

## Black History Month

by *Winta K.*

Black history month is a celebration of all the accomplishments by African Americans throughout history. Almost two centuries ago, the thirteenth amendment was passed, the abolishment of slavery.

Black people weren't treated fairly, but no matter how many challenges came their way, they found oppourtunities to make an impact. The Black History Month 2018 theme, "African Americans in Times of War," marks the 100th anniversary of World War I and honors the part that black Americans have played in war, from the American Revolution to present.

Word of Life had their 2nd annual Black History Month assembly, and it was amazing! John Webber told memorable stories about blacks in the NBL (Negro Baseball League). The chief of police in St. Louis, John Hayden, even came! Each class gave a great presentation as well.

This was one celebration that we won't forget, nor take for granted. We remember how lucky we are to have such a diverse school and country.



John Hayden, Chief of Police

## Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness *by Noah C.*

How would you define goodness? We probably all have our own definition of the word. That is partly due to the vagueness of the definition. But in general, good is beneficial, selfless, kind, thoughtful, just, lawful, and right. The word goodness really encompasses all of these categories of "good". All of these are virtuous acts and traits that we should all strive for, and show to others in

our daily vocations. As Galatians 6: 10 says, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone."

And yet, however good we are, we must remember that we will never be able to win our own salvation. However good we may be, we still sin, are imperfect, and desperately need Jesus' forgiveness. We must never forget that, as we minister to others. I like the

analogy of us to mirrors. We are to reflect Christ's light, goodness, and mercy to others wherever we go, with everyone we meet.



## Highlights of the Month *by Gavin S.*

This has been an exciting and eventful month. We kicked off the month with our Black History Assembly. Students cheered for the basketball teams during the A-Team Basketball pep rally. We also had the Geography, Spelling, and Bible Bee. Scholar Bowl ended along with A-Team Basketball. The B-Team Boy and Girls' basketball teams started their seasons. We even had many days off of school to relax. We had a great month and are one step closer to the end of the school year.

## Preschool News by Zoe W.

In the month of February, Word of Life preschool classes have learned many new and interesting things. Mrs. Maxfield's class has been learning about shadows and groundhog day. They have been experimenting with shadows and light. Ms. O'Toole's class has also been having lots of fun! Her preschoolers have been learning lots about community helpers, such as police officers, teachers, and mailmen. Mrs. Bolling's class has been having just as much fun! They have spent the month as paleontologists, creating and finding dinosaur bones. All the preschoolers gathered together at the main campus for "A Night at the Olympics", which was spent playing many fun games and making crafts with their dads. Each class also had their own Valentine's Day party! February was a very fun and exciting month for the preschool classes of Word of Life.



Mrs. Bolling's class celebrates at their Valentine's Day party.

## Endangered Species of the Month

### Painted Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*)

By Emily L.

Long slim legs, big rounded ears and a beautiful mottled coat, painted dogs (also known as African Wild Dogs) capture the hearts of many. They live in the woodlands and grasslands of the southern parts of Africa. Painted dogs are carnivores, and mostly target gazelles and antelopes, and supplement their diet with birds and rodents. These dogs are also very social and live and hunt in packs.

Painted dogs are the most endangered canids in the world. When they were last counted, there were fewer than 3,000 left in the wild. Habitat destruction, conflict with humans, and diseases, like rabies and canine distemper are mostly what is killing painted dogs. Painted dogs and their habitats are legally protected but this is rarely enforced. Help these beautiful dogs make a comeback. Support today!

To learn more: [www.stlzoo.org/give/zooparentsprogram/](http://www.stlzoo.org/give/zooparentsprogram/)



## SPORTS

### Girls Basketball by Janet P.

This was a great season for the A team girls. They worked hard all through the season. The girls were tried, gave their best effort, and had really good defense. The girls only won one game this season. Most of the games were intense and had the audience on the edge of their seats. Sadly, a few of the players got injured who were a huge asset to the team, but it didn't stop the girls from playing to the best of their abilities.

