

PS11 post

Solar Playground Could Be Coming to P.S. 11



Rendering of a solar canopy courtesy of Jessica Moon

BY JONATHAN DOLGIN-KAHN

Did you know every time you turn on a light your use of energy contributes to the dangers of climate change facing our generation? That is unless you have a solar canopy that may be built for P.S. 11.

A solar canopy consists of solar panels mounted on supports so students can play under it on the rooftop

playground. While they are playing, these panels will collect energy from the sun to power our lights, computers, and air conditioning.

Ms. Moon is an environmentalist and has two children at P.S. 11. She spearheaded this idea and made it at least a possible reality. She explained why she cares about this project saying, "I'm invested in the solar

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Ready, Set, Go!

BY CELESTE GOUNY

The P.S. 11 Track and Field Team is more than just running. There are a lot of different things you can do, like jumping and throwing. Also, it's time before school to see your friends and have fun!

I signed up for Track and Field because I like to be active and a couple of my friends were also signing up. I wanted to learn more about what the team does and where the events take place. I was also curious why some kids signed up and others weren't interested.

First, I asked a couple of other students if they were joining. Corinne P. wasn't interested in Track and Field. She says, "I don't like running and I would rather be home than running. It is also tiring, but it does sound fun."

Esme S., who decided to participate, said, "If I get in, I can go against my cousin, which seems fun and I like running and jumping."

Next, I talked to Mr. Mernica (Mr. M), who is one of the coaches. I asked him if he did track and field when he was younger. He didn't participate in track and field when he was a kid, but he coached track at his last school.

I asked Mr. M about how they coach the team. He told me, "Mr. Nichols, Mark and I design practices that help improve students' cardio and muscular endurance. We try to make it fun. We teach good running technique, and we do a mix of running, exercises, and stretching in order to be ready for the track meet." To prepare, we had practice on the roof at 7:45 AM on Tuesdays or Thursdays for five weeks. We learned how to

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PHOTO BY IGOR PUŠENJAK

Firefighters of New York

BY ROHAN RAO

Did you know that the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) alone has more than 11,000 uniformed firefighters and EMS (emergency medical service) employees and EMS officers, with another whopping 2,000 civilian employees? And did you know firefighter gear can weigh 45 to 75 pounds or more? I was curious about firefighters, so I went to my local fire station to interview fireman Richard Avenilla.

I first asked him why he chose this profession and he said, “It’s the best job in the world. When I was a kid, I always loved the movie *Ghostbusters*. In that movie, they had backpacks on in the firehouse going down the bow and everything, so maybe that’s why. It’s a big job.”

Next, I wanted to learn more about how they actually get from the call to getting out the door so fast. “It’s almost immediate, especially with today’s technology. Someone will make a phone call or push, they have the boxes on the corner. The 911 dispatch sends a signal to here, and you hear these big bells go off. and we are out the door within 20 seconds.”

He went on to explain that the training to become a firefighter is all about endurance. “Stamina, endurance, integrity, and knowing the job, honestly, we’re just training every day. Everything we do is just part of training, especially when it’s not at a fire, like responding to car accidents or going to respond to just smoke in

a building, like a toaster may be on fire. It’s not always a real big fire, but we still go through the procedures every single time.”

There’s a fire academy on Randall’s Island where the probationary training and follow-up training happens. For example, he explained, “on a Monday morning, they send us over there and they have a house, a big brick house and they light fires and we go through and start to drop over and they put it out. So these are big training exercises that every company is doing daily throughout the week.” When I asked him what he would be if he wasn’t a firefighter, he said jokingly, “maybe the CEO of Amazon?” but he finally said that he might have wanted to be an astronaut.

I had a final question for Richard about how it feels to be part of a fire station that helped in the rescue operations on September 11, 2001 (9/11)? “The feeling is almost unexplainable, knowing the proximity to the towers. There is a lot of history here. Our fire station itself wasn’t severely damaged, but the windows were blown out. The firehouse didn’t reopen until November 2003. The operations all came through here, the firefighters came here to rest between digging through the piles and finding people or just helping. The whole recovery effort had this firehouse as a command center.”

On 9/11, Richard’s firehouse lost six members. That’s six of the 343



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

that we lost in total in the fire department. Richard said, “I remember that day I was a freshman in high school. My best friend’s mother pulled me out of school. When I went home, my father, who was a war veteran, was in tears at the kitchen table and I didn’t really understand what was going on. It makes me proud to be here, and I never want to leave.”

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.

Bomberos de Nueva York

POR ROHAN RAO

¿Sabías que el FDNY por sí solo tiene más de 11,000 bomberos uniformados y 4,500 técnicos de emergencias médicas (TEM) y oficiales de SEM, con otros asombrosos 2,000 empleados civiles? ¿Y sabías que el equipo de bombero puede pesar entre 20 y 34 kilogramos o más? Tenía curiosidad acerca de los bomberos, así que fui a mi estación de bomberos local para entrevistar al bombero Richard Avenilla.

Primero le pregunté por qué eligió esta profesión y me dijo: “Es el mejor trabajo del mundo. Cuando era niño, siempre me encantaron los Cazafantasmas (Ghostbusters). En esa película, llevaban mochilas en el parque de bomberos bajando por el poste y todo, así que tal vez por eso. Es un gran trabajo”.

Luego, quería saber más sobre cómo realmente van desde la llamada hasta salir por la puerta tan rápido. “Es casi inmediato, especialmente con la tecnología actual. Alguien hará una llamada telefónica o presionará, tienen las cajas en la esquina. El despacho del 911 envía una señal aquí, y escuchas estas grandes campanas sonar y salimos por la puerta en 20 segundos”. Continuó explicando que el entrenamiento para convertirse en bombero se trata de resistencia. “Aguante, resistencia, integridad y conocer el trabajo, honestamente, solo estamos entrenando todos los días. Todo lo que hacemos es solo parte del entre-

namiento, especialmente cuando no es en un incendio, como responder a accidentes automovilísticos o ir a responder a solo humo en un edificio, como una tostadora que puede estar en llamas. No siempre es un incendio muy grande, pero seguimos los procedimientos cada vez”. Hay una academia de bomberos en Randall’s Island donde se lleva a cabo el entrenamiento de prueba y el entrenamiento de seguimiento. Por ejemplo, explicó: “un lunes por la mañana, nos envían allí y tienen una casa, una gran casa de ladrillo y encienden fuegos y nosotros entramos



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

y comenzamos a volcarnos y ellos lo apagan. Así que estos son grandes ejercicios de entrenamiento que cada compañía realiza diariamente durante toda la semana”. Cuando le pregunté qué sería si no fuera bombero, dijo en broma: “¿quizás el director ejecutivo de Amazon?”, pero finalmente dijo que tal vez le hubiera gustado ser astronauta.

Tenía una última pregunta para Richard sobre cómo se siente ser par-

te de una estación de bomberos que ayudó en las operaciones de rescate del 11 de septiembre. “El sentimiento es casi inexplicable, sabiendo la proximidad a las torres. Hay mucha historia aquí. Nuestra propia estación de bomberos no sufrió daños graves, pero las ventanas volaron. El parque de bomberos no volvió a abrir hasta noviembre de 2003. Todas las operaciones pasaron por aquí, los bomberos vinieron aquí a descansar entre cavar entre los escombros y encontrar gente o simplemente ayudar. Todo el esfuerzo de recuperación tuvo este parque de bomberos como centro de mando”. El 11 de septiembre, el parque de bomberos de Rich-

ard perdió a seis miembros. Esos son seis de los 343 que perdimos en total en el departamento de bomberos. Richard dijo: “Recuerdo ese día, yo era estudiante de primer año en la escuela secundaria. La madre de mi mejor amigo me sacó de la escuela. Cuando llegué a casa, mi padre, que era un veterano de guerra, estaba llorando en la mesa de la cocina y realmente no entendía lo que estaba pasando. Me enorgullece estar aquí y nunca quiero irme”.

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.

The Awesome Lost and Found at P.S. 11

BY DYNASTY HAMILTON

Would you like to learn the history of the Lost and Found? Or do you want to know what kinds of things have been Lost and Found recently? Well this article's for you! You can learn about when the lost and found was made! Or which things get lost the most!

I interviewed Savasiah Gardner because I have close contact with her. That's because she is my mom. I interviewed Jenifer Gellar because she is the chair of Lost and Found, and has been in this role for a long time!

Ms. Jen informed me that the Lost and Found has been at P.S. 11 for

a long time. Savasiah told me that hundreds of things have ended up at the Lost and Found. P.S. 11 students are allowed to go look for their things at the Lost and Found. If there's a label, or if the volunteers recognize an item, they occasionally even return them to the students in their classrooms (thank you!). A few times a year, all the items that are not collected are displayed outside the school so that the grown-ups can take a look to see if they can find anything their kids have lost. Any unclaimed items that are left after this event are donated to the Salvation Army.

Want to know what some of the top lost items are? It depends on

the season. For example, during winter there are lots of hats and gloves. During the spring, there are sweaters and hoodies. According to Savasiah, there are ALWAYS water bottles and lunch boxes - that's a year-round thing.

