

March 2023

STA Shenanigans



Introduction

Credit to Alyssa Cox for the wonderful cover image!

Thank you for opening up the **March issue of the STA Shenanigans** student newspaper!

This issue contains myriad fiction stories as well as a wonderful poem, “**Springtime**”! Each piece is wonderfully written, and I’m sure you’ll find something that catches your attention.

You can expect more mysterious information hidden in the clouds in “**The City in the Sky**”, our longest running serial story. Oh, and (as I’m sure you’ve missed them) Eva and Nugget are back for more wishing in “**Eva and the Shadow**”! In addition to these old favorites, there are new serials such as “**Nuoquest**” and “**Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars**” as well as standalones.

This issue also covers some current events, such as “**March Madness**” and “**History of St. Patrick’s Day**”. Also be sure to read tips for a “**Healthy Life**”. There are also insightful interviews revolving around “**Jennifer Flaherty: Tricky Tray**” and the compelling “**HSA: Why Should We Be Interested?**”

If the above articles weren’t to your taste, we also have **Trivia, Fun, and Games!**

STA Shenanigans is hosting **our first ever art contest**, so make sure to check that out!

March fun includes the “**March Word Search**” and “**March Crosswords**”. Also, if you’ve been enjoying our fiction, try to see how well you know our characters in “**Shenanigans Character Quote Match**”. Can you tell Satoru’s voice, Ezra’s sarcasm, Aira’s confusion, Zip’s panic, and everyone else apart?

If you’ve reached this part, I’m surprised. You should be scrolling down and reading the newspaper already! Read it systematically, starting with fiction stories and going down, or just tap on the headlines that seem most interesting.

Happy reading!

Are you interested in contributing to the STA Shenanigans? [Click here](#)

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Fiction Stories

The City in the Sky, Part 4: An Annoying Truth Seer is Unusually Helpful – Mariel DeSello

Illustration by Elan DeSello

The first lesson with Ezra came the next day. Aira secretly worried what Aunt Akeila might have been thinking. Ezra began by telling Aira where exactly they were.

“We’re in Airin City, you can locate it on Earth.” Ezra started.

“So, am I close to my aunt’s house?” Aira asked.

“Well, where is your aunt?” Ezra asked while hiding a smirk.

“In a blue Victorian house.” Aira didn’t think she needed to get into too much detail.

“I guess you can say that we are above it.” Ezra laughed.

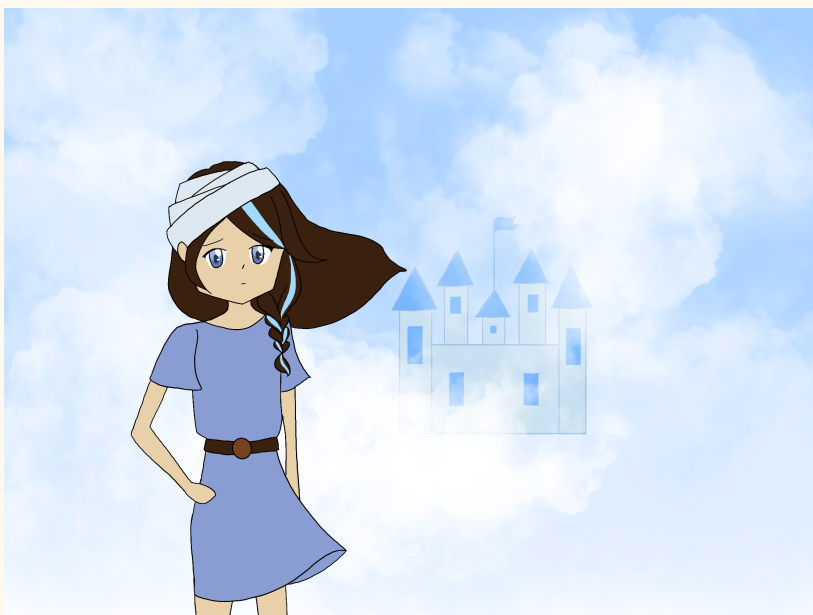
“What’s so funny?” Aira asked suspiciously.

“Airin City is in the sky! It’s not some land on the ground!” Ezra explained.

“Then why did you tell me you can locate it on Earth?” Aira crossed her arms.

Was Ezra lying to her? Would Aira find out what she really was? What it meant to be an airsolite? Or was Ezra playing with her?

“I said that you can locate it on Earth because the sky is still part of Earth, is it not?”



Ezra interrupted Aira's thoughts.

"I guess it is." Aira relaxed a little.

Maybe Ezra was really trying to help her. The next part of the lesson began after Aira realized she was in the sky. The lesson answered Aira's second question, what is an airsolite?

"Airsolites are more human than wisp. They are born with at least one ability. We'll be getting to that later. If an airsolite marries an airsolite they get an airsolite, if that wasn't obvious." Ezra explained.

"So, are my parents here? My mother and father disappeared when I was little." Aira asked.

"They are likely to still be alive. Also, you reminded me of another thing. If you are an airsolite you can visit both the human world and the sky world. Only airsolites can visit both because they have a stronger connection with the humans than the wispins. So, maybe your parents just really missed the sky world." Ezra said.

"That doesn't mean they can just leave me." Aira still needed an answer to a few other questions.

"If baby airsolites are born in the human world they can't teleport up to the sky world until they're eleven years old. The same thing for baby airsolites that are born in the sky world, just reverse." Ezra made sure that Aira's parents didn't just abandon her.

"I am eleven, did I accidentally teleport up here?" Aira asked.

"Well, yes. Teleportation is kind of strange. When you are eleven you don't really know when you'll teleport up here. I read a book about the rules of teleportation, it said that you need to get into an accident in order to teleport. Wind throwers help you with that, they use their ability to control wind to toss you everywhere, it usually works." Ezra said.

"They make people have concussions, basically." Aira was not happy about the big bandage on her head.

To be continued.

Eva and the Shadow, Part 3 – CoraLynn Taylor

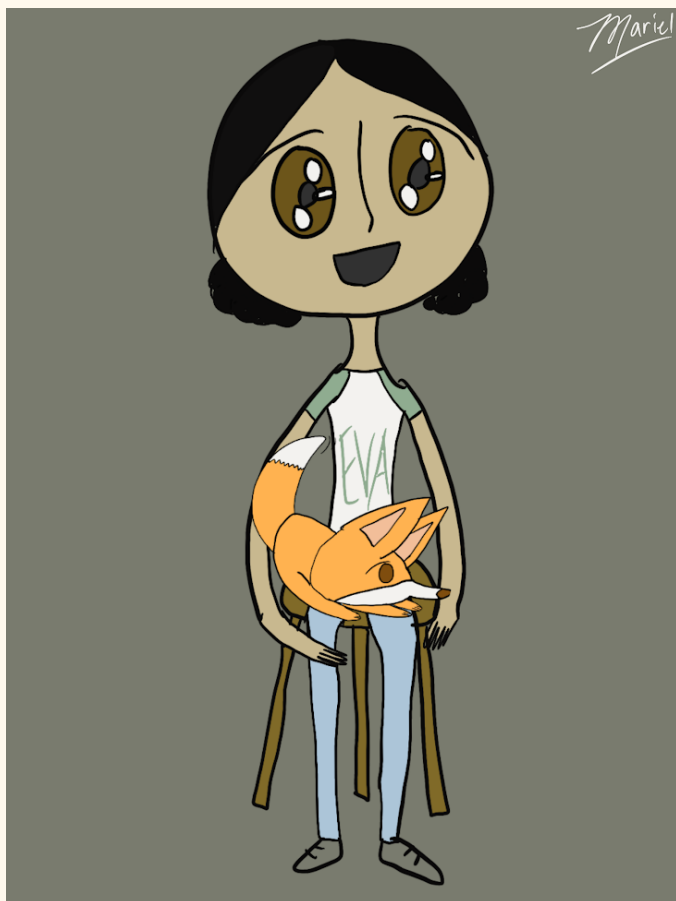


Illustration by Mariel DeSello

“I wish... I wish... I wish I never counterfeited money, and me and Nugget would be free.”

