

PS11 Post

The Story Behind PS11's Name Change: Who is Sarah J. Garnet?

BY MAXIMILIAN STRAND

This year, PS11 has made a big step towards changing its name from William T. Harris to Sarah J. Garnet. So, who is Sarah J. Garnet? PS 11 students might already know a little about her from the Name Change

Committee video presentations. But as a refresher, here is an (overly-simplified) telling of her life: She was born on July 31, 1831, in Brooklyn, and went on to become the first Black principal of a New York City public school. Because of her pioneering history in education, she was PS11's

favorite choice. As a member of the Name Change Committee, I will give you some insider info.

The Name Change committee started a few years ago, when a group of 5th graders were learning about Na-

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The Best is Still Unwritten: Behind the Scenes at the 3rd and 4th Grade Show

BY JACK BERKEBILE

Each year there is the 3rd grade show. But this year was different. This year was the first ever 3rd and 4th grade show at PS11. The thrilling event of the 3rd and 4th grade

show was seen inside the auditorium of PS11. The title of the show is The Best is Still Unwritten. The show includes dances performed to songs.

Some specialty teachers worked really hard on the show with the kids:

for example, Ms. Wurman, the dance teacher, Ms. Kost, the music teacher, and Ms. Sarah, the theater teacher. The 4th grade students missed the 2nd and 3rd grade shows due to Covid-19. Ms. Sarah explained that

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PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

Out at 11

BY MILLIE WRIGHT-FROST

PS11 has lots of visible representation of LGBTQ+ support. But the posters around the building are not the only thing that makes it visible. We have teachers, parents, students, staff, and our principal who identify as LGBTQ+.

Mr. Swierczewski, a PS11 teacher, and Mr. Bender, PS11's principal, who both identify as LGBTQ+, felt like they were not supported and did not fully belong in school when they were growing up as kids. Mr. Swierczewski said he went to a Catholic school in elementary school and high school and did not feel like he was supported or fit in. "Until I was in college—there was a small community there—I felt like there really wasn't anybody else I could go to or talk to because people weren't really out."

This is one reason why the staff and faculty think it is super important to have visible representation in our community, so people know they are welcome at PS11. They aim to make it as welcoming as possible. Mr. Bender said, "It helped me to make sure students are seen in the way I was not, because I know how painful it can be." Carlota, a fifth grade student at PS11, said, "It is important that we have visible representation about LGBTQ+, so the school can teach kids that it is normal to be LGBTQ+."

PS11 tries super hard to welcome everyone. We want to make sure people know that it is good to be different and that nobody should be ashamed of who they are. Mr. Swierczewski said, "Overall as a school, we do a

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LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER GENDER EXPANSIVE QUEER OR QUESTIONING

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PHOTO BY MILLIE WRIGHT-FROST

good job of trying to make sure everyone is seen, and in classrooms teachers do a lot through read-alouds and conversations, just to show to everyone there is a place to go no matter who you are. Even if you are different, everyone belongs."

A lot of students really appreciate the support and care that the PS11 community shows. Fifth grader Stella said, "I think they [PS11 teachers] could help you come out...if you are a part of it, you could tell an adult and they could help you get through it." But some kids have ideas on what PS11 can do

better. Carlota said, "The school could try teaching more about the LGBTQ+ community, not only teaching us about the LGBTQ+ community during June, but teaching us about LGBTQ+ throughout the year."

PS11 has lots of visible representation of LGBTQ+, and for the most part students feel more than welcome, because they can see that the people around them are not ashamed to be themselves. We have lots of role models who show us that no matter how different you are, you are special in so many ways.

Covid-19 Has Made a SPLASH at PS11

BY SADIE HARMS

Did you know that PS11 is one of the few elementary schools in New York City that has a pool in the building? The pool is an important part of our school. But swimming has been affected a lot by Covid-19, for both physical education and for afterschool.

Mr. Nichols has been teaching swimming for physical education at PS11 for 25 years! He believes it's important that kids learn swimming for safety. It's active and healthy for kids as well. Because of Covid-19, students couldn't swim for almost two years. For the swimming pool to reopen, PS11 got the NYC Health Department to give approval. Mr. Nichols states, "It's great to have kids back in the pool." He likes to teach swimming because he loves for kids to have fun and for them to improve their swimming skills.

Some students feel happy that swimming for physical education is back. Lila, a fourth grader, is one of those students. When kids didn't have swimming because of Covid-19, they had to go to the fifth floor gym room. They played games like soccer and freeze tag with pool noodles and basketballs. Lila thought that going to the gym was okay, but was sad that swimming was gone because she prefers it. Swim class is different for every grade, but for fourth graders, they get to swim in a two-person partnership assigned by Mr. Nichols. For the school year, they do their swim strokes with their partners.

Every grade can obtain colored belts in swimming when the class is being responsible. Every time you earn a

new belt, the next swim period you can either play a game or swim freely with your classmates. Lila thinks that the games that kids play for their new belts are a fun and challenging

used to consist of 12-15 kids, but after Covid-19, they only consisted of 6-7 kids in the pool. PS11 wanted kids to take their masks off when they were in the shower and in the pool, but put

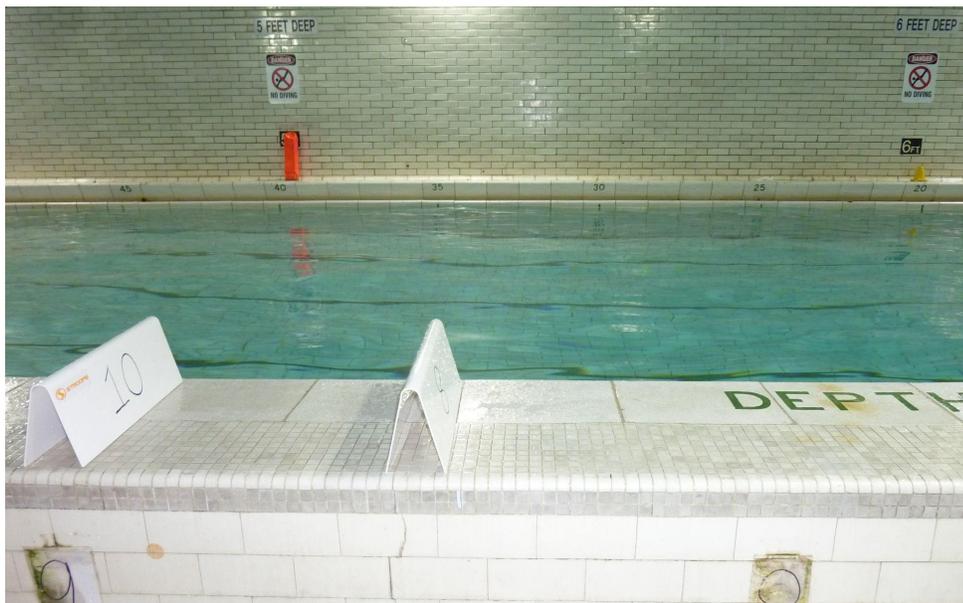


PHOTO BY SADIE HARMS

competition. Lila's favorite part of swimming is that everyone can go at their own pace and gets to catch up on learning strokes. One thing that she really likes is free swim. Kids can earn free swim by changing back into their clothes as fast as possible and the first few kids get to have a few extra minutes in the pool, next class with the rest of their friends that got free swim. Lila thinks swimming is a good sport because "you get exercise while having lots of fun."

Debbie Osborne, also known as "Ms. Debbie", helps run PS11 Afterschool. Afterschool swimming has changed a lot because of Covid-19. Because kids weren't allowed to have their masks off in class and it's not safe to wear your mask while you're swimming or close to the water, she had to make sure the classes were small. The classes

their masks back on when on the deck. They tried to have kids as socially distant as possible when they were in the pool. Ms. Debbie said that the pool was "the only place during that time where kids could have their masks off inside the building." Families had been taking their kids out of swimming back when the pandemic was really bad. Also kids weren't allowed to go to PS11 for a long time and even when school went back in person, students couldn't go to the pool, either.

"I think swimming is a really important skill and I think that we are really lucky that we have a swimming pool in our building so it felt sad to me when we couldn't swim," Ms. Debbie said. Kids had been missing out on the opportunity to get exercise and have fun, two

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School Lunch and How it Wastes

BY MILA GRANROS

“What’s for lunch today?” This is a common question asked in classrooms throughout PS11.

Many students have tried or even rely on school lunch. But how much of the food do they actually eat, and how much ends up wasted? Every day at least a dozen full trays end up dumped in the trash, not a bite taken out of the food. That’s not only wasting the food but the money paid for it.

Is it that students don’t like what is served to them? A few pupils have opinions on this.

“I think there should be a menu so

that we can choose what we want,” says Maya from class 3-509. She thinks that this could potentially help to reduce waste, but not everyone feels the same.

