

The Pointer Star

Guiding you the Pointer School Way



Spring Term 2026

Blackheath, London

Raising Funds For A Special Charity

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

In February last year, I wrote a proposal to Mrs Crookes for a Pointer School newspaper.

I wanted to create a newspaper in my own time for pupils that would include news about our school as well as some fun articles to encourage reading across the year groups. I also, however, wanted to use the newspaper to help raise funds for a charity that is important to me.

This charity is called **Magic Breakfast** and they are working to ensure that no child or young person in the UK starts the day too hungry to learn. As well as providing breakfasts directly to schools where required, they also work with the government to aim for a long time change to address child morning hunger. I'm hoping that sales of this newspaper will help fund a number of breakfasts for children who need them.

£5 could feed a child and give their school support for an entire month.

£14 could give 50 children a nourishing breakfast to start their day and £42 could give a whole class breakfast for a whole week.

I am very lucky that I can enjoy my breakfast at home each morning or like some children, attend the Breakfast Club at the Pointer School. I couldn't imagine being so hungry that I wasn't able to concentrate in my lessons. All proceeds from the newspaper will go to this amazing charity. Thank you!



WELCOME TO THE POINTER STAR!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

The Pointer Star is your new newspaper, produced each term that will keep you updated on life at our incredible school.

I will aim to bring you interesting updates on events across the school - achievements, sports fixtures, behind the scenes along with interesting articles to keep you entertained.

My name is Anais Lefebvre and I have a keen interest in news and journalism and I thought a school newspaper would be a wonderful

project to challenge myself and learn all about researching articles and editing a newspaper for pupils to read.

If you are interested in contributing a story or idea for the newspaper, please do get in touch with me. I would love to hear from other pupils or staff!

The beautiful painting of The Pointer School above is by the wonderful artist Martin Millard.

A fun Spring Term ahead!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

You may have thought that last term was incredibly busy with so many exciting events taking place. We had dance and music competitions and a Music and Drama Showcase at the Blackheath Halls. So many talented pupils! There were also lots of sports fixtures across the school.

The Year 2 children also attended a first aid event and Year 3 were introduced to some fantastic shadow puppetry but the new Spring term at Pointers has many more wonderful events planned.

2026 celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Pointer School and there will be a number of exciting events planned throughout the year. More details on some of those events are inside this edition.

The Spring term also sees exciting day excursions across the Year groups and a Residential trip in Essex at an activity centre for the Y3 pupils.

March is also incredibly busy across the school with World Book Day, an exciting Science Week and there are also Neurodiversity Week events planned.

Year 6 will also start preparing for their end of year Production Show. See inside for more details!

Mr Hallas will also welcome everyone in Years 4-6 along to the Pointers Swimming Gala on 13th March.

These are just a few examples of some of the events that are being organised at our school. I am sure there will be lots to write about in the next edition of The Pointer Star!

School Report

SPORT

Making a Big Splash at the Pointer School Swimming Gala!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE



The third Pointer School swimming gala will take place on Friday 13th at the London Aquatics Centre for the Y4-Y6 pupils.

Some of you may know that the London Aquatics Centre was built especially for the 2012 Olympics where so many of the Olympic athletes won medals at various swimming and diving events. You may remember Tom Daley winning bronze for Diving or Becky Adlington winning Bronze medals for the 400m and 800m freestyle swimming events.

The incredible pool was also used for the Paralympics where Ellie Symonds won 2 Gold medals as well as breaking the world record for the 400m freestyle. Inspirational indeed!

The renowned architect Zaha Hadid designed the building which is now famous across the globe. I think the building itself looks like a giant crashing wave - its very cool!

In previous years, the Pointer School pupils were lucky enough to participate in the swimming gala and competed in heats for boys and girls. Those who won the heats then participated in the overall finals for their year groups. Medals were awarded to the children in 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions.

Last year, there was some incredible swimming from all of the pupils and the atmosphere was electric! Parents were also able to watch and cheer the children on! The heats were all very exciting and we were all very proud of each other's achievements.

