

Scarlet Quill Jr.

June 2021

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Summer Activities

by Afreen Akhtar

Summer is right around the corner! There are so many ways to have fun and stay cool during the summer months. Here are some favorite outdoor toys and games.

Sidewalk chalk is a classic tool for creative expression. You can draw pictures on surfaces such as cement and asphalt. You can also create a hopscotch court or leave friendly messages for neighbors.

Blowing Bubbles are also great ways to have fun. Younger kids will love chasing down a cloud of bubbles. Older kids: Try to see how big of a bubble you can make. Just mix water, dish soap, and a pinch or two of sugar. And voila! You can blow all the bubbles you want for limitless fun!

Need a break from slides and swings? Try an obstacle course. It's a great way to keep your body moving. Plus, it improves your focus and resilience. It's okay if you fall. You can always get up and try again! You can do obstacles including gymnastic rings, monkey-bar holds, and nylon ropes. As your skills improve, you can increase the challenge by moving the obstacles farther apart.

Playing games and doing activities with water balloons are great ways to spend time outdoors this summer—and to beat the heat! But filling and tying hundreds of water balloons is a time-consuming chore. Zuru's Bunch O Balloons changes that. It makes preparing water balloons fast and easy. Bunch O Balloons attach to your hose. In 60 seconds, and all at once, it fills and ties 100 multicolored balloons. Play catch until they've all gone splat on the ground.

Sprinklers aren't just for watering the lawn. They're also great for helping kids stay cool and have fun during the summer. Sprinklers add a fresh twist to games like freeze tag or Simon says,

too. You can even create an obstacle course around a sprinkler. It's a refreshing addition to any active outdoor game.

Those are a few of my favorite outdoor summer activities of all time! I hope that some of my fellow classmates are willing to try some new, fun activities!

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Ms. Know-it-all
An Anonymous Roosevelt Student Whom Knows It All



Dear Miss Know It All,
Do you know Rick Astley?
-Jon

Dear Jon,
I do not know Rick Astley himself, but I do know he will never give you up, he's never gonna let you down, he's never gonna run around and desert you.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,
Part of me wants to keep it, another part of me wants to let it go. What should I do?
-Juju

Dear Juju,
I don't know what the "it" is you are talking about. But there is an old saying, "*If you love something, set it free. If it comes back to you, it's yours. If it doesn't, it never was.*"

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,
How do I deal with my sister when she bothers me because I am very angry when she does.
-Sibling Frustration

Dear Sibling Frustration,
This is a topic I've addressed several times, but sibling relationships can be really complicated. But I find it easier if we make time for each-other. If it is a younger sibling, know they look up to you, and follow your example. If they are an older sibling, it is the same... in reverse. When you start to get mad, take a breath. Think before you speak, because once the words leave your mouth... you can never take them back.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

Why was the rubber ducky made? :3

-Chiara M.

Dear Chiara,

It may be made of rubber or rubber-like material such as vinyl plastic. Rubber ducks were invented in the late 1800s when it became possible to more easily shape rubber, and are believed to improve developmental skills in children during water play.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

I have a question If you can't tell us who u r then how old r u THE EXACT AGE!!!!

Also Why keep yourself a secret?

And What is your favorite color?

-Nadya

Dear Nadya,

I can't tell you my exact age, as it's not in my job description to do so. Part of Miss Know It All, is to be secretive. My favorite color... gosh that's so hard to pick! I have so many! But if I was forced to choose it would have to be a Seafoam green.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

How was 4th grade when you were younger?

-Jaicob L

Dear Jaicob L,

Every grade has its own challenge. They get harder as you get older. Personally I found 4th grade pretty fun. I always hung out with my friends. I hope that the 4th grade will be as fun for you as it was for me!

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

What happens when a butterfly's cocoon falls from the tree?

- Isabella G

Dear Isabella G,

A pupa that falls or is dented may well be infected with disease. It may be best to euthanize the pupa (by wrapping it in a tissue, and putting it in the deep-freeze). You certainly don't want to foster disease or a virus. If you are sure the chrysalis is not diseased (e.g. you knocked it off yourself) it can be rehung by tying cotton around the cremaster (the black stem at the top) using miniature pegs, or it can be glued by using a glue gun. Place a bead of glue on a suitable support and then place the silk mat or the cremaster into the glue. Pupae do not need to be hanging for the butterfly to emerge safely. You can leave the pupa next to an upright support and the butterfly will climb upwards so the wings can hang down as they dry. One suggestion is using a food cover (the umbrella type) and putting the pupa onto a paper towel inside and next to the wall of the food cover.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

Can you tell me all the answers for the tests and homework for next year?

- Future fifth grader

Dear Future fifth grader,

No, I absolutely cannot! You need to be able to work hard and understand things that you've learned. I understand this might be frustrating, but you will need to accomplish things on your own. I'm here if you need advice on something. You're never truly alone.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

How big is earth? How far away is the sun from earth?

Can people tell the future? Do aliens exist? Why were animals made?

- Justin S.

Dear Justin S,

Both of these values are very close to the accepted modern values for the Earth's circumference and radius, 40,070 km and 6378 km respectively, which have since been measured by orbiting spacecraft. The diameter of a circle is twice the radius, giving us a diameter for Earth of 12,756 km. Earth is 94.196 million miles away from the sun. (I must thank Google for these answers.) As for the question about whether or not people can see the future.. It depends. A good friend of mine can actually see little glimpses of the future in her sleep. She doesn't realize it until the thing actually happens! Isn't that crazy? But as for everyone else, I'm not sure. Who knows... maybe someone can! I'm not actually sure why animals were made, but they were here before us humans!

-Miss Know It All

IN THE HEIGHTS!!!!
Hailey Panchame

In The Heights, is a new movie that I had the opportunity to be a part of. I was one of the main dancers in the movie! The movie is about the hispanic culture and the struggles faced by people in the community of Washington Heights, an area that is part of Manhattan. This movie was incredible to see unfold day by day, and to see on the big screen. I was "homeschooled" at the set and then when they called me to go film, I would have to leave to do my part. It was so much fun the way everyone came together. It was like a big family.

