



Bear Facts

Vol. 12, No. 5

St Patrick's Day Edition



A Story about Cancer Treatment:



At Journey's End

by Christopher Hardee, 5R

Last month Susanna Hardee, aged nine in fourth grade, finished the long and hard three years of cancer treatment. Susanna was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia or better known as just 'leukemia.' Going down the road of life is tough, and when you have leukemia, it's even tougher. To find out more I am here with Susanna Hardee and her mother Heather Wydra to talk about their tough experience fighting leukemia. *See Interview on page 2*



Susanna Hardee is nine years old and in Ms. Shapiro's 4th grade class. Recently, she successfully finished her three-year treatment for leukemia, a blood cancer. Here Susanna is with her dog, Teddy.

Student Council Update

by Harper Dunn, Student Council Secretary

The spring dance date has been rescheduled! The new date is Thursday, April 2 from 3:20-4:20pm for 3rd-4th graders and for 5th graders from 4:30-5:30 pm.



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At Journey's End, Cont'd

Editor's Note: Bear Facts reporter, Christopher Hardee was able to get this exclusive interview because Susanna is his sister.

Bear Facts: Hello.

Heather Wydra (Susanna's mother):Hello.

Susanna Hardee: HI!

BF: How long has it been since Susanna was diagnosed with leukemia?

SH: Two and a half years.

HW: July 27, 2012.

BF: WOW!

BF: What was the best thing about treatment?

SH: When it ended.

HW: Yes, when it was over.

BF: What was the worst thing about treatment?

SH: Needles and medicine. I used to be scared of needles but now I don't mind them.

BF: How did it feel when Susanna was first diagnosed?

HW: Shocked and sad.

SH: Confusing.

BF: Did you like the doctors that were treating Susanna?

SH: I liked them a lot and they were very nice.

BF: Did you like the hospital that was that was treating Susanna?

HW: I had a lot of confidence in them, but I hated the waiting time.

SH: I liked it a lot!

BF: Now that treatment is over do you think cancer will be forever gone?

SH: I think it is still going to trail along in my past.

HW: I certainly hope so.

BF: Do you ever feel like Susanna gets more attention than other people in the family?

SH: Sometimes but i want it to stop.

HW: After she was first diagnosed yes. We spent a lot of time with Susanna in the hospital, but in the last year, I feel like everyone has gotten equal amounts of attention.

BF: How do you mentally deal with leukemia?

SH: I don't really deal with leukemia. I just accept that i have it and move on with life.

HW: Mothers do what they have to do.

BF: How do you feel now that treatment is finished?

SH: I'm pretty happy because I don't have to go to the hospital much more.

HW: I'm proud of Susanna for being so brave. I am proud of Dallas, William and Christopher for supporting her. I know we can do anything!

BF:Thanks a lot for your time!

SH: No probs!

HW: An excellent interview!

You learned about Susanna's tough experience. Try looking into leukemia to help the cause at www.lls.org/waystohelp/donate. Thanks a lot for your time!--Christopher Hardee



"Mothers do what they have to do..."
--Susanna's mother

Lafayette Spellers Do Well in Regional Bee

by Ali Bowman, 5G, and Hannah Bocian, 5S

Our school spelling bee was on January 23. The top three winners made it to the regional bee. Christopher O'Brien got first place; Maddie Feldman took second and Sammy Taubman and Annelise Jacobson tied for third place. Sammy and Annelise went to a spell off, and Annelise was the alternate. At the regional spelling bee Christopher got an amazing second place, and Sammy got a great third place. They both will move on to the City-wide Bee. Maddie got seventh place which is fantastic, but only the top six spellers moved on. We interviewed Maddie, Christopher, and Sammy on what they thought of the bee.

Bear Facts: What place did you win?

Sammie Taubman: Third

Maddie Feldman: Seventh

Christopher O'Brien: Second

BF: What were you thinking after the Spelling Bee?

