

THE SPRINGHURST TIMES

A school paper that soars above the rest!

FALL 2022

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THE P.B.I.S. COMMITTEE

BY MINA H., LILY G., & SOFIA D.

For this article, we interviewed Ms. Del Pilar and Assistant Principal Grabelsky about PBIS, and what it's like working together to lead the PBIS committee.

What is the PBIS committee?

The PBIS committee is sort of like a club. It is a team made up of six teachers. The committee meets every month. It is not just in our school, it is in many schools.

Is it hard running PBIS?

People have good ideas but it is hard to get all of the good ideas running, so yes, it can be hard running PBIS.

How does it feel working with each other & the committee?

Lovely. We love working with the staff. We get to know each other more while we see interests, values, and most importantly, different visions of Springhurst.

How does PBIS help the school?

PBIS helps kids learn how to behave in school and out of school. It teaches them to be kind, helpful, etc.

Who are the other teachers that you work with on the PBIS committee?

The other teachers are Mrs. Bochicchio, Mrs. Moccia, Mrs. Schacher, Mrs. Giuliano, Mrs. Broccoli, Mrs. Misrok, and Ms. Coulehan, in addition to the two of us.

Do you split the jobs in the committee or do you work on them as a team?

Some people in the committee work on events, such as assemblies. Others do different tasks.

Who were the people running

the PBIS committee before you started at Springhurst?

Assistant Principal Cavallo ran the PBIS committee with six teachers before Assistant Principal Grabelsky and Ms. Del Pilar took charge of the committee.

Do you find PBIS helpful?

Yes, it is helpful. It helps kids understand what to do in order to get certain privileges.

And now you know a little more about PBIS and the PBIS committee.



KINDERGARTEN APPLE PICKING

BY CORALIE G., SOFIA D., & SOPHIE P.

Did you know there are approximately 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the U.S.A? It just so happens that the kindergarteners went apple picking way back in September! Let's see what they thought about the trip! These three kindergarteners were kind enough to let us interview them about their trip. We interviewed Jack, Grace, and Eli. They all had great answers, let's see what they said.

Q: What was the best part of the trip?

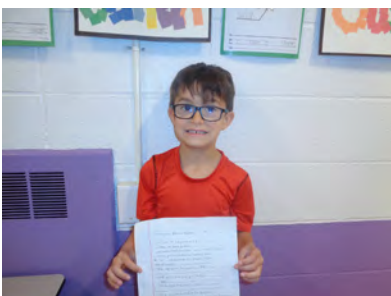
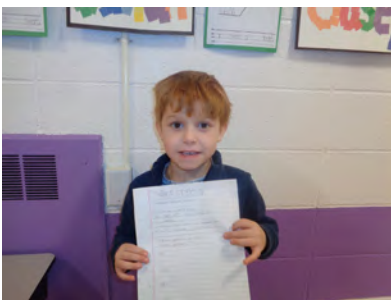
A: (Eli's Answer) After we apple picked, we went to a shed and there was an apple sorter.

Q: What do you think could've been improved about the trip?

A: (Jack's Answer) Chickens and Animals.

Q: What color apples did you pick?

A:(Grace's Answer) All! Red, Yellow, and Green!



Q: Would you go back with your family?

A: (Grace's Answer) Yes, to eat apples and donuts.

Q: Did the apples taste good?

A: (Jack's Answer) Yes!

Q: Did you enjoy the bus ride to the apple farm?

A: (Eli's Answer) Yes, we were trying to race cars on the highway!

We think they did a great job answering these questions. If you want, read on for some facts about apples!

1. Apple pie is not American.
2. Apples are 25% air.
3. One apple has around 6-10 apple seeds.
4. It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.
5. It takes about two pounds of apples to make one 9-inch pie.
6. Apples are healthy for you!!!

SPRINGHURST'S PUMPKIN FAIR

BY KELLAN G. & LEO S.

This year's pumpkin fair was huge. There were many games and stations to go to. We interviewed some people and they said the Pumpkin fair was amazing. There was also a lot of food such as cookies, brownies, pizza and more. There was a pie contest, and the winner was Sarah Saletti. The skies were blue, and the temperature was perfect. There



was a lot of traffic on the way into school. This Pumpkin fair was great. This was a fundraiser for the Dobbs Ferry

Schools and for the Jacob Moon Foundation ,and it raised over twenty-five thousand dollars! There were 241 volunteers, many of whom were students, in addition to parents and teachers. This was also a "waste free" event with recycling stations and close to zero emissions. In case you missed it, the pumpkin weighed-in 103 lbs!



SOUP DAY

LIAM B., MATT M., & DHIREN S.

Soup day is here! And everyone in the school is excited. But before the delicious soup is served it needs to be made. But what is in the soup? It all starts in Springhurst's Outdoor Classroom where many of the vegetables are grown. The vegetables in the soup from the garden are: tomato, onion, carrots, celery, parsley, butternut squash, zucchini, and swiss chard. The ingredients in the soup that are not from the garden are: corn, kidney beans, cheese, pasta, and mushrooms.

Then after the vegetables are grown they are washed and chopped. The washing takes about an hour, and the chopping also takes an hour. Many parent volunteers came to help prepare the ingredients. After, they cook, refrigerate, and warm the soup which takes around 5 hours.

