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University Lower School

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You’re in the cafeteria, looking at about a hundred students dressed up in outfits. You travel from table to table learning about people and their lives. Where are you? People Fair of course!

This year, people Fair took place on May 25th, but did you know that People Fair has been going on for over thirty years? People Fair takes two months to prepare and is a project that Fourth Grade students do as part of their biography study. The importance of this project is to learn about inspiring people through reading their biographies and informational text. Students choose from a variety of projects that allow them to showcase the important life events of their person. Then on the big day, they come to school dressed as the person they chose to study. During People Fair students and parents go visit tables to learn about people, their life, their challenges and what they do.

Although the activities and venues have changed over the years, Fourth Grade students always have chosen people such as Amelia Earhart, Alex Morgan, and Marie Curie because these people are inspiring figures. Sofia Teifeld, a current Fourth Grade student, was Martha Stewart. “My favorite part was showing how Martha Stewart inspires me by sharing her life with others.” Most students enjoy dressing up the most. Dylan Liberty, a Fifth Grade student, was a part of People Fair last year. “I was Henry Flagler and my absolute favorite thing was when I got to dress up and do the projects.”

Regardless of what your favorite part is, People Fair is always an awesome, inspiring experience!
What's Up with the Fidget Phase?
By Maddie Gannon And Isabella Morales

Most people at the Lower School have Fidget Spinners or Fidget Cubes, and if you don’t own one, then you most likely have seen people playing with them. Fidget Spinners are three-sided objects and there is a piece in the middle that you hold when you want it to spin around your fingers. Fidget Cubes are typically six-sided and on each side there are various buttons and things to click.

Many people wonder what the purpose of Fidget Spinners and Fidget Cubes are, because that might explain why they are so popular. Fourth Grade student, Mica Elnatan thinks, “The purpose of Fidget Cubes is to keep children with ADHD and/or Autism concentrated.”

Fidgets may help the kids that hold them, but are they a distraction to everyone else in the room? Tyler Greene, another Fourth Grade student, believes, "I think they’re distracting during tests." In order for them not to be a disturbance, some kids use their Fidgets under the table.

These days, anything Fidget is the trend. But which one is more popular, Fidget Cubes or Fidget Spinners? Mica Elnatan says, "I think that Fidget Cubes are popular because when people are in class, they like to have something to play with. And the Fidget Cube is perfect for that." Yet, when you walk around the Lower School, everyone seems to be holding a Fidget Spinner. Regardless of which one you prefer, they both are multifunctional, entertaining, and useful objects.

Rashad Kaiyal, Grade 3
Tony Wiley, Grade 3
Kayla Gross, Grade 3
The Trip that Everyone’s Talking About

By Kayla Giset

If you’re reading this, then you must be anxious to know what this article is about. But wait? What if you’re not in Fifth Grade? Then that’s ok! Reading this will actually prepare you for what exciting adventures await you in your last year of Lower School!

Fifth Grade is definitely a year to remember, and there are lots of fun projects, but one that really stands out is the overnight field trip to Tampa. This year, it took place on April 26-28th. Mrs. Chavez, a Fifth Grade teacher and director of this trip, has the latest scoop about this school year’s highlight. “The trip’s main focus is guiding the kids to become leaders in their community.” Mrs. Chavez explained. The Fifth grade teachers, along with administration, had a goal that every student should try to make at least one new friend on this trip. This would give students a great chance to step out of their comfort zone, and hang out with new friends!

Besides all the valuable lessons this trip taught them, students had tons of fun! They participated in many events, such as tubing, zip lining, kayaking, a ropes course, and more. Now, doesn’t that sound fun? No matter what grade you’re in, you can be a true leader, from five years old to five hundred years old. Never stop being the best you that you can be, and remember even the smallest deed can represent you as a true leader.

A Tale as Old as Time...

By Ava Collazos

Have you seen the newest trending movie? The one that was number one in the world for two weeks? Well then chances are that you have seen Beauty and the Beast!

Beauty and the Beast was a highly successful animated film, originally made in the 1991. However, the 2017 remake is non-animated and features stars such as Emma Watson playing Belle and University School alumni Josh Gad playing LeFou.

Many Lower School students have seen the movie and prefer the newest version better. Raven Wallace-Ross, a Third Grade student likes it because, “it is more detailed than the original movie.” Dylan Polikoff, another Third Grade student agrees, but does not feel it should have been the number one movie for two weeks. He said, “There are way better movies out there that should rank number one.”

