

BY SADIE HOWARD

## Fifth Grade Expectations in D.C.

**JULIETTE CARASSO**

On May 18-20, 2016, the whole 5th grade went on their annual trip to Washington D.C. Everyone had different expectations for the trip. We had 3 packed days of monuments, memorials and history of the United States. Not only did we have our teachers as guides, but we also had professional tour guides who knew so much about Washington, D.C.! Lily Drye did not expect that. "I thought that we were only going to have the teachers guide us!"

The Arlington National Cemetery

was a highlight for many students. Eleanor Roosevelt created the cemetery, as she thought there should be a special place for Veterans and their families to rest after they died. Student, Mariam Saab, remarked, "the most surprising thing..was how many graves there were at the... cemetery." We visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where soldiers without known identity are buried. On the tombstone, it reads, "KNOWN BUT TO GOD." With all the new technology available now, including DNA, one soldier was able to be identified. This tomb is guarded

24 hours a day, in any kind of weather. A lot of students were definitely curious about the changing of the guards. When watching the guards transition, everyone has to be silent. Silence represents respect for the soldiers and the guards watching over them. The expectations for this were very different from the real moment.

Many students agreed that it was interesting to see things that were studied in class before the trip. The FDR Memorial was very popular. The 4 statues and 4 waterfalls of this memorial represented the 4 terms he served in office as President. Four terms?!? Presidents don't serve 4 terms! They only serve 2 terms. But, Franklin Roosevelt was different. He served 4 terms because the people of the country could not elect a new President during the Great Depression and World War II.

Some students also studied the Martin Luther King Memorial, which reads, "Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope." This statue symbolizes Dr. King's struggle. Two big pieces of granite represent the "mountain of despair," and the actual statue of MLK symbolizes the "stone of hope." It is 30-feet tall. I felt amazed at how big it is and what it means to the people who listened and respected his speeches.

The 5th graders were super excited to see the White House, because as Ella Jaffe said, "a lot of things happen there and it will give me a picture of what the President's family's

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WASHINGTON DC continued

life is like." But, unexpectedly, we only saw the White House from the outside, and you can't get that close! (Keep your eyes peeled for a photo of fifth graders in front of The White House in the school yearbook!)

Were there any dashed expectations? Not many. One student remarked, "I wasn't a fan of the food." Another thought she was going to love the Lincoln Memorial. "I didn't like [it], to be honest, because it was dark, late and crowded." Future 5th graders, now you have an idea of the amazing 5th grade trip and what you have to look forward to!

## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK WAS MAY 2 - 6.

Here's how we appreciated some of our teachers:



PHOTO BY CAROLINE STÖHRER

**Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Prior:**

"Our class bought us lunch!" "We also got hand-drawn pictures from the kindergartners."

**Mrs. Harvey:** "A lot of hugs and flowers!"

**Ms. Lam:** "A book from a past student."

**Ms. Covino:** "A big hug from one of my students."

We love our teachers!

COMPILED BY: JULIETTE CARASSO,  
LAUREN ESHELMAN AND  
KARINA GUPTA

# Middle School Madness

BY PAULINA BODIN

Are you thinking about middle school, yet? If you are, you shouldn't be worried at all! (Ok, maybe you should get a little excited.) Let's shed some light on the application process to help make it less of a mystery. Even if you are a 1st, 2nd or 3rd grader, you might want to pay attention. In a few years, you will go on the middle school journey, as well.

"The first step is that the 5th graders and their parents tour schools," said P.S. 11 Parent Coordinator, Stephen McGill. Signing up for some of those tours is as hard as getting a ticket for a popular rock concert, according to one mom. Another parent had some advice. "We had a group of moms working on this together. We all kept checking the websites for tour dates. When they were available,

we texted each other, signed up and toured together." This way, they did not miss anything and could talk about the schools and their experience afterward.

