



February 2022 Issue

Harrington School Newspaper

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Celebrating Black History By Paw Prints Staff

Black History Month, which is celebrated each year during February, is a chance for us all to learn details of our nation's history that, unfortunately, are often neglected and pushed to the wayside. Although Black History Month is observed each February in the United States, many people are not familiar with how or why it was created.

In February 1969, the idea for Black History Month was promoted by black students and educators at Kent State University. One year later, the campus celebrated Black History Month. Six years later, Black History Month was widely being celebrated across the country. In 1976, President Gerald Ford praised Black History Month, urging all citizens to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Since his administration, every American president has recognized Black History Month and its mission, and Congress passed "National Black History Month" into law in 1986. The law aimed to make all Americans "aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity".

Today Black History Month is seen as a celebration of those who've impacted not just the country, but the world with their activism and achievements. February is not only an opportunity for people to engage with Black histories, and discuss racism and slavery, but also a chance to highlight Black leaders and accomplishments.

😊 National Random Acts of Kindness Day 😊

By Anna L.

Each year on February 17th, National Random Acts of Kindness Day grows in popularity. This day is all about encouraging people to participate in kind gestures to strangers around them. Not only do the acts of kindness bring joy to the receiver, but the giver gains so much as well. Here are some ideas that everyone could try on the 17th.

“I was a recipient of the kindness but more glad to be a contributor!” (Unknown)

- Pay for the coffee or meal of the person in front of you in line.
- Leave a kind note for someone, no explanation is needed.
- Share words of encouragement. You never know who might need them.
- Put your skills to work for someone in need. For example, offer to create a résumé for someone seeking a new job.
- Drop off food at the local food pantry.
- Mail a “thinking of you” card to someone you’ve not talked to in a while.
- Order a bouquet of flowers to be delivered to anyone in the hospital. That means, call the florist and tell them to pick a hospital or nursing home and deliver flowers to the person the front desk thinks needs it the most. It could be a sick child, an elderly person with no family or a college student down on their luck.
- Send a thank-you note to the local fire department, police departments, or any military personnel.
- Just smile.

Even though we should be kind to those around us everyday, let’s try to make an effort to be especially nice on National Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Black History Month Spotlight: Sam Cooke

Sam Cooke, born Samuel Cook January 22, 1931, was an American Singer-Songwriter known to be one of the most influential soul musicians of all time. He was incredibly successful, releasing 29 singles that charted in the billboard top 40 in his relatively short career. He was known for such songs as “A Change is Gonna Come” “You Send Me” and many more. He was often called “The King of Soul” and helped uplift incredibly influential musicians such as Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and many more. He also used his massive platform to discuss civil rights and was a big part of the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. Many people question the circumstances of his death in 1964, as he was shot and killed by the manager of a motel in Los Angeles. The man who killed him was let off for free. His legacy will influence music forever.



Olympics 2022

By: Anika T

2022 Winter Olympics:

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games officially open on February 4th 2022 and the Games will come to an end at the Closing Ceremony, scheduled for 20 February 2022. The 2022 Olympic Winter Games will be held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, which makes the Chinese capital the first city to host both Summer and Winter editions of the Olympics.

A giant panda named Bing Dwen Dwen, is the official mascot of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. "Bing" means ice and also symbolizes purity and strength, and "Dwen Dwen" represents children. The mascot embodies the strength and willpower of athletes and will help to promote the Olympic spirit.

The 15 Winter Olympic sports in 2022 are bobsled, luge, skeleton, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, curling, alpine skiing, freestyle skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined.



History on the Olympics:

With a total of 368 medals, Norway is the most successful nation in Winter Olympic history; this tally includes 132 gold medals, 125 silver, and 111 bronze. The first Winter Olympic Games were held from 25 January to 5 February 1924 in Chamonix, France.

More than 250 athletes from 16 nations competed in 16 events contested in five sports.

