

SFA TIMES

Student Edition

June 2014

Go Wolves!

Students vote the wolf as the new school mascot to represent the pride and strength of SFA!

The cafeteria erupted into spirited cheer as Mr. Cote announced the new mascot. The idea originated in grade four. Soon after, a school wide election was held and the student votes were counted. It was the wolf who won the honorable position! How fitting a mascot to represent SFA since St. Francis of Assisi encountered a wolf that he befriended and tamed into a peaceful creature.

Inside this Issue:

- Student Survey
- Science Week
- Field Trips
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- Sports Page
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- Teacher Interviews
- High School Preparation



Meet the SFA Times Newspaper Staff



Back Row: Jayden Robinson, Olivia Lee, Joleen Johnston, Joey Chu, and Alex Thorn

Front Row: Sarah Goslin, Stephanie Allen, Duyen Le, Emily Pham, Alexis Wentzel,
and Nick Wentzel

A special thanks to the members of the Newspaper Club who shared their writing talents and creativity to create an informative school newspaper. I thank the eighth grade students who came to an extra meeting to assist with editing. Best of luck as you graduate from SFA! ~ Mrs. Miller

International News Stories

Nelson Mandela

By Emily Pham



On the 5th of December 2013, one of the most influential and inspiring men passed away at the age of ninety- five. His name was Nelson Mandela. Born on July 18, 1918 as Rolihlahla Mandela, he played a major role in the 1940s and continuing as a leader to try to put an end to the apartheid in South Africa. The apartheid stated that nonwhite South Africans had to live separately from whites, use different bathroom facilities, and contact between the two groups was limited. When the apartheid came about he felt the need to succeed in gaining fairness so he organized a military underground, but was caught in 1962 along with several other leaders. Mandela was sentenced to hard labor and life

imprisonment because of treason against South Africa's government. At long last in 1990, Mandela was released from prison and victoriously walked out to the crowd's cheers. In 1994, the apartheid officially ended and in the same year Mandela also became the first black president of South Africa serving for one term until 1999.

Mandela's funeral lasted 10 days with innumerable mourners giving their respect to their very much loved former president. Officials such as President Obama and his family as well as former President Bill Clinton his wife, former Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton were in attendance

Typhoon Haiyan

By Joey Chu

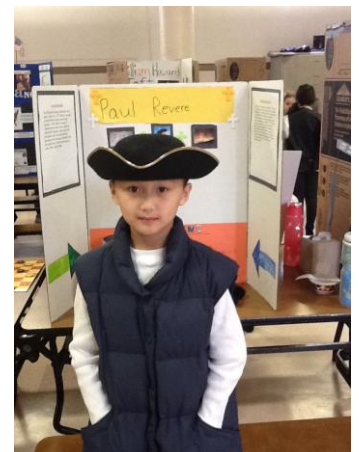
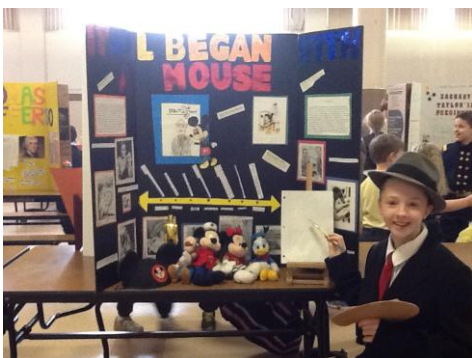
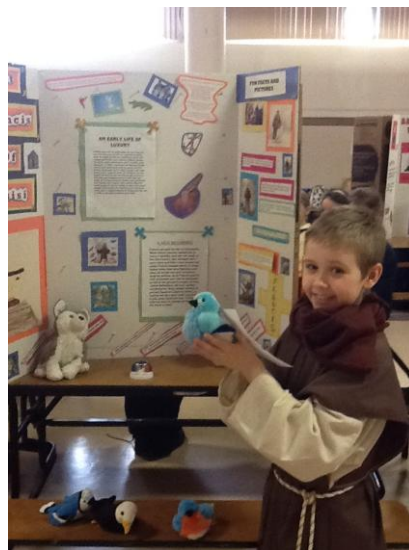
Typhoon Haiyan was a powerful typhoon that formed around November 3, 2013, ultimately affecting over one million people. Its highest point in one minute was 195 mph. Over 5,268 people had been confirmed dead. The typhoon has left about \$1.36 billion in damage. Typhoon Haiyan has affected areas in Micronesia, the Philippines, Southern China, and Vietnam. The Philippines call Typhoon Haiyan; Typhoon Yolanda. Haiyan originated in an area of low pressure several

hundred kilometers southeast of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. The speeds of Haiyan's winds were 315 km/h surpassing the old record of 305 km/h set by Hurricane Camille in 1969. It first hit the Philippines where its strength was the strongest, then gradually weakening as it made five additional hits. It changed direction and turned over to the South China Sea, then westward where the typhoon eventually hit Northern Vietnam.



