SMS TIMES

December 2025 Issue #7

Our first snow day was Tuesday, Dec 2nd! Our last day of school will now be June 10th, unless we have more snow days.

Block parties:
5th/6th grades on Dec 3rd
7th/8th grades on Dec 10th
$5 to get in, $4 if you have a medallion. Bring money for concessions!

Did you know that the 12th of December is the 67th day of school???







Dare to Dream Photos

Newspaper Staff

Editor in Chief: Mrs. Kumka

5th Grade:

Norway Allard, Duncan Caples, Jasper Conley, Sawyer Harmon, Sydney Joesphson, Logan Karolides, Conley Kumka, Aoife McGuckin-Welsch, Mila Nogueira, Cal Peters, Daisy Peters, Mason Rackliff, Birdie Stanek, Rebecca Szymbor

6th Grade:

Hunter Dancause, Colby Hall, Lilly Herring, Indica James, Agnes Johnson, Luke Levesque, Luke McNelly-Kleinrock, Luke Meyers, Hannah Morris, River Parker, Ivy Peters, Tanner Provencher

7th Grade:

Cassie Adams, Penelope Baker, Cyra Brannan, Robbie Huff, Kal Jopling, Sapphira Lane, Melle Mardas, Max Moul

8th Grade:

Oscar Bronwyn, Dario Edwards, Kiana Kinsey, Colton Kumka, Gavin Maier, Eamon McGuckin-Welsch, Alex Mejia, Natalie Mills

Upcoming Dates

Ski Bus is starting again for all you skiers and snowboarders! Space is limited, so grab your registration packet today in the Main office. The first trip to Pleasant Mountain will be on January 13th!

Dec 10th - Band Concert at SPAC

Dec 12th is the 67th day of school!

Winter Break - Dec 24th through Jan 4th

Current Clubs

Mondays: Student Leadership, Lego Club, Math Club/Chess Club, Art Club, Podcast Club, Mechanical Advantage

Tuesdays: STEAM Team, Jazz Band, Dr. Who Club, The Writer's Workshop

Thursdays: Minecraft Club, Environmental Club, Civil Rights Team

From the Counseling Office

Nov 20th was National Children's Grief Day. We want to show our support for anyone who has experienced someone they love dying or passing away. We want you to know you aren't alone and it's OK to miss someone you lost.

December's SEL Theme: Compassion & Diversity



Chess club members playing a match.





Math club members solving riddles and using tangrams.

A Christmas Story About Compassion and Diversity

by Ivy Peters & Tanner Provencher

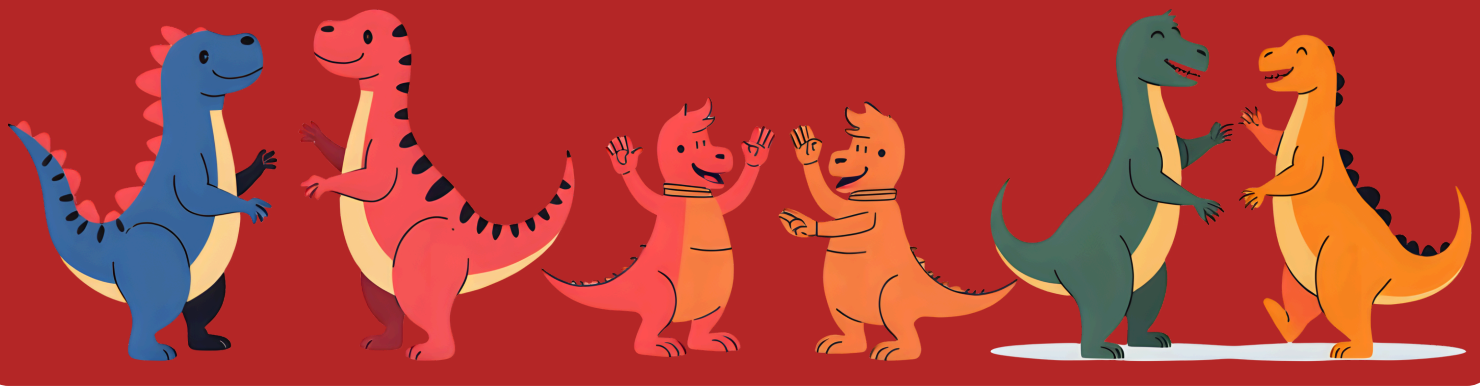
It was a cold and snowy morning, and I was on my way to school, but my mom had already left for work, so I had to walk. Thankfully, I live really close to the school, and it only takes 3 minutes to walk from my house. So I looked at the temperature, and it said -5 degrees Fahrenheit! As I walked through the snow storm, my bully from school looked at me from his car's window and said, "Look who's mom can't bring them to school!" When I got to school, I went to the bathroom and saw a pass on the door for 8th grade. That was the grade my bully was in. I took a deep breath and went into the bathroom, just expecting to get punched, but thankfully someone had just forgotten their pass. The next day was the day before winter break, usually the most fun day of the school year. But not for me. Everyone else celebrates Christmas except for me (at least it feels like it). So as you would imagine, I get bullied usually on this day every year. But this year, nothing could stop me from staying home from school. Until I started getting ready for school and walked to school, when I realized I was going to school. So I prepared myself and decided that today I was going to stand up to my bully! When I walked into school, I saw him nice and clear with a grim look on his face. This time, Mrs. Avery was in the hallway, so nothing happened, but later today he threatened to punch me when I was walking home. So I decided to go to the counseling office to see Mrs. Avery. I told her about the stuff that had been going on with my bully, and she didn't hesitate to get Mr. Edgar! I told him about it too, and he got my bully in his office! That was the end of my bullying.