ST: I should have spelled palette right. Also, WOW I'm in third place.

MF: I was sad because I didn't qualify for the district Bee.

CO: I didn't think I could get this far.

BF: How many people were there?

ST: There was supposed to be 48 people but some didn't show up.

MF: Around 48.

CO: at least 40.

BF: What word did you get out on?

ST: Palette .

MF: Deluxe.

CO: Obstinate.

BF: Are you preparing for the City-wide Spelling Bee?

ST: I'm practicing daily.

CO: Yep!



Being in a spelling bee is serious business as you can see in the faces of Chris (above) and Sammy (left).

City-wide Spelling Bee Update

Fifth graders Chris O'Brien and Sammy Taubman proudly represented Lafayette in the city-wide spelling bee held last Saturday at NBC4. The bee was taped and will be aired on April 12 at 2-3 p.m. on Channel 4. Sammy went three rounds and correctly spelled *layette* and *linden* before missing *buccaneer* in the third round. He left out a "c". Chris went four rounds, correctly spelling *grabble*, *dugung*, and *boswell*, before misspelling *virgule* in the fourth round. (For those who may not know, virgule is the official name of the slash mark punctuating a date such as 4/12/15, the date that you should watch these two guys who were only one step away from being in the National Spelling Bee!



3.14.15 On 3-14-15!

by Addy Darnell, 4F

This year Pi day will be an epic pi day of the century. Why, you wonder? Because 03-14-15 is the day that we will celebrate 3.14.15. Like always we will do our pi recitation, a contest to see who can memorize the most digits of Pi. In our school we do it by grade. Last year the winner for fifth grade was Andy Burris he recited 240 digits. The fourth grade winner was Jonah Frumkin (136 digits) and in third grade, Aaron Gorman recited 20 digits. Matthew Burris in second grade did 40 digits. Last but not least, first grader Amalia Kenny got 24 digits last year.

Breaking News----Pi Day Update:

This year's pi day contest was held on Friday, March 13 and Lafayette students were ready for one of the best Pi days ever. Thirty-two students competed this year and fifth grader Jonah Frumkin completed his 6-year winning streak (*Yes, six! He did it in Kindergarten!*) to finish first overall. It was also a family affair with 2 Epsteins, 2 Davises, 2 Joires, 2 Hans, and 3 Kennys! The winners are as follows:

1st Grade: Griffin Vaughan (37 digits)

2nd Grade: Amalia Kenny (48 digits)

3rd Grade: Matthew Burris (100 digits)

4th Grade: Ella Davis (33 digits)

5th Grade: Jonah Frumkin (204 digits)

Math specialists Ms. Betz and Ms. Stanton are proud of all the mathematicians who participated. The Bear Facts congratulates the participants and winners!



FUN FACT: Did You Know that...the world record for the most pi digits is held by Chao Lu. He recited 67,890 digits. That's a lot. In all pi has 5 trillion digits.

Jump Rope for Heart Is Big Success by Katie Kennedy, 5C, and Harper Dunn, 5S



As always, Jump Rope For Heart was a success with kids young and old. Hundreds of students piled into the gym around 3:30 on Friday, February 27 for Jump Rope for Heart. Many 2-5th graders created their own groups of five or six with their friends. "It was fun jumping with my friends," said Molly Goldwasser.

"It was so fun!" added Joanna Chait.

"It was great, really fun." agreed Eli Faber.

In our opinion, Jump Rope was a great way to spend time after school. As usual, Jump Rope for Heart, had many awesome prizes that were handed out about every thirty minutes. Participants' permission slips were drawn from a large cardboard box and handed to the winners. About 10 prizes were given out per session.

"I think it was good, because we got to jump a lot, and got some good dancing in." said Caleb Cohn-Murphy. The younger grades' JRFH was just as awesome. They hula-hooped, jumped, and had a blast! Everybody seemed to be smiling!

Fifth grader Akul Pappajohn summed up the experience for all. "Jump Rope for Heart was awesome!" he said.

