April 2023 STA Shenanigans



Introduction

Credit to Mariel DeSello for the wonderful cover image!

Thank you for opening up the **April issue** of *STA Shenanigans*!

You may notice that this issue is a little shorter than usual. That's because with the Easter break and field trips, we weren't able to work on it as much.

However, don't think that this means that Issue No. 5 will be of substandard quality!

This mini-issue contains so many interesting articles! I continued my series on "Why Is Confession So Important?" There is also an article about St. Thomas' newest club: the chess club! Read more about it in "STA Chess Club: An Overview".

Don't forget to read our fiction stories! We have "Ruth Becker: *Titanic* Survivor", which is based on a true story. We also have the next installment in both old and new serials: "Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars", "Eva and the Shadow", "City in the Sky", and "Nuoquest". There are so many other things to read and enjoy, so make sure to check out our Fiction Stories, Current Events, and Information section.

If you'd like something fun to do, try your hand at our "Spring Word Search" or "STA April Crossword Puzzle". We also have comics! "Duckie's Easter Adventure" is sure to delight you.

Happy reading!

Are you interested in contributing to the STA Shenanigans? Click here

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Fiction Stories

City in the Sky, Part 5 — Mariel DeSello

Aira looked through a book in the The Great Wispolite Library. Ezra was introducing her to new places because Aira had been there for quite a long time if you think three days was long. The article she was reading showed the wispolites' history. The first wispolites were Ethel and Zait. They were known for their notoriety, and were hated by everyone for an unrecorded reason.

Ezra peered over Aira's shoulder, "Ethel and Zait? Never heard of them."

"I feel this article is false." Aira whispered.

"Only truth seers can tell that." Ezra rolled his eyes. "It's not like you're special or anything. I told you, I'm the only truth seer around. Unless you're The Two."

"What's The Two?" Aira asked.

"The Two are the airsolites specially chosen by Fey, to have more than one ability."

"Huh, cool. But I still have a bad feeling that this article is false."

"Since I am a truth seer, I'll see." Ezra closed his eyes and felt the wind whip around him. He opened them and said, "The information is false."

"I knew it!" Aira yelled. "But who could have written this?"

Ezra wasn't listening to her."You have the truth seer ability..."

"I do?" Aira asked.

"Yes," Ezra confirmed. "We need to alert the city council."

"No, I won't let you." a voice behind them said.

They both turned around.

"Mother?" Aira asked. To be continued...

Ruth Becker: *Titanic* Survivor — Mia G. and Aisha Shah

This story is based on the true story of Ruth Elizabeth Becker, who survived the Titanic sinking.

What is the Titanic?



Image credit to Faith Magazine

The Titanic was the largest ship at the time. The Titanic was supposed to never sink. That is why it was called the Unsinkable. So, it had first set sail for New York City on April 10, 1912. People from all over came to England to set sail to New York, USA. The Titanic had nine decks. All of which had many things. For example it had the largest dining room for any class of passengers, a huge swimming pool, and THE GRAND STAIRCASE!!!

A Survivor!

"It's so big," cried a twelve-year-old Ruth Becker. The Titanic sat in the docks at Southampton, England. The Becker family was living in India. The family had been living in India, but sailed to England to board the Titanic. However, Ruth's two-year-old

brother Richard was very ill. So, usually her mother was taking care of her son, while Ruth was exploring and doing activities in the Titanic.

The family was having a very pleasant time for the first few days. They ate in the second-class dining room and swam in the pool. They were even supposed to arrive early. Everything was going perfectly fine, until that historic day. "Ruth, Ruth, wake up!" said Mrs. Becker. Ruth was wondering why her mother was so frightened. "Get out of bed and put coats on the children," her mother continued. "The ship has hit an iceberg! We're supposed to go up to the deck."

The family left their cabin and hurried. However THEY FORGOT THEIR LIFE BELTS!!!! There was talking all around for everyone wanted to know more about it. The two boys Marion and Richard were lifted into one of the boats. Their mother begged to go with her kids, so they lifted her in. Ruth was LEFT BEHIND. Ruth's mother screamed "Ruth! Get into another boat." She found another boat and was helped in. Then the boats were lowered into the water. Ruth looked back at the Titanic and all the people who were still on it. It had split in two and was sinking. The halves looked like a V as they sank into the water. Then it vanished beneath the water. About 2 and a half hours later at 3:00 am the boat Ruth was on was so packed that she was literally standing. They had found another boat of survivors and were trying to stay close to them.

