

Peters Elects Student Council

by Xitlali Moreno, 5th Grade

Have you ever wanted to vote? Third, fourth, and fifth graders got the opportunity to vote on October 9 in this year's Student Council elections. Fifth grade teacher, Ms. Morris along with third grade teacher, Ms. Knight and fourth grade teacher, Ms. Cure are co-sponsors of Student Council.

"Student Council members are like our leaders and they plan service projects in our school," stated Ms. Morris.

Student Council speeches were held in the gym at 8:30, October 9. Third, fourth, and fifth graders listened to the speeches. After the speeches they went back to their classroom to vote.

Sixteen students from fifth grade ran for Student Council offices. Fifth graders running for president were Cassie Cussen, Gloria Chavez, Maddi LaPointe, Sean Page, Evan

Skeie, and Meghana Venkatasha. Running for vice president were Noah Smith, Amiyah Norwood, and Abigail McMahon. Taylor McDonald ran unopposed for secretary. Erin Hillhouse, Bryce Hall, Annie Moreno, and Alyssa Abrams ran for treasurer. The candidates for historian were Mia Hastings and Jasai Brunson.

The winners were announced at the end of the day. Meghana Venkatesha was elected as president, Abigail McMahon was elected vice president, Taylor McDonald as secretary, Erin Hillhouse as treasurer, and Mia Hastings as historian.

Many of the candidates were anxious about giving their speeches.

"I was scared and nervous and it was crazy being in front of all of the students and teachers," said fifth grader Gloria Chavez.

"I was nervous and my heart was racing when I was on stage and when I won!" exclaimed fifth grader Erin Hillhouse.

Fifth grader Jasai Brunson said, "I felt nervous because I said my speech to about 300 people!"



Pictured from left to right are Treasurer Erin Hillhouse, President Meghana Venkatesha, Secretary Taylor McDonald, Vice President Abigail McMahon, and Historian Mia Hastings.

An Apple a Day

by Caris Fore, 4th Grade

On October 2, the second grade classes took a field trip to the Livesay Apple Orchard in Porter, Oklahoma.

"We thought the apple orchard was a unique field trip and not many people get to go," second grade teacher Mrs. Brashear said.

Second graders picked apples and pumpkins, played games outside, watched a video on how apples and pumpkins grow, went on a hayride, and had a picnic lunch.

"My favorite part was getting to pick a pumpkin," Alyssa Viets said.

"The trip went really well, except that it stormed. We still had a good time though," Mrs. Brashear said.

The apple orchard was started by Mr. and Mrs. Livesay, and is 30 years old.

Avery Fore said, "We picked Granny Smith apples and got to

keep them!"

So, how about them apples, second grade?



Second grader Alyssa Viets pretends to milk a cow at the Livesay Apple Orchard.



Congratulations to Mrs. Cunningham, who was elected as the Peters Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015! Be sure to read next month's edition of Paw Prints for a feature article about Mrs. Cunningham.



Sonic Spirit Night

by Cameron Brashear, 4th Grade

On October 14, Peters students were invited to the Sonic restaurant near 81st & Garnett to raise money for their school. This is called fundraising. The reason we participate in fundraising is because it is a great way to help our school and to have some awesome food!

Sonic served well over 100 orders to customers that night, many of



them Peters students. Ten percent of the money spent on food during this fundraiser goes directly to Peters to help buy new materials for the classrooms! That means if every order Sonic took that night was worth just \$10, Peters would get over \$100!

Each week, Sonic partners with a different Union school to raise funds.

Kindergartner Cameron Bresciano in Mrs. Brunson's class said that he had a good time and that his favorite Sonic food is the M&M Blast!

Lights, Camera, Action!

by Mia Hastings, 5th Grade

TV crew is back, and better than ever. In the morning, when students go to their classrooms, they usually see people on the TV; well that's TV crew. Mrs. Salinas is in charge of TV crew.

