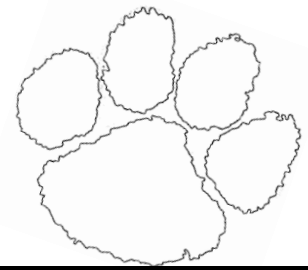


Brown Beat



R.H. Brown Middle School

980 Durham Rd. Madison, CT 06443

Winter 2013: Issue #1

Gabby Douglas Visits Madison

By: Maddy Henderson and Virginia Mutz

On December 6th 2012, Gabby Douglas (US gymnast in 2012 summer Olympics) came to R.J. Julia's! She had never been to Madison before this event. She was doing an ESPN interview the next day, so she could not stay in Madison for more than the event time. Everyone's ticket to get to see her was her book, (Grace, Gold & Glory) which was sold at RJ Julia's. 480 books were sold for the event, and after the event, 100 more signed copies were sold to people who wanted one or people who were on the waiting list. For the event, 600 to 700 people waited in line to meet her. The line went all the way to the Shell gas station. You could only get a picture with her if you had 3 books.

There is a pretty long process to getting authors/famous people to come to events. First, R.J. Julia's event manager has to put in a request for what person they want to come. Then they call the person's publisher (if they have a publicist, than they would call them too) to see if they are on tour. If they are, they try to see if they can fit R.J. Julia's into their schedule. Finally, (and obviously) the person comes to R.J. Julia's to sign his or her book.

R.J. Julia's got a lot of publicity from this event. It was mentioned on the Today show! Because of that, people from all over CT came and waited in line. Gabby, her sister, and her mom all picked out a book, kind of like a thank you for coming present! Gabby was very polite and had a smile on her face for every person! (Even after 3 hr. of doing it!) Everyone that met her can now say, "I met an Olympian!"

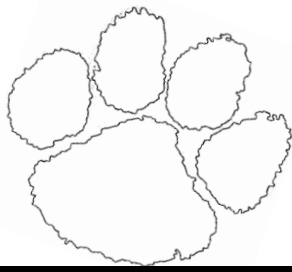


Photo Above: Gold medalist Gabby Douglas poses with Madison students at R.J. Julia's.

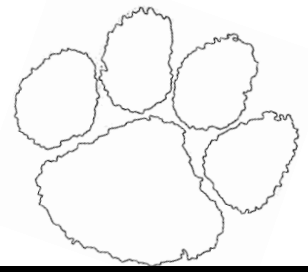
Brown Reads for SARAH

Several students at Brown Middle School recently raised \$2,900 in the third annual SARAH Read-A-Thon. The students raised pledge money by collectively reading over 24,000 pages. All money will be donated to the SARAH Foundation. This year our top fundraiser was fifth grader, Jaqueline Egidio, who raised \$380.85. Our top reader was sixth grader, Kaitlyn Sandor, who read 2,641 pages. Among the other top readers were Jacqueline Egidio (2,539 pages), Sarah Caso (2,000 pages), Mary Calabro (1,527 pages), Olivia Raisbeck (1,502 pages), Violet Johnson (1,501 pages), Daniel Chen (1,426 pages), and Ethan Thorpe (1,000 pages). Thanks to all students who participated!





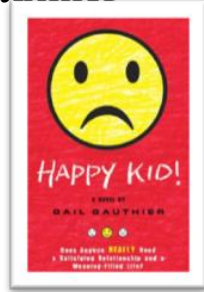
Brown Beat



Happy Kid! Book Review

Author: Gail Gauthier

Review by:
Chloe Thompson



Kyle is a new seventh grader, and he is not happy. After last year's incident, he has decided to stay in shadows, not calling any extra attention to himself. His old best friend is not in any of his classes, and he dislikes almost all of his teachers. When his mom buys him a book, Happy Kid! for depressed kids, he doesn't know what to think. He refuses to read it, only until his mom puts money in the situation. When the book starts given him strange messages, Kyle finally learns that it's okay to be happy.

