

# THE SPRINGHURST TIMES

*A school paper that soars above the rest!*

SPRING 2020

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## BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWSPAPER CLUB

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Yoni C.  
Nola B.-W.  
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## A MESSAGE FROM MRS. DRAKE



Dearest Springhurst Family,

I never thought I would be writing a piece for the Springhurst Times during such an unusual and challenging time. But to tell you the truth, writing this letter helps me feel better and brings me joy because it reminds me of all the fun we have together at Springhurst!

There is a special place in my heart for the Springhurst Times. This newspaper was first created by children just like you who had a great idea and made it happen! Since then it has really taken off, and with Ms. Campbell's inspiring lead there is no telling where it will go!

The Springhurst Times is a nice way to stay connected as a larger school community. I love how it keeps us together and features and highlights student talents and interests! Speaking of keeping together, I hope that you will consider completing our weekly Springhurst Challenges! Mr. Cavallo and I love to see your posts and accomplishments so keep them coming.

I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy. I miss you all & am sending you love and best wishes!

Happy reading!

Love,

Principal Drake

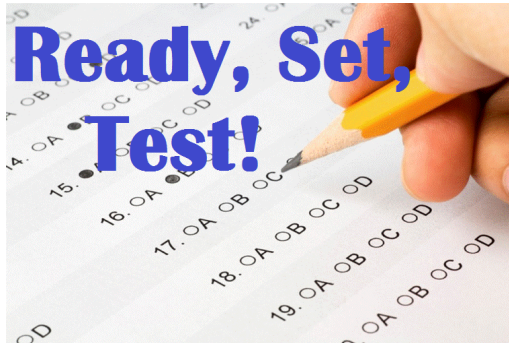


# STATE TESTS: GOOD OR BAD?

BY MIA W., YONI C., & EMMETT M.

## Mia's Opinion: Bad

I am completely and utterly sure that the state test is absolutely positively atrocious. I am aware that it is a way for the state to see what areas of study students need working on, but there are other ways of doing this. For example, teachers could do mini tests throughout the year that wouldn't be open to the state. Sure, the state should see what the students need to work on, but some of these mini state tests would be shown to them. Also, the test is so very boring. The practice one I had to take with the rest of the class in third grade was no fun (I took like, forty five minutes to do one extended response! ONE EXTENDED RESPONSE!!!), so I can assume the real one is just as boring (my parents opt me out). Also, if you are the last one and haven't finished, your classmates start to pressure you, saying things like "Get moving!", or "Hurry up!". So I must come to my conclusion. The state test has to go!



## Yoni's Opinion: Meh

I personally think that the state test is good for you. It helps the state know what your school needs to work on. However I do think that because it affects the teachers they end up going a little overboard to practice. Once, the day before the state test, my teacher had a meeting and the sub made us do a whole essay in 45 MINUTES. Most kids were just beginning to actually write.

## Emmett's Opinion: \*Groan\*

I have despised the state test since I first took it in third grade, which was my first year here at Springhurst. The test also goes on for 2 whole school days, and another 2 days a month later. The whole thing is kind of annoying because you don't get to do stuff you would usually do on your own, like go to the bathroom without asking. In conclusion, I think the state test is a good but bad thing.

# COOKIES VS. BROWNIES

BY MIA M. AND NOLA B.-W.

Have you ever wondered if brownies are better than cookies? Or if cookies are better than brownies? Well, we asked a group of people to see which of these desserts they like better. It turns out that people like cookies better than brownies. Only 2 of 12 people said brownies! The other ten said cookies. The brownies got beaten bad! It may be that brownies are just too chocolatey. They may be too mushy. Cookies have more textures, that could be it. They have the cookie base and the chocolate chips. There is also a variety of cookies. There is only one flavor of brownie. So, what do you like better? Email the Springhurst times with your opinion at [springhursttimes@dfsd.org](mailto:springhursttimes@dfsd.org).



# Π DAY

BY GABRIEL F., DAVID B., & SEAMUS F.



March 14 is one of our favorite days, and you are probably wondering why. Well because it is Pi day! Pi is a very, VERY specific number. It represents the circumference of a circle divided by the diameter. A couple of you readers may know the first few digits -- 3.14 -- but there are many more. In fact, the digits of Pi are infinite. Here are a few:

3.141592653589793238462433832795028841971693993751058209

For more digits, go to <https://www.piday.org/million/>. People have currently discovered over 34 trillion digits, and that is a lot (but not in the grand scheme of things). By the time you're reading this, there has been a Pi day Protest on March 13 because Pi day is on a Saturday. Pi day is amazing and hopefully you will enjoy it. Also, look out for tau day on June 28th! Tau is  $\pi*2$  or circumference over radius.

