

The Wildcat Times

Where Seven Locks Elementary School gets its news!

April 2019



DRAWN BY: Meraal Hasan

Interview of Mrs. Megan Murphy

By: Meraal Hasan

This is an interview with our principal, Mrs. Megan Murphy. She joined the Seven Locks Elementary School as the principal in the 2018-2019 school year after the retirement of Dr. Virga. I asked her a few questions about the school and about herself.

MH: What are your thoughts on our school?

MM: "I think that Seven Locks is a wonderful school and I really enjoyed the last eight months that I have been here. I love getting to know all the students, staff, and families, and I think my favorite part about it is that it's a real community."

MH: That's really nice! Is there anything you want to change about this school?

MM: "There is not one particular thing that I'm looking to change, but my overall goal is to always ensure students are learning and being challenged. I also always want to make sure that students, staff, and parents feel safe, valued, and welcome here at our school. I think it's our job to always work together to make changes necessary for those goals, but there is not one particular thing."

MH: Did you have another job before you became a school principal?

MM: "Yes, I've had several different jobs as a teacher and an administrator of MCPS since I graduated from college. I started as a 5th grade teacher for two years, and then a 3rd grade teacher for two years. I then became a special educator, and then worked with students in kindergarten and 1st grade for a year, and then I was an assistant principal for four years, and then a principal intern."

MH: Do you have a favorite memory from elementary school that you would like to share with us?

MM: "Yes, and I was thinking about this one for a while." (Mrs. Murphy knew the questions I was going to ask her in advance) "I think one of the things I remember the most was in 4th grade when we learned about structures."

MH: What kind of structures?

MM: "All different types of structures like bridges, buildings, like in science, and then I built a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was really big and I actually got help from my uncle to build it because that was more of his interest than my parents. It's definitely something I would remember."



MH: Which one of our school events is your favorite, like the Variety Show, or the Spelling Bee?

MM: "I've enjoyed a lot of them so far, but if I had to pick my favorite, it would be the one where our students are performing, so the Variety Show, chorus, or instrumental music because it is so wonderful to see the talent of everyone."

MH: Final question- is there anything special you would like to say to the entire school here today?

MM: "That I am really amazed by the talent of our students. I just look forward to hearing about all the accomplishments each of you make in the future, and if I were to leave you with one last thought, my goal would be for you guys to be the change you want to see in the world."

MH: That is really nice, thank you! Okay, that's all and thank you for your time!

Books, Books, and Yet More Books

By: Gabrielle Orringer



Are you itching for a new book to read? Have no idea on what good books hide in the media center? Well, look no further because you should read "After The Fall" by Dan Santat.

This is a very good book about Humpty Dumpty after he was repaired. He wanted to fly and stayed encouraged and positive, despite what was happening to him. To find out more about what happens and if Humpty really flew, read the real thing!

This book is very creative! Not to ruin the whole plot, but this book involves an egg, a helicopter, and a crazy, crazy landing! Read it if you like a funny, creative book, where you can learn a very valuable lesson; be persistent and conquer your fears!

Winter Concert

By: Samuel Bawden



At 6:30 on March 7th, around 60 kids from fifth grade flowed through the door, ready to play music to please a room full of parents and students eager to watch their children, friends, and siblings perform. The Fifth Grade chorus sang beautiful music, the advanced band blew into their instruments, banged their drums, and tapped their bells to make a plethora of beautiful sounds. The advanced strings strummed their instruments and produced an amazing product. You could tell people enjoyed themselves. Smiles were spread across the crowded room and people's spirits were lifted as the music flowed through their brains. People had their phones out ready to take videos of the kids who were proud but embarrassed at the exact same time. People stood and clapped as the final notes of each performance rang out through the APR (All Purpose Room). After the night of fun ended, people walked out to the groups of cars parked in almost every corner of the parking lot (and in the middle!) and drove away with the nice tunes still playing through their heads.

Bouk Club- By: Julia de Azevedo



3D Printing

By: Kyle Yin

Every Thursday, at 8:00 AM, some students go to school very early! They are going to a 3D Printing class. 3D Printers heat pieces of plastic until they liquefy, and then they squirt it out. A laser is shot at it, which makes the liquid solidify instantly, and layer by layer the piece is made.

In fact, some people have giant printers that make houses! One house, for \$4000, was made in just 1 day! But instead of plastic, they use molten concrete. The windows are added using conventional construction methods. The kids at these class use Sculptris and Tinkercad, which are two computer programs that send your model's data to the printer. It can print detailed faces, houses, and just about anything! Some people even use 3D Printing to build prosthetic arms and legs! They even made a bionic eye with a custom printer!

