

PS11 PAPER

VOLUME VII

PHOTO BY: JOE DOYLE

This Crazy Winter Weather



BY ASHLEY JACKSON-WILLIAMS AND NATE WILDMAN

Have you seen this year's weather? It's crazy! We have had some of the hottest days this season and some of the coldest, too. We have also had a historic snow storm! The mild start to winter that we had does not mean that all of our winter will be mild. This season, we may see snow days, indoor recesses, or hopefully, outdoor recesses. What does all this weather mean for us and our future?

This winter is very different from

past winters. Bodies of water that once froze regularly each winter now freeze less frequently. Winter storms have increased in frequency since the 1950's. The snow depth for this time of year would usually average around 3 1/2 inches, but so far, it is almost 30 inches. Also, the snow came very late this year. At the start of the winter, it was really warm and no one thought it was going to snow. It felt like spring was just around the

corner, but the late start of winter took us all by surprise. Scientists call this phenomenon "season creep." It can result in buds appearing on some trees in late winter. Winter has finally caught up with us and the temperature drop has caused Mayor De Blasio to issue a Code Blue earlier this month. Code Blue provides shelter for the homeless from the extreme cold.

The last week of December, the whole month of January, and the first week of February have shown the effects of an El Niño. An El Niño is a weather pattern of extremely warm temperatures. An El Niño happens when trade winds are weaker than usual. This causes the Pacific Ocean to be warmer than usual and changes the jet stream, leading to unusual weather patterns with some areas flooding and other areas staying dry. This past December challenged many temperature records, and all of those records have shown signs of an El Niño.

The average temperature for January is a high of 40° F and a low of 28° F. The average for February is 43° F high/30° low. This year, we have been 10 to 20 degrees higher than the historical average. This Christmas Eve was the warmest Christmas Eve ever, not only in NYC but across the country. Five thousand, two hundred records have been tied or broken in December. Winter Storm Jonas broke snowfall records by being the

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PHOTO BY JOE DOYLE

WINTER continued

second biggest storm in the history of New York, coming in with 26.8 inches of snow in the northeastern United States.

Though this year has been unusual, extreme weather has happened in New York City in the past, too. The largest snowstorm in NYC was on February 11, 2006. It dropped 26.9 inches of snow. Even though this year's Valentine's Day was the coldest Valentine's Day in a 100 years, the coldest day ever in NYC was -15 degrees Fahrenheit, which was on February 9, 1934.

These past records seem to be random abnormalities in the weather. However, permanent climate changes are making storms consistently more intense and frequent, while winter temperatures are lower, in general. These changes will affect us because it will make some areas uninhabitable for growing crops. Global warming plays a big part by producing more precipitation. Shorter and warmer winters may be damaging some plant life because they can't start their hibernation process, called "cold hardening." Super storm Jonas was formed by a polar vortex, which is an arctic cyclone.

We can all do our part to lessen the effects of global warming by reducing our emissions and finding better ways of transportation, like walking, using buses, trains or bikes. We should also try to find alternative energy sources like wind, water, or solar power. We shouldn't use gas, oil, or power plants to fuel our things. Power plants, drilling, and timber companies are the most serious causes of global warming. If we don't do something about global warming, then, there will be more life threatening storms in our future.

11 Questions with...

Adi Licht



1. How long have you worked at PS 11?

6 ½ years.

2. What is your favorite thing about P.S. 11?

All of the shows and all of the amazing students.

3. What is your favorite type of dance?

Hip-hop.

4. Where do you get your inspiration for your dances?

I am still a student and I take classes around five days a week and I like to travel the world and learn new types of dances.

5. What are your hobbies?

I like to dance and travel.

6. Where did you grow up?

Tel Aviv, Israel.

7. What is your favorite kind of

music?

All kinds of music. I love Beyoncé.

8. Do you have any pets?

No, but I really want a puppy.

9. If you could have dinner with any famous person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Michael Jackson just because I really look up to him and grew up on his music. I'd love to have lunch with him, and then, a dance class.

10. If you could live anywhere else in the world other than NYC, where would it be?

On an island in the Caribbean. I go there every summer.

