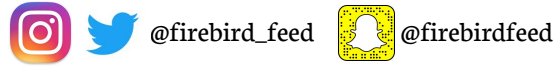


Firebird Feed



Volume 1, Issue 4
March 17, 2017



Chomping on the Truth of School Lunches

By: Makayla Staszal-Terpstra

School lunches, we all know them, but do we really know the secret ins and outs behind them?

According to an eighth grader who wished to remain anonymous, "Our schools don't provide enough food! They give us at most a fruit cup, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and a tiny carton of milk for an entire school day!" So, why the small portions? Is it because the district doesn't want to provide us food or is it something bigger?

According to Janet Fisher, the District 59 employee in charge of purchasing school nutrition, a *computer*, not the lunch ladies, determines our menu and the portion sizes. She states, "Organic Life (our current lunch company) is really committed to providing healthy, fresh food, and they also want the students to like it, but the government decides how many calories go into each meal." Our school is monitored by the government (sometimes even with auditors) and is supposed to give students a certain number of calories for every meal and this is why sometimes we are given only a sandwich, vegetables, and drink. This government policy was implemented when Michelle Obama came into office with her "Let's Move" campaign, designed to ensure kids live a healthy lifestyle. This results in stricter rules, but ultimately the goal is to

guide kids into a healthy life.

What about that cold lunch you may be receiving, especially if you have a later lunch period? Organic Life is located about nine miles away in Wheeling, so it is difficult to keep the food warm and fresh over the many hours it sits, waiting for it to appear on your plate. Not to mention the fact that the food is frozen and tightly packed into moving trucks before the school day even starts!

The reason why the food is packed and sent so early in the morning is because it not only have to travel nine miles, but has to arrive at all the schools in the district with enough time for preparation. When the food arrives at FJHS around 8AM, it is stored in that little room you're not allowed to go in in
Continued on page 3...

Wot in Hydration Station?

By: Olivia Sibü

As we all know, the climate change on earth has been becoming more drastic as each year passes. The amount of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere has been causing the earth to get hotter. I am proud to say that Friendship is trying to do their part in order to stop this. Mrs. Hahn's 6th/8th period language arts students created a plan to lessen the carbon footprint and hydrate the students of FJHS by installing a hydration station. These stations are a much easier way to fill up your water bottles which many students usually have trouble doing with the regular fountain.

"We were reading an article about how water bottles affected the planet negatively and we really wanted to change that," says Emily Rissman, one of the students from the project. Their original plan was to raise at least \$700 by selling water bottles and baked goods during conferences. Mrs. Megerle planned to match that amount. With the money brought in from the bake sale and water bottles, they raised over \$1500 which was enough to get TWO stations. *Continued on page 3...*



Hydration Station Organizers of 210B

FJHS Murder Mystery

Check out our Murder Mystery on Page 4!!

Firebirdfeed.weebly.com



Fantastic Fashion

Need help on what to wear and what styles are in this month? Visit the Fierce Fashion column on Page 9 for cool styles!



Firebird Daily

Have you checked out Friendship's new podcast the Firebird Daily? Now available on iTunes and Spotify!



Intermission

By: Milenko Milicevic

The variety show of 2017 was one to behold, one of wonder and magic. The show was kicked off by a dance performance done by Makayla Staszal-Terpstra. She moved fluently and gracefully, almost sliding across the stage whilst incorporating several twirls that often sent the masses of the audience into a tizzy.

Following the hilarious introduction to a skit done by stylings of Amy Villafan and Daisy Cruz that trailed Makayla's performance, Kayla Nolan was quick to double down the audience's marvel by smiting them down with her recital of "Lego House." Soon after, Michael Kajiwara demonstrated know-how around a yoyo and wowed the crowd with his successive yoyo tricks and flicks. Succeeding Michael's show, the emcees, Leyla Rusan and Ambiya Shaikh, exhibited the introduction to a priceless comedic skit different than Amy and Daisy's.

