

**Research and evidence drive programs.  
We innovate, measure, collaborate, and replicate.  
Curriculum is designed to support the school day.**

Writing, skill acquisition, and academic confidence are central to SSFP pedagogy. Students write across the curriculum, investigating core academic subjects throughout the writing process. We focus on productive writing habits, workplace skills, confidence and curiosity. We preach clear and concise writing. Lesson plans include invention strategies, close reading, drafting methods, word choice and revision techniques. SSFP methods nurture imagination and confidence. Assignments and activities grow in complexity with age and ability. We believe learning happens, in large measure, during the revision process. Multiple rounds of revision are required during each assignment.

Instruction and training is preparatory. Because SSFP students write about core subject areas (science, geography, history, books) content area understanding improves quickly. We teach a multi-step writing process that students understand. They master it quickly. These skills are practical and transferable, and work in any classroom. SSFP students learn to apply their skills. School grades and school attendance improve quickly.

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***Never hand in your first draft!***

### **The multi-mission approach of SSFP:**

**Mission #1:** Deliver rigorous academic instruction in after-school settings. SSFP Methods support the school day and bridge achievement gaps.

**Mission #2:** Spread a positive message of youth achievement, academic success, and community service throughout Dane County.

Biodiversity and genetic diversity are important science concepts and part of the fascinating place we call Planet Earth. Do you know the difference between biodiversity and genetic diversity? Scientists do. So do our student reporters.

Learn about these two different but related terms and learn about your world at [www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org](http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org)

# Simpson Street Free Press

## Wisconsin Idea Series: Stephen Babcock Left a Mark on Wisconsin's Dairy Industry

by Sylvan Bachhuber, age 14

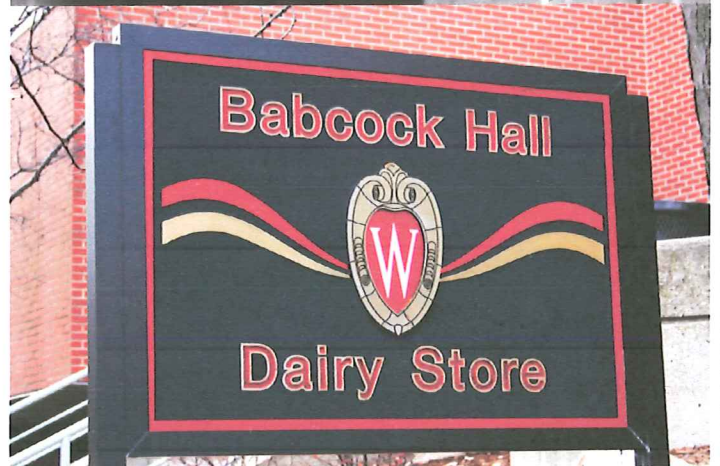
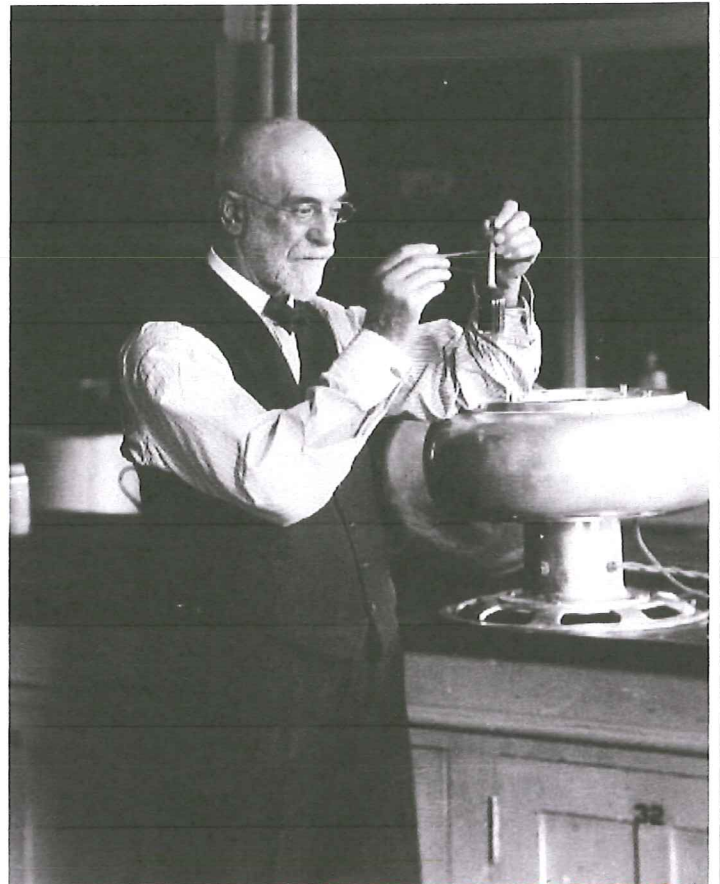
Tucked on the west side of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus is the Babcock Hall Dairy Store. While Babcock Hall is most famous for its ice cream, it also sells an assortment of dairy products, including a variety of award-winning cheeses and locally produced milk. Without the contribution of UW-Madison researcher Stephen Babcock, these products would not be as delicious as they are today.

