

THE #S PARK

(불꽃)



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

News Recap

By Nina S. and Ceridwyn D.

Australia in flames then floods



The first wildfires in Australia started in August, and from then on, it only got worse. Soon, much of Australia ignited and because of the fires, more than 54 native species have gone extinct, 100 species are endangered, and about 600 species are on the watchlist. Over 25,000 koalas have fallen. The Australian people's prayers for rain were answered, but with a flood. Not exactly what they asked for. Although it did get rid of most of the fire, the fires have not completely ceased.

Brexit Is Real

On January 31, the United Kingdom officially left the European Union, a move brewing for years but now led by new UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.



The Coronavirus

The quite-often memed Coronavirus, which started in China, spread to the US and more than 70 other countries, even to Greenland. This virus has infected about 80,000 people and killed more than 2,000. The mortality rate is roughly 2%.

Harry and Megan Break from Royal Family

Man moves out of grandmother's house with his wife and refuses allowance.



Articles of Impeachment

The House of Representatives impeached the President on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of justice, and the Senate acquitted him. He's still President.



Kobe Dies in Helicopter Crash

After basketball star Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash, the Lakers honored Kobe by putting his Jersey on every stadium chair in the arena at the next game.



Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game: An Interview with Mr. Philip

Interview by Charlotte A.

At the end of March, eighth-grade students will take on the teachers and other staff in basketball. Coaches of the student team -- eighth-grade teachers Mr. Philip, Mrs. Butcher, and Mr. Wilson -- have been working with the students every week, practicing their strategy to beat the teachers.

We decided to interview Mr. Philip about who he thinks will win.

The Spark: How do you think the teachers are going to do this year?

Mr. Philip: I think they are going to lose and lose big. Because we've been practicing once a week with the students, and they will be more ready than the teachers.

The Spark: How often are practices, and what do you focus on?

Mr. Philip: We practice once or twice a week. We work on speed drills because we want to be able to get the ball up and down the court fast and make the teachers run out of gas.

Student Team:

Brendan A.	Hannah L.
Raegan A.	Dillon McC.
John B.	Luke M.
Liam C.	Tucker M.
Carter C.	Hunter R.
Kiley C.	Sam S.
Brady F.	Brandon T.
Declan K.	George V.
James K.	Upton Y.

The Spark: What is your strategy?

Mr. Philip: Play fast, match up, mark specific staff to shut them down, specifically, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Smythe, and Mr. Alcombright.

The Spark: Who is the best player on the teacher team?

Mr. Philip: Mr. Lentz because he's a wide body underneath, and I hear Mr. Kelly is good, but I'm pretty sure that's only at soccer. Is soccer considered a sport?

The Spark: Which staff members are playing this year?

Mr. Philip: Mr. Alcombright, Mrs. Alcombright, Ms. Fenn, Ms. Hughes, Mr. Lentz, Mr. Kelly, Cpl. Miller, Mr. Morris, Ms. Schauppner, Mr. Smythe, Mr. Sneck, Mr. Zach, and more.

Listen for information on the announcements in the coming weeks to hear when the game will be.



SPMS Writers Win County Contest

Seventh grader Abbie H. and **eighth grader Kaylee W.** both won first place in the county Young Authors Contest -- Abbie for her seventh-grade poetry entry and Kaylee for her eighth-grade short story.

Also, **eighth-grader Noel C.** received second place for his eighth-grade short story entry. Kaylee's poem was also the winning eighth-grade entry at the school level.

A county celebration for the first- and second-place winners will occur in early March. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Check out page 18 for Kaylee's winning story "Them" and page 23 for Abbie's winning poem, "Deserts."



Abbie H.



Kaylee W.



Noel C.

MathCounts Team Places First

The Annapolis Chapter MathCounts Competition consisted of three rounds: Sprint Round (non-calculator), Target Round (calculator), and Team Round. If you do well in those three rounds, you can qualify for the Countdown Round.

Here's how it went down:

Team Competition:

We got 1st overall as a team.

Individual Competition:

Daniel V. - won 1st overall

Henry C. & Margot A. - tied for 8th overall



(L-R): Margot A., Henry C., Daniel V., and Peter J.

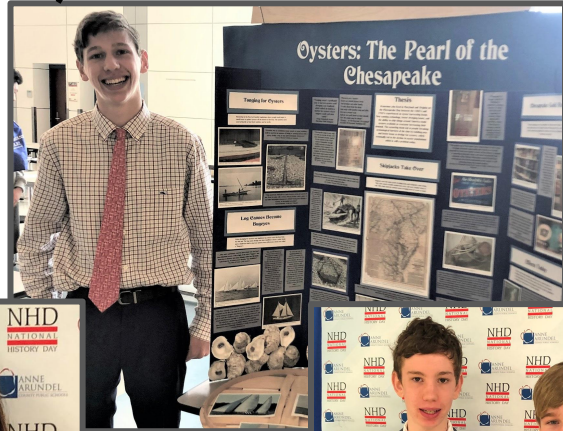
Daniel, Henry, and Margot all qualified for the countdown round (the only school with three qualifiers). Margot got second and Henry got third in the Countdown Round. It was an awesome day!

National History Day Winners



Pictured above: Brendan A., Brandon T., Taidg C., John B.

Pictured right: Charlie B.