Fred the Red Dino Story #1

By: Rebecca Szymbor and Mila Nogueira



Once upon a time there was a red dinosaur named Fred, and the story started with a red dino named Fred and he was red and named Fred. Fred got a red and red tu-tu that said Fred the Red Dino on Fred the Red's tu-tu. Fred the Red Dino got a red and red crown to top off his red and red Fred the Red Dino tu-tu outfit. Fred the Red Dino's name was Fred the Red Dino. Fred the Red Dino went to a red and red Fred the Red Dino party wearing his red and red Fred the Red Dino tu-tu and his red and red Fred the Red Dino crown outfit on top of Fred the Red Dino's head on top of Fred the Red Dino. Fred the Red Dino was the only Fred the Red Dino at the Fred the Red Dino party. Little did you know, Fred the Red Dino was the host of the Fred the Red Dino party. Then Fred the Red Dino went home to his Fred the Red Dino house and went to bed in his Fred the Red Dino bed and wrapped himself in his Fred the Red Dino blankey. Then, Fred the Red Dino grew red and red Fred the Red Dino hair and red and red Fred the Red Dino beard overnight. Then, the story of Fred the Red Dino ended. DUNNNN DUNNNN DUNNNNNNNNNN!!!!!!!!!!



Chase the Joy - Give a Toy!

Chace Fromwiller was an SMS student from a few years ago who passed away from brain cancer. In honor of Chace's birthday, on 12/15, his family is collecting infant toys, dolls, hot wheels, nail polish, arts & crafts kits, and gift/meal cards for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. If you would like to participate in the collection, there is a box for donations outside the counseling office from now until 12/15.

We appreciate your support in honoring Chace's memory.





JMG Food Drive by Ms. Houle

The Holiday Food Drive Competition totals are in! THANK YOU to everyone who donated. Because of you, we provided 61 Thanksgiving meal boxes, have 15 more ready for December break, and fully restocked the SMS food closet!

Did you know SMS has its own food closet? If you or someone you know ever needs food for a night, weekend, or vacation, just let a teacher or counselor know and you can grab what you need, no questions asked.

Now... onto our winners! Each top-scoring homeroom earns an ice cream sundae or pizza party, plus their teacher gets a duty-free day and a lunchtime championship crowning!

5th Grade: With 327 points — Mrs. Allaire & Mrs. Wilson

6th Grade: With 939 points — Mrs. Henry's homeroom

7th Grade: With 506 points — Mrs. Knowles' homeroom

8th Grade: Continuing his championship streak with 378 points — Mr. Cantara's homeroom

Congrats to all our winners and GREAT job, SMS!

Azul Agave (last month's review)











Fun Facts About Christmas

by Birdie Stanek

"Jingle Bells" was for Thanksgiving: The song "Jingle Bells" was written for an 1857 Thanksgiving celebration, not Christmas.

The "X" in Xmas is a symbol: The letter "X" in "Xmas" comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word Christ - *Christos*.

Tinsel used to be real silver: Early tinsel was made of real silver, and some people in other countries decorate different trees, like mango or banana trees, for Christmas.

Candles were used on trees: Before electric lights, people put real, lit candles on their Christmas trees, which was very dangerous!

Christmas wasn't always a holiday: In some places, like Boston, Massachusetts, celebrating Christmas was actually illegal from 1659 to 1681.

Christmas cards are a big deal: Over a billion Christmas cards are sent every year.

Japan eats KFC for Christmas: Many families in Japan have a KFC meal for their Christmas dinner, some even pre-order in October!



BY AOFIE MCGUCKIN-WELSCH

TOP 10 CHRISTMAS SONGS

1. The Most Wonderful Time of the Year
2. All I Want for Christmas is You
3. Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree
4. Sleigh Ride
5. Santa Clause is Coming to Town
6. Deck the Halls
7. J-I-N-G-L-E Bells
8. Holly Jolly Christmas
9. Jingle Bell Rock
10. Mr. Grinch

Top 5 Christmas Artists

1. Bing Crosby
2. Brenda Lee
3. Frank Sinatra
4. Mariah Carey
5. Jackson 5

Just Ask Anything



by Aoife McGuckin-Welsch & Daisy Peters

Anonymous asks:
How do I ignore disruptive kids in my class?

