

# Shamrock Gazette

Volume 7, Issue 2

February/March 2018 Issue



Which Weird Ice Cream Flavor Would You Pick?  
Page 6



Art Contest Announced!  
Page 2



Kendo vs. Kenjutsu  
Page 4

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - FUN FOR ALL!

By Anayssa Perez & Hailey Woo

To kick off Catholic Schools week, we began with a crazy twist. Everyone showed up wearing different shoes, shirts and pants inside out, crazy hair, and different colored socks.

There was also a surprise that the teachers had organized. Each teacher switched classes. The 8th grade class switched with the kindergarten class and we didn't just switch teachers, we also switched classrooms! The 8th graders had a lot of fun playing with blocks and building a tower.

On Tuesday, we had Grandparent's Day and the Peace Parade. This year Grandparent's day was the busiest we've ever seen it. The liturgy was beautiful and was put on by Ms. Patriarca. The songs she chose were perfect and they put a twist on the last song, by clapping. We also had the Peace Parade and it felt more lively than previous years. For example you could just tell how much the 6th grade cared about their cause. Every year Catholic Schools week gets better and better!

*Continued on Page 2*



Our annual Peace Parade is one of the awesome events during Catholic Schools Week!

### History of Valentine's Day!

By Sophia Carrasquilla



Valentine's Day goes back many centuries, where loved ones shared gifts such as flowers and candy in the name of St. Valentine. But how exactly was Valentine's Day started in the name of a saint?

St. Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl. She was possibly his jailer's daughter, who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, he wrote her a letter signed "from your Valentine," an expression that is still used today.

Later in the Middle Ages, valentine greetings were popular but it wasn't until about 1400 that written valentines started. A poem was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while she was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Now all around the world on February 14th, many friends and loved ones express their affection for each other. To think it all started with the love and compassion shown by St. Valentine.

## SHAKESPEARIENCE!

*A New Take on the Performing Arts*

By Emma O'Reilly



Shakespeareience is a new program and an addition to St. Finn Barr's curriculum. Students from Kindergarten through 8th grade prepare, rehearse, and exercise their creative thinking skills in order to produce a Shakespeare-related performance for the school to watch. Shakespeareience allows students to develop and utilize their confidence, imagination, and flexibility as they practice the art of acting.

These young actors and actresses learn to accept new ideas and challenges in acting. Most importantly, they get a grasp of Shakespeare literature. The program has benefited every student as they foster comprehension in Shakespeare context. SFB students are working hard to put together their plays, such as *Romeo and Juliet*.

Ms. Kitty, the founder and director of the program, shared her thoughts on this exciting new program. She has brought so much joy to each class and has demonstrated that Shakespeare literature isn't just text you analyze in a language arts class. Here is what she had to say.

#### What is the mission of Shakespeareience?

The mission of Shakespeareience is to bring William's words to life in a dynamic, compelling way, provide a vehicle for self-expression, and heighten self-esteem.

#### As the founder of Shakespeareience, what influenced you to start this program?

From being a professional actor for almost 30 years, Shakespeare became my forte. It became what I was known for and what I focused on. I was then able to tailor my career to it. I was always in love with it and it was all I ever wanted to do. When I started to understand that kids could get it better than adults could, I just wanted to spread the word!

#### What do you like most about your job?

I love watching students realize that these plays were written for them, and for everyone. They can put their

*Continued on Page 2*

## School News & Events

# Shakespeareience

Continued from Page 1

own voices behind the plays and suddenly find their unique twist - it's perfect. Just being able to find out that they're getting the hang of, for example, a rapier fight or a line is what it's all about.

### What are some of your greatest accomplishments in the field of acting?

As a woman in theatre, it's tricky to find a home - a company that you can play all those roles. I was able to accomplish that and I'm very proud of that. The best thing I've ever done as an actor was start this education program. I can bring it to life in ways that other teachers can't because I have that skill set and that passion. I worked so hard at it and I'm able to bring all that to students now. It feels like my whole career was a lead up to Shakespeareience.

It's lovely to have the hands on knowledge I have of these roles as a background as opposed to teaching it from a book. I can help kids understand Shakespeare much better.



### What makes Shakespeareience so much different from any other acting program?

There are so many acting programs available in the Bay Area. Most are directly connected to a professional theatre. However, ours is not. Ours is strictly just Shakespeareience and education. All of our energy goes into that.