Books and Their First Line

Black History Month edition

By: Joanna L.

Here are some book recommendations for Black History Month!

"The best time to talk to ghosts is just before the sun comes up."

-*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

"I remember *everything*. You probably would have too. That night was a piece of American history."

-*Becoming Muhammed Ali* by Kwame Alexander and James Alexander

"How small I look. Laid out flat, my stomach touching ground. My right knee bent and my brand-new Nikes stained with blood."

- *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

"I shouldn't have come to this party. I'm not even sure I *belong* at this party."

-*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

"*Stop fussing at it, now. Leave it alone.* But my nails found my scalp anyway, running from front to back to front again. My reward was a sweet moment of relief, followed by a familiar flood of dry, searing pain. *Stop it. Stop it.*"

-*The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris

"I pick up the ice cream scoop, and the vision begins."

-*The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris

"Time runs my life. A constant measuring of what's gone and what's to come."

-*This is My America* by Kim Johnson

"A fly got in the house on Monday. It's Sunday and he's still around, bouncing from room to room like he's the family pet. I never had a pet before. They don't let convicted murderers have pets in the group home."

-*Allegedly* by Tiffany D. Jackson

Puff Pastry Berry Hearts

By: Anika T



(makes about 18 hearts depending on the size of cookie cutter)

Prep Time: 5 mins Cook Time: 10 minutes (egg free, nut free)

Ingredients

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon powdered sugar
- 1 package frozen puff pastry, defrosted
- 1/2 cup fresh raspberries (or mixed berries)

Preparation

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Unfold the puff pastry and cut into hearts using heart-shaped cookie cutters.
3. Place the puff pastry hearts on a baking sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes, or until golden brown.
4. In the bowl of a standing mixer, or with an electric mixer whip the cream on medium- high speed for 2-3 minutes. Add the powdered sugar and beat on high for 30 more seconds or until thick and fluffy.
5. Remove hearts from the oven and let them cool completely. Slice hearts in half. Top the bottom half with whipped cream and berries, and place the other half on top to form a sandwich.

Valentine Fun Facts

By Kaley U.

For this edition of Paw Prints, it's all about love! Here are some fun Valentine's facts for your special someone (or your dog).

- Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards. Christmas is the first most popular..
- Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.
- Cupid is said to be the symbol of valentines. Cupid is the son of Venus. Venus is the Roman god of love and beauty.
- The heart is associated with Valentine's Day as it was considered the source of all human emotions.
- All over the world, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.
- 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.
- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- On average, men spend double the amount of money on Valentine's Day gifts than women spend. The average amount a man spends is \$130.
- About 9 million people buy their pets a gift on Valentine's Day

However you celebrate this day dedicated to love, Enjoy!

Cheesy Middle School Pick-up Lines

"I lost my number. Can I have yours?"

"Life without you would be like a broken pencil. Pointless."

"I think you've stolen something of mine.
My heart."

"If I could rearrange the alphabet I would
put 'u' and 'i' together."

February - Black History Month	
1. Korean New Year 2. National Tater Tot Day 3. Four Chaplains Day 4. World Cancer Day 5. Kashmir Solidarity Day 6. Bob Marely's Birthday 7. E-Day 8. Laugh And Get Rich Day 9. Read In The Bathtub Day 10. National Umbrella Day 11. National Latte Day 12. Safety Pup Day 13. Get A Different Name Day 14. National Clean Out Your Computer	15. Annoy Squidward Day 16. Makha Bucha 17. My Way Day 18. National Battery Day 19. Iwo Jima Day 20. Clean Out Your Bookcase Day 21. Family Day 22. Be Humble Day 23. National Tile Day 24. I Hate Coriander Day 25. Carnival of Brazil 26. Carpe Diem Day 27. International Polar Bear Day 28. Linus Pauling Day

Valentine's Day Gift Ideas

By K.T.

