

May 2023

STA Shenanigans



Introduction

Credit to Alyssa Cox for the wonderful cover image!

Thank you for opening up the May Issue of the *STA Shenanigans* newspaper!

In this issue, we have new additions to your favorite fiction stories: **“Nuoquest”**, **“Momo-chan: Warrior of the Stars”**, **“Eva and the Shadow”**, **“City in the Sky”**, **“Prank Gone Wrong”** and many more! Make sure to read and find out what your beloved characters are up to now.

Read our articles, which include **“Willy Wonka Jr. Musical: Summary & Review”** (congratulations to all involved!), an interview with the Teacher of the Year, and study tips! We included a list of the second graders who have received their First Communion this year (congratulations to the First Communicants!). If you and your class are interested, check out **“Little Notes for Your Class”**, a fun end-of-the-year activity.

Don't forget the fun games and comics! They're sure to keep you laughing.

Happy reading!

P.S. Does anyone actually read these introductions?

If you do, comment **“I was one way, and now I'm completely different. And the thing that happened in between was Him.”** (Can you guess which TV show the quote came from, and who said it?)

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

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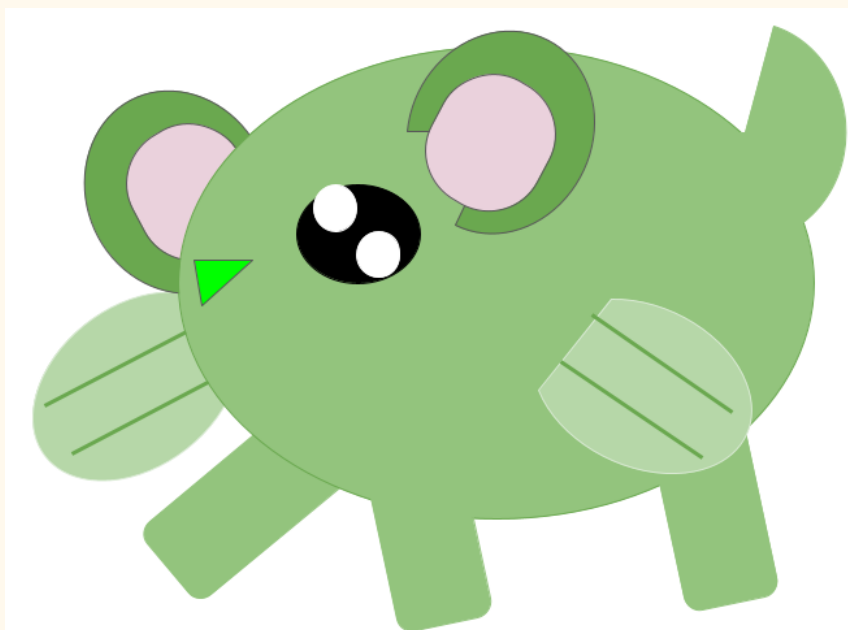
Conclusion

Fiction Stories

Eva and the Shadow, Part 5 — CoraLynn Taylor

We all thought that the story of Eva and Nugget was finished...but is it?

Image credit to CoraLynn Taylor for the illustration of the jox



Eva and Nugget just laid on the couch. Eva scrolled on her phone, and Nugget played with a feather. “After that interesting adventure, what’s left to do?” Nugget tilted his head, and responded with, “Do you even want to do anything? That was

tiring.” The second Nugget responded, a loud plop! was heard from the window. “What was that-” Nugget ran to the window and a blue jay was stuck on it.

Eva went to the window to get the blue jay, and Amanda walked up. “Hey Eva! That’s my bird, can I have hmm- Jasper back?” Eva sighed. “You’re going to act like you didn’t get me arrested? Also you didn’t even know his name. He’s not yours.”

“That’s all in the past now, right Eva! You still have Nougat?” Eva rubbed her eyes, and Amanda was still there. “Are you stupid? It’s not in the past, and it’s Nugget.” Nugget trotted out, and stopped in his tracks with a look of discomfort. “Why are you here? I

don't want you here, and you don't own a wild blue jay." Amanda backed up and smiled. "Well, bye! That was a.. pleasant interaction-" She walked to her car.

Eva watched her, and she had a jox in her car. A jox was illegal. A *fox* was fine. "Hey do you have a jox? Those are kind of illegal." Amanda blushed. "No, it's a fox!" She lied. "Um, that's round and green. I have eyes, it's a jox."

Amanda got into her car, and started driving very slowly with the back door open. "So, just ignore it, Eva!" Nugget shook his head and rolled into the back door, picking up the small jox in his teeth. "Eva hang on!" Eva hung on to the open door, and Amanda accelerated. Going faster now, Eva jumped into the car from the door, sighing.

"You can't escape it Amanda, you broke the law." Amanda took a broom and hit Nugget with it, and they both flinched. "Out. Of. My. CAR." She angrily stated. Eva didn't care as Amanda was drifting on and off the road, and the road was bumpy. Amanda suddenly stopped, and Eva and Nugget flew out the car. "Took a picture of the license plate already!"

"Bye! See ya never!" Amanda drove off quickly, and Eva ran to the police station with Nugget. Amanda was later caught by the police, from her license plate. Everything was back to normal, and they adopted the blue jay.

"After that interesting adventure, what's left to do?"

The End (actually)

Momo-Chan: Warrior of the Stars, Part 3 — Alexis Martino

Sakura-chan was especially in shock, considering all the stuff Momo-chan had told her. The rest of the horrified students ran away, screaming, while locking themselves into classrooms, locker rooms, and some hid in closets.

Before all of this, Momo-chan ran into the girls' restroom and locked herself in there. She opened her backpack zipper and took Nova out, who had a blank expression on his face. "What the heck, Nova?! I thought I told you to stay at home!" Momo-chan scolded. Nova nodded. "I did," he responded. "but I had to monitor my new guardian! We can't have an injured protector on the battlefield. That would just -"

All of a sudden, Momo-chan and Nova heard loud banging on the bathroom door. Momo unlocked the door, and a large amount of horrified girls flooded into the room. "SAVE YOURSELF!!" they'd all scream. Momo-chan hid Nova from the girls. "What's going on?" she asked herself. She walked outside and bumped into Sakura-chan. "Sakura-chan? What happened?" Sakura panicked. "I-it turns out you were right, Momo-chan! There is a Black Hole King!!" Momo-chan's eyes widened. "Oh? Oh my goodness!" The king roared loudly, further freaking Sakura-chan out.