Nothing happened. Absolute silence. It was only broken by a chirp from Nugget. Then another. Then another. Then a few more, rhythmically, chirp, chirp, chirp. Eva zoned out, and the chirping made her pay attention.

“Nugget, be quiet.”

Nugget gracefully leaped onto Eva. It was out-of-character for him, and Eva watched him. She still heard the chirping, getting faster and faster, while Nugget was still. The sound moved through- the walls? It sounded

like a heartbeat, chirp chirp, chirp chirp. Then... It stopped cold.

“What- what happened?” He whispered. Nugget shakily picked up a paw, feeling the wall in the spiral-shaped cell. He felt- something... something moving. The chirping restarted, and Nugget traced it to the being in the walls. The wall burst open, revealing a... tiny green frog. It stood there, and cocked its head to the side. A fly came through the door, and the green thing ate it. It swallowed the fly hole, and licked its lips with its unnaturally long pink tongue.

It paused, and struggled for a moment, then a tiny light came out of its mouth. “Gross.” Eva commented. The small light levitated, and spoke. “I am a genie god. I don’t know any other way to tell you this- but wishes can’t go back in time.”

“WHAT? My family never told me this. Does Eva still have a wish?”

“Yes. Eva has a wish, but it can only affect the present and future.”

“What should I wish for- Nugget we need to brainstorm.”

-----Timeskip-----

They brainstormed for 2 hours, and decided on a wish:

‘I wish that they would let me out, and nobody remembered I committed these crimes.’

Eva said it out loud, and held her breath.

To be continued.

Nuoquest, Part 1 – Alyssa Cox and Shere Azer

Illustration by Alyssa Cox

In a pond in a secluded area (an area in the middle of nowhere), surrounded by many others, 4 frogs liked to make this one pond home.

It was the biggest pond. Our protagonist here is Nuo the frog, and his similarly Japanese-esque named companions. His best friend was a frog named Satoru.



They were so active that the two others, Mimoru and Itoru, could not handle them. Speaking of them, they were super lazy. Itoru and Mimoru would never hang out with the other two (our actual protagonists here).

One day, Satoru and Nuo swam around in the pond. Looking underwater, they saw a huge group of tadpoles and frogs with tails (unevolved frogs) swimming really fast. As Nuo swam deeper, he would always hit a couple tadpoles. However they were all so fast, so he didn't mind.

But on this particular day, a frog with the name Oun (OH-OON) (or Nuo backwards, for starters), came up to the 4. The sky turned into a storm. Oun, a purple frog with glowing red eyes, used his magical powers to take Mimoru and Itoru away.

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!"

"Satoru? Nuu~?"

"Yeah, what?"

"We need to try and get out of here~!"

"True, if we do not have the others, we won't be saved. Now, our big energetic nature has an actual usage."

The 2 frogs wondered, 'How will we get out of here? How will we dominate our rivals?'

They began coming up with a plan. The plan was set, and so, their very long, exciting quest began.

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It was time. The two hopped through shrubbery, and scurried around the tall grass. They encountered a few enemies along the way (fly warriors), but they gobbled them up easily. Satoru wasn't a great fighter, so he was scratched.

"Owww...Nuo..."

"Yes~?"

"Heal me!"

"Ok~!" Nuo healed him.

Before they went along the rest of the journey, Satoru turned to look at Nuo. Nuo croaked in confusion and turned to face him. They sat there. Not talking, silent. Then, 5 seconds later, an unexpected thing happened that caused Nuo to flinch.

"How did you heal me?"

"Well....nuu~.. let's just say~..."

"Say what?"

"I'm th-thinking~"

"Has anything come to mind yet?"

"Nu.."

"No? How?!?"

"Let me tell you~ it is not something I-I can explain in full words~"

"....and how come so?"

"I~"

"Nuo....."

"Eek..~"

"Brother, it is just me and you. Nothing can see us."

"O-ok~ now I feel safer"

"WAS THAT WHY YOU WOULDN'T--"

"Yeah~"

"...guess I didn't have to ask-!"

Nuo then goes in full detail about the healing process, stuttering every second or so. But it was understandable, so Satoru waited patiently. "So~ Satoru~ I have these veins in my arms~...that go to my palms~..and enrich a healing power.."

"So was that why your palms glowed?"

"Yes..."

"But why purple-?"

"That's the medicine in there~ that's part of it~!"

"So that's why?"

"Yes~!"

"Ok, now what?"

"Let's head to there~!"

"Perfect!"

And so the 2 went.

**To be continued.**

## **Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars, Part 1 – Alexis Martino**

Perhaps you could say Momo-chan was your average 14 year old highschool student obsessed with space. And magical girls. And you'd probably be right. But Momo-chan was different from the rest of her class. She was a little too obsessed with space that her classmates saw her crazy. She didn't care what other people thought, though. She liked space and magical girls, so what?

Momo-chan had heard of a myth some time ago which reported that one could become a magical warrior if they saw the first shooting star on a starry night. This greatly interested Momo, and so she started to track down the days until the next starry night. This further caused the rest of her classmates to call her crazy, but she didn't care. She wanted to test this theory out for herself, whether it was true or not. So, on the starriest night of the month, Momo-chan went outside and sat beneath the stars, in search of a meteor shower.

Hours passed, and it wasn't until midnight until the first shooting star shot across the sky. Momo-chan quickly woke herself up and stared at the star in awe. Suddenly, something small crashed into the girl's face, temporarily knocking her out. Momo-chan woke up a few minutes later, and focused herself on the weird little star-shaped creature standing in front of her. "W-who are you-?" Momo-chan asked. "I'm Nova the star!!" the creature would tell her. "Woah! You talk too? I guess that myth was correct!" Nova nodded and faced Momo-chan. "Listen, I need your help! You're the only one that can help us defeat the Black Hole King!"

"The who?" Momo-chan asked. Nova explained to her that there was a legendary king in outer space called the Black Hole King, and how he wanted to deprive space of its light and darken the night sky. "Please, help us!" Momo-chan, whose face lit up in awe, knew that not only the myth was true, but that this may be her true vocation.

"I'll do whatever I can to defeat the King!"

**To be continued.**

## The End of the Rainbow – Bianka Ochlanova and Makayla Cabangon



*Illustration by Makayla Cabangon*

Beep! Beep! Beep!

“Ugh! It’s time for school” said Jade as she was turning off her alarm clock.

She put on the clothes that she had prepared the day before because it was St. Patrick’s Day. After brushing her teeth and her hair, she rushed downstairs to eat her breakfast.

She asked her mom for her lunch money. As soon as she got her lunch money, she rushed out the door and

onto the bus. She waved to her mom goodbye with a grin.

On the way to school, she saw a rainbow. She told her friend Andrea, “Do you want to check out the rainbow after school, there might be some gold at the end of it!

“Sure! We can go!” Andrea said.

The bus arrived at school, and it was a normal day, except for the fact that they had a St. Patrick’s Day party.

After school, they went to find the end of the rainbow. “I don’t think there is any gold,” said Andrea.

“Well I am still going to search for it, I’ll tell you if I find anything.” said Jade.

Andrea walked away.

“Boo!” said a mischievous voice.

“Ahh!” yelled Jade as she jumped in shock.

“Sorry to scare you” said a leprechaun.

“Wait, leprechauns are real?!?”

“Yea, you might not believe it,” said the leprechaun.

“Wow! That's cool, can I see some of your other friends?” asked Jade.

“Umm...” said the leprechaun.

“What happened?” asked Jade.

“ I’m the last leprechaun in America,” said the leprechaun.

“Really, are the rest in Ireland?” asked Jade.

“Yes,” said the leprechaun in a sad tone.

“By the way, what is your name?” said Jade.

“My name is Sabastian, Sebastian the Leprechaun.”

“Sabsatian is a nice name for a leprechaun,” said Jade.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

“Oh no! It's 6 o'clock, I have to go home for dinner ”

“Oh,ok then I will be at the same location tomorrow afternoon,” said the leprechaun.

“Ok I’ll come tomorrow” said Jade.

