By: Lena

As you may know, on January 21, 2019, we will celebrate the holiday of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On this day students will have a day off from school to spend with our families and think about the life and actions of Martin Luther King Jr. This holiday is fun to celebrate and it is always great to have a day off, but who was Martin Luther King Jr.?

To find the answer to this question, we have to think about Martin Luther King Jr.’s past. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia in the year 1929 to Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. He lived with them, as well as his grandparents and two siblings, Christine and Alfred Daniel Williams King. Growing up, he enjoyed playing sports. He also took piano lessons from his mother and delivered newspapers. His plan for the future was to become a fireman. Being African American in the mid-1900s was a lot different than it is today. Laws were established that were unfair to African Americans and other minorities. African American people were not allowed to get married to white people, go to school with white people or even use the same restrooms and drinking fountains as white people. They could go to jail for something as simple as refusing to give up their seat or place in line to a white person. One time, Martin’s father took him shopping for a new pair of shoes. When they walked up to the front of the store, the clerk actually told Martin and his father to go to the back of the store. He said, “We do not serve colored people at the front of the store.” Martin and his dad left the store for they knew that they deserved better treatment. Later, Martin’s mother told him, “Even though some people make you feel bad or angry, you shouldn’t show it. You are just as good as anyone else.”

Despite his childhood dream, Martin did not become a firefighter. Instead, he followed his father’s footsteps and became a Baptist Minister. Inspired by his Christian faith and by the peaceful teachings of Gandhi, he led a nonviolent movement to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. He had the courage to stand up for what he knew was fair and right. Instead of using violence like many others, Dr. King used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance to fight for what was right. He truly was a hero and received the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting against racial inequality in 1964.

So, on our day off, let’s think about Martin Luther King Jr. and what he did for the world. Let’s try to be more like him. More peaceful, more tolerant, more helpful, more courageous, more willing to stand up for what we know is right. If we all do our part, we can help make the world a better place, just like Martin Luther King Jr. As he once said, “The time is always right to do what is right.”

The Paper Chain

by Saya

My 3rd grade class and I worked on a paper chain together for one week. My whole class was very excited when we found out it was 143 feet long! Our teacher, Mrs. Crittendon, let us use as much paper as we needed as long as we worked together. We had a very fun time working on it. The 143 feet long chain is now passed to Mrs. Bassage’s class. They are adding more to make the paper chain much longer.

“This time is always right to do what is right.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.
Science Spotlight: Melanistic Squirrels

By: Gabriella

Melanistic animals are animals that have extra melanin in them. Melanin is a pigment found in skin and fur that makes skin or fur darker colored. Melanistic animals are seen so infrequently that scientists have lots of questions about them.

Here are a few facts about melanistic squirrels, also called black squirrels. All squirrels are from the genus Sciurus. The gray squirrels’ complete scientific name is Sciurus carolinensis. How does a gray squirrel become melanistic, or black in color? When a gray squirrel has two copies of a certain mutant gene, the squirrel will have more melanin than usual, and therefore their fur will be black.

Melanistic gray squirrels are quite rare. The biggest population of melanistic squirrels is in Ontario, Canada and in Ohio. However, although they are uncommon, in the fall of 2018, black squirrels were spotted on Old Littleton Road in Harvard!

Melanistic squirrels enjoy the admiration of people and serve as the mascot for many colleges. The next time you drive down Old Littleton Road, keep a lookout for a cute, furry black squirrel!

By: Caroline

Harvard, Devens, and multiple other towns in our area have reports of missing pets. Some pets in Harvard have been missing for months. One animal that has been reported missing is a dog named Bella. She is an adorable 8 year old blonde German shepherd collie mix with a brown muzzle. She has been missing for almost a year with frequent sightings around town.

Many people have been helping in the search for Bella. From posters on telephone poles, to posts on Facebook, and updates on Nextdoor Harvard, our community has been working hard to bring Bella safely back.

Pets go missing through no fault of their owners. Cats and dogs are naturally curious creatures. Owners can take simple steps to ensure that their pet comes home safely. A simple thing to do is to get a collar. Make sure to have a detailed tag on it. Include the pet’s name, where you live, and your contact information. Another option is to get your pet microchipped by an experienced veterinarian. While collars can fall off, microchips stay in for 25 years. When the pet is found, the chip can be scanned by a veterinarian, animal control officer or animal shelter. When the microchip is scanned it provides your address and information to bring your pet safely home.

Missing pets are an unfortunate reality. As pet owners, we can take steps to ensure that our pets have the best chance to be found and returned. As a community we can work together online and on foot to help reunite pets with their owners. We all hope for Bella’s safe reunion with her family.
Super Sports  By: Eric

Soon it will be Spring and there are a lot of fun sports to play like soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball. The one I play is soccer. If you don’t know how to play soccer, I can tell you the basics. For 3rd and 4th graders, there are 7 players on each side; 3 on offense, 3 on defense, and 1 goalie. You try to get the ball into the other team’s net. You can only use your feet unless you are the goalie, who can also use their hands. We play for an hour with two 30 minutes halves. And it’s fun!!

