

The Notre Dame Times

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Irish Dancer, Sean Ryan, Jigs His Way to Worlds in Scotland

By: Nora Bloom

Sean Ryan, a sixth grade student at Notre Dame Academy, recently competed in the World Championships of Irish Dance in Scotland.

Q: When did you start Irish Dancing?

A: I started Irish dancing when I was 3 years old.

Q: How often do you practice?

A: I practice three times a week.

Q: What was it like knowing that you had qualified for The World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland?

A: Being able to compete was an unreal experience and it was so exciting!

Q: How did you feel after you got off stage?

A: After I got offstage I wasn't quite sure about my dancing but I am so happy with how I did.

Q: Was it your first time flying over international waters?

A: Yes, this was my first time flying overseas.

Q: Did you enjoy Scotland?

A: Yes! I loved Scotland. It is such a beautiful country.

Q: What place did you receive?

A: I got 15th place.

Q: Did you feel confident in your dancing?

A: I felt that I could've danced better, but I was happy with how I placed.

Q: We know that you are busy with the play, four different types of dance, and school, yet you managed to place 15th overall. How did you manage to practice, and stay on top of everything else?

A: It was quite hard staying on top of all of my activities, but I love each and every one. I knew that I had to also stay on top of everything, but I knew that I had to keep doing them all.

Q: Do you have any advice to give to others?

A: If you put your mind to something, you can always achieve that goal.



Seventh Grade Saints Succeed in the Iron Giraffe Challenge

By: Mrs. Grew

When you leave for work or school in the morning, you probably have a set routine of items you can't leave home without: your jacket, homework, keys, lunch, and of course, your trusty water bottle. Whether it's a trendy Stanley or a squeezable green Gatorade water bottle, you know that you must have it with you to get through the day happy and hydrated. But, have you ever thought about what it would be like if you didn't have access to cool, refreshing, clean water to drink? Well, many people around the world do not have to think about this because for many, it's a reality—including villages in South Sudan. That's why the 7th grade students decided to take action after reading the book, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park in ELA.

The novel is based on the true story of Salva Dut, who founded and runs the organization, Water for South Sudan. When he was only eleven years old, Salva had to flee his home due to a civil war going on in his country. With perseverance and determination, Salva helped himself—and many other young boys—survive harsh conditions during the war in Sudan. Eventually, Salva made his way to the United States and with many years of hard work, he established Water for South Sudan, an organization that raises money to help build wells in Sudanese villages that need

access to clean drinking water. Every year, Salva and his organization sponsor the “Iron Giraffe Challenge” where schools from around the country try to raise money for South Sudan. In April, the 7th graders held a bake sale at Okell and raised \$150. Many seventh graders baked cookies, brownies, and other treats to sell. Altogether, the Notre Dame Saints raised \$537 for the Iron Giraffe Challenge.

“It feels wonderful to have been a part of raising money for such a great cause,” says seventh grader, Nora Bloom. Mrs. Grew and the seventh grade class would like to thank everyone who donated to Salva's organization, and for proving once again that the Notre Dame community's generosity has no limits.



Notable Quotes from the Class of 2024

The 8th grade students, and soon-to-be NDA graduates, were asked: "What will you miss most about NDA? What are you most looking forward to in high school?" Here's what a few of them had to say!

"I will miss how our teachers try to make what we are learning an experience by keeping it in our lives and minds. I am looking forward to making new friends and having an opportunity to better my art." -Elzira Pack

"I'm going to miss my friends that won't be going to the same high school next year. I'm looking forward to being able to take more classes and explore other different types of classes." -Lila Moran

"I will miss my friends and the memories I have made. I look forward to playing sports and making new friends." -DJ Wilson

"I will miss the teachers who have become like friends over the years the most. I look forward to taking advanced classes next year." -Boril Stoyanov

Annie Jr.: An Interview with a Cast Member

By: Nora Bloom

Mia Desiderio, a 7th grade student at Notre Dame Academy, recently starred as Star-to-Be in NDA's production of Annie Jr.

Q: When did you realize that you wanted to be an actress?

A: I enjoyed singing in the choir when I was younger, so I thought that the play would be an incredible experience.

Q: Have you ever taken lessons or been involved in a camp before?

A: Yes, I have. I was involved in *The Greatest Showman* Theater camp, and *High School Musical* Theater Camp. I also take voice lessons.