I worked with Lin Manuel Miranda and Jon M. Chu. When I saw them I was starstruck mostly because Lin was the actual Broadway "Usnavi" and he had been in so many more movies and Broadway and John has made movies that are big to this day, which is incredible. I loved filming this. It was amazing. I learned so much, for example, a little Spanish and more about my culture, GO WATCH IT!

All My Pets

Reina Arroyo

It took buying so many different pets to finally get a dog. Well, I would have to say I only got this puppy after I begged and begged for years. My mom and my dad never wanted to get a dog because it was too much responsibility. My sister was sadly also afraid of dogs and never wanted one, and instead she wanted to get a bunny. The dog breed I wanted was a Scottish Terrier. It is a really cute breed and I really liked it because it had a little beard.

Since I wanted a dog and my sister wanted a bunny, my parents said no to that dog and they were thinking about getting the bunny that my sister wanted because they thought that it would be easier. So for a whole day we started to go to websites and places to see if there were any bunnies that my sister and I would like. Until..... My mom started to do more research about them and they are really hard to take care of. Also my Aunt started to tell us the worst things that happened to her when she had a little bunny. So we did not get a bunny.

Determined my sister and I kept telling our parents "I do not understand, didn't you have a whole bunch of pet's all your life?" They kept saying yes but that there was a lot of responsibility with a dog. But we still really wanted a pet. Since my dad is really one of those people that suggest unexpected things right away. A long

time ago, when he was watching this funny video with us on the TV about hamsters he said to us, “Reina and Samantha, tomorrow I will drive you to the pet store and get you one of these hamsters.” Samantha and I were very young at the time so we just agreed to what he said. Well, we went to the store and bought two hamsters. My sister got this all gray one with red eyes and I got this grey one with a black stripe on its back. My sister did not really like the grey one because it was too feisty. So we went and got the sister of my hamster. Only a few months later my hamster passed away. So we buried it in a box in my backyard.

Not too long after I went and got a hermit crab. I thought it would be a lot of fun but they barely did anything. So I cleaned their cage every week and I was a pretty good owner I would have to say myself. They switched their shells a lot because they were growing. One day I actually got to see them doing the process of them switching their shells. About a year both of my hermit crabs passed away. I was really sad and if I did not mention this before we ALWAYS bury our dead animals in the backyard.

Around that time my dad rescued a little baby duck that was on the road all alone. So he brought it home and he left it to me so I can take care of the duck. This duck was really good at climbing and I was always really proud of it. This duck followed me everywhere because it thought that I was her mom. Whenever it was too far away from me it would start chirping like crazy. There was this night when it was having trouble sleeping on it's own because in the wild they are used to sleeping with their moms. So I covered it in a little towel and it went and snuggled next to my neck and fell asleep. I was not allowed to sleep with the duck in my bed so I had to put it back in her bin. The next day the duck got weak because we were at school and it did not get much attention so it sadly passed away. We buried it next to a tree in our backyard.

When our birthday came we decided to get birds, but my dad said that we can only get finches. I did not want to get them because all they did was chirp all day. So I called my dad and begged him for a parakeet but really not in a bad way I was just describing how well trained they can be. So we got two parakeets. We named them Autumn and Lemon Drop. At first they hated us. Sadly not too long later my poor bird Autumn flew away. When I looked in the cage with the door slightly opened I cried a

lot. For some reason Lemon drop did not fly out even though the door was open. Ever since Autumn flew away Lemon drop trusted me a lot more and I even got to train her. But then she started to get sick because she had no other parakeet to keep her company. So I called my dad and said that the Lemon Drop is not being herself and looks really sick. So that's when we bought Mango. My sister was obsessed with Mango and so was Lemon. Right away in just a few days lemon was back to being healthy! Everyone was so happy for her. Until.... one day Lemon drop escaped the cage and when my mom came back home Lemon went flying out of the house. So my mom put Mango in a small cage to call her back because she was in a tree near our house but then eventually Mango flew away. Now we are just glad that they are free. A few days before they flew away my sister's hamster passed away. And we also buried it in our backyard.

On the same day we went out for dinner and this is when my parents actually said yes to getting a dog. We were looking for dogs all over the internet and we found a Corgi. After a few days when we were driving to the place where we can adopt Corgi's, there was this other place to adopt pets and we decided to just stop by there just in case we wanted anything. We were planning on not getting anything at first, but then when we went further in the store this really cute and furry dog came up to us and picked us to be her owner. Her breed is called a Pomeranian. She was the most perfect sized dog for our family and all of us just knew that we had to get her. We got her and she was very friendly. At first it was so hard because she was a puppy and it was a lot of hard work. And right away she was potty trained. We did a bit more research about her and found out that her breed is very intelligent. When she was a puppy she got a kennel cough because we were taking her out too much. She also had an ear infection and the medication caused her ears to go curly. Every time she took a bath her ears went really curly. But now she is a really good family dog and she is used to our routines. She also goes on walks and always does her business outside. I love my dog.

A Fight for Adoption

by Aki Mihara

Have you ever wondered what happens to lost, abused, abandoned, stray animals? People are right now treating pet animals in the most cruel, torturous way. By adopting a pet, you can help save more than one life, have a loving animal who understands your feelings and fight puppy mills.

First, by adopting a pet, you can save more than one life. According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) article, "Top Reasons to Adopt a Pet" it states, "The number of euthanized animals could be reduced dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them. When you adopt, you save a loving animal by making them part of your family and open up shelter space for another animal who might desperately need it." The article also stated that, "Each year, it's estimated that more than one million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized in the United States, simply because too many pets come into shelters and too few people consider adoption when looking for a pet." We can conclude that, when people add an animal to their family, people are more likely to buy a pet, instead of adopting, which can be the cause and lead to the effect of adoptable pets being euthanized each year by a tremendous amount. By adopting a pet from a shelter, you can save more than one life and feel good that you brought happiness to your loving companion.

