

## P.S. 29 Celebrates 100 Years!

By Molly Baler (5-506), Anna Freimuth (4-521), Emerson Hart (5-500), Emily MacIntyre (4-509), Olivia Muhlfelder (4-509), Adriana Murati (4-508), Grace Rocklin (4-521)

Imagine walking through the school doors of the brand-new PS 29 one hundred years ago. The girls are dressed in a layered shirt and dress, and the boys in little suits with suspenders. Outside the traffic on the streets is a mix of horse-drawn wagons and carts, and automobiles which were becoming more common, and motorized trucks. Instead of a lunch box, you'd be carrying a lunch pail. As you unpacked your lunch, other kids would look to see how appetizing it was. If it did look good then everyone would play with you. There was no air conditioning in the summer and it was cold in the winter. But the building which stands at 425 Henry Street looks today much like it did then.

PS 29 opened in 1921 when New York City was recovering from a pandemic, just like we are today! It formally opened with 1,988 registered students on October 12, 1921, at a dedication ceremony led by then New York City Mayor John Hylan. It was officially designated the John M. Harrigan school on January 25, 1922.

In the 1920s, Cobble Hill was home to merchants and landowners who built big houses on lots, and who took the ferry to work in Manhattan. There were also many immigrants, mostly Italian, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European and they worked on the docks or on the railroad. Amy Breedlove, president of the Cobble Hill Association, says that the new school PS29 was built to serve this growing community.

The new building replaced the original Public School 29, on the corner of Amity and Columbia Streets. The old school had been called "the worst school building in Brooklyn."

The new school for this community had a very advanced design for the time, with high ceilings and many windows which allowed for air flow. It took six years to plan and build, and cost \$463,916, which today is the equivalent of \$7.5 million. The first principal was Frederick Memmott, who, [in a 1923 speech reported in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#), laid out his vision for education. He said, "We are aiming to reach the individual child, to draw out the expression of his personality, his originality... which compels us to recognize each child as an individual."

One hundred years ago schools were much different from how they are today. They were much less comfortable and had nowhere near as many tools to help them as we have today. Classes were much bigger than they were today, because they would likely be holding multiple grades of students. Ages five to eleven were most likely going to be in the same room, which would be much harder for everyone since they are all trying to learn different things. There was no heating so they wore winter clothes, hats and mittens to school. In the summer there were tons of flies and no air conditioning.



November 16, 1915, "[Worst school building in Brooklyn, No. 29, Columbia and Amity Streets.](#)" a small, four-story building with two fire escapes; attached buildings on both sides and intersecting cobblestone streets, utility pole and fire hydrant in foreground. Courtesy of Brooklyn Public Library

Not only that, but instead of the punishments we get today like, being taken aside, or having our parents called, many teachers would use violence on the kids no matter their age. They also had school sports, and teams! But the uniforms were quite different. For example, in girls basketball they had to wear skirts, big bows, and tights!

The school years were also much shorter, and very few kids stayed at the schools after they were fourteen years old because they had to go to work. For example, PS 29 used to teach woodshop to boys and sewing and home economics to girls—the fourth floor of the school used to have a domestic science wing with a cooking bench and rooms designed to look like a kitchen, dining room, and bedroom and bathroom so the girls could learn to keep house. Now we have technology and research science for both boys and girls.

PS 29 was the first school to have a lunch program like no other. [As reported in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle in 1923](#), PS 29 was selected by a Miss Maud Bleier, who was in charge of school lunches in New York City, to be the very first school in the city to have steam tables for keeping food warm, a circular counter, and dish washers. The equipment was installed in the school's gymnasium and meant that no food would be "exposed to the dust, as formerly." Miss Bleier was quoted in the article as saying "everything will be new about the equipment," and she hoped it would be so successful that eventually every school would have the same modern devices. The new lunch program for "kiddies," which is what they called children back then, meant the students could buy cocoa, sandwiches, hot vegetables, fresh fruit, and milk for one, two or three cents a portion. The food was prepared in the city's main kitchen for schools on Delancey Street in Manhattan and brought to PS 29. At recess, kids would play hopscotch, ball games, stick ball, and actually played a lot of the games we play now like tag, according to Breedlove.

*Continued on page 2*



*Salvatore Zappulla and PS 29's first graduating class in June 1922, taken in the schoolyard. Courtesy of Joseph Zappulla*

*Continued from page 1*

PS 29's first class graduated in 1922, one hundred years ago. One of the students was Salvatore Zappulla. He lived on Tompkins Place with his mother Salvatrice and his father Giuseppe and was 14 when he graduated, according to his son Joseph Zappulla. Afterwards he went on to high school and then had a career as a weighmaster, which is someone responsible for weighing and measuring large bulk products or materials, for the Koppers chemical company. He died in 1990 at the age of 82. The Zappullas brought in a class photograph of Salvatore and the first graduating class, see above.

Lou Chassard, 5th grade, is part of PS29's Class of 2022, its 100th graduating class. "Once you think about it, it does feel special to be part of it. I mean there's only one 100th anniversary!" she says. But she says she wouldn't want to dress like the class of 1922. "It looks like all the girls are wearing dresses and not pants, so I wouldn't want to do that." Lou says she will really miss her experience here at PS29 and being part of the 29 community when she goes to middle school.

