

The Talon

Seminole Middle School
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Seminole, FL



Lady Hawks are District Runners- up!

Inside this issue:

Aprils Fools Pranks	2
Prepare for Finals	3
MLB Stories	4
Easter Candy	5
Spring Break Short Story	7
April Fools Comics	8
DIY Easter treats	9



Winning Relay Team



SMS goes 1-2 in the mile!

Hawks Sprint to Victory!

March 31, 2017

By Kyleigh O'Brien and
Ashelyn Bortner

"On your mark! Get set! Go!" The gun sounds and the runners are off. This is what happens at Seminole Middle School's track meets. There are many different events that both girls and boys can compete in during the meets. These consist of long distance races, short distance races, relays, and field events. Both the boys and girls teams perform very well in these events and show a lot of hard work and talent.

The boys team took first place overall at the District Meet on Thursday. The girls finished with a close second behind Morgan Fitzgerald. The Hawks dominated many events including the 4 X 100 relays for both boys and girls.



The boys track team celebrated their District Title at the end of the meet as 4 time champion Josh Braziel holds up the trophy.

Starting off the season, was a home game at Seminole High School against Largo Middle School. After a nerve racking first meet, our SMS team came out with an overall win and crushed Largo Middle. For the second meet of the season, our team went to Pinellas Park High School and competed against Morgan Fitzgerald along with Clearwater Intermediate. We also came out with a terrific win for both boys and girls teams. Next, we had another away meet at Oak Grove against their team. This meet resulted in another big win for SMS, adding to our new winning streak. Then, the last meet before Districts was against Osceola at their home track. This was the closest meet SMS had, for Osceola was also undefeated, but SMS still pulled through with a win. So this means that the SMS track team was officially undefeated going into Districts.

But, how does it feel during track meets to the runners? We asked a few 7th graders and they gave us a special inside look to what it's like at the track meets. According to Sofie Dang, who runs the 4 x 1 and 4 x 4 relays, during the track meets she says "I get very nervous because I know my team is depending on me and I want to bring home the undefeated team this year." A lot of athletes in general can feel very nervous before important games or meets... so this is completely normal. Another great runner, Katie Miller who runs the 4 x 1 relay and the 200 meter says "My favorite part about track meets is seeing my competition before I run and also watching my team run and cheering them on." Lastly, according to Will Stone who runs the 1600, he has a few ways to get pumped up before meets. He says "usually I listen to my 'pump up' music but lately I've just been chilling and watching the other races."

April Fools Pranks & Jokes

By: Olivia Bordeaux and Kate McClellan

Kids cherish the traditional day to pull pranks on everyone from adults to their friends, April Fools Day (April 1st). Some adults even do it too. Some people take their pranks to the next level and put tons of thought into their pranks. For example, the "Walk on Water". This torturous prank forces you to walk on a wooden board balanced over tons of water filled cups, that is if you want to get to the other side of the hallway! Others just do silly, classic jokes. To name one, "Spotlight on the Cockroach". This disgusting prank scares the victim out of their pants, when you see this critter hidden in your lamp! In reality, it's actually a Cockroach cut out of paper taped on a lamp so that when you turn it on, the victim sees a "Real Live" Cockroach. Some pranks just require a printer, tape and a perfect situation. You could print out a picture of yourself and tape it to the bottom of a computer mouse. Now, the mouse won't work! The victim will check the bottom and see you pranked them! This is perfect for an adult! Tape that picture to a co-worker's mouse and watch the show begin!!! If you're a baker, you could squeeze some mustard on some cupcakes, call it frosting and fool your friends! A classic joke friends and family have done for centuries is "The deck of Fans". All you have to do is put a deck of cards on top of a ceiling fan and watch them blow all over the room! Not to give anyone ideas or anything, students even pull pranks on the teachers! One class even moved their desks back every time the teacher turned around to look at the board. There are SO many crazy, silly pranks and jokes that sometimes, they can even be hard to choose from. Mostly, it just depends on your situation. Dorm room pranks are super popular. April Fools day is awesome, but some kids are scared to fool their teacher! Other's will go all out on their teacher! Pranks on your siblings are popular, not as much as on the parents though. There are hundreds of pranks you can pull on anyone from your friends to your neighbors. What prank will you pull?

