



CK Reporter of the Week
Katherine Gagner, Boulder

New Spideys spark new movie



Spider Man into the Spider Verse" brings something entirely new to the Spider Man movie franchise.

In fact, it brings six entirely new things to the Spider Man movie franchise!

Those six things are six unique Spider people, including Spiderwoman, SpiderHam (*aka* Peter Porker), and SpiderNoir.

These additions to the Spiderman story make this animated movie funny, dramatic, and action-packed.

Although it is a cartoon, "Spider Man into the Spider Verse" is not childish. It begins with a single boy, Miles Morales.

Miles is a normal young boy growing up in Brooklyn, and, as in all the Spiderman movies, Miles is bitten by a radioactive spider, becoming a new Spiderman.

He discovers that he is not alone when New York is endangered by a Marvel villain, Kingpin, and the Spider Verse opens up.

The battle against the villains is pretty standard

superhero movie stuff, but "Spider Man into the Spider Verse" is different from other superhero movies because of its focus on the characters' relationships with their families and friends.

Like the traditional Spider Man, this movie includes a difficult relationship between Miles, his father and his uncle, but the other characters also have interesting backstories.

These relationship stories do not slow the movie down, and, in fact, the movie picks up pace and gets funnier when the other Spiderpeople enter the movie.

The movie soundtrack also gets better, with music by Post Malone.

Speaking of soundtracks, this movie has lots of famous people voicing the characters: Nicolas Cage is the voice of Spider Noir and Liev Schreiber is the voice of Kingpin.

The late Stan Lee, the creator of SpiderMan, makes an appearance in the movie, too, which will be a big deal for comic book fans.

"Spider Man into the Spider Verse" is rated PG, and is definitely a family-friendly movie. There is no graphic violence, crude humor, or cursing.

Any viewer over eight years old will enjoy this movie and be able to follow the plot and get most of the jokes.

Viewers who are already familiar with the Spiderman story will especially enjoy this movie because it relies on some elements of the traditional storyline, but someone who has not seen the movies or read the comic books will certainly be able to enjoy it, too, since the movie does explain why things are happening.



By Aidan Muldoon,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Community service nourishes the givers, too

Recently my mom, one of my friends, and her mom, decided to get together to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless.

This experience first came to mind after our grade was reminded that we had to complete a certain amount of community service hours.

Community service could be something as easy as going to the mall and picking up trash, or helping make food for those in need, like we did, and because community service is very much encouraged it wasn't finding where and how to do community service, but getting a slot to be able to attend the event.

Why this was tricky?

So many people want to be doing community service, which is amazing.

Once we found an area to do community service, and after a rewarding amount of waiting, we finally were accepted to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless at Bridge House, a place for people around Colorado to come and help make food for the homeless, transport food to the homeless, and more.

After many long awaited days, we had a small introduction on the task before getting right to work.

Scott Median, one of the Bridge House staff members, spoke about how the smallest action, like making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, can change

somebody's day.

Before we left to start making the sandwiches, we were given the option to take the sandwiches we made and hand them out after the volunteer hours, or let Bridge House distribute them.

Once the introduction was done, it was off to sandwich-making, and, with me, my friend and both our moms working, we made many many sandwiches.

In total, volunteers made more than 800 sandwiches in about an hour, which could feed many people who really need it.

I really enjoyed volunteering to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, not only because it was for a good cause, but also because it was something small that made a big impact on many people through just one kind action.

For more about Bridge House, visit



photo: Evan-Amos

<https://www.coloradogives.org/bridgehouse/overview>



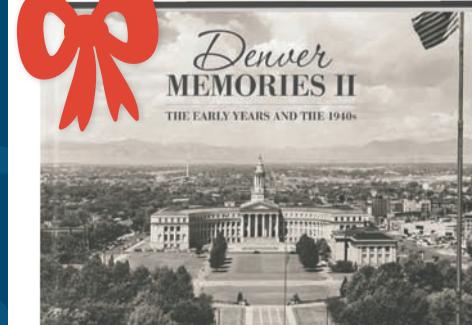
By Katherine Gagner,
13, a CK Reporter
from Boulder

Editor's Note: Because the upcoming holidays are Tuesdays, our next issue will be January 8. Happy Holidays from CK!

