**Icon the Dog**

**By Vinny Alldaffer**

How many commands does your dog know? Two, three, maybe four? My dog, Icon, knows 45 commands! I think he is the best dog ever because he is kind, loving, and very nice to everyone he meets. We are the perfect match because we love each other. I got Icon from Canine Companions, which is a special organization for service dogs. Service dogs help people that have disabilities, and seizures like me. Not only has Icon been through training, but so have we! We had to learn how to bond with Icon so that he knows us and follows our commands. Icon is a special dog and I am glad that he is mine.

**Basketball**

**By Ezekiel Archuleta**

What is the best sport in the world? Baseball? Soccer? Golf? If you ask me, it’s basketball. Basketball is fun and entertaining and has some of the best athletes in the world. Have you ever heard of Kobe Bryant? He was the best basketball player of all time and is honored to this day. Currently, one of the best players is Stephen Curry. He was the best 3-point shooter in 2023! In the same year, he had 1,148 total points, which is a world record in basketball. Another outstanding basketball player is Kevin Durant. He has the best handling in basketball and is known for his insane jump shots. Maybe one day, you will see my name shining brightly in the Hall of Fame with these Allstars of basketball.

The Goonies

By Grady Bouchard

The Goonies is the best movie because the plot is great, and the characters are also amazing. If you have ever watched the movie, you might agree with me. First, is the start, when Mikey (the main character) and his brother and his friends go to his father's attic with no one home. They find an old map, but it's in Spanish, so they can't read it. Luckily, Mouth (Mikeys friend) can, and it says there's treasure if you follow the map, so that’s what they did. The “Goonies” are Mikey, Brandon, Data, Stef, Andy, Mouth, and Chunks. When the Goonies get on their bikes and follow the map, they find an old, empty restaurant. On the map, it shows the restaurant is the entrance to the treasure of One-Eyed Willy (a dead pirate). So, of course, they went in… and it was a creepy place. Once they walked in, they saw three people: Mama, Jake, and Francis Fratelli. They were suspicious people. When the Fratelli's went in the kitchen, the Goonies had other plans. They went down a vent, but Chunks could not fit, so the Fratelli's caught him, kept him, and brought him to Sloth. Although Sloth looks like a creepy guy, he is very friendly, and Chunks becomes friends with him. Meanwhile, the Goonies are down in the pipes and find the entrance to the treasure, but the Fratelli's know where they are because Chunks got forced to tell them. Eventually, they slide down a waterslide from the caves to the pirate ship where all the treasure is. The Fratelli’s find them, and a fight erupts. Just then, Chunks and Sloth swing in from a rope and help the Goonies fight them for the treasure. Ultimately, the Goonies won the battle, took the treasure, and escaped through a hole in the cave. The kids reunite with their families, and everyone lives a happy and “Goonie” life. Clearly, the Goonies faced many obstacles, but with teamwork and preparedness, they managed to survive. If you are looking for a story of friendship that’s full of adventure, then you should definitely watch the movie “The Goonies!”

**A Lab is a Handful**

**By Liliana Catanese**

Which animal has four legs, a tail, paws, and a goofy personality? If you guessed a dog, you are correct! On day, my dad said he had a surprise for me and my two younger brothers. He asked us what the surprise was. I immediately guessed it was a dog, and I was correct! My mom was standing in the doorway holding the cutest puppy in the world! We named him Buddy and were all so excited to welcome him into our family. At first, he ran into the walls and did not know where he was going. He was very tiny. I held him and he slept on me. That was the best feeling ever, however I did not like that he bit me. Buddy is a yellow lab and is now four months old, which means he is still a puppy that gets crazy. In the morning, he is the craziest. Buddy has taught me that pets are hard work and require lots of care. You need to walk and play with a puppy constantly. This is why I go on many walks with the puppy, Buddy. These walks help Buddy get his energy out. Another way Buddy gets his energy out is by enjoying time in the swimming pool. In addition, Buddy also needs a variety of toys to chew on to keep him busy. As Buddy has grown over the past few months, we have bought him several new toys. Not only does Buddy play with all his toys, but he loves playing with his friends in the neighborhood—Pheobe, Mac, and the twin labs down the street. When Buddy is not playing, he loves to eat. Some of his favorite snacks are carrots, apples, and blueberries. We take care of Buddy by making sure he has enough play time, eats healthy foods, and stays clean by being bathed every other day (he gets dirty fast!). All in all, puppies are fun but need lots of care and love. Dogs are very lovable creatures, especially my dog, Buddy!

Elephants Are So Cool!

