

The Gator Gazette



Vol. 3, June 2019

Davidsonville, MD

Farewell Fifth Graders! Best of Luck in Middle School!

Fifth Grade Fun

By Calum Kutchi

Fifth Grade Reflections

With the last day of school and Fifth grade Promotion coming up, we Fifth-Graders are really thinking about the last six years of school. I am interviewing a few of them today about

their experiences at DES. I am starting with Anthony Shaffer, who has been going here since Kindergarten. He says “My experience at DES has been amazing! Everyone who either goes to, or works at this

school has just been awesome! There were many amazing things that happened at DES over the years, but if I had to choose a favorite event, it would be the play. I think this was my favorite because I had such a
See FUN, page 4

Goodbye Everyone!

By Irelyn Ulrich

This is our end of the year newspaper, and you know what that means? The teachers have to say goodbye to their students! And the fifth graders have to say goodbye to the school. Aside from the sadness and surrealness of the ending of my fifth grade year, I had a thought. Every kid is different, right? So is every year when kids leave different? Or is it the same? This last newspaper I will be interviewing the fifth grade teachers, Ms. Williams and Mrs. Fitzgerald, about their experiences with kids leaving at the end of the year. Let’s see what they think!

Ms. Williams:
Since you’ve also taught third grade, is there any significant difference in how you feel about the kids moving up a grade? “I think there is a big difference between third

See GOODBYE, page 8



ABOVE:
DES Class of 2019 at
Sandy Point Park

INDEX

Arts	6	Puzzle	9
Columns	7	Comics	12

Leadership in Our School

By Charlotte Malcomson

Did you know that in fifth grade you have a chance to win \$100! Well, it is not that easy. You have to write an essay about leadership, about what leadership means to you, about how to show leadership, who shows leadership, and all of that stuff. There is one winner from each class, and the winners get \$100 and they are brought up or stage at promotion.

Here is an example of part of the leadership essay: "Leadership. How does such a huge meaning fit into a small word? What does leadership even mean? Well to me leadership means to be loyal, passionate, kind, hardworking, responsible, to show integrity, be brave, and so much more. It is very complex to describe a leader because there are so many different kinds of leaders. Take Alex-

ander Hamilton, and an every day teacher, they are both leaders, but the way that they lead is completely different. Completely different but with so much in common that is.

I have learned so many different ways to be a leader so join me and let's look at some different examples. "That Is an example of a leadership essay introduction. There are also many ways that fifth graders show leadership with their little buddies, they show them how to do things and they help them. They also show leadership by setting a good example for younger kids in the hallways. There are so many ways to show leadership in our school and I hope that you can show leadership in the future.

Gator Gallop

By Riley Glenn

It was a beautiful sunny morning on Saturday, May 11, when the 7th annual Gator Gallop was held. Many students, parents and teachers attended the race, even little baby Keegan Madden.

The first run that started at 8 am was the fabulous 5K. Runners ran two laps around DAA park. A fifth grade student, Christos Haugh, was the first person to finish, but all the runners and walkers did a great job.

The next race was the 1 mile that should have started after the 5K was completely over. Some kids started running before the official start!! It was fun to see Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Waite running together.

Moving on to the final races, the fun run events are always a hit. Different age groups including the young toddlers and the older 5th and 6th graders each run a 100 yard dash. Everyone who completes the dash receives a medal.

My personal favorite, the Gator Chase (which is totally "not" my mom), involves kids running and trying to touch the gator! Music, food, Kona Ice, and Mrs. Wuest's sign-making station added to the fun. I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers, and all the teachers and staff who came to the Gator Gallop. I cannot wait for next year!!



ABOVE: Gators start the 5K
AT RIGHT: Fun run photos by RILEY GLENN

Fifth Grade Wax Museum

By Lucie Yeager

5th graders work very hard to get the wax museum ready for us, the other students to see. This is a long process which takes time and lots of effort. I know they worked hard to get these projects ready for us/parents to look at. I will explain the process to prepare the projects for us:

- Get assigned person (more than one of each person)
- Research person
- Prepare facts/ statement
- Get costume
- Present to parent/ students



Irelyn Ulrich as Emma Edmonds at the Fifth Grade Wax Museum

Not only did fifth graders work hard, the 5th grade teachers worked hard to help them prepare, ran the whole thing, and had to print all of the “press” buttons for them with all the flyer and info for the parents. This is why being a teacher is so hard. I as a fourth grader am excited for next year! Good luck class of 2019 for middle school! Keep up the good work for next year!