Many former students from the past one hundred years have fond memories of their time here. David Gardella who lives on Union Street went to PS29 from 1980 to 1987 when the school went up to 6th grade; the principal then was Mary Zagami and the assistant principal was Ms. Lerelli. He says he spent most of his childhood in the playground. They didn't have a jungle gym then, but they did play games like wiffle ball, soft ball, sponge ball, and half court basketball. They had free camp during the breaks at school. They had school lunch but he was able to go home for lunch because he only lived one block away from the school. "All my memory's of PS29 were very positive," he recalls, "and I'm lucky to still live in the neighborhood connected to PS29."

Helping make those memories good ones for students today is Dr. Fagin, who has been the principal since 2011, and her vision is demonstrated everyday at school. She has worked hard to make our elementary school experience the best it can be, and bring in new groups and teams, such as newspaper club, Green Team, mindfulness and movements throughout the day, and focus on social emotional learning. She says the most important work to her "has been the work we've done with social justice and equity to make this school a better place."

She says all of her accomplishments were done as a team and she hopes "that students ultimately can feel connected, seen and heard and thrive at PS29. What I wanted to bring to PS29 was for kids to be an active part of something and give them voice, agency and leadership."

For future classes, Dr. Fagin would like to continue working around sustainability and to develop the upper and lower roofs. She even said that she'd like to add an outdoor classroom.

She is making changes to our school to benefit us and future students, so they can have the best experience possible for another hundred years.

## Mary Barbuto Shares How PS29 Changed Her Life

*Centenarian who worked at the school recalls a century well lived*

By Sloane Willscher (4-510)

PS29 has helped many people with their careers and has become an important step in many different lives. But this school has helped one woman greatly. Her name is Mary Barbuto. She was born the same year that ps29 was created, and she just turned 100 years old.

Barbuto was born in Manhattan, in an area that is now called Hell's Kitchen. In 1925, when she was three, she moved to Brooklyn's Carroll Gardens, where she still lives. She was one of four children, with two sisters and one brother, and lived in a four family building with all of her relatives, and whenever her mom went to work, her relatives would take care of her. "I had a very interesting and enjoyable childhood," says Barbuto.

She was married after WWII and had four children. She worked at a school, and in a doctors office, and then in 1960 when she was 38, Mary started working for the PS 29 Health Department. She was a bookkeeper, handling the money that was generated by the school lunches. Back then the school lunches were cooked daily instead of having prepared food for the students. They brought in stoves, refrigerators, and they had cooks and assistant cooks. There were people baking cakes also.

Later, the health department decided to send her to college, all paid for by the school. She didn't want to go at first, because her son was in medical school, but she finally decided to go. She went to LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, and studied to become a dietician. Eventually she went on to work at PS 32, PS 27, and other District 15 schools.

Mary says her goals in life were to have her children get a good education, and to do well and make good choices. "It wasn't easy, but I did whatever I could with whatever I had," says Barbuto. "I think I did a good job with my children and the life that I had."