Gr. 4

Wax Museum and Hall of Presidents



SCIENCE FAIR~

From probiotics to the absorption of cat litter, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students put in hours of research and analysis to present their scientific discoveries. The lower grades at SFA had the opportunity to view and hear the presentations at the Church Hall prior to the official judging. Congratulations to all participants! A special note to the SFA winners as well as Emily Pham who won second place in the regionals held at Archbishop Williams High School.

Gr. 6

- 1st - Timothy Buronov
- 2nd - Vivian Tran
- 3rd - Bobby Hamilton

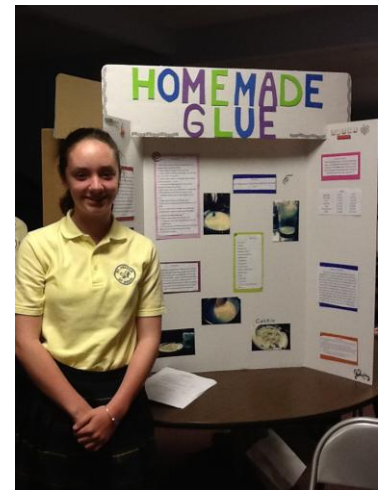
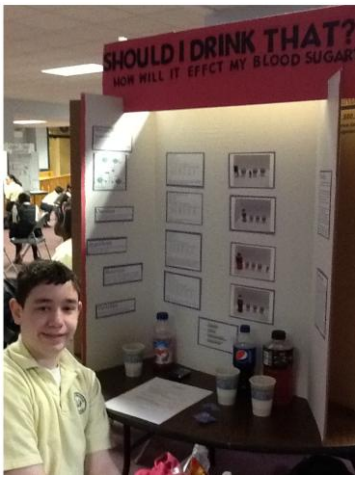
Gr. 7

- 1st - Kristian Lamarre
- 2nd - Katheryn Graziano
- 3rd - Joey Chu

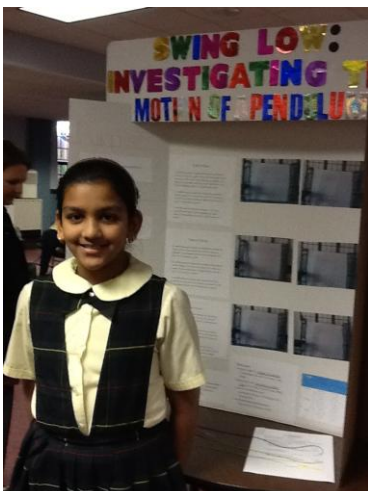
Gr. 8

- 1st - Jailen Branch
- 2nd - Lily Taylor
- 3rd - Emily Pham





Science Week at SFA



There's New Professionals in Town!

Grade Two students are working hard so that they may someday have the job of their dreams. From video game creators to pediatricians, these students presented their reports on what they want to be when they grow up. There's no stopping them now!



First Holy Communion



In like manner, as we see bread and wine with our bodily eyes, let us see and believe firmly that it is His Most Holy Body and Blood, True and Living.

For in this way our Lord is ever present among those who believe in him, according to what He said: "Behold, I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world." (Mt. 28, 20) - St. Francis of Assisi

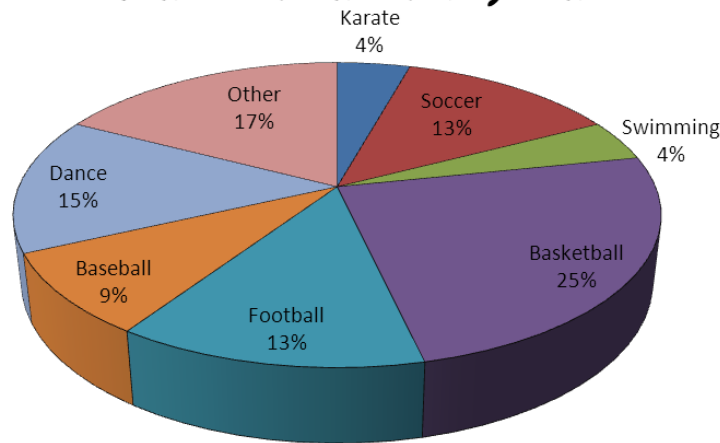


Survey Says...

