

PS11 Post

Behind the Scenes of the Third Grade Show

BY MILLE WRIGHT-FROST AND HUDSON SONNENSTEIN



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

Every fall, all third graders at PS11 perform in a show together. Each class has its own song and dance, too. This year, the theme was “Be Yourself.”

Did you ever wonder what it takes to put together a show like this? We asked Ms. Sarah, Ms. Wurman, and Ms. Golub just that question!

Preparing for the third grade show was exhausting for everyone involved. The team got to work before the school year even started because rehearsals start right away! Ms. Sarah said, “Well, we met at the end of the year last year to kind of

plan out what we were going to do.” Ms. Wurman said they needed to be careful to not repeat a show they have already done before. Ms. Golub said, “The musical theater team discussed how we could do a show that reflected our beliefs and goals at PS11; in this case, it meant being our best self.”

Then the team had to come up with the idea and music. Ms. Sarah said, “It started as an established script that we ordered from a company, and then we added some songs that we thought would enhance the show and make it even better.” Ms. Golub said they listened to “so much music” and Ms. Sarah added, “Ms. Wurman had the really great idea to use the song from Kinky Boots, which I think goes along so perfectly with the spirit of the show of being your best self and being who you want to be.”

When asked about how she came up with the dances, Ms. Wurman said, “I researched the style of music. But sometimes I just fooled around to come up with the idea!”

Then comes the practice. Students practiced for two periods every day

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PS11 Mural: What’s Next?

BY TYLER PINE AND JOHN JARMOSZUK

Do you remember the mural on the recess wall? That 80 foot mural was painted in 2010 by two twins from Brazil named Gustavo and Pandolfo (who call themselves “Osgemeos”, which means “twins” in Portuguese).

The twins collaborated with Futura, another graffiti artist, and spent over a week creating the huge yellow boy with flags from all over the world on his shorts. This mural became a special part



PHOTO BY MILO OLIM

of PS11 and everyone was sad to see it torn down once construction began last May.

Some students are wondering if there is going to be another mural once the scaffolding comes down, so we wanted to find out

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Exclusive interview: Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller

BY TEDDY KENNEL

When Scott Stringer was a kid at PS152 in Manhattan, over 40 years ago, he went to work with his dad at the office of New York City Comptroller Abe Beame near City Hall. The Comptroller is an elected official in charge of being a watchdog for taxpayers' money.

In 2013, Scott Stringer was elected as the 44th New York City Comptroller, after serving 13 years as a New York State Assembly member and eight years as Manhattan Borough President. "Can you imagine, 40 years later, when I walked into this office and the furniture was the same?" joked Comptroller Stringer, during a recent interview with the PS11 Post.

The furniture may be the same, but other things have changed. Mr. Stringer has worked on many things in his time as Comptroller, including teachers, playgrounds and school lunches. As we sat in the big red chairs with golden buttons in his office, we talked about those things and he told me about his plans for the future (including that he is "Thinking about running for Mayor!")

Mr. Stringer, dressed in a navy blue suit with a blue tie with white polka squares on it, made a lot of time for my interview and answered all of my questions, even though Comptroller Stringer has one of the biggest jobs in New York City government.

The New York City Comptroller is the "Chief fiscal officer of New



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

York City," Mr. Stringer explained. He oversees a retirement pension fund with over \$200 billion in it, which is for 300,000 City workers! As he put it, the Comptroller "Holds the Mayor and all the City agencies accountable." "I'm the watchdog of the City" he continued. As a watchdog for the City, he tries to help solve many different problems.

Public School Teachers

One big problem in our schools is that 41% (close to half!) of new public school teachers leave within five years, according to research by Comptroller Stringer's office. "That's a lot. And part of the reason is because we're really not giving teachers the training and the higher education they need," said Mr. Stringer.

But Mr. Stringer, whose favorite thing when he was in elementary school was writing, does have a plan to fix this. His plan would invest \$40 million to make one of the largest teacher residency programs in the country. Comptroller Stringer told me, "What I want to do is to create a teacher residency program, so that new teachers in the last year of their education have an opportunity to work with senior teachers in a classroom, for one year, before they become permanent teachers." The \$40 million dollars will be used to recruit senior college students who want to become teachers and will co-teach with another pro-teacher. The pro-teacher will be paid a little more money and the college students will be paid \$30,000 and will end up with a better teaching ability.

“As a dad of two public school kids, I really enjoy meeting their teachers and I realize how important they are to me, because they are educating the two boys I care the most about. And that’s why I want to create the best teaching corp in the world.”

Playgrounds for all ages

Kids don’t just need teachers, we also need space to play and let our energy run wild. Comptroller Stringer is introducing a plan to make 200 new playgrounds across NYC. “In many communities in this city, and even in the community you live in, we don’t have as many playgrounds as we need. I’ve done some investigations and audits of this, and we need more play space,” Mr. Stringer told me.