Another third grader, who prefers to remain anonymous, feels that “on most days, school lunch tastes really decent,” adding that pizza is his favorite.

If the problem isn’t the menu, then why is so much food being wasted?

There are many different factors.

Often after students finish waiting in the cafeteria line, and finally sit down to eat, they barely have enough

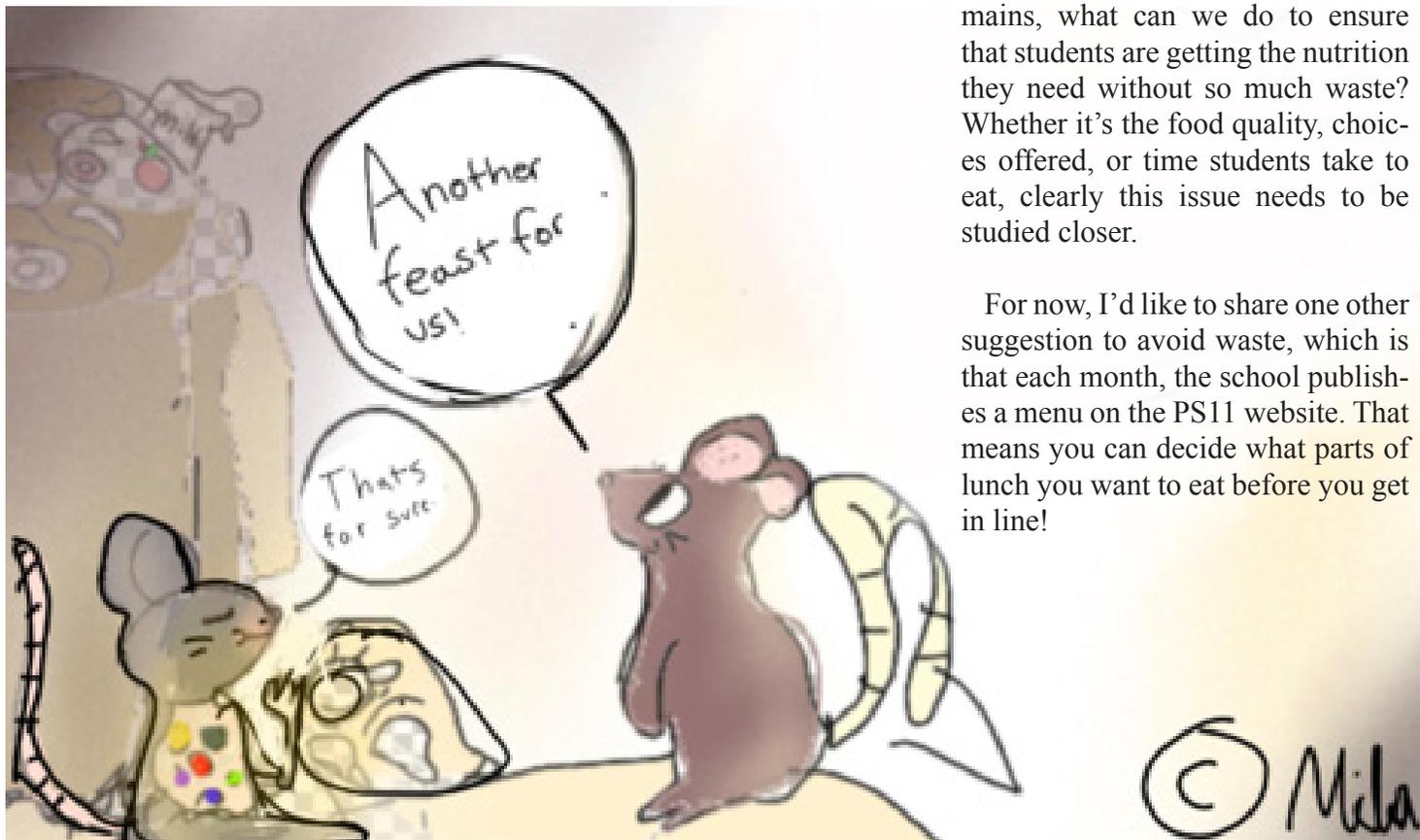
time to finish. Students are given 30 minutes for lunch, but sometimes they come late from class or want to talk and go outside to play.

My research revealed that this is not a problem unique to PS11.

According to my brother, Nolan, a sixth grader at TAG Young Scholars, “The school lunch isn’t different here. We have only 20 minutes to eat, but really more like ten, since we have to get out to recess.”

They have the same basic menu, with the same problems. The fact remains, too much food is ending up in the garbage can instead of in hungry stomachs. The question remains, what can we do to ensure that students are getting the nutrition they need without so much waste? Whether it’s the food quality, choices offered, or time students take to eat, clearly this issue needs to be studied closer.

For now, I’d like to share one other suggestion to avoid waste, which is that each month, the school publishes a menu on the PS11 website. That means you can decide what parts of lunch you want to eat before you get in line!



PS11 is a school that celebrates people of all cultures and backgrounds. Each edition, we’ll be writing one of our articles in both Spanish and English. Many of us at PS11 (24%) come from homes where Spanish is spoken. In future editions, we’ll also have articles in other languages spoken by students and teachers at PS11. Contact us if you’d like to see (or write!) an article in your language.

Los desperdicios y los almuerzos escolares

MILA GRANROS

“¿Qué servirán de almuerzo hoy?” es una de las más típicas preguntas que uno puede escuchar en las aulas de PS11

Son muchos los alumnos que han probado o incluso dependen del almuerzo escolar para su alimentación del día a día. Pero de toda esa comida, ¿cuánto realmente se come? ¿Cuánto acaba en el basurero, sin siquiera tocar? Eso se llama desperdicio – no solo de la comida en sí, sino del dinero que se pagó por ella.

¿Será que los alumnos no están contentos con lo que se les sirve? Algunos nos compartieron su perspectiva.

“Creo que debería haber una carta para que podamos elegir lo que queramos”, dice Maya de 3-509. Ella opina que así se podrían reducir las pérdidas. Pero no todo el mundo está de acuerdo.

Otro alumno de tercero, que prefiere mantener el anonimato, dice que “en general el almuerzo escolar es bastante decente.” Su plato favorito es la pizza.

Si el problema no es lo que se ofrece, entonces ¿por qué tanto desperdicio?

Son varios los factores en juego. Muchas veces, una vez que hayan terminado de esperar en la fila del casino, y se han sentado, los alum-

nos no tienen tiempo para comer. Tienen treinta minutos para almorzar, pero a veces llegan tarde de sus clases, o quieren conversar o salir afuera para jugar.

Mi investigación reveló que este problema no solo se da en PS11.

Según mi hermano, Nolan Granros, un alumno de sexto en TAG Young Scholars, “El almuerzo de la escuela no es diferente aquí. Solo nos dan veinte minutos para comer, pero en rigor acaba siendo diez, ya que debemos salir al recreo.”

Tienen el mismo menú básico, los mismos problemas: demasiada comida acaba en el basurero cuando debería acabar alimentando a los alumnos hambrientos.

Sigue siendo una pregunta abierta: ¿qué podemos hacer para asegurar que los alumnos se alimenten bien, sin tanta pérdida?

¿Será la calidad de la comida? ¿Las opciones que hay? ¿El tiempo que los alumnos se toman para comer? Claramente necesitamos estudiar más de cerca este tema.

Por ahora, tengo una sugerencia para evitar el desperdicio: cada mes el colegio postea el menú en su sitio web. Esto significa que puedes decidir qué cosas quieres comer antes de hacer fila!



PS11 es una escuela que celebra a personas de todas las culturas y orígenes. Cada edición, estaremos escribiendo uno de nuestros artículos tanto en español como en inglés. Muchos de nosotros en PS11 (24%) procedemos de hogares donde se habla español. En futuras ediciones, tendremos también artículos en otros idiomas hablados por estudiantes y maestros en PS11. Contáctenos si desea ver (¡o escribir!) un artículo en su idioma.

Under the Scenes: The Fifth Grade Play



PHOTO BY CHARLIE BOLTIN

CHARLIE A. BOLTIN

Theater is back! And by theater, I mean our own PS11 5th grade musical! I, Charlie Boltin, am here to bring you on a behind-the-scenes tour of our best play yet... "The Little Mermaid"! After Covid-19 hit, there were no plays, at least not for a while; so now we have a play after two years, but it's not completely the same.

Zoe, one of the two Ariels starring in the show, says that "considering this is like the first show PS11 has had since Covid-19, I think it's already turned out to be a bit different because usually the

show would be in February, but this year it's in May."

