

ADVENTURES IN WRITING

Anthology



Written by the students of St. Theresa School
Palatine, Illinois
2009-2010
Volume IX



St. Theresa School Parents' Association

Adventures in Writing

Welcome to Volume Nine of St. Theresa's Adventures in Writing Anthology. Contained in this collection are all the AIW entries for the 2009-2010 school year. Our creative students have submitted a wonderful collection of stories. We hope you have fun reading them.

Here's how the program worked. Six times this year, the K-8 students were issued a creative writing topic. Interested students responded by submitting a composition. Judges were given a copy of the entries (without names) and one outstanding student entry from each grade was selected. These students received special recognition that month and a grand prize. Additionally, all students submitting an entry received a small participation prize for their effort. For those interested, a copy of the anthology was made available via CD.

A total of 173 students participated at least once, submitting a total of 317 stories and over 40,000 words! There were many loyal writers who contributed to nearly every topic.

Many thanks to the following people who made Adventures in Writing possible:

- The St. Theresa teachers and staff for their support and enthusiasm.
- The St. Theresa Parents' Association for sponsoring and funding the program.
- The STS Boy Scout, Tony DeJohn, who made our new AIW mailbox.
- The Adventures in Writing Typists for many hours at the keyboard (Joyce Cipolla, Cindy Deyhle, Anne-Marie Kaiser, Sandy Wiseman, Adrienne Provost, Joan Tuzzolino, Marisue Fasick, Lori Kish, Sandy Stewart, Colleen O'Sullivan, Diane Boler, Jennifer Walcheski, Jennifer Cholpecki and Anne Campbell)
- The Adventures in Writing Judges for taking the time to read the stories and judging the entries (Jen Cholpecki, Carrie Mahnke, Michele Goldstein, Cathy Dilles, Ed Michalowski, Teresa McDermott, Anne Marie Nalley, Ertilia Vittorino, Adrienne Provost, Katherine Hannon, Frank Hannon and JoAnne Kobilarcik)
- Our sponsors included California Pizza Kitchen, Spunky Dunkers, Walker Brothers, St. Theresa Book Fair, Pizza Hut and McDonald's.
- The parents who encouraged their children to write and passed on an enthusiasm for writing which is a lifelong gift.

Lori Engel and Patty Jasonowicz
Adventures in Writing



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

What a Journey!!!!



While traveling this summer with your family to your favorite vacation spot, something strange happened. The driver took a wrong turn! Nobody realized you were driving in the wrong direction until many, many miles later. What happened next?

****New for this year****

Story Starters

If you are having trouble coming up with a story idea, try a story starter. This year you have the option of using one of the starters that will be provided or come up with an idea on your own. Here are this month's story starters.

- All of a sudden my mom screamed, "WHERE ARE WE?"
- We couldn't believe our eyes; the sign said "Home of the World's Largest _____."
- We laughed until we cried when we realized we made a wrong turn. Instead of turning around, we decided to go on an adventure.

Due date: September 18, 2009

Winning entries from each grade will receive a special prize and all writers will receive a participation prize.

Students must submit original work. Completed work should be e-mailed to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com or placed in the Adventures in Writing Mailbox located outside the STS Library. Entries should be 200 words or less. Entries may be typed or handwritten and should include student name, grade and teacher. Younger students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc.

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

The Crazy Mixed-Up Trip

The car, with bikes attached and parachutes on them, flipped upside down and the family parachuted safely to the ground. We landed and rode as fast as we could to our house but instead of finding our house we found the Wisconsin Dells. There were suitcases full of clothes and swimsuits waiting for us. We changed clothes and went to the water slides and we all had a great day. After the day ended, we changed clothes and rode to a close restaurant and had dinner. For dinner, everyone had spaghetti and meatballs and our little brother had noodles. For dessert, the family had brownies with sprinkles on them. After we ate, we went back to the hotel, got our pajamas on and watched a movie called Parent Trap. Then, we all went to bed. The End.

Maddie Monroe, Mrs. Held

Lost in St. Louis

We went on vacation. We wanted pizza. Uncle Robert used his GPS to help, but got us lost. We found an empty yard instead. We found St. Louis pizza five miles away. I loved it!

MaryEtta Brigham, Mrs. Held

Wild Ride

The car drove off the side of a hill and a parachute came out of the car and an airplane ran into it. The airplane flew the car all the way to Hong Kong in China where our friend's house is located. We got out of the car and walked into their house and had dinner. For dinner we used chop sticks to eat noodles. For dessert, my mom made a cookie cake that was delicious.

After we drove home, the family watched the Snow Buddies Movie and it was a lot of fun. We set up a tent and our family slept in it for the night. The End.

Gracie Monroe, Mrs. Duncan

WHAT A JOURNEY!!!

While traveling this summer with my family to our favorite vacation spot, something strange happened. My dad took a wrong turn! Nobody realized we were driving the wrong direction until many, many miles later.

We found a lake but we weren't supposed to find a lake yet. Our mom screamed, "Oh no, we're going the wrong direction!" I felt scared because I saw a tunnel and it was really dark in there and there were creepy spiders. My sister screamed "Dad, turn around!" Then there was a big mountain. We went up the mountain, and then came down the mountain and we saw sand. We went past the sand and saw a lake so we stopped and saw the seashells and picked them up because we like seashells and collect them. We saw a canoe and went inside and paddled. I was scared because it tipped over and we were really wet. Then we swam to the grass and got back in the canoe. We saw a bridge and went under it. On the other side of the bridge there was a fruit tree, so we stopped and picked fruits. We saw an exit sign and we saw our hotel. Mom said "Hooray!" So we went in the hotel and found our room.

By Alexa Gofis, Mrs. Held

What a Journey!

While traveling this summer for our vacation to Door County, my mom took a wrong turn. We ended up in China! We were VERY hungry by then so we ate some Chinese food. It food was very good. China ended up being better than Door County. I guess we will go to Door County next year. Hopefully, we won't make a wrong turn! The End.

Christine Kobilarcik, Mrs. Held

What a Journey!

We couldn't believe our eyes! The sign said "Home of the World's Largest Funny Festival"! When we walked into the festival, the girl in charge gave us funny glasses that lit up. If you were a girl, you saw rainbow colors through the glasses. If you were a boy, you saw your favorite color.

I saw the funniest roller coaster. It kept flashing, making pictures and looked spooky. There was a clown who gave me food to feed the sheep and giraffes. There was another clown that gave me a necklace. A dog did the funniest tricks.

After we saw everything, we took our glasses off. When we looked at the festival without our glasses, it wasn't funny anymore. I guess you had to have funny glasses on to see the World's Largest Funny Festival!

Grace Engel, Duncan

A Wrong Turn

We were in a taxi headed downtown to the Shedd Aquarium and the taxi driver took a wrong turn. We went over to a very pretty place. We got out of the car and we found ourselves in the middle of a garden. I thought it was very lovely and pretty. There were 200 beautiful flowers that sparkled in my eyes. There was a blue lake with an egret in the water.

We found a huge hotel and stayed there for two days. It was called "Hotel in the Garden". On the second day, in the afternoon, we got another taxi and went to the Shedd Aquarium to see the fish. Then we went home in a taxi, also.

Kate Hannon, Miss Duncan

What a Journey!

Once upon a time this summer, my mommy and her friend went to Michigan to visit Grandma Betty and Grandpa Dick. It was very beautiful there and they have a beautiful lake. My mommy and her friends took a long walk. Well, guess what happened??? They found a big box near the bushes by the house. They quickly brought the box in the house. Guess what they found?? A Baby Deer!! It was so little and very cute. They quickly took it out of the box. It was able to walk, but started to cry. They found a baby bottle and fed it milk and it seemed very happy. What were they going to name the baby deer?? They came up with a beautiful name- Maile, the baby deer!!! When my mommy's vacation was over, she and her friend and the baby deer Maile, drove home to Schaumburg. The baby deer liked her new home. They all lived happily ever after.

Maile Fidale, Mrs. Held

SECOND GRADE

*****WINNER*****

What a Journey!

We couldn't believe our eyes. The sign said "Home of the World's Largest Bubblegum!" We were on our way to Disney World, but who could resist visiting the site that housed the world's largest bubblegum especially when bubblegum is my most favorite thing in the whole wide world! So, our vacation took a strange turn and we were off to Bazooka City, a town I call Heaven on Earth. I could not believe my eyes – the town was made of gum! The school, the church and even the parks were all yummy to my tummy gum. I ran to the nearest park bench to taste this wonderful site and as soon as I started to rip off a piece, my eyes saw something that I will remember always – a tower as tall as the Sears Tower that spit out packs of gum when you got near. My sister and I ran as fast as our feet would go to get as much gum as we could. Just as we grabbed our one-thousandth pack of gum, my Mom yelled "Time to go!" So we headed off to find another crazy adventure!

Heather McDermott, Mrs. Guedel

What a Journey!

All of a sudden they saw a sign that said "Welcome to Wisconsin." They all got out of the car and were freezing! They thought they were going to Florida but ended up in Wisconsin. All the kids were wearing shorts and bathing suits, and it was very cold outside. Everyone decided to go to the store and buy some warmer clothes. Then they all went to get a pizza for dinner. After they finished dinner, one of the kids saw a display of maps for the state of Wisconsin.

They all started reading different maps and were looking at places to go. Then all of sudden, someone saw a list of all the water parks. They got back in the car and drove to the closest water park. They all got excited when they saw the water slides and wanted to jump in. They took off their jackets and clothes they just bought, and jumped in. They pretended that they were in Florida and made the best of their trip at the indoor water park.

Olivia Budzisz, Mrs. Reckamp

What a Journey!

We laughed until we cried when we realized we made a wrong turn. Instead of turning around, we decided to go on an adventure in Maine.

First we went snowmobiling in the summer! Nobody knew that there would be snow there in July! I rode by myself and everyone else went a different direction.

I was driving fast and saw a cow right in front of me. Then I stopped and said “hi” to the cow. The cow said “hi” back! I freaked out! Then I had a conversation about how he got here.

He told me that he traveled 2 years to get there and he walked from Salt Lake City Utah. He told me his name was Marvin and I told him my name is Dominic. He told me he started to walk to have an adventure. He ran for a day when a circus genie found him and put a spell on him called “Talkus Palkus”. That’s how Marvin started to talk. Marvin got sent on a mission from the genie. His mission was to find 3 people that could speak “cow”. I was the first person he found and now I went with him on the mission and it took 1 week to find the other kids. The 2nd one was Jake and the 3rd person was John. The 3 of us have special powers that we didn’t know we had. I had “ice” powers, Jake had “fire” powers and John had “water” powers. Marvin’s power was “lava” and is the strongest power of all. We are on a mission to clean up the earth. We fight garbage on the ground. Garbage turns into little monsters that we fight. We throw garbage cans at the little monsters. When we hit them they turn into regular garbage in the can. That is our mission, to recycle. The End

Dominic Tuzzolino, Mrs. Reckamp

THIRD GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Chocolate Wonderland

Once upon a time, there was a family driving from Washington to Florida. After a wrong turn, they ran into some mysterious mountains made out of chocolate and snowcaps of whip cream with a cherry on top! The mother screamed "Where are we?" The kids answered "we're in chocolate wonderland!" They all raced to the mountains and began their chocolate feast. After a while, they became thirsty, but lucky enough, it began to rain milk! So, everyone tried to catch the milk drops by opening their mouth and looking up to the sky. Suddenly, I heard my own mother say, "wake up, it's time for school!" When I woke up, I realized it was all a dream...except for my milk mustache! 🌻

Zachary Kolbus, Burns

What a Journey

My name is Joe. I had a great journey. Here is the story. When I went to Antarctica I traveled all over snow for days. Finally! The snow melted because it turned to summer. Then we had to find a submarine. Then we found one in a wet cave. We had to push it out! Then we ended up in Africa. There were lots of wild animals. We saw lots of wild cats and mammals. My favorite one was a hippopotamus. We also went in a plane to Hawaii. They saw fire and palm trees. We ate at a luau. Our favorite trip was to Japan. It was so long. We went here to see most valuable sculptures. The last tortoise on Earth too! There was a war. Except we were out to South America. In South America there were a few deserts, huts and clay houses. We saw Indians and different cloths. Along all those trips we also ate different foods that were awesome kinds!

The normal trip was to Arizona. We saw cowboys and guns. My coolest time at Arizona was holding and using real guns. At Arizona we saw a play with guns and knives. It was super cool! Have you been on a journey? I loved our last trip to Korea. It was totally awesome because I was watching the Korean War and Vietnam War. Hawaii was our other trip. World War II was there too!

Joshua Dysangco, McDermott

What a Journey

He found out that he was going the wrong way and he found out that he went too many miles. And he really wanted to go on that vacation. And then probably after a while he turns around and goes the other way. And after that he might go back home or go on the vacation. Cause he might have rented a house or not. And even if he did rent a house he still could have went home and still he could have went on the vacation.

Jake Nelson, McDermott

The Scariest Family Vacation

My family was driving to the beach for summer vacation. On the way there, my dad took a wrong turn. We saw a sign that said, “World’s Largest Snapping Turtle Zoo” up ahead. We decided to visit the zoo.

On the way there, we saw a strange monkey-man in the middle of the road. My dad had to stop and honk at him. He moved out of the way, and my dad asked, “Why were you in the street?” The monkey-man said, “I was just checking the letters in my bag. You see, I’m a mail-monkey.”

My dad said, “What’s at the World’s Largest Snapping Turtle Zoo? Is it dangerous to go there?” The monkey-man said, “It’s only dangerous when the turtle gets very mad.” We started moving along toward the zoo. Then we saw another monkey-man, who was using a banana for a telephone. He said, “Please don’t bother me. I’m busy right now.”

We kept going. Then we made it to the zoo and went inside. We were looking around and saw a man. We asked him, “What is the zoo all about?” He said, “We have the largest turtles here, but one of them has gone missing. We need to find him before he makes trouble. Can you please help us?” We looked around the zoo and found an empty cage with big footprints leading into the rain forest. Then we saw it – the huge turtle. We started to scream and run. The turtle saw us and gulped us down. We decided this could be another adventure and looked around inside his stomach. We met another man in there and said, “How long have you been here?” He said, “500 years!” We tickled the back of the turtle’s throat and made him laugh. He spit us all right out. We ran to our car and decided never to visit the Snapping Turtle Zoo again.

Elizabeth Provost, Burns

What a Journey!!!

Once we were driving to South Dakota. My Dad took a wrong turn, but no one noticed. There was a big open area outside. We thought something was wrong. Then we saw a sign that said “Welcome to Omaha”. Then my Dad made a u-turn. Nobody knew what to do. Then we typed it into our GPS system. We found our way on to the road that we were supposed to be on. From that time on, my Mom held the map. My Dad kept asking her over and over again, “where should we go?” Finally, we got to our hotel. It took us 14 hours because we made that one wrong turn. Everyone was exhausted. It was 4:00 in the morning. We got to our hotel room and slept in until 11:00 a.m.

Cece Kaiser, Burns

What a Journey

We were traveling this summer to the Bahamas. And while we were traveling we stopped at a couple places and took pictures for school. Then something happened. We must of turned the wrong way so my Mom screamed! It got darker and darker and darker! We were lost! It took two days to find light. When we found light we were in a strange place in the jungle. We got out of the car and looked around at all of the green trees and vines. A three toed sloth slowly climbed across a tree limb above us. Then we looked down and saw a weird cave. We entered the cave and saw some bats above us! We went deep into the cave and saw sparkling diamonds and rubies! "It is amazing!" said my brother and I! Then we got back in car and drove. Then all of a sudden we saw a spider monkey that tapped me on the back. You won't believe it but he gave me a map to go to the Bahamas!

Paige Hoadley, Burns

What a Journey

One day my family and I were going to South Dakota. We got all packed up and got in the car and got on the road. We went to get onto route 90 but somehow ended up on route 70. We started going up a big hill and it made my ears pop. We kept going up the hill so high that we couldn't see any cars. I then saw some clouds, but we still didn't stop. I then started seeing stars but again we didn't stop. We started to stop when we were at Mars, but my dad then said we won't stop until we get to Pluto. We finally got to Pluto and my dad thought we were at Pluto, South Dakota. So we get out and unload the car. When we didn't see a front door my dad said we must be on Pluto the ice ball that used to be a planet. We had a big laugh that it was one big wrong turn when we didn't get on route 90.

Tim Fasick, Burns

What a Journey

We couldn't believe our eyes: the sign said "Home of the World's Largest Haunted House!" Jack was astonished! He had never been to a real haunted house before, but he was kind of scared. Before Jack saw the sign, he and his family were heading to Niagara Falls, but they took a few wrong turns and ended up in New Orleans- the most haunted city in the USA! Jack and his older sister, Emily, went into the haunted house and when they got out, their parents were gone! They looked for a mom with kids to ask for help, but nobody was to be seen. Luckily, Emily had her cell phone and it had GPS and was able to locate their parents. Once they met up with their parents, they found out what had happened. Their baby brother, Joseph, started crying so their parents decided to drive him around until he fell asleep. After that, they all went out to lunch to figure out how they messed up trying to get to Niagara Falls and how they were going to get out of New Orleans???

Dave Budzisz, Burns

What a Journey

We couldn't believe our eyes; the sign said "Home of the World's largest baseball bat". We were in Louisville, Kentucky!

Out my window I saw Louisville Slugger Baseball Museum and Factory. Outside there was the largest baseball bat I've ever seen in my life .It looked as tall as the Statue of Liberty! When we went inside we took a tour.

I saw a lot of cool stuff and I even got a new bat! We saw my sister Katie at University of Louisville!

Ethan Kelly, Burns

What a Journey!

Dad said "Where are we?"

Tom didn't know what to do. "Dad," said Tom, "Where are we going?"

"I don't know," Dad said. So he kept going straight.

Then Alissa said, "I think we're in Arizona."

Mom said, "Hey!" That's the school I went to when I was in High School!" She was telling us about how good high school was. She said it was a BLAST!

Then two hours later, we were in New Mexico. Dad said "This is where I went to college." Then we stopped at a hotel to eat and sleep.

The next morning, I wouldn't believe this. We were in Nevada! "How did we get here?" Dad asked. I think we stopped by Nevada to see new stuff.

Alissa said, "I think I would want to go to that High School."

Tom loved the trip. He was having a BLAST, too!

Then, 6 more hours later, we were in South Dakota. Dad announced, "We're 2 more states until Chicago, Illinois."

"Yeah!" Everybody shouted.

Fore more hours later, Dad announced, "We're home kids!"

"Yeah!"

We all ran inside.

Timmy Carslisle, Burns

What a Journey!

We were going to the Grand Canyon! I was so excited! We were sure that we'd get there but somebody accidentally set the GPS to San Francisco! After more than a day in the car, I was really bored, so I said "Why is this taking us so long?" Mom said to keep calm, but after a few hours she began to think something was wrong too. After a few hours we saw a sign by the road that said San Francisco.

We were happy but surprised. Who would think that we were going to the Grand Canyon but ended up in San Francisco.

Nicholas Szoblik, McDermott

What a Journey!

We were on our way to California. We just left an hour ago. We're almost half way there. Everyone's tired and confused! We were all asleep except my dada. He almost fell asleep though. Somewhere around there this happened. We took a wrong turn heading to Washington! When we woke up my mom screamed "Where are we?" She saw the sign that said Washington 2 miles. My little sister Sarah asked if we were there yet. My mom's face froze. We parked at an old hotel. It was called the George Washington Motel. We unloaded all the suitcases and that afternoon we went to the beach but no one wanted to go but my parents thought it would be relaxing. It was well for them. I made sure that Sarah didn't go out in the water too far. After that we went to dinner. That night I had a weird dream, I was in the car on our way to California then I woke up and I saw the sign that says "you are now entering California" and I knew it was a dream. We had a great time there! In LA we went to the beach and this time it was relaxing.

Sophia Youman, Burns

FOURTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

What a Journey

Once my dad and I went to Michigan to pick up my dog, Noah. I fell asleep in the car, so I didn't notice when he made a wrong turn. When I woke up, it didn't look like Michigan any more. There were palm trees and beaches. It looked like Florida. What I saw next made my mouth drop open...it was a slide that was higher than the Sears (Willis) Tower. My dad said I could go down it once. The slide was so high, big and long, I was in my bathing suit in no time! It took two hours to climb up the stairs, so I felt good when I got to the top. I went down the slide really fast at first, but next I went into a long tunnel. There was music playing. It was "Hot and Cold" so sometimes the water was hot and sometimes it was cold. The slide was so long that I fell asleep on it. When I woke up, there was a big splash, and I was at a dog breeder's house holding my puppy. I told my dad what happened, but he didn't believe me. He said it was just a dream. Inside my heart, I knew I had taken my own little vacation but I wasn't going to fight with my dad now. I had taken a vacation and I had a puppy.

Maeve Schumacher, Wozniak

Family Trip

One night my parents decided to take a family trip. Later that night our parents told us that we were going on vacation. We were going to Florida. The next morning we woke up early and went to the airport. We stayed there for a long time and got something to eat. Later, we all got on the airplane. After an hour of flying, the pilot made a wrong turn. Nobody knew he made a wrong turn. Two hours later, we landed. It looked like the whole island was made of cotton candy, gum, mints, suckers, cookies, frosting, and a lot more sweets. Then I saw a sign. It said "Welcome to Candy Land". We all didn't know what to do! First we tried swimming back but we couldn't. Then we tried building a raft but it didn't work. It had way too many holes. Later that night we built a tent and slept in it. The next morning I went swimming in the ocean. Then my foot hit something. It was a big tube that led to home! That morning we all crawled home.

Rachel Gruszka, Wozniak

Cactus Climbing

This year, I was going to St. Louis to visit my cousins on vacation. My dad made a left turn instead of a right when we were almost to their house. I realized we made a wrong turn; we decided not to turn around and kept driving for hours and hours. Then we saw a sign that said "Welcome to Texas". I said "WOW!! Where are we going to stop for the night?" We drove up to a random house and asked if we could stay the night. They said, "Yes." We brought some stuff in the house. A lot of people lived there. Ten people, 8 kids and 2 adults. There were 3 boys and 5 girls. Their names were Katie, Alexis, Rebecca, Norah, Kaitlyn, John, Anthony, and Bob. They were a nice family. We stayed a few days with them. We played Hopscotch and who can climb the cactus the fastest. We slept on their screen porch. I was really sad to leave. We said goodbye and set off for home. It was a great vacation.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Wozniak

FIFTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Lost in a Toe-tally New Place

While traveling to our summer vacation spot, my Dad took a wrong turn. We noticed it many miles later. We exited the highway and saw a sign. We couldn't believe our eyes: the sign said "Home of the World's Largest Toenail." My mother gasped, I freaked out and my brothers screamed "AWESOME!" We were so lost, we got a hotel room in the Toe Inn that night. It was even shaped like a toe. My dad checked us in, my mom was freaked out, my brothers were very cheerful, and I thought it smelled like a sock.

My Dad decided we needed to see "THE TOENAIL" before we left. My mom fainted at the news. My brothers shouted, "YES!" I told my Dad I'll be getting my toenails painted at the Toe-tally Toes Salon. He said, "No."

We got out of the car and entered the toenail museum. "Gross," I whispered. There was only one thing in the museum, the toenail. We all went to look at it. It just looked like a big toenail. My brothers said, "BIG DEAL".

We left and got back on the highway.

Katelyn Kurrie, Duff

What a Journey

My family and I were traveling this summer to our favorite spot, The Freezing Fountain. It's a great vacation spot because it's at the highest mountain in Canada so the waters are very cold. Wildlife comes in the water, too! There is a sauna near the water so you won't get frostbite. Anyway, while we were traveling, we got stopped by a red light. We were traveling with my 3 hamsters and somehow they all escaped in the car. They all got on the pedal in the car and the car started to go through the red light. We zoomed past the sign that said "Welcome to Freezing Fountain". The hamsters finally got off the pedal and we came to a complete stop. My mom screamed out, "Where are we?" We looked around and found a sign that read "Get your fresh coffee in Alaska!" And another sign that read "Alaska a great place to ski!" We had a feeling we weren't in Canada anymore.

How did we get here? Did we cross water? My dad screamed, "I love Alaska!" I said, "Well, let's not turn around to go back to Canada. We should stay and have some other fun." We saw a sign for Moosey Mooser's Hotel. They have the world's largest pinball machine. So we spent the night under a big moose. Even though we did not go to Canada, I think that the trip was perfect. I thought it was time for a change anyway.

Michele Marvin, Duff

What a Journey

While traveling this summer to Disney World, my Dad took a wrong turn. No one noticed until we saw a sign that said we were in Canada! My Dad turned around and said, "You guys... don't panic, but we are in Canada right now." We all started laughing because we thought he was joking. But once we saw the sign that said "Welcome to Canada", we started to scream. My mom said it was okay and that we should take a few days to spend some time in Canada to see the sights. During the time we spent there, we saw the world's biggest pancake, the world's largest bottle of hairspray, and the world's smallest piano. I even got to play it! When we were at "Paul's Potato Palace", we saw the biggest french fry I have ever seen! The next day, we went to Disneyworld. My brothers and sisters and I were sad to leave Canada. It was a great trip! I hope we make another wrong turn during our next vacation, because this one was so much fun.

Grace Kaiser, DelGuidice

Nowhere, Nevada

We took the classic car trip: take a wrong turn in the middle of the desert, and end up in the middle of nowhere. (Someone actually spray-painted a sign that said: WELCOME TO NOWHERE, NEVADA POPULATION: 0!)

"I *told* you we should have brought the GPS," my 8-year-old sister, Sara, complained, "Now we're gonna be stuck here for the rest of our lives." "It's *going to*, not *gonna*," my mom, a high school English teacher, corrected. "Besides, I have some trail mix in the car. I'll go get it." "NO FAIR!" Sara whined a few minutes later. "His trail mix has more M&Ms than mine." "Geez, what's all of the fuss for?" I asked, giving her a green M&M. "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!! It's a s-s-s-snake!!" Sara screamed and dove into the van. "It's okay. It's only a king snake, and it's not poisonous," I told her, bending over the red, yellow, and black-banded snake. Slowly Sara's head emerged from a suitcase. Cautiously, she removed one foot, then the other and gradually stepped from the van. Just then my dad, who was studying a map of Nevada, spoke up. "Don't worry, kids. There's a city called Reno only 86 miles away!" "But *Daaaaad*, that's almost *two hours* away," Sara complained as we trudged back to the car.

Four hours and two stops at McDonald's later, we finally arrived in Los Angeles. As we pulled into our hotel's parking lot, my mom said, "Next year, let's just take an airplane." "Good idea," I said.

Stephen Hannon, Duff

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

What a Journey!

