

Magnet Express

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PULLING IN NEWS

Fall 2014

Growing in the garden

Students learn to grow via
Druid City Garden Project

By Emily Scroggins

Through the Druid City Garden Project, students grow fruits and vegetables in an outdoor classroom. Students from Tuscaloosa Elementary School said they think this is a fun way to use school subjects outside.

Teacher Pressly Albritton's class has been growing carrots, rainbow chard, broccoli and strawberries. Teacher Anna Bryant's class has been growing spinach, collard greens and strawberries. Finally, teacher Lauren Craddock's class has been growing swiss chard, spinach and collard greens.

Students have also been mapping the garden. First-graders grew the beets.

"I am very excited about eating the foods, especially the strawberries," fourth-grader Robert Englebert said.

The school has garden stands to raise money to buy things for the garden, such as seeds and tools.

"It is fun, interesting, and I really like watering the plants," fourth-grader Josephene McWaters said.



Michael Bissell

Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School students grow their own vegetables in an outdoor classroom through the Druid City Garden Project.



Amy Davis



Michael Bissell

Should school doors open earlier?

Parents fret about leaving children unsupervised

By Veronica Robinson

Parents of Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School students said they are getting nervous leaving their children outside school unsupervised before the school doors open at 7:30 a.m.

One problem with locking students out in the morning can be the weather.

"Sometimes the weather is too hot, and sometimes it is too cold," parent Lidia Robinson said.

Another concern for parents is their children's physical well-being.

"I am worried about safety when

75%
of parents said they
were concerned

I drop my daughter off at school," Robinson said.

Of the 16 parents who were surveyed, 75 percent said they were worried about dropping their children off in the mornings.

If the school doors open earlier, possibly at 7:15 a.m., parents might not be so concerned.



Veronica Robinson
Kendall Williams enters through the doors of TMSE, which open at 7:30 a.m.

imdb.com

The Potter Corner

Rowling rumors fly at TMSE

By Jack Richardson

J.K. Rowling is famous for her "Harry Potter" books. She has written seven in the children's fantasy series, but lately people have been saying that she is writing another book.

Some students from Northridge said she uses other identities and that this proves that she writes other books in different series.

Arnav Gupta, a fourth-grader at Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School, said he would be excited if Rowling wrote another book.

"I would be surprised," said Kate Richardson, a second-grader who also goes to Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School.



Wikimedia Commons
Rowling reads from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at the 2010 Easter Egg Roll at the White House.



New Umbridge story released

By Jack Richardson

J.K. Rowling has written seven books in her "Harry Potter" series, but on Halloween, Rowling introduced a new 1,500-word story about Dolores Umbridge, a character from her "Potter" books. The article focuses on Umbridge's story after she was taken away by a group of centaurs, as well as after she was knocked out by a spell from Harry Potter's wand during his escape.

FUN & GAMES

Fourth-graders learn fencing

By Violet Albritton

Since Sept. 20, the fourth-graders have been fencing in the gym at Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School, using noodles instead of swords.

The students are separated into groups and have to follow a lot of rules. If you step out of the piste or if you drop your sword, the other person gets a point. If you cross your feet, that's also a point for the other person.

There are about five or six people on each team, including fourth-grader Zoe Shore, who said she loved it.

"We have a great team," Shore said.

Minecraft popular game with students

By Trenton Robert

Minecraft is one of the most played games in the world. It has sold more than 35 million copies and has tons of reviews. Some students at Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School even play it.

"It's like the best game ever," fourth-grader Gigi Rush said.

Markus Persson AKA "Notch" gave up all the glory in September when he sold Minecraft to Microsoft for \$25 billion. Notch said he doesn't like big companies but that he is still going to make other games.

Minecraft celebrated Halloween by having the mobs wear pumpkin heads and all other Minecrafters wear Halloween skins.

Tchoukball takes over at TMSE

By Violet Albritton

A group of fourth-graders at TMSE started a game called "tchoukball" during P.E. class.

Tchoukball is a really confusing indoor team sport, but once you get the hang of it, it gets really easy.

There are five teams that play tchoukball. On one side, two teams play against each other, and one team gets split in half. About two or three people referee.

To play, you shoot the ball at a rebound frame. If it bounces back and the other team does not catch it, or if it bounces back to someone and they touch it, you get a point. You have to have really good aim to play.

Colorado Rapids dominate Montreal Impact in speedball

By Zoe Shore

The Colorado Rapids played the Montreal Impact in the fourth-grade speedball championship on Sept. 17 at Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School. The final score was 11-2, and the Colorado Rapids were the winning team.

