



The Sunrise Sentinel

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
Winter Edition, 2009

Changes at Sunrise Valley By Kelsi Jensen



You may have noticed some changes at Sunrise Valley this year, like new doors in the hallway, or our security system. There are also new teachers and students. With all these different people, we need different and better ways to keep them safe.

That's why we have the security system. All the doors are automatically locked when closed. To unlock the doors, you

have to have a pass. Every Sunrise Valley staff member has a pass, so they can unlock doors for their class. Teachers also have an extra pass in their classroom, so students can use it if they are going without the teacher and the class. This system was made for security, so no one can just walk into our school. FCPS started building the system last year, but it wasn't hooked up until October. "All Fairfax County Public Schools will have this security system soon. It was our time to put it in, so we did," said our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Burns. Students have mixed opinions about our school's new system. Jordan Hamlin in Mrs. Harris's class said he likes the security system because "it's really cool." When asked if Kaitlyn Ball in Ms. Froebel's class likes the security system, she said "No, it's too overprotective and it gets annoying when you don't have a pass." Another change at SVES is that we had a doorway installed over the summer. This is for security purposes too. "Since there are classrooms without doors, we need to keep that area safe too. We can lock the doors in case of fire or emergency," Mrs. Burns explained. A change at SVES that is not for security is the red pod-blue pod switch. You may have noticed that the 3rd graders have class in the blue pod, and the 4th graders have class in the red pod. "With more teachers and more students, it just fits better in these pods," Mrs. Burns informed me. Matt Hughes in Ms. Allen's class and Ali Jelvani in Mrs. Crisafi's class both agreed that it's weird being in the same pod two years in a row, and they would rather be in the

blue pod for 4th grade.

These changes may take time to get used to, and they sometimes seem annoying. But when it all boils down, the changes at Sunrise Valley were made to keep our school safer and happier.

Sunrise Valley's "Green" Changes By Molly McGrath

This year, Sunrise Valley is helping the environment with three new changes. The first change is a reusing bottles contest. Sunrise Valley is encouraging students to bring in reusable bottles instead of plastic ones. It is important to reuse bottles instead of using plastic water bottles. Why is reusing better than recycling? "Recycling is the best you can do for bottles that you can't reuse, but the bottles are taken to machines that pollute the air," says Stephan Parrot, one of the students that came up with the idea of this new contest. So far the contest is going well. Keep reusing Sunrise Valley!

Sunrise Valley has a rain barrel that is used to water plants. Sunrise Valley's rain barrel is very useful this year. Although it is not new this year, it is being used much more, and it is helping some other new things at Sunrise Valley. "The rain goes down the roof, in the pipe, and then in to the rain barrel." Says Katherine McCool during a presentation. "Then we use it to water the butterfly garden."

You may not have heard of the butterfly garden, but this year it is re-grown and pollinating! The butterfly garden has already been here, but it was mostly dead. Regrowing the butterfly garden is a new change. We are changing it from weeds to well-grown plants. The butterfly garden is full of plants to attract butterflies, so we know that it gives butterflies a nice place to live. Every year during science third graders raise butterflies, and then let them go when they finish learning about the butterflies. "We will always try to keep the butterfly garden healthy to provide the third graders a safe place to release their butterflies," says Mrs. Leatherwood, a teacher that helped re-grow the butterfly garden. Now the butterfly garden is in good shape.



Sunrise Valley's Green Team, a spirit team that was started this year, has been in charge of all of these new projects. They already have more ideas to help Sunrise Valley go green. Katherine McCool, Stephan Parrott, Ellie Rakoff, Tyler Macaluso, and Molly McGrath are all a part of the Green Team. Mrs. Leatherwood is in charge of it. Spirit teams consist only of sixth graders. "This year only five students are involved, but we hope to expand our number to twelve students," says Mrs. Leatherwood. Keep working hard Green Team! Now that you know about the water barrel, the reusing bottles contest, the Green Team, and the butterfly garden, you can do your part to help the environment. You can do this by taking part in the reusing bottles contest and helping to support these new changes at Sunrise Valley.