# 100 Things We About PS29!

*By Emily MacIntyre (4-509), Olivia Muhlfelder (4-509)*

1. In my school they behave equally with all students. - Sophie Raz
2. I really like my fellow teachers - Ms. Lynn
3. I love my school because it is a very dignified school - Alex Robarto
4. I Like that everyone is family, not everyone is perfect and that we try our best. - Ms. Nancy
5. The people - Molly Dubow
6. I like that all the teachers are very supportive of each other - Mr. Danny
7. I likes the staff and the administration at my old school people weren't as aspirative - Ms. Katheryn
8. I likes the windows - Ms. Liz
9. The smartest and most creative teachers and the most fun teachers to go out with - Ms. Carolyn Rivas
10. She loves the community - Ms. January
11. The Love and family feel of the whole community - Marie
12. The students I love all the students especially the students in newspaper club they have inquisitive minds -Skye Hilton
13. I really like PS29 because its a very inclusive school where all kids are welcome -Mike Spector
14. My favorite thing is the students - Sunshine Flint
15. I like how all the teachers here are supportive and helpful making all the efforts - Grace Rocklin
16. How everyone is always kind and supportive to each other and how we have affinity groups -Anna Freimuth
17. How like you can easily make friends and kind - Adriana Murati
18. I like how its a vibrate community kids and parents and great teachers - Jeremy Rocklin
19. All the teachers and kids are very friendly - Hana Turner
20. I like how we have the schoolyard - Maya MacIntyre
21. My teacher - Lucy P.
22. The playground - Jack P.
23. The warm and friendly atmosphere - Ms. Alex
24. The positive vibes - Mr. James
25. Everything, that's why I am still here - Ms. Colon
26. I love the loving community family and how everyone here cares for each other - Ms. Debbie
27. Siblings can be here to - Lark
28. I love the teachers - Kyle McMillan
29. I love the school itself - Sloane
30. I like the after school stuff - Max Muhlfelder
31. I love how supportive everyone is - Luke
32. I love newspaper club - Ms. Ji Hyun Son
33. I love the food - Josie
34. Whenever you get to PS29 you feel warm inside - Robert Selsam
35. Every day I come home excited - Becca
36. The school makes learning fun - Mike
37. It's great to have such a big play area - Carol
38. It has a beautiful school garden - Suzzy
39. Most kids have a short walk to school - Olivia Muhlfelder
40. It's a safe neighborhood - Priscilla
41. It is well sited with frontage on three streets - William
42. PS29 gives everyone a good community that makes them feel safe. - Emily MacIntyre
43. There is a big library for students in our school - Penelope
44. My classmates are very kind hearted. We all help each other to solve problems. - Vivian
45. The kind people - Ms. Susie
46. The people I work with - Ms. Lu
47. Our teachers, our community, our students - Ms. Hochman
48. I love how PS29 has shaped as a community - Dr. Fagin
49. I love the students - Ms. Tina Reses
50. The garden for the bees - Ms. Cloud
51. My co- workers (and the kids) - Ms. Pack
52. I love the kind students I teach - Ms. Safi
53. The helpful people that work together - Ms. G
54. I like that a new generation of changemakers is being created - Elizabeth Dank
55. I like the community of families, staff, and administration that the school has built. - Matthew MacIntyre
56. I like the specialties - Maya Gowda
57. I like PE with Ms Carolina - Sam Visnic
58. I like the school yard - Blake Zalka
59. I like the musical production - Simon Wagenberg
60. I like the playground - Luke Cantor
61. I like that there is a good teacher for every subject - Jack Giancola
62. I like that we have flap -Mykhailo Kugot
63. It's like another home - Max Ostriz
64. I can be safe here - Flynn Lennie
65. The early breakfast program - Amaya Hykal
66. When new kids come to PS29 everyone greets them - Beya Swarth
67. I like how people are really respectful and how the school is open to everyone - Matisse Harlemin
68. Everything - Elia Betrix
69. The activities - Calista Cortijo
70. The school is very modern - Camila St Clair
71. Everything - Ru Enfield
72. It has a lot of social people - Anna Freimuth
73. Spending time with everyone - Maya B
74. Our community - Ms. Katie
75. That everyone is like family here - Ms. Ginie
76. The office staff (specifically Sari and Marie) - Mr. Silverstein
77. The students - Ms. Kara
78. I like how everyone cares for each other - Ms. Veronica
79. The amazing beautiful wonderful teachers - Ms. Pat
80. A true community, like a warm special hug - Ms. Lisa
81. We have such a strong, tight knit community where we support and nurture one another. - Ms Jackie
82. Choice time, Lunch & Recess, plant study, S.T.E.M. Centers, Music, Quiet time and science - Sofia Kogut
83. I like that the teachers are nice - Alfred Sisti
84. The Lunch is so good - Luka Bienenfeld
85. All the people in the school are very kind hearted, and when there are problems we try to fix them - Sachin Sathe
86. My favorite thing is the specials - Bjorn Year - Hasen
87. I love the supportive people, and the staff makes you feel better when you are sad, and the kind students will always say kind things and make you feel included. - Leilani Cortijo
88. I love the fun school and it is a fun place to learn - Emmeline Policano
89. I love that at PS29 the teachers are so kind - Mika Jenkins
90. I like PS29 because I love all my friends - Rose Estellon
91. I love everything about it because it's amazing - Aiden O Brien
92. I love the teachers at PS29 because they are nice - Ben Hart
93. I like how nice the school lunch is and how hard they work to make it - Basil Goldberg
94. I love the diverse community and the nice kids - Dylan Diker
95. I love the positive and encouraging teachers! - Delphine Britelle
96. I love the easy math - Teddy Blevins
97. I like the fact I get to work with the prek kids and get to see them graduate from preschool to 5th grade and off to middle school - Ms. Lee
98. I like that we get to take field trips - Penelope
99. I feel safe and protected and happy - Poppy Hilton
100. **Everyone is always happy! - Rafael**

# Around the School

## Kick Butts Day Now and Then

*A school tradition returns after a three year hiatus – everyone's favorite field day makes a big comeback!*

By: Evie Sonderup (4-507), Stella Winton (4-510)

On May 18, 2022, Kick Butts Day returned to the PS 29 play yard after being gone because of covid. 236 4th and 5th graders participated in activities such as hurdles, shot put, and the long jump, all to bring awareness to the dangers of smoking and vaping. Some of you have never competed in Kick Butt's Day before, and even if you have, there are some facts that you never knew existed.



*Henry Selib passes the baton to Lily Klingensmith.  
Photograph courtesy of Olivia Poor*

### What is Kick Butts Day?

Kick Butt's Day is a day where we try to put a stop to smoking and vaping, by doing running activities. It was started in 2004 by now-retired PE teacher Kathy Knobles and the tradition is now being continued by Ms. Carolina Fernandez. "I was super excited about Kick Butt's Day this year because it was the first time we were bringing it back, since we didn't have it because of Covid," says Ms. Carolina. The more competitive activities include Knockout and 4X4. The two fastest boys and girls, the first and second place winners, boys and girls, go on for the final 4X4 on Kick Butts Day, and compete against each other.

The running activities include quarter mile run, 60 meter dash, and the class relay (which everybody participates in). Logan Lazarre, 4th grader, who competed in the 60 meter dash says, "I was really excited because I was waiting the whole week for Kick Butts Day. The 60 meter dash was really exciting. It proved that I was worthy enough to reach my goals."

### Kick Butts Day in the past

Kick Butts day originally started because more and more teens were getting attracted to smoking and Ms Nobles wanted to do something positive about it. There used to be a 50 meter run and a 100 meter run, but this year we only had a 60 meter run. Over the years Kick Butts Day shifted from PS29 to the Red Hook Track, so students could feel like professional runners. "I miss Kick Butts Day," says Ms. Nobles, who retired in 2020. "I loved watching the kids, parents, and teachers having fun and spreading the word about how bad vaping is. My favorite activities were the relay races and the teacher race."