They had shot up fireworks to warn other ships that the Titanic had sunk and were in hope of a rescue ship. Not long after a ship came to the rescue. The ship pulled the boats up and helped the passengers aboard. Ruth was looking to find her family, when someone tapped her on the shoulder. A woman asked her "Are you Ruth Becker?" The women led Ruth to her mother and her family through their arms around her. When they had arrived in New York the news was already spreading throughout the city. Ruth saw people thrilled to see their loved ones, and others sad in search of where they were. That is one young survivor.

Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars, Part 2 — Alexis Martino

Nova bounced in excitement, happy that it found a protector. "So where do we start?" Momo-chan asked. "It's a little late," Nova started. "But we can start tomorrow." "Great!" Momo-chan grinned. She was so excited to become a real magical girl and fight villains...in space!

The next day at school, Momo-chan ran over to her best friend, Sakura-chan, to tell her the amazing news. "Yeah! Then Nova told me all about the Black Hole King, and how he wants to take over the entire universe!" Momo-chan explained. "Oh wow! Lucky you!" Sakura-chan cheered. "But how do you know all of this? Are you sure you weren't dreaming?"

Momo-chan shook her head. "I'm telling the truth, I promise!" Sakura-chan wasn't really convinced. "Momo-chan, I don't mean to be rude, but I think you were dreaming."

"She's not lying!" a high-pitched voice came out of Momo-chan's backpack. Sakura-chan's eyes widened. "What was that?" she'd ask. Momo-chan hesitated. "N-nothing!!" she exclaimed. Her backpack zipper wasn't closed all the way, so that left some wiggle room for Nova to come out. "What the-" Sakura-chan stared at the tiny, star creature in utter shock. Apparently, Nova followed Momo-chan all the way to school and hid in her backpack. "Uh, Sakura-chan?"

"Yes?" Sakura-chan answered. "I really gotta get going to class. I'll see you later!" Momo-chan walked away while forcing Nova back into her bag. Sakura-chan watched as Momo left, in surprise about what just happened. "...okay?"

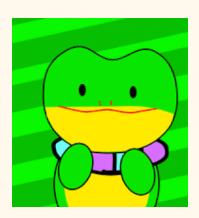
Finally, Momo-chan was out of sight. Sakura shrugged it off and convinced herself it was just a hallucination. She'd continue to take books out of her locker for the first period. All of a sudden, a shadow darkened the hallways, followed by a peculiar roaring sound outside. Sakura-chan and the rest of the students turned around and gasped.

They had met face to face with the Black Hole King.

Nuoquest, Part 2 — Alyssa Cox and Shere Azer

Image credit to Alyssa Cox

Along the way, Satoru tells Nuo about a city called Everstone. It was a big, metro-like area. Speaking of Everstone, it was the direction of where they were heading. "Hey Nuoniko! Maybe after this quest, we can travel there too?"



"Yes~! Nuu~! That'd be a spectacular idea!~"

So they kept traveling. As they did, they met a group of otters. Tawa, Sawa, and Nawa came to greet them. Nawa and Tawa were male, while Sawa was female. It was almost like their group! But 1 member was missing. So they approach them. And a conversation engages. Tawa was an otter of curiosity and was curious about what the two frogs were doing. Nawa was a little shy and stuttered every second he said one word. Sawa was basically an otter of ignorance, but watched and didn't say a word. She only stared at the four, sitting away from the rest of the group.

"Hey! Hey! HEEEEEYY!" Tawa was way too excited, and wanted to talk with Satoru, as they both had a similar nature. However, Nuo talked with Nawa because he was shy. "H-hey there...frog-"

"Oh~ are you a l-little scared?~ I am not here to h-hurt you!~"

"Frog-" The two N's continued to talk quietly to get used to eachother.

However, Satoru and Tawa were beaming! Jumping around with pride and excitement, they continued talking. Sawa was just fed up. But as she began to grumble louder, so did the sky, now turning it into a storm. Oun came back, ready for revenge. He then took the otters with him. Sawa ran away, but was kidnapped a second later. The 2 were shaken, especially Nuo. They hopped away and Oun gave them a chance. When they came out of the bush they were hiding in, the storm was gone and a nice, blue sky cloaked the area. They thought Oun didn't want them to have friends, but what they discovered next was shocking.

