

THE FALCON FORUM

Editor- Brenn Dowdey



What's in this month's issue:

- UNSOLVED MYSTERIES
- UPLIFTING DEVOTIONAL
- UPCOMING HOLIDAYS
- COMICS
- CALENDAR
- FUN FACTS, FINE ARTS, AND MORE!



DO MORE IN 2024!

WRITTEN BY BRENN DOWDEY (6TH)

In 2024, it's a new year and I think people should have new goals! Some of these goals could include: making an athletic team, doing really good with homework and schoolwork, and getting along better with siblings! In 2024, we should be more patient and loving to siblings, friends, classmates, and parents. We need to show more kindness and respect towards our teachers, and not grumble about our homework. Another goal is to help people in need and donate a lot of stuff, and overall, just work harder and try your best no matter what! We can all do more in 2024!

Staff:

Phoebe Aylestock
Jessica Catchings
Carson Denning
Benjamin Gabriel
Peyton Garren
Isaac Gay
Jude Granger
Jackson Horne
Ian Johnson
Moravia Jones
Julianna Kay
Violet Keeter
Hunter Lyle
Anna-Kate Mather
Zoe Macari
Charlotte McGough
Victoria McKaughan
Jude McLawhorn
Elise Mooring
Tim Osisek
Gemma Potter
Cedar Putnam
Genesis Rivera
Elise Satcher
Eli Shuford
Cece Saint-Jour
Sadie Tipping
Ealey Watkins

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

WRITTEN BY ELI SHUFORD (6TH)

Have you ever looked at a picture of a dinosaur or dragon and thought of how frightening it would be if one of them lived today? Well, in a mysterious place around 3,800 miles away, there are rumors about a strange underwater creature that fits those descriptions. It is called the Loch Ness Monster, or Nessie, and it is an underwater monster that is believed by some to live in the waters of Loch Ness, Scotland. It is also widely believed to be a myth.

A large and mysterious flippered beast was found in a stone carving done by the Pict, a people who lived in ancient Scotland. Nessie could have also been documented in a biography from the 7th century. The biography covered the life of a Christian missionary named St. Columba. It is said that a large underwater creature in Loch Ness hurt a swimmer and was going to attack another. Before it could harm anyone else, it is said that St. Columba stepped in and told the monster to “go back” and it swam away. A few sightings happened after that, and most seemed to revolve around underwater beasts found in Scottish folklore.

After a new road was constructed next to Loch Ness in 1933, a couple saw a huge creature that they described as a dragon or a large prehistoric beast cross their path and then disappear into the water. Amazed by the mystery, big game hunters came to find the monster. One hunter said he found large footprints of a 20 feet monster. But sadly, when experts came, they found the ‘footprints’ to actually be the prints of an umbrella stand with a hippopotamus leg as a base. In 1934, a physician took a photograph of the neck and head of the beast that were sticking out of the water. The photo is now known as the “surgeon's photograph.” Many believed that the creature might be a plesiosaur, which was a large water dwelling creature that lived nearly 65.5 million years ago! Sonar pictures were taken of Loch Ness, but they showed no signs that any large underwater creature lived there. More photos were taken of Nessie, but were all revealed to be fake.

In 1994 the “surgeon's photograph” was revealed to be a hoax, showing just a frame of the creature fastened onto a toy submarine. So, the Loch Ness Monster could be just a myth as many believe, but who knows, there could really be a large creature inhabiting the mysterious water of the Loch Ness...



MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING DATES

WRITTEN BY VICTORIA MCKAUGHAN (8TH)

It's hard to believe we are HALFWAY THROUGH the school year. I hope everyone is doing fine after Map Testing. February 5th-9th is INTERNATIONAL WEEK! Also, the High School Musical Little Women will be showing at SAR from February 8th-10th! I hope everyone has a great day, and stay tuned for our next edition of the...MIDDLE SCHOOL Calendar!



February 8, 9, & 10
HS Musical: *Little Women*



February 5 - 9
International Week!



February 16 & 19
NO SCHOOL -
President's Day!



March 2
7th & 8th Grade
Luau Social!



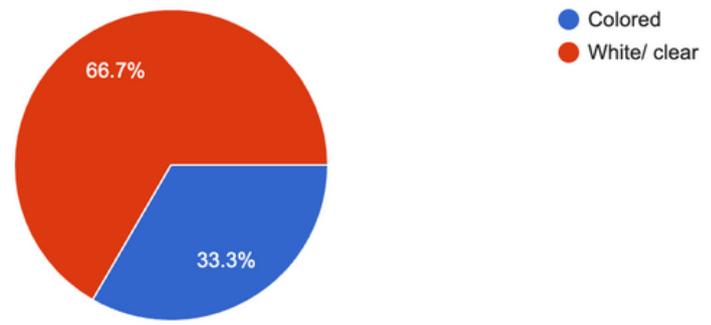
Check Out Our Poll!



