

WHY EDUCATING GIRLS IS GOOD FOR THE WORLD

BY LEXI SACHS

Being a girl and having an education is something that I've always taken for granted, but that's not how it is in many other parts of the world.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I have been working with an organization called *She's the First*. The mission of *She's the First* is to provide scholarships to girls in low-income countries, fostering first-generation graduates and cultivating the next generation of global leaders. Tammy Tibbets founded *She's the First* in 2013 when she was 27 years old.

It's important for girls around the world to be educated. The facts show that when a girl is educated she is much less likely to live a life of poverty. An education gives a young woman the opportunity to have a career, lead a healthier life, reduce the rate of poverty and have fewer children. Educating a girl is good for the world.

Interview with Tammy Tibbets:

LS: What inspired you to create *She's the First*? Was girls' education always important to you?

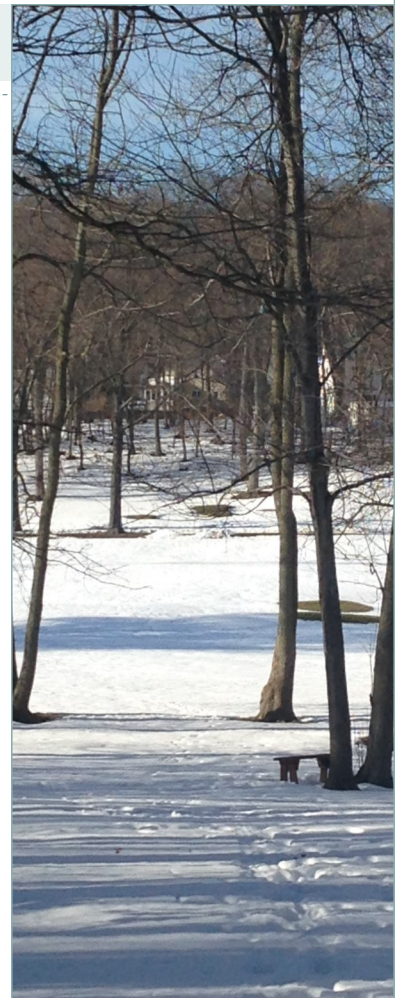
TT: "I became really passionate about girls' education upon learning about the gender inequality that prevents females around the world from going to, or graduating from, school. I was inspired to create *She's the First* as a way that my generation could get involved in making a difference. It started out as a YouTube video, a social-media-driven campaign that would inspire people to crowdsource funds from family and friends to directly sponsor a girl."

LS: What is your ultimate goal with *She's the First*?

TT: "We are striving for a world where there are no more first-generation high school graduates to be found, because everyone will have had the chance to have a basic 12-year education."

LS: I know that you have been recognized with awards for what you've created. Do you think of yourself as a role model for young women?

TT: "I don't think that awards make you a role model. (There are plenty of people who have won awards who I would not consider my role model!) Many of my role models do not have high profiles and may not be a creator or CEO of something necessarily. My role models are people who turn ideas and visions of all sizes into a reality and are strong, valued team players, who integrate the personal and professional and philanthropic pieces of their lives in beautiful ways."



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Tammy Tibbetts

WHY EDUCATING GIRLS IS GOOD FOR THE WORLD . . .

LS: What are you most proud of? I would love to know all the details, feelings, and emotions you feel about what you have created.

TT: "I feel deeply honored to be part of the *She's the First* community. At the end of the day, I had the idea for our mission and came up with our name, but what *She's the First* is today is the result of something far greater than anything I could have created on my own. It is a privilege to be a spokesperson for what we are accomplishing together and the

vision we have for a world of education and gender equality."

My Own Experience:

Recently, I was paired with a first grader named Rithika. She lives in India and is 7 years old. After raising money, I was matched with Rithika and became her pen pal. What I am doing means a lot to me and I am truly committed to making an effort to sending girls, who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to get an education.

"We are striving for a world where there are no more first-generation high school graduates to be found, because everyone will have had the chance to have a basic 12-year education."