Students on the crew read the day's lunch menu and report what has been happening in the past week, along with the present week's events.

Each of the students involved in TV crew have assigned jobs. The jobs are cameraman, cue card holder, and anchor. Cameramen operate the camera, the anchors are on camera telling students about the daily news, and cue card holders hold up speaking cards for the anchors.

Abigail McMahon said, "TV crew has helped me overcome my fears of talking in front of people."

Fifth grader Cambell Gniech stated, "I like TV crew because I get to learn new things; like how to work a camera."

There are 20 kids in all, and four to five kids, per crew. Each crew is assigned a color. Every week the colors of crews rotate. The students have to be at school early in the morning to practice and rehearse.

If you are in fourth grade this year, then at the end of the year you can sign up for TV crew.

Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours!

Academic Team to Host Competition

by Meghana Venkatesha, 5th Grade



This will be Peters' second year to compete in an academic bowl tournament. On November 5 and November 6, fifth and fourth grade academic teams are going to participate in an academic bowl. Peters has four teams, two fourth grade teams and two fifth grade teams. Jarman and Anderson will also compete in the tournament which will be held at

Peters. The big computer lab, Mrs. Harding's room, and the library will be used for this event. Most students are excited and nervous about the competition.

There are two captains on each team, for a total of eight captains. Mr. Bowen and Mrs. Harding will sponsor the tournament. Last year, one fifth and one fourth grade team took first place in the spring tournament.

Mrs. Harding and Mr. Bowen wrote a grant to get a new wireless buzzer system. Academic team members are excited to use the new buzzer system in the competition.

Evan Skeie said, "I love academic team because we get to learn different kinds of skills and spend time with our friends."

Seth Dollins said, "Academic team is fun because you can test out what you know with your friends and have fun while doing it."



Speech Teacher

by Grayson Tempest, 4th Grade

We have a new speech teacher at our school. Her name is Laurie Waters. She majored in Speech and Language Pathology at the University of Tulsa. She earned her Master’s degree and went straight to teaching at Peters. This year is her first year working with kids.

“I’m really excited to be here,” said Miss Waters. She wanted to be a speech teacher because she wanted to help people who needed to communicate better.

“Communication is a very important skill,” said Miss Waters.

A speech teacher helps students pronounce words correctly, and use proper language so they can speak correctly in their classes.

“I love working with kids, and getting to be in the school environment,” she said. Her favorite part of



this job is coming to Peters every day and the kids she gets to work with.

Candy Across the Sea

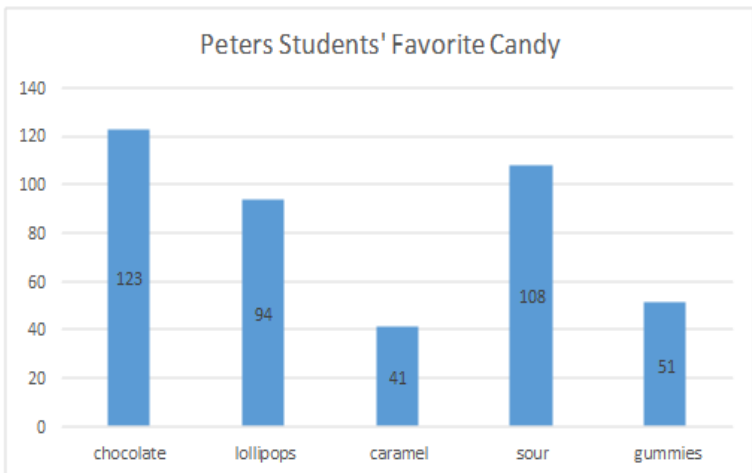
by Miles Givens, 5th Grade

Well-loved kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Hillhouse is once again collecting candy for the soldiers. Every October, Mrs. Hillhouse says that her children receive tons of candy during the Halloween season. Most of the time they don’t eat it all. Rather than have it go to waste, she and her husband began to brainstorm on the best usage for all those sweets. So in 2011, she teamed up with the Blue Star Moms (*relatives of soldiers deployed in the military*) and together, they began their crusade to donate candy to our troops overseas. Each year on the Saturday after Halloween, Mrs. Hillhouse collects 20 pounds of candy. With the help of the Blue Star Moms the candy is sent to troops all



over the world. Mr. Hillhouse, who has been deployed multiple times, shared that the troops really appreciate the kind gesture and more importantly, how much they really love the candy!