Lafayette Renovation Means Trailers for All

by Katy Whipple and Sasha Gold-Moritz, 4S

You have probably heard about the new school building that we will be getting. It will be built starting this summer and continuing all next year. In the meantime, the whole school has to be relocated to the field for the 2015-2016 school year. Maybe you haven't heard so much about that yet.

The classrooms will be in new eight-room trailers. The trailers might be nicer than the ones that we already have for the third and fourth graders. Those trailers are going to be taken away, and the new trailers will all be on the field. There will be a health suite trailer for the nurse, and there will be more trailers for some of the other teachers who are not classroom teachers.

The cafeteria will be in a large tent, but the people on the committee don't know if it is going to be a round tent or a rectangular tent. PE classes will also be held in a tent. There will be a wooden ramp that joins all of the trailers and tents. That wooden walkway will be covered so that if it is raining and you want to walk to another trailer, you won't get wet.

The teachers are under a lot of pressure because they have to decide what they are going to bring to the trailers with them and what they are going to leave behind. They can only take a certain number of boxes with them. The rest of their stuff they have to store somewhere themselves or throw away. The third and fourth grade teachers will also have to move their stuff because their trailers will be torn down. That area will become part of the new school building. There will be other little details that have to be figured out, but that is what it will be like next year while the construction is happening.

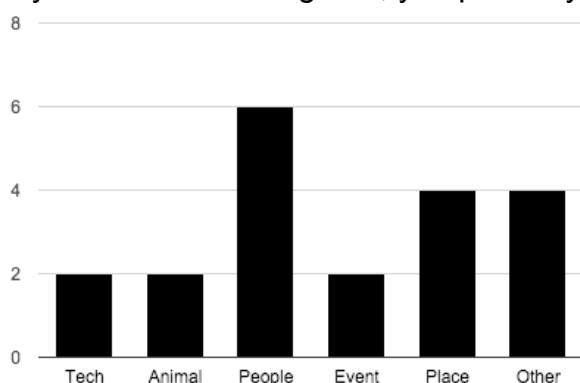


Trailers or “modular classrooms” similar to these will be located on the field next year. The whole school will consist of trailers and tents as the existing building gets added to and renovated.

Fifth Grade Research Report

by Sammy Taubman 5G, Max Fuld, 5R

If you are in fifth grade, you probably have already heard about the current research report. But if you are in another grade, you probably haven't yet heard about this exciting topic yet.



The research report is a fifth grade project in which students have to write a five-page, typed (or 8-10 pages in neat handwriting) report about a topic of their choice.

The entire project (start to finish) is going to be made over a period of about three months. The process involves many stages, such as coming up with your topic, taking notes, making an outline for your report (rough and final) and, of course, making the final report and presenting it.

The graph to the right shows the topics of some fifth graders. However, almost every topic will be different, so we grouped them into six categories; tech, animals, people, events, places, and other (the ones that don't fit into any of the first five categories). Topics ranged anywhere from early film, to American wild horses, to 80's fashion, and the even the brain!

This project is certainly stressful, that's for sure, but it is fun.

Happy Birthday Dear Teachers!

by Jade Miller, 5G

The Bear Facts would like to salute two teachers with March birthdays. There may be more staff members with March b-days, but these are the two with March birthdays who answered our survey.



Getting To Know Ms. Ritchie

Ms. Ritchie is a kindergarten teacher born on March 5 in North Carolina. Her favorite color is green; her favorite sport is baseball, and her favorite animal is a horse. Her hobbies are reading and running outside when the weather is warm. She still gets excited about her birthday and loves to spend time with her family and friends

Ms. Powell Loves Teaching

Ms. Powell is a third grade teacher born on March 14 in Cooperstown, NY. Her favorite color is green, and her favorite sports are baseball and ice hockey. Her favorite animal is her dog, Zoey. In her spare time she likes to spend time outdoors with her husband and daughter. She also like to read, do crossword puzzles, and visit family. Charlotte, her daughter, is going to have a little brother in May.



