

The Brook



Report

Volume 1 Issue 2

Springbrook Middle School

Adrian, MI

February 15, 2023

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Educators know how important attendance is, and have put a plan in place to help motivate students to be in school which will in turn help them be more successful.

by Chloe Justice and Reaper Mc Fadden

Attendance with students is VERY important and we must pitch in. Because we know how important it is to be at school every day, a new initiative was started to help motivate students to be here more often. Sure, during the pandemic and over the last couple of years, attendance has not been good. How many of you had to be quarantined for ten days last year?

First, staff here at Springbrook and even at the high school began carefully tracking student attendance. During the first week of school this year, 6th graders had an attendance percentage of 94.45%. During that same week, 7th graders were there 92.34% of the time and 8th graders had a 91.59% attendance percentage. Not too bad, it may seem, but if you look at the charts and information included on the next few pages, you'll see that attendance during the second trimester has really slipped.

Why is that bad? If you as an individual student attend school 95% of the time, that might sound good. But really, that means you actually miss 9 days of school, that's almost two full weeks! If you attend school 85% of the time, that doesn't relate to a B grade for that percentage. It actually means that you are missing a whopping 5 1/2 weeks of school. Wow! That's way too much. But what does it mean for an entire class of students? Check out the following graphic:



We all know that missing school is not good for us. That is backed up by some pretty significant research. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "For older students, being chronically absent is strongly associated with failing at school—even more than low grades or test scores. When absences add up, these students are more likely to be suspended and drop out of high school. Chronic absenteeism is also linked with teen substance use, as well as poor health as adults."

Many people are coming in to help with this situation at hand. For example, there was an attendance challenge held in September and the grade with the highest attendance earned a prize. This prize was a movie day at the PAC (Performing Arts Center), and the 8th graders won this award. The movies they watched at the PAC were "Elf" and "Home Alone". Additionally, every student who has perfect attendance for one month of school, or those who have shown significant improvement, received a certificate. Those who have perfect attendance, or have shown significant improvement for two months, earned that certificate and pizza for lunch. Adding to the list, students who have had either perfect attendance all year or two or fewer absences are able to be exempt from one or two exams.

Mr. Benschoter makes sure to check attendance daily and gives out different prizes. Throughout the year he has given out 889 certificates so far. He has already given away over 300 ice cream sandwiches and plans on giving out pizza parties for the students who continue to have perfect attendance.

This school is very rewarding to students who try their best and students who show up on time. It is shown that those who show up more tend to get better grades and get more work done. So, let's do our part, not for the certificates or rewards, but for ourselves. Our future depends on it!

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade	Totals
September	77	62	68	207
October	66	43	64	173
November	66	62	55	183
December	54	49	45	148
January	58	58	62	178

EXAM EXEMPTIONS EARNED

	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade	Totals
Trimester 1				
Students	118	99	107	324
Exams	189	144	168	501

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR (X) CONSECUTIVE MONTHS

	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade	Totals
December (4)	13	7	11	31
January (5)	11	8	8	27

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR (X) CONSECUTIVE MONTHS

	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade	Totals
October (2)	43	28	39	110
November (2)	38	24	33	95
December (3)	18	15	16	49
January (4)	14	13	8	35

DONUT CELEBRATION

	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade	Totals
December (4)	13	7	11	31
January (5)	11	8	8	27



2nd Trimester Attendance Charts

This chart shows the daily percentage of attendance for grades 6 - 12 during our second trimester. After the conclusion of the 2nd trimester in March, the overall winner will be announced, along with the prize they will be receiving.

11/28/2022--12/2/2022						
Week 1	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	89.81	84.76	90.33	89.17	94.70	89.74
7th	89.88	91.82	87.24	84.64	89.44	88.60
8th	92.24	90.58	91.74	89.27	91.30	91.03
9th	88.19	89.54	88.60	86.69	92.51	89.11
10th	63.68	89.61	91.72	86.81	92.98	84.96
11th	92.03	88.30	91.00	89.50	94.48	91.06
12th	93.27	89.10	88.21	87.07	92.99	90.13

1/9/2023--1/13/2023						
Week 6	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th		87.9	87.8	89.8	89.4	88.7
7th		89.7	90.1	85.9	85.5	87.8
8th		91.4	91.0	91.8	85.2	89.8
9th		86.0	87.2	86.9	85.1	86.3
10th		89.8	90.4	89.7	85.5	88.9
11th		86.6	88.5	89.3	85.2	87.4
12th		92.2	91.1	89.4	86.9	89.9

12/5/2022--12/9/2022						
Week 2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	87.6	86.59	89.45	85.63	84.61	86.78
7th	86.91	83.35	86.65	85.14	87.46	85.90
8th	86.91	87.66	89.91	93.97	81.32	87.95
9th	87.21	86.83	84.40	86.20	86.99	86.33
10th	90.57	88.19	89.46	90.22	87.62	89.21
11th	88.8	87.33	88.94	89.82	86.73	88.32
12th	88.77	89.60	88.31	91.77	89.11	89.51

1/16/2023--1/20/2023						
Week 7	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th		90.5	88.3	87.4	86.5	88.2
7th		87.8	87.2	87.9	81.8	86.2
8th		92.6	88.9	90.1	86.6	89.5
9th		82.3	87.7	86.6	80.4	84.3
10th		92.4	87.1	90.0	86.7	89.1
11th		88.5	86.2	86.2	77.6	84.6
12th		91.0	92.0	86.6	78.7	87.1

12/12/2022--12/16/2022						
Week 3	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	86.39	85.11	88.45	80.04	86.14	85.23
7th	85.99	82.39	85.73	83.73	86.88	84.94
8th	83.98	84.33	90.61	86.57	88.27	86.75
9th	84.36	78.76	81.45	84.18	78.51	81.45
10th	87.32	82.86	84.12	85.55	82.72	84.51
11th	87.33	86.77	85.59	88.61	76.44	84.95
12th	86.41	88.28	90.14	86.12	84.09	87.01

1/23/2023--1/27/2023						
Week 8	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	90.4	85.5			84.6	86.8
7th	89.4	89.2			86.7	88.4
8th	92.5	90.4			87.3	90.0
9th	86.3	89.1			85.2	86.9
10th	88.0	89.3			85.7	87.7
11th	88.2	88.9			84.2	87.1
12th	86.8	88.2			87.9	87.6

12/19/2022--12/23/2022						
Week 4	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	84.69	86.12	86.25	88.81		86.47
7th	87.07	86.77	85.46	86.07		86.34
8th	85.13	85.10	86.78	88.94		86.49
9th	85.92	81.41	67.27	84.31		79.73
10th	86.23	85.00	86.63	83.95		85.45
11th	84.29	80.15	80.47	80.06		81.24
12th	84.87	83.77	82.14	86.03		84.20

1/30/2023--2/3/2023						
Week 9	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th	86.8	89.4	91.7	89.5	88.4	89.2
7th	90.1	90.6	87.8	87.8	89.1	89.1
8th	91.9	88.9	89.2	90.4	86.8	89.4
9th	85.5	85.1	83.7	85.5	88.1	85.6
10th	87.6	84.4	87.3	89.0	83.4	86.3
11th	88.5	87.8	85.7	91.5	75.0	85.7
12th	88.5	84.8	85.8	92.3	79.5	86.2

1/2/2023--1/6/2023						
Week 5	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Average
6th		91.74	88.78	91.95	89.14	90.40
7th		90.85	89.38	90.03	88.47	89.68
8th		94.57	90.74	89.09	88.44	90.71
9th		89.21	89.72	81.86	83.22	86.00
10th		90.58	91.15	91.84	89.53	90.78
11th		88.14	85.19	86.45	85.14	86.23
12th		91.11	89.14	89.18	87.09	89.13

Valentine's Day Dance

FEE: \$5

DANCE GOES FROM 2:45-4:45P

*DOORS WILL CLOSE @ 3 pm

February 24th
Springbrook Old Gym

*Tickets will be sold during lunch time starting Monday Feb. 20th

*SCHOOL DRESS CODE WILL BE FOLLOWED both FORMAL & NON-FORMAL

Share Your Talent

Hello everyone at Springbrook Middle School! My name is Reaper McFadden and I am the Collaborative Editor for this paper. My job is to collect items for possible publication from anyone in our building. So, if you have an excellent piece of writing that you'd like to see in the paper, contact me. For example, any short story, memoir, poem, etc would be welcome for consideration. Not only will I accept articles from 'outside' sources, but pictures as well. For example: a seriously good art project, an amazing social studies or math project, etc. If you contact me, I can even make arrangements for our staff photographer to come take pictures. Also, feel free to email me and submit your very own articles or topics for consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Reaper
kayleigh.mcfadden@student.adrian.k12.mi.us



THE BENSCHOTER BEAT

by Zephyr Burch

“Control what you can control!”

- Adam Benschoter

When asked what he would like in the Benschoter Beat for this edition, Mr. Benschoter says, “Control what you can control, as we are getting closer to the end of the second trimester.” When asked what he means by that he says, “I control my attitude, I control my work, I control what I can control, anyone can tell you what you can do, but only you can do it. We have a lot of students at the balance of passing and not passing. We do have a mentor day planned to tell everybody about credits and how you get them. For those students who are doing well, my goal is to have them keep going and finish strong.”

