

MIGHTY ROOTS ACADEMY



Student Edition

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mighty roots academy

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A Message from our Director

Welcome to the Student Edition of the Mighty Roots Magazine! I brag all the time that I have the best job in the world. I get to spend my days with bright, creative, young people who get to live in the reality that there is no limit to curiosity, discovery, and a love for learning new things. I get to watch students try things that are hard, live passionately, and celebrate their growth when they master new skills, discovering who they were created to be all while finding rejuvenation in the nature that surrounds us.

I get to spend my days catching glimpses of amazing learning guides bringing education alive through our hands-on approach to learning here at Mighty Roots Academy. Today as you flip through the pages of our Student Edition of the Mighty Roots Magazine, you get to peak behind the scenes at the magic I get to witness taking place every day here at Mighty Roots. I hope you find as much inspiration as I do when you see the work of our students, knowing our future is bright because of their capable minds and hands.

~ Tracy Schroeder



photo by
isaac schroeder
(student)

Every season here at Mighty Roots has its own rhythm. Some weeks we are loud and full of energy, and other days everyone's in that slow groove where they just want to draw, build something small, or hang out in the woods a bit longer.

I get it. I need a balance of both days in my life.

This issue sits right in that middle space of our rhythm. Fall is sliding into winter, hoodies on the floor, rain boots in the hallway, sunshine one day and "why is it so cold?" the next.

And during all of that?

Our students are busy making things.

So many things.

Stories that make us laugh.

Poems that surprise us.

Art that inspires.

Random ideas that suddenly became a whole thing. Nothing too polished. Just real work from real kids who notice the world in ways adults forget to. They see all of the tiny details we as adults tend to miss. They turn small moments into big ones. They make weird things wonderful. They remind us that curiosity and creativity isn't something you outgrow unless you let yourself.

We hope this issue makes you smile. We hope you enjoy what they've created. We hope you walk away inspired.

This issue is a bit different from our others.

It's fun.

It's very Mighty Roots.

And it's created almost entirely by our students.

The Things We Make

words by christina sandberg
(learning guide)



photo by cari schawo

Crafting His Own Path

words and photos
by matthew ward
(student)

Matthew's Lure-Making Journey

I first got inspired to make fishing lures after watching people on YouTube create them. I had been saving money and ended up finding a lathe at a garage sale for \$75. My parents helped me out by getting me an airbrush, paint, stencils, and the other tools I needed.

I started making wooden lures in March 2023, and later switched to painting plastic lures because it takes much less time. This year, I began selling my lures at vendor events and have had great turnouts at every one. I'm able to use some of the money I earn to pay for more supplies to keep making them better and better.

I've also had a YouTube channel (Outdoors With Matthew Ward) for 4 years, so I love that this hobby helps get my name out there. It's been an amazing opportunity to meet people, share my work, and talk about something I really enjoy.



working with the airbrush



finished lures

THE INSPIRING LIFE OF A CREATIVE LADY

words by ariela price
(student)

This interview with 97 year old Mrs. Ruth Cummings from my church, inspires us of the younger generation to use our talents for God like Ruth used her artistic and musical abilities for Him!

Q: Where are you in birth order?

A: I am the youngest of three girls. Frances is the oldest, then Naomi, then me. We were each a couple years apart. We grew up in NJ close to NYC. We all loved music!

Q: Ooo, nice! Did you guys play any instruments?

A: Yes, we did! Frances played the piano; she let me sit next to her so I picked it up but never took lessons. Naomi played the cornet, and I played the violin. We started learning to play our instruments in elementary school.

(continued)

Q: You guys were very musically gifted by God! Do you have any fun memories from playing your instruments?

A: Yes! Our school orchestra was invited to play at the World's Fair in NYC in 1939!

Q: Wow, that's very cool! Did you guys sing?

A: Yes! All three of us liked to sing and a young lady who also mentored us in our faith, taught us how to sing in parts so we enjoyed singing harmony together!

Q: That sounds like a lot of fun! What did going to school look like?

A: We went to public school like everybody else at that time. Our school was in town, thirteen blocks away. Our mom walked us to and from school every day, and also walked us home for lunch and back.

Q: Well, that sounds like a big commitment! She sure got her steps in! She sounds like a sweet mother! What did she like to do?

A: She liked to garden. Me? Not so much!



Q: Well then, what did you like to do?

A: I was pretty athletic; I played lacrosse and half-court basketball. I also enjoyed playing with our pets, our dog, Checky and our cat, Fluffy. Another thing we did was shop. Mom would send us girls to get groceries and to the butcher to get the meat that she had ordered ahead of time. Dad shopped for all of our clothes. He was good with finances. He knew the clerks at his favorite department store, and they told him when the outfits he had chosen for us came on sale.

