

Spartan Newsflash

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STUDENT REPORTERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:	Jeffrey Artola Garcia Emma Brainard Pearl Catlin Anami'aa Decker Juliet Fillmore Kali Fisher Elder Garcia Figueroa Isla Gruebele Nolan Henry Bella Hull	Chase Jacobson Aili Keran Villiana Lamadrid Erica Lemke Alex Martinez Beltran Mira Oswald Jehonna Senko Giana Uebel Aaribella Warner Chloe Willhite Sadie Winkels
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HIGH-FIVE TO OUR FIFTH VOLUME!

Welcome to the fifth volume of the Spartan Newsflash: the Inver Grove Heights Middle School student newspaper! This newspaper is a place for students to share the stories that are important to them. The goal of the Spartan Newsflash is to connect our community, allow for the diverse voices of our students to be heard freely, and showcase the (mostly) unedited talents of the Spartan Newsflash reporters.

A reminder: all content of this paper is created by students, and for that reason, this paper will never be perfect. The Spartan Newsflash philosophy is that learning is a lifelong process, and we all can improve through mistakes and reflection. Our hope is that as future editions are released, you see the growth of our reporters.

Thank you for taking the time to hear the voices of our reporters. The Spartan Newsflash hopes you laugh, learn, and hear differently as a result of the words you read and the pictures you viewed.

Jess Maloney, Staff Editor
maloneyj@isd199.org



Video by Chase Jacobson, Villiana Lamadrid, and Jehonna Senko, grade 7

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEEDS ALL GENDER BATHROOMS

by Pearl Catlin and Bella Hull, grade 7

Many students want an all-gender bathroom in the middle school. It is not fair to genderqueer people who don't identify as a "girl" or a "boy." Where are *they* supposed to pee?

Some genderqueer people were asked how an all-gender bathroom could benefit them and make them more comfortable.

"Because I'm non-binary. Must I say more?" Said Fey, they/it.

"It would help people not have a gender crisis every time they go to the bathroom." Added some random person in the background.

"I feel weird every time I pee. I'm gender fluid, so during the times when I don't feel feminine, I have to try my best not to look at the sign saying 'Girls.'" Says Pearl, They/Tey/He/She.

"I don't wanna have a meltdown breakdown when I need to pee," says Bella, they/them/he. No one wants to have a mini panic attack every time they have to pee. That's not fair.

It's a very simple fix. Take an existing bathroom and put a sign saying "All

Gender Restroom" in front of it. Or just take down the signs gendering the bathrooms in the first place. The high school was able to create a space, what's different about the younger kids?

It's not hard to make people feel comfortable.

Editors note: Students are able to access

bathrooms located in the nurses office that are not gendered. Students can use a smartpass and choose "nurses bathroom" as the location.



BABY YOSHI'S
AMAZING
ADVENTURE

by Isla Gruebele, grade 6



To watch Baby Yoshi's Amazing Adventure please scan this QR code:



REAL IN CLASS STORIES

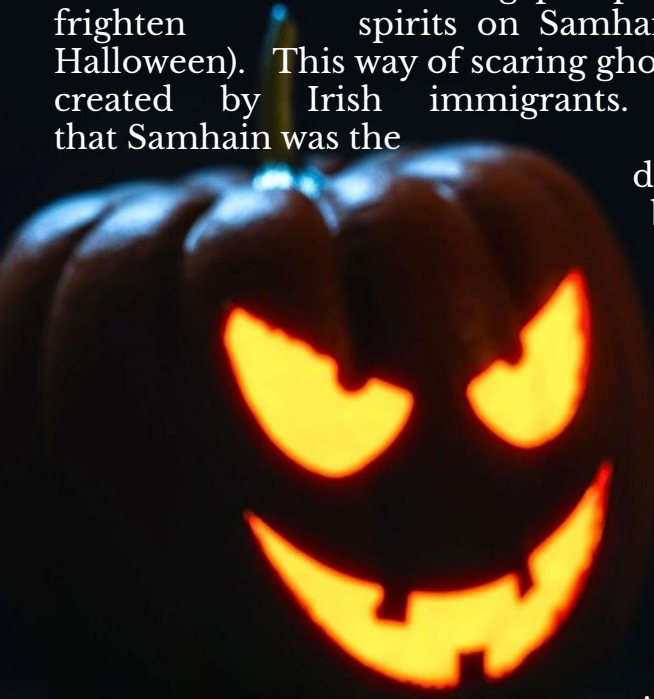
by Anamika Decker, grade 7

THE HISTORY OF PUMPKIN CARVING

by Emma Brainard, grade 8

Carving pumpkins is a great way to celebrate the fall season, but did you know that the tradition dates back over two thousand years?

