**Sit! Shake! Box!**

**By Kaden Aboul-hosn**

Have you ever seen a professional boxer strike? Have you ever wondered if a dog could do that? Well, some can! The boxer dog, cleverly named after the way they hold their front paws, are some of the best pets you can get! Dogs in general are dubbed “man’s best friend,” and for a good reason. Humans and canines have been working together for approximately 2.5 million years! Boxers are the best of them, though. They are highly intelligent and easy to train, so they can be great family dogs. In addition, Boxers also have short, shiny coats and don’t shed much. Their coats can be a light yellowish brown (fawn), or streaked light and dark brown with white markings (brindle). These dogs have abundant energy and are very strong, too. They are also patient, unafraid, and always alert-- yet another reason to keep one as a pet. With all these reasons, why aren’t you getting a boxer already?

**SPLASH!**

**By Isabella Caruana**

**“SPLASH!”** A water park is not anything like your pool at home, **but** awater park pool is 10 times bigger! Some water parks have slides, but the Volcano Bay water park in Orlando, Florida has something special… a volcano! While most volcanoes have magma inside of them, the Volcano Bay volcano has water slides and a waterfall. Inside of the dark volcano, you can see glowing lights and smoke as you slide down the fast water slide into the wave pool. That’s not all… there is also a steep water slide that is made for water slide enthusiasts. This slide at Volcano Bay is not anything like a water slide, but like a roller coaster with no **SEATBELT!** You must hold on to a side rope only as the ride goes so fast into the mouth of a dragon! It’s clear to see that water parks are one of the best vacations that you could go on. If you are searching for a water park to visit, I recommend Volcano Bay!

**Goal Town**

**By Nolan DeCosimo**

Soccer is a sport like any other sport. Just one thing is different about soccer... it is the most popular sport in the world! Yes, it has caught the attention of many people, and has caught the emotions and feelings of people. The most fun thing about soccer is the players (in my opinion)! They always are being funny by faking getting hurt for free kicks, or penalty kicks. Soccer has many trophies and awards that teams can earn as champions of tournaments. The first notable award is the Ballon D’OR, which is a special recognition of skills and goals of one player, who receives a trophy made of real gold. Another notable award is the Golden Boot, which is presented each season to the leading goal-scorer. Finally, the most valuable thing in all of soccer: The World Cup! The World Cup is made of pure gold and is won every 4 years. It is the hardest trophy in soccer because you must go through a variety of teams that are not playing around. Soccer is harsh. You can get hurt very badly (injuries). But soccer, like any sport, has good and tough times for players. Although soccer may seem cool to people and exciting and a no rules game, it sure has rules! Some rules are offsides, foul, penalty kick (PK), throw in, corner kick and many more. Now, people may wonder how players know when they have broken a rule. The Referees! Referees make sure the game is going smoothly, calling out those rules when broken. On first practices for some people, you might be getting cold feet (nervous), but after a little while, it will be completely fine because you will be comfortable with your teammates. You can also switch teams if other coaches give you a contract to do so. But with that contract, you get money if you sign it (the amount of money depends on how good you are). Soccer is an incredibly fun sport to play because you get to travel and meet new friends! Everyone should give it a whirl!

**Flamingoes**

**By Aubree Farrell**

To start flamingoes are one of the most unique birds. The first thing that comes to mind when you think about them is their pink feathers. Have you ever wondered why they have pink feathers? Flamingoes get the color of their feathers from the food they eat, one of them is shrimp. The only way flamingoes can eat shrimp or other foods is by turning their head upside down because that is how their body is designed, and it makes it easier for them to eat.

Next, unlike penguins, flamingoes can fly. They happen to be incredibly good flyers and can travel long distances very quickly. Flamingoes usually fly in groups called flamboyances and are social birds. Another fact is that flamingoes can sleep with only one leg but also by laying down.

Lastly, there are six different species of flamingoes which are the Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo Andean Flamingo, Chilean Flamingo, American Flamingo, and the James Flamingo. The greater Flamingo is mostly found in zoos and is the largest flamingo. As you can see flamingoes are one of the most unique and beautiful birds on the planet.

