

## **Polar Express Train Ride** *by Winta K.*

All aboard! The Polar Express will be in town at Union Station from November 16 - December 30. This train ride is based off the classic book *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. In this book, all nice boys and girls get chosen to meet Santa and ride a special train to the North Pole. Spending time with friends and family is truly the highlight of this experience. During the train ride, the children receive delicious meals and great presents waiting for them at the North Pole. This book comes to life in the Polar Express Train coming to town!



Some of our Word of Life students have been able to enjoy this Polar Express experience.

7th grader Adrian N. said, “It’s an amazing ride. I recommend you go if you have free time during Christmas break, and you can get sleighbells, coins, cookies, and hot chocolate.”

If you are interested in taking a ride on the Polar Express, get your tickets online at <http://www.stlthepolarexpress-ride.com/polar-express-train-ride/>.

## **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand** *By Rahel D.*

Have you ever heard the stories of Jesus performing miracles? This month’s focus is on an amazing miracle that comes from John chapter 6. It is about how Jesus fed five thousand people. Jesus and his disciples were by the Sea of Galilee when all of a sudden, a ginormous crowd of people came to them. There was not enough food for everyone. There were only five loaves of bread and two measly fish. So Jesus took the bread and fish and divided them. There was so much bread and fish that there were twelve baskets full of

leftovers. This astonishing story relates to our lives because it tells us that we should take care of others as Christ takes care of us. We might not feed five thousand people, but we can help by

assisting at a soup kitchen. We could also volunteer at a homeless shelter. Overall, we should be the loving Christians that God wants us to be by loving and taking care of one another.



## Preschool News

by Mya B.

This month the preschoolers in Mrs. O'Toole's classroom learned about the first Thanksgiving. Putting in tremendous effort, the preschoolers made some amazing turkey crafts.

In Mrs. Maxfield's classroom the preschoolers learned about zoo animals and the zoo itself. Along with having learned about the zoo, they have constructed a large wall mural with all of the children's wonderful creations on it to make their own zoo. Participating in Faith in Action Day was a very exciting experience for the preschoolers, who were very pumped to go and spend some time at the main campus. The preschoolers also enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast while they learned about the first Thanksgiving. They ended the month reading *Pete the Cat*, a fantastic character and one of the preschoolers' favorite books.



Amelia Y. in Mrs. O'Toole's class worked on a Thanksgiving craft.

# SPORTS

## Boys Basketball

by Jaylee S.

November is here which means it's time for basketball. The A-Team boys are coached by Mr. Dehn, the 6th grade teacher, who is returning for his second year of teaching and coaching. He shared, "I am looking forward to the great teamwork because the boys get along well and I want to see how that translates onto the court."

The boys' team had their first practice November 1st. Coach Dehn stated, "From only the first practice I can tell all of the players are excited to get to work and are not afraid to put in the effort for a strong season."

The Cougars had their first game against Salem. Sadly they lost, but with only four days of practice they performed really well. By working hard to pass the ball and moving to get open, they were able to score. The final score was 22-38.

Interviewing some 8th grade boys, I inquired what they are looking forward to this season. Jose is hoping to achieve a triple double (at least ten assists, rebounds, and points). Ezekiel informed us, "I am setting a personal goal to make 30 points over the whole season." Ethan is looking forward to learning how to play on the A-team. Overall it seems like the boys are going to have an interesting season this year.

## Girls Basketball

by Hawa S.

Woohoo! Not only is it time for boys' basketball, but girls' basketball has started as well. The A-Team has a new coach, Mr. McCoy, 6th grader James McCoy's dad. They also have some 6th graders on the team, so it's definitely a good experience for them to play with the older girls. Practice has started and everything and everyone is in full force. The girls are getting better every practice and continue to work hard and give it their all. I asked Coach McCoy after the first practice, wondering what he was looking forward to this season. His response, "I just want you all to be able to play good and work hard. It doesn't really matter if we win or not, as long as you're having fun." On November 12, they had their first game against Salem, Affton. It was a pattern, WOL was winning, then Salem, and so forth. But, in the end, Salem won with a score of 24-14. Even though they lost, the Lady Cougars gave it their all and tried their best. This Tuesday, the team had an incredible victory against the Immanuel Olivette Eagles, winning 39-2. This season should be fascinating, so we'll wait and see.



8th grader, Jaylee S., shoots a free throw after getting fouled.

# Celebrity Look-Alikes

by Janet P.

The holidays are almost here and that means jolly celebrity look-alikes. For our first celebrity look-alike we have our music teacher, Mr. Maichel, and American actor, Adam Driver. Adam Driver plays Adam Sackler in HBO series *Girls* and Kylo Ren in the hit movie series, *Star Wars*. Adam Driver and Mr. Maichel are alike by their hair style, their facial expression, and their smile.



