



Central Scoop  
March 2020  
Edition 06

## Quote of the Month:

“You never know what worse luck  
your bad luck has saved you from.”

– Cormac McCarthy

# Table of Contents:

- **Laugh Out Loud** pg. 3
  - Silly Stories
  - Jokes
- **Brain Games** pg. 6
  - Riddles
- **Did You Know?** pg. 7
  - Fun Facts
  - National Days
- **How To...** pg. 12
  - Recipes
  - Crafty Corner
- **Student Suggestions** pg. 15
  - Book Recommendations
  - Movie Recommendation
- **Student Surveys** pg. 17
  - Poll

---

# Laugh Out Loud

---

## Silly Stories

by Renee

It was almost St. Patrick's Day, a joyful time for all leprechauns, but Lindsey the leprechaun was very sad. She, unlike all the other leprechauns, was unable to grant wishes! On St. Patrick's Day, leprechauns hid near rainbows and granted wishes to little children. But Lindsey was stuck at home doing chores because she was born without the gift of granting wishes.

"See you tonight, Lindsey," her little sister, Lucy, called as she headed off to the family rainbow.

Lindsey sighed. Even her six-year-old sister could grant wishes! Like her parents always said, 'If not her, who would do the chores?' But she knew she was meant for something more than dishes and laundry. Lindsey finished drying the dishes as her parents flew through the living room.

"Sorry, Lindsey!" they exclaimed. "But we have to go, we're already going to be late!" They ran through the door, sprinkling themselves with some magic rainbow dust before they slammed it behind them.

Lindsey yearned to run out after them and grant wishes to anyone and everyone who needed a little bit of luck, but she knew her parents would never let her leave her room again (except to do chores, of course)—let alone the house—if they found out. So, she went back upstairs to do a load of laundry and clean her room.

She was in her room a few hours later, the house spotless, when she heard a rapid banging at the door. *Maybe Lucy forgot her lunch again?* she thought. But when she opened the door, she found an old leprechaun standing on her porch. He was wearing, unusually, a mushroom costume.

"Who are you, why are you on my doorstep, and why are you dressed like a mushroom?" Lindsey asked him.

"I am Leo the Leprechaun; I have come to grant your wish, and I just got back from caterpillar-wish-granting," he replied. "The caterpillars get frightened if I'm not disguised as a mushroom, rock, or blade of grass."

"You said you wanted to grant a wish for me?" Lindsey asked.

"Yes! I noticed you were all alone at home instead of granting wishes like all the other leprechauns, and I thought there might be something I could do to help!"

"So... You were spying on me?" Lindsey asked, suspicious.

"I wouldn't really call it spying so much as... Okay, yes. I was spying on you," Leo said. "But! It's for your own good! I have decided that humans have enough wishes already. But there are a few leprechauns who can't grant wishes—basically, short, green-clad, rainbow-loving humans. So! What's your wish?"

Lindsey thought about what she wanted most. She could have a brand new car! ...*Oh, wait—she was only eleven.* Maybe a free ride to a college of her choice? ....*But there weren't colleges for leprechauns.* How about unlimited ice cream! ...*Except she was lactose intolerant.* But then, she thought—what had she been wishing and wishing for all her life? The ability to grant others' wishes!

"I want to be able to grant wishes," she said confidently.

"Are you sure?" Leo asked.

"Yes," she confirmed.

"Very well then," Leo said as he sprinkled some magic rainbow dust on her. "Now! To make sure it works, try it on me."

"Um, what do you wish for?" Lindsey asked.

"FREEDOM!" Leo shrieked.

"Okay, okay, chill," Lindsey said, stepping back. She grabbed some magic rainbow dust from the family's stash in the hallway and sprinkled it on Leo. As she watched, he grew and grew until he was the size of a giant! His red beard slowly shrank and became brown, and his green, shamrock-adorned attire faded into an odd pair of blue pants and a white shirt.

"Finally! Freedom!" Leo screamed and disappeared in a whirlwind of magic rainbow dust.

Lindsey had no idea what had just happened. But she had to know if she could now grant wishes! So, she grabbed her bike and pedaled off toward the family rainbow, where people from her family were able to find and teleport to people in need of a little luck.

Once Lindsey arrived, she watched what everyone else was doing and followed their example. When she reached the front of the line, she closed her eyes, spun a few times, and jumped into the rainbow.

After a surprisingly short and easy fall, she opened her eyes to find herself in a field of bluebells. *Hmm, she thought. Seems kind of suspiciously innocent.* But someone here needed her! She had to find him/her. After a few minutes of searching, she found what she was looking

for. A small child, about five or six, laid on the ground, gasping for breath.