RAYS ANNOUNCEMENT

Buy a ticket to the Rays game, and we could win a visit from Raymond here at SMS!!

Each school that sells 150 or more tickets will receive a visit to their school from Raymond during the 2018 calendar year.

Order forms are due by April 11 to your 1st period teacher. Seats: \$10 upper level seat (up to \$30 value) and \$17 lower level seats (up to \$60 value).

The game is on Saturday, April 22, 6:10p.m. at Tropicana Field.

Mrs. Hughes says, "Come and support the Rays and the school. It will be fun!"



How To Prepare For Finals

By: Bridget Thomas

Finals, is one of the most stressful time of the year. Kids are studying non-stop, there are many ways to prepare for finals. Everyone has there own strategy or method for being prepared. Here are some tips and tricks for being prepared for finals. Throughout the year teachers will assign work. You may think "oh this is useless" and then throw it in the garbage, however it can come in handy. You can use some of these assignments to help refresh your memory on the subject(s). Make sure on the day of each test you eat a good breakfast and get a good nights sleep. Another good tip is to bring something to chew on like a mint but, make sure you do it before the test it's a good stress reliver. Just remember it's just a test, even though it's a big test you've have been preparing for it all year and you will do just fine. Another tip is to create your own study guide for every class make sure you start early so you have plenty of time to study.

When your studying make sure you take frequent breaks, your brain com-

prehends things a lot better if you're getting information over a shorter period of time rather than all at once. Also, when you're studying, make sure you highlight the most important facts, that way you know what to focus on. Make sure you come prepared for finals. You may want to bring a number 2 pencil, Even though you may not need it because some of finals are computer based tests. I had the

chance to talk to some teachers about some tips that that they suggest using for finals. Mrs. Evans says to review things in small chunks. Ms. Honig says to just relax. Ms. Rowe says make sure you get plenty of sleep and to make sure to study. Most teachers say that you need plenty of time to study. Which, you do. What are some tips and tricks that you use to prepare for finals?



Study hard for finals so you will make it to the SMS Wall of Fame!

Pow Wow

By, Nataleigh Symes and Sydney Gavaghan

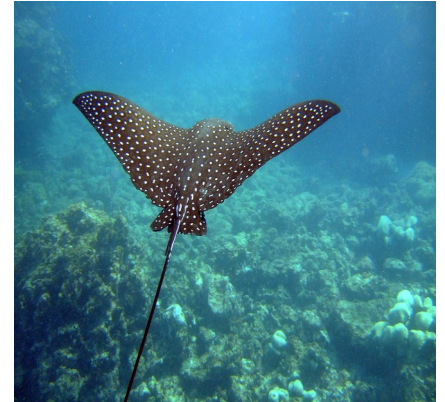
Rides, games, food, music, what could be better than the Pow Wow? It's somewhere you can to have family and friend fun one weekend every March. As for the history on the Seminole Pow Wow, it's the largest and oldest event for the Seminole residents. The Pow Wow has food, music, fireworks, and also includes rides such as Area 51, the Ferris Wheel, Magic Carpet, Cliff Hanger, Zero Gravity and so much more. Some students from SMS said that their favorite rides are the Area 51, Magic Carpet, Shock Drop, Ferris Wheel and Tilt-a-Whirl. Some of their least favorite rides this year were The dragon and The Wiggly Worm. People of all ages have fun at this great event so when the Seminole Pow Wow comes around next year, don't forget to go!



FINS UP

By: Jocelyn Markiewicz and Savannah Ilano

"Rays" up fins up for the baseball team that ranked 2nd in the AL East! The American League East (AL East) is one of Major League Baseball's six divisions. The Tampa Bay Rays field is called Tropicana Field. "This field is located in St. Petersburg and is 1.1 million square feet including unique design features and fan amenities found nowhere else in Major Leagues." Rays baseball is really important to the players and some of our teachers here at SMS including Coach Lance, the 6th grade gym coach. He says, "I think it is awesome that we have a Major League baseball team here that we get to see. I enjoy going to the games and taking the family". Also Mr. Mellinger, the 6th grade health teacher, said that "they play in a very tough division, and they are a very competitive team. They are also really fun to watch. They have to stay healthy so they can win there games." They are a great team and they play for a great division. There are 32 players on the team.