The B team girls basketball team has just started their season. The team has 4th and 5th graders with one 6th grader. They had their first game against Salem which ended in a loss. "The girls improved a lot on their first game. I think the girls need to improve on their defense. The girls made more shots in Salem tournament at Salem," said Coach Arnold. The girls had their first victory at the Salem tournament. Keep it up, lady cougars!

### Boys Basketball

by Ethan B.

The A-team boys basketball season has sadly come to an end. Kibur shared, "The season has gone great for the team." The team got third place in the city tournament. Derek in 7th grade said, "The team came out strong in the tournament, but we could have done better." The team improved over the season and Coach Dehn is proud of what they have accomplished.

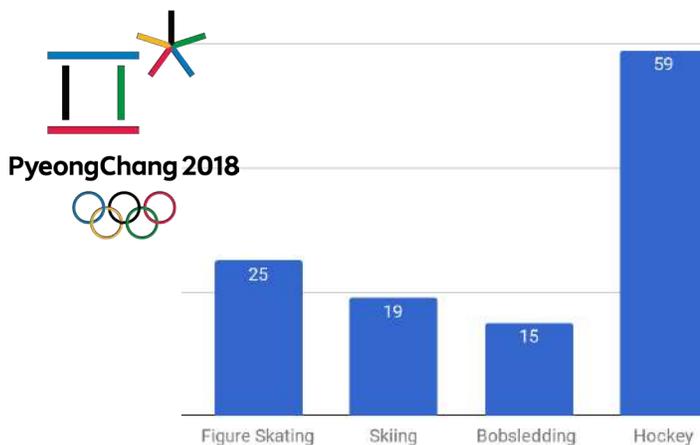
The B-team season has begun. Coached by Mr. Maxfield, the B-team has 10 boys playing. They lost their first game against Salem. They played in the St. John's Arnold Tournament and lost two close games. The boys are learning to play well together. Go cougars!

## Cougar Contests *by Aria T.*

This month's Cougar Contest is related to the upcoming holiday, St. Patrick's Day. On March 1st, a pot of gold will be hidden in the school. If you find this pot of gold, fill out a slip of paper from your teacher. You'll have to write where you saw the pot of gold, and your name and grade. You can put the slip in a tub by the office. Then later we will have a drawing, and pick out one slip. Whoever's name is on the paper wins, assuming they have the location correct. It's very important you don't tell your friends about the location of the gold. After all, it would give you less of a chance of winning the drawing. The due date for the slips is March 21st. Have fun, and good luck! The winner of last month's contest is Sammy in 2nd grade. There were 211 candy hearts in the jar, and he guessed 201. Thank you for everyone who participated in the contest.



## Favorite Winter Olympic Sport *by Noah C.*



This month, the whole world watched as athletes from around the world competed in PyeongChang, South Korea. Hopefully, you've been watching and cheering for our American competitors. We decided it would be a cool idea if we surveyed our school's favorite winter olympic sports. The results are in and to my surprise, hockey won! I guess the Blues have made an impression on us. Congratulations to all the Americans fighting in PyeongChang to bring back a gold medal.

## Celebrity Look-Alikes *by Emily L.*

For this month's celebrity look-alikes we have 1 amazing person and 1 amazing dog!

Mrs. Klug, our principal, has Jennifer Lawrence as her celebrity twin. Lawrence stars in the famous movie series, The Hunger Games.



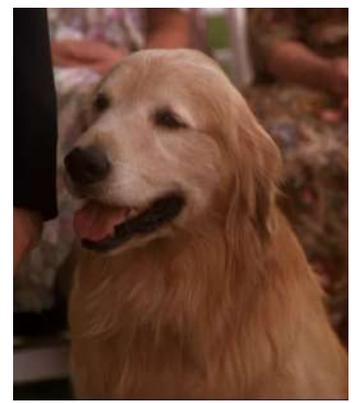
Principal Klug



Jennifer Lawrence



Noah the Comfort Dog



Shadow

Next we have Noah the comfort dog! Noah looks like the Golden Retriever, Shadow, from Homeward Bound.