She also said that the show had been pushed back since quarantine. (I'm also in the play, and I remember when my class and another were the only classes practicing because all the other classes were in quarantine.) Zoe was actually really excited to be Ariel because it's been her dream since kindergarten. She says that one thing that isn't the best is the fact that probably a lot of people would want this lead role and only two people could get it. Harry, one of two Sebastians, says that the show "Is fun because I get to sing under the sea," but he also thinks that it's

annoying because he has a lot of lines to memorize.

Also Ms. Sarah has said how sad she was when she couldn't do another play because of Covid-19 last year, and she really wanted a show that was "going to make a splash – no pun intended". She wanted a show that was "a big beautiful spectacle of a show because it was the first show back from Covid-19."

I am King Triton in the play and I agree, because from what I've seen, "The Little Mermaid" is turning out great, and the costumes and set designs are spectacular! Harry also

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How the IAC Became a Second Home for PS11 Kids During Remote School

BY HUDSON SONNENSTEIN
& ELI KREMEN DAVIS

Imagine a super fancy unique glass office building getting turned into a kid friendly learning area, seems Impossible right? Well guess what? That happened.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE OSBORNE

It all started in 2020 when schools went remote, parents were looking for a learning space away from home so they could focus on their work. The PTA searched desperately for a big, comfortable place that would be suitable for kids. After a lot of searching, they finally found the IAC. According to Debbie Osborne, the after school coordinator for PS11, “They were the only company that said, ‘Yeah, I think we could help you out!’”

The IAC is a media company building on 18th street. The 1st floor space that PS11 was given is usually used for events, but during Covid-19, no one was using the space at all. From the outside of the IAC you already feel hooked to come in because of its

unique structure and shape. For example, to me it looks like an iceberg, while to others it looks different. Once you enter, a wide ramp that takes you to the doormen, who sit under a big screen showing the weather and daily news. After you turn a corner, you see a huge space with a 120 foot screen with bean bags, desks, and flexible seating all around. There is also a side exit/entrance in the main room.

For kids who felt lonely, and for the parents who felt stressed during Covid-19, the IAC was super helpful. Seth Dinnerman (father of 5th grader, Lucas) said, “It saved our lives”. And for the kids who were at home and then went to IAC, it felt joyful to see their friends again. For the security people, Debbie (PS11), Suzanne Kennedy (Director at the IAC), and Joey Levin (CEO of the IAC) said, it was great to see joyful kids walking into the IAC. “We had all this space and it was a perfect synergy” said Levin. Suzanne said, “We thought it would be a good idea because we have this beautiful office space and we weren’t using it because most of our employees were not coming in”. According to Joey Levin, “I heard that the kids really enjoyed it, that it was a good place to work and good place to have internet access and that it was in the neighborhood and pretty convenient.”

Did you know that 250 kids from PS11 went in and out of the IAC during regular school hours, afterschool and summer camp? This means that a quarter of our school went there in all. Crazy right? A typical day at the IAC

involved Zoom meetings from 8:30 to 10:00am, then snack 10:05am, classwork from 10:05am to 12:00pm, we would go out for lunch and recess from 12:05 to 1:00pm, then from 1:15 to 2:00pm we would have another meeting. Then it was time for after-school! During the 2:00 to 5:00pm after school classes we did drawing, soccer, and hip-hop. Even though we were doing zoom meetings it still felt good having friends around you. Lucas said “I didn’t have my brother sneaking up on me in Zoom meetings. Also the teachers are experts on this and know how to help.”

During such a difficult time, the IAC meant so much to PS11, both to the parents and the kids. As two students who attended the IAC’s Learning Lab, we are grateful for the time we spent there. According to Debbie, “It was so nice to come back to work and be with you guys and with the people I work with in



PHOTO BY DEBBIE OSBORNE

person—so that kind of kept us going, that gave us a lot of joy during a really challenging time.”

Visiting one of the Amazing Wonders of the Modern World, the Empire State Building, Right in our Backyard!

BY ELLIE BELKNAP

In this article you will be witnessing the world's most famous building, you will be hearing about the 6th tallest building in the United States, you will be seeing a building that survived a plane crashing into it, you will be experiencing... THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!! Everyone imagines it differently, and you may be surprised! I certainly was.

The view is BEAUTIFUL "I am still amazed by the view, it's different every time you see it", said Jean-Yves Ghazi who I interviewed at the Empire State Building (you will learn more about him later). When you visit you can see all the way to New Jersey and Brooklyn from that amazing view. There are telescopes that allow you to see very close up from all the way up to the sky, to all the way down to the street.

Let me tell you some fun facts. The Empire State Building is the world's most famous building! It has been in over 250 movies! That's a LOT of movies, probably more than you've ever watched. Out of all of the buildings in the 195 countries in the world the Empire State Building is the MOST FAMOUS ONE. That's amazing, and it's right in PS11's backyard! Inside the Empire State Building there are almost 200 office spaces, including companies from all over the world!!

The Empire State Building was constructed in a race to make NYC's tallest building (it was the tallest until 1972) and it was going to be shorter than the Chrysler building

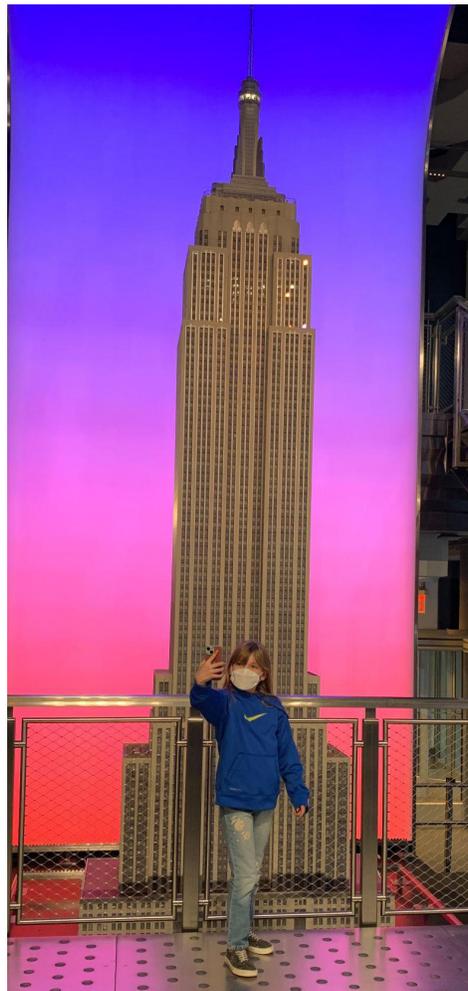


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE BRODENE

but they snuck in the needle so they could make it a lot taller and it won the race! You can see the Chrysler building from the view of the 102nd floor and it looks a lot smaller, but let's not forget, the Chrysler building was supposed to win the race, and it is a very impressive building

itself. There is a yearly race to run up the 1576 stairs of the Empire State Building. The current record is 9:33:00 which, to me seems like a super fast time for running up that many stairs.

This incredible building survived a plane crash in 1945. On July 28th, 1945 (a few months after World War II ended), a 20 foot Mitchell Bomber (a German plane) hit the 79th floor and just stuck out of the building like a chopstick coming out of a big bowl of rice.

The Empire State Building is more than meets the eye! Inside the building, along with the viewing observatories, there's a really cool museum on the second floor. It shows how the building was built back in the 1930s, and how the old fashioned elevators worked. There is also a King Kong room. King Kong was an inflatable prop that climbed up the empire state building with Ann Darrow (a woman!) in his hand. This room is an example of how it looked inside the building when the movie was filmed. They also have a room full of movies/shows/graphic novels that star the Empire State Building (more evidence of its fame!) They also have a yearly photo taking contest where photographers take pictures of the building and the winners are hung in their lobby. The pictures are awesome.

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Knock Knock Who's There: Goldbelly

BY CELINE HALL



PHOTO BY PS11 PHOTO TEAM

You may be thinking “aw man, I cannot get my favorite Chicago-style pizza in NYC!!!!” Don’t worry!! Goldbelly has your back!!!! You can get pizza (and thousands of other yummy foods) from all over the US on the Goldbelly website. Goldbelly is a shipping company for restaurants. It empowers the best chefs and restaurants in the USA to make more income by shipping food to customers outside their local area. The company is a start-up that was founded in 2013. That makes it the same age as I am!

Today we are going behind the scenes with Goldbelly thanks to my mom, Cristina Miller, who works there.

“I am the Chief Operating Officer at Goldbelly and I have worked there for about a year and a half” she told me and explained that “it is a big challenge especially when you are shipping food that is highly perishable. That’s because some of the food has to be shipped frozen with ice packs, some has to be cold but

not frozen, and all of it has to be protected from damage that can occur in shipping.”

I asked her what makes it difficult. One of the difficulties she told me about is that “because food can only last for a few days, we have to make sure the restaurants have enough food (but not too much food) for all the orders we send them. Sometimes, the restaurants we work with run out of food because there are so many people ordering on Goldbelly.”

