

# Red and White Report

Volume 14

Issue 2

Winter 2016

Recently, thanks to the Palos PFA, students at South were treated to a talk by athlete-turned– award winning author, Tim Green. He captivated his 2 audiences talking about his books , life experiences, and motivation about life’s passions. Julia Srama was fortunate to be able to sit down with Tim Green following his first presentation for a one-on-one interview with him.

## Getting To Know Tim Green

**By: Julia Srama**

How many years have you been an author?

*I have been an author for 23 years.*

Have you ever won any awards in literature?

*I won the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award.*

How many books have you written?

*I have written 32 to 35 books.*

How did you become an author?

*I took creative writing classes in college. Then I just wrote.*

What is your favorite part about being an author?

*When students tell me they like my books.*



Are you currently working on a new book?

*Yes. It will be called Baseball Genius.*

What book is your favorite and why?

*Unstoppable because it is based on a true story about a cancer survivor.*

Why do you visit schools?

*I visit schools to emphasize the importance of reading and how it makes us better students and people.*

Has anything in your books happen in real life?

*Yes, but my books are fiction and I use a lot of my imagination when writing.*

What college did you graduate from?

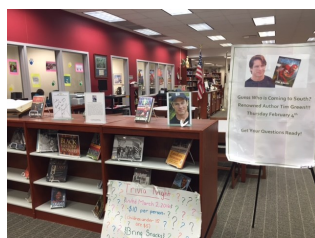
*I graduated from Syracuse University.*

What was your major in college?

*My major in college was English.*

Do you have any advice for young writers?

*Read a lot and read different kinds of books.*



Thank you to Julia for the further insights into Tim Green. Come to the Media Center to check out South's collection of Tim Green books!

# The Zika Virus

By:

Max Aleman

The Zika virus is a virus that is being spread throughout the world. The original outbreak started in Brazil. The virus can currently be found in northern South America, Central America, and in the U.S. It is a virus that causes fever, joint pain, conjunctivitis (red eyes) to its victims. However, the virus is not usually serious; however there have been cases that required hospitalization. One way that the virus is spread through mosquito bites. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has issued a warning for people traveling to regions containing the Zika virus. The good thing is that our generation is safe from the virus.

## Winter Snowflake Craft



If you are bored in the wintertime, here is a fun project for you to do. This project is a fun science experiment and craft in one. You can learn about solutions and see borax crystals forming. Also you get to make beautiful snowflakes to decorate your home. You can make them different shapes, sizes, and colors. The items you will need for this craft is 1/3 cup of borax, a cup or jar, a pipe cleaner, string, and a pen or pencil. First you form your pipe cleaner in a snowflake form. Next you put water in your cup or jar 3/4 of the way. Then you pour in the 1/3 cup of borax into the water and mix. Next you tie the string to the snowflake and the other end of the string to the pencil and place the pipe cleaner in the water completely with the pen or pencil on top of the jar keeping the snowflake suspended. Lastly you wait till it is crystalized and when it is, you pull it out and decorate your home. This information came from [here](#)

by: Marina Alikakos

# Culture Corner

by

Julia Srama

Families and cultures have their own traditions for Christmas. On this edition of culture corner, we will discuss Polish Christmas traditions.

Polish people eat a big meal with their family and open presents when the first star appears in the sky. Twelve dishes are prepared for good luck all year or to symbolize Jesus's 12 disciples. Some of the dishes are mushroom soup, carp, herring, "barszcz", "uszka", "krokiety", "bigos", "makowiec", "kutia", and "piernik". One drink made for Christmas is "kompot z suszu". The meal has no meat. An extra plate is often left at the meal table for an unexpected guest or to remember a dead relative. Straw is placed on the floor or under the tablecloth to represent the stable Jesus was born in. Polish people break off a piece of Oplatek, a large wafer biscuit, and eat it. Sometimes a small piece is given to a pet. Presents are opened after everyone is done eating. In Poland Santa Claus is called "Święty Mikołaj", "Dziadek Mróz", or "Gwiazdor". The house is cleaned and everyone gets washed and puts on their festive clothes. Also, during the days leading up to Christmas, Polish people give up something they like but don't need, like video games, TV, or junk food. Schoolkids take part in Jasełka, or plays about Christmas. Carols are sung. The most popular Carols are "Wśród nocnej ciszy" (Within nights silence), "Bóg się rodzi" (God is born), "Lulajże Jezuniu" (Sleep baby Jesus) and "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" (Today in Bethlehem). They also go to church on Christmas. In Polish Merry Christmas is "Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia" or "Wesołych Świąt". Christmas trees are decorated with "bombki" ornaments out of gingerbread. In some houses an ornament is broken to scare away any evil.

