



Philadelphia Flower Show

By Madelyn Primiano

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year. We get to witness the world come alive once again. Leaves sprout from the trees and the grass becomes a bit greener. One of the most memorable parts about spring is the flowers that bloom. Philadelphia shows the beauty of flowers through their annual Philadelphia Flower Show. Attracting more than 250,000 people every year, it is the largest and oldest indoor event of its kind. Each year, the event has a specific theme. This year, the theme is “Flower Power.” Previous themes include, “Wonders of Water” in 2018, “Holland: Flowering the World” in 2017, and “Explore America: 100 Years of the National Park Service” in 2016. The show is held in the Philadelphia Convention Center on March 2nd to the 10th.



The flower show has been around since 1829. It is run by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). The Philadelphia Flower Show brings hundreds of florists, designers, landscapists, and students who all have one thing in common. They all create the beautiful displays you can find at the show. But the Flower Show is more than just large, beautiful displays of flowers. The show also has parties, events, and workshops. For example, patrons are able to take an early morning tour before the show is opened to the public in order to avoid the crowds.



So why go to the Philadelphia Flower Show? Well, the answer is quite clear. It is a breath-taking experience that shows the beauty of nature and horticulture. Hard-working people put their time and effort into the show to make it look it's best. And according to reviews online, their commitment can truly be seen in the final product. Overall, the Philadelphia Flower Show is a beautiful event to experience. If you enjoy flowers or plan on going into that field of work, I'd greatly suggest going to the show. If that's not you then just enjoy the gorgeous scenery and take in every second of the experience. Spring, in my

opinion, is a very pleasant time of the year. After a long, cold winter, spring makes everything look more beautiful, especially the plants that regrow. It's a time that holds the perfect warm weather with chilled breezes. Animals come out to bathe in the long-wanted sunlight, and the birds sing with joy now that spring has finally returned. I find it very lovely and relaxing to watch. These calming elements of spring are represented in the Philadelphia Flower Show. So go experience this gorgeous and almost magical event yourself, you won't regret it.

Red Cross Month

By: Tyler Herbert

March is Red Cross month. The Red Cross is a charitable organization. It depends on its volunteers, donations, and generosity.

Their primary "mission" is to "prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and generosity of donors." The Red Cross responded incredibly quickly on 9/11 in New York, The Pentagon, and outside of Shanksville. In the same year when we went to Afghanistan, Red Cross members begin serving the troops.

Their primary "vision" is to always be there when they're needed. That everyone who needs help receives "care, shelter, and hope." Their communities are "ready and prepared for disaster" That "everyone in our country has access to safe, lifesaving blood and blood products. They also believe that "All members of our armed services and their families find support and comfort whenever needed." And lastly, "In an emergency, there are always trained individuals nearby, ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives."

In conclusion, the Red Cross has helped millions of people. It more than deserves it's own month. It's members and donors deserve all the credit in the world. If you want to be a part of something great, and to celebrate red cross month, donate and/or join today.

The Leprechaun

By: Alisa Valdez

Many people think that Leprechauns are friendly, sweet, and small people dressed in all green protecting a pot of gold. But what many people don't know is that that is far from the truth. In the beginning maybe they were friendly but with people trying to capture them because of their status or to take their gold it can make someone become bitter and scary over time. Now in today's world no one has seen a leprechaun but you should be fearful if you do.

Old Irish folklore would tell stories of how leprechauns would deceive people and trick them so they can save their pot of gold. At first he'll try to trick you like he might show you the location of a buried pot of gold by tying a ribbon around a tree, but when you came back the next day, he'd have put ribbons around all the trees to prevent you from finding it. But in other stories, a leprechaun might kidnap you, replace your infant with a changeling, or even kill you if you came too close his treasure.

