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# SCRIBBLER NATION

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## Cherry Blossoms in D.C.

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### Punch, the Monkey

By Alice Semenova



Have you heard about the tragic story of Punch the monkey from Japan? If not, then let me tell you this sad story from the Ichikawa Zoo that will melt your heart. The Ichikawa City Zoo is located in the city of Nomi, Japan, and occupies 23 hectares of land. The zoo is popular for its red pandas and Asian elephants. Also, many types of monkeys live there, but only one of them made this zoo a famous tourist place. On a warm July day in 2025, the zookeepers were patiently waiting for a new member of the monkey family to arrive. On July 26, 2025, a monkey named Punch was born. He was a cute, fluffy little baby with big brown eyes and a small button nose. Everyone loved him and thought that he was another great addition to the zoo.

Unfortunately, his life started  
-continued on page 5



By Keely McAtee

During just a short period of time each year, a beautiful tree blossoms all across the Nation's Capital. This is none other but the world-famous Japanese Cherry Blossom. In Washington D.C., these flowering trees line the lakes around the city, bringing in tourists from all over the country.

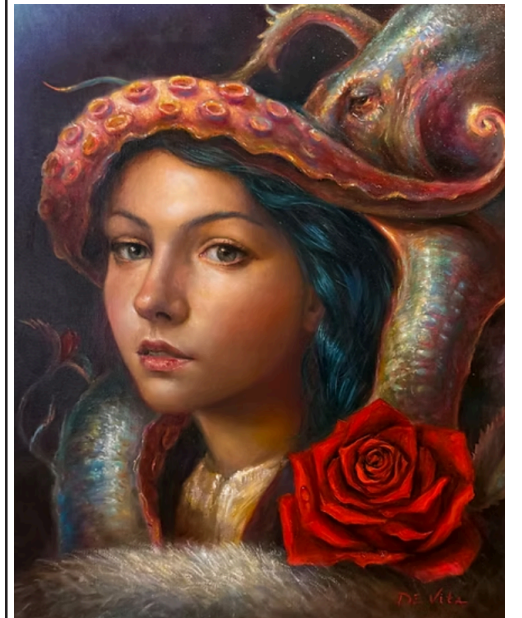
Since it is spring, it is that time of year again! These cherry blossoms are popular in Washington D.C, but few people know that they actually reach into northern Virginia as well! Many houses in this area have if not one, but two of these beautiful trees. When asked about cherry blossoms, a friend of mine automatically said with a huge smile on her face, "pretty and I look forward to seeing them every year." No doubt this is how many others feel as well.

Going to D.C. for the budding of the blossoms is on a lot of people's bucket lists! The city is absolutely packed during this season, and it is hard to time a trip where the trees will actually be flowering. This is because every single year they bloom at a slightly different time in spring, depending on a lot of different factors such as temperature and weather.

But Washington D.C. hasn't always been covered in these magnificent plants. Back in the early 1900s, the wife of a Japanese ambassador gave the Japanese Cherry Blossoms to the United States as a gift. Since then, our Capital has been brighter, prettier, and more of a tourist attraction in the spring.

### Tom DeVita

By Miranda Zavadskaya



Tom De Vita is a New York-born artist and educator who holds a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Miami International University of Art & Design and has taught the art of painting as a professor at several well-known Florida universities, including Barry University, Broward College, and The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. He now runs the De Vita Academy of Art in Davie, Florida, while maintaining an active career as an award-winning painter and muralist whose work has been exhibited in numerous art shows nationwide.

**M:** What was your first painting?

**T:** It was a Black Jaguar, painted in oil pastels. I was nine at the time, and won the art competition in my school

-continued on page 5

## Swim, Swim Michael Phelps!

By Andrew Kudyakov

It was a cold, foggy, damp day. People screamed and cheered from the crowd. "Here he comes!" said the referee. "The worldwide class champion, Micheal Phelps!"

It was another day at the 2016 Olympics! Micheal Phelps stepped into the lane. He was placed in lane 4, the second fastest lane. Here came his main opponent, the Brazilian Henrique Rodriguez. He was placed in lane 5, the fastest lane. They were going to swim the 200IM. The 200IM is a race where swimmers will be swimming all the strokes. The strokes are done in alphabetical order. Butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. The words IM stands for the "Individual Medley race".

The referee was now ready. He was now going to blow the whistle 4 times, indicating get on the diving boards. The referee was going to say, "Take your marks!" This meant get ready. Now he blew his whistle, and everybody dived off the blocks.