Second Grade Wax Museum Celebrates American Heroes

by Hannah Bocian, 5S



Second Graders from Ms. Breslin's class perform at the wax museum.

The second grade wax museum was held during the last week of February. There are five second grade classes now, so the event was held on different days for different classes. All second graders had to select an American hero who did something important in history. They learned all about their individual heroes and studied the accomplishments of their heroes. Then on the day of the museum, each second grader became their hero. Many people were people who you have probably heard of like Martin Luther King, Jr. Some people acted as someone who you may not have heard of yet, such as Marie Curie. I was able to interview a few second graders, and it seems as if they had a great time doing their project!

Bear Facts: Did you like the wax museum?

Sarah Bocian: Yes

Sophia Ridgway: Yes

Mia Mora: Yeah

Zack Dell-Bosack: Definitely

MM: Sally Ride

ZDB: Neil Armstrong

BF: Did you think it was a good learning experience?

All: YES!

BF: Who were you?

SB: Sonia Sotomayor

SR: Rosa Parks



St. Patrick's Day Cooking Fun *by Zoe Friedman, 5C*

St. Patrick's Day is near. Here are some fun and festive recipes for your St. Patrick's Day. Remember to cook or bake with an adult whenever a stove or oven is needed!

Recipe #1: Green Chocolate Chip cookies *(makes about 18 medium cookies)*

You will need:

1 ½ cups all purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon baking powder
½ cup softened butter
¾ cup white sugar
½ of one jumbo egg
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
3 drops of green food coloring (add more or less according to your preference)
½ cup semisweet chocolate chips



First, preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Get a cookie sheet and cover it in tin foil, then grease with non stick spray. In a large bowl cream the butter and sugar until all lumps are gone. Beat in the egg, food coloring and vanilla. In another bowl mix the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and the chocolate chips. Then slowly incorporate the dry ingredients into the wet ones. Then, roll the dough into small balls and place on cookie sheet. Bake for about ten minutes of until the edges are golden brown.

Recipe # 2: Green Eggs and Ham *(makes about four servings)*

This recipe is for both Dr. Seuss's day and for St. Patrick's day!

You will need:

two to four ounces of ham
eight eggs
two tablespoons of milk
¼ cup chopped chives
⅛ cup chopped fresh parsley
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
one tablespoon butter
two drops of green food coloring



First, cut the ham into small cubes or pieces. In a medium sized mixing bowl combine the eggs, milk, ham, salt, food coloring, pepper, chives and parsley. Whisk until the mixture is nice and frothy. Heat a tablespoon of butter in a frying pan over medium heat until the butter begins to sizzle, then add the egg mixture to the pan. Then stir the mixture with a spatula until the eggs are firm and not too runny. Then place on a plate and garnish with parsley.

Recipe #3: Last but not least, make a healthy green salad

You will need:

lettuce
cabbage
croutons



Who Is St. Patrick? *by Tusani Jackson, 5C*

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that you do not have to be Irish to celebrate. St. Patrick's Day was founded March 17, 461 A.D., the date that St. Patrick is supposed to have died. St. Patrick was born in 387 A.D, in the Roman Province of Britain. His birth name was Maewyn Succut. He also has a sister named Darerca of Ireland. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is a world-wide celebration that is celebrated on March 17. The celebration started as a religious feast day but has turned into a wider celebration. St. Patrick was kidnapped, sold into slavery and brought to Ireland. He was sixteen when this happened. His work was to tend sheep. During his captivity he turned to God in prayer. His captivity lasted four years, until he was 20 years old. Then, Patrick escaped and was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. Later he was reunited with his family in Britain. There, Patrick kept on having this dream where the people in Ireland were calling out to him saying, "We beg you holy youth please come back to us once more time."