By Alex Thorn

I surveyed about 70 people to find out what they preferred to do after school as extra-curricular activities. The survey included: karate, swimming, dance, soccer, football, basketball, baseball, and other (computer games with friends, playing outside with siblings, hockey, etc.).

Extra-Curricular Activity Chart



Crazy, Fun Facts!

- A giraffe can go without water longer than a camel can.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- Every time you lick an envelope, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.
- Girls have more taste buds than boys.
- A sheep, a dog, and a rooster were the first passengers on a hot- air balloon.
- The greatest weight ever lifted by a human tongue is 23.6 pounds.
- The Mozilla Firefox emblem is not a fox, but a red panda.
- Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet in the air.
- The youngest professional video gamer was 7 years old and had a contract with Major League Gamers making him a signed professional.
- 11% of people are left handed.
- The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.

SPORTS PAGE

BASKETBALL UPDATE

By Jayden Robinson



Since the start of the season, the fifth and sixth grade girls have won a total eight games and are now in second place. The girls and boys at SFA have put fine effort this year. A local gym that we play at is the Quincy Armory. The team spirit at the basketball is really high. The coaches of the teams are Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. Louis, and Mr. Hamilton. The fifth and sixth grade girls made it to the EMAS CYO tournament, but lost against St. Charles at Roxbury Latin. Congratulations and let's keep the team spirit going!

Super Bowl By: Nick Wentzel

The Super Bowl is the NFL's championship game which is played every year. The NFL picks a new stadium to play in each year. This year it was held at Met Life Stadium, the home of the New York Jets and Giants. This year's Super Bowl was between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks.



Our school also hosted a "Souper Bowl". We had boxes with the two team's names labeled on the outside. It takes place for around a week before the real Super Bowl. Students donate cans of soup in the team that they want to win. Then third grade students count the cans and the winner is announced. The Seattle Seahawks won our school Souper Bowl and they also won the real Super Bowl 43 to 8. Congratulations Seahawks!!!

Aloha to Literacy

During *Read Across America Week*, SFA celebrated in style with a beach themed literacy night. Students and their families were invited to participate in literacy activities such as building compound words, spelling with beach balls, create your own book mark and digging for sight words. There was a Storywalk® displayed on the first floor where students had the opportunity to read Tar Beach and then design a quilt square to create a collaborative beach blanket. The evening concluded with a puppet show from Sparky's Puppets. Laughter filled the cafeteria as the puppets acted out *Tales from the Sea*.



Arts & Entertainment

SFA's Got Talent

For weeks students prepared to showcase the First Annual SFA Talent Show titled *BELIEVE*. All grades participated in the show and some new talents were introduced. SFA has singers, piano players, violin players, hula-hoopers, karate masters, and dancers. Many of our singers were inspired by the newest hit movie *Frozen*, singing songs such as, "Let it Go", and "First Time in Forever". We had piano players playing Beethoven symphonies, and many other complex melodies. SFA's violin player was a 1st grader who was excellent in his performance of "Witch's Dance". A special thanks to Miss Puma, Mrs. Z, and Miss Mackin for coordinating this special event and allowing student to share their talents with their SFA community.

Frozen

By Olivia Lee and Joleen Johnston 

Frozen is a Disney Pixar Movie adding two new princesses to the Disney World. The movie stars Kristen Bell as Anna, and Idina Menzel as Elsa. *Frozen* is a perfect movie for the whole family that will make you laugh, cry, and even sing along. It was an Oscar winning production, winning Best Animated Picture and Best Original Song for "Let It Go". The story focuses on a princess with ice powers unimaginable. During this film Elsa and her sister, Anna, go on an amazing adventure to keep stop an eternal winter. The film's comic relief was Olaf, a very humorous snowman who travels along with Anna. Olaf adds a lot of comedy to the film, which makes you laugh throughout the whole movie at his hilarious personality. Kristoff was another main character who comes as a pair with Sven, his reindeer pal. During this film, Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven help Anna and Elsa control their kingdom and save summer. *Frozen* will for sure take its place as a new Disney classic with all the others.



