

The Rockin' Eagle

The School that Rocks!

Volume 2 Issue 3

April 2014

Letters from the Editors-in-Chief



Dear Readers,

Having fun? It seems like the year is almost over. I've had so much fun with awesome friends and I hope that you have been having fun, too! More activity is on the way. There are still many field trips and enjoyable adventure yet to come. I hope you keep having a great year!

Editor in Chief,
Jaime

We have had so much snow this winter! Finally, spring is approaching so the snow is melting and the temperatures are going up. Now, we are having outdoor recess. Many spring sports are right around the corner, while others are have already started. These sports are baseball, soccer, lacrosse, track and field, softball, spring swimming, spring hockey, and Rugby...although I am not sure anyone in this school plays it. Whatever you choose for an activity, have fun!



Editor in Chief,
Daniel

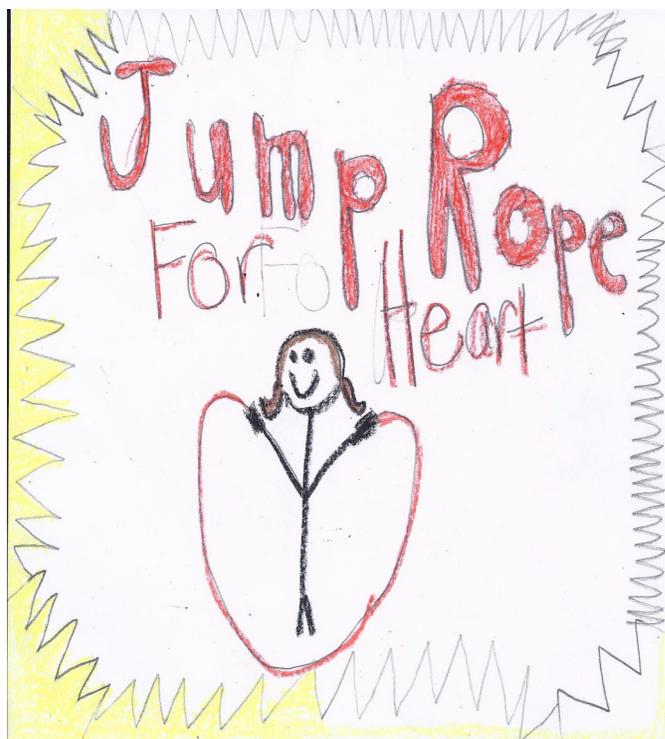


Fifth Grade Book Night Challenge!

Above: Students from the newspaper club that participated in the last book night challenge.

Special points of interest:

- Read About Going on an African Safari!
- Photography Club!
- Town Wide Art Show!
- Sports!
- Mr. Rogers talks Science
- Interesting Interviews!
- Amazing Art!



Drawing by Paige, grade 4

Mrs. Mrozowski Saves a Life! By Hadley, grade 5

On Sunday February 23rd, our school secretary, Mrs. Mrozowski saved a life! She was sitting behind the scoreboard at the Park and Rec basketball game, when a man collapsed on the court. Someone yelled, "Does anyone know CPR?" Immediately, Mrs. Mrozowski got to work. When she got to him, he was showing no pulse. But by the time the paramedics got there, thanks to Mrs. Mrozowski, he had one again. People say that her immediate response might have been the difference between life and death. CONGRATS, Mrs. Mrozowski!

Articles of Interest

Watch for Columns from Jarred and Grace in issues of *The Rockin' Eagle!*

The Better Player?

By Jarred, grade 5



KD and King James...these are the nicknames for Kevin Durant and LeBron James, two top players in the NBA. It seems like every year these two players are in the running for the MVP. This year the competition is intense and includes Stephen Curry and Dwight Howard. Are KD and King James worried? Probably not...but they should be. Other players in the running have great stats for their respective teams and KD and King James both have similar scoring averages. Who do you think is the most valuable this year? We will have to wait and see how the rest of the season plays out.

The Lady Huskies

By Grace, grade 5



It all started last May at the JDRF Promise Ball in Hartford. My parents and I bid during a silent auction on a UCONN Women's Basketball practice and we won it. I went this past February and it was **AMAZING!** Of course I got to see my 2 favorite players Breanna Stewart and Stephanie Dolson (She waved to me before we left... **EEK!**). It was so much fun, and best of all I got to go with my mom and three of my best friends Alyssa, Emma, and Gianna. We all play basketball.

When we got to UCONN, Stephanie was shooting before practice even started! Slowly the number of girls started to increase. After 20-30 minutes, the whole team was there. By then Emma, Gianna and I were freaking out. When Gino (their coach) and Shea Ralph (one of the assistant coaches) came out, practice started. Shea ran pretty much the whole practice and Gino just watched. First, they did layup lines and then three man weave. Every time a practice drill ended, a buzzer went off and it was **LOUD!!!** After practicing the three man weave, they did a scrimmage against their practice team (all boys). This was an all-out game. The girls pushed it and won by **A LOT!!** The next thing they did was free throws in partnerships. One person stood on the free throw line the other stood under the hoop. Just so you know there were 8 or 10 hoops all around Gampel.

