

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HOOK

GOVERNORS ISLAND: Fun is Only a Ferry Ride Away!

BY WAVERLY COLE

Governors Island is a really interesting, cool place, and it is right here in New York City. It is a 172-acre island in New York Harbor that is only 800 yards from Manhattan. The only way to get to Governors Island is by boat (or swim across the harbor—not

a good idea!), and there is a ferry that leaves from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street near Battery Park. The ferry ride is really short. It felt like maybe 5 minutes or so. It is always free for kids and sometimes free for adults. There is a

ferry named Alexander Hamilton!

Once you arrive at the island, there are a lot of fun things to do. There is a lot of open space, grass and fields to run around on, and areas for picnics and barbecues. There is also a place where you can rent bikes and surreys. I rented a bike for \$10 for 2 hours—not too bad! People are also allowed to bring their own bikes on the ferry. Surreys come in small (2 seats) and large (4 seats). Surreys look like little cars or golf carts, but they go by pedaling like a bike. There is almost no car traffic on the island, so it is very easy to ride in the middle of the streets if you want.

There are also playgrounds and park areas on Governors Island. There is one really fun area called Slide Hill where they built different size slides into a tall hill. The longest one is 57-feet long and at the top it is as high as the 3rd floor of most buildings. It was super fun and the slide was pretty fast. One hint: Take off your shoes because everyone who did that went much faster on the slides.

There were other playground areas with fun equipment and an obstacle course, and there is a whole area, called Hammock Grove, full of different sized hammocks you can hang out on. There are also play fountains in the summer and fields that can be used for baseball and soccer.

The interesting thing is, there are some really fun and nice things on Governors Island and it is really pret-

continued on next page

Governors Island continued

ty there, but then, there are a lot of old buildings that seem to be empty and some are falling apart. For almost 200 years, the island was closed to the public. Back then, it was a military base for the U.S. Army and the Coast Guard. From 1985 to now, a lot has changed. In 1985, part of the

island was made a National Historic Landmark District. Then in 1996, a smaller area was recognized by New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission, which protects the island's beautiful old homes and buildings. In 1998, the Coast Guard base was shut, and in 2003, the U.S.

government sold 150 acres of Governors Island back to New York, to be shared by the City and State of New York. The other 22 acres were declared the Governors Island National Monument, a National Park site. Starting in 2014, Governors Island opened 30 new acres of the island.

Pajama Spirit Day

BY MEERA BANDREDDI

School spirit days are meant to celebrate togetherness and having fun. Spirit days are usually on Fridays, but this year Pajama Day was celebrated on a Tuesday to make the week fun for kids AND teachers. Teachers get to go to the school auction the night before to show their school spirit, and then the very next day, kids get to wear pajamas to school to celebrate their school spirit!!

Mr. Bender wore blue-checked pajamas with teddy bear slippers and held a large brown teddy bear in his hand. He seemed ready to take a nap after greeting the children into the school. Ms. Mueller wore P.S. 11 pajamas. In fact, most teachers wore pajamas to school. Some teachers and students forgot about Pajama Day and



PHOTO BY ILSA FELDMAN

turned up in regular clothes.

Most children wore pajamas to school. Some pajamas were P.S. 11 pajamas, some were checkered, some spotted, some were one-piece, and most of them were printed with geometric designs. A lot of boys wore sports shorts and tracks. A couple of parents and spirited kids sold P.S. 11 pajamas in the morning to help our school's fundraising effort.

A lot of children, including Mr. Bender, brought stuffed animals—mostly teddy bears and beanie boos—to school. One student brought a giant brown teddy bear almost as tall as she is. Very few children and teach-

ers wore slippers, probably because they needed shoes to play in the yard during recess.

In addition to wearing pajamas to school, some classes had special activities for Pajama Day. Ms. Forschein read 2-305 a bedtime story, a chapter from *Flora and Ulysses*, while the students brought their stuffed animals to the carpet. Luca, from 5-402, said that they had a stuffed animal party. Lazlo, from 3-511, said that their class wrapped stuffed animals and traded and played with them.

