

PS11 Post

Show Your Gratitude for the Third Graders!



BY LEILA SHEIKH

PHOTO BY PS11 POST TEAM

Are you still singing the catchy songs from the Third Grade Show

from November? Have you ever wanted to know what the third graders think about the Third Grade Show?

Or how the theme, songs, and speaking parts were picked? Keep reading, and you'll find out!

Maybe you didn't know, but not all third-graders liked the show! Some kids thought it was annoying or embarrassing because of some third-graders talking during the show.

Asher from third grade told me "It was sometimes embarrassing, but I liked it when no one was sick, because it felt like the show was going perfectly! The easiest part was the

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Can You Spell Spelling Bee?

BY VIVIEN KECK AND LENA OLIM

So you've probably heard of the Spelling Bee. If you haven't, no problem, we'll explain. Kids sign up for a spelling competition (hence the name), they are given a packet of words to study from and then they spell words competitively. At the competition, if you get enough words right, then you go on to compete in the next round, and so on. You could go statewide, even national!

At P.S.11 this year, the Spelling Bee started in the school with the qualification round. This was a little different because it was a written spelling test to pick the 20 students who would go to participate in the

semi-finals. Both of us made it to the semi-finals and our journey there involved a dramatic tie-breaking round in Mr. Bender's office. During the first period on a cold November morning all 20 of us semi-finalists assembled in room 214 and were each given a random number picked out of a paper bag. We then sat down in our numbered seats (we were given numbers 14 and 15 coincidentally, which we thought was very cool). Unfortunately, we didn't make it past this round, but five amazing spellers did!

These five students would move on to the P.S.11 finals (without us) where they competed in front of an audience of 4th and 5th graders. When we talked to Mr. Bender, we asked him why



PHOTO BY KATHERINE COVINGTON

the younger grades weren't able to come and watch the Spelling Bee. He said, "I guess age, but the third graders should come as well, so if they wanted to join next year they would know what to expect." The two winners of this round went on to the Manhattan-wide round. This year, the winner Vikram R. and runner up Teddy S. will proceed to the next round where he will be up against 4th to 8th grad-

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Read-a-thon Recs

BY THEO DICKSON

The read-a-thon is coming up, and you're going to need lots of great books to read if you really want to win the whole thing. Don't have any books to read? Don't worry. I've got your back. Check out some of the books that past winners of the read-a-thon, a bookstore buyer, and a fifth grade teacher love and recommend. I'm sure that you'll find something that interests you, whatever grade you're in or genre you love.

One amazing person that I think will give you great recommendations is Lisa Knowlton, children's book buyer of 192 Books. She recommends *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling as an "obvious" choice. This is because her son, a good reader who didn't like reading as she says, started reading *Harry Potter* and it "really got him started as a reader." She also says that even many years later, when he was writing his college essay, he insisted on writing about *Harry Potter*. According to Lisa, the *Harry Potter* books can be for kids 8+ if they're strong readers, but the more mature content in the later books makes her think that an average reading age is 10+. Other great series that she recommends to "keep kids going and going" include the *Vanderbeekers* by Karina Yan Glaser (for ages 8-10), *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs (again, for ages 8-10), and *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown (similarly, for ages 7-9). She also loves *Wildwood Chronicles*, but they are very big books, with each being about 500 pages, so she

recommends them for 5th grade and up. A great book for younger kids is *Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon. "It really is the kind of book that kids have to come back and get the second, and the third, and the fourth, because she's a great character," says Lisa, praising the book. According to Lisa, 192 Books has up to book #7 in the series. Even I, a fifth grader, have to admit that *Dory Fantasmagory* is a great series and is super funny, as I read it in 2nd grade.



Lisa also recommends some classics that kids and their parents still love today. She says that these are sometimes nice to read with a parent, especially because they have complex and tricky words in them, and then come back, as an older kid, and read them to yourself. These are books like *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* (on the harder side for 8 and 9 year olds, but it is a great book for parents to read

aloud, even to younger kids) and *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh is a similar book. A clear theme that Lisa stresses over the interview is series. She says that series keep kids going, and I, as a two time winner of the read-a-thon, think books that keep you going are very, very, good if you want to win.

A hit at 192 Books this holiday season was *The Last Cuentista*. She says that this is a book for older grades, like 5th-7th, but if you want to give it a try, that's great. According to Lisa this is not a series but the author might make a second one because it is so popular.

As a former winner of his grade for the read-a-thon, Mitchell P. seemed to be ripe for book recommendations. He had plenty of suggestions, like *Artemis Fowl* and *The Fowl Twins*, both by Eoin Colfer (ages 8-10), *The Track Series (Ghost, Patricia, Sunny, Lu)* by Jason Reynolds (ages 9-10), and *Big Nate* by Lincoln Peirce (ages 6-10).

One last person who I think you should take a few recommendations from is Ms. Covington, a 5th grade teacher at P.S. 11, and a mom of two kids, with one in fourth grade, and one in second grade. She recommended a few books for older kids, more of the top grades of elementary school, including *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, a historical fiction novel about migrant farm workers, and *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill, a fantasy that "changed her mind about fantasy" for the better. Both books are

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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.

La maratón de lectura Recomendaciones

BY THEO DICKSON

La maratón de lectura se acerca, y vas a necesitar muchos libros geniales para leer si realmente quieres ganar

algo que te interese, sin importar en qué grado estés o qué género te guste.

Una persona increíble que creo que te dará excelentes recomendaciones es

después, cuando estaba escribiendo su ensayo universitario, insistió en escribir sobre Harry Potter. Según Lisa, los libros de Harry Potter pueden ser para niños de 8 años en adelante si son lectores fuertes, pero el contenido más maduro en los libros posteriores hace que piense que la edad de lectura promedio es de 10 años en adelante. Otras series geniales que recomienda para “mantener a los niños interesados” incluyen Vanderbeekers de Karina Yan Glaser (para edades de 8 a 10 años), Spy School de Stuart Gibbs (nuevamente, para edades de 8 a 10 años) y The Wild Robot de Peter Brown (similarmente, para edades de 7 a 9 años). También le encantan las Crónicas de Wildwood, pero son libros muy grandes, con alrededor de 500 páginas cada uno, así que los recomienda para quinto grado en adelante. Un gran libro para niños más pequeños es Dory Fantasmagory de Abby Hanlon. “Realmente es el tipo de libro del que los niños tienen que volver y obtener el segundo, y el tercero, y el cuarto, porque es un gran personaje”, dice Lisa, elogiando el libro. Según Lisa, 192 Books tiene hasta el libro #7 de la serie. Incluso yo, un estudiante de quinto grado, tengo que admitir que Dory Fantasmagory es una gran serie y es súper divertida, ya que la leí en segundo grado.



El autor y Lisa en 192 Books.

FOTO POR JEN DICKSON

esa competencia. ¿No tienes ningún libro para leer? No te preocupes, estoy aquí para ayudarte. Echa un vistazo a algunos de los libros que recomiendan y aman los ganadores anteriores de la maratón de lectura, los dueños de librerías y una maestra de quinto grado. Estoy seguro de que encontrarás

Lisa Knowlton, compradora de libros infantiles de 192 Books. Recomienda Harry Potter de J.K. Rowling como una elección “obvia”. Esto se debe a que su hijo, un buen lector al que no le gustaba leer, comenzó a leer Harry Potter y “realmente comenzó a leer”. También dice que muchos años

Lisa también recomienda algunos clásicos que a los niños y a sus padres todavía les encantan hoy. Dice que a veces es agradable leer estos con un padre, especialmente porque tienen palabras complejas y difíciles,

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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.

Living in the Specialty Teachers' Shoes

BY ZOI IOANNOU

Specialty teachers at P.S. 11 offer us so much outside of the classroom. From physical education, dance, art, music, theater, and computers, students get to learn about topics and find interests they are passionate about. Each of the specialty teachers has a unique way of teaching the kids. Each teacher also has their own unique story. This P.S. 11 reporter interviewed Rachel Wurman, dance teacher, as well as Enes Mernica (Mr. M.) and David Nichols, physical education and swim teachers.