We're not worried about a full production for adults or hiring equity actors. It means that I'm able to dedicate so much into curriculum, development, and new ideas. What we're most known for is combat and teaching kids about broadswords and

rapiers. There's so much in Shakespeare that allows for that. It's our MO - you're going to fight and speak a verse! We do a lot of acting technique, as well, but it's just that we're uniquely about Shakespeare. We don't really branch out. We have other programs as well. I just started Artemis Mentoring, which is for girls 13 to 18 doing group work with girls at that time period.

We've got a lot more that we're able to develop because it's all going into Shakespeareience. We don't have to be distracted by any other professional organization.

### What's your favorite Shakespeare play? Why?

*Hamlet* was my first favorite play when I was five. I stuck to *Hamlet* for a really long time. I'm having problems with the characters these days! Additionally, *Othello* was a favorite of mine for very a long time. I can't seem to escape *Macbeth*. I've played Lady Macbeth four times and I teach it so often. I can't get out of Scotland!

My heart's favorite Shakespeare play as an actor is *Much Ado About Nothing*. Playing Beatrice lets you do tragedy, comedy, and a little bit of *Hamlet*, in the sense that you're the smartest person on stage.

Beatrice just gives you so much to do. You don't have to take home all that heavy at the end of the night. It's also a happy ending! There have been all these wrongs, like in a tragedy, but in the end it works out! It's kind of a relief to be in that world.



## Catholic School's Week!

Continued from Page 1



This year, the science fair was one of the most interesting yet! Almost every student put their utmost effort into each of their projects.

On Thursday, we had our annual pep rally held by student council and it was a great time for everyone. We could tell that all of the students were very excited to come together as a community, while playing some competitive games. Games included an obstacle course, corn hole, and ball shoot. Each class played and had a lot of fun!

We ended our fun-filled week with a holiday on Friday! Overall, Catholic School's Week was a huge success!

### Science Fair Winners

#### Sixth Grade

1st Place - Caleb Ramos: Soaked Soap

2nd Place - Andrew Nay: Hull or High Water

3rd Place - Sean Walker: Chocolate Land

#### Honorable Mentions -

Lucca Chemla: Plant Aspirin  
Xochitl Churchill & Johanna Gormley: Spinach Science

#### Seventh Grade

1st Place - Daniel Baran: Caffeine: Fertilizer or Killer

2nd Place - Alexandra Diaz: Radish Seed Radiation

3rd Place - Kiana Paredes: Paper Decomposition

#### Honorable Mentions -

Alexandra Nepomuceno: Water Wars  
Gina Cardenas: How to Prevent an Avocado from Browning  
Lucas López: The 5 Second Rule



## Attention All Artists!

The Journalism Club is hosting an art contest!

Theme: Fairy Tale  
Deadline: March 9, 2018

Winners will be featured in the April issue of the *Gazette*!

#### Rules:

1. Submit your artwork c/o Alex Diaz or Lola Guajardo (7 Grade), at the main office by Friday, March 9th.
2. Make sure to write your name and grade on the back of your art piece.
3. Judging will be held in March and we will announce winners during our morning assembly in early April.

## Other News & Features

# THE WEIRDEST ANIMALS IN THE WORLD

By Murillo Oliveira

We're all familiar with animals that live around us, like dogs or cats but there are many animals in the world that many of us have never seen before. Here are just a few.

First, here is the Axolotl. The Axolotl is a small salamander that can be found in various lakes around Mexico City. This creature is currently listed as an endangered species due to urbanization and water pollution.

This amphibian can regenerate its limbs, has lidless eyes, and can be black or albino. Axolotls eat worms, insects, small fish, and just about anything else that can fit inside their mouth and swallow whole, including other salamanders.



Next, there is the red-lipped batfish. The Red-lipped batfish is found near the Galapagos Islands and looks like it's wearing the color Dangerous from MAC makeup. In addition to its bright pucker, the fish has a horn it uses to attract its prey and casually walks along the ocean floor instead of swimming. They eat mainly small fish, mollusks, and crustaceans such as shrimp and crab.



The Diane's Bare-hearted glass frog is another interesting creature. There are many different species of glass frogs, but this

little guy is a new discovery. Scientists found the species on the Caribbean slopes of Costa Rica. While its bright green coloring might grab your attention, the coolest part about this frog is that it is see-through.