So remember, if you have any uneaten candy that your parents don’t want laying around the house, donate it to Mrs. Hillhouse and she will make sure our troops have a “sweet” time.



Poll by Reilly Logan and Harish Viathianathan, 3rd Grade

Just Say NO!

by Meghana Venkatesha 5th Grade

Users are LOSERS!! Attention, Attention! Have you seen the drug-free posters in the hallway? Those posters are for Red Ribbon Week, October 27 through October 30.

Red Ribbon Week started in memory of DEA agent KiKi Camarena who was killed in the line of duty in 1985. After citizens found out, they wore red ribbons in his honor.

Mrs. Allen is in charge of this event. She said that on each day of this week, we will do different things to encourage students to be drug-free. Also it will help get people get in the spirit of Red Ribbon Week. October is also the nation’s Drug-Free month and that is another reason this event is held in October.

“Red Ribbon Week reminds you to stay healthy because if you do drugs, it keeps you from achieving your goals,” said Mrs. Allen.

On Monday, students got to wear their favorite team jerseys because it was team up against drugs day. On Tuesday, students wore bright colors because it was “My Future is too Bright for Drugs” day. On Wednesday, students are wearing hats for “Put a Cap on Drugs” day. On Thursday, students will wear funky socks for “Sock it to Drugs” day.

Jasai Brunson, “It is always so much fun wearing different things. My favorite day is Hat Day!”



Tulsa Drillers mascot Hornsby makes an appearance at the Peters Red Ribbon assembly.

Stone Fox

by John Reynolds Gardiner
Book Review
by Harish Viathianathan, 3rd Grade

A boy named Little Willy and his dog Searchlight lived with Willy’s grandfather. One day his grandfather became sick. The doctor said that his grandfather gave up on life or was worried about something. Little Willy thought his grandfather was worried about the potato farm, which needed to be harvested. Little Willy and his dog Search Light worked hard and earned money from the harvest. But grandfather’s health grew worse and worse.

Then one day when Little Willy came home from school, he saw a tall man with a horse. It was the tax man who demanded \$500 in tax money for their farm. He said that if they didn’t pay, the government would take the farm away.

Somehow, Willy would need to get \$500 to keep the farm and hope that his grandfather would get well again. He saw a poster about a dog sled contest and the prize happened to be \$500, so he signed up for the contest.

Every year, a giant man named Stone Fox had won the prize. On race day, Little Willy hitched his dog Searchlight to his sled and started to race. Stone Fox had five dogs attached to his big sled.

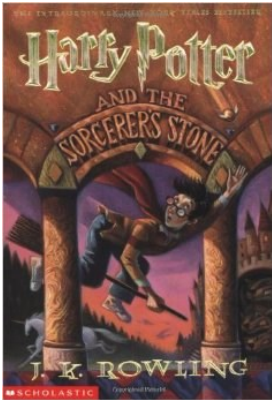
The final two chapters of the book explain the race briefly and each line leads to suspense. Check out this book at the library to learn who wins and what happens to Little Willy and his dog, Searchlight.