Curious about what's in the room behind the racks where the items are collected inside our school? I learned from my reporting that it's a room for the PTA. They store many awesome things for students there throughout the year. They don't put dogs or cats in there!

Thanks to everyone who helps out with the Lost and Found!

Can Recess be Better?

BY JORDY BARRAGAN

Are recess rules fair? What can we do to make our recess period more enjoyable? I set out to find out what some of the students at P.S. 11 think to figure this out.

We should start by discussing what the P.S. 11 rules are. First, we have a no touching or throwing snow rule. Also, there is a no fighting or play-fighting rule. When the weather is bad, students have to remain indoors. Additionally, if it rains, students are not allowed to go on the monkey bars. Lastly, students aren't permitted to go inside the garden or go outside the fences.

After reviewing these rules, I asked some of the students for their thoughts. Many talked about how

important it is that we stay safe in recess and many were convinced that the "no fighting" rule was probably for the best.

Most students really just want recess to be more about having fun during our break from classwork. I asked Rohan R., a fourth grader, to suggest one thing that would make recess more fun. He suggested an indoor recess space where you can run around, and that you could be able to go in there even when it's nice out.

I asked fifth grader Vivien K. the same question. She said that she loves the jump ropes but they only come out once a month or so. She would like to see them out more often. Lena O., another fifth grader, thinks that more of the yard space should be opened up to create more

designated play areas. I would like to suggest adding spaces that are reserved for art projects or clubs to meet during recess.

Personally, I think that recess rules are pretty fair and they are there to keep us safe. There are a few changes we would like to see that would allow us to be both safe and to have more fun, like a covered area for bad weather days, and different areas for specific activities like jump rope and art.

There is an unconfirmed rumor that the school is actually going to be up for a yard renovation soon, which means we might get some of these suggested updates and area suggestions. This reporter was unable to get Mr. Bender to confirm if this is the case and will be bringing it up to the student council to see if any of our suggested changes can be added to their plans.

The 5th Grade Chorus Springing Into Action!



BY CHARLOTTE LEE

PHOTO BY MS. KOST

Are you someone who loves to sing and wants to try it in a group? Ms. Kost runs a singing group called the fifth Grade Chorus where you can do just that. Every year, this group performs during the fifth grade graduation. This year I joined and I am excited to share my awesome chorus experience with you.

During graduation, all fifth graders sing. The chorus, however, gets to perform extra songs. To figure out what songs to perform, Ms. Kost and the fifth grade teachers first choose the graduation theme. The theme this year is how we have changed for the better during our time at P.S. 11. Once the theme is chosen Ms. Kost chooses songs that match the theme. She makes sure that there is a good mix of fast, slow and different style songs. The entire fifth grade will be performing three songs together: “For Good” from *Wicked*, “Changes” by David Bowie, and “River and Roads” by The Head and the Heart. In addition to these songs, the chorus will be performing “Landslide” writ-

ten by Stevie Nicks and one other song yet to be determined.

To sign up to the chorus, you have to fill out a form that says you are committed to the chorus. Any fifth grader can join. This year there are about 40 members. Don’t worry if you are not a good singer because you can improve in the chorus. Chorus meets during lunch and recess once a week. You get around 10 minutes to eat and then Ms. Kost picks you up to go to the music room. It usually starts in March and ends in June, so that’s around 14 times you meet during the spring. If you don’t join the chorus, the entire fifth grade starts working together in mid to late May.

In chorus you work on perfecting your vocal skills and your ability to sing for long periods of time. Your voice is a muscle and it will get stronger the more you use it just like all of your other muscles. You practice singing in groups, like a dance warm-up. “I like the chorus because of the vocal warm-ups,” Vihaan J.

told me. I agree with Vihaan that the vocal warm-ups in the chorus are fun and at the same time challenge your ability and talent in singing.

The chorus is a group effort and involves teamwork. You practice the songs you sing in the chorus to get better. The songs are posted on many sources, like the P.S. 11 website, Google Classroom, and Class Dojo to help make it easy for you to practice. Sometimes, Ms. Kost adds solos to the songs that fifth graders in chorus can try out for.

I asked Robin L.-W. what she thought. “I love the chorus because I love singing, and the chorus lets me express that,” she shared.

The chorus is for you if you love singing and want to improve your skills. A good tip is to listen to good musicians and try to imitate them. Robin also told me, “I decided to join the chorus because it was an opportunity to try something I have wanted to do for about three years.”

According to Ms. Kost, the Fifth Grade Chorus has been running since before she started teaching music at P.S. 11. This is her fourth year at our school. The reason why chorus was continued is so that students like you and me can learn how to excel in more challenging exercises. Luckily Ms. Kost did not end the chorus and kept it going when she joined.

I am excited to sing in the fifth grade chorus. I hope you join the chorus when it is your turn. It is a great experience if you want to have a blast and sing to your heart’s content.

The Library and its Many Challenges



BY LUCILLE SHEPARD

PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

The school library is a favorite place of many students, including me. If you're a fourth or fifth grader, you are allowed to do the library challenges, a fun way to learn more about the library, and if you finish all 10, you earn two books at checkout. To find out more about the challeng-

es and the library itself, I interviewed a few people.

The first person I spoke with was a librarian named Julie. I asked her why the library created the challenges, and she said, "We did it to give the fourth and fifth graders a chance to learn more about the library, and

also to let them earn two books at checkout." I also asked her if she had any advice for any new students to the school, and she told me her advice is if they ever need any help, just ask one of them.

The next person I interviewed was a fourth grader, Jadeyn M., who does not do the library challenges. I asked her why, and she said, "I don't do them because I would rather read, and since we don't have much time to read anyways, it just takes up time that you could be reading in. Maybe the library could create a Google Docs for the challenges instead, so students can do it at home."

The final person I interviewed was a fifth grader named Vivien K., who does the library challenges. I asked her why she likes them, and she said, "Bookworms like me read books very quickly, and they need to check out two books."

So, a lot of people do the library challenges and some don't. To find out more about the library, check out Zoe Ganz's article. I also did a quick survey among our teachers to find out what the favorite book genre is in the school. I interviewed every teacher, and here are the results:

HISTORICAL FICTION: 13
 MYSTERY: 12
 FANTASY: 9
 REALISTIC FICTION: 9
 COMICS: 7
 FICTION: 5
 NON-FICTION: 5
 SCI-FI: 1
 HORROR: 1
 PICTURE BOOKS: 0

What are the Most Popular Books at the P.S. 11 Library?

BY ZOE GANZ

The library at P.S. 11 is full of good books. But which ones are the most popular? After talking to students and librarians, it was clear that kids at P.S. 11 really love graphic novels.

A third grader named Orli M. said that the most popular books for her class were *I Survived* graphic novels, which are realistic fiction books about historical moments in time that were dangerous. Orli also told me that her class liked *Dog Man* and *The Baby-Sitters Club* graphic novels. She said that her own favorites were science and history graphic novels.

Fourth grader Sofia V.'s favorite series of books is the *Mystwick School of Muscraft*. She says that the popular books in her class are also mostly graphic novels.

One of the librarians, Ms. Christine, observed that some of the most popular books at the library are *Dog Man*, *The Wild Robot*, *Dork Diaries*, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. She said that a lot of the popular books, like *Dog Man* and *The Wild Robot*, came out as movies.

The library at P. S. 11 has tons of different kinds of books, way more than what you can find in your classroom. That's one of the reasons it feels so special to go there. The collections of books in the classrooms usually just have a few books in a series, and if you get really into a book that your classroom has, it'll leave



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

you stuck on a cliffhanger if your classroom doesn't have the rest of the books in the series.

That feeling is especially true for the most popular books in the school. At the library, you don't have to dig through a giant bin that has mismatched categories, like a lot of us have to inside P.S. 11's classroom libraries. The books in the library are well organized so you can pretty much always find what you're looking for. And if you can't find it by looking around, you can always ask one of the librarians working there.

The great librarians are another reason the library is so special. If you want something that's not a graphic

novel, you can ask one of them for a suggestion. If you ask them for a suggestion they will usually say, "It depends on what category of books you like." Another librarian named Ms. Shelley said that some of the categories in the library include fantasy, mystery, adventure, historical fiction, nonfiction and more. Ms. Christine's favorite books to recommend to students (and her favorite books in the library) are *Echo* and *The Girl Who Drank The Moon*.

But if you aren't sure if you have a favorite book and are looking for one, you can always go to the library to look for a favorite. Maybe you'll find a book that really suits you.

A Slide Delivery Mystery



BY ELI SMITH

PHOTO BY ELI SMITH

Is the slide ever going to get fixed before you move on from P.S. 11 to another school?

I'm in third grade now. I started at P.S. 11 in Pre-K. The slide was broken when I started in Pre-K. I've been at P.S. 11 for over five years!

Will the slide be fixed before I finish fifth grade?

I interviewed Vice Principal Dawn Rosevear to find out more. She said that the slide is worn out and plastic seams are separated. This makes the slide dangerous as it can catch kids' clothing or bodies and they can get stuck and hurt themselves.

Ms. Rosevear says that they don't know when the slide will be fixed. Principal Bob Bender is working on finding out more, but I could not get him to confirm when that would be.

