

PHOTO BY MAYA SANZEL

The Science Fair Blows Your Mind

BY LUKE RAEBURN

The cafeteria was packed with people the night of March 16th, and it looked insane and crowded, but people weren't there to eat. They were there for the 5th-grade Science Fair.

There were big cardboard posters set up on all the tables, displaying everyone's results, and some people did demonstrations of their projects.

P.S. 11 science teachers, Mr. Roylance and Ms. Griffith, have been helping the students develop their projects since the fall. There were

about 65 projects at the science fair.

Alina Burago and Anya Shulga conducted a project called What Makes Ice Melt Fastest? They concluded that ice with salt took the longest to melt and said that this was "a surprise!"

Bix Cole and Cooper Heiss made a magnet rifle as their project. "We saw the project on Sciencebuddies.org, and we thought it was cool because it could be used as a sort of weapon if someone broke into the house,"

said Bix. "It could hurt someone, but I don't think it could kill someone."

Another project was "Strawberry and the Evil Mold," by Amy Sun and Chloe Velez. They wanted to know what was best for growing mold. They did the project at home. Chloe said, "We had them on the table, and they stank." They determined that boiling and refrigeration were the best for growing mold.

Alua Zhanuzakova, Caroline Stöhrer, and Kelly Eng made a solar oven to boil egg whites.

The fair has been going on for three years. "Every year, it goes a little smoother," said Mr. Roylance. The students picked their projects in September. First, they picked a testable question, and then, they came up with a hypothesis. Then, they worked on their experiment twice a week in science class.

The big moment came when they announced the winners. First place went to Lizzie and Maya. Second place went to Guy and Charles. There was a 4-way tie for third place that went to: Daniel and Jack; Ray and Robert; Myles; and Chloe and Amy.

The 3rd-grade science fair was held the next morning, and it wasn't as crowded because classes came down, two at a time, to look at the projects. But somehow, it still felt noisy and crowded. The 4th-grade science fair took place the following Monday. Awards weren't given out for the 3rd and 4th-grade projects. It's not a competition. It's pretty much practice for 5th grade.

It's YOUR Park!

CONTRIBUTED BY SETH HUSE

Imagine a place where you can see amazing things, learn a lot, and do fun activities, such as hike, swim, and camp. That place is real. It is America's National Park! There are a lot of national parks. Taxes are used to pay for the parks, so they belong to all of us.

Some national parks are really big and famous, like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon, but did you know that there are national park sites right here in New York City? That's because the national park service has more than just parks. There are national historic sites, national monuments,

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A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

BY WILLIAM GOLDSMAN

March 24 - 8:00 AM

Paper - What are you doing?

Mr. B. - Getting ready to call a parent.

Paper - Is it important?

Mr. B. - Yes.

Paper - Do you do this every day?

Mr. B. - Yes.



PHOTO BY MAYA SANZEL

and national seashores.

In New York, you can go to the beach at Fire Island National Seashore or at Jacob Riis, part of the Gateway National Recreation Area in Queens. You can even camp overnight in Brooklyn at Floyd Bennett Field. Some historic sites right here in downtown Manhattan include Castle Clinton, Federal Hall, and the African Burial Ground. Farther uptown, you can visit Hamilton Grange to see Alexander Hamilton's home or tour General Grant National Memorial to see the tomb of our country's 18th president. If you like to ride ferries, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Governors Island are all National Monuments located in the New York Harbor. The closest national park site to P.S. 11 is the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace on 20th Street, near Broadway. The newest national park site in New York is the Stonewall National Monument.

Every park has a Junior Ranger program. First, go to the visitor center to pick up a Junior Ranger book. Then, do all the activities in the book. Finally, show your book to a park ranger and take an oath to protect the park.

When you are done, you get a Junior Ranger badge. They are so awesome, and you can collect them at every park! Sometimes, the park rangers have stickers, patches, pencils, or other fun things to give out.

