

SKINNER CITIZEN

Explore Denver, pg.



**Discover Adventure
Forest, pg. 1**

Volume III, Issue I

December, 2018

Interview with Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus - Ryan B.

Have you been wondering what that large structure is right next to I-25? If you want to know then read to find out.

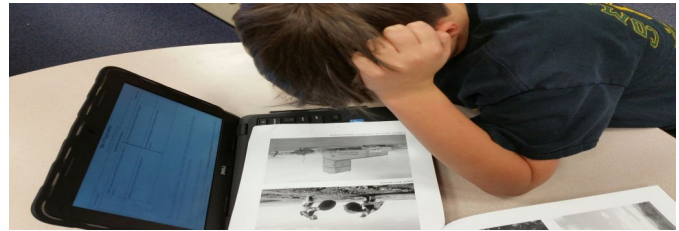
The Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus has been planning to build Adventure Forest for three years. The Children Museum’s Director of Exhibits, Chris Van Dyken, is the lead designer for the Adventure Forest project. Chris has been working at the Children’s Museum for 7 ½ years. Chris came up with the idea to make the Adventure Forest from this large hawk that lives at the museum.

The Museum sometimes considered the hawk to be there mascot especially for Adventure Forest. When Adventure Forest is done being built there would be these large balls that are made out of hay like items. They call that the bird nest representing their mascot the hawk.

The Museum team came up with the original design, then Bonsai Design an adventure course designer from Grand Junction, Colorado helped finish the final design and installation of Adventure Forest.

Adventure Forest will be an outdoor obstacle course that is very large. From the ground it is 65 ft tall and it is on a hill so it makes it look even taller. Adventure Forest is 500 ft long and has two slides that are

(see page 11)



Homework Debate - Zoe B.

Many students across grade levels struggle to turn in homework. It is a hotly debated topic, but where would you stand after considering both sides?

One reason against homework is that it can take away family and free time. Most middle school students have 8 hour school days, and most go to bed around 9 or later. So they only have about 6 and a half hours of free time and time to spend with family. Most students spend 1-2 hours doing homework depending on the level of difficulty, which takes away from their free time. This means that children will have less time for sports, hobbies, and maintaining a healthy social life, which are all important parts of development, especially in elementary and middle schoolers. Also, approximately eleven million school age children in the United States today are from families whose parents are divorced or separated, so they will have less time to see either parents if they are doing homework all the time. (see page 11)



Skinner Music - Fiona T and Megan B.



DPS music program has never been better! The Skinner music program is taught by Ms. Smith. She has a background in music. She taught at North High School and even received the 9 News Teacher Who Cares award! Many of the students at Skinner are in the music program and they all enjoy it very much!

City Wide is for students who want more practice than just on weekdays and would like to learn more advanced music with different DPS musicians. Trying out can be a challenge and the music is definitely something that Skinner musicians aren't as acquainted with.

The thing all of the intermediate students look forward to is the annual trip to Elitch's. In this trip, musicians play in front of a panel of judges at Elitch's. They get a score for how well they performed. After their performance, students are able to have fun riding the rides and exploring the park.

As you can see the Skinner music program is getting better at providing for the young musicians and hopes to improve in every way to let kids get the music that they want. It is an amazing program!

Hamilton Actor Performs at Boettcher - Ellary S.



What do Broadway actors do after their incredibly successful shows end? In the case of Hamilton, actor Leslie Odom Jr, they decide to go into the music business. In the years since 2015, when the original Broadway cast of Hamilton ended their production, Odom has been working on two original jazz albums, Leslie Odom Jr, and a jazz Christmas album called Simply Christmas. They both quickly rose to the top of the jazz charts. I attended his concert on Saturday, October 13, 2018, as he performed at Boettcher concert hall with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. He performed a couple Hamilton songs, although it's difficult to perform an entire Hamilton song with just one person, because most songs consist of many voices harmonizing to tell Alexander Hamilton's incredible "narrative". However Odom Jr managed to perform three Hamilton pieces, filling gaps with stunning instrumental improvisation.

Odom Jr was born August 16, 1981, and wanted to act since he was very young. He made his Broadway debut when he was 17 playing Paul in Rent. He has acted in many TV shows, movies and plays, but Hamilton is no doubt what he's known most for. He played the historical Aaron Burr, who was the man who

(continued on page 10)



Skinner's Softball Team - Ellary S.