*From left to right: Kaia Laaker, Evelyn Kappler, Eli Patterson, Beckett Lemire. Photograph courtesy of Olivia Poor*

### This Year, 2022

This year Johnny Karate taught the students self defense techniques and made a speech about the importance of non-smoking. Johnny is a former student at PS29, who participated in Kick Butts Day when he was a kid. We also added a new event into Kick Butts day this year: Knock Out, which is a basketball game where there is a line of people, and the first two people get the first two basketballs. Sometimes the first person shoots, and gets it in before the second person can shoot, then no one gets out. If the first person misses the shot, the second person can shoot. The first person is out and the second person goes to the back of the line. There are two types of Knockout. You keep playing and playing until the last person is out and one person is left standing and they win. Knockout wasn't supposed to be an event but it got squeezed into Kick Butts Day, partially because of Ms. Carolina's influence. Knock Out is the only event where boys and girls compete separately.

Karen Wong is another fourth grader who participated in Kick Butt's Day for the first time. "I was nervous because I have never done Kick Butt's Day in my life and the relay was very competitive," says Karen. "Watching the teachers race was really fun and I really liked the class relay and the 4x4," says Karen.

Ms. Nobles says in the future she would love to see the school highlight the dangers of vaping more since kinds are doing that more these days than smoking regular cigarettes, and also add info to the curriculum about smoking marijuana, since it's legal in New York if you are 21 years or older. "I would like to educate the parents more on what to look for if they think their child is vaping and what they can do, and we have to add more vaping posters," she says. "Unfortunately more kids now vape because they believe that it's not harmful."

All the students and teachers had fun on Kick Butts Day and are looking forward to next year. "What I love the most is that you can do the activities with friends, and sometimes family," says Lazarre. For the future, Ms. Carolina has more ideas to make Kick Butts Day even better. "There are definitely some changes that I would like to make for next year," she says.



*From left to right: Carolina Fernandez, Stephanie Manske, Liz Cosentino. Photograph courtesy of Olivia Poor*

## What are Affinity Groups?

By Stella Mailander (5-527) and Neeve Leyl (5-527)

At PS 29 we have three different affinity groups, the LGBTQ+ group, the BIPOC group, and the neurodiversity group. Affinity groups are used to help build a community among 4th and 5th graders. One of the many good things about affinity groups is that the conversations are student-led. The teachers are more there to help guide students while the student members of the group do a lot of the talking which can make students feel more welcome and part of the conversation like their words are more valued. "It gives students the chance to see that there are other people like them going through similar experiences." says Mr. Carver, an affinity group teacher.

Although the school year is ending very soon, there will most likely be affinity groups next year. So if you are a rising 4th grader or 5th grader, you could definitely join an affinity group next year! We focused on two of PS 29's groups—BIPOC and LGBTQ+.

### The BIPOC group

Around 20 kids from 4th and 5th grade go to the BIPOC affinity group. BIPOC stands for **B**lack, **I**ndigenous, **P**eople **O**f **C**olor. So in other words, anyone who is not White. 4th and 5th graders mix together in this group, which is a rare opportunity since there aren't any other times for 4th and 5th graders to talk to each other. This group looks into lots of different cultures which includes things like food and clothes.

The teachers welcome people into the community and share stories, sometimes good and sometimes bad. Members can also share costumes and traditions. Members can also learn about things that are happening in the world around us.

#### Am I eligible to join this group?

If you identify as a person of color, (heritage and family roots) and in 4th or 5th grade then you are more than welcome to join this group!

We spoke to one of the three teacher advisors of BIPOC, Ms. Son, about why it was important for her to be involved with this affinity group.

#### MS. SON

#### **Q: Why did you want to become an affinity group teacher?**

**A:** "I have been in the school for three years now and I've seen students that look like me. I think it's important to make time and create a place for these students to gather and be supported."



*Students from various affinity groups.*

### The LGBTQ group

The LGBTQ+ group is split into 3 sections. The LGBTQ+ group for 5th graders, the LGBTQ+ group for 4th graders, and then the LGBTQ+ ally group. (4th and 5th grade combined.) These groups meet once a week to talk about the LGBTQ+ community at our school. The ally group work alongside both LGBTQ+ groups. These three groups come together to work on projects such as a google slide presentation, posters for around the school, and just spreading awareness about the LGBTQ+ community.

These group's members come together and show each other support. These groups give students a sense of belonging and let them know how there are other students who go through the same things as them. Sometimes students may feel embarrassed or scared to talk to adults about things like this so it's important to give students time to talk among one another.

#### Am I eligible to join this group?

If you identify as a member of the LGBTQ community and are in 5th grade, you can join the LGBTQ group for 5th graders. And if you identify as a member of the LGBTQ community and are in 4th grade, you can join the LGBTQ group for 4th graders. And if you are an LGBTQ ally in 4th or 5th grade then you can join the LGBTQ ally group. An ally is when you show support to another person or group (in this case the LGBTQ community) and you are willing to fight for their rights.

The three LGBTQ+ group leaders are Mr. Carver, Ms. Nancy and Ms. Ricke. Mr. Carver is the leader of the ally group, Ms. Nancy is the leader of the LGBTQ+ group for 5th graders, and Ms. Ricke is the leader of the LGBTQ+ group for 4th graders.

We asked Mr. Carver and Ms. Nancy about their thoughts on teaching affinity groups at PS 29.

#### MR. CARVER

#### **Q: Why do you think it's important for elementary school students to have groups like these?**

**A:** "It gives students time to talk about things that they might not be able to talk about in the classroom. It also allows the larger community to learn when the group shares their experiences."