Phelps dived in and started to kick rapidly. He was putting all his power into the kick because swimmers move faster under the water. Once he was out of breath, he came out and started swimming the butterfly stroke. In the butterfly stroke, it is important to pull out the arms and pull back with strength. Phelps now touched the wall adding 0.65 seconds.

That was not good. All of sudden, the crowd gasped in amazement. He started to catch up and dropped the 0.65 seconds! Now that was good.

Phelps was now swimming his slowest stroke: breaststroke. Henrique Rodriguez was now losing. He couldn't stand to see that Phelps was winning, but he was now catching up. They were now both going the same speed. It was the final lap and Phelps was swimming freestyle. The crowd closed its eyes. Michael Phelps won! He got a time of 1:54.66 and beat the world record. He was now the world champion!



## Helping the Community

By Genesis Miller



You can't have a good community without dedicated and kind people. The scouts do a lot for the community of Campton Hills, Illinois. I got a chance to catch up with my neighbor, Mrs. King. Mrs. King moved to my neighborhood a few years ago but has lived in the Campton Hills area for many years now. She lives with her two kids, Valentina [16] and Lucas [15], as well as her husband Tom.

Mrs. King does a lot for the community. One of the things she does is what's called a Scout Master. She explained that her job was to provide "direct contact with the youth leader and give any guidance for helping the scouts through the program." Her role is expanded so that she helps train other leaders to "do the best job that they can do". Mrs. King said she has been a part of four different troops in her time as a scout.

In 2017 Mrs. King also attended the Campton Hills Citizen Police Academy. She said, "We learned what the police do, and at the end of it they asked us if we wanted to volunteer with them, and I said yes." She has become a part of the community emergency response team since 2018. "This year they started the volunteer police program, so any time the officers need extra hands or help because of bad weather, because there's an accident, because there's an event, because our police department doesn't have a lot of officers on duty every day, the volunteer group I'm apart of comes and backs them up." She adds, "So they're the first responders, we're the second responders."

Mrs. King also volunteers at the nature center, sharing her knowledge of the outdoors. She says she helps people by telling them whatever she knows about the outdoors. Mrs. King also works at the desk, and greets people as they enter. She has been volunteering there for a few years now.

Being able to contribute so much to the community took some time as Mrs. King emigrated here from Columbia when she was just 18. She says "it was very hard. Because when you come from another country and you want to say something, sometimes you don't have the voice to say it. You only have certain words so it almost sounds like you're dumb, but you are not." Despite all these challenges, Mrs. King has been able to contribute much to the Campton Hills community.

## Weird Idea or Hit Story?

By Josie Balkowski

Have you ever had a story idea pop into your head and immediately thought, "That's weird."

Like a vending machine that starts talking back.

Or a student who realizes their backpack has been quietly judging them all year.

Or a completely normal Tuesday...except it's also a time loop.

A lot of writers toss those out ideas because they seem too far fetched. They feel "out there".

But here's the thing: these story ideas are often the best ones because they stand out. Readers like stories they can't predict. Unpredictable stories make readers actually want to keep reading. The unpredictability is the attraction.

The truth is, almost every story you love started out sounding kind of weird at first.

A school for kids who do magic? Weird.

A world where toys come alive when no one's watching? Weird.



A girl fighting for her life in a televised competition? Definitely weird.

But writers didn't stop at the "weird" part. They asked, "What happens next?" and "Why does this matter?"

That's the trick.

A strange idea becomes a great story when you treat it like it matters. Give your characters real feelings and emotions. Make them relatable. Put them in situations that make the reader care. Let the world feel real, even if it isn't.

So if you ever get an idea that feels a little "out there," don't shut it down too fast.

Write it down.

You might just have the next hit right at your fingertips!

## Student Columns



My favorite spring activities are going outside, playing with my friends and going in the pool.  
-Talia

My most treasured endeavor in the vernal is sidewalk surfing.  
-Victor

One of my favorite spring activities is going out, picking flowers, drying them, and using them in my resin crafts!  
-Lizzie

In the spring I really enjoy hanging out with my friends and having picnics in the sun!  
-Keely

I like to play tag in Spring because I like when there are flowers around me while I'm happily playing with my friends.  
-Anna

During Spring, there are flowers in the fields or the smell of fresh outdoor grass. Whenever there are flowers, bees start to pollinate. I like to look at how bees are pollinating flowers, and I think it is cool. I also like to play with my friends whenever they come over in spring.  
-Andrew

