



The Bowfin Inquirer



March 2025

SPRING THINGS A Contest for our School- Aged Children

We are big fans of the arrival of each year's vernal equinox. In fact, this year we've gotten so excited about it, we've decided to hold a contest to celebrate!

To enter this BI contest, we would like to have our Bowfin or Sailfish school aged children (ages 5-17) create and submit to us an original **Spring-themed**

object of art (a drawing, painting, or small sculpture), or

literature (a poem, short story, or brief essay), or

research essay (a write-up, for example on a scientific topic).

We ask that the child not borrow directly from an internet source, except if it is to support a research essay (in which citations should be given)

The child's age will be taken into account in judging the entries, awarding these top 3 prizes:

1st place: \$50 2nd place \$30 3rd place \$20

All compliant entries not winning one of these top prizes will be awarded \$2 honorable mention prizes.

Deadline for entries (dropping off at 344 Bowfin) will be April 30th. You may want to contact us at editor@bowfininquirer.com to arrange a time for your drop-off.

Neighbors interested in helping to judge - please let us know!

Aaron's Question Column



Albert and sister Maya as children

Question(s): March 14, 1879 was Albert Einstein's birthdate. Despite his obvious brilliance in adulthood, I have heard that he had significant difficulties in school during his earliest years. Is that actually true? If so, has that been ascribed to some cause (say, a medical or psychological reason)? - Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Contrary to popular myth, Albert Einstein did not struggle academically as a student. While he occasionally clashed with the rigid, authoritarian teaching methods of his schools, his performance in subjects like mathematics and physics was strong from the start. He had a deep curiosity and an independent way of thinking, often questioning both the material he was taught and the traditional educational system itself.

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

TEAMS' MATES

TEAM	CITY/REGION	DIV/CONF
a Guardians	D Cleveland	3 CENTRAL
b Seahawks	A Seattle	6 WEST
c Hurricanes	F Carolina	4 METROPOLITAN
d Sharks	H San Jose	2 PACIFIC
e Rams	G Los Angeles	6 WEST
f Raptors	K Toronto	1 ATLANTIC
g Celtics	J Boston	1 ATLANTIC
h Rockets	L Houston	5 SOUTHWEST
i Tigers	B Detroit	3 CENTRAL
j Penguins	I Pittsburgh	4 METROPOLITAN
k Oilers	E Edmonton	2 PACIFIC
l Grizzlies	C Memphis	5 SOUTHWEST

This Month's Quiz

IN SUBORDINATE

To solve this puzzle, please follow the instructions – don't be insubordinate! 😊

Each of the following definitions describes a word that uses only the letters from the word SUBORDINATE – that is, these 11 letters: A,B,D,E,I,N,O,R,S,T,U

Each answer word is one letter shorter than its predecessor, with the first word being of length 10.

When you've figured out the words, their first letters taken in order will spell out an 8-letter word that, when placed after the word SPRING, forms the common name for the flowers pictured.

1. lines that mark the limits of an area
2. leading or traveling toward the general direction of a sunrise

3. a small rocky body orbiting the sun
4. not having received a rating or assessment
5. traveled from place to place, especially for pleasure
6. not moving or not able to move
7. the currency used by member countries of the European Union
8. the upper layer of grassland that is harvested for transplanting

SPRING _____



Claytonia virginica

(Definitions were adapted from an internet source)

Aaron's Answers continued from pg 1

This tendency sometimes put him at odds with his teachers, but it wasn't because he lacked ability—it was because he refused to blindly accept what he was told without understanding it for himself.

Einstein's challenges in school had more to do with the structure of the education system than with his own abilities. The rigid, rote learning methods of the time didn't fit his preference for exploration and creative problem-solving. He wasn't the type to just memorize facts and formulas—he wanted to break them apart, understand how they worked, and apply them in new ways. This mismatch between his natural learning style and the expectations of traditional schooling made formal education frustrating for him at times, and his unwillingness to conform only made things worse in the eyes of his teachers.

Despite these early struggles, there is no evidence that Einstein had any medical or psychological condition that affected his learning. If anything, his defiance of conventional education was a sign of his brilliance, not a weakness. His later groundbreaking contributions to physics prove that thinking differently isn't a flaw—it's an advantage. His success shows that intelligence isn't about blindly following rules but about challenging them when they don't make sense.

Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

April 15, 2025

**Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at**

**344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by**

**adding a NOTE on our website:
BOWFININQUIRER.COM**



He's Our Handyman

by Eve Lerman (344)

Looking for an experienced handyman to fix what ails your home? We had some small projects – replacing broken towel bars, loose TP holders, leaky faucets – and wanted to build up enough inventory to make a reasonably sized job.

While taking a walk in FC one day, I spotted a truck in front of a home. On its side panels were painted the word “Handyman” along with the various skills of the licensed owner. That got me to thinking we didn't need to continue living with items needing repair, so we gave the number a jingle and reached Melvin Paniagua, a lovely man with years of experience and a caring personality. He was reasonably priced, so we engaged him, and he did an excellent job of replacing those broken items!

We were so pleased with the work that we hired him a couple weeks later for a much larger job: replacing the worn carpeting in our family room with a nice new faux wood laminate, as well as repainting several walls in our kitchen and bathrooms. We were “flooded” by the quality of the work!

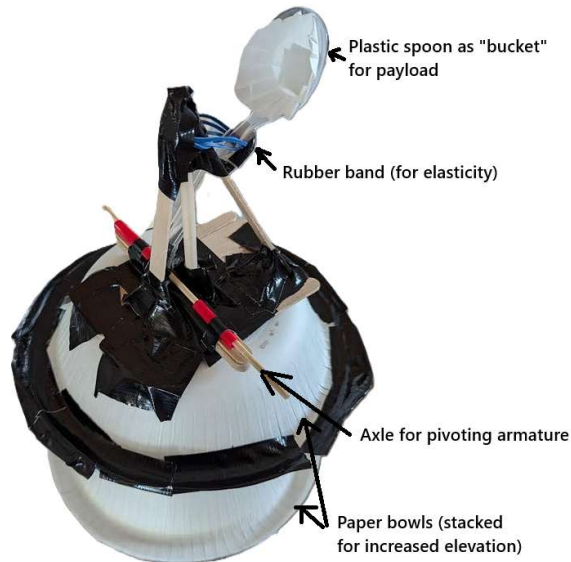
Jerry (who readily admits to not being “handy”) and I are so glad we now have a person we can count on to handle everyday repair projects we've tended to neglect.

HOLI

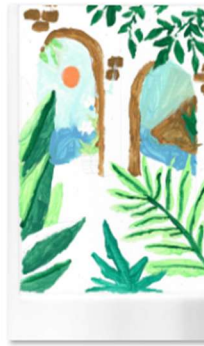
Holi, the vibrant festival of colors, is celebrated to honor Lord Krishna and to celebrate the triumph of good over evil. In India, Holi is celebrated for two days. On the First day, people light up a bonfire to symbolize victory of good over evil, whilst on the 2nd day, people throw colored powder and water to celebrate with the bright colors!

My family and I celebrate Holi by going to Leo Ryan Park. In this park, anyone can experience the joy and fun of this amazing festival! -- **Guchu K., 5th grade student**

Editor's note: Guchu and his team created this 1st prize winning catapult for his elementary school competition.



Artworks by Meera



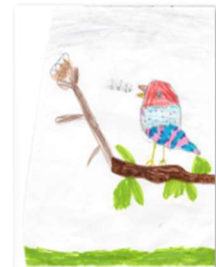
painting of natural beauty



yin and yang



penguin



singing bird



girl with purse