Spring Gardening
Rosemary S., grade 2

The first day of spring was March 21 and do you know what that means? It’s spring gardening time! Now it is the perfect time for you and your family to plant a colorful garden full of fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

These are the steps to plant a garden:
1. Get some seeds or baby plants.
2. Make an empty spot in your yard for your garden.
3. Add planting soil to your garden so your plants have lots of good vitamins to help them grow.
4. Dig a hole and plant your seeds.
5. Make sure your garden gets lots of sunshine and water.
6. Wait until your plants are fully grown and ENJOY!

There are many books about gardening. Here are some of my favorites. Planting a Rainbow is a book that shows how many different colors you can have in your garden. Muncha, Muncha, Muncha is a funny book about bunnies who keep eating Mr. McGreely’s garden. Philippe in Monet’s Garden is a story about a frog who goes into Monet’s garden and meets the famous painter. The Curious Garden is about a boy who plants a garden on top of a train track in the city. These books are very special to me because every year I read them in the springtime to get ready for planting my own garden. I hope they get you in the spirit, too!

Fun Facts: Star Wars Day
Will E., grade 2

I love Star Wars! I saw every movie. If you don’t know what Star Wars is, it is a bunch of awesome space movies. George Lucas created Star Wars. The first Star Wars movie was released on May 25, 1977. Every year, Star Wars Day is celebrated on May 4th. The first celebration of Star Wars Day was in Canada in 2011. May the 4th sounds just like when people say, “May the force be with you.” On Star Wars Day, they celebrate and honor people like Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader, the actors in Star Wars. If you have a Star Wars shirt, remember to wear it on May the 4th!
**Featured Artist**

**Eve. M., Grade 1**

I just finished reading the book *Hey Little Ant* and it’s a book I think everyone should read! This book teaches you a great lesson about being kind to living creatures. In the book there are two main characters – Kid and Ant. The two characters argue about whether or not the kid should step on the ant. The ant gives good reasons about why he should not get stepped on by the kid. For example, the ant says that he has to dig nests for his family and feed baby ants too. At the end of the book, the authors do something really cool. Instead of telling us what the kid should do, the authors make us think and talk about if it’s right or wrong to squish an ant. In my opinion, you should never squish ants because they are living creatures and they have to help their families live.

There are two other really cool things about this book that I want you to know about. First, it’s a great rhyming book. All the lines in the story rhyme and have a good beat. Second, the illustrations are great because they have a lot of details. They really make you feel what it’s like to be a small ant.

I loved this book and I recommend that you read it. It was awesome!

---

**Teacher Feature:**

**Mrs. Beck**

**Samantha S., grade 2**

Mrs. Beck is my 2nd grade teacher. I did this interview with her because she is special to me. Please close your eyes and imagine you are Mrs. Beck. Open your eyes and please start reading when you’re ready.

- I like to teach reading because I want to help children become better readers.
- In my free time, I like to read.
- My hobbies are yoga and riding my bike.
- I went to Redwood Elementary and Moutin High School when I was younger.
- I describe all my students as precious gifts.
- My favorite ice cream as a kid was mint chocolate chip.
- My favorite book is *The Red Tent*.
- My favorite sport is hockey.
- If I had $350,000 I would travel around the world.
- My favorite animal is a dog because they are loyal.
- My favorite instrument is a guitar.
- I don’t play a musical instrument.
- If I had a choice between living in the Bahamas, Hawaii, or Florida, I would choose Hawaii.
- My favorite president is Abe Lincoln.
- I like going to California for vacation.
- I never heard of “Love it or List it”. F.Y.I: “Love it or List it” is a TV show about a boy and a girl that compete to see if a family will stay in a house or sell it.

That is my interview with Mrs. Beck. See you next time!!!!!
**Nut Swamp Cares: Recycling**  
*Madelyn Y., grade 5*

Hello, my name is Madelyn and I am a 5th grader here at Nut Swamp and I thought I could write a little article about recycling and how important it is. To recycle something means taking materials from old discarded items and making other new products from them. It's a lot more than just making sure we put the soda can or juice box in the right garbage can though. There are so many other materials and actions that we can take to preserve our earth and environment. Did you know all those little foil wrappers from Hershey Kisses are recyclable? About 80,000,000 are wrapped each day and that's enough to cover almost 40 football fields! So make sure you put the wrappers in a recycle bin after you enjoy your chocolate treat!

Nut Swamp does its best to help encourage all of us to recycle. We have bins all throughout the school for plastics and paper and Nurse Lucille has clothing drives so we can donate our used clothes and coats to people who need them. We are also encouraged to keep our playground and classrooms clean. Good recycling habits have to last all day, even when we are not in school.