11. What advice would you give a student who wants to be a dancer when they grow up?

Always give 100%. Never give up and you can make all your dreams come true.

BY AMANDA BALLAS

PHOTO BY SAMUEL COHEN



Loving her Valentines!

Valentines For Everyone!

BY ELEANOR HOROWITZ

Our school goes by the rule that everyone should try to be “K & G” (kind & gentle). What better way to bring the K & G spirit to Valentine’s Day than to do secret Valentines! On February 12, we celebrated a holiday, followed school rules, and possibly got to meet new people, all at once! Envelopes were handed out at random by the teachers. On the front of the envelope, there was a person’s name and class number. Sometimes, on the envelope, there might be one of your friend’s names listed and you could make a personalized Valentine for them. You might also have gotten a total stranger and had to trust your instincts to help you make one for someone whom you don’t know.

When you saw the name of the student you got, you could imagine how you wanted the person receiving your Valentine to feel when they opened the envelope. I would want the person to feel like they are one of my friends, if they are not already a friend. To me, secret Valentines are a good way to make everyone in the school feel included, no matter if they are new to the school or have been there for a year or more. Lizzie Appelbaum thinks P.S. 11 should keep doing K&G Valentines because, “it helps get to know people in your grade that you did not know before. It is also a fun activity kids can do while following the school’s rule of being K&G.” Hope you had a Happy Valentine’s Day!

Overheard at LUNCH:

BY ASHER BLACKMAN AND LORENZO MATIZ

“Pizza is gooooood!”
- Roger, 3rd Grade

(Chicken tacos) “I like it!” -
Aidana, 1st Grade

“Delicious and nutritious.” –
Shaun, Kindergarten

“I like cheese and tomato pizza.”
- Scout, Kindergarten

“I only like the tomato sauce on the pizza.” - Alex, 3rd Grade

(Cheese sandwich) “Bread is my favorite.” - Cassidy, 1st Grade

“My favorite are the potato fries.” - Hilmay, 3rd Grade

“The line is way too long!” -
Adam, 3rd Grade

“Love the bread.”
- Walker, Kindergarten

“Yummy sauce and yummy cheese.” - Anna, Kindergarten

PHOTO BY RUBY WILDMAN



Lunar New Year

BY EDWIN HOROWITZ

The Lunar New Year is a celebration that falls on the last day of the lunar calendar. It is sometimes called “Chinese New Year.” This year, it started on Monday, February 8, which was the day of the new moon. The celebration lasts for 15 days. People who celebrate gather and eat the annual reunion dinner. They also decorate their windows and doors, covering them with red colored paper cutouts.

The Chinese Zodiac is a 12-year calendar cycle that has 12 animals on it. Two Thousand, Sixteen is the year of the monkey. There is a myth about how the animals made it into the Chinese Zodiac calendar and in what order. A snake, horse, goat, monkey,

rooster, dog, cat, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, and dragon raced across water. Every animal, except the cat, got across and the rat won. It’s important because the calendar is in the order of how they finished.

Henry Zhang celebrates Lunar New Year by visiting his family and he sometimes makes dragons with them. Henry loves Lunar New Year. “We watch the dragon dance and speak Chinese while we eat cake!” he said. Ms. Lam, a teacher at P.S. 11, celebrates Lunar New Year in a different way. She gives lucky red envelopes to anyone who is unmarried and also to the elderly. She wishes them something, and before they

take the envelope, they have to wish something back. Ms. Lam said Lunar New Year is about, “being with each other and honoring our ancestors. On this day, we burn incense and give offerings—food and drinks—to Buddha and our ancestors.” They also prepare for the holiday by getting haircuts and new clothes!

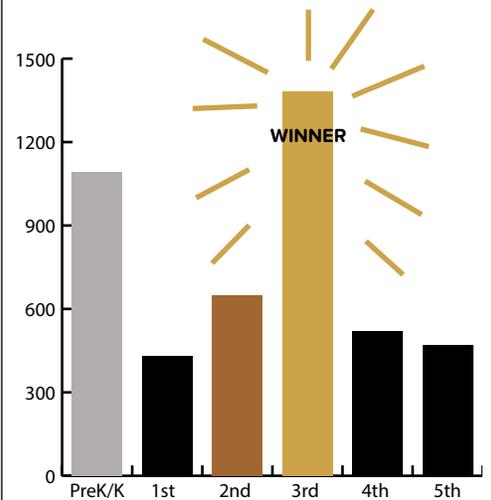
The celebration includes a parade in Chinatown, complete with firecrackers and drums and hundreds of people watching and cheering. Chinese New Year is a unique holiday that is unlike any other celebration.