After practice we all went to the UCONN store and got souvenirs. All in all, I had an **AWESOME** time and a lot of fun hanging out with my friends (and my mom).



Drawing by Julia, grade 4



(ABOVE) This picture was taken from a safari trip in Africa. Read the interview on page 4.



Drawing by Rachel, grade 4

News Around the Rock



(At Right) Read articles by Audrey to catch up on news around the school.



Drawing by Sophie, grade 5

Visit the Town Wide Art Show! By Emilia, grade 3

The Town Wide Art Show is from Tuesday, April 24th to Saturday, April 28th. Emilia talked more details of the show with Mrs. Thurston.

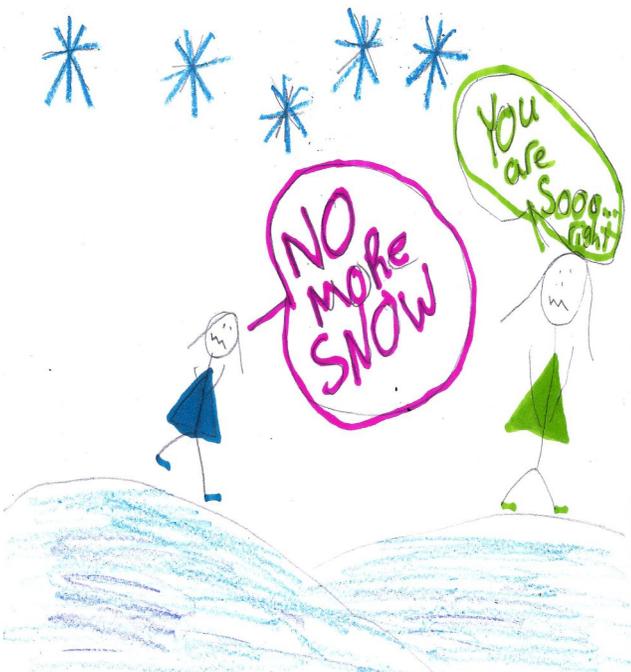
What grades are in the show? *K-12*

Where is it? *In the Voag Community Center at Lyman Hall High School*

How many pieces of art? *Over 700 pieces of art displayed. Both two dimensional and three dimensional*

How long have you been doing this? *I've been teaching in Wallingford for 26 years. The Town Wide Art Show has been going on for over 30 years.*

Who can visit the Art Show? *Anyone from the town of Wallingford can visit. It's open to the public. It's a great opportunity to view fantastic art and celebrate the great artwork in Wallingford.*

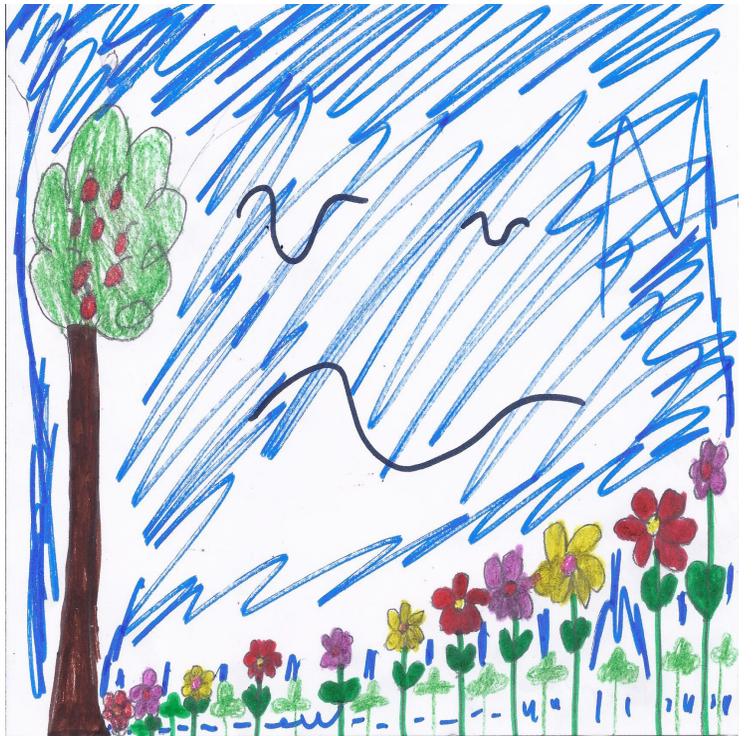


At Left: Drawing by Kylie, grade 5

SCIENCE!

By Audrey, grade 5

Between roller coasters and rockets, Science has gotten us far. Rock Hill recently had a Family Science Night and had the opportunity to build roller coasters out of rubber bands and metal stands. Each student experimented with force and motion while working with Quinnipiac Students, who ran the math games and other spectacular activities. We also got to launch rockets and make spinning tops. Each student who participated went home with a Science experience and a new understanding of Science Fun!



Drawing by Valerie, grade 4

STOP SNOWING!