(continued)



Q: Nice! What did you do when you were older?

A: I was into art lot when I was younger so I did chalk talks where someone told a story and the other one draws out a related picture as it's being told! My dad would tell it and I would draw.

I also worked at Stonecroft, a Christian organization based in KC that produced neighborhood Bible study materials.

I am also a Christian mother, grandma, and great grandma!

Ariela: Wow! It was very interesting to learn about your life. Thank you for sharing about it with us.

Ruth: I could tell you so many more stories about when we came home from our vacation at the ocean and our dad had remodeled some rooms in our house, when my sisters and I watched the Washington Bridge being built, and when my sister photographed nine-eleven from across the river!



words by
kelli dickson
(learning guide)

HYGGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Cozy Family Reads for Winter Nights

As the days grow shorter and the world outside turns quiet and cold, winter invites us to slow down. There's something magical about curling up under a soft blanket, a warm mug in hand, and opening a story that reminds us what really matters; kindness, connection, and hope. The Danish call this feeling *hygge*; a cozy kind of contentment and comfort that comes from simple moments shared with loved ones.

In our home, winter break isn't complete without a stack of new books waiting by the fireplace. Each year, I search for stories filled with the magic of Christmas and the gentle stillness of winter nights. Before we begin, someone makes hot cocoa; extra whipped cream and holiday sprinkles are a must, and then we snuggle up and dive into a new adventure together. These cozy reading moments have become one of our favorite winter traditions, and I'm delighted to share a few of our family's most-loved (and a few from our to-be-read stack) holiday and winter tales with you.

The Lost Letters of Christmas by Lisa Renee Ruggeri

A heartwarming and mysterious adventure about friendship, hope, and believing in the magic of the season. When twelve-year-old Sadie moves to the snowy village of Bramblewood and discovers a forgotten bundle of letters in her new home, she unravels a mystery that could change her town forever.

A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig

Discover the magical and whimsical origin story of Santa Claus in this modern classic (and now a Netflix original movie). Filled with snow, adventure, and heart, it's a story that reminds readers that magic often begins with hope and courage.

(continued)

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

Equal parts hilarious and heartwarming, this beloved classic (now a major motion picture released in November 2024) shows that the true meaning of Christmas often appears in the most unexpected places, and people.

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-El

Perfect for younger readers, this delightfully sweet and thoughtful story follows a curious polar bear named Duane and his Arctic friends. It celebrates friendship, curiosity, and the quiet beauty of winter life.

The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson

This Newbery Honor classic, set in Paris at Christmastime, is filled with heart and hope. When a lonely old man befriends a homeless family, he discovers that love and kindness can transform even the coldest winter days into something warm and bright.

Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan

Inspired by Norwegian legend, this thrilling World War II tale follows a group of brave children who use their sleds to smuggle gold past Nazi soldiers and keep it safe from capture. It's a timeless story of courage, ingenuity, and the strength of community.

The Christmas Owl by Ellen Kalish & Gideon Sterer

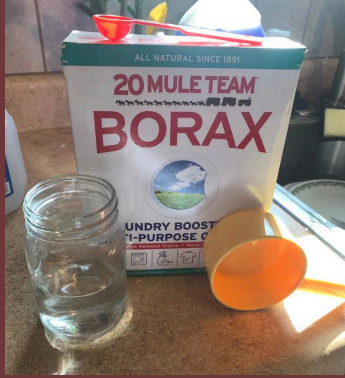
This beautifully illustrated picture book is based on the true story of Rockefeller, a small owl who captured hearts across the country when she was discovered in the world's most famous Christmas tree. It's a gentle reminder that even small creatures can bring big joy.

Little Red Sleigh by Erin Guendelsberger

This charming picture book is filled with Christmas magic and heart. It tells the story of a little red sleigh who dreams of one day becoming Santa's big red sleigh; a reminder that no dream is too big or out of reach if you truly believe.

This winter, light a candle, brew something warm, and let these stories wrap around you and your loved ones like a cozy blanket. Each story invites you to pause, take a breath, and soak in the wonder and awe that winter and the holiday season bring.

May your home be filled with laughter, hot cocoa, and the quiet turning of pages. And may these stories remind you that even in the darkest and coldest of months, light can always be found; in kindness, imagination, and the joy of reading together as a family.



Get Your Shine On!

How to Make Glossy Slime

words by lydia schroeder
and havi bichel
(students)

The ingredients you will need are dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, white glue, water, borax, and food coloring.

