

# The Firebird Flyer

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL OF AUSTIN

FALL EDITION, NOVEMBER OF 2024

## WE ARE TRAILBLAZERS

Anishka Ramanujam, Eighth Grade

As you probably know by now, our school's theme this year is "Trailblazing." To understand the intention behind choosing this school-wide theme, I sat down with a couple individuals who helped create it. According to Ms. Reagan and Ms. Jackie, we chose this theme for multiple reasons. Ms. Reagan talked about how they wanted to choose a theme that ties in with our school's mission statement and more importantly, one that can help support our students during and after their time at the GSA. In her words, "We want [the theme] to have a direct tie with something that we're hoping to launch our graduates into the world with." In other words, we want our graduates to go into high school and into the world being brave risk takers, confident in themselves, while still pushing to be the best version of themselves that they can be.

After I learned about the why behind this year's theme, Ms. Jackie talked to me about how specific individuals in this community were trailblazing. She pointed out that in our weekly community meetings, we have students coming up to the microphone and voicing their opinions. For example, not to long back, a few Fifth Graders presented their concerns with playground safety at school. This was an instance where a few individuals stepped up and used their voices as a way to blaze trails for others.

Later, I interviewed our Head of School, Ms. Yacono, who helped me see that trailblazers don't always come in the form of individuals. They can come in the form of institutions too. During our meeting, Ms. Yacono referenced the different ways that The Girls' School has been trailblazing—not just how individual students or other members of our community, but how our collective institution is, as a whole. Ms. Yacono mentioned that adding the position of a lower school science teacher has permitted our institution to trailblaze even further. Now that we have a specific teacher focused on teaching our students science, it allows us, as students, to go deeper. In her words, "We wanna dig deep [and] understand the greater meaning."



Art by Margaret Riels, Eighth Grade

At first I was confused. How might adding a teacher make us "trailblazing?" Seconds later, she answered my question by saying, "That's the impact on the students: the impact is that they get to dig deep." Basically, this minor change will allow for the students to more deeply understand all subjects, which will enable them to be trailblazers in whatever field they choose.

It's a simple example of how a small institution, such as the Girls' School of Austin, can blaze trails, providing new pathways and blueprints for other communities that are determined to lead as well, much in the way that organizations like the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) paved the way for newer institutions committed to fighting social injustice.

It might seem odd to compare our school to a huge organization like the NAACP as the Girls' School of Austin obviously hasn't radically changed the world (at least not yet). However, we can see how our school would aspire to be like these larger organizations and pave the way for many more to come.

A trailblazing institution, I've learned, brings people together. It uses a shared mission or goal to unite groups of people and create a community. A trailblazing institution carves a path for many others to follow. Those in it lead the way.

I then saw how the Girls' School is a trailblazing institution. Our mission is to develop confident young women who lead intellectually vibrant and fulfilling lives. We use that objective to create a united goal for the community, and our leaders within our community help create that path to work towards our goals. Our path isn't one that has been set for us but one that we have constructed ourselves. Being the only non-religious independent all-girls school in the city, we create the path towards the goal and prove that it's possible to meet it.

As we move forward, let's think collectively about how we, as a community, can build a path that may not be given to us and take risks to reach our goals. How can we leave a track for others to follow? How can we not only do what is a strenuous task, but inspire others around us to become trailblazers and create their own trails to blaze?

## How Teachers Keep Learning: A Math Conference in Chicago!

Ms. Heaton, Teacher

You might think of your teachers as all-knowing people who have already learned everything about what they teach. Well, while we do know a lot, we keep growing as teachers by gaining experience, reading books, and sometimes meeting up with other teachers to gather new ideas. This is called "professional development," and it is an important part of our jobs as teachers!

In late September, I spent three days learning from other math teachers from across the country at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Summit. I went to presentations about big topics like how to inspire students to think mathematically, and also small topics like how to use a strategy called "story tables" to teach about equations and functions.