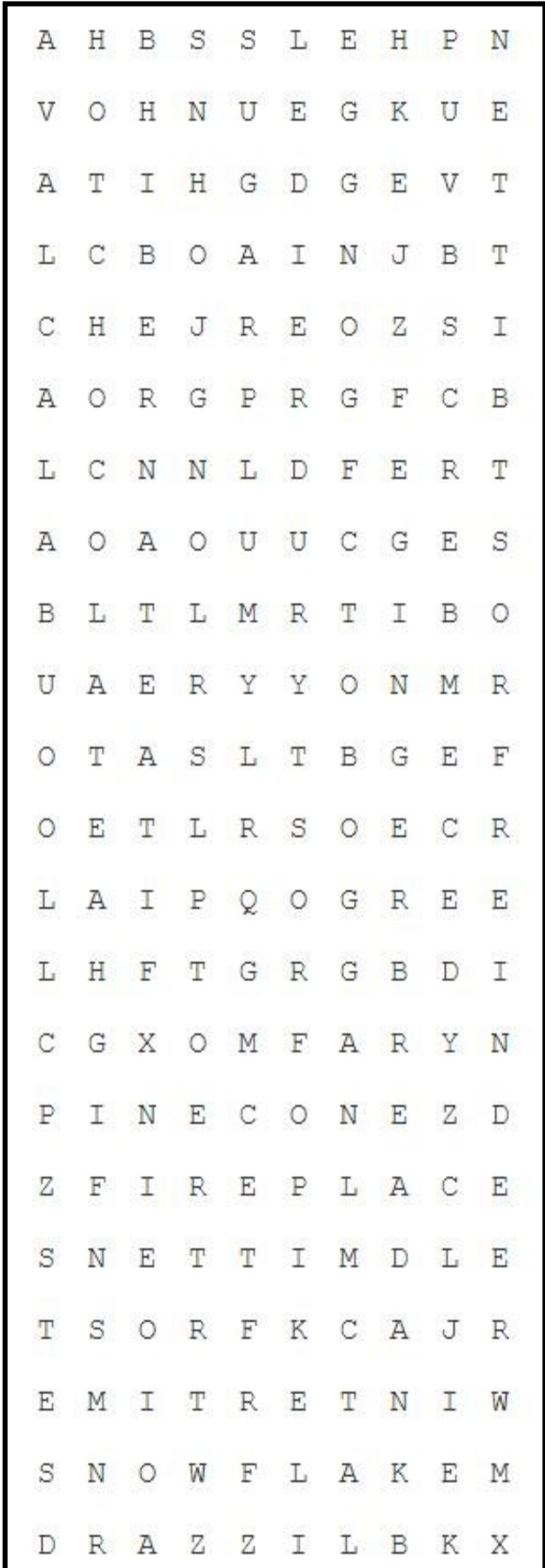
This year the girls Skinner softball team was stronger than it has been in many years past. Playing 6 games during the normal season and only losing 1 of them, it was no surprise we made it to the championships. Playing our best game during the quarterfinals, we managed to crush Merrill 10 to 3, hitting 3 home runs (all hit by Sofia Vasquez), a triple and a double, hit by Sofia Diaz, and a double hit by Kaylee Apodaca. However, we lost gracefully in the semifinals against Bear Creek, 13 to 3. We also had the opportunity of watching two high school level games being played. One at our neighborhood High school, North, and one Wheat Ridge High school game.

Both games were very inspiring. Going to the high school games, I realized how much more intense softball gets at a high school level. At the Wheatridge game, the pitching was probably 10 times faster, than some of the pitches at our level. Also the drills they warmed up with were incredibly well executed and in perfect practice. Even there cheers, were more fierce. Every girl was putting there heart and souls into every second of the game. Thought it's scary to think about, I think that all members on the skinner team could compete at this level.

One new ritual this year brought was the good sportsmanship towel. At the end of every game, each team chooses one member from the other team who they thought demonstrated good sportsmanship, positivity, and grit. The towel was a positive way to recognize good qualities represented in another teams, and it helped us remember that games aren't all about winning.

One softball superstition we have is to never step on the choked in lines before a game, and during the championships we always listened to the same song during our pre-game huddle. However our superstitions were nothing compared to some superstitions of the players in the MLB's. MLB Pitcher Turk Wendell was known to brush his teeth between every inning, insisted that umpires roll the ball to him not through it, and whenever the catcher was squatting he would stand and whenever the catcher was standing he would squat.

This year pitching for the varsity team we had, (#5) Sofia Diaz, (#11) Solana Diaz, and (#7) Kaylee Apodaca. Playing catcher, we had (#1) Sofia Vasquez and (#2) Ellary Suger. Playing Infield we had (#8) Kellsie Tucker, (#12) Lucy Standlee, (#6) Eva Wartell, (#9) Alicia Leyba-Valdez, (#3) Anjolie Garcia, and (#13) Ahnyiah Veloz. Playing outfield (#4) Ati Armijo , (#10) Quinn Kennedy , and other people from Infield, Pitcher, and catcher. In our J.V. we had Kamber p., Reese R., Megan B., Ellen, Olivia, Piper, Cassandra, Abby, and Greta. Also our water boy Ivan. We had a strong team and an involved J.V. which will hopefully mean a winning team for next year.