Mix half a cup of hot water with half of a teaspoon of borax powder. Stir it until the powder has dissolved, then you're ready to start making the slime!

- Add around 5 ounces of white glue into a bowl.
- Then add a drop of dish soap and a small squirt of conditioner and shampoo.
- Mix
- Add your food coloring, but you just need a tiny bit, and you can change the coloring as needed.
- Mix in the food coloring.
- Add your borax slowly using a teaspoon at a time. Mix well. Make sure to go very slow and use around 8 to 12 teaspoons.
- Once the slime has fully come off the sides of the bowl, you can pick it up and start kneading it with your hands. You may need to add more borax while you are kneading it until it's at the consistency you like.



Finding a Passion

a photographers journey

words and photos
by josh bichel
(student)

photo by cari schawo

I first got introduced to photography here at Mighty Roots in my freshman year. It was in photography class with Ms. Cari. When I heard about the class I was immediately intrigued. The idea of taking cool pictures sounded fun and interesting. I had no idea that Ms. Cari would spark a fire in me that was waiting to be lit.

She introduced me to the hobby, and taught us some of the basic “rules” of photography. How to use a DSLR, starting with auto mode and soon after delving into manual mode. I was immediately hooked. Ever since that class I have aspired to be a photographer. Ms. Cari taught me that photography isn't just snapping some neat pictures: it's an artform. Photography is a beautiful form of self expression, and the possibilities are endless.

For me, I have taken after her and found a love for taking portraits, as well as some macro. I am particularly looking into wedding photography as a career, however I would be more than happy to do any sort of photography. Working with people and trying to capture their personality in my photos is just so fun and fulfilling, and I wouldn't have ever discovered this passion for it if it wasn't for MRA and Ms. Cari.

I am so grateful for this school and all the amazing learning guides that make it so, so great. They really have created an environment of exploration and encouragement. For example, Ms. Christina heard about my dreams of becoming a wedding photographer, and she, who used to be a part time wedding photographer for 15 years, gifted me many books and other sources about the steps to becoming a wedding photographer. I mean, that's pretty amazing! And although Ms. Cari is no longer a learning guide here, she still inspires me to become a better photographer every day.

I am so thankful that I got to spend my middle through high school years at this school, and to meet so many amazing learning guides that have helped me grow immeasurably. I will miss learning from them every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. So I would like to say thank you to all of the amazing learning guides, past and present. You all really made my schooling special!



Molly's Nutella Cookies

recipe and photos
by molly mann
(student)

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Salted butter, softened to room temperature
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. Brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Nutella
- 1 Egg
- 2 tsp. Vanilla extract
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Flour
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Baking powder

Instructions:

1. Combine butter, sugars, and Nutella in a bowl or stand mixer and beat until ingredients are combined and well-creamed.
2. Add egg and vanilla extract and stir until well combined
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, cornstarch, salt, baking soda, and baking powder.
4. Gradually add dry ingredients into the wet until completely combined.
5. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and chill for 3 hours.
6. Once the dough is chilled, preheat the oven to 375°F and line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
7. Roll dough into approximately 2 Tbsp-sized balls and place onto cookie sheets 1 inch apart.
8. Bake at 375°F for 10-13 minutes, remove from the oven, and allow to cool completely on the cookie sheet.



ELEANOR'S WINTER WONDER POEMS

Christmas Is Coming

As I walked to town I noticed all the leaves
were turning brown.

I opened the door and went into the store.

All the teas were out and Christmas cheer
was all about.

Bells were ringing, people were singing.

That night in the dim light

I could hear Christmas carols from afar as I
looked upon a shooting star.

Christmas time was very near and the next
day it would be here.

poetry and artwork
by eleanor fry
(student)



Warm and Snug

The fire crackled soft and low. Its light makes a gentle glow.

I read my book on my knee and take a sip of steaming tea.

I look outside into the night and see a world of white.

but inside it is warm and snug when all of a sudden I spill my mug.



Creating Art from Art

Blending Movement, Music, and Words

contributed by the history of dance class
and ms. jen



When teaching about dance, I try to bring dance and language together to achieve a lovely combination of art appreciation and creative writing. If you are looking for a way to keep students writing creatively this winter, here is a fun option!

Before starting this writing exercise, gather a thesaurus, paper and pencils, a way to watch a dance video together, and choose ahead of time what you will watch. Try looking up “ballet performances” or “ballet variation” on YouTube. I recommend you select a video that isn’t too long, ideally not more than five minutes. I also suggest doing a quick lesson (or recap) on similes vs. metaphors, and using synonyms to bring variety and interest to our writing projects.

This project is ideal for later middle school and high school lessons, but even younger students can watch a dance video and share a few words about what they felt and saw.

