

The Falcon Flier

New School Year, New Student Government!

Article by **SOFIA WILLIAMSON** Campaign Poster Photos by **RYAN TRICK**



After two crazy weeks of campaigning, speeches, posters, and elections, our SGA winners have been selected. Thank you to the SGA

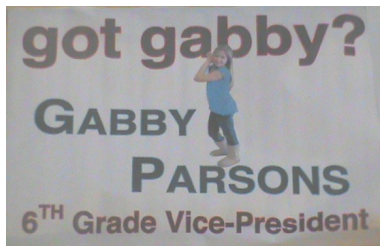
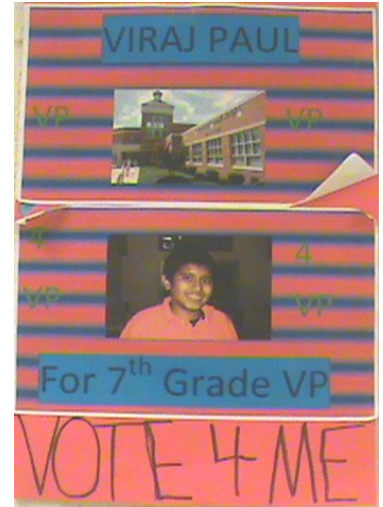
staff sponsors, Mr. Mullins and Ms. Reed for making all this possible.

Congratulations to the new officers! They are: Gabby Parsons, our 6th grade vice President, Viraj Paul, our 7th grade SGA president, and Kai Bowen, our 8th grade student body president.

Now as their first project they are holding a food drive to help people in need in our community. Make sure to donate a canned good

to the main office collection box on your way into school. Thanks for all the hard work of the people who campaigned: Lauren Elbridge, Chris Thoms, Vera Andraeva, Julliana Miller, Edith Martinez, Dylan Bikim, Jake Skimmons, Isabel Sajona, Madison Wakefield.

We hope you will continue to lead us into the new school year by also being great representatives in the SGA.



First Ever Lakelands Park Dinner Theatre is a Huge Success!

By **CASSI NOTTINGHAM**



On November 16, 2011, our school had an improvisation and monologue filled play under the direction of Ms. Bowden called "The Falcon Follies and Middle School Monologues." Some of the monologues were even written by the students in Ms. Bowden's drama class.

The two part play was complete with a theater style set-up and a delicious dinner provided by Buca Di Beppo. Tickets were \$10.

The show was a huge success. There were different improv groups that performed a series of games. The audience got to make sug-

gestions that impacted the show. Monologues were also performed by a divine selection of people.

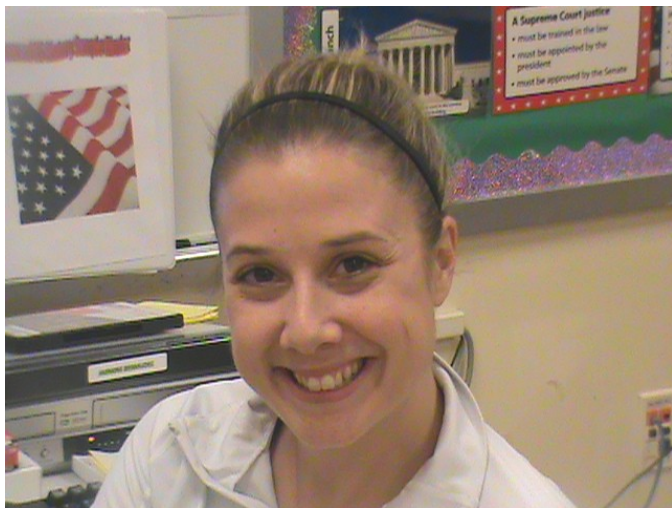
Hopefully we will have a dinner theatre again next year. Stay tuned for the Spring Musical! Auditions will be in February if you are interested in participating.

Inside this issue:

- Remembering Mr. Bittner
- Teacher Interview: Tea Time with Mrs. Sheron
- Fright Night Dance
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- Games and Puzzles!