Prank Gone Wrong — Shere Azer and Aanya Guljarani

One day there were two friends: Charlotte and Olivia. Charlotte was the teacher's pet, but Olivia was the trouble maker.

One day, Olivia approached Charlatte and asked her "Hey, Charlotte! Do you want to play a prank on the teacher? The whole class is in."

"Oh hey, Olivia. Uhm.. Are you sure? I'm not sure if it's a good idea." Charlotte replied.

"Yes! And plus, everyone agreed!." Olivia replied.

"Fine, just this once though. And if we get in trouble it's on you." Charlotte said

"Yeah, Yeah. I got it. Now come on! We are all huddled up there to plan it." Olivia said.

Olivia and Charlotte went to the whole class and joined them.

"I got her! I got Charlotte!" Olivia says to everyone happily.

Everyone cheers and starts talking while Charlotte stays quiet thinking about what they could make the prank about.

"How about getting a fake exact replica of her computer, putting a fake nail through it and keeping it on her desk!" Charlotte said while everyone else was talking about something irrelevant.

"What!?" Olivia said

"That's brilliant!" Another classmate said.

"Indeed it is Charlotte!" Olivia said happily.

"When should we start?" A student named Blaise asked.

"Well.. April fools day is tomorrow, so we should start as soon as possible!" Olivia said.

"How about today?" Charlotte asked.

"Why not? Let's go!" Blaise said.

The whole class hurried into the classroom and got the supplies for the prank.

"This is going to be epic!" Blaise said.

"It sure will!" Charlotte said.

"Well, not when Miss Smith is walking in the room! Guys, we have to hide!" Olivia said as she ran to the corner of the room.

All the classmates tried to hide the supplies but had no time, they had to quickly hide themselves.

After that Miss Smith walked in the classroom.

Miss Smith sat down without noticing anything. She just smiled and started eating her lunch,

"Well, isn't it a lovely day outside?" Miss Smith asked herself as she got up.

All the children were confused.

"How did she not notice the supplies?!" Oliva whispered.

"I'm not sure, how didn't she? Miss Smith has very good eyesight and she can't see the supplies?" Charlotte whispered back.

Everything went silent, Miss Smith was not talking, nor were the classmates whispering to each other.

Out of nowhere, Blaise coughed loudly.

Everyone stared at Blaise in fear.

"We're going to get caught!" Oliva says.

Miss Smith walked over to the closet where they were hiding, but then turned away and left the classroom.,

All the children rushed out of the closet.

"Oh I am so glad she didn't catch us but how is that possible?!" Olivia said.

"Maybe she has something in mind, an idea or something.. We all know Miss Smith has very good hearing and eyesight!" Charlotte said

"Charlotte! Brilliant, maybe she is planning a prank on us!" Another student named Carly.

"We'll have to be careful then," said Olivia.

All the students continued working on the prank and putting the fake nail in the fake computer, added on with slime on it and broken keys. While they were making the prank they thought of more ideas. Like to hide some chairs and markers.

The next morning it was finally April Fools Day! All their work they had done the day before will finally pay off. Or will it?

All the students were in the classroom waiting for Miss Smith.

"Where is she?!" Olivia asked, annoyed.

Just then Miss Smith walked in and everyone went quiet with butterflies in their stomachs trying to hold back their laughs.

The teacher's reaction was unexpected.

To be continued...

Eva and the Shadow, Part 5 (Finale) — CoraLynn Taylor



Image credit to Unsplash

'I wish that they would let me out, and nobody remembered I committed these crimes.' Eva said it out loud, and held her breath.

Silence. Yet again, it was quiet, and Eva had tears in her eyes. "This is all your fault Nugget! I wish I never met you and I was where I wanted to be by myself!"

Nugget disappeared without a trace.

"Eva, the videotapes show you never counterfeited money and you're free to go. Where's that fox of yours anyways?" Eva watched the officer open the door, and walked out. "I can just go?" The officer nodded.

What did I do...She thought.

The first thing she was going to do was find Nugget. He stayed with her through and through, she couldn't just leave him. She drove back to White Water Falls, and into her hotel room. How do I find him?

