

# English students' published work continues.....

## Cheep Cheep

By Hannah Stafford  
Seventh grade

Have you ever wondered what it is like to live on a farm? Living on a farm is harder than you think. You need lots of energy and enthusiasm to a part of this hectic life.



Stafford

The first day I had worked on my grandfather's farm was the craziest day of my life. I walked out to the pasture to throw some hay into the pen. I was counting the cows to make sure they were all ok. Just then I realized one was still down in the pasture having a calf. I then went down to the pasture to watch this baby calf being born.

After we had got the calf cleaned up, we than preceded to the chicken house. When I went to check on them, there were tracks right up to the chicken door. I walked to each track looking and thinking it might have been the dogs. Turns out, there were two dead chickens lying outside the pen. I was thinking those stupid dogs! I ran over to get my grandfather to decide what to do with those chickens. He walked over and told me there must be a couple of coyotes around. And all this time, I thought it was the dogs.

When I went to collect the eggs I realized six little chicks were making little cheeping noises. My grandfather and I scooped up the chicks and put them in a box. They will grow in no time I thought what a hectic day. Would you like to come and join me at the farm?

## Breath taking

McKenzie Taylor  
Seventh Grade

Exploding out of the blocks, I jump over the first hurdle, then four steps later I'm over the next. When I pass the finish line, it takes me a few steps to stop running. I turn around and realize I was the first one to reach the finish line. I was ecstatic!



Taylor

At our Hoxie track meet, Coach Busse had me try long jump for the first time. I had only one run through in practice; so I didn't know how well I was going to do. As soon as we got to Hoxie, I went straight over to the long jump pit. I had Coach Busse come over and help me with my step. The first time I went through, I was too far from the board. He moved my piece of tape a foot up. After that, I ran through once more. He said I was right on the board and that was perfect.

After doing long jump, I had hurdles right after. I was so nervous. Although, every time I run the hurdles I end up beating either my time or my sister.

When my sister and I have to race each other, I get nervous. She is really talented at the hurdles. When the gun goes off, we explode out of the blocks. About the fifth hurdle, I pass my sister. At the end of the race, I went over the finish line and won. I was so glad I had beaten my sister.

This whole track season was great for me! I broke a record, met new friends, and taught myself track isn't always about competition. It's about having fun and knowing you're going to do well.

## The Most Popular Sport for Centuries

By Justice Wiley  
Eighth Grade

Do you know what sport began in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day in 1887? This game is now 123 years old. People say it's one of the greatest sports invented for both women and men. This astounding sport would be softball.



Wiley

There are many legendary men and women in this sport. For example, Mike Macenko is greatly known for his home runs; he has hit over 6,179 in his storied career. Bruce Meade is the most famous for his high batting averages. My favorite legendary woman is Michelle Smith. She is a two-time Olympic Gold Medal winner, a three-time Japanese league M.V.P., and one of the best left-handed pitchers of all time.

Another legendary woman softball player is Lisa Fernandez who played as a pitcher and third baseman. She was right-handed and she was part of the USA Women's National Team. Her team won gold medals at the Pan American Games and the Canada Cup. She also established an Olympic record in this amazing sport. She was the only player with 25 strikes in a game while playing for the United States Women's team.

Did you know the USA beat Japan in the Gold Medal Game in 2000? On the average, for a U.S. team there are 16 players. Also, the USA won the Olympic Gold Medal in 1996 against China which was over 14 years ago.

Today this agonizing sport isn't as popular in the United States as it was. Softball is still very popular throughout the world even today. Both women and men still play this sport, but usually men play baseball which is very similar, but uses a smaller ball. What do you know about softball?

## You win some, you lose some

Hannah Wolff  
Seventh Grade

I was completely relaxed and low to the ground. Bang! At the sound of the gunshot, I started running with all my might. This is me at the beginning of a race.



Wolff

My favorite race is hurdles. Only once have I gotten to break the string and bask in the glory of first place. I was in the first heat. When that gun went off, I nearly ran out of my skin. I just kept jumping the hurdles until I couldn't see the competition anymore. I sprinted to the finish line proudly until I felt the string. My heart was pounding, my vision was blurry, and I couldn't believe it.

There isn't always a happy ending for me though. My first track meet didn't go so well. I was in the first heat, as always, and I was on edge. We all went to the starting line. I crouched low to the line. Boom! The blocks jerked as I ran. I was in third place out of six and surprised I was in a decent place. At the third to the last hurdle, I tripped and slammed into the ground. My body was skidding on the track and my hands burned. I shot up, and kept on running out

of embarrassment.

When I got back to camp, my coach came to talk to me. He told me that getting back up was a real sign of character. He also said most people would have just stopped. That pep talk lifted my spirits quite a bit that day. I actually felt proud I fell.

I've had both success and failure with the hurdles. Whatever happens to me next time, I'll be fine with it. You win some and you lose some.

## Ready, Set, Go

Valerie Wurm  
8th Grade

On your mark, get set, pop! That is what I hear when I start running for my track event. Before the gun goes off, I am crouched in my stance hoping I don't jump the gun. Once I hear the pop, I am out of the blocks and on my way.



Wurm

When I was in seventh grade, I

started doing the 100-meter dash. I have always placed in the top three slots at every track meet. At league last year, I placed third and broke my personal record.

This year I am also in the 100-meter dash. I have improved since last year. I have been making the time I need to make. This year I haven't gotten first yet, but I know if I keep practicing, I can do it.

In the Beijing Olympics in 2008, I watched the 100-meter dash thinking maybe that could be me one year. The world's fastest women's time is 10.49 seconds. That is really fast and this record hasn't been broken since 1988.

The 100-meter dash is the shortest race you can have in a track meet. It is a straight away. This race is the hardest race at any track meet. It is so short you have to pick your speed up as soon as you get out of the blocks.

They say the people with the fastest times at the Olympics are called "The World's Fastest Men or Women". I would like to have that title one day. So I'll get ready, set, go...



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