Pictured below: Amy J.



Pictured right: John McC. & Lincoln S.



Eighth graders who competed at the county competition:

- Annabelle M.** -- Breaking the Barrier of Desegregation (independent documentary)
- Sarah H.** -- The Abolishment of Slavery (independent documentary)
- Nora F.** -- Rachel Carson, Silent Spring (independent documentary)
- Brynn A.** -- Anita Bryant and Breaking Barriers in the LGBT Community (independent website)
- Amy J.** -- Dorothea Dix: Breaking Barriers for the Mentally Ill (independent website)
- Doug S.** -- The Massachusetts 54th: Breaking Racial Barriers (independent website)
- Brandon T., Brendan A., John B., Taidg C.** -- The Warsaw Ghetto (group website)
- Chloe C. & Jordan S.** -- Charles Darwin (group documentary)
- Meera C.** -- Susan B. Anthony and Women's Suffrage (historic research paper)
- Noel C.** -- the Panama Canal (historic research paper)
- John McC. & Lincoln S.** -- the Space Shuttle Columbia (group documentary)
- Eric C. & Keith S.** -- Breaking Barriers in Space (group website)
- Charlie B.** -- Oysters: The Pearl of the Chesapeake (individual exhibition board)



Ben C. Wins Spelling Bee

Eighth grader Ben C. won the school spelling bee and competed in the county competition on February 22. Congratulations, Ben!

Jack H. Wins Geography Bee

Jack H. won the Geography Bee with this winning question:

A National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition helped gather scientific data to support the creation of a marine protected area surrounding Ascension [uh-SEN-shun] Island. Ascension Island is located in the South Atlantic and is part of an overseas territory of what country?



Answer:
Great Britain

Who Won the Science Fair?

Gone are those tri-fold boards filling the hallways. The Science Fair is over. But who won for our school?

Mia T.	Justin K., Henry C.
Aidan McC.	Jack C.
Lily McC.	Grayson R.
Nora B.	Mia S.
Ryan K.	Sydney W.-J.
Charlie B.	Nate N.
Lincoln S.	Spencer F.
Amy J., Charlotte A.	Gwen H.
	Sophia U., Meg M.

The county fair will be held March 7.

Get Your Yearbook! Don't wait until it's too late...

Buy a yearbook! They are on sale now for \$47 and will be until the end of March. **Go to www.jostens.com to place your order.**

New this year: Eighth graders are getting send-offs from their family, if they choose. The send-offs would be a special message and pictures from the family to the student in the eighth-grade section of the yearbook.

What's the theme? The title of the yearbook is "A Survival Guide to SPMS" with jungle artwork/themes.

Don't miss the deadline! When June comes, you'll wish you had one!



Disney Plus

By William A.



HOW MUCH DOES DISNEY PLUS COST?

Disney Plus costs \$6.99 per month, or \$69.99 per year (\$5.83/month).

This low price includes hours of entertainment spanning many different genres and interests, and best of all, it's all **ad-free**.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/disney-plus>

DISNEY PLUS INCLUDES...

...ALL OF DISNEY'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY CONTENT -- basically, anything made for audiences up to a PG-13 rating. It has content from **Disney** proper, Marvel, Lucasfilm (so, Star Wars), Pixar, and National Geographic.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/disney-plus-streaming-service-everything-to-...>

Worth it?

WHAT SPMS STUDENTS SAY:

"I like it because you can watch the Mandalorian (and Baby Yoda)."

~Cole C.

"Disney + is the best investment. They have every Disney movie ever, even the old ones like Cinderella."

~Anonymous



ORIGINAL DISNEY+ CONTENT COMING SOON:

- The Mandalorian Season 2
- WandaVision
- The Falcon and the Winter Soldier
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars Season 7
- Lizzie McGuire
- Muppets Now
- The Phineas & Ferb Movie: Candace Against the Universe
- High School Musical: The Musical: The Series: Season 2
- Diary of a Future President
- Short Circuit: Experimental Films
- Lamp Life (Toy Story spin-off)
- Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made
- Star Girl
- Penguins
- Dolphin Reef
- Elephant
- Secret Society of Second Born Royals
- Rogue Trip
- Becoming

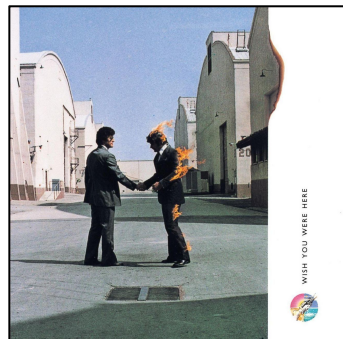
-FORBES MAGAZINE

Who is Pink Floyd?

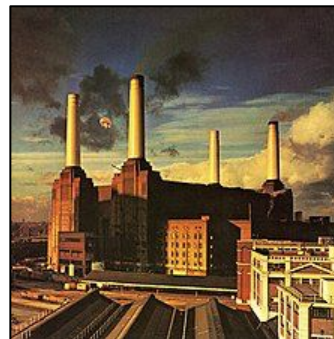
By Carter R.