Secondly, you will get a loving animal who will understand your feelings, which you will get close relationships with. "The problem is, there's a lot of misinformation circling around pet adoption. A common assumption is that all the pets brought into a shelter must have something wrong with them" says Caitilin Lewis, community outreach manager. "This is simply not true. In fact the main reasons pets are given up include owners are moving into housing that doesn't allow pets, owners having personal problems, too many or no room for litter mates, owners can no longer afford the pet, and owners no longer have time for the pet. Many of these reasons have nothing to do with the pet themselves." she says. HSUS also penned that, "Animal shelters and rescue groups are brimming with happy, healthy pets just waiting for someone to take them home." This means that most animals living in pet shelters are house-trained and are used to humans. That will make introducing your pet to your family easier. Your family can also get faster relationships with your pet.

Pets can also detect feelings. Dogs will stay very loyal to their owners. They are extremely cooperative to humans and are easy to train. When you are in pain, cats will stay by your side and let you pet them providing comfort. This bonding relationship will stay with your pet forever.

Lastly, adopting a pet is one way of fighting the cruelty of puppy mills. "Puppy mills are factory-style breeding facilities that put profit above the welfare of dogs. Animals from puppy mills are housed in shockingly poor conditions with improper medical care, and are often very sick and behaviorally troubled as a result. The moms of these puppies are kept in cages to be bred over and over for years, without human companionship and with little hope of ever joining a family."

explains the HSUS. “ And after they’re no longer profitable, breeding dogs are simply discarded—either killed, abandoned or sold at auctions.” It is unbelievable and non-humanlike. “Puppy mills will continue to operate unless we stop supporting them.” stated again by the HSUS. In conclusion, by adopting a pet, we can neglect cruel, non-human-like, puppy mills and save the lives of animals from euthanization, and other disposal methods. It will take many people to support adopting and for the cruelty to end.

Although critics might argue that buying a pet is more straight-forward convenient, we can’t just leave billions of homeless, but good as breeders’ animals to die in cages. We need to save the lives of the animals’ future and to change their life from all the obstacles and frights they have met throughout their life by supporting them with a home they feel secure, safe, free of worry, and happy.

There is absolutely no reason why people shouldn’t adopt pets when thinking of adding a new family member to their family. By adopting a pet, owners will have an adorable companion, who will understand their feelings, and it is also a way to fight cruel puppy mills. We are treating animals harmfully, and it is time we repay them by supporting them a home. I hope you understand the circumstances that animals were facing in terms of cruelty, disposal, and a constant fear of death. You can request an adoption on the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons website. Working out adoption only takes a bit of your character for the volunteer or staff to help find the perfect match for your lifestyle. “By taking the time to do bits of research and with a little patience, you’ll find just the right pet for you,” says Caitlin Lewis. The choices lay on us, to help the animals recover from the causes. We can do many things, from just adopting a pet, to become a volunteer for an animal shelter, we have the choice of changing an animals’ life from hopeless to forgiving.



(YOU CAN SEE THE MARKS ON THE DOG'S FACE. THESE PROBABLY CAME FROM THE LIFE AND TORTURE HE HAD BEFORE BEING ADOPTED.)

Family Bake Night Review

Isabella Brunson

On May 18th, the Grant School PTA sponsored a Family Bake Night with "Gina the Baker" from our very own village of RP. For a small fee, you received a baking kit with ingredients to make six vanilla cupcakes, six chocolate cupcakes, three large cookies, colored sprinkles, chocolate chips, buttercream, and even the tins to bake in. We experimented with different combinations, and my personal favorite was of course, the chocolate cupcake! I loved decorating with all the sprinkles and buttercream flavors. The cookies and cupcakes were amazing, and so delicious. It was so much fun.

Gina was very kind and patient to everyone, and I would certainly do this again next year!

Gina the Baker is located at 213 Main Street (near Dunkin Donuts)

Menu: www.ginathebaker.com



Is Too Much Screen Time Bad For Kids?

By Roy Poikayil

Do you think Screen time should be limited? Screen time is something that should be limited. Kids aren't getting enough exercise and soon all children will need glasses or suffer from headaches because their eyes will be strained.

*Kids should limit screen time. "A study from WJS shows that kids are starting to be on the screen more and not getting enough exercise". However, this evidence shows that kids should stop being on the screen after using it for a long time and maybe go and get some exercise. An example of kids needing to limit screen time to 1 hour, is kids are using computers for school a lot and need to take a break from it. **BUT THIS IS REALLY SHOCKING** because of the amount of time kids are on the screen so **MUCH!!!!** So now it is important to limit screen time for kids to at least 1 hour or wear something for your eyes like*

glasses to keep them from straining..

Another reason that kids should limit screen time is because of straining your eyes. " Although according to a study from Healthy Kids, kids spend 4-6 hours of their time on the screen rather than going outside". This shows that kids now should go outside and be free from the screen and to not strain their eyes. "One example is kids all around the world are using computers but not wearing glasses". Yes kids are trying to get through digital learning, but when kids get time they should step away from the computer. So now it is important to wear protection for your eyes if you are on the screen longer.

In conclusion, now you know it is important to go outside, limit time on the screen and to not strain your eyes.

Is Cheerleading a Sport?

by Julianna Ricca

Is cheerleading a sport? This is a question a lot of people have thought about before. Many people believe that it's not a sport but I believe that it is. The cheerleaders put as much effort into what they do as the football players. The definition of a sport is "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." Therefore cheerleading IS a sport because it includes all of what they just mentioned. Cheerleaders do flips, put people in stunts, dance, and many more active things. They definity exercise. Hopefully, this has persuaded you to think more of cheerleaders.



