

PHOTO BY LUCY JARVELA

# Building Bridges at Architecture Night

BY LILA DUPUY

In P.S. 11 on Thursday, January 19, the lunchroom was totally packed: boxes on the floor, boxes on top of boxes, boxes everywhere. The magical thing is, within 30 minutes, all those boxes were transformed into beautiful bridges.

When asked about what they would like to add to Architecture Night, Lena, a fourth grade student, proposed, “maybe it would be cool to add a background.” Finn,

another fourth-grader, wanted to go beyond using just boxes. He recommended, “other materials would be nice.” Mr. Bender suggested, “I want to have the kids sketch what they want to build before they build it.”

Michael Kudler is a P.S. 11 parent and an architect who organizes this event each year. Every year, there is a different theme. This year’s theme was to build bridges.

Last year, the students constructed buildings. Next year, there might be more of a change. Mr. Bender said, “It’s kind of crowded. Next year, we might do it outside and in warm weather (in the spring).” That would be a big change in the history of Architecture Night (formerly called “Box City”).

It was a friendly competition and all the kids had fun! Some wanted to make the biggest bridge.





PHOTO BY GABE KENNEL

## YAD SDRA WKCAB

BY SAMUEL COHEN AND  
SETH HUSE

January 20 was the first spirit day of the year. It was Backwards Day!

Lila Dupuy, a fourth-grader, commented, "The sad thing about this spirit day is that you cannot walk backwards." Still, most students thought it was a fun spirit day.

What do the teachers think about spirit days? Some teachers were dressed backwards! Ms. Dale said, "I like spirit days, but I don't usually dress up for them."

The student council comes up with ideas for spirit days and votes on them. There are 5-7 spirit days each year. Don't forget to show your P.S. 11 spirit on the next spirit day!

# Busy Bus

BY MAXIMILIAN STÖHRER

Tons of students ride the school bus every day. It is a great option for families who live far from school or who are too busy to accompany their kids to school.

Most kids have great things to say about the school bus. Some rules of things that are not allowed on the bus include: no chewing gum, no eating, no drinking, and no running around. Yelling and jumping up and down on the seats may not be allowed, but some kids do it anyway! Some students have short bus rides of 15 or

25 minutes while others have very long bus rides to school that can last 50 minutes or even longer than one hour!

In the morning, kids wait at the bus stop close to their home or they rush to the bus stop if they are running late. If they miss the bus, then, their parents or guardians need to take them to school. The morning bus is busy and crowded. The kids are also very jumpy and active. Some kids want to stay quiet and relax on their way to school. Some kids who take the bus would rather take a taxi to school.

In the afternoon, kids who ride the bus home gather in the auditorium and are escorted to their bus by a P.S. 11 official. The afternoon bus is quiet and very relaxing. Some people prefer to rest in the bus after a long day at school. Kids really like the afternoon bus better because it's quieter and you get to talk to your friends in peace.

The bus is a really popular way to get to and from school and more people would love to take the bus if they could.



PHOTO BY GABE KENNEL

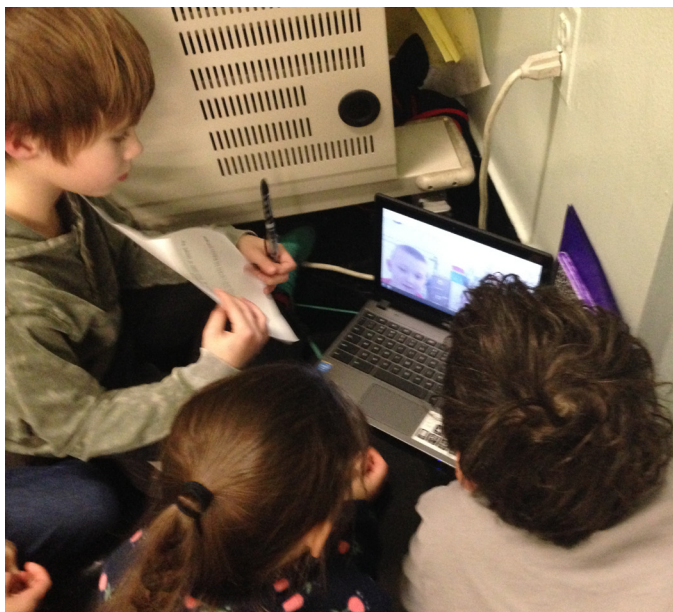


PHOTO BY ANSEL KREBS

## Some KIND of Update

BY JENSEN KREBS

The KIND partnership, also called Empatico, had a lot of action this month! It is a program that was created by the KIND Company (the one that makes food bars) in order to teach and demonstrate empathy. Four classes volunteered to be Empatic-ees to talk with other classes in another school about weather in

each other's climates, or prevailing weather patterns. The school P.S. 11 is partnering with is in Heber Springs, AR.