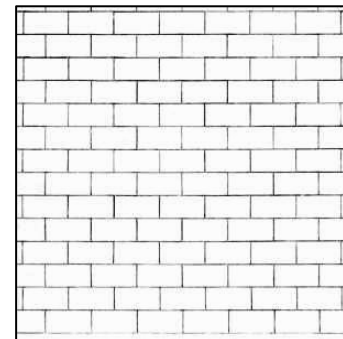
The Dark Side of the Moon (1973)



Wish You Were Here (1975)



Animals (1977)



The Wall (1979)

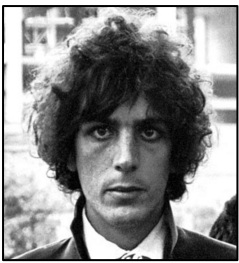
Pink Floyd is arguably the greatest psychedelic band in the world. The four albums above are some of the greatest and wildest albums ever made.

English band Pink Floyd's eighth studio album, *The Dark Side of The Moon*, topped *Billboard's* album chart for 741 weeks. The album starts with a heartbeat and ends with a heartbeat, which helps show the humanity in the album. *The Dark Side of The Moon* is an album about life, peace, mental illness, and the constant struggles of human existence, including the two things everyone wants but can't get enough of: “**Time**” and “**Money**” (two of their most well-known songs). Time and money take control of everything; that's all people think about. Then there's “**Us And Them,**” a song about a man realizing how terrible war is. The song speaks of how people are people, and there should never be a need for violence because we're all the same. “**Brain Damage**” is about mental illness, a recurring topic for Pink Floyd because of their former frontman Syd Barrett (more to come on that).

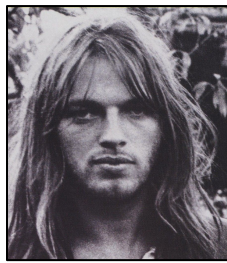
“What is the cost of fame?” is the general topic of *Wish You Were Here*. The band was having a hard time dealing with fame and was struggling to get inspired. The album is partly sorrow and lament for founding member Syd Barrett, and partly criticism of the music industry. To understand the songs “**Shine On You Crazy Diamond (Parts I--V)**” and “**Shine On You Crazy Diamond (Parts VI--IX)**,” you need to understand Syd Barrett. Barrett was a founding member of Pink Floyd, but in the late '60s, his drug use and mental illness made him act erratically. Syd was ousted from the band in 1968 and was replaced with David Gilmour. “Shine On” was inspired by Barrett; the song is based around a four-note guitar piece which Roger Waters thought sounded like the lingering ghost of Syd Barrett.

“Welcome to the Machine” and “Have a Cigar” are both songs from the perspective of a music producer who doesn't care about the artist. One line from “Have a Cigar” says, “The band is just fantastic, that is really what I think, Oh, by the way, which one's Pink?” This guy, who proclaimed to be such a fan of the band, didn't even know that Pink Floyd wasn't even a real person. Both of these songs were written from real encounters the band had. “Wish You Were Here” talks about the music industry's inhuman effect on artists.

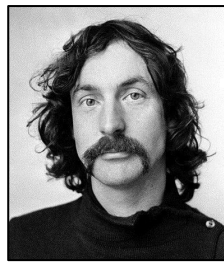
Roger Waters got inspired to write the album *Animals* after reading George Orwell's 1945 book *Animal Farm*. The book criticizes the USSR and Stalinism, depicting communist leaders as animals. But instead of criticizing the Soviet Union, he wanted to criticize capitalism and the British society. In the 17-minute song “Dogs,” Gilmour and Waters criticize capitalist greed and businessmen who prey on the weak and seem nice but are manipulative and evil.



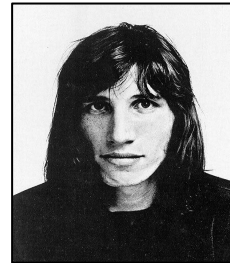
Syd Barrett
vocal, guitar



David Gilmour
vocal, guitar



Nick Mason
drums



Roger Waters
vocal, bass guitar



Richard Wright
keyboard

Finally, *The Wall* is one of the greatest rock operas of all time. The album is about a rock star named Pink (Roger Waters' alter-ego) who hates the system and struggles to find his place in reality. *The Wall* is a psychedelic, anti-war, stream-of-thought rock opera that speaks out against foreign and domestic leaders. The album starts off with “In The Flesh.” This song is referring to Pink Floyd's In the Flesh Tour that ended with a very bad concert. The band liked performing at smaller venues but with their elaborate preferences, they would play at sports arenas. These big venues made it hard to connect with the crowd. “The Happiest Days of Our Lives” and “Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2” are both songs speaking out against the school system. Waters didn't like how the schools would teach only the good things about the country and not the bad things. Throughout “Another Brick in the Wall, Parts 1, 2, and 3,” there is one line that keeps on getting repeated: “All in all, you're just another brick in the wall.” These bricks that Pink refers to are traumatic events that he is trying to push away. In “Bring the Boys Back Home,” people are tired of hearing how catastrophic the war is and they want the young men back. In one of their most famous songs, “Comfortably Numb,” Pink has lost touch with reality. Lastly in “Outside The Wall,” Pink has overcome his trauma...or the trauma has overcome him. If you get confused listening to the album, remember it's a stream of thought album and there is really no explanation.

All in all, Pink Floyd was able to make an unimaginable psychedelic universe with their music while criticizing society.