The plan is meant to take dead-end streets and vacant land, and turn them into places where kids can let their imaginations run wild (and also use up their energy). Mr. Stringer said, “I want to turn them into mini-playgrounds.” He exclaimed, “Why not create as many play areas for children as we can!”

But Mr. Stringer, who is the father of a third grader and a first grader at another public school in Chelsea, knows that “A playground for a 2- or 3-year-old is much different than a playground for a sixth grader.” Mr. Stringer is planning to make playgrounds for all ages. “We have to make sure that each group of kids has enough open space and play space. Because I’ve learned that kids have a lot of energy. They need a lot of open space, to play sports, to run track, to climb,” said Comptroller Stringer.

School Lunches

Another problem some kids have is with school lunches. Comptroller Stringer found that many kids who are Muslim or Jewish are not eating school lunch because the food offered does not meet their religious standard. Mr. Stringer told me that “When kids don’t eat during the day, they’re not going to have the same attention span and the same opportunity for education.” Mr. Stringer proposed an idea to try for two years (for now) where some public schools will provide kosher and halal lunches to kids who may want them.

Some kids also don’t eat school lunch because it does not taste the best sometimes! When I asked Comptroller Stringer about this, he said, “Some of the school lunches are bad. I’m taking a look at this issue. Mr. Stringer was about to say more and hesitated and then said “That’s all I can say at this time.” (I was about to get some more information about it but you’ve got to deal with what you have.)

What’s Next for Comptroller Stringer?

Something Comptroller Stringer didn’t hesitate about what his future plans, because he can’t run for Comptroller again. Comptroller Abe Beame, who Mr. Stringer’s dad worked for over 40 years ago, went on to become Mayor of New York City. Mr. Beame was the only NYC Comptroller ever to do so... so far.

Mr. Stringer thinks there should be another one. “I would like to tell you exclusively that I am seriously exploring a run for Mayor of New York City,” Mr. Stringer revealed!!

An exclusive scoop, shared with us by the office of Corey Johnson

BY MILO OLIM

MANHATTAN- Erik Bottcher emailed the PS11 Post just as we were about to go to print, with an exclusive scoop. They are unveiling more benches at bus stops along 14th Street- all the way from 1st - 9th Avenues! New legislation to reduce traffic on 14th street was passed

in October last year. Now, only delivery trucks and MTA buses and emergency vehicles (i.e police cars, fire trucks) are allowed between 6:00am and 10:00pm. The M14 bus, which runs along 14th street, now counts 30, 195 riders per weekday, according to the office of Corey Johnson. That’s an increase of 15%. On Satur-

days, customers are up by an impressive 37%. So, because more people are using the buses, they want to provide more space for people to sit. We are proud that the office of Corey Johnson chose our newspaper to share this exciting news! He could have chosen a grown up paper, but he chose us. It seems that we are getting noticed.

Toys Survey

BY DANIEL HALL
AND JAMES SAVAGE



PHOTO BY ARIA HALL

Hello, this is James Savage, and Daniel Hall, your correspondents, telling YOU what OTHER kids think about toys. We have asked a lot of our fellow PS11 students what their favorite toy is and have interviewed teachers along the way to see what they think, so here are the results!

So...drumroll please! Ladies and Gentlemen, here it is...the favorite toy out of the 220 of you PS11 students who answered this survey is... SLIME!

That's right. Slime won with 83 votes! Slime. Now, if you're unhappy about the way things turned out, we'll admit we agree—we both voted for Pokemon. But for all you Pokemon lovers you came in second with 56 votes! And LEGO was in third with 54 votes.

We noticed a lot of places where we think that the additional data affected the toy question. We noticed that the 135 of you that didn't care about toy portability tended to choose the "other" category for toys. When we saw how the majority of you liked playing outdoors we were surprised to see that most of you chose indoor toys as your favorites. We were amazed to see that more than half of you were in fifth grade. Most of the reason why Pokemon came in second was because of you fourth and fifth graders!

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.

Now let's turn our attention to the teachers. We interviewed Mrs. Guerrero, fourth grade teacher. We showed her a list of toys, and asked which one(s) she approved of. The list was: Pokemon, Beyblades, Yu-Gi-Oh, Squishmallows, Rubix Cubes, Barbies, Lego, Slime, Pikmi pops, or LOL Dolls.

PS11 Post: Which one of the following toys do you approve of?

Mrs. Guerrero: Well, I would approve of Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh, Lego, Rubiks Cubes, LOL Dolls, Barbies, and SMALL Squishmallows.

We asked Mr. S. the same question:

Mr.S: Well, I would approve of LEGO, and Rubix Cubes. :l

Doing this survey has been great. But there were still many challenges along the way. For example, some people voted twice, or didn't put any thought into their answers.

CAR WARS

A NEW MOVIE BY ALDO, FILIP, AND MILO

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for more information.

