

Once a Panther, Always a Panther

by Meghana Venkatesha, 5th Grade



Peters is not just a school, but a special place full of memories. It is where I learned how to read, write, sing my alphabet and count. It is where I met all my dear fellow classmates who became my friends. Peters is like a second home to me.

I am going to miss Peters when I move to sixth grade. I have learned many things throughout my seven years at Peters. As a Peters Panther, I have learned the characteristics of the Panther Paws. I have learned to respect others, to complete my responsibilities, to work hard, and to be prompt.

I have been at Union since pre-k, which means I am a Union lifer. A Union lifer is a person who has gone to Union all of their school years.

No matter what, everyone at Peters will have a lot of memories of their time here. I have many memories with my friends and my teachers—from selling lemonade in pre-k to going to BizTown in fifth. Some memories like being a Peters Panther are really precious because ele-

mentary school is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In fifth grade, you get more opportunities to be involved in many different clubs. You could decide to run for a Student Council Officer that no other grade in Peters can do.

Friends are one of the most important parts of my Peters experience. They have always stood up for me in hard times or have just made me laugh uncontrollably when I was sad. Without my friends, I do not know what I would have done. A good school year is incomplete without good friends.

I think Peters is going to be the most important school to me. I learned all the basics of what I will need to know later on in the future. I learned the basics of math, language arts, science, social studies, music, art, and PE. Those things are going to help me in the future when I learn more about them.

One thing I will miss is writing for Paw Prints. It has given me a wonderful experience that will help

me in the future.

Something I learned at Peters is that you have to believe in yourself to accomplish any kind of goal. Without that belief, you will not get very far. You have to have confidence in yourself, but too much confidence will lead to conceit. A conceited person thinks that they are the best at everything so they are not open to learning and may not be willing to work hard.

If you work hard and set your mind to something, you can accomplish the impossible.

Fifth grade is the last grade that you are in elementary school and at Peters, so it was a special year for my classmates and me.

I have learned things at Peters that I need in the future to survive. I will always remember my experience at Peters, and like they all say “Once a Panther, always a Panther!”

Editor’s Note: Meghana is the editor-in-chief of Paw Prints and the Student Council president.



Tournament Time!

by James Huffman, 5th Grade

On Saturday, May 2, nearly 200 students from different Union Elementary Schools participated in the first annual Union Elementary Chess Tournament. It was sponsored by the PTA Council and held at the Union Collegiate Academy. The chess tournament was designed to be a fun way for students from different Union schools to interact with each other.

There were 24 contestants from Peters ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. Contestants played five rounds of chess, each lasting up to 20 minutes. A win was worth one point, a tie was worth half a point, and a loss earned zero points.

First through third graders competed in the morning; fourth and fifth graders played in the afternoon. Kindergartener Isaac Cole entered the morning session and played against first through third graders.

Peters Volunteer of the Month Chris Yeats planned and organized the tournament along with the Union



Peters third graders Caiden Maurer, Kya Tottress, Xavier Duncan, Daxton Mason, Jacob Bradshaw, and Aaron Hlusko rest between chess games.

PTA Council. Mr. Yeats was the head judge for the tournament.

Awards were given at the end of the tournament ranging from a white ribbon to a gold medal. Two schools won trophies—Cedar Ridge for the most contestants and Jefferson for the highest overall percentage of wins. Peters came in a close second to Jefferson trailing by less than one tenth of a point.

“My favorite part of the chess tournament was competing with other schools and winning an award at the end,” said fifth grader Bryce Hall.

“I liked going against other students that were challenging,” fifth grader Riley Black said.

Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Yeats

by Caris Fore, 4th Grade

Mr. Yeats is our Volunteer of the Month for May. He helps kids learn to play chess.

“I think chess can teach all of us very important skills,” Mr. Yeats explains.

His favorite part of teaching chess is watching kids get better and learn about chess. He has been helping kids at Peters learn chess for two years. On May 2, he was one of three people to coordinate the Union District Chess Tournament.

“My older children enjoyed the chess club so much when they were at Peters. My wife and I felt it was important to give the current students a chance to have the same experience,” Mr. Yeats explained. He was a Peters parent for 10 years.