By Julia, grade 4

Stop snowing! This winter was a tough one. We have had 8 snow days, so we are now getting out of school on June 30th. The next snow day we get will take away a day from our April vacation. If you remember last year, we got out of school on June 28th, and it was VERY hot! So this year bring lots of water to drink. PLEASE DO NOT wear your pajamas inside-out, DO NOT put a spoon under your pillow, and make sure you DO NOT have any bananas in your freezer. No more snow!

(Update—since this article was written, a decision regarding snow days was made.)

Nana and Papa's Wild Safari Trip

By Kylie, grade 4

Kylie's grandparents recently took a trip to the continent of Africa where they went on a safari adventure. Read the interview to find out about their trip.

What was your favorite part of your vacation? *Nana: My favorite part of the safari in Africa was seeing all of the animals in their natural habitat. It was a sight to see the lions being themselves. Also when we got up early one morning around 4:00 am and were getting ready to get in our Range Rover which was an open air car, we saw a car ahead of us moving up and down. There were warthogs underneath the car, digging a hole for a bed!*

Papa: Like Nana, my favorite part was seeing all of the animals in their habitat. We saw elephants pulling the tree trunks right out of the ground! They like to eat the roots because they are so sweet.

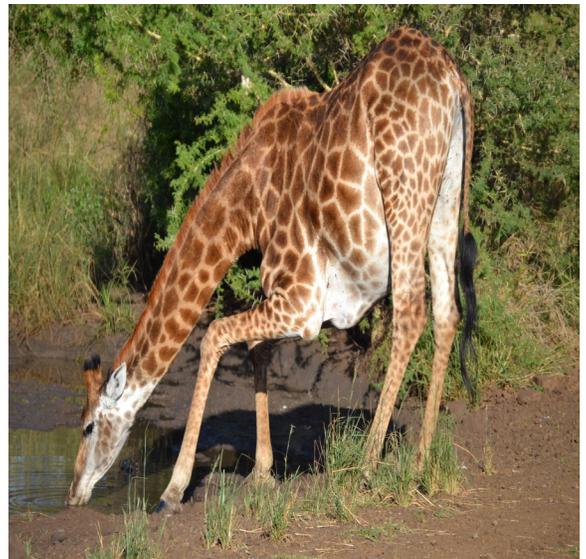
What parts of Africa did you travel to? *We traveled to Cape Town, South Africa. From there, we went to Durban, which is where we drove 3 1/2 hours into the jungle for the safari.*

Did you miss home or were you so caught up in what you were doing that the time flew by? *We did have a wonderful time and we were caught up in what we were doing because it was so interesting, but of course we missed you since we are used to seeing you every day! That is why we emailed you trivia questions while we were away.*

What different things did you see? *We saw a lot of animals of course on the safari. We also got to understand the African culture and talked to people about how living there is different from the United States. We also visited an African School. We have to remember how lucky we are in the United States because many of the kids in the school we visited, didn't even have shoes on their feet. The floors in the school were dirt and the school was made up of two rooms.*

Was any of the writing in English? *Yes they spoke English and a lot of the writing was in English. You can also see with the tags on the gifts that we brought back that there were also other languages.*

Anything that you would like to add? *The African people are like the people in the US because like here, one of the major things that they do for their economy is tourism. They like when people come and vacation because they spend money. They really enjoy people from the US coming over and the people there are so nice! Everyone should try to go on a safari some day...it's really cool!*



Here's a picture of my Nana and Papa and some pictures that they took on their trip.



In The Spotlight

Fifth Graders Talk Photography with Mrs. Gibertoni

Mrs. Gibertoni runs the fifth grade photography club. Read the interview to learn more about this opportunity for future fifth graders.

Why did you decide to start the Photography Club? *Many, many, years ago I wrote a grant to the WEF to try to include photography in my writing class. I wanted the kids to take pictures of images outside and write descriptions to what they saw. As time went on, other teachers heard about it and wanted to use the cameras and the idea in their own classrooms. I started to branch out beyond my class and incorporate all of fifth grade. Over time the club has grown to such a big size, I couldn't do it during the day anymore. I had to do it after school.*

How many students are in the club? *This year I have 35 students enrolled.*

How do you decide where to take pictures? *Depending on how many students I have with me, determines how far I can travel. If I only have half of the group I try to stay local and take pictures at Rock Hill School or across the street at Marcus Cooke. If I have the entire group with me, I try to take them off of campus and find different places in town that have great picture opportunities. I also try to find unique images for us to capture. My biggest "thing" is trying to capture the ordinary in an extraordinary way.*

Do you enjoy photography in your free time? *Being a mom of three handsome young men, I do enjoy taking their pictures. But to be honest with you, I enjoy teaching photography more than taking pictures.*

Tell us about the Photography Auction. When and where is it? *Our Art Auction is on May 21st at 6:30pm in our gym.*

Who is invited to attend? *All of Rock Hill may come and bid on our pictures! We hope that the families and extended families of the photographers will come as well. Everyone is invited!*

How much money have you raised in the past? *We usually raise a few thousand dollars each year.*

What are your goals for the auction this year? *Like every year, my goal is to raise enough money to be able to buy new materials for next year's group of future photographers. I also hope the photographers will get excited about selling their pictures to the community. I hope that families will be amazed and impressed with the skill that their children now have after being in the photography club.*