Mock Election
By Anna Dua

Mrs. Rossbach and the sixth graders started the first school mock election! The winner was Senator Obama! So while I was there I learned some things about the mock election. The mock election was made to get kids excited about the government and get ready to vote. It started in sixth grade. Mrs. Rossbach did it in her class around election time. It was her and Mrs. Tuden's idea. Mrs. Tuden is a parent of a sixth-grader. The mock election helps kids learn about the election process. Brooke O'Donnell, a sixth-grader, voted for Obama. She voted for him because her parents voted for him. She didn't vote for McCain because her parents didn't vote for him. The mock election taught a lot of students about how the election process works. We look forward to doing it again in 2012!

Students have Fun at Field Day
By Emily Head

On October 15, students gathered outside the building for field day. Between the many games and events, students were learning to work together and have fun! It couldn't have happened without the help of volunteers and our P.E. teachers.

In PE classes before field day, Mr. Platts and Ms. Frederick were teaching us a lot of the field day games so we would be ready when the actual field day came. During that time, a lot of students asked their parents to help volunteer. As well as the volunteers, Ms. Clagget and Ms. Harrod helped getting field day together too.

All students, except the kindergarten who will be having field day in the spring, participated in field day. Field day was supposed to "Allow Students an opportunity to challenge



their fitness levels for the benefit of self confidence and belief that everyone is a winner." Says Mr. Platts. Many of the games were designed to have students work together towards one goal.

Some of the favorite activities were brought back from last year because they were so popular, like Turkey Ball and the Rope Climb. There were some new games too, like the Buddy Walkers and the Over Under Relay. Students switch from station to station to be able to try all the games.

Games weren't the only thing at field day. The South Lakes marching band came to show students their instruments and play for Sunrise Valley. Students also had lunch outside while Mr. Platts and Ms. Frederick explained how field day would work. Only after all that did SVES start field day activities.

This year field day was in the fall as opposed to the spring. This change is because of all the business in the spring. Students were testing in the spring, and it was decided that the testing shouldn't be disturbed. "The schedule seemed more user-friendly with field day in the fall and the PE department decided to keep it that way." Mr. Platts explains. Some are not so ecstatic about the change. Elif Thompson, a fourth grader in Ms. Barna's class said she didn't like it "Because it has no water games."

So by the end of field day, students had exercised, worked together, and had fun! Overall, field day was a success with Sunrise Valley. For now we'll have to wait until next year for another field day.



A Little Snack
Makes a Big
Difference!
By Delaney
Connolly

At Sunrise Valley we celebrate a week called *National Inclusion*

Week. It is a week where students in different classes get to know each other! On the 2nd of December, Ms. Schufele's kindergarten class had a snack with Ms. Couper's class. Sammy, Zuhayr, Synthya, Orlando, and Erick from Ms. Couper's class showed the kindergarten students some sign language with their teacher's help. They also learned the sign language names that the students in Ms. Couper's class use to identify each other. For example, Sammy, a student in Ms. Couper's class, has a name sign that looks like a sign language "S" and tapping it on your heart!

Ms. Couper loves teaching her class. She said, "I love celebrating each other's differences! Classes get to see other classes that they don't usually see much!" Ms. Couper explained that *National Inclusion Week* has been going on for a long time in the U.S. "This week is very



helpful because students get to know each other!"

Have Fun With Pumpkins! ***By Lexi Warner***

The Storybook Pumpkin Festival is a fun activity in which Sunrise Valley students can participate. Mrs. Pieruccini wanted to start the Pumpkin festival because when she came to Sunrise, she was talking to a friend about something fun to do with books. They thought about all different times of the year and then the friend said, "Do something fun with pumpkins." That is how Mrs. Pieruccini's friend came up with the idea with the help of Mrs. Pieruccini herself.

