

The Talon

Seminole Middle School
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Spring Break Issue



Artwork by Ellie Carrington

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SMS Color Guard Continues Winning Tradition



Color Guard poses with their first place trophy at Seminole Visual on March 4th. Full story on page 3.

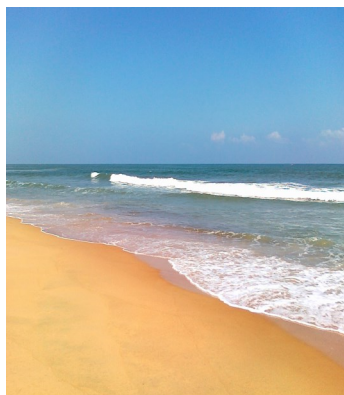
What Kids Are Doing For Spring Break?

By Bridget Thomas and Kamryn Kight

Spring break is the last break left before summer break so kids are eager to get out of school. So what are kids doing during spring break? There are so many different things that kids could do during the break. From staying home and hanging out with friends to going on a cruise. You would think that the older of younger you get, your plans would be completely different. But, all of the grade levels have similar plans. Most students who were interviewed are going to hang out with friends, relax, and maybe even go to the pool. Here are some unique things that kids will be doing for spring break.

Sara Marks is "going to North Carolina." Kate Clinton said, "I think I'm going to New Orleans." While those kids are going to different states and traveling quite a bit, other people are doing fun, interesting things right in town. Teya Herbst said that she is "probably just going to the beach." If you can't get out of the house for spring break, you could always do what these kids do. Kaylee Richardson said she's "probably just going to watch Netflix." Others are looking forward to sleeping in. All of these quotes are a combination of all different grade levels, but you can't even tell!

So if you don't have plans for spring break, here are some ideas: go outside, hang out with friends, set up with some plans with family, go to your local park, go swimming, go to the beach, do extra credit for school, volunteer for your local animal shelter, watch some you tube, watch some TV, play some computer games, or even go to a escape room. There are many fun easy these you could do for spring break.



Spring Into Electives!

By: Ashelyn Bortner and Kyleigh O'Brien

No matter if you're new to the school, coming into 6th grade, or are going into your last year here at Seminole Middle school next year, you will need to pick your electives. People going into 6th through 8th grade will need to pick their electives for the next year. Here at Seminole Middle School, they offer a variety of electives, from different musical classes to writing in the school's newspaper! Some electives are only available to certain grades, but in the end, everyone will still have at least one elective of their choice.

If you're going into 6th grade here, from 5th grade, you have many different options. You can take the different, more "beginning" musical classes: Band 1, Chorus 1 (two separate classes for boys and girls), Orchestra 1, and maybe Orchestra 2 if you have a teacher recommendation. Also, 6th graders can take beginning French or Spanish to jumpstart their language career. You can start to take Spanish/ French 1 in 7th or 8th grade, and can take Spanish / French 2 in 8th grade if you've already taken at least Spanish / French 1. Seminole Middle also gives the opportunity to take ICT Essentials 1 in 6th grade, which is the beginning computers course. Students can take up to IIT in computers, but you have to start the computer classes in 6th or 7th grade. Another year long elective incoming 6th graders can take is journalism. You can only take this class in 6th grade, but for 7th and 8th graders they can take yearbook. But, they need an application and need to be accepted if they want to take this course. Also, there are two semester only electives. For semester one, you can take Visual Art 1, and for semester 2 you can take Exploring 3-D Art.



Now, for current 6th graders going onto 7th grade, there isn't a big difference in the elective choices. Most of the electives are just the more 'advanced' versions of the 6th grade electives, although you can still take the beginning ones. You can still take the different musical classes, but now students have the choice of the more advanced versions. Students can take Band 1 through 3, Chorus 1 through 4, and Orchestra 1 through 3. They also have new options of Jazz band and Vocal Ensemble. Lastly, they have two different choices for semester electives, both involving P.E. You can do Team Sports for the first semester only and Outdoor Pursuits for the second semester only.