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|--------------|------------|-------------|
| BALACLAVA | BLIZZARD | CHILLY |
| DECEMBER | DREIDEL | EARMUFFS |
| EGGNOG | FIREPLACE | FROSTBITTEN |
| FROSTY | GINGERBREA | HIBERNATE |
| HOTCHOCOLATE | ICECRYSTAL | JACKFROST |
| LONGJOHNS | MITTENS | PINECONE |
| REINDEER | SNOWFLAKE | SUGARPLUM |
| TOBOGGAN | WINTERTIME | |

Casa Bonita - Finn M.

You may know Casa Bonita from the South Park episode, or for its amazing interior and delicious sopapillas. For this article, I had the pleasure of interviewing the General Manager of Casa Bonita, Mike Mason. Mr. Mason is general manager for good reason, as he has worked there for 42 years. He started in 1976, two years after Casa Bonita opened in March of 1974. This isn't the first Casa Bonita—there was also a Casa Bonita in Oklahoma City that opened in 1968. As for change at the Denver restaurant, not much has happened. The biggest change, according to Mr. Mason, is that customers used to pay at a register but now pay their server.

As you may already know, Casa Bonita was featured in the television show, South Park, Season 7, Episode 11. This was a big turning point for the establishment because the show attracted a different age group to the restaurant. Suddenly, Casa Bonita started to see a lot more teenagers and people in their 20s. The restaurant did not pay South Park for the episode, but they did give South Park's creators the right to feature the restaurant in the episode, *Casa Bonita*.

Along with the South Park buzz, another highlight in the restaurant's history is its 40th anniversary. This is an important milestone considering most restaurants close within the first 1-5 years. Part of the reason why it is so popular is because of its arcade, cliff divers and its caves.

Have you ever wondered why Casa Bonita's sopapillas are so good? They have a specific recipe for the sopapillas that is different than the versions at their other stores in the South. To accommodate for the altitude here in Denver, they use 76° water and they adjust the amount of baking soda and the ratio of dry to wet ingredients. These little adjustments make for the perfect sopapillas. Their honey is special too, since it is not sold to the public and it is made right here in Colorado.

According to Mr. Mason, people drive from all over the country just to come to Casa Bonita. Located just 4.4 miles from Skinner, you should definitely make your way to the restaurant. It is a great place and it's fun for the whole family. It's open from 11am to 9pm on most days, but on Fridays and Saturdays it is open until 10pm. It is located at 6715 W Colfax Avenue in Lakewood. Be sure to visit this holiday season, as they have decorated the entire restaurant in colorful lights.



Denver's Top 3 Most Iconic Places - Fiona T.

Denver is a popular city and it's population is growing rapidly. The city's iconic and beautiful structures are contributing to the increase in people that live in Denver. From Union Station to the golden roof of the state capitol building. Not to mention the Denver Zoo that is able to convert animal poop into energy! People from all over are moving here to experience it all for themselves.

The 100 year old Union Station is where you can shop, dine and stay in a hotel. It is an old and historic building in downtown Denver that all Denver (and from other places) people have gone to see. Another historic building in downtown Denver is the state capitol building. It's glistening golden roof is a feature that makes the capitol building stand out among the many buildings surrounding it. Finally the Denver Zoo. It's majestic lion logo is the symbol of a zoo that does things differently. They have enclosures that look like the wild and even the strongest and most aggressive adolescent elephants can't break out of.

All these attractions plus more are must sees when visiting Denver. They are part of the reason Denver is the amazing city that it is. There are so many things that make Denver a special place. As the capital of Colorado, it is a fast growing city with new people coming every day.



The Colorado Rockies - Leeland J.

The Colorado Rockies started their season with great grit and never gave up, then when they got more in the season they started lacking on their statistics.

Their stats weren't the best, but the team came in 2nd place in NL West. If we include the whole MLB, the Rockies would be near the top of the list: 9th place out of 28 teams.

The Rockies' standing were 91 wins and 72 losses and they were in a decent spot, but I personally think they can do better. The team on the top of the American League is the Boston Red Sox and their stats are 108 wins and 54 losses.

The Colorado Rockies can do more by working on their offense. I can tell in most of their games the Rockies were lacking on offence. This affected the very strategies they needed to win.

I think they can do better next season by improving their overall batting, but the defense is great and it doesn't effect the team.

Some people on the team are losing their spots. I think they need to find a heavy hitter to help out the offence. As for the defense, the Rockies need to find a 2nd baseman. Furthermore, I think the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field can get more starters to help improve their strategy. These changes would have the team set up for 2019 and everything will pay off.

The Rockies' have grit and promise which can lead them to victory I hope 2019 can bring better things



Kids Our Age Learning

About Politics - Addison G.

Why is it good for students our age to learn about politics? To start, we are very lucky that we live in a country where we get to vote for our leaders. In some countries the people do not have a choice on who their leaders are. There numerous reasons, as students, we should learn about politics.

