

PS11 PAPER

VOLUME VI

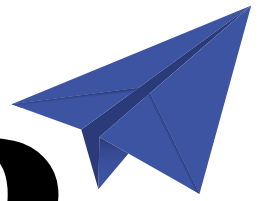


PHOTO BY OWEN KIVETT



Swimming Bubbles!

MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN AND MEERA WILLIAMS

Where can you swim? At the pool! P.S. 11 has an awesome pool. As a top secret agent, here is your mission: Discover the top secrets of the pool. No one knows you are a top secret spy because, remember, this is top secret!

OBJECTIVE 1: Detect how students go from math or science to soaking wet and back.

When students come down to the pool, which is in the basement of the school, the first thing they do is get their swim stuff and towel. If they had left their stuff there for the week, they would get it from a bin that holds all the laundry, which is done by a man who works there. (Some students

think it is better to leave their stuff there, so parents don't have to clean it at home. Also, they don't have to carry all their stuff in their back pack. Second graders have to go to the third floor, which is six or eight sets of steps up!) Next, Mr. David Nichols, the Physical Education teacher and swim coach, calls boys and girls to get their stuff, and then they head to the locker rooms.

In the girls' locker room, each locker has two sides, and students can change on either side. In the middle, there is a shower. Two or three students can share each locker area. Students have to take a shower before they go in the pool, but sometimes

the water is cold. Students can choose to get sprayed by a hose instead and it is better to take the hose because it is warmer than the shower. There used to be two women who worked at the pool who helped with things like getting shower caps on, but now they only help in the shallow end during class, so students help each other put swim caps on. The boys do not need caps unless they have long hair.

Then, swimmers go in the pool and start their warm-ups. The warm-ups are either freestyle, backstroke or butterfly kick. When time is up, students come out and get their towels, which are waiting for them on a blue bench. Next, they head to the locker room and do the same routine as before. It's important to take a shower after swim class because there are chemicals in the water, including chlorine. So, they shower (or hose) and change back into their clothes and wait to get picked up by their teacher.

OBJECTIVE 2: Determine how students get free swim.

To get "free swim," students have to be the first ten people to finish changing after class. The first ten kids sitting and waiting for their teacher on the blue bench get free swim the next week! The grown-ups write down the names of those kids so they'll know they have it next week. Those named, get to have five to ten minutes of free swim after class! In the meantime, the other kids are getting changed.

Mr. Nichols did a very smart strategy for free swim so that, of course,

continued on page 2

SWIMMING continued

the same kids don't have free swim the next week. Remember, people only get free swim if they're the first ten people to be changed and ready. Since the free swim kids are the last ones to get changed that week, they can't possibly have free swim again the next week because they can't be the first ones ready again if they're busy at the end having free swim.

The most common game to play in free swim is "Treasure Island." There are eggs and mini Frisbees with numbers on them. The kid in charge gets to throw them into the pool and the players are split into teams. The team that collects the most eggs or Frisbee points wins!

OBJECTIVE 3: Investigate the condition of the pool.

According to Mr. Nichols, "The pool is very, very old." However, it "is always clean." It has a filter to get the germs and hairs out of the pool. There is a robot vacuum cleaner that goes under water and gets all big dirt and icky stuff out of the pool. Chlorine is used to disinfect the water. There is also a drain in case they need to get all the water out.

FINAL OBJECTIVE: Assess the safety of the pool.

Mr. Nichols and Ms. Marcou are great swimmers. Nicole Marcou is the school health teacher and the swim teacher for the after school program. Every 3 years, they have an ocean life-guard test and they always pass. They also have to get CPR certified every year. When no one is in the pool, Mr. Nichols practices in the pool so he can become a greater swimmer. He is the swim teacher, after all! In addition, throughout Mr. Nichols' time at P.S. 11, there have never been any safety issues or emergencies.

Mission accomplished!

11 Questions with...

Ms. Sharon Golub



1. What do you like most about teaching kids music?

I like to see how proud they feel when they learn a song or a piano piece.

2. What types of music do you like?

My background is classical. So, I started playing that, but I played in rock 'n' roll bands for a lot of years. I also like jazz, reggae and I love blues.

3. What instruments did you play in rock bands?

I played all the keyboards, including the Hammond organ. I also played flute but not that well. I used to play "The Hustle" on flute.

4. What are some of your favorite groups?

The Beatles, Procol Harum and Peter Gabriel.

5. What did you like most about David Bowie?

How innovative and creative he was. He changed things and did a lot of things first.

