



# NEWS FROM THE NEST

A Student Publication of Dutchtown Middle School



Volume 2, Issue 5

February 25, 2022

## Candy Grams make a Postive Impact

by Demi Delaune

During the week before Valentine's Day, Mrs. Gaspard's Stem classes sponsored a fundraiser to spread awareness and raise money for the American Heart Association. Two students on our campus, Joseph Deverteuil and Caroline Noel, benefit from the positive work associated with this association, making the fundraiser even more significant. Candy grams consisted of a keychain and a bag of candy. Mrs. Gaspard's students made the keychains on a 3-D printer and painted them with cute messages to spread love all around campus. The candy grams were \$3 each and were sold all week by the Newspaper and Yearbook classes.



Thanks to Mrs. Surla's class for making over 300 candy bags and to Mrs. Gaspard's classes for designing the keychains.

All together they raised about \$784 to go towards the association. Genesis Munoz said that receiving a candy gram made her "feel very appreciated and loved". It's so cool to see that such small acts of kindness can have such a positive impact!

## Outreach Program Involvement

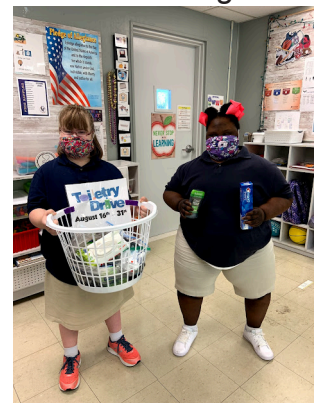
by Eleanor Frederic

The community outreach portion of our Character Strong Program is led by Mrs. Surla's class. It's purpose is to bring joy to our campus and to help the less fortunate. A few of the activities they've sponsored include a penny drive, toiletry drive, and Santa Paws. Some of the clubs and elective classes, such as 3Donationz, Stem and 4H, have assisted with these projects.

When asked about the program, Mrs. Surla said, "One of the areas of focus for Dutchtown Middle School this school year is to push beyond academics and for our students to develop more life skills and social skills."

Mrs. Surla's student, Evie Furusa also said, "It's fun to be involved in school projects for our community."

In addition to helping people in need, the community outreach program helps DMS students understand the importance of helping others. The program is made to go beyond academics and focus more on students learning social skills and building character for their future.



Caroline and Evie helping out

## Kindness Brings Joy

by Eleanor Frederic

February 17th is National Do A Random Act of Kindness Day. It reminds us that a little gesture, even it is to just smile at someone, can make their day. It's a good idea to send a positive message to a loved one or someone who needs a pick me up.

7th grade student Gabriel Clark said, "Kindness is so important because it makes you feel as though you can do anything you set your mind to. Kindness is so important even if it lasts for just a few seconds, because you'll remember it for more than that."

Random acts of kindness are also important to mental health.

A study in a recent issue of *Psychology Today* the author of the article explained how kindness creates empathy and compassion. He also explained how kindness can improve depression, anxiety, anger, and stress. Everyone can use a little joy in their life, so remember to keep calm and be kind.



Answers can be found on page 8



## A New Track & Field Season

by Hayden Jumonville

The Dutchtown track season has finally started, and many students enjoy it! 7th grader Vivian Piestrzynski says, “My favorite thing about track is all my friends. They always encourage me to go faster and try my best.” 7th grader, Cade Foley, had a similar answer. He says, “My favorite thing about track is the people because they are supportive and very helpful.”



Track members cheer on others while waiting for their event.

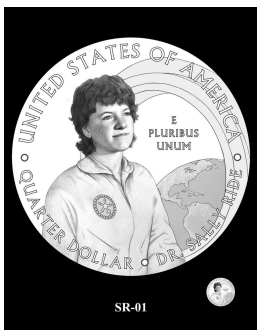
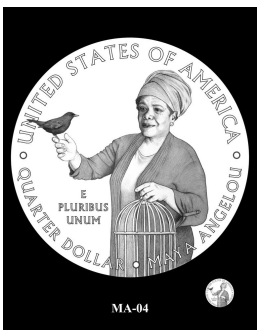
Every Wednesday this month they had track meets at Dutchtown High School and Donaldsonville High. At the practice meet, they won most of the sprints. Hopefully they do great in their upcoming championship meet, which will be on Wednesday, March 9th at St. Amant High School. Good luck EAGLES!



