

# STEMIA SCOOP

## FEBRUARY EDITION

Look inside to find:

Art Club

Valentine Shenanigans

Movie Review

Book Review

Staff Spotlights

## SPORTS

### Basketball

Jr. Boys

Girls



## Spark Archers Compete Against Edmonton Club

On January 30, a group of grade 9 students in the Archery Club took a shot at competing against their Edmonton peers. Mr. Butler and Mr. Celis have been working hard to coach our students to improve their skills. Scores were recorded for shots taken from both 10 metre and 15 metre distances. The group in Edmonton is larger, and will need an additional two weeks to record the scores of their competitors. Win or lose, our sharpshooters have come an incredibly long way since September. Excellent work, Sparks!



## FUN FACTS

### February 1 FUN FACT OF THE DAY

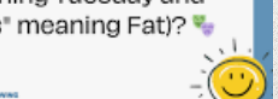
February 1st is the start of Black History Month. It is celebrated in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birth dates.



### February 13 FUN FACT OF THE DAY

Today is Mardi Gras!

Did you know that Mardi Gras stands for "Fat Tuesday" in French ("Mardi" meaning Tuesday and "Gras" meaning Fat)?



## THOUGHTS

"LIFE  
is what happens  
when your cell  
phone is  
CHARGING"

THAT MOMENT  
WHEN YOU TALK TO  
YOURSELF  
AND YOU START  
SMILING LIKE AN IDIOT  
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST SO  
HILARIOUS



”  
DO THINGS AT  
YOUR OWN PACE.  
LIFE'S NOT A RACE.

Love is in the air?  
Wrong.  
Nitrogen, Oxygen and Carbon  
Dioxide are in the air.



# STAFF HIGHLIGHT!

## MS. KEILBACK

Miss. Keilback is a Grade 8 and 9 Math teacher. She is a kind and helpful teacher who helps her students enjoy the subject. She also volunteers to help coach and organize the Girls Basketball Team, run multiple school clubs (Girls Excel in Math Club, and Math Club. We are thankful she took the time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions for us!

### QUESTION:



### TEACHER'S ANSWER:

1) If you won a million dollars - what would you buy *first*?

*I would travel for all of summer break!*

2) What job did you want when you were in Junior High?

*In Junior High, I wanted to be a professional dancer when I was older.*

3) What is the funniest or most embarrassing thing you have said in class?

*The most embarrassing thing would probably be making silly mistakes when working through math problems with the class too early in the morning and without my coffee!*

4) What is your go-to karaoke song?

*"Mr. Brightside" by The Killers!*

5) What's the best piece of advice you've ever received

*Treat others the way you would like to be treated.*

6) What is your go-to marking snack?

*An iced drink from Starbucks*

7) What is one slang word your students use that you secretly love (but pretend to hate)?

*I wouldn't say I secretly love it, but "ate" is a slang word my students use that I don't mind!*

# STAFF HIGHLIGHT!



## MS. BRETNER

This month's staff highlight is Ms. Bretner. Ms. Bretner works with the grade nines of STEM as a math, computer science discoveries, and advanced STEM talks teacher. She works towards becoming a good role model for students, striving to figure out fun ways to learn.

### QUESTION:



### TEACHER'S ANSWER:

1) *If you won a million dollars - what would you buy first?*

*I would tell my closest family and take them out for dinner.*

2) *What job did you want when you were in Junior High?*

*I wanted to be a teacher since kindergarten!*

3) *What is the strangest thing you have had to do as a teacher?*

*I once came back to the school at 9 p.m. because I forgot to lock the door after the Open House.*

4) *If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?*

*I would like to have teleportation, so I could easily travel to new locations.*

5) *What's your favorite musical artists?*

*My first concert was Coldplay, so they'll always be a favourite. I also like One Republic and Young the Giant. I am a Swiftie as well!*

