



The Truth About Plastic

by Julia Spencook



We all know global warming is rising. Sooner than expected, the reason is plastic. Plastic has a certain chemical called BPA. This chemical is very dangerous to turtles or any marine life. Issues like beached whales, dying birds, or deadly algae. It's not just affecting just marine life. Plastic includes Bisphenol-A (BPA). BPA is added to plastic to make the plastic durable. This chemical can lead to cancer. Also 92% of CDC reports show that people who were tested had detectable levels of BPA and other chemicals in plastic. In China 1.3 billion plastic bags a year are used. Yet again, more than one million bags are used worldwide every minute! In the UK online 1 in 200 plastic bags are recycled. Plastic takes decades to breakdown, an apple core takes two months, wool socks one to five years, styrofoam cups take 50 years, foamed buoys take 50 years as well. Fishing lines take 600 years, disposable diapers take about 450 years, and aluminum cans take 200 years. With all these statistics we should all give up plastic. When shopping take a reusable bag. One person can make a huge difference. It's so simple yet people decide to not to use them.



4Ocean.com is an amazing group of volunteers that go into the ocean and remove garbage, especially plastic. There's a dog that goes and helps them. The dog saw the volunteers picking up garbage on the beach and now he helps. When you go on their website, you can buy a bracelet for \$20. It seems expensive, but buying this bracelet will help remove one pound of trash from the ocean. This will help the coral reef. Coral reef takes thousands of years to grow, coral reef have been dying. All oil leaks and fossil fuels are killing our precious coral. Large groups or groups of fish need coral to feed from. Also China and Japan have the highest waste. People must wear masks to not get respiratory sickness or even cancer. That doesn't change that the US is doing any better.

Marine Life in Deep Waters?

Pollution doesn't just kill sea animals, humans do. Most sea life is not endangered but some are in deep waters. There are ones that are on the edge of extinction. Whales, sharks, dolphins, and seals should not be killed, these species are needed for the environment. If fish are over populated it's brutal because there's not enough algae for other fish. That's why we have sharks, whales, and dolphins. Then decrease population and without knowing, keep everything balanced. Turtles are suffering due to plastic bags. Most turtles eat a diet of kelp or seaweed and jellyfish if available, sometimes plastic bags look like jellyfish to turtles and the turtles will eat them and the plastic will not break down, so the turtle will eventually die. Plastic is a dangerous poisonous pest to humans and marine life. Plastic will only cause pollution and other problems to sea creatures.

How Can We Fix the Problem?

First off, you can use reusable bags when shopping. This way sea animals won't think its food. This helps so many animals with having a healthy diet that's not filled with plastic. Another way is, don't use plastic straws. Straws are very dangerous to the turtles the most. Turtles will get them stuck in their nose and it's super painful. Also, when you feel the end of a straw it's a little sharp but to turtles it's like a chainsaw is ripping through them. So instead of using a plastic water bottle use a reusable one that is mostly made of steel or metal. These small changes will help the environment and will improve the lives of sea animals.





Fun Facts by Sarah Terletsky



Hello and welcome back to the Saxton Thunderbolt Press Newspaper! This time Fun Facts has brought you facts about upcoming months. First up, is December, and December 27th is National Chocolate Day. It takes as long as two to four days to make one single serving chocolate bar. To add, it takes 400 cocoa beans to make one pound of chocolate. Maybe next time you eat a chocolate bar you'll savor it. A little bonus fact that has to do with newspapers is the first Sunday newspaper, The Observer Newspaper, was first published in Britain on December 4th, 1791. Now for January which is Baking month and Soup month. A fun fact about soup is that the Campbell Company was the first to invent condensed soup and they first introduced it to the world in 1897. Do you eat Campbell soup often? Lastly, we have February. February is the only month that can pass without a full moon, and this last happened in 1999. Thank you for reading Fun Facts and stay tuned for my next article!