Jade rushed home to make it in time to have dinner.

Woosh! The door opened with a big gust of wind.

“I’m here for dinner,” Jade said to her parents.

“At least you aren’t an hour late like last week. Come sit down,” said Jade’s mom.

During dinner Jade was telling her parents about the leprechaun she met.

“Nonsense, leprechauns are not real,” said Jade’s dad.

“Yes they are, I will prove it to you tomorrow.” said Jade.

After dinner Jade took a shower and brushed her teeth. Her parents went to say goodnight to Jade.

“Goodnight” said Jade’s parents.

“Goodnight” said Jade to her parents.

Beep! Beep! Beep! The alarm clock was beeping again.

“Ugh, another day of school. At least it is Friday.” said Jade to herself.

She turned off the alarm before she got a headache from the beeping noise. She went to find a sweater and jeans for the school day. She brushed her hair and teeth and went downstairs. She grabbed her lunch and a sandwich to eat on the bus. On the bus she saw Andrea.

“Hi Andrea,” said Jade.

“Oh, hi Jade. I didn’t expect you to be on the bus today” said Andrea.

“Yea, my mom went to work early so I had to go on the bus today.” said Jade to Andrea.

“Oh, ok at least I have someone to talk to,” said Andrea.

“Yea, you are usually alone on Fridays,” said Jade.

When the bus arrived at school they both went to their classroom. They had a surprise pop quiz.

“Ugh, another quiz,” said Andrea.

“Come on! I didn’t even have a chance to look over my notes.” said Jade angrily.

“Well, I wish you goodluck.” said their teacher.

“Yea, I hope it is easy,” said Jade to her teacher.

“Well I won't be able to tell you how hard it is,” said her teacher back to Jade in a calm voice.

In math the quiz was really easy for Jade but not for the others. She was the first one done with the quiz.

Her teacher told her, “I knew that you would think the quiz was easy.”

“Well I didn't expect that it was that easy,” said Jade in her head.

The rest of her day was fun and easy. It was like she had everyone's luck. After school, she went back to the meadow where she met the leprechaun.

“Sabastian? Where are you?”

“BOO!”

“AHH” screamed Jade in fear.

“Hehe, I'm here. I'm always here.” said Sabastian.

“Don't scare me like that,” said Jade.

“I'll make it up to you, I'll grant you any wish.” said Sabastian.

“Okay, I'll say my wish. I wish to transform into a leprechaun anytime I want.” said Jade in an exciting voice.

“Okay! Your wish is granted!” said the leprechaun.

“So, how do I transform into a leprechaun?” asked Jade.

“So, you say in your head, LEPRECHAUN TRANSFORM” said Sabastain.

“Okay, let me try.” said Jade.

“LEPRECHAUN TRANSFORM!” yelled Jade.

BOOM! She fell onto the ground. When she stood up she was a leprechaun!

“OMG! THANK YOU SO MUCH!” said Jade.



“You're welcome,” said Sabastian.

“And how do I turn back?” asked Jade.

“Just say LEPRECHAUN UNTRANSFORM!” said Sabastian.

“Ok, LEPRECHAUN UNTRANSFORM!” said Jade.

She transformed back into human form. “Wow! Thanks” thanked Jade.

“You're welcome. It was your wish.” said Sabastain.

**THE END!!!!!!**

## Destiny's Day With Her Siblings – Shreya Singh

*Illustration by Elan DeSello*

AHHHHHHH!

“Ugh, why is my youngest brother Ash screaming already,” I said to myself.

“Quit screaming, Ash!” my younger brother, Jade, yelled.

All I heard was screaming and yelling.

“Those two are bickering again! Ughh.” I mumbled.

I got up and out of bed.

I started my usual morning routine:

1. Brush teeth
2. Take a shower
3. Change clothes
4. Call my sister, Crystal Hiker

Now I am ready for breakfast!

I went downstairs and saw omelets. I started to feel sad when I looked at it. Crystal's favorite breakfast was omelets. I really miss her because she moved out last year. Everytime I see omelets I get sad. But I was also hungry. I gobbled it down in seconds.

Mom came downstairs. “ Bye, Honey. I'll be at the town meeting to address our town's littering problem. The only reason our community is clean is because we picked all the trash up!” Mom said. I giggled gently.

“Okay Mom! Love you, bye!”

“Oh and also, don't forget to watch over your little brothers.”

“What, but they're so annoying!”

“No buts. I'll see you later,”

I waited until Mom shut the door.

“UGHHHHHH!” I screamed so loud no one could hear me.

“Hey Destiny! Can we go to the park! Pleaseee!” Ash asked me.

“Sorry bud, it’s too cold.” I replied.

“Can we go to the museum?” Jade asked.



“That’s a long bike ride. We’d be out in the cold for almost 30 minutes. Hey, how about we go see Crystal? Her house is only a block away.”

“NO! NO,NO,NO! Her house smells like rotten fish! Ash complained.

“Yeah! This is the only thing we’ll ever agree on!” Jade agreed.

They kept on yelling and screaming. When will I ever get peace and quiet!

“THAT’S ENOUGH COMPLAINING! BOTH OF YOU, GO TO YOUR ROOMS!” I yelled.

“Yeah well, you’re not Mom!” Jade said with an attitude.

“Yeah! But I’m in charge, so listen to me!”

The boys started murmuring to themselves as they stormed off into their rooms. Slam! Slam! I sat down to think for a minute. My head was hurting from those noisy kids. Knock, knock!

“I wonder who that could be?” I said to myself.

I looked through the looking hole to make sure it wasn’t a stranger. You’ll never guess who it was!

It was Crystal! I opened the door for her and said, “Hey Kris! What’s up?!”

“I just came here to say hi to my siblings!” Crystal said in a cheery voice.

“Thanks for coming! Anyway, the boys were misbehaving. Can you give them some Crystal Hiker charm?” I asked.

“Of course! Come with me. The boys do need their older sister.”

“Ok.” I said with a shrug.

We went upstairs and Crystal showed them the new action figures she got them. They were so happy. We played with smiles on our faces, and joy in our hearts. I knew the rest of the day would go smoothly. Looks like Crystal saved the day!

**The End.**

## Zip and Ottero's Biggest Day and Biggest Disaster – Alyssa Cox

*Illustration by Alyssa Cox*

Ottero woke up to the views of the ocean. He was resting on the surface and got up to look around. Nothing out-of-the-ordinary. But he had forgotten something, yet no one could remind him....

Today was his special day! "What's today...grrah.." he'd say, being tired and grumpy. But then he realized. "Oh!" He scurried out the water and went into the woods, holding a fish he'd caught. But he didn't realize the disaster coming his way..

He would tip-toe through the woods. He was waiting for those gifts at his friend's house, who wasn't in the ocean...however, the excitement had made him run at mach-2 speeds through the forest. "TODAAYYY'SSSSSSS MY SPEEECCIIIAALLLLL DAAAAAY! I AM COOOMMMIINNNG!!!!!!!!!!!!!"



Every animal hearing the pitter-patter and footsteps would hide away in the bushes. However, there was an evil thing lurking in the trees...yet he wasn't tired of running. A loud roar was heard..and the yelling blurred out the roars. He had made it out of the forest, to his friend Zip's house. Zip was waving to him, outside their door.

"I HAVE YOUR GIFTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! COME ON! HAHHAHAHAH!"

"Oh Zip, you silly, I am HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!" He was so distracted of Zip that he ran into the wall of his house. (BONK!) "GAAahhHahHh.."

He was knocked out. Zip was scared, and carried him into the house.

He'd slap Ottero's face, and he woke up. He also jumped. "WAOaAaAhHhAhHhh..huh....WAIT ARE THOSE MY....GIIFFFFTTTSSSS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Turning from expressionless to joyful, he immediately ran to those gifts. Stopping him in his tracks, Zip grabbed him and said, "Hey, not just immediately to the gifts! The cake is there, and you'd have to blow it out!"



