HERE'S THE BUZZ ABOUT THE SPELLING BEE

by Bennett G.

Imagine standing up in front of a roomful of people all staring at you while you try to remember how to correctly spell a word. Well, that is exactly what 41 Stone Mill kids in Grades 3-5 did on Thursday, January 19, 2012 in the All-Purpose Room from 6:30-8:30pm.

In the Spelling Bee, there were 6 rounds of words to spell, with each round eliminating the kids who spelled the word incorrectly. It all boiled down to one word: **EXTRAVAGANZA**. That was the final word that fourth-grader Kareef U. spelled right.

The second place winner was fifth-grader Devansh M. and the third place winner was fifth-grader Kevin C.

Do you know who judged the event? There were 4 judges and they were: Ms. Williams, Mrs. Budman, Mrs. Abrahams and Mrs. Omerso. There were also PTA volunteers who helped put the entire event together and they were: Mrs. Susan Bock and Mrs. Neetu Kaur-Singh, who oversaw the whole thing, and Mr. Dipak Thakkar, who came the night of the event to help keep score of the Spelling Bee.

You may not know how the kids qualify to be in the Spelling Bee. First, forms are handed out and kids can register to be in the Spelling Bee. Then, they take a written spelling test at school and only those who get a lot of words right are asked to participate. Once the kids are picked, here is how they prepare. They stay after school with Mrs. Abrahams who helps them study more words that might be used during the event. They are also given a packet with a huge list of words to study during Winter Break.

You may not know this, but Stone Mill has actually been running the Spelling Bee for 4 years now. So, if you want to be in the Stone Mill Spelling Bee next year, be sure to sign up when they pass out the registration forms. It’s a lot of work but it’s worth it. If you don’t think so, ask Kareef, Devansh, or Kevin.
GLOBAL WARMING by Rena E.

Are you still hoping for a snowstorm to come this year? Are you hoping for a big break from school? I certainly am, which brought me to this question: why hasn’t it snowed yet this year? Well, the main answer to this question is global warming.

Global warming is caused by the pollution that we create every day by using cars that burn fossil fuels (gas), waste from power plants, using non renewable resources and much more. Our actions are actually the main cause of global warming.

You are probably wondering how that prevents us from having a school cancellation? Well, global warming causes everything to be imbalanced in our world. When we have 60 degree winter days the people in Russia are having extremely cold temperatures.

It’s not just Russia that’s being affected. The polar bears are having a hard time surviving because of the melting of their habitats. Since the temperature is getting warmer in places where it shouldn’t, the whole Earth is getting imbalanced. When condensation occurs - that is when moisture goes up or evaporates into the clouds and forms precipitation, it won't be able to snow. If it’s too warm, it will only rain. The rule for snow is it has to be below 32 degrees Fahrenheit to snow. Since global warming makes the temperature higher, it can rarely snow.

What can you do? Try to ride your bike instead of driving to close places, carpool when you can, use your own bags instead of getting plastic bags at the grocery store and reduce-reuse-recycle! One step at a time can lead to snow days!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says:

Did you know?
There's more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now than at any other time in the past 650,000 years.

You can visit the EPA’s A Student Guide to Global Climate Change at http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/

Saying Bye

by Estefania D.

Isn’t it funny how ‘bye’ and ‘by’ sound the same?
OK, maybe you know me, maybe you don’t. So, my name is Estefania D. I come from Peru, and that is in South America. I speak Spanish.

When you read this, I’ll already be back in Peru. I came here two years ago. My family moved here for my dad’s job. But now we are moving back.

I was in Mrs. Omerso’s 5th grade class and it was fun! When I was here, I learned to speak English so much better!!!

And also, I met lots of people that are now my friends. They are crazy and funny. They are so upset with me for going back to Peru.

While I was here at Stone Mill Elementary School, I was a patrol, a STAR and a member of the Newspaper Club. I wrote the interview article called “Mrs. Hill’s World.” I hope you have learned a little bit about me. If you want to learn more about me, ask the front office for my email address! Bye.

The 39 CLUES: A Review

by Elena Y.

Have you heard of The 39 Clues series, which is written by different authors? The first book, The Maze of Bones, is written by Rick Riordan, the author of the Percy Jackson series.

It all starts out at Dan and Amy’s beloved grandmother’s funeral, where Amy and Dan Cahill discover they are part of the most powerful family in the world. Amelia Earhart, Winston Churchill, Mark Twain, you name it! They’re all a part of the Cahill family.

Also at their grandmother’s funeral, Amy and Dan (and several other family members of the Cahill family) must choose their inheritance. They have to decide between one million dollars or solving a clue hunt where there is only one winner. The winner becomes the most powerful person in the world. Amy and Dan pick the clue hunt. But their competition (their relatives) will do anything to win the hunt.

Will Amy and Dan come out of the challenge the most powerful people in the universe, back in boring Aunt Beatrice’s clutches, or DEAD? Read The 39 Clues series to find out. Each book includes six book-related game cards. You can go to http://www.the39clues.com/ to find out more.