During one session in class 4-412, the kids went from table to table writing about how they had a "me too moment" or how they might empathize with someone who had an extreme weather disaster. A "me too moment" is when you can think of something

that happened to you that is like what happened to another person.

A couple days later, the kids Skyped with their assigned partner classroom for the first time ever. The session had a rocky start. Each table got their own laptop to Skype with another group of kids. One computer broke and the kids at that table drifted around to the other tables, but it worked out. One table mostly talked about weather, video games and dabbing.

Unfortunately, only some classes got Empatico. Hopefully, the KIND company will host it for every class in the future!

# Sports

BY BRIANA HASIMAJ

Sports play an important role in all of our lives. However, there are parents and kids who believe that sports can be dangerous and harmful to kids. Being concerned is understandable, but in general, sports can do more good than harm. They can help you build up muscle, help you gain confidence, burn off energy, do well academically, and even help you to stay healthy. To be safe, you should always get permission and advice from a parent or your doctor before playing any sport. Forty out of 50 kids surveyed said sports are great. These are all reasons why you should play sports.

**SWIMMING:** There are so many good things about swimming, such as, building up strength and teaching children the role of team spirit. But you do need to watch for a few simple things. For example, after you've eaten, you need to wait an hour before you swim again because there is a slight chance you will barf or get cramps.

**SOCCER:** Soccer is a great sport played by many people all around the world. It helps you gain speed and gain teamwork skills, but there are a few things you would probably want to watch out for, like falling or tripping and getting hurt.

**GYMNASTICS:** Gymnastics is one of the most popular sports because it's great. It helps your body and helps you gain confidence. Some things you have to watch for is your back or spine getting hurt, even though it can help your back.

In conclusion, sports may seem dangerous and aggressive, but if you play them the right way, they can be the best thing that ever happened!

## JOKES of the MONTH

BY ROGER CARASSO AND JACOB SEIDEN



**Why did the fish get arrested?**

**Answer: He was gill-ty.**

ORIGINAL JOKE BY ROGER CARASSO

**What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?**

**Answer: One has a bill on its face and one has his face on a bill.**



# A New President

BY AMANDA RO

Most people at P.S. 11 have only known Barack Obama as the president. In the United States, we have a peaceful transfer of power. All the former presidents and first ladies like the Clintons, Bushes, Carters and the Obamas were at the inauguration of the new president.

On inauguration day, January 20th, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed Donald and Melania Trump to the White House. Then, they went to the Capitol together for the inauguration. After the inauguration, the Trumps had lunch in the Capitol with the former presidents and members of Congress. After lunch, the Trumps said goodbye as the Obamas flew off to California to go on vacation. The Trumps then went in a motorcade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House to lead off the inaugural parade. After watching the parade, they got dressed up and went to three inaugural balls.

Many people have different feelings about having Trump as the new president, and I asked students at P.S. 11 what they thought about this change. Jane Apter said, "I am not happy about the new president." Matilda Fried-Levinstein said, "I don't like this president but I do like Hillary Clinton." Most people liked President Obama, and now, it's a big change.

## 11 Questions with... Erica Goldstick



PHOTO BY CARMEN LACOSTA KOLSRUD

There's a lot of things we need to do, like Spirit Days and helping Ms. Debbie and running the school elections, but I'm happy to help make this school a better place.

### 6. How do you think the school has improved, having been here for so many years?

Well, I think one of the most amazing things about P.S. 11 is how hard the teachers work. We have a very dedicated group of teachers who constantly try to better their teaching skills, which is reflected in the classroom.

### 7. Do you agree with the no-homework policy?

I do agree with it, but I like that we have H.O.P. for parents and students who want to improve their skills. I think it's important for kids to be kids and have time to have fun.

### 8. If you could change one thing how 4th grade is run, what would it be?

I'd like to do more field trips.

### 9. Which of the many 4th grade field trips is your favorite?

The camping trip. I used to have sleep-away camp as a kid and the trip brings back those memories.

### 10. Do you ever get emotional about your students graduating to 5th grade?

Oh. Every year.

### 11. What life lessons have you learned during teaching?

I've learned a lot about having patience.

### 1. Why did you choose to be a teacher?

I always loved working with kids and knew I wanted a job that had something to do with helping kids.

### 2. What is your favorite thing about teaching 4th grade?

I love the books. *Number the Stars* is my favorite. I read it as a student, and I love being able to share it with my students.

### 3. Do you ever get tired of being a teacher?

Sometimes it's stressful, but I don't ever get tired of it. I'm really lucky to love my job.

