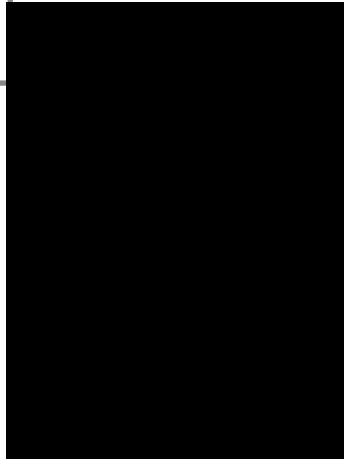




BLUE JAY CORNER

Mariah

Grade: 6th Grade
 Teacher: Mrs. Hastert
 Moved from: Plattsmouth, Neb.
 Favorite Book: Echo
 Future Career Goal: Artist



By: Preston Jones

What is your favorite thing to do on a snow day?



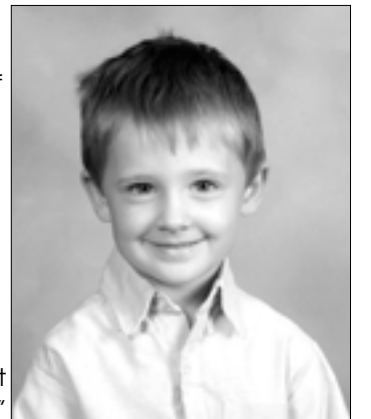
"Henley and I have snow ball fights. I usually win because I throw snow at his head and knock him down."



"I play with my brother."



"My name is , but I call myself Darth Vader. I get in snow ball fights with Noah Mitchell Davis. I also eat snow."



"I build a snow man 70 feet tall."

Rock Port Girls' Basketball Team gets to the Fairfax Tournament Championship four years in a row

by Darius Skillen

The Rock Port High School Girls' Basketball team has had a fairly tough season. In the Mound City Tournament they beat South Holt to win consolation. They went to the Bishop LeBlond Holiday Tournament and won their first game, but lost their next two games against a top-ranked class two team and a ranked class three team. After the holiday tournament, they travelled to Hopkins to play North Nodaway and lost badly 25-48. That Friday, January 5, they lost to Mound City at Rock Port 16-48.

The team went into the Fairfax Tournament knowing they had to perform a whole lot better. The first game they played was Tuesday, January 9, against Nodaway-Holt; they won 52-36. They played again the next day against

North Nodaway who had previously stomped on their egos.

Kelcie Gaines knew the whole team had to pull together to beat the team that took advantage of their slack. "I felt like we had something to prove as individual players and as a team. I felt that that game was a super important game and if we played hard and did the right things, everything would work out," Kelcie, a junior, said.

The Blue Jays beat the North Nodaway Mustangs 48-31 and felt avenged, but they knew the next game would be tough against their rivals, East Atchison.

Rock Port knew they would be in for a challenge against the Wolves. They went into the game unprepared for

battle. The team couldn't continue to accomplish the victorious feeling from winning the important game against the Mustangs and lost to the Wolves 38-69.

"I know we didn't play as well as we should have. We just didn't compete like we've been taught. It was disappointing to lose to them, but second place in that tournament is an accomplishment after losing six seniors. We have another opportunity to play them, and I hope we all play to the best of our abilities." Darius Skillen, sophomore, said.

"I don't think we played to our full potential, and the game didn't show who we really are and who we could be," Jacie McMahon, junior, said.

Winter Homecoming/
 Alumni Pep Band
 Friday, February 2
 Plan to attend!

CHAPTER THREE OF EIGHT

Tolerance

The acceptance of differences and the uniqueness of others and celebrating the common ground we share.



KALI: A Polar Bear's Tale

AUTHOR: CAROLYN MUELLER | ILLUSTRATOR: JEREMY PATTON & JAYNE BALLEW

Winter Word Search

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

COLD
 SNOWBALL
 SNOWDAY

SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN
 WINTER

Chapter Three:

James wiggled through the den's small opening into a larger chamber. Snuggled in the back, he saw a tiny, white, male bear cub.

At birth, nearly four months earlier, he weighed just two pounds and was a helpless, blind, and almost hairless little creature. After months of nursing his mother's rich milk, he'd grown to a roly poly 18 pounds. His eyes were wide open, and a fuzzy, white coat covered his body.



Photo Credit: John Gomes, Alaska Zoo

"I'm not going to hurt you. I'm going to take you home," James said. "Just don't bite me."

James scooped the cub up, holding him tight. He moved quickly, pulling the tiny cub out of the den's warmth and into the cold. Wrapped in James' arms, the little bear blinked in the weak, Arctic sunlight.

James mounted his snowmobile, cradling the polar bear cub like a puppy. The two men zoomed across the ice. James soon realized the 40 miles to Point Lay was too far for the small cub. His fat reserves were not enough to protect him from the wind chill.

They drove across the tundra and soon pulled up to a hunting cabin. Inside, James found a pair of ski pants. The men tied the legs of the pants together to create a pouch just big enough for a polar bear cub. Snuggled in the windproof polyester, up against James' chest, the cub would be warm enough to make it through the journey. Now sheltered from the wind, the bear dozed as the snowmobile roared across the landscape.

When the men arrived in Point Lay, the villagers were quite surprised by a polar bear cub. "Let's take him to the Police Hall, where he'll be warm and comfortable," James said. The North Slope Borough, the government entity responsible for much of Northern Alaska, was contacted. The government biologists made fast arrangements for the little cub to be flown to the larger town of Barrow the next day.

"He needs a name," James' friend said. "Before he leaves Point Lay."

Ask Zoo Keeper Julie

Do polar bears eat penguins?

Polar bears are only found in the Northern hemisphere/polar region, while penguins are only found in the Southern hemisphere. Polar bears and penguins do not live together.

How many polar bears are there?

It is believed there are about 20,000-25,000 polar bears in the wild. Rapid loss of sea ice is the primary threat to the stability of polar bear populations.

Newspaper Connections

Use the weather map in the newspaper to check the temperature in Alaska and your town. Collect and graph this information over several months and make comparisons.



BLUE JAY corner

Student newspaper of Rock Port R-II Schools | 600 S. Nebraska Street | Rock Port, Mo. 64482
Layout/Editor: Ashley Cue
Adviser: Amy Skillen
Staff: Abbie Hale, McKenna Barnhart, Abby Bradley, Ashley Christian, Jentry Freemyer, Preston Jones, Jacie McMahon, Riley Vogler, Darius Skillen, Makenna Farmer, Lauren Kelly, Mackenzie Lager, Rachel Vogler