My favorite spring activity is picking many, many flowers from our yard to make a breathtaking bouquet.  
-Miranda



My favorite April Fools' prank was making my dad a very creative breakfast—rubber 'eggs', jelly-like juice stuck in the cup, and oatmeal frozen solid. He was so confused at first then couldn't stop laughing!  
-Miranda

This April Fools Day, we went camping with my friend and he family and her family and her brother kept taking my bike so I set a gear that made it so hard for him to ride it.  
-Talia

One time my brother and I made an "ice cream" sundae out of mayo, ranch dressing, and chocolate syrup. Then we gave it to people to eat. That was a really funny prank!  
-Keely

I love putting my mom's computer mouse under a bucket and yelling "MOM I GOT A MOUSE!" she'd come running and say "really?" I'd lift the bucket and she'd roll her eyes while I cracked myself up.  
-Rylee

One of my all-time favorite pranks is adding a ton of salt into some kind of non-transparent drink, like orange juice, and either offering it to someone or just leaving it for somebody to drink. So fun to see their face after they drink!  
-Lizzie

My favorite april fools prank is jumpscaring my dad whenever he walks by me.  
-Anna

My favorite April fools prank is cranking the sound up on the television to the maximum and waiting until someone turns it on and gets their eardrums exploded.  
-Victor

Whenever I'm with my mother, she is always cooking something in the kitchen. My mom hates rodents like mice and rats. Every april fools I would scream, "THERE IS A RAT!" and it would be so funny to see her reaction.  
-Andrew

## Punch continued

with tragic events. First, Punch's mother quickly abandoned him after birth. It was her first baby, and she was under a lot of stress and inexperienced in parenting. She remained in the zoo, but did not care for her infant, and the zookeepers had to raise Punch by themselves. The other monkeys did not accept Punch either and bullied him frequently. The zookeepers decided to buy Punch a stuffed monkey toy to keep him company. No one expected him to react the way he did. Punch carried his new friend everywhere he went and even slept with it. After this cute gesture, Punch quickly blew up on the internet. Celebrities, such as Lisa from Blackpink and Lindsey Vonn, visited him in the zoo, and people from the internet supported Punch as they could: some by coming to see Punch and others just writing nice words in the comments of his videos. Now, Punch has started to socialize with his fellow monkeys, and he is having a good life.

## Let's Celebrate Our Awesome Students!

**March Student of the Month Meet Matthew!**

Matthew has taken his academic writing seriously throughout middle school, consistently pushing himself to grow with each assignment. From thoughtful essays to well-researched papers, he approaches every project with focus and determination, always striving to dig deeper and support his ideas with meaningful evidence. Matthew's commitment to strengthening his research, analysis, and insight has made his writing more powerful with every course — a dedicated scholar and an impressive voice in academic writing!

**Impressive Excerpt!**

While the world flocks to the canals of Venice or the cliffs of Amalfi, the 'heel of Italy's boot' remains a sanctuary of beauty. Puglia's appeal lies in its authenticity, expressed through its rustic 'cucina povera' (peasant cooking), the charm of its unique buildings, and a coastline that remains largely untouched by the commercialism of Northern Italy. Puglia preserves a soul that many more traveled-over regions have lost, proven through the creation of the Trulli, the origins of locally sourced cuisine, and the rugged beauty of the coast.

**Profile**

Grade: Middle School

Favorite Type of Writing: Research

Favorite Book: Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Future Goals: Mechanical Engineering

**April Student of the Month Meet James!**

James was one of the youngest students to join Online Scribblers and immediately exceeded expectations with tremendous creativity and imagination. Now having completed 10 courses, she continues to give her all to every piece of writing, bringing focus and care to grammar and punctuation while crafting memorable characters and stories. Her ability to bring ideas to life for her readers makes her a shining star!


**Profile**

Grade: Upper Elementary

Favorite Type of Writing: Fiction

Favorite Book: My favorite books are the Keeper of the Lost Cities series.

Future Goals: I love reading and writing, so when I grow up I would love to be an author.