"We've got no more time, Momo-chan! I gotta go!" Sakura said as she ran. Only Momo-chan was standing in the empty hallways, watching the Black Hole King inch further and further towards the school. Nova floated next to Momo-chan. "He's here!" it cried. Momo-chan nodded in awareness. Suddenly, her eyes widened.

"Hold up! Does this mean.." Nova turned to face Momo-chan. He nodded, with a smile on his face. Momo-chan was overjoyed to fight such an enemy, but calmly responded with a determined look and a nod.

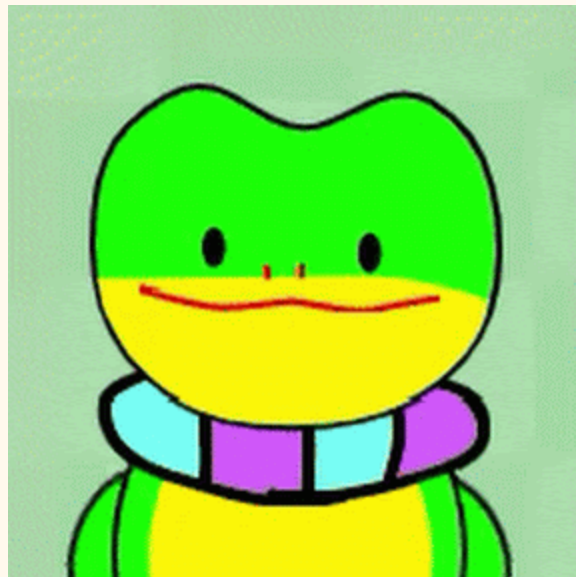
"Okay! Let's do this!"

To be continued...

Nuoquest, Part 3 — Alyssa Cox

Image credit to Alyssa Cox for the illustration of Nuo

It was true! Their theory was correct and on point! Oun didn't want them to have friends to help them! But the other thing was that he was using Itoru and Mimoru as slaves basically to help his minion Blepkun out. That mind controlling on Itoru and Mimoru was from Oun's stick, however, since they weren't at Oun's castle to witness the scenario, they did not know that fact. They were shaken by the thought.



As they walked through the rain, they saw a puddle. But it was not some ordinary puddle. When Nuo shoved his head in, he saw a fish that had some horn, dashing through the water. He immediately yanked his head out when he saw the fish.

“S-satoru!~ It’s huge!~!~!”

“What is?”

“...fish~...”

“???” Satoru wanted to see for himself too and shoved his head in. The fish then began charging up to his face, starting from the bottom.

He also yanked his head out in shock too. “WAAAGH!” Satoru was shaken.

Seconds after he yanked his head, a horn popped out of the surface. Nuo went and snuck up to it, and touched it and rubbed it.

“Woah..~”

“Step back, Nuo! It’s happening!!”

When he saw the horn sink again, he knew what was coming and stepped back with Satoru. And then, SPLASH! A huge tidal wave! The pressure made them fall down, with a bonk.

“OW~!”

“AGGHHOW!”

When they got up and shook their bodies to get the water off, a cute little narwhale was poking its head out of the water.

“Haiii!”

“Hi~?”

“Haii!! Powinpu! Powinpuo Powiiinnnn!”

“Say haiiii to POW!”

“Uhm, hi there? I’m Satoru..”

“Powinpu to ya, Satoru! And what’s this green guy’s name?”

“Nuo..~”

“POWWWWIIINNNNPUUUuuUUu...to ya too, Nuo!!”

Pow jumped up and down in excitement.

“Powzers...jee wiz..I always wanted to meet some froggie dudes”

“..cool then~..”

“Can I join!? Powinpuo!!!”

“Pa-pa-pa-pa-POW!”

“Sure, I guess..we need help anyways.”

With a new friend in the party, it’s time for an extravagant adventure.

To be continued...

Destiny's Day #2 — Shreya Singh

Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep! Click! (yawns)

“Another perfect morning! Goodmorning, Crystal!” I said in a cheery voice.

“Morning Sis!”

Mom and Dad were on vacation, the boys were at a 4-night sleepover (I didn't know people did that!) with their friend, and that brought me to Crystal's. I love her. She's the best.

“I'm getting up,” I said.

I started my morning routine with Crystal:

1. Brush teeth (with Crystal)
2. Take a shower
3. Change clothes
4. Wait for Crystal to finish showering

Now I'm ready to go downstairs!

Crystal made us waffles. I gobbled it down in two bites. She is the best chef ever!

“So, what do you wanna do today Des ?” Crystal asked.

“Maybe we should go to Five Stars America,” I replied.

Five Stars America is a place where they have bowling, arcade games, and prizes!

“Okay, I love that place,” Crystal said.

So, we hopped into the car and drove there.

Four hours later, we came back with prizes, a bowling certificate, and the biggest smile I've ever had.

“Alright Des, what do you want for dinner?” Crystal asked in a joyous voice.

“How about..... tacos?” “Yum, I love tacos!” Crystal said as she made a puppet with her hands.

We both laughed and laughed, until we fell on the floor.

“I’ll start the tacos. Why don’t you put on a movie for us so we can have a TV dinner?”

“Okay!” I said in an extremely excited voice.

I choose a romance comedy called

“Luna May’s Life”. It’s our favorite movie ever made. I can relate to it because I also have annoying brothers like Luna.

“Tacos are done!”

Crystal’s bright voice jolted me back to reality. I had been remembering the last couple times we watched it. We both got comfy and started munching. I pressed play on the remote and saw a familiar introduction. I let out a sigh of joy. I’m glad I’m with my sister.

The MIS Group: A Long-Lasting Friendship — Mariel DeSello and Shreya Singh

The **MIS** Group started a long time ago in first grade. It was just **Shreya** and **Mariel** before **Isobel** came. **Isobel** was a great new friend, but the **MIS** Group's name wasn't yet made.