“There is always tomorrow, so try and find the good in today!”

- Unknown

Tips for Upcoming 5th and 6th Graders

By Calum Kutchi

Hi fourth-graders! Fifth grade might sound scary, boring, or fun, depending on how you think about school. But let me tell you: It is AWESOME! We do all sorts of fun things; awesome field trips, awesome teachers, awesome things you can earn with these things called gator bucks, the list goes on! You also get to be top dog in the school! How great is that? If you are still afraid, here are some things to look forward to:

- Field trips! We get to do drownproofing, Philly, and go to Sandy Point for a Fifth-grade only field day!
- The teachers! We have some great teachers in Fifth grade. They make a ton of things actually fun! We do Math Mysteries, hands-on Social Studies stuff, and miniature science experiments!
- Gator Bucks! We have these little things of moola that we earn when we are responsible. We can use these to get rewards. From pencils to using the teacher’s chair for a day to getting a half-hour class reward! Recently, Mrs. Fitzgerald’s class got extra

recess and a popsicle party.

Well, I hope that you aren’t as worried about Fifth grade anymore, Fourth-graders! But if you are a still-stressed Fifth-Grader reading this, I have something else for you!

Greetings, fellow Fifth-Graders! My guess is that you are absolutely terrified for Middle school. If you aren’t, then lucky you. Here are a couple of things that you should know so you don’t start running around in circles screaming:

- Worried about getting lost? No problem! There is an open house on June Sixth where you can explore the school and check out the classrooms and how the school is organized. It starts at 6:30 and ends at 7:15. DON’T MISS IT!!!
- Worried about the crowds of Seventh and Eighth graders trampling you on your first day? No worries! Only the sixth graders will be at the Middle school on the first day.

See TIPS, page 10

The Gator Gazette is sponsored by the DES PTO

Website: despto.org

Facebook: Davidsonville Elementary PTO

Twitter: @DES_PTO

What Teachers Do Over the Summer

By Ally Siembieda

Do you ever wonder what the teachers here at Davidsonville Elementary do over the summer? Well, if you do than you should read this article. I asked them what they are doing over the summer and here's what they told me...

Ms. Michaels: She will be Road Tripping down the West Coast and spending time at the beach. [Sounds fun!]

FUN

From page 1

great time interacting with younger kids, pretending to be another person, and feeding them information! My time at DES has just been great, and I don't think I would have had such a great time if I didn't go to this school." Next, I ask Sofia Moss. She came here in Third grade. "My experience at DES has been great. All of the teachers are super nice and helpful. The students are just great. But really, this school awesome. My favorite event by far was wax museum. It was really fun to dress up and learn about historical characters. Plus, you got to use your acting skills, and any activity that uses those is great. Another one of my favs

Mrs. Lohman: She will be finishing up grad school to get a Masters Degree in Educational Technology. [That's impressive.]

Mrs. Balzano: She will be going to a trip in Mexico. Also heading to the Bahamas with her family. [Some good times!]

Ms. LeFaive: She will be having fun times with family and friends.

was Arlington Echo. It was really cool that we got to be with all of our friends like it was school, but we got to do a lot of fun activities that we normally wouldn't get to do." I then interviewed Irelyn Ulrich. She has been going here since First grade. "My experience at DES was kind of overwhelming, but in a good way. It was AWESOME. Everybody was so kind and welcoming, that it kind of warms my heart. By far my favorite event was Arlington Echo. It was school, with almost all of the same rules. Almost. But we got to be with our friends more than half of the time, and we learned fun things to do without using electronics. And again, DES is so welcoming that you really

See FUN, page 10

[The best way to have a good summer!]

Mrs. Hrobak: She will be relaxing by her pool and spending time with her kids. [Sounds super relaxing!]

Ms. Kahl: Her plans are to take her kids to swim team every morning, train her new chocolate lab puppy, and drive to New Orleans while stopping along the way to see relatives. [That's going to be fun!]

Summer Plans

By Sophia Manofsky

What do 5th graders plan to do over the summer? Do you ever wonder what people do over the summer? Well, if so, here are the summer plans of a few fifth graders.

Irelyn Ulrich is planning to go to the beach 3 times, 4 summer camps, pool, sleep, and get her hair done. She doesn't know how she is going to get ready for sixth grade.

