to have spirit week the same week before the February break.



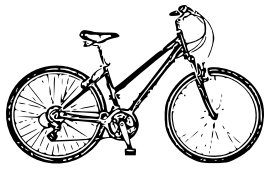






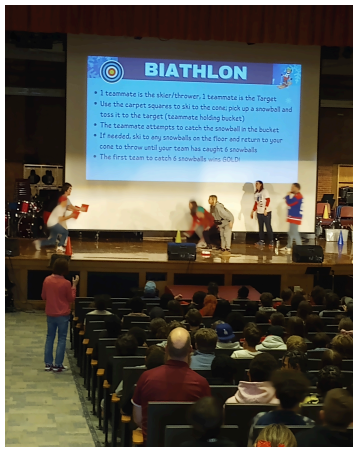
Spring Wellness Night and Bike Rodeo by Zoe Lewis

On Wednesday, May 6, our school had a spring wellness night, and a bike rodeo too! The event was from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. I had so much fun! There was even a raffle. I signed up for the raffle, but I do not think I won anything. One game that I especially enjoyed was the fishing game. There were teens behind a cardboard display putting a prize on a fishing rod. It was fun. I got this really cute, curvy straw with a strawberry design on it. There was glitter inside the strawberry. I absolutely loved it! After playing some games, I went to the cafeteria, where they had maple syrup. It was a free sample. It was real maple syrup, but it also had honey it it. The whole event it was really fun. There were a lot of community people and some vendors. Thank you to all of the people who volunteered to make this so enjoyable.



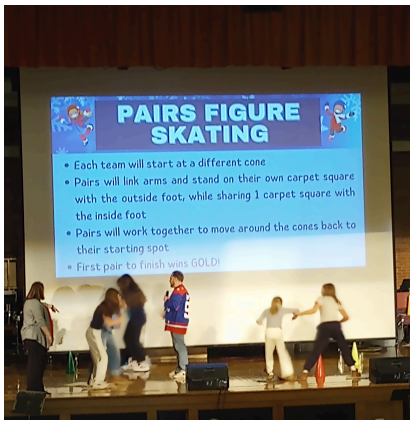
Olympic Pep Rally by Catherine Mayr

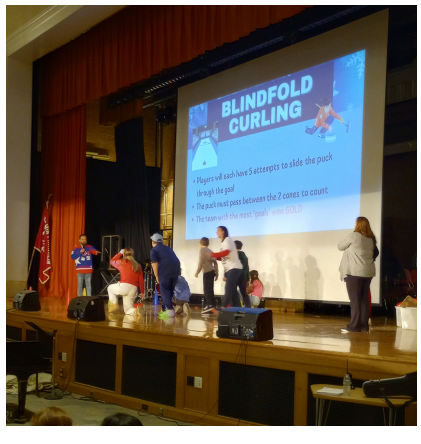
On Friday, February 13, the entire school attended a pep rally in the auditorium. There were different games students participated in. Mr. Hourigan explained each game to everyone in the school. Some of the gym teachers and other staff helped with the games. Some of the names of the games were Biathlon, Pairs Figure Skating, Bobsled Race, Blindfold Curling and the Olympic Torch Relay. I saw some of my classmates with other students I know compete in the games. Sixth grade won a few games and everybody started cheering. I remember during one of the last games sixth grade was yelling really loudly and it was funny but my ears got irritated for a few seconds. Overall the Pep Rally was enjoyable and fun.











Book Reviews

Insurgent reviewed by Sonya Das

If you are interested in dystopian books such as The Hunger Games, or in thrilling plots and cliff hangers, the Divergent series by Veronica Roth is meant for you. The book, *Insurgent*, is the second book out of three books in total, and it is about uprisings and threatening quests. There are five factions in a city: Dauntless (Bravery), Erudite (Intelligence), Candor (Honesty), Amity (Peacefulness), and Abnegation (Selfless). Due to the injustice in the government, the factions warred against each other, causing immense destruction. Beatrice, the main character, must solve this and go on suspenseful journeys. But what was outside the fence? Outside this unfair government? I highly recommend the Divergent series, but make sure you can handle the Hunger Games series first. This book series by Suzanne Collins had me up all night. What faction do you think you would fit in?

