



The Sunrise Sentinel

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
Spring Edition, 2009

Show What You Know Expo By Sherry Xie

The Show What You Know Expo was on Thursday, March 28, from 6:30 – 8:15 this year. As usual, participants received a free ice-cream sundae and a T- shirt. Show What You Know Expo was brought to Sunrise Valley by Bonnie Hurwitz. Bonnie Hurwitz saw that another school was doing this and thought it was a great idea. This years Show What You Know was the 5th Show What You Know so far. The first Show What You Know was in 2005.

Mrs. Pieruccini, our librarian says "It's amazing how many different projects there are in just one room" and she is right. There were over 250 different projects. Some of the projects were about Trees, Golden



Retrievers, Hamsters, Bull Sharks, Instruments, and more.

Anna Liang, a third grader in Mrs. Giovanini's class

did a project on swimming.

Anna said "I did it on swimming because I like to swim and I know a lot about swimming. She decided to participate this year because she participated last year and thought it was fun.

Kristina Macaluso and Katie Vintimilla did origami. They did it because origami is fun and popular. They quizzed people about origami and you got two tries per question. If you correctly answer all the questions, you can win a Hershey Kiss in a little origami. If you didn't join this year you should do it next year!

Celebrate the Heritages! By Margaret Baule

From the Chinese culture to the Indian culture to the Irish culture, Heritage Night has got it all! One late night in January, students, teachers and parents gathered in the SVES gym to share their heritages with one another by stickers, passports, cultural foods, games and more!

Mrs. Leatherwood, an ESOL teacher here at our school, was the host of this special night. Mrs. Leatherwood strongly believes in celebrating the different cultures, so Heritage Night has always been a really fun



night for her. When asked why our school does this, she replied by saying "So we can appreciate and learn about all the diversity and traditions of our school community." When asked if she thought that kids enjoyed Heritage Night, she said "Absolutely, I see pride, excitement and the love of sharing something so special with others." She also says "It's one of my favorite ways to the travel to different lands without leaving Fairfax County." Monica Russ and Laura Drain decided we needed to do this three years ago, and that's how this amazing Sunrise Valley tradition started. Mrs. Leatherwood says "We'd love to have as many people as possible to share their culture for Heritage Night!"

After hearing that, Heritage Night seems like a fun, enjoyable night for everyone. Celebrate the cultures. Celebrate Heritage Night.

School Hours

By Kelsi Jensen and Molly McGrath

Sleep. Everybody needs it. Most people need more of it. And recently, it stirred up Fairfax County Public Schools.

Some concerned parents had brought up an issue to the school board. They thought school wasn't fitting their teens sleep schedule. They didn't like the idea of teens going to school at 7:30, and not getting enough sleep.

Teens that don't get enough sleep tend to:

- have a weaker immune system
- use poor judgment
- become obese
- get bad grades and
- become hyperactive

Parents wanted their kids to be healthy and make good choices, so they proposed a new schedule that would allow more time in the morning... and less in the afternoon. If the proposed schedule was put in to place, high schools would start around 8:30 and end around 3:20. Middle



schools would start around 9:40 and end around 4:30. For kids with a long bus ride, they would be getting home pretty late. Elementary schools would start between 7:50 and 9:25, and end between 2:30 and 4:00. Sunrise Valley would start at 7:50 and end at 2:30. That would

mean problems at the bus stop, because during winter, elementary school kids would have to wait for the bus in the dark, which isn't the safest thing.

Also, if the new bell schedule was put in to place, after school activities would be a difficulty. School for middle and high school students would interfere with after school activities. They would either be moved later in the evening or moved to the morning. And activities that take up your free time mean less time for homework.

Each side of the story had its pros and cons, so people had very different opinions. We polled our SVES PTA at their March 3rd meeting on what they thought about this issue. Twelve people voted; two were undecided, three supported the proposed bell schedule, and seven did not support the proposed bell schedule.