Pajama Day first became a spirit day three years ago. Hopefully, it will continue in future years.

MASTHEAD

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PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HOOK

11 Questions with... Mr. Fier (AKA Nick Rubinfier, Technology Teacher)



1. Have you memorized the keyboard? If you have, at what age did you learn?

Yes. I learned to write on a typewriter at 16.

2. At home, how many pieces of technology do you have?

I have 3 laptops, 3 desktops, 1 iPhone, 1 iTouch and 3 iPads. All together, there are 11 pieces of technology I own.

3. How long do you spend on technology a day?

Basically, all day and at least 2 hours at night. So, I spend eight to ten hours on technology total.

4. What piece of technology do you enjoy the most and which do you spend the most time on?

My iPad because it has a keyboard and touch screen. I spend the most time on iMacs because I teach with

it and learn with it.

5. Is it important to learn about technology? Why?

It is very important to learn about technology because every job you have you will have to use a computer.

6. How did you get interested in technology?

A. I read a book called *Mind Storms* and I learned that you could create your own things on the computer. Also, the author of that book, Seymour Papert, got me interested in technology.

7. When you were a kid, did you want to be a technology expert?

Nobody had computers, only government.

8. Do your eyes hurt when you look at the computer for

too long, and do you have any recommendations on how not to hurt your eyes and back while on a computer for long?

Sadly, yes, my eyes do hurt and my eyesight is not so good any more because of computers. [My recommendation is] make sure that you take breaks and do not do it very late at night.

9. Do you have any pets?

No, but I once had a cat and I once had a dog and I miss them.

10. How long have you worked at P.S. 11?

This will be my 16th year.

11. Have you worked at any other places? Were they schools?

I worked at a school in California called "Ecole Bilingue" as a computer teacher. I also worked at a store called Tower Records.

BY AZALEA TORRES



Packing it in.
PHOTO BY WILLIAM GOLDSMAN



Blazing the trail
PHOTO BY BRANDON SANTOS



Skipping stones.
PHOTO BY FINN GREGORY

A sea of foam.
PHOTO BY LENA BONDS



The 4th Grade Camping Trip

CONTRIBUTED BY HILMAY LIANG

Hilmay has won our latest contest, to report on the 4th Grade Camping Trip! In addition to being published in this issue, she will receive a cool P.S. 11 prize. Great job, Hilmay!

Have you ever wanted to experience and learn more about the camping trip? Well, I am going to tell you what happened on the 4th-grade camping trip from May 25 to May 26, 2017. There were many exciting events. Are you ready to learn what happened on the fourth-grade camping trip? Well, come on!

On Thursday, May 25th, 2017, there were many fourth-graders from all six classes getting ready for the camping trip to Pennsylvania! There were many bags, backpacks, luggage and suitcases everywhere! The

P.S. 11 cafeteria was crowded with fourth-graders. The fourth-graders had to be at the P.S. 11 cafeteria at 7:00 to 7:15 a.m. There were 4 buses: Bus 1, Bus 2, Bus 3 and Bus 4. The buses left at 7:30 a.m. Everyone (and I) felt excited as we put our stuff inside the bus's storage. While we were on Bus 1, the teachers split the fourth-graders into two teams. It took around two hours to reach Camp Canadensis. It was tiring, but exciting.

Two hours later, we got off the bus around 9:30 a.m. We got our stuff out of the storage. While doing that, it was drizzling. The sky was cloudy and plain gray, and the floor was soaked with water/rain, dirt and mud. The fourth-graders were a little wet. In one team, there would be two cabins: the girls' cabin and the boys' cabin. After we followed our

teacher to our cabin, we needed to prepare our beds. Finally, we got to do activities. They were: Hiking, gymnastics, swimming, kayaking and rock climbing (*Not rock climbing because it was drizzling). Hiking was fun because we got to see nature and animals/creatures. Gymnastics was amazing because there was a trampoline and a foam pit. Swimming was okay because the pool was warm and there were two slides. Finally, kayaking was very exciting because we got to ride in one small boat that could fit one person with a paddle. We could go anywhere on the lake! Before eating lunch, a team has to come up with a cheer, chant or song for the show at the dance hall.