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

by J.K. Rowling
Book Review
by Garrett Viets, 4th Grade

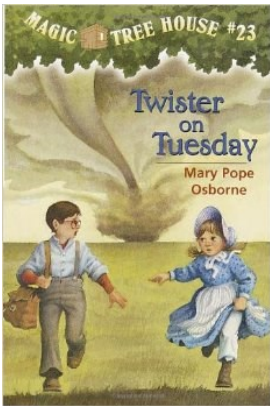
Do you like ghosts, wizards and witches? Then *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* might be the book for you. It’s about a boy who lived in a cupboard under the stairs with his aunt and uncle, the Dursleys. One day he finds out he’s a wizard and goes to school at Hogwarts. There he finds out what really happened to his parents. If you want to find out too, check out this book at the Peters library.



Magic Tree House: Twister on Tuesday

by Mary Pope Osborne
Book Review
by Aidan Byers, 3rd Grade

Have you ever gone back in time? You will when you pick up a book in the series, *Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne. In book #23: *Twister on Tuesday*, Jack and Annie go back in time to a small school house. They meet a teenage school teacher and a group of students. Jack and Annie’s adventure begins when they discover a terrible tornado is headed their way! What will they do to save the teacher and the students from the tornado? You’ll get sucked into this book when you check it out at your local library.

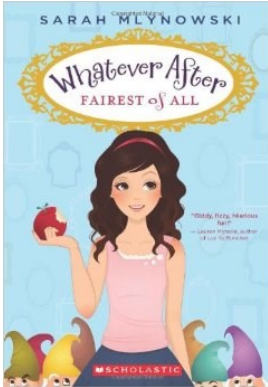


Fairest of All

by Sarah Wlynowski
Book Review
by Lauren Hemm, 4th Grade

Once upon a time Abby and her brother, Jonah, were sucked into a mirror. They found themselves in Snow White’s story. Luckily, they were just in time to save Snow White from getting poisoned, yay! Wait...no, not yay. If Snow White does not get poisoned, she will not meet her true love and they will not ride into the sunset. And most of all, they will not be happy ever after!

So now they have to fix Snow White’s story and get home. They have to battle castle guards, crocodiles, and worst of all, the queen. There’s a big twist at the end of the book. If you like exciting books, this is a book you will want to read. You can check out *Whatever After: Fairest of All* at the media center.



Book Fair a Success

by Lauren Hemm, 4th Grade

On Monday, September 29, the Scholastic Book Fair came to Peters. The media specialist, Mrs. Lampi, was in charge of the book fair.

“I got the book *Sisters*. I read the book and it was really good,” said third grader Khykah Hendrift.

Peters has sponsored the book fair for fifteen years. We have the book fair because not only does it

provide books for students, it provides money for library materials. It makes about \$1,700 in cash or \$3,400 in Scholastic credits which can be used to buy books.

All of the Union elementary schools have book fairs. This year the most popular book at the Peters book fair was *Minecraft*.

Fifth grader Bryce Hall stated, “I liked that the book fair had a lot of books to offer.”

Read a good book lately?
Submit a book review in
the Panther Dropbox out-
side Mrs. Harding’s door.

Citizens of the Month Honored

by Abigail McMahon, 5th Grade



Every month one student from each class in fourth and fifth grade is invited to eat lunch with Mrs. Gray on a Friday. Students who are selected have acted responsibly throughout the month, turned in their assignments on time, showed pride, been kind to others, and worked hard. Citizens of the Month also receive a pennant that says Peters Panthers.

For the month of September, the Citizens of the Month in fourth grade were Justin Crutchmer, Grayson Tempest, Zane Evans, and Joel Byrd.

Fifth grade Citizens of the

Month were Monse Hart Serrano, Cambell Gniech, Meghana Venkatesha, and Xitlali Moreno.

These students worked really hard all month to earn this opportunity to be honored by their classmates, teachers, and principal.

Meghana Venkatesha from Mr. Bowen's class said, "I liked being Citizen of the Month because I liked eating pizza with my teacher and Mrs. Gray. I also liked spending time with my teacher and the principal."



Thanks For Helping!

by Mazie Waters, 4th Grade



Every month Peters Elementary has an awesome volunteer, and this month the awesome volunteer is... Mrs. Hudspeth!