One very important reason kids around the ages of 12 and 14 should learn about politics is because one day we will be voting. We should start learning about politics as soon as possible so when we get to the point of voting we know how to and why we are doing it. We can also start learning about what the president is doing and how he/she got elected.

Another reason why kids in middle school should be learning about politics is because we will be the ones making a huge difference in the United States in the future. "America is the most powerful country in the world and so many lives are in the American voters hands" says Finnegan Marshall. This shows how powerful it is to vote and this is why as students we should learn the importance of voting and politics in general. If schools and parents are not enforcing this, then the kids will never have the privilege of voting.

Schools should start to teach students some more about politics. They can teach the reason why people vote, how voting works/how to vote, what the president or vice president does in that position, etc. Even parents can teach their children about politics and voting. We want to ensure that we do not make some of the same mistakes that have been made in the past.

Skinner Cross Country - Fiona T.

Cross country is a popular sport at Skinner with a team of 80 members. We had many new runners this year who showed their running skills and placed at the meets. The Skinner A-teams placed 3rd at many meets out of other DPS schools. Our top runner for boys, Wylie Cornish claimed many of the seasons best spots with a 6:22 minute mile. Our top girl runner, Josie Wilson also did amazingly at many meets with a 6:51 minute mile on her first year of cross country. Our team has many amazing runners and all with the spirit and passion for running.

Cross country has been a popular sport for the past couple of years but it hasn't always been as big as it is now. It started off only having 3 people on the team which isn't enough people to make up a team so Ms. Winter had to convince people to join. It has really grown as not just a team sport, but a family. The amazing coaches Ms. Winter and Ms. Gunn teach us a lot throughout the season about how to improve our running. It is a fun running community.

As the school grows, so does this sport. Runners improve throughout the year and compete in the many meets we have against other DPS school runners. It is a place where many find a love for running and begin a lifetime of running. Cross country has come so far over the years and is only going to grow more.



EDITORIAL: Why Fortnite is so Bad ** - Oliver R.

I think that the problem people have with Fortnite is that it's basically a rinse and repeat process it just repeats and repeats over and over again with micro transactions. I do have to agree with the majority of people that say it's bad, although it used to be actually good with slower more open gameplay like Player unknown's Battlegrounds. Were you had wide open grasslands and felt more vulnerable, I feel like a good place to stop would have been before all the map changes took place.

What i'm saying is that Fortnite is like a banana the ethylene takes it out of it's gross green color which turns it into a good ripe banana but the ethylene thinks "We could be even more ripe!" so it keeps working but this is what makes it all mushy brown and gross and I can make this comparison to Fortnite because the green banana represents its stage with all the bugs and errors. The yellow perfect banana represents when it was first starting out as a new game with all the hype around it, and the brown mushy one represents, well, current Fortnite bad and disgusting with all the popularity it started selling out to the public with completely random things being added in.

Sometimes I think Fortnite is desperately trying to regain its fan base by throwing out updates every week with a new item, you might say that this is good and that it should gain its fan base back. No, this I believe this is not ok; it's just dumping out garbage content constantly like just recently the only weapons they've been adding have been "heavy" weapons which are completely overpowered and broken. Sure they have been adding "okay" equipment like balloons which are pretty cool, except for the fact of how terrible they are to use in combat. Also, I haven't even used this point yet, but the fact of how good people are because of their addictions to the game.

(continue to page 8)

Denver Zoo - Nisani T.

The Denver Zoo, fun for all ages with many animals of different types of mammals, vertebrate, reptiles, birds, amphibians and many more. Not to mention the great gift shop where you can get fun trinkets and amazingly soft stuffed animals to take home as a souvenir.

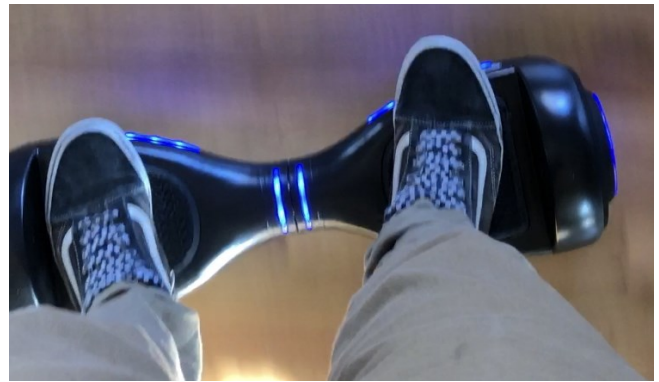


During the winter time they have a special occasion for the Christmas feel. Enjoy the night while walking around the beautiful zoo bundled up as shimmering lights hang from the tree and represent the unique animals living at the zoo. One of the best to do on a cold snowy night, is buy a warm toasty hot cocoa or cider, while walking around this magnificent wonderland.

