

# Culbertson Gazette

Volume 4, Issue 3

Spring 2006

Color version available at: [www.mnsd.net/culbertson/library](http://www.mnsd.net/culbertson/library)

## Dan Gutman Was Here!!!!

By Kelsey Hoekstra

On Sports Day, Dan Gutman came to our wonderful school (Hmmm, coincidental? I think not.) He put on a presentation for every grade. I will report on the presentation for the 3-5 graders since I was there. It started with Mr. Cook introducing Dan. Did you know that in elementary school Dan Gutman didn't like to read!?!?!?!? However, he was a sports fan, so he sort of *had* to read to learn about his favorite teams. Dan did an *interesting* magic trick. Dan dislikes the Yankees so he chose to make a Yankee fan disappear. He chose to make Andrew Moore disappear. Dan put a pink sheet over Andrew's head and when he whisked the sheet off..... Andrew was still there!



Mr. Gutman can't do magic tricks. But he can write great books!  
Dan read excerpts from rejection letters and told the listeners that it took two years of rejections to get *Honus and Me* published. He had a funny slide show and afterward I had the chance to ask him some questions.

Q. Who inspired you to become an author?

A. No particular person.

Q. How many school interviews have you done so far?

A. Not that many.

Q. Are there any sequels to any of your books coming out soon?

A. Million Dollar Putt. There will also be a total of 20 books in the My Weird School Series.

Q. What is your favorite book that anyone has written?

A. Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Q. What is your favorite book that you wrote?

A. Johnny Hangtime

Q. What was your favorite subject when you were a kid?

A. English/Language Arts

Q. If you weren't a writer, what would you be?

A. I'd be publishing books somewhere.

Q. What advice do you have for anyone who wants to be a writer?

A. Go to my website. Also, when you write your 1<sup>st</sup> draft, look at it with someone else's eyes.

Thank you for coming, Dan Gutman. If you have any other questions, visit his website, [www.dangutman.com](http://www.dangutman.com).

## **March Madness**

*By Craig Hamilton*

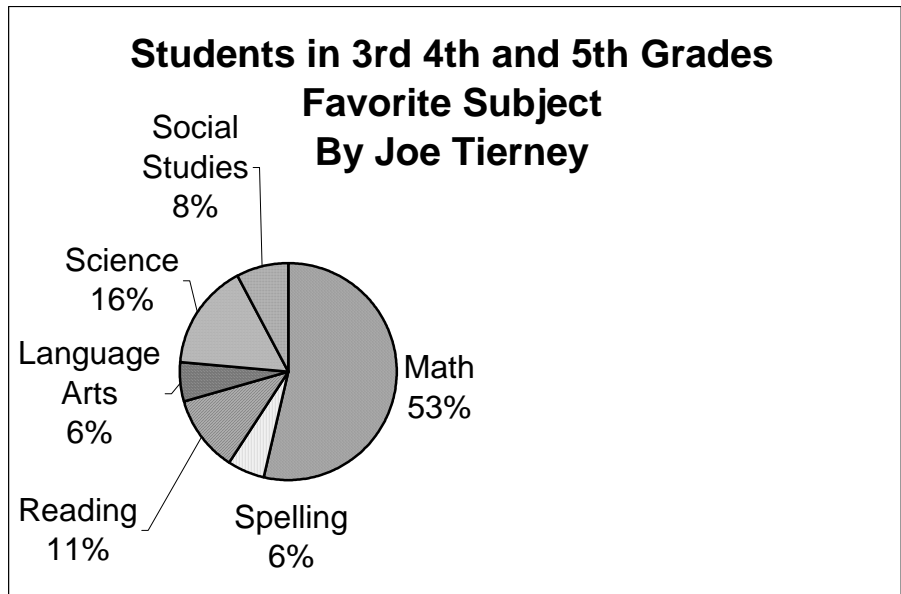
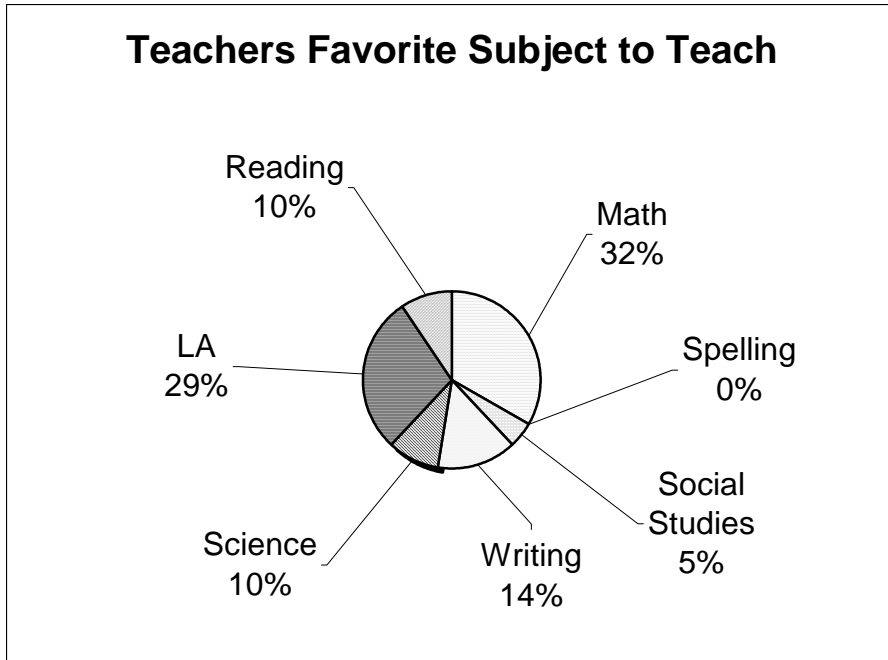
In the first round of the NCAA tourney no number 16 seed defeated a number 1 seed and Duke, Memphis, UConn and Nova kept that streak alive. Also there were many big upsets like George Mason over Michigan State, UNC and UConn and Wichita State over Tennessee and Bradley over Kansas and Pitt. With George Mason defeating UConn they are only the second #11 seed to make the final four. Another interesting fact is not one of the #1 seeds made the final four this year. In the championship Joakim Noah of the Florida gators scored 16 points, nine rebounds, and a new record of six blocks against UCLA.