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"Oh, The Places You'll Go

Maple Sugaring Trip

BY:DUYEN LE AND STEPHANIE ALLEN



On March 12th Grade 4 took a trip to Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, Massachusetts to learn about how maple syrup is made. While the kids were there, they learned that to get the sap out of a tree, a small device called a tap is inserted. The fourth graders were allowed to taste the syrup before and after it was sweetened. Maura O'Brien shared, "Sap doesn't always taste sweet." When they tasted the sap, they said that it tasted like water and sugar before it was sweetened. After it was sweetened, it tasted very sweet. Chucky Abbott said, "It was the best field trip of my life!"

TEA TIME



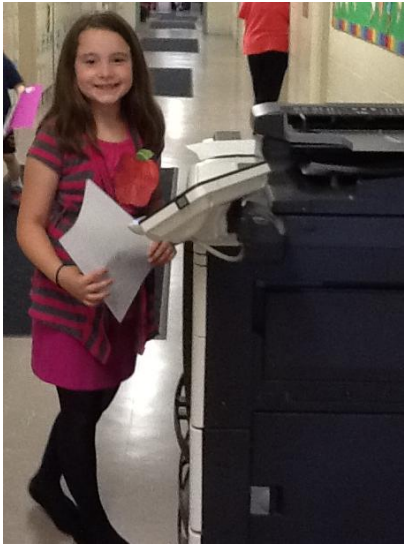
The fifth grade class boarded the Boston Tea Party Ship where they were able to participate in the reenactment of the historical event that contributed to the cause of the American Revolution.

MISSION POSSIBLE!

The sixth grade class ventured to the Christa McAuliffe center to learn about space missions. They worked as a team to send a Mars Mission crew home and replace with a new crew. In doing so they had to plot sand storms to ensure a safe ride for the spaceship.

TEACHER FOR A DAY

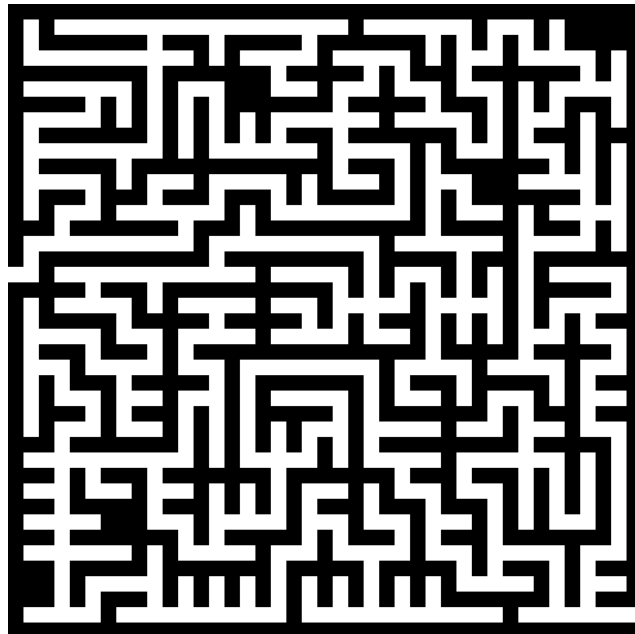
Students who won the raffle prizes for Teacher for a Day were able to see firsthand what the life of a teacher is all about. After spending the morning in classrooms with students, delivering messages, and laminating materials, the students were treated to a pizza lunch with their fellow colleagues!



MAZE MADNESS!

By: Alex Thorn, Joe Chu, and Nick Wentzel

Can you find your way through this maze designed by members of the newspaper staff?



Christmas Concert

By Duyen Le, Josie Landry, and Stephanie Allen

Every year Mrs. Murray organizes an annual Christmas Concert for every grade to participate. The 8th graders do a play and the 5th graders do a Nativity Scene at the end of the play. All grades sing songs to the accompaniment of Mr. Cote on piano. This year the play was called "The Legend of the Christmas King." It was about a young man named Artie played by Luigi Polizio who wanted to see Jesus and figure out how he was born. Samantha Zanghi and Jailen Branch played Sabu and Sam, who were the narrators. Alexis Wentzel and Molly Shaughnessy played angels named Mackenzie and Madeline who helped Artie find Jesus. The sheep were played by Maeve Gattine, Lillian Taylor, Nicole Cunningham, and Olivia Grant. The

townspeople were played by Alexander Thorn, Francesca Damas, Hannah Defay, and Jordan Minor. The three kings were played by Josie Landry, Adonis Fernandez, and Jean Louis. Duyen Le played the homeless woman and Katie Sanders played a sick woman. The other angels were played by Stephanie Allen (the main angel), Norah Bellamy, Duyen Le, and Emily Pham. The innkeepers were played by Emily Pham and Norah Bellamy. The camel was played by Ashley Jolly. All of the students did a wonderful job. We think Mrs. Murray was very pleased. It was so nice of her to be so patient with us while creating the play. The younger kids were wonderful singers as well. We think they did good pleasing the crowd with laughter and joy.



