My family started going to Spokane Pride in 2022. That’s where I met the people from Spark and Level Up. It was really fun because there was a bubble machine dance party, lots of food, and all sorts of fun booths. There were lots of people and even animals in the parade before the Pride Festival in Riverfront Park. My family felt safe and happy.

I got to interview someone [Marion] who was an organizer for the first Pride Parade in Spokane. The first Pride ever was in 1970 in New York City, but Spokane didn’t get one until 1992, 22 years after the first one. “We were a little late to the party,” Marion said.

At the first Spokane Pride they had more people than expected, but some people wore bags on their heads because they were scared of protestors attacking them. Lisa Brown was at the first Spokane Pride. Lisa Brown is the new mayor of Spokane. I hope you learned a lot about the first Spokane Pride!

When I met Officer Seth Wolfe at Level Up, the first question I asked Officer Seth Wolfe was, “Where did you grow up?,” and officer Seth said, “I was born and raised in Spokane.” The second question I asked officer Seth Wolfe was, “What do you do in the police force?,” and Officer Seth Wolfe said, “I am in the SWAT team.”

The third question I asked Officer Seth Wolfe was, “What has changed since the black man was beaten by a police officer in Minnesota?,” and Officer Seth Wolfe said more training and more of a people-to-people conversation. And that concludes my interview with Officer Seth Wolfe.
ALL ABOUT OUR BOTTLES

BY JAYCE
3rd grade // Holmes, with help from other Holmes students

Excavations - they happen here, too, not just Egypt. Brian Martin excavated about 15,000 bottles into garbage holes in the early 1900s here in Spokane. He dug between the 1980s and 90s. He donated his bottles to remind people that the things we use and throw away don’t really go away. Valerie Wähl and Cindy Short took his donation to start the Spokane Bottle Project and inspire art and stories about the bottles. This is one of those stories.

Level Up students were each able to pick out a bottle from the collection. We looked on Google using the clues on the bottles to get information about our bottles and about what the bottles might have been used for. Ariana’s bottle was from local pharmacy, a prescription for “Tummy Troubles,” and we were able to find a picture of it. The building now holds a pub.

“My bottle held medicine for ‘Ladies Days’” - Carly
“My bottle says E.R. Durkee and Co. NEW YORK. It says Salad Dressing. I wonder what flavor?” - Harlow
“There were bottles of all kinds, big and small, different shapes, and the bottles were used for all sorts of things.”
“We think my bottle was for perfume.” - Lien

Plastic bottles are now used to store all sorts of things and can be recycled into toys, art, or other nice things, so if we recycle and reuse them someday archaeologists will not have to wonder about all our junk.

DANGEROUS DOGS

BY HARLOW
4th grade // Holmes

So the SCRAPS officer was talking to my group about dangerous dogs. If a dog is declared dangerous they will have 4 options. First, register as dangerous and the owner has to build barriers. Second, you may euthanize the dog. Third, the owner can rehome the dog out of Spokane County. Fourth, appeal the SCRAPS decision to the court. The end, the end, the end, the end, the end, the end.

WHY DO KILL SHELTERS EXIST!!!!!

BY MADDY AND CARLY
5th grade // Holmes

According to Petpedia.com, 52% of all shelters in the U.S. are kill shelters. Approximately 390,000 dogs are killed yearly at shelters, 530,000 cats are killed yearly (140,000 more cats are killed than dogs) and about 920,000 animals are killed yearly. Between 4,000 and 10,000 animals are killed in shelters DAILY! 25% of animals entering shelters are killed. 9 out of 10 killed animals are adoptable, having no painful or life threatening conditions.

There are around 14,000 shelters and rescue groups in the U.S. About 1.4 million shelter animals are adopted yearly and about 810,000 are returned to their owners. Animal shelters nationwide take in as many as 6.3 million cats and dogs annually housing them in over 3,500 different facilities.

Right now the SCRAPS shelter has around 80 dogs and around 60 cats. Always tell your parents or guardian if you see a hurt or lost animal. If an animal isn’t spayed/neutered, but has a microchip, but is not licensed it is a $53 fine. If your dog or cat bites someone and it breaks the skin, it’s put under house arrest for 10 days.

KATRINA THE FLORIST

BY CHLOE
5th grade // Audubon

I had a chance to interview this florist named Katrina. Katrina is a florist that works at Lilac City Blooms. She has been working there for 3 years and one thing that inspired her was her mother-in-law. Katrina also said that some of her favorite flowers are roses, dahlias, and peonies. She always was interested in being a florist since she was a little one. Katrina wants to be that person who sells flowers for a big event. She followed her dreams and ended up doing it.