The Iditarod

By Miechel Krulik

Alaska, known for its cold weather and the most famous dog sled race, The Iditarod! The Iditarod is a dog sled race that starts in Anchorage, Alaska and ends in Nome, Alaska. This race is 938 miles long and usually lasts nine to twelve days. The race ends when the last musher reaches the finish line. The Iditarod happens on March 2nd this year, you



can find the schedule of when to watch the Iditarod [here!](#)

History of the Iditarod

The Iditarod was originally created to save dog sledding culture and to save the Alaskan huskies which were dying out due to the fact that snowmobiles existed and people preferred that over dog sledding. The Iditarod was started by Joe Redington Sr. who is considered the father of the Iditarod. Joe Redington was originally from Pennsylvania but moved to Alaska, as he was crossing the border someone gave him a puppy which happened to be a sled dog (some people think that the puppy was a sign that he would in the future he would start a new career in dog sledding). Once Joe was settled into his new Alaskan life, he got even more sled dog and even started “Knik Kennels”, by his second year in Alaska he had over forty dogs.



When Joe was younger he enlisted into the army, he joined the 6th field artillery, being in the military would get him his first big job in Alaska. After he finished that job he joined the air force which he did Rescue and Reclamation. During this time Joe used his dog to help him find lost servicemen in the mountains and bring out their remains. One day a really bad accident happened, a navy bomber called the Neptune had into crashed Mt. Susitna, the crash killed all eleven of its crew, three attempts were made to find the bodies. After the attempts failed they decided to wait until the weather cleared up a bit. Finally, in May everyone was recovered from

under the snow, but there was a problem they couldn't destroy the Neptune, so they waited until Summer. During the summer Redington used teams of huskies to move the freight (the modern day race trail is almost identical



to the one that Redington used when hauling freight when he was younger). Joe Redington got married, built a house along the Iditarod trail, and started a guiding service (important fact: his kennel at this time held 270 dogs!). Joe later accepted a job that involved promoting a dog sled race called the Centennial Race, it was named in honor of Leonhard Seppala, so now the race was called the Iditarod Trail Seppala Memorial Race. and it was only 56 miles long(from Knik and Big Lake and back along the nine miles of the Iditarod trail). In 1968 there was no race due to lack of interest and lack of snow, but Joe did the race anyway. In 1997 he took part in the 25th-anniversary Iditarod sled race to celebrate his 80th birthday, the race was dedicated to him and he got to wear the #1 bib. Even though he never won a race that never mattered to him, he just loved on the trail and being around his dogs whom he loved very much (Redington raced in 19 races and came in 5th four times). Joe Redington sadly passed away in 1999, due to cancer. Joe Redington was buried in his favorite dogsled in a specially made vault. The head of the Iditarod trail board still calls out his name during roll call of every meeting and they excuse his absence as “he is on the trail”. This little fact shows the normal person who may think that Joe Redington was unimportant, that to the people in Alaska he meant everything.

International Firefighters Day By Matthew Fedorco

May 4th is known as the day for us to pay respect and appreciate the unsung heroes, firefighters. Sure, they are not off fighting in some foreign country or patrolling the streets for criminals, but they still risk their lives every time they put that helmet on just like soldiers and police. On this day, we should take the time out to say thank



you to the everyday people who are firefighters. But more importantly, we should also remember those who have fallen in the line of duty. These people have served and protected our communities for centuries.

On this day, people are welcome to wear red and blue ribbons to represent firefighters everywhere. The red symbolizes fire and the blue symbolizes water. In addition, the sirens of firetrucks will sound for 30 seconds at noon local time to commemorate them. This will be followed by a moment of silence for all of people who died serving their community as a firefighter. This event on the the first Sunday of May every year is known as “The Sound Off”.

“The role of a firefighter in today’s society – be it urban, rural, natural environment, volunteer, career, industrial, defence force, aviation, motor sport, or other is one of dedication, commitment and sacrifice – no matter what country we reside and work in. In the fire service we fight together against one common enemy – fire – no matter what country we come from, what uniform we wear or what language we speak.” - Lieutenant JJ Edmondson

Saint Patrick’s Day Traditions

By Miechel Krulik

You may be wondering “What are some Saint Patrick’s day traditions?” Well, I’m here to tell you! some you may find interesting or strange. So, sit back relax and enjoy some of the cool and sometimes strange Saint Patrick’s day traditions.

