

A HAWK'S LIFE

St. Elizabeth's School's Student Newspaper

The Art of the Handwritten Note

Head of School, Ramsay Stabler

We have made the calendar shift from the season of thanks to the season of giving, and it seems as if we get into a decidedly different mindset during these weeks. The hustle and bustle- I have so much to do- meter goes wild; the “What am I going to get for Uncle Harvey?” dilemmas abound; some just bite the bullet and buy things that will probably get put away in the closet, just to be done with it; some actually love this season of finding and giving meaningful gifts for friends and loved ones.

Full disclosure: while I am not sure exactly where on that list I fall, I do know I am not in that last group which really *loves* giving presents. I do feel, however, that I will be in some sort of hot water if I don't do something for family and others, but I try to keep it as simple as possible...not always easy in a growing family (it seems we are happily adding daughters-in-law and grandkids at a wonderful rate!).

I have always been a big fan of another kind of present to the people we know and love, and my thirty-eight years in this people business has shown me time and time again that this present is one that is meaningful, personal, and keeps on giving. The present is the hand-written note. There are so many reasons that notes work so well. First, it really gives the author a chance to sit and think about the recipient and why a note to say “Thanks” or “This is what you mean to me,” or simply, “I was just thinking about you,” is something that should be sent. The personal nature of the note lets the recipient know that the writer has put some thought and heart into this “present.” Unlike other presents that can be eaten, get broken, don't fit, or are just not ever used, the note can be read and enjoyed again, and again. And, it IS personal. Lots of email letters or well-typed letters can seem to be “personal” but many are not. If you do it by hand, it just is. Ask teachers if they have received some meaningful notes from parents or children or colleagues, and my guess is that they will be able to pull a pile of them right out of their desk drawers. Finally, a great added “bonus” is that the recipient does not have to write a thank you note back...although they might choose to, which would be a pretty great thing, too.

So during this time of giving, consider writing a note to someone important in your life. The cost is minimal, and the effects can be heart-warming and long-lasting!

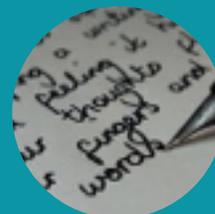
In this month's Edition:



Holiday Fun!



California Wildfires



Student Writing

Featured classroom and a note from the Head of School

Visit from a Sudanese “Lost Boy”, Arok Garang

Fender Kent

Arok Garang was at SES a couple of weeks ago talking about his organization, *Seeds of South Sudan* as well as his journey and experience as one of the “Lost boys” of Sudan. Arok has gone through so much hardship including his parents being killed, being forced away from home, diseases, friends dying, no shoes, and more. He saw blood, guns, tanks, and sadness. Arok also walked 1,000 miles before he made it to a refugee camp in Kenya. After being in the camp for 9 years, he was chosen from a lottery system to travel to the United States with many other boys like him. Once in the States, he began his education with seriousness and ended up graduating from University of Colorado Denver. Arok is truly a miracle!

Arok started an organization called *Seeds of Sudan*. It is a nonprofit, faith based organization with a mission to educate, empower and equip children of East Africa who have survived genocide. *Seeds of South Sudan* places children from refugee camps in boarding schools in Kenya in order to give them hope for a better life.

Arok was a very captivating speaker. His story of survival is truly amazing, and his message of gratitude was very powerful. We were very lucky to have him come to our school.

*There are many ways to help Arok with his organization. You could do one or more of the following:

*Sponsor a child, donate to a fund, participate in a walk/run event, volunteer, install donation boxes with brochures at a school or local business.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Over the last month, the middle school elections occurred to determine who would be on Student Council. Sixth and seventh graders could run for class representative. Eighth graders could run for president and vice-president. All the students that ran were more than worthy and capable for the job, but there could only be one winner in each class. When the votes were cast the winners were: Eighth grade president and vice president: Nia Asmare and Koda Romero, Seventh grade representative: Yahaira Nunez Hernandez, and Sixth grade representative: Tselot Hailu. Great victory for all and I am sure they will find success in office this year.

