



## MCAS

By: Morgan Hayward



Cartoon By: Lindsey Olivier

Tick, tick, tick! Time is shredding away as we get closer and closer. The time of the year most students dread. The series of tests that cause nerve-racking chills to scatter across your arms. "It's so hard," "I get very nervous," "Why do we even have it?" What could "it" be? MCAS of course!

What are your feelings about MCAS? Do you despise it? Are you happy about it? Most students don't enjoy MCAS time because it's a stressful and a nail biting situation. "I don't like MCAS, it's something we have to do but nobody wants to do." On the other hand some students think of MCAS as a breaking point. "MCAS is rough but after it you aren't as in much of a rush to learn everything" states Emily Bodwell. This test takes concentration and patience, which is very hard for some students. Sitting at a desk for almost the whole day without talking is difficult. I questioned 5th grade student Taryn Madsen whether or not she liked MCAS. Her response was "no, I don't like MCAS, it's super exhausting and gets everyone hyped up for nothing. It's just like a normal test with really strict rules." As a follow up Meredith Hayward added "It doesn't even count against your grade." Of course you are going to try your best but it won't ruin your report card if you don't do well. Or if you do well, it won't give you any extra points. Overall, you can see MCAS is super stressful, nerve racking, unpleasant and challenging, but we have to deal with it and it is coming closer. Just ask yourself, are you ready?

Technology is flourishing and thriving. It is being used everywhere. From family households to public buildings and even schools. At GRAIS we use the chromebooks a lot and they are a resource that help us with tests, videos and more. Most students think computers when they hear i-Ready curriculum test.

## (continued from MCAS)

What do you think of when you hear the phrase "MCAS" Anxiety? Long? Boring? You probably think paper and pencil? Well think again! This year for the first time ever we are using chromebooks for MCAS! Some students think the upgrade is great. They don't have to worry about penmanship or spacing. All they have to do is type. Others think MCAS on the computers is also a great idea because there are tools that you wouldn't be able to use on the paper and pencil test. For example, the magnifying feature can help you read, along with the answer eliminator, so you can but a big red X through a multiple choice question you don't want as an answer. Other students think of MCAS on the chromebooks as a downgrade to the paper and pencil. Student Claire Rogers gives her opinion about the test on the computers. "At first I thought MCAS would be cool on the computers, but now that we are getting closer to the test date, I'm not so sure about it. It seems like it might be harder than I thought." Do you agree with Claire? Some kids think computers for MCAS will be fun. Others would rather use paper and pencil. One of which being Sophia Bandera. "I personally would just like to take paper and pencil test. It's more efficient for me."

5th grade students every year take Science MCAS for the first time. According to many students opinions they get more nervous about science MCAS than any other subjects. Then again, science is different. With ELA and math each little thing you learn in the early grades, you will use to advance into more difficult things in higher grades. Science uses that a little bit, but one unit you could learn about light then the next unit you could learn about plants or biomes! That is one of the top reasons most students are nervous for science MCAS. "What if I can't remember everything about every different subject we learned about in science?" "I'm nervous about MCAS, because I'm not sure if I'm going to do good" says Milan Mendes. Emily Bodwell also states, "I'm nervous and excited for the change, but nervous because I don't know what to expect." Science MCAS may seem hard (which it might be, I've never taken science MCAS,) it's just another MCAS session. Do you think science MCAS is going to be hard?

MCAS may be nerve-racking and nail-biting, especially on the computers. You work hard, you get rewarded. MCAS is soon, and close to MCAS is the end of the year. Are you prepared for MCAS?

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## DETENTION

By: Madison Gilbert & Ayvia DaSilva



Students Madison Gilbert and Ayvia DaSilva interview Dr. Sullivan on the topic of detention. (Photo Credit: Orianna Hernandez)

Last month, three fourth-graders interviewed Dr. Sullivan about detention. These are the questions and answers.

"Why do you do detention?" we asked. Dr. Sullivan said, "It's my last resort, I give detention to show the student that their behavior is wrong."

"How do you feel when you give a detention?" She said, "I feel badly when I have to give a detention because it is very disruptive for the family of those students."

We also asked "Do you give more lunch detentions or after school detentions?" Dr. Sullivan stated, "I give more lunch detentions".

"Are most people quiet when they have detention?" The principal said, "They have to be."

We also asked, "Who gets more detentions, boys or girls?" She said "I think it's even."

