

PS11 Post

D.C. Definitely Delivered



BY ETHAN KIM

PHOTO BY RIDDHI DOSHI

An exciting part of 5th grade is the D.C. trip. Do you want to know what it's like to go on an overnight trip to a different city without your parents and with all your friends? For all the 5th graders out there we'll give you a quick refresher. For the rest of you, here's what you can look forward to. And by the way, this money comes from the funds raised by the PTA and fundraisers so if you are feeling generous please donate to the school so that future 5th graders can also enjoy this experience. So, without further ado, Let's start.

Imagine calling a hotel to book 45 hotel suites. That's what someone had to do in preparation for our trip to D.C.! Imagine seeing

a crowd of 150+ people cramming into D.C. And this is only the beginning. So grab some popcorn, sit back and relax and read on. It started on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at 6 a.m. We were all wearing matching shirts and beanies. There were three buses that took us to D.C., 26 chaperones which included P.S.11 staff, P.S.11 parents of fifth graders, and over 120 kids. The bus ride took four hours and about halfway there we got to a rest stop and got to stretch our legs, then headed back on the road.

When we arrived in D.C., we split into groups. Some groups started by going to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, while other groups went to

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P.S. We're One Hundred!

BY SKYLAR NAM

For a long time, I looked up at our school and wondered, 'How old is our school?' or 'What's the history of it?' One way you can tell P.S. 11 is old is that by a water fountain, there is a dumbwaiter. The murals are dated a long time ago and some teachers have been here a long time, too.

I interviewed Principal Bob Bender and, according to him, it is the 99th year. He said it's his 18th year, and that things were very different. "Clinton Middle School was on the 5th and 4th floor." Imagine we had a middle school up on the highest floors, the grades would have to squeeze in so that they would share the floors. Right now, we have estimated more than 800 students, but back then it was kindergarten to eighth grade and only had about 400 students. Mr. Bender also told me that in his 2nd year as principal, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade picked people from P.S. 11 to lead the parade! He said Ms. Bruen was in it!

Ms. Bruen, science educator, has been a teacher here for 19 years. When I asked her about the Macy's Parade, she replied, "I think we got this because we had a giant read-a-thon." She told me the students broke the record, and had read a lot. When they were picked, Ms. Golub, the old music teacher, Mr. Bender, a lot

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The P.S. 11 Buddy Bench - Come Say Hi

BY
GENESIS BELEN UNDA PUNINA
AND
DEREK ANDRES ACHIG SANCHEZ

Have you noticed that the Buddy Bench in the recess yard just got painted in bright blue and yellow? Well, we thought this could be a good chance to remind all of you what it is and why it's there.

If you're feeling sad or lonely during recess, or if you just want to chat with someone but don't know who or how to reach out to anyone,

then this is the place to come! It's right by the chickens, and now that it's been repainted you can't miss it.

Once you sit on the bench, that lets the other kids in the yard know that you need a buddy right now. And if you're running around and you see someone sitting there, then you should know that this person wants company and stop by to say hello and have a quick chat. It's a great opportunity for any kids who are new to the school to make new friends. Maybe if you see someone sitting there you can

invite them to join your friends and play together.

We asked Mia, a 2nd grader, if she knew about the bench, but she did not. So we explained the idea to her and she said that "If a little girl is crying for example, she could come to the bench and we would see her and know that she wants help.

We talk a lot about being kind and gentle at P.S. 11, so please remember that this bench is a great opportunity to share kindness with other people.



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

P.S. 11 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 P.S. 11 (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 P.S. 11. Contact us if you'd like to see (or write!) an article in your language.

La Banca de Amigos de la Escuela P.S. 11: ¡Ven a Saludar!

BY

GENESIS BELEN UNDA PUNINA

AND

DEREK ANDRES ACHIG SANCHEZ

¿Has notado que la Banca de Amigos en el patio de recreo acaba de ser pintada de azul brillante y amarillo? Bueno, pensamos que esta sería una buena oportunidad para recordarles a todos qué es y por qué está aquí.

Si te sientes triste o solo durante el recreo, o si simplemente quieres hablar con alguien pero no sabes a quién o cómo acercarte a alguien, ¡este es el lugar al que debes venir! Está justo al lado de los pollos, y ahora que ha sido repintada, ¡no puedes perdértela.

Una vez que te sientas en la banca, eso le permite a los demás niños en el patio saber que necesitas un amigo en este momento. Y si estás corriendo por ahí y ves a alguien sentado allí, entonces debes saber que esa persona quiere compañía y acércate a saludar y tener una charla rápida. Es una gran oportunidad para que los niños nuevos en la escuela hagan nuevos amigos. Tal vez, si ves a alguien sentado allí, puedes invitarlo a unirse a tus amigos y jugar juntos.

Preguntamos a Mia, una estudiante de segundo grado, si conocía la banca, pero ella no lo sabía. Así que le explicamos la idea y ella dijo: “Si una niña pequeña está llorando,



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

por ejemplo, podría venir a la banca y nosotros la veríamos y sabríamos que necesita ayuda”.

Hablamos mucho sobre ser am-

ables y gentiles en P.S. 11, así que por favor recuerda que esta banca es una gran oportunidad para compartir amabilidad con otras personas.

P.S. 11 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 P.S. 11 (24%) procedemos de hogares donde se habla español. En futuras ediciones, tendremos también artículos en otros idiomas hablados por estudiantes y maestros en P.S. 11. Contáctenos si desea ver (o escribir!) un artículo en su idioma.

What it's Like to be a New Kid



The six formerly new students of 5-309

PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

BY JONATHAN DOLGIN-KAHN

P.S. 11 is an intimidating school for new students because it is so big, but once you get past those feelings, it becomes really comfortable.

Changing schools is scary. P.S. 11 is big, with five classes in each grade and spread over five floors. There is a pool and a 3rd grade show and so many new faces. Tai, a new 3rd grade student this fall, said his biggest concern was “making friends.” Similarly, Lucas, also new to 3rd grade, said he was worried about “being alone” in a new school.

Most new students worry about making friends and getting lost. Fortunately, P.S. 11 has student ambassadors who showed us where to go on the first day.

In Ms. Bouchard’s 3rd grade class there were a total of six new students, including this reporter. Students were welcoming and Ms. Bouchard says she “hangs posters to show identities.” Ms. Bouchard also used icebreakers to help students feel welcomed.

Some of the best parts of P.S. 11 are the abundant resources like the dance studio, the swimming pool

and the 5th grade show—and also the welcoming community.

Though if you ask new students Tai and Lucas what the best part of their new school is they have the same answer: “Bender Bars.”