OPINION: WHY FRIENDS BACKSTAB EACH OTHER

BY KAREN
5th grade // Audubon

WARNING: There could be trigger words.

If your friends backstab you, I might know why. One reason why could be because they’re ignored or abused at home. Another reason could be that they are dealing with recent heartbreak, something that recently happened. These are just a few reasons. There could be another reason and you can ask someone else about it.

CROSSING IS RESPONSIBILITY

BY CARSON
5th grade // Holmes

My name is Carson and I have been a crossing guard. I care about being a crossing guard because I get to be very responsible and help people. I don’t worry about getting run over because I follow safety instructions.

I like it when it rains, I don’t mind that; I can wear rain gear. I don’t like it when it snows. When I work as a crossing guard I like how I feel. I feel part of the community. Being a crossing guard can be hard, but not too hard.

Use the whistle only when going out into the street - a good crossing guard needs to pay attention and follow the rules. With great power comes great responsibility. I recommend this job to responsible people.

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.
FAKE NAILS

BY JAISA
4th Grade // Audubon

OK, so we are talking about nails. We need facts, so let’s start! If you are wondering how long can fake nails get… they are fake, so you can make them as long as you want. They can stay on for multiple weeks.

You can make them last longer if you get them filled in every two weeks or so. Filling is when the nail artist adds new acrylic into the space where your nail grew out and created a gap.

When you want to take them off without ruining or hurting your real nail underneath, you need to soak them in acetone. If you use them right, fake nails can make you look and feel cuter.

GHOSTS

BY NORA
5th grade // Audubon

I talked to people about if ghosts are real or not real. I asked, “Do you believe ghosts are real?” 10 people believed in ghosts. 4 people did not believe in ghosts. The New York Times shared that half of people claimed their house was haunted.

Ghosts are creepy. Sometimes they don’t even have eyes. Wow, that is a fun fact! Ghosts are found in hotels and houses. They can also be found in restaurants and sometimes on boats. You cannot see them in pictures. Some ghosts live in mansions.

You should tell the buyer [of a house] that it is a haunted house in New York if you’re trying to sell and it’s illegal if you’re trying to sell it without telling the buyer.

FLOWERS :

BY ARIANA
5th Grade // Holmes Elementary

You should read this so you can know facts about all different types of flowers!

Did you know that most flowers grow thorns, spikes, or prickles to defend themselves? The inside of a flower is called a pistil. Broccoli is a flower.

Some flowers don’t need soil, instead they use air to get their nutrients. Some flowers produce toxic substances that kill other flowers, such as sunflowers. Not all flowers smell good. There are over 400,000 types of flowering plants all over the world. Titan arum, or corpse flower, is a flower that smells like rotting meat.

Each sunflower can have over 2,000 seeds. There are over 32,000 types of flowers in North America. If a flower is not harmful to humans, you could drink the nectar.

According to Littlelearningcorner.com, gas plants are flowers that produce extremely flammable oil! On a hot day those flowers could burst into flames!

Studies show that flowers can make people happier and feel more connected to people. Flowers help the air quality that we breath! Some types of flowers, such as lilies and gerberas, produce a large amount of oxygen.

Tulip bulbs were more valuable than gold in Holland in the 1600s. The largest flower in the world is called the Titan arum, which is 10 feet high and 5 feet wide. You can find the Titan arum in Indonesia. I hope you liked these facts from my article.

HOW IT IS OWNING CATS

BY KAREN
5th grade // Audubon

In my opinion, cats are the best animals. And I will give you some pros and cons on owning cats.

Pros: you can snuggle with them, they can comfort you at tough times, they can make you laugh, and they are adorable.

Cons: Sometimes they meow too much, they knock over things, you have to clean their litter box constantly, and sometimes their cat toys are very obnoxious.

These are the pros and cons of having a cat or 2. Do you agree with these pros and cons?
BATS AT HOLMES
BY ALLISON
4th grade, Holmes

What would you do if you found bats? Well, the janitor had an encounter with the bats that came to the school, where they were trying to learn and got the time wrong. Read on to see.

As information from the janitor’s encounter, the janitor was cleaning the school ‘til he saw a bat in Ms. Key’s room. What type [it was] is unknown, but it was brown and small, and not a baby. It was flying in circles. How did they survive? Probably on mice.