What does the money raised go towards? *I typically use the money to buy more cameras, more materials, and pay for the field trips.*

Do you have a favorite field trip that you have taken the students on? *The Nest Egg Auction House is one of my favorites. In addition, this year we are having the Hot Rod Club of Wallingford bring their cars to our school and I am expecting that to be a pretty amazing opportunity for us...I think that one MAY become my favorite.*

What is your favorite type of pictures to take? *Before photography club I would say any pictures of my children were my favorite. But now my favorite pictures are close ups of something that people would walk by every day and never notice. I love to take pictures of an object in a unique perspective so people stop and have to focus in and figure out what it is.*

Do you like black and white or color pictures? *I prefer black and white because it shows the technical skill of the photographer. I have seen some pretty amazing color pictures that students in photography club changed by making neon pink or accentuating certain colors. In general, I think that black and white photography stands out more.*



****Interview continued on next page****

In The Spotlight

Do you have a favorite photograph that you have taken? *I took a picture of my three children at the beach one day that was just of their feet. Still to this day we can tell exactly which kid those feet belong to...one boy was running, one was kneeling, and one boy was fidgeting which matches their personalities exquisitely. I love taking a unique portrait of them without the traditional one of everyone standing looking and smiling.*

Is there anything else you would like our readers to know about the upcoming auction? *Readers should know that everyone is invited. It is an authentic, true auction with an auctioneer, who yells out the numbers and prices. I would also like the readers to know that if you plan on coming and bidding you must have money with you. The pictures that you are going to see are amazing! I would like all of the fourth graders interested to come and see the auction so that they can sign up for photography club next year. Fourth Graders, this is for you!*

Do you think that you have anything that you will add or improve next year? *I would love to raise enough money to purchase tripods so students can practice still photography. I would love to be able to add that to our list. Another thing would be a few cameras with telephoto lenses so students can work with zooming in and getting different angles that our current cameras just don't allow. The third thing that I would love to raise enough money for would be a copy of Photo Shop so students can edit their pictures even more than they can currently do. Those are really big purchases and our auction would have to be twice as successful as it has ever been. Maybe this is the year for that.*

How do you feel about what the students in photography club have accomplished? *I am always amazed by the pictures that the photography club takes. I truly believe that fifth grade photographers surpass adult photographers on a daily basis. Fifth graders see the world so differently than adults that they capture images an adult would never even notice. If we think back to the candy canes that we saw on our walk in downtown Wallingford, an adult would never consider that to be a photographic opportunity, but the fifth graders took pictures of them in such an amazing way!*



Mrs. Gibertoni and Mrs. Gattilia with Rockin' Eagle Staffers that are also in Photography Club.

In The Spotlight

Mr. Rogers Visits the Newspaper Club

Mr. Rogers, father of three (two of which are *Rockin' Eagle* Staffers), also teaches Science at Choate. He stopped by a club meeting to talk with students.

Why/when did you decide to become a Science teacher? *I always loved Science from middle school and on. I had great Science teachers so I think that is what sparked some of my interest. The best part of Science to me was being in the lab. In college I was a lab tech, which is one of the people that sets up experiments for others to perform. I loved that aspect. My sophomore year in college is probably when I realized that this is what I wanted to do.*

What year did you start teaching at Choate? *I started in 2000*

Where did you go to college? *I went to a college in New Hampshire called Dartmouth.*

What's your favorite hands on activity? *When students are first year chemistry students, most haven't done a lot of chemistry before they get to high school. A couple weeks into the school we set up a bunch of chemicals, and allow students to mix them and see all the basic reactions and changes in physical states.*

What is your favorite soccer team? *Manchester United*

What other professions that we might not think of come out of studying Science? *One would be Sports Scientists. Examples of this profession include teaching people how to throw a better fast ball or creating the uniforms that skaters wear...if you like to help other people, Science certainly has a close connection with medicine and technology...there is also the analytical end looking at data and analyzing patterns. These are just some possible job careers*

What sports do you coach at Choate? *Currently I coach the Girls' Varsity Tennis Team. I also used to coach the Boy's Soccer Team.*

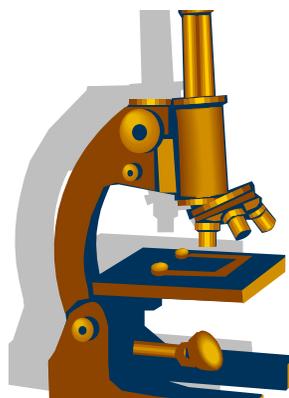
Which sport do you enjoy coaching more? *I like coaching them both...I enjoyed coaching soccer because I like the team concept of working together to get the job done. But I also like to coach tennis because you only have yourself to depend on.*

Can you tell of any cool Science competitions that Choate does? *One of the things is the Floatilla. There are two very large ponds by the Science Center on campus. First years build a boat out of cardboard/duck tape and race across the pond which is about 20-25 feet deep and 3 ft. of mud..*

What do you think are some of the best colleges to study Science? *MIT...Olin College (85% go to work for Google) which is incredibly creative...CIT...Purdue*

During the interview, Mr. Rogers added that one of the best parts about doing Science is that Science is all about being wrong. We learn much more about things when we do it wrong than when we confirm our own expectations. That is too easy. If you like fixing your mistakes and figuring out what went wrong, you may want to become a scientist.