We couldn't believe our eyes: the sign said "Home of the World's Largest Slice of Bacon! Nebraska!" I've always wanted to go there! I said, "Mom, did you plan this just for me?!" My sisters made a face at me. Mom said, "Oh no, Lauren! You were holding the map the wrong way!" I hugged Lauren gratefully and jumped out of the car. "I want to eat it!" said Grace.

Our vacation was supposed to be a nice week in Florida. I thought this vacation would be much better!! Dad completely agreed and by the time we caught up with him he already had a week's worth of tickets and a room at the Bacon in a Pan Hotel. We've never been here, but we have been to the Whipped Cream Park in Kentucky. First, our family got a picture with Mr. Bacon Jr. Then Lauren and I went to the grease bacon slide. Grace and Dad went to the Bacon Café and Mom went to the Bacon Gift Shop. We ate and were around bacon so much that week we started to smell and look like bacon! I made a mistake and took a bacon grease bath and was slimy all the way home. We started school the next day. I know what my answer is going to be when my teacher says, "What did you do over the summer?"

Rachael Engel, Crane

What a Journey

We were on the way to Ohio this summer and we stopped at a gas station to fill up our gas tank. My little brother said "I sure wish that we would get baseball cards on this trip." I replied "Yeah, me too." My dad came back in the car and we hit the road again. After a couple hours we were in a strange and mysterious town. My dad said, "This isn't Cleveland!" So we got out of the car and we saw a mysterious factory. Dominic (my little brother) ran up and read the dusty sign. He read Frankman's Card Factory on the sign. He yelled "Hey, let's go in!" So we went inside and we saw billions and billions of card and card sets. There were Baseball cards, Football cards, etc. So Dominic goes and starts piling baseball cards in his pockets. Of course the alarms go off and we get locked in! I yell "OH GREAT!!!!!!!" to him. So we walk around and we meet a man named Nicholas Goodman. We asked him what he was doing here and he told us he took a wrong turn and ended up here. He said that he had been in there for 5 years. I ask him if he had any ideas how to get out of there, so he showed us a pen. Dominic yells "A PEN!" "WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH A PEN!" He said "It's not an ordinary pen, it's a laser pen!" We gasped and we tried it on the door. It worked! So he thanked us and ran away. When we arrived in Cleveland, we saw his face on the cover of the paper. It said, "NICHOLAS GOODMAN FOUND X GAMES THANKFUL." We were surprised and we were proud of ourselves

John Tuzzolino, Crane

What a Journey!

We had been on the road for a long time when we saw a sign that said “Welcome to the Home of the Longest and Oldest Bridge in the World.” Nobody on the bus had been there so we kept on going. When we got to the bridge, we could not see the other end. It was a long rope bridge with cracked planks and thin suspension wires. Everyone wanted to get off because it would not be able to hold up the bus. But the bus driver said we couldn’t get off till the next stop. The driver slowly drove the bus onto the bridge. I think we were halfway when I sneezed. The whole bridge collapsed. We were falling for what felt like an hour. Finally, we hit the ground. We landed on the road that went to our vacation spot. No one was hurt and we had a great vacation.

John Jasonowicz, Crane

What a Journey!

My family and I were driving to my favorite place, Las Vegas. But, when we took the wrong turn we weren’t on our way to Las Vegas anymore. We didn’t want to turn around so we kept going. We did not know where we were going but we were going somewhere. Then, we turned right and saw a big sign that read “This way to the future”. When I read that sign I thought we were going to an amusement park, but when we got there we were actually in the future. There were robots, people flying, and flying cars. In fact we were the only people on the ground. Then, we went to the rental car place and traded in our car for a flying car. We decided that we had had a wonderful experience and it was time to go. We all were very excited to show our friends our new car. Luckily one of the robots used to live in Illinois so they got us back home. It was an amazing journey!

Gabby Mascari, Liska

What a Journey!

My family and I go to my grandpa’s lake every year. One day we were going there when a giant platypus crossed the road! It scared us so much that we swerved off the road onto a dusty path. None of us wanted to go back to where we encountered the accident. We just went on.

The drive is usually a few hours, but after we took the wrong turn, it seemed to go on forever! My brother and I were tired of playing with our games and had sung every song we knew. At last, after hours and hours of driving, we found a highway. We had been lost for about three days and had eaten every crumb in our car. We started driving on the highway. Suddenly my brother found an old map! We found out that there was a gas station two miles away, and that we were in Kentucky.

We went to the gas station and we got directions to go home and we drove back home. Although we missed a lot of school, we were able to tell an amazing story and say that giant platypuses do really exist!

Sophie Kish, Ellis

What a Journey!

My family and I started our summer vacation driving to Las Vegas. As we were driving my mom read the map wrong and gave my dad incorrect directions. We took a wrong right turn on I90 and ended up in Washington. With no place to stay, we called our cousins who live in Seattle to see if we could stay with them. They said “Yes” and gave us directions to their house. But as we were driving to their house we got lost again. We ended up at a little farm that grew strawberries. We asked the farmer for directions back to the main road and he said “I don’t get out much so I don’t know how to get back out there. But you are welcome to stay here for awhile and pick some strawberries.” Then we borrowed some baskets to pick some strawberries for a sweet snack. After enjoying a sweet strawberry snack we said goodbye and left to our cousin’s house. We stayed there for a 4 day vacation. And the best part is we got home without getting lost.

Emily Fasick, Crane



What a Journey!

My family was packing up to go to Disney World. We got in the car so excited and started driving to Florida. In the meantime, my family and I were watching movies, playing games and having fun! We stopped for some lunch but then we got right back on the road. We drove for about 10 hours and we noticed a sign that said Welcome to Texas. We all laughed and said, "Let's go on an adventure and we can go to Disney World another time. I was kind of sad that I wouldn't be riding Splash Mountain, Space Mountain or the Teacups but I was excited for our adventure. My mom, dad, my sisters .Anne, Katie, Lauren and Colleen, my brother Steve and I all shouted, "We went the wrong ways" We decided to go to Six Flags in San Antonio. We got there at Six Flags very excited to ride all the roller coasters. Now we know the importance of looking at a map when driving on a family vacation. But we had a great time!

Megan Drolet, Liska

What a Journey!

Last year I was so excited. It was our family vacation and I couldn't wait! I kept thinking about it, and couldn't fall asleep. Finally, the day had come! It was the day I had been waiting for weeks! I had been packed since the day I found out we were going on vacation, and the day had come! We loaded our luggage into the car and hopped in! We were driving to Florida, so you can make many wrong turns and things like that, but we were on the right path; at least we *were*...

Suddenly night fell and we were getting ready to stop at a nearby hotel when we heard a howl. Then a growl. Before we knew what was happening, we were driving through the forest, animal eyes watching us in the darkness. My brother, Mike, screamed so loudly and I shivered. Mom cried, "WHAT'S THE MATTER?!" Mike and I looked at her. What's the matter? We're driving through a forest at night with wild animals in the middle of nowhere, no big deal. Mike asked, "Why aren't you scared, Mom?" She laughed and replied, "We are going to Florida, why should I be?" I guess we weren't going the wrong way after all!

Paige Patano, Liska

What a Journey!

One day my mom came in my room and said start packing we're going on a road trip to California. The next morning we left at 6 in the morning. My brothers, my mom, and I were singing songs the whole way there. When my mom was singing she lost her way, and we were headed in the wrong direction. Finally, a couple miles after we realized that a sign said, "Home of the World's Largest Bears." Our whole family was scared. We decided to drive and try to find someone.

A couple hours later, we found a museum. We went inside the museum, and looked around. Suddenly, we looked straight ahead and saw enormous bears. We asked if that is what the sign meant, and he said yes. So on our way home we learned to never sing songs while driving, and even when you mess up you still have fun.

Kathryn Serena, Ellis

What a Journey!

This summer was a summer I would never forget. This summer I went to Calikun Island. I entered this contest that would take my family and me on the wildest adventure in our lives! My family was one of the few who won. On Aug. 5th, 2009 we were flown to Calikun Island right off the coast of the Bahamas, where we met Towi the host. Towi told us that we would have to face obstacle courses. Once we heard that we were excited. The next day after we slept in the royal palace we were up and ready to face the first obstacle. Towi told us that there were 5 flags hidden on the island and the family with the most flags won. The Haridendi family won with 3 flags. Then we had a delicious feast. The next day the obstacle challenge was to hike up the mountain and to find the major flag. My family was up for it and started on the path but then my little brother, Pat, took a wrong turn and headed us to the volcano. Once we got there we figured out that we had gotten lost so then we tried to find the way back. After 2 hours of looking for the flag, we finally found it and we were the Calikun Island champions! We went home and were very glad to be home. That was the best summer ever!

Jayne DePaolis, Liska

What a Journey!

It was a nice summer day, and my family and I were driving to Ohio for vacation. What we didn't know was that soon we would have the best times of our lives. We were halfway there, and my dad was using a very old map to get there. He read it wrong, and turned left onto a strange road instead of right onto the correct road. He stopped at a weird building, thinking it was our hotel. We went inside and found we were in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. He saw us and said, "Wow. People never come here! Would you like me to give you a tour?" We all said, "Sure!" It was amazing! He gave us chocolate, showed us how he made the candy, and even let us meet the Oompa Loompas! At the end of the tour I said, "I'm sorry I have to go." Then Willy Wonka said, "What are you talking about?! I'm giving the factory to you." My family and I were so happy. We even got a lifetime supply of chocolate. It is awesome owning a chocolate factory. Especially when Willy Wonka gave it to you!

Anthony Betti, Liska

What a Journey!

All of a sudden my mom screamed, "Where are we?!?" The driver said, "I must of took a wrong turn, my bad." "Well, we are already 5 miles away from the road," said my mom. I said, "Why don't we take an adventure." Then everyone said, "OK." So then we went to Mexico. In Mexico they went swimming and scuba diving. "I think the gear is really heavy," I said. "This was the best adventure ever!" said Dad. Everyone said, "I loved this vacation."

Julia Nelson, Liska

What a Journey!

All of a sudden my mom screamed, “WHERE ARE WE?” Luckily my mom noticed because ahead of us was a big black spinning vortex. My mom tried to steer the car away but the force was too strong. Then the next minute we woke up in some bright sunny town. We were looking around it was the weirdest thing there were flying cars and flying fish. We all agreed that we were in the future. Once we found a place to stay we looked around town. Everyone was staring because we were the only people walking everyone else had chairs that would bring them where they wanted to go. Finally, we had the guts to go up to someone and ask for directions to get back. The people we went up to were very nice and they understood what happened, but they said the only way we could get back was to go across town to the wise old wizard. When they reached the wizard castle we explained everything that happened. After a few minutes of thinking he said he had a machine that we could go in, then he could do a spell and we would go back. So we agreed but when he went to get his book it was gone. We looked all over town, in tons of book stores everywhere! Finally we checked the simplest place, the kitchen. When we got in the kitchen we found it on the counter and realized the wizard’s wife had mistaken it as a cook book. Then the wizard told up to get in the machine and said, “BIBITY SHOMPITY FOOO.” When we finally got back we were on the same road as before and my mom told us we should just skip the vacation for this year. That night I thought to myself and realized everything simple is very nice like there is no need for flying chairs and flying cars. And especially no need for fancy vacations.

Katherine Masterson, Ellis

SEVENTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Summer Vacation

This summer, my family and I were on vacation and lost in the dry desert of Arizona. Suddenly, my brother said “What’s that?” It was something big and yellow. Then I saw a sign that read, “Home of the Largest Rubber Ducky”. The duck was floating in a lake. It was the only water we had seen for hours. As we got closer, we could see that the rubber duck had a big polka-dotted inner tube around it and it was wearing sunglasses. We pulled over to get a better look. Suddenly, the duck spoke. “Turn around,” it said. My dad turned the car around. “Turn right,” the rubber ducky said. We turned right. “Go forward for half a mile,” it said. We did as we were told. Half a mile later, we had arrived at the highway we were supposed to be on! “Thanks,” we called back to the rubber duck. “You’re welcome,” it replied. After a few more hours in the car, we finally reached our destination, the Grand Canyon. We had a great time there, but I think the real highlight of our trip was the mysterious yellow rubber duck.

Clare Hannon, Amador

What a Journey!

Finally! Spring break, I couldn’t wait to go to Arizona for a week and a half. Just sitting in the sun, swimming, and all the food I want. So I went to bed extra early so I wouldn’t be tired. Come on, I have to wake up at 2:00 AM? So I wake up and drive to the airport and make the plane just on time. Thank goodness we were flying but when we heard the pilot speak while we were in the air he said we are going to Carson City Nevada! Oh no! My sun! My pool! My food! But wait, I’m going to Carson City where they have amazing things so I guess you could say I don’t mind.

Matt McElheny, Mrs. Strysik

What a Journey!

One day my family and I were flying to Florida. So when we were waiting to get on the plane, we couldn’t go on because of turbulence, and some thunderstorms. So, after awhile we finally got on, but then something happened to the plane. Again, we had to get transferred to a new plane and wait for it to arrive. In all, my family and I waited over six hours at the airport. This is a true story. Now, my family will make sure to plan a plane flight on a nice and sunny day with no wind.

Michael Harden, Mrs. Strysik

“What a Journey”

Every year the whole side of my dad’s family goes to Michigan. This year, my cousin, Sarah drove my sister and me. At two hours into the trip, we knew there was a half hour left. When we were listening to our favorite song, the GPS told us to go left. We didn’t hear it so we took a right. After about two miles, we ended up in a creepy alley. Turns out it was a short cut to our house. It was the best vacation of my life!

Ellen Finis, Fitzgerald

What a Journey!!!!

While on our way to a fancy resort in central Michigan, my mom suddenly realized we were miles and miles off the route. The cab driver was leading us into a very laid-back suburban area, instead of the beautiful, exquisite city. As we tried getting the cab driver’s attention, we finally realized that no matter how loud we yelled at him, he would go where he wanted to go, and there was so way of getting around it.

About twenty minutes after we gave up on giving him new directions, he let us and our bags out in front of an old, crumbly and small hotel on the tip on Wisconsin. You should have seen our faces! We were so upset that we barged right into the inn and started complaining to the teenage girl running the front desk like it was her fault. She remained calm and very kindly called the owner. We explained to him what happened in a tired out way and he let us have one free night to stay, but if we decided to stay, we would have to pay same as everyone else. My parents tried not to show a doubtful look on their face, and thanked the owner for his kind hospitality.

The only thing we could do at night was curl up in blankets on the front lawn as a family and talk about our favorite and funniest memories. It actually was not that bad, and was actually fun. That night there happened to be a meteor shower and it was one of the most amazing things I have ever seen in my life time so far! As soon as it started, we hushed up and sat drinking our pop in silence.

Our family agreed on staying to see all the other secrets the old place had to offer, and my parents rushed downstairs as fast as they could to talk to the manager himself. As soon as my parents started making reservations, a slow smile curled up his lips.

Maggie Madden, Mrs. Fitzgerald

EIGHTH GRADE
*****WINNER*****
One Crazy Vacation

It all started on a boiling summer day. The sun was penetrating my skin. Well, I mean it would have been if I wasn't wearing SPF 75 sunscreen. Anyway, that's not what I'm here to tell you. I'm here to tell you about "One Crazy Vacation." So my friend Joe and I were building a rocket-ship, which was really sketchy because we had no idea how to build one, but we didn't care because it was the last day of summer break and we wanted to do something exhilarating and adventurous. We kept on building. We gathered up every scrap of metal, wood, plastic, anything we could find. Then it all started to fall into place and before we knew it we had a rocket ship in front of our eyes. The ship was done except we didn't have the rocket part. Therefore, we drove to Indiana and bought five thousand dollars worth of fireworks. The bottle rockets, mortars, etc. were mounted on the ship. Finally we had a Rocket Ship. Joe and I both got in, lighted the fuse, and blast off, boy did we go flying! Along the way to space we met a bald eagle who lead the way until he couldn't catch any oxygen. When we ended up in space Joe and I became friends with a few Martians and had dinner with them, except the thing was they invited us so we could be their dinner. We quickly got in our ship, orbited around the earth and then flew down and landed in my garage. One Crazy Vacation! Huh?

Jason Ziolkowski, Zarob

The Mistaken Vacation

It all happened on our way to Florida! My parents wanted to do something special since this was our last real family vacation (since my brother was going to college that year). We hired a limo driver to take us all the way from Illinois to Florida! My family and I piled into the rather large limo and we were off! It was so nice in the big fancy car that we all completely relaxed. Much later the driver picked up his special phone and said, "I'm pleased to announce that we are about twenty minutes away from our destination, the Plaza Hotel!" My dad nearly exploded when he roared, "The Plaza Hotel?! That's in New York! What happened to Florida?" After a long, loud argument, my parent decided we would just stay and enjoy New York. We had a great time at the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, West Point, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site! The ride home in the limo was much less expensive because the driver took us the wrong way. The trip to New York was the most fun vacation I have ever been on even though we went there by mistake!

Olivia Youman, Wilk

What a Journey!

Coming off the highway, my family pulled into a small town. Our trying to find the water park we had planned to go to had failed. Our wrong exit on the highway brought us to a tiny town, Wooded Heights. We stayed there two days when we decided to go home. We decided to drive home, and went a different way. Turns out the water park had been only a few blocks down the road.

Parker Simonaitis, Zarob

My Time Travel Vacation

Once upon a car ride to Texas, it was our summer vacation and we wanted to visit Houston. But as we ventured on to the sea of roads I knew something was amiss. I said, "WATCH OUT FOR THAT HOLE!" It was too late, and when we hit the bottom we were in Egypt. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the pyramids being built. We had traveled through time. So I went to the pharaoh and he gave me a solid gold scepter. Then I got back in my car and it said, "Next destination in time please!" I couldn't believe my ears so I gave it a try. I said, "To ancient Rome" and the car took us there. I met up with Caesar and he gave me a cool red cape, then I went to Leonardo DaVinci and he gave me the Mona Lisa. They were great souvenirs. Next, I went to visit King Arthur and he gave me Excalibur. Finally, I went to go see Mozart and he gave me some old music symphonies. After I filled my car to the max with souvenirs, I got in my time car and headed home to the present. When I got home I sold most of my artifacts for billions and kept some for myself. If you don't believe me, go to some museums and you will find some of the souvenirs I brought back from time.

Mike Barsella, Zarob

What a Journey!

We couldn't believe our eyes; the sign said, "Home of the World's Largest Meatball!" Although we didn't know where we were, we went to see the meatball. In order to get to the meatball, you had to float down the Saucy River, a river filled with meat sauce. The Saucy River dumped my family into the Pasta Boy, a lake filled with pasta. We had to swim up to the spaghetti. It was like a bungee jump; we sat on the spaghetti and a man shot us up onto the top of the World's Largest Meatball. When we were at the top, the meatball started rolling! It rolled right next to my family's hotel in Cancun, Mexico. We had the ride of our lives. We took the meatball ride back home after our vacation. We had an excellent vacation and now I have a new ride to school everyday.

Adam Serena, Zarob



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

You Are My Hero!



Some define "hero" like the dictionary:

He·ro (hîr'ō) n. 1. A person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life. 2. A person noted for special achievement in a particular field.

Others, like Christopher Reeve who played Superman:

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

What about YOU? Who is your hero and why? Tell us about, or write a letter to, that special someone who inspires you.

Having trouble coming up with a story idea? Try a story starter!

- Though he is only four years old, my little brother is my hero because....
- I think the pilot who landed the plane in the Hudson River this summer is a hero because...
- Anyone who serves in the military and risks their lives to protect our country is a hero.

Due Date: October 30, 2009

All writers will receive a patriotic gel bracelet to honor their hero. Grand Prizes will be announced in the coming weeks. Keep listening to Mrs. Aebersold's daily announcements for details.

Students must submit original work. Entries should be 200 words or less and should include student name, grade and teacher. Though entries may be handwritten, you are encouraged to type and email your completed work to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com. Paper entries may be placed in the new Adventures In Writing mailbox located outside the library. Younger students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc.

KINDERGARTEN

*****WINNER*****

Emily's Sister

Maggie is a dog and she is my sister. I love her so much that she is my hero. Maggie died and I am so sad, but I am happy because she is with Bob and God will take good care of her. Maggie is my hero because she is the best sister I ever had. She was brave when she went outside because she couldn't walk down the steps on our deck. Maggie was a good listener. She would sit on my pillows in the sun while I read books to her. She always followed me when I gave her treats. I would put them in her bed and she would eat every crumb. Maggie was a great friend and sister and I love her so much! I will never forget her.

Emily Sullivan, Ms. Rosenkranz

You Are My Hero

Dear Batman:

All of your tools are great. You know, like your steam bombs and other supplies. I know that you are really Bruce Wayne, but I still like you anyway. I like your spy rope. When you use it, it's like you're flying. All of the crime that you fight, and people that you catch are pretty awesome.

From Ricky – the boy that really likes you.

P.S. If you really are real, call me and tell me because I would be so excited to know you.

Ricky Anesi, Ms. Rosenkranz

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero, Popsie

My hero is Popsie, my great-grandpa. His real name is Robert Finnegan. He has belonged to St. Theresa Parish for over 40 years. Popsie is my hero because he was in the army in World War II and he lost his leg in the war. In the war, he was fighting for our freedom. He is 85 now, and he learned to walk with a fake leg at 19. And when he came home, he worked as a banker and married my great-grandma. My Popsie is very brave even when he is sick. He has been in the hospital for the last month because of his heart. I love him very much and hope he gets home soon. He is my hero because he is always very brave and he fought for our country. He has a silver star and a purple heart. I love Popsie. The End.

MaryEtta Brigham, Mrs. Held

My Hero

My hero is my grandpa. He was in the Vietnam War. He is my hero because he showed bravery and courage. He was drafted into the Army in 1968. He served for two years. I am very proud of what he did for our country and my family. Grandpa, You Are My Hero! I love you.

Payton Chlopecki, Ms. Duncan

My Mom Is My Hero

My Mom is my hero because she always takes care of everyone in our family. And because she always makes food for us. She never lets us drive in the car without our seatbelts on and she always picks us up when she says she will. She always tells us if my sister, Lauren, has to babysit us. She always tells us to lock the doors and she always tells us to not fight. And she never wants us to complain about something that we want. My mom is my hero because she always tells us to do the right thing and she never tells us to do the wrong things.

Grace Engel, Ms. Duncan

My Hero

My hero is Mrs. Cygnar because she was my favorite preschool teacher. She is the best in the world. I love her because she helped me every day. She always made me feel good about being at school. Every weekend I missed seeing her and coloring and painting in her room.

Lily Wiltgen, Mrs. Held

My Hero

My favorite heroes are Ming Ming from Wonder Pets and also Dora the Explorer, Diego, her cousin, along with Boots and Baby Jaguar! I will tell you a story on why they are my heroes.

One day, Ming Ming got a telephone call from Dora the Explorer. Ming Ming was told from Dora that there was a hummingbird in big trouble. When Ming Ming heard this, she got into her Flyboat and quickly went to see Dora, Diego, Boots and Baby Jaguar. They all got into the flyboat and away they went to find the baby hummingbird.

They found the mother hummingbird in California! The mother hummingbird was very upset and said her baby is lost in some very tall grass. All of the Hero friends helped the mother and told her not to worry, they would find her baby.

They all went to the tall grasses and spread out to different areas. They suddenly heard some noises. They followed the sounds and found the baby hummingbird. They were all very excited. The hummingbird was ok, but a little frightened. They all got into the flyboat and quickly zoomed back to the mother hummingbird. She was so happy to have her baby back. They celebrated eating celery, and different types of fruit and seeds.

Ming Ming, Dora, Diego, Boots and Baby Jaguar are my heroes because they are very patient, kind and know what to do in a big emergency. They like to help animals and they are good at rescuing animals. They are my BIG HEROES!!

Maile Fidale, Mrs. Held

My Hero

My hero is my teacher, Miss Duncan, because of how she teaches. She is a good teacher. She does every subject. She wants the children to be good students. I want to be a first grade teacher like Miss Duncan. I like her even though she is a Sox fan.

Kate Hannon, Ms. Duncan

My Hero

My Hero is my Grandpa! He is my hero because he was in the war and because he holds me tight when I am tired. My Grandpa takes care of me whenever I go to his house. I love my Grandpa VERY MUCH and I know HE LOVES ME!!

Christine Kobilarcik, Mrs. Held

My Hero

My heroes are firemen and firewomen. They help people escape from fires and they help us be safe.

Margaret Nalley, Ms. Duncan

My Hero

My hero is my grandfather who I call "Papa." He knows so much about everything. He knows stuff about airplanes, helicopters, cars, and computers. My papa is really smart. He also knows everyone in his neighborhood. He plows the neighbor's driveways in the wintertime and he helps people fix stuff. My papa is really fun! One time he let me drive his golf cart and he let me drive his boat. He gives me rides on his moped. He tickles me and teases me and he is fun to play with. He is funny, too! He is always happy to see me when I go to his house. His house is really fun because he has arcade games and a pool and a hot tub. I love playing football and basketball and my papa did, too, because he used to be a coach.

I really love my papa like a hero because he is fun and I know that I am special to him.

John Masterson, Mrs. Held

My Hero

My heroes are firemen and firewomen. They help people escape from fires and they help us be safe.

Margaret Nalley, Ms. Duncan

My Hero

My hero's name is Jsera. She looks just like me and we both used to talk the same language. On the day I was born, I saw Jsera. I knew we were going to be good friends. We were born in the same hospital and we were both brought to the same orphanage at the same time. We were together everyday having fun and playing. One day my mom and dad came to adopt me, that day Jsera was very sad that I had to say goodbye because I had to go to America. My mom and dad kept in touch with other people who were adopting, too. One day 5 months later, Jsera got to come to America, too. She lives in Kansas and I have visited her and she came to my house, too. We will always be best friends. When we were little in the orphanage, Jsera was pretty tough and would always fight and stand up for me. She is my hero and my best friend.

Gianna Paul, Ms. Duncan

SECOND GRADE

WINNER

My Hero

My hero is Dwayne Wade. I have heard that he helps kids exercise, and I think that is important because kids need to exercise versus watching television. He is famous, and he also helps kids learn by teaching them how to play basketball. He gave money to a library by his childhood house in Chicago to save it from closing because he used to go there when he was a kid, I think. It makes me happy to think about a library staying open because my family goes to the library once a week.

Dwayne Wade is my favorite basketball player because he went to Marquette where my dad and uncles went, and I want to go to Marquette. Basketball is my favorite sport, and my favorite move is the crossover dribble like Dwayne Wade. I like it when he dunks on his opponents because he jumps so high, and I think that is really neat. When I am in high school or college, I want to be able to shoot, dribble and dunk just like Dwayne Wade so I am going to keep practicing. The end.

Patrick Schumacher, Guedel

My Hero

My Hero is Mrs. Aebersold. She is my hero because she tells us the right things to do. I think she is the best person in the world. She is very kind. I think she would be a good principal in any school.