Ghislain Poulin said she was planning on going to South Carolina, Summer camps, Lake Anna, and being lazy! "How is she going to get ready for sixth grade," you may ask. Well, she was planning to talk to friends and start a club.

Charlotte Malcomson is going to a paddle

Ms. Waite: Her plans are coaching swim team, hanging out with her son, and going on vacations to Ocean City and Myrtle Beach. [Going on vacations are the best!]

Mrs Allen: She will be traveling around to many different schools and installing new software. [Now we'll be prepared for the next school year!]

See SUMMER, page 5

board camp. She plans to get ready for sixth grade by organizing.

Aisley Kligge plans to go to Chatom Sail Camp. She is going to get ready for sixth grade by "sitting around" and "mentally preparing."

As you can see, these fifth graders--almost sixth graders--plan to spend their summer in different ways. But they all have one thing in common: They are leaving Davidsonville Elementary and going to Middle School. Goodbye Class of 2019! We'll miss you!



Would You Rather?

Fifth Grade Edition

By Sarah Neiderer & Ella Smith

Rules:

1. Circle your answer.
2. Make sure to share with friends and/or family.
3. Recycle or reuse when you are done
4. Have fun!

We interviewed eight people and here is what they said.

1. Would you rather...

take French
or
Spanish?

8/8 chose French



2. Would you rather....

go to private school
or
public school?

3/8 choose private
5/8 chose public

SUMMER

From page 4

Mrs McMurray: She will be planning to get a new puppy and also planning to go to Virginia Beach. [Good times!]

3. Would you rather...

have a longer Summer break

or

stay in school longer?

8/8 people choose a longer summer break



4. Would you rather...

take a test on the last day of school

or

have a pool party?

4/8 people chose take a test

4/8 people chose have a pool party



Ms. Madden: She will be hanging out with her new baby, Keegan. [Super fun!]

Ms. Chester: She will be catching up on some fun reading. Also planning to do a lot of swimming and jazzercise. Maybe, Ocean

5. Would you rather.....

buy lunch

or

pack lunch?



2/8 chose to buy lunch

6/8 chose to pack lunch.



6. Would you rather.....

be a bus rider

or

a car rider?

6/8 chose to be bus riders.

2/8 chose to be car riders.

City for a couple of days. [So fun!]

Mrs. Joyce: She will go to Ireland, New York, and Virginia. Also she is going to be spending time with her daughter and dog. [Family time is the best!]

7. Would you rather...

only type classwork and homework

or

only use pencil and paper



4/8 chose to only use pencil and paper

4/8 chose type on a computer



Now you know what the teachers summers look like. They sound so fun!

Our teachers work so hard they deserve a great summer!

Now, you have a great summer!

ARTS

Shining Stars

By Sofia Moss

You know what your math teachers tell you: You use math every single day. Now, you may not know this, but this is true for everything, even the school play. Every single thing we do includes numbers, money, fractions, or something like that. In the case of the play, this includes the number of cast members, number of ensemble members, etc. Anyway, after lots of

asking people and starting at the play program, I was able to get a lot of mathematical facts about the play that most people don't know.

For example, did you know that there were 93 kids in the total cast? Or that there were 17 pirates, but only 15 brave girls? Below is the full list of everything numbers and math in the play. Read on!

Total Cast	93
Ensemble	51
Speaking Roles	42
Singing Solos	14
Stage Crew	14
Parent Volunteers at Rehearsals	17
Pirates	17
Lost Boys	16
Fairies	16
Brave Girls	15
Mermaids	16
Shining Star Award Recipients	11
5th Graders	34

See SHINING, page 10

Spring Concerts By Declan Schnabel

Did you know about the amazing concerts that the 4th and 5th graders did on Tuesday May 7th? It was probably the best concert they had all year but sadly the 5th graders are going to Central Middle School. But also our amazing strings teacher, Mrs. McMurray, is retiring after 17 years at this school and 1 year at the old school to take care of her mother. The strings concert directed by Mrs. McMurray, the band concert directed by Mrs. Fidyk and the chorus concert directed by Mrs. Wyatt were amazing from all the instruments blended together to make the amazing songs chosen. The songs chosen for the strings concert were

Yes I Can Can, Rosentown Rock, Million Dreams, All About That Bass, Deep Sea Fandango, Ninja and Viking. For the chorus concert the songs were Million dreams, Raining Tacos, This Is Me, Octopus's Garden and Everlasting Melody. For the band concert the songs were Starsplitter Fanfare, Shark Attack, Power Rock, Jurassic Kingdom, Sweet Caroline, Linus and Lucy, Royal Crown March, Lost Kingdom and Beethoven 9th Symphony. Now that was the news and songs for the amazing Davidsonville concert. Bye 5th graders. See you later alligators.