### 4. How did you and Ms. Sharma become such good friends?

We worked together at our last school.

### 5. Is it stressful leading the Student Council?

Sometimes.

BY CAROLINE STÖHRER



# Women's March on New York City



PHOTO BY AUGUST EAVES

BY JANE APTER

Donald Trump is now president. The day after the inauguration, an estimated 400,000 people peacefully protested at the New York City Women's March. Marchers went from the United Nations to Trump Tower.

Many P.S. 11 students and their families attended. Julia Gewirz, a fourth-grader, said, "I marched because I wanted to make sure our president understands the importance of human rights and global warming." Her father, Alden, said, "I am marching here in solidarity with everyone who is here—men, women and children—to stop hate, promote democracy, and protect women's rights. I think being here is one of the best privileges of our country: to peacefully protest for

the things you believe in."

Another marcher, Liza, who is in her 40s, said she is marching because, "I am terrified of Donald Trump. He doesn't care about our planet and global warming. He wants to keep immigrants and people who look different out of our country. He wants to keep people with different religions out, and that's not who we are. We are better than that. I am afraid." Liza is from the Bronx and identified herself as Puerto Rican.

Twenty-three year old, Kaily, from New York, said, "As we all know, Donald Trump became president yesterday and me [*sic*] and 2.9 million people did not vote for him [referring to the number of votes for Hillary Clinton that exceeded those

for Donald Trump]. I am marching so our rights are attended to and we do not lose as much as we have gained in the Obama years, as far as women's rights and gay rights and health care. Today, me [*sic*] and my 2 friends are marching."

Some P.S. 11 students thought marching was important:

"Participating helps students know a little bit more about the world."

"It is a good way for kids to be a part of changing the world."

"Parents wanted to show their kids that Trump is not a good role model."

No matter what you believe, there are words in the Constitution that allow people to march: "freedom of speech" and "the right to peaceably assemble."



PHOTO BY CAROLINE STÖHRER

## A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

By Dhara Shridharani

**Thursday, January 26 - 12:25 PM**

Mr. Bender is at his computer making a schedule for staff. He does this every week and the schedule is for two weeks.

# Kings!

BY MATILDA FRIED LEVENSTEIN

How old are you? Are you just beginning your journey in elementary school or are you on your way out? Most students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade have changed during their time at P.S. 11. It's third grade's first year as being one of the big kids. All these third graders answered the question, "How did you change over the years?"

"I am smarter. I am not shy anymore. I learned how to dance hip hop and African better. I became very friendly and made a lot of friends," says third-grader, Ilsa Feldman. Matthew Rivera says, "At first, I had no friends, but now I'm one of the most popular kids in third grade." Hyla Dotson, who just turned nine said, "I feel very confident—and the boss!" "I was very shy, but now I feel more confident here!" says Dhara. Ansel Krebs says, "I was shy, but now I feel confident and strong."

It seems that most kids get more

social and more confident as they grow older. Some people, like Caroline who is in 5th grade, haven't changed over the years.

"In kindergarten, I was very social! I had no qualms about school. Now, I feel very old and mighty. Being the oldest in your grade takes a lot. I've not really changed over the years!"

"I feel good and strong," says Jensen Krebs, a fourth-grader. Some people don't just change on the outside, but also the inside, like Luca Adams. "I definitely changed my relationships with my friends and I feel different with

PHOTOS BY ANSEL KREBS



1st  
GRADE



5th  
GRADE

homework. When you're in fifth grade, my friends say that we're the kings—but I'm pretty sad because this is my last year."

## Monthly Poll:

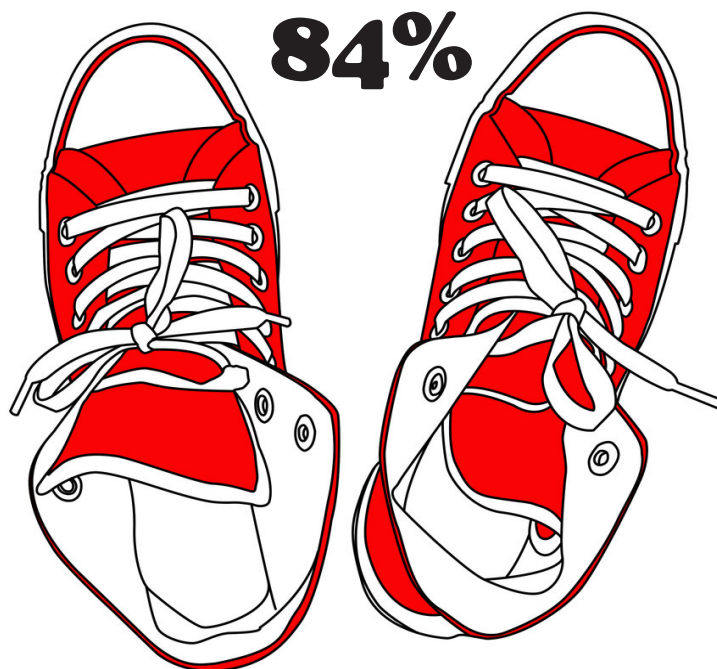
POLL QUESTION: DO YOU PREFER WEARING SNEAKERS OR BOOTS?



