



# VILLAGE QUARTERLY

## Life's A Picnic

By Vivien Largiader

The new lunch program is great! It has been an excellent resource for families who relied on YayLunch. The food is delicious and filling. The only problem is that now the weather is getting warmer and we have to eat lunch indoors, all crammed around a table. It would be nice to spread out around the courtyard. Going to the park every day was nice because we could spread out with our friends, and it's easier for those of us who are doing chores because we only have to collect trash and compost around the park. Also, chores people would not be late to class all of the time.

One solution would be to spread out around the school with yoga mats. We could go to the reading room, courtyard, village green, and lunchroom—putting one grade in each and alternating every week. Ideally we would all have the option to eat outside, but as long as three grades don't have to be all in the lunchroom and have more room to move around, it's a better option. When 5th, 6th, and 7th are each at one table, you are always touching everyone, and it's harder to have conversations with friends when you're always yelling across the table. Three grades in the lunchroom is noisy, while being at the park is much calmer.

Another thing about eating lunch indoors is that it makes people's food mess much more obvious. When people smash food onto the table or floor, it's gross and it takes longer to clean up. It's becoming a big problem. Crumbs are okay, but pieces of food are not. When a grade has drama, we have to sweep the lunchroom because there are gross things left over from break and lunch.

You could say that if we were outside, the courtyard could become gross with trash and food, which could happen. It would be nice if everyone tried to be neater with their food, then there wouldn't be as big of a mess after lunch for chores to clean up. That said, middle schoolers need fresh air and to move their bodies, and getting outside could help release some of the energy that otherwise becomes messy eating in the lunch room. As the weather warms up and the outdoors beckon with spring air, I say: let the kids breathe!



By Ella Mooney

## Things to Do for Spring Break

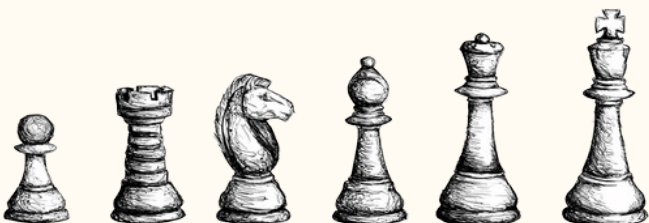
By Maria Barzun and Margot Murphy

*No travel plans this spring break? There are so many ways to have fun right here at home.*

- Take a hike outside and enjoy nature. You could pack a picnic to enjoy along the way. Keep an eye out for rocks to bring back home to paint!
- Have a board game night with your family and friends.
- Find a good read at the library.
- Make a time capsule and pick a date in a few years to open it!



- Wake up and decide to do some "random acts of kindness." I suggest picking up trash in your neighborhood, donating old clothes to charity, or giving someone a "just because" gift.
- Make a movie with friends.
- Go swimming in a neighborhood pool or nearby water.
- Pretend there's a power outage and challenge yourself to stay away from devices for a day. What can you find in your house that doesn't involve technology? Play music, paint portraits of your pets or siblings, look through some old boxes.
- Try some new arts and crafts.
- Go spring/summer shopping with a friend or family member.



# Make Way for Saturday: 4 Hours in Charlottesville

By Bela Henderson and Frannie Heins

## 9:30 - *Café & Climb*

### C'ville Coffee

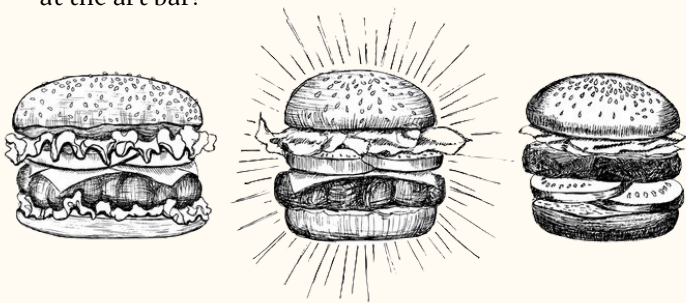
Grab a quick bite to eat before starting your day with a pastry and fun drink, or order one of C'Ville Coffee's breakfast sandwiches and sit down for a little longer. With this local spot, you can't go wrong! Saturday hours are 8:30 - 3:30 pm.