By Fletcher Coughlan

Elephants are the best animals! Elephants have a life span of up to 85 years. They have thick skin that can be as thick 4 inches and big, floppy ears that they use to cool their body. Elephant's tusks can grow anywhere from 3 to 6 feet in length. Elephants are large mammals. The largest Elephant was recorded at 12 feet tall! There are multiple types of Elephants in the world: African, African Bush, African Plans, Indian, and Asian. Elephants are such cool animals!

**MURPHY**

**By Teagan Flood**

The day that I met Murphy, I knew that he was the one. Murphy is the dog I love... The dog I care for... The dog that loves me when I am sad, anxious, or mad... The BEST dog in the world! Murphy is the best dog I could ever wish for because he comes upstairs to check on me and cuddle with me in the middle of the night. I could cuddle with him all day! I love when Murphy smiles a little when he is happy or excited and when he does his little tail-wagging walk. Best of all, I love Murphy because he makes me feel happy. I mean it from the bottom of my heart when I say that Murphy is truly the best dog in the world!

**Dogs are the Best Pets!**

**By Bryce Glatczak**

Dogs are the best pets because it’s so much fun playing fetch with them and they're a good pet to hug and snuggle with if you're sad. They're not expensive either, like they don’t need a five-star meal every night. Dogs are so cute, and they will make your day way better. In fact, they will make each day better for years because they live for a long, unlike a goldfish. It’s fun to take dogs on walks because you get to be outside and breathe in the fresh air. Then, when it’s time to go to bed, your furry friend can just crawl up right next to you. Dogs can also learn new tricks like sit, lay down, roll over, and more! By far, dogs are the best pets of all.

**Okapi**

**By Marie Kornilova**

Ever heard of the Okapi? These animals are not widely known about. They weren’t even known about until 1901. Okapis are very hard to find since they have a dark brown coat that blends into their habitat within the Ituri Rainforest in Africa. The many interesting features of the Okapi make them such an interesting mammal. One of the interesting features of Okapis is that they can produce very high sounds that only other Okapis can hear. This could help Okapis communicate without predators knowing. Not only are Okapis unique for their keen sense of hearing, but they are also unique in that they are the only living relative of the Giraffe! They are even called the “Forest Giraffe” and as a relative of the Giraffe, they share many similarities. For instance, they both have long purple tongues containing melanin and little fuzzy horns on the tops of their heads their defense while fighting for females or territory. In addition, both the Okapi and the giraffe have similar face structures and features. They both have to “splay” their legs to drink water, which means to spread out the legs without bending them. Furthermore, their coat lays in many directions, which may sound boring, but this makes them waterproof. Water slides right off with a little shake, keeping them dry and clean. While giraffes are one of the most well-known animals of Africa, it’s time Okapis get some attention. Okapis are truly amazing!

**What Type of Animal is the Platypus?**

**By Louie Lind**

Imagine this: no one knows who you are or what category you fall into as an animal. Well, that is how the platypus feels all the time, so I have decided that I will go on a journey to find out what type of animal the platypus is.

Let us see here… we have a world of animals to choose from, but I will narrow it down to just six classifications: fish, mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. We can first take out the invertebrates because they do not have back bones and the platypus has a backbone. Next (this is going to be a big one), we can eliminate the categories of fish, reptiles, and amphibians because the platypus is warm-blooded. Now we are left with just two categories: birds and mammals. Both boast good reasons to claim the platypus because the platypus has a duckbill, webbed feet, and lays eggs like birds. However, the platypus does have fur, a beaver tail, and feeds milk to its young, like mammals. There is only one true answer, which is that the platypus is a… mammal! Were you expecting this? Now that you’ve read my take on the bizarre creature, the platypus, do you think the platypus could be classified differently?

**Jackie Robinson**

**By Jackson Logan**

Imagine, you are the first African American to get to play in an all-white league. You would be playing though diversity and would have rough times outside of the diamond. Well, Jackie Robinson was able to handle all this, and he showed it after making his first appearance in 1947.

His team was all white until Jackie joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. Many fans booed Jackie while he was in the outfield or up to bat. Even though they were on a team with one another, many players did not want Jackie there either.

Yet, Jackie kept on playing. His skills were shown when he won the most valuable player award, showing just because of his skin color does not mean that he is worse than all the other whites playing against him.

Jackie broke the barrier of black and whites in baseball and other things across the nation. He was a lead role for many people and was inspiring to many young people across the nation.

After leading an illustrious career, shaping the game with his efforts, he officially retired in 1956, then was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame for his amazing life and career. He then passed away 10 years later in 1972.

Jackie is still remembered to this day as one of the most important people in the time of separation of colors. One way he is being remembered is by having people across the MLB wear Jackie’s number, 42. There are also many memorials of Jakie around, not only the nation, but the entire world. Thats because he had one of the biggest impacts on the world, setting up so many events that happen every day of every week now. He is the man who changed the world. He is Jackie Robinson.