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THE DENVER POST

Mary Poppins sequel a good second act

A childhood favorite based on the works of P. L. Travers, Mary Poppins has held a special place in the hearts of children for years. The iconic performance of Julie Andrews in the 1964 movie is extremely difficult to follow.

Despite the challenges, Disney has done a fantastic job with its 2018 sequel, "Mary Poppins Returns."

Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt) has returned to London after 25 years to look after Michael Banks' children Anabel (Pixie Davies), John (Nathanael Saleh), and Georgie (Joel Dawson), as she did their father.

Michael (Ben Whishaw) and Jane (Emily Mortimer), all grown up, are facing foreclosure in post-Depression London.

When an unscrupulous banker (Colin Firth) forecloses on a loan, they can either find a way to pay off the loan or lose their beloved home at 17 Cherry Tree Lane.

Michael and Jane can hardly believe their eyes when Mary Poppins appears on their doorstep (*and they don't believe their ears when Georgie tells them that she flew in on the other end of his kite*).

Mary takes the Banks children on an adventure to regain the childhood magic lost when their mother died, with the help of Mary's cousin Topsy (Meryl Streep) and eccentric lamp-lighter Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda).

First of all, the graphics were spectacular.

The special effects are no less than one has come to expect from Disney's reputation, and a definite improvement from the original movie.

In addition to that, the acting is absolutely phenomenal.

There are some moments when the characters differ from their 1963 counterparts, but anything that seems out of place is quickly left behind, replaced with all of the magic and wonder you know and love.

A well-known staple of Disney is their music. Since 1938's Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, their movies have been producing some of the best earworms in the business.

"Mary Poppins Returns" certainly meets all of the expectations when it comes to the songs. In terms of the actual vocals, however, the new film does not quite



meet the very high bar set by the original.

This is mostly due to the unparalleled vocals of Julie Andrews, whose singing voice far outstrips that of Blunt's.

This isn't to say that Blunt isn't a great singer. It's that Andrews is a far better singer than just about anybody.

Another thing worth mentioning is the ridiculously hard choreography.

Especially for the lamplighters, some parts can be incredibly difficult to pull off (*riding bikes on rooftops, etc.*)

In one scene near the beginning, Jack has to light a lamp, ride a bicycle past an apple cart, steal an apple, and throw it to an orphan child, all while singing in a Cockney accent.

Lin-Manuel Miranda accomplishes this feat with unbelievable precision.

Not only has Blunt done an amazing job of making the role of Mary Poppins her own, the entire production is a work of art all of its own.

Sure, we see many of the lovable figures and some of the same sequence of events from the first movie, but the show is also full of new and original characters, songs, and events.

I would highly recommend this film for anybody and everybody.

For those who have seen the first one, it's a fun and new twist on a nostalgic masterpiece.

For those who haven't, it is a soon-to-be favorite to hold close to your heart.

At the end of the day, there will only be one Julie Andrews. There will only be one original "Mary Poppins".

Even so, there will also only be one Emily Blunt, and only one original "Mary Poppins Returns."



By Maria Ciobanu,
14, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Confusing set-up, but a really fun game

"Sensors Alive" is a game built to teach the basics of physics.

It is mostly an app-based game, so a tablet, iPad or phone is required to actually use the toy. You also need eight AAA batteries.

"Sensors Alive" comes with three sensor pods, a base station and instructions. This seems like a very simple game, but, with the help of the app, it is a complete world.

In the game, there are two modes. One is the measurement mode, and the other is the game mode.

The only reason you need to go to the measurement mode is to learn how to take measurements, which you will do through the game mode.

I found that the measurement mode wasn't all that helpful. It basically went over the same thing that the instructions covered.

The hard part was knowing when to put in the sensor pods.

This is how the game works:

You are first welcomed by your personal assistant. She goes over the rules, and you start.

Your objective is to create genimals to repopulate the island of Seropia.

You have two eggs, and you have to create two genimals to create an island.

To create a genimal, you need measurements to determine the personality of the genimal.



For example, if you record high temperatures, your genimal will have scaly skin. You also need measurements to make fruit for your genimal.

If they are happy, they will give you an egg.

To take measurements, you push the button in the middle of one of the sensors. When it is yellow, it is preparing. When it is green, it is recording. When there are no lights, the measurement has been taken.

You will also connect your device to Bluetooth. We found it was best to watch a YouTube video of kids doing it, because we got confused, not knowing that you had to insert the pod into the base station when it came to the characteristics page, and not before.