Patrick studied for the priesthood and went back to Ireland to begin preaching the gospel to the people. Soon Patrick was spreading Christianity all over Ireland. He converted thousands. He built churches all over Ireland. He was very strong about his religion. Patrick, unfortunately, died at Saul, where he had built his first church.

FUN FACT: *Why is the shamrock part of the Irish holiday?* Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity, and it has been associated with him and the Irish since that time.

Now you know some things you didn't know before about St. Patrick and his holiday. Wear something green on St. Patrick's Day. I know I will for sure.

Leprechauns

by Natalie Sipress & Mia Sampson, fifth graders

Have you heard about St. Patrick's Day? Remember, there are those Leprechauns! Leprechauns are male sprites (fairies) and their sizes range from tiny to-- well, to tiny! The tales say at the end of a rainbow, there they are, guarding a pot of gold! At least that is what they say.



Some people say if you find their gold you get one wish, like a genie!

They can be rich but very tricky and mysterious! One day, they might give you a life supply of ice cream, the next day, they might force you to eat broccoli! On St. Patrick's Day they say it can be good

luck. It is also the mascot of Notre Dame, The Fighting Irish. Leprechauns originate in Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday and people usually associate leprechauns with Ireland. If you catch one, it also can bring good luck. HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



A St. Patrick's Day Tale

Once upon a time there was a girl named Claire. One day she was out in the garden pulling carrots for St. Patrick's day when she saw a tiny shoe. She picked it up and to her surprise she saw a tiny man dangling from it. She screamed and dropped it. "Hey," he said, glaring at her.

"Well, come on," he beckoned to her. She followed him to his world. It was beautiful, and at the end was a vault full of gold. Claire ran to it. "Wow!" she breathed.

"Welcome to elf land," he said. Claire ran around looking at everything and taking it all in. Then, he walked her back home to Mom and the relatives. They had a wonderful dinner. Every St. Patrick's Day Claire finds one piece of gold in the same spot that she had found the shoe.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, everybody
--Lily Snyder, fifth grader

The Bear Facts

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Fifth Grade Art Contest *by Eli Faber, 5R*

I interviewed the creator of an art contest for fifth graders, Miles Rollins-Waterman. (See Interview below). So, if you are a fifth grader and you are interested, leave your artwork with your name and class code in the wicker basket on the team. I also spoke with Druv Cohen, who is competing in the contest. Druv thinks that the contest is a good way to show the school your art. He thinks that the hardest part is the level of the competition. "Some of the competitors are really good, and they cause a lot of stress." Druv also has ideas for the next topic for drawings. He hopes that it is either self or jets. Let's see if he's right.

Bear Facts: Hi!

Miles Rollins-Waterman: Hello.

BF: So why did you create the art?

MRW: It started small between my friends, and then Mrs. Echave suggested that I make it a contest and put the winning drawings in the *Bear Facts*.

BF: So what is the topic?

MRW: Submissions for Pandas are done. Now, the topic is dragons.

BF: How many rounds are there?

MRW: Well, first, I split up the submissions into equal groups of four and give them to Mrs Echave, Dr. Broquard, Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Pearl. Then, the final four get judged by the same people.

BF: What would you rate the average drawing in the competition 1-10, 10 being the best.

MRW: Probably a six.



Lafayette is Falling Down

by Katie Kennedy and Harper Dunn, fifth graders

As many Lafayette students may know, Lafayette is an old school, with big renovation plans for next year.



So big that it will take a whole year, and have everyone out on the field. And it is time for a renovation. We have asked people around the building about what has been happening to them with our school building. In

Mr.Gregal's class,

students told us about a rat around the school in their years at Lafayette. In Ms.Campbell's class



we heard about mice at LAP and falling ceiling tiles in the hallways and rooms of teams three and four. The old building is falling from its hinges, but has just enough energy to make it to the end of this year. Watch out for these pests, leaks, and falling ceiling tiles. But get ready for the school's big renovation plans.



Raccoons love Lafayette...almost as much as the students do.