6. What grade do you enjoy teaching the most?

Every grade for a different reason: Fifth grade, because I get to do graduation with them. Third grade, because I get to teach them recorder and we do rock songs on it. Kindergarten through second, I get to teach them piano. Pre-K

is a blast. This is the best Pre-K we've ever had. I put them at the keyboards and they get to play.

7. What's your favorite sports team?

The Yankees! My father was a Yankees fan. They are the best baseball team, end of story.

8. What's something that no one knows about you?

I've written two music books and there's a song written about me by a group called Mountain. It's called "Long Red." You can find it on *YouTube*.

9. How do you, Ms. Sarah and Ms. Wurman decide what shows you are going to do?

We listen to the fourth graders. We get together with them and hear them sing and that's how we pick a show that's going to be right for them.

10. So far, what has been your favorite 5th grade production?

That's hard. There are so many good ones. *Beauty & the Beast*, *Music Man*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Annie*, and *Peter Pan* are all favorites.

11. Why do you like to make school plays?

I like watching something going from nothing to the end product. It's exciting to be part of that.

Congrats, Ms. Golub, on your 20th year teaching at P.S. 11!!

BY MAX STÖHRER

PHOTO BY OWEN KIVETT



Backwards Day

BY JENSEN KREBS

Did you ever wear your pants backwards? If not, you got a chance to on Backwards Day. Almost everyone participated, and it was easy to plan for because you didn't need to buy a costume or wear special accessories, like make-up. You could just wear regular, everyday clothes and turn them backwards. One third grader wore a backwards shirt, backwards hoodie and backwards pants. Another student wore a backwards sweater and skirt.

Not many teachers dressed up for the day of backwardness. One third grade teacher explained that she forgot. She said that she should have laid her clothes out the day before as a reminder.

Not only did some teachers forget,

but some students forgot, too. One reason may be because the student council waited until two days before to announce this spirit day. Student council member, Ella Scandura, explained that they "were supposed to put up posters, but it was unclear when we were supposed make the posters. In the end, we decided to go around to each classroom and announce the spirit days, instead." She also explained why spirit days are always on Friday. "At the beginning of the year, the student council voted that they should have the spirit days on the first Friday of every month."

So, until the next one, try to figure out what this sentence says: Gnikool drawrof ot eht txen tirips yad.

Overheard at LUNCH:

BY SADIE HOWARD
AND JAMIE KAURI**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12**

Malvin, grade 3 "It was hot and burning my mouth, but tastes good."

Meera, grade 2 "Today I had pasta, cheese stick, apple, chips, and Oreos, and it was the best lunch ever."

Ella, Pre-K "Today, I really didn't have time to eat my lunch."

Rachel, grade 4 "I had a cheese sandwich. The cheese is funky to me. It also tastes rubbery."

Eli, grade 2 "I had a pretzel bagel with ham and turkey, a cheese stick, a[n] apple and a chocolate Z-Bar!"

Raheem, grade 3 "Good."

Lila, grade 3 "My home lunch is good."

Emily, grade 5 "Usually the pasta is good and cheesy. This particular day it was disgusting cheese stuffed shells with marinara sauce. Also, the breadstick was overcooked."

Sophia, grade 5 "I feel that the problem is that school lunch just needs to be more encouraged by the lunch ladies, cooks and lunch staff."

PHOTO BY LAUREN ESHELMAN



Disco-Skating & Flying Over the Ice

BY PAULINA BODIN

Summer has ice-cream but winter has ice skating! I went with a bunch of friends to test the neighborhood ice rinks. We started with the Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers. The kids' rentals are

PHOTOGRAPH BY KARINA GUPTA



\$5.00. It costs \$10.00 to skate. The team at the Sky Rink cleans the ice at least six times a day, which is pretty amazing. They sharpen the rental skates every day, so skating over that ice feels like flying. Loud music booms out of the speakers. "The ice is so smooth, the best in the city," said Jack, a nine year old who has played ice hockey at Chelsea Piers for five years. We liked the food. A slice of

pizza was \$3.50 and not too bad. They had bagels and a giant yogurt with granola for \$6.00, but no hot cocoa. Overall, the place is more like a skating gym, but good for cold days because it is indoors. Be aware, they close at 5 p.m. weekdays (closed on Wednesday) and 3:50 p.m. on the weekends.

Next, was the ice rink, at The Standard, which I personally love. It is really good for kids who want to spend the whole afternoon there, play tag and have fun. It's also good for kids who are learning how to skate because the rink is super tiny. The downside: They do not take the best care of the ice. "It is so bumpy. You always trip over the bumps," said Anney, a student at P.S. 11. The rentals are \$4.00, but aren't great. Ad-

mission is \$6.00 for kids under 12. But, they have the yummiest french fries for \$6.00 and a hot cocoa with marshmallows for \$8.00. It is so thick and creamy, it feels like a full meal.