Ending joke:

*Seamus: What is the tastiest holiday?*

*Jules: Pi day!!!!*

*David and Gabe: That is not funny. It is a mathematical numeral. Do not joke about our beautiful Pi.*

# FUN FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

BY MIA M. & NOLA B.-W.

1. Every year, more than 36 million heart -shaped boxes of chocolates are sold across the country.
2. Passing out valentines is a 600 year tradition.
3. The Romans started Valentine's Day.
4. The first Valentine's Day was in the year 496!
5. Only 54% of Americans celebrate Valentine's Day.
6. 190 million valentines are sent each year.
7. The first valentine was written in prison
8. February 14th is the second largest card giving day.
9. Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards annually.

10. Men spend double the amount on Valentine's Day than women.
11. The number of candy hearts made every year is about 8 billion.

12. 9 million people buy Valentine's gifts for their pets.

13. Penicillin was introduced on February 14, 1929.

14. 15% of women send themselves roses on Valentine's Day.

15. 50 million roses are given on Valentine's Day around the world.



## INTERVIEW WITH MR. CAVALLO

BY SARA F. AND AIMI C.

On February 12th, Sara and Aimi met with Mr. Cavallo to ask him about all kinds of things. Below is their interview.

**Sara:** What do you do as assistant principal?

**Mr. Cavallo:** A little bit of everything -- like, interacting with students during lunch and recess periods, visiting with students in their classrooms. I also get to work with teachers, developing assemblies and events. I also get to work with Principal Drake and help guide our school.

**Aimi:** How does your job affect Springhurst?

**Mr. Cavallo:** My job affects Springhurst greatly because I determine the number and types of assemblies we have each year, I work with Ms. Del Pilar and our PBIS program, and I encourage students to be their best and to demonstrate good behavior. I also like to think the positive energy I give off encourages others around me to share and



give off positive energy of their own.

**Sara:** What is your favorite part about your job?

**Mr. Cavallo:** My favorite part of his job is that I never know what my day is going to be like. Every morning when I come in, things happen which then change the direction of where I'm going to be and what I'm going to be doing that day.

**Aimi:** If this is not your dream job what is?

**Mr. Cavallo:** Being in education has always been my dream. I like guiding students and staff. I always wanted to be in education. A type of silly and fun dream job would be a stand up comedian traveling around the world making people laugh.

**Sara:** What are some fun facts about you?

**Mr. Cavallo:** Groundhog Day is my favorite holiday. I also do a really good impression of Elmo and Yoda. (\*\*Mr. Cavallo can really do it, he showed us proof!) The groundhog is my favorite animal. And I am the owner of two rescue dogs named Max and Molly.

## INTERVIEW WITH MR. DIFIORE

BY SARA F. AND MIRANDA C.

On March 10, the school newspaper interviewed Rob Difiore, Springhurst's head custodian. The first question was asked by Sara. "What do you do?" He said he is the head custodian who is in charge of all custodians. He maintains the building, the heating systems, and the cooling systems. Miranda asked the second question, "How does your job affect Springhurst?" He said the school wouldn't be able to open if he didn't do his job. The third question was asked by



Sara. "What is your favorite part about your job?" He said Interacting with the kids and teachers. The fourth question was asked by Miranda. "If this is not your dream job what is?" His dream job is to be the director of facilities for a school district. The fifth and last question was asked by

Sara. "What are some fun facts about you?" He said he has three daughters, he likes to work out, and he likes to ride his motorcycle.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HARRIET TUBMAN

BY NOLA B.-W.

February is “Black History Month”. There are several people of color who changed the world, but I am going to focus on one: Harriet Tubman.