Stargirl Book Review

Author: Jerry Spinelli

Review by:
Erin Reilly



When a new girl comes to Mica High in Arizona after being homeschooled for 15 years, she is a bit different from the others. She plays "Happy Birthday" on her ukulele on students' birthdays, wears strange clothes, brings her pet rat, Cinnamon, to school, and cheers for the other team in basketball games. A kid named Leo in Mica High, who runs a talk show, "Hot Seat," starts taking a liking to her. The new girl is kind to everyone but some people do not agree to that. The girl had changed everyone's lives in Mica, Arizona. Her name, Stargirl.

Book Series Reviews

By Hannah Buess

FLOWER POWER: This (so far) is a 4 book series by Lauren Myracle that is by far some of the best books I've ever read. It's all about friendship and sticking up for yourself and friends. There are four best friends but it doesn't start that way! First there is Violet the new girl from Georgia who you don't want to push around. But how much do you really know about her? Next there is Camilla who goes by Milla. Milla is the popular girl and is ordered around by the other popular girls Quin and Modessa. Also there is the spaz Katie-Rose, who wants to be Milla's BFF but she knows this will NEVER happen since Katie-Rose is not popular at all. Lastly, there is shy Yasamen who is Muslim and wears a hijab. Nobody gets Yasamen or is nice to her but the truth is she's a computer genius! Confused on the series title? Well don't be! They all have Flower names! Okay so Violet and Katie-Rose are a no brainer but Camilla and Yasamen are more complicated. Yasamen's name is Turkish for jasmine which is a flower. Camilla is a small flower that grows by rivers! So there ya have it! The flower friends!

This book series is more for.... girls.

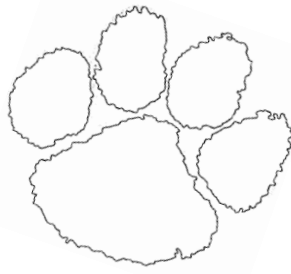
BOOKS: 1# luyabunches 2# Violet in bloom 3# Oopsy Daisy 4# Awesome Blossom



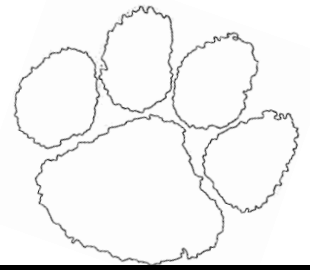
BECAUSE OF MR TERUPT: a book that I looooooved was Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea. First you should know this is about a 5th grade class. Mr. Terupt is a new teacher to this school the kids aren't all welcoming like he hoped. 7 students each give their opinion on what's happening divided up like chapters. Jessica the new girl, (like Mr. Terupt!) loves reading and left her dad in California which almost no one knows. Anna is the shy girl who is disliked by some adults (read to find out.) Alexia, who goes by Lexie, is the mean girl who is one second your friend and enemy the next. Danielle, the farm girl who is super insecure, is one of Lexis's main victims. Peter is the class prankster who makes everything goes topsy turvy one day. Jeffery is the kid who hates school and blocks it out of his brain completely untilllllllllll... Luke, the brainiest kid in school, is starting to be slightly outwitted by Jessica. This book is jaw dropping and crazy-good!

This book series is for.... everyone, but mainly girls, though.

BOOKS: 1# Because of Mr. Terupt 2# Mr. Terupt Falls Again



Brown Beat



Middle School Survival guide

By Lena Conway, Sasha Dolynuk, and Eleanor McArdle

The Middle School Survival Guide is to give 5th and 6th graders good advice to survive middle school. We asked teachers to give advice and this is what they said.