The long-horned orb weaver spider is the type of creature that is cool in photos but you never want to see them in person. This spider has eight eyes and long, horn looking spines protruding from its abdomen. This particular spider can be found in the forests and fields of Asia.



Finally, we have the Saiga Antelope. It is found near Russia and is easily recognized thanks to its large and flexible nose. In reality, its gigantic nose helps to filter out dust and regulates its blood temperature. This antelope is on the endangered species list due to habitat loss and illegal hunting. The Saiga Antelope's diet consists of grasses, herbs and shrubs.



# URBAN DICTIONARY

## And What Parents Think

By Anayssa Perez

Have you ever had a conversation with your parents and then you say something like "I'm shook" or "I'm triggered" and they think it means something bad?

Then you end up spending 30 minutes telling your parents the definitions and they still do not believe you?

Well, here is a look at what my parents thought some of the words many of us use on a daily basis.

1. **Shook:** an emotion you feel when you are excited about something  
What Parents Think It Means: something insane, cool or too cool
2. **Triggered:** when you are very annoyed  
What Parents Think It Means: in a hurry
3. **TBH:** an acronym for "to be honest"  
What Parents Think It Means: an acronym for "to be heard"
4. **Fam-** used to describe someone very close to you  
What Parents Think It Means: your family
5. **YASSS-** something you like a lot.  
What Parents Think It Means: thank you!
6. **BAE-** an acronym meaning "before anyone else"; describes a close friend or a significant other  
What Parents Think It Means: a boyfriend
7. **Ship it-** when you agree with a relationship or think a relationship is cute (it could be a friendship)  
What Parents Think It Means: let go; to be done with something
8. **Savage-** ruthless.  
What Parents Think It Means: when you're cool
9. **Yeet-** used to express excitement  
What Parents Think It Means: I got you
10. **Bet-** when you challenge someone  
What Parents Think It Means: a bet, like to gamble

**Other News & Features**

# Kendo vs. Kenjutsu

By Austin Halladay

It's time to compare two Japanese sword arts. Let's start with Kenjutsu. Kenjutsu means *art of the sword*. Kenjutsu was originally formed by samurai in feudal Japan. It was one of the main sword styles in Japan and most other Japanese weapon arts have Kenjutsu aspects.



Traditional samurai and other Kenjutsu masters didn't like this change, and disowned this new style. They were no longer allowed to call themselves Kenjutsu practitioners, so the way of the sword was born. Unlike Kenjutsu, Kendo has a lot of rules. In Kendo, your footwork matters very much.

Kenjutsu also has over a million moves and techniques. Kenjutsu uses all different sword styles and techniques, such as the two sword style and the wakizashi style. In different dojo they practice Kenjutsu differently from each other. For example, some dojo only do kata (which are organized sets of moves), whereas more modern methods of practice wear Kendo bogu or hockey gear or both

together. There are so many techniques, almost anything is fair game. Kendo takes from Kenjutsu.

It started in late Edo period Japan, when Kenjutsu practitioners discovered more people would join if you were less likely to get hurt. When they invented armor and a bamboo sword, no one got hurt, plus it was a lot of fun to be able to practice like this.

You must keep your left leg behind your right leg and your left heel must always be lifted above ground. You can only hit people on in certain parts of the body such as the right wrist, their stomach and head. The biggest difference between the two is that Kendo is also considered a sport, and people who do Kendo don't consider themselves samurai, whereas Kenjutsu practitioners can be considered samurai.

## STAYING SAFE ON THE FIELD

### CONCUSSIONS & CONTACT SPORTS

By Dominik Keith

If you want to play an aggressive, contact sport, you most likely care about your head.

Concussions happen when there is a bump or blow either to the head or the body and it causes the brain to move inside the skull. I did some research on the Brain Injury Research Institute (BIRI) website and here is what I learned.

Unsurprisingly, football has the most concussions each year, but not by far. It's followed by rugby, lacrosse, and even cheerleading. Yes... we are all surprised by cheerleading. But apparently, they fall on each other and that can cause head injuries.

In football you can totally avoid concussions by tackling correctly. Not that you can die by getting one or two, but too many concussions can lead to long-term damage.

If you were to play a contact sport and want to lower your chances of getting a concussion,

hockey might be an option. Soccer, itself, has more concussions per player than hockey. But if you want to enjoy yourself and fulfill your passion, then play football, rugby or whatever sport you like.