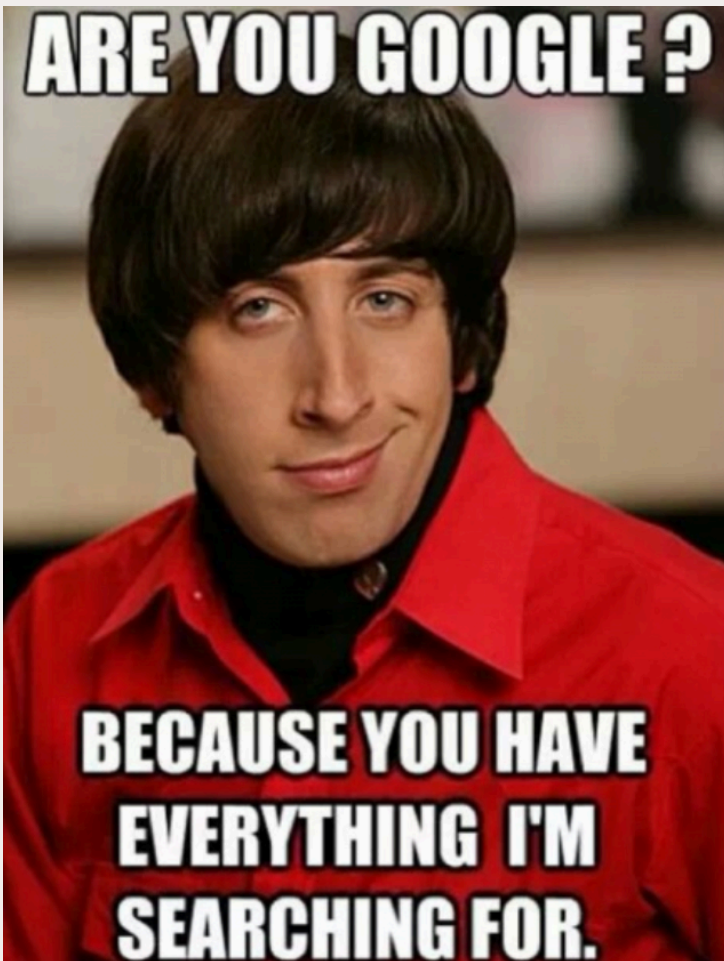
6) *What is your go-to marking snack?*

*I love fruit! Recently, longan (fruit from SE Asia) has become a favourite!*

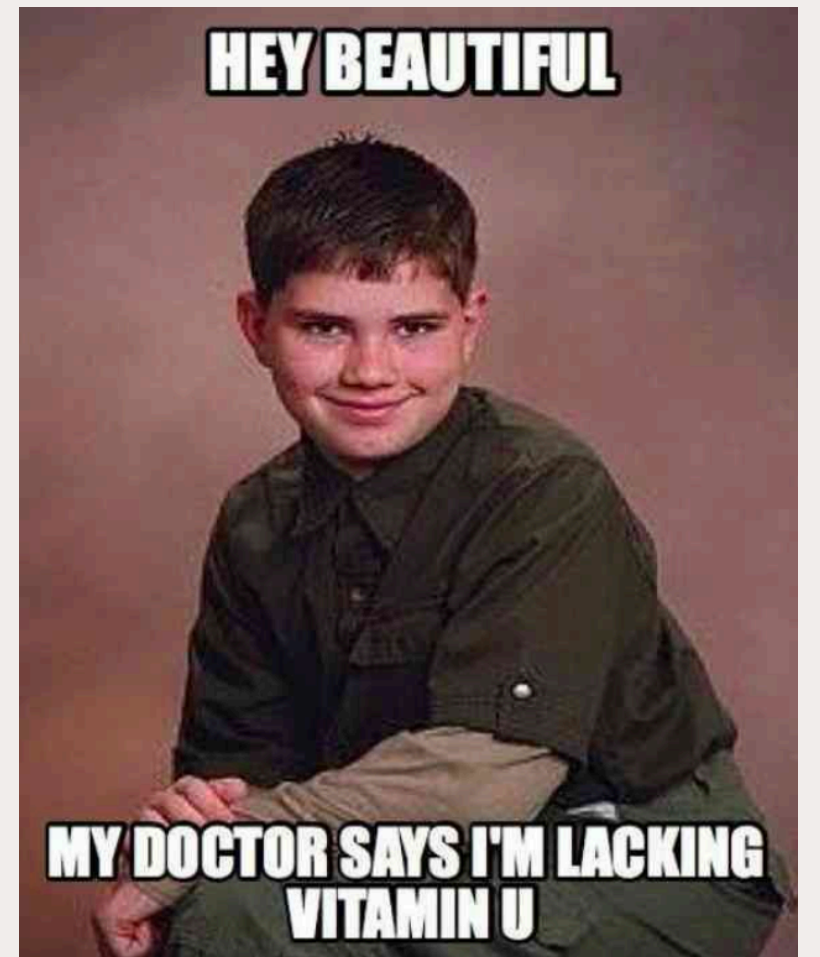
7) *What is one slang word your students use that you secretly love (but pretend to hate)?*