PHOTO BY VIOLET SHEFFER-STEVENS



2016 Coin Drive Results

RESEARCHED BY
LORENZO MATIZ



Third graders get to pull a prize from the P.S. 11 Treasure Chest for their win! Congratulations to 2nd grader Theo T. for winning the oldest coin contest with a rare 1899 penny!

JOKES of the MONTH

BY SYDNEY GROSSMAN

Q: Why can't you give Elsa a balloon?

A: Because she will, “Let It Go.”



Q: What did the traffic light say to the car?

A: Don't look, I'm changing!

100 Days of Achievement, Friendship and Hard Work

BY BRIANA HASIMAJ

The 100th Day of School is, literally, the 100th day of the school year. From the very first day of school, many classes keep track of the number of days they've been in school in anticipation of the 100th day. Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade celebrate 100 days of school with exciting activities. But 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5 grade don't celebrate. Why? Despite that, since I am a 3rd grader, I thought I'd celebrate the first 100 days of school by writing an essay of 100 things that didn't exist 100 years ago. Here are a few of them.

One hundred years ago was 1916. We didn't have computers. The car had just been placed into production. The airplane was invented in 1903. The telephone was still fairly new, and there were still people without

electricity. People used the radio for news and music because T.V. wasn't invented yet. Movies were black and white and silent. The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska were not part of the Union yet. Also, 100 years ago, families were larger than now. Many children had to work at home and the older children had to look after the young ones. Because of that, only 6% of Americans graduated from high school. Back then, buildings were smaller and the tallest building was the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. It is mind-blowing to think how much the world has changed in just 100 years. From technology to education and lifestyle, our lives are changing every day. I hope that everyone has accomplished



BY RUBY WILDMAN

great things in the first 100 days and continues to do so for the remaining 80 days of the school year.

National Inventors' Day

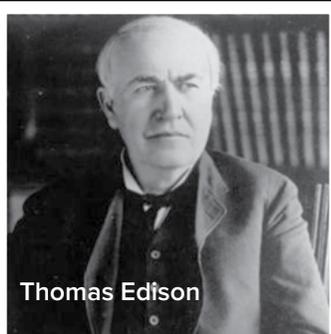
BY SAMANTHA ZAINO

February 11th was National Inventors' Day, which is when we celebrate great inventors and their inventions. Thomas Edison invented one of the most used things today, the light bulb, in November of 1879. He was born on February 11, 1847 in Milan, OH and died on October 18, 1931 in West Orange, NJ.

Ruth Wakefield is another inventor and she invented the chocolate chip cookie in 1938. She was born on June 17, 1903 in Massachusetts and died on January 10, 1977 in Plymouth, MA.

Ethan, a P.S. 11 first grader, has never heard of National Inventors' Day. He has heard of Thomas Edison but has never heard of Ruth Wakefield. Fourth grader, Eleanor, has never heard of this special day, either. Her favorite inventor is Albert Einstein. She has not heard of Ruth Wakefield.

Many people might not have heard of National Inventors' Day or know who invented what. However, it's a very significant day to remember because without all of these great inventions, the world would not be the same. For instance, there wouldn't be sweet, chocolate chip cookies or light for when it's dark.



Thomas Edison



Ruth Wakefield

Shrek, the Musical, Jr.

REVIEW BY LENA BONDS

As I walked in, there seemed to be a lot of people already in the auditorium. Greeted by the bake sale and lots of tasty treats, I took my playbill and found a seat. The stage looked great and the energy from the crowd told me they were ready for a great show. As the lights dimmed, there was lots of laughter and cheers from the crowd. It was very loud!