*GSA students and parents on the Trailblazing Hike*



*Ms. Heaton at the Math Conference!*

Part of what I loved about the conference was meeting other math teachers who are as excited about teaching Math as I am. I got to meet a college math teacher from Georgia who loves incorporating the study of music into his classes. I also met other middle school teachers who loved hearing about all of my stories from working at an all-girls school!

One of the best presentations I went to was about how teachers and students are currently using artificial intelligence (AI) in the math classroom. It provided some ideas for how to use this new technology in an effective way, and it inspired me to ask Ms. Yacono if I could lead a teacher work-group about A.I. in the spring.

As teachers, our goal is to help you grow not just academically, but as people. After you leave school, you might think you're done learning. In reality, you are always experiencing new things that help you grow as a person. The key is to keep seeking opportunities that help you push your boundaries and keep moving forward!

# Theme Parade: Adventure is Out There

Ruby Orlowski, Fifth Grade

The Theme Parade is a GSA tradition where the whole school gets together and shows off their snazzy costumes. But there is a twist; you have to follow one rule. There is always a theme. The theme this year was “Adventure Is Out There.”

I talked to some of the Fourth Graders, and Nadia said, “My costume for the theme parade is a plant. I used cardboard from a box and made the pot. I got an old headband and glued fake leaves to it, then I made a skirt out of leaves and sticks.”

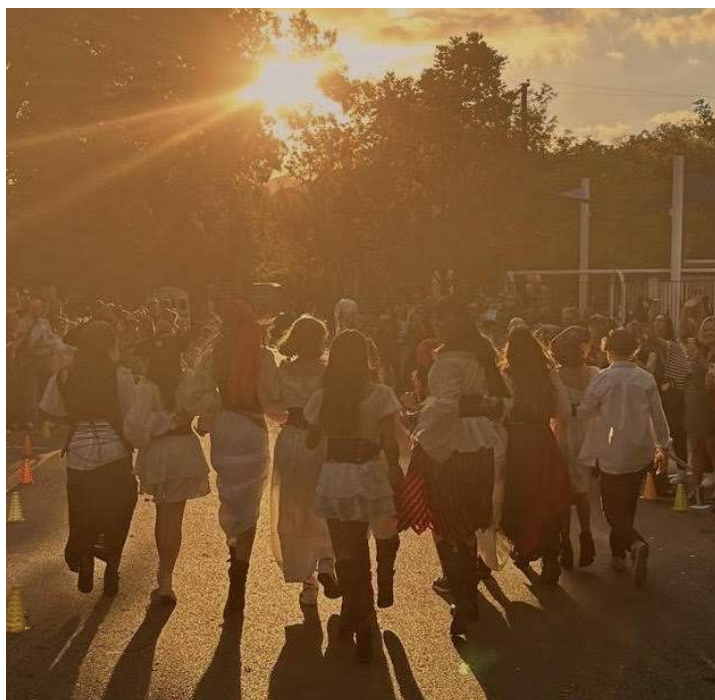
Jeana in fourth grade said that she was going to be her grandmother. She said, “My grandma was my hero and was a trailblazer and I wanted to represent her.” She continued, “I am going to use an old frayed shirt, an old family heirloom for a necklace, and an old fashioned pleated shirt.”

I also talked to a first grader, Anna. She said she is going to be Moana because she thinks Moana is brave, kind, and fearless and she sees herself in her. She also said that she was inspired by Moana and wants to be like her. Her costume was made out of really soft yarn. She made a necklace out of plastic, a tiara out of leaves, and a flower bracelet.

I hope you all had a wonderful Theme Parade!



*Seventh Grade on Theme Parade*



*Eighth Graders during the parade*

# Student Government Update

Sahana Rao, Fifth Grade

The Student Government is a group of students who are in Seventh and Eighth Grade. They meet every Wednesday at lunch and recess and are very important to our school because they help us a lot with things that we otherwise may not have time to do. The members of the Student Government this year are Elsa, Anishka, Iris, and Kaisa in Eighth and Circe, Liv, Aliana, Signe, Mila, and Lila in Seventh. They help plan some of the school’s activities and are currently working on the sister group activities for the Theme Parade and the Middle School meeting activities. Another thing they are doing is a suggestion box for the Middle School. You may have not known what the Student Government are and what they do before you read this article, but hopefully you do now!