Aoife and Daisy say:
Bury yourself in work or try your hardest to focus on the teacher. Tell them to be quiet and, if they don't listen, tell the teacher. Dont let them call you a tattle tale.

Anonymous asks:
What do I do if someone keeps annoying me on purpose?

Aoife and Daisy say:
Try telling them to stop one more time before telling the teacher. If they are constantly doing it and disrupting your work telling a teacher is not tattling.

If you have a question you need answered, click HERE to ask Aoife & Daisy for their advice.

by: Logan Karolides, Cal Peters, & Duncan Caples (sorta)

If you would like to get some tips about Clash Royale, click here!







Click here to vote on the top 4 most annoying emotes in Clash Royale.









Results of the Surveys

by Duncan Caples

Most Common Christmas Gift

PHONE/PHONE CASE!!!!!!!!!!!

Seriously people?

What about family?

Birthdays

Birthdays in the month of December:

Gloria

Candy Cane Lane

By Tanner Provencher

There once was a street where candy canes roamed.
No question asked, this was there home.
They had candy cane houses, apartments, and sweets,
This Candy Cane Lane was so very neat.
Christmas was coming, they had to prepare.
But one Candy Cane resident just didn't care.
He hated Christmas and he hated Candy Cane lane.
The others who lived there thought he was insane.









Raffle ticket winners!



5th grade:
William Gray
Parker Harmon
Paisley Legere
Benson Lima Santana
Charles Mathews
Alex Miller
Jose Rosada
Teddy Silva
Ivy Tandu
Aubrie Wiggin

6th grade:
Milli Clarrage
Julianna Furbish
Ava Gosselin
Indica James
Nadine Leary
Cayden Mastrangelo-LePage
Jaxson Palmer
Grant Payeur
Natalie Strattman





7th grade:
Batool Al Beadhany
Dominic Badeau
Alanna Capitan
Crew Chasse
Annabella Ducharme
Zander George
Jayden McBarron-Paredes
Alyana McKnight
Lilah Murphy

8th grade:
Tina Cote
Kadence Gagnon
Aubrey Gaudette
Kendall Goodwin
Halden Liebmann
Sophia O'Connell
Emma Tuttle
Jair Winchell
Hayly Woods

How long do you think Spooky Season should last? Click HERE to tell us!



DECEMBER FUNNIES



By Colby Hall

How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together!

Knock knock. Who's there? Lettuce. Lettuce who? Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

What does Santa suffer from when he gets stuck in a chimney? Claus-traphobia!

Why do reindeer wear bells? Because their horns don't work!



Banana Soap Opera

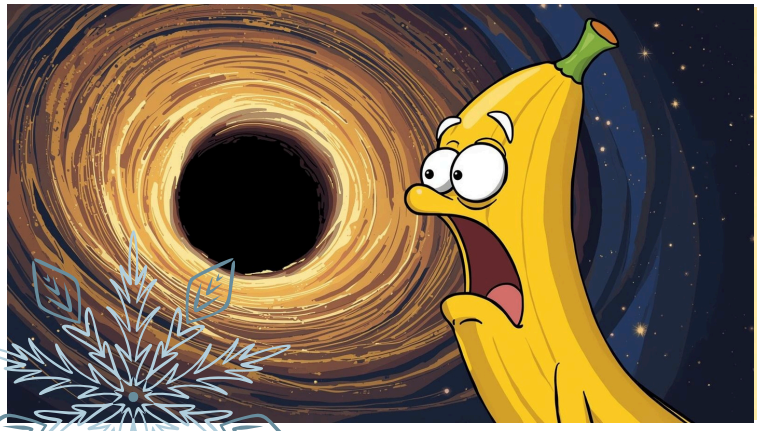
By Colby Hall

Episode 2: Grandpa banana is in the hospital and grandma banana is singing a song from Cats the musical, but every word is banana.

Episode 3: Grandpa banana is feeling hungry, but he can't find his dentures! (accordion in the background playing a sad song) Grandma banana walks in (gasp) "Where are your dentures?" (more accordion) "they've disappeared!" Grandpa said. Then they look out the window and there's a banana black hole!

Episode 4: Grandma banana wakes up to see the banana black hole that took grandpa's dentures and she goes to talk to the black hole's mother about stealing random grandpa's dentures.

Episode 5: Grandpa banana goes to the hospital cafeteria but they don't have any hamburburs, so he gets in his car and goes to Burger King and gets a kid's meal, but they forgot the fries! (gasps in the background so big it's incomprehensible) Grandpa banana grabs a banana launcher. He takes the banana cannon to the Burger King and orders that they put the fries in the bag.





