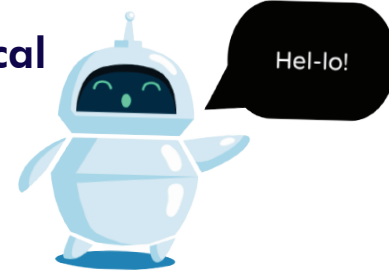


Match Jr.

A Mechanical
Surprise
[humor
pg.11]



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A Perfect Winter Break

Pages 6-7



Graphic by Jiyi Zhu

Student makes a scene
[entertainment pg. 5]

Swirling Skater
[sports pg. 8]

Winter Ad-Lib
[humor pg. 10]

MATCH JR.

news

[p.3]
Sun shines on

entertainment

[p.4]
Making a videogame in Scratch

[p.5]
Student Makes a Scene

'Five, Six, Seven. Eight!'

features

[p.6 & 7]
A Perfect Winter Break
Charlie Brown Christmas Edition

sports

[p.8]
Swirling Skater

Scoring on ice

student corner

[p.9]
Native Americans of North America

humor

[p.10]
Winter Ad-Lib

[p.11]
A Mechanical Surprise

focus

[p.12]
A Career Curiosity

Thanking our Sponsors



Fabric hangs as the only remains on half of the sunshade on the second and third-grade playground. The school hopes to get it fixed by this summer.

PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU



Third-grader Isla Meissner poses with her hockey stick. She has been playing for the past three years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JORDAN MEISSNER

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Terry Shen, Jiayi Zhu
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Sun shines on

by Jiayi Zhu

Months later, many people are still recovering from the catastrophic damages of Hurricane Ian. While Pine View was very fortunate in avoiding any major damage, it didn't avoid the effects of the hurricane altogether.

Amongst the damage Hurricane Ian created on Pine View's campus, the sunshades on the playground for second and third-graders were greatly affected and sustained heavy damage. One sunshade remains intact, but the rest is missing, with disfigured pieces hanging from the poles as a reminder of what was once there.

The sunshades were a fairly new addition to the

playground, and they served a useful purpose in the time that they were there. Middle School Assistant Principal Melissa Abela oversees construction, including facilitating the restoration of the sunshades.

"It would protect that area from direct sun, and with the Florida sun, things get damaged — metal, wood, it just deteriorates really quickly..." Abela said, "...It's not perfect, but it offers a kind of layer of protection, but also for the students when they're out there you don't have that hot sun on them, and then the equipment doesn't get as hot. So it definitely serves its purpose, and it's definitely needed,"



Second-graders have fun on the playground. Although the sunshade was destroyed, kids still play on both halves of the playground. PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU



Students play on the playground even with the broken sunshade. During Hurricane Ian one of the sunshades was destroyed, so only half of the second and third grade playground is shaded. PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU

Fortunately, cooler months followed Hurricane Ian, which minimized the impact that the lack of sunshades had on the students. Either way, there are mixed opinions.

"I liked it before the hurricane... because it was more shady and you wouldn't get as hot and sweaty," second-grader Khushi Panthulu said.

"I think it's better like this [without the sunshades] ... because it's sunny and I like sun," second-grader Alice Okanobo said.

Construction of the sunshades has been delayed due to more important construction projects throughout the district and at Pine View.

While getting around to restoring the sunshades would be nice, it's not the priority. The process of restoration takes time and money, especially due to material shortages. Abela hopes reconstruction will be complete by spring or summer break, although there isn't a set date.

"Because, remember, the worst of the damage happened down south. So you know, there's priorities you have to prioritize — students being able to get into their classrooms and having carpeting and things like that, for example..." Abela said, "... We were just a totally separate thing... it'd be great for our students not to have the sun directly on them.

But what about down south when they need walls and they need carpet and they need lighting and you know, a roof... those are the priorities,"

The sunshades were originally installed in the spring of 2013. The money to put them up was from Box Tops of Education, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and over 100 Pine View families. The purpose of the shades are to protect students from the sun.

