BY BEN
Grade 5 // Holmes

Did you know the mayor is cool? In fact, Spokane’s mayor is so cool that she, Lisa Brown, came to our school and let US interview HER! There is a one-hundred percent chance that she just thought that we Level Up Club members were SO COOL that she had to come to OUR school, Holmes Elementary.

On a serious note however, the mayor was very kind to come over to our school and talk to us. I really hope that she can do things like that more often. I hope that other schools get to experience something like that.

So we mostly just interviewed her on what it was like to be mayor, however, there were a few kids who had a few other questions like, “In your opinion, what is your favorite ice cream shop?” and she actually really liked the question because it was easy to answer. She said the Scoop and Doyles are her favorite. If you are interviewing her and you have a question like that, don’t be afraid to ask because she is really kind and really seems to enjoy interviews like that. Even if she does like those questions, you definately can ask other questions too, even if they are a little harder to answer for her, or harder for you to ask her.

A question I asked her was what was her normal day like as mayor. She said on regular days she has a lot of meetings, which can be boring, unless the meeting is with cool kids like those in Level Up. She might also write a proclamation on a special day, as she did on Vietnamese Heritage Day. But the thing she was most proud of doing in politics was getting the rules changed so kids like us can visit the floor of the state legislature.

For Level Up club members the whole experience of interviewing the mayor was exciting, and also nerve wracking for what I believe to be most people, but it was also very cool.

Mayor Lisa Brown poses with Holmes Level Up students.

Photo credit: Spark staff

“SPOKANE’S NEW MAYOR IS COOL!”

- Chase, Grade 4, Holmes

“My favorite part about interviewing the mayor was that WE got to question the Mayor! [...] If you want to ask a question to somebody as important as a mayor, think about asking a normal person a question, and that person knows a lot of things.”

- Chase, Grade 4, Holmes

Portrait of Mayor Brown by Maeve, Grade 3, Holmes
SUMMER EVENTS

2024 SPOKANE PRIDE: THE BEST THING EVER!

BY LIENN
Grade 3 // Holmes

Spokane Pride Parade and Festival, Saturday, June 8, 2024, is something you SHOULD go to!
- 12 AM parade kickoff
- 1-6 PM festival
- 6 to 9 PM all ages programming

Located in Riverfront Park Spokane, the 2024 theme is “Your Joy is an Act of Resistance.”

The first march in Spokane was 1992, making this the 32nd year. The first march was on the sidewalks, and sponsored and coordinated by the Spokane branch of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (now called PFLAG). The first Spokane Pride had only about 150 to 200 people. In 2023 there were over 160 vendors, many entertainment stages, and thousands of Pride participants.

Now for my personal thoughts on Pride! When I go to Pride I feel happy because it is fun and I feel supported. The mayor attended the first Spokane Pride. The community is one of the best parts of Pride. The floats always have all different things on them! I like it when the Girl Scouts come out. Spokane Pride is the best when Spark has a booth (they run the crafts this year). That’s all for now, I hope you learned more about Spokane Pride!

Riverfront Park, illustrated by Jiuleonna, Grade 5, Holmes

TRY OUT HOOPFEST!

BY THEO
Grade 3 // Holmes

Did you know that Spokane has the largest three-on-three basketball tournament and family festival of its kind in the entire world?! Do you want to get better at basketball? Try this!

Hoopfest, you can sign up with 3 players. It’s going on this Summer, and the Spokane Hoopfest store will be open Thursday, June 22nd, to Sunday, June 25th. For grades 1 and 2, they will play with a 7 foot hoop. In the 3rd and 4th, they will play on an 8 foot hoop, and grades 5th through 8th will play on a 10 foot hoop. There’s some local vendors that will sell jewelry, temporary tattoos, and sunglasses.

STORIES, PHOTOS & MORE AT SPARK-CENTRAL.ORG/PUBLISHING
VISIT SILVERWOOD

BY WREN
Grade 3 // Audubon

I bet you can’t guess my favorite ride at Silverwood? Here’s a hint. It’s a roller coaster that goes upside down. Its colors are white and red. Did you guess right? It’s Stunt Pilot!

The first time I went to Silverwood I was seven or eight years old. I went with my dad. You have to walk through a tube tunnel to get to the ride. Then we have to wait in a long line to get on the ride. We rode in the middle of the coaster. The ride is faster than a racecar!