*Source: <http://www.ncaasports.com/basketball>*

# Students' and Teachers' Favorite Subject!

By Joe Tierney

This purpose of this article is to see if students like learning what teachers like teaching and if teachers like teaching what the students like learning! I thought that the student graph was very interesting because most kids usually complain about math, but it got the most votes on the graph!



I would like to thank Jenny Reynolds, Caroline Abbot and Bianca Mesoraca for letting me use their "favorite subject to teach" graph in my article!

## Interview with Mrs. Egan

*By Samantha Beisel, Maddie Helker and Kelsey Hoekstra*



Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: 24 years

Q: What is your favorite part about teaching?

A: Seeing how the class grows and develops from September to June.

Q: What's your favorite subject to teach?

A: Social Studies

Q: Have you ever taught at a different school and if so what school?

A: Yes, Hillcrest School in

Drexel Hill, Ben Franklin School in Westchester, NY, and Franklin School in Boston.

Q: Who inspired you to be a teacher?

A: My 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Berman

Q: Did you ever teach a different grade and if so what grade?

A: Yes, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and I've substituted in grades K-6

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Artichokes

Q: What's your favorite color?

A: Green, usually

Q: If you had a choice for vacation where would it be and why?

A: Italy, because I've never been there and I think it would be very fascinating.

Q: What other job would you have if you were not a teacher?

A: I'd work in a hospital in the nursery (with newborns).

## **Personality Quiz**

*By Katie Brennan and Kim Selig*

Do you ever wonder what kind of person you are? Well, take this quiz and find out.

Directions: answer the questions below and remember, no peeking!

#1 What is your favorite color?

- A: Blue
- B: Green
- C: Pink
- D: None of the above

#2 What is your favorite after-school activity?

- A: Dance
- B: Video Games
- C: Sports
- D: none of the above

#3 What is your favorite type of music?

- A: Rock
- B: Hip Hop
- C: Rap
- D: none of the above

#4 What is your favorite animal?

- A: Dog
- B: Cat
- C: Monkey
- D: None of the above

#5 What is your favorite sport?

- A: Basketball
- B: Soccer
- C: Gymnastics
- D: None of the above

#6 What is your favorite subject in school?

- A: Math
- B: Social Studies
- C: Science
- D: None of the above

#7 What is your favorite movie?