He took the bat out with a bag. He went on and saw four more under the American flag in the lunch room. Then they called the professionals. He never saw a bat in the school again. And that is what the janitor’s experience was.

THOUGHTS ON BEES
BY TREFIN
5th grade // Audubon

Bees! Bees make honey by collecting nectar from flowers back to the hive to store in honey combs. Honey bees die if they use their stingers, so they try not to do that. One way they protect their hive without using their stinger is by flapping their wings really fast to overheat enemies like wasps.

SNAKES ARE AMAZING!!
BY JIULEONNA
5th grade // Holmes

Snakes are really interesting. Snakes do not have eyelids. Their jaws are very flexible. More than 3,000 snakes are on this planet. People should discover snakes more often!

OPHIOCORDYCEPS
BY BEN
5th grade // Holmes

The Ophiocordyceps is a parasitic fungus that can come in enough variations to infect almost every family of bug. Cordyceps also prefer to infect animals with body temperatures of 77°F - 86°F and most of the activity of the fungus happens in central Florida.

The fungus infects bugs by releasing a bunch of spores into the air. Once it infects a host, it then takes over the host’s nervous system and makes it move up to a high enough surface (10-15 in.) and then makes it clamp down on a sturdy surface to wait for death. The fungus then feeds on its insides for weeks until it sprouts a root of fungus from it’s head to release a bunch of spores into the air to infect a host and restart the cycle.

Scientists estimated that it would take a few million years [for Cordyceps] to infect anything warm blooded since it was so hard for it to infect even one species of ant.
TORNADOS SUCK!

BY NOAH
3rd grade // Audubon

You might not believe that tornados happen here in Spokane, but actually they do and that’s why you should know about them. In May of 2004, a hybrid F0 bow echo tornado touched down in Spokane. Storms merged to create a vortex that damaged trees, blew off roofs, and caused as much as eight inches of hail to accumulate according to Weather.gov. Weather.gov says that at least one tornado touches down in Washington state every year.

Tornados can be very dangerous. If you are caught outside in one, find the lowest spot you can, get low and cover your head. If you are inside go to the basement if you have one or to the inside of the house away from windows if you do not have a basement. Make sure your house has a well stocked med kit just in case.

Recently, my dad and I, who are storm chasers, watched an F5 that touched down in Arkansas. We watched from several miles away to stay safe. It was a large supercell tornado that was a mile and a half wide. I saw an entire hotel tip over and roll away! I was really excited and happy to be hanging out with my dad doing something like that. When I grow up I don’t want to fly into storms for a job, but I would like to keep storm chasing and helping people learn about tornados so they can stay safe. If you are interested in learning more about tornados or other types of weather check out Weather.gov or even Google. Weather can be exciting!

THE HISTORY OF THE MEGALODON – THE FACTS

BY MAEVE
3rd grade // Holmes

The megalodon was over 50 feet long, I want the megalodon to still be around and not to be around. If the megalodon were still around you should not put megalodon in an aquarium, because the megalodon will take up all the space.

WHY ARE STARS CREATED?

BY WREN
3rd grade // Audubon

We interviewed Professor Syphers of Eastern Washington University on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 about stars. What are stars are made of? Helium and hydrogen gases make up stars. How far away are stars from Earth? Light years. Stars are always in the sky, but we can see them best at night. I always wondered what stars were made of and why we can see them better at night.

PLUTO

BY LEILA
4th grade // Audubon

Pluto was discovered in 1930.

ALL ABOUT BASKETBALL

BY TERENCE
5th grade // Audubon

I researched all about basketball. When was basketball invented? Basketball was invented in 1891. Where was a basketball invented? Basketball was invented in Springfield, Massachusetts. Who invented basketball? James Naismith invented basketball. What would you do if you had no basketball?

OPINION BY DEAN

BY DEAN
5th grade // Audubon

The best team in my opinion is the Buccaneers cause of Tom Brady. 94 points? No, I’m not going against him. He’s better than all the other QBs. He has like 2,000 complete passes and he would have like 3,000 passes if he didn’t throw them in the wrong direction. That’s why the Buccaneers are better than any team. I think the Washington Commanders are close. This matters cause I like this team and football.
Several students in Audubon's Level Up Press Club are interested in becoming police officers when they grow up. Officers Daniel Valencia and Seth Wolfe generously gave their time to our young journalists to answer dozens of questions about their profession! - Spark staff

We had a sweet visit from local beekeeper Steven Price. - Spark staff

“Oh No! I am stealing the honey and no one can stop me!... Ok, I ate the honey and it tastes weird.” - Jaisa, 4th grade, Audubon