Moving onto our last and final list of electives which is for students going into 8th grade. All of the musical electives stay the same, with the same options as 7th grade. One special elective for only 8th graders, is Office Assistant. An application is required for this, but you get to help out the offices and deliver things to people. There are also two semester only classes, Visual art 2 for semester 1, and Visual Art 3 for semester 2.

Lastly, there are a few classes that any grade can take and there isn't much difference between the class for each grade level. There is AVID, that helps people get organized and be ready for college. There is also Gifted, but to be eligible for this class, you have to have already tested into gifted and be a registered gifted student.

This about sums up all of the different electives offered at Seminole Middle School for each grade level. There's so many different choices and each offers a very valuable learning experience!

Mrs. Hoffman's Big Race

By Victoria Cangemi, Ellie Carrington, and Isabela Cadogan

All of Mrs. Hoffman's classes had to make a car out of house hold items. Their cars had to be two feet long, and they had to travel at least two feet. Their cars also had to move without the students pushing them so most of her students added a balloon to make their cars move. This project was designed to help students learn about force, motion and acceleration.

In Mrs. Hoffman's 7th period, we interviewed Robby Healy, Brianna Sanders, and Gabby Casey. Mrs. Hoffman had three categories you could win: best looking car, the car that went the longest distance, and the car that went the fastest. Robby Healy

won for the car that went the longest distance, Brianna Sanders won for the best looking car, and Gabby Casey won for the car that went the fastest.

Robby Healy said that "my car was made out of a sushi tray, and has rubber bands on the wheels to make the car go faster. Then I added a balloon to my car."

Brianna Sanders said she made her car out of a shoe box, then painted it green. She put green sparkly tissue paper, two green bows on the front of her car, and she added a balloon. Then the last thing she did with her car was she added wheels onto it.

Gabby Casey said she used an empty paper towel roll, then added straws onto the empty paper towel roll. She also used rubber wheels on her car. Lastly she added her balloon onto her car.

Robby Healy, Brianna



Sanders, and Gabby Casey were the over all winners of Mrs. Hoffman's car project, but there are many more winners within each of her classes, such as: Kaylie Deschenes, Janae Pope, Ellie Rickert, Kiley Balaity, Ellie Ehlers, Cody Pierce, Adam Meade, Teddy Cotto, Adam Meade, Tyler Saunders, and Logan Mercado.



Flags Up!

By Kate McClellan

Ribbons, outfits, flags, guns, meets... Color Guard. Here at Seminole Middle we have an award-winning Color Guard. Two members of the color guard this year are Saige Polk and Emma Gleason. Saige said, "Color Guard tryouts were not hard." Also she said, "It's always exciting!"

Emma Gleason states, "We have practices on Wednesday's and Friday's

until 6:30 PM." Also she said, "It's great!"

It turns out that the Color Guard instructor is a volunteer who comes from Seminole High School. Her name is Ms. Farmer.

On March 4th, the Color Guard competed in Seminole Visual at the high school, and SMS took first place!

Congratulations to our award-winning Color Guard!



Trump Makes Controversial Appointment to Supreme Court

By: Logan Ferrell

Donald Trump was sworn in as President of the United States on January 20th 2017. This means he will take on the responsibility of being the leader of this great country. As one spot on the Supreme Court bench has not been filled after the passing of Antonin Scalia in February 2016, Presi-

dent Trump must appoint someone so that the bench is full. So he appointed Neil Gorsuch for the empty spot on the bench, but the Democratic Party is doing everything they can do so he does not get approved. This is called filibustering. Filibustering means they are basically stalling. They do this so that if the next president is

democratic, they can appoint a democratic candidate to the bench, but that doesn't mean a democratic candidate will be appointed because the republican party is also guilty of filibustering. So that's why it take forever for the bench to be filled.

The History of "Fat Tuesday"

By Peyton Hoffman and Mikaila Wright

Did you know that in French "Mardi Gras" means "Fat Tuesday"? It was called "Fat Tuesday" because it was a day when people could eat however much they wanted and anything they wanted to. The best time to go to New Orleans, Louisiana is during Mardi Gras which is held on February 28th and lasts about 2 weeks.

On March 2, 1699, Mardi Gras was believed to arrive in North America as a French-Canadian explorer, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, arrived at a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans. He brought with him the tradition of celebrating "Fat Tuesday."