While the Denver Zoo is fun to visit on any type of typical day, winter or summer, it also hosts many different events. Events such as National Bison day, National Recycle day and many more. Come visit the zoo, open 9-4.

ION Hoverboard - Beau K.

The newly released gotrax ION Hoverboard is a great option for a birthday or Christmas present or just a family toy. The staff down at GOTRAX sent me an ION Hoverboard. A hoverboard is a machine with two wheels that can sense where you are leaning and drive that way. After using this hoverboard I have come to a conclusion that this hoverboard is the way to go if you are coming to the conclusion to buy one for the holiday new year or just buying one at all. Using this hoverboard is easy, it feels great and smooth when riding and it's so easy that I was able to easily control it within 5-10 minutes.



But why would you buy from this company? Well GOTRAX is a local Denver Hoverboard company. They focus on customer service and pleasing all customers. Within 3 days of contacting GOTRAX and ordering a hoverboard it arrived at my house and I was using. The hoverboard is a really easy system and it comes charged in the box. It started with one press of a button and it automatically balances and moves where you put your feet at 0 degrees.

Not only is the hoverboard super fun and easy to use out of the box but it can also be integrated with a hoverboard kart. A kart is a piece that you can connect that has two handbrake looking handles. These are used to apply pressure on

(Fortnite Editorial continued from page 7)

For example, there is a concept in the game where you can build cover. People actually practice for hours to perfect their building and the people who do this are usually my least favorite part of the community, STREAMERS.

Streamers are basically are the embodiment of people who are really good at games slaughtering people who are terrible at the game. These are the people who have zero social life, and make thousands of dollars a month from people watching them slaughter casual players. You might have heard of this streamer his name is Ninja and all he does is win and people just love it, honestly it's just boring to see someone constantly winning and beating everyone every time.

** Disclaimer: (This is my own opinion and there are plenty of upsides to the game, do not take this as a professional overview of the game.)

(continued on page 15)

Skinner Fall Festival Zoo

-Savanna D



Photo By: Fellowship Baptist Church
of Upper Marlboro Maryland



2018 Dia De Los Muertos at Skinner MS—Cebastian G

Skinner Middle School held a Fall Festival earlier this school year. The fall festival has been apart of Skinner for a while now. I'm a new 6th grader and it was my first time going there. The fall festival really surprised me! Many events happened. There were also many amazing booths throughout the school. You could tell that there was a lot of effort put in.

From my experience Fall Festival was astonishing. The haunted house which was lead by Ms. McKeown, the haunted house was held in the west gym locker room. I went into the haunted house about 5 times because it was so fun! The leadership kids and Ms. McKeown put a huge amount of effort into the haunted house.

The booths at the Fall festival were also extravagant. Some learning families had booths and put so much effort into the booth. For instance, Ms. Gunn had a booth called the candy grab. Where she stands up on a chair with candy bags hanging from a hula hoop and someone would be blindfolded. The person would jump up and tried to touch one and then they would get a bag of candy. with a The game was pretty cool. Many booths made a lot of money.

Overall the fall festival was marvelous and the experience is beyond awesome. The effort put into everything was excellent. Many teachers and Students ran booths for the whole time and put there all in. The Fall festival is definitely something everyone enjoys and I believe incoming 6th graders will enjoy it as much as I did.

Dia De Los Muertos is a traditional mexican holiday, that celebrates life and death. Celebrated in spanish speaking countries, Dia De Los Muertos is an explosion of colors, the veil that keeps the living from the dead is thin, a day where Mictlantecuhtli would allow for the dead to visit the living. Mexican culture respects the dead, so in which case we set up an *ofrenda* (offering) to give them something for them to take back on the journey home. For the past 2 years Skinner's very own LSA has hosted a authentic celebration, where there's a huge potluck, and we come together to celebrate life after death.

This year, the celebration was that much more special, with a community alter, and sugar skulls to decorate. With help from students at Regis's own LSA, and students at North High School, we were able to get this amazing event up and running. "From the way that you guys have talked about it, heck yeah I'm coming!" Said one 8th grader, eager to come and support SO-MOS1.

The event itself was nice and followed a simple pattern. First, we had students and family sign in, and drop off their food in the west gym. Next ,after everyone was done, they had the choice to sit down and eat, face paint, decorate sugar skulls, or get their face painted. There was posole verde, enchiladas, among other things. After, there was a little presentation about what DDLM is about. We let people check out the altars that were brought, and the community altar. When asked, everyone said that they were planning on celebrating with us next year. After everyone was done, we took off, to go on our processional walk. We circled the North Denver Community, with me (Cebastian Gomez) leading, behind help from the Denver Police Department.

When we came back, everyone was respecting the dead, and enjoying the celebration. "I really do think that next year I'll try to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos" said one eager 6th grader.

