



# The Pirate Times

845-620-3870

June, 2021

Pearl River, NY

## Upcoming Events

by: Courtney M.

We have a lot to look forward to for the remainder of the year. Here are some important dates to keep in mind.

June 14th - Flag Day. This day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States. On this day you can celebrate by doing things like, putting a flag up outside or wearing red, white, and blue.

June 20th - Father's Day

June 25th - Last day of school! This day is the last day of school until next school year in September! Good luck next year!

Have a great summer!

## PRSD SPORTS

by: Dani C

Welcome to the sports page where we talk all about sports in the school district. I was able to talk to some of the coaches who are also teachers at the high school. This might be a way you can get to know your future coach!

I talked with Coach Donnelly, the varsity wrestling coach, Coach Flood, the girl's varsity track coach, and Coach Capone, the varsity hockey assistant coach. Coach Capone has been the head coach for 22 years and 8 years as the assistant, which is 30 years of coaching experience at the high school. I was able to ask the coaches some questions so you can learn more about some of the sports here at PRSD.



Some of the questions I asked were:  
What is your strategy for the season?  
How do you think that your season has gone? Lastly, I asked what they look for in a player and teammate?

Mr. Donnelly explained that like most other sports their strategy is to WIN! If you like to wrestle and win then this may be the team for you as they put many weight class winners into the world. He said, "Our season this year was short but successful. We had a lot of young wrestlers that showed tons of potential." He also said, "I look for student-athletes to be balanced. That means they should show a balance between academics and athletics. First comes their school work and then athletics. They should always give 100% in everything they do." I hope that this helps all of you young Pirates.

Coach Flood has been the girl's track and field coach for the last 4 years. Her job entails coaching the winter and spring season (they are currently in their spring season) for the girls' track team. The team's strategy is to first get themselves into good shape, aka track shape. In the first 3-4 weeks of the season, the girls are pushing themselves to get ready to race.

# PRSD SPORTS Continued

As the season progresses, they start focusing on team goals and what they want to achieve at bigger meets, such as at Leagues, Counties, and Sections. Every girl on the team creates goals for themselves as well. They all want to improve on their personal best and they focus on their main events. At every meet, she believes each athlete will learn how to improve for the next meet. They also learn how to push themselves a little further the next time. She said, "As a coach, I look to create a positive atmosphere at practice and competitions. We are one team, one unit. We look to encourage one another and help each other out when someone is down." This is something I think that we should all strive to be a part of.

This past Winter Track season was different than in previous years. However, Coach Flood says that the entire team managed to stay motivated and focused. They had to remain flexible and ready for any change.

Mr. Capone (my Dad) was the last and final coach I talked to. He has been the head hockey coach for 22 years and stepped down the last 8 years as the assistant coach to spend time with his "three beautiful angels". For the last 8 years, Coach Collins has been the head coach. Coach Capone thinks that this year went pretty well considering the restrictions. They had only 6 games this season and won 5 of them. When asked what type of athlete he is looking for he said, "Willing to work hard, and will put the team ahead of himself/herself. They should dedicate themselves to all that they do."

All of the coaches at the high school are great and a special shout-out to Mr. Donnelly, Coach Flood, and Coach Capone. Good luck to all the pirate athletes at future tryouts and seasons. I hope this helps you if you are considering a sport here at PR!





# Spotlight on Mrs. O'Flynn

By: Gianna

Our teacher's spotlight is on..... Mrs. O'Flynn! I was able to meet with Mrs. O'Flynn to get to know her a little bit better! Some of you may have had Mrs. O'Flynn for 6th grade math class or maybe you have seen her around the building. She is the one who is always taking pictures and making the fun slideshows! Mrs. O'Flynn has been at PRMS for a long time and I am going to tell you a little bit more about her!

Question: What do you like to do in your free time?

Answer: She likes to walk in the fresh air with her friends. She likes to see her family. She reads a ton of books. She likes to watch her kids play sports during their games.