Nature
by Calvin Jang

I hear the melancholy chirps of the crickets,
And the glowing lights of the fireflies,
I see the sun going down as waves do,
I feel the breeze and the wind slide against my skin,

I see the darkness take over the light,
The moon and its shadow looms over me,
The air cools down as snow falls down on me,
I see an aurora beauralias form in the night sky,

As I see this miraculous sight,
I think of the beauty of nature,
As I doze into a deep sleep,
And I dream of the nature of this world,

I feel agony as I remember all the trees getting cut down,
The water and air being polluted,
And how we treat our own home like trash,
But we can work together and stop the menace we created.



Memories

Starli Tam

The bittersweet puzzle pieces of your mind
Sometimes you wish to leave them behind
But they remain
Always to remind
Of those that were mean
And those that were kind
Sometimes they present you with moments that sadden
Sometimes they present you with moments that gladden
From mountains to valleys from shallow to deep
Your memories follow you even in your sleep
They cause you to smile they cause you to weep
They cause you to run they cause you to leap
What a beautiful thing memories can be
What beautiful scenes that they make you see
The things you regret
Are all in the past
The times you once dreaded
Had ended at last
But through all those miserable times
Can't you still recall
All of those times you were smiling
After all
What happened before is very far gone
And there's still a future to draw
Since the past has already been drawn
Descend upon the never-ending staircase of living
In hopes that one day you can forget all your grieving
But you mustn't forget what you remember now

Because there is still many stairs before you
And you must accept the past because it's true
It happened before and it can happen one more
So do not forget the past even if it is a bore
There are lessons people learn
For various reasons
Like a fire that'll churn
For various seasons
A fire is your mind and you must use it well
To unlock better choices beneath the future's shell
Do not forget who you are and what you have become
Because there are more things to learn
To and from
The past and the future
You will continue to mature
Along your journey in life
But remember those times that you have enjoyed
And as you move along your memories shall fill your void
Memories memories
Of friends and your enemies
Memories that follow you as you move on
Memories of dusk and memories of dawn

The Greek and Roman Gods

By Rohan Balasubramanian

The Greek and Roman gods
The most powerful of them all

Zeus God of the sky, the Roman form is Jupiter
Poseidon God of the sea, his other manifest is Neptune
Hades God of the Underworld, His opposite is Pluto

Now for the Goddesses
We can't forget them, right?

Hera, goddess of marriage, Wife of Zeus, Juno is the other
Aphrodite, goddess of love, Venus is the other dove
Athena, Goddess of Wisdom, Minerva took over the role

More of the twelve Olympians
Who lives on Mount Olympus!

Apollo, god of bows, Roman Form: Phoebus

Ares, god of war, his change is Mars,

Hephaestus, God of Blacksmiths, his upgrade is Vulcanus!

Now for the last,
They are not forgotten.

Hestia, Goddess of the hearth, not much change to Vesta.

Artemis, Goddess of the hunt, her new name is Diana

Demeter, Ceres, both Roman and Greek, both are pillars of agriculture

These are the gods, both Roman and Greek,

Which God is your favorite?

Japan

Written by: Mila ReyesBeltre



Japan

A rumble, a quake, the sound of disaster,

Shakes the earth: a sign from the master

Worried people stand

Looking around at what is going on to their home country, Japan

Some drove some ran

*But there only stood one man,
scared to move,*

Water making its way, inches away

He held his cane in the air, mumbling words

But then the water stopped, people looked at him.... They can't believe it...

he stopped the curse

Ocean
Swirling and
twirling
Swishing, splashing, and
crashing.
Fish swimming with joy.
I see it crystal clear
Water shining in
Moonlight
It glistens and shines,
I watch and get lost in
time.
So beautiful, too
And it's all mine.

Up to me
Am I not the only one,
Who doesn't have a
clue.
About where i'm
heading,
Or what I'm meant to
do.
But time will not be
waiting for me,
And as the days go
passing by,
One thing I know I can
control;
It's up to me to try.

Written by: Kalliopi Petrakis

Try Some Foods from Latin Countries! by Lizz Santacruz and Sara Calderon

Argentina has Asado, Choripan & Dulce de leche.

Colombia has Arepas, Bandeja Paisa & Chuleta Valluna.

Ecuador has Seco de pollo, Guatita, Carne apanada & Pure.

Dominican Republic has Sancocho, Mangu & Habichuelas.

Guatemala has Gallo de chicha, Garnachas & Chiles Rellenos.

Mexico has Tamales with jalapeños & Posole.

Panama has Sancocho, Ropa Vieja & Carimañolas.

Chile has Cazuela, Centolla & Jaiva.

Spain has jamon iberico, paella & gazpacho.

Peru has Papas a la Huancaína, Aji de Gallina & Anticuchos.

Puerto Rico has Mofongo, Pernil & Pollo Guisado.

Nicaragua has Gallo Pinto, Arroz a la Valenciana & Tres leches cake

Bolivia has Yuca Sonso, Humintas & Chola sandwich.

El Salvador has pupusas, sopa de patas & panes rellenos

Venezuela has Pabellón Criollo, Tequeños & Hallaca

Costa Rica has olla de carne, chifrijo and sopa negra



WAS JERSEY DEVIL COASTER THE RIGHT RIDE FOR SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE?

By Michael Ramos

For anyone who does not know what the Jersey Devil Coaster is well it is an RMC single rail coaster at Six Flags Great Adventure opening soon. Currently it is still testing and said to open on June 2, 2021.



The ride is 130 ft tall and has a max speed of 58 mph. Although in videos it may seem that it's running slow, but for its first few test runs it's moving along pretty good.

Now for the technical side of the ride: A block brake is a certain location that only

one train can occupy at a time. The Jersey Devil has three from what I know. They have

the lift, mid course brake-run, and the final brakes. With the rides four trains and seventeen single seat rows this is going to be a high capacity ride. The ride will have a moving station to keep the lines moving.