#### MS. NANCY

#### **Q: Why did you want to become an affinity group teacher?**

**A:** "I wanted students to have a safe and comfortable place where they can be themselves. Personally, I would have loved a place like that for myself. It would have made such an impact on my life."

## Secret Spaces in PS29!

By Joe Sifton (4-521) and Delainey Davidson (4-508)

I have one question for you. Have you ever wondered what those doors lead to? You know, the ones in PS29 that you're not allowed to go through. You've probably wondered what was in those rooms, considering there's not a lot of information on them, or what things are hidden in there.

Well, we have some information—from the basement to that old projector room. Yes, all of it. So, are you ready to learn about some secret spaces in PS29? Hopefully!

*Now, get ready for...SECRET SPACES IN PS29!*

Let's start with a big one. You've probably heard of the basement, and some of you might have been down there in kindergarten, but no one probably remembers that. Even if you did, you probably don't know what the equipment down there is for. The entrance is a door behind the stairs right outside the door next to the cafeteria, in the entrance to Stairway D, which is one of the main stairways used by fourth and fifth graders to get to their classrooms at the beginning of the day. If you didn't ever get to go down there, hopefully this article will be enough!

You see, back in kindergarten, one time, the teachers took the kindergarteners on a tour to the basement as a field trip. Recently, to help with expanding this article, Mr. Carlos and the principal, Dr. Fagin, took us down there and told us about the machinery there and its purposes. The basement is huge, spanning multiple rooms and areas, including storage spaces for supplies needed for the school.

The basement is probably bigger than both of the houses of your authors, and probably yours too. Now, let us explain what some of the machinery does. First, you probably haven't wondered where the heat comes from in the winter. Let us tell you.

Near the entrance from the stairs to the basement, tangled up in all the tanks and tubes, are multiple huge pipes. These pipes have water in them, which comes from a boiler.

A boiler is a huge red or black metal tank you've seen in your basement, if you have one. The one in the school is a lot larger. It heats up the water and then sends it through the pipes, which move the water up to all the floors of the school where it turns into steam. The steam releases heat, which warms us up when it's snowing outside.

The next piece of special machinery is the oil tank. Since the building of PS29 is very old (turning 100 years old recently) it runs on oil heat, because they didn't have gas heat back then.

The oil tank is checked daily by Mr. Carlos, to make sure no leaks or busts occur. The huge black oil tank, which has its own room in the basement, feeds the furnace, which is also in the basement. The furnace heats up the boiler.

The next piece is a hot water heater, which is powered by gas. The hot water heater feeds a furnace, which heats up the cold water inside. The heated water travels through pipes to the sinks to make the water warm, just in case your hands get cold while you're washing them.

Aside from all that machinery, the basement boasts other features. Like backup lights that will turn on if all the power goes out, and the electrical system that powers all of the lights, and also a whole office for people like Mr. Carlos, who works in the basement.

So, have you learned about the basement? You better have, because we're moving on.

The next secret space is the projector room above the auditorium. A long time ago, when movies were projected onto the stage screen, there was a room above the door to the auditorium. This room held an old projector that shined through a window overlooking the auditorium. Now it's abandoned, but you can see the door that leads to the room below it, which has very steep stairs that take you to the top. The lights in there still work, but now there's only storage up there.

The third secret space happens to be the storage sheds outside. This one is rather small, but it's worth mentioning. Outside in the schoolyard, there are stone buildings connected to the main building. These aren't really used anymore, but have some outside equipment stored inside of them.

Many former students of the school have gotten a ball stuck behind one of the gates to the right of the sheds. Have you?

Yet another secret space is the backstage of the auditorium. Now, this secret space is a big one. If you are not in a play or involved in the theater, you're not allowed to be backstage. But, around four years ago, one of the authors' brothers was doing homework after school in the auditorium: Joe Sifton's brother, Issa Sifton. Issa and Joe were all alone, and we all know teachers, you might be mad, but it is what it is. Issa promised to take me backstage, to show me what it was like when he was in the play. So we went through the door. There was an office and a huge area full of props for plays like *The Lion King*. Then came a cluster of stairways. One led to the roof, the other to some hallways under the stage with other secret stairways, like "Stairway H." Others led up to the roof, and some went to a room with a door that then led to the cafeteria, which is under the auditorium.



Thank you so much for reading to the end, curious reader! We hope your perspective of the school has changed after reading this, considering that was our main goal!

Special Thanks To:

Ms. Son,  
Dr. Fagin,  
Ms. Nancy,  
Mr. Carlos,  
Ms. Elisabeth,  
John Sifton,  
Scheherazade Salimi,  
Anne Barnard, and  
You!

*Delainey Davidson in a secret space!*

## Reflecting on our Trout Trip

By Saskia Sjoberg (5-500)

The trout trip is a trip that the second graders go on. They have been raising trout in their science classroom. When the trout are grown, the second graders go to Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, NY to release them. Because of covid last year the second graders couldn't do the trout trip, so the third graders this year are doing it. On the day of the trout trip, each class goes on a bus to release the trout. When the classes arrive at Ward Pound Ridge, each student gets to name their own trout and release it into the river.

### What Kids Like About It:

What do kids like about the trout trip? Some kids say that they enjoyed the ride, and the hike, and releasing the trout. Humphrey Squadron said that he enjoyed "releasing the trout." Bo Mailaender said that "the bus ride on the way back" was his favorite part of the trip. Ella Kahn mostly enjoyed "exploring the woods and releasing the trout."