The packaging is also very complicated. They have a team of packaging engineers that went to school to understand how to package food. They create guides for every type of food that they sell so that the restaurants they work with know how to package all their food so it arrives in perfect condition so that the customer can have a “magical Goldbelly food experience.”

A few key things motivate my mom about her job: 1) Goldbelly’s mission

to help restaurants ship “Food Love” to people all over the United States. “Food Love” is something we say at Goldbelly to convey the idea that when you send someone food from Goldbelly it’s a special experience and it is like sending love as well as food — food love!” 2) Her team. “I work with some amazing people and I want to make sure that they have a great experience at Goldbelly.” 3) Her family, because she wants us to be proud of the work that she does, and because, “I need my family’s help being taste-testers!”

“One of the most difficult parts of my job is dealing with the weather”, she explained, “when the weather causes delays for the carriers (UPS and FedEx) it creates big problems for Goldbelly because the food that our restaurants are shipping and our customers are eagerly awaiting can get delayed and spoil. About one year ago we had severe winter storms across three quarters of the whole country. The state of Texas lost

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BY LUCAS CORDERO DINNEMAN

Marine Pollution: A Problem to Solve

BY AARADHYA VIJAY

Marine Pollution is a bad thing. You hear that on a daily basis, but do you do anything about it when you hear that? No! You sit there still using plastic bottles, utensils, and bags. So let this very article let you act upon this problem.

We are waiting for a change, we want this problem to disappear into thin air, just like that. But we are completely forgetting that, as Former President Barack Obama said, “Change will not come if we wait for some other person some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change we seek.” So in this article, we are going to cover what happens when a plastic object enters oceans, rivers, and lakes.

We interviewed Marike Bender, program leader of Battery Park City Authority, to learn more about pollution.

You might think, ‘It’s just one plastic thing, what harm can it do?’ But, as a matter of fact, it can do a lot of harm. Plastic does not decompose unlike other types of waste. So plastic can stick around like an unwanted guest, damaging the marine ecosystem. Much of it breaks into little pieces called microplastics. They can have a toxic effect on aquatic life, including delaying growth, causing oxidative damage and abnormal behavior.

Now you may be thinking ‘Okay, okay, marine pollution is a bad thing and there is lots of it, but what can I do? Probably nothing. I’ll just go



PHOTO BY AARADHYA VIJAY

back to my normal life. Plastic forever!’ Well, you are wrong!

The first thing you want to do is eat more organic stuff. It might sound as if I’ve just put you on a diet, but this is better for the animals. Let’s say you get an apple from the store and a can of soda. If you didn’t ful-

ly eat the apple and your roommate accidentally threw it out, it would be fine because apples are okay for most animals. But in another scenario your roommate accidentally throws out the soda can, it wouldn’t be fine because animals don’t know what’s food or not, they will eat

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The Unique and Surprising Ways Covid-19 has Affected Small Businesses in Chelsea

BY AUSTIN HAMMONDS

Have you ever wondered what happened to small businesses like pet stores at the peak of Covid-19? Find out here how Covid-19 has changed two businesses in Chelsea, and their safety protocols.

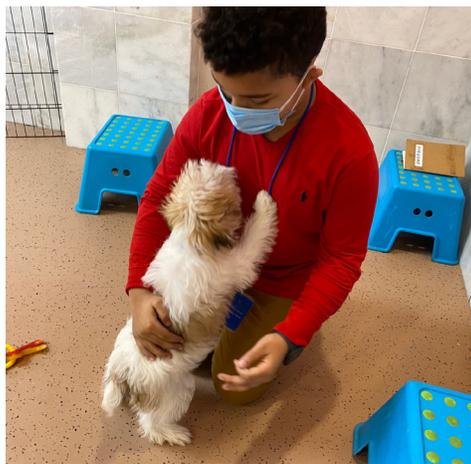


PHOTO BY LOREN HAMMONDS

The first business that I spoke with is a small gem on 166 8th Avenue called Citipups, a Chelsea pet store. I met with Emilio, the Head of Public Affairs at Citipups. I also met with Daniel Beauchemin, owner of Chelsea Frames and I asked them each a few questions, starting with how Covid-19 has affected their stores.

Emilio responded by saying that “Well, at the peak of the pandemic, because we had animals here, we never had to close like a lot of other businesses. But with that we had to really increase our safety protocols. For example, we were only allowed to have eight customers in the store at a time.”

Another change he mentioned was about allowing people to come in

who aren’t buying anything: “We’re a place that’s open to the public to play with puppies, we let anyone come in, we’re known for that, but during that time, we couldn’t have people just hanging out, the only people came in wanting to get a puppy so it was different.”

Daniel Beauchemin of City Frames agreed that there had been some basic changes when it came to safety. He said, “Well, I think I’m one of the lucky stores in Chelsea. We’ve been in Chelsea for 38 years, and I’ve been at this location for almost 20 years. I think the biggest change, of course, is that we’ve had to implement some safety measures for our team, for the staff, for our clients, so people have been wearing masks.”

I also asked them if *Covid-19 changed their store space*. Emilio said that for a while it was hospital-like in the petstore. “Usually this is a play area where people are hanging out but we had to measure it out with lines measuring 6’x6’x6’”. Right now we wear masks, but before we had to wear almost like nursing scrubs, a mask and we hung a big plastic thing up across the store.”

Emilio explained that the pets have reacted to Covid-19 as well, “What’s happening is that during Covid-19, everyone was at home, so tons of people all over the country, not just here, decided to get a puppy into their life, now that they had time. So, with owners being around the puppies all the time and never really leaving, because everything was locked down

everywhere, a lot of dogs today are suffering from separation anxiety. It’s not like dog training places, or doggy day cares were open or you could even go out with your friends, you were just with your dog all the time. It’s like an entire generation of dogs have anxiety over this.”

Daniel Beauchemin, of Chelsea Frames, also discussed how his store, and customer behaviors, were affected and he explained two big things he has noticed; people are making art and many prefer white frames over any other color! He went on to explain “A lot of people have started making their own art. We have a lot of clients whose children and even they have gotten back into crafting at home, because they’ve spent more time at home. We’ve seen needle-points and puzzles and projects that normally maybe would have stayed at school, and now because they



PHOTO BY LOREN HAMMONDS

were done at home and they’re staying at home, a lot of our clients are framing them. All of a sudden, ev-

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Happy and Ready to Do It Again, Meet Windham Ski Coach Thor

BY SAM NOY



PHOTO BY SAM NOY

The first time I met Thor we were riding up a ski lift at Windham Mountain. Thor is a tall, chatty guy, in a blue helmet that says POC on it in large letters. After I met him, I started to notice him everywhere around the mountain.

At Windham, there are three ski programs; Race, Mountaineers, and Freestyle. Thor is a Freestyle Coach which means he teaches people how to ski rails, picnic tables, boxes, jumps, and other tricks.

As I got to know Thor, I wanted to talk to him about how he got started and why he loves skiing so much.

I sat down with him and he told me that he started skiing when he was 3 ½ years old. His parents put him into the Park City Ski School. And today his daughter, Ada, who is 14 competes in Freestyle at Windham.

Thor explained that he decided to coach Freestyle because the athletes are “incredibly motivated, fun, nice

kids”. It’s a program that is “really in a renaissance”, as he and his team are rebuilding it themselves and that is a great learning experience. It’s also a very competitive program, but at the same time it’s not as rigid as the ski race, and he finds it to be a lot of fun.

Thor likes coaching because he loves watching students when they understand what a movement is supposed to feel like. When he is teaching, he can see little bits and pieces of it but he never knows when it’s going to come together. But when it does come together, and they get it every time, everybody is happy and Thor loves that.

He encourages those who want to start skiing to begin around New York City. He would recommend Windham or Belleayre for a new skier because they both have a large beginner area at the bottom of the mountain where it’s a little bit flatter. He recommends going mid-week and using the rental equipment that’s available at the mountain. His advice



PHOTO BY SAM NOY

on boots is that they should feel snug around your foot, but not too tight. This is the absolute most important piece of equipment for a new skier.

His most important tip is to be extra careful not to put anything but your sock inside your boot. This is the very first thing coaches tell everybody in every beginner lesson. “But only about half the people listen!”, says Thor.

And when you get better at skiing close by, maybe you can visit one of Thor’s other favorite ski spots — Silverton in Colorado, Big Sky in Montana, Alta or Snowbird in Utah, or Kicking Horse in Canada.

Thor’s favorite conditions for skiing is thigh-deep light snow, over a firm but not icy base. If the snow is heavy or wet, he might like a few inches. If it’s light, he wants more!

He told me that what he loves most about skiing is the feeling of snow under the soles of his feet when they cross under his body in the middle of a turn.