In 1890, Stephen Babcock introduced the Babcock Test, a device that measure the fat content in milk, and therefore its quality as a whole. This test allowed for the standardization of milk quality according to its butterfat content. Because of this, pricing could be directly correlated to quality. No longer could farmers skim or water down their milk before selling it.

This test was so revolutionary that it won Babcock prizes at the Paris World Fair in 1900 and the St. Louis World Fair in 1904. The invention also won him a bronze medal from Wisconsin Governor LaFollette, and the Capper Award in 1930. These prestigious awards, however, did not provide Babcock with any financial gain because he never chose to patent his device. The only profit realized \$5,000 prize from the Capper Award.

Babcock was a contributor in the development of the "cold storage" method of curing cheese, as well as many other inventions that greatly improved the manufacturing of dairy products. His advances in food science laid the ground for research in nutrition and the chemistry of vitamins, which eventually led to the discovery of vitamins A and D. Many of his inventions and discoveries are still used today by the UW-Madison in their production of dairy products.

Stephen Babcock contributed to both the state and the dairy industry as a whole. His dedication to the health of the state's citizens makes



his work an embodiment of the Wisconsin Idea. UW-Madison has rightfully named their dairy store after Babcock, ensuring that his name withstands the test of time.

[Sources: Wisconsin Historical Society; Babcock Hall Dairy Store]

# Falk Free Press

## The Falk Free Press Guide to Preventing the Summer Slide

by Britany Ugalde, Ajah Dye  
and Patricia Fenne Garcia

Summer time is great for a lot of reasons. It's warmer, there's no school, there's no rules, and there's so much free time. With almost three months of summer vacation, it is important to add in some reading to your free time.

At *Falk Free Press* we think that reading over the summer is vital to helping prevent summer slide. The summer slide happens when kids don't read or do any academics over the summer. This causes kids to forget a lot of what they have learned during the school year, making their reading and literacy levels "slide" downward.

One way to combat the summer slide is to read at least two books over the summer. These books can be read in small amounts daily or weekly. The point is not to read a billion books over the summer, but to read in general. You can start a book and read a few pages a day before bed. Or you can take your book with you to the park and read under a tree. If you are going on vacation, you can take your book with you and read it on the plane or on the car ride. You can read almost anywhere, as long as you are reading.

If you don't have any books at your house it's very easy to get a hold of books. You can go to your nearest library and check out a book (but remember to return it on time, or else you might have to deal with late fees!) If there is no library near your house, then there might be a Free Little Library in your neighborhood. Free Little Libraries are small wooden boxes that look like big bird houses that are spread throughout the city. Each one has free books that you can take and read for as long as you like, but the key is, that if you take a book, you should leave a book for someone else to read. The books in these Free Little Libraries can range from many different age groups because anyone can put books into them, so it's important to take an adult with you when visiting these Free Little Libraries to make sure you pick out an age appropriate book.

We thought it would be a good idea to suggest a few good books that we have enjoyed reading and hope you will enjoy too!



### Falk Free Press Summer Reading List:

*Where The Mountain Meets The Moon*, by Grace Lin  
*Harry Potter Series*, by J.K. Rowling  
*Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*Diary of A Wimpy Kid Series*, by Jeff Kinney  
*Hatchet*, by Gary Paulson  
*Number The Stars*, by Lois Lowry

These are just a few books that we thought you all might enjoy. But no matter what book you read, the important thing is that you are reading!