Emily Barker, Reckamp

You Are My Hero

My hero is my dad. I look up to my dad because:

- He always cares about me.
- He loves me no matter what.
- He helps people.
- He protects me.
- He never gives up.
- He's not a quitter.
- He would risk his life for me.

And this is why my dad is my hero. And I love him very much!

Dominic Tuzzolino, Reckamp

THIRD GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero

My hero is my Uncle Don. He died a couple of months ago. The night that I went to my uncle Don's wake, I found out that heroes can be ordinary people. I knew he was a fun guy; he took me to the Cubs game and always joked with me. His basement was awesome; he always let me play with his Karaoke machine. While I was at his wake I heard tons of people telling stories about him. My uncle Don was a Rolling Meadows mailman.

Some of the elderly people that were there told me that they had lonely lives until my uncle delivered their mail each day. He would spend time everyday telling them jokes or asking them about their day. He checked on people to make sure they were OK.

On Christmas Eve every year, he delivered the mail in a Santa outfit. Someone said they didn't mind getting bills in the mail because they were brought by someone who cared about them. Many people cried when he died. They all said he always had a smile on his face and paid attention to everyone he ever met. He always made everyone laugh.

We had hand special shake, maybe I will teach my kids it when I am older. The day of his funeral, all the mail carriers lined up their trucks on the street and saluted him as we drove by, even the post office had their flag lowered to honor him. I miss joking with him. This is what a hero is to me.

Anthony Paul, McDermott

My Hero

LeBron James is my hero because he is a very good shooter and blocker. He can make famous slam dunks and sometimes can entertain people. In 2009 the Cleveland Cavs almost lost against the Orlando Magic in the Semifinals in game 3. LeBron James was dribbling with 3.3 seconds left! He shot at half court and SWUSH! Then everybody went wild even the Cavs! But in game 5 the Cavs lost 83 to 60. The Cavs had to go home and sit back and relax. But LeBron James was cheering for the LA Lakers with Kobe Bryant. The LA Lakers won the Champions! And that's why LeBron James is my hero.

Timmy Carlisle, Burns

My Hero

My hero is Austin's dad because he is in the army. He is very nice to serve our country. He is very brave to be in the army.

Jake Dodson, Burns

My Hero!

My hero is my older brother Ben. Right now he is only nineteen but he is also a color guard. (A color guard is a person who goes to football games and cheers them on and there also in the U.S. army. He is the oldest in the family. He might boss me around sometimes, but he does also look out for me and loves me. He only comes around about every two months and stays for two days. I hate to see him go but he has to go to college. At least he has a nice room and roommate. My brother Ben always looks out for me so I am going to try to look out for him and follow his ways. I Love Him!

Sophia Youman, Burns

And That's What Friends Do!

Dear Morgan,

You are my hero because if I get in trouble you are always there! And that's what friends do!

Helen Blome, Burns

My Hero – Papa

My hero is my grandpa. We call him Papa. He's my hero because he taught me how to fish. He takes us out on his boat. He put the minnow on my hook and taught me how to tell when I had a bite. He even cleaned the fish I caught. He let us swim in the big lake. My Papa is very nice and he likes the chocolate chip cookies that Mommy and I make. Papa lets us have whatever we want. He can fix any toy I break. When I cut my finger, my Papa put a band-aid on it to make it feel better. Papa recycles to help the earth. Papa used to be in the Navy. He told us stories about being on a destroyer. He had a huge St Bernard named Brandy. Papa rescued a bunny out of the dryer vent once. Papa takes us sledding on his hill.

My Papa is cool!

Grace Deyhle, McDermott

FOURTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero

My hero is Nonno, my grandpa. Not because he gives stuff, but because he takes me and my sisters to school, and without him I would be a bump on a log. He is very kind to everyone and helps them out especially me. Most importantly, he teaches me how to pray. Before we go to school in the car he says, "In the name Jesus, Alleluia Amen!" We talk about Jesus everyday, too and so much more! What I like is that when he works, helps out, and stuff like that he smiles!

And that is why my Grandpa is my hero!

Maria Presta, Wozniak

My Hero

I have two heroes. My heroes are my Great Grandpa Koch and my Grandpa Vollmert. My Great Grandpa Koch and my Grandpa Vollmert both did something good for our country. My Grandpa Vollmert was in the Korean War. He survived the war but died of cancer in 2005.

My Great Grandpa Koch is my other hero. He stood up for African Americans and for everything else that was right. He died in 1999 of a stroke. The reason that they are my heroes is because they helped make a difference in the world. I want to be like them by making a difference in the world.

Emily Vollmert, Wozniak

My Hero

My super hero is Michael Jordan. M.J. is his nickname for short. When I was little my Dad and I watched M.J. play for the "Bulls." One day I asked my parents if I can play basketball, like M.J. and they said, "Yes, work hard!" "Ok."

M.J. also played baseball for the Chicago White Sox. But didn't play that great! I picked M.J. as my hero not only because he is an amazing athlete, he is loyal to his fans, does a lot of charity work, he is respectful to people and he is an "all around good person!"

Nick Anforth, Wozniak

My Hero

My hero is Mrs. Chameli. She is my hero because she is a fun teacher and makes everyone feel comfortable with their work. When I grow up, I want to be a teacher just like Mrs. Chameli because I want kids to learn and have fun in school.

Maeve Schumacher, Chameli

Mia Hamm

My hero is Mia Hamm because she showed the world how good girl soccer players can be. Mia is the best woman's soccer player all around the world. Mia has scored 81 goals since she started. Her first goal was scored on July 23, 1990. Mia was the youngest person to ever play for the U.S. Nationals. She was only 15. I think the training is hard but if I work hard enough; I can be just like her. I want to be a really good soccer player. I hope I will be good enough to make the team.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Wozniak

My Heroes

My heroes are Mrs. Aebersold and Mrs. Larson. They keep our school safe and comfy. Heroes like Mrs. Aebersold and Mrs. Larson are good leaders, followers and people we look up to. Heroes teach us new things. I'm glad we have heroes.

Anne Marie Nalley, Wozniak

FIFTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Heroes

My heroes are the firefighters who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 because they risked their lives to save us. Many of them died trying to rescue people trapped inside the World Trade Centers. They were very brave to put their lives in danger to make an effort to assist people involved in the attacks. Even today, many men and women endanger their lives to support us when we are in trouble.

My other "Supermen" are the bold men and women on Flight 93 who conquered the hijackers, and managed to crash the plane on a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. These fearless people saved hundreds of innocent citizens from death. Although they are just a tiny crumb among the thousands of other daring individuals, these will always be gold statues in my head.

Stephen Hannon, Duff

My Hero

Michael Phelps is my hero because of how good a swimmer he is. I am on the swim team, and last year, he inspired me to work really hard to achieve my goals in the pool. I did and I made the Junior Olympics team.

Michael Phelps is my inspiration to go to the Olympics someday and to bring home at least one gold medal. He has inspired me to continue to swim until I get too old for it. I like swimming because it brings me to one of my closest friends, water.

I never stopped believing in Michael Phelps, even when he made the big mistake of smoking marijuana, because he was still the best swimmer in the world. Michael Phelps is my inspiration now and he always will be.

Joey Carlisle, Duff

Hero

I think my cousin Marty Corr is a hero because he serves in the Marines. Marty works so hard and trains so hard to protect us. He has risked his life fighting for our country in Afghanistan. I can't imagine how scary it must of been when he was getting shot at, his friends were getting shot at, and then dealing with the 100 degree weather in Afghanistan. We were all glad Marty came home unharmed. I am so proud that he serves for our country and he is part of my family!

Jack Neubauer, Duff

My Hero

My hero is my cousin who is in the Army. His name is Tres Fitzgerald. He is my hero because he is putting his life at risk for us. He fought in the Iraq War and while he was on patrol he was shot. After he got shot he went to a base where he could rest while he was getting better. Tres really believes in serving his country. Once, we sent him some soccer balls and candy to give to the Iraqi kids so the kids would tell them where the bad guys were. Sometimes he was able to call our house from Iraq and say hi to us. We were always sad when we heard his voice on the answering machine and missed his call because we could never call him back. I gave him the biggest hug when he finally came back from the war.

I always get so excited when my Mom tells me Tres is coming home to visit because then I know he is safe. So, that is why Tres is my hero.

Lauren Ellis, Litchfield

My Hero

My hero is my sister, Olivia, even though she is away at college. She is my hero because she is always looking out for me and because she tells my brothers to knock it off when they are picking on me. We might get in fights some time, but in the end she finds the perfect thing to solve our problem. Even though my sister is a lot different than me she is the same as me at the same time. I think it would be great if I could grow up to be as successful and talented like her and if I could do as good in high school as she did. She sets the bar very high. Now that she is in college I talk to her on the phone all the time. When my parents tell me my sister is on the phone I get excited, but when my parents tell me Olivia is coming home I get even more excited. She helps me solve my problems and makes me a better person. My sister plays a very important role in my life. I couldn't ask for a better sister or hero.

Grace Tworek, Litchfield

My Hero

Even though my grandma died almost a year ago I still think she's my hero. She taught me that no matter what happens in your life keep going strong and you will find joy in your life. We always thought of her as a cat. I know that sounds mean but it makes sense. See, whenever my grandma got sick, and we didn't think she would recover she would get better. (I think she had 9 lives)! My definition of a hero is more than a super hero it's a person who teaches and shows you a valuable lesson in life.

Allison Gile, Litchfield

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero

My hero is my Mommy. When I was four, my Mommy died of breast cancer. She was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was one. Through the years of the struggle, life was very hard for me and my family, but especially Mommy. She showed me always to be happy and never ever think negative, because all she did between the years was think positive. She's one of the nicest, funniest, and most caring person I ever met. My Mommy died August 13, 2002. She will always be in my heart. I'll always remember how hard it was for her, and how strong she was. She's the biggest hero of my life.

Jill Finis, Crane

My Hero

Have you ever had a hero who defeats crimes or saves the world? Well, my hero isn't exactly like that, but she is pretty close. My hero is my Mom. She is always with me when I need her. Some people may ask why I picked my Mom. It is a question I love to answer. My Mom has a job I would like when I get older. She works at Northrop Grumens next to all her friends. Even though she works, she still has time to take care of my older brothers, 2 dogs 3 birds, and I.

I love my Mom even when I might be mad at her. She is my true hero!

Kathryn Serena, Ellis

They Are My Heroes!

My friends and family are my heroes. These people play an important role in my life. First, let me tell you about my awesome friends. Whenever I'm feeling sad about something at school where your family is not I just go to my friends. They help cheer me up by making me laugh, smile, or even crying if it is that funny! For example, when I found out I was moving to Illinois I was very sad. My friends from Lexington told me they would call me everyday and promised they would visit me. I knew I could count on them. Then, when I moved here to Illinois, my new friends helped me feel welcomed into the school. I then knew wherever I lived I would always have people who cared about me by my side. My friends are my heroes also because they make me feel confident. If I don't have enough confidence to do something instead of doing it for me my friends encourage me and give me the confidence to do it. That is what true friends would do. As you can see my friends are as true as can be and my family is too.

Now let me tell you about my fantastic family! My family is my hero also because of the same reasons, but also for other reasons. If I have a hard decision to make I go to my family. They help me get through the hard times. If I'm having trouble in school my family is always there to catch me before I fall. In rain or shine my family and friends will always be heroes of mine!

Rachel Engel, Crane

My Heroes

My heroes that I think everybody needs are the police officers. This is what I think of the police officers:

Pleasant to all creatures tall, small, skinny, and fat

On the job all the time

Likes kids AKA- Officer Friendly

Investigative skills

Comes to teach kids how to be safe

Everywhere whenever you need them

These are great reasons that tell that police officers are great heroes.

John Tuzzolino, Crane

My Hero

My hero is my Uncle Michael. He is fighting in Afghanistan right now. He was a naval commander for the Carl Vinson aircraft carrier. He is my hero because he helped me through my hardships at the hospital by giving me gifts and letters. Prior to that he let me go on the Carl Vinson for a cruise from Italy to Virginia. He also is responsible because he has two children under the age of eight. I hope he gets home soon and safely. He has inspired me in so many ways, did he inspire you?

Shaun Falbo, Ellis

My Hero

My hero is my Grandpa who I call "papa." My Papa is my hero for many reasons. The first reason is that he turned down an opportunity of a lifetime. The opportunity was something almost every boy I know wants, to go to the NFL. As much as I'm sad for him I'm glad because he wouldn't have met my grandma and they wouldn't have had my mom. He is also my hero because he is so fun to be around and such a funny guy. My family and I always joke around saying, "He's a kid trapped in a man's body." As much as he's fun to be around he can also be serious and teach you life lessons. He is really a great man and always willing to lend a hand. My papa is someone I'm always looking forward to see and learn something from him which makes him my hero!

Katherine Masterson, Ellis

My Hero

My Dad is my hero because he inspires me to invent new things. We have made up games, videos, and stories. He always encourages me to work hard and be positive. He is always funny and makes me feel better when I am down. My Dad is an engineer and really likes his job. I really like his job because he gets to design things and he gets to travel to different places. My Mom thinks me and my Dad are alike in many different ways. My Dad is the greatest dad in the world.

John Jasonowicz, Crane

SEVENTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero

My hero is my Aunt Marie. She works at St. Edwards Hospital in Naperville, as a nurse practitioner. My aunt's profession is to prepare patients for heart surgery, prescribe prescriptions to the patients, conduct rounds with the doctors, and check patient's blood pressure and heart rate.

I feel my aunt is my hero, because she cares for people, and saves peoples' lives everyday. My aunt cares for people while doing her rounds at the hospital and ensures that patients are healthy and ready for heart surgery. My aunt talks with the patient's family to prepare them for what events can occur during and after surgery. My aunt is also my hero because she works long hours caring for people and expects nothing back in return. My hero is kind to people and does not rush through her patients to finish faster. She spends many evenings at the hospital, completing paperwork. This allows her to focus on her patients in the morning. My aunt is a caring and compassionate person, and I am lucky that she is my aunt and my hero.

Brandon Stewart, Fitzgerald

My Hero

Today, I have many people who I look up to as my heroes, but one of my earliest was my cousin Ann.

Growing up, my cousin was set for success knowing she would be going to the Notre Dame College in Indiana. At the time she left, I was heart-broken, knowing she would come back different. Although, not so different were we wouldn't spend time talking about school, art, and playing board games when it was too cold or wet to play outside. But one thing that changed was our dreams, because she knew she was going to be a teacher, she knew she was going to graduate from Notre Dame, and she knew was going to Louisiana to teach years after she graduated.

For seven years, I saw my cousin on only Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Spring Break. It was worth it though, knowing she taught hundreds of students in Louisiana who were victims of Hurricane Katrina; touching their lives, just like she touched mine.

Maggie Madden, Fitzgerald

My Hero

My hero is my best friend. She is my hero because she is a fantastic person! She would never try to hurt anyone or anything. This is a special quality because most people hurt others by their actions or words. Also she helps me get through the day. When I am in my worst mood, she always knows how to cheer me up, and make me laugh. My friend is a great person, and she is always in a good mood. If someone wants to do something that she knows is wrong, she tries to dissuade them. All of these things are small things that make her a wonderful person. The thing that really makes her my hero, though, is that she would risk her life for any of the people she loves. This makes her the most heroic twelve-year-old I know!

Danielle Money, Stryzik

My Hero

My hero is Abraham Lincoln. He is my hero because he did a very brave thing by freeing slavery. Another reason he is my hero is because he was born in Illinois just like me. By freeing slavery he jump started Americas history after that point. That was one of the biggest turning points in American history. Or at least in mind it is. Back then there were stories of how odd looking he was or how he was too tall for some cameras to get his whole body in the picture, but if I lived back then he would still be my hero, no matter how he looked he would have still been my hero and my role model. He was a wonderful person. Freeing slavery was a very hard and brave thing to do. It was very sad to know that he was assassinated. I'm surprised anyone would ever want to hurt him.

Mack Rosman, Fitzgerald

You Are My Hero!

My hero (or heroes, I should say) was difficult to figure out. People in the military? My best friend? My parents? An actor or actress? I couldn't decide! I simply chose to do it on everyone and everything that does what the definition says they should. For example, a babysitter, a fireman, or a responsible adult that risks their life for people they love or people they have never even met before. I absolutely agree with Mr. Reeve, who says a hero is a regular person. In fact he is a hero for saying that! Most people go by the dictionary definition, (which says a hero is a brave individual who has risked their life to do something great) when the kid next door could be a hero for stopping your little brother from crossing the street alone. This guy may have hero qualities and you won't even know it if you stick to the dictionary. A hero to me is truly just a person who has the bravery and kindness to help people, things, and always stay true to themselves. My hero is anyone at all who can do what I said before without a second thought.

Margaret Geist, Stryzik

My Hero

I think everyone overuses the word hero a lot. Being a good athletic, good actor, or a good musician, who happens to be in the public eye doesn't make them a hero. It makes them someone who has achieved something in a very public way. I am a swimmer, when I first started swimming my favorite swimmer was Michael Phelps as you know he won eight gold medals at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. Outside of other sports how could you not love Michael Jordan? I don't know anyone else who has ever made people appreciate his sport more by simple playing it better than anyone else. Basketball looks pretty cool when MJ puts a nice move on someone. Over the years I have become a Green Bay Packers fan, and I love seeing Aaron Kampman put a huge hit on Adrian Peterson. But I think a hero should be somebody who can lift people up with his or her courage and dedication.

I always think we should have role models from their family, as I have been lucky enough with my dad, mom, aunt, uncle, grandparents, and godparents. But actually they don't have to be one of your family members; they don't have to be in the newspapers, and they don't even have to be older than you.

One of my friends told me about one of his family members who will and forever will be my hero whose name was Stevie Hansen. After this story I think he will be your hero also. Stevie lived in Timonium, Maryland, when he was seven he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was due to go to John's hospital in Maryland. After his craniotomy he could not see anyone except his family for a week. Over the summer he improved greatly. Next summer Stevie was re-diagnosed with a tumor in his spinal cord. In the fall of 2003, he had to undergo steroid and morphine treatment before they could get him in the operating room for another surgery. The Hansen's took a radical approach to radiation therapy, based on St. Jude Medical Center in Tennessee. He tolerated all this pain with amazing strength and courage, but his white blood cell count was low and he got tired very easily. On September 19, 2006 Stevie Hansen passed away. Say what you want about what makes a hero, but I can't think of a better one than Stevie. God bless him.

Anthony Blome, Fitzgerald

My Hero

Do you know my hero? Anyone could say that a relative is a hero because they love and care for you. But I think my mom is the most loving and caring person in the world.

My mom is my hero because she likes to help and she enjoys caring for 5 kids. She is not like any other mom because she enjoys making delicious desserts and she enjoys running. My mom said she will always love us even when she is all stressed out. She likes to listen to you when you need advice or you lose someone or something important to you. She is always at my side or my siblings' side when they are sad or injured. She told us she always enjoyed a big family because she grew up with four siblings and her parents grew up with several siblings. Both my parents guided us in a right way to be very successful but my mom did it the best. Thanks, mom!

Caroline Macius, Amador

EIGHTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Hero

To many people, heroes are those who have saved lives, or overcome incredible obstacles. To me, a hero does not have to save lives or conquer enormous feats. I think a hero is anyone who has ever helped someone. For example, St. Theresa was a hero in her own way. She was able to change the lives of many people one good deed at a time. By following her example, I think that all people can be heroes and change the lives of others. You may not know it but a small deed such as holding the door for someone, or smiling at them in the hallway can brighten up their day, and to them you will be a hero. Maybe because of your kind action, they will feel inspired to hold the door for someone else and the cycle will repeat. If each of us continues to do small deeds for others, we can impact many lives, just like Saint Theresa, my hero.

Samantha Campbell, Salvetti

My Hero

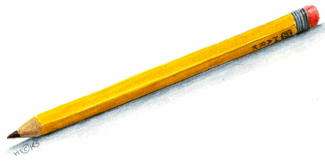
My hero is my Grandma Schager. She has been through a lot, she has fourteen children. She raised them perfect! She also throws great parties at her house for her 30 grandchildren, sons and daughters, and their spouses. When I hear the word "Hero" others probably think of Superman, Spiderman, or Batman, but I think of my grandma. She has put up with a lot but did a wonderful job! I love you Grandma!

Mary Pat Nalley, Zarob

Superman!

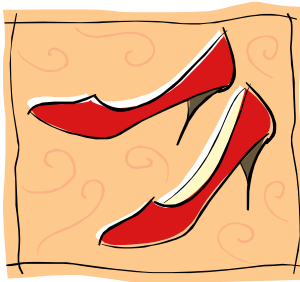
My hero is Superman. My hero is Superman because he was and still is a great man. Superman saved a lot of people also which adds to his great ordeal of being a great man. From his astonishing bright red cape to his good looking hair, I mean where can you go wrong. His rock hard abs that the jaws of life probably can't break through. He had a pretty wife (Super Woman). Superman had it all. Superman could fly that's astonishing, actually I'm kind of jealous because who wouldn't want to fly, at least once in your life to try it. I look up to Superman as my hero because he is a loyal, not selfish, caring guy that is a legend and will always be remembered. He was in comic books, movies, action figures and is still making all those goodies. One day I want to be just like him.

Jason Ziolkowski, Zarob



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

You Are a Shoe.



Has your mom or dad ever told you to try to understand something from someone else's point-of-view?

Pretend you are a shoe.

Describe what you look like and tell us about your day. What is the world like from down there?



Need a story starter?

- I can't believe Santa is wearing me. I get to travel the world tonight!!
- Oh no, here comes that smelly foot again!!!!
- I am a vintage Air Jordan shoe and we just won our 6th championship.
- As Mrs. Liska's red high heeled doorstop, I've been through a lot.

Due date: December 4, 2009

One winning entries from each grade will receive a pair of STS shoelaces and all writers will receive a meal coupon from Walker Brother's Pancakes. Walker Brother's Original Pancake House has generously donated the meal coupons.

Students must submit original work. Completed work should be e-mailed to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com or placed in the **NEW Adventures in Writing Mailbox** located in the STS Lobby. Entries should be 200 words or less. Entries may be typed or handwritten and should include student name, grade and teacher. Younger students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc.

KINDERGARTEN

*****WINNER*****

Chloe's Adventure

Another day without anyone knowing that Chloe was a real talking shoe. She was near 12 years old when Mrs. Keke bought her. Chloe was a really special shoe. Chloe likes to roll over when no one is looking. She always jumps into the rain for fun. Her best friend's name is Katie. One day Katie got bit by a doggy. Chloe came to help her. Katie was torn. Chloe glued Katie back together. One day later Chloe got bit by the doggy and Katie saved her before she got ripped. Katie had a friend named Isabel. Isabel jumped in a pool when Mrs. Keke was on vacation. Isabel had to go to the secret underground doctor's office. Mrs. Keke came back from her vacation and found 3 pairs missing! They were all in the secret underground doctor's office. Mrs. Keke fell into a hole that lead to the doctor's office and found her shoes. Chloe felt very scared. The front of Isabel's shoe was infected with a bug. One week later Chloe didn't feel as scared because Mrs. Keke promised never to tell anybody else.

Emma Olis, Rosenkranz

I Am a Shoe

Hi. My name is Ricky. I am a pair of space boots. I go in a rocket, and go up to space. I hop out of the rocket and hop around each planet. The moon is nice and white. Mars is far away and is reddish. Then, I go back in my rocket and go back to Earth. I like being space boots. It's more fun than being at Six Flags.

Ricky Anesi, Rosenkranz

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

If I Were a Shoe

I am a shoe that belongs to one of Santa's elves. I watch the elves work all day. After they are done with their work we go outside and play. The games we play are jump rope and hop scotch. When we get tired we go take our nap. When we wake up from our nap we wait for the elves to wake up. While we are waiting we talk to each other about friendship, friends, and parents. It is so funny that every time we wake up the elves, but not on purpose. But they finally fall asleep again. After they wake up they put us back on and go back to work. It is so fun watching them work all day. Since they work in Santa's workshop I see a bunch of dust and tiny pieces of wood on the floor. The floor is so dirty I can't even open my eyes and I always sneeze. Sometimes I even get the flu! When I have the flue I can barely talk! I wish I could see how the elves make all the toys. Sometimes I wish I could make them....but I can't. I wish I was a hat because I could see everything the elves make and tell them if I like the toys or not. I would also tell them if they were cool or not. Even though I want to be a hat God wanted me to be a shoe.

Grace Engel, Duncan

You Are a Shoe

If I were a shoe I would smell. I would smell because of my foot! I would see the grass and step in mud, I would love to get dirty. I would try to not step in gum.

Josh Nelson, Held

Your Are a Shoe

If I were a basketball shoe I would go to the gym and play basketball. I would run and make baskets. I would stop fast when I needed to stop. When I hear the whistle blow I would stop. We could win the first grade STS Tournament.

Margaret Nalley, Duncan

I'm a High Heel

I am very tall. This is because I am a high heel. I like to go out to parties and dance. My owner is a girl. I am pink with a purple heel. I am friends with lots of ants because they can crawl underneath me. I don't run or do sports very well. You have to learn how to walk with me before you can wear me a lot, or you might end up on the ground hurt. The End.

Mary Etta Brigham, Held

The Flip Flops and the Terrifying Dog

I love summer and I love wearing flip flops...One day when I woke up, I was a pair of purple flip flops. I floated in the pool all day long until it was dark outside. The very next day, my flip flop friends, Sparkle, Butterfly, Butterscotch and I were walking along the beach when this big old dog saw us coming. He thought we were all a bunch of chew toys so he started chasing us. It is hard to run fast when you're a flip flop, but we made it safely to an ice cream shop. Then we all got butterscotch ice cream just like our flip flop friend Butterscotch. The End

Alyson Kolbus, Held

Santa's Boot

I have finally been chosen by Santa to be worn on Christmas Eve! I can't believe I will be going down chimneys with loads of presents for all of the good little girls and boys. I have been waiting for this for years, but always seem to be passed by. This is going to be the most exciting Christmas ever. To get ready for Santa I need to be polished so I am the best looking boot on the planet. When I am done with the night I am going to be very dirty from going down all of those chimneys on Santa's feet. I am so excited! What will make me smile and shine the brightest is knowing that Santa and I are delivering toys to all the girls and boys who don't have any.

Grace Monroe, Duncan

Snow Boot

I am a snow boot. I am soft on the inside and have a tough waterproof outside. I am warm most of the time, but sometimes I get cold when I get too snowy and wet. One of my favorite things to do is to get on a sled and fly down a snowy hill. I can hear the wind blowing past the sled and the kids laughing and having fun. I love when we get to go home because while the kids are having hot chocolate and marshmallows, I am sitting near a warm fireplace drying off and getting ready for our next sledding adventure.

Maddie Monroe, Held

Pink and Sparkly!