And after Thor is done skiing he’s already excited for more, as he told me he feels “happy and ready to do it again the next day”.

I hope that, if you decide to try skiing, that you will take Thor’s advice and that you will find someone who loves skiing as much as Thor to coach you.

Think Globally, Act Locally!

BY ODESSA BYRNE

I was inspired to write about this because we did an extreme weather unit in our class and learned about how little was being done when it comes to global warming. After our unit completed, me and my best friend Sadie, who is also a fourth grader at PS11, said to me that if we don't act now global warming will take over in seven years. This made me worry, and so I thought, maybe it's best if I write about this subject and inspire others to act locally.

I hope that after reading my article you will feel inspired to talk to others about this and take action, so that together we can all help to do our part to reduce global warming.

I also spoke to Ms. Bruen who is our Science Teacher at PS11. I asked her to explain to me how global warming affects the world. "We are all experiencing the impacts of global warming in different ways depending on where you live in the world. NYC has experienced pretty extreme weather patterns, swinging temperatures (many indoor recesses), heavy rains / storms and more flooding than usual. In other areas of the world, especially on smaller islands, it's not just extreme weather; they are actu-



PHOTO BY SARAH

Me and my avocado plant which I've grown from seed.

ally losing land to higher sea levels caused by melting glaciers."

She suggested that there are things that we can do as a school, and told me that we can try to reduce or shift our energy usage. "I applied for a solar energy grant (we didn't get it this year, it's money that goes toward a specific purpose or project) to build solar panels on our roof, but we can continue to look for ways to power our school that don't involve using coal, oil or other "burnables." Burnables put carbon into our atmosphere and that is what helps cause global warming."

year, we were much better prepared for storms."

After interviewing my mom about Goldbelly, I realized that Goldbelly isn't just a company that restaurants can sell food on and find new customers on, but also a place they can depend on to help them with all of their ship-

As far as what students can do, Ms Bruen also had suggestions "Individual people can make lifestyle changes such as riding bikes, outfitting their home with solar panels. However, it is even more important to put pressure on companies and airlines to change their practices because it will be impossible to reverse or halt the damage we've done if only individuals are making changes."

Personally, my dad does not have a car, so we ride our bikes and take the subway a lot of the time. I also try to recycle as much as possible (my love of Sea Turtles makes me especially passionate about this). But, thinking about what Ms Bruen suggested, maybe we should all do some research to learn more about the companies we choose to buy things from. And knowing more about maybe choosing to buy more from a company that you know is taking positive action. And for a small step that we all can take, how about next time you are in a shop, you say no thanks when they offer you a plastic bag or too much extra packaging. Maybe we could do something together to convince the DOE to use electric buses?

We need to think globally and act locally to stop the damage of climate change. Would anyone like to create a committee of PS11 students to make this kind of change happen? Please let me know!

Goldbelly continued

power for weeks because of these storms. After going through this experience, Goldbelly built tools and processes to help reroute packages and warn our restaurant partners about the weather in time for their supply chain needs. This year, because of the experience from last

ping needs — from weather to packaging. With Goldbelly involved I think the restaurants are much better off and can focus on their food and cooking, while growing their business by easily sending food to people who don't live near them. I also realized there are a lot of amazing small restaurants in the country whose food I want to try!

PS11 Name Change continued

tive Americans during Indigenous People's History Month and learned that William T. Harris was a proponent of assimilation schools. They approached Mr. Bender and asked that the school's name be changed. That's when Ms. Kawa and Ms Elkarrimy recruited 3rd through 5th graders to be part of the Name Change Committee. Ms Kawa was excited, "I knew right away I wanted to be a part of this committee. I am passionate about inspiring kids that taking small steps can make important changes."

First, members of the Name Change Committee found historical figures that fit a clear set of criteria: they had to be unsung heroes and their values matched the ones that we think PS 11 has. Those are integrity, honesty, respect, empathy, justice. The students on the Name Change Committee made video presentations to the community, and the school decided on the top three picks: Hisaye Yamamoto, Zitkala-Sa, and Sarah J. Garnet. The committee debated which one the school should choose. Each of the candidates had achieved so much in their lifetimes. They were all unsung heroes.

Sarah J. Garnet won the vote because she reflects the values of PS11: Education, equality, and community. Garnet became a teacher's assistant when she was 14 years old in 1845, when Black women were not treated equally, and in 1863 she became the first Black female school principal in New York. She was a suffragist who believed in equal rights for all, and

she worked to help the anti-lynching campaign of Ida B. Wells. W.E.B. Du Bois spoke at her funeral!

Zitkala-Sa didn't win, but she received the honor of having our auditorium named after her, it will now be called the Zitkala-Sa Auditorium. In fact, since Zitkala-ša means "red bird," our school now has a mascot, the PS11 Red Birds! Also, our library will be named the Hisaye Yamamoto Library.

The Name Change Committee also spoke to the P.T.A., and to the descendants of William T. Harris.



The Late Sarah Jane Garnet.

They also reached out to the next of kin of Sarah J. Garnet and the CEC (neighborhood officials). They are now deciding how the school will appear on digital maps, online maps, and city maps.

To give you an idea of how special this is, PS 11 is about 100 years old, and this is the first time the name is being changed. We are making history by celebrating an unsung hero whose name deserves to be known, and we appreciate that we had this chance and the opportunity to choose.

The Name Change Committee talked to Principal Bender about Garnet: "It was very fun," he told me, explaining that he learned much about the candidates. The project really helped the school look at history in a different way: "It was more than successful," Principal Bender said.

The change has had an impact beyond West 21st Street: "Some schools have reached out to ask about the process," Elkarrimy said. Ms Kawa summed up her thoughts now that the name has been officially announced, "I am so proud of the kids for raising their voices and proud of the school system for listening".

"I got to watch students work hard on something they are passionate about" Ms. Elkarrimy said of the major change she helped set in motion. Not only did it pay off, it set a good example for students: "The Name Change committee stood up to create a change in our community. And they had the support of staff and families because of how inspiring they are." The process took two years. Her lesson? "You gotta have patience!"

Go Red Birds!

Fifth Grade Show continued

says that something feels different about it, maybe because he's in the play this time, but something feels a bit unique; but hey, it's going to be performed and Covid-19 won't stop us this time! (Hopefully.)

You know how I said this was a behind the scenes tour? Well, we have someone who literally is behind the scenes. Annie Walsh is the set designer for the play, and in charge of the backstage crew, who will be running the play. Annie says the jobs in the backstage crew include: kids who are in charge of bringing the sets on and off the stage, also kids helping with hair and makeup, and when there is a quick change there is usually a student responsible for hanging up the hats and clothes.

For the light crew, there is a spot operator, a job Annie thinks is great because, "You get to watch the show." The problem with a lot of other jobs in the backstage crew is that because you're behind the curtains, you don't get to see the show. With the spot operator position though, you are near the back of the theater, and you control the spotlight for the whole show.

Hey wait, aren't these sets heavy? Well, the thing about sets is, they're on wheels! Annie Walsh says that one time she set up a string on a set, but the kids couldn't reach it, so now she knows to always keep in mind the fact that kids are smaller than her and not as strong.

Annie first started as a set designer for the PS11 plays when "somebody knew that I had experience with being in the theater – I actually was a dancer and I had my own dance company and so I designed sets and costumes for my dance company and

lighting..." and then they asked her to help at PS 11, and she built the amazing carriage in "Cinderella"!

Not only are the sets dazzling but wait till you see the costumes created by Melanie Gomez! Melanie is the coolest costume designer and maker ever! She was making these costumes when her daughter starred in the "Wiz-



PHOTO BY CHARLIE BOLTIN

ard of Oz " as Dorothy and she loved making the wicked witch of the North's costume too.

Melanie told us she first gets a costume idea or looks at photos (specifically the ones Ms. Sarah says she likes best.) To do that she talks with Ms. Sarah, and uses a mood board, next she "pumps it up" by putting on gems and beads and other things, and then she has an awesome costume!

She also says it's "more fun to make a costume than to make clothes for everyday wear." Honestly, who can blame her? That's totally true. She makes these amazing costumes on time with the help of many other parents. While Melanie gets to work on costumes in the mornings, the other parents help by buying fabric and organizing on the computer with Google spreadsheets to see what they need to get done.

Here's the key: Melanie also chooses a fabric, and uses a palette of colors; then she uses a mannequin to pin all of her clothes on to it, then sews them together to make her final creation!

How did it all start? Well, the first time that Melanie made a costume was when she was actually making a costume for her daughter for Halloween.

It started when her daughter Chloe wanted a peacock costume and Melanie "looked on Amazon but they were all very ugly" so she decided that she would make one herself. She did know how to sew because of her studies at fashion design school, but the peacock was her first costume creation.