Mariel's POV (M): **Isobel** was just warming up to us, sometimes she didn't even say anything. But **Shreya** and I were persistent and kept on being chatterboxes anyway. **Isobel** finally started talking and soon we became best friends. In second grade, I wasn't in St. Thomas due to COVID-19, so I homeschooled. I didn't have **Isobel**'s number and neither did **Shreya**. We were separated for a long time. In third grade, I went back to St. Thomas, and reunited with **Isobel** and **Shreya**. We decided to make up the name **MIS** because of our initials, **Mariel**, **Isobel**, **Shreya**. We played lots of outdoor games, had playdates, and FINALLY GOT **ISOBEL'S** NUMBER. We also became friends with Mika. She was really nice, but soon, she started playing with others. Then, she came back to us. In fourth grade, there were a few arguments, but we eventually got through them. But, again, Mika left, but this time it was permanent. But she was happy, and even though we miss her, we're happy that she found her people. Our friendship still continues today.

Shreya's POV (S): I met **Mariel** and became friends in kindergarten with just a "Can we be friends?" Once we got to first grade, we knew we had to speak to the new girl (**Isobel**). She was sweet and we were sweet. It was the start of a new friendship. **Mariel**, **Isobel**, and I became best friends by December. In second grade, **Mariel** homeschooled and **Isobel** was in the other class, so in outdoor recess, I played with others I barely knew. In third grade, we then made up our friendship's group name **MIS** group. In fourth grade, we argued A LOT! But we didn't and still won't let our differences define our friendship. Now that we're older, we make sure nothing gets between us (there's still the occasional fight). I just know the **MIS** group will last forever.

Prank Gone Wrong – Shere Azer and Aanya Gulrajani

When the teacher walked in she was ready to get revenge. When she was about to sit down she fell on the floor because they took her chair. When she hit the ground the computer fell on her eye and scratched it severely.

“I am going to call 911.” Blaise said

When 911 got there they took Miss Smith to the hospital.

“It is all our fault.” Olivia said.

“We should check on her in the hospital after school,” said Charlotte.

The next day they all went to the hospital to see Miss Smith.

“Where is she?” said Olivia.

“Boo!” said Miss Smith.

“Why would you scare us like that?” said Blaise.

“To teach you never to prank someone if you don’t want to be pranked.” Miss Smith replayed.

“Seriously, Miss Smith?! You gave us SUCH a fright!” Charlotte said.

“This is why I was hesitant to agree, I knew something would happen” Said Olivia

“It’s fine! April fools!” Said Miss Smith laughing.

Everyone returned to class and had lots of fun, they finally learned their lesson.

The End.

All For Love — Makayla Cabangon

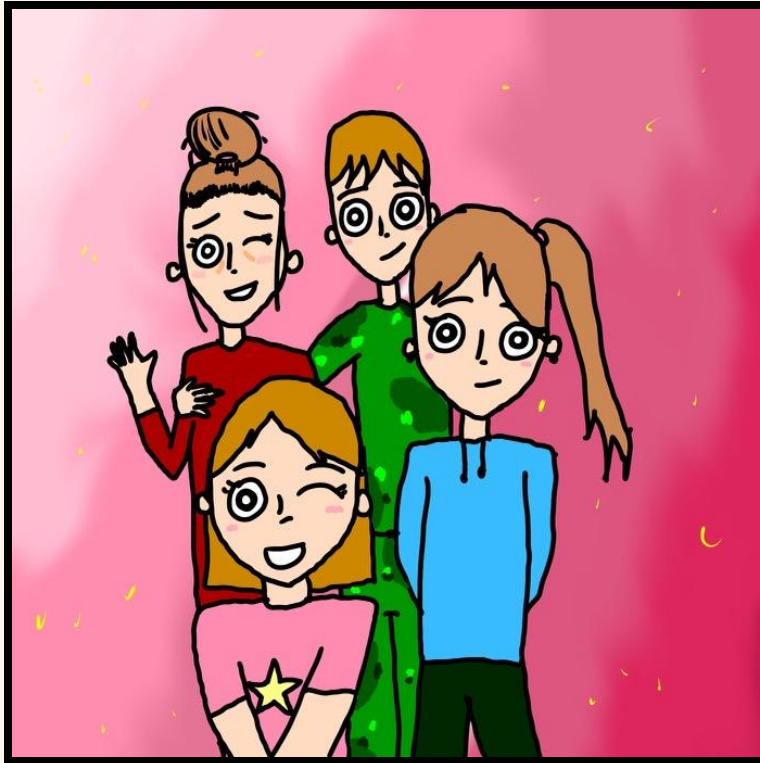


Image credit to Makayla Cabangon for the illustration of Ana, Katie Beth, and their parents

DING DONG!!! The doorbell rang.

“Is she here yet?!” I yelled as loud as I could so my mom could hear me. By the way, I’m Ana Turner. That’s spelled A-N-A. Most people get that wrong. My sister has been in college for so long, and since it’s the weekend, she’s coming home! Her name is Katie Beth

Turner, and she’s the greatest sister of ALL TIME!!!

“Don’t answer it, Ana! You don’t know it’s Katie Beth!” Mama said. Mama’s the best mom ever, too! Mama’s unemployed and Papa’s in the military. I want Papa to come home so much, but he can’t come home! He’s stayed there for years, and I’m a little sad to admit it, but I don’t remember much about Papa, so the second he comes home, me and Papa are going to do some father-daughter bonding! We don’t have much money, but we want to get Mama something nice for Mother’s Day. Finally, Mama came downstairs and opened the door. I saw someone with light brown hair in a pink ponytail, a blue cropped sweater, black leggings, and the customized sneakers I made!

“Kath!!” I yelled. I ran for Katie Beth and hugged her really tight.

“Kath?” Mama asked me.

“Me and Ana made a nickname for me since my first name has two names put together.” Katie Beth said.

“We did it over the phone, Mama!” I said, finally letting go of Katie Beth. Mama went back upstairs to her room. Katie Beth and I finally got to the more important point.

“What are we doing for Mama?” Katie Beth asked.

“I don’t know, I only got five bucks since the last time you came!” I replied.

“I still have to pay student debt.” Katie Beth laughed sheepishly.

“Oh.. well...” I said, thinking. Me and Katie Beth were thinking about what to do for Mama on Mother’s Day. We know it’s a few weeks away, but we knew it would take some time to get Mama something, as we don’t have much money. We would ask Mama, but we don’t want to spoil the surprise. We could ask our aunt Bethany, but she’s celebrating Mexican Mother’s Day in Mexico. We both know Papa’s out of the question. We thought for a little while until Katie Beth gave an amazing idea.

