

# Spartan

## Newsflash

April  
2025

Volume 5, Edition 5

<b>STUDENT REPORTERS</b>  <b>FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:</b>  Emma Brainard Pearl Catlin Nora Costello	Juliet Fillmore Kali Fisher Isla Gruebele Hunter Hallerman Zamayah Hassan Nolan Henry Aili Keran Kayla Lakhamone Edmundo Lamadrid	Erica Lemke Lucianne Mensah Faye Nichols Ameesha Ohneswere Mira Oswald Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez Makai Schwantes-Morgan Giana Uebel Chloe Willhite
--	---	--

## AN AUTHOR WORKS AT IGHMS?

by Aili Keran and Erica Lemke, grade 6

Did you know that there is an author that works at our school? Mr. Gaisbauer is a seventh-grade science teacher here at Inver Grove Heights Middle School. Some of you know him as a teacher, but did you know he is an author as well?

We interviewed Mr. Gaisbauer about his books. One of his books, "A Slap Shot In Time", is about hockey in Minnesota. In his book, he talks about some of the most important parts of Minnesota hockey.

How did you find reliable sources?

Finding reliable sources is very important. Early on I learned that relying on the internet is a bad idea. The internet (for example Wikipedia) is a good starting point to find information but I usually find multiple sources to confirm dates and events. I started using Newspapers.com to confirm facts and dates in old newspapers.

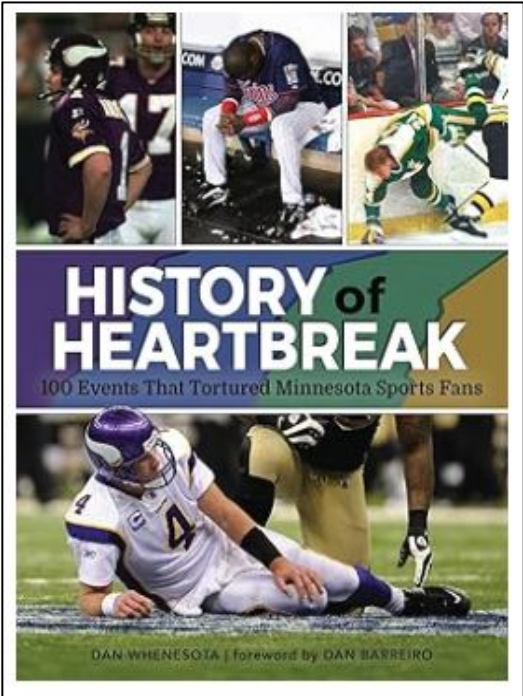
How did you find a publisher?

For the first book, the publisher approached me. I wasn't even interested in writing books. I wanted to be a documentary filmmaker. The Publisher heard me being interviewed on the radio and reached out to me asking if I would be interested in writing a book.

The second book was a bit more difficult trying to find a publisher. It's a Hockey book and I've been told that they don't sell as well as Football books do, so most publishers

weren't interested. I did find one. But they weren't very reliable and started changing things on me so I decided to do it myself.

I used Amazon KDP, which is a self-publishing service. I designed the layout, cover, and found all the photos at the Minnesota Historical Society. You upload it to amazon and they sell it on the website. You make more per book this way, but the disadvantage is it's not available for purchase



in local bookstores like Barnes And Noble like the first book was.

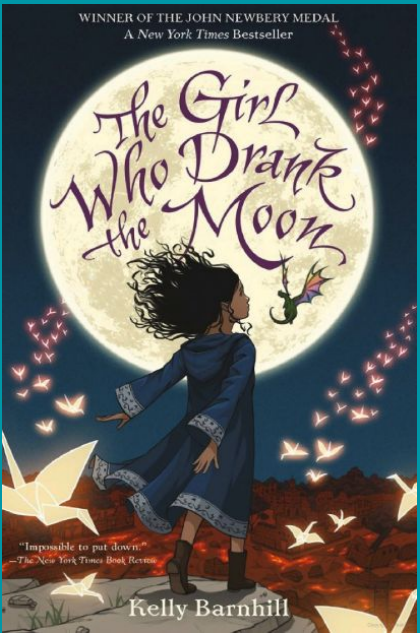
How did you organize your information in a book? Is it different from an essay?

It depends on the book. The first book we did it by sport. Each sport had its own chapter. The second book was about one specific team, so it was more driven by a timeline, beginning of the story to the end.

Next time you see Mr. Gaisbauer, remember he is an amazing author with many books.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

by Aili Keran, grade 6



The Girl Who Drank The Moon is the book of the month! It is a fantasy book about a girl who was left in the forest as an offering to a witch. But this witch isn't as scary as the people think. She is a kind witch who saves these babies being sacrificed. The witch saves a girl named Luna but accidentally feeds her moonlight instead of starlight. Luna was raised without knowing she had magic and is learning the importance of family. This book is a book for the soul and creates happiness and joy.