I surveyed my class, 3-504, if they care about the slide, and how much

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Solar Playground continued

canopy at P.S. 11 because I believe renewable energy is crucial for our community's future – and the future of the world. New York City is already experiencing the impacts of climate change with more extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and flooding. Projects like this are part of the solution we need. If we use renewable energy like sun, wind, or solar we can never run out. And, it doesn't harm the environment like energy produced from fossil fuels or burning oil."

Ms. Moon gathered important community members like Mr. Bender, our councilperson Erik Botcher and others on the rooftop at P.S. 11 to show them why solar power would be so impactful for our school. The local government will be important for funding this project.

While that may seem great, there is one big issue: the cost. The solar

canopy will cost around \$5 million according to Mr. Bender. That is a staggering amount. Ms. Moon argues that the canopy will pay for itself. She says, "the money saved on electricity bills will eventually cover the installation costs, and then continue providing savings to the school for many years afterward." However, there are also concerns about the cost of maintaining the canopy.

Still in its planning stages, Mr. Bender believes the solar canopy would have a "significant impact" on our school's energy usage.

Ms. Bruen, P.S. 11's Science teacher and head of the "Green Team" thinks this is an "incredible idea" for making P.S. 11 more environmentally efficient.

In late April there was an exciting development. Council Member Bottcher announced that he has ear-

marked \$125,000 to fund the feasibility study for a rooftop solar canopy system at P.S. 11. In addition to this, the Department of Education Sustainability team has agreed to shepherd the engineering assessment with their partners.

Ms. Moon is very happy - "This important milestone transforms our vision into an actual funded project! The study will evaluate the potential for installing a solar canopy over our rooftop play space, creating both clean energy and additional shaded play area." She also wanted to give a special thanks "to Allison Bruen who has assembled the P.S. 11 Green Team students whose enthusiasm and ideas will inform our enhanced pitch to the city to drive this initiative forward."

Stay tuned for updates as the project progresses!

A Day In The Life Of Mr. Bender

BY CORINNE PEVNICK

Have you ever wondered what Mr. Bender does all day while we are hard at work learning? I don't think I'm alone in wondering about this question. Many myths have crept up and people make up theories about what Mr. Bender does during the day because not too many people see him. I spoke to a few students, and one of them had a very interesting idea about waffles. So I investigated further...

Some of the myths I heard are that people think Mr. Bender might stare at his cameras all day. It's possible because he has cameras in his office. Another myth is that Mr. Bender uses his secret elevator to get around the school to see people during the day. However, there is no evidence that he actually has a secret elevator.

A third grader I talked to, Celeste G., thinks that "Mr. Bender eats waffles all day because he has a waffle maker in his office." Another student, Ulysses Z. H., had a different idea. His idea is that Mr. Bender makes decisions during the day like should we make a new rule or should we let students wear their Halloween costumes to school. Finally, I talked to Laure G., and she thinks that Mr. Bender works on his computer all day because he needs to earn money.

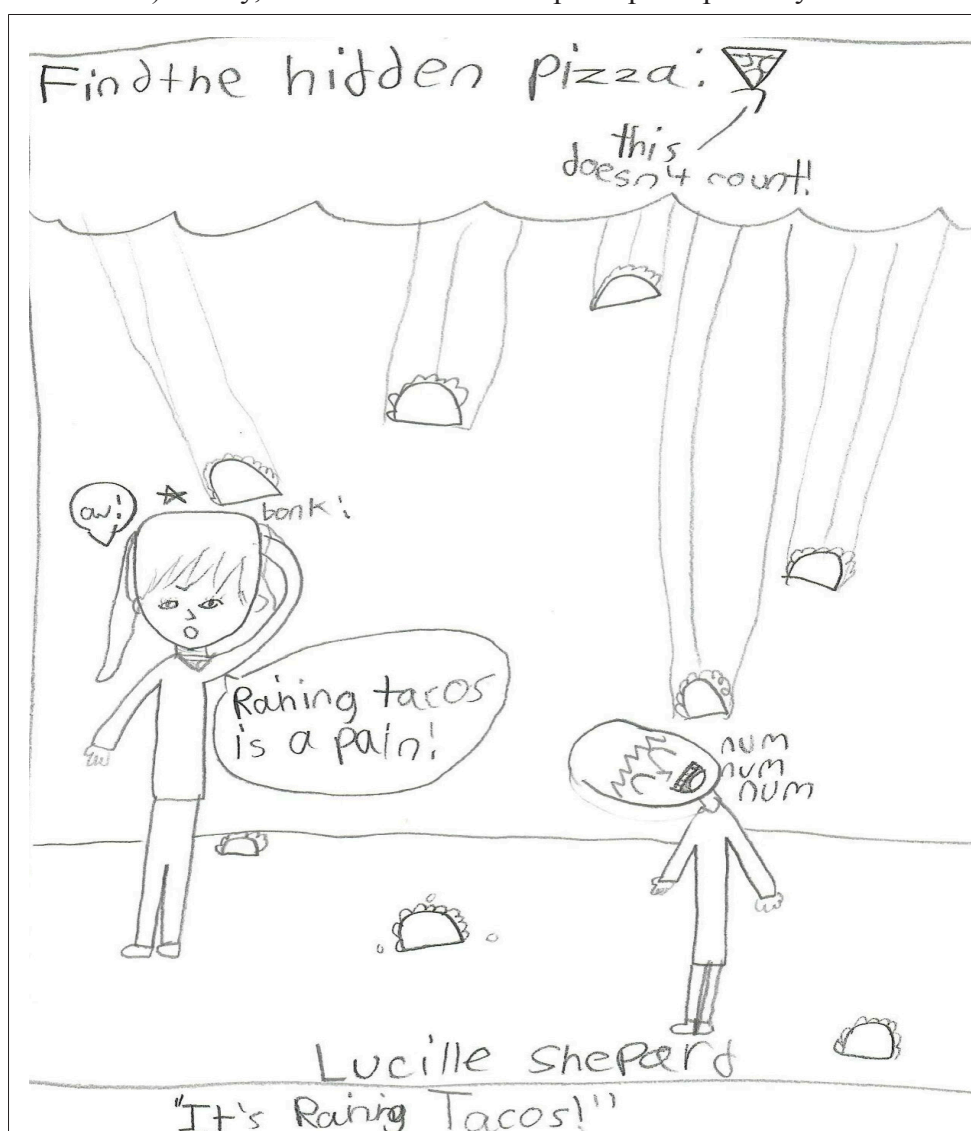
One of the main things I learned from my investigation is that all of the myths are wrong. First, Mr. Bender does have a waffle maker in his office, but he never eats the waffles he makes. Instead, he gives them to other people. Also, Mr. Bender doesn't stare at the cameras all day.

He actually only looks at them when he needs to.

To solve our mystery, I spoke to Mr. Bender about his daily schedule. In reality, he gets to school between 6:00 and 6:30 in the morning, reviews the schedule and then he fills out the daily message board. The daily message board is where staff can put things they are grateful for on post-its, and there are also messages on the board. The main things that he does during the day is visiting classrooms and having meetings (to work on administrative stuff). Lastly, Mr. Bender does

not do the same thing every day, and he works all summer!

Although there are many myths about what Mr. Bender does during the day, they all turn out to be wrong. He doesn't eat waffles all day or ride around in a secret elevator. He has meetings, visits classrooms, and sometimes makes waffles for people. But all the rumors are very funny and people might just make up more about what Mr. Bender does during the day because it is very fun to think up all these crazy things that might keep our principal busy.



Partying Through School Dance!

BY VIVIEN KECK

Did you know that our fourth and fifth grade school dance is coming up very soon? June 11th to be precise. Did you also know that it used to only be for lunch leaders? It's true, and there's a lot more about the school dance I'm sure you'll find interesting.

The school dance started when Mr. Bender became our amazing principal. When I asked him about how and why he started it, he said, "The school dance used to only be for the lunch leaders as a way to thank them." Then he said that he changed it to all fourth and fifth graders because he thought that it would make the dance a lot more fun. (He was right!) He also explained that "My favorite part of the dance is seeing kids in a new environment. That's

not in school staring at a screen [our classroom promethean boards]."

After the interview with Mr. Bender I asked some students who went to the dance last year what they thought. My first interview was with Gaelle G., a now fifth grader whose birthday fell on the date of the school dance. She said, "I got kind of nervous because I felt like people might start singing happy birthday, and that would feel very embarrassing, but it's also exciting because it feels like my own huge party." When I asked her about the food she explained, "I don't like pizza so I eat something beforehand." (Actually, a couple of the kids I spoke with did not like the pizza.) Gaelle also said that she wishes there had been juice options.

Most of the other fifth graders I spoke with gave the food at the dance

a six out of 10, and there were some differing opinions about juice. I also asked Lena O. what she thought the dance was about/for and she said that, "I think the dance is for celebrating the fourth and fifth graders' last years at P.S. 11." She also said that she was fine with water fountains.

To the fourth graders coming for the first time this year: the dance is a lot of fun. It's also pretty chaotic. Something that I remember most about it, is that

- 1) It's a night you won't forget
- 2) One side of the room is a lot colder than the other
- 3) You can dress nicely if you want to but it's summer and you wanna be comfortable dancing.