- Mrs. McPeake- Be organized! Come to class prepared and put papers in the correct folders. You should also check your planner for homework.
- Mr. Pfaff- Know your basic facts like addition, subtraction, multiplication, & division. Know when to ask for help.
- Mrs. Tomasevich- Be kind to everyone. Keep up with school & don't procrastinate. Read carefully (reading is FUNdamental☺). Have fun!
- Mrs. Bogucki- Read questions & rubrics carefully. Ask questions if you don't know something. Come into school with a good attitude!
- A poster in the office- Just because everyone is doing something doesn't make it right. Just because no one is doing something doesn't make it wrong.
- Mrs. Sypher- Be yourself, stand up to peer pressure, and have fun.
- Mrs. Rao- Be organized and be neat,
- Mrs. Thomas- Be organized and write and read out of your planner.
- Mrs. Sadowski- Do your best and know that you don't have to get all A's on everything.
- Mrs. Phelps- Learn how to use an old fashion/landline phone, use all your resources, find a system to organize yourself, keep an eye out to make friends, and don't be afraid to be different and always ask questions.
- Mrs. Dielman- Ask questions if you don't understand.
- Anonymous-Stay organized.
- Ms. Ramondetta- Ask if you don't know, or if you need help.
- Mr. Lapointe- Organize each subject, and ask

teachers if you don't know.

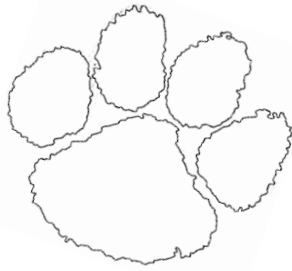
- Señora Chimento- Don't get locked inside your locker ☺, practice Gabi episodes, and eat a healthy breakfast.
- Mrs. Coniff- Don't be afraid to stand up to peer pressure, and don't forget to sing ☺
- Señora Perry- Don't be afraid to ask for help, be nice to bus drivers and custodians, and habla mucho español!
- Mrs. Shaver- Be nice to people. It is the right thing to do.
- Mr. Ambler- Study hard, and learn how to make good decisions that will have positive effects on your future.

Mural Painting Club

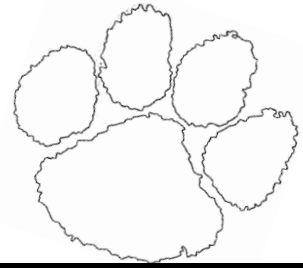
By Gaby Dollahite and Kate Klien

We took a look at the Mural Painting Club, a very popular after school club offered in Trimester 2. We were overall very impressed with the students' inspirational words, all starting with the word "Be" and ending with a word chosen by students to put on their paintings. Some of our favorites were "Be Inspirational" and "Be Bright." Here are some pictures showing the progress of the students throughout the trimester.





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Art Contest Winners!