"OK BRO, CAN YOU STOP PLEASE?" Ottero had then charged and pounced at the creature, jumping to head for its weak area, and as he was charging, his claws grew longer. They had went through the dino's neck. Silence was brought until it roared so loudly and dropped Zip. He had caught him in time, because he sheathed his claws back in, and it made him fall with Zip. The dinosaur roared, fell to the ground, and perished. In real time, it took multiple slashes to get it weak. Zip was cut, and hurt, but Ottero rushed him to the nearest hospital.

Saved from real disaster, Zip was treated of his injuries. After 10 days of successful treatment, Zip was healthy again. They then all headed back to Zip's, and they opened gifts together. If it wasn't for Ottero's talons, Zip would've died and been eaten!

"Gosh Zip, that was so crazy!"

"I know! And thank you!" They opened gifts, had fun and lived happily ever after! But now, they are living in the ocean.

**The End.**

## Cookie + Milk #1: Enemy to Friend (A Play) – Mariel DeSello

### Characters:

- Callie Cookie
- Mom Cookie
- Milly Milk
- Grandma Milk

### Scene 1:

{Cookie Residence, Callie Cookie's bedroom}

(Callie Cookie lies down in bed)

Callie Cookie: I don't want to go to school! That nasty Milk is going to be there!

### Scene 2:

{In bedroom}

(Mom Cookie comes upstairs)

Mom Cookie: Callie Cookie! Wake up! You'll be late for school.

Callie Cookie: That hideous Milly Milk will be there!

Mom Cookie: True, that horrible Milk family. Just stay far away from her, okay?

Callie Cookie: Okay.

### Scene 3:

{Downstairs, in kitchen}

Mom Cookie (looks out the window): Look at what the Milk family is doing again! Ugh! Dancing to the beat of that horrible, unmelodious Milkyway Band? So foolish.

Callie Cookie: Exactly!

### Scene 4:

{Milk Residence, in kitchen}

Milly Milk: That was a great dance!

Grandma Milk: (looks out the window) Look at that Cookie family! Giving looks at our tradition, dancing to the beat of the honorable Milkyway Band. Hmmph.

Milly Milk: I'll be sure to give her a good twist in the ear.

Grandma Milk: Yes, yes.



**Scene 5:**

{Pastry Hill, on the path to Pastry Academy for Bright Minds}

**Callie Cookie:** (thinking) I'll make sure to stay away from that Milly Milk.

**Milly Milk:** (bumps into **Callie Cookie**) WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

**Callie Cookie:** (throws a peppermint at Milly Milk's face)

HR (The Dentist): WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

**Callie Cookie:** N-nothing.

**Milly Milk:** Yea, nothing.

**THE END**

That is pretty much how Callie Cookie and Milky Milk became friends. I know it's confusing but sometimes it works like that.

## **Springtime – Adrian Jach**

In the meadow picking flowers

April, May, bring us showers

In the yard the kids will play

“Let’s all jump for joy” they say

A great time for a picnic in the park

Watching tulips sprout, and puppies bark

Flowers bloom, and children smile

This spring will take a while

Blowing bubbles with your friend

This springtime will never end

In the garden, veggies grow

Boat in the water, people row

Pink and yellow flowers one will see

Everyone is smiling, full of glee

Easter is also this time of year

Join the fun, the Easter bunny is here!

## Current Events

### St. Thomas Basketball Winners – Adrian Jach

- **All Star 5th Graders**
  - Jayden Adackapara
  - Adrian Jach
  - Himmat Virdee
- **All Star 6th Graders**
  - Grace Birley
  - Noah Sourial
- **Free Throw Winners**
  - 4th Grade: Anthony Barsoum
  - 5th Grade: Hannah Babits and Jayden Adackapara
  - 6th Grade: Elizabeth Barsoum

### St. Patrick's Day Leprechauns – Keira Hogan and Sadie Lettiere

Friday March 17, 2023 is St. Patrick's Day. On this day, when you go to bed, the leprechaun comes to your house and plays some tricks. Some tricks he might do is spill glitter around your house, leave a bowl of lucky charms out he will eat some of it, something else he has done is draw a funny mustache on you. Something that people do is set up traps; they use cardboard boxes and gold coins. Also be prepared to clean up a mess in the morning.

Interesting Facts about St.Patrick's Day:

1. St.Patrick was British.
2. There are no female leprechauns.
3. The first St.Patrick's day was in America not Ireland.
4. His real name was Maewyn Succat.

## **Beware the Ides of March: Don't Fall Like Caesar – Alexis McAlmond**

The Ides of March is associated with the murder of Julius Caesar by senators hoping to preserve the Roman Republic. “Ide” means “a day that falls roughly in the middle of the month”, so “Ides of March” means “in the middle of March.” A few days before, an old woman came up to Julius and said “You shall not make it up to the next month.” He had said she was crazy and ignored her. A group of as many as 60 conspirators decided to assassinate Caesar at the meeting of the Senate on March 15, the ides of March. Collectively, the group stabbed Caesar, reportedly 23 times, killing the Roman leader.

## **St. Patrick's Day Parades – Alisha Desai**

This story is about the Saint Patrick's Day Parades around the world and their history. During the 9th or 10th century, people have been celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. The first Saint Patrick's day parade was actually in America and it was celebrated on March 17th, 1762. The most famous Saint Patrick's Day parade is the one in New York City. It is held every year in New York City except when it falls on a Sunday. It starts at 11 A.M., no matter the weather and it goes from 44th street all the way up to fifth Avenue. They pass by the Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Irish Historical Society. They end the parade at 86th street at 5 P.M.

Saint Patrick's Day was originally celebrated in Ireland as an Irish holiday. In Ireland, it is a week long and celebrated with music, theater, and artwork. The first parade was organized by homesick Irish people and Irish military who were put in the U.S. There were a bunch of things that were revealed by people that were in the parade. Some things were speaking Irish, wearing the color green ( which was banned in Ireland), and playing the bagpipe. The people who lead the parade are a unit of soldiers and it has been an ongoing tradition ever since the parade has been a thing. The soldiers are followed by Irish bands, language societies, politicians, etc. This parade is beautiful and based on this information, I would definitely recommend seeing it in action.

## **History of St. Patrick's Day: A Behind-the-Scenes Look – Mia G.**

What is St. Patrick's Day? You might say it is all about leprachauns, rainbows, and pots of gold. That is nowhere near how it started though. It is called "St." Patrick's Day because it is about a saint. Why else would it be called that? Just wait to see the real meaning of St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. When he was 16 years old he was kidnapped and put into slavery. He was sent to Ireland, a place with many Christians and Pagans. He escaped to a monastery in Gaul and converted to christianity. He returned back to Ireland in 432 A.D. Patrick had confronted the Druid's at Tara, abolishing their pagan rights. Christianity was more widespread throughout the country. He also used the shamrock to show The Holy Trinity.

St. Patrick became a bishop in Ireland. A while after he died, but he also became the patron saint of Ireland. St Patrick has preached, taught, and expressed the Gospel. However, he also got threatened and kidnapped. He had a religious life even if he wasn't born to a religious family. He has set an amazing example for all of us. This holiday definetly has more to it than leprechauns and four leaf clovers. It is one interesting holiday!!!

## **March Madness – Jayden Adackapara and Adrian Jach**

The NCAA Division 1 Men's basketball tournament popularly known as "March Madness" was first played in 1939 and is now one of the most popular sports events every year. March Madness brings thrills and excitement to basketball fans everywhere. Starting in March, 68 college basketball teams across the country compete to make it to the final four. The final four is a single elimination tournament, with each team representing one region (East, West, South, and Midwest). The winner receives the national championship title and takes the prestigious Tempe Trophy home. To celebrate their victory, cutting down the nets is a tradition where the championship team removes the net from the backboard after their win.

One of the most exciting March Madness games in history was the 1982 Championship game between the North Carolina Tar Heels led by basketball legend Micheal Jordan versus the Georgetown Hoyas. In this nail-biting match, freshman Micheal Jordan faced star center Patrick Ewing. With 15 seconds left in the game, Michael Jordan made a spectacular 16 foot jump shot to win the final game 63-62 over Georgetown for the NCAA championship title. Like Jordan and Ewing so many NCAA star players go on to have very successful NBA careers.