# What's Going on Downstairs

Sahana Rao, Fifth Grade

Many of us might not know much about what has been going on downstairs, so let's find out!

The Kindergarteners have been very busy! In Math, the girls have been working on numbers 1-10. They have been working on writing numbers and on reading and recognizing letters. They have also been learning about the past, present, and future in Social Studies. In Science, they have been investigating the human body, and they received their first five sight words in writing and reading.

In First Grade, the girls have been writing their own fairy tales and learning about different types of sentences. In Math, they have been learning about fact families, which are two addition sentences and two subtraction sentences that involve the same three numbers. They have been learning about bats in Science. In Social Studies, they have been researching families long ago and today. They have been learning about cultures and traditions in social studies, too.

The Second Graders have been working very hard also. They have Morning Meetings where they talk about a fixed mindset versus a growth mindset. A fixed mindset is when you think that your qualities cannot be changed or developed and a growth mindset is the opposite. In Math, the Second Graders are looking at 1s, 10s, and 100s charts to solve addition and subtraction problems. In Science, they have been learning about life cycles of animals, so they made models of bee habitats out of clay and other materials. At the end of the day, they do a read aloud with the whole class. During a read aloud, the computer will tell them a story.

The Third Graders have been doing a novel study on Ramona Quimby. In Science, they are learning about lift, weight, thrust, and drag, so they made paper airplanes and measured how far they went. In Social Studies, they are making citizenship flip books. In Math, they are developing skills to add and subtract big numbers, rounding to 10 and 100, and number bonds.

Don't forget about the Fourth Grade! They have been learning a lot about Texas history. In Math, they have been learning how to do long division and double-digit multiplication. They have also been working on Typing Club. In Science, they have been learning about energy and made windmills that spun. They have been learning about plants and nature in Science also. At the end of the day, the Fourth Graders read a book called Wonder, by R.J. Palacio.

I hope you enjoyed reading this article and that you learned more about what the Lower Schoolers have been up to!



*First Graders hard at work!*



*Second Graders in the classroom!*



*Eliana in Third Grade*

# A “Wasteful Endeavor:”

## Fast Fashion and the Future of our Planet

Anishka Ramanujam, Eighth Grade

As a society, it seems we are always trying to make things easier. The Printing Press, for instance, then the steam engine, then the smartphone. We keep inventing tools to make life simpler and more convenient. At first glance, this seems like a good thing. We’re just inventing things to ease up our lives, right? Not really. The speed at which we are manufacturing and “easing” up life is coming at a cost. We are simplifying certain small things while contributing to much larger global issues.

At times, we aren’t even aware of how we are adding to this chaos and thus we continue to blindly. Fashion is an example of a massive industry that is contributing to this disarray—more specifically, the industry often referred to as Fast Fashion. How exactly is Fast Fashion contributing to our current global climate crisis?

Fast Fashion is a business model that is producing massive amounts of clothing for companies at an extremely fast-moving pace. The industry makes its profit by mass manufacturing products in easy but destructive ways. This can include the use of products like bleach to lighten jeans, or the use of non-biodegradable materials, or having low paid workers make or package our clothing. On our end, we don’t see any of the terrible actions taking place behind the clothing we purchase. We just decide whether to buy the item we want or not.

It’s kind of like when you see a garden. We look at the beautiful, bright, beguiling flowers and just think they’re pretty. But we have no idea what toxins and pollutants were used to create this beauty we enjoy.

Because of our cognitive dissonance or in some cases pure ignorance, we continue to buy into this consumer culture regardless of how terrible its reality is. We cover up its ugliness with the compelling idea that this system allows us to get clothes at a cheap price. Thus Fast Fashion continues to thrive despite its true horrors.