“How about we raise money to buy Mama something!” she said. I thought it was an amazing idea and got out my piggy bank.

“I have about ten dollars here. How about you?” I asked her. Katie Beth pulled out one dollar.

“Just one dollar?” I asked her.

“I don’t have much cash, I spent it on food, tutoring, and games.”

“You gamble?!” I shouted. Katie Beth covered my mouth so much I could barely breathe, that is, if I breathed out of my mouth. Mama doesn’t like gambling. Especially if it’s our money.

“What do we do to raise money? Eleven dollars is good, but Mama deserves something extravagant!” Katie Beth nodded her head and got out her computer.

“We can make a website! We raise money here and then we can buy something special for Mama!” Katie Beth worked her magic on the computer and created a fundraiser site called “AllForLove”. Sure, it was cheesy, but it was the best we could come up with. Once

it was set up, we made flyers for the website and put them in people's mailboxes. A week before Mother's Day, we already raised 30 dollars! We still had a long way to go, but we were very grateful! One day, we couldn't find our website! We tried searching for it, and even the most obscure names, as long as they were similar to ours. We found another website called "AllForCharity" and it was a website that raised money to help the poor, homeless, and other needy people. We already raised about 30 dollars, and here we are wishing for more. Mama is grateful even for an art picture made with sticks, rocks, and dirt from the backyard! Now, these other mothers with the same standards, the children or husbands can't buy anything for her on Mother's Day! We realized we might have been a bit greedy. I then came up with an amazing idea that will be even better than what we were originally thinking about giving her!

"I know exactly what to give Mama!" I said. I whispered my idea into Katie Beth's ear. She gasped and decided it was a fantastic idea! She gave me a phone number and I called them.

"Alright!" I said, as I got off the phone. "I think it's... Near Saturday."

"Perfect!" Katie Beth said. We bought a one-night-stay at a motel for the person. The next day, they would come and it would be the BEST GIFT EVER!!!

"What are we going to do with the extra money?" Katie Beth asked.

"Give it back to the poor! Or how about we buy stuff for the mothers!" I replied. Together, Katie Beth and I bought photo frames, pillows, blankets, and much more, all with the remaining 25 dollars! The next day, the doorbell rang again.

"Mama! Can you get that? I'm doing homework!" I called out. It was a Sunday, I wasn't actually doing homework. Mama came downstairs and opened the door. The next thing I heard was a loud gasp and yell. Mama came to the kitchen (where Katie Beth and I were) crying tears of joy. Next to her was the best Mother's Day gift ever, Papa!

The End

The Unexpected Mother's Day — Aanya Gulrajani and Bianka Ochlanova

Once upon a time, there were 2 siblings. The eldest sister's name was Courtney and she was 20 years old. She loved to hang out with her friends and her sibling. The youngest sibling was called Jessica, she is 11 years old and loved to annoy her older sister every now and then.. She loved stealing her clothes and doing fashion shows with them. The parents were really hard on Courtney's studies and favored Jessica. They were really strict and barely allowed play dates. They live in a mini mansion and the children are in a very well educated school .Mother's day was coming up and so Jessica and Courtney thought not to do anything because their parents probably wouldn't like it or care. Courtney was in her room talking to her friends until Jessica bugged in.

"COURTNEY! I GOT IT!!" Jessica exclaimed

"You got what?" Courtney asked

"How to give mom a great mother's day surprise!" Jessica said exclaimed

"I thought we agreed that we wouldn't do anything this year because Mom probably wouldn't care." Courtney said, confused.

" Well, yes. But since I am mom and dad's favorite-" Jessica said with Courtney interrupting

"Yes, yes! I know.." Courtney said looking at her, giving her an annoyed face expression.

" I'm sorry I'm their favorite." said Jessica

"Ugh! Anyways.. Move on please, what's your idea? I'm trying to talk to my friends" Courtney said impatiently.

" Okay, okay, I'll tell you. But if you answer my riddle." said Jessica in a mischievous voice.

"Ugh! Everything must be a challenge or something hard. Can you just tell me?!" said Courtney furiously.

"Okay, fine. I'll tell you!" yelled Jessica

“Geez you didn’t have to yell but ok.” said Courtney

“OKAY! Here it is, we can make her a homemade card and buy her a gift card to any store she likes.” said Jessica nervously

“I like homemade cards.. But you know she doesn’t like when she receives money, right?” Courtney says.

“Yeah, but do you have any ideas?” Jessica asked Courtney

“Well, not exactly but we can ask mom things she likes but not in a way to make it too obvious that we are questioning her for a gift” Courtney says.

“Hmmm... Okay, fine!” Jessica says

Both Jessics and Courtney go downstairs to ask their mom what she usually likes to receive.

“So, mom.. If you could receive anything.. What would it be?” Courtney asked

“Why? You know I don’t like to get anything, unless I get it myself. If you even think of spending money without my, or your fathers permission, you’re both grounded!” Their mom said

“Mom, just tell us.. Please?” Jessica asks, trying to manipulate her mother.

Her mom just sits there and thinks for some time until she finally thinks of something.

“If I could receive anything, anything I wanted.. I would ask for candles, coasters, phone cases.. Kinds of things in that type of category..” Their mom said.

“Okay, mom, Thank you!” Courtney says quickly trying to leave so their mom does not question them, but it’s too late.

“And why did you both ask me this?” Their mom asks quickly before they leave.

“Oh, no reason!” They both say at the same time.

Their mom knew something was going on, they were acting very suspicious.

Courtney and Jessica go back to Courtney's room and talk about what they could do or get her.

"What should we do?" Courtney asked Jessica

"Well, maybe a small party?" Jessica replied.

"Jessica, what of all that mom said downstairs made you think she wanted to have a party!? You know even dad won't allow that." Courtney told Jessica.

"Well, I guess you're right on that.. What do you think we should do?" Jessica asked

"How about we take her shopping to the mall? She can go to any store she wants and we can give her a budget of like \$50-\$100" Courtney said

"Yea, and we can get matching bears!" Jessica said

"Okay Jess, just remember that it's mothers day! Not child day!" Courtney said while laughing.

"Yes, yes. I know!" Jessica replied while giggling as well.

The day has come, mothers day.. At around 8 in the morning, Jessica and Courtney pulled their mom into the car, empty stomach.