For this year's 14th soup day there were 20 people that chopped the vegetables for the soup. There were 5 people cooking and 5 people serving the soup.

We asked Mrs. Sellitti, the Outdoor Classroom Coordinator & Soup Day Manager, if she'd ever wanted to add anything to the soup. She said that the recipe was yummy as it is, and that it also is tradition.

In all, Soup Day is an exciting event that most people love. The reason for this amazing day is that it secretly makes kids eat healthy and brings the community together.

We all love Soup Day and hope it continues for years to come.



In case you want to make the soup...

Ingredients:

- 10 oz. portabella mushrooms, chopped
- 2 yellow onions, peeled and chopped
- 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 bunches Swiss chard, tough stems removed. Leaves chopped
- 6 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 cups corn, sliced from cob
- 3 cups butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 28 oz. can plum tomatoes or fresh tomatoes, chopped
- 4 cups of cooked beans (use kidney or black beans) Soak and drain
- 16 cups vegetable broth
- 1 Parmigiana-Reggiano rind
- 1/2 lb. pasta, Ditalini or any desired shape
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese for garnish
- Fresh parsley for garnish

Heat oil in a large stock pot.

Add onions, carrots, and celery. Saute 10 minutes until soft.

Add mushrooms, Swiss chard, potatoes, corn, butternut squash, tomatoes, beans and cheese rind.

Add enough vegetable broth to cover vegetables.

Bring to a boil.

Cover and simmer for 2-3 hours. Add more broth or water as needed.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

Add cooked pasta. Cook for 10 more minutes.

Serve with grated cheese and parsley as garnish, if desired.

**Recipe adapted from Savoring Italy by Michele Sciolone*

DOBBS FERRY HALLOWEEN

BY ERON M.

This Halloween, people were dressed as everything from lions to Pac-Man. We all can agree, it was Candy Heaven this Halloween! Main Street was PACKED with kids getting candy bars, from fun size to king size. Local Halloween events were especially popular. A Halloween Bash was held October 30th at the Water-Front Park. The Field of Screams was held at the Memorial Field on October 28. I was told that it was Scary!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

BY KELLAN G.

Congratulations! Elected candidates from 4th and 5th grades were sworn in to Student Government on Friday, October 28th. The audience was made up of Springhurst 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Next year, 3rd graders will step up to 4th grade and maybe run for student government. There were some special guests in attendance such as the Middle School Principal, Mr. Mussolini (or Mr. Moose for short). Mrs. Borenstein, who was one of the two Student Government's founding teachers, was there as well. Springhurst



Student Government started in 2007. This year, 72 people ran, and 19 students were elected. Mr. Mussolini spoke during the ceremony. He said, "It is not about who you are; it is about who you represent." I interviewed one of my class Student Government representatives, Dhiren. He stated, "I will attempt to improve school lunches and recess equipment." Blue and white shirts were also worn in honor of the swearing-in event.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

BY EVA N.

November is full of holidays and events like National Novel Writing Month, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, and many more. But you might not know that November is also Native American Heritage Month. During Native American Heritage Month, people of Native American descent celebrate their culture. Some families make special foods, and others tell stories. Some people make traditional corn husk dolls.

Corn husk dolls are little people made of corn husks. Corn husks are the outside of an ear of corn. When you remove them, it is called shucking.

Lots of people identify as Native American or are descended from Native Americans. There are many Native American tribes and nations such as: the Lenape, the Haudenosaunee, the Lakota, the Cherokee, the Sioux, and many others, and that's just in North America. In addition to different nations, there are also many famous Native American people. Some of them you might know from history, like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, and

others you might not know about, like Tokata Iron Eyes, a Native American activist.

There are also a lot of Native American artists. Some examples are Marie Watt, Wendy Red Star, and Juane Quick-to-see-Smith.

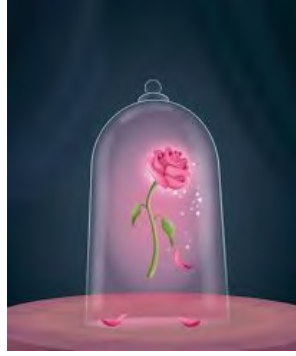
In short, Native American Heritage Month is an important month and a chance to celebrate Native American culture and accomplishments.



BEAUTY & THE BEAST JR.

BY EVELYN S. & PHOEBE J.

The Dobbs Ferry Middle School production of *Beauty and the Beast Junior* was a big hit with three performances all to a full house! The amazing thing about these plays is that the middle school students did a lot of the work under adult supervision. Although the middle school students did not direct the play, those who weren't acting in it, had the opportunity to build the set.



The Importance of Songs in a Musical

For the people who have watched the movie and the play, you would know there were many different songs in the musical like "Human Again", in addition to "Belle", and "Be Our Guest".

The song "Human Again" reflected the feelings of the objects living in the Beast's castle's emotions. Although this song can't be seen in one of the Beauty and the Beast movies, it was a good choice to add into the play, because most of the story is about Belle and the Beast, while this song adds another perspective into the storyline, making it slightly more interesting, and giving the other characters some more emotion.