#1 Chicago turns the river green

It may be surprising but the annual dyeing of the Chicago River was actually started in 1962!. I know you might be thinking “how in the world is this tradition

still being upheld when the founders are probably not around anymore?" Well, the Butler and Rowan family clans are responsible for turning the water bright green, and they've done it for more than 50 years. If you have watched videos of the river being turned green you may see a boat that goes down the river, well that boat (along with other boats) is actually there to dump the dye into the river but also the motor of the boat helps to stir the mixture. Now I have some bad news for those of you who want to ride on the boat down the river. The only way to become part of the six-person boat crew is to be related by blood or marriage to either Mike Butler or Tom Rowan. Each year, the crew shakes an orange powder, which no one knows the recipe except the families, into the Chicago River from a sifter and it stays green for about five hours. If you want to watch a really cool timelapse of the river being dyed [click here!](#)

#2 New York Saint Patrick's day parade

A tradition that has been around since 1762 is the New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The parade happens this year on Saturday, March 16th. This tradition involves lots of bands from across the country, last year Raritan's own Rocket Marching Band was involved in this parade that many watch. I personally have never been to this parade, but I hope to attend in the future.

#3 Shamrock Shakes

This is a tradition that everyone should know about, the famous Shamrock Shake from McDonalds. Around this time every year, it comes out of hiding for a limited time and let me tell you when the time for the shake to come out of hiding is here you will know. Some signs of the shake coming back are 1. People talking about them 2. people posting on Snapchat about them and 3. McDonald's advertising. If you have never had a Shamrock Shake I recommend getting one.

#4 Corned beef and cabbage

Now corned beef and cabbage isn't actually an Irish dish, it just so happens to be a very American meal. Eating corned beef and cabbage only became a tradition because corned beef is inexpensive and so is cabbage, so people thought to make it a tradition and play it off as if the Irish ate corned beef and cabbage because during

the famine they couldn't afford much, which might be the truth but no one can figure it out.

#5 Pinching

This is a tradition many should know well if you don't wear green you get pinched! Now I know what your thinking "but why?" well people often green to show respect for Ireland and not wearing green is seen as disrespectful and so you get pinched. Some people also think we wear green to be invisible to leprechauns, and that if you don't wear green the leprechauns will come to a pinch you and anyone who actively does the pinching is seen to be the leprechauns in the situation. I personally don't think this tradition will go away anytime soon so if you don't want to get pinched I recommend getting yourself something green.

I hope you enjoyed reading about some of the Saint Patrick's day traditions that many enjoy, maybe this year you will decided to incorporate some in with your own traditions. Have a happy and safe Saint Patrick's day!

Music Review: "100 Bad Days" by AJR

By Sal DiMaggio

On January 30, 2019, fans of the on-the-rise alternative rock trio AJR rejoiced when the band released their latest single, "100 Bad Days". The song talks about being optimistic when times get rough and how you can turn a bad day around.



In an interview with ALT 98.7 FM, the brothers say that the song represents what they think most about, how what happens to you makes you *you*.

"We were thinking about the phrase "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger"," said Ryan Met (the *R* in AJR). "That's not always true... but what is true is that what doesn't kill you always makes you more interesting to everybody else."

The band first rose to popularity with their first single “I’m Ready” off their debut EP of the same name. They were named “Artist on the Rise” by Clear Channel in October 2013, and iHeartRadio’s “Top Artist of the Month for Top 40” for January of the next year. Their next big hit was “Weak” (a personal favorite), from their third EP “What’s Everyone Thinking”. This song talks about dealing with temptations. “Weak” was certified Platinum in numerous countries, including the US, Norway, Canada, along with Gold certification in other nations. Most recently, the song has been used for the new TV show *Temptation Island*. Other hits include “Burn This House Down” and “Sober Up”.

I actually just found out about the trio through a friend. She was jamming out to “100 Bad Days” nonstop ever since it was released (actually, she still is). After a while, I just had to ask what she was listening to, if it was that good.

“ “100 Bad Days” by AJR,” she told me. “You should check them out. They’re really good. I’ll think you’ll like them.” She then proceeded to plug back in her earbuds and jam out some more.

So later that day I decided to heed her advice and listened to the new song. *Hey, this is pretty good!* I thought. *Let me check some of their other stuff.*

And before I knew it, I was addicted to AJR. I had listened to all of their hits a hundred times over, and just the other day my friends saw me jamming out to them during lunch. AJR is truly one of my favorite bands now,

“100 Bad Days” marks the beginning of a new full-length album, as posted on the band’s Twitter page, along with a cryptic video. We can only expect good things from the brothers, and I personally can’t wait to see what they come out with next.