Keegan Mitchell (8th grade) preparing to throw the discus at Dutchtown High.

## New Coins Coming

A new series of quarters called American Women Quarters Program is being produced by the US Mint which will feature 20 women whom have made a wide variety of contributions to America. The women will be featured on the tail side of the quarter with the minting starting January 2022 through 2025. Maya Angelou and astronaut, Sally K. Ride, are the first women to be featured on these coins.



## Black History Month Tribute

by Eliza Emanuel

Maya Angelou was one of the most influential African American writers of the 20th century. She was an American poet and actress who spoke out about acts of economic, racial, and gendered oppression. She spent most of her childhood in Arkansas with her grandmother, and after her mother’s boyfriend died and other traumatic events, she was left mute for several years because of the trauma. Maya Angelou later wrote an autobiography, Why The Caged Bird Sings, focusing on these events of her childhood and earned the National Book Award nomination.

In 1950, she moved to New York City and found encouragement for her literary talents in the Harlem Writers’ Guild. She then gained a role in George Gershwin’s folk opera *Porgy and Bess* and continued her career as an actor for another 10 years. Later in 1966, she wrote a 10-part television series about the role of African culture in American life called *Black, Blues, Black*. She later



Maya Angelou by Getty Images

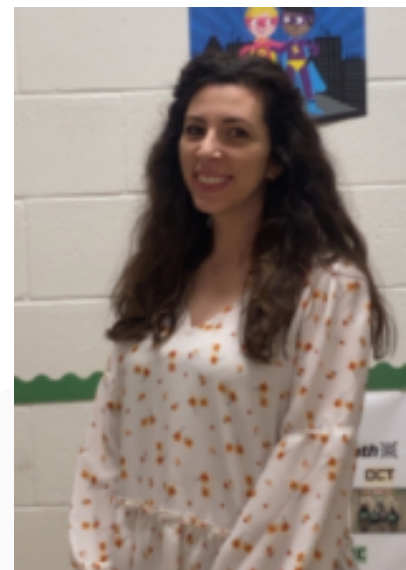
made a movie drama called *Georgia, Georgia* in 1972 and became one of the first African American women to have a screenplay produced as a feature film. Angelou received a Tony Award for her performance in *Look Away* in 1973 even though the play closed after one performance on Broadway.

After her death on April 28, 2014, a documentary was made in her honor called *Maya Angelou and Still I Rise* in 2016, which is a reference to a speech she did at the inauguration of President Clinton. The documentary shares her life through her interviews.

## Teacher Spotlight

by Genesis Munoz

This month’s teacher spotlight comes from our 7th grade Marvelous Marvel team. Since the start of the year, Mrs. Ponson has been an amazing ELA teacher who has worked hard and made sure every student in her class has the opportunity to do a great job. A group of 7th-grade students chose Mrs. Ponson who upon receiving the teacher spotlight stated, “I wouldn’t want to teach anywhere else!” In addition to Mrs. Ponson, Dutchtown Middle has many great teachers!



Mrs. Nawell Ponson, 7th grade ELA







Kristin Ervin prepares cat food for the cats at Cara's house



DTMS BETA members attending Convention



A variety of items can be used as a journal/diary

## Adopt a Pet Today

by Jorja Kling

Kassie Vaughn, Cara's house shelter director, is now running Cara's house in the barns at Lamar Dixon. They are currently here because they are waiting on approval and money to build a new house because theirs is leaking and having electrical problems.

The goal of Cara's house is to rescue dogs and cats and care for them until they find a new forever home. They mainly run off of donations, volunteers and fundraising because of the little money they are given. Lots of people go there and help out to walk the dogs and tend to the cats. Although the parish is planning to put up money to have a shelter built, they aren't there yet. Anyone interested in adopting a pet and supporting Cara's house can go to their website at [www.carashouse.com](http://www.carashouse.com).