I suggest that if you really like something you should pursue it. All the youth sports try to prevent injuries but just in case, there is always a medical person. Here are a few examples on how you get avoid concussions in contact sports.



According to the BIRI, in organized high school sports, football makes up about 60 percent of all concussions. Wearing a properly fitting helmet and tackling correctly can help.



Because rugby players do not wear helmets or other padding, concussions can be avoided by learning proper tackling technique.



In hockey it is important to wear a properly fitting helmet and face guard.

**Other News & Features**

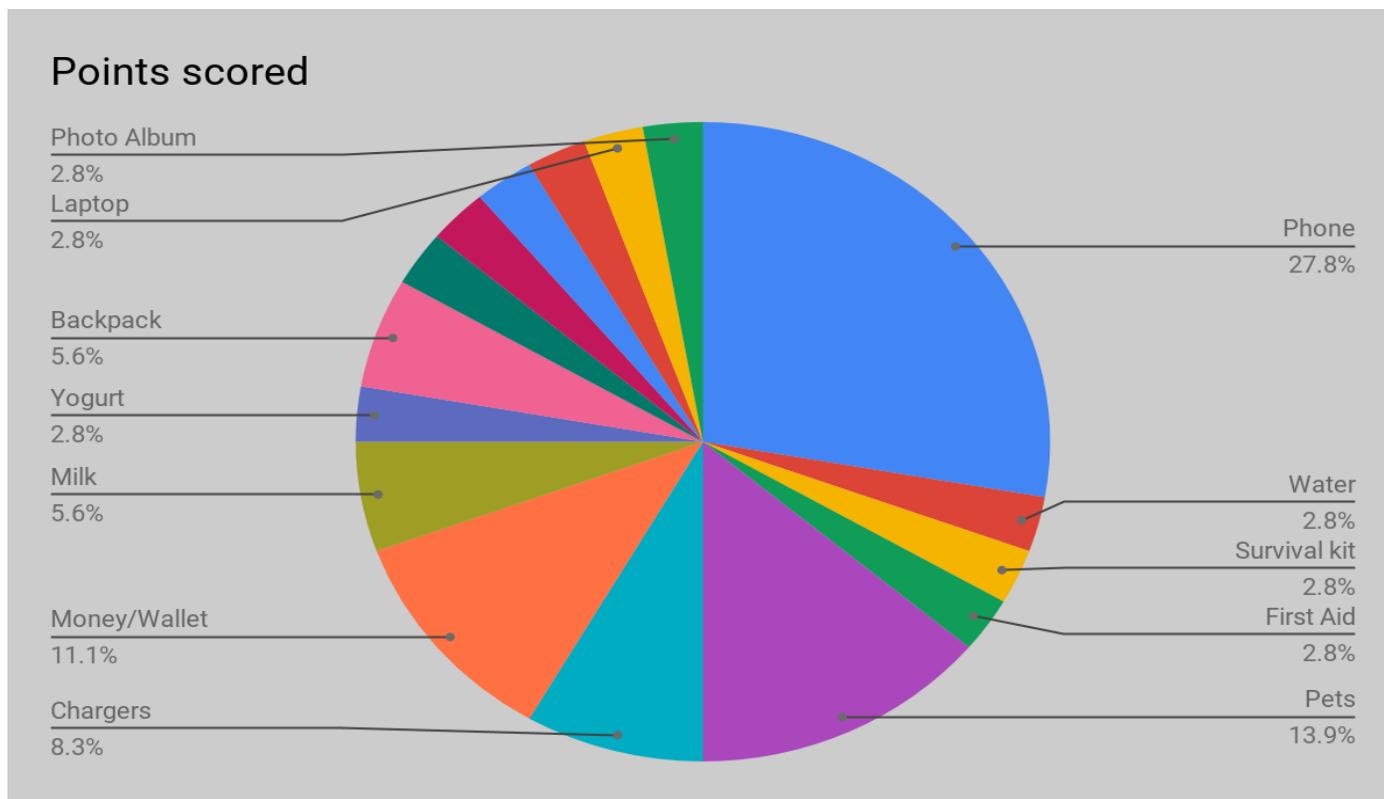
# If You Had Five Minutes to Escape Your House...

## *What Would You Take with You?*

By Kiana Paredes, Lilia Cardenas and Mikaila Agbunag

Escaping seems so easy when you think about it. Just picturing yourself doing somersaults and backflips across deadly fires (when you really can't). Then you realize... Thinking about it won't solve much, nor will standing by and observing others. Have you ever thought about trying it out? Well, we wanted to see what other people thought about their five-minute escape.