Regarding the tours, Mr. McGill said, "It is hard because there is a lot of information that is given. You really need a parent who is listening for critical information. And then, you, as a student, have to try to get as much as possible out of the school tours." The tours take place in the fall. Soon after, you will receive the application with all of the schools listed and you have to select the ones you would like to go to in order of your preference. For P.S. 11, "return the application to Ms. Leonhardt in

December," stated Mr. McGill.

There is something 4th grade students and parents can do to prepare. You can go on the Department of Education website, which is [www.schools.nyc.gov](http://www.schools.nyc.gov), and search for District 2 middle schools to find out what the middle schools are in our district. Go to their websites to take a look at them and do your homework. Some schools will ask you for an interview or to submit to a test.

Many parents advised to look for

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PHOTO BY LILA DUPUY



MIDDLESCHOOL *continued*

schools that have a curriculum that is best suited for the child and that have a culture you like as a family. Also, if it is a very popular school with a rigorous selection process, be realistic about the chances to get in (How are your grades? Do you test well?). You want to list a school as your number one choice where you have a good chance to be admitted. In early or mid-April, you will be informed of the school to which you got in.

For 5th graders, going to middle school is a big change in their lives. Fifth grader, Isabelle, said, "I am very happy that I got into School of the Future. I really wanted to. I did the test at Lab school. It was hard. For example, in one part, it said, 'What does  $y \times w =$  if it equals  $x$ ?' And I thought to myself, 'What!'" Isabelle got a tutor to help her prepare for the tests.

Sebastian, another 5th grader, said, "I was placed in Baruch and I like it. I was looking for a school that was 'techie' and for something bright and happy." Simon Baruch Middle School is the most common destination for P.S. 11 students, as it is our zoned middle school. That may change in 2017 with the introduction of a new local middle school, 75 Morton. Alex got into Baruch as well, "I was looking for a good recess yard, a nice building and good teachers. Baruch is my zoned school. I wanted to go there and was immediately accepted. I did not have to do a test."

Kenzo got into I.S. 289. For him, a good arts and science program and sports were important. All the kids said that they will miss P.S. 11 and their friends, but they are also looking forward to something new. "P.S. 11 is one of my favorite schools," said Kenzo. "I really love it here."

PHOTO BY SADIE HOWARD

# 11 Questions with...

## Christine Leonhardt



**1. When you were a kid, did you know you wanted to be a guidance counselor when you grew up?**

No, I wanted to be a doctor but I changed my mind. I decided I wanted to be a teacher, which I did for 10 years. And then I became a guidance counselor at P.S. 11.

**2. So, you were a teacher first. What was the first class you taught?**

I taught a group of 6th graders with learning challenges at P.S. 226. That first year, I taught reading, writing and math.

**3. How long have you worked at P.S. 11?**

Almost 16 years. I started here even before Mr. Bender.

**4. What challenges did you have when you started?**

Getting used to a new school and getting used to younger children, because before then, I taught middle school children.

**5. Do you still face challenges?**

Yes, every day. This job is interesting because it is different every day.

**6. What is your favorite part of the job?**

Talking to children.

**7. What is your least favorite part of the job?**

Meetings and paperwork (laughs).

**8. Did you ever have kids who didn't want your help?**

Yes, some didn't want to leave class. At first, kids didn't want to talk or maybe were a little scared.

**9. What is one of your proudest moments?**

First day at P.S. 11. I'm proud every single day seeing children happy. That makes me very happy.

**10. What do you like to do for fun?**

Run and play with my two crazy pugs.

**11. What is your favorite grade to work with?**

Fifth graders, because we talk about middle school all day and I really like to help them plan their future.

BY MEERA WILLIAMS



PHOTO BY MAX STÖHRER



# How Funky Is Your Friday?

BY LUC BASMA

A lot of people were not wearing a costume. Some people, like third grader, Rory, were wearing very interesting costumes. Rory died his hair blue. Another student, Evan, was not wearing a shoe! He had his shoe in his backpack and put it back on at recess. That was pretty funky. Some of the people who didn't have a costume felt sad, so they decided to make their own costume. One kid turned his t-shirt backwards. Another person put a bunch of post-its on his body and wrote, "Whoo-hoo, yay, it's Funky Friday!" on them. Only a few teachers were funky, and very few

5th graders dressed up.