"And I think by summer, we should look pretty much back to normal with the sunshades, but it's never going to be back to exactly what it was. And that's just the reality," Abela said.

Making a videogame in Scratch

1. CHOOSE A BACKGROUND AND CHARACTER

Using the buttons in the bottom right corner of your screen, choose your background and the main character.

PLAY

— MENU —

In this game there is a main character that follows your mouse trying to capture an object of your choice. Once it captures the object, it appears in another random place and so on. To start making your very own game go to <https://scratch.mit.edu/> and press "Create" at the top of the screen.

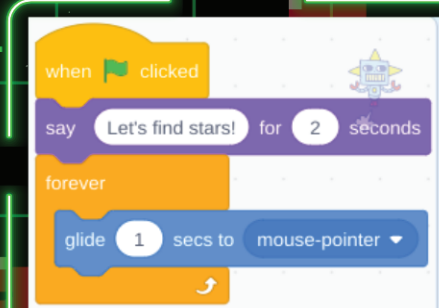
SCORES

SETTINGS

HELP

QUIT

2.



MAKE IT TALK AND FOLLOW POINTER

Make your character say something with the purple block shown to the left. To make the character follow the mouse-pointer, use the blue block shown to the left. Use the drop down menu and click "mouse-pointer." To make the character follow your mouse forever, put it inside the forever block. Add the green flag block on top.

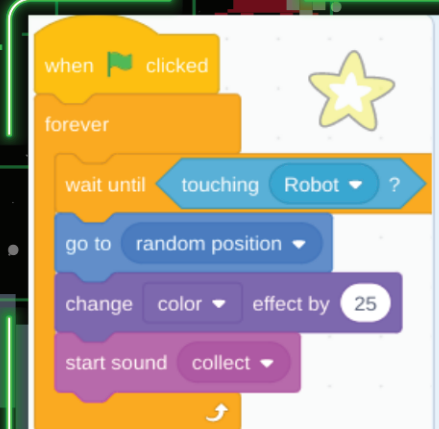
3.



CHOOSE OBJECT AND MAKE IT MOVE

Choose the object you want the main character to chase. Once you've chosen, click on it. Add the orange "wait until" block shown to the left. Put the light blue block inside it. Use the drop down menu on that block to choose the main character. Next, add the "go to random position" block. Put all the blocks inside the "forever" block. Then add the green flag block on top.

4.



ADD SPECIAL EFFECTS

To make the object change colors every time it moves to a different place, add the purple "change color" block shown to the left. Another fun effect is a noise every time the character gets to the object. To make a noise, add the pink block shown to the left. Make sure that both of these blocks are inside of the forever block.

Student makes a scene

by Emmy Li

Lights, camera, action! There is a brilliant flash as the curtains part at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. Second-grader Josie Batty starred in “The Music Man,” a musical by Franklin Lacey and Meredith Wilson, this December. An enthusiastic actress, she played the role of Gracie Shinn in the performance.

When asked, Josie eagerly recounts the story of “The Music Man” and her part in the play.

“[Gracie]’s the [mayor]’s daughter. And she’s shy and

she doesn’t talk that much.” From a young age, Batty has been involved in acting. She has taken much inspiration from her older brother, Bowen Batty, who has already been very involved in theater.

“My brother did [theater] and I wanted to copy him,” she said. “He’s done nine shows.”

“‘The Music Man’ is the first show we’ve done together,” said Bowen Batty. “I did encourage her to audition with me for ‘The Music Man’ because I thought it would be fun to do a show together.”

Despite the nervousness

that accompanied her first audition, Batty passed with flying colors. Next came the practices and rehearsals.

“We have [practices] every night of the week. Usually it’s three [hours] but on [November] 27th we have it for 10 hours,” said Batty.

This was a very tough schedule for a student, and sometimes it was hard to balance schoolwork and practices, according to Batty.