Mardi Gras

By: Tyler Herbert

Also known as Fat Tuesday is for the practice of eating heavily before the ritualistic fasting of the Lenten season. Pagans thousands of years ago used this time to honor the god of agriculture. Some modern festivals like the one in New Orleans consider this festival to be the last night of Christmas to Ash Wednesday.

In the United States New Orleans is the home of Mardi Gras. It's been celebrated there since 1837. Some of the traditions include costumes. All traditions include food.

Costumes usually include masks. Women often are very physically exposed. It's a very interesting holiday, that emphasizes "Let the Good Times Roll." It's a time for fun for little reason, except thousands of years of tradition.

National Women's History Month

By: Alisa Valdez

Here we go, ladies! It's time to run this joint and show the world what we're made of and how much we've accomplished throughout history. Let's start with the theme., Every year since 1987 they have had different themes of what the 'National Women's History Project' is and the theme for 2019 is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence". According to 'Women's History Alliance' the theme is meant to honor the women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society.

Those women are honored because they decided to turn their cheek when it came to violence so they can reduce the causes of conflict as the surest way to peace. These women have also stressed the need to restore respect because in today's society women still aren't respected by certain groups of people and it's not right that we don't get the respect we deserve after so many years. These women have changed peoples lives not only in their schools and homes but also their communities as well.

For this year's theme I have a little challenge for the readers. For the whole month of March, I want all of you to thank the women in your life, school, work, or community who make you happy and have made a difference. Whether it's your mom, sister, girlfriend, cousin,

co-worker, or even teacher, it will show them that you respect them and see how much they try to do what's best for you.

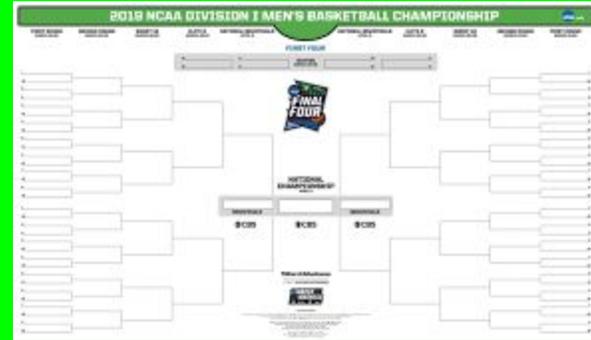
Happy National Women's History Month to all of you beautiful women out there.

March Madness

By Matthew Fedorco

It's that time of year again to break out those brackets and get ready for the NCAA's annual

basketball tournament, March Madness. If you don't know much about college basketball, here is a preview of some teams that are prepared to make a deep run in the tournament.



Undoubtedly, the heavy favorites to go all the way is Duke. They are by far the most talented in the NCAA, as they have 3 in the top 4 prospects (Ranked by ESPN) to go into the NBA Draft next year. The crown jewel of the draft and #1 prospect, Zion Williamson, is a revolutionary player. At 6'6 and 270, he has amazing athleticism, handles like a point guard, and is built like a mac truck. His only recognizable weakness is probably his three point shot, but his game is catered to the inside, driving to the rim to dunk on

somebody or pass out to an open teammate. #2 and #4 prospects, R.J. Barrett and Cam Reddish, are also exceptional talents. They too have a game more catered towards getting to the rim, as they too do not have good track records from outside. Not to mention, #25 ranked prospect Tre Jones at point guard.

Virginia is also a possibility to win it all. They are led by #9 ranked prospect Deandre Hunter, who has been touted for his phenomenal defensive play at power forward and shows a lot of promise with his shot from three and the line despite having an unorthodox stroke.

Kentucky also may be prepared to grab the gold. Led by the duo of #11 and #17 prospects, forwards Keldon Johnson and P.J. Washington, they are just as inexperienced as the all freshman lineup of Duke. However, after being praised as one of the best defenses in the country, they definitely have a shot at shutting down many of the other juggernauts in this tournament.