(continued)

Start by watching the selected video together once, and just enjoy the dancing and art. Then, watch it again with the objective of noting the style and steps of dance; hearing the music; observing the costumes, etc. From there, quickly write five words that are inspired by what you watched. Simple words are fine, like orange, wavy, fast, sharp, or long. Take these words, and use a thesaurus to find two or three synonyms for each.

Now to write a poem! You can select a rhyming style beforehand and try to fit your words in that style, or start writing and see what comes out. Both methods of creating are valid! There are so many kinds of poetry that if students are unfamiliar with writing their own, it may be best to start with a more common one, and look at examples of simple rhyming schemes and poem types first.

A quick example of a four-line poem with a common rhyming scheme would include the song “Row, row, row your boat” which has the scheme (ABCB), where the second and fourth line rhyme but the first and third do not; and another option could be (AABB), where the first and second lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme. Some poems in these styles end after four lines, while others go on to have multiple verses that continue to follow these rhyme patterns with very little variation.

(continued)



For the purpose of our History of Dance class, we kept our poems to four lines, and students chose their rhyming scheme before they began. Here are their poems, created after watching George Balanchine's Rubies Pas de Deus from Jewels.

Lone at times
Duet at others
As the music chimes with scarlett
With plastic movements, doublette
-Author Ivy Helso

Distinctly dancing
Crimson red attire
Happily prancing
Spinning quick, like fire
-Author Havi Bichel

Distinctly dancing through the air
Crimson costumes you wear
Poise en pointe, very fair
Twisting through the air
-Author Lydia Schroeder

The students worked together to find synonyms, and some words were so delightful that multiple students chose to use them. The goal is never perfection, but art appreciation and creation!





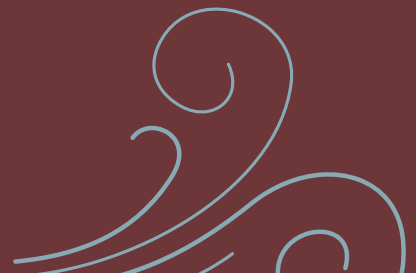
poem by
isaac schroeder
(student)

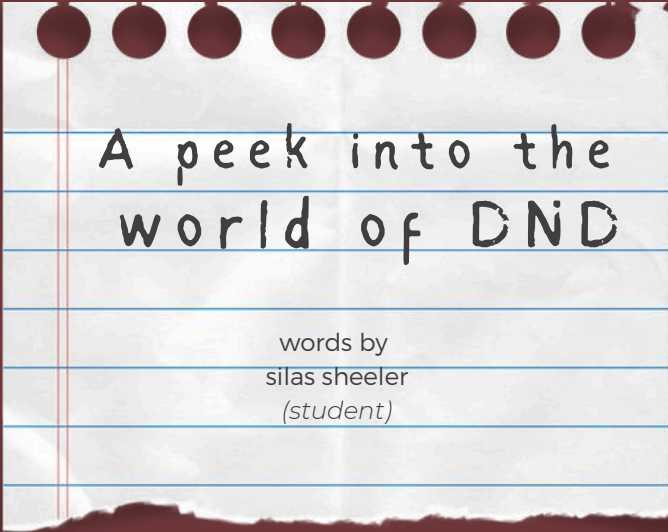
Missouris weather is truly exotic,
It switches and changes faster than wind,
No rhyme or reason, almost chaotic,
Start the day one way different in end.

You wake up one morning sun shining bright,
A beautiful 50 no wind in sight,
Then 4 hours later the sun bears it teeth,
Where did this come from, this 90 degree heat?

After that scorcher it drops down to 30,
Frost on the windows, heater house warming,
Snow starts to fall but just wait an hour,
The sun bites again, making you cower.

Oh good old Missouri, almost bipolar,
We stay for a reason that nobody knows.
Oh good old Missouri no one could control her,
We stay cause it's not the cold that gets you,
it's the wind, oh how it blows.





A peek into the world of DND

words by
silas sheeler
(student)

As I was falling through the window, rope on my waist, I wondered how I got here...

It all started as a normal day in the city of Waterdeep. I just finished a job and was going to claim my reward. "Yer late, elf!" my dwarf boss screamed at me as I entered the tavern.

"Hey, Johnny Angry-alot. FYI I'm no-" my eyes went to the magical time keeper on the wall (You humans would refer to this as a clock) and saw I indeed was half an hour late. "So I'm a little late, what's the problem with that?"

"The problem is I'm deducting your pay!" he screamed. Nice guy, right?

I put the ruby on the table. (Did I mention I was a master thief?) "Eh, money's money." I casually remarked. "NOT WHEN IT'S ONLY 50 GOLD!!!!" Johnny screamed.