After brainstorming the idea with her friend, Mrs. Pieruccini put the idea into action. This year is the fifth year Mrs. Pieruccini has done the festival at Sunrise Valley. The first year Sunrise Valley had the festival we had about thirty-five pumpkins. Last year we had about sixty-five pumpkins. This year we had the most pumpkins entered in the festival yet. Mrs. Pieruccini said, "This year we have a grand total of one hundred and six pumpkins." As the popularity of the event has grown, the number of participants in the festival has gotten larger each year.

Mrs. Pieruccini's favorite pumpkins are the ones she has never heard about or never read about, and it makes her want to read the book.

After the festival ends, kids take home more than half of the pumpkins. What happens to the rest of the pumpkins? They get thrown in the trash because we can not compost pumpkins. The pumpkins may get disposed of, but the memories of the activity lives on year after year.

Decade Day

By Lukas Gose



Mrs. Savory is in charge of the Sixth Grade Spirit Committee. The Spirit Committee comes up with the ideas for our spirit days. Mrs. Savory did not really do much--the six graders from the Spirit Committee did it all!

Decade Day is just one of the spirit days that we have at Sunrise Valley. Other spirit days include:

pajama day, hat day and wacky hair day. Decade Day took place on October 17th. Here are some of the costumes; dinosaurs, hippies, robots, cavemen with light sabers and regular cavemen. There also were some knights in shining armor and girls in poodle skirts from the 1950s. Kids also dressed up as if they were coming right out of the 1980s. Some of the teachers dressed up also. Mrs. Warstler dressed up like a 1970s go-go girl. Mrs. Warstler loves the 1970s, especially likes their clothes because she likes the bright colors.

"I wish I had grown up in the 1970s," said Mrs. Warstler.
Sunrise Valley had a great time on Decade Day. We hope to have another Decade Day next year.

SVES Grabs Their Skates ***By Kelleen Moriarty***

Whether you play ice hockey, figure skate, or just love to skate with your friends, Skate Night is a time to have fun. On November 8th at *Skatequest* ice rink, 167 of the SVES students bundled up to share the rink with kids from both Lake Anne Elementary and Terraset Elementary. This event was held by our PTA to raise money for our school. Mrs. Pieruccini and Ms. Cole our lovely librarians hosted this event. Mrs. Pieruccini remarked that Skate Night "Is a great way to see each other in a different setting."

Overall, it was a successful event and a fun night for many of the students. "It was fun because I love to skate," says Zach Bell, a 2nd grader in Mrs. VanDerHorst's class. Rena Miu, a 6th grader in Mr. Parker's class, said enthusiastically that her favorite part was, "Coming together with all of my friends and partying on ice!"



We'd Like To Get To Know You ... ***New Additions to the Sunrise Valley community!***

A New Creative Teacher ***By Natalie Abbey***

Mrs. Cantillana is our new first grade teacher! She likes to watch her first graders learn to read and write. She thinks her first graders are great thinkers and are very creative.



Mrs. Cantillana came to Sunrise Valley because the last school where she taught was a little big for her, and Sunrise Valley is a smaller school. Mrs. Cantillana last taught at Bailey's Elementary. This year is her 22nd year of teaching. Mrs. Cantillana went to The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

She is also a new mom! She has a 15 month old baby named Santiago. She likes music, reading, Mexican food and the season fall.

In math, Mrs. Cantillana is teaching about patterns, which is a class favorite. In science, her class is learning about trees. Her students are learning how to read and write!

She is very patient and has a wonderful sense of humor. She is very energetic. "Mrs. Cantillana is a great teacher because she takes time for us to learn new things," says Olivia Abbey, one of her students. She sounds like a fantastic teacher!

Mrs.Crisafi the newest 4th grade teacher!

By Josh Laney

Mrs.Crisafi is a new 4th grade teacher from Georgia. She has taught for five years. She taught 5th grade at W.E.Cundiff Elementary in Roanoke, Virginia. Then she taught 1st through 3rd grade at Golden Isles Elementary School in Brunswick, Georgia. Now she teaches at Sunrise Valley.