Overall Bill Condon, the director of the 2017 version of Beauty and the Beast, created a great movie, with an all-star cast. It is no surprise that it remained number one in the world for two weeks!
My Computer Is Making Me Sick!

An Editorial by Lily Miller

Have you been feeling depressed lately? Are things blurry and hard to see? If so, you may want to ask yourself how much time you’ve been spending on your electronic device and what Social Media app you use the most. See, this might be the answer as to why you are feeling depressed or cannot see or read something with ease.

Social Media is becoming a big problem at schools. Social Media is distracting children from schoolwork and may be increasing the amount of bad grades. That is not the only thing it does, according to new studies, it can make you feel depressed.

**Scenario 1:** Jack did not do anything fun over summer break. He went to summer school and cleaned out his room. Jill went to Colorado, Alaska and Hawaii. Jack checked his Instagram account and found that Jill had posted pictures of herself skiing in Colorado, whale watching in Alaska and sitting on a beach in Hawaii. Jack felt jealous and upset that he could not do fun things like Jill.

Described in the scenario, Jill got to do fun things while Jack had to go to summer school and clean his room. Social Media is making Jack feel depressed because he is wishing for the life he cannot have. The University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine conducted a study in which the results showed that the more time young adults spend on Social Media, the more likely it is that they will become depressed. According to studies, highly idealized representations of peers on social media elicits feelings of envy and the distorted belief that others lead happier, more successful lives.

Another reason your electronic device can hurt you is the settings you have it on. If you watch your screen at the highest light setting, you can really strain your eyes. When speaking to an eye doctor, Adalberto Acuna, who works at the Laservision Eye Care Center in Miami Lakes, reveals, “When kids sit too long at their computer screens or sit to close to their television, it can really damage their eyesight.”

**Scenario 2:** Jill stayed up all night playing Roblox with her computer turned on brightly. The next morning at school, the whiteboard looked fuzzy. Because Jill had neglected to lower the brightness on her computer and turn on the lights in whichever room she was working in, she received the consequences the next day because her vision was temporarily flawed.

If that’s not enough, feast your eyes on this frightening piece of information. Studies are now showing that fifty to ninety percent of computer workers experience eye strain. Of course, with the proper care, all this can be avoided.

So am I saying you should never use your computer? Not at all! All I’m saying is to be careful who you follow and make sure you have your computer at the proper settings and you’ll lead a healthier, happier life!
WATER BOTTLE WAR!!
An Editorial by Kristen Newell

Recently, S’well water bottles have been taking over and it seems as if every other water bottle in existence has declared war!! S’well is the only reusable bottle that keeps your drinks cold for 24 hours and hot for 12. They are a HUGE hit among students of all ages, including many kids at the Lower School.

Some say S’wells are overpriced, ranging from $25.00 to $50.00, and find S’well knock offs better priced with many of the same features. People are fans of S’well bottles because they are durable and made of metal. However, the metal material has some downfalls. Imagine dropping this expensive water bottle once or twice. BAM!!! It dents and then you are drowning in complaints from your parents saying that you ruined a very expensive water bottle. S’well bottles put a very high price on a bottle that can break, crack, or dent with one drop. This is one major problem. Another problem is pricey does not mean better. People have to think beyond the brand name S’well, and consider the function of a water bottle instead. There are plenty of great customizable water bottles on the market and even a water bottle backpack called Camelbak. At this very moment it seems as if S’well is winning the water bottle war. Whichever side you choose, make sure to really look at ALL your water bottle choices carefully!

Chill at Chill–N
By Jack Steinman

The future is now and NITROGEN ice cream has officially become a thing! Chill–N is one of many unique ice cream shops that are now serving ice cream made with nitrogen. Typical ice cream vendors freeze ice cream as fast as possible, which creates very large ice crystals. These ice crystals cause ice cream to have a “rough” feel at times. Nitrogen ice cream however produces practically no air, creating the densest, smoothest tasting ice cream. But is nitrogen ice cream really safe?

Two Chill–N employees, Annie Morris and Alysha Steinman have the scoop on this futuristic freak–out. Annie shares, “I really don’t feel nervous handling the ice cream, although it is pretty cold.” Alysha doesn’t think of this ice cream as “futuristic,” but believes, “The texture of nitrogen ice cream is very thick and much colder. It doesn’t melt as fast as other types of ice cream either!”

