



Many cheerleaders strongly defend Cheer's status as a sport. Julia Lugeanbeal, senior, defends her sport saying, "Cheer is a sport. We are a team and we give it our hardest every game."

# Is Cheer a Sport?

Many Cheerleaders Seek Recognition for Their Hard Work

By Mandy Seybold

The majority of people, if surveyed, may say cheerleading is not a sport and is just a useless activity, but cheerleading meets all requirements to be considered a sport.

According to the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators, for an activity to be a sport it must meet several qualifications. It must compete with or against

an opponent. It must contain a physical activity which involves propelling a mass through space or overcoming the resistance of a mass. The activity must be defined by rules that explicitly

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## Three Sports in ONE

By Sam Giftos

In Physical Education, high school students have started playing speedball and will work their way into cardio stations starting next week.

Speedball was invented in 1920 by a man named Elmer Mitchell. It combines three sports: Soccer, football, and lacrosse. Speedball is a fast paced game that keeps students involved mentally and physically. "Generally students enjoy speedball... especially when they figure out how to work together

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## Thinking Thanksgiving

By Lexie Swardenski

At Illini Bluffs Elementary, the second graders do many activities to show appreciation and gratitude during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Thanksgiving

activities began with the students making turkeys that will hang from their classroom ceiling. The children also read several books about being thankful, including *The First Thanksgiving* written by Jean Craighead George. It teaches the second graders about the

history for Thanksgiving. The children learn most when they write down what they are thankful for. They are encouraged to share what they wrote both to the class and also at home with their families. The teachers (Mrs. Sager, Ms. Caudell, Mrs.

Shaughnessy) help the students to focus on positives rather than the negatives so it is easier for the students to think about what all they are thankful for.

Ms. Caudell referenced that the students remind her about the li-

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## 8th Grade Reactions to Reactions

By Parker Hewitt

In Mr. Schroen's 8th grade science class, they learned about chemical reactions by watching the classic, forceful reaction between vinegar and baking soda.

According to Mr. Schroen, "The kids loved that, because it made a big mess." They also learned about law of conservation of mass which states that while matter can change from

a liquid to a gas to a solid, its mass will always be the same." Students presented an explanation of the law of conservation of mass to the class to show their understanding of the subject.

Chemical reactions are constantly happening in the world and they are the reason for things like fire and photosynthesis. Mr. Schroen said that these lessons are important for students to learn because "it's fundamental to an understanding of matter and its properties and characteristics."

## Verse for Veterans

By Emily Deppermann

This week in Mrs. Bush's Sixth Grade English class, students took part in writing poems for the Veteran's Day ceremony.

Students began this process by brainstorming their ideas for the poems. They then learned about different sound devices that could be used in their poetry. These sound devices included rhyme, rhythm, repetition, onomatopoeia, and alliteration. Once the students finished writing, they shared their poems with each other to fix any mistakes.

Mrs. Bush says, "Some students were nervous about writing

poetry because it can seem like a daunting lesson at first. However, this activity showed students the importance of Veteran's Day and how their efforts can make others feel appreciated."

Writing these poems was an opportunity for the sixth grade students to contribute to our annual Veteran's Day ceremony as well as learn about a new style of writing.

## Three Sports Continued

-er as a team and become successful," said high school P.E. teacher, Mrs. Schafer.

The objective of speedball is to score either a touchdown for one point or a goal by kick-

## Cheerleading Continued

define the time, space, and the purpose of the contest and the conditions under which a winner is declared. Lastly people have to acknowledge that the competition is a comparison of the relative skills of all participants.

School cheerleaders have competitions during winter months, and all-star cheerleading is year round. Although school cheerleaders do not compete in the traditional sense, they feel like they are in competition with the other school's squad. They want to be the best to unify their fans and they are always being judged

by either the crowd or their coaches. It is just verbal judging instead of a score sheet.

Stunting is a major part of cheerleading for any squad. It definitely consists of a mass overcoming the resistance of space as you are propelling a mass through space.

Cheerleading squads always follow rules ranging from how your hair is worn to; where hands are placed during stunts, to time limit requirements. Even ESPN shows national competitions, a comparison of all cheer participants world wide. People need to consider these reasons before they say cheerleading is not a sport.

ing or throwing the ball into the net. In order to win, students need to make short passes and find an open space to receive the ball. Teamwork and cooperation are the two keys to being successful at the game.

After speedball students will start new cardio sessions in the next week. "Our intentions were to introduce stations to our cardio time, but we will wait due to Veteran's day activities and helping the elementary P.E. classes with cup stacking," said Mrs. Schafer. Students may

be resistant to these new cardio stations but eventually it will benefit them. These new cardio stations will be implemented on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays or Thursdays depending on the hour they have the class.

P.E. is taking a new shape in order to build character in students and "to introduce lifetime activities to (our) high school students," said Mrs. Schafer.

## What Up 5th Grade?

By Bethany Cusac



Jake Thomas a 5th grader dressing up as General Joshua Chamberlain. Thomas gave a speech about the General and really impressed the teachers and students with how much he knew about The Civil War.

The Fifth Grade had an awesome week while accomplishing big things in class. They read a story called "Satchel Paige" about the first negro to pitch in a Major League World Series and the challenges he faced. One student has a great uncle that played in the Negro Baseball League and was inducted into the National Negro Hall of fame. This student's father came into the 5th grade classes and brought in a signed baseball, pictures and plenty of stories.

While most students are only being taught history, one 5th grader is actually teaching the subject. Jake Thomas, a student in Mrs. White's class dressed up as a Civil War soldier to be a special guest in a high

school class, History in Literature, and to give a speech about Brigadier General Joshua Chamberlain. Jake Thomas first dressed up as the General for Halloween. In a coincidence, the History in Literature class was reading a novel called *The Killer Angels*, of which Chamberlain is a main character. Jake shared his immense knowledge of the Civil War with the class in what was described as "a great little lecture that made us reevaluate what a 10 year old can do" by Jeston Rademaker, a student of the class.

History has been a big part of the 5th grade these last couple of weeks and they are doing many other activities in classes that help the students learn.

## Rafting Through *Animal Farm*

By Maggie Look

Mrs. Gresham's sophomore English classes have recently finished reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, a book about animals rebelling against their owners in a metaphor for the Russian Revolution. They then began a project called a R.A.F.T. to demonstrate their understanding of the novel rather than taking a standard test.

In this project, the students utilized their creative abilities to work outside the box. They had several choices of what to do for their projects: an advertisement convincing other animals to join the *Animal Farm* revolution, a journal from one of the book's characters reflecting on how his message was interpreted wrong, a collage comparing multiple farms in the book, an email from a teacher describing why students should read *Animal Farm*, a comic strip made by a historian connecting the book to the events of the Russian Revolution, and a business letter from George Orwell describing his main points of the book.

R.A.F.T. assignments have been widely used in literature classes for

## Thanksgiving Cont.

tle things in life. She stated she is grateful for the children's ability to show the teachers that little things in life matter just as much as the bigger things.

The second grade teachers and their students always come together to have a heartwarming time throughout Thanksgiving, teaching each other the true meaning of this holiday.

many years. Their purpose is to help the students understand their role as the writer, the audience they're speaking to, the format that they choose to use for their piece, and the topic they're choosing to focus on. It is a different way of thinking about writing than students are used to and it allows them to be creative in ways they might not have been before.

By using the R.A.F.T. technique, Mrs. Gresham was able to evaluate her students' understanding of *Animal Farm* without making them sit through a traditional test. She was hopeful that the students would get a lot out of this experience.