Mr. Bender had an orange afro, a clown nose, big shoes and a yellow tank top. One teacher wore a large hat that looked like she had very big hair underneath. Some kids and teachers wore wigs. Third grader, Elie, wore a blue wig with a LOT of hair attached. The craziest items I saw were fairy wings, an indigo mask, a backwards t-shirt, and a person with 4 pony tails. All in all, Funky Friday was not as good as Crazy Hat Day. One time, on Crazy Hat day, a person wore a top hat and a top hat t-shirt, and held a top hat sign.

## Overheard at LUNCH:

BY ROGER CARASSO &amp; KARINA GUPTA

**Menu: Zesty BBQ & Roasted Chicken**

**"It's yummy!"** – Vincent, 3rd grade

**"[I like] the cheddar fries & the chicken!"** – Abidur, 3rd grade

**Menu: Veggie Quesadillas & Broccoli**

**"Mostly, I like the school lunch but some parts are bad."** – Audrey, 3rd grade

**"[I'm eating] home lunch."** – Maya, 3rd grade

**Menu: Bean Burritos**

**"It could be better."** – Marron, 3rd grade

**"It is okay."** – Briana, 3rd grade

**"It is too cheesy!"** – Ria, 3rd grade

**And: (Waiting to get lunch): "It's a long time to wait for food!"** – Lorenzo, 3rd grade

**(Exiting the kitchen on Pizza Friday): "Hey, where is the cheese and the red pepper flakes?"** – Group of students from 3-504

PHOTO BY SADIE HOWARD



# Second Grade Earth Parade

BY NANDINI BAINS



PHOTO: BY SADIE HOWARD

I saw the 2nd Grade Show on April 22, 2016, which was Earth Day. The show was about convincing people to “reduce, reuse and recycle.” I learned that both theatrical performances and Earth Day need planning in advance in order to be successful.

The type of planning that needs to be done for a show includes rehearsing, creating costumes, and set design, among other things. Performer Matilda played a scientist in the show. She said, “There were many rehearsals and it took a long time for people to memorize their parts and their lines.” She also said, “The day before

the show, we had a dress rehearsal and we ran through the show twice.” Through all the many things to do, she focused the most on her own part. While it was hard work, Matilda said she “enjoyed singing and dancing” and she was never bored!

Just like a show, Earth Day needs a lot of planning. According to the 2nd graders, Earth Day is for reminding us to keep the planet healthy, which includes keeping it clean. Keeping the planet clean is easier if you plan ahead. You can plan ahead by always having recycle bins to recycle whatever you use. You can also reduce

your use of electricity by changing your light bulbs to more energy-efficient ones. Turn off faucets and repair leaks to save water. And reuse simple things, like plastic bags, by remembering to bring them on your next trip to the store. If we plan ahead now we can save the Earth and have more Earth Days!

The 2nd grade show taught me many things. I learned that small steps—turning off a light or even recycling just one plastic bottle—can change the world. Most importantly, planning ahead in whatever you do is the key to success!



## JOKES of the MONTH

BY OWEN KIVETT

**What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?  
You're too young to smoke!**

**Why was the tree crying sap after the storm?  
Because another tree got shot—by lightning.**

# Life in the Residency

BY AGOSTINA RODRIGUEZ

I am living in the Rauchenberg Artist Residency in Captiva Island, FL. Mother got a job to start a chef residency program, so the chefs can do their writing for a cookbook or work on another project. I was in 2nd grade at P.S. 11, but in order to come here, I had to withdraw from the school for three months. We now live in a condo. I sleep upstairs.

