

PHOTO BY DHARA SHRIDHARANI

# The 5th Grade Show

## *High School Musical Jr.*

BY ROGER CARASSO

Get'cha head in the game! Each year, the P.S. 11 5th-graders put on a show. One Saturday afternoon (February 11 to be exact), a reporter made his way down to P.S. 11, in Chelsea, via the F train. He was there to catch the 2:00 p.m. *High School Musical JR.* performance. He had a chance to get backstage and interview some of the actors, parents, and the director, Ms. Sarah.

In true P.S. 11 form, the play started out great to watch with singing, dancing, and wonderful acting. *High*

*School Musical Jr.* is about two kids in high school who are good at different things. They want to experience new things like singing and acting. One of the main characters, Troy, played by Gavin Rivera, is a basketball star. His friends tease him when they learn he wants to be a singer. Also, his dad is the basketball coach!! Gabriella, another main character played by Maya Vaknin, is known for being a math expert and science whiz. Her friends also tease her when they learn she wants to sing

and act in the school musical with Troy.

The hard work of the actors really paid off. Chase, who played Chad Danforth in the play, said he practiced, "2-3 hours" a day. Is it annoying hearing the same songs every day? Samuel, who played Coach Bolton in the play, said, "Not really. They kind of have a cheesy catch to the songs, so it's not that annoying."

After the play, a parent of a current P.S. 11 5th-grader said his favorite scenes were, "Get'cha Head in the Game," and the finale. Another parent of a current 4th-grader who has seen many P.S. 11 shows, said her favorite part of the show was when Sharpay talked about the "alternative facts." Her favorite 5th grade play was *Annie!* A current P.S. 11 3rd-grader really liked the callbacks and the finale.

Current 4th-graders usually wonder what next year's 5th grade play will be. The director, Ms. Sarah, said they're not sure yet. There are many factors that go into this decision. She said, "At the end of the year, we get the 4th grade together and hear everybody sing." The director, music director and choreographer, otherwise known as the crew, get together and pick the show based on the talent and how many boys and girls are in the 4th grade. Another big question from all actors in the show is how people are picked for certain roles. Ms. Sarah said there is not an official "one and done" audition method. The

*continued on page 2*

5th Grade Play *continued*

crew uses a workshop method. This is a method where everyone learns all the music and anyone can sing for any part. At the end, "It's pretty clear who should be in what role." We know how much work it takes to put on a show, from staff to parents to school administration. Ms. Sarah says her favorite part of doing this work is seeing the "smile of pride" on everyone's face after the bows.

Reporting on this year's production of *High School Musical Jr.* was an awesome experience. This reporter learned a lot about how 5th grade shows get put together and how much work it takes for everyone to present a successful musical. Who knows, this soon to be 5th-grader might even be part of next year's production!

PHOTO BY DHARA SHRIDHARANI



## A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

BY KEILA HASIMAJ

**2.17.17 - 8:30 AM**

Mr. Bender was having a meeting with Ms. Mueller and a parent.



PHOTO BY BRIANA HASIMAJ

# Science

BY JACOB SEIDEN

It was all created back in 1942, when two men named William Emerson Ritter and Edward W. Scripps created "The Science Talent Search" for high school students. The first American National Science Fair was won by Alan J. Fletcher when he was 18. He demonstrated the laws of motion. As the years go by, more and more advanced technology gets created which opens up a whole new world of science. This year's science fair will be just like last year's, and of course, at the end, some people get prizes!

The process of a science fair is; find a project, collect the items you need, do the science project, collect data, make a poster saying all of

that, and finally, include pictures in the poster and maybe a sample that was used from the project. Many students use a website called sciencebuddies.org. It helps them find projects that they think are interesting. How important is the Science Fair? For the third- and fourth-graders, not so much because they are not required to do it, meaning it's optional. For the fifth-graders, it's really important! Their grade depends on it! Yes, in fifth grade, you have to do the science fair.