HAVE FUN!

So Go Show 'em Who's 'Legally Blonde'

BY LENA OLIM

Have you ever been to a rehearsal or audition? What do you think of them? I asked a few students who took part in this year's fifth grade show, *Legally Blonde Jr.*, these questions.

Oh? You don't know what *Legally Blonde* is? Well... it's a book turned movie turned musical, about a girl, Elle Woods, who's in a sorority when her boyfriend Warner breaks up with her because she's not serious enough, so she follows him to Harvard Law School and realizes that she's an amazing lawyer while helping Brooke win a case on mur-

der, all while having an active life at the "Hair Affair" salon, and so much more!

Anyway... back to the interviews. Charli A., who played Elle Woods, told me that she doesn't like how long the rehearsals are, and she also doesn't like how the auditions took place in front of everyone. She wishes they were private. Next, Penelope B. said that she does not like how the students in rehearsals don't really listen. Anna B. who played Paulette said the same, but also doesn't like how the boys got to watch the girls' auditions but the girls didn't get to see the boys' auditions. Lastly for

the kids interviews, Nolan, who was a lead dancer said that she likes the rehearsals because they are fun to watch. She said the auditions were very scary to do in front of everyone. I also interviewed the teachers, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Kost, and Ms. Fives. Ms. Sarah said that she would limit the amount of people auditioning because this year there were 72 people! Ms. Kost liked how we did our auditions, but she felt like we were running out of time. She feels the same about rehearsals. Lastly I interviewed Ms. Fives. Since it was her first year at P.S. 11, I was wondering about her opinion. She said that she

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Censored

BY EMMIE LEE

So far this year has been fun. But there has been one problem. Have you noticed the use of rude language lately? I have, and many other students at P.S. 11 have as well. Hearing bad, hurtful language can make people feel insecure and uncomfortable. Sometimes, I hear even Kindergartners speak in quite inappropriate ways. Kids shouldn't know those words at a young age, but they do. I even learned a curse word while riding the school bus recently. I have talked to kids at P.S. 11 and I heard that a lot of students have been upset by the inappropriate language they are hearing around them.

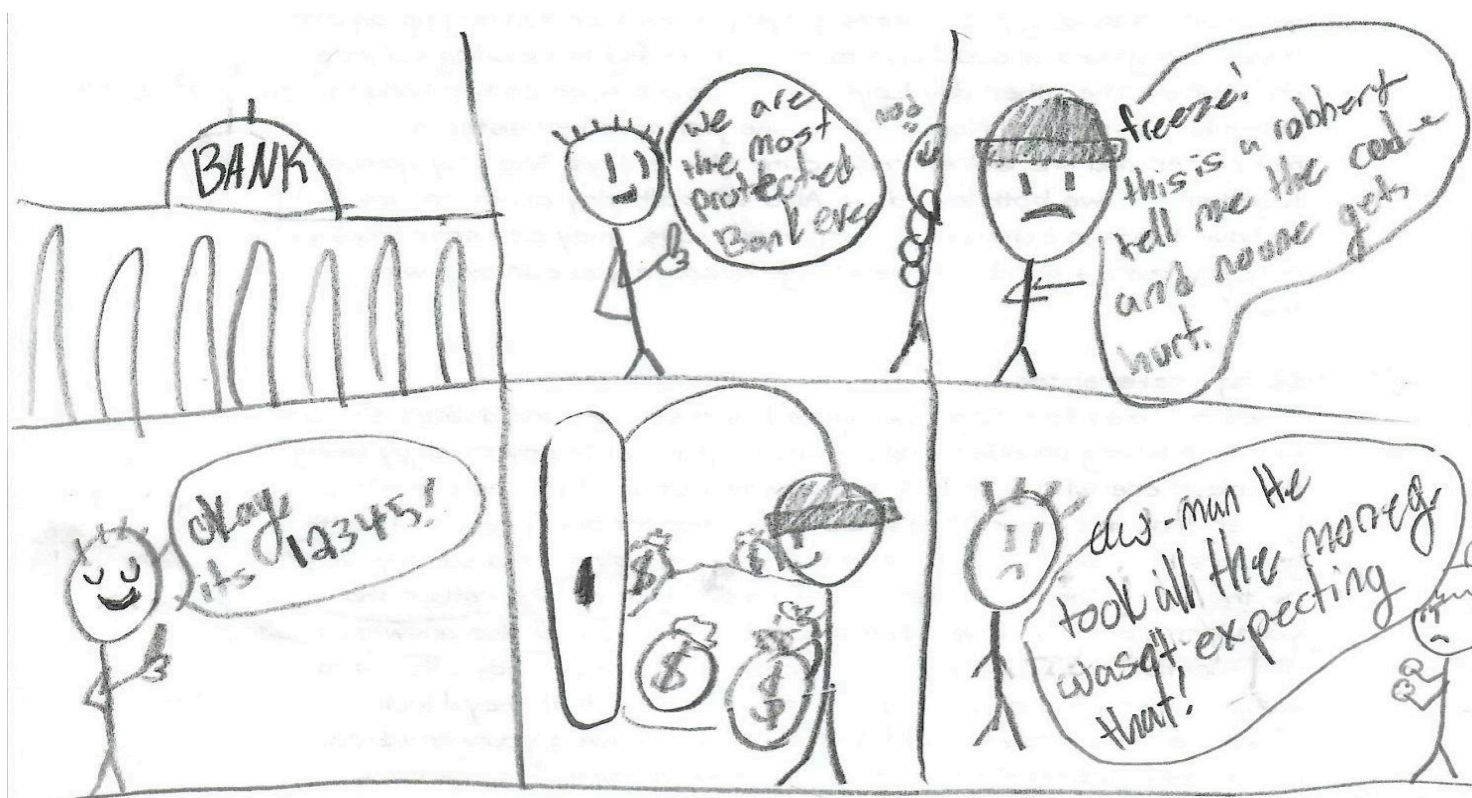
I talked to a fifth grader, Nolan G. She told me she feels unsafe when she hears kids cursing. She mostly hears it during lunch, because kids

wouldn't dare to use it in class. They probably also understand that they would get in trouble. In my class, students often talk when our teacher isn't looking, and it is very disrespectful. It isn't just curse words kids hear, they also hear expressions that are racist, and I do too! I also talked to a fourth grader, Leo L, and found out that it is not just the fifth grade that uses poor language, but fourth grade does too. I asked him what he would do if someone was using bad language, and he told me he would try to stop it and make things right, even if the person using it is not his friend.

However, in talking to a few more fifth graders I learned that they had a different perspective. They said that hearing foul language would never make them feel bad. Some even said they wouldn't make someone stop using it if it was directed towards someone else. One fifth grader I spoke with acknowledged that the use of bad language is mean, but said she would

only get upset if it were racist. Another fifth grader told me that he wasn't aware that using bad language can be hurtful to some people. He also said that he uses bad language only if someone uses it first toward him. When I hear bad language, it makes my heart race. Living in New York City, I often hear people talking in a way they shouldn't (and I shouldn't be hearing!), and yet I still don't feel comfortable hearing curse words.

Although bad language might not bother everybody, being part of our KGG — Kind, Gentle, and Grateful — community means that we have to make sure everybody feels comfortable. Even though it may sometimes be easier to be mean than to be nice, try to fill someone's bucket. You may not realize it, but you'll make people feel better by using kind language. There are so many words in the dictionary, so think before you speak. It can make a difference to someone else's day.



BY LEILA SHEIKH

Should Kids Use AI?

BY ADI SINGH

Everywhere I go these days, whether it is my classroom, after school activities or home, everyone is talking about AI. What is AI? AI or Artificial Intelligence is a technology that can copy or do tasks such as writing, making images and math similar to the human brain. It learns more every time there is a new question or task given to it and becomes smarter each time it is used. These days, it is being used all over the world to help people make things smarter and advance civilization.

I personally was able to use AI this past summer to animate a graphic novel I have been working on about superheroes rescuing the world. Recently, I have been hearing adults discuss their perspectives on their kids using AI, and whether it's good or bad for school-aged children. As a kid it is confusing for me to hear that we can use it in one situation but not in another. So, I decided to explore this topic further — should students be able to use AI?

To find the answer to this question, I interviewed several people, including a fellow student, a parent and a teacher at P.S.11. First of all, we have the student's perspective. I spoke with Pierce G., who is another fourth grader at P.S. 11. According to him, use of AI depends on the way and place where we use it, and he thinks that humans are always advancing to the next stage, and AI can be used for advancement of technology. He thinks that AI will be used to advance technology, and this technology will lead to progress for our

entire civilization. It's also useful in the sense that if we advance in AI, it can help us study the past, find out answers to questions, make cooler images or draw pictures, and play fun games. Pierce also thinks that it can be used to make places such as amusement parks more fun, but he did not discuss details of how to do all that. On the other hand, he does not think that AI should be used in classrooms for doing the work for kids. The thing with advancing AI is that some people might think of using it for not such great reasons, and we need to be careful that we only use it for good things.