Encuesta de juguetes

POR DANIEL HALL
Y JAMES SAVAGE

Hola, soy James Savage y Daniel Hall, sus corresponsales, aquí para contarles lo que otros niños piensan acerca de los juguetes. Les hemos preguntado a muchos de nuestros compañeros de PS11 cuál es su juguete favorito, y además hemos entrevistado a muchos maestros, para ver también lo que piensan, así que ¡aquí están los resultados!

Entonces ... tamborileo por favor! Damas y caballeros, aquí está ... el juguete favorito de los 220 estudiantes de PS11 que respondieron a esta encuesta es ... ¡SLIME!

Sí señores, así es: ¡Slime ganó con 83 votos! Limo. Ahora, si no está satisfecho con estos resultados, a decir la verdad, nosotros tampoco. Estamos de ac-

uerdo: nosotros dos votamos por Pokémon. ¡Pero para todos los amantes de Pokemon: Llegaste en segundo lugar ¡con 56 votos! Y LEGO quedó en tercer lugar, con 54 votos.

Notamos muchos detalles que nos hacen pensar que hay datos adicionales que afectaron la pregunta sobre el juguete favorito. Por ejemplo, notamos que los 135 de ustedes que no se preocupaban por la portabilidad de los juguetes tendían a elegir la categoría "otro" para el juguete preferido. Cuando vimos que a la mayoría de ustedes les gustaba jugar afuera al aire libre, nos sorprendió ver que, a pesar de eso, elegían como sus favoritos juguetes para interiores. Nos sorprendió ver que más de la mitad de ustedes estaban en quinto grado. ¡La mayor parte de la razón por la cual Pokémon llegó en segundo lugar fue por ustedes, estudiantes de cuarto y quinto grado!

Ahora miremos los resultados de las preguntas que les hicimos

a los maestros. Entrevistamos a la Sra. Guerrero, maestra de cuarto grado. Le mostramos una lista de juguetes y le preguntamos cuáles recibirán su aprobación. La lista era: Pokémon, Beyblades, Yu-Gi-Oh, Squishmallows, Rubix Cubes, Barbies, Lego, Slime, Pikmi pops o LOL Dolls.

Publicación de PS11: ¿Cuáles de los siguientes juguetes reciben su aprobación?

Sra. Guerrero: Bueno, aprobaría Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, Lego, Cubos Rubik, Muñecas LOL, Barbies y Squishmallows PEQUEÑOS.

Le hicimos al Sr. S. la misma pregunta:

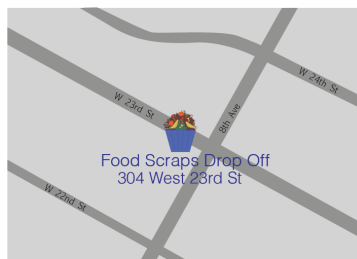
Mr.S: Bueno, me parecen bien LEGO y Rubix Cubes. : l

Hacer esta encuesta ha sido genial. Pero así y todo tropezamos con muchos desafíos en el camino. Por ejemplo, algunas personas votaron dos veces, o no pensaron bien sobre sus respuestas.

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.

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PS11 YOUNG ARTISTS

The Young Artists Program is looking for **2 volunteers to co-lead** the program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Young Artists is a parent-led program of volunteers who mentor and assist art classes for PS11 students. Contact us for more info.

Help Wanted: Looking for 2 Co-leads!

We'll show you the ropes this year and you can take over next year!

Located in East River Park, LES Ecology Center also offers educational programming, E-Waste collection, park stewardship, and family friendly volunteer opportunities.

Check out our website for more information on how to get involved lesecologycenter.org or lesecologycenter.eventbrite.com to sign up for upcoming events!

CONTACT US → ps11youngartists@gmail.com

A Peek at Mr. K Substitute Teacher

BY LUCAS CORDERO-DINNERMAN

Not all substitute teachers are created equal. Some are excellent and Mr. K. is one of them. The students in our school think Mr. K. is a very reliable substitute because he shows up when teachers are not there. But Mr. K. is extra special because many students feel he understands them, which is a great quality for a substitute teacher. When one thinks about substitute teachers, all sorts of questions arise: Do they have other jobs? Is it hard for them to take over someone else's classroom and lesson plan? I sat down with Mr. K. on a Friday in January to find out more about him and his experiences at PS11. Keep reading to find out what he had to say.

Some folks get up and get jobs that they go to every day, but not Mr. K. He only has to teach when another teacher can't make it to class. According to Mr. K., he prefers this kind of job to a regular teaching position because he likes having a flexible schedule. Mr. K. has been substitute teaching since 2005. Substitute teaching also gives him an opportunity to pursue his other career goal as an actor—although he admits that the trick to getting those jobs involves getting a good agent. In his free time, he goes on vacation.

According to third grade teacher Mrs. Lampf, teachers do not always know which substitute will come in, but they can sometimes put in a request for a specific teacher. “When

Mr. K. substitutes for me, I know whether the class is being good because he leaves me a note or sends me an email/text,” said Mrs. Lampf. “I think he is very good, and I know many students like him.”