As you can see from the chart, many people have different perspectives on what should be brought with them and what shouldn't. The top three things identified were: phone (27.8%), pets (13.9%) and wallet (11.1%). In our opinion, these items will get you the farthest in terms of getting assistance, staying in communication and being able to purchase what you need.



On the contrary, some things that other people said seemed unhelpful such as yogurt, milk, a PS4 and a toaster. These may not help as much, but why not, right? There are so many creative people out there who can come up with really useful devices with ordinary things.

We did a little research about this topic. Thanks to the information on the Homeland Security website, we were able to collect some information for you! Here is what we learned:

**Make a Plan-**

When making a plan be certain your plan answers the following:

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?

**Things to Consider-**

As you plan, think about specific needs in your household. Are there certain limitations in ability? Allergies? Some things worth considering:

- Ages of household members
- Person(s) responsible for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs (prescriptions and equipment)
- Disabilities/access to devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Once these things are considered, make sure you are able to carry everything you put in portable luggage that it is easy to access. A good place to put the luggage would be by the door so that you will be able to grab the supplies in a hurry. If your luggage is in front of your most frequently used exit, you will save time from running up the stairs or searching for it yourself. This will also prevent any harm done to you or your family.

Finally, practice! Once you have your plan figured out practice regularly with your family so they have a nice grip on what they should in case of an emergency. Stay safe!

**Specific Data - What Three Things You'd Take in an Emergency:**

Gabriel (7th):  
Phone, two gallons of water, first aid kit

Ally (7th):  
Survival kit, phone, her dog (Chloe)

Sean (8th):  
Phone, charger, three gallons of milk

Alex (7th):  
Phone, portable charger, her dog (Chuy)

Jake (6th):  
Backpack, money, his dog

Mateo (7th):  
Phone, milk jug, blanket

Hailey (8th):  
Phone, charger, toaster

Mr. T:  
Backpack, phone, wallet

Mr. Adrian:  
Laptop, money, phone

Mr. B:  
Wallet, phone, keys

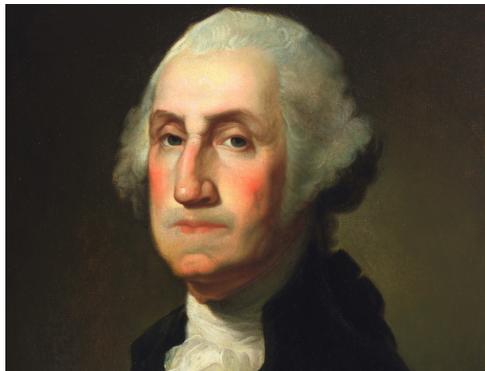
Nick 7th:  
Dog, three gallons of yogurt, PS4

Ms. Jordan:  
Photo albums, cat, phone

**Opinion**

# WHAT WOULD OUR FOUNDING FATHERS THINK OF US?

By Javier Sanchez



When we think of our Founding Fathers, we all think of the big names: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. We think of how proper they were and how respected they were in society. They were probably the most educated men in early America. But times have changed, and it's interesting to imagine how they would think of modern day America.

First of all, they would be astonished to see how technology has advanced over the centuries, and their first impressions may lead them to think of us as gods. In their time, they didn't have the ability to instantly connect with the whole world, and their modes of transportation were horse-drawn carriages and ships. They never would have imagined that we would be able to fly in the sky or cross the seas in a matter of hours. They would be amazed at touch screens and even movie theaters. They may also be proud of our medical advancements, and our better understanding of the body.

The Founding Fathers may be amazed at our achievements, but when they get to the core of it, they will probably be disappointed, as well. They may be upset that we are destroying

our planet and life on it. They may be alarmed at how much food we waste, and how many people are left without it.

The fact that we haven't found solutions to some of our most basic political problems may confuse them, especially since they were literally able to create a brand new government from scratch that is still intact to this day.

It is pretty weird how, as Americans, we have advanced in cosmetics rather than core elements to problems. There are so many government officials and well-known people who turned out to become liars. Ben Franklin would be highly disappointed, especially since he, himself, has said the words "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom". This quote shows that Benjamin was an honest man and that he doesn't promote lies and greed. Overall, the Founding Fathers will most likely have mixed opinions of us. We have good entertainment, but not so good solutions to many issues. Although, we have been improving more and more over the years. We've slowly been giving equal rights to a variety of people, and have added more amendments. America is not the perfect nation they dreamed of, but we are making progress.