### Rocky Top

Whether you're new to rock climbing or just trying to do it again, start your morning off on the right foot! Rocky top is the place to do it. They feature 13 foot high walls, 100+ boulder problems, and 4,500 square feet of climbing terrain to have a blast climbing on! Weekly, Rocky Top changes the problems so always expect something different. They provide shoes and chalk but be aware that there are no ropes or harnesses but you fall onto a thick soft crash pad. Hope you have a rockin time!

## 10:30 - *Art Bar*

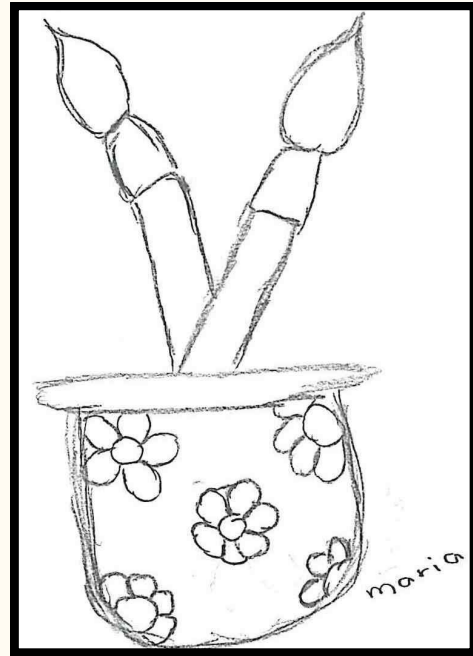
After you've worked up a sweat at Rocky Top, you probably want a place to relax. Stroll on over to the The Art Bar! The Art Bar is a fun and creative place that offers an array of art supplies including paints, brushes, paper, and more to help you create your craft masterpiece! You also can go in the splatter room with a smock on and splatter on the walls! Their knowledgeable staff are always on hand to find the right materials for your project. Not only can you go any time to explore your creative side, but they also offer craft workshops and classes for all skill levels. No matter your age or experience you'll definitely be able to find something fun and inspiring at the art bar!



## 11:15 - *Lunch*

### The Dairy Market

Hop in the car and head towards downtown, stopping at the Dairy Market! Dairy Market is an amazing place to have different types of food. For instance, you can have a delicious slice of pizza from **Dino's** or a burger from **Citizen Burger** or a veggie burger from **GRN BRGR** (green burger)! There are so many other great food options, from Mexican to Thai food. You can bring the food outside to eat on a great patio or enjoy inside. Finish off your tasty meal with an ice cream or milkshake from **Moo Thru**.



By Maria Barzun

## 12:30 - *No Escape*

### C'ville Escape Room

Picture this: you find yourself in a mysterious room. As you look around, you start to notice strange objects and hidden messages. Are they clues?

Top off your fun morning by heading to the downtown mall to **Cville Escape Rooms**, where mysteries come alive. If you're not sure which escape room to try out here are some options: **Dungeon of Fire**, **Shadows of New Orleans**, **Mad Scientist Laboratory**, and **Mystery Crew**! In these Escape Rooms each group will have exactly 1 hour to win by finding clues and solving puzzles while working as a team!

## Spring Birthdays

### March

- Vivi K. - 5th
- Tempe - 6th
- Ella M. - 7th
- Flora - 14th
- Ayanna - 14th
- Winter - 19th
- Ellie D. - 20th
- Nola - 21st
- Sawyer - 22nd
- Zadie - 22nd
- Lucy W. - 24th
- Noura - 26th
- Betty - 27th

### April

- Helen - 14th
- Shannon - 17th
- Lily - 19th

### May

- Amaya - 5th
- Zozie - 14th
- Caroline - 24th
- Marian - 29th
- Maria - 29th
- Zilfa - 31st



By Frannie Heins

## Astrology *Let's ask the stars...*

Your zodiac sign depends on the day you were born, and each has different traits. Each sign is represented by a constellation and is one of the four elements: fire, earth, water, and air. Have fun exploring and learning about your zodiac sign.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19):

*The Ram, Fire Sign*

Aries are courageous and confident.

