

A Fall Surprise! Can you guess which Spring School staff member is hiding among the aspen trees?

The Worst Kind of Surprise

Imagine being in your car driving and suddenly, Boom! Growing up I always heard about car accidents on the news and through family members, but I never imagined I would be in one. Let me take you to the worst experience of my life.

One day my friend Sara invited my sister and me to her party. While we were on our way to the party, my sister's driver stopped suddenly because there was huge traffic jam. I looked behind us and saw a truck speeding toward us. I screamed loudly and then I did not remember anything!

After that, I tried to open my eyes. I looked at someone trying to say something, but I could not hear him very well. I heard an annoying sound; it was an ambulance sound! I remembered my sister and I started crying. "Where is my sister? Is she ok? Please tell me!" I said. In the meantime, the ambulance took my sister to the hospital because she was severely injured. Also, my sister was in a coma for two weeks, and she had brain hemorrhaging. Unfortunately, I had fractures in my back, neck and wrist.

After one month, we got better. Most of my family and friends said we were lucky because it could have been much worse. Since then, I always wear a seat belt be

In conclusion, anything can happen, and it can happen within seconds. I will keep trusting that God will be watching over me and keeping me safe. *by Ohoud Alsaif, Saudi Arabia*

An Unexpected Gift Leads to a Championship

I received the most surprising gift in 2006. It is a badminton racket 2000. It is produced by the very famous Yonex company. Yonex is a famous brand. The racket is a pink and white color. There is a signature on the top by my favorite badminton star. This was a birthday present my dad gave to me

A Yonex racket is very expensive. It cost my dad one month's salary, but in that difficult time, my dad still bought it for me to encourage me to learn badminton better. I used this racket to play all the badminton competition games. I also won a lot of badminton medals with it.

Right now I still have this racket. Although it is outdated, it still has important meaning for me.

I am very grateful my dad let me learn how to play badminton, and I am also thankful for the birthday present.
by Guixia Liu, China



Unexpected Actions Require Understanding and Learning

In March 2020, I received an e-mail with an appointment for a meeting with my company's leadership but without a topic. On that date, the Covid Pandemic had begun, and oil prices were lower. I asked myself, what will happen? What have I done wrong? I reviewed my development and I remember telling myself, "All is on time and on budget." I stayed calm and attended at 5 p.m. that meeting. Those who attended were my boss, the country manager, and the human resources manager. I thought that the news was important for the people who attended the meeting, so what was the surprise? The country manager started to do an introduction about oil prices and the actual situation of the pandemic. They were very nervous and started to tell me my skills and highlight my achievements during last eight years and, finally after that, they fired me.

Really it was truly surprise for me. In this moment there was absolute silence in the video conference. This was the least that I had thought. I was in shock because just a week before I was preparing to plan a career in the company. The situation was very uncomfortable; however, I breathed deeply and subdued the desire to cry; I simply asked them to explain the departure process to finish my functions in the order that I had always done them.

Sometimes there are situations or actions that are not expected; however, I try to review them, to understand, and learn about them. Normally, I make a positive conclusion that helps me to be the best person and a professional. **Johanna Valecillo, Venezuela**

Gifts Come in Many Shapes and Sizes

My Engagement Ring. My unique and best gift was an engagement ring. First, it is circular and silver. On top there are many little fantasy diamonds, and they're bright and beautiful. I like everything that has diamonds. Second, my husband made a special dinner with flowers and candles. My ring was next to a letter to me. I read that letter my husband wrote about many special things that he feels for me. Later, I received this when my husband asked me to marry him. It was the first time when my husband made that because he never makes these details. Finally, I was very happy because this gift was special at that moment. Now, we are married, and what do you believe? He doesn't make anything anymore; he already has made sure. **by Janeth Sanchez, Peru**



My Wedding. The best gift in my life was when I wanted to get married. First of all, I was in Malaysia in 2012 when I decided to get married. Second, I went back to Libya, and I didn't buy anything because my big family did everything, such as food, clothes, gallery, etc. Next, I married in my sister's house just in the clothes that I had. Finally, they helped me more than I expected because my big family is helpful to any members of ours. In conclusion, I will not forget this gift as I live and I started to return this gift to them. **by Khalil Ibrahim, Libya**