Day of the Dead by Gavin Henaghan



Day of The Dead is a Mexican holiday that is celebrated on October 31st to November 2nd. Day of the Dead is a celebration of life not death. Ancient Mesoamericans believed that death was part of the journey of life rather than death ending life. They believed that new life came from death. Día de los Muertos is an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of passed away loved ones. Like any other celebration Día de los Muertos is filled with music and dancing. The Ofrenda is often the most recognized symbol of Día de los Muertos. This temporary altar is a way for families to honor their loved ones and provide them with what they need on their journey. You can also figure out its Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is by sugar skulls and lots of candles. Also, many flowers are provided in pictures and alters for Day of the Dead. Many people who celebrate this holiday wear face paint or masks with flowery skulls on them with lots of color.

Day of the Dead Lantern Craft

Craft from <https://growingupbilingual.com>

Here is a simple Day of the Dead decoration that anyone can do.



Items you will need:

1. White plastic cups
2. LED tea lights
3. Sharpie markers (all colors)

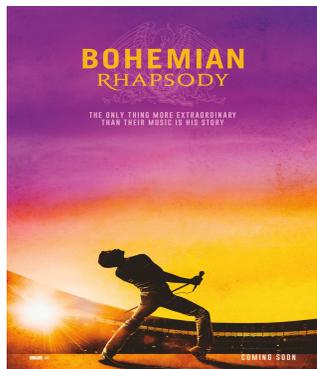
Instructions:

Turn the cup upside down. Decorate it like a skull and add whatever designs you would like. Put the tea light underneath the cup and display.

Movie Reviews

Bohemian Rhapsody

by Brennan Sullivan



The other day, I saw the new movie Bohemian Rhapsody. This movie follows the story of the hit rock band Queen and its lead singer Freddie Mercury. The band started out as a small college band but eventually made more hit songs and grew to fame. This movie has a great soundtrack and they even recreated some of the songs and they sound almost like the original songs. Some of the scenes in the movie got boring but, the great music made up for it. So, this movie was great, and I recommend you go see it before it comes out of theaters. I would rate this movie four and half stars.



The Grinch

by Ewan Hargraves



This week I saw the movie Dr. Seuss' The Grinch. This movie is mainly about how The Grinch who hated Christmas and wanted to steal it from everyone in Whoville. It is a reimagined version of the 1966 Classic How The Grinch Stole Christmas. It has been a favorite for many generations. It had lots of great humor and it was very entertaining. I also loved the animation and all the characters, which helped to make the movie even better. In my opinion, I rate it a 4/5. This is because some of the jokes were a little cheesy, but it still was an amazing movie. This is my opinion of the new movie The Grinch.



Jokes and Riddles

by Ewan Hargraves

Q: Name a child's favorite Christmas king.

A: A stocking.

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

Q: What kind of bug hates Christmas?

A: A humbug.

Q: Why does Santa go down a chimney?

A: Because it soots him

Q: Why is Santa so good at karate

A: Because he has a black belt

Q: What is a cow's favorite holiday?

A: Moo-Year's Eve

Q: Why did the boy keep his trumpet out in the snow?

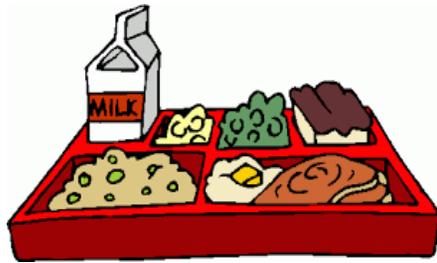
A: Because he liked cool music.

Q: What often falls in the winter but never gets hurt?

A: Snow

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes.