Mr. Maichel, Teacher



Adam Driver, Actor



Jose G., 8th Grader



Quincy Brown, Actor

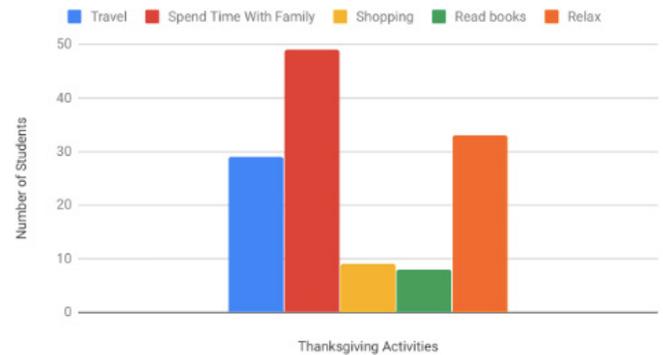
Our next celebrity look-alike is 8th grader, Jose G., and American actor, Quincy Brown. Quincy Brown plays on the television musical drama *Star* and *Brotherly Love*. Quincy and Jose are alike by their hair style and facial expression.

# Favorite Thanksgiving Break Activity

by Elga K.

The K-8th graders were surveyed to find what activities Word of Life students enjoy most during Thanksgiving break. Traveling and relaxing were 2 activities that many students enjoy. Reading books came in with the the least amount of votes. To sum it up, most of the students enjoy spending time with family during Thanksgiving break. I hope you had a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday!

Favorite Thanksgiving Break Activity



# Restaurant Review: by Will M.

For the month of November, I am thrilled to share one of my personal favorite restaurants, Gyro Co! The food here is to die for! The primary food of this Greek restaurant is gyros, but they also have subs and salads. My favorite item on their menu is their delicious classic gyro, but I take off the tomato and onion. The Gyro Company is located on Gravois and they also have a location in South County. I rate this restaurant five out of five stars. So when you want to go out to eat, keep in mind that Gyro Company is the place to go!



## Movie Review by Nabeyet G. and Jack J.

The primary movie of this month is *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. This is the sequel to the movie, *Wreck-It Ralph*. *Ralph Breaks the Internet* is about two characters named Ralph and Vanellope. Ralph and Vanellope go “inside” the internet to find a spare part of a video game. On the journey, Vanellope encounters the Disney princesses. This movie came out on November 21st. I recommend this movie for all ages.



The movie is about a girl named Klara and the magnificent friends that she meets along the way. The more than capable actors and actresses include Mackenzie Foy, Eugenio Derbez, and the breathtaking Morgan Freeman. This spectacular movie came out November 2, but is still in theaters, so you don't want to miss it! The movie is a little dark for a Disney movie, but it is still very entertaining. I give this movie a 9 out of 10 for a very interesting charm, but I believe Misty Copeland, a ballerina should have gotten more screen time. She was in a small act at the end and many people wanted to see more of her.



In Disney's remix of the classic tale, the creators of the *Nutcracker and the Four Realms* retell one of Europe's most popular stories. This middle school movie has a wonderful story filled with intriguing characters and mystical settings.

## Book Review

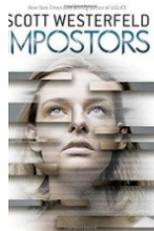
by Sam and Will M.

The primary book of November is... *Stellaluna*! *Stellaluna* is written by Janell Cannon. This book is about a young bat who is separated from her mom and is raised in a family of birds.



*Stellaluna* acted the way bats do and ended up being a bad influence on the little baby birds. First, instead of sleeping in the nest, she hung upside down, the way a bat sleeps. Then, she didn't want to eat the gross bugs that the birds ate. But, even though *Stellaluna* was a bat, she learned to behave like a good bird. She slept in the nest and ate her bugs. She didn't hang upside down. When the birds were ready to start learning to fly, *Stellaluna* didn't know that birds can't see in the dark, and she left them behind. *Stellaluna* met a familiar bat along the way. She soon found out that it was her mom, and *Stellaluna* realized she forgot the poor birds. *Stellaluna* went back to the scared birds and stayed with them until morning. I like this book because of the silly mishaps that *Stellaluna* ends up making, so make sure to check this book out if you can!

The middle school book review for the month of November is *Impostors!* This novel is written by Scott Westerfeld and is set in a futuristic dystopian society that is divided into rival kingdoms. The main character of this book is named Frey. She is a body double for her twin sister Rafia. Nobody knows that Frey exists except for her father and a few servants. Whenever Rafi is supposed to do something dangerous, Frey takes her place. When Rafi is to be given to a rival kingdom as ransom for some ruins, Frey goes in her place.



While there, Frey meets a guy named Col. While she is there, her father decides that he wants to start a war with the city she is visiting. Frey is lost in all of the fighting and no one knows what happened to her. What will happen next? I give this book five out of five stars because it has a thrilling plot and a quirky cast of characters.

## Video Game Review: Spiderman PS4

by Jack J.