After eating lunch, it was time to go to the dance hall to practice. Finally, when we finished practicing, everyone, even me, felt tired. It was

camping continued

dinner time!

It was time to dance! When everyone, including me, finished our dinner, it was time to go to the dance hall! It was the time to show off our team's spirit! After sharing, we had free dance. You could dance whatever you want to the music. When the dance was over, it was time to go to the campfire to roast s'mores. We were so excited to roast them as we watched the volunteers help make the fire. Unfortunately, Ms. Goldstick said, "We have unfortunate news. Since there will be lightning, we can't roast our s'mores because it is not safe for us to stay outside." All of the fourth-graders stopped what they were doing, stood there silently and looked up at the sky. Sure enough, there was going to be lightning. Some moaned, some crossed their arms, and some just shrugged. This was kind of a bad night. As we were walking back to our cabins, Ms. Goldstick said she would be giving us s'mores!

The next day, we had to wake up early, around 6:50 a.m., to stuff our sleeping bags/blankets into our bags. Then, we hurried up to the camp's cafeteria to eat breakfast at 7:00 a.m.! The whole fourth grade did some activities after eating breakfast. Lunch time, time to eat! On this day's menu, there were hot dogs, french fries, fruits, and vegetables. Finally, we got to do one ore activity after eating lunch. And to mention things, the sky was clear blue. It wasn't rainy, it was sunny!

In conclusion, the camping trip was very fun, even though we couldn't roast our s'mores/marshmallows. There were many fun and exciting activities and maybe you could even experience the camping trip in 4th grade!

Do you want to be a child actor?

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HOOK



BY JUDE LEGER

Have you ever been to a Broadway Show, or watched a movie starring amazing child actors? Do you think to yourself, "I want to be a child actor!" Do you have what it takes to be a child actor? How does a regular P.S. 11 student become a child actor?

Rachel Begelman became a child actor because her older cousins were performing in musicals and she wanted to perform like them. To be a child actor, she had to find an agent, take photos and audition for parts.

Once you get an acting role, you sometimes have to work long hours, but there are union rules to protect child actors. For example, a break has to be given every hour and a half. Most child actors could go to a regular school and leave for auditions or projects. When they are filming on

set a lot during regular school hours, a tutor is provided to help them keep up with school work.

Child actors get paid for their work, sometimes as much as \$50-\$100 per hour! Do they keep the money or do their parents take it? Rachel said, "some parents may keep it for themselves, but my parents put it in savings to be used towards college tuition." Acting is hard work for a child, but, there is also a lot to appreciate. Rachel said, "I liked that people treated me like a grown up and that I got to dress up in costumes." Sounds like a lot of fun!

Child actors get to perform for people, dress up in costumes, and have fun. However, child actors have to be away from friends, can't play after school, and have long days of work. Is it worth it? I think, yes! It would be really fun to be a child actor!



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HOOK

The ABCs of the Constitution

BY ZACHARY PUNNOOSE

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land in the United States of America. It was written and signed on September 17, 1787 at the Philadelphia Convention. It was authored by our founding fathers, led by James Madison. The Constitution was written to establish America's national government and fundamental laws, and guarantee its citizens certain basic rights.

The Constitution created a government that puts power in the hands of the people. It separates government into three branches: the executive, legislative and judicial, that serve as checks and balances to each other. This ensures that no one branch has too much power. The Constitution also divides power between the federal and state governments.

The Constitution has seven Articles

that established the branches of the federal government and describe what powers they have. In addition, the founding fathers allowed for changes to the Constitution through amendments. The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. They include, the freedom of speech and religion, the freedom of the press and the protection from unreasonable among others. Other key amendments banned slavery, gave women the right to vote and limited the president to two terms in office.

P.S. 11 second-grade teacher, Ms. Forschein, mentioned that, just like the Constitution contains the fundamental principles that govern our nation, P.S. 11 has a Constitution as well. "We call our constitution the Community Standards of P.S.11,"

she said. These standards, which are printed on the school home folders, create a safe environment for learning and protect the rights of students. For example, no student should feel bullied at school. The first standard is, "Be kind with other people's feelings. Never tease, insult, threaten or bully. Never say anything that will purposely make someone feel badly."