After our society has learned about the truth behind Fast Fashion, you may question why so many people continue to support this industry, or even why we have companies who are doing this in the first place. The answer is simple: it’s another money making scheme.

As consumers, we want to buy clothes that are affordable and cheap. So as a business, it is most effective and profitable to make clothes and sell them for cheap prices. But for these businesses to still make money while selling clothes for low prices, they must also be creating them just as cheaply. This means they are using bad quality products, cheap labor, and so many more things that are horrible for our environment.

I had the opportunity to discuss the politics of fast fashion with Wendi Koleter, the owner of Kick Pleat, a women's retail clothing store located in Austin and Houston, Texas (and soon in Dallas!). She started off by talking to me about her business. In her words, “[We are] selling to women with an interest and love for dressing nicely, fashion, [and] all those things.” In terms of Fast Fashion, Kick Pleat doesn’t buy from brands in the Fast Fashion world and instead sells clothes from high end, sustainable brands. Wendi talked to me about her opinion on Fast Fashion and its problems. She used the term, “wasteful endeavor” to describe the carelessness with which we are going about making these clothes. This basically means that we are wasting time and resources on something that is truly ruining our planet.

My conversation with Koleter prompted my curiosity. What can we do to stop this? How do we solve this huge, global crisis?

Some people may believe that the solution to this problem is to regulate business practices. Wendi, however, highlighted the way customers have been driving this industry and that by changing peoples’ minds, we could prevent this industry from completely taking over.

In reality, the solution to this massive problem is likely a little bit of both. Companies need to adjust their ways of production, while consumers should also limit their purchases towards brands that are part of the fast fashion industry.

This may seem like a huge goal, but by taking small steps and altering our ways of thinking, we can eventually reach it.

We can start by looking at our own relationship towards clothing. Regardless of your purchases, how do you look at the industry of fast fashion? Are you taking the small steps to help carry our society to a brighter fashion future?

# All About Ms. Sanchez

Vera Willard, Fifth Grade

When you walk into the front office, you will probably see Ms. Chandler sitting at the front desk. But if you walk farther into the office, you will see another desk. This is where Ms. Sanchez works. I wasn't always sure what Ms. Sanchez did, but when I met with her, I realized that she does so much that you may have not have known about!

Ms. Sanchez's main job is what's called the Executive Assistant to the Head of School, which means that she basically helps out with anything and everything that Ms. Yacono does. And that means that Ms. Sanchez is organizing Ms. Yacono's calendar, scheduling meetings, getting the food for the meetings (yes, they eat at meetings, and yes, I was as shocked as you are right now when I found out), and helping Ms. Yacono prepare for meetings.



*Ms. Sanchez at her desk*

Another big thing that Ms. Sanchez does is support the Board of Trustees. A Board of Trustees is a group of people who are elected to manage an organization's assets (which is a fancy word for qualities) and strategic decisions. In addition, Ms. Sanchez helps with substitutes, and she makes sure that there is always someone on campus managing the classes. Ms. Sanchez also supports Ms. Chandler in the office, Ms. Ward, Mr. Davis, and really anyone that helps make the school run smoothly. Ms. Sanchez has worked in education for 19 years now, and her focus has always been operations related.

Ms. Sanchez has three children, Eli who is in college, Lucia who is in Second, and Natalia who is in Third! She loves to travel and also loves exposing her daughters to different cultures. In her free time, she loves being out in nature.

Thank you so very much from the whole GSA, Ms. Sanchez, for all that you do!



*Students at the Blanton*

# Why the Blanton: With Ms. Melear

Elise Beal, Fifth Grade

This Fall, grades third through eighth went to the Blanton museum. We went through and saw how art has evolved throughout the years and how art styles have changed. We started looking at European art. Then we started transitioning to the time when artists started getting the idea of messy text. That's when the idea spread from artist to artist.

Ms. Melear chose the Blanton Museum because it is a major museum in Austin, and also because she used to work there at UT! Ms. Melear does not have a favorite painting at the museum. She says, "I have too many favorites to count, but if I had to choose I would pick the Michener collection because of its messy design." We could tell that she had planned the field trip very carefully.