SPMS Musical Coming Soon...

WHEN

Friday, April 3 (7 pm)

Saturday, April 4 (2 pm & 7 pm)

Sunday, April 5 (2 pm)

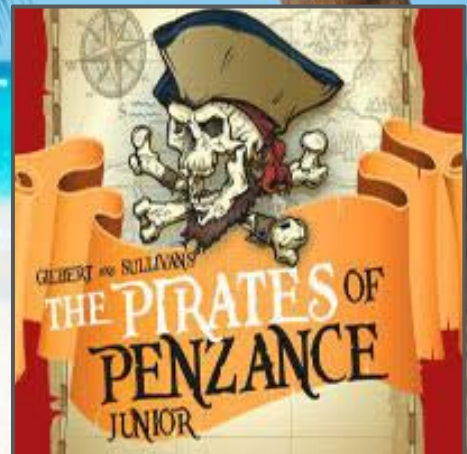


THE STORY

On the coast of England, a group of dimwitted pirates celebrates the birthday of Frederic, who was apprenticed to the pirates until he was 21 years old. But since Frederic was born on February 29 of a leap year, he might be committed to the pirates for much, much longer! Come see this romantic comedy put on by the SPMS Lyrical Society.

THE CAST

- Jon G. – stars as Frederic
- Annabelle W. – stars as Mabel
- Mason F. – stars as Ruth
- Reilly M. – stars as the Pirate King
- Brandon C. – stars as Sergeant
- Paisley P. – stars as Isabel
- Jenna A. – stars as Edith
- Quinn O. – stars as Kate
- Ronnie M. – stars as Juniper
- Samantha L. – stars as Lilith
- Spencer F. – stars as Samuel
- And more amazing stars!



TICKETS

Tickets are \$10 and go on sale on March 20. Go to spmssings.org to order.



A Taste Test

By Owen L.

Two popular chicken sandwiches, but which is better? Owen L. did a taste test to find out. Here are his results.

The **Popeyes** chicken sandwich is known to be salty, and it was true. But it was good, and it did have a lot of chicken -- more than Chick-fil-A. It was a lot of chicken for the price.

But, the grease from the chicken soaked into the bun and made it soggy. The lettuce is shredded and falls off easily. I did notice that Popeyes uses two chicken strips, which can cause the bun to tear in half. The chicken also tends to fall out of the back of the sandwich. But many experts like this sandwich better than Chick-fil-A.

\$3.99



Chick-fil-A was the better chicken sandwich, in my opinion. Both sandwiches had mayonnaise and pickles, but Chick-fil-A had less mayonnaise and wasn't as salty. In fact, the sandwich was kind of sweet...but not in an artificial way.

Chick-fil-A didn't have lettuce on their sandwich. The deluxe does, but it costs more. The wrapper that the sandwich comes in is made with aluminum foil on the inside; this makes the sandwich warm for an extended time period, satisfying the consumer. The bun did fall apart a little, but not too much.

\$3.99





Battlefront VS. Battlefront II



By William A, and Liam R.

The two Star Wars Battlefront games are full of lightsabers, lasers, and action. While Battlefront II may have improved graphics, some like Battlefront I more. Which is better?

Battlefront

In this game there are several modes such as survival, both air and land skirmishes, and online, which features many game modes.



Battlefront II

This game has many different modes, battlefields, appearances for troopers, heroes, and all factions to choose from. It has content from all three Star Wars trilogies.



Which one is better?

I

"I prefer the first Battlefront because of the cool maps and survival."

~Andrew W.

"I like the original Battlefront better because it gives you a larger battlefield area and it has more features in its skirmish missions."

~Owen L.

II

"I like BattleFront II because of the variety and graphics."

~Jack S.

"I like Battlefront II because it is more up to date and a lot of good updates."

~ Cole C.



Anime & Manga Club

By Alethia B. & Laney D.

Do you like anime and manga...or do you just want to **relax and watch a good show?**

The Anime and Manga Club was started this year by **Kaelin T.**, leader; **Jameson M.**, co-leader; and **Tina P.**, secretary. The club is a time for kids to relax, have fun, talk, and watch anime. At meetings, they first do an activity or icebreaker. After that, they play a game and then recap the last episode of their show, **XXXHolic**. They hope to finish watching the show by the end of the year. There are lots of kids in the club -- 20 to 30 -- which came as a surprise to the founders of the club.

Mrs. Wright, in room B 112, is the club advisor. If you would like to join, listen to the announcements for the next meeting date. See you there!



Meet Mrs. Wright, 7th grade Language Arts Teacher

By Laney D. & Alethia B.

How many years have you taught?

4 years

What grades have you taught?

Only 7th grade

What school did you come from?

Old Mill Middle School North, where I worked with Mr. Kelly

What do you like about teaching L.A.?

Seeing students' creativity

What's your favorite book?

Alanna the First Adventurer by Tamora Pierce

Where did you grow up?

Harford County

What's your favorite movie?

Lord of the Rings trilogy

How many pets do you have?

One cat

What's your most prized possession?

My wedding photos

What are your hobbies?

Reading and gardening



Winning Kindness Door Decorations

Photos by Mia T. and Athena V.