The tradition of carving pumpkins was made to frighten spirits on Samhain (the day after Halloween). This way of scaring ghosts was originally created by Irish immigrants. They thought that Samhain was the



day when the gate between the land of the living and the land of the dead opened. The Irish immigrants were so scared that they would carve scary faces into turnips and pumpkins to intimidate the ghosts from terrorizing their homes.

The Irish immigrants also picked pumpkins to carve because of the story about the ghost named Stingy Jack, the wandering spirit. Jack was a sad and lonely man who hated everyone. Jack even went out of his way to make others just as miserable as he was. But one night Jack found the Devil at a tavern.

Jack, not wanting the Devil to take his soul, tricked him into striking a deal that let Jack keep his soul for ten years. When Jack saw the devil again after ten years, he tricked him again and made the devil promise he would never take his soul. When Jack died shortly after, heaven didn't want his soul either, so the devil forced Jack to walk the earth as a ghost for an eternity. All Jack was in a turnip, hence why



the townsfolk of Ireland would carve out scary faces in turnips (now pumpkins). So if you are ever in a forest alone, look out for Stingy Jack's turnip!

TOP BOOK PICKS

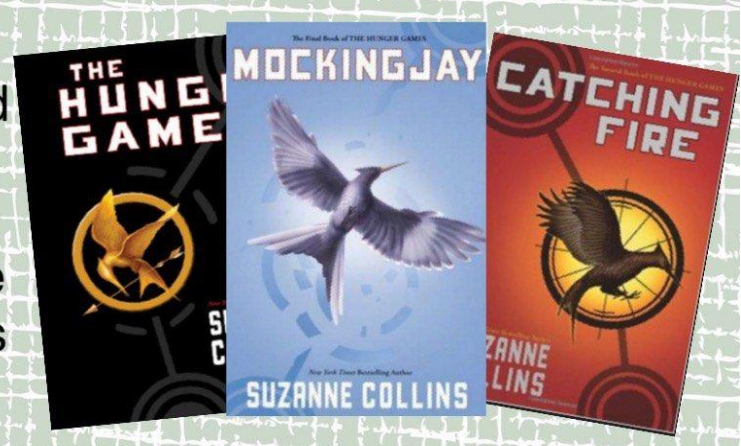
by Giana Uebel, grade 6

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Book(s): The Hunger games Series
By: Suzanne Collins

Genre: Science Fiction, Action, and Drama

Do you like books that have events happening in every chapter, do you enjoy futuristic stories? I think you'll love the Hunger Games series about sixteen year old Katniss Everdeen fighting to keep her and her family and friends safe. You will never want to put it down! If you're like me and like a lot of action in a book or you get bored this will keep you on the edge of your seat. I definitely recommend this book.



HISTORICAL MINNESOTA

by Sadie Winkels, grade 6

Archaeologists Do Not study dinosaurs they Do study human past life.

Petroglyphs Ancient rock carving made By humans thousands of years ago. they can tell us about life long ago

Bows and spears were used for weapons and hunting

Have you ever wondered What minnesota was like 10,000 Years ago? presenting

Glacier large sheets of ice slowly melting from global warming

Ancient minnesota

Bradbury Brook In 1989 a team of Archaeologists were hired to search a field for any past life, they found at 16,000 Bce small rocks and other large ice glaciers covered most of minnesota. When they melted and made most of our lakes.