## Movie Review

by *Hawa S. and Winta K.*

WOW! This year is going great so far! February is here so you know what that means, NEW MOVIES! The primary movie review of the month is Peter Rabbit. As you may know, Peter Rabbit is a well known children's book, but now it's been transformed into a hilarious movie. In the movie, Peter and his rival Mr. McGregor's feud grows higher and higher as they fight to win the heart of a kind animal lover living next door. This movie came out on February 9th, but you can still try to see it. It's a funny and thrilling film, and will give you memories from the old tale.



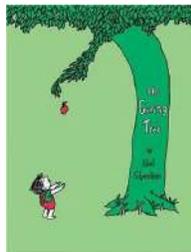
The middle school movie of the month is Black Panther. Black Panther is about T'challa, a prince of the African nation, Wakanda, who must take over the throne after his father's murder. But when a powerful enemy reappears, he must balance being king and Black Panther. T'challa gets drawn into conflict and must recruit his allies and show his powers as Black Panther to defeat his enemies and protect his people. Black Panther came out February 16th and is rated PG-13. It's a wonderful thrillride, and one that's too-good-to-miss.



## Book Review

by *Aria T.*

Have you ever done something kind for someone? Well this month, the book is all about kindness and generosity, The Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is about a tree and a little boy. The tree loves the little boy and they play every day. The boy climbs on her branches, picks her apples, and gathers her leaves. But one day the boy comes back and needs money. The tree gives her apples to him for him to sell, and she is happy. Then a while later, he comes back as a man, and needs a house. So she gives him her branches and is happy. He comes back even older, and wants a boat to sail away. So she gives him her trunk and is happy. Finally he comes back as an old man. She tells him she has nothing left to give. He says he just needs a quiet place to rest, so she, full of pride, lets him sit on her stump, and they are both happy. In this book, the tree gave up everything she had for someone she loved. It's heartwarming, but kind of bittersweet. This is a story that will continue to inspire us for years to come.



California. Living on the farm is hard work, and that is something Esperanza is NOT used to. But she learns and grows, and when something happens that might put her friends and family in danger, she's ready to put up a fight to save them. This book is all about the value of hard work and finding a little bit of happiness in wherever you are.

## #4 Fortnite Battle Royale

by *Gavin S.*

This month, we will be looking at number 4 in the top video game list. You may know it as Fortnite Battle Royale. Fortnite is a game about finding weapons and gathering resources to build defensive forts. You spawn in a lobby with about 99 others. You wait until the lobby is full, then all players go in to the "Battle Bus". The Battle Bus flies around the map and you choose when you drop. You skydive down and pull out your glider to glide to a place you want to land. This is where you search the map for weapons and gather resources.

There is a storm that shrinks periodically and damages you over time if you stay in it. The main goal is to outlive other players and defeat them. If you manage to win, you get a large amount of X.P. and coin to spend in the store to get more outfits and gathering tools. This game is rated "T" and is super fun if you like pvp. Stay tuned for the top 3 video games of the month.

The middle school book review for this month is Esperanza Rising. This book takes place in the 1930s.



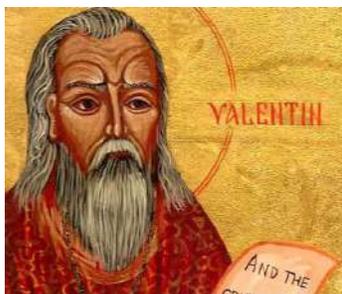
The main character is Esperanza. She lives with her family on a large ranch and is very well off. But one day, bandits capture and kill her father, and her evil uncle takes over their ranch. Esperanza and her mother flee to the United States and live on a company farm in



# This Month in History

by Zoe W.

Valentine's Day is a day of love and friendship, but you would be surprised to know that this beloved holiday has some dark origins. February 14th is named after the Catholic saint, St. Valentine. Valentine or Valentinus, as he was commonly referred to, was born in 226 A.D. in the Roman Empire, present day Terni, Italy. Little is known about Valentinus' early life, due in part to the fact that there were no official documents at that time. What we do know, however, is that Valentinus was the Bishop of Terni, Narnia, and Amelia. Valentinus lived under the rule of the Roman Emperor Claudius II.