- A: Harry Potter series
- B: Chicken Little
- C: Shrek 1& 2
- D: None of the above

#8 When you get home from school you do?

- A: Watch TV
- B: Video Games
- C: Homework
- D: None of the above

#9 What is your favorite dessert?

- A: Ice Cream
- B: Cupcakes
- C: Cake
- D: None of the above

#10 What is your favorite thing to do when you are bored?

- A: Go on the computer
- B: IM friends
- C: Read a book
- D: None of the above

If you chose mostly A's you like to have fun at whatever you do and you are very optimistic.

If you chose mostly B's you are a laid back person and you have very close friends.

If you chose mostly C's you are very academic and you will do very well at whatever you set your mind to.

If you chose mostly D's you are a leader not a follower and you have your own opinion and you are not afraid to tell any one.

## **Mrs. Vetter Answers Questions About Her Job**

By Joe Tierney

Q. How long have you been teaching at Culbertson?

A. 5 years

Q. During the time you've been teaching at Culbertson what do you think the best thing was?

A. My class, Olympics project and book club.

Q. What subject do you think is the hardest to teach, or hardest to learn?

A. Writing, because there are so many things you have to know, like grammar.

Q. What would you say is a fifth grade teachers #1 priority with their students?

A. My #1 priority is for every student to improve and also to become a better person.

Q. What is your favorite book club book in 5<sup>th</sup> grade?

A. Number the Stars

Q. This has nothing to do with your job, but what is your favorite dessert?

A. Chocolate covered pretzels!

Q. Why did you become a teacher?

A. At first I thought I never would like it, but once I got to college I knew I would love it!

Q. What advice would you give to other kids that will be in fifth grade in future years?

A. Just come ready to work hard!



## **Chocolate Covered Popcorn**

*By Katie Ward*



Make popcorn on the stove following the directions on the bag.

Put chocolate chips in the microwave. Heat for ten second intervals. Stir after each time and stop when there are no chunks. Lay popcorn on a cookie sheet and drizzle the chocolate over the popcorn. Let it cool down in the fridge for about 10 to 20 minutes until the chocolate is hard.

You can make this for birthday treats, snacks for parties and just for something to do. This is good recipe for the summer because you do not have to turn the oven on and heat the kitchen.

## **Questions for Playground Assistants**

*Interview by Katie Ward, typing by Melanie Siracusa*

Key: Mrs. D. = Mrs. Donnell; Mrs. G = Mrs. Gianguilio; Mr. D = Mr. D'Annunzio



1. Why did you start working at Culbertson?

Mrs. D. - To spend time with my children in their school environment.

Mrs. G. - To spend time with my son at school.

Mr. D. - Because I enjoy working with the kids.

2. What is the toughest part of working at Culbertson?

Mrs. D. - Going outside in the cold.

Mrs. G. - Cold weather.

Mr. D. - Indoor recess.

3. What is your favorite part of working at Culbertson?

Mrs. D. - Seeing Jake, Sean, and Katie.

Mrs. G. - Working with the kids outside in the nice weather.

Mr. D. - Making a positive difference in the children lives to help kids get a long.

4. What is your favorite movie?

Mrs. D. - Overboard

Mrs. G. - 101 Dalmatians

Mr. D. - Star Wars and Star Trek.

5. What is your favorite color?

Mrs. D. - Orange

Mrs. G. - Pink

Mr. D. - Blue

6. Do you have any children if so what are their names?

Mrs. D. - 2 sons, Jake and Sean.

Mrs. G. - 1 son, Nicholas.