Having a Constitution is important so everyone can know the standards by which our country is governed. Similarly, students and teachers should also be familiar with the P.S. 11 Community Standards. As Ms. Forschein said, "It makes sense that we have these standards for our school so that everyone can spend their day happily growing stronger in a safe community."

What's that smell? I'll Tell ya....

BY LUKE RAEburn

I like sushi, but some people, like Maya, 8, from Maplewood, NJ, think that's gross. I don't like lasagna, but that's on Maya's favorite food list. There's one thing you can count on when it comes to food—everyone has different ideas about what is the worst, or best looking, or tasting, or smelling, or healthiest. At least, that's what I found out when I asked around.

When it came to the best tasting foods, pizza was one of the top favorite foods for a lot of kids. But not everybody felt that way about it. Rachel, a 5th-grader at P.S. 11, says she hates pizza. "It's slimy, oily and gooey," she says. (Meanwhile, it's one of her brother, Eli's, favorite foods.)

There are even contradictions among pizza-lovers. My brother loves pizza but doesn't love P.S. 11 pizza (sorry, P.S. 11). Another responder said pizza is great, as long as there is no sauce showing. His mom orders pizza with lots of extra cheese.

As I spoke with more of my friends, family and neighbors, I learned that some of the best tasting foods also qualify for some of the "worst" categories. One mom asked her 3-year-old son, Cole, his opinion about best tasting, worst looking, worst smelling, slimiest, and stinkiest foods. Cole thought it over carefully and answered "pizza" in every category!

Also, sometimes the best tasting foods don't look pretty. For example, my dad loves lobster, but even he says it looks like a big red bug. He has got-



PHOTO BY GEMMA GOLDRICH

ten used to the way it looks. As for the worst looking and tasting foods period, I got some funny answers. Nina Cohen, second grade, said "cat food." Maya, the lasagna lover, said "spinach." And Jameson, 3rd grade, said "burritos." Brussel sprouts also came up A LOT when it came to worst tasting and smelliest, but nobody put them on their best looking or best tasting lists.

For an opinion outside of the P.S. 11 community, I spoke with my Auntie Susan who is a second-grade teach-

er in Mission Viejo, California. She asked her class what they thought the worst looking foods were. Funnily, given that they live near lots of water, their answers had to do with creatures that live in water—sardines, frog's legs, and oysters. They also put fish and oysters on their "slimiest" list and sushi under "worst tasting."

Next, I learned that sometimes the best tasting foods, like ice cream, pizza, s'mores and tacos, were not always the healthiest choices. I asked Dr. Alexandra Sowa, who specializes in obesity (being really overweight), what she thought were the most unhealthy foods for kids. She gave me a list of five: soda, fruit snacks, candy, chips and "anything on the Kids' Menu." "Most menus tailored for kids are full of processed food like chicken fingers, hot dogs and fries," said Dr. Sowa. "Try to be more adventurous and eat something that is found in the sea, like salmon, and something that is green, like broccoli or spinach!" I think she needs to tell that to my aunt's classroom!

Considering all the responses I collected, some surprising answers I didn't get are often actually found on kids' menus. No one mentioned chicken fingers or mac n' cheese or hot dogs or fries for "best" foods. And finally, the single most surprising—and adventurous—answer I got came from Lilly Gottfried, a 4th-grader. Her favorite food is artichokes!

I guess I see now why, at P.S. 11, they say to never yuck someone else's yum. You never know what someone else's taste will be.