## Working for a Win

by Brooke Duplessis

Beta club has been around since 1934. The club originated in Landrum, South Carolina. It is the largest, non-profit, educational youth organization in America. Beta Club hopes to prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders. Throughout Louisiana there are beta clubs in elementary, middle, and high schools.

The Dutchtown Middle School Beta Club has been preparing for the State Convention in Lafayette, Louisiana. Ms. D'andre Blouin, Ms. Denise Bloomer, Mrs. Ebony Motte Guilbeaux, and other sponsors have worked hard all year long to prepare their beta members for competition. Several members will be participating in various activities, and Dutchtown's very own Jillian Jones will be singing the National Anthem. After winning 1st place in songfest at district day, the club is hoping for great outcomes and an invitation to the National Convention in Nashville Tennessee.

## Why write a journal or diary?

by Amelia Stephens

Writing in a journal or diary has been a common practice for many people for a long time. People can write in a journal/diary to remember certain events in their lives, let out all their emotions, or write down discoveries. For example, Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*, provided an important reminder to many people about the horrors of the Holocaust.

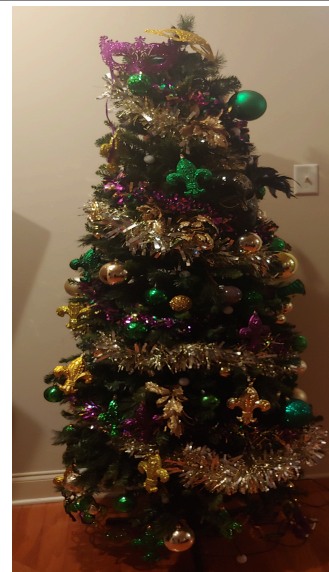
When asked, "Do you think that writing a diary or journal is good for anxiety or depression?" Dutchtown Middle School counselor, Katrice Lewis stated, "Yes, writing allows you an outlet to express inward thoughts and/or feelings." Writing is a very effective tool for expressing emotions that are recommended by many therapists to help with anxiety and depression. Instead of keeping things bottled up, use writing as an outlet to release the tensions of the day!

## Mardi Gras Traditions

by Paxton Costea

Most people that celebrate Mardi Gras don't know much about the background of the popular Louisiana tradition. Although the holiday originated in France, the parades most people are familiar with today began in New Orleans. "Parades began in the 1800s with the first 'throwing' of items occurring around 1870," according to Ducksters.com. In addition to parades, many people attend balls as part of the Mardi Gras celebration. Approximately 1.4 million people celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans, which is the largest number of people that celebrate Mardi Gras in the world.

The official colors for the holiday are green, gold, and purple. Green stands for faith, gold stands for power, and purple stands for justice according to Duckster. Mardi Gras is not only Fat Tuesday, but the two weeks that lead up to it as well.



Some families are starting new traditions by leaving the tree up from Christmas and decorating it for Mardi Gras.



Mardi Gras Cinnamon Rolls

by Vivian Piestrzynski

Mardi Gras Cinnamon Rolls are tasty treats that are easy to make!

Ingredients

- Ready-to-bake cinnamon rolls
- Mardi Gras purple, green, yellow sanding sugar
- Little plastic baby (optional)

Steps

- Preheat oven to 400F
- Open Ready-To-Bake cinnamon rolls
- Separate the Ready-To-Bake cinnamon rolls
- Place the rolls in a greased cake pan
- Bake for 13-17 minutes (times may vary by brand)

Decorating

- Cut tip of packet of frosting (included with cinnamon rolls)
- Drizzle frosting over the hot rolls (DO NOT WAIT UNTIL COOLED)
- Decorate rolls with the Mardi Gras sanding sugars while frosting is still soft so it will stick

If the plastic baby is used, it can be placed inside one of the rolls before baking. Traditionally, the person who gets the baby has to buy or make the next king cake. Enjoy!