"We're going somewhere without even eating breakfast?! Are you sure?" Their mother asked them.

"Yes, mom. Now stop asking questions!" Courtney said while going into the driver's seat.

Once they reached the mall they quickly pulled their mom into her favorite cafe and screamed "SURPRISE".

To be continued...

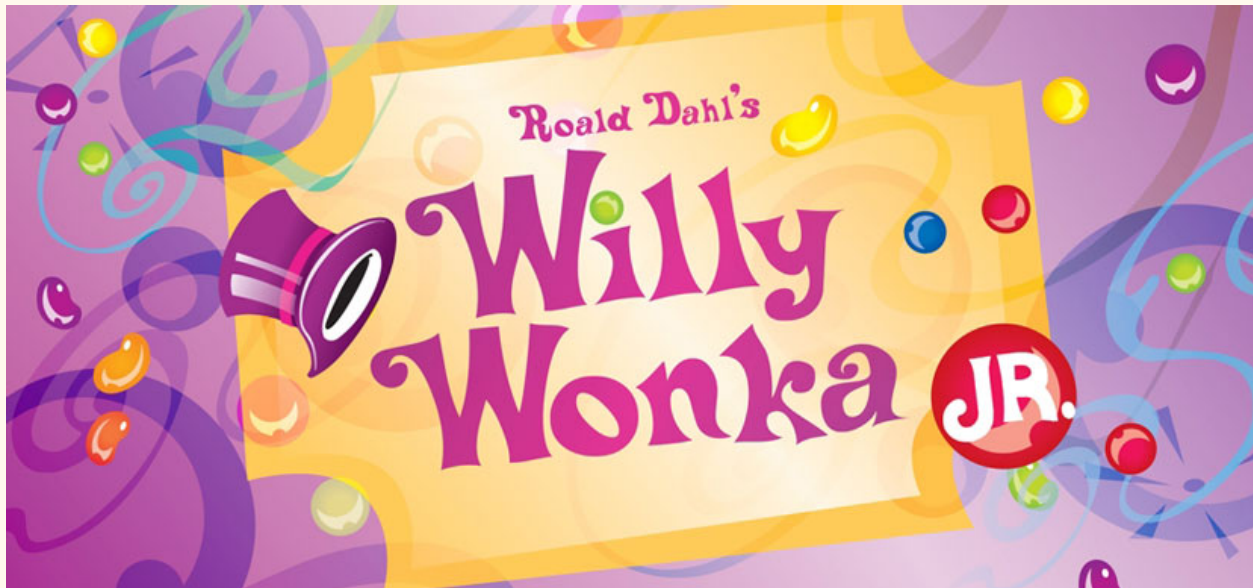
Current Events

2nd Grade First Communicants — Mia G. and Aisha Shah

Congratulations to everyone who received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time!

- Carter Borre
- Rachel Caffrey
- Lorelai Cahill
- Jasmine Cardenas
- Joseph D'Zuro
- Antonio DeFranco
- Macewen Flaherty
- Nicholas Hamill
- Rocco Hughes
- Natalie Lacerre
- Emilia Lutzker
- Brynn Makovec
- Isabella Morales
- Brielle Navara
- Amelia Nonis
- Mason Pasturan
- Francesca Primiano
- Karolina Rutkowski
- Talia Sayegh
- Jason Serra

Willy Wonka Jr. Musical: Summary & Review – CoraLynn Taylor



The St. Thomas the Apostle play was shown recently over three days, the 17th, 18th, and 20th. The main characters; Willy Wonka, Charlie Bucket, Augustus Gloop, Mike Teavee, Veruca Salt and Violet Beauregarde were played by Rafael P, Anthony R, Samuel S, Raphael J, Sophia D, and Ava D respectively. There were a lot of props that were very well made for the play. There was also a large background used throughout as the factory, which was pretty cool!

In the first part of the play, we get introduced to Willy Wonka, and his song “Pure Imagination.” It then switches to the second main character Charlie Bucket, and his family. He goes outside to get the newspaper, and learns Willy Wonka is beginning the golden ticket competition. He goes to school, and Phineous Trout, the news reporter, interviews the first winner, Augustus Gloop, and minutes later, Veruca Salt.

Charlie comes home from school, and his dad got fired. He accidentally told his family minutes later. The third golden ticket winner, Violet Beauregarde was interviewed. Mike Teavee was also interviewed very soon after. With four tickets found, only one was left. Almost two weeks later, the candy man hands Charlie the fifth winning bar.

With all the tickets found, they head to the factory. The factory is revealed, and the curtains fully open. They have to sign a contract, and get introduced to the first room, a

chocolate room. Augustus Gloop falls in, the first of the group to get removed. He gets taken to the Oompa-Loompa room, and admits eating a lot isn't good. We then go back up to the factory, and Violet ate a work-in-progress food, and turned into a blueberry.

We go to the Oompa-Loompa room again, and Violet admits chewing gum every single day isn't the greatest idea. Charlie gets left behind, and drinks a fizzy bubble drink, almost running into a fan. He gets back down, and goes back to the group. They go to a nut-sorting room, and Veruca complains about wanting a squirrel, and starts singing. When she stops, the nut-sorter says she's a "bad nut" and goes into the garbage incinerator. We go to the Oompa-Loompa room yet again, and Veruca admits her parents made her incredibly spoiled.

Willy Wonka introduces the TV that can send objects through it. Mike Teavee wants to try it, and goes through. He comes back alive, but tiny. We go into the Oompa-Loompa room one last time, and Mike admits he should do other things than watch TV. Charlie, his grandpa, and Willy Wonka start to leave the factory, and Charlie says he shouldn't get the lifetime supply of chocolate, which Willy Wonka said was the prize, because he drank the fizzy lifting drink without Willy Wonka seeing. Willy Wonka said that it wasn't the real prize, and Charlie won the factory, which he was very excited about. The finale was sung, and everyone took their bows.

I think the play was really good! All the props used made it feel like the movie, and were moved around to make different scenes. Once the factory was revealed, even if the background didn't change, it felt like you were in a different room each time, a very cool effect! This is the first play in a few years, and everybody, most of which hadn't done a St. Thomas play before, did amazing! I look forward to next year's, which will be just as great!