Whether or not you are a basketball fan, March Madness has become one of the most popular sporting events to watch and experience. If you get the chance, tune in or watch live and you won't be disappointed.

## Holi – Aanya Guljarani and Aisha Shah



Holi is also known as the festival of colors, Holi (pronounced Ho-lee) is a Hindu religious holiday that celebrates the victory of good over evil and is one of the most well-known festivals in India.

Holi is on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. The date of Holi can change every year because Holi is celebrated on the day of the full moon in March.

How do Hindus celebrate Holi? On the day of Holi, they wear all white clothes and throw colored sand on each other. After that, some families spray each other with water. If you want to participate, but you don't have colorful sand, you can use chalk powder. Chalk powder might work too, just be careful.

Another way that people celebrate Holi is, one day before Holi, people conduct a ritual called 'Holika Dahan'. They do that ritual to send away a bad spirit called Holika.

The second day of Holi is known as Chhoti Holi or Nāndī Holi, which means “play with colors”. People gather in groups and play with colors on each other. Traditionally, women put fragrant colors on men and children throw coloured powder at each other.

On the third day of Holi, people get ready early in the morning and they meet their friends and relatives. They exchange sweets and savories as tokens of love. The day marks the end of Holi celebrations.

**Extra Fun:**

Go on the link below to go on a About Holi page. You can read about holi and there is a fun activity you can do too. When you get to the holi page, your screen will become dark and become light in the spot of the 3 pyramids. If you click the 3 pyramids, a colorful splot will get on the page. If you click somewhere else, another colorful splot will come. So that would be a cool thing to do while you are bored. To erase everything, click the water drop. Just saying, it only works on laptops.

<https://g.co/kgs/oFb9rb> click this link to get on the holi page!

How can I celebrate Holi without any color? Remember, Holi is not only for color. Holi is mainly celebrated for good over evil and you can also spend time with family! Some people may want to celebrate Holi but not use any color. You can invite Family and Friends and just have a little gathering! A list of things you can do is, make Holi inspired art, have a Holi photoshoot, do a barbecue, go on a picnic, and share stories. As long as you are spending time doing good and not evil, that is when you are celebrating Holi.

## Information

### Suggestion Boxes

Recently, suggestion boxes have been added to each classroom in grades 5 - 8. I'm sure you've seen them hanging around, and maybe you've even helped decorate them!

These boxes are there so that we students can anonymously suggest ideas to the Student Council. The boxes will be reviewed every week.

If there's something you hope to see at St. Thomas, don't hesitate to suggest it!

### Elizabeth and the Fight for Women's Rights – Shreya Singh

Have you ever heard of Elizabeth Cady Stanton? Probably not, but she played an extremely important role in women getting the right to vote. No one who joined the Women's Suffrage Movement was just as important as her. Because of her, women have the right to vote.

At a young age, her father exposed her to the study of law. As a result, she realized women were being treated unfairly! She absolutely hated that! This ignited a fire for her future of fighting for women's rights!

After she graduated from high school, she found out that women couldn't go to college! How absurd is that? She had to beg her father to send her to an all girls school. Eventually, he did. She had inspired other women to keep learning and later inspired them to join the Women's Suffrage Movement. If she didn't go to school, women wouldn't have gotten the right to vote.

In 1848 Stanton wrote the first draft to start the Women's Suffrage Movement. When other women heard about this, they went straight into it. The movement almost lasted a century! They ignored all the men who threatened to stop them. Finally, on August 26th 1920, the 19th amendment was passed and women got the right to vote! Sadly, Stanton died of congestive heart failure a few years before she could see her dream come true.



Although she isn't on earth, we will remember her and her famous quote, "Equality. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wanted to change the way women were treated. Many men disagreed with her, but she kept going. She impacted the United States by giving women the right to vote and changed our country forever.

### **5 Fun National Holidays on March 11 – Lauryn Partnow**

- World Plumbing Day
- Wash Your Nose Day
- National Promposal Day
- National Johnny Appleseed Day
- National Dream Day

### **When I Grow Up – Isabella Taborda**

For the "When I Grow Up" presentation, I announced that I want to be an artist. I want to be an artist because I feel like it's fun to express my feelings through art creations. Some of my favorite things are self portraits and junk sculptures. I also like to paint and draw. That's why I want to be an artist when I grow up.



## **Healthy Life – Makayla Cabangon and Aisha Shah**

Many people eat junk food and slouch and watch television nonstop. While all those things are fine, people must also take the time to take care of their body and mental health. If you took the time to see this article, you may also decide to take the time to start a habit of a healthy lifestyle.

### **Food**

How many people told you you should eat more healthy things? If you don't already, you still have time! Here are some things you can do to eat healthier:

- Fresh Juice
- Eat A LOT of fruits
- You may go on diets (there are different diets, varying depending on lifestyle)
- You can eat junk food but only 2 - 4 times a week
- Limit salt consumption
- Drink a lot of water
- Lower calorie and sugar consumption

There are many places you can look for healthy food options. There are also many places you can eat or shop for nutritious and organic foods.

### **Screen Time**

If you are a parent encouraging your child to have less screen time, you should pay attention to this part of the article. Here are some reasons why kids should have a screen time limit:

- Their eyes could go really bad leading to blindness
- Screen time 24/7 is terrible!
- They could get exposed to age inappropriate content

These are two ways to help you have a healthy life. Hope you enjoyed this article.

## Why Is Confession So Important? Part 1 – Elan DeSello

Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation so important? You may argue that you just ‘confess their sins to God in prayer’ and have no need of going to a priest. “It’s an invasion of privacy,” you complain. “It’s embarrassing.” “It makes no sense.” This series of articles will address the frequently asked questions concerning the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Let us first examine why sin is so bad. Sin subtly and gradually opens up the door to worse and worse actions. For example, murder is obviously wrong, and most people would vehemently say that they would never do such a thing. However, let us examine the seed that leads to this action. You may meet someone whom you dislike immensely. When you allow that dislike to grow, always keeping it in your mind, that will cloud your judgment. You will interpret everything that person does through the fog of your resentment. Before you know it, you will hate that person. If you’ve ever felt this way (I’ve felt it, too), don’t worry. This is where Reconciliation comes in.

Sin obviously affects the relationship between us and God, but that’s not the only thing it destroys. We as baptized members of the Catholic Church are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. In the same way that our joys and triumphs are shared, our sorrows and failings are, too. It’s easy to see how sins directed against others do this, but even the most private of sins has effects on everyone.

In conclusion, we all need our sins forgiven because they have a deteriorating effect on our souls. In the April issue, we will continue to explore why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is important.

### Sources:

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/sacramental-forgiveness/parish-resource-bozant>

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/on-reconciliation-and-penance-8387>

## Interviews

### Jennifer Flaherty: Chair of the Tricky Tray – Abby and Emma Lenning



*Photo from St. Thomas the Apostle School's March 16 Facebook post*

#### **What is your favorite basket or what would you like to win and why?**

I have a few favorite prizes including the rocking chair, the grills, Dyson air wrap, and of course, the cleaning basket! The Blackstone grill is the prize I really want to win! I want to try to cook hibachi at home.

#### **Who helped you the most with the tricky tray or is your right hand person?**

Tabetha Sorensen has taught me so much about tricky trays. She is amazing at shopping deals, organizing and putting baskets together.

Katie Lenning, our HSA president, has been a very big support and has given me so much motivation. So many Hsa members and parents have helped out so much. They have helped wrap, organize, shop, sell raffles, and seek out donations. The tricky tray takes a lot of work and I am lucky to work with such an amazing group of parents!

#### **What is the most expensive basket you have?**

The most expensive gift we have is the Louis Vuitton Graceful bag.

#### **How did you become good at asking for donations?**

I think when you believe in something, it's easy to work towards making it happen. When I ask for a donation I know it's to help raise funds for our school. Each donation, no matter how big or small, makes a difference. Many parents and Hsa members worked so hard on getting donations. Our HSA has raised money for school assemblies,

equipment utilized in gym classes, school security, and the ongoing beautification of our school grounds. Seeing our hard work make a difference for our students is fulfilling!