In this awe striking game, the player plays as one of Marvel's most loved superheroes, Spider Man! In the story the player (as Spider-Man) goes around fixing horrible obstacles in the way of the welfare of his beloved city, New York City. Spider-Man has knowledge about how to solve these issues. The game also has intriguing DLC (aka downloadable content). The game combines some of the best parts of both video games and superheroes. With a 95% like rating and being the 7th most bought PS4 game, it is clearly superb! I give it a 10 out of 10 for an amazing story and a wholehearted Jonah Jameson.

He is a radio talk show host who is often critical of Spider-Man.



## Cougar Contest by Bella B.

The leaves are changing color, the air is crisper and ACHOO, allergies are popping up. Aside from the handful of us that have allergies, autumn is a positively spectacular few months. As we all know, autumn wouldn't be autumn without Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving wouldn't be Thanksgiving without exquisite, crispy oven-baked turkey! That's right, we're doing a turkey contest. Draw your turkey on any type of paper, and then decorate it with divine colors, shimmery glitter, stickers, tape, or any other material worthy of your unique turkey. Make sure to have this in by December 14.



## Explaining 3 Common Thanksgiving Myths by *Bella B.*



The story of the first Thanksgiving is a classic tale of two very different types of people putting aside their differences and settling down to have a nice peaceful meal... or so we thought.

The story has been made into thousands of books and movies for all ages, but as each story has been passed down from author to author, the story we know now actually includes a few myths that people have believed for a long time, even though they are unquestionably wrong!

### 1. Where was my invitation?

One of the most common myths is that the Native Americans were invited to the Thanksgiving banquet, but that is false! The Native Americans heard the festivities going on from afar, and came to investigate the ear-piercing racket. They were then allowed to sit down and feast on the scrumptious turkey and cranberry sauce with the pilgrims.

### 2. No turkey either?

Speaking of turkey, it actually might not have been there! Many pilgrims kept a diary of the events of that joyous fall evening, but in none of those articles was turkey even mentioned! What was mentioned was that the Wampanoag brought a few freshly hunted...deer. It may not seem like your typical Thanksgiving meal, but back then, any pilgrim would kill for an oven roasted deer and pumpkin pie, which also was not at the first Thanksgiving.

### 3. The superstores were right?

Have you ever walked into a superstore like Lowes or Walmart in September and seen those giant inflatable turkeys or other Thanksgiving decor, and thought, "What are these outrageous people thinking, isn't Thanksgiving another three months off?!" Well, did you know they were right? Thanksgiving probably took place around September, or early October. George Washington changed the date to be sometime in November.

I hope you enjoyed these Thanksgiving myths! I also hope you had an amazing Thanksgiving break and stayed safe.

## Umbrian Snowflake Cookies by *Hawa S.*

The holidays are finally here! The weather is colder and snow is starting to fall, so you know what that means? A new recipe! The recipe of the month is Umbrian Snowflake Cookies. It's the perfect treat for the cold climate and the upcoming holiday. You can find the recipe on [www.saveur.com](http://www.saveur.com) Have a good rest of the holidays.

### INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. kosher salt  
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar  
10 tbsp. unsalted butter, softened  
3 eggs  
6 cups cornflakes cereal (2 cups lightly crushed, 4 cups whole)  
3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips  
Confectioners' sugar, for garnish

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°. Whisk flour, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. In another bowl and using an electric hand mixer, cream granulated sugar and butter until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add dry ingredients; mix until dough forms. Fold in crushed cornflakes and the chocolate chips. Divide dough into 28 balls; roll in whole corn flakes. Space 1" apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Bake until golden and crisp, 20–22 minutes. Let cookies cool; dust with confectioners' sugar.



# Birthdays

- Lucas O. 11/1
- Desmond D. 11/2
- Rahel D. 11/4
- Mrs. Albrecht 11/5
- Samuel G. 11/6
- Jaylin J. 11/13
- Abigale L. 11/13
- Willy S. 11/18
- Melat G. 11/19
- Saylor L. 11/20
- Austin H. 11/22
- Oliver D. 11/24
- Jocelyn M. 11/27
- Monila R. 11/27
- James M. 11/28
- John H. 11/28
- John B. 11/29
- James B. 11/30

# Comic by Sam C.



## Baptismal Birthdays

- Aden W. 11/5
- Micah S. 11/6
- Jaylee S. 11/7
- Eli M. 11/11
- Robert M. 11/19

# Kids' Page by Mya B.



## Word Scramble

1. fmaliy \_\_\_\_\_
2. hvraste \_\_\_\_\_
3. pligmri \_\_\_\_\_
4. keytur \_\_\_\_\_
5. kooc \_\_\_\_\_
6. wndiy \_\_\_\_\_
7. veslea \_\_\_\_\_
8. dayholi \_\_\_\_\_
9. persnets \_\_\_\_\_
10. yoj \_\_\_\_\_