In the big national parks, such as Yellowstone, you can learn a lot about nature. For example, did you know that there is a volcano in Yellowstone? This is why there are hot springs and geysers in the park. You can watch stars and see unusual animals, like bison, grizzly bears, and moose. In Yellowstone, you can sit in hot springs or hike up to a mountain that still

has snow in the summer!

The national historic sites and monuments are different from the parks because they are smaller, but they teach you a lot about the past. At the visitor center for the African Burial Ground, you can watch a movie about how slaves honored their dead and read about how slaves were treated. It can be sad, but it is important to learn about the past.

Are you curious about nature and history? If so, you should visit some national parks and historic sites. They are beautiful, and they teach you stuff. If you are a fourth-grader, you can even get a free park pass (at www.everykidinapark.gov) for your whole family that is good for the entire school year and the whole summer.

Kaileen So, a fourth-grader, has been to the Grand Canyon and says that the sunsets were so beautiful. Another 4th grader, Gabe Kennell, has been to Governors Island but would like to go to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. With spring break and summer coming up, it's a good time to plan a national park trip, whether it is on 20th Street or in Hawaii. It's your park!

The Big Bat LEGO Tournament

BY JUDE LEGER

On Sunday, March 12, eight P.S. 11 students were busy helping bats in Brooklyn. BATS? That's right! Jane, Julia, Alessandra, Nikhil, Elsa, Eliza, Malia, and Myung are on the P.S. 11 Robotics Team, and they were competing in the semifinals of the LEGO Robotics Tournament at City Polytechnic High School. The name of the P.S. 11 team is "Bats and Bricks," and the tournament theme was Animal Allies. The P.S. 11 team built a bat house to help bats.

There were 33 teams competing. With only 4th-graders, the P.S.11 team was the youngest at the tournament. The P.S.11 team has been around for 6 years. In the last competition, P.S. 11 won the award for Best Robot Design!

How is the tournament judged? The robots have arms so they can move things. A team can earn points by making their robots do things correctly. If



PHOTO BY AZALEA TORRES

the robot makes a mistake and has to start over from the beginning, the

team loses points. The students have to present a poster to describe their project, build a LEGO model, and compete in the robotics tournament. They are also judged on core values. The P.S. 11 team core value is "inclusion." It is important to have teamwork and friendship, so no one is left out.

P.S. 11 parents coach the robotics team. They said the students have been practicing since September. They meet after school and pretend that their practices are like the competitions. There are 5 competitions throughout the year. When asked about how they felt about the competition, students said they felt it was a good opportunity and that it was fun!



JOKES of the MONTH

BY ILSA FELDMAN

How excited was the gardener for spring?

Answer: So excited, he wet his plants.

Can June March?

Answer: No, but April May.



PHOTO BY MAYA SANZEL



Some gold, some mischief your way, every St. Patrick's day!

BY MEERA BANDREDDI

Did you get your pot of gold from the little green men this St. Patrick's day? No, the Martians have not landed on Earth! We are talking about the leprechauns!!

Wikipedia says leprechauns are elves from Irish folk tales. They are bearded men who wear a green coat and a green hat. They are part mischievous and part good. They spend a lot of time mending shoes, but the most exciting thing about them is that they hide pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, the leprechaun will grant you three wishes in return for his freedom. Now you don't need a fairy godmother. Just catch hold of a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day and ask for 3 wishes and

get your pot of gold!!

Leprechauns are supposed to be from Ireland, so what were they up to at P.S. 11? On St. Patrick's Day, the Irish celebrate their culture, not just in Ireland, but all over the world, including New York City. Perhaps leprechauns come wherever there are celebrations, to have fun and do some mischief on that day.

Although most students and teachers at P.S. 11 believe in leprechauns, only two or three of them have seen them. Ms. Ballard of K-201 believes leprechauns must be true because there are many Irish folk tales told over long periods of history about leprechauns and their chance encounters with humans. She thinks it

is difficult to see them at P.S. 11 because they must be living in Ireland. If a leprechaun were to grant them a wish, most teachers would want world peace. Ms. Sam wants a bigger art room, which we would love as well!! Most students want good health, more money, pets, toys and to be better at sports. A few students would like better siblings and deserts. One great idea we got from a student was to wish for a leprechaun to be caught by them every year. That way, they could get THREE WISHES every year!