The last trip was to Bryant Park, a great big rink! It is extremely popular, so sometimes there is a line to get in. Then, there is another wait to get skates. Rentals are expensive at \$15.00! Then, they make you wait

forever when they clean the ice, but it is totally worth it. The ice is smooth, you are skating in the middle of the city in between those tall buildings and the magical lights. They play cool music. And the best thing: Admission is free for kids under 12 if you bring your own skates. They have a huge variety of snacks (hot dogs, veggie wraps) and an okay hot cocoa.

So, which one is the best? The Sky Rink for an hour of disco-skating on freezing days. Bryant Park for some real skating. And The Standard if you want to have a fun afternoon with your friends.

JOKES of the MONTH

BY JACK DOYLE

Knock-knock.

Who's there?

Canoe.

Canoe who?

Canoe do my homework for me?



Why were the elephants kicked off the beach?

A: Their trunks were down.

PHOTO BY KARINA GUPTA



Adopt a Furry Friend

BY NANDINI BAINS AND ELI PARMETT

There are many animals waiting to be saved and taken into families. There are so many reasons for pets to be given a home. Why would a person adopt a pet instead of buying one from the pet store? People rescue dogs to take care of them and give them a home. Pets have to be rescued because if they aren't, they may get put to sleep. If they are left in the wild, they may get hurt or eaten. If you rescue a pet by adopting it, it will have a home and feel safe with a really nice owner who cares for their pet and wants to do a good deed. Adopting a pet helps them to

live in peace. If you care for animals, they will care for you.

The process of pet adoption is easy. Pet adoption only takes a few minutes. In that time, you read and sign a contract, and if you are adopting a dog, you may have to determine whether your pet needs shots, depending on the breed. It is also easy because after you sign the contract, you can just pay for the dog and take it home. It is not like waiting in the line at Whole Foods, which can take hours!

According to Alexandra, the Manager at the Chelsea Kennel Club, she currently has about twenty to thirty

puppies waiting for adoption. So, if you are looking to adopt a dog or cat, you may consider them. They do not keep any puppies bigger than a Labrador retriever. Alexandra said it is very fun to work at the kennel, but sometimes, it can be hard because the puppies are not housebroken. Puppies come to the kennel when they are eight weeks old and usually get purchased around three months old. Just like kids, puppies often get sick in the winter due to the weather change.

Adopting a pet can change your health from sick to healthy. With your pet accompanying you, your blood pressure will go down because pets can make you feel calm. Dogs, in particular, can assist someone who is blind because the dog's eyes become the blind person's eyes. In other words, they see for you. Additionally, if you have a disease, a dog or pig can sometimes tell if you are about to faint, and alert you by stepping on your foot.

Pets should be adopted because they can save your life, they are good for your health and the process of pet adoption is fairly simple. These pets are doing so much to help humans and all you need to do in return is feed your pet and give them shelter and love. A lot of pets still need homes. It would be great if you could go out and adopt a pet!

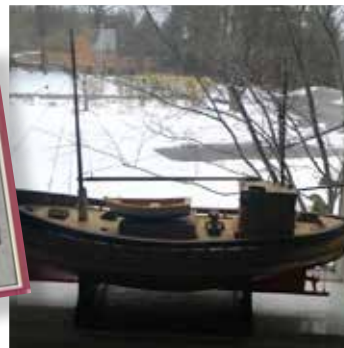
January was National Hobby Month!!

Hope you got extra enjoyment out of reading, birding, going to the movies, model building, playing sports or whatever your favorite hobby is!



Sports card collecting

Model Boat Building



Bird Watching



PHOTOS BY LAUREN ESHELMAN

Showcase Show

BY JENSEN KREBS

This year, P.S. 11 is a showcase school. Three times a year, principals and teachers from other NYC schools visit P.S. 11 and learn from chosen students, called ambassadors, about the amazing wonders of P.S. 11.