Bo Mailaender learned that "trout live in clear water." He got to name his trout, and he called it Farry Harry.

### Interview with Ms. Reres

Ms. Reres says that the trout trip is important, and students learn many things. She says, "The trout trip is a great experience for our third graders because it comes after them watching their little fingerlings hatch from their eggs and slowly grow each week from avelin, to fry, to small fish."

The first trout trip was in 2008, and Ms. Reres has done it every year since, except for during covid.

When I asked why trout are released every year, Ms. Reres said, "trout are very special fish because they can only survive in cold, clean water. They teach children about how important it is to keep our water clean. They learn that we all live in a watershed and that whatever happens in our watershed affects our water and its ecosystem." I think that this trip has its fun in it for the youngsters but there is a deep background. Now we know that there's a very specific reason for the trip: trout keep our water clean.

Ms. Reres thinks that the trip teaches 3rd graders many things. "Our third graders learn about the interactions between animals and plants. They learn about human impact on our environment and they learn to hopefully appreciate how delicate our trout are."

### What 5th Grades Remember About The Trip:

I interviewed 5th grader Sienna Mark, and memories from back when I did this trip kept coming back. The first question I asked her was, "When you were back in second grade, how did you feel when you heard about the trout trip?" She said, "I was super psyched. I love field trips personally but this one was just next level." I felt the same way, and as many other fifth graders did and I hope that all the third graders this year felt the same.



Next, I asked her: Did you enjoy the experience? Why or why not?: and she replied with: "I really enjoyed seeing the trout. They were so cute, like seriously. And I liked going upstate to go do something. But it was fun. And I liked watching the magic school bus on the school bus. And the trout were just like soo cute." I remember thinking that it was so fun and cool that we got to do this trip, and that the trout were also just so cute.

Another question was: Do you think that it is an important experience for the 3d graders: her answer: "yes i think that it is important and i think that it's important to see and learn whats its like for the trout to go through different phases"

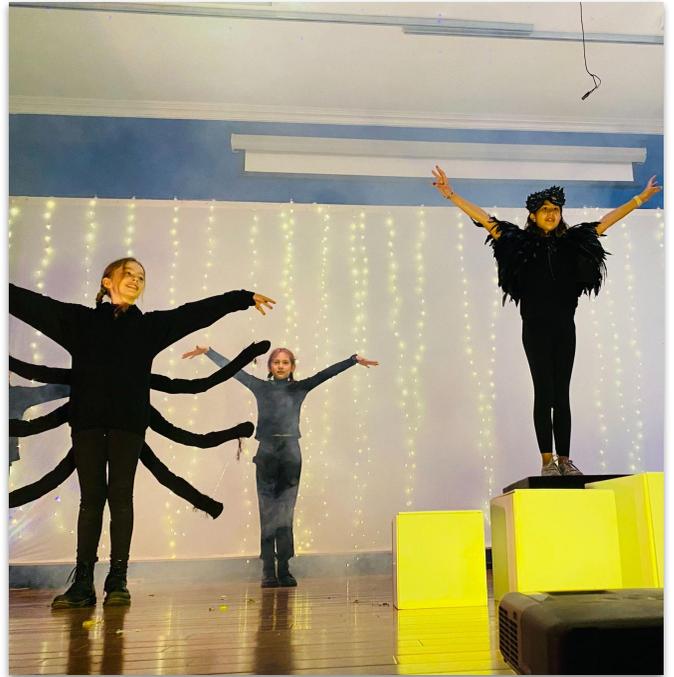
And finally, our last question for Sienna, Do you remember anything about the trout trip that stayed with you?: replied, "I remember when we were looking at the trout and we got these secret pads and got to write and draw down things and we observed. Yes, and I do hope that all these third graders this year, did get to do the same as the previous or have fun!"



## Time For The 5th Grade Play!

By Inara Ahmed (5-504)

PS29 had a 5th grade Drama performance directed by Ms. Erdos, our Drama teacher. The play took place in the auditorium on May 24th and May 26th, 2022



### Getting Ready

Each class performed one story with about six scenes in each story. Each of the five classes in the 5th grade performed but only the 5th grade participated in these productions. Parents came to the auditorium to see their children perform with costumes and on the stage full of props and set pieces. The volunteer committee (of staff and families) worked tirelessly to get all props and costumes done before the play. Each character had one signature piece of clothing to recognize the character as multiple people played the same character.

### Teachers Working On The Play

The new Drama teacher Ms. Erdos worked all day every day to prepare the 5th grade for the play. Ms. Erdos worked all day five days a week to improve the children's acting, making sure they are loud even without mic's and just because she wanted to make sure the play can be the best it can be.

Kat worked the sound effects and music. Her job wasn't that easy because she had to really listen to the lines of the play to know when to do each effect. She couldn't actually see the play so the people performing had to speak loudly and clearly so the lines gave her the cue to play each sound.

The 5th Grade Play on May 24th and 26th was amazing! Lots of parents and family came to see all the amazing actors who performed in the 5th grade play.



## Friendly Faces @29



### Getting to Know Officer Grant

By Lola Robohm (4-508), Ava Samuels (4-508),  
and June Cole (4-508)

*Have you ever wondered about Officer Grant? Do you know how important she is to school? She helps protect our school and helps keep all of us safe. But most people never even see her because she is at the front desk and most people go in from the side. But did you know how interesting she is? Read on to find out who Officer Grant is...*

#### Work

#### What are your responsibilities? How do you keep the school safe?

“My responsibilities are to keep the school safe, and make sure that people stay in, and keep kids and teachers safe, and watch the school with security cameras.”