## Poll: Let's Settle This:



vs.



pepsi

By Kylie Gaynor

When asked the question "Coke or Pepsi" most have a very strong preference towards one and dislike the other. I wanted to do a small poll and see which one each of our participating Journalism Club members preferred. We asked each of the 13 participants to try small samples of each and asked them which one tastes better. The results? **PEPSI WINS!!!!** Pepsi beat Coke 8 to 5!

Both Pepsi and Coke are relatively inexpensive, around \$2. I think this explains why both are extremely popular. I personally don't really care about the rivalry, but I do have a preference. You could say I was slightly upset by the results.

## Poll: Weird Ice Cream Flavors... Which Would You Eat?

By Madeline Danaher



This poll was inspired by my love for ice cream! One day, I googled weird ice cream flavors, and was surprised with what I saw. So I thought, why not make a poll out of it.

Each of the **11 students** polled was given a choice of two unusual flavors and they picked one. Based on our poll, the favorite ice cream flavors include lavender honey, avocado, ghost pepper and pizza! I hope you enjoy this as much as I did!

<u>Ice Cream Flavors</u>	<u># Votes</u>	<u>Ice Cream Flavors</u>	<u># Votes</u>
Lavender Honey or Pineapple Cilantro?	9 2	Cayenne or Pizza?	1 10
Blackberry Goat Cheese or Avocado?	2 9	Syrup & Bacon or Coconut Rice & Mango?	5 6
Olive Oil or Coconut Curry?	8 3	Fried Chicken or Ramen?	4 7
Sriracha or Basil?	5 6	Zucchini Bread or Asparagus?	6 5
Tomato or Mushroom?	4 7	Strawberry Balsamic or Bacon & French Toast?	8 3
Honey, Jalapeno & Pickle or Ghost Pepper	2 9	Wasabi or Lobster	6 5
Roasted Beet & Goat Cheese or Playdough??	3 8		

## Arts & Entertainment

# MOVIE REVIEW: STAR WARS-THE LAST JEDI

By Sean DiNicola



Recently, I saw *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and I thought it was really good. The film has been universally praised by critics, who gave it a 93% score on Rotten Tomatoes. It also received an "A" by Cinemascore, a site that grades movies based on audience feedback. Those results are in sharp contrast to the reception *The Last Jedi* received from fans on Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic, which I found interesting.

The film's audience score on Rotten Tomatoes is only 57 percent. On Metacritic, moviegoers give it just a 5 out of 10 with the number of negative and mixed reviews drowning out the positive. Those ratings put *The Last Jedi* in the company of *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*, two episodes considered to be the worst in the saga.

Even more interesting than the disparity between those who liked and didn't like the film is the intensity of the hatred by fans die-hard enough to post reviews on the internet. *The Last Jedi* had some pretty unnecessary jokes that made it seem like a Marvel Movie and one ridiculous sub-plot that dragged the movie on longer than it needed to be: 2 hours and 32 minutes, making it the longest *Star Wars* movie.

Several scenes in the movie did not make any sense at all but most importantly, it went off on its own pace rather than doing what J.J. Abrams had intended for for the director. It did make most fans mad and it irritated me quite a bit since it doesn't follow canon, too.

While I personally liked the movie a lot, I do understand the problems many of the fans had with it. Although, some would consider this to be one of the worst *Star Wars* movie, I would consider it to be one of my favorites. I was very satisfied coming out of the movie theater after seeing *The Last Jedi*. I am definitely looking forward to the next *Star Wars* movie in the series.

# Review: Spark Social

By Sean DiNicola



My family, a few friends and I checked out Spark Social for the first time in February and overall, liked it a lot. This food truck park is located in Mission Bay and offers a variety of food choices from food trucks located on the property. My family and I tried several different dishes.

I had a poke bowl from Poke Delish and it was amazing! I also had a beef, bean and cheese pupusa from Panchita's Pupuseria and it was also very tasty. My dad tried the sausage pupusa and seemed to like it. My mom had chicken kabob sliders from the Kabob Trolley and she said they were just okay. They were huge for sliders she was only able to eat about half her meal. Other food trucks we saw included Torraku Ramen, Firetrail Pizza, and Lamas Peruvian.