Question: When did you start teaching at PRMS. How many years have you been here?

Answer: This is her 21st year at Pearl River Middle School. She started in 2000.

Question: How do you motivate kids to do their math work.

Answer: She thinks it is important to talk to kids about their grades.. To motivate her students, she likes to incorporate games and makes things fun. She uses apps like Blooket, and Kahoot.

Question: What is your favorite topic to teach in math?

Answer: She likes to teach percent because it is something that relates to the real world. She likes it when kids go shopping and start finding out what their discounts are for each item they pick up.

As you can see Mrs.O'Flynn is a kind and hardworking 6th Grade teacher! She cares about her students, and loves working with kids. Maybe you will have Mrs O'Flynn for 6th grade math!



# Spotlight on Ms. Ortiz

By: Maggie

Have you ever wanted to know more about some of our teachers? I am here to tell you all about one of our ELA teachers, Ms. Ortiz! I had a chance to ask her a few questions to get to know her better. I was able to find out why she wanted to be a 6th grade ELA teacher and I also learned about some of her other interests!

After speaking with Ms. Ortiz, I was surprised to learn teaching wasn't always her first career choice. Some of her family members encouraged her to be a teacher but she did not think it was for her. She was unsure of what she wanted to do when she was older but she ended up in school for teaching.

Mrs. Ortiz first taught in a pre-school. After teaching preschool she realized that preschool age was not for her and she wanted to try something different. Then she moved on to elementary grades and then ended up teaching 6th grade. She really enjoys working with middle school students because she finds them to be "sweet, nice and trustworthy".

Ms. Ortiz motivates her students by incorporating jokes and funny images on the slideshows in class. This helps to engage them in the ELA topics. She likes to prepare her lessons and slides the night before which helps make the school day less stressful. Ms. Ortiz is willing to make time to help struggling students by having catch up Wednesdays and making herself available for extra help sessions. She said "it is important to stay caught up with the work." I think having the catch up Wednesdays is a great way to allow students the extra time that they need.

I was not surprised to learn that Ms. Ortiz loves to read as she is an ELA teacher. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her dog, Oliver and some family and friends too! Ms. Ortiz also enjoys watching TV, especially the Marvel Series and Cobra Kai. She likes to go on walks, sometimes with other teachers from PRMS. Those are just a few things that she likes to do in her free time.

As you can see, Ms. Ortiz is a caring and motivating teacher. She finds fun and entertaining ways to get her students attention. She also enjoys having fun outside of her classroom and keeps quite busy with family, friends and Oliver, too!

# Don't Let Them Disappear

By: Emma & Sam

Animal extinction is happening more and more. It is something that we should all be aware of so we can try to prevent it from happening.

Panda bears are an adorable and snuggly animal that might disappear. Pandas have been endangered for a very long time and it's time we try to save them. Extinction is happening for a couple of reasons and we might be able to help them! One reason is, some people would illegally hunt and capture pandas for their skin because it could be sold for a lot of money. Another reason is, deforestation. Pandas live in a bamboo forest and that is also their natural food source. If you cut that down or take that away, pandas won't only not have a home, but they will lose lots of their food. A way we could stop this is by stopping the hunt and deforestation of Pandas.

Polar bears have a long history, but it is coming to an end. Polar bears live in cold places such as the Arctic Circle to the North Pole. Due to climate change polar bears have been losing their home (the ice). Ice helps them with many things such as hunting, sleeping, traveling, mating, etc. A way we can stop this is the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is a normal cycle that helps our earth, but us humans are interfering with the cycle. One way to stop us interfering is to get rid of fossil fuels.

As you can see, pandas and polar bears are becoming more extinct everyday. If people keep on using fossil fuels and hunting pandas then there will be no more and it will be gone forever. I hope you learned a little bit more about animal extinction and how you can help stop it.



