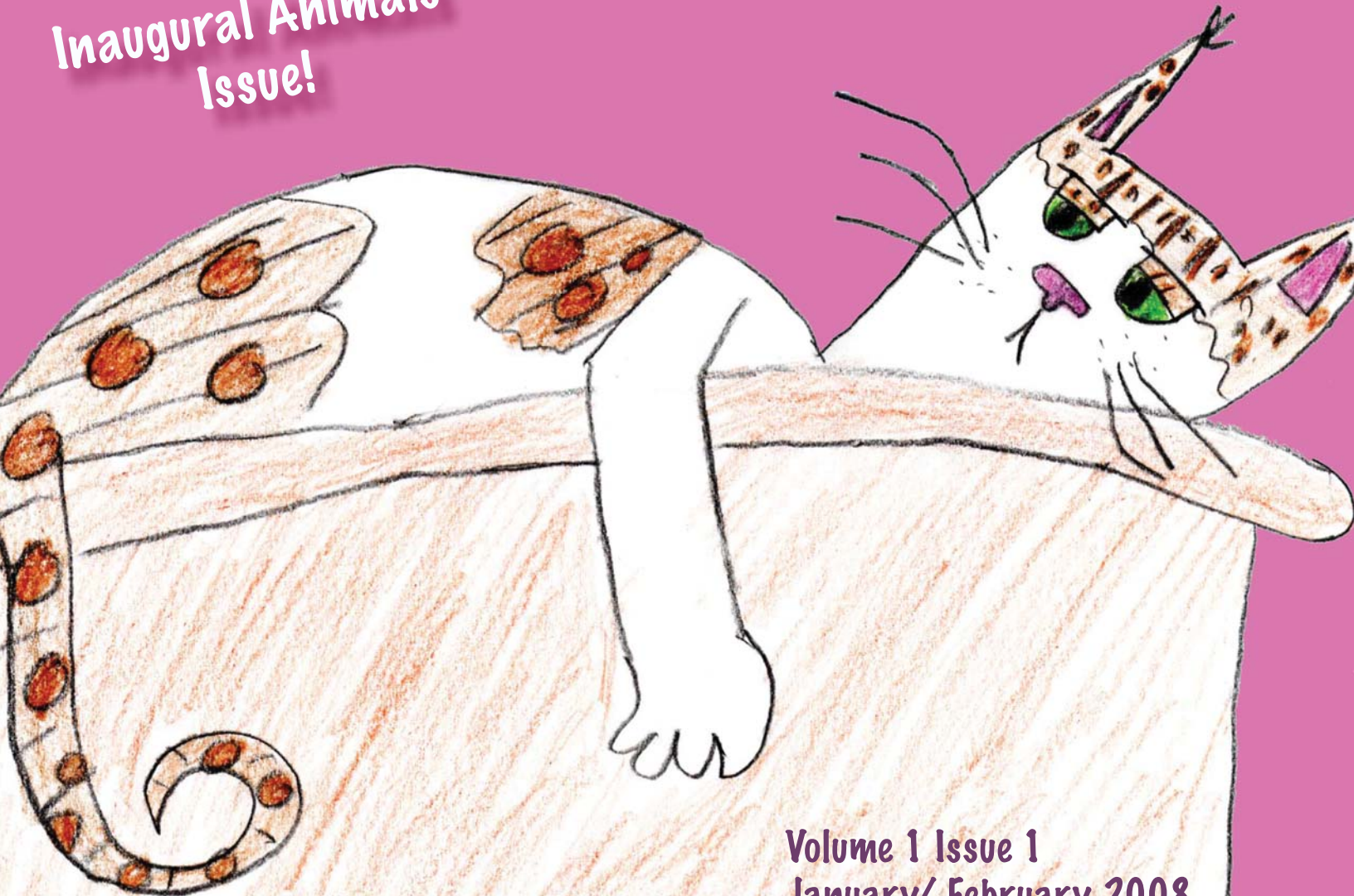


# Launch Pad

Where Young Authors and Illustrators Take Off!

Inaugural Animals  
Issue!

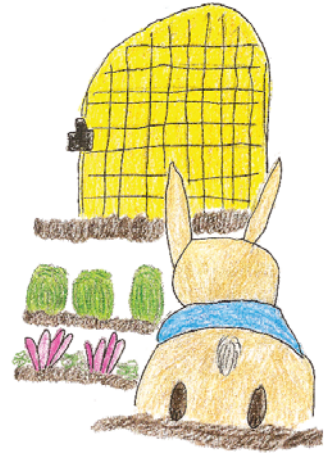


Volume 1 Issue 1  
January/ February 2008

*January/ February 2008*

*Dear Launch Pad Readers,*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Launch Pad: Where Young Authors and Illustrators Take Off! Our January/February “Animals” issue features creative works by talented young authors and illustrators from eleven states and from Australia, New Zealand, Wales, and England. You will find creative fiction, folktales, poetry, and nonfiction, complemented by expressive and imaginative illustrations by young artists using a variety of colorful media and artistic styles. I know you will enjoy reading our first issue!



Launch Pad is a new literary and arts magazine devoted to publishing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and artwork by children ages 6-12. The magazine is scheduled to appear bimonthly (every two months), and the first issues will be accessible free of charge (open access) from the Launch Pad web site.

If you are a young reader (ages 6-12), please submit your creative work to Launch Pad. We are looking for works for our upcoming issues about Fairy Tales & Fantasy, Sports, Summer Fun, Mysteries, and Heroes. Be sure to review the submission guidelines (our magazine is selective) on our web site with a parent. If you are a teacher, librarian, or parent, please encourage young people to submit their work! We still have space in all of our upcoming 2008 issues, and Launch Pad especially needs young artists.

Future plans for Launch Pad include a print version for libraries and other paid subscribers. I would like to extend a special invitation to publishers and associations to contact the editor about the opportunity to form a partnership to launch a print version of the magazine. I am grateful to all of the libraries that have already expressed an interest in subscribing to a print launch of the magazine.

**Cover art by Cenzo Cariddi, Age 11, River Edge, New Jersey**

**Rabbit by Isabelle St. John, Author & Illustrator, “Peter Rabbit and the Hot Petunias”**

Parents, teachers, librarians, and individuals are welcome to support Launch Pad by providing links to our web site, encouraging young people to submit works, and by emailing the editor to add your name or institution to a list of potential print subscribers. We will not share your name or email address with outside parties, and adding your name or institution will not commit you to a purchase.

I wish to thank all of our young contributors and their parents for allowing me to showcase these exceptionally creative works. I would also like to thank the many librarians, teachers, parents, and professional children's authors who have offered their words of encouragement and support for Launch Pad. Enjoy the magazine!

Sincerely,

**Paul Kelsey, MLIS**

**Editor and Publisher**

**Launch Pad: Where Young Authors and Illustrators Take Off!**



## Acknowledgements

The editor wishes to gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their support and help with Launch Pad: Brita and Greg Odegard, and editorial board members Nancy Sharon Collins and Mary-Lane Kamberg.