So do you think this was the ride they needed? My answer would be yes considering you now have two ejector airtime based rides, El Toro and this on opposite sides of the park. But I can think of some things they need before this comes along. One of my guesses was a premier sky rocket 2. These compact multi launch coasters are compact and can provide a backwards launch. This can also provide another launch coaster to complement Kingda Ka. One thing I have had my eyes on lately is the rapids ride named Congo rapids. This takes up a good plot of land for a new coaster. So I think one possibility that may happen here is a Mauer spinning coaster. These are family style rides that spin on an axis on the car. This could work because the only other spinning coaster here is The Joker which is more of a thrill ride. So this ride can offer a step down from the Joker while not being too mild. But if they kept it they would probably give it a new theme and a renovation.

Across the Country: Chapter 2 Ariana Salas

Recap. *This is the second chapter which follows the protagonists, Cassie and her twin sister Rose. Their mom passed away three months prior, and the sisters believe their aunt poisoned their mother, and the girls were sent to live with her. At the end of chapter one, the girls overheard their aunt talking about sending them away, so with nothing else to do their plan was to run away...*

After half an hour of thinking in our room Rose and I decided that the only place we could go other than the orphanage was to see our father. We still had our backpacks from when mom would take us to school. Our aunt didn't want to spend extra money on us, so she didn't let us go to school. I grabbed my small pile of clothes and easily put them into my backpack.

Once I was done putting everything in my backpack I helped Rose zip up her backpack while she did her hair. When we were ready I picked up Ellie and Rose carried Bear. We slipped out of our room for the second time today and went up to the kitchens. No one was inside but I had to restrain Rose from telling her "friend" the kitchen maid, who she thought was nice. But I bet a thousand bucks that if Rose told her she would

rat us out. I grabbed a basket from one of the shelves and filled it up with cheese and bread. We would need some food if we wanted to make it across the country.

As we were walking outside I wondered what would happen to us if we couldn't make it to our dad. Would we even get married when anyone finds out how we ran away from our "rich" life? I sighed and tried to banish the thoughts to the back of my head.

"Alright let's go." I said walking down the hill. On our way past the apple tree I grabbed a few apples and shoved them into the basket, "We'll need as much food as we can get."

After we were finished we crept back outside in the autumn sunshine. We went back to the barn and saddled up our horses. On our way to the path I filled the rest of the basket up with apples. In fifteen minutes we were on the faded path into the woods. We kept riding until we came to a clearing lined with trees. We sat to eat an apple each. When we finished it was almost sunset and there were noises all around us from the scurrying animals. Then I heard a branch crack, I turned to Rose, she had heard it too. Then we saw two indistinct figures in the shadows.

Rose and I tried to back up but we were cornered against a thick line of trees. I closed my eyes and prepared to get arrested, and taken to a reform school.

Then one of the voices spoke, "Don't worry we won't hurt you." I was still freaking out because that's what they all say, as the figures stepped out of the trees....

TBC...

The Missing Piece

Liliana Perez

Gracie walked down the street, absorbing the fresh air and taking in the beauty of her town. She had wished everyone wouldn't make fun of her studying plants. Someone had bumped into her, but she was too terrified to look at the mysterious person. She had run down the sidewalk, crossed the street and stood behind an apartment building. There was a horror in her that they were right there, patiently waiting about to jump to scare her and she would have to keep running. Good thing her friend rushed next to her, her blonde hair went all in her face because she was scared as well. She was scared she had to take out her judo skills. She was the one to jump out and look for the creature or person, but no one was there.

"Gracie! You're so silly! There's not one mysterious person!"

Right then and there, her friend Nat disappeared. Gracie heard someone coming down the block. It was her time to run, she ran until her legs felt like jello. She stopped and noticed

something. Her very secretive necklace was gone. Something had picked her up, but what was it? She didn't know until she saw this.

The Necklace in the Lair

Liliana Perez

The thing that picked her up, had probably seen her brother a few steps away from this block. So the only thing the Mysterious monster or person could do was drop her. She fell straight on her face and made a loud ouch that anyone could recognise if you knew her. He finally got to her block and ran towards her.

"Gracie!" More terrified than her about what happened to her face. The first thing he did was call the ambulance. As odd as it sounds, every single device glitched. She saw a door open, one of those doors that leads underground. The only thing she really wanted to do was go in.

"Nick we have to go in! What if my necklace is in there!"

"YOU LOST YOUR NECKLACE!" "GRACIE!" She felt something in her stomach so loud that she had to scream and shout, run around, and fall to the floor and cry. But she can't wait for her brother sometimes, she has to run in the basement. While her brother went to find help, she heard someone's footsteps. In her mind it said attack, but her heart said go in the basement! She had to follow her heart, and so she did. But the first thing she saw was her old necklace. She wore it as a kid and got lost on this block. She heard footsteps coming in so she hid behind the steps and watched.

"You know, we got that little girl's necklace..but it's not over, we have to look for everyone in her family for that piece to get revenge! Starting with her siblings." Not a bad idea..but! We

must not forget that we are at war with that girl's dad.. Not with her." She rushed to the door and ran out of there as fast as she could when Nick was waiting there with her mom and dad. "So you really were in a basement." Her dad was as red as a tomato when it was fully grown, and her mom was crying as hard as a hurricane would hit.

This is a continuation from the first edition of the Scarlet Quill Jr. titled First Day Jitters
Written By Aki Mihara

Dear Reader,

If you are reading this slip, it means that I choose you to help me campaign for the captainship for the year. I hope you are going to side with me to be more loyal to teachers, and staff who work in our great school. We need to help our school stay school because many other schools near us are shutting down to virtual learning and that is stressful. If we want to stay in person with our friends, we ought to protect our school.

My name is Rose Andrews. I am in sixth grade. I hope you will help me fight some unfair rules and change them into more "approvable" rules. If you find anything that you think is unfair come to Mr. Joseph Meadow's homeroom.

Sasha was sitting on the lunchroom tables, feeling mysterious about which side to campaign. She looked at the other sheet of paper, or rather a Princess YY flier she was given earlier.

"Note of Yshe Yoek- "Sign this piece and you will get rewarded; find this piece and fortune will come; follow this piece and you hope will appear. Trust your fine, magnificent, elegant adviser, captain, and president but side with them or you will receive torture."