Most think that leprechauns have been extremely mischievous this St. Patrick's day. If you are annoyed about the mess they have made, here is an idea to fight back. LEPRECHAUN TRAPS!!

1. Leave open jars on the floor and hide. As soon as a leprechaun falls in one of the jars, quickly put the lid of the jar on.
2. Leave patches of jelly on the floor and furniture and the leprechaun stepping in the patch will be stuck!
3. Scatter egg shells. When a leprechaun steps on them, the crackling noise will alert you and you can catch him.
4. Put garbage cans behind doors and near windows. If a leprechaun opens the doors or windows, the garbage can will fall over with a crash and you can catch the leprechaun.

Don't be too disappointed if you haven't gotten the pot of gold this year. Don't be too annoyed if the leprechauns have made a mess in your class or house. St. Patrick's Day is coming your way again next year and you can be prepared with some of the leprechaun trap ideas we have suggested!!!

Kindergarten Corner

BY AVERY BALLANTYNE

Do you know anything about Kindergartners? At P.S. 11, we have seven full classes of them. We asked several Kindergartners questions. You wouldn't believe some of the answers they came up with. Some of them were serious, some were funny.

We asked Amoie what she wanted to be when she grew up and she wants to be ice cream! Lucia wants to be a fashion designer because she loves clothes. It seems Kindergartners like marshmallows more than M&Ms. Amoie likes marshmallows because she likes to squish them. Dean likes M&Ms more than marshmallows because he would be floating in a pot of chocolate. Our kindergartner friends also want to have some pretty cool super powers. Lucia said, "I want to have a power to turn into a rainbow." Gabe said, "I want to have lightning eyes because they could laser you." Walker wants



PHOTO BY ELIZA WEISS

to have super running powers.

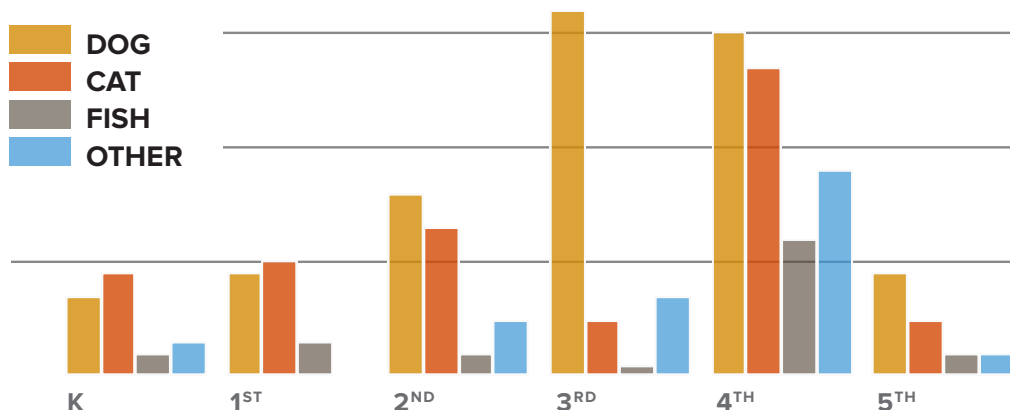
Would Kindergartners replace the chickens in the big yard with goats? Gabe loves the chickens but Dean loves the idea of the goats. Dean loves goats because of their horns. Langley also loves goats. She likes them because they are extremely

soft. Kindergartners think \$20 is a lot of money. If Dean had \$20, he would like to buy the White House. He said he wants to buy it because it was on sale. Gabe wants to buy three candy bars. That's a big difference.