She is "Volunteer of the Month" because she helped with the book fair all week! In fact, she has helped with Peter's book fairs for seven years!

She helped with everything including sales and helping kids find books! She and her husband even helped take down the book fair!

Mrs. Hudspeth said, "I like helping with the book fair because kids are fun and I love kids!"

Mrs. Hudspeth said her favorite things about Peters are "all the nice teachers, and friendly parents!"

Mrs. Hudspeth's two kids, Zane and Jaelynn, both attend Peters.

Dear Panther...

by Xitlali Moreno, 5th Grade
Advice Columnist

Dear Panther,

My friend is acting weird and he is hanging out with other people. He doesn't even talk to me. It is like he doesn't even know me or it is like I'm not even there. What should I do?

Sincerely, Sad

Dear Sad,

You should probably ask him why he is acting that way. If he doesn't talk to you then he is not your real friend because friends communicate with each other. You should become friends with people who talk to you and want to hang out with you.

Respectfully, The Panther

Dear Panther,

I think we should have more lunch time to eat. I only get half my food. One day I only ate half of a cookie in the morning and only got to eat three chicken nuggets and half of my salad at lunch.

Sincerely, Hurried

Dear Hurried,

In the morning if you can't come early to breakfast then you can get a breakfast sack and you can take the sack to your classroom to eat your breakfast. In the afternoon you should limit your talking so you will have more time to eat your lunch. If you would like to have more time in lunch we would have to take a little time off recess. Sometimes you can bring your lunch to school to have more time.

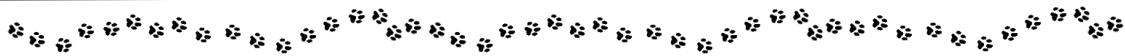
Respectfully, The Panther

My Back Hurts!

by Peyton Kunkel, 6th Grade

Backpacks are probably the worst thing in sixth grade. When I weighed mine, the scale read 13.7 pounds, and most of that weight was from my math textbook! Backpacks are a BIG DEAL in sixth grade because there is so much that you have to carry home everyday. (1) Your VIB, which means Very Important Binder, (2) Your books from the library, and (3) Sometimes your math textbooks. There are other things too, like homework pages, but the three things that were listed are the biggest pain in my back!

Editor's Note: Peyton Kunkel is a former Peters student and member of the 2013-2014 Paw Prints staff.



People First

Editorial
by Taylor McDonald, 5th Grade

Did you know that one in five Americans has a disability? Some people are born with a disability and some become disabled later in life. But the one thing you need to know is people with disabilities are people first.

Everyone deserves a chance to have a good life, be educated and have friends, even if they were born with a disability.

Former special education teacher Mrs. Morris said, “I don’t think a person should be labeled by their disability. It’s important to see

them as first a person, learning what they like to do. Certain people may need to know their disability to help them, but that shouldn’t be how they’re described or talked about.”

People First language means you should always refer to people first. For example, if a person is blind, don’t call them a blind person, call them a person with blindness. It is important to remember that people with disabilities are people first.

Words are very powerful. We shouldn’t let labels define people with disabilities. We should treat everyone with respect because every single person is a unique individual.

Author Rachel Lampi

by Grayson Tempest
and Mason Kidd, 4th Grade

Mrs. Lampi, our new librarian, has a daughter named Rachel Lampi who is an author of books for teenagers and young adults. Rachel mostly writes mysteries with an element of magic.

“I’m very proud that she has found her talent and I am excited for my daughter’s future. I hope I can read more of her books,” said Mrs. Lampi.

“I attend the University of Oklahoma and will graduate in one year,” Rachel Lampi explained. “I have been writing for 14 years. I have written seven books but I am working on my eighth one.”

Three of her books are in a series. Her favorite part about writing is knowing that other people will read her books.