According to PS11 principal, Mr. Bender, “It's very hard to find a substitute.” Mr. Bender said “I count on them because they support our school.” And, with respect to Mr. K., he added “I knew he would be nice to our students.”

In conclusion, we can see how important a substitute teacher is at PS11. And, not only is Mr. K a substitute, but he's an all-around, interesting, great guy! He's dependable and shows up when teachers need him.

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Fencing in Afterschool

BY ZOË LINN



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

The PS11 afterschool program has a class called “Fencing for Progress.” It is a good class to take if you want to learn self-defense. However, for the first couple of weeks you will not be fencing. The reason is so the coaches can teach you the correct way to fence. During the first two weeks you play games like

“Glove Tag” or “Soup.” In Glove Tag, someone is “it” and they can only move three steps in any direction and they have to try to throw a glove at someone. They have to throw the glove below your neck. If the glove hits you, you are “it” and you have to throw the glove. The last person to get hit by the glove wins.

In “Soup” everyone stands in a circle around one person and the person in the middle has to say “the soup is on,” which means everyone advances around in a circle. Then the person in the middle says, “the soup is warm,” and then everyone starts to jog around the circle. If the person in the middle then says, “the soup is hot” everyone has to run to a corner. The middle person

will close their eyes and spin around while pointing their finger. Whichever corner they land on, the people are out. This repeats until everyone is out.

After the two weeks you will get the foils. The foils are like swords but they are not sharp. You also get to wear the fencing gear, a white jacket and a white mask that covers your neck. The front part of the mask is black and it covers your face, but it has little holes in so you can still see. This is to help protect your face. The last piece is a glove and you only get one glove. You wear the glove on the hand you hold the foil with. To start fencing you have to stand in first position across from your partner, and you have to try to hit the partner with the sword in their stomach. If you hit them

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Happy Holidays!

BY ELI KREMEN DAVIS
AND FILIP PUSENJAK

People celebrate different holidays in different ways. We talked to PS11 students and local businesses about how they spend the winter break holidays. We wanted to know, for example, if people celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah. Or perhaps sometimes they travel to different places.

Mille Wright-Frost, in third grade, went to England to spend time with her family there for Christmas. She normally has big meals with her cousins. Her grandma hangs up chocolate on the Christmas tree and every day she ate one. Millie said that her favorite part of Christmas is “being with family and getting to

play with them and finding a way to get along with all of them.”

For Hanukkah, she went to her grandmother’s house in Texas and ate gelt, latkes and much more. Gelt is a gold-wrapped chocolate coin that you use to play dreidel. Dreidel is a game where you spin a toy that has Hebrew letters which mean different amounts of gelt. Whoever has the most gelt wins. Latkes are a traditional Hanukkah potato pancake. People also use the Menorah, a candle holder that holds nine candles, to light one candle per night on the eight days of Hanukkah. The candle in the middle is called the shamash. The shamash is used to light the other eight candles.

On the holiday Kwanzaa, you light seven green, black and red candles. The candle holder is called the kinarra. Each day, families come together and light the candles. On December 31st, some people come together to have a feast called a karamu.

We also interviewed Milo Olim, in fourth grade, who has a tradition of his own. He and his family make a gingerbread house and then smash it with a hammer. After that, he eats it!

Most holidays include a celebration with food, family and friends.

In 1-212, a first grade PS11 class, parents brought in traditional foods for a holiday potluck. They brought Indian Christmas cookies, tamales (a Mexican dish that is made with a corn dough mixture called masa),

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Crossing the Finish Line

BY IONA MITCHELL

Did you know that running can make you stronger (especially your legs)? But it can also help build your confidence and emotional health. Being strong, confident and emotionally balanced will help you as you grow and face challenges throughout your life. I recommend if you want to start running, go to... Girls on the Run (which is only for girls). If you're not a girl you can go to New York Road Runners which is for all genders.

This reporter went to two experts from each of these organizations to learn more about running.

The first interview was with Allison Hauser, Executive Director of Girls on the Run (GOTR) who started the NYC chapter. Though Allison likes team sports, she loves running and helping young girls build friendships and confidence. During the season she helps girls develop their life skills in what is known as the "5Cs +1." These include confidence, competence, character, care, compassion and connections. These 5Cs + 1 help girls to make meaningful contributions to the community and society.

GOTR started in NYC in 2006 serving all five boroughs, even though the national GOTR started in 1996. So far more than 1 million girls across the United States have participated in this life-changing program!

This Fall at PS11 there were 10 of us that participated in GOTR—and I was one of them! This pro-

gram changed my life by giving me more confidence in making new friends and trying new things. At each practice (twice a week) we had a conversation about different lessons. My favorite lessons were: Words Matter, Friendship, and Choosing Friends!

We as a team said "GIRLS ON THE RUN IS SO MUCH FUN. GIRLS ON THE RUN IS # 1!" The day we participated in our final 5K race each



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

girl wore a #1 bib. All of us felt like winners before the race started!