These are just a few of the many people coming together as a team to put together this amazing show! We have all hands on deck, including kids, parents, and teachers! As you can see, it will be the best show ever! So sit back, relax, and enjoy this year's fifth grade musical, "The Little Mermaid"!

INSIDE SCOOP: Did you know that there's a soon to be released live action movie of "The Little Mermaid"? Well, Ms. Sarah says that maybe, like the last PS 11 show, Aladdin, she will take all the people who worked on the play to the live action movie to celebrate, which would be SO fun!!

Let's Talk About Bruno

BY TEA MAZZETTI

Have you heard about Bruno? He is from *Encanto*. Everyone is always singing “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” throughout PS11. If you haven’t seen the movie yet, Bruno is part of a family with magical powers. Bruno’s power is to see the future. This gift turns out to be bad for Bruno because he often sees bad futures and he gets blamed.

Encanto is my favorite movie and everyone in the movie is always saying, “We don’t talk about Bruno,” but actually it’s one of the things they talk about the most! That’s weird, right?

I have my opinions about Bruno, but I was curious about how other kids felt about him. So, I interviewed a bunch of students from PS11.

The first thing that stood out was that all the kids I interviewed thought Bruno was nice even though at the beginning of the movie you’re meant to think he’s mean.

Most of the kids I interviewed felt that Bruno loved his family, but Archie Martin from 3rd grade pointed out that Bruno “feels left out.” Dylan Genovese from 3rd grade said he feels, “happy and proud. I think he loves his family so much. He saw a vision but he didn’t want the grandma to know about that.”

When asking about Bruno’s thoughts on the Madrigal Miracle,

everyone I interviewed thought he was glad the family got a miracle.

Almost everyone I interviewed said they wanted Bruno’s power but they all had different reasons. One wanted the power to know about upcoming wars and another wanted it so she would know tomorrow’s weather or if a test is coming.

You may know the song “We Don’t Talk About Bruno.” Many of the kids I interviewed thought this was a mean song to sing. Alexandra Figueroa from 3rd grade pointed out “Nobody likes his prophecies. They think he makes bad things happen but he doesn’t. They see him as something else, but he’s just like the rest of us.” Juliet Mazzetti had a similar idea about the way people in the village talk about Bruno. She said, “It’s not Bruno’s fault that Tia Pepa’s wedding was ruined. It was Tia Pepa’s fault. It was her powers that caused the hurricane. It wasn’t Bruno’s fault that the woman’s fish died. That’s what fish do. It wasn’t Bruno’s fault that the guy went bald. His hair just fell out. That just happens to some men. It wasn’t Bruno’s fault that the guy got a big gut. That’s what happens to some men.” Though Everett Veisz from 3rd grade pointed out that in the end people are nice to Bruno.

In conclusion, people feel differently about Bruno. Now you’ve heard about how lots of kids feel about Bruno. How do you feel about him?

Effect of Covid-19 continued

everyone wanted white frames. They were so afraid of germs, that they wanted very clean surfaces, something that was easy to wipe, something that looked like bleach, and so, strangely enough, there were a lot of white frames, more than ever, going out the door.” He also told me that Grand Millennial is a style of frame that’s popular among the generation of Millennials who are settling down and want frames that are a little more ornate.

I realized one thing while working on my story, which is that some businesses have had harder times than others during this time. While both Citypups and Chelsea Frames had to put in protocols such as wearing masks and limiting the amount of people in the store at one time, as Daniel Beauchemin said, they were still “the lucky ones.”

We all know at least one small business that has closed due to Covid-19. I hope this article has



PHOTO BY LOREN HAMMONDS

convinced you to go out and help small businesses that may still be struggling due to Covid-19. Remember, there is no vaccine for small businesses.

In remembrance of Chelsea HyperMarket and The Rail Line Diner. Gone but not forgotten.

(^w^) Respect Your Elders: Cats or Kittens?

BY ULLA OTTERNESS

In this article you are going to learn about cats. The old ones. Not the innocent, cute lil' kits, but the elders!

Picture this: A black shape huddles in a cold alley corner. A sleek, tortoiseshell, cat. A taller shape. A human. The human - as often happens - does not see her. One always sees things on second glance. The cat stalks forward, a can crunching beneath her paws. The human turns its head abruptly. The cat, startled, jumps back, hissing. It's loud over the bustling city streets, but the cat can hear the quiet purr of a ringtone. The human speaks. "Hello. Yes. Is this the humane society? I'd like to report a kitten? Yes. Ok. Wait- it's a elder cat. They can take care of themselves, right? Yeah. Who cares about the old ones? I thought so. Bye."

Adopting old

Which would you rather have; an older cat or a kitten? If the answer is a kitten, you're like many other people I know, including me (◦ ^◦)

I'm not saying adopting kittens is a bad thing; no, no. But, if cats don't get adopted within a certain time period, they go to the pound, and we all know what happens there... Countless numbers of elder cats are dying, and they need YOUR help.

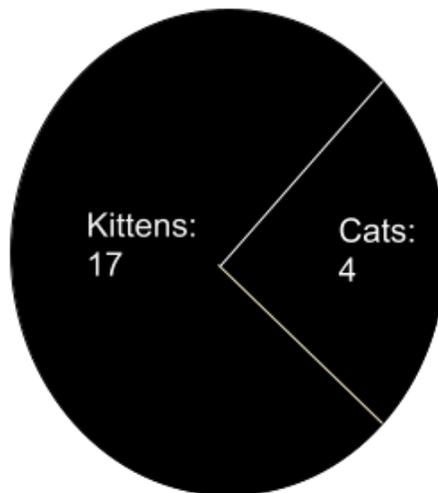
One reason why you should adopt elderly cats is that they need less supervision. I interviewed my grandma, and she said that "Elder cats aren't as much work as kittens"

Another reason is they are wiser and calmer and can be good teachers

A third great reason is that they're good for human elders because you don't want a kitten to have their owner die and be left alone.

Here are my interviews:

The results from asking 21 students in 5-406.



I also interviewed *elderly cat owners, starting with my grandma who is an elders with elder cats*, who told me she's found at least three. "An orange Cheshire cat named Suzie, and a silver cat named Angie. I found Angie at my house. She was just in the backyard, so I sat down and brought a bowl of warm milk and she came right over, and Viola! She became my cat! Angie is 15 years old, and very friendly. They were both farm cats.

My grandma thinks that elder cats make a very good pet, but reminded me that it's important to keep their claws trimmed. "They don't mean

to but they scratch, so they need a scratching pole.

You have to brush them or they get hairballs. You have to feed them frequently, but not too much. If you live in an apartment the doctors have to cut off their claws so that they can't climb a tree and you don't have to call the Fire Department."

My grandma told me she thinks that "elderly cats are wiser and calmer. They know more cat things and can be good teachers. Kids like older cats because they aren't as much work as kittens. Human Elders should probably not have kittens, because the elders die before the kittens grow up, and the kittens are left without a home, and they mourn their owner.

Kids should have kittens because when they grow up with kittens they learn from them, and they also make good companions.

My neighbor, Laura, who owns a cat, told me her cats' favorite toys are economy size elastic bands. Her cats are called Ursula, an Abyssinian and Marie, a Savannah. She used to have another cat, Amelia, but she died. Laura feeds her cats cat pods; they are mushy salmon and tuna.

How can I help - I hear you ask. Well, you can help by adopting cats and kittens (or 1 of each). I'm not forcing you of course, but,.... you know their cute lil' faces...

Here's a list of a few animal shelters in Chelsea, NYC. There are also

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The Most Wonderful Fashion, Taking Place at Art to Ware

BY CORINNA GRANATA
RUTTENBERG

In Port Authority Bus Terminal, there is a very avant-garde clothing store, Art to Ware. It features clothing by fourteen designers, including Ooh Baby, Mikaela Clark, and Epperson, a former contestant on Project Runway. Art to Ware just moved to Port Authority from Chelsea, right by P.S. 11. It's a pop-up shop, which means it only has a location for a short amount of time and then moves somewhere else.

The owner of this store is Lesley Ware, who has written several books teaching kids about fashion. "I moved to New York City and I just loved shopping for fabric and how much fashion was in the city," Ware said. "So I decided to quit my job and start teaching kids how to sew. But when I

went to find a book about sewing for kids, I couldn't find one that I liked. So I decided to write one myself. That was how I started. It was because I was teaching kids how to make their own clothes and I needed a book."

Ware was writing her books when she decided to bring them to the next level, by opening her store, Art to Ware. "I've been writing books for almost ten years and I thought, What can I do with my life next?" Ware claimed. "There's only so many books you can write about sewing for kids. I wanted to do something more. I thought having a store was a way I could take all of the things I talk about in the books and bring them to real life."

