

# CONNECTION

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at

Community Homes & Services

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## STEVE FINE COMEDY HOUR with Darnell

If you have met Steve, there is a good chance you have heard him tell a joke or two. We asked him for some of his favorites and here they are:

Where does a cat like to shop?

*At a shopping MAUL*

What do ghosts wear to the beach?

*BOO-KINIS!*

Why did the Easter bunny get a ticket?

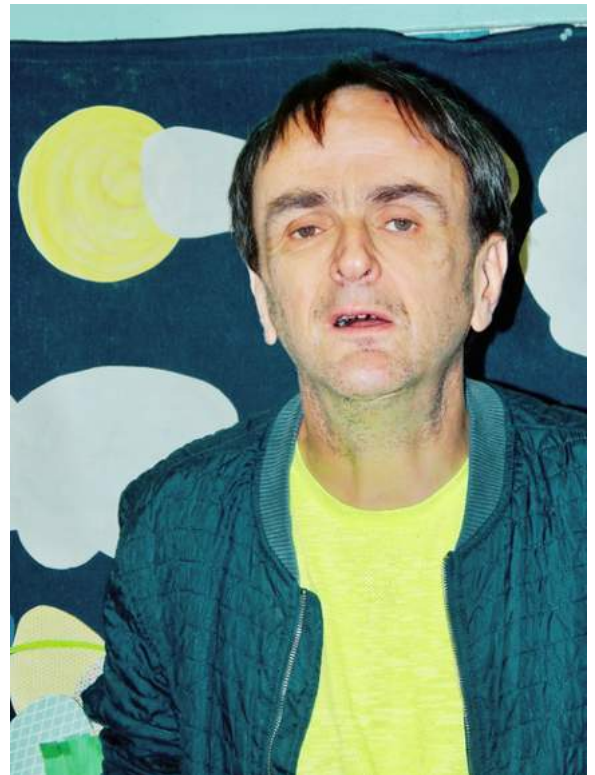
*He ran a HOP sign!*

Why did the Dog get a ticket?

*For illegal BARKING!*

Where do Ghosts go on vacation?

*To the BOOHAMAS!*



**Darnell:** What is your favorite holiday?

**Steve:** Juneteenth.

**Darnell:** Um, why?

**Steve:** BECAUSE WE GET THE DAY OFF!!

**Darnell:** Well, who can argue with that?



# Project Center Update

with Joe

Things have really been moving forward at the project center! In the last month we've had several projects approved, and we've been working hard every week to chip away at them in a way that's educational, person-centered, and fun!

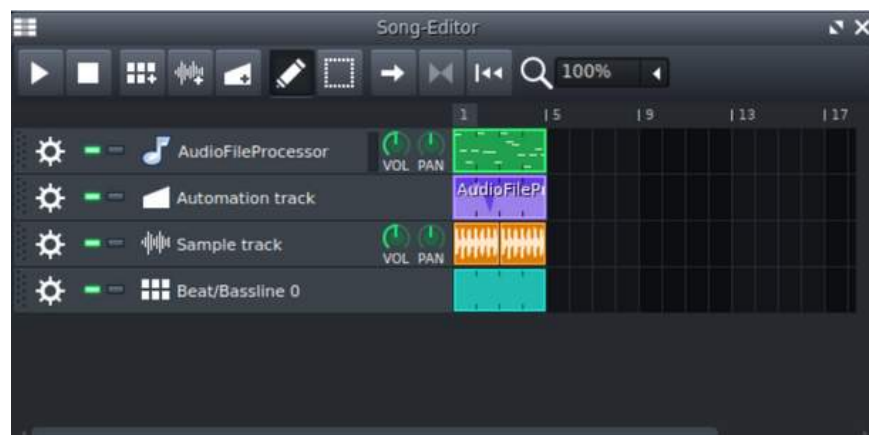
Kyle is interested in electronics of all kinds. He's a gamer and a music fan, and he's tossed around the idea of building a computer from scratch some day.

Now that's a bit over both of our heads, currently, but we know where to start. Soldering is a crucial skill to master if you've got aspirations to build a computer, so we picked up an FM radio soldering kit to learn on. Once we've built this neat little kit we'll move onto Kyle's broken iPod to try to fix the battery connection terminal that I broke (oops).