**This year's Science Fair dates are:****5th grade is March 16th.****4th grade is March 20th.****3rd grade is March 17th.**



# Subway Excitement

BY ANSEL KREBS

Picture this: You are on your way home from school and you are really tired. You go down the stairs, swipe your Metrocard (or go under if you're short enough) and continue to the platform. You are startled by the sweet beats of subway performers having fun while trying to impress people into giving them money.

Ever wonder if anyone can just find any place in the subway and start singing, playing music or dancing? In fact, according to NYC.gov, you don't need a permit to perform in the subway unless you want to use a sound device. If you do, you need to pay \$45 at any local police station. You can accept donations from people while you entertain, but you can't sell CD's. You also can't perform in subway cars, but one performer, Henry, has tried it anyway. "Yes, I did it for fun. No matter where I play, people love me." If you violate the rules, you may get a ticket. Henry got one, "years ago, but not now. All the cops know me." Another performer, Willy, got one playing on a restricted platform, but it was dismissed.

You can perform in most other places in the subway, though, there are some restrictions. For example, you

must be at least 25 feet from a token booth, not blocking access to an escalator, stairwell, or elevator, not performing during a public service announcement and not performing above stated decibel levels.

Some people may think performers are too loud and annoying. A student named Alyssa said sometimes she likes subway performers because "they are nice," but sometimes they disrupt her "nice subway ride." She likes soft music, so harsh music can sometimes be too irritating. Another student, Akira, said, "They are soooooo bad and unnecessary." Other people enjoy the scenery and just take in the music. A student named Viggo said they are "kind of good." He once gave a performer money for holding his body up on the subway pole with just his hands.

Musicians can be inspiring. One female dancer has only one leg and used her crutches to push herself up and touch the ceiling with her foot! It was amazing. She taught the crowd to never give up, be strong and work around your problems. Alyssa said she would never want to be a subway



PHOTO BY SETH HUSE

performer, "because it would be too embarrassing." However, she could learn something from those performers, like facing your fears and getting past your embarrassment.

Akira said, "You have to practice, be a hard worker and get lessons." Some performers don't even realize how brave they are. Performer Willy said, "you just have to know how to sing and play and practice a lot." He realized he was gifted when he was a kid. He plays guitar, paints and does ceramics. Henry just loves playing music. He plays gospel and jazz. He also plays keyboard and bass and sings. It, obviously, takes a lot of bravery, grit and determination to be a subway performer. With the crowd staring at you, the subway trains distracting you and the stink of the subway messing you up, you might be surprised at how hard it is to be a subway performer. You also have to deal with what Henry says is the worst thing about being a subway performer—"Some people are nuts."

## JOKES of the MONTH

BY MATILDA FRIED-LEVENSTEIN

What is the best time to go to the dentist?

**A: Tooth-hurty.**

If your nose runs and your feet smell, you were built upside down!

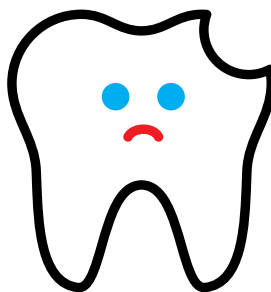




PHOTO BY DHARA SHRIDHARANI

# The Stars You Can't See

My week on the *High School Musical Jr.* Stage Crew

BY AUGUST EAVES

When I first heard Ms. Sarah was trying to find the perfect stage crew members for the 5th grade musical, I was electric with excitement! I picked up an application as fast as I could. A lot of people wanted to be in the crew. I filled out the sheet, writing about how I would make a good stage crew member and why I want to be on the stage crew. After filling out the sheet, I felt confident. In the end, I got picked! This is the diary I kept every day as a member of the backstage crew of *High School Musical Jr.*

**Feb. 6** My first actual day was today! On Friday, we watched a run-through of the play. I'll just say it was "a work in progress." For the first hour and 30 minutes today, I was just sitting! It seemed like nothing was happening. But then, after lunch, I was so busy with learning my cues, I didn't even get a bathroom break!