# Linguistic Neglect Hurts Deaf Community Interview with an Experienced Lifeguard: Jason Ridge

By Genesis Miller

The deaf community is ignored and need of help, specifically the children. They have limited access to good communication opportunities in today's society. Programs are becoming more readily available now. "The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them," says American speech teacher and author, Ralph Nichols. 3.6 percent of Americans are deaf, nearly twelve million people, and yet they are ignored. Society makes it seem like the deaf community is getting all the help needed, yet a closer look into the shadows shows that they are not receiving the proper help or given the needed resources for success in a primarily vocal community. "The lack of accessibility in everyday life takes a toll on the Deaf community. As a hard of hearing person, I utter the phrase, 'I'm sorry, but could you repeat that?'" in nearly every conversation. My words usually linger in the air as a glimpse of annoyance brushes across people's faces... This lack of access to information has followed me around my entire life," says a member of the deaf community in a Fourteen East Magazine. An article titled "Linguistic Neglect of Deaf Children in the United States", says that "90% of deaf children are born into a family that speaks a language they cannot naturally acquire." This can cause Linguistic Neglect.

Linguistic neglect, failure to provide a hard of hearing child with exposure to natural language in their early years, is a key problem in the deaf community. It has affected as many as 70 percent of deaf and hard of hearing children. It causes irreversible academic issues as well as cognitive and mental health. In early years it's fundamental that a person learns the basics because their brain is developing. The Deaf ASL Literacy Film Academy Junior is a program at the Maryland School for the Deaf that runs the last week of July for deaf kids in grades 4-8 to give them a chance to express themselves. They get to do film making and storytelling.

The state of Illinois does have a Facebook page that is now regularly updated with events for the deaf community, titled, Illinois Deaf and ASL Social Events Facebook Page. The deaf community faces limits from lack of awareness, but programs are becoming available.

By Keely McAtee



Jason Ridge is an experienced lifeguard who will be the assistant manager of his pool this year. He is currently a freshman in college and has been lifeguarding for three years. He enjoys his job.

**Keely:** How long have you been a lifeguard?

**Jason:** My name is Jason Ridge, and this is my 4th year of lifeguarding.

**Keely:** What is it like being a lifeguard?

**Jason:** I would say it's a great experience overall. I always have a great time. I work with so many amazing coworkers, and I get paid well. I also get to keep everyone safe in my community.

**Keely:** How did you get certified to become a lifeguard?

**Jason:** I got certified through the Red Cross. I took a couple days of training, and I got certified in CPR. My training was a Friday night and then Saturday and Sunday all day, and we would practice many different saves. We would spend a lot of time doing the deep water saves in the 12 foot area, which is very difficult. And then we do some saves with the backboard and that type of stuff. We also practice scenarios, as well. Such as when someone's choking, we'd learn about that, and we'd see lots of videos of people drowning to scare us, and make sure that we're doing the

# Neighborhood Girls Start Animal Rescue

By Genesis Miller

In a small neighborhood in Campton Hills, a group of girls set out to make a difference. One summer afternoon, four girls, Valentina (11), Genesis (13), Gwyn (13), and Stefie (12), sat on Valentina's porch, talking about building a treehouse. The neighborhood was surrounded by woods and they were frequently trying to help baby birds and injured chipmunks. Genesis suddenly sat up and declared, "We should rescue animals!"

Shortly after this gathering, the house next door was bought. This house had a barn, and a girl named Emma, who was close in age to the preteens, quickly became a part of the group. As they sat around the second floor of the dusty barn, they decided to start an animal rescue. After discussing many names Genesis pointed out that they were next to a forest, and the name Forest Side Animal Rescue was chosen.

Creating the animal rescue turned out to be a bigger project than any of the five girls had expected. Emma had the girls sign the Articles of Incorporation (Form NFP 102.10) and sent them off to the secretary of state in order that they might become a legal non-profit. After around 200 dollars and confusing research, F.S.A.R became official in 2022. The barn was repainted and stocked with cages, pet food, and animal care supplies.

Since 2022, F.S.A.R has taken in multiple birds, a bunny, kittens, and a hedgehog. The girls' website says, "We strive to help animals in need of a home. Our long term goal is to educate more people outside our hometown. We are a rescue who loves to reach out instead of waiting for people to call us. The animal rescue was started by our owner when she was 12 years old, which is why we aim to engage kids in our rescue. We believe that if you care, no matter how old you are, you can make a difference."

## Miranda continued

and won the art competition in my school

**MR: What is your best painting?**

**T:** My favorite one is probably Calypso. It is an 11" x 14" oil on canvas, showcasing a young woman looking towards the front with a calm face. She has dark hair and is wearing a large, colorful octopus on her head. The octopus has long arms that wrap around her, and her skin glows under the light. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, bright red rose that stands out against the dark background.