Percy Jackson reviewed by Avery Wich

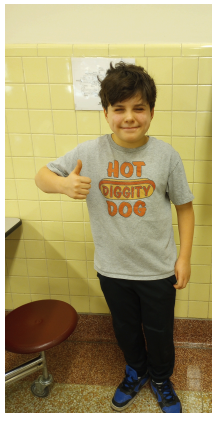
Percy Jackson, written by Rick Riordan, is about a teenage boy who is the son of the god named Poseidon. There are many gods such as Hermes, Hephaestus, Athena and Zeus. Kids such as Percy who are the son or daughter of a god but their other parent is human are called half-bloods. Percy meets friends such as Annabeth and Grover and they go on adventures together and travel a lot. I really recommend this TV show. There are books, TV shows and a movie!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid reviewed by Franklin Miller

I love the series, written by Jeff Kinney, but *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is my favorite book in the series because I am a boy in middle school just like Greg who is the main character of the book. I would recommend this book to kids who are in fifth grade. This book is good for students who spend time thinking about how to fit in at school. This book is also a movie.

Wellness Week

by Pearl Karki

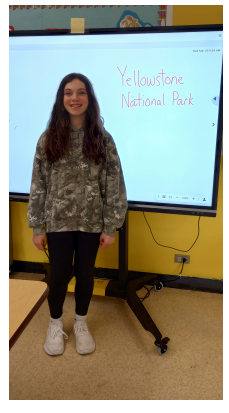


Ken-Ton Wellness Week took place during the fourth week of March. On Monday, March 23, we wore green to celebrate Mental Wellness Day and how mental health matters. On Turbo Tuesday, March 24th, we wore athletic wear, workout clothes, or sportswear to celebrate physical wellness day and extracurricular activities. On Wednesday, March 25, to celebrate trying new foods, we wore food-related clothes, like food-themed outfits, chef outfits, or outfits for a traveler trying new things. On thoughtful Thursday, March 26 we celebrated emotional wellness. We wore blue to show kindness, or we wore a shirt or a piece of clothing with a kind message on it. On Friendship Friday, the theme was to celebrate social wellness, so we wore tie-dye to show inclusion with everyone. and that is everything we wore and did for wellness week.











Fun Facts - The Newspaper Club worked collaboratively to find the following fun facts:

from https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/weird-but-true

A shark can grow and lose up to 30,000 teeth in it's lifetime.
Astronauts cannot whistle on the moon.
A hippo's lips are two feet wide.

from https://www.dreambox.com/math/guides/fun-facts-for-kids

Honey never spoils.
Carrots used to be purple.

from https://mommypoppins.com/kids/fun-facts-for-kids-random-fun-facts

One season on Saturn lasts about seven Earth years.
Human teeth are as strong as shark teeth.
Scotland has more than 421 words for snow.



Purple Carrots - shown above

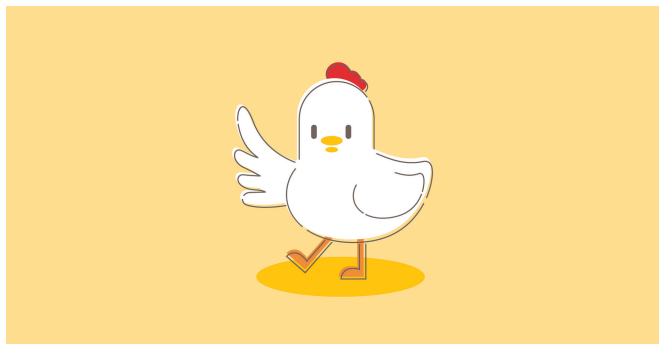


Short-Tips (shown above)

The Frequent Visitor by Zoe Lewis

About two years ago, I was looking out from my sliding glass door in my house. Right away I noticed something moving in the yard between the bushes. I had to wait about five minutes before the moving animal came out, so I could see it better. Then I discovered it was a bunny. The bunny has become more friendly over time. We even gave her a name. We call her Short-Tips. Short-Tips even likes to stand up like a meerkat, which is a wild animal that lives in hot climates. Recently, we found another new surprise. Short-Tips became the mother of five new baby bunnies. We will enjoy watching what Short-Tips will do this summer.

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup by Lillian Cardus



Ingredients:
chicken (cooked, cut in small pieces)
4 carrots
3 cartons chicken broth
4 stalks celery
1 onion
olive oil
1 teaspoon salt
noodles

Chop the onion into small pieces.
Peel the carrots and chop up.
Dice up the celery.
Heat up some olive oil in a large pot and put in the onion, celery and carrots and salt.
Stir and cook until soft, about 8 minutes.
Add in the chicken broth and bring to a boil.
Stir in the cooked chicken.
Add in the noodles and cook for 6 minutes.
Ladle into bowls and enjoy!