By: Quinn Pack

Writing Corner

The Quest for Milk2

I couldn't believe it. I was finally chosen to attempt the Milk2 test! Only a few people per year get chosen and none of them ever made it back. I think that they made it to the other side and got promoted to a God of the Valley. Or at least, that was the rumor.

I honestly thought that I wouldn't make it. I had also heard that the test was impossible. If there was a test at all. Maybe it was just a way to get rid of the overpopulation issue. But I still think that there are Gods and there are Milk2 cows, and cars, and butter. It would be amazing.

I didn't know if I needed to pack anything, if I needed to study anything. Hopefully, I didn't need to. I just grabbed a bag of an extra change of clothes, some snacks and headed off. I heard that anything could've been made out of Milk2. Cars, metal, other things. I wasn't sure of all of it, but I know that there was a lot that could be made out of it.

I started driving up to an address that was given to me by someone. I was approached by someone a few days ago and was handed a piece of paper. Then they walked off and I never saw them again. Was that a Milk2 cow in disguise? Probably not. Like I said, this could just be a way to get rid of the overpopulation issue. Or it could be real. I hoped it would be real.

Pretty soon I was coming close to the edge of town. It was starting to worry me. For all I know, there was only one town for a long while. The rest of our territory was trash for all I knew.

We had set places for our towns to be built, and almost all of them were overpopulated.

I sped up on the highway. That word was only used by rich people because usually they were the only ones that could pay the amount to use the roads. But this time I got special permission from the government to have the roads cleaned and polished for my use. It seemed a bit over the top for my liking, but whatever. It was an opportunity worth taking. I was where I needed to go in a matter of minutes.

It seemed like people weren't kidding when they said that cars were the fastest thing made. Of course there were mentions of planes and such, but that seemed so far back that most of us have mostly forgotten what those were. But good thing we still had Anibots. I was told they were something like these things called Animals, but I think that Anibots are better. Animals couldn't even fly! I mean, who just wants a dog who can barely jump when you could get yourself an Anibot dog?

When I got there, there wasn't anyone in sight so I wasn't sure if I was in the right place or not. But as soon as I stepped out of my car, I saw a door open in the ground and something came out of it. It was big, and long and had a tip with a window. What was this thing? I stood there in awe, unsure if I should get back in my car and speed off or see if anyone or thing was inside this giant metal contraption. It had wings too. I heard something about planes having wings, but these ones didn't seem to flap. They just stayed there. I was confused. What good were the wings if they didn't flap?

Then suddenly a door opened and a few people stepped out. They were dressed in milky white lab coats with blue ties and big glasses. But then there was one person leading them, also in a blue tie, he was wearing a black suit with dark sunglasses. I shrunk back a bit at the horrible contrast between the black suit and the white coats, but I guess I just needed to deal with it.

The man in the dark suit looked at me and I was taken aback a bit. His stare was cold. Even though I couldn't see his eyes, I could feel them like a laser beam tearing through me. My heart rate sped up. What if this was a trap? I was starting to question driving here. The man walked towards me and I saw that he was shorter than I first thought. He looked shorter on the top of the big machine staircase. I looked up at him and I guess he could tell that I looked fearful because he started shaking his head.

“Really lads? This one?” He spoke. He had a different voice that I didn't recognize. It sounded different than mine. What planet was he from? Was he still from earth?

“Yes sir, this is the only young lad we could find that fit the bloody position.” The other ones sounded like him. Did they call me here to take me away to their planet? Was this their spaceship? I backed up into the door of my car.

“Oh don't worry. You're coming with us.” The man in the black suit grabbed my arm and started leading me towards the machine.

To Be Continued....

By: Avaneil Aue



Fun at the
“Sticky
Fingers”
club after
school!