Q: What musicals/ plays have you been in?

A: I was in *The Lion King Jr.*, *The Wizard of Oz Jr.*, and I am currently in *Annie Jr.*

Q: Do you get nervous before an audition?

A: No, I do not. I am confident that I will do my best.

Q: What role are you in the current play?

A: I am the Star-To-Be.

Q: What is your favorite part of being in the musical?

A: The new friends that I have met along the way.

Q: As it is getting closer to the play, do you have more and more practices?

A: Yes, we have been having more practices.

Q: After the final performance, how do you feel?

A: After the performance, I usually feel tired, but I know that it was all worth it.

Q: Last question—what do you hope next year's performance will be?

A: I hope that next year, we will do the *Eras Tour Jr.* (;

Thank you so much Mia!



Photo Courtesy of NDA's Facebook Page



Top Three Tips For Managing Stress

By: Madelyn Martz

As we know, final exams (for Okell) are coming and a lot of students may be stressed out. So, over the years I have learned many coping mechanisms to help myself when I am in need of calming, and I decided to share some with you. Just to make note though, everybody prefers different things and some of these tips may not work for you.

Taking Deep Breaths

Some people may think that this is a basic and general answer to hear when you say that you may be stressed or not focussed, but this is a very effective way to calm yourself down. Some people may prefer different timing when inhaling, holding your breath, and exhaling. I prefer to inhale for five seconds, hold for five, and exhale for five, and then repeat.

Box Method

With this method I have learned to “store away” my stress or other negative emotions. This method is great to use when you are at school because it will help contain your feelings. So, here’s how you practice this method:

First, close your eyes and imagine a box, any form, shape, color, and size. Then imagine its lid, and once again it could be any color, shape, form, and size. Next, imagine putting anything in the box that resembles your

negative emotions. Finally, put the lid on top of the box and store it or send it somewhere else, like your closet so you can take care of your emotions later.

Laugh

Honestly, I have never imagined myself laughing when I am stressed, but when I do I feel really relieved. Sometimes laughing works, sometimes it doesn’t. So, the next time you are stuck in a negative situation and you are able to watch something really funny, I think that will really help. As an alternative if you can’t watch or listen to something funny, you could think about a time that made you laugh as it works the same.

Once again, not everybody will benefit from these mechanisms, but I hope you learned something from this article. I really hope you will utilize these tips in the future!



Artemis Fowl: A Master Class in Writing

By: Connor Prendergast

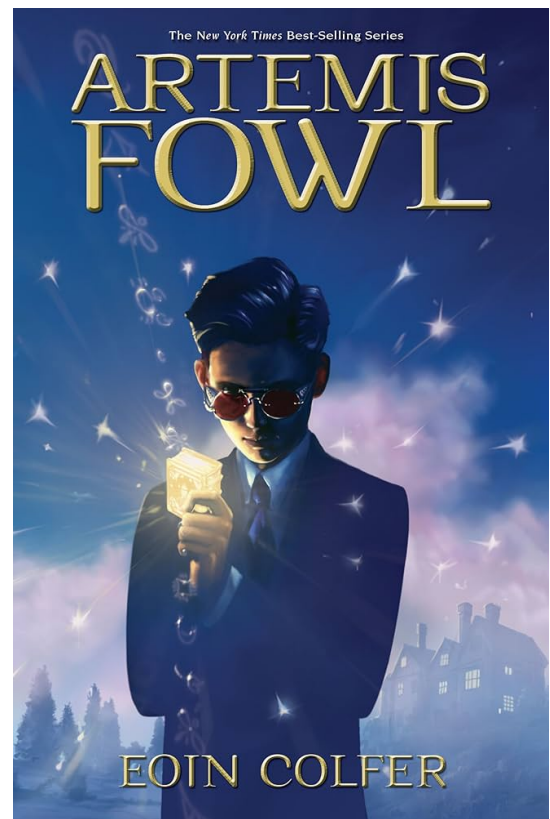
Artemis Fowl is an amazing book by Eoin Colfer (pronounced Owen Colfer), where the title character, Artemis Fowl, attempts to steal a fairy's cache of gold. But this is not your average fairy tale, as Colfer takes a unique spin on the idea, instead of fairies being little annoying Tinkerbells or Navis, they're a highly advanced civilization that lives underground and keep themselves a secret using their technology.