Good luck to all of the children who are taking part - it is a spectacular day! Many thanks to all of the teaching staff who look after us and help to organise all of the swimming heats.



SPECIAL EVENT

75 Years of The Pointer School!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

Did you know that The Pointer School will be 75 years old this year?

There will be a number of events scheduled to celebrate this incredible anniversary.

The Pointer School was originally founded by sisters, Muriel and Dela Pointer as a dance school for children. The dance school was very successful and won many national competitions and awards.

Following their success, the Pointer sisters wanted to expand the range of education that they could offer and in 1950, they purchased the building on Stratheden Road and founded The Pointer School.

I imagine school was very different in 1950 compared to the types of lessons that we receive today. What lessons do you think were taught then? Perhaps some of your parents attended the school? It would be great to hear their memories of those days!

Later this month, parents, staff and former pupils will have the opportunity to attend an incredible gala dinner at another local historical place - aboard The Cutty Sark ship in Greenwich.

Guests will be able to enjoy a wonderful meal and view an exhibition of the history of the school as well.

Most importantly, the celebrations will also include a special charity auction that will raise much needed funds for three local charities.

One of these charities is the Greenwich Foodbank, which

I am sure most of you have heard of the foodbank as we donate groceries and provisions to them each year.

The second charity is the Greenwich Youth Works for Christ who offer support to the children and teenagers of the community in churches and schools.

The third charity that is included in the auction is called the Magpie Dance charity who help provide dancing and movement classes for children and adults with learning disabilities. I hope lots of funds are raised to help all three incredible charities.

How special to be able to celebrate The Pointer School on board the iconic Cutty Sark!

I will share some details of some of the other special events that will take place to commemorate the 75th anniversary in the next edition.

How much do you know about the Cutty Sark? Have you visited the museum onboard the ship?

Here are some amazing facts that you may not know about this impressive ship.

The name of the ship comes from a famous Scottish poem called Tam O'Shanter written by Robert Burns. Cutty Sark actually means "short shirt" or nightgown worn by the witch Nannie in the poem. You can even see a wooden witch figurehead onboard in honour of the poem!

Built in 1869 in Scotland, The Cutty Sark was used to take tea from China to London and was one of the fastest sailing ships of its time.

Over 650 men served on the ship, many of them only taking the voyage once and they came from many different countries and backgrounds. The ship has survived heavy seas, war and fires to now be located in Greenwich.



MUSIC and DRAMA

A Showcase of Incredible Talent!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE



Prior to the February half term holiday, a number of children showcased their incredible talents in music, drama and dance at The Blackheath Halls.

The Performing Arts Showcase was a wonderful evening of enchanting and delightful performances. The Chamber Choir opened the event with performances of Shadow Maker and a fun version of Humpty Dumpty including some interesting choreography. We saw the LAMDA students perform excerpts of Little Women, Shrek and New Beginnings.