“It’s been hard for this show because the rehearsals and shows are almost every night for about two months,” Bowen said. “We have to get



As she is stage-ready, second-grader Josie Batty (middle) performs in a production. Batty has been interested in acting from an early age. PHOTO BY DIANE BRODA

‘Five, Six, Seven, Eight!’

by Camille Wright

She steps out onto the stage into the blinding light as the music starts to swell.

For third-grader Olivia Zhang, the stage is where she can shine.

Zhang is not just your typical graceful ballerina; she also does hip-hop. She has done ballet for the past three years and more recently started hip hop. While initially it was her parents’ idea to try dance, she soon fell in love with the sport.



“We just wanted her to try a little bit of everything,” said Scott Zhang, Zhang’s father.

She has certainly tried everything. On top of dancing once a week, Zhang also swims with the Sarasota Sharks and ice skates. She has been swimming and ice skating at her current location for the past year, on top of previous experience. Even while having dedicated so much to her other sports, Zhang’s true

focus is still dance.

“She started with ballet, and jazz or acro, but right now she really likes hip-hop. We just can’t get her to stop!” Scott Zhang said.

Even though she started out with ballet, her love for the K-pop band Blackpink inspired her to try hip-hop. She started off practicing alone at home watching videos of Blackpink before asking her mom if she could take actual hip-hop classes.

ses.

On top of dancing with her team, Zhang said her favorite things about hip-hop are, “the moves, the exercises, and also my dance teacher.”

Although not currently, Zhang hopes to one day compete. She also plans to possibly become a professional dancer. Zhang also wants to perform in front

of more family, friends, and as many other students as possible. She has already started working towards that goal.

Recently, Zhang auditioned for the Variety Show. With hard work and dedication, she is well on her way towards reaching her goals.

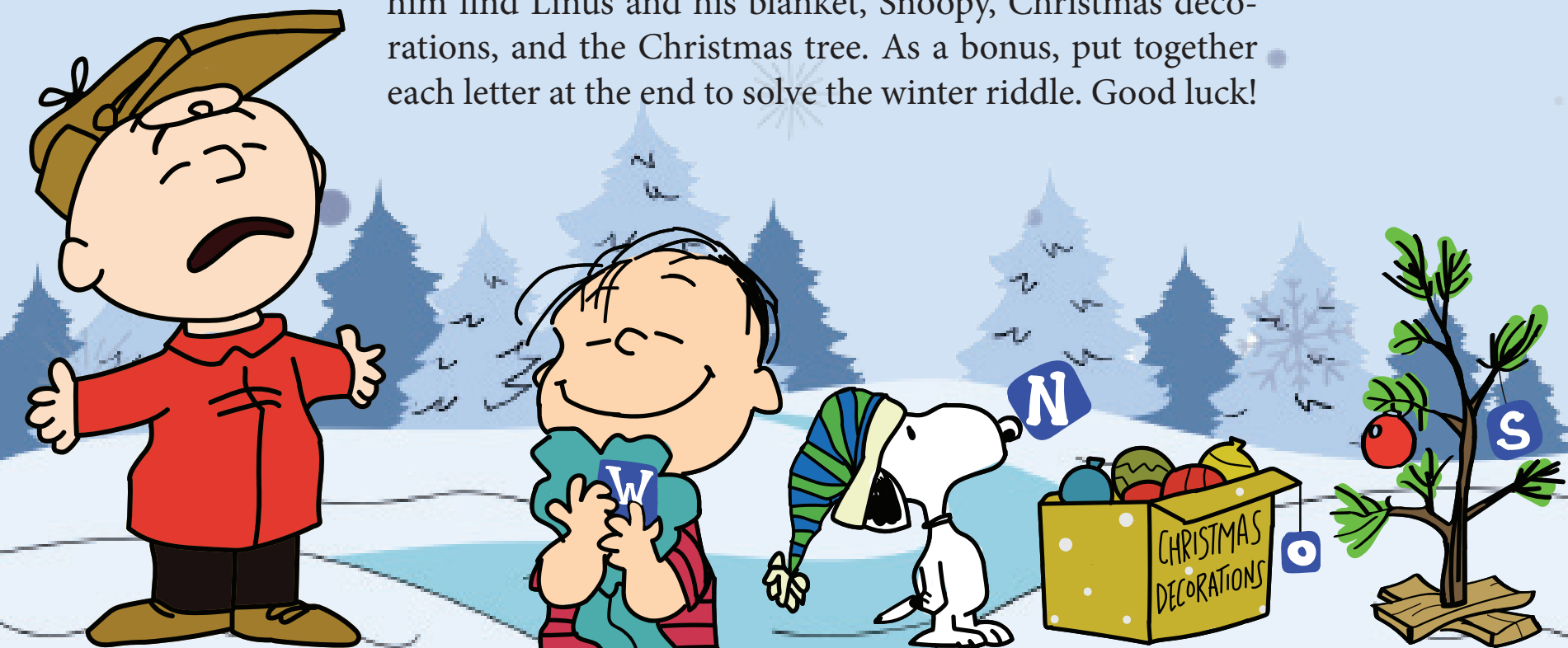
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SCOTT ZHANG