# James C. Wright Free Press

## Tiny Rabbit Species Struggles to Survive

*Biologists in Washington State Launch Recovery Effort*

by Isabel Smith, age 12

Pygmy Rabbits are the smallest rabbits in North America. Eight years ago this species was nearly extinct. Now, with help from scientists, these tiny rabbits might make an unusual comeback.

The pygmy rabbit's population in the Columbia River Basin of Washington state has been isolated for thousands of years. But the recent conversion of their steep sage-brush habitat to farm land is responsible for the pygmy rabbits' drastic decline. In fact, they ended up on the endangered species list. Biologists are trying to save these endangered rabbits.

In response to the low numbers of pygmy rabbits, biologists started a captive breeding program in 2007. They captured 16 of the rabbits, but they weren't healthy enough to make healthy babies. To broaden the gene pool biologists brought in relatives of the rabbits from Idaho.

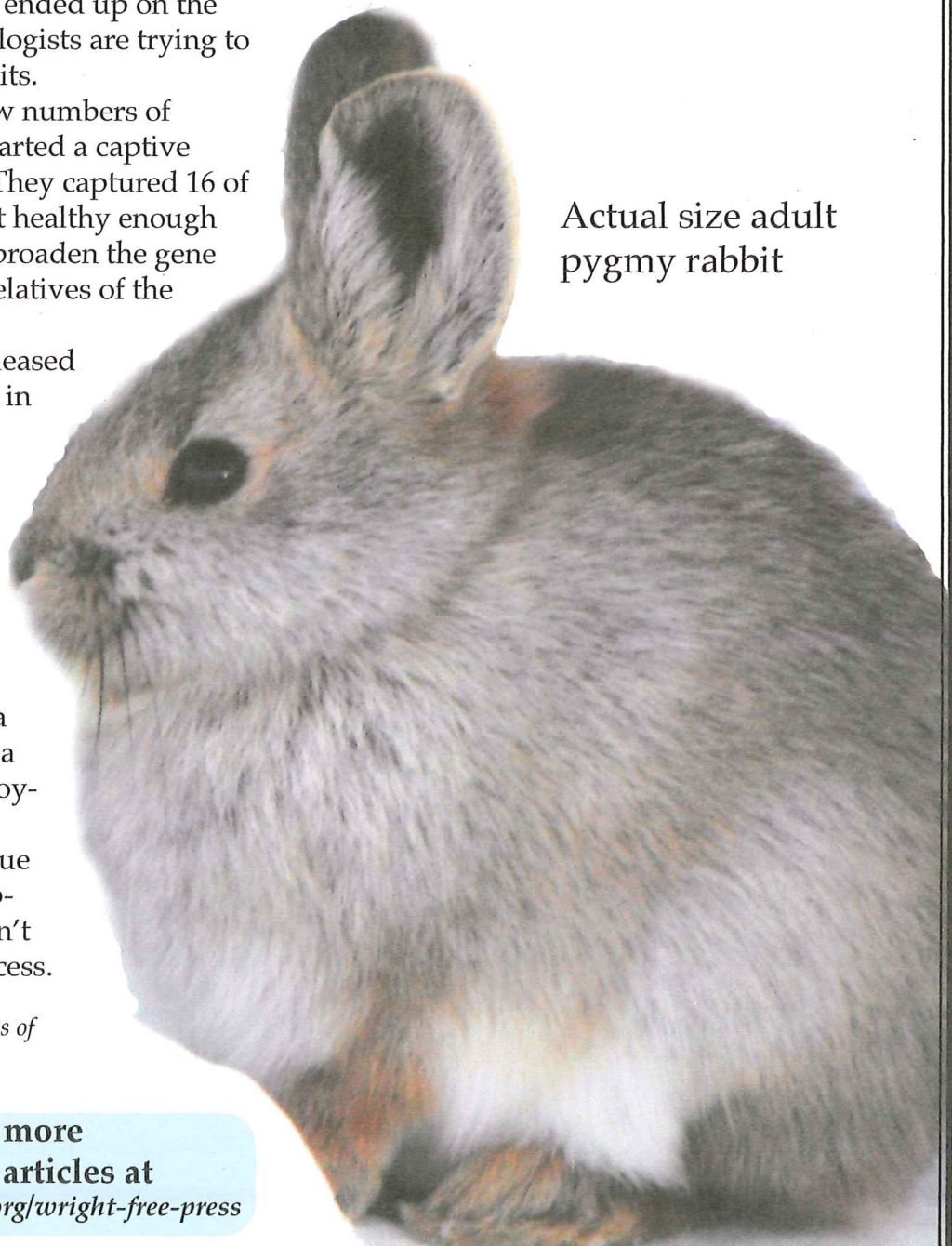
Later that year biologists released 20 rabbits. The rabbits lived in drainage pipes. But by September, only one rabbit was still alive. The others had been eaten by predators, probably coyotes.