Rachel said she loved reading the *Harry Potter* series when she was little and thought she would like to write similar books. When you get older you can read Rachel Lampi’s books.



Oh, No! Ozone!

by Cambell Gniech, 5th Grade

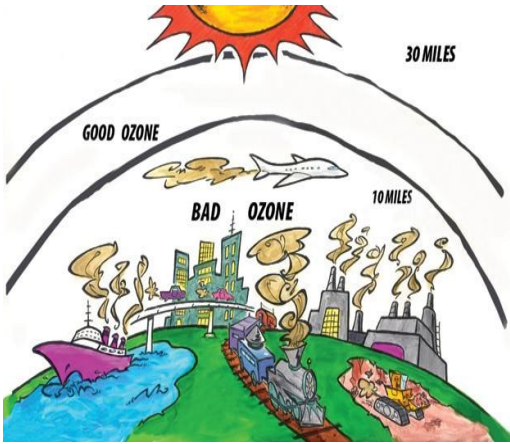
The ozone is a colorless and odorless gas that is made up of oxygen. Most oxygen in the air is O2. This means that there are two joined oxygen atoms.

The ozone layer helps protect us on Earth from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays. It is a protective shield that becomes weaker when gases from factories, cars, trucks and gas stations travel to the ozone and destroy ozone molecules.

Nurse Dean said, “The ozone is more harmful to kids because they are lower to the ground where harmful gases are produced.” Children with asthma are at the highest risk from exposure to the ozone because they have less develop lungs.

Nurse Dean also points out that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has established an air quality index chart that helps to determine safe gas levels for outside activities.

“On high ozone alert days everyone should not mow their yards or fill up their cars with gas. It’s a great idea to walk or carpool to work. This saves harmful gases from going into the air,” Nurse Dean said.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have a pet peeve that may bother other people too.

My problem is the cost to get on a sports team is too high. I know a few people at this school who can’t afford the prices. It costs \$90 to play the games and get on the team, and \$15 to get a jersey. That makes me angry because many kids have real talent. I’m thinking about starting a sports club to help the kids who can’t afford the overpriced sports teams. I think it would be good if I

start a sports club, for the kids who can’t afford the prices, to show their skills.

Sincerely,
Jasai Brunson, 5th Grade

Dear Editor,

Why isn’t second grade allowed to vote for Student Council? I think we should be able to vote because we are a part of this school and we should help decide who the leaders should be for the school and help for all the extra-curricular activities.

Sincerely,
Brooklynn Womack, 2nd Grade

Response from Student Council President Meghana Venkatesha: Did you know that you have to be eighteen years or older to vote for the president of the United States? It is similar with Student Council because the first Student Council Sponsor at Peters put a grade limit on who could vote. You can still participate in Student Council by telling any representatives or any of the sponsors your ideas.

Academic Team Goes Online

by James Huffman, 5th Grade

The fifth grade academic team is trying something brand new this year. They will join up with the sixth graders from last year’s academic team to compete against other Oklahoma schools in an online academic bowl. Online academic tournaments will take place after school so both grades can work together.

There are many differences between online academic team and traditional academic team. Online academic team members will be able to participate in the subject areas as they choose. They can compete in one or all subject areas. Subjects they can pick from are math, language arts, social studies, science, and humanities. Another difference between online academic team and traditional is that the team members have one hour to complete the online test as a team instead of having one person from each team buzz

in to answer each question in fifteen seconds or less.

The fifth grade academic team will practice together in Mrs. Harding’s room on different days just like normal academic team.

Fifth grade academic team member Jordan Taylor said, “I am excited about the online academic team because it takes a different perspective than regular academic team.”

The first online academic team meet will be math on November 20.

Birds Need School, Too!

by Caris Fore, 4th Grade

On October 22, fourth grade had a surprise visitor. Mr. and Mrs. Bordon brought a peregrine falcon to school. Peregrine falcons can fly up to 242 miles per hour. That is faster than NASCAR racers!

