

SPRING VALLEY

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Journalism Team:

Acacia Edeluchel
Kinsley Fullmer
Addysen Nielsen
Grace Noonkester
Zoë Stacy
Sierra Walsh
Catlyn Wetzel
Joshua Wolford
Mrs. Wetzel

PRESIDENTS' DAY



Before writing this article, all I knew about Presidents' Day was that we got days off from school and there were lots of sales. But now I have learned a lot more. This national holiday is celebrated on the third Monday of February; however, it was not always celebrated on this date and its official name is Washington's Birthday.

This holiday was started in 1880 and celebrated on George Washington's birthday, February 22, in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Then in 1885 it became a national holiday. A national holiday means it was

celebrated across the country and that schools, government offices, banks, Post Offices, and some businesses are closed.

We celebrate George Washington because he was our first President. He is known as "The father of our nation." We celebrate Washington also because he led our troops and helped win the American Revolution. The American Revolution is when we fought the British and won our independence, becoming the United States of America.

In 1971, the holiday began to honor President Abraham Lincoln also. He was born on February 12. The celebration day was moved to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which gave workers more three-day weekends.

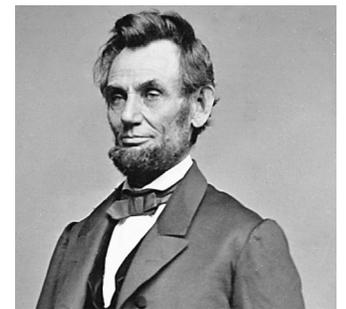
President Lincoln is celebrated because he was President during the Civil War and kept our nation united

and freed the slaves. Lincoln's nickname was "Honest Abe."

Now that the day celebrates more than one President, most people call it Presidents' Day. Each state has a different way of celebrating the holiday.

I think we should be learning more about these two Presidents because of what they have done for our country. I believe that without Washington we would not have a country today; and without Lincoln we would not have the United States of America that we have today.

—Article by Zoë Stacy



MOVIE REVIEW: *THE LORAX*

The movie *The Lorax* is a very cute and humorous movie. It starts out as a boy named Ted wants to impress a girl named Audrey by getting a Truffula tree. He then asks his grandma where he could find one, and she tells him to go to the Once-ler. Ted's grandma tells him "On the end of a rope he lets down a tin pail and you have to toss in fifteen cents and a nail

and the shell of a great-great-great-grandfather snail." He follows the instructions and the Once-ler tells Ted all about the Truffula trees, the Humming-Fish, and the Barba-loots. The Once-ler told him how the Lorax had warned him about chopping down the trees, but he didn't listen. The Once-ler gives Ted the very last Truffula tree



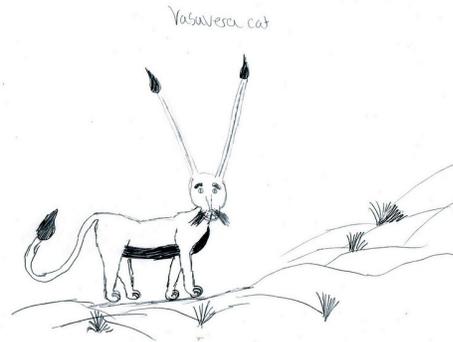
seed. It was then all up to Ted to bring back the trees.

—Article by Grace Noonkester

SHORT STORY—“VASAVERA CATS”

Once in a very dry desert lived a small kitten. He was not like others for he had unusually long ears with tufts of chestnut fur on the ends, and an unusually long tail with a tuft of chestnut fur on the end. He was a plain tan color and had big clumsy paws. All the other kittens always made fun of him for tripping over his own feet or getting his long tail caught in a cactus patch. When all the kittens were ready to strike out on their own, everyone found a place but him. The lion cub found a pride, the leopard found a cozy tree, the cheetah found a wide open grassland, and the lynx found a snowy mountain, but the small awkward kitten stayed in the desert. “Oh why,” he cried, “why don’t I have a home like the others?”

He wept and moaned and



then he slept in an empty cave, but he was still alone.

In the morning, he left the lonely cave and went hunting. After he had caught a mouse and eaten, he heard a voice. “Hello, little kitten. Why are you so alone?”

“Who’s there?” said the lonely kitten.

“I’m Askadelia, little kitten. And what is your name?”

“I don’t have a name, said the lonely little kitten. “But

before my mother went away, she would call me Pine.”

“Then that shall be your name,” said Askadelia, and out stepped a huge cat that looked just like himself.