*What is one slang word your students use that you secretly love but pretend to hate?  
I'm cooked! Last year, I named my badminton team "Cooks on Court" based on the slang I heard from 9B.*

# LOVE IS IN THE AIR! HELP FOR SINGLE SPARKS...



Can I tie your shoes?  
I don't want you  
falling for  
anybody else.



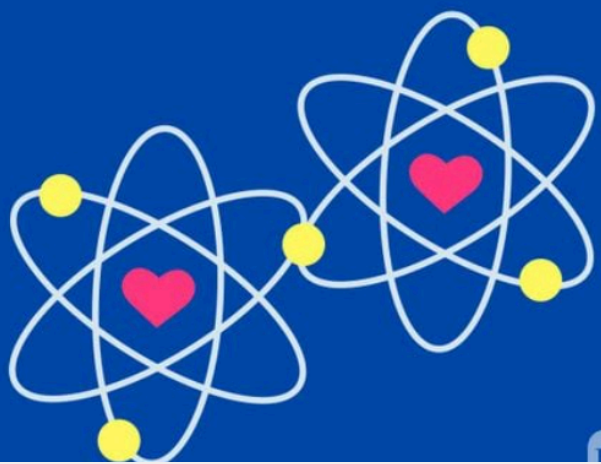
**DO YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?**



Funny, I lost my queen in the last game ... but I think I just found her again.



Hey, want to get together sometime, since we both have unpaired electrons?



I would ask if you wanted to see a movie with me, but I don't want to get in trouble for bringing in a snack.



Your hand looks heavy,  
let me hold it for you.

I value my breath so  
it would be nice if  
you didn't take it  
away everytime you  
walked by.



# ART CLUB

This month we will be diving into everything about Art Club! Art Club runs on Thursdays, where students can gather to hang out with friends and develop new artistic skills, like sketching, crocheting, and lots more! A little bit about Ms. Anstey, the one who runs Art Club: Ms. Anstey is a grade 7 new media and humanities teacher; she is chill and loves art! We interviewed Ms. Anstey all about Art Club!



**What is your club about?**

I am incredibly biased, but I'd say art club is about cool people and immaculate vibes. Y'all should come check it out!

**What do you do in your club?**

It depends on the week! Some weeks we are learning new skills or working on projects. Other days we just hang out and create.

**What is your favorite part about Art Club?**

My favorite part of Art Club is learning new things from the students. This year I learned how to crochet!

**Who can join Art Club?**

Anyone can join! It is drop-in, so bring a friend or come meet people at art club. No previous experience necessary. Any skill level is welcome.

**Are there any upcoming events in Art Club?**

To quote Rihanna when asked about her next album, "I can't go into details, but it's going to be amazing."

Feel free to join Art club whenever you would like, to quote Ms. Anstey's words "Anyone can join! It is drop-in, so bring a friend or come meet people at art club." No commitment needed, and you can drop-in whenever you feel to!

By Emily S. and Avani K.



# February Book Review

## **The Folk of the Air: Only 2 Characters Can Lie, Yet Everyone Gets Betrayed**

**The Folk of the Air trilogy by Holly Black is a fantasy series with elements of romance and politics. The book is set in a world called Elfhame, filled with mythical creatures such as Fae, mermaids, goblins and more. The story follows Jude Duarte a human girl trying to make a name for herself in a magical world of immortal creatures where most have hatred towards mortal beings**

**While on her journey, Jude meets many characters who influence her path, one significant character being Cardan Greenbriar; an obnoxious and arrogant Fae who is the youngest heir to the throne.**

**At the beginning, Jude despised Cardan for his relentless tormenting toward her. However, as the story progresses, Jude realizes she needs Cardan to secure her position of power in Elfhame.**