"What?!?!? The ruby is worth more than that!" I exclaimed. "Not anymore." He then said his favorite word. "DEDUCTION, DEDUCTION, DEDUCTION!"

"Give me another job." I said. He seemed surprised by this.

"Well I did just get a new one." he said. "But it's kind of dangerous..."

"Heh, bring it on!" Little did I know this was an incredibly dumb idea, but to me, this was the greatest idea ever. "So, what's the mission?" I asked.

"It's called the amnian diamond," he explained. "It's worth more than anything you've ever gotten me. It's locked in a tower, and that thing is GUARDED. Like, really guarded. If you could get it to me, I'd pay you handsomely."

"Thats enough for me." I said as I busted out the door.

"Wait I need to tell y-" is all I heard as I ran out on my journey to amn. It was a long, annoying journey but when I got to amn I knew it would be worth it. It's always worth it when A FREAKING GIANT FLAMING SKULL IS GUARDING THE DOOR TO THE TOWER.

(continued)

“Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhh gods” I breathed to myself. This is gonna be tricky. I started walking in some bushes near the tower and could hear the crackling of the fire. I approached the side of the wall and started climbing when I heard “HEY, YOU.” from the skull. “GET BACK HERE.” it roared.

I could feel the heat closing in but I remained cool (Get it?) and kept climbing. I have experience, so I'm a fast climber. I felt good until I learned the skull could fly, thankfully though that gave me the adrenaline rush I needed to make it to a window and smash it with my elbow. I then climbed in and prayed it wasn't guarded, and hallelujah, it wasn't!. I then doubled over, laughing as I watched the skulls attempt to get in.

I then focused on my task and grabbed the diamond, secured a rope to my waist, and leaped. And the rest of my story? I'll leave that up to you.

THE END?



silas



Nature Notes:

Missouri Animal Facts From Our Students

words and photo
by tracy schroeder
(director)

This fall, the Learning Strategies class learned how to use many different note taking strategies.

Students used those skills to create presentations on Missouri animals. Here are some fun facts shared by students as they presented about Missouri's exciting animals.



- Red foxes sleep on the ground most of the year, although they provide a den for their young during breeding season.
- Monarch butterflies eat milkweed.
- Coyotes use expressions and posture to communicate.
- Box turtles are inactive 80-90% of the day.
- Deer mice are cannibals.
- Snapping turtles spend most of their life in water.
- Bared owls eat other birds.
- Alligator snapping turtles come out at night and hide during the day.
- Blanding's turtle is named after William Blanding Jr., a botanist and conservationist.
- Leafcutter bees use a wiggle dance to communicate.
- Whitetail deer shed their antlers in February and March.
- Male miner bees have mustaches.
- Frogs' babies are called tadpoles.
- A group of gray foxes is called an earth or a leash.
- Eastern cottontail rabbits are 14-18 inches long.
- Western rat snakes are shiny and black.
- Red ear slider turtles are named for their red ears.
- Great horned owls mate in January and February.

MRA



ART

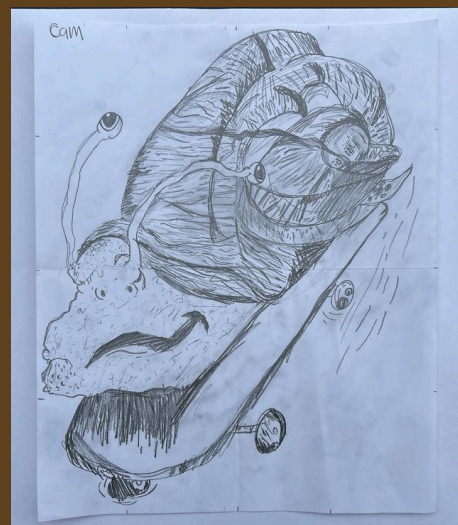


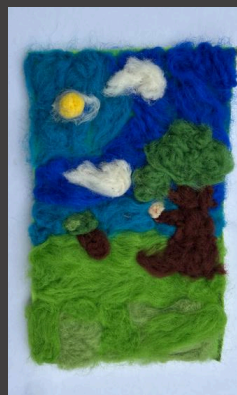
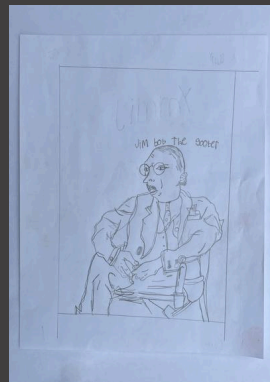
SHOWCASING THE ARTISTS OF MIGHTY ROOTS ACADEMY

Our art students get to explore creativity through color, texture, and imagination. In every class, from our youngest artists to our high school creators, students express their ideas in ways that are bold, thoughtful, and wonderfully unique.