16%

POLLSTERS:

ROGER CARASSO, KARINA GUPTA, JACOB SEIDEN





# Lunch Leader Dance

BY KEILA HASIMAJ

About 200 kids were outside P.S. 11 waiting for the door to open on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone was smiling and excited and taking pictures. I thought to myself, “This dance looks amazing! I wish third-graders could go.” Two minutes later, they opened the door. All the students went running toward the door. Inside were Mr. Bender, Ms. Goldstick, and Ms. Ortiz. Songs were playing. More kids were rushing in. There was popcorn, refreshments, pizza and more on the table. People were dressed up with bow ties, high heels, sequined dresses, blazers. Sasha said that most students requested, “Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen” as a song. The last song was, “I Don’t Want to be a Chicken.” Briana, a fourth-grade student, said that the Lunch Leader Dance is only for 4th and 5th grade students who volunteer once a week to assist either the kindergarteners or first-graders during their lunch or recess. Lena, a fourth-grader, said that she was excited to spend time with her friends and dance. At 7:30 p.m., all 200 kids poured out the door. The parents were outside waving at their child as it was dark and no one could see very well. All students had big smiles on their faces and everyone said that this was the best dance party ever!



PHOTO BY CARMEN LACOSTA KOLSRUD



PHOTO BY AUGUST EAVES

## Dueling on the Chessboards

BY SAMUEL COHEN

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, P.S. 11 hosted a “Chess in the Schools” Tournament. More than 50 schools participated, and P.S. 11 came in third place and won ten medals! Nikhil Marel, a fourth grader, had a perfect score and won a third place trophy.

There was a very special guest at the chess tournament that day. Brandon Victor Dixon, the actor who plays Aaron Burr in the Broadway show, *Hamilton*, was at P.S. 11. Mr. Dixon thinks that chess is very important for kids because it builds up strategy and promotes inspiration. He was there to support the “Chess in the Schools” program and to watch the players engage in their own duels on the chessboards.

P.S. 11 participates in more than twenty chess tournaments every year and wins a lot of trophies. You can see all these trophies if you go to the library, the computer room, or the space outside the auditorium. Way to go, Chelsea Chessmates! Don’t throw away your shot!



# Marching and Singing to Keep King's Dream Alive

PHOTO BY LUCY JARVELA

BY SETH HUSE

On Monday morning, January 16, hundreds of people gathered in the Assembly Hall at Riverside Church to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. The event started with speeches given by eighth-graders from the Manhattan Country School. The students talked about racial equality and concerns that Donald Trump will continue to make people of certain races and religion feel like they are not at home in America.

Carey Bryant was at the event with his two daughters: Shelby, an eighth-grader, and Jahzara, a fifth-grader. Mr. Bryant is originally from South Carolina, but now lives in Brooklyn. Shelby and Jahzara go to middle school in Harlem. Mr. Bryant thought it was important to take his children to this event because he

believes that, “Martin Luther King Jr. was a good man who took great risks during a bad time.” He said that there were, “uncivilized behaviors that were considered normal” during this bad time in history, and Martin Luther King Jr. “helped people see that this was not normal.” Mr. Bryant and his daughters liked the event very much because it honors a great person.

After the students gave their speeches, everyone sang the song “Oh, Freedom” together. People then left Riverside Church to march through Morningside Heights, Harlem, and the Upper West Side. At different stops along the route, students would give more speeches and lead the crowd in songs.

A lot of people made signs to hold during the march. The signs contained different messages: “MLK for Earth,” “Peace is Possible,” “We Will NOT

Be Silenced,” “Take Care of People and the Environment,” “We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest,” and “We Will Miss You Obama.”

The Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March is an annual event that is planned by eighth-graders from the Manhattan Country School. This is the 29th year of this march. It is a great event for families. At Riverside Church, there were a lot of families, and just as many children as adults. One very young child was wearing a sign that said, “Never Too Little to March.”

Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963 in Washington, D.C. His dream was about people of all races being equal. Today, more than 50 years after his famous speech, New Yorkers came together to march and sing so that his dream will be carried on forever.



# Featured Artwork

ARTIST: GILA FIRST GRADE





# Featured Artwork

ARTIST: LANGLEY KREBS KINDERGARTEN



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