Harriet Tubman was born between 1820 and 1825. She was born into slavery. She hated being enslaved. She thought that it was unfair for a person to be “owned” by a slave owner and forced to do free labor. So she ran away to the North where slavery was banned. Harriet was free; she didn’t have to worry about anything. But because of her

selflessness, she decided to go back and help other enslaved people escape. Harriet escaped using a system called the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad is not actually a railroad. It is a network of secret routes and safe



houses leading enslaved people to places where there was no slavery. Harriet became a conductor. She would lead many enslaved people to freedom. In 1850, a new law came out. It stated that escaped former slaves could be captured in the North to be taken back to slave owners. So Harriet took her “passengers” to Canada. During the Civil War, Harriet was a scout and a spy. Even though Harriet was at serious risk of getting killed for what she was doing, she kept helping people. Harriet made 19 trips and guided more than 300 people to freedom. In 1913, Tubman died because of pneumonia. She lived to be 93. In 2016, the US Treasury

Department wanted to replace Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman on the 20 dollar bill. She is still honored today by several schools with her name, movies about her, and books. She is a hero.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: ANN FRANK

BY MIA M. & JOSIE C.-H.

Annlies (Anne) Marie Frank is one of the many women that are celebrated in the month of March (Women’s History Month), but we chose her to inform you about. Anne Frank was born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt, Germany. Anne Frank was born into a Jewish family. Anne Frank, her sister Margaret Frank, her father Otto Frank, and her mother Edith Frank, went into hiding for fear of the Nazi’s capturing them. They spent two years and one month hiding in Amsterdam with a non Jewish family. That’s where she wrote her famous diary. She named her diary Kitty. Her diary got published on June 25, 1947. After hiding, they got captured by the Nazis and taken to Germany. At the concentration camp, Frank wrote in her diary every day about how she was and what the

conditions were like. She died at age 15 in 1945 at the concentration camp in Germany from Typhus fever. “Don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains,” and “I keep my ideas, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart,” are two of the most well known quotes by Anne Frank.



# INTERVIEW WITH SPRINGHURST'S LIBRARIANS

BY NATASHA M.

Ever wonder about what our librarian and assistant librarian at Springhurst do each day and what they did before they were librarians? I did. That's why I decided to interview Ms. Fabrizio and Ms. Esposito.

(Q) How many times a year do you organize the library books?

(A) About once a month.

(Q) About how many classes do you teach everyday?

(A) Between 6 and 8 classes.

(Q) How often do you visit the public library?

(A) Once a week or three times a month.

(Q) Have you ever worked at a different library or has it only been this one?

(A) Never worked at a different library.

(Q) How many years have you been working at this library?

(A) This is my third year.

(Q) If you have ever worked at a different job? If so, what jobs?

(A) Ms. Fabrizio: I have worked for Adidas, I have been a soccer coach, and also worked for B.O.C.E.S.

Ms. Esposito: I have worked at many different jobs, including being a teacher assistant, office manager, bookkeeper, retail manager for a sports store, and I worked at Yankee Stadium as a secretary.

That is sure impressive! Hope you found this article interesting and be sure to check out the other articles!!

## BOOK REVIEW

BY NOLA B.-W. & MIA M.

We really recommend a Tale of Magic by Chris Colfer to be your next read. This book is great for people that are fans of the "Land of Stories" series. This book is about a girl named Brystal who lives in a town where women are forbidden to read or write and magic is outlawed. Brystal does not like her town and then one day she does something risky that will change her life forever. After this, Brystal realizes that she is capable of magical abilities.

Then she meets a fairy who wants to enroll her in

The Academy of Magic. There she learns to control her powers and faces something drastic. Interested? You can get this book on Amazon or in Barnes and Noble. If you read it and you like it, just know that this book will become a series. A Tale of Magic 2 will be coming out October 1, 2020. It is

about 500 pages. We hope you will read and enjoy this book!



## THE CHALLENGER CENTER

BY POEM C.



On January 23rd, 24th and 30th, Springhurst's 5th graders visited a place called the Challenger Center. The Challenger Center was built to honor the memory of those astronauts who died in the Challenger shuttle explosion on January 28th 1986. One well known astronaut who died on the mission was Christa McAuliffe. McAuliffe was a teacher and the first American civilian to go into space. At the center, kids got to participate in hands on activities and a moon landing simulation. A lot of kids liked the Challenger Center because they got different jobs and got to do real experiments that astronauts do. They also liked it because they got to learn about the history of space exploration.

# FIVE WAYS KIDS CAN MAKE MONEY

BY LIAM P., YONI C., YAEL K.,

& JOSIE C.-H.

You're walking in the mall and you see something that you must have. You run into the store and find out it's too expensive for you. You need to have this. Here are 5 ways to make quick cash.