Support the Injured: St. Thomas Injured List – Shere Azer

Support the Injured	
 <p>You are in our prayers</p>	 <p>God is with you</p>
Lucas Dillon	Zach Hasham
Michail Nasr	Marchelo Greg
<p>Nothing is impossible with God</p> 	<p>We support you</p> 

Season of the Champs — Jayden Adackapara

The NBA and the NHL's Playoffs are two of the most intense and exciting sports events in the world, with thousands of fans coming to watch the games and support their favorite teams and franchises. 16 NHL and NBA teams battle it out to see who can come out on top and win the finals. Both the NBA and NHL's Playoffs start in mid April and end in early June. There are 4 rounds per conference being the first round, the semi finals, the conference finals, and lastly the finals, where the best team from each conference face off to win the title as the NBA or NHL champions. The series are first to win 4 games and best out of 7 games. But first, how does a team even get to the playoffs?

Only some of the best teams in the league can make the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs. For a team to fully secure a spot in the playoffs their seed in the standings has to be 1-6 in their respective conference. For example, in the 2023 NBA regular season the Denver Nuggets, led by 2x MVP Nikola Jokic, were the number 1 seed in the Western Conference (they won the most games), giving them a guaranteed spot in the playoffs. Teams ranked 7-10 seeds in their conference compete in a four day tournament called the Play-In Tournament. The tournament consists of 2 brackets per conference, where in the first bracket the 7th and 8th seeded teams face off, and in the second bracket the 9th and 10th seeded teams face off. The winner of the first bracket advances into the playoffs, while the loser of the first bracket faces off against the winner of the second bracket. The winner of that game clinches the last spot in the playoffs, the 8th seed.

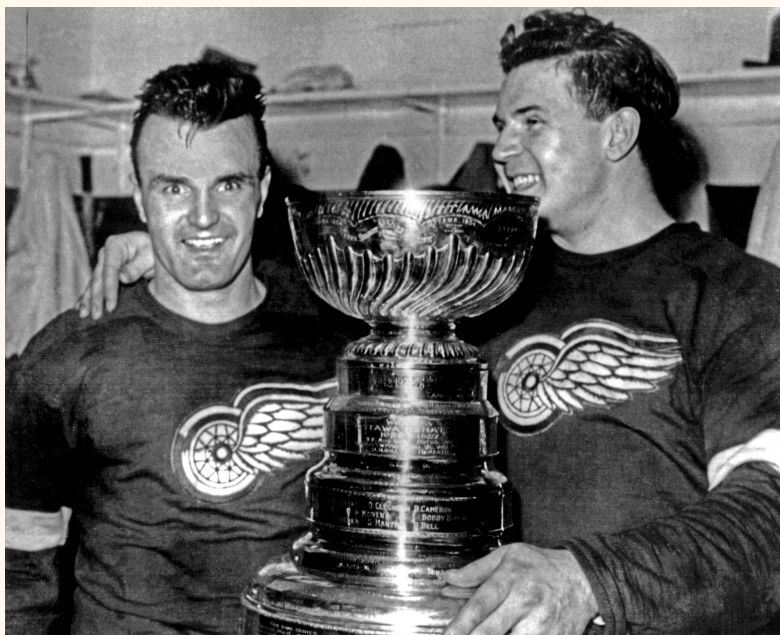
Kawhi Leonard's game-winning buzzer beater (image)

One of the most unforgettable and



iconic game-winning playoff shots was game 7 of the Toronto Raptors and Philadelphia 76ers series in the 2019 Eastern Conference Semifinals. The score is tied 90 to 90 as a timeout is called by the Raptors. Nick Nurse (the head coach of the Raptors) drew up a play for the Raptors' superstar, Kawhi Leonard. With 4.2 seconds left on the clock, the Raptors threw the ball to Leonard and he dribbled to the corner of the court. Just before the clock hit 0, Kawhi threw up a shot. After 4 bounces on the rim, the ball finally went in as the whole stadium erupted in excitement and cheers. The Raptors would go on to become the 2019 NBA Champions, with Leonard being named the Finals MVP, bringing Toronto its first ever NBA title. Fast forward to today, will your favorite team have bragging rights as 2023 NBA Champions?

Championships don't just happen on the court, they also take place on ice. The National Hockey League's (NHL) Stanley Cup Playoffs are a very important period of time for hockey fans across the globe. Many fans from the US and Canada come to cheer on their favorite teams and players. There are 32 teams in the league composed of 25 teams in the US and 7 in Canada, with 16 making the Stanley Cup Playoffs. In order for a team to make the playoffs it has to be one of the top 3 best teams in their division (there are 4 divisions) in games won. The last 4 spots in the playoffs are the 2 next best teams in each conference (there are 2 conferences) known as the wild card teams.



Pete Babando (left) holding the Stanley Cup trophy after his history-making goal (image)

Many hockey fans believe that the 1950 game 7 Stanley Cup Final between the New York Rangers and the Detroit Red Wings was one of the greatest playoff games in history. The Red Wings were the clear favorites to win the title but the series was tied 3-3 going into game 7. The Rangers were leading 2-0 for all of the first period, but after 3 goals from the Red Wings in the second period the score was all tied up 3-3. The score stayed the same for another period and 8:31 into overtime. But then, in the second overtime Red Wings player George Gee won a face off and passed it to Pete Babando. He took a shot in history and won the game! The Red Wings officially became the 1950 Stanley Cup Champions and finally ended the longest game 7 in Stanley Cup history. I'm sure this year's Stanley Cup Finals will be just as thrilling. Whether you're an NBA or NHL fan, hang on to your seats and enjoy the games as the league's best compete to be number 1!

Memorial Day – Nicholas Franchini



Memorial Day is a national holiday that is celebrated in the United States of America. It traditionally takes place on the last Monday of the month of May, and has been observed for 155 years so far! This year, Memorial Day is on May 29th. During this holiday, we honor and celebrate the members of the US military who have died while serving in the armed forces. They lost their lives while defending our country, and American families from every US state are thankful for their service and what they have done. The history of this special day begins during the American Civil War of 1861 to 1865. Over 550,000 people's lives were lost in the war, and people began to place flowers on the graves of soldiers who served in the military. Eventually, in 1971, after much consideration, Memorial Day became an official holiday.