Chill–N offers a wide variety of flavors and mix–ins. “My favorite is mint and chocolate chips.” says Annie. “Nuttela and coconut milk with oreos is my favorite.” reveals Alysha. Chill–N is a new and inventive way to eat one of America’s favorite foods–ice cream! So, go check it out . . . it definitely is out of this world!
Spider Scare
By Sara Michelle Villamayor

Are you baffled about the fear of spiders? Are you afraid of them? Or does it depend? This time your opinion could change. Have you heard of the Brown Widow Spider? Whether you have or you’ve haven't, this article is for you, especially if you live near Davie, Florida.

What is it?
It is a spider that is venomous, but its venom is rarely lethal (Deadly).

How can you identify it?
According to Zoey Harvey, a Fourth Grade student who encountered a bite from the Brown Widow, “If it bites you it will sting a lot and where it bites you will swell.” Zoey also knew this information by looking on the internet, which is also a good idea if ever you get bit by something. According to WikiHow, observe the colors of the spider that bit you. If it was a Brown Widow, it will be brown, gray and tan, with a spotted or mottled (smeared with a color or spotted) pattern. The hourglass marking will be there as well.

Where is it native to?
Again according to WikiHow, it is native to South Africa, and was first discovered in the United States in 1935, therefore it is an invasive species. Zoey explains, “It bit me in the park across the street, and I live in Florida!” While it is true that these spiders are highly venomous to their prey, it rarely bites humans. If it does, then it doesn’t inject all its venom, making the Brown Widow less dangerous. Mrs. Anna Baumgartner, Zoe’s mother, explains, “The spider lives in dark places. Zoey experienced the bite when she was near a bush. Luckily the spider wasn’t an adult, so it wasn’t as dangerous.”

Where should you go if you get bit by one?
When Zoey got bit she had to go to the E.R immediately. As with any insect bite, if you start to see swelling, experience pain, or a reaction, it’s always best to play it safe and go to a doctor.
Lights, Camera, Action: The History of Movies
By Ella Gohari

Ever seen one of those old movies, with no sound or color, and wondered how movies became so high tech? It all started in 1892 by a man named Thomas Edison, who invented the motion picture. You had to take a few pictures and put them in a slideshow, therefore becoming a “motion” picture. This invention got released to the public eye in 1893, and people didn’t really know what to think of it. I mean, could you imagine not knowing what a movie was, and then watching one for the first time with an evil villain or a runaway train? You would be pretty scared and think that it was real, which is what some people thought. Luckily, people soon grew to love movies, and they started to get better and better. Why did people start loving them though? Well, movie “expert” Babak Gohari thinks that it is because, “They allowed people to escape their lives, they were entertaining, some were thought-provoking, some were artistic or philosophical, and there are so many reasons why people could’ve loved them!” Sadly, movies still didn’t have any color or sound, until the 20th century that is.

“The first movie with sound that was released was The Jazz Singer in 1927, and the first full color movie was Cupid Angling in 1918.” Babak said. Finally the movie industry had kicked off. New genres such as musicals, dramas, westerns, action, and fantasy were added into the mix, and people loved them! Tons of amazing movies have come out in the 1900’s, like the original trilogy of Star Wars, a lot of Disney movies, the Terminator series, and thousands more! Nobody thought that the special effects could get better, but they were wrong, because the 21st century has so much more in store!

When you look at completely animated movies like Monsters Inc, Brave, and many others, it makes you wonder how long it took to hand-draw every single scene. Then, the special effects have to be so good that you feel like these characters are living and breathing. How do these effects work anyway? Well, Babak Gohari reveals, “As technology and experience grew, filmmakers’ used ever-more complex technologies to create ever-more realistic special effects. Currently, filmmakers use computers to create realistic 3-D effects ranging from something as simple as changing the color of the sky all the way to a full scale alien invasion.” This is how the special effects became so good, and they will probably be even better as time goes on. Babak expects, “More interactivity with the audience, such that the response of the audience can alter the movie experience. Furthermore, as virtual reality technologies become more advanced, I expect the cinematic experience to become much more immersive for the audience as we go into the future of movies.”

Will movies stay the same or be something we can’t even imagine? No-one knows, but what we do know is that a life without movies is a very boring one indeed!
Slime is the new trend. It's mushy, gushy, and squishy! Slime has become popular because of youtubers who create “How To” videos about making slime. The slime trend has not only grown worldwide, but also has taken over the Lower School!

Two Fifth Grade students, Mia Spector and Haleigh Mish are in on the action. "The slime trend started on YouTube. Skyler and Brooke Haynee, started an Instagram page called, ‘Slimey Worldz,’ and everyone bought their slime. Thus the trend began here." Mia reveals.