Valentine's Day is a time that symbolizes love, and what better way to show your love to anyone important in your life than to give them free stuff. If you know this person well, you might already have a meaningful gift in mind. But if you're stuck and looking for some good ideas, you've come to the right place.

♥ A drawing of a place you know they like
Who wouldn't want to have a nice place in a drawing?

♥ Succulent cactus with a cute saying
"Let's stick together" could be a go-to

♥ 50 reasons why we're _____ canvas
This is where you can say everything you like about them

♥ Initials necklace
Simple, but very pretty

♥ Custom matching hoodies
Show your love in style!

♥ Positive affirmations cards

Giving someone positives vibes is always a kind thing

♥ Scented candle

Rose or vanilla seem most appropriate

♥ Socks with hearts on them

They'll love their fabulous-looking feet

♥ Red and pink colored bath bombs

Bath bombs are so fun and romantic, don't you agree?

♥ A box of chocolates

You can never go wrong with the classics

The Roots of Valentine's Day

By Emma S.

Walgreens chocolate boxes, bouquets of roses, sugary hearts with cheesy messages written on them. These are all customs that we have come to associate with the beloved holiday, Valentines Day. But how did these traditions come together to create a holiday rooted in an ancient Pagan festival?

Starting around 270 A.D., this Pagen festival might have originated to commemorate Saint Valentine's death or burial. Others claim that the Christian Church adopted the holiday to "de-Pagenize" their celebration of Lupercalia-a feast that took place mid February meant to worship the Roman god of fertility.

By the 5th century, the Pope declared Valentine's Day a holiday in replace of Lupercalia as it was deemed "un-Christian". In the Middle ages, France and England realized that February 14th was the start of the bird mating season, adding to the whimsy and magic surrounding the holiday's aura of love!

Though Valentine's greetings were popular as far back at the middle ages, the first written valentine was sent in 1415 by a man named Charles, Duke of Orleans. He wrote to his lover who was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

The most widely known and accepted mascot for Valentine's day is Cupid, a winged cherub with a hearted arrow in hand. However, the origins of this being come from Greek Mythology. Though the parents of this god are debated, Aphrodite and Zues, Nyx and Erebus, and Iris and Zephyr are speculated. According to Greek Archaic poets, Cupid-or Eros- is described as a charming and immortal god who enjoyed playing with the emotions of both mortals and gods. He would shoot golden arrows into those he wished to inflict love and emotion upon. It wasn't until hundreds of years later that Cupid's image was altered into the chubby, mischievous, child that can be seen as the face on many holiday cards.

At least now you know, next time you sit down with a box of chocolate truffles and a teddy bear saying "be mine?", you'll know where the holiday started.

GOOD IDEAS FOR BORED MINECRAFT PLAYERS

By Ethan L.

-Customize the End Pillars

There are 10 pillars in the end. You can do something to customize those!

-Improve Structures

If you have a decent bit of building knowledge, you can customize and improve the naturally generated structures, such as the fortresses and villages.

-Unlock all the End Gateways

If you have the end crystals, you can unlock all 20 End Gateways! Just make sure you do this before number **1** or else you will lose some progress...

-Quarry

Using tnt dupers, you can create a quarry to mine ores, get plenty of cobblestone, or get a place to build your base underground.

-Collect Mobs

If you have the time and patience, you could make a collection of every mob in the game. It is quite a headache though.

-Create a nighttime sky

Using black concrete and black glass, as well as shroomlights or end rods, you can create a nighttime sky within a build.

What Do You Think?

The Son of Gods

By Aiden C.

I'm a **Jack of all trades**, so I can do something else. Just fill this form out online if you want me to continue with this story or start something new.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-vuksWTmOY9NRMoNEJjO2NNv4hMxObPvaWnxWs3_NETjHHQ/viewform

"Tag you're it!" Sammy said. Max sprinted to Sammy all over the black pavement.