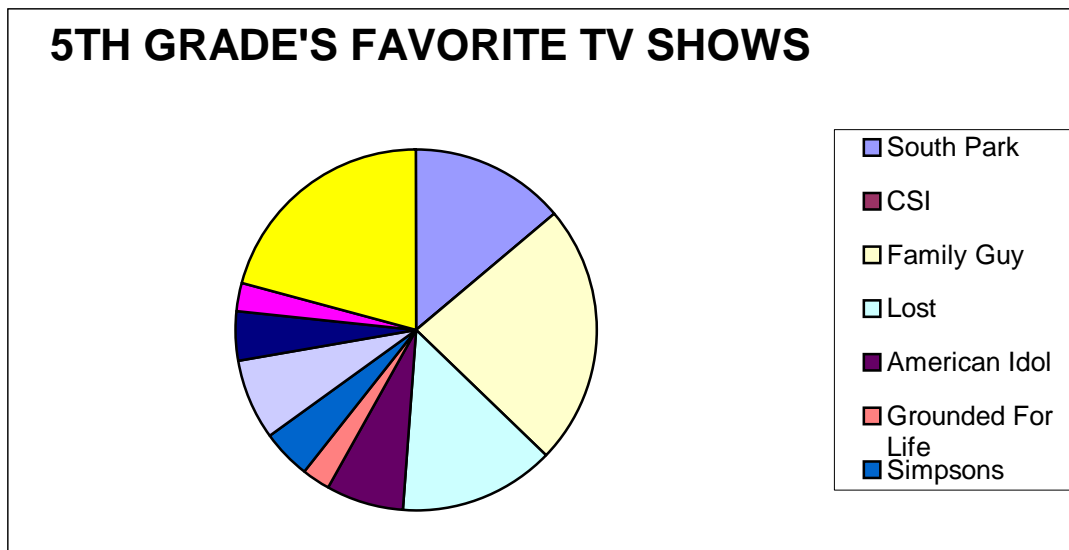
Mr. D. - 3 Daughters, Stacy, Shelli, and Coley.

Interesting note: Mr. D. went to Culbertson when he was a kid!

## Fifth Grade Favorite Television Shows

*By Edward Kyne & Catherine Rainone*

We spoke to each fifth grader and asked them what their favorite television show was. The most favorite television show in fifth grade was *Family Guy*, which got 10 votes. The least favorite television show was *C.S.I.* and others that received no votes. *Lost* and *South Park* were also very popular.



## What's Up With The New Teacher, Mrs.Reilly?

*By Edward Kyne and Catherine Rainone*

Q. Is this your first time teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A. All the funny things the kids do and say.

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. *Where The Red Fern Grows* (but it might make you cry).

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Running, swimming, biking, triathlon, and spending time with my family.

Q. What is your favorite subject to teach?

A. I love teaching them all.

Q. Why did you become a teacher?

A. I love kids and learning.

Q. What is your favorite TV show?

A. American Idol.

Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. Three years.



Q. Is this your first time teaching? If it is not, where else did you teach and what grade?

A. I taught second grade in inner city Chicago.

Q. Do you want to become a permanent teacher?

A. YES, please, I would love it!!!

## The Hook Olympics

*By Katie Brennan, Blaire Sweeney & Kim Selig*

You may be wondering what the Hook Olympics is. We asked 5<sup>th</sup> graders to enter the hook competition and 13 agreed. The rules are simple. First, you get on a swing and stand as far back as you can. Then, you swing forward and hook your legs on the pole that holds up the swingset you are on. These 5<sup>th</sup> graders have held their legs on the pole as long as they could. Here are the results from the longest time to the shortest time.

As you can see Katie Ward came in first place, Jenny Reynolds came in second place and Edward Kyne came in third place.

**List Of People Competing in the Hook Olympics**

1. Katie Ward: 25 min.
2. Jenny Reynolds: 10 min.
3. Edward Kyne: 6 min. 45 sec.
4. Caroline Abbott: 6 min. 9 sec.
5. Bianca Mesoraca: 5 min. 34 sec.
6. Samantha Panczner: 5 min.
7. Jessica Dragonetti: 2 min. 55 sec.
8. Maddie Helker: 2 min 35 sec.
9. Kelsey Hoekstra: 2 min. 25 sec.
10. Bridget Kyne: 1 min. 50 sec.
11. Nick Pezzotti: 1 min. 18 sec.
12. Abby Severino: 32 sec.
13. Samantha Beisel: 8 sec.

*Katie Ward's Winning Style*



**Q and A with Mrs. Cummings**

*By Michaela Fite*

1. How long have you been a teacher at Culbertson? 16 years.
2. What is your favorite subject that you teach your students? Math.
3. Do you have any pets? If so, what kind of pets are they and what are their names? I have a male cat named Oliver.

4. What is the hardest subject to teach? Writing strategies.
5. Will you ever be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher? No, because I really like 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
6. What is your favorite type of junk food?  
Anything with chocolate.
7. If you had to choose another job what would it be? Office worker.
8. What is your favorite sport? Baseball.
9. Do you have a favorite singer? Shania Twain.
10. What is your favorite movie? *Half Light*.