There are many ways you can keep your grade up, for example, turning in your work. One of the main reasons why most students' grades go down is because they don't turn in their assignments on time or at all. This happens a lot because students often hold off on assignments, thinking they have time to do it later, but usually end up forgetting about it. Many don't keep their work organized, as a result making things difficult for themselves. As a solution to this, students should make a calendar of assignments so they can help keep themselves up to date with their work as well as making sure they turn assignments in on time. Luckily, our school provides many opportunities to get grades up, such as Homework Help, working lunches, grad coaches, etc. Another problem is students skipping class or even just roaming the hallways during class time. Many do this to hang out with their friends or to just get out of doing their work. This not only messes with their grades, but also with attendance. All of these causes for bad grades can be avoided and the effects of them can simply be solved!

We always encourage our students to participate in these opportunities, as they are a big help, and we may even reward some students that do things to keep their grades up and get more grades to passing, because passing is one of the most important things to us here at Springbrook.

Springbrook Staff Spotlight... Mr. Emmendorfer *by Piper Wells*

So just who is that new guy in the building? Wait, that's not Ms. Fisher, it's Mr. Emmendorfer! Our new temporary Assistant Principal! He will be here temporarily as an assistant principal for 4 - 5 weeks until we have someone new to fill in the position. He started the year as an instructional coach, which basically means he was a personal assistant to all teachers 6 - 12th grade. Some of the things he works on are programs like Illuminate and other educational software systems. He is also our middle school track and cross country coach. Mr. Emmendorfer has always worked in Adrian and hopes that this is the only place he works. He also hopes that students think he is a person who students would want to see and he believes that he will be a lot like the other principals.

Mr. Emmendorfer didn't always want to be a teacher because he wanted to do other things. In fact, he didn't really like school when he was a kid but he was good at it. Mr. Emmendorfer graduated from Siena Heights University with a business administration degree, and later, an education degree. He then went on to receive a teaching certificate and a math minor. Mr. Emmendorfer did substitute teaching while he was in college and he felt like he belonged in the classroom. But before that, he managed a video store for a couple of years and later worked for a mortgage company for about a year, which he hated. So, he decided to go back to school to become a teacher. He got a job at Adrian Steel and worked full time there while he also went to school full time. Mr. Emmendorfer worked 3rd shift which was 10:30 pm to 6:30 am, that was a straight 8 hour shift. Mr. Emmendorfer was used to this kind of physical labor because he grew up on farms and had to



do a lot of work there, so he actually enjoyed working there which allowed him to go to school during the day. Imagine working all night long, having the responsibilities of a family, and going to school full time as well. “It was challenging,” Mr. Emmendorfer said. He had to sleep during his breaks at work, which were only 15 minutes long. He didn't feel like any of those professions were right for him other than the substitute teaching.

While Mr. Emmendorfer started going back to school, he had a daughter that was two years old and he was married. He said that he is most proud of his daughter because she has had an interesting last couple of years, which may have been hard on her. She is now 16 years old and is really into sports. His daughter ended up getting hurt in volleyball, and was not able to play when the pandemic since the pandemic ended all athletics for a time. Because of her injuries, Mr. Emmendorfer said that she

has had three surgeries on her knees and is still not back into sports due to the fact that it's still really hard for her to play again. She has now switched gears, however, and participates in Student Government and the Yearbook Committee, spending her time on other passions. He is proud of her grit, determination and perseverance during this difficult time for her.

Mr. Emmendorfer says what he likes most about Springbrook Middle School is that he enjoys seeing the positive interactions between students and teachers. He also states that his favorite thing about teaching is seeing his former students in the community. Many have graduated, have gainful employment, have started their own families, or are now going to college. It's rewarding to see their success.

Last but not least, some fun facts about Mr. Emmendorfer. If he could meet anyone, he said that he would choose Barry Sanders because he was the best running back. He would sit down and listen to Albert Einstein talk because he is “very smart and that it would be just amazing to listen to him.” If Mr. Emmendorfer could choose any super power, he would like to regenerate like Wolverine in X-Men so he doesn't die and he can watch everyone grow up. A philosophy that he lives by is “never do something today that can be put off to do tomorrow.” Which is also his yearbook quote. Mr. Emmendorfer has a different perspective of the quote though. For example, if he had to clean his house and his daughter wanted to play with the football, he would hold off on the cleaning and instead play with his daughter. He works on the things that are more important such as spending time with his child. “We can always put the meaningless things off until tomorrow.”



Student Surveys... because your voice matters

Every issue of the paper will include a question for students and we want to hear your answers!

How would your teachers describe you?

by Savannah Alumbaugh



Nyla House -
"...outgoing, kind to others and helpful."



Violet VanSickle -
"...cooperative."



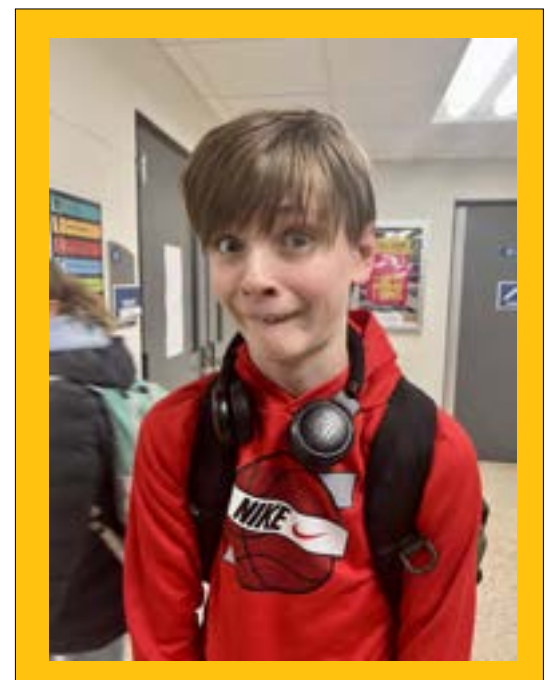
Sophia Hassan -
"...different and awesome."



Lucas Harman -
"...funny and sometimes annoying."



Wayne Corser -
"... funny and smart."



Johnny Lawrence -
"...the class clown!"

PROJECT WISDOM Go for the Goal

Many of us know the name Michael Phelps, the American swimmer who earned 28 Olympic medals, 23 of them gold. As a child, Michael was the victim of bullies and he faced many adversities including being diagnosed with ADHD. His mom said that these challenges made him stronger. He learned to focus his attention and effort on his goals and to channel all his energy into doing his very best every day.

Michael once said,

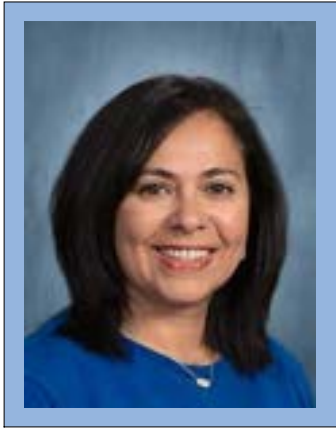
"I want to be able to look back and say, 'I've done everything I can, and I was successful. I don't want to look back and say I should have done this or that.'"

For 6th graders, you just recently began your third quarter and for 7th and 8th graders, your new trimester is about to start in a few weeks. This is a great time to set goals, refocus your energy, and make a resolution to do your very best. If you do, then you can look back without regret, knowing you did everything you could to be successful.

With something to think about, this is Mr. Benschoter. Make it a great day... or not. The choice is yours.

A New Assistant Principal at Springbrook Middle School

Welcome to Mrs. Soto!



A veteran high school educator is going to the Adrian Board of Education for final approval to become Springbrook Middle School's new assistant principal.

The Interview Selection Committee has recommended Stasi Soto for the position. The school board will consider final approval at its Monday, February 13th meeting. If approved, Soto will replace Lisa Fisher who is now an assistant principal at Adrian High School.

Board Trustee Mike Buku said, "We had a very qualified field of both internal and external candidates, but ultimately, Stasi Soto demonstrated great passion and enthusiasm for all of APS. She brings a wealth of experience and a history of leadership and innovation to this position and will continue to be a tremendous asset to our district."

Springbrook Middle School Principal Adam Benschoter noted, "It is evident then that Stasi cares about kids and builds a great working relationship with her students. I am excited that she is bringing her passion for students and APS to Springbrook Middle School as a part of our Administrative team. She will be an asset to our staff, students, and community."

Soto is currently a Spanish Teacher at Adrian High School. She came to the District in 2009 as a middle school math teacher at Springbrook and Drager Middle School. Soto transitioned to the High School in 2010 and has taught Spanish and Mathematics. She has also served on many committees such as PBIS, Freshmen Fair, School Improvement, and has led International Trips.

"I am very honored and excited to serve our Middle School students, parents, and community," Soto said. "I look forward to working alongside the great staff and administrative team as we continue to provide a quality education that both challenges and inspires."

She holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Eastern Michigan University and is completing her master's degree from Central Michigan University in May.

Learning from a Professional

submitted by --Mrs. Easter EMU student teacher



Last week the 6th-grade newspaper class had the pleasure of hosting a guest speaker. Brett DeGroff is an attorney that works at the State of Michigan Supreme Court as the senior law clerk for Justice Megan Cavanagh. Although his current job is interesting, he spoke to the class about his prior career. Mr. DeGroff was a reporter for the Ann Arbor News and MLive. He worked on the sports desk covering local high schools, colleges, and community sporting events. He gave the class an overview of all the newspaper positions that were just recently filled. He explained that when you are writing about sports it can be tempting to just highlight the facts. For example, Team A played Team B, and Team A won. He reminded us that it is the reporter's job to discover the rest of the story. Although everyone reads the sports page for the scores, it will be the story behind the scores that everyone will remember. "These details are what turns it into a story and give the reader more than they knew they wanted". Said DeGroff. When school records are broken, a downed tree holds up the race, so everyone pitches in to move it, or a cancer survivor sets a marathon record as an amputee, we can aspire to give our readers the same.