Both emcee performances were ones that needed to be seen in person to really appreciate.



2017 Variety Show cast

Cydney Whyte and Aiyanna Hudson later performed their interesting synchronized hip-hop dance that set the bar high for those that followed. Marina and Bridget Stricker soon followed and demonstrated their ability to impress with their duet of "Can't Help Falling in Love." To take the tone of the audience's mood in an entirely different direction Angelina Witkowski cast a sad undertone upon the audience as they listened to her sing "Sad Song."

Shelby Kook and Leyla Rusan subsequently came and performed their well executed unique dance to a song by their beloved band, BTS.

After them came Olivia Fila who independently gave the crowd more of what they wanted in her dance.

The show was then wrapped with the musical stylings of Alexis Thanopolous and Maya Zielinski's well done piano duet followed by Angela Rolon's ukulele performance.

I found all the performances to be much better than I had expected and personally cannot determine a favorite. It seems that almost everyone I've asked has a different favorite performance and those who do have the same favorite performance liked it for different reasons. I find this to be demonstrative of how well done all the acts were. Ms. Wall and Ms. Bradway really put together a wonderful little thing this year!



Angela Rolon performs at the 2017 Variety Show

For videos and pictures of the 2017 Variety Show, visit firebirdfeed.weebly.com

Opinion

Sports for Everyone

By: Grace Ko

It is no doubt that gender inequality has been an issue in society since the beginning of time, especially when it came to sports. Whether it was the discrimination of either gender not being able to play certain sports, or men and women facing stereotyping because of social norms, it still exists around the world today. For example, women who play football or who box are perceived as rather absurd, and the same goes for men who want to do cheer or gymnastics. Whatever the case is, it is apparent everywhere, even at our school.

There are many talented athletes, regardless of their gender, at our school, and some even wish to be in sports teams that are reserved for the opposite gender.

I believe boys should have the opportunity to join the spirit squad whether they perform with the girls or not, and girls should be able to play alongside and join the boys' sports teams for very capable athletes wanting a challenge. In my opinion, by letting boys try out for spirit squad, this will not only raise awareness about gender equality, it may also make watching these games/performances more interesting. I have no doubt that there are boys wanting to join, but too afraid to speak up. Imagine more of the dance routines that can be made with a guy on the team!

"As the years progress, our society has been more accepting of both genders, and spirit squad is a combination of both cheer and dance which means it can be easily performed by either gender regardless of body shape," says Natalie Dimov, a former member of the spirit squad.

On the other spectrum, we have very gifted girl athletes wanting to try out for the boys' soccer, basketball, or volleyball teams rather than the girls'. In my opinion, the school should not restrict these special players' abilities. I know plenty that could match the abilities of the guys! I know I would definitely come more often to the home games if there was a member of the opposite gender playing/performing.

In our world today, we are more exposed to a variety of sports played by both genders equally, and this inspires more Friendship peers to jump out of their comfort zone to try new activities. Don't be afraid to try any sport that interests you regardless!



Firebird Fine Arts

Sounds of Music

By: Cecelia Witkowski

As stated in the first *Firebird Feed* issue, Voices of Change is a group of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students whose goal is to entertain their audience and inspire them to get into music. At the end of February, they toured two nursing homes named Sunrise and Asbury Court, as well as the Frost, Brentwood, and Devonshire Elementary schools.

At the tour, there was multiple small groups who sang solos and duets. This group sang many songs, including a new hit from Israel. Songs included "Riptide," (with their very own ukulele chords), "The Power of One," "Standing in the Light of Love," "Go Cubs Go," and "Unwritten."

Conducted by Ms. Willner, Mrs. Zolmierski, and Ms. Peace, the VoC entertained all audience members. Mrs. Z

stated, "the elderly listeners tried to sing along, even though they didn't know the words," and they clapped their hands with joy. Eighth grader Lexie Mahoney expressed how her favorite part "was talking to the residents of the first nursing home. I got to talk to this man who told us different stories about World War 2." Fellow performer, Francis Encina, verbalized that "performing for an audience other than our parents and peers was exciting and new." The VoC hopes to continue bringing joy to their audience members in the future.