“T_h_e honey from the honeycomb is sweeter than storebought.” - Leila, 4th grade, Audubon

“T_h_i_s type of picture is called a silhouette. It turned out cool!” - Jayce, 3rd grade, Holmes

“Eating a piece of bread.” - Lenn, 3rd grade, Holmes

“T_h_i_s is Wilson in his usual Wilson costume. See there is the hat, sweater, and beard, that’s how you can tell it’s Wilson!” - Ariana, 4th grade, Audubon

“In this picture I am upside down so the photographer could get a unique perspective. Next time I would crop the picture in closer. Maybe I will try a head stand.” - Noah, 3rd grade, Audubon

“Bryler looks nice in this picture.” - Maeve, 3rd grade, Holmes

“I had the idea of making a photo of having an idea.” - Lenn, 3rd grade, Holmes

“Spark Program Coordinator Terra Price reads a story to press club members at the beginning of an immersive mystery game designed to practice their investigatory skills. - Spark staff

“We got to peak inside this bouquet to see what holds it together. We also leaned [from florist Katrina Dalke], “The most popular flower is roses.” - Lenn, 3rd grade, Holmes

“T_h_i_s is Wilson from the newspaper. I took this close up of my hero.” - Jayce, 3rd grade, Holmes

“T_h_i_s type of picture is called a portrait. I like this picture because Wilson looks happy.” - Kennedy, 4th grade, Holmes

“T_h_i_s is Wilson in his usual Wilson costume. See there is the hat, sweater, and beard, that’s how you can tell it’s Wilson!” - Ariana, 4th grade, Audubon
We had a sweet visit from local beekeeper Steven Price. - Spark

“Are you stealing the honey and no one can stop me?... Ok
and it tastes weird.” - Jaisa, 4th grade, Audubon

“[the honeycomb] is sweeter than storebought.” - Jaisa, 4th grade, Audubon

Zeke shows off an air-dry clay sculpture during creative choice time. - Spark staff

Level Up students practiced their investigatory skills in October
by working together to solve a mystery of a kidnapped teddy bear.
Here, Dean (5th grade, Audubon) closely examines a potential
clue with a magnifying glass. - Spark staff

“This type of picture is called a silhouette. It turned out cool!” - Jayce, 3rd grade, Holmes

This type of picture is called a portrait. I like this picture
because Wilson looks happy.” - Kennedy, 4th grade, Holmes

“Is Wilson in his usual Wilson costume. See there is the
hat, sweater, and beard, that’s how you can tell it’s a Wilson!” - Ariana, 4th grade, Audubon

Level Up students reflected on solving the mystery of Barnsie
the teddy bear’s kidnapping. - Spark staff

“Barnsie got kidnapped. He went down Garland and
wandered down the street. He stumbled upon Bigfoot Records.
I personally want to go there.” - Maddy, 5th grade, Holmes

“The bear went to the place my mom used to work!” - Tariq, 3rd grade, Holmes

“He went to my favorite burger place!” - Leila, 4th grade, Audubon

Carly (5th grade, Holmes) poses for a close up during our photography lesson. - Spark staff
CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

DEMON SLAYER

BY AUDRIENNA
3rd Grade // Audubon

Demon Slayer is an anime show. It’s a fun show to watch, but it’s scary. Get comfortable. What you see in the show is demons eating people. If you are a little kid don’t watch it. It is scary - you might get scared. When you grow up you can watch it. You will get scared when the demons eat people. And you should ask your mom to watch Demon Slayer.

Illustration credit: Vu Hoang

SOFIE DOSSI

BY THEALANAN
3rd grade // Audubon

She is an elite gymnast. She started at 12 years old she grew up in a city of Cypress. She was homeschooled from an age by her mother. Her father Mike has helped with her career.

She is an actress. At 12 years old she discovered her talent. She made a new song named BUNNY.

Photo of Sofie Dossi

Comic by Ainsley

PERCY JACKSON!

BY CORRINE
3rd grade // Audubon

I like the books and movies so much I think I’ll watch it tonight. I’ll also read the rest of the 2nd book. Percy has a little sister. In the last book Percy is a dad with his wife, Annabeth, and his son. I’m the #1 fan of PERCY JACKSON!

Illustration credit: Wikipedia CC

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THESE PLACES,
a found poem

BY KENNEDY
4th Grade // Holmes

Rodeos cowboy
Cattle
Horses Cowgirls

Some cowboys work on ranches

Illustration credit: David Ring

WHAT IS BROADWAY'S HAMILTON?