"Haha, slow poke," Tim taunted, who was standing on top of the highest point of the playground, where a big slide leads down to the ground. Max caught his breath. Max had brown hair, green eyes, and freckles dotted all over his face.

"Come on guys! You know I'm fast!" Max said back.

"Oh yeah! You barely made Cross-Country," Sammy mocked.

"Stop it! I'm trying my best." *And just stop.* Max thought. Max said back, and (like a scene in a classic movie) he glowed red, holding back his frustrations in front of his friends. He kept a smile on his face. A fake smile. He looked around.

His friends were in shock! "Oh my, Max! Your eyes turned red!" Sammy said, fearing for his life as if a god had popped in front of his face.

Max was confused. His green eyes can not be, look, or turn red. "You're joking," He said. He was still looking scared. His

frustrations turned into somewhat of an excitement. His eyes turned back to their normal shade of green.

"Really?" Sammy nodded and ran off, running for his life. "What is his deal?"

Tim shrugs. Oh, he got to be joking. Max thought with a smile.

The next day, after the boring math class. Max saw Sammy, "Hello Sammy, how are--"

"Leave me alone. Stay away!" Sammy said with fear in his eyes.

"Wait!" Max said, still wanting to know why he was scared of him, but Sammy just ran away. He bumped into Alan. Alan was taller than Max and had black hair. Everyone hated Alan. He was just the meanest and even the worst. Alan shared all of his classes. "Watch where you are walking, jerk!" Alan said, and Max was surprised to see his eyes glowing red. "What the heck?" Max thought to himself.

Realizing that his friends might be not joking, Max said, "I was looking out for you. You're the one who is running into people."

"What did you say?" Alan asked.

Knowing Alan would steamroll him, Max started to run. He didn't have to worry that much. He just needed to make it to his next class on the opposite side of the school. Here Alan couldn't destroy him. Alan began chasing him. "You know you can't run!"

Well, he is right. Max thought. "Yeah, as if. I'm in Cross-Country." Alan continued to bully him. Max held in his anger, trying to show no weakness. Suddenly his eyes glowed red, and he started running faster. *Wait, how am I running this fast?* Max thought, realizing what was happening. Well, no time to think about that. Max made it to Social Studies, and no Alan was to be seen.

After boring Social Studies, learning gods like Athena, who is the god of strategy and wisdom. (Yes, Athena is the god of two things,) or something. Max got grabbed by someone. "Alan, I'm sorry! Just don't beat me up!"

"You're funny. Why would I do that?" The person said.

Max looked over and saw Jane, "To be honest I don't understand why Alan hates you so much. You're charming and nice." Jane is Max's blue-eyed friend, who has red curly hair, is Max's height, and is his crush. "Don't think that I didn't see you running faster than normal."

"So what?" Max replied, "I'm in Cross-Country and did I'm—" "A demigod," Jane said, filled with excitement.

"Wait what?" Max shows a face of confusion.

"You know, half-god, half-human," She whispered.

"Alright daughter of Athena," Max said half-jokingly. Jane smiled, "Funny you said that I am the daughter Athena."

Does she think that I will fall for that? Max thought. "Then prove that you are!"

"Well, Athena is about strategy, right. Hearing from one of your friends. They tell me that they saw your eyes turn red and knowing that your eyes are green, I was curious so I took your route to Social Studies—" as she was talking more than one word at a time, her eyes glowed turning purple. "and I saw you zooming down the hall, way faster than you normally run, and since my eyes glow and I'm a demigod, that is why I think you are a demi—" She stopped. She stopped talking, started to rub her head.

"Jane, are you okay?" As Max said that, the bell rings. "Well talk to you later, I need to go to my next class."

"See you there," Jane said.

Thoughts rushed in his head. *Is that true? Her eyes did turn purple. Am I a demigod?*

Hi there! The writer here. Do you like it or hate it? I'll continue the story if you like it! [The Majority Wins](#), so vote now to see if I continue this! The form is right here! → [The form for me!](#)

Don't forget to tell me,
What Do You Think!