Some Kindergartners want to write some pretty cool books. Walker's character is named Chick. Chick is going to the beach. In Nina's book, her character is a dog. Her dog is going to go on a play date. Also, Kindergartners love airplanes. Nina would like to go to Hawaii. Kaity said, "I want to go to New Jersey."

One of the Kindergartners told us a joke. Walker said, "Knock, knock." We said, "Who's there?" He said, "Banana." We said, "Banana who?" He said, "Banana's not here." Kindergartners are funny and have a lot of wacky—and serious—answers. We hope you learned something about these great classmates we have at P.S. 11.

MONTHLY POLL: What animal do you like the best?



POLL MANAGER: GEMMA GOLDRICH POLLSTERS: NANDINI BAINS, ILSA FELDMAN, WILLIAM GOLDSMAN, KIMBERLY HOOK



PHOTO BY ORIANE SHELEF

PHOTO BY MAYA SANZEL



A Word About Dance Day

BY JENSEN KREBS

♪ “Welcome to Dance Day,
Play that music too loud.
Show me what you’ve learned now.
We don’t have to go out....
Welcome to Dance Day!” ♪

During Dance Day, kids at P.S. 11 partied whenever they heard music on the loudspeaker. As a spirit day, it was on Friday, March 24. The songs (chosen by teacher, Ms. Erica Goldstick), were *My Boo*, *My House*, *Lean and Dab*, *Cheap Thrills*, and *Panda*. Most kids seemed to like the songs. Some kids didn’t. Ruby Wildman would rather have had the song *Broccoli* for Dance Day. (Don’t check out the song because it is highly inappropriate!). Looking forward to the next spirit day coming to “our house.”

P.S. 11 Wins Big at New York State Championship

BY ZACHARY PUNNOOSE

P.S. 11 students hit the road on March 11 and 12 to attend the 50th Annual New York State Chess Championship in Saratoga Springs, NY! Mr. Fier, who is the Chess Team Coordinator for P.S. 11, says that students have represented P.S. 11 at the state championships for the last 5 years. He said, “I know for a fact that this year was the BIGGEST by far for a P.S. 11 contingent in attendance at the State Championships. It’s really impressive how the Chelsea Chess-Mates have grown over the years.” This year, there were 25 students from grades 1 through 5.

Some students arrived on Friday night and others arrived on Saturday morning, some by train and some by carpool. Everyone met in the team room before the first round on Saturday for a pep talk by Coach Aaron. Coach Aaron is the head coach for the team and also runs the in-class chess enrichment at P.S. 11. It was the first major tournament for

some students. There was a nervous excitement in the air. Coach Aaron gave some good advice about playing slow and encouraged all the players that they could handle what was coming.

There were three rounds and each round could have lasted more than 2 hours, depending on how long the players took. Students play in different sections based on ratings and experience. This particular tournament attracts the strongest players in New York State, and there were some disappointments. When asked what the hardest part of losing a round was, Michael Rubinov, 4th grader, said, “The most disappointing part was losing when you’re supposed to win, which is when you are in a winning position and you make a mistake which causes you to lose.”

Hilmay Liang, another 4th grader, when asked about what you learn from losing a round, responded, “I learned that I need to fix my old

mistakes and try better and harder to win the next round.”

How do students learn to fix their mistakes? They notate! This means that they write down their own move and then the move that their opponent makes. The coach spends time with each student to review their notation and show them where they made mistakes and how they could play better, but he also encourages players when they make a good move. Coach Aaron said it is good to review games because, “It is a very hard thing to lose a game and then shortly afterwards, go over the game. It’s just human nature to not want to! But there is just no greater single moment of opportunity that any chess player has to improve: going over one’s game they just played!”

P.S. 11 took home several team trophies and individual trophies. Top players in each section were Amy

continued on next page

Chess continued

Sun, Michael Rubinov, Nathaniel Mullodzhanov, Sabella Faccio and Christoffer Lamtan. Second-grader, Sabella Faccio, advises students who are interested in learning to play chess, “not to wait another minute!” She recommends learning how each piece moves. Then, find a way to practice, like at chess in after school or by doing chess puzzles on the ChessKid app. Finally, start playing in tournaments! Maybe we’ll see you at Saratoga Springs next year!



