

Blue Ribbon Press

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A Student Published Newsletter

March 2018



Harbor Chase Visit

By: Albina J.

Valentine's day is an amazing time of the year where people are full of hope and love, but some people don't have a valentine. That is why NEHS held the stuffed animal drive for the residents of Harbor Chase. We collected enough stuffed animals for each of the 77 residents to get two stuffed animals hand delivered to their rooms. We also had enough to fill a bag with stuffed animals that they could win by playing games like bingo and checkers.

Residents, like Ms. Helen, had her birthday on Valentine's day! Since she has short term memory loss, NEHS threw her a party every hour they switched. Some residents even kept their stuffed animals from last year's visit and truly our hearts burst when they tried to give it back because they didn't have anything to give us. I hope that all the 4th and 5th graders get the chance to visit Harbor Chase.



The Daddy Daughter Dance

By: Michalina W. & Katherine D.

There was a daddy daughter dance on Friday Feb 2nd at the Mirage Banquet Hall 6980 18-mile road Clinton Township 48038. It costs \$17 per person. It included dinner and a beverage. The Daddy Daughter Dance theme was *Hollywood Red Carpet*. The daddy Daughter Dance is fun because if your dad needs to go to work every day, but he is off on the day of the dance, you get to spend time with him.

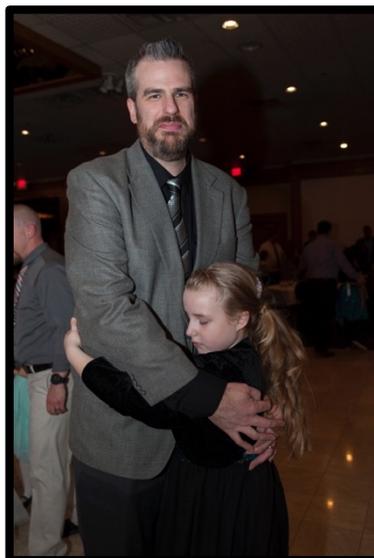
At the dance, there was a craft table where you could make your own bookmark. On the table there were markers, colored pencils, and stickers, with yarn tied on the bookmarks. The colors for the yarn were purple, light

blue, pink, and red.

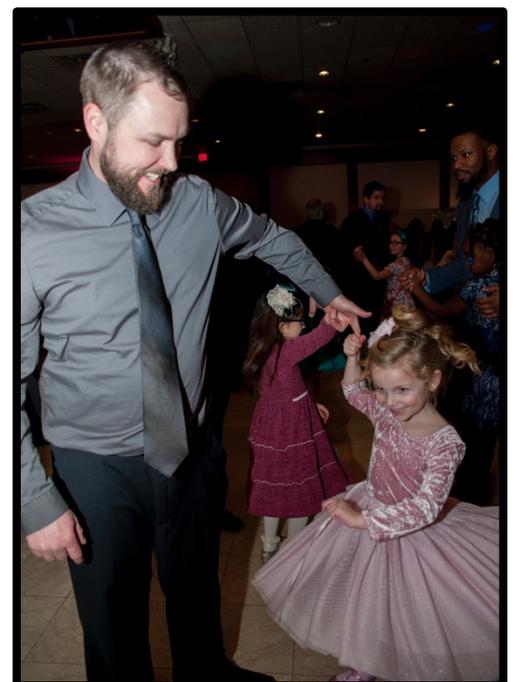
There were goodie bags at a table where you get to pick out whatever you want. There were air heads, cotton candy, and marshmallows.

The PHOTOBOOTH with some masks was enjoyed by everyone. The D.J. played a lot of the girl's favorite songs! The dance was so much fun!

Many of the girl's shared their favorite part of the dance, and let's see what they said. Addison said that she loved, "The dancing!" Alivia said, "sitting with friends at the table!" Ella and Athena both liked, "Dancing with my dad and my friends!" Jean said that she really liked "The soda bar!"



A special THANK YOU to Mrs. Heberling for sharing these pictures!



Reality

By: Luke White

“Nathan!! Hurry it up or you’ll be late for school!!!!!!” my mom shouted up the stairs at me. I was about to get in the shower, which is the first thing I’m supposed to do in the morning. My mom was right, if I didn’t hurry, I was going to miss the bus. Again. That would be the 3rd time this week, and its only Wednesday. But then, my brother, Jason, made a slick move and locked me out of the bathroom. Again. My mom is going to be SOO MAD AT ME!!!! Then I started thinking: Who am I? My brother is the jock whose philosophy is “If you look good, you’re good at sports. That’s why I’m amazing at football!” Then there is my mom, possibly the nicest person I know. She is sweet and will do almost anything for you, unless you don’t do something she asked of you. My dad is the kind of person who would often be off gambling large amounts of our family’s money. That’s how we lost it all. My dad used to be good about going to the casino, but then something just snapped inside of him, and he started to gamble more often.

On the other hand, he has been trying to get into treatment, but he just can’t bring himself to go. He was so sad, and at times, I thought that he would just leave. I thought that he would just go somewhere secluded, and not tell us where. I’m scared that he will do it any day now.

Finally, my brother let me into the bathroom and I took a quick shower.



The members of the *Blue Ribbon Press* hosted a luncheon for Graebner’s visiting author and illustrator, Karen and Darrin Brege.

