

River Otter Gazette

Issue 1 Volume 1

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Our Special School

Springwater Environmental Science the school has much to teach. Springwater teach the students at an early age the importance of caring for inviting me and for fellow students. We learned about first world problems, with the teacher is not holding back any info. Other schools on about different subjects in with her, but I think spring water is unique and special.



MicroBiology

The microbiology unit was a fun unit to explore. Students were able to take adventures through the body as they learned all about cells. "At first it was hard to teach." said 6th grade teacher, Amanda Schwanz. Dawn Bolotow, the principal of Springwater, said, "I loved the work the students put into the microbiology unit, and The Giver was a fun book to read that unit." During the unit the students made 3D cell models and they each wrote and illustrated their own graphic novels about cells. When I asked the students about how they felt the microbiology unit went, this is how they responded: "The what?" asked Alia. Also Colin responded, "Meh, it was fine." Though students didn't have much to say about the unit, they did put a lot of work into it and even learned a fun rap that they performed in front of the entire school. The microbiology unit was an exciting journey that the students got to share with their families and other Springwater friends.



Newton's Laws

During one our our trimesters we studied physics. Personally this was one of my favorite units. I learned about Newton's Laws by studying how toys work. Newton's First Law says an object at rests stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion. We used hot wheels to demonstrate that the car will keep moving forward until gravity, wind resistance friction stops it. The Second Law says force equals mass times acceleration. The force to move an object must be equal or greater than it's mass to cause the object to move. The third law states every action has an equal and opposite reaction. When a rocket takes off, the fuel from the rocket pushes downward and the rocket goes upwards. . This unit had many fun experiments to Troy says "I really enjoyed when the students work together to create their own experience". We also made a paper roller coaster to demonstrate these laws. I believe the physics unit was enjoyable for all of us.

Rules Change

So here's the story last year we had a sub. Her name was Cincalir. She taught us this game called mafia. Once our class made it to the sixth grade, mafia got banned. So being the genius angel students we are. We pretty much just made the same game... but called it oceans. In Mafia there are four roles. These roles include the Doctor, Sheriff, and multiple Mafia depending on how many people are playing, and multiple innocents also depending on how many people are playing. So instead of calling them doctors we called them the sunlight zone. The sunlight zone is the first layer of the ocean. We picked the Sunlight zone because sunlight is nice and friendly, like a doctor. The sheriff was called McCree because that's the name of a video game character. Well that and we're not very creative. We called the Mafia bathypelagic zone because that zone is dark and so are bloodthirsty killers. We called the innocents, innocents because again the sixth graders aren't creative. So in the end, the game was banned and we created a new version called tide pools.



One scary night

One day these parents dropped of their kids of at an overnight daycare. Right as he got to his room the nanny was looking on the nanny cam all of the cams where static except for room 28. The little boy was skipping around the room with his stuffed animal ,but in the corner there was a figure. The nanny called out ONLY ONE KID IN A ROOM LET YOUR FREIND OUT. but want to play the little boy said. The little boy acted like he did not hear her. The nanny went up stairs.

Honorary River Otter

This school year Amanda had a baby, his name was Jaxson. He was also born in my birthday, January 31st 3:13 Am. Not the same time but the same day. Everyone was exited when they heard the news sadly we had a substitute while Amanda was still in the hospital. We saw Amanda and Jaxson at lunch once and everyone checked out Jaxson was small and he was also asleep. Sadly she had to keep an eye on Jaxson so Amanda couldn't teach until he got a little bit older. We didn't really like are substitute very much. So we were eager to get her back as are teacher. A quote from Gracie was "Jaxson is so cute and adorable he should be in the classroom with us at all times" she said, another quote from Cadence was "He's adorable with his reindeer hat. A quote from Amanda was "Honorary River Otter" she said, by the way river otter is are class name well 5th and 6th grade class name.



What is an inside joke?

This class has many inside jokes. 7 ½, tactical, pineapple fish, and many more. 7 ½ was created by Zachary and Colin working together during math. They found that half the answers were 7½, so they showed the class and it caught on. Tactical is another one. Tactical was created by a young boy who just said tactical a bunch and that boy was Zachary Bolotow. Pineapple fish was created because we needed to make a story about a made up animal. The final meme was 5 Minutes. Amanda's youth pastor would always say just 5 more minutes. Even if it was actually 8 hours away, it would still be 5 more minutes. So she started to say 5 Minutes to us. The 6th grade teacher was asked what does tactical mean to hear "Crazy kid hiding and doing ninja roles." Thanks for reading, stay tactical.

Outdoor School

Outdoor school was very loud, very fun, and very short. For outdoor school, we went to Beverly beach Oregon. To go investigate the ocean. While there our class played around with funny inside jokes and games. When Amanda was in a youth group her pastor would always tell her five minutes more even if there might be another hour. Amanda would always tell us "five more minutes" when we asked how much longer the boat ride is or when we will get to the bus.