Ms. Jenkins: 1st Place, 6th grade



Ms. Sparby: 2nd Place, 6th grade



Ms. Wong: 3rd Place, 6th grade



Mr. Alcombright: 1st Place, 7th grade



Ms. Wright: 2nd Place, 7th grade



Ms. McAninch: 3rd Place, 7th grade



Spread the Kindness!



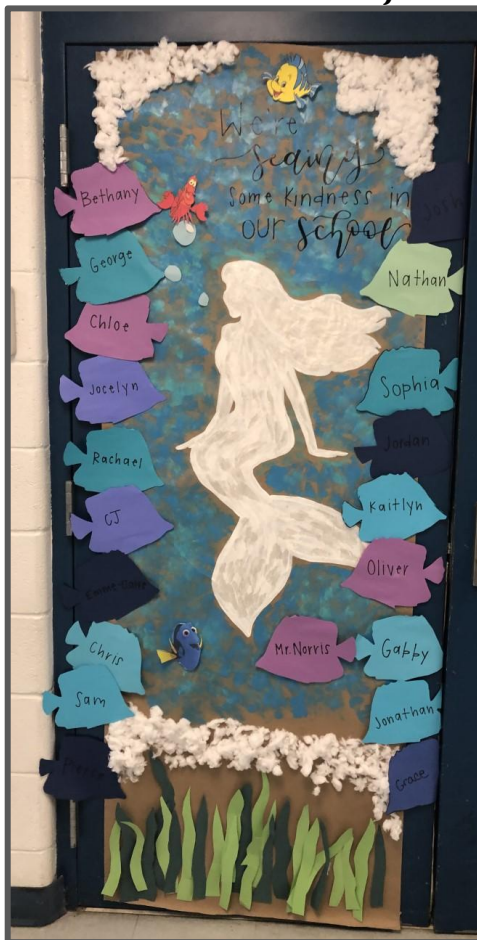
Ms. Hayden: 1st Place Overall, SPMS



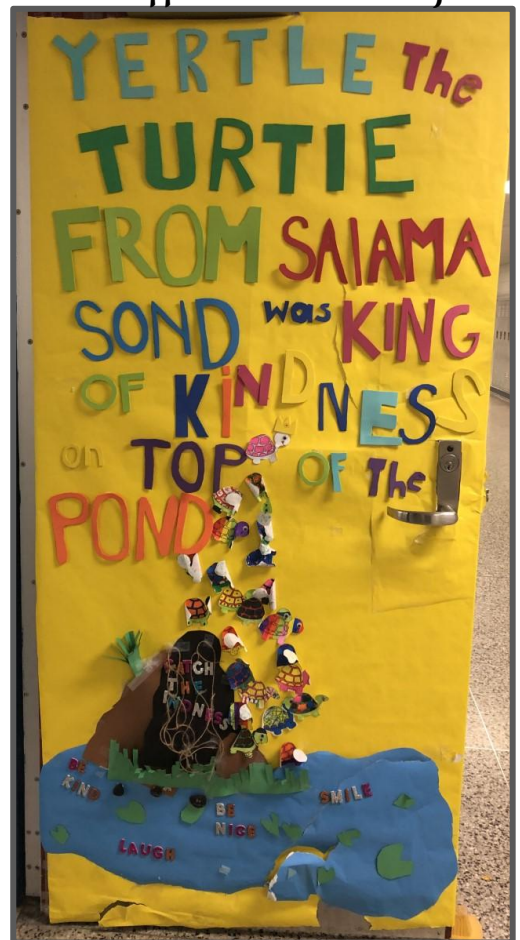
Ms. Powell: 1st Place, 8th grade



Mr. Norris: 2nd Place, 8th grade



Ms. Schauppner: 3rd Place, 8th grade



**The schoolwide
highscore from just
two pieces of printer
paper and a foot of
masking tape.**



By Owen L.

Every year, Tech Ed has a contest to see who can stack the most textbooks on a structure made of just two pieces of printer paper and a foot of masking tape. This year, the record was broken by a sixth grader named Denver. Denver broke the record by stacking 39 textbooks on top of each other. Each textbook weighed 1.5 pounds, so the whole weight his structure held was 58 pounds. It fell approximately one minute later. A local civil engineer who heard the story thinks this is a fantastic feat. From what I know, Denver would probably be a great engineer.

Rain Reign

by Ann M. Martin

Review by Alethia B.

Rain Reign is about Rose Howard, who has Asperger's syndrome and loves homophones (words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings). Her name is a homophone (Rose/Rows), and so is her dog's, Rain (Rain/Reign). Her father found Rain on the side of the road, and Rose and Rain are best friends, particularly because they are alone due to her father drinking to forget Rose's disease.

Then one day a giant storm comes, and Rose's father forgets to let Rain back in. Rose must find Rain, and before Rain's first owners.

This was a really good book. It was kind of sad, but it was interesting to get in the head of someone who has Asperger's. If you're looking for a good book, you should try it.



GREAT ARTISTS

The SPMS Art Department submitted two pieces of art for the “Many Ways of Seeing” exhibit at the Board of Education. Rory J. did a paper Mola representing the San Blas Indians. Linnia W. did a zentangle animal using markers. Way to go!



Linnia W.'s artwork



Rory J.'s artwork

Them

By Kaylee W.

Kaylee's short story was the first-place winner in Anne Arundel County's Young Author's contest.