During our summertime beach days, it's important to take our trash home with us. Plastic bags and other plastic materials thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year. An aluminum can that's not recycled can last 500 years, but if it is recycled, it could be back on the grocery shelf as a new can within 60 days. That's really quick!

**Principal’s Page**  
*Molly D., grade 2*

Did you know that Teacher Appreciation Week is in May? Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to thank your teachers for being so great! Did you know Mr. Bisgrove used to be a teacher? I interviewed him about being a teacher and a principal. Here are the questions I asked him...

**Were you ever a teacher?** Yes

**Did you like being a teacher and why?** Yes, I liked being a teacher because I liked when childrens learned and understood their answers.

**What grade and subject did you teach?** I taught music, fourth and fifth grade.

**What was your favorite subject to teach?** My favorite subject to teach was math.

**Where did you teach?** I taught music at Bayview, Harmony, Nut Swamp, River Plaza, New Monmouth, Port Monmouth, and Fairview. I taught 4th and 5th grade at New Monmouth.

**Did you like teaching?** Yes, I liked teaching very much.

**When did you start being a teacher?** In 1985.

**When did you start being a principal?** In 2005. And this is my 4th year at Nut Swamp.

**What job was harder: a teacher or a principal? Why?** Being a principal has been harder because there are more things you need to be responsible for.

**What job was easier: a teacher or a principal? Why?** A teacher was a little easier because the most children I ever had was 28. Now I have 356 children to worry about, and all the teachers and what they are doing.

I hope you learned a little bit more about Mr. Bisgrove and his jobs of being a teacher and a principal. Don't forget to thank your teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week!
Sensational Sports: Turnpike Swap

Luigi M., grade 3

After being let go from the New York JETS, it looks like Quarterback Mark Sanchez won't be moving too far. In March, he was dropped from the JETS, and will now be heading down the Turnpike to join the Philadelphia Eagles. Sanchez finishes his New York career with a 33-29 record as a starter, plus a 4-2 mark in the playoffs. These are decent numbers, but I'm sure the Eagles are hoping for greater success.

At the same time, the New York JETS picked up former Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Michael Vick. Vick's all time-career record is 58-48-1 with a 2-3 playoff record. Before the Eagles, he played for the Atlanta Falcons.

Picking up Michael Vick is a shock for JETS fans. There are so many questions. Will Michael Vick get injured as always? Will he be starting QB for the JETS? Will he last the entire season? Vick has finished a full season just once - in 2006. He did not play more than thirteen games during any of his four years in Philadelphia. Even if Vick beats out current JETS QB Geno Smith for the starting job, the JETS will probably need both QBs to complete the season.

The JETS always pick QBs that were all-stars on different teams and end up with terrible seasons when they come to the JETS. For example, Brett Favre had a lot of success with the Packers and won a super bowl during his career. He then came to the JETS and struggled. JETS fans are hoping that Vick doesn't follow that same path.

I don't think the New York and Philadelphia fans will like this turnpike swap, because both teams liked their QBs. However, will the switches help the teams into the playoffs? Let's see what happens when the 2014-15 season kicks off... No matter which direction you are headed, see you on the Turnpike!

And Sanchez, we'll see you in the Pre-Season.

---

Arts and Leisure: Soccer

Niko K., grade 4

Soccer is my favorite sport to play. I like this sport because there is teamwork, moves, and my favorite sports player. The reason I like to play soccer so much is because my sisters always had tournaments and I would go to them. A few years later, I started rec soccer and I kept on practicing. Now I keep on practicing so, one day, I will be really good.

One of my favorite things about soccer is teamwork. My sister's team just went to Baltimore and they won a tournament. They definitely won that tournament with teamwork. Everyone comes on a team with a special talent. When all of them work together they make one good team. When teammates hog the ball, and try to score all of the goals by themselves, they are not working together as a team. When everyone helps each other and shares the ball by passing, there are more chances to score goals and win games.

Another thing I like about soccer is that you can make many fancy moves on the field. This is cool because they name moves after professional players. For instance, Maradona was a famous player who played for Argentina. His move is very difficult, but everyone tries to learn it. I like how you can use moves to get around a player easily. A nutmeg is a move when you will kick a ball threw someone's legs. You can make your own move up, too. And, you can name it after yourself.

One more reason I love soccer is my favorite player. My favorite player is David Beckham. I like David Beckham because he has more assists than goals. He works together with his teammates and is not selfish. David also broke so many records.