# A UNIVERSE HOPPERS JOURNAL

by Pearl Catlin, grade 7

January 9th (he/him)

I'm. So. Indescribably angry right now.

My new team is *awful*.

On my first mission with them, they screwed up so bad I almost died. And yeah, I know I almost die a lot, but still.

I was talking to a UR (Universal Resident), just a regular UR, and they freaked out because I didn't have my settings turned up so the UR would have fake memories of me and my team. Wow, thanks for having confidence in my alibi.

One of the members came up to me, very badly trying to hide how nervous they were. They grabbed my arm, stuttered some excuse about needing me for something, and dragged me away to the group. Then they *yelled* at me.

If you couldn't already tell, those were a bunch of rookies. I hate rookies. They're all scared to death of breaking a few minor rules about *UR safety* and *universal safety*.

Yet they work for the UCC. A company that *regularly* breaks those rules.

It's ironic, in a crappy way.

I get it. I was a rookie at one point. Although when I got admitted as a UCC hopper I, 1) didn't have a choice, and 2) was very freshly traumatized and frail. Thanks Dad. You just *had* to decide the simple life you had with me and my mom wasn't enough.

I'm not going to elaborate right now. I'm too tired to trauma dump.

Anyways. Almost dying. Their worry got us spotted and some gang tried to beat the crap out of all of us. To "keep us quiet." Meatheads. I kicked all their butts, (with little help from my team). That particular gang was exactly who we were looking for, thankfully. We needed to transport one of the members out of the country so he didn't accidentally kill a scientist out of fear.

I have to work with these rookies for the next *two weeks*. I cannot fathom the amount of headaches I'm going to have. First things first, I've got a few

strong words to share with the captain of this team.

January 10th (He/they)

AAAUURRGGHH. THIS TEAM. THIS-[SECTION REDACTED]...

Mika doesn't like it when I swear.

Especially not as much as I just did. It's not like she reads my journal. I guess it's for peace of mind.

If this journal is going to determine what's on my obituary one of these days, I might as well write about my best friend.

I met Mika a few weeks after getting picked up by the UCC. She's disgustingly optimistic and bright. It's cute, sure, but I knew it could get annoying fast. Yet with Mika, it never did. I had to work with her for a couple weeks. The UCC didn't really know how to handle someone like me yet. Her job was to figure it out and see where I could be the most useful.

It turns out, she's just as indifferent as I am, but a different kind of indifferent.

My kind is where I scowl at people when they ask me stupid questions, shrug at people's problems (including my own. I'm a jerk to everyone, myself included). I zone out during conversations and everyone can tell I'm not listening. Basically, I'm the kind of apathetic that everyone hates.

Mika, however, is loved. But she is just as bad as I am.

She smiles politely when people ask her stupid questions, and finds the nicest way to tell them that they're an idiot. She shrugs at people's problems (including her own) but she plasters this apologetic expression on her face that makes people think she cares. She zones out during conversations, but she has a resting face that makes it *seem* like she's listening. When she snaps back to reality and doesn't know what's going on, she can claim she got a message on her brain augment. Lucky.

Plus, she looks inviting. Her almond eyes scrunch up when she laughs. Her silky black hair has these bright cyan stripes in the front, with pink tips. She always wears the cutest outfits.

People are often surprised when they see we're friends. Even more so that we're best friends, and regularly put our lives in the other's hands. Once someone gets close enough, and sees us interact for long enough, like my buddy TJ, they understand.

Mika and I both have serious issues. We cry to each other a lot.

I'm not going into detail about Mika's story. The gist of it is, she was having some problems in her home universe, got spotted by some hoppers on a mission, and got picked up. She's one of those illegal hopper babies I mentioned previously. Born in a UCC base, raised in a universe. Of course, she had to get pulled out before accidentally making her home universe a disaster universe.

I wish she got picked up sooner though. She's messed up.

This was supposed to be me ranting about my new team, but it turned into me talking about my best friend. Weird. I guess that's the Mika effect.

January 11th (he/they)

Today was actually pretty decent. I got my mission done fast so I get to chill.

Mika took a day off to hang with me, because she's sweet like that. We're thinking of doing a movie marathon.

She went off on this ridiculous rant when I said I had never read or watched any Harry Potter content.

"It's a classic!" And, "The movie is special in its own way while still being mostly accurate to the book," and my favorite, "one of these days I'm going on a vacation to a Harry Potter universe."

It took me half an hour to get through her angry ranting to inform her that in my original universe, the author of those books was a horrible person, especially to people like *me*.

Oh, if it isn't obvious from the pronouns next to the date, I'm genderfluid. My gender- and pronouns- change. This is one of the many things under the trans umbrella. Which means the author of the Harry Potter books *does not like me*.