The Peru Flag

Did you know that the capital of Peru is Lima?

Something interesting about Peru is that the climate varies widely — some parts are tropical and some places (at the tops of the mountains) are arctic!

Peru has three geographic areas that run roughly parallel to each other: the Coastal Desert, the Mountains (which are the Andes) and the Jungle.

Help the Polar Bear cross the maze to the iceberg

Photo of Estefania D. courtesy of Susan Bock

The answer key is on page 6.
**BASEBALL WORD SCRAMBLE**

By Andrew M. and Max L.

_Hint: Some are 2 words_

eurnmho__________
echrcta__________
rldmsaan__________
guuodt__________
nllifoeu__________
okrietsu__________
gininn__________
uahcnegp__________
imurpe__________

**The Pond Palace**

By Lydia W.

The willow sadly weeps
Blowing along the wind
“Woo woo,”
Wind calls out.
The ball begins!
They weep,
They go honk honk
And they drift over the palace.
The beautiful pond
The princess emerges.
With the tip of her love,
The great pond is a queen.
The clouds are worshippers.
The willows are a lot of sisters,
The rocks become dancers,
The grass is the palace floor,
The stone path are decorations,
And so much more.
Great, beautiful pond.

**The Train Station**

By Lydia W.

You sit on a bench,
You wait for the train.
You're drenched under rain,
You want to go home.
But then you hear it,
Chugga chugga chit chit.
You run back,
And hop onto the train
Your next destination:
Somewhere not rainy!

_Congrats to the SMES students who were Munchkins in Wooton High School’s production of The Wizard of Oz!_
Soccer Word Search  
By Dylan O. and Bennett G.

Rsecoc    ____________  Answer key on page 6
Ktresir    ____________
Aleoig    ____________
Ocahc    ____________
Ererefe    ____________
Tecnre imd    _________   ____
Rgthi kcab    _________   ____
Ftle cbak    _________   ____
Wepesre    ____________
Htorw ni    _________   ____
Tnup    ____________
Alog    ____________
Idels catelk    ______  ______
Veid    ____________
Erf ekck    _______   _______

SUDOKU  
By Ashley Y.

    5 3 2 1 4
    7 4 1 5 6 3
    9 3 1 7
    7 2 1 4
    6 4 1 7 5
    8 4 5 3 6
    8 9 6 7
    6 1 3 5
    5 1 8 4 2

Answer key on page 6

SMES Science Fair 2012! Mrs. Budman visits Brendan and Brady B’s project. Photo courtesy of Susan Bock.

April Showers Word Find

By Kareef U. and Hersh K.

By Jennifer L.

Note: Moms’ definition of what’s yummy and what’s yucky. (Crazy moms)
Look out Broadway cuz Stone Mill’s got talent!

We had an amazing talent show on Thursday, February 9, starting at 5:30pm at Stone Mill Elementary School. There were about 50 performances, with a pretty equal amount of participation from all grades, K-5. The show featured skits, comedy, magic acts, piano, singing, violin, and all types of dances from Hip Hop to Indian. However, Mrs. Debbie Ross (the head of show along with Mrs. Lori Scheinberg and Mrs. Bari Kotler) said that piano and dance performances were the most common types of talents shown by kids.

Did you know that 50 performances is not that much compared to what we have had in the past? When we did the talent show at Wootton HS, there were over 80 performances. So with that many acts, the talent show went on for about 4 hours! And who wants to sit for 4 hours? So the chair people decided after that to limit the show to the first 50 performance request forms submitted (first-come, first-served).

Do you know why the talent show is no longer at Wootton? Well, if you don’t, here’s the answer. The increase of the price to rent the Wootton auditorium made it an easy decision for the parent volunteers to keep the show at Stone Mill which could be rented by our school for free.

Can you guess how many volunteers it takes to run the talent show? Hopefully your guess was around 15-20, because that’s the answer! They helped Mrs. Ross, who’s been doing it since 2007, about 4 to 5 years now. Without Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Scheinberg, and Mrs. Kotler, along with all the many volunteers, the talent show could not have been as successful as it was.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered! We had so much fun performing in and watching the talent show.

Lovely Ms. Lewis

By Amanda L. and Lauren R.

Ms. Lewis has been working here at Stone Mill for over 10 YEARS! She came to work here in January 2001. Ms. Lewis loves teaching art! But she hasn’t always taught art, though. She used to do inventory for a computer company.

When she was younger, she wanted to be a teacher, and decided to teach art later on in her life. Ms. Lewis has always been interested in art. When she was little she did lots of arts and crafts with her mom.

When she first came to Stone Mill, she worked as a substitute teacher. Then she became a part-time art teacher at three schools: Stone Mill, Twinbrook Elementary School, and Olney Elementary School. Her second year of teaching art was at Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School. The year after that, Stone Mill’s previous art teacher retired, and Ms. Lewis took her place here, where she belongs!!!!