# Advice for PRMS Students

By: Arianna



Has this been a challenging year for you? Are you excited for summer break to start? I am going to tell you about some really fun things that you can look forward to this summer!

There are a lot of things to look forward to this summer! I bet you all are excited for things like going on vacation, going to the pool, playing with friends outside and just having the warm, sunny weather. If you are looking to go to a pool, there are many awesome pools. One being the Naurashaun pool or many other pools that are working to make sure they are ready for a safe summer. Also, if you are a beach person, then the beach is a beautiful option to get to see your family and friends! There are so many great beaches to visit! Since the weather will be nice out, parks, road trips, and vacations are great things to do this summer, especially since many of us probably feel like we have not traveled recently!

Here are some other things you could do on rainy days or if you like to stay home.

- Read a good book
- Watch a movie or TV show
- Get together with a couple friends
- Phone calls or zoom calls
- Cooking
- Puzzles and games
- Go for a walk or a bike ride
- Play in your backyard
- Make your own fun!

I hope this gave you some ideas or a smile as we finish out a school year like no other! So go get a book, jump in a pool or maybe just spend some time relaxing, but remember to just enjoy the summer!!!





# Movie Reviews

By: Ellie, Noreen, and Riley

Movies are a foundation of our society and have an unfathomable impact. But, how do we choose the movies we watch and know which ones are as good as popcorn and which ones are like the movie theater talker? Here are some movie reviews by a few of the PRMS newspaper club members.

## Onward

This fast forward fantasy world shows the hardships of being a high school boy. Voiced by Tom Holland, Ian Lightfoot struggles to “survive” in this kick back fairy tale. This 2020 twist is sure to bring nostalgia as Barley Lightfoot (Chris Pratt) and Ian Lightfoot struggle to bring back their father with a spell left for them after his untimely death. Get to learn brotherly friendship as you follow your quest of watching, *Onward*.



## Back To The Future

This 1985 movie is a classic 80's nostalgia with a fun twist. When teenage Marty McFly takes a ride in a time machine he accidentally ends up in 1955 where his parents are in high school. But trouble soon ensues when his parents never fall in love and it's up to Marty to save his future. This movie truly is one of a kind and timeless. Even though the film is almost 40 years old it is still as rewatchable as it was when it first released. The characters are memorable and lovable and the quotes are so unforgettable I could practically quote the whole movie. And the comedy and references are beyond perfect and hilarious. So grab your favorite candy and watch Marty try and get back to the future.

## Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, no Good, very bad Day

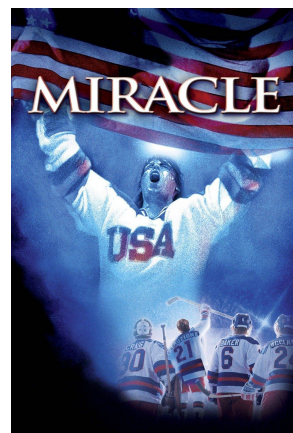
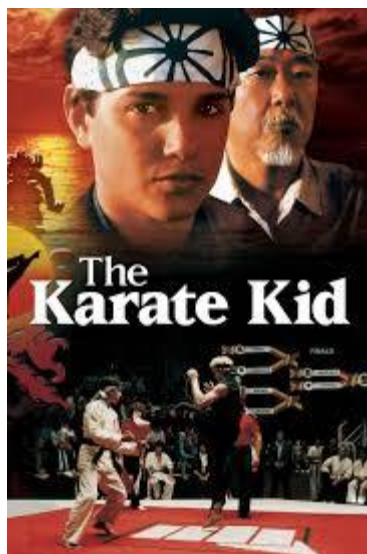
Alexander and the Terrible Horrible no Good very Bad Day is a hysterical family friendly movie. Most people I know that have seen this movie love it. I have watched this movie about 20 times and this movie is just so funny and never gets old! Alexander and the Terrible Horrible no Good very Bad Day is about a boy named Alexander who wakes up one morning with gum in his hair, well this is the domino effect of several bad things that happen to Alexander and his family. When Alexander tells his family about his horrible days he finds very little sympathy from his family. Alexander begins to wonder if bad things only happen to him, however he soon realizes he is wrong when his mother, father, brother and sister all find themselves having the worst day ever! This movie is a great option for almost everyone who loves watching comedies! This is such a hysterical movie that I think you should definitely watch one day!



