School in the Woods Needs a School Zone Sign
By Chelsea O.

In a recent interview with Mr. Hegeman, an alpaca raiser who lives across Vollmer Road from SITW, we asked how long the lack of a speed zone sign in front of the school entrance has presented a problem. He responded: “Ever since the school was built. How long was that? About 20 years ago.”

Originally, Mr. Hegeman had moved out to the Vollmer Road area expecting nothing else to be built on this land. However, eventually, he saw trailers and students on the land across the road. He cited many crashes, including one he was in; he was driving home when a guy t-boned him. The man’s excuse was: “I thought it was a four-way stop.”

This accident shows why we need a school zone sign. Recently, there was a car on fire down the road from School in the Woods. That was mostly because there is no sign! The speed limit is 45, but people are coming down this road at 60 mph!

Cars are loaded with kids and yet all we have is a “Bus Crossing” sign! “That means nothing to people,” states Mr. Hegeman.

Our neighbor continued: “Have you heard the term ‘pay it forward’? Think about things that might happen or are happening, and you do something about it.”

For example, Mr. H. and many other people are volunteering to help this school! Think: Mrs. Gloria, Mr. BXB, the Bookmobile, and many others. So, when you are thinking of things to give thanks for this Thanksgiving, I’d say I’m thankful for volunteers!

He thinks that bus drivers are amazing, and they are! They can see people coming, and even with all those trees, they manage to keep us safe.

Many of us ride buses and we don’t notice how hard we make it for bus drivers. We should not mess around while riding, because it must be stressful enough trying to drive the bus without also calming down a bunch of rowdy students.

The school board has been approached before about having a speed zone sign but, according to Mr. Hegeman, their excuse was: “Nobody walks across the road.”

Mr. H continues: “But some people do cross the road on horses or even bikes. We are going to get hurt. Drivers are crazy nowadays. We need that sign and they aren’t going to give it to us until somebody gets hurt.”

“They need to pay it forward. Buses, cars, and trucks are all coming down. What we really need is a four-way stop” or at least a blinking yellow light.
In the end, I think we all now know very well why we need a school zone sign. Tell your parents, your other friends: School in the Woods NEEDS a school zone sign … before someone does get hurt!

**We Need Better School Zone Signs Near School in the Woods**  
By Caroline C.

Going in and out of the road entrance to School in the Woods is very difficult because people are going so fast that it causes accidents. Most accidents happen when people are not paying attention to their surroundings and they're driving too fast. For example, a bad traffic accident happened on October 12th near our school for these reasons.

I have asked naturalists at SITW and a lot say they do not feel safe. If there is no change, there are going to be more accidents that might involve people from our school.

Right now, there are only a couple of signs to warn drivers about our school.

The posted speed limit is 45 MPH.

**Traffic Problem**  
By Katie B.

At the end of the school day here at School in the Woods, parents are picking their kids up and buses are leaving. However, on Vollmer Road, the other cars are going way too fast. Therefore, we are concerned about how safe this situation is for everyone and what we can do to fix it.

In consideration of this, SITW has been saving money for many things including a school zone sign. Our newspaper club has interviewed local people; it's been bad for too long. Recently, we even had a closed road because of an accident really close to the parking lot.

I interviewed my mom, who is a teacher in District 20. “If we do add a school zone sign, it will kind of get rid of the vibe we want here at SITW. Just the same, in the interest of safety, I still think that SITW should get a school zone sign.”

If you want to help us get this done, contact Mr. Wuerth for ideas about how you can assist this cause.
Endangered Animals in Colorado
By Tommy C.

Endangered species in Colorado? About 48 species in Colorado alone are endangered out of the 750 animals in Colorado. While 702 animal species in Colorado not endangered at this time, we still need to respect and protect all species.

That includes not throwing trash in recycling or vice versa. Using more plastic pollutes the earth which kills animals.

Also, TURKEYS? The wild ones are endangered; if you kill turkeys for Thanksgiving, then eventually there will be no turkeys except farm-raised ones. No more turkeys means no more turkeys for Thanksgiving. And turkeys are amazing.

Turkeys and other animals such as bald eagles, our country mascot, are endangered and we need to protect them. Even other animals should be protected. A well-known endangered animal is the Canada lynx, a really cool animal that eats rabbits.

If the Canada lynx goes extinct, then the population of bunny rabbits will skyrocket. Then the rabbits will die due to lack of food. So, please save animals! I will feel sad :( if you don't.