Teacher Talk – February Edition

By: Tessa S. & Anika T.

1. Do you have any pets? If so, what are their names?

Mrs. Mitchell - “No, but I would love a dog!”

Ms. Curtis - “Yes, a black lab named Trixie and a bearded dragon named Fernando.”

Ms. Moser - “I have one cat and her name is Brody Brown. She is an American Shorthair. She is very orange and very round.”

Mrs. Arnot - “I have a dog, Penny. She is an Irish Terrier.”

2. If you could travel anywhere and money is no object, where would you go and why?

Mrs. Mitchell - “I enjoy visiting new places. I have been many places. So I would pick somewhere new like Australia or South Africa. They are warm when it’s cold in NJ.”

Ms. Curtis - “Singapore. I want to experience the variety of foods and delicacies it has to offer. And the amazing gardens and beaches.”

Ms. Moser - “I would love to travel to Israel, as well as any tropical location with an amazing beach!”

Mrs. Arnot - “Ireland or Italy, I am Irish and Italian!”

3. What is your favorite hobby outside of school?

Mrs. Mitchell - “My favorite hobby is going to the beach!!”

Ms. Curtis - “Paddleboarding.”

Ms. Moser - “My favorite hobby is working out!”

Mrs. Arnot - “Watching my kids play sports.”

4. If you were gifted a personal chef for one night, what would you ask the chef to make for you?

Mrs. Mitchell - “My family would love a fancy steak dinner.”

Ms. Curtis - “Seafood ramen and creme brulee for dessert.”

Ms. Moser - “I love steak! Filet mignon is my absolute favorite!”

Mrs. Arnot - “Lobster.”

5. If you were offered tickets to any concert, who would you want to see? (Dead or alive)

Mrs. Mitchell - “I enjoy live music and have attended 50+ concerts. If I could go to any concert it would be The Beatles.”

Ms. Curtis - “Jimmy Hendrix.”

Ms. Moser - “I would love to go to a Lauren Daigle concert!!!”

Mrs. Arnot - “Celine Dion.”

Glitter From Your Fruitbowl

By: Joanna L.

Everyone has been scolded by their parents at least once for bringing glitter into the house. That's because glitter sticks to every surface possible and stays there for eternity. But aside from being a pain in the neck, glitter is also made of toxic materials that add to plastic pollution. Well, not anymore!



Scientists from Cambridge University in the UK have developed a new type of glitter from *fruit*! (Who would have thought?) This new glitter is made from cellulose and is non-toxic, vegan, and biodegradable. In other words, much more eco-friendly! Cellulose nanocrystals can bend light to create vivid colors through something called structural color. The same process is used to create the colors of butterfly wings and peacock feathers. The self-assembly techniques used to create this glitter also require less energy than traditional methods.

“Conventional pigments, like your everyday glitter, are not produced sustainably,” said Professor Silvia Vignolini from Cambridge’s Department of Chemistry. “They get into the soil, the ocean and contribute to an overall level of pollution. “ Consumers are starting to realize that while glitters are fun, they also have real environmental harms.”

Traditional glitter uses toxic pigments, combining mica and titanium dioxide. However, titanium dioxide has been banned from the EU because of its potential to cause cancer, and mica is often extracted in developing countries that may rely on child labor or other exploitative practices. Additionally, pigment minerals need to be heated at temperatures high as 1472 degrees Fahrenheit to form pigment particles.

None of this process is needed to produce this new glitter.

“We believe this product could revolutionize the cosmetics industry by providing a fully sustainable, biodegradable, and vegan pigment and glitter,” said Vignolini.

Now, spilled glitter will be just as annoying to clean up, but at least it won't stay there forever. What will remain forever, or at least until the glitter biodegrades, are hues that make the glitter's bright colors. Plus, it doesn't contribute to pollution that is already killing the planet!