**THE  
FOLK  
OF THE  
AIR**

**This creates tension and unpredictability in their relationship.**

**The Folk of the Air stood out to me because of the compelling story with complex characters, plot twists, dark elements and fast-paced nature. Jude is ruthless, cunning, and will outmaneuver anyone with her wits; this had me hooked as I was waiting for her next masterful plan. Holly Black does an excellent job of creating a world with high stakes that kept me engaged and rooting for the characters. With intense battle scenes, gruesome injuries, and slow-burn romance, this trilogy is best for older readers who enjoy fantasy romance.**

**Written by Avery Martin**

# Girls' Basketball Update

STEMIA's senior girls' basketball team has been putting in a lot of hard work since January, with a lot of energy and focus on teamwork. Coached by Ms. Davies and Ms. Keilback, the team has been working hard to improve their skills and push themselves to be their best every game.

One player that stands out is Sienna Brar, in 8B. Sienna has been playing basketball for almost eight years and is playing for three teams this year! Her efforts and skills were shown especially when she got player of the game, and got Bob the Basketball JellyCat, the mascot who the player of the game gets to keep and take around school until the next MVP is awarded. When I was interviewing Sienna, she also wanted to give a shout out to Karmin, in grade 9, for being such an amazing leader and player for the team.

Reflecting on a highlight from the season, Sienna shared that her favourite memory is when they won two out of three games in a tournament, which was a lot of fun and a good feeling. It was a team effort, and everyone had to put their effort and skills to the test.

With the season still ongoing, the Senior Girls Basketball team is still getting better and better, and players like Sienna and Karmin are helping lead the way toward more future successes.

By Stella J.

# Jr Boys' Basketball Update

by Nirvi

The Junior Boys Basketball team has been working hard this season with Ms. Anstey as one of their coaches. This is her second year coaching, and one of the reasons she was excited to coach this year was the opportunity to coach alongside Ms. Tiedje.

“She has brought so much to the team, like her amazing half time pep talks, and is a great coach.”

Ms. Anstey shared.

Only 13 people made the team after tryouts, and they have been working hard practicing every

Monday morning. “I've seen such amazing

progress in their skills” Ms. Anstey said. Ms.

Anstey and Ms. Tiedje have focused on building stamina for the team. They have also worked on

creating space on the court and perfecting

drives. One of the highlights of the season has

been watching the players work together.

“Seeing the team gel together as a unit has been incredible,” shared Ms. Anstey. Ms. Anstey hopes

that it's been a great experience for the team this season, and she encourages lots of people to try

out next year too!



# What's Happening in Calgary

## (FEB. 28-MAR.26th)



For all the Spark Scoop, this is a new column about everything that is happening in Calgary! This may include movie showings to chorus songs, skating and ice biking, building wreaths. We have everything in Calgary.

### MARCH 1 5-8 PM

CreekView Grand Opening Event. The community of CreekView in Calgary's southwest is officially launching, and they are celebrating with a spectacular show home grand opening! With 14 stunning show homes to explore, this is an event you won't want to miss! Stick around for the dazzling drone show that will light up the night's sky.

### MARCH 2

German Children's Carnival. Learn more at [germaneducationcalgary.ca](http://germaneducationcalgary.ca) Until March 9 – 10:30 to 11:00am

### MARCH 1ST 3-5:30

The Festival Chorus Presents: HOME & AWAY. Don't forget to pack your passport for this entertaining afternoon itinerary of domestic and international choral music, which begins in Canada and ends on Broadway. Watch the show at Bethany Chapel of Calgary. Learn more at [thefestivalchorus.com](http://thefestivalchorus.com).

### MARCH 2-4

Michaels MakeBreak: Spring Hoop Butterfly Wreath. Join in-store to create a project just in time for spring! \$10 per project. Learn more at [canada.michaels.com](http://canada.michaels.com). 2 to 4pm

### TILL MARCH 26

The final days of the Penguin Walk are on until March 9th! Watch the King Penguins step outside their habitat for a royal stroll through the grounds. This is included with your daily admission, which includes a chance to save when you purchase early! Until March 26th – All day

### MARCH 2ND

Family Nature Skate at Bowness. Skate rentals are available on-site, or you could try an ice bike! Learn more at [albertawilderness.ca](http://albertawilderness.ca)

### FEBRUARY 28

The Story of Taylor Swift. This event takes you on a journey through the incredible rise of Taylor Swift, from her early days as a self-made artist writing songs in her bedroom to becoming one of the most influential women in music. This event takes place at The Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Learn more at [jubileeauditorium.com](http://jubileeauditorium.com).