The cold air stings my cheeks as I exit the Starbucks. I pull my coat tightly against me as I look around at the bustling street. I squeeze my eyes shut as a sudden wave of tears threatens to spill out. This is usually the time when Ryan meets me, and then we would walk to work. It's the first time I've gone to work alone. I sigh and start the trek to the office, the wind blowing my hair around crazily. Ryan would have said some witty remark about my hair's messiness. I bite my lip, my grip tightening on the coffee cup, my only source of heat.

"Morning, Callie!" Bruce calls joyfully, sticking his head out of the window of his small shop. I pause and offer a small wave back. His smile falters. "You alright?" His tone is sympathetic.

"Yep." I don't trust myself to say anything more without crying. He waves and ducks back into his store.

During work I get constant pitiful looks and little smiles. I try to ignore them and focus all my attention on my computer.

The streets are quieter on the way home. I shiver and wrap my arms around myself, the weather somehow managing to be colder. A man is walking in the opposite direction of me, eyes glued to the pavement. It's too dark to see his specific features, but something about him is familiar. Suddenly he looks up and sees me. His eyes widen in recognition, and he crosses the street, despite the fact that there is no crosswalk anywhere near him. His shoulders hunch and he speeds up, throwing glances back at me, examining my reaction to him.

I slow down and try to remember who he is. Did I see him in the Starbucks earlier? Was he in Bruce's shop? I find myself following after him. Fear flashes quickly across his face when he sees this. "Hey! Stop!" I call after him. His steps briefly falter as he hesitates, but he quickly catches himself and continues walking, reaching the sidewalk. "Wait!" I sprint to close the distance between us. I place my hand on his shoulder and he spins around, a mixture of fear and fury plain in his expression. The streetlamps glow falls across him, illuminating his face. I gasp and stumble backwards, my mind racing.

"What?" he growls. His fists clench and unclench, his eyes flickering around.

"Ryan?" I whisper, reaching out my hand for a moment before pulling it back.

"You're not supposed to be able to recognize me," he says, uncertainty flashing across his face before being replaced by anger. "You're not supposed to be able to recognize me!" he repeats vehemently.

"I'm not what?" I exclaim, becoming angry as well. "You're not allowed to be mad at me! I'm not supposed to be able to recognize you! Well you're not supposed to be alive!" My eyes fill with tears. I blink them back as my hands fly to my mouth, immediately regretting what I just said.

His eyes soften with sympathy. "I'm sorry," he whispers.

Them Continued...

Your funeral was yesterday," I mutter, my gaze falling to my feet. He seizes my arm, causing my head to snap up. I didn't expect his grip to be so firm or even... solid. It confirmed that this was real, and I hadn't just fallen asleep at two pm during work.

He yanks me down the street and down the alleyway between a bowling alley and the supermarket with a sudden urgency.

"Where are we going?" I ask suspiciously as he searches the floor frantically. "Or, I guess, what are you doing?" He gestures for me to be quiet and pushes against the side of a dumpster. He grunts, straining, trying to get it to move.

His wild eyes land on mine, and I run over to help him push the dumpster. He spins around and grabs a handle on the floor. Ryan pulls it and a small trap door creaks open. He lowers himself down into the hole it revealed and hisses, "Let's go, Callie! Now! Quickly!"

I look around one last time and then head over to the hole. I lower myself, my feet kicking around, looking for some kind of purchase. I don't find one, so I try to sink lower. I end up slipping and falling. For a second I'm suspended in the air, terrified. I land on the muddy ground, my legs giving out from the impact.

Ryan tugs on my hand, pulling me up, dragging me behind him as he sprints off. "Come on, come on!" I've never seen him so scared.

"What are we running from?" I ask quietly, aware that I am in grave danger. My feet slip on the ground and mud paints the back of my jeans.

"Them." He looks behind us, but I don't hear any footsteps. He veers off down another turn and pushes me into the wall. "You are no longer safe! This is why I tried to avoid you!" He pants and bends down, trying to catch his breath.

"Why am I not allowed to recognize you?" I mutter, staying still against the wall.

"I recognized one of them. I mean, us, I guess. Whoever recognizes them becomes them. They know you recognized me, so now they're after you. You become dead to the outside world like me. You can't get caught. You can't. I'd-"

"It's not your fault," I cut him off, confused.

"Yes it is!" He looks panicked now.

"You're not making any sense!" I whisper-yell, impatient. "Why does any of this affect you?"

"They know my intention is to hide you from them! They will actually kill me this time!" he yells, then covers his mouth, eyes wide.

A slithering noise commences, echoing off of every wall. I whip my head around violently, trying to locate the source of the noise. It gets louder with every beat of my racing heart.

"No, no, no, no, no," He hauls me down the passage once again. My eyes blur from exhaustion, the hissing filling every corner of my mind and taking over my senses. When Ryan stops, I crash into him from behind, but he doesn't give. He's standing straight as a board, staring at something.

"What-" Ryan's hand flies to my mouth, silencing me, his eyes trained on something ahead of us. I follow his gaze. The hissing stops abruptly. I gawk at the creature before me.

"Hello, Ryan," Its voice is rough and scratchy, sending chills down my spine. The thing turns to me, placing its full gaze on me. I feel extremely uncomfortable, like someone just stuck me in a tub of the mud that coats my clothes.