Lyn Cordts said she supported the bell schedule because "it seems to fit the natural sleep patterns of young people better—little kids tend to wake up earlier than teens—and I like the idea of having more time afterschool for elementary kids to take classes like swimming and gymnastics."

An anonymous voter said that they were undecided because "Early morning activities will be lost at SVES. It will be too dark in morning for elementary school age students to wait for the bus."

Another anonymous voter, that didn't support the changed bell schedule said "I worry about the middle school schedule changes and what the changes could mean to after school programs there."

Kids at SVES have opinions about this bell schedule too. Adam McCormack, in 2nd grade, said he would like the bell schedule to change because he would like to get up earlier. Katherine McCool, in 6th grade, said she would not like the bell schedule to change because she thought that it wouldn't be fair for the elementary school students to start sooner because of the older kids.

On March 19th, 2009 the school board voted on this issue. Ten people voted to keep the current bell schedule, and two people voted to change the bell schedule. The bell schedule will not be changed. So, Sunrise Valley will maintain the current schedule for next year.

Concerts are a Success at SVES

By Emily Head

Many students at SVES are in band, strings, or chorus. Students not in music usually come to the concerts. Music is a big part of school at SVES, and a lot of students love singing and playing instruments! Students practice at least once a week to prepare for a successful

concert! So what makes these concerts so great?

We have all been to the band, strings, and chorus concerts. We have seen the final product but it takes a lot to get ready! Students practice once a week in school and sometimes more as it gets closer to the concert. Many students practice at home as well as school. Chorus works mostly on beginning music skills, working together, singing harmonies, complex rhythms, and how to breathe. In strings beginning students are learning how to hold the instruments, care for the instrument, and get familiar with notes. Beginning students in band learn how to hold instruments correctly, blow air properly, how to play the first five notes. As the year goes on, they learn to read music and symbols, learn how to play more notes, and learning to play sheet music. More advanced students are learning scales, more rhythms, new notes, sheet music, and preparing for band in middle school.



Chorus gets very busy in the spring! They will be having a spring concert at Sunrise Valley on May 14th, a concert at a Nursing Home on May 15th, and they will be performing in Hershey Park on May 16th! Students are excited, and Ms. Frazier will be happy to see all their hard work pay off! Eight students are also in All County Chorus, so they will have a concert with many students from all over the county.

Strings has a concert on May 6th so students will be able to show what they've learned. Plus, some students will attend the Solo and Ensemble festival where, like band students, they will perform a solo for a judge. Some other students are in the Reston Herndon Area Orchestra, an orchestra outside of SVES strings. Ms. Born teaches strings along with Ms. Devereux, who is new to Sunrise Valley.

The Band Spring Concert will be on May 20th. All the students will be playing sheet music, not music from their book. "The beginning students are excited to perform 'The Tenth Planet', which is a song that has a space theme, while the advanced band is looking forward to playing 'Rocky Mountain Romp', which sounds like they're in a hoedown!" said the band teacher, Ms. Fraser. On April 18th, 14 students performed in the Solo and Ensemble Festival for a judge at Langston Hughes Middle School. The Reston Area Honor Band, a group of advanced band students from Reston Elementary Schools, will be performing on May 7th.

Think about how much work is put SVES concerts next time you're listening to Chorus, Band, or Strings play! Concerts are very successful at Sunrise Valley!

The Wellness Fair

By Brienne Welch

Mr. Platts is in charge of the Wellness Fair. The Wellness Fair will be taking place on May 2nd (Saturday) and ALL students will be invited to come. So what is the Wellness Fair?

The Wellness Fair is “a health and wellness expo where parents, students of Sunrise Valley Elementary, and residents within the community can come to receive the latest health and wellness information on the market today. There will be performances and giveaways for all who can come out that day” said Mr. Platts.

The BEST thing about it is that students from ALL grade levels can come. Mr. Platts has invited representatives from Geico Insurance, Safeway, and Reston Fire. He has also invited personal trainers, yoga instructors, and local dentist and much, MUCH more! Mr. Platts had brought this from his old school and this is the first time we’ve done it so let’s give it a try and have fun!