Ms. Wurman sat in her dance studio at 7th period sharing how she got to P.S.11 ten years ago. She has been teaching in N.Y.C. public schools for 19 years (and 22 years total teaching dance). “I wanted to be on Broadway. I started out as a performer, and you need a second job as you try out for auditions. I worked at a restaurant and did not like that at all. I decided I would try to find some-

thing else that I could do that might be flexible while going on auditions. I got the idea to teach dance. I got a job at a studio. That one job turned into three jobs, and then turned into my career.”

Mr. M., swim coach and gym teacher, sat in a chair in a 5th floor hallway near classroom 509 and told me he got started four years ago at P.S. 11 in a different way. “When I finished college, I met a swim coach who offered me a job for a team called ‘The Badgers.’ I coached with them for six years, and then I went to school to be a teacher for physical education. I loved it, and here I am at P.S. 11. I get to work with Mr. Nichols, Mark, and the kids.”

Mr. Nichols sat in the laundry area by the pool while we talked. He said, “I’ve been at P.S. 11 for 26 years. It’s the whole community. The kids, the staff, the parents. That is what has kept me around for so long. Everyone is so nice.”

Over the span of the years that they’ve been teaching there have been some funny stories along the way. Mr. M. held his hands in the air to demonstrate his story: “We were playing with the first grade class with a parachute with kids holding it around the edges,” he said. “We had a student run under the parachute without being tapped. The parachute slipped from some kids fingers. It covered the kid like a ghost. The whole class laughed so much,” he said, smiling.

Ms. Wurman laughed when she told me her story. “Oh my gosh. This is a funny story,” she said. “One time a kid was taking off their shoes, and got confused and they thought they were in karate class, and they started taking off their pants. They were going to change clothes. I caught them really fast before it went too far.”

Getting to know these specialty teachers includes more than their work — I wanted to know about their interests, habits and favorite meals, too.

	Mr. M.	Mr. Nichols	Ms. Wurman
Favorite snack?	Cheese and crackers	Cookies	Reese’s Pieces peanut butter cups
Go-to karaoke song?	“Maniac”	“Don’t Stop Beleivin” by Journey	“What’s Love Got To Do With It?” by Tina Turner
Favorite movie?	“Interstellar” and “Toy Story,” tied	“Shawshank Redemption”	“Girls Just Want To Have Fun”
The way to your heart?	Food... and exercise	Kindness	Trying new things in class

The P.S.11 Green Team



PHOTO BY SAMUEL DOLGIN, ZOI IOANNOU AND ELEANOR HARTMAN

BY JONATHAN DOLGIN-KAHN

Hi, I'm Jonathan, and today I will be teaching you all about The Green Team at P.S. 11. The Green Team is a group of students that are working to help the environment led by Ms. Bruen.

The Green Team, to give an overly simplified explanation, is composed of eight fourth- and fifth-grade students passionate about the environment. Rivington B., a 4th grader, joined the club to "help the community." She worries about the harm people do to the environment and thinks that "P.S. 11 does not need to be a part of that."

Their latest (and so far only) event was "P.S. 11 Unplugged" on Wednesday, December 6th. Unplugged was an event that encouraged students and teachers to turn off the lights and appliances in their rooms. These are some of the objects that require a lot of energy. As students will remember, half the lights in the cafeteria were turned off during lunch.

If you don't know, energy is mostly produced by burning fossil fuels. They are a limited resource and are bad for the environment because they release CO₂, the primary greenhouse gas.

According to Ms. Bruen, the Green Team's first event was a smashing success. This is what Ms. Bruen thought of Unplugged: "Many teachers complained to me about passionate young kids reminding them to turn out the lights all day! It made me very proud." I don't know about you, but to me that seems like a big success. Also to the teachers who are reading this: sorry for you but I was one of the "young kids reminding them to turn off the lights..."

There are other, cleaner ways to make energy, such as hydroelectric power, a way to make energy via waterflow, and wind power, which is when you have a big turbine high in the sky and on the turbine there are blades that get spun by the wind to produce energy. Last but not least,

there is solar energy, which is derived from the sun.

Ms. Bruen has plans for solar energy including right here at P.S. 11. One of her plans is to add "solar panels to the new roof to supplement our energy usage."

So here is how YOU can help according to Ms. Bruen and the Green Team:

Stop using plastics that you're only going to use once

Turn off lights when out of the room

Grow plants in your garden, on your terrace, or in your window

Use reusable bottles/cups

Shop local for your food; go to farmers markets

Conserve water and energy

Educate the people around them to inspire lifestyle changes

Try to do at least some of these things and YOU can help the environment. Lilia V., a 4th grader, explains that part of why she joined the Green Team is because "Ms. Bruen is awesome." This reporter definitely agrees.

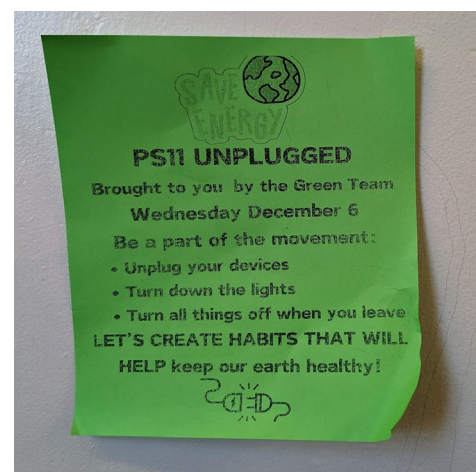


PHOTO BY SAMUEL DOLGIN, ZOI IOANNOU AND ELEANOR HARTMAN

Step, Slide, Turn, Turn, Turn.

BY TEA MAZETTI

Do you like to dance? If you're reading this newspaper, you're probably in P.S. 11. And if you are, once you're in 5th Grade, you'll get a chance to join the Dance Crew.

The Dance Crew is a group started by Ms. Wurman, the Dance teacher. The Dance Crew learns a dance that they will perform.

Every year there is a limit of 10 to 12 kids. This year the Dance Crew is made up of 11 fifth-grade girls and one fifth-grade boy. Because there can only be a limited number of students in the Dance Crew, Ms. Wurman holds auditions for any fifth grade students who want to try out during their lunch period. Ms. Wurman told me that she looks for students who are coordinated and can learn choreography quickly. She also looks for kids who use their full body when performing, have lots of energy and stage-presence, and want to make the time commitment.

Bella D. is a fifth grader who is in the Dance Crew this year. She said she auditioned because of her love and passion for dance.

The Dance Crew practices in the Dance Studio at P.S. 11 during their lunch periods. If you have had a dance class at P.S. 11, you have been in the dance studio. It's a big space on the fifth floor with wooden floors and mirrors on one wall so that you can watch your dance moves. If you're in third grade, you may pass by it since your classroom is on the same floor.

Ms. Wurman makes up the dances that the Dance Crew performs. When asked about her inspiration for the dances she said, "There are so many ways choreographers are inspired to make up their dances. For me, my inspiration comes from music. Sometimes I find a song that inspires all sorts of movement possibilities. There have also been times where I choose a song because I want to choreograph to that specific artist."

Ms. Wurman started the Dance Crew in 2014. She said, "At my old

school, I had a dance company. I wanted to create one at P.S. 11 when I began working here as well, but the previous P.S. 11 dance teacher was not involved in the school performances. When the timing seemed right, I proposed the idea to Mr. Bender. The Dance Crew is an opportunity to help a small group of talented dancers improve and advance their technique and skills." Back then it was called the P.S. 11 Dance Company.

The Dance Crew has had some challenges. For instance, sometimes a dancer is selected who doesn't want to work hard, or would

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PHOTO BY MS. WURMAN

What We'll Miss Most - 5th Graders Say Goodbye

BY HANNAH DAILEY

Have you ever wondered what the 5th graders at our school loved and will miss the most when they leave? Well, I'm going to answer those questions. I'm a 5th grader, and I separately interviewed 14 other P.S.11 5th graders to learn more about this.