The club would like to thank Mr. Rogers for taking the time to visit the newspaper!



At left: Mr. Rogers listens to questions during the interview.

In The Spotlight

An Interview with Mrs. Ripa By Steven, grade 5

Have you ever wanted to invent something to help you in your daily life? Here is your chance! The Invention Convention is an annual event that invites 3rd graders and older to build an invention and present to a panel of judges. I talked to Mrs. Ripa, the STEP teacher, about this topic.

When did the Invention Convention start? *I started helping with this event in 2011, but Rock Hill had already started competing many years earlier.*

Have you ever competed in the Invention Convention? *No, but my children have.*

Out of all of the inventions that you have seen, which ones would you use in your daily life? *I would use an invention that is a holder for your iron because once, I dropped my iron on my floor and it burnt my rug! I would also use an invention that your car won't start until everybody is wearing a seatbelt.*

If you could compete in the Invention Convention today, what would you invent? *I would make a clone of myself to do all of the stuff that I need to get done. I need more Mrs. Ripas!*

There you have it! If you want to compete in next year's Invention Convention, please contact Mrs. Ripa, or any of this year's Rock Hill inventors. Happy Inventing!

Meet My Mom By Vivian, grade 3

At what age did you start to be an x-ray tech? *I started being an x-ray technician at 23.*

How many years did you go through to be an x-ray tech? *To be an x-ray tech I went to two full years of school, including through the summers where I earned my Associate's Degree. I had to do clinical work at a hospital, as well.*

Why did you want to be an x ray tech? *Originally, I was going to school to be a physical therapist. I took a year off of school to work which was when I got interested in this field. So I decided to make that my career.*

What does an x-ray tech do? *Well, I work for an orthopedic doctor. I take pictures of people's bones if they have hurt them to see if they need surgery or not.*



The Undefeated Team By Riley, grade 5

The 2013-14 Gannon League went great for the Baylor team. Baylor went undefeated in the regular season, then sadly lost in the playoffs. Most of the team goes to Rock Hill, and eight of the girls on the team (including me), are 5th graders. We had great coaches, one of which is Mrs. D. who works at our school. Although we lost our first playoff game, we had a fantastic record of 9-1.

In The Spotlight

Talking with Mrs. Thurston

By Audrey, grade 5

What is your favorite type of art to do? *My favorite type of art that I like to work with is water color or oil crayons.*

What is the most fun thing to teach to kids? *I like teaching a lot of different mediums in art and also techniques. The most exciting part is seeing them think outside the box. I learn something from my students each day. That's exciting!*

What colors do you like to paint with? *I love every color and spectrum of the rainbow...but I do love working with black and white.*

What are some outstanding projects that you loved throughout the year? *There are several projects that I like to work on with the students. Drawing is one of them - abstract and realistic. I also enjoy working with ceramics and three dimensional projects. I like to see the students extend their creativity and how they think outside the box.*

What are some techniques you can suggest to art lovers? *As far as techniques, we work with several throughout the school year. I would love for the students to continue to explore those at home so they work beyond what we've done in school and try to experiment with them.*

What do you enjoy most about being an art teacher? *I think what I like most is to see how creative my students can get. There's no right and wrong when they come to art. They can just express themselves and not have to worry about finding the correct answer.*

When did you get into art? *When I was in elementary school I had an Art Teacher that would ask me to draw landscapes and pictures that he would use for talent shows or plays that we had at the school. He would enlarge my work and use them as backdrops. Also, I used to love drawing horses. During my free time that is what I did.*



Above: Audrey and Mrs. Thurston

My Nonna - A Great Cook!

By Isabella, grade 3

What is your favorite food to make? *My favorite food to make is chicken and beef cutlets because they my grandchildren's favorite!*

What is your favorite dessert to make? *My favorite kinds of dessert to make are Christmas cookies and pizzelles. (Pizzelles are my favorite!)*

What do you do in your free time? *I like to read in my free time.*

How did you learn to make the foods? *My great grandmother taught me how to cook when I was a child.*

Have you always loved cooking? *No...I became more interested when I got married and had a family.*

In The Spotlight

What's Your Culture?

By Isabella, grade 3

Rock Hill is having a school wide cultural night. On this night you get to represent a country. Hi! I'm Isabella and this year I will be sharing the culture of Ireland. I'm 50% Irish. My grandparents are helping me and they are 100% Irish. This event takes place in April. I am really looking forward to sharing this great country with you and seeing what other families are representing that night. Have a great time at Rock Hill's Cultural Night!

Running the Variety Show

By Mitchell, grade 4

My mom organizes and runs the MYB/Rock Hill Variety Show. Read on to find out more about the it!