The fair was held before we came to press. Many students, teachers and parents attended and had a great time. Thank you, Mr. Platts!

Pump up Your Luck For BINGO

By Annabelle Flood

B-I-N-G-O! Did you win? Sunrise Valley hosted a school Bingo Night on February 20th. I interviewed some winners to find out what it feels like to win Bingo.

One of the main prizes was a big basket of Sally Foster gifts. If you got raffle ticket # 611574 you would have won! The Scott family had that ticket and they won the prize!



The children in the family are Brianna, who is in kindergarten, and Jerome, who is in 1st grade. In the basket there were two buckets of cookie dough and a lot more surprises. The Scott family said they would love to come back to Bingo Night next year.

I talked to Mrs. Pieruccini, who was one of the callers at Bingo Night. She said, “It was scary and fun to be a caller because it felt like I was going to drop the Bingo balls.” The Bingo balls were wood with a shiny surface with the letters and numbers burned on.

Five people in Mrs. Robles-McCormack’s class won a prize. Their names are Ryan, Jake, Pirneth, Caroline, and Christopher. I interviewed a student from Ms. Booth’s class named Bardia. He won two Lego kits. “I will definitely come back next year,” said Bardia.

The Champions Program

By Devi de Oliveira

The Champions program is a great program for helping kids learn about different disabilities. This is the first year it has ever been done. They have learned all about hearing disabilities, vision disabilities, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. The club meets in the library once a month on a Tuesday. Mrs. Goswick and Ms. Kamp lead the club. Mrs. Goswick said that the club

will “help our students be aware that we are more alike than different.” They organized the club because they wanted people to understand that “people do things in different ways,” said Mrs. Goswick. The kids in the club do lots of activities to help the kids to know what its like to have disabilities. This helps them learn about that disability. SVES welcomes this new club!



Lego Robotics

Josh Laney

Mr. Huffer came to SVES with big ideas like Lego Robotics. He got the idea from another teacher who had a mars rover controllable over the Internet. Mr. Huffer’s Lego Robotics club doesn’t make mars rovers, but they do use the Lego Mindstorm to make lots of cars. They use their robots to complete missions like pick up things, push things, pull things and drive past all sorts of things.



The kids make there own robots. It is very hard to complete the missions to steer and operate the robots. It is very hard to make the robot but the kids love it, and they always want to make another.

Mr. Huffer said, “I will most likely do the Lego Robotics club next year.” So, if you want to be in it you can sign up next year. Lego Robotics is lots of fun and most of the people in Lego Robotics will tell you to do it next year. Lego Robotics is a big success and will most likely it will be a bigger success next year.



Spirit Days at SVES ☺

By Lukas Gose

Have you ever wondered how we have spirit days? If you read this you’ll find out. The Spirit Team decides on when to have spirit days. The Spirit Team consists of kids in the sixth grade. They are led by Mrs. Savory. They vote to choose the spirit days like Freaky Friday and Team Spirit Day. On Freaky Friday, Mrs. Savory thought the freakiest thing she saw was a girl with a water bottle in her hair.

There are a lot of people on the spirit team. Matt Crump is on the spirit team. He said he liked Decade Day because he enjoyed dressing up like a guy from the 1980s. There are about 5 spirit days a year. Some of the spirit days are Freaky Friday, Team Spirit Day, Decade Day and Pajama Day.

The School Store

By Natalie Abbey

There have been many changes to the Sunrise Valley school store. First, instead of our fabulous fifth graders running the store as they have done in the past, the wonderful fourth graders are helping with the great school store this year. Also, the store now uses order forms to pick out the exact items each customer wants to buy. The order forms make shopping much easier. Finally, another addition to the store this year is our well organized Mrs. Prather. This is her first year running the school store.

In addition, did you know the school store offers new products? Well they do! The store now sells new cool products like novelty erasers. These erasers come in shapes such as hamburgers, french fries, ice cream cones, popsicles, and money. The store also sells items such as little porcupine animal balls, pencil grips, and water bottles. These new items give Sunrise Valley students more options for fancier school supplies.

