



Silver Spring International Middle School

# Jaguar Magazine

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## Welcome To Jag Mag

Jag Mag is a new club at Silver Spring International. We've been working on putting together this magazine for about two months.

It's a lot of work but it was very fun to do ....I hope you enjoy it .

Nayla Matthew  
Editor in Chief

## Editorial

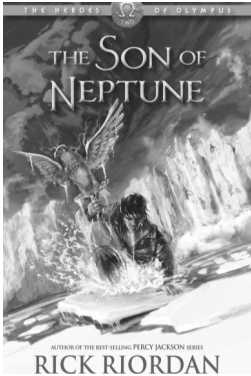
Do you wake up early for school? Do you find yourself tired during the day and wish you could sleep more? Are your grades even slipping because of tiredness? Some schools have decided to do something about it. Last year in Marion County, Florida, some middle schools opened at around 9:30 and closed around 4:15. Lots of students would for sure enjoy sleeping later, but getting up early gives everyone time to get ready

for school before the world wakes up, when their houses are still quiet. Also, starting school later means getting out later and that also entails less time to do homework after school. On the whole, though, sleeping later is more beneficial than half an hour of silence in the morning.

By Mae Gilligan

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*“The Son of Neptune is the perfect addition to this intense saga of heroes.”*

## Book Review: Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan

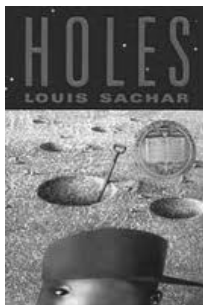
Rick Riordan has pulled through with a second heart stopping edition to the Heroes of Olympus series in *The Son of Neptune*. He’s also added two new superstar heroes to the quest for Rome in Hazel and Frank. In this new adventure, Percy Jackson is making his way west while fighting monsters and trying to hold on to the few memories he has. Following the internal homing beacon he somehow possesses, he finds another demigod

camp. But as he settles in and even makes some friends, Percy has the feeling something is wrong with Camp Jupiter. Something important. One of Riordan’s new heroes, Frank, is good at archery. Unfortunately, it’s the only thing he’s good at. Since he’s also big and clumsy, Frank is a loser at Camp Jupiter. And he has a secret. A horrible, life-threatening, bane-from-the-gods secret that he doesn’t want to trust an-

yone with. Hazel’s not exactly a brand new hero, even though readers everywhere just met her. She’s only thirteen, yet her last birthday was December 17th, 1941. She also has a gift, a gift that has become her curse. She fears for people near her, yet can’t share her secret. Packed with action and sprinkled with romance, *The Son of Neptune* is the perfect addition to this intense saga of heroes.

Review by Mae Gilligan

## Book Review: Holes by Louis Sachar



Aching to read a really, really good novel, but can’t seem to find one that grabs you? Well *Holes* is just aching to be read... by you! *Holes* is a great book written by Louis Sachar. One hot, sweltering day, Stanley Yelnats is sent to Camp Green Lake, a detention center for juvenile delinquents. Well, Camp Green Lake is actually not a lake, it’s a big, hot, dry desert... nothing but dried up dirt

and a whole lot of holes. He was sent to this detention center for absolutely no reason. Well, yes, Stanley was blamed for stealing a very important pair of shoes, but it wasn’t his fault, I mean really, if you find a pair of shoes on the sidewalk, how are you supposed to know they are famous? So when he was sent to Camp Green Lake in hand cuffs, he had no idea what he was getting himself

into. On his first day, Stanley found out that he had to dig holes... exactly five feet deep and five feet wide. The question is WHY? Will Stanley ever find the reason he has to dig all these holes? Read the book and find out!

Review by Gabriela Ingber

## ALGEBRA: IS IT FOR EVERYONE? By Celia Harris

People have been debating about math education around the world. In a lot of places schools have started to push students to a higher level of math at a younger age. In some people's minds pushing students to a higher level of math is the best thing for kids' education, but for other people it prevents students from learning basic math skills.

At Silver Spring International Middle School it's a policy that all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have to be either in Algebra 1 or higher. According to Ms. Klein, math content specialist, pushing students to a higher level of math is a good idea. "It's an excellent opportunity for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to receive high school credit in middle school. It's a very rigorous course that will help prepare them for high school. I think our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are up for the challenge!"

Then there's the question of what happens if a stu-

dent isn't ready for algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade because every student learns at a different pace. Ms. Klein believes that "all of our students can be successful in algebra with the help of our teachers. If students need extra help there are many supports in place to assist them."

Some people have different opinions about what to do if a student isn't ready for algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. According to Peggy Brookins, Florida Education Association's 2007 teacher of the year, "struggling students are better off taking pre-algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then when they are ready, have them take Algebra in high school."