The book opens with an epilogue featuring a description of Artemis, explaining his age and how smart he is, and then saying he almost started a cross-species war. Right away, I love how this is presented, it uses a different font and point of view from the entire rest of the book which makes it feel unique, while also adding a dash of comedy at the end and giving readers who didn't read the back of the book a look at Artemis' character. The first chapter, titled "The Book" goes through how Artemis obtained the fairy book, which is sort of like their bible and rule book. He uses this book to plot a scheme of massive proportions to steal millions of dollars worth of gold.

A unique part of this story is the dual perspective, which is something not many books utilize. Half of the book is written from Artemis' side, and the other half is written from the side of the fairies. This creates an interesting contrast as the

protagonist becomes the antagonist and you get to know what the opposition is doing. That's another thing about this book, you could be rooting for either Fowl or the fairies, because both could be considered both the protagonist and antagonist.

Artemis Fowl is a wonderful read all the way through, with many tense scenes as one side outsmarts the other, only for another exciting twist. There are countless thrilling action scenes and masterfully woven dialogue. Overall, it is a truly amazing book and one I definitely recommend reading.



Video Game Review: *Hollow Knight*

By: David Corbett

*In wilds beyond they speak your name with
reverence and regret,
For none could tame our savage souls yet you the
challenge met.
Under palest watch you taught, we changed, base
instincts were redeemed;
A world you gave to bug and beast as they had
never dreamed.*

These are the opening words of the hit independently-developed game: *Hollow Knight*. A video game that opens with a POEM!? Mrs. Grew would be so proud! So, you might be asking, David, what exactly is a *Hollow Knight*? Well, let me explain. *Hollow Knight* is an incredible hand drawn “Metroidvania” created by three very talented Australian men, who created a group called Team Cherry. It is rich in story and in game design, with amazing visuals and an iconic soundtrack. The story follows a character who is ironically NOT named *Hollow Knight*. Instead, he goes by various names, such as “the knight” or “little ghost.” Neither name is correct or incorrect because he has no official name. This character roams through the ruined kingdom of Hallownest, which has fallen due to a terrible plague that causes its insectoid inhabitants to go mad.

At first, the atmosphere of the game seems pretty depressing, with grays and blacks being the main colors in the scenery, but it picks up quickly. The knight comes across a town called Dirtmouth, and meets Elderbug, an old beetle, who explains how the town was abandoned: all the inhabitants jumped down the village well, which is the only entrance to

the ruined kingdom of Hallownest. To find out more about the story, check out the game for yourself!

As for the game design, it helps to know that a *Metroidvania* is a video game with a 2D environment, with no separate levels, having all stages of gameplay on the same map, with linear progression; areas are locked behind obstacles that require items or abilities from other stages of progression. *Hollow Knight* is probably the best *Metroidvania* (in my humble opinion) due to its amazing artstyle and engaging gameplay mechanics. The map has so much to explore, and if you do choose to examine every nook and cranny, you’ll be greatly rewarded. If you try hard enough you could find a new area to explore, but you might have to take on a big challenge such as a boss or obstacle course to get the ability to progress in that area. Sounds easy enough right? WRONG! This game is extremely difficult, with maze-like levels, and difficult enemies. If you “die,” you not only have to go all the way back to your last save point, you also have to defeat your evil half, the shade, to get your money, and half your soul meter, which is used to get “soul,” a special item that allows you to cast powerful spells.

This game demands a lot of time, energy, and skill, but is very rewarding and fun to play. Just make note that the game can be scary at times, especially in the area’s “royal waterways” and “deepnest.” There aren’t any jumpscares, just darker themes compared to a game like *Mario Kart*, so be sure you’re old enough to play. This game is recommended for kids aged 9 and up. Now, all we have to do is wait for the sequel: *Hollow Knight Silksong*!

Swifties Rejoice! The Tortured Poets Department Delivers

By: Addison Cusack

The Tortured Poets Department is Taylor Swift's new album that was released on April 19. The new album consists of sixteen original songs and fifteen songs from her second release. Taylor came out with a second album at 2 a.m. in addition to the original one to make this a double-album. This second album has many more songs that she has written over the past two years.

Some of my favorite new Taylor Swift songs are "I Can Do It with a Broken Heart" and "Down Bad." There are so many amazing songs on this album that I can't even begin to name all of them. Another worthy mention is "Who's Afraid of Little Old Me?" The songs on her new

album are sort of slower than some of her other albums but they are still amazing. The song "I Can Do It with a Broken Heart" is one of the upbeat songs on this album. If you are a new Swiftie, or just trying to listen to a variety of songs, then listen to this album because it really shows how great Taylor is!