"That seems ridiculous," Sasha muttered. But the other letter seemed rather charming and convincing. "It uses fine words which makes it so convincing of course. "

Oath for all residents of Fieldside Elementary Schools, I proclaim from this day and forever that I will live under Yshe Yoek's ruling and will obey anything she wants I, _____ to do. I can not go back or flee from the empire, now that I signed the oath.

Name printed: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

You must bring this slip with you to Yshe Yoek's desk and sign it there.

"I guess I should do some further research on these two political candidates. I wonder if there is another group of candidates that are in between these two good and evil groups. Rose Andrews seems a bit too schoolish; and Yshe Yoek seems too independent about abilities."

Sasha's thoughts were interrupted by the sound of the bell. Thinking she would be late for her first class and missing the opportunity to find new friends, she swished out to the hallway, pushing the half eaten fruits into her lunch bag, and headed to the fourth floor with a hurried impression.

After a bit of looking around the hallroom doors, she finally found an old looking classroom, Sasha amused herself by thinking there were vines around the statues and gargoyles. As she opened the door, she knew why her homeroom classroom was placed in such a high tower. Her teacher turned out to be a botany science teacher, who seemed to grow almost everything in her class room. There the green houses that she and her fellow physical science teacher designed along with some engineering teachers, which held tropical plants, including a mangrove tree and banana tree. There were also exotic animals, almost like a zoo. Sasha couldn't believe her eyes that there were encyclia flowers blooming with scent, Amazon birds of beautiful colors. There were mango trees, full of mangos, ready to be eaten, red delicious apples for apple jam or apple juice.

"Good morning class; and welcome to the northern tower of botany. My name is Alyssum Derosiers. I am known as Mrs. Derosiers. As a doctor of science, I believe in a practical approach. You may think I am exotic, just because I have plants in this classroom. But you will be assigned to one of the plant types to research throughout the year and hand in a 50 paged essay. Before you all start getting worried about this whole thing, I will like you to answer some personal questions of this form. In a few minutes or so, I will be calling each and one of you to come up to the teacher's desks to have a little discussion. " Mrs. Derosiers finished that in one breath, as if she said that every single school year, which she did. "As for now, please fill out this paper with your pens please. I will be calling everyone with the order of

The Willow Tree

By Amalia Belis

It was a beautiful winter morning in Evansville, Connecticut. Katy McRose opened her bedroom window and allowed the sweet, tangy scent of newly laid snow to fill her nose. She looked down to see little kids laughing and playing in the snow. "Katy!" she heard her mom shout from downstairs. "Are you up yet!?"

"Yeah, I am!" Katy shouted back. Katy heard footsteps coming up the stairs and into her room. Katy quickly hid underneath her bed. You see, lately Katy has been spending every day outside. Katy loved going outside more than anything in the whole wide world! The only problem was, Katy never did anything else. She would skip school, avoid her friends, and even purposely miss every single one of her brother's birthdays. She had a very clear prediction that her mom would not be happy. "Why did I have to yell back?" Katy thought to herself.

The sound of the door opening almost made Katy want to run out of the room, but she remained quiet. Katy's mom quietly circled Katy's room. Her mom quietly sighed and walked out of the room. Katy sighed in relief as she came out of her hiding spot. Katy knew that her mom would be back again, so she quickly came up with a plan to escape for the day. She tied all of her clothes together into one long rope. She quietly opened her window and tied her clothing rope to a nearby willow tree. "Perfect." she said to herself. Everything was going according to plan. She grabbed the heaviest book she could find in her room and put it on her desk chair. She quietly pushed the chair across the room and pressed it up against the door so no one could get into her room. But, just in case anyone did, she stuffed a bunch of pillows under her cover to make it look like she was sleeping. She quickly remembered that it was winter and grabbed her coat and mittens.

Katy tiptoed on the creaky floors over to her open window. She looked back over her shoulder and hesitated if she should leave. Katy quickly wiped that hesitation out of her mind. "Let's do this." Katy said fiercely to herself. She tightly gripped her clothing rope and swung out of her bedroom window. Katy held her breath and shut her eyes tightly as she felt huge gusts of wind splash against her face. She landed safely on the ground. Katy quietly did a little victory dance, then

got serious again. She climbed the willow tree and hid her clothing rope in the branches since she would need it later tonight when she comes back. "Thank you, Willow Tree." she quietly whispered. Her mother always told her to thank the trees for good luck. She climbed back down and ran as fast as she could.

To Be Continued...

Ramadan **By Maysa Smaini, Lincoln School**

Have you heard about the Muslim holiday that just recently passed called Ramadan? Islam is one of the main religions in the world. The people that follow the religion of Islam celebrate the holiday Ramadan. Ramadan is very special and changes annually with the phases of the moon. People who follow Islam are called Muslims. During this sacred month, Muslims fast for 30 days, but it is not what it seems. It is not done for the whole time straight through. Fasting means not eating from sunrise to sunset. We go to the mosque and pray. A mosque is a place of worship. We Muslims pray five times a day. We do spend time with friends and family. We also spend time giving charity and helping those in need.

To start it off, Ramadan is fun and joyful. We have different routines and on time of day. We start by waking up early and having a meal called suhoor. I normally drink milk with cake or cookies with jelly. After that, we pray (We pray five times a day). When are the prayers done? At different times in the day, we pray. Once we pray we can not eat anymore. We read The Holy Quran which is the holy book of Islam. We go back to sleep and then wake up at the normal time. We read some more Quran and then we pray Dhur.

Next, the afternoons during Ramadan are pretty calm. Since we are fasting we try to pay attention and go on with our normal activities. Sometimes we might take a nap. We also pray again during the afternoon.

