

PHOTO BY SAMUEL COHEN

A New Year's Wish List

BY LUCY JARVELA AND CARMEN ROSE LACOSTA KOLSRUD

It's getting cold, and joy is near. Kids at school have been talking about Christmas, Hanukkah, other holiday traditions and winter break. Let's see what P.S. 11 kids, the school, and America want to see happen this year.

What students are saying:

"For Christmas I want another dog. I already have a dog but I want a friend for Marty, my dog. Also, it could be small, so when I travel, I could bring him or her on the plane."

"Everybody wants a lot of love and toys for Christmas."

What's on P.S. 11's wish list?

"I think P.S. 11 needs more supplies for Christmas."

"More glue for gluing rubrics into all our notebooks for every new unit."

"More pens because we take them to recess and then we lose them and

have nothing to write with."

"P.S. 11 needs the slide fixed and more swings."

"No more bullying."

"More books in the library."

"More special classes like art and theater and dance."

"More school supplies."

"More respect from the students to the teachers."

"More fundraising."

"More fun activities!"

What about America's wish list?

"I think America wants a better President. I don't think Donald J. Trump believes in LGBTQ rights or women's rights."

"More happiness and more money for our country."

"I also think what Santa wants is more people to believe in the power of Christmas and to choose gratitude over attitude."

We hope Santa gets this list in time, and that everyone else gets what they want in the New Year. Happy Holidays!

A Little Hip and a Little Hop With the Fourth-Graders

BY ANSEL KREBS

Ready for some hip and some hop? You're in luck, because in case you missed it, the fourth-graders put on an amazing, successful hip hop show, all choreographed and directed by Ms. Adi.

It was on December 2 and it was in the P.S. 11 auditorium. It was cool. The fourth-graders had sharp moves. The music hit hard like a criminal fighting his way out. Every class had to do one or two styles of hip hop, including old school, new school, stepping, locking, footwork and funk. There were hand moves, stomping, chest pumps and flip moves, which got the audience clapping along. When some students from one class were explaining their dance, one of the kids did a back handspring and

that got the audience going, too.

What made the dances even more interesting was the costuming. One class had black suspenders over white shirts, white gloves, black bow ties and black glasses. Another class had military designed clothes, like camouflage. Ms. Adi pointed out that, "the outfits match the character of the dance and it helps the dancers express their moves a little more."

Dara G. was in the audience. She said her daughter had a lot of fun rehearsing the hip hop show. A lot of people might think that the shows at P. S. 11 are just for fun, but they're not just for fun. There are other, hidden reasons. Another purpose of these shows is so kids can learn skills like having grit and persever-

ance, working well with other people and practicing what you are told to do. If you don't like something and you practice it, you may get to like it.

Dara G. was proud of her daughter because by being in the show, her daughter learned how to "practice, practice, practice," and "to have a good work ethic."

Lynn B. said her daughter learned, "that you have to practice to be good at something. Also, [students] have to listen to instructions." Lydia C. said her son has learned perseverance, that he has to practice, and teamwork. "He also learned that the nervous feeling before a performance is sometimes a good thing!"

Ms. Adi added, "P.S. 11 has students who love to dance and want to show their love for dance." Hopefully, our fourth-graders feel good about themselves because they learned a lot of important tools and had fun at the same time!

PHOTO BY MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN



Arkansas In New York

BY DHARA SHRIDHARANI

What does Arkansas have to do with New York? The company that makes KIND Bars is sponsoring a program called the KIND Partnership. P.S. 11 will be pairing up with a school in Arkansas. The goal of the KIND Partnership is to help kids develop empathy by working together on projects about extreme weather. Kids will learn what is different about their experiences, but also, find out similarities, even though they live far away from each other. The project begins in January. Ms. MacKenzie's and Ms. Goldstick's classes will be participating. Since the school has never been part of it before, all