VoC perform at Sunrise Court nursing home.
Photo Credits: Mia Rondoni

Hydration Station, cont'd

The hydration stations have been installed near the small gym and in the 300 hallways and have been getting a lot of use by our students and staff. The stations track the number of water bottles saved and I personally hope that we can get that number in the thousands before the end of the year.

This school improvement is exciting because it is the first step to making the earth better. We have all read about climate change at least once in this school. If we just acknowledge the problem but not do anything about it, that makes us just as wrong as the people who contributed to the carbon dioxide in the air. One school may not seem like a lot, but when many small actions come together, it forms one giant solution.

School Lunch, cont'd...

the cafeteria. The lunch ladies then portion out and finish preparing the food by 4th period.

So what flaws is our district hoping to fix for next year? Ms. Fisher expressed the district's desire to find or build a kitchen closer to our district schools so the food is fresher and easier to distribute. The district wants students to know that they genuinely care about what students eat for lunch, but it "is truly not in their hands," said Ms. Fisher, as the government has many strict policies. Some students complain about how the district has taken away the Subway and Pizza Hut from previous years, but according to the government, these company's don't follow the guidelines and honestly there's not much that can be done to keep our favorite fast food meals.

For now, students, there's not much can be done to address your complaints, but hang tight and be thankful that a school lunch is even provided, since many surrounding districts don't have one. Oh! And try the ever-popular waffles and tater-tots...they're actually pretty good!

Firebird Halftime Report

Friendly Competition

By: Danielle Jasinski

At Friendship, there are a variety of sports that students can participate in after school. Many sports require tryouts, but from the most capable of athletes to first timers, any student can participate in intramurals. Intramurals is a recreational sport that is not competitive between schools but still poses competition for those who participate.

In the past, boys have outnumbered the amount of girl participants. "For girls we usually have around forty and boys we have a little under a hundred," says Ms. Watterlohn, an organizer for the sport. This recreational sport gives students a chance to compete alongside one or two friends of their choice, and students have a chance to play many different sports without a long-term commitment. Even though it is only competition between students at our school, records are kept of the games so a

championship game can be held, also.

Ms. Watterlohn wants to make changes, and she says, "This year we had the opportunity to let the girls intramurals play in the big gym, and I would love to have boys play in the big gym as well since they love to do that on a full sized court." This will give both girls and boys a chance to play as if they are a team competing against other schools.

Currently, sixth grade girls and boys can participate in basketball while all students can participate on the volleyball court. In the spring, girls will have a chance to take the field and play competitive games of soccer with their friends. Throughout FJHS, students of all grades enjoy the variety of activities that intramurals offers.



Ask Freddie

Dear Freddie,

I keep having nightmares. What can I do?

Sincerely,
Restless Sleeper

Dear Restless Sleeper,

Try going to bed earlier. Sleep is one of the most important parts to have a good day. A sleep mask is another route to try and make your room a little darker. Play Soothing music before you go to bed to calm yourself down and have a better night sleep. If the same nightmares are recurring talk to someone for help and to let it out, it's better to share then keep something in you when it gives you nightmares! Good Luck!

Sincerely,
Freddie

Need a problem solved? Submit @ [firebirdfeed.weebly.com!](mailto:firebirdfeed.weebly.com)

Lit Lit(erature)

Nightmare

By: Kathy Graves

When sleepless nights do conquer midnight hours
And seconds turn to minutes, hours, days,
One finds a moment withering as do flowers,
And time stills e'en itself awaiting day.

For night is home to all imagination
As a world of darkness penetrates our minds;
A single thought could trigger immigration
Of every dark and mangled tale in time.

Throughout these fantasies, one theme prevails;
The theme that Death Himself will claim one's soul,
And though this thought will never be derailed,
Death's brother gives us rest through hands ice cold.

