



# Cat Chat

## Mount Holly School 2nd Trimester Honor Roll

### Honor Roll

#### Grade 4

Claire Alosi, McKinley Bremel, Eve Cole, Abby Crowley, Natasha Fortin, Jae Greineder, Calvin Kelley, Olivia Murray, Ashlynn Rumrill, Sara Swartz

#### Grade 5

Cyrus Bickford, Caitie Bushey, Zach Connor, Heather Graham, Kassie Niklasson, Emily Perham, Kendra Richards, Halley Riley-Elliott, Kyleigh Savery, Adam Staley

#### Grade 6

Ryan Alosi, Micah Cole, Marley Gifford, Nicole Grenier, Dustin Miller, Ryan Murray, Dakota Pachla, Andrea Stevens, Austin Turco

### Grade 3

#### Honorable Mention

Josh Cohen, Michael Kautz, Aislynn Kelley, Caleb Nye

### High Honor Roll

#### Grade 5

London Bremel,  
Lukas DeArruda

## Congratulations!

"Excellence is not a skill.

It is an attitude."

~ Ralph Marston

Thank you to the staff, students and volunteers who made the 2012 Winter Ski Program another fun-filled season!

Special Thanks to Kevin Anderson, Michael Santa Maria & Okemo Mountain for providing this incredible learning opportunity to our students!



# Mount Holly School sure has Spirit!

March 5, 2012

Today in school, we had a basketball game. It was 6th grade vs. staff. Once when a person shot, but missed everyone crowded around the hoop. When the ball came down, everyone jumped and tried to hit the ball. Just the 6th graders. Once when a 6th grader was throwing a ball in, he jumped up and put the ball under him. Which I thought was kind of cool. At the end of the game the buzzer went off. It was really loud. The staff won the game, they got 5 baskets. 6th grade got 3 baskets. Then everybody lined up, and hi-fived. P.S. There was a lot of cheering.

- Riley M.  
(Grade 2)

Spirit Week kicked off, Monday March 5, 2012, with a Staff vs. 6th grade basketball game. It was an amazing game! As soon as the game started spectators could see that each team was determined to win. "I thought the teachers would get the basketball first with Mr. HuttVater at the tip-off," Dustin commented, but the students were the first to start the dribbling, passing, shooting action. Earning two points however seemed to allude both teams. Even with an array of passes, team play, and fist pumping action, the nets seemed to defy the skillful players. Ms. Dunne and Ryan A. used their excellent coaching skills and called in new players. As the gym filled with the equal chantings of "Let's go teachers!" and "Let's go 6th grade!", Mrs. Ahlers swooped in with a lay up to score the first points of the game. The first half ended with a tie score of 2:2.

As the second half of the game commenced, so did the nail biting action. The scoreboard reflected that the teams were warmed up. Amazing passes were made by both teams. Nicole agreed saying, "We worked well together." Regardless of the good match between staff and students, the staff pulled through with a 10:6 win. Mr. HuttVater commented, "The sixth grade showed fantastic spirit and tremendous sportsmanship." The beginning of Spirit Week could be summed up with words from Mrs. French, "It was really fun!" and Kole, "I would love a rematch!"

Special thanks go out to our refs and scorekeeper; Miss Ryann Mahoney, Tiffany Norton and Carrie Woolley.

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Winter 2012



# MHS SNAPSHOTS



"Zero the Hero" enjoying pancakes with the Kindergarten and 1st grade students





# Kindergarten

# Thanks to all the families for making Day 100 a great success!

## 100th Day

We celebrated the 100th Day in February. We counted, wrote and read about 100. Thanks to Pete Bania, Zero the Hero visited with the students while we were eating over 200 pancakes! We also made 100 Day trail mix.

Every family created a wonderful 100 Day family project. We shared the projects with the rest of the classes on Day 101. We were then able to eat some of the projects- 100 cookies and a 100 made with brownies.



## Montshire Museum

In January, the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classes visited the Montshire Museum. The Kindergarten students listed their favorite parts of the visit:

- seeing and touching things
- making the big bubbles
- watching the weather movie
- seeing the whole world
- finding the North Pole and the South Pole
- the weather machine
- butterflies and insects
- the fog machine
- watching the ants, bees, fish and turtles

**THE WHOLE THING!**



# What's Happening in the Third Grade?

The third grade has been very busy this past trimester. From a field trip to the Montshire Museum of Science, practicing and performing a readers theater in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and researching different breeds of dogs. There always seems to be something happening in our classroom!