Featured Class: Kindergarten

This month's featured class is Kindergarten! Kindergarten has many fun activities that they do such as fun field trips. They recently went to the Pumpkin Patch at Anderson Farms in Erie, CO. They collected many pumpkins. One of the favorite things the entire class loves is "Free Choice" which occurs at the end of the day. During Free Choice, the class makes books, colors and watercolor paint. They also love to make crafts.

Even though the kindergarteners are quite small and young they still have subjects like the rest of us. In math they are learning teen numbers {11-19} and counting how many days 'till Christmas! In science, they just finished a fun project connecting to *The Three Little Pigs*. They all built houses in groups. In the story the first house was made of sticks and the children used spaghetti sticks instead. The other house was made of straws and the children used straws, and the last house was made of bricks and the class used legos.

In social studies the kindergarteners are learning about holidays around the world. Ms. Jessica has said that they have learned about Africa, Italy, and England. With all of these fun learning activities, the kindergartners must have fun!

By: Brooklyn William

California Wildfires

Imagine this, your parents get an alert on their phone saying that you need to evacuate your home. From that day until you get the alert you cannot return, you may never see your home again. This is what a lot of kids your age and adults are feeling in and around Paradise, California which is the most destructive wildfire in California's history. The worst part is these fires are nowhere near over, they've destroyed more than 6,400 homes and have killed more than 80 people, and over 400 people are still missing. Thankfully, rains contained and ended the devastating fire, but made it difficult to locate the remains of so many.

Although so many people have died because of the fires, many people have miraculous survival stories. For instance, a bus driver in California saved the lives of a ton of students. The fire was circling the school and he asked all of the students to board the bus, and he just took off and saved the lives of the students. The fires are in Butte County at the moment and in other places in California. Sheriff Wilken asked, "What do you do when you are driving through hell, you keep going!" You may think this is all bad, but you can help, you can make donations and ask your parents other ways to help. A little difference is still a difference."

By: Willa Gartner

Local Events

As you may know, St. Elizabeth's is in the middle of a lot of popular events. If you drive down 23rd Street, you may have noticed the signs on the poles that mention Zoo Lights or the new exhibit that has recently opened.

First, you probably know from the signs that a new exhibit is at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. It is called Cuba! I have actually been there, and it is amazing. When you are walking through the exhibit you learn everything about Cuba which includes their culture, their geography, and their home. You will also see the many different features of Cuba. For example, you will notice the many different Cuban traditions revolving around animals, religions, and so much more. I have actually been in the exhibit and I think it is beautiful. They have set it up like you are taking an actual tour around Cuba. Another fun thing they have that make it enjoyable for everyone is a section that has musical instruments. Some look like fruit and vegetables, while others look like normal instruments. There are also tables full of different things such as games and other fun stuff. Overall, what I am trying to say is that this exhibit is wonderful and beautiful and you can learn a lot about our fairly close friends, the Cubans!

Another fun event is Zoo Lights, which happens every year. You may already know about it, but here is a little summary. Zoo lights is when you walk around the zoo looking at the many different lights created into animals such as penguins, monkeys swinging from branches and lions leaping through the air. It starts on November 30 until January 6. It is such a fun event and very close to our school. I totally recommend that you go soon before it is gone!

I hope that you go to these amazing events around our school St. Elizabeth's and soon. Have fun if you go to one of these events around us!!!

By: Tselot Hailu & Brooklyn Williams



M&M Contest!

Seventh Grader, Hailey Neilson-Krueger, loves games and competitions. She

came up with filling a jar with M&Ms as the December competition. Fifth grader, Eden, guessed the closest amount with 3,740 inside the jar. So, how many M&Ms were actually in the jar: 4,100! Good going, Eden!