At sunset, we break our fast by eating dates. Dates are eaten because our prophet Mohamed ate them and we follow his lead. We can drink them with milk and buttermilk. If you were going to drink water don't drink a lot because if you do you will get sick. We pray Maghrib; then we eat Iftar. We eat soup first, something hot for our bodies. We then eat the second platter. My personal favorite is homemade chicken nuggets with a salad with

mayo, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes. I also like cauliflower with sauce with chicken nuggets and the salad with all the vegetables in it. After that, there is usually a few minutes before Isha which is the last prayer of the night. We watch our favorite show in Ramadan. It is called Achour 10 which is in Arabic, we watch it every year. The genre of the show is funny. The show focuses on real life, and my family watches an episode if it is the weekend. After the 30 days of Ramadan comes one of the joyous times of year because it is called Eid al Fitr. We wear new clothes, get some new toys and we cook sweets. We get to see our family. It's time to smile!

To sum it up, Ramadan is very fun. It is also a very interesting and special time for Muslims. It helps with learning discipline because it is not always easy to fast. Prayer is very important and is something done five times daily as a family. Families might have different traditions but the basic parts of this celebration are the same for all Muslims. It is a special time to spend with family. You can learn more from your Public Library. I wrote about Ramadan because everyone needs to learn about different religions, so they can respect and understand others' beliefs. Islam is the third largest religion in the United States and about 3.35 million Muslims are living in this country.

The Pandemic One Year Later **By Hayley Rodriguez, Lincoln School**

In the past year, all of us have been affected by the pandemic and recent events. Students all around the world went from going to school every single day to going online to do virtual work. This is a massive change that might have been upsetting. Yet, through these hard times we kept positive.

Not only have students have been affected, teachers and parents have also. Teachers had to change all their lesson plans and try to make it work virtually. They also had to learn new methods and ways online even if they aren't familiar with the internet and even Zoom. Parents had to help their children with topics that they might not have been familiar with and have to keep their family safe.

In the end, everyone has been affected in different ways. But all we can do now is encourage each other! Some ways you can stay positive is to exercise and stay healthy physically and mentally. You can also try to reach out to friends you haven't seen in a while. Even though it is hard to stay positive, just know that your parents, close friends, and teachers care about you. They want you to be happy, and so do I! If someone you know encourages you, pass on the encouragement to another person. You're not alone, many feel the same way you might feel. Some students shared and expressed how they felt and were affected during the pandemic, they also mentioned some advice they can give.

Question: How was your life affected during this past year of this Covid-19 Pandemic?

"My life was affected a lot, I can't do as much as I used to and school got much harder." - Emma Israil

"My life was affected a little, I was not able to see my family or my friends. It was odd at first, I thought it would last a week or two but I was wrong." - Ashley Manzo

Question: What did you and your family do during this Pandemic that helped you keep positive and upbeat?

"Some things my family and I did in this pandemic that helped us keep positive and upbeat is we tried to spend the most time with each other. We also tried new stuff together or individually." -Kadeejah Ahmed

"What me and my family did was watch a lot of movies (we almost wiped out netflix), shows, dance/listen to music, play outside, and do a lot of exercise." - Ashley Pujols

Question: What advice do you have for your peers who might be struggling with dealing with the Pandemic?

"My advice is, that.. you just have to keep going. It'll get better, you just have to trust in yourself. And you have to promise yourself you won't give up until it ends. You'll be okay once it's over." - 5th grade student

Birthstones **By Angela Lin, Lincoln School**

Birthstones are gems that represent different birth months. Each birth month's stones mean different things. They also tell things about each birth month. Birthstones are similar to Zodiac Signs and are usually worn in jewelry by men and women. Not everyone has the traits that are associated with the stone. Finding out what each birthstone represents is just something interesting and is not always true for the person born in that month for the birthstone. People are special in their own way. Each birthstone is different and some people feel their birthstone and zodiac traits fit them while others do not.

Diamonds are April's traditional birthstone. They have a very special meaning behind them. It was once believed that a wearer of a diamond would bring better relationships to life. It was also said that diamonds bring inner strength so they are both strong on the inside and outside. Diamonds were also deemed the " King of all Birthstones". A diamond is also the hardest birthstone and it's only made out of one element carbon. To me, people I know who were born in April and have diamonds as their birthstone are kind and lovely people.

People born in May are really interesting people and their traditional birthstones are Emeralds. Emeralds are also a symbol of rebirth which is pretty special. In Greek an emerald is called a smaragdus and it just means green in Greek. People also believe that emeralds bring good fortune, youth, and foresight. When Emeralds are being sold, the deeper the green the more valuable it is. I've found that the people I know who were born in May and have the birthstone of Emerald are a little cold and hard to get to know in the beginning, but after a while I found them to have a big heart and are very likable.

June doesn't really have one exact birthstone but has three. They are Moonstone, Pearl, and Alexandrite. Moonstone represents history all about the past generations in the old days. Moonstone also means passion and love, and that makes it truly beautiful. Alexandrites are said to have good luck and fortune to the person. Pearls mean sweet simplicity and have a deep meaning. All of these birthstones originate from the oceans. Pearls were also given as wedding gifts for newlyweds. People born in June's birthstones have a few different meanings, but are unique in their own ways.

August's birthstone is peridot but has a unique little meaning to each and every person who was born in this month. The Peridot wasn't August's only birthstone until 2016, and August had three birthstones until 2016. The peridot was found in Hawaii's volcanic lava. The Egyptians had called the peridot the gem of the sun, but they also believe that it had healing powers. The peridot symbolizes strength, although not as strong as the diamond. The peridot was sometimes called the evening emerald due to its light green color.

November has two birthstones that really mean the same things. They are the Topaz and the Citrine. They are both really pretty in shape and color. Both the Topaz and Citrine are a pretty sunset color with a tiny bit of light and that makes the wearer appear to have warmth. The Citrine was once said to be a gift from the sun and it was believed to also have healing powers. They are both known for their calming light energy and it brings great fortune to the wearer or the person born in November. Those born under Topaz and Citrine birthstones can be a bit careless, but are really kind and caring.

Sapphires are the birthstone for people born in the month of September. They are known for their gorgeous blue color, but they come in pink, yellow and green too! It was once believed in ancient times that the gem protects you and the people close to you. The gem is a sign of trust and loyalty. Also in Greek sapphire is sappheiros which means "blue stone." Sapphires are indeed beautiful gems. The people born in September and wear it as their birthstone I've found to have a caring personality and like the gem beautiful on the inside.