The song "Belle", that took place at the beginning, was massively important to the story, and plot by setting up the storyline. A part of this song was also the "I want" song in the musical. The other part of the song is the "I am" song sung by Gaston, featuring him singing about how he's tall and strong, and how he'll make Belle marry him because of how beautiful she is. Later in the story Gaston sings the song "Gaston", and as the name states, the song is all about how amazing he thinks he is. The fact that he's singing the "I am" song that would usually be sung by the antagonist of the story (villain) gives massive foreshadowing on the ending.

In most Disney musicals, at the beginning of the story while we're still being introduced to all the characters, the protagonist (main character) will sing a song about what they want, or what their goal is, that is the heart of the story.

In the song "Belle" the villagers aren't the only ones singing about how odd Belle is, but also Belle herself singing about how much she loves books, and how she would love to venture to far away places. This is the "I want" song usually sung by the hero of the story or the protagonist.

A Surprising Ending

In Beauty and the Beast, this song has an effect on the slightly unexpected ending of Gaston and all of the villagers heading to the Beast's castle to "Kill the Beast". But why would they want to "Kill the Beast"? You might be thinking that they are afraid of him and resorting to violence (instead of cowardice which someone would

often be seen doing when they are scared of something). And you would be right, but you'd be missing a few details like what leads Gaston to decide to kill the Beast in the first place.

Before the falling action (the big fight at the end), Gaston is convinced that Belle's father is crazy (because of how he said that Belle was being held hostage by a "horrible monstrous beast"), and holding her back from marrying Gaston. So, He sends people out to capture Belle's father. At this, Belle is obviously against the idea of having her father locked up and proves to Gaston and all of the villagers that the Beast is real. Then, instead of Belle's father, their new target is the Beast.

Belle and her father have already run off to warn the Beast, and soon after that, Gaston and the villagers head off into the woods to find the Beast's castle. Most of the rest of the story is about the villagers fighting the objects in the castle. Soon, Gaston and the Beast meet each other face to face.

In this part of the story, Gaston and the Beast are fighting each other. When Gaston stabs the beast, Belle comes in, jumping in front of the Beast, forcing Gaston to pull his knife away. Then while Gaston is distracted, the Beast comes back in and drops him off the roof of the castle. Finally, Belle and the Beast live happily ever after together.

The Fifth Grade Chorus



While the musical was directed mostly by high school students, and performed entirely by middle school students, some of our amazing fifth graders were in the chorus playing the part of napkins and

forks in the musical. The fifth grade students sang in the song, "Be Our Guest", and the ending song, "Finale".

The Middle School students worked their socks off in this production starting in September up until opening night on November 18th, attending almost every rehearsal which would take place in the High School and Middle School auditorium. The rehearsals would take place most days of the week and over the weekend too.

Mr. Brewster, Springhurst's band conductor, was conducting the live music pit, with Mr. Wardlaw playing the synth and Mr. Hertzberg playing the bass.

In conclusion, the Middle School musical, *Beauty and the Beast JR*, was performed amazingly. The costumes were top notch, the story line was well written, and a good fairy tale for Middle School students to perform.

SPRING BINGO NIGHT

BY ZOE D.

Do you like bingo? Then you'll love Springhurst's annual Spring Bingo Night! **What is Spring bingo night?** It's a fun way to raise money for [Spring Community Partners](#) and the school. Spring community partners make sure all students get to participate in school activities. There is usually a ten to twenty dollar fee to participate, depending on how much you want to donate. It is usually played on the computer and virtual. And everyone knows the rules of bingo. But if you don't, here are the rules. Each player gets a bingo card that looks like the picture provided. The principal will call a number and letter from a ball. The letter

will either be B, I, N, G or O. The number can range from 1 to 99. So say the principal calls B 4, if I have B 4 on my card then in this case I click it. If I don't then I just leave it alone. The free space on the card is a different story because the free space you can click right away. If you get the shape that the principal tells you about like a X or a plus sign then you win the game. There are prizes too, such as pizza with the principal or extra recess. **When is it?** This year, Spring Bingo Night took place on Friday, December 9th from 6:30 to 7:30. **Why bingo?** Spring Community Partners chose bingo because bingo was such a hit during shutdown. The Spanish teachers would know - considering we play it in class too!

B I N G O				
1	27	33	48	75
8	19	45	56	61
3	18	FREE SPACE	49	69
15	26	41	53	66
2	21	37	46	65

COMIC: DAVE'S LIFE

BY SHAUN-YANG S.



INTERVIEW: MR. ARMSTRONG

BY LILY G, MINA H., & ZOE D.