Biologists are trying to think of a way to solve this problem. One idea is to put the rabbits in a fenced-off area. Another idea is to get rid of some of the coyotes.

Biologists will continue to try to save the pygmy rabbits, even though they haven't been having very much success.

[Sources: *National Geographic*; *Atlas of North America*]

Actual size adult  
pygmy rabbit



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**Wright Free Press articles at**

[www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/wright-free-press](http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/wright-free-press)

# La Prensa Libre de Simpson Street

## El consumo de bananos: ¿Un habito saludable?

por Andreanna Wright, 13 años

En el mundo, el consumo de bananos es muy popular porque tienen muchos beneficios, pero también tienen algunas desventajas. Antigualmente se pensaba que los bananos eran buenos para la salud pero ahora algunos científicos están preguntándose si son realmente tan saludables como se pensaba.

Los bananos contienen muchas calorías y azúcar como las manzanas y fresas, teniendo alrededor de 14 gramos de azúcar. Un beneficio de los bananos es que tienen mucha fibra. La fibra es buena para la salud porque ayuda con la digestión. También ayuda al cuerpo a guardar la comida en forma apropiada para que no almacene sólo grasas.

Los bananos tienen aproximadamente tres gramos de fibra. Los científicos descubrieron que los bananos verdes son mejores que los bananos amarillos porque estos tienen una sustancia que resiste la grasa y ayuda a quemarla.

Los bananos verdes tienen sólo 30 de 100 puntos de índice glucémico y los bananos amarillos tienen 50. El índice glucémico mide que tan rápido un carbohidrato aumenta el nivel de azúcar en la sangre. El consumir frutas con bajos niveles del índice glucémico, como los bananos verdes, puede ayudarnos a bajar de peso y a controlar el deseo de comer cuando no es necesario debido al almidón resistente que te hace sentir satisfecho.

Aún cuando los bananos pueden ser cat-



egorizados como malos para nuestro cuerpo por la cantidad de azúcar, esta fruta contiene potasio y magnesio, además de una sustancia química que controla el dolor de estómago y reduce el riesgo de la diarrea. Los bananos también contienen la vitamina B6 que necesitamos regularmente y la cual es importante para hacer las enzimas metabólicas reaccionar en forma rápida.

Por lo tanto es importante recordar que al igual que otras comidas es importante consumirlo en moderación.

[Fuente: CNN en Español]

## Presentando... *La Prensa Libre de Simpson Street*

*La Prensa Libre de Simpson Street*, un diario bilingüe juvenil, comienza sus publicaciones en 2014. El proyecto tendrá como fin el concentrarse en lo que los académicos llaman "la distancia educacional lingüística." Los adolescentes se concentran en investigar y realizar actividades de escritura en un ambiente auténtico de periodismo. La Profesora Mariana Pacheco del Departamento de Currículum e Instrucción de la Universidad de Wisconsin-Madison completó una investigación de tres años sobre los métodos de instrucción de escritura que se usan en el periódico *Simpson Street Free Press* (SSFP). *La Prensa* utilizará el mismo currículo y los resultados de la Profesora Pacheco. Este proyecto replicará la misma trayectoria de profesionalismo que promueve a los adolescentes a través de los diferentes roles y las diferentes responsabilidades en la sala de prensa, desde periodistas juveniles a editores juveniles a miembros del personal editorial. Gloria González, graduada de SSFP y de UW y actualmente editora/maestra en SSFP coordinará *La Prensa*.