I really enjoyed how realistic this game was. It makes you feel like you are really on a mission.

And I liked that you got to name your pets.

My only complaints are that A) the instructions weren't clear about when to insert the pod, and B) it takes a lot of time to understand.

This toy is recommended for ages 8-14. I think that this would be a great gift. This is great for STEM teachers too.



By Izzie Intrago,
10, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

Big Nate



Book takes Star Wars fans behind the scenes

The Movie Making Magic of Star Wars: Creatures and Aliens" by Mark Salisbury is a fantastic book, with flaps and flip books inside to pull open!

This terrific book is about what the crew did for costumes and special effects.

The book is divided into sections of each movie, including the most recent ones like Solo, The Last Jedi, and Rogue One.

(T)his behind the scenes sneak-peep book is one for all Star Wars fans out there.

Then, there is an introduction about the background of the series.

One thing I found particularly fun is that there are pictures from the actual making of the movie.

For example, in the section for "A New Hope," it shows a picture of the elephant named Margji, who they cast as the bantha.

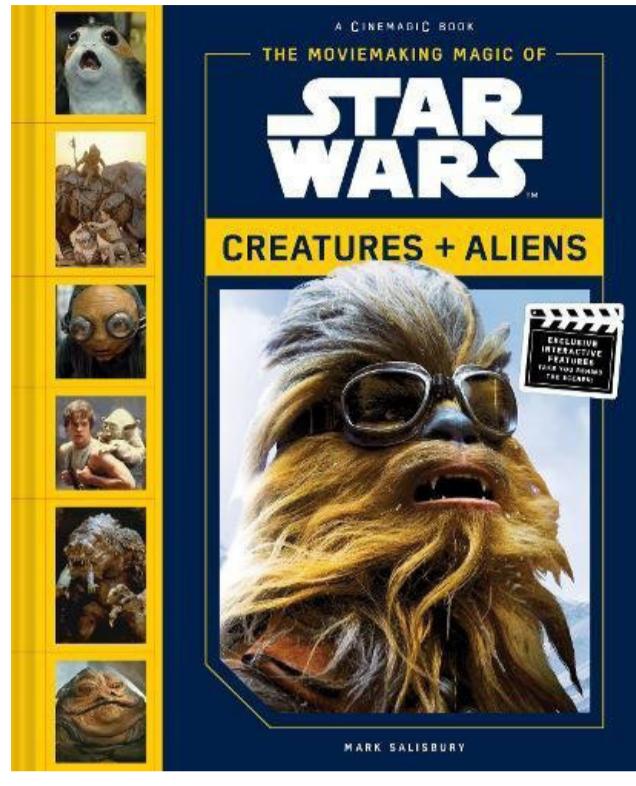
There are lots of cool fun facts and behind the scenes secrets too.

For some of the major characters like Jabba, there is a little booklet that shows what the concept sketches of the character was.

One of the coolest parts of this book is the pages on Chewbacca.

Did you know that his suit was made of yak and mohair fur?

Yoda's part was pretty sweet too.



Yoda was originally a puppet, operated by Frank Oz and was later changed into a CG computer animation. I wanted to see what other people thought of the book, so I asked my family.

My little brother, Gage, is a big Star Wars fan and really enjoyed looking at it.

He said he liked the flaps with pictures underneath. Gage told me he had no criticism of the book.

My dad, also an avid Star Wars fan, thought that the book was neat, but felt it focused more on the minor characters instead of the bigger ones.

His wish was that they had included more major characters rather than creatures like porgs.

My criticisms are that I think the book should have human characters like Han Solo, Luke, Leia, and Obi-wan Kenobi.

It also should have droids, but my favorite character is R2D2, so maybe that's just me.

I also agree with my dad in that there should be more major characters instead of so many minor ones.

Therefore, I would definitely say that this behind the scenes sneak-peep book is one for all Star Wars fans out there.

It was enjoyable and fun to look at.



By Macy Gardner,
13, a CK Reporter
from Golden

Artifacts emerging from the ashes in Brazil

Museum fire is tragedy for more than Brazil

When the first reports came out last week that Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum of Natural History was on fire, they called it a tragedy for the nation. But after more thought, the reports began to call it a catastrophe.

The fire broke out last Sunday, September 2, shortly after the museum had closed for the day.

If anything could go wrong, it did.