Allison told me that Prospect Park is her favorite place to run, but that any place with flat ground is suitable. She also said that it was easy and good exercise! You can run with friends or you can run alone. And running can also be quiet time for thinking.

Allison says that kids usually need to just wear good sneakers. Once you get older and your feet grow

wider you can go to a running store that can fit you with good shoes that are comfortable.

She also explained the difference between jogging, running, and sprinting to me. They are different speeds; jogging is a slow and steady pace. When you jog you have enough energy to have a conversation with somebody. Running is a bit of a faster pace but still you have enough energy to have a small conversation. Sprinting is when you run as fast as you can and have no energy left at the end of the race.

If you're new to running, her advice is to start by maybe going to run a mile with someone. Your running partner is someone that you know obviously or someone you want to get to know. Like if you see someone new you can say, "Hey come on let's go run a mile together!"

My second interview was with Rachel Pratt, Senior Vice President (Youth & Community Services) for New York Road Runners (NYRR). Rachel's perspective is that running

is good for us all and, like Allison, she recommends everyone should start out running a mile with company. She started running with her children and has continued running since then. She works with every single school that is interested in their program.

NYRR has been around many years. It was originally founded as the Road Runners Club with about 40 members. The club was led by 1952 African-American Olympian Ted Corbitt, who opened the club to all races, genders, and running speeds. In 1970 the first New York City Marathon took place in Central Park.

Here is a very cool fact: more than half of the race participants are now women! The New York City Marathon had 52,811 finishers in 2018, the most of any marathon in history. NYRR currently organizes 50 races a year for adults and 50 youth races.

Sometimes races are run on the streets and roads. The biggest race of the year, the New York Marathon, starts on Staten Island. The racers go through Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx and then the race ends in Central Park!

Over the past 60 years, NYRR has grown from a local running club to become the world's premier community running organization with a mission to help and inspire people through running.

Now that you have read all about running do you want to start running in one of these programs? If so, you can choose one of these organizations—two of the best running organizations in our city!

Happy Holidays continued

Swedish pancakes, Hanukkah latkes, and pierogies, a Ukrainian Christmas dumpling.

For some local businesses, the holidays mean more work and more business. The holidays are usually really busy for butcher's shops, said Jake Dickson, owner of Dickson Meats in Chelsea Market. During the December holidays, Jake sells a lot of ham, beef, and lamb. "We start stockpiling meat in August and aging the beef—which adds flavor to it—so when we get to Christmas we have this huge inventory" Jake told us. "So we basically do a normal week's worth of business on Christmas Eve—in just one day we sell a week's worth of meat!"

The tree-sellers who set up a tree stand on 22nd Street and 9th Avenue spend their holiday selling Christmas trees as they have done for more than 20 years. Some of the tree-sellers come from fishing in Alaska to selling trees here. They got to New York on Thanksgiving evening. It takes one whole day to fly from Alaska to New York. This year, the tree sellers flew to New York instead of driving because their trailer was broken. Hugh Nelson, who looks after the stand at night, has the job of unloading the trees that come from North Carolina and Quebec, Canada.

"I moved 80 6-8 footers last night," he said. "The most popular trees are the 6-8 footers, because most people have 9 foot ceilings in their apartment."

Not everyone celebrates Christmas only on December 25th. The Orthodox Christians celebrate

Christmas Day on January 7th. This is due to the fact that most of the Orthodox churches follow the original Julian calendar of Christianity from almost 2000 years ago, while the rest of Christian denominations and some Orthodox churches changed to the new "Gregorian" calendar, which was introduced in the fifteen hundreds.

We interviewed Jelena Pavlovic who grew up in Serbia and celebrates Orthodox Christmas. She told us that the tradition is to eat vegan food on Christmas Eve and in the countryside people bring a tree branch called "badnjak" in front of the house to light a celebratory fire. On Christmas Day people celebrate with their families at home, as the tradition is to stay home. She has dinner with her family with a lot of food, the favorite dishes include roasted pork and cesnica, which is a special bread made at home with a coin placed inside. The bread is broken during Christmas dinner and whoever gets the piece with the coin will have good fortune that year.

In many Latin American countries and Spain, people celebrate Three Kings Day on January 6th and have no work or school on that day. In the US, people are going to school and working that day, even if they celebrate Three Kings Day. Ofelia Garcia, grandmother of PS11 fourth grader Gianna Pirez-Reader, said that the night before Three Kings Day she and her kids and her grandkids leave grass for the camels and little goodies for the three kings. It's just like on Christmas, when you leave out cookies and milk for Santa Claus and carrots or apples for the reindeer. Her kids and grandkids open their presents before school and drink hot chocolate.

Mystery Person

BY MARC SLOANE

In our regular feature, we provide a photo of a grown-up member of the PS11 community...as a young child. Can you guess who it is? Answer on page 11



PS11 Post: What do you remember most about elementary school?

Mystery Person: Everyone had a hard time pronouncing my last name, which is why my students now only use one letter to say my last name. [HINT: This is a big clue!]