A PERFECT WINTER BREAK

Charlie Brown Christmas edition

Charlie Brown is sad because he misplaced the four things he needs for a perfect Winter break. On the next page, help him find Linus and his blanket, Snoopy, Christmas decorations, and the Christmas tree. As a bonus, put together each letter at the end to solve the winter riddle. Good luck!



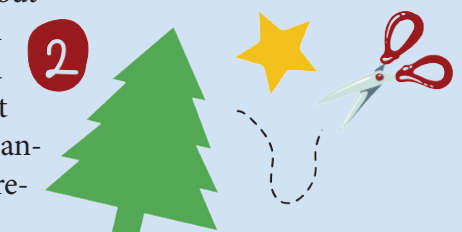
UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER: a tutorial

by Jiayi Zhu

Enter winter break looking stylish with an ugly holiday sweater! In this tutorial, you will learn how to create your very own ugly sweater. All you'll need is a plain sweater, pom poms, felt, marker, fabric scissors, and fabric glue.



Use scissors to cut out the designs. You can use different colored felt to make different things, such as stars, animals, or gifts. Get creative with it!



Use the fabric glue to glue the cut out felt together to create a cohesive design. You may also glue on the pom poms. In this example, they're used as ornaments.



Finished! Perfect as a gift or addition to your wardrobe. Wear with pride.



POSSIBLE SWEATER IDEAS

Use your marker to trace out your design on the felt. In this example, we'll be making a Christmas tree, but you can do any design you'd like. Try to make it simple so that it's easier to cut out!

WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Hannukah
Dec. 18-26

Las Posadas
Dec. 16-24

Kwanzaa
Dec. 26-Jan 1

Yule
Dec 21-Jan 1

Boxing Day
Dec. 26

Christmas
Dec. 25

GRAPHICS BY JIAYI ZHU

FIND CHARLIE BROWN'S FOUR MISSING ITEMS, AND THEN USE THEIR LETTERS TO HELP YOU SOLVE THIS RIDDLE!

— ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ —

I can take form in flakes, but not the ones with corn. I fall from the sky, that is where I am born. I am white as can be, but here in Florida you won't see me.

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER: SNOW

LIST FOUR THINGS YOU NEED FOR A PERFECT WINTER BREAK:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Swirling Skater

By **Aashima Goswami**

Gliding across the thick sheet of ice as she completes a turn, second-grader Claire Camodeca has been skating for three years. She was inspired to do so when she saw her sister third-grader Elise Camodeca, start skating.

“I was begging my mom to let me ice skate every day, and then finally she let me ice skate,” Claire Camodeca said.