This is Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong has been working at Springhurst for one year. Previously, he taught in a different school for eight years. He is a fourth grade teacher, but his classroom is in the third grade hallway. He shares classes with Mrs. LaPorte who's classroom is in the fifth grade hallway, so switching is crazy! He taught fifth grade for six years. When he was a little kid, he wanted to become a cartoonist. He did art when he was a teenager because he wanted to get good at drawing cartoons. His first experience working with kids was as a camp counselor as a teenager. Mr. Armstrong likes to watch sports and cartoons on TV. He played soccer, lacrosse, and hockey. He coached girl's volleyball and boy's



basketball teams. Mr. Armstrong grew up in Mahopac (Mayo-pack), a town in Westchester. He lived in Albany for eight years, and then moved back to Westchester over the summer. He loves doing Ken Kens and Sudoku puzzles. His birthday is February 3rd. The most inspiring person in his life is his dad because he supported him a lot. "And, he is my Cheerleader" says Mr. Armstrong. He enjoys hanging out with his family, specifically, his niece and nephew. He likes being able to see kids. He got a masters degree in literacy, and majored in childhood education. He really likes to read fantasy books. Mr. Armstrong is happy teaching at Springhurst. And that is Mr. Armstrong!



INTERVIEW: MRS. ANDERSON

BY PENNIE V & KIRAN A.

Introducing Mrs. Anderson! Mrs. Anderson is a substitute teacher at Springhurst. She likes the community of students and staff at this school and wants to help kids learn.

Mrs. Anderson likes to teach math, her favorite color is blue, and she loves Springhurst. Mrs. Anderson's favorite sports teams are the NY Jets and the Denver Broncos, and she loves to play soccer and



softball. Mrs. Anderson's favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas. Springhurst is different from the school where Mrs. Anderson is from because it has more students, staff and teachers. So these are some great, cool things about Mrs. Anderson. When you see Mrs. Anderson in the halls, be sure to say, "Hello!" because we think she is the best substitute ever.

GAMES: WINTER WORD SEARCH

BY PENNIE V.

M	W	N	O	R	F	Y	A	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	D
C	E	K	S	D	L	W	Q	D	F	K	L	O	P	A	S
V	B	M	N	L	P	O	T	S	R	T	C	U	Y	L	I
W	E	K	O	H	J	Q	C	A	P	O	D	V	I	B	L
E	I	J	U	R	Y	J	G	E	O	A	S	X	O	A	P
N	D	B	C	H	I	G	X	K	Z	S	M	B	D	O	J
S	V	R	T	W	A	E	I	B	F	A	M	I	L	Y	K
N	D	R	E	U	O	E	S	L	U	E	N	H	J	G	S
O	T	E	Q	Y	S	H	L	P	E	U	Y	I	K	M	G
W	B	N	S	D	J	N	P	R	E	V	I	T	S	E	F
Z	Y	X	T	K	I	L	T	A	O	P	W	G	L	Z	R
C	F	G	H	B	M	Q	F	T	V	A	I	E	O	U	I
E	S	R	G	P	F	H	O	L	L	Y	N	O	W	T	E
N	I	F	I	X	A	V	W	J	S	J	T	C	E	Z	N
A	U	S	L	U	L	O	V	E	B	R	E	H	N	M	D
M	P	F	S	T	Q	F	M	D	A	C	R	P	K	L	S