Lucas said the fear of being alone was the scariest part of P.S. 11. But the easiest part was actually the opposite: “Knowing there were many possible friends.” If you’re just starting at P.S. 11 or you’ve been here since pre-K, there are always going to be opportunities to make many new friends, just as Lucas said.

What Makes P.S. 11 Special

BY AARADHYA VIJAY

Why is P.S. 11 special to you? Our school, P.S. 11, is loved and respected by every single one of its students, all in different ways. From the swimming pool to the book fairs to the art room, everyone enjoys our school's fabulous resources. Today, we are going to find out what some P.S. 11 students find remarkable about our strong community.

I interviewed two people from our school, one from kindergarten, and another from 5th grade. I interviewed Aishwarya (my sister), to see her perspective as a kindergartener. I asked her what her favorite and least favorite parts of P.S. 11 were, and she said, "My favorite part is recess because we play and have fun. My least favorite part is when I have to go home at the end of the day be-

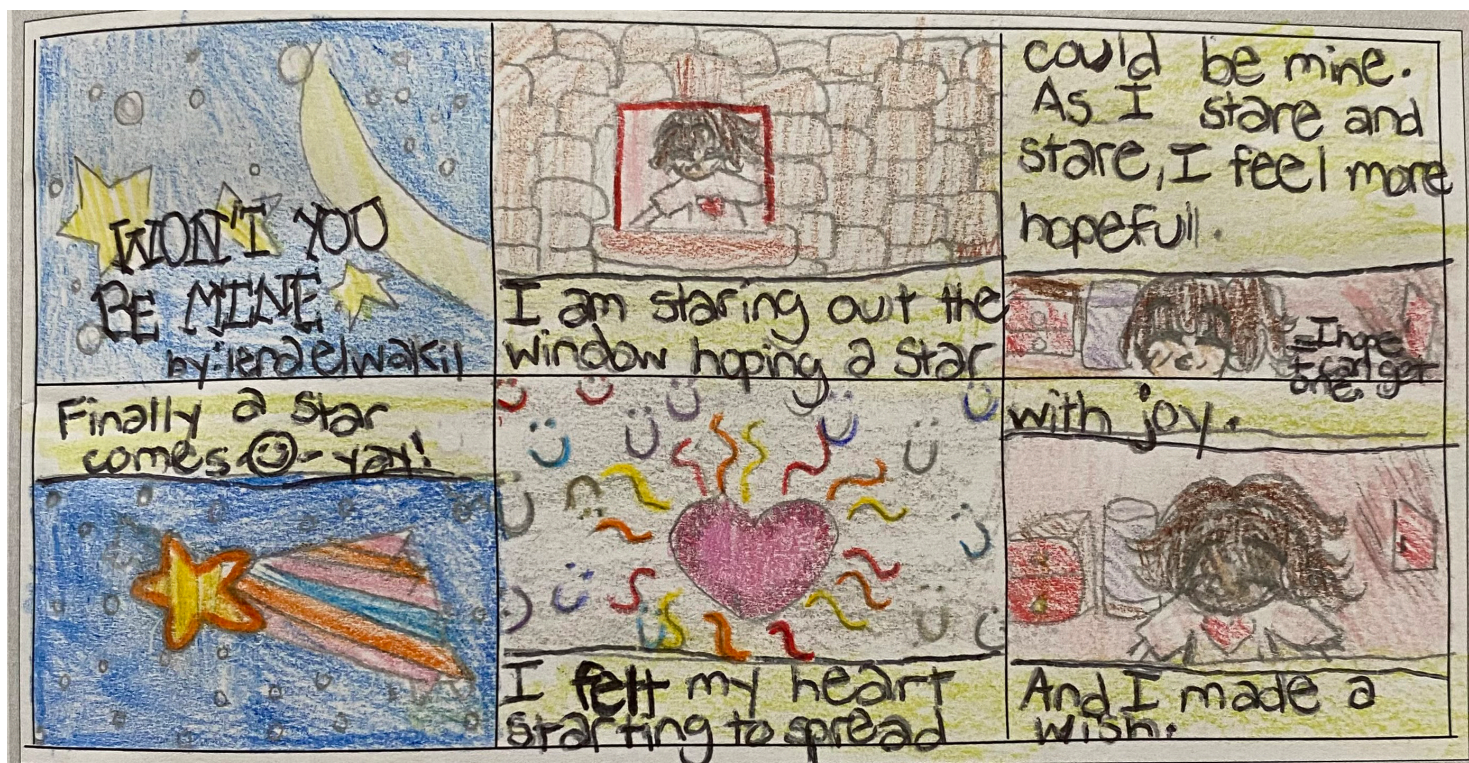
cause I miss my friends and teachers." Recess is very fun because you get to see other classes and enjoy time on the playground. I also agree with Aishwarya's reason to dislike P.S. 11: by the end of the day, we have so much fun that we just don't want to leave!

Ellie, a 5th grader, said that her favorite part about P.S. 11 is "lunch leading and my teacher, Mrs. Bernstein." Lunch leading is fun, and I enjoy it, too. And as a part of Mrs. Bernstein's class, I can assure you she is amazing! Ellie also said her least favorite part was, "At lunch and recess, we cannot use our phones." She thinks you should not have technology devices during class or tests, but in recess you should be able to have them.

My favorite part of P.S. 11 is the community. It's very diverse. For ex-

ample, this year we welcomed lots of Spanish-speaking families and have been helping them. The people at P.S. 11 are very kind. For example, before taking the state test, my class handed out motivation letters to each other so we felt prepared. Another reason to love P.S. 11 is because it's so fun. For example, the Bender Bars were a huge hit, and this year they came out with two new flavors. Other examples are the field trips. The 4th grade camping trip was amazing, and 5th grade Washington D.C. trip was, too.

P.S. 11 has its highs and lows, pros and cons, and ups and downs. It is so special and has so many unique things about it, like the swimming pool, overnight trips, programs like lunch leading, and its amazing community. Its teachers, students, and staff are exceptional! So what do you love the most about P.S. 11?



CARTOON BY LENA ELWAKIL



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WILKES

D.C. Trip continued

the National Archives Museum (then they all switched places). At the museum we looked at the timeline of African Americans in the U.S., how they were treated, and how this shaped our country. At the National Archives, we looked at a bunch of boring, important papers (at least in my opinion) that made our country an official one. Next, we headed over to Ford's Theatre where we learned about Abraham Lincoln and how he was assassinated. Taggart Gardner, a 5th grader, says: "The Lincoln Memorial at the Ford's Theatre was my favorite memory because it was very nice and we had a tour guide who told us stuff. Everything else we just explored by ourselves." After Ford's Theatre we went to the Washington Monument. Liam Jung, another fifth grader, told me: "I liked the Washington Monument because it was really tall, in the Spider Man movie, and it was really beautiful." After a long day of exploring, we were STARVING and went to the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner. However, (from personal and other people's experiences) some of us got their food extremely fast, while others had to wait for over one hour. In fact, some of the group

were already eating their desserts before others (myself included!) got our meals. Outrageous.