Silverwood is a great thing for summer. It’s very fun and you don’t have to do any school during the summer so you can go to Silverwood any day and there’s plenty of roller coasters and other rides. There’s even a little kid section you can go on. It costs a lot of money, but it’s worth it. That is why you should go to Silverwood.

COME WITH ME TO FAIRY FESTA

BY NORA
Grade 5 // Audubon

Maybe I was meant to be a dragon guardian of the realms! On June 22-23rd, I’ll get to try. Fairy Festa is free. There are quests and prizes for ages 0-7 (adopt a dragon egg), 8-14 (become a dragon trainer), and 15-adults (quest to become a Dragon guardian). There are multiple Queens of Faelor - the Queen of Blossoms, the Queen of Whispers, the Queen of Starlight, and more.

There will be dancers on stage and wandering musicians playing fairy music. I am excited to meet the ancient dragon Haarthenax, a seven foot tall animatronic dragon. The Queens will help human kids make magic wands. MerFolk will tell stories. I’m no ordinary kid so I know I will be long at Fairy Festa. I’m pretty sure I can control water with my hands! Maybe I am a long lost Queen of Faelor!

Once a year they celebrate dragon egg adoptions in the human realm of the Spokane Valley. The story of Fairy Festa tells me I was born into the second age of magic so I know I am magical. Meet me at the fairy festival!
VISIT: LIBERTY LAKE

BY THEA
Grade 3 // Audubon

I like to go to Liberty Lake during the summer with my family. We drive our car there. My grandparents come with us as well as my mom and my dad. We go to Costco first to pick up drinks and snacks. Once, we even picked up things for a BBQ. We had hot dogs and chips and we cooked it right in the park. We spent all day at the lake. We went swimming and I swam all by myself. We were there until it got dark and swam in the dark. We set up a canopy so that we stay dry if it starts to rain.

GOING TO THE LAKE

BY JAYCE
Grade 3 // Holmes

My family goes to the lake on summer break. It is called Williams Lake. It has catfish. We stay in a cabin and there are snacks. We swim lots too! My favorite memory was when my mom and dad swam all the way out to a tank in the water. People totally need to try catching turtles in the water. This is a lake for all ages.

WATER FUN

BY ALFREDO
Grade 3 // Holmes

When it’s not raining and when the sun is warm, it’s the best time to get wet. You can go to public pools, splash pads, or have a water balloon fight. Two are at Riverfront Park and there are squirters on the walls and squirters on the floors. There is a pattern the squirters have so they know if they’re stuck in the waterfall. There is a park when you are dry.

SUMMER SIBLING, SIBLING SILLINESS

BY CORINNE
Grade 3 // Audubon

Here’s how to have fun like me, having the best time of your entire life. First, get a pool at least 16 feet, that’s how mine is, so do that with a lot of water. You can also have sprinklers, which the kids will love, and you can also have pool parties and birthday parties. In the summertime is the best place to have your summer fun days, especially on the weekends. It is amazing, especially with my two siblings.

One of my siblings is six years old and her name is Rose. The other one is called Lucian (loo-shen). He is three years old. They are the silliest stubborn little siblings I’ve ever had in my entire life. They are the true heart of silliness in my family.

Rose, Lucian, and I go to my favorite place: my uncle’s pool of awesomeness! We have so much fun with my family! They ARE the summer sibling, silly silliness. They are the best and I can’t imagine life without them.

BY JAYCE
Grade 3 // Holmes

The best thing to do in the summer is go to the pool. I go with my family. I wish I could go with my old neighbor who moved away. Everyday is a good day to go to the pool. It’s best to stay inside if it’s cold and windy. I learned to swim at age 6. I have also swam in the lake and ocean.

FIND A POOL

HAVE A HOT TIP OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Email our Assistant Editor, Snoz, at snoz@spark-central.org.
GLUE SLIME
BY MAEVE
Grade 3 // Holmes

Okay, today we’re gonna be learning about slime!

How to make slime: (First ask an adult for permission to do this) get in groups to make the slime with help. Decide what kind of slime you’re gonna make and then choose what job everyone’s gonna have.

For glue slime, first you put in 1 cup white glue and one tablespoon of baking soda and mix. Then you put in 2 teaspoons of saline activator and you mix it. Then you put a few drops of food coloring (any color you want!) and mix it up again. Put it in a plastic bag and that’s how you make slime! That’s it! Yippee yippee hooray hooray!!!! That’s how you make slime.