Lights

Memories

Fun

Winter

Jolly

Snow

Cookies

Family

Love

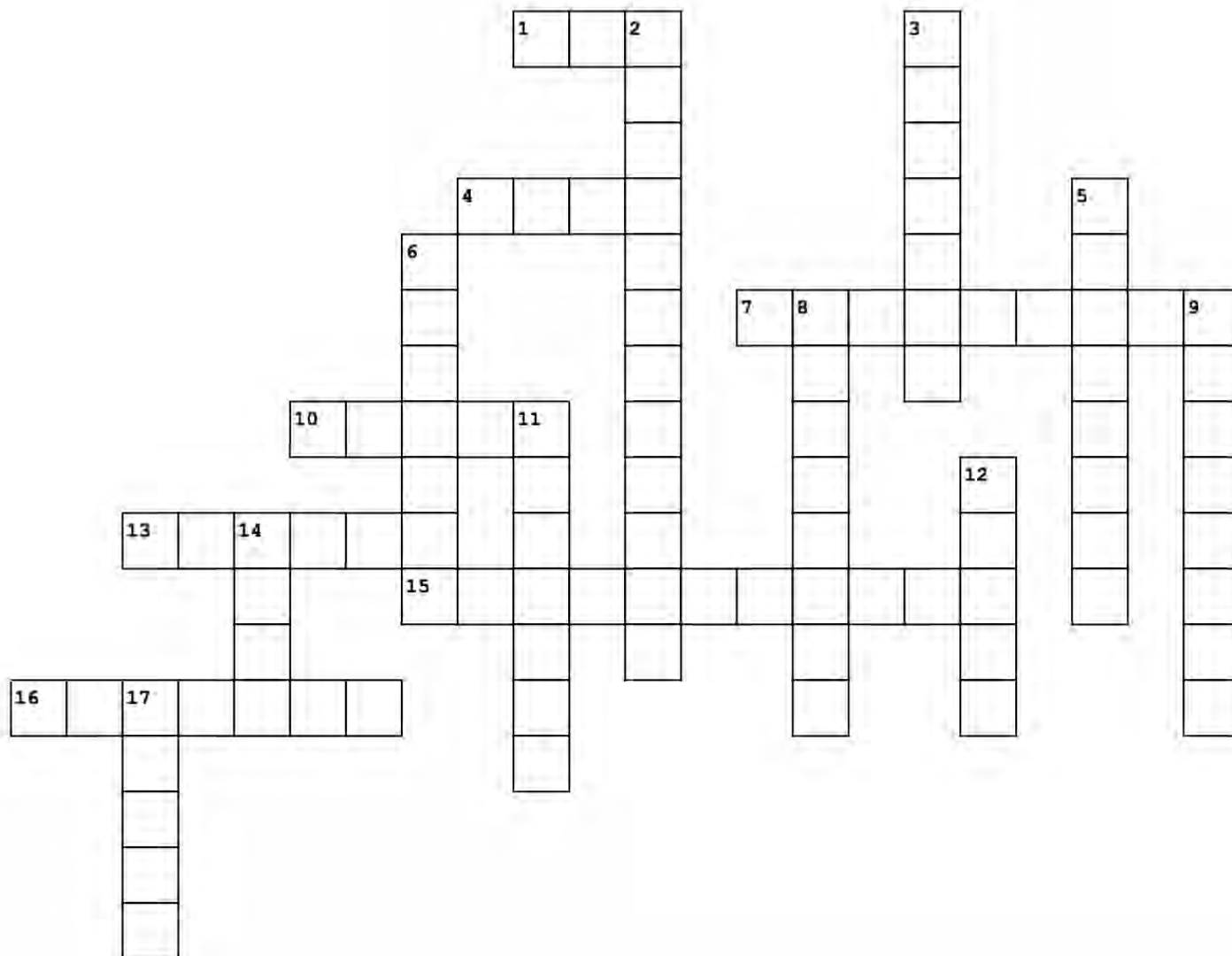
Friends

Festive

Mittens

GAMES: HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD

BY CORALIE G.



Across

1. I sleep upside down
4. Candy ____
7. I live in corn fields
10. A witch's transportation
13. The walking dead
15. RIP stands for (3 words)
16. Something carved for Halloween

Down

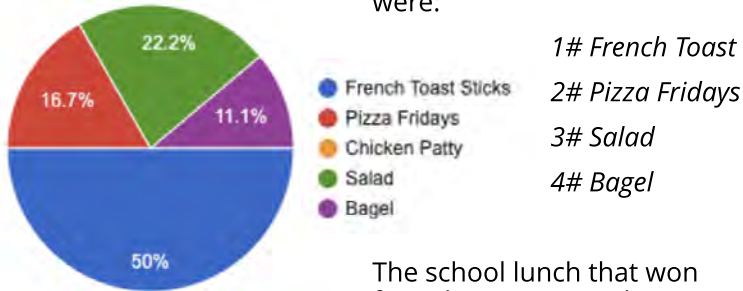
2. Dracula's hometown
3. I hate garlic and sun light
5. Sleepy Hollow's headless ____
6. Month of Halloween
8. Scariest place on Halloween
9. I transform on a full moon
11. I live under your bed
12. Trick or ____
14. Worn to disguise face
17. Science used by wizards

FAVORITE SCHOOL LUNCHES

BY PHOEBE J. WITH SHAUN-YANG S.

Have you ever wondered what the most popular school lunch is in the fourth and fifth grade? Yeah, me either, but you're going to find out anyway!

We sent a google form to at least twenty people, and the most popular school lunches were:



The school lunch that won first place was French Toast sticks with 52.9% of the votes on its side. French Toast is made with bread, (most commonly) eggs, and usually eaten with maple syrup.

According to Lily G.: "I really like french toast sticks because I just have always loved the school french toast sticks. Also, they are like warm sweet bread and syrup. Yum!"

According to Sophie P.: "French Toast sticks are 10/10. THE BEST."

Others say they chose French toast sticks because "It's like another breakfast!!!", "On a scale of one to ten I would say French toast sticks are 9.9", and "Just saying, most human food is quite delicious."

Coming in second place, salad had 23.5% of the votes.

Salad is made of- well... salad (or lettuce), and a variety of different toppings which include: cucumbers, bell peppers, and parmesan and cheddar cheese.

According to Olimpia D.: "I like the salads because I feel they're good, and they look and taste 10." Others said they

enjoyed the salad because you can get whatever you want in it.

In third place with 16.7% of the votes we have Pizza Fridays!

(Most) pizza is made by rolling out dough into a flat shape then spreading tomato sauce across it. Then you would sprinkle shredded cheese on top of the sauce, before placing it in the oven to bake.

According to Eva N.: "I would rate the school pizza an eight out of ten because I really like the flavor of it. The only thing that I do not like about it is the pizza and crust ratio."

According to Kiran: "PIZZA!"

Others say that they enjoy Pizza Fridays because of how much they liked the flavor.

In fourth place, Bagels won with 11.1% of the votes siding with it.

A bagel dough's ingredients are (most commonly) honey, flour, and salt. Once the dough has been made, it will be kneaded for ten minutes before shaping it into its bagel-like shape. Once that step has been completed, the dough will be boiled to acquire the outer crust of the bread; then the bread will be baked.

According to Matteo: "Bagels are the perfect lunch if you don't like that day's hot lunch. I would rate bagels a 10/10 because the combination of the cream cheese and the bagel is amazing."

Next, Chicken Patty fell into fifth place with zero of the votes.