German shepherds would be a great dog for you.

A good job idea is a politician.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 21):

*The Bull, Earth Sign*

Taurus are hard working and determined.

You should get a Bernese mountain dog.

A good job idea is an engineer

**Gemini** (May 22-June 21):

*The Twins, Air Sign*

Geminis are curious and clever.

The best dog breed for you is a Welsh corgi!

A good job idea is an event planner.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22):

*The Crab, Water Sign*

Cancers are loyal and caring.

You would do well with a golden retriever!

A job that you would be good at is a Nurse.

**Leo** (July 23- August 22):

*The Lion, Fire Sign*

Leos are creative and generous.

The best dog breeds for you are collies and beagles!

A job that you would be good at is actress.

**Virgo** (August 23- September 22):

*The Maiden, Earth Sign*

Virgos are hard working and reliable.

The best dog breed for you are Great Danes!

A job that you would be good at is a teacher.

**Libra** (September 23- October 22):

*The Scales, Air Sign*

Libras are honest and thoughtful.

You should get a poodle or a pug.

A good job idea would be a Travel Agent.

**Scorpio** (October 23-November 21):

*The Scorpion, Water Sign*

Scorpios are positive and passionate.

The best dog for you is a bulldog!

A good job idea is a Lawyer.

**Sagittarius** (November 22-December 21):

*The Archer, Fire Sign*

Sagittarius are bold and trustworthy.

The best dog breed for you is an Austrian shepherd!

A job that you would be good at is a veterinarian.

**Capricorn** (December 22- January 19):

*The Goat, Earth Sign*

Capricorns are loyal and determined.

The best dog breed for you is Saint Bernard.

A job that you would be good at is an editor .

**Aquarius** (January 19- February 18):

*Water, Air Sign*

Aquarius are creative and intelligent.

The best dog breed for you is a terrier!

A good job idea is a scientist.

**Pisces** (February 19- March 20):

*The Fish, Water Sign*

Pisces are wise, helpful, and easy going.

The best dog breed for you is a greyhound!

A job that you would be good at is a stylist.

-Vivian Amberly and Bela Henderson

## JOKES *By Nola Zorc*

**Q:** What's the difference between spring rolls and summer rolls?

**Answer:** Seasoning

**Q:** What is a pickle's favorite flower?

**Answer:** A Doffo-dill

## Girls Excelling in Math

By Ella Mooney

Every year since 2012, Village School has hosted an event called the GEM Tournament. GEM stands for Girls Excelling in Math, and it invites schools around the area to bring teams of four girls to compete in fun math challenges. There is a pencil-paper event with math problems you solve individually, and a team hands-on challenge where you use materials you are given to solve a problem. Everyone will walk home with a Solve Like a Girl T-Shirt, and everyone will also have the opportunity to solve even more questions to win fun prizes! The competition is held at Walker Upper Elementary School, and there will also be pizza and MarieBette cookies at the event, which will take place on **April 20th**. This is a great opportunity for girls to show all of the many ways they can do math. All are encouraged to come to this fun-filled math experience.