If I were a shoe I would be a pink sparkly high heel shoe with a beautiful fluffy bow on the toe. My friend Kia would wear me to a party she would dance and twirl me around when she danced to the music. I love to dance! At the end of the night when I was sweaty she would kick me off and fall into bed.

Lily Wiltgen, Held

You Are a Shoe

I am Maile's pink ballet shoes! I think I am very pretty with a pretty bow. Maile and I take classes at Northwest Ballet in Schaumburg. Our teacher is Miss Roberta. We take class on Wednesday evenings. I am always so excited when we get ready to dance.

We are very busy in Pre-Ballet II. Miss Roberta has us do a very big warm-up before we start our dancing. Maile has learned the first, second, third, fourth and fifth position. Her favorite one is the third position. I also do skipping, jumping and spinning. Maile does the splits and I slide down to the floor.

I love to perform on stage. Last year, Maile was a sparrow in Alice in Wonderland. This year we will be in Mary Poppins. I love to be on the stage. We all take a big bow at the end.

Well it is time for me to go to bed in my box. I am very tired from so much dancing. Good Nite!

Maile Fidale, Held

I'm a Shoe

I am a Nike shoe. My name is Mikey. I have a friend named Rob. We are one pair. I step on many different things. For instance, driveways and sidewalks are very rough to me. Sometimes it is wet and sometimes it is hot. I can't really smell anything, but sometimes it smells like gross feet. I always see lots of strange people and beautiful houses. Sometimes my owner takes me far and other times she keeps me close to my closet where all my family lives. Their names are Sam, Pam, Jim and Tim. When my owner puts me on, she feels heavy. Whenever I get home, I am always very tired. I felt sad when my owner, Sophie, got a new pair of shoes and gave me a new owner. My new owner's name is Jill. I miss my old owner, but I love my new owner.

Kate Hannon, Duncan

You Are a Shoe

I can't believe Santa is wearing me. I am red and white...it is so good to be that color. I am so excited, I get to travel the world tonight!! The world is soooooo big! I like that because I get to sneak into homes and ride in Santa's sleigh! I get to visit all the children in the world and help Santa bring them presents. I like being on Santa's feet because Santa's foot is so comfy and his foot keeps me warm. Santa's socks are soooooo soft and that is why they keep me really really warm. I like to visit children because they are so happy to see Santa (and me)!! Even though it is a very long night I get to sleep on Santa's foot because I don't have to actually do the walking!!! Merry Christmas to one and all!

Christine Kobilarcik, Held

SECOND GRADE

*****WINNER*****

You Are a Shoe

I am a boot at Santa's house, actually for Santa. Tonight is Christmas, our big night. Santa and I get to travel through the night in all different countries and all different time zones. Very exhausting but very rewarding. I can not wait.

Rudolph flew so fast last time I thought I was going to fly off Santa's foot, but I did not. It's fun to be a boot on Santa's foot, but I do get kind of smelly at times. You get to see all the toys and the workshop and everyone's houses. Even the little mice. Sometimes you're hot, sometimes you're cold, sometimes you're wet, and sometimes you're dry. But the only thing I can guarantee you is I am very old.

The elves spill hot cocoa on me all the time. Cupid always bites me. Once Cupid almost tore me apart. But Mrs. Claus saved me, she is so nice. But it really was a terrible experience. So that is what it is like to be a boot for Santa. But I am sure that you could talk to another shoe and it could be different for them, I think!

But Merry Christmas anyway. I hope you get a lot of toys!

Isabella Rose Poulos, Reckamp

You Are a Shoe

I am a vintage Air Jordan shoe and we just won our 6th championship. I go on Michael Jordan's feet and when he goes to dunk the basketball, its awesome going against gravity. After the game in the locker room, I got all wet because the team was celebrating with champagne. They were having so much fun but then I was sad because Michael took me off his foot and locked me up in his locker until the next season. I am looking forward to the next season when I can help Michael jump higher and run faster than the other basketball players.

Dominic Tuzzolino, Reckamp

I'm a Shoe

Hi, I'm a shoe. I am Selena Gomez's shoe. Every time I look up her stinky, stinky foot is above me. That's why it's not fun being a shoe. Sometimes when you listen very closely you can hear her recording new songs. But the thing is I can talk and sometimes I almost get caught singing along. But have you ever seen how tall Selena Gomez is? From down here she's like 50 feet tall. But it's really cool because I am a shoe so I can go where she goes. That is the only thing I like about being a shoe. But her family is huge, she's huge, I'm tiny. The next day she put me on and we went to her concert in Hawaii! It was so cool! But then she took me off and lost me. I went searching all over and couldn't find her. It's so sad, isn't it? But then she went searching too and she found me and now she washes her feet before she puts me on. She knows I can talk and now we are best friends.

Kirsten Sample, Guedel

I Am a Shoe

It is hard being a shoe because I am Mrs. Liska's door stop. She puts me there every day and the door is very heavy. I don't like being a door stop but she brings me to her house every day. Mrs. Liska is very nice. But the good thing is that she never wears me. Her family is very nice to me too. Now I am getting used to being a door stop. It is very fun now. Now I like being Mrs. Liska's door stop. I also like my new family.

Karina Szafraniec, Guedel

Boot's Adventure

There was once a shoe. His name was Boot. Boot's owner was Bob. Bob's feet were so stinky Boot could hardly breathe! He walked with Bob every day. Bob was only 6 years old. Boot was just bought last Saturday. Boot wasn't bought for 10 years until Bob came. Bob looked at the shoes the day he got Boot. "Daddy, Daddy, Mommy, Mommy! I REALLY want those shoes!" Bob said. The colors were red, blue, green, white and gray. "Are you sure, son?" his dad asked. "Yes I am totally sure!" Bob replied. Bob was in first grade when he moved. It was his first day of school. But now to get on with Boot's story. Every day when Bob went to school Boot went with him. Boot went out to the playground with Bob. Boot got splashed by the muddy water. Sometimes he even had to taste it! "I need this boy to stop wearing me! I'll get splashed with mud for the rest of my life!" Boot said. He finally got back to his house and rested on the shoe rack with his friends Shoe-Shoe, Shoey, Booter, Walker, and Runny. They closed the door on Boot and his friends and left to go to Bob's hip-hop class. Bob didn't take Boot with because he had different pairs for hip-hop. They had a dog named Mischief because he was always getting into trouble. Boot heard scratching on the door. He saw some claws and a nose through the crack. The door slowly opened. When the door opened all the way, the dog took Boot and knocked over the shoe rack. "Help me! I'm going to die out here!" Boot said. The dog heard him and bit him harder. Mischief swung and swung until Boot's side ripped. Boot's twin brother, Lines, ran out to see Boot. "I've seen Mischief growl, but never take a shoe out of its place!" Lines said. The family got home and threw the shoes away. "I told you not to get these!" Bob's father said. Bob just turned away to cry. Boot and Lines didn't like Bob's feet, but now they hated the garbage worse. They saw some new shoes on Bob when he came home. They began to cry. "I want to get back onto Bob's feet! I want to get out of the garbage truck!" Lines said. They were sewn back to be used again. They almost got torn into millions of little pieces, but the manager realized they were still good to use. It took 3 years for someone else to take them, but it was good news because they were in a larger size and they were in the comfort of Bob's feet.

Matthew Olis, Guedel

THIRD GRADE

*****WINNER*****

You Are a Shoe

Hi, I'm the boot of Commander Neil Armstrong of Apollo 11. I'm scared today because we are going on a mission to the moon. I've been training for this mission for several years. My important job is to protect Commander Armstrong's feet from exploding on the moon.

In an hour we are leaving for the space craft. Oh no, an hour has passed. That was quick. Slip, Slip,.....Commander Armstrong just slipped his feet into me. I guess it's time to go.

Thump, thump, thump, we are in the lunar module. Zip.....Five.....Four.....Three....Two.....One. BLASTOFF. The force of gravity against us is powerful as we race to the moon.

Weeee, I'm floating in the air. This is fun. No gravity is a blast. Space can be lots of fun.

Time to get into the Eagle, the little spacecraft that will land us on the moon. Beep Beep Beep....uh oh. Sirens go off because the pressure is too hard. Commander Armstrong turns off the siren and gets us safely to the moon.

Thump, thump, thump.....we go down the ladder. Squish, squish, squish,..... the surface of the moon feels like dusty slush.

Commander Armstrong says, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". Commander Armstrong is the first man on the moon. And I am the first boot on the moon!

Tim Fasick, Burns

You Are a Shoe

Ow, ow, ow, ow, what are you thinking? I am a softball cleat. I am at a softball game with my best friend, Grace. She wears me on her foot. Her feet stink! Life is small from my point of view. Everything is so big I can't stand it. She splashes mud and dirt and stuff like that in my face. So every night she has games or practices, she has to wash me. That is not very fun at all. She tries to slide into home base and I say, "No, not the face, not the face, OUCH!" I hit my face right on home base. It really hurts. She is out of her mind. She was out. I was thinking to myself, "Hello, small shoe here," I do not like it when she throws and I rub against the other shoe that she is wearing.

Cece Kaiser, Burns

You Are a Shoe

I was waiting in the shoe department for someone to come and buy me. I was in the athletic footwear section. My brand of shoe is "Rocket Dog" My color is bright blue with white shoelaces. Wait...

I see someone with a coupon for "Rocket Dogs". I wonder if she will pick me...she picked me, brought me home and now we are going to wherever she lives. I think we're close to her house now.

I can't believe that someone actually bought me. I've been waiting for this to happen ever since I was a shoelace.

I have been thinking about a list of things to do when she uses me. First, I'd like to go on a nice slow jog, then to go for a hike, or...yeah!

We're now at her house. It's pretty, too. Here we go into her house! Now she's putting me into the shoe closet. Well, I'm tired. I think I'll...

Tomorrow... Yawwwwwwwwwn!!! Hey! Hey! Hey! Ohh...the woman is going on a jog. She is using me, too!

Well, now I can check going on a jog off my list. Now all I have to do is go on a hike. Oh, and this other thing that I didn't mention...but, I ALSO WANT TO BE IN THE OLYMPIC RUNNING GAMES!!! Ahh, back inside. Hey, something feels different. Ohh...I'm on the rug, not the closet. I've been upgraded. Yahoo!!

Let's go on a hike now I keep telling the woman, but all she says I, "Who said that?" Then she finally realizes it's me. I tell her my list of stuff I want to do with her. Right away she started packing for the trip.

"We're on our way to 'Mountain Range'." I keep singing with her. "I like you, what's your name?" "Susie," she replied. "What's yours?" "Rocket, Rocket Dog," I answered. "Of course," she said, laughing. Then we soon arrived at "Mountain Range." We hiked for about three hours! Then we went home.

She kept questioning me about how we would get to be in the Olympic Games.

Then all of a sudden on the TV, there was an Olympic racing commercial on.

It said that if you won the raffle (which Susie had), you could be in the race. The raffle took place tomorrow!

So the next day they did the raffle and won! The next week they got ready for the race.

They were just about to start. Then the judge said, "Go," and shot the gun. She started off slow and everyone ran past her. That made her mad so she ran so fast that she won! But by then the shoes were worn out.

The next week, she went to the shoe department with a "Rocket Dog" coupon.

Sophia Youman, Burns

The High Heel, Broken!

Hi. I'm a high heeled shoe and I like to break people's ankles, but that's too bad for you 'cause you're my next victim! And you're gonna get it! You're stepping in me, and your big fat foot is in me! Oh, no! I didn't only break your ankle, but you broke me! Take me to the shoe fixer or you're really gonna get it! Oh, thank you, kind sir. I'll come back any time. Oh no! Not the hospital, I'm fine, I'm really fine!

Helen Blome, Burns

You Are a Shoe

If I were a shoe, I would see everything from down below. I would feel big and small and would feel the sweat from my foot, and boy does it smell. If someone smelled me it would smell really bad from my foot! I would see the ground and maybe step on some gum. It would feel sticky. I would feel like I was walking on a bump from the gum. Never step on gum!

Jake Nelson, McDermott

FOURTH GRADE

I am a Shoe

Yuck, all that mud and it hurts to kick that black and white ball. I am Mia Hamm's soccer cleat. Trust me, it hurts to kick another shoe. After every game, I have Mia pick the mud off of me. Then I get to talk with Mr. Nike Shock. I have met a lot of other shoes like Croc, Flip and Flop (they are twins), Sketchers, Velcro, Tie, and Twinkle and Toe. I have been to Italy, Spain, Japan and Europe. I see other soccer shoes in the game but I see them for only 3 seconds because everyone is moving so fast. When Mia retires, I will retire too. It will feel so good but I will miss going so fast on the field. I hope Mia will never grow out of me because I might have to retire before she does. I love being a soccer cleat.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Wozniak

I Am a Shoe

Hi! I am the oldest shoe ever! I am called the "Airplane Shoe" because I was on the Wright brothers' feet all through the years of making and flying the plane. The rides were awesome. If you look at a photograph of the Wright brother really closely at his left shoe will see me! He soon grew out of me and put me in a box of things they donated. I meet things such as Colin the CD. Did I forget to tell you my name is Sallie? Someone called Jess bought me and I was wrapped in a dark box and when the box was opened a girl with long black hair and a hat with a fuzzy ball on top became my owner. Her name was Amelia Earhart. I was on her left foot when she first took off alone. Now I have gotten cleaned and am in a case at a museum. People watch me all day. Right now the Historical Museum of Flight is closed and dark. I see a little light like the one the janitor uses except it's not him. He or she was wearing all black. Oh wait, there is a boy and a girl. They are holding a famous painting of an airplane and pointing to me! They ran over here and broke the glass of my case. Loud sirens go off. I'm put in a bag while she scribbles a note. I heard her ask him "how much?" He answered, "\$1,000." I heard familiar voices saying "Arms up! Drop everything!" It was the policeman by the desk. Ouch. I got thrown on the ground. I feel myself being carried somewhere safe. The storage room! "Safe and sound," he says and he gently places me down and takes me out. I knew that the robbers are heading for jail.

Rebecca Wolf, Chameli

You Are a Shoe

My name is Penny and I am a gym shoe. In some ways I like being a gym shoe, but in some ways it's a horrible life. I do not like when people put their smelly feet in me, and when they are running it smells even worse. I still do like to run, but when the people run too fast I can't keep up because I get tired. I wish I was a pretty high heel, but if I was a boy I would not want to be a pretty high heel. Since I am a girl I would have people put their dainty toes in me. I would not like a big, fat foot with warts in me, maybe a boy would, but I'm not a boy! I would not like it when the person wearing me would trip over my heel and fall over. I also wish I could be an Airsketcher. They would keep the feet from sweating, but they are show-offs. That's my life because I think I might die. We gym shoes get worn out easily because we run a lot, and I'm getting old so I think I'll get thrown away. By the way the garbage smells worse! It's a hard life being a shoe.

Ally Eipert, Chameli

My Fancy Beauty!

I woke up today and then saw that fat old dog staring at me with those big eyes. I didn't have to be so cool, but I was. I had real crystals and real pearls! My owner was the best! The richest person in the world. Madam Alisa the 7th. She was the person who'd wear the shoes every month. She'd be caught dead if she didn't wear me. I mean, I look way more beautiful than any of those other buffoons. I bet you she wants to wear my sister and I all day long. "George? George you're 3 seconds late on polishing Milel!" I am Milel. "You need to get me ready to wear her at the royal ball tonight!" I've heard craziness, but that is too cool! What am I going to wear? I can't wear anything I'm a shoe. I need to be polished straight away. George? George, I need to be polished! No one can understand me. Well, I guess I have to go back to the story.

"Yes, madam."

"Fluff my pillow!"

"Yes, madam."

"Get me canned Vichyssoise!"

"Yes, madam."

"George?"

"Yes, madam?"

"Stop saying 'yes, madam!'"

"Yes, madam."

I had to interrupt. I just totally loved that she just got mad at George and he didn't follow her instructions! Look back at that spot. I'm also a fancy shoe from Paris! I was worth \$100,000 not including tax. With tax it's around \$120,000. I should tell you that I'm not very good at staying on tra...hey look! It's a golden bunny rabbit! She must have gotten that yes-, track. She must have gotten that yesterday! If you couldn't follow that it's because I normally get off track when I'm exci...I love the new chocolate fount-, excited. Fountain she got. I'm really happy she chose my sister, Milly, and I to go to the ball with her. Ouch! Ooo! Yikes! Stop! Owie! Stepping. On me...Ow! NO! One of my pearls fell off! Well, I can do without. My sister was covered in boo boos too. When we got back to our royal house I chose never to get to another ball again.

Maddie Olis, Chameli

FIFTH GRADE

WINNER

You Are a Shoe

I am a red sneaker. But did I forget to tell you, that I am magical? A couple of nights ago, when the smelly foot came towards me, I wished I was Santa's boot. POOF!!! I was Santa's boot traveling in his sleigh. Suddenly, I started to get nauseous by all the quick turns Santa kept making. So I wished I was a flip flop instead. POOF!!! POOF!!!

I became a flip flop, and I was on the beaches of Hawaii. I loved the sand and the sound of the waves crashing against the rocks until a sand crab bit me! OW!!! That's it. I wish I was Mrs. L's shoe door stopper. I can hold a door extremely well. All of a sudden, a herd of seventh graders came in and walked all over me. OUCH! I wish I was my old self again, the red sneaker. POOF!! POOF!! POOFIE!! POOF!! I was my old self again. Something strange was happening. I was on black table with no stinky foot in me. Then, I heard a young girl asking her mom if she could have me. I realized that stinky foot dude was selling me at his garage sale! In a blink of an eye, the young girl's mom said yes. When we got to her house, the young girl put her foot in me. This girl's foot wasn't stinky at all! In fact, it was pretty with all the polish on her toes. Now I get to look at pretty feet all day long. I love my life!!!!

Michele Marvin, DelGiudice

The Magical Transformer Box

I am a shoe. That thought had never crossed my mind before. But, I guess that was before I became a shoe, which is a pretty interesting story to tell someone who has never been one.

As a birthday present, my Uncle José gave me a gift, which he called a "Magical Transformer Box". He told me that I must not open it until he told me to. Of course, being the curious kid that I am, only two hours after I got it, I opened the box. As I did, a blinding flash of light came from the package. Suddenly, I found myself staring at a linoleum floor. I looked around, and I realized that I was a leather boot. I was surrounded by smoke, and I could barely breathe. All of a sudden, I felt myself running. The linoleum changed into carpet. I looked up and saw something I have dreaded my entire life. *Fire.* As I looked up, I realized who was wearing me. It was a tall firefighter, like Uncle José. Then I knew why Uncle José gave me the Magical Transformer Box. He wanted me to be familiar with what being a firefighter is like.

Stephen Hannon, Duff

You Are a Shoe

My shoe owner was strapping me on tight before the big season finale of “Dancing with the Stars.” I could tell that she was nervous because her foot was quivering. We stepped onto the dance floor and the music started. I couldn’t believe how fast we were moving. When I was lifted off the ground, I felt like I was flying! When the dance ended, we went to get the judges’ scores and they said they loved our dance. We got 29 points out of 30. After the other contestants finished their dance, it was time to announce the winner of “Dancing with the Stars.” After a long pause, they finally announced that we were the winners! The crowd was roaring. A few more times, I got lifted off the ground out of my owner’s excitement. My owner now keeps me in a glass case where she can see my bright red color as a reminder of what we accomplished that night.

Grace Kaiser, DelGiudice

You Are a Shoe

I am a pair of stilettos. To get technical, I am pink. I walk the runway every night. I have walked for Valentino, Michael Kors and Dolce and Gabanna. The last time I walked, my model tripped and almost broke my heel. I love, love, love, walking the runway. I have been to Paris, New York City, Milan, and Los Angeles, California. I always make the right fit. Whoever wears me looks FANTABULOUS!

Mia Mastrangeli, DelGiudice

You Are a Shoe

“Ahhh! The ball is coming!” Phghhg. “Hi, I’m a soccer cleat, my job is hard. Everyday I have to kick the ball or get all muddy, and I’m tired of it!” “Katie, Katie, I’m open, over here!” said Ann. “Ann is my owner. She doesn’t care about the mud or rain, she just wants the ball.” Katie kicked the ball to Ann and...I finally went flying off, by my friend righty!” When the game was over, Ann left without her cleats. “Ahh! Where is everyone?” The next day a girl named Allison came over and took the cleats, tried them on, and they fit! The whole cycle started again!

Dani Olis, Litchfield

You Are a Shoe

I am the shoe of Lady Gaga. I have sparkles and sequins running up from the four-inch heel all the way to the top. I love being Lady Gaga’s shoes because every night Lady Gaga does a concert and it’s like I’m the front row. I am the best part of Lady Gaga’s outfit, but every night when she’s done with a concert, I have to be taken off and put into her dark, lonely dressing room closet.

Grace Tworek, Litchfield

The Croc Story

I am a fresh, new green Croc coming right out of the factory in Mexico, smelling great. I was taken to the post office in a big delivery truck. It took about a week in the mail to finally get to the United States. I arrived in a big warehouse in a mall. A man took me to a huge store known as *Nordstrom*. One of the employees put me in the back room. With boxes stacked to the ceiling and workers running in and out, one worker grabbed me. I was overjoyed.

The employee took me to a bench where a girl, about 12 years old, was waiting. She couldn't wait, she took me out of the new box and put me on her small feet, size 4.5. It felt odd when she started walking around and I heard her say these are perfect! Her mother put me back in the box with my twin Freddie. They took me to the cashier and I was rung up. "\$29.50 is your total, m'am, credit or debit?" "Credit", answered the girl's mother. The cashier put the box in the bag and gave it to the mother. "Thanks, Mom, I love you!" the girl replied. All of us got in the car and zoomed away. Finally, I was out of that huge store.

The next day she got up early, slipped on her clothes and put me on her feet, running downstairs with a suitcase. Her mom was waiting for her, "Are you ready to go?" her mom asked. "YES", the girl exclaimed. They hopped in the car and drove off to the airport.

I was confused. I wonder where we are going. We were there at this huge place with lots of people. The girl and her mother got out and got their luggage, rolled it in and talked to a lady wearing a blue suit. They handed over their luggage and the lady said, "thank you".

Why did they give all their stuff away?, I thought. We all walked into this gigantic place where there were people running in and out, up and down, to and fro. Everywhere something was happening.

We headed towards a really long line for security. I had to be taken off her feet, put into a box and onto a conveyor belt that led into a dark place. After about thirty seconds, I was rolled out, down the bars and put back on her feet. They got their stuff, thanked the security guard and walked away. "It's 20 minutes before we get on the plane, do you want to get a magazine, Alice?" the mother said. "Sure," replied Alice. We went to the *Hudson News* stand. Alice picked up a magazine and her mother bought it. We rested in some comfy blue chairs for about 15 minutes until over the loud speaker I heard, "Flight 299 *American Airlines* is now boarding." "That's us", her mom exclaimed. I saw a lady dressed in a blue suit take our ticket. Then this hallway stood in front of us, we walked down it. Are we almost there? I hope so.

Alice took me into the plane and to a seat. We waited about 10 minutes before everybody was on. All of a sudden a loud speaker said, "Flight attendants, please prepare for take off." The plane wheeled down the runway. It started zooming faster and faster! Up, up, up we went into the sky. Sadly, I couldn't see out the window but I am guessing it was awesome. After about 20 minutes, the flight attendants came around with peanuts and drinks. Finally, about an hour and fifteen minutes later we landed. We got off and walked into another gigantic place. It was called Florida. Alice exclaimed, "I can't wait!" She ran down the hallway with me and Freddie flopping on her feet. I couldn't wait either!!

Sofie Palumbo, Duff

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Bad Day at the Ballpark

Awesome, it is my first day selling peanuts at the Cub's game. I am a comfortable pair of blue and red Nike Shoxs. When we get to the ballpark, it is packed. I am very excited because I get to sell peanuts at Wrigley field in the bleachers. We got our peanuts and started off. At first we didn't have a lot of customers. It started to rain in the third inning. I got soaked! They stopped the game and started up a little while later. Nobody wanted peanuts after it rained. In the fifth inning, I stepped in some gum. The seventh inning was the worst, the other team hit a home run and it hit me. It hurt really badly. The game was tied in the ninth and nobody still wants peanuts. The game kept going on and that meant more bad luck. A yellow and green New Balance stepped on me and I got really mad!!! When the game ended, the Cubs lost. It was the worse day ever. I never want to sell peanuts again but maybe cotton candy!

John Jasonowicz, Crane

I am a Shoe

I am a red 8.5 size cowboy boot. It is November 11, 2009 and I just got off a stage. But not just any stage this is the stage that Taylor Swift won 4 CMA awards on. I am so proud of Taylor Swift that I started to cry. Let me introduce myself. I was made especially for Taylor in 2003 and ever since she has never said she likes any shoe better than me. My sister and I were split up as soon as we were born. She chose to be the left shoe of Ashley Tisdale but I knew I was making the right choice by being the right shoe of Taylor Swift. But enough about me that beautiful sky blue painted toed foot is coming in. Let me tell you how my regular day as a shoe is. Usually people think nothing interesting happens down where a shoe is, but those people are wrong. Normally in the evening I have to go to the red carpet. There I see all my shoe friends. Here comes Allison (Justin Beiber's left shoe) about to tell me the latest news. Did you hear about Tim (Ashley Tisdale's right shoe) he was abandoned on a stage last night and was taken to the dump. That's too bad. He was a good shoe. Now you may think that being a shoe you don't have to worry about anything at all. Well, we do. When someone steps on another person's shoe (us) it hurts their foot. Really it hurts us because we are the one being stepped on. So shoe life is dangerous! That is all there is to being a shoe. Here comes Rachel Taylor's biggest fan! Now I need to make a good impression around her. See you later!

Rachel Engel, Crane

Untitled

Wow! I can't believe that the Blue Man Group was wearing me during their world tour. Today we hit Chicago, Illinois. We played at the Chicago Theatre. I am a black, slip-on, dress shoes. I have been in many plays and movies, but Blue Man Group was the best experience I have had yet. It all started in the dressing room, I was sent to the theatre 1 hour before the show. I loved all of the pipes, drums, and guitars that made the wonderful beat. Our crowd was a huge one. We were SOLD OUT! I'm sure the audience loved our show. Who wouldn't? Right now, I have to get off the orange gunk and paint on me. I really hope that I will be able to perform with Blue Man Group again.

John Tuzzolino, Crane

The Stolen Shoe

Hello, I am 24 year old pair of leather shoes that are now used to get the newspapers from the front driveway everyday. I am owned by Dan Conn. Being 24 years old, I have been through a lot. Little kids pulling on me, every kind of weather, and being stolen.

I'll tell you about being stolen if you want. One night the Conns were having a party. Dan was outside cooking dinner when a man picked me up and put me inside his coat. I knew it wasn't Dan, so I was scared. The bad part about it was that Susan and Bob knew about the man putting me in his coat and they did nothing about it. Now at this man's house I was treated badly. I got soaked with water and they took my picture often. The flash of the camera started taking away my beautiful color. I came to know I was being held for ransom. If Dan was to ever see me again he had to pay.