Canada Lynx: *Lynx canadensis*
By Sophia A.

The Canada Lynx is a native cat to North America. This type of lynx can range in Alaska, Canada, and America. They have enormous paws for walking on top of deep snow, kind of like snowshoes.

This secretive, nocturnal, cat cannot roar; instead, it makes sounds like a scream your brother might make at night.

The cats appear large in the photo above; they only are 15 to 30 pounds. They're not much bigger than a large house cat!
Dear Fellow S.I.T.W. Naturalists,

If we do not find a solution to the gum problem, we will have to eliminate gum for good. Is this what you want for your school? If not, let’s come up with a solution.

It is clear that we have a problem with gum. It has to stop. If it does not, there will be consequences. Naturalists have not been wrapping their gum in their wrappers. We know that students have gum that comes without wrappers. These gums are usually called Ice Cubes or Mentos. In that case, you might just have to just bring a piece of scrap paper in your pocket every single time you have gum.

One of the newspaper club’s family members has kindly reminded us that near every garbage can there is a recycle bin. In that way, you can easily grab a piece of paper and wrap the gum in the paper.

I don’t think that teachers and the garbage team look forward to changing the trash bags since they have gum stuck to it. It’s not like they are saying: “I’m sooo excited to change bags that have gum on them.”

It is also very disgusting to see chewed up gum. Unnecessarily throwing away garbage bags leads to fewer and fewer resources.

We/I at the Newspaper Club have thought of a solution to this gum problem. We have decided to have a vote by written ballot. These are your four options our naturalists were able to vote on. Here is what the ballot looked like and the results:

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We, at the Newspaper Club, have thought of possible solutions to the school's gum problem. We have decided to have a vote. You have four options to vote upon; number them from 1-4 in the order you would prefer. (#1 means that is your first choice.)

___ NOT allow students to chew gum at school. What bothers you about gum?__________________________________________________________

___ Only allow those naturalists who follow all responsible gum-chewing rules to have gum at school.

___ Only let those who have permission slips bring gum to school and chew it.

___ The SITW Adult Team get to decide what we get to do about the gum problem.

Thank you for considering these four solutions. We value the input of every naturalist. We will consider carefully what might be best for our SITW community. Don’t forget to keep wondering, naturalists!

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Sincerely,
Annya W. for The Newspaper Club

The Debate Over Gum in School
By Ben J.

Gum: should we keep it or leave it in School in the Woods? I think we should keep it, but it's my opinion. I don't think we should need a permission slip.

Sophia A. thinks we shouldn't have gum, because sometimes it gets on the floor. It also wastes trash bags when people don't wrap it with their wrapper. And it's disgusting when they chew with their mouth open.

Tommy thinks no gum should be allowed at school because people don't throw it away with a wrapper on it. The waste team has to get a new bag which wastes plastic. Plastic is not a natural earth material, so that kills the earth.

Morgan believes, “Yes, because it’s a fidget for your mouth.”
SITW Teacher Mrs. Seidenberg thinks adults should have gum, because her breath gets bad without it, and if kids can wrap up their gum, they can have it, too.

My dad thinks that gum can help kids focus, but it’s not biodegradable, so it hurts the earth because it won’t go away. My mom says she thinks “no” for my age because of your dental hygiene. Sugary gum can stick to your teeth and you don’t have a chance to brush your teeth at school.

Ads for Wikitown
By Chelsea O.

The Homeless House: “We take people in during snowy days only.” If you want a good shelter during those cold snowy days, go to the Homeless House. Although this wiki-up is unfinished, it will be open soon. To see the Homeless House, for more information, or if you want to use the Homeless House, talk to Easton.

Wikitown Walgreens: “We will give you items for your wiki-up, and we also have things to fix it up.” The wonderful Wikitown Walgreens is located on the “outskirts of wiki town.” For more info, go to Samantha.

Sticks-n-Stuff: “Sticks-n-Stuff sells, well, sticks and stuff.” But not just ordinary sticks; they sell cool sticks! Also, they claim to have great stuff. For more info on Sticks-n-Stuff, find Addison.

Wikitown Amazon: “We call ourselves Wiki Amazon because if you ask for something and we have it, which we probably do, we bring it to your wiki up!” Amazon ... more like amazing-zon! For more info, seek out Gemma.