She first walked to where she first got here, and met Nugget. A rabbit-shaped shadow appeared, and faded into white and brown. "Not again- what do you want?" The rabbit

gestured to follow it, and Eva went. "What's your name, at least?" The rabbit was silent. It hopped and hopped, and the rabbit jumped into a hole.

Eva jumped in, and a military-looking base surrounded her. "Eva, you made a big mistake." it spoke. "You wished for a genie to disappear, and since they can't actually disappear, they arrive here. I understand you were mad, and are being given a second chance. Follow me." They walked for a bit until Eva saw a tube.

Nugget was in it.

"Nugget! I'm so, so, so sorry, I didn't mean it. I love you and hope you never leave." Nugget pushed the door open with his bushy tail. "It's- it's ok. I forgive you, just please don't send me here again. It's stinky!" They hugged, and the rabbit came back.

"Both wishes happened. You got set free, and Nugget got sent here. You ended up using 4 wishes, because removing a genie overrides everything. But, this is the second time someone has done this so there are no consequences. Now, Nugget has infinite wishes."

Nugget got his family, Eva and Nugget lived together, and everyone was happy.

The End

Current Events

April Birthday List — Abby Lenning

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1. Alisha Verma
2. Grant Kozak	3. Gabriel De Oliveira	4.	5.	6. Matthew Tawfik Mia Vento	7. Alexander Korostil	8. Alyssa Cox Aisha Shah
9. Emma Lenning Abby Lenning Brady O'Rourke	10. Hannah Cheeralan	11. Khloe Jones	12. Elena Leone	13. Thomas Rodriguez Tristan Rodriguez	14. Andrea Cheeralan Ava Syslo	15. Sahai Moise
16. Saarthi Patel Niall Quinn	17. Preston Agostino Alexander Brozek	18.	19. Shaun Bock John Mikhail	20.	21. Zachariah Hasham	22. Mia Gadallah Jordan Lee
23.	24.	25. Natalie Chow Jeffrey Forrester	26. Rafael Villarina	27.	28. Jude Maximus Ballesteros Aanya Gulrajani	29. Layla Abadir
30. Venba Arun 9 years old		AAPPYOLKT HOAY	Happy Gullday WISHES FOR EVERYONE		Happy Birthday	

Officer Vinny Saved the Day — Jayden Adackapara

March 31, 2023 started out as a normal day. It was a pretty typical Friday and everyone was looking forward to the weekend. The 5th through 8th grade classes were at recess outside frolicking and enjoying themselves, when suddenly out of nowhere a large dog raced around the blacktop.

The students immediately stopped their activities and focussed their attention on the dog and the unbelievable events that were unfolding in front of their eyes. The dog raced across the school to oncoming traffic on Route 18! The frantic owner chased after the dog but was unable to catch him. The students watched in despair as a car came close to striking the poor dog.

Officer Vinny was outside on recess duty at the time, and immediately sprung into action. He ran into his car and drove onto Route 18 to rescue the dog. Recess was cut short due to the incident and the students were escorted back to their classrooms. As the students walked back many were in tears at the tragedy they had witnessed and were so worried not knowing if the dog was still alive.

After switching to the next class, Mrs. Pioppo made an announcement informing the school that the dog and the driver were all safe. It felt like the entire school let out a sigh of relief, and loud cheers and applause rang all throughout the school. That was a day we will never forget, and in our hearts we were all so grateful for the happy ending. Officer Vinny was at St. Thomas to serve and protect, and that day his hero colors truly shined!

Information

Why Is Confession So Important? Part 2 — Elan DeSello

In Part 1, we talked about why sin was so evil. In order to cleanse ourselves, we need God. God calls us to confess our sins to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, what do we confess? In order to know what our sins are, we need to make an examination of conscience.

I used to just confess the same three sins every Confession. I never made any attempt to change myself. When I went to Confession, it was more like reciting instead of actually receiving the sacrament. Then one day, it occurred to me that what I was doing wasn't really Confession at all.

After that, I tried harder to make better examinations of conscience. One day, I had the idea to write down all my sins as I committed them, because I would be saving time by not having to do an examination of conscience! I made it a habit to go to Confession every week, and at the end of every week, my list looked something like this: "thought some bad thoughts" and then a tally of how many times I'd done it, "read books instead of doing homework", "procrastinated in brushing my teeth", etc. As you can see, I was missing the point.