PS11 Post: What year did you start teaching?

Mystery Person: I started teaching in 2005

PS11 Post: What do you like to do when you are not teaching?

Mystery Person: I like to read, watch Broadway plays, go boxing, and keep active by working out and running often.

PS11 Post: How many miles do you run per week?

Mystery Person: Around six on average.

PS11 Post: How many marathons have you run?

Mystery Person: Three.

PS11 Post: What grades do you (or did you) teach?

Mystery Person: I have taught all grades from 2nd grade to 5th grade.

PS11 Post: How old are you?

Mystery Person: I am your age times 4, then add 4.

(Hint: PS11 Post Reporter is 8 years old)

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JOKES

BY ASH GOLDBERG

Why does a gorilla go to school?
 A: To learn his ape-B-Cs!

Third grade teacher Ms. Perez asks a student called Jack:
 “How many seconds are in a year?”
 Jack answers “Twelve”
 Jack is right! Can you figure out why?
 Answer: “Twelve” there are 12 months in the year and each month has a second.

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?
 Answer: Because her class was so bright!

What do you do if a teacher rolls her eyes at you?
 Answer: you roll your eyes back!!!

Third Grade Show continued

for five weeks straight. The rehearsals were a mess at first! Students fell all over each other! Everyone stepped on other people's lines. Even Ms. Wurman admits that students were talking all over each other. It was difficult for the students, but seemingly impossible for the teachers in charge. Ms. Sarah said, "the hardest part is when there are students that aren't focused on what's happening and they're distracting the other students." Ms. Golub agreed, "Of course it is difficult when you have 170 kids," and Ms. Wurman said that putting the whole dance together at the end was really tough. "But" Ms. Golub said, "that's what practice is for!"

The musical theater team collaborated throughout the whole process. Ms. Wurman said that collaborating "can be great, and it can be challenging," but Ms. Sarah said that they have been collaborating for a long time and have learned how to work together well. Ms. Golub said, "We respect each other's ideas and work very well together." And it wasn't just the three of them. PS11 parent Mori Ninomiya worked on all the microphones and sound, which he said was not easy. But they figured it out! Maybe working

together could be the theme for next year's show!

The final product was amazing. Everyone worked together to collaborate and get what they needed to get done. What was everyone's favorite part of the show? Ms. Golub liked "seeing the music, dance, and acting coming together." Ms. Wurman's favorite part was the dance number, and third grader Haley Coleman agreed: "I liked Raise You Up." Mori said, "There were so many good parts, it's hard to say! But I like when all the classes work together." Ms. Sarah said her favorite part was "the end, when the students bow and the audience goes crazy, and the students get this big smile that they realize that they worked so hard for something and it feels so good!"

From what we heard, lots of people enjoyed the third grade show! From the very start to the very end, the kids got better and better and never gave up, because Ms. Sarah, Ms. Golub, and Ms. Wurman believe in each other and all of the kids! Lots of kids liked the third grade show! So we would like to thank Ms. Sarah, Ms. Wurman, and Ms. Golub for all the hard work they put into the show!

Construction Update continued

what they would like to see painted next. Cameron, a first grader, said he would like to see "a student walking to school holding a hamburger" and that he "loves seeing colorful paintings outside of school." Uri, a third grader, thought a "skull would look cool". It seemed like everyone had a different idea of what they would like to see but that everyone wanted to see something painted on the recess wall.

We are not sure if there is going to be another mural yet, but if it were up to us the answer would be a 100% yes! After researching different graffiti artists and looking around the streets for inspiration, we have noticed that most graffiti is very colorful and has a meaning or message. Personally, we would like to see a NYC skyline filled with colors and the words "I love (a heart symbol) PS11. This could be similar to the Kobra mural (pictured) on 21st and 8th, and would represent both New York and PS11 where we all spend each day.

Having another mural would brighten up the yard and be a great way to show our school spirit to the whole community. Since the mural is supposed to represent everyone in the school, we believe that the students should be presented with four or five different ideas and that a school-wide vote should determine which mural would be painted next. So start thinking of ideas and maybe your picture will become the next PS11 mural!



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Answer to "Guess Who?" is Mr. Swierczewski, second grade teacher

The Best Job in the World!

BY MILO OLIM
AND AVA ROSENBERG

Have you heard of Economy Candy? You know, the oldest candy store in New York State? The one with the endless supply of candy? NO!? Well, you've been missing out!

Economy Candy began as a hat repair and shoe shine store on the Lower East Side, with a candy cart that sold candy. Then, the Great Depression hit, and the candy cart was attracting more customers than the shoe shine/hat repair. So, once the owners returned from World War 2, they turned the store into Economy Candy. In the 1980s they moved from their original location to Rivington Street, where they still are today, run by their third generation of owners.

We walked into the store on a cold, dark winter afternoon. Immediately, we smelled something. It was intense. We walked over to the shelf where the smell was coming from to find bags and bags (and more bags!) of different gummy candies.