The pitchers are #35 Matt Andriese, #22 Chris Archer, #26 Brad Boxberger, #31 Xavier Ceden, #53 Alex Cobb, #37 Alex Colome, #43 Danny Farquhar, #54 Kevin Gadea, #52 Ryan Gadea, #23 Jake Odorizzi, #63 Austin Pruitt, #30 Erasmo Ramirez, #57 Jaime Schultz, #4 Blake Snell, #38 Shawn Tolleson, and #47 Chase Whitley.

The catchers are #19 Curt Casali, #21 Luke Maile, and #40 Wilson Ramos. Infielders are #1 Tim Beckham, #5 Matt Duffy, #3 Evan Longoria, #7 Logan Morrison, #36 Daniel Roberston. The outfielders are #10 Corey Dickerson, #2 Nick Franklin, #39 Kevin Kiermaier, #28 Colby Rasmus, #0 Mallex Smith, and #20 Steven Souza Jr. To support the Rays, SMS is doing a Rays Spirit Night on Saturday, April 22 at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg at 6:10.

History of the Chicago Cubs World Series runs!

By Blake Bennett, Keegan Zellmer

The Chicago cubs recently won a world series championship against the Cleveland Indians. They hadn't won one since 1908 until 2016! They have improved since the Tampa Bay Rays "X" coach Joe Madden moved to the Cubbies. That coaching switch gave Joe better money, better players and a whole lot more team money to afford better players. They have a star second basemen who definitely affected the outcome of the recent world series. As 1908 is the last time they won the world series before the 2016 world series, that makes it a 108 year losing streak broken in 2016.

Cubs fans believe that they had one man jinx the game during the 1909 world series that started the losing streak. A man stuck his glove out from the stands and caught a ball that was going to be caught for the final out, but was taken by the fan, and then the Detroit Tigers won the game later with hits. That started 108 year losing streak until 2016. What will they do this year in the 2017 playoffs in October? We will figure out then... GO CUBBIES!

Jelly beans, Peeps, Chocolate bunnies!

By: Isabella Cadogan and Cheyenne Cronk

Easter is a holiday celebrated on April 16. On Easter, decorating Easter eggs is very popular for kids and adults. Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include egg hunting, the Easter bunny, and Easter Parades. There are also various traditional Easter foods that vary regional. This holiday is where

most people think of eggs, bunnies, and CANDY as the main parts of the holiday. This holiday is like Christmas to some kids because they wait for the bunny to bring them goodies overnight. Now most people get the regular candy for Easter but we can't forget the traditional jelly beans, peeps, and chocolate bunny's! So we did a candy review with 100 students at Seminole Middle. We went to different classes and did a vote then put it all together. The choices were jelly beans,

peeps, and chocolate bunny's, eggs, etc. In my opinion I thought the results were quite surprising. The most liked one was chocolate bunny's with 54 votes, peeps were second with 31 votes, and jelly beans were last with 20 votes. It was CRAZY how so many people picked chocolate bunny's!



Tampa Bay Lightning Trades Players!

By: Quinn McGann

In the 2016 Eastern conference against the Pittsburgh Penguins Ben Bishop had painfully hurt his back and had to be wheeled out of the game, disappointing his biggest fans. This was just before the 2016 Stanley Cup Playoffs, and they had to put in Vasilevskiy for the rest of the season while Bishop was at home healing. Now in 2017, Bishop had come back to the Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey team for his final season, which many people didn't know! Ben Bishop had been traded to the L.A. Kings in California for his hockey career and would stay there for who knows how long. Many fans are devastated about the trade and the Lightning are going to have to make a lot of cancellations on Bishop t-shirts! Madi Capes a big Tampa Bay Lightning fan shares her opinion and says, "I think that Bishop was one of the best, and they really needed him." After this trade