Desmond Doss: A True American Hero

By: Connor Law

We live in a world that has many wars being fought, so it's important to reflect on the people who put their lives on the line for this country and for the people of this country. So let's take some time to inspect one of the most notable individuals who served our country to keep us safe: Desmond Doss.

Desmond Doss was a child when he had his first experience with the horrors of battle. While he was wrestling with his brother, Harold, Desmond threw a brick at his head, which almost killed him. As a child, this was a traumatic experience, and he swore that he would never kill or injure anyone from that day forward. When he was 22 years old, Doss enlisted for the US army in 1941 during World War II. As a conscientious objector, Doss was put into military court, yet won the case and was

excluded from having to use a gun. On May 4th, 1945, the Battle for Hacksaw Ridge began; Doss served as a medic during this battle. Throughout the battle, Doss tried to search for injured soldiers on the battlefield. He ended up finding and saving 75 Americans, and finding 6 Japanese soldiers. Doss was awarded the Medal of Honor on October 12th, 1945.



Find Out About Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin

By: Madelyn Martz and Allyson Ybarra

Have you ever heard of the name Benjamin Franklin? I hope you have, but if you haven't, here is an informative article about this Founding Father.

INTRODUCTION

To start off, Benjamin Franklin was one of the founding fathers of the American Constitution. Franklin held many jobs like: an inventor, statesman, an author, a publisher, scientist, and a diplomat. He also expanded into science and entrepreneurship. Franklin was an important figure in his city because he helped build a library and many other influential buildings.

EARLY LIFE

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706 to parents Josiah Franklin and Anne Child. Franklin ended his formal education when he was 10 years old to join his father in his soap and candle business. Then, at age 12 he was apprenticed by his older brother, James, with a printing business called *The New England Courant* and was very passionate about printing, though he had an abusive relationship with his brother and James wouldn't let Benjamin publish any articles under their newspaper. Soon, Franklin would flee Boston to get away from his brother remaining on his signed contract at the printing shop.

GETTING INVOLVED

Franklin had helped develop the draft of the Treaty of Paris, was one of the people who drafted the Declaration of Independence, and he helped shape the U.S.

INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Franklin had experimented with electricity, especially lightning. He invented the lightning rod and he has proved that lightning is a form of electricity. Other than electricity, Franklin also dabbled in the ocean's currents, meteorology, a stove, bifocal glasses, a rocking chair, the American penny, and more.

ELECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT

Franklin became a member of the Philadelphia City council in 1748. In 1751, he was elected as a Philadelphia alderman and a representative to the Philadelphia assembly. In 1757, he was appointed by the Pennsylvania Assembly to serve as a colony's agent in England. Franklin also represented Pennsylvania at the Albany Congress. However, Franklin's "Plan of Union" failed to be ratified by the colonies. Franklin had also helped develop the draft of the Treaty of Paris, was one of the people who drafted the Declaration of Independence, and he helped shape the U.S. government into what it is today.