"Hello, Callie."

Vocaloid

VOCALOID is a genre of music created by taking samples from a real person and making it into an artificial synthesizer. The voices then get a character.

The most well known vocaloids are created by Crypton. The most famous vocaloid is Hatsune Miku. But there are many companies that make them, including Yamaha.

Vocaloids can sing all different genres: rock, jazz, fan songs, traditional, rap, and even electro swing, Vocaloid can do it all.

There are vocaloids for different languages. Japanese is prominent, but there are Vocaloids that can sing in English, Swedish, German, Korean, and if you tune it right, any other language imaginable. There's even an Oliver song in Elvish!

The free Vocaloids are called Utauloids and are slightly more choppy and significantly harder to use, although some creators make really good music with them.

Vocaloid characters often get shipped, but we don't talk about that.



FUKASE(L) AND OLIVER(R)



HATSUNE MIKU

CHIPTUNE & DUBSTEP

CHIPTUNE, otherwise known as chip music, is a style of electronic music made using the sounds of chips or synthesizers in vintage arcade machines, computers, and video game consoles. It is essentially based on music you would hear on an NES or arcade machine in the 1980s, where it earns the name “8-bit music.” A few popular chiptune artists include Sabrepulse, Chipzel, Danimal Cannon, Shirobon, Zef, and Shawn Daley.

By Cian C.

DUBSTEP, a genre of EDM (electronic dance music) originating in the United Kingdom in the late 1990s, consists of electronic sounds, with the addition of syncopated rhythmic patterns with acclaimed sub-bass frequencies. Popular in raves and festivals, the genre quickly gained attraction and is popular in many other countries, including the United States. A few popular dubstep artists include Skrillex, Deadmau5, Au5, Avicii, and Pegboard Nerds.

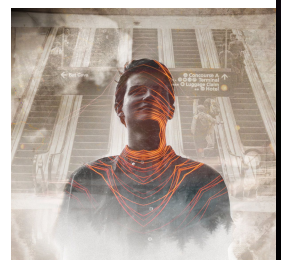
ELECTRO SWING is a music genre that combines vintage or modern swing and masterfully mixes it with EDM. It’s an enjoyable genre if you appreciate the musics of past and present.

By Ceridwyn D.

ELECTRO SWING ARTISTS:

ODD CHAP

Slightly different amongst the crowd, his music is mostly EDM and Jazz combined with short, radio static recordings of people talking, most often conversations related to the song title. Though strange, it makes for good music.



SWING BOT

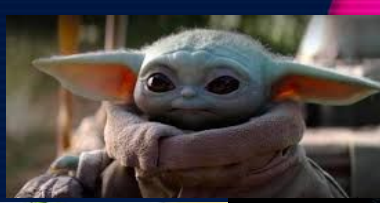
With a classic jazz style combined with techno, his music makes a more mainstream electro swing, perfect for dancing if you’re into that.



(◡‿◡) ♡ Tired of Reading? ♡

~**°. Wholesomeness Break UwU. °**~

Jordin B. and Laney D.



feeling super bad about yourself for being lazy/ unproductive on low mental health days



acknowledging that you're trying your best and that it's perfectly okay to take a break when feeling unmotivated



POETRY PAGE

Home Sweet Home

Jack W.

Brooklyn, sweet Brooklyn, the place where the sirens never stop, and the history is rich. The merchants, traders, the people ever so happy. Oh, so much I've learned, so much time irreplaceable. The moments and memories forever engraved.

Home Sweet Home

My family, forever stuck in time and in this place, forever loved this mystifying city. We never had much, but our hearts were plentiful, filled with joy and wonder. Stories that time forgot never left our roof. The hope, the pain, the stories of generations past have ever wandered in my heart. I have sought this joy which has been etched on these streets since.

Home Sweet Home

Father worked the docks while mother worked the diner. Grandad served as a soldier while Grandma worked to fill young, wandering minds. I spent my days playing ball in the streets, the battered wood and tattered ball making music to my ears.

Home Sweet Home

The travels, the streets forever etched in my mind. It was never perfect but always good enough. My retreat.

Home Sweet Home

Deserts

Abbie H.

A look in the desert
The Sahara--not a serin
It's just that barren
Far from the endless sands
You know the grasslands