Tea Time with Mrs. Sheron

Story and Photo By RYAN TRICK



Teachers: what would we do without them? Would we know about the American Revolution? Or how to add? No. But thanks to teachers like Ms. Sheron, that's not going to happen.

Ms. Sheron, an 8th grade U.S. history teacher, has been teaching for 11 years. She graduated at John Hopkins University with a master's degree and five years of college memories.

She didn't always want to be a history teacher, though. In her first three years of college, she was studying junior law and wanted to be a civil rights lawyer. Later on, she realized that law

was too boring and decided to become a teacher.

For the next two years, she studied U.S. history and finally became a teacher. In high school, she played volleyball and always got good grades. However, it didn't come naturally. "I didn't get good grades because I was smart; I got them because I always tried my best," she said.

Ms. Sheron loves teaching, and she even has a Friday tradition. Every Friday morning she buys an *Arnold Palmer*, which is half iced tea and half lemonade, and drinks it during her "perfect" period three.

She is now the

8th grade team leader and enjoys organizing all of the events and field trips. But it's not all fun and games; she says that the paper-work stinks.

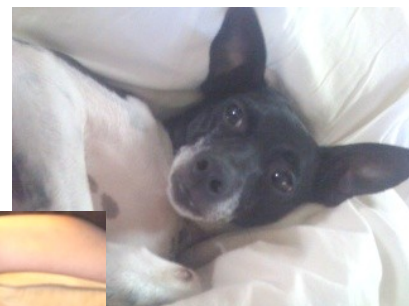
Ms. Sheron's life isn't all about teaching though. She enjoys watching hockey and today she's a fan of the Washington Capitals.

In her free time, she likes to read books and watch movies. Her favorite movie is "Inception" and the best book she's ever read is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

At home, she has three dogs (Duke, Louie, and Misty) and two cats (Josie and Lucky), and loves to spend time with them. But if she could spend time with anyone, she would spend a day with her mom who passed away.

Ms. Sheron likes the kids she teaches, but at the end of the year, she's always sad to see them leave. So 8th graders, enjoy your time in her class because before you know it, you'll be going to high school!

Ms. Sheron loves her dogs!



Duke, Louie, and Misty

Pet photos courtesy of Ms. Sheron



Remembering and Celebrating Mr. Bittner

October 5, 1964 -December 12, 2011

Photo and Article By SAM MALGHAN Reprinted from 2008 Issue and Interview



In 2008, Mr. Bittner takes a break from grading papers to smile for the camera.

Caring. Healthy. Hilarious. Self-Confident. These are just a few words that describe Mr. Bittner. He's a man with a plan and action. Even if you barely know him, he'll have you laughing and feeling comfortable the moment you first enter his classroom. He's created such a friendly and engaging atmosphere that if you're shy and quiet, he'll have you talking and smiling in a matter of seconds.

To all those who still have no idea who I'm talking about, let me introduce you to him. Mr. Matthew Bittner is the 'all around loved' Health teacher. I asked him what he likes to do in his free time; he laughed and answered, "Work out, go to

the gym, spend time with friends and family. I love doing that."

He has a lot of other talents, too. "I sing. I play on a softball team. I'm a pretty good cook." I questioned him about why he likes doing them so much. He thinks that when you enjoy something, you want to continue and get better at doing it. "When you excel at something, you want to achieve or do better and I'm darn good at those three things."

His favorite things about teaching are the people he's around. "Students and my relation with them. I love teaching healthy stuff," is what is his response was to my question when I asked him what his favorite things about teaching in general.

Not only that, but he loves watching students grow over the years. "I like to watch them progress. I like their sense of humor and their different personalities. It would be horrible if they were all the same."

Even though

"Anytime we've been through happy and sad times, we've leaned on each other. It's nice to know that you have friends and family to support you."

Mr. Bittner loves teaching and being around students, he loves to spend time with his family and friends. That's one of his most treasured possessions. "Anytime we've been through happy and sad times, we've leaned on each other. It's nice to know that you have friends and family to support you."