She is a graduate from Virginia Tech University in 2002. She lived in Roanoke, Virginia after college, and then she moved to Brunswick, Georgia. After three years, she moved back to Virginia. Are you wondering why she did all that moving? Well, she moved around so much because of her husband's job.

That's right, Mrs. Crisafi is not just a teacher, she has a family too! Besides her husband, she has a son. His name is William, but he goes by Will, and he is only one year old. We are glad to have Mrs. Crisafi here at Sunrise Valley. Now that she's here, let's hope she stays!

A New Cheerful Face Around Sunrise!

By Delaney Connolly



Many people have noticed a new cheerful face around Sunrise Valley! Her name is Ms. Burns. She went to college at Elizabeth Town, in Pennsylvania. She wanted to be a teacher, a secretary, or the first lady on Mars!

She started out as a secretary, but she decided that she did not want to be a secretary. Ms. Burns said, "I got over Mars, so I became a teacher!"

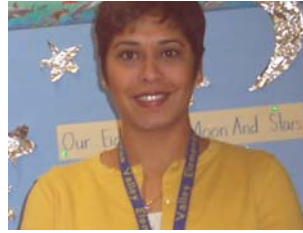
Before she came to Sunrise she worked at two other schools. One of the schools was McNair Elementary School. The other school was Oak Hill Elementary School. Then she applied for the job at Sunrise in spring of 2008!

There are some very good reasons why Mrs. Burns wanted to work here! She likes to work with kids and see kids learn. She also likes to help people. Ms. Burns heard good things about Sunrise Valley and she also knew Dr. English. Lastly our school is close to South Lakes where her daughter goes to school. Those are the reasons why Ms. Burns wanted to work at Sunrise Valley!

Ms. Burns loves working at Sunrise Valley! Her favorite parts about working here are... Is she likes working with us kids, the staff and the parents! Even though we miss Mrs. Stanley, Ms. Burns is a great Assistant Principal!

Welcome, Ms.Foti

By Devi de Oliveira



Sunrise Valley ES is very excited to add Ms.Foti as a new first grade teacher. She came to Sunrise Valley because of the wonderful teachers, principal and intelligent kids. Ms. Foti has

lived in India and went to college in Bangalore. She moved to America and got a masters degree at Marymont University in Arlington, Virginia. Ms. Foti decided to become a teacher so that she could share her love of learning with kids.

Ms. Foti has a lot of interests besides teaching. She loves every type of music. She has one cat that she rescued from being a stray. Her cat is a Russian breed. She worked hard as a travel consultant before she became a teacher. First grade rocks!

Second Grade Is Awesome If You Have Mrs. Harris

By Annabelle Flood

This year we have a new 2nd grade teacher. Her name is Mrs. Harris. Mr. Huffer is her brother. He is a 5th grade teacher. They both took the job WITH OUT KNOWING. She was very excited to know that her brother was teaching here



too. Mrs. Harris likes to go hiking with her family, and her favorite animals are dolphins and whales. Her favorite place is the beach. She taught kids for six years now. Her favorite part of teaching is learning with her students. Mrs. Harris went to Newbury Park High School in California. She went to George Mason University for her Masters in education. She lives 2.5 miles from school. She likes to sing songs in the morning with her class. On Friday, they play games. Mrs. Harris loves small children. She likes teaching a lot. She likes teaching because she likes to feel like she is making a difference, I don't know about you but I think she's making a difference.

Mr. Huffer

By Shruti Ray

It's time to welcome a new teacher to this school, Mr. Huffer!! Mr. Huffer loves being a teacher. He was first inspired to teach when he taught women to read their watches in an African village he lived in which was in Senegal, a country in Africa.



How did he get there? Well, he was a Peace Corps volunteer. The Peace Corps is a group of Americans that go to other countries to help the people who live there. Mr. Huffer joined the Peace Corps

after he attended the University of California in Berkeley. He started teaching in 1990 on his birthday, December 3rd. The first class he ever taught was in Los Angeles, and there he learned a lot about other cultures because many of his students were Hispanic. He enjoyed his experience there so much; he has been teaching for 16 YEARS!!