**If you could invite one famous person to the tricky tray who would it be and why would you invite them?**

That's a hard question..... I think Mila Kunis. The other day I saw an interview with Mila. She spoke about being super thrifty so I feel like she would be motivated to work hard. She also seems like someone you could joke with and have a good time. But the person I want there the most is my Mom , she has always taught me, from a young age, that the greatest gift is giving to others; to be selfless. She taught us to do everything 100%, with great love and kindness. She's my celebrity!

## **HSA: Why Should We Be Interested? – Alyssa Eggers**

### **President Katie Lenning**

#### **Why should the student body have an interest in the Homeschool Association (HSA)?**

The student body should have an interest in the HSA because we are a group of parents working to raise money for the school to make sure they have fun events and improvements for their school. However, as parents we might have a different vision of what we want compared to the students. It is always great to hear what the students want or need for their school.

#### **What is the main goal of the HSA?**

The main goal of the HSA is to include all our families in the St. Thomas community, and allow them to attend general HSA meetings during the school year. The HSA hosts events and helps our school.

#### **What was your reason for joining the HSA?**

I always wanted to be part of my children's school. I remember my mom always volunteering, and I wanted to be like her. I joined the HSA when my twins were in pre school. I just love to help out the students and teachers. I also love to see the St. Thomas children smile and have fun. Last year Mrs. Pioppo and Mrs. Zarate called me to give me a new position on the board as president. I was so happy. I love being part of the HSA and love to volunteer with the other women on the HSA.

#### **Can students take part in the HSA, if so, how can they get involved?**

The HSA is open to any parents/ guardians with a St. Thomas the Apostle student. All families are encouraged to attend our General HSA meetings, and also volunteer at events the HSA sponsors. The students love to get involved. Over the summer we did landscaping around the school and all age groups came and helped during the beautification process.

#### **Are there any plans to raise student bonding?**

The HSA holds different events throughout the school year that allows students to bond. This year students worked together for the fitness run to raise the most amount

of fitness minutes for their class to win a pizza party. Students also were able to bond and have fun during the pumpkin patch and color run. We will continue to hold fun events for the students to bond and make memories at STA.

**What grade is your child or children in? Do you plan to stay in the HSA until they graduate or leave?**

I have three children, Abby and Emma are in fourth grade. Maggie is in Prek3. I hope to stay on the HSA as long as the school permits. I do know it is a privilege to be on this wonderful board. I also know other parents would be so excited to be on the board, as I am. I will be in the school for many more years and continue to offer help and volunteer my time as much as I can.

**Jennifer Flaherty**

**Why should the student body have an interest in the HSA?**

The student body should have an interest in the HSA because the HSA is working hard to raise money, hold events, and make improvements to the school. As parents we know what our vision is, but ultimately the student body should have input on what the students want and need.

**What is the main goal of the HSA?**

The HSA is a liason between parents and our school community so all families feel included in our St. Thomas school community. The main goal of the HSA is to host events, and help out our school.

**What was your reason for joining the HSA?**

It was on my bucket list! No joke! When Mrs. Pioppo and Mrs. Zarate called me to see if I was interested in the fundraising chairperson position, I screamed so loud, I was so excited! I have a large family and was always involved in their schools. For as long as I could remember I could not wait to finally have children and join the HSA. I love fundraising and fundraising for a good cause, so this was the perfect fit for me.

**Can students take part in the HSA, if so, how can they get involved?**

The HSA is open to parents/guardians with a student enrolled at St. Thomas the Apostle School. All families are encouraged to join the HSA. Students are able to get involved

when they participate in HSA sponsored events such as our ongoing school beautification project, Fitness Challenge, and Color Run.

**Are there any plans to raise student bonding?**

Students bond when they participate in our HSA events. Since the HSA holds events throughout the school year, students are given many opportunities to engage with their peers and work together as a school community. Lasting memories are made when students attend our STA Pumpkin Patch, Color Run, and Faith Walk, just to name a few.

**What grade is your child in? Do you plan to stay in the HSA until they graduate?**

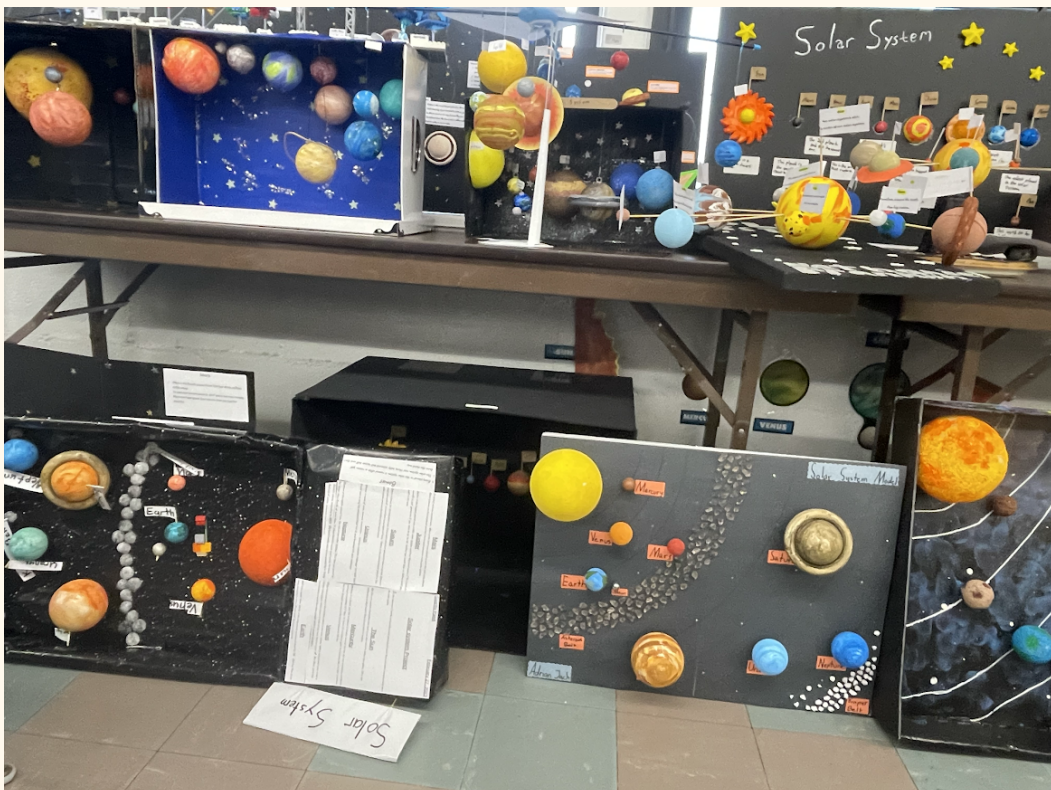
My son Macewen is in Mrs. Muce's class in the 2nd grade. I would love to stay on the HSA for as long as he is in St. Thomas, but I also realize that it is a privilege to be on the HSA. I remember how excited I was when I got the call that I was on the board, and I know that there are other parents who want to be a part of the HSA and will be as excited as I was. So for now I'm not really sure what I will do, but I do know that I will always help out in any way that I can.