They were a hoot, and all of the students enjoyed their presentation, which was more like a comedy/workshop.

Thank you to our own GPTO for helping to pay to host this year’s author and illustrator.



Zodiacs

By: Albina J. & Rainna I.

Aquarius Traits

January 20 - February 18

Strengths: Progressive, original, independent, and try to help humanitarian.

Weaknesses: Runs from emotional expression, temperamental, uncompromising, aloof

Aquarius likes: Fun with friends, helping others, fighting for causes, intellectual conversation, and a good listener

Aquarius dislikes: Limitations, broken promises, being lonely, dull or boring situations, people who disagree with them

Pisces Traits

February 19 - March 20

Strengths: Compassionate, artistic, intuitive, gentle, wise, musical

Weaknesses: Fearful, overly trusting, sad, desire to escape reality, can be a victim or a martyr

Pisces likes: Being alone, sleeping, music, romance, visual media, swimming, spiritual themes

Pisces dislikes: Know-it-all, being criticized, the past coming back to haunt, cruelty of any kind

Aries Traits

March 21 - April 19

Strengths: Courageous, determined, confident, enthusiastic, optimistic, honest, passionate

Weaknesses: Impatient, moody, short-tempered, impulsive, aggressive

Aries likes: Comfortable clothes, taking on leadership roles, physical challenges, individual sports

Aries dislikes: Inactivity, delays, work that does not use one's talents

Taurus Traits

April 20 - May 20

Strengths: Reliable, patient, practical, devoted, responsible, stable

Weaknesses: Stubborn, possessive, uncompromising

Taurus likes: Gardening, cooking, music, romance, high quality clothes, working with hands

Taurus dislikes: Sudden changes, complications, insecurity of any kind, synthetic fabrics

Gemini Traits

May 21 - June 20

Strengths: Gentle, affectionate, curious, adaptable, ability to learn quickly and exchange ideas

Weaknesses: Nervous, inconsistent, indecisive

Gemini likes: Music, books, magazines, chats with nearly anyone, short trips around the town

Gemini dislikes: Being alone, being confined, repetition and routine

Cancer Traits

June 21 - July 22

Strengths: Tenacious, highly imaginative, loyal, emotional, sympathetic, persuasive

Weaknesses: Moody, pessimistic, suspicious, manipulative, insecure

Cancer likes: Art, home-based hobbies, relaxing near or in water, helping loved ones, a good meal with friends

Cancer dislikes: Strangers, any criticism of Mom, revealing of personal life

Leo Traits

July 23 - August 22

Strengths: Creative, generous, warm-hearted, cheerful, humorous

Weaknesses: Arrogant, stubborn, self-centered, lazy, inflexible

Leo likes: Theater, taking holidays, being admired, expensive things, bright colors, fun with friends

Leo dislikes: Being ignored, facing difficult reality, not being treated like a king or queen

Virgo Traits

August 23 – September 22

Strengths: Loyal, analytical, kind, hardworking, practical

Weaknesses: Shyness, worry, overly critical of self and others, all work and no play

Virgo likes: Animals, healthy food, books, nature, cleanliness

Virgo dislikes: Rudeness, asking for help, taking center stage

Libra Traits

September 23 - October 22

Strengths: Cooperative, diplomatic, gracious, fair-minded, social

Weaknesses: Indecisive, avoids confrontations, will carry a grudge, self-pity

Libra likes: Harmony, gentleness, sharing with others, the outdoors

Libra dislikes: Violence, injustice, loudmouths, conformity

Scorpio Traits

October 23 - November 21

Strengths: Resourceful, brave, passionate, stubborn, a true friend

Weaknesses: Distrusting, jealous, secretive, violent

Scorpio likes: Truth, facts, being right, longtime friends, teasing, a grand passion

Scorpio dislikes: Dishonesty, revealing secrets, passive people

Scorpio-born are assertive people

Sagittarius Traits

November 22 - December 21

Strengths: Generous, idealistic, great sense of humor

Weaknesses: Promises more than can deliver, very impatient, will say anything no matter how undiplomatic

Sagittarius likes: Freedom, travel, philosophy, being outdoors

Sagittarius dislikes: Clingy people, being constrained, off-the-wall theories, details

Capricorn Traits

December 22 - January 19

Strengths: Responsible, disciplined, self-control, good managers

Weaknesses: Know-it-all, unforgiving, condescending, expecting the worst

Capricorn likes: Family, tradition, music, understated status, quality craftsmanship

Capricorn dislikes: Almost everything at some point.



Leprechauns

By: Isabelle

Short and small,
Not very tall,

They wear green,
Because they're quite mean,

When you get pinched,
it will only be an inch,

But still be careful,
You'll find them and the end of a rainbow

You should make a trap,
But they might snap

It's a busy time of year for sixth graders!

Focus and follow-through are important skills to remember when trying to manage your time.

Don't forget a very valuable resource is your **Sterling Heights Library virtual library card** that offers FREE tutoring! For more information, please call the library at: 586.446.2665.



Athena's Kitchen Corner Presents:
Hop into Easter: Carrot Crispies!

By: Athena R.

ATTENTION PEEPS: Has the rough, Michigan weather brought you down? Well, though the weather may not agree, SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!!! So, why not celebrate the new season and new holidays, like Easter, with some new treats! Today, I will be showing you another, no-bake treat with a spring twist!