Mika got kinda upset when she heard that. In her universe, the author of the Harry Potter books never commented on her opinions of the trans community. One of the minor differences between universes. So, we settled on having a marathon together. I should probably stop writing, Mika is getting mad that I'm not paying-

Oh, *shoot*. I have to go...





# IF THE RAIN COULD CRY

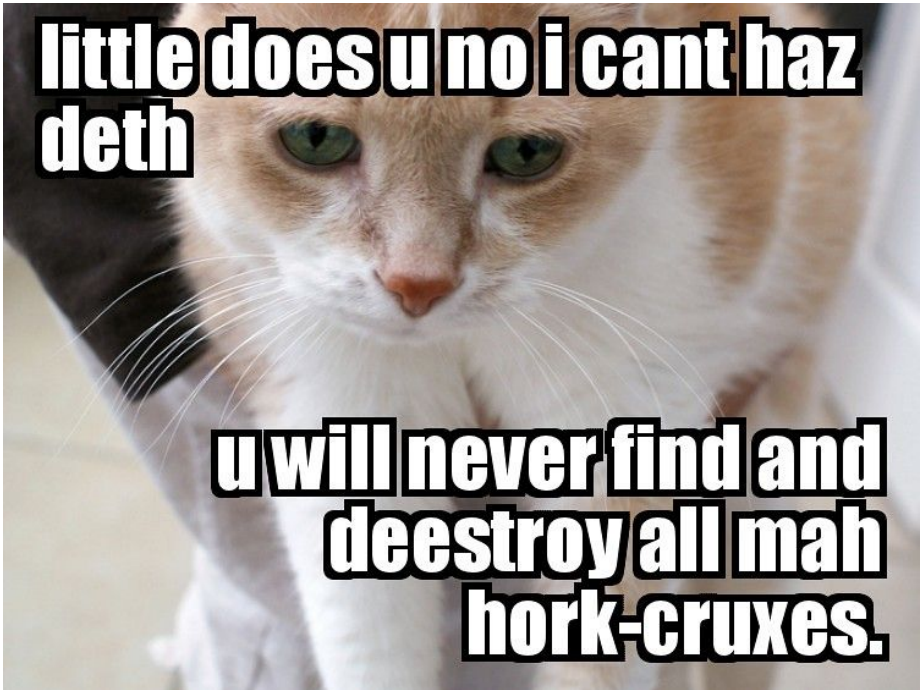
by Zamayah Hassan, grade 7

The rain begins  
Hopelessly hitting people like fans  
To be hated  
To be unappreciated  
Little kids jumping in their puddles  
Causing great torment, great pain

Everytime the clouds decide it  
Refusal and complaining wasn't allowed  
The clouds were happy to cause rain  
Pain, being hurtful, being selfish

# ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

by Juliet Fillmore, grade 6



Vote for the next animal of the month here:



# CROCHETING

by Giana Uebel, grade 6

With a hook and yarn  
Over and under and through  
A new masterpiece

# GINNE

by Nora Costello, grade 6



# CRICKET

by Lucianne Mensah, grade 6





# BACK TO WONDERLAND WE GO!

by Ameesha Ohneswere, grade 6

Before they started walking they decided that they had enough time to take breaks occasionally. During the first break, two people showed up. Can you guess who? Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum. They watched them from behind the bushes as Alice, the girls, and the White Rabbit kept walking. But when they stopped for a break, Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum took the chance to say “hi”.

“Would you please play with us?” they asked innocently.

“Sorry, but we’re only taking a short break,” replied Alice.

“But the last person that played with us was Alice and that was so long ago that we can’t remember when it was!” Tweedle-Dum told them.

“You know, you look a lot like her!” Tweedle-Dee added pointing at Alice.

“Well boys, that’s too bad. But we really have to get going,” Alice said harshly, “Besides, I’m not Alice!”

Now that they were walking Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum were following them again, but finally after many tries they lost them. So once they lost them Addy decided to ask her mom something.

“Hey Mom, why’d you lie to them?”

“Well Addy, I lied to them about who I was because I knew that if I didn’t we would’ve been there all day,” Alice said reasonably.

“Mom! Look, we’re here!” June shouted.

As Alice looked up she saw a giant castle with lots of steps.

“Now all we have to do is go up those stairs and ask if you can go home,” the White Rabbit tried to say

confidently.

So that’s exactly what they did. When they got through the grand doors they asked the Queen of Hearts if they could go home. The Queen of Hearts had a challenge: Beat her at croquet and go home, lose, and stay there for another decade.

“Okay, deal!” Alice replied.

So as they went out to the giant green courtyard that was so big it looked as if it went on for miles like an ocean, Alice and the girls had a little chat.

“Mom, why’d you say yes? We could end up here for another decade!” June said nervously.

“Mom, please win this,” Addy begged, “I really don’t want to spend ten more years here.”

“Don’t worry girls, I’ve done this before! I promise I won’t let us get stuck here for ten more years,” Alice assured them.