Art Contest

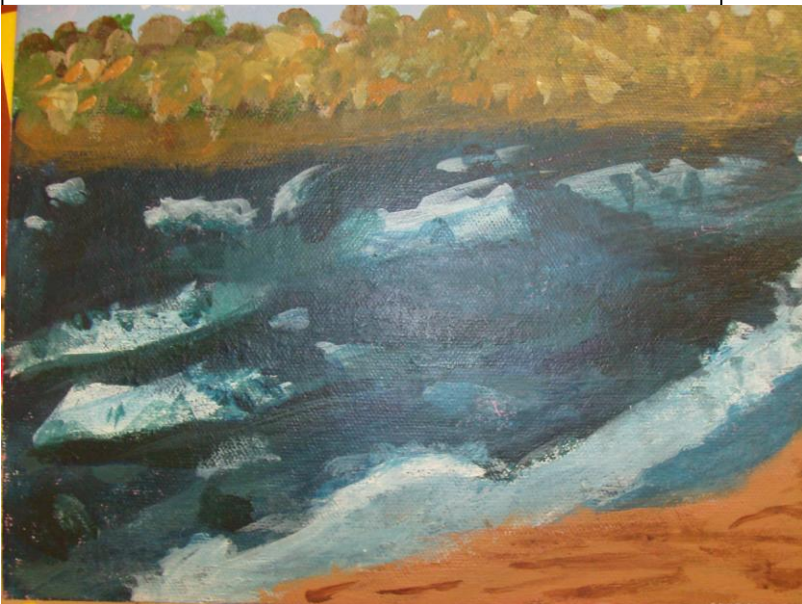
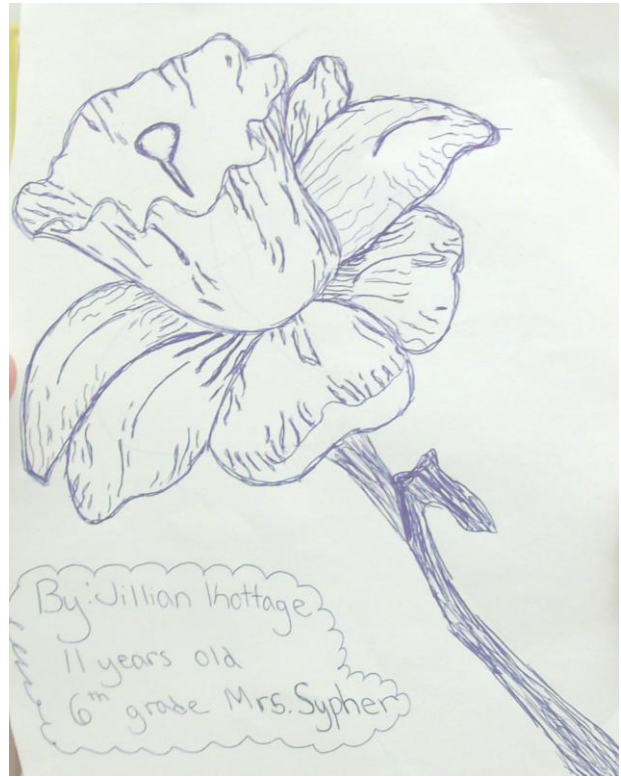
By: Hayley Dean, Taylor Garlock, Jessica Pireaux, Lena Conway, Sasha Dolynuk, Eleanor McArdle

We had an art contest requiring students to draw whatever they wanted. We got a lot of wonderful entries, and it was hard to choose between them. So here's the first, second, and third place winners...

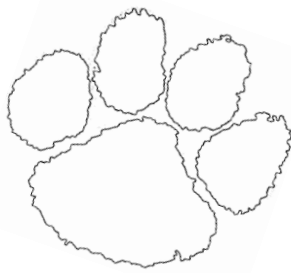
1. **Schylar Saliba's wonderful picture of a river!**
2. **Jillian Kottage's awesome picture of a flower!**
3. **Grace Vest's colorful picture of candy!**

We also wanted to give honorable mention to Violet Johnson for her painting of a dog. Violet won last trimester's contest, and we loved seeing more of her artwork.

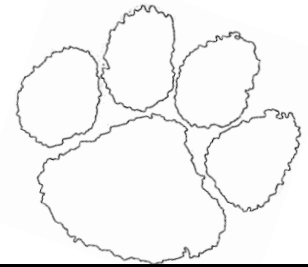
Thank you for all our wonderful entries!



**Photos above: Our art contest winners!
Congratulations, and great job!**

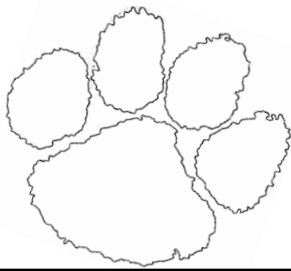


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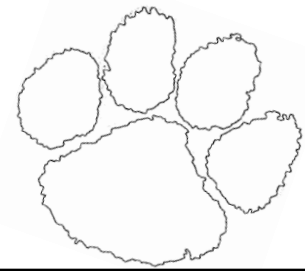


An interactive comic is one where you pretend to actually be in the story. On each panel there are 2 choices. The choices decide how many panels you move. You could win or lose. But just make sure to have fun. 😊😊😊