From there, who knows?

Another fun project Kyle has been working on is music production. He uses LMMS (Linux Multimedia Studio) see below, which is free software that comes with a large bank of voices and sounds. We spent an hour figuring out the nuts and bolts of the program, and Kyle is already hard at work composing his masterpiece. CH&S needs a theme song, don't you think?



(Below) The project center has also been the homeroom for Matthew's Latin and algebra classes.



# More Projects!



Bert, Mary, Mike, Phoebe, and Tyrone have come by a few times to visit and talk about some of the projects they'd be interested in working on. A big thing this year is going to be GARDENING (below). I visited them at Enterprise and they showed us their current garden, as well as their future plans. Tomatoes, pumpkins, artichokes, and zucchini are on their way, and Phoebe's violas are already in the ground!



And it's also proved to be an inspirational art space!

The great thing about starting with the fundamentals is that they give us the tools to pursue a wider array of possibilities. The more we know about the first steps towards a big project, the smaller it looks.



## ***Happy April Birthday!***

4/20 Zachary  
4/29 Shirley



# Speaking of Projects...

with Amy, Darnell and Thea

Here at CH&S, our students use activity kits for many reasons:

- Activity kits teach stick-to-it-iveness which is the ability to stick to a project for a certain period of time. This is a great employment readiness skill.
- Sorting tasks such as putting all of the pink crayons together in the pink crayon "box" or velcroing matching fruits to the fruit card and the airplane, car, or train to the vehicle card are excellent discrimination and dexterity exercises.
- Activity kits can be very soothing or calming, and they can give us time to unwind.

Many of our students use activity kits, and some help assemble them. Here, Amy helps Darnell assemble some sorting kits. This was a multi-day project, and Amy helped laminate a lot of kit components! We appreciate your help with this project, Amy!

Research has shown that engaging in creative activities can improve memory and cognitive flexibility. By challenging your brain in new ways, you can help keep it healthy and active – no matter how old (or young) you are!

If you think laminating activity kit components is not creative, you have not tried to laminate 8 or 10 different colored crayon boxes and crayons at the same time. Fitting the boxes and crayons onto the laminating sheets without letting them move around/overlap proved most challenging to some (Thea).

Assembling these kits for others and working collaboratively in a group made this project so much more enjoyable. Great job, Amy!



# APRIL 2024 NATIONAL DAYS



**Poetry Month, Pickleball Month, Afternoon Tea Month, Brunch Month, Volunteer Month, Jazz Appreciation Month, Humor Month, Inventors Month, Garden Month, Stress Awareness Month, Autism Awareness Month, Guitar Month**

- 4/1 - April Fools Day and Sourdough Bread Day
- 4/2 - World Autism Awareness Day and National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
- 4/3 - World Party Day and Walking Day
- 4/4 - Burrito Day and Vitamin C Day
- 4/5 - Caramel Day and Read a Road Map Day
- 4/6 - Caramel Popcorn Day
- 4/7 - No Housework Day
- 4/8 - Zoo Lovers Day
- 4/9 - Unicorn Day
- 4/10 - Siblings Day and Farm Animals Day
- 4/11 - Submarine Day and Pet Day
- 4/12 - Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- 4/13 - Scrabble Day and Peach Cobbler Day
- 4/14 - Dolphin Day and Gardening Day
- 4/15 - Titanic Remembrance Day and Tax Day
- 4/16 - Orchid Day and Banana Day
- 4/17 - Bat Appreciation Day and Crawfish Day and Haiku Poetry Day
- 4/18 - Exercise Day and Poem in Your Pocket Day
- 4/19 - Garlic Day
- 4/20 - Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day and Lima Bean Respect Day
- 4/22 - Passover Begins and Earth Day
- 4/23 - Picnic Day and Talk Like Shakespeare Day
- 4/24 - Bucket List Day and Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day
- 4/25 - Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day and Telephone Day
- 4/26 - Arbor Day and Hairball Awareness Day and Pretzel Day
- 4/27 - Babe Ruth Day and Independent Bookstore Day
- 4/28 - Superhero Day
- 4/29 - Zipper Day
- 4/30 - Bugs Bunny Day and Oatmeal Cookie Day and Raisin Day



# SUZIE SHELL ON SPORTS

with Darnell

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing one of our sports connoisseurs, Suzie Shell. Suzie has many different and intriguing views on many things, but sports are her passion. We sat down in one of Suzie's favorite eateries, In-n-Out Burger; we talked sports over yummy cheeseburgers, crispy fries, and, of course, milkshakes. I asked Suzie about the latest sports news.