I go to the Lee County Sanibel School in Sanibel, Florida. My teachers here are Miss Hall and Ms. Pascucci. I miss my teacher at P.S. 11, Ms. Korzeniewski, but I don't miss the cold classrooms. In the Sanibel school, there is Spanish class, and unlike P.S. 11, you have to buy your supplies! There is no rug, so you have to sit in your seat in the classroom. The students are friendly and nice. They ask me a lot about New York because they have never been there. I learned a lot about manatees and yellow-crowned night herons because the school is on a nature preserve.

My favorite type of art is dance. I also got to work on a film with a

choreographer at the residency. The residency gets me to learn that artists don't just paint. They can do anything, like working on maps or dancing or poetry. The residency is where artists come to do their dancing, music and art in a sensitive and pristine place.

My favorite place here is the pool because I love the story. It goes like this: A man named Bob built the pool for his mom. She was scared to swim in the sea, so he built the pool. It also

has a hot tub. My second favorite place is the Fish House. It has a hammock and you can sit on the roof. Do you know why this house is called the Fish House? Because it's on the water. There is a dock you can fish from. It's so cool. My third favorite place is the Jungle Road that runs along the water. It's so pretty and you can see a lot of birds. It's like a rain forest. I found eight cool shells. I will bring them back to New York, where I will re-enroll and finish out the school year.

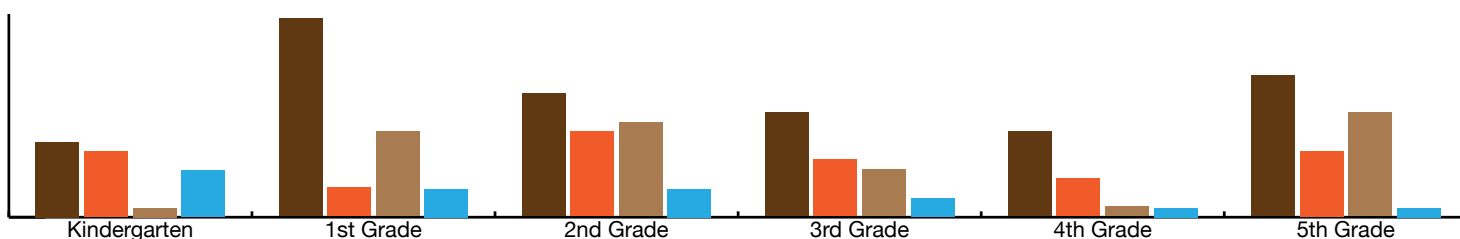
I will miss the residency so much but I'll be so happy to be back at P.S. 11 with all my friends!



Robert Rauschenberg in front of the Fish House, 1979.

## Monthly Poll:

Which pet do you prefer? ■ Dog ■ Cat ■ Guinea Pig ■ Bird



BY ROGER CARASSO, KARINA GUPTA, MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN, OWEN KIVETT, MEERA WILLIAMS. POLL MANAGER: KARINA GUPTA





## About the Buddy Bench

BY MAX STÖHRER

BY LAUREN ESHELMAN

Most people say that the Buddy Bench is just an ordinary bench that nobody uses. Others say that they only rescue their friends from the Buddy Bench and they don't try to meet new people. But one time, I sat on the Buddy Bench and one of my friends came to pick me up and play. It was great!

Third grader, Eva, said that she doesn't use the Buddy Bench because she has people to play with at recess, but that it was nice to hear that some people sit on the Buddy Bench and play with whomever else is sitting on it. For instance, 2nd grader, Agosti-

na, gave it a try one day. It took a minute for someone to pick her up. It was an old friend, Zoe, from another class. They played a game called "Family." There are other ways to play. The Buddy Bench isn't the only choice, but it's new—in fact, the second Buddy Bench on the roof was just painted last week. Hopefully, it will get a lot of use. In keeping with the K & G theme of the Buddy Bench, there's also a big group of people who'll let anyone play freeze tag or cops and robbers. And that's the whole story of the Buddy Bench. I hope that you have fun finding a new friend.