What do you like about the Variety Show? *What I like most about the variety show is at the end when it is all done, the enjoyment that the kids get out of it. I also like seeing all the unique talents of the students.*

How did you get into running the Variety Show? *I am a teacher at Stevens School and I knew some other schools had variety shows and wanted to start one for our school because I thought that our kids would enjoy it. I got together with a PTO parent and organized one for Stevens, which was a huge success. As I worked through the kinks, I found a smooth and efficient way of running it. When my daughter went to Rock Hill, she took part in it. The person running it had a student that was graduating 5th grade and they were looking for someone to run it, so I decided to volunteer. My husband is a DJ and had a lot of the equipment to help with the acts.*

Why do you run it? *Good question! It's very rewarding in the end. The process is a lot of work and time. But in the end, seeing it all come together, is worth it because everyone enjoys it so much.*

Do you think that someone will take over when you stop? *With my son being in 5th grade next year, it will be my last year doing the variety show for Rock Hill so I am really hoping that someone is willing to take it on because Rock Hill was one of the original schools that had a variety show...it started in the gym and then it went to Dag. It got so big that it moved to Lyman Hall High School.*

Do you like the Red Sox or the Yankees? Who is your favorite player? *I am a New York Yankees fan and my favorite player is Derek Jeter.*

Catching Up with My Sister

By Gianna, grade 4

Gianna's sister went to Rock Hill last year and was one of the editor-in-chiefs for the paper.

Do you like middle school so far? *I do like it so far. It's been fun.*

Do you miss Rock Hill? *Yes, I do miss it.*

What language are you taking? *I am taking French and I like it because we do a lot of fun things in class that help learn the language.*

What's your favorite subject? *I like Language Arts and Social Studies is interesting.*

Sports

All Pro Elite Training Center

By Jack, grade 4

Recently, my brothers and also my travel baseball coach, Bryan Barnowski, opened a new training facility in South Windsor. It is called the All Pro Elite Training Center (our baseball team name is the "All Pro Rebels", that is where the training center name comes from). It started out as a small place for our teams to practice indoors and for Bryan to give private lessons, or clinics, but has now turned into a larger training and exercise facility. There are training bikes, treadmills, weights, box jumping, and so much more.

Bryan Barnowski runs the All Pro Elite Training Center. He used to be a catcher for the Boston Red Sox, but had to stop playing because of a shoulder injury. My brother has played travel baseball for him for over four years, and now he has started a younger team which I will be playing on this year. He not only coaches our baseball teams, but gives private lessons and clinics for baseball and softball. He has many, many clients because he is very good at what he does.

Bryan also has the help of some other former and current baseball players. They help coach our teams and also help train at the new center. Joe Serafin used to pitch for the Chicago White Sox. He is an excellent pitching coach and also gives lessons. Jovan Rosa, another coach, plays for the Independent Baseball League on a team that is affiliated with the Chicago Cubs. He plays first base, third base, or sometimes catches. They are also very good coaches and make it a lot of fun while we are working hard.

The training center is a baseball and sports training facility. Some of the things available are private lessons with professional athletes, clinics, camps, speed and agility training, exercise classes and much, much more. There will be personal training also available and other teams can rent out space too. It is a great place to go work out and train.



Above: This is a picture of Bryan and Joe

A Connecticut Olympian Growing Up

By Callie, grade 3

Julie Chu is a famous Olympic hockey player from Connecticut. Julie Chu has a sister named Christina and a brother named Richard. Julie Chu was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on March 13, 1982 and grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut. Growing up, Chu played soccer and figure skating, and then switched to hockey. Chu attended high school at Choate Rosemary Hall, which is right here in town. Chu graduated in 2001 there.

Chu's first winter Olympics was in 2002. Chu also played in three other Olympics, 2006, 2010 and 2014. From 2007 to 2010 Chu played professional women's hockey with the Minnesota Whitecaps and won the 2010 Clarkson Cup. She also won the Clarkson Cup with the Montreal Stars. Julie Chu is the second most decorated U.S. woman in the Olympic winter games and is the first female to win the Clarkson Cup with two different hockey teams. She won three silver metals and one bronze metal in the Olympians. Chu won her first silver metal in 2002, she won her bronze metal in 2006 and won her second silver metal in 2010. Chu's most recent silver metal was won in the 2014 in the Winter Olympics.

In 2007 to 2008 Chu was an assistant coach for University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs they won their fourth NCAA Division 1 national Championship.

Then in 2010 to 2011 hockey seasons Chu joined the Union College women's hockey coaching staff and served as an assistant coach. Chu then stepped down after 2012 to 2013 seasons so she could focus full-time on the 2014 winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

And that is the story of Julie Chu, the Connecticut Olympian who grew up in our home state!

Sports

Powder Ridge

By Callie, grade 3

Powder Ridge is a great ski resort located in Middle field, Connecticut. It is a good Mountain for beginner skiers. After many years of being closed, Powder Ridge reopened this winter. The owners at Powder Ridge are making a new lodge that is going to be bigger and better than ever before. There is an upper lodge and a lower lodge. The upper lodge is the newest edition.