There were many different answers. They ranged from "friends," to "3rd grade," and also stuff like "the shows" and "the sense of community you feel here." Specifically, Izabel (Izzy) K. said, "All my friends and all the times we hung out." Anna I. and Ariella H. agreed with her.

Friends came up in a total of seven interviews — that's half of them all!

But Anna I. also told me she'll miss the "fun and inclusive teaching." And Alexandra W. went further as to say, "all the people and love they have." Mirabelle L. and Abigail S. thought about the food and said that they'll miss the mozzarella sticks in the cafeteria.

Some said they would miss the extra activities. Hana N. said she would miss literally all the shows, field trips and teachers, and Ariel, L. and Arysa R. also both mentioned the plays and field trips. Ariel L. said, "I'll miss so much and it's really hard to decide, but I'll have to go with seeing the 5th grade show!" Arysa R. agreed, too.

Some named many things, like Eden L., who couldn't really truly decide. "My friends, the teachers, the class, the community and all the shows, too!" she said

Some named one specific thing — without explaining further, both Seth W. and Dylan B. said they would miss 3rd grade the most.

And then Emma P. said she would miss "the community and the love we have for each other."

One of the longer answers was from Ava P. She said, "I'll miss the amount of patience and kindness every single teacher has with all the kids, and all my friends and hang-

ing out with them at recess, even when we were in different classes. Also, the activities and all the P.S.11-specific things, like D.C., the pool, Rosie's, and the shows. And every morning the teachers come in with a smile."

The last interview was with Scarlett M., and she said she would miss everything. "Everything about P.S. 11 is great and I'm going to miss all of it!"

All in all, we'll miss basically everything about P.S. 11 and all the people. My advice to you is to make the most of your time at P.S. 11. As a fifth grader myself, I completely agree that 3rd grade will be missed. I also have appreciated how funny Principal Bob Bender is and how hard he, Ms. Rosevear, and Ms. Gregov work every day for us.

I am a little nervous to go to middle school, but my friends and I are already planning ways to visit P.S. 11 after we leave!

Step, Slide, Turn continued

rather have their recess time. The biggest challenge was the year after the Covid pandemic when Ms. Wurman had to keep the dancers six feet apart. Ms. Wurman said, "We had to split the dance crew in half and created two crews. Also, that year, we couldn't perform for our community because indoor audiences were not permitted. So we wound up filming our dance crews in the auditorium and sharing the videos via ClassDojo. We've actually kept up the tradition of filming

and sharing our work on ClassDojo every year since."

Even though there are challenges sometimes, there are lots of good things about it. "As a choreographer and artist, it is really fun and satisfying to work with more advanced dancers," Ms. Wurman said. "Plus, since our P.S. 11 stage is so small, the number of dancers we can have in our crew has to also be small. Working for a whole year with a small group of dancers is so special. We become like a mini family."

Bella D. said, "The Dance Crew has increased my confidence and has pushed me even more to try new things." She has also learned different types of dance moves. "I didn't know there were so many different types of pirouettes," she said.

In the Dance Crew, you can learn to dance better. "I definitely see myself dancing in the future professionally," Bella said. "Any dance opportunity there is, I'll go for it."

Girls Run for Fun



BY GAELLE GOUNY

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA JONES

Have you ever run a 5K? Well, I have with my friends and about 350 people. It was very hard. Everybody was soaked in sweat, but it was fun and a good experience. In this article you will learn about the 5K race and what it took to get there.

Girls on the Run is an afterschool program where you spend time with other girls and learn to build confidence and of course, run. We call “Girls on the Run” G-O-T-R for short. GOTR began in 1996 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and now it’s all over the world. The program started in the fall of 2013 at PS11 and this semester there were sixteen girls registered.

I joined GOTR because I enjoy running, I wanted to make friends, and I wanted to spend more time with some girls. I interviewed Lena O. and Penelope S. about why they wanted to join the program. Lena said, “I joined because I needed

something active to do and I wanted to be around other girls for afterschool.” Penelope said she joined, “mostly because of Lena. I wanted to be with Lena since we aren’t in the same class this year. So we decided we’d do the same afterschool. And my dad read the blurb and he was like, ‘Oh my God, this is perfect. It’s how girls support girls, it’s only girls, and you love running!’”

I also interviewed two of my coaches, Kenzie Hagan and Sophie Barry, about why they joined GOTR when they were kids. Coach Sophie said, “I did Girls on the Run in Greensboro, North Carolina, when I was in third grade. It was a new program at my elementary school. I always loved running in recess and in gym class so I decided to do Girls on the Run. Some of my friends also did it with me which made it fun!” Coach Kenzie said, “I participated as a 3rd grader with one of my friends. I remember learning about confidence and self-talk, but the memory that

sticks with me the most from being a Girl on the Run was how proud I felt after crossing the finish line of my first ever 5K!”

In training, we practice for a five kilometer race (5K), which is the same as 3.1 miles. We train twice a week because if we only trained once a week we would not be getting stronger. Running is hard even when we are training. I asked Penelope if running is hard and she said “For me, running is not hard when I’m refreshed, but it’s hard when I’m really tired. When I just start running, I feel free.”

Normally on Tuesdays we run with a buddy, but I don’t like running with a buddy because when I talk, it takes my energy away. I interviewed Lena and I asked her if it helps to run with somebody else. She said “Yes, it does, because it takes my mind off running and I can just have fun and talk.”

Every time we train, we have a new lesson, then we make a lap goal and don’t stop running until we meet our lap goal. At the end of training, we fill in our notebooks how many laps we ran, but what’s most important is filling out the lesson. For example, one lesson was about our “starpower.” A starpower is something that makes you feel confident and able to do more things. If your starpower is not activated it will be harder to do many things and it will feel like there is a cloud covering you. The lesson we had to fill in our notebooks was how somebody could activate your starpower and something that you could do to activate your starpower. One example of a starpower is friends, because they make you feel welcome and

brighten your day, which will activate your starpower. That helped us run because starpower makes us stronger, happier, and faster.

After training for three months, we did the 5K race. The race was at Randall's Island. You had to have a partner to run the race with and the partner had to be above the age of 18. At the beginning and end of the race there was a marching band with drums. The band was very loud and encouraging. There were also volunteers and activities like taking pictures, face painting, music, games and making posters to cheer on the runners.

The race started around 10:30 am. It was hot (for December) and a little foggy. There was a water stand with volunteers in the middle of the race. Throughout the race, there were people cheering and encouraging us. Thankfully there was a beautiful view. It was a view of the East River with all of the trees and flowers and every time I looked in that direction, I felt like I was flying!

All the kids who participated in the GOTR program had the number one on their race bibs and got medals at the finish line. After, they gave out water, bananas, and bagels and you could hang out with your friends. I wanted to know my friends' perspective of the race so I asked, "Was the race hard and why?" Lena said "Yes, it was hard because I did not know how far I ran or how much I had to run and that stressed me out."

I was wondering if training and racing were the same when my coaches were kids so I asked them. Coach Sophie said, "GOTR has remained very consistent with its mis-

sion in encouraging girls to be kind and stay active. My experience was a little different as I did not grow up in a city so we ran on our school's campus. While the material has changed a bit, again, the mission remains the same."

In GOTR you don't only run, you also learn how to build confidence in yourself, make more friends, communicate better with other girls and so many other things. There are some kids who don't enjoy running as much as others, and that's why the coaches will encourage you. I wanted to know why my coaches wanted to coach. Coach Kenzie said, "I moved back to NYC this year after being away for five years and I was looking for a new community to be a part of and for a meaningful vol-

unteer opportunity. I love the GOTR program and was excited to make an impact on the P.S. 11 girls team!" Coach Sophie said, "Doing the program as a kid definitely gave different meaning to being a coach as I know how much it impacted me. I am a lifelong runner and sharing my love for the sport while being able to guide and coach others is so inspiring to me!"