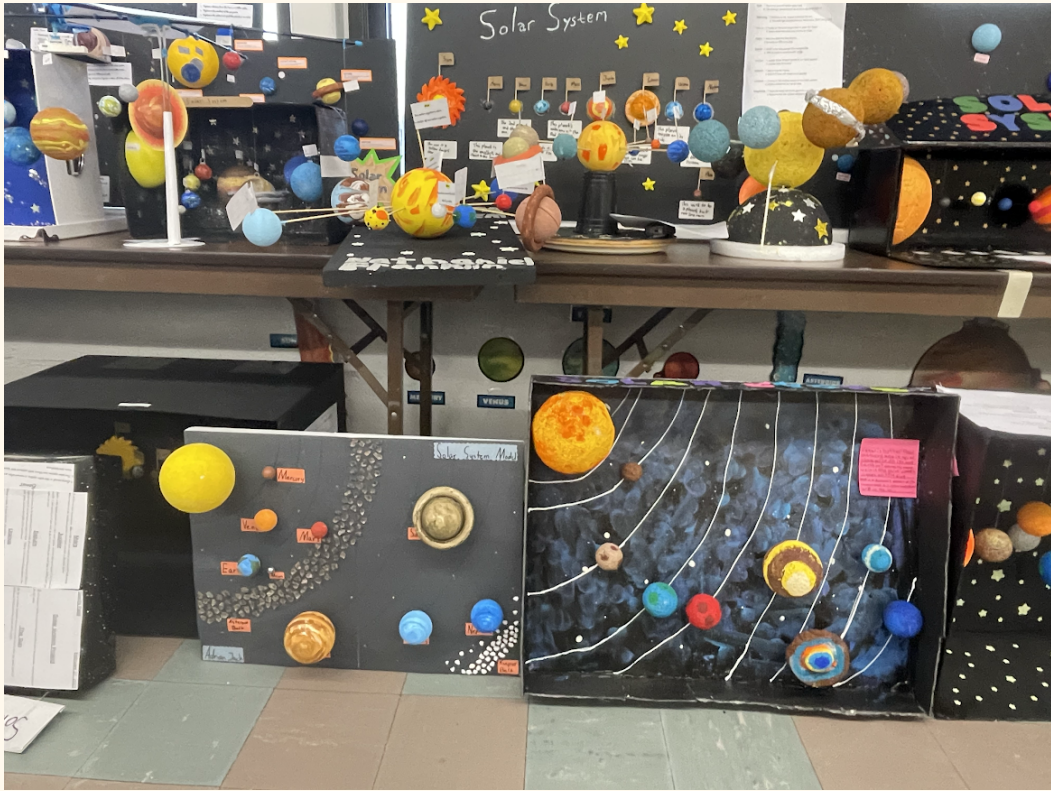


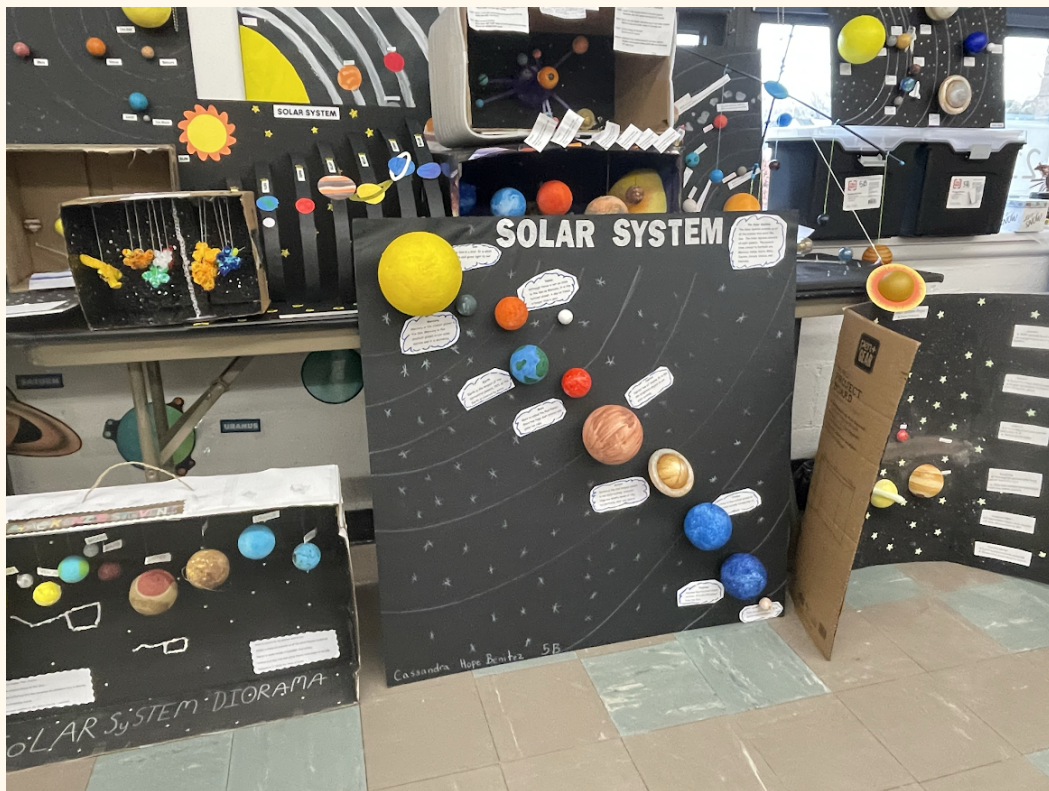
# Photography

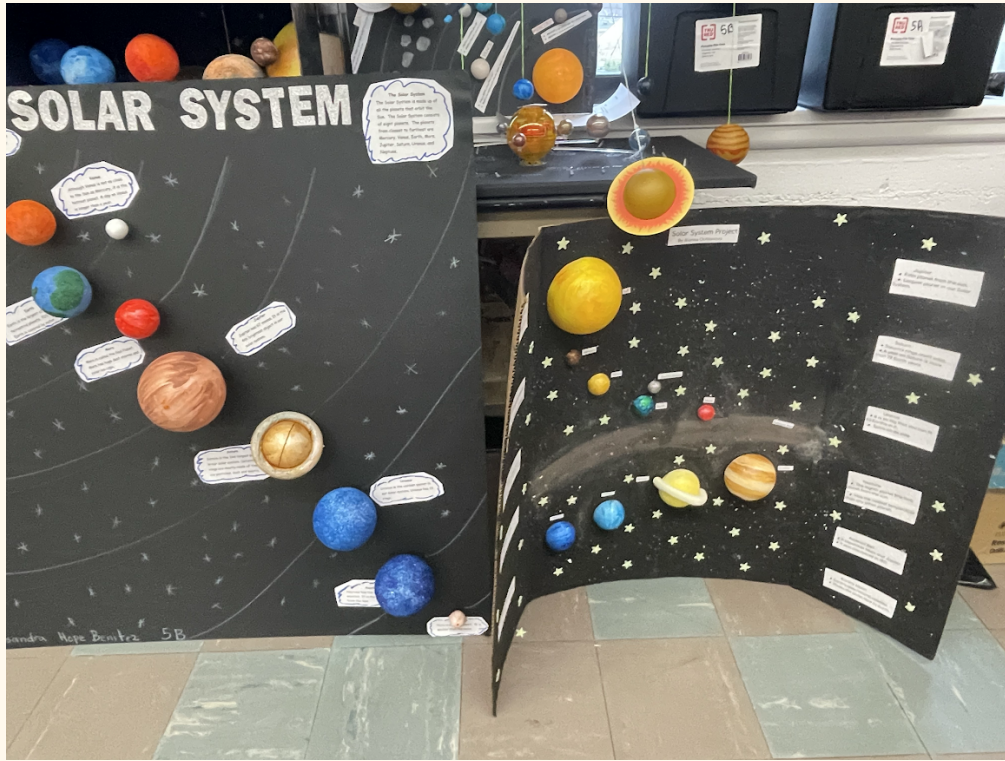
## Solar System Projects – Keira Hogan











## Trivia, Fun, and Games

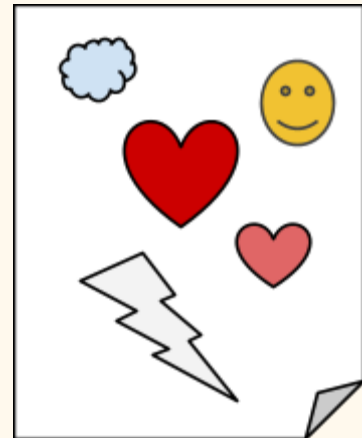
### STA Shenanigans Art Contest: Calling All Artists!

*Organized by Ava O'Reilly and Zofia Kozlowski*

An art contest will be in place from **the March publication until April**. There will be three winners each with a different prize.

#### How to enter:

- Take a clear picture of your artwork.
- **Google Form Submission:** [Submit your artwork here.](#)
- Type your email and wait to be notified if you have been picked as a winner.