I had to learn when to bring on the microphones and go get them at the right time. I also had to carry the white board on and off stage. Being in the backstage crew is fun, but a lot of work! And it's only my first day...

**Feb. 7** My second day today was good, a lot of carrying and changing stuff. The costume crew was stealing our jobs, like carrying the red boxes just because they want to, but it was fine. They were too heavy anyway. I've been making friends with the cast members! Today, I made friends with Gavin who plays Troy. He is funny and nice.

**Feb. 8** Today, I left class at noon and stayed at rehearsal ALL the way until 4:45 p.m. We worked SO hard. At the end, Ms. Golub said we needed to come in at 8:00 a.m. the next day to run through everything without the actors. We were excited to get some extra time to work on our cues. BUT THEN, later at home, Mayor de Blasio CALLED A SNOW DAY ON

THURSDAY. I was so upset! That's kind of rare for a kid to be upset on a snow day. Finally, Ms. Sarah sent out an email that said we will work as hard as we can on Friday. She even said that this had happened BEFORE. Six years ago, when they were doing *Alice in Wonderland*, it was a snow day the day before the show!!

**Feb. 9** SNOW DAY!! I went to my friend Lucy's house. She was upset, too! It was still awesome because we had so much fun in the snow.

**Feb. 10** Today, we had THREE shows. The first one was a little messy. Actors were missing costume changes. The crew was just OK. The second show was pretty good. We got our cues right. Actors were on time. The third show was for the families. I messed up on a lot of my cues! I felt a little sad, after but we went to 16 Handles with friends and I felt a lot better.

**Feb. 11** Today was our last day. I think it was one of the best shows we did. We got all of our cues right and the actors got to their scenes on time. I think the audience REALLY enjoyed it. They clapped a lot and stood up at the end. After the show, we went to the cast party in the cafeteria. There was pizza and vanilla chocolate cake. There were balloons that spelled, "HSM" and there were little props, including pompons, hats, posters and more so our pics could look even more AWESOME! I felt a little sad that it was over, but I am very glad it happened and that I got this amazing opportunity to be in the *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR.* BACKSTAGE CREW!!!

Next year, I will hopefully, be part of P.S. 11's awesome 5th grade play again, but next time, I'll be a star you CAN see!!!



# Raise the Roof: Students Say Recess on the Roof Could Be Improved

BY GABE KENNEL

Recess is fun. Unless you are on the roof. Some students say that recess on the roof could be improved. How could we fix it? The roof is not as good as the yard because of the roof. The foosball table's glass has cracks throughout it, the ping-pong table is never used, and all there is to do is play "gaga" ball or your own game. There are only a few balls on the roof: about two tennis balls and three regular balls.

Some people agree that the roof is no good. Damien Burke says, "It's okay." He said it has almost no equipment and the yard is way more preferable. Some people do not agree, however. Leo Mazur says,

"It's alright . . . nothing's wrong with it."

There might also be a way to fix the roof. Hazuki Fujisawa says, "More equipment." Students suggest it could be fixed with more equipment and sports because it hardly has any of those. Another improvement the roof might need is space. Some people feel cramped up there. Hazuki says, "It's more cramped, but otherwise good." Liam Chin says, "Maybe more playground equipment and sports."

No matter what your opinion is, as good weather approaches, hopefully, you will play and go outside more on the roof and in the yard.



PHOTO BY KARINA GUPTA

PHOTO BY DHARA SHRIDHARANI



## Mindfulness Spirit Day

BY AMANDA RO

Sometimes it is stressful being a student, but on February 17, Mindfulness Day, it was a little more peaceful for everyone at P.S. 11. Mindfulness Day is a spirit day chosen by the P.S. 11 Student Council. There were four announcements throughout the day to remind everyone to stop and do mindfulness activities.