Gonzaga is quite the opposite of Kentucky, as they are ranked just 21st in the country on the defensive side of the ball. Gonzaga will just have to hope

their no. 1 ranked offense can make up for what they lack defensively, led by #14 and #19 ranked prospects, forwards Rui Hachimura and Brandon Clarke. They are both considered great finishers at the basket, but Rui also shows excellent touch as a mid range shooter to help space the floor.

Our March Musical

By: Madelyn Primiano

As everyone knows, the Drama Club works hard on every performance they provide. As many may know, each year they put on a fall play and a spring musical. In early December, our fall play, *A Christmas Carol*, was a very successful and extremely enjoyable performance. Now that March is here, it is time for our spring musical. This year, the drama club happily invites you to come and see our newest performance, *The Wedding Singer*.

The Wedding Singer is based on the romantic comedy from 1998 which has the same name. The musical is set in 1985 and follows Robbie Hart, New Jersey's most popular wedding singer who aspires to be a rock star. His fame only grows until it was time for his own wedding when his fiancée, Linda, left him at the altar. After that, Robbie was distraught and made all of his performances just as gloomy. But this too changes after he meets and falls in love with a young waitress named Julia Sullivan. The problem is, she's about to be married to Glen, who is a wealthy Wall Street broker. In order to win her over, Robbie is determined to pull off the greatest performance anyone has ever seen before the girl of his dreams is gone forever.

The Wedding Singer is an amazingly enjoyable production that has been going on for 13 years. It holds a score that has fantastic pop songs from the 80s. *The Wedding Singer* is also filled with unforgettable moments and humor. Come see *The Wedding Singer* and support your friends, peers, and the drama club!



2019 Clash of the Classes By Sal DiMaggio

On March 22nd, all of Raritan High School will gather for 2019 Clash of the Classes. Clash is a tradition that stretches years back. It is a day filled with fun and games, competition and comradery. Students from each grade will participate in a variety of events in order to beat the rest. It is one of the craziest days of the school year.

I spoke with RHS Executive Board PR Secretary Ashleigh Corby to find more information about Clash. She described Clash as “a competition between all four grade levels that is broken up into multiple categories”.

She told me that throughout the year, classes can gain points months before Clash is even thought of. By going to Rocket Rally events, which are sporting and school events that the Executive Board sponsors, each class can gain points for the big day. There is also Spirit Week, where students wear certain clothing to gain even more points. All of these points will be converted to "Clash points", and that is the number of points that each class will start out with when the events begin.

"It sounds like a lot," Ashleigh said, "But Clash is an overall fun day that brings out the true green, white, black and gray colors of Raritan High School."

In addition to the big day, there is also Teacher Clash. Everyone's favorite teachers like Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Lahaye, and Ms. Taylor, in addition to many more, represent the four classes in a variety of events much like Student Clash. The class with the most points from Rocket Rally events will pick their teachers first. It is a really fun night, and it is really exciting to cheer your teachers on.

When asked what her favorite part of Clash was, Ashleigh replied that she loved the level of energy that you can feel during the events. "Standing on the sidelines with my peers screaming and cheering makes you feel like a part of something huge and it's always great when your grade wins an event." She is most looking forward to the event of Tug of War this year, as am I. Last year the freshman class of 2021 beat the senior class of 2018, and the feeling was indescribable. I nearly went deaf because of the screaming.

Speaking of events, there have been some changes. There are two new events this year, Limbo and Four-Way Volleyball. As always, the other events are Tug of War, Musical Chairs, Knockout, and so on. There is also the Relay Race and Scooter Shalom, as well as the Hula Hoop Race.

Ashleigh tells me that details are still being worked out, but I'm sure the day will go on without a hitch.

With a variety of events like these, there is something for almost everyone here. Ashleigh has participated in her past two years at RHS and plans to do so this year as well, striving once again to become the Musical Chairs Queen. I have participated last year, but am debating as to whether I should this year as well.

But if you do plan to participate, make sure you attend the lunch meeting during the week leading up to Clash with Coach Poll. The meeting is mandatory if you want to participate. Ashleigh says that this is the reason why most students aren't able to participate.

If you want to sign up, contact your class board members or advisors. They'll be more than happy to help, but you better move fast, because some events fill up quickly.

