

# SHARK BITS

## Student Council at Sierra Elementary

By ISABELLA JARAMILLO

Hello Sierra Sharks!! Have any of you wondered what Sierra Elementary's student council does? If so, this article is for you! Sierra's student council's president is Clair Chanter and the Vice President is Brad. If you want to be a class representative, you have to be in fourth through sixth grade and if you want to run for an officer position you have to be in fifth or sixth grade. You do not need previous experience to run for any of the student council positions. Student council officer positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Sports Coordinator, and others.

Each class has two representatives. If you want to know what is happening in student council you can ask one of your class representa-

tives. Ms. Hardy and Mrs. Hildebrand are the student council facilitators. The president approves of the ideas that the other members have. Some of the goals are Rachel's Kindness, canned food drives, and having more school spirit. Rachel's Kindness helps students express kindness to classmates with messages. For school spirit there is a competition each Friday for which class shows the most school spirit by wearing Sierra Sharks spirit wear.

If anyone has any ideas they can contact their class representative. If you would like, you can e-mail your idea to one of the officers. Another thing that the student council is in charge of is Candy Grams which is a fundraiser for the school where the students pay \$0.50 to have messages sent to classmates.

## Meet the Teacher: Ms. Brown

By CHLOE ALANIZ

Fifth grade teacher Ms. Brown's favorite hobbies are reading, crafting, and shopping. She has a Tibetan terrier named Gabby and her favorite restaurant is Mikuni Sushi. Ms. Brown is thankful for family, friends, her faith and her students. Ms. Brown's favorite color is pink and most adored book is Holes. This is Ms. Brown's first year at Sierra Elementary; she used to be a third grade teacher at Maidu Elementary in Roseville where she also went to school as a kid. Ms. Brown says her favorite subject to teach is math. Ms. Brown has two sisters and one brother. Ms. Brown is the youngest in her family. Ms. Brown's favorite type of music is country and her favorite holiday is Christmas. Ms. Brown chose to teach at Sierra Elementary



Photo courtesy the Alaniz family

because she was excited to be part of our IB program and says it's a great community and has great families as well. Ms. Brown's favorite thing about Sierra Elementary so far is working with students who are excited to learn and fifth grade has been a joy to work with. Ms. Brown chose to work with fifth grade because fifth grade was her favorite grade to be in as a student. Fifth grade was a memorable age for Ms. Brown and she loved the content that was taught. Ms. Brown's favorite drink is Pepsi.

# SHARK BITS

## Story Contest Winners: The Weirdest Snowman

By KATE PHELAN

One day it was snowing so I decided to build a snowman. The next day I went into the backyard and the snowman was gone, then I went to the front yard and there the beautiful snowman stood. I didn't know how it got there, so I told my brother. It must be a coincidence, said Will. It can't be, I said, with disbelief. Then I ate dinner, brushed my teeth and went to bed. Then I heard a noise at about midnight. I looked out the window and saw the snowman moving! The next morning the snowman had melted.

By NARIAH

Oh! I can't wait until my wedding with Kristoff, said Anna. Well guess what? Said Elsa. I got you a wedding dress! Well try it on! Try not to rip it, it's mother's. See you later while I get some stuff, said Elsa. Do not get off the path, said Anna. I won't! Elsa said. But of course she did and saw a sign that said "Welcome to Story Brook." Story Brook is a place where all fairytale people, all good and bad, live. So Elsa went to get a necklace from Rumpelstiltskin's shop. May I help you, he said? Yes, I'm trying to find a necklace for my sister, said Elsa. Well, said Rumpelstiltskin, you came to the right place deary. I did? Said Elsa? Yes. Bell, sweetheart, we have a visitor, said Rumpelstiltskin. Her name is Elsa. Nice to meet you Elsa, said Bell. Nice to meet you too, said Elsa. Now which necklace do you want? The snowflake one, Elsa said. Here you go, said Bell. Hook came to the store. I need my other hand, he said to Rumpelstiltskin. I'm afraid you can't have your hand, Rumpelstiltskin said. But I have a date tonight, Hook said. But that hand oil makes you who you really are, a real pirate. *To be continued!*

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## 6th Grade Science Camp – Walker Creek

By CARINA GEIST

Could you imagine being away from home with your class for a whole week? Yes, it was recently that time again – the 6th grade trip to Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, CA. On Monday, October 13, at 7:30am the 6th graders dragged all their luggage from their houses and got on a bus for three hours. After they arrived they had a quick orientation and then broke into groups and went on a hike. After the hike, each group had time to set up their cabins. In preparation for Walker Creek



Group photo with Mr. Strawn at Walker Creek Ranch.

everyone had to choose a partner who they would spend all their time with and be in a cabin with all week.

*continued on page 3*

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**January Fiction Contest Topic:**  
**"The most difficult pet"**  
 Submit your story to the office or email it to **sharknewspaper@gmail.com** to be entered into the contest. Winners' stories will be printed in the December Shark Bits.  
**Deadline: December 17th**

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**December Brain Teaser**  
*Frederick died after a long and productive life of 87 years, but this epitaph was written on his headstone:*  
**Frederick lived a good long life, He loved his children and his wife, He was honest, kind and deserved nothing but praise, Even if he only had twenty-one birthdays.**  
*How is this possible?*  
 Last month's riddle was correctly answered by 6 students including **Karys & Noah Raquel**. Students answered 'stamp' for the following riddle:  
*What goes around the world but stays in a corner?*  
*Last month's teaser from Brain Food Riddles*

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## Save the Gingerbread Houses!