This gallery highlights a selection of their work: pieces inspired by nature, movement, storytelling, and the everyday magic they see in our academy and in themselves. We're proud to showcase their creativity and celebrate the many ways our students bring creativity into our world. Individual credits were not available for this section, but see if you can spot your student's artwork!

(continued)





INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS



By Adah

artwork created & submitted
by adah yoder
(student)



artwork created & submitted
by clara belich
(student)



Brain Break

A collection of fun activities created by our very own Mighty Roots students!

The Bridge Puzzle

Your challenge: Get everyone across the bridge in exactly **17 minutes!**

Rules:

- Only two people can cross the bridge at a time.
- The lantern is required for every crossing — going and coming back.
- When two people cross together, they must move at the pace of the slower person.

Your Group

Alex — 1 minute
Brandon — 2 minutes
Carson — 5 minutes
Dr. Sophie — 10 minutes



Can you figure out how to get all four across in 17 minutes?

submitted by tate nall
(student)



(continued)

Answer: How to solve it in 17 minutes:
Alex & Brandon cross → 2 minutes (total: 2)
Alex comes back → 1 minute (total: 3)
Carson & Dr. Sophie cross → 10 minutes (total: 13)
Brandon comes back → 2 minutes (total: 15)
Alex & Brandon cross again → 2 minutes (total: 17)
At the end, all four are across in 17 minutes!

ROLL-A-STORY

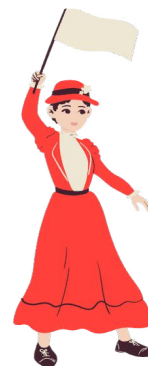
About Mighty Roots

Roll a dice three times to pick a character, a setting and a problem.
Then write a silly, creative story!

	Character	Setting	Problem
	Miss Tracy	Maple	All the art supplies have disappeared
	Miss Renee	Mud Kitchen in the woods	Got stuck in a tree
	3 Baby Raccoons	Zipline/Playground	Found a painted stick with a mysterious note tied to it
	Mocha & Cinder	The woods	Ate everyone's lunches
	A student of your choice	Evergreen	The zipline broke
	A student of your choice	The baby raccoon tree	Got locked in the bathroom