People make slime many different ways, but the most common is with a detergent booster called Borax. Haleigh and Mia both share the same opinion on this. "If you use it more than once, it can get dangerous!" There are so many safer formulas out there to use besides Borax, contact lens solution being one of them.

Lower School students are not the only ones loving slime. Haleigh shares, "My friends at other schools tell me how much fun it is to play with slime, and how it's so popular." Mia also states, "Slime is so popular because it’s satisfying and people want to feel something nice and squishy in their hands."

Its popularity, its style, its substance are a few of the reasons why slime has grown so popular. Kids view it is an art project and slime provides a stress relief for many just by manipulating it in their hands. Try it some time. It helps. Happy Sliming!
The sun just started to rise as I excitedly dragged my roller bag to a cluster of kids that were all waiting for the buses to come. Although tired, we were all really excited to go on our first overnight field trip to Florida Springs. As the bus pulled around the corner I couldn't find two of my best friends, Mikey and Daniel. I was getting worried that they wouldn't arrive on time and possibly get “left behind.” I pondered this for a while, but I still couldn't understand where my two friends were. I finally found out that they weren't planning to come on the overnight trip! This made me wonder how people felt if they hadn't gone on the field trip. To further explore this question, I interviewed Mikey and Daniel when I got back.

When I asked Mikey why he didn't want to go he told me, "I did not like some of the activities." I also asked Mikey and Daniel why the other 18 total kids had decided not to come. They told me that, “One kid had a gymnastics competition, some kids just wanted to stay home, some parents thought their child was not ready for it, and some didn’t go due to allergies and/or other medical issues.”

Both Mikey and Daniel shared that what they did at school was fun, which made me feel good. Mrs. Lieberman, a fifth grade teacher’s assistant explained, “While the other students were on the field trip, the 18 students that stayed reflected on the leadership unit that they studied over the course of the year. They interviewed teachers in grades JK through fourth grade as part of a project to develop a fifth grade student leadership program. Students worked with those teachers to develop criteria, preliminary volunteer contracts, an excel spreadsheet detailing the data fields, and created a video that demonstrates and models the specific tasks based on the grade/class/space within the school.”

Besides writing essays, the 18 students participated in a three day project in the Innovation Lab. Students were given the task of creating a Rube Goldberg simple machine (which is a marble run track). Mrs. Lieberman further explains, “The parameters of the project required the machine to complete six energy transfers that ultimately pop a balloon.” Both Mikey and Daniel felt that this was the highlight. They said, "The innovation lab was the most fun part."

In the end, whether students chose to go on the trip, or not, either option had its benefits. When I asked if Daniel regretted not going, he said, “No, but I may consider going on the sixth grade overnight field trip next year!”
Science Olympiads: The Sharkquel
By Ella Gohari and Kayla Giset

The top team of last year, the NSU Science Sharks were back and ready to win Science Olympiads. They had been preparing ever since January, and if you continue reading, you'll get the full scoop on how the sharks prepared, the competition, and what changes they can make for the future. The sharks are in it to win it, and nothing will stop them!

This year's Science Olympiads featured 13 categories: Bridge Building, Egg Drop, Energy Lab, Food Science, A Matter of Matter, Mystery Packaging, Mystery Powders, Plentiful Plants, Picture This Alternative Energy, Rock Hound, Starry Starry Night, Water Rockets, and Who Wants to Be a Biologist. There are 2-3 team members who participate in each category and one coach per category. One of the coaches and the organizer of Science Olympiads, Mrs. Lodin, coached Food Science, Plentiful Plants, and Who Wants to be a Biologist. She really enjoys being a coach, but it's not always easy for her. "The hardest part is to match kids' interests with the events, and to make things fit in the schedule provided by the science Olympiads organizer." This complication can make it hard for the teams to be assigned and finalized, but luckily the team was able to do it.

Last year, a large percentage of the team left for Middle School, which opened up positions for some incoming Fourth and Fifth Grade students. Avery Redlich, a returning member of the Science Sharks, was really excited to compete again for the winning title. She competed in three categories, Bridge Building, Starry Starry Night, and Picture This: Alternative Energy. "Alternative Energy was definitely the hardest to prepare for, because we pretty much had to create a new language through pictures, but it is also the most fun." Avery and all of the other team members had to prepare for months to even have a chance to win. On the day of the competition, the Science Sharks strutted in confidently, but deep inside they were very nervous for the long day of competing ahead.