In 1827, students donated a bunch of colorful clothes for the celebration, and 10 years later they created a parade that took place from then on.

Mardi Gras official colors are green, purple, and gold. Green stands for faith, purple stands for justice, and gold stands for power. In 1892, Rex, the King of Carnival, decided on this scheme of colors because he wanted them to be royal. Some Mardi Gras traditions are bead throwing, King Cake, costumes, parties, parades, and eating pancakes.

Bead throwing became a tradition in the 1920's when Rex threw handmade glass beads. Once he started to throw the beads out into the crowds, it started to become a hit. King Cake is thought to have become a tradition brought from France in 1870. King Cake is a sweet circular cake or bread topped with icing and include a filling inside the cake. In the King Cake, you might get a tiny plastic baby. In New Orleans, if you get the 'baby.' it means you must provide the King Cake next time. If you get the 'baby' you may be considered the 'king' or 'queen' of Mardi Gras.



Drama Club: Lights, Camera, Action!

By Quinn McGann

This school year many middle schoolers at SMS auditioned for the school play. In May 2017 SMS actresses and actors will be performing *The Wizard of Oz*, and they started practicing in late September! The directors of drama club are Mr. Hughes and Mrs. Love. She is a big part of the drama club! She has been teaching drama for a long time, and she is phenomenal! "Everyday people play a role in their life and in drama they get to

play a totally different role and that's why I love to direct and teach drama to these students," stated Mrs. Love. All the drama kids get to help out with painting the sets and making all of the props! Elle Strickland who has a very important role in the play (a fighting tree) says "my favorite part about drama is getting to hang out with all of my friends and getting to build, paint, and decorate the sets!" Drama helps the students at SMS

have fun and be silly while doing something they love. Not only do the kids get to make the sets, they also get to fill in for someone when they are absent, giving them practice and time on stage so maybe they can get a big part in the play next year! On some Fridays, they practice all the scenes and you stay after school and chat with your friends, work on the sets, and of course ACT!! Drama is fun and interesting! Hope to see you there at drama club next year!

Jobs on Parade!

By Brandi Colliver

Eighth graders in the Personalized Learning Program at Seminole Middle School created a fun project for Mardi Gras. You know those floats you see at Mardi Gras parades? They made miniature Mardi Gras floats out of shoeboxes representing what occupation they would like to have.

Jacey Raye choose to be a criminal prosecutor because she likes helping people... and she loves to argue! The students made their projects out of shoeboxes, paper, pom-pom balls, feathers, beads, sequins, sticks, and even added Mardi Gras colors.

According to Mrs. Burdette, "The students researched careers as a part of their Finance Park unit. Our students learned a lot about their careers. Most importantly they saw just how much school they would need to take before they could acquire their dreams."

"My favorite part was being able to express my career goals to my peers," Sianna Williams explained. "I felt good and proud of my work walking class to class."

Makenzie Cliff stated that it was kind of awkward but it was fun. The students had mixed feelings about flaunting their projects, one nervous that



Seanna Williams, Olivia Collins, Jordyn Condrey, Merric Grego, Brynn Connell and Kendall Laplante show off their career floats!

the classes wouldn't like her project.

Sixth graders and teachers were amazed by the floats. There was a lot of creativity and inspiration put into their work. The Personalized Learning teachers were proud of the eighth graders. Mrs. Burdette said, "We had many well constructed floats. Some

that stood out were Criminal Justice Attorney, Photographer, Actor, and Crime Scene investigator."

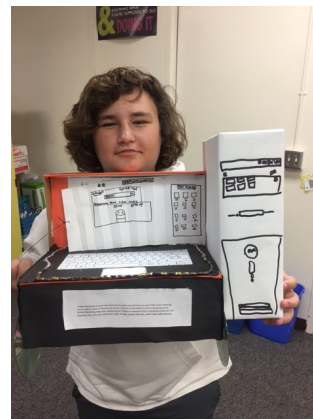
Learning about careers is an important part of every student's education. Remember that you can be whatever you want, with effort and patience.