CREATED BY:
JESSICA CATCHINGS (5TH)

Colored lights on a Christmas tree or white/clear light?
33 responses

Clear lights for
the WIN!



Be sure to click the link in the email
to fill out our **January Poll!**

Teacher OF THE Month

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIANNA KAY AND
PHOEBE ALYESTOCK (5TH)



My favorite thing about teaching is being able to sing with students I love. I was inspired to become a choir teacher in high school because I was heavily involved in show choir and solo competitions. This is my 11th year as a music teacher and choral director. God led me to Ben Lippen completely against the plans I thought I'd made for myself. I was a small business owner for the last three years when this choral director position opened. Friends and family members encouraged me to interview, and the rest was were patterns laid before me by the Lord. He brought me to Ben Lippen, and I am so blessed for this opportunity.



Mrs. Priester
MS and HS Choir
Teacher

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS!

WRITTEN BY GENESIS RIVERA (6TH)

This coming month we are looking forward to International Week and the high school musical Little Women. With the new year already flying by, we should always take a moment to slow down and appreciate everything around us, whether it's our family, friends, or anything that we have; we should especially be thankful for Jesus Christ on the cross. I hope that in these couple of months, we can learn to slow down and appreciate even the little things in life, which is why below I've added some fun holidays for the month of February. I hope you enjoy!

✘ -February 2: Groundhog Day



✘ -February 5: World Nutella Day



✘ -February 9: National Pizza Day



✘ -February 14: Valentine's Day



✘ -February 15: National Gumdrop Day



✘ -February 19: Washington's Birthday

✘ -February 23: National Banana Bread Day

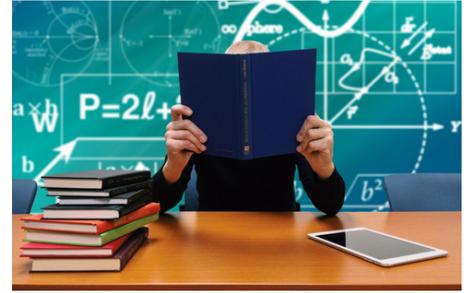


✘ -February 25: National Chocolate Covered Nut Day

✘ -February 29: National Leap Year Day



GRADE LEVEL NEWS



5th Grade

WRITTEN BY ANNA-KATE MATHER (5TH)

After a fun-filled holiday season, the fifth graders are back for a busy second semester. We finished Spanish class in the fall. Now we are taking either STEM or P.E. In Math class we are learning how to add and subtract mixed numbers. In Social Studies we are doing projects on inventions from the late 1800's. And, in science, we are learning about physical and chemical changes. We can't wait to see what exciting new things the second semester of fifth grade will hold!



5th Grade Poetry

WRITTEN BY VIOLET KEETER (5TH)

I hope y'all had a great Christmas break! In honor of having Monday, January 15th off in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., here is a quote from him:

"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

-Martin Luther King Jr.



GRADE LEVEL

NEWS



6th Grade

WRITTEN BY ELISE MOORING (6TH)

We are all bundled up in our sweatshirts and jackets waiting for warm air to swoop in! MAP testing is over and we are starting to get back to our normal schedule and tests.

In History, we are learning about Rome. We learned that Julius Caesar and Pompey tried to take over the government because they thought they could run it better. They were trying to become more powerful and were not acting like the republic their ancestors had spent years forming. In return, a group of senators executed Caesar. This group included Caesar's trustworthy friend Brutus whom Caesar had saved from death before. Julius Caesar served in the military for several years and was named dictator for life. The month of July is named after him too.

In Math, we are learning about Percent, Decimal, and Fraction Conversions. We learned how to convert a fraction into a decimal by dividing the numerator by the denominator. We also learned how to find 79% of 30 and that of means multiply.

In Science, we have been learning about chemical weathering. The difference between chemical and mechanical weathering is that chemical weathering breaks down rocks through chemical changes like oxygen, carbon dioxide, and acid rain. But in mechanical weathering, the rock breaks into tiny pieces through more natural causes like the actions of animals, plant growth, and freezing. We have also started to learn about soil; if we didn't have soil then a lot of what we know wouldn't be here.

In ELA, we have been learning about linking verbs and action verbs. Sixth graders have also been summarizing the eight parts of speech which are as follows: noun, pronoun, adjective, preposition, verb, adverb, conjunction, and interjection. There is also a grammar test a few days away.

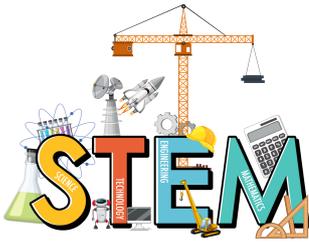
In Bible we just completed a study on our local churches and what they believe in and what charities and stuff they do. Sixth graders also did a paper on what the church is and what it means. The church can be local or universal, and it can be anywhere. We also did a paper that asked a lot of questions about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The paper asked questions about the disciples' reactions to his resurrection and how everybody dealt with it.