**M: What are some funny stories that happened to your paintings?**

**T:** There are many of them, but two of my favorites are 1) When I was still a painter and worked from home, I was asked to do a large mural to put on a wall. I decided to start from scratch and took some raw canvas. I nailed the canvases to my wall and covered all of them in gesso. But what I didn't know was that the canvas and some part of the wall would shrink from it! It all ended with me and the furniture around me covered in the white, sticky goo. 2) One time, I decided to make a challenge to myself and paint multiple paintings at the same time. I lie down on the floor and begin. About an hour later, the doorbell rings. My pug, Picasso, goes wild. He runs all over the paintings and then over the white furniture. Let's just say the delivery guy was surprised to see such a mess after we opened the door.

**M: Did any of your students pursue a career in the arts?**

**T:** Yes, a couple of them did. I am especially proud of a student who joined the Walt Disney Animation Studio in California and helped design the movie Zootopia 2.

**M: What is your favorite way to paint?**

**T:** My favorite way to paint is in oils. Oil paints blend smoothly and dry slowly, which gives me more time to adjust something in the painting.

**M: What do you prefer? Painting or teaching?**

**T:** If you would've asked me that question 20 years ago, I would've said painting. But then, I tried teaching, and I loved it! Besides, I now get to hang out with the cool kids (gestures to the whole classroom).



20 years ago, I would've said painting. But then, I tried teaching, and I loved it! Besides, I now get to hang out with the cool kids (gestures to the whole classroom).

**M: If you could give advice to future painters, what would it be?**

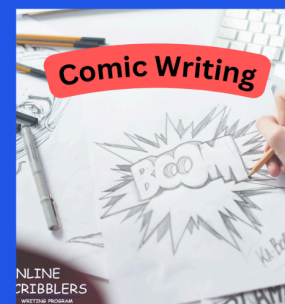
**T:** Paint! Don't stop yourself. If you don't like something, try again. Don't let anyone stop you from doing anything. That's my motto.

Tom De Vita's DVAART Academy is located at 5400 S University Dr #105, Davie, FL 33328. Their working hours are:

Monday – Thursday: 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

## New Classes!



# 5 Easy Ways to Keep Writing This Summer

By Josie Balkowski

You don't need school assignments to get better at writing. You just need a few ideas—and a little time. Try these:

## 1. Write What You Want (Seriously)

Forget “perfect” writing. Write about:

- Something funny that happened
- A dream you had
- Your favorite game, show, or sport

If you like what you're writing about, you'll actually keep going.

## 2. Try 10-Minute Writing Sprints

Set a timer for 10 minutes and just go.

- Don't stop
- Don't delete
- Don't overthink

You'll be surprised how much you can write when you don't second-guess yourself.

## 3. Make Up Stories

Create:

- A new superhero
- A world with no rules
- A different ending to a movie

Be creative. No one's grading it.

## 4. Keep a Low-Key Journal

This isn't homework. It's just for you. You can:

- Write a few sentences a day
- Make lists
- Rant about something

No one else has to see it.

## 5. Write With Friends

Writing is way more fun with other people. Try:

- Taking turns writing a story
- Sending each other prompts
- Writing in a shared doc

**One Last Thing:** You don't need to write every day. Just don't stop completely. Even a little writing here and there will make school writing feel much easier.

## Lifeguard continued

right things. Overall, I think my training really helped me learn these skills and I think my skills are really ingrained in me.

**Keely:** What's the most challenging experience you've had while on the job?

**Jason:** One time I was working, and I was there with a sub manager. She was pretty young. She didn't really know as much about the pool because she was subbing. So, there was this kid that came to the pool who came often and he couldn't swim. Of course, his dad still brings him to the pool, and his dad doesn't even give him floaties anymore, so he's not safe at all. He the boy) doesn't listen to his dad and his dad also doesn't watch him. He doesn't focus on him, and it's really dangerous. We've had to warn his family a couple times, and we've even had to rescue his brother in the past back before I was on the staff.

There was this one day he just walked in. And I was like, “oh, no.” So what happened was, he was just in the pool playing around, you know, as little kids do. But his dad was just sitting in the corner, not paying any attention at all. The kid just started flailing and looked really distressed and then he started shouting for help, and his dad was just in the corner not doing anything at all. I got off the stand and looked in the pool, and I did my jump in. Then I swam to him and I pulled him out. His dad wasn't concerned at all. His dad was actually telling me not to jump in and said, “oh, he's fine. It doesn't matter.” But I still jumped in anyway because I knew that his son was in trouble. I jumped in, grabbed him, and pulled him to safety, just like I had been trained to do in my lifeguard classes. I had to talk with his dad because the kid wouldn't really understand. He was only about 6. And so I told his dad that he couldn't bring his son to the pool anymore if he wasn't going to watch him. I told him he was gonna have to get in the water with him (his son) and actually pay attention to him because he's too young and he can't swim well enough where you can just let him go like that. We haven't seen them at the pool since, which is probably a good thing. I think that was really scary for me as a lifeguard, but, ultimately, he was saved. And I did my job.