After the race, I felt really tired and like I couldn't breathe, but it was also very fun. Overall I felt mostly proud and happy. When I asked Penelope how she felt after the race she said, "Hot, tired and sweaty. Oh, and also excited. I was excited because I just ran a 5K—3.1 miles, but I was hot and sweaty and tired because I just ran a 5K!"



PHOTO BY JULIA GOUNY

Third Graders continued

big dance number, and the hardest part was getting the notes on the last song.”

Harper also really enjoyed the show but there were a few things she felt were a tiny bit embarrassing.

Because we had done the Second Grade show (“We’re Swamped”), we knew how the process goes to rehearse. Third grader Marlowe agreed and said, “I was nervous and also excited because this wasn’t my first time doing a show.”

So many kids were so excited to perform!

When I spoke to Sloane, a third grader, she told me, “my favorite parts were speaking parts and the hardest part for me was staying on beat. The easiest part was my line, and the real show was more stressful because if we made a mistake, there would be an audience watching.”

I agree that the audience was also the most stressful part for me. Also,

for kids like me and Caroline in third grade, it was more than just a show.

For example, third grader Sophie explained, “I think the show is good because everyone gets their own part and that’s awesome”

Jacob, a third grader, said, “I think it was pretty good. I liked how all the songs were about gratitude. And the easiest part was the big dance number.”

Everyone thought the big dance number was the easiest part (and it was for me too). The big dance number, as you probably remember, was one of the highlights of the show, and it was also one of my favorites! This was the part where kids danced in the aisle and on stage. On this song, the lights even turned on! It was the easiest because we practiced this song the most, we liked the song, and no one was singing it so we could concentrate on our dance moves.

Parker, who was also in the show, agreed, “How we were able to get it together in two and a half months

was awesome. And I liked how much applause there was at the end of the show. The easiest part was learning the class dances. The hardest part was learning the big dance number.”

I wasn’t expecting that much applause either.

It was interesting to hear from some of our specialty teachers about how they designed the show. Ms. Kost explained that they chose gratitude because we were performing just before Thanksgiving. She said the songs were all selected to be the same pace and fit third graders’ voices.

Ms. Sarah told me that she made the call not to have kids sing in the big dance number because it was hard to sing.

We are so lucky to have these amazing teachers to help us with the show!

Thank you for reading my article, and if you watched the third grade show, I hope you liked it.

Read-a-thon continued

categorized as the same age group, 4th-5th graders, and I think both are great choices to read.

I know I told you that Ms. Covington was the last person you’d be getting recommendations from, but I would actually like to give a few recommendations myself, as a two time winner of the read-a-thon. For my 2nd grade win, I was into *Dory Fantasmagory*, a great series that was talked about above, so I’ll give you a few other recommendations to share with you. For younger kids, around 1st - 2nd grade, I recommend *Cap-*

tain Underpants and *Dog Man*, both by Dav Pilkey. These books really start kids up with silly concepts and fun reading, and although we didn’t have a read-a-thon when I was in first grade, that didn’t stop me from reading it all the time. As a 2nd and 3rd grader, *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer and its spin-offs were the best. A fantasy series, you jump into the classic fairy tales along with Alex and Conner, the two protagonists. A six book long immersive series, kids will just keep reading and reading these books – that special “series factor” as Lisa explained above. Last, but **definitely** not least, I will introduce you

to the *Percy Jackson* series, an all time favorite of mine, and all of Rick Riordan’s side series, too. Based on Greek mythology, but set in modern times, Percy Jackson is your average kid, until he finds out he is a demigod. By reading this series, you join Percy and his demigod friends on seemingly impossible quests. But beware: this series includes danger, secrets, and treachery! I recommend these series for grades 3 - 5, but people of all ages have come to like it.

As a final thought, I’ll give you some insights from Shelley O’Sul-

continued on the next page

Spotlight on Ms. Debbie



BY PENELOPE SIMON

The Farmers' Market at P.S. 11 is more than 15 years old. Ever wonder about one of the original founders? We'll find out by interviewing Ms. Debbie, hearing about how she started the Farmers' Market, learning what she loves about her job, and how things have changed over the years.

I started by asking Ms. Debbie why she started the Farmers' Market and what makes her so passionate about it. "Mr. Bender and I started it about 17 or 18 years ago. We wanted to teach kids about where their food comes from, and then we

also started the farming trip," she told me. She explained that she started all this so everyone could see where all the vegetables at the farmers' markets come from. "It makes a really strong connection when you actually go to the farm. You meet the people who are growing this food. You can see where it is all grown. You can see what it looks like to harvest something. Actually seeing how that food comes out of the ground and comes to us is just a nice connection to make between selling the food and buying food and knowing that it's grown somewhere." I was also curious about what happens to the money raised from the P.S. 11 Farmers' Market. "We use our farm market method: we use the money to buy more vegetables to sell at the farmers' market, all of the money that we get goes right back into the farmers' market," she told me.

Then I asked Ms. Debbie if she ever wondered what it was like to be a kid selling at the Farmers' Market. "I think I would have loved to have this opportunity. I don't know if I would have appreciated it when I was eight years old. But I think now as a grown up, I would have loved to have had the opportunity to learn about healthy food earlier and to

know where my food came from to develop an appreciation for farmers' and how hard they work." A positive impact Ms. Debbie noticed since starting the Farmers' Market is that kids are "more about vegetables and have better diets today. Or they're paying attention to the kinds of foods that they're eating, eating more vegetables than the kids were when we first started."

Even though Ms. Debbie spends a lot of time focused on vegetables, she still understands the importance of ice cream! When I asked her what she would do if she were principal for a day, she said, "I would have a big meeting with the kids and find out what *they* wanted to do. I would probably give them ice cream."

From the start I wanted to interview Ms. Debbie. Anyone with the nickname "Crazy Chicken Lady" is definitely worth understanding better. Before the interview, I knew Ms. Debbie from working at the Farmers' Market in the third grade, and from participating in afterschool for a couple of years. It was awesome to interview Ms. Debbie and I'm glad I did, because now I'm even more impressed with just how much she does for P.S. 11!

Read-a-thon continued

livan, a fifth grade mom who helps run the Read-a-thon. To get you hyped, I'll now reveal some prizes that kids loved most, and the amount of minutes that past winners have read. Some of the most loved prizes that winners of Read-a-thon have won are gift cards to local stores and shops, like: Billy's

Bakery, Van Leeuwen ice cream, and many more. Drum roll, please! The winner for first grade last year read.... 1,542 minutes! The winner for second grade last year read.... 1,800 minutes! The winner for third grade last year read.... 3,447 minutes! The winner for fourth grade last year read.... 4,154 minutes! The winner for fifth grade last

year read.... 5,640 minutes! Crazy, huh? You think you can live up to that? Well, you'd better try! A tip that Shelley gives to us as a truly final thought is that you should not only think about how many minutes you are reading, but how you should just enjoy reading. "But most importantly...." O'Sullivan says. "HAVE FUN!"

Operation: Locker Room

BY ELEANOR HARTMAN

Do you want to find out more about the locker rooms that have been changed? Read on for the full story of the new locker rooms and how they have changed in a better way. It will be like you are picturing everything that has happened as we explore the construction of the new locker rooms.

Before I wrote this article, I had heard that the new locker rooms had new stalls and that the school had replaced some of the showers. I also heard that the locker rooms before had only a few stalls and that the boys had to change in front of each other.



PHOTO BY ELEANOR HARTMAN

Mr. Bender told me that they designed the new locker rooms so the boys could have more privacy because the girls had an awful lot of space and covering. He also said the construction took about a year. When I asked him about his opinion about the whole project he said, “The old locker room for the boys was awful. It was one big room with no privacy, and now the boys have as much privacy as the girls.”