Next, we went to the Hilton Hotel (again, imagine 120 kids checking into a hotel all at once!) where we split into groups of four to room with. The hotel suites were split into three rooms: The living room, the bathroom and the bedroom. When asked about rooming with three other kids, Liam said: "It was questionable. Half the rooms were off limits because people were changing." Personally, I had a lot of fun with my friends as my roommates. Even though we had to be in our rooms at a certain time, we stayed up late and relaxed for some time. However, we paid the price the next morning as we had to get up at 6 a.m. to eat breakfast. We set our alarm clocks and managed to get up on time.

The next day, we ate breakfast and mobbed the juice machine. Taggart's dad, Jeff, said: "A really funny memory of the trip was watching this poor man waiting for 20 minutes behind 20 kids who were all getting juice at the hotel. He finally gave up and walked away." I personally got a few cups myself.

After breakfast we went to Arlington Cemetery where we got the grand tour. We learned about the history of the cemetery, and the changing of the guard ceremony. Jeff (a chaperone) said: "I actually learned a lot at Arlington Cemetery. For example, during the changing of the guard ceremony, there were stains on the stones because the guards walk on the exact same number of steps every single time. It would be very boring for me to do that, but the guys who sign up to do it have a very, very difficult tryout and it takes them a really long time to learn to do it and they take it super seriously. We were lucky during the ceremony because everyone behaved, including all the strangers around us. Normally when people don't behave, they are very strict and correct people's behavior. It's like the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace." Then, we went to the White House to take a picture and it was pretty cool. Finally, it was time to head home to New York City.

In the end, everyone had great memories and a fun time in D.C. Taggart said: "The only bad thing I have to say about the trip is probably the restaurant (Hard Rock Cafe), because we got our food so late. It was horrible because it took so long. One star review! The rest was very good. The hotel was four stars, very nice. Four and a half out of five stars for the whole trip!" Liam agreed and said the trip was "very exciting except for dinner because of the one and a half hour dinner wait. Four out of Five stars for the whole trip. Otherwise it was fun to be with my friends outside of school." Chaperone Jeff said, "I would rate it overall a 4.9." When asked if he would do it again he said: "Absolutely, without hesitation. I got to spend a couple of

days not just hanging out with kids I was responsible for, but I also got to hang out with basically everyone in the 5th grade. That was a lot of fun, and it was fun to watch you guys learn about history and discover new things. Although the Hard Rock Cafe was pretty challenging. But overall, even with the hiccups, I would definitely do it again.”



PHOTO BY JEFF GARDNER

So, I know the last question on your minds is, how was it, having none of your parents on the trip? Liam says: “It was pretty fun because I had a lot of freedom because I always have my parents around.” But some kids DID have a parent on the trip, if their parent was a chaperone! What was that like? Taggart says: “It didn’t matter because my dad was on the other side of the hotel. Wherever he was, he wasn’t close to me at all. Although we did see each other a couple of times.” As for the chaperones, I had to ask, how was it, taking care of a bunch of kids? Jeff said: “It was really challenging for me because I had a group of kids that didn’t speak English. Even though it was difficult it made it special because they had never been to the US Capitol, and

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Principal for a Day

BY SARAH NJIM

As the winner of the Golden Ticket from my Bender Bar I got to be principal for a day. Specifically, this happened on May 17, but actually it started a day before when I announced that when I am principal it would be Pajama Day. We had to let everyone know so that students could be in PJs the next day.

My day started at 8 a.m. First, Principal Bender and I did some planning because a PTA Zoom meeting was happening later. Mr. Bender knows that I love coffee — I have asked him for a coffee many times before — and so he brought me a cup of coffee (decaf of course!). I noticed many teachers in PJs and felt happy because that was my idea.

Next, we went outside to the gate to say hello to the kids being dropped off. Mr. Bender got so many compliments on his pajamas! I felt like I was kind of famous because so many people took photos of me and Mr. Bender during dropoff. At 8:30 a.m. we closed the gates and went back upstairs to the principal’s office. Mr. McGill asked me for a raise. I agreed to give him a \$1,000 raise if he bought me a cup of coffee. But he didn’t.

At 9 a.m. we did the PTA Zoom call. I said hello and read the Principal’s Update to the parents on the call. After a while the call was a bit boring and so I asked if I could go to my class for a while. Later, after the call ended, Mr. Bender called me on the walkie-talkie but I forgot to answer him because I was walking up

the stairs. Because that didn’t work, he used the intercom to track me down and asked me to come back to the principal’s office.



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

At 11 a.m. Mr. Bender took me and two of my friends for frozen yogurt and pizza.

On my day as principal one student was sent to the principal’s office because they had been playing tag in the cafeteria. As principal, it was my job to remind him that that is not allowed because it’s not safe.

Being a principal is a fun job, but you do have to spend A LOT of time on your computer checking all the emails — including emails from your bosses at the Department of Education!

If you are lucky enough to win the Golden Ticket next year, my advice would be to practice reading out the PTA information because there are 71 people on the call watching you! Also, I hope you enjoy being principal for the day as much as I did.



PHOTO BY SKYLAR NAM - taken in Principal Bender's office where it hangs.

We're One Hundred continued

of kids, and other people led it. It was raining that day, but they held a banner through the pouring rain. I asked her how the principal before Mr. Bender was, and she said back then the principal wasn't very clear about rules for both students and teachers. She claimed it was "messy." I asked, "What do you miss about P.S. 11?" She said there used to be "awesome dances" and "We used to go to [a] bazillion field trips" such as to Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Bridge, Hall of Science, Liberty Science Center, and American Revolution Tavern. But she said one thing that she likes about P.S. 11 students now and back then is the "curiosity they bring with

them." Ms. Bruen has been at P.S. 11 for a long time and has experienced a lot. She used to be an ELA teacher, and she says she is new to being a science teacher but she loves it.

Another person who has experienced a lot and has been here long, and taught something else, too, was Mr. Nichols. He has been here for 26 years, including this year. He said, "I used to teach kids how to ride bikes." One thing, he says, that hasn't changed from long ago to now, is, "I love seeing kids getting better at swimming." A very interesting thing Mr. Nichols shared with me is that an NBA player, James Bouknight, attended this school in his childhood.