P.S. If you want to make it fluffy add shaving cream - depends on how fluffy you want it.

TORNOADO ROAD
BY NOAH
Grade 3 // Audubon

Storm chasing is interesting because it is so action packed. I wrote a book called “Tornado Road.” It was about the Joplin Tornado. It was about a storm tracker. Reed Timmer. Reed was the best storm chaser in the world. He got photos and video of the storm. He helped the town take shelter from the storm. The first time I went storm chasing with my dad, I provided directions so that we could get ahead of the storm.

MINICRAFT BUILDS TO TRY
BY ALFREDO
Grade 3 // Holmes

You can cut this list out of the newspaper, take it home, turn on your PS or whatever you use to play Minecraft, and try these builds.

- A tiny haunted hotel
- A police station
- A bakery
- A new village
- The Volcano

Instructions:

Think of what you want to make and what block you will need. Then draw a picture of what you want your build to look like. This gives you a chance to think through your build. So like if it is grassy, make sure there are not grass eating animals there! For a volcano, use a mountain as a base and lava on top.

You can have fun playing Minecraft. You can play Minecraft at Spark Central if you do not have it at home.

HOW TO MAKE BOBA
BY AUDREINNA
Grade 3 // Audubon

It’s “Mmmmmmmmm” yummy and you can drink it. It’s “Mmmm” good. The best place to get ice cream is a boba shop. Joan Bailey at EatingWell.com wrote, “Boba tea is made of tea, milk, water, sugar and tapioca pearls. Iced sweet milky tea is given a good cocktail-style shake, after which tapioca pearls are added.” I go with my mom and get boba and ice cream - any kind of boba! The tapioca balls are sweet and amazing. The best ice cream is cotton candy.
THE RULES OF LIVE ACTION AMONG US

Hey PARENTS, are you trying to get your kids off the screens? Here is a spacey adventure that you can play in REAL LIFE!

BY EMRIE AND ALLISON
Grade 3 & 4 // Holmes
with help from other Holmes students

This is best played on a playground or really big house. You will first need to pick an adult to be the Computer. The Computer will select who the Imposters are and assign jobs to Crewmates. The Computer might choose to keep note cards with jobs for Crewmates to do or the Computer can make the jobs up on the spot. You will also need at least 4 Crewmates for the ship and 1 Imposter (or more if you have a big group).

How to play:
First the Crewmates circle up facing inward and close their eyes. The Computer walks around the circle and taps three times on the shoulder of the Imposter(s). The Computer then lets everyone know how many Imposters there are Among Us (get it?). The Computer gives jobs to the Crewmates and you go do them. Playground jobs for Crewmates include:

- picking up trash and high fiving other Crewmates,
- hula hooping, drawing with chalk, playing frisbee, or whatever the Computer assigns.

While you are doing your job, if you get tapped three times by the imposter, wait five seconds and then "die" dramatically. You then have to wait where you died until you are discovered, at which point you can become a ghost. But you cannot say who killed you to ANYONE. You cannot tell anybody who killed you even if they give you puppy dog eyes (even friend puppy dog eyes) because telling ruins the game.

Each Crewmate can call one emergency meeting by high fiving the Computer who then makes the emergency meeting announcement. When in an emergency meeting, each person gets a chance to say who they think is the Imposter. TAKE TURNS! Vote on who the Crewmates think is the Imposter, majority rules, skipping is an option. Try not to get your feelings hurt because accusing others and defending yourself is part of the game.

After the vote, the Computer will let the Crewmates know if the person kicked off the ship was an Imposter or not.

The Crewmates win if they vote off all the Imposters. The Imposters win if they kill or vote off all the Crewmates. You still have to follow school rules about being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible, but also have fun!

WHAT TO DO ON SUMMER BREAK

BY MICAH
Grade 3 // Audubon

What to do on Summer break? Eat ice cream and watch movies all day long!!! My personal favorites are Avengers, Avengers: Rise of Ultron, Avengers: Infinity War, and Avengers: Endgame - that’s pretty much all I like to do. My favorite TV show is Spider-Man. If I’m playing games I go outside a lot. When I go outside I play a whole bunch of games. I play tag, I play blackout, hide and seek, and zombie apocalypse. That’s all for today so bye-bye.