Tampa Bay says that they are going to take the rest of the season easy and get a good, energetic start on the next new season! Madi Capes does not agree with this decision at all she even states, "That defeats the whole purpose of hockey! They should try their best every time they are on the ice." The Lightning have a score of 34 wins and 29 losses! Speaking of competition, The Stanley Cup is coming up and the Lightning might have a chance to make the playoffs, with or without another player being traded. Brian Boyle who used to play on the Tampa Bay Lightning joined in 2014 and had recently been traded! Boyle was trad-



ed to the Toronto Maple Leaves in Canada in early 2017. Toronto had recently played Tampa Bay on March 16th, 2017, and they sadly lost 5-0. Boyle and Bishop were now off to other teams with their phenomenal outtake on the team they were all-star players, now just on other teams. The Tampa Bay Lightning have been doing well since the trade, and back then they did even better! 2004, the year the Lightning had been in for the long haul, they had the won the Stanley Cup! Their fans were in awe and jumping out of their socks! The Lightning have not won The Stanley Cup since, but they have won many play-off games, just not winning all the games. The Lightning are an awesome team with many fans, coming to each and every game to support their favorite team. The Lightning are still striving to win each and every game, and The Stanley Cup Play-offs are soon. The Tampa Bay Lightning are ready!

Easter Bunny (Short Story)

by: Logan Ferrell & Tori Cangemi

It's almost Easter time! Do you know what that means kids?, The Easter bunny comes! Quinn and Luke know that for sure! The night before Easter Sunday Quinn and Luke go to sleep later than usual to try and see the Easter bunny, then they started to crave Easter candy. So before they go to bed Quinn and Luke go down stairs for a mid-night snack. After they eat there mid-night snack they heard a noise in there living room. They went in there living room to check it out, they saw a bunny hiding Easter eggs in there house. They immediately went upstairs to their parents and told thm what they had saw. Their parents told them to get some rest they said "okay fine" then their parents

tucked them into bed. Then right after she went to sleep, Quinn woke up in and woke up Luke and they both went back downstairs. There they saw the Easter bunny getting their Easter baskets ready. Quinn and Luke start freaking out yelling "OH MY GOODNESS THE EASTER BUNNY!!!" As soon as Luke and Quinn's parents heard screaming they ran downstairs only to find the kids were gone. As soon as Quinn and Luke went missing both mom and dad called 911 saying "MY KIDS ARE GONE!!!!!!" Quinn and Luke were okay, they were with the Easter bunny delivering happiness all around the world. At the end of the



night the Easter bunny returned Quinn and Luke home and their parents were very happy to see that their kids were returned home safely. The next morning Quinn and Luke woke very excited to open their Easter baskets. They were jumping up and down in excitement. Quinn opened her Easter basket first and she got lots of candy. Such as, Jolly Ranchers, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and Kit Kat bars. Luke opened his next and got the same candy as Quinn. They were both really happy about what they got in their Easter baskets. They're soon to have another adventure on Easter.

Local Seafood

By Piper Rosenberg and Jacson Romanski

As you probably already know, there are lots of seafood restaurants in the state of Florida. But we're focusing on two of the more well-known restaurants on Indian Rocks Beach and Redington Beach. The two main restraints are Crabby Bills, and Sea Breeze Island Grill. Sea breeze is more known for their offering of a water front dining deck, this place is also a laid back place that serves seafood, cocktails, with happy hour deals. Sea Breeze has a review 4.3 out of 5 stars, They're right off of Redington Shores at 17855 Gulf Blvd. in Redington Shores, FL. Also Crabby Bills is more known for their family friendly choice of American favorites, including lots of seafood. Plus your favorite beverages. They're located at 401 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. They have a 4.1 star review out of 5 stars.



Favorite Social Media Apps

By Brandi Colliver

What's your favorite social media app? That's what I asked 6th Grade students at Seminole Middle school. I wasn't surprised when I noticed that Snapchat was the winner; with 12 votes. 2nd Place was Instagram at 7 votes. Facebook and Twitter are pretty much neglected now, each having only one vote.