## Dolphin Research

*By Joe Tierney*

*In the last Gazette I promised I would do an article on dolphins, the fifth graders' favorite ocean animal. After searching the web I went to a web site named **Searchasaurus** and when I typed in "Dolphin" I found information on several types of dolphins, but here is some general information on dolphins.*

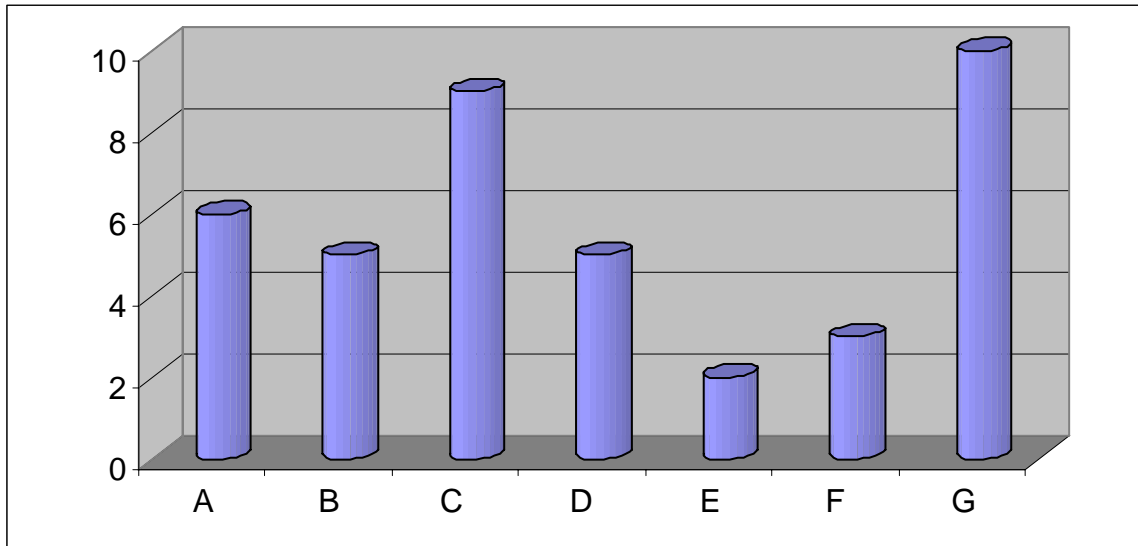
Dolphins come in different shapes and sizes, some as small as four feet long that weigh only 100 lbs., and some as big as 30 feet long that weigh up to 11,000 lbs. A dolphin's skin is smooth and rubbery. It is generally dark on top and light on the bottom. Most dolphins travel in family groups called schools. Some dolphins eat other marine mammals. The main enemy of the dolphin is the shark! Mating for the dolphin takes place in spring or early summer (usually).

*Source: Searchasaurus (database in Power Library)*

## Favorite Animal *By Jeff McVeigh*

I surveyed the fifth grade to find their favorite animal. I found the tiger was their favorite animal.

**Key:** A-dog; B-cat; C-wolf; D-raccoon; E-hawk; F-cheetah; G-tiger



## Questions for a Teacher Named Mrs. Morris

*By Dennies Chung and Joe McCarthy*



Q. 1. What is your favorite book and who is your favorite author?

A. *The Harry Potter* series; and Alison Weir.

Q. 2. What is your favorite pastime?

A. Scrapbooking, reading, knitting, and babysitting.

Q. 3. How long have you been teaching at Culbertson?

A. Around twenty years.

Q. 4. What did you want to be when you were little?

A. I wanted to be a teacher and a mom.

Q. 5. What is your favorite animal and why is it your favorite?

A. A dog because they give unconditional love.

Q. 6 .What is your favorite movie and why?

A. "Last of the Mohicans," because it was a good movie about the French and Indian war.

Q. 7. Who is your favorite president?

A. Abraham Lincoln, because he stood up for what he believed.

Q. 8. What is your favorite vacation spot?

A. Ocean City, New Jersey.

Q. 9. Do you have any pets, if so what are their names?

A. Two cats named Merlin and Lu.

Q. 10. What do you like the best about Culbertson?

A. I love the kids, the staff, the teachers, and I think Mr. Cook is great.

Q. 11. Have you gone to another country, if so what was your favorite thing about it?

A. Yes, I went to London, England, and I like it because I like the history of London.

Q. 12. Where did you to college?

A. I went to West Chester University.

## *Can you Guess My Number?*

By Joe Tierney

Directions: Read the clue to each problem to guess the number.