**Pets**

**By Maya Markut**

My pet cat is a girl, and her name is Gucha. Gucha is a polish name. She is a three-year-old tabby cat and will be four in a few weeks. Her colors are orange and yellow, with some white on her tail. An interesting fact about Gucha is she was the runt. You are going to say what is runt? A runt is when a kitten is very, very small, and that’s how my cat Gucha was born. This meant she was the smallest kitten in the litter and her brothers and sisters were much bigger kittens. A strange fact is she was the size of a banana, it was so cute. She is kind, helpful and cute. She's helpful when I am sad or upset about things. She comes to snuggle, give kisses and purrs by me. Something funny about Gucha is that she follows me everywhere, like outside and inside. She enjoys playing and sleeping in her cat treehouse. Gucha is the reason I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up. Pets help people love and care for animals.

**Creed the Police Dog**

**By Madison McCoy**

My dog, Creed, is a police dog. Creed is a Dutch Shepard German Shepard mix. He is the sweetest dog you have ever met! Creed always gives me a huge hug when I get home. Not only is he sweet and loving at home, but he is also extremely friendly out in public and enjoys meeting new people! Creed can also do a ton of tricks that he learned when he was a puppy, due to him being a police dog. He loves playing catch and hide-and-seek. Creed is 4 years old now, and he is very energetic! He is a great family dog and an even better work dog! When Creed is not working, he loves taking naps, and playing with me. Creed is the best dog ever; I would not trade him for anything!

**A Journey to Orlando**

**By Antony Mikhael**

One day I went to Orlando with my brother and my dad to watch a soccer game: Juventus versus Real Madrid. I wanted Juventus to win because they are one of my favorite teams. As I looked at the field, I saw both teams sporting their jersey colors. Real Madrid was wearing black, and Juventus was wearing white. When the game began, I couldn’t look away from the field. I was so excited because this was the first professional soccer game I’ve watched in-person! I was nervous that Real Madrid was going to win. It was a very tight game! Ultimately, in the last second, Juventus scored the winning goal! The final score of the game was 3-1. I was so happy that I couldn’t help but brag about my team’s victory in front of my dad and brother because they wanted Real Madrid to win. My dad got a Real Madrid shirt and hat and so did my brother to wear in the game, but I got a Juventus shirt to wear in the game. I even almost got a signed shirt from Real Madrid and Juventus. If I had the signed shirt from both teams, I would be the happiest man alive. But the best part was that I got to see the players-- that was so fun! I got to watch my favorite player, Vinicius Junior.; the best defender of the game, Éder Militão; and the best goalkeeper in the world, Thibaut Courtois. That was the best time of my life!

**Miracle on Ice**

**By Evan Murawski**

The “Miracle on Ice” was one of the most exciting moments in us history. It was a hockey game between the Soviets and Team USA. The soviets were almost impossible to beat at that time. It was a game for the gold medal in the IHL [International Hockey League]. The captain of Team USA was Mike Erizone, and the team was led by Coach Herb Brooks. The game was intense-- goal after goal and play after play. How would team USA win? Arguably, that was the tensest moments in sports history. In the last few seconds of the game, the commentators said something that gave that game its name: “Do you believe in miracles? Yes! Yes!’’ Team USA won the game with a close and intense 4-3 win. This was one of the most exciting moments in U.S. history!

**Spring Poem**

**By Cristina Nuszer**

Spring, were the flowers bloom

pink, teal and purple spring, where the

sun comes out and the grass stands tall

Spring were the bunny's, deer, and birds

sing a perfect little harmony and on March

31st the easter bunny might come on out.

Spring were kids on March 31st morning

wake with joy to go hunting for candy filled

plastic-colored eggs all around the world

that the easter bunny left behind.

Spring the most wonderful time of all but soon

we say bye spring and hello summer but don't

worry spring will come again one day.

**Welcome, Murphy**

**By Willa Perenich**

Imagine that you are adopting a dog and must decide between an Irish Setter or a Poodle. These are two beautiful breeds, which makes this a tough choice… but what if I told you that you could have both without adopting two dogs? Then you would have an Irish Doodle, like my dog, Murphy. Murphy was born on October 13th, and eight weeks later was on a plane with my dad headed to his new home. After two days together, I started to train him. We started with the most basic trick of all: “sit.” Because he learned that so quickly, I would get more complicated with each new trick. After “sit” came “paw.” I would hold my hand out say “paw,” and he would give me his paw. Teaching Murphy to “lay down” didn’t take much hard work at all. Next was the hardest part: “roll over.” He did a good job, and I would give him a treat because each time he got better and better. Since Murphy mastered his first few tricks, it made me think he was ready for a new one. This new trick was “side,” and is used during walks. When I would say “side,” Murphy would come to my side and stays there as we walked. It seems like teaching Murphy these tricks has paid off because even when I don’t give him the command for “side,” he is always there. Irish Doodles are truly loyal and amazing dogs, especially Murphy.