Winter by Sonya Das



Wonderland is magical
Icing for gingerbread men
Nutcracker show
Tinsel and the Christmas decor
Eggnog warms you up
Reindeer and Santa

Crochet by Katie Zhang



Creative
Rows
Openwork (a style of crochet)
Craft
Handmade
Embellishment (Crochet work can be an embellishment or accessory.)
Thread

Swim by Franklin Miller



Swim meets
Winning
Indoor
Motivating

Egypt and Mummies by Qasim Saeed



Egypt
Gold
Young pharaoh
Pyramid
Tomb

Mummy
Underworld
Mask
Mystery
Immortality
Embalming
Sarcophagus

Family by Sarah Izard



Fight for you
Always there for you
Magnificent
Important
Loyal
Years together



Percy Jackson Musical Field Trip by Sonya Das



The 6th and 7th-graders were invited to see the Percy Jackson Musical at SUNY Niagara. The musical, animation, and theater departments had helped create a magical show. It starts with Percy at his school, and then big disasters, monsters, and even gods make his life miserable. The story ends when Percy finally completes his quest, and his decision to stay with his friends or his mom. I was especially amazed by the monsters' animations and vocals. The entrance to the Underworld was the most exciting part. SUNY Niagara has done a great job with the musical, capturing the greatest and most dangerous moments. I would definitely go there and watch it again if I could.



Advice from the Falcon Friend



Dear Falcon Friend,
I get frustrated because there were a few times when I let my friend borrow my homework paper, and she lost it. Then I lose points because I am not able to turn the paper in. What should I do?
Yours truly,
The Homework "Helper"

Dear Homework Helper,
You and your friend could work together on the homework at the same time so you do not lose it, or you could stop giving your homework to her so that you will be able to turn it in on time. You do not have to feel obligated to give your friend your homework. I hope this helps.
The Falcon Friend

Movie and TV Show Reviews

Transformers Rescue Bots reviewed by Salvan Saeed

If you are looking for a family-friendly version of the Rescue Bots, watch the Transformers. Chief, the leader of the Rescue Bots, strives to keep evil away. Chief keeps the secrets of the Rescue Bots. There are four main autobots characters, these are Boulder, Heatwave, Blades and Chase. Another character you will see is Doctor Thaddeus Morocco. He is a villain, but he makes the show more interesting. The *Transformers Rescue Bots* are very fun to watch. While watching the *Transformers Rescue Bots,* you will find some super funny and entertaining moments. None of the moments were sad.

The Incredibles reviewed by Qasim Saeed

Have you ever wanted to watch a movie that has heroes and exciting moments? Then watch *The Incredibles*. *The Incredibles* is about the Incredible family; their last name is "Incredible." In this movie, the Incredibles are superheroes who were forced into retirement because the government banned superheros from using their powers. The superheros must secretly hold their powers to save Earth from the big, evil villain whose name is Syndrome. Syndrome's plan is to seek revenge by making a giant robot to kill the heroes, making the the family finally use their powers again. I recommend that you watch this movie.

The Thundermans reviewed by Sarah Izard

The Thundermans is about a family of superheroes who move to have a normal life. Later on, the older twins go on a superhero adventure, and then we find out the leader of the superhero adventure cares more about saying his name than saving families. This show is on Netflix. After you watch this, you may also enjoy watching *Thundermans Undercover* and then *The Thundermans Return*, and finally *The Clash of the Thundermans*. Here's a fun fact about *The Clash of the Thundermans*: one of the characters helped make *The Clash of Thunderman* Rescue Bots!

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie reviewed by Aubrey Brant

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie was a hit, featuring more of the famous games and characters we all know and love. Yoshi made his debut in the new movie, which in my opinion, was the funniest character in the movie! Rosalina and her Lumas (her children) also made a debut, in which Rosalina, the galaxy princess must be saved by her Lumas, Super Mario Bros., and the rest of their crew. Bowser Jr. makes his debut with his magical paintbrush, planning to use Rosalina’s powers to take over the world. Bowser reunites with his son, who is Bowser Jr., and helps his son turn the world into a terrifying amusement park. I will not give too many spoilers, but if you want to learn more, I recommend that you see *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*!