There are only 26 schools chosen out of all schools in New York City. Each showcase school has a focus area. P.S. 11's focus area is Empowering Students and Teachers. January 26, one of these showcase meetings took place in room 209. Twelve visitors sat with twelve ambassadors and discussed the secrets

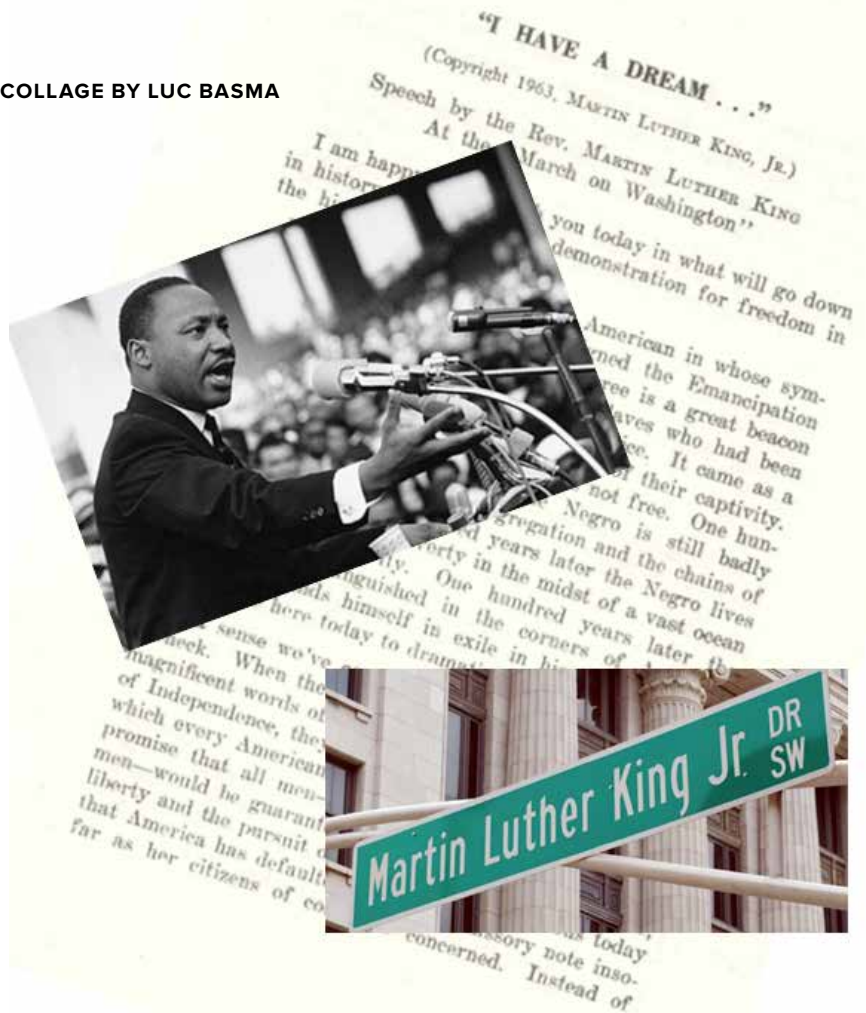
PHOTO BY KARINA GUPTA



of P.S. 11's success, including feedback using portfolios and the wide range of extracurricular activities the school offers. One visitor, Blair, asked to come, "because I want to see what other students do at other schools to succeed and bring it back to my students." She was impressed that P.S. 11 has "a lot of enrichment programs."

The showcase was a success, and hopefully, the visitors learned a lot. The ambassadors were really happy to be in the showcase program and look forward to the next event.

COLLAGE BY LUC BASMA



MLK Holiday

BY AADITYA MATHUR

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very important civil rights leader. He fought for equal rights for African Americans and whites. He is also famous for his non-violent methods. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated to remember him. This year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was on January 18, 2016. It is always the third Monday of January.

In earlier days, African Americans were slaves and not treated equally. African American children were not allowed to go to the same school as white children. Martin Luther King, Jr. made a lot of speeches and used the power of words to stop segrega-

tion. His non-violent methods were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. He organized peaceful protests, boycotts and speeches.

Martin Luther King, Jr. made a speech called, "I Have a Dream," where millions gathered to listen. A famous quote from the speech is, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The laws changed in 1964 and 1965 to treat African Americans and whites equally. People were very sad when Martin Luther King, Jr. died in 1968.

Featured Artwork

ARTIST: EUNA KIM, THIRD GRADE ART EDITOR: ROGER CARASSO



If you would like to submit artwork to be considered for our next edition, please draw, paint or write it on 1 sheet of letter-sized paper (one side only), then drop it in the News Box in the Main Office. Make sure to include your name and class on the back. You may also submit article ideas, jokes or poll questions.



— FICTION —

Wild at Heart

BY CAROLINE STÖHRER



Peppermint looked out the window of her owner's car as they entered the highway. It had always amazed her from her cat ears down to her kitten paws how fast cars could go. *Hold on, what is that hurtling towards the car? What in the world? CRASH.*

The car collided with another, sending them spinning. Peppermint held on for dear life as one of the car doors opened, forcing her to let go of the seat and be flung into the forest by the highway.