What about the parent's perspective? I interviewed Ms. Sarah K., who is a parent of a fourth grader at P.S. 11 and also has another kid in Middle School. She said that she would not give her kid AI for doing classwork or homework, as she does not want her kid to use shortcuts and get used to not searching or doing the work themselves. She thinks that it also might be a bad idea because kids need to focus, and if they are playing with AI or talking to AI they might not be able to pay attention to their work. Use of such technology can be distracting as kids can spend a lot of time on computers, instead of doing schoolwork or playing away from a computer. The tricky part is that nowadays AI is built into everything and is an integral part of our lives. So, it is not about whether kids should use it, it's more about how and when they should be allowed to use it. She said, "AI is definitely not meant for doing their work for them. This means that kids shouldn't use AI for school. They should definitely

not use it as a shortcut for learning or doing the tasks they are assigned."

Next, I decided to interview a teacher to see if she has a different response to these questions and any other thoughts related to the use of AI. I interviewed my teacher, Mrs. Belfiore, who told me that to her the use of AI by students in school is a "solid no". She said that students should do their work on their own. She added that the reason she believes students shouldn't use AI for schoolwork is that they should learn the skills and strategies to solve problems and not rely on AI. "For instance, even using spell check and grammar check is not something I would encourage as then kids will not learn how to spell or use proper grammar. If kids keep relying on AI they will lose their skills, then the lessons will become useless, and that is not good for their future in terms of learning." She also told me that she would not use AI for herself in these ways either and added that she didn't know that much about AI compared to some of her students. I agree with Mrs. Belfiore as I love learning from her and my other teachers like Ms. Bruen, our science teacher.

Overall, I think AI is here to stay. We all talk about it, kids and grown-ups alike. Most of us are now using it in one way or the other, but I do hear a lot of arguments about where it should be used and who should be using it. After hearing these different perspectives, I believe that AI itself can be used for positive and negative purposes, and we need to make sure that we (kids) are using it for good. So it ultimately depends on the situation where the AI is being used. However, one thing is clear to me, no one, kids or adults think it is a good

continued on next page

Use Your Wits to Gain Some Wisdom!

BY JADEYN MURPHY

Every day we look at the schedule and we find three big letters on the board; E-L-A. Some people smile with joy, while others sigh and huff. Every curriculum has its ups and downs. ELA creates interesting and inspiring new environments for learning; from a Great Heart, to Extreme Settings, and even Wordplay. However, there are lots of different opinions about our new Wit & Wisdom curriculum. Some think it's great, some think it's decent, some wouldn't exactly prefer it. I pulled together loads of information on this very concept, so let's get to it!

Six out of fourteen P.S. 11 students I spoke with about Wit & Wisdom did not prefer it and there are also many different opinions about ELA as a subject. One person who does not prefer it is Eleanor R., who said, "Wit & Wisdom is really long, it can sometimes be confusing, and it is usually too little of something or too much." She is explaining how the curriculum can be kind of long and drawn out, but at the same time, the activities can be overwhelming because they

need to be done in a short period of time and in some cases way too much time is given on a project that would normally only take about 20 minutes. What an interesting opinion. Gracie N. agrees, she states, "We have two periods of ELA and I would like to do something different with the second period and only have one period [of ELA] per day". This sounds nice and would break it up a bit.

Some people are, what I would call, "In-Betweeners" or "Neutrals". These people are either on the fence or they don't overthink it too much. One of the people who falls into this category is Abby N., who told me, "The curriculum is okay, it just depends on the module. For example, right now we are doing the American Revolution, and I love history!" I agree with this, because learning about the American Revolution is fun for me as well! Another person who thinks this is Harper C., I asked if she could rate Wit & Wisdom from 1-10, and she said, "A 5 [out of 10] because I think Wit & Wisdom is very good because it reveals things about kids, but it's not a 10 because it would be great if it was shorter."

Some people think that ELA is great. For example, Sloane M. thinks that "Wit & Wisdom is pushing kids, and really is a step up from the last curriculum. Also, I think it is a better test of our grade." Sloane thinks it is a harder curriculum than the last one and lots of people do agree with this. There is another person who thinks ELA is good, well actually, he does not just think it is good, he LOVES IT! This person is... Adi S. Here's what he had to say, "I like ELA because it teaches fun things, like the last unit with Extreme Settings, it teaches you these cool writing skills, and after you get the hang of it, it's kinda fun! Also the topics get more fun!"

While many people have different opinions on Wit & Wisdom, everyone has their side to a story, and a story is never complete without consideration for all sides. Some people think one way, and some people think otherwise, and some people maybe just don't care. Do not think that you have to think or feel one way or the other. Remember, *you* are the one who gets to have a preference, or not. So what do *you* think?

Should Kids use AI continued

idea to use AI for schoolwork or as a shortcut for learning.

Some ways we can use AI that don't interfere with learning is for creating pictures or images, for reading about topics we are interested in such as history or searching for music or use tools like AI for making slides that look cool, rather than writing the content of the slides. But, if we use it to do our writing or schoolwork, we

risk losing our creativity and original thinking. Not using AI also teaches us how to work hard and how to do research on a topic, using our library and books as well as group discussions and conversations such as those we have in class. For example, for our recent social studies project about government in the Native American Haudenosaunee, we used our reading materials and had multiple discussions with our small groups to finish the project. This way

we learned how to read about a topic and work with our classmates to complete it in time, without using shortcuts or help from anyone else.

It seems like everyone has a different opinion on the use of AI, but it is something that is a big topic of conversation among kids and adults. It also appears that people's views are changing as AI technology also changes and develops so we probably do not have all the answers right now.

Harnessing Your Anxiety for Good

BY KIRA SALSBERG

Anxiety is an emotion that can be both good and bad. It's common for people of all ages and that includes kids. Sometimes anxiety can take over the other emotions and make you feel stressed and worried. Really worried! But other times, if you don't let it, it can actually help you. For example, if you have a test coming up, feeling a little worried about the test will make you want to study for it and help you get a good grade.

In one scene of the movie *Inside Out 2*, Anxiety (the character) causes Riley to have a panic attack, but then Joy helps Anxiety calm down with a massage chair.

I spoke to Ms. Leonhardt, P.S. 11's guidance counselor about anxiety and lots of other things. She explained that in her role, she sees students every day who are nervous about something. Sometimes it's a thing as little as the fact that they don't like how their hair looks that

day. Other times they're so worried about school that they can't go to class. Now that's a big problem, because if you don't go to class that can make everything worse because if you fall behind that gives you one more thing to worry about.

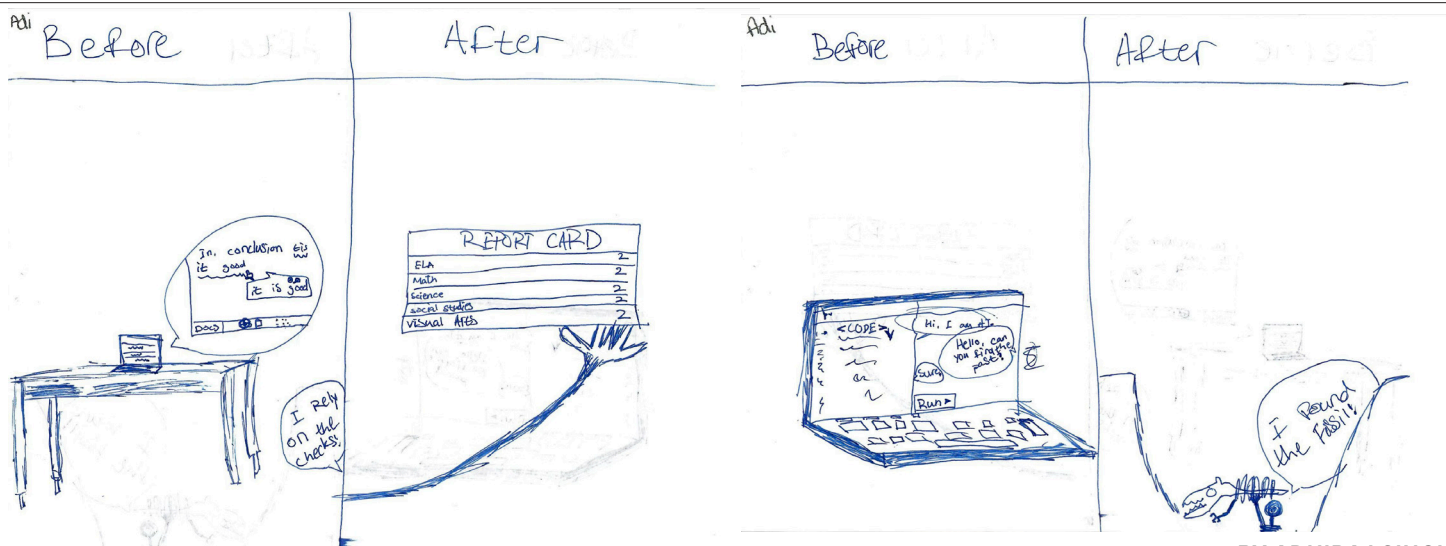
On the other hand, there are ways to help this. One way to help is by learning calming strategies and types of breathing. Ms. Leonhardt can teach us these strategies and techniques to help students calm down. Ms. Leonhardt also wants us to know that Anxiety isn't always a bad thing: "If you're worried about a test, it can help you study, but too much Anxiety can make you "freeze" and write all the wrong answers because you're so stressed."