Random Things: This store is run by Kaylin, Kaitlyn, and myself (Chelsea). We sell writing chalk, interesting rocks, and a wide variety of stumps!” We are located near the leech field. Notice! All our things have been field-tested, so there’s a 99.99% chance you’ll get what you want. The 1 percent is due to weather changes.

The Ink, Pompom, and Brick Business: It’s right in their names; they sell pompoms, bricks, and ink! Prices: ink = 2 corn; pompom = supposedly 3 corn; brick = 5 corn. For more info, visit Caroline.

Trading House: We don’t do corn at the trading house. The trading house is at the same wiki-up as Random Things. You can bring things in to trade with us, place things to trade with at our wiki-up. Our motto is “We’re changing Wikitown one trade at a time.”

Author’s Note – Story behind the story: My brother came to SITW 6 years ago and he said his Wikitown traded items. They were a Wikitown was built off trust. If somebody took a stick from them, they would trust that they were using it because they NEEDED it. Nowadays, people will get mad at you for taking a stick 10 feet from your wiki-up that they aren’t even using, just because they want to sell it! This is the story behind Trading House.

For more info, contact: Chelsea (me) or Kailyn.

Apache Wiki-Up
time to build a wiki-ya

10 min. later

wow cool

would you like to join my wiki-up

OK follow me

To be continued...
Mr. Stansfield’s Presentation on Enos Mills

By Sophia A.

Mr. Stansfield has lived in Colorado for a long time and he is a professional storyteller. Recently, he told School in the Woods a type of story called a chautauqua. A chautauqua is a story where you pretend that you are that person. Mr. Stansfield’s story was about the real-life Enos Mills.

Enos Mills grew up on a ranch; as a child, he had severe stomach problems. These problems had little Enos stuck in bed for up to hours at a time, but enough sad talk.

One day when Enos was about our age, he and his friends went on a nature walk, as we like to do. They took the dogs and went out in the woods. After a while, the boy noticed an animal flash by. The dogs didn't see it, so that's good Enos thought. But the dogs did see and chased it. It did not take long for the boys to find out that it was a skunk! All of the boys had to sleep in their barns that night. Enos’ sister came with a bucket of water for Enos to wash off!

Later in life, Enos Mills was one of the founding fathers for Rocky Mountain National Park. (See: Rocky Mountain National Park: A 100-Year Perspective with Enos Mills’ original diaries alongside writings by T.A. Barron 100 years later and pictures by John Fielder.)

Nature Field Trips

By Katie B.

We have studied with other naturalists, and have done many activities outside, but our biggest memories in the wild are our nature field trips. The most exciting field trip was when the naturalists had breakfast at school!

I was very anxious on the overnight field trip, but it turned out so well with everybody separated into groups. We got to use telescopes, roast smores, use night vision, and finally get ready for bed. Dinner was pizza and veggies, then we started for camp.

At night, we heard owls and coyotes, it was FREEZING. In the morning, we took a long hike back, observing many animal signs. Upon returning to SITW, for breakfast we had either left-over pizza with fruit or oatmeal with fruit.

The next important field trip we took was the Perimeter Hike field trip. We spent all school day hours in the woods! What a way to learn!
**Snakeheads**  
By Morgan H.

Snakeheads are odd creatures. For example, they can live on land for 3 days, but they can barely move on land. That would not make them the backyard assassin like they are in some movies!! They can breathe air which allows them to live in water that other fish can’t live in.

Originally from Thailand, someone brought live snakeheads to Florida. The bullseye snakehead was first found in a golf course lake. The northern snakehead lives at Merland, just about 60 miles from Washington D.C.

Some people call snakeheads “fishzilla.” Snakeheads have 100,000 young per year; the young are born red in color, not black and white. Giant snakeheads can be as heavy as a 4-year-old child and they can double in size in only a month.

When young they can eat finger size food. They attack in packs until the late juvenile stage. Snakeheads will eat anything moving, including snakes ... people say they are worse than piranhas.

They are sold as food for $15-20. It is said that if you eat one, then you will heal more quickly.

{Source: River Monsters by Jeremy Wade}

**Saving Resources**  
By Katie B.

Here at School in the Woods, our saying is **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. Unfortunately, many individuals have been doing things like taking too many paper towels or throwing gum in the trash unwrapped. Because of these reasons we’re throwing out way too many trash bags and dry paper towels.

To help people be responsible about how many paper towels are being used, we put up signs for people saying: “Use only ONE paper towel to dry your hands,” but for some reason, it still doesn’t work.

Please help us save Our Earth!