A lot of students I interviewed said they thought that the old locker rooms were disgusting, that they smelled bad, and that cockroaches crawled beneath the stalls. When I asked them about the new locker rooms, they told me that you get a lot of privacy since they added curtains, you can declutter your space since they added storage bins, and that it feels comfortable. I also asked them if there was anything they wished they would have done differently. A few of them said they wished they cleaned the locker rooms a bit more thoroughly because they noticed little nooks and crannies covered with dirt. One boy said he didn’t want to change anything. He was practically delighted with the new design.

I also interviewed Mr. Nichols, and he said students can help care for the locker rooms by cleaning up their stuff and turning off the showers. I also asked about his opinion. He said he loved the showers in the boys’ room and liked that they added curtains in the girls’ area.

As an investigative journalist, I was allowed to go in the boys’ locker

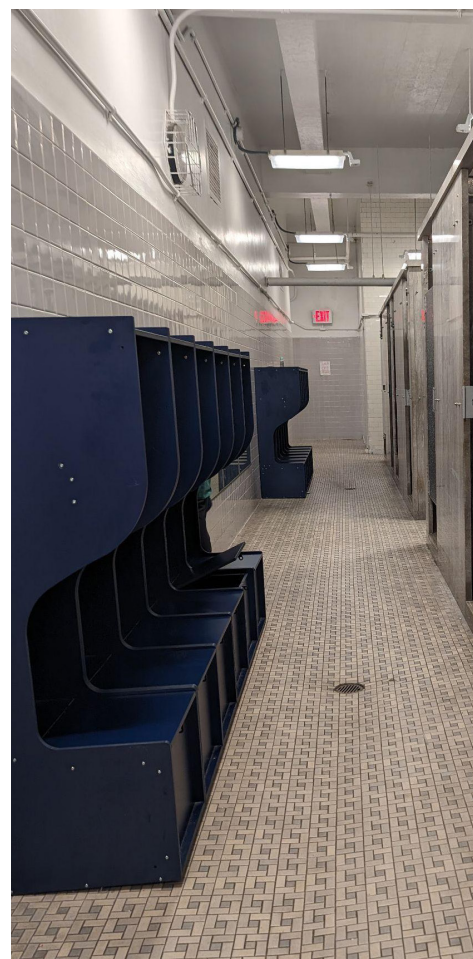


PHOTO BY ELEANOR HARTMAN

rooms when no one else was there. First there were storage bins lined against a wall, and then changing stalls and hooks. After that there were tiles that had been changed and a changing stall. In that stall, there used to be no wall between it and the bathrooms. Next were the showers, which are much better than the girls’, in my opinion. They’re smooth and shiny and clean.

In conclusion, the locker rooms have been renovated so students, both boys and girls, can be comfortable while they’re changing. And, like Mr. Nichols said, we can take care of them by cleaning up our stuff and turning off the showers. So take care of the locker rooms and always remember the work that went into the renovations.

Why Was Chocolate Milk Banned at P.S. 11?

BY ALICE COX

Have you ever wondered why there was chocolate milk at P.S.11 and then there was not? It was banned in 2015 by Principal Bender.

When I asked him what made him ban chocolate milk from being served in the cafeteria, he said it was because of the amount of “high fructose corn syrup. It leads to type two diabetes and high blood pressure.”

Principal Bender also checked in with his colleagues at other elementary schools to see if they allow chocolate milk. Some of his colleagues said “sometimes,” another colleague said “once a week,” and some other colleagues said “no.” Schools have to give students regular milk, but not chocolate milk. My sister, who goes to M.S.104, told me that “we do have chocolate milk, but not regularly.” Schools have given students regular milk, but not chocolate milk. A few years ago, the NYC

Department of Health published a chocolate milk guide encouraging principals to “choose plain milk, not chocolate milk, for your school” and it gave them instructions on how they could opt out of having chocolate milk available at their schools. Given Principal Bender’s colleagues’ responses, it seems many schools have opted out of serving chocolate milk, or at least only serve it once in a while.

According to a recent National Geographic article, chocolate milk is known to be a good post-workout recovery drink because it replaces sugar and milk and is good for your bones. WebMD says that it is good for bone health and for muscle mass and endurance because it is a good source of protein. Chocolate milk does have 24 grams of sugar, compared to 12 grams of sugar in whole milk, so it is less healthy. I also checked in with a third grade student at P.S.11, who said, “Yes, we should have chocolate milk because a lot



PHOTO BY ALICE COX

of kids like it.” She recommends it should be given at lunch three times per week. My opinion is that if we can find a healthier version of chocolate milk, we should be allowed to have it occasionally in school—maybe once a month. When I asked Principal Bender if he would consider lifting the ban if a healthier version of chocolate milk was found, he said yes. In the meantime, you can bring it in yourself, have it after school or on the weekend!

P.S. 11 Post Riddles by Nora and Zoi

A king, queen, and their children are having dinner in a circle house. The queen takes the children to bed. When the queen returns, she finds the king dead in his chair. She questions the servants. The cook said he was cooking a dish for the king. The king had requested an elaborate dish and the cook said it took him some time. By the time the cook had finished the dish, he found the king dead. The cook showed the dish as evidence. The maid said she was sweeping in the corners, and the butler said he was on break for two hours. The queen checked the schedule, and he was right. Who killed the king?

Answer: The maid. There are no corners in a circle house.

Imagine you’re in a room with no doors or windows. The walls, ceiling, and floor are steel. How do you get out?

Answer: Stop imagining.

Name three consecutive (in a row) days without naming Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

Answer: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Melanie Gomez: P.S. 11 Parent and Costume Designer

BY
CORINNA GRANATA RUTTENBERG

Some of the most important parts of a musical are the costumes. For our school musicals, all of the cos-

tumes since 2020 have been designed by the artist Melanie Gomez, a P.S.11 parent. At Gomez's art studio, just a few blocks away from school, she creates all of the costumes for the P.S.11 plays. The space

is filled with her art and buckets of materials. There is also a sewing machine, which will soon be busy at work making the costumes for *The Addams Family* musical.

The first costume Gomez worked on was *Shrek*, in 2016. In 2020, when her daughter Chloe played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, she started to make every costume. "For me as an artist, it was such a moment where I could lose myself and be a child again," Gomez said. "It's whimsical for me to create those beautiful costumes... When I'm doing art, I feel like I'm doing a very serious thing. But when I do costumes, I'm having so much fun."

When I asked Gomez to recall some of her favorite costumes, she mentioned two amazing items from *Frozen*: a corset and a cape, both worn by Elsa. "Last year I made a corset, but instead of making it with fabric I made it with little papers like my sculptures. I posted little papers and I glued them on the corset, so it was really shiny. That was one of my favorite costumes."

Gomez also recounted what made her cape special. "A challenge that was also very fun was making the Elsa cape. When Elsa was singing 'Let it Go' she did this to her cape." Gomez imitated ripping off a cape and throwing it on the floor. "I had to come up with something that would make the cape get off very easily from her," she continued. "But also when she walked, you couldn't see



PHOTO BY CORINNA GRANATA RUTTENBERG

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Behind the Scenes at the P.S. 11 Post

BY ABBY NOY

Have you ever wondered who the volunteers are behind this newspaper? Who are the parents coming to school early every Wednesday to make it happen? What keeps them coming back? I interviewed some volunteers to find out.

This edition was put out by 15 kids and seven adults. The kids are the reporters, which means that they come up with the ideas and write the stories. The adult volunteers (Jay Ruttenberg, Kirstin McCudden, Maya Kremen, Teresa Edleston, Julia Gouny, Jen Dickson and Ali Ianouzzo and Igor Pušenjaj who handles creative and layout) are a team of editors and coaches, which means that they help the reporters develop their story ideas and organize which



PHOTO BY MAX NOY

kids work on which edition. I spoke to three of these volunteers to find out more.