The process for buying supplies has also been improved this year. First, students get in line to fill out the new order forms for the supplies they would like to buy. Then they move over to the next line to receive their items and pay for them.

Mrs. Prather has plenty of fourth grade students to help her with the store. She has twenty-six fourth graders altogether on staff, but only three students work in the store at one time. Two fourth graders are in charge of filling out order forms, and one fourth grader checks the math. It takes a team to make the store run smoothly.

The best part about the school store is that anyone can buy new school supplies whenever they need them!

New Instruction Assistants!

By Arleigh Kritsky

If you haven't already noticed we have some new assistants at Sunrise Valley!!

I interviewed Miss Stone's assistant Miss Raba to get the inside scoop on everything. Miss Raba said, "I was first inspired when I found out I was able to teach children and I had worked with children for a long time." I asked her how she helps Miss Stone. She said, "I help Miss Stone by teaching the material and organizing the class. My next question was," Are you doing anything exciting in your class? "Yes" she said, "They just started learning how to solve real life math problems using money;" Her favorite thing that happens in her class is when a child is happy because he/she has learned something new. She has taught one year in SVES, but she taught in Lebanon for several years. "In Lebanon I won best teacher of the year," she said, "And I know three



different languages, Arabic is my first language English is my second language and French is my third language."

SVES also welcomed some other new assistants: Mrs. Monsour, Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Kim, and Ms. Burkman. Instructional assistants really help classroom teachers to teach their students. They help teachers plan and instruct lessons. Classroom teachers really love working with instructional assistants!

Welcome to Our School,

Mrs. O'Neil!

By Sindhu Ranga

Guess what? We have a new staff member in our school, Mrs. O'Neil! Mrs. O'Neil is one of our new administrative assistants. Mrs. O'Neil graduated from Boston College in Massachusetts with a degree in Business Management and a concentration in Marketing. After college, she had quite a few jobs. Mrs. O'Neil's first job was selling cargo space on ships that went all around the world. Then, she had the opportunity to market ceramic floor tiles. The floor tiles were made with glass that was recycled from the Sylvania light bulb production for GTE/Sylvania. It was one of the first "green" products marketed. When Mrs. O'Neil moved to Virginia, she worked as a tour director, helping tourists enjoy their vacations. Then, she became a flight attendant. Mrs. O'Neil's favorite job, and the job she has had the longest, is being a mom. She used to take care of her children when they were in elementary school. Her kids are older and she says she now enjoys working part time at Sunrise Valley. Last year, before working in the office, Mrs. O'Neil worked as a substitute teacher. "I've used skills from my past jobs to help me to do my job at Sunrise Valley," says Mrs. O'Neil. Mrs. O'Neil thinks this school is special because to her it is a very professional place to work. "Everyone here really wants to make this school a great school for all the students," said Mrs. O'Neil. Mrs. O'Neil wanted this job because her children attended this school for 10 years. Another reason was that when she substituted she enjoyed it a lot. She already knew some teachers and students and got to know many more. "When I got a chance to work in the office it seemed like a great chance to see all the students that I already knew, and be a part of the school community," said Mrs. O'Neil. Mrs. O'Neil loves her job. "The people I work with in the office are wonderful! They are very friendly and helpful," said Mrs. O'Neil. She looks forward to seeing teachers and students come into the office and talk about exciting things they are doing in class and fun things they do outside of school. Now Mrs. O'Neil is a new part of our community. Welcome to our school Mrs. O'Neil!!!

Two More Helping Hands!!!

By Delaney Connolly

There is another smiley face around Sunrise! Her name is Mrs. Weir. She was hired a couple years ago, and then she was not here for a year or so. She came back because of the people she loves, teachers and students. She started working here in 2006. Then she left,

but she came back. She got hired back in September of 2008.

Before she worked at Sunrise Valley she worked at one other school. The school is called Waples Mill. It is a school in Oakton.