University Acceptance. The best surprise thing that I got and won't forget for the rest of my life is when I knew I got accepted at my favorite university. I had wanted to study in this school since I was a little kid, and it took me more than ten years until my dream came true. **by Kha To, Vietnam.**

Virgin Mary's Mystical Rose. It is the best gift God gave to me. First, when I was at a spiritual retreat, I received the Virgin. I felt very good in my heart, spirit and soul. The Virgin Maria Mystical Rose has three roses of different colors. The red rose means spirit of sacrifice, the white rose is spirit of prayer and the gold rose is spirit of penance. She has white and brown hair with white skin. She has in a rosary in her hands.

When I received the Virgin, I made an altar in my home, I discovered the call of God in my life and I needed to understand my mission on earth for God. Then I researched and found the Mystical Rose is for Priests, Fathers and Missionaries. I started my service to God in a different church and congregation. I serve at spiritual retreats for women and children. In conclusion, my soul is filled more every day! **by Diana Sandoval, Colombia**

A Girl Friend's Gift. The best gift I received is a 95 foot-long stuffed bear. The bear is tall and huge, and it has a brown color. My girlfriend got me this bear from Costco. I got this for my 22nd. birthday. This is special because it is my first gift from her, and I really like it. **by Yang Hu, China**

Solutions to the Problem of Insomnia...by Hye Sun Kim, South Korea

Schedules are very busy, but ironically, busy people can often not sleep well. Many people take sleep aids, but they still struggle because some sleep aids have negative side effects. Although it is a huge problem, there are solutions for insomnia.

The most effective solution is exercise. Before sleep, enough exercise helps circulate the blood and relax the body. During the day, people have mental or physical stress, and they can become exhausted. They need to relax and renew their health, and exercise is a great way to do that.

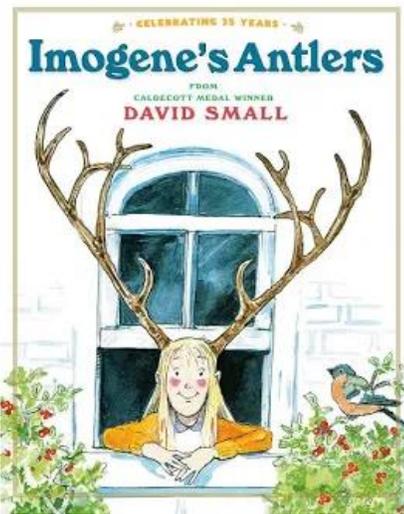
Another solution for insomnia is to add multivitamins to one's diet. Usually, women over 55 have some problems related to menopause. They often cannot sleep well and feel unstable, so they need to add the vitamins that are lacking. If people take some vitamins, they will sleep well and feel healthy.

The last solution for insomnia is reading a book rather than watching TV or using the phone before going to sleep. If you watch TV or use the phone, you will not sleep through the night because your brain is not resting. However, if you read a book, you will sleep well because when you read a book, your eyes get tired and your brain can rest.

Clearly, insomnia is a very serious illness, but enough sleep results in good health. I hope many people do exercise, add vitamins to their diet, and read a book because not only do these help people's physical and mental health, but they also fight insomnia.



Book Review: What If I Woke Up with Deer Antlers?



The book, *Imogene's Antlers*, was a Parent's Choice Award book for literature. It was published by Scholastic Inc. and was written in 1985 by David Small. It is a book that allows children to imagine how they would feel if they woke up and found that they had grown antlers during the night. It's a book that aims to make children think creatively.

"On Thursday, when Imogene woke up, she found she had grown antlers." Her antlers make her daily life uncomfortable, and her mom faints because she is shocked. However, the kitchen maid and cook imagine helpful uses for the antlers, like a towel drying rack and a donut display. Her mother decides to cover her antlers with a hat, but it does not have the right effect. On Friday, when Imogene wakes up, the antlers have disappeared... but now she has the feathers of a peacock on her back. Overall, the themes of the book are that there's no existence that should not be valued. Also, if you change your mind or attitude, the road opens up, so don't be disappointed, and don't give up.