Camodeca’s mother, Linda Liao, is really proud of Camodeca’s progress with ice skating.

“It’s cool to look beautiful on the ice... the more she does [ice skating], the more she falls in love with it. They

love the competition, they love wearing the outfits, and she wants to compete more!” Liao said.

So far, ice skating has been a breeze for Camodeca, who has won first and second place in many competitions. However, it wasn’t always so easy. It took some time for her to adjust to skating on the ice.

“It feels cold... because you don’t have anything to wear on your face. You have to get used to it so that your eyes don’t get so red,” Camodeca said.

Besides adjusting, Camodeca does have some qualms with her sport.

“This is one thing that is

unfair about ice skating, just one thing. For one rotation, your hardest rotation, you have to do one and a half spins, which isn’t fair! Why would you do one and a half instead of just doing one?”

Unfortunately, Camodeca doesn’t have the time to be asking for answers to these questions — she’s too busy succeeding in her sport. Recently, Camodeca won first place at the 2022 Orange Blossom Open, one of the largest figure skating competitions held in the South.



“It was really exciting [to see her win]... I think the judges really liked her performance because of her smile and because she wasn’t nervous,” Liao said.

Being competitive and successful at such a young age has taught Camodeca to never give up. Liao mentioned how ice skating has taught her daughter to persevere.

“I remember, one time during practice, she fell really hard on the ice and lost a tooth.

And she just picked it up and went back to practice... that was really impressive to me,” Liao said.

When she grows up, Camodeca plans to coach other ice skaters. When she can’t coach, she wants to judge ice skating competitions. However it may be, ice skating is sure to be a part of Camodeca’s life for a long time to come.

Claire Camodeca poses with her first place medal from the 2022 Orange Blossom Open figure skating competition. Camodeca attended the competition this summer.

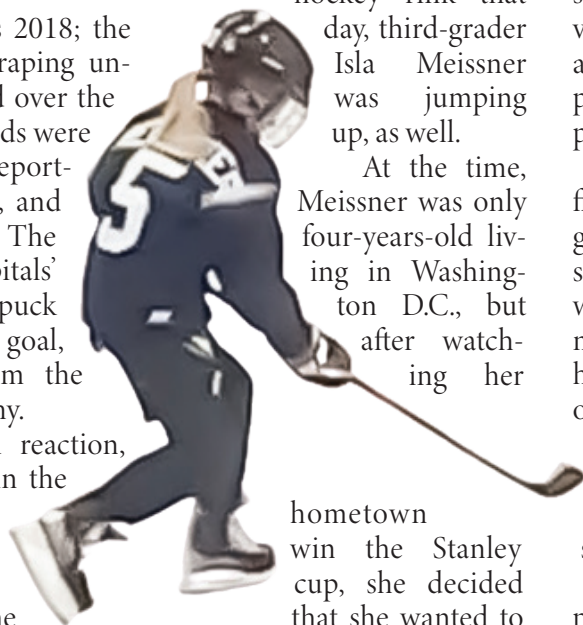
PHOTO PROVIDED BY LINDA LIAO

Scoring on Ice

By **Allie Chung**

The year was 2018; the sounds of ice scraping under skates echoed over the stadium. The stands were going wild, the reporters were feverish, and then, BOOM! The Washington Capitals’ Lars Eller hit the puck straight into the goal, securing his team the Stanley Cup trophy.

Like a chain reaction, every single fan in the stands jumped up in celebration, and although she wasn’t in the



hockey rink that day, third-grader Isla Meissner was jumping up, as well.

At the time, Meissner was only four-years-old living in Washington D.C., but after watching her

hometown win the Stanley cup, she decided that she wanted to

start skating. She later converted from an ice skater to a hockey player and began practicing at the Capitals practice rink.