Thank you Mrs. McMurray for helping to create so many musicians during your years at DES! Congratulations on your retirement!

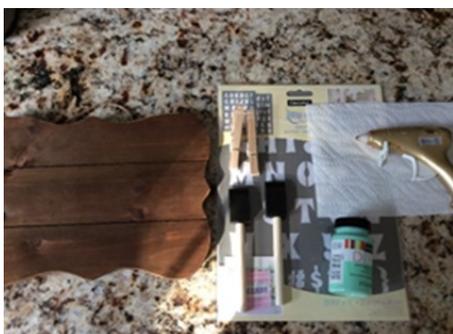
COLUMNS

The Craft Corner With G

By Ghislain Poulin

Hi guys! Welcome back to my craft corner! Since it is coming close to the end of the year, I will be showing you how to make a board with a place to put pictures, so you can remember all the memories of the 2018-2019 school year! As I've said before, I hope you enjoy my craft!

1. First, you need supplies. The supplies you will need are a wooden board (I got mine at Michaels), hot glue, paint (mine is teal), number stick on stencils, two clothes pins, a paper towel, and foam brushes. Also, before you start, you should make sure your workspace is super clean and organized.



2. Next, you need to place the stencils saying 2018-2019, or the school year you want to do at the top, or wherever you'd like. I put mine at the top.



3. After you've placed the stencils, you want to paint the numbers, but make sure to dab to apply the paint, because if you swipe, it will get messy. You might need to do 2-3 coats of paint, depending on the paint and how dark the wood is.



4. After you've let the paint dry, take off the stencil and freehand the number of the grade you are in (for example, mine says 5th). Let the paint dry. You might need to do 2-3 coats depending on your paint and the darkness of your wood.



5. Once everything is dry, hot glue two clothes pins next to each other on the remaining space. You can put your Yearbook photo on this or your class photo. I hope you enjoyed my craft! Have a great summer! Tip: You should use smaller clothes pins, so your picture fits on the board.



GOODBYE

From page 1

grade and fifth grade for sure. When I went down to teach third grade, I made it a point to focus on building student independence early on. That way, by the time they move up to fifth grade, they have had the opportunity to build up that independence and responsibility that is so important for the older grades. In elementary school kids learn to be a little more independent and responsible with each grade they pass through, and they naturally mature, but they still require guidance from their teachers along the way. I had to remind myself as a third grade teacher that the change from second to third grade is a big one. Third graders needed a little more guidance and assistance in building independence, but by the time they are in fifth grade we really focus on it so that students are prepared for middle school.”

Can you ever put yourself in your students mindset to see how it feels?

“Absolutely! This is something I do on a daily basis. One of the reasons I became a teacher is because I remember

how it felt to be a student. I had so many teachers who positively impacted my life, and I will always remember how I felt in their classes. My own experiences drive my daily interactions with kids and my daily instruction. When I plan out lessons, I think about how to make them more fun, meaningful, and lasting for my students. I also think about a student’s mindsets when dealing with conflict. No one is perfect, and people make mistakes. What is important is that we learn from our mistakes.”

What was one memory that you had with your class that is special to you?

“Every day with my class is special, but I really enjoy the times when our class gets to just “talk.” When we get to share journal entries and talk about our personal lives it means so much to me. I love learning about my student’s lives outside of school and I love sharing my life with my students. It means a lot to me when I hear my students open up about their experiences to me, but especially when they do it in front of our class, because it shows how much of a family

our class really is. Relationships are crucial, and our class chats really bring the kids in our class closer together.”

Are you excited for your class next year? Why?

“Yes! Every year I get excited for a new start with new kids. It is always sad to see my class go at the end of the year, but it also means I get a new list of kiddos to meet the following year. I especially love when my old kids keep in contact. I still get emails from my very first class of students. They are in high school now, and some of them keep me updated on their lives. Each new year brings on new kids that I get to know and watch grow into successful adults.”