Some classes watched videos that gave instructions about how to be mindful while walking. Then, the students practiced walking this way around their classroom. Another activity was peaceful meditation that the teachers helped students with, but most kids knew how to do it because Ms. Wurman has students practice meditation at the beginning of dance class. At lunchtime, the third- and fifth-graders listened to music to help them be more peaceful. The last activity in Ms. Bouchard's class was eating a raisin slowly to get the taste better.

At the end of Mindfulness Day, everyone was peaceful and liked it a lot.





## Clarence B. Jones Assembly

PHOTO BY SETH HUSE

BY MAXIMILIAN STÖHRER

Clarence B. Jones came to an assembly at P.S. 11 on February 6. He was an activist born in 1931. Mr. Jones was Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer and wrote the introduction to the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Students asked him questions. One of the questions was about his reaction when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He answered as

if it were only yesterday it had happened to him. He was getting ready to go to the airport when he got the phone call about Martin Luther King Jr. getting shot. He was shocked and filled with anger. He was so angry he wanted to go to another country, like Great Britain or Canada, because the person who killed Martin Luther King Jr. liked life the way it was and

did not want things to change.

Mr. Jones also said that it was unfair back then because black kids mostly couldn't get educated. He had to educate himself to be as smart as an average adult now.

When Mr. Bender saw Mr. Jones, he said, "It was surreal. The most interesting part was when he told the story of when he first experienced racism." Mr. Jones was riding his bike when some white kids came and said that he must have stolen the bike from a store and called him names, so he rode home as fast as he could and cried.

It was really amazing that Mr. Jones visited P.S. 11. Most students enjoyed the assembly. A third-grader named Calder Auden said, "It was nice. I really liked it." Another third-grader named Colin Ballantyne said, "It was really cool."

Mr. Jones is now a professor in California, and he has two grandkids at P.S. 11.

### CALENDAR ITEM



## MARCH 11th CFAC Kids with Story Pirates

Two Shows: 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.

Go here for more information.

<https://ps11pta.givingfuel.com/cfac-kids-2017>



## OVERHEARD AT LUNCH

BY JANE APTER

The cafeteria exploded with excitement. It's PIZZA FRIDAY!!! Some people were excited, but some had different thoughts. Among the things overheard in the lunchroom were, "They should have more high-quality food because once my grilled cheese was cold, but I do like the pizza because, like, it's pizza!" Another opinion was, "The Icees are good because I'm familiar with them. I want more familiar foods—maybe Taco Monday." One comment praised the people who make our food, "The lunch staff works really hard, so we should thank them." Another student offered alternatives, "There aren't many vegetarian selections and sometimes they run out of lunch. Once, all I got to eat was a peach and I was starving. Luckily, we now have vegetarian and vegan options like more fruits and vegetables. In the future, it would be great to have more fresh food and less frozen milk." In the end, many students had different opinions about the food at school, but everyone agreed, we love Pizza Friday!

## 11 Questions with... Lauren Vasquez Fourth Grade Teacher

**1. What is your favorite subject to teach?**  
Social Studies.

**2. Why did you want to start teaching?**  
My mom was a teacher. I used to play classroom.

**3. When you go home, do you teach your kids math and writing?**  
Yes, they have homework and reading and piano.

**4. If you could only teach for one more day, what would you teach?**  
Social Studies (about peace makers).

**5. How do you keep all of your students' work in order?**  
A lot of piles. Surprisingly, I know where it is.

**6. Where did you work before you were at P.S. 11?**

1. P.S. 5
2. Saint Ignacius
3. Homeless shelter in Massachusetts
4. Piano for ballet

**7. When you are not teaching,**



PHOTO BY SETH HUSE

**what are your hobbies?**  
Piano, swimming, sports for kids, classes at night.

**8. Is it hard being a mom and a teacher?**  
Yes, a lot of work.

**9. What do you think is the hardest thing about teaching?**  
Being able to meet the needs of every student.

**10. What is the biggest problem in your class?**  
Pens that don't stay in 4-401!

**11. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate P.S. 11?**  
10 (11 if I could).

BY SAMUEL COHEN





PHOTO BY SETH HUSE

## K & G Valentine's Day

BY LUCY JARVELA

K & G Valentine's Day is a special tradition of giving and getting valentines that is shared with our whole school. K & G means kind and gentle. This is the most important rule we have.

