the TIGER TIMES



Co-Advisors: Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Plescia Co-Editors: Elizabeth Mao and Jaclyn Pedoty

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This is our last edition of *The Tiger Times* for this school year. Our enthusiastic staff worked very hard to produce a school newspaper filled with school events, interesting facts and up-to-date information. We worked together well as a team and supported each others efforts to come up with articles that appeal to all readers in our PVMS community. Happy Reading!

Snow, Snow, and More Snow!

By Gabe Ortiz

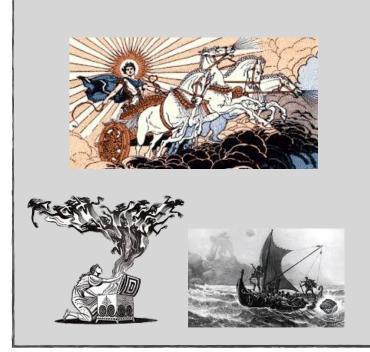
We have had many school closings and delays here in Putnam Valley schools. This is because there have been a lot of snowstorms this winter. Putnam Valley has been getting hit pretty hard. We actually had 9 closings, 5 delays, and one early dismissal! We even had to make up some days of school during our Spring Break. It seemed like Spring was never going to come!



Greek Gods and Goddesses 6th Grade Assembly

By Josef Wacaser and Evan Gutierrez

The sixth grade Social Studies class with Mr. McCarty has been studying Greek mythology. So, on Thursday, March 19th, the sixth graders were invited to the Performing Arts Center to see Geoffrey Benoit perform the well-known ancient Greek myths entitled "Phaethon and the Chariots of the Sun", "Pandora's Box", and the famous epic poem, "The Odyssey" by Homer. Benoit reworded all the myths so all the ending words rhymed, and he tested 6th graders' knowledge of Greek mythology. The assembly was very fun and I hope we can go to it again next year.





The Band Concerts

Volleyball Pep Rally

By Tori Spitzer

By Roger Raimo and Nicholas Lombardi

The band concerts were brilliant this year! It



was a great experience to be on stage too! Miss Kraus held the concert in the High School PAC on February 3rd. The fifth and sixth graders performed at 7:00 p.m. The songs that were

played by the 5th graders were: "Centurion", "Festival Fanfare", "Azasazi" and "Declaration and Dance". The 6th grade songs were "Eclipsys", "Silver Scepter", "Aztec Sunrise", "Mozart Serenade and Dance". They were all great songs to hear throughout the night. Nice job, fifth and sixth grade! Thanks to Ms. Kraus, Mr. Beucke, and Mrs. Bennett for putting on great shows.

Woo Hoo! On Friday, February 13th, Putnam Valley Middle School hosted their annual Volleyball Pep Rally. The eighth grade students played against some of the PV teachers! It was the last day of classes before our Winter Recess. The games lasted from periods 8 to 9. The staff won all three of the games! Mr. Hanna was the referee. Everyone was screaming and shouting because it was so much fun! The students and staff played hard and showed good sportsmanship. It was truly a blast!









Pictures courtesy of iVoice

WORDS VS. FISTS

By Annabelle Gesson

On January 21, during our "No Name Calling Week", a woman named "Master Life" from a martial arts center came and visited our school. The performance that Master Life put on taught a valuable lesson to everyone: use your words to defend yourself instead of fists.

At first, it appeared that Master Life was going to teach us how to kick and punch instead of stand up for ourselves. But martial arts are about discipline and confidence. Master Life taught us about the kids bullies pick on. Usually, victims are kids who are different. Kids with different clothes get picked on, or kids who are alone and have no friends are also targeted.

Master Life made her point by sharing an inside story of her painful high school experiences. Kids made fun of her for liking a boy, which is pointless. Kids are allowed to have crushes, and nobody deserves to be made fun of when the bully most likely has a crush too!

Master Life explained how when you are confident, you are happy about yourself, and that's the most important thing in life. Overall, Master Life's visit taught us all about words... not fists.