YOUTH NET CLUBS

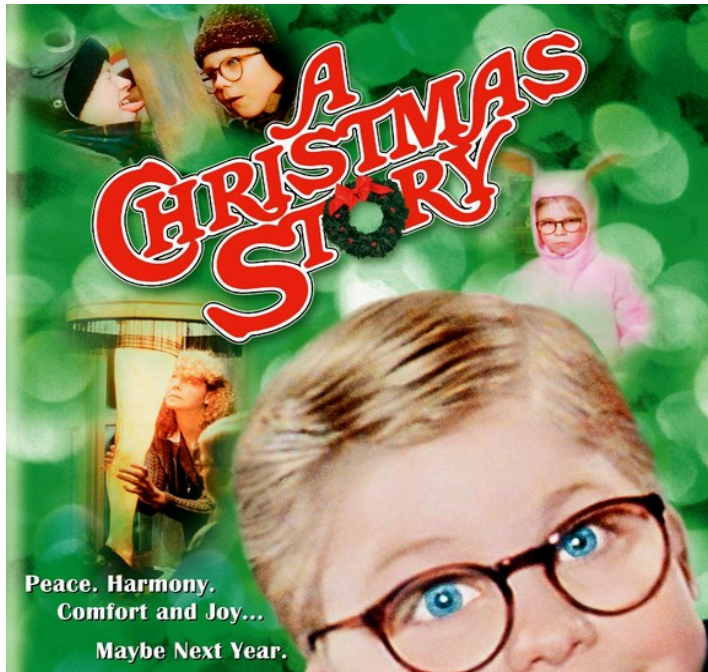
Be sure to check out the amazing clubs offered by Youth Net! Right now clubs are in their second rotation.

If you are looking for a fun, filled activity to fill your afternoon, Youth Net has many different clubs for students to participate in.

HEAD TO THE SLOPES BY JANE FLEETWOOD

Ski club makes it easy for South Orange and Maplewood students to get out on the slopes every winter. On Fridays buses take groups of middle school and high school students to Mountain Creek ski resort in Vernon, New Jersey. On Wednesdays students are taken to Camelback ski resort in the Poconos. Both mountains have about 35 trails, 10 ski lifts, and runs for all level skiers. The mountains also offer beginner lessons for the many new new skiers in ski club. Advanced skiers have access to expert level slopes and terrain park.

Additionally, parent chaperones and the mountain ski patrol try to keep the skiers safe. But injuries do happen. Last ski season someone was transported in an ambulance to the hospital for a fall that caused a serious head injury. Nevertheless, "ski club is really fun because you get to ski all the time and you get to do it with your friends" says Lexi Sachs, a middle schooler from SOMS.



Movie Poster of *A Christmas Story*, 1983

A CHRISTMAS STORY: FROM SCREEN TO STAGE BY ZAHIRA SHAHEEN

The Papermill Playhouse has been putting on fantastic plays since 1938, but none have been as fantastic as *A Christmas Story*. This funny family friendly play is based on the movie “A Christmas Story” created by Bob Clarke and narrated by Jean Shepherd. Describing a tale of Christmas and the days leading up to it while following young Ralphie and his quest to get a red rider action BB gun. This film has been transformed into a musical to entertain the musical number lovers in the area. The actors are great and are extremely talented to make the show even better! The jokes that are made are very funny and can be laughed at over and over and not get old. The characters from the film have been slightly exaggerated to make viewers love them even more. The sets created by the stage crew is absolutely phenomenal, and you don't want to take your eyes off of it!

The film has many funny scenes in it, but the play was able to add more to it while keeping the classic feel to it. The jokes were clean, but some jokes were made to it to appease the adults in the audience while still being appropriate. The laughter throughout the play roared through the roof every five seconds. In the film some scenes are caught in slow motion, which the actors contributed to doing make the effects hysterical.

In the film the main character Ralphie meets some mean and bizarre characters. In the play the characters are still mentioned but have another feel to them that make them feel more modern. Like the kid who REALLY liked the *Wizard of Oz*, he was there but he had a creepier feel to him that shows how creepy this kid really is. Also the Santa Clause is meaner and sterner than in the movie, while making some funny adult jokes in the mix. The characters each person played showed the true talent of each actor.

The sets in the play are an eye catching sight from a house to a 1920 speak easy. The house used in the play had many twist and turns, (If it had walls it would house one person!) It was furnished and even had the smoking basement in the beginning of the movie. Another really good set was the family car. It looked like a 1950s car from the front but like a Roman chariot from the back, but never the less it was able to hold the whole family.

A CHRISTMAS STORY CONTINUED. . . .

Over all the play was amazing the actors! The sets! The sound effects! The Music! Everything was great and a great recommendation for your family's next holiday visit to the Papermill Playhouse. The Papermill Playhouse usually has a holiday treat for the family each year. The current production is a *Bronx Tale*, starring Robert De Niro.