In conclusion, anxiety can be both good and bad, but if you learn how to manage it, it can help you turn it into a good thing. Also, remember that everyone has anxiety even if they don't realize it; it's never something to be embarrassed about.

Legally Blonde continued

liked how the auditions ran and said that the rehearsals were quite good but she wishes she had had more time with the dancers in the show.

Legally Blonde, the musical, is based on *Legally Blonde* the movie. In the movie, the actor who plays Elle Woods is Reese Witherspoon. She was born March 22, 1975 and has become an activist for women's and children's rights. She served on the Children's Defense Fund, a child advocacy group. She also went on to publicize the needs of Hurricane Katrina victims. Another thing that Reese Witherspoon is known for is the "Reese Witherspoon Book Club" which is basically Reese reading books, either written by women or ones with strong female leads, and then choosing which of those her movie company, Hello Sunshine, makes into movies. Some movies and TV shows she's made are *Where the Crawdads Sing*, and *Little Fires Everywhere*. I hope that my article has convinced you to watch *Legally Blonde*, which you can do for free on Tubi, or with a subscription on Hulu or Prime Video. My personal favorite is the musical, which you can find on YouTube.



BY ADHIRAJ SINGH

Sibling Stories and Preferences

BY LEILA SHEIKH

Have you ever thought that you don't love your sibling, and you wish you could have a different sibling? Or, if you're an only child, you get bored and wish you had a sibling? Well, in this article you will find out if other fourth grade students would prefer younger or older siblings, and a little more into the topic!

Different Types of Siblings

Siblings come in different types, older, younger, and even twins. Some say their siblings are the worst, others say they're their best friend. Each type of sibling brings a different experience, preference, and behavior to the family. Here are two students who have different types of siblings. Layla L. complains about her older sibling, "Whenever she's in a bad mood, she's really mean and annoying, and she bosses me around thinking I'm a baby and teases me. She also excludes me in every single thing and makes me watch her do fun stuff." Sloane, who is an older sibling, feels quite differently about her little sister. She told me, "I can't imagine a world without her. We've had tons of fun together."

Pros and Cons of having Siblings

Having siblings can be both a good thing and a challenge. A pro could be that they can be the best and be super nice, kind, and entertaining. For an only child, they would get all the attention. On the other hand, an example of a con could be that they're your biggest enemy and know how to push your buttons. From the perspective of an only child, you could be bored and have no one to play with, although they may say something like what

Zoi shared with me, "I wouldn't want a sibling because my friends have terrifying stories about theirs."

Fun Stories with Siblings

Growing up with siblings can mean creating unforgettable memories whether it's building pillow forts, playing pranks, or teaming up against parents in games. It can also mean terrible fights including violence, and injuries. The other day Layla showed me a scar on her hand from her sister, while Nora told me she just gave her sister a make-over and she looked really cute! Sloane says, "We play games together and we both love dogs. Also we both play chess and it's fun to have things in common." Abdurrahman says, "they can sometimes be annoying but it's good to have siblings because you can play with them."

Sibling Preferences

Some kids love having an older sibling to look up to, while others enjoy being the older one who gets to lead the way. But what makes one sibling better than the other? Let's see the different preferences fourth graders have when it comes to their dream siblings. The students I interviewed answered this question and why they would prefer what they chose. Kira said, "I would rather have an older sibling because I like that they'd look after me." Abdurrahman said, "I would rather have a younger sibling because I could tell them what to do. In my culture, if someone is more than two years older than you, then they can tell you what to do." Zoi said, "I'd want a twin because she'd look like me and she could be smart and go to school for me." Layla L. says, "I would rather have

a younger sibling or a twin, but if I had to choose, I'd want a younger sibling because I like little kids. I would be really nice to them. I would be a role model and teach them to be nice because I like being nice to people. Sometimes when I'm nice to my sister, she doesn't react nicely to me, and it makes me not want to be nice to her, which makes me sad because I like being nice to people." Sloane said, "I would rather have a twin because when you have a twin, it's more fun and games together, instead of being annoying to each other. Also it would be fun to trick our parents and other adults pretending to be each other."

On most occasions, however you feel about your sibling, they probably feel the same way about you. And when you grow up you are sure to love whatever sibling you have. If you don't believe me, ask an adult in your family how they felt about their sibling when they were younger, then ask them how they feel about their sibling now that they're older. That wraps up my article, thanks for reading!



DRAWING BY LEILA SHEIKH

Vote Sport, Healer, and Enjoyment, Swimming!!!

BY ELLA GÜL

Did you know that swimming is more than just a sport? Did you know that it can heal you and help you enjoy your life more? I interviewed four people about swimming and they all had different opinions on why they enjoyed it and how swimming changed their lives.

I first interviewed my aunt, Mary Burdick, who had surgery on her hip in September 2023. She could barely move after her surgery until she went into the pool. Swimming helped the pain in her hip because there was no pressure on it in the water. Based on her personal experience, my aunt, who is a psychiatrist, recommended swimming to one of

her patients, who had an arm injury and was a painter. Aunt Mary's patient healed quicker and returned to painting earlier.

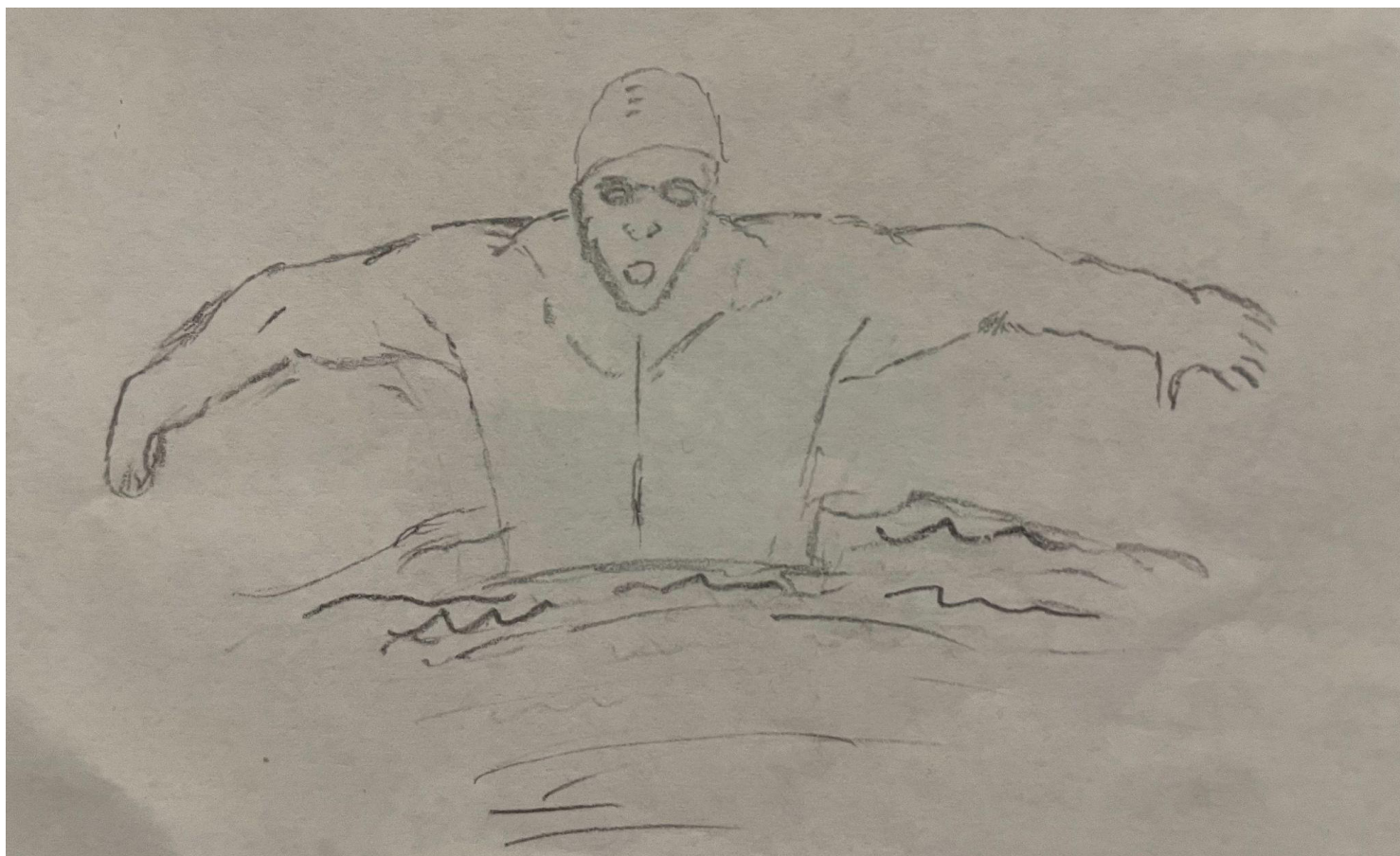
I next interviewed my friend, Sejal S., who is on a local swim team. She says she joined the swim team because she wanted to commit to something that she liked. She loves swimming and she is now enjoying being a part of the team, the Mako Sharks.