In November and December we learned all about geography, specifically the geography of Mount Holly. The students learned all about mapmaking when they created a relief map using salt dough of the major physical characteristics of Mount Holly.

We have been reading many different book genres including historical fiction, biographies and memoirs. We have completed *Meet Martin Luther King Jr.* by James T de Kay, *The Canada Geese Quilt* by Vermont author Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, and *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner. We just started the book called *Storm Run* about the first woman to win the Iditarod Dog Sled Race.

In January, we completed a unit on Matter and are currently wrapping up a unit on Force and Motion. The students are excited to begin a unit on our Solar System at the end of March. On January 19th we visited the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, Vermont. The students really enjoyed all of the hands-on science exhibits!

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the third grade learned all about Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. The performed a readers theater in front of the whole school called, *Martin Luther King Jr. The Story of a Dream*. Currently the third grade is following the Iditarod and creating dog posters on different dog breeds.

In math we have been memorizing our multiplication and division facts as well as studying fractions and learning about different ways to measure.

Check out our class website for more information!

Ms. Emma  
Third Grade Teacher



Sharing our Mount Holly Relief Maps with the 4th Grade



Conducting science investigations



Performing *Martin Luther King Jr. The Story of a Dream*



Montshire Museum of Science



Kindergarten  
1st Grade  
6th Grade

# Dr. Seuss wrote the book I Wish That I Had Duck Feet . This is what we wish we had:

Dominic said, "I wish I had prickles because if someone sneaks up on me they would get pricked."



Riley said, "I wish I had flippers so I could swim like a seal."



Chloe said, "I wish I had angel wings because I could fly anywhere I wanted to go."



Anna said, "I wish that I had wings so I could fly."



Sam said, "I wish I had spider arms then I could hold a fly down."



Ariel said, "I wish that I had a motor so I could run really fast."



Quentin said, "I wish I had a motor so I could move fast."



Emily said, "I wish I had wings for I want to fly like a butterfly."

Johnna said, "I wish that I had a big tail like a monkey. then I could swing on the trees."

Jada said, "I wish that I had fish gills so I could stay underwater all the time."

Greta said, "I wish that I had horns. So if a bully comes I can poke him in the butt. But if I try to do sit ups I would poke myself in the knees."

Ayla said, "I wish that I had bear claws because I could slice my sandwich in half."

Jordan said, "I wish that I had a giraffe neck then I can reach the apples at the tops of trees."

Owen said, "I wish that I had horns so I could poke bullies in the stomach. I could poke my horns in a tree and climb up with my head. If Dad was going to slingshot something and missed every time, I could climb up the tree and help him with my head."

Austin said, "I wish that I had sharp teeth from a tiger and claws from a bear, because I could eat fish and climb trees and catch apples and give them to people when they are starving, but I could not talk with my sharp

Josh said, "I wish that I had car wheels because I could roll the basketballs with my wheels and then pass the ball to somebody and they could pass it to me and I could go up on my wheels and dunk the ball, but I would be tired because I would have to drive everybody and they would say Go, Go, Go!"

Rowan said, "I wish that I had a horn like a unicorn because it's pretty and has magical powers. I would make everybody have a horn and they could have magical powers too, but if everybody had magical powers they could take mine."

Kindergarten  
1st Grade  
6th Grade



Cody said, "I wish that I had tiger's legs so I can run fast in the woods so I can't get run over, but I could not run as fast as a snowmobile."



Gracie said, "I wish that I had cheetah legs so I can run really fast, but I would get too tired."



Bella said, "I wish that I was a car. I could drive really fast so I can go places really quick, but Mom will say get out of the house because I would drive too fast in the house."



Gavin said, "I wish that I had wings so I can fly in the park. If we had a race in the park, I would fly right over the obstacles and win."



Koa said, "I wish that I had a tiger's nose so I could smell bacon in the morning, because it smells good."



Noah said, "I really want to be a race car because it is really fast and I have four motors and a telescope and spikes on the wheels. I would be super cool and fast, but I would get tired if I ran out of gas and I couldn't move."

Austin Turco: "I wish that I had wings because I could fly and see everything."

Nicole Grenier: "I wish that I had hair as long and thick as a horse's mane. It would be pretty and fun to play with."

Jordyn Demers: "I wish I had wings so I could fly everywhere."