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 1 box (8 bars) of pre-made rice crispies
- Green Air-Heads or green licorice laces
- 12-ounce bag of orange candy melts
 - Parchment paper
 - Skewers



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. On a large work space, place a piece of parchment paper. Then, unwrap and cut each crispy in half, diagonally. Roll the triangles, to create a round "carrot-like" shape.
2. Now, melt the candy melts in the microwave, until silky and smooth. Insert a skewer in each carrot and dip each one into the melted candy melts. Next, tap off all excess candy melt, and set on parchment paper to dry. I would put the treats in the refrigerator to speed up the setting process.
3. While your treat set, cut 5 or 6 pieces of your licorice into 3" or 4" in length. Stick them together with some extra candy melts, or simply twist them together tightly! Take the skewers out of the carrots, and then use the skewers to make a hole on the top of the treat, place the green licorice into the hole to create the greens on the top of a real carrot! Let set until completely dry and firm.
4. Finally, put into a cute, decorative baggie or container and enjoy! :)

Inspired by: HGTV.com

Candy

By: Maggie G.

Sweet, Sour

Sticky, Hard, Soft

It tastes very awesome

Delicious

Dance

By: Maggie G.

Fun, Exercise

Leap, Plie, Turn

It Is So Amazing

Awesome

Fortune: Part 2

By: Luke White & Addison Bushe

Previously on Fortune:

It was coming closer. If you're asking what "it" is, I happen not to have an answer for you. However, it was coming at a rapid speed, and I had absolutely no idea what to do. I was terrified. Everybody was asking me what to do, but I didn't know. Then my instinct changed;

"RUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!", I shouted, hoping that they would follow me. But they didn't, and the thing was right behind me. For the first time, I didn't know what to do.

[]():**::():[]

A circle of black surrounded me, barricading the sound so that all I could hear was a faded sound of screaming. It was Maya and Jay. Then I heard them shouting, "LIZZIE! HELP IT'S AFTER U-". All of a sudden, everything went silent. I could feel chills crawling up my spine.

After that, I really didn't know what to do. I couldn't decide whether or not to save myself, or to save my friends.

But honestly, I couldn't really do anything until the darkness around me disappeared. So basically, I just kept wandering around for about fifteen minutes until all of a sudden, I could see the woods again.

Being a wimp, generally, I would've saved myself. But in this case, for some odd reason, I decided to go out on an adventure. I found the cootie catcher, and it started to glow; a weird greenish glow. I didn't know what to think of it, so I ignored it to the best of my abilities. After a while, I started to wander around the bleak landscape. I found some pretty interesting things. I found a rock with the same greenish glow as the cootie catcher, a tricycle, and I found a strange looking chair.

The chair was the weirdest out of the three, though. It looked almost like a throne, but for something REALLY huge, bigger than an elephant. I was super confused, so I just set up camp for the night. The night sky in this place was weird. It was a weird color, and it appeared to be lower to the ground for some reason. The weirdest thing was, there were no stars, and no moon. It was pitch black except for one thing: a big statue of an unidentified animal.

I started to take a closer look at it, and there appeared to be some foreign-looking language written on it. It said something along the lines of this: "Mi llama, mi cala, mi sato, w mi lato." It was a very peculiar thing, but I stopped in my tracks of walking back to my camp. I could hear breathing. It was slowly getting louder. I started slowly walking away from the statue, and then started walking at a normal

pace. I then heard the breathing again. I started to walk faster. Now I could hear footsteps behind me. I started running, and so did the footsteps.

I was scared. I didn't know what to do, and then it hit me: was this the monster that had taken Maya and Jay? If it was, I couldn't tell, because the thing I saw earlier was huge and brown, and this thing was smaller and black. It couldn't be, but I still couldn't be sure.

[]():**::():[]

I tried to hide, so I started looking for a small area that it wouldn't be able to get into. I was able to find a tree with a small hole in it, and big enough as to where I could fit into it. The thing ran right past me, and I stayed there until the coast was clear.

I was really scared. Usually, I had Maya and Jay here to help me, but in this case, it was me trying to help them.

(A few hours later)

"Maya!?! Jay!?! Where are you?! I've been looking for HOURS!!!"

"HELP!!! LIZZIE WE'RE OVER HERE!!! FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE!!!" screamed Jay in a really loud voice. They probably could've heard him from the real world.

I ran over, and I immediately started looking for my friends. But then: I heard the same footsteps from earlier. And a new sound of footsteps following close behind...

The End

Student of the Month: March 2018

Adranna Asmar

Samer Bola

Olivia Collins

Madelyn Dudde

Mariam Eishow

Sofia Estrella

Celine Fakhoury

Denny Gao

Samantha Goodin

Ryan Hess

Vanessa Hughes

Juliya Krytska

Evalyn Mayhew

Vivian Mayhew

Kenneth

McKennedy

Alexis Ocampo

Sophia Palucay

Angela Quni

Albina Shala

Aldo Shuti

Elizabeth Sites

Alexis Slavicek

Erica Tavolacci

Ilian Till

Luke White

Lenea Wilson

A New Universe
By: Addison B. & Alivia G.

I grabbed my backpack off the chair in the kitchen as I rushed out the door towards the bus. I waved to my best friend Ella through the window and raced down to her seat, sliding next to her.