A woman's Skull was found in a lake her skull proved there were humans 8,000 years ago

The minnesota women

Saber tooth Tiger

animals like the woolly mammoth lived in minnesota during the Ice age

Sadie.W

Drawing by Jeffrey Artola Garcia, grade 6



Collage by Chloe Willhite, grade 7



Drawing by Chase Jacobson, grade 7

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SWIM TEAM

by Erica Lemke and Giana Uebel, grade 6

Erica Lemke and Giana Uebel (6th graders) interviewed Sophia Gatlin and Violet Snodgrass (7th graders) who both participated in the simley swim and dive team this season. Violet is on junior varsity and Sophia is on the middle school team. We asked them questions about their swimming careers.

Q: What got you interested in swimming?
Sophia(S): All my friends did it and I was really interested in learning how to swim.
Violet(V): My older friend taught me how and I was interested in continuing to do it.
Q: Was it different than last year? What changed?
S: I didn't do it last year but my friend told me about it and I wanted to do it this year.
V: There were new kids on the team, we swam longer, and there was a new coach.

Q: What is your favorite swimming stroke? Why?
S: I like freestyle because it's easy.
V: I like breaststroke because I'm good at it.

Q: What is your favorite race to swim?
S: I like the 200-meter medley.
V: I like the one-hundred-meter breaststroke.

Q: What is the race you are most proud of?
S: The 200 individual medley.
V: The 50-meter freestyle.

Q: What is a drill that you do at practice that you like?
S: The corkscrew which is when you do one stroke of freestyle then one stroke of backstroke.
V: I like kick drills because they're fun to do.

Q: What is a stroke that you think you could improve on?
S: I think I could definitely improve on my butterfly stroke.
V: I think I could improve on backstroke because I have trouble not getting water in my mouth.

Q: Do you prefer freestyle or backstroke more?
S: I prefer freestyle
V: I like freestyle more

Q: How long have you been swimming?
S: I have been swimming since I was 1.
V: I have been swimming since I was 6 months old.

Q: Do you think you have improved your swimming since you joined Simley?
S: I have definitely gotten better at swimming.
V: I have definitely improved my swimming

THE MASK: CHAPTER 1

by Aaribella Warner, grade 6

DING!!!! The bell rings. Everyone is leaving to get to lunch. It's 1:37 P.M on a Thursday. It's the day of Halloween. No one cares about trick or treating. It's high school. They only care about scaring the snot out of little kids.

I get up, walk out of the school, and go to the gas station nearby for snacks. I walk back into the school. The bell just rang. I slowly go to art class. It's painting day today. I paint a little boy sitting on a bridge.

After the bell rings all the middle school students start to run out to the buses. I walk as slowly as I can to after-school detention. "Well guess who's decided to join us," Mr. Frinkly says loudly. I sleep the whole time during detention.

It's over? I ask myself. I get up. The room start to spin. "I haven't taken any medication this week so I shouldn't feel this way," I said in my head or so I thought.

A whispering voice says "you're right. You're not. Was that sandwich good?" I woke up in a whole different room with a glass wall in front of me. I see someone. I can't seem to figure out who the person is. There must have been something in the sandwich...

A light flicks on an hour later.