His inspiration to become such a great teacher also comes from his family. "My parents always taught me to treat others with respect and also have fun no matter what you do. My inspiration came from my parents, mostly my

mom. She always said that I enjoyed being around other people and that I'd make a great teacher."

My last question was if there was something about him that most people didn't know and he said, "I performed opera at the Kennedy Center with the Washington National Opera."

Even if it is hard to believe, he has taught for 18 years in a row. He has taught at six different schools. "Beall High School. Parkside Elementary. John Humbird Elementary. Innes Middle School. White Oak Middle School. And then here." Of all his years of teaching, I imagine he has inspired many students.



We will always remember Mr. Matthew Bittner. A vigil in his honor was held on Sunday, December 18. An estimated over 1,000 people were in attendance. A video is available on <http://www.lakelandsparkptsa.org/>

A celebration of Mr. Bittner's life is planned for LPMS students in January.

A Night of Fright

By SHANNON MARSH

As students of LPMS arrived into the PTSA Annual Fright Night Friday the 28th of October, their faces lit up as they saw the candy, disco lights and amazing costumes.

The dance was completely free, but students paid for snacks.

We held a costume contest to see who had the funniest, scariest, and most unique costume. Then we had a best overall costume.

We had a total of about 600 students at the dance. We had

food like cookies, chips and candy.

Students also dressed up such as tables, Angry Birds, zebras, witches, bikers, and so on! There was even a mysterious box man who kept everyone guessing about his identity.

The PTSA and DJ gave out prizes like gift cards to Panera Bread, Chipotle, Five Below, and Potomac Pizza.

We hoped all of you could come to Fright Night, and if you couldn't, you can go next time!



One LPMS student remains anonymous during the dance. Robot? Box man? We may never know...

Photo by Ryan Trick

Costume Mania

By SOFIA WILLIAMSON



Madison Wakefield, a 7th grader at LPMS, shows off her award winning costume as a dinner table.

Photo by Ryan Trick

With so many great costumes to choose from, the Fright Night DJ decided which costume was best!

The overall BEST COSTUME winner at the fright night dance was Madison Wakefield, who was a dinner table.

She said she makes her costumes every year (last year she was a rollercoaster), which must definitely take a lot of hard work.

The 1st prize was a \$50 gift card to Potomac Pizza and

front-row seats to the two dinner theatre shows taking place on November 16th in the LPMS cafeteria.

Thanks for coming to the PTSA Fright Night! We hope to see you next year!



MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

BY SAMANTHA BUCHANAN



Lady Gaga. Justin Bieber. Katy Perry. Lil' Wayne. What comes to mind when you hear these names. Well one thing is for sure: music icons.

It would be easy to say that we thrive off of music. It's everywhere we go. Dances. Malls. At home. On the web. Concerts. (Duh) It is everywhere.

Who's your favorite singer or band? Who do you listen to when you're working out or when you just want to dance or listen to music?

There are so many types of music. There's pop, rock, country, rap, indie, R&B, hip-hop, electronic, classical. There are so many types and so many artists for each genre. You can find awesome artists for any type of music you like. Do you remember these?

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.
- ◇ Many lipsticks contain fish scales.
- ◇ Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than Left-handed people do.
- ◇ The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.
- ◇ Hippo milk is pink.
- ◇ A Cyclops shark was cut from the belly of a dusky shark caught by a commercial fisherman in the Gulf of California earlier this summer. Shark researchers have examined the preserved creature and found that its single eye is made of functional optical tissue.

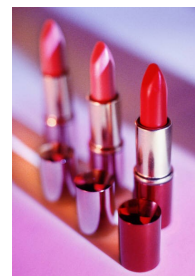
TOP 10 SONGS OF 2010

- Need You Now ~ Lady Antebellum
- California Girls~ Katy Perry (feat. Snoop Dog)
- Love the Way You Lie~ Eminem (feat. Rhianna)
- Hey, Soul Sister~ Train
- OMG~ Usher (feat. will.i.am)
- Dynamite~ Taio Cruz
- TiK ToK~ Ke\$ha
- I Gotta Feeling~ Black Eyed Peas
- Just the Way You Are~ Bruno Mars
- Airplanes~ B.o.B. (feat. Haley Williams)

Source: <http://top10songs.com/top10songs2010.htm>

What will be the top songs of 2011?