Music Memory Competition

BY ELIZA WEISS

May 18th was the big day. Fifteen students from P.S. 11 had been practicing with Ms. Golub, the P.S. 11 music teacher and team advisor, all year long for the citywide Music Memory Competition sponsored by the Riverside Symphony Orchestra. The students studied 16 songs by different classical music composers. For the competition, which took place at NYU's Skirball Center, teams of up to 5 students representing 33 schools all over New York City listened as the Riverside Symphony played small snippets of each song. The participants had to identify the full name of the piece, as well as the last name of the composer. The competition is for 3rd- to 6th-graders. P.S. 11 had 3 teams entered: one for the 3rd/4th-grade category and two teams for the 5th/6th grade category. All three teams received gold ribbons. The 3rd/4th grade team came in second place and both of the 5th/6th grade teams came in first place. When the teams returned to school, they had a pizza party to celebrate!



MONTHLY POLL: What is your favorite NBA team?



POLL MANAGER: MAYA SANZEL
POLLSTERS: SADARSHAN BAINS,
AMAIRA CHAMADIA, ORIANE SHELEF,
AZALEA TORRES

PHOTO BY GEMMA GOLDRICH

OVERHEARD AT LUNCH

BY ORIANE SHELEF

"I love my lunch. My cheese is the perfect size!"

- Carmel, 4th grade.

"I never get school lunch. It's not very healthy. It's like a hamburger with an apple."

- Ruby, 2nd grade.

"I like school lunch. It's perfectly cooked and it has a cool taste."

- Kimberly, 2nd grade.

"Part of my lunch is good, part is bad. I would like it better if my mom sent chocolate croissants like Oriane's mom."

- Lyla, 2nd grade.

"I am pretty upset that they don't have pizza anymore."

- Kelly, 2nd grade.

"I like my lunch because it tastes good and it's never too much food!"

- Meera, 2nd grade.

PHOTO BY GEMMA GOLDRICH



PHOTO BY ILSA FELDMAN

The Case of the Mysterious Bicycles at P.S. 11

BY NANDINI BAINS

Have you ever seen the bicycles in the recess yard of P.S. 11? If so, have you ever wondered why they are there? This article will solve the case of the mysterious bicycles!

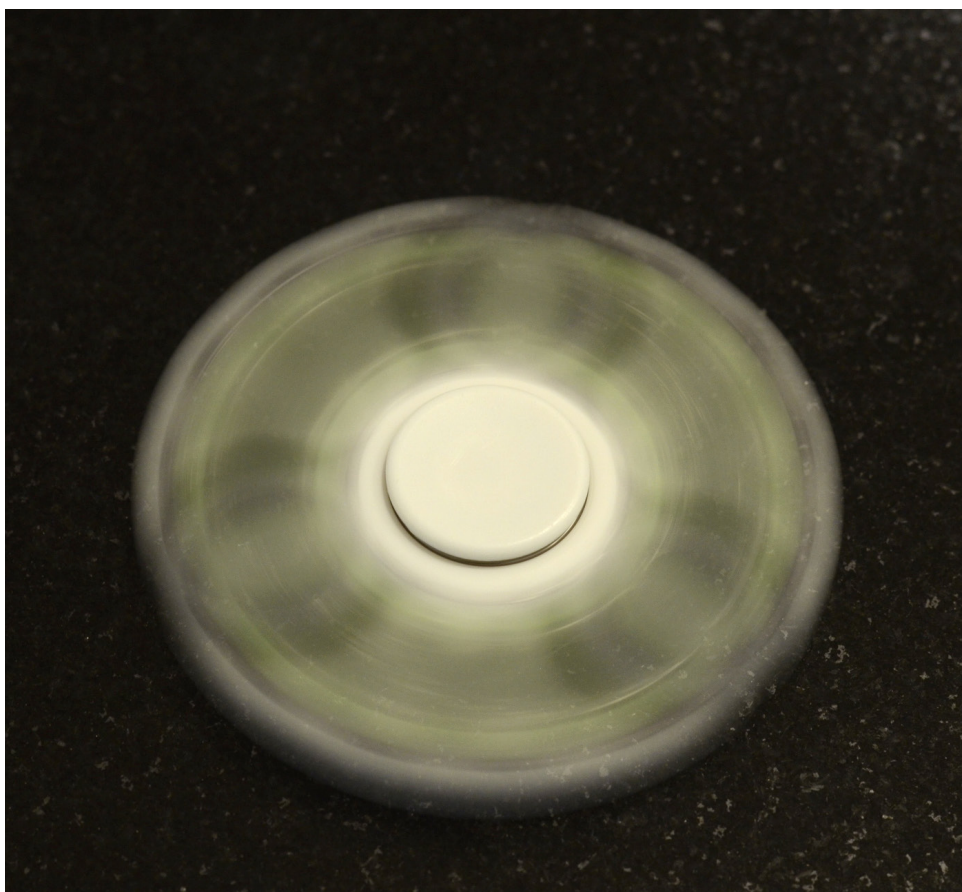
After some research and putting some pieces of the puzzle together, it appeared that Mr. Nichols might have some clues for solving the mystery. After a long search, the Paper finally tracked Mr. Nichols down, and he gave some much needed answers. "I used to teach students how to ride bicycles for physical education classes." A number of articles on exercise indicate that regular physical activity can help people protect themselves from diseases, diabetes, and obesity. These same articles state that riding bicycles regularly is very good exercise. Mr. Nichols said that he would

