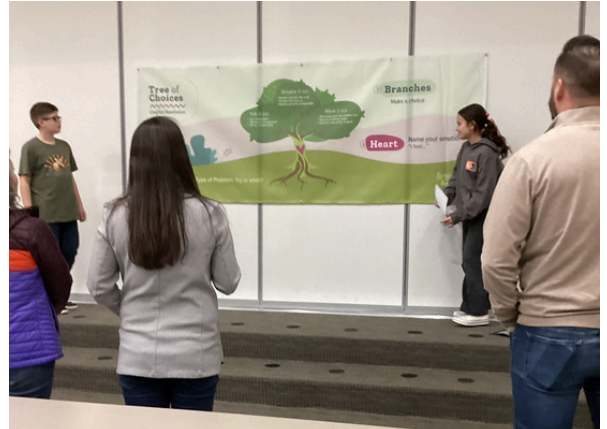


THE MONTHLY FOX

December 2024

DESERT SKY ELEMENTARY

Vol 2 Issue 3



What's In This Month's Issue:

- Holidays around the world
- How to catch Santa
- Science of snow
- Cookie recipes
- Holiday stories, comic strips, and more!

SCHOOL BOARD VISIT

By: Madelyn Weaver
Photo by: Keaton Johnson

I'm going to tell you about an event that happened in December. That event is the school board visit. When I walked in Mrs. Blake was talking about our new curriculum, CKLA. Next, we told the school board about our Tree of Choices. And how we use it everywhere when there is a problem. Then Mrs. Blake and Ms. Wheeler talked about our two minute Tuesday. Next we talked about our amazing support team.

People on the support team are the nurse, principal, vice principal, counselor, lunch ladies and our specialists. Then the student council had a presentation. They talked about their favorite activity. And each last Friday of the month they get to choose the spirit day. Like how we get to wear pj's on the 20th. Next the newspaper came up and told the school board what they did for the paper. Next leadership club made a presentation about what they do during leadership meetings. Last we showed them our kindness handprint wall.

FOX TALES: INTERVIEWS

By: Abby Gallaher

Artwork by: Raya Pope

It was a normal day when Felix started wondering he wrote an article in the newspaper about his adventures with his friends. He wondered if anyone read it.

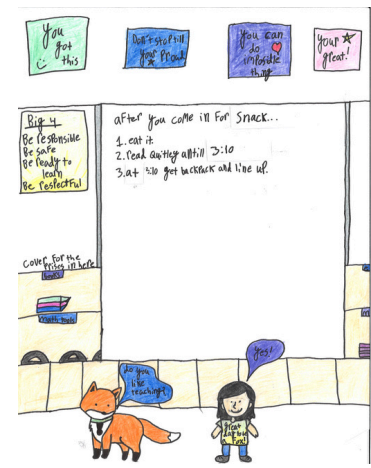
(His friends were Carlos, the Coyote Felix's cousin, Icicle the arctic fox who sailed on an iceberg to get here. Owen, the owl who everyone calls Owl, who got trapped in a store and bought pretending to be a stuffed animal he got shipped over to here (Owl is an arctic owl.)

After a lot of thinking he decided to find out he would ask teachers if they had read Fox Tales or heard of it.

Felix asked a random kid who their teachers were and interviewed them as well as the specials teachers.

Mrs. Blaine read the stories, Mrs. Hall read it, Mrs. Joyner did, Mrs. Deskins didn't, Mrs. Wertenberger did, on to the specials teachers Mrs. Bay did, Mr. Hays didn't, Mrs. Barber did, And Mrs. Coleman did but hadn't read one in a while.

Felix typed up his story, turned it in, and went to bed.



ARCTIC ANIMALS

By: Tessa Quigley

Once upon a time there was a little winter hare named Thumper and a little polar bear named Snowball. They lived in the Arctic where it is cold and white from all of the snow. One day they decided to play a game of hide and seek. They usually do not play hide and seek because it is very difficult to find a little white winter hare and a little white polar bear in the arctic.