No Name-Calling Week

By Spencer Smith

Every year we celebrate "No Name-Calling Week" at PVMS. This year was very interesting. The first day was on Tuesday, January 20th. The theme was "Color Wars" where we decorated the halls with our grade's color. It was a competition between the grades to see who was most creative, colorful, etc. The 7th grade won this event. The colors were 5th- yellow, 6th-red, 7th-orange, and 8th, green. Many eighth graders insisted to change their color to white. The next day on Wednesday we had a cereal drive that lasted till the 31st. The winner of the cereal contest was the 6th grade. On Thursday it was Mix-Up at Lunch and Recesses. We were randomly seated with classmates different than our usual lunch. It was decided by what color Jolly Rancher you picked. On Friday, the last day (excluding the cereal drive), it was Peace Day where you dressed up like a person from the Sixties. We also saw an assembly with J-Line.com about music.. Overall, No Name-Calling Week is full of fun and interesting events.

WEDNESDAY THEMES

By Cece Mendez

For some time now, Wednesdays have been a special day for PVMS. It's "Wednesday Theme Day". There have been many "dress up" themes, for example; wearing PV Pride clothes, a football jersey day, wear plaid day, wear your favorite boots day, holiday sweater day, scarf day... and many more. This has been a great addition to the school. Kids show great school spirit from these themes. We have had great fun on these days! I hope our principals keep this going just like a tradition! We are looking forward to more ideas for our upcoming themes!





Pictures courtesy of iVoice



Mural Club

By Jaclyn Pedoty

Did you ever notice the huge paintings starting to form on the walls of the chorus room? Well, these paintings are the result of the Mural Club. Mural Club is run by Mrs. Racanelli for all grades. It allows the students to show their artistic abilities. Whether it is re-creating a famous painting or creating a painting of your own, the whole idea is just to use your imagination to have fun and make some art. The club takes place on Tuesdays after school. Some murals that are well recognized by everyone in the building include the murals on the outside of the library made by students of years past. This year, instead of working on the bookcases, many new paintings, like a horse, a trumpet player and an elephant are forming in the chorus room. There is also a re-creation of "The Old Guitarist" painting by Pablo Picasso. So if you want to have some fun and make some art, try the Mural Club!







Behind the Scene(ry)

By: Josef Wacaser and Tori Spitzer

Did you see the PVMS production of "Oklahoma"? It was great! Did you notice the scenery in the background? It was created by the members of the PVMS Stage and Scenery Club that is run by Mrs. Sharp. One of the background scenes was a painting of a barn. It was a big red barn with fields in the background. There was also a painting of a cottage with window boxes of pretty flowers and a nice light green door. Another scene on the stage was the inside of an old smokehouse that even had an old pot-bellied stove painted in it. The Stage and Scenery Club worked very hard to make the production of "Oklahoma" look awesome.



The NJHS

By Elizabeth Mao



The National Junior Honor Society is one of the oldest and most respected student organizations in the U.S. and is definitely an honor to be accepted. This option is only given for 8th Graders. In order to be accepted you have to meet certain criteria. This includes having your overall average, or your GPA, be at least a 92.5% over the course of all of 7th grade and the first two semesters of 8th grade. Also, community service is not necessary but is recommended. At some point during the third quarter, the 8th graders who have met the GPA requirements, are given packets. These packets will include an essay topic for the student to compose and pages for teacher recommendations. A special committee in the school is then given the packets and some students are selected. Students who have been accepted are welcomed at a ceremony on May 5th. The National Honor Society in high school then succeeds the National Junior Honor Society. The NJHS is definitely a goal to work for and as stated before, a great honor in middle school.







Pictures courtesy of iVoice

Mrs. Gallello's Class

By Nicholas Lombardi

I am a student in Mrs. Gallello's science class. In class we were given an assignment to research an animal and write about it. Some questions included were: What is it? Is it a mammal? Is it a reptile? Is it an amphibian? Is it an omnivore? Is it a carnivore? Or is it an herbivore? We also had to say if it has a backbone or if it doesn't. That means we had to tell if the animal is a vertebrate or an invertebrate. The animal that I picked was the Harp Seal. It looks like a fluffy pillow and it is covered in white fur. It looks like it has a lot of snow on it. The Harp Seal is a vertebrate; which means that it has a backbone. It is a mammal because it has fur or hair. It can weigh up to 500 to 600 pounds and grow up to 5 to 6 feet long. This assignment taught me a lot about the Harp Seal and how to research on the computer.