I also interviewed Rebecca Sokolovsky, the kind librarian. She has been here since 2017, and her kids have graduated from P.S. 11 but she still is a librarian because she likes working here. What she loves most about P.S. 11 is, "The people, even if the people change." She adds, "All the shows are amazing."

Like James Bouknight, we'll all grow up to be successful. We'll eventually all go our own way, a great path ahead of us. We should be proud to tell people, "One day, I was part of P.S. 11." We should be able to tell the history of P.S. 11 and how nice a school it was.

D.C. Trip continued

were overwhelmed at how amazing it was." I asked how he talked to them and he replied: "I relied a lot on my fellow chaperone Maria De Lo Santos, one of the secretaries who does speak Spanish. I also used Google Translate a lot." Finally, I asked Jeff what his favorite part of the trip was. "Leaving everyone's kids with their parents! Just

kidding," he said. "Visiting the African American Museum, because I've been to D.C. a lot for work and I've been to every single museum, and had never been to that museum before. It was visually interesting because of the architecture, but it was also nice that they presented African American history chronologically so you could start at the beginning of African Americans

in the U.S. and learn up to the present day. We also visited the reflecting pond — it was like a waterfall inside the building that fell into a reflecting pond surrounded by a lot of marble benches. It was a beautiful space where you could sit."

So there you have it: the D.C. trip in a nutshell.

Here are Some Facts about Climate Change from the P.S. 11 Green Team

P.S. 11



BY DESSA BYRNE

We're excited to share that some important things have been happening both at our school and in the world, too! Here are a few things people of all ages can do to help planet Earth:

1. Eat more meat-free meals
2. Buy local or organic food whenever possible
3. Don't waste food; grow your own fruits and veggies if you can
4. Ride a bike instead of taking a car
5. Change to energy-efficient light bulbs
6. Respect and protect parks—they absorb carbon dioxide and are associated with lower levels of air pollution
7. Avoid single-use items, as everything we use has a carbon footprint

Here are a few more specific examples...

Avoid plastic water bottles

38 Million plastic water bottles go into landfills (and create microplastics) every year in America.



→ P.S. 11 has refillable water stations on every floor, including in the cafeteria. Please remember to bring your refillable water bottles from home and refill them all day!

Check if your sunscreen is 'reef safe'

As we're coming into the summer months, covering up with hats and other clothing is a great way to protect against sun exposure.

→ If you need sunscreen, look for "Reef Safe" mineral-based types with zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, as they are less likely to harm ocean animals, especially coral reefs.

A few other interesting developments:

The U.K. just banned single-use plastic cutlery and plates. End to end in one year, all of this plastic would be able to wrap around Earth more than 8 and a half times.

In 2022, one in ten new cars sold worldwide were fully electric vehicles, with sales especially strong in Europe and China. (source: LMC Automotive)

France has canceled some of its shorter flights and asked people to take high-speed trains instead. Some say this will not help cut carbon going into the atmosphere, but it's a start!

The P.S. 11 Green Team's goal is to help grow eco-awareness and we always welcome new members. If you're interested in sharing ideas or joining, please ask your parents to send a message to:

PS11greenteam@gmail.com

Our small choices can make big changes. Together, we can make a difference!

Why is it Important to Know Where Food Comes From



PHOTO BY VICTOR SIRA

BY SANA SIRA KAWASAKI

Have you ever wondered where food comes from or why it's important to know where it comes from? If you have, read this article. If you never have, read it anyway. I have interviewed Ms. Debbie from P.S. 11, a vegetable vendor at the Union Square farmers' market, and the owner of Dickson's Farmstand Meats at Chelsea Market to explore their perspectives toward food and learn more about things you eat.

I decided to write this article because there are a lot of memories around food while growing up. My favorite toy was a wooden kitchen set that I would play with every day and pretend to make food for my parents. I also remember the photo of my "100 Days Old" celebration where my mama pretended to feed me fish and other delicious Japanese food for good luck. I love food because it gives an opportunity to get together with friends and family. Since my mother is Japanese and my father is from Venezuela, I get to try a wide range of food from ramen to arepas.

Let's start with the vegetable vendor that I interviewed. His name is Richard Giles, owner of the Lucky

Dog Farm. They are an organic farm and you can find them in Union Square Greenmarket. What is organic? Organic is when you don't use any synthetic chemicals on your crops to prevent bugs eating them (that means that they hand pick the bugs off). And they use compost for fertility so the plants get good nutrients. This means no chemicals go into your body which makes food healthier and tastier. One piece of advice from Richard is that if you know where the food comes from, it is going to be a lot safer and healthier. And also, it's always a good idea to ask farmers questions about what is in season or how you can cook certain vegetables.

Secondly, I'll tell you about Dickson's Farmstand Meats. The owner's name is Jacob Dickson. He started as a consumer where he ate meat almost every day. He wanted to build a business and started to educate himself and as he was doing so, he found out what happens in the process of how the meat gets from the farm to your plate. The answers were quite horrifying, so he wanted to find a better option to buy meat and that is why he started his own butcher shop 15 years ago. And he works exclusively with small fami-

ly farms to source his meat. He told me "It's important to be mindful about how we eat meat because an animal is giving its life and if you waste the meat you are not honoring the animal that gave its life."

Lastly, let's talk about Ms. Debbie and her perspective toward food. She is the P.S. 11 afterschool director and she teaches a class called Farm-to-Table Cooking. It's a program where students cook plant-based foods with Ms. Debbie and get to try new recipes. She says "It is important to know where food comes from because it makes you take extra care of the environment." If you practice cooking with your family, you will get to know more about traditional foods in your own family.

Whoever is reading this, now you know that food isn't just what you put in your mouth. What I learned from interviewing food experts is that food can help keep balance in the world.



PHOTO BY SHIORI KAWASAKI

A Tunnel to Another World, Comme des Garçons!!!

BY

CORINNA GRANATA RUTTENBERG

Have you ever gone to West 22nd Street, just west of Tenth Avenue, which is only a few blocks away from school? Well, if you have, you've probably walked past a big, silver tunnel that leads to a store. But not just any store; it's the most avant-garde clothing store in New York City!!! And the name of that store is Comme des Garçons!

Comme des Garçons was started in Tokyo, in 1969, by the designer Rei Kawakubo when she was 27 years old. The name "Comme des Garçons" was taken from a Françoise Hardy song called "Tous les garçons et les filles," which translates to "all the boys and girls."

Comme des Garçons has several stores in Asia and Europe, but there is only one store in America, which is right by our school!

Comme des Garçons's clothing is very unique. A lot of the clothing is big and puffy, and a lot of it has boning, which gives clothing stiffness and structure. Comme des Garçons has a lot of variety; for example, some of the designs are black, and some of them are bursting with color.