After several days of being held hostage, Dan finally paid the ransom and I was returned. And now I am back getting the newspaper every day. Oh, here comes Dan, it's time to get this morning's newspaper.

Emily Fasick, Crane



Look how
badly they
treated me!

SEVENTH GRADE

WINNER

Untitled

Sure, I'm a converse, the most perfect shoe an artistic girl can own. Of course, even artistic girls can have smelly feet. Don't get me wrong here, she's really nice, but I'm her FAVORITE pair of shoes. In other words, she can't live a day without me.

It's Monday and we're off to art class. I love art class, because the teacher always plays music and I especially love it when my owner taps her foot to the beat while she's painting. This way, I get to dances in a sort of way, too. She's tapping her foot and I'm dancing when she – SPLOOSH! Another paint drip from her to examine. Lifts up top part of shoe, bends foot to the side for another view, and finally breaks into a grin. I love it when she drops paint on me, it adds to the collection of miscellaneous colors in random shapes. Over the years, she has ruined many pairs of shoes this way, judging by a pile in her closet filled with old shoes. Only not me. I used to be a plain Converse with a couple of stars here and there. And the worst part about it? I was white. WHITE! Now, I have pink, yellow, gray, browns, and even a couple vomity colors! But I like it, it makes me an artsy pair of Converse, making me the perfect shoes for an artsy girl.

Maggie Madden, Fitzgerald

First Shoe

I am the shoe of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States. I live in the White House. I go everywhere with the President. I visit the Oval Office almost every day. He even takes me on walks with his dog! President Obama also takes me to countries around the world where I meet famous people and their shoes. I am proud to be Barack Obama's shoe.

Clare Hannon, Amador

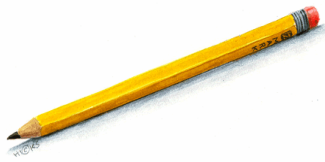
EIGHTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

My Life as a Shoe

Thump. Ouch. Thump. Ouch. Thump. Ouch. Yep, my life as a shoe does get very boring. It's the same routine every day: be woken up by an awful stench and get your head hit against the concrete repeatedly. Although being a shoe has its drawbacks, it does boost your dignity when an observer stops to tell me (or my keeper) how she loves my design or color. I have to say, it is fun to be an Ugg, but I would rather be an Ed Hardy or Coach shoe. My husband, left to myself, would rather be a hiking boot or a baseball cleat. Usually, I am only worn in the winter and fall by my keeper. The winter is the worst because I am worn in snow, so the salt on the roads burns my soul (sole). Pun intended. In the spring and summer, my husband and I are thrown into a closet, along with all of the other winter boots. I am frightened by what's to become of my husband and me when my keeper grows out of us...

Tess Kaiser, Zarob



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

Create a New Olympic Event!



What promises excitement, speed, jumps, turns and wipeouts? **"SKI CROSS"**, of course! Ski Cross is a **new** 2010 Winter Olympic event based on motocross and snowboard cross where four skiers race down a rugged course with many hills, turns, and jumps.

Here is **YOUR** chance to invent a new **Winter OR Summer** Olympic event! What is the name of your event? In **200 words or less**, describe the event in detail, explaining the rules and what equipment is needed.



Winter Olympic Games
February 12th – 28th

80+ Nations
2,500 Athletes
86 Medal Events

Need some ideas for a new event?

- Combine events like luge and ski jumping to create "ski lugging", or wrestling and taekwondo to make "wrestwondo"
- Technology Triathlon - texting, internet maneuvering and Wii Mario Kart
- Water combined events: swim 100 meters, score a goal in water polo and perform a platform dive.

Due date: February 5, 2010

One winning entry from each grade will receive a special prize and all writers will receive a participation prize. Prizes to be announced soon!

Completed work should be e-mailed to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com or placed in the **NEW Adventures in Writing Mailbox** located in the STS Lobby. Entries should be 200 words or less. Entries may be typed or handwritten and should include student name, grade and teacher. Students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc. but the work must be that of the student.

KINDERGARTEN

*****WINNER*****

Ricky's Water Slide Olympic Event

Rule number one is to always have some fun. You must also never hit anyone or you might hurt their brain. The slides are very dangerous. There are lots of twists and turns. The Olympic slide maker built the slide all the way up to outer space. The slides go as fast as a rocket ship. Each racer wears slimy swim suits for extra speed. The slides have waves in them that splash up to the clouds. Fountains spray in every direction, like east and west, and you must steer around them on your way down. The fastest and wettest slider will win the gold medal.

Ricky Anesi, Rosenkranz

New Olympic Event!

"Two balls" baseball is a new Olympic game only for children who go to Kindergarten. Boys and girls will play together. The girls' team will have a pink and black ball and boys' team will have orange and black ball. Boys will be batting and the girls will be pitching. The best team will get a medal and win a trip to Disneyland.

Eva Konsur, Healey

Sled Boarding

The equipment you need for Sled Boarding is kneepads, elbow pads, helmet (you always need that), boots, and a sled.

Lock in your boots into the sled handles and go down the hill. Race down the hill against one person. The winner races again until they are the last one left.

You can slide into people and knock them down to win. If you are almost at the bottom.

Justin Szwaya, Rosenkranz

Game: Sledding Ring Toss Bucket Game

Equipment: Large Sleds; Helmets, 7 rings per sled rider, 7 buckets, one large sledding hill.

Players: Each player will have a helmet on and have 7 rings on his lap while riding his or her sled down the big hill.

Sledding Hill will have 3 buckets placed on each side of the sledding path and one at the bottom.

As the sledder passes down the hill, he or she will try to throw the ring into the bucket. If the ring lands in the bucket, that player gets 1 point. The player with the fastest time down the hill, and the most number of points wins.

** Each player may pick their favorite color for rings and buckets to make keeping track each sledder's rings.

Mikey Schumacher, Rosenkranz

Ski Skating

The newest winter Olympic Event is called Ski Skating. You get on regular skis with ski poles and then ski until you get to the ice rink. Then you take off the skis and boots and put on ice skates. You then use ski poles to push yourself across the rink. You let go of the ski poles then keep your burst of speed for as long as you can and whoever goes the furthest wins. You will need ski poles, skis, ice skates and warm winter clothes. The rules are: no ice skating, you can only push off with the ski poles. The furthest to go on the ice is the winner.

Emily Sullivan, Rosenkranz

Star Wars Clone Wars Lego Diving Race:

Hyena Droid Bomber = 232 Pieces



Rules:

There are 3 teams. Each team has 4 divers, 1 table and 1 Lego instruction book. The first person on each team looks at the step-by-step instruction book to figure out which Lego pieces they must find to build the ship in the right order. Then they put their goggles on and dive into the pool to the middle of their team lane to find the correct pieces. They can choose 2 pieces at a time. They swim back to their table to start building the ship. The first team member must put his 2 pieces in place before the next team member can dive into the pool to get the next 2 Lego pieces and the first team member goes to the end of the line. Each of the four team members follows this pattern until their Hyena Droid Bomber is built correctly. The team that finishes their ship first wins the race and the gold medal; the next team to finish wins the silver medal and the third team wins the bronze medal, but the ship must be built correctly.

Matthew Attak, Rosenkranz

Spoonball

The event I would create for the winter Olympics is Spoonball. You will need a bike, a spoon, a helmet and knee pads and don't forget the golf ball. First you need a net and you put the ball in your spoon and throw it. The other player tries to catch it. If he does not catch it, he is out of the game. The winner is who catches the most balls. The winner gets a gold medal and the loser gets nothing. The championships of spoon ball will be a really big event.

Colin O'Donnell, Healey

Jump Skate Biking!

Check out the newest Summer Olympic Triathlon- Jump Skate Biking! You will be amazed at the stunts, turns, falls, and racing. Players start by jumping rope on the blacktop for 50 yards then skateboard through obstacles like stairs, railings, and ramps. Last, they bike on a dirt course filled with twists and turns. First person to reach the finish line wins. Players must be fully padded with helmets, wrist guards (so they do not break their wrist) and kneepads to enter.

Max Gomez, Healey

Bobboarding

Do you like a waterslide filled with snow? What fun is that? It is tons of fun if you are Bobboarding! In Bobboarding, you go down a shoot like in Bobsledding, but the shoot is filled with snow, not ice. You do this using a snowboard instead of a sled. Three Bobboarders will race each other down the fast, curvy and exciting slide. Each team has a different colored shoot: team one is red, team two is blue, team three is green. *The first person to get to the bottom is the winner!* The winner will get a trophy showing a Bobboarder on the matching color slide. If you like both snowboarding and bobsledding then you can love this new sport- Bobboarding!

Colin Meehan, Healey

Snowmobile Pole Vault Relay Races

A new sport for the Olympics is Snowmobile Pole Vault relay races. Its winter and you're running pole vaulting. Wham! You land in a snowmobile, stand up, and ride! When you get close enough, pole vault into the next snowmobile and drive on. The first pole-vaulting snowmobile rider to get over the finish pole wins!

Carl Blome, Healey

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Chinese Splits on Balance Beam

The U.S. Gymnastic Centers in Lake Zurich, IL will host the first "Chinese Splits on a Balance-Beam" in the Winter Olympic Games. The competing members are 6 and 7 year old girls from St. Theresa's School and also Tutor Time Centers. The world famous, Maile Fidale from St. Theresa's will compete against Becca S. from Tutor Time. Each girl must do the Chinese splits on the high balance beam and read 4 books at the same time! They have 2 minutes to go down on the beam and must read all 4 books in 15 minutes! This game takes much concentration and extreme skill. Maile describes her costume as half-purple and half-blue with many sparkles throughout. She wears her hair in a high ponytail with a sparkling ribbon at the top. She has chosen to read The Snowman, Cinderella, Christmas Time and the Nutcracker. The ultimate prize is a Big Pink Trophy. If Maile wins, the Trophy will be displayed in the case at St. Theresa's. Please come and cheer on Maile Fidale! She wants to make St. Theresa's proud! Go Maile Go!!!!

Maile Fidale, Held

Gym Ball

When I'm old enough, I will declare Gym Ball an Olympic sport. When you play Gym Ball, you have to combine gymnastics and baseball together. This is how you do it: you play baseball, but instead of running the bases, you cartwheel the bases. The person trying to tag you has to somersault to try and tag you. When you reach home plate (if you do, but it's okay if you don't) you have to do a back roll and then a front roll. After that, you cartwheel up the bleachers and take autographs. When the game is over, the judge will figure out who wins by both their cartwheels and getting to home plate. This game is sort of hard, but fun! I hope you try Gym Ball.

Kate Hannon, Duncan

The Big Olympic Race

You start the race in a hard balloon in the air. It has holes in it so you can breathe. You have to break out of it. It will be snowing. You try to catch a snowflake. When you catch the snowflake, you need to take your bottles of ketchup and mustard and mix it with pickle juice. Then you mix the snowflake with the ketchup, mustard and pickle juice. Then you try to spray it on the big screw so the balloon will pop and go to the ground. After you are on the ground, a big rabbit will be in front of you. You will try to defeat the rabbit with the stuff you sprayed on the screw. If you take too long, the rabbit will have five babies. The babies are stronger than the rabbit. If you defeat all five of them, you will move to level 3. At level 3 you get a fish bubble from a lake and blow it up. You need to run 15 miles in the fish bubble without popping it. If you make it, you will win a trophy as tall as the ceiling and you will be an Olympic hero!

Grace Engel, Duncan

SECOND GRADE

WINNER

Soccer on Ice

This is what I am doing, soccer on ice. This is how you do it and design it. There are statues made out of ice and the seats are made out of ice and the nets are made out of ice. And now this is how you play it. Instead of using your feet, you can use big hockey sticks that are made of ice. The soccer balls are made out of ice and the whistle is made out of ice and the little ball inside it is made out of ice and it actually makes a sound and every time you make a score the numbers that are on the board are made of ice and the team that wins and the people that voted for them they get a big ice cream cone and that is the end.

Gabriella Presta, Reckamp

New Sport: Hockey Tennis

Equipment: Ice ring with tennis net in the middle and 2 hockey goals - one at each end of the ring. 4 tennis rackets. One Tennis Ball

Players: 4 players - 2 on each team wearing ice-skates

Game: 2 ten minute quarters with a 5 minute half time rest

How to play: You flip a coin to see which team goes first. One team begins with serving the tennis ball to the other team. They try to get the ball past that team and into the hockey net. If you get the tennis ball in the other teams hockey net, you score 1 point. You take turns serving. Whichever team has the most points at the end of the second quarter wins.

Patrick Schumacher, Guedel

Wii Eat & Compete

My new Olympic event is called Wii Eat & Compete. In this event you will do 7 times around the course. You have to go eat seven of your favorite foods and you have to do seven Wii Fit games. But we have trophies for first, second, third and fourth. First is gold, second is silver, third is bronze and fourth is red. To begin you have to eat first and then do a game. The game has to be finished at bodybuilder (four stars) in order to advance. You can't move on unless you are a bodybuilder. The next level starts after you eat a second time. Kids this hits the spot!

Dominic Tuzzolino, Reckamp

THIRD GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Tuna Tossing

My sport would be tuna tossing. There would be a 50 pound tuna on the ground. They would pick it up and spin it 10 times around their head. See how far you can go! Up to 4 players. If you win you get a big tuna. There will be 5,000 rounds. If you lose you get hit in the face with a tuna. You get four kinds of tuna to choose from: fire, plain, hearts, flowers. The field is 78,000 feet long.

Grace Deyhle, McDermott

The Tenvally Game

Hi! I'm Mimi and I'm watching the tenvally championship! Go, Alley Wedding! She's my favorite player! I really look up to her, I wish that I could be like her someday! But, I can't afford the practice. I have a racket too! (Tennis did not exist.) I also have a ball! (Neither did volleyball.) Oh my gosh! I missed the whole rest of the game talking to you! Come on, the other team won! Wait a minute, Alley Wedding is demanding a rematch! She's scoring, she's scoring, she's scoring! And she wins! She's saying her speech. To win you have to deserve to win! That's her best speech ever, and I'm going to follow it!

How to play tenvally: To play tenvally you hit a volleyball with a tennis racket.

Helen Blome, Burns

FOURTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Waffle Slide

Things you need: human size waffle, ice cream mountain and bottles of whip cream.

Sled down the ice cream mountain on the waffle while you are on your way down you try to spray other people with the whip cream. You also have to try to dodge other people spraying you with whip cream. People on the side lines throw fruit at you. If you get hit you can't spray anyone for 2 minutes. If you catch a piece of fruit you can throw it at someone else. Who ever is the cleanest at the bottom of the mountain is the winner.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Wozniak

Skateboarding

I think skateboarding should be a new summer Olympic game because you can do cool tricks in the air. The winner would have to go the fastest, it would be easy. People have to go 100 ft. and they have to do at least 6 tricks. There would be 4 races, 2 for men and 2 for women. Kids can join but they only have to do 75 ft. You don't have to pay for a skateboard. You can win \$1,000 if you come in 3rd place, \$2,000 in 2nd place and \$10,000 if you come in 1st place. You would also win a big trophy. Then you also get a free trip from where it is and back to your home town. You also can play in the winter games.

Cailyn Currie, Ms. Wozniak

Shoveling

A new winter Olympic game should be shoveling. It is not going to shovel itself. So have people in the Olympics do it. The plow trucks are busy in Chicago. The streets of Chicago need it. There are so many people there, it will get done in a flash. It would be awesome if they would do it.

Nicholas DeConcilis, Wozniak

Sit-Ski

My new Winter Olympic game is Sit-Ski. Sit-Ski is where you sit down on two skis attached with two bars so you don't lose a ski. On the bar close to the back of the Sit-Skis, there is a wooden platform you can sit on. The Sit-Skis have a place to put your feet at the front of your Sit-Skis. You have a race with 20 people in each race. You go down a mountain as fast as you can sitting on your Sit-Skis without falling off. The person who goes the farthest without falling wins.

Lauren Ryan, Chameli

A New Olympic Sport Called Scating (s-KA-t-ing)

If I were allowed to make a new Olympic sport, I would combine soccer and skating. The sport would be called Scating. Scating would have a soccer ball with skaters wearing very cool shoes. The shoes would be skates, but there would be very bold, thick pads to hit the ball with. The goals would be half as small as a normal soccer goal. The rules are a lot different. You cannot shove or push anyone or there is a free kick. To get a point you have to either steal the ball and score or make two passes or go around a guy to get a point. Each basket would be 2 points. Baskets from half court are 3 points. To win you have to score 24 points in the time given. There are 9 minutes, 59 seconds in an eighth. You have to get exactly 24 points so if you have 22 and get a 3, it doesn't count. If one team gets 24 points before the other, the referees would wait until the eighth is over then end the game. Players would play for fun until the scheduled game is supposed to end.

Rebecca Wolf, Chemeli

Irish Skating

I just made a new winter Olympic sport! It is called Irish Skating. In Irish Skating you get to do Irish dance moves and skate at the same time. You need to turn out your feet and arms in! You have to jump high in the air. Boys and girls can do it. In Irish Skating there is even partners! Old and young can do it. Dress nicely if you want to do winter Olympics and do the Irish Skating.

The 2010 Olympics are in Vancouver! Hope to see you there!

Anne Marie Nalley, Wozniak

Olympic Event

A new Olympic sport that would be really fun to do is running backwards and forwards.

The people would time you because you will be the only one on the track. (Because then you would bump into each other.) First you run backwards but you start when they say GO! Then when you get back where you started, you run frontwards then stop where you started the timer. And you see who was faster, then they WON!

Maria Presta, Wozniak

Dodge-Bogganing

If I had to invent a new Olympic event it would be called Dodge-Bogganing. It is Dodge Ball combined with tobogganing. It starts off with two teams with four people on a toboggan. They have three balls to start with then every time someone gets out, a new ball comes in and that person is eliminated. To get eliminated you must fall off the toboggan by getting hit with a ball. The team with the shortest time to the finish line wins. However if any people fall off the toboggan, that team receives a five-second penalty. That would be in my invention of a new Olympic event.

Mike Patano, Chameli

FIFTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Motojump

My new Olympic event is called 'motojump'. It is a summer Olympic sport. Similar to ski jumping and motocross, a rider on a dirt bike rides down a steep hill with a curve on the end. Athletes will be judged by their distance, amount of time spent in the air, and balance. The materials needed are dirt bikes, equipment such as helmets, and a hill like a ski jump hill, but with dirt instead of snow. The dirt bikes would have specially designed tires to withstand the impact of landing. I think that my Olympic sport is a good one.

Stephen Hannon, Duff

Olympic Event

An Olympic sport I made up was Head Ball. Head Ball is like volleyball but you can only use your head. Every time the team hits the ball over the net gets a point. The ball is soft so you don't hurt your head. I tried Head Ball at home and I had a blast.

Angelica Presta, Duff

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Triathlon in Winter

If I would create an Olympic event it would be a winter triathlon. The 1st event would be having a shuttle run on ice. 3 people would be wearing gym shoes and holding a ball. Each person would start out with 10 points. If they slip or drop the ball they lose 1 point. The person who crosses the finish line with the most points wins.

The next event would be soccer on ice but a little different. The soccer ball would be made out of ice and be played on ice. Again, everyone would be holding a hockey stick but with a sponge attached to the bottom. The person who hits the soccer ball and it melts the other team gets the point. The 1st team with 8 points wins.

The last event would be like hockey but in snow. The tricky part is that the snow has to be about 6 inches so it would be tricky to see the ball to hit it. The team who hits the ball into the net 5 times they win. This would be an awesome Olympic event. The End.

Elena Presta, Ellis

Speed Figure Skating

There's a new Winter Olympic event that is getting all the athletes excited. It is called Speed Figure Skating. The athletes must skate a routine in a limited amount of time. They have to do it as fast and as neat as they can. Points will be given for quickness and neatness. Whoever gets the most points wins. The athletes are training and they hope to win a gold medal in this exciting Winter Olympic game.

Anthony Betti, Liska

"Snow Ball Dash"

If I could invent a new winter Olympic sport it would be called "Snow Ball Dash". In this game 1 person would be placed inside a hamster ball. This ball would be controlled by only you. In order to move you would have to do what a hamster does- roll. Two people would be on the same obstacle at once. You would race down a hill with many things that could stop you. In order to get the snow off your ball you would have to rock side to side. The first one to the finish line wins!

Rachel Engel, Crane

Toboggan Distance

The name of my sport is Toboggan Distance. The things you need are six people, a toboggan, a steep hill, helmets, padding, a ramp and a frozen lake. First, two people sit in the toboggan. Second, four teammates push the toboggan down the slick hill. Third, when the toboggan reaches the ice, aim the toboggan so it flies off the ramp. The team should make sure they land the toboggan and stay on the sled. Then they should try to slide as far as possible without falling off or touching the ice. The team that goes the farthest wins.

John Jasonowicz, Crane

Ski-boarding

The sport ski-boarding is when someone skis half the way and boards the other half. They would have to do different things like turns, jumps, and terrain parks. The terrain park would be an advantage, you would get extra points. There are different point values for different tricks. At the end the person with the highest score wins. There are many rules. You must have skis and a snowboard. There are 5 people doing it at once but there are 20 people in the match. When you fall or take a wrong path you would have points taken away. You cannot take off your skis or snowboard. But you can take them off when you are switching things. You can't push anyone or you are disqualified. You must do everything or you are disqualified. You have to be 18 to join. When you are done the person with the most points gets gold, second gets silver, third gets bronze and the rest get a ribbon as participants. You would need skis, snowboard, a mountain, some people and some judges.

Jake Ryan, Liska

Videoball

My new summer Olympic sport would be video ball. It's a mix between Basketball and video games. The rules are, you have to play 1 on 1 against one of the NBA's best players. Then after 12 minutes, you pick a different NBA star and play NBA 2K10 on Wii. Whoever wins by the most combined points wins! If you want you could participate as many times as you want!

John Tuzzolino, Crane

SEVENTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

New Creative Sporting Event

Attention all Olympic followers! There has been an additional sporting event added! How good are you at art? Well, it's time to find out, because the rules of this event are simple. The Olympic committee chooses a model, painting or sculpture the day before the event takes place. After the piece is chosen, the five members from the country must modify this art work. Any material may be used to create the art, but one of the only rules is this - no copying directly. Points will be awarded base on creativity and how well your team can work together. If you're considering joining for either the summer or winter Olympics, please call the number attached to this sheet.
Thank you - the Olympic Committee

Maggie Madden, Fitzgerald

EIGHTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Olympic Sport

The new Olympic sport should be Extreme Sledding. Extreme sledding really has no rules; the judges judge you! Extreme sledding is based on a hill with huge jumps and rails. The person with the coolest trick wins. The judges look for originality, how high one gets, the spin and if the trick was clean and smooth. Also the ones who dare will be features the halfpipe: 24 foot walls and 200 feet long.

Jason Ziolkowski, Zaro



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

How to Catch a Leprechaun



I couldn't believe my eyes. In the field behind St. Theresa there was a leprechaun picking a shamrock! Everybody knows that if you catch a leprechaun, but agree to let him go, he will tell you where a pot of gold is hidden. All I had to do was trap this little man and then I'd be rich! But how do you catch a leprechaun?

****Need a Story Starter****

- To catch a leprechaun, you must first sing him a lullaby so he will fall asleep.
- Since the best way to catch a leprechaun is to offer him food, I decided to cook his favorite meal of corned beef and cabbage.
- The only way to catch this leprechaun was to change my last name to O'Malley and ask him to Irish dance with me.

Due date: March 19, 2010

Winning entries from each grade will receive **5 GOLD DOLLAR COINS** and all writers will receive a participation prize.

Completed work should be e-mailed to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com or placed in the **NEW Adventures in Writing Mailbox** located in the STS Lobby. Entries should be 200 words or less. Entries may be typed or handwritten and should include student name, grade and teacher. Students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc. but the work must be that of the student.

KINDERGARTEN

WINNER

Be very quiet. Slither or crawl on your belly. You should wear green clothes so you can blend into the grass. Watch out for the black shoes with golden buckles. That leprechaun is as big as a preschooler. When he steps on the grass he makes rustling sound! Use your hands as fast as you can so you can grab him by his legs. Make a wish, then, let him go so other people can make wishes.

Max Gomez, Healey

Once upon a time there was leprechaun named Mr. Leppy. He kept slipping away with everyone's gold coins. Everyone wanted to catch him but he was too powerful. I said I could catch him because I have invisible powers. So, one day after school I was walking home and I saw Mr. Leppy run by and I heard coins jingling in his pocket. So, I flipped my backpack on my back and turned myself invisible. I snuck up behind him and jumped in his pocket and stole the gold coins. Then I followed him home, flew into the air, dropped a cage and caught him! The End.

Colin Meehan, Healey

The Fairy Trap

To catch a leprechaun is real easy first you need to make a fairy ring in your grass in the backyard. In the middle of it you will plant some flowers and shamrocks with gold on top of the shamrocks. While the leprechauns are at the park tricking people they will notice the gold shinning. When the leprechaun gets to the shamrocks to steal the gold a giant umbrella trap comes down to trap him. The next time it rains you can pick up the umbrella wait for the rainbow to come and get him.

Emily Paul, Healey

Once upon a time, I found a Leprechaun. I caught it over the rainbow, hiding behind a clover. I fed the Leprechaun food. The Leprechaun liked the food. The Leprechaun hid the gold. I caught the Leprechaun and found the gold. There was chocolate wrapped in gold paper. The candy was delicious. The Leprechaun hid more gold. I caught the Leprechaun, again.

Brooke Byrne, Rosenkranz

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First you get a pot with a lid on it. Then you fill it with Lucky Charms, a rainbow, gold coins and shamrocks. These are the things that a leprechaun likes. After he hops in the pot, you put the lid on the pot. Then you put a lock on the lid. The End.

Ricky Anesi, Rosenkranz

I can catch a leprechaun by tiptoeing up behind him or sneaking up behind a bush to get him. Then I will jump up and catch that leprechaun. I will catch him with my hands. I will put him in a pot and make a wish. I wish for gold and I will show him to my family.

Ryan Kurrie, Healey

If a leprechaun comes in your yard, don't stand there, think of a way to catch him! Maybe get ice and throw it at him? Nah. A suggestion is maybe whip up some ice cream! Another one is get out a movie computer and ask him if he wants to watch a movie and get his favorite movie. Another is creep up on him while he sleeps and wake him up. You could also catch him by getting an empty cookie jar and wait until he walks in then lift it up and you got him. I hope you enjoy trying to catch the leprechaun, Love Emily

Emily Sullivan, Rosenkranz

Leprechaun Catching

To catch a leprechaun, get a double-sided tube slide that looks like a rainbow. A leprechaun will walk right up and sit down to count his money. They don't really hide their gold there, they just count it! Hide in the slide and wait. (Be sure you have a net-or sack! One touch from him will make you green.) When you're ready, slide down and grab him with your net – you'll soon be walking home with a leprechaun in one arm, and a pot of gold in the other. (And maybe green skin!)