For outdoor school we went to Beverly beach. At Beverly beach we got to go tide pooling. There were tons cool animals like ochre sea stars and purple sea urchins. We got to interact with many of the sea creatures by touching them gently and seeing which zone had the most abundance of creatures. The Ochre sea star was recovering from a disease so we could not touch them just look. Though we did not see some of the more interesting tide pool creature like the sea cucumber or nudibranch we did get to see the gumboot chiton and feel it's leather like back. Here is what some of the students thought about tide pooling. "I thought that going through the maze of muscles was fun and interesting." "My hands were numb after touching sea anemones." We went fossil hunting at Ona beach which is popular for it's abundance of fossils. While at this beach we walked along the shore and there were many large rocks with tide pools. There were not as many creatures as the other beach, but there was some like turban snails and sea anemones. It was a very fun and interesting experience.



One afternoon after most people were done taking a shower, the girls came out of their yurts and the boys were all sitting in a line. They were not sitting in a circle, but a line playing duck duck goose. I think the girls tactically won somehow.



At the end of our doors school, we all had s'mores and did skits. Amanda told us to go on the outside of the group so that we didn't get to close to the fire. Every time I got called up, I walked towards the fire. At outdoor school we went tidepooling, aquarium-ing, fossil hunting, hiking, whale watching, crab catching and much much more! Out doors school was so much fun!

Substitute Teacher Oh My!

Simone, the one who crushed our little pathetic dreams (In her words). The school made us deal with her for way to long. Students, hoping school got cancelled. Other classes, helping us when we needed it, because we sure couldn't go talk about our problems to the problem. Getting mad at us students is normal for us, but saying "Why is the bad kid always named Ryan? Ryyyannnn!" Is a little too harsh. I think she just needed a little time to get used to us and our school, because after the first four weeks, she was okay. "Loud, strong voice was she." Says Max Dodge, local student. "She sure did give us perspective." Says Landon Sheesly, another one of her victims. "Some say Simone was a bad teacher. Some say she was the worst teacher. But we can all agree, she was a bad person." Says Zach Bolotow, queen Zelsa. "She came to school with a good attitude. I am sad that my students didn't like her at all." Says Amanda Schwanz, the teacher with the baby. "I think it takes someone very special to come to Springwater and TRY to make it a good experience. She came with a good attitude and really tried." Says Dawn Bolotow, school principal. She found a paper where someone wrote something bad about her and she pushed them against the wall and ripped the paper into little pieces. She finished her time with us in a good way, by buying us ice cream. Simone taught us a lesson, that sometimes it's harder to get along with some people than others. She stomped on our class to make a footprint. This newspaper, I must say, is very PATHETIC.

The newcomer

Amanda Schwanz is one of the Springwater Environmental Sciences School 2017 5th and 6th grade teachers along with Troy Frystak. She also teaches 5th grade math along with 5th and 6th grade math challenge for exceeding math students. During the second trimester Amanda wasn't teaching from January 31st to March 24th (start of spring break) because her baby boy named Jaxson was born at 3:13 AM, January 31st, 2017. That brought the class a substitute named Simone. Finally, she was back to work after spring break to finish the last trimester of the year. Amanda has enjoyed her year of teaching here because she can be close to her beloved two boys Oliver and Lukas who attend the same school. "I have loved teaching here, before this year I was ready to quit teaching but this class has changed my mind. My boys and I are very happy here." Said teacher Amanda Schwanz. "She made this year a really good experience and made learning ocean ecology fun." Said one of her 6th grade students named Kathryn. Amanda has taught microbiology for 4 months and ocean ecology for 3 months this year because of her maternity leave. Every Wednesday Amanda plans a physical exercise class where the students do extra fitness outside of recess and sports. "She's nice and she makes physical exercise fun." Said another student of hers, Ryan. Amanda has been teaching math challenge where exceeding math students do extra math that isn't taught in math class while others who need help; start the lesson, practice their multiplication and division or get help doing homework with Troy. Math help and math challenge have a blend of 5th and 6th graders. "Math challenge really challenges me but Amanda is really good at helping me through it." A 5th grader named Delaney said. Over time Amanda has become a very well known teacher in this school and has made an impact on all the students she has taught during her first year at Springwater Environmental Sciences school. Everyone will remember Amanda until their last breath and are excited to see her again next school year after summer.



About Us All...