Thumper decided this game was too hard to play without cheating. He kept his eyes open the whole time he was counting so he could see where Snowball was hiding. Thumper found Snowball right away. Snowball was so mad and said, "you cheated." Snowball threw a big tantrum and ran home. Thumper felt bad for cheating so he wrote a letter to Snowball. It said, "Dear Snowball, I am so sorry for cheating. I wish you were here. You are my best friend! Love Thumper." The next day Snowball went to Thumper's house, he knocked on the door. When Thumper answered the door Snowball gave him a big bear hug. They were best friends once again. The End

ALL ABOUT PENGUINS

By: Emily Steelman

Artwork by: Aubree McAndrews

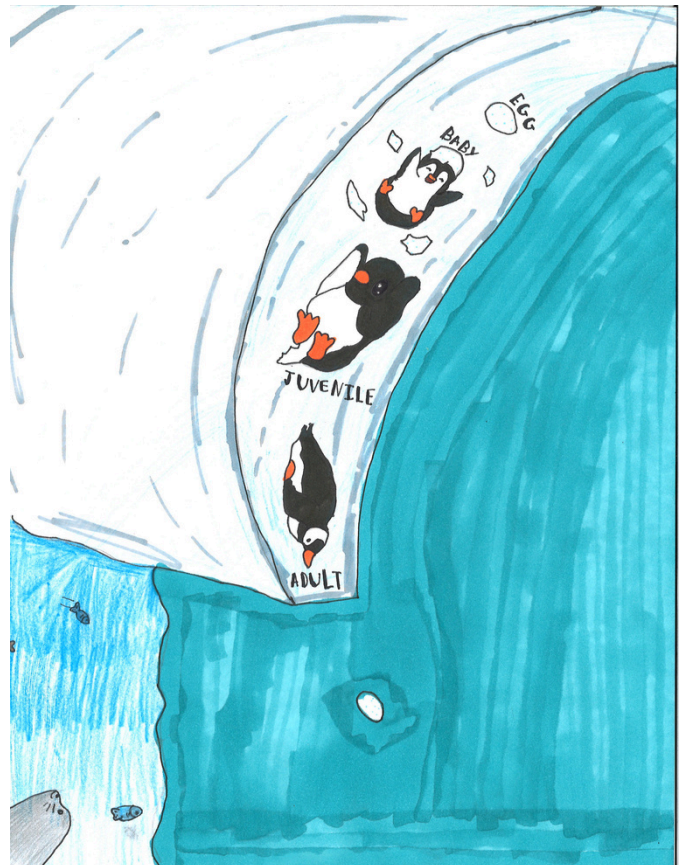
Most penguins are black and white and they come in different sizes. The mother penguin lays the egg and leaves the eggs with the father while the father penguin is protecting the egg and the mother penguin is catching fish for the baby penguin. Newborn penguins weigh 315 grams.

Penguins can swim in freezing cold water and they have to be careful because there are a lot of predators like sea lions, elephant seals and killer whales that are the predators for the penguin.

There are 18 species of penguins. The largest penguin is the emperor penguin. Some species can march up to about 60 miles across sea ice. They use their feet like rudders, angling them to help control.

Penguins eat fish, squid and crustaceans. Penguins sleep 11 hours a day. Penguins waddle up the beach to their nests. Penguins eye color brown, reddish brown, golden brown, Rockhopper and macaroni. And penguins when they want to have fun they like to bounce over rocks.

A group of penguins in the water is called a raft but on land they're called a waddle. And the black and white 'tuxedo' look donned by most penguins species is a clever camouflage called countershading. Penguins may huddle together for several reasons. And penguins evolved to fly underwater. What are 2 interesting things about emperor penguins, emperor penguins walk slowly and do not hop, and emperor penguins have been observed swimming 14.4 kph (8.9mph), though they normally do not exceed 10.8 kph (6.7 mph). THE END!!!!