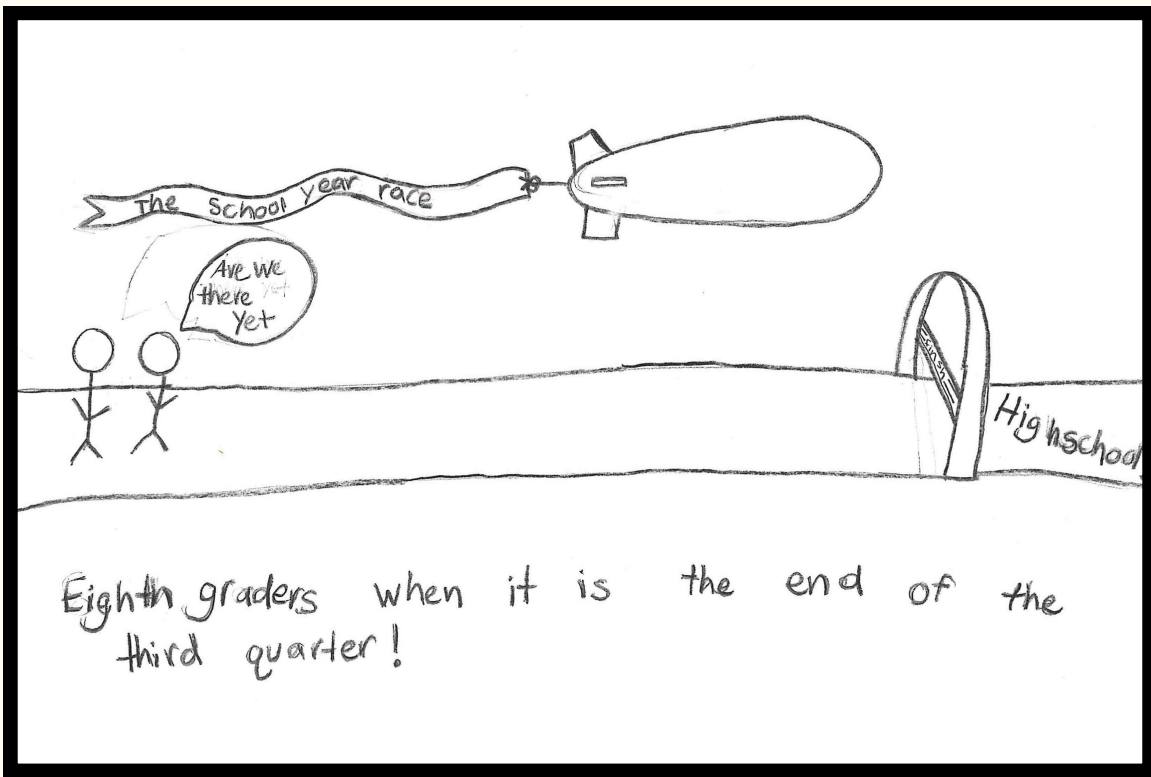


GEM Tournament 2023

## Village School Sports

By Bela Henderson

The Village School Winter sports had an amazing ending! The 5th grade basketball season was great with some wins! The ending basketball season had 1 win and 6 losses. And in the basketball tournament, the 5th grade lost the 1st game. The 8th grade basketball team won 2 games and lost 4 games. The swim team had a really good season and got 2nd place, and 1st place in their swim meets.



By Hannah Seideman

## Spring 2024 Announcements

By Margot Murphy

- **Lunch rotation:** We will rotate who will go first for the lunch program on a two-week basis. One grade will go first for two weeks, then we will switch.
- **Spring Break:** This year spring break is March 29 - April 7. The end of the third quarter is March 28.
- There will be a dance hosted by Field School on April 12. All grades are invited!
- The **Sunflower Bowl** is on Thursday, April 25. Green has won four times, and yellow has won five! Who will win this year?
- **Kickball** games will take place on May 1st
- Get your togas ready: this year's **Cena** will be on May 3.
- On May 17, all grandparents are invited to **Grandparents Day**.
- The end of the year is approaching! 8th grade **exams** are on May 24. The **last day of school** is May 31st.