Another question we asked was "Would you say you give at least two detentions a day?" Her response might surprise you as Dr. Sullivan said, "No, more like three a week."

When questioned further, we asked "Can you estimate how many detentions you give in a month?" The principal replied "Somewhere between 12 and 13."

These were the questions we asked and the principal answered. We hope that if you were wondering about detention all your questions were answered.



# THE RUBIK’S CUBE

6 sides, 6 colors, 1 impossible puzzle! Brain teasing, a Rubik’s cube.

by: Aurora Corbett



(Rubik’s Cube) Photo credit: Autumn Arnone

## What is a Rubik’s cube?

Rubik’s Cubes are cube shaped objects with 6 sides and 6 colors. Rubik’s Cubes have been around for years. In 1975, Erno Rubik invented the Rubik’s Cube. Did you know, it took him one whole month to solve his creation! Even though this interesting puzzle was invented many years ago, it is still very popular today.

## Who is Erno Rubik?

In 1944, Erno Rubik was born. As he grew he studied architecture and became a professor in 1974. Erno Rubik created the prototype, and in 1975 made the real Rubik’s Cube also known as the ‘Magic Cube’. In 1977, the first Rubik’s Cube was sold to a toyshop in Budapest. Even though it was made a long time ago, it is still a very fun toy to play with.

## The Present!

When you walk into your school you might see a classmate walking with a Rubik’s Cube in his/her hands trying to solve it. Keep your eyes open and maybe you could try to solve one!

## From a teacher's view.

*You or your friends probably own a Rubik’s Cube and enjoy the challenge but do you know what your teachers think about this challenging toy? We interviewed a fourth grade teacher to get her opinion on this 3D puzzle.*

**Rising Star:** Do you think Rubik’s Cubes should be allowed in classrooms?

**Fourth Grade Teacher:** Only at appropriate times such as recess.

**Rising Star:** What do you think about students asking other students to solve their cubes for them?

**Fourth Grade Teacher:** No, I don’t think this is the point!

**Rising Star:** Do you think Rubik’s Cubes could be used as a learning tool?

**Fourth Grade Teacher:** Maybe, but I haven’t decided how.

**Rising Star:** Do you encourage students to use their cubes outside of school?

**Fourth Grade Teacher:** Yes, because solving it requires problem solving skills.

# SLIME

By: Milan Mendes

Do you like slime? Well, slime is fun to play with and make. Slime has a kind of gooey consistency. There are different types of slime. There are fluffy, jiggly, butter, and iceberg slime. You can make your slime in any color you choose. You can mix primary colors to get a custom color that you like, but you can also use paint or food coloring.

To make slime, you need glue, borax solution (which is 1 cup of warm water and a little bit of borax or contact solution), food coloring, and shaving cream is optional. First, you mix the glue and shaving cream. Next, you add a little bit of your borax solution, or you can use contact solution as well. Finally, mix that all up and it should start to look more like slime. If it does not have that consistency, add more of your solution.

A lot of people at GRAIS love slime. Almost every teacher has seen slime in their classroom. Whitney L'Heureux and I asked Mrs. Allen a few questions about slime: “How do you feel about slime being in your classroom?” “I think it is a great indoor recess thing,” said Allen. “Do you think slime is a distraction to your students?” “It depends on the student. Some students play with it responsibly and others I have had to take it away.” There are good things about slime and a few bad things about slime. The good thing is slime is fun to play with and make.

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# SPECIALIST survey

By: Reagan Flynn



Photo credit: Sofie Olivieri GRAIS Rising Star

| <u>Specials</u> | <u>Votes</u> | <u>Percentages %</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Gym             | 29           | 78%                  |
| Art             | 7            | 19%                  |
| Music           | 1            | 3%                   |

A survey was held to find out the favorite specials for the fifth grade at GRAIS. About one fifth of the grade participated in this survey. All of the 37 students that answered the survey helped by sharing information.