In conclusion, soccer is an all around amazing sport. There is so much stuff to be interested in like teamwork, moves, and a favorite player. Now I am a pretty good player by using all of these things.
Super Science: Saving The Earth One Bottle Cap at a Time
Danielle H., grade 5

Two years ago, I told you about Paige A., a third grader, who collected bottle caps. Guess what? She's still at it! She started collecting because of a contest in 3rd grade to see who could collect the most bottle caps. She was intrigued by the idea that by collecting plastic bottle caps, she could help the environment. Paige found out that Whole Foods and a company named Preserve, collects and recycles bottle caps, turning them into other things such as toothbrushes. The idea kind of snowballed from there. Everyone from friends to neighbors to family started collecting for her. She stores the bottle caps in bags in her garage. She has a goal of collecting 10,000 bottle caps. On Earth Day last year, Paige brought some of her collection to school. Now, she has about 2,000 bottle caps. Paige will continue to collect bottle caps to benefit the Earth. Let's continue to support Paige as she works towards her goal! Go Paige!

Book Nook: Who Was Abraham Lincoln?
Seamus L., grade 2

Abraham Lincoln was killed on April 15, 1865. I learned this in a great book called Who Was Abraham Lincoln? by Janet B. Pascal. This book is a biography about my favorite president Abraham Lincoln. It is a really good book.

The first part of the book was about when he grew up. His family moved from Kentucky to Indiana because they hated slavery. They were poor and they lived in a log cabin.

The next part of the book is how Abe lived in Illinois when he was an adult. His job was a lawyer who had to move from place to place. A neat story I learned was that one day when Abe was taking a walk this lady dropped a penny and he grabbed it and ran after her. That's why they decided to put his face on the penny after he died. Next, he was elected to Congress and later he became the President of the United States.

My favorite parts of the book were the stories about Abe Lincoln's sons. He had four sons. I liked the parts about the boys shooting fake cannons from the White House roof. But I hated the part when one of his sons died.

I learned a lot about the Civil War in this book. I learned about the Battle at Gettysburg and that Abe Lincoln made a speech after it that made people trust him.

I learned that one of his generals never would say that he was ready to fight. So, Abe Lincoln fired him and made a new general that really helped them win battles.

It made me feel sad when I read about how Abraham Lincoln was shot, but the book tells about the cool stuff after that. His funeral traveled on a train and stopped in lots of towns going back to Illinois. Thousands of people came to say goodbye to him. Later, they put him on the five dollar bill and penny. His face is on Mt. Rushmore. And, there's a Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. This book tells interesting stuff like there was a mistake on the memorial that they had to fix.

One thing that makes this book so interesting is that it has lots of really cool drawings. The pictures make me feel like I am in the book. The illustrator is John O'Brien.

A lot of kids from second grade to fifth grade would like this book. It is good for kids who like Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and history. Next I'm going to read another Who Was book, Who Was Ernest Shackleford?!
We think that computers are an important part of everybody's life; especially in school. We need to know how to use a computer with ease, especially now that students are expected to do homework on Google Chrome. Some students don't know how to do simple things on the computer. We think the way to solve this problem is to make computers part of our school's curriculum.

Computers as a school special is a good and productive thing because as our technology evolves, more and more jobs involve computers. People today know how to type at a minimum speed without having to look at the keyboard to see the letters. Everyone needs to know how to access the internet safely without having to consult a friend or adult. Students need to know how to use a computer to do research and learn more about school subjects. Students need to know how to be safe on a computer so that they don't go on the wrong websites. Computer class in school will help prepare students to get a job and to safely use the web.

We understand that adding a 6th special won't be a piece of cake. If we have a 6th special, our current daily schedules will not work. After some serious thought, we feel we have figured out a solution. Health and Gym are very similar specials. So we thought how about we make Health and Gym one big special! We can extend the time of Health/Gym to 50 minutes. You will have 10-15 minutes of Health with your Health Teacher and the remaining 35-40 minutes will be a regular Gym class. This will allow room in the schedule to add Computers without having to eliminate another special.

Here is how Computer class will work. For 30 minutes we can learn how to do different things on a computer and last 10 minutes would be free time. The students will learn while still fitting in time for some fun.

We feel that Computers would be a great addition to our curriculum and we hope you agree. We have started a petition and are taking signatures of students and teachers who would also like to see Computers added as special. If you agree that Computer class is a great idea, and haven't already done so, sign our “Computers as a Special” petition today!

The History of American Girl Dolls
Samantha N., grade 4

Got any favorite toys? Mine has to be my American Girl dolls! You might be wondering about the amazing history of helping girls shine. Today you are going to read all about it! It all started in 1986 when Kirsten Larson, Samantha Parkington, and Molly McIntire were born!

In 1991 Felicity Merriman a colonial girl from 1774 came out! 1992 was the launch of the American Girl Magazine and the American Girl fashion show. Then Addy Walker, a civil war girl from 1864, came out in 1993 and in 1995 bitty babies came out for younger girls.