Band and Orchestra Lock-In

by Tarrence Lester

Here at Springbrook Middle School we have many after school events from sports games, theater practice to band, orchestra or choir concerts. But there is one after school opportunity we are very proud of having and that is Festival. Festival is like the concerts that band and orchestra perform throughout the year, but instead of playing for parents, they play for three judges where they are rated from one to five, one being the best and five meaning you just need a lot more practice. The band and orchestra prepare for this like they do a normal concert by practicing in class and at home, but every year leading up to Festival, they have a lock-in. Instead of going home after school, they walk to the high school and practice there with their teachers and with a musical clinician. They even get to have pizza for supper. Then they practice until 8:00pm or 20:00 in military standard time. They do all of this in order to prepare for Festival, and it obviously must work because last year both band and orchestra got ones across the board! This is a fun, exciting activity for all band and orchestra members and we should be proud we go to a school that lets us have such opportunities. As always, Go Orchestra, Go Band, Go Maples!



CELEBRATING



March on Washington

compiled by Zephyr Burch

This article lists the events scheduled at the Lincoln Memorial on August 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The highlight of the march, that attracted about 250,000 people, was Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

According to the National Archives "The civil rights movement in the United States during the late 1950s was the political and social struggle to gain full citizenship rights for Black Americans and to achieve racial equality. Civil rights organizations challenged segregation and discrimination using many different activities, including marches, boycotts, and refusal to abide by segregation laws."

In 1963 more than a quarter million people marched on the nation's capital to participate in the "March on Washington." The National Archives states that "It was the biggest demonstration for human rights in United States history. The event began with a rally at the Washington Monument featuring several celebrities and musicians." People then marched the mile-long distance to the Memorial. The several hour-long program at the Lincoln Memorial included speeches from prominent civil rights and religious leaders.

The National Archives states that "The idea for the 1963 March on Washington was thought of by A. Philip Randolph, a long-time civil rights activist dedicated to improving the overall condition of Black Americans." When he first explained the march during 1962, he received little response from a few other civil rights leaders. He knew that help would be difficult because each group had their own idea for the movement, the leaders competed for funding and press coverage.

"Success of the March on Washington depended on the involvement of the "Big Six" which included Randolph and the heads of the five major civil rights groups, Roy Wilkins, Jr., John Lewis, 'Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney Young and finally James Farmer." Because of this amazing team of groups they were able to pull off the march which ultimately ended successfully.

**MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963**

LINCOLN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

1. The National Anthem	<i>Led by Marian Anderson.</i>
2. Invocation	<i>The Very Rev. Patrick O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington.</i>
3. Opening Remarks	<i>A. Philip Randolph, Director March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.</i>
4. Remarks	<i>Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, State Clerk, United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.; Vice Chairman, Commission on Race Relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America.</i>
5. Tribute to Negro Women Fighters for Freedom	<i>Mrs. Medgar Evers</i>
	<i>Daisy Bates Diane Nash Bevel Mrs. Medgar Evers Mrs. Herbert Lee Rosa Parks Gloria Richardson</i>
6. Remarks	<i>John Lewis, National Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.</i>
7. Remarks	<i>Walter Reuther, President, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, AFL-CIO; Chairman, Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO.</i>
8. Remarks	<i>James Farmer, National Director, Congress of Racial Equality.</i>
9. Selection	<i>Eva Jessye Choir</i>
10. Prayer	<i>Rabbi Uri Miller, President Synagogue Council of America.</i>
11. Remarks	<i>Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League.</i>
12. Remarks	<i>Mathew Ahmann, Executive Director, National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.</i>
13. Remarks	<i>Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.</i>
14. Selection	<i>Miss Mahalia Jackson</i>
15. Remarks	<i>Rabbi Joachim Prinz, President American Jewish Congress.</i>
16. Remarks	<i>The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.</i>
17. The Pledge	<i>A Philip Randolph</i>
18. Benediction	<i>Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Morehouse College.</i>

"WE SHALL OVERCOME"

NAACP's Local Freedom Fund Banquet Our Students Continuing to Learn About the Pursuit for Equality



Springbrook students and staff pictured here with Adrian mayor Angie Sword Heath.

Springbrook Middle School students and staff joined the NAACP in October for the annual Freedom Fund Banquet. Marley Cooper, an 8th grade student, explained that there were multiple speakers and they didn't just talk about race and racism that goes on, they also talked about what you can do in the NAACP, what the organization does for the community, and how you can help them. She added that one speaker in particular spoke about how they also help others who are targeted for who they are, for example, if they're part of the LGBTQ community and are discriminated against because of it. Marley was impacted by the event, "It was nice to come together as a community because it wasn't just about issues in the black community, for example, there were also fireman and others running for office and I was able to see other people's point of view and not just remain stuck in one way of thinking."



As journalists, writers, ardent readers and lovers of anything creative and inspiring, the staff of The Brook Report wants to take this opportunity during Black History Month to celebrate, amplify and promote black writers, their voices and their stories. Take some time to discover new poets, authors and novelists.

Dudley Randall

According to Wikipedia, Randall was an African poet born in 1914 in Washington, D.C.. He really wrote just for himself personally until 1965 when he published "Ballad Of Birmingham" which was written in response to the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in which four girls were killed. In 1965, Randall became founder of Broadside Press and went on to publish other poets such as Audre Lorde, Gwendolyn Brooks and other black poets. In the year 2000, Randall suffered from congestive heart failure in Southfield, Michigan at the age of 86. Dudley Randall was well known for one of the best poems of the twentieth century.

submitted by Rylen Cleveland

Ballad of Birmingham

by Dudley Randall

"Mother dear, may I go downtown
Instead of out to play,
And march the streets of Birmingham
In a Freedom March today?"

"No, baby, no, you may not go,
For the dogs are fierce and wild,
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails
Aren't good for a little child."

"But, mother, I won't be alone.
Other children will go with me,
And march the streets of Birmingham
To make our country free."

"No, baby, no, you may not go,
For I fear those guns will fire.
But you may go to church instead
And sing in the children's choir."

She has combed and brushed her night-dark hair,
And bathed rose petal sweet,
And drawn white gloves on her small brown hands,
And white shoes on her feet.

The mother smiled to know her child
Was in the sacred place,
But that smile was the last smile
To come upon her face.

For when she heard the explosion,
Her eyes grew wet and wild.
She raced through the streets of Birmingham
Calling for her child.

She clawed through bits of glass and brick,
Then lifted out a shoe.
"O, here's the shoe my baby wore,
But, baby, where are you?"

Naomi Johnson

According to Poem Hunters, Naomi Johnson became a writer due to a very unfortunate circumstance. She was first a teacher, but while pursuing her Masters degree, she was faced with a horrific car accident that abruptly ended her career. Through her pain and recovery, she found the strength within from her spiritual faith to pursue a career in writing. Later on in life, she started to write poetry after the tragic death of her brother Eugene Richard Bufford Jr. from gun violence. Her perseverance through this adversity is indeed inspiring.

submitted by Savannah Alumbaugh

My Black is Beautiful

by Naomi Johnson

From the diversity of my complexion's tone
and the uniqueness of my structured cheekbones.
My Black Is Beautiful!

The bold hue of my skin
I am a woman who displays courage from within.
My skin color is the strength of royal pride
I dare not hide.

Because I love myself and the color that I represent
for it's a symbol of eloquence.
Look at me, there is nothing like my features...
What you see is neither an illusion nor a delusion.
It's a stunning gift of natural beauty from God,
so don't dismiss.

Black is the color of power and it is prestigious.
It exemplifies confidence and style
which is a blessing by my ancestors of the Nile.

I am beautiful from the inside out.
These words in this poetry are true, I have no doubt.
There is no one who can reform my mind.
Black has always been beautiful since the beginning
of time.

It is the color of honor and grace,
I am proud to have my Afrocentric face.
That cannot be taken away or replaced.

So do not make any mistakes... appreciate
My Black is Beautiful and exceptionally great.