Carl Blome, Healey

This fine Spring Day I went to the grocery store and I got some chocolate coins and I set a trap. I put the coins in the pot. I am Elizabeth Darby and I am waiting for the Leprechaun. I will Irish dance until you come.

Ellie Towle, Healey

First, you put leprechaun candy gold behind a TV. Then put a cage or a fence out. Next, we will catch him and then he will tell us where the pot of gold is. He will grant me three wishes.

Colin O'Donnell, Healey

Me and Jason will catch a Leprechaun by taking chocolate gold coins and a pot. We will put the chocolate gold coins in the pot to make it look like a pot of gold. To know he came to get the fake pot of gold we will put some cheese in front of the pot of gold. If the cheese is gone he came!

Mikey Schumacher & Jason Zhao, Healey

I would make a trail of delicious food, beer, lucky charms, and shamrock shakes. A lot of beer he will get drunk.

I will ask him to come in for a rest. I will shut the door and promise to let him go when he tells me where the pot of gold is.

Joseph Wendtland, Healey

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I love Leprechauns! Yesterday, when I came home from school, I received 7 gold coins from a little leprechaun. He put them in my milkbox leprechaun coin holder. I was so excited when I found the box near my ballerina doll. When I was standing outside my bedroom door, I could hear some noises. I got a little scared so I went downstairs and told my mom to come in the room with me because of the 'thumping' noises. We opened up the door, there was no one there; but then I looked down and found my leprechaun box full of coins. My mommy asked me, "Maile, how do you think we could catch him the next time?" I know he likes gold coins made of chocolate. I thought if I put some gold coins in my bug catcher box maybe he would go in there and we could quickly close the door! He is very tiny so I know he would fit in that box. It has a screen with air holes so he would be ok. I would love to watch him! My favorite thing would be to try to make him laugh. Maybe next St. Patrick's Day we could try to catch my special leprechaun.

Maile Fidale, Mrs. Held

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I've never seen a leprechaun at school, but we did have one at home. My brother and I made fake gold and every day one piece was gone. So my brother and I made a trap. We made a ditch and we put fake gold around it. We covered the ditch with leaves. When the leprechaun reached for the fake gold, he fell into our trap. That's how we caught a leprechaun. We went down a ladder and grabbed him. We told him to tell us where his pot of gold was and we would let him go. The leprechaun told us it was in the rainforest. So tomorrow we head out. Wish us good luck!

Payton Chlopecki, Ms. Duncan

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First, you look up on the ceiling for holes. Then you find the leprechaun. Then you catch the leprechaun. Then you stare at the leprechaun. Then you do not blink because then you will not get your wish.

Makayla D'Ambrosio, Mrs. Held

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun, you have to get chocolate coins and he will think it is mud inside. He may run away with the chocolate coins but if you get more he will come back. You will not have to chase him around. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Margaret Nalley, Ms. Duncan

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Step 1: Take a box with a lid.

Step 2: Decorate the box for the leprechaun.

Step 3: Put the box by the door at night and watch for the leprechaun to come.

Step 4: When the leprechaun comes into the box and gives you money, put the lid on the box.

Step 5: Keep your eyes open long enough to think about what you want from the leprechaun.

Step 6: Make your wish.

Step 7: After the leprechaun grants your wish, give him a piece of gold.

Step 8: Let the leprechaun go.

The End.

Grace Engel, Ms. Duncan

Being With a Leprechaun On Saint Patrick's Day

This is how I would catch a Leprechaun. On Saint Patrick's Day, I would go to the rainbow, find the leprechaun and the pot of gold. It might be tricky because leprechauns are about 1 inch tall. Then, I'd put tape on my hands and pluck him tightly and take him to my house and tell him what my wish was. This is what my wish would be, that in 2011, I could be with him on the rainbow. He said that his Mom was going to be on the rainbow in 2011 and I could, too! He also said that his whole family would be there in 2012. The best part of all is that I could always be with him on the rainbow! The last thing that he said before he disappeared was that each year he would give me 5 pieces of gold! I'm not sure that he actually disappeared for he was so small and sneaky. The end!

Kate Hannon, Ms.Duncan

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Once I saw a leprechaun with a pot of gold and I started to run. Then the leprechaun saw me. Then I set a trap. I put out some snacks out by the lake. I put out cookies. Then the leprechaun ate the cookies. I tried to grab him. But he was too fast. So I set another trap. My trap was to catch him when he crossed the line and then the gates would close. It worked. He gave me a pot of gold.

Jacob Jankovec, Mrs. Held

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First, look up at the ceiling. If you see a whole and there is stuff coming out, look to see if it is a leprechaun. If it is a leprechaun, do not blink!! Get a box. Use your hands to trap him, (but be quick, those little guys are FAST). Then, once you catch him, stuff him in the box.

Christine Kobilarcik, Mrs. Held

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Since Leprechauns are shoe makers back in Ireland, I came up with this idea. I will call and order a special pair of shoes for them to make me. When they arrive at my house, I will have them measure my feet for the perfect size, and I will pick out a Shamrock green leather to make them out of.

Once my shoes are finished, I will put them on and I will say something is in the toe part that hurts my feet. The little Leprechaun will jump inside my new shoe to see what's wrong. Next, I will put my foot back in the shoe, and I hop over to the kitchen and grab a jar. The last thing I have to do is pull my foot out and make sure he doesn't escape. I will grab him and put him in the jar. Then I will have my very own Leprechaun.

Gianna Paul, Ms. Duncan

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First, you need chocolates wrapped in tin foil that looks like gold, and then when the leprechaun tries to get the chocolates, drop a box on him. Then I will make a deal with him to let him go in exchange for gold.

Matthew Vittorino, Mrs. Held

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, put some chocolate coins in the grass and hide behind a bush. You must be very quiet. When the leprechaun takes the chocolate coins, grab him! Hold him down with your hand and stare into his eyes.

Lily Wiltgen, Mrs. Held

SECOND GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How To Catch A Leprechaun

That is a hard question! Everyone knows that leprechauns are tricky, so to catch one, I need to be trickier. I saw on TV that leprechauns love Lucky Charms cereal. I would quietly put a trail of Lucky Charms leading from the field to a trap I made that looks like his home.

He would see his favorite food and eat each piece along the trail until he got to his house. As he walked in the front door, snap – the door would close and the little guy would be mine!

But since I don't want to be mean, I would let the little fella go after talking with him. He would be so happy to be free, he would leave me a small pot of gold.

Heather McDermott, Guedel

How To Catch A Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, first I would get fake gold and make it shine. Next I would get a pot and put the fake gold in the pot. Then, when the 17th comes, I will try to find a rainbow. I will put the pot of fake gold at the end of the rainbow and hide and wait for the leprechaun to come. Then, I would go out really fast and softly and I would snatch him.

Caleigh Klein, Reckamp

How To Catch A Leprechaun

This is how you catch a Leprechaun. First, you need a trap like food that a leprechaun likes. Then you should dig a hole and put food in it. When he is looking for gold, you can make him fall into the hole. You can quickly grab the leprechaun with a special kind of net that will make him stuck in the net. Then he will take you to his home and give you his gold if you let him free. That is how you catch a leprechaun.

Sean Balogh, Guedel

How To Catch A Leprechaun

This is how you catch a leprechaun. First, you get all your tools, which are a net and a fake pot of gold. But that is not all you need to do. You need a really good leprechaun suit. Believe it or not, that is all you need. Now here is what you do with it. First, put the leprechaun suit on. Next put the fake pot of gold and the net in the leprechaun suit. Then find the leprechaun and talk to him like you are one. Now, get him distracted by showing your fake gold to him. When he does not expect it, snatch him with your net. That is how you catch a leprechaun.

Sara Johanson, Reckamp

How To Catch A Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun, you need a net and a magical four leaf clover. You need to be set up all over the school so that you can start to look for him. I would put a piece of the magical four leaf clover in each trap. The magical four leaf clover would make the trap look like a pot of gold. When the leprechaun comes near the gold, you slam the net down and you just got yourself a leprechaun. You ask him if he would like some clover and when he says yes, you tell him he will get it when he tells you where the real pot of gold is. If you want gold, you are going to need to go by a rainbow. You should put the leprechaun in a bag and he can tell you where to go. If you can't find it, it is because it is deep under the rainbow.

Mackenzie Stengel, Reckamp

How To Catch A Leprechaun

First, get a cage, rope, metal circles and scissors. Then tie it to the cage and put it across a metal circle. Then get another metal circle and put the rope across that metal circle. Then put it on the ceiling. If you want the cage to come to you, just pull the rope and also hide in a vent. Also, put a video camera somewhere, then once the cage traps the leprechaun, the camera will take a picture of the leprechaun.

Emily Barker, Reckamp

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, I would buy chocolate coins and put it in a pot. Then, I would put a rope and a net right by the coins and then he will be trapped and call the police and take him to a place where he won't come out and then I would give the money to Haiti.

Gabriella Presta, Reckamp

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun, this is how to do it. First, if you have gold coins, make a trap. Second, get rope and hang it on a tree and tie it. After that, the leprechaun will run into it and you trap him and he won't tell you where his pot of gold is but you can make him tell you. Really, he will!

Emmet Stephen, Reckamp

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, you need to get a rope and sing him a lullaby so he will fall asleep. Once he's asleep, tie the rope around him so he won't run away. Then get a St. Patrick's Day truck, drive back to where he was, put him and his gold in the truck and drive home. Then you can send the gold to the hospital, poor places, Haiti and Chile.

Macy Liddy, Reckamp

THIRD GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Leprechaun

Once upon a time there was a boy named Gerry O'Malley and he and his family lived in Ireland and were poor and had to find some money so they would one day be rich. So one day he saw a rainbow and thought that at the end of it there would be a pot of gold. But he thought he had to catch the leprechaun first. So he planned to give him beef and cabbage and while the leprechaun was eating it he would get all the gold and run. And if the leprechaun finished eating before he ran he would ask him to play soccer. And when the leprechaun was tired he would run with the gold while he was resting. Then return to his family. Then with the gold Gerry would buy a mansion and food and water and clothing. And more but that is all I can tell you so the end.

Kevin O'Connell, Burns

How to Catch a Leprechaun

This is how I caught my leprechaun. I used a home-made trap made with things I found around the house. The things were:

- An old basketball hoop
- A pillowcase
- A paper plate
- And a piece of candy that looked like a gold coin

The basketball hoop supported the paper plate. The pillowcase was around the hoop. I cut a trap door in the paper plate. I put the piece of candy near the trap door. And then when the Leprechaun came walking by he picked up the piece of candy and slipped into my pillowcase trap.

The next day, when I saw the leprechaun in the pillowcase I asked him for one million dollars. The leprechaun gave me the money and was on his way. When I came down to breakfast I told my family about how my trap worked.

Tim Fasick, Burns

How to Catch a Leprechaun

You might catch a leprechaun by singing him a lullaby, but he will probably yell at you for thinking he was a little kid. So then you might want to get to know him better. But you really don't, you are just in it for the pot of gold, right? (You know what I mean, right?) Then when the time is just right you go and catch him in the middle of a sentence. If that doesn't work, you might want to try sneaking up on him and then grabbing him from behind. That works for me when I see one. Then you get your pot of gold and you are rich.

Cece Kaiser, Burns

How to catch a Leprechaun

My trap for a leprechaun would be a giant net and a big pot of what he would think was gold (but it is not - it's actually chocolate coins). There would be a magical rainbow pointing to the net. The leprechaun got away but one year later he came back so we had to make a new and better idea. There was a big balloon full of gold and he went in there. But he floated away and found another leprechaun. They found a good place to live in Leprechaun World and had two kids named Leap and Clover (both girls). They met new people who lived in a giant shamrock next door and had two boys (named Gold and Pot). Their house was a four leaf clover but Leap and Clover's house was a three leaf clover. Sometimes they got mixed up because the houses looked like each other but they usually had an idea which one was which. They lived happily ever after.

Grace Deyhle, McDermott, Room 115

How to Catch a Leprechaun?

How to catch a leprechaun? Oh, that's easy! Okay, here's how you do it. You make a fake rainbow. You know every leprechaun wants to put gold there. And he will try to sit on the fake rainbow to slide down. But you'll put a hammock that snaps together when something falls in it there. Since the rainbow is fake, he will fall through the rainbow, land in the hammock, and get trapped! What do you say? Oh, why is my skin green? I just touched the leprechaun.

Helen Blome, Burns

How to Catch a Leprechaun

The best way to catch a leprechaun is to trick him. First, you tell him you are a leprechaun. Then you tell him to follow you. When he follows, you bring him to your house and you should also sing him a lullaby until he falls asleep. When he has finally fallen asleep you should catch him and put him in a cage. The last step would be to ask him where he has the pot of gold and if he tells me where it is I would let him go. That is what I think is how to catch a leprechaun.

Megan Helsdingen, Burns

Leprechaun

First to catch a leprechaun you need to lay out a fake pot of gold. He will go to get it and fall into a hole. And you ask him to tell you where the pot of gold is. What is it in the gym? Well, it was in the gym behind the stage. Now I know why we aren't allowed behind the stage.

Jake Dodson, Burns

How to Catch a Leprechaun

The first thing about catching a leprechaun is you have to make the trap. Making a trap is an easy thing to do. First I get 3 or 4 sheets of card stock. Next I get some tape and get one sheet of the card stock, place it down in the front and get another sheet of card stock. I cut the paper in 6 pieces, 4 short and 2 long ones. I make it in a house shape with a door. Because leprechauns love coins, I put some coins in the trap by the front door of our house right in the path leading to my trap. When they go inside, and they will, they take my coins and leave me gold dollar coins. It really works!

Anthony Paul, McDermott

Leprechaun

I will teach you how to catch a leprechaun. First I will tell you where he is hiding. He is hiding behind the field at St. Theresa School.

- First you get a soap holder
- You would fill the soap holder with fresh water
- I would leave the soap holder out for one night
- You would set a net trap under the soap holder so when the leprechaun comes to swim he gets caught in the trap

I would say to leave the soap holder a little longer than just one night so he will not think you are trying to catch him.

Riley Donohue, McDermott

FOURTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Here's one way of how to catch a leprechaun. To catch a leprechaun you need to dress up as a girl leprechaun and talk the boy leprechaun into coming over to your house for tea. When he comes over, secretly put a sleeping pill in his tea that would make him fall asleep. After he falls asleep, tie him up to a bed, but make sure he's not carrying any escape tools helping him break free. Also, if you want his gold, force him to give it to you. That's one way of how to catch a leprechaun.

Marta Cholewa, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Here are the steps to catch a leprechaun. Please follow exactly these steps or the leprechaun will get away and take the secret of where the gold is hidden with him.

1. Items needed: First you need a stick, string, a box, a fake piece of gold, and Lucky Charms.
2. Tie the string to the stick and to the "gold". Angle the stick and prop the box on its side. Make sure the stick holds the box upright.
3. Make a trail of Lucky Charms leading to the gold under the box.
4. When the leprechaun takes the "gold" and the stick falls down the box will trap him inside.
5. Come back at exactly 15 minutes later. Give him green colored milk and tie him up with green rope. Tell him you will let him go if he reveals the hiding spot for the gold. Be Careful! They are very tricky.

Jeremy Chlopecki, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I would catch a leprechaun with delicious food. I would make green shamrock cookies, Rice Krispie Treats made with green marshmallows, and cupcakes with green frosting and green sprinkles. I would also put a bottle of Green River soda pop next to the goodies.

I would play Irish music to lure him out of his secret hiding spot. When he was full from eating the goodies and relaxed from listening to the Irish music, I would unexpectedly drop a net over him and place him in a metal carrying cage to show my friends how clever I am and to prove that leprechauns do exist!

Daniel Krueger, Wozniak

The Pot of Gold

To catch a leprechaun you need to be sneaky, fast, and follow my instructions very carefully.

First, you should go to the store if you don't have: poster boards, a cage, a rope, green paint, and scissors. Then, get your poster boards and cut them in the shape of three leaf clovers. Cut 10 of them, then paint them green and let them dry. While they dry go outside and pick as many three leaf clovers as possible if you see any. After the paint dries write down on 9 of them and write how to find the pot of gold (so write down where to go)! Then place them on the ground two feet apart from each other and if you got three leaf clovers place them in the middle of the poster boards. Then tie the rope to the cage on each side (left and right of the cage). Find someone to hold the left side and then you hold the right and wait till he comes. Oh, and stay somewhere high up from the ground.

When you see the leprechaun let go of the rope and you caught him! Now you'll get a lot of gold and become rich!

That's how you catch a leprechaun.

Maria Presta, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun and be rich I'll tell you how. In order to catch a leprechaun you'll need lots of tools! Make sure you have a large net, chocolate coins, a black pot, a light, paint, and a suit like Spiderman's, it doesn't matter what color it is. First, find a hiding place like in the school, and put on your Spiderman suit and mask. Maybe you want to hide on the wall in the school then; you would paint your Spiderman suit and mask to blend in with the bricks on the wall. Next, put the chocolate coins in the black pot, and put it near your hiding place. After that, take a light and shine over the pot. The leprechaun will be able to see the shiny pot and he will come running to it. You have to take your net, and hide in your hiding spot. When the leprechaun runs toward you catch him with your net and that is how you catch a leprechaun.

Ally Eipert, Chameli

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun first you will have to sing him twinkle twinkle little star. For a lullaby to make him go to sleep then you will have to go and look at home for a garbage bag and as you are walking home you should be thinking if the leprechaun is still asleep or he woke up. If he is still asleep take the garbage bag and scoop him in the garbage bag and move it around until he wakes up and make sure he promises to tell you where the gold is under the rainbow and then you can let him go.

Alexis D'Ambrosio, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

When your house is a mess on St. Patrick's Day but you were just there, guess who came! The leprechaun! He comes once a year to make you mad! What you need to catch it is a string four yards long, a rock, some glue, some gold glitter, and a leprechaun! First you need to put the glitter on the rock with the glue. Next you put the rock on the string and throw the rock until the string is straight and go behind a wall so you can't see the leprechaun and when you feel a tug pull the string very slowly and the leprechaun will see you and you get a bucket and put the bucket on the leprechaun and say "Give me your pot of gold."

If that trick doesn't work here's the next. You need tape that is see through and wide, gold chocolate coins, and a doorway. First put the tape on the sides of the doorway. Next put the coins a little farther from the tape and hide. When you see a little green hat and a little person about 2 inches tall and say "Give me your pot of gold!" Sometimes it works but sometimes it doesn't, but you might have to make your own traps up. Remember if you see a mess if you just were in that room then the leprechaun came to the room. Try my traps sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't.

Hope the traps work.

Cailyn Currie, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, first you have to think like a leprechaun. Leprechauns are really greedy and love their gold. You could set a trap for him while you are asleep because they never come out when you are awake. Put four gold coins in a bowl. Use a laundry basket and prop it up with a stick attached to a string. When the leprechaun sees the gold he will try and grab it and trip on the string. Boom! The basket will fall down on the greedy leprechaun. Then he is all yours.

Jack Curran, Wozniak

Have You Spotted the Leprechaun?

Have you seen Patt the Leprechaun? I have. He has been all over the place. In classrooms, in Mrs. Thompson's music room, in the principal's room, and in the computer room. Patt carries a big jar of gold and Irish music. He dances around a lot. But someone needs to stop him, so this is how you do it. First get fake gold and then get some Irish music going over the P.A. Then he will come up to the office then right when he steps in the door catch him in your hands, and throw him into a jar. Then go to a forest with 3 or 4 leaf clovers and drop him on the ground and say "Good Bye" to him. And then that's how you get rid of Patt the leprechaun.

Anne Marie Nalley, Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

One day, I went to St Theresa to play on the playground. Since it was close to St. Patrick's Day, I wore a leprechaun suit. When I got to the playground, I saw a leprechaun and I thought he would run but he didn't. He said "Hi, Erin." He thought I was a leprechaun. I asked what he was doing. He said every time he found a four leaf clover, he got more gold. I started to help him. When we were almost finished, I found one. He asked if he could have it. I said only if I could have his gold. I took off my costume and he saw that I was human. He said I could have three wishes or a pot of gold. I picked the pot and he told me that George, the janitor, had it. He gave me a note and signed it. He said to go to George and ask for the gold. Before I left, I asked where he lived. He told me that he lived behind DQ. He said if I ever find another four leaf clover, I should give it to him. As of today, I have a few pots of gold in my closet but don't tell my mom.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Miss Wozniak

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First set a trail of gold chocolate coins. Then put out a game of chess and he should plan the game. After that he will move the King. Then a big gold coin will fall with a cage on top of it and that will have a little gold coin in it. Then shut the door and now he is caught.

Nicholas DeConcilis, Wozniak

FIFTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun all you have to do is wave a sweaty gym sock in his face. Then, he should faint. Next, you can carry him home. Then, you should ask him for the pot of gold. If he says no then offer him dinner of corn beef and cabbage. He should say yes. When he is eating, hold him captive in a room. From now on catch a leprechaun my way.

Mike Dziedzic, DelGiudice

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Every year on St. Patrick's Day I find GOLD COINS all around my house and my milk turns green. Well this year on St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2010 I am going to catch my very first LEPRECHAUN! Here is how it all starts. First I am going to go to Ireland and I'm going to get all the 3 lucky leaf clovers I can find then I will come back to Chicago and buy green and gold dust. Now I am home and making a map that will lead to a rainbow! Today is St. Patrick's Day and my plan is all set and ready. It is 2:00 in the morning and I am still waiting and waiting for the Leprechaun. OH my goodness there, there, is actually a real leprechaun. SLAINTE (cheers) and he has fallen for it. Now it is 12:00 and he is still following it. He only has to make 2 more steps. I caught him, SLAINTE! I told him to give me a pot of gold and I will let him go. And so he did and Angelica was smothered in gold and lived HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

Angelica Presta, Duff

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I was in my room looking out my window when I saw a little man dressed in all green and a little gold. I didn't think he could see me, but I could surely see him now. I realized that it was a few days before St. Patrick's Day so this must be the Leprechaun! I really wanted to get his gold, so I set a trap for him that day in my backyard, once I realized he had left for the day. First I picked about 10 shamrocks. Then I made a shamrock shake. I laid the shamrocks in a line and put the shake at the end of the line. After that I had to go inside, but I kept watch all night. Suddenly he popped out of nowhere! He was following my trap! Just when he took hold of the shake, I came out and grabbed him. We made a deal that I could have his pot of gold if I let him go and made him a shake every St. Patty's Day. Now he always comes over on St. Patrick's Day for one of my shakes.

Grace Kaiser, DelGiudice

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I've heard that leprechauns don't exist, and I pretty much believed that. So, when I saw a little green man picking a shamrock after recess, I figured that I was hallucinating or something. But then, the emerald elf came over and kicked me in the shin. Then he gestured for me to follow him. I assumed that he was real if I could feel his kick, so I went with him. Also, I was penniless at the moment, and leprechauns are quite generous when it comes to gold coins. If I could trap this miniature man, I might end up walking home from school richer than Bill Gates! First I tried trapping him the easy way. "I'm a leprechaun too, you know," I said casually. He snorted. "You're no leprechaun. You're too big, you're not wearing green, and you don't know the National Association of Leprechauns secret password." Okay, my idea didn't work, but I still had another one up my sleeve. I pulled out a box of his favorite thing in the world and put a huge handful of it in a bowl. He immediately scampered over and dove in. Then, I grabbed him. Instantly, he showed me where his gold was, and I let him go. He scurried off and I dug into a huge black sack brimming with...paper towels. That rat had tricked me! Anyway, if you ever find a leprechaun, give him what I did—Lucky Charms!

Stephen Hannon, Duff

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I peered through my looking glass, and sure enough, that little devil was setting another trap for me. A clover vine trap? Too simple. There must be another hidden one. Hmm, I'd probably better avoid those glowing green patches of grass. I grab a rock, and throw it at a glowing patch. When it lands, it explodes into a clover patch. The green glow is gone. Now I just have to deactivate the rest. All I need is stuff to throw. I grin. He's not the only one that can play at this magic game. Rocks pop out of the ground for me to throw. Soon all the traps are deactivated. I close my eyes and whisper a spell. Now a grasshopper, I bound over to him "Mr. Leprechaun!" I gasp as I pull up to him. "There's a human girl setting up traps for you! Over there! I heard her saying things like 'No doubt I'll catch that green devil now!'" and "Things are gonna be bad if he goes that way for him, at least." I panted. The Leprechaun picked me up saying, "Did she say anything else?" "Yeah," I wheezed, "she said that she'd be the sorry one, if you went the opposite way!" "Do you know which opposite she meant?" I shook my head 'no' and said, "But I think she means that way!" I pointed east. "Take me there," he said. "Sure," I replied. We hurried along, until we came to a river. "There's a vine," I said. "You use that, and I'll fly!" He grabbed the vine and swung. The next thing he knew, he was netted up good, and I was human again. "Thanks for your confidence, Shamrock Boy!" I gloated over my new victory. We're going to be here a while, I think.

Dorothy Blome, Duff

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How to Catch a Leprechaun

My steps on catching a leprechaun are quite easy, you just need to follow them. Usually, I go to my favorite store “Celebrating Holidays in Nature.” You can buy anything for any occasion or holiday with just a planting of seeds. For example, on a birthday you can go out, plant the right seeds and get party decorations according to your choice. (They sell multiple seeds.) Just like for St. Patrick’s Day, you buy seeds specialized for a St. Patrick’s Day occasion, that’s named “A Rainbow with an ending of Gold.” You simply go into your backyard about a week before St. Patrick’s Day and plant your seeds. On St. Patrick’s Day you should see a rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. Obviously, the leprechaun will slide down the rainbow, snatch the pot of gold, and is about to run away when he sees an Irish hat fit for a leprechaun like him. He goes toward it and the trap is released! You get the leprechaun’s gold AND the leprechaun! A 2 in 1 specialty for the price of 1. That’s how you catch a leprechaun!

Elena Presta, Ellis

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If I could catch a leprechaun, this is how I would do it. First instead of setting out a box, I would set out a breathable bag (so it wouldn’t die and I would be able to catch it better). Then I would make a fake rainbow leading to the bag. I would set one 1\$ coin and 5 chocolate coins in the center of the bag. So as soon as the leprechaun comes and sees the real and chocolate coins, the bag would shut and it would be caught. In the morning I would get up and find that there is a live leprechaun in the bag. And that is how I would catch a leprechaun!

Rachel Engel, Crane

How to Catch a Leprechaun

The way you are going to catch the leprechaun is first get a jar. Second, fill the jar with gold coins. Third, tie fishing wire with a bell at the end to the jar. Then when the leprechaun grabs the jar it will ring the bell. You will be hidden with a net behind something. When he rings it you jump out catch him with the net. You threaten him that you will keep him all his life so he gives you his gold and you let him free. But you are surprised where he keeps his gold. He keeps the gold in your basement.

