



### Great Expectations

*It's time to say good-bye  
Our year has come to an end.  
We've made more cherished memories  
and many more new friends.*

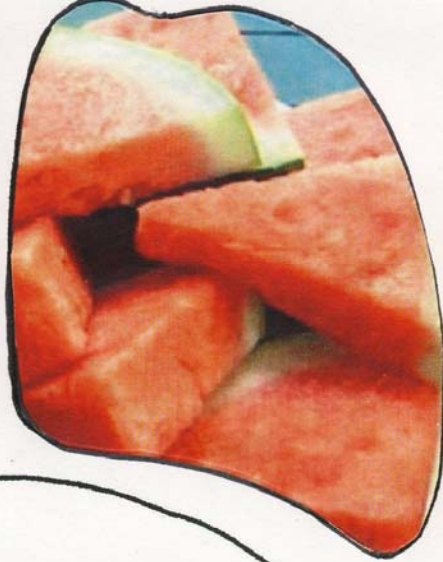
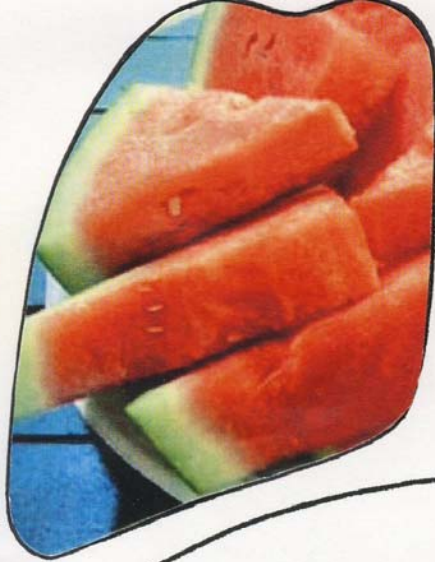
*We've watched your child learn and  
grow  
and change from day to day.  
We hope that all the things we've done  
Have helped in some small way.*

*So it's with happy memories  
We send them out the door,  
With great hopes and expectations  
for what next year holds in store.*

**Panther Tales**



*K. L. Ruthertford*



## Amazing Gymnast

By Jenna Krom and Emily Edwards  
in Mrs. Cordisco's 4th grade class

2 years ago Austin- Michael Komatz, a 5th grade student in Mrs. Epstein's class started taking gymnastics lessons. On May 2, 2009 Austin-Michael attended a NYS Gymnastics Championship in Rochester, NY, where youngsters his age were competing on the pommel horse, parallel bars, high bar, rings, floor and vault. The competition lasted 2 hours. His whole family came to see him. After all his hard work and dedication, he is now the NYS Level 4 Boys Gymnastics Champion. He said he was very nervous when he first started, but he was very surprised and excited when he won seven medals and a few ribbons. When we interviewed him, he said if he didn't win 1st place all around in NY State, he was confident that he would get 3rd place. He was rightfully, very proud of himself when he won 1st place. We bet his parents were too. Congratulations, Austin-Michael!

Below is a photograph of Austin-Michael Proudly wearing his medals.



... because that's the Rutherford way!!!



In Mrs. McLoughlin's class, students learned about Earth Day and the importance of conserving our resources. The students wrote Haiku poems about animals that they thought were important to the Earth, and described them. The students chose words and phrases that describe their animal, and then decorated their poems by coloring pictures

### **Earth** by Jeremy Male

The earth has 4 seasons  
Grass flowers trees grow in the  
Rain.  
Round like a circle.

### **Butterflies** by Kennie Diaz

Butterflies can fly  
Butterflies are colorful  
I like butterflies

### **Grass** by Sean O'rourke

Green squishy tickles  
Run bare-foot lie down dream smell  
Short tiny bugs grow

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

### **Overdue Library Books**

It's that time of year to look for your overdue Library book. You may want to check your book shelves, under your bed or in your closet. If you think you left your book in school, try cleaning out your desk. Sometimes students have found their library books in their classroom collection of books. Ask your teacher if you can take a quick look to see if your book is there.

Letters will be mailed home soon to let you know what the cost of each book is should you not be able to find them.

**Reading is a way to exercise your brain and expand what you know.**



## School is Out, Reading is IN

During the summer months it can be easy to forget children need consistent practice to maintain the gains they have made during the school year. Research reports that students can lose ground as readers if they are not reading during the summer months. With this in mind, think of ways to provide reading time that doesn't feel like a hassle to your child. Read a chapter book together—it will keep both of you mindful of reading a few minutes every day. Choose activities that require reading in different forms—build a model or work on a project, make recipes, read brochures and travel guides when planning a vacation or outing. Remember the local library has lots to do during the summer and the programs are created to activate your child's literacy skills. You don't have to limit yourself to reading—look for museums and child friendly places that can expand your child's background knowledge of his community and world. Watch television shows about animals, science, and far away places. Keep a journal of photographs and write short entries that describe the faces and places you and your child go to during the summer. All of these active and fun literacy ideas can keep your child engaged in reading, writing, speaking, and listening—the four key areas of literacy learning. Enjoy a restful and reading-ful summer!

## What is a WebQuest?

By Chasity Morales and Ryan Sanchez

Miss Thompson's Class has recently finished a web-based project called a WebQuest. A WebQuest "is an inquiry-oriented online tool for learning". The class was broken up into four groups which worked with either Miss Thompson or Mrs. Landau to complete a group project. Each WebQuest had a different task to complete and roles were given to all group members. The WebQuests each centered around the Revolutionary War Time Period. Each WebQuest was very informative, and much more interesting than reading from the textbook. If you like creating a website then we suggest you give a WebQuest a try. The three WebQuests our class worked on: Rebels and Redcoats, Start a Revolution, and the Revolutionary War. The one WebQuest was very popular and had two groups, Rebels and Redcoats. Each group had to look up research on either a specific Patriot or Loyalist, and information pertaining to how the Revolutionary War began and ended. We would totally recommend this project because it was so much fun!!