**Mystical Night**

**By Taylor Reinhold**

The night is a very mystical place

With firefly's you chase around the bush and the

Fox you ride through the forest or the wolf that you hide.

Among the trees

unlike the others, you speak with the tide and

The trees are swaying and waving in the breeze.

But when the sun comes up you must say goodbye

When the next night comes you can look up and say hi.

To all the critters and fritters that want play in the moon up

Above who's watching above in the mystical night ahead.

**Cheez-it**

**By Brynn Ruiz**

You swam around,

So calmly in your tank

I was ‘bound

To cry, while you sank

It is hard not to see you,

Swimming ‘round

And doing flips,

And making your fish sound.

A fish as great as you,

Deserved a longer life

It was hard to say goodbye too,

The pain to lose you was as sharp as a knife

We will miss feeding you,

every morning and afternoon

We would have never known,

That you would leave so soon

You could not go for a walk,

You could not talk

But you made us love you,

Very much

You were a great goldfish,

We will miss you though

Forever,

And as we grow.

**Dolphins**

**By Claire Smith**

Have you ever wondered how interesting dolphins are? Dolphins are my favorite animal. First, dolphins are grey and unique in their own way. They live underwater but come out of the water sometimes to get air through their blow hole. If you get lucky, you might be able to see a talented dolphin jump in the air! However, these magnificent creatures make a clicking noise to communicate. These animals give live birth because they are mammals. They are mammals, which means that they are warm blooded! They also have this slimy coat on their skin called blubber. When the ocean is cold, this helps them feel a little warmer. Dolphins are the most amazing animals in the world! They can do amazing things and are incredibly talented!

**A Fall Day**

**By Conrad Stone**

The Fall leaves are falling to

The ground, days are shorter, and

Winter is nigh.

Pumpkins are growing, and leaves

Are of many colors, oh what a

Sight!

Leaves crush beneath your feet

As you walk along the pavement,

The weather is cold, and the

Sun is shining.

**..**

**By Nolan Toomer**

The time is 5:30 a.m. and I am in the car with my family on the way to the airport. I am still half asleep, but when I see the flashing lights of planes taking off and people with license plates from different states, I know that we are close. When we got to the airport, I was so excited! Even though we had so much time, we still went through the baggage claim and security quickly. Finally, we sat down at the gate (the place where we board) at 9:00. We wanted to get something to eat because when we left the house we were in a rush, so my dad went to get us McDonald’s. He ran back to us because our flight was boarding but thankfully, we made it! As we took off, I took a bite of my burger and said bye to home. We were up in the sky at 9:30. Because Vermont is so far, we had to take a connecting flight, which means we had to stop and land along the way. The first stop was New York. When we started to get closer, I could see the bright lights of New York City. Then, when we laned, we ran to catch our next flight but missed it and watched it take off in front of our own eyes. At this point in time, we were stranded so we made a family decision to rent a privet jet. We boarded the jet and made friends with the pilots before taking off. I took a short nap that and when I woke up, I looked out the window and could so much snow as we got closer. Soon, our jet landed, but we had to stay there for a while until our driver picked us up. We drove two hours to the resort we would stay at. By now, it was about 7:00. We were amazed and went to our room because we were also very tired. My dad got some pizza for us and, after eating, we went to bed at 9:00. The next morning, I was the first one awake, but the memory I will never forget was when I opened the blinds to let the sun come in and saw 19 inches of snow falling from the sky.

**Rainfall**

**By Anna White**

Outside I will play and play,

when the sun is looking down all day.

I'll have much, much, fun out in the sun,

but there is a storm cloud,

the rain had just begun.

I really didn’t like the rain,

it always felt like such a pain.

It feels like ages have gone by,

and all I see are storm clouds,

no big blue sky.

Sad, I stay indoors and hide,

because the storm isn’t inside.

Soon I see a bird,

though its wings look shaky,

the bird all alone in the sky.

Finally, I leave the quiet house,

and change out of my brand-new blouse.

It seems weird at first,

even wrong because of the rain,

then I felt as if I might burst.

Outside I will play and play,

even if there is rain that day.

I will have much, much, fun in the rain,

jumping and splashing in puddles.

Suddenly, the rain doesn’t seem like such a pain.