The game began, they flipped a coin to see who would start the game. Alice won. She hit the ball with her mallet, and got it through the hoop! Now it was the Queen of Hearts’ turn. She tried to hit the ball, but missed! It went on like this for the duration of the game. But the Queen of Hearts did actually hit the ball a few times, although it didn’t really do anything considering the ball never actually ended up going through the hoop. The game ended and Alice won!

“Two out of three games! Whoever wins two out of three games wins!” the Queen of Hearts shouted.

So they played two more games and even though she cheated, the Queen of Hearts lost both of those games too. Which means Alice won!

“Yay Mom, we get to go home now!” the girls shouted happily.

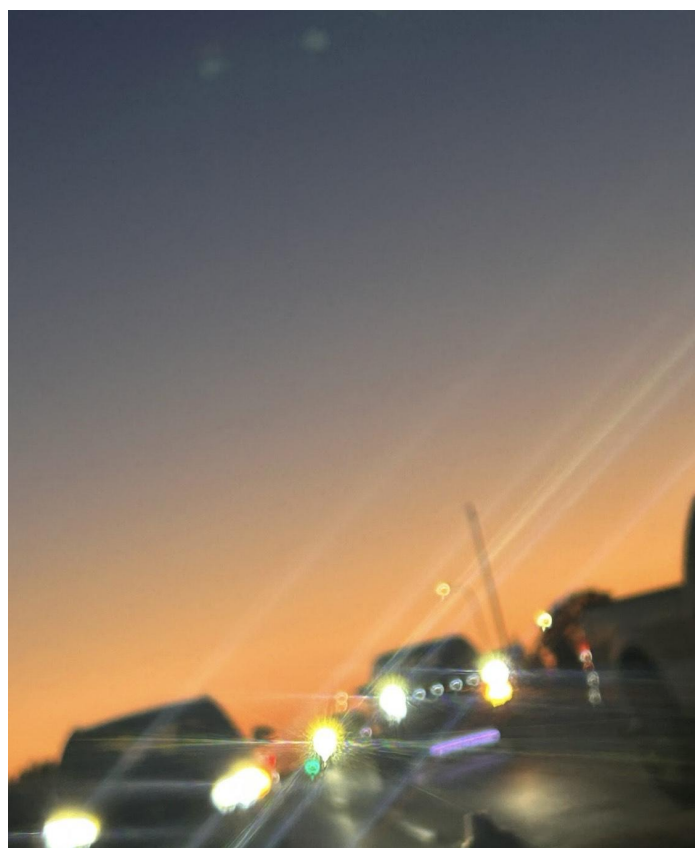
“No, no, no, no! You don’t get to leave!” the Queen of Hearts screamed.

“Yes, we do! This is our decision!” Alice yelled back.

Then POOF! They were back in their world.

“Huh, I guess it really was our decision,” Alice says.

“Actually it was my decision,” Ameesha the author says knowing full well that they can’t hear her.