Every time I went to Confession during that period of time, the priest would explain that this was not how an examination of conscience should be done. I was just wasting my time, and instead I should be concentrating on the deeper sins. For example, I'd neglected to realize that I was rather arrogant, I was prone to anger, and I would read books that had questionable morals. Once, the priest *didn't even give me absolution*.

After that, I gradually learned to make better Confessions by making better examinations of conscience. Here's what you can take from this: take your examinations of conscience seriously. Examinations are the first step to making sure you have a good Confession. Stop lying to yourself about what you have and haven't done. If you can't tell yourself what you did wrong, how will you ever get better?

Find Part 3 of this series in the May issue!

STA Chess Club: An Overview — Anthony Roccanova

Image credit to Unsplash for the photo "Chess match"



Chess, a very old game that was invented in the 6th century and is still popular to this day. Here at St. Thomas we have a chess club that was made by a couple eighth graders and Mrs. Jancola. She was so surprised at how many kids joined; she had to cap off the limit at 30, simply because the room is too small. She has been playing chess since she was 7 years old. Her father taught her how to play and wouldn't let her win easily. She has played it on and off all of her life.

The kids in the Chess Club are very serious about playing the game and they want to do better. Mostly advanced players joined the club, but for the new ones at the club, they have beginner chess sets to help them learn and get better. The advanced players are very glad to help the newer chess players get better and get more enthusiastic about Chess.

Easter Around the World — Nicholas Franchini

For many of us here in the United States, when we think of Easter, there are certain traditions that come to mind. Some of those traditions might include going to the Easter Vigil Mass, dying Easter eggs with our families, going on Easter egg hunts, or taking pictures with the Easter bunny. Many countries around the world, however, celebrate Easter differently than we do here in the United States. Here are some of the interesting ways that some other countries celebrate Easter.

Easter eggs are a very common part of our holiday tradition in the United States. Here we usually dye our Easter eggs in many different colors. We may also draw on them or decorate them with things like stickers. Easter eggs are an Easter tradition in other countries too but in different ways. In the country of Greece, they only dye their Easter eggs red. The color red is meant to represent the blood of Jesus Christ who sacrificed himself for us. In Germany, people color eggs and then hang them from Easter trees or branches. In some Eastern European countries like Romania and the Ukraine, eggs are also part of their tradition. They are elaborately hand painted and decorated and are a sign of new life.

Religious Easter celebrations are unique around the world too. Here in the United States, many Catholics celebrate Holy Week and Easter by attending Masses and watching recreations of the stations of the cross. In Spain, beginning on Palm Sunday, parades are held with floats, flowers, candles, and statues of Jesus and Mary. In Italy, some towns hold Passion plays or stations of the cross on Good Friday as we do here in the United States. On Easter Sunday, thousands of people in Italy, stand in St. Peter's Square to hear the pope's blessing from the church's balcony. In Bermuda, people fly homemade kites in the sky on Good Friday. This tradition was started long ago and is believed to have been used to teach children about Jesus' Resurrection.

Many Easter traditions revolve around foods that are unique to different countries. Eggs, as mentioned, are a sign of new life and can be found in many Easter traditions. Lamb is also a very popular Easter food in the U.S. and throughout Europe, as it represents Jesus as the Lamb of God. Bread is commonly made in many different ways as an Easter tradition. In Ireland and the United Kingdom, hot cross buns are a

traditional Easter dish, made with spiced fruit and marked with a cross. In Italy, braided loaves of bread decorated with colored eggs are an Easter staple.

As you can see, there are many unique and interesting Easter traditions found around the world. Of course, they all have one thing in common, and that is celebrating the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

The Easter Vigil Mass — Anthony Roccanova



Screenshot of the Easter Vigil Mass livestream on the St. Thomas YouTube Channel

April is the month that most think of as nice weather, spring, and flowers. This year, Holy Week and Easter are celebrated in April. Every year, we celebrate the Easter Vigil, which is held on the night of Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil is the anticipation of the Resurrection of Jesus, and the priests wear gold and white garments because they are awaiting His Resurrection, which occurs the next day. The Easter Vigil, which is also referred to as the Great Vigil of Easter, begins outside the Church where we start with the blessing of the Paschal Candle. The candle is then lit and is brought inside the Church and continues to shine throughout the Easter season. It helps to remind us that Christ is the light and life of the world. During this year's Mass, Father John discussed whether or not there is enough love in this world, and that even with all the destruction and violence, that as Jesus' followers, love is what we should focus on.