So even when Death claims us through his kin,
We shan't fear more these tales of nightly sins.



Drawing by Utsa Bhattacharyya

Freddie's Burning History

By: Natalie Dimov and Aiyanna Hudson

Freddie the Firebird has been known as the supportive mascot for all of our school's competitive sports for the past 44 years, but what lies behind the history of Freddie? The Firebird, or phoenix, has made its way into the mythology of numerous countries over the centuries. On February 27th, 2017, the Tibetans started celebrating their lunar new year. The celebration extends over a course of several days, and this year, the chosen animal is the firebird.

As some may or may not know, the firebird is a self-rejuvenating bird that reincarnates by burning itself up. It is an immortal animal that rises from its ashes.

Tibetan astrology suggests that this year, we'll be in for "quite a ride." The firebird emphasizes many qualities for this lunar year. These qualities include precision, idealism, intelligence, self-confidence, and much more. The firebird is a symbol of rebirth and sar, meaning new and fresh. Hopefully, the firebird will make this year an enjoyable one. Research gathered from <http://themindunleashed.com/2017/02/tibetan-new-year-firebird-rises.html>

Pet Store Slaughter

By: Ryan Allegretti (with help from George Kouvelis)

Henry the Hamster was loving the party. He had always liked the pet store he lived in, but it usually got boring after the first hour of being open. That's why all the animals hung out before and after store hours. They were all at the weekly pet party in the bird cage and all having the time of their lives. There were drinks, snacks, and games, including Henry's favorite, Twister. Henry had spent the night dancing, eating, and beating Frank the Frog at Twister (again).

Henry was a fun guy. Of course, some people didn't particularly like him, but most people wanted to hang out with him. He could tell funny jokes, he was really good at a lot of games, and he was accepting of different people. And he was really cute when he nibbled on his food. That's why everyone was shocked when he was dead the next morning.

News of Henry's death spread like wildfire. By 1:00 AM, everyone had heard about it. The police pets had come by to check it out, but they couldn't find any evidence of who the murderer was. Still, everyone knew, someone had killed him. Henry was young and healthy, so there was no reason for him to die of natural causes.

Assistant Detective Whiskers the Cat of the Pet Police Department was called in to do a thorough investigation of the crime scene. He started with the obvious. Henry was lying face down on the floor in the middle of his cage. Whiskers had seen this scenario hundreds of times, but it still made him feel uncomfortable. Henry was stabbed in the back multiple times with a toothpick, meaning he was attacked from behind. He decided to do the obvious and interrogate the host of the pet party, Patricia the Parakeet...

**Finish the story and uncover the murder at
[firebirdfeed.weebly.com!](http://firebirdfeed.weebly.com/)**

2-Minute Deep Dish Cookie

By: Natalie Dimov



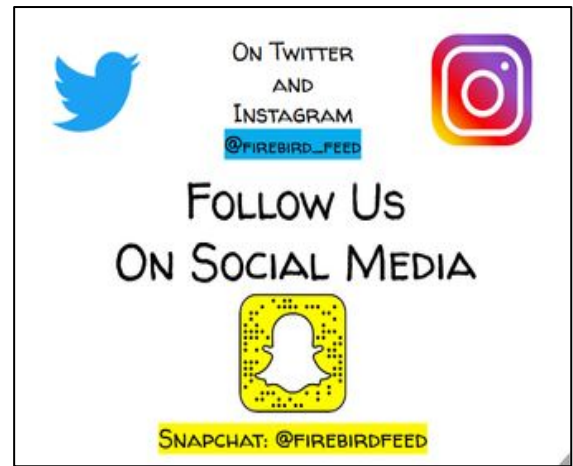
Materials:

1 tbsp. melted butter
1 tbsp. white sugar
1 tbsp. brown sugar
3 drops of vanilla extract
A pinch of salt
1 egg yolk (no egg whites)
¼ cup of flour
2 tbsp. of chocolate chips
Cup or small bowl

Directions:

1. Mix the butter, brown sugar, white sugar, vanilla, and egg yolk in a small bowl.
2. Add the flour and salt.
3. Mix until combined.
4. Add chocolate chips.
5. Place the batter in a small cup or microwavable bowl.
6. Microwave for 40-60 seconds.
7. Let it cool.
8. Enjoy!