# Movie Reviews

## The Karate Kid

Another 80's flick, *The Karate Kid* is perfect for those who simply want an 80's movie. The film has everything from sports, to an underdog story, to romance, and comedy. An absolute classic, the movie can only make you delighted, *The Karate Kid* is a true underdog story. That being said the movie can't get away with my comment on the levels of cheese it brings to the table. It adds very much unrealistic standards as to what school life would be like, even if it was the golden eighties. And on the cheese counter, the actors also score pretty high as well as the writing in itself. Even with this, if you can handle your cheesy moments this movie is perfect and quite enjoyable. A throwback to the eighties *The Karate Kid* is high on my recommendation list.



## Miracle

The 1980 win against the supposedly "Invincible Soviet Squad" brought viewers to tears while watching the 2006 movie, *Miracle*. While watching, you get to follow Herb Brooks and his team with their fight for glory. This joyride of emotions is sure to bring viewers to tears while bonding with this miracle team on their quest for the podium.

## You Again

*You Again*, a 2010 movie directed by Andy Fickman, is a totally underrated, unfamiliar movie that many have not heard of but would love if they took a minute to watch it. *You Again* is a romantic comedy. If you enjoy and are amused by watching movies filled with tea and drama this is the movie for you. *You Again* appeals to a great deal of viewers because it has something for everyone. If you enjoy comedy, there is comedy, if you enjoy drama, there is drama, if you enjoy romance, there is romance, if you enjoy tea, there is loads of tea, if you enjoy heartfelt movies, there are definitely heartfelt moments. Lastly, if you enjoy movies that have a little bit of cringe there are some cringy parts. Overall the movie is about a girl named Marni who had one of the worst high school experiences ever. So she is horrified to find out her brother's fiance is Joanna, her arch nemesis of high school. Marni tries to expose Joanna's evil side to her family, but the situation really explodes when the arrival of Joanna's Aunt Ramona, who was the high-school rival of Marni's mom, comes to town and stays as a house guest. When both older women return to their teenage ways it results in an extreme wedding disaster! I love this movie and know many others who love it just as much as I do!

## You Again





# Book Reviews

**By: Kara & Isabella**

Looking for a book to read? We have a couple favorites below that we thought you'd enjoy too! Take a look at our opinions and thoughts on them!!

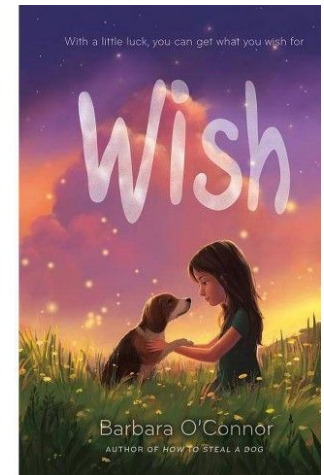
## Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Like realistic fiction books? One of my personal favorites is Wonder: a book about a ten year old boy named August. He has a rare facial deformity that he was born with. When Auggie is sent to school, people make fun of his face before learning to look past what he looks like. This popular novel teaches not to judge a book by its cover, but to focus on personality instead. Follow Auggie's experience through a mix of sad, happy, and heartfelt emotions. Once you pick up this touching novel, you'll be up all night reading.