**Suzie:** In football news, they just finished the combine—which gauges players' skills by putting them through physical tests. Also, in baseball, it's spring training.

**Darnell:** Which sport is your favorite?

**Suzie:** Football, then basketball. The Warriors are hot right now!

**Darnell:** Do you have a favorite athlete?

**Suzie:** I sure do. Brock Purdy, Quarterback of the 49ers.

Brock Purdy played college football for the Iowa State Cyclones and was selected by the 49ers

with the final pick in the 2022 NFL draft, becoming that year's Mr. Irrelevant.

Who in the heck is Mr. Irrelevant?

"Mr. Irrelevant" and "Irrelevant Week" began in 1976 when former USC and NFL receiver Paul Salata founded the event in Newport Beach, California. He announced the final pick of each NFL draft until 2013.

After each draft, the new Mr. Irrelevant and his family are invited to spend a week in Newport Beach. The itinerary includes a trip to Disneyland, a golf tournament, a regatta, a roast giving advice to the new draftee, and a ceremony awarding him the Lowsman Trophy. The trophy mimics the Heisman Trophy but depicts a player fumbling a football. Less than a handful of Mr. Irrelevant award winners have gone on to greatness.



# SUZIE'S SPORTS MUSINGS

with Darnell

Purdy began his rookie season in the NFL as the third-string quarterback but took over the starting role following injuries to Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo. Purdy continued as the 49ers' starting quarterback in the 2023 season, where he led them to a repeat division title and led the league in multiple passing categories en route to an appearance in Super Bowl LVIII. In addition, he set the franchise's single-season passing yards record and earned his first Pro Bowl nomination.

**Darnell:** What do you like about Purdy?

**Suzie:** I like that he is energetic, happy and cheerful. He is positive thinking. He boosts the morale of the other players and he is very good looking. But he has a girlfriend. (Update: Brock married his college sweetheart last month!)

**Darnell:** That's a shame, but we can wish him well.

**Suzie:** (Haha!) That's right!

**Darnell:** Now, can you describe to us the most amazing play you've ever seen?

**Suzie:** That's easy! *The Catch* in 1982. I get chills just thinking about it.

**Darnell:** That was a beautiful thing to see, wasn't it?

**Suzie:** Yes it was!



Joe Montana is a former football quarterback who played in the NFL for 16 seasons, primarily with the San Francisco 49ers. Nicknamed "Joe Cool" and "the Comeback Kid", Montana is widely regarded as one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. With the 49ers, Montana started and won four Super Bowls and was the first player to be named MVP three times. Among Montana's career highlights is "The Catch" (the game-winning touchdown pass to Dwight Clark vs. Dallas in the 1981 NFC Championship Game). "The Catch" has its own Wikipedia page!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Catch\\_\(American\\_football\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Catch_(American_football))

**Darnell:** Do you have any personal sports memories that you are particularly fond of, with your family etc.?

**Suzie:** Oh yes! I went to 49ers games and NFL training camps with my brother and his girlfriend. I couldn't see the players well and had to sit behind a fence, but it was still fun.

**Darnell:** Thank you so much! I'll finish up by asking you, what do you want the world to know about Suzie Shell?

**Suzie:** I'd like the world to know I am very pretty and I have a good sense of humor—most of the time. I have been learning about bees; they make honey and can sting IF you bother them. I am also interested in Wayne Newton. He is such a great singer and very good looking. I love the song "Danke Schoen."