Stephanie Bussino: "I wish I had gills like a fish so I could stay under water for a very long time."

Dakota Pachla: "I wish I had wings like a pegasus because I could fly and go to lots of places."

Ryan Murray: "I wish super powers so I could be the best basketball player in the world."

Andrea Stevens: "I wish I had wings so I could fly in the clouds."

Ryan Alosi: "I wish I had wings so I could fly."

Kole Williams: "I wish I had cheetah legs so I could run faster."

Micah Cole: I wish I could have eagle eyes so I could see far, far away."

Dustin Miller: "I would like bumble bee wings, but I would look weird when flying."

Alexis said, "I wish that I had cheetah legs and wings so I could run fast and fly. I could have everyone climb on my back and take them for a ride."

Meridian said, "I wish that I had wings so that I could fly, but my Mom couldn't find me."

Mittasille said, "I wish that I had wings so I could fly with butterflies."



Sawyer said, "I wish that I had octopus arms because I could build more legos, but Mom wouldn't let me."

## Very strange night

By NATASHA FORTIN  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

Under the bed in the Hotel of Fish was a fish tank.

Instead of sleeping one night I tried to identify the fish in the tank.

That really long one with whiskers like a cat, I recognized to be a catfish.

I saw a streak of gold zoom past me.

That streak of gold was a goldfish about the size of my fingernail.

That goldfish went straight past a rainbow fish.

The rainbow fish reminded me of a book I've read called "The Rainbow Fish."

That fish actually had some sparkly and colorful scales missing!

There were so many fish in that tank under my bed. I didn't see any doubles!

My eyes were getting heavy.

I didn't have enough time to identify any more fish.

I had an amazing time at the Hotel of Fish.

## Mount McKinley

By MCKINLEY BREMEL  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

If I could go anywhere, I'd like to go to Mount McKinley. Mount McKinley is what I'm named after. It is the highest mountain in the United States of America.

Mount McKinley is in Alaska. It's too much money to go there so I can't go. I do have some stones from Mount McKinley and a glass picture. Mount McKinley is protected and there are animals there that I have never seen before. There are glaciers there, too! If I go there some day I'd climb to the top. I'd bring a camera and take lots of pictures.

## The Weirdest Dream

Author:  
Calvin Kelley

One morning I woke up after having had the weirdest dream. In my dream I was playing checkers with my dad and I won. Then I turned into an owl! I was a Great Hawk Owl with big red eyes. I started to flap my wings. My dad yelled and screamed, "How in the world!" I tried to say, "Help me!" but all that came out was, "Whoo Whoo!" My dad put me in a cage and brought me some food. Then I woke up breathing heavily. That was my weirdest dream!

## Snow

By ASHLYNN RUMRIEL  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

We run outside in the snow and look at all the snowflakes blow.

Snowflakes falling really fast;

oh I'm having such a blast

Building big fort walls

and making lots of snowballs!

Hurry, hurry, come inside,

awe, but we just made a snow slide!

Hot chocolate for everyone;

we had a lot of fun.

The snow hasn't stopped.

awe, my marshmallow popped!

## Heaven

By SARA SWARTZ  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

If I could visit heaven,

It's where I'd like to be,

The streets are made of gold,

It's what I have been told.

If only for a minute,

Imagine what I would see,

I'd be greeted at the gate,

Where there would be no hate,

Only peace and joy,

And a very special little boy,

My brother, Christopher.

I'll see him one day in heaven,

Even if I'm one hundred and seven.

## Eve's World

By EVE COLE  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

If I could go anywhere I'd go to Eve's World. Eve's World is a planet just like Earth except it's in my head.

My house would have 1,000 floors and 10,000 rooms. My bedroom would have an emperor of the universe sized bed! I'd have a room that would be made of candy. There would also be a workout room so I wouldn't get fat.

In my world I would have a helmet that would make me smarter without having to do anything. I would have a giant pool and 17 dogs. The dogs would have a feeding machine that would automatically feed them at breakfast and dinnertime.

All of my friends would have mansions on my planet. If they would want to bring some other friends to my world I'd send a rocket to pick them up. Oh, and Eve's World is in the same orbit as the Earth so in the future I won't be hard to find!

## Snowmobiling

By JAKOB FLANDERS  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

Hop on the machine ready to go,

Going in the woods, never slow.

Driving over snow-covered soil,

I can smell the burning oil.