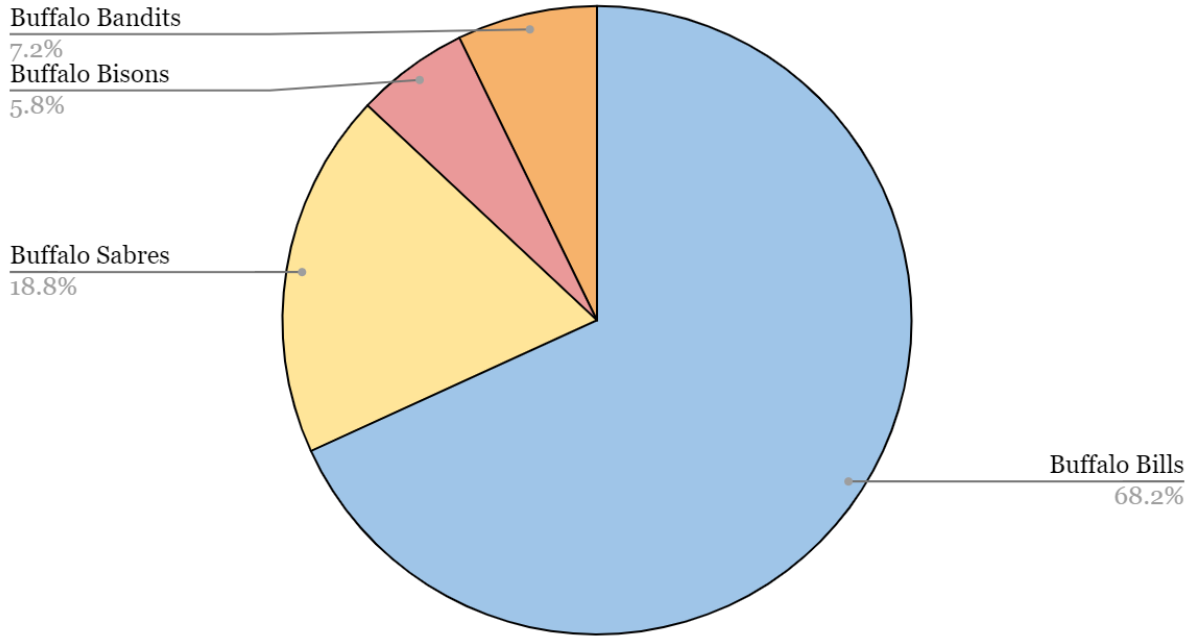
In conclusion, Benjamin Franklin was a very important and influential person and we are lucky to have him be one of our Founding Fathers.