Mr. Yeats’ favorite chess piece is the knight. “I like challenges and surprises. The knight is my favorite for these reasons. It’s the hardest to learn to use because of its special



movement. It’s also the most difficult one to see coming for the same reason. It’s fun to sneak up on an opponent with my knight because they don’t always see it is threatening one or more of their pieces,” he said.

Congratulations, Mr. Yeats, for being the Peters Volunteer of the Month!

Flame Challenge

by Ian Dollins, 5th Grade

The Flame Challenge is a contest where scientists try to explain scientific ideas to 11-year-old kids. Actor Alan Alda invented the Flame Challenge where fifth and sixth graders get to judge videos and essays from scientists that explain difficult scientific concepts.

The question scientists tried to answer this year was, “What is sleep?” There were written and visual entries. Each section had a first and second place. Winners get \$1,000 and a trip to meet Alan Alda. They also get to go to the World Science Festival in Philadelphia on May 31, where the winners will be announced.

This challenge teaches kids and is a lot of fun! Students from all over the world participate in this event. Fifth grade GATE students judged entries during their lunch hour and during GATE class.

“I learned how people explain what the question means to them,” said fifth grader Erin Hillhouse.



Fifth Graders Explore Aquatic Ecosystem

by Taylor McDonald, 5th Grade

Peters fifth graders recently visited the Rogers County Conservation District in Claremore. Students got a hands-on experience learning about ecosystems. Students explored the aquatic ecosystem and learned about the animals, plants, and different habitats. The fifth grade classes were able to put on waders, go into the water and collect aquatic organisms. After using nets to catch what was in the pond, students were able to go into the

classroom and observe their water samples to see what was swimming in the pond. The students got to walk around each station to see what everyone caught.

“The water in the pond had bugs that like to live in fairly good water,” said fifth grader Nathan Brummett. “This means the water in the pond was good.”

Mr. Robert Gibbs, the teacher, explained that he wants students to understand the impact that water has on our environment. Mr. Gibbs hoped that everyone had a great time and also said that he loves when the class learns something that they didn’t know before they came to Rogers County Conservation District.

Kindergarteners Visit Tulsa Zoo

by Aidan Byers, 3rd Grade
and Caiden Morales, 4th Grade

On April 23, kindergarten students went to the Tulsa Zoo. They went to the zoo because they had been studying animals including mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. At the zoo, kindergarteners saw animals and learned about them.

Some of the students were disappointed because the carousel didn’t work.

Isaac D. Cole said “My favorite animals were the monkeys. I had lots of fun at the zoo!”

Bella Baencizer said that the weather at the zoo was sunny and warm.

Rylee Byers’ favorite animals were the tigers because they roared at her. The mother and cubs were fighting. Rylee said she felt excited at the zoo because she got to see a lot of animals.



First Graders Visit Aquarium

by Mazie Waters, 4th Grade

On May 1, first grade went on a field trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. After the aquarium, they went to Hunter Park to play and eat lunch.

At the aquarium, first graders got to see many colorful sea creatures, including, sharks, eels, turtles, crabs, and jellyfish. The first graders got to feed the sea otters and the turtles!

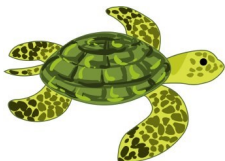
“We did a science unit on organisms and wanted first graders to

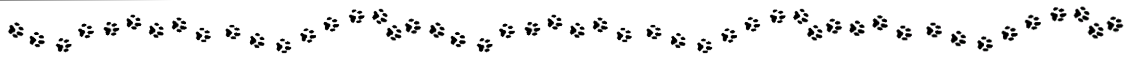
get a real life experience at the aquarium!” said first grade teacher Mrs. Paschall.

“My favorite part was going under the bridge full of fish,” said Carissa Wright.

“My favorite sea animal was the giant turtle!” exclaimed Drew Hillhouse.

“First grade has been going to the aquarium since I have been teaching at Peters, which has been nine years,” said Mrs. Paschall. “My favorite part was getting to see the kid’s faces while they were feeding the sea otters.”





A Silly Assembly

by Grayson Tempest, 4th Grade

On May 7, an assembly was held to reward students for meeting their fundraising goal. Mrs. Gray was silly stringed during that assembly. The reason she was sprayed with silly string is because students were challenged to sell ten items. Those who sold ten items got to silly string Mrs. Gray.

“I was really surprised because I thought I would be soaking wet, but it was really stringy. The hardest part was to breathe,” said Mrs. Gray. Thirteen students sold ten items,

so those students got to silly string her.