BY DISHA WAGHODE AND BETHANY PFEIFFER



AP Images and Clipart

Watch "Grimm" on NBC

By Kate Threat & Bethany Pfeiffer



<http://www.nbc.com/grimm/>

Grimm is an awesome show on NBC on Fridays at 9pm. It's about a dude named Nick Burkhardt who's a homicide detective

in Portland and can see things nobody else can see... because he's one of the last Grimm descendants.

Nick's job is to

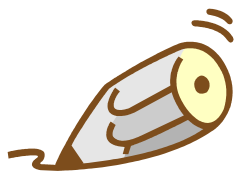
kill evil fairytale-like monsters that disguise themselves as humans.

He tries to protect his girlfriend from the monsters by not telling her about the Grimms, but she gets worried about him disappearing in the night.

To guide him through the job, Nick's dying aunt tries to help him by giving him a key to... wait, we don't want

to spoil the show.

SO WATCH GRIMM TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS!!!



Advice Column By STEPHANIE VIVINO and RAQUEL POWELL

Q: What should you do if you like someone and you don't know if they like you back?

First talk to them, see what you have in common, and get to know them. You might find out that you're not that attracted to them. Then you could do several things: if you're direct then you could just ask them, but if you are not, you could get a friend to ask them for you. If you

get rejected, don't take it too seriously, there are other people out there. But if you get lucky, then be happy and enjoy your new relationship. ♥

Q: I'm having friend problems. There's this girl I've known for a long time and I thought we were best friends. She told me that all the time! When we hang out just the

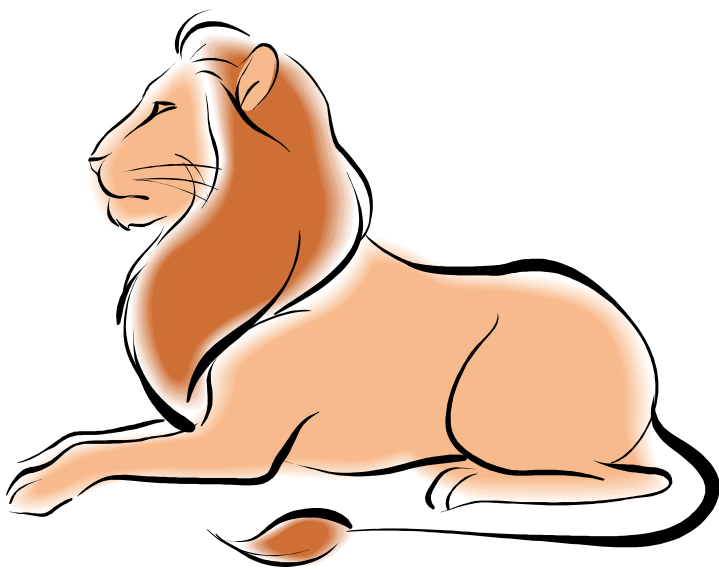
two of us we have a great time. But lately I feel like all of this is just a lie. People tell me that she insults me when I'm not around. Should I let her go? Should I tell her how I feel? What can I do to be her best friend again?

First of all, don't judge her by what other people

say about her. They're probably not the best source. Just talk to her, tell her how you really feel, and see what she does next. If all goes well and you forgive each other, then good for you!! But if either you or your friend are unforgiving, look for new friends; there are a lot of people out there who you can become friends with.

Imagination

A short story by Lauren Lienen



The sky growled. It flashed its teeth and gave a thunderous roar. With a mighty pounce the sky leaped up into the atmosphere, landing on the prey. Giving another roar it raised its paw up and brought it down on the prey's neck, crushing it. Its lip curled. The gleam in its eyes lighting up the clouds, and the prey's blood fell to earth, clear and icy cold, splattering and soaking me to the bone as I stand under the open sky, marveling at how the clouds tumbled and rumbled among in the atmosphere, at how far it stretched past the horizon. Smiling inside I felt a surge of excitement and thrill as I look on, my imagination soaring.