“Hi!” I exclaimed to her. She greeted me back, and we began to chat about how the other kids may have transformed. But little did I know, this wasn’t just my first day of 7th grade, but to be the strangest day of my life...

My name is Alexandria Nell, but I’d rather be called Alex for short. All of the people I know that have already been in middle school always tell me, “Alex! It’s going to be fine! Middle school is great! It’s fun!” But from all the films, some people must have experienced some *real* bad things in their middle school. I mean, it’s not just middle school I’m dreading, it’s the people who inhabit the building. Moody preteens, unintelligent jocks, and everybody’s insecure. I mean, I fit into a stereotype too (artsy silent kid, in case you were wondering.) And being so creative nearly endangered my life.

Well anyways, back to reality. I fidgeted on the leather seat, unsure how to make small talk after our conversation trailed off. “So, um, hey, what’s been going on with you lately?” I asked as I pushed my glasses back to the right position.

“Well, um, n-nothing much.” She murmured back to me, her face getting flushed and her eyes darting out the window. It was suspicious behavior for her, and then I knew something was up.

“Look, I know you too well for you to try to get away lying to me. Now please, answer my question honestly and truthfully.” I said as I folded my arms and gave her a look that she knew well.

She looked down at her feet. “Well, I guess no hiding it now.”

“So, I’d like to know sometime today and not a million years from now!” I said sarcastically, rolling my eyes.

“I, uh, I found something. My mom said... not to tell anybody. But you’re really smart and all, so I thought you could maybe help...?” Before I could make another comment, she continued. “I found a rock...thing. It’s more like a meteorite. It’s purple, and it glows at only one specific hour. 3 a.m. That’s, like, the devil’s hour, which is horrifying. But I wanna keep it. So, maybe you’d know what to do?”

I scratched the back of my hand, rather reluctant to agree to assist her. But Ella has been helping me out since we were little tots learning to read, so I could pay her back by inspecting her creepy little rock. Her and her mom were probably just being a bit irrational anyway-there must be a logical explanation that I could figure out. “Y’know what, sure? What could be so weird about this thing?”

Ella smiled, and we began to plan. I’d visit her house for a sleepover on Friday, where we would begin to investigate it and I could figure out whatever was wrong with it. Then, we’d pull an all-nighter and get a sugar rush off of her secret stash of Halloween candy (it’s from four years’ worth of trick-or-treating that could possibly last us till High School) and sleep all day Sunday.

Then, after two days of miserable classes at middle school, I was sitting at my desk in 6th hour watching the clock until 2:45 finally came. The teacher's blabbering began to quiet in the back of my head... until my surroundings faded into a dark, crimson-shaded forest.

I looked around wildly, eyes wide in fear. The branches were thick with leaves, blocking out any chance of sunshine. Foliage swirled around my ankles, entrapping me into the ground. Why couldn't I move? *Why couldn't I move?!* I look to my right and see a dark figure running towards me. As it gets closer I realize who it is... "ELLA! ELLA, HELP ME!" I scream at the top of my lungs as she grabs my arm. But all of a sudden, everything disappears around me. Ella, the trees, everything was gone. I was just surrounded in black. But in the distance, I could hear a faint sound, "*Alex. Alex! ALEXANDRIA WAKE UP!*"

I let out a squeak as I rose my head and met the narrowed eyes of the teacher. "Oh! Mrs. Dillinger, I-I-I... uhm..."

"I guess my class truly is boring, Ms. Nell," she said with a sarcastic smile on her face. Staring right at me.

"I-I'm sorry. I'm very sorry," I said, looking at my shoes as my face turned basically tomato-red.

"Let me see... fine, I'll let you off with a warning," she said hesitantly. "But next time, it's detention."

"Okay. I guess... bye?" I said as I headed towards the door.

"Goodbye," said Mrs. Dillinger, turning on her heel back to her desk as I pulled the door shut behind me.

I raced down the empty hall, scrambling to open my locker. I didn't even notice Ella smirking at me as she leaned against the locker next to mine.

"Look whose late again. Slumbering in class?" Ella remarked, giggling under her breath.

I rolled my eyes as I slammed shut my locker and began sprinting down the hallway, Ella following close behind. "Whatever, Ella. It's not my mom who's gonna kill me when we're late."

Once we met Ella's mom outside, who was tapping her foot impatiently and gave Ella a small lecture before we got into her car, we drove to her house. Right when we entered her house, we zoomed into her bedroom and locked the door behind us.

"Okay, time to get down to business. Use your brains or whatever to figure out what the heck this is." Ella opened her bookcase, shuffled a few books around, and cautiously picked up the object inside.

It was a magenta stone, with cracks running throughout it. Ella put it in the palm of my hand and I looked at it for a minute.

"So, any other odd things about it?" I said as I scanned the rock, confusion on my face. Honestly, I have no idea what the heck is in my hand.

“Well, it does that 3 a.m.,” Ella murmured, then a lightbulb came to her head. “Oh! My mom said that other people have found things like this before, she looked it up online. I dunno...”