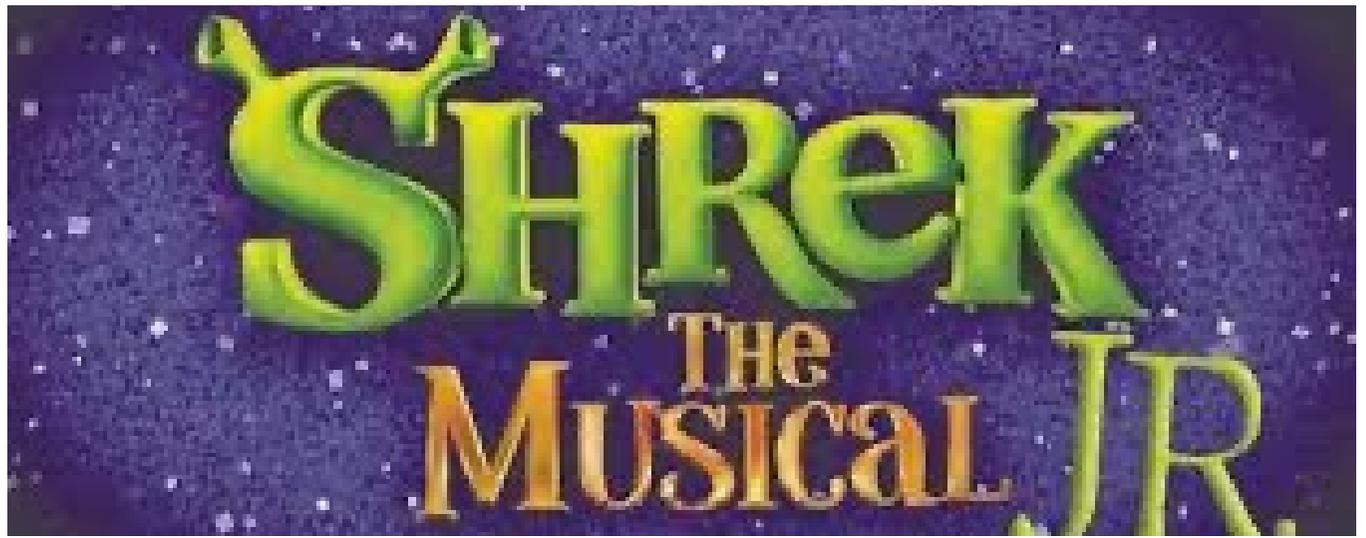
The orchestra gave a dazzling performance of the Star Wars theme tune whilst we saw impressive renditions of various types of music played by students on a multitude of impressive instruments - it really was a wonderful evening!

Giorgia in Year 6, winner of the Pointer School dance competition performed her wonderful dance routine and the joint winners of the Music Competition also performed their pieces in the showcase.

There were also wonderful singers who sang diverse songs by Handel, Elton John along with songs from Mary Poppins, The Aristocats and the Hamilton musical.

Dylan and Lukas from Year 6 performed Duke Ellington's Satin Doll on the piano and trombone. RECRUIT band (Anais, Anya and Arjuna, also in Year 6) closed the evening performances with their own composition, Whatever.

The event was a great way to wrap up an exciting term at Pointers and we must also thank all of the individual music tutors, our LAMDA teacher, Miss Fardell, our dance teacher, Miss Beecham and Mrs Kemp for supporting all of the children with their performances.



THEATRE

It's Showtime!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

It will soon be that exciting time of year when the Y6 pupils perform in their theatre and musical performance.

This year, Pointers will showcase a riveting performance of Shrek The Musical Jr!. The pupils will soon be working incredibly hard on auditions and practising their lines!

Meanwhile, thought I'd share a few interesting facts about the show...

The musical is based on the Oscar winning animated film, Shrek which was created by Dreamworks. Expect a "big, bright, beautiful world" as the ogre, Shrek takes us on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance for himself.

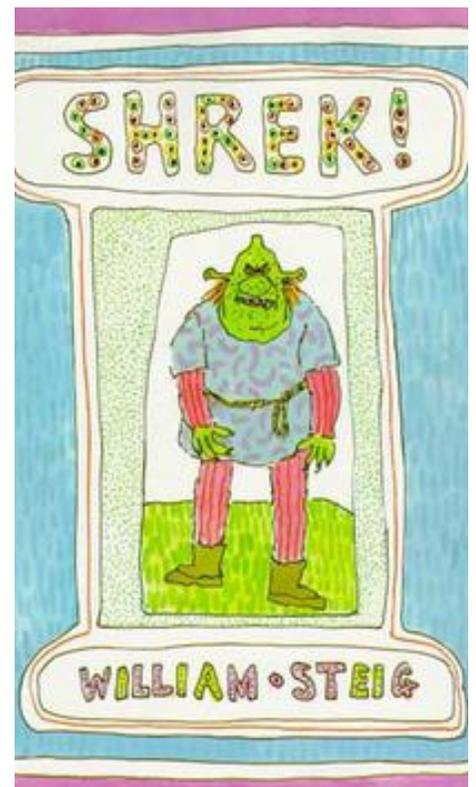
I won't share too many details on the plot and therefore spoil the show but it is a fantastic story of compassion, friendship and embracing our own uniqueness.