Interview with Mrs. Lord

By: Sarah Goslin

Q: Where did you go to school when you were little?

A: I attended St. Mark School in Dorchester. We were taught by Sisters of Notre Dame.

Q: What was your favorite subject and why?

A: During my earliest school years reading was my favorite subject, and later, any area in language arts (literature, grammar, and writing.)

Q: Who was your inspiration when you were growing up?

A: I was inspired by many teachers, rather than one specific teacher. There were personalities and teaching styles of some that I admired in elementary school and high school. I responded best to teachers who made learning interesting, had a good sense of humor, respected each student, and showed an interest in my progress.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Some of the ways I spend free time include reading, baking and cooking, genealogy, and spending time with my grandchildren.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation where would you go?

A: I have been fortunate to have been to many places: U.S. cities, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Argentina, England, Ireland, Taiwan, China, and some islands. Learning about other cultures is interesting and fun. Right

Interview with Mrs. Lane

By: Olivia Lee

now, I think I would visit more of the U.S I haven't been to yet.

Q: How have your first two years at SFA been?

A: I love it here! I love teaching the fourth grade too.

Q: What is your favorite animal and why?

A: My favorite animal is the alligator because of the Florida Gators.

Q: Which of your sand jars is your favorite?

A: My Gatorade bottle filled with sand and dirt my students in Newtown took from their backyards.

Q: Why did you decide to be a teacher?

A: I used to be a social worker and I went into a classroom one day and thought I would like it.

Q: What is your most favorite place you have been in the world?

A: Disney World because it's the happiest place on Earth.

Q: What is your favorite sport and why?

A: Volleyball is my favorite sport to play, football is my favorite place to watch.

Q: Did you teach anywhere else before SFA?

A: Middle school in Florida and Newtown Connecticut.

Class Pets

Grade three students have taken on the responsibility of caring for fighting fish. Named after ancient Asian warriors, the Betta fish prefers to swim alone. It also has an upturned mouth to help it feed on the water's surface.

Students have taken turns throughout the year bringing the fish home on the weekends. Captain McGrath and Captain Fishy are lucky to have such wonderful caretakers.

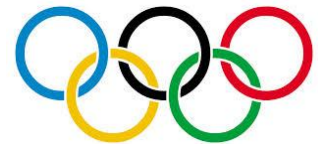


Captain McGrath



Captain Fishy

2014 WINTER OLYMPICS



By: Emily Pham, Alexis Wentzel, and Joey Chu

The Sochi Winter Olympics were amazing and filled with excitement. The games started on February 7th, 2014 and ended on February 23rd, 2014. The United States ended up winning 9 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals with a total of 28 medals. The 2014 Winter Olympics included the following sports: alpine skating, freestyle skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping, curling, ice hockey, short track, snowboarding, speed skating, luge, skeleton, figure skating, bobsleighbing, a biathlon, and many more. In the ice hockey event, the women won the silver after losing to the Canadian team while the men lost it all. When they competed for the gold, they lost to Canada's team and later lost to Finland. For ice dancing, in the free dance event, Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the U.S.A. won the gold medal over the Canadian and Russian teams making it U.S.A.'s first gold medal in the ice dance. For men's giant slalom run 2, the American men won the gold medal over the French teams. Overall the Olympics were great, exciting, and full of many unforgettable wins.

High Schools

BY: DUYEN LE AND
STEPHANIE ALLEN

Applying

A stressful time indeed, when the eighth graders start applying to high schools in autumn. Schools start having high school fairs and kids can go see which high schools interest them. They start to attend open houses. Our school was invited to go to Archbishop Williams High School and Cardinal Spellman High School for a day to see what real high school is

like. Applications usually consist of one or more essays and basic information of the student, it also includes the hobbies or sports the student likes to do. Before you apply, you must take the High School Placement Test for Catholic schools and the SSAT for private schools.

Words of Wisdom from the eighth graders:

- Try! Get good grades, especially in seventh and eighth grade.
- Don't get lazy after you receive high school acceptances.
- Take your knowledge from seventh and eighth with you to high school.
- Listen to Mrs. Dobrev, she knows what she's talking about!

Congratulations

Class of 2014