MINECRAFT CLUB

THURSDAYS · 4 - 6 PM

Grades 3 - 8 · Drop in to explore architecture, engineering and art through Minecraft! Each session, participants will be given a building prompt related to one or more of these fields. Then, they’ll work together to plan their build and join a Minecraft world to create it. Staff and volunteers will monitor games to ensure the safety of youth as they play.

This program is free thanks to community support. Join us for Minecraft Club any Thursday!
A note from the editors: Alexander uses two abbreviations in his writing that you may not be familiar with: “ofc.” stands for “of course,” and “fr.” stands for “for real.”

SPIN, SWING, & SCREAM

BY ALEXANDER
Grade 5 // Audubon

Dear parents, are you tired of your kids screaming in your house? Well, try this at your closest park. I like to go to Audubon Park and play spin, swing, and scream. This is the game that is a great activity to do in the summer and on the swings (ofc.)

When I was younger I saw kids spinning and screaming on the swings and I wanted to try. My friend Kaydance and I created this game. First, you have to go on the swings, ofc. After you’re on the swings, get as high as you can and use your body weight to spin. After that, you have to scream!

This is great for when you are feeling bananas. This is the best activity to do at the park during summer. Bye Besties. Fr., fr., Credits to me.

OPTIONS FOR THE SUMMER

Ask yourself, “What do I like to do?” If you just do that when you’re bored, you’ll always have something to do. Like, playing video games, reading, swimming at the pool, etc. For me, swimming at the pool is a top priority.

MONKEY BARS

BY KAYDANCE
Grade 5 // Audubon
Edited by Alexander.

The monkey bars at parks are so fun! We can do a lot of stuff with monkey bars. We all can hang upside down and pretend to be bats! We also can climb up on top of the monkey bars and be high up in the sky and see a lot. We all can do a lot of other stuff on the monkey bars, too. Like doing tricks on the monkey bars and doing a backflip, too. And for little kids to stay safe I say, “Please don’t do this.”
WEST CENTRAL EXPRESS

SUMMER

FANTASTIC MR. FOX:
SCENES 1-3 OF A 6-SCENE PLAY

Inspired by the book Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl.
Read the full play with the QR code on page 10!

BY ALLISON
Grade 4 // Holmes

CHARACTERS:
Mr. Fox (the clever hero)
Mrs. Fox (his patient wife)
Fox Pups 1 and 2 (two of them, cute but tricky)
Boggis Buncenbeaner (The most cranky farmer in the world ever!),
and The Narrator

Scene 1, how it all began

Narrator: In a farm far away lived the most cranky farmer who ever lived.
Farmer: [angry] Only a thousand bucks!
Farmer: [bouncing in anger] Those chickens better lay more eggs or they’re on the chopping block!

Scene 2, farmer Buncenbeaner

Narrator: Next to the farm was a big, vast forest. In that forest lived a family of four foxes.
Mr. Fox: What should we get for dinner tonight dear - a duck, chicken, or goose?
Mrs. Fox: Two fat ducks, dear. One for us and one for the children.
Fox pups: Yummy Ducks!
Mr. Fox: I’ll just pop over to the Buncenbeaner farm.

Scene 3, the big dig

Narrator: One day the farmer was tired of Mr. Fox stealing his property.
Farmer: That brash fox!
Narrator: He started pacing and scratching his chin.
Farmer: [smiling a cheeky smile] Aaahhaa. I got an idea!
Narrator: So that night the farmer waited for the fox to come take a chicken, then he followed Mr. Fox home! He marked the spot on a map. The next day he returned with a big horrible digging machine!
Farmer: I will DIG him out or my name is not Boggis Buncenbeaner!
Narrator: The family of foxes below heard the rumbling.
Mr. Fox: Someone is digging in. We need to dig out! DIG!
Narrator: The Fox family tunneled with all their might. The farmer dug and dug but found nothing.
Farmer: I’ll get my men and some food. We will surround the hill and wait them out!
SCENES

WE RAN AWAY TO WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Adapted from the books *We Were Tired of Living In a House* by Liesel Moak Skorpen and *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.