**Keely:** What is your favorite part about lifeguarding?

**Jason:** Lifeguarding, I love it so much. It's so much fun. I have a great staff that I work with and it's a great time. This year I'm gonna be assistant manager for my pool, and I have a great manager, and I have great coworkers, and we spend a lot of time together, and we go out to eat together. We do all kinds of things. One time when it was thundering and the pool was closed to the public, we even set up pickleball together out of the chairs and tables. It's just a fun time.

**Keely:** How do you deal with difficult patrons?

**Jason:** You have to be polite. You can't match their energy. You have to always be polite. So what I usually do is I tell the guards that are not managing, just the normal guards, I always tell them to come get the manager if there's a problem. And the manager will, either redirect them somewhere else, like to the lady upstairs, in our clubhouse, or to someone higher up in our company. Otherwise I can usually deal with the problem. I usually solve it. I ask them some questions, and I just see what they need. You just have to be understanding and patient. But if they continue to be a problem or if they're just really rude and you think they're dangerous or they're cursing a lot, then you just have to make sure they leave. You have to kick them out. But that doesn't happen too often.

Jason Ridge is excited to work again this summer at his outdoor pool with all of his friends. Hopefully he won't have to deal with too many difficult patrons!



# Cinco De Mayo Page!



## Churros!

By Miranda Zavadskaya

Nothing makes Cinco de Mayo more special than churros! Especially the ones from the Pioneer Woman. Not only are they fluffy and delicious, but they are also easy to make! So, tag along, amigos, for a sweet ride! (Pun intended)

### Ingredients

For the churros:

- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 Tbsp. light brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 large eggs, room temperature

For the whipped dulce de leche:

- 1 cup cold heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup dulce de leche

### Directions

1. For the churros: In a medium saucepan, heat 1 cup of water, butter, brown sugar, vanilla, and salt until the mixture comes to a rolling boil over medium-high heat. Remove the pan from heat, add the flour all at once, and stir vigorously with a wooden spoon. Once all of the flour is incorporated, place the pan back over medium-high heat. Stir continuously for 4-5 minutes until the dough is smooth, forms a skin on the bottom of the pan, and is pulling away from the edges of the pan. Place the dough into a medium bowl. Allow the dough to cool for 5 minutes.

2. In a large Dutch oven over medium heat, heat 1 1/2 inches of oil until the oil registers 350°F. In a shallow dish, combine the granulated sugar and cinnamon.

3. With a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the churro dough for 1 minute on medium speed. Beat in the eggs one at a time, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl each time. Beat until the egg is fully incorporated. Transfer the mixture to a piping bag fitted with a large open star tip (Ateco 846).



4. For the whipped dulce de leche: In a large bowl, beat the cream with a hand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment until very soft peaks form. Add the dulce de leche and whip on medium speed until the dulce de leche is fully combined with the cream. Increase the speed to high and whip until the cream forms fluffy, medium peaks. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