**Check out the YouTube video Wayne Newton - Danke Schoen (1968) Live:**

[https://youtu.be/LRPILZS1hc8?si=DS8R6Fa\\_PFvgdeC](https://youtu.be/LRPILZS1hc8?si=DS8R6Fa_PFvgdeC)



# POETRY-PALOOZA

with Jennifer

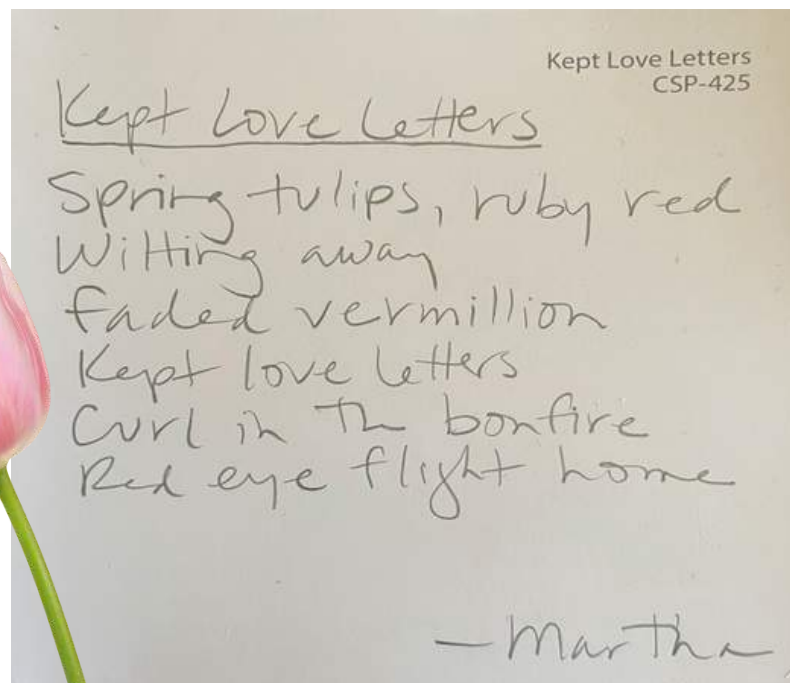
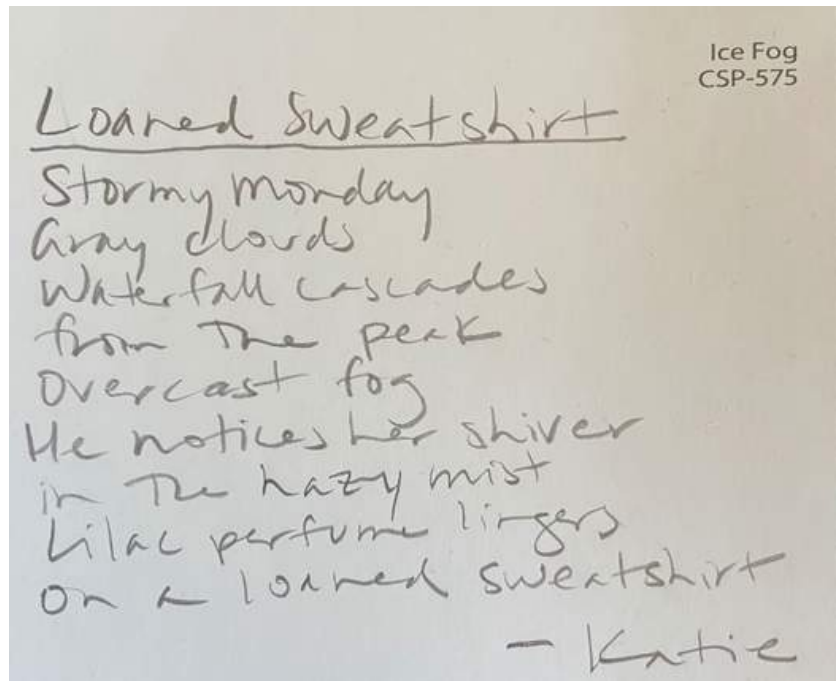
April is National Poetry Month, and this is our second annual Poetry-Palooza feature! National Haiku Day, International Bat Appreciation Day, and National Crawfish Day all land on the same day, so Matthew's class challenged themselves to write Haiku about bats and crawfish, naturally, among other topics. And for poetry inspiration, Michelle and Jennifer helped themselves to heaping stacks of free paint samples, and their class created some color-inspired poems.

Bats are nocturnal  
Crawfish are so amazing  
Bats are not crawfish  
-Connor

Inspire heroes  
Challenges lie in darkness  
Have courage and move  
-Andrew

Haikus can be fun  
Haikus can also be hard  
Refrigerator  
-Matthew

Ascending higher  
Paper wings upon my desk  
Shoulders of giants  
-Connor







CH&S STUDENT PPP

# Martha Ela

If you are having a party, you are going to want Martha there because wherever she goes, she brings class!