Teresa Edleston is an editor for the Post and I asked her what being an

editor means to her. She said, “I have lots and lots of fun because I get an insight into kids’ minds.” She has been doing it for six years. She first found out about P.S.11 Post when her son Milo came home and said that he wanted to write for it. “I did not know that I would be here for six years,” she said. “I just thought that I can maybe help a little bit. When I walked into the library and saw all of the kids’ faces I felt overwhelmed, but the kids had great ideas and were very welcoming to Milo and I.” Teresa also likes that the Post is not just for the school—it is for the public, for neighbors, and people in our community who pass by our school.

Kirstin McCudden is a journalist in her day job and also a parent volunteer editor for the P.S.11 Post. “My daughters do not do the Post anymore,” she said, “but I love working with the young journalists because every session is kind of incredible, watching and hearing the things that you are interested in!” One article



PHOTO BY MAX NOY

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Animal Abuse Must Stop



Maddy and her foster dog Terry

PHOTO BY JESSICA ZABARKUS

BY MATIAS STADLER & VIKRAM RAO

We share our planet with some amazing animals, and the abuse of these beautiful creatures makes us sad and devastated. We both love animals, and became interested in this topic after one of us adopted kittens whose pregnant mother had been rescued off the streets.

Animal cruelty ranges from neglect and abandonment to intentional harm. According to the Humane Society of the United States, animal cruelty includes “intentional, malicious acts of

animal abuse, and less clear-cut situations where the needs of an animal are neglected.”

We interviewed Maddy Z., a fellow fifth grader who is vegetarian and fosters a lot of animals with her little brother, Tyler (2nd grade), Mom, and Dad. Her mother is vegan. Maddy became vegetarian because she didn’t like how animals are treated. She states, “I don’t like how animals aren’t treated fairly and I think animals should be treated with the same respect as humans are.” We asked her what she thinks would help about the

situation of animal cruelty and she responded, “no more animal maltreatment. Also, it would be great if people did not kill animals.” She and her family are also fostering a beautiful and wonderful mixed breed dog named Terry, who was rescued from a kill shelter in Georgia. A kill shelter is an animal shelter that accepts all animals, regardless of age or health, but they often euthanize (painlessly kill) animals if they cannot be cared for because of space or health reasons.

We also interviewed Alma Reynoso, who leads a cat rescue organization in New Jersey named Purrfect Companion (www.findyourcatpanion.org). We asked her what she thought could make the world better for animals and she said, “this is both a very easy and hard question at the same time. Easy because there’s not one thing – there’s so much we can all do, and that’s what might make it challenging. I think the thing we can all do is care, and show that we care with our actions. Supporting and helping organizations that do good, and stirring away from any that directly, or indirectly, cause harm for their own gains.”

If you live in or in the vicinity of Chelsea, you might want to volunteer for an animal rescue and adoption organization called Bideawee. Bideawee is located on 24th between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

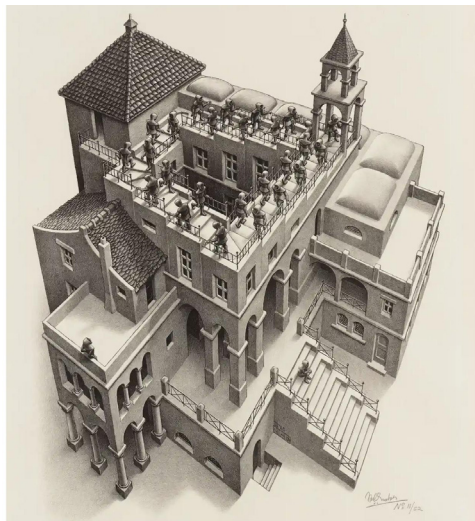
Hey, you!
Our Furry Friend
Terry the Dog
is up for adoption!

Visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/terry-dubrow>

Are You Sure? Check Again.

BY SANA SIRA KAWASAKI

Do you know what optical illusions are? They are figures, drawings, or rooms that trick the mind, and this



Ascending and Descending.

article is all about them. If you ever wondered if there are illusions in everyday life, this is the perfect article for you. If you haven't, that's okay because your brain is about to read something that will change your point of view. I interviewed Ms. Bruen, added my own thoughts from when I went to the Museum of Illusions, and

interviewed a painter to find out more about optical illusions.

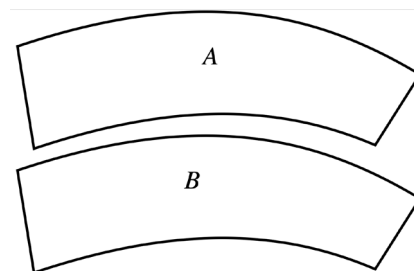
Ms. Bruen is the Science teacher. She has been teaching at P.S. 11 for 20 years and you all probably know her. First, I asked her if our eyes will get smarter if we see illusions. She said that illusions will change how you see things and possibly make your eyes smarter, but in reality, it's just that you understand the illusion better the second time you see it. I've always wondered if you can believe everything you see. Talking to Ms. Bruen made me realize that your eyes can be tricked easily and you quickly notice you didn't see what you thought you saw. And last but not least I asked her what her favorite illusion is and she said it's the drawings by M.C. Escher. He creates art using impossible illusions, ones that cannot exist physically in the world that are impossible to build, but possible to draw.

Next, I interviewed my painter friend Alex Dodge. Alex has been an artist for his whole life. I asked him



Hard Times for Soft Power (summer abandon), 2022 by Alex Dodge

if he thought his paintings trick the mind. He had a nice, long answer with a lot of information. He agrees that his paintings trick people's eyes. For example, he has a painting called "Hard Times for Soft Power," and it looks puffy and soft that you can almost hug it, but it's a painting on a flat canvas. Alex describes his art as a semi-controlled collision between the physical and virtual worlds. In much simpler words, he brings together things from the real world and the computer world and blends them together. An illusion that really helps Alex in his artwork to make his paintings look 3D is perspective. Perspective is when you find a vanishing point and make a drawing of a solid object on a two dimensional surface.



Jastrow illusion

Finally, I went to the Museum of Illusions. There were a lot of illusions, rooms that made you dizzy, and illusions that you can interact with. One that I really liked was the Jastrow Illusion because it really confuses you and I was amazed by how it worked. There are two shapes that are exactly the same size, but one of them appears to be shorter because of how the shape is curved and placed next to each other.

Now you know that illusions aren't just something cool; it made me see that you can find illusions unexpectedly because although we typically do not realize it, optical illusions come up in our everyday lives through the media, art, and in science too!

The Chelsea Chilifest

BY VIVIEN KECK AND LENA OLIM

On November 11, Chelsea Market did their annual Chilifest. What's a Chilifest, you might be asking? Well, it is an annual event where Chelsea Market shops will make chili and people can vote for their three favorite chilis.

The Chilifest was held on 15th Street between 9th & 10th Avenues from 12-5pm. The eight contestants were competing to donate the money raised that day to their chosen charity. And that turned out to be a lot of money! Here are all the charities that the restaurants were donating to:

Dickson's Farmstand Meats → P.S. 11
 Creamline → God's Love We Deliver
 Hot Bread Kitchen → Hot Bread Kitchen
 Lolo's Seafood Shack → Legacy Network Program of the James Beard Foundation
 Chote Miya → City Harvest
 Very Fresh Noodles → Cho Commands
 Honeybunny's Chicken → Harlem Grow
 Rethink Food → Rethink Food

It was a pretty cold and sunny fall day, and it was busy. There were lots of people, and so much happening. There was even a band! During their break we asked the bassist what genre of music he was playing and he told us, "Bluegrass, which is Kentucky music that originated from Irish folk. The instruments in the band are a mandolin, a fiddle, a banjo, a guitar and a bass."

For games and entertainment, there was a giant picture frame, a giant Jenga, a giant Connect Four, and a giant checkers game. You could even milk a wooden cow!

Now, back to the food. The chilis all smelled interesting (and spicy) which is why we didn't actually try

chili was spicy-ish, and also that it took hours to make and they added shrimp, a very unusual chili ingredient. Hot Bread Kitchen is an organization that serves food to immigrant women. Their chili had medium spice and took about nine days to make. Creamline used all local ingredients and tried to keep it simple and classic. "It's a comfort food," they told us. Their charity's purpose is to give food to people in need of help.