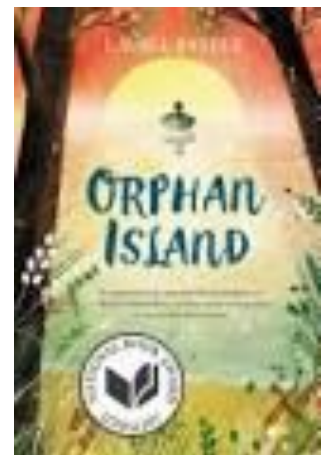
## Wish by Barbara O'Connor

If you're looking for a realistic fiction novel, this is one not to be missed! Meet Charlie Reese, the main character in this deep but enjoyable novel, who makes the same secret wish every day. Charlie must live with her aunt and uncle in Colby, who she barely knows, due to problems with family relationships and her parents' attitudes. Charlie struggles in Colby until she meets a stray dog and a kind-hearted neighbor, who both help her tremendously. This engrossing novel will take you through the 5th grade life of Charlie Reese, who unexpectedly learns what family truly means. Pick up this novel if you fancy a heartwarming book about family and friends.



## Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder

This heartwarming fantasy novel is a wise, touching story featuring nine orphans on an island. The rule is that there can only be nine orphans; Any more, things could go very wrong. Every few hundreds of sleeps, the boat comes. Like always, a young, clueless Care is in the boat to take residency on the island, and the Elder - the oldest on the island - gets in the boat to be sent away into the vast, unknown world. However, when Jinny becomes the new Elder after sadly watching her friend go, she must teach her Care everything about the island before going in the boat herself; But Jinny doesn't know if she'll have the courage to do so. Will Jinny be able to step in the boat and take off, or will things start to go downhill?



We hope this helps you choose your next book! Check out these books at the Pearl River Public Library or the PRMS Library, sit down, and enjoy!!!

# Professional Sports

By: Liam & Danny

Do you love sports? We are here to talk about pro sports and this time we will focus on Hockey and Baseball!

This year in baseball is a big year for the Mets because they are off to a good start and they are supposed to be a very good team this year. The baseball season has been going on for about 3 weeks and they are in first place in their division. I think the team that is going to win is the Mets because the Mets have been doing really well.

## Fun Facts about Baseball

- Babe Ruth is the only person to call his hit.
- The 2020 World Series winner is the Dodgers
- Pete Alonso has the most home runs in a rookie season for the Mets.
- The baseball hall of fame is in Cooperstown, New York

## Fun Facts about Hockey

- The first organized hockey game was in 1875
- The Montreal Canadian's have won the most Stanley Cups-24
- The NHL was founded in 1917
- The hockey hall of fame is located in Toronto

This year in hockey is big for the Bruins. They are the number one team in the NHL. The Bruins are in the playoffs and they are doing very well.

We hope your favorite sports team has a great season!

# Introducing some our Pirates of the Month!

by: Joseph S.

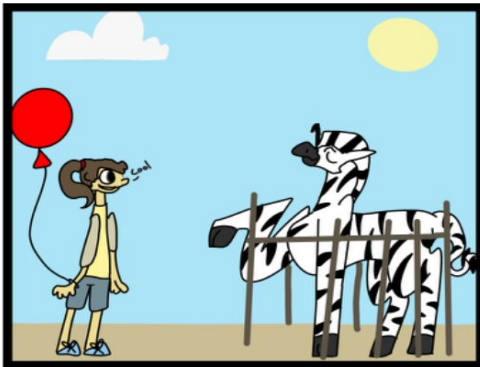
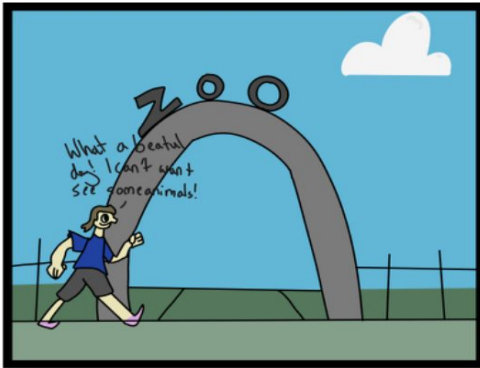
Earlier this month I interviewed some of the Pirates of The Month to help you get to know them better! Anyway, the Pirate of The Month I'm going to tell you about today is none other than myself, Joseph Soldano. I won Pirate of The Month so without further ado, let me help you get to know me better! Starting off, my reaction to winning Pirate of The Month was pretty big. So, you can imagine how I felt when I heard my name for Art. It was pretty awesome! My family's reaction to the situation was pretty good too! They were very surprised and happy that I won! My favorite food is Cavatelli and Sausage. If you haven't had it, you're missing out! My class and teachers are Ms. Catrona along with Mrs. Addino, and my class is 5-01. My favorite board game would be Clue, and my favorite video game would probably be Knockout City. Also, my favorite movie is Back To The Future. An idea that I have to improve the school is to install a garden! Finally, some advice I would give to other students on how to become a Pirate of The Month is to just be a good student, work hard, and be nice. I hope you enjoyed getting to know me a little bit more!