demonstrate first in front of the students how to ride bicycles and then they would practice riding. Research indicates that children usually learn to ride a bike between the ages of 3 and 8, so learning to ride at P.S. 11 makes a lot of sense! Mr. Nichols loved teaching students how to ride bicycles, but unfortunately, he also had to maintain the bikes. It became very difficult, so having the bicycle classes in the recess yard ended.

Although the solution to this mystery appears to have a sad ending, there are still a few unanswered questions: Would Mr. Nichols still teach bike riding if maintaining the bikes was easier? Would the P.S. 11 student body help maintain the bicycles if they could? Should bike riding once again come back to P.S. 11? Maybe there is more to come on this story!

The Mystery of the Missing Fidget Spinners!

PHOTO BY WILLIAM GOLDSMAN



BY RUBY LAHANA

Do you know what is spinning out of schools? If you don't, don't worry! I have an answer for you: Fidget Spinners, unfortunately, (or fortunately), have been banned from many schools!

First, let me tell you what a fidget spinner is. It is kind of like a spinning top, but it is flat. They usually have three round knobs sticking out.

They come in many different shapes and colors and can even light up and glow in the dark. They are made from brass, stainless steel, titanium, copper, plastic and ball bearings. Most kids like to balance fidget spinners on their fingers. Some even balance them on their foreheads or chins. Fidget spinners were invented by Catherine Hettinger in 1993, but she could not get any toy companies to make them. Then came Scott McCoskery.

He invented a metal one in 2014. By 2017, they became the most popular toy. Hettinger's original idea was to have a toy to relax people when they are fidgeting and need to calm down. They are also supposed to help people concentrate and focus on something. But principals are banning them in schools across the country because they are, instead, very distracting for some kids.

In fact, let's hear what our very own principal has to say about it all. Why did he ban fidget spinners? Mr. Bender says that "students are using them unnecessarily." If Mr. Bender sees one at school, then he will say, "You need to give that to me and your parents will pick it up at the end of the day." He has a suspicion that people still bring in fidget spinners. Why? Because he still hears students talking about them.

Ms. Forschein, a second-grade teacher, says that fidget spinners could help kids concentrate, but could also "become a distraction." About 75% of the kids in her class like fidget spinners, and so does she. She thinks they're cool and calm her down. She says she is "mesmerized" by them, and "might secretly play with it when the kids are not around."

A poll from second-graders (and a few third-graders) found that 46 kids like fidget spinners and only 8 do not like them. But, some people have never even tried them!

The debate about fidget spinners continues. On the good side, people like them because they are fun. On the bad side, they are distracting for other people nearby. They are also sometimes distracting for the person actually using it. In fact, I am using one right now to write my article. As it spins on my forehead, I'm not sure if it's helping me focus or distracting me!

Different Ways to Celebrate Moms

BY ELIZA WEISS

Mother's Day is an important holiday for many people at P.S. 11. In some classes, they do special projects for their moms. According to Jordana Weiss, in class 1-311, they planted plants for their mommies and wrote poems for them.