“I liked it because it was funny and because she let the kids do it,” said Brennan Stout, fourth grader.

Peters raised a total of \$2,100. Third graders Jacob Bradshaw and Kyler Barry encouraged students to sell items by making posters.

“We wanted to make money to help the school out. I had so much



fun selling items,” said Jacob.

On May 12, top seller Bailey Dickerson, a third grader, got to bring two of her friends to play on the video game truck.

Chicks Invade Peters!

by Anneston Tempest, 2nd Grade

On Wednesday April 1, fifth grader Daphne Crawford gave the school eighteen chicken eggs. Only eight of them hatched. Five hatched in Mrs. Harding’s room. Their names were Fluffy, Poker, Owl, Wally, and Mrs. Hillhouse. The chicks visited Mrs. Salinas’s room for several days so everyone in the school had a chance to see them.

“I thought they were cute,” said second grader Brooklyn Womack. In Mrs. Brashear’s room, three chicks hatched. They were named Woodstock, Lucy, and Linus. Lucy had a hard time coming out of her shell, but Mrs. Brashear and Mrs. Harding helped her out. Woodstock



was born on April 14 and Lucy and Linus were born on April 15. The chicks were put in a red tub after they hatched. There were marbles in the water bowl so they wouldn’t drown. When Daphne took the chicks home, the whole class was sad.

“It was really exiting when we got the eggs,” said Breanna Meeks from Mrs. Brashear’s second grade class. “I didn’t want to see them leave because they were so cute,” said second grader Allison Green.

Making Music at Youth Arts

by Abigail McMahan, 5th Grade

On April 27, fifth grade students from across the Union district volunteered to take part in Youth Arts and performed at the Union Performing Arts Center. On the day of Youth Arts, Mrs. Morris took the participants to the PAC to practice. At the PAC Youth Arts students learned a variety of songs..

“My favorite song was Possibility,” Mrs. Morris said.

Fifth grader Chloe Johnson said, “My favorite part was getting to practice all day.” After spending the day practicing, students returned in the evening to perform for their parents. “It was fun singing in harmony and a great way to show others how much fun arts can be,” said Lauren Fricke. “I think this would be a great opportunity for fourth graders to participate next year in Youth Arts because it was fun and you get to hear how great you sound in harmony.”



The Big Serve

by Cody Paschall, 5th Grade

On Saturday, April 25, members of Bethany Church came to Peters as a part of their annual Big Serve project. The Big Serve is when members of Bethany volunteer their time to spruce up places in Broken Arrow.

One of the places they visited is the Peters solarium. Students may have noticed when walking by the solarium that the waterfall wasn’t working and needed a new pump.

Thanks to a donation from Modern Woodman of America, Bethany Church installed a new pump and other little things like flowers and decorations.

“I love to hear what all the kids have to say after our work day and the excitement they have!” says Ernest Holland, missions pastor at Bethany Church.

Thank you Bethany Church for making our solarium look great!



GATE Fifth Graders Step Back in Time

by Abigail McMahon, 5th Grade

Welcome to the Renaissance! On May 8, fifth grade GATE students went to the Renaissance Festival at the Castle of Muskogee. Students went to the Renaissance Festival because they were learning about the Renaissance era in class.

At the Renaissance Festival, GATE students from Peters, Jarman, and Anderson learned about magic fairies, mermaids, gypsies, dragons and royal queens. Fifth graders participated in a scavenger hunt, learned how to make yarn, made

bracelets out of fabric and were taught a special gypsy handshake.

Columbine the Cat Fairy was in Cat Valley and came to the festival to watch humans. Teaguen the Dragon was selling potions that broke gypsy curses. He was passing out magic beans as well.

Teaguen said, “Plant them on a summer’s night. If it’s the right summer’s night on the right full moon it will grow a bean stalk clear up to the clouds. I guarantee it and all guarantees are not guaranteed.”

Gary McMahon, a fifth grade parent, said “I liked seeing all the costumes.”

“My favorite part was the big maze and the root beer,” said fifth grader Jasai Brunson.

Peters Gets a Weather Station

by Cambell Gniech, 5th Grade

Mr. Bowen wrote a grant to donorschoose.org and received a weather station that is in the solarium. It was placed on top of the solarium because that’s how it tells the wind speed, temperature, humidity, and air pressure. It uploads data on the internet every minute so you can see the weather from all around the school.