History Crossword

created & submitted
by the who/what/was class



ACROSS

1. Famous night journey warning colonists the British were coming

4. Wildlife sanctuary Steve Irwin helped run.

6. Steve Irwin's nickname and TV show title.

7. Town where the first Women's Rights Convention took place.

9. Book written by Rachel Carson that sparked the environmental movement.

11. Animals studied by Jane Goodall in Gombe National Park.

14. Harmful chemicals Rachel Carson warned the public about.

16. The law that led colonists to dump crates of tea into the harbor.

DOWN

2. Youth program founded by Jane Goodall that helps protect animals and the environment.

3. Group of colonists who protested British taxes.

5. Helen's teacher and companion.

8. Hung in the Old North Church to signal how the British were coming.

10. Amendment that gave American women the right to vote in 1920.

12. Reading system that uses raised dots.

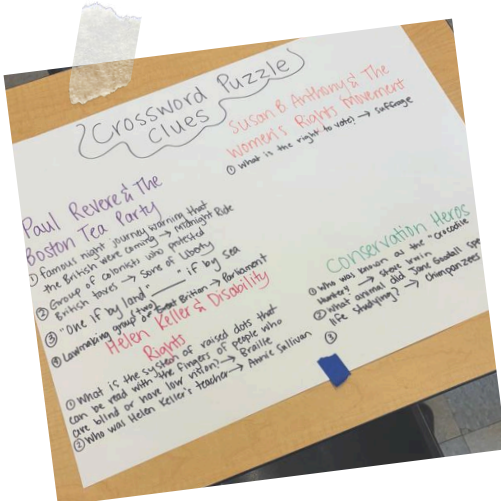
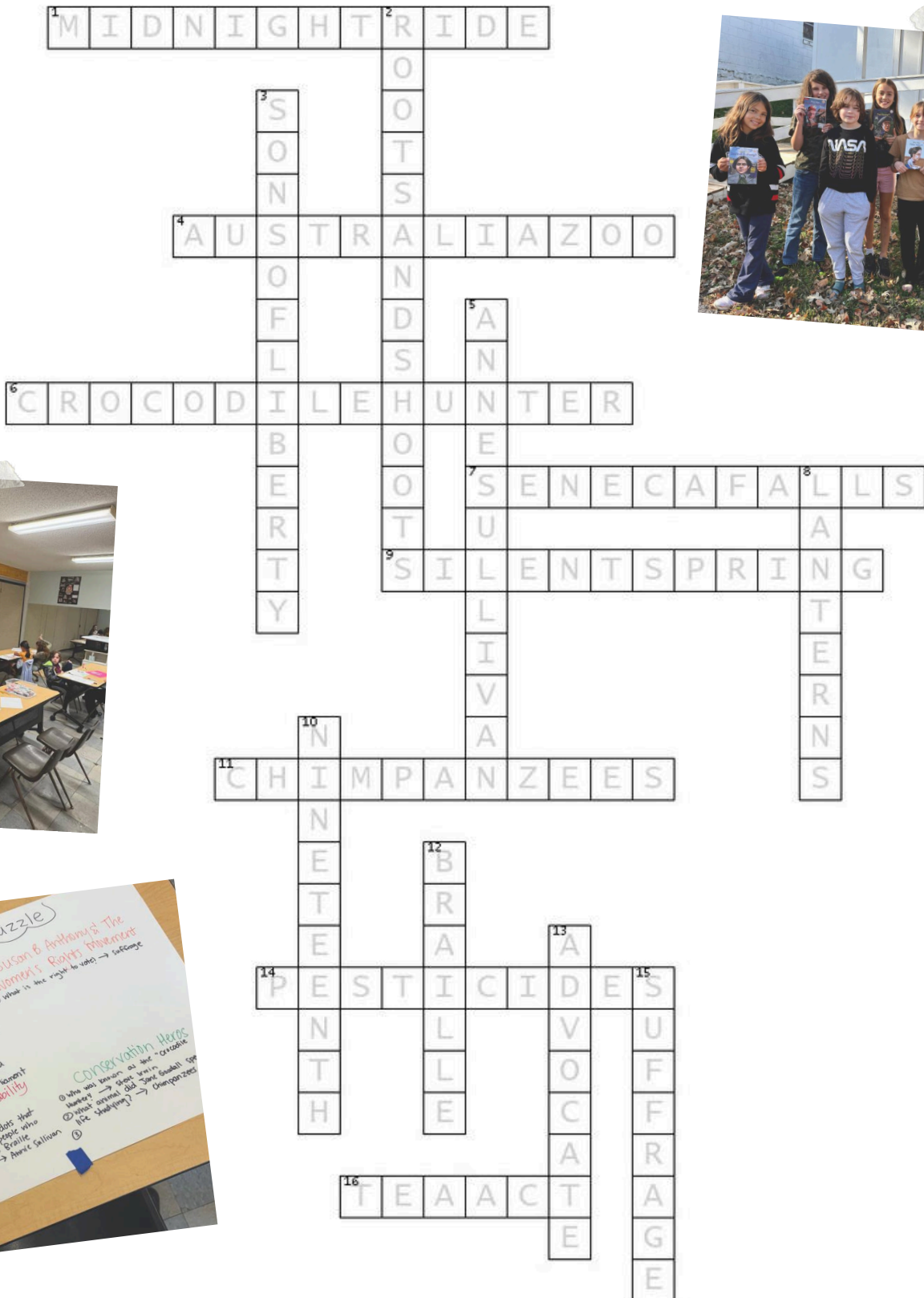
13. A person who speaks up for others' rights — like Helen did.

15. The right to vote.



(continued)

History Crossword Answers





DIY TRADING CARDS

Hero Haldon 100

Health 5 Little lamb points 10

Strengths:

- Dedication
- Distraction

Eagle Eye Eleanor 100

500 points

Hickory Dickory 40 points

Strengths:

- I can win all mice
- Makes children cry at bedtime
- Noble power against adults

Bonus Power: When combined with a gothic card +100 points

100 Bonus Points

VIRTUE of COURAGE

- Adds 100 points to owner
- Increases life satisfaction
- Builds deeper connections
- Reduces anxiety
- Increases skills

500 Bonus Points

VIRTUE of GRATITUDE

- Add 500 points to owner
- Decrease attacks by 1/2 the points
- Add an extra life
- Builds friendships

The image shows an open sketchbook with eight pages of artwork. The pages are numbered 100 through 107. The drawings are as follows:

- Page 100:** A drawing with black and white geometric shapes (squares and rectangles) on a light green background.
- Page 101:** A drawing of a cluster of purple hexagons on a pink background.
- Page 102:** A drawing of a cartoon character with a round head, two small ears, and a rectangular mouth. The character is holding a book. The text "scrap curd" is written below the character.
- Page 103:** A drawing with a grid of black lines on a light green background.
- Page 104:** A drawing of several yellow triangles of different sizes, some outlined in black, on a light green background.
- Page 105:** A drawing of a grid of red and orange squares on a yellow background.
- Page 106:** A drawing of a cluster of overlapping circles in various colors (blue, green, yellow, red) on a light green background.
- Page 107:** A drawing with a red circle and a black square on a light green background.

picture this!



a gallery of student-captured images



smiling tree
by: aleah maddox



fairy house
by lydia schroeder



photos by
maggie mann



tiny fairy home by aleah and
emberlee maddox



photo by
josh bichel



advanced outdoor skills classroom
photo by isaiah schroeder



black squirrel
by daphne harmon

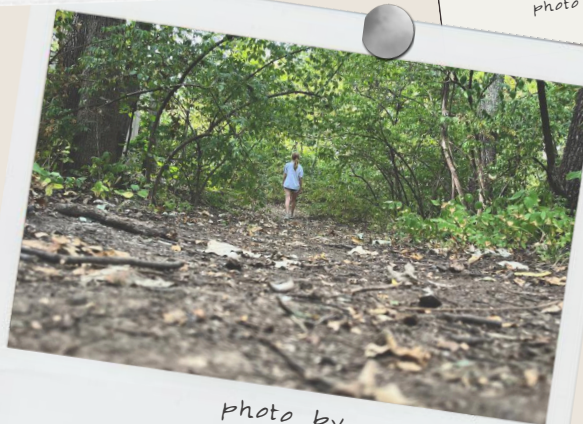


photo by
caliope marshall

TAKE **ROOT** WITH US!

Learning should feel alive. It should have less worksheets and more muddy hands. Crazy, wild questions, and moments when a student realizes, 'Wait, I can actually do this?!' That right there is the everyday magic that happens out here in our little corner of the woods.

Our nature-rich, hands-on approach only works because people like you believe in what we're doing. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we depend on the generosity of our community to keep building the kind of learning environment so many of us wish we had when we were kids.

Your support keeps the good things growing. It helps us offer unique and creative classes, maintain and keep expanding our outdoor spaces, and equip our students with the tools they need to explore, create, and thrive.

There are so many simple ways to help Mighty Roots keep blooming:

Make a Donation

Every bit matters! Even the smallest gifts. They add up in ways that always surprise us.

Sponsor a Program

Love robotics? Have a passion for Art? History? You can help fuel it!

Volunteer Your Time

Some of our most helpful moments come from parent volunteers who say things like, "I'm not a professional, but I can paint a classroom." That works perfect. We need all of it.

Spread the Word

Tell a friend. Tell your neighbor. Tell the person you meet in a Mom's group. You never know who's out there looking for a place exactly like this.

Giving to Mighty Roots isn't just "giving." You're joining our family and helping to support a place that believes kids learn best when they're seen and encouraged and given the freedom to explore at their own pace.

Your support helps us keep building a place where kids feel brave, creative and grounded. A place where they feel they really belong.

Come be part of the roots of something beautiful!



Final Thoughts

words by christina sandberg
(learning guide)

Here we are.
The last page.

This is always the part of the magazine creation process where I stare at my computer screen for far too long, trying to figure out how to wrap everything up.

When I look through this issue, here's what I keep coming back to:
Kids don't make things to be impressive.
They simply just make things.

They make things because they thought something was funny or cool.
Because something felt big.
They had a thought that wouldn't leave them alone until they put it somewhere.

Half the time, they turn in something with glue still drying and say, "It's not done," and I'm like, "It doesn't matter. It's perfect."

Because it is.

It's 100% who they are.

It's their doodles, their silly ideas, their stories that didn't fully make sense to you, but it made the room full of middle-schoolers bust out in laughter. It's all a part of who they are.

So I guess here's my last thought before I send you off:
Don't stop noticing the things that they make.
The weird things.
The messy things.
The things you can't figure out what the heck it's supposed to be.
Even the unfinished projects.
Taking time to notice is where the magic really sits.

I want to thank you for reading this issue.
Thank you for cheering our students on.
Thank you for believing in the messy, out-of-the-box kind of learning we do out here at Mighty Roots.

It matters more than you think.

Our Mission

The mission of Mighty Roots Academy is to provide active, multiage learning in a nature-rich environment.

Our Philosophy

At Mighty Roots Academy, we believe it is most important to develop the skills of independent learning that equip students for a lifetime of inquiry and growth. A true education builds the skills needed for becoming a lifelong learner. We believe that students benefit most when skill-building is the focus, no matter the subject.



Mighty Roots Academy

mightyrootsacademy.com