According to some educators, not all 8<sup>th</sup> graders have enough information and skill to be able to be in algebra. Some students who are moved into a higher level of math get lost and fall behind with their work and grades. Students should have a good understanding of algebra so that

they can later excel in higher math classes.

A lot of people ask "Why do we need math?" And, "What is the purpose of math?" Well, people use math for everything. Our school is one of the only schools in Montgomery County that puts all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Algebra. Some people are ready for Algebra before 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students can start to take Algebra or higher at SSIMS at early as 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Compared to other schools in the county, our school's math program has shown positive results. Over 80% of our students taking Algebra passed last year .

What about the other 20% of students who failed the course? Math prepares us for jobs in the future. Ms. Klein believes that "the math programs at SSIMS encourages students to be critical thinkers and to be able to use math to solve problems in the world around us."




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*"It's a very rigorous course that will help prepare them for high school. I think our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are up for the challenge!"*

*Ms. Klein, Math Content Specialist*

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# Comic

By Miriam Woehr and Morgan Casey

## Rainy Day Blues

By Mae Gilligan

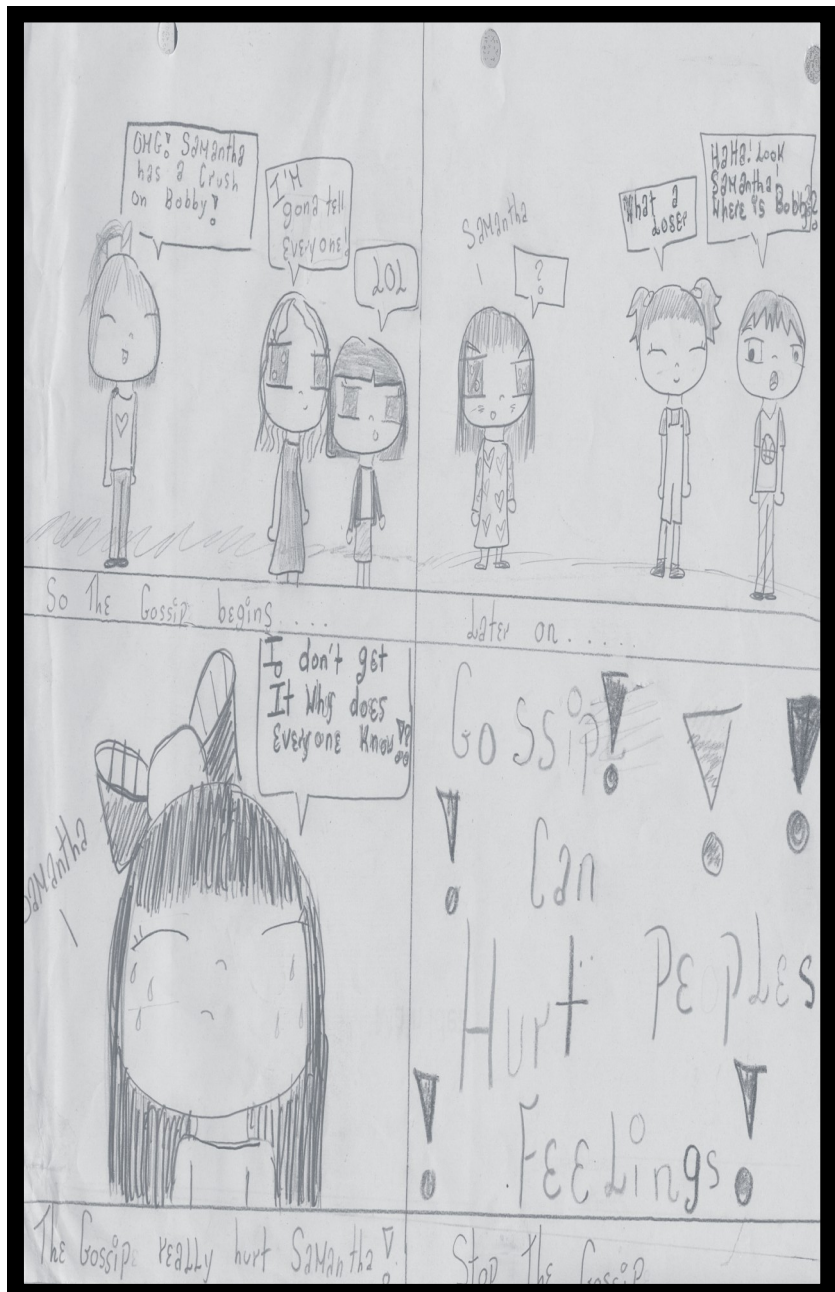
Another day of rain,  
Third in a row, and what a pain,  
Walking to school, raincoat-clad,  
Walking to school, rainy day sad.