1. I am an even number with one digit. I am less than three.  
I am the number \_\_\_\_\_
2. I am the decimal equivalent to  $2\frac{1}{2}$   
I am the decimal \_\_\_\_.
3. I am the only number that has 3 of the same numbers in each digit that when you multiply me by 2 you get 222.  
I am the number \_\_\_\_\_
4. I am the decimal equivalent to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ .  
I am the decimal \_\_\_\_.
5. I am the improper fraction you get from  $10\frac{3}{4}$  .  
I am the improper fraction \_\_\_\_\_

Bonus! List three numbers between 2 and 3. (HINT: look up at the problems above and if you got them all right you will find two answers!) List the numbers!

(Note: There is an infinite number of answers for the bonus!)

1.	2.	3.

## Sports Wordsearch

By Nick Thomas and Jared Capoferri

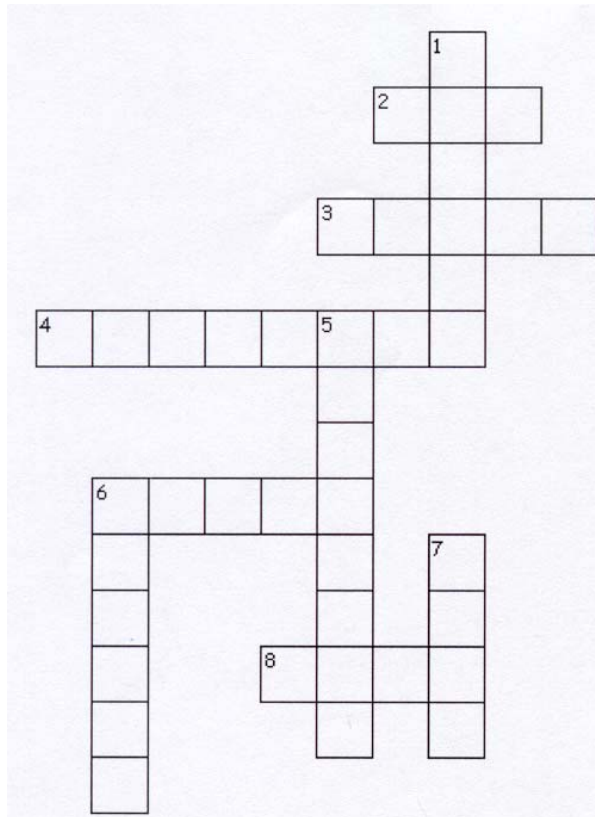
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G A B Q N C Y H Y B F S Z C N
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S S I Y B C C S O I G L Q A S
S O X D K S K N K M A U P D R
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ALLENIVERSON  
 BASEBALL  
 BASKETBALL  
 BOBSLEDDING  
 BRIANDAWKINS  
 CHADJOHNSON  
 FOOTBALL  
 HOCKEY  
 JIMMYROLLINS  
 KOBE BRYANT  
 LACROSSE  
 PEYTON  
 RUGBY  
 SKIING  
 SNOWBOARDING  
 SOCCER  
 TIMDUNCAN  
 YAOMING

# Animal Puzzle

by Melanie Siracusa, Nick Christiana, Abby Severino



## Across:

2. I meow and I can jump very high
3. I have black and white stripes
4. I have a trunk
6. I am squeaky
8. I am big and hairy

## Down:

1. I eat carrots
5. I eat ants
6. I can climb in trees
7. I eat worms and I fly

## Joe Tierney's Hidden Message!

C U L B E R T S A O N E L E M E N T A R  
Y Z A U D S T W Z R R D G Q R K M U U M  
S K O O B I C H K R T C F G A C U T N F  
L F I U D G D H U Y M S H W N S H M Y X  
R G A M B Z J X O P U I A D O I U T T C  
N I V W L J K C E O V Y T G R S T N D V  
E R I V J X I N P X L W W E I A E I Z C  
Y T E H N X J Y P V J Z T C R H F I R L  
C W T A I T H I S F E U Y R A R B I L W  
I A M B D I U S L J P Y Y M X O U X W Y  
M A K A U V H X I M V C D M I T U F F H  
S R E H C A E T O N L Y U Z L C K B A K  
T R Q L D A H C O I A U T F H C Q M L A  
X T M S K L C L C V J P S W K L H H G D  
Z Z T Y T H R N Q U Y P S C O G A I H G  
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S O K Z M M F A X U W P E F Z L Y R D M  
Q E I X L T B T P G O Z X C G S R A D L  
R W D G Y M R H L S O D N W F A N V H Y