In conclusion, we are now back to our normal lives in school. With wanting summer to come and spring break to make an appearance in between, sixth graders are doing great.

TRENDS IN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CREATED BY ISAAC GAY (5TH)



Stanley Cups!



Basketball games!



New electives!



Soccer is starting!



Teachers giving out candy!

ARTS

Fine



Congratulations, MS Art Students!

This Wednesday, January 31st, several of our Middle School students are traveling with **Mr. Branney** to the 2024 SCISA Art Show in Lake City! Good luck and we are proud of each one of you!

- Gabe Van Alstine
- Mary Hanes Barnes
- Maggie Brown
- Tinsley Calcutt
- Alexa Carr
- Abigaile Faris
- Gavin Garraux
- Olivia Hess
- Elijah Lewis
- Eli Martin
- Lauryn Penfield
- Abigail Scruggs
- Ryan Seybt
- Liam Thompson



Did You Know... about Groundhog Day and National Hedgehog Day?

**WRITTEN BY:
JUDE MCLAWHORN (5TH)**

Groundhog Day is when a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil comes out of a burrow on Friday, February 2.

On this day, Punxsutawney will come out of his burrow and if he sees his shadow, he will then go back into his burrow which means there will be six more weeks of Winter. If Punxsutawney comes out of his burrow and doesn't see his shadow, Spring will come early!

DID YOU KNOW?

A newspaper editor named Clymer Freas invented Groundhog Day. Clymer was in a group that hunted groundhogs called Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Clymer and his group made the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil as the forecaster for the weather. Hedgehog Day was created by the Romans after seeing that the hedgehogs hibernated.



Also on Friday, February 2, **National Hedgehog Day** is celebrated. It is when people come to see if a hedgehog comes out of a burrow and sees his shadow in the moonlight. If he sees his shadow, Winter will be for six more weeks. If he doesn't see his shadow, Spring will come early!

"WORD OF GOD SPEAK"

WRITTEN BY CARSON DENNING (7TH)



I cannot believe it's 2024! Every new year I look back on what has happened during the past year. Every time I can see God working in my life. My relationship with him has grown, and he has helped me grow in my faith. I can see how my struggles and other things in my life have strengthened me, and it reminds me about God's sovereignty. He is above everything, and he is in control of everything. It is clear that he has a plan. Jeremiah 29: 11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (ESV) This verse always reminds me that even in a time in my life where I am struggling and nervous, I can trust that God will work in my life and give me a future and a hope. Always know that he is in control and that he has a plan. If you ever think your life is meaningless or out of control, or if you are nervous about the future, remember this truth: God has a plan for you and will not forsake you. He loves you and you can have hope for the future.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

Fun **FACTS** About Horses

CREATED BY PEYTON GARREN (8TH)

STRONG SENSE OF SMELL

Legs are shockingly fragile

Largest eyes of any land mammal

Very social!

Can read and remember
your emotions



*Hooves are made from the
same protein that comprises
human hair and fingernails*

*Foals can walk and run just a few
hours after birth*



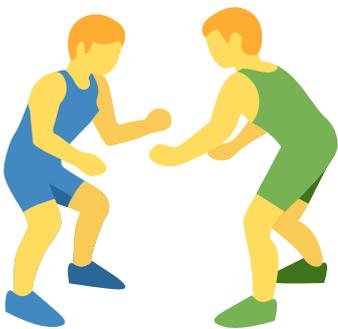
FALCON SPORTS

WRITTEN BY:
ZOE MACARI (5TH)

**Basketball and wrestling are gearing
up for Winter Sports!**

**Be sure to check the official Ben
Lippen School website for game
dates and times!**

Go Falcons!!!



benlippensports.com

Recipe of the Month:

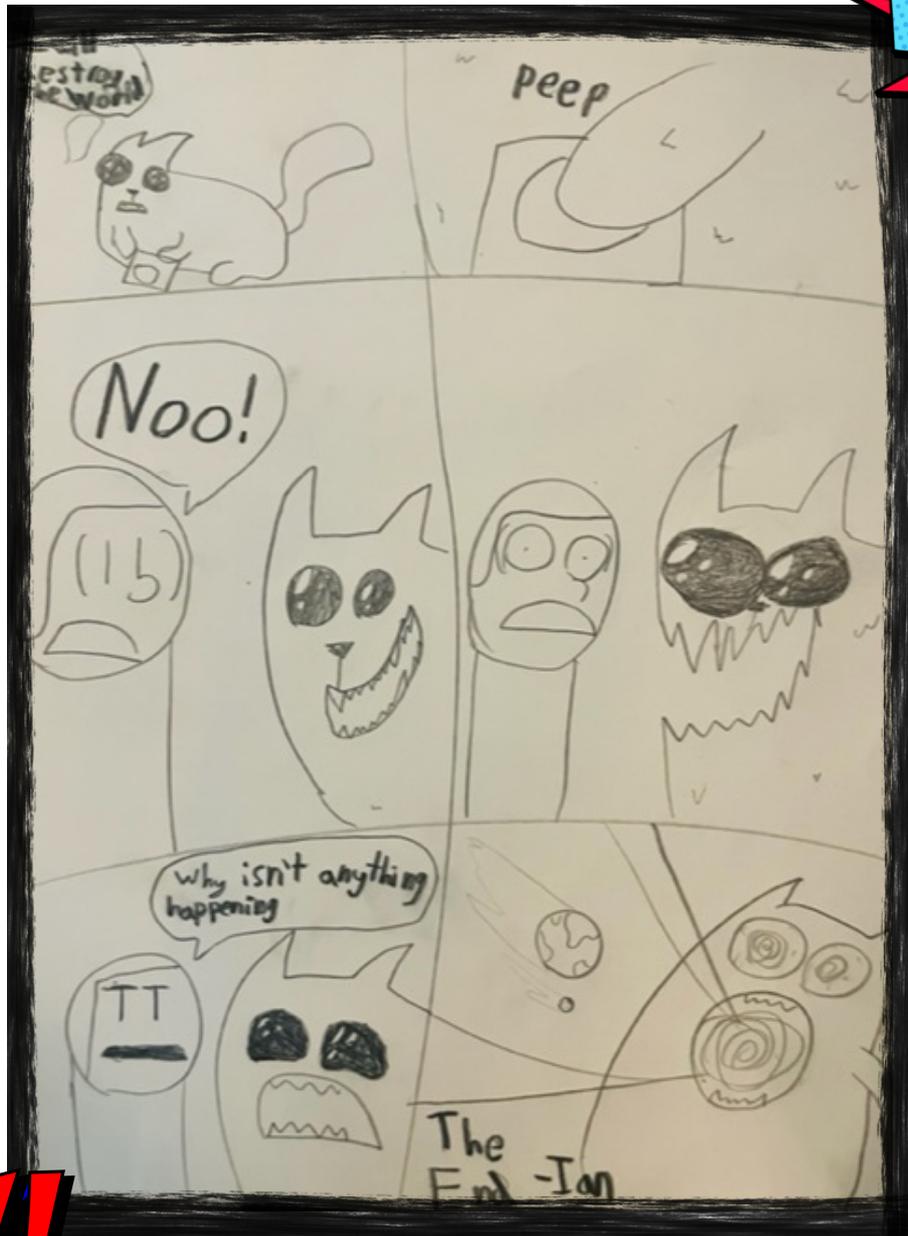
S'mores!

**CREATED BY:
CECELIA SAINT-JOUR
(5TH GRADE)**



1. Grab these ingredients: Hershey chocolate, a Marshmallow packet, and some Graham Crackers
2. Lay out 2 Graham Crackers, then put down the Hershey chocolate, put in the marshmallow (if you want to not roast the marshmallow you can)
3. But some people like their marshmallows roasted, and some do not.
4. If you want to roast one, get help from your mom or dad!
5. Then, you can eat it and enjoy your delicious s'more or s'mores if you want more than one!

COMICS!



CREATED BY:
IAN JOHNSON (5TH)

Advice Column

WRITTEN BY: MORAVIA JONES (8TH)

Patience is important in all aspects of life. Whether it is with others or yourself, it is important to remain patient in all situations.

First, you should not rush yourself. When you are having a hard time completing a task, you have to be patient with yourself. This may be hard when you see other people who are having an easy time doing what you are trying to do with ease, but you have to remember that everyone is different and it is harder to complete a task without patience.

Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (NIV). This verse shows that when we are having a hard time remaining patient, we should give our worries to God. Patience is also one of the fruits of the Spirit, showing that we should stay patient all the time.

Be patient about developing patience! It may not always be super easy to stay patient, but it can help you with your mental health and with communicating more productively with the people around you. According to Maggie Wool in her article, "The Importance of Patience in Life: 8 Benefits," "The importance of patience in life isn't just for yourself, either. It's for your relationships, career, and personal life. Never forget that your patience impacts others, as it shows people how patience can bring a sense of peace in an otherwise fast-moving world." Remember that everyone struggles with patience sometimes, and you are not alone.



STAFF EDITOR: MRS. RACHEL PEAKE ~ RACHEL.PEAKE@BENLIPPEN.COM

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EDITORS AND ALL OF OUR FALCON FORUM STAFF
FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROJECT!**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO MRS. STASTNY AND MR. CHRISTMAN
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FALCON FORUM!**