Black History Month... The True Meaning

By Annabelle Gesson

Black History Month... what is it really? Is it the history of the color black, or the African American race? It's the history of African Americans from Rosa Parks making her triumphant boycott with the local buses in Montgomery, to Martin Luther King Jr. delivering his famous,

"I Have a Dream" speech. African Americans have come a long way in history, from being mistreated to getting the respect as an equal citizen. Black History Month celebrates African Americans and the history that they have created. In February to celebrate Black History Month, our school brought us a laser show on February 24, 2015. This show brought us through time and history and back to the present. In conclusion, Black History Month reveals the most important moments that African Americans have faced.

PCMEA All-County Festival

By Jaclyn Pedoty



Every year a few selected and talented musicians gather to play some exceptional music for the PCMEA All-County Festival. PCMEA stands for Putnam County Music Educators Association. How this works is first you send in an application to the festival chairman. This application consists of your band or chorus grade, a teacher's recommendation and your previous year's NYSSMA score, if there is one. If you are accepted, you will

get sheet music for the music that you will be performing in the concert. Over the next few weeks, you practice this music with the other selected peers in your school. Then, on a predetermined Friday you go to a school to practice with the full ensemble from all the other schools. The next day, you go back to the school once again to practice until 2:00 in the afternoon at which this time...you will perform! Coming from my own experience, this is a very enjoyable and enlightening experience if you really enjoy band or chorus and want more opportunities to perform.





Homework Club

By Sara Lussier

Are you wondering how Homework Club works? How do you get in? Well, this is an interview with Mrs. Stein about that information!

Sara: When is homework club?

Mrs. Stein: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Sara: Is there any other teacher in the club?

Mrs. Stein: Yes, Mrs. Brothers

Sara: How many students are in the club?

Mrs. Stein: 20-30 on some days

Sara: What do you do in homework club?

Mrs. Stein: When kids need help with their homework they come to the club and some high school students partner up with them and help them.

Sara: "How long is homework club?"

Mrs. Stein: 1 and a half hours long... 2:45-4:15 pm

Sara: How do you get in the club?

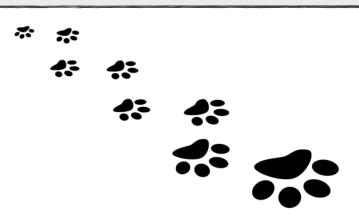
Mrs. Stein: You get teacher recommendations or at the beginning of the school year you could ask.

Sara: Is the club for any grade? Mrs. Stein: Any grade; 5th -8th

Sara: Is there any other information you would like to share?"

Mrs. Stein: Kids who really want to put effort in their homework and want to get done with it, found great success from the club.

So, if you need or want to join Homework Club, get recommendations or start next year and ask at the beginning! Thank you to Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Brothers, and the high school students who help!





Jazz Band

By Jaclyn Pedoty

Some of the greatest names in jazz reside here. Music vibrates throughout the entire room. If you have no idea what I am talking about, I am talking about the Putnam Valley Middle School Jazz Bands. There are two

Jazz bands in our school; one for 5th and 6th grades and the other for 7th and 8th. The younger band is run by Mrs. Bennett, while the older one is run by Mr. Beucke. Both bands are filled with talented musicians with a passion for making jazz music. Many jazz pieces that the bands play are made by some of the most famous jazz musicians in the world! How cool is that! In jazz band you and your band can learn all about jazz standards along with learning other things that can help you excel in your music career like learning how to form a jazz solo. Plus, after all of the practicing, you get to perform in the Spring concert! Whether this is your first time



playing jazz music or your 100th time, it is fun regardless. Trust me, I am in it myself! For the 5th and 6th grade band, they practice after school every Thursday and the 7th and 8th grade band practices on Tuesdays after school. So, if you want to have fun and just play some jazz, go check out the Putnam Valley Middle School Jazz Bands!

Singing Out Loud

By Sara Lussier

On May 12th and 13th parents, grandparents, and friends, enjoyed the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade chorus concerts. The concerts were held at the PAC. The concert performance is part of a student's chorus grade so attendance is mandatory. Part of our grade is also "concert etiquette" which has to do with a student's behavior at rehearsals and on stage. Everyone put a lot of effort in the performances. Thank you to Mrs. Craane, the people who helped, and all the students who sang. The concerts were a success!