HOW TO CATCH SANTA CLAUSE

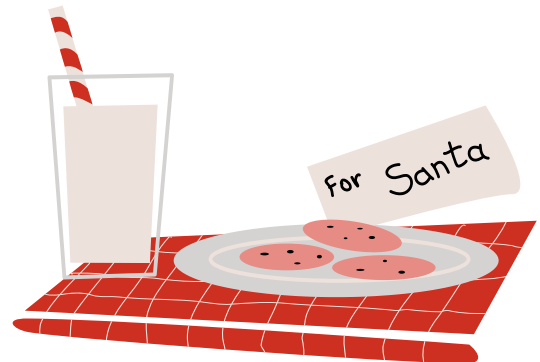
By: Siyona Singh

Hi! Are you dying to see Santa? Well, you're in good luck. Here's the best way to catch Santa.

- get extra cookies for Santa so he could smell it and come to your house quicker! (see cookie recipes on page 5).
- put flour in front of your fireplace so you can see his footsteps do not leave the fireplace on at night!*
- hide somewhere. You can hide behind your couch or a place where you can hide without being spotted.

I hope you find Santa and have a amazing time during Christmas time merry Christmas!

*not recommended for houses with carpet or for anyone without parent permission



HOW TO CATCH AN ELF (THE BEST WAY)

By: Madison Esplin

Today you're going to learn how to catch an ELF. That's right you know what I said E.L.F. Elves are my favorite thing in the Christmas season. (Except for Santa of course.) So here are some ways to catch an elf.

1. First you need to get lots of candy canes and put them on the counter
2. Then you need a net to catch the elf
3. Next you'll need string and tape it to the net and the counter and set up the net so it stays

4. Last but not least you need to duck behind the counter and hold on to the string then when the elf comes for the candy canes you'll let go of the string and you got yourself a ELF.

Thank you for listening on how to catch an Elf I hope you go home and catch an Elf that's it for today.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

By: Trinity Jones

Making Christmas cookies is one of my favorite Christmas traditions. I love it because I get to spend time with family and make yummy cookies. Here are 3 Christmas cookie recipes.

Frosted candy cane and tree cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups all- purpose flour
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Red, white royal icing

Steps:

Make dough: Beat butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix in flour. Chill dough for 30 minutes before rolling out.

Bake and ice: cut into tree and cane shapes. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes, cool. Decorate with royal icing.



Quick cake mix cookie bars

ingredients :

- 1 package yellow or white cake mix
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 5 tbsp melted butter
- 1 package chocolate chips

Steps:

Combine ingredients: Mix cake mix. Eggs, butter, and chocolate chips until well combined.

Bake to perfection: press mixture into a pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20- 25 minutes. Let cool slightly before slicing.



Peanut butter cookies

Ingredients:

- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ¼ cups sifted flour

Combine ingredients: Roll into balls and bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes.



I hope you enjoy these Christmas cookie recipes,
Merry Christmas

WHAT DOES THE FOX SAY: WINTER BREAK PLANS

By: Lacey Gjerdevig
Photos by: Mats Mirick



Eat cereal while listening to Michael Jackson and playing Minecraft

Rylie- 5th grade



Enjoy my birthday and spend time with family

Tyler- 3rd grade



Play outside and make snow angels

Nora- 1st grade



Play in the snow and spend time with family

Maya- Kindergarten



Go sledding & play with my dog in the snow

Jude-2nd grade



Play outside in the snow & white elephant

Andrew- 4th grade

FAVORITE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

By: Zoey Barton

We all know what time it is (and no it's not school time). Do you? Well, I sure do. It's Christmas!!! I do think everyone has at least one favorite Christmas activity. Well, I sure do.

If you were wondering, decorating the Christmas tree is my favorite thing to do when it is around Christmas time. Honestly, my favorite part of Christmas time is just spending time with my family.

I mean when we are just on normal school days we spend most of our time with our teachers (not a bad thing at all). That is why my favorite part of Christmas is spending time with my family.



CHRISTMAS BIG BREAK

By: Hunter Ehlert

“Tim! Tom! Wake up!” Brady shouted.