Now you know some Polish Christmas traditions.



# Too Much Technology

By: James Tan



Do you think we depend too much on technology? Well, if you said no, you are wrong! Take a look around you. See a pattern? There is technology everywhere you go. From Smart Boards in classrooms to electronic calendars for scheduling, old analog systems like pen and paper calendars and chalkboards are nearly obsolete in this digital era. What's wrong with pen and paper? I mean, take a look back then before much technology was invented. The people from back then were twice as productive as we are now. I think technology is to blame. Most technological devices are very distracting with all the things you can do all them, like social media, online games, and getting information, and the fact that they include bright lights doesn't help. While getting information is good, many people use that as an excuse to being online. How many times have you gone on "just" for homework and ended up going to social media sites and playing games instead. This is where pen and paper beats technology. Can you go to social media sites in a book? No, you can't, and that helps us to not get distracted. Another thing is that scientific study has shown that writing something down on paper helps our minds remember things better than if we typed it or didn't record it all (the latter is a very bad idea). You may be saying in your head, "What if you lose your papers?" or, "You can draw with a touchscreen device like an iPad or iPod." Well, imagine accidentally spilling a liquid on your electronic. Everything is *gone*. All your work is lost. Not to mention all the hardware breaking. It could cost hundreds of dollars to fix it. But with paper, just buy a new notebook that could cost \$5-10. Then you would have to rewrite everything, but that beats paying an expensive bill for repairing a computer. We have a lot of technology in our lives. Maybe even too much technology. In my opinion, at least make a hybrid between analog and digital, where the two are equally balanced.



# From Google to Alphabet

The famous company Google, which I'm sure that you all know of, is changing its name to Alphabet. However when you go onto the website, the name will still show up as Google. Why is that? Well, it is because the web browser Google is its own little company, and Alphabet will be the daddy company to Google. You may know that Google has created, Google Chrome, Google Maps, and YouTube which all have over 1 billion users. That's billion with a B. If Google is so successful, then why are they changing their name? CEO of Google, Larry Page says "Our company is operating well today, but we think we can make it cleaner and more accountable. So we are creating a new company, called Alphabet. I am really excited to be running Alphabet as CEO with help from my capable partner, Sergey, as president." So there you have it, Google would like to up their game a little bit, but other than that not much else is changing from Google.

Written

By:

Max Aleman



## Jukkasjarvi Ice Hotel

Julia Srama

Wouldn't it be cool to stay at a hotel made out of ice? Well, in Sweden there is a hotel called Jukkasjarvi that is made out of all ice!

Jukkasjarvi was founded in 1989. Every year artists from around the world can decorate the walls, floors and ceiling in the hotel. It has to be rebuilt every year since it melts in the Spring. The price ranges from \$108 to \$1,800 a night. They have cool rooms and warm rooms. There are 5 types of cool rooms: Deluxe, Art suites, Northern lights rooms, Ice rooms and Snow rooms. The warm rooms are in a hotel that is not made out of ice.



## Awesome Board and Card Games

By Jeffrey Korbitz

Ok, so break is over and school is back in session! Do you know what that means?

**VIDEO GAMES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

I'm sorry but we already did that one (darn.) So I'm here with a list of the next best things. Tons of 'em. And I guarantee that at least one will appeal to you. And with this list I can't be wrong. So let's start off with a BANG!

Yup, you've guessed it, our first game is called BANG!

Players: 4 to 7, or 3 to 8 with sufficient expansion.

Time: 40 minutes to an hour

Complexity: Base game alone=mid, expansions increase it

Fun: mid to high, expansions increase it

Details: A cowboy game in the ruthless Old West. The object of the game depends on your role, which you keep secret. There are outlaws and Indians out to get you, so watch your back! Buy inexpensive expansions to enhance it, too! A great family game.

# 15 Strangest Inventions You Will Ever See

By: Nicholas Skweres

You have probably never heard of these strange inventions before. Vote for favorite in a box outside of Room 210.

Hoodie Pillow: It's a hoodie! It's a pillow! It's both!



See-through Pocket Jeans:  
Access your phone while it's in your pocket!