The powdery ski trails at Powder Ridge are great! Most of the trails have a good amount of snow. These trails are great for beginners and intermediate skiers as well. There is one trail with jumps and other terrain for more experienced skiers. In addition the skiing, there is also a tubing park which looks really fun as well. If you ski there you will have a great time!

Besides the skiing, there is pizza, candy, hot chocolate and many more snacks to choose from, but the best snack of all is a waffle on a stick. There are three flavors to choose from: the first is s'more, the second is raspberry and whip cream and the third is original.

Powder Ridge is a great place for children because always it is always fun. Be sure to come to Powder Ridge and make a memory!



Above: Having a snack at Powder Ridge

Tanaka...Will He Be As Good As Everybody Expects?

By Nick, grade 5

On Wednesday, January 22, former Nippon League starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka signed with the New York Yankees on a 7 year deal worth \$155 million! But the Nippon that Tanaka had used was smaller and had more seams and was skinnier. Since Tanaka's resume includes a hard biting, devastating splitter, he will have to take an MLB ball and spread his middle and pointer fingers on the seams as far as possible. He also has a 95-97 mph fastball and a 91 mph slider to go with his splitter. Yankee Stadium is a hitter's ballpark, but I predict that Tanaka will have a great career!

A Meet at the Beach

By Dori, grade 3



Above: This is me at the meet in Virginia with one of my teammates

Nine hours is a long time! I couldn't believe I was going to Gabby Douglas' hometown for a gymnastics meet. We got in the car and started our drive. I slept and at 2 a.m. my mom woke me up to tell me that I was going over a bridge that was 23 miles long! Half of it was under water in a tunnel. After we were off the bridge, we were there. We got to our hotel to sleep. The next morning we woke up to fun...lots of fun! We opened our curtains to see the beach. After getting ready for the day, we took a walk on it. Then I met up with my team and practiced at the hotel and then went out to dinner with everyone. After eating, we headed back to the hotel. We went to sleep early to prepare for the big meet the next day. When I woke up, I got my uniform on and headed to the meet. I did awesome! That night our team went swimming. The next morning we left. I was sad to go, but am excited to go back next year!

The Irish Ski Jump

By Callie, grade 3

Saint Patty's Day was here and so was the "Get Your Jump On" ski jump contest at Magic Mountain! Magic Mountain is a ski resort located In Vermont. Magic Mountain celebrates St. Patty's Day by holding an annual ski jumping contest. Prizes are given to the contestants based on how much air they get and the tricks they perform. There is also a prize for the best crash.

This year was special because, I knew one of the contestants. It was my Dad! My dad practiced a lot before the day came. However, we were all disappointed when the contest was surprisingly postponed due to slushy, slow snow. At least my dad and I had a great day of skiing! The best news is my dad plans to enter the contest again next year.

Sports

Karate

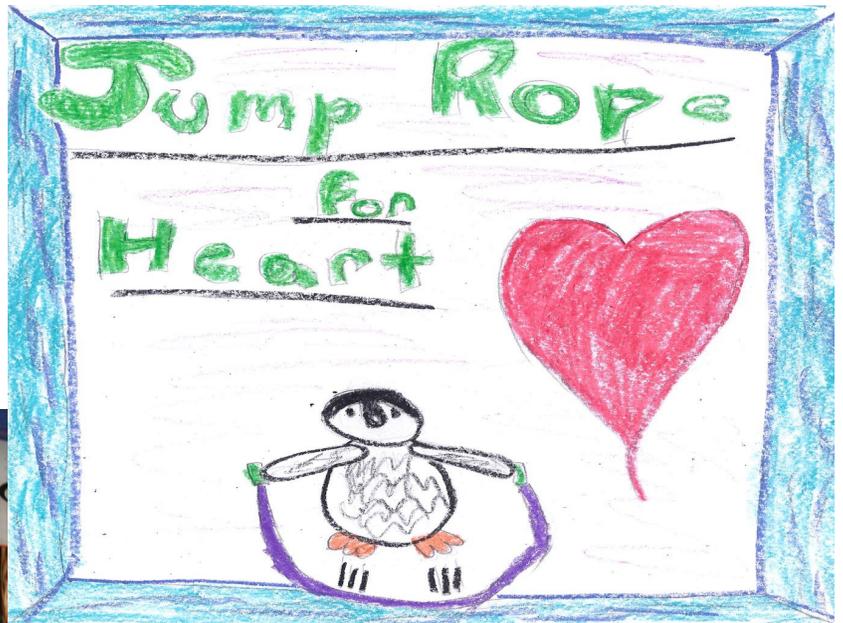
By Travis, grade 3

Karate is a really fun sport. It is fun and very interesting. Karate is supposed to help you gain confidence. If you do really well, you can skip belts. I do Tang-so-do karate. I skipped two belts and get a blue belt from a white belt. At the grading, the grandmaster of karate was there. A grading is when you do the forms you have learned in front of all these karate masters. The Grandmaster chooses what belt you change to. All of the white belts became blue belts. Everyone had to break boards at the grading. Bring water or make sure there is a water fountain because it is tiring...but it's fun!