Mitchell Cohen, the third generation owner of the store, told us that his job makes him really happy. He used to work on Wall Street where he had to work till 2 a.m, but now, the doors close at 6 p.m, and that's final, which he likes. (Also, how could you not be happy if you work in a candy store?!)

He told us that he's been in charge of the store since 2013. We asked him what new candies he's added lately. He said that he's always look-



PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

ing for new stuff, even when he's on vacation, he can't stop looking for new and different types of candy. On his last trip to Holland he found Tony's chocolate bars which they now sell. His most popular recent addition are Japanese KitKats. When asked about how he chooses what to put in the shop, Mitchell explained that sometimes enough people ask about something so that he'll order it, like the Japanese KitKats. To figure out how, he says he wanders around Chinatown and finds a bodega that sells the item and gets the company details from the pack.

Another reason Mitchell might be happy in his job could also be that it's popular! So popular, in fact, that Whoopi Goldberg came into his store and loved it so much that she invited Mitchell and his wife, Skye, onto her TV show, *The View*. On a weekday around 100-200 people visit the store; at weekends and around the holidays that number more than doubles. And, the Jonas brothers have been coming in regularly! He didn't notice them until a staffer told him..."Those guys are famous!" Everyone goes to Economy Candy, and almost everyone is satisfied!

The store really is magical, and you have to see it to believe it. Even with \$3-5, you can get a lot of candy, so, all in all, we thoroughly recommend this place.

Our recommendations if you go:

Whatchamacallit! It's an old candy bar that your parents probably loved when they were kids.

Haribo gummies. The greatest things on earth. Like, really.

Large Tootsie roll. It's delicious, chewy, and chocolate-y.

Sixlets. Chocolate on the outside and inside, get half a pound for \$2.

Candy corn. Yes, a Halloween treat, but still, incredible.

Raspberry/blackberry gummies. Completely addictive and really great.

Candy food. Like, candy sushi, and candy french fries.

HUGE LOLLIPOPS. Yes, they are ten bucks, but still, they are pretty good.

Reeces take five bar. Peanuts, with caramel, and chocolate on the outside.

Retro candy! They have candy your parents ate when they were young! Can you believe they used to eat chocolate cigarettes?!

Frozen 2: Yay or Nay?

BY AMBAA KAVANAGH
AND ARIA HALL

We both recently went to see Frozen 2 and were impressed. It is a good movie, way better than the first Frozen. We love most of the characters but we do wish there was a huge snow monster trying to eat everybody because it would make the movie more exciting just like a high speed chase! So we ran a survey with some students and teachers in second and third grade at PS11. We also interviewed one teacher who “watched” Frozen 2. Our simple question to all of them was whether they liked or disliked the movie Frozen 2.

We asked Mrs. Rapisarda what she thought of the movie Frozen 2, but she said she didn’t actually watch it! So we gave her a mini summary and she said from what she heard from us she thought people should watch Frozen 2—and she liked the sound of it because it had a lot of girl power in it!

We conducted a survey of students in PS11. We asked 105 of them and an impressive 76 (72%) felt that Frozen 2 beats the original Frozen

movie. So it seems like a lot of people like Frozen 2 and we agree because it is very good, but we are going to say that out of all the characters we liked Olaf the best because it’s very funny with his body falling apart all the time! (So if they make a Frozen 3 and Olaf is NOT in it we are going to die!!!)

Now we know a lot of people liked Frozen 2 for one reason or another but we liked it because we liked the magic and we also felt that the story was very deep, with Elsa almost dying just to find out the truth about Arindale. But as we said before, we do kind of wish there was a giant snow monster trying to eat everybody!

Well now you know that lots of people have different opinions on the movie Frozen 2. Some people liked/loved Frozen 2 way better than the first Frozen. Some people liked the first Frozen better, some people didn’t know what to think. Some people liked both movies equally, and some people didn’t like both movies at all! In our honest opinion, we think that it was great—and if you didn’t like it we want you to give it a second chance!!!

Fencing continued

in their stomach, then they are out. That means you won the round.

I asked third-grader Stella P. what she likes about fencing. She likes fencing because she “likes to learn all the different moves and the strategies.”

Fencing has been around for many years, dating back to ancient Egypt. Fencing schools became popular

in the 15th century in Italy. Fencing eventually spread to England, France, Spain and beyond. Today it is an Olympic sport.

Coach Santiago has been teaching fencing at PS11 for six years. He has been fencing since his junior year in High School. He likes to watch kids develop in the program and get better, “Fencing is like mental chess,” he said, “there’s a lot of strategy.”

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Women in Tech

BY ELLA LANDAVERDE

Some people say that men are naturally better in math than women and women are better at reading than men. But, I don't think that is true because I got an 100 on my math test and I am a girl!

The way girls can ace math, boys can also be great readers. For example, one of my classmates (that is a boy) is so good at reading that on the last day before Christmas break my teacher got everyone in class presents and he got a book, while everybody else just got color pencils.