Langston Hughes

was an important writer and social activist who gave a voice to the oppression and racism for black men living in America during the 1920s -1960s. Hughes used this first poem specifically to speak out about this discrimination and show that despite his darker skin color and being constantly pushed aside by the white majority, he too is just as much an integral part of America. Although he speaks on the painful subject of racism, he still expresses that one day all will value the beauty and power of African American culture.

submitted by Mrs. Ford

I, Too

by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

Harlem

by Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

We all know February is Black History Month, but do you really know the history behind why we celebrate it and how did it originate? Let's start off with the basics. Black History Month started in February 1986. You may be wondering, why is Black History Month in February?. It was chosen to be in February because the second week of this month is both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas' birthdays. "The reason they are related to Black History Month is because they issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and are both African American abolitionists." Now, why was Black History Month created? Black history Month was created to focus on and give attention to African Americans in The United States Of America. Black History Month honors all black people from U.S history, many of those being from the time when African American people started living in America in the early 17th century. According to Cater G Woodson, this month actually used to be referred to as "Negro History Week." The reason why the name was changed to Black History Month was because people thought that it should be celebrated longer than a week. According to National Geographic, Black History Month started after many black students, people, teachers, and adults started protesting for recognition. Years after protesting their opinions, it finally happened, Black History Month was created and is now an important topic taught in many schools and celebrated by people all over the U.S.

by Jairiel Love

B

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Black Authors

Middle School Books for Black History Month

Stella by Starlight
(historical fiction)
By Sharon M. Draper



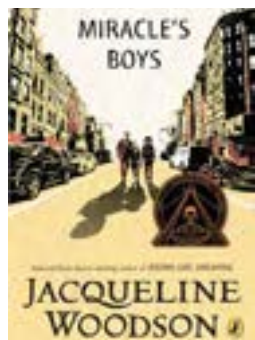
Publisher's Synopsis: When the Ku Klux Klan's unwelcome reappearance rattles Stella's segregated southern town, bravery battles prejudice in this Depression-era tour de force from Sharon Draper, the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of My Mind*. Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

Tight (fiction)
By Torrey Maldonado



Publisher's Synopsis: A Washington Post Best Children's Book of 2018. Lately Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way—reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama's hard to escape where he's from, and that gets him wound up tight. And now Bryan's new friend Mike is challenging him to have fun in ways that are crazy risky. At first, it's a rush following Mike, hopping turnstiles, subway surfing, and getting into all kinds of trouble. But Bryan never feels right acting wrong. So which way will he go when he understands that drama is so not his style? Fortunately his favorite comic heroes shed light on his dilemma, reminding him that he has power—the power to choose his friends and to stand up for what he believes is right. Torrey Maldonado delivers a fast-paced, insightful, dynamic story. Readers will connect with Bryan's journey as he navigates a tough world with a heartfelt desire for a different life.

Miracle's Boys
(fiction)
by Jacqueline Woodson



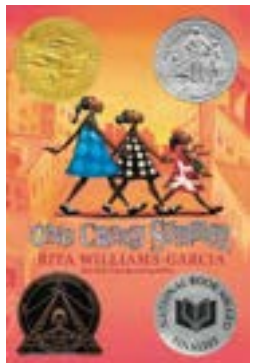
Publisher's Synopsis: For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are compounded by the facts that they've lost their parents and it's up to eldest brother Ty'ree to support the boys, and middle brother Charlie has just returned home from a correctional facility. Lafayette loves his brothers and would do anything if they could face the world as a team. But even though Ty'ree cares, he's just so busy with work and responsibility. And Charlie's changed so much that his former affection for his little brother has turned to open hostility. Now, as Lafayette approaches 13, he needs the guidance and answers only his brothers can give him. The events of one dramatic weekend force the boys to make the choice to be there for each other—to really see each other—or to give in to the pain and problems of every day.

Tristan Strong
Punches a Hole in
The Sky (fiction)
by Kwame Mbalia



Sent to Alabama to recover from an accident that killed his best friend, 7th grader Tristan Strong hasn't felt very strong in a long time. On his first night in Alabama, a creature comes into his bedroom and steals his lost friend's journal, and Tristan has no choice but to follow. In the chaos that ensues, Tristan punches a tree, inadvertently opening a chasm into the Midpass, a land of burning ships and volatile creatures hunting the people of our world. In Midpass, Tristan finds himself in the center of a battle that has worn down its warriors, Black folk heroes John Henry and Brer Rabbit. To close the opening to Midpass, Tristan and his new allies will have to seek out Anansi the Weaver and find a way to barter with the trickster that won't mean Tristan losing everything else he loves.

One Crazy Summer
(historical fiction)
by Rita Williams-Garcia



Publisher's Synopsis: In this Newbery Honor novel, New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them. A strong option for summer reading—take this book along on a family road trip or enjoy it at home. In *One Crazy Summer*, eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.

For some excellent reading, check out these books that come highly recommended by The Children's Book Review, Penguin Teen, and Book Riot

Brown Girl Dreaming (poetry)

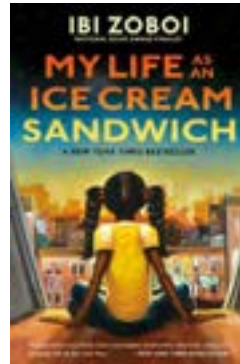
By Jacqueline Woodson



Publisher's Synopsis: Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich
(fiction)

by Ibi Zoboi



Publisher's Synopsis: National Book Award-finalist Ibi Zoboi makes her middle-grade debut with a moving story of a girl finding her place in a world that's changing at warp speed. Twelve-year-old Ebony-Grace Norfleet has lived with her beloved grandfather Jeremiah in Huntsville, Alabama ever since she was little. As one of the first black engineers to integrate NASA, Jeremiah has nurtured Ebony-Grace's love for all things outer space and science fiction—especially Star Wars and Star Trek. But in the summer of 1984, when trouble arises with Jeremiah, it's decided she'll spend a few weeks with her father in Harlem. Harlem is an exciting and terrifying place for a sheltered girl from Huntsville, and Ebony-Grace's first instinct is to retreat into her imagination. But soon 126th Street begins to reveal that it has more in common with her beloved sci-fi adventures than she ever thought possible, and by summer's end, Ebony-Grace discovers that Harlem has a place for a girl whose eyes are always on the stars.

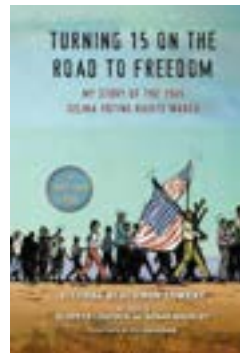
The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA
(fiction)

by Brenda Woods



Publisher's Synopsis: The Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author tells the moving story of the friendship between a young white boy and a Black WWII veteran who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South. For Gabriel Haberlin, life seems pretty close to perfect in the small southern town of Birdsong, USA. But on his twelfth birthday, his point of view begins to change. It all starts when he comes face-to-face with one of the worst drivers in town while riding his new bicycle—an accident that would have been tragic if Mr. Meriwether Hunter hadn't been around to push him out of harm's way. After the accident, Gabriel and Meriwether become friends when they both start working at Gabriel's dad's auto shop, and Meriwether lets a secret slip: He served in the army's all-black 761st Tank Battalion in World War II. Soon Gabriel learns why it's so dangerous for Meriwether to talk about his heroism in front of white people, and Gabriel's eyes are finally opened to the hard truth about Birdsong—and his understanding of what it means to be a hero will never be the same.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom
(a memoir)
by Lynda Blackmon Lowery



Publisher's Synopsis: A memoir of the Civil Rights Movement from one of its youngest heroes—now in paperback will an all-new discussion guide. As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history. Straightforward and inspiring, this beautifully illustrated memoir brings readers into the middle of the Civil Rights Movement, bringing history alive for young readers. The author, Lynda Blackmon Lowery, the youngest person to take part in the whole Selma to Montgomery March, now works as a case manager at a mental health center, and still lives in Selma, Alabama.

Defiant: Growing Up in the Jim Crow South
(a memoir)
by Wade Hudson



Publisher's Synopsis: Born in 1946 in Mansfield, Louisiana, Wade Hudson came of age against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement. From their home on Mary Street, his close-knit family watched as the country grappled with desegregation, as the Klan targeted the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and as systemic racism struck across the nation and in their hometown. Amidst it all, Wade was growing up. Getting into scuffles, playing baseball, immersing himself in his church community, and starting to write. Most important, Wade learned how to find his voice and use it. From his family, his community, and his college classmates, Wade learned the importance of fighting for change by confronting the laws and customs that marginalized and demeaned people. This powerful memoir reveals the struggles, joys, love, and ongoing resilience that it took to grow up Black in segregated America, and the lessons that carry over to our fight for a better future.

SPRINGBROOK SWIMMERS

A large number of our Springbrook swimmers had a great weekend at the state meet. Congratulations swimmers and coaches! Here are the results:

Girls Results:

200 Medley Relay: Madison Betz, Violet Adams, Alexis Fox, Allison Marks - 6th place

200 Freestyle: Allison Marks - 15th place, Lily Krill- 18th

50 Free: Lexi Fox - 9th place

Diving: Madison Betz - 7th place, Allison Betz - 21st

50 Fly: Lexi Fox - 10th place

100 Free: Allison Marks - 8th place, Violet Adams - 9th

200 Freestyle Relay :Madison Betz, Lily Krill, Allison Marks, Lexi Fox - 3rd place

100 Backstroke: Madison Betz - 9th place,

Michele Coy - 16th place,Allison Betz - 23rd

400 Free Relay: Lily Krill, Stella Rising, Allison Betz, Violet Adams - 7th place

Boys Results:

200 Medley Relay: Andrew Betz, Ian Baker, Owen Salenbien, Aaron Saunders - 5th place

200 Free Style: Ian Baker - 4th place

100 IM: Owen Salenbien - 14th place

Diving: Andrew Betz - 12th place

50 Fly: Ian Baker - 10th place,

Owen Salenbien - 15th place

200 Free Relay: Owen Salenbien, Andrew Betz, Aaron Saunders, Ian Baker - 6th place

400 Free Relay: Adam Beutler, Aaron Saunders, Lucas Zeckner, Andrew Betz - 11th place



Congratulations to our students who received all A's in the first trimester. Great job!