Mrs. Fitzgerald:

What similar feelings do you have every year when you say goodbye to a class? Different?

“It is always a bit emotional saying goodbye to 5th graders. They are leaving the school and you don’t know when or if you will see them again. At the same time, it’s exciting to know they are moving up on to the next stage of their education. At the end of the day, I

feel proud for all my students have accomplished.”

Can you ever put yourself in your students mindset to see how it feels?

“Of course! It’s been many years since I have been in elementary school myself, but I have moved around a fair amount and saying goodbye is bitter sweet.”

What was one memory that you had with your class that is special to you?

My class worked hard to earn and save gator bucks for a class reward. I was proud of them for working together. They earned extra recess and popsicles. I think everyone had fun.

Are you excited for your class next year? Why?

“I am. One of the best things about teaching is getting to meet new kids and start fresh every fall.”

Unfortunately that is the end of this article and this year of 2018-2019 school. I hope you all have an amazing summer filled with joy and fun.

Have A Great Summer Gators!

PUZZLE

Summer Word Search

By Sophia Manofsky

Word list:

Summer
Party
Vacation
Trip

Pool
Water
Waves
Fun

Camp
Beach
Sun
Friends

S	U	N	X	B	E	A	C	H	I	G	P
U	P	H	J	S	L	E	V	W	N	I	A
M	P	T	R	S	S	B	O	M	R	A	P
M	X	I	N	E	T	R	A	T	L	K	O
E	N	P	S	V	T	H	I	L	B	N	R
R	O	F	O	A	D	S	C	Y	S	E	C
T	I	R	P	W	A	T	E	R	Q	N	A
V	T	I	M	N	I	L	F	R	E	X	M
C	A	E	X	D	O	A	Y	T	R	A	P
O	C	N	U	T	Y	F	V	E	I	O	S
N	A	D	O	P	Q	U	R	S	O	T	R
U	V	S	N	M	O	N	A	L	P	E	B

Fifth Grade Safeties

By Sophia Peeples

If you don't know, some 5th graders are safeties. So I decided to interview some of them and ask them some questions.

The first safety I interviewed was Ghislain. She's also in newspaper club. She was a safety for a half a year. She was a safety for Mrs. Russo and her favorite thing to do was read to the kids at the end of the day. Her favorite memory was when all the kids gave her cards. She was happy because she didn't have to clean. She would go in the morning and afternoon and loved it. Also, she

misses it so much.

Another safety I interviewed was Sydney who's also in newspaper club. She did it for 6 months and she cleaned a lot. She also loved to listen to kids' conversations. She was a safety for Mrs. Lloyd's class. Her favorite memory was when she sharpened 10 pencils for the class and a kid came and stole all of them. She loved doing it and misses it so much.

That's all about safeties. I hope you want to be one too.

FUN

From page 4

just fit in your first day. No one should be scared or nervous to come, because within a day or two, DES will your home, and you will have brothers and sisters of the heart."

Finally, I asked Charlotte Malcomson, who has been going here since Kindergarten. "My experience at

DES has been really good. I have learned a lot and I will miss DES next year probably more than I thought about at some times.

My favorite school event was basically anything we did outside. I liked all the other stuff that we did like the Wax museum, but if I had to do any of them again it would probably be the outdoors ones and not all museums."

Mrs. Isett to talk out your problems with her. She is always fine with talking about anything! If you aren't worried about middle school, then you are one lucky kid.

SHINING

From page 6

Now, you may be wondering, "What is a Shining Star Award?" Well, Shining Star Awards are DES traditions that we give to cast members who have been in the school musical for all three years.

Many people, myself included, have earned that award. It is a very hard award to get, and if you refer to the table above, you will see that only 11 people in this year's cast got this award. They are: Anthony Shaffer, Aisley Kligge, Natalie Egna, Teagan Brister, Hailey Fueston, Nora Pavon, Emerson Frame, Kaylee Terry, Ella Edwards, Irellyn Ulrich, and yours truly.

These actors were awarded their star trophies on April 5th. The trophy consists of three stars, 2 gold, one silver, balanced on top of each other. These awards are not just given to people who have big roles, or anything at all like that. Being a part of one play at all is a big commitment by itself, but being in all three takes a lot of determination and dedication.

We didn't just congratulate Shining Star Award recipients, though. On April 5th, AKA opening night, every single fifth grad-

er stood up to take a bow. After all, it is our last performance at DES, and I can tell you from experience, it is a big deal for all of us.