**Winter Vacation**

**By Nicolas Guarnizo**

My favorite vacation is when I went to Colorado to a place in the mountains that has skiing, snowboarding, and lots of snow. I can still remember it like it was yesterday. My family and I were tired from our long day of travel, so we went to bed once we got to Colorado. When I woke up the next morning, I jumped out of bed because I had to go skiing! I didn’t know how to ski yet, so I had to go to ski school to learn. At ski school, I put on my boots in my skis and learned how to go down smaller slopes. After all of my practice, I was ready for some steeper slopes. I was so proud of myself for going down the 1,200-foot slope! When I got back from my day of skiing I said to myself, “I had a GREAT day!”

**Magical Memories**

**By Cami Holthaus**

Roses are red,

violets are blue,

I wish on some stars

and dandelions too!

Family sticks together,

Just like glue.

They are always there

When you are feeling blue.

Family is fantastic,

and so are you.

Special opportunities

To make fun memories

That last the year,

Leaving you smiling from ear to ear.

These are the best moments.

Whether it’s loving or caring,

These are your

Magical memories

With your loved ones

You'll cherish forever!

**The Team of Tampa Bay**

**By Aiden Howard**

The Tampa Bay Lightning has been a professional hockey team that plays in the National Hockey League (NHL). Tampa Bay competes in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference. They have accomplished many things. Including having 3 Stanley Cups, many star players, making it into the playoffs, and having an awesome history! The Lightning have many star players that have been awesome for the team. For example, Nikita Kucherov has had back-to-back 100-point seasons with about 50 goals and 60 assists, which helped the Lightning make it to the playoffs back-to-back seasons in 2020 and 2021. Another outstanding player is Steven Stamkos, in his 12 years with the Tampa Bay Lightning he has put up 5 100-point seasons and won many awards. More players that have helped the Tampa Bay Lightning become the team it is today include, Martin St. Louis, Brad Richards, Tyler Johnson, Vincent Lecavalier, and many more. Over the years the Tampa Bay lightning have also won many awards. Including in the article “Tampa Bay Lightning.” Discovered by World Book, 2024, it states that the “Tampa Bay Lightning started as an expansion team for the 1992-1993 season. They played at Amalie Arena in downtown Tampa. The Lightning had only made the playoffs once until the 2002-2003 season, when it won its division.” The Lightning then won the Stanley Cup in the 2003-2004 season. The Lightning then won its conference title in 2014-2015, but they lost to the Chicago Blackhawks in the Stanley cup finals. The Tampa Bay Lightning didn't get the best record in the Eastern Conference until the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 seasons. In 2020 and 2021, the Lightning won consecutive Stanley Cups. Then the Lightning went on to make the Stanley cup finals again in the 2020-2021 season but lost to the Colorado Avalanche in the 6th game of the 7-game series. All in all, the Tampa Bay Lightning have made many accomplishments in their 30 years in the league, including 3 Stanley cups, many star players, making it to the playoffs, and having an awesome history.

**Manatees in Danger**

**By Grace Janosek**

Manatees are more likely to be killed by people than other types of animals. People kill manatees for food, destroy their habitats to develop land, and accidentally kill them with boats. An article I read called “Manatees: Slowly Slipping Away” states that in the 1500s, Native American tribes known as the Seminole killed manatees for their meat, bones, and oil. The Native Americans carved their bones into pipes and spoons, they also used manatee skin to cover shields and canoes. According to the article “Manatee” Manatees are mainly threatened by overhunting, collisions with boats, and habitat loss. Pollution in the water is another way manatees can die. The pollution spreads and infects the algae and sea grass they eat. When manatees eat the sea grass and algae, they get infected and die. The article “Manatees: Slowly Slipping Away” says tossing plastic bags or soft drink packaging into the water has resulted in manatees swallowing plastic that is caught in the grass they eat. Since manatees cannot digest plastic, it kills them. Manatees also get caught in nets and fishing lines. Serious injuries can occur on the manatee if the material is not unwrapped and removed in time. Some people are in communities that help reduce the death of these big gentle giants by putting up signs in the water that manatees swim in or by making a meeting for people in the communities to make a town meeting to warn others about these deaths. A lot of manatees die every year, and these kind-hearted people are taking time out of their days to help these giants!