Tired of the never-ending pile of schoolwork and studying? Want a short and sweet break? This easy deep dish cookie recipe is perfect for a small and relaxing treat!



Firebird Favorites

A Dog's Purpose: Book VS. Movie

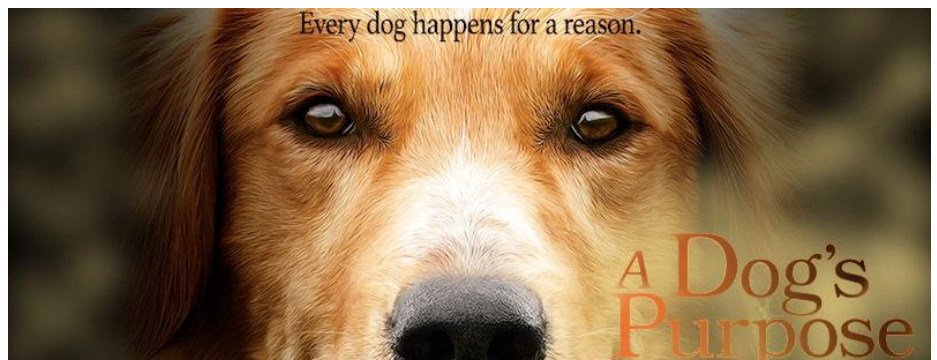
By: Brayden Bobowski

A Dog's Purpose, the novel, by W. Bruce Cameron is a heartfelt story of a dog and the many lives that he touches. In each one of his lives, he learns an important life lesson that eventually completes his purpose. All of the characters can bring a smile to your face when they are happy and make you burst into tears when they are in the dumps. The complex emotions that go on in the human world are shown through the eyes of a dog as he tries to understand and love people. Whether he is Toby, Fella, Bailey, Ellie, Bear, or Buddy, this dog saves the lives of many by caring for them and being a man's best friend.

A Dog's Purpose, directed by Lasse Hallström, is an emotion-packed movie of man's furry friend and the people he changes for the better. He becomes his owner, Ethan's, best childhood friend and

go-to wing man through his crazy teenage years. Later, he learns to become a search and rescue K-9 as Ellie for the police, and he gives his life for his owner. After his tragic death as Ellie, he is brought into a warm and loving family again with his new life as Tino. He brings his young owner away from her lonely life and helps her find her true love. In his last life, he is abused and abandoned by his lazy owners, but he finds joy again as he is reunited with his former owner Ethan. Throughout his lives, he models the perfect person by showing immense happiness no matter the situation.

While I loved both the movie and the book, I would recommend the book over the movie without a doubt. I enjoyed the in-depth word choice and funny comments about society that were included in the book. The many jokes, included in both, bring a light and happy mood toward the story. This story is definitely for any animal lovers that enjoy looking at things from a different perspective. In order to experience the story in its fullest, I would read the book and then watch the movie in order to receive both the intelligent story and the vivid lives of the characters.



Social Experiment Corner

Stop the Fight; Do What's Right

By: Alina Paul and Xiomara Myles

Since elementary school we've been taught about what being a bystander is and not to be one; instead when you see something bad happening you should help those in need, tell a teacher, and/or stand up for what's right. The *Firebird Feed* thought we would put this to the test with this month's social experiment.

Our staff decided to observe how people would react to a fight in the school hallway. On Tuesday, March 7, Julia Filipowska and Alysa Cobb, members of our *Firebird Feed* staff, were stationed to "fight" in front of room 209. They laid the foundation for the fight by writing mean posts the day before on their Snapchat stories to make it sound like they were angry at each other (like so many teens today do). Then at 7:40 AM, they made their ways to the designated location. Julia went to the hallway a couple minutes before Alysa and started ranting about her, "She's so immature! She doesn't know how to deal with her own problems and all she does is talk about me behind my back." A crowd formed even before the fight happened.