What did we learn today? Maybe, that no one likes Chicken Patty? But in conclusion, the school lunch that seems to be the most popular is French Toast.

SCHOOL FOOD

BY KELLAN G.

Do you like school food? Opinions differ on this question. School food is good most of the time, but, for example, the salad sometimes overflows the trays (which is a reason to switch to bowls) and sometimes the line is so long that you get pushed and tossed every second. Many people LOVE breakfast for lunch. I asked 10 people their opinions on breakfast for lunch, and 7 out of 10 agree it's great and 3 don't really like it. Also, if it's breakfast for lunch, or anything else for that matter, there aren't many alternative choices if you don't like it. It's either bagels or salads, which some still might not like. And I know some people here don't remember this, but I really miss challah bread. I bet that almost

everyone does. Having challah bread as an option makes it less stressful when you don't have a packed lunch and you don't really like any of the food being



served. Bringing back the challah bread could help a lot of kids. Although it's so popular, it might all be eaten in one lunch period.

KENKEN PUZZLES

BY DHIREN S. & KIRAN A.

These are KenKens, and KenKen rules are very direct. Fill in each square cell in the puzzle with a number between 1 and the size of the grid. For example, in a 3x3 grid, use the numbers 1, 2, & 3. Another example is in a 4x4 grid, use the numbers 1, 2, 3, & 4. The goal of a KenKen puzzle is to fill in the whole grid with numbers, making sure no numbers are repeated in any row or column. When you see the puzzle, the numbers are what you want to get to and the +, -, and x are how you want to solve the equation. The rules are simple once you've played a few times, but the most important rule is to have fun while solving the puzzle! Below are some KenKens to try.

We interviewed Mr. Rosen about KenKen puzzles, and here is what he had to say:

1) What is the hardest thing about KenKen?

One of the great things about KenKen is that the beginning puzzles (3x3 addition) allow almost anyone to start. I have taught KenKen to 1st graders!

As the puzzles get larger, they get more difficult, so you can choose how difficult you want them to be. I think it is hard to consider that a cage may have a lot of different options, and to be patient to wait until you know for sure before putting the numbers in. This is why the candidates are so important. So the hardest thing is working

5+		6+
4+		
		3

5+ 3	2	6+ 1
4+ 1	3	2
2	1	3 3

patiently and being sure to know a number before putting it in the cage.

2) What is the hardest KenKen to solve?

Believe it or not, in my opinion the most difficult KenKen is the 9x9 addition only. Why not the one with all of the operations, you may ask? Actually, multiplication and division have fewer possibilities than addition. For example (in a 9x9), if a cage is a 10x, the only option is 5x2. If a cage is a 4/ (divided), the only options are 8/2 and 4/1. However if a cage is a 10+, the options are 9+1, 8+2, 7+3, 6+4. If there is an L shaped cage with 10+ and three numbers, we have 8+1+1, 7+2+1, 6+2+2, 6+3+1, 5+4+1, 5+3+2, 4+3+3, 4+4+2, (8 options!!!!) What makes a KenKen challenging is not the size of the numbers in the cage, or even the operations involved, but the number of possible combinations there are that can make the target number. It is a challenge to narrow all of that down.

3+	6+	
		5+
4+		

4+		5+
8+		
		1

POLLUTION IN THE HUDSON RIVER

BY PHOEBE J.

Have you ever gone on a walk at the waterfront park near the Hudson River? Or maybe you've played on the playground or had soccer practice there, or maybe you might have gone there for a birthday party. But whenever you've gone someplace near the Hudson River, have you ever noticed litter in the water or on the shore?

Although the Hudson River isn't nearly as dirty as the Ohio River, which happens to be one of the most polluted rivers in the U.S., it is still the most polluted river in New York.

What do you usually think of when you hear people talk about litter or more generally, pollution? One thought that might fly into your mind is giant landfills with millions of tons of trash. While landfills are polluting the world horribly, things that you might see every day have an effect on litter in rivers and oceans too. Even just one bag of chips dropped on the ground can have an effect.

People are always talking about how trash adversely affects the environment, and how we shouldn't litter. But have you ever wondered why? What could one plastic bottle fallen on the ground do? How could one Snickers wrapper make its way into the ocean?

Think about it. When there are storms, the toxic chemicals and materials from the litter get washed and blown down into streams and rivers, and then carried by

the flowing water into oceans. In fact, seven billion tons of debris enters the world's oceans annually! That doesn't mean that all of the toxic chemicals are getting washed straight into the Atlantic Ocean; the waterways that carry trash and chemicals there get a great deal of the pollution as well. The Hudson River is a very good example of one of those waterways.



Although the amount of pollution in the Hudson River has decreased enough to go fishing, and swim in, the river is still very polluted, you can still find washed up plastic bottles and even torn up shoes along the edges of the river!