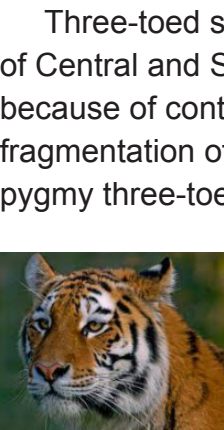
Animal Endangerment

by Kennedie Loiacano

Many animals are in danger. In fact ,there are 8,000,000 endangered animals. The three most popular endangered animals are giant pandas, pygmy three-toed sloths, and tigers.



The common ways a panda dies is by habitat loss, poaching, and a poor bamboo diet. There are only 1,864 pandas left in the world, and they live in temperate forests high in the mountains of Southwest China.



Three-toed sloths live in tropical forests of Central and South America. Sloths die because of continuous destruction and fragmentation of their habitat which is why there are only 300 pygmy three-toed sloths left.



Tigers live in rainforests, grasslands, savannas, and mangrove swamps, but there are only 3,900 left in the world, which is because of poaching, illegal trade of tiger parts, loss of habitat, and climate change. As more and more animals become endangered, many people do their best to save them.

Eight Inexpensive Ways You Can Help Endangered Species  
<http://www.earthsendangered.com/feature.asp? ID=16>

Endangered Species Wordsearch

In order to accommodate the almost one billion people who have been born since the year 1980, forests are being cut down and wild areas are becoming filled with houses and shops. Whole ecosystems are being destroyed in the process, and many animals are becoming extinct. Dire predictions include the following: Twenty per cent of all Earth's species may be lost by the year 2080. The fact is that at least twenty species of plants and animals are becoming extinct every week. Many more are endangered, and unless they receive adequate protection they, too, will become extinct.

The wordsearch below contains a list of 15 animals that are currently on the endangered list. Words may be found across, down, backwards, or diagonally. As you find the names in the wordsearch, cross them off the list at the right.



1. Asian rhinoceros
2. bald eagle
3. Bengal tiger
4. blue whale
5. California condor
6. cui-ui
7. golden marmoset
8. gray wolf
9. green sea turtle
10. mountain gorilla
11. osprey
12. orang-utan
13. polar bear
14. walrus
15. whooping crane

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

Challenge: Use an encyclopedia to find the name of the country in which each animal listed lives.



What's your story?

by Payton McCready



It's king cake season, and, based on the results of a survey, the students at Dutchtown Middle are ready to celebrate!

Christian Dencausse said that he goes to parades with his family and spends hours watching the floats. He is not the only one, however. Out of the 23 people interviewed, 11 of them said that they are going to parades. Many people said king cake was a part of their tradition, including Eliza Emmanuel, who said that “her brother fights her for the plastic baby” whenever they eat.

Many students also said that they visit family for Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is a special holiday for many students, and it is a great family bonding time.

Whether you are celebrating or not, News from the Nest wishes you a Happy Mardi Gras!

If you have any ideas or questions you would like answered in News from the Nest, please email MCCREADY35982@students.apsb.org. The names of people that ask questions will not be revealed.



Get Hooked on a Book

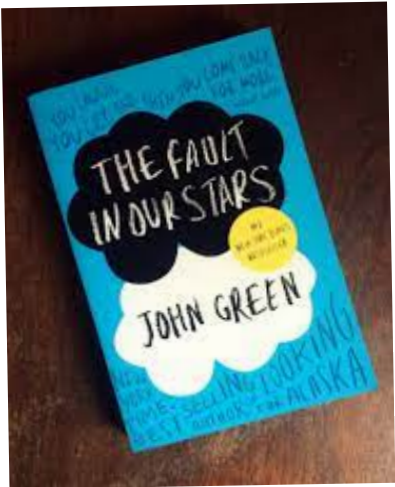
by Payton McCready

An amazing, heartfelt book that many students will love is The Fault In Our Stars by John Green. This novel is a modern, heart-warming story based on a real person that John Green knew.

Hazel Grace Lancaster is a cancer patient who was diagnosed with stage 4 thyroid cancer at age 13. Her parents forced her to do gorup therapy class with other cancer patients, and there she met Augustus Waters. Over time, they grew to be friends mainly because of their shared love for a book, An Imperial Affliction by Peter Van Houten. They soon befriended Isaac, another cancer patient. Isaac has retinoblastoma (ret-in-oh-blast-oh-mah), which is eye cancer. After having eye surgery and becoming blind, we watch Isaac’s journey accepting himself and his condition.