#### Do you ever see any intruders? Were they trying to hurt kids?

“I have never seen any bad intruders but just people winding up in the wrong place and they are never trying to hurt kids or teachers.”

#### What's your favorite thing about your job?

“My favorite thing is waking up and being the first person inside the building and getting to open it up.”

#### Can you arrest people? Have you arrested anyone?

“Yes, I can arrest people and I do have handcuffs. I have arrested people when I worked at a high school. When kids got into fights we handcuffed them and took them inside”.

#### How long have you been working at PS29?

“I've been working at the school for 11 years as the school's safety officer.” But she has been a school safety officer for 20 years.

#### Personal

#### Where did you grow up? Did you originally live in Brooklyn?

“I was born in Passaic, New Jersey then moved to New York a little while later.”

#### Do you have any secret talents?

“I can run on a treadmill and drive a car!”

#### What are some of your hobbies?

“I like watching documentaries on TV and listening to music.”

#### Do you have any close friends within the school?

“I am friends with anybody and everybody at the school, you could say that's part of my duty!”

#### Have you had any jobs before this?

“Yes, before this job, I worked in a National Bank, at the Mortgage Department.”

#### Do you have any kids?

“I only have a daughter that works as a para teacher. She is now 28 years old.”

#### Do you have any siblings?

“Yes, I have a sister and a brother. My sister is two years younger, and my brother is two years older than me.”

*In conclusion, even though she mostly works in the shadows, Officer Grant is an amazing person, and she has many secrets. Did you really know all those things about her?*

*So before just walking past Officer Grant's desk, say hello, or ask how she's doing. It's not that hard to be friends with her, in and out of school. Because, never ignore someone, especially someone so important to keeping you safe.*



Photo by Maya Margolis & Dylan Yedinsky (4-509)

## Hidden Heroes

By Fred Yanchyshyn (4-507), Saul Barone (4-507), Titou Shantz (4-507), Elliot Weber, Freddie Geraghty (4-508), Noah Bakash (4-507)

*You see them everyday. You need them more than you think. They are a big part of what helps our school run. They are the behind the scenes helpers of the school. And here are the stories of these unseen heroes.*

### Lonnie's Story

Have you ever wondered where some of our awesome lunch people came from? Well, here's Lonnie's story. Lonnie's full name is Lonnie Russell, born in Brooklyn, St. Mary's Hospital. Lonnie here lives in Brownsville. His favourite food is steak and potatoes, delicious! Lonnie decided to work as a lunch server because he enjoys working with children, he also likes helping for the benefits. He has worked for 6 years straight at P.S 29. Lonnie came to P.S 29 the school food company sent him to P.S 29 because Ms. Wendy needed help in our kitchen, they sent him for probation (Tryouts Basically) and he was very good at what he did. The administration wanted to keep him in the kitchen and he decided he wanted to stay. Lonnie's hobbies are playing video games, collecting comics, mainly from Marvel D.C, and also figurines. One of his favourite characters is Spiderman from Marvel and Batman from D.C. Lonnie would choose super speed like the flash for his power if he had to choose. Another Hobby is watching wrestling. He likes to play basketball, baseball and football. Lonnie's birthday is Feb. 18, born 1996 and his favourite holiday is Thanksgiving.



Photo by Maya Margolis & Dylan Yedinsky (4-509)

### Wendy's Story

Wendy was born in Brooklyn but her parents are Puerto Rican and Colombian. She lives on Carroll street. Her full name is Wendy Yvette Liquet. Her favourite food is mashed potatoes with chicken cutlet and corn, yummy! Wendy decided to be a cook because she has a great passion for cooking, Wendy says a painful moment that she once fell off her chair while trying to get something on the shelf and hurt her knee drastically, it required surgery to fix! But luckily it was okay. Wendy has worked in P.S 29 for nine whole years, but in school food 16 years. She was in a different school and got transferred to P.S.29. She was a school helper and wanted to be a chef. Her hobbies are arts and crafts and poetry. She likes football and her team is the Giants. She likes making robotics with her granddaughter, too! Her superpower would be invisibility because she could spy on anyone, she could help police with crimes without them knowing, like a hidden hero. Wendy's thoughts on the plastic free direction are good, she feels that they could change for the school. The last thing is her birthday is on January 27th, and her favourite holiday is Christmas.

## Alex & Colon - The Dream Team!

By Elia Boss (4-510), February Enfield (4-510), Matisse Harleman (4-510)

Have you ever met Ms. Colon? Ms. Alex maybe? Oh, come on! You have to know them! They're the dream team! They work together to keep PS29 from getting out of control! (especially in the lunchroom.) In this article we will be telling you about Ms. Alex and Ms. Colon, fun facts about this school and maybe some long lost hidden school secrets! I know you're probably wondering, how are they a dream team? Well, keep reading to find out!

Here are a few facts from Ms. Colon's backstory. She was born in Puerto Rico, but moved here when she was very little. (just a few months old!) She has lived in the PS29 district her entire life. She has been here since kindergarten. She even went to 6th grade here!

Some things about P.S. 29 were different when Ms. Colon was a student. "When I first came here we didn't have this playground," she said.

"But in the space that the garden is in now there was a playground for the little kids. In each corner there were metal animals," (like the ones you find at the sand playground at the piers.) "In the middle was this giant turtle with a hole through the middle. When I was little the kids loved to climb through them. Especially me!"