Mr. Huffer is not the only addition from his family to Sunrise Valley. Edward (also known as Teddy), his older son, is currently in 4th grade in Mrs. Crisafi's class, and Anna, Teddy's younger sister, is currently in 2nd grade in Ms. Helsel's class. Even Mr. Huffer's sister has joined the family fun, Mrs. Harris, teaches 2nd grade.

Mr. Huffer has made a big and terrific change to Sunrise Valley. He's brought Lego Robotics to Sunrise Valley! He has gotten the students of Sunrise Valley to help him make Lego Robotics possible. This program is when students put together Lego's to make robotic objects that move and walk just like us! He also has brought Classroom City to the 5th graders. Classroom City is when your classroom is turned into a city just like the real world. I interviewed two 5th graders, Erica and Sean. Erica, who is in Ms. Schroeder's class, said "Classroom City is when you get to feel what real people can do in the real world". Sean, a student in Mrs. Blomquist's class said "It's when people bring in cardboard and build a city. Then you can auction stuff. Most people give out really cool stuff. Then we can go and buy them with special currency."

Mr. Huffer is a wonderful addition to Sunrise Valley. We all hope he will stay here for many years more!

Mrs. Robles-McCormack Comes to Sunrise Valley! **By Ambika Minocha**

Third grade has gone off on a great start for us kids, but who knows how it is for the teachers? Well, the staff members of the *Sunrise Sentinel* do! We went to a third grade teacher, Mrs. Robles- McCormack, a brand new teacher to SVES, and asked her how the year was going. "It's really exiting and challenging." She really enjoys the open classrooms at Sunrise Valley. She says, "It's different but it also helps our class be respectful learners and keep the noise level down for other classes." Mrs. Robles-McCormack has been teaching 3rd and 2nd grade for fifteen years! She said she really likes working at Sunrise Valley and has met some awesome teachers and motivated learners. Well that's the story, citizens of Sunrise Valley! That's the story of the amazing Mrs. Robles-McCormack!

Our New Kindergarten Teacher, Ms. Schufele **By Sierra Winters**

You might already know that Ms. Schufele is our new kindergarten teacher. What you might not know is how she became a teacher here at Sunrise Valley. When she came



to visit, she was happy with the staff and liked the way the kids were taught. She liked it here so much that she interviewed with Dr. English for a job as a kindergarten teacher. After Dr. English offered her a job, Ms. Schufele

moved from Florida to come teach here. Most of her family still lives in Florida.

Ms. Schufele chose to teach kindergarteners because of their young age and because she likes how they are so curious. She enjoys teaching kindergarten because she wants to see her students grow at their years here at Sunrise Valley.

Her greatest memory was when she was offered a teaching job. She couldn't wait to start! Before she became a teacher, she was in graduate school. Outside of school she liked to relax and have fun with her friends.

Mr. Unser **By Sierra Davis**

Mr. Unser has filled the position of Technology Specialist at Sunrise Valley. He has replaced Ms. Sud, who retired last year. He is great! He's always helping out in the classrooms and I'm so glad he's here this year. Mr. Unser has worked very hard to get us PC computers for the computer lab. Now it is easier to do work there. I'm so glad we work in the computer lab this year.



Mr. Unser went to St. Lawrence University to learn to teach chemistry. He went to Georgia College to

get his master's degree. Before coming to Sunrise, Mr. Unser taught computers for three years at Lake Braddock. He also taught chemistry at Lake Braddock. Altogether he's been teaching for eleven years. In addition to teaching, Mr. Unser also worked at the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum. He was a Aerospace Educator and led field trips for elementary kids. Mr. Unser was an Air Force pilot for 26 years on B 52s before he started teaching. He came to SVES because he missed the elementary kids he used to teach at the Air and Space Museum.

His favorite color is blue and he doesn't have any pets. In his spare time he enjoys swimming, fishing, golfing and biking. His pet peeves are when kids abuse the computers in the computer lab. His favorite thing to do on a computer is to check the internet for information and news. We are all so glad Mr. Unser is here this year!