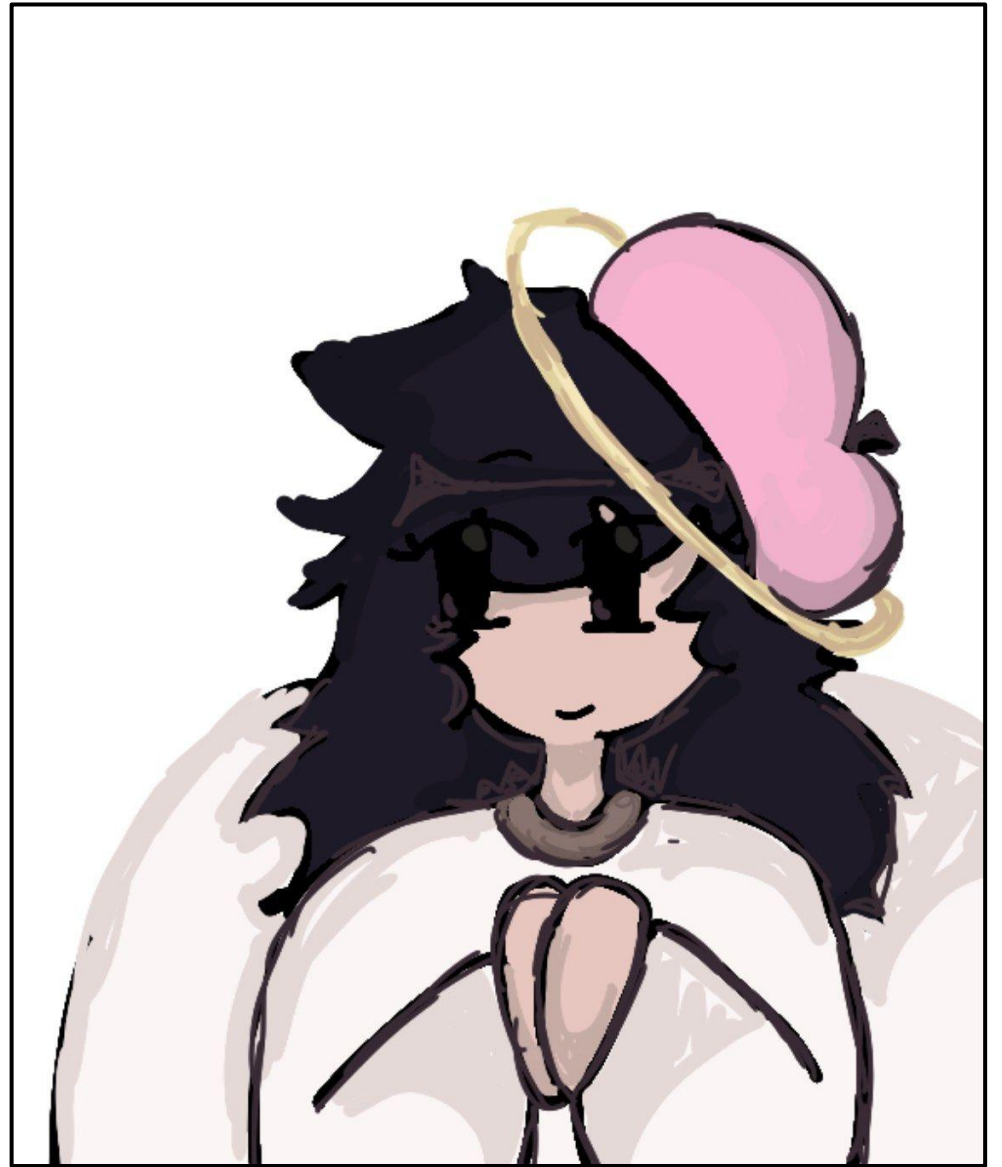
Photos by KaliMarie Fisher, grade 7







by Faye Nichols, grade 6



by Kayla Lakhamone, grade 6

## ALL ABOUT MS. MALONEY

by Mira Oswald, grade 6

Ms. Maloney is one of the counselors at IGHMS. She is also the staff leader for Students for Change (formerly student council) and the staff editor of the Spartan Newsflash. Here are some questions I had for her!

Q: How long have you been working at IGHMS, and why did you choose to work here?

A: "I have been working here for nine years now. When I started counseling I worked at an alternative high school, which is a school for students who need a smaller setting and are struggling academically. I realized I wanted to work with students at a younger age to try and intervene earlier in hopes students could get help earlier and not have to go to an alternative school."

Q: What are some of your favorite hobbies?

A: "I am addicted to books. Last year I read 55! I also do a dance aerobic class that I really like, and I really like to go to Disneyworld and Disneyland. I started reading a lot

when my kids started watching cartoons that annoyed me. I started doing dance because I like to work out, but I also don't like to workout. Dancing makes me feel like I'm not working out. I like Disney world and land because it makes me feel like I



am in a different world. It is one of my happy places."

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "Movies I have probably seen too many times are *Dirty Dancing* and *Princess Bride*. I like *Dirty Dancing* because it has my childhood crush, AKA Johnny Castle, and *Princess Bride* is the perfect cross between an epic romance and comedy."

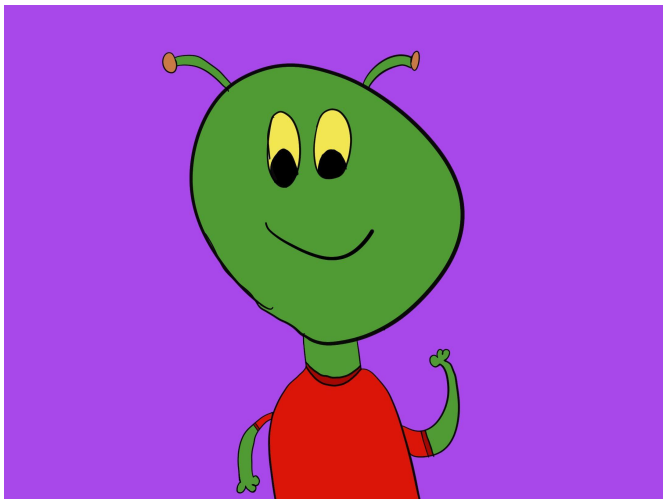
Q: What is your dream travel destination?

A: "Disney does a trip where you can travel all around the world and go to every single Disney park. My dream would be to take that trip and travel around the world seeing all the different Disney parks."