I stopped by the store and asked some questions to two of the people who work there, Chris Maljaei and Colin Buckley. Maljaei said that Rei Kawakubo "started off as a stylist. She said she could never find clothes that she was really interested in and that she wanted to wear. And then eventually it just blossomed into this universe."



PHOTO BY FRANCESCA GRANATA

From the tunnel at the entrance to the rounded gold walls, the store looks very futuristic and space-like. Kawakubo actually interior-designed the Chelsea store with the help of an architect named Takao Kawasaki. The tunnel at the entrance is based on the hull of a ship that has been flipped over.

Many people who walk into the store aren't very familiar with the brand and are surprised when they see the clothing. "For people who aren't interested in fashion," Maljaei said, "there's generally a good re-

action. Most people will be shocked to see that something as simple as clothing can be that experimental."

But some people are very familiar with the brand and shop there a lot, including David Sedaris, a famous humor writer. "David Sedaris is comical," Buckley said. "He's funny without even trying. The way he describes some of our clothes is very innocent, which I think there's a lot of beauty in. Just the way he describes the clothes is very interesting."

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Businesses Survivin' and Thrivin'

BY
LEAH KREMEN DAVIS
AND
IZZY KILLIAN

Small businesses: we know all about them from living in New York City. They open, they close and sometimes they change. For instance, as we were walking down the street, we noticed that Milk & Hops expanded and got outdoor seating. That's why the store survived Covid. Other stores in this neighborhood did similar things like changing almost all their staff and more!

Eleni Farmakis is one of the two owners of New London Pharmacy, a mother-daughter run business that opened 65 years ago. When we visited, the shop felt calm and peaceful. It looked like the pharmacy had everything people needed, like candles, make-up, and so much more. It smelled like rich candles glowing in the light. During Covid, Farmakis and her mother had to change how they ran their business by having their family help run their shop with their cat keeping her company, so we interviewed Farmakis and asked her how her store survived Covid. She told us: "It was very, very, very tough. We lost mostly all our staff. Everyone left because they were afraid, so pretty much we were running the business with my mom, my dad, my husband, my brother, my sister—pretty much family." She told us, "I did have two employees that did come back. We shortened our hours during the pandemic, which we haven't gone back from yet. But yeah, if it wasn't for our family, we wouldn't have been able to survive the pandemic."



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

We were surprised at that answer because we weren't suspecting that she needed so much staff. But the pharmacy was a lifesaver for the community because no other shops were open, and they had items that no other places had. It was also unique because it had the vaccine for Covid and also cooperated with Penn South to provide vaccinations. New London Pharmacy also is a kind business. If someone needs something specific, they help find it.

Ricky Sanchez is one of the many bartenders of Milk & Hops and he is really nice and sweet. Milk & Hops opened in 2015 and

is a bar and restaurant known for its wide variety of craft beer and hard ciders. During Covid, Milk & Hops expanded both their drink menu and their space. While we were talking to him about that, we learned some cool facts (and also got to have some tasty ice pops).

Sanchez told us that it was easy to expand during Covid, "The landlord gave us a really good price on the rent because of the pandemic, and it was right next door where the gelato place used to be. And we had staff who had a good knowledge of cocktails—that's one of the hardest things, to develop the menu. So we could find a space and handle the development of a new drink menu. So it was cheaper to expand during Covid than it was beforehand, and we were offered a 10-year lease. We should have fought for a 20-year lease!" He did tell us that it was very hard to hire new employees during Covid, until the pandemic-era unemployment benefits ended.

Luckily, Milk & Hops was already both a bar and a place where you could buy beer like a grocery store. That was essential to them being able to stay open and in business during Covid. "At the beginning of the pandemic, people weren't allowed to sit down inside and order food and drink," Sanchez said. One thing that didn't work for Milk & Hops was delivery, because the special license would have taken at least 6 months to obtain, so it didn't make sense for them to do that. "But," Sanchez said, "people could come to

our bar to buy cans of beer and take them home.” So then they put seating outside, and people could buy beer and sit outside. Outdoor seating has made their business much more known and now that they have also expanded they get even more customers.

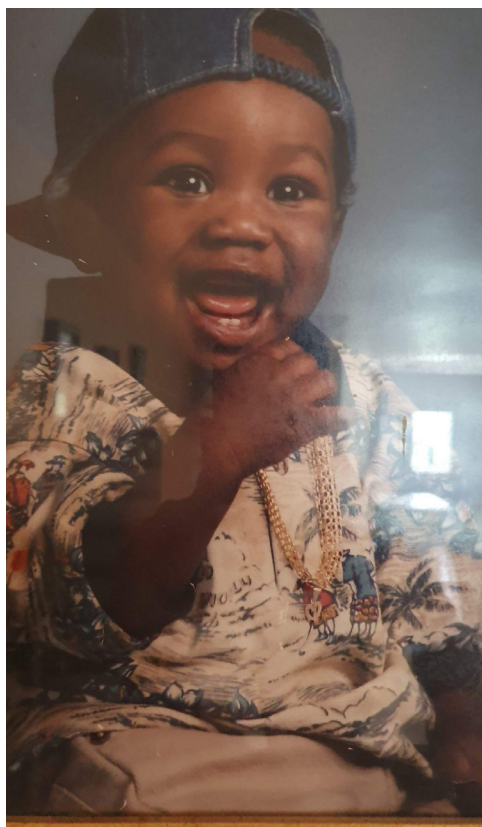
Small businesses have challenges and they change, but these two were extra special because they don’t just change and they don’t just have challenges either. They have evolved, and now they are both thriving. They want to make their shops better for themselves and their customers. Also like Farmakis said, smaller businesses know their customers well. We hope you keep small businesses alive by going to them and getting the things you need!



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

Can you guess the Mystery Person

BY LINUS OLIM & ETHAN KIM



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

P.S. 11 Post: How long have you been at P.S. 11?

Mystery Person: Seven years.

P.S. 11 Post: Do you have a favorite grade?

Mystery Person: Yes, it’s Fifth Grade because I love watching how much the kids grow up.

P.S. 11 Post: Are you from New York City?

Mystery Person: Yes. I grew up in Brooklyn.

P.S. 11 Post: What are your activities outside school?

Mystery Person: I try to stay active by exercising and playing sports.

P.S. 11 Post: What’s your favorite time of year?

Mystery Person: My favorite time of the year is summer because I’m able to take long trips/travel to other places

P.S. 11 Post: Could you give us one final clue to help figure out who you are?

Mystery Person: Usually, you’ll find me outside during lunch/recess.