Origins of Groundhog Day by Emma Espinoza



Punxsutawney Phil, pictured here in Pennsylvania, making his yearly prediction (photo credit to Barry Reeger of CNN)

Grunsaudaag, Grundsow Dawg, Daks Day, those are only a few names of the famous holiday where a bunch of old men in top hats hold up a rodent like Simba from “The Lion King”. By far, the most popular North American title, however, is Groundhog Day! Every Feb. 2nd we celebrate it, but why? What are the origins of this holiday? Most importantly, who gave the groundhog an Instagram account?! (@punxsyphil)

According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, the holiday became officially established in 1887. The myth surrounding the holiday states that on the 2 of February, if Punxsutawney Phil, the glorified groundhog, comes out of his burrow, there will either be six more weeks of winter or early spring.

Believe it or not, in the original German version of this holiday, instead of a groundhog it's a badger! Same idea, different animals. The Badger day also was a traditional marker for Candlemas, a Catholic and Lutheran holiday on the 2nd. If you're interested in religious traditions and history, this holiday is definitely something to look into!

German communities have since then spread their traditions to Pennsylvania. The earliest known records of Groundhog Day in the state go back to 1840 (credits to James L. Morris for the information.) About 40 years later in 1886, Clymer Freas, a newspaper editor, was falsely credited for being the “Father of Groundhog Day.” Though he is not, in fact, the first individual ever to come up with the holiday, he is the first recorded newspaper author to have written about the celebration in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

After all of this time, the holiday is still kicking, with an entire club established in Phil's honor, as well as a comedy movie. You've grown up so much, you know that, Phil? In fact, on Feb. 2 of 2023, the groundhog came out of his burrow, communicated with the club's president, Mr. Dunkel, in “groundhogese” that there will be 6 more weeks of winter. I hope you're ready for that because the groundhog is never wrong! (Ok, maybe that's an exaggeration...)

Welcome to our 6th grade Newspaper Staff!!



The inaugural 6th-grade newspaper class is enthusiastically ready to begin contributing to the Brook Report! We are learning about our roles and responsibilities. Our staff has already brought ideas in for articles and projects to work on. Although we are assigned to specific roles, building a newspaper is a collaborative process through which we will help each other, learn new skills, and be part of Maple history!

THE SUPERBOWL

Football, Commercials, and Wings!

by Logan Snyder



The Super Bowl is the biggest game in the National Football League. This is where the two best teams in the league battle to see who the “best team in the world” is. This year the Super Bowl was played between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles at State Farm Stadium in Glendale AZ. It was a close game, but ended with the Chiefs winning 38 - 35. In 2022 the Super Bowl had around 100 million viewers.

The first ever Super Bowl played was between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Green Bay Packers. The outcome of that game was a Packers win with Quarterback Bart Starr at the helm making the packers the first ever superbowl champions. After that, the NFL named the Super Bowl trophy after the Packers coach Vince Lombardi. This year is the 57th Superbowl in NFL history.

There are a lot of different reasons why people watch the Super Bowl: just for the game, for parties, and maybe they have family in the game. One of the more interesting reasons is to watch the special commercials aired during the Super Bowl, which are some of the most popular commercials ever. The companies who make Super Bowl commercials know that they have to make them interesting and attention grabbing because that is how they sell products. Personally, I watch the Super Bowl for the game.

There are many different types of foods that people like to eat during the Super Bowl. Some of the most popular are wings, nachos, pizza, and many more. In our middle school we put out a survey to see everyone's personal favorite. Wings was the top winner with 61% and in second place was pizza at 52%.



Our Wonderful Art Program

Learn about the art program by getting an inside view from our seventh and eighth grade art teacher, and learn about what goes on in the classroom and how they teach

by Tarrence Lester

Here at Springbrook Middle School we have many opportunities for students. Whether that be sports, orchestra, band, or maybe choir. The school offers these in order for students to learn and grow, and one of our best is the art program. Students can learn to have a creative outlet through painting, coloring, making clay structures or maybe just plain old pencil sketching. Our art program is a very exciting one. As told by Mr. Brink, "The Adrian Schools Educational Foundation makes a lot of cool things happen for APS classrooms by awarding funds for projects submitted by teachers." Every year Mr. Brink writes a grant proposal for the supplies needed for special art projects for his students. As you can see, our school district cares a lot about the art program. This helps teachers like Mr. Brink fund fun and educational art projects. For example, this year he was able to have the seventh grade Encore class explore the Japanese art of Suminagashi, and make their very own marbled paper. Later in the year, it allowed Mr. Brink to have this same class make their very own Origami Masu box with a lid using paper. As stated previously, we go to a school that cares deeply about providing opportunities for students to get into the arts. We should be proud that we go to a school that cares about its art program this much and be grateful we have great art teachers like Mr. Brink.



An up-close look at the projects students made after making their own linoleum block prints..



Springbrook students showing off their Japanese Suminagashi.



Pin It To Win It

by Lei-La Barrus

What exactly is wrestling? According to Wikipedia, "Wrestling is a sport of physical engagement between two people in which each wrestler strives to obtain a position of advantage over their opponent. Wrestling involves different grappling-type techniques such as clinch fighting, throws and takedowns, joint locks, pins and other grappling holds. Wrestling comes in different forms such as freestyle, Greco-Roman, Judo, Sambo, folkstyle, catch, submission, sumo, Pehlwani, Shuai jiao and more. Many different wrestling techniques have been incorporated into martial arts, combat sports, and military systems. There are a wide range of styles with varying rules, with both traditional historic and modern styles. This sport can either be genuinely competitive or sportive entertainment."

Some may say that wrestling is easy and you can start without knowing anything and you'll be fine, well that's not the case. A majority of the people that wrestle have been doing it for years, some even since they were little kids, so they've learned and memorized a lot of the techniques and rules. Wrestling is a highly respected sport and to succeed it is important to follow the rules. By learning, kids will understand the importance of these rules and ensure that they are aware of their place in the ring, that is why it is better to start wrestling at a younger age. The best age to start wrestling is around 4-5 years old. In addition, it can boost the development of hand-eye coordination and improve strength.

According to Team USA, Wrestling builds character, teaches kids how to overcome obstacles, handle their emotions, respect authority, the importance of being a good teammate, and that success has to be earned through hard work and determination. Wrestling also helps boys and girls—as well as young men and women—develop off the mat, notably in social situations. "In fact, participating in and having a positive experience in sports can have a major impact on a young athlete's social development." said Greg Bach, Senior Director, Communications and Content, for the National Alliance for Youth Sports. "When wrestlers aren't competing they are cheering on their teammates, and getting a sense of just how powerful a collective group of people united together and shouting words of encouragement can be, wrestlers are also helping their teammates by telling them what to do to help pin the opponent."

"Wrestling provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about the power of teamwork and the power of praise—and that's an incredible lesson to carry into adulthood, where the ability to lift someone up who is down or struggling, whether it's a friend, co-worker, or even a husband or wife, can have ramifications." says Greg Bach. Wrestling also teaches the value of dependability, which is also important as we have to work in teams in school and even later in life in our careers.



A super huge THANK YOU to everyone who bought a rose this Valentine's Day. We raised enough money to buy 4 digital audio recording devices to help us with interviewing. If anyone wishes to join The Brook Report, we have openings on the newspaper staff for 7th and 8th graders during 1st or 6th hour. Talk to Mrs. Ely today to see if you can get your schedule changed for 3rd Trimester. We'd love for you to join our team!

The Skeels Scoop

by Rylen Cleveland

Student-Athletes Maintain Those Grades!

ELIGIBILITY: In order to play sports at Springbrook Middle School, each athlete must pass at least 66% of classes according to MHSAA requirements. That means you can not fail the same class two weeks in a row here at Springbrook or have more than one failing grade. In order to play spring sports such as Track and Field, Baseball, Softball, and Soccer, you must pass all but one of your classes during the second trimester. If you do not, you are ineligible to participate in those sports. This also goes for third trimester grades relating to fall sports. If you fail 2 or more classes, you will be ineligible to participate next fall in sports such as Football, Volleyball, or Cross Country. For 8th graders, this carries into the high school. Academics are important and to be a student-athlete, you must maintain your grades.

Featuring Our Student Writers

fictional story submission

by 8th grader Keiarra Thompson

Silent Night

Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

The night was deathly quiet save for the rare skittering leaves dancing across the sidewalk. I pulled my jacket around me tighter and quickened my pace. The wind blew hard and the cold air hit my face. I winced slowly, feeling my face and it felt numb. The snot from my nose began to freeze in tiny little icicles. I wearily sat on a nearby bench shoving my hands into my giant jacket pockets taking a second to take in my surroundings. I looked around hoping to see a car or the occasional person. But the whole place was deserted. I envied the thought of being home in a warm bed but yet, I was stranded, destined to die of hypothermia. I closed my eyes and listened to the wind. The breeze sang to me, it whistled and... I paused, the wind didn't breathe. I felt a warm breath brush against my neck, shivers crept down my spine. And I felt a presence hovering over me. I didn't turn around or open my eyes. I just sat there stiff as a board, I quickly shut my eyes trying to quiet any wandering thought in my head. My breathing went quite so quiet in fact I could hear my own heart beat. I felt something grasp my shoulder and whatever it was its nails dug into me like knives. The pain was so overwhelming but I didn't make a sound. I kept my mouth tied shut as a single tear rolled down my cheek. I stood completely still pressing both my hands into tight fists. This whole walk in the woods my mom sent me on was supposed to be uncomplicated. It was just a walk through the woods. I knew I was lost but now I don't even know if I will find my way home. Let alone make it to morning. And as I kept letting my thoughts eat me alive, I didn't notice that the feeling of the hand on my shoulder had disappeared. I started to calm down. And I loosened my fists. I let out a big sigh, then slowly opened my eyes, I froze in absolute fear, I started to shake and I felt as if my body was no longer my own. Its eyes bulged out of its head, its smile looked carved onto its long narrow face. The horror before me was tall and thin, its bones poking through its skin, the longest part of its body was its neck. It twisted and turned at a slant. It had large claw-like hands that did not accommodate its body. Its billowing feet were torn and shredded, you could see each hollow bone of where toes should have been. It looked frozen so I stood up barely reaching up to its torso. Its eyes blank yet they still glimmered in the moonlight. My heart sank as its head slowly shifted. I tried to run. But I didn't get far well, not all of me. At least not before I was torn limb from limb and my head ripped from my body.. I watched as my body was swallowed like a pill and all I could do was hover over my severed head.