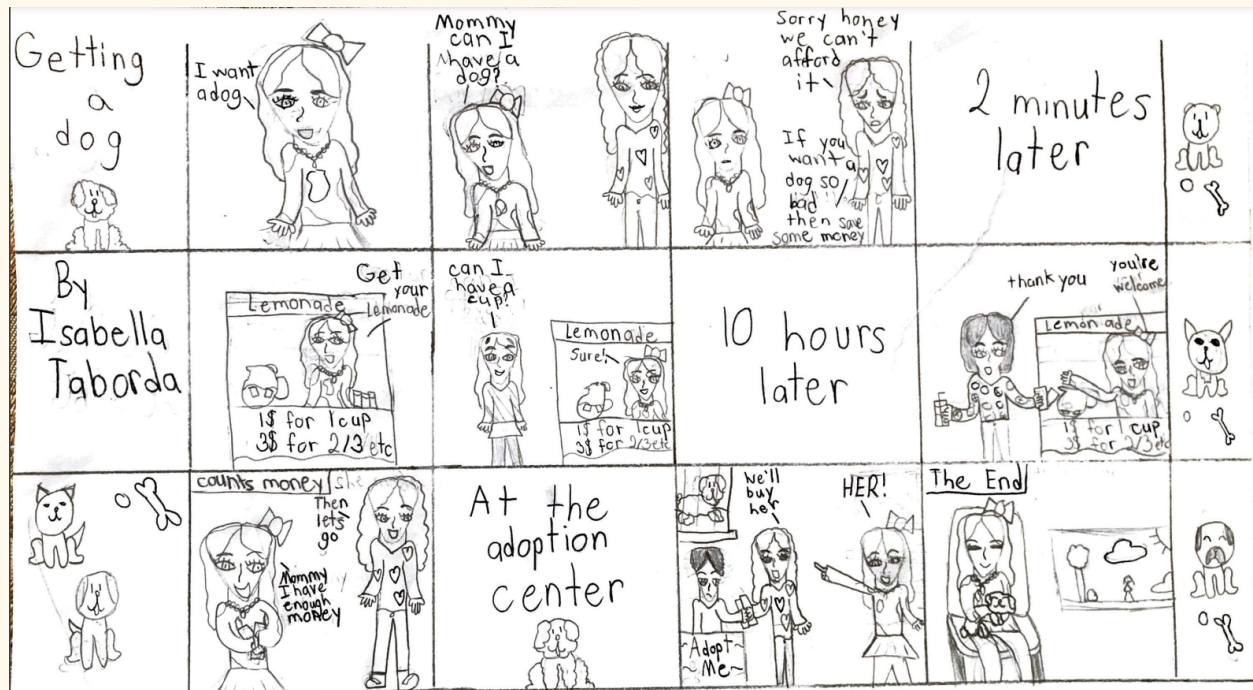
**Theme:** Spring

#### Prizes:

- 1st place
  - Trihexaflexagon (three faces)
  - Feature in the April issue
- 2nd place
  - Custom STA shenanigans bookmark
  - Feature in the April issue
- 3rd place
  - STA Shenanigans rubber band bracelet
  - Feature in the April issue

You may be wondering, "How do I win?" Well, we will have members of STA Shenanigans team vote and other viewers of the newspaper! If you are picked as a winner you will be notified through email.

## Getting a Dog: Comic – Isabella Taborda



## School Lunch Poll – Anya Shah

Vote for the school lunch item you'd like to see served in the cafeteria!

[Click here to vote.](#)

## How to Trap a Leprechaun – Bianca Shah

- You can put a shoebox and leave it open and make a little ladder
- You could build a contraption
- You could also just use a mouse trap

## March Word Search – Alyssa Eggers

- CLOVERS
- COBBLER
- COINS
- GOLD
- GREEN
- IRISH
- LAMB
- LEPRECHAUN
- LION
- RAINBOW
- SAINT PATRICK
- SHAMROCK
- SHOES
- SNEAKY
- SPRING
- TREASURE

# MARCH

L T R K C O R M A H S S E A S  
 R E S O S L C G R E E N E R U  
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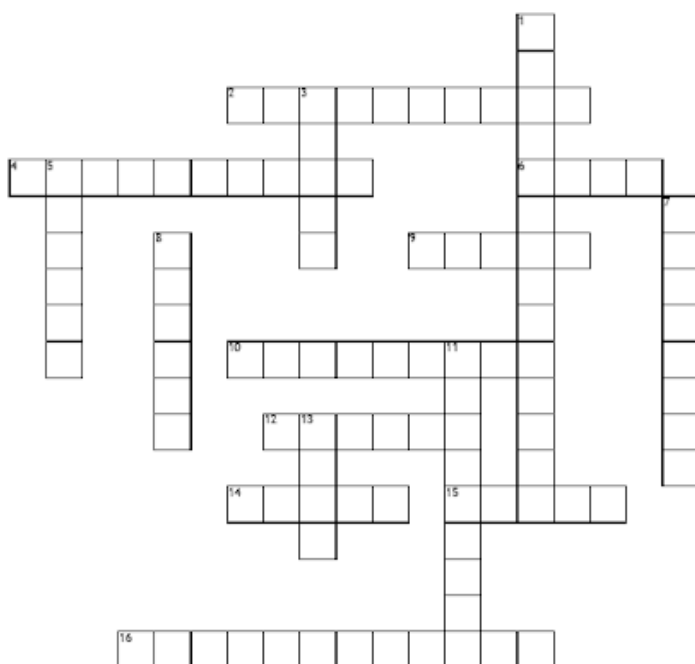
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 LAMB  
 LEPRECHAUN

LION  
 RAINBOW  
 SAINT PATRICK  
 SHAMROCK  
 SHOES  
 SNEAKY  
 SPRING  
 TREASURE



## March Crosswords – Nicholas Franchini

# STA March Crossword Puzzle



### Across

2. St. Patrick's Day mascot  
 4. Which sport is March Madness?  
 6. March goes in like a lion and out like a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 9. Day with a lot of math jokes (Hint: March 14th)  
 10. STA school leader  
 12. The color of Lent  
 14. The color of St. Patrick's Day

15. Number of days in Lent

16. The day when Lent begins

### Down

1. Lucky symbol  
 3. Ashes are made from last year's \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5. STA Team Name  
 7. Spring forward: \_\_\_\_\_ Saving Time  
 8. The season that comes after winter  
 11. You find this at the end of a rainbow.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ of March  
 (Hint: March 15th)

### **Crosswords: Answer Key**

1. Four leaf clover
2. Leprechaun
3. Palms
4. Basketball
5. Angels
6. Lamb
7. Daylight
8. Spring
9. Pi Day
10. Principal
11. Pot of gold
12. Violet
13. Ides
14. Green
15. Forty
16. Ash Wednesday

### **Shenanigans Character Quote Match – Alyssa Cox**

1. True, if we do not have the others, we won't be saved.
2. Now our big energetic nature has an actual usage.
3. SOMETHING'S COMING, DUDE!
4. Stahp!
5. JUST KILL THE CREATURE!
6. Say what?
7. That was unnecessary.
8. I don't know what you're talking about.
9. Well, you think you know the truth but you don't.
10. I wish that they would let me out, and nobody remembered I committed these crimes.
11. I'll do whatever I can to defeat the King!
12. It's the most tiring day of my life!

### Quote Match: Answer Key

1. Satoru, “Nuoquest”
2. Satoru, “Nuoquest”
3. Zip, “Ottero and Zip’s Biggest Day and Biggest Disaster”
4. Ottero, “Ottero and Zip’s Biggest Day and Biggest Disaster”
5. Zip, “Ottero and Zip’s Biggets Day and Biggest Disaster”
6. Satoru, “Nuoquest”
7. Ezra, “City in the Sky”
8. Aira, “City in the Sky”
9. Ezra, “City in the Sky”
10. Eva, “Eva and the Shadow”
11. Momo-chan, “Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars”
12. Meg, “Spring Cleaning Mystery”

### Staff Members of the Issue

Celebrating those who worked to make this issue a success!

*Image designed by Anya Shah*