MORE DECEMBER FUNNIES





by Indica James

How do snowmen shop online?

they use the winter-net!

What do you call someone who's afraid of Santa??

Claus-trophobic!!!!

by Hunter Dancause

Why was the computer cold?

It left its Windows open!

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

Frostbite!

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?

An abdominal snowman!

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?

Because it felt crumby!

What do you call a snowman with a sunburn?

A puddle!





by Hannah Morris

Santa does reverse burglary,he enters your house and gives you stuff.

What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree?

A pineapple!

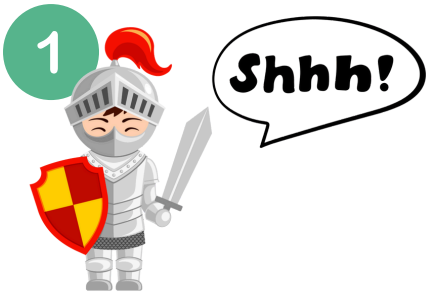
What did Mary Poppins want from Santa?

Supercalifragilisticexpialia-snowshoes!

Christmas Carol Rebus Puzzles

Can you guess the name of the song?

1



2



3



4

A B C D E

F G H I J

K M N O P

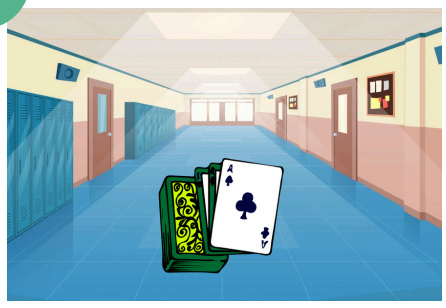
Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

5



6



7



MEME MEMOS

How 41 Was Brought to Justice

By: Rebecca Szymbor and Sawyer Harmon

It all started when the police figured out that 41 had killed 67 with its limo. Then, one of 41's loyal spies told 41 that the police were after him. So, 41 went into hiding and told the spy where it was so that it could protect it. But secretly, the spy had made a deal with the police and was working for the police now. So he told the police where 41 was hiding. They arrested him and sentenced 41 to 50 years in prison.

By Mason Rackliff

So if you read the last newspaper issue, you would know 67 is deceased and 41 went to prison. 25 saw the opportunity and took it! 25 stole 41's crown and is now the goat number!











THE GREAT MEME RESET IS UPON US!!!

By THE Kal Jopling

Goodbye 67! Goodbye bad Brainrot!

FOR THE MEME RESET IS FORTHCOMING!

WE WELCOME NYAN CAT.

WE WELCOME SANIC.

WE WELCOME UGANDAN KNUCKLES (even though we probably do not know da way).

WE WELCOME THE MEME GODS TO COME TO US!

DOGE WE WANT YOU, TOO!

Help out your local Meme Reset, starting 1/1/26!

(PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE MAKE IT HAPPEN - FOR ALL OF OUR SANITY!!)

Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

HAPPY KWANZAA!

Girls' Basketball

7th Grade Girls' Basketball
Coach: Jamie Lovejoy
Peyton Adawadkar
Sophia Byrd
Isobel Mejia
Amelia Payeur
Claira Simpson
Abigail Turner
Aaliyah Walker

8th Grade Girls' Basketball
Coach: James Cantara
Devauna Adams
Autumn Bourque
Peyton Bourque
Lillian Callis
Aileen Caples
Charlotte David
Kaylee Dube
Aubrey Fifield
Maddison Finnegan
Abigail Forest
Haley Gahagan
Kylea Gray
Kiana Kinsey
Hannalise Medico
Bella Savoy

Cheering

Cheering
Coach: Jen Kaeppel

Kaydence Adjutant
Emma Alexander
Navina Allen
Melayna Bolduc
Cyra Brannan
Emily Jalbert
Bella Lara
Sofia Lopez
Reese Mariano
Cierra McInerney
Bella Millette
Lilah Murphy
Sophia O'Connell
Vivian Olivio
Victoria Pedro
Olivia Roberge
Aubrey Shaw
Elyse White
Lucy Witt

Boys' Basketball

7th Grade Boys' Basketball
Coach: Mr. Meredith
Max Mastraccio
Cody Bowden
Drew Brown
Crew Chasse
Braden Cullen
Blake Dupuis
Ash Freeman
Alexander Labbe
Silas Lathrop
Cash Letourneau
Colton Lockard
Rory McGuckin-Welsch
Tatum Murphy
Keegan O'Connell
Noah Walker

8th Grade Boys' Basketball
Coach: Mr. Kumka
Kayson Hebler
Kai Hudson
Mason LaFrance
AJ Nadeau
Dawson Whitten
Colton Kumka
Jacob Perry
Urijah Morris
Liam Hodgson
Sam Mekkelsen
Colten Payeur
Mikey Hunter
CJ Sevigny
Alex Mejia
Brandon Butler
Flynn Lancaster-Lemire
Student Managers:
Gavin Roy
Jayden McDonald