Picture Books
Bang, Molly (2018), *When Sophie Thinks She Can’t…*
Colón, Raúl (2018), *Imagine!*
Lê, Minh (2018), *Drawn Together*
Henkes, Kevin (2018), *Winter is Here*
Morales, Yuyi (2018), *Dreamers*
Seeger, Laura Vaccaro (2018), *Blue*
Stein, David Ezra (2018), *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise*
Woodson, Jacqueline (2018), *The Day You Begin*
Yolen, Jane (2018), *How Do Dinosaurs Learn to Read?*

Grades K–2
Adler, David (2018), *Pass the Ball, Mo!*
Arnold, Tedd (2018), *Noodleheads Find Something Fishy*
Ledyard, Stephanie Parsley (2018), *Pie Is for Sharing*
Messner, Kate (2018), *Fergus and Zeke at the Science Fair*

Grades 3–5
Barnett, Mac (2018), *Mac B., Kid Spy: Mac Undercover*
Kuhlmann, Torben (2018), *Edison: The Mystery of the Missing Mouse Treasure*
Mass, Wendy and Stead, Rebecca. (2018), *Bob*
Phelan, Matt (2018), *Knights Vs. Dinosaurs*
Potter, Ellen. (2018), *Big Foot and Little Foot*

The New School  By: Harrison

Staff Unmasked: Interview with Zack the Custodian  By: Jacqueline, Annabelle, and Laci

Interviewer:
Why did you pick to be a custodian?
Zack: I started working at U.P.S.
Interviewer: What is your favorite part of the job?
Zack: I enjoy looking at all of the hard work I’ve done and seeing the difference from dirty to clean.
Interviewer: What are your hobbies?
Zack: I am in a band and play a little bit of piano. I also like to skateboard and play video games.
Huskies

By: Christina

As you may know, our school’s mascot is a Husky. But how much do you actually know about these dogs? Huskies are used as sled dogs and they also can be kept as pets. Huskies are athletic and energetic. They have thick coats and the color of their fur is usually grey, black, copper red or white. Their eyes are mostly pale blue but can be brown, green, blue, yellow or heterochromic. These dogs need lots of exercise. They love going on trails. Huskies are also the mascot of many post-secondary institutions.

Huskies also love snow. They are made for cold climates and can run very far in the snow. There are seven groups of pure blood dogs. One group is called the working dog group and huskies are in that group. Huskies also love children. These are great reasons for why the husky is our mascot.

Ask the Editor

By: Lena

This month, I visited Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Ayles’s classes and once again got many interesting questions submitted to me. However, I chose to answer first grader, Hannah Greene’s question. She asked, “What does the heart do?”

The heart is a very important organ made up of four different blood filled areas called chambers. There is a left and right side of the heart and each side has two chambers. The top chambers are called the atria (atrium if you are just talking about one) and the bottom chambers are called the ventricles. You also have 4 heart valves. The heart valves open and close allowing blood to move in and out of the heart’s chambers. The right side of the heart pumps blood to the lungs to pick up oxygen and the left side of the heart receives the oxygen-rich blood from the lungs. The heart’s main purpose is to pump blood. To do this the atria fill with blood and then dump it into the ventricles. The ventricles then squeeze, pumping blood out of the heart. The blood that leaves the left ventricle provides the body with oxygen and nutrients.

Your heart is such an important part of your body, it is vital to keep it healthy. You can do this by getting plenty of exercise, trying to eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day, avoiding foods high in unhealthy fats and sugary drinks and saying “NO” to smoking and vaping. All these things will help keep your heart healthy, happy and beating for a long time!

Thank you Hannah for asking this month’s question!

I put together a small experiment that will help you learn more about your heart. I hope you will consider giving it a try.

1. As soon as you wake up in the morning, take your pulse. Your pulse is your heart rate, or the number of times your heart beats in one minute. You can take your pulse by placing two fingers on the artery in your wrist.

2. Count your pulse for 1 minute.

3. Later, do something active and then repeat step 2.

4. Did anything change? If so, what and why do you think so?

The Forest

By: Christine

I went into the forest an brought with me
A bottle of muck and a bumble bee
The bumble bee stung me,
the muck ran away
But still I went back just the very next day
But this time I brought a horse going neigh!
But it bucked me off and ran away,
So I guess I’ll just sit here and stay
or two)
(or three)

Affected by Plastic

By: Margaux

Our bodies are made up of 60 percent water. We need water to survive. We also need someplace to store our water. But are plastic water bottle the right way to go? When you drink out of them the chemicals from the plastic go inside your body. The chemical is called Bisphenol A. The side effects are obesity, diabetes, ADHD, cancer, loss of brain function, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Plastic water bottles might be recyclable, but Americans are continuing to throw them away. Each year about 38 billion plastic bottles are found in landfills. Which is equivalent to 912 gallons of oil. That is why it is best to have a reusable water bottle. It also costs less money because you don’t have to keep buying new water bottles. If so, why do people still buy plastic water bottles? Well, bottled water is marketed to be cleaner, crisper, and healthier than regular old tap water. You can help your body and your community to get healthier and cleaner by using a non plastic reusable water bottle.
The Dust Bunnies
Part 1: The Vacuum Two-Thousand

By: Ellie
Edited By: Khivi and Helen

It was a dark and stormy night. A huge thunderstorm had come, and the house of Nowhere Town was still. The staircase creaked and the lightning struck. all of a sudden an old lady was banging on the door.