(Hamilton continued from page 3)

finally finished off Alexander Hamilton in their famous duel. During his interactions with the audience at Boettcher Concert Hall, Leslie said, at the time the play was first being written by Lin Manuel Miranda, he never imagined that he would get to play Aaron Burr. Though he distinctly remembered thinking when first hearing the song "Dear Theodosia", "Whoever gets to sing this song is gonna be a real lucky guy."

His new album *Simply Christmas* consists of several Christmas covers like, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "My Favorite Things". His other self-titled jazz album, *Leslie Odom Jr.*, was recorded as an early version prior to his success on Broadway in *Hamilton*, and self-released. Then in 2016 after his time on *Hamilton* concluded, he made an expanded version with his new record label, S-Curve Records. Having a love of Broadway he performed many Broadway tunes at his October 13th concert, including songs from *West Side Story*, *Rent* and *The Civil War* musical.

All together *Hamilton* star, Odom Jr has a bright future ahead of him. We can expect a considerable contribution from him to America's jazz repertoire. Though his performance with CSO was memorable, it's alright if you missed it. According to him he'll be back in just two years, "They don't know it yet, but they've got me booked here for 2020!"



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Skinner Football Team Looked Really Good After 3 Years Without A Win - Huck T.

After the Skinner football team had lost every game for the last 3 seasons, this school year the team finally looked like championship contenders. With star quarterback Isaiah Paddilla under center they looked amazing. But a big part they had this year was what they did not have last year: an elite defense led by defensive captain middle linebacker Jackie Martinez. The team's defense had an amazing game against Morey on October 16, where they only allowed 6 points and got 3 interceptions and lead them to a 36 to 6 victory.

When I got lucky enough to get an interview with backup cornerback Finnegan Marshall, he gave us some really good reasons of the team's success. To my first question of how it felt to win their first game in 3 years he said, "It feels awesome because of the 3 year win drought and they had a blowout." As for what made his team's success, Marshall replied, "Our team's success has mostly come from their stellar defense of which they did not have last season." As we got deeper into the conversation, I asked about Marshall's favorite player, Aquib Talib, being traded away this season to the all star team the Rams. Marshall did not feel that good because Talib had played for his favorite team the Broncos before traded. But he also really likes Peyton Manning the old star quarterback of the Colts and Broncos. Marshall thinks that the best players were the Bronco's two quarterbacks Anthony and Isaiah because they had three touchdowns combined running. He also believed the team's success is going to come from their defense for the rest of the season.

Overall, it looks the Skinner football team had some great opportunities this year! Hopefully you had time to watch the team in action. If you didn't, be sure to place it on your calendar for next year! Go Skinner Scorpions.

(Homework continued from page 1)

On the other hand, one could argue that homework is also beneficial in many ways. It can give students an opportunity to practice what they have learned in class independently and better understand the material. Another reason is that it lets parents know what their kids are learning in school even if the child is not the best at communicating it.

As you can see this is a controversial topic, and has strong reasoning on both sides but it is still up to you to decide where you stand. What side would you choose?



Visiting with Newt @ Skinner BEYOND Days

(Museum continued from page 1)

65 ft long. The total cost of Adventure Forest was 2 million dollars. It is designed for kids that are four years old and up that are good climbers. The two

main points about the exhibit are to create an exhibit that involves older kids and for kids to get out of the house so they could get some exercise. It will have activities like rope swings, a chimney climb, log and glass bridge, spider web nets, lots of different climbing structures and two 65 ft long slides.

The estimated date for Adventure Forests opening is Spring 2019. The Children's Museum is also teamed up with an artist named, Wes Sam Bruce. Wes Sam Bruce is an artist that paints animals and plants with tons and tons of detail. The Children's Museum is working with him to create, strange paintings of animals and plants that live near the South Platte River all throughout Adventure Forest.

If you want to keep up with what is going on with Adventure Forest then visit the Children's Museum website. www.mychildsmuseum.org



Skinner Cares Day - Wendy M.

On Thursday, September 27, 2018, Skinner Cares Day took place. It was an emotional day for most students, but it was also a fun chance to bond with peers.

The day started with each grade in their learning families enjoying a potluck breakfast brought by students to share with their classmates. We had about an hour in learning family to enjoy our breakfast and to get some time to know students don't talk with during a regular day. Everything that was shared in Skinner Cares Day followed the mayor rule: come with an open heart and keep everything a secret.

After learning family was over every grade went to the auditorium to hear the "If you really knew me" stories which were shared by students in multiple grades and even from some of the staffs. The stories that were shared were emotional, deep, and really got to some students, causing some tears in the audience. After the stories were shared in the auditorium, every grade had the chance to write their own "If you really knew me" stories and then had time to share these stories in their 4th-period classes. While some people chose to read their stories, no-one was forced to read if they didn't want to.