Sports Schedule

Home Games

12/1 - Girls' Basketball
vs. Massabesic
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/4 - Boys' Basketball
vs. Wells
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/8 - Girls' Basketball
vs. York
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/11 - 7th Grade Boys' & Girls' Basketball
vs. Thornton Academy
3:45 (boys) & 4:45 (girls)

12/15 - Boys' Basketball
vs. Massabesic
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/17 - 8th Grade Boy's & Girls' Basketball
vs. Saco
4:00 (boys) & 5:00 (girls)

Away Games

12/1 - Boys' Basketball
at Massabesic
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/4 - Girls' Basketball
at Wells
3:30 & 4:45pm

12/8 - Boys' Basketball
at York
3:45 & 4:45pm

12/12 - 8th Grade Boys' & Girls' Basketball
at Saco
4:00 (boys) & 5:00 (girls)

12/15 - Girls' Basketball
at Massabesic
3:30 & 4:45pm







DOES JAPAN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?!

by Melle Mardas

The short answer is yes, Japan does celebrate Christmas. It is celebrated on December 25th, like in the United States, but is not very religion-based, as only about 1% of Japanese are Christian. It is also not a national holiday.
The Christmas colors are usually red and white, hence the title colors are red and white.
Students don't have to go to school on that day, but teachers are required to go to work unless they take a paid vacation. Even before Christmas, festive music plays all around.
Instead of being thought of as a holiday for family, it seems to be thought of as one for romantic partners. As such, many go on dates and dinners. Japanese people usually eat KFC Christmas dinners, and for dessert, a sponge cake with strawberries as tradition.
In conclusion, yes, Japan does celebrate Christmas. It is just different than in the U.S.













Hatsune Miku: Colorful Stage!

by Sydney Josephson

Peak game you should play...

WHY???? Here's why...

A rhythm game...WITH HATSUNE MIKU AND OTHER VOCALOIDS.

How to play?

Blue tiles=tap
Pink with up arrow=Swipe up
(Also known as flicking)
Green=hold down
Green with up arrow at end=hold then swipe up
(Also known as flicking)

ITS SUPER FUN AND ADDICTING TOO! I SPEND 12 HOURS A DAY PLAYING AND SOMETIMES MORE!!!! ANOTHER REASON TO PLAY IS IT HAS KAGAMINE RIN AND AKIYAMA MIZUKI!!!

Want another reason???? No????? WELL YOU'RE GETTING MORE! RAHHHH!
THERE'S PLUSHIES!!!!!!!

Restaurant Review by Eamon McGuckin-Welsch

This week I review the Green Tea Chinese restaurant located at 1005 Main Street. Green Tea has recently reopened, and as a long-time fan, I was excited to get back to one of my favorite places in town. I was not disappointed. As our first appetizer, we ordered a batch of steamed pork gyoza dumplings, along with the complimentary wonton chips. The gyoza were warm and full of deliciously seasoned pork with a wrapper that was not so thick as to gum up one's mouth, but was thick enough to really enhance the flavor and texture of the dumplings. The wonton chips were thin, crispy, and perfectly paired with the duck sauce for a sweet appetizer.

Next we ordered a batch of crab rangoon, wonderfully cooked until perfectly crispy. The combination of the crunchy wonton shell and soft, creamy crab filling paired beautifully with the sweetness of the duck sauce to create a smooth, satisfying beginning to the meal. I then ordered a lovely dish of pork lo mein with chicken fingers. The lo mein had a wonderful, almost smoky, flavor with delicious bits of pork and vegetables mixed in, which gave it another layer beyond the noodles, which were amazing in and of themselves. On the side were fried rice and chicken. The chicken was coated in a crispy batter shell, and the chicken inside was juicy and tender. The fried rice was super flavorful and paired wonderfully with the pork in the lo mein. My dad got an order of General Tso's chicken with teriyaki skewers. The beef was rich and juicy, and the chicken sauce was the perfect mix of sweet and spicy with a wonderful sticky flavor that blended perfectly with the broccoli. The restaurant was nice and wonderfully decorated, and the service was fast and amazing. The food was fantastic, and the entire setup was simply perfect for the busy middle of Main Street.



Solar Farm by Alex Mejia

On the 20th of November, a 28-megawatt solar farm opened in southern Sanford. The Mousam River Solar Project and Walden Renewables helped create the solar farm to provide cleaner energy for the town. The solar farm can create power for 6,000 homes, and through the agreement, the project will also pay the Sanford City Council $650,000 over time for clean-energy jobs and funding the theater at the high school. Walden Renewables also has several other renewable energy projects starting in Wells and Leeds.