A lot of the clothes at Art to Ware are very experimental, such as a gray

jacket with a big pair of eyes on the back, a wallet that looks like a 100 dollar bill, and a brown sweater with Barbie heads dangling off it that was designed by a ninth grader. Ware said that a lot of the clothes are upcycled. "Instead of a sweater getting thrown in the trash, we'll make it better," Ware said. "We make it more fashionable; we mend it and we make it even better. Also, it's really good for the environment."

The clothing is very unique—it's like art you can wear. "In our store on 23rd Street, one day this man came in and he was like, 'You spelled *wear* wrong,'" Ware said. "And then he walked out. He didn't realize that Ware is my last name. So I was just like, 'Get out of here. This store isn't for you.'"

Support the people of Ukraine!

Ways to help

Humanitarian Aid

Razom for Ukraine

<https://razomforukraine.org/donate>

Sunflower of Peace

<https://tinyurl.com/46mzx7pk>

NBU Funds For Humanitarian Assistance (National Bank of Ukraine)

<https://tinyurl.com/2p938z83>

Ukraine Humanitarian Fund

<https://crisisrelief.un.org/t/ukraine>

International Rescue Committee

<https://tinyurl.com/nvaur47c>

World Central Kitchen

<https://wck.org/relief/activation-chefs-for-ukraine>

EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria)

<https://www.eaza.net/emergency-appeal-for-ukrainian-zoos>

Medical Aid

Support Hospitals in Ukraine

<https://tinyurl.com/ynx5a3y5>

Love4Ukraine

<https://gofund.me/dff4a356>

Host a Refugee

Ukraine Take Shelter

<https://www.ukrainetakeshelter.com>

Shelter for UA

<https://www.shelter4ua.com/en>

Support the Military

Come Back Alive

<https://www.comebackalive.in.ua>

Army SOS

<https://armysos.com.ua/en>

NBU Funds for Ukraine's Armed Forces (National Bank of Ukraine)

<https://tinyurl.com/5xm558vk>



Допоможіть Україні!
Разом переможемо!



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

3rd and 4th Grade Show continued

is why the 4th graders worked on a show with the 3rd graders, so the 4th graders would have the opportunity to work on a show before the 5th grade show.

Ms. Sarah, Ms. Wurman and Ms. Kost explained that the theme of this year's show was living in a world with Covid-19. Ms. Wurman's favorite dance from the show was the Umbrella which had students dancing with white umbrellas. It was an exciting dance and the audience loved

it. Ms. Kost's favorite song from the show was You've Got a Friend, which class 4-412 sang. Jun Kim, a 3rd grader, said that his favorite song was Underdog, which is a song about people who have difficulties and how you can always rise up.

Brand New Day and We are the Champions are songs everyone sang aloud to the audience. The songs send a message that we are all in this together during Covid-19, and that we are stronger than Covid-19.

All the hard work paid off. The 3rd and 4th grade show was amazing. People did their dances just as choreographed to the songs. This year, the show was video recorded for parents to watch, instead of having parents in the audience. But there were some kids in the audience from younger grades to watch and applaud the songs.

If you want to watch the 3rd and 4th grade show, it was recorded so you will be able to watch it eventually. You should watch it because it is exciting and is well worth your time.

Covid-19 Has Made a SPLASH continued

things that PS11 swimming provides. Swimming was also a popular Afterschool class. There would be swimming classes after school everyday. Unlike swimming for physical education with Mr. Nichols, where kids start in second grade, in Afterschool you can start as early as kindergarten. In September 2021, fewer kids were signed up for Afterschool swimming.

But in the second semester, around 150 kids wanted to sign up! Ms. Deb-



PHOTO BY SADIE HARMS

bie believes families "feel a little bit safer during afterschool. You know all the kids are vaccinated and all the staff are vaccinated, so the parents feel a little bit more comfortable letting their kids take swimming."

Swimming is one of those activities that everyone at PS11 really missed. We're lucky to have a swimming pool that we can use again.

Empire State Building continued

During my visit, I had an opportunity to meet the President of the Empire State Building's observatory, Jean-Yves Ghazi who told me a bit about the amazing lighting system, a high-



PHOTO BY ELLIE BELKNAP

light in New York City's night sky. He told me: "Back in the day, the Empire State Building would manually fit plastic gels over floodlights, and colored plastic sleeves were fitted over fluorescent tubes in different color combinations to celebrate holidays and events. It took a while but it was worth it to see our building light up! Today, the lights are LEDs. And they are energy efficient and you can learn more about that in the museum" Fun fact: the lights used to go off at midnight, but now they go off at 2am, and they are still saving energy.

In the museum, there is a room all about King Kong, and Jean-Yves told me, "Kong's roar is made by the sound of lion and tiger roars slowed down, but not even one gorilla!"

I also asked him about any funny stories of celebrities who have visited, and he told me, "once there was a celebrity who had no wardrobe, but SHOE CHANGES for every floor we



PHOTO BY ELLIE BELKNAP

went, meaning they had to change their shoes every time we went to a new location! (they had 15 in total)!"

I have never seen or heard about any crazy stunts being done there, so I asked about this, and Jean-Yves told me about one time when a Mustang car was brought on to the 86th floor Observatory. It was brought up in pieces and was put together like an extremely hard puzzle. Impressive.

I had an incredible time visiting the Empire State Building. I was surprised it was so modern inside! It is a magnificent building and I recommend it for a one-of-a-kind, special experience. It is fun for all ages. This building is tall, famous, and the views are amazing. I highly recommend that you visit this legend in the heart of New York, and if you do, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

The Best of Street Art in Chelsea

BY DAVID BERKEBILE



PHOTO BY DAVID BERKEBILE

Do you remember that five story tall yellow person on the side of PS11? If you're in 3rd to 5th grade, you probably do. But if you don't, I will tell you all about it, its history, how people feel about it getting taken down, and even some other murals around Chelsea.

According to artsobserver.com, OsGemeos, a group of two Brazilian muralists, who happen to be twin brothers, and Futura2000, painted "the kid" (the mural that spanned 80 feet on the side of PS11), in August 2010. The site also explains that the artists chose to put flags on the shorts of "The kid" to celebrate diversity. OsGemeos has one big mural that remains in NYC. It is located on

101-199, W 14th St, New York. "The kid" was taken down recently because of construction to make sure the school was safe, because the school is around 100 years old. Ollie Lawton, a 4th grader, didn't care when the mural got taken down, but he does want a new one. When the mural got taken down, Harry Chadakoff, a fifth grader, felt like a part of the school was being taken down. If there was a new mural, Harry would want it to be of "the same person, but doing something besides standing".

Although the big mural was taken down, there are lots of little murals around PS11, and the person responsible for these awesome murals is George Sewell. He is the head of the murals afterschool and he has worked for decades with



PHOTO BY DAVID BERKEBILE

kids decorating walls and creating murals with them. Through seven years of running the afterschool, he has grown from one class to six! His two kids used to go to PS11 and are now in high school and college. George told me that the process of making a mural takes four or five months.

There is also a lot of art near PS11, in Chelsea. Chalk FIT at the Fashion Institute of Technology on W 27th Street has been going on since 2013. Students make amazing murals on the side of FIT. In 2021 the Chalk FIT's theme was, "the new normal." Fourth year students are usually the only ones allowed to make murals, but because of the pandemic, 15-20 Fifth years also

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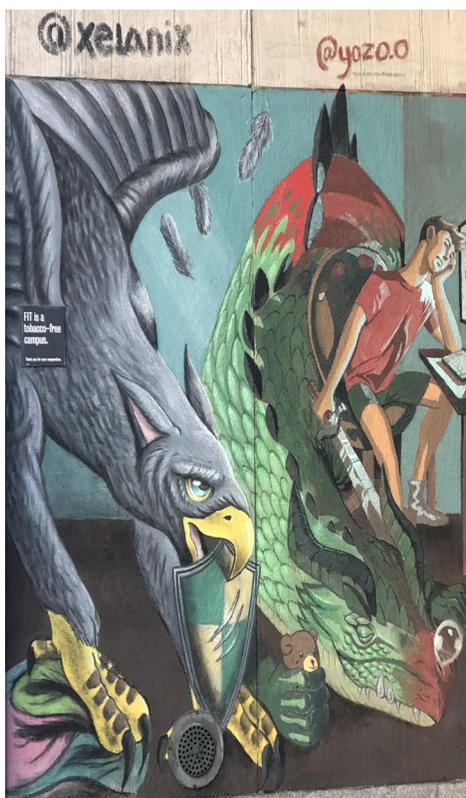


PHOTO BY DAVID BERKEBILE

Marine Pollution continued

anything they see, so they would eat the soda can that could kill them.