Cody Paschall in Mr. Bowen’s class said, “I am excited about the weather station and now I get to learn more about the weather and see more things about the weather. Also I can act like a meteorologist and predict the weather.”



Look! It’s the new Peters weather station! Thank you donors!

Moving to Fifth Grade

Editorial
by Grayson Tempest, 4th Grade

It’s the end of the year. Fourth graders are becoming leaders of the school. As fifth graders next year, they will have opportunities to be part of TV crew, safety patrol, be a student council officer, and even go to BizTown. I’m excited to be a part of these activities. Make the best of these activities. The fifth grade year is your final year in an elementary school with all of your friends. Don’t you want to create positive memories in your fifth grade year?

Students in fifth grade have to take five state tests in math, reading, writing, social studies, and science. It’s a lot of work to take all of those tests. I don’t know about you, but I am kind of nervous to move on to fifth grade. I will be getting ready for the fifth grade year, maybe by practicing my math facts, doing science experiments, writing in a journal, or just reading for fun.

Remember to be kind to all teachers and students. Try to stay out of trouble. Do you really want getting in trouble to be the main memory of your fifth grade year?

Your fifth grade year should be a fun year. Don’t spend your time worrying about the state test. Just work hard and listen to your teacher and you will be prepared. It’s your last year in a neighborhood school so enjoy it! The following year we will go to one big school with every single sixth grader in the Union District. So make the best of your fifth grade year!

Get Ready to Sing

by Lauren Hemm, 4th Grade

On April 21, before the PTA meeting, the honor choir sang songs for their parents in the media center. Choir sang Thinking of You, Fireflies, Seasons of Love, and The Water is Wide. Mrs. Morris played the music on the piano.

“Some of them I picked because they were Youth Art songs and some I wanted the students to relate to, others were about friendship and I really like that,” said Mrs. Morris. “There is no more time but I will try to do more next year.”

Fun at the Carnival

by Cameron Brashear, 4th grade

On Saturday, April 25, Peters held a school carnival. It was sponsored by PTA. There were rides, games, food, and even a silent auction.

To ride the rides, students had to have a wristband or buy tickets. Tickets cost fifty cents. Wristbands were ten dollars if purchased before the carnival and twelve dollars during the carnival. Over 300 wristbands were purchased.

This year, carnival activities included body glitter, a rock wall, a dunk tank, a jail, the wrecking ball, a pirate ship, pony rides, a race game, and a toilet paper toss. Many people won goodies at the cake

walk. Delicious food was served by PTA.

A game called Dunk a Duck has been a Peters tradition for four years. Dunk a Duck is a game where students have three chances to knock over a grade level duck. Each time a duck is dunked the grade level that duck represents gets a point. At the end of the carnival, the points were tallied and the grade that got the most points won an extra recess. Third grade was the winner for the second year in a row. This year, students raised \$102.00 from Dunk A Duck. All this money goes to help maintain the solarium.



Third grader Harish Vaithianathan said, “I was very excited!”

Third grader Dariuz Black said, “I felt like I was the king of the world!”

Third Graders Perform *Wizard of Oz*

by Mia Hastings, 5th Grade

Third graders recently performed *The Wizard of Oz* play. Seventeen years ago, Mrs. Keller began the Peters tradition of performing the *Wizard of Oz* play with her class.

Third grade classes practiced twice a day in the morning and afternoon. Each class performed on different days. The plays were held in the Peters media center.

The teachers chose student parts by their personalities and how well they played the part. Students could request roles, but it did not mean they would get that part.

“My favorite part of the play was seeing all the kids doing so great, some of them really surprised me and shown in the spotlight!” said Ms. Knight.



“My favorite part of the play was getting the apples thrown at me!” said third grader Jackson Summar.

The Wizard of Oz play taught kids that they could do things they never expected they could do!

Thank You, Mrs. Keller

by Reilly Logan, 3rd Grade

Even though she has retired, Mrs. Keller has been spending lots of time at Peters. She volunteered to help second and third grade with their plays. Third grade performed *The Wizard of Oz* and second grade performed the *Seussical*. Mrs. Keller has also been helping with plays at Grove this year. Her favorite thing about volunteering for the plays is that the students make up unique ideas.