1. Dog walking. Find a neighbor or friend who has a dog and they can't walk them. Tell them you are free and just wait for the cash to start coming. (More dogs = more \$\$\$)

2. Resell items. If you ever have something that is worth a decent amount of money that does not have sentimental value to you, sell it. There are websites where you can sell most items like eBay, Craigslist, or Facebook Marketplace. You will need an adult's help because you have to be above a certain age to use these sites.



3. Make a lemonade stand. Got a few lemons lying around in your house? Find sugar and water. Add some lemon juice. Mix them up and find a table. Set it up in your front yard and wait for some customers. (Make sure you've got plenty of PLASTIC cups)

4. Make a bake sale. Is your parent a good cook? Do you have a bunch of sweet treats lying around? Have a bake sale! Find a table and start selling those treats! (Good foods to have are: brownies, cookies, muffins, cupcakes, and candy.)

5. Babysitting. Do you have neighbors who have kids? Convince them that you are responsible and that you can babysit. Start off with helping them for free then when they see that you are a good babysitter the cash will come. Keep the kids calm and put them to bed. Just chill out until they get back. You usually get paid by the hour so try and make them stay out longer. But DON'T PUSH THE LIMITS!

(Caution) These tips may not work very fast so start slow and be patient.

## THE BEST (WORST) "DAD JOKES" OF THE YEAR

BY POEM C.

What did the drummer call his daughters? Anna one, Anna two!

How did Darth Vader know what Luke got him for Christmas? He felt his presents!

Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it!

What does a vegetarian zombie eat?  
GRAIIIIIIIIINS!

Why did the picture go to jail? Because he was framed!

What do you call a bear without teeth? A gummy bear!

5/4 people admit that they are bad at fractions.

I thought about going on an all-almond diet, but that's just nuts.

## REESE'S PIECES SMOOTHIE RECIPE!

BY YAEL K.

**What you need:** 1 cup milk, 1 tbs peanut butter, 1 banana, ¼ tbs cocoa powder, ½ cup of ice.

**Directions:** In a blending machine, blend all ingredients. Pour into your favorite cup/mug. Add any toppings you would like (I recommend broken bits of Reese's Peanut Butter cups.)

# SOCCER TOURNEY

BY CARLOS M., JAKE M., YONI C., & LIAM P.

This year during recess Coach Pecora allowed the 5th grade boys to create a soccer tourney. Coach picked three team captains to choose three teams. The team captains were Yoni C., Carlos M., and Oliver R. The tourney lasted for about two months. Due to unfair teams, the tournament was cut short and the winner of the tourney was Yoni C. In second place was Carlos M's team, and in third was Oliver R's team. Coach then tried to make a new tourney but that was also cut short because the players didn't want to play caused by a complaint about trading of players. In the middle of that tourney the girls made their own tourney yet, that has failed too. After, recess mostly consisted of playing normal street soccer rather than a tourney.



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

MS. CAMPBELL

When I learned that Springhurst would have to close temporarily due to covid-19, I knew I wanted to put out our last two papers regardless of whether the club could meet in person or not. The Springhurst Times is committed to sharing Springhurst's stories, opinions, and ideas, and I look forward to continuing that work remotely. Recently, I asked our writers what advice they'd give readers about being home during this challenging time. Here's what they said:

"My advice is to try not to be near a lot of people and avoid crowds." Gwen O.

"While you are at home, try to do something like send a letter or write a short story, and DON'T spend all your time hunched up in your room on your phone (for those of you who have one). Instead, take a walk or go to a track and run some laps." Emmett M.

"My advice is to try baking or building with Legos." Nola B.-W.

"One piece of advice is to take a break when doing your homework, so that you don't get frustrated or overwhelmed. Make sure not to have any distractions and to get everything done. I recommend creating your own schedule it would be helpful, or following the schedule your teacher gave you." Sara F.

"My piece of advice for students is to take it slowly. Even if it might seem like a lot of pressure to complete work just know that the teachers understand." Yael K.

# CLIMATE STRIKE

BY MIRANDA C. & SARA F.

The climate strike currently exists because children are trying to show the government that there is a problem with global warming. But there is one problem. The adults are not listening to what the children are trying to tell them. They are just sitting back and thinking, they [the children] will have to deal with it, not us. Children are taking off school to protest with these climate strikes. These kids realize the issues with climate change like melting polar ice and species going extinct. They are working really hard to stop this!