On May 6th, 2017, the team entered their homeroom at FAU and did some last minute review and studying. At 8:00am, the impoundment of Bridge Building, Egg Drop, and Water Rockets took place, which means those six team members had to either build or check their equipment. After an hour passed, it was time for the actual competition to start. Many teams like Alternative Energy, Mystery Packaging, and Egg Drop (the actual thing), went towards their building and started their competition. At 10:00am, a lot of the other categories took place, and at 3:00 PM the competition was officially done. As the 22 teams gathered at the front of FAU, many thoughts raced through the Science Shark team-members' brains. Would they win? Would they even come close? But, in the end, they knew they tried their hardest and no matter what the results were, they still learned a lot.

The medals for the individual teams were announced, and it was almost certain that the Sharks would get in the top three. "And the winner is..." The announcer said, "A-12, The NSU Science Sharks!" Finally, after months of preparation, the Science Sharks were the champions, two years in a row!
A Fury Arrival
By Vaughn Rex

Have you ever had a class pet? Well Mrs. Czerenda’s Fifth Grade reading class does! It is about two inches wide and two inches tall, do you know what it is? It is a Roborovski hamster! The hamster’s name is Houdini, and the kids in Mrs. Czerenda’s class say that he earned his name because of the amount of times he has tried to escape. The idea to get a class pet started when two students Corey Wasserman and Cameron Alters thought a pet would be a nice addition to their classroom. Both Corey and Cameron collaborated for about a week on how they could make this wish come true. They shared their ideas with Mrs. Czerenda and her class. Next, the two students presented their idea and plan for taking care of it to Mr. Carswell, Lower School Director. Although he approved of the idea, first there were some questions Mr. Carswell had for the class. Mrs. Czerenda’s students worked hard to answer all Mr. Carswell’s questions, while staying in his guidelines.

There are many questions to ask when bringing a pet into a classroom. Some of those questions are, where are we going to put him, who is going to feed him and clean him, who is going to take him home every night, and what if someone is allergic to him? All of those questions have already been answered by the students in Mrs. Czerenda’s class. First of all, students are assigned jobs and every job is rotated through every student who volunteers to help. The jobs are cleaning the cage, feeding him, putting him in the ball, and taking him home. Whoever wants to participate in helping with those jobs gets an assigned day every week. Students come up for recess, or later in the day during reading class to tackle these jobs. This class pet might seem very fun to have and take care of, but it also comes with a big task of work.

Think of your regular classroom environment right now. Look at everything on the floor, the noise level, and then imagine Houdini right in the middle of it. How does he stand all the noise and attention in Mrs. Czerenda’s classroom? Well Mrs. Czerenda had the answer for that, “He adapted very well. He has become very feisty, and loves the attention.” Adapting to such a loud environment is very hard for a small hamster, but Houdini isn’t a regular hamster. Some students in the classroom have even given Houdini characteristics like curious, patient, intelligent, and most of all brave!

Many students and teachers in Fifth Grade are surprised about how well Houdini has adapted. He teaches every student in Fifth Grade a lesson every day and is a huge part in Mrs. Czerenda’s class. When asked, how would you describe your classroom environment now that Houdini is in it? Mrs. Czerenda responded, “My classroom environment is very welcoming and responsible.” You would never think that a small little hamster could make such a big change in a classroom. He definitely taught a couple of lessons to the students, even Mrs. Czerenda. It took a lot of work, participation, and dedication, but Mrs. Czerenda’s class got it done. Mrs. Czerenda explained, “Hard work always pays off”, it might not always pay off in the way you want it to, but every time it will benefit you.”
“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” — Helen Keller. When I read this quote, the first thing that came to mind was the day the newspaper staff sat brainstorming possible article topics for our summer edition. As I was organizing their ideas and controlling the excitement, the students themselves were taking on the role of collaborators. Many students shared the same topic idea for an article, and since only one article can be written per topic, I was expecting a problem. Without hesitation, I witnessed staff members give up their first article option and move on to their second choice. Others, who shared the same interest in topics, came together and decided that they could compose an even better article if they worked together. I was overjoyed at the fact that these children realized what takes others a lifetime to get . . . collaboration combines strength and wisdom and allows us to accomplish so much more! Hats off to this amazing staff for collaborating to produce such a wonderful edition of The Great White Gazette!

Sincerely,
Fanya DeMaria
Editor and Faculty Advisor of The Great White Gazette Newspaper