Of course, we wouldn't be able to have a show that was just the fifth graders, so we rely on the fourth and third graders almost as much as we rely on our director. So, to any fourth or third grader that happens to be reading this, thank you, and we look forward to seeing many of you earn your own Shining Star Awards in the future!

That's not to say that us fifth graders will stop doing the school musical in 6th grade. Many of our actors will be hitting the stage at Central Middle School, or another, for that matter. There is even a performing arts middle school some actors may be going to, where they will get 3 hours or more a week of training in acting, singing, or any other form of art. So, even though the curtain may be closing for fifth graders on the DES stage (even though its technically not DES's stage), I know many of us will take the lessons we've learned here to other shows in the future.

TIPS

From page 3

If you want more info or you are super worried about middle school, you can go to

Book Reviews by Aisley K

By Aisley Kligge

Book One: The Sisters Grimm, Buckley, Michael

Summary: Do you like fairies, what about adventure, eh ,then how about DERANGED LUNATICS?! If so, then The Sisters Grimm series is for you. The story takes place in the small town of Ferryport Landing, where fairy-tale creatures, disguised as humans, still live. Follow grumpy Sabrina, cute little Daphne, and their mischievous adopted fairy brother, Puck! Follow their journey through confusing fairytale adventures. From a huge giant, to evil little red riding hood, and even some magic mirrors, this book series has it all!

Comments: “Awesome. My own personal favorite is book 3, The Problem Child, and book 4, Once Upon a Crime, but that’s just me”-Me

“It’s good”-anonymous

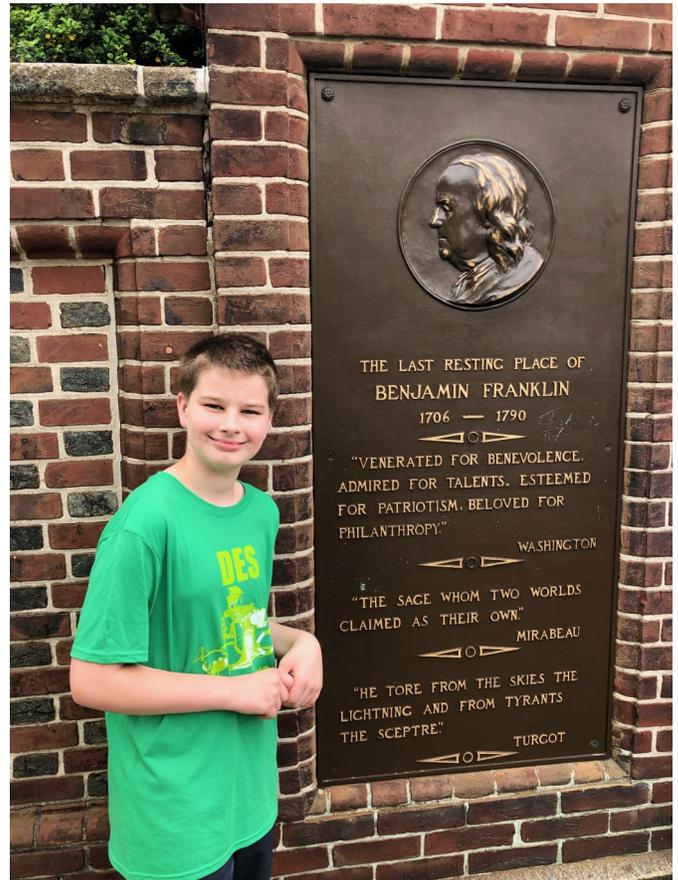


Book Two: Chasing Vermeer, Blue Balliett

Summary: The main characters, Calder and Petra, are not friends, but a crazy series of coincidences leads them together, armed with absolutely nothing but their wits, they have to work together to solve a mystery brought on by curiosity and a centuries-old art dilemma. Can they solve a mystery that even the art people can’t solve? Yes. Yes they can.