Learning about birthstones is fun and interesting. Many people like to wear their birthstone in their jewelry, but others will wear any stones they love! Some have deeper meanings than others. It is important to remember that not all people have the traits of the birthstone in their birth month. Does your birthstone's meaning fit you?

Axolotls

By Angelyna Baffo, Lincoln School



Do you know what an axolotl is? Well if not, then you're in for a surprise. Axolotls are salamanders that are native to Mexico City. The ancient Aztecs named them after their god Xolotl, and their name means water monster. Axolotls are very close to extinction, so it is important to learn as much as we can. The more we know about them, the better we can help conserve the species. The main aspects are the axolotls' habitat, what they eat, their description, and probably most importantly, their endangerment status.

Axolotls, or mexican walking fish, are a type of amphibious salamander. They spend their whole life in water despite them having lungs. Axolotls look like a regular salamander, with just a few differences. They have thin limbs, a dorsal fin that starts at their head, and feathery outer gills. They also have a big head and their mouth

looks like a little smile. Axolotls can get as long as about 13 inches, and can get as heavy as 300 grams. Axolotls can be many different colors, but the main ones are brown-ish, pink, albino, golden, and others look black. Some can even glow under UV light! There is another thing weird about axolotls. They look like tadpoles, and there is a reason for that. Unlike most amphibians, when axolotls are born, they are born almost fully developed. Besides getting bigger and a few other small changes, axolotls stay in a "larval stage" for their whole lives. They also never grow to leave the water, like other animals. This trait is called neoteny.

Axolotls were originally native to Lake Chalco and Lake Xochimilco. However, in recent years their numbers have drastically declined, and now they are only found in Lake Xochimilco. The lake's dark bottom allows them dim light and a place to hide from predators. During the day, Axolotls hide in plants and mud to avoid getting eaten. At night, they come out and hunt.

Axolotls have a carnivorous diet. They try to eat any small animal that can fit inside their mouth. In their habitat, they have access to insects, slugs, worms, and snails. They can also eat crustaceans, crickets, small fish, and even frog tadpoles. Axolotls eat by sucking in their prey and swallow it whole. In captivity, axolotls only need to eat two to three times a week, because they usually take about two or three days to digest their food.

In the wild, axolotls are critically endangered. In 2009, their numbers had decreased 90 percent in the four years before. They estimate that there are about 1,000 or less left in the wild. One reason axolotl numbers are decreasing is because of destruction of their environment. In the past, the government has added invasive fish species to their habitat to give the native people living there more food. Although the government meant good, the fish that they put there just eat the young axolotls. Another reason is pollution. When there is a storm, Mexico City's drains can overflow and bring human waste into Lake Xochimilco. Like a lot of amphibians, axolotls can absorb things into their skin. That makes them extra vulnerable to the waste. Lastly, there is also invasive plant life. Lake Xochimilco is very eutrophic, which means that it is extremely rich in nutrients. Those nutrients allow lots of plant life to grow. To most people, that seems like a good thing. However, those plants steal oxygen that the axolotls need to breathe. Although it seems bad, there are some things being done to help axolotls. Scientists are putting filters in the canals where axolotls live to keep out the destructive fish. There are also scientists breeding axolotls in labs to increase their population.

As you can see, axolotls are very interesting creatures. Their habitat, description, endangerment status, and what they eat tell us so much about these animals. However, the axolotls are still endangered. Although they live all the way in Mexico, there are still a few things we can do. You can donate to axolotl research funds, spread awareness about them, and even get two as pets and give the babies to a conservation fund. We need axolotls, and they are going extinct quickly. Nonetheless, we need to do all we can to help them!

Famous Actors and Musicians from New Jersey By Sebastian Bernal, Lincoln School Principal

Did you know there are so many famous musicians from New Jersey? Some you may know while others you might not know, but they're all very talented and amazing! Names like Bon Jovi, Bruce Willis and Halsey were born and grew up here in our home state! Bon Jovi and Bruce Willis are famous rockers and actors from the 80's and Halsey is a unique Indie music singer and artist.

The first singer I'll talk about is Bon Jovi. Bon Jovi was a very famous rock singer back in the day. He made songs like "You Give Love A Bad Name" and another called "Livin' On A Pray." His first very famous song or his first hit was called "Runaway" reaching the top 40 on Billboard Hot 100. That song really got his career started. He was 21 when he made "Runaway." Now he is 59 and still making music to this day. He was inducted to the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2006 and then in 2018 he was inducted into the US Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. As you could see, his career was very successful.



Our second singer/actor is Bruce Willis, and he was famous in the 80's and 90's. He made mostly R&B music. R&B stands for Rhythm and Blues. It's a type of genre of music that originated back in the 40's. Bruce Willis was also a very famous actor, acting in movies like *Die Hard* and *Armageddon*. Both are very famous movies, but for his musical career he didn't release many songs. He did make one very famous song called "Respect Yourself." That song reached number #5 on Billboard 200.

Our last singer is Halsey, a new and young singer. She started her musical career in 2012 and is still to this present day. She is from Edison, NJ which is 36.8 miles away by car. Halsey's first hit song was "Ghost" which hit number 60 on Billboard Hot 100. Now her songs are getting much more successful. A song she made hit 15 on Billboard Hot 100 and also hit 13 on US Mainstream Top 40. She has made very famous songs in her career.



These three are only a few from New Jersey to achieve success and fame in music and movies. Whitney Houston and Frank Sinatra were also from New Jersey. I hope you learned from this article and you might be impressed if you look up one or more of the New Jersey musicians and listen to a song or two!

End of the Year

by Alison Jacobo Perez

I've counted down the days of school left for the past month. Now that we are so close to the end, I can't believe it.

This year was tough. We had to be online for a few months, but now we are here we learned a lot. We had lots of struggles. **We are here now.** Get ready for next year.