At the Blanton, we were grouped with the tour guides and chaperones. Word from Paula, one of the tour guides, is that Blanton is the place to be. Paula has worked at the Blanton for three years. She is one of the guides of the art galleries. She enjoys her job very much. Paula's favorite exhibit is the Native American exhibit, which features art that is from Native Americans. The exhibit has self portraits on chiefs in Native American tribes. It also has some paintings of battle scenes. Paula's favorite artist is Vincent Vango. She has always loved art, and it seems to be in her bloodline because her son ended up becoming a sculptor. Paula also used to be an artist herself.

The Blanton museum is an amazing museum and the Firebird Flier encourages you to go!



*Fifth Graders in class*

## What's Going on Upstairs?

**Greta Wishnow, Eighth Grade**

Lately, a lot has been going on in the Middle School, so I decided to chat with a few students to hear what they had to say about their recent experiences.

I talked to Elise, a Fifth Grader who had some cool things to share about her class. Elise was really excited about Ranch Romp. She also mentioned that her teacher, Mr. Ward, makes learning super fun by using interactive simulations. One time, they did a scavenger hunt in teams to find "treasure," which Elise thought was a great way to work on problem-solving and teamwork skills in a hands-on, interactive way. Teachers like Mr. Ward are finding new ways to make learning more exciting, giving students a more dynamic experience. According to Elise, these activities make learning enjoyable while still being educational. This mix of fun events and engaging classroom strategies seems to have a positive impact on students and makes their middle school experience even better. Elise is also hyped about the Lewis and Clark play that the Fifth Grade does every year. She's particularly stoked about practicing for the production because she loves singing and dancing. She's aiming for the roles of Lewis or Clark, but if those don't work out, she'd be happy with playing Sacagawea. Whatever part she gets, she's excited to be fully involved in the show and make the most of the experience.

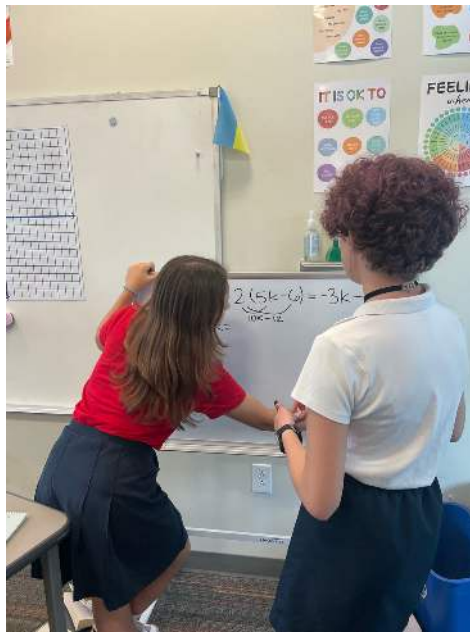
Next, I just talked with Ever, a super active Sixth Grader, and she told me all about what's going on in the Sixth Grade. She's into all sorts of stuff, like creating habitats in Math class and being part of the school production of *Hadestown*.

In Math, they're working on this cool project where they have to design environments with recreational and agricultural zones. It's all about using math to make everything fit together. And in Humanities, she's part of the school play. She plays Eurydice in one version and is a narrator in the other. She's also learning about weather, climate, and maps in Spanish class, and she's chosen Uruguay for her project. Plus, she's prepping for the winter concert where she'll be playing the piano. In Science, they're studying telescopes and astronomy, which has got Ever and her classmates super curious about space. It sounds like Ever's sixth-grade year is all about being creative, putting on a show, and tackling some tough schoolwork.

Later, I caught up with Lorali, a Seventh Grader, to find out what's been happening in her class. She said things have been going pretty well, with a manageable amount of homework and cool class projects. In Math, the class is working on a project about tessellations, which she's really into. She also mentioned taking a Humanities test recently. When I asked about upcoming big projects, she said she focused on finishing the math project soon. I also asked about her favorite subjects, and she said she loves Science and Math because she finds them "really interesting and fun to do."