Comments: “Awesome so far, really makes you see things in a totally different way”-Me

“It is *intriguing*, and I really like how Calder and Petra never give up, no matter what challenges they face.”-G

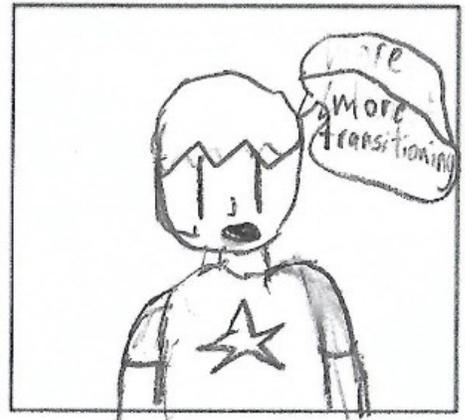


ABOVE: Photos from 5th Grade Trip to Philadelphia. Photos courtesy of the Robinson Family.

COMICS

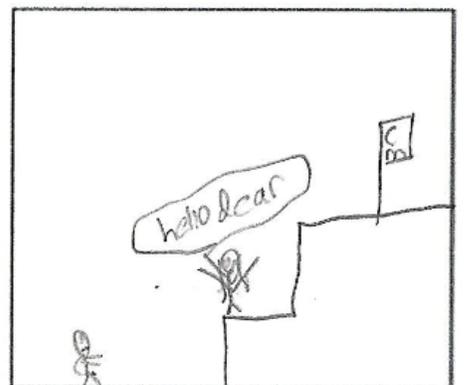
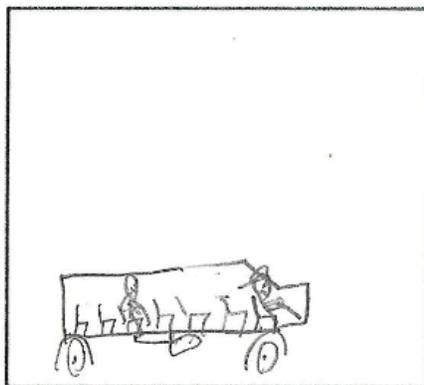
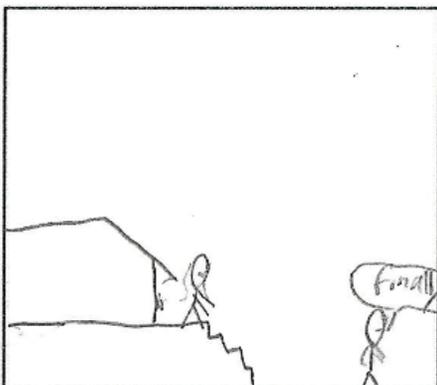
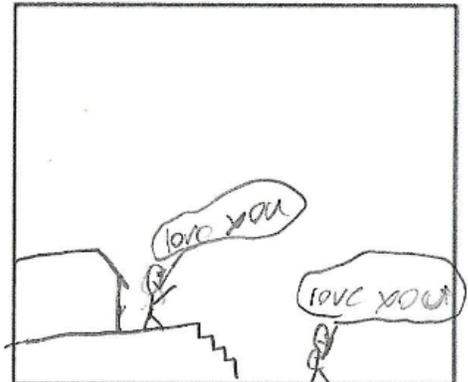
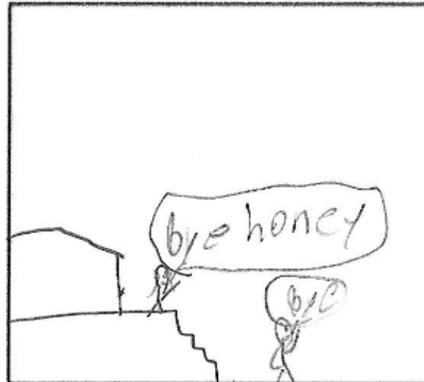
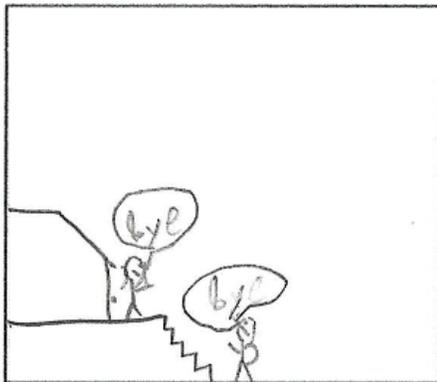
SCHOOL