Movie Review: *Ralph Breaks the Internet*



The movie I will be reviewing is the Disney cartoon, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. I have seen the movie and actually love it. It is so so so good!! Don't worry, I won't spoil anything but just tell you about the story. You all probably know the classic *Wreck It Ralph* movie, but instead of exploring the arcade they take a trip to the internet. How it all started was when Vanellope's (Sugar Rush) game was getting unplugged because the game control got broken. Vanellope was so sad that her game broke, but Ralph came up with an ingenious idea... to go to the internet, specifically ebay, to find and buy the Sugar Rush game control. So for the rest of the movie Vanellope and Ralph go on this epic adventure that takes them through this epic game called Slaughter Race. If you know what Fortnite is, slaughter race is pretty much the same. After their epic adventure Vanellope stays in Slaughter Race while Ralph goes back to the arcade. They talk over Facetime(a more futuristic kind of facetime) and tell each other what they are doing. Finally, Ralph and Vanellope live happily ever after!!!!

by: Tselot Hailu

Sports News: Nuggets



The Denver Nuggets are doing really well this season since they have won nine games and lost four. The Nuggets first time playing for the NBA was in 1948 until now. It used to be called the Denver Rockets until The Houston Rockets were already claimed by the franchise in Houston. So obviously, the Denver team needed a name change, therefore, the Nuggets worked mainly because of the mining industry in Colorado.

The Nuggets are not bad. They have extremely solid players, but one stands out from the rest.

He is Nikola Jokic from the Ukraine. He's the Nugget's Magic Johnson. Jokic is 6 feet 10 inches tall and is only 21 years old. He's one of the most versatile players in the NBA. These are the fact about Nikola Jokics.

By: Bereket Mekonnen

FEATURED HOROSCOPE: SAGITARIUS

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Strengths: truth, old time writing (ink & pen)

Weaknesses: can't fulfill promises, no patience

Likes: waffles, campfires, sunny days, acoustic songs, and lightening the mood.

Dislikes: detailed papers, being strained, and emojis

Quiz/Game Corner: Holiday Edition

Christmas Quiz

Where Does Santa land:

- 1.) On the roof 2.) At the front door 3.) White House 4.) In the backyard

Rudolph the Nose Reindeer

- 1) Green 2.) blue 3.) red 4.) cool

Where Does Santa come in

- 1.) Your window 2.) your garage 3.) the bedroom 4.) the chimney

What beverage is often left out for Santa

- 1.) Milk 2.) apple juice 3.) soy milk 4.) fruit punch

What Christmas Character has a button nose

- 1.) Coraline 2.) rudolph 3.) frosty the snowman 4.) Santa

Who are Santa's helpers

- 1.) Munchkins 2.) horses 3.) elves 4.) minions

What made the Grinch so mean?

- 1.) He was on the naughty list. 2.) his heart was too small 3.) his crush didn't like him 4.) No one loved him

What did Rudolph never get to join?

- 1.) Reindeer games 2.) the elves 3.) a happy family 4.) school

What song was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh"?

- 1.) Jingle Bell Rock 2.) Here Comes Santa Claus
3.) Jingle Bells 4.) santa baby

What is the most famous Christmas ballet?

- 1.) Frosty the snowman 2.) The nutcracker 3.) rudolph
4.) elf

What is the Grinch's dog's named

- 1.) Sam 2.) Max 3.) Tom 4.) Fido

ANSWERS:

- 1, 3, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 2

MAD LIBS: Decorating the Tree

Many people decorate their Christmas _____ on Christmas Eve.
NOUN

Last year _____ had a/an _____ party
PERSON IN ROOM ADJECTIVE

and everyone helped _____ the tree. _____
VERB ANOTHER PERSON IN ROOM

brought tinsel and _____. And _____
PLURAL NOUN ANOTHER PERSON IN ROOM

Brought lots of fresh _____ and candy _____
TYPE OF FOOD (PLURAL) ANOTHER TYPE OF FOOD (PLURAL)