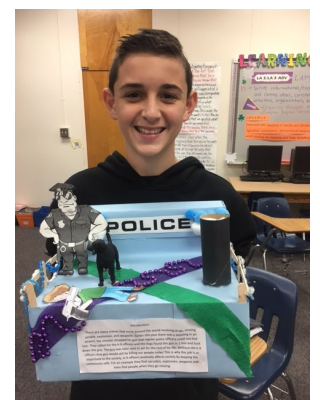
Mykah Jackasal researched free lance photographers.



Hunter Olsen researched air traffic controllers.



Julian Symes researched on-line marketing jobs.



Dawson Avila researched K-9 police officers.

What do you do for St. Patrick's Day?

By Sydney Gavaghan and Natalie Symes

The day that you'll get pinched if you don't wear green... you guessed it! St. Patrick's Day! Many people have some fun traditions that they do on St. Patrick's Day such as having a party, going to a parade, and the most common thing though is wearing green. To

throw it back to kindergarten, remember when the leprechaun would come and trash up your classroom with green? Well, that is what St. Patrick's Day is all about! We interviewed students at Seminole Middle School about what they do on St. Patrick's Day. Some of the students we talked to said, "My family celebrates St. Pat-

rick's day by throwing a big party and loading up on the junk food." Some people even have corned beef and cabbage as a traditional meal with an Irish jig. So, if you don't wear green on St. Patrick's day... You're going to get pinched. Sooo, what do you do on St. Patrick's\ St. Patty's Day?

The History of St. Patrick's Day

By Jocelyn Markiewicz, and Savannah Llano

Saint Patrick's Day, also known as Saint Patty's Day, was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church. Saint Patrick's Day

is a public holiday in the republic of Ireland, northern Ireland, the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and British overseas territory of Montserrat. Saint Patrick's Day is also widely celebrated by Irish people around the world.

The first Saint Patrick's Day parade in Ireland was held in Waterford in 1903. Today Saint Patrick's Day celebrations have been greatly influenced by early traditions such as wearing green and decorating with shamrocks.

ASL Signs in to SMS

By Olivia Bordeaux & Quinn McGann

Have you ever met a person who speaks Sign Language? Even if you haven't, it's still a handy language to know. "American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, complex language that employs signs made by moving the hands combined with facial expressions and postures of the body. It is the primary language of many

North Americans who are deaf and is one of several communication options used by people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing," according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIH). SMS has many languages here to learn, including French and Spanish, but we don't have ASL which is just as helpful as

other languages like French and Spanish because it is a common wonderful way of communicating among many people. Would you be interested in joining ASL club? If so, tell your teacher so we can make this club happen. Hope to see you there!!!!

Solo and Ensemble

By Andrew Fyock and Jacson Romanski

The solo and ensemble was a winter orchestra concert, and Jacson and Andrew interviewed three people who attended, but one person didn't attend in the concert.

The three people we interviewed all got awards for the concert. The peo-

ple were Megan Arbuckle, Emily Meoder, and Cassidy Jessie.

We asked all of them two questions per person. The two questions were "Were you worried about the performance?" and "How long did you practice?" Megan said "no" and for the second question she said "they practiced every week before the performance". Emily responded to the first question,

"she was not worried". For the second question, Emily answered, "she practiced for four weeks". Cassidy said she wasn't there because she was sick, but her friends were there and they said they were not scared. "She also practiced for a month."

Oh! The Places You'll go!

By: Jocelyn Markiewicz and Savannah Llano

Dr. Seuss, one of the most favored children's author and illustrator on Earth, created the book "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" It was published on January 22, 1990 and was the last book published before his death. The book entails the journeys of life and its challenges. "And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew. Just go right along. You'll start happening too." This book inspires many because of its fantastic moral and illustrations with fabulous colors and different shapes along with the crazy creatures. In fact, this book inspired the theme