If students have any books they would like recommended, please contact MCCREADY35982@students.apsb.org.

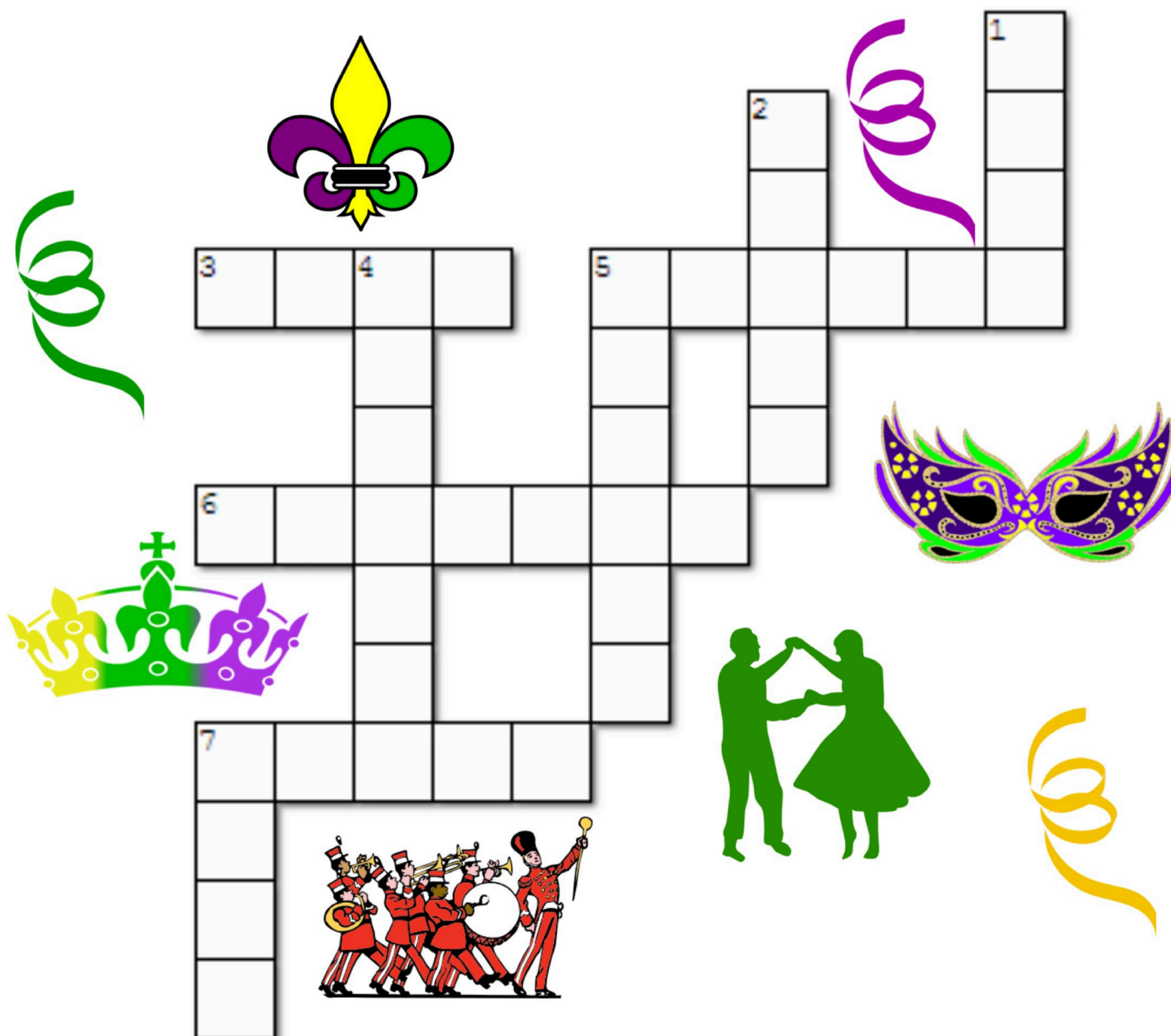


Scan the QR code to order your 2022 yearbook today!