to put on the tree. The most important decoration, of course, is the string of colored electric
_____. A few dozen _____ lights make any tree
PLURAL NOUN ADJECTIVE

look _____. And most stores sell round, sparkly _____
ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN

and little _____ balls to hang on the branches. But the hardest
ADJECTIVE

decoration to pick is the one that goes right on top. Once that _____ is
NOUN

up, you know that the _____ season has officially started. Of course, if
ADJECTIVE

you are too _____ to have a tree for Christmas, you can decorate your
ADJECTIVE

_____ or hang _____ on your
NOUN PLURAL NOUN

_____. Then the neighbors will say, " _____!"
NOUN EXCLAMATION



St. Elizabeth's Library Gnome

Our librarian, Mrs. Paolucci has a little game going on in the library. It's "Hiding the Gnome." A student is chosen to hide the gnome somewhere in the library. When someone finds it, the student is given a lemon drop and is next to hide the gnome. Fun!

How Elephants Are Evolving

Evolution has graced all living things and transformed them for the better, so listen as I bestow upon you the story of a dying species. Elephants now have a finer chance of living because of their ability to evolve. What is this smart invention of theirs? Well, most elephants die because people kill for their glorious tusks mainly for the ivory trade. They are mainly poached in Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa. Since the Civil War ended (April 12, 1861-May 9, 1865), 32% of female elephants have evolved to become tusk-less. There was once over 400,000 elephants on the African continent, but since then numbers have decreased at alarming rates. I'm going to leave you with this: "Words are cheap. The biggest thing you can say is Elephant...don't have it go extinct."- Charlie Chaplin



By: Peyton Pack

Christmas Traditions Around “Some of” the World

Quincy McClair

It is no secret that we all love our Christmas traditions, some more than others. We also love decorating and eating. Some of us even wonder where some of these traditions, food, and decorations came from. Lets find out!

The origins of Christmas go back to Pagan celebrations. The Christian Church disapproved of these festivals and decided to declare December 25th as Jesus’ birthday. According to old English folk tales, the Devil died when Jesus was born, so some towns developed a Christmas Eve tradition of ringing church bells at midnight to announce the Devil’s death. This tolling of bells is also called “the Devil’s knell.”

Mistletoe was held sacred by the Norse, the Celtic Druids and Native American Indians because it remains green and bears fruit during the winter when other plants seem to die. Also staying green, but with vivid color and native to Mexico is the poinsettia which was originally cultivated by the Aztecs, who called it the “flower that wilts.” The plant’s brilliant red color symbolized purity for the Aztecs and they also used the plant to reduce fever.

Also green were the evergreens. Pagans thought of the evergreen as a symbol of eternal life and rebirth. But what about the Christmas tree? The first person to decorate a Christmas tree was the Protestant reformer Martin Luther

(1483-1546). He was so moved by the beauty of shining stars between branches, he brought home a fir tree and decorated it with candles. The 14th American president, Franklin Pierce, was the first to put a Christmas tree in the White House, but Teddy Roosevelt banned the practice citing environmental reasons!

What about Christmas stockings and candy canes? The Christmas tradition of hanging stockings were thought to begin with three poor sisters who couldn’t afford a marriage dowry. Bishop Saint Nicholas of Turkey saved them from a life of slavery by filling their stockings, that were hanging to dry, by with gold coins. The candy cane’s origins were traced back to Europe around 1670. At first, they were all white and took the shape representing Jesus’ shepherd hook. In the early 1900s, red was added. The white lambs represented purity while red represented Christ’s sacrifice.

We can’t have a Christmas without food? South African people would feast on a seasonal delicacy--deep fried caterpillars of Emperor Moths! In Greenland, it takes 7 months to prepare kiviak. It begins with a hollowed out seal skin and stuffing it with 500 auks (a seabird) feathers and all then it would ferment then the auks were served straight from the seal. Yum!

There are so many more traditions. Hope you enjoyed the few mentioned here!