Ms. Lewis only went to college for one year, and then went to work for a long time. She didn’t like it, so she went back to college to get her degree in Art and then became our WONDERFUL art teacher!!!!

Jokes n’ Riddles

by Katie B. and Rachel H.

What do mice use to floss their teeth?

String cheese!

What do you call a lazy kangaroo?

A potato pouch!

What is an owl’s favorite class in school?

Owlgebra!

What did the cat spend so much money at the computer store?

The report said the monitor!

Why is an owl the most forgetful bird?

Because its memory’s waypoint!

Which bird has the highest IQ?

Owl— bert Einstein

What is a spotted cat’s favorite game show?

Jeopardy!

What do you call fat jack-o-lanterns?

Plumpkins!

Skylanders: Spyro’s Adventure

By: Aman T.

Rated E10+, Systems: Wii, Xbox 360, PS3, 3DS

Skylanders: Spyro’s Adventure is an amazing game!! It comes on different systems like the Wii, Xbox 360, PS3, and, last but not least, the 3DS. But in this article I will review the Wii version of Skylanders: Spyro’s Adventure. The game is about a world named Skylands and these creatures called Skylanders, who are the protectors of Skylands. There are two Portal Masters. One is good and one is evil. The good Portal Master is Eon. The bad Portal Master is Kaos. A Portal Master is someone who controls the Portal Of Power, the Skylanders, protects and controls Skylands, and protects the Core Of Light. Kaos is trying to and has always been trying to destroy Skylands. In the game you are a good Portal Master. Kaos destroys the Core Of Light and the Skylanders come to Earth. It’s your job to bring them back to life to restore the Core Of Light and restore Skylands and everything else back to normal!!!!!!

RATING: 10 Skylanders out of 10 Skylanders
Meet Mrs. Huang!
By Hana L. and Ashley Y.

Did you know that Mrs. Huang taught at 5 schools including Stone Mill? She taught at Jones Lane Elementary School, Hoover Middle School, Cabin John Middle School (the middle school you’ll be going to unless you move somewhere far away), Lakelands Park Middle School, and of course Stone Mill Elementary School.

Mrs. Huang has 6 members in her family. She has a husband named Rich. She also has three children. Her children are Rachel (in Kindergarten), Kayla (in 4th grade), and Brian (in 6th grade). Last, but not least, she has a dog named . . . . . . . . . .  Cupcake!!!!!!!!

Do you know why she wanted to start teaching? That’s because her Kindergarten teacher inspired her!

Guess what her favorite movie is?! If you guessed, the Anne of Green Gables series, you are right! She likes it because it is a wonderful story!

Do you know what Mrs. Huang likes to do with her family? She likes to go on walks, go on vacations, and go to the movies with her family.

Now that you know about Mrs. Huang, when you see her, make sure you say hi!

An Interview with Mrs. Purdham
by Angela C. and Anna C.

Do you know Mrs. Purdham? If not, let us tell you about her. She was born in Frederick, Maryland. She is married and lives with her husband, Mr. Purdham. Together, they have a Chihuahua.

Mrs. Purdham is a fourth grade teacher at Stone Mill Elementary School. Teaching is her first job and she has been a teacher for seven years. She always wanted to be a teacher because she had wonderful teachers when she was a child and she likes to teach concepts in a fun and interesting way which she thinks is the easiest part of her job. But saying good-bye at the end of each year is the hardest part for her. Her pet peeve is when students are late to class.

Mrs. Purdham likes to teach first and second grade because she can teach students how to read. Fourth grade is another one of her favorite grades to teach though because she enjoys having funny conversations with her students.

Her favorite part of school is Math because there is always a right answer. Her favorite sports are football and hockey; her favorite teams are the Redskins and the Capitals. Her favorite movie is Finding Nemo and her favorite book is The Giver. Her favorite food is bananas.

During her leisure time, Mrs. Purdham likes to be with Mr. Purdham. They go hiking, go to the beach, and eat at new restaurants. Over this coming summer, Mrs. Purdham plans to go to Turks and Caicos because of its beautiful scenery.

The next time you see Mrs. Purdham, say hi to her and wave.

ANSWER KEYS

Polar Bear Maze from page 2
By Rena E.

Baseball Word Scramble from page 3
By Andrew M. and Max L.:
home run, catcher, grand slam, dugout, foul line, strike out, inning, change up, umpire

Soccer Word Search from page 4
By Dylan O. and Bennett G.:
soccer, striker, goalie, coach, referee, center mid, right back, left back, sweeper, throw in, punt, goal, slide tackle, dive, free kick

April Showers by Karael U. and Hersil R. from page 4
Sudoku by Ashley Y. from page 4

STONE MILL GAZETTE CLUB

Fourth Graders

Fifth Graders

Advisors
Carol Greenspun * Michael Greenspun * Tabatha Yeatts-Lonske

Stone Mill Gazette Club wishes you a very happy Spring Break!