The first Shrek! movie was released in 2001 and was an incredibly successful adaptation of a novel of the same name by the author, William Steig. His book was released in 1990 and told the story of a monster who lives in a swamp who enjoys causing misery. His parents soon send him out to cause mischief and he ultimately meets a princess and they live "horribly ever after!"

I'm sure you'll find the Pointers Y6 version of Shrek incredibly funny and captivating! We can wait to start auditions and rehearsals soon! I am sure you will love all of the fairytale characters and creatures that you will meet along the way!

Thank you as ever to Mrs Kemp who organises and arranges all of the performances. The show will take place at the Greenwich Theatre on 24th and 25th June. More details to follow soon.

Tickets will be available imminently!



First Edition of Shrek! By William Steig, first published in 1990.

MUSIC

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

National Choral Competition



The Pointer School Chamber Choir have successfully reached the finals of the National Choir Competition for the second successive year.

The final will take place on 3rd March at the impressive Birmingham Symphony Halls.

The competition is the biggest community and school choir competition in the UK. It's also hosted by the wonderful charity, Barnados and raises funds that help them in their work to enable children to be safe, happy and healthy.

Last year, there were over 1000 performers and we were treated to wonderful performances by

Choirs from a number of places including Wales, Northern Ireland and Cumbria in the north of England.

16 Junior choirs will compete (including Pointers where children are aged up to 13 years old) and 14 Senior choirs will also compete at the Finals.

It's a really exciting day and being on the stage at the Birmingham Symphony Hall is incredible. The Chamber Choir have been working really hard and are so supportive of each other too.

The competition raised over £35,000 for Barnados as well last year which is so incredible.

INTERVIEW

Be Curious!

A regular Q&A Series

This term, we asked Mrs Crookes some of your intriguing questions!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

Anais: I believe that an intriguing question is one that sparks curiosity.

So, who in history would you like to ask a question to and what would you ask them?

Mrs Crookes: I would love to meet Arthur Wellington and see if he was as grumpy as people said he was. Then, we could have a cup of tea and I would ask him all about the Battle of Waterloo.

Anais: What is your favourite book and why?

Mrs Crookes: My favourite children's book is currently the Skandar series by A.F Steadman which a pupil in Y6 recommended to me last year. My favourite grown-up book is called The Leopard by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. The sentences are so beautiful and give me goosebumps.



I first read it when I was 17 and I read it at least once each year.

Anais : If you could be a fly on the wall anywhere, what would you do?

Mrs Crookes: I would buzz around the school and see what the children get up to when they think no one is watching!

Anais: If you weren't the Head teacher at Pointers, which other job would you most like to do and why?

Mrs Crookes: That is hard to imagine as I love my job. When I was little, I wanted to be a palaeontologis, so maybe something to do with dinosaurs.

Anais: If you could invent anything in the world, what would you invent and why?

Mrs Crookes: I would like to invent a time turner like Hermione in Harry Potter so that I could have more hours in the day.

Anais: If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?

Mrs Crookes: A dog because they sleep and eat all day. It looks like a great life!

Anais: What is your favourite word and what does it mean?

Mrs Crookes: "Petrichor" - it means the special smell you get when it first rains after it's been dry for a long time.

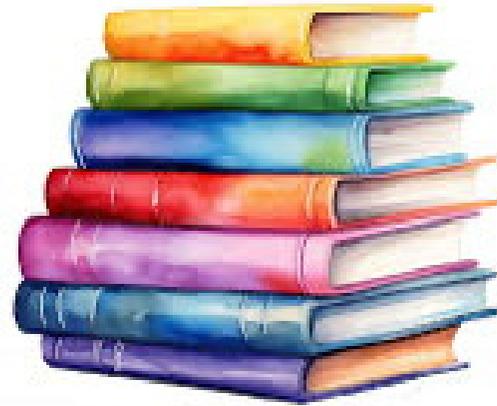
Anais: What has been your proudest ever moment?

