



A Veterinary Dream

By: *Téa Mottolese*

Lots of kids love animals. Many also dream of becoming vets. For one ten year old, her dream came true. Courtney Oliver, of Olympia, Washington became a veterinary assistant in 2008 after taking college classes online. "We want to let her go at her own pace" said Candy, Courtney's mom. Courtney's brother, Alex also wants to be a vet.

Courtney lives with her parents, Candy and Justin and her brother Alex. But her "family" also includes, two stick bugs named George and Paul, two Syrian teddy bear hamsters named Peaches and Beaker, and a Boston Terrier named Maggie.

In February, 2008, Courtney was a guest on the Ellen Degenres show for her work as a veterinary assistant at The Pilchuck Veterinary Clinic. The Pilchuck Veterinary Clinic is one the biggest animal hospital in the U.S.



At the clinic she works under the supervision of Dr. Susan Neary in the care and rehabilitation center. Although she can not be left alone in the Vet clinic until she is twelve years old, she assists by handling routine procedures. She doesn't draw blood or use the X-ray machine for safety reasons. But she can do other things like help in surgeries by handing over the tools to Dr. Neary. Courtney has

already helped deliver her dog's puppies. When she's not helping out with surgeries or delivering puppies, Courtney and Maggie participate in dog agility and junior handling shows for fun. Courtney has learned so much in the last year they may even let her go to a real college this year. Courtney is going to continue pursuing her dream.

Picture courtesy of www.courtneyscritters.com.

St. Valentine's Day

By: *Téa Mottolese*



There are many versions about the beginnings of St. Valentine's Day. Some say it started at the time of the Roman Empire. February 14, was the day when the Romans honored Juno, the goddess of love. On February 15, Romans held a festival called the Feast of Lupercia. It was said that all the names of the young women were put into a jar. Then each young man would pick a name. The maiden and man would be partners throughout the festival. Sometimes the partnership lasted longer and lead to marriage. But when the Emperor, Claudius II outlawed Christian conversions and marriage, believing that single men made better soldiers As a result weddings and engagements were canceled. St. Valentine was a Roman priest who refused to accept the Roman Gods and married couples in secret. When his covert wedding ceremonies were discovered, he was put in jail. While imprisoned it is said that St. Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. The story says that she was blind, and Valentine prayed for her sight and his wish was granted. Before his execution, he wrote her a goodbye note saying as a closing, "From your Valentine." This is one story of how Valentine's Day came to be.

The Play Pump ~ An International Project

By: Rebecca Carlson-Lee and Tori Gernert-Dott

The WHMS play pump is a merry-go-round that provides some electricity and water to our school. To generate electricity, it uses a electricity-magnet system which is magnets on the top part and coils of wire on the bottom. When it spins fast enough, electrons move through the coils of wire to create electricity. The electricity is stored in the water tower in rechargeable batteries. When the batteries are full, lights flash on the water tower. The electricity is then used to either light the basketball court LED lights; partially power the school, or used to pump water from underground.



Another play pump is going to be installed in the Sinai School in Tanzania, 6500 miles away. Karen Cavanaugh, John Mason and four WHMS teachers: Andrew McClain, Cindy Bishop, Sherrie Clune, and Sandy Blakeman all went to Tanzania. They gathered a lot of information about the school and the kids which will help when Karen and John go back there to install *their* play pump. It will be very similar to ours; sending water and electricity to the school so they won't have to walk over a mile to get five gallons of water for one day, that's for breakfast, lunch, dinner, sanitation and hygiene, which is a very small amount compared what we use. The average American uses 12 gallons of water for a five minute shower. We use about 200 gallons of water a day! We also waste a lot of electricity when we don't turn off lights and leave on the television when we don't need it.

I recently interview Grace Cavanaugh, Karen's daughter. Here's what she said:

Q: *Why do you think this project is important?*

A: I think it's important to let kids release energy by helping their community and being able to generate energy and water by themselves. I think this is a great project to be happening at our school. It's a great way to generate electricity and pump water!

We were also able to interview Andrew McClain, one of the lucky teachers who travelled to Tanzania.

Q: Andrew, how long were you all on the airplane to get to Tanzania?

A: It took 14-15 hours, all told. We stopped in the Netherlands on the way there and the way back. It was worth the trip though!

Q: Where did you stay in Tanzania?

A: We stayed in a local person's house; it was a really native experience.

Q: What did you eat?

A: We ate a lot of local fruit, like bananas, as well as some bush meat like antelope. We also ate chicken and goat, as well as rice and beans.

Q: What kind of wildlife was there?

A: There were a lot of different kinds of birds, as well as cats, antelope, and a lot of farm animals, like pigs, cows and goats.