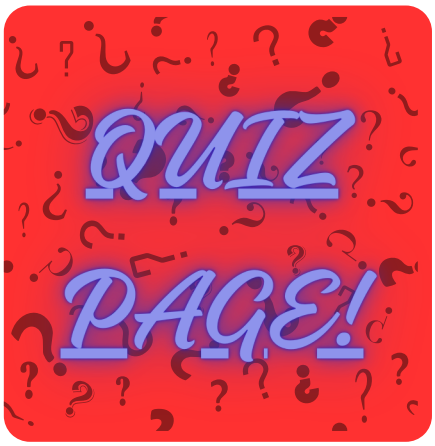
Greek God/Goddess of the Month by Duncan Caples

Artemis, goddess of the hunt and moon, took over for the Titan Selene. Twin of Apollo, she is also the leader of the Hunters of Artemis. Roman aspect: Diana.

Christmas Countdown

Click HERE to see how many days until Christmas!





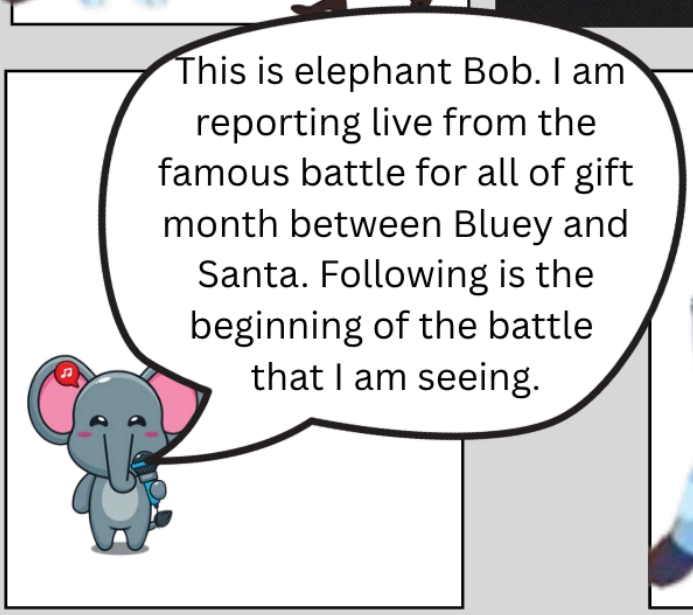
Duncan's Quiz Page

Click HERE to answer some questions from Duncan!



The battle

for ALL of GIFT MONTH!





Happy Hanukkah



by Daisy Peters

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday. Hanukkah is celebrated from sundown on December 14 through December 22 at night fall, lasting for eight nights and eight days. It includes traditions like lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and eating sufganiyot (doughnuts) and latkes (potato pancakes).

Simon by Sawyer Harmon

What does Simon sound like to you?
He is my leopard gecko Simon!



He has caused a lot of things to appear in my house:



Pet roaches.



Isopods.



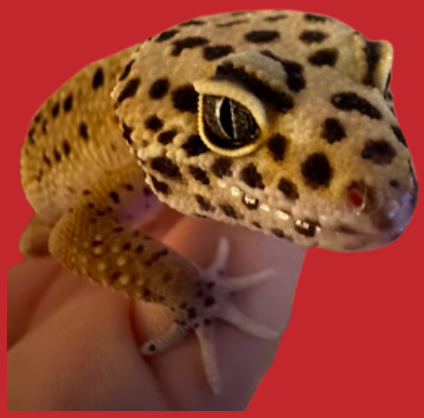




Crickets.

His motto is “ when in doubt, pancake it out.” He does a lot of pancakes (sleeping flat).