The Winning Chili

PHOTO BY TERESA EDLESTON

them. Instead, we interviewed the people making the chili at every single stand. We used our parents' chips to cast our votes. We based our votes on the fundraisers listed above. Guess who we voted for! If you guessed Dickson's, the P.S. 11 donors, you are correct.

We interviewed all the contestants. We learned that Rethink Food took one week to make their chili, and they told us they'd made it not spicy. The guys at Lolo's told us their

Dickson's Farmstand Meats actually founded the Chelsea Chilifest and this was their 8th year! Their chili is a classic flavor with a twist. Dickson's chili took around one day and one night to make. Chote Maya had really spicy chili. In fact they told us, in their opinion, that this was the spiciest of them all. Unfortunately, this was the one we both decided to try. Chote Miya is an Indian restaurant. Their chili was creamy and spicy. Next, Honeybunny's Chicken

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The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street... Is It Worth the Read?

BY SOFIA CALASCIBETTA

When it's time to go to the library to check out a new book, and you're wondering what is something that can keep you interested so that you want to read more, check out *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*. This book is a great choice if you want to have some laughs and experience five kids on a journey right here in New York City.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street is a book about adventure and hope. This is a cheerful family filled with love and motivation, but is this a book worth reading? Author Karina Yan Glaser wrote this popular first book and started strong. A fifth-grade student at P.S. 11, Dionellis B., is a fan herself. "I love how every sibling is different in their own way," she said.

The Vanderbeekers are a happy family living their happy life. They are a family of seven: two parents, four girls, and one boy. Together, they create a story filled with teamwork, motivation, and the feeling of love going around.

Their landlord, Mr. Beiderman, lives upstairs and is trying to evict them. And around Christmas time,



PHOTO BY SOFIA CALASCIBETTA

no less. All they want is to be in their home for New Year's Day. They try many ways to convince him, but they run into roadblocks along the way. As they try to overcome their problems, they discover another side to their landlord.

This is a unique story that takes place in New York City. While the book is 300 pages, it goes by fast.

This year is Jay Ruttenberg's third year at P.S. 11 Post and his job is to coach the kids. He wrote for a newspaper in high school. "Not many other schools in New York have a newspaper," Jay said. He also thinks that it is a great way to connect with your school and gain more writing skills. Jay has a few favorite articles, with

I did not want to put it down. Also, the map at the beginning of the book helps you visualize the story and their community, and this makes reading the book more delightful and heartwarming. I also enjoy the strong emotions in the book.

I know every book can't be perfect for everybody, and this book can be a little bit dark and a little bit sad sometimes. But it's meant to help you understand what someone is going through. While we run into some people who aren't always nice, we should still treat them with kindness and be sympathetic.

Even though this book is popular, is it actually good? Well, it is! While reading it, you feel like you're in the book. It has happy times and some funny times but also some sad times and if a book makes you feel the emotions coming and going throughout the story, that is the characteristic of a great book. It also has great characters. This book is also for lots of levels. The Vanderbeekers is for ages 7-11 so it won't feel too hard, nor too easy. Also, The Vanderbeekers is a series, so if you enjoy the first book, there is more to read!

P.S. 11 Post continued

that stood out for Kirstin is the one about the Fifth Grade Trip. She did not know much about it at the time. "Something I thought was funny is that there was a juice machine at the hotel and, in the morning, all the kids went down to drain it all! I thought that it sounded really fun."

one of them being about Mr. Bender's Secret Elevator.

I hope you learned something new about the P.S. 11 Post. I learned that the Post is not just for us; it is for our local community, too. I learned that there are many different jobs for

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Spelling Bee continued

ers so the words will range between 4th and 8th grade words. That means that the 8th graders have the advantage. From there, 12 students out of 57 proceed to the citywide Spelling Bee, and then the winners go on to the state and National competitions. Whoever wins the National Spelling Bee wins a \$50,000 cash prize! Now that's something to motivate you! But the words get really intense. "Autochthonous" (we can not even pronounce that!) was the winning word for the National Spelling Bee in 2004. In 1999, the winning word was "logorrhea".

We spoke to Vikram, the winner of the school Spelling Bee and asked him what he thought about the other finalists and he replied, "I think they

studied really hard and all earned their place in the finals." We also asked how he felt and he said, "I felt really nervous the night before, and maybe I was overthinking it on the stage. It is a little overwhelming being in front of all those people."

There are clear rules for the Spelling Bee. The pronouncers say the word twice. You then repeat the word, spell it and then say it again. If you don't repeat the word before or after doing this, you are disqualified (that's how one of us, Lena, crashed out!). Of course, you will also be disqualified if you spell the word wrong. When we interviewed Shelly, a P.S. 11 parent and one of the pronouncers, she said, "It was really hard to tell kids they were disqualified when they had worked and stud-

ied so hard." She also said that Spelling Bee prep this school year started a little later (late October instead of September) because nobody knew for sure if the event was even going to happen or not.

Finally, for any students who want to someday join the Spelling Bee, we have to give you this warning: it makes you feel very nervous, but in a good way. You feel like your stomach wants to crawl out of your mouth and into another dimension, but it also gives you a real thrill. We learned that there's fun in trying and you don't always have to get everything you want. We recommend starting in fourth grade because then you can get a second try in fifth grade. That's what we're going to be doing! Who wants to join us?

Can you guess the Mystery Person

BY SAMUEL SHODAL



Here's how this game works: we interviewed a random teacher at P.S. 11, and you have to figure out who we talked to based on their answers to the questions below. You ready?

PS11 Post: Where were you born?

Mystery Person: Niskayuna, NY

PS11 Post: Who was the president when you were born?

Mystery Person: George H.W. Bush

PS11 Post: What are your hobbies?

Mystery Person: My favorite thing to do is read at the beach!

PS11 Post: What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Mystery Person: Black Raspberry

PS11 Post: Do you have kids?

Mystery Person: No.

PS11 Post: What did you want to be when you were a child?

Mystery Person: A teacher!

PS11 Post: Are you married?

Mystery Person: No.

PS11 Post: How many pets do you have?

Mystery Person: Three.

PS11 Post: What is your favorite math strategy?

Mystery Person: Make a ten.

Answer on the next page

La maratón de lectura continuada

y luego regresar, como un niño mayor, y leerlos por ti mismo. Estos son libros como Desde la mezcla de archivos de la Sra. Basil E. Frankweiler (un poco más difíciles para niños de 8 y 9 años, pero es un gran libro para que los padres lo lean en voz alta, incluso a niños más pequeños) y Harriet the Spy de Louise Fitzhugh es un libro similar. Un tema claro que Lisa destaca durante la entrevista es la importancia de las series. Dice que las series mantienen a los niños interesados, y yo, como ganador de la maratón de lectura en dos ocasiones, creo que los libros que te mantienen interesado son muy, muy buenos si quieres ganar.

Un éxito en 192 Books en esta temporada navideña fue The Last Cuentista. Dice que este es un libro para grados mayores, como quinto a séptimo, pero si quieres intentarlo, está bien. Según Lisa, esto no es una serie, pero el autor podría hacer un segundo libro porque es tan popular.

Como ganador anterior de su grado en la maratón de lectura, Mitchell P parecía estar listo para recibir recomendaciones de libros. Tenía muchas sugerencias, como Artemis Fowl y The Fowl Twins, ambos de Eoin Colfer (para edades de 8 a 10 años), The Track Series (Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu) de Jason Reynolds (para edades de 9 a 10 años) y Big Nate de Lincoln Peirce (para edades de 6 a 10 años).