The SLES 3D Printing class is headed by Mr. Scott Ziv. Mr. Scott works at the Carderock Naval Surface Warfare Center. They have been experimenting with 3D Printing, and NSWC wants to partner with entrepreneurs and students. So, they teach the kids at schools - including Seven Locks!

The kids have used Tinkercad to create fragile plastic designs, and they have used Sculptris to make hard, plastic balls with designs on them. The printers can make mini masks, dragons, buildings, penguins, and lots more. The last class was held on March 21, but you can sign up for another term! The kids have fun in the Tech Center, making plastic items and appliances. 3D Printers are very useful appliances and can be used to revolutionize the world.



Movie Review

By: Josue Khakbaz



Hello Wildcats! In this edition of the SLES Newspaper, we are going to review the movie **Captain Marvel**. "**Captain Marvel**" is about a person named Carol Danvers. She is born on Earth, but is kind of an alien. She was a pilot on Earth but she gets in a crash. Then, the alien Kree lies to her about who she really is and what happened to her. But enough of that stuff. I have a favorite character, and it is not Captain Marvel, which is odd, right? My favorite character in the movie is Goose the cat! This cat is hilarious in the movie. If you guys are early Marvel fans, you must remember the Tesseract. It is an Infinity Stone, and Goose swallowed it. How funny is that? Looks like now we know the backstory to the Tesseract. My favorite scene was when Goose the cat ate the bad guys! Earlier in the movie, an alien device said it was a threat but it said Nick Fury was not a threat which was hilarious!

This is my favorite and the funniest Marvel movie ever, but it had some downs. Some parts might be too scary for younger kids because there are alien gun shots. Overall, the movie is amazing. If you want a movie to watch with the family, the movie **Captain Marvel** is the movie you want to watch. This is Josue Khakbaz with you for your SLES movie review.

P.S. This movie is **not** recommended for kids under 6 years old.

Goodness in Helping Those in Need!

By: Yossi E. Rosen

During the month of April, the PTA committee that organizes Community Service has arranged projects for all of Seven Locks! One of the projects is for students to invite their families to the Greentree Shelter in Bethesda, otherwise known as, the National Center for Children of Families. During this experience, students and their relatives will be able to help those in need, who are homeless, in need of food or water, or need various types of counseling.

One of the major events is HopeFest (On April 6th, 8:30-2:30). During this event, children are entertained on the grounds with a carnival filled with games, food, music, and arts and craft while parents will attend the conference in the nearby building.

This year, Seven Locks is assisting with the event by manning four arts and craft stations. There are many opportunities for families to act as a buddy to a foster child as well as chances for 5th graders to man or take charge of some of the activity stations!

Remember, by doing this you are doing something good!

Variety Show

By: Addison Jessie



The variety show is an annual show at Seven Locks. A lot of kids do it to show off their talent or to have some fun. The Seven Locks variety show is a great way to show the school a song you like to sing, play an instrument, show a skit you made, a cool dance, or really anything you want!

This year, the variety show was held on March 15, 2019. I was able to interview some of the kids who participated.

Annie Ciani-Dausch is a fifth grader. She sang "Dream" by Jojo Siwa. I asked her what encouraged her to do her act. She said "Jojo Siwa". She told me that she liked going on stage and was very nervous. She chose this act because, "I really like Jojo Siwa a lot." Annie did great at the Variety Show!

I also interviewed August Tibbits, who is in kindergarten. She told me that her group danced to, "Can't stop that feeling." The other girls in her act were Leah Miller, Abigail Datch, and Luciana Pardo. She said they chose this because, "We just like the song." She told me that she was nervous and what she like best was, "Doing a twirl."

Finally, I interviewed Ariana "Ari" McGraw, Bailey Hill, and Charley Tibbits. They are three of the six girls who danced and sang to, "Party in the USA." They are in 2nd grade and told me that the other girls in their group were Peri Miller, Ella Sun, and Alexis Sun. They told me that they all liked going on stage. Arianna said she, "just liked the dance." Bailey said, "I just like dancing a lot and the song and how it went." Charley told me she really liked, "Dancing with friends. When I asked how they chose this act, they said, "We couldn't think of anything else and it was the only song we could decide on without cuss words. Also, it was really fun."

Qwyen Le's Poetry Corner

Freestyle: April Showers

The April rains clink on the wall
No biting cold but the warm hugs and the dew falls
Plucking out eggs from hiding places
And maybe a laugh of some jokes
But don't forget your umbrella-
April showers won't stop!