### MARCH 2

PHENOMENA The Exhibition at TELUS Spark: Uncover the science behind illusions and explore human understanding. This includes hands-on experiences, and captivating views. For more information go to <http://sparkscience.ca>

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO?

The grade nines of STEM IA went on a fascinating field trip to the Calgary Zoo, enhancing their knowledge in the biological diversity unit they are currently learning in science. During this experience, the grade nines got to identify diverse types of skulls, meet some of the animals up close, tour both the African Savahna and African rainforest exhibits, and explore for themselves.

**Interview with one of the grade nines who was on the field trip:**

**What was a highlight of the field trip?**

*A highlight was definitely getting to see Sheldon the Tortoise. He was really cute and even though he didn't come near he was fun to watch, even if he was just walking around.*

**Would you recommend this field trip for the grade 9's next year?**

*For sure, it's a great chance to learn more about the animals at a more personal level as we had a tour guide, and it's fun to see all the animals in the snow which isn't something you typically get to see.*

**Did this field trip change your perspective on biological diversity?**

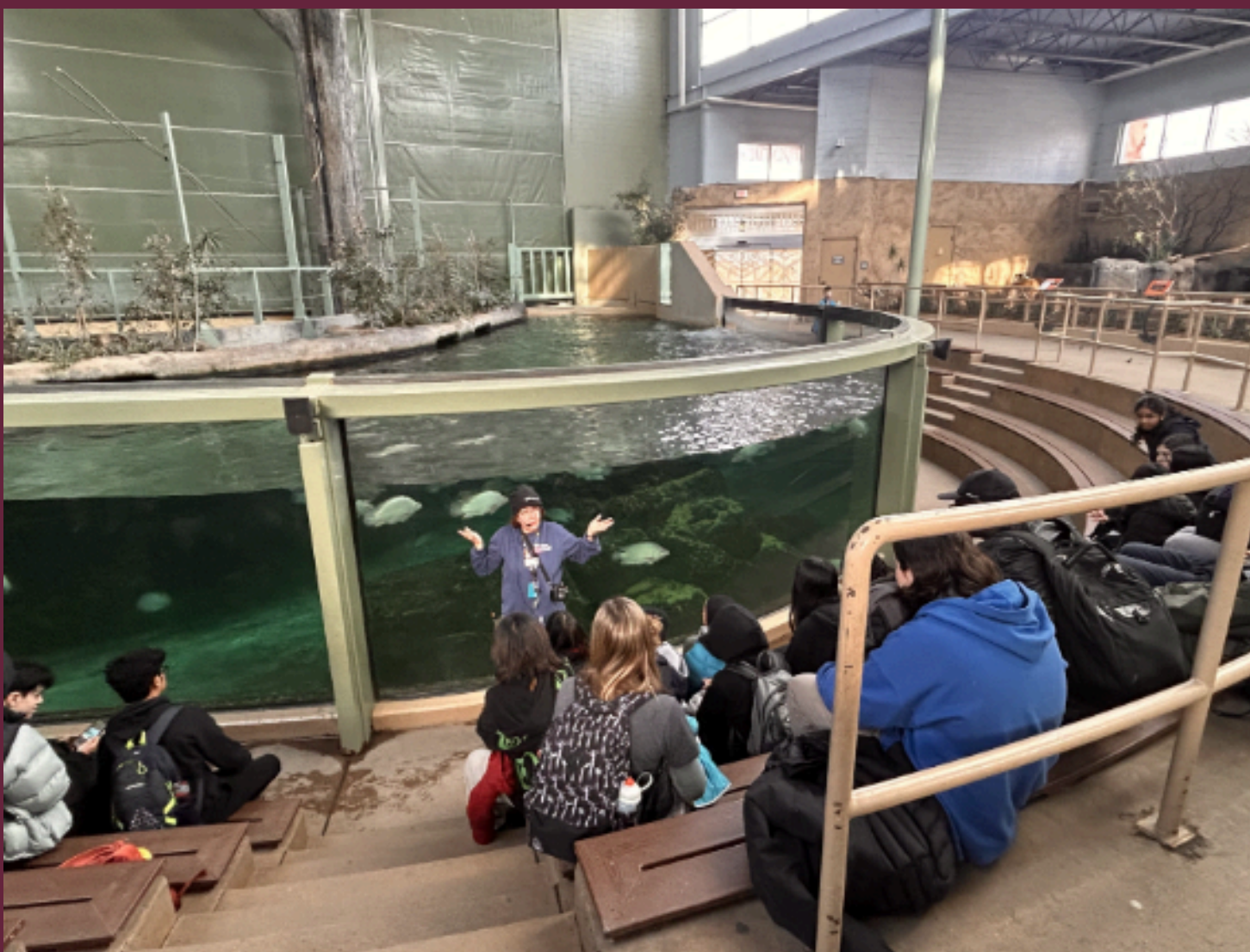
*It more so emphasized my knowledge about it already. I knew it was really important already but getting to learn about it at the zoo and getting to see the animals really helped focus my perspective on biological diversity.*