Getting ready to take a jump,

My body can feel the bump, bump, bump.

Ready for a hot cup of chowder

After riding through the powder.

There are 16 AWESOME writers in the 4th grade. The Young Writers Project recently published the following pieces of writing.

## Tinmouth Pond

By GREGORY EATON  
Grade 4, Mount Holly Elementary School

My favorite place to be,

Is on the ice, I am free!

Free of working with my brother,

Free of listening to my mother.

At Tinmouth pond I catch many fish,

At home they make a yummy dish.

My shanty there is nice and warm,

It keeps me out of every storm!



## 5th Grade

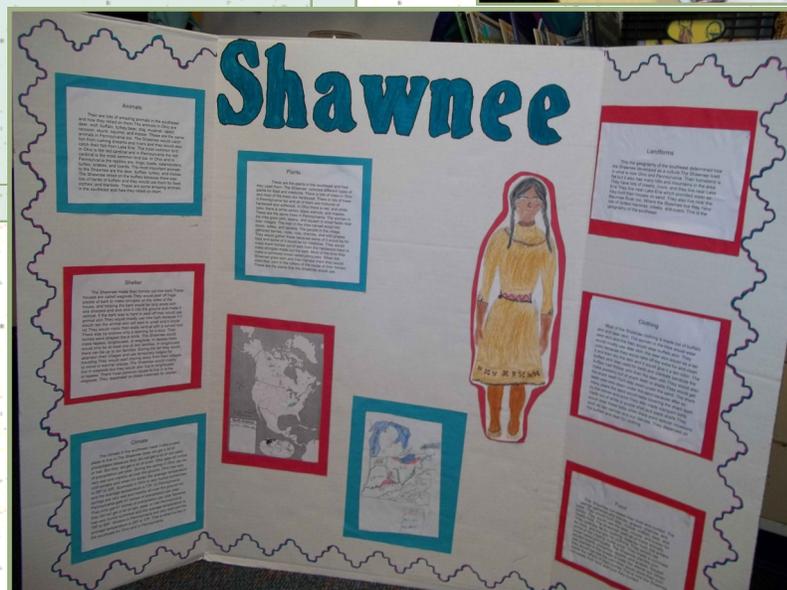
The fifth grade has been taken over by geologists and anthropologists!

Observation skills have come in handy while analyzing and describing the characteristics of rocks and minerals. Did you know that the diamond is the hardest mineral and that compasses were invented because of the lodestone? The fifth graders do!

During the second trimester students worked on the most extensive research project in fifth grade - their Native American project. Did you get a chance to see the impressive shelters that lined the halls? Students each selected a different nation to study in depth.

Their focus was on the affects the geography had on life for the people of their nation. The all created a display board loaded with information, a detailed model of a shelter and a realistic model of an artifact. In addition, all the students who lived in a similar region cooperated on an iMovie documentary that described the geography of their region. These movies will be available on the fifth grade class website soon!

Check them out!



## 6th Grade

### Castleton

#### Performance

Sixth grade was able to visit Castleton State College to view "Warriors Don't Cry." An excellent performance, this dealt with a mature topic: "Little Rock, AK. 1957. 15 year old Melba Patillo tries to integrate into a previously all white school, alongside 8 other African American students. This one woman theatrical performance brings to life Melba's 1st hand account of the Little Rock Nine who captured the world's attention, courageously facing racism, violence, cruelty and isolation to change the face of education in the U.S." Our students did an exceptional job watching and participating in the discussion afterward. Their written summaries when we returned to school showed they had focused on the content and really understood this complex issue.

### Math

Fractions, Decimals, and Percents occupied a good deal of our time and for many proved rather challenging. Now we are looking at various forms of problem solving. This whole unit involves solving a series of problems through questioning, reasoning, and math. The children are doing quite well and seem very excited as they work their way through these alone or with partners.

### Reading

The students have been divided into groups to read three books dealing with different facets of the Civil War: My Name Is Not Angelica, Numbering All the Bones, and Across Five Aprils. When they finish their book they will choose their final project: a presentation board, Prezi, slide show, poster, or other to demonstrate what they've learned from their readings. We will then compare and contrast the attitudes, ideas, and facets each of these present in relation to this conflict.

### Science

We recently finished our microscope unit. We learned about how microscopes work, what is involved in setting up a slide for observation, and viewing living organisms under the microscope. (Very tricky, takes lots of patience!) Now the class is looking from the very tiny to the expansive as we begin our study of space. Earlier they have studied the solar system, now we are moving beyond that to deep space and the galaxies and stars outside of our Milky Way.