“Okay, well, let me see what I can do.” I plopped myself down on Ella’s bed and knocked on the rock-it was most definitely not hollow. “I can try to do my own research, I guess.” I set the rock down back on the bookshelf. I pulled my phone out and typed into all our favorite search engine, Google, and typed, “magenta glowing space rock.” It was an interesting description, but something would come up, righ-

My phone screen went black, and a little buzzing noise could be heard. Ella looked at me with concern. “Did your phone die or something?”

“N-No! I thought it was...” My voice trailed off as the buzzing, static-y noise became increasingly louder.

And louder.

Louder.

I threw my phone onto the ground when a shock ran through both my arms. “Gah!” I shrieked, shaking out my hands. “I, er, think my phone might be broken...” I muttered, kneeling down and hesitantly brushed my fingers against the phone. The sound had completely stopped now.

Ella snatched the rock from her shelf and sat down next to me. She looked over to me, and put her hand on my shoulder as if she were pitying me. “Sorry, Alex, gotta get a new-”

My head quickly turned from a bit dizzy to full on nauseous and a migraine. “Ow, El, it hurts...” I murmured, holding the heel of my hand to my head. Then, I felt my arm begin to numb, and a faint sound coming from Ella. The pounding in my head became worse and worse and it *hurt* until...

The world went black.



Sixth graders, Christian and Landon, submitted these photographs to this year’s **Social Studies Olympiad** competition. The theme this year is, “*Our Earth, Our Home.*”



What If...

By: Maria De Benedetti

What if chocolate bunnies ran around town.
And jellybeans jumped in the air.
While peeps leaped over clouds.



What if Easter baskets tore through the sky.
Whenever eggs slid down a rainbow.
Until Peter Rabbit comes hopping down the trail.

What if bubble gum twirled like a fairy.
While sugarplums danced freely.
Even though gumdrops show off to everyone

What if chocolate covered raisins wrestled each other.
While Rolos sat and watched.
And Hershey Kisses tried to stop them.



What if everyone came together and there was peace.
And Easter brought love and friendship
As spring brings joy.

The Quiz

By: Ellie

With my quiz in my hand and my pencil in the other,
letters turn into big numbers.

As questions go there is still more to cover,
 $y-9= 3$; $y+9=21$.

I finish my test, not to worry
but then my eyes got kind of blurry.
Was it 10:00, 11:00 I knew I had to go.

I run to her, slap it down,
now I am gone, gone, gone.



Leprechaun Party

By Jean D.

Once upon a time, in a faraway land, the leprechauns were throwing a party! But this was no ordinary party, and these were no ordinary leprechauns!

This was a METAL party, and these were METAL leprechauns. Not iron leprechauns, but RAD leprechauns. They had motorcycles with spikes and combat boots. They bet on griffin fights and had dragon rodeos. The leprechauns also had a special way of thinking. They only thought the words 'bro', 'rad', and 'yo'. If you ask me, these leprechauns are NOT something you would like to run into in a dark alley.

The leprechauns were excited for this METAL party, and walked to the garage that held their dirt bikes. BUT THEY WERE GONE! "Sorry dudes," said the leprechaun working at the garage. "Lots o' bikes been goin' missin' lately. Notin' we can do."

The leprechauns were all like, "OMG!!" and the leprechaun at the garage was all like, "MEH" and everyone was freakin' out! How would the leprechauns sufficiently shame the leprechauns at the party?

The leprechauns (whose names were Skull, Bones, and Fluffy) were depressed. They would never get to the party! Slowly, the METAL! started to drain out of them. The leprechauns started to think that- GASP! - ponies were acceptable. Even the NARRATORS started to change!

And what a BEAUTIFUL change it was! The whole leprechaun world was transforming! The leprechauns decided that dragon rodeos and betting on griffon races were not worthwhile! Their motorcycles and combat boots transformed into gypsy caravans with floral decorating, and glass slippers!

Even the leaders changed! Instead of a competition to decide who was the rad king, there was a monarchy, with kings and queens, princes and princesses! The only leprechaun not affected was Fluffy.

Fluffy knew that he had to do something, so Fluffy thought and thought about what to do. But Skull and Bones kept getting on his case about singing a happy song. This gave Fluffy an idea! Fluffy started walking to the party. Skull and Bones followed him, because Fluffy told them that it would be a magical quest.

For three straight hours, the leprechauns walked. And walked. And walked. As you can see, there was a lot of walking. But their hard work paid off. The leprechauns finally reached the party, and what a sight it was! Everyone at the party was dressed in pink and green frills, except Fluffy, Skull, and Bones. Fluffy knew what he needed to do.

“Stop right there!”, as Fluffy was the only leprechaun whose voice did not change. “This is my town, and Ima take it back. No one ruins leprechaun mockery on my watch!”

The leprechauns were appalled! In this fantasy society, how dare anyone use such language! But then the leprechauns all started to remember ...

“Huh?” The leprechauns came back to their senses. Once the leprechauns realized what had happened, the world went back to normal. The dragon rodeos continued. Betting on griffon races became legal again. Fluffy was happy. Just not **MAGICLY!** happy. **METAL!** happy. Everything was good again. At least, until the leprechauns found out what happened to their dirt bikes...



Lame Jokes and Riddles

By Maddie D. and Alivia G.

Q: What's orange and rhymes with parrot?

A: carrot.

Q: Romeo and Juliet are at a party. The party is in a house next to the train tracks. The next morning, they are found dead in a puddle of water and glass. How did they die?