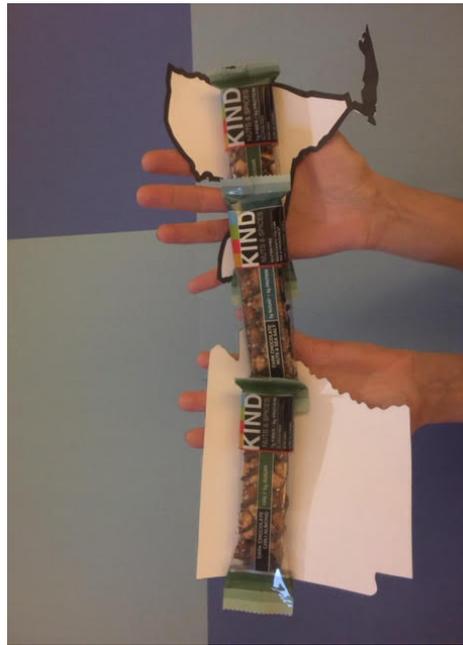


PHOTO BY ROGER CARASSO

of the details of how it will work are not clear yet. What is clear is that students will be researching weather problems and trying to come up with solutions. Teachers think it's a great idea. Ms. MacKenzie likes it because, "the program will allow our students to see the world beyond our classroom and be able to grow ideas about the environment with kids who may have very different experiences than our students at P.S. 11." Students like it, too. One wondered what motivated the KIND Company to develop the program. Another question is what the Arkansas kids will say about living in an area with no water around it. Teachers and kids look forward to more questions and answers once the project gets started.

VIDEO REPORT: HEAPS OF HATS



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7SyYaXDGWgCWDJFSIFWdJWWms/view>

VIDEOGRAPHER: SAMUEL COHEN

Indoor Recess

BY KARINA GUPTA

Winter is starting and P.S. 11 will have indoor recess on very chilly days! Students have outdoor recess as much as possible, but Mr. Bender decides whether we must have indoor recess because it is too cold, rainy or snowy. Students either sit through a movie, watch other people dance, or sometimes play soccer. P.S. 11 should have more options for indoor recess. This way, kids will enjoy indoor recess more. Indoor recess is not that bad, but a few changes would be good.

Every time the announcement is made that we have indoor recess, everyone groans. Out of 15 students who were asked, 15 of them said they wanted more options in indoor

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Indoor Recess continued

recess. When asked, “Do you like indoor recess?” Ava Starker replied, “Definitely not. It is boring. I am sleeping with my eyes open during it.”

Right now, there are limited options. According to Debbie Osborne, part of the reason we do not have more active options is that P.S. 11 does not have enough space. To solve this problem, in addition to soccer, dance and a movie, there could be drawing and board games. Debbie said that maybe she could add a bin of board games. “Mr. Bender and I are open to ideas.”

If P.S. 11 does not have enough money for a supply of markers, crayons, pencils, coloring paper and board games, there could be a “Rainy Day” fundraiser. This could help raise money for options. The Student Council can maybe help with that.

P.S. 11 should have more options for indoor recess. This would make students enjoy it more. If this happens, kids could like indoor recess a little more equal to outdoor recess!!

PHOTO BY JANE APTER



11 Questions with... Our New Student Council President



PHOTO BY JANE APTER

1. What do you want to do first as student council president?

I am going to do some work in the cafeteria to create a point system to keep the cafeteria clean and earn awards.

2. What was your motivation to run for student council president?

I wanted to make the school a better place and continue with growth.

3. What do you think is the best part of the whole day?

I think the best part of the whole day is when I come home, so I can sit down and relax.

4. When you go to middle school what do you think you will miss the most from P.S. 11?

I would miss the teachers and my friends who motivated me to run. Also, I would miss Mr. Bender.

5. How do you feel about being student council president?

I like it because you get to gather everyone's ideas and help implement them.

6. What's your favorite thing about Hunter, your vice-president?

I like that he is motivated and never gives up when he has something to do, and he has good ideas.

7. What's your favorite color?

I like blue because it's the color of the sky and the ocean.

8. What's your favorite part of P.S. 11?

My favorite part is the people because they all support each other and are kind.

9. Why did you run this year instead of last year?

Last year, I wasn't on student council and this year, I felt more confident, so I ran.

10. Who is your best friend and why?

Paige, because she is really special and we help each other because we are similar in many ways.

11. What's your favorite thing to do and why?

I like to do gymnastics because you learn confidence and I like to do acting because you get to step into someone's shoes.

BY MAX STÖHRER.

Picture Day

BY GABE KENNEL

Did you smile? Were you dressed properly? How was your experience at Picture Day? Picture Day was in late November and early December, 2016.

What do you do with your pictures? A lot of people give their school pictures to their family, like their grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. Some people just keep them. Some put them in a drawer. Some just get them for no reason at all. If your pictures always ends up in the trash or bottom drawer, tell your parents/guardians not to get pictures!