If you were sitting in the bleachers on the day of the championship, you

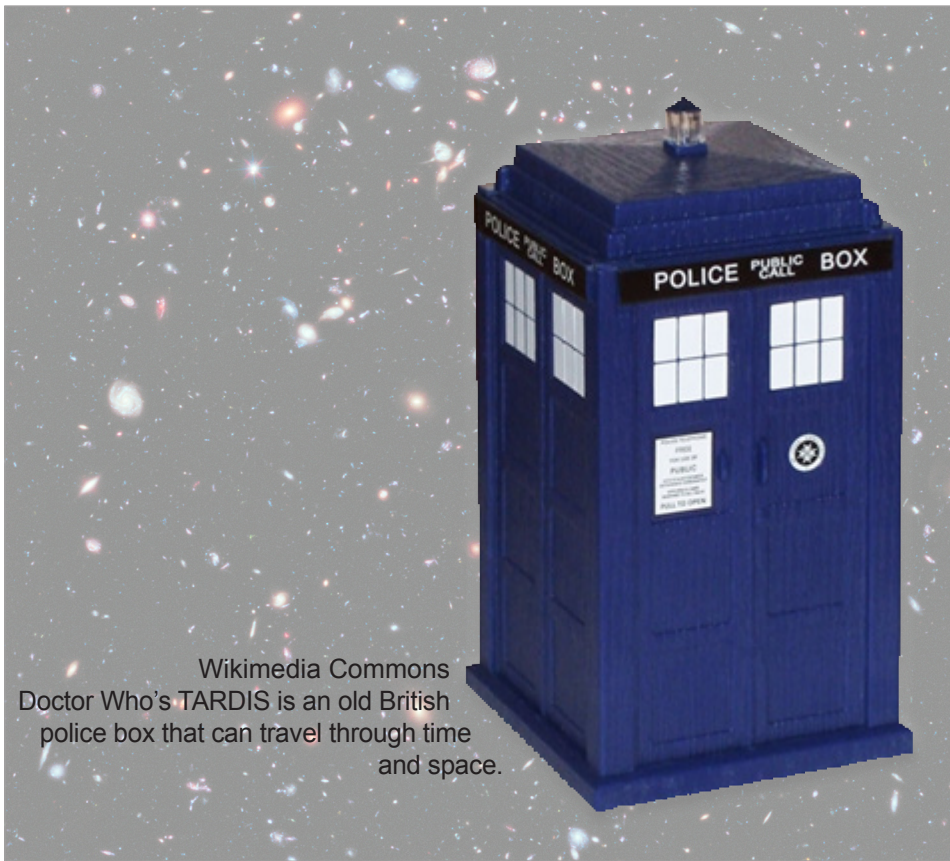
would have heard the fourth-graders cheering for their favorite speedball team, and you would have seen the signs that many people had made.

Although many people were cheering for the Rapids, some were cheering for Montreal. Fourth-grade students Micah Kelleher and Juliana Carl were referees, Madelyn Barr and Chester Brown were scorekeepers, Bobby Patel was the

photographer and Rodrick Carter was the videographer.

"It feels great to be on the winning team," Jack Richardson of the Colorado Rapids said. "The championship was a big deal."

The fourth-graders said they really loved speedball but that they were still looking forward to other sports, such as fencing and tchoukball.



Wikimedia Commons
Doctor Who's TARDIS is an old British
police box that can travel through time
and space.

Library needs more science fiction, 'Doctor Who' books

By Kendall Williams

"Doctor Who" is the No. 1, longest-running science fiction show on earth. The Doctor, a time lord from a planet called Gallifrey, has been played by many actors, such as William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Paul McGann, John Hurt, Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant, Matt Smith and Peter Capaldi.

The Doctor has a 1950s blue British police box called the TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimensions in Space) that can travel anywhere in space and time, and he uses an extraterrestrial device called the sonic screwdriver that can alter anything

with an electric pulse.

We need more "Doctor Who" books in our school library, and other Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School students, such as Eli Waterman, agree.

"It's an amazing show," Waterman said. "Not many kids watch it, and if they read it they would get into it."

He also suggested that the series would help extend the vocabulary of readers.

Science fiction has been around for generations and generations. From Jules Verne to BBC America, from Marvel to DC comics and from books to TV, it's amazing how far it has traveled. One way to see all this for yourself is to pick up a book and jump right in.

'Annie' to hit in spring

Students will perform in February of next semester

By Zoe Shore

Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School is performing the play, "Annie," next semester in February in the gymnasium. Zoe Shore will play Annie, Arnav Gupta will play Daddy Warbucks, Greta Peterson will play Grace, Madelyn Schultz will play Miss Hannigan, Kendall Williams will play Rooster and Madelyn Barr will play Lily.

The play tells the story of a young orphan whose life is flipped upside-down when she is adopted by a billionaire during the Great Depression. In a quest to find Annie's parents over the radio, the billionaire offers a \$50,000 reward for anyone who can prove she is theirs. However, the orphanage owner's brother and his girlfriend try to claim the money and cause trouble for Annie.

"I'm really excited for the play," Shore, who will star as Annie, said.

**Happy holidays
from the
Magnet Express!**