“Wow,” said Pine with awe.

“Come with me,” said Askadelia, “and you can live with us.”

Then before Pine could answer, Askadelia raced off so Pine followed. Soon they reached a crop of trees, and behind them, an oasis! Pine was astonished when he saw who was around the oasis. Scores of cats just like him! “This,” said Askadelia, “is Vasavera Cat Oasis. You are one of us now.”

—Article by Sierra Walsh

If you have books in good condition that your kids are not reading any more, please consider donating them to our library. We love getting new books to share!



THEME PARK REVIEW: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

There are so many things to do in Universal Studios Hollywood’s theme park. I would not advise going if you are prone to motion sickness though, because all of the rides are 3D and fast turning, as well as including sudden drops and stops, except two, which are not 3D but still fast and body-shaking. There are two lots, filled with rides, shows, and restaurants. The upper lot includes most of the attractions. These are a Simpsons area, a Harry Potter land, a Minions land, the Studio Tour, the Walking Dead Walkthrough, Shrek 4D, the Animal Actors show and the Special Effects Show. The Simpsons area is a ride, a restaurant, and multiple shops, all featured on the show. Explore with the Simpson family in 3D enjoying

Krusty the Clown’s magnificent mimic rollercoaster. The Minions land includes an area of Super Silly Fun Land, where Agnes has her “It’s so fluffy!!” moment, and also has another 3D ride, where you become minions. The Harry Potter bit was my personal favorite area. It has Hogsmeade, the wizarding town, full of shops, and a restaurant. There is also one rollercoaster and a 3D ride. The Special Effects show showed you what they used to make sound effects, and how some things were completed behind the scenes. The Studio Tour was the main attraction, in which you were given a tour of actual Hollywood sets. These sets included *King Kong: Skull Island* and *Fast and Furious Supercharged*. Both of these



were 3D. The Lower lot included Transformers 3D, a Jurassic Park water ride, and Revenge of the Mummy. The Transformers 3D ride took you into the world of Transformers. The Jurassic Park ride was a lot like Splash Mountain at Disney, getting you wet during the rollercoaster ride. The last attraction is The Revenge of the Mummy, a lot like Space Mountain, where it was dark at times and you were going very fast. There is a lot to do around that area. Enjoy!!

—Article by Catlyn Wetzel

APP REVIEW: *WORD COOKIES*



Have you ever played *Word Cookies*? *Word Cookies* is a very fun game that really makes you think. It gives you a pan with cookie letters and you swipe the letters and make words. There are also packs with levels in them.

The game is free, but there are some in-app purchases to buy coins if you want to. You use the coins for hints if you are stuck on a level. Some levels are very hard. Right now I am on Talented Chef-Strawberry pack-level 6. Talented Chef is a rank. The more levels and packs you complete, the more you move up in rank. They also have holiday themes. This month it is Valentine's themed. You can go into the settings and turn it

off if you want. It also has an extra word jar. If you get the right amount of extra words, then you get coins. On some levels, there are extra hard words and they have stars. Once you guess the word, you get some more free coins. I love this game, and I bet you will, too! You can get it at the app store. If you like hard puzzles, then you should check this game out and play it. I hope you enjoy this game!

—Article by Acacia Edeluchel

VALENTINE'S DAY

I woke up this Valentine's Day to heart muffins and a new book stacked at my chair at the dining table. Each year my parents get my brother and sister and I a small gift. Our day was a little different this year because my brother had soccer practice. Every year we get heart-shaped pizzas and celebrate with my cousins. We didn't

let a little soccer practice stop us! We brought the pizzas to the practice! We brought a blanket and had a picnic instead. We played games and exchanged gifts with our cousins. It was so much fun! But my favorite part of the night was going to my grandparents after practice. Their dog had brand new puppies for Valentines Day,



and I got to see them be born. She had three tiny little puppies and it was amazing to see! Now they have birthdays on Valentine's! We had such a fun day, did you ?

—Article by Kinsley Fullmer

100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

The best day of the year is the 100th day of school! Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade all prepare projects for this day. They put together 100 items in whatever creative way they choose. This year the project that I loved was Olivia Fontanilla's. She did 100 pieces of popcorn spilling out of a popcorn box...so cute! Some

100th

people used coins or goldfish crackers and one even used candy. There was a small parade with students marching around showing their

projects and counting to 100. After the parade, we took our projects down to the lunch tables for everyone to see. The upper grades and parents all came to see! Do you have a hundredth day of school? If you do, is it your best day of the year?

—Article by Kinsley Fullmer