Eighth Grade has been really busy lately! They just wrapped up a cool math project about positive trends in the world, which got them thinking about some big issues. Right now, they're working on essays in Humanities to submit to Scholastic, diving into different topics and sharpening their writing skills. They're also reading *Holocaust and Human Behavior*, which has been super eye-opening. They're taking notes and chatting about the deep themes and lessons from it. In Spanish class, the Eighth Graders are checking out *Casa Dividida*, which is a great story that helps them practice Spanish while also learning about some history. Each subject makes their learning experience really rich and rewarding!

In conclusion, middle school is such an exciting and lively time in life, packed with adventures and challenges for everyone. It's all about making new friends and exploring cool subjects that spark interest. As everyone goes through this unique journey, I can't wait to see the amazing things they'll accomplish and the unforgettable memories they'll make along the way.



*More Middle School Pictures!*

## Welcome Ms. Salo!

Elle, Fifth Grade

Ms. Salo is the new second grade teacher, and she has been enjoying teaching at the GSA so far. She has been teaching for five years, and her favorite subject to teach to her students is Mathematics. Ms. Salo is fluent in both English and Finnish. She is from Finland where she has two horses and dogs. She enjoys the first sip of coffee in the morning. She loves to socialize and play games with her students. She loves the community at the GSA and loves women empowerment and the excited faces getting out of cars. Ms. Salo loves the amazing learning community at the GSA.



*Ms. Salo*

## Sixth Grade Play: Hadestown

Iris Weston-DeJesus, Fifth Grade

This year's Sixth Grade play was *Hadestown*. *Hadestown* is a Broadway musical, and it is about Greek power, music, and how the goddess Persephone changed the seasons, and how they believed that things happened in the Greek times. The wonderful Sixth Grade performed this show on September 18, 2024. One of the main things about performing this musical was that you have to stay organized and memorize your lines. According to the lovely Sixth Grader Arden's perspective, "memorizing lines was the hardest thing to do." She says that she had fun performing and was feeling both excited and nervous. Now, we have a quote from our brilliant Humanities teacher Mr. Ward: "Orpheus could see the way the world could be, in spite of the way that it is." Another thing about this year's play is they performed it twice. The people that were narrating got to act and the people that were acting narrated. The play turned out great, and we can't wait to see more to come!

# Playground Safety

Vera Willard and Ruby Orlowski, Fifth Grade

## Playground

noun

An outdoor area for children to take risks and to enjoy themselves

## Safety

noun

The condition of being protected

## Risk

noun

A situation involving exposure to danger

We all love the playground. We love the monkey bars, the slide, the rock wall and so much more. Importantly, playgrounds give us a chance to take risks, which is an important part of the GSA experience.

But playgrounds can also be unsafe at times. We thought about this with our classmate Eleanor, and together we went to talk to Ms. Yacono about making some changes. She helped us think about what to do. She assisted us in making these suggestions, and helped us let the whole school know about it.

Here are the new playground safety rules:

1. Please do not sit on top of the monkey bars!
2. If you are standing on the mulch and your hands can touch the monkey bars without lifting your feet off the ground, then you can jump on the monkey bars from the green platform. If not, please do not jump from the green platform!
3. When you are on the rock wall, do not jump off the top. Wherever your shoulder is, that is where you can jump off.

We talked to some second and Third Graders, and they gave us some feedback on what they think could help. June Connelly in second grade said, "I think that the changes that we made make it safer so people won't get hurt as often." Audrey Lord in second grade said, "I really like it [the new rules] and I'm glad that people are safer now."

Kate Hughes in second said, "I am glad you made that rule because it keeps people safe." When we asked if they would add anything to make it safer, most kids said no, but Kate said that she would like it if no one stuck their arms or legs off of the slide. We also asked if they think that these changes are good for the community, and Caroline Young (very enthusiastically) said, "Yes!" We also asked them to draw some pictures of what they think would make the playground safer and more fun. (see below)

We know that these rules may not sound fun, and that many people don't enjoy them, so we want to make something clear. A playground is a place for children to play while also taking risks. We don't want anyone to be unhappy, so have fun and also take risks. That is as important as being safe, and maybe even more important. Stay safe, GSA!