Another Pirate of The Month I'm going to tell you about today is one of our newspaper writers, Noreen Sheehan! Noreen's favorite color is Purple and/or lavender! Her favorite subject is Math. Noreen's family was very proud and excited that she won Pirate of The Month. She also has a dog named Magnus who is 13 years old to keep her company! (Wow! That's 91 in dog years!) When Noreen was announced as one of the Pirates of The Month, she was very excited, nervous, and proud of herself. Her favorite T.V. shows are Survivor and Kids Baking Championships.. Her favorite animals are dogs! Also, her favorite movie is Alexander And the Terrible Horrible no Good very Bad Day. Noreen enjoys playing Lacrosse, Swimming, and Football. One way she would want to change the school is by having longer lunch and recess time. Noreen's dream vacation is to go to Bora Bora and enjoy the beautiful beaches they have there! Her classroom is 5-02 and she has Ms. Casale and Ms. Catrona as her teachers. Noreen's advice for other students to become a Pirate of The Month is to try your best and put in full effort, participate, do your homework and listen to the teacher. Congratulations Noreen!

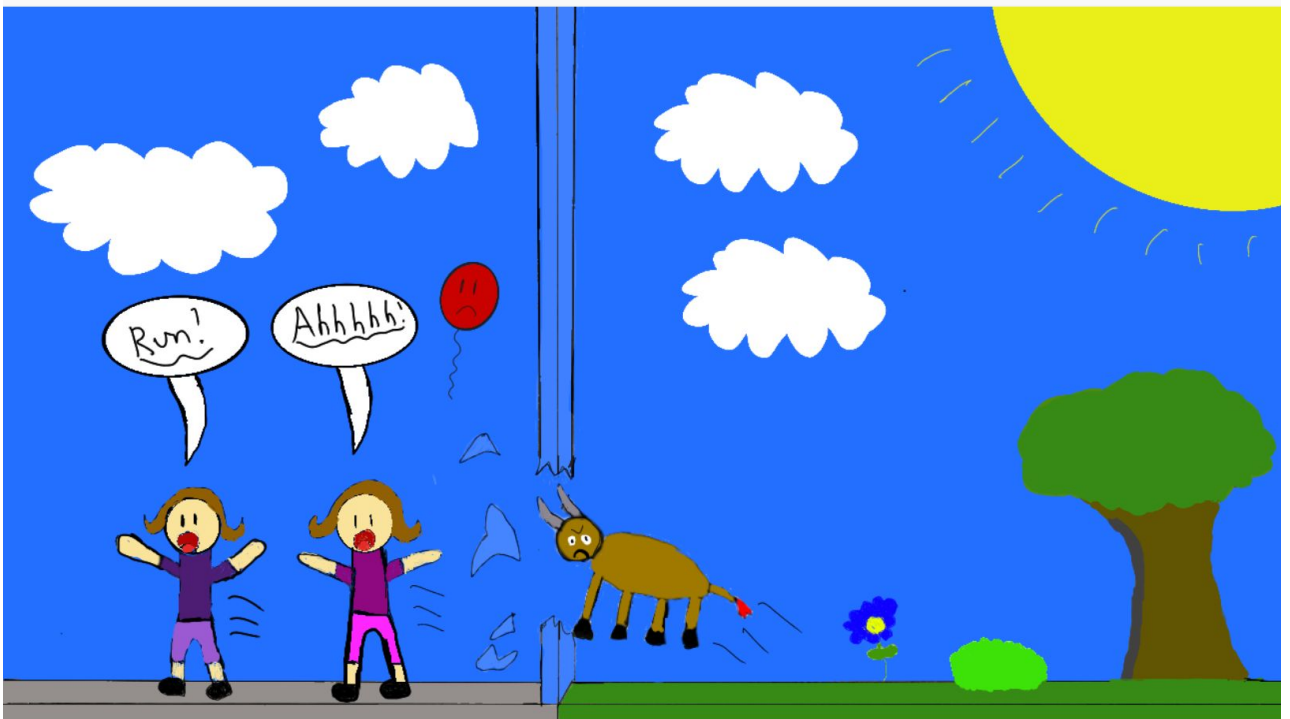
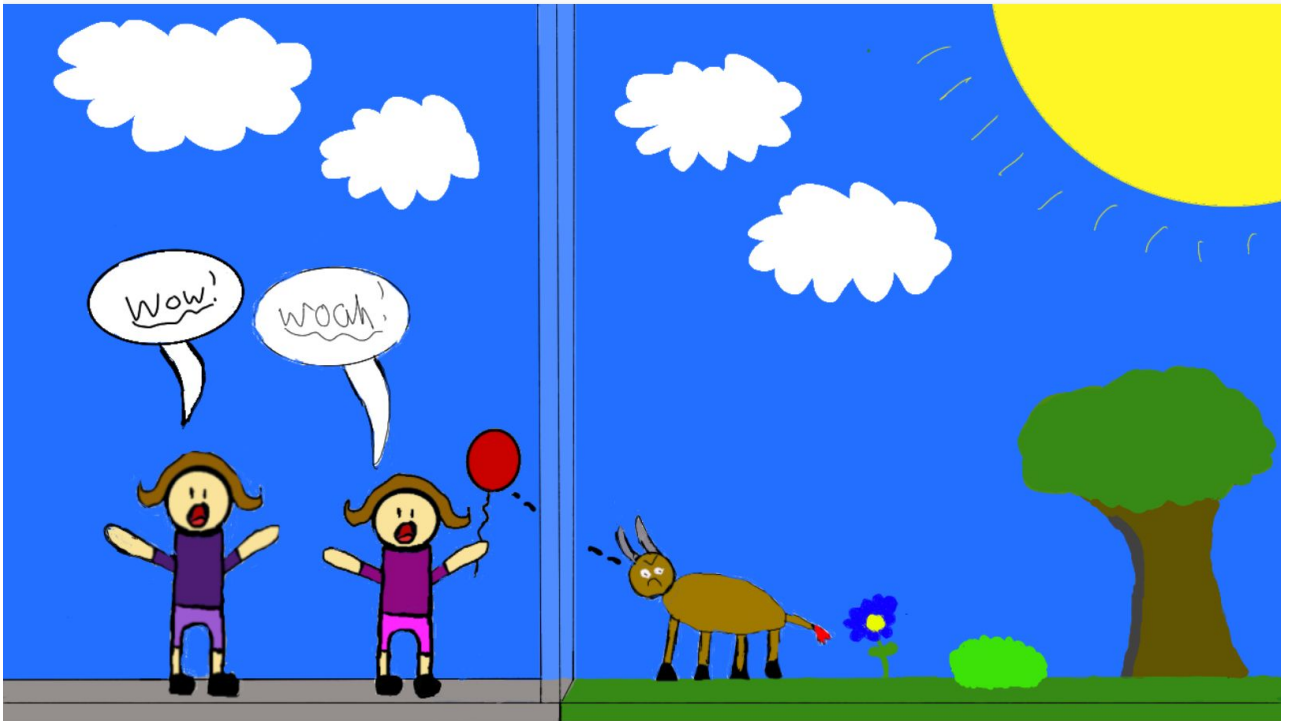
# Comics