Mrs. Keller has also been helping Ms. Story by sorting books in her room. Teachers can go into her room and check out books any time of the day.

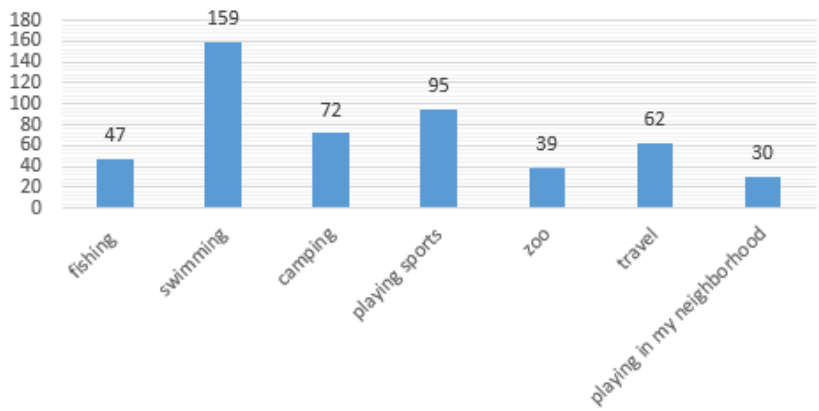
“I’m very grateful that Mrs. Keller took her own time to help me,” expressed Ms. Story.

Mrs. Keller is very pleased to be the Fifth grade player Bryce Hall said, Fifth grade player Bryce Hall said, Volunteer of the Month at Peters for April. She says she misses her teacher friends and students.



Poll and Graph by Mason Kidd, 4th Grade

Favorite Outdoor Activities





Going Green

by Meghana Venkatesha, 5th Grade

On May 13, five members of the Peters Green Team, Mrs. Harding, and Mrs. Monroe went to the Oklahoma Green School Summit at Clyde Boyd Middle School in Sand Springs. The five members were Meghana Venkatesha, Mia Hudson, Grayson Tempest, Jenaya Monroe, and Kennedy Salinas. They presented a program about how Peters became a green school.

Many other schools including Tulsa, Norman, Edmond, and Jenks also attended and presented details about their school’s green programs. Students learned about how recyclables are sorted and processed. Clyde Boyd Middle School had a sensory garden which meant everyone could smell, eat, taste, touch, and hear different things in

the garden. The team learned about the Blue Thumb stream monitoring program. They learned about different types of trees for different climates. PSO also taught students how they could conserve electricity at their homes and in their schools.

Recycling club president Mia Hodson said, “It was interesting and very informational. I would definitely go again if I had the opportunity. It was cool what happens to our recyclables and to find out many more ways to recycle.”

“It was an experience of a lifetime and I am proud to be a green school!” fourth grader Kennedy Salinas exclaimed.

“Our Peters team did really well and we also got a request from the Oklahoma Green Schools to post our presentation on their website,” said Mrs. Harding.

Be Kind

by Lauren Hemm, 4th Grade

From April to May, Peters celebrated kindness month. The point of kindness month was to remind students that they should never be mean or disrespectful to other students or teachers. Student council representatives and officers made posters and put them all around the school so where ever students and teachers went they were reminded

to always be kind and never cruel. Mrs. Morris, fifth grade teacher, came up with the idea of kindness month, but not everyone wanted to start kindness month. Thankfully Mrs. Morris convinced student council to give it a try. When Mrs. Morris thought of kindness month during spring break she loved the idea. She had seen people getting bullied and was getting tired of it. She thinks it has improved student behavior at Peters and is very sad to see it end in May.

Keep Reading!

by Mason Kidd, 4th Grade

The summer reading program at the Tulsa City-County Library is a program for teens and children. It includes events such as movie nights, raffles, and workshops. “The main goal of the summer reading program is to keep reading levels at or above the student’s levels at the end of the school year. If students don’t read during the summer they will experience summer slide (that means they will lose some of the learning that occurred during the year),” said Mrs. Lampi.

“I think it’s a great idea, not only does it keep students reading, but it is a lot of fun participating in all they events the public library has to offer,” she said.

Students who visit the public library four times and read at least eight books receive a medal and a coupon book. There are different programs at different libraries. Children of all ages can participate in the program. Teens only have to read six books to get a coupon and a flashlight.