The opening scene was with Little Shrek, who was cute. Then, came Big Shrek! He came out and sang very well and loud. Now, Shrek had really begun! Following his opening song, Donkey entered and brought the crowd to tears with laughter. I knew within the first few moments that I had to get the scoop on who was under the costume. As the play continued, the audience seemed amazed by the talented cast and their singing, the costumes, music and lighting!

My favorite part was when Fiona and Shrek were making rude noises. Everyone was laughing, HAHA! The dragon seemed a little scary for the little kids, especially when it



PHOTO BY RUBY WILDMAN

blew fire! Throughout the 13 amazing scenes, the crowd continued to laugh and cheer. People got up, got the yummy baked goods and came back quickly to watch the rest of the show. I enjoyed a brownie.

The last scene ignited a standing ovation for the cast & crew. Ms. Golub, Ms. Sarah and Ms. Wurman took their well-deserved bows.

Back at school on Monday, EV-

ERYone was talking about it: “It was great!” “I loved the donkey!” “The fire was cool!” “Fiona was pretty!” “The show was amazing.”

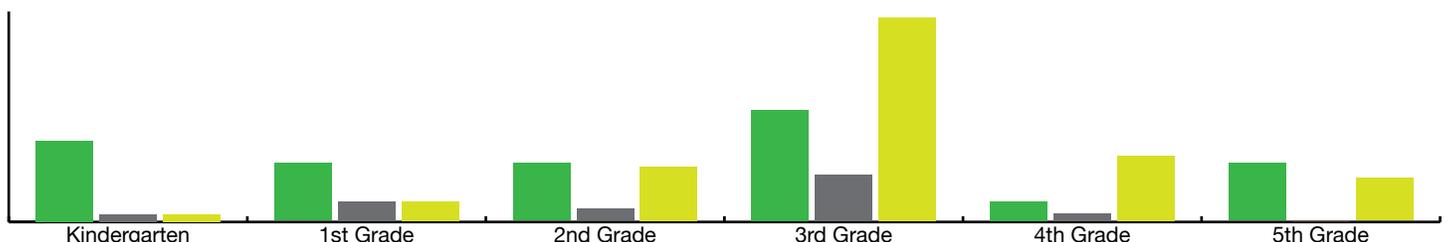
And what about that Donkey? The person under the costume was Bridgid Allen, an avid reader, budding writer, accomplished speller, violinist and 2-time captain of P.S. 11’s champion Music Memory team. The Donkey was one of the parts she wanted and she got it by signing up and attending a “long-term audition,” where she practiced for a month before getting the role. She didn’t experience stage fright, but despite rehearsing, she said, “I made a few mistakes during the show.” However, she was especially proud of one thing. She said, “My biggest challenge was remembering my lines in the 2nd half of the show, which I had not taken much time to fully memorize...I often forgot my lines even during the last couple weeks of rehearsals. Luckily, in the real show, I remembered my lines and didn’t say the wrong thing...”

I hope you got to see the show. Keep an eye out for the next one!

Monthly Poll:

What kind of transportation do P.S. 11 students take to school?

■ Walk ■ Drive ■ Public Transport



POLL MANAGER: SYDNEY GROSSMAN

POLLSTERS: AMANDA BALLAS, ASHER BLACKMAN, JENSEN KREBS AND LORENZO MATIZ



Imagine Paying for the Subway with an Apple

BY GABE KENNEL AND ARI LULLA

Many people who ride the subway say, “It’s disgusting!” or, “It’s so crowded!” Yet, they also say, “I use the subway every day and it would be so hard to go places without it.”

On October 27, 1904 at 2:35pm, the New York City subway system opened for business. According to James Giovan, an interpreter at the New York Transit Museum, “It made life more convenient because we could finally move uptown on trains that went very fast, and then, people could commute and not have to be all squished in Lower Manhattan.” The first subway line ran from City Hall to Harlem. Today, there are 26 lines and 469 stations. The longest line is the A Train at more than 31 miles long! The deepest station is at 191st St., at 180 feet below the sidewalk.

When it opened, the subway cost 5¢ to ride, and brass tokens were used. Today, it’s \$2.75 to ride, and in 2003, the Metro Card was invented. Every year, on Sundays in December, the MTA runs one old subway car from the 1900s on the M line. If you get lucky, you might get to ride on one.