By: Siobhan & Joe

## A Day at the Zoo



# A Day At The Zoo!





# Meet the Pirate Reporters!

Siobhan is a 5th grade student. She is on the Orange team. She loves to draw, read, and animate and her favorite color is purple. One of her favorite book series is Wings of fire.

Riley is a hard working 5th grade student on the purple team. She likes to play soccer and hang out with her friends daily. She loves to be in school and have fun. She plays the cello in Orchestra. She loves to cook and bake for her family and binge watch Masterchef Jr.

Joseph is a hard working 5th grade student who is on the Orange Team. He plays Baseball and does Karate, he is a 1st degree black-belt! He also has a mini Goldendoodle named Nash and is super playful and is the BEST dog ever. He is in the band with Ms. Benitez and plays the Saxophone. Finally, he loves hanging out with his friends and playing video games with them.

Arianna is in 5th grade. She is on the purple team. She has 2 dogs and loves to draw write, act and to dance

Emma is an outgoing student on the 5th grade navy team. She loves Pandas and eating cheesecake. She likes to go to the beach in summers and snowboards in winter. She is in the chorus class and loves to sing. She loves playing sports and playing with her friends.

Kara is a 5th grade Purple Team student who loves reading and art. She has two older brothers who are both in the High School. Kara also enjoys talking and playing with her friends.

Courtney is a 6th Grade Student on the Red Team. Her favorite school subject is science. She loves animals, she loves to sing, she loves to dance, she loves to read and loves to draw. She likes to play with her younger brother. Courtney's favorite book series is Harry Potter. When she grows up Courtney wants to be a nurse, a vet, or a scientist.

Isabella is a 5th grade silver team student she loves to paint, draw also write in her free time. She also loves to bake!

Maeve M. is a sixth grade student who loves to read, swim, play basketball and soccer, and more! She is an amazing kayaker and loves to craft, camp, hike, and basically do anything outdoors!

# Meet The Pirate Reporters!

Liam is a 6th grade student. Liam likes to play sports. He plays Baseball, Soccer, and Basketball. He also likes to ride bikes and play games.

Dani C. is a 6th grader on the red team. She enjoys to watch and play sports. Such as WCFC soccer, St. Margaret's CYO, golf, softball, and hockey. She has 2 older sisters in the high school. She wants to be an anesthesiologist when she grows up. In her extra time she likes to hang out with her friends and play with her dog Finn.

Danny is a 6th grader at PRMS. He likes to drive RC Cars, ride bikes and watch and play sports. Such as football and basketball.

Maeve L is a 5th grade silver team student. She enjoys writing and aspires to be an author when she grows up.

Gianna is a 6th grade student on the red tem. She loves to bake and read.

Ellie F. is a seventh grade student and a member of the green team. She loves movies and would definitely consider herself a movie aficionado, her favorites including *Notting Hill* and *Pitch Perfect* . She also loves musicals and loves singing and dancing to her favorite soundtracks such as *Hamilton* and *Mamma Mia!*. She hopes that one day she can be a great role model to younger generations and help with the many problems that plague our world

Noreen S. is one of our 5th grade orange team pirates. Her favorite sport is lacrosse and she loves to go to the beach. She loves dogs and hanging out at the pool. Noreen's favorite color is lavender. In her free time she loves playing board games/card games , especially *Clue!* She loves baking so much that her dream job is to be a professional baker!

Maggie T. is a 6th grade student who loves reading, writing, and cooking/baking. She wants to be a CEO of a Fashion Company one day.