John Jasonowicz, Crane

How to Catch a Leprechaun

The way I catch a leprechaun is by setting a trap. First I put some paper down and then a lid over it with a door as a little hotel. Next I make a mini couch and put some glue on that so the leprechaun can sit on it and be stuck by the glue. I also make a little bed with glue on that for a little rest for the Leprechaun and so I can have another chance that he will get stuck. After that I make a sign that says: **WELCOME TO THE LEPRECHAUN HOTEL!!!!!!** Then I go to bed and hope to find a Leprechaun in the morning but I usually just find a note and some candy. If I caught the Leprechaun I would ask for three wishes or that he would show me the pot-of-gold!

Emily Fasick, Crane

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Here is the story; I am going to teach you how to catch a leprechaun. This is not easy, so listen up. Here are the supplies. You will need potatoes, a table (make sure it is a short one), coffee, or tea your preference. You will also need green, silver, and yellow glitter. Maybe add in a few chocolate gold coins. Oh, yes! I almost forgot the most important thin. You must have a sense of humor to do this. If you do not have a sense of humor, you might as well quit right now. You can get tricked very easily if you do not have a sense of humor. Let me tell you, those Leprechauns will not be fooled if you don't. Anyway, here's the set-up. Put the table on a very green part of grass. Next, lay the potatoes on top of the table. Sprinkle the silver glitter all over his chair, and the green and yellow ones all over yourself. You might think you look funny, but trust me on this. The leprechauns will not be fooled if you put the silver ones on yourself. They don't think it's very funny. Glue the chocolates over your shirt. When you see him approaching, start doing a funny dance, singing "put the lime in the coconut". He will think it is funny, and fall into the potatoes. They hate potatoes. They will do anything to get out of them. Simply grab the potatoes and tell him you will help him out if he gives you a pot of gold. He will agree and you will be rich! Good Luck!

Maggie Betti, Ellis

SEVENTH GRADE

WINNER

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

“How do you catch a leprechaun? You may ask.
But let me tell, it’s not an easy task.

Ah, I’ve got it, I know what to loan,
My very sacred kissing Blarney Stone.

You kiss it and receive the vocabulary
of an Englishman, oh the gift shall carry!

You will be able to convince him
Of anything you want, oh the power you’ll feel coming from your every limb.

But it will not work, he is too smart
He will see right through it, see through every part.

You could give him a pot of gold!
Yes, he will see that it means you’re kind, wise and bold.

But he is not looking for boldness you see
What he wants is to be respected from everyone, you, her, and me

You see leprechauns do not only slide down rainbows,
And not only collect gold, as some don’t know.

He wants a “Top of the mornin’ to you”
and you respond, “And the rest of the day to you”, just a little clue.

Just to let you know
Everyone wants to be respected, that’s the way to go.

Maggie Madden, Mrs. Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

There have been a many attempts to catch a leprechaun, but all have failed. This way will not! The first thing you have to do is get a ticket to Ireland on Irish Aer Lingus. Once you get to Ireland, you have to set up your trap. The first thing you do is get a shoe box. Then you decorate with box with shamrocks and bright colors. After that, you have to fill the inside of the box with super glue and put some soda bread in it. Then you have to put a shoe mat so he takes off his shoes before he goes in. Next you put gold coins and a pot of gold inside to lure him in. Next you have to kiss a Blarney stone to help you make a persuasive sign to get the leprechaun to come to your “house.” Then you put up the signs all over the place. Finally you wait until your trap is sprung. That is how to catch a leprechaun.

Matt Dziedzic, Mrs. Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun

You need to have really good luck if you want to catch a leprechaun. If you do not have good luck, or even persuasive ability, I suggest you go kiss the Blarney Stone. Where is the Blarney Stone you ask? It’s in Ireland of course! Catch an Irish Aer Lingus flight to Ireland and catch your leprechaun. Once you kiss the Blarney Stone, you will have good luck and the gift of gab. After that, you are ready to catch a leprechaun. To catch your leprechaun, you need to lure him out with some Irish soda bread and call out “Top o’ the morning!” Maybe you will hear him reply “and the rest of the day to you!” You will probably hear this response come from a patch of shamrocks, or even close to a rainbow. If you see him, catch the Celtic leprechaun and use your gift of gab to make him give you his pot o’ gold at the end of the rainbow. Once you have the gold, you can let the leprechaun go and return home to tell everyone how you caught the little Celtic leprechaun.

Haley Carey, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

So, you are looking to capture a Leprechaun. Well, first of all, hop on Irish Aer Lingus and fly to old Ireland. Kissing the Blarney Stone will help you persuade the Leprechaun to come with you. Even if you are not Celtic, this trap is as easy as drawing a shamrock or saying, “Top of the morning,” to someone.

Second, grab a fake pot-of-gold to use as your bait. Forget about a rainbow as they are too hard to catch. Next, attach a string to the pot-of-gold and place the gold under a tree. The, attach string to a large box and put the large box in the tree out of sight. When the Leprechaun pulls the gold away, the box will fall on him and trap him. Now all you have to do is wait until he shows up. Be careful, they are tricky. I should know, I AM ONE. Just kidding, OR AM I?

Peter Schmuker, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

In order to catch a leprechaun first you have to wait for it to rain. Once it does, you can't start searching for what comes after a rain storm, a rainbow! Once you have found one, follow it all the way to the end. At the end, you will find a pot of gold. There are usually no leprechauns yet because they are very timid. So, to get one to emerge, you have to go up to the gold and pick up a piece. Leprechauns hate it when you touch their gold; so, one is bound to show up to protect it. Once it has, in order for him to respond at all you have to say, "Top of the mornin' to ya." When you do, he'll immediately respond with, "And the rest of the day to you." Now, you have to give him his favorite food, corned beef and cabbage. After this, you'll have his trust, and he will follow you anywhere; even out of Ireland, (but only on the Irish Aer Lingus!) That's how you catch a leprechaun.

Caroline Denniston, Mrs. Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, you must find one. To do this you should fly Irish Aer Lingus to Ireland. It is legendary that leprechauns hide by their pot o' gold at the end of the rainbow. It will probably be in a pile of shamrocks. When you are there, you may realize that you need a native Celtic to help spot the leprechaun and its gold. If you want this person to willingly help you, you must know the response to the common phrase, "Top o' the mornin' to you." The answer would be, "and the rest o' the day to you." If you follow these directions correctly, you should find a little leprechaun easily. The tricky part, though, is keeping the leprechaun once you've caught him. To do this successfully, you must kiss the Blarney Stone, so none of the leprechaun's word tricks can fool you. In the end, you will have some story to tell and a memory of a lifetime.

Ben Zimmerman, Mrs. Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a Leprechaun, go to Ireland. For an airline, take Irish Aer Lingus. When you arrive in Ireland, you might hear people saying, "Top o' the morning to you," and people responding back, "And the rest of the day to you." If you want to trap the leprechaun, you need corned beef and cabbage with some soda bread. You also need a cage. Find a spot where there are lots of shamrocks and set the trap down and wait. Your trap should have the corn beef, cabbage and soda bread inside. When the leprechaun goes in the cage, lock it and make sure he can't escape. If you want his gold, interrogate him until he tells you. Do not be fooled by kissing the Blarney Stone language. He will probably tell you his gold is at the end of the rainbow. The, go grab the gold and let the leprechaun free. Now you can brag to other Celtic people on how you caught a leprechaun.

Brandon Stewart, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Do you want to learn how to catch a leprechaun? Well, there are various ways, but here is my favorite. In no time, you'll have yourself a little leprechaun.

First, you must find a leprechaun. I suggest flying on the Irish Aer Lingus to Ireland. That is their favorite place. Leprechauns love shamrocks, rainbows and pots of gold. You could lure them into your trap by those. Once you have spotted a leprechaun, you must set a trap. There are several different traps to choose from. My favorite, the basket drop, is quite simple and accurate. First, get an empty basket and hold it up with a pencil or stick. Then, place one of his favorite things under the basket. After that, tie a string on the pencil and hold the other end of the string. When the leprechaun is underneath the basket, pull the string so the basket collapses above the leprechaun. Once you have caught your leprechaun... now that's a whole other story!

Abby Lindert, Mrs. Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun

First, I would get a tiny pot, and a light projector. With the light projector, I would create a rainbow and put the pot at the end of the rainbow. Then, instead of putting gold in the pot, I would fill it with delicious corned beef and tempting Irish soda bread. Hidden inside the corned beef would be a tracking device, so when he ate the corned beef, I would always know where he was.

Next I would put a twenty foot shamrock in an empty room. When the leprechaun sees the shamrock and goes into this room, I would shut the door so eh would be trapped. Since he will be very tiny, I would trick him into talking so I can follow the sound of his voice. I would say, "Top of the morning to you," and I'm sure he will say "and the rest of the day to you." When he talks, I'll quickly trap him in the cage and then ship him off to Ireland on the Irish Aer Lingus.

Casey Wood, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Top o' the morning to you lad! If you want to catch a leprechaun, there are a few easy tricks you can use.

Leprechauns are usually found in Ireland, so catch a flight on the Irish Aer Lingus and fly all the way to Ireland. Once you arrive, a good way to lure a leprechaun is with corned beef and cabbage. Send a nice meal down his rainbow and into his pot o' gold. If your leprechaun does not fall for this, try sending him a bouquet of shamrocks and maybe he will pay you back with a couple of gold coins. Another way to catch a little Celtic is by kissing the Blarney Stone. You could persuade him to come out and then easily catch him.

Just follow these tips if you ever want to catch a leprechaun, and I promise you will not fail in doing so.

Sarah Miklius, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, you need to fly to Ireland first. Take a ride on the Irish Aer Lingus. The leprechaun should be hiding near his pot o' gold, so you need to find a rainbow. His pot o' gold will be at the end of the rainbow. Once you spot a rainbow, follow it to the pot o' gold. If you see the leprechaun, do not startle him or else he will disappear. Instead, greet him by saying, "Top o' the morning." He should respond, "And the rest of the day to you." After you do this, you must trick him into following you. Try to tell him that you have a bag of gold hidden in your house. If he believes it, take him to a place where he cannot escape. Then, find a bag that is big enough for a leprechaun and tell him that the gold is in the bag. Once he takes a look inside push him in the bag and you have got your leprechaun!

Nico Colletier, Mrs. Strysik

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun, first you must find one. The most popular place you will spot one of these jolly fellows is Ireland. My advice to you is to hop on a plane and get there fast because leprechauns love coming out in the open to play in the month of March. My airline of choice is Irish Aer Lingus, of course. Once you are in the Land of the Leprechaun, you must lure them to you somehow. One way to do this is to set out their favorite meal, corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread, or meet them at a pot o' gold. This was the easiest way to catch a leprechaun, happy St. Patrick's Day!

Lisa Lavelle, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun first, you must take the airline Irish Aer Lingus to get to Ireland. Then, once you arrive, you must go visit the Blarney Stone and kiss it to convince the leprechaun that you're Irish. Then, you must wait for a rainstorm and have a rainbow come. While you can still see the rainbow, you must head to a giant clover patch and in the middle you will find a leprechaun. You must sneak up behind him quietly, get up and say "Top o' the morning to you." If he agrees, he will say, "And the rest of the day to you." You must quickly tell him that you are of Celtic heritage before he runs away. He will then believe you because you kissed the Blarney Stone. Then, he will take you to his house and serve you Corned Beef and cabbage with Irish Soda Bread. Finally, when you know he believes you are Irish, he will give you a pot of gold. When he turns his back, you must snatch him and put him in a cage. That is how you catch a leprechaun.

Trusten Annin, Mrs. Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Catching a leprechaun is harder than it looks! When I caught my first leprechaun, there were many things I had to keep in mind. Read on, and I will tell you just how to catch these so-called mythical creatures. First of all, there are no known leprechauns in the U.S.A. So, you must take an airplane, preferably Irish Aer Lingus, to Ireland. Also, you mustn't expect to be catching any leprechauns using your American accent, OH NO! I learned Celtic and so should you! Once you've learned to say "Top o' the morning", you must head out into the forests, past the fields of shamrocks, to where the rainbows are. Don't forget to bring along your leeks, corned beef, cabbage and soda bread (a leprechaun's favorite meal)! Remember that a leprechaun never leaves his pot of gold unguarded, so set up the meal and have your net of shamrocks ready! I hope this has enlightened you in your quest to catch a leprechaun. I'm off the kiss the Blarney Stone!

Margaret Geist, Mrs. Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Catching a leprechaun is very difficult to do. Finding one in the United States is so hard, that the only way to capture one is by flying to Ireland, preferably on "Irish Aer Lingus". This is the premier airline for Ireland. Once you arrive in the land of the leprechauns, you must search beyond the rainbows, the shamrocks, and find a way to that pot o' gold! A leprechaun never leaves his pot of gold unsupervised. Maybe if you kiss the Blarney Stone, you will have an easier time. One thing that gets a leprechaun out from his hiding spot is a big plate of corned beef and cabbage. Remember not to forget dessert. Bring the little man a loaf of soda bread. The last thing you should always do is to use your Celtic accent and never forget to say, "Top o' the morning to you"!

Katelyn Prieboy, Mrs. Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun

If you want to catch a leprechaun, you first need to find one. I happen to have spotted one on the playground recently, so I will get him to tell me where the pot of gold is. I have found that the best way to lure a leprechaun to you is to promise him a trip to Ireland if he tells you where he hides his gold. Once you know where his secret stash is, you can send him to Ireland on the Irish Aer Lingus (a leprechaun's favorite airline). Once he's landed in Ireland, the wee leprechaun will head to the Blarney Stone and then eat some corned beef and cabbage for dinner. While he is on vacation, you will have enough time to walk to the end of the rainbow and steal the pot o' gold. When he returns, he will probably have forgotten that he told you where the gold is hidden, and he will go off to get it, but you will have gotten there first.

Clare Hannon, English XY

Leprechaun

Once there was a Leprechaun named Clover. He took his rainbow one date to STS to greet Mrs. Aebersold and Mrs. Larson. But he saw a kid in a green coat. The leprechaun thought it was another leprechaun but it was only a short kid in a green coat. His name was Ryan. But the leprechaun went to chase the kid but the kid got away and the leprechaun would not give up until he found the other fake leprechaun. Mrs. Aebersold knew she had to catch the leprechaun but how she thought. Then she remembered how much leprechauns loved gold. So she got 5 gold coins and led them right to her trap. Once the leprechaun will pick up the last gold coin she will drop a net and catch it. The next morning Mrs. Larson asked Mrs. Aebersold what's in the bag. Mrs. Aebersold replied that is was nothing to worry about anymore.

Mack Rosman, Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

Top o' the morning! The only thing that I like better than corn beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread is catching leprechauns!

You most likely will see a leprechaun in Ireland, so I recommend flying with Irish Aer Lingus, the official airline of Ireland. Once you have arrived, you should look for the closet rainbow. On your way, you'll see many Celtics, which are the people of Ireland. Now, when you have found the rainbow, you must pick up seven four leaf clovers. Well, if you want to lure the leprechaun, you make a trail with the clovers so the leprechaun will follow you. Some people do not believe this will work because some leprechauns refuse to leave their post of gold. But most leprechauns prefer clovers over their pots of gold. If you are one of these people I would suggest going somewhere else to learn about how to catch a leprechaun.

After you get the leprechaun to follow you, put a little piece of Irish soda bread under a net. The leprechaun will go under the net to get the piece of bread. After all, leprechauns aren't the smartest mythical creatures. Finally, you have caught yourself a leprechaun!

Gabby Eppley, Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

Catching a leprechaun may seem as easy as following a rainbow, but it is not. You first have to find the leprechaun, and everyone knows they live in Ireland. You should get on the Irish Aer Lingus. Once you land you should fist look for a rainbow. After finding one, you should follow it until you get to the very end and find the leprechaun's pot of gold. The gold will be used to lure the leprechaun towards you, so you should take it with you. When the leprechaun comes to get his gold, you should quickly grab him before he attempts to escape. Once you have caught the leprechaun you should probably give him a shamrock as a sign of peace. After you feed him some corned beef, Irish soda bread, or cabbage, he should give you his gold.

Courtney Balogh, Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

In order to catch a leprechaun you have to get to Ireland. If I were you I would fly on Aer Lingus across the Atlantic Ocean. Once there I would make some corned beef and cabbage with soda bread. This would be to lure him in. If this doesn't work I would switch to plan B. Plan B is to follow the rainbow, find his pot of gold and lure him with that. Be careful though, taking his pot of gold will make him mad and short fused. So you have one chance at getting him with Plan B. Plan C would be the hardest of them all. Plan C is going into his territory and hunting him down. Plan C should only be if you are running out of time or are desperate to catch him. In Plan C you have to be very quiet because they startle easily. Also you have to be fast or he will just bolt back into his cozy little house. What you do is you come up from behind and as fast as you can put a bucket over him. Of course you never want to hurt a leprechaun, because that will get him more mad than taking his pot of gold. Catching a leprechaun is hard work but with patience and persistence you can do it.

Tom Broders, Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

If you want to catch a leprechaun follow the steps to How to Catch a Leprechaun.

First, find the most likely place to find leprechauns which would be Ireland. I advise you to take the airline, Irish Aer Lingus. Next, find a place where people spot leprechauns. If you have trouble finding, ask a Celtic person to help you. Be polite. You might say "Top o' morning" or reply "and the rest of the day to you". When you find the place, think of a plan.

If you want, you may kiss the Blarney Stone. It is said when you kiss the stone, you will have persuasive speech. After you kiss the stone, set your plan. The plan is to go to places where leprechauns are spotted place corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread on a plate, place it on the ground, and decorate it with shamrocks.

When the leprechaun comes to eat the meal, use your persuasive speech to persuade the leprechaun to stay. When he is not looking grab him and catch him. If you get lucky, you might persuade him to lead you to the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

Lily Chon, Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

To catch a leprechaun first you must find one. You have to hop on the Irish Aer Lingus to get to Ireland. Then you have to go and kiss the Blarney Stone to become very persuasive with words. Then you have to find a rainbow. After you find it you have to go to the end of it and find the field of four leaf clovers. There will be a leprechaun in the field. When you see him say top o the morning to him, and he will respond and the rest of the day to you. Then you can use your gift from the Blarney Stone to convince him to give you his pot of gold. Then when he isn't looking use a net to catch him.

Michael Baur, Amador

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

Have you ever wanted to catch a leprechaun? Well, if so here's how.

In order to catch one, you have to be in their home town. First, get on Irish Aer Lingus, a famous Irish airplane company. Once you land in Ireland, go to the nearest food store. At the food store, purchase ingredients for some yummy Irish soda bread. Next make the Irish soda bread – don't forget to add extra sugar! Then, when the bread is done, go to the nearest rainbow. Don't forget to bring a net! To make sure it's the perfect rainbow, look for a pot of gold. If you find a pot of gold, you are in the right spot. Place the Irish soda bread next to the pot of gold and then hide and wait. Once the leprechaun comes out to get the bread, quietly and quickly put the net over him. This is how you catch a leprechaun. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Ellen Finis, Fitzgerald

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

If you want to catch a leprechaun then you must go to Ireland. Irish Aer Lingus is a great airline to take. Once you are there you will need to kiss the Blarney Stone to receive the gift of gab. This will help you to convince the leprechaun to give you some of his gold. Then look for some rainbows. Once you have spotted a rainbow, you must get to the end of it where there will be a pot of gold. When you get to the end, put a nice plate of corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread. A good leprechaun will not be able to resist this! Once he comes out say, "Top of the morning" to him. Then he should give you his pot of gold.

Danielle Money, Stryzik

How to Catch a Leprechaun!

One day in New York City, in the borough of Brooklyn, Patrick McShane had a dream. His dream was to return back to Ireland, and find a leprechaun with his pot of gold. It was really his only option, because he and his family grew up with no formal education, so no one would hire him for a good paying job. So he decides to try it out. At first, his family was totally against it, because in reality the odds of it actually happening are very slim, but soon they realized it was their only option.

So Patrick McShane used his family's last money available to board Irish Aer Lingus to Ireland to try to find a leprechaun. He knew that his best chance to find one would be to look for one at the end of a rainbow. So he found out that it was supposed to rain the next day. Once he found the rainbow, he looked at the end of it and found the gold and the leprechaun proving his theory. With this gold he returned home, bought a new home, and sent his family to school and they lived happily ever after.

John O'Connell, Amador

EIGHT GRADE

*****WINNER*****

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Thursday, after Saint Patrick's Day, I was strolling along enjoying my soda. Once I finished, I began searching for a trash can. When I spotted a nearby dumpster, I launched my cup and heard a satisfying thud. However, I could have sworn I heard a faint "ow" as well. I ran over to investigate. When I peered in, I saw a leprechaun. Horrified, I rubbed my eyes then looked in again. I let out an ear-piercing scream causing the leprechaun to clutch his ears in pain.

Suddenly an idea dawned on me: if I caught this leprechaun, I could make him give me his pot of gold. My only dilemma was that I had absolutely no idea how to capture him. Then another idea hit me when I saw the leprechaun snacking on the corned beef from yesterday's parties. Cleverly, I placed a piece of beef onto a mousetrap. Then I placed the trap in the dumpster and waited. I watched as he smelt the mouth-watering beef and began his feast. His third bite instigated the trap! I excitedly removed the angry leprechaun from the trap and instructed him to direct me to his pot of gold. Then, I explained, I'd let him free.

Samantha Campbell, Salvetti

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Have you ever heard the sound of Irish music playing around the halls of STS? Well, if you have, it is probably Pat the Leprechaun. He has to be caught and I think I know how to catch him. First, you have to write Pat a limerick. Next, you have to say it over the PA, at the end say "Oh, Pat I have a surprise if you come to the front office." Then, in thirty minutes Pat will be jigging around the corner. Wait for him to come closer and blink once then open your eyes and grab him. Make sure you don't blink when he is in your hands. Last, put Pat in a little box with a mini shamrock shake from McDonalds and some Irish soda bread. Now that should catch him. Good Luck!

Mary Pat Nalley, Zarob

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Well it's quite simple, really. All you need is Me Lucky Charms to lure the little guy. But, since it's still cold out, you might need a visual because he could have a stuffy nose. So use a prism to make a fake rainbow. Have the rainbow lead to the lucky charms and above the lucky charms have a box and a stick holding it up. Have a string attached to the stick so when he comes, BAM, pull it and he'll be trapped. Then, put him in solitary confinement until he gives you three wishes and the location of his pot of gold. Now go out and catch the little critter!

Nick Barsella, Wilk

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Leprechauns are one of the hardest creatures on earth to catch and are seldom seen by humans. It is said that if one catches a leprechaun, the leprechaun will show them to a pot of gold. The best way to catch a leprechaun is to offer him food. The best food to give the leprechaun would be Lucky Charms. After all, a leprechaun is the spokesman for Lucky Charms Cereal. The Lucky Charms would be impossible for the leprechaun to resist. While the leprechaun feasts on the delicious Lucky Charms, I will sneak up behind him and catch him with a net. The leprechaun will most likely scream and try to resist, but I have enough strength to hold him down. After calming the leprechaun, I will tell him to show me to a pot of gold and I will then graciously let him free. The leprechaun will not turn this offer down. Now, after a few minutes of thought, the leprechaun will have agreed with my plan. The leprechaun brings me to the pot of gold and I let him free. I am now a very rich man. This is the tactic most likely to succeed in catching a leprechaun.

Hudson Lughringshausen, Salvetti

How to Catch a Leprechaun

To catch a leprechaun, there are many different ways, but only one way that works. If you go toward a leprechaun, you will scare it and he will run away. The leprechaun has great hearing so even if you try to sneak up on him, he will hear you. So my advice is to get a lot of chocolate. Break off small pieces and lay them on the ground. Make a line with the chocolates leading to a certain spot. Above the final destination, put a net on the ceiling attached to a long rope. Hold on to the rope until the leprechaun comes close. When the leprechaun comes under it, let go of the rope and the leprechaun will be trapped in the net. Refuse to let him out until he gives you the gold! Once you are given the gold, you can let him go and give him the extra chocolate left over.

Laura Smearman, Salvetti

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I was on my way home when I heard the bush in our front yard rustling. I moved closer to investigate. After several moments, a leprechaun popped out. Simultaneously, we screamed. Clearly I had scared her as much as she had scared me. We both remained silent, trying to catch our breath and calm our racing hearts. I realized that I was staring at a female leprechaun. This was very unusual because I had never heard of female leprechauns, only male leprechauns.

“Excuse me.” She said, breaking the silence. “You haven’t seen a pot of gold around? Have you? I seem to have misplaced mine.”

Startled, I answered, “No, I’m sorry I haven’t.” But as I thought about it, I did remember noticing something shiny near our shed. “Actually you might want to check near the-” I stopped suddenly with an idea. After convincing her to split the pot with me, I directed her toward the shed. There, we found the gleaming pot of gold. True to her word, she awarded me with half of the gold then continued on her way. When I returned to my house, my mind spun with ideas on how I would spend my new gold coins.

Lauren Betti, Salvetti

How to Catch a Leprechaun

I had just gotten off the bus and was skipping down the road toward my house when I spotted a tiny little man sitting on our front stoop. I ran over to him and realized he was crying. I offered him a tissue. He smiled at me as he accepted it.

For several moments we sat in silence until he finally whispered, “Thanks.” I smiled and offered him another. He politely declined and then asked, “What is your name?”

“Meghan. What is yours?”

“That is a beautiful name. My name is Jack.” He responded jumping to his feet and extending his hand.

I had to bend over to reach his hand, considering his head just barely reached my knee, “Nice to meet you, Jack.”

“The pleasure is all mine, Meghan. I apologize for earlier, I had a rough day.”

I smiled, “It’s okay. I am glad to see you are feeling better.”

“Thank you. Right this way,” Jack instructed heading toward the forest.

“Where are we going?” I asked curiously.

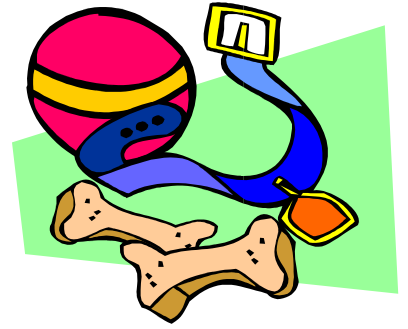
“Well you helped a leprechaun. Don’t you know your reward is his pot of gold?” I smiled. I had finally found the secret to getting a leprechaun’s pot of gold, just being kind.

Meghan Carroll, Salvetti



ADVENTURES IN WRITING

Bogie's Great Adventure



"Hi, my name is Bogie! I met you a few weeks ago when I came to school to visit. They called me "Solo" then. That was before that festive night of Green & Gold when I got a new owner AND a new name. My life has been one big adventure ever since! Let me tell you about..."