**Tackling Time**

**By Benton Kays**

What does sweat, grass, and a brown oval thing all have in common? They are the things included in football. Football is a sport where a brown oval called a football is thrown around and caught. The three things you need to play football are: a field (longer for older players and shorter for younger players), a football, and some friends. Many people play football in the United States it is a lot like rugby but if the ball touches the ground, you must reset the play. When you catch the ball, you must run as fast as you can to the other side of the field. If you get tackled or taken down, then you are “down” at that place. That means you must do another play starting from that position where you were down. When you run into the Endzone or touchdown you receive six points you can go for one or two. If you go for one you try to kick the football through two upright bars and if you make it, you can receive one extra point. If you go for two (which gives you two more points) you start on the 2-yard line and throw the ball or run into the endzone. You have four downs or plays to get a first down the first down is usually ten yards away from where you start. Once you get the first down you have four more downs to get the next first down or touchdown. Football is an incredibly fun sport so if you are thinking of trying something new give football a shot. You will love it.

**No Squirrels to Be Seen**

**By Noa Kate Keene-Schoenbaum**

Listen to the rivers,

you’ll hear the sound

of harmony.

You can see the leaves

fly down that make a wave

for the bugs and the birds.

While above you will see

a squirrel climbing down

an orange and red tree.

The squirrel is trying to make

a feast.

So when the sun rises up,

he’ll wakes from a deep sleep,

and have a feast.

In the cave you will meet

a tired fox waking up from

a deep sleep,

eating his feast.

So when you see the orange

and yellow sun rising from above,

feel the warmth and know,

now it is fall.

**By Gavin Magill**

Baseball has been a sport for about 150 years. Almost all of baseball’s greatest players, or “greats,” come from the New York Yankees, including stars like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Derek Jeter, Aaron Judge, and the list goes on!

The Yankees were able to put up 27 world series and 40 pennants. (The most world series of any team in the MLB) The Yankees started their journey as the New York Highlanders in 1903. Then, in 1913, they became the New York Yankees. The Yankees were able to get a hold of Babe Ruth, and in 1920, the Yankees secured Babe Ruth as their newest player from the Boston Red Sox for $125,000-- this was the most in baseball history (at the time $125,000 was at least $1,000,000 in modern times)! Then in 1923, the Yankees finally beat the Giants in the World Series. In 1928, Babe Ruth broke the single-season homerun record of 60 home runs. After this, another slugger from the Yankees, Roger Maris, broke the record and got 61 homeruns. Yankee slugger, Aaron Judge, came up to the plate and beat the record of 61, with 62 homeruns in a single season. The Yankees last World Series victory was in 2009. The most recent stars for the Yankees include Aaron Judge, Alex Rodriguez, and Gerrit Cole. Of course, there are many more!

**The Best of The Best**

**By Austin Mokhiber**

Baseball is an interesting sport, and it takes a lot to become good at it. Baseball is also a hard sport. And if you want to make it to the big leagues, you need to be determined. Just like any other MLB player. And any athlete that is or has been in the Major Leagues are/ were among “The Best of the Best.” To make it in the MLB, you must have some of the most TALENTED and OUTSTANDING skills.

The professionals in the MLB practice and train almost any time they could, that is why they are “The Best of the Best.” They practice daily on whatever they find difficult to do, until they make it into something that seems easy to them. All baseball players that want to be competitive go through some tough times, but almost all of them push through and do not give up (that is being determined). Baseball players all have fun playing the sport, but some people want to do more than play for fun, they want to play competitively and make it to “The Best of the Best” group- the MLB. Among these “Best of the Best” MLB players are Babe Ruth, Derek Jeter, Gerrit Cole, and Higgoshioka, or Higgie. Due to the self-determination of these players, they made it not only in the MLB, but also on one of the best teams in the MLB: the Yankees.

**Serious Motorsport**

**By Evan Mulcahy**

Next year, in 2025, the 8-time world champion Lewis Hamilton is taking a break from Mercedes and signing for Ferrari, knowing that Ferrari is one of the most daring teams to ever be in Formula 1 (or F1). Formula 1 is an international team auto racing sport. It gets its name from the rules and regulations participants must follow (“formula”) and the “one” represents its spot as the highest level of international motorsport competition. Lewis Hamilton has finished in first place in 103 races, earned 4,647 points, and holds the record for the most World Drivers’ Championships at 7! Only time will tell… we will see if he ends the season in a bang!