Chill and rain, that's all we get,  
Never snow, not even a bit.  
So I spend my days hoping,  
Spend my nights wishing,  
On every star that goes by.

Walking home from school,  
The sky a swirl of gray hues,  
I'm trying to cope,  
With rainy day blues.

Tonight as I go to bed,  
One last thought enters my head:  
I wish I may, I wish I might...

This morning I'm a smiling sight,  
For while glancing out the window,  
I see the world is covered with snow.



## Teacher Interview: Ms. Roberts

By Nayla Matthew

Ms. Roberts is a great math teacher. She has only been my teacher since the beginning of this year, but I find her funny and interactive and she loves to do things with the class. I asked her some questions and she gave me some simple but cool answers.

JagMag: What grades do you teach?

Ms. Roberts: Both 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

JM: Why did you want to be a math teacher?

Ms. R: Originally I wanted to be an elementary school teacher but found that math was my passion and I love how you can see the right or wrong answer quickly.

JM: Why did you want to teach middle school?

Ms. R: I like the middle school's age group, but one day I would like to teach high school or elementary school. I've been teaching middle school for about 12 years now.

JM: What's your favorite period of the day?

Ms. R: My first and second period cause they come in with stories of what happened at home and sport updates, and before we watch Jag News, we watch Sports Center.

JM: What college did you go to?

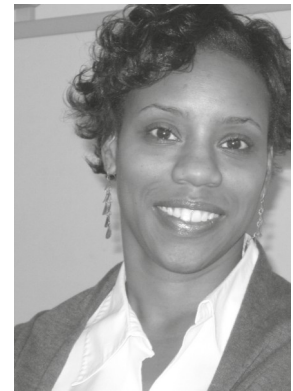
Ms. R: I went to Morgan State University.

JM: What did you major in?

Ms. R: Elementary school education .

JM: Do you have any teacher friends?

Ms. R: Yes, Ms. Anamelechi. We are work out buddies.



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*"I like the middle school age group..."*

*Ms. Roberts*

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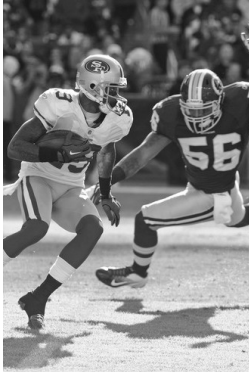
### THANKSGIVING JOKES

What happened when the turkey got into a fight?  
He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

A pro football team had just finished their daily practice session when a large turkey came strutting onto the field. While the players gazed in amazement, the turkey walked up to the head coach and demanded a tryout. Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, "You're terrific!!! Sign up for the season, and I'll see to it that you get a huge bonus !



# SPORTS



*"...most valuable franchise in the NFL"*



By Tristan Johnson

**Which Washington team will win a championship first?**

Welcome to the sports section of JagMag. Washington has OK teams, but which one is better? You decide.

## Washington Redskins

- Won the 1957 and 1942 championship
- Won the Super Bowl 3 times
- Only 4 teams have been in more Super Bowls than the Redskins
- Second most valuable franchise in the NFL
- Highest grossing team in the NFL
- Play at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland

## Washington Capitals

- In 2009-2010 they won their first Presidents Trophy
- They have 5 players in the Hall of Fame
- They went to the playoffs the last 4 seasons
- They finished first in the Southeast the last 4 seasons

## Washington Wizards

- Known as the Bullets from the early 1960s to the late 1990s
- Won championship in 1978 as the Bullets
- Michael Jordan became the president and then staged his comeback as a Wizard
- Finished last season with a 23-59 record.

## Washington Nationals

- They've been based in D.C. since 2005 (before that they were the Montreal Expos)
- One of the youngest teams in MLB
- One of the only two teams in the MLB to never have gone to the World Series.
- They came in third in the National League east last year.



# RECIPE

By Grace Hoggarth

I made these snicker doodles and it was a lot of fun! We got to knead the dough and we got powder all over our hands. When my best friend and I first started, we thought it would be a piece of cake. But soon enough we realized how “easy” it was going to be. It turned out we needed a lot of help because we got confused a lot. But I have to say it was fun and we got our reward in the end with great cookies!

## QUICK AND EASY FUN SNICKER DOODLES

1 cup butter  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
2 large eggs  
2 3/4 cups flour  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons sugar  
3 teaspoons cinnamon

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix butter, 1 1/2 cups sugar and eggs thoroughly in a large bowl. Combine flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl. Blend dry ingredients into butter mixture. Chill dough, and chill an ungreased cookie sheet for about 10-15 minutes in the fridge. Meanwhile, mix 3 tablespoons sugar, and 3 teaspoons cinnamon in a small bowl. Scoop 1 inch globs of dough into the sugar/ cinnamon mixture. Coat by gently rolling balls of dough in the sugar mixture. Place on chilled ungreased cookie sheet, and bake 10 minutes. Remove from pan immediately.