When kids go to Picture Day, they usually dress in nice clothes. But some people wear a crazy outfit. For example, a kid could dress up as Batman or a soccer player. A lot of kids dress themselves and succeed, but sometimes kids just don't know what to wear. Teddy Kennell said, "If my mom doesn't pick out clothes for me, I would reach into my closet for some nice clothes for Picture Day." But some people are not like that. Or some forget it is Picture Day. People sometimes just wear their usual shirt or something on Picture Day and they get their picture taken like that. In each class, there is usually at least one person who forgets about school Picture Day and they wear the wrong clothes.

Dante Butta said that Picture Day was not the worst thing in the world, but he thought the lights were a bit too bright and fast. Professional pho-



PHOTO BY ROGER CARASSO

tographer, Robert Johnson, said that he was very happy with the kids at P.S. 11. "We've had great results. The administration is really cooperative. Teachers were on time and everything was organized. It's really been a joy." His funniest school Picture Day experience ever was when he came across a first grade class with no teacher. One of the students, named Joanne, was directing everybody where to go! Mr. Johnson does not only do school pictures. He also does actor headshots and landscape photos. He has photographed most of the Hudson River. Mr. Johnson said the worst part of his job is that he frequently has to get up around 4 a.m.

No matter what you do with your pictures, just remember that the class photos go in the yearbook!

Overheard at LUNCH:

BY BRIANA HASIMAJ
& KEILA HASIMAJ

Wednesday, December 14th
On the Menu: Chicken Guisada, Turkey Carnitas Burrito, Yellow Rice & Beans, Sweet Plantains, Seasoned Beans, Cilantro Slaw.

"Wow! This burrito is really good because of the juicy meat." -Lily, 4th grade

"I really like the beans in the rice and beans plate because they are really moist." -Alyssa, 3rd grade

Thursday, December 15th
On The Menu: Turkey Burger with Cheese, Sweet Potato, Waffle Fries, Spring Mix Salad.

"Well, the chicken is amazing and I really like the tenderness of the chicken and how it is juicy." -Lazlo, 3rd grade

"We definitely need some salt in the sweet potato." -Ruby, 4th grade

PHOTO BY JANE APTER



Best Animated Movies of 2016

BY SETH HUSE

In 2016, at least twenty animated movies were released. P.S. 11 students were asked to name their favorite movie of this year. Here is a list of the five most popular movies.

1. *The Secret Life of Pets*

Do you ever wonder what pets do all day while their owners are at work or school? This movie tells the back story of pets in New York City. Max, a dog, and other animal friends go on adventures in apartments, on fire escapes, and even in sewers! Cadan Castro-Kudler, a fourth-grader, thought this movie was, “humorous and emotional.”

2. *The BFG*

Based on the book by Roald Dahl, this movie is about a girl named Sophie and a big, friendly giant (the BFG). The other giants call the BFG a runt because he is short for a giant. Sophie and the BFG go on an adventure to London and meet the Queen of England. Lorenzo Matiz, a fourth-grader, said, “This movie is closer to an adult movie and teaches you stuff.”

* 3. *Zootopia*

There has never been a rabbit police



PHOTO BY LILA JENOVA DUPUY

officer in the city of Zootopia, but that is what Hopps, a rabbit, wants to be when she grows up. She gets to be a meter-maid, but she wants a position that is not so boring. Officer Hopps partners with Nick, a fox, to find some missing animals. Hazuki Fujisawa, a fourth-grader, reported, “This movie has lots of action and interesting stuff!”

* 3. *Moana*

A girl named Moana finds out that

her ancestors were voyagers, and she wants to be one, too. Moana and the demi-god, Maui, go on an ocean journey to trick sea monsters and fight darkness. Kindergartener, Kila Castro-Kudler said, “I like this movie because the songs are really good!”

5. *Finding Dory*

This is a sequel to *Finding Nemo*. Dory does not know where her parents are. She goes to find them with her friends, Marlin and his son, Nemo, and they meet some new friends along the way. Milo Pesca, a fourth-grader, claimed that this movie has, “the best life lesson!”

P.S. 11 students said there were other movies they liked that did not make this best movies list, such as *Pete’s Dragon* and *The Angry Birds Movie*. Two-Thousand, Sixteen is not over yet. At least one movie is scheduled to be released later this month: *Sing* is a movie that appears to have a lot of animals and a lot of songs. Maybe *Sing* will be a P.S. 11 favorite, too!

JOKES of the MONTH

BY AMANDA RO

How does a gingerbread man make his bed?

Answer: With a cookie sheet.

What do you do when you’re trapped somewhere and you only have a mirror and a table?

You look in the mirror to see what you saw, you take the saw and cut the table in half, two halves make a whole. Then, you climb through the hole and you’re out!