“Huh? Why did you wake me up? It’s winter break, and it’s Wednesday,” Tim said, confused.

“Yeah, Dad always makes us hot cocoa on winter break Wednesdays,” Tom added, also confused.

“Yes, I know, but it’s Christmas!” Brady explained. “What! It is?” Tim said, surprised.

“Yes, don’t you remember we stayed up late last night?” Brady reminded him.

“Oh, I forgot! Let’s wake up Mom and Dad and go downstairs,” said Tim.

“Okay, let’s go,” said Tom.

Creek. Slam.

“Kids? Was that you?” A surprised voice called out.

“Yes,” Tim, Tom, and Brady said together.

“Wait, why are you awake?” Tim asked.

“Because I thought I would get a head start on your cocoa,” said Dad.

“Good morning! Let’s go get your gifts while the cocoa cooks,” Mom said as she came out of the bedroom.

The family went into the living room to see only a couple of gifts. Together the boys said, “Where’s our gift from Santa?”

The siblings were bummed. A few hours later, they thought of a plan. The plan was to break into Santa’s village. The first and hardest part of the plan was convincing their mom to fly to the North Pole. Luckily, when they were only halfway through convincing her, she said yes. In the next two hours, they got ready and took off in their mom’s plane.

When they landed, there was an elf outside. They dressed up and tried to sneak past him, but he spotted them and started a conversation. So, they bolted, but while running, they lost their mom and almost got caught by some polar bears that looked like mall security. They didn’t get caught, or so they thought.

They were safe until an alarm went off. Apparently, they got spotted by a camera. They ran so fast and hid in a shop. Santa and their mom were inside the shop!

“Ah! Mom why are you here?” they asked.

“Because Santa is my best friend,” she said.

“What?” the boys exclaimed.

“Yes, I have been talking to Santa about your gifts. Santa said a pickle elf named Trix sprayed your gifts with invisible spray. So, Santa gave me this un-invisible spray,” Mom explained.

The triplets said goodbye to Santa and their elves and went home. They sprayed the un-invisible spray and got their stuffy dinos named Dino.

HANUKKAH

By: Francisco Arellano

Hanukkah starts on December 25 and ends January 2. This holiday is celebrated for 8 days because it took 8 days for the candle to go out. Hanukkah originates from Jerusalem in the 2 century bce. Jerusalem is found in Israel. During Hanukkah people make delicious foods such as latkes, challah, applesauce, brisket and more.



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

By: Claire Gill

Hi there today I will be talking about holiday editions around the world. First, I will tell you about a tradition in Sweden is to have a new goat. It has been a Swedish Christmas symbol for a very long time. “ It dates back to ancient pagan festivals.” “ in 1966. The tradition got a whole new life.” a person came up with an idea to make a giant straw goat. daily it is now referred to The as the Gavle goat. The origin of the goat is based on Norse legends and worship of the Thunder God Thor. The Gavle goat is more than 42 feet high and 23 feet wide and it weighs about 3.6 tons.

Next, I will be talking about the Philippines. Every year a city in the Philippines called San Fernando has a festival called Ligligan Paul This translates as giant lantern festival. This festival has dazzling lights, and lanterns. these beautiful lights symbolize the star of Bethlehem.” The festival has made San Fernando the Christmas capital of the Philippines.”

Next I will be talking about traditions in Japan. In Japan Christmas is not a national holiday. But the citizens still find an interesting way to celebrate. “ families head to their local Kentucky Fried chicken.” “ The tradition began in 1974 after a wildly, successful marketing campaign.” The fast food chain is still going, and it’s a yuletide popularity. Wow people have such unique traditions anyway now we will be getting onto Finland. For breakfast on Christmas morning finish families usually eat porridge. Porridge is made with rice and milk the porridge is topped with cinnamon, milk, and sometimes butter. You may ask why porridge? The finish people ate porridge because the rice represents luxury and goods that only Rich could buy and so that is why they are very special. Finish families also like to warm up in a sauna together.

Thank you for reading my paragraph about a holiday traditions around the world and I hope you learn something new.