"Boo."

Immediately I whipped around and stood face to face with my sister, Elosee (L-O-See) after what seemed like a minute, I screamed. The shrill note of my scream echoed across the field, our backyard, bounced off of the woods that stood tall only a few feet away, and vibrated in my ears. Elosee smirked; her caramel brown hair silky and shoulder length. She narrowed her bright green eyes and opened her mouth to insult me. And of course, I who have

lived with her, *ahem, forced* to live with her for 15 long and painful years knew enough sense to interrupt her. And once Elosee found a topic to rant on about, she never shuts up unless either her boyfriend texts her, or if the end of the world would come crashing down on her.

"Scare Derek off with your face?" I said, insult obvious in my voice. I looked nothing like Elosee. I had dark brown hair that went to my waist and was always either tangled or in some way frizzed up or messy. I had sickly pale skin and a skinny frame. And instead of bright green eyes I had dark teal eyes. So of course all my friends choose Elosee over me.

"Beat it jerk. I got news, very very happy news for me...and not so happy news for you squirt."

"And I care why..."

"Because I'll be going on a two week trip to France, Rome, and Italy, and you don't get to come. Gonna be the best 14 days of my life."

"Oh please, I get air sick and I hate going anywhere without mom and dad..." It wasn't till my sister, at least I think she was my sister, found the mistake and decided to annoy me even more.

"Mummy and daddy's little girl are we?" She cooed. I balled my fists and clenched my jaw. With a twirl and a smirk that made me want to hurl, Elosee turned and walked away.

I closed my eyes and breathed in and out deeply, trying to find the peace and calamity I had earlier. The rain had turned from a slight mist to buckets being emptied down on the little town. *Continued on Page 8*

Imagination By Lauren Liening Continued...

I stood there and cherished the moment of privacy, letting my imagination go, and watching it spiral and spin and peep into cracks and peek underneath floorboards.

I imagined that I was a bird, a mighty eagle with bold liquid blue eyes, and golden as the midnight sun. I saw myself, no I felt myself lift up into the sky in one magnificent stroke of my wings. I opened my beak and let loose a cry. My wings had started to curl under all the turbulent winds and rain. Panicking I tried to uncurl them but it didn't work. I fell down to earth, to the ground, to my certain demise.

And then I saw. I saw worlds of possibility and chances. Of what could've been and what will be. My heart lifted and I felt as though I had found the key and unlocked to door to possibility. With a mighty cry I spread my wings. I felt them uncurl. I felt the gallons of water being dumped on me, trying to weigh me down. I felt the bashing winds trying to knock me out of the sky. And as I flew up, higher and higher, I saw the lion. It was gray and stormy, muscles bulging and its silky fur

adorned with beautiful spiraled tribal markings. Its eyes, clear and forever seeing looked at me. And I hovered there, looking back. The lion bowed. I bowed. And with a might roar, and a flash of his glimmering teeth and the godly glint in his eyes, he vanished, faded away. I hovered there still, amazed at what I had seen. I wanted to stay like this forever, but that didn't work because right then my sister called out to me.

"Hey! Katreen! Dinner time!"

I sighed as the beautiful picture vanished before my eyes and mind and heart. Weary, I looked ahead, thinking, *Ok! I'm coming in!* My face emotionless, I turned back towards the house, I had been facing the forest the entire time, and I walked up the steep slope, wondering why and how humans chose to stay in reality, why and how they didn't push themselves further, seeking not the skies, not the stars...but the heart...



Shop Somewhere New in the New Year!

By RIHANA STEVENSON

All of the clothing stores in the area and people are still going to the same ones! Have you browsed around the mall and actually bought something you never saw before? Surprisingly not many people do that; some people shop in the same store every year. So make this your New Year's resolution: *shop at new stores!* Some good stores are in this area, and here's a list of those stores!