February Book Review:

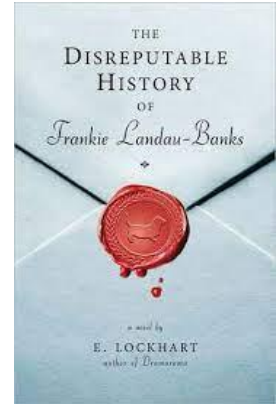
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

By A.C

An enjoyable book I read a few months ago was *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart. I started reading it since E. Lockhart is one of my favorite authors, and I was definitely interested to see what this novel would be about. It has a big feminist theme and also displays friendship.

Frankie Landau-Banks is a student at Alabaster Prep, her prestigious private school where she struggles to fit in. She quickly finds interest in Matthew Livingston, a popular, confident, older boy in her school. However, when he becomes her boyfriend, Frankie struggles to feel like an important part of Matthew's life. She feels that he just treats as his own property instead of a significant other, and doesn't value her. Frankie's invalidated feelings lead her to start spying on Matthew to see what his life is like away from her. As Frankie discovers more about Matthew, she reveals his biggest secret.

Overall, I would rate this book highly and recommend it to my peers. I love how feminism is a aspect in this story, and it definitely makes the book more unique. Check it out!



Black History Firsts

By: Tessa S.

For Black History Month, this article is honoring the accomplished African Americans who were the first in their various fields.

First Licensed Pilot: Bessie Coleman, 1921

First Olympic medalist (Summer games): George Poage, 1904

First NFL quarterback: Willie Thower, 1953

First Graduate of Ivy League School: Theodore Sedgewick Wright, 1828

First Woman to graduate from a college Lucy Stanton, 1850

First M.D. degree: James McCune Smith, 1837

First Developer of the blood bank: Dr. Charles Drew, 1940

First County sheriff: Walter Burton, 1869

First Person to run for the presidency: George Edwin Taylor, 1904

First Governor (appointed): P.B.S. Pinchback, 1872

First Mayor of major city: Carl Stokes, 1967

First President: Barack Obama, 2009

First U.S. Supreme Court Justice: Thurgood Marshall, 1967

First Nobel Peace Prize winner: Ralph J. Bunche, 1950

First Pulitzer prize winner: Gwendolyn Brooks, 1950

First Oscar winner: Hattie McDaniel, 1940

First Tony Award Winner: Juanita Hall, 1950

First black Baptist Church in the U.S: First Baptist Church, 1756

First Male Grammy Award winner: Count Basie, 1958

First Tony Award Winner: Juanita Hall, 1950

First patent holder: Thomas L. Jennings, 1821

First astronaut: Robert H. Lawrence Jr., 1967

Valentine Word Find by Naima

N	L	D	C	O	L	D	I	C	S	I	R	C	E
C	R	B	A	U	M	C	U	M	T	L	Y	A	I
R	A	E	A	D	U	P	E	A	R	P	O	R	R
E	R	C	I	D	I	B	C	O	A	O	E	D	C
D	E	N	E	D	A	O	E	P	E	E	H	E	C
D	E	W	N	C	D	R	A	M	H	M	S	U	F
D	R	T	I	E	C	I	R	D	N	Y	U	R	L
A	C	C	M	W	I	E	E	O	M	C	R	D	O
L	C	H	E	R	H	V	L	S	W	I	C	C	W
O	V	C	B	T	T	O	U	C	M	T	R	E	E
E	H	L	P	D	O	L	H	I	T	O	A	E	R
T	U	T	B	R	R	U	R	N	N	R	I	O	S
E	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	R	M	C	I
H	C	I	L	T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R	E

CRUSH
BE MINE
FLOWERS
LOVE
ADMIRE
ARROW
TEDDY BEAR
HEARTS
CARD
POEM
CUPID
CHOCOLATE

How to Use Superpowers 101

By G S.