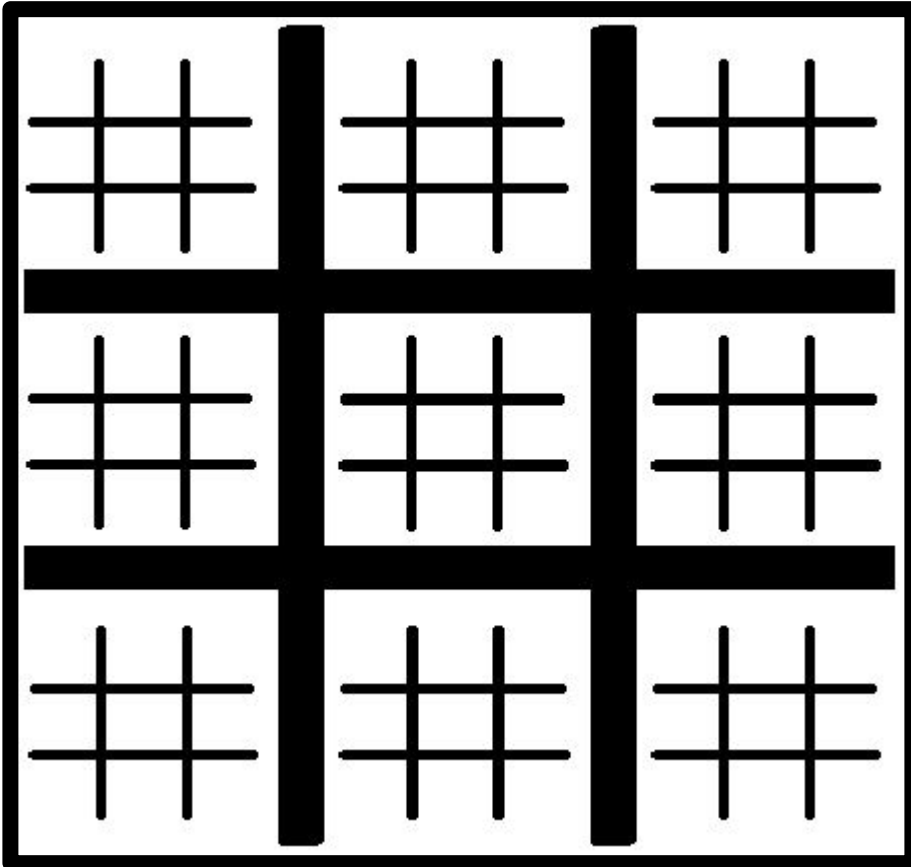
Begin to wither
All left a scaly slither

A look in the desert
With failing homeostasis
Is that water? An oasis?
It's just another mirage

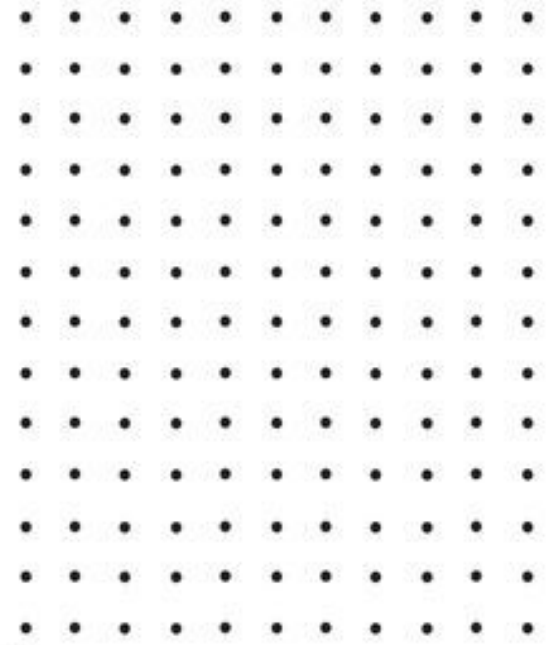
Then you hear something. Camouflage?
You peer around and turn to your right
It's there, a horned viper, what a sight

A look in the desert
A land with little precipitation
Everything needing hydration
And of those, some do flourish
Those lands reluctant to nourish
Living there may seem obscure
But many creatures still endure.

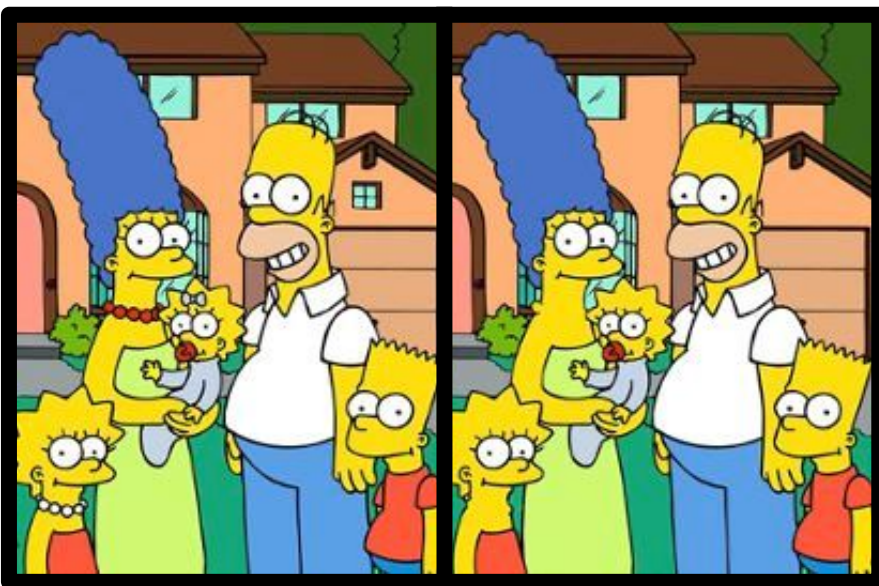
Fun Page



DOTS & BOXES



How to play: Each person takes a turn drawing one line between two dots. If that line completes a square, the player writes his/her initials in the box and draws another line. The player with the most boxes wins.



Spot at least four differences in the two pictures above.

**I have keys but no locks.
I have a space but no room.
You can enter, but can't go
outside.**

What am I?

This **five letter word**
becomes shorter when you
add two letters to it.