End of the Year Trips

By Tori Spitzer

On Wednesday, June 24th, Putnam Valley Middle School will be attending their annual "end of the year" field trips. The 5th grade will be going to *BOUNCE!* in Poughkeepsie, NY. The 6th grade will be going to *Medieval Times* in Lyndhurst, NJ due to their studies in the time period. The 7th grade will be going to *Castle Fun Center* in Chester, NY. Finally, the 8th grade will be going to *Lake Compounce* in Bristol, CT for their end of the year trip. The students and staff always look forward to these trips. It is a great way to end the school year. Thank you to all involved for making these trips possible!



Odds Bodkin Visits PV

By Kelby Dath

Odds Bodkin is a musician/story teller that visits schools nationally and internationally. He came to visit our school on March 23rd and 24th. He came to talk to us about how the Earth began from two different perspectives. Odds Bodkin started the assembly by telling us a Greek myth about how the Earth was formed. This myth was the only thing that made sense to the ancient Greeks due to their lack of scientific knowledge. He told the story and acted out each of the different characters with different voices. He played his guitar throughout the story too. Then he continued to explain the theory of how the Earth was formed from a scientific point of view. He talked about Pangaea; which is the theory that scientists think that the Earth was once one super continent. Odds Bodkin also explained how continents fit in to other continents, and that scientists believe that the tectonic plates move very slowly. So, for hundreds and thousands of years, Pangaea has broken apart into seven separate continents. Scientists believe that continents are still moving, but very slowly. Odds Bodkin came to us to teach us about the Earth. His performance definitely taught us all a lot about Earth Science.



Picture courtesy of iVoice

Book Reviews

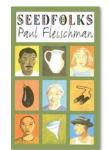
By Evan Gutierrez

Seedfolks

By Paul Fleischman



In the book, <u>Seedfolks</u> residents of a Cleveland apartment complex start a garden on a vacant lot near the complex. Kim, a nine-year-old Vietnamese girl, starts the garden



to prove to her father that she was his daughter because her father died when she was in her mothers' womb. One year later, the garden thrives with eggplants, lima beans, tomatoes, etc. It's hard to believe when it was a tiny garden that now it has spigots, a watering system, and many plants. I personally love Seedfolks and would recommend it to any reader.

Hatchet

By Gary Paulsen



In the book, <u>Hatchet</u> 13-year-old Brian Robeson is flying to the oil fields of Canada to see his father for summer vacation. During his flight, the pilot has a heart attack, so



Brian makes a crash landing into the Canadian wilderness. His mother, before the plane ride, gave him a hatchet for good luck. However, the hatchet led him to some very important survival needs such as fire (for warmth). Then, Brian spots the tail of the plane and finds many survival tools such as food and an EMERGENCY TRANSMITTER! Brian accidentally presses the emergency transmitter and a rescue plane comes to get him and he returns to his parents. *Hatchet* is not my favorite but it's OK.



NYSSMA

By Jaclyn Pedoty

NYSSMA, also known as the New York State School Music Association, is an association that tries to further music education in schools all over the state. They sponsor anything from solos to large ensembles. If you choose to be part of this, you can apply to perform a solo or duet in chorus or band. You will get a piece of music that matches your level of skill and you will have a few weeks to practice. Then, on a Friday afternoon or evening or even possibly a Saturday morning you will perform your piece in front of a judge. Now don't run away when I say "in front of a judge." The judge will give you a score from 1 to 28 but, this score will just serve as a basis for how you did overall. This score helps you build your skills to become a better musician. The judge will also leave comments on what you did well and leave small critiques on what you can do better next time. Yes, I was nervous at first, but the judges are all so nice and you will gain some beneficial insight on your playing so that you can grow as a musician. Our school's band and chorus teachers are so dedicated to helping and teaching, that you are bound for success. If you are really dedicated to music, you won't regret being a part of the NYSSMA program.





This Season's Lacrosse

A must read for all lacrosse kids!

By Annabelle Gesson

The victorious season is coming to an end as the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls and boys put down their lacrosse sticks, only for a matter of time. The girls and boys this year have been working very hard striving for ground balls, assists, goals, and face-offs. On a back note, lacrosse is a sport that loads of Americans play. The Native Americans invented lacrosse. Today we play lacrosse competitively on school teams and/or travel teams. Being a participant in lacrosse and having a sister on the lacrosse team, a lot of lacrosse is in my life! For example, the Modified Girls Lacrosse Team played Mahopac and tried their hardest. Also, the 5th and 6th grade girls lacrosse played Yorktown on Sunday April 12. The spirit you encounter during games and tournaments, like the Brewster Jamboree, is amazing! You can't beat the adrenaline that rushes you down the field when you make a goal! And talk about fashion... the 5th and 6th grade girls lacrosse team received new uniforms. The JV Girls Lacrosse Team dominated games, while Coach Booth cheered the modified girls on as they ran up the field. The boys are doing just as well; checking, scoring, and winning! In conclusion, I would name this season the best yet for girls and boys lacrosse!