Mrs Crookes: Having my little boy and being Head at Pointers!

Anais: Which member of staff do you nominate to answer my questions next time?

Mrs Crookes: Mr Hallas!

Anais : Thank you so much for your time and for your very interesting answers.



BOOKS

Page Turner: 3 Brilliant Book Recommendations

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE



The Cafe At The Edge of the Woods by Mikey Please is a sweet picture book for children at Marnic. The book tells the tale of Rene who opens a cafe at the edge of an enchanted forest and the illustrations are incredible! I really enjoyed the rhyming of the book and some of the gruesome choices of those who visit the cafe!

A new release that I've been excited about is the new book from my favourite author, Cressida Cowell.

This is a spinoff book that follows the protagonist, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third and his dragons, Toothless and Windwalker at the Training School for vikings and dragons.

As per the original series of books, Hiccup finds himself on an amazing adventure facing imminent doom! The book has some wonderful illustrations and I would recommend this book for readers in Y2 and above before they start to read the main series.

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Randell is one of my favourite books this year. A fantasy story with griffins, dragons and magic. This book is so vivid and creative and I would highly recommend !

HISTORY

Bygone Blackheath

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE

Our incredible school is set in the village of Blackheath but how much do you know about the history of the area?

Blackheath got its name from the rich dark earth of the heath and not as some believe, from the Black Plague.

The heath was a very famous meeting point for battles and rebellions. The heath was also the site for royal pageantry throughout history.

It is believed that Henry VIII met his 4th wife, Anne of Cleves on Blackheath.

Blackheath was also notorious for highwaymen during the 17th century who would target the stagecoaches travelling to London and steal the riches. It's believed that Dick Turpin frequented the heath for this purpose.

Sport is also an important part of the history of Blackheath. England's first ever golf course was founded here in 1608 by King James I while we also have the oldest rugby and hockey clubs in the world.

The London Marathon also began in Blackheath in 1981.

BOOKS

The Year of Reading

If you are into it, read into it!

WRITTEN BY ANAIS LEFEBVRE



Did you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading? Many people no longer make time to enjoy reading and this is a special campaign to encourage children and adults to read more and make it a regular part of their lives.

As you know, reading is such an important part of our lessons at Pointers and it's important to read as much as we can to help build our confidence, our vocabulary and helps us be incredibly creative.

Children and adults can also use their interests and hobbies as a way of reading about the things that they enjoy. For example, you may like football, so you could search for books in the library that tell stories of footballers or read a book to learn about the history of your favourite team. You may like a certain cartoon character or film and there are often books created for these too that you may enjoy.

Whatever your interest - you can be sure that there will be a book that you can read about it. It's good to use your hobbies as a way to read for pleasure and find a different type of book that you may not usually read at school.

The Pointer School will also be celebrating the Year of Reading and there will be some events to celebrate the joy of reading.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 5th March and you are encouraged to dress up as your favourite book character. It's so much fun learning about your friend's favourite books on the day and what inspired them. Maybe you'll get an idea for other books to enjoy too!

There will also be a Book Drive to collect any spare books that you no longer need at home and these will be donated to other children to encourage them to find a love of reading too. Bring your books to the hut in the Marnic playground on Tuesday 3rd March.

Keep your eyes peeled for some other events planned as well!

I thought it would be helpful to give you some ideas of other ways you and your friends and family could use to read some more.

Let me know your favourite ways of enjoying reading and books.