**A Terrifying but Awesome Animal**

**By Natalia Peralta Cans**

If you did not already know one of the most terrifying but awesome animals is the famous Grizzly Bears. Most of these powerful bears live in Alaska or in western Canada. Others live in places like Washington Idaho Montana and Wyoming. Adult grizzly bears measure 6-8 feet long. Adult male grizzlies weigh 400-600 pound while the female adult grizzly weighs 250-400. Grizzlies have thick underfur that ranges from tan to almost black. Most of these bears feed on fish, berries, grasses, roots and sometimes even land animals. They are excellent hunters that feed on land animals such as deer and other large mammals. During the summer, the bears eat up to 90 pounds of food per day. In the winter, some grizzly bears sleep in dens while others dig a hole or stay in caves to hibernate. Grizzly bears are aggressive during the winter because they usually give birth during this time and like to protect their cubs and food. Although these bears are very fierce to protect them, and their things, people should not be afraid of them because most of the time they try to avoid humans. If they do attack a human, it would not look too good but this on very rare occasions. Through the years many people have destroyed much of the grizzly bears' habitat for settlements and other purposes. Some people have set up a 1973 act that protects these bears. Now in Alaska these bears are protected, and they live about 20 years in the wild.

**Toads in the Night**

**By Lucas Ranahan Roberts**

Have you seen a frog-like animal in the night? Was it big and chunky? Well, you just saw a toad. Most toads like to avoid sunlight and heat. They are most active at night or on rainy days. There are more than 2,000 species of toads. Toads are carnivorous, which means they eat other bugs and worms. Toads have no teeth, so they hunt with their super long tongues. Toads also have tougher, rougher, and bumpier skin than frogs. You might not see lots of toads in your neighborhood, but just know there could be LOTS! Toads lay about 30,00 eggs at one time. So the next time you go out for a neighborhood stroll, just remember, if you don’t see a toad, you’re just not looking at the right spots or hard enough!

**O’ A Great Beach Day**

**By Mia Roy**

The small waves hit soft in ocean city

While the Seagle's wait up wishing for someone pity

The sun shines hot and bright

With only the dark clouds to give you a seen of night

The sand in between your toes gives you a light tickle

while hearing the waves soft ripple

The spray of the waves gives you a great cool

With the annoying Seagle trying to give you a great fool

You know the trick and make them quit

But they go to the next one to get another treat

O’yeah a great beach day

The waves slow down

And give the kids a frown

The shells come out to lay

So come out and play

With the fading away of summer

O’ yeah, such a bummer

A nice warm day

To stay out and lay

O’yeah, what a great beach day

Self-healing

And a magical feeling

There's a breezy palm kiss

Like a soft salty mist

But the cooling of the sun

Makes it so fun

Much better than a park

But not in the dark

Some people are walking in the sand

But also, hand by hand

If only to find

A truly amazing mind

The dancers are starting to sway

With all the kids all at play

O’yeah what a great beach day

**Kick Back and Relax**

**By Julia Sarkis**

If you are longing to relax and you are always stressed, it is time for you to have a vacation. A vacation will help you relax and not be stressed. First, you will want to choose a vacation you will enjoy and that goes with your vibes. I prefer the Disney Cruise. This cruise that has pools, water slides, ice cream, shows, and Disney characters. It is a very magical place! It would be a dream vacation if you brought your family to enjoy the magic. You may want to look online and find a vacation to enjoy, but I can tell you now that a Disney Cruise is the one for you! Not only would you and your family enjoy it, but you would want to repeat it. So, kick your feet back and relax on a Disney Cruise!

**A Total Smash**

**By Bryce Schroll**

Video games, in my opinion, are awesome. But one series surely stands out whenever I think of a crossover, I think of something that is mainly two or three games or shows combined into one episode. But nothing is like this series, which has six games and over 15 game crossovers. Made by Nintendo, partnered with Sega and the creator of Pac-Man, from 64 to Ultimate, I present to you: The Super Smash Bros Series! It has so many characters that it is basically impossible to count now. It started with only eight characters in 64, and now it has nearly 100 (including additional content/DLC)!