Did the bystanders do the "right thing?"

Right away, a student said, "Just fight her already," and another student yelled "Ohhh...fight! Fight! Fight!" to which many people chimed in and started chanting. Many people mocked the girls or recorded the fight on their phones. We also noticed that a group of boys were teasing them, and when Alysa walked through the group to get to Julia, a boy yelled, "White girls!" **No one tried to interfere or stand up against the fight.** In fact, witnesses said that two boys

were pounding on the ground, encouraging the fight.

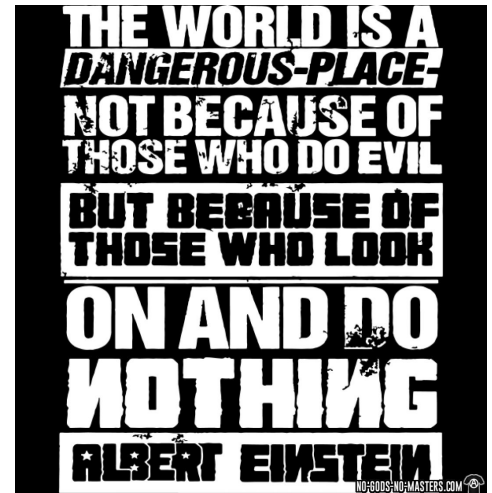
Did anyone do the "right thing?" Right off the bat, while Julia was ranting, one of her friends came up to her and said, "Take it down a couple of notches; I don't want you to get into trouble." We also observed two girls who were questioning whether or not to help, but were afraid to step up.

After the fight there was laughter from most of the crowd, and others seemed confused or



disappointed that the fight was over. Along with laughter, there were rude and insane comments thrown at the girls. One comment stood out when someone yelled, "That's so gay!" The *Firebird Feed* recommends that whoever yelled this see his or her language arts teacher for a vocabulary lesson since there was nothing homosexual or happy about what had transpired in the hallway. They might also want to ask their teacher to define the word "ignorant" for them.

Standing up can make all the difference, and you should do what's right when you see a fight.



Do you have a photo or drawing you'd like featured in the *Feed*?
Email it to [firebirdfeed@ccsd59.org!](mailto:firebirdfeed@ccsd59.org)



Drawing by Faith Reyes

Firebird Interviews

Getting to Know: Mrs. Wing

By: Nancy Cano

Mrs. Wing, or Annmarie Wing, is a 8th grade social studies teacher at our school and a mother of two daughters. But is that really all she is? Let's find out in this interview that was conducted on Tuesday, February 13, 2017.

What's the strangest dream you've had?

"I don't even know if I remember my dreams. I think like scary dreams like something bad happens to my kids. I've waken up and I've been upset. I guess that's the kinda stuff that's happened. Or I have my recurring teacher dream where I- this happens to every teacher every year- where it's the beginning of the school year and the students aren't listening to me, and I'm screaming and yelling. And they don't listen to what I have to say. I don't like it."



Photo Credits: Nancy Cano

What was your life like as a child? What is your family like?

"I think it was pretty simplistic. I mean nothing like crazy. My parents didn't have a lot of money, and I lived in a house with mom and dad, and my younger brother. My younger brother's name is John. We used to fight all the time when we were kids, and we used to build walls of cereal boxes around us so we wouldn't see each other. Now he and I are close. I had a pretty happy childhood, I had a family who loved me- we didn't have a lot of money, but we were happy. The biggest vacation was when we went to Wisconsin. There are lot of fun memories with my family."

Why is Mr. Bromley's picture on the wall?

She claims, "He is my grandpa. My Pops."

Is Mr. Bromley really her pops? Who knows. Thanks to Mrs. Wing for letting us get to know her a little better.

Friendship Funny Bone

Q: Why are grapes the worst shopping companions?