"Oi, open up! Lady gonna get struck by lightning if you don't answer the door!" screamed the old lady.

It was the cleaning lady coming to pamper the house. She had a long pointy nose, gray matted hair, wearing a ragged apron and of course she had a lot of wrinkles.

In the corner of the dining room was a bunny colony, a dust bunny colony to be more exact. There were dust markets and dusty houses and dust bunnies all around. It was a peaceful community, they didn't really like getting into trouble.

When the dust bunnies heard the banging on the door they were quite curious about who could be out on a stormy night. So, the oldest dust bunny, Scotch volunteered to go check on what was making the ruckus.

"I'll be back soon," trembled Scotch as he feared it was the cleaning service.

When Scotch reached the door, he cracked it open just to get a peek on who it was. When he peeked through the small crack, he was in shock. The cleaning lady had come and she brought her new vacuum with her. It was the Vacuum two-thousand with a special dust detector. Scotch quickly scampere back to his house to warn the others. He was so scared that he forgot to close the door.

When Scotch got back he quickly scampere towards the Town Hall to tell mayor Buckley about the terrible news.

"Mayor Buckley! The terrible old cleaning lady is here!" screeched Scotch.

"I must announce this news to the town immediately. We are going on a full lock down!" said the Mayor Buckley.

By then it was to late. A strong gust of wind pushed the door open, and the lady entered the house. With each step she took she exclaimed as she waved her new vacuum in the air, "Dust Bunnies come out, come out wherever you are. Granny just wanna vacuum you all up."

As the whole town shrieked in horror, there was a beeping noise coming from the vacuum!

"Dust detected," the lady said under her breath.

She was coming towards the Town and nothing was going to stop her.

All of sudden she stopped in her tracks. "When is the perfect time to attack." she thought. The whole house was still. Everything was completely quiet, besides the rain, of course.

Then, the old lady turned on her vacuum and screamed, "Attack!!"

The bunnies responded, "Attack the old lady!"

The old lady and the bunnies were at war. Sherman, the smartest bunny of the bunch, had to make a plan fast while the others tried to keep her away from the Town, but at the same time trying not to get vacuumed.

"Y'all are gonna get into the vacuum whether you like it or not!" said the lady as she tapped the vacuum on the floor.

"NEVER!!" Squealed the bunnies

"As the mayor of this town I command you to STOP!" yelled the Mayor Buckley.

-Meanwhile at Sherman's-

"No, no! There must be a way!" said Sherman.

"Come on Sherman, we don't have any time! The more you think about how to save them, the more dust bunnies can be vacuumed up!" exclaimed Sugar, another dust bunny from the town.

"I've got it!" replied Sherman, "All you need to do is clog up the old lady's vacuum cleaner, so she can't vacuum us up!"

"Brilliant idea Sherman! But what are we going to clog the vacuum with?" questioned Sugar.

"Basically anything you can pick up. Now let's GO!" screamed Sherman running out the door with a broom in his right hand and a shoe in his left.

Bolting towards the vacuum, Sugar and Sherman placed the objects on the floor waiting for the vacuum to swallow it up.

"Let's hope this works," worried Sugar.

"Oh, it will," replied Sherman.

To be continued in the next issue...
Daily Sports Talk

By: Ben, Liam, and Kai

Now that soccer and baseball are done, basketball, hockey and football are the sports that you could watch right now. The Bruins are doing pretty well at third place with 22 wins and 14 losses. Forward Joakim Nordström has a fractured fibula and will be out for at least three weeks.

Despite high expectations the Celtics are near the middle of their conference at fifth place and second in the Atlantic division. Kyrie Irving is benched because of an eye inflammation (or swelling). The Celtics still have time to jump up to the top of the leaderboard. Kyrie Irving will definitely help with that.

The Celtics’ record is 22 wins and 15 losses. And now on to the Patriots! They haven’t been as good as they were last year, but are still very good. Last year’s record was 13 wins and 3 losses. This year’s record was 11 wins and 5 losses. Probably trading Brandin Cooks and losing Danny Amendola has something to do with that. Despite losing these players the Pats won the American Football Conference (AFC) East and ranked second in the AFC. The Patriots also get a bye in the playoffs and will face the Los Angeles Chargers in their opening postseason game.

Food Drive for Loaves and Fishes

By Cole, Mathias, and Bilal

On Tuesday, December 18th through Thursday, December 20th, the Student Leadership Group placed designated boxes in each grade level hallway for students to donate non-perishable food items. HES collected approximately 700 pounds of non-perishables for Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Devens.

That week, students participated in three different spirit days. On Tuesday, December 18th students wore Hildreth blue or a grade level color. Wednesday, December 19th was wacky Wednesday and Thursday, December 20th was PJ day.

We thank everyone for their support!