Answer on page 19

There are Many Boba Hotspots in NYC, but which one is the Best?

BY ELLIE / ELOISE BELKNAP

Boba is an amazing drink, and many tourists come from all over the world to come taste



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

NYC boba. So I located some popular bubble tea spots, and put them to the test – which bubble tea place is the best? I walked a few hours in the rain to really find out. So now, we'll know for sure.

First, some history on milk tea

Bubble tea was first made in Taiwan in the early 1980s and there are different stories about who invented it. According to the company Bubble Tea Supply's website, bubble tea started at a small stand right outside of a local elementary school. Elementary school students like you and I would look forward to a cup of tea after a long day of work and play. Bubble tea got pretty popular among all grades, (middle, high school, col-

lege), so more people started opening “泡泡茶座” (Bubble tea stands). But it was only in the mid-1980s when the drink we today call bubble tea truly became bubble tea. One story is that a man named Liu Han Chieh combined a tasty tapioca snack into the classic tea to make a new drink: Bubble Tea.

Hotspot #1: Hawa Smoothies and Bubble Tea

In a hidden corner surrounded by scaffolding on 8th Avenue between 22nd and 23rd streets, there is a cutesy cozy boba place, which is surprisingly, more crowded than you'd expect. This is our first target. Despite the scaffolding, the appearance of this store is very kawaii. The first thing I noticed is that they have a cozy wooden “open” sign and a lady-bug wind chime. When I walked inside though, I really saw why people think this place is cute. They had it beautifully decorated, but they didn't over decorate the space so it looked crammed. They had two menus, one with all the specials, and one in text with everything on the menu. Both were light up signs hanging on the wall. So overall, this place's exterior and interior are both adorable and deserve a 10/10. Moving onto the next bullet point, customer service. The customer service at this place was great. The cashier was calm and sweet and, considering the crowdedness of the place, this is very impressive. That one lady and another male employee were the only two people running a shop stuffed with people. So this amazing customer service

is an 8/10. And now for the bubble tea itself! I ordered a mango rose tea with mango flavored popping tapioca and I can confirm, the bubble tea was amazing! The tea was not overly sweet nor overly bland, and the popping boba tasted so good! It exploded in my mouth and the strawberry jelly tasted amazing! Overall, 9/10! This place was so great! I definitely recommend it and I can totally see why it's so popular!

Hawa Smoothies and Bubble Tea
Ambience/Design | 10/10
Customer service | 8/10
Bubble tea | 9/10



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

Hotspot #2: Pearl River Market (Inside Chelsea Market)

Inside of the big mall Chelsea Market on 16th Street and 9th Avenue, there lies a mini Asian supermarket/bubble tea place called Pearl River Market. It's also linked with a kawaii mini-shop with pens and T-shirts. This is our second target. The appearance of this place is pretty cute. They have lots of waving cats and a big menu full of lots of drinks. The supermarket part was very cute, too. There were shelves of snacks and a drink area with a cover over it. The snacks were very cute. I got a pack of strawberry Hi-Chews and a cute mushroom container with sour candies in it. Overall, I give this design a 7/10. Next, customer service. The lady working at the counter was really nice and my boba did not take long to come at all! Everyone working there was super nice and the man who operated the checkout for the supermarket was super patient. Overall, I give customer service an 8/10. Finally, the moment you've all been waiting for, how did the drink and snacks taste? Well, I ordered a strawberry milk bubble tea with regular tapioca (A Chelsea drink, as they call it). The drink was good, but it wasn't the best bubble tea I had ever tasted. As for the snacks, the mushroom candies were amazing! They tasted a lot like sweet tarts but in a mushroom shape! The Hi-Chews were also really good but I had kind of been expecting that because I've had them before. But they were so good I ... ate them in 2 days. So overall, I give food and drink a 6/10. This place was pretty cute, and I partly recommend it, but if you're picky with your bubble tea, it probably isn't the right place for you.

Pearl River Market
Ambience/Design | 7/10
Customer service | 8/10
Bubble tea | 6/10

Hotspot #3: ViVi Bubble Tea



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

Surrounded by lots of buildings, there stands a small corner store. There are lots of ViVi's around town, but the specific one I went to was on 23rd Street. And I must admit, the design was amazing! They had comfy seating, waving cats, and the cutest neon sign that says, "honey is sweet but not as sweet as you." I couldn't resist but to take a picture with it. Overall, this place

was very very cute, and I'd rate it a 10/10. Next, how were the customers treated? Well, This place had great customer service. The man at the counter didn't seem annoyed to answer any questions and he was nice. The boba maker was very efficient and the bubble tea she made was amazing! Customer service is immediately 9/10. Lastly, how did the bubble tea taste? Right off the bat, it was great! I ordered ViVi signature fruit tea with strawberry popping boba. It had chunks of apple and dragon fruit and there was an orange in it. It was one of the best drinks I've ever tasted! (Also their chicky nuggies are amazing!) Overall, this drink was definitely a 10/10, which makes ViVi Bubble Tea the winner of this challenge.

ViVi Bubble Tea
Ambience/Design | 10/10
Customer service | 9/10
Bubble tea | 10/10

To conclude, many bubble tea places in NYC are great! Going out for bubble tea is an amazing thing to do with your friends or family. And keep in mind, I only chose a few of the ones I found appealing, and there are many other great places. The winner of this challenge ended up being ViVi Bubble Tea so definitely make sure to try it out, and if you are interested in any bubble tea places, make sure to call me, so i can enjoy the sweet boba with you!

	Hawa Smoothies and Bubble Tea	Pearl River Market	ViVi Bubble Tea (Winner!)
Design	10/10	7/10	10/10
Customer service	8/10	8/10	9/10
Bubble tea	9/10	6/10	10/10

Big Feelings

BY LINUS OLIM

Have you ever had big feelings that can't be described in one word? Or felt a feeling that's hard to find on the mood meter? Well, you are not alone. Many other kids and even grownups experience those kinds of big feelings too. And it can be tricky when that happens because your feelings can take over.

I interviewed Luci Lonsdale, a child psychologist, to help me figure out why kids are feeling this way and what we can do when your feelings overwhelm you and take over. What she had to say was very interesting and I learned a lot.

First, she explained a few important things to me about the cognitive triangle. *"There's a place in your brain called the amygdala. That's where your feelings start. Maybe you*



PHOTO BY TERESA EDLESTON

get into a fight with a sibling or a friend. That's the event. A big feeling comes up, you might feel angry, upset, sad, annoyed, furious, frustrated. Then the behavior comes. Think of it like a little triangle: event, behavior or feeling and a thought."