BY AINSLEY
4th grade // Audubon

Hamilton was a play made in 2016. It includes Lin-Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom Jr., Phillipa Soo, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Christopher Jackson, and even more!

The whole play is two hrs., twenty-two mins. long! It has a little swearing, but the plot & story is really good. It goes through Alexander Hamilton’s life.

Comic by Ainsley

Photo credit: Le Monde de Nicox

Photo credit: Vu Hoang

Photo credit: Le Monde de Nicox

Photo credit: Wikipedia CC
THE AMAZING GYARADOS
BY TARIQ
3rd grade // Holmes

Pokémon are really strong and Gyarados is super strong. Gyarados is a sea snake. Gyarados does lots of damage. Gyarados has lots of health. You should catch him in Pokémon Go!

MISSINGNO: THE GLITCH POKÉMON
BY ZEKE
3rd grade // Holmes

I’d never seen a Pokémon named MissingNo. The name of the glitch Pokémon is MissingNo. The glitch Pokémon can be caught. Paste Magazine says, “Players could trick the original games into thinking a small strip of land on Cinnabar Island is a patch of grass which allowed for all kinds of exploits.” MissingNo has 5 different sprites. Based on your name you would learn what type of sprite MissingNo is. I think people that like Pokémon should try to catch MissingNo.

Minecraft Is Mining & Crafting
BY ALFREDO
3rd Grade // Holmes

The Minecraft exhibit at the Spokane museum was very cool.

Minecraft is a game were you mine and craft. You can build houses and a tent for a chain reaction machine.

The exhibit was cool because it showed everyone how the video game works. They had computers to let us play the game.

I like creative mode, because you don’t have to survive and I don’t have to go looking for the ingredients. I also like to hunt animals.

The game was created by Markus Persson, who is from Sweden. He sold the game for $2.5 billion.

VIDEO GAMES
BY ABE
4th grade // Holmes

Video games are something kids and grown-ups love, there’s no doubt. One of the most known video games is Minecraft. My favorite video game is Fortnite. Fortnite is an online first-person shooter where you jump out of a flying bus in the beginning.

But that’s only my favorite game on Nintendo consoles. There are more gaming consoles! Like the Oculus 2, my favorite game on that is Breachers. Breachers is an online team shooter with two teams, the blue team and a yellow team. The blue team breaches to stop the bombs with an E.M.P. The yellow team has planted [the bombs]. The yellow team tries to protect the bombs. And there is a bunch of other stuff in Breachers that you will have to find out on your own. Video games are really fun and you should try them if you haven’t.

LIZ VISITS LEVEL UP

FROM THE EDITOR:
Liz Rognes, local musician and founder of Girls Rock Lab, visited Level Up to answer questions at Holmes Elementary.

Although an article on the interview was not written in time to print, we thank Liz for bringing music to our young journalists and artists!

Thank you, Liz!

Illustration by Carson

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.
FOOD FAMILY
BRAXTON
5th grade // Holmes

RABBIT AND BEAR
ALLISON
4th grade // Holmes

SNOZ
ALLISON
4th grade // Holmes

2 BEST FRIENDS
CORRINE
3rd grade // Audubon

THESE COMICS ARE SNOZ APPROVED
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.
HELLO, is your dream to be a mentor in Level Up? Well, if so, you’re in luck because Level Up needs mentors.

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Audubon & Wednesdays and Fridays at Holmes from 3-5 p.m.

A BIT ABOUT MENTORS
READ ON TO SEE IF YOU’RE A GOOD FIT!

Mentors can read great stories. Parents are great mentors. Mentors can play.
— Alfredo, Grade 3, Holmes

Hello world. We at Level Up are looking for a funny mentor. That is all, world.
— Dean, Grade 5, Audubon

I want a mentor to be kind and smart.
— Maeve, Grade 3, Holmes

Mentors are creative, kind, caring, [and] nice.
— Carson, Grade 5, Holmes

Hello we are looking for a funny mentor for Level Up!!
— Terence, Grade 5, Audubon

HELP WANTED
YOU COULD HANG WITH THESE COOL KIDS

HELLO, is your dream to be a mentor in Level Up? Well, if so, you’re in luck because Level Up needs mentors.

Mentors need these qualities:
NICE
FUNNY
HELPFUL
HONEST
CARING
FORGIVING

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

Karen wrote this ad!

Karen, mentor & Chloe

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