HOW TO SHOW EMPATHY

By: Ayden Davis
Artwork by: Joslynn Keehr

There are a lot of ways to help people you care about. One is empathy. Here is some advice about what empathy is.

1. Empathy is emotions based on understanding other people's feelings
2. If somebody gets hurt, check on them and offer them comfort .
3. Empathy is really important because you show people that you care.
4. Empathy requires respect because it takes a person putting themselves in someone else's shoes to offer support and understand another's situation while being respectful of their feelings.

5. Empathy means putting yourself into other people's shoes.

6. You should always be nice to people, it is not just being respectful.



THE STORY OF HOW THE GLASS BROKE

By: Maya Andebrhan

Once upon a time there was a mountain named Ada. She was purple and a tree named Twister he was green and brown there was also a sun named Soul he was yellow. They were best friends. Their school was called Mountain Top Elementary.

One day at school they were building catapults and the teacher went out of the classroom to go grab some papers. Then Soul's rock that was in his catapult flung right out and crashed through the glass window!!! Oh no cried Soul what are we going to do?

I bet you're worried what Mr. Frank is going to do when he sees it, I would be too said Ada. How did you know, said Soul? Because something like this happened to me in 1st grade. Really?, said Soul Really said Ada.

Then Twister came over. I can maybe try to patch the window, he said. Ok but do it fast, said Ada. The teacher will be back any minute now.

So Twister started patching. He was half way done when Ada heard Mr. Frank's steps getting closer and closer. You better hurry up said Ada Mr. Frank is coming!! Twister just about finished when Mr. Frank walked in. Mr. Frank was a little suspicious but he didn't say a word.

Then at recess time Mr. Frank pulled Ada, Twister and Soul aside. Oh no thought Ada he probably noticed all the tape. Were doomed thought Soul. I should have used less tape thought Twister. The three friends were so scared but then they were so surprised the only thing Mr. Frank said was this: do you guys know what happened to the window? Yes we all said at the same time. After that Mr. Frank asked us a lot of questions. But we did not get in trouble. And so we....

LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!!

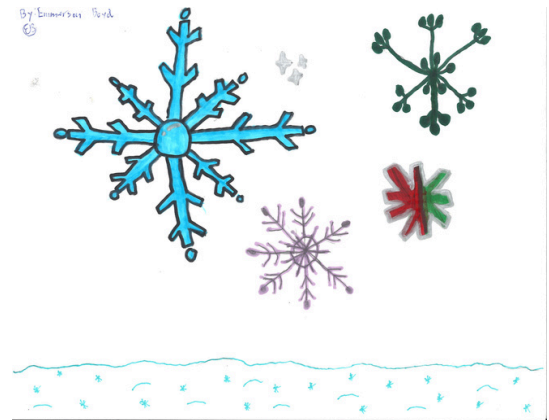
SCIENCE OF SNOW

By: Nikolas Draskovic

Artwork by: Emmerson Boyd

Hello my fellow readers, in this article you will be learning about the science of snowflakes and other various details. First, I will be talking about how snowflakes are formed. Snowflakes are formed when an extremely cold water droplet freezes onto a pollen or dust particle in the sky. This creates an ice crystal. As the ice crystal falls to the ground, water vapor freezes onto the primary crystal building new crystals on the six arms of the snowflake. There are 35 different snowflakes, Here are some of them: stellar plates, stellar dendrites, fernlike stellar dendrites, columns, needles, capped columns, hollow columns, prisms, sector plates, graupel and many more various forms of dendrites.

Here are some of the ways snow can be dangerous: vehicle accidents, snow and ice can make the road dangerous causing a higher chance of weather related accidents. Drivers should increase their following distance and check their tires for proper inflation and tread depth. Second is avalanches: heavy snow in the mountains could cause an avalanche. Third is gas leaks: heavy snow can cause gas leaks which could be deadly. Fourth is hypothermia: cold temperatures and wind chills can lead to hypothermia, especially for people outside too long. Fifth is frostbite. Winter storms can increase the risk of frostbite. Sixth is carbon monoxide poisoning can make you have headaches, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Snow is rare because of low temperatures and moisture in the atmosphere. These were all the things about snow.