A: First things first, Romeo and Juliet are fish. The vibrations from the train knocked their fishbowl over.

Q: How do you get an elephant into a freezer?

A: Open the door and cram it in.

Q: How do you get a giraffe into a freezer?

A: Open the door, take out the elephant and stuff it in.

Q: If the Lion King held a meeting, which animal wouldn't be there?

A: The giraffe, because it is in the freezer.

Q: There is a river full of crocodiles. How do you get across?

A: Swim. The crocodiles are at the Lion King's meeting.

Knock knock

Who's there?

Interrupting cow.

Interruptin-MOOOOOOOOOOOOO

Well, I guess this is the end of the article, because I am out of jo-
MOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

Interrupting cow!?!?!?!? I thought I got rid of you!

Le End!

SNAKES

By Jae. G

Did you know that more than 51% of the world's people are afraid of snakes? Well, I'm not. Snakes are one of the most beautiful animals in the whole world, and if you think about it, snakes are one of the coolest animals in the world. One thing people don't know about snakes is that they help and are similar to humans.

For example, they help by eating mice and rats that go in your garage. They get rid of them.

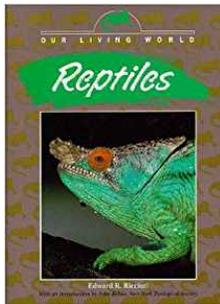
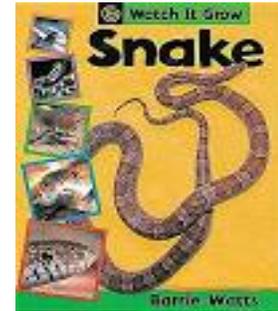
Also, in some ways, snakes are similar to humans. Snakes grow up big

but start off small, just like humans. Also, we both need food, water and air.

But on the other hand, we are also very different to snakes. We are different because as soon as they are born 98% of snakes don't need their mothers, WE NEED OUR MOTHERS.

Now, I'm not trying to force you to like snakes I'm just saying, don't judge things just because of the way they look or act, because what if you were that animal?

To find out more information about snakes, read these books in our Graebner Elementary library!



The Evil Teacher

By: Ella H.

Hi I'm Mia. I am a normal 10-year-old girl, I'm in 4th grade, I have lots of friends. My best friends are Julia, Anna, Alison, and Gabriela. We look like normal girls that work at a salon but, when no one is looking we go into the secret basement through a secret trap door in the floor. We solve mysteries and fight crime, together we are the "Girl Squad".

Today is Friday. I am in math class right now. I sit by all of my friends in every class! Today we are learning about long division. Boring right. My teacher for math is so mean. Once class is over me and my friends walk to the salon, find the trap door when no one is looking and slide down. When we get down into the basement we through our backpacks on the floor and we sprung onto the couch. As soon as we got onto the couch we started talking about our mean math teacher while we were doing our boring extra homework the math teacher assigned us. We had so much, it was a whole stack of paper. Meanwhile, we talk about our teacher. Anna said "The math teacher is so mean." "I know right, maybe we should go search her classroom at night." I replied. "Yeah" everybody shouted all at once. "Ok guys you should probably go now, meet me at the bike rack at school tonight at 8:30." "Ok" everybody answered. "Bye" we all said.

3 hours Later

"Where are they?" I ask to myself. "You know, what maybe they just..."

To be continued!

A Bit Too Different (Part 2)

Alivia G.

In shock, I looked back to see Cleo staring up at the figure, her face blank, while Cosmo's face was contorted in a painful expression as she met my eyes.

My head whipped back around when a raspy, little voice responded to Cleo's question. "C-Cleo? And Cosmo? And..." The wisps of air that were swirling around in front of us began to form into a body of a little girl, with overalls on and lengthy, stringy hair. Her face was tear-streaked, with eyes that looked like they were made of fog. They suddenly met mine.

Cleo quickly diverted her attention, hastily stumbling over to the young spirit and trying to hold her, to grab her hand, anything to comfort her. But her hands merely swiped through Quinn's transparent body. Cosmo came up behind them, while I tried my best to remain unseen behind them, questioning this whole situation. But my eyes couldn't fall off of the two sisters and the young girl, no matter how hard I wanted them to.

"Cosmo... Cosmo... Cleo. It's you. It's your fault. It's your fault dad left. You..." Quinn breathed heavily, her blank gaze remaining on Cleo. "He loved me and Cosmo. It's all your fault. He wanted us, but you. Ruined. *Everything.*"

Cleo breathed with obvious trouble, but she refused to cry. Quinn's spirit started to let off a scarlet-red aura, her fists clenching up. The two just stared at one another, until Cosmo said, "No. No, Quinn... I... Dad left because he didn't love Mom anymore. He hurt us, and he hurt her. We wanted him to leave, Quinn. He wasn't the good guy."

The child's attention turned towards Cosmo. "No... dad loved me. He hated all of you, but he loved *me*. You all... took him away."

Cleo rose to her knees (unable to stand due to the low ceiling) and whispered, "Quinn... dad killed you."

A horrifying shriek emitted from the little girl. As I crouched low, holding my hands over my ears, I began to process what had happened. Quinn must be their sister, considering how they all knew the same mother and father and were familiar with one another. But... why would Cleo's dad kill their youngest sibling? It made no sense... and the screaming dulled to a little, childish whimper.