A: Because they're always wine-ing!

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?

A: Envelope

Q: Larry's mother had four children. Three were named North, South and West. What was her other child's name? East?

A: No. Larry.

Q: What happens when you put nutella on salmon?

A: You get salmonella.



When my friend told me to stop impersonating a flamingo, I had to put my foot down.

A mother mouse and a baby mouse are walking along when suddenly a cat attacks them. The mother mouse shouts "BARK!" and the cat runs away. "See?" the mother mouse says to her baby. "Now do you see why it's important to learn a foreign language?"



Friendship Puzzler

Firebird is the Word

B B U K S É E F F O J F F D N
Z W U B S U I E U V F J C F C
R A S O Y R K C Z E N H W S P
R H P K E F O Z E R P S D X N
J X Y B F O O F D W L Y O Q E
E D I D X V C O A A W M D Z L
T R R U R U G Y Y T M N U K G
D V Y A X A L G R C I A Y K W
X L Z D M B T A G H W X U X L
Y T E I R A V I U Q N O L A K
V M U M M Y B H O T N Y P H W
E J A X L O N G F N R X R Q S
V S A E T O G O R Q N I M Z Y
N H P E M L E M T G X Z V M S
F R I E N D S H I P Z X N N D

COOKIE
EXPOSÉ
FRIENDSHIP
OVERWATCH

DOG
FIREBIRD
HYDRATION
VARIETY

DRAMA
FJHS
MUMMY
VIRTUAL

Reader Review: Silent Hill

By: Xandria Pedota

A masterpiece of a game. An astounding horror filled classic that will really scare you. This game was first released in 1999 for the Ps1, and then continued on to other gaming platforms later on. *Silent Hill* uses a 3rd person view, and although it's not first person, it can still really send shivers down your spine. It is not a jumpscare induced game like *FNAF*, *Outlast*, and many other popular horror games. Once you start digging deep into the game's lore and its history, and then play the game, the atmosphere of the game becomes VERY unsettling.

When playing the game (because I played it a couple months ago). I already knew the lore, and oh boy I feared for my life. The game was actually terrifying, especially for a game that's 19 years old and counting! The game's graphics are of course, kind of bad, but it's an old game,



and graphics don't mean everything. Not going to lie, this game was actually better than a couple of other modern horror games I've played! It was better than *Through The Woods*, *Thumper*, and *DOOM* (story-wise, of course). I would probably recommend this game to people who like a decent storyline, mind trickery, and good scares all around! I feel like this game is for people who've had experience with horror games like this before, but if you haven't had experience with mind-numbing deception, and creepy horror games like this, and you still want to play *Silent Hill* (or watch it on YouTube), then go ahead, be my guest. That's my review on *Silent Hill*! Amazing game all in all, and a beautiful horror classic.

Check the Gamer's Guide page on www.firebirdfeed.weebly.com for more reviews!

Our staff surveyed 100 random people in the hallway and asked them:

Reeses or Skittles?



38

62



What's your favorite social media?

Vote now on

[firebirdfeed.weebly.com!](http://firebirdfeed.weebly.com)



Fierce Fashion

By: Nikki Kaminski

Spring is right around the corner, and there's no better way to celebrate it than to wear spring-perfect clothes. For some people, spring clothes simply means bringing out their jeans and hoodies without having to cover them up with a heavy winter jacket. Others, especially girls, like to head to the mall to splurge on some new outfits. Last spring featured girls sporting short shorts with a cute flannel tied around their waists, but this year's styles include some new, fresh looks.