Limerick: The Flower

Once a flower was sad
That she told her dad,
"I want my petals to be unique!"
"Let's go to the boutique!"
And her dad made her glad.

Julia's Recipe Section**By Julia Azevedo**

Easy-To-Make Brownies - ★★★★★

Ingredients -

1/2 cup melted butter (or 1 stick!)	2 large eggs
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/4 cup sugar	1/2 cup flour
	1/4 tsp salt

Instructions -

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8 by 8 pan and set aside for later. In a medium sized bowl, put butter, cocoa, and sugar and stir until dissolved. Add eggs one by one, then add vanilla extract and stir until dissolved. Stir in flour and salt until fully combined, but be careful! Don't completely mix it. If you want, add chocolate chips, nuts, raisins, or anything you want! Spread in pan, and make sure that the pan is covered! When finished, put it in the oven to 20-22 minutes. Don't overbake! Cool for 10 minutes or so and cut into 9 or 16 squares. Enjoy!

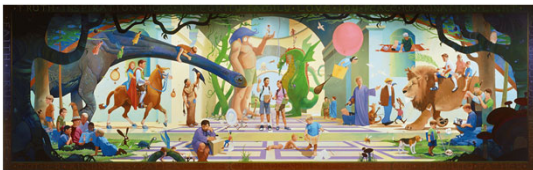
Chocolate Chip Cookies - ★★★★★

Ingredients -

1/2 cup of butter	1 3/4 cups of all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons vanilla extract	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg	1 cup of chocolate chips

Instructions -

Preheat oven to 350°F. Set aside a baking pan with a baking sheet. Heat up the butter for 40 seconds or so until completely melted. Make sure that it's melted, but not completely hot. In a large bowl, mix the butter with sugar until dissolved. Stir in the vanilla and egg until dissolved. Add in the flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix the dough until combined. Dough should be soft and a bit sticky, but not overly sticky. Add in the chocolate chips. Scoop out 1.5 tablespoons of dough and place on the baking sheet. Repeat this until dough is finished, or when the baking sheet is full. Bake for 7-10 minutes, or until the cookies are finished. Enjoy!

Fifth Grade Gift**By: Sage Johnson**

Every year the fifth graders present a nice gift for the school. This year, the gift for the school is a mural that will be painted by my mom, Sienna Johnson. The mural will hang in the media center. She will be painting a 4 foot by 6 foot canvas, which will include characters from books that fifth graders selected as their favorites. This is a big, exciting project because the mural will probably be in the media center for the rest of the time that the school is here. It will be really special, because students are involved in helping pick the theme, and it will be in a place that all students go each week. Many people love to rest in a nice quiet place, and this mural will really help them relax. It might even inspire them to read one of the books shown in the mural! My mom has done so much for the school - and I'm super happy that she agreed to help again with this exciting gift to Seven Locks Elementary School.

Sam's Take On Chocolate Cake**By: Samuel Bawden****INGREDIENTS**

2 cups sugar	1 teaspoon salt
1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour	2 eggs
3/4 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa	1 cup milk
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/2 cup vegetable oil
1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
	1 cup boiling water

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two 9-inch round baking pans.
2. Stir together sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt in large bowl. Add eggs, milk, oil and vanilla; beat on medium speed of mixer 2 minutes. Stir in boiling water (batter will be thin). Pour batter into prepared pans
3. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks. Cool completely.

FROSTING RECIPE:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
2/3 cup Cocoa powder
3 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Melt butter. Stir in cocoa. Alternately add powdered sugar and milk, beating to spreading consistency. Add small amount additional milk, if needed. Stir in vanilla. About 2 cups frosting.

DECORATIONS:

This is the part where you can add your own touch. I usually like to add fruit to the top of my cakes to give it a more natural sweetness. It also adds much needed color since the whole entire cake will just be brown. And/or, you can add topping sugar which adds texture and color as well. If you want other colored frosting, then you should leave out the cocoa powder and use food dye. **WARNING: FROSTING WILL NOT TASTE CHOCOLATEY IF YOU TAKE OUT THE COCOA POWDER**, if that was not already obvious. First you have to make sure that your chocolate cake is completely cooled. If not, the frosting will get wet and the fruit will fall off of the cake and the frosting will engulf the sprinkles.

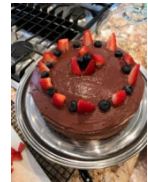
Take 10 strawberries and wash them. Then, cut them into fourths. In the end you should end up with 40 pieces but don't waste your time to count!