In Brazil, someone began to turn to fury. The old museum had been around for centuries, and yet it had been allowed to fall into disrepair.

People began to demonstrate in the streets of Rio de Janeiro, demanding answers as to why the fire had been put out if the building had modern fire-fighting systems in place.

Even though the fire inside the museum failed, and water had to be taken from a lake.

And although the cause of the fire has not yet been determined, it is clear that the building will never have caught fire in the first place.

But it did not take long for Brazil's tragedy to



become a tragedy for the world, as people began to realize that the two million exhibits in the museum were lost. One good piece of news came fairly soon, as Jews from around the world contacted museum officials to let them know that they had copies of their sacred book, that was at the museum.

Scientists throughout the world mourned the loss of specimens because of the research which had been done on them over the years.

Experts from around the world are coming to Brazil to try to save as much from the ashes and rubble as they can.

However, experts came from around the world, along with aid from their governments, and museum officials held a press conference along with German governmental and scientific officials to display some of the first artifacts to have been carefully sifted from the ashes of the fire and restored.

In October, experts had managed to save part of a skull and some bones from "Luzia," an ancient woman whose remains from 11,500 years ago are among the oldest ever found in the Americas.

The latest display showed ancient Brazilian arrowheads, a vase from Peru and an urn that dates back before the coming of the Europeans.

There were also a number of clay figurines from pre-Columbian days that survived the fire.



AP photo: Leo Correa

The press conference announced Germany's gift of \$205,385 to aid in the effort, which may become \$1.3 million as work goes forward.

Mexico and China have also promised aid both in the form of money and of experts to help in trying to sort through the ashes and find what can be saved and restored.

Part of the financial gifts will also help the museum rebuild its collection by purchasing artifacts from around the world to replace those which were lost forever in the fire.

Sudoku

1				2	
		6		1	
			5		3
5	3	2			
3	1				
				4	

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.

The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet, "The Nutcracker," was first performed on this date in 1892 (it wasn't very popular at first), so our answers this week will each begin with "N."

1. The Cornhusker State
2. Term for people who have no permanent home but travel to where their herds can best find grazing.
3. Poseidon, when he's in Rome
4. A whale that lives in the Arctic and has a long, tusk-like, unicorn-like tooth
5. Boulder County town named for a European country full of windmills.
6. French Emperor who nearly conquered all of Europe at the start of the 19th century
7. A very common word for long, thin pasta.
8. The Greek goddess of victory, and also a brand of sportswear
9. This nation has the largest population in Africa and is home to 250 ethnic groups.
10. Comic strip that also includes Sluggo and Aunt Fritzie.

(answers on Page Four)

50 years ago, we got a look at ourselves

Half a century ago, NASA gave us a spectacular gift on Christmas Eve.

The Apollo 8 mission lifted off December 21, 1968, only the second manned flight in the Apollo program and the first to test the powerful Saturn V rockets that were able to lift spacecraft beyond Earth orbit.

Apollo 1 had ended in tragedy in 1967, with three astronauts killed when an oxygen leak became a fire as they sat on the launch pad practicing for their mission. Those were the first deaths in the US space program and made the public far more aware of the dangers of space flight than they had been before.

Empty Apollo capsules were tested, and then Apollo 7 returned astronauts to space, but only for a

mission orbiting the Earth to test controls.

Apollo 8 was the first manned mission to leave Earth's orbit, circling the Moon for a day before returning to a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

It was Christmas Eve when astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders orbited the Moon, the first humans to be able to see the whole Earth at once.

In what was then the most watched TV show ever, they broadcast a picture of the Earth rising over the Moon, read a bit of the Biblical story of the Earth's creation, then said, "we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas and God bless all of you — all of you on the good Earth." photo/William Anders, NASA



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How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Brazilian Museum

Apollo 8

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

Sudoku Solution

1	4	5	3	2	6
3	2	6	4	1	5
2	1	4	5	6	3
6	5	3	2	4	1
4	3	1	6	5	2
5	6	2	1	3	4

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)



10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Nebraska 2. nomad 3. Neptune 4. narwhal 5. Nederland
6. Napoleon 7. noodles 8. Nike 9. Nigeria 10. Nancy

Au Pays d'en Haut (To the High Country)

Chapter Five – The Voyageur's Life

(Our story so far: The canoes of the voyageur brigade are heading up the Ottawa River towards the Great Lakes as Antoine adjusts to the routine and the demands of his new life.)