1. We often have D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) Time at school but have you tried it at home. Encourage your family to try this at home, even if it's just for 10 mins. Tell them to find their favourite book, magazine, comic, anything at all, as long as they read something! Then, have a chat afterwards and ask them to share what they enjoyed about it.
2. Do a book swap with your friends. Do they have a favourite book that they really enjoyed? Can you swap with your favourite? Ask them why it's their favourite book - what type of book is it? Adventure, Murder Mystery etc? If you enjoy it, perhaps you can find other books of the same genre?
3. Younger children can use picture books and tell their own stories based on their favourite characters. Have each member of the family take turns to add their ideas to the story and use your imagination!
4. Ask your parents, grandparents or teachers what their favourite childhood book was as you may enjoy it too.
5. Start a book club with your friends. Choose a small list of books to read and put the names in a hat. Choose one and everyone reads this book and meets to discuss the characters, plot and what you like or dislike about the story. Then you move onto the next book etc.
6. Authors usually do events in bookshops - perhaps you could go and meet them and ask questions about what inspired them to write.
7. Audio books are a great way to listen to books, especially on those long, boring car journeys. There are so many available that you'll definitely find something to keep you entertained.
8. I love asking the librarian or bookshop for suggestions of books on particular topics. They usually love reading and have so much knowledge - so ask away. They love it!

Puzzles

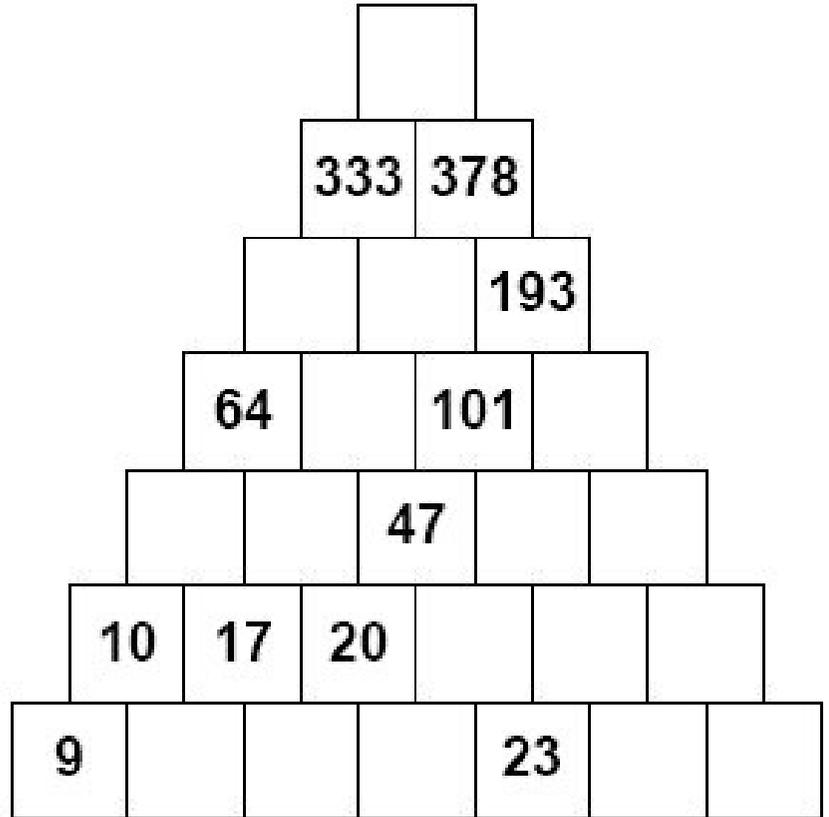
Word Search

Note: Words are hidden in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| North Star | Virgo | Galaxy | Sagittarius |
| Mars | Lyra | Night | Constellations |
| Taurus | Cassiopeia | Andromeda | Centaurus |
| Big Dipper | Astronomy | Sky | Celestial |
| Ursa Major | Sirius | Leo | Polaris |
| Jupiter | Gemini | Glow | Milky Way |
| Perseus | Saturn | Comet | Meteor |

Number Pyramid



Directions : The rules are simple: the value in a square is the sum of the two numbers directly beneath it. This means that there are two ways to work out the possible value in a square: if you know the two values beneath it already then you can just add them together to find the value of this cell.

Jokes!

Why did the star want to go to school?

It wanted to be a little brighter!