**Soccer**

**By Albion Shurdha**

Soccer is a great sport to play with your friends and have fun! But about 44% of people do not know soccer. Thats about half of the people on earth. And it could suck if you know a sport and your friend does not know the same sport. So, let us get learning.

Combinations and Positions: There are usually 11 people in a team each soccer match playing at once. There are 3 combinations the soccer coaches usually play, the 4-4-2, the 4-5-1, or the 3-4-3 shape. The 4-4-2 team has 4 defenders, 4 mid-fielders, and 2 attackers. The 4-5-1 works the same way. 4 defenders, 5 mid-fielders and 1 attacker. Same as the 3-4-3, 3 defenders, 4 mid-fielders and 3 attackers. It is easy to read these hyphens once you understand it. Defenders guard their team’s goal and do not let the opposing players from scoring. A midfielder played in the center, between the attackers and defenders. Midfielders may play as defense, or they can attack but they mostly stay in the center. An attacker attacks the goal and tries to score. An attacker never defends in the back. Instead, they try to defend it in the front and try to prevent the ball going to midfield or to the defense area. A goalkeeper saves the goals which they can also do with hands too, nice! There are also some wingers who sit at the sides of the soccer field. “They are expected to provide support to forward players, passing and crossing the ball into threatening areas to create goal-scoring opportunities.” (“The Role of the Winger | Jobs in Football”) Some skills are also crucial, and technical ability is key. Your team may lose if someone does not do their job right so be careful!

Basic Rules: There is the most basic rule ever, NO HANDS unless 2 things happen. Firstly, if you are a goalkeeper, you can save the ball with your hands unless your team passes the ball to you, you must kick with your feet. Secondly, if the ball goes out of bounce with the opponent's team kicks the ball out, you can do the throw-in. If you are doing the throw-in, you must have proper technique to do the throw-in. The way I do it is just standing still, putting the ball over your head behind your back and throw it. If you throw it wrong enough times, it will be given to the other team. A handball foul usually awards a free kick or penalty to the opposition, and the player who made the handball can be given a yellow or red card. No pushing is allowed in soccer, but you can do a shoulder-to-shoulder push instead. Charging is a penalty. Pushing is a penalty. But a light push is a foul and bumping into someone is a foul too. There are ways to get yellow and red cards or free-kicks and penalties. I hope you do not do this. It is Unsporting Behaviors that can get you yellow cards. This includes blatant tactical fouls, exaggerated injury fails, taunting opponents, excessive celebration, provoking confrontation, and deliberate handling to stop play. The ways you could get red cards are serious foul play, violent conduct, spitting at an opponent or official, and denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and two yellow cards are one red card. There are not a lot of ways to get a penalty kick in the middle of the game, it is only when awarded for fouls committed by a defending player inside their own penalty area, and the fouled team gets a direct shot at goal from the penalty spot. A free kick occurs when a foul occurs.

Gameplay and Times: You may think soccer is a “First to 5 wins!” or “First to 20 wins!”. No that's not how soccer works. It is a 90-minute game with 45-minute halves. You may think the halves are just to take a break and rest before playing again. That may be true but after the half break, the teams switch sides. And there can be some extra times at tournaments. If 2 teams tie at a tournament, they must do another 45 minutes. If they tie again, they must do another 45 minutes. If they tie again, now they must do penalty kicks. It goes up to 5. They have 5 tries to do penalty kicks. But they do not have to do the whole 5 if they already know that one team or another team is going to win the penalty kicks. For example, S=score and M=miss, let us say that one team has S, S, M., and the other team has M, S, M. If they score and the other team misses, it is not possible for the other team to win. You might be saying, what if they tie on the penalty kicks? They will keep going but now, it is like this: If one team scores and the other team scores, keep going. If one team misses and the other team misses, keep going. But if one team scores and the other team misses, a team wins! What is a yellow card and a red card, you may ask? A yellow card is a reminder that a red card might occur because 2 yellow cards= 1 red card. A red card is when you are out of the game for the rest of the game. You cannot join, just sit there. And if there are enough red cards for people on the same team, it might reach the limit that the game ends and the opposing team wins because your team does not have enough players. Yikes! Soccer shoes are best to improve your gameplay. Soccer shoes have traction and stability features of the shoes guarantee fast movements, cuts and turns for the players. But the shoe is also used for kicking. The touch of the ball and low shoe weight are on the wish list of soccer players. Most important for them, however, is comfort and shoe fitness. (“The influence of soccer shoe design on playing performance: a series of ...”) Soccer socks are also recommended because the ball can hit you other than the shoe, on the leg and hurt you.