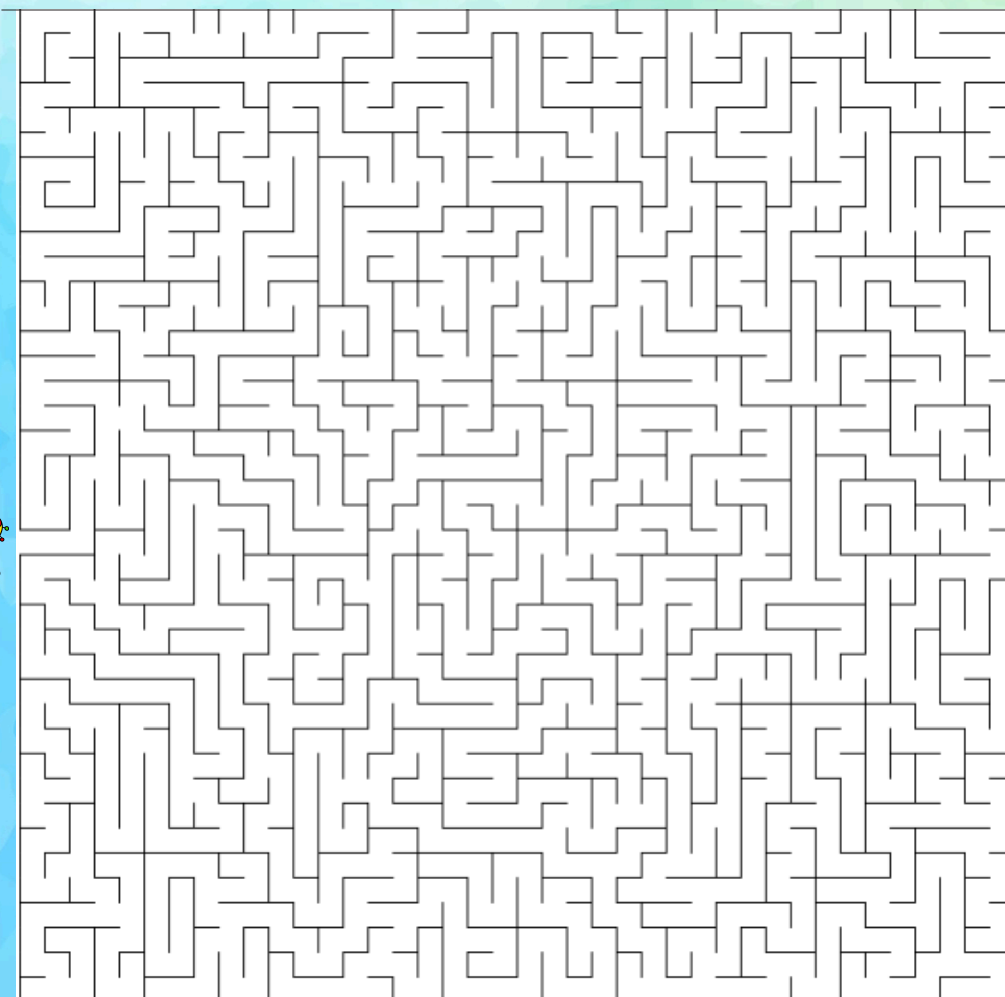
5. Holding the piping bag a few inches above the hot oil, carefully pipe a churro until it is about 4 inches long. Use a clean pair of scissors to cut the dough from the piping bag. Fry 3 or 4 churros at a time until they are golden, turning with a pair of tongs as necessary, 4 to 5 minutes.

6. Remove the churros from the oil and immediately roll them in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Place the churros on a cooling rack.

7. Serve hot or at room temperature with the whipped dulce de leche.

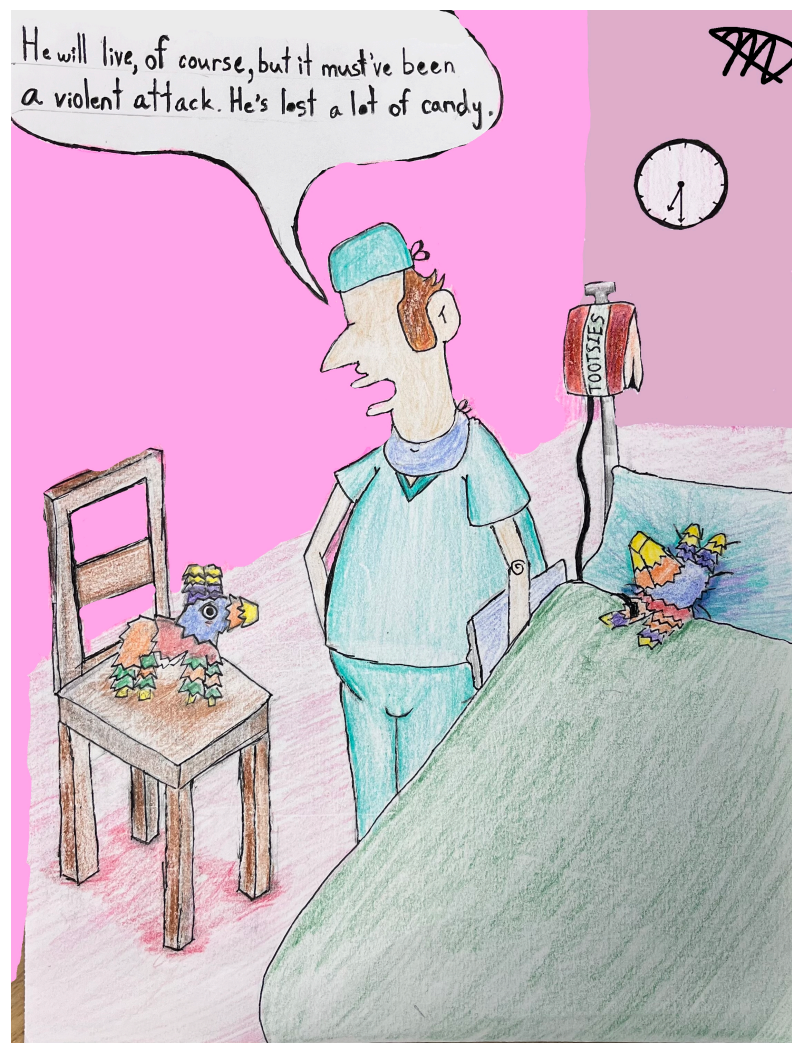
There you have it, ladies and gentlemen. A dessert so eye-catching and delicious, it's practically impossible to get wrong. Serve these up and get ready for the compliments. ¡Buen provecho!