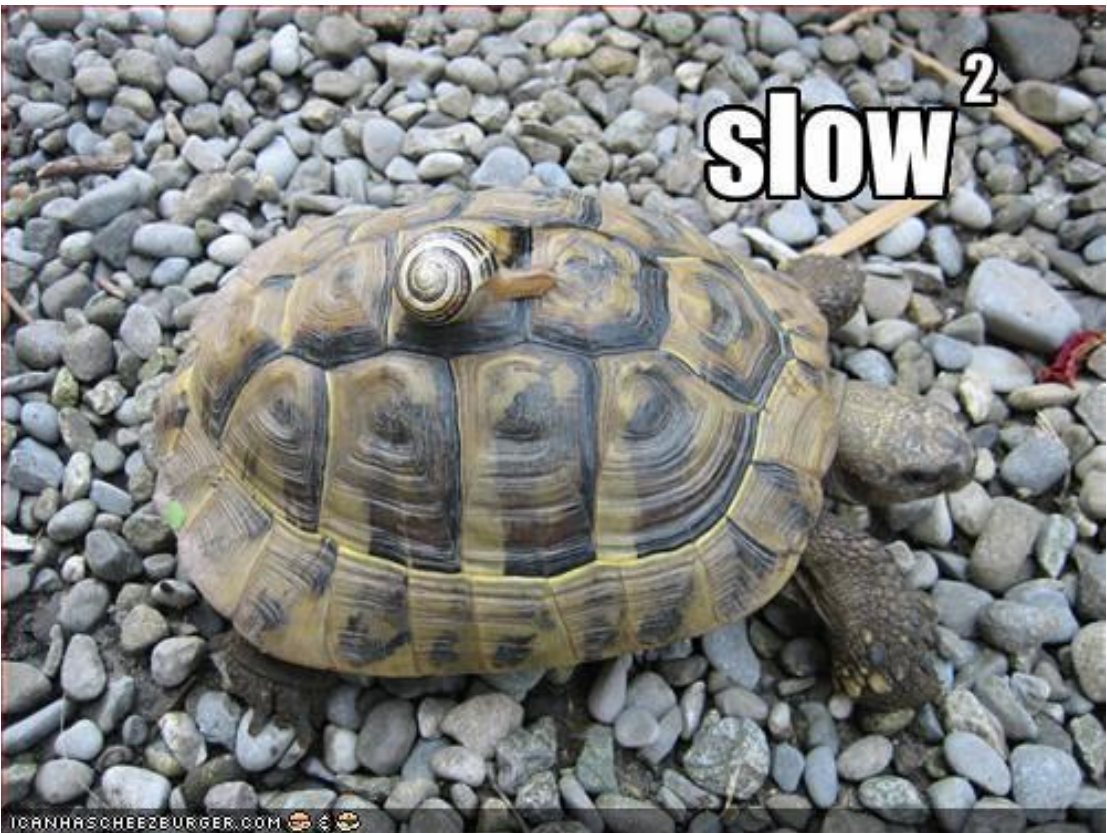
ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

by Juliet Fillmore, grade 6

Vote for
the next
animal of
the month
here:



SCAN ME



REAL IN CLASS STORIES



Editor's note: Often students react by laughing when they are uncomfortable. Asking what pronouns a person uses is a better way versus assuming the gender of someone else.

THE ELF

by Kali Fisher, grade 7

It sat there staring at me
As I go to sleep
when I wake up it's not there
it can't get up and just go anywhere
I get out of bed and look around the house
it's in the kids' room quiet as a mouse
I grab it and put it away
when I wake up it is right next to me
the next days it happened again and again
and I swear I hear it say "this is the end"
it's creepy and scary
the kids scream when they wake up
when I go to their bed
it's right in front of me
I grab it and throw it outside
I fall asleep once again
I hear a window break not far from me
when I wake up it's all a dream
I say "I knew it wasn't real"
I look next to me and scream
as those were my last words
now the puppet remains in the house
hiding and ready to scare
family after family I see their demises
I can see that they're scared
I can see it in their eyes
I stay for a while waiting to fade away
I also want to see the puppets' fate
but the puppet never died no matter the wait
it disappeared one day
but I knew it would come back it would find a way

JAVAN RHINOS

by Mira Oswald, grade 6

Javan rhinos are one of the closest animals to extinction in the world. There are only around 76 of them left. They only live in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia. They used to live throughout Northeast India, and Southeast Asia.

What do they look like?

Javan rhinos have a gray color. They have one horn on the end of their head that can get up to 10 inches long. They have big folds in their skin that look like they are wearing armor. They are smaller and lighter than the great one-horned rhino. They weigh between 1,720 and 3,080 pounds. Javan rhinos can get up to 4 meters in length, and 1.7 meters in height. Males have red eyes and females have white eyes.

What do they eat?

Javan rhinos are herbivores. They eat leaves, shoots, tall grass, twigs, and

fruit. They drink sea water to get the salt that they need. They used to live in forests where they were protected from the sun, and have easy access to water and food.

What do they like to do?

Javan rhinos really like to swim. They also look for food a lot. Male Javan rhinos use their horns to get food from trees, and open up paths for them to walk through. To stay cool, they like to coat themselves in cold mud.