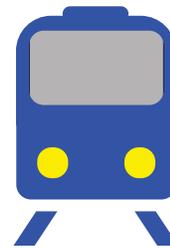
More than 5 million people now

ride the New York City subways every day. Too crowded? The Transit Authority is trying to figure out how many riders should fit. According to draft loading guidelines, it’s 110 to 175 people, depending on length of the car. However, riders like Kurt Griemsmann say that’s not always the case. “It is always late and always packed.” Some say it feels like there are more than 200 people squashed into a car.

Ridership has to be high in order to keep fares low. It is the least expensive way to travel. It costs a fraction of a taxi. Some of the other benefits of the subway are that it allows groups to travel together. You can’t get stuck in traffic or get wet in the rain waiting for a taxi or bus. Most importantly, millions of New Yorkers depend on it to get to work and school. Rider, Bridjette MacDonald, agrees that, “It is the fastest and most convenient way to travel.”

The subway is integral to

our life but it still needs improvement. Some lines are nicer than others. The E Train, for example, is a line that always looks clean and has new, updated train cars. Some riders, including Marabel Bariantiaz, want faster trains and more stations. One of the newest stations is the Fulton Center, a three-story glass building with a ring in the ceiling that lets light shine all the way to the platform. Restaurants and stores will soon open there. The 2nd Avenue line is expected to open partially in December 2016, but the entire line will not open until 2048. Some P.S. 11 students will be in their 40s when it’s finished!



Cool NYC Subway Facts:

- If you were to connect all the tracks from all the lines, they would stretch from NYC to Chicago.
- There is a secret library with no above ground markings within the 6 line at the 50th Street station.
- There are a bunch of abandoned subway stations and there is even a lower level A/C/E track at the 42nd St. Port Authority that was built and never used!
- Our subway runs 24 hours a day. There is no other subway system that does that!

Future subways will look very different. Mr. Giovan said, “In the future, we are going to have trains that have open gangways, which means you can walk throughout the train cars...” We might also get rid of Metro Cards. According to Mr. Giovan, “Another cool thing that the subway will have in the future is called ‘contactless payment.’ We will have cards that we just tap, and we’ll probably even have Apple Pay, where you just tap your phone and go.”

Cleaner stations, less crowded cars, more elevators, escalators, faster trains and more stations are some of the top things people want to see changed. For our part, we can try to keep our subway tracks clear of trash, and thus, free of rodents and have a better experience for all.

BY VIOLET SHEFFER-STEVENSON



Lunch Leader Dance

BY CARMEN LACOSTA KOLSRUD

At P.S. 11, we have “lunch leaders” who are all in the 4th and 5th grade. A lunch leader is someone who helps the pre-K students, kindergarteners, 1st graders and 2nd graders with their lunches. For example, if they need to open something, a lunch leader can open it for them. A fun dance was planned for February 24 as a “thank you” gift for what the lunch leaders do everyday. At the dance, they played so

many great songs, such as Adele’s new hit song, “Hello.” The dance was on fire. There were about 100 kids dancing like crazy, all sweaty. They danced the conga line, la Macarena, and the chicken dance. The parents were all waiting outside. One lunch leader, Ian Schearer, said, “the only thing missing was a dancing partner.” A fun night was had by everyone. I look forward to being a lunch leader next year!

A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

BY JENSEN KREBS

February 11, 2:30 P.M.

Found Mr. Bender at his desk working on an 18-page application to be a Showcase School again next year.

Q: We are already a showcase school. Do you have to apply every year?

A: “Yes.”

Q: Is it hard?

A: “It is a lot of work.”

Q: How long have you worked on it?

A: “About a week and a day.”

Q: Is anyone helping you?

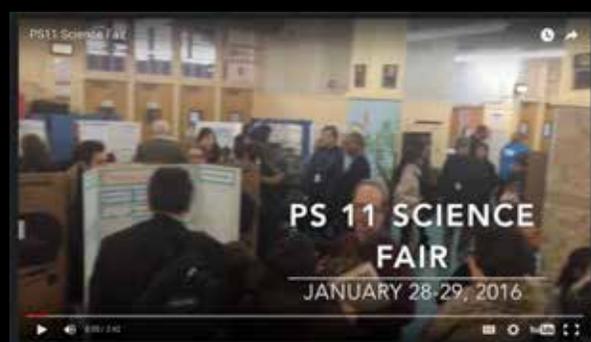
A: “I am going to ask the teacher showcase team for feedback.”