Mrs. Weir works with our special needs students, and she told me why! She said, "I have a passion for working with them!" She also said, "I love being the voice that some of them don't have." Mrs. Weir likes helping them a lot!

There was one person that inspired her to work here! That person was Dr. English. Mrs. Weir met her a few years ago. Mrs. Weir says, "Dr. English is a very compassionate person!" She is glad Dr. English took a chance on hiring her.

Mrs. Weir also has some goals for next year! "I want to introduce the special needs student to something new," Mrs. Weir says. Some skills she wants to introduce them to are improving verbal abilities and using pre-reading strategies Mrs. Weir is a great teacher and we are so glad to have her at our school!

Grade Level News

Kindergarten Fun

By Heather Lukas

Ever wish you were in kindergarten again? Well, they are learning so much fun stuff, and are going to venture on great field trips! Ms. Stone and Ms. Scheufele are having a blast teaching them. Some of the things that the students are learning in math are time, weight, money, and probability. Kira de Oliveira is really excited about what is going on in math; she says, "It is my favorite subject!"

In science they are learning healthy habits and nutrition. When it comes to writing and language arts, they are learning the basics to stories, and starting word study. Word study is when students learn about word families and spelling. Also, students are reading more and more.

You can go ask anything about leprechauns to the kindergartners, and they will know the answer! On St. Patrick's Day they did a special lesson in social studies all about the history of St. Patrick's Day and leprechauns. Also, in social studies they are learning about community helpers, including policemen, fire fighters, and other local heroes. Hop on the bus kindergartners, you might be going on a field trip to the Reston Zoo. Sounds like fun!

Ms. Stone and Ms. Scheufele have seen major improvements since the beginning of the year. "So much growth has been taking place in kindergarten!" said Ms. Scheufele. The kindergartners are acting more responsible, working more independently, and forming and maintaining more mature social relationships. You are doing a great job kindergartners!

1st Grade News

By Anna Dua

There has been a lot going on in 1st grade this spring. I interviewed Ms. Holland about what was going on in first grade.

Sentinel Reporter: Why did you decide to teach first grade?

Mrs. Holland: Because I wanted more challenge and to have them all day and they learn more.

Sentinel Reporter: What did you do before you taught first grade?

Mrs. Holland: I taught kindergarten.

Sentinel Reporter: Out of both the jobs which one do you like best?

Mrs. Holland: I think I like first grade more but it was fun teaching kindergarten.

Sentinel Reporter: What is your favorite part about teaching first grade?

Mrs. Holland: I like making learning fun.

Sentinel Reporter: Have you been on any fieldtrips or are you going on any fieldtrips?

Mrs. Holland: No, but we will be going to Spring gardens park on April 30th.

Now you know what's happening in first grade!

Second Grade Success

By Kelleen Moriarty

From animals and their environments to Mali, from Native Americans to geography, the 2nd graders have gone on an adventure this year. They discovered how crickets live by having them as pets and studying them. They are planning a trip to the Baltimore aquarium for the children to

learn about the fishes!

"My favorite thing about second grade is math and science because we get to experiment with stuff like in the first quarter we got to touch a worm!" said Calvin Warstler from Mrs.



VanDerHorst's class. Mrs. Harris's kids' favorite lesson was when they went to the computer lab with their reading buddies in Mr. Huffer's class and created Power Points on different animals.

"Every day is new and different and exciting. We get to watch the students learn and grow as readers, writers and scientists," says Ms. Helsel.

3rd graders See Zomo the Rabbit

By Sierra Davis

The 3rd graders went to Maryland on January 30 to see a play at the Imagination Stage. They saw *Zomo the Rabbit!* To learn their opinions on the play, I interviewed Madeline LePorte (a third grader in Ms. Allen's class), and Jillian Fan (a third grader in Ms. Booth's class).

Madeline liked the play. She learned from the rabbit that you shouldn't take without asking or the people you take from will get really mad! Her favorite character was the fish.



Jillian also liked the play. She

says she has learned not to do bad things to get what you want. She also said she would definitely recommend the play! Jillian's favorite character was Zomo (the rabbit).