## Book Review

By Wallis Hrabe

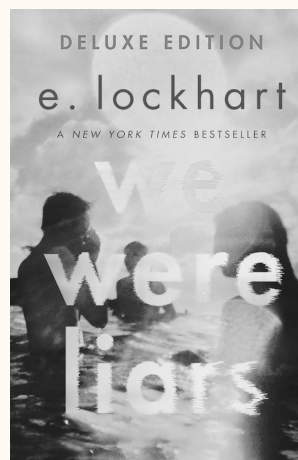
*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart is a Y/A psychological thriller novel published in 2014. It's about an eighteen year old girl named Cadence Sinclair, as well as the rest of the Sinclair family. The Sinclairs are an incredibly privileged family renowned across New England. Most of the story takes place on a fictional island named Beechwood Island off of Martha's Vineyard. The book is about the summers that she spends there, one summer in particular where everything changes for her. I found *We Were Liars* to be suspenseful, exceptionally well written, and littered with plot twists that left me stunned.

It's about a seemingly perfect family: winners, with chins held high. But what happens when one of them is broken? From what Cadence can remember, summer fifteen had been perfect, but after a horrible head injury she can't remember much. The doctors say that might happen, it's a type of trauma response. But with constant migraines and cloudy memories, the one thing that can help her is a summer back on Beechwood Island. A summer with the Liars: her two cousins Johnny and Mirren, and Gat (Johnny's best friend, and Cadence's only love). As the memories start



### Movies to Watch Over Spring Break

1. *The Secret Garden*
2. *The Sound of Music*
3. *The Wizard of Oz*
4. *Peter Rabbit*
5. *Bugs Life*
6. *Pride and Prejudice*



to float back to her, the horrors of that fateful summer begin to piece together.

It's a story about the underlying effects of living a life of privilege. Full of wealth and deception, and what that can do to a family dynamic. Not only that, but it is a story about tragic young love, with an ending that will leave your jaw on the floor and tears on your face.

It was so interesting to see how Cadence's views and thoughts change throughout the book as she learns and remembers more and more. While she struggles with her mental and physical health, she experiences love, struggle, and grief. I thought that it was a beautifully written story, and I would 100% recommend it to anyone who's looking for a suspenseful spring break read.

# Village Spotlights

By Vivian Amberley and Nola Zorc



## My Faves

- Snack:** Pretzels with Dark Chocolate
- Movie:** Inside Out
- Animal:** Minature Cow
- Hobby:** Running

## Ms. O'Connell

Ms. O'Connell is the head of Village School. She was born on December 29th, and she is a Capricorn. Ms. O'Connell grew up in Sodus, New York, a small town on Lake Ontario in upstate New York. She chose Village School for her 3 daughters because she thinks an all girls middle school you get to be at 4 years with Latin is almost too good to be true! She also thinks all of us students make Village so much fun to be around. Ms. O'Connell could never decide on 1 job growing up, but she loved playing school (even though her brother was not very cooperative).

Ms. O'Connell in 3 words would describe herself as : Grateful, Loved, and Strong. Lastly, some fun facts about her is that she is related to Lucretia Mott, she has a younger sister her family adopted from Mauritius when she was 13, and she completed a TeamUSA duathlon in Scotland before coming to Village School.



## My Faves

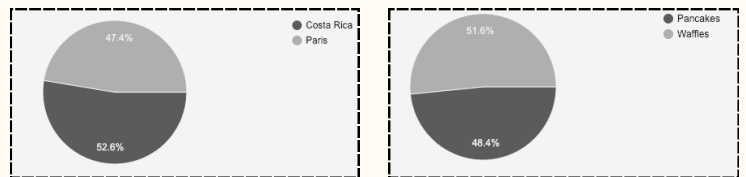
- Snack:** Popcorn with ONLY salt
- Movie:** Pride and Prejudice (2005)
- Animal:** Mantis Shrimp
- Hobby:** Knitting and Sewing

## Ms. Van Vranken

Ms. Van Vranken is the History teacher for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade at Village School. She was born on September 6th, and is a Virgo. She was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, and grew up in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Van Vranken chose Village School because she loves teaching her favorite subject and getting to teach students for 4 years! She has wanted to be many jobs growing up, but when she was about 5 years old, she wanted to be a doctor.

In 3 words, Ms. Van Vranken would describe herself as : Calm, Curious, and Crafty. Lastly, a fun fact about her is that she doesn't have a car, she drives her electric bike everywhere!