Martha has a passion for fashion and she always looks fabulous. This woman truly knows what to do with a barrette.

Martha gets humor and she gets wisdom just as well. She digs the color red, The Beatles, a good book, and Vincent Van Gogh.

Martha

Remembers her mother lovingly

Is a great listener and appreciator

Is a remarkable student

Is elegant, tasteful, cultured

Is calm and calming

Has a knack for math

LOVES to shop

(...and did we mention?)

Is BEAUTIFUL!

# APRIL IS NATIONAL PET MONTH

with Amy and Thea

**Thea:** Would you like to talk about one of your favorite pets?

**Amy:** Yes, my dad's dog Snoopy was a cute little dog. I'd never been around small dogs before. I had one of my flats that Snoopy chewed, for a long time. It had big old teeth marks, I don't think I have it anymore because I couldn't wear flats with bite marks on them.

**Thea:** What other dogs did you have when you were a kid?

**Amy:** We had labradors (Buck and Sarah) and an Irish Setter. Prince was a Golden Retriever who once dragged all of my shoes out of my bedroom, but he only chewed up my slippers.

Amy was staying with her dad when she first met Snoopy, a Jack Russell Terrier puppy. Amy was surprised at how small lap dogs can be. When she was a puppy, Snoopy would lightly place her paw in her mouth (which Amy thought was so cute) to get Amy's attention. When her dad moved to Woodacre, he was giving Amy a haircut, and Snoopy had to get in on the action by sitting under Amy's legs. Yes, Snoopy had to shake off some of Amy's hair clippings!

Snoopy was a Jack Russell terrier, here are some Jack Russell facts:

- **Jack Russells Don't Like to Share the Spotlight.** "They sure don't!" said Amy. Snoopy did not like it when other people brought over their dogs. Not at all. Snoopy was very clingy and wouldn't let her people out of her sight when other dogs were visiting. However, Snoopy did not mind feline visitors.
- **Fan of Humans, Wary of Canines.** Like most other Jack Russells, Snoopy did not like other dogs except for her aunt "P2" (which stood for Puppy Two).
- **The Jack Russell Terrier May Be Too Smart for Its Own Good.** The Jack Russell is probably even smarter than the foxes they were bred to hunt. Jack Russells can easily learn all sorts of tricks and feats, but getting them to perform is a trick you'll have to learn!



Amy and Snoopy at Christmas



Amy's dad's dog Snoopy takes a break



Jack Russell's are so cute!

# SNOOPY, THE PEANUTS, AND NATIONAL PET MONTH

with Amy and Thea

Snoopy grew into adulthood and eventually old age. Amy missed Snoopy when Amy was stuck in a rehab facility after having knee replacement surgery in 2020. Amy was in rehab for a good, long time. One day, when her dad visited her at the rehab center, Amy knew something was wrong and she asked her dad, "When did Snoopy pass away?"



It is interesting how sometimes pets know when their owner is not feeling well or when the owner has left the office to come home.

It looks like sometimes people, like Amy, can sense when their pet (or dad's pet) is about to cross the rainbow bridge to the great dog park in the sky.

According to Forbes :



- 66% of U.S. households (86.9 million homes) own a pet.
- Dogs are the most popular pets in the U.S. (65.1 million U.S. households own a dog), followed by cats (46.5 million households) and freshwater fish (11.1 million households).
- More than half of pet owners (51%) consider their pets to be as much a part of their family as a human family member.

Amy's dad's dog Snoopy was named after the dog in the Peanuts comic strip. Charles Schulz and his family grew up with dogs, and in 1934 they adopted Spike, a black-and-white mutt.

Did you know that Snoopy (of the Peanuts comic strip) has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame? In 2015, Snoopy received a star located right next to Charles Schulz's star. Snoopy isn't the only animated character to have a star on The Walk of Fame; Bugs Bunny, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Snow White, and Shrek are among the others.

**Thea:** Did you know that the Peanuts comic strip was first published in 1950 and that Snoopy walked on all fours for the first two years? And his name was supposed to be Sniffy.