Then, wash your pint of blueberries.

Make a circle with the strawberries and make sure that there is about enough space to put the blueberries in between each strawberry so that they just barely touch.

Then in the middle of the circle add red and white topping sugar (or add other colors if you want!) to add more color.

Once you are done with these steps, your cake is complete and you are free to taste your creation! Happy eating!

**Can You Guess It?****By: Gabrielle Orringer**

For each Topic, cover the Answer Key until you guess and then reveal!

Topic #1: Many people don't believe in dragons and have only heard of them in folklore, myths, legends, or storybooks. But there are real dragons in our world!

Fact 1) They are known as Varanus komodoensis, Komodo monitor or Komodo Island monitor sometimes.

Fact 2) They are technically lizards and are the largest known type of lizard.

Fact 3) These dragons are not good at hearing!

Ready to guess? 1, 2, 3, guess and reveal Answer Key #1!

Topic #2: This thing is spread across the halls of SLES all day long and it fills the air with a happy feel!

Fact 1) It's contagious and when it happens, another will do it, as well.

Fact 2) It's free and doesn't cost anything.

Fact 3) Very helpful and can make anybody feel better!

Ready to guess? 1, 2, 3, guess and reveal Answer Key #2!

Topic #3: Grab a surfboard, it's time to surf the pacific ocean! Around is lots of pretty sights to explore!

Fact 1) It is the 50th and newest state to the U.S.A.

Fact 2) One of the islands nickname is The Pineapple Isle. (yum!)

Fact 3) Archeologists think that it has been inhabited since 300 CE.

Ready to guess? 1, 2, 3, guess and reveal Answer Key #3!

Answer Key #1: A komodo dragon!
Answer Key #2: Kindness!
Answer Key #3: Hawaii

Ask Positive Guidance Girl!

Question: Dear Positive Guidance Girl,
 I am worried that I am going to get in trouble during recess because two kids always tell the adults that I have done bad things, like hit them on purpose. I am not doing those things, but am now worried all of the time, because they may believe it's true. What can I do?
 Signed,
 Wrongly Accused

Dear Wrongly Accused,
 I am very sorry to hear this. Sometimes, I get blamed for what I didn't do. You should probably talk to those kids about how it is wrong to lie about these things. Honesty is always the best policy! Tell the adults you don't try to hurt people. Make sure to be positive. If you have your nerves on you, do things that will calm you down, like reading books, or doing things you love. Try your best to not worry a lot. It's not good to be on the negative side.
 With smiles,
 The Positive Guidance Girl

Question: Dear Positive Guidance Girl,
 Some of the kids around me during lunch keep trading food. Also, I know of one kid who isn't allowed to buy cafeteria food, so a friend gets it for her. When I tell them to stop, they get mad at me. How can I make them understand why we aren't allowed to trade food? I'm afraid they will be mad if I tell an adult, but it could be dangerous.
 Signed,
 Lunch Tattler

Dear Lunch Tattler,
 Sharing food in the cafeteria happens a lot. Remind these people nicely about the dangers- they could have allergies! You can also mention that it's nice for people to buy food for others, but not allowed in the lunchroom. Try not to worry about other people so much, and focus on yourself. Stay on the positive side!
 Your friend,
 The Positive Guidance Girl

Hi Wildcats! Look for The Positive Guidance Girl Advice Box in the main hallway. Submit your question if you need her advice. Please use a nickname when you sign- some will be shared in the next edition of The Wildcat Times!

The Wildcat Times- Founding Student Members



Julia de Azevedo, Lucy Hubeny, Sage, Johnson, Meraal Hasan, Qwyen Le, Gabrielle Orringer, Addison Jessie, Kyle Yin, Josue Khakbaz, Yossi Rosen, Samuel Bawden

Just Joking

By: Lucy Hubeny

What light's up a soccer stadium -----> A soccer match
 What do Librarians take when they go fishing-----> Bookworms
 What do you get when you cross a vampire and a snowman-----> Frostbite
 What do you call a sheep dipped in chocolate-----> A candy Baa
 How does a snowman get around-----> They ride an Icicle
 How do rabbits travel-----> By hareplanes
 Why do we tell actors to break a leg-----> Because every play has a cast
 What do you call a train carrying bubblegum-----> A chew-chew train

Person 1: Knock Knock
 Person 2: Who's there
 Person 1: Britney Spears.
 Person 2: Britney Spears who
 Person 1: Knock Knock
 Person 2: Who's there
 Person 1: (sings) Oops, I did it again!

Thank You- Seven Locks ES Educational Foundation Sponsors!