## The Great Debate



# TeachER[A]S

## Teachers as Taylor Swift Albums

By Hannah Seideman and Sawyer Tassone

### Mr Knorr is Evermore

We think that Mr. Knorr fits perfectly into the Evermore era. He wears plaid and flannel shirts that are the same colors as the Evermore colors. Mr. Knorr has a warm, friendly, and welcoming personality, much like Evermore. He is confident about what he does and is very wise.

### Mr Heartwell is Folklore

We think that Mr. Heartwell's personality fits perfectly into Folklore. He enjoys reading and writing, he has even written many books in the past and is working on a new one right now. If you were to describe Folklore, you would think of a poet. Mr Heartwell loves poetry and encourages us to explore it.

### Ms Taylor is Taylor Swift

And not just because they share the name "Taylor"! We think that Ms Taylor's personality fits perfectly into Taylor Swift's debut album. Ms Taylor has a very bubbly and welcoming personality, she is very inviting to new people. Ms Taylor loves helping the environment, too!

### Mr Wells is 1989

We think that Mr Well's personality fits perfectly into 1989. First of all, Mr Well's favorite TS album is 1989. He is very energetic and loves to do his model walk in the middle of class. He always wears his 1989 Taylor Swift friendship bracelets. He reminds us of the song "Shake it Off" because he is very good at shaking things off.

### Ms Tassell is Midnights

We think that Ms. Tassell's personality fits perfectly into Midnights. First, Ms Tassell is always wearing dark blue which is the main color associated with Midnights. Ms Tassel will always stand up for what is right, and is curious and always encourages us to ask questions, which is the personality of Midnights.

### Ms Spaar is Fearless

We think that Ms Spaar's personality fits perfectly into Fearless. Ms. Spaar is always wearing shades of yellow, which are the main colors of Fearless. Ms Spaar has no fear and is always confident about what she wears. She loves being outside and has a very kind and sincere personality.

### Ms Western is Red

We think that Ms Western's personality fits perfectly into Red. First off, Red is one of her favorite colors. Ms Western is always writing in English and in Latin, she even translated the All Too Well (10 Minute Version) into Latin! Ms. Western loves taking walks in the fall just like in All Too Well.

### Ms Van Vranken is Lover

We think that Ms. Van Vranken's personality fits perfectly into Lover. She loves being around people and stands up for others. She also recently got married and her husband is British, which reminds us of the song London Boy.

# Ask A: 7th Grader

What do you do when you forget to memorize the poem for recitation day?

- Tortured Poets

Dear Tortured Poets,

We think it's definitely important to memorize your poem for English class. However, we do know that sometimes memorizing is hard! So here's a quick and easy way to help yourself be prepared. If the poem has stanzas, memorize one part at a time! If it doesn't, break it when it makes sense. Then, quiz yourself by practicing the poem without looking at it.

xo, a 7th grader

I almost always have an after school activity, and I always have homework! I don't always have time for all of them and I want to know which one to prioritize.

- Overscheduled

Dear Overscheduled,

You should always prioritize school first, and juggling too many activities can be hard. However, that doesn't mean there isn't a way to work with both. When you're doing homework, always do what is due the next day sooner. Try to get as much done as you can before your activities, but don't rush through. When you get home, finish up what you haven't done yet. Everyone has a different amount of work they can handle, and if you find yourself consistently getting stressed about it, maybe talk to your parents about dropping an activity. Remember that downtime and rest is important, too!

xo, a 7th grader

## RECIPE

By Wallis Hrabec

### BEST LEMON BARS FOR SPRING

If you're like me and you always want a sweet treat, these lemon bars are the perfect dessert for spring. They're bright, tangy, and perfectly sweet. They're great if you want to brighten up your day a bit, and definitely a winner at any family barbeque.