This was the third graders big hurrah for them, but they have just finished their play Digit. This play is a musical filled with funny songs about the ancient civilizations. Such as Egypt, Rome, China and Greece. Ms. Booth has taught the third graders about the Ancient civilizations, Ms. Warstler was helping provide fun art projects that served in the play as props (like Chinese hats), fourth graders gave them a few pointers, and Ms. Frazier taught them the play. So everyone really chipped in to make the third grader's play a success!

The third grader's next field trip will be on June 5, they are going to the Natural History Museum.

4th Grade News!

By Lexi Warner

There has been a lot going on this spring in 4th grade. I interviewed some of my friends to see what was happening, so I interviewed Megan Reilly and Autumn Anthony.

First I interviewed Autumn. I am going to ask her about two different topics: The Udvar-Hazy space museum and the magnetism and electricity unit. My first question was 'have you been to the Udvar- Hazy Space Museum besides the 4th grade field trip?' She had been to the museum before. Autumn thought that the Wright Brothers plane and touching some of the very old wood from the plane was her favorite part. My last space question was what she liked better from the museum: the first shuttle ever made or learning about the moon and planets. "I liked seeing the rocket because I think the rocket is cool," she said.

Then I asked her about the magnetism and electricity unit. She said that she was excited for the unit because she was hoping to do lots of experiments and they are tons of fun. Autumn's first experiment was to take a dry cell, a wire that was stripped on either end, and a light bulb to make the light bulb work with the wire and a dry cell. (A dry cell is a battery.) That was Autumn's interview and now to Megan's interview!

I then interviewed Megan. I'm asking Megan about two different topics: Miss Diebold's class debate and the magnetism and electricity unit. My first question is: What were some of the debates about? Megan said, "Most of the debates were about basic stuff like homework and reading, which most people don't like to do. There were some debates about animals for testing, pets, and furs but other debates were on stuff that helps the earth like recycling."

"I think preparing for the debates wasn't very fun but doing the actual debate was better. Voting for your favorite was a lot of fun, too", Megan told me. We had 25 kids vote in our class and the debates took place in late January. My next question is: Did other classes come in to watch? Megan said, "Ms. Crisafi's class came in for about 5 debates in the beginning." Then I asked her the last space question: What do you like better from the museum: the first shuttle ever made or learning about the moon and planets? Megan responded, "The first shuttle ever made was cool because I liked looking at the rocket

and learning how it was built."

Wow! Who would want to go into space? Count me in! I learned so much when 4th grade went to the space museum. There is so much information in the huge museum. The electricity and magnetism unit was fun too. My favorite part would have to be the experiments. Try not to shock yourself! Anyway, I hope you learned something new from this article. This is what 4th grade has been doing.



5th Grade News

By Kelleen Moriarty

Usually, when we talk about what's going on in each different grade level, people will talk about third grade because of *Dig It*, fourth grade because of Colonial Day, and sixth grade because we'll all miss them when they leave on the last day of school. But, if you passed your last math quiz, you'd realize that there's another grade in between these three; fifth grade! The fifth graders have been enjoying many activities lately. They have been learning about ancient cultures and ancient religions. They just had their multi-cultural feast where they got to eat lots of different foreign foods. Lately they've been building scale models of furniture and studying ratios and proportions in math. They've been boiling and bubbling with excitement from learning about volcanoes, tectonic plates, basic chemistry, and understanding earth better. "Fifth grade's a lot of fun" says Mason Blanke, a resident in Ms. Leonard's class. "I can't wait for medieval day!"

Sounds like the fifth graders are enjoying every minute of the fifth grade; they're almost there, almost to sixth grade where they'll have just as much fun.

The 6th Grade Scoop

Shruti Ray

Do you want to go to sixth grade? Everyone does but, there is one bad thing that makes people cry at the end of the year. ☹️ What is it? Goodbye Sunrise Valley!! Every year our sixth graders have to say goodbye when they graduate at the end of the school year.