Thank you for reading my story.



by Khairi Johnson

President's Day is a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. This year, it lands on Feb. 22, 2023. President's Day was originally established in 1885 in recognition of George Washington.

At first, President's Day was only applied to the District Of Columbia, it wasn't until 1885 it had spread out to the country. Washington's birthday had joined the other federal holiday's (Christmas Day, New Years Day, The Fourth Of July, and Thanksgiving).

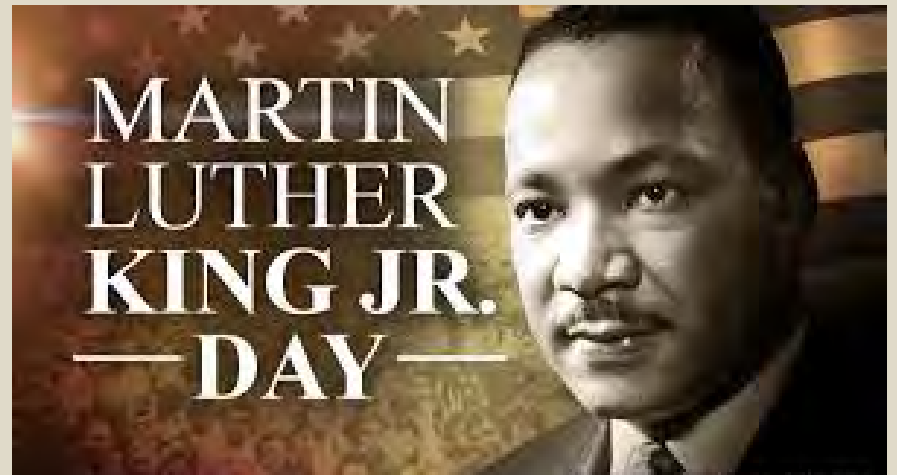
The origin of President's Day began in the 1800's. Washington's birthday (Feb. 22 1732) became a day of remembrance, but was not a holiday until late 1870s. It wasn't until then it officially became a federal holiday. The person who signed it into law was President Rutherford B. Hayes, in 1879.

The holiday became popularly known as President's Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved a number of federal holidays to Monday. This Act officially combined two holidays into one, President George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22 and President Abraham Lincoln's on Feb 12.

President's Day was an attempt to make a 3 day weekend for the nation's workers. This holiday would also give the nation's workers the day off and still receive full pay. Presidents Day is now viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents.

Book Speed Dating

Mrs. DiPietro's ELA classes participated in a Book Speed Dating in our Media Center and enjoyed learning about the different books that they dated.

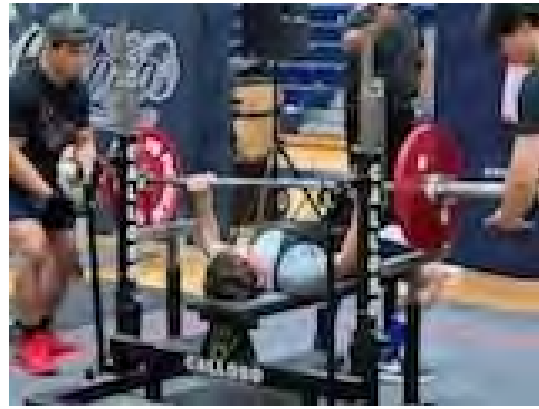


It was an inspirational night for our students Samuel Smaw, Ryder Richardson, Amor Sanchez, Jelani McGraw, and Cambria Stevens who helped represent Adrian Public Schools at the 'Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lenawee County Community Celebration and Dinner' which had the theme of: building the beloved community: it starts with me. As a matter of fact, Jenali told us, "The thing that really stood out to me the most was all the speakers. They were very inspiring because they all talked about when trying to make a change, everything starts with you. If we want the world to be a better place, we have to start with ourselves first."





KASEY EICHORN OFF TO POWERLIFTING NATIONALS!



On January 21, 8th grader Kasey Eichorn qualified for nationals in powerlifting by winning the Goodrich USAPL meet. In March he is headed to Myrtle Beach for the USA Powerlifting Nationals with some of our lifters from the high school as well. Great job, Kasey!



Springbrook Middle School GIRLS BASKETBALL

by Logan Snyder

The 8th grade girls basketball team's current record is 1-10 playing in a lot of close games. The coach Mr. Benard says that he is happy with the progression that the team has made. Benard then said that it has been a very challenging yet rewarding season.

Mr. Benard also believes that some of the girls have made huge improvements because some have come from little to no experience and they have taken a huge step forward. He is happy with the season because the girls are growing and he gets to challenge the girls to reach their objectives through games and practices as a team. Mr. Benard believes that the team is doing a great job at staying true to themselves and their objectives.

Mr. Benard is trying to coach the girls into becoming better listeners and getting them to stay engaged clapping and cheering for their teammates and their attitude towards each other. Mr. Benard mentioned that the girls have done very well on improving their ball handling skills and that they are way better at decision making than they were at the start of their season. "They are a very good defensive team and that is their biggest spotlight and they are good at switching formations." Mr. Benard says that they struggle with working together on offense and that is what they have been working on in practices and in games.

The 7th graders are 2-6 currently and they are working on shifting defenses and it is going very well. Their struggles include communication, but they are getting better at it. Mrs. Metdpenningan believes that something special about the team is the depth on the bench and that the girls are always ready to play and fill in the shoes of the starters. Mrs. Metdpenningan is very happy with their season and how well they've improved all around. Mrs. Metdpenningan says that she encourages them to work on basketball during the offseason and during free time. Mrs. Metdpenningan quotes, "Amazing athletes aren't just the ones who play one sport year round but anyone who can dribble a basketball in the parking lot or their basement."

Overall, it has been a great season for learning and growing. Players should feel very proud about all of their hard work and effort. Every player has had to opportunity to play in games which allows them a chance to get better at the sport.



Mardi Gras, literally means "Fat Tuesday" in French and originally marked the beginning of Lent which is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) before Easter which for Christians includes prayer, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. In other words, many Christians will give up something during Lent like candy, soda or snacks. So, the day before Lent starts is called "Fat Tuesday" which is really about the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before those sacrifices. That's why places like Meijer and even Westco take orders for paczki's this time of year. Paczki's are specialty Polish donuts reserved for once a year in honor of Fat Tuesday According to the Mardi Gras New Orleans site, "Mardi Gras started in America on March 3, 1699 when a French-Canadian explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville camped just about 60 miles downriver from the future site of New Orleans." Knowing it was Fat Tuesday back in France, Iberville named the spot "Point du Mardi Gras" and threw a gala that would become New Orleans. Today, Mardi Gras includes tons of fun activities such as music, parades, foods and giant floats. On Mardi Gras, people there like to celebrate by dressing in green, purple and gold clothes and wearing long matching beads that are often thrown from the floats in the parade.

MARDI GRAS

by Rylen Cleveland





Hearts, love letters, chocolate, oh my! Valentine's day is the perfect day to express your love to a friend, family member, pet or even your crush! A lot of people know that the holiday is on Feb. 14, but not as many know its origin story. Whether or not you like the cavity-sweet, mushy holiday as much as others do, some fun history lessons are for everybody!

The holiday came from Catholic beliefs and customs, and "Valentine" is the name of a saint. From The History Channel, "The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred." Pretty much saying that if your name is Valentine, things aren't exactly looking up for you. All three of the Valentine's had one thing in common other than death, which is the theme of love. In fact, in one legend, Valentine sends a love letter to a woman signed, "Your Valentine," which most likely sparked inspiration for the common tradition of Valentine cards.

"Formal messages, or Valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial Valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s." (From Melissa Petruzzello on Britannica) Valentine cards usually include pictures or mentions of red roses, Cupid or doves. Red roses, in the language of flowers, represent romance and passion, as do doves in the language of birds! Cupid is the son of the Roman goddess Venus, and is known as one of the gods of love (Credits to Kayla Mahoney for the information) Most people know that he zips around on his little wings and shoots people with a bow and arrow to make them fall in love. Sure, this is mythology and all, but isn't it a tiny bit unsafe for a kid to have access to weapons? Just saying.

Now that you know all the history, it's pretty weird to think that such a romantic day originated from a bunch of saints named Valentine getting executed. Sick of reading the word "Valentine" yet? I'll give you one more for good luck, happy Valentine's Day! (And to all the single people out there, fight on!!)