For me baking has always been an outlet, something to calm me down. It's pretty exact, but it's definitely a way to let your creativity out, especially when forming a new recipe. This is all just a reminder that it doesn't have to come out perfect, half the time it probably won't. Some people aren't a fan of baking because sometimes it can feel a little bit overwhelming, or intimidating. But I promise you, although there are a few different elements, these lemon bars aren't too tough to make.

When looking for the best lemon bar recipe, I tried out a lot of different ones. Some of the crusts had way too much butter, some didn't have enough. Some of my curds didn't set, and some of them dried out in the oven. But in the end this was the recipe I came up with. If you follow the recipe hopefully it will turn out all right, but if you don't get it on your first try that's ok too. You can just try again.

Happy Baking!

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

##### SHORTBREAD CRUST

- ½ cup of unsalted butter
- 1 ¾ cup of all purpose flour
- ½ cup of powdered sugar
- 2 tsp of lemon zest

##### LEMON CURD

- 3 eggs
- 1 ½ cup of sugar
- ½ cup of lemon juice
- 1 tbsp of lemon zest
- ½ of all purpose flour

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 350

To make your crust:

- Mix your all purpose flour, powdered sugar, salt, and lemon zest together
- Add in your butter (by hand or with a mixer)
- Press your dough into a 9x9 pan, bake it for 12-15 mins until golden

Meanwhile, make your curd:

- In your bowl add together eggs, lemon juice, and lemon zest.
- Add in your sugar and flour and whisk until combined into a curd (I strongly recommend using a stand mixer to whisk, it will make it much faster)
- Next, pour your filling into your cooled crust and bake for 22-25 mins

Now once you have refrigerated, dust with powdered sugar, and enjoy!

## JOKES

Continued

Q: What falls but never gets hurt?

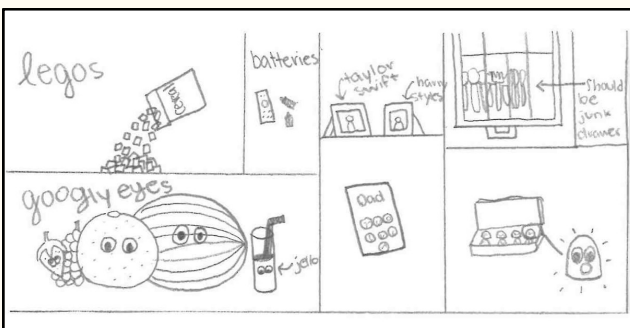
Answer: The Rain

# April Fools Prank Ideas

By Ella Mooney & Margot Murphy

#### HOW TO PLAY THE PERFECT PRANK:

Choose the right person to prank. Find someone who likes a good joke. We don't want to start any fights. Plan ahead if you can. Order the supplies you need to make your prank go perfectly. Keep a straight face as long as you can, this will make your prank extra hilarious!



- Googly eyes over everything in your fridge so it looks like the food is watching you!
- Take a cereal box and remove the bag. Then add legos to the box. When they pour it out...
- Remove all of the batteries from all of the remotes in the house!
- Serve someone a glass of 'Kool Aid' through a straw that is really Jello!
- Swap out your family photos for pictures of celebrities.
- Call your parents and tell them you lost your phone.
- Swap the contents of one kitchen drawer with the contents of another!
- Draw terrified faces on all of the eggs in a carton-then ask someone in your family to hand you one!

# Spring Playlist

By Hannah Seidman and Sawyer Tassone

1. Spring Vacation - The Beach Boys
2. Flowers - Miley Cyrus
3. Daylight - Taylor Swift
4. Today Was A Fairytale - Taylor Swift
5. Come In with the Rain - Taylor Swift
6. Umbrella - Rihanna
7. Afterglow - Taylor Swift
8. It's Nice to Have A Friend - Taylor Swift
9. Unwritten - Natasha Bedingfield
10. Snow on the Beach ft Lana Del Ray (till dawn edition) - Taylor Swift
11. Clean - Taylor Swift
12. Put Your Records On - Corinne Bailey Rae
13. Wonderland - Taylor Swift
14. Our Song - Taylor Swift
15. Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