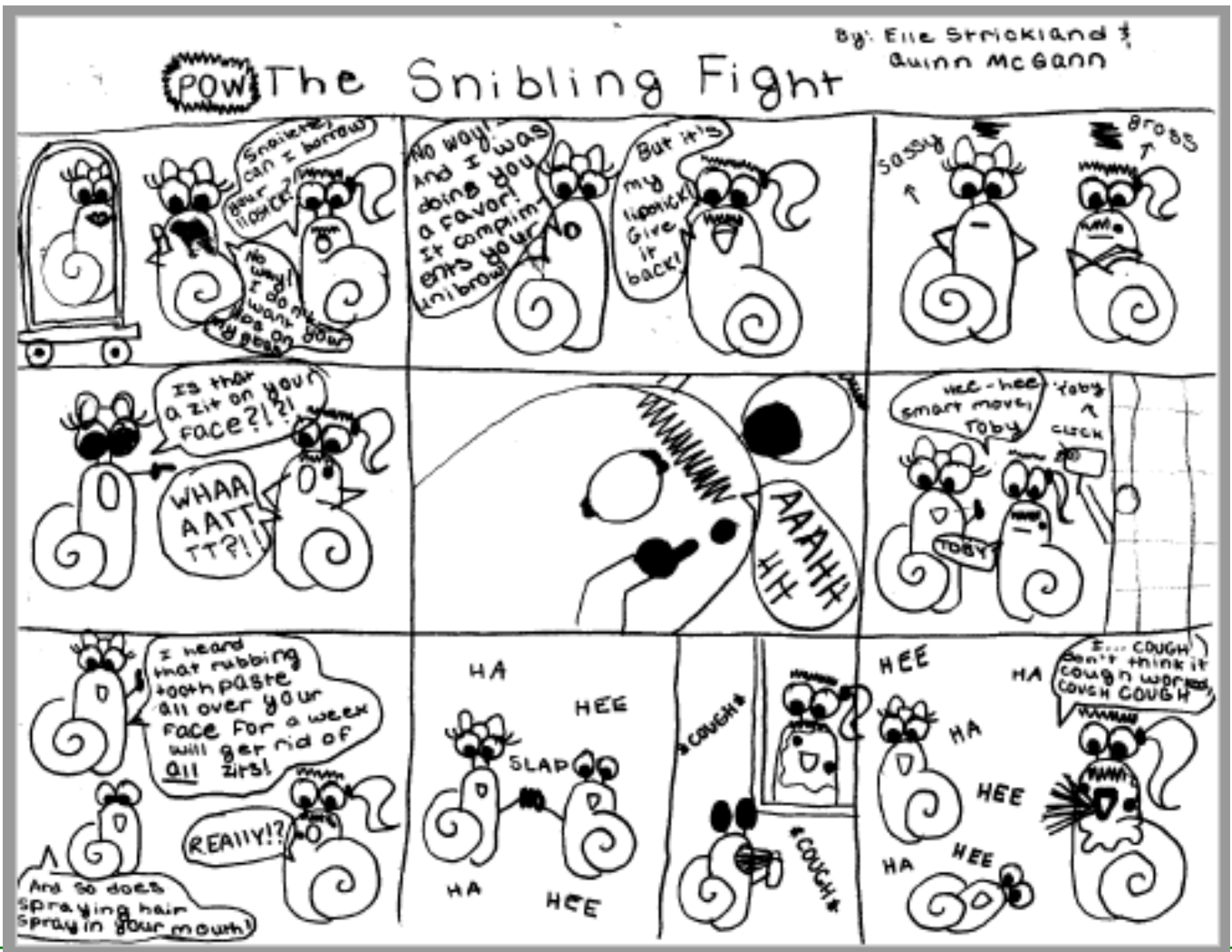
for Bauder and Oakhurst Elementary 5th grade celebration last year. This is why we like this book among many others. Dr. Seuss has so many wonderful books, but "Oh the Places You'll Go!" is the best by far.



One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

By Olivia Bordeaux

There are many types of Dr. Seuss books. But my personal favorite is One Fish, two Fish, red Fish, blue Fish. I like it because it has lots of words that rhyme! It is about things, mainly fish, who are all different than each other. For example, some people, or fish, may look funny, but they still have feelings. This book is appealing to me because I like to go on boats, off a dock, and fish. And because the title mentions fish, it makes me want to read it. I love Dr. Seuss and all of his work, especially One Fish, two Fish, red Fish, blue Fish.