Cosmo, her hands and legs uncontrollably shaking, managed to stutter out, "Q-Q-Quinn, dad left. But before he left, he had to hurt us. So, he... he snuck back in, and somehow... you were gone from your bed the next morning. We thought he just kidnapped you or something, but when mom called the police and t-they tracked him down, she wasn't with him. He confessed to... leaving you to suffocate here." The last few words were forced out, as tears rolled down Cosmo's cheeks.

The spirit began to sob. Ugly cries hiccupped from Quinn, as her form began to cripple. Cleo and Cosmo glanced back at me expectantly, and I knew I had to do something to cure this. *Well, it's basically a spirit that cannot rest... but what could it want?*

"Ruth?" Cleo whispered, as she and Cosmo quietly scooted over to me as Quinn's cries rung out around the room. "Sorry t-to rush you, but... you got any ideas?"

Cautiously I scooted up to the crumbling figure of Quinn-she appeared to be becoming more and more transparent, as if she were disappearing, but I knew she wouldn't be gone. Not until her ghost was at ease.

“Listen, Quinn...” I murmured, sitting on my knees right in front of her. “I know you’ve been through so much, but I believe that, possibly, you could be at rest, and you could live on in the next stage of life.” I honestly had no idea what I was saying-I was an amateur at putting ghosts back in the grave, as most people are-but perhaps this could help in some way that I didn’t understand in the least.

Cleo gave me a sharp jab in my shoulder blade. “Do something with your magic!” she hissed through clenched teeth.

I looked back at her, prepared to give a witty comment, before Quinn whispered, “I’m not dead.”

Immediately putting my attention back on her, I furrowed my brows. “Wh-What do you mean?” I faltered.

“I... I can!” Quinn intertwined her fingers with mine, sending chills down my spine. “You... I sense your aura. You could... bring me back. Like... Like a dying plant! I’m not dead, I just need some ‘water’ and I could be back.” Her excitement shone through her words, a wispy smile on her face.

Cleo poked me once again, this time in a neck, and when I whipped my head around she was wearing an ‘I told you so’ smirk. Cosmo, however, had silent tears that rolled down her cheeks as she looked at Quinn with an expression of pure joy.

“Ruth!” Cosmo yelped, seeming to snap out of her trance and looking at me with a wide beam on her face. “You-You’ve gotta! You’ve got to bring Quinn back!”

My shoulders tensed a bit, as I began to realize the pressure of this. *Don’t think of it like that-you’re helping them and you should just think of it as... a gift, of some sort.* I shook my arms a bit, and turned back to Quinn, her hands still clasped in my own. “Well, uh, what do I do?”

Quinn’s gaze became a bit hazy for a second, but then it refocused as she spoke. “You need my mom.”

Immediately, Cosmo called, “Mom! We need you *right now!*”

As soon as she finished, footsteps could be heard and their mom popped her head out of the trap door. Her face went pale as her eyes wandered onto the entity of Quinn, glowing in the dark, stuffed atmosphere of the room. “I-Is that.... that’s...”

Cosmo reached over and heaved her mom into the attic, who was visibly shaking and seemed completely stunned. While I rubbed the back of Quinn’s hands, Cosmo, hurried, quickly explained what happened-I cringed as she mentioned her dad. Even though I’d never met him nor trusted him, the crimes that he did... it made me feel nauseous just thinking of it.

“O-Okay,” their mom uttered as she carefully made her way over, as if she was afraid she’d break if she rushed herself. Quinn’s eyes looked over to her, and the emotions that she was experiencing were unreadable, conflicting between pain and jubilation. “H-Hi, honey. I, uhm, love you so much and I... just want you back.” She choked out the last few words as her face contorted into one of ugly sobs.

Quinn’s hands gingerly lifted off of mine, causing me to shiver at the loss of contact, and she turned to her mother. “Mom... I need you to grab my hand.” Her face turned to Cleo and Cosmo, her gaze not even grazing over me. “As well as you two. You.” Now she was focused on me, eyes unwavering. “In the middle.”

Obediently, everyone obeyed their orders as Cleo, Cosmo, their mother, and Quinn formed a circle around me, hand in hand. They shared glances of uncertainty, but I was frightened of why *I* was the one who was meant to be in the middle.

Oh, right, I'm the magical one here. Other than the ghost of Cleo and Cosmo's dead sister, obviously.

"Now, Ruth... this is going to hurt, worse than any pain you've ever felt. But just... think of all the times you've moved something, how much you strained to shove those large objects over. Now, multiply that power by unimaginable numbers, and focus on making me alive again," Quinn explained, as if it made sense.

"I-I-I'm not sure what you mean," I stuttered, fumbling with my fingers.

"Think of when you made that lilac grow and become healthy," Quinn offered. *How... does she know I tried that?* "Think of bringing life back to that plant. Fixate your aura, all your emotions on me, and think of me being here again. Of me, joyous with my siblings and mother and without... dad."

"O-Okay." I transitioned from a kneeling position to criss-crossed. It felt a bit ominous, being surrounded by people holding hands while I tried to perform some magical voodoo-like things, but what else do people do in their free time?