Peppermint shook her head as she regained her composure in the dirt. *Where am I?* she thought. Unsure of where to go, she wandered through the forest. *Rustle.* She pricked her ears. Something was hiding in the ferns just ahead, something her size. A tabby with hard green eyes leaped out, his long claws unsheathed. Peppermint scampered back, his claws barely missing her precious black and white fur. "Get out!" he hissed, staring at Peppermint. Peppermint stared back, her eyes narrowing to yellow slits. He snarled at her and swiped his paw again. Peppermint cried out, "Please! I mean you no harm!" The tabby calmed down and sat. "What's your business, then?" he asked. Peppermint mewed. "I got lost and I want to go home."

The tabby looked intently at her. "Come, then. I will take you in for one night, then home. My name's Oakland. What's yours?" He strolled into the undergrowth, not bothering to look back. Peppermint followed closely. "My name is Peppermint," she said quietly, a little bit embarrassed by the way she had reacted to Oakland's ambush. Oakland didn't respond, but dove into a large bush.

Peppermint copied him and found him waiting at the foot of a tunnel. The tunnel didn't go far and they soon entered a small hollow with a pile of moss that Peppermint guessed was Oakland's bed.

Peppermint wrinkled her nose. *A fox den?* Oakland snapped, "Look, this is the best place I have to live, so just deal with it!" He brought her back out and taught her how to catch a fish in the pond by his den. She first refused to eat the fish, but hunger drove her to try it. It tasted spicy and foreign, yet wonderfully new. Exhaustion drove her straight to lights out when she sank onto her own mossy bed.

At the crack of dawn, Oakland prodded Peppermint awake. She groaned and rolled over. "Wake up, you fish-head!" he joked. "It's a ways to the human road, and then we have to get to your den!" Peppermint bolted up. "Okay!" She hurriedly cleaned herself, making sure no disgusting ticks were in her fur. Then, she squeezed herself through the tunnel after Oakland. She landed in the middle of a bush where Oakland sat, cleaning his giant muscular paw. "Come on, let's go," he said coolly. They ran through the forest, laughing. "You can't beat me!" Oakland called as he raced away. Peppermint called back, "Oh yeah?" She put on a burst of speed and rocketed past Oakland, then, skidded to a stop. They had reached the highway.

The stinky asphalt of the road stung Peppermint's nose. Oakland grimaced. "This way," he said. By afternoon, they had reached the suburbs. "Dairy Street!" Peppermint panted. "My home is there!"

They raced towards the two-story meringue-colored house but were stopped by three enormous dogs and one smaller dog, a Chihuahua, blocking their way. Their beady, malicious eyes scrutinized them. The leader, a burly Labrador, growled. "What you want, *cat?*" Oakland strode towards them. "I wish to bring this kitten home." The leader roared, "You will do no such thing!" Peppermint and Oakland ran in the other direction, climbed over the fence and clawed up the side of the house. The other dogs barked brutally below, too big to follow. Oakland and Peppermint settled on the roof. "We could jump to your roof," Oakland suggested. "No, it's too far!" Peppermint fretted.

Just then, a scrawny Chihuahua heaved himself onto the roof. He lowered his voice. "My name is Bob, and I want to help you." Peppermint and Oakland listened carefully. "I am the runt of my pack, and they do terrible things to the animals that defy them. I will distract them, and you go to the far side of the house. My brothers do not dare to venture there, as it is our owner's lounge, and he does not like to be disturbed. Good luck."

He slipped down the side again and they heard him talking to the big dogs. Peppermint and Oakland did as Bob instructed. "I'm home," Peppermint said softly, tears coming to her eyes. Her owner came out and saw her. They ran towards each other, cat leaping into human arms. Oakland gave a farewell salute and left the way they had come. Peppermint nestled into the arms of her owner and purred happily. She was finally home.

P.S. 11 Paper Staff - *The Cubs*



BACK ROW: Roman Chavez, Owen Kivett, Caroline Stöhrer, Sadie Howard, Jack Doyle, Lila Dupuy, Nandini Bains.

CENTER ROW: Aaditya Mathur, Jamie Kauri, Meera Williams, Juliette Carasso, Agostina Rodriguez, Luc Basma, Paulina Bodin.

FRONT ROW: Roger Carasso, Joshua Vega, Maximilian Stöhrer, Eli Parmett, Matilda Fried Levenstein, Lauren Eshelman, Jensen Krebs, Karina Gupta.

SPECIAL EDITOR FOR THIS ISSUE: JULIETTE CARASSO