Another way you can reduce marine pollution is to recycle stuff, and you may be thinking ‘Do you think that I have a plastic recycling facility in my backyard? And for a matter of fact I don’t have a backyard, I live in an apartment!’. I live in an apartment too. Also, a recycling facility may take up more than just a backyard. So, some ideas for recycling are :

You can use jam and peanut butter jars for food containers.

You can use milk, water, fruit juice, and other bottles and jugs for plant containers. You can also use them as a pen and pencil holder.

You can use salad dressing containers for little trinkets (such as rubber bands, pins, and more) you can also use them to make your own salad dressing and other condiments.

And those are just a few. You can use plastic items for lots of things, and you don’t even need a recycling facility to recycle them.

Marike Bender, Battery Park’s programming leader, thinks it is really important to remind people about picking up trash. If it ends up in the river it’s going to flow right into the Atlantic Ocean. So she thinks that it is important to not make people feel bad, but help people feel a little responsible to do something, so they can do little things that are manageable, to reduce marine pollution.

Marike also comes to work on a boat from Queens into Manhattan, and she sees a lot of trash in the river, especially when it’s raining. When it rains, if you think about how much trash is on the sidewalk the rain pushes it into the river.

Marike says when you’re home or at the beach, or you go to Battery Park City and you’re right by the Hudson River, and you can see all of the trash in the water and you ignore it, eventually it all builds up in the back of your head. Then you start to feel bad inside, and you start thinking ‘maybe I should be paying more attention.’ but then you feel bad inside. When you don’t ignore it, and you say ‘There is a problem, we should do something about it.’ then you feel a little better. That’s because you’ve named the problem and now you can help fix it.”

Marike also thinks we are putting animals in danger. Think of how big a whale is, their eyes are as big as soccer balls, think of all the tiny krills, little shrimp. They can’t really see what they’re doing, they just open their mouths and swallow and eat, so they get a lot of plastic in their mouths. “I’ve seen seagulls and fish that have gotten tangled up in nets. I think the fish that we eat, if not extinct, are going extinct.”

Marike also thinks that us kids can make a difference. “When I was a kid nobody told me what I did was important, you and many other kids can do things that make big differences,” she told me. “You and your voices are super important, especially when you think of marine pollution. The earth is 70% water, maybe more, and we need

it. We can’t survive without a healthy ocean. So I think I would share that you and other kids are just as important as other people and adults.”

But is plastic really the villain? You might be surprised to hear me, the one who convinced you that plastic is a bad thing is saying that it might not be the villain of this story. But now I realize that I’ve taken you on a whole different trail and we need to go back and take the trail ‘is plastic the problem?’ So now we’re back on track so let’s see whether plastic is the problem? And, in my opinion, the answer is no!

It’s not plastics’ fault that it ends up in the ocean and kills animals. It’s humans for goodness sake! Plastic doesn’t walk up to the animals and murder them. We put the plastic in the ocean. It’s our fault plastic is in our oceans. It’s our fault that plastic is killing animals.

“We’ve taken from the ocean all that we’ve want, and fed it back all that we don’t, and now it’s literally feeding it back to us.”-Emily De Sousa.

I hope this article has inspired you to take action and stop using plastic objects since it harms marine life and even humans. I also hope you are inspired to stop using plastic bottles, utensils, and bags.. I hope this article has taught you that this problem is too annoying to disappear into thin air. I hope this article has let you know that you are the change we’ve been waiting for, not someone somewhere. And if you think you can’t make a difference, you can.

Cats or Kittens continued

places that are working in actual war zones like Ukraine to help lost pets and refugees who can't take their pets you can read about here: <https://www.newstatesman.com/world/europe/ukraine/2022/03/ukraines-pets-are-symbols-of-humanity-in-an-in-humane-war>

Some people say kittens can't take care of themselves. They also say cats can. Is this true? Well, the first part is. But what about mothers with kittens? Starved elders? Cats in Ukraine and other war zones? Some cats need our help. ASPCA can help. According to their website, they help find homes for cats!

- <https://www.ifaw.org/action/ukraine-emergency-aid-update>
- <https://www.anjelliclecats.com>
- <https://www.asPCA.org/adopt-pet>
- <https://www.advocatrescue.org/adoptables>
- <http://www.finalhope.org/adoptable-pets.html>

Finally, I interviewed Posie, my imaginary 400 year old cat:

- Q: As an elderly cat, should kids adopt you?
 A: No.
 Q: Why?
 A: Well, I think because we usually aren't very playful, and kids like Playful things, so...
 Q: I see. And adults?
 A: Yes. Because adults might want a very quiet pet, and we don't make much noise.
 Q: Okay, I see. What's your favorite food?
 A: Fancy Feast.
 Q: Okay, and favorite color?
 A: Baby Blue.
 Q: Should cats be domestic?
 A: Yes, because we don't get trapped or furred or many of the other rather wild things that humans and dogs do to us.
 Q: What is your favorite-
 A: Sunning spot? NE corner of the living room, on my bed.
 Q: How many lives do you have left?
 A: 2/9. I lost 7 by failing a math test.

Thank you for letting me interview you.

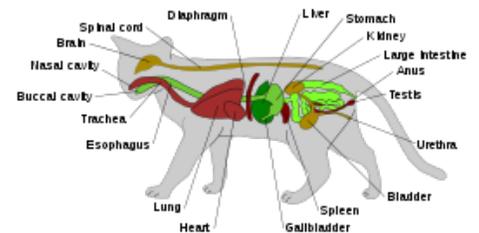
Dumping the litter: kitten pros and cons

pros	cons
-loves playing!	you have to neutralize all right angles
-cuddly!	will scratch you if no other kittens around
-cute!	wreaks havoc
	needs to be potty trained
	loud
	you can't leave it alone (or else)
	needs WARM milk. A lot.

The scratching pole: cat pros and cons

pros	cons
You save a life by adopting	requires scratching pole
Much calmer	when loud, very loud
Quiet	
Doesn't wreak havoc	

And finally, a Canatomy (get it?)



Street Art continued

participated. I spoke with Daniel Shefelman who is the head of the chalk murals project. He came up with the idea when he and fellow artists “just decided rather than drawing in the city, that we should draw on the city. So we went, got chalk, and we got permission to draw on the sidewalk in front of FIT”. He says that 2016 was a special year, because he painted a mural on the brick wall on 28th street that he knew was going to be knocked down. “At first it felt a little forced, but with each year a theme naturally emerged”, he told me. He likes the fact that it's washable, because it gives one class, after another, the opportu-

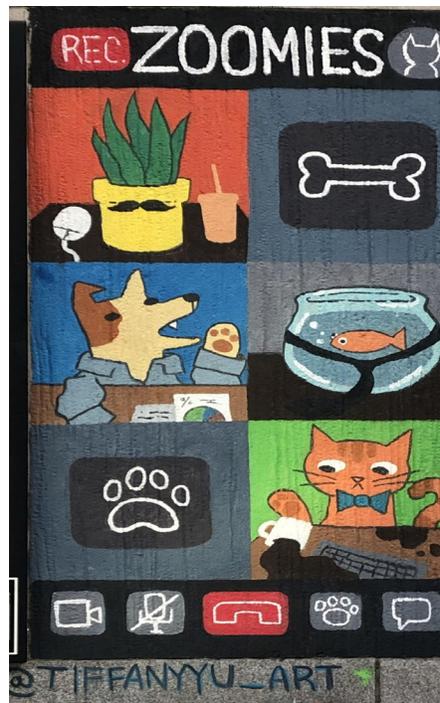


PHOTO BY DAVID BERKEBILE

nity to express themselves. Walking down the street, you can see these amazing murals, and they really brighten your day, and let you think about what we all went through. And while in between there are times that there are no murals on display, he explained that those times can feel like a cleansing, rejuvenating moment.

So, that made me think that our wall at PS11 is having that kind of a moment now. How do you feel about the school's art? Would you like there to be more? I hope we will get another big mural, and that we keep getting lots of small murals as well, so if you want to help, start drawing!

Which are you? (ask your friend)

the leader -
Probably vibes
the most :-:



Alexa

Strong & rly
Nice - ur the best.

Innocent -
not scared to
share feelings



Eliza S

the one who stays
Calm - Everyone wants
to be you -

the one.....
whos basically
INVISIBLE



Peggy S

the perfect
friend - v dont
EXIST

satisfied~



Ang. S.

Leader wannabe -
you'd sell ur kidney to
be leader -



Aar B

Annoying one -
dadadadada - daldadada
diyadadadada da da da

Maria De L.



Nobody -
ur friend is
TOXIC Man

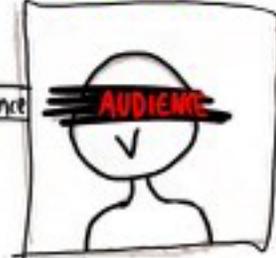


Thomas J.

George W. Fredrick



Audience



by **Ellie** * inspired by HAMILTON