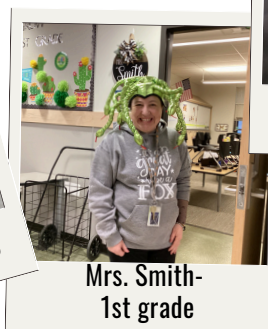


HAT DAY: NOVEMBER 22

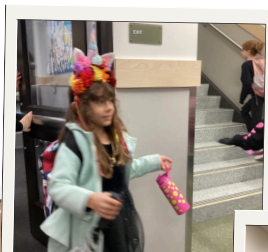
Photos by: Cam Humphrey



Serenity- 4th grade



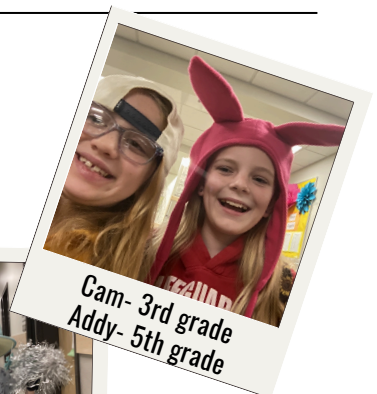
Mrs. Smith- 1st grade



Ledger- 3rd grade



Rylie- 5th grade



Cam- 3rd grade
Addy- 5th grade

TMF

THE LIVING SNOWMAN

Story and artwork by: Ethan Kippes



Copyright © 2010-2012 www.mr-snowman.com

CHANGING SEASONS

By: Anthony Boadas

Artwork by: Canon Williams

Seasons are caused by earth tilting. Earth tilts on its axis. The axis is like a rope. All the planets have an axis and they all orbit the sun. Each planet has its own axis. The act of seasons changing is caused by earth tilting to and away from the sun. The tilting is making seasons happen!

Winter is the coldest season of the year. Plants fall asleep or die. Some animals are forced into hibernation. More hours of darkness and less hours of sunlight in winter.

Spring is the time of winter turning into summer. Temperatures begin to warm up and plants begin to thrive again. In some parts of the world spring is the rainy season.

Summer the days get longer and there's a lot of sunlight! Summer is the start of baseball season. Some fun things for the summer are going on a picnic, swimming, and going to the beach.

Fall or Autumn leaves turn red, orange, yellow and brown. The leaves begin to fall off the trees. Temperatures become cooler. The football season starts.

Are seasons the same all over the world? NO! The United States is in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the part of the Earth above the equator. We are in the winter season, because the Northern Hemisphere is tilting away from the sun. However, the Southern Hemisphere, the part below the equator. For example Australia is in this Hemisphere and it is in the season of summer, because it is tilting towards the sun.



PEARL HARBOR DAY

By: Libby Torres

On Sunday December 7th 1941, Japan committed a surprise aerial attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island Hawaii, killing over 2,400 US servicemen and destroying or damaging about 19 US warships and 300 aircraft. The US council decided to make it an official federal holiday on August 23 1994. The bombing took about an hour and 5 minutes, starting at 7:55 am, hitting a second wave at 8:50 am, and then Japan withdrawing at 9:00. To honor those who fought, there is a memorial called the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

TOWER SHUFFLE: STAR STRIKE

By: Theo Eastman

Max woke up, tied with ropes, and watched in horror as the sky went dark.

What could he do to stop it? He then noticed the robot looking right at him from the side. It grinned a horrifying grin.

He was trapped. What would he do?

He then saw a chance: There was a scalpel, so he grabbed it and jammed it into the robot's foot. It screeched in pain.

He knocked it out, then grabbed the scalpel and cut himself free.

The robot angrily went at him. One arm wrapped around his neck, the other six keeping the robot standing.