****Need a Story Starter?****

- ...these two nice ladies that drove all the way to Indiana to get me. I was only a few weeks old and I thought I was being dog-napped!
- ...my new owner, Mrs. Thompson. She thinks I am cute and playful, but she doesn't know about the trouble I get into when she leaves for school.
- ...my voice. Yes, that is right, I can talk, but only to first graders.

Due date: May 14, 2010

Winning entries from each grade will receive \$10 gift card and all writers will receive a participation prize.

Completed work should be e-mailed to adventuresinwriting@yahoo.com or placed in the **NEW Adventures in Writing Mailbox** located in the STS Lobby. Entries should be 200 words or less. Entries may be typed or handwritten and should include student name, grade and teacher. Students may dictate their ideas to a parent, older sibling, etc. but the work must be that of the student.

KINDERGARTEN

*****WINNER*****

Bogie's Adventure

My new owner, Mrs. Michelson thinks I'm very cute and playful, but she doesn't know about the adventure I got into today when she left home for work this morning.

I felt a little lonely when she left so I went out of the door. Then I was lost in the woods. It was really amazing because I saw three insects, flowers and lots of strange golden grass. I was walking and walking and walking. Then suddenly I saw dinosaurs. I was so afraid but the dinosaurs were so kind. When we were playing together the bad dinosaurs came and were fighting with these good dinosaurs.

It took almost half an hour until the fight was over. Then the good dinosaurs and the bad dinosaurs became good friends. They invited me to their home and I became one of their friends.

I can not wait Mrs. Michelson comes back home tonight so I can tell her all about my adventure today!

Jason Zhao, Rosenkranz

Bogie's First Day

Let me tell you about the first time I met Mrs. Thompson. When I saw Mrs. Thompson, I liked her very much. I knew she liked me too. We are having lots of fun. We like to play fetch.

Abigail Byrne, Healey

Bogie's First Day

When I went home with Mrs. Thompson, I jumped in the car and sat on her lap. When we went in the house, I explored my new home. In the bedroom, I found a bed for me. In the kitchen, I discovered two bowls, one for food and one for water but the best thing that I found was a big bone!

Brooke Byrne, Rosenkranz

FIRST GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Little Bogie Blue

Once there was a black and white dog named Bogie. Bogie loved 1st graders. Every day Mrs. Thompson took Bogie for a walk. When she went to school, Bogie practiced playing his bugle. He was really great. One day Bogie went to the Variety Show and he played the bugle. He wore a straw hat and blue knickerbockers. He was so good he won 600 million dollars. He spent it on a Ferrari and Mrs. Thompson kissed Bogie because she was so happy. Bogie was very tired after playing his bugle all day. He decided to take a nap under a haystack.

The next day he decided he didn't want to play the bugle anymore and planted a garden. He wanted to grow tomatoes for Mrs. Thompson but he left the water hose running and the garden flooded. When he saw the flood, he barked, "Oh, no!" And then Bogie went back to playing the bugle. The End.

J.P. Liddy, Duncan

Bogie

Mrs. Thompson and her dog can go to Mexico. Or they can go to the beach together. They get along together. Thank you for letting me participate.

Margaret Nalley, Duncan

Bogie

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I am happy about your new dog. It is very cute. I love it. I am sorry about your first dog, but it is ok. But your second dog will be good, too!

Rachel Hernandez, Duncan

Bogie

I am very excited because Bogie, the puppy; just moved near our house. My mom asked Bogie's mom if Bogie can go with us to California. She said yes and now Bogie is going to go to California with me! He is going to look for shells and then build a giant sandcastle with me. Bogie did bring a swimming-suit with him. He also took his sun-glasses with him to protect his eyes from the sun. Bogie is going to swim in the nice and cool water. We are going to have so much fun together and after we swim, we will have a great lunch. I will have a hamburger and french fries and Bogie will have his puppy chow! We will send you a postcard from Sunny California! The End.

Maile Fidale, Held

Bogie Learns to Jig

Let me tell you about the time Bogie learned to jig. One day Bogie escaped from Mrs. Thompson's house. Mrs. Thompson was at St. Theresa School teaching kids how to sing. Bogie went to a place called Jig-A-Pig. He saw lots and lots of pigs and only one dog. The pigs were dancing, but the dog was just sitting. So Bogie went over to the dog and asked her if she wanted to dance. The only problem was that Bogie didn't know how to dance! Bogie asked the dog if she knew how to dance and she said, "Yes". Bogie asked, "Are you a professional?". She said, "No". Bogie asked her if she would mind teaching him how to jig and she said, "Yes". They jigged and jigged all day long. Pretty soon it was time for Bogie to go home so Mrs. Thompson didn't think that Bogie ran away. When Mrs. Thompson got home, Bogie was doing a jig. Mrs. Thompson wondered, "Did Bogie go to Jig-A-Pig? My dog deserves a BIG bone!" The End.

Grace Engel, Duncan

What Bogie Has to Say

When I came to school to see you, I heard more noises than I have ever heard. On the night of the Green and Gold (Casablanca), I thought, this is louder than school. I listened for the guy to call out my new owner. All I heard were numbers, but then I saw my new owner, it was Mrs. Salvetti. Then something strange was going on. My owner was giving me to someone else. That's who I'm with right now, her name is Mrs. Thompson. We're playing fetch right now. A little while ago, I was eating kibble from a Kong chew toy. I love going to the pet store and we went there yesterday. I saw all kinds of other dogs and we bought new toys for me. I hope Mrs. Thompson takes me either to school again or on a vacation to Logansport, Indiana to visit my mom, dad, brothers and sisters and guess what! Do you want to visit me after my adventures? (I didn't even tell you about all of them.) So far I've had 40 adventures! ;)

Kate Hannon, Duncan

Bogie

Let me tell you about my recent adventure. I went to the North Pole and met Santa Clause. When I arrived, he was sleeping. I then went to Chicago. Then I went to the library and read a book about dogs. I felt tired and I went to sleep. I dreamt about a snowman walking, then I woke up. I was hungry so I ate a cookie and a dog bone. Then I went on a trip to Hawaii and sat on Mrs. Thompson's lap and asked her to sing to me. This was a big day!!

Christine Kobilarcik, Held

SECOND GRADE

WINNER

Bogie's Awesome Adventure

Hi, my name is Bogie. I would like to tell you about my latest adventure. I woke up, and I was in Mrs. Larson's office. I was hungry. I jumped up on her desk and ate the first thing I saw. When Mrs. Larson came in, she was upset. She said, "Bogie you just ate the homework assignments for the week. Now, the students can't get homework this week." Mrs. Larson didn't realize that Bogie's paw was on the loud speaker, and everyone in the school heard. The loud "YEAH" sound from the students scared Bogie, and he went running out of the front office. He ran down the hallway into the teacher's lounge where the book fair was set up. Mrs. Guedel's class was looking for some new books. When Patrick went to pick up Bogie, he went pee on Patrick's new white school shirt. Bogie jumped out of Patrick's arms and ran back into the hallway. Some of the kindergarteners were taking a bathroom break. Bogie tripped Mikey, who went flying into Mrs. Zach. Somehow, Mrs. Zach hit the fire alarm, and everyone had to go outside until the firemen came. The firemen went down to the lunchroom, and they found Bogie eating the hot lunches. Mrs. Thompson came running into the lunchroom and said "Bogie – you are in BIG TROUBLE!!!" Your punishment is to stay with me in the music room for the rest of the day. Bogie just barked happily, "WOOF, WOOF"

THE END!!!!

Patrick Schumacher, Guedel

Bogie

I say they should go to Florida. Bogey could go swimming in the ocean. Also if you wanted you could go to Disney World with Bogey. You could see Mickey Mouse. You can also go to Animal Kingdom in Florida. Bogey could make friends with some animals there. You and Bogey could have a blast there.

Emily Barker, Reckamp

Bogie

Bogie is a small dog. He lives with Mrs. Thompson our music teacher. She won him for the Green and Gold night. Bogie is going to the park today, yes that is right, the park. No, not the dog park, the kids' park. First, he will take his bone and hide it somewhere at the kids' park where no one can find it. Hopefully, he will remember where. After he hides his bone, it's off to play time. He can slide down a slide, do the monkey bars and swing on the swings. The kids will love him. He will have all these little ones to play with. They will give him their crackers, cookies and snacks. Little ones love to share and Bogie is happy when they are happy. All the Mommy's will tell him how cute he is and pat him on the head. He will have the big walk home and then a long nap because he will be so tired from his adventure at the kids' park. He may just sleep through dinner. No not really. He basically can do anything he wants because it is his Great Adventure.

Isabella Rose Poulos, Reckamp

THIRD GRADE

WINNER

Bogie's Greatest Adventure

One day, Mrs. Thompson was signing Bogie up for a dog show. The winning dog would go to Hollywood. Bogie was really excited. He thought of all the cameras on him. At the end of the dog show they said that Bogie had won. Bogie was so happy. Then a week later Bogie and Mrs. Thompson packed and traveled on a plane to Hollywood. When the plane landed they went to the studio to talk about the movie. The director and Mrs. Thompson started thinking of a name for the movie. Finally, they named it "Bogie's Trip to Hollywood." After many months the movie was finished. It played in theaters all over the country and many people liked it. It was so good that they might make another movie. For now, Bogie and Mrs. Thompson went home. Soon they will go back to Hollywood.

Meaghan Helsdingen, Burns

Bogie's Amazing Life So Far

Hello. My name is Bogie and my owner is Mrs. Thompson and she is a nice lady. I always play fetch with her. She is a good thrower and it makes it hard for me to grab it. I can talk but I can't talk to 7th graders especially John O'Connell. I can do math too! Well, I guess, okay, um, $3+3=5$. Is that right? Mrs. Thompson thinks I'm too fast for her. And of course all the students ask her how I'm doing. They think I'm special! Let me see here. The dinner is dog food and treats for dessert. Wow! That's good. And that's how I am doing right now and no questions. So ruff and good bye!

Keven O'Connell, Burns

Bogie's Great Adventure

Hi, my name is Bogie. One Monday, my owner, Mrs. Thompson, went to teach music at St. Theresa School, but I got bored, so I wandered around the house and I went into the bathroom and I found this white stuff. I reached up to it and it started rolling down. At the end of it there was a strange brown cardboard roll. I thought about going to the other bathrooms to see if there was more. There was more and it looked like snow but it tasted bad. When Mrs. Thompson got home, she needed to use the bathroom really badly, but when she ran into the bathroom all I heard was a scream "AHHHHHHHH!"

Ryan Kish, Burns

Bogie's Great Adventure

Let me tell you about my voice. Yes, that's right, I can talk. But only to 8th graders. I helped them come up with ideas for some great costumes for Guys and Dolls, graduation, and some fun places to visit when they took their trip to D.C. I went to all their basketball games. They fans just heard me barking but the players heard me cheering them on. I even helped them plan their graduation parties. Helping 8th grade is very fun. They gave me bones as a reward! I can't wait until next year.

Ethan Kelly, Burns

Bogie's Great Adventure

Hi! My name is Bogie. On my great adventure I went from Indiana to Illinois in about 8 hours. When I got here, the Hannons took great care of me until the Green and Gold Gala. I was put on the live auction table but nobody wanted me, so Mrs. Thompson took me. I love to play outside and run around. I think people will like me because I am very playful and I make people happy when they see me. I really like Mrs. Thompson, but sometimes she doesn't let me come inside. Then one day, the mailman came and he left the door open, and I went out to see what the world was like. I met another dog in the next neighborhood named Max. We played all day and made plans to meet again tomorrow. The next day we saw the circus. It was really funny! I then decided to go home. Mrs. Thompson told me that she was looking for me all day. I was wondering why when it hit me. It was Saturday! I was really sorry, but I couldn't tell her that because I can't talk. That was my great and amazing adventure.

Dave Budzisz, Burns

Bogie's Great Adventure

Hi, I'm Bogie. I had the greatest adventure...let me tell you all about it. When I was going outside for some fresh air, these two ladies took me into their car and they brought me to their house. I was scared, but they were nice to me. They had a great house...it was awesome! They had another dog named "Chelsea." She was cute! She had a little play area and I got to play with her in it. She is fun to play with. Then the two nice ladies took me out for a walk with Chelsea, too. It was a long walk. Then we went back to their house and they had a little dog door so that we could go out and play all day long. Then I went back to try and get to Mrs. Thompson and when I got there, I tried to tell her what happened with me and Chelsea, but she didn't understand me. All she heard was "bark, bark, bark, bark, bark." I loved my great adventure.

Cece Kaiser, Burns

Bogie's Adventures

One day Bogie woke up. He saw four doors. He opened the first one and saw a Bulls game. A ball came and he almost caught it! Then he closed the first door and opened the fourth door and saw a jungle. He went in that door and saw a hotel made of leaves. Bogie went inside and saw a giant panda who gave him the key to a room. Bogie went to the room and there was a giant bed shaped like a flower. He went downstairs and went outside. He heard music but did not know where it was coming from. Then he saw that it was bugs playing music! Next he saw a monkey swinging from branch to branch. He saw an eagle sitting on a tall oak tree, guarding his nest. Then a big lion came out of the bushes. Next Bogie saw a turtle swimming in the water, but it got scared by a tall giraffe eating leaves. Bogie went back to the hotel, passing bats and fireflies flying around. Bogie went to bed and fell asleep.

When he woke up, he saw George of the Jungle climbing on a palm tree. Bogie ate coconut milk and dog bones for breakfast, then said goodbye to everyone. He went back through the door and told his owner about his adventures. Every morning when he woke up he went somewhere new.

Grace Deyhle, McDermott

FOURTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Bogie's Adventure

Hello, my name is Bogie. I am a super hero. My power is to be cute and fly. Well at least I wish I could fly, but I still do really have the power to be cute. How do I use this power you say? Oh well, I get people to pet me, tug ropes, give me chew bones, squeaky toys, and treats. The squeaky toys are my favorite! I have three friends. One is a black baby kitten. Another one of my friends is a border collie. My other friend looks just like me. I only see him in the mirror. Whenever I go out to play with him, he's not there. I don't think he likes me. One time the baby black cat was stuck in a tree. Since I can't climb, I tied my tug ropes together and got her down. I like being a dog, and I always will be one.

Ally Eipert, Chameli

Bogie's Adventure

Hi, I am Bogie, Mrs. Thompson's pet dog. I am here to tell you the best day that ever happened in my life. So relax and perk up your ears because I am ready to begin.

It all started on glorious day, well not really when your owner forgets to feed you and sings so badly you can't even cover your ears! So she decided to take me with her to a Broadway production. Now that's exciting when you can actually listen to real music.

So I was in the car so impatient that I wanted to run out of the car.

Finally, we were there! So we got in the parking lot and I was thinking how nice it would be.

So we go first seats. Well, I was on the floor. I was getting a little sleepy until it began and I heard the best voice ever!

When the production ended I started licking her so she could take me home and she did! It sounded like people called her "Mrs. Thompson"! It was a pretty name.

It was the best day ever.

Maria Presta, Wozniak

The Great Adventure

One day there was a dog named Bogie. She was eating out of her food bowl and it turned into a spaceship. Then she jumped in it and blasted off. Then she saw the Moon, then Mars, then she went into the Astroid Belt and she survived. Then she saw Jupiter then Saturn then Uranus. Then past Neptune then she stopped on Pluto. She got out and fell into a crater. She sunk and got on a beach in Florida and she jumped into the water then she found herself in a movie star's hands then the movie star threw Bogie in the air and she went flying in the air. Then she found herself on her bed sleeping. She said to herself. It was just a dream and snacked on her spaceship, or maybe her dog bowl.

Cailyn Currie, Wozniak

Bogie's Puppy Adventure

It was a warm spring day when Bogie got loose while Mrs. Thompson was at work. Mrs. Thompson left Bogie breakfast and his favorite bone when she left for work. Bogie gobbled up his breakfast, took his bone and sat on the couch for his nap when he discovered a noise coming from the basement. He went into the basement but the sound was coming from the outside. He slipped out the crack in the door and ran toward the park. Bogie started to chase the ducks by the pond and soon got lost. When he looked up the only thing he saw was a cat. Bogie hated cats. When he was with his first owner, they had a cat named Sophie. Bogie and Sophie never got along and never trusted cats again. But how was Bogie going to get home? He only had a little time before Mrs. Thompson would be home. When Bogie asked the cat for direction to Clock Street, the cat said he could lead him. On the way home, he learned that the cat's name was Spaghetti and where he lived. Now when Mrs. Thompson leaves, Spaghetti and Bogie play.

Sarah Jasonowicz, Wozniak

Bogie's Great Adventure

One day Bogie was on a walk with Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. They walked a long way, and a BIG dog park came into view. Once they got to the dog park, Bogie got so excited! He would be let off his leash! He could roam free and play with new dogs! Once Bogie was left off his leash, he ran as fast as he could to the first dog he saw.

This dog was named Noah, and his owner was one of Mrs. Thompson's students, Maeve Schumacher. Bogie and Noah clicked right away. They played all sorts of games. They played tag and ran races. Noah even gave Bogie a piggy-back ride! When Noah and Bogie got tired, they sat down.

That is when Noah realized something: "Where are our owners?" "I don't know" answered Bogie in doggie language, but we will go look for them. The new pals could not find their owners. "What do we do now?" said Noah nervously. "Well, my mom is Mrs. Thompson, and she works as the music teacher at St. Theresa's School," barked Bogie. Noah yelped, "That is where Maeve goes to school". Bogie knew they had to leave the park and head to that Blue Ribbon School. The dogs ran as fast as they could. When they got to school, Noah stood on his hind legs and rang the doorbell. Bogie smiled at the security camera. Quickly Mrs. Kelly buzzed them in, and Bogie lead the way down to the music room.

Guess who was in the music room with Mrs. Thompson when the dogs arrived? Miss Wozniak's 4th grade class was there. They were doing the disco to funky music while bright lights were flashing from a disco ball! Noah and Bogie jumped up and licked Mrs. Thompson's and Maeve's faces. The new best friends started doing the doggie disco. Everyone was happy.

I wonder what will happen at their next play date?

Maeve Schumacher, Wozniak

Bogie's Great Adventure

Bogie's great adventure starts out in his bed. He woke up to find that he can talk and walk on his hind legs. He also found out that he could dance. Bogie saw himself staring in Bogie Bogie Bogie.

One day Mrs. Thompson brought Bogie to school. Whenever Mrs. Thompson wasn't looking Bogie danced like crazy. But when Mrs. Thompson was looking he would stop. Only the kids knew Bogie's talent. One day Mrs. Thompson caught Bogie dancing. Bogie said "I'm a good birthday entertainer." That gave Mrs. Thompson an idea to put Bogie on stage. Bogie became a famous dancer and was so rich that Mrs. Thompson and Bogie could sit back and relax for the rest of their lives.

Jackson Churak, Chameli

FIFTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Bogie's Story

Mrs. Thompson thinks I'm cute and cuddly but when she's singing at school I do many things. Did you know the bathroom is like a playground? The toilet water is so fresh and the toilet paper is endless fun! The living room is heaven. The couch's fiber is really sweet and delicious (I call it cotton candy)! The TV is like an electric mind reader. It tells me everything I need to know about dogs, robbers, and even if I could go outside to go to the bathroom, I think it's called weather. Our mailbox is red and I keep mistaking it for a fire hydrant. Mrs. Thompson keeps yelling at me, but she doesn't understand that my brain isn't fully developed yet. Mrs. Thomson is an amazing owner, but she needs to get a new food bin because it is very easy to get into. Hint hint! As me speaking, I think, overall, she's an amazing owner.

Allison Gile, Litchfield

Bogie's Great Adventure

I am so bored right now; even my favorite chew toy can't help. I know that my new owner, Mrs. Thompson, will be back in an hour, so I know that I need to hurry! I am out my Doggie Door before you could blink. I have many jobs around the house. Now I am Bogie, Guard Dog. Suddenly I hear a barely audible noise. It sounds like chewing. My dog food! I become Bogie 007. I move stealthily inside, but it isn't my dog food that is being eaten. In a nanosecond I'm back outside. I glance at the trees hoping to find something suspicious. There was a squirrel, nibbling on a pine cone. I growl softly as I can. The squirrel darts away, and now I am Bogie the scaredy-cat...er, dog, stuck high in the tree. Suddenly I see a horned toad behind me. I lose my balance and fall into a soft mud pile. Uh oh! I'm Bogie, mud monster. I take a quick dip in a bird bath and rush into the house just as Mrs. Thompson's car pulls into the driveway. Whew! That was a close one!

Stephen Hannon, Duff

Bogie's Great Adventure

Hi, my name is Bogie and Mrs. Thompson does not know I am a trouble maker, so when I make a mess in the kitchen, Mrs. Thompson does not know I do this. Let me tell you what I do. I dump the garbage cans, I take a hot bath. I make mud surprises. I invite my friends over and have a pool party. Last but not least, I fly to Beverly Hills and we drive an Italian sports car. When Mrs. Thompson gets home, my friends and I clean the house in less than one second. Oh, and I got home by driving the sports car! She never knows.

Angelica Presta, Duff

SIXTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

A Walk in the School

Bogie was with his owner, Mrs. Thompson, when he decided he wanted to take a walk around the school. So when Mrs. Thompson wasn't looking, he ran up the stairs towards the first grade rooms. The first graders had show-and-tell and one person brought a cat in! Oh how Bogie loved to chase cats! But what if he got caught? So he decided to go past the second grade which was at art so he thought it would be okay to take a peek. When he saw his friend's owner's desk he decided to take a look...ahhh! Oh my gosh, it is a dog biscuit! He took one and left quickly then he felt guilty so he threw it up in the French teacher's garbage. When he left he heard her say "Que est ce que cest! Oh gosh!" Now his best friend was Mrs. Litchfield and Mrs. Kolbus. They were both so nice. But when he got down to the lunch room, now, that was his favorite. He had apple pie, grape juice, strawberries, and a cheese stick. Then she found this little room that said "Janitor's closet" on it. Bogie went in it and...well, that's too scary to tell!

Rachel Engel, Crane

Bogie's Great Adventure

Hi. My name is Bogie. I live with Mrs. Thompson where we have a lot of fun together, but when she left for school the first day, I had no idea what to do! I woke up one late morning to find that I was all alone! I wandered throughout the house in search of Mrs. Thompson. As I was walking around, I started noticing things I had never before seen. I found these little orange balls on the kitchen counter in a small bowl. I didn't think I should touch them but I couldn't keep away. One pat was all it took to roll it off and when I tried to them up, orange liquid squirted out! It was sticky but sweet and I was thirsty. Next I found this little, flat disc that looked a lot like a Frisbee, but it was too heavy so after breaking a few, I gave up. There were many other things too like toilet paper and pillows, but most of all I think I liked the shoes!

Sophie Kish, Ellis

Bogie's Great Adventure

Here I am at the dog house again, hearing footsteps like none other. They seemed to be tapping to the beat! All of a sudden I hear "la la la la la la la." It was the best voice I've ever heard! You should really hear the dogs at the house. The only music you hear all day is "ruff" and "bark." Believe me, it's bad! I'm closing my ears, terrified to go deaf, when I saw a lady singing the same tune I've just heard. She was so wonderful for me and decided to take me home! I was so overjoyed, and now when I'm at home or at school, I can hear the greatest music for miles away. I love Mrs. Thompson! Bye-bye dogs at the house! Get some singing lessons. (Just to mention she named me Bogie! I love it!) I love Mrs. Thompson. Love, Bogie.

Elena Presta, Ellis

Bogie's Great Adventure

Every day Bogie gets up and eats breakfast. After Mrs. Thompson goes to work, Bogie takes a nap. One time when Bogie was napping, he heard a bunch of kids screaming. He jumped up and ran out his doggie door. As he slipped through the doggie door he looked up and saw a huge rollercoaster. Bogie wanted to see what was going on so he walked up to the beginning of the line. A lot of kids wanted to get onto the rollercoaster and they pushed their way up the steps. Poor Bogie got scared and ran into a car. Two kids sat in the same car with him. When the ride started, the car sped up a big hill. Then they flew up to a loop-the-loop and Bogie fell out at the top. Luckily, a trampoline was at the bottom. He bounced up in the air and landed in a wagon. The wagon rolled down a steep hill. Halfway down the hill, the wagon hit a bump. Bogie went flying into the air. Strangely, Bogie didn't fall to the ground. He noticed he was flying. He flew past the Sears Tower and then started to fall. It was a long drop and was scared. But suddenly everything got blurry and boom, he was back at home. It was only a dream.

John Jasonowicz, Crane

SEVENTH GRADE

*****WINNER*****

Bogie's Magical Collar

Hi! My name is Bogie and I am going to tell you about my special collar. It is like no other in the world. You see, my collar has the ability to take me on great adventures anywhere I want! It all started when my owner, Mrs. Thompson, bought it for me. It looks like an ordinary collar, but if I touch the magical charm attached to it, I fall into a deep sleep. While I am sleeping, I am magically transported somewhere and my adventure begins. For example, I recently took a trip to Hawaii. I had so much fun there. I swam with the dolphins in the ocean, danced with some hula dancers, and even saw a real volcano erupting! I even got to taste some pineapple. It was very warm there, and I hope I can go back soon.

Someday, I hope my collar can take me to visit my mom and dad who live far away in Indiana. Although I love living here, I miss my parents, and I am sure they would be very happy to see me again. That is the story of my magical collar.

Oh, and just to let you know, Mrs. Thompson doesn't know about my collar's special powers yet, so if you run into her, please don't tell her about this.

Clare Hannon, Amador

Bogie's Play Practice

Yes! It's Tuesday again! Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday are the best days of the week because I get to visit play practice with Mrs. Thompson. The seventh and eighth graders are really nice and love it when I come visit them. Sometimes Mrs. Thompson gives the kids a leash and dog toys to play with when they're not on stage. The gym is so big and when the kids look away I can run around all I want and explore. The best places to look are in their backpacks because there's usually loose snacks in there that I can munch on! Mrs. Salvetti and Mrs. Amador like me too, and I love listening to the kids' singing and the acting while in either of their laps. In the end it's always sad when we have to go, and I think the kids and teachers are even sadder than me!

Maggie Madden, Fitzgerald

Bogie's Great Adventure

My name is Bogie and I have had a great adventure so far. During the day, I sleep at home and walk around the house. I usually jump on couches and sleep in the morning. At about noon, I eat some dog food and slurp up water. Then I explore the house for any dog toys to chew on. After I finish playing with the dog toys, I head out the open back door. I then play in the backyard. I try to find some mud to roll in after yesterday's rain or I look for some squirrels to chase. I sometimes even dig up plants. After I finish playing around in the back yard, I head back inside with my dirty paws. I then try to wait patiently for my owner to get home from work.

Brandon Stewart, Fitzgerald