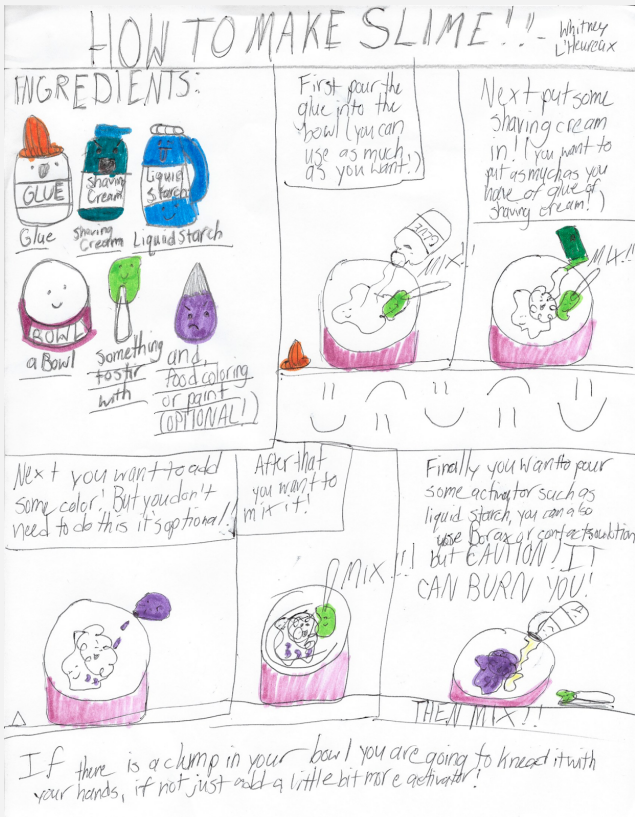
This specialist survey was a landslide win for gym. Most students that picked gym said they liked to run around and take a little break from classwork. Morgan said, “You get to run around and take a break from sitting at desks all day and do fun sports.” Sophia said “Gym, because I like running around and playing sports.” Nora said, “Art because I like to draw.” The students who picked art also like to take a break from the classroom. They want to spend their break drawing or doing art in the art room. The one student who chose music must like to take a break by spending it in the music room.

No matter what special won, we go to them all and they all can be fun!

## (continued from SLIME)

The bad thing is if the slime gets really sticky it can go all over your clothes and one ingredient in slime (borax) is bad for you to inhale.

Slime is so fun and I hope after reading this you will make it and see for yourself!



Artwork By: Whitney L'Heureux (How to make slime)



**ATTENTION:**  
NATURE’S CLASSROOM IS COMING UP!

By: Kaiya Rego



Photo Credit: Rachel Roelofsen

Nature’s Classroom is a once in a lifetime opportunity with a rewarding, educational experience set with the backdrop of the great outdoors. Their goals are to have students work together and bring an understanding of what education can offer them in an outdoor setting. Having spent a week at Nature’s Classroom myself, I agree that Nature’s Classroom has a positive effect on students in many ways: developing a feeling of community and having an appreciation of other peers in my field group and bunk. But don’t take my word for it, here are some personal accounts from of other students who have been...

“I personally enjoyed it, and I think the kids enjoyed it, and it was a good unplugged experience,” says Walter Seaberg, a veteran chaperone. When asked about the fact that he’s making another trip as a chaperone again this year, this is what he had to say: “I can’t wait for the trip. I think I’m more excited than Emma (his daughter)!” Rachel Willwerth, a fifth grader who attended Nature’s Classroom last year says, “I loved Nature’s Classroom, and it was a very fun experience. I loved helping bring the food to the tables, and singing the ort report. I would definitely recommend this to other younger kids!” Boston Piquette, another fifth grader who went to Nature’s Classroom last year said “I liked dissecting a rat, because it was fun to see what a rat looks like on the inside,” when asked what his favorite activity was.

**NATURE’S CLASSROOM DATES: Tuesday, June 6th-Friday, June 9th**

**THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE REVIEW**

By: Boston Piquette



Cartoon By: Logan Froio

The Lego Batman Movie is a fun, family film that brings Batman to the LEGO world. This movie has action, adventure, and heartfelt moments, all with the LEGO touch. Prepare to get sucked into the LEGO world of Batman, follow him in his newest adventure as he struggles with new bad guys, old bad guys, the feelings of the Joker, and his new adopted son!

This is a movie about how Bruce Wayne, a.k.a Batman, hurts the Jokers feelings during their latest battle, which turns the evil Joker’s plan of taking over Gotham city even more evil. At first, the Joker tries to recruit the usual villains such as Harley Quinn, Two Face, The Riddler, Scarecrow, and others. But obviously Batman fouls the Joker’s plans, then the Joker is sent to an evil realm to recruit even worse bad guys.