PHOTO BY CAROLINE STÖHRER

## A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

BY MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN

May 25, 2016 - 11:46 AM

**What are you doing right now?**

**Mr. Bender:** "I'm talking to two students from the newspaper! I'm also doing professional development planning for all of the P.S. 11 teachers and meeting with Mr. Nichols."

VIDEO LINK

## Poetry Night Video Report

[https://youtu.be/4\\_9XNBV2\\_DE](https://youtu.be/4_9XNBV2_DE)

VIDEOGRAPHY BY LILA DUPUY



# What Do You Think of Link?

BY AADITYA MATHUR

LinkNYC is a project to provide free wi-fi and phone calls in New York City. The plan for this project was announced in November, 2014, by the Mayor's office. The plan is to replace around 7,500 pay phones with kiosks, also called Links. According to the website Link.NYC, the project is still in beta phase. "Beta phase" means it is still in testing.

Today, I went to test a Link installed near my apartment. There was free telephone service available on the Link provided by Vonage. I called my mom's phone to check the service. It was wonderful. Vonage is an Internet telephone service, providing free phone service anywhere in the U.S. at the Link kiosk. There is also a 911 button for emergencies. There is an application on the Link to access the 311 service.

I used the touchscreen tablet attached to the Link to browse the Internet. I checked Google Maps to find directions to my apartment. Then, I

played "The Final Countdown" song on YouTube.

The wi-fi is high speed and is called gigabit wi-fi. Gigabit wi-fi is 100 times faster than average public wi-fi or a cell phone's LTE network. The wi-fi is also secure and has a range of 150 feet. I could walk to another Link system without losing the wi-fi connection. There are also charging stations for your phone, which can be very helpful.

LinkNYC is being provided by the City of New York and CityBridge, a group of companies that are experts in technology and media. On the sides of the kiosks, there are 55-inch, high-definition, digital screens for public announcements and advertisements. I noticed a Delta airlines advertisement on the screen. A few minutes later, the car service Lyft had its advertisement show on the screen. LinkNYC is completely free for New Yorkers because it is funded through this advertising. It will generate more



BY CAROLINE STÖHRER

than half a billion dollars in revenue.

In observing public usage of the units, it appeared that most users were men and many played music or charged their phones. A few people made publicly audible personal phone calls. Nobody knows how successful this program will be, but most importantly, it will connect the people of New York!

## MOTHER'S DAY MUSING

BY ELI PARMETT



BY MAX STÖHRER

Good or bad, we should all honor our mothers, whether from the store or from the heart.

On Mother's Day, we should celebrate our mothers because they made us who we are. There are two ways to think about Mother's Day, some good and some bad.

### GOOD THINGS

- You spend time with your family.
- You can meet new family members.
- You get to celebrate your mother.
- It's fun to make your own gifts.
- If you make a card or pick your own flowers, it's from your heart.
- Your mother feels appreciated.