Chapter 5- Fuzz Face

See the last edition of [Paw Prints](#) to catch up on *How to Use Superpowers 101!*

River's POV

"River, I'm not sure that's a good idea..." Birb said. "I mean, he could get hurt or something."

"But it would be *fun!*" River protested. "Can we *please* have Danger train with us?"

"They're not wrong, Birb. Plus, Danger knows martial arts. He could teach us so that he could have combat skills." Mae said. Danger just stood there, watching the conversation play out.

"Fine, but we have to be careful," Birb said hesitantly. Mae and River both celebrated, high-fiving each other. Birb looked over at Danger. "As long as it's okay with you, we would like to have you train us," he said.

"Yeah, it's cool with me!" Danger said. "When do we get started?"

"Tonight!" River said. They were super excited to learn martial arts and hopefully make friends with Danger.

.oOo.

River's POV

After a few hours of training, they finally called it a night and headed towards home. Danger had left earlier, but not by much. By the time Birb, Mae, and River got back to the apartment, it was already around 2:30 in the morning.

"Today went well, I think," Mae said, slumping into the cushions of the couch. River and Birb both sat down beside them.

"Yeah, I really enjoyed learning martial arts!" River said. The three of them talked for about thirty minutes before each heading to their rooms to get some sleep.

The next day was a Saturday. Birb was the first one to wake up, then River, Mae finally woke at two in the afternoon. Before Mae had woken up, River and Birb were practicing using their powers. Birb was starting to get the hang of using his power. He could turn into things like small dogs and cats now.

By now, Mae and Birb were sitting on the couch and River on the chair, all on their phones. It really was just a normal Saturday.

River got up to get water and maybe something to eat. On their way towards the kitchen, they passed the window that overlooked part of the city. They looked out the window and their eyes widened at what they saw. Civilians were being attacked by some sort of inhuman creature. It looked almost like a bear. It was big; as tall as two people of average height stacked onto one another. It looked really strong too. It was covered in brown fur and its eyes were a deep purple color. That wasn't the only strange thing about this sight. The civilians were voluntarily walking towards the creature.

"Uh, guys... look out the window..." River said. Mae and Birb both got up from their spots on the couch. They both had the same reaction that River had, widening eyes and their brains trying to work out what they were seeing.

"What the...?" Birb said.

"It looks like the civilians are just walking towards the creature so that it can hurt them." River said.

“Yeah, and once they get injured, they seem to not know what happened to them.” Mae pointed out. “Should we go down there and help them?”

“Yeah, I think that would be a good idea,” River said, walking towards the door.

All three of them put their shoes on hurriedly and rushed out the door towards the fight scene. “Hey fuzz face! Over here!” Mae shouted towards the bear-looking thing. The creature snapped its head in the direction of Mae and stared at them. Then, Mae started walking towards the creature.

River had to act fast. They knew that the creature was somehow controlling the actions of whoever it looked at. So, in order to get Mae away from the creature, River needed to come up with a plan. Thankfully, Mae was walking slowly and they were still a decent distance away from the creature.

“Birb,” River said hurriedly. “I need you to turn into a bug. Fly towards the creature and distract it. Don’t let it see you though. I’ll take care of Mae and the civilians.” Birb nodded and shapeshifted into a fly.

River knew what they needed to do. They just hoped that this would work.

Middle School Madness by Moxie



Your Monthly Puzzle

By Olivia Ascianto

ACROSS

- 2. to physically embrace someone in a kind way
- 3. another word for treats
- 4. trapped is to free, as hate is to _____
- 8. a rod that is sharp on one end and has feathers on the other
- 11. a gift you give to someone you are friends with

DOWN

- 1. an angel with a bow
- 3. a dessert/treat that is brown and creamy
- 5. a translucent rock that people wear as jewelry
- 6. another word for nice or sugary
- 7. shape that is popular in the month of February
- 9. a shrub that is prickly on the stem and comes in bright colors
- 10. boy is to blue as girl is to _____