As for Bruce Wayne, he just accidentally adopted a son! Batman adopts Dick Grayson, a.k.a Robin, at the city’s winter gala. He also meets Barbara Gordon, a.k.a Batgirl. Batman decides to steal the Phantom Zone projector from Superman, so he can put the Joker in the Phantom Zone. Along the way he picks up Dick Grayson who becomes Robin.

In addition to the Batman story, the LEGO company gives it the LEGO touch by putting in jokes and gags, while still giving you a fun, action packed movie. If it’s a rainy day and you want something to do I would go see this movie. On a scale of 1-10, I give it an 8.0, compared to the rest of the world currently giving it a 7.6.

I very much enjoyed this movie, I hope you do too!

**4TH GRADE HANDBALL**

By: Delaney Bazydlo

Have you ever played handball?It is really fun! Handball is an olympic sport which we are very fortunate to have as an after school activity.

Every Tuesday from 2:15 through 3:45 a group of 4th grade kids go to the gym after school. The group of kids do drills, such as throwing a ball at a cone, passing, dribbling, and working on our aim.

When everyone finishes the drills we break up into 3 teams with 7 students on each team. Every team has a goalie that you can alternate.You can not knock the ball out of a player’s hand, but you can deflect shots/passes and deflect the ball. If the ball hits the ground on a pass, it goes to the other team. If you do not know how to play handball you can dribble the ball across the court or you could take 3 steps and throw the ball to a teammate, as well as throw the ball into the other team’s goal to get points . The object of the game is to get as many points as your team can.

If you are thinking of joining, take my advice, stop thinking and join!



Above/Below: 4th graders playing handball after school.



Photo credits: Phoebe Quinn







- GUEST WRITER OF THE MONTH -  
THE PANGOLIN

By: Jaden Barth

This amazing creature is called a pangolin. These are cat-sized animals. They are related to anteaters and armadillos. They live in China and Africa. There are three different types of pangolins: African white-bellied Pangolins, African Ground Pangolins, and Chinese Pangolins. These are one of the Earth’s weirdest and rare mammals. There are eight species of pangolins in China, that is why we want to help them. Their bodies are covered with scales so predators like lions and clouded leopards can’t bite through. Pangolins also protect themselves by rolling up in a ball. The scales are made up of hard keratin, which is what our fingernails are made out of. When baby pangolins roll up in a ball, they look like an artichoke. They walk like a T-Rex and they have prehensile tails so they don’t fall. They have long tongues so they can slurp up termites and ants. Baby pangolins climb on their parents tails and have a “pangy-back ride” which is the pangolin version of a “piggy-back” ride. Pangolins can walk, climb, and swim! White-bellied Pangolins are named this way because they have a white belly. Their scales are white and stand out. Ground Pangolins are named that because they walk around all the time. Their scales are yellow. Chinese Pangolins are named that because they live in China! Their scales are blue!

If you want, go to Wild Kratts Pangolin Rescue and find out more about pangolins. If you want to go to Amazon and buy the Wild Kratts Defender Set it comes with a Chinese Pangolin and a yellow pangolin disc. Now you have a great defense! I hope you liked learning all about pangolins.



Above: Tree pangolin (Photo Credit: Jayden Barth)

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF  
SPECIALS?

By: Lily Rogers & Jaymi Bowlby



Above: Students play volleyball in gym and practice recorders in music (Photo Credit: Jaymi Bowlby & Lily Rogers)

Gym

Do you know why we do warm ups before P.E class? Mr.Ireland says that it gets your mind prepared for class. It increases your focus and gets the blood flowing to your muscles. Even Mr.Ireland learns things from us. He learns that everyone can achieve our goals no matter the skill level. Mr.Ireland loves his job when it goes smooth, but when classes are being difficult it is hard for him to have a good day. Do you wonder what inspired him to be a gym teacher? Mr.Ireland describes that he looks good in track pants and a hoodie. Also the Patriots cheerleaders wouldn't hire him. Next time you see him, ask him what really inspired him!