### BAD THINGS

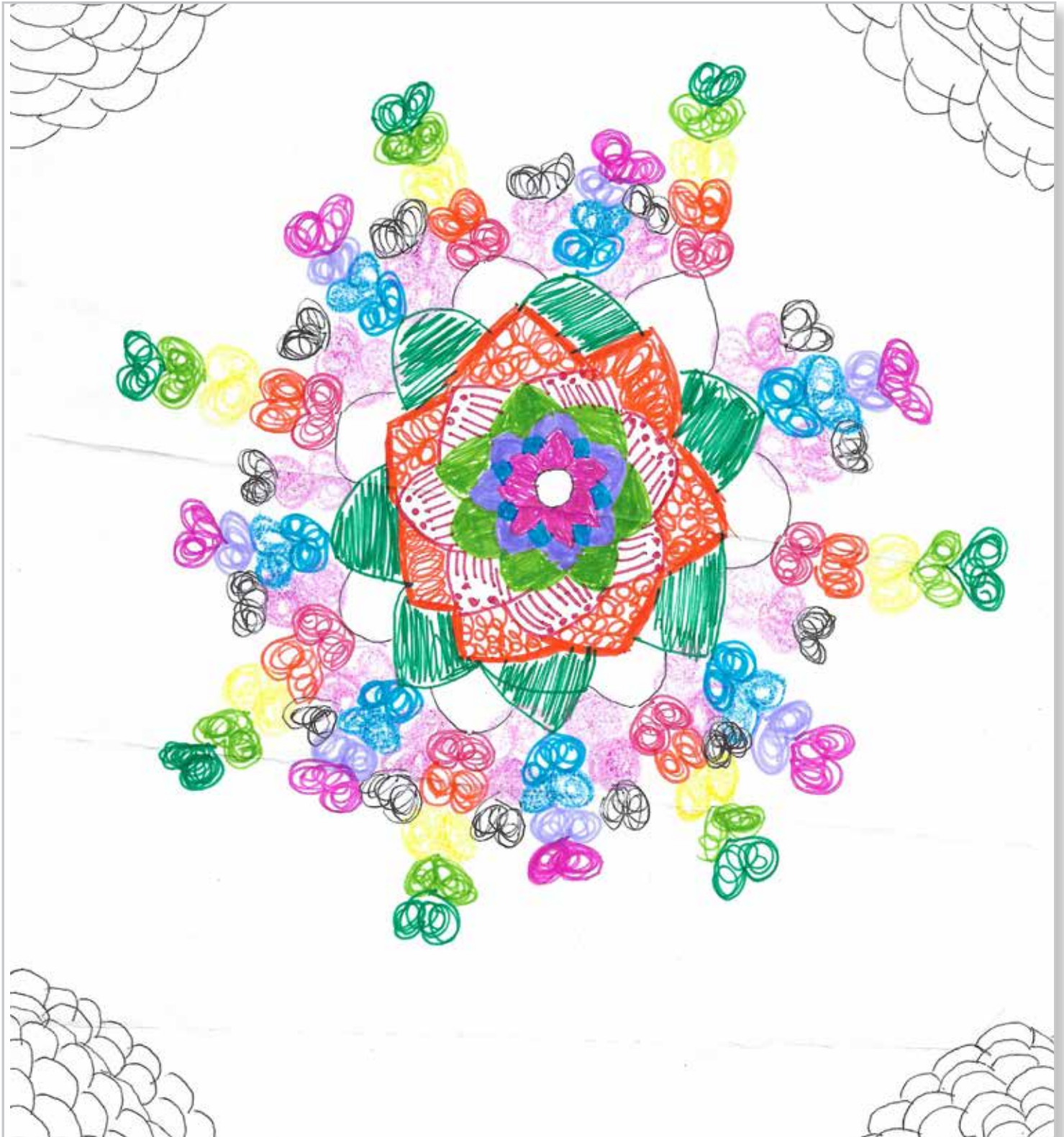
- You fight over who has a better gift.
- You fight over who gives gifts first.
- It costs money!
- It's a holiday made up by the card and candy companies.
- If we treat our mothers well on just one day, we might forget to treat her well the other days.



# Featured Artwork

ART EDITOR: JENSEN KREBS

ARTISTS: 2ND GRADERS, LIYA MURDOCH AND AMANDA RO



# Lost and Found

(A PROGRESSIVE FICTION STORY, BUILT ONE PIECE AT A TIME, BY EACH PAPER STAFF MEMBER.)

Boom...Bang! Samantha slid into a dark hole. She stayed trapped for a couple of hours until she saw some light. Out of that light, she saw a small mouse. Samantha screamed and the mouse said, "Hello. I have been sent by Zeus, the great god, and Zeus wants you. Come with me." Samantha followed the mouse until a small door came into view. Then, the mouse went inside and a bright light came on them both. It was Zeus!