Claudius was known to be a cruel and evil emperor who waged many unjust and bloody campaigns against the Germanic tribes of the north. To wage these campaigns Claudius needed lots of young men, but that posed a problem. At that time, many young men were getting married and having children, and Claudius had thought that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers. He believed this because he thought that the married soldier only cared about their families and what they would do if they were to die. So Claudius passed a law prohibiting any marriages.

As soon as Valentinus heard of this he was disgusted, he thought that marriage was a sacred bond between a man and a woman that only God himself could control. So Valentinus decided to retaliate. Defying Claudius II's orders, Valentinus married couples in secret. We're not sure how long he did this for, but we do know that he was soon

caught. Treason against Rome in the 3rd century was not something to be taken lightly, it could result in death. On 269, Valentinus was tried and found guilty of treason. Days later on February 14th, Valentinus was executed near the outskirts of Rome.

Years later, Valentinus was sainted by the pope with February 14th as his feast day. Even after hundreds of years, we commemorate the life and death of a saint that we know little or nothing about. As time has passed this holiday has been romanticized and the true origins covered up. Valentine's Day will always remain a day of love that had cruel beginnings.

## Restaurant Review: Onestos

by Emily L.

For this month's Restaurant Review we are going to look at Onestos, the little Italian restaurant on the corner of 5401 Finkman Street, St. Louis, MO. To start off, their appetizers are based all around cheese. Mozzarella impanata, garlic cheese bread, and even lobster mac and cheese. They have it all! The main entrees are the ultimate eye catcher, especially their enormous pizzas. The sandwiches are also famous. If you don't want one of their pizzas, you can create your own, unique, and perfect pizza of your liking. Make sure to ask for their specials! They change everyday, and you can get something completely new, and different when ever you go. To Learn More: [onestopizza.com](http://onestopizza.com)



## Recipe of the Month by Hawa P.

February is a short, but full month including Valentine's Day and Black History celebrations. To celebrate, the recipe of the month is Easy and Healthy Banana Oat Pancakes. This magnificent, delicious breakfast is perfect for your special valentine or just for a heart healthy breakfast to start your day. You can find the recipe on [www.simply-delicious-food.com](http://www.simply-delicious-food.com).

### Ingredients

- 2 bananas
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- Maple syrup to serve (optional)
- Fresh fruit of your choice to serve

### Instructions

1. In a blender, combine the peeled bananas, eggs, oats, baking powder, and salt.
2. Blend until the mixture is as smooth as you want it and blended well. Allow the batter to stand for 10-20 minutes until thickened slightly.
3. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat.
4. Fry spoonfuls of the batter until golden brown on both sides.
5. Serve with a drizzle of maple syrup and fresh fruit of your choice.



## Birthdays

Selah T. 2/1  
Mrs. Tanurchis 2/2  
Carter W. 2/3  
CJ 2/3  
Madison R. 2/4  
Samuel S. 2/5  
Tori T. 2/7  
Myles J. 2/11  
Michael K. 2/12  
Rebecca R. 2/14  
Margaret F. 2/16  
Noah M. 2/17  
Alex K. 2/17  
Admir I. 2/17  
Kevina J. 2/17  
Grace A. 2/20  
Cooper K. 2/20  
Ashlynn M. 2/21  
Elle B. 2/21  
Lila H. 2/22  
Sarah D. 2/24  
Bellamy L. 2/25

## Baptismal Birthdays

Sophia I. 2/2011  
Melat G. 2/2  
Madelynn B. 2/9  
Nabeyet G. 2/10  
Grant M. 2/10  
Luca T. 2/18  
Aria T. 2/29  
Angel J. 2/29  
Tracy J. 2/29

## Comic by Ethan B.



## Kids Page by Janet P.

### Coloring Page



### Valentine Word Scramble

1. olev \_\_\_\_\_
2. rteha \_\_\_\_\_
3. drca \_\_\_\_\_
4. rsoe \_\_\_\_\_
5. iucpd \_\_\_\_\_
6. ewste \_\_\_\_\_
7. hsgu \_\_\_\_\_
8. rwaro \_\_\_\_\_
9. aelvtnnie \_\_\_\_\_
10. feridn \_\_\_\_\_