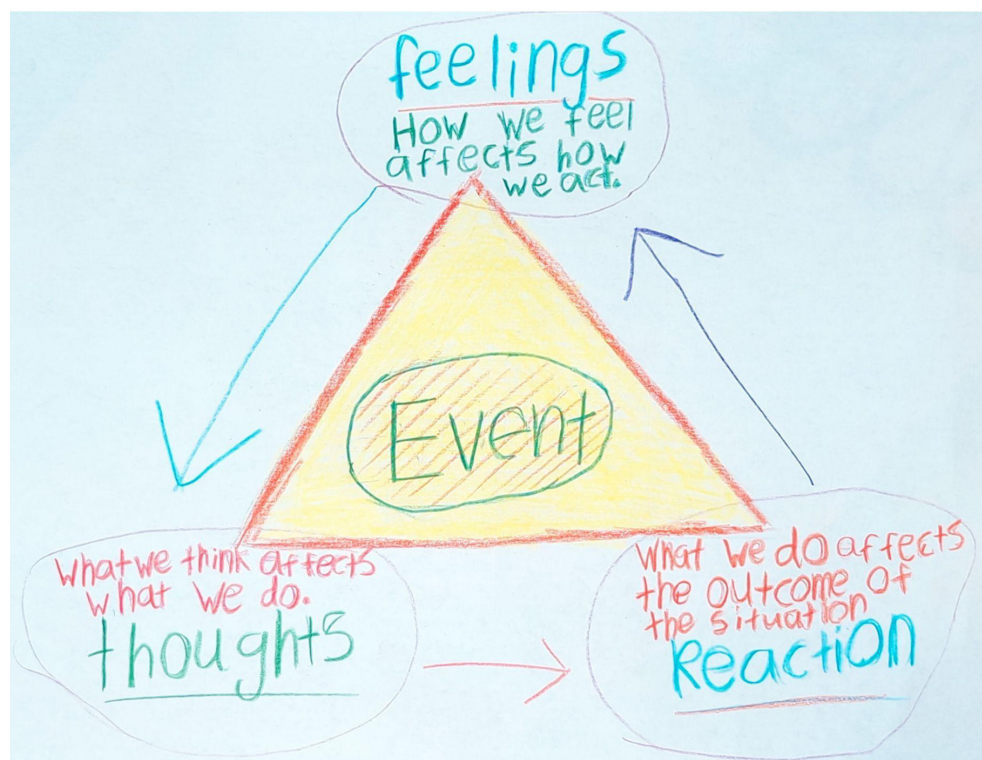


ILLUSTRATION BY LINUS OLIM

I found it really helpful when she explained that the amygdala is like a smoke alarm in your brain: *"You hear the alarm. So, do you stay in that building? Is it actually on fire, or do you run out of the building? Well, for some people this alarm goes off a lot more than for others. And it makes them a little nervous, a little anxious even. That's what anxiety is. So, [it's like] when you have a really sensitive smoke alarm that goes off for a burnt slice of toast. So that's where anxiety comes in, when your amygdala is going off all the time and you're always on edge and you get this flood of this hormone called cortisol. That's what triggers fight, flight or freeze reactions."*

There are people who have trained their brains to ignore the signals their amygdala is sending them. For example, Alex Honold is a professional free-solo climber. There is a Netflix documentary that shows him

climbing big rocks without a harness which of course requires him to override the fear signal his brain is trying to send him.

Now, back to those big feelings. When an event causes a big feeling, Luci's advice is to stop and take a deep breath. That little action is bigger than you'd think because it physically changes your body since you *get lots and lots of oxygen in your lungs. It also helps to tell your body that you're actually in a safe space and you're okay. Then the cortisol starts to decrease and you can become more aware of what you want and need and helps to get you from a level 5 of anger or frustration to a level 2. And when you're closer to a level 2 you can think more rationally. Sometimes a deep breath alone isn't enough. Then it helps to distract yourself. For example, you can go for a quick walk, do some art, read a book, just do something that makes you happy. And after a while you'll notice that now your feelings aren't as intense anymore, so you've got closer to that level 2.*

It's interesting that a very tiny part of your brain does so much.

Finally, I asked Luci if she had any advice for kids - or grownups - who are wondering how they can be helpful to a friend who is feeling a big feeling. She suggested that if in doubt you should ask them what will be most helpful to them in the moment. Sometimes, she said, people might just want you to sit next to them quietly and say nothing at all. Often, people don't want you to tell them a solution, instead they just want to feel heard and validated.

Let's Talk Trash

BY ROGER BERKEBILE

Many kids don't appreciate what Jose Frias, the janitor, does for P.S. 11's community. In this article you will learn just how much the janitor does for this school. You may be thinking to yourself why should kids respect the janitor or, yes, I respect the janitor, but the janitor needs more than just a thank you. For some reason, some kids cannot see the difference between cleaning up the school and saying a thank you.

It was very hard to interview Jose because he was always busy. We spent a few weeks trying to track him down and find a few minutes when he could sit down for an interview. Jose has been working at P.S. 11 for 18 years. Before P.S. 11, he worked at a hospital, but he likes working at P.S. 11 better because he enjoys being surrounded by so many kids all day. Jose's favorite part of working at P.S. 11 is the pool area. Jose starts his day at 5 a.m. Jose also works in the summer when there is no school. In fact, he said "There's more work when you guys are not here." He explained that when the classrooms are cleared out he does a thorough clean up.

Jose said that to help him out, kids can clean up more. Some kids at P.S. 11 think about helping the janitor clean up messes, while some kids do not. Ryan said he does think about helping the janitor. Ryan explained, "I feel bad for the janitors because they clean up the messes of all different grades. He also cleans messes every single day and the bathrooms, too." Asher disagrees. He would not

help the janitor, stating, "No, I would be bored every single day." Theodore says "sometimes" he thinks about helping the janitor, "because I don't think it is fair that they have to do all the work." Missy says "no I don't because I play with my friends and I'm distracted by that."

In conclusion, people have different opinions of why to help or to not help the janitor and now you know how to help the janitor and make P.S. 11 cleaner. It's not a job you have to do every single day, but, if you are thoughtful about putting your garbage where it belongs and cleaning up after yourself, and we all do that, then, together, we can make it a little easier for Jose to do his job every day. Now that you know just how busy Jose is and how you can support him, I hope you start helping and together we can make a difference to the school and Jose's work.



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

3...2...1 Blast Off!

BY DAVY HOLLANDER

Did you know that one of our very own teachers sent Snoopy, the dog, to the moon? Now you may be wondering which teacher (and his wife, Shima!) created a stuffed animal Snoopy and then sent him on his way to outer space. Would you guess that he is a teacher in class 4-411, near the library, and can be found teaching while joking around in sneakers, glasses and oversized sweatshirts? It's Mr. Berman! He, his wife, his friend Todd and a few other people worked together to make it possible for Snoopy to take this big adventure which took place on November 16, 2022.