OVERHEARD AT LUNCH

BY NANDINI BAINS AND TEAM

“I don’t like school lunch that much because the pizza is not regular pizza. It is a bit more doughy.”

2nd-grader.

“Today school lunch was great. The apples were delicious and the dumpling sauce was nice and salty, just the way I like it!”

3rd-grader.

“The grilled cheese wasn’t grilled enough.” - 4th-grader.

“I like the salad bar. It has great options.”

2nd-grader.

Bottle Flipping, Friend or Foe?

BY SADARSHAN BAINS

The activity of bottle flipping is not even a year old and there are already strong disagreements on bottle flipping. In 2016, a [viral video](#) of a teenager, Michael Senatore, flipping a water bottle at a talent show at Crockstone High School in Crockstone, Minnesota popularized the activity of bottle flipping. A viral video is a very popular video. In it, Michael dances onto the stage to loud music, and very dramatically, flips one water bottle. When it lands, the crowd goes wild.

Want to know what bottle flipping is? Bottle flipping involves taking a plastic water bottle that is partly full and holding it by the neck, then rotating and flipping it onto a table, so that, hopefully, it lands standing up. At P.S. 11, bottle flipping has taken a lot of different forms and may not mean the same thing to different people.

Ms. Mueller, the P.S. 11 Assistant Principal said the rule at P.S. 11 is, “strictly no bottle flipping,” because it’s not safe and it can be a distraction to other students. Teachers at P.S. 11 generally agreed with Ms. Mueller. Ms. Berkowitz and Ms. Eileen had the same thoughts. Ms. Eileen said, “It’s not safe,” while Ms. Berkowitz agreed that it is a distraction. P.S. 11 is not the only school where bottle flipping is banned. In other schools throughout the country, it has been banned as well, causing one or two minor injuries. One school said they banned it before “a more serious injury occurred.”

Kids at P.S. 11 seem to have a number of different ideas, though.

Meera, who is in 2-305, said she started bottle flipping when she was 5 years old and has never gotten hurt. She says, just to be on the safer side, she uses a plastic water bottle instead of a heavier, metal water bottle. However, Joshua, who is in 2-302, said he does not bottle flip because he does not want to get in trouble!

The P.S. 11 rule on bottle flipping seems to be followed by the majority of the students. The rule makes sense for many different reasons: to make the school safe, and make sure kids are paying attention to what they’re learning. Also, I don’t know about you, but I would rather drink what’s in the bottle than flip it. My motto: drink it instead of flip it!



PHOTO BY AZALEA TORRES



PHOTO BY ELIZA WEISS

The Importance of Science

BY AMAIRA CHAMADIA

Science has helped our lives to become much better than it ever was. Today, if we want to travel around the world or produce large quantities of food, we can do so easily with the help of science. Technology has helped us find solutions to complex problems, and everyday gadgets like vacuum cleaners, computers and microwaves have improved the quality of our lives. Yet, science can also destroy the world we live in if used irresponsibly.

We cannot imagine life without cellphones, and still, The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year. One out of every four car accidents in the United

States is caused by texting and driving. Global warming is another major area in which science has proved dangerous. For example, the invention of cars has contributed to rising carbon emissions and damage to our atmosphere, which results in rising temperatures. Rising temperatures lead to increased air pollution, a longer and more intense allergy season, and the spread of insect-borne diseases. We now have more frequent and dangerous heat waves and heavier rainstorms and flooding.

First-grader, Indira, who loves scientific experiments, (including lava-spewing volcanoes made with baking soda), points out that, “science can be used to make guns and bombs that can destroy things,” but she loves science, especially her fa-

vorite invention—email. “Otherwise, just think how long it would take for letters to reach people,” she says.