Aéropostale®
 Forever21
 American Eagle Outfitters
 Hollister Co.
 H&M
 PAC SUN
 Abercrombie & Fitch



AÉROPOSTALE

FOREVER 21

You can locate or order from these stores using the website listings below:

www.abercrombie.com

www.hm.com

www.hollisterco.com

www.ae.com

www.aeropostale.com

www.forever21.com

shop.pacsun.com

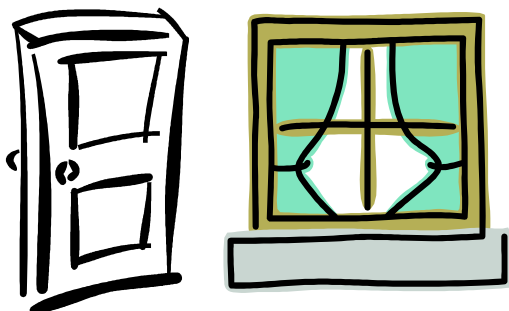
Would You Rather?

Volume 1

By RYAN TRICK AND BROOKE FARBER

Imagine yourself in one of these situation where you *HAVE* to choose one or the other. You cannot say "neither." Read the following questions out loud with your friends and explain why, or answer them by yourself.

Would you rather...



- Live in a house with no windows or no doors?
- Parachute off the Grand Canyon or the Eiffel Tower?
- Eat food with no plate but with silverware or with a plate and your hands?
- Climb up or down Mount Everest?
- Have only one arm or only one leg?
- Have giant ears or a giant nose?
- Eat **ONLY** meat for a week or be VEGAN for a week?



Top 10 Worst Holiday Gifts

By SAMANTHA BUCHANAN



10. Fruitcakes
9. Knitted Apparel
8. Empty Christmas Cards
7. Automotive Parts
6. A Whatchamacallit
5. Used Clothes
4. A Pet Rock
3. Socks
2. The Inconsiderate Gift (weight scale)
1. The Non-Exchangeable Gift

Source: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-worst-holiday-gifts.php>

Photo Scavenger Hunt! By RYAN TRICK

Try to find these items around our school!

#1:



#2:



#3:

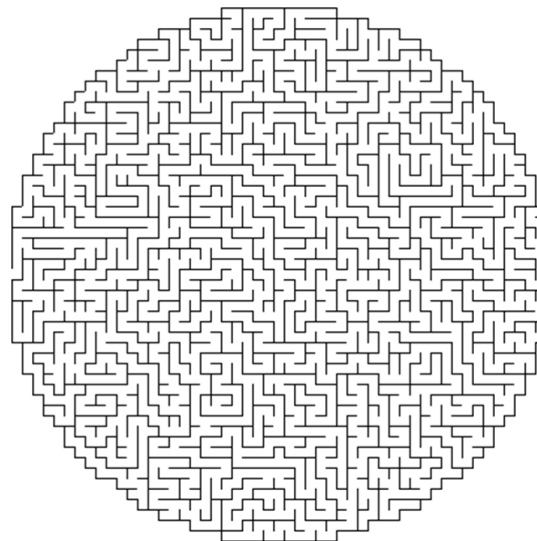


#4:



Snowball Fight!

By SRAVI KOMMINENI



Are you an artist? Do you draw comics? Are you a photographer? The newspaper club wants YOU! If you're already busy on Wednesdays after school, you can still submit your work and have it published!

Answers: 1) Gatorade machine sticker 2) Sign in media center 3) Trophy in main trophy case in entryway 4) Picture of a flute in hallway

The Falcon Flier

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Samantha Buchanan
Brooke Farber
Danielle Friedman-Hill
Olivia He
Sravi Kommineni
Lauren Liening
Shannon Marsh
Cassi Nottingham
Bethany Pfeiffer

Emily Scheiner
Ranaga Tan
Ryan Trick
Kate Threat
Rihana Stevenson
Raquel Powell
Stephanie Vivino
Disha Waghode
Sofia Williamson

The Newspaper Club meets on Wednesdays in Room 168 for snacks and then works in Lab 145. New members are always welcome! Come have fun and see your work published!

Sponsor:

Mrs. Kirsten Tippetts