Justine Bromley of Ms. Froebel's class is happy to leave this school, but she's scared too. She's going to miss her friends, from little kids to big. Justine reports that sixth grade has been her favorite grade so far. However, she wants to go to Langston Hughes Junior High School because she's looking forward to switching classes, and having different teachers.

Kaitlyn Ball, also in Ms. Froebel's class, is happy to go to junior high, but there are things she's going to miss about SVES. Fifth grade held the most memories for her, but she really wants to go to Langston Hughes too. Most of all, Kaitlyn is looking forward to joining clubs in middle school, and she wants to stand out from the crowd.

Ms. Froebel, a sixth grade teacher, is sad to see her old students leave, but she is happy for them because they get to go to a bigger school and learn more things. She remembers when she was heading to middle school. She was scared, but she was looking forward to having a

locker and having a bit more freedom. Unlike her current students, Ms. Froebel went to middle school in fifth grade instead of sixth grade, so she had to adjust to more

CONGRATULATIONS



LOOK OUT WORLD!!!

teachers a year earlier. While Ms. Froebel is going to miss her students from this year, she is also looking forward to meeting her new students next year.

Also, at the end of sixth grade students get to visit the junior high that they will be attending when they leave this school. For many of our students that school will be Langston Hughes. The sixth grade students get to go to see their new school,

take a tour, and learn about life in junior high. If they are lucky, they even get to meet the teachers too!!!

At the end of the year, the sixth graders have a party and look back at the wonderful times they had in the last seven years in this school. They get to watch a slideshow that the teachers made especially for them with photos from all of their years at SVES. At the party, you can relax while listening to music with Mr. Platts as the DJ! The theme of the party is a survivor theme based on the popular TV show *Survivor*. Dancing and eating are only *part* of the fun!!

Sixth grade is a wonderful part of this school, but it can be a little sad when students have to leave SVES and go to junior high. However, junior high is the next great adventure of a student's academic life and our sixth graders are ready!

Summer Reading Guide

Fig Pudding

Reviewed by Sindhu Ranga



Fig Pudding is about a family of 6 kids and what they experience in one important year of their life. They experience happiness and sorrow. "Like 5 years crammed into 1" says the main character, Cliff Alberthy the oldest of the 6. This is the family: Dad, Mom, Clifford (Cliff), Nathan (Nate), Cynthia (Cyn), Brad, and Joshua (Josh). This family goes through fighting, laughing, and celebrating holidays. I recommend this book to 3rd-5th grades. This is a really good book and I hope you enjoy it.

The Inkheart Series

Reviewed by Shruti Ray

Imagine if you had a father that could make what he said come alive... bedtime stories would be impossible to read without waking you up!! This is the case for Meggie Folchart, who has this type of father (Mo). Mo works as a bookbinder and doesn't even know that he has those



magical powers. But one dark, dreary, rainy night, a mysterious creature/animal named Dustfinger arrives at their house and Meggie's life is changed forever.

Dustfinger is a magical fire tamer, come alive from the beautiful manuscript *Inkheart*. He can control fire, make it come alive in a second and die down in the next. But one day, Mo reads Meggie the book *Inkheart* and she is swept into the world of Inkheart. People who are in 3rd to 7th grade, love adventure and are looking forward to a challenge will enjoy this book. Join Meggie in magical action and mystery in a fight to return to her own world.

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodle

Reviewed by Delaney Connolly

Let me tell you about an awesome book. It is called The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodle! It is by Julie Andrews, the really famous actress who starred in *Mary Poppins*, *Sound of Music* and the *Princess Diaries* movies.

The book is about three kids, Ben, Tom and Lindy, who meet a man named Professor who tells them about a creature called the Whangdoodle. By accident they go up to the Professor's house on Halloween for a dare. That is when they start their lessons to go to Whangdoodle Land and meet the Whangdoodle! In order to get to Whangdoodle Land they must use their imagination. They actually get to... Oh, you will have to read the book to find out what they actually do! It is a great book filled with excitement and some tragic moments. Read it and you are promised a great book!