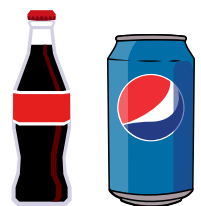
Max couldn't do anything. Then, one of the robot's arms raised and made a pulling motion. All of a sudden a giant flaming meteor that looked like a star appeared.

In an act of desperation he punched the robot in its screen/face, it dropped him, but the meteor was still coming. He couldn't do anything... except, He jumped behind the robot, reached into its access panel and made it stop the meteor, but by then back up had arrived. Multiple robots had climbed up the building. They overwhelmed him. He had to get to the transmitter, but it was too late. Finally the end has begun

To be Continued

REVIEW: SODA

By: Julio Duncan



I'm Julio Duncan and I am the Desert Sky Critic and this month I am giving my opinion on soda. First off, I would like to say that Coke and Pepsi are basically the same exact thing, but people have been arguing that it's not. But, as your critic, I think not.

Now let's cut to the chase (not meaning the person), I personally think root beer and Coke are definitely tied for first and Mountain Dew is a close second.

KINDER CORNER INTERVIEW

By: McKinley Howard

I got to pick a kindergartener to interview I choose Isla Raihl. She is in Mrs. Wertenbergers class. I asked Isla some questions about how she is liking Desert Sky and kindergarten.

Mckinley: What is your favorite thing about DSE?

Isla: My teacher.

Mckinley: What is your favorite special?

Isla: P.E

Mckinley: what do you like about your classroom?

Isla: The soft carpet.

Mckinley: What Is your teacher's name?

Isla: Mrs. Wertenberger.

MARKETPLACE INTERVIEW

By: Ledger Vance Paulus

Marketplace is an exciting time for 5th grade people are selling items like sewn pillows to flower press bookmarks. Today I am interviewing Theo Vance Paulus (who happens to be my brother) Theo is in 5th grade Mrs. Humphrey's class

Ledger: so Theo what is marketplace

Theo: It is a group of 2-4 people in a mini business and the business fee is 100 Dse dollars.

Ledger: What are your teammates making?

Theo: My teammate Grant is making sports items. And my other teammate Taysom is making rubber band bracelets. And my last teammate is Bryant he is making 3d items

Ledger: One last question. What is your team name.

Theo: We are the Sigma Sailors!

SUPER BANANA SAVES SANTA

Story and artwork by: Adonis Draskovic



WORLD SERIES: DODGERS VS YANKEES

By: Blake Maxfield

This year we witnessed MLB history. IN the world series the Los Angeles Dodgers versus the New York Yankees who do you think won keep reading to find out?

LA's top 3 players right now are Shohei Ohtani how plays outfield and pichis , Teoscar Hernandez how plays outfield , Freddie Freeman how plays first base.The NY's top 3 players right are Aaron Judge how plays outfield, Gerrit Cole starting pitcher , Anthony Rizzo how plays first base.

If you're wondering what made history? Freddie Freeman hit a walkoff grand slam to win a world series first in history.

In the final game of the series the LA Dodgers won 6 to 7



Editors

Eli Martin
Shannon Merkley
Mailey Parish
Norah Ross (editor-in-chief)
Ms. Cleveland (advisor)

Features Writers

Francisco Arellano
Anthony Boadas
Nikolas Draskovic
Claire Gill
Abigail Gropper
Trinity Jones
Blake Maxfield
Emily Steelman
Libby Torres
Madelyn Weaver

NEWSPAPER STAFF

Story Writers

Maya Andebrhan
Hunter Ehlert
Theo Eastman
Tessa Quigley

Interviewers

Lacey Gjerdevig
McKinley Howard
Ledger Vance Paulus

Advice Columnists

Adyen Davis
Brailyn Elzie
Madison Esplin
Siyona Singh

Critics

Zoey Barton
Anna Burt
Julio Duncan

Artists

Emmerson Boyd
Joslynn Keehr
Aubree McAndrews
Raya Pope
Canon Williams

Comic Strip Artists

Adonis Draskovic
Norah Eastman
Ethan Kippes

Photographers

Cambria Humphrey
Keaton Johnson
Mats Mirick