Here at P.S. 11, we are not just kind and gentle on Valentine's Day. We are kind and gentle every day! Brianna Thomas, 4th grade, says, "Being K & G is important every day to help people when they are hurt and to stick up for them." Ms. Vasquez says she shows K & G by being patient.

Every year, each student makes and receives a K & G valentine. In our classroom, we do a special activity where we make cards for other people in our grade, and they write to us. We don't know who our valentine is going to be, so it is a nice surprise. Once we make the cards, we put them in mailboxes at the end of every hall. A PTA volunteer picks up the cards and delivers them to all of the students. We can also bring in candy to pass out to our classmates.

Violet Sheffer-Stevens, a 4th-grader, thinks K & G day is fun and we should do it more often.

August Eaves, another 4th-grader, says that she really likes it so she can show off her kindness and creativity.

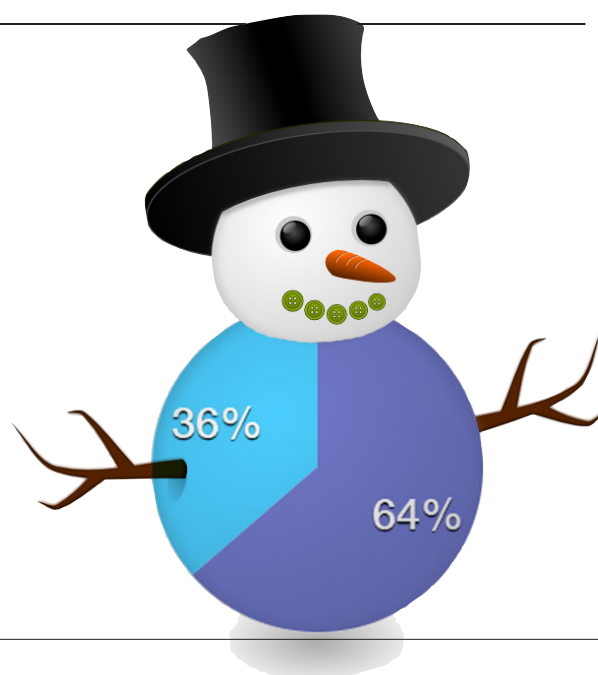
It takes a lot of people to pull off the event. Thanks to the PTA for organizing this special treat so that everyone has fun and candy to eat.

## Monthly Poll:

POLL MANAGER  
LILA JENOVA DUPUY

Poll Question:  
How did you spend  
February 9,  
the first snow day?

 OUTSIDE  
 INSIDE



## Box Tops Contest

BY CARMEN ROSE LACOSTA  
KOLSRUD

Every year, P.S. 11 students collect Box Tops to raise money for the school. The school gets ten cents for each Box Top. This money goes into the general PTA Fund so that the PTA can improve the playground, buy school supplies, such as books, pens, folders, notebooks, and paper, and pay for special activities.

Curious about where can you find Box Tops? You can find them on certain foods, such as cereal boxes, canned goods, ketchup, yogurt and cheese. You can also find them on toilet paper, Kleenex tissue, Ziploc bags, and dishwasher soap. Some students collect Box Tops at home. Others ask their relatives, friends, and neighbors to give them their Box Tops.

At this moment, we don't know who won the contest or how many Box Tops were submitted. Hopefully, we'll know soon. The winning class will get a cupcake party. I hope my classroom is the lucky winner!



PHOTO BY KARINA GUPTA



Your November, December, January  
and February issues brought to you by...  
the Winter Staff.  
Thanks for your hard work.



Not pictured - Lila Jenova Dupuy.