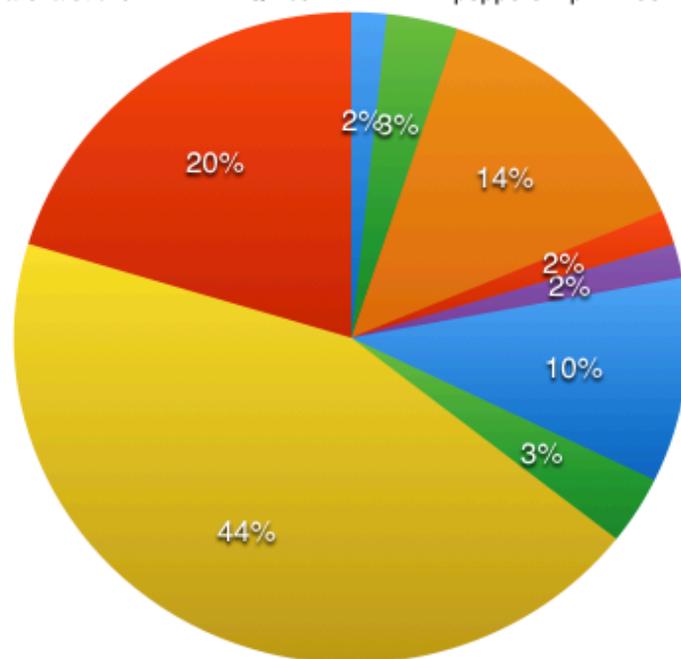
School Lunch: Pumped or Dumped??

By: Daissy Pereira



Not many people like to eat school food. But others might have eaten it since the first grade! If you were on America's got talent, would you give them an X or the golden buzzer? Well here is the opportunity! since the eighth grade has been eating the food longer than anyone else, they voted on which was pumped or dumped:

- chicken smackers
- popcorn chicken
- meatball hero
- tacos
- ham/cheeseburger
- chicken patty
- Brunch for lunch
- pizza
- mozzarella sticks
- BBQ ribs
- pepperoni pinwheel



To conclude: Mozzarella sticks are the best lunch at Saxton Middle School!!



Land O Lakes Leaf Sugar Cookies

by Matthew Terletsky

I surveyed my ELA class to see which of two cookies they liked better. My ELA class voted for the fall cookie from Land O Lakes.

So, you need 1 cup Land o Lakes butter, softened, 1 cup sugar, 1 large egg ,2 tablespoons of Land o Lakes half and half milk ,1 ½ teaspoons almond extract, 2 ½ cups of all-purpose flour 1 teaspoon baking powder.

Instructions:

Step 1: Combine butter and sugar in bowl beat at medium speed until creamy. Add egg, milk, and almond extract continue beating until well mixed. Add flour and baking powder, beat at low speed until well mixed

Step 2: divide dough into thirds place each portion into separate bowls mix well. Add gel for desired colors (not needed) if wanted only use a little. Add additional red gel for desired color (if necessary). Repeat with remaining dough portions and gel food colors.

Step 3: Shape dough into ball flatten each ball to ½ inch thickness. Wrap each in plastic food wrap refrigerate for 2-3 hours until firm.

Step 4: Heat oven to 400 degrees.

Step 5: Working with half of each dough color (keeping remaining dough refrigerated), drop tablespoon-size pieces of dough from each color onto well-floured surface in random pattern with dough pieces touching. Roll out dough to 1/4- to 1/8-inch thickness, forming marbled design. Cut with 3-inch leaf-shaped cookie cutters.

Step 6: Place cookies, 1 inch apart, onto ungreased cookie sheets. Sprinkle with decorator sugar. Bake 7-9 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to cooling rack.



The Poetry Corner

Poems by: Madi McAuliffe

Happy Thoughts

I pop off my scalp like the lid of a cookie jar.
It's the secret place where I keep all my dreams.
Little balls of sunshine, all rubbing together like a bundle of kittens
I reach inside with my thumb and forefinger and pluck one out.
It's warm and tingly.
But there's no time to waste! I put it in a bottle to keep it safe.
And I put the bottle on the shelf with all of the other bottles.
Happy thoughts, happy thoughts, happy thoughts in bottles, all in a row.

My collection makes me lots of friends.
Each bottle a starlight to make amends.
Sometimes my friend feels a certain way.
Down comes a bottle to save the day.