Musical.ly was 3rd place with 3 votes. I bet you're wondering, "Who picked Facebook and Twitter?" The person who picked Twitter was a student that isn't really a fan of social media apps. The teacher who voted for Facebook said: "Well, since I'm older, I like to use Facebook." It's understandable that social media might

not be everyone's thing, and you probably won't find an adult that likes to use Snapchat all the time. So, what's your favorite social media app?

The Worst Spring Break EVER!! (Short Story)

By:Elle Strickland

We arrived here, at Fort Wilderness. Me, my best friend Bella and CJ, my older teenage sister Ally, and my mom and dad had all come for spring break to Disney's Fort Wilderness! But, right now specifically, I was not in the happiest mood ever. Why? I knew my best friends were here, but on the way here, the car rolled over a broken bottle, and the car had a flat tire. And, of course, the mechanic was stuck in traffic, and it took two hours. By now, it was almost 2:00 p.m. and we had all planned to get here by 12:00 p.m. I guess not. Anyway, I hopped out of the car, in a slump. CJ and Bella must've noticed my sour mood, because they went over to me. "Don't worry, Tia, this trip is going to be awesome!" I swear she could read my mind. "Yeah, no doubt about it!" He said, and by 'he' I mean Oliver. I forced a small smile. This was going to be fun. Right?