Grade Level News

Fun at Frying Pan Park By Brienne Welch and Devi de Oliveira

All three kindergarten classes went to Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon on Tuesday November 11th from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. At Frying Pan Park the kindergartners learned about cows. They even milked a pretend cow! Adrianna Smith in Ms Schufele's class had this to say, "We saw horses and we saw people cleaning their shoes!" They had so much fun. 30 parent chaperones came along and helped all 63 students be safe.

First Grade News!!! By Arleigh Kritsky

First grade is pretty exciting! They have some fun projects and cool field trips, so I decided to interview Mrs. Holland to get all the details. I asked her why she likes teaching the first grade better than kindergarten. She explained that she preferred the first grade because she gets her students the whole day! Although the first graders have not gone on any field trips yet, she told me about some cool projects they have done. They have done two fun projects so far. They had Friendship Friday where the whole pod came together and sang songs. They also had a Thanksgiving Day on November 25th. Ms. Holland's favorite project was Friendship Friday. Her favorite thing to do with her class is Writing Workshop because she said that everyone loves to write! Most of all, Ms. Holland keeps her class organized by modeling good behavior for the students.



After Ms. Holland's interview I decided to get a kids perspective of first grade. Some people may know Meredith Wagner from Ms. Holland's class. I asked her what her favorite part of first grade is. Meredith said coloring was her favorite part. She likes it because it's fun! I also asked her about her reading buddies. She also told me her reading buddy's name is Anna Dua, and she is in Mrs.Crisafi's 4th grade class. She told me that her favorite book to read with her buddy was Cinderella stories! I hope after reading this article you think First grade is pretty exciting!!

Second Grade News By Sherry Xie

Second grade is awesome! The second grade teachers are Mrs. Harris, Ms. Helsel, her co-teacher Ms. Soliday, and Mrs. Vanderhorst.

Second grade went on a field trip to Frying Pan Park. They

went there during the first week of November. They had fun and learned a lot. They enjoyed there trip there.

They have been studying economics in social studies. That will come in handy with buying, selling, spending, and using money wisely. The teachers make learning economics interesting.

In science, second grade kept pet crickets. Everyone was paired up with a partner. Each pair got two crickets. The crickets have empty tissue rolls for private tunnels. They mostly eat raisins and cheerios. They were sad to let them go but they were glad they got to raise them. Second grade ROCKS!



Thrilling Third Grade By Gia Moriarty

Do you know what's under our feet? The third graders do. Under our feet are rocks, minerals, and soil. In the first quarter the third graders learned about rocks, minerals, and soil. Learning about rocks, minerals, and soil will help us to understand our earth by learning what it is made of. There are five third grade teachers to teach this unit, Mrs. Allen, Ms. Booth, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Giovanini, and Mrs. Robles McCormick. When some teachers were kids they learned about rocks, minerals and soil just like we did.

The third graders ended their unit with making soil out of Oreos, graham crackers, pudding, sprinkles, and a gummy worm. First they put in an Oreo for bedrock, crushed Oreo for weathered rock, graham cracker for subsoil, pudding for top soil, sprinkles for plants, and a gummy worm.

Jad Loukili in Ms. Booth's third grade said "I thought it was really fun because I liked the rocks in the kit". Some other fun units they'll be learning about include Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, simple machines, and butterflies. Mrs. Giovanini said "I really enjoyed teaching rocks and minerals and it was a fun unit for teachers and students."

Awesome Trip to Jamestown By Sindhu Ranga



The fourth grade trip to Jamestown and Williamsburg was exciting, but also very tiring. It was a crowded trip with about 109 students and 30 teachers and parent chaperones! The group departed at 6:00 AM to Jamestown. They toured the ships used to sail

from England and a village created to look like the one that was established by the colonists. They had lunch at Jamestown and then left for Williamsburg. At Williamsburg, students enjoyed going through the hedge maze and visiting the shops. They left Williamsburg and departed for our school. They arrived back at school at 7:00 PM. Many students were tired. Some people slept on the bus. The fourth graders learned a lot. Radhika Agrawal of Mrs.Crisafi's class learned that it was hard to live in the past. She also learned that John Smith saved Jamestown.