Twilight

Reviewed by Brienne Welch



Hey, I just wanted to let you know about the best book in the world

... Twilight!

Twilight is by the fabulous author Stephenie Meyer. Twilight is about a 17 year old girl named Bella (or Isabella) who moves from Phoenix, Arizona to Forks, Washington. In this small town she meets the dashing Edward Cullen and falls in love with him. However, Edward has a secret. His secret that is so important that he cannot tell anyone. When Bella figures it out, it threatens her whole life. When she goes to play baseball with Edward and the rest of his family they run into trouble. James, Laurent, and Victoria (James' mate), see the Cullens play baseball and they want to play too. That's when James sees Bella. Edward must protect Bella and share his secret with her. Soon the adventure begins!

Read this great start of an amazing series by Stephenie Meyer. It's also a great book for your summer reading list. Some of the material in this series may not be appropriate for everyone, so ask your parents' permission before you read it.

ASK SENTINEL SALLY

Gia Moriarty, Kelleen Moriarty and Margaret Baule



Dear Sally,

I love my class. I have a great teacher, all my friends in my class, and I'm learning so much. But there's one problem; all my friends keep complaining about how tough our teacher is. You see, she's very strict and hard on us but I know she loves us. I really enjoy being in her class, but I don't want to stand up for her and make my friends think I'm a suck up. What do I do?

~ Not a Suck Up

Dear Not a Suck Up,

You should always say what you think; if your friends don't accept that, maybe they're not really your friends. If you like you like your teacher and it's bugging you that they always say these things tell them to stop but don't try to change their minds, they'll resent you for it. Hope I helped!

~Sally

Dear Sally,

I love hanging out with my friends, but lately they have been fighting over who I like best and what I will do with them or one of them. Now that they are fighting I don't want to do anything with either of them. What should I do?

-Fought-Over

Dear Fought-Over,

I think you should tell your friends how you feel. That usually works; if it doesn't, then just don't play with them. Spend some time with your other friends and that will most likely make your friends realize that they were wrong.

~Sally

Dear Sally,

I'm coming to this school in the middle of the year. It's the fourth quarter and I'm sure every one already has friends. I don't even know any of the kids here. Are they nice? I don't know. I'm afraid I'll be the class dork. What should I do?

- Scared of school

Dear Scared of School,

I'm sure there are still people that don't always have friends even at the end of the year. Most of the kids here are really nice and will open their friendship circles for you. Here is a list of things to do and things not to do.

To do

- Be yourself.
- Act nice and polite.

Not to do

- Laugh at inappropriate times (when the teacher is talking)
- Lay low till the next grade.
- Act like you're a different person.

~ Sally

Dear Sally,

Okay, here's my problem. There's this girl in my class and it seems like everything that comes out of her mouth is a new rumor about me! I guess it would be okay if people didn't believe the rumors that she started but they do! Even my best friend believes them and she has been acting strange around me for a while now, ever since the rumors were spread around. I don't know what to do anymore, but it's really hurting me. What should I do?

-Gossip Target

Dear Gossip Target,

Wow, that must be pretty upsetting. I'd recommend talking to this Gossip Girl and telling her your feelings. That's definitely not fair that she spreads rumors about you. Do you have any idea why it's you? If it's something you did to her in the past, apologize, but remember that it's not fair that she goes around treating you like that. If worst comes to worst, talking to your teacher or guidance counselor is a good idea to solve problems. Hope everything works out.

~Sally

Dear Sally,

I'm usually a really happy person, but lately I haven't been so happy because I didn't get a very good grade on my history test. My best friend kept talking to me and I couldn't concentrate because of it. It got really annoying and I turned in my test unfinished! I'm not sure what to do. Please help!

- Not-so-happy-anymore

Dear Not-so-happy-anymore,

I'm really sorry that you didn't get a good grade on your test. I think that you should talk about the problem with your friend and I'm sure that if she's really your best friend, she's going to understand and she won't continue to distract you. If she does, then remind her that she said she wouldn't. Good luck on your next test!

~ Sally

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