Hello my name is Zachary Bolotow. I am 12 and have been at this school for 8 years and went to Kindergarten here every other Friday for 2 years. I am the proud Queen/head/president of the inner circle on the 6th power, this is the monarchy commanded by the inner circle, which are class created. Not to mention the creator of 7½ was me and Colin during math. Colin and I noticed that all of the answers were 7½. The word tactical might mean nothing to most, but to the sixth graders it means something else. Tactical is too tactical to define. Not to mention the og pineapple fish was created by me. The Pineapple fish is an ordinary Pineapple that is sky green. It eats apples and diamonds.



My name is Garrett and I've been at this school for 7 years. In those seven years I was never bullied. There were about 200 kids at my school, but no one was a bully or even was bullied. Though, this year was different. Sometime in the third trimester I was bullied by a second grader. So pretty much I was playing speedball and a kid bumped into me. So I asked him to say sorry. So he said that he was sorry and he didn't mean to do it. Then he rammed into me again on

purpose. So I said "What did I just tell you to do." So he turned to me and says "Want'a go?" To be completely honest I almost laughed. So I walked away. About five minutes later he comes up to me again and says "I'll kill you." I went and told my friends. They had the same reaction. He came up to me again. He put his arms up trying to flex and said "Want'a go? I kill you." I turned and said "I'd like to see you try." My peer came up to me and then the kid started talking trash to my peer. Another peer of mine came up. "You really want to go up against the three of us?" It was at this moment he through the most full bodied, arm flailing punch at me. I said "I'm done." I left and told a teacher.

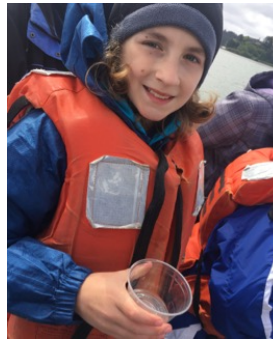


My name is Kathryn. I am in the sixth grade and have been at this school for seven years. I do soccer and taekwondo.



I am Andrew Murphy, I was born on Saturday, May 21st, 2005 at 7:27 p.m. in Lewiston, Idaho. I am the youngest in my family. I have one older sister. She is 16 and a Sophomore in high school. I attend Springwater Environmental Sciences School, but next year I will be going back to Oregon

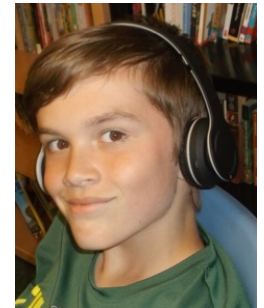
Connections Academy because of my health. I have severe asthma and a lot of allergies. I am a huge geek. I also know who Jules Vern is. I really like Doctor Who and Harry Potter. I enjoy musicals and like to sing. My family has a lot of karaoke parties during the year. I enjoy baking and writing screen plays. I wish for equality for all people. I feel strongly that people should feel safe to be their authentic self and that we should embrace our differences. We are all unique. It would be boring if people were all the same.



My name is Maxfield Dodge. I'm 12 years old and am the quietest student in my 6th grade class. My birthday is on May 23rd, 2005. I played soccer for one season when I was 5. Then, at 9 in 2014 I started to play basketball which I played for 3 seasons until 2017 when I got a cabin and we spent the weekends there instead of my basketball games. I live with a family of 6 including my 15 year old twins Callie (sister), and Kaeden (brother), along with my other sister Almond at age 19, and my mom and dad Stephanie and Joseph. In my free time I do homework, watch Netflix or YouTube and draw/color my own geometric designs. I also have been playing piano for about 3 years. The only school I've ever been to is Springwater Environmental Sciences School. I have been here all 8 years of my school life. Most of my memories have come from there such as slicing my finger with scissors while poking a hole through cardboard in 4th grade and

having my mom be my preschool teacher. Over the years my friends have come and gone as time passed. Now, I'm preparing for my 7th grade year which is only a summer away.

I have lived out in the country since I was 4. Every summer we will have creek days and spend the whole day down at the creek. Our dog will freak out when we are on the other side and she can't get to us.



I'm Ryan Coutu and I think school year was pretty amazing other than the homework and tests. We had the trimesters physics, microbiology, and oceanography. My favorite trimester had to be physics because we got to do all sorts of fun experiments. They were a lot of assignments, but I managed to catch up. Their were a lot of funny moments in class memes also. This trimester we did a few things like making posters and using websites for wave representation. We did experiments on other trimesters but I thought the ones we did in physics were the best. We got to use toy race cars to demonstrate physics, and saw how much light shines on the Earth from the Sun. It was a fun year sadly I was sick for most of outdoor school, but I came at the end and with my sister too. My best friends out of the whole class would be Max, George, Riley, and Zach. My favorite teacher out of Troy and Amanda well I like them both the same.