How did they become endangered?



A big reason they are endangered is people are poaching them to take their horns to sell or make stuff with. This is, unfortunately, common for other types of rhinos too. Another reason is habitat loss. The forests that they used to live in got smaller because people cut down trees to make new buildings. It has been hard for Javan rhinos to find food too. How can we help to save them?

We can help the Javan rhinos by donating money to organizations that are trying to save them by making more habitats for them. Also, you can encourage people to not poach rhinos. Student can make a club to bring awareness to the Javan rhinos as well. The world and savannahs will be very different without rhinos. Many people are helping to try and save them, and many more should join them in protecting the Javan rhinos.

HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

by Aili Keran, grade 6

Halloween was originally an Irish and Scottish holiday. It was originally a festival called “Samhain.” It was celebrated after a years harvest on October 31st. The name Halloween comes



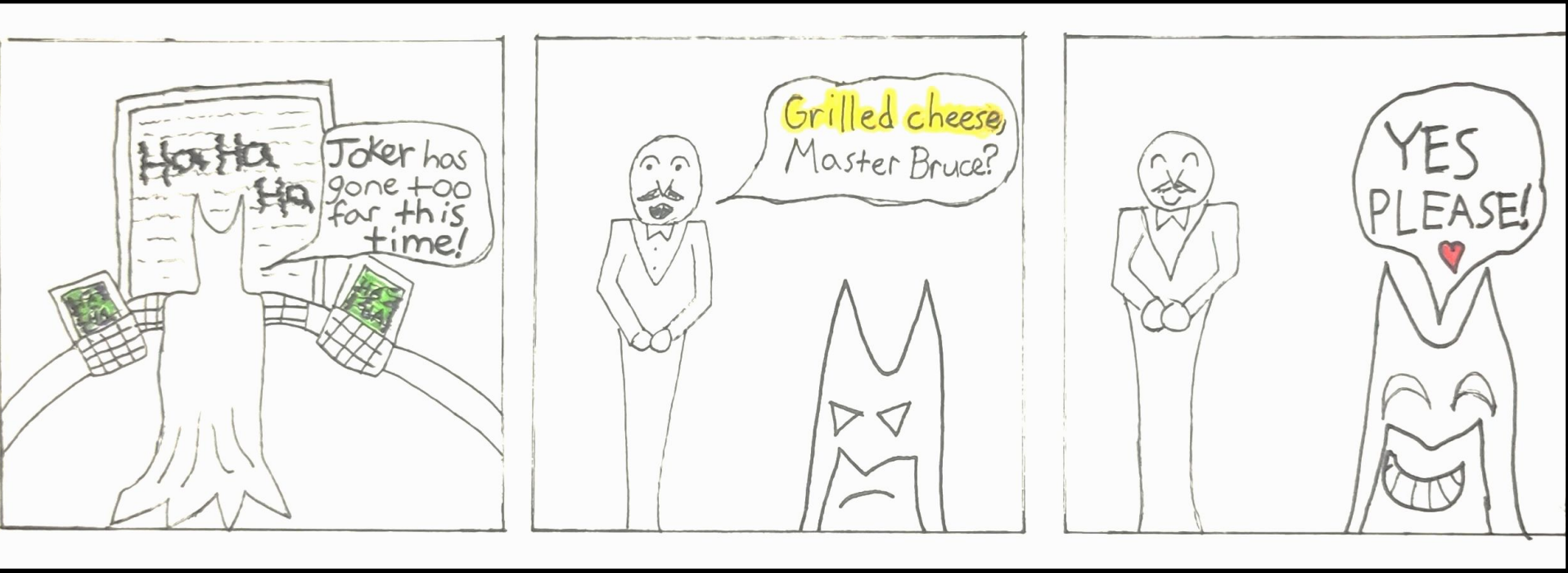
from “all hallows eve.” “Trick or Treat” came from a tradition where people would go door to door singing songs for the dead for cake or food.



Drawing by Elder Garcia Figueroa, grade 6

HALLOWEEN AFTERMATH

by Alex Martinez Beltran, grade 8



Comic by Nolan Henry, grade 6