# MARDI GRAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES BELOW TO SOLVE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



## Across

3. 'Laissez les bons temps rouler' means 'Let the \_\_\_\_ times roll'.
5. People celebrate Mardi Gras by giving out \_\_\_\_, green and gold beads.
6. Mardi Gras is also known as Fat \_\_\_\_.
7. My favorite part of Mardi Gras is dancing to the \_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. King \_\_\_\_ is a round baked good, decorated with purple, gold and green.
2. \_\_\_\_ Gras marks the end of Carnival Season.
4. Mardi Gras is celebrated every year in New \_\_\_\_, Louisiana.
5. I love watching the floats in the \_\_\_\_ go by.
7. On Mardi Gras I will wear a \_\_\_\_ to cover my face.



## What is Mardi Gras?

Directions: Use the words in the box below to fill in the blanks.

|           |             |        |         |
|-----------|-------------|--------|---------|
| sacrifice | foods       | Europe | Tuesday |
| forty     | celebration | year   |         |

Mardi Gras is a lively \_\_\_\_\_ held all around the world. It is celebrated each \_\_\_\_\_ right before Lent. In the past, Lent was a time when some people of Christian faith stopped eating certain \_\_\_\_\_, such as meat, dairy, and other animal products for \_\_\_\_\_ days. Mardi Gras gave people the chance to eat all these foods before they had to give them up. Mardi Gras is a French term that means “Fat \_\_\_\_\_.” Lent is still observed today, although most participants choose which of their favorite foods they will \_\_\_\_\_. You can visit huge Mardi Gras celebrations in the United States, South America, and \_\_\_\_\_.

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## How is it Celebrated?



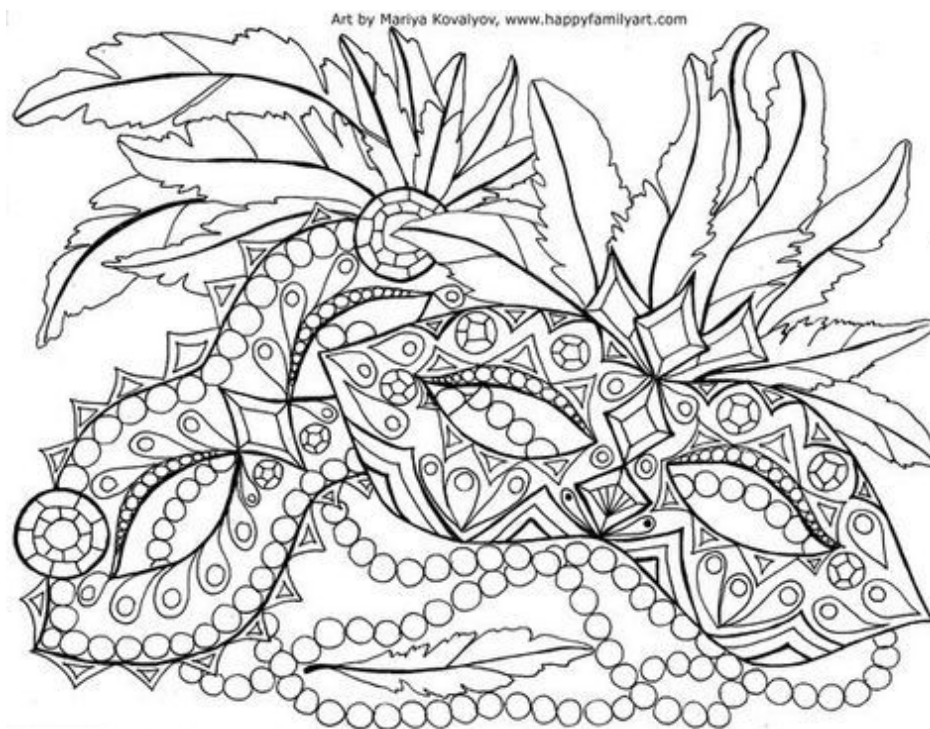
The biggest Mardi Gras celebration in the United States takes place in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is about a week-long party where adults and children eat a lot of tasty food, listen to jazz music, and attend lavish parades.