How did our teacher get involved?

Mr. Berman shared that, "Shima and I were chosen to get involved because of our experience with puppetry, costume making and prop creation for the entertainment world. In our spare time, three years ago, we would work on projects and this became one of them."

Martin, a man who owned a famous studio right near P.S. 11 and worked with Mr. Berman and Shima in the past, for over 20 years, knew they were the right team to join this exciting adventure. Martin has an eye for talent from working with famous actors and actresses and was an important part of this project, too.

How does one make a Snoopy puppet for space?

I asked Mr. Berman a few questions about the process. He di-



COURTESY MR. BERMAN

vulged that The Peanuts Company, which created the Snoopy dolls, sent Shima more than 10 Snoopy dolls to allow her to be creative with assembling the doll that would be perfect for the trip to the moon. Shima needed to do a lot of measuring, cutting, sewing, ripping, measuring again and more to find the perfect Snoopy-sized body. NASA told Shima that the design that she created should have Snoopy in an actual space

suit, which complicated the process, to be sure it was a good fit. Mr. Berman stated, "People don't know it was me doing this work behind the scenes. My wife and I were the creative team. She made the Snoopy and his costume, and I made the helmet and we both coordinated in between NASA and Peanuts. My wife had to have all the fabrics she chose approved by NASA and she made a scale replica of the actual spacesuit."

Blasting off in Florida

Mr. Berman and Shima went to NASA in Florida to watch the launch. I asked him what it felt like watching their Snoopy creation go to space and he said, “A feeling not many people experience in life. Excited! Incredible! I’ve done a lot of widely-viewed work. This was the first international exposure, so that was cool.”

Shima actually made three Snoopys but only one made the journey to the Moon — two stayed on Earth. One is on view at the Santa Rosa Peanuts Museum, and the second Snoopy and the helmet Mr. Berman created are at the Kennedy Space Center in Maryland. The Snoopy at the Santa Rosa Museum is the one that went to the moon. The third Snoopy is at Mr. Berman’s apartment in Harlem, living a less exciting life these days.



COURTESY MR. BERMAN



NASA/ISAAC WATSON

Tunnel to Another World continued

All the people who work at the store are dressed head to toe in Comme des Garçons, and most of that clothing is black. As Maljaei explained, “Black is my favorite color. I think the reason it is my favorite color is because black is sometimes associated with negative or bad or scary things, but when you look into it, it’s a really deep and complex color. It feels very unbothered. It doesn’t really care if you like or dislike it. It just is what it is.”

When Maljaei was growing up, he liked to do his own thing. “Ever since I was a kid, I have always been a creative person. I never wanted to do what the other kids were doing. You know, I never wanted to buy the cool sneakers or wear what everyone else was wearing. When I moved here, I went over to Dover Street Market and I was really fascinated by all the clothing that the employees were wearing. I would always say, ‘What’s this jacket?’ or ‘What are those pants?’ And they would say ‘Comme des Garçons.’ I’d never seen anything like it.

“I’ve never been able to find another brand that even came close for me.” Maljaei continued. “It’s hard to put into words, but to me, Comme des Garçons is like a feeling. Rei Kawakubo has taken pure thought and made it into clothing. Whenever people ask her what inspires her, the only thing she has to say is, ‘I just want to make something new that hasn’t been done before.’ It’s funny that things that are so complicated on the surface boil down to something that simple.”

Guess the Mystery Person

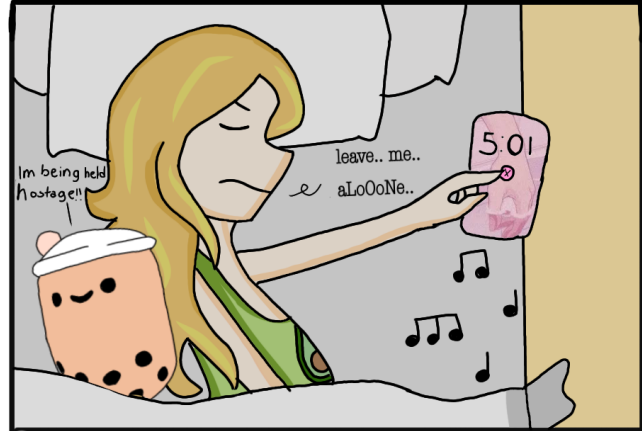
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Mr Robert Burton

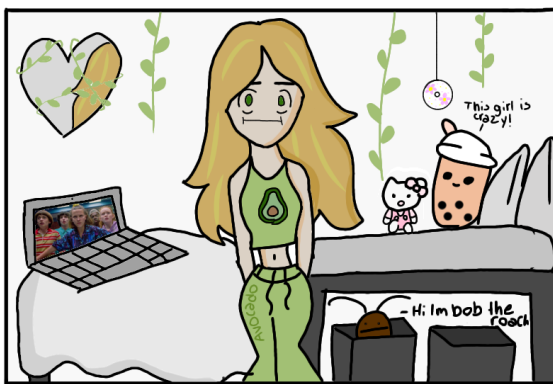
The stages of waking up

By: ✨Ellie✨

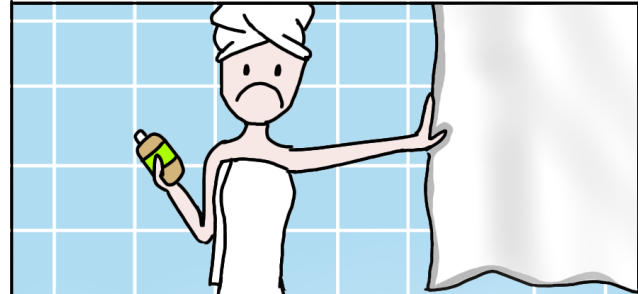
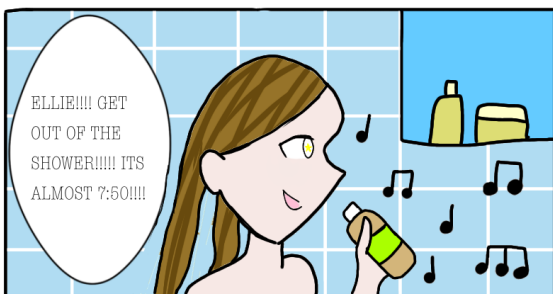
1. Realizing it's time to get up



2. The stare of emptiness



3. Trying to get out of the warm shower



4. Regretting how late you stayed up last night