Grass Flip Flops: Feel the grass on your feet, while wearing shoes!



Edible Spray Paint: Serve "golden" food!

Egg Cuber: It cubes eggs. WHY? JUST WHY?



Quackbill muzzle: As if dogs weren't embarrassed enough of wearing muzzles already!



Post-it Watch: All I can say is that this is how Post-It notes were meant to be!





Fuut: A hammock for your foot.

Awesomeness!!!



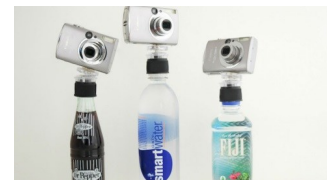
Trongs: Simply put a disgrace to finger food.



Ostrich Pillow: Ummmmm...



Bottle Cap Tripod: Have you ever wanted to take a picture from on top of a water bottle??? No? Me neither.



Hamburger Dogger:

Makes hot dogs out of hamburger meat. For some reason.

Twirling Electronic Spaghetti Fork:

How spaghetti was always meant to be eaten.



Dog Powered Scooter: Apparently is safer than a bike.



Potato Chip Grabber: No more greasy fingers

# THE FORCE AWAKENS

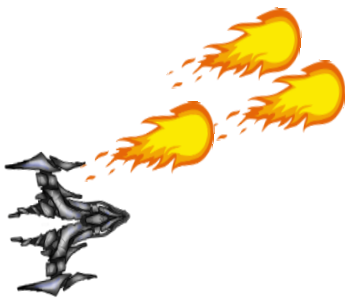
This epic puzzle will take you to the edge of the universe and back!

Created by Jeffrey Korbitz

A H A N S O L O E C R O F R F  
P L A N E T U S E I R E S E I  
W B Z O E A K P O W E R A P N  
M I L L I N E U M F A L C O N  
H A I E L S S E C N I R P O L  
R N C X A J K F K E D G Q R I  
E E A X U R Y H L L D A E T G  
T R N I Y W W H I T D L E M H  
H O T R E D A V H T R A D R T  
G L I D H O L O M A P X S O S  
I Y N P H B K R Y B Q Y E T A  
F K A G E R E W B I O O Q S B  
E I F U T U R I S T I C U Y E  
I T A T T O O I N E T A E I R  
T A C C A B W E H C B C L A Z

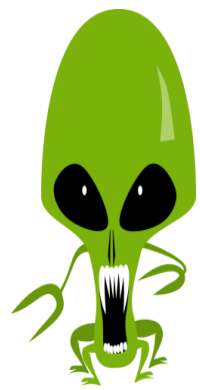
BATTLE  
CANTINA  
CHEWBACCA  
DARTHVADER  
FINN  
FORCE  
FUTURISTIC  
GALAXY  
HANSOLO  
HOLOMAP  
KYLOREN  
LIGHTSABER  
LUKESKYWALKER  
MILLINEUMFALCON  
PLANET  
POWER  
PRINCESSLEIA  
RAY  
SEQUEL  
SERIES  
STORMTROOPER  
TATTOOINE  
TIEFIGHTER





## The Battle of Atlantis

Written by: James Tan



The Nedlings are very mystical creatures from the planet of Nedistan. They have many achievements in science, space travel, and war. One of the deadliest battles they fought was against the wizard people of Atlantis. The Atlantians' greatest warrior was a master wizard named Bob, who used the most powerful wizard staff in the universe. Bob led the people defending Atlantis. The Nedlings used lasers to disintegrate war leaders in order to defeat planets, but their laser beams could not strike the planet because the Atlantians were creating a magical force field. The Nedlings consulted their king and war commander, Ned. Ned decided that they would have to destroy the Atlantians' magic staves so they could no longer cast spells. All the Nedlings agreed and they quickly made a plan. They sent a small fleet to the capital of Atlantis to destroy the city. Sure enough, all of the young, inexperienced wizards (95% of the crew because most Atlantians die in the wizardry profession) ran to save their capital. The space ships simultaneously fired at the large group. Without Bob, who was with the best wizards defending against the main attack, the people and their wands disintegrated into dust. Now with most of the power in the shield wall gone, the laser beams got past the shield and struck the planet, creating havoc everywhere. As a Nedling ship was about to disintegrate the remaining wizards, Bob surrendered. His staff was powered by 2,000 compressed goblin souls, and if it broke, the souls would consume the whole universe. He agreed to work for the Nedlings as long as they didn't destroy the rest of the people on his planet. Bob became the wizardry teacher and Ned's closest adviser. This is what ancient historians, like Plato, meant when they said that Atlantis sunk underwater. Atlantis sunk into the "ocean" of Nedistan because it is a water planet, and this is what really happened to the planet of Atlantis.