Soccer Skills and Practice: Soccer skills are important to go past your opponent's legs with the ball and score! When shooting, aim for the corners, not directly in the middle. It is good to go high too because they may not reach it. Just do not hit the crossbar! There is a thing called dribbling. You can dribble through your opponent and score. If you are not good at dribbling, just pass it to your winger or anyone else open. A 2v1 is always a win for the 2 people. If you are a defender and there is nobody open except the goalkeeper, DON’T PASS IT TO YOUR GOALKEEPER! Some attackers may crowd and steal the ball and guess what? They can score because they are close to the goal. So just pass it up randomly, just not to the opponents. Maybe kick it up. If they do get it, just get ready for your defense. Here is a thing when your team has the ball, open, pass and score. But if your team does not have the ball, contract, and defend. If you do a good defense, they cannot get past you. Also, when your opponent gets the ball, block all passes from your opponents. If they try to pass through you, you can get the ball and now go. Try to make a powerful shot to the goal, if possible, it is fine if you stay close BUT if you go too close and try to shoot the goalkeeper can grab it. How to practice is everyone can form a circle and 1 person is in the middle, the person in the middle will try to grab the ball. Do not move, just pass the ball around. This could be a helpful way to pass. You can also try trying to score at low distances and every time you score, you move back an inch or so. If you miss you stay at the same spot. This can help build power. Try to fake by going in one direction then switching to another direction. This is called a fake. If a ball goes in one another's legs, it is called a meg. So, I hope you win!

**The Wonderful Wind**

**By Lucy Spencer**

The wind whistles in my ears,

dances around my head,

and throws leaves up in the air,

so that they swirl and twirl.

The wind is playful.

The wind is like a hyper toddler,

where at times it gets its way,

whether in a thunderstorm or a hurricane,

the wind will change its temper from mild to extremely dangerous in a minute.

But sometimes the wind is like a blooming flower,

calm and peaceful,

a nice breeze blowing by.

The wind has lots of different feelings.

The wind is our friend one way or another,

whether you think it or not,

the wind is our friend.

**Field Day**

**By Lauren Western**

Field day is a fun class activity that we get to do every year. You get to spend time with friends, compete with others and most of all... HAVE FUN! It is not about winning (unless...), it’s about learning to be a perfect teammate to others. Field day is the best day to meet new friends and learn about them. Field day is also full of entertainment and is an enjoyable time to explore all the fun activities there is to see. The most important thing is the popularity at all the games and the popsicles at the end. Field day also allows kids to teach others how to do the activities. You also get to be taught by your peers. The first hour of field day is individual games, and the final hour is class team competitive games. There are all sorts of things like Tug-of-War, Water Balloons, and Fill-the-Bucket. These games can make you your friends laugh together, and there’s always a chance they will make YOU a winner!

**Shopping at School!**

**By Blake Wright**

We’ve all been to at least one book fair or winter shopping event at our school, right? If you haven’t, then let me tell you how it works. At the book fair, you can use either E-Money or physical money to look around for things you want to buy. You can usually find books, pens/pencils, cool erasers, fidgets, and more. Most of the time the items for sale at the book fair are pretty awesome! Sometimes they have cool things that are more on the expensive side, too.

If you're getting some of the items I mentioned (aside from the books), they are typically around three to ten dollars. The books can range from around seven dollars to twenty dollars. Personally, I think any book costing fifteen dollars or more is expensive, especially if it's shorter than 100 pages. Another reason why book fairs are cool is cause the book fair is a great place to buy books without having to go to the library!

In conclusion, I’d say shopping at a school fair is a cool way to spend your money at school without having to go somewhere (other than school!)