As soon as she saw her, she leaned towards her and cried, "D-d-don't eat the b-bluebells!" She took another wheeze and flopped back down again.

*She must be poisoned!* Lindsey realized. *Although her parents must be idiotic not to warn their child not to eat the poisonous flowers.*

"I can help you," Lindsey said. "I just need you to repeat after me, okay?"

"O-okay," she said.

"I wish..." Lindsey started.

"I w-wish..." the girl repeated.

"To be healed."

"T-to be h-h-healed!"

Lindsey sprinkled a handful of magic rainbow dust on her, and immediately, the girl sprung to her feet. Lindsey could already feel herself slipping back to her world as the child screamed a jubilant 'Thanks!'. Lindsey could barely believe it. Her wish had come true—she had the gift to change someone's entire life!

**THE END**

---

## Jokes

by Kaitlyn

Why did the Pilgrims want to sail to America in the spring?  
**because April showers bring May Flowers**

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?  
**Bugs Bunny**

What bow can't be tied?  
**a rainbow**

What season is best to go on a trampoline?  
**springtime**

---

# Brain Games

---

## Riddles

by Layla

1. Three men were in a boat. It capsized, but only two got their hair wet. Why?

**he was bald**

2. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

**short**

3. You walk into a room with a rabbit eating a carrot, a pig eating slop, and a monkey eating a banana. Which one is the smartest animal in the room?

**you**

4. If you have me, you want to share me; if you share me, you won't have me. What am I?

**a secret**

5. I am an animal named after the animal I eat, what am I?

**an Anteater**

# Did You Know?

---

## Fun Facts

by Mariam

1. "If you heat up a magnet, it will lose its magnetism" (Ward).
2. "Tic Tacs got their name from the sound they make when they are tossed around in their container" (Ward).
3. "Albert Einstein had mastered calculus by the tender age of 15" (Ward).
4. "In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Turkish women could initiate a divorce if their husbands didn't pour coffee for them" (Ward).
5. "Dying is illegal in the Houses of Parliaments" (Ward).

### Works Cited

Ward, Luke. "200 Fun Facts That'll Actually Make Your Life Better." *The Fact Site*, 12 Feb. 2020,  
[www.thefactsite.com/top-100-random-funny-facts/](http://www.thefactsite.com/top-100-random-funny-facts/).

---

## National Days

by Brianna

### *March 1*

National Dadgum That's Good Day  
National Fruit Compote Day  
National Horse Protection Day  
National Minnesota Day  
National Peanut Butter Lovers' Day  
National Pig Day

Self-Injury Awareness Day  
Finisher's Medal Day

### *March 2*

World Teen Mental Wellness Day  
National Banana Cream Pie Day  
National Old Stuff Day  
National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)

### *March 3*

National Anthem Day  
National Cold Cuts Day  
National I Want You to be Happy Day  
Soup It Forward Day

### *March 4*

National Grammar Day  
National Hug a G.I. Day  
Marching Music Day  
National Pound Cake Day  
National Sons' Day

### *March 5*

National Cheese Doodle Day  
National Multiple Personality Day  
National Hospitalist Day

### *March 6*

National Dentists' Day  
National Dress Day  
National Frozen Food Day  
National Oreo Cookie Day  
National White Chocolate Cheesecake Day  
National Dress in Blue Day  
National Speech and Debate Education Day  
National Employee Appreciation Day

### *March 7*

National Be Heard Day  
National Cereal Day  
National Crown of Roast Pork Day

### *March 8*

International Women's Day  
National Oregon Day  
National Peanut Cluster Day



National Proofreading Day  
Daylight Saving Time

### *March 9*

National Barbie Day  
National Crabmeat Day  
National Get Over it Day  
National Meatball Day  
National Napping Day

### *March 10*

National Blueberry Popover Day  
National Mario Day  
National Pack Your Lunch Day  
National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### *March 11*

National Johnny Appleseed Day  
National Oatmeal Nut Waffles Day  
National Promposal Day  
National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day

### *March 12*

National Baked Scallops Day  
National Girl Scout Day  
National Plant a Flower Day  
World Kidney Day

### *March 13*

National Good Samaritan Day  
National Coconut Torte Day  
National Earmuff Day  
National Jewel Day  
National K9 Veterans Day  
National Open an Umbrella Indoors Day  
National Day of Unplugging  
National Blame Someone Else Day

### *March 14*

National Children's Craft Day  
National Learn About Butterflies Day  
National Pi Day  
National Potato Chip Day  
National Write Down Your Story Day

### *March 15*

National Everything You Think is Wrong Day  
National Kansas Day  
National Pears Helene Day  
National Shoe the World Day