# Pikachu's Birthday: A Celebration of Twenty Years of Pokémon

Written by Jeffrey Korbitz

One of the world's oldest video game franchises is turning 20! You might have already heard about this, or seen the trailer, but the Pokémon Company International is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. All fans from pikanoobs to hardened Pokémon Masters will delight as all sorts of special events happen all over the world, not limited to:

- Distributions
- Tournaments
- Special TV Episodes
- Video Game Releases
- Fan Gatherings

And much more!

Pokémon is truly a game that brings the world together, and this celebration will only help get more people involved. Experiences like this help prove that Pokémon is truly the greatest video game franchise of all time.



February

These will be given out in the first four months. Stay tuned for more.



March



April



May

# True or False?

By: Nicholas Skweres

Are you a trivia buff? Can you figure out if these facts are true? Well, even if you can't these facts are sure to amaze you.

Bubble wrap was originally going to be used as 3-D wallpaper.

In a 2011 Czech Republic census over 15 thousand people listed their religion as Jedi.

A normal cloud weighs about 1.1 pounds.

There are about 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the body.

Agatha Christie said that she got many ideas for books while sitting in her bathtub eating oranges.

More people are bitten each year by New Yorkers than sharks.

In the late 1600s London was plagued with an attacker who would spank his victims with a rod, and then run away yelling "Spanko!"

During World War II a bear joined the French army.

One in four Americans think the sun revolves around the earth.

The national animal of Scotland is the Unicorn.



***Answers on the bottom of the next page***

## A Vending Machine for Cars

Written by: James Tan

Do you want to buy a car from a vending machine? A new car dealer called Carvana sells cars online and you have the option of having the delivered or picking it up at a vending machine in Atlanta, Georgia or Nashville, Tennessee. When you pick the car up, the employees give you a large plastic coin that you can put in a coin slot and you can pick up your car and just drive away. The cool thing about this car dealership is that since it needs less staff, less space, and because they save travel money because most people want to pick up their car from the vending machine, you can buy cars for up to \$2000 less because the car dealership saves money. If you are not one of the locals, the company offers \$200 for travel expenses.



# Winter Activities

By: Nicholas Skweres

Q U E Z D Z U W Z L Q T A D Q L K B K R J S G Z F T M H G Y  
C T F Q D W W C P Y Z P O V I P M A G P K U O Y R E C T J A  
X H K P B T A H F U P A H H S W M E H Q S V I J B A N A U A  
E G R C W J Z R P L G H W J T W L V N N N G E L F E Q S Q N  
I I N I Y I P I E G G N O G P A W S O L B U T P I E N X B D  
I F R I S F N S L E D D I N G O E W V G Q I O Y Z D Z Q Q G  
L L B D T T V T V U L J Y I J I M R Y J Q M I I T Q X X N Y  
B L J S L A M M E G C K X E K A L F W O N S L H Y J Z Y K Z  
S A U L E C K A T R O F W O N S W H M C I S W A U W Z H I Q  
T B W L C O F S S H K M O H T U R Q Q H Y S C B I Y T L L V  
N W H A H I Q T E S E C U S N A D A X B T B D K T H G W G L  
E O C B Q F D R A C O G W W T X A J Y J W T R A U N V J L S  
S N O W A N G E L S I N X O I A Q O I O W P D P O G M B W M  
E S U O H D A E R B R E G N I G Q F U W H B E K S V Z V D Y  
R V Y N I B P K Q H S S Y S Y G G G D I A E E E Z X N Y I F  
P T Z S M D A K S H K W Q Y E M K E G F R E D I G W Z D R X  
Y D H U S B F D I O D M G X R C V C P D S Z W Z R W C Y W F  
K D A T F R Y S L X N G D G T I Y W Y S G B L D F L L Y M R  
Z W O J I V A F N M P G H N Q U A P V A C G F G R D F J C R  
H J L Q N J O J P Q Q W A Z G L M M H T I B V K Z M P E N H  
A L I L D T Y J L X G L M D U C Z Q N N Y C P K K S O B Z O  
S R B V U D U O W J C T I C U K N L F Z G D A G P U C C F O  
V U S X U J C Q F L W I H D E T I E Y Z E L X C D R C X W L  
H E S F G R F Y L E W U U U D X A O R W W I X X U R U U W K  
T Q Z D G F O L N E V J Z K L P Z F S H W A E J G E Z M X T  
X V P S F P J G H L Y O U E K M Z T H Z H T Q F F R L I E T  
N M D B G Q Z S X G M H D W F V N U A Q T P N P O F Z V J P  
J E Z V R O L B M X H Z V Z Z J H X S D G F F K O I A U G V  
Y F U G T P F H D H U V X E Y O L J C W K H H P P Q N N L U  
Q T A L O N E P K H F P E X F Q M B K D W H Y B V U W P O Q