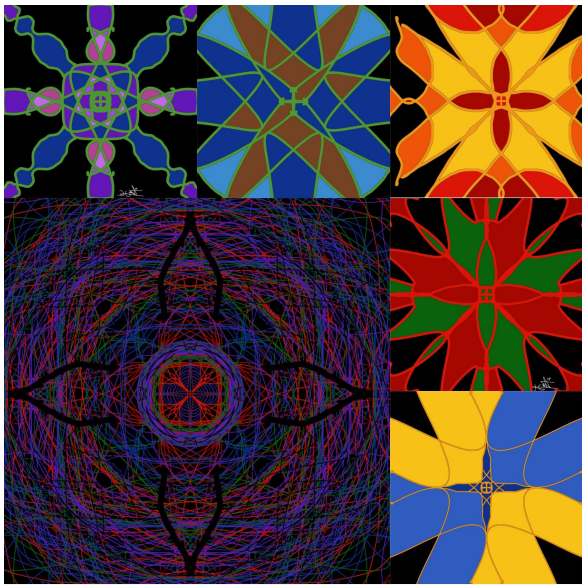
Q: What is your favorite holiday?

A: "I really like the Christmas season because in my family it is a time we get together and spend time together. My favorite part about it is spending time with family, and my kids are young enough, so I like to see the magic of it through their eyes."





by Isla Gruebele, grade 6



by Hunter Hallerman, grade 6

# FUN FACTS ABOUT BUGS, INSECTS, AND ARACHNIDS

by Emma Brainard, grade 8


- 1.) It takes about ten million trips of honey bees getting nectar to make one pound of honey.

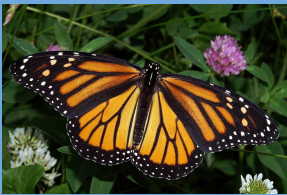
2.) Tarantulas are actually super frail. It takes one small fall to kill them!


3.) It takes about one hundred monarch butterflies to weigh just an ounce.


4.) Insects have been on earth longer than humans.

5.) There are almost as many species of ants alone as there are species of all birds combined.