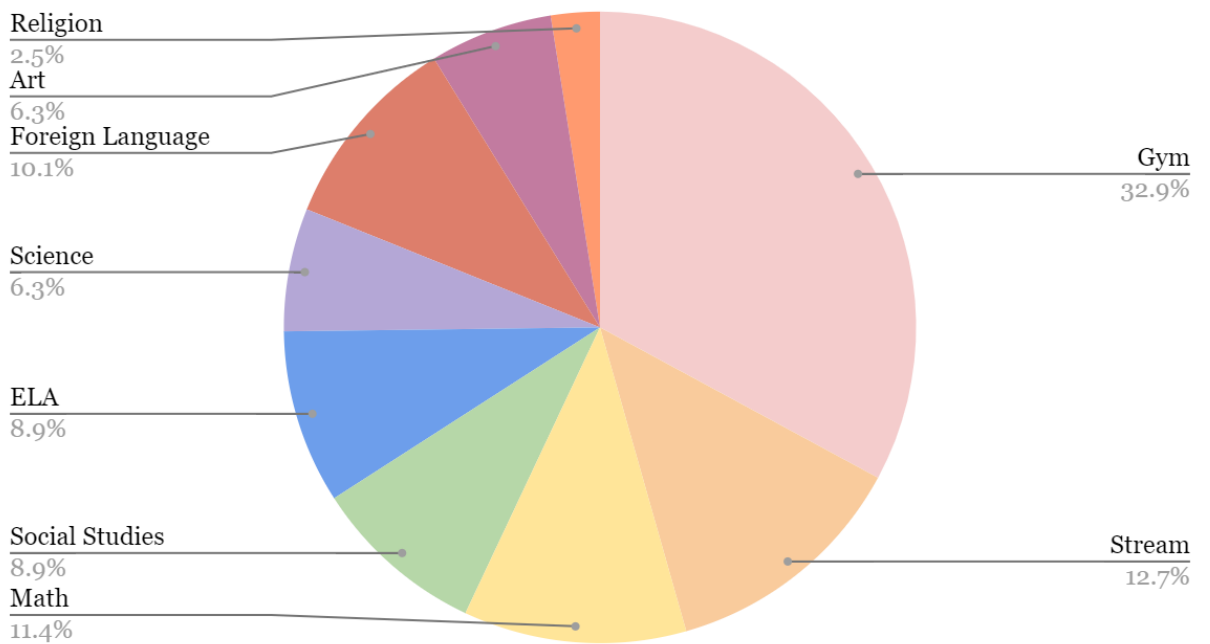
Middle School Survey Results

By: Logan Dublino

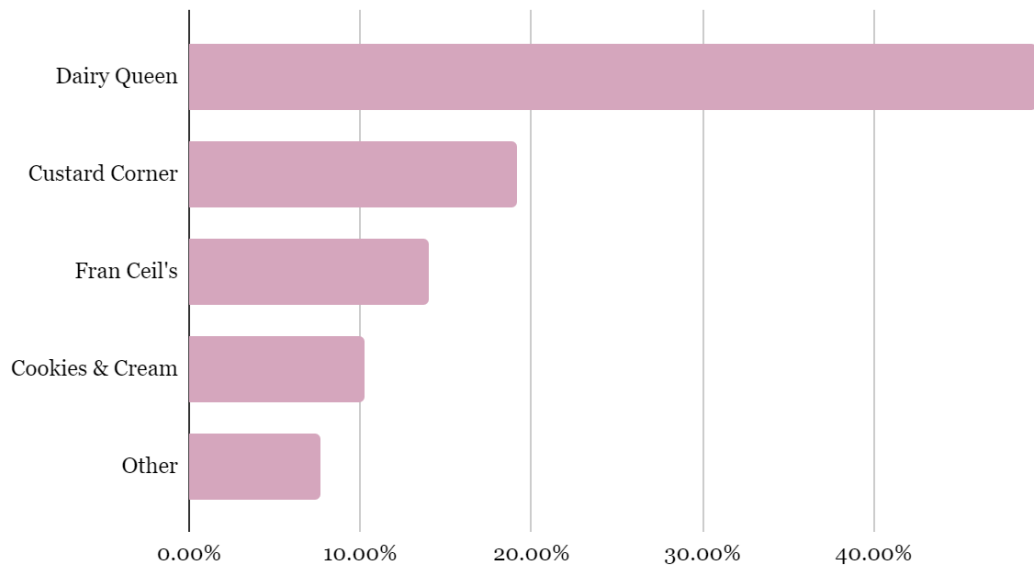
Favorite Buffalo Sports Teams



Favorite Subjects



Favorite Ice Cream Places



Summer Bucket List

By: Nora Bloom

When you hear the final bell, marking the end of the school year, it brings excitement and joy. You are excited for all of your summer plans, and ready to not have to worry about school. Right? But as summer progresses, you start to have less and less to do. The thought of school draws near, and you start to get bored. Below are some suggestions on how to productively spend your time during the summer.

- Go on a bike ride around your neighborhood
- Play a sport in your backyard, or at a nearby park
- Play a board game with your family
- Read a book (I am sure that Mrs. Grew would be happy!)
- Go on a walk around your block
- Draw (Whatever you may desire)
- Work on an art project
- Go outdoors and garden
- Try and grow vegetables or fruit
- Write a poem, or short story
- Create a chalk mural on the sidewalk
- Play mini golf
- Start a journal
- Have a water balloon fight
- Play with your pet
- Meet up with your friends
- Go to a good breakfast place
- Go on a hike or to a lake
- Go fishing
- Go camping
- Make a meal for your family
- Experiment with baking/cooking
- Go on a jog
- Attend a sporting event
- Swim in your pool (or a relative's or friend's)
- Go shopping
- Go to a concert
- Put on a talent show/concert

Poetry Page

Enjoy these seasonal haiku from some of NDA's talented 6th grade poets!

Summer Swims

By: Ellie Barrett

Swimming at the beach
Movie nights in the backyard
Jumping in the pool

Summer Paradise

By: Gianna Mauro

Summer vacation
The birds are chirping all day
I go to the pool

SUMMER

By Silas Boryszewski

Sun burns hot and bright
Warm water and waves crashing
Hot sand burns the feet

Summer

By: Aidan McElroy

The sun shines brightly
Fresh glass of cool lemonade
Swimming in the pool

The cool breeze

By: MaryRae Grable

A cool breeze blows through my hair
Running and jumping
As I land in the soft leaves

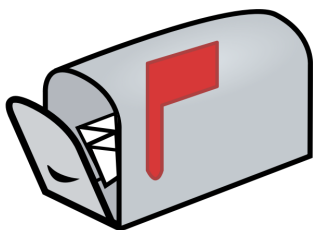
Spring Season

By: Sarah Przybyszewski

Spring is delightful
Melting snow and warm weather
My Favorite Season

Fan Mail

**Thank you, Ambrose, and all
of our loyal readers! We'll see
you in the fall!**



Dear editors of The Notre Dame Times
I really enjoyed reading The Notre
Dame Times. Please make more. I
really like the student favorites and
results because I like seeing what
everyone likes. Also I liked Dexter, the
Family's Phantom because it was very good.
Something that I also enjoy is the comic
because it's very funny.
Ambrose Henry 3rd Grade