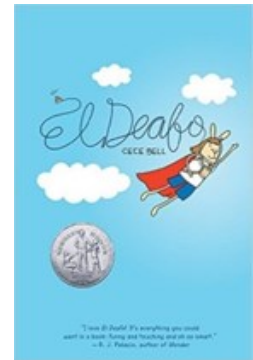
Can you find the 25 winter or Christmas related words or activities hidden in the above word search?

\*\*\*\*\*

- 1: True
- 2: True
- 3: False, it weighs 1.1 MILLION pounds
- 4: True
- 5: False, she ate apples.
- 6: True
- 7: True
- 8: False, it joined the Polish army.
- 9: True
- 10: True

Answers to the True  
and False questions from page 13





## **One District One Book**

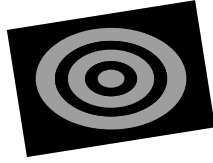
By: Nicholas Skweres

The One District One Book event this year featured Cece Bell's *El Deafo*, a story about a bunny that is hearing impaired. The book is based on Cece's own experiences as a hearing impaired child. At our One District One Book event there were activities such as jeopardy, create your own comic strips, creating a sign using braille stamps, making bookmarks, create your own warm fuzzies, and *El Deafo* related iPad games.

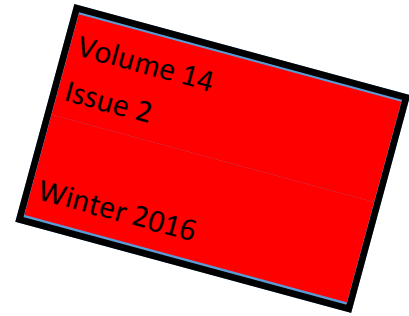
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One of the themes in *El Deafo* was kindness. Below is a list of some Random Acts of Kindness that kids of all ages can practice. **Random Acts for Kids of all ages**

1. Hold the door open for those behind you.
2. Say good morning to your teacher, principal, school officials and classmates.
3. Offer to let your classmate go first.
4. Offer to take your neighbor's dog for a walk.
5. Invite someone new over for a play-date.
6. Collect foods and canned goods for a food bank.
7. Volunteer to be a tutor or mentor in a school, especially if there is an area in which you can help another student.
8. Give someone a compliment at least once every day.
9. Color a picture, make a craft or send a treat to a senior center or nursing home.
10. Donate your unwanted toys and books to the children in need.
11. Write a thank you note to your teacher, your coach, a firefighter, your mentor or someone who has influenced you in a positive way.
12. Clean up the area around your school or a local park, picking up trash and putting it in the garbage can. You can also help your teacher clean up the classroom.
13. Be extra kind to your bus driver. Say hello when you get on the bus and say thank you when you get off the bus.
14. Call your grandparent(s) or other special family members who you do not see often.
15. Donate your unwanted toys and books to the children in need.
16. Write a note to your parent(s) or grandparent(s) and tell them why they are special to you.
17. Help around the house without being asked to do so, such as cleaning your room, taking out the garbage or helping with the laundry.
18. Going to a new school can be really scary so be friendly to the new students in your class or grade.
19. Organize the clothes you don't wear anymore and donate them to a clothing drive or shelter.
20. Smile. Smiling is easy and happiness is contagious!



## **STUDENT STAFF**



***Red and White Report!!!***

**Jeffrey Korbitz**  
**Julia Srama**  
**Alyssa Heintman**  
**Blaithin Murin**  
**William Hardison**  
**Gideon Kolhaas**  
**James Tan**  
**Nicholas Skweres**  
**Max Aleman**  
**Marina Alikakos**  
**Razelle Ruanto**  
**Chana McCormick**



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