Azalea Torres made a card for her mom and her family may be going to the Botanical Gardens. In 3-509, their teacher, Ms. Bouchard, had a baby in June and this was her first Mother's Day. A lot of moms get flowers, but this was Ms. Bouchard's first Mother's Day and this is what she said: "We decided to go on an adventure to the Brooklyn

Bridge Park Waterfront. We walked the distance of the entire park from Atlantic Avenue all the way to the York Street F train stop. Lili got to see Jane's Carousel and the Manhattan skyline, although the end of the walk was really brisk because it started to pour. It was so much fun to see this beautiful park with my family."

In conclusion, it seems as if fam-



PHOTO BY ILSA FELDMAN

ilies celebrate Mother's Day in different ways, but most people love to celebrate their moms.



PHOTO BY ILSA FELDMAN

A PEEK AT MR. BENDER

BY AMAIRA CHAMADIA

May 19 - 8:45 A.M.

Paper: What are you doing right now?

Mr. Bender: Ms. Mueller and I are greeting students. Then, I have a PTA meeting.

Paper: Where are you going later today?

Mr. Bender: I'm going to the Whitney Museum for a Principal's conference.

P.S. 11 Celebrates Poetry

BY AVERY BALLANTYNE

On Wednesday, May 24, it was action-palooza at P.S. 11. The main event was Poetry Night, along with a dance at the start, and the book fair. The book fair lasted the whole time. Everybody's poetry was displayed in the cafeteria, so each student was a star. One classmate from each class got picked to read their poem aloud to the audience. All were inspired by various things to write their poems.

August Eaves got inspired by her class voting on a theme. The theme turned out to be "fourth grade." She decided to write about how she loved fourth grade and titled her poem, "What am I supposed to." Fifth-grader, Miles, at first didn't want to write a poem, but then he decided it would be a great idea to write about questioning life. Ari Lulla is moving to India, and all his furniture was either shipped or sold. His apartment has only chairs. He said he developed a bond with his chairs and decided to write all about them.

There were a lot of topics at Poetry Night. Cats were a popular subject, and so was writing poems about grit. The older grades reflected on growing up and their life. There were so many funny poems. Mr. Bender per-



PHOTO BY GEMMA GOLDRICH

sonally thought Ari Lulla's poem, "Chairs" and "Milk," by Theodore, were the funniest poems. Next year, Mr. Bender would like to see a poem about drinking milk in a chair.

Some kids were surprised they got picked to be their class poet, but some weren't. Ari Lulla said, "Yes, I was surprised because there were some really good poems in my class. I have done it before. I was bummed because last year, I was absent the day the class voted." Miles also won to be the class poet in the past as half his class voted for him. He wasn't surprised he won again this year.

Our own computer teacher, Mr. Fier, told us that he loves Poetry Night. He actually self-published a book of 100 poems. He called it, "Fierworks." Get it? His last name is Fier and his poetry is his work, so it's Fierworks!

There were so many wacky and funny and sad and exciting poems. Everybody's poem was amazing. To conclude with a poem:

Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
I love P.S. 11.
And I love you!

JOKES of the MONTH

BY SADARSHAN BAINS

Why did the skeleton not want to cross the road?

A: He didn't have the guts.

What month SHOULD be the 8th month?

A: OCTOber.

Which season always gets first prize?

A: WIN-ter.

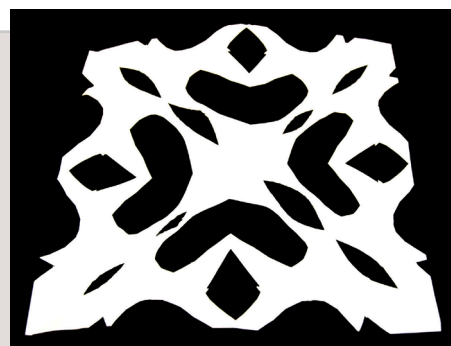


PHOTO BY WILLIAM GOLDSMAN

Featured Artwork

ARTIST: MATHEW SCHEINMAN FOURTH GRADE

RED & CHARIZARD!



by: Matthew Scheinman!