Antoine had always worked hard at home in St. Sulpice, but the daily work of a voyageur was much harder than anything he had ever done on the farm, even at the hardest, busiest of times.

Each morning began with loading the heavy cargo carefully back into the canoes before dawn, then paddling for hours before a stop for peas and salt pork.

Every hour or so they would take a break and the men would smoke their pipes and talk for a few minutes, but then they went back to work, constantly paddling to the rhythm of their own singing, until it was nearly dark, when they would have to unload the canoes and lift them carefully up on shore before they had dinner and could get a few hours of sleep.

That was the daily schedule, except when they reached a set of rapids.

If it was simply too fast for them to paddle against the current, the milieux would get out, tie two long ropes to the thwarts of the canoes and haul them upstream while the avants called directions from the bow of the canoe to the gouvernails in the stern who would steer past the rocks ahead. Sometimes, the milieux walked up to their waists in the frigid, rushing waters. Other times, they would be on shore, scrambling over rocks and working to keep the ropes from tangling in trees as they pulled the heavy canoes against the strong current.

But if there were actual waterfalls, or the rapids were too fast to haul the canoes through, or if there were so many rocks that the canoes might be damaged, they would have to make a portage.

That meant stopping, unloading the canoes, then carrying the packs and, finally, the canoe itself, through the forest to the next calm spot on the river and loading it again.

At the first portage, Antoine hoisted one of the 90-pound packs onto his back, but then saw other men carrying two at a time. He began to struggle with a second, but Marcel put a hand on his shoulder to stop him.

"Not yet," he said. "You're no good to anyone hurt."

Antoine must have looked angry, or as if his feelings were injured, because Marcel smiled. "In a few days, after you're used to things, you'll carry two," he said, and they started up the path along with the other voyageurs.

Sure enough, after some days had passed, Antoine's shoulders and back stopped aching, the constant paddling began to feel normal, and he was able to carry two packs at a time, at least on shorter portages.

He knew that he was luckier than most of the other pork-eaters making their first trips.

Marcel was watching out for him as a friend, and Jean Baptiste was also helping him learn, though that was likely, he knew, because, whenever the clerk passed out drams of rum after a long haul or a portage, he would hand his cup back to the gouvernail, who was positioned behind him in the canoe.

He had intended to take turns, giving the liquor first to Marcel and then, the next time it was handed out, to Jean Baptiste, but the first time he held it out across the canoe, Marcel had winked and tilted his head to suggest handing it to the other man instead, and Antoine understood his unspoken advice.

It was good advice indeed, because, besides his strong singing voice, Jean Baptiste had a sharp tongue, and, while he was often very funny, his humor often was not very kind.

More than once, he had called out to a young pork-eater who wasn't keeping up the pace, with a comment that brought laughter from the other men but that Antoine was glad had not been directed at him.

He also soon learned that Jean Baptiste had the best stories to tell around the fire at night, and that, when Jean Baptiste began to talk, the other voyageurs, even the older ones, would grow quiet to listen.

Some of his stories were humorous, and the men of their canoe seemed to laugh more often and more loudly than the men around the other fires.

Other times, however, he told stories of previous trips into the pays d'en haut in hushed tones that made everyone lean in towards the fire to listen, like the story he told of the voyageur years ago who had gone off to find berries and was attacked by Iroquois.

He lay wounded in the brush and heard his companions searching for him, but was too weak from his wounds to call out to them, so he wrote a poem that they found only after his death, and that Jean Baptiste recited.

His ghost still haunted the bluffs just across the river from where they were camped that night, the gouvernail warned.

Antoine wondered how a voyageur had learned to read and write, and how he could be too weak to call out yet strong enough to write a long poem, but none of the other voyageurs seemed unsure.

He glanced across the fire to where Marcel was sitting with his pipe in his mouth, but he couldn't tell from the older man's expression whether he was amused by the story or by Antoine's fear.

Still, that ghost story didn't cause him nearly as much worry as he got a few days later, when the milieux were climbing back in after towing the canoe upstream and Jean Baptiste reached down to haul him up.

"Can't let you drown today," the gouvernail said. "Tomorrow's when you find out why they named me 'the Baptiste'."

Antoine didn't know what he meant, but he knew it made the experienced men laugh.

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