BY JACOB SAVAL



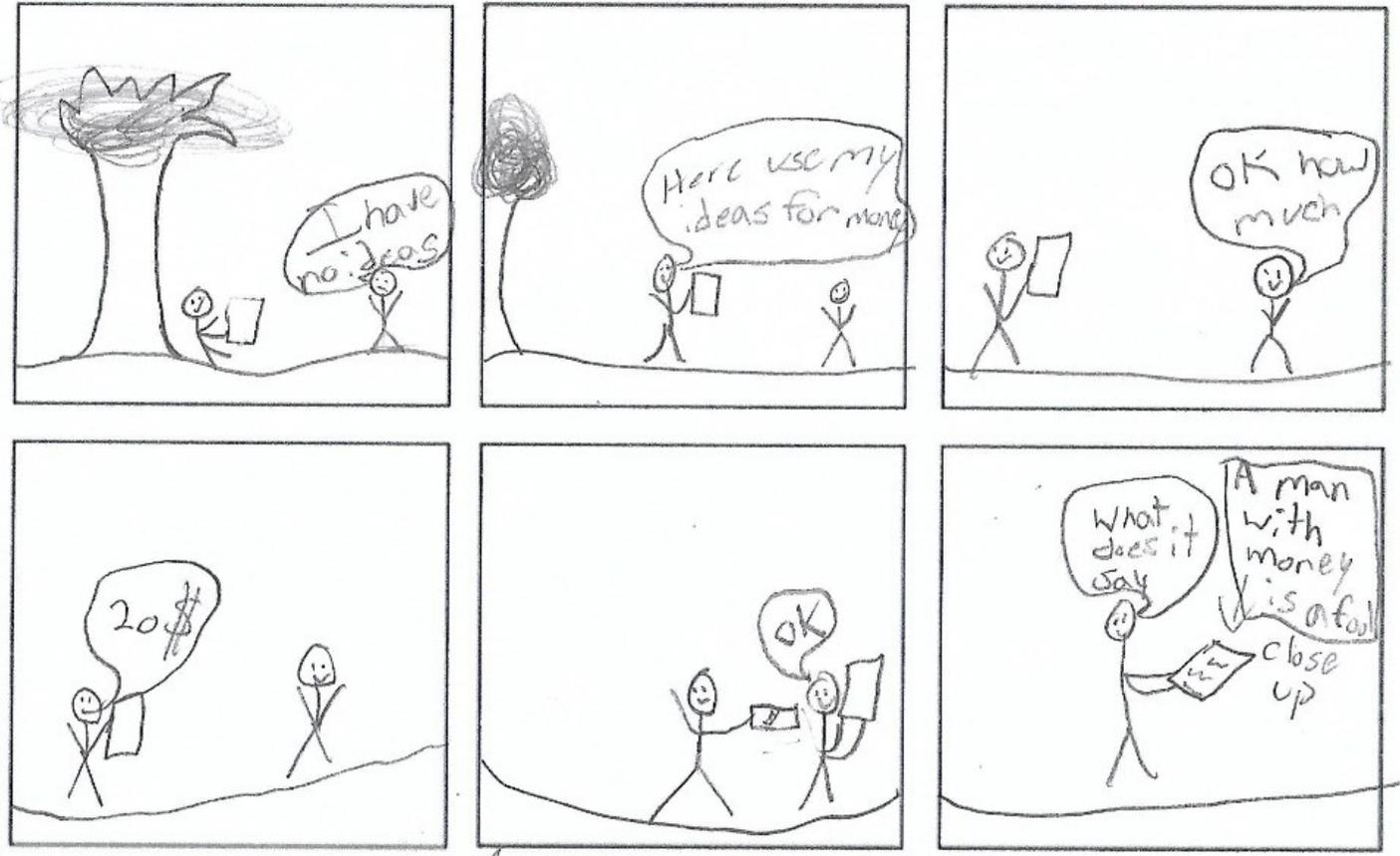
FIRST DAY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

BY DECLAN SCHNABEL



WORLD NOOBS

BY LOGAN DOUGAL



OH YEAH

BY TYLER SPAIN



THE RICH ONES

BY RYAN LEWIS



Aisley Kligge



Ally Siembieda



Brock Frisby



Caden Schnabel



Calum Kutchi



Charlotte Malcomson



Declan Schnabel



Ella Smith



Ghislain Poulin



Irelyn Ulrich



Jacob Saval



Logan Dougal



Lucie Yeager



Maddie Logue



Noah Ryzhikov



Owen Hurson



Riley Glenn



Ryan Lewis



Sarah Neiderer



Sofia Moss



Sophia Manofsky



Sophia Peeples



Sydney Morgan



Tyler Spain

The Gator Gazette
2018-2019 Staff