Safe Playground Art by First Grade



# Short Stories: Creative Writing Elective

## A Bizarre Dream -- by Rea Syed, Fifth Grade

Walking up your sidewalk, you notice leaves trailing up a high fence. A small mailbox pokes out. You can barely see what is printed on it. Leaning over to catch the sunlight, you glimpse at an address. Lillian Evans, 2176 Cherrywood Court.

You have heard rumors about Ms. Evans. She gives out full-sized candy bars during Halloween, and lemonade during the hottest days in the summer. You had visited her once, all you remember is the big smile and the yellow daisy sundress. She said she wanted to be a famous singer, but her first performance didn't go well. She still loves singing to her children.

You head home, confused about what had happened. You're drowsy and fall into a dream you can remember so clearly, it pops into your head like a comet. You're in Las Vegas, in front of the big, iconic sign. The wind blows, and the sun shines brightly on your face. Looking over you see a blonde-haired young girl, posing for a photographer. She looks exactly like Ms. Evans.

As the two head out, you follow them, but it seems like they don't know that you're there. You feel like a ghost. Suddenly, you are in a small room while Ms. Evans is putting on makeup. Her dress is yellow, and it looks like a disco ball crashed in with a million suns.

A man's head pops in, informing her she has to go. She ruffles her dress, clears her throat, and heads out. You suddenly realize that you have traveled in time. You both head out, and you see that you are backstage of a famous theater. The walls are lined with red velvety carpets, and the stage is filled with a million fans, all dressed in their finests.

A man ruffles his collar, and you recognize him as a very famous pop star. Of course, no one knows about him at this time. He looks like he is up to something, and it takes a while before he says, "Let's steal the show." He gets called back to the dressing room, and you follow him. Suddenly, the parts click together for you.

Ms. Evans wanted to be a singer, but the now famous pop star is lacing her water with pepper. There were some rumors about those pranks ruining a performance, involving two other singers. No evidence was backed up with that, though. You knew that you had to do something.

You casually pass by, and lock the door. Ha! He's stuck. For once, Ms. Evans notices you. Her shining dress shines in your face, blocking any other light to come in. All you can see is her figure snapping her fingers. Two silhouettes appear, and you realize they're guards. You are dragged out furiously.

You fight and fight and fight, forming headaches and stomach aches. Your fight seems to last a while. When they finally let you out, you are covered in bruises. And that's the part when you wake up.

You rub your eyes and head out for your walk. Instead of seeing a tall fence and ivy house, you see a beautiful tall mansion, covering almost all of the street. A man in black sees you, hurries over, and recites robotically, "Excuse me, you're not supposed to be here. I will have to escort you out."

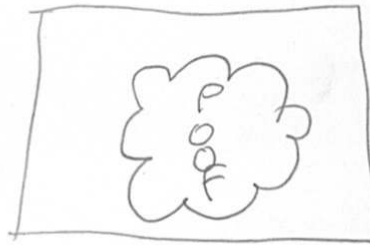
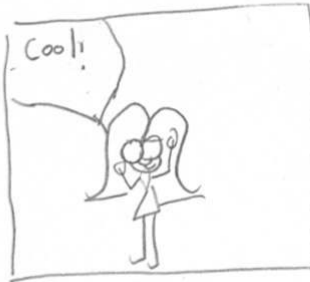
"Why? I live on this street," you said, not moving.

"This is the property of Lillian Evans. Please leave."

As he drags you out, regret drenched you that you saved Lily from the pop star's prank. You changed the course of history. Well, now you know your brain can do time travel. And it may help to fix your dilemma with Ms. Evans in the flashy dress and the handsome pop star...