I am Evan Bigbee. This year has been the best, thanks to the classmates. We had lots of fun at outdoor school. We had fun playing games like "oceans." I was stuck with the torture machine, Simone. Lots of things I saw this year was fun games getting banned. For example, ball tag. Ball tag was banned in a whopping 25 minutes after it was made. Currently, I am in tactical school and it is great.



Spring water has been my home for eight years. I was the first class to ever attend the spring water preschool, and I had hoped to be the first class to graduate going all the way through preschool to eighth grade. I have been taught to care for the environment, to stand up for myself, and most importantly, the meaning and hardships of friendships. At a very young age I was taught to be a hard thinker, a good student, and an even better friend. The friends I have made here will always have a special place in my heart, even after I have moved on from this place. The lessons I have been taught by them, both good and bad, have shaped me as a person. There are a million words I wish I could say to them to show them how much they mean to me. As my friends have come and gone, so have teachers. My first teachers in fifth grade were Danielle and Troy. I now have Troy as a math

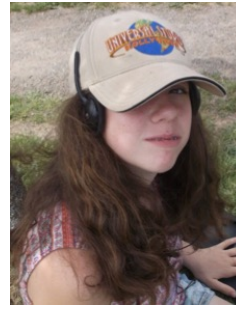
teacher and Amanda, (our newest edition to the family,) as a science, reading, and writing teacher. Although I have had highs and lows with all of them, words cannot begin to express how much they have helped me, cared for me, and taught me in only a year or two of teaching. After school I always do other activities like gymnastics, dance, and acting. I like to say I have three homes. My first home, where I live and sleep, my second home being Springwater, and my third, the gym. I almost always seem to be leaving early, but my teachers and friends have been there to get me caught up, and back on track.

Now for my goodbye. I hate goodbyes. I have experienced every high and low you can. Except capstone, and robotics. Okay, so maybe I still have a lot to learn and discover. But I'll have to do it some where else. As of next year, I will be leaving spring water. To a different school, to meet new friends, and new teachers. But Springwater will always be different. Special. Unique. To me, I will always remember this place with fond memories. ODS with friends, inside jokes with teachers, and stupid games with class mates. All I can say is that I'm lucky to have friends and teachers that make it so hard to say goodbye. This isn't my second family. This is my family, and I will always remember and cherish the memories we made together.



My name is Lucy McKay. My absolute favorite color is purple and I love sushi! I have been at this school for 7 and 1/2 years, where I have been friends with mostly the same people the whole time! I am just one of the eight girls

in this class. I am a non-tactical no life according to the boys. I am in a small classroom of crazy 6th graders. I love ballet, dance, writing, and reading!



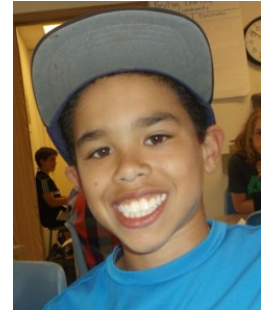
My name is Gabrielle. My passion and basically my life outside of school is competitive gymnastics. I also love playing music. I'm especially talented in piano and cello, but also play the ukulele. My sister is teaching me Japanese and I am going to learn that language fully in high school. I also like to swim, snow board, surf, bike, skate board, and etc... As for food, I love sushi, Thai food, Indian food, Chinese food, Italian food and pizza. At the end of this year I will have been at Springwater for 4 years.



This year I am in sixth grade at Springwater Environmental Sciences School. During the first trimester I studied physics. I learned about Newton's Laws by playing with hot wheels and we made a paper roller coaster to demonstrate these Laws. The second trimester, I learned about Microbiology. We learned about Cells. We also had a substitute for a teacher. Her name was Simone. This trimester we have been learning about Ocean Ecology. We learned about many things such as waves, tide pools, tides. This was also the trimester that we went to Outdoor School. We went to Beverly Beach and

went on a boat as well as tide pooling and many other activities. This has been one of my favorite classes and I look forward to seventh grade.

~Landon Sheesley



Hi, I am Colin and I am in 6th grade at Springwater. I have been at Springwater for 5 years. I was born in Chicago in 2005. I play many sports and also enjoy wearing hats (those of which are often stolen). My favorite sport is basketball followed by football and soccer. Besides living in Oregon City and Chicago, I also lived in Urbana, Illinois. My family travels a lot and I have been to at least 30 different states. This Ocean Ecology Unit and this newspaper in specific have been some of my favorite parts of the year. - Colin Blackwell (Photographer)



I am Cadence, I have been going to Springwater for 8 years. Even before I was a student here I came with my mom when she volunteered and I would eat lunch with my brother and his friends. It's funny the little things you remember. Since I still remember them now I know I will forever. I remember looking for frogs behind the old apartments and that orange tabby that we took in, but had to keep in different rooms cause our cat Casper was territorial. Springwater is the only school I've ever known. It is a great school and like a second home to me.