David Small did a great job on this book. It's a short story, but it's fun to imagine with Imogene. Have you ever imagined anything like the story of this book? It's a very shocking and negative situation, but it shows that if you change your perspective, your attitude can be different. The family viewed this situation negatively and tried to hide it, but the workers thought it could be useful. If you look at the pictures

in the book, Imogene's face is not scared or angry, but bright and joyful. One day, the antlers suddenly appeared but they were useful and people liked them, so I think the girl was happy.

In my opinion, the lessons in the book are valid and relevant for all ages. Personally, I relate the family's response to Imogene to how families sometimes respond to having someone in the family with a disability. If there's a disabled person in the family, they are hidden. Similarly, if someone disagrees with me, I'll ignore them or want them to stay away from me; giving up without even trying. These things are what many people and I do. We shouldn't ignore a person who we think is disabled, not learned, or young. We shouldn't assume things that we don't know. It's easy to believe stereotypes and have negative thoughts, but Imogene teaches us to look at unusual people in a positive way.

Clearly, this book should be read to not only all children but also all adults. We all need to know that everyone is precious, and we need a positive attitude. The lessons in the book are very important, and they can easily be forgotten.

Hye Sun Kim, South Korea

The Benefits of Online Dating...by Maha Othman, Saudi Arabia

Imagine building your future life through a virtual world. The internet has simplified our life, and now we can reach the other side of the world easily. Relationships can be built through online applications. Individuals can even meet their partners from these apps. Although online dating has negative aspects, benefits especially for singles, are undeniable.

The fact that online dating makes communication possible for introverts is one benefit. They become used to these apps and texting with others without having to consider how to break the ice or introduce themselves. Online dating benefits the shy person, whether a man or a woman, who is afraid to meet others.

In addition, people can connect with each other from anywhere. Perhaps they will meet their life partner who lives on an island or in another country. Online dating has simplified our communication, so people can find their soulmates no matter where they are in the world. While they await the promised day when they'll meet each other in person, they can start to know each other virtually.

It may be argued that online-dating carries with it emotional risks because participants may lie. However, they can lie in person as well, online apps can be safe as well. People's profiles can be viewed by others, so they can see what has been posted on it, or what their interest is, and all of this information can lead to the truth.

On the whole, online dating has many benefits in terms of the ability to meet others from anywhere, and the benefits for introverts. Recently, most people whom I know in an online relationship have gotten married through these apps. Ironically, even though individuals using online dating apps never actually touch each other, they can feel each other's emotions through words. So if you are single or you have been looking for your soulmate, try one of these online dating apps. Maybe you will be the next one to get married. Who knows?

Class Essay

Do We Have the Will to Solve World Hunger?

8.9% of the world's population, or 690 million people! What does this statistic represent? It represents world hunger. According to a report from the United Nations Food Agencies, 690 million people go to bed on an empty stomach each night. If it continues at this rate, it will exceed 840 million by 2030 (Reid). On the other hand, in America, obesity is a big problem, and daily, large amounts of food are thrown away in Korea. However, many people and children are dying of hunger elsewhere. Although world hunger is a serious issue, there are solutions. (By Hye Sun Kim, South Korea)

A great way to solve world hunger is to build safe energy sources. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the help of an irrigation system that depends on the solar energy system, farmlands can be irrigated from a distance of more than 4 km. This helps to reduce the time of traditional work and helps the system based on solar energy to save more than 40 liters of water per minute. This system can also store more than 500 watts per day, which increases productivity on farms ("Three"). Also, many poor countries such as Nigeria, cannot buy oil or coal, but with help from wealthier nations, they could build green energy at lower cost and higher efficiency. In fact, by building only one solar panel for example, they could mitigate problems such as water shortages, poverty, or dry farmlands. Another form of green energy is wind. It can help countries reduce normal electricity use by at least 50%. To that end, wealthier nations can help to build wind turbines in Africa and other nations such as Ghana. Let's think about energy sources such as solar and wind, and remember that green energy is the future for the Earth. (by Meshal Alsadun, Saudi Arabia)