At these parades, everyone is dressed up in fancy costumes and masks. People on the parade floats hand out candy, beaded necklaces, and special coins called “doubloons” to parade goers. The official colors of Mardi Gras are purple, gold, and green.

**Color the doubloons below using Mardi Gras colors.**



4



Art by Mariya Kovalyov, [www.happyfamilyart.com](http://www.happyfamilyart.com)

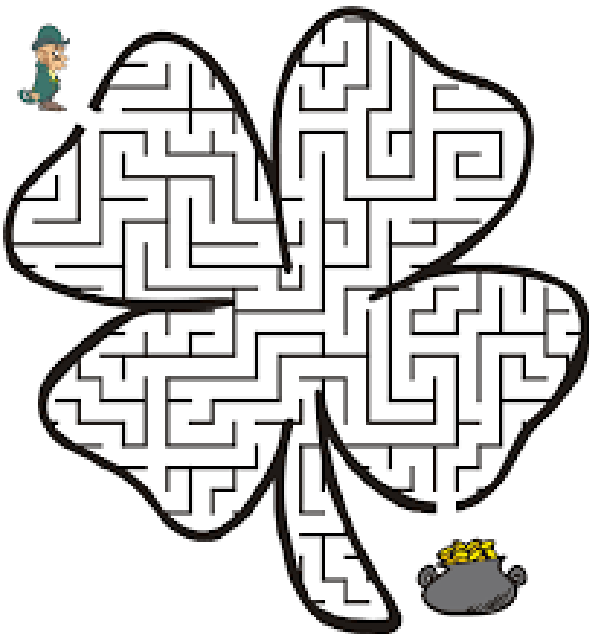


On the Light Side

MARDI GRAS WORD SEARCH

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

- beads  
costumes  
gold  
kingcake  
parade  
queen
- carnival  
dancing  
green  
krewe  
party  
throw
- celebration  
floats  
king  
masks  
purple  
Tuesday



Keep an Eagle Eye on these dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>12:30 Dismissal:</b><br>Tues., 3/15      | <b>TRACK MEET:</b><br>Mar. 9--SAHS  |
| <b>Spring Pictures:</b><br>Wed., 3/9        | <b>Soccer:</b><br>Try-Outs 3/10   |
| <b>Report Cards:</b><br>Mon., 3/21          | Games:<br>3/22 (H) Gonzales<br>3/24 (A) Lake<br>3/29 (A) Prairieville<br>3/31 (H) Bluff |
| <b>Easter Holidays:</b><br>Fri. 4/15 - 4/22 |   |
| <b>LEAP TESTING</b><br>April 27-May 4       | <b>PBIS Extravaganza</b><br>Fri., 3/25  |

St. Patrick's Day

LUNCHBOX JOKES

How can you spot a jealous shamrock?

IT WILL BE GREEN WITH ENVY

What is a leprechaun's favorite cereal?

LUCKY CHARMS

What kind of bow can't be tied?

A RAINBOW

What do you call a fake Irish stone?

A SHAM-ROCK

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

THEY'RE ALWAYS A LITTLE SHORT

Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover?

YOU MIGHT PRESS YOUR LUCK

What do you get when 2 leprechauns have a conversation?

A LOT OF SMALL TALK

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

REGULAR ROCKS ARE TOO HEAVY

Knock, knock. Who's there? Irish. Irish who?

WISH YOU A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

www.anightowlblog.com



The right answer

Puzzle can be found on page 1.

NEWS FROM THE NEST STAFF

|               |                    |                   |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Paxton Costea | Demi Delaune       | Brooke Duplessis  |
| Eliza Emanuel | Eleanor Frederic   | Hayden Jumonville |
| Jorja Kling   | Kennedie Loiacano  | Payton McCready   |
| Genesis Munoz | Vivian Piestrznski | Amelia Stephens   |
| Madi Thigpen  | Savannah Visner    |                   |

Advisors: Mrs. Stacy Landry and Mrs. Debbie Porche