In conclusion, Clash is a day that students come together to cheer their classmates on and unite as one class. Your heart will beat fast, your ears will ring, and your voice will become hoarse from screaming so much. But most of all, you will feel a sense of pride as your classmates win event after event. I can't wait for Clash, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Pi Day

By: Zak Carter

On March fourteenth Pi day is celebrated by schools and students. Although it is not as widely celebrated as other holidays, it is a day to remember for sure.

Pi day is a celebration of two worlds: Pie, and Pi. Pi is a



mathematical constant that includes a clutter of numbers, the most important being three, one, and four. These are the first three digits of the number, and these digits are also the reason Pi day is on March fourteenth.

But what is Pi exactly? Well, Pi, represented by the greek letter “ π ”, is representative of the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

Pi is an irrational and transcendental number, meaning it will go on forever. This makes it fun to memorize, almost like a challenge, to see who can remember the most of Pi on this specific day and to recite it.

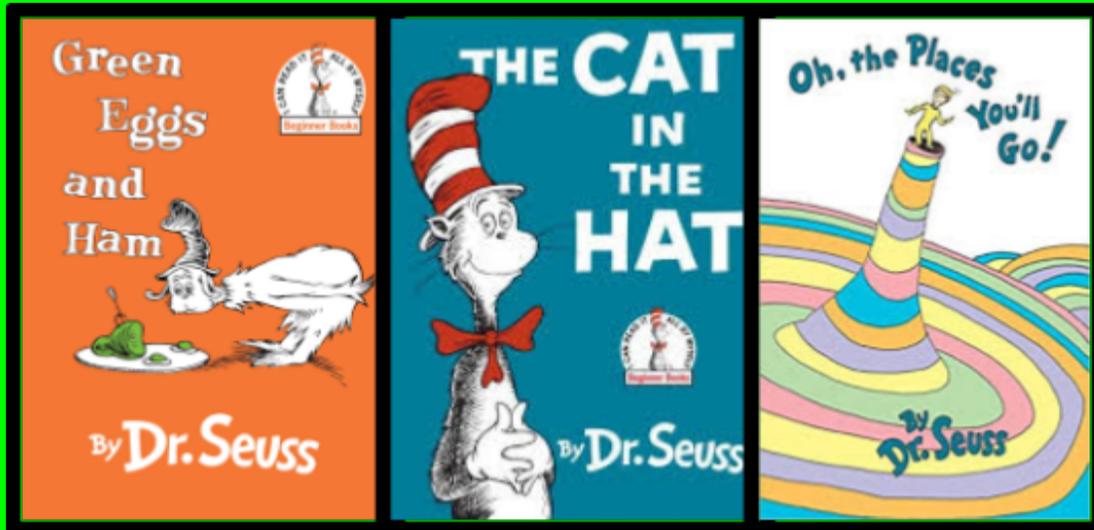
So when Pi day swings around this month, make sure to remember Pi, and celebrate with some nice Pie!



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

By: Zak Carter

On March 2nd comes the beloved Dr. Seuss's birthday! Dr. Seuss is beloved by many for his works on the books of many childhoods. Some of these famously books include *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, and *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*. These



books were large parts of most people's childhoods, including the current generation as well.

It is astounding to think that after his first book published in 1937, they still hold up to this day, with many children enjoying and reading these books. It is difficult to find a kindergarten classroom without a Dr. Seuss book on its shelves, and the same goes to many libraries as well. Dr. Seuss's writing has been, and will always be, some of the most

influential and creative books to hit shelves, with over sixty books created by him.

So how do people celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday? They read! Dr. Seuss's writing is so important because they are pieces of writing that most people will always know of and go back to at some point in their lives. They carry the tradition of written works through the years as they go on even when reading isn't exactly the most popular hobby. These books inspire people to read, write, and get creative.

Dr. Seuss lived from March 2nd, second of 1904 to September 24th, twenty fourth 1991. His real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel, but he was better known under his pen name of Dr. Seuss. Although many people know him by this name, when he first came up with the pen name, he wasn't actually a Dr. He chose this to be part of his pen name because his father had always wanted him to become a Dr. in the medical field. His first book was, *And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street*.

It is good to know that after such a long time, a great writer like Dr. Seuss is still remembered by people worldwide, and I think everyone would like to wish him a happy birthday!