“I remember the very first time she skated, I had to go out and do it with her and she just really, really, really wanted to skate faster than me and she just pushed as hard as she could to get from one end of the rink to the other side and beat me, and she did it,” Meissner’s mother, Jordan Meissner, said.

Isla Meissner has been playing hockey for three

years, and she recognizes the progress she has made over her hockey career.

“I remember when I was skating, I used to hold onto the boards to help me balance and then I kept falling on my butt because I wasn’t tall enough to hold the railings, but now I am [Meissner is able to skate without support],” Meissner said.

She now plays in a house league where everyone in the same organization competes against each other. She practices two days a week and there are often special moments where the hard work

pays off.

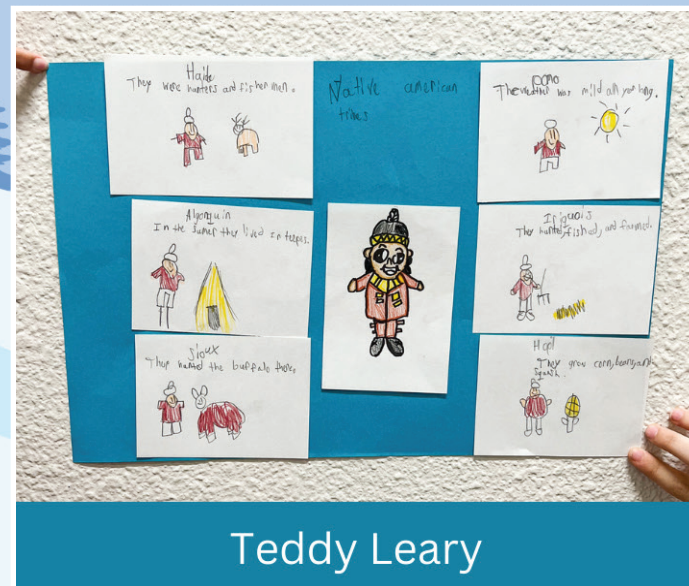
“I was doing this breakaway and there was this goalie in front of me and he was getting ready to stop the puck and then I hit the puck and it shot right through the pads between the goalie’s leg and the pole and I scored right before the buzzer sounded,” Meissner said.

Her dreams of becoming the first female NHL hockey player and if she follows the footsteps of her hometown team, her goals are absolutely achievable.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JORDAN MEISSNER

NATIVE AMERICANS OF NORTH AMERICA

Second-graders in Leslie Stewart's class all read a book on six Native American tribes. After reading this book, they created a poster and wrote one fact as well as drew a picture for each tribe.



Winter Ad-Lib

With your friends assign one person as the writer, they then ask everyone else for a word to fill in the blanks. For example, if the blank says "a place" someone might respond with "school." Once all the blanks are filled the writer reads the story.

To celebrate the holidays, we decided to go to _____ to see snow for
(place)
the first time. Our _____ wouldn't take us, so we finally found _____
(person) (person)
to _____ us there. Once we got there, it wasn't snowing yet, but we saw
(verb)
a/an _____ polar bear eating _____! To save _____, we ran
(adjective) (noun) (same noun)
towards the polar bear and _____ it. Afterwards, Santa appeared and
(verb)
rewarded us by giving us a _____ and a shiny new _____. Just as
(noun) (noun)
that happened, it started to snow! After the snow piled up, we realized it
was the perfect time to go sledding, but we ran straight into a _____
(noun)
and crashed! Oh well, we'll just have to go _____ instead.
(activity)

A Mechanical Surprise

by Jada Davidson

“Have fun at school honey!” called out third-grader Dee Vice’s mother as she watched her daughter board the bus to Pine View.

“Today will be another average Friday at school, nothing fun will happen,” Vice thought to herself while on the bus.

The bus ride was normal, with kids yelling and the bus driver desperately trying to block them out.

Finally, Vice arrived at school. As she walked up to her class in the red building, she got a funny feeling. She realized that there was not a student nor a teacher in sight. Usually she was late and her teacher would come to greet her as she walked in with her fellow classmates.