Another huge fan of science, Mr. Roylance, has been the science teacher at P.S. 11 for 12 years. He introduced the science fair three years ago and says it “moves him to tears” every year to see the passion in the kids. Two of his favorite inventions from the past science fairs have been: A mechanical hand that actually worked, and a prototype submarine that worked like a real one in the bathtub. He loves how science propels us forward to a better future and gives us data to be able to predict anything. According to Mr. Roylance, the biggest achievements of science are definitely the moon landing and washing machines, “because they liberated women and allowed them to leave their homes.”

Mr. Roylance also makes kids aware of the dark side of science. “The biggest danger I see is global warming,” he says. Other things to worry about are: When technology is used for military reasons, and the evolution of new diseases created by the resistance to antibiotics.

How do we enjoy the benefits of science without letting it destroy us? It is all about using science responsibly and intelligently. We should use it to find cures for diseases, enhance space travel and improve the lives of people in poorer nations, versus using it to build nuclear weapons or cause environmental damage. Most importantly, remember that, without growth in science, we cannot grow as a society. As everyone’s favorite scientist, Albert Einstein, once said, “The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination. Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.”

PHOTO BY AZALEA TORRES



PG vs. PG-13

BY WAVERLY H. COLE

Do you like going to the movies? Do you ever wonder why movies have ratings? Do you wonder what the different ratings actually mean? Movie ratings have a long and interesting history. All the way back to the early 1930s, there were different types of ratings for movies. But then, in the 1960s, there was a man named Jack Valenti who was part of the Motion Picture Association of America (called MPAA for short) who really wanted to make the ratings make sense to people.

On November 1, 1968, with Mr. Valenti's help, the voluntary MPAA film rating system was started. It had 4 rating levels which changed names over time but were basically G, PG, R and X.

In the early 1980s, there were complaints about scary things and violence in films that received PG ratings. Producer/director, Stephen Spielberg, suggested a new rating between PG and R. It was called PG-13. The PG-13 rating was introduced

in July, 1984 and was meant to warn parents that it might not be appropriate for children under 13.

The ratings used from 1984 to 1990 were:

Rated G: General Audiences – all ages admitted.

Rated PG: Parental Guidance Suggested – some material may not be suitable for children.

Rated PG-13: Parents Strongly Cautioned – some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Rated R: Restricted – under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult.

Rated X: No one under 17 admitted. In 1990, this was changed to be called **NC-17**.

Most people like ratings. For some kids, they worry the movie will be too scary, especially if they are very young. For parents, they like having some information that helps them decide if their kids can watch a movie. Mr. George Sewell is a P.S. 11 parent and a great artist who teaches art

after school. He said, “It is better for kids to be safe and not see too much violence,” which might be in movies rated PG-13 or higher.

My sister, Mackenzie, is 13. She says it is important to her to know, “which movies are appropriate for me to see, which movies will be too scary and which movies I will be fine with.”

Oriane Shelef is in 2nd grade and she is bothered that she can't see certain movies. She said, “the second movie in *Harry Potter* is PG-13 and that is disappointing to me.” Her mom doesn't want her to see it because of the scary parts.

Some people were bothered that, sometimes, they think the ratings are not correct. “Some movies are scary. *Harry Potter*, to me, is rated wrong,” said Oriane.

Mackenzie said, “PG-13 is tricky. Sometimes, I think they are barely above PG, and others maybe should be R. Some *Harry Potter* movies are barely PG, and then, there are horror movies which I think should be R.”

My mom said, “Sometimes I wonder why the movie producers make animated movies aimed at kids that get rated PG or PG-13 rather than G. When I was a kid, all cartoon type movies were G.” She added that, “sometimes it is ok [for kids to see PG-13 movies before they are 13], depending on the movie.”

Why did the MPAA decide to make the rating PG-13? Why not 12 or something else? Some think it's because 13 is the age when you are not quite an adult but still not a young kid. Most people seem to think that 5 categories of ratings are enough. When there were only 4, some people were worried that there was a big jump from PG to R, but now, we seem to have a good system after adding PG-13.