Otra persona de la que creo que deberías recibir algunas recomendaciones es la Sra. Covington, también conocida como la Sra. Covington. La Sra. Covington es maestra de quinto grado en la PS11 y madre de dos hijos, uno en cuarto grado y otro en segun-

do grado. Recomendó algunos libros para niños mayores, más para los grados superiores de la escuela primaria, incluyendo Esperanza Rising de Pam Muñoz Ryan, una novela de ficción histórica sobre trabajadores agrícolas migrantes, y The Girl Who Drank the Moon de Kelly Barnhill, una fantasía que “cambió su opinión sobre la fantasía” para mejor. Ambos libros están categorizados para el mismo grupo de edad, de 4° a 5° grado, y creo que ambos son excelentes opciones para leer.

Sé que te dije que la Sra. Covington sería la última persona de la que recibirías recomendaciones, pero en realidad me gustaría dar algunas recomendaciones yo mismo, como ganador de la maratón de lectura en dos ocasiones. Para mi victoria en segundo grado, me interesaba Dory Fantasmagory, una gran serie de la que se habló anteriormente, así que te daré algunas otras recomendaciones. Para niños más pequeños, alrededor de 1° a 2° grado, recomiendo Capitán Calzoncillos y Dog Man, ambos de Dav Pilkey. Estos libros realmente introducen a los niños en conceptos tontos y lectura divertida, y aunque no teníamos una maratón de lectura cuando estaba en primer grado, eso no me impidió leer todo el tiempo. Como estudiante de segundo y tercer grado, La tierra de las historias de Chris Colfer y sus spin-offs fueron lo mejor. Una serie de fantasía en la que te sumerges en los cuentos de hadas clásicos junto con Alex y Conner, los dos protagonistas. Una serie inmersiva de seis libros, los niños seguirán leyendo y leyendo estos libros, ese “factor de serie” especial como explicó Lisa anteriormente. Por último, pero definitivamente no menos importante, te presentaré la serie Percy Jackson, uno de mis favoritos de todos los tiempos, y todas las series secundarias

de Rick Riordan también. Basado en la mitología griega, pero ambientado en la época moderna, Percy Jackson es un niño común hasta que descubre que es un semidiós. Al leer esta serie, te unes a Percy y sus amigos semidioses en misiones aparentemente imposibles. ¡Pero ten cuidado: esta serie incluye peligro, secretos y traición! Recomiendo estas series para grados 3 - 5, pero personas de todas las edades han llegado a gustarlas.

Como pensamiento final, te daré algunas ideas de Shelley O’Sullivan, una mamá de quinto grado que ayuda a organizar la maratón de lectura. Para emocionarte, ahora revelaré algunos premios que a los niños les encantaron, y la cantidad de minutos que leyeron los ganadores anteriores. Algunos de los premios más queridos que ganaron los ganadores de la maratón de lectura fueron tarjetas de regalo para tiendas locales y comercios, como Billy’s Bakery, helado Van Leeuwen y muchos más. Redoble de tambores, por favor. El ganador del primer grado el año pasado leyó... ¡1,542 minutos! El ganador del segundo grado el año pasado leyó... ¡1800 minutos! El ganador del tercer grado el año pasado leyó... ¡3447 minutos! El ganador del cuarto grado el año pasado leyó... ¡4154 minutos! El ganador del quinto grado el año pasado leyó... ¡5640 minutos! ¿Increíble, verdad? ¿Crees que puedes estar a la altura de eso? ¡Bueno, más te vale intentarlo! Un consejo que Shelly nos da como pensamiento realmente final es que no solo pienses en cuántos minutos estás leyendo, sino en disfrutar la lectura. “Pero lo más importante...”, dice O’Sullivan. “¡DIVIÉRTETE!”

Guess the Mystery Person

answer:
Ms. Robison

Melanie Gomez continued

it. So it couldn't be a button. It had to be something very easy to detach the cape from her. So I used magnets. I put all the magnets onto the costume. So when she had her hand inside,

she crossed her hands and when she opened her hands, the cape just flew. I was very proud of myself."

Gomez's costumes are very creative. In the production of *The Little*

Mermaid, Flounder's fin was made using papier-mâché. In the production of *Frozen*, when Anna and Elsa grew up, more and more layers were added to their costumes, so the costumes would look like different ones when they really weren't. Sometimes, Gomez will buy a very simple costume and add to it or decorate it.

Gomez said that the costumes in *The Addams Family Musical* will be different in tone from those in past P.S. 11 productions. Because many of our plays have involved fantasy, the costumes would have glitter, beads, and tons of color. "But the costumes this year may be simpler, because we're talking about a family where there is not too much fantasy. *Frozen* has a snowman, forest people, and things like that. *The Little Mermaid* is under the sea, so I had a lot of sea creatures to make. This year, we have a family, and a lot of black. It's less whimsical and colorful. But even though it's dark, it can be very fun. I'm sure we can find something that will shine, even if it's dark."

Gomez plans to illuminate the darkness of the Addams family by making the Beinekes very colorful and preppy. "I picture the other family very preppy. Very yellow and very pink. And the Addams family is very dark. I want to mark the differences between the families."

Just as the kids participating in *The Addams Family* are excited to get their costumes, Gomez is excited to introduce them to their costumes. "The thing I love the most is when I put the costume on the kid and the kid goes, 'Oh my god, I got the best costume!'" Gomez said. "That, for me, is the best moment."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE GOMEZ



PHOTO BY MAX NOY



PHOTO BY MAX NOY



PHOTO BY MAX NOY

P.S. 11 Post continued

the Post, but also for any everyday newspaper. Finally, I learned why the volunteers think it is special. I hope you and your adults do it when you are in 3rd grade. Until then, keep reading the P.S. 11 Post!

Reporting for this issue:

Abby Noy
 Alice Cox
 Jonathan Dolgin
 Samuel Shodal
 Lena Olim
 Gaelle Gouny
 Penelope Simon
 Corinna Ruttenberg
 Vivien Keck
 Nora Hartman
 Sofia Calascibetta
 Theo Dickson
 Sana Kawasaki
 Zoí Ioannou
 Tea Mazetti
 Hannah Daley
 Matias Stadler
 Leila Sheikh
 Vikram Daswani

THE PS11 POST IS LOOKING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

Many of our kids are graduating this or next year, and we want to make sure the PS11 Post continues on after we leave. Yes, there is time and effort involved, but that's nothing compared to what we've gained in friendship, insight into investigative reporters' minds, and the sheer joy of helping them tell their stories. (Some of us have been involved for 6+ years at this point!). No journalistic experience necessary. We're also looking for someone to take over the layout/graphics.

Are you tempted? Even slightly?
 We want to hear from you!
ps11postnewsroom@gmail.com

Chili Fest continued

chili also took 24 hours to make, and was medium spicy. The purpose of their chosen charity is to rescue food that would go to waste and give it to people who are experiencing hunger. And finally, Very Fresh Noodles. (To be clear, it's NOT fresh noodles — it's VERY fresh noodles.)

They had jalapeño spice, which in their words was “not very spicy,” and took around half of a day to make. The chili had a lot of ingredients, especially Asian ones. They also used ground beef for their chili.

Now you're probably wondering who won, whose chili got the most votes, and whose charity was favored. Well, time for the unveiling!

In third place, the one who used the noodles, the one with the Asian ingredients: VERY FRESH NOODLES!

In second place, the one with the local ingredients, whose chili was comforting: CREAMLINE!

And the winner - who will be donating to the school we love: DICKSON'S FARMSTAND MEATS. We asked Jake Dickson, a parent of a student at P.S.11, what this win means to him, and here's what he told us. “It means so much to win the hearts of the neighborhood with Chef Ted's delicious Peruvian inspired chili recipe. And with the winnings going to P.S.11, it was even more rewarding, knowing we were giving back to the community that voted us the winners. While we serve many tourists at our Chelsea Market shop, we are first and foremost a Chelsea small business serving our community.”

The total winnings added up to \$13,000, all of which they donated to P.S. 11.



Vivvien's reaction to the winner being announced PHOTO BY TERESA EDLESTON



The investigative reporters with Jake and Chef Ted PHOTO BY TERESA EDLESTON



PHOTO BY TERESA EDLESTON