Rotten Tomatoes

By: Elle Strickland & Olivia Bordeaux

Everyone knows about the new, cool movies like *Dog's Purpose*, *Moana*, and the *BFG*. But do you know where people get their ratings from?

Rotten Tomatoes is a movie-rating company that has been running since 1998. The way it works is you can ask Google or Siri a Rotten Tomatoes movie rating, and a percentage will pop up. The higher the percentage is, the better the movie was rated. And, trust me, Rotten Tomatoes is not afraid to express awful ratings. It rates all movies, no matter if they are new or old. But SMS was interested in the newest movies, and Rotten Tomatoes has rated them all. Two of the movies are the horror movie *Rings* and action-comedy *Sing*. "*Rings* is amazing. It made me jump out of my skin!" Says Logan Ferrell, a 6th grader at SMS. Not only has Logan seen the horror movie *Rings*, he has seen the movie *Sing* that came out in late December. But Logan's opinion on *Sing* wasn't as great as the rating on *Rings*. "*Sing* wasn't very

good." If Logan could rate the movies one to five stars, Logan gives *Rings* an amazing 5 stars and *Sing* a sad 1 star. Well, Rotten Tomatoes thinks the opposite! Rotten Tomatoes gives *Sing* an average 71% and *Rings* an awful 7%! Logan would have to disagree. Along with Logan, 6th grader Quinn McGann also had her opinions on some new movies, too. Quinn has seen the movie *Trolls* and *Moana*, each an action comedy, *Trolls* coming out in early September and *Moana* coming out in late November. Rotten Tomatoes immediately has their opinions, along with Quinn. "*Trolls* was awesome. I loved it! And my favorite part was when then cute little troll said, 'and watching their parents while they sleep.' Everything appeared so funny to me!" Even though Quinn loved *Trolls*, she had an opposite opinion on *Moana*. "It wasn't as good as I thought it would be. I still liked it, but it wasn't as exciting as *Trolls*." Out of one to five stars, Quinn rates *Trolls* a 4, and *Moana* a 3. Rotten Tomatoes once again thinks the opposite. It rates *Trolls* an

average 74% and *Moana* an outstanding 95%! These next movies are definitely different from those Disney and Dreamworks movies. *Dog's Purpose* and horror movie *Dead Silence* were seen by 6th grader Bella Cadogan, who was happy to express her opinions. "*Dog's Purpose* was really good. But it was really emotional. I even saw people crying!" Bella explained with a laugh. Apparently, *Dead Silence* was good, too. Bella said, "It was really awesome. It wasn't cheesy at all!" If Bella could rate the movies one to five stars, she gives *Dog's Purpose* a 4 and *Dead Silence* a 5. Rotten Tomatoes hasn't posted the rating for *Dog's Purpose*, but they definitely disagree with Bella on *Dead Silence*. They gave the horror movie an awful 21%! All in all, Rotten Tomatoes disagrees with the 6th graders on all of these movies, whether they're horror, comedy, action or sad. Don't forget to read the next issue of the Talon and check the rating on a *Dog's Purpose*! And while you're at it, stop by the movie theater to check out the new movie releases!

What Luck! (a short story)

By: Cheyenne Cronk

Daniel is a kid who forgets things a lot, I guess you could call him clumsy. He is a second grader at Willlake Elementary. For St. Patrick's day they will be having a contest see who's leprechaun trap is the best. Only his whole class has been working on their traps for a week, and he hasn't even started. You might think well just start now, but its not that easy because tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. Daniel freaks out and rushes to grab all the supplies he can to put his trap together (paint, glue, popsicle sticks, etc.). He slaps it all on a shoe box but its obvious that this won't win first place... and now he won't win the 5 foot chocolate leprechaun. He is just about to give up when...he hears little squeaky voices coming from his window. He walks over to see what's happening and poof theirs 3 little leprechauns standing on the windowsill. Before Daniel can speak all three of them like a little harmony squeak up "Hi there fellow human. We're here to help you with your green day catastrophe." Afterwards each of them introduce themselves as Bill, Billy, and Bob. Daniel