6.) Some species of termite queens lay approximately 40,000 eggs a day.
- 





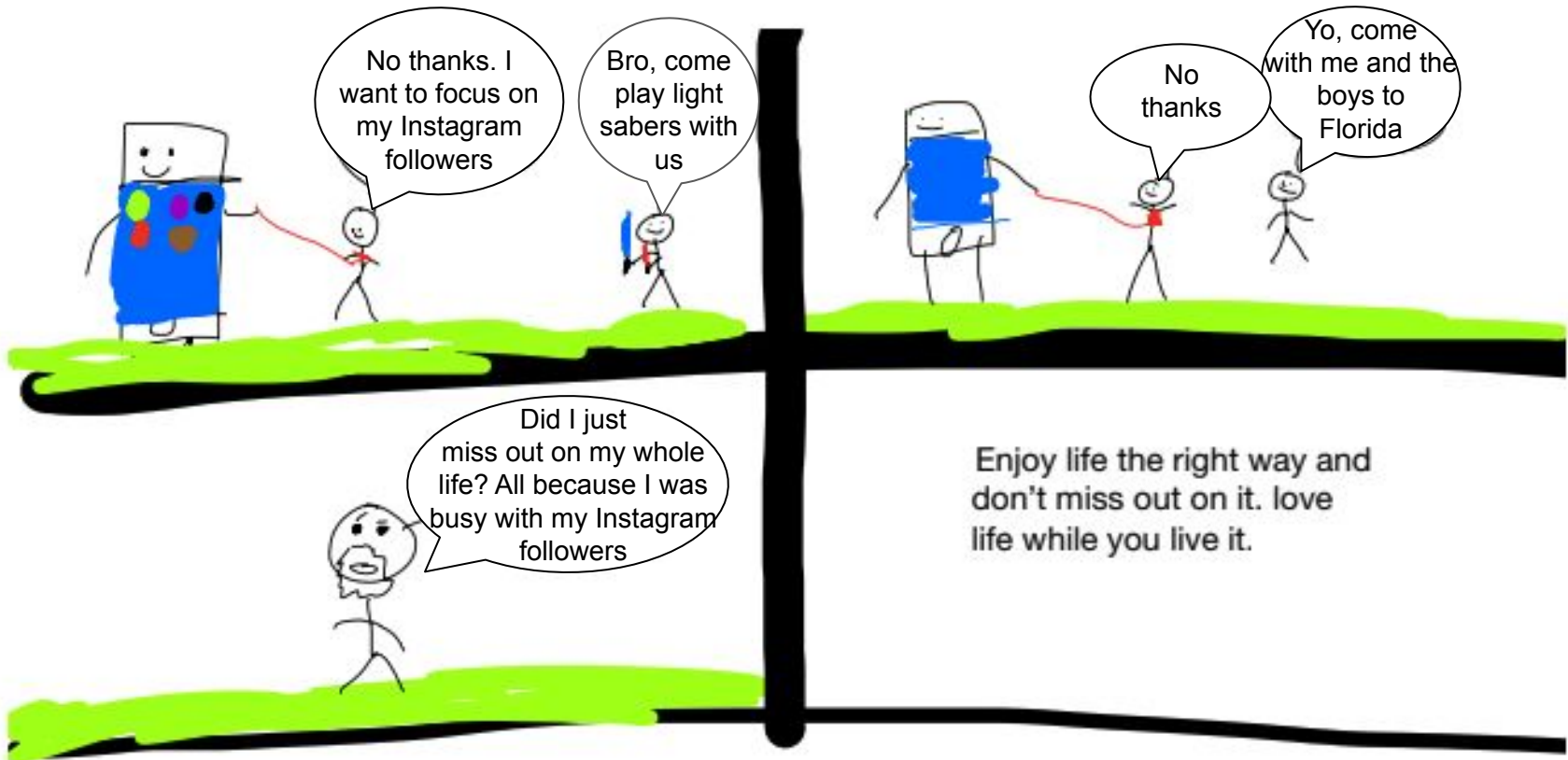

- 7.) The size of a tick can vary from a grain of rice to a marble.

8.) Around 1.5 million insects in the world have been named and yet there are still more to be discovered!

9.) About one third of insects in the world are carnivorous and actually hunt for food instead of eating corpses.

10.) A type of Hawk moth, when intimidated, inflates its thorax (back area) to look like a snake.

Thank you to the Smithsonian Institution for providing me with the fun facts!



Comic by Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez, grade 6



SICK

by Nolan Henry, grade 6

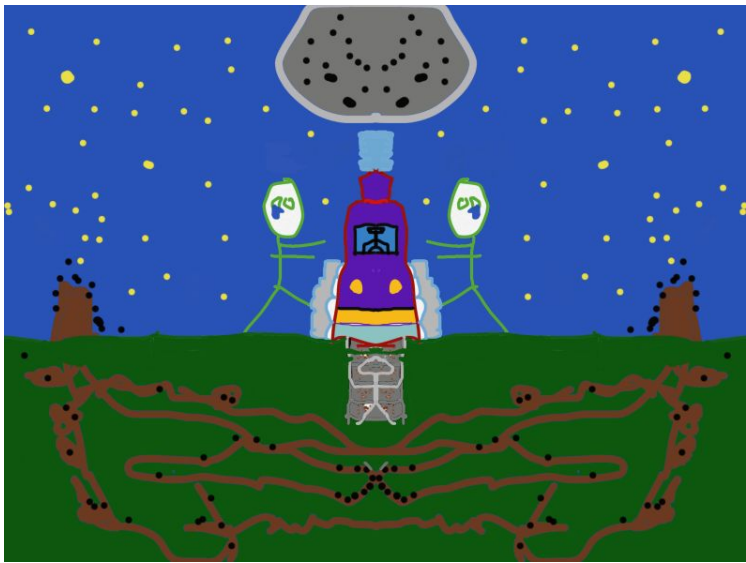
My stomach starts hurting  
My voice is so ruff  
My throat is so dry  
I'm a huff and a puff

I lay down in this chair  
thinking about my fate  
and somehow I know  
I'm going to be okay

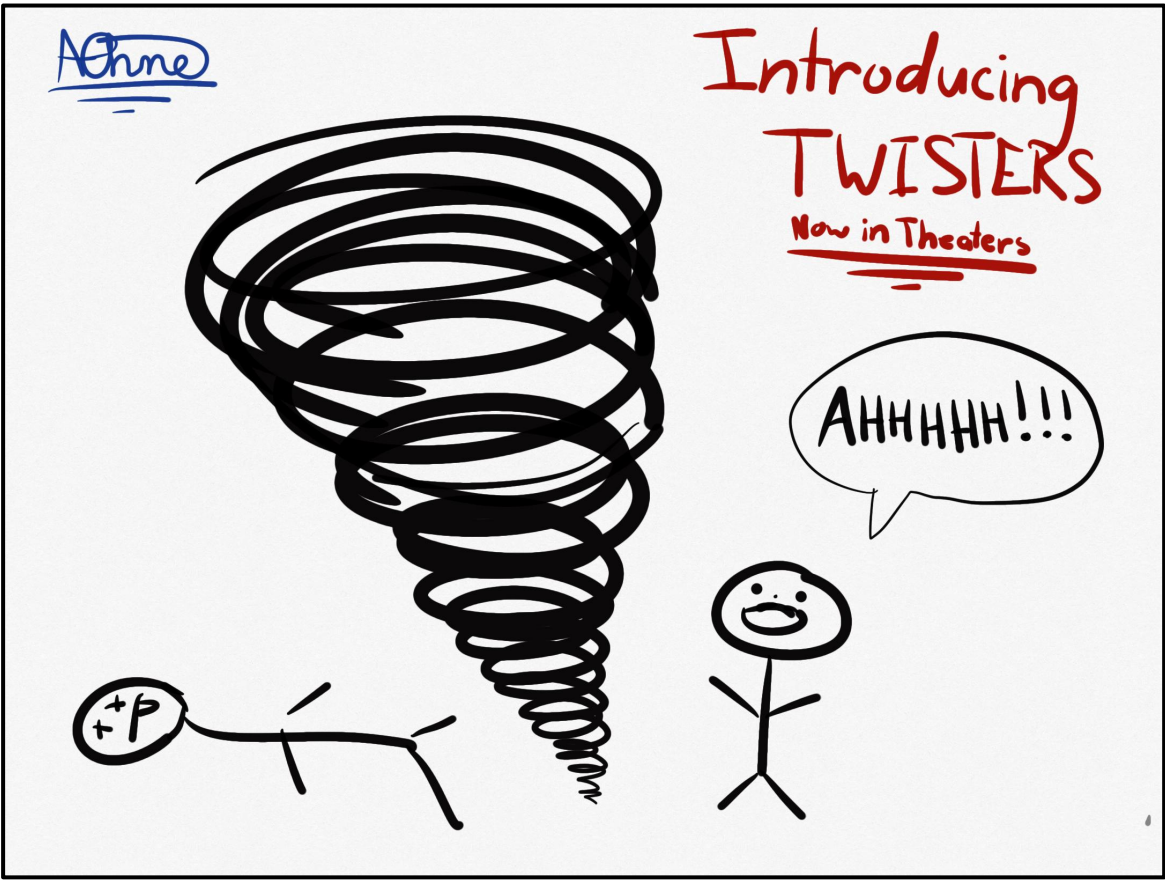
I feel all blah  
So sick and so sneeze  
and then I go home  
and sleep