Even though this might seem like a sad day, Americans think of Memorial Day as the unofficial beginning of summer. Many children in the United States of America are off for a long weekend when this day comes near. This just shows how special this day is to everyone around the United States. To celebrate this day, many Americans attend events such as community gatherings or large sports events. They also might visit cemeteries and place flowers next to a soldier's grave in honor of their service, just like what was done during the American Civil War. Their close family members and friends might come over as well, and they could have a barbeque or a special feast for their dinner. In conclusion, Memorial Day is a very important national holiday that Americans should celebrate every year and remember those who died to keep us safe.

List of Field Trips — Olivia Karam and Isabella Taborda

Pre-K

TurtleBack Zoo [May 15]



Kindergarten

TurtleBack Zoo [May 25]



1st Grade

Count Basie Center for the Arts [May 17]



2nd Grade

Aquarium [May 31]



3rd Grade

Planetarium [May 23]



4th Grade

New Jersey State museum [May 30]



5th Grade

Liberty Science Center [June 2]



6th Grade

Medieval Times [May 16]



7th Grade

Finance Park [May 1}
Battleship New Jersey [May 19]



8th Grade

Finance Park [May 1]
Kalahari Water park [June 6]

Information

Class Picnic Dates – Nicholas Franchini



Kindergarten: May 22nd

First Grade: June 5th

Second Grade: May 24th

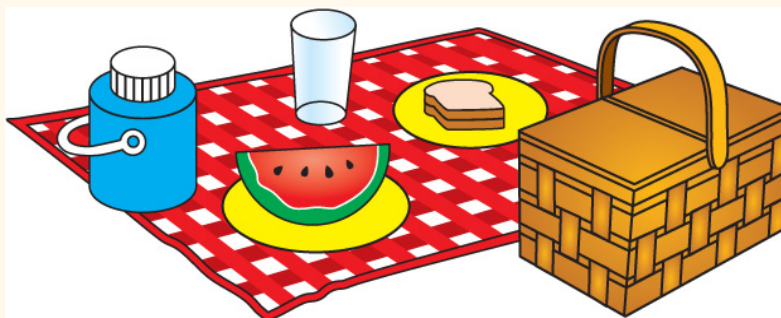
Third Grade: June 2nd

Fourth Grade: June 5th

Fifth Grade: May 19th

Sixth Grade: June 8th

Seventh Grade: June 8th



Why Is Confession So Important? Part 3 — Elan DeSello

In this third and final installment, I was originally intending to write a list of tips for not being nervous about Confession. However, a quick Google search will bring up more tips than you'll know what to do with.

That's why I decided to do something different for this article.

Everyone is nervous about going to Confession. It's natural. You're going to show the worst parts of yourself to someone else.

But the priest isn't supposed to hate you. He's not supposed to judge you. He may not even remember what you told him (you're not the only one going to the sacrament)!

When you go to Confession, ask yourself why you're doing it. Is it out of obligation? Is it because your class is going, so you have to? Is it because Confession is a get-out-of-jail card that lets you skip punishment (but you're going to re-commit all your sins afterwards anyway)?

If so, those are all the wrong reasons.

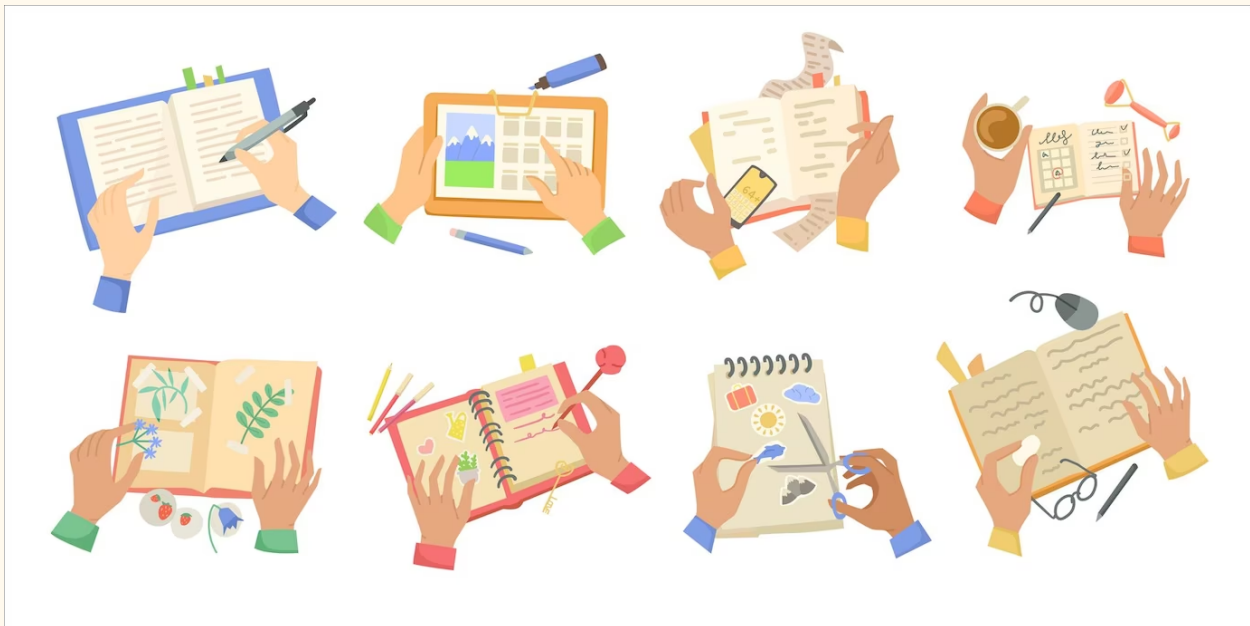
Confession is there because we want to be healed. We've made mistakes, and we want to be forgiven. We want to walk out of the confessional as better people. We want to be a step closer to being who God created us to be.

No matter how nervous you are, remembering what you came for will motivate you to go through with it.

Go into the confessional and confess your sins with honesty and true sorrow, with the intention of allowing God's grace to transform you, and experience how it changes your life.

Little Notes: A Class Activity – Shreya Singh

Image by pch.vector on Freepik



The year is coming to an end and you might want to finish strong. Ask your teacher if you and your class can play “A Little Note” .

How to Play

“A Little Note” is a game where one person starts with a note of encouragement and slips in another person's desk. You or your teacher will keep track of who got a note. You can write it on the whiteboard or smartboard everyday. Little by little everyone will get a note. The goal of the game is to make sure everyone has a note before the year ends.