There are more men scientists because a long time ago women had to fight for their education. That inspires me because it helps me know that women wanted to learn math and reading and all of the other subjects. According to UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization), as of 2017 women accounted for only 35% of STEM ("Science, Technology, Engineering and Math") students at higher education levels.

I was curious to learn more, so I interviewed two important women in their fields, Anne Ryan, a Project Manager and co-founder of WIT at Palantir Technologies, and Jelena Pavlovic, M.D., Ph.D, a physician-scientist and an Associate Professor of Neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

We'll start with Anne Ryan who travels the world speaking about Women in Technology (WIT). Anne is Project Manager and co-founder of WIT at Palantir Technologies, and

helps teams get things done on time with high quality. As the co-founder of WIT at her company, she gets to travel around the world speaking in front of people and she runs important events. She once spoke in front of 400 people!



PS11 Post: What type of education do you need for your job?

Anne Ryan: You need to be motivated to solve problems, and a STEM degree helps—though I've also worked with incredibly talented people who have learned to write code for computers on their own. Studying philosophy, which is a form of critical thinking, is also great for learning to code. I majored in Computer & Systems Engineering and Computer Science in college. My dad and I went to the same college, and he is a software engineer too!

PS11 Post: How does technology help people?

Anne Ryan: I think technology helps people stay connected; also technology helps people do their work more efficiently.

PS11 Post: Were you better at reading or math as a child?

Anne Ryan: I'd have to say that I was good at both reading and math!

PS11 Post: Do you think boys are better at math than girls?

Anne Ryan: I do not think boys are better at math than girls. Research also shows that girls and boys can be good at math and reading equally.

PS11 Post: How would you get more women/girls interested in technology? Or, what can we do to close the gender gap?

Anne Ryan: Encourage both girls and boys to pursue the subjects that interest them. Parents can encourage children as well. Support each other.

In speaking with Anne I learned there are organizations available that encourage girls in the technology field such as, Girls Who Code, Black Girls Who Code, Rewriting the Code, and STEM from Dance. STEM from Dance is an organization in which minority girls enroll in a dance program and are provided with awareness, experience, and college preparation for STEM degrees. Minority women are only 4% of the STEM field. You can find out more at www.stemfromdance.org which is a New York based organization.

Rewriting the Code is also based in New York. I also learned that the gender gap is recognized in the technology field and there are people like Anne Ryan that are advocating for change to close the gap.

After meeting with Anne I was curious about the brain and how it functions. Dr. Jelena Pavlovic was able to help me with some of my questions. Dr. Pavlovic specifically studies migraine and pain. Let's see what she has to say...

PS11 Post: What does a neurologist do?

Dr. Pavlovic: A Neurologist takes care of people with neurological disease. When a part of nervous system does not function as expected a neurologist can help diagnose which part, why and how to treat it. Most people think of the brain when they think of nervous system—but the nervous system is much more than brain only, it includes the spinal cord and many many nerves that control the movement of all of our muscles and therefore our body. Our nervous system is even in our gut. So all of our functioning is in some way connected to our nervous system.

PS11 Post: Does brain function affect if you are better at math or reading? How?

Dr. Pavlovic: Yes and no. Brain has specific areas for different functions, so there is a language area, that's where reading, there is an area for memory, for emotion, for vision, for

visual and spatial processing, and an area that when affected people may not be able to count or do math. So yes, all of these functions like math and reading are controlled by specific areas in our brains. We don't really know why math comes easy to some people and reading comes easier to others. We do know that practice makes people better at everything.

PS11 Post: Do you know if a boy or girl can be equally good at math and reading?

Dr. Pavlovic: Absolutely, boys and girls on average have the same cognitive abilities. Girls can excel at whatever they apply themselves to and so can boys.

PS11 Post: What kind of things do you do when science is your job?

Dr. Pavlovic: A lot! Being a physician-scientist is fascinating because you get to do so many different things: take care of patients, do scientific research to answer questions of why disease happens and how it can be helped. Also, we teach college students, medical students, young doctors and scientists. I think you would be surprised by how much scientists teach and give talks about the science they do. Scientists need to be

able to communicate their thoughts and ideas in addition to doing science. This is why reading and writing are so important. I spend most of my time doing reading and writing and very very little time doing math.

PS11 Post: What advice would you give young girls (like me) who are interested in science?

Dr. Pavlovic: Good for you! Science is wonderful and it will expand your mind and teach you to understand the world around you in a special way. Find the questions that excite you and the rest will come. When it gets hard keep in mind that science can be hard for everyone. It just is. So just push through the hard parts and it will not only get easier but the sense of accomplishment will make you feel great. And there is a whole brain science explanation why that is so! Good luck!

In conclusion, after speaking with Anne Ryan and Dr. Jelena Pavlovic I learned that girls can be equally great at both math and reading. It does not have to do with gender or the brain. Girls need encouragement, motivation, and hard work. They also need role models to look up to. And I must say these two women are great role models that girls should look up to!



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