Josefina Montoya a Mexican girl from 1824 was released in 1997. Then in 1999 americangirl.com launched and in 2000 Kit Kittredge, a depression character from 1934 came out. In 2002 Kaya a Nez Perce, from 1764, came out. In 2003 the store we all know and love opened: American girl place in New York!

In 2004 the first American girl movie “Samantha: An American Girl Holiday” was released, and Samantha's best friend Nellie came out. In 2005 Felicity's best friend Elizabeth came out, as well as the release of the second American girl movie “Felicity: An American girl adventure.”


In 2009, Rebecca Rubin, a Jewish New York City girl from 1914 was released! As of 2009 Samantha Parkington was no longer available. Still in 2010 My American Girl Dolls came out that look just like you! With that came the official opening of Innerstar University.

In 2011, Cécile Rey and Marie-Grace Gardner, New Orleans girls from 1853, came out. In 2012 out came Caroline Abbott, a girl growing up during the war of 1812. During 2014, Molly McIntire became no longer available.

I hope you learned something new about the incredible American girl dolls!
Kids Say the Darndest Things
Mrs. Mindel’s Kindergarten Class

“What do you think the Easter Bunny does when Easter is over?”

• “He goes to check for more Easter eggs outside in the grass.” Cameryn C.
• “Umm, I don't know. Sleeps?”-James P.
• “He gives the eggs to Santa Claus.”-Matthew H.
• “The Easter Bunny goes in the hot tub to relax!”-Brian F.
• “It gets all the eggs and it opens up the eggs and changes the toys left over candy.”-Giuliana A.
• “He puts all the chicks back to work for next year and eats the leftover candy.”-Patrick G.
• “Hibernate?”-Sabrina L.
• “He checks to see if everyone is good & makes all the candy & toys.”-Ken C.

Train Your Brain
Sophia K., grade 2

B Y S P I N E A R T H D A Y G
G D A Y E G G H U N T T H E Y
F I N D S P E A S T E R R A A
U H I B L E H U P A S K D S D
N T S D W A F F A K I S A P S
D S P R O B I N S Z L A F R R
A P R T R A W R S O R S F I E
Y A I A M D J R O G E E O N H
P N N V I B G F V M H T D G T
I G G A B K L A E X E O I Q O
C P B I S I R P R T A M L K M
N I R H R T J I E D I O S U Y
I C E P N E I G R A E W A R M
C N A O T U L I P S Q N Q N L
S P K S X T O U T S I D E H S

Meet the Writers

Brandon H.
I am in Mrs. Johnson’s 4th grade class. I like to read and draw. My favorite thing to do at recess is play soccer.

Danielle H.
I am a 5th grader in Mrs. Vannucci’s class. I like to read, ride my bike and play with my dog, Duke.

Eve M.
I am 7 years old and in Mrs. Caruso’s class. I like swimming, drawing and riding bikes.

Luigi M.
I am a 3rd grader in Mrs. Rosenthal’s class. I love sports. I play football, baseball and basketball.

Madelyn Y.
I am a 5th grader. My twin brother, Hunter, is at Nut Swamp, too. I have a 4 year old sister, Annabella.

Max K.
I am in Mrs. Johnson’s 4th grade class. My favorite sport is soccer. I like reading.

Molly D.
My name is Molly. I am in 2nd grade in Mrs. Silvia’s class. I love to dance and do cheerleading!

Niko K.
I have 2 big sisters and my dog Sofie. I enjoy all sports, but soccer is my favorite.

Rosemary S.
I am a second grader in Mrs. Beck’s class. I love to read, write stories, and play with my friends.

Sam W.
I like to play baseball and football. My favorite baseball team is the Yankees and my favorite football team is the Ravens.

Samantha N.
I’m in fourth grade in Miss Sarapochillo’s class. I like to write, read, and play tennis.

Samantha S.
I am in Mrs. Beck’s 2nd grade class. I enjoy going to Sunnyside to see the horses and traveling for vacation.

Seamus L.
I am a second grader in Mrs. Beck’s class. I like playing sports, drawing, and playing with my dog Harry.

Sophia K.
I am in 2nd grade with Mrs. Beck. I have 2 sisters in kindergarten-Ava and Argie. I am an animal lover.

Warren M.
I am a first grader in Mrs. Miles’s class. My favorite things to do are art, football, reading, and playing with my neighbors.

Will E.
I am in the 2nd grade in Mrs. Beck’s class. I love to play basketball.

William M.
I am in Mrs. Johnson’s 4th grade class. My hobbies include basketball, video games, reading, and typing.

Passover Warm Spring Summer Easter
Picnics Egg Hunt Robin’s Garden Worm
Spring Break Earth Day Tulips Daffodils Outside
Memorial Day Mother’s Day April Fool’s Day

Comics, Sam W., grade 3