WHAT IS MONEY CALLED IN SPACE?

STARBUCKS!!

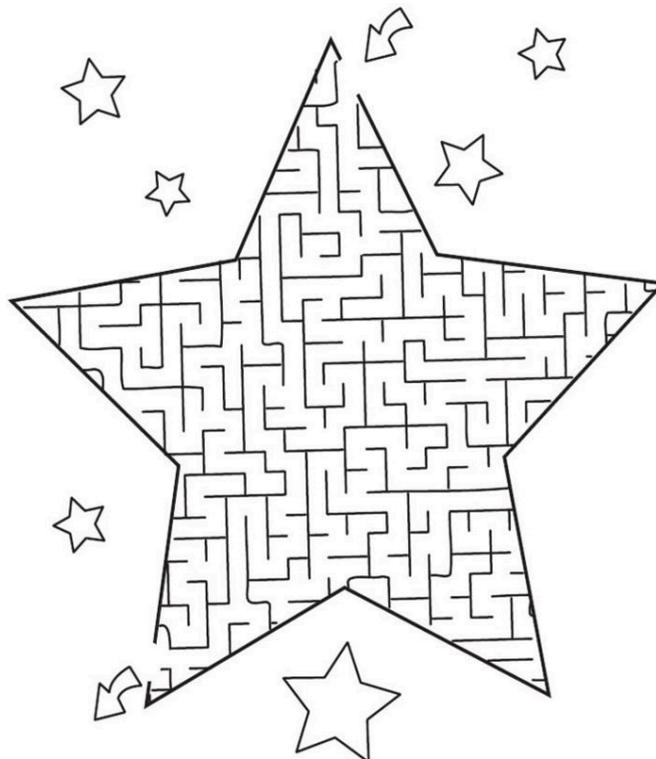
What does a star win in a competition?

The constellation prize!

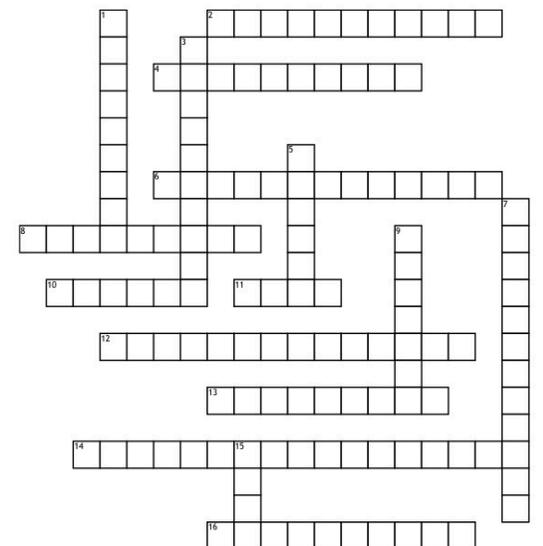
WHAT DO STARS LIKE TO READ?

COMET BOOKS!!

Star Maze



Crossword



- Across**
2. Pair of stars that revolve around each other and are held together by gravity.
 4. Nightly luminous stars from main sequence stars that are more massive than the sun, which becomes larger than giants in their third stage.
 6. An observed change in the frequency of a wave when the source or observer is moving.
 8. The colors in the spectrum of a side moving toward earth are shifted slightly toward blue.
- Down**
10. A collection of stars, dust, and gas bound together by gravity.
 11. A large celestial body that is composed of gas and that emits light.
 12. A spiral galaxy in which the sun is one of hundreds of billions of stars.
 13. The study of the origin, properties, and evolution of the universe.
 14. The brightness of a star as seen from earth.
 16. Unknown material
- Down**
1. an object so massive and dense that even light cannot escape its gravity.
 3. The total amount of energy stars give off each second.
 5. A large cloud of gas or dust in interstellar space; a region in space where stars are born.
 7. The coldest temperature possible.
 9. 14 billion years ago, a sudden event that sent all matter and energy outward in all directions.
 15. A star that suddenly becomes brighter.