 <p>You are an average teen on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>Go to the Park- 1 panel</p> <p>Stay Home- 2 panels</p>	 <p>Two kids are searching for an object they have lost.</p> <p>Ask to help- 2 panels</p> <p>Go back home- 1 panel</p>	 <p>You play your new video game and become anti-social.</p> <p>YOU LOSE- GO BACK 2</p>
 <p>They tell you they lost the key to their house.</p> <p>Go listen to music on the park bench- 2 panels</p> <p>Help search- 1 panel</p>	 <p>They tell you that you are allowed to help search.</p> <p>Go to the River- 2 panels</p> <p>Go to the Forest- 1 panel</p>	 <p>You get distracted and accidentally stay until night time.</p> <p>YOU LOSE- GO BACK 2</p>
 <p>You see a wombat; it tells you it has the key.</p> <p>Ask for the key- 2 panels</p> <p>Go about your business because a wombat shouldn't be talking- Go Back 1 panel</p>	 <p>It's no use. You can't revive him and you die of grief.</p> <p>YOU LOSE- GO BACK 1</p>	 <p>It will give you the key, but suddenly steps on a taco and explodes.</p> <p>Try to revive him- Go back 1 panel</p> <p>Search the explosion zone- 1 panel</p>
 <p>The key is still intact. You are overjoyed.</p> <p>Host a party- Go back 4 panels</p> <p>Return it to the kids- 1 panel</p>	 <p>They are very pleased with you. But it's getting late.</p> <p>Go Home- Go Back 8 panels</p> <p>Stay a while- 1 panel</p>	 <p>They invite you to their mansion where it is raining awesomeness.</p> <p>YOU WIN!!!</p>



Brown Beat



SAIL Door Decorating

By Erin Reilly and Chloe Thompson

SAIL Door Decorating was invented 5 years ago. It is an exciting way to relax, have fun, and work with other people to get colorful results! Read on to find out who, what, where, when, and why.

❖ **Why do we do Door Decorating?**

We started 5 years ago because we have a school theme and this was a different way to interpret and see what this meant to different students.

❖ **How do you feel when you see the students working together to make these creative designs?**

I love it! Since we've done it for a long time, it's nice to see that people working together to decorate as a team.

❖ **What is your favorite part of SAIL Door Decorating?**

My favorite part is using glitter. Thankfully, every group I have had has had the same favorite, so we can always use glitter.

❖ **Who came up with this fun idea?**

A group of people that are on the School Climate Committee [came up with Door Decorating].

Chocolate, Golf, and Pirates

Article by: Andy Hines and Andrew Esposito

Chocolate, Golf, and Pirates is an after-school intramural about just what the name implies. To gather more information, we asked the teacher running this program, Mrs. Tomasevich, a few questions.

Me: How did you think of the idea for Chocolate, Golf, and Pirates?

Mrs. T: As a math teacher, I wanted to make a math club that was also fun. This program is based off of the MathCounts program. I named it Chocolate, Golf, and Pirates because if I had called it Math Club, no one would join.

Me: Will you do it again next year?

Mrs. T: Yes I will be doing this again next year.

Me: I've heard that you are doing Kite Flying instead of this next trimester. Is that true?

Mrs. T: No, I tried out kites in my previous class and it didn't work out as I hoped.

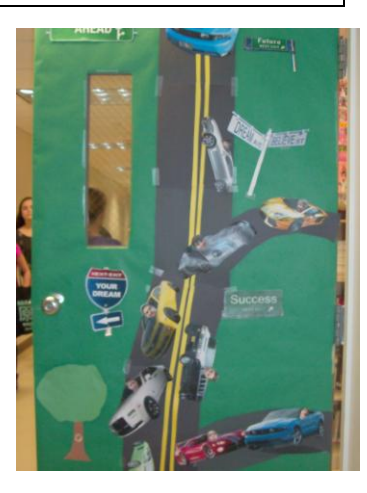
Me: What sorts of things do you do in Chocolate, Golf, and Pirates?