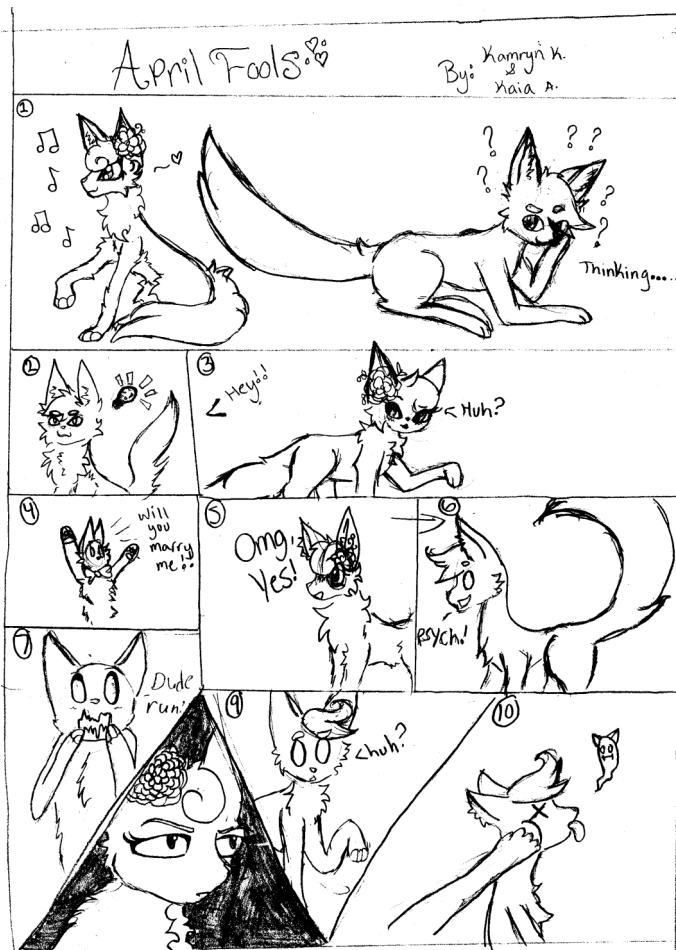
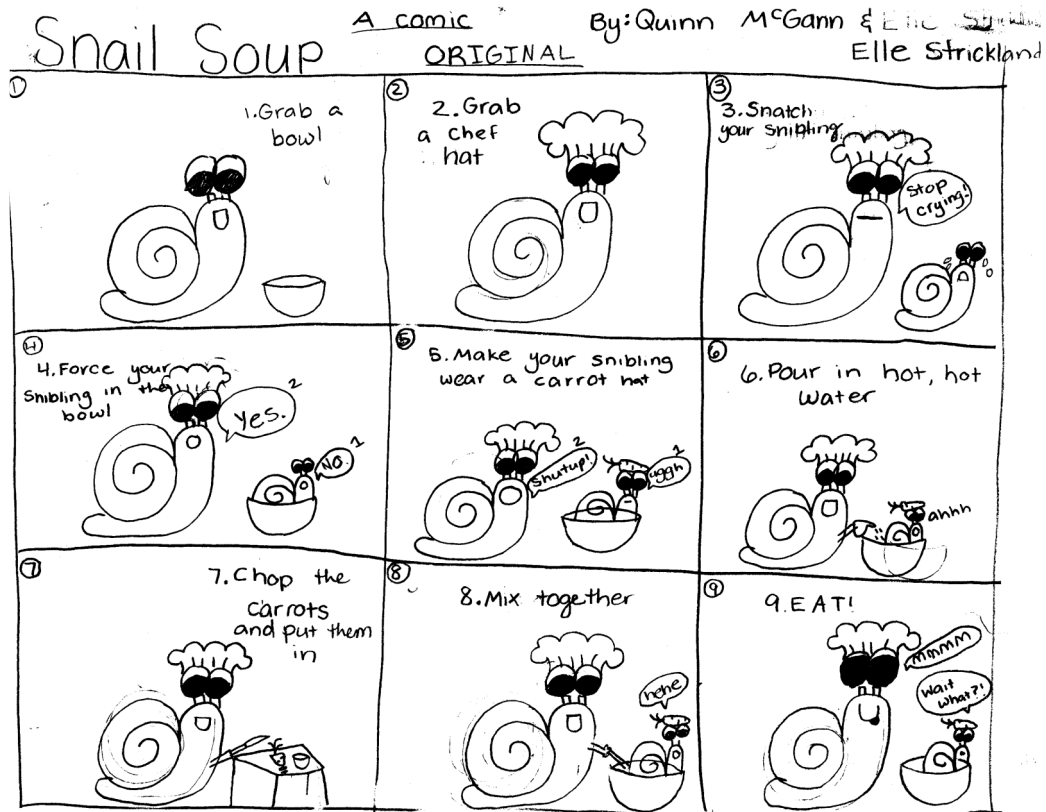
No one really wanted to go to the pool, so Oliver, Bella and I decided to feed the turtles and ducks bread at the duck pond. Once we'd gotten there, Oliver began relaxing and 'sun tanning' on the grass, which Bella and I had a laugh about. As Bella and I started to toss bread into the water, talking and watching the ducks chomp away happily, I saw a graceful flock of seagulls fly over us. "Aw, they're so cute!" Bella cooed, and I nodded in agreement, watching some fish. I really had thought they were cute, until I felt something, wet, chunky, gross, slimy, fall down my back. Oh. My. Gosh. Seagull poop was sliding down my back. I immediately freaked out. "EW! EW! EW! EW! EW! SEAGULL POOP! EW! EW! EW! EW!" "Oh no!" Screamed Bella. "Gross!" Yelled Oliver. "Here!" Bella offered. "Use my jacket!" I looked at it, but turned her down. "You love that jacket. I can't. I'll just wait until we get back." Bella frowned, Oliver still trying not to laugh. I sighed. "Well," he said, tossing the rest of the bread, "We can just go now." I was not about to disagree. As we came back to the RV, an invisible rain cloud above my head began to rain on me.