My third interview was with Mr. M, our PE teacher, who had a different experience altogether. He was a fast swimmer on the Lehman swim team, he is also a lifeguard, and a professional swim coach. Then, he came to P.S.11 to be our PE teacher and while he just likes

the sport itself, he told me that he appreciates swimming because of its competitiveness.

Finally, I interviewed Mike Jacoby, a swim instructor at the Jewish Community Center. Unlike Mr. M, Mr. Jacoby did not enjoy competitive swimming. He started being a swim instructor because he thought it would be fun. He also likes being a coach because he relates to kids and thinks that swimming is something everybody should learn how to do.

These stories are just four examples about how swimming is an important sport that everybody can enjoy in different ways. I hope you can now enjoy swimming in other ways too!



DRAWING BY ELLA GÜL

League of Legends - Who is Better: Messi or Ronaldo?

BY FREDDIE CASADO

A question for the ages: Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo? Skill vs. speed. Shooting vs. dribbling. Argentina vs. Portugal. Who is the best of the best? To slap this topic down, I spoke with some local soccer fans to get their point of view.

Messi or Ronaldo?

It was close. Messi or Ronaldo did not get a huge difference of votes. I personally like Ronaldo better because I think he plays better and has better skill moves than Messi. I spoke with Louie D-S., who said Ronaldo is better at playing soccer but he likes Messi better. He explained, "That's because Messi also donates to charity, and is more humble than Ronaldo. Ronaldo has more of a stronger ego than Messi."

Luciano P. told me that he feels Messi is better than Ronaldo because he scored a lot of goals, and led Argentina to winning the World Cup! Portugal has never won the World Cup with Ronaldo. Rami E. said that Messi was better because he is more of a legend than Ronaldo. "Messi won the World Cup way more times, and he has a better reputation than Ronaldo," he told me.

Right after, I decided to ask people if they were excited for the World Cup. Luciano said yes, and that he wants Spain to win because they have a "cracked team that can win anything." Adam P. wants the USA to win because he was born in the USA. Rami wants either Italy, France or Brazil to win the World Cup.

Then I asked people who their favorite player is. Adam likes Pulisic,

because he plays for the USA and he used to play for his favorite team, Chelsea. Rami does not have a favorite player, but he has a favorite team, which is Inter Milan.

Now, who is a better leader is another question. In my opinion, Messi is a better sport and leader. I think that Ronaldo is a player who is a bad sport. That's because he often blames his teammates when he does something wrong.

But what about the ultimate test, one-on-one? The answer is a tie: 2-2.

To conclude, both Messi and Ronaldo are both legendary at soccer, with strong shots, good dribbling, and excellent passing. It's difficult to determine who is better between Messi and Ronaldo. How would you decide?

Riddles

How did the two oceans greet each other?
They waved.

Why should you not play hide and seek with a Pikachu?
Because they peek a chu.

What do you call a seesaw with one side?
Broken.

What do you call a dream about an ocean of soda?
A fanta-sea.

Did you hear about the kidnapping in school?
It's ok, he woke up.

A boy and a dog go down a street. The boy ran, yet walked. What is the dog's name?
Yet.

What has four wheels and flies?
A garbage truck.
Why did the chicken cross the road?
To get to your house.
Knock knock.
Who's there?
The chicken.

Why does the ocean roar?
Because it has crabs in its bed.

The more you ave of it the less you see. What is it?
Darkness.

What has arms but no legs?
A clock.

What did the hat say to the other hat inside the haunted house?
You stay here. I'll go ahead.

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A Fun Day in Brooklyn

BY GRACE NOTO

As many readers of this paper probably live in Manhattan, I wondered how much, if anything they know about how unique (and fun!) Brooklyn is. There are food festivals, Coney Island, fancy restaurants, and much more! Well you might be thinking, “Manhattan has all lots of cool stuff too!” Well, there’s something about Brooklyn that makes it more memorable and special.

I personally love Brooklyn for many reasons. There are so many incredible places and things to do and see. My brother Peter agrees about Brooklyn too. When I interviewed him about what his favorite thing to do is he said, “If I could choose anywhere I would wait for a Sunday and go to this food festival called Smorgasburg with my Brooklyn friend Patrick. I would wait for a Sunday because they are only open that day of the week. I like Smorgasburg because it has so many food options and it’s a fun place to go. I also like it because it’s in the park so you can run around like crazy! And finally, I like the Barclays Center because once for my birthday I went to see a basketball game there. I also like it because all year long they put on cool shows and sport games.” Wow!

Did you also know that Smorgasburg has a stand where they crack open a coconut and give you fresh coconut water? And if you’re hungry for lunch, my favorite is the rainbow grilled cheese. And to top off the amazingness, if you want dessert, they have an ice cream stand where they put a marshmallow on

top of your ice cream and melt it with a torch till it’s gooey! Brooklyn also has an amazing sports center that puts on the best live shows and sports games.

For all the people out there who want relaxation (probably mostly the grownups), Brooklyn is the perfect place for you as well. You probably are thinking, well, wasn’t that all about crazy and non-relaxing activities? Yes, but Ms. Forshien, a teacher at P.S. 11, lives in Brooklyn and knows some great, calmer ways to spend a day in Brooklyn. Also, is Manhattan more relaxing than Brooklyn? Well, according to Ms. Forshien, “It definitely is, since there are fewer people so everything seems much more mellow. I also love to go to Prospect Park and go walking, jogging and relaxing. I also love to go to all the fancy restaurants. For Mexican, I like to go to Fonda and for sushi I like to go to Katsuei. I also love going to Dumbo because I love looking at the skyline in Manhattan but still being in Brooklyn, which I think is so cool. Finally, I love that my cats get to sit in the window and watch the people walk by.” So, as you can see there are many relaxing ways to spend your day in Brooklyn as well.

But before you explode with excitement, have you thought about your P.S.11 friends? If you live in Brooklyn, how does it work if you want to hang out with your P.S. 11 friends who don’t live there? Well luckily, Jaxson has some great answers. He says, “Yes, if you’re in Brooklyn you are able to see your friends from P.S.11. I mostly see

my friend Sebastien at the train station on the way to school. I also have some Brooklyn friends that I met at my old school. Finally, I love to play soccer and baseball all day long with my friend in the warm outdoors.” Isn’t It cool that Brooklyn is so different from Manhattan even though it’s only 30 minutes by subway?

So, as you can see Brooklyn has almost everything you can wish for! If you want to go relax or have some crazy fun, Brooklyn has it all! I hope you go to visit Brooklyn soon to see what I’m talking about! Now you can go up to your grownups and ask them to take you to Brooklyn. (Tell them all about the reasons why, and if they want to relax, add that in too of course!) So, go to Brooklyn for some fun and a break from the hard days at school! Step right up and catch the fun express (also known as subway) to Brooklyn!

THE P.S. 11 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. No journalistic experience necessary.

We want to hear from you!
ps11postnewsroom@gmail.com

Birds of New York City

BY REMY GROSS

There are birds in P.S. 11's playground, and not just chickens. Recently, a brown female merlin dropped in with a nest by the north-west side of playground! New York City is filled with birds, and a lot more than pigeons. For example, Central Park is home to grackles, hawks, starlings, sparrows, falcons, owls and more!

Most people don't notice there are birds all around them in New York City. One of the coolest birds that calls New York City home is the American Kestrel. Sometimes very rare birds can come and visit, like a gyrfalcon spotted in Chelsea or a snowy owl seen in Central Park. Sometimes birds from far away move into New York City by accident, like

the Monk Parakeets from Argentina who live in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. The Parakeets escaped off a plane at JFK Airport and flew more than 8 miles to make the cemetery their home.

During May, many birds migrate through New York City from the north in what's called the spring migration. Here are some birds that are a part of the spring migration: warblers, orioles and flycatchers. The best place to see migratory birds is The Ramble in Central Park, which is full of "Pond Slider" turtles and stalked by an occasional Osprey.

There are plenty of birders at P.S. 11, and they are serious about their bird business. Birding means relying on your senses to see and hear birds

around you. Oscar W., a P.S. 11 student, told me that he sees birds when he is riding with his dad on their electric scooter.

"My eyes help me the most, and once I spot it if it makes a sound I hear it. Other than that, you can't smell the bird or taste the bird!"

Want to learn more about birds? You can see the best birds in New York City in forestry parks with lots of trees like Central Park, Prospect Park, Inwood Park and Ft. Tryon Park. My favorite bird guide is David Allen Sibley, who writes great bird books with amazing hand drawn pictures. My favorite fact about birds is that peregrine falcons are the fastest animal on the planet. When they stoop for their prey, they fly through the air at 242 miles per hour. Birds are incredible creatures, so keep an eye out the next time you are out in NYC!

Track and Field continued

move our arms to go fast, we practiced running, and we got a lot of exercise.

The District Two Track and Field Series has three kinds of events: long jump, shot put, and running. Long jump is where you run as fast as you can and then you jump as far as you can into a sand pit. The school gets a point when students jump the farthest. For shot put, you throw a five-pound ball as far as you can. They put a cone next to where the ball lands to measure which one is the farthest. For the running races, five kids run at a time and there are four different race distances: 75 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, and 800 meters. There is also a relay race where coaches choose the fastest kids to run



PHOTO BY IGOR PUŠENJAK

as a team and pass the baton. Relay is the most important event because it gets the most points.