### *March 16*

National Artichoke Hearts Day  
Everything You Do Is Right Day  
National Freedom of Information Day  
National Panda Day

### *March 17*

National 3-D Day  
National Corned Beef and Cabbage Day  
St. Patrick's Day  
World Social Work Day

### *March 18*

National Awkward Moments Day  
National Biodiesel Day  
National Lacy Oatmeal Cookie Day  
National SBDC Day  
National Sloppy Joe Day

### *March 19*

National Certified Nurses Day  
National Chocolate Caramel Day  
National Let's Laugh Day  
National Poultry Day  
National Farm Rescuer Day  
Spring Begins

### *March 20*

World Flour Day  
National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
National Proposal Day  
National Ravioli Day

### *March 21*

National California Strawberry Day  
National Fragrance Day  
National French Bread Day  
National Single Parent Day  
World Down Syndrome Day  
National Corn Dog Day

National Quilting Day

***March 22***

National Bavarian Crepes Day

National Goof Off Day

National West Virginia Day

***March 23***

National Chia Day

National Chip and Dip Day

National Near Miss Day

National Melba Toast Day

National Puppy Day

***March 24***

National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day

National Cheesesteak Day

National American Diabetes Association Alert Day

***March 25***

National Lobster Newburg Day

National Medal of Honor Day

National Tolkien Reading Day

National Little Red Wagon Day

Manatee Appreciation Day

National Ag Day

***March 26***

Epilepsy Awareness Day - Purple Day

National Nougat Day

National Spinach Day

***March 27***

National Joe Day

National Scribble Day

National Spanish Paella Day

***March 28***

National Black Forest Cake Day

National Something on a Stick Day

***March 29***

National Lemon Chiffon Cake Day

National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day

National Nevada Day  
National Vietnam War Veterans Day

### *March 30*

National Take a Walk in the Park Day  
National Doctors Day  
National I Am in Control Day  
National Pencil Day  
National Turkey Neck Soup Day  
National Virtual Vacation Day

### *March 31*

National Bunsen Burner Day  
National Clams on the Half Shell Day  
National Crayon Day  
National Prom Day  
National Tater Day  
National Equal Pay Day

---

# How To

---

## Recipes

by Addyson

### **Mint Chocolate Dessert**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 package Canyon Bakehouse Brownie Bites (or another gluten-free kind), coarsely crumbled
- 1 package gluten-free vanilla pudding, prepared according to package directions
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon pure mint extract
- 3 drops green food coloring
- 8 ounces heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- sprinkles, if desired

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make the vanilla pudding according to the directions on the package. Once it has set, stir in the mint extract and green food coloring. Set it aside.
  2. To make the whipped cream, beat the heavy whipping cream on high speed for two minutes (or until stiff peaks form). Add in the powdered sugar, and beat again for another five to ten seconds (or until powdered sugar is fully combined).
  3. In a small glass or individual-sized trifle dish, layer brownie bites (about one per layer) followed by a layer of pudding, followed by a large dollop of whipped cream. Repeat the layers one more time. Top it with a few extra brownie crumbles and sprinkles if desired. Enjoy!
- 

## Recipes

by Erica

### St. Patrick's Day Lime Poke Cake

#### INGREDIENTS

##### Cake:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened, plus more for greasing pan
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon fine salt
- 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups buttermilk, well shaken
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 3-ounce box lime gelatin

##### Topping:

- 2 cups heavy cream, cold
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- Green sanding sugar (for sprinkling)

## DIRECTIONS

1. Position an oven rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat it to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Butter the bottom and sides of a nine-by-thirteen-inch pan.
2. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl; set it aside. Whisk the buttermilk and vanilla in a spouted measuring cup; set it aside.
3. Beat the granulated sugar and butter in a stand mixer (or a large bowl if using a hand mixer) at medium speed for about five minutes or until it is fluffy and very light in color, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. With the mixer still running on medium, slowly add the eggs, and beat until fully incorporated. Reduce the speed to the lowest setting; with the mixer running, add  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the flour mixture, then  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the buttermilk mixture, then  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the remaining flour mixture, then the remaining buttermilk mixture, and then the remaining flour mixture. Scrape down the sides and beat until well mixed.
4. Spread the batter into the prepared pan. For about thirty minutes, bake until it is golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center of the cake. Remember to rotate the pan halfway through. Let it cool for thirty minutes in the pan. Use a large fork to poke holes an inch apart in the top and all the way through the cake.
5. Bring one cup of water to a boil, pour it over the gelatin in a medium bowl, and stir it until it is completely dissolved (this will take about two minutes). Stir in  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of cold water. Pour the mixture evenly over the cooled cake. Refrigerate it for two hours. Put a large bowl (for whipping the cream) in the refrigerator.
6. Remove the cake from the refrigerator. Whip the cream with granulated sugar and vanilla in the chilled bowl until it is fluffy. Spread it over the cake and sprinkle the sanding sugar on top. Slice it and serve.