Music

Did you know Mr.Duff started the idea of being a music teacher in 4th grade? Mr.Duff’s music teacher inspired him to be a music teacher. How many kids know what music class is actually called? It is called general music. Mr.Duff explained it is a combination of instrumental and vocal music along with music history. Even though Mr.Duff is a music teacher he still learns from us, like how to teach better. He told us no two students are alike because of different skill levels and abilities. Do you ever wonder why or how Mr.Duff chooses musicians of the month? He tries to pick musicians that have a big impact on music today. He also tries to vary the time periods and styles so we cover a big portion of music history. Are you ever nervous to sing or be in charge of something or even just try something new? Well, you’re not the only one! Mr.Duff was nervous to host chorus and band because he had never been in one. But now it is his favorite day of the week. As you probably know Mr.Duff loves being a music teacher and music. We hope you do to.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date                            | Event                                    |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday, April 3rd               | ½ day for students                       |
| Tuesday, April 4th              | 4th grade - ELA MCAS                     |
| Tuesday, April 4th              | 5th grade - Handball                     |
| Wednesday, April 5th            | Newspaper Club                           |
| Thursday, April 6th             | 4th grade - Handball                     |
| Tuesday, April 11th             | 5th grade - ELA MCAS                     |
| Tuesday, April 11th             | 5th grade - Handball                     |
| Wednesday, April 12th           | 5th grade - ELA MCAS                     |
| Thursday, April 13th            | 5th grade - ELA MCAS                     |
| Thursday, April 13th            | 4th grade - Handball                     |
| Friday, April 14th              | Good Friday - NO SCHOOL                  |
| Week of April 17th - April 21st | April Vacation                           |
| Tuesday, April 25th             | 5th grade - Handball                     |
| Wednesday, April 26th           | Newspaper Club                           |
| Wednesday, April 26th           | 5th grade - Zeiterion Theater Field Trip |
| Thursday, April 27th            | 4th grade - Assembly                     |
| Thursday, April 27th            | 4th grade - Soccer                       |



Artwork By: Lily Svirtunas (comic of specials)

(continued from SPECIALS)

Art

Do you ever wonder if Mrs.B enjoys her job or if she learns anything from us? Of course she does! She says that our creativity, personalities and interest inspires her. Mrs.B says that she has learned more from us than in her 9 years of art school. Did 5th graders like the idea of the cardboard chair? Well, we did and we wondered how she came up with such a fun and exciting craft while team building. She thought of all the things she could reuse and recycle while engaging in an art project. She had thought of this art project and ever since she started it she hasn't stopped because every class has loved it. Mrs.B loves art class and art, and so do we!



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# THE GRAIS RISING STAR - LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By: Mr. Lestage

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I want to first start off by saying thank you to this incredible group of students that have dedicated their time in and outside of school to be a part of a what I hope is a new tradition here at GRAIS. *The Rising Star* was an idea that came to me right after the holidays. I was trying to think of a way to get students more excited to write and become more involved in our school community.

Let’s face it, GRAIS has a very short transition. Students come from the elementary schools where they spend the first 4-5 years of their schooling, and are in and out of GRAIS in a flash of two years. I’ve always felt it can be difficult for the students to gain a sense of belonging and community in such a short time. The design of the school certainly doesn’t help, as often times it feels like 4th and 5th grade are two separate schools. That’s why many of you may notice me in and around the 5th grade hallways as often as I can. I like to get around and talk to former students, see other teachers, and be a familiar face in the building. My goal is that this paper will do more of that for the school, in that our reporters will showcase ALL the great things that are going on in our school and bring us together with common interests, allowing classmates the ability to enjoy a paper “created by students, for students.”

As you read the articles above, I hope you take the time to realize the dedication, drive, and hard work our team has put into this newspaper. They aim to be the voice of the school, but will need your help to make it as successful as possible. So when you see them around, say hello! Let them know what you thought of their article, both good and bad, questions you may have, or ideas for the future. We will only get better and achieve our goals with the help of the whole school.

So, I leave you with these thoughts for the month. Who do you want to be? What goals are you setting for yourself? You are about to enter the next chapter in your careers as lifelong learners. What excites you? What keeps you up at night thinking? Find that spark to get yourself going and go after it. I had this idea for the paper one night in January and three months later here we are. All ideas take time, practice, and energy, but the ones that last and make a difference are the ones that *excite* your mind and fill with you with a *passion* and *drive* to make it happen. Go make it happen!

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## MEET OUR TEAM

We are a group of twenty, dedicated students from 4th and 5th grade at GRAIS. Our positions range from journalists and photographers, to cartoonists, editors, page designers and collaborators. We meet monthly to brainstorm the happenings in and around our school and report out on topics we feel our readers will be most interested in.