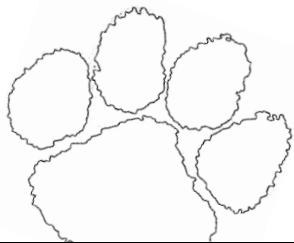
Mrs. T: Each week, we do a fun activity that has a math component.

Me: What types of students would you recommend this to?

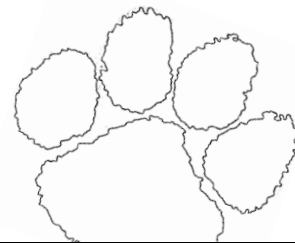
Mrs. T: I would recommend this to students who like to have fun and are willing to take a risk.

So that's what our new intramural is all about. If you have any more questions, ask them to me or Mrs. Tomasevich and we'll find you an answer. We hope you will end up joining sometime in the future.





Brown Beat



Joke Contest Winners!

By: Maddy Henderon and Virginia Mutz

In 1st place is Christian Dunn's joke, which was:

Question: Why did the duck complain to his waitress?

Answer: Because he had a big bill!!

In 2nd place is Madison Rotermund's joke, which was:

Question: Where does a snowman keep his money?

Answer: a snow bank!!!

In 3rd place is Grace Vest's joke, which was:

Question: What do you call a sleeping bull?

Answer: a bulldozer!!

Did Brown like Sweet Smyles, Frogurt Time, or Ashley's?

There was a tie for 1st between Ashley's and Frogurt Time with 50 votes, and in 2nd is Sweet Smyles with 29 votes

Thank you for voting!!!!

Interview With Mrs. Meachen

Student newspaper reporters Chloe Thompson, Charlotte Jibilian, and Jacque Pesce interviewed Related Arts teachers to learn more about them. Here is what they learned from Mrs. Meachen

Mrs. Meachen

Why did you choose teaching band as your career?

My junior year in high school I chose music education as a college major. The time came to make a choice of what to study in college and I came to the realization that once I graduated high school I would not be a part of making music. That was when I decided to become a music major so that music would always be a part of my life. As I continued my studies I realized that sharing my love of music through teaching was the best decision I could have made for a career choice.

What is your favorite part of teaching band?

Up until the past two years, I've really loved watching the process of beginning instrumentalists progress in their music making. To see a student go from 1. not knowing what instrument they want to play to 2. learning how to put their chosen instrument together and making sounds to 3. Actually playing songs and performing for an audience is an absolutely amazing reward. Presently, my favorite part of teaching band is the newly formed auditioned jazz band. Last year was the first year

for the jazz band and it was so much fun turning still somewhat beginner students into jazz musicians. Even better was the special day in December this school year that the jazz band students participated in. The Daniel Hand High School jazz band came over for almost the entire day and played with the 6th grade jazz band and helped teach them. What better way is there to learn than from another student whose been through the process?

Do you enjoy teaching at Brown?

I love teaching at Brown and am sad that I am only at Brown School for one period every day.

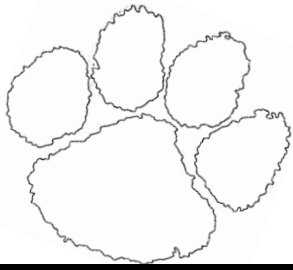
What is favorite part of teaching at Brown?

Aside from teaching my band classes, I love getting to know my students and letting them get to know me. I like to think that even though we work really hard to make music, we have a lot of fun telling and sharing stories too.

*What is your favorite instrument to play?

This is a hard question to answer. I've played the piano the longest so I'm probably a better piano player than any of the other instruments, but I think the trombone is SO cool! I also love to play my clarinet because it is such a versatile instrument. It can play really high, squeaky as my mother would say, or really low and mellow sounding. Like I said, that's a hard question.

Thank you Mrs. Meachen for your answers!



Brown Beat