By SYDNEY ZAJEC

Has your mom, dad, grandparent or family member ever bought you a gingerbread house kit? Was it easy to put together or did it fall apart and make you crazy? Well, in an interview with Disney Land official gingerbread baker, Mrs. Alan, she told me the secret about gingerbread house kits. The disturbing secret is that you **MUST THROW AWAY THE FROSTING FROM THOSE KITS**. The frosting does not work as glue to hold the houses together. It's only good for decorating them. You need to make "Royal Frosting!" Royal frosting is the glue that holds it all together. Check out the recipe at the end of this article.

Pastry chef Alan gave me these useful tips when making a gingerbread house. Make the royal frosting and use it to hold walls together. Soup cans are

helpful to hold walls together until it dries (which takes about 24 hours). You can decorate your gingerbread house with your favorite candy, cereal, or with anything in your house. Sarah Witt's favorite candy to decorate with is Skittles. Evie Hill's favorite is Twix. And Mikey Zajec's is chocolate. When decorating with frosting you can use a simple zip lock freezer bag – just fill the bag with frosting and cut the tip off one corner.

A fun fact: Disney World makes a huge gingerbread house, so big that they sell gingerbread houses inside it! The house is 16 feet tall and takes 3



Disney's life-size gingerbread house.

days to put together. It takes 1,050 pounds of honey, 600 pounds of powder sugar, 800 pounds of flour, and 700 pounds of chocolate. That's one

big gingerbread house. "Happy Shark Bits to all and to all a Good Bit!"

Royal Frosting  
4 cups powder sugar  
4 egg whites  
1 TBS cream of tartar

Use a hand mixer until it gets to be the consistency of toothpaste

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~ New Sierra Spirit Wear ~

Come by the office to check out our newly designed t-shirts, hats, shorts, girls bling shirts, and more! You can also order online using Pay Pal.



### International Baccalaureate Corner

We encourage a positive attitude to learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to critically reflect, to develop research skills, to learn how to learn and to participate in community service.

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Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Macy!  
xoxo Mom & Jim

Happy holidays to Sierra Elementary students, teachers & staff!

Happy 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, Carina! We are so proud of you! Love mommy & daddy

## Walker Creek (cont'd)

Three 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Sierra Elementary as well as classes from two other schools from Northern California were at Walker Creek that week. It was hard for some students to adjust to the food and showers and no electronics, but most people really started to have a good time once they began appreciating nature. At Walker Creek students got



Town hall meeting with students debating a topic.

to go to the garden, go on long hikes (including the night hike), explore a pond, and visit with the goats and

sheep. Walker Creek was also a great opportunity to make friends.

A normal day at Walker Creek is very busy. It starts with wakeup at 7:00am then breakfast. After that everyone goes on a hike with their naturalist. Then everyone goes to lunch and then does another activity like going to the garden or on another hike. Next there is a little bit of free time, then dinner. After dinner is a conference with your teacher for one hour. Then finally, there is a nighttime activity like a camp fire or a dance, then it's lights out at 9:30pm. Walker Creek can be tiring but it is a really good experience to learn and embrace nature.

Want to send a shout-out?  
Contact us at  
sharknewspaper@gmail.com

## The Drought: What Does It Mean & What Can We Do?

By BRINLEY KELLY



Image courtesy fromdatestodapapers.com

Have you noticed it hasn't been raining much lately? That is because California is in a drought. A drought is when it doesn't rain very much or at all. Without rain, we don't have enough water to fill our lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, creeks, and reservoirs. Maybe you noticed that Folsom Lake is really low this year. Without rain, we might not have enough water to drink. Without water, fish and animals will die as well. That would affect many different ecosystems. Without rain, our crops will die—plants need water to grow. If there are less crops, there might not be enough food or food prices go up. During the drought, it is important not to waste the water we do have. Our Governor, Jerry Brown asked us to reduce our water usage by 20%. Here are some ways that YOU can help to conserve water:

- make your showers shorter
- turn off the water when you brush your teeth
- only water your plants and grass two times a week
- use less water when you wash your vehicles
- use less water when you help your family with the dishes
- remember to turn the water off in the school bathroom after you wash

These are just some ways, what can YOU do to conserve water?

## What's Happening ~ December 2014

Family Reading Night (6-7pm) ..... Wednesday, December 3

PTC Meeting (6-7:30pm)..... Wednesday, December 3

Phil Tulga - Music Assembly..... Friday, December 5

Barnes & Noble Holiday Reading Night (6-8pm) ..... Tuesday, December 9

All Day Holiday Read Around..... Tuesday, December 16

Site Council (4-5:30pm)..... Wednesday, December 17

Vision Testing (K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:50-8:50am)..... Thursday, December 18

Minimum Day..... Friday, December 19

Winter Break (no school)..... Monday-Friday, December 22-26

Winter Break (no school)..... Monday-Wednesday, December 29-31

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