CT Bombers Baseball

By Nick, grade 5

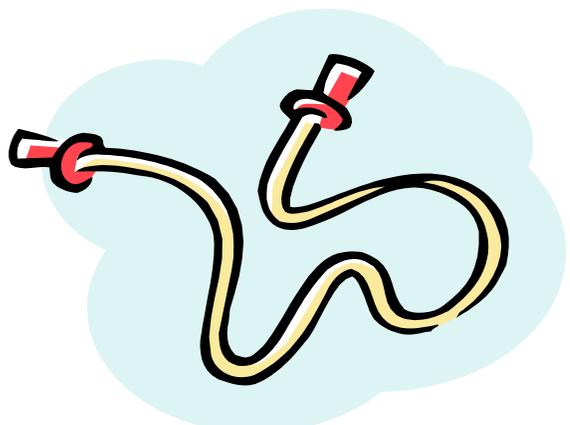
I made the CT Bombers Baseball Team along with three other kids (Tommy, Zach, and Joe) from Wallingford. We have conditioning or workouts on Tuesdays and Thursdays and practice on Saturdays and Sundays. Our first game is scheduled for April 15th in Brooklyn. Then we have a game in Rhode Island. Our team even has the opportunity to qualify to play in Puerto Rico!



Drawing by Chiara, grade 4



Thank you to everyone that participated in Jump Rope for Heart!



Sports

Spring Training Starts

By Nick, grade 5

Spring Training started on February 27th. Spring Training is important, but not for winning or losing...it's competing for roster spots, starting positions, or pitching battles for a spot in the rotation. Some battles are with Dodgers speedy second baseman Dee Gordon vs. the sensational Alex Guerrero. Pitching battles include Jerry Mejia, Daisuke Matsuzaka (Dice K), John Lannan, and Rafeal Montero just to name a few competing for the 5th starting spot in the rotation.

Isabella's Soccer Career

An interview with my friend and how she much loves soccer...

By Callie, grade 3

Isabella, how long have you been playing soccer? *I have been playing soccer for six years.*

That is a lot of years you have been playing soccer, so who was your coach last season? *Coach Sean*

What do you think is the hardest in soccer? *Being goalie*

Are you going to do indoor soccer? *Yes!*

Do you know why people have to wear different cleats in indoor soccer? *Yes, because if you wear outdoor soccer cleats you will rip up the grass.*

Do you have a favorite soccer player on team U.S.A ? *Mia Hamm*

So here is one more question I want to ask and here it is. Would you like to play soccer in cold weather or hot weather? *I choose Fall.*



Creativity At Work

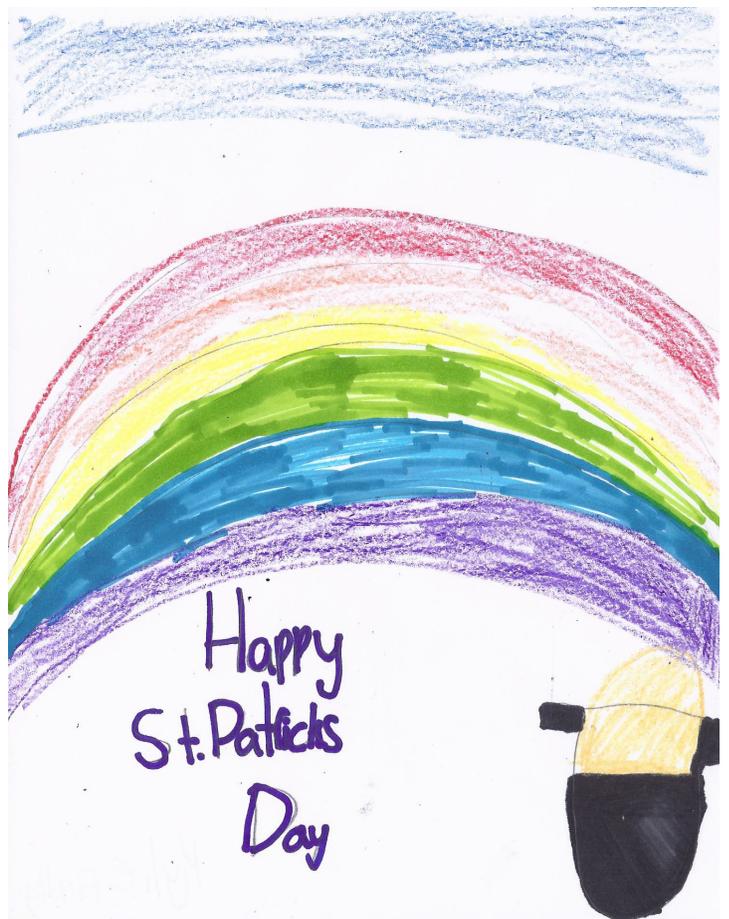


Drawing by Chiara, grade 4



Drawing by Emma, grade 4

Happy Spring!
From the Newspaper Staff



Drawing by Kylie, grade 4



Drawing by Ally, grade 4

A Few Pictures of *Rockin' Eagle* Staffers and their moms who volunteer their time in our school's library...THANK YOU!



Rock Hill has CRAZY Hair Day!