Encuentra más artículos de *La Prensa Libre de Simpson Street* aquí:

[www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/la-prensa-libre](http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/la-prensa-libre)

# Simpson Street Free Press

Celebrating Academic Achievement Since 1992

## Mexican Modernism Comes to Life At MMoCA

by Aubrianna Willard-Lee, age 13

On a recent trip to the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) a group of Simpson Street Free Press reporters, including me, visited the exhibit Los Grandes Del Arte Moderno Mexicano. This exhibit features seven accomplished Mexican artists who greatly influenced Mexican Modernism. The works of Diego Rivera, a famous muralist, particularly caught my attention.

Rivera's frescos were popular in the 1920's and 1930's, just after the Mexican Revolution. He was part of the Mexican Modern Art movement, which focused on social reform and the country's national identity. Although this movement around contemporary social issues, many works made references to indigenous art.

Rivera was a mural painter who used the fresco technique, in which he applied watercolors to wet plaster. He specialized in a style of heroic realism that addressed contemporary political concerns. Rivera used his large frescos to depict Mexico's rich history and showcase opportunities for the future. Rivera strongly believed that a true Mexican identity should embrace it's indigenous pre-Spanish past.

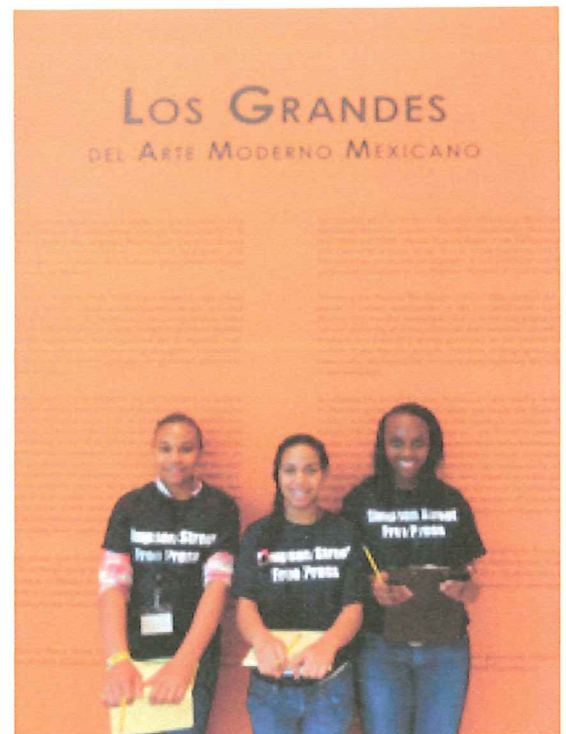
Rivera was born into a wealthy family in Guanajuato, Mexico, in 1886. Rivera had a twin brother but he died two years after he was born. At age ten, Rivera studied at the Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City. He also studied in Madrid and Paris. He spent time traveling and studying in Italy, where he learned the famous fresco technique. At the end of the revolutionary war, Rivera returned to Mexico where he participated in a government-sponsored group to create murals to help educate other citizens.

Rivera's murals are featured in diverse venues. One mural site is the National Preparatory School in Mexico City. Others are in Mexico's National Palace and the National Education Building. Rivera spent time in the United States where he painted murals for the California School of Fine Arts and the Detroit Institute of Arts. We at the Free Press felt very lucky to see his works right here in Madison.

At MMoCA, my favorite of Rivera's works was a lithograph called El Sueño. I found this painting interesting because it looked quite gloomy and the people in the picture looked somber. At first glance, I thought that the people were just sitting there. I was curious about what they were thinking. After reading the description of the painting, I realized that they were sleeping outside because they were poor and had nowhere to stay. It made me think of my house and how fortunate I am to have a bed to sleep on. In other words, it made me thankful to be born in this time period.

Rivera advocated for social change through his paintings. He thought that the suffering of marginalized people, like the ones in El Sueño, should end. The painting we saw is a detail from a lower section of a fresco in the National Education Building in Mexico.

The MMoCA trip was very enjoyable. I liked writing about Diego Rivera because he has an interesting life. Los Grandes Del Arte Moderno Mexicano will be open until June of next year. For more information about this exhibit and hours at MMoCA, go to [www.MMoCA.org](http://www.MMoCA.org).



You can read more Arts & Culture articles online at [www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/arts-culture](http://www.simpsonstreetfreepress.org/arts-culture)