Students who are looking for something to do during the summer can go to the public library and check out books and sign up for the summer reading program.



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Respect Lunch Ladies

Editorial by Elijah Berg, 3rd Grade

People should respect the lunch ladies. Some kids say thank you occasionally. I want to change that to always.

The lunch ladies cook for every kid in the school. And the lunch ladies have one break for 4 minutes and for the rest of the day they are standing by food just wishing they can eat it but they are too hard working to eat it. And we don't realize that.

But guess who has to put up with kids not liking their food? The lunch ladies.

To respect the lunch ladies, say thank you when you get your food. Your reward: a big smile. Respect the lunch ladies.

Matilda

Book Review

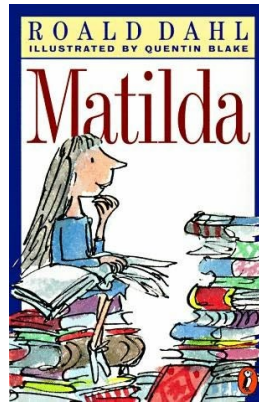
by Lauren Hemm, 4th Grade

Matilda by Roald Dahl is about how a little girl who is very smart and lives with mean parents. On top of that she has to deal with a very mean principal, Mrs. Trunchbull.

Matilda likes to read, but all her parents care about is watching television!

Matilda wants to go to school, and her parents finally let her. They make her go to kindergarten instead of the grade she is supposed to be in. Her kindergarten teacher, Miss Honey is very nice and notices that Matilda is too smart for kindergarten. Miss Honey tries to reason with the principal, Miss Trunchbull. The principal not only calls the students blisters, she also hurts them physically.

Matilda discovers her special identity when she tips a glass of water on the Trunchbull, using only her mind! She then talks to Miss Honey about her newly discovered powers. Miss Honey invites Matilda to her house, and while Matilda is at her house, she discovers Miss Honey has a secret, too. Read *Matilda* to find out!



Ida B

Book Review

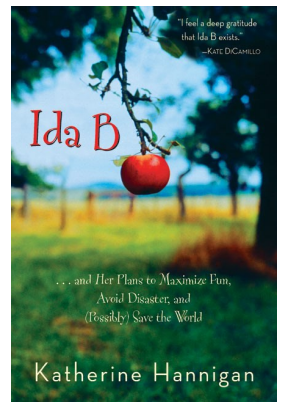
by Mazie Waters, 4th Grade

Ida B wants to go play outside, but she can't until she has completed all of her chores. So, to speed things up a bit, her daddy hands her a dish, Ida B would sprint to the cabinet, then come back for the next dish. Then, finally, after hearing her mama and daddy chat for what seemed like forever, Ida B finally says, "There is never enough time for fun."

She finally gets to go outside. When she gets there she sits by one of the apple trees in the family apple orchard. She starts finishing a drawing that she had started the day before. After a while she starts talking to the trees. Her best friend out of all of the trees is Viola. She is the nicest one out of all of the trees.

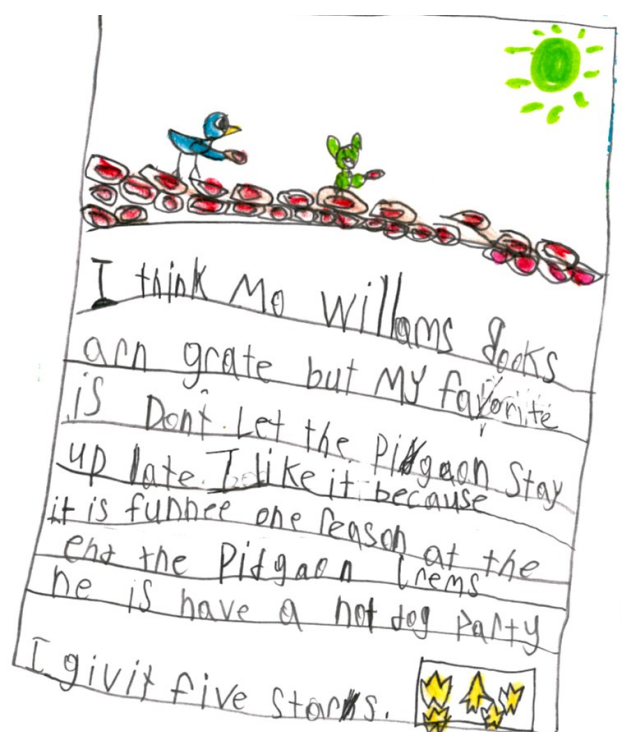
Viola says, "How are you doing Ida B?" Ida B replies, "Good."