“I’m the first one here, that must be the reason for the silence,” she said

aloud.

Suddenly a loud, whirring sound jarred Vice from her thoughts. Startled, she jumped up and looked in the direction the unusual sound was coming from. Cautiously, she moved closer and reached for the handle.

No sooner had Vice done that than the door flew open! Vice jumped back about three feet, and saw a polished, silver structure of shapes with that same whirring sound from before emerge from behind the door.

“Hel-lo, I am your teacher for to-day,” The robot said, pausing every now and then to boop, beep, and make other robot sounds.

Puzzled, Vice stepped around it and ran into the classroom, throw-
i n g
h e r



b a c k p a c k
o n an empty chair and distancing herself from the droid. The robot followed her in, and shut the door behind itself as it wheeled its way to the front of the room.

“Greet-ings stud-ents,” the metallic creation said., “My name is PY-THON 212. I am your sub-sti-tute for to-day.”

“Where is Miss Ora Gan-ic!?” Third-grader Al Ectronic yelled.

“Miss Ganic is sick,” PY-THON 212 said.

“Ohhh,” the students replied in unison, but stayed put at their desks, anxiously waiting to see what the A.I. would do next.

“Your teach-er left work for you all,” the robot said as its front compartment opened and a stack of papers came out.

The students groaned, but their groans turned to gasps as they watched their new teacher rip several sheets. The students then watched in amazement as the robot proceeded to use its long arms to shred the whole stack of work and make it rain.

They cheered and played with the paper scraps.

As the students were having their fun, PY-THON 212 made holiday-themed desserts such as hot chocolate, sugar cookies, cake, gingerbread, and candy canes.

Everyone got to eat, and munched until all the food was gone. Then the robot whirred, spun, and wheeled



with amazing speed as the students tried to keep up with it.

Within seconds, PY-THON 212 had made a fire pit and lit it up. The students gathered near it and were grinning from ear to ear, but the smiles soon turned upside down as the fire leaped out of the pit and started burning the classroom. PY-THON 212 realized its mistake and panicked as it rushed to evacuate all the

students.

As the students exited the classroom PY-THON 212 put out the fire and saved the classroom.

When the day ended PY-THON 212 went back home.

Vice could not believe what happened in school. She could not wait to get home and tell her mom all about it.

GRAPHIC BY JADA DAVIDSON

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[a column]

A Career Curiosity



Kai Sprunger,
Match Editor-in-Chief

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Growing up, this was the question I dreaded the most. I was always so unsure of how to reply.

My mind would fill up with thousands of possible careers — I could be a doctor, artist, veterinarian, dancer, or video game designer. My answer would always vary or change whenever adults asked me; one day I wanted to be a surgeon, and the next I wanted to be a ballet dancer.

Even to this day, as an eleventh-grader, I am still exploring the world and figuring out what specific career I want to pursue.

It is completely fine if you don't know what you want to be when you grow up — don't ever feel pressured to decide immediately what you want to be. As you grow, your interests will evolve as you try new things out, gain new insight into the world, and learn more about yourself.

Since you are only in elementary school, you have a ton of time to explore the world; you don't need to know everything yet! You have middle school, high school, and even adulthood to decide what you want to pursue in life.

Use this time to seek out new things — try everything from horseback riding to conducting scientific experiments. By trying out new activities, you will not only learn what you like or dislike, but you will learn more about yourself. Finding your interests is key to knowing what you want to do in life.

Although adults may make it feel like you can only choose one option, that is completely false and you have an endless number of possibilities and options! You don't have to focus on just one hobby or career and let that define you, you can have multiple interests. Instead of choosing between baseball or art, pick both!

So whenever you receive the dreaded question, don't feel obligated to find one specific answer. It is completely okay to reply with “I don't know,” or even answer with a multitude of careers. You don't need to know what you want to be when you grow up yet — you are still young and have time!