---

## Crafty Corner

by Lillian

### What You Need:

- 1 cup baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup citric acid (be careful, as this can damage some countertops--especially marble!)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Epsom salt



- ½ cup cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons food coloring
- 3 tablespoons of lotion
- 1+ teaspoons of water
- 10 drops essential oil
- sprinkles of a clover (optional)
- a circular-shaped mold

## Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the baking soda, citric acid, Epsom salt, cornstarch and (only if using) powdered food coloring.
2. Slowly add in the wet ingredients and the lotion. Mix them in with your hands until the desired texture is achieved (when you press it in your hands into the mixture, it should stay compact and not crumble---if it is too crumbly, add a little more water).
3. At the bottom of the mold, place the decorative clover sprinkles.
4. TIGHTLY pack the mixture into each side of the mold, and then press the two sides together. Ideally, let it stay in the mold overnight.
5. Then, lightly tap around the mold with a spoon to very carefully open and remove the bath bomb. The finished product will still be somewhat fragile, so be careful!

## Student Suggestions:

## Book Recommendations

by Annabelle

**Book:** *The Crossover*

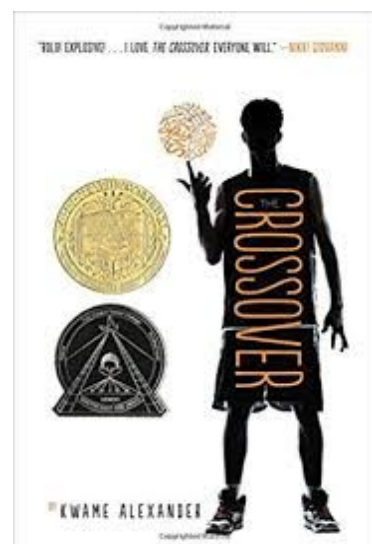
**Author:** Kwame Alexander

**Reading Level:** 4.3

**AR Points:** 2.0

**Audience:** Middle Grade (4th - 8th grade)

**Summary:** Told in hip-hop style poems, *The Crossover* follows Josh Bell, a young basketball player, and his twin brother as they attempt to lead their school



basketball team to the championship. The road is a rocky one for Josh, however, full of unexpected twists and turns, as he is forced to face some of life's most confusing (and difficult) times. Will he be able to get his head in the game when his team needs him, or will Josh's struggles follow him onto the court? Find out in this upbeat coming-of-age story by Kwame Alexander!

**Review:** In honor of March Madness, I picked this book up off the shelf, not entirely sure if a girl like me (one who knows nothing about basketball) could enjoy it. I was very wrong. This book is a fantastic read for anyone, whether you live and breathe basketball or if you just know that it hurts to get hit on the head with one. I found it incredible that such a complex, moving story could be spun from poems and verse. The only note I have is that a few references were a bit hard to understand, but again, I know nothing about basketball. Overall, this book is amazing and perfect to start reading after you've finished your March Madness bracket!

---

## Movie Recommendations

by Nick

**Title:** *The Meg*

**Release Year:** 2018

**Reviews:** 46% on Rotten Tomatoes

**Age Rating:** PG-13

**Duration:** 1 hour 52 minutes

I watched this movie reluctantly with my brother, and I say reluctantly because I tried to watch *Jaws* and found it too gory. I have to say, while this movie would be good for those who enjoy a thriller without any people dying, it's not an exciting movie for *Jaws* fans. I expected more from this movie because it's a shark movie. There has to be some gore in a shark movie, but the only things that die are animals that the shark eats. The basic formula for this movie is to make you think that someone is going to die and then save them at the last minute. It makes for some excitement, but then you realise how unrealistic it is. If anything, they make things overcomplicated by saving the characters too slowly just to raise your hopes up. I also think it's bonkers that they show a megalodon's skull when the meg that they chase is easily three times bigger.





---

# Student Surveys

---

## Poll

by Kaitlyn

Go take our St. Patrick's Day-themed poll!

### Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5uSWYnKGTk171E15kocs-dSr4r793DclVaeiaM523TxuVEQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5uSWYnKGTk171E15kocs-dSr4r793DclVaeiaM523TxuVEQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

---

Thank you for reading! We hope you enjoyed. :)

The next edition will be published on April 1st, 2020, on the [Central Scoop Website](#) under the "The Paper" section.