Fun Facts by T. and Z.

The most commonly farmed seaweed is *Eucheuma* and *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, according to ASC International.

Hammerhead sharks have 360 degree vision.



Springbrook Student Spotlight Cameron Binkley



by Khairi Johnson

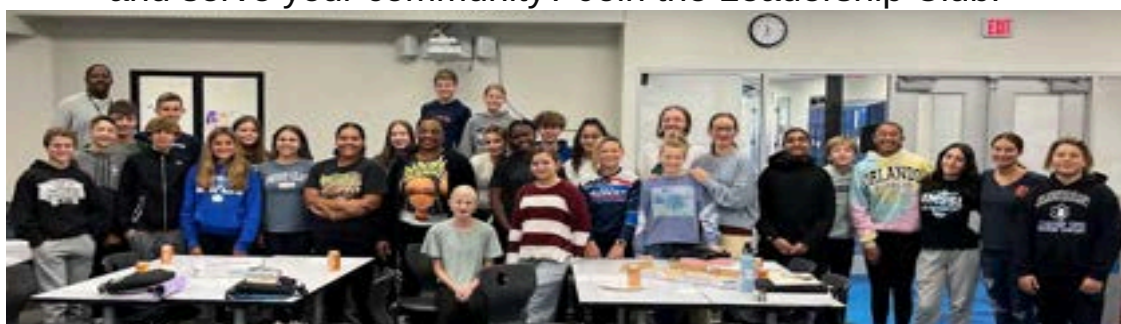
Cameron Binkley is an 8th grade student here at Springbrook and was chosen to be featured in our Student Spotlight because of a recommendation from Mr. Skeels. As a matter of fact, Mr. Skeels says, "Cameron Binkley-Cameron is a very quiet young man but a great representation of Maple Pride. He has shown Excellence as a manager of the 8th grade basketball team, never wavering and always being there to support his teammates and coaches. He also has demonstrated Pride as a key member of the 8th grade football team. I'm proud of Cameron's work ethic and determination as both a student and athlete. He is a great representation of what it means to be a Maple!"

Echoing Mr. Skeels sentiment, three words we could use to describe Cameron would have to be athletic, responsible, and caring. His role in athletics includes playing 8th grade football as left tackle for both offense and defense. Cameron also contributed a lot for the 8th grade basketball team as the team manager. In this role, he kept stats about the points and the rebounds for each player. Cameron enjoys football so much that when asked where Cameron would see himself in 5 years he replied, "A football player in college."

This love for football carries over in his answers to other questions. The person who Cameron looks up to would be none other than Tom Brady and something memorable that Cameron notes was his own last football game this past season. The last book he read was about Kobe Bryant and Cameron thinks everyone should read that book and another book he read about Micheal Jordan. Cameron explains that these books are inspirational because they are not just about playing the sport, but about how to work hard and have perseverance. As a student, Cameron says his favorite school subject is math because he understands it more than any other subject. Finally, when asked what he is proud of, Cameron said, "My own life." That is certainly something for all of us to think about, because we all should be able to say we are proud of how we live our life.

The Leadership Club

Do you have a high academic standing and want to be a leader and serve your community? Join the Leadership Club!



by Savannah Alumbaugh

Mr. Benard not only coaches the men's Adrian College basketball team and the Springbrook 8th grade girls basketball team, but he is also the advisor for the Leadership Club. He says "The goal of the club is to bring awareness to opportunities that students will have if they are high academic achievers. We challenge students to think about ways that they can serve in their community as well. We also challenge students to connect with peers outside of their immediate circle." If you're wondering what they do in the Leadership Club, Mr. Benard says, "We serve our community through volunteering, we challenge both high academic and behavior performance in both communities. We strive to find ways to support our Springbrook community as well." Mr. Benard says that he and the club have accomplished over 100 hours of volunteering and brought back activities for our Springbrook community to participate with, but more importantly, they still maintain high academic achievements." Mr. Benard is looking for students to join the Leadership Club, so if you are interested in joining, he says, "In the future we plan on finding additional students to join the leadership program in hopes to promote high academic standards and growth within our school." Lastly, please contact Mr. Benard for more information or if you have any questions!

8th Grade Reality Fair

Springbrook 8th graders traveled over to the high school last Friday for a Reality Fair. Each student was given a budget, or income level, based on their current GPA. Then they had to purchase housing, insurance, and other necessities to see if they could survive. Students had to prioritize what they spent money on. If they purchased a fancy, expensive car with a high monthly payment, they found that they only had \$8 left to buy food for the month! They found out how much it actually costs to buy a smart phone and how much you have to pay each month to use it. Students learned the value of money and how to make smart decisions about how they'll spend it in the future. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors who came in and helped, especially CNB Bank, Greg Bell Ford, Re/Max Main Street Realty, Lenawee Now, Gurdjian Insurance Group, Consumers Energy, LISD, Adrian Animal Clinic, AT&T, Goodwill Industries, Horizon Travel, Parent/Grandparent leaders, Anne Butts, Lisa Marlatt and Meijer for providing candy.



MAPLE BUCKS STORE

Are You Showing Your Maple P.R.I.D.E.?

by Donte Monroe

Many of you don't know what the Maple Bucks store process is here at Springbrook Middle School, Luckily, I am here to inform you as much as I can. First things first, what are Maple Bucks? These are little pieces of paper used kind of like currency for Springbrook. You can earn them by showing the P.R.I.D.E traits which are Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. You can also earn them by getting your work turned in on time, showing that you are responsible when no one is watching, and staying on task. After you earn all of those Maple Bucks, there is a store you can go to once a month and purchase items like popcorn, movie tickets or a delivered lunch, or privileges like leaving for lunch early or using your teacher's chair for the hour.

Maple Bucks Menu 2022-2023

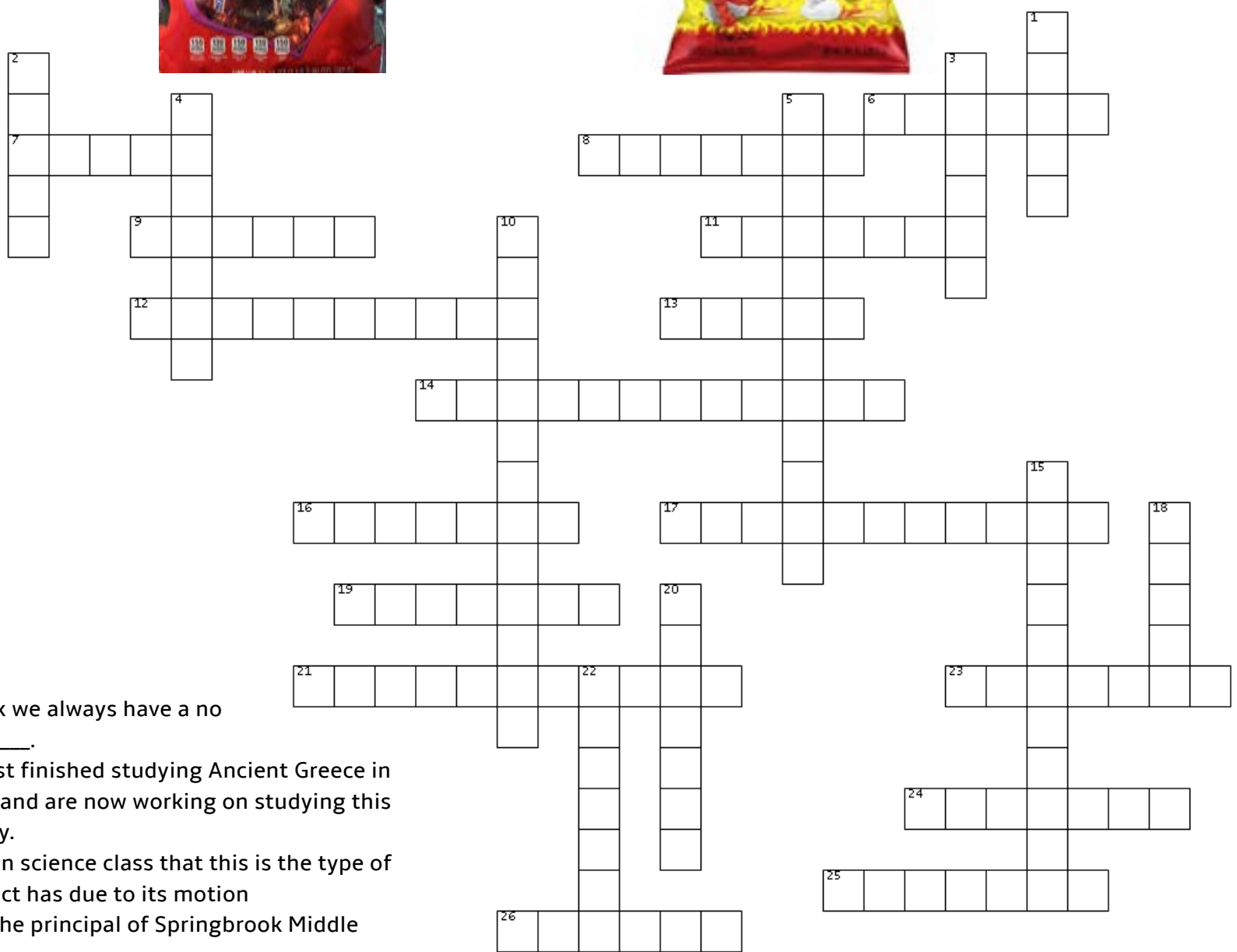
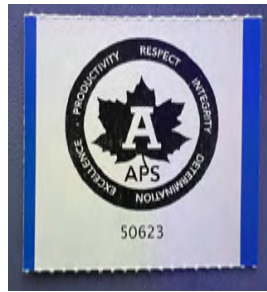
Incentive	Number of Maple Bucks
Lunch ordered for you	30
Adrian Skatery Ticket	20
Spotted Cow Coupon	20
Popcorn for class	20
MJR Movie Ticket	20
Wear a hat/hood for the day	15
Wear pajamas for the day	15
Drop lowest quiz score	15
Ticket to High School Sporting Event	15
Ticket to Middle School Dance or sporting event	10
Free Homework Pass	10
Time to Play on the computer (10 mins)	10
Extended Homework Pass	5
Leave early for lunch (2 mins)	5
Use Teacher's chair	5
Listen to music during work time	5
Preferred Seating in Class (1 period)	5
Pick class music during independent work time	5
Grab Bag or Snack	5

Springbrook Crossword Puzzle

Complete the puzzle, win a prize!