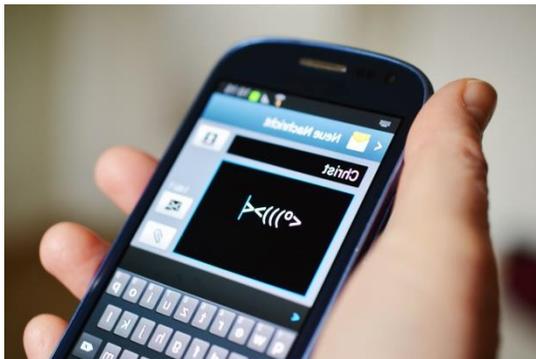
Another great way to deal with world hunger is to build efficient food storage systems. This is necessary because according to the World Economic Forum, there are 250 million tonnes of food wasted annually in developing countries ("How"). 250 million is an exorbitant amount! This food could be stored once we follow the necessary steps. One way to do that is freezing. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, almost all sorts of food can be frozen. Freezing is great because it stores food for a long period of time. When the food is frozen, the molecules' movement slows, putting potentially harmful microbes into a dormant state. This allows people to have access to safe, quality food as needed. (By Abdulrahman Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia)

Education is a further factor that could play a significant role in defeating hunger while also addressing poverty resulting from illiteracy. Education provides the knowledge to increase food production levels. Furthermore, it positively encourages long term self-sustainability through a higher salary, consequently raising long-term consistent income of the family. Another reason for education is that it can help women wait and consider carefully before committing to marriage or having children. Eric Dye of the Enterprise Podcast Network states that in Kenya, for example, women farmers who have good knowledge and resources are able to yield up to 22 percent more crops (Dye). I would strongly agree with Thelwell, who believes that life power lies in education. (By Maha Othman, Saudi Arabia)

Clearly, solving world hunger requires governmental, business, and individual collaboration to bring safe energy sources, effective food storage systems, and widespread education. If these solutions are achieved successfully, many hungry people will survive, and there will be hope for the future. (by Hye Sun Kim, South Korea)

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Negative Impacts of Texting on Students

In the past, people were sent messages from various cities or towns through pony express or by mail, but now, it is easier because everyone has a cell phone. Even though texting has benefits, it has negative impacts on students' academic abilities.

Simplified vocabulary is one of the negative results of texting. Many students who have been texting for a long time tend to use low-level vocabulary. It is also possible that the use of simplified words indicates a lower education or the fact that the speaker's first language is not English. In fact, many students like to use simplified vocabulary in their conversations, and this makes them sound like sloths. In addition, after many years using only simplified vocabulary, it will be clear to others that

they do not read books or go to the library.

Another negative result of texting is abbreviations: shortened words. Unfortunately, some students use abbreviated words, and this causes a weak formation of their language base. Many students who use abbreviations have poor spelling skills, and they don't know how to pronounce words correctly. A large number of students use chat apps such as Whatsapp to save time, and abbreviations are commonly used in these applications. (*continued next page*)

Texting (continued)

However, a few students say texting has many benefits for students, and one of the benefits is an increasing number of students who like to write after the advent of mobile phones. This is wonderful; however, a cell phone prevents students from focusing in class or on doing their homework because they are texting all the time. At the same time writing skills do not increase through texting, rather they decrease! For example, whereas one student had texted regularly with his family and friends, he was still bad at writing. How ironic! Even though the students text a lot in their life, still many students do not learn anything.