## FIND THE LOST TACO MAZE!



## Comics

By Miranda Zavadskaya



## Staff

**Anna Kudyakova** is a 4th grader who likes reading and drawing. One day she hopes to become an architect.

**Andrew Kudyakov** is a 6th grader who enjoys to draw, swim, and go fishing. One day he hopes to swim in the Olympics.

**Keely McAtee** is a junior in high school who enjoys painting, running, swimming, and listening to music. She is currently working on writing a novel and hopes to get it published someday.

**Genesis Miller** is a senior who is in debate club! She enjoys playing guitar and writing poetry. She has been writing for most of her life and her favorite form is creative writing!

**Alice Semenova** is an eighth grader who is a professional tennis player. In her spare time she enjoys reading and playing with Legos. One day she hopes to win The Wimbledon Championships.

**Miranda Zavadskaya** is a 13-year-old 10th grader who enjoys baking confectioneries and writing novels in her spare time. She is currently running a baking business, and hopes to open her own bakery in the near future.

## Creative Writing Corner!

### Easy Peasy, Lemon Squeezy

By Anna Kudyakova

In New York, on 12th Avenue, in building number 108 lived a girl named Bella. She was a very nice girl, but most of the time, she was weird. Bella always did opposite things. For example, she drew with makeup but did her face with paint and Sharpies! One day, her father told her that he and her mother were going out of town for work. Bella's dad gave her a list of chores to do. Bella told her parents that their apartment would be clean as new.

After her parents left, Bella looked at the list, and the first thing she saw was to wash the dishes. Bella told herself that this was easy peasy, lemon squeezy. Bella went to the kitchen and turned on the water in the sink. Then she looked at the dirty dishes and grabbed horseradish. After that she said out loud, "Since horseradish is white, then the dishes will be white." Bella poured horseradish on the plates and started scrubbing with her dirty hands.

Then the girl looked at the second thing on the list, and it was to throw the garbage away. Bella took the garbage and did not know where to throw it away, so she looked at the balcony, and something got in her head. She walked to the balcony and threw the garbage away as hard as she could. The garbage fell very fast, and in a few seconds, it was on the ground.

Then she looked at the list, and the last thing she saw was to vacuum the floor. Bella took the vacuum from the closet and turned it on. While she was vacuuming the floor, the water in the sink was still on. Bella looked and gasped: there was a flood in the kitchen! She ran into the kitchen, but then she saw that the vacuum was flying, twirling, and sucking everything in its way in the living room. Bella ran to the vacuum and tried to turn it off, but the vacuum was too fast. She jumped, she ran, and she jogged, but nothing helped. Then she opened the balcony, and the vacuum flew out. Bella sighed in relief.

After that disaster, Bella said to herself, "I'm done with everything, so I shall eat ice cream with mustard and sit down and watch a movie." So, Bella took ice cream with mustard and sat down to watch her movie. In thirty minutes, there was a knock on the door. Bella ran and opened the door. She saw her parents and smiled. She was so proud of herself that she finished all her chores. "Dad! Dad," Bella shouted, "I finished them all!"

When her mother came in, she saw the flood in the kitchen. The living room looked empty and destroyed, like after a hurricane. The ceiling was scratched; the floor was covered with pieces of the crystal chandelier. Mom's favorite collection of books was missing. She couldn't say a word and fainted. Luckily, Bella's father caught her in time. He looked angrily at Bella and yelled, "BELLA WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!"

## Have a Laugh!

Sit back and  
relax...leave the  
writing to the  
prose.

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HA