Diary of *High School Musical JR.* Rehearsal

BY CAROLINE STÖHRER

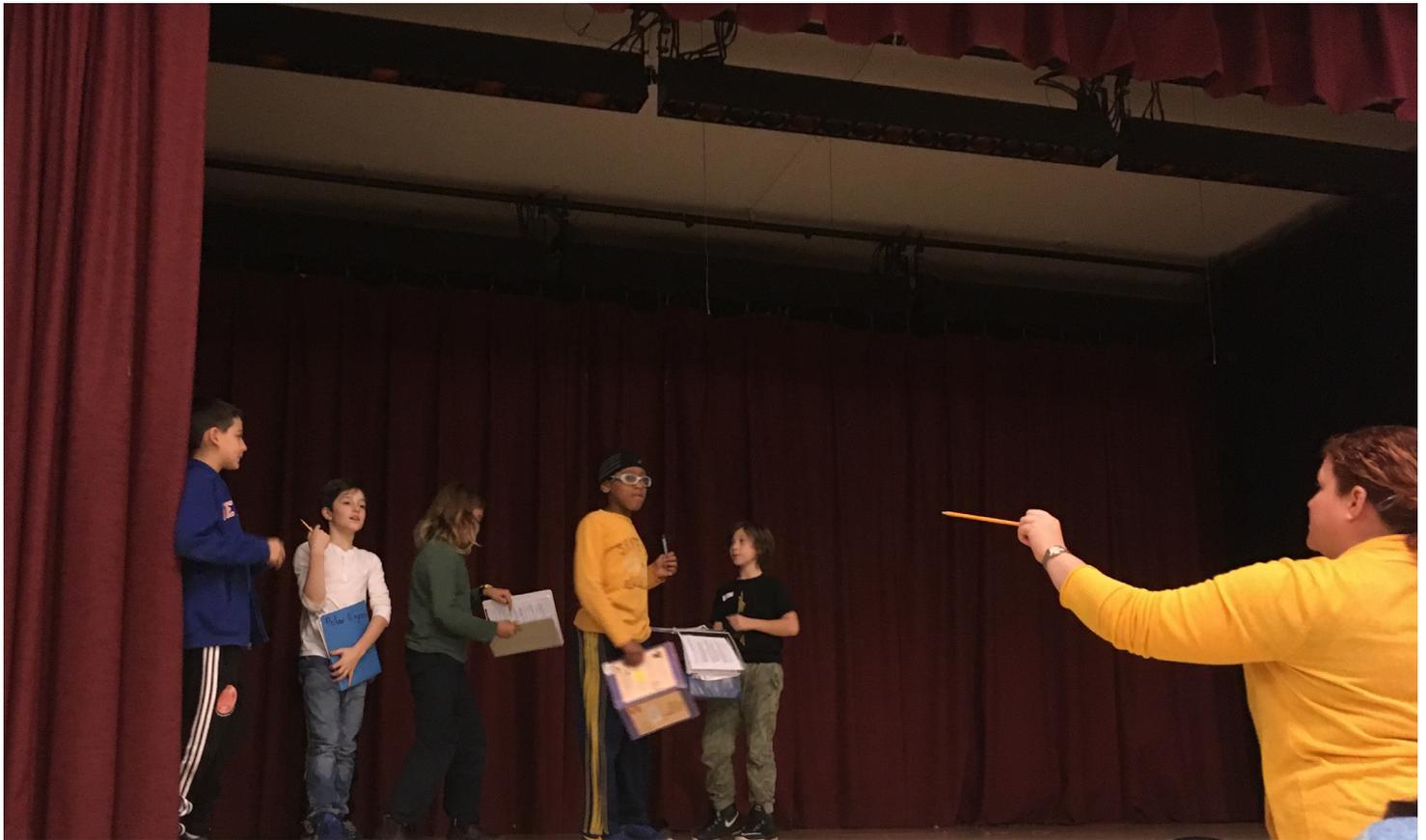


PHOTO BY LILA JENOVA DUPUY

“Now we slide to the right, arms out like this,” Ms. Wurman shouts, demonstrating the move in the aisle. What is this, you ask? It is a typical day in rehearsal for the fifth-grade musical, Disney’s *High School Musical JR.*, directed by the talented trio consisting of, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Golub and Ms. Wurman. A cast of around 60 students sacrifices time after school four days a week, plus Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am. They bring their scripts every day. These students are so dedicated to the musical. It seems like a picture perfect production, right? Not quite. Behind the glamorous and exciting veil of the musical, there’s blood,

sweat and tears put into this work by teachers and students alike. This is what an everyday practice looks like:

December 13, 2016, 3:12 pm: Choreography

Students flood into the auditorium, dragging backpacks and jackets behind them. It’s the second day of practice, and everyone is excited but nervous. Ms. Wurman, today’s coach, stands studiously at the stage, boom box and duffel bag next to her. Everyone slides into their seats, pulling out scripts and highlighters. Ms. Wurman clears her throat and everyone snaps to attention. “Okay, everyone, I want ‘Brainiacs’ over here on

downstage left, we’re gonna pretend there’s a table here... wait, no, Eleanor and Sam, can you get those long boxes for the tables?” Throughout the day, everyone attempts to grasp the amazing routine Ms. Wurman has created.

December 14, 2016, 7:50 am: Lyrics and Music

One by one, fifth-graders arrive at school, waiting in the cafeteria until 7:55, when they can finally go upstairs. When the security guard gives the “go” signal, everyone dashes up, laughing, or just taking their time. When they arrive at the fifth-floor hallway with its countless murals,

down the hall they go, stopping at the door peppered with inspirational posters. After everyone arrives, and sits down at the rug with their respective cliques, Ms. Golub announces, "Alright, everyone, who remembered to practice, 'Status Quo?'" A flock of hands shoots up. "Good, good. You should have about memorized it." She presses a button on her disc player. Music floats out. "Charles, stand up while you're doing your solo," she encourages. Every now and then, Ms. Golub rewinds the music a little

or gives comments. Everything is as it should be with these dedicated students.

December 14, 2016, 3:10 pm: Blocking

"You're acting stunned. You've NEVER gotten detention in your life!" Ms. Sarah booms to the students on stage, who scribble blocking notes in their scripts. Students who aren't participating in the current scene sit in their seats, reading or drawing. When students forget materials, they rush off

stage to get them! There is no being unprepared in musical rehearsal. Everyone has highlighted and written in lines and blocking notes. In this musical, if you forget to write what you are supposed to do and later forget, you're out on your keister. But, it's always very exciting when you get to say lines!

All this is in preparation for the final performances on February 10 and 11, 2017, so fans, mark your calendars! *High School Musical, JR.* is coming your way!

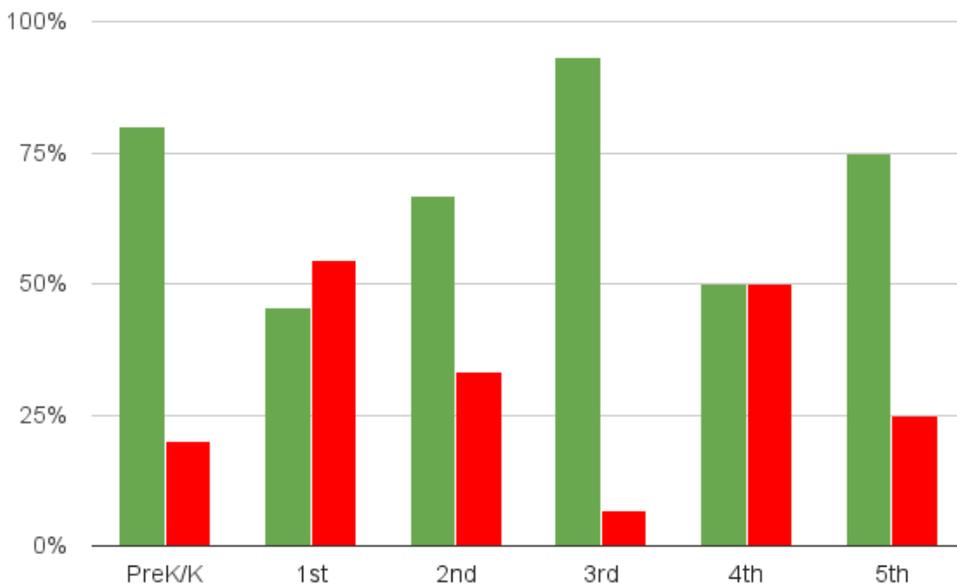
Monthly Poll:

Is it better to give or receive?

■ give ■ receive



PHOTO BY MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN



POLLSTERS:
AUGUST EAVES, BRIANA HASIMAJ, KEILA HASIMAJ, AMANDA RO

PAPER

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Featured Artwork

ARTIST: HALLE PEREZ THIRD GRADE



Featured Artwork

ARTIST: ACACIA SAVAGE THIRD GRADE