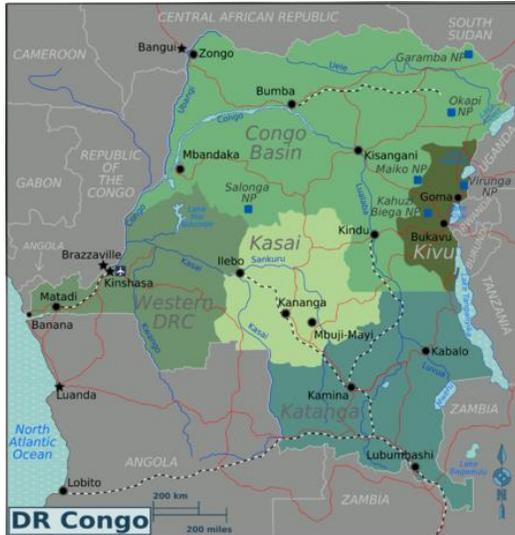
According to Mvorganizing.org, students use acronyms like LOL or OMG because texting is a simplified way for students to ignore grammar, spelling or formatting of sentences. It is incorrect, and of course it is not acceptable for a PhD dissertation. (Davis) Therefore, we should not forget that if students learn abbreviations rather than the correct spellings, their lives will be harder when they become an adult. We must teach students the right way to speak and write.

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Meshal Alsadun, Saudi Arabia



Life in Congo... by Bwabwa Tehombela

What kind of life do the Congolese prefer today? It is obvious that everyone wants to live a better life. There is an inequality of lifestyle in all counties of the world with history. The Congo is one country that has undergone a huge change from 100 years ago to today. I was born and raised in Congo. I have experienced a lot of changes. Therefore, to really understand these differences in the history of Congo, architecture and education can tell us more.

At school, I studied Congolese history, marked by nomadic life. Instead of staying in one place the first Congolese moved from one place to another. In addition their displacement was due to a lack of food. However, when they were tired of moving around like nomads, they decided to build villages. The structure of their villages was that of their respective families. This structure was good to avoid conflicts. Despite the differences in their families, they began to come together and build towns, which still exist today.

In addition, the early Congolese lived in wooden houses, which were not efficient enough to protect them from storms and insects, like mosquitoes.

When the Belgians arrived, they forced them to build terracotta houses. Therefore, the style of the house is a strong cement material.

Nevertheless, earlier Congolese education was based on word-of-mouth to ear, like expressions. In a way, the elderly were seen as teachers because of their experience. This type of education has been successful through storytelling. Over time, education has developed using symbols and sounds, such as drums. However today, education is moderate and similar to the rest of the world.

In conclusion, one hundred years ago the life of the Congolese was horrible, filled with uncertainties compared to life today. Despite Congo's underdevelopment, history, architecture and education can prove that the Congo has made tremendous progress over the past one hundred years.

The Problem of Low Self-Esteem

Low self-esteem is a problem that occurs in some people. Sometimes it is caused by others who make them think of themselves as less than others, and sometimes it is caused by the person themselves; especially over thinkers. Over thinkers suffer most from lack of confidence because of their irrational ideas about themselves. They tend to think of themselves like no one else would. However, there are some steps for having a more positive self- image once there is the will to become a better version of themselves.

One way to deal with low self-esteem is by listening to music; especially the songs that address this issue. Listening to that kind of music will make you realize that you are not alone. Even though you don't know the artist personally, you feel connected with the artist's emotions.

Another great way is to socialize and surround yourself with people that you feel comfortable with. This is beneficial because being with someone you appreciate and ones who appreciate you would make you realize the positive aspects in your personality. Therefore, you will be more confident, and that could really lift your spirits.

Prayer is also essential for feeling more confident. Who better than God can hear and solve your problems? Praying is a power that can make the impossible possible. Living life believing there is a greater power holding everything in balance brings confidence. Consequently, strong belief is a great relief.

Ultimately, the key for those who lack confidence is in what they believe. They must realize that if they have faith in God more than in themselves, no difficulties can hold them back. It's only one life we are living, so we must live it to the fullest. **by Abdulrahman Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia**

We study hard, but we still have fun!



Rosa Sanchez presenting Mexico at Cultural Exchange and a field trip to Hudson Gardens were two of Fall I Term's activities.



*Spring Views is published five times during the school year to showcase student writing from levels one to six.
Connie Shoemaker, editor.*