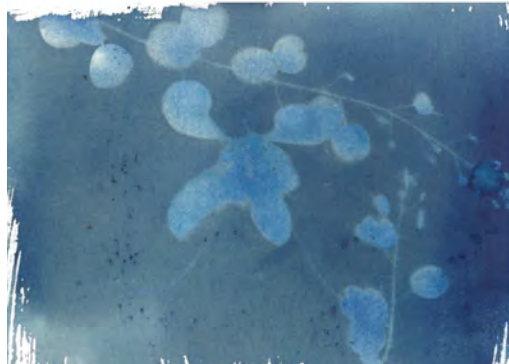
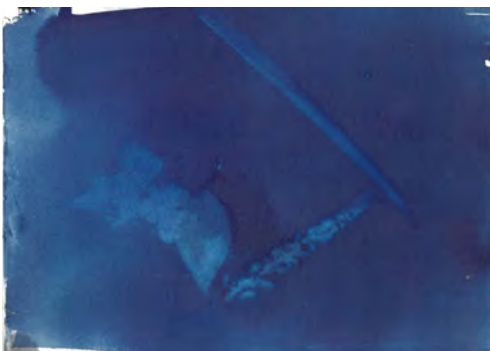
In addition, many aquatic animals in the Hudson River are dealing with PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls). PCBs are highly carcinogenic chemical compounds that were used in the past in industrial and

consumer products. PCBs are poisonous to most animals exposed to it in almost any way, and were luckily banned from being used in products in the United States by the Toxic Substances Control act in 1979.

The next time you take a walk at the waterfront, play on the playground, or have soccer practice near the Hudson River, if you happen to stumble across litter, make sure to pick it up. It's always best to do what has the best effect on yourself and others, even if you don't feel like it. That includes picking up trash.

ART

BY EVA N.



BOOK REVIEW: INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN

BY EVA N.

Promises

*Five papayas
The sizes of
My head,
A knee,
Two elbows,
And a thumb
Cling to the trunk.
Still green
But promising.*

Inside Out and Back Again is the story of Kim Hà, A ten-year-old girl who lives in Sài Gòn during the American & Việt Nam War. Hà eventually escapes the war in Việt Nam.

Inside Out & Back Again is written in the form of poetry. The book begins and ends at Tết, the Tiếng Việt celebration of New Year.

The book is split into four parts. The first is *Saigon*; this part is about Hà's life in Sài Gòn during the war. It starts out with Hà telling us about Tết. The year is 1970, so it is the year of the Cat. In this part, Hà writes in her journal one poem that explains what life is like in just four stanzas:

Early Monsoon

*We pretend
The monsoon
Has come early.*

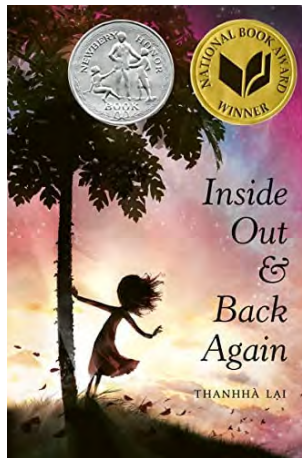
*In the distance
Bombs
Explode like thunder,
Slashes
Lighten the sky,
Gunfire
falls like rain.*

*Distant
Yet within ears,
Within eyes.*

Not that far away at all.

Hà also writes several poems about this topic, but this one is considered the most powerful. In addition to writing about the war, Hà writes about other things, like going to the market, her identity, her family and her missing father, and her favorite fruit: đu đủ. Đu đủ is the Vietnamese word for papaya. Hà writes a few poems about her favorite fruit and mentions offering the first fruit on her tree to her mother.

The second part, *At Sea*, is about Hà's experience on the boat when she escapes Việt Nam. She explains how hard it was on a ship with limited food and water. In one of her poems, Hà says that land is something that she once knew, which describes how long and difficult the journey was.



The third part of the story is named *Alabama*. This section of the story describes Hà's life in her new home. In this part of Hà's life, she must start a new school and fend off bullies, especially Pink Boy. In addition, Hà, her mother, and her three brothers learn to adjust to American culture in Alabama. Hà gets tutored by their neighbor, a widow who lives with her dog Lassie. The widow's name is Mrs. Washington, but Hà writes her name as MiSSSiSSs WaSShington. Hà does this with a lot of the characters' names, such as her teacher and her friends.

The fourth and final section of the book is titled *From Now On*. This part of the story is telling the reader about what her life is like after she has adjusted. Hà writes about Christmas, and hearing news about her missing father. The book ends in Tết again and this time, it is the year of the Dragon.

The author, Thanhha Lai, based the book on her experience during the American/Việt Nam War. Lai described Hà as 'a spunkier version of herself.' This book has received several awards: The Newberry Honor award and The National Book Award. If you have not read *Inside Out & Back Again*, you might be able to find it in the library.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

BY ERON M. & LEO S.

We asked 29 fifth graders what their favorite video games were, so we could tell you what game had the most votes. The winner was Roblox, second place was Minecraft, and third place was Fortnite. Roblox had 10 votes, Minecraft had 9 votes, and Fortnite had 5 votes. Personally, if I had to vote for my 3 favorite games, I would pick Stumble Guys, Roblox, and NBA 2k23.

Roblox is an online game platform and game creation system developed by Roblox Corporation in 2006 that allows users to program games and play games created by other users.