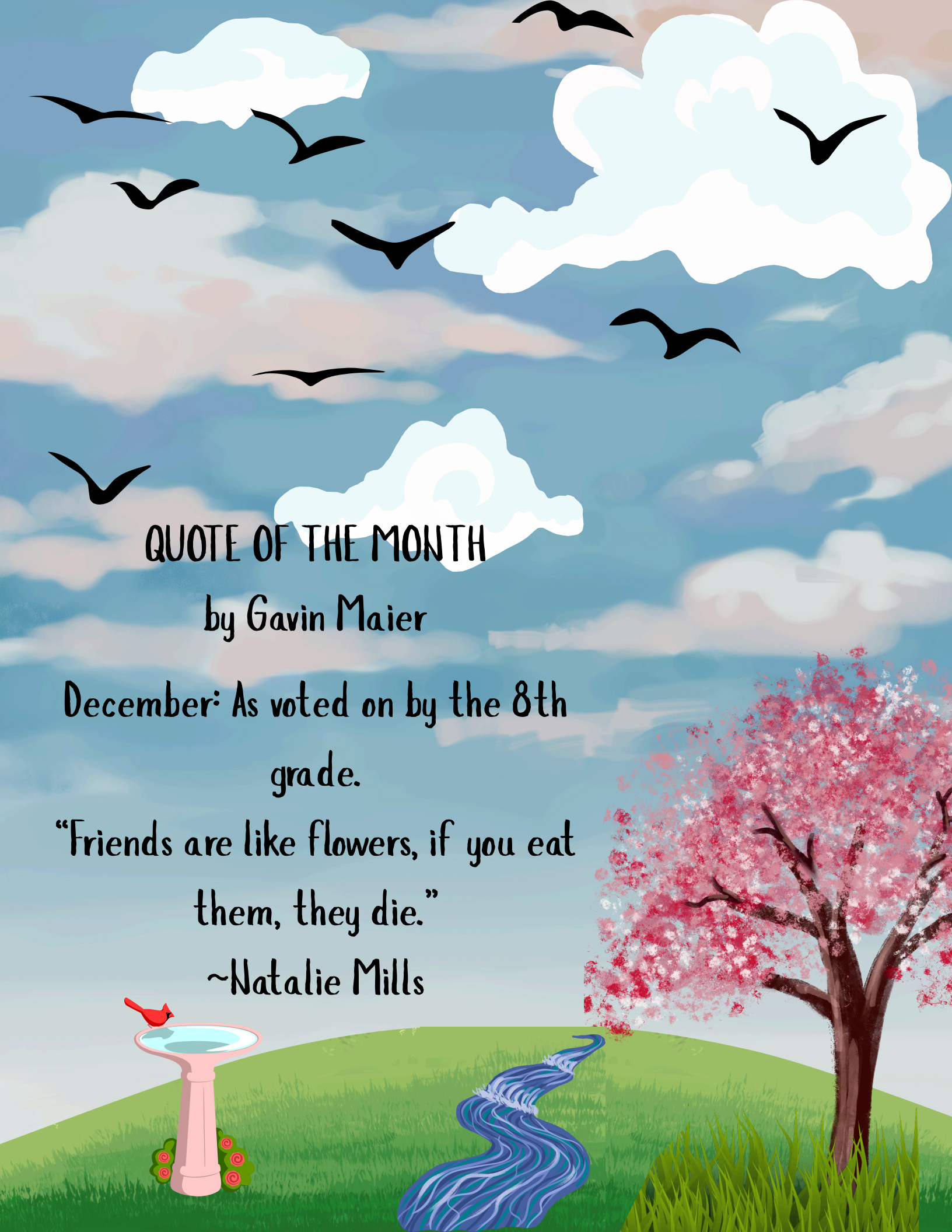
We are pretty sure Simon’s color-pattern is a high yellow + a carrot tail.

High Yellow





Carrot Tail


QUOTE OF THE MONTH
by Gavin Maier
December: As voted on by the 8th grade.
"Friends are like flowers, if you eat them, they die."
~Natalie Mills

Will the Pats get the 7th or will the Colts keep them at 6?

by Luke Levesque

This season the Patriots are back and are better than ever. As of Week 14, the Patriots are 11-2, leading the AFC East and are tied for first place with the Broncos. The Patriots quarterback Drake Maye is leading the NFL in passing yards with 3,412 yards and the best completion percentage with 71.5%. Drake Maye is putting up stats like Tom Brady did in his second year. The Patriots' odds of winning the Super Bowl are 11-1. In Week 14, the Pats have their bye week but will pick back up on the 14th against their rivals that they beat early in the season, the Buffalo Bills. See ya in Santa Clara!



Nico Di Angelo

By Conley Kumka and Duncan Caples







Son of Hades!



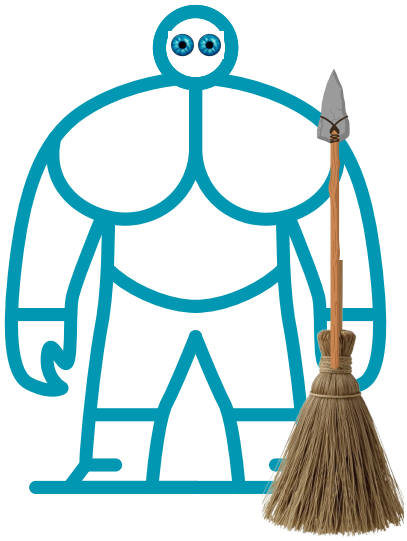
Can shadow-travel!

Where’d he go!?

Fought in the battle of the Labyrinth.



Trained the Titan Iapetus (aka Bob) who had his memory washed by Percy Jackson.