### Social Studies

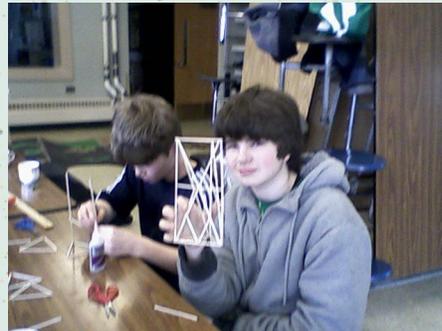
We have completed our trek on the Oregon Trail, some more successfully than others. We learned that sometimes the choices we make can have dire consequences, as evidenced by the tombstones we left along the way. Some did make it to Paradise Valley to begin their new life, and we hope they find happiness there.

### Writing

Most students have finished their mystery stories. We are hoping to get these bound into a class book. Those who are done have been researching for their persuasive pieces. The topic is their choice, something they care deeply about. Their writing piece will attempt to move others to act on their topic. Students have been examining child abuse, dog fighting, internet harassment, teen suicide resulting from harassment, and other compelling subjects.



## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND



Nicole, Micah, Austin and Dustin  
spending part of their February vacation at the Mt. Holly School

This year's Vermont State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament is taking place Saturday, March 10 at Champlain Valley Union High School, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Austin, Dustin, Marley, Micah, and Nicole will be representing the Mt Holly School. At the tournament, teams present their solution to a long-term problem on which they have been working for months, and also must solve a spontaneous problem on the spot for the judges. Our students will be presenting a very creative solution to the following Long-Term problem:

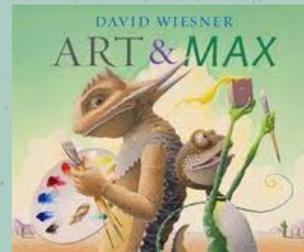
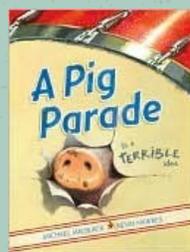
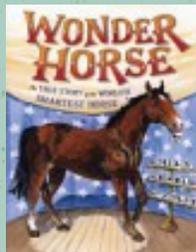
### **You Make the Call:**

**Teams will design and build a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure may have a maximum weight of 9 grams and will receive 2 times the weight held, or 12 grams and receive 1 ½ times the weight held, or 15 grams and receive the actual weight held. The testing of the structure will be presented in a performance which uses a team-created device to perform a mathematical function, and includes mathematics in its theme.**

On Saturday, January 28, students had a chance to practice the different types of spontaneous problems they might encounter at CVU at a scrimmage at Mill River High School. Austin, Andrea, Dustin, Jordyn, Micah and Nicole attended. They had the chance to solve all three types of problems they might face at CVU, hands-on, verbal, and combination verbal-hands on.

The Odyssey students have been working very hard to prepare for the tournament, and have been staying after school and even coming in over vacation to see the project to completion. We wish them good luck and a great day at the tournament.

Library



K-4 classes have begun reading this year's ten Red Clover Award nominees. The Red Clover Award is a state-wide literature appreciation program that helps students recognize the different genres and features of quality writing, while also learning to compare, contrast and make connections. Several books on this year's list are nonfiction, featuring real people or events, while others are examples of fiction with topics ranging from art to geography to folklore. Students have especially enjoyed reading Wonder Horse: the True Story of the World's Smartest Horse which tells about a horse that learned to recognize the alphabet, numbers, and colors, and in the process helped people learn to be kind to animals and other people. In April, students throughout Vermont will vote for their favorite.

5th and 6th grade students will also be voting in April for their favorite book in the Vermont DCF program. Several of the books are written by Newbery Award and DCF award winners and encompass a wide range of genres and themes. Mt. Holly students have been posting reviews of these and other books they enjoy, and sharing them with each other and with Ludlow School's 5th & 6th graders on our DCF Wiki website. A wiki is a web site that can be quickly edited and added to by visitors to produce a collaborative site. In effect, the students themselves create the content of the wiki's web pages. This is a private site open to Mt. Holly and Ludlow schools' students, staff, and family members who wish to participate. It provides students with the chance to talk to each other about the books they are reading outside of classwork, while also introducing them to several features inherent in a virtual/computer classroom. Students can access the website from any internet connected computer (including their netbooks) by following a link on the school library webpage: <http://mounthollyschool.org/Library.htm> Read some of their reviews in this newsletter.