**Amy:** Sniffy sounds like he has a cold. It's kind of a weird name.

**Thea:** I agree, Snoopy is a much better name for a dog!



# Andrew's Corner

## Unicorn Day

The unicorn is a creature that resembles a horse with a single horn on its head. Some depictions of unicorns have them as goat-like animals instead of horse-like animals. In the middle ages the unicorn was a symbol of purity and grace which can only be captured by a virgin. In modern times, the unicorn has become an LGBTQ symbol. This is because unicorns have been associated with rainbows since the Victorian era. In ancient times the unicorn was depicted as male, but in modern times they are most often depicted as females. The unicorn has been a symbol on many nations' flags, such as Scotland and England. I chose to write about unicorns when I learned that April 9th is National Unicorn Day. I believe in unicorns.



*Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 25 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.*



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*Remember When...?*



# KNOWLEDGE CLASS: EEEK! BATS!

With Colleen, Andrew, Aidan, Justin, Katie, Nino, Kyle, Bruce, Matthew, and Jennifer



April 17th is Bat Appreciation Day, here is a bat knowledge class to mark the occasion:

**\*Flying Mammal:** Bats are the ONLY mammals that can fly! (Flying squirrels can't actually fly, even though flying is in their names—they just glide.) One in five mammal species is a bat—that's 20% of mammals!

**\*Matters of Size:** Bats range greatly in size depending on species. The world's smallest bat is one of the smallest mammals in the world—Kitti's hog-nosed bat is just a little over an inch long and weighs less than a penny. On the other end of the size spectrum are golden-crowned flying foxes, which have one of the longest wingspans in the world. They can measure up to 5'6" long! Which begged the question: are we taller than a bat? Nino, Katie, Martha, Cat, Colleen, and Jennifer are NOT, in fact, taller than a bat.

**\*Bat Snacks:** What (and how) do bats eat? Bats are nocturnal, and when they hunt at night they use echolocation to find insects. Bats make sounds that bounce off objects, then listen for clues about what's ahead. Some bats, like the greater bulldog bat, which is named for its dog-like face, use this sonar to catch fish. Other species of bats, like the New Zealand lesser short-tailed bat, crawl on the ground in search of a diverse variety of food, including nectar, pollen, berries, and bugs. The desert long-eared bat eats scorpions, stingers and all, and doesn't seem to be bothered when it's stung in the face, even by scorpions with venom strong enough to kill a human! Yikes!

**\*Bat Myths:** Eek! Bats have rabies! FALSE. According to the CDC, only 5-6% of bats have rabies, so it's very rare. Eek! Bats are blind! FALSE. You may have heard the saying "blind as a bat", but bats' eyes work just fine. Even bats that use echolocation to find their food have vision. Some bats, such as fruit bats, actually search for food using sight and smell. Eek! Bats fly in hair! FALSE. Some people freak out thinking bats want to nest in their hair, but bats have no interest whatsoever in hair. They don't even make nests. Eek! Bats are pests! FALSE. Bats EAT pests, actually! A single bat can eat up to a thousand mosquitos in a night.

# GONE BATTY!

**\*Bat Benefits:** Why would you want to attract bats to your yard? There are benefits to having bats hanging around your house, pun intended. Not only do they eradicate pests, they pollinate and fertilize plants. Bats eat many insects that might cause problems in the garden--pesky mosquitoes, caterpillars, moths, gnats, and flying beetles. Who needs insecticide when you've got bats? Cheers to bats! Next time you have a margarita, raise a glass to bats--they are the only pollinators of agave, the plant that makes tequila. To attract bats to your yard, plant night-blooming flowers such as tuberose and moonflower. You can even call it a moon garden--cool, huh?

## **\*Bat Adjacent--Cultural References/Related Topics:**

- Batman (Shoutout to our very own Bruce Wayne Graham!)
- Vampires (Dracula, Hotel Transylvania, etc.)
- Aztec god Camazotz



## **\*Batcabulary**

- Guano
- Fertilizer
- NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium)
- Ecosystem
- Colony
- Roost
- Mammal
- Nocturnal
- Wingspan
- Eradicate
- Migratory



(Right) Kyle helps Bruce assemble a bat house to install at Life College.

(Left) Bat Bonus: Bruce brought guano from his barn to fertilize the planter beds!



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