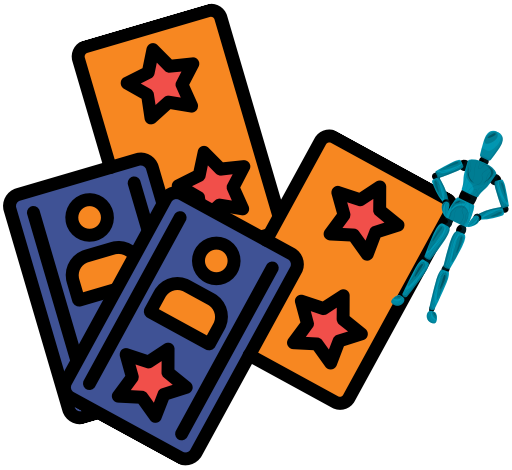




DO NOT APPROACH

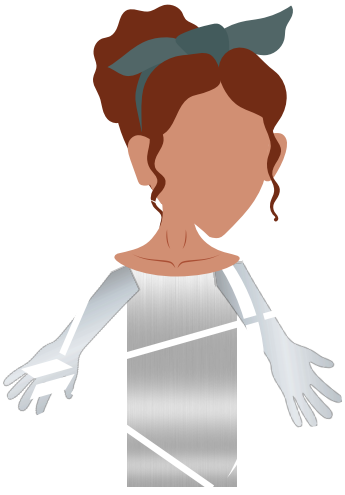


He owns a Stygian iron sword, forged from the river Styx.



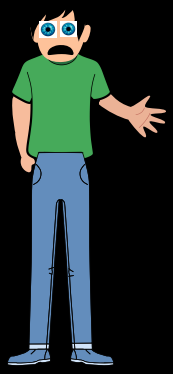
Used to collect Mythomagic trading cards.

Used to have a sister named Bianca. She was a Hunter of Artemis.

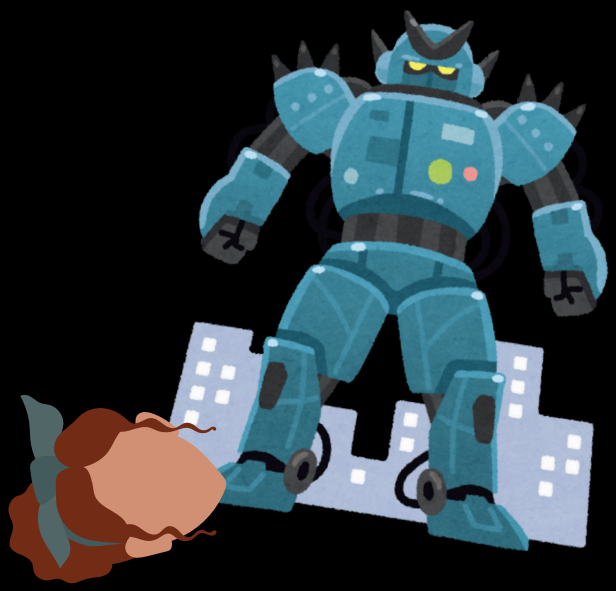


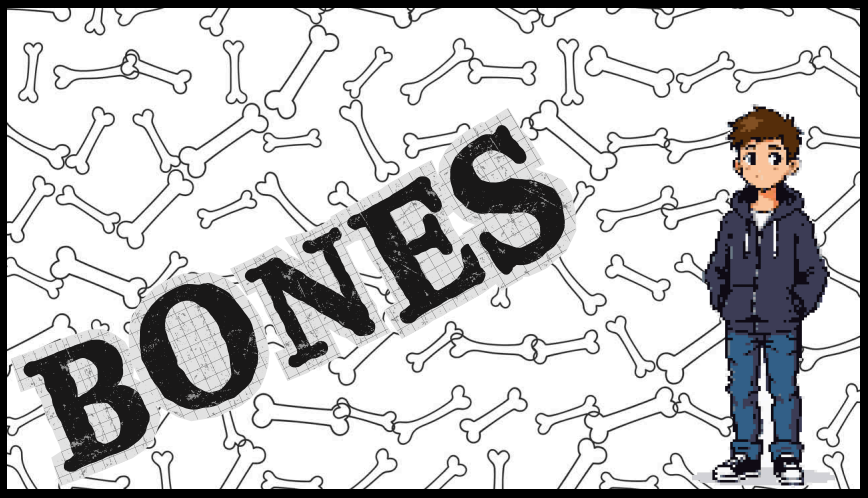


She was crushed by a metal giant.

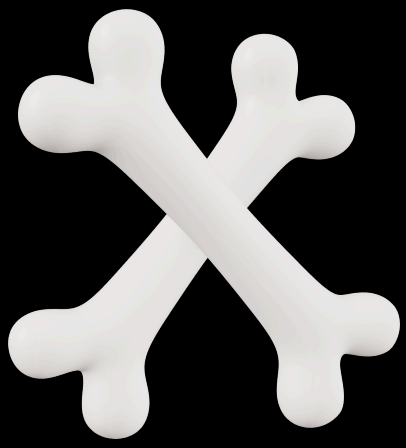














Pet: Cerberus



Helped defeat his father and protected Percy Jackson.









Thanks for reading!