"I will go one more time," I said finally yet strict. After the seagull mishap, Bella and Oliver gained the sudden urge to go back to the pond. But this time, it wasn't a pond. It was a lake. A huge one, full of fish and alligators and frogs and snakes-and seagulls. For some reason, Bella and Oliver wanted to catch a fish for dinner. Mom and Dad could just buy more food! But, I didn't want to spoil the fun for my friends. So, I sucked it up and went. Once we arrived, I immediately shivered. The entire lake was huge and murky, and nasty. This didn't seem to bother Bella or Oliver. They immediately cast their rods and waited. I wasn't paying attention until I heard Bella screech, "I got a catch! I got one! And it's huge!" I stood up, and looked over to Bella's rod. It did seem pretty big. "I got it!" Bella screamed, as a big hook with globs of long seaweed rocketed from the water, and came gliding towards me! I heard Oliver yell "Duck," but it was too late. The hook swung behind me and hooked onto the back of my shirt, along with the seaweed. I screamed, yelling help, but Bella couldn't afford the extra weight, releasing me into the cold swamp water. I had had just about enough. I unhooked myself as Bella pulled in her rod, and I pushed my head up for air. I was angrily sobbing as I climbed back to shore, which seemed more like a mountain to me. I couldn't even look at my friends, I could barely even think of them as my friends now. I didn't even ask for their approval to go back; and as I did, I could feel that cloud becoming a swirling tornado.

And, if anything couldn't get worse, on the way back to RV, and stepped on a sharp seashell. My foot started bleeding, and my Mom said no stitches but I'd need crutches because I couldn't walk on it. Fortunately, Fort Wilderness offered crutches and ACE bandages. Bella and Oliver felt horrible about everything. They even offered to buy me a souvenir and ice cream. But I thought that nothing could make up for this vacation. We only had a few days left, and I wanted to

spend them doing nothing but watching Netflix with Ally. But, as much as I wanted to stay back in the RV, everybody else wanted to shop and go to Fort Wilderness' annual beach party. I had to admit, it did sound pretty fun. So I sucked it up and went. We arrived at the shop, where Bella immediately squealed seeing really cool Disney charm bracelets. "I love these!" She said happily, and grabbed two accessories. I liked them, too. I hobbled over. "Do you want one?" She asked. I smiled. "Here," I said. "I'll pay for our friendship bracelets." "Thanks, Tia," says Bella, as we headed towards checkout. "This fishing pole is so cool!" Oliver yelled, as he rushed towards checkout, too. He glanced at Bella and I's smiling faces and exclaimed, "cheering up, Tia?" I nodded. "I guess I am."

The party was starting. Ally and our parents stayed back. Oliver, Bella and I had gotten "dressed up," for the beach party. Saying, Bella and I dressed in sandals and dresses and Oliver dressed more formally. "C'mon, the party's starting!" I screeched, as we ran into the entrance, wherloved, along with the gorgeous, delicious buttercream flower cake, decorated with the most beautiful of flowers. Oliver, Bella and I had the most amazing time. Afterwards, Bella, Oliver and I climbed to the top of the hill, with me on my crutches, as we watched the stars, still hearing the peaceful music nearby. "So," Oliver asked, "was this really the worst spring break ever?" I looked at Bella, then Oliver, then up into the starry sky. "No," I said. "Not at all." because everything that happened was pretty funny. From the car breaking down, to coming up to this hill. A shooting star passed by us. I wished we could do this whole vacation again.



Pinterest Easter Desserts make holiday celebrations a little more fun

By Peyton Hoffman and Mikaela Wright

Do you need something to make for Easter? Well Pinterest has a lot of creative and fun ideas you can do with your family and friends, here are just a couple desserts and crafts you can try for Easter.

Which Easter dessert would you try?



Steps to make the Easter Dirt Cake:

1st Crush 2/3 of a package of Oreos and place in the bottom in 2 bowls

of a pan
tervals

2nd mix in the cream cheese and butter until smooth
repeat

3rd you mix in the powdered sugar and put the whipped
platter

topping in. Then set aside

4th Get a mixing bowl and mix together your pudding, milk, and vanilla

5th Put that mixture in with the cream cheese

6th Then pour over your crumb mixture

7th Sprinkle with the leftovers crushed Oreos

8th Set aside for a few hours and then refrigerate when ready to serve

Steps to make the Easter Popcorn

1st pop the popcorn in 2 separate bowls
Caption

2nd place the candy melt

3rd Melt for 40 seconds in 2 in-

4th drizzle over the popcorn and

5th once it has settled put it on a

6th add candies

We interviewed a few different classes and here are the results of which dessert they would like to have at their celebration.	Easter Dirt Cake 72	Easter Popcorn 8
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