Laying my head into my hands, I closed my eyes and began to imagine. Imagine giving life to another being, to poor Quinn, who deserves a second chance. Of how the newspapers will ponder and wonder how she was brought back, and gaze at amazement at the zombie girl. How she'll get to live again, without the threat of her father looming over her shoulder.

Then I felt it.

I gasped as I experienced that feeling that my own life was draining out of me. My hands shook a bit and my heart began to race faster than anything I'd ever felt. Through legs trembling, eyes beginning to water, and dread chipping away at my will to keep on putting myself through this torture, I persisted.

Quinn began to shake herself, the light radiating from her growing brighter. I couldn't help but squint at her while I kept my focus on those happy thoughts, while my own anxiety fought to overwhelm all over things happening in my brain.

Is she tricking them? Is she actually taking my whole life essence away just so that she can live? What if it's not even Quinn, and some other spirit?

My questions were soon answered however, as Quinn let out a high-pitched shriek. Cleo, Cosmo, and their mother began to lift off the floor, their hands still tightly holding on to Quinn. I felt so, so weak, but I knew it was about to be over.

And then it was.

A loud thump could be heard, and suddenly my determination was cut off as I, against my own thoughts, collapsed on the floor, panting. The room was just about pitch-black again, with the exception of the light barely shining through a tiny circular window. My head pounded, but the feeling of accomplishment persuaded me to observe the situation and see whether or not my attempts at bringing back Quinn had succeeded.

She most definitely did.

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"Breaking news on the Founder News channel! A mere week ago, the formerly thought dead Quinn Priot was found alive in the Massachusetts state park, Foxglove Orchard. Doctors suspect the body that they found in the attic, which they could never truly identify as the young girl, was some other body that the killer placed. This causes the state police to suspect that Quinn's father, who everyone previously thought killed only her due to a fight with her mother, has killed other victims. This strong girl is currently in the hospital to be inspected and to be assured that she

has gained no dangerous illnesses from being stuck in the Foxglove Orchard for multiple years. Everyone believes this must be some sort of miracle. Speaking of miracles-”

Ruth clicked off her television, content with herself. Cleo’s mom took her to the hospital due to her shortly falling unconscious after the whole reawakening ritual that they promised never to speak of again. Quinn was well aware of what had occurred, and would most likely have some sort of PTSD, but she was all right at the moment.

Cleo now engaged with Ruth at school, which brought her some publicity, and she found herself with more acquaintances than strangers. Additionally, Ruth felt... good. Like she had done a truly selfless deed. Life was truly better for her now.

*Let’s not hope I have to bring anyone else back from the dead now*, Ruth thought to herself with a chuckle as she hopped off her couch and towards her bedroom to call Cleo to merely talk-something she’d never done before.

Now, life was just a little happier for everyone.

## The Bad Luck Charm

Written by: Emily K. and Erica T.

It’s March and I’m so excited! The reason why I’m so excited is because at school we are getting good luck charms for set Patrick’s day. It’s from our Teacher, Mrs. Lucky, she is very nice and all but she can be a bite weird, but me and my classmates think that she is nice.

The next day...

“Here you go kids pick your ba-, I mean lucky charms!” Mrs. Lucky smirked I was worried but I still took one, now everyone in the class has a charm I took the



one that looked like this.

It looked like it was from an ancient temple because it had dust on it. I liked dragons and phoenixs, but what I didn’t know was that, I was wearing was the two most evil mythical creatures, Valor and Valdor.....

At home, I sat down on the couch and I felt something watching me... I felt like something was creeping up my arm! When I was sitting down I was feeling something breathing on me, but when I looked back there was nothing there... I was EXTREMELY SCARED!!!

“Mom! I felt something touching my back, but there is nothing behind me!” I told my mom that I was scared and wanted to move.

“No honey, we can’t, this is the only place we can afford”, said Mother

I was disappointed at my mom, but I was really scared. After that, I just tried to ignore the creepy stuff that's happening to me. Every time I tried to not get scared or freaked out but I just couldn't, it was one disaster after another, everywhere I went bad luck came with me in the package. I felt so bad for the people that are getting bad luck...wait that bad luck is coming from...ME! I feel so BAD, for the people that are getting bad luck, from me!

I had enough of this bad luck so I went to the, old creepy lady that knows all about magic. I found the place, apparently it was a fort tent thing. I opened the curtain and there she was I asked her how to get this bad luck charm off of me. She said...

"If You want to know take a look in this book." She told me



I leaned over and took a look in the book and the pictures started to move...I was surprised.

I saw the two mythical creatures, and a person staring right into their eyes and trying to cast a spell on them, but it did not work.

I hurried and closed the book because I did not want to know what was going to happen next.

"why did you close the book darling?" the old woman asked

"I w-was just too scared to see what happened next" I told her.

"I see...Hm...come back next time if you want to know more and try to get rid of that bad luck of yours, oh and I want to tell you," she said.

"Hm??? What is it" I asked'

"You can control your bad luck that you possess, but if you show or have any negativity in you, you will not be able to control it very well so be careful, the old lady said.

After I went out of the tent I made sure I was careful about what I do, and what will happen to the people around me, if I don't be careful.

Whenever I go to school it's hard for me not to do or think of negative things that will make my "powers" or curse go out of control. Like what if something bad happens to me when I am alone!

"AHHH HELPP MOMMMMMMM!!!!!!!"

To be continued....