as confused as always is in shock to see leprechauns with his own eyes. He runs to go blab to just about everyone he knows but somehow those little green dudes in the small green hats use their green day magic to keep him from spreading the word. They all explain to him how he can't tell anyone about this or it will put the whole leprechaun nation in danger none the less St. Patrick's Day itself. Daniel wants to blab but, keeps the word secret for old green days sake. All four of them spend about two hours putting together the most spectacular trap. They're done by four PM and Daniel is all tired out. He thanks them for all their help and plops his trap on a high shelf just to make sure his dog doesn't get to it. Its morning now and also ST.PATRICK'S DAY! Daniel is so anxious to get to school. He hops out of bed and dashes to do his morning routine. He goes to pick out his clothes when of course he doesn't have any green and we all know you can't win best trap at school if you're not wearing any green! But just to his rescue Bill, Billy, and Bob are

right by his side with a basket filled with all the green clothes you can think of! Daniel puts on a green shirt, shorts, shoes, all the casual. And then on top of that he puts on GIANT oversized top hat, and temporarily dyes his hair green! Then taking of on the bus to school everyone can't help talk about how amazing he looks. One person even said he looks like a giant living clover. When the bus arrives at school he immediately brings his trap to his teacher Mr. Jonathon to start the voting. This is the moment of truth...everyone puts their vote in a shoe box for Mr. Jonathon to count. The winners don't get posted up till lunch! Now, Daniel is sitting in class with so much suspense he was about to burst. Just when the bell to go to lunch rings, he sprints out of the room running faster than ever to see if he made first place. He looks up at the chart to find that HE HIMSELF HAS WON FIRST PLACE! Now he wins the prize that's taller than him and its all thanks to Bill, Billy, and Bob. That's just luck!!

The Forest (a short story)

By Kaia Allison and Piper Rosenberg

There was a 12 year old girl who lived in a small cottage, not so far from Cork, Ireland. The girl's name was Red. On a snowy afternoon, Red was tending to the garden and she saw the legendary, white Elk peering out of the green, lush forest to see what was happening outside of the shady forest. The white elk noticed her staring at him and ran back into the forest. She wanted to run after the elk, but her mom was strict about going into the forest without permission. Her mother always told her to stay away because of the rumors of Kowloon, the deer of death. When night covered the sky, she snuck out and ran into the forest with a lantern. Red kept walking until she saw a deep, blue light, becoming brighter as she kept walking. And another, but this time the light



was a green light. Then, right before her eyes, colors of different types shined below her feet

like a walkway of fireflies. Red has never seen anything this beautiful, she thought they were glowing gemstones below her feet. She walked cautiously as the light grew dimmer and saw the causing of the light were tiny, little mushrooms. She was in shock when she kept staring at the mushrooms. She has never seen anything like it, it was so beautiful. At the end of the path she approached a enormous blue weeping willow tree. She was tired so she sat down at the base of the tree. Red sat there for a while and the white elk approached her. The elk panted and said "run." Red immediately ran down the path and looked behind her. She saw Kowloon chasing her with great speed. Red jumped out of the forest and Kowloon stopped in his tracks. Red ran into her cottage. The next morning she looked out of the window and the first thing she saw was a black clover. The end?

MLB Opening Day

By Blake Bennett and Keegan Zellmer

Major League Baseball opening day is always a huge deal! Teams like the Chicago Cubs come back this coming up season to fight for the world series again as the current defending champions. Other teams like the Indians try to work their way back up the totem pole again as they came out on the losing side in the most recent world series. During the offseason teams normally trade. For a really good example, the Toronto Blue Jays traded one of their all around best players and also known for his ridiculous power when it comes to hitting,

Edwin Encarnacion, to the Cleveland Indians!

All of these teams line up for opening day games. Some of the games are Braves at Mets, Indians at Rangers, Tigers at White Sox, Angels at Athletics, Cubs at Cardinals and 8 More games that day. Everyone is excited to see the defending champs, the Cubs, play the Cardinals. Probable pitcher for the Cubs that game is Rob Zastryzny, and the Cardinals probable starting pitcher is Amir Garrett. MLB opening Day is a huge day for baseball fans so sit back and enjoy all 13 games Sunday, April 2nd!