Scene 1

Big Sister: Man, we were tired of living in a house!
Big Brother: So we packed our bags and moved to a tree.
Little Sister: We liked our tree. There was always a breeze in the afternoon and also a tiny speckled bird who sang all day, as well as our red and gold roof in autumn.
Little Brother: Well, we liked it until we tumbled out.
Little Sister: So we packed our bags with some souvenirs and moved to a pond.
We really liked our pond.
Big Brother: We floated on a little raft and shed and chased dragonflies while frogs sang on lilypads.
Big Sister: Well, we really liked it… until it sank.
Little Sister: So we packed our bags again and moved to a cave. We liked our cave.
Big Brother: We slept on cool moss, hunted blackberries, and drank water from the brook. We roasted walnuts over the fire, and explored every once and a while.
We really liked our cave.
Little Brother: Until we met the bears!
Big Brother: We walked out one day to see what our next move would be.
Little Sister: And then we saw a pond.
Little Brother: And then we saw a tree.
Big Sister: And then we knew that we didn’t want to be logs anymore.
Little Brother: So we packed up and moved to a house.

Scene 2

Max: Why hello, and welcome to MY island. You are just in time for the WILD RUMPUS!
(The siblings shrug and then join Max and the Wild Things in dancing and Rawring at the moon. Then they line up and parade around the stage)
Wild Things: (to the siblings) Oh please don’t go, we could eat you up we LOVE you so!
Big Sister: But then Max said…
Max: NOOOOO! (he pauses thoughtfully) I guess I will have to lock you up, because the monsters have taken a shine to you and I AM KING OF ALL WILD THINGS!
(The Wild Things sadly make a monster arm-cage around the siblings… and then fall asleep standing up, snoring)
Max: Awww, they are all sleepy from the Wild Rumpus.
Big Sister: We do NOT like it here any more!
Little Sister: Yes, we want to go HOME!
Max: You are not going home. You are going to be the Wild Thing’s supper tomorrow!
(Max walks away)
Big Brother: (Siblings speak in loud whispers) OK, the Wild Things are sleepy.
Little Brother: So am I… but I think we are going to need one more Wild Rumpus.
Big Sister: Join me!
(Max walks away)
Big Brother: (to the siblings) WAIT… WILD THINGS?
Wild Things: RAWR!
Little Sister: They Gnashed their terrible teeth.
Wild Things: GNASH! GNASH! GNASH!
Little Brother: They rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws! (The Wild Things do that).
Big Brother: But we looked them right in their yellow eyes and tamed them by shouting:
Siblings: BE STILL! (The kids get into the boat in a hurry and “paddle” quickly).
Big Sister: So we traveled back through night and day and in and out of weeks and almost over a year.
Little Brother: Across the beach, past a bear cave…
Big Brother: Past a pond, and a pretty tree…
Little Sister: To the place where our house and parents and supper were waiting.
AND the food was still warm!

END

STORIES, PHOTOS & MORE AT SPARK-CENTRAL.ORG/PUBLISHING
MINECRAFT VILLAGE:
SCENE 1 OF A 3-SCENE PLAY

BY CHASE, THEO, & ALFREDO
Grades 4 & 5 // Holmes

Characters:
Steve (the hero)
Zombie/Skeleton (he’s scary)
Villager (the innocent victim)
Piglin (the fortress defender)
and The Narrator

Scene 1, in an oversized village, basically a city

Narrator: We start in the village. It is night time.
Villager: My this is a nice night!
Steve: Yes indeed!
Narrator: Then the villager meets a zombie in the village!
Zombie: Grrrr, Grrrrr, Urrrrg-ggghhhhh!
Villager: Aaa! I’m running away!

Narrator: The zombie chased the villager through the paved sidewalk.
Villager: There is nowhere left for me to run! I’m caught!
Narrator: Steve was walking through the village and saw the villager in trouble.
Steve: Take that! Cheee-Yah!

Zombie: Urp! Durp! (He collapses)
Villager: Thank you for saving me!
Steve: You’re welcome!

FIND FULL PLAYS & MORE PLAYS HERE

Poster for an adapted play, “The Little Grumpy Cat That Wouldn’t Play,” by Lienn, Grade 3, Holmes

STORIES, PHOTOS & MORE AT
SPARK-CENTRAL.ORG/PUBLISHING
Hello, is your dream to be a mentor in Level Up? Well, if so, you're in luck because Level Up needs mentors. Two to three days a week, Tuesdays–Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. at partner elementary schools.

If you are all these things, you just gotta sign up! Contact Spark Central today!

Mentors need these qualities:

- Nice
- Funny
- Helpful
- Honest
- Caring
- Forgiving

Help Wanted

You Could Hang With These Cool Kids

Alexander wrote this ad!

Illustration by Ben, Grade 5, Holmes

Have a hot tip or letter to the editor? We want to hear from you!

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This program is free thanks to community support.

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