Q: What was the weather like while you were there?

A: It was amazing! There was a little rain, but most days it was warm and sunny.

Q: How did the children there react when they saw you?

A: The kids were super excited to have visitors from America. They were enchanted with our digital cameras.

Q: What was happening with the water project?

A: We saw the building of the rain gutter that will channel rain water into a tub for the school to use for cleaning. They still have to build more to make it fully functional, but they have so much more now then they had just one year ago. Everyone is very excited about the project, partly because they will have a new thing to play with. Right now the children have soccer (also called 'football') balls, made out of cloth, and some hand made toys. Playground equipment is a really exciting thing for them!

Super Bowl Word Scramble

by PartySuppliesHut.com

sdnfeee	<input type="text"/>
tpion	<input type="text"/>
arysd	<input type="text"/>
eslo	<input type="text"/>
niw	<input type="text"/>
nofefse	<input type="text"/>
fnsa	<input type="text"/>
eehcr	<input type="text"/>
ramgeep	<input type="text"/>
lfahiemt	<input type="text"/>
nlpa	<input type="text"/>
mate	<input type="text"/>

Super Bowl XLIII

On February 1, 2009, the Cardinals and the Steelers met on the gridiron. Although the expectations were not great the game proved to be very exciting—Final Score: Arizona Cardinals—23 Pittsburgh Steelers—27



Bruce Springsteen proved he's still "The Boss" Springsteen and his E Street Band performed four songs during the Super Bowl XLIII halftime show.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By: Molly Jacobs and Isabella Phayre-Gonzales

Hurray! It's 2009! Hope this year will be mighty fine! I went to ask some teachers and friends what their New Year's Resolutions were. New Year's Resolutions are promises you're going to make in the New Year and complete. Here are some quotes from a few teachers and friends:



Lucas:
"To practice music more."



Cora: "To get healthier."



Michelle: "To save money and be more patient."



Elyssa: "To get better grades in school."



Nieves: "To run a half of a marathon."



Melina: "To publish and illustrate a book, cook more healthy recipes and make a garden."



Molly: "To spend more time with my dog Arlo and to write a book about my experience about going to WHMS before middle school and to write more poems!"

Valentine ~ By Molly Jacobs

I don't want your presents,
I don't want your gifts,
I don't need them for a while.
For Valentines Day I want the happiness to dance above.
For Valentines Day I want your love.
I don't need things.
I don't want any jewelry that shines.
I want you to be mine.
Can you be my valentine?

What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork! Right?

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a student newspaper

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Email the staff of the
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leaving a note in the main
office.

The Winter Concert

By Rebecca Carlson-Lee and Tori Gernert-Dott

On January 9, 2009 WHMS performed our annual winter concert. It started with the violinists, and then the chamber ensemble performed Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus. After that the chorus and hand bells worked together for a fantastic rendition of Carol of the Bells. This is a traditional German Christmas carol. It is about Christmas Eve, when people in the village hear the Christmas bells ringing. The chorus then performed Welcome, Welcome Every Guest a medieval round and Winter Day, a song about signs that winter has arrived. Then the middle-schoolers then took the stage and sang a medley of Christmas songs. After that, the Upper El sang Away to America a song about a grandfather emigrating from England to America and about his grandson returning to London but being called home. Sleigh Ride is a song about a family who takes a ride through the snow-covered countryside. Finally, the Lower El took the stage and sang Yuki a song about a snowfall in Japan. Student sang in Japanese and English. Shalom Chavarim is a Hebrew song of farewell.

Following the concert, families were invited to the lobby for cheese and crackers, fresh fruit and soft drinks.



Why not skunk day?

By Rebecca Carlson-Lee

The ground hog was probably chosen out of all the hibernating animals because it was big enough to see as opposed to the hamster, and because it is not dangerous, like the bear, who just might rip you from limb to limb. The ground hog was a medium sized, cute, and harmless animal. The reason for ground hog day was for farmers who needed to have an idea about when spring was arriving, so that they could get seeds ready to plant. Hibernating animals don't actually hibernate without

food; they gather it during fall and use it in the coldest months of the year. During these times they eat less, their heart beat goes down, and they use the fat they were saving in spring, summer and fall. Ground hogs usually live 2-5 years, but in captivity they live more than 20 years! The tradition is watching Phill WHO'S PHILL? to see if he sees his shadow at the entrance to his whole that started in Pennsylvania in 1886 in the town of Punxsutawney. But Phill failed to see his shadow and so they supposedly got a short winter and early spring. All and all the ground hog is the perfect animal for giving predictions about spring to both farmers and city folks.