I thought the food and drinks were reasonably priced, there was a lot of variety and I enjoyed everything I had. You can expect to spend \$10-20 with drinks.

We were there on a Sunday, so it was pretty packed. Luckily, my friend's mom reserved a fire pit which was a good thing because it was pretty chilly that day. The fire pit, which costs \$30/hr, came with unlimited s'mores which was nice. There are several fire pits to choose from and chairs are included. Some even have swinging benches.

While you can reserve tables online for free, there are some other options for bigger parties. There is a double-decker bus that you can



reserve for \$100 per hour on weekends and holds up to 75 people. There's a "back stage" tented area that can hold up to 125 people and it costs \$175 per hour on weekends. This space includes unlimited s'mores, as well. For really large parties, there is an adjoining soccer field that you can rent and from what I understand, pricing starts at around \$1,500.

This venue is totally kid and dog-friendly, has a great vibe to it and the food is delicious. So if you're looking for something to do on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, check out Spark Social.

## Happy Valentine's Days

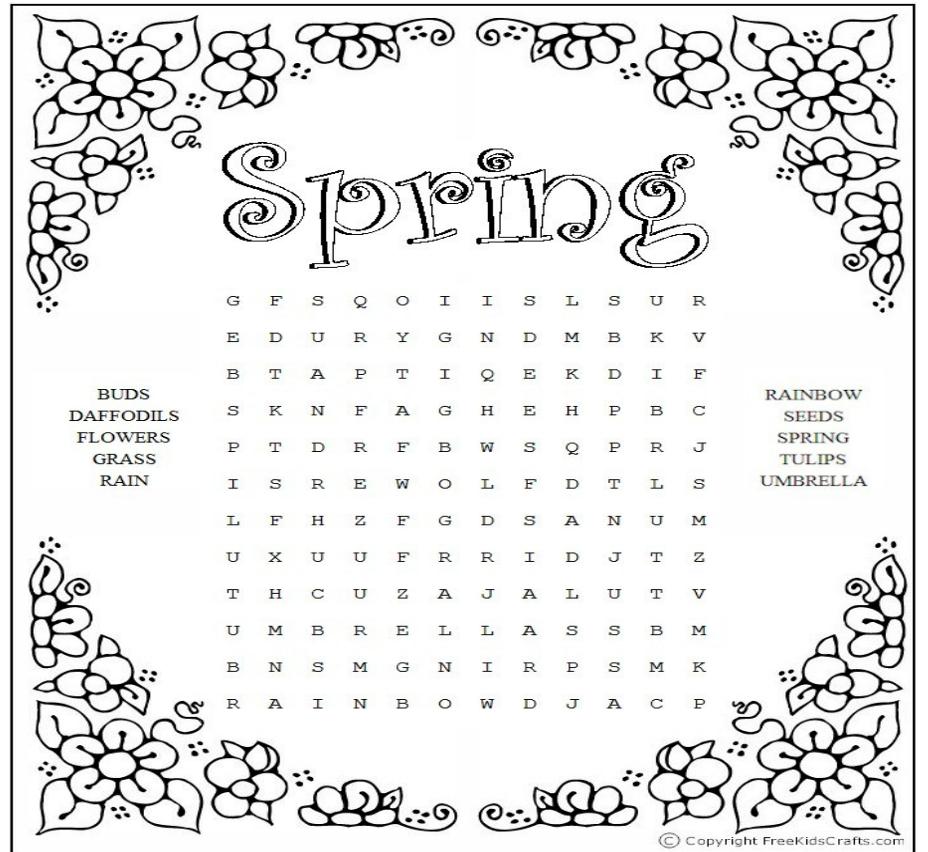
Artwork by Alex Diaz



**Just for Fun!**

**#RELATABLE**

By: Lilia Cardinas



- RIDDLE ANSWERS:
1. RAIN
  2. HE WAS TRYING TO GROW A WATERMELON.
  3. A BEE. (THE LETTER B COMES AFTER IT).
  4. IRIS (EYE-RIS)
  5. UMBRELLAS.

**Riddles!**

What falls but never gets hurt?

Why did the farmer plant a seed in a pond?

Why is the letter A like a flower?

What flowers grow on faces?

What goes up when the rain goes down?

Shamrock Gazette is published quarterly by St. Finn Barr Catholic School.

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