Who to Play With

You usually play with your class and teacher, but you can do it with anyone! Your summer camp, your dance class, your music class are all perfect to play with. You don't even have to only give it to your friends. It might brighten someone's day to find a kind note from somebody who barely knows them. Play with anyone you know. Even if it's a surprise. You can write what to do next on the note. If you're with someone you know and have free time, play “A Little Note”.



When to Play It

Image by [gstudioimagen1](#) on Freepik

You can play whenever you have the time. Some of the best times to play it are at the beginning of the school year (so everyone can get to know each other), the end of the school year (so you can finish the year strong), if your friend is sad (or just having a tough time), and when you're bored. Any free time is a good time to play "A Little Note".

As you can see, "A Little Note" is beneficial in so many ways. There are no downsides and tons of upsides. So remember, whenever you can; send someone a little note.

Study Tips — Ava O' Reilly



Image credit to Unsplash for the photo “Designer sketching wireframes”

With finals starting, it's important to make sure you are prepared. Here is a collection of study tips to help.

- ★ Always study on a satisfied stomach, ex: eat a good, nutritious breakfast, take breaks in between studying, and go in a quiet space. (I personally like spaces with a lot of windows and natural light.)
- ★ Study for at least 30 minutes each day until you feel prepared
- ★ DO NOT wait until the last minute to study. It's not worth it.
- ★ Have fun with it and come up with new review games or guessing games to play with friends. Ex: review bingo, and be creative!!
- ★ Study with a friend and answer each other questions :D
- ★ Have fun studying and rock that test!! <3

Gifts to Give For Mother's Day — Adrian Jach

Image credit to Unsplash for the photo "Mother Sunset"

May is the month when we celebrate Mother's Day. Some of the gift ideas can include:



- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Card
- A piece of jewelry
- Breakfast in bed
- Coffee
- Mug
- Picture frame with a photo
- Cupcake or cake
- New purse
- Makeup
- Slippers
- Nice dinner
- A poem
- Then v.s. Now Timelapse pictures

A popular social media trend is when you put up two flashcards and ask your mom to pick one. (Not necessarily just a Mother's Day idea; it can be used for any occasion, and the ideas can be cheap and creative). Some examples are:

- Go for a walk or go for a bike ride
- Eat dinner at home or eat out
- Play board games or watch a movie together

Image credit to Unsplash



Interviews

Mrs. Muce: Teacher of the Year — Mia G. and Aisha Shah

How did you feel when they announced your name on the speaker as the Teacher of the Year?

I was crying. I felt so touched.

Would you say this was a milestone? Why?

Yes, this is a big milestone for me.

Were you surprised when you found out that so many teachers voted for you?

I was very surprised. I thought they were joking.

Was this the first time you were the teacher of the year?

This was the first time.

How long have you been at Saint Thomas?

8 Years.

What are your strengths as a teacher?

Reading and Language Arts

What made you want to become a teacher?

When I was a child. I had learning problems. Because of that I wanted to help children who had problems too.

Trivia, Fun, and Games

May Day: Word Search — Alyssa

May Day

s e d t u i m o k d e q
 p l a b u o a l k o f s
 r u n a w a y s b o l t
 i t c s e o d o u r o b
 n o i k p r a t u b w e
 g o n e m a y q u e e n
 h y g t a l p r o l r e
 n u g e y o i m r l s t
 g o m f p t w i b f u s
 r i b b o n s d o i n k
 s u h o l i d a y t m z
 e c e l e b r a t e r j

basket
 doorbell
 May Day
 ribbons

celebrate
 flowers
 Maypole
 run away

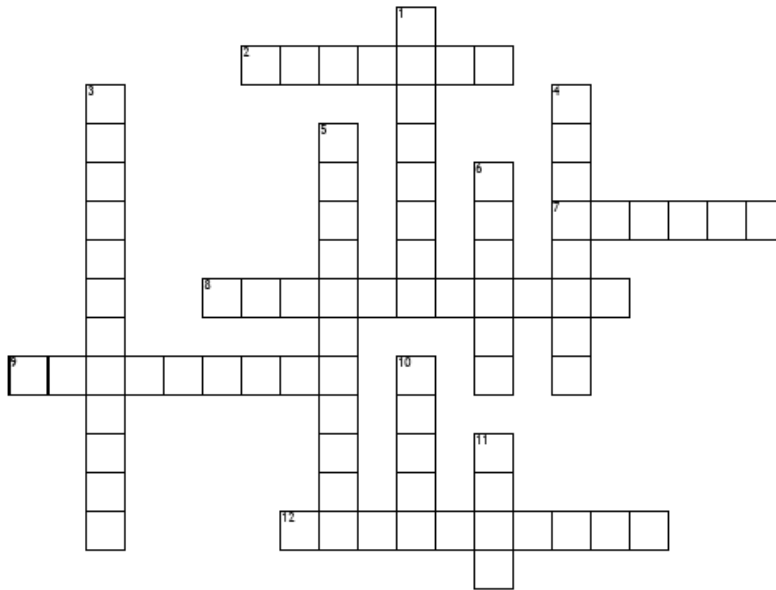
dancing
 holiday
 May Queen
 spring



STA May Crossword Puzzle — Nicholas Franchini

Name: _____ Date: _____

STA May Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. The May birthstone
 7. People pray the _____ to honor Mary
 8. Day honoring the men and women who died in the US military
 9. Number of days in May
 12. Day to celebrate our moms

Down

1. The 8th Grade is going here for their class trip

3. What Charlie found in Willy Wonka
 4. "May the 4th be with you" is a reference to this movie
 5. Day in May celebrating the Mexican army's victory over the French in 1862
 6. Lily of the _____ (Hint: It is a type of May flower)
 10. May is the _____ month of the year

11. Mother of Jesus whom we celebrate in May

Answer Key

1. Kalahari
2. Emerald
3. Golden Ticket
4. Star Wars
5. Cinco De Mayo
6. Valley
7. Rosary
8. Memorial Day
9. Thirty-one*
10. Fifth
11. Mary
12. Mother's Day*

*punctuation not included

Staff Member of the Issue

Alexis Martino

Thank you for working on the layout design with such enthusiasm!

Conclusion

Thank you for reading *STA Shenanigans*!

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

Make sure to rate this issue! (See bottom of the webpage)

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