Read more: <http://www.food.com/recipe/soft-snickerdoodle-cookies-97496#ixzz1bv4YmPqz>



## Time

By Gabriela Ingber

Time,  
It ticks and tocks  
On watches and clocks,  
It dings and donges  
And sings its songs.

We ask it to speed fast,  
But no questions asked,  
It remains the same...  
Tick-tock, without com-  
plaint.

You ask it to slow  
down,  
That tick-tocking sound  
But no questions asked,  
It remains the same...  
Tick-tock, without com-  
plaint.



# Master Music

By Donethe Cyprien and Carmen Little

## Prince Royce

Prince Royce is a Latin pop artist from New York who has been performing since he was a kid. He mostly sings bachata music (a genre of music that originated in the Dominican Republic) and has won multiple awards.



Birthday: May 11, 1989

Place of birth: New York

Real name: Geoffrey Royce Rojas

Popular songs: "Stand by Me" "Corazón Sin Cara"

Occupations: singer, songwriter, musician, record producer

Genre: Latin pop, Bachata, R&B

## RIHANNA



Rihanna is a multi award winning singer who has sold more than 2 million albums and 60 million singles. She is one of the best selling singers of all time.

Birthday: **February 20, 1988**

Place of birth: **Saint Michael, Barbados**

Real name: **Robyn Rihanna Fenty**

Popular songs: "Pon de Replay," "Umbrella," "Don't Stop the Music," "Disturbia,"  
"Take a Bow," "What My Name," "Rude Boy"

# Jackson 5

The Jackson 5 was one of the biggest pop music phenomena of the 1970s and helped form the career of Michael Jackson, one of the biggest star in music history.



**Members: Jackie, Marlon , Michael, Jermaine, and Tito Jackson**

**Place of birth: Gary, Indiana**

**Popular songs: “I Want You Back,” “ABC,” “The Love You Save,”  
“Dancing machine,” “I’ll be There,” “Never Can Say Goodbye”**

**Years active: 1964–1990**

**Genre: disco, rock and roll, R&B, soul, funk**

# Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder is a blind artist. A wonderful pianist and singer, he wrote such wonderful songs as “Lovely,” “Land of la la,” “Go home,” and “My Eyes Don’t Cry”.

**Birth name: Stevland Hardaway Morris**

**Birthday: May 13, 1950**

**Place of birth: Saginaw, Michigan**

**Years active: 1961–present**

**Genre: soul, pop, R & B**

# Advice Column: Ask Miss A



DEAR Miss A

IM IN EIGHTH GRADE AND IM TALL LIKE REALLY TALL EVEN MY FRIENDS SAY IM TALL AND JOKE ABOUT IT. I DONT SAY ANYTHING CAUSE I'M NICE PLUS MOST OF THE GUYS IN MY GRADE ARE SHORTER THAN ME; MY MOM SAYS THEY WILL BE TALLER THAN YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL HOPEFULLY. ALSO MY CRUSH IS SHORTER THAN ME I CAN NEVER DATE HIM I NEED HELP!

SINCERELY, GIANT GIRL

DEAR GIANT GIRL,  
IT'S OKAY TO BE TALL. YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE AND NOBODY CAN CHANGE THAT, NOT EVEN YOU! ALSO THERE ARE A LOT OF 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BOYS WHO ARE TALL AND CUTE SO DON'T WORRY! SOMETIMES PEOPLE MAKE JOKES BECAUSE THEY ARE JEALOUS. IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE REALLY FRIENDS, THEY WONT JUDGE YOU ON YOUR HEIGHT. AND NEXT YEAR WHEN YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TALL GUYS!

SINCERELY. *Miss A*

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS TO ASK MISS A, PLEASE WRITE THEM DOWN AND PUT THEM IN THE BOX MARKED Ask MISS A IN THE MEDIA CENTER.



# FASHION COLUMN

By Grace Hoggarth and Leila Jackson

Hey! Do you want to know what's in and out, what's fashion forward and more?

Then this is the column for you! We update you on the latest fashion trends at school, what we've seen around and even the latest and coolest trends. So let's get started, fashion is all about expressing yourself and can even show the way you're feeling at that time.



At our school girls have been wearing feathers in their hair mostly red and blue, suspenders, and animal hats. People have mostly been buzzing about Domo lately and plain shirts with cute quotes on them. Also people have been wearing jeans and Uggs, with cool random colors. Also converses have been such a popular trend that has been going on, also dangly earrings with feathers on the end and long black and white beads. Even if you have a plain outfit you could make it'll look stylish just by adding a little jewelry!



UGG australia