Many people liked the jobs in Williamsburg. Mrs.Crisafi said

she would like to be a wigmaker because, she could make people beautiful, and she would get to see everyone. Some people liked the Woodland Indian jobs. Ali Jelvani of Mrs. Crisafi's class says he would like to be the Chief Powhatan. He chose this because he wanted to make rules and decisions. The fourth graders learned, had fun, and got very tired during the trip. Third graders: get ready for this trip next year!

Fifth Grade News **A Rainy Day for an Opera** **By Heather Lukas**

The 5th grade is off to an exciting year with some field trips that are usually fun for everybody! They went to the International Festival at Wolftrap on September 9th, and went to see the opera on November 14th. However, one of the field trips turned upside down near the end of the day.

The fifth graders have journeyed to Wolftrap to see the International Festival has taken place for over 20 years. This year the International Festival premiered dances from many countries. Wolftrap has this event to expose students to different cultures. "I liked all the dancing and all the instruments." said Sara Petrosian a fifth grader from Mr. Huffer's class. The International Festival is an exciting opportunity, and now you can see why it has been around for so long.



The second field trip of the year was a trip to see the opera *Carmen* at the Kennedy Center. The opera look-in taught the students about opera, how they do special effects in opera, and sword-fighting in opera. The Kennedy Center does this event, because appreciation for the opera is dying, so they are trying to get young people interested in it again. It seems like it got one kid interested in seeing more operas. "The opera was fun, but I wouldn't go see that exact one again." said Jessica Hogg. Before the opera the kids had a preview at SVES on October 28th and 30th. A docent from the National Opera came to school and explained the opera *Carmen*, and showed the students different versions of it. Then the students had a chance to role play the characters, and tried on the costumes. The opera *Carmen* is about a gypsy named Carmen, who gets arrested and falls in love with a soldier. He lets her go, but when the general finds out, he gets in trouble. While she is free she falls in love with someone else and when the soldier is let go, he finds out. To see what happens next you'll have to see the opera. "It was awesome, but we had to stay after." Sarah Petrosian is right; the adventure began after the opera.

"It was a wonderful opera, until the nightmare after." Ms. Leonard said. The G20 Summit took place in downtown D.C. on the same days as the trip to the opera. The G20 Summit is when the leaders of the 20 most important countries in the world gather to talk about the economy. As you can imagine security was definitely tight. The roads were even closed, so the busses couldn't come to pick up the students after the opera was over. The students had wait outside in the rain, because the opera house was full with the other schools that were doing the next opera look-in. While they stood in the rain, they got to watch the international

dignitaries arrive across the Key Bridge. For the first fifteen minutes, it was exciting to see the motorcades, but the next hour and forty-five minutes, not so much. The brave 5th graders survived the cold rain and were ecstatic when those big yellow busses came into sight.

For all these wonderful field trips you can thank Ms. Leonard, the 5th grade team leader. Also, the 5th graders are learning cool topics such as ancient cultures, micro to macro science, and something new this year, a simulated city! In their simulated city they can buy from each other, make money, own a shop, and they even have a mayor. Fifth graders can soon look forward to another possible field trip to the National Cathedral to coincide with their medieval studies. It looks like the 5th graders have a great year ahead of them.

Sixth Grade Trip to Hemlock **By Brienne Welch**

The sixth graders at Sunrise Valley went to Hemlock Overlook on Thursday November 20, 2008. Hemlock Overlook is a place where kids our age, or little older, practice teamwork. The camp is located in Clifton, Virginia which is about 40 minutes away from Sunrise Valley. Some of the exercises that the sixth graders participated in were the peanut butter pit, the zip line, and the line walk. The peanut butter pit is a pit that is made out of mud but in the summer has the same texture as rich peanut butter. The zip line was a huge cable cord that attached to a rope. The rope brings you down from a platform to a dirt hill where you land.