Mrs. Bordon got interested in birds by feeding them in her backyard. One day birds of prey started coming over, too! Birds of prey

(also known as raptors) are big ferocious birds that hunt on smaller birds. The smallest bird of prey is the elf owl and the biggest is the condor.

“I wanted Mr. and Mrs. Bordon to come because I learn best when I experience something while I learn it and I thought that by having the falcon come, kids would be able to learn more about birds of prey by seeing one up close,” said fourth grade teacher Miss Cure.

This was the first time that Mr.

and Mrs. Bordon have presented their program at our school.

“We feed our peregrine falcon frozen quail.” Mrs. Bordon said.

Look around your neighborhood for birds of prey. There are often hawks flying over the playground at Peters.



Comic by Aidan Byers, 3rd Grade



Crossword Puzzle by McKinley Kirk, 4th Grade

Draw a line to match each fall word with its picture.

pumpkin

turkey

leaf



What is a baseball player’s favorite holiday?
— April Foul’s Day

Why did the man smear peanut butter on the road?
— to go with the traffic jam

- Across
- 2. a word someone might say to scare you
 - 3. Something that causes fear is _____.
 - 6. a scary holiday
 - 8. a large orange fall fruit

- Down
- 1. an antonym for scary
 - 3. an arachnid
 - 4. these haunt houses
 - 5. a disguise

Word Scramble

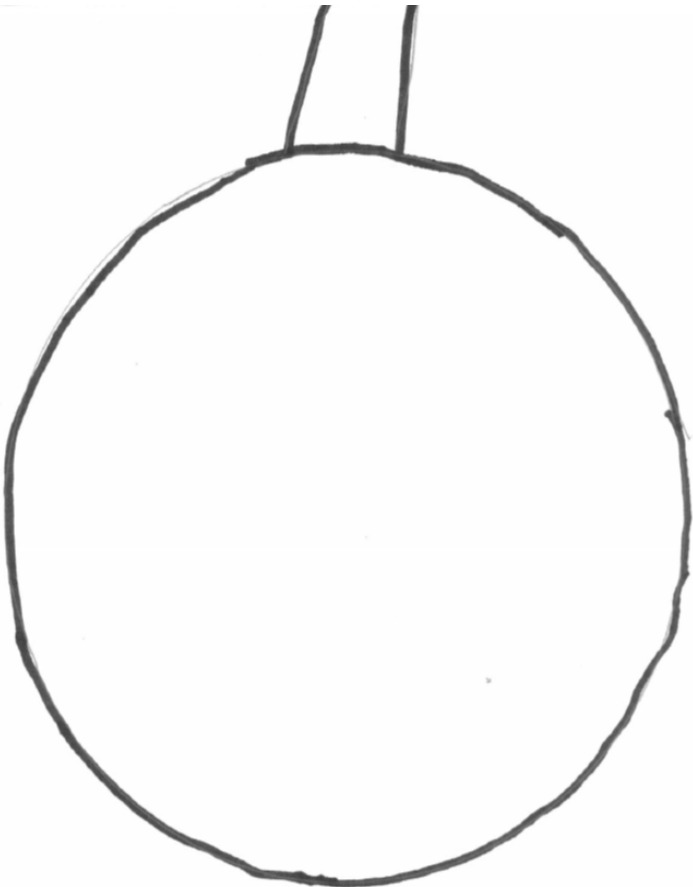
by Cameron Brashear, 4th Grade

Unscramble each Thanksgiving word.

- 1 EUYTKR _____
- 2 GMPILRI _____
- 3 VMREON _____
- 4 LAFL _____
- 5 EPEET _____
- 6 NIANID _____
- 7 AHM _____
- 8 RNOC _____

Pumpkin Face

Preschool Activity by Avery Fore, 1st Grade



1. Make a face with these shapes.



2. Make some hair.

3. Color the face.