TECHIE TALK



We've Got the Power!

Ratu Bolenaivalu

No one likes having a low battery on your cell phone, tablet, or any other device. It really stinks to be stuck without a power source to charge your phone so you can get back to texting your best friend or posting photos to Snapchat. Well, there is a solution to that... a power bank. A power bank is an external battery used to charge electronical batteries such as: smart phones, tablets, and even laptops! But, if you're a very big power user, you may want to look at investing in the RAVPower RP-PB14 Xtreme 23000 mAh Portable External Battery Charger. This is currently the largest known power bank in the world. If you are looking to purchase this, it will run you about \$170, but in my opinion, I believe that it is well worth the price. Sometimes you can't put a price tag on "power"!

Source: http://www.ravpower.com/

ravpower-23000mah-portable-charger-external-

<u>battery-charger.html</u>

The Apple Watch

By James Kilian



On September 9, 2014 Apple announced the Apple Watch... Apple's first smart watch ever. The watch is used for fitness, communicating, and a summary of your day's

activities. Instead of grabbing your phone out of your pocket, you can simply use the watch to send a quick text or answer a phone call, and it even tells time! It comes in two different watch sizes. The Apple Watch helps keep track of health and fitness by calculating how much you run and exercise. It even has a pedometer. So, after a long day of exercising, you go on to your watch and it will tell you how many steps you took, how many miles you ran, etc.. Apple said "it's our most personal device yet". I think Apple will be very successful with the new Apple Watch. The release of the Apple Watch was April 24, 2015.

Source: http://www.apple.com/watch/

Putnam Valley Teen Center

By Gabe Ortiz

Putnam Valley Teen Center is a program run by the PV Parks and Recreation. It always runs on the first Friday of each month. They sell all sorts of candy and food there. They sell hot dogs, candy, pizza, nachos, and soda. There is open gym during Teen Center. We play basketball and Knock-Out. There also is air hockey, fooseball, nok hockey and music set up in the cafeteria. It is a great way to have fun with your friends.



SPOTLIGHT



Who's Who in the Front Office

By Dominic Mantilla

There are two secretaries here at PVMS that run the front office; Mrs. Wallach and Mrs. Gabari. I had the opportunity to interview them and find out a little about what their role is here. They were very kind to devote some time to me.

Interview with Mrs. Wallach (secretary to the principal):

Q: How long have you been working at PVMS?

A: 15 years

Q: What made you want to become a secretary?

A: I enjoy working with people and... no two days are ever the same!

Q: What do you do as a secretary exactly? What are your responsibilities?

A: I help students, parents, teachers, and the principal with problems, questions, and concerns.

Q: What is the biggest challenge of being a secretary to the principal of the Middle School?

A: Multi-Tasking... Having to do and think about many things at once. Also patience...having to always be kind and patient...even if someone's not nice.

Q: Who is an inspiration to you?

A: Somebody who comes to mind is Malala Yousafzai; a Pakistani school girl who defended threats of the Taliban to campaign for the right to education. She has become a global advocate for woman's rights.

Q: Is there anything else you want to say to me/the viewers?

A: Enjoy and appreciate your time here. There are so many clubs and activities to explore; be open to try something new!

Interview with Mrs. Gabari (main office secretary):

Q: How long have you been working at PVMS?

A: 19 years

Q: What made you want to become a secretary?

A: I like working with both parents and students

Q: What do you do as a secretary exactly? What are your responsibilities?

A: I take care of staff attendance, substitutes, meetings, and managing the office.

Q: What is the biggest challenge of being a secretary of the Middle School?

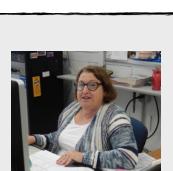
A: Multi-tasking... always being prepared to do more than one thing at a time

Q: Who is an inspiration to you?

A: My cousin Patt who persevered through an illness with dignity

Q: Is there anything else you want to say to me/the viewers?

A: Always be prepared for the challenges of the day!





Fun, Fun, Funny!!!