Staying at home  
not getting work done  
And then I get better  
and have some fun

by Edmundo Lamadrid, grade 6



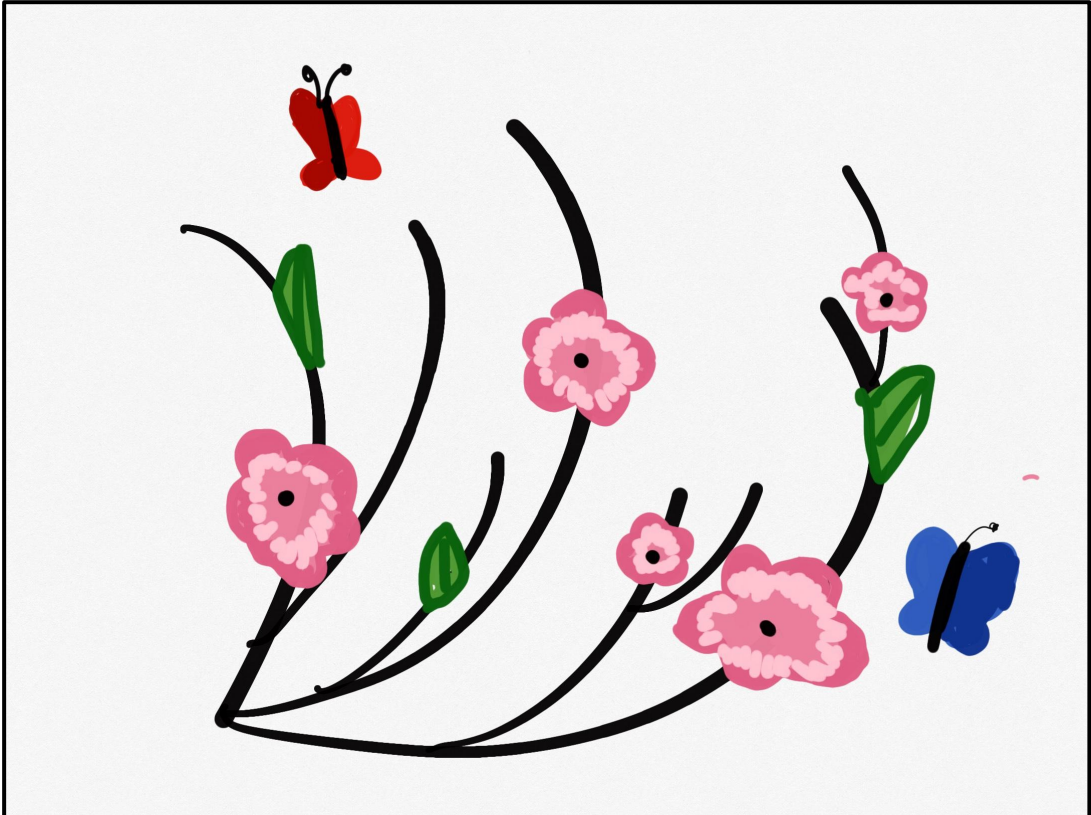
by Isla Gruebele, grade 6



by Ameesha Ohneswere, grade 6



by Makai Schwantes-Morgan, grade 6



by Chloe Willhite, grade 7