After that activity was over we went to 5th period. There we did an activity where you got time to know some people you sit with in that class. At every table there had to be 4 or 5 people. The point of the activity was to learn more about each person and to find things you had in common with them by passing a ball of yarn around and telling stories from your life. At the end, the yarn had been passed around enough times to create a web in the center of each group.

In 6th period there was an activity where we had to trace our hands and write 5 values, one on each finger. We then had to share them with the class. When we finished sharing our values, everybody had to make like a shape. For example, in my math class we made a circle with all our hands in it like a family tree.

During 7th period every grade watched a suicide prevention video which was a video with messages such as to follow the "ACT" (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) protocol when a friend or someone you know is displaying symptoms of depression or suicidal behavior. Then, in 8th period which is our last class we had a short activity which was another get to know you type thing in the form of a worksheet.

We have an annual tradition at Skinner of making a human peace sign with all the grades and staff. The peace sign took up most of 8th period; all 650 students, as well as staff and parents and other community members met outside in the field to create a giant peace sign. Afterward, our emotional day was over. The next Skinner Cares Day is scheduled for after winter break..





Skinner Basketball Coach

- Elena G. and Zion R.

We decided to interview one of the girls basketball coaches at Skinner Middle School. We asked Coach Frahm some questions about the team and Ms.

Frahm Coaching the basketball team. One question that we asked Coach Frahm that really stood out to us was what is the most difficult thing you have to coaching for Skinner Middle School girls basketball team. Ms. Frahm had told us that the hardest thing for them to do as coaches is tryouts because they usually have a lot of people try out for the girls basketball team and the only can accept 12-15 because if they accept more than 12-15 girls then not everyone would get equal playing time as they want.

Ms. Frahm also told us that it is really heartbreaking for them during tryout's because some of the 6th graders try out and it is sometimes hard for the 6th graders to make the team and from when I was a 6th grader trying out for the team they told us that there use to be a 6th grade team but the combined it and ever since they combined 6th 7th and 8th graders it got harder for the coaches to pick the 12-15.

Ms. Frahm also talked about what Mr. Duran the other coach and herself like in a team. Ms. Frahm told us what herself and Mr. Duran like in a team is hard work and hustling.

Ms. Frahm told us that herself and Mr. Duran like hustling because when playing in a game and are on offense you would need to really hustle to get back on defense so you can be ready for when the other team come down with the ball. They also look for hustle because they like who 'want to get better everyday and have a good relationship with their teammates and have a good and positive attitude.

Photo Source: DPS Teacher Appreciation



Source: City Year Denver Twitter

City Year: Skinner

- Ferryn M.

Across the country, City Year members are sent to different schools to help the students thrive and succeed, and assist the teachers. They also hope to gain experience from teachers as well. "Recently, City Year sent around 75 skilled AmeriCorps members to serve in 8 elementary, middle, and high schools." The City year workers across America help students and teachers get a better experience from Elementary, Middle and High School. Not only do they help teachers and make their job a little bit easier, they build a bond with students to make learning more enjoyable and effective.

More than 40% of the students in Denver's public schools drop out, and the City Year members are working hard to try and change this. Since 2011, City Year has made an impact in Colorado's capital city. With their 2nd year at Skinner, new City Year members have joined the Skinner community, and some remained teaching and helping at this school. Like many City Year at Skinner, Ms. B always holds the door for students and greets them with a warm smile. With just a small gesture of kindness every day, the Skinner community is growing stronger by the day. We all really appreciate the work they do and the support they provide.

The Apocalypse Is Coming Sooner Than You Think

- Addisonefinneganenan Marshtry



Did you know that your life may end sooner than you think? Well it may if you don't start saving our Earth. "The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit" (-NASA). Even though 1.62 degrees does not sound like a lot it is very significant. The polar ice caps are already starting to melt and many animals may go extinct due to climate change. This is not the only problem, we are also losing water faster than ever before. Without water, humans will not be able to survive. We do not just use water for drinking we use it for many other things including energy, cleaning, cooking, etc.

As it states in Mountain Weekly News, "we've had three years below 30-year average snowfall in Denver: we've been under by 33.5, 16.9, and 32.5 inches.". One of the biggest hobbies for people in Denver is skiing and one of the biggest tourist attractions for Colorado as well. The Intermountain West has seen a rise of about 2°F in average temperatures over the past 30 years. This is a high number considering much of this area relies on farming which is affected by higher temperatures. This means less farming jobs and less food.

Did you know that the Colorado River's largest reservoir (Lake Mead) is only 39% full? This is showing how humans are causing us to lose water faster than ever. It would take many years of us not using water from the Colorado River to help it recharge. The Colorado River is not the only water source that is running low, in fact the whole planet is running low on water, "one in nine of the planet's population lack access to clean, affordable water within half an hour of their homes."- The Guardian.