VIDEO LINK

A Fair Amount of Science

<https://youtu.be/DjB6Fn2Pbcc>



Featured Artwork

ART EDITOR: NORA WILDMAN ARTWORK BY: SOPHIE ERLINGER, 3RD GRADE



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.

A Wacky Video Game Adventure

BY DAN RICOTTA

Steve paced back and forth, back and forth. His stomach yelled—growl, growl— like a wolf that was trying to catch his prey. Steve was thinking about what he should eat. Bing. A lightbulb went off in his head. Donuts! He walked to the refrigerator and opened it. Suddenly, the lightbulb in his head blew up. “AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” THERE WERE NO DONUTS IN THE REFRIGERATOR! Steve thought about what he had to do. He looked down at his rectangular, boxy, grey shoes. He realized that he couldn’t go to the store to buy donuts because it was 50,000 miles away.

He went over to his epic, gold, emerald and diamond couch and saw his friends, Super Mario and Mega Man sitting there. Mario was playing Mega Man X and Mega Man was playing the new Super Mario Bros. U. Mario said, “Your game is good.” “Yours, too,” said Mega Man. Steve shouted, “Hey, guys, sorry to bust in, but could you go to the store and get cheese?” Mario replied, “Cheese? I thought you liked donuts.” Steve stated, “I know, I got a new DONUT-O-MATIC about 3.54780 seconds ago, and it needs cheese to work.” Mega Man interrupted, “Why can’t you get it yourself?” “I don’t have a pineapple, tripod, epic, super airplane,” Steve said. Mario and Mega Man agreed to help Steve and used Mega Man’s rocket boots to fly to the “We Sell Cheese” company. They paced to the entrance door, grumbling.

When they went inside, they found a giant turtle with yellow skin and big spikes on his green shell and tail. He had red, fiery hair on his head



ARTWORK BY ANDREW SOSA

and claws on his hands and feet. Of course, this was Bowser, Mario’s mortal enemy. Whenever Mario tries to save Princess Peach in Mario World, Bowser is the one who always tries to stop him. Now, he was here, offering 5,000 points if Mario and Mega Man could accomplish some challenges!

Bowser sputtered, “Hullo. U must dou 1,244 challenges to get de chez. This is how you do dem...Blah blah blabitty-blah, yak yak yak, blah. (It took 50 hours to explain.) “Ok,” said Mega Man. Then, Mario and Mega Man plotted to NOT do any challenges. Instead, they flew over Bowser and went into the store. Luckily, they spotted the cheese they needed right away, so they grabbed it, proceeded to the cash register and paid. Unfortunately, Bowser was not going to let them get away so easily and he

Mega Man shot a laser blast at Bowser and did 456 damage. Then, Mario hit Bowser with his hammer, doing 577 damage. Then, Bowser did a magic spell thingy, but Mario deflected it back, hitting Bowser and doing 1,000,000 damage! Bowser defeated!! “Good thing I deflected that,” said Mario. They flew back to so-called “Steve’s hawsss,” then, paced to his door and creaked it open. They handed the cheese to Steve. “Thanks, guys,” said Steve. Then, he walked to his DONUT-O-MATIC, put the cheese inside a scanner thingamajig and got 9,999,999,999,999,999 donuts.

Later, Steve, Mario and Mega Man were feasting on fresh, piping hot donuts. Mario said, “I’m glad we got cheese.” Mega man answered, “I guess there’s a lesson in this.” “Yep,” said Mario, “Donuts are gewd.”

trudged toward them. Moaning, they had no choice except to fight him because video games are programmed that way and you cannot escape Boss Battles (unless you have specific dialogue options, which this game does not have and blah blah boring, booooooring, blah). Anyway, they started a Boss Battle. Cool music played. Dun dun dun dun dun dundun.

P.S. 11 Paper Staff

The Rockin' Reporters