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The whole team.



4th grade team

**Back Row (L-R):** Phoebe Q, Madison G, Ayyia D, Autumn A,  
**Front Row (L-R):** Aurora C, Orianna H, Delaney B



5th grade team

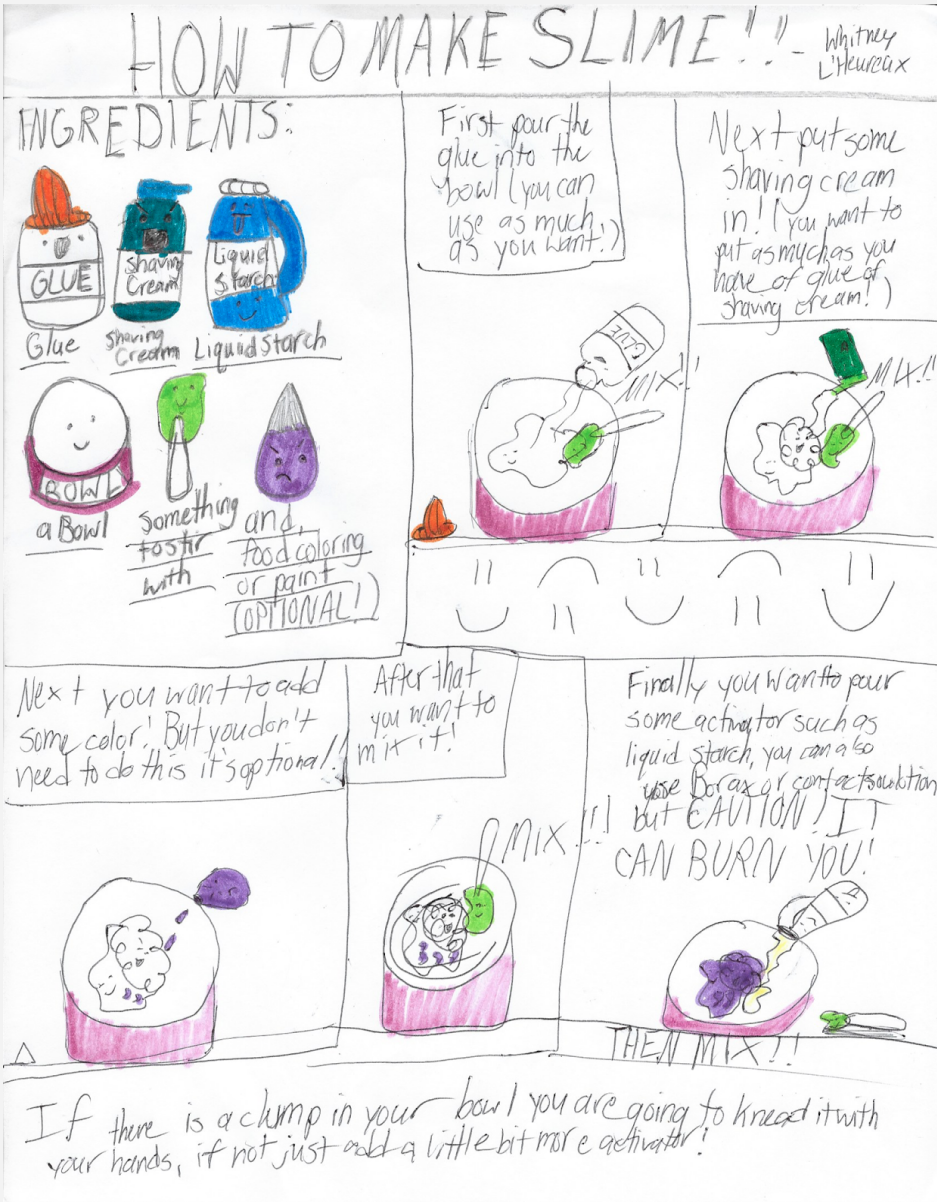
**Back Row (L-R):** Logan F, Rachel R, Boston P, Reagan F, Milan M,  
Morgan H, Whitney L,  
**Front Row (L-R):** Lindsey O, Sofie O, Kaiya R, Lily S, Lily R, Jaymi B



# original artwork/comics/cartoons (enLarged)



Cartoon By: Lindsey Olivier



Artwork By: Whitney L'Heureux



Artwork By: Lily Svirtunas