But don't be discouraged by this article, there are still solutions to these problems. With climate change we can just lower our carbon emissions and our other greenhouse gas emissions. One major way we as ordinary people can lower our emissions is driving. Driving releases carbon dioxide which destroys the ozone layer, which is essential for life on Earth, and traps heat in our Earth.

On a bigger scale we can use renewable energy such as wind and solar energy instead of coal, oil and gas. To save us from water shortages we can use Drip irrigation. "Drip irrigation can reduce water use by 30 to 70 percent compared to conventional sprinkler irrigation."-Landscape Business. This is showing that if more people in Colorado use drip irrigation then we could stop using as much water as we are from the Colorado river. Drip irrigation is a system where water is put right by the roots of the plants and it gives them just the right amount of water, you do not need to flood your field and you do not need to use sprinkler irrigation. This could be the savior for our Earth and this all starts with you.

To end this article we will leave you off with the great quote by a great man, Ghandi, quoted by a great teacher, Ms. Espe, "be the change you wish to see."

Water Facts:

- In the household 35% goes to gardening
- Only 3% of water is freshwater and 68% of it is trapped in icebergs
- Contaminated water can kill 200 children every hour
- 70% of the humans brain is water
- Water can dissolve more materials than any other liquid
- More than half the water used at home is used in the bathroom
- Heavy water (deuterium oxide, H₂O, D₂O) is a form of water that contains a larger than normal amount of the hydrogen isotope deuterium making it 10% heavier than water.
- Our bones are 31% water.
- 71% of our Earth's surface is covered in water and 96.5% of it is salt water.
- In the U.S. 49% of our water goes to creating energy.



The Flobots –Jade S.

If you live in Denver, you may have heard of a pretty popular band called The Flobots. The members of The Flobots are Jamie Laurie, Mackenzie Gault, Stephen Brackett, Jesse Walker and Kenny Ortiz. This article focuses mainly on Kenny Ortiz (far left), the drummer of this band.

Kenny Ortiz (also known as “Kenny O” by his friends and people that know him) is 49 years old and was born right here in Denver, Colorado. Kenny has been playing drums since he was just 19 years old. He has been in various other bands: Woolybugger, Cactus Marco, Uversa, D-Town Brown and Tribhanga just to name a few. He does still know some of his old band mates though.

Kenny actually wasn't a part of The Flobots forever though. The Flobots have been a band since 2000. Kenny joined the band in 2006 through his friend Andy who began playing with The Flobots 2005. For years Andy had tried to recruit him to play in his band Bop Skizzum, but Kenny was unavailable as he was in a different band with Toby Santistevan, one of his best friends. Andy happened to run into Kenny in 2006, after recently joining The Flobots. He asked Kenny, who happened to be available at the time, to audition. The music was awesome and Kenny joined on the spot. His first show with The Flobots was in March of 2006 at Washington Park Community Center in Denver. He says it was, “a very enlightening and interesting first show!”

Kenny shares that the first song he made with the band was “Handlebars”. This song was a very big milestone in his life and very important. He had thought it was crazy that they had so much success as a local band selling out small clubs, but everything fell into place he says when he and his band heard the song on some of the biggest radio stations in the US he was ecstatic. Kenny Ortiz himself says, “My experience has been wonderful. I feel lucky and blessed to be able to make music for a living. It's what I love to do. And the people I've shared these moments with are inspiring, generous and delightful to be around. They're my family.”

You may have heard about the drama between The Flobots and musician Logan Paul. Logan Paul released a video on youtube called “No Handlebars” that was released somewhere towards the end of last year. Right away Logan Paul got a lot of hate from thousands of people calling him out that he copied The Flobots and didn't give them credit as the Flobots had written a song called “Handlebars” that was released on November 29, 2008.

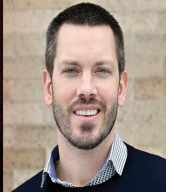
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(Hoverboard continued from page 8)

either one of the spots where your feet go causing it to move. The hoverboard has a mode on it that is specifically designed for the karting.

Overall this is obviously a great choice and in my opinion the greatest hoverboard you can get right now. It is smooth easy fun and overall a great product made by great producers. I know it has been repeated many times but this is really the best thing out there right now in terms of hoverboard quality, style, price, and simpleness. GOTRAX has made a fabulous product that I recommend to everyone. Please go visit them right now at www.gotrax.com



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If you listen to The Flobots version and then Logan Paul's version you can see 4 notes were taken out of the beginning music and the lyrics are a bit changed up, but there are still similarities between the two. Soon after, Johnny 5, the lead vocalist, posted a video on the Flobots channel talking about the situation. A little time passed and Logan Paul deleted his video.

Overall Kenny Ortiz feels so lucky to be in this band. He loves making people happy through his music. He is happy to be part of the music business and wouldn't have it any other way.



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