Night after night, more dreams.
Friend after friend, more bottles.
Deeper and deeper my fingers go.
Like exploring a dark cave, discovering the secrets hiding in the nooks and crannies.
Digging and digging.
Scraping and scraping.

I blow dust off my bottle caps.
It doesn't feel like time elapsed.
My empty shelf could use some more.
My friends look through my locked front door.

Finally, all done. I open up, and in come my friends.
In they come, in such a hurry. Do they want my bottles that much?
I frantically pull them from the shelf, one after the other.
Holding them out to each and every friend.
Each and every bottle.
But every time I let one go, it shatters against the tile between my feet.
Happy thoughts, happy thoughts, happy thoughts in shards, all over the floor.

They were supposed to be for my friends, my friends who aren't smiling.
They're all shouting, pleading. Something.
But all I hear is echo, echo, echo, echo
Inside my head.



The Question



The answers keep ringing in my head. Yes...no...yes....no. Suddenly..silence..i haven't heard this in a long time. Well, at least until before I asked...the question. I look over across the familiar sea of darkness filled with notes and poems I have written, then forgotten. I see her. She's standing still despite the waves crashing . She is dry and perfect, as usual. I run over to her through the storm. I get to her and hug her. But then I realize, it wasn't her, it was somebody else. I look up and see the other one. She's smiling and I hug her tighter, crying. SHE came to save me. The one I thought her to be, did not.



Swan Lake Word Search
by Anonymous

C Y G N E T G W S C P F R O S
 O K G F U N H G V I T O L Y X
 C B M K I I N Q M T N W N S E
 S N J D T I S Y S A R J I D O
 M J I E W M G T J U E R A D S
 L L S A U U I N U Q T E W T Y
 G S L J X K V K I A A S O W W
 U E U X G D Z I K M W Y Z F I
 T E E F D E B B E W M Q W D Y
 T W J D Z B G S F Q Q I F R O
 B N D I B U T L T N Z F W I M
 P S U G I W P M N S P A L S D
 I K Y U R K C A L B E C H A U
 Z H H H D P J M Q Y J N Q B L
 U V M J S S G T G G H Y X W B

AQUATIC

BIRDS

BLACK

CYGNETS

GLIDING

NESTS

PONDS

SWIMMING

WATER

WEBBED FEET

WHITE

WINGS

Happenings around Saxton Middle School



Attention All Saxton Students!!

Come sing or watch your friends at Saxton's Karaoke event.

When: Friday, January 18, 2019
Time: 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5:00

Snacks and candy will be sold.
Late buses will be provided.



Performances:

You may perform by yourself or in a group with a maximum of 4 people.

20 ACTS ONLY! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!
Open to all grades!

Permission slips will be coming soon.



COMICS

by Sarah Terletsky



Glittery Mason Jar Snow Globe

by Amanda Andree

from: <https://heyletmakestuff.com/jar-snow-globe/>



Snow Globe Supplies

1. Mason Jar with gasket lid
2. Clear Elmer's Glue
3. Snack cup (washed and dry) - optional
4. Scissors
5. Elmer's CraftBond Glue Gun + Glue Sticks
6. Bottlebrush Christmas Tree or other miniatures
7. Glitter

Directions

1. Start off by hot gluing the two parts of your mason jar lid (the ring and the insert) together.
2. Next, hot glue your tree or other miniatures to the lid.
3. Then, prepare your water/glue mixture. Start by pouring Elmer's Clear Glue into your jar. You can use more or less, depending on how quickly you'd like your glitter to settle.
4. Then add your glitter to the jar — add about 1/5 of a small jar of glitter.
5. Then fill the jar the rest of the way with warm water. Flip your tree lid over, slide the tree into the jar, and seal. You can hot glue it closed, if you'd prefer. Then flip over and shake gently to combine the water, glue, and glitter and you have an adorable mason jar snow globe!

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