Trivia, Fun, and Games

Spring Word Search — Alyssa Eggers



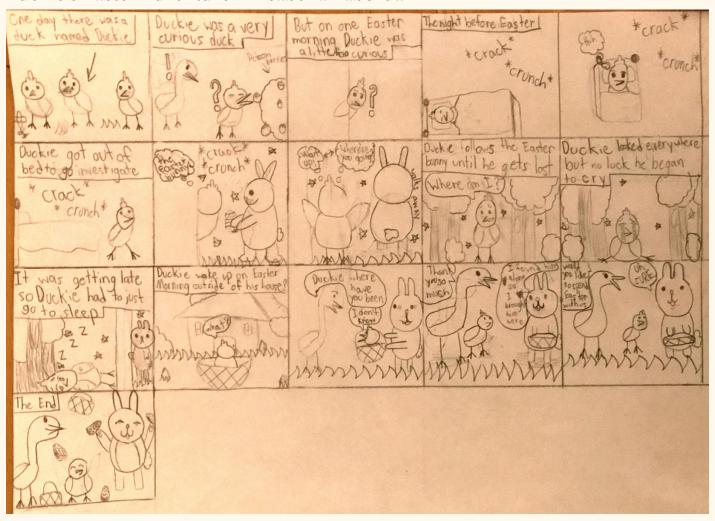
Search for the twelve Spring themed words below.



BIRDS BLOOM BUNNY BUTTERFLY FLOWERS GARDEN MAY

SPRING SUNSHINE WARM

Duckie's Easter Adventure — Isabella Taborda



April Jokes — Emma Lenning

How do you know that bees are happy?
Because they hum while they work.



What do you call a mushroom who is the life of the party? A FUN-GI



Why are frogs so happy?
They eat whatever bugs them.



What goes up when the rain comes down? Umbrellas!



Why did the bird go to the hospital?
It needed tweet-ment!

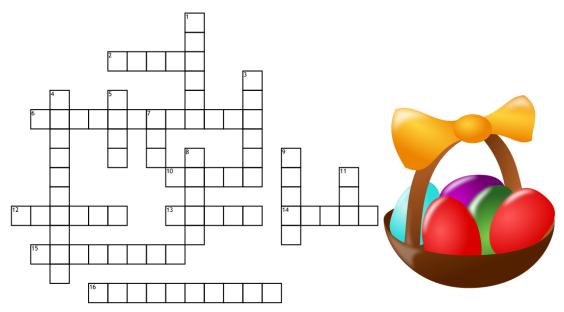


Why did the gardener plant a seed in the pond?
To grow a Water-Melon.



STA April Crossword Puzzle — Nicholas Franchini

STA April Crossword Puzzle



Across

- **2.** People play these on each other on April 1st
- **6.** Sacrament the 8th graders just received
- **10.** The Easter mascot
- **12.** Number of days in April
- **13.** April 22nd is the day to celebrate the what?
- **14.** Apostle who denied Jesus three times

- **15.** Jewish holiday Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate
- **16.** Colorful Easter candy that comes in many flavors

Down

- 1. You need this to collect Easter eggs
- **3.** Easter is always on this day of the week
- **4.** The day that Jesus died on the cross
- **5.** The Easter flower

- **7.** April showers bring flowers
- 8. Apostle who betrayed Jesus
- **9.** Popular marshmallow Easter treat
- **11.** What people do to their eggs before Easter

Answer Key

- 1. Basket
- 2. Jokes
- 3. Sunday
- 4. Good Friday
- 5. Lily
- 6. Confirmation
- 7. May
- 8. Judas
- 9. Peeps
- 10. Bunny
- 11. Dye
- 12. Thirty
- 13. Earth
- 14. Peter
- 15. Passover
- 16. Jellybeans

Conclusion

Thank you for reading STA Shenanigans!

We hope you enjoyed the April issue. If you did, please share this with your friends and family.

Read our other issues at: https://stashenanigans.site

Want to contribute as a freelancer? Click here: https://forms.gle/TSRnBTyvYUsb3TVr9