11 Questions with... Ms. Berkowitz Second Grade Teacher

BY KIMBERLY HOOK

1. What is your favorite color?

Green.

2. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Mint chocolate chip with rainbow sprinkles.

3. What is your favorite subject to teach?

Writing.

4. How many years have you been at P.S. 11?

3.

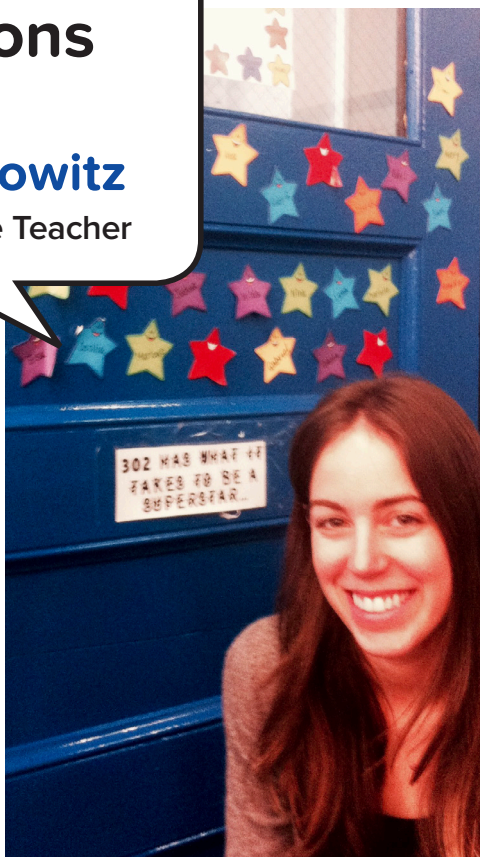


PHOTO BY AZALEA TORRES

5. What are your hobbies?

Reading, dancing and doing arts and crafts.

6. Where are you from?

Philadelphia.

7. Do you have any siblings?

2 – a brother and a sister.

8. What made you want to be a teacher?

I would play school in my basement.

9. If you could improve one thing at P.S. 11, what would it be?

The cafeteria. It's so loud!

10. Have you taught at another school?

No.

11. What is your favorite drink?

A: Peach green tea lemonade. It's so good.

Story Pirates at Comedy for a Cause Kids

BY RUBY BELLE LAHANA

On Saturday, March 11, there was a Comedy for a Cause Kids show at P.S. 11 called, "Story Pirates." What is Story Pirates, you ask? The Story Pirates are a group of actors in New York. They perform funny stories created by kids. There were seven stories, and each was amazing in its own way.

One of the stories was called, The Folder. It was about a boy going to his first day of school. He got a folder from his mother but broke it. He kept getting more folders and kept breaking them. He finally got



PHOTO BY ORIANE SHELEF

a folder that did not break, but then he broke his papers. The characters were the boy, his mom, a guy giving away folders, and the boy's cousin. The other stories were called "Baking," "The Dragon, Swimming," "Dinosaurs," and "Cake Face". There

continued on next page

Pirates continued

was also a story created by the audience about Sally the Turtle and Wooly the Whale. The Story Pirates told these stories with props, costumes, dancing, singing, piano music, and most importantly, jokes!

The actors in Story Pirates have been performing together for 4 months to 3 years. Some of them started acting when they were seven

years old. One actor named Addie said, "It's the most fulfilling thing I've done in my life!" They said it brought kids joy, and kids kept singing the songs. They said it makes waking up early worth it.

One child in the audience thought "Cake Face" was the silliest. It was about a guy who kept getting cake shoved in his face. The actor was

very brave! Four others liked the story created by the kids in the audience. They thought Sally the Turtle and Wooly the Whale were the coolest characters.

There was a mix of kids and Grown ups in the audience. It was crowded and there were a lot of laughs. All and all, the audience really enjoyed it!

Snow Day Fun!



PHOTO BY MAYA SANZEL