The zip line is almost 52 feet high and takes about 12 seconds to get down! The line walk is made of a similar cord as the zip line but instead of riding down the cord, you have to walk across of it. Many of the sixth graders liked the zip line the best. In fact Dana Damenova, of Mrs. Gualtieri's class, said that she liked the zip line because it was tall and fast. This wonderful field trip is an annual tradition for the sixth graders.

The wonderful sixth grade teachers, Ms. Frobel, Mrs. Rossbach, Mrs. Gualtieri, and Mr. Parker organized the trip and supervised how well each team showed their cooperation! The sixth grade team had a fabulous day at Camp Hemlock, and you and your family can visit there any time to!

To all you future sixth graders out there, you have a great experience waiting for you at Camp Hemlock.



Here Comes the Bride! **By Margaret Baule**

On August 9th, 2008, Ms. Giovanini's name changed to Mrs. Giovanini! She got married! Recently, while asking Mrs. Giovanini questions, we got the inside scoop on everything! When asked if there was a theme for her wedding, Mrs. Giovanini replied "No. I did use certain colors though: different shades of turquoise and green." Mrs. Giovanini's ceremony "took place at Floris United Methodist Church" and her reception took place "at the Sheraton National in Pentagon City". When asked if her wedding went as planned she replied "Yes! We had so much fun and were able to share the day with our closest

friends and family". Was it fun planning the wedding? "It was fun, but it was very time consuming!" An attendee at Mrs. Giovanini's wedding, Ms. Leonard, said "Mrs. Giovanini was absolutely a glowing bride. She looked beautiful, and she and her groom were obviously very much in love." Another attendee, Mrs. Warstler attended the wedding with her husband. When we asked her about the wedding, she said "What a sparkling and beautiful evening!! The bride and groom were no surprise... beautiful together!" It definitely seems like the wedding was a successful event!

ASK SENTINEL SALLY
By Kelleen Moriarty

Dear Sally,

I'm really afraid of spiders! It shouldn't be that much of a problem, but people always roll their eyes when I start screaming! I also don't enjoy feeling scared, it just kind comes and I start shaking! Can you help me deal with the people who roll their eyes and help me get over my fear?

~Spider Scared

Dear Spider Scared,

Ignore them. It doesn't matter who they are, we all have our fears, its part of who we are.

~Sentinel Sally

Dear Sally,

My best friend is a boy; we hang out, talk, laugh and tease each other like all friends. But people say we can't be "just friends" because he's a guy! And every time it happens, I get all nervous and embarrassed! What do I do?

~ Foolish Friendship?

Dear Foolish Friendship,

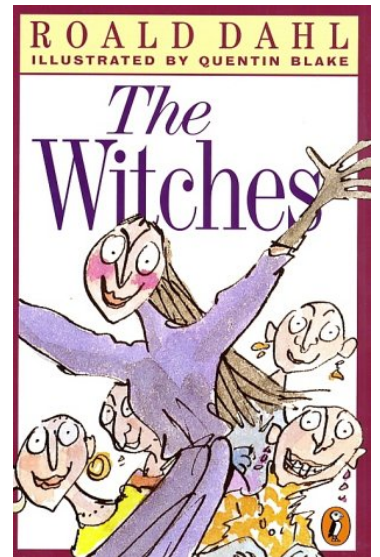
Ignore the ugly remarks; they obviously don't know how it feels to have such an amazing friend. If people have a problem with you being his friend, they are just jealous. You need to keep in mind it's not their life, it's yours. Remember: Good friends stick together through it all.

~Sentinel Sally



Book review for *The Witches*
By Gia Moriarty

The Witches by Roald Dahl is a great book for children of all ages. This book is about a young boy who learns all about witches from his kind grandmother. When he gets home to his house in England a witch tries to get him but the second he sees her he notices that she's a witch and he's able to escape. He has lots of other adventures that include witches including his summer break, when he goes to the Hotel Magnificent and has a magical experience there. I recommend this book because it's imaginative, it's fun, and it's only a little scary.



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