# Comic!

Elle Lord, Fifth Grade



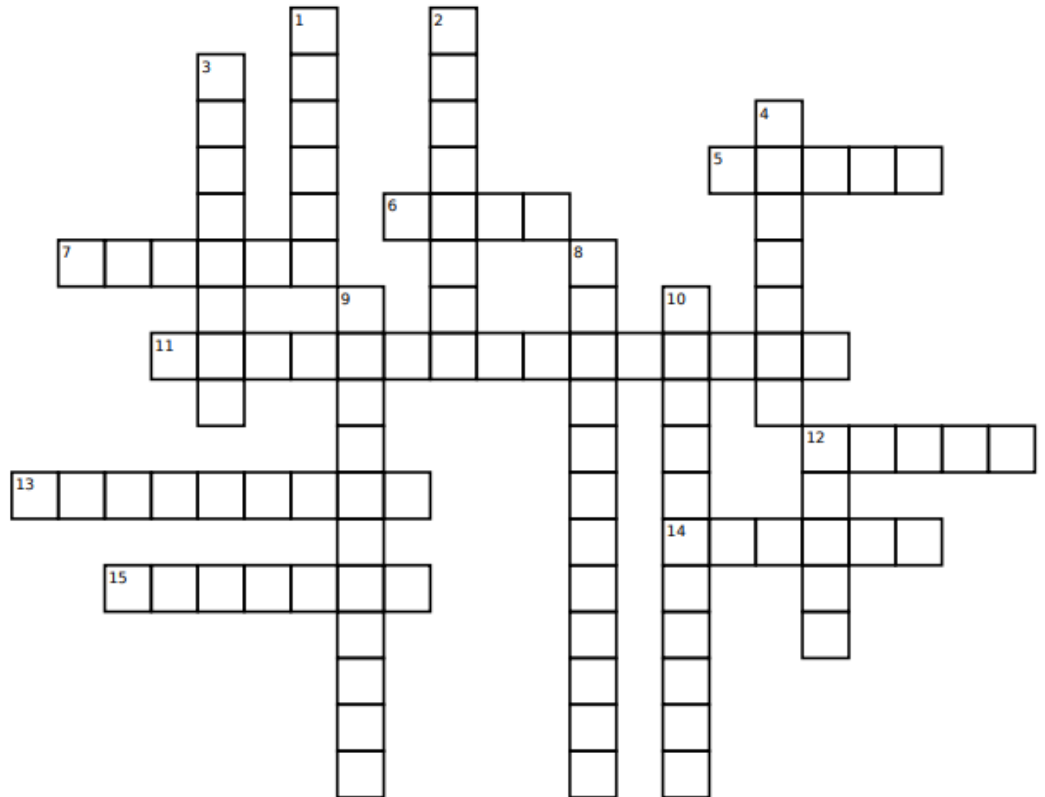
Elle

# Crossword!

Elise Beal, Fifth Grade

Down:

1. What is the planet with rings around it?
2. What is a baby frog called?
3. What is Taylor Swift's lucky number?
4. What is a mountain that explodes called?
8. What is the name of the first female vice president in the U.S.A? -
9. What is a candy that is fluffy and colorful and looks like a cloud?
10. What fast food is actually a vegetable?
12. What color is every color?



Across:

5. What is the official sport of Texas?
6. What are the set of instructions used to program a robot called?
7. What is the city that we live in?
11. What is a song by the Beatles that the school song follows the tune of?
12. What is the largest animal on the planet?
13. Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?
14. What do you put in a balloon to make it float?
15. Who is SpongeBob's bestie?

Down: 1. Saturn 2. Tadpoles 3. Thirteen 4. Volcano 8. Kamala Harris 9. Cotton Candy 10. French Fries 12. White  
Across: 5. Rodeo 6. Code 7. Austin 11. Yellow Submarine 12. Whale 13. SpongeBob 14. Hellum 15. Patrick

*The Firebird Flyer hopes you have enjoyed this edition. A special thanks to the staff of the Firebird Flyer, 2024:*

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*Elle Lord- writer, artist*

*Iris Weston-DeJesus - writer, artist*

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*Vera Willard - writer*