Zeus looked bored. Snot was dripping out of his nose, and he had bags under his small eyes. Usually blazing, they weren't scary-looking anymore. Zeus sneezed into his 10,001st tissue, not seeing Samantha or the mouse. "Um hello?" said Samantha. "Yes?" said Zeus, wiping his nose with his sleeve. Samantha asked, "What do you want?" "I want your magic stone," demanded Zeus. She looked at him and wondered, how did he know I have a magic stone? "I am a god," answered Zeus, "I can read minds and I have an excellent sense of smell. Also, I can see it glowing through your back pocket. Now, give it!" "But why?" Samantha said. Zeus declared, "Because it's magical and I need it to make the world a better place and get rid of my allergies." Samantha replied, "If you want it, take it," and threw the stone at Zeus, hitting him in the forehead.

The stone broke open and there



ARTWORK BY LILA DUPUY

was a flash of light. Inside the stone was a potion. Anybody who drinks the potion will feel better from their allergies. Zeus drank the potion, his face calmed, and he laughed. Sending the filthy tissue flying away from him, he guffawed, "I don't have an allergy anymore! The stone heals! It's the Sanitatum, or the 'Healing Stone!'" He looked down at Samantha seriously, and said, "You must go to Camp Halfblood, for you are a daughter of Apollo, the god of healing! Why the heck do you think you have a HEALING stone? *Kids* these days. Sorry I had to set that trap for you, but I'll make it up to you." He

flapped a hand lazily at a half-man, half-horse satyr cowering in the corner, and said, "Take her to the camp. And while she's there, never be mean to her."

At Camp Halfblood, Samantha was having the time of her life. She made many friends. One of them was Percy, who had been there a long time. Percy had been rescued by a satyr whose name was Grover. Samantha listened to Percy's whole story and compared it to her own life. She said, "Hey, I was also brought to camp by a satyr!"

Then, Samantha heard people screaming from far away. They were screaming, "Run! It's Medusa, the snake-haired woman! Don't look at her or you'll be turned to stone!" Samantha heard Medusa say, "where is the human girl?" Samantha yelled back, "here!" Medusa said, "where is the stone?" Samantha told her, "Zeus has it." Medusa didn't believe her. "Give me the stone and you'll live." Samantha said, "no" and just closed her eyes. Medusa tried to get her to open her eyes, but Samantha started walking away. Medusa slithered right in front of Samantha and said, "Give it to me and we will be friendssss forever." Samantha slowly opened her hands, but at the last moment she closed them and RAN as fast as she could, calling, "Help! Help!" Everyone ran to the commotion. Seeing Samantha in trouble,

*continued on next page*



they brought the best weapons, attacked Medusa and protected Samantha. Medusa fell down. One of her snakes fell off her head and all her power went away. They took her back to Zeus, and while deciding what to do with her, she slipped out of their hands and got away, but not before stealing the stone from Zeus. That is how she escaped. She ran and ran and ran until she found a wizard who was smart and bad and he saw that Medusa had lost her powers.

They were both bad, so Medusa told him about the stone. She ex-

plained that it has special potions for everyone's particular needs and it is always refilling. But, restoring powers is difficult, so she asked the wizard if he could help get her powers back. Without a word, he opened the stone, added a spell and restored Medusa's powers. Medusa and the wizard raced back to the camp but the others attacked from behind. Medusa screamed, squirmed and escaped again! She started to destroy Camp Halfblood. Just then, with a mighty thunder clap, Zeus entered the camp with Apollo! Apollo was riding Gro-

ver, the friendly satyr. Percy had sent Grover off to get help when the trouble began. Zeus captured Medusa and threw her in jail. He fixed Camp Halfblood, and now, it's running again. Medusa was thrown in jail. Zeus added a feature to the Sanitatum, whereby, if anyone without a pure heart opens it, the potion will have the opposite of the desired effect. He also sent Samantha and Apollo on a quest. Upon their successful return, as a reward, Zeus turned Medusa into a completely harmless cat and gave it to Samantha.

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