Here are the top three fashion trends for Spring 2017:

Rompers

Rompers are great in so many ways. They're both cute and comfortable. This romper from the Kylie and Kendall collaboration with Pacsun is a great example:



Kendall & Kylie
Off-The-Shoulder Romper:
\$39.95 (PacSun)

Maxi-Dresses

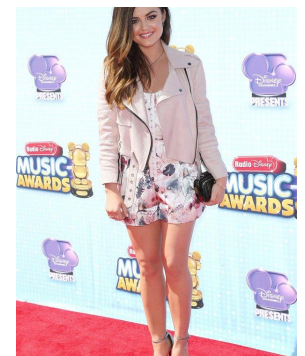
Maxi-dresses are amazing to wear in the spring. They're flowy, comfortable, and innocent, everything that describes the season:



Juniors Lily Rose Crocheted
Maxi Dress: \$29.99
(Kohl's)

Pastels

Lately, pastel colors have been the trend. The light, pale colors, such as lilac and baby blue, are perfect for the spring climate:



Faux Leather Bomber Jacket
Nude: \$27
(www.missguidedus.com)

'Bird Box!

Interviewed by:
Deanna Al Dakka

Tyler Bobowski-6th

Bridget Stricker-7th

Prasant Kafle-8th



If you could live in any book or movie world, what would it be?	<i>Eragon</i>	<i>Harry Potter</i>	<i>Percy Jackson</i>
Which is better - Tacos or Pizza?	Tacos	Pizza	Tacos
What's worse - being late to class or being unprepared?	Late	Unprepared	Unprepared

Are You My Mummy?

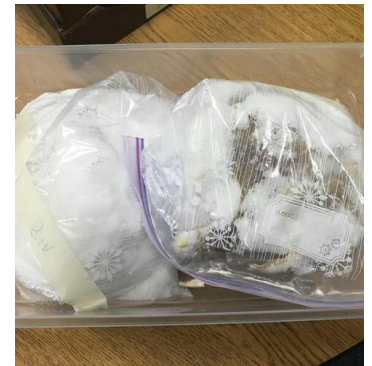
By: Georgeena Mathai

Mummifying a chicken... Who woulda thought? In Mrs. Ferguson's 6th grade social studies class, they're doing *just that*. The reason? Ancient Egypt.

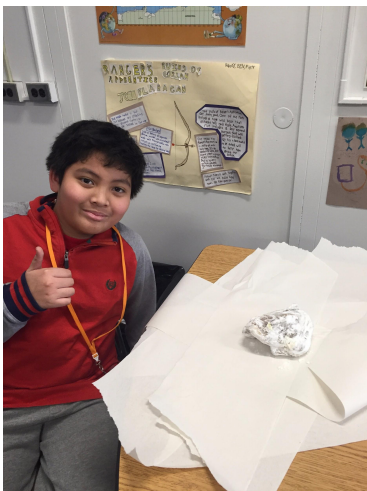
For a while now, 6th grade has been learning about ancient Egypt and the mummifying ritual when pharaohs passed away. They believed that if your body looked good when you were living, that's how you would look in the afterlife. For a fun, hands-on project, Mrs. Ferguson's social studies classes are mummifying a real, but raw, chicken!

"We're basically trying to follow the exact steps on what the ancient Egyptians did with our Chickens," says Mrs. Ferguson. "So we got two raw chickens- actually they're cornish game hens- and we're salting them. We're on about day 25 and every ten days, you have to put new salt and baking soda in the bag with the chickens because we're basically trying to dry them out."

After forty days, they're planning to wrap the chickens in linen just like how the Egyptians would wrap their mummies. Some students want to bury it but they're not sure how the school would react if they saw a giant hole in the middle of the schoolground!



A close up of the mummified chicken
Photo Credits: Georgeena Mathai



6th grader Benny poses with the mummified chicken.
Photo Credits: Mrs. Ferguson

"I'm hoping they can see how the ancient Egyptians lived. We're trying to go back and have them see how it was really like in ancient Egypt" she continued. The class will also be taking a field trip in April to the Field Museum in Chicago to see the mummies there!

Egypt's mummifying ritual has always been a very interesting study and the sarcophaguses found have definitely attracted us! For the most part, Mrs. Ferguson and the class's chickens have been evolving well so we hope that replicating the ancient tradition can bring about a fun learning experience!

Happy St. Patrick's Day from the staff of the *Firebird Feed!*