SPOTLIGHT ON SOMS STAFF: MRS. LEVINE

What do you like the most about SOMS?

I love my students. I have the greatest job in the world.

When you were in school, what was your favorite subject and why?

My favorite subjects in school were English and Art. I have always loved reading and writing stories and poetry.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I like to cook and bake. I also enjoy spending time with my kids. This year, I am a Daisy Troop leader for my daughter's troop.

If you could be any person in history, who would you be and why?

I would be Queen Elizabeth. Her life story fascinates me, and she was a strong leader. Bonus, Shakespeare wrote plays and performed them for her court.

RECIPE FOR A WARM WINTER

Homemade Hot Cocoa

1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

3/4 cup sugar

1 pinch salt

1/3 cup boiling water

3 1/2 cups milk

3/4 teaspoon vanilla

marshmallows

Combine the cocoa, sugar and pinch of salt in a saucepan. Blend in the boiling water. Bring this mixture to an easy boil while you stir. Simmer and stir for about 2 minutes. Watch that it doesn't scorch. Stir in 3 1/2 cups of milk and heat until very hot, but do not boil! Remove from heat and add vanilla. Divide between 4 mugs. Top with marshmallows.



From <http://allrecipes.com/>

ADVICE FROM MISS INFORMATION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

I have a group of friends that I always hung out with in middle school. They aren't popular though and we always get weird stares when we're being goofy. How can I be cool but still hang with my friends?

Dear Mr. or Mrs. Wreck,

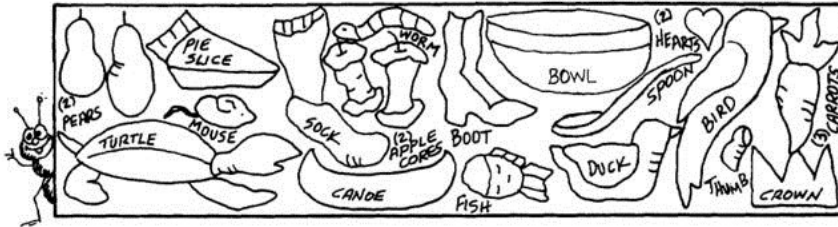
You shouldn't worry about being "cool". There really is no definition of cool anyway, so make it your own. Being yourself in Middle School is the same as it was in Elementary School. Don't change who you are just because someone looks at you like you're "weird". As long as you are happy with your friends then don't worry about what another group of friends think. Who knows, they may just be jealous of the awesome relationship you have with your own friends. If you want to make new friends, then make sure you are doing it for yourself, not for anyone else.

Sincerely,

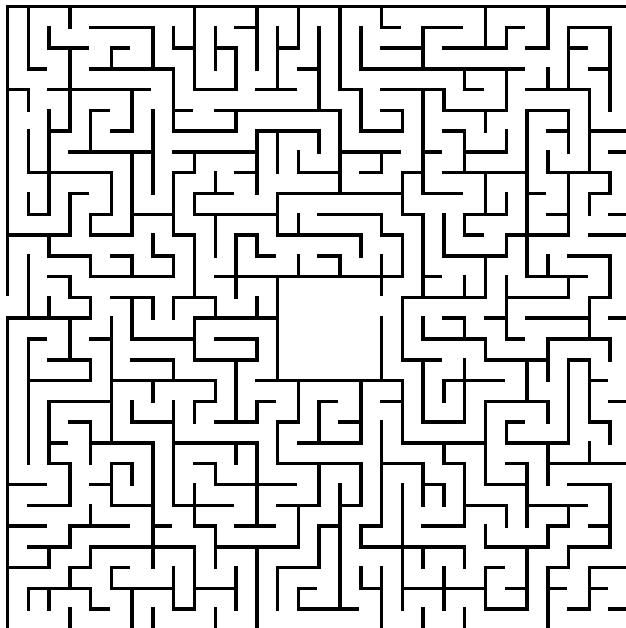
Miss Information

PUZZLE PAGE!

HIDDEN PICTURES



Find these items in
the picture above.



WINTER MAZE:

Can you find the solution?

Winter Wonderland Photos

by Kirah Tinga



Odd Orange Journal

If you have ideas you wish to contribute to our next issue, please see our advisor, Mrs. Levine, in room 352!



This issue's staff members:

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