ART  
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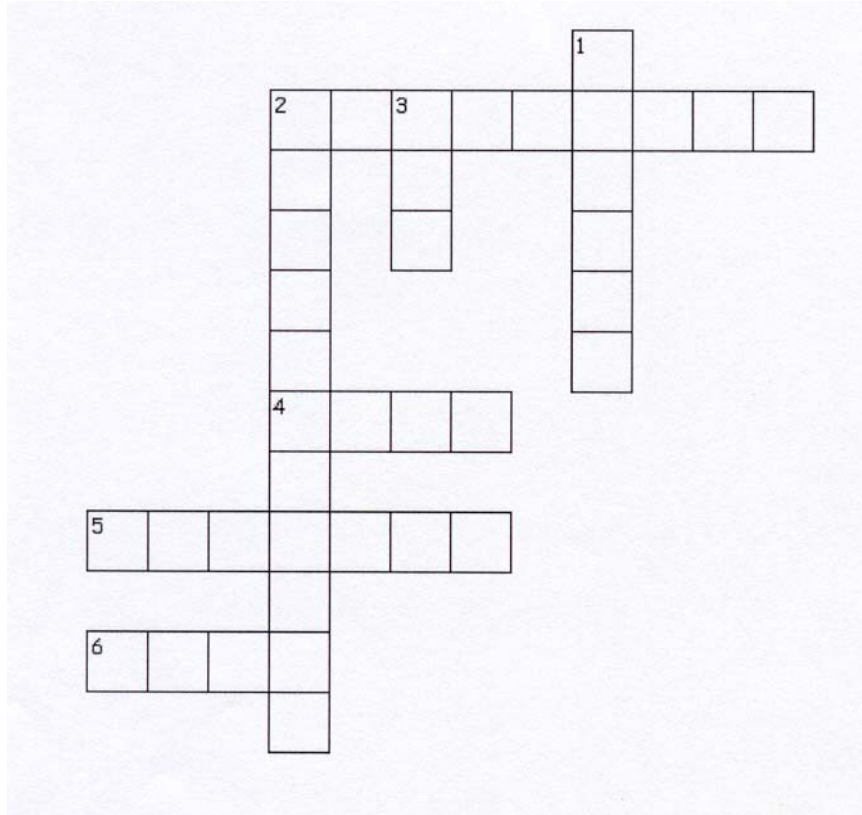
BOOKS  
COMPUTER  
MATH  
PEN  
SCHOOL  
TEACHERS

CHALK  
GYM  
MUSIC  
PENCIL  
SPANISH  
WRITING

Directions: Once you find all the words, the remaining letters will be the hidden message!

# School

*By Joe Tierney*



## Across

2. Place where teachers teach
4. Something that you study for
5. Place where there are lots of books
6. The big test third, fourth and fifth graders take

## Down

1. Principal of Culbertson Elementary
2. Place where COMPUTER classes are taught
3. Mrs. Curson teaches this class

## Editor's Note:

According to the "Personality Quiz" in this issue, I "have my own opinion and I'm not afraid to tell any one." So I will!

In my opinion, the fifth graders have done an excellent job of writing the *Gazette* this year and I am very proud of them. I have enjoyed helping them write or edit their articles and produce their paper. I also learned new facts about what happens on the playground (see article on the "Hook Olympics") and fascinating things about my colleagues (one of Mrs. Reilly's hobbies is participating in triathlons?!). And isn't it interesting that teachers' favorite subject to teach and students' favorite subject to learn is math?

As always, I wish to thank our principal, Mr. Cook, for his support of the paper, and the PTO for its generosity in sponsoring the printing of the *Gazette*.

Finally, I will miss working and learning with this group of fifth graders, but wish them all the best of luck in middle school and beyond.

~Sincerely,

Mrs. Julie Samuels, Editor and Librarian