This edition's crossword puzzle is all about Springbrook Middle School. You can find many of the answers in the first edition of The Brook Report and even some in this one. Students who complete this puzzle and turn it in to Mrs. Ford in Room A-135 by Wednesday February 22nd will be entered into a drawing for some prizes pictured below. Someone will win that entire bag of 70 pieces of chocolate, or Flaming Hot Cheetos! Maybe instead you'll want to pick out 5 stickers ...and the person who hands it in first will also win 5 Maple Bucks! (Of course, it has to be correctly completed!) You can print this page of the paper yourself, or you can find copies of the crossword puzzle in a pocket on The Brook Report's bulletin board in the hallway between Mrs. Pickle's and Mrs. Holden's classrooms. Good Luck!

(Sorry, only Springbrook students are eligible to win prizes; Springbrook teachers, staff and administration, parents, members of the public, and The Brook Report staff are not eligible to win prizes, but are certainly encouraged to participate!)



ACROSS

- 6. At Springbrook we always have a no drama _____.
- 7. 7th graders just finished studying Ancient Greece in social studies, and are now working on studying this ancient country.
- 8. You will learn in science class that this is the type of energy an object has due to its motion
- 9. Last name of the principal of Springbrook Middle School in 2001
- 11. The name of the novel 6th graders are reading right now in ELA
- 12. The kind of shark that has 360 degree vision
- 13. Last name of the teacher whose classroom is B-121
- 14. The name of the novel 7th and 8th grades just finished reading in ELA
- 16. Last name of Adrian School's Superintendent in 2005
- 17. Last name of our temporary assistant principal
- 19. Last name of Springbrook's Assistant Principal in 1985
- 21. The musical students are currently working on here at Springbrook
- 23. You will learn in math that this is a whole number (not a fractional number) that can be positive, negative, or zero
- 24. Last name of the teacher whose classroom is B-103
- 25. The type of cactus whose taproot only goes 3 inches under ground
- 26. Last name of the teacher whose classroom is B-114

DOWN

- 1. The last name of the teacher who is the 6th grade newspaper advisor
- 2. Remember to always show your Maple _____.
- 3. The grade that won the attendance contest first trimester
- 4. You can wear these at school for 15 Maples Bucks
- 5. Last name of the teacher whose classroom is D-105
- 10. 8th graders are currently studying the era of this president in social studies class (1824-1840)
- 15. 8th graders went to the high school for this activity last Friday, Feb. 10th
- 18. The last name of our Copy Editor for The Brook Report
- 20. One word that Mr. Benschoter says you need to work on in this edition of The Benschoter Beat
- 22. You can purchase this for your whole class for 20 Maples Bucks



Love and Logic®

A wonderful opportunity for our PARENTS

ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

is pleased to offer...

Parenting the Love and Logic Way

Six sessions designed to help parents equip kids with character, compassion, problem solving skills and more!

You will learn how to:

1. Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things.
2. Help your kids learn from mistakes so they don't repeat them.
3. Avoid enabling and begin empowering.
4. Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators.
5. Set enforceable limits.
6. Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments.



This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately!



*Love allows children to grow through their mistakes
Logic allows them to live with the consequences of their choices.*

Dates: Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Springbrook Middle School

Cost: FREE SERVICE TO ALL PARENTS! No Charge

Registration preferred by emailing our facilitator

Jodi Ford at jford@adrian.k12.mi.us,

or calling Springbrook at 517-263-0543.

Please leave you name and phone number.

Since 1977, the Love and Logic Institute has been dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. We provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children and help them prepare their kids for the real world. All of our work is based on a psychologically sound parenting and teaching philosophy called Love and Logic.

LEARNING IN ACTION

Mrs. Hughes' PLTW classes are using the design process to create their own roller coasters made completely out of cardstock and tape. A marble has to be able to use gravity to complete the roller coaster ride, a study in potential and kinetic energy.



It's Bitter To Litter

by *Tristan Wolfe*

"Be part of the solution, not the pollution" - Steve Castree

Litter is a world-wide problem that greatly damages our planet. What exactly is considered littering? To simplify it, littering is the act of not disposing of waste properly. This problem affects animals, ecosystems, and our overall planet. When we litter, we are ruining the environment, which can impact our health, for example spreading viruses, diseases, and parasites. Luckily, we can slow down and decrease this problem, but first, it is important to understand why we litter.

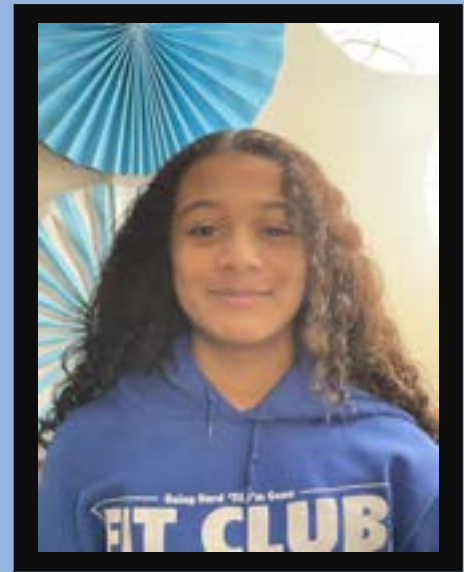


In Lou Blouin's article "The Psychology Of Littering," Wesley Schultz states, "If you look back at the surveys that were done in the 1960s, people were much more accepting about throwing waste just openly in public spaces." But since then, we've learned how unhealthy and hazardous having trash in the streets can be; for our bodies and our groundwater. Now things have changed and littering is seen as being unethical. It's just wrong. The main reason why people litter is because they are simply too lazy to find a nearby trash can. Have you ever walked down a city sidewalk

or in a nearby park, only to find pop cans, plastic bags, food wrappers and other litter all over the place? It's an easy fix though, and we can take action to stop littering before things get way worse than they already are.

If you look around most places you go, including our school, you are likely to find trash on the ground. There is even litter in the hallways, in classrooms and in the cafeteria. Not only is littering harmful, but it also looks bad on us. Fortunately, there are solutions. First of all, don't be lazy! Find a waste basket and throw your trash away. Similar to this, don't throw waste out of your car while driving. Doing so is bad for the earth and can also be dangerous, your waste could possibly fly behind you onto someone's windshield and cause an accident. Keep places around you clean, including your backyard, and whenever you have the opportunity to pick up trash, take it! It's more about saving our planet rather than not wanting to clean up someone else's trash. Lastly, recycling helps decrease the amount of waste we throw away, and also helps make new items to buy, so it is definitely important to recycle. So use those trash cans and recycling boxes you see around Springbrook. Do your part to not only reduce litter, but make our school a nice place to be. Saving the world around us is something we need to focus more on before it's too late!

Newspaper Staff Spotlight



Jairiel Love

Meet Jairiel Love! She is a News Reporter here with The Brook Report at Springbrook Middle School. Jairiel was born in Los Angeles, California and is currently 13 years old and a seventh grader. Her favorite show is "The Vampire Diaries" because of its unexpected plot that keeps you on the edge of your seat. "Maze Runner" is her favorite movie series for the same reasons, especially because of the dramatic cliffhangers. Her biggest fear is losing someone close to her because those are the individuals that help Jairiel through life and she doesn't know what she would do without them. Jairiel's favorite dinner is steak, mashed potatoes, and corn that is cooked by the best chefs in the world, her grandparents.



Lei-la Barrus

Meet one of our sports reporters, Lei-la Barrus. She is in the 7th grade here at Springbrook Middle School and is currently 13 years of age. Lei-la loves to skateboard, draw, dance, and watch movies. She also likes to lift weights at the gym and at home. Lei-la is very excited and happy to be a part of the Springbrook newspaper this year and hopefully next year as well. The Twister is Lei-la's favorite movie because it's about tornadoes and it uses an amazing inventor's creation called Dorothy that was made to stop the tornadoes from destroying everything. The movie is very suspenseful, and will keep you on your toes guessing what's going to happen next. Lei-la is also a very athletic person which explains her main goal in life of being fit and strong. She has been in a lot of sports like volleyball, track & field, powerlifting, wrestling, softball, and tennis. She listens to calm music from the 50s-80s which most people don't expect from a girl like her, considering she isn't a very calm person, but once you get on her good side, she's the nicest person ever.