The site allows users to "Imagine, socialize, chat, play, create, interact and relate with others in many ways." The Roblox Site allows gamers to create their own game or create another world with friends or 'virtual explorers'. Next, Minecraft. The purpose of Minecraft is simply to build and explore (and survive). How many players can play

it? You can play by yourself or you can play online with others. The smartphone and tablet versions offer multiplayer options through WiFi networks. The game was created by Mojang Studios in 2009. And last but not least, Fortnite. Fortnite is an online video game developed by Epic Games and released in 2017. Fortnite has cartoon-style graphics and unique construction mechanics, but the game play is familiar. Your goal is to be the last person, squad, or team left alive in a round. That's easier said than done, of course, since each match includes 99 other players, all of whom have the same goal.

The other games kids voted for were NBA 2k23, Slither.io, FIFA 23, Madden 23, Battlefield 2, Rocket League, and Stumble Guys. This was Leo and Eron's Video Game Review for the Springhurst Times. We hope you enjoyed it!



HOLIDAY MOVIE SHOWDOWN

BY EVELYN S. & VERONICA H.



The holidays are coming up and kids are watching lots of fun holiday movies. We have interviewed some students and teachers for their holiday movie opinions.

In Mrs. Bochicchio's class, it was a tie between The Grinch and Frosty the Snowman. Jemma D. in Mrs. Bocchicchio's class says that the Grinch is cool because "he takes the presents and then gives them

back." Charlie S. says, "Frosty the Snowman is my favorite holiday movie because Christmas is my favorite holiday."

Mrs. Mair, a 4th grade teacher, says that Home Alone is the best movie because you and your family can enjoy watching it together. It's entertaining, and it makes people laugh. It also reminds you to make sure that you have everybody before you leave for vacation. Her class agrees

that Home Alone is the best holiday movie with 9 voting for the movie.

John S. in Mrs. Mullen's 2nd grade class says, "My favorite Christmas movie is Elf because Buddy said 'congratulations for the world's best coffee' and it's also really funny."

Personally, we like Elf and Home Alone. Phoebe J. in fifth grade had this to say about her favorite holiday



movie, Elf. "The holiday movie Elf is a very humorous movie. There's one scene where Buddy the elf provides a witty remark by pointing out that Santa (not the real one, one of the creepy Walmart Santa's who's costume isn't even the slightest bit convincing) smells 'like beef and cheese.' Then the Walmart santa proceeds to tackle Buddy to the ground and later gets fired from his job. An additional humorous moment in this treasure-of-a-movie is when Buddy is eating dinner with his non-raised-as-an-elf family. The family is having

spaghetti, and Buddy (who probably finds the taste of the spaghetti dull) proceeds to pour chocolate sauce on his food, along with a mountain of M&M's and Gummy worms. All in all, the movie Elf, is a humorous well written movie, that's perfect for Christmas eve family holiday movie night. Highly recommended."

Olimpia D., also in 5th grade, is more of a Home Alone fan. She says this is because "it's funny." Sofia D., also in 5th

grade, likes Home Alone as well. She says, "It's my favorite movie because it is one of the movies that you want to watch 10,000 times. Also it's very interesting in a good way!" Finally Lily G., also in 5th grade, loves The Grinch. "The characters are funny and I like the pictures and I like the funny Grinch and his cute dog."

We appreciate you taking the time to read this article. Thank You!!



FOUR INGREDIENT COOKIES

BY EVELYN S.

We all like cookies, so these four ingredient cookies are perfect if you don't have a lot of time. These cookies are delicious. If you are allergic to gluten, dairy, or sugar please don't eat them.

Ingredients

1 cup unsalted butter , about room temperature

Sugar 2/3 cup and 3 tablespoons sugar , divided

2 cups and 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour , spooned and leveled

1 teaspoon vanilla

rainbow sprinkles (optional, but recommended)

chocolate chips (optional and if doing don't use the extra 2/3 cup of sugar)



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a bowl, using an electric mixer, beat together butter and 2/3 cup sugar until combined.
3. Add in the flour and blend well then add vanilla
4. Roll the dough into small-ish balls.
5. Gently roll the balls in the remaining 3 tablespoons of sugar until lightly coated. (Don't do this step if doing chocolate chips!)
6. Transfer to the baking sheets 2 inches apart
7. With the bottom of a measuring cup press down on the balls to flatten. Sprinkle with some rainbow sprinkles if you are using them.
8. Bake for 14-16 minutes.
9. Remove from the oven and let rest on the baking sheets for at least 10-15 minutes. Enjoy!

COMIC: THE LIFE OF A NOODLE

BY PHOEBE J.



COMIC: I DIDN'T DO IT

BY ERON M.

Once upon a time, There was a kid named Aden and he hated getting in trouble so he loved to lie.



What a pleasure to meet you!

(He's lying)

Imagine telling the truth, you couldn't be Aden.

His Big sister

Today, Aden accidentally broke his Mom's Vase for Batting Practice. And of course, He lied to his Mom about it.



Long Story short, Aden's Mom believed Aden. ~~SIKE!~~ she didn't but she didn't tell Aden. She Put cameras Everywhere in their Home. Later, it would be Handy.

Aden was Mad at His sister for always threatening to Tell on Him so Aden smushed his sister's Phone.



Aden, come HERE!

Aden's Mom

Don't be like Aden!