Would You Rather ...

By Annabelle Gesson

Go paddle boarding in the Gulf of Mexico? OR Go jet skiing in the Puerto Rico waters?

Have your BFF sleep over for a month straight?
OR
Go camping with your BFF for 2 weeks straight?

Eat ten worms in mayonnaise without puking? OR
Bite your toenails in front of the whole grade?

Laugh weird for the rest of your Putnam Valley years?
OR
Only wear purple pants for the rest of your life?

Cry out loud in front of your crush?
OR
Your cousin makes fun of you for tripping in public?

Have orange skin for the rest of the school year? OR
Have green skin for the rest of the school year?

Go to Hawaii for one week of Christmas break?
OR
Go to Long Beach Island for five weeks on Easter break?

Get on high honor roll the whole year?
OR
Get twenty dollars that you must spend quickly?

You know what seems odd to me? Numbers that aren't divisible by two."

Courtesy of Zazzle.com











Fun, Fun, Funny!!!





Did You Know.....?

- ... the most commonly used letter in the alphabet is E
- ... the 3 most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English
- ... cats spend 66% of their life asleep
- ... M&M's chocolate stands for the initials for its inventors Mars and Murrie
- ... all insects have 6 legs
- ... popcorn was invented by the Aztec Indians
- ... cows don't have upper front teeth

http://www.did-you-knows.com

Valentine Cake Recipe

By Kayla Brundage

Ingredients:

1,000 rose petalsone picture of your "crush"3 stuffed monkeys4 old sweaters from Grandma



Directions:

Put everything in a large bowl and cook for 1 day. Then, take the mixture out of the oven and let it sit for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour (30 minutes). While you are waiting, take the stuffing out of the monkeys and refill them with the mixture that you took out of the oven and re-sew together.

Then, Enjoy



Spring Jokes

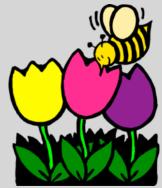
By Lexy Peters

- Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?
- A: A bee (B) comes after it!
- Q: When do monkeys fall from the sky?
- A: During Ape-ril showers!
- Q: Can February March?
- A: No, but April May!
- Q: What flowers grow on faces?
- A: Tulips (Two-lips)!
- Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?
- A: A bee (B) comes after it!
- Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
- A: Pilgrims!

Q: What is the best season for a

trampoline?

A: Spring-time!



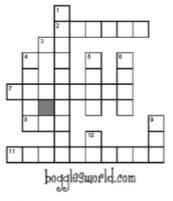
Fun, Fun, Funny!!!

Summer Break Fun!

Organized by Annabelle Gesson

Summer Words



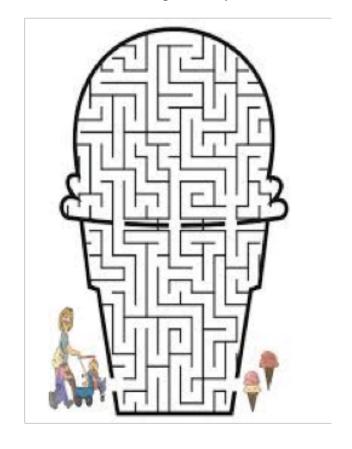


Across

- 2. The month at the end of summer.
- 3. The book is__the table.
- 7. The time when you don't go to school.
- 8. How's the weather in summer?
- II. A big fruit you eat in summer.

Down

- I. What do you make at the beach?
- 4. You go to the_____ in summer.
- 5. What do you do at the beach?
- 6. The month at the beginning of summer.
- 9. A machine that makes you cool?
- 10. I _ swimming.



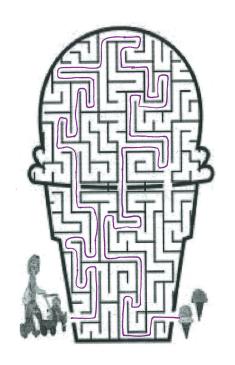


Solutions to puzzles on next page



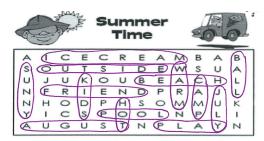
Super Teacher Worksheets - http://www.superleacherworksheets.com











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Eighth Grade:

Ratu Bolenaivalu *Elizabeth Mao *Jaclyn Pedoty

* Co-Editors

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the **Tiger Times!** We will be back this Fall. Have a wonderful summer!