Then out of nowhere one of the meanest trees out of the bunch, tells Ida B that trouble is coming her way! To find out what that "trouble" could be, go to your local library to find out!



Book Reviews by Jaydyn Austin and Jade Sanchez, 1st Grade

Don't let the pigeon
stay up late. I like
this book because he
says he's not tired.
Another reason is
that he sleeps with
Knuffle bunny.
The last reason is
he falls asleep and
dreams about a hot
dog party with Knuffle
bunny. ★★★★★



Spotlight on Science

by Caris Fore, 4th Grade

On Thursday May 7, Peters fourth grade students presented their science projects in the cafeteria. Fourth grade parents, students, friends, and teachers crowded into the cafeteria to view the projects.

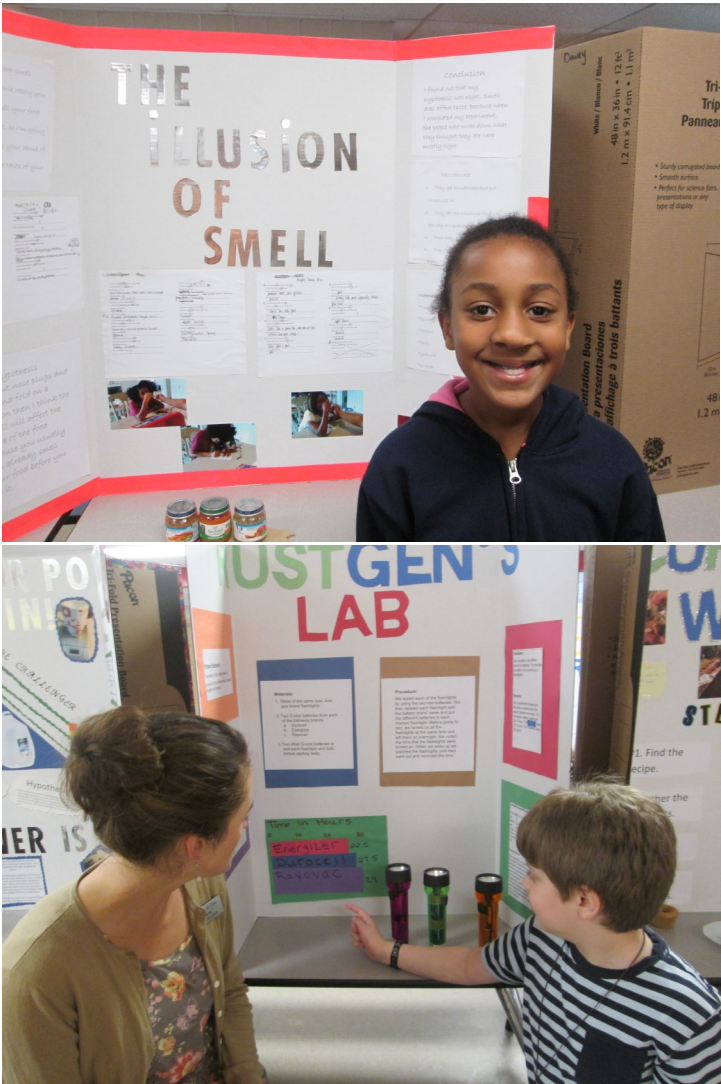
“We are doing the science fair to investigate how to solve problems and because it is fun,” said fourth grade teacher Mrs. Borgelt. Mrs. Borgelt has been doing the science fair for four years.

“I learned which paper towel is the strongest and what to put apples in to keep them fresh,” said fourth grade parent Olivia Viets.

“It was a hovercraft. It was fun, easy to do, and I have always wanted to see how they work,” explained fourth grade student Takyra Sampson.

“I did an experiment to see what type of salt would melt ice the fastest, because in the winter sidewalks get a layer of ice on top and most people put salt on it and I wanted to see if they were using the right type of salt and it turned out they were not,” fourth grader Haylee Christopher explained.

Even though fourth grade only had a few minutes to present, you could tell that all of the students worked very hard.



Comic by Aidan Byers, 2nd Grade