We had a meet, or competition, on Friday, May 2nd, where more than

continued on page 21

The Canine Companion



BY NOLAN GARDNER

PHOTO BY SANDY CHIN

Did you know according to Dogster, there are about 900 million dogs worldwide?! Those dogs are either kept as pets, strays out on the streets, or living in the wild. Dogs are one of the best companions. I have a dog myself. Her name is Eartha. Yes, like the old singer Eartha Kitt (for those of you who know who Eartha Kitt is). We got our dog from a place called Animal Haven. We adopted her on Valentine's Day four years ago. This was our second dog. She is a pit bull and part Australian Cattle dog.

When I interviewed Skyler W., a P.S. 11 fifth grader, who has fostered many, many, dogs she told me that her favorite rescue organizations are Pup Starz and Muddy Paws rescues because they are both very trustworthy shelters and they try their hardest to make sure that the dogs

they have are adopted. Skyler told me the story of Oscar, her 17th foster pup. Oscar came from a breeder and wasn't bought fast enough, so he got thrown in a dumpster. Pup Starz found him. Oscar was very shy when he first came to Skyler and her family because he didn't trust them just yet. Skyler's favorite dog breed is a Pitbull because they are so kind and will do anything to cheer you up.

Sana Sira-Kawasaki is a fellow fifth grader. She had gotten a dog herself about 1-2 months ago. Sana and her family got their dog, Pebbles, from Muddy Paws. According to Sana, they chose Muddy Paws because they have a lot of dogs to choose from, they're a reliable organization with good resources, and finally because they treat the dogs very well. Sana's dog, Pebbles, was found in Kentucky and

was brought back to their shelter in New York. Pebbles was three months old when Sana adopted her. And even though everything she had been through Sana said that Pebbles was loud and proud.

One last interview I did while researching this article is with a worker from Bideawee's pet rescue. Her name is Robin, and she told me that the longest resident of Bideawee is a dog named Coco, who has been there since December 13th, 2024! And when you think about it, that isn't long. To be precise, that's about 108 days, about three and half months. That really shows how much they care about their dogs and how hard they try to get them adopted.

The dog with the saddest story is Cody. Cody was adopted as a puppy and then while he was staying with the family, they discovered that he had leg problems and needed surgery, but the family couldn't afford it. This meant that they had to send him back to the shelter.

Robin said that she loves dogs because if you're having a bad day, they will snuggle with you and try to make you feel better. Robin's favorite dog in the shelter is a Corgi-Pitbull mix named Brooklyn. One thing that I would like to mention about Bideawee is that they give food to stray dogs and cats they don't have room for. So even when they can't take them into the shelter, they try to help ensure that all cats and dogs have a better life. And one more thing they do is when one shelter doesn't have enough space for an animal, they take them in.

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Tips to Brawl Stars

BY LEO LEE

Brawl Stars is blowing up in 2025. Brawl Stars is an online game where you try to become the best player by getting the most trophies. To get there, you want to pick the right games, earn trophies, and upgrade your Brawlers so they can win rounds. Here are some beginner tips that helped me.

Picking the right game is important because it gets you the most mastery points and trophies to be the best Brawl stars player. I interviewed my friend Jacob who said “Duels is the best game because it gets you the most trophies on your Brawlers and your account.” The game Duels is where you pick three characters and then you press “Brawl” to fight another player who chooses three characters too. Duels is a strategy game where you choose your top three Brawlers. You do not control three characters at once, you play with one character at a time. When

you lose the round, instead of gaining trophies you lose them. When you win the round, you gain trophies not only on your account but also on your Brawlers. You also gain mastery points on your Brawlers to show how good you are with them.

When you first get a Brawler, they all start at level one. To upgrade a Brawler you need coins and power points. Coins are easier to get, for example, from the Brawl Pass XP, Star Drops, or daily freebie. You can get power points the same way as coins. To upgrade a Brawler you need both coins and power points.

In the beginning, you only start with one Brawler. You can get Brawlers by unlocking them with credits, buying them, or rolling them. You can unlock Brawlers with credits from Brawl Pass XP and Trophy Rode. Brawl Pass XP is unlocked when you do quests and complete them. Trophy Road is when you use trophies to claim prizes. Rolling a Brawler is



DRAWING BY LEO LEE

when you get a star drop, a gift for putting your time into the game. Also, you do not start with all the games. In order for you to get more games, you have to get trophies. You can unlock games with trophies. It is pretty simple: you play games to unlock more games. My friend Ryan had another tip: “All kids need to know how to hide in bushes because when a Brawler comes in unprepared, you have an advantage.”

I hope your first experience in Brawl stars is fun. It may get confusing at first, but take your time. Talking about Brawl Stars with your friends can help. I hope to see you in the arena.

Track and Field continued

200 kids from P.S. 11 competed with other Second District schools at a Track and Field facility on the Lower East Side, located under the Manhattan Bridge. On the day of the meet, we met in the cafeteria and took buses to the field. At the field, there was a snack bar with chips, fruit snacks, granola bars, and water. You could eat whenever you were not doing an event. I had a lot of fun, but it was a very hot day!

On Friday, May 16th, 40 kids from P.S. 11 competed at the District Two Championship.



PHOTO BY P.S. 11 POST TEAM

Canine Companion continued

I have had some of my own experience with fostering dogs. I have fostered two dogs, and I know it's not as many as Skyler, but that's still something. The dogs I have fostered were a Mastiff named Fiona and a German Shepherd named Greta. I love them both, and they were both in their puppy phase when we fostered them. But the organization we had fostered for wasn't good. They treated their dogs badly and they charged extra for dogs - it seems like dogs weren't their top priority, but money was. Let this be a lesson: before fostering from any place it's important to investigate with your grownups that the company you're fostering for is a good organization.



PHOTO BY SANDY CHIN

Can you Guess the Mystery Person?

BY GRACE NOTO

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?

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

Mystery Person: About one year

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

Mystery Person: fifth grade

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

Mystery Person: No, I was born in Long Island

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

Mystery Person: I enjoy running and watching movies

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

Mystery Person: The fall.

P.S. 11 Post: What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

Mystery Person: Vanilla.

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

Mystery Person: I'm pretty tall.



Answer on page 23

Cyanotype Printing

BY MIA SESSA VITALI

Cyanotype printing is making art in a unique way. Maybe you want to try it too? Anna Atkins was the first person to discover cyanotype printing. Were you hoping to learn how cyanotype printing works? Then read this!

The first thing you need for cyanotype printing is a piece of paper covered in chemicals. The reason why you shouldn't use regular paper is because if you did, it would end up being a fat clump of wet paper. You also need water to wash off the paper, and you also need peroxide. You may ask, why peroxide? You need peroxide because if the print is too light, then the peroxide will make the print darker. You also need ultraviolet light. That light ensures that the print of that object or plant will stick to the paper. The last thing that you need for cyanotype printing is an object or

plant. That is because without one of those things there would be no print! So, if you ever want to try cyanotype printing, always make sure you have those 5 things with you. Cyanotype printing is a very fun activity. You can make a picture without using pencils or a camera, but by involving the spirit of art and Anna Atkins who discovered this wonderful activity. Cyanotype printing is an activity that was available to those who participated in the Young Artists program here at P.S.11 this year. You can try signing up next year.

Finally, here are some facts about Anna Atkins:

1. Anna Atkins was born on March 16, 1799 in Tonbridge United Kingdom.
2. She died on June 9, 1871 in Halstead, United Kingdom.
3. Anna Atkins published 5 fictional novels.



BY MIA SESSA VITALI

Now you may want to sign up for cyanotype printing. Think about it! All I can tell you is that it is a very fun activity! Who knows you might make a new friend? What? Everything is more fun when you do it with a friend, but especially art!

Slide Delivery continued

do they care on a scale of 1-5. (5 being the most)

The results were that 26 people cared about the slide. And the number that most people voted for was five, with 15 votes. This means that most of my class would love it if the slide got fixed. They really do care

about the slide and want to be able to use it again.

A slide is a fun and cool piece of playground equipment so I wrote this article because I want the slide to be fixed so I can go on it again before I leave P.S. 11. I really hope Mr. Bender will be told that the slide can be fixed soon.

Riddles continued

Why does the banana not go out of his house in the summer?
Because he peels.

What asks no questions but requires many answers?
A doorbell.

THE P.S. 11 POST ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Ann Burdick
Teresa Edleston
Jacob Ganz
Julia Gouny
Max Gross
Igor Pušenjak

Guess the Mystery Person

answer:

Ms. Fives



P.S. 11 Post investigative reporters: Charlotte Lee, Nolan Gardner, Emmie Lee, Jonathan Dolgin, Leila Sheikh, Adhiraj Singh, Jordy Barragan, Grace Noto, Kira Salsberg, Lena Olim, Vivien Keck, Lucille Shepard, Rohan Rao, Jadeyn Murphy, Freddie Casado, Leo Lee, Zoe Ganz, Ella Gul, Eli Smith, Corinne Pevnick, Dynasty Hamilton, Celeste Gouny, Mia Sessa Vitali, Remi Gross