**Did this field trip inspire you to learn more about biological diversity?**

*Definitely, it inspired me not only to learn about more well-known organisms like hippos and tigers but also small organisms that build up an ecosystem like bugs and plants.*

**Is there anything you would change if you could go on this field trip again?**

*I would definitely have brought some more layers as it was a chilly February day. Besides that, it was really fun and I didn't really have any qualms with my experience.*



# LASER CITY

Field Trip Fun: Laser City

By Trinity S.

On February 11-12, all grade 8 classes went to Laser City for the light and optics science unit. As well as having fun, there were cool experiments too. Students were involved in a lesson on lights, mirrors, and fog, and another that included a red box, a white box, a black box, and rgb lighting. As an 8th grade student, I can say that the future 8's will love this field trip. It did well on connecting science and fun. The trip was fun from the moment I sat on the bus and would rate it a 10/10.



# CHESS tournament



The STEM Innovation Academy hosted a chess tournament where students competed in friendly matches. Each player focused hard, thinking through their moves to outsmart their opponent. Friends watched from the side, cheering them on. There were no prizes, but everyone had fun and enjoyed the challenge. In the end, the tournament brought students together and made them even more excited about chess.

# MOVIE

## REVIEW

### SONIC 3

THE NEW SONIC 3 MOVIE WAS PACKED WITH HUMOR, ACTION, TWISTS, AND EMOTION!

IT IS EXCITING AS THE BEGINNING STARTS OFF BY INTRODUCING A VILLAIN NAMED SHADOW. OUR THREE HEROES, SONIC, TAILS, AND KNUCKLES, HAVE THEIR RELAXING WEEKEND INTERRUPTED BY OFFICIALS WHO NEED THEM TO ASSIST WITH THE VILLAIN. THE GROUP GOES TO FIGHT SHADOW, BUT HE IS TOO STRONG FOR THEM, LEADING THEM TO ASK DR. EGGMAN FOR HELP. A NEW CHARACTER SHOWS UP, AND THE WHOLE STORY GETS WEIRDER.

DR. EGGMAN, MEETS HIS GRANDPA, AND THE TWO WORK ALONG WITH SHADOW TO DESTROY THE WORLD, WHILE SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS TRY TO STOP HIM. NEAR THE END OF THE STORY, SHADOW TURNS GOOD AND REALIZES HIS MISTAKE, AS WELL AS THE VILLAIN DR. EGGMAN. FOR ONCE THE DOCTOR HAS DONE SOMETHING GOOD, BUT THE STORY ENDS WITH HIM AND SHADOW SACRIFICING THEIR LIVES TO SAVE THE WORLD.

THE BIGGEST EASTER EGG IN THE STORY IS WHERE A NEW CHARACTER SHOWS UP, AS WELL AS A PACK OF NEW VILLAINS.

THE SONIC 3 MOVIE WAS FUN, WITH TWISTS AND TURNS. I WOULD RATE IT AN 8/10.