**ODYSSEY UPDATE**

**Congratulations to Odyssey of the Mind team members Austin, Dustin, Marley, Micah, & Nicole for their wonderful presentation at the VT State Tournament Saturday 3/10.**

Students solved a spontaneous problem for the judges, and also presented their Long Term balsa problem solution. The students balsa wood structure successfully held 55 pounds! Their play incorporated the required theme of mathematics by demonstrating the multiplication of unicorns using the function  $x = u \times 2$ , and highlighted the difference between multiplication and duplication. Each time they multiplied the unicorns, the total number of unicorns increased, yet each unicorn was unique; or should we say, "a unicorn"! The team presented their play to the Mt. Holly School community on Monday in the gym so all students could appreciate their wonderful creativity. We thank them for their obvious hard work, perseverance, creativity, and very fun performance.



# READ.. READ.. READ!!

## Book Reviews

Luke – Grade 5

The book I am reading is called Middleworld. It is part of a series of books called “The Jaguar Stones”. It is about a 14 year old boy Max. His parents are archaeologists who study the ancient Maya. When they mysteriously disappear, Max has to live with his strict Uncle Ted. What secrets is Ted hiding? Will Max find his parents? If you want to know, READ IT!



Adam -  
Grade 5

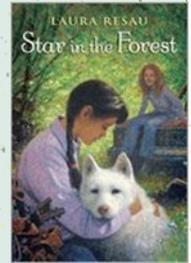
I recommend Eragon for grades 5 and up. It's a book of fiction. Eragon



is a book that is about a boy named Eragon who is hunting in a forest called the Spine. No one dares to hunt or go to the Spine, because there are weird and strange tales of people coming out of the Spine sick. While in the Spine, Eragon finds a CLEAN smooth rock. Eragon thinks it is a good break for him and his poor family. But, when he gets home at night, the stone starts to crack and hatches into a dragon. What adventures are in store for Eragon and his pet Dragon Sapphire? I thought this book was cool. I like the details and all the interesting stuff that is happening in the book. My thanks to the author Christopher Paolini for creating this great book!

Caitie- Grade 5

I am reading Star in the Forest. Star in the Forest is about a girl named Zitlally and her father was caught speeding and he was deported back to Mexico. That day Zitlally was sad so she ran into the woods and that is when she found the dog. One day a girl named Crystal followed Zitlally into the forest. Zitlally wanted to call the dog Star, because the dog has a star on the back of its neck. Every day the girls would secretly feed and give the dog water. The two girls were talking and Zitlally found out that both of the girl's fathers were in jail. Zitlally did not want to tell Crystal because she did not want her to know. One day Zitlally's father was coming home so the girls had a thought of training Star for Zitlally's dad. But when they were training Star, Star was stolen and Zitlally's father was kidnapped. For you to find out the rest, read the book. It is an awesome book I loved it A LOT!!!!!!!



London - Grade 5



Touch Blue is about a family of four who live on the island Bethsaida. Kate, the mom, is the island school teacher. David, the dad, is a lobster fisherman who's teaching his daughter Tess about lobstering. Tess's little sister Libby loves to play Monopoly. Just when Tess's best friend Amy moves to the mainland, the small island school is threatening to shut down. If the school shuts down, Kate will lose her job and her and her family will have to move to the mainland. If the island can get enough kids to go to the school, the school will stay open. The island decides to take in foster kids to go to the school and keep it open. Tess and her family adopt a foster boy named Aaron. At first Aaron is shy and wants to see his mom. Aaron plays the trumpet and piano and plays at the Fourth of July picnic and for the island talent show. I really liked the book Touch Blue because it's a really well written and detailed book and I really enjoyed it. :) -London

Andrea - Grade 6

Smile is a comical graphic novel written & illustrated by the main character, Raina Telgemeier. The book starts off as Raina is a 6th grader, showing the common problems a tween would experience. One of the things Raina had to go through was getting braces. Soon before she got them, she knocked her two front teeth out. While she was still dealing with maturing, crushes, and leaving and making friends, Raina had to go through an extra 4 years of fixing her teeth. I would recommend this book to people 6-9th grade, a lot of people would be able to relate their problems to Raina's.