Ms. Colon's mother was from Puerto Rico and her dad was from Italy. She has been working here for 25 long years! Let's hear some 5th grade opinions!

"Ms. Colon is very nice," said Kingslee Chilombo, a fifth grader. "She's funny and only gets mad because she wants to teach the kids to listen. The reason she yells is because she cares - if she didn't then she wouldn't care."

Now let's look at a few facts about Ms. Colon:

- She loves to take walks and go to the park
- She has been in the newspaper before in 2015! The article was called Ms. Colon: The school's hero.
- If she could change one thing about PS29 it would be a bigger playground. (She would also like for kids to stop fooling around at lunch and sit in their seats for just **one** lunch period!)

Now you know about Ms. Colon but do you know Ms. Alex? No?! Then you are missing half of the Dream team!

Ms. Alex was born and raised in Brooklyn, and she has two daughters. They go to a school in Windsor Terrace. One is in 5th grade and the other is in 3rd grade. Ms. Alex loves them **and** her husband Salvador **and** her dog Atticus. Some of Ms. Alex's hobbies are reading and going to restaurants. Here is a kid's opinion about her.

"She is really nice and funny," says Whit Harrison, 5th grader. "She is also really smart!"

Now here are some opinions about them as the dream team!!

"They are like sugar and spice. They work well together" said 4th grader Naomi Platten.

"They work together nicely because they each have their own jobs", states 4th grader Elea Donlin. "Ms. Alex keeps track of the schedules and Ms. Colon is really good with kids."

"I think Mrs Alex and Mrs Colon work really well together, " says Clara Braithwaite. "They are in good control of the kids, and the little kids like them."

Ms. Alex and Ms. Colon do a lot, but one of the hardest things they do is work at recess. We asked them a few questions about how it works.

### Ms. Colon

Q: "What is the hardest part about working at recess?"

A: "Really just recess itself. Recess is the hardest thing I do at this school."

Q: "What do you love about working at recess?"

A: "Who ever said I loved it? (She chuckles) Most of the kids are nice, it just can be really difficult because the kids won't listen." (She laughs again)

### Ms. Alex

Q: "What grades do you work at recess with?"

A: "Kindergarten, second, and fourth. All the even grades."

Q: "What is your favorite part about working at recess?"

A: "I love getting to talk to the kids and learning about their lives instead of teaching them."

Thank you so much for reading our article. Why don't you talk to them when you get the chance. There is still so much more about them. Let's give it up for **Ms. Alex** and **Ms. Colon!!** Have a great day!!!



# Teacher's Corner



## Inside of a Teacher's Head

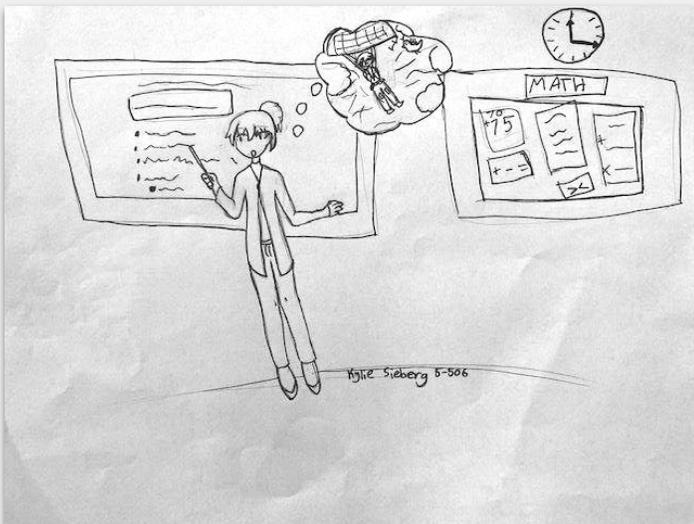
By Leo McMillian (4-509), Isaac Oestreich (4-509) and Hewitt Kenney (4-509)

What exactly goes on in a teacher's head? Maybe, they're thinking about the lessons they're going to teach. Maybe, they're wondering how the day is going to work out. Maybe, they're just considering what type of coffee to drink this morning. I found out our teachers think about a lot of things.

I asked 5 teachers at P.S. 29 about their thoughts. The first question I asked was, "Why did you want to start teaching, and why this grade?" Ms. DeLeon, who is a 2nd grade teacher, said, "I started teaching because I love kids and I love 3rd grade. I also love second grade." This tells me all teachers love the grade they teach! How awesome! I asked Ms. A, our creative art teacher, the same question and she said, "I always loved art. In 3rd grade me and my best friend wrote a book, and she did the writing and I did the illustrations." This tells me that some teachers have backstories to why they become teachers.

The next question I asked was a question I was really curious about. Teachers are humans, too. Don't they get annoyed by us sometimes? So I asked, "What annoys you the most about kids?" Ms. Nancy, one of our longest teachers here, has been teaching for 15 years!! So she has some experience and she said, "I don't really get annoyed with kids, but (I do with) adults, (and) that's a whole different story." Ms. Certner also said, "Nothing annoys me about kids. I love seeing them develop throughout the year." This tells me, teachers are pretty patient people.

Our final question was, "What do you love most about P.S. 29?" We asked Ms. Nancy (again) this question and she said, "That there is a lot of diversity and not just in race, in thinking." These are very wise words. Next we asked this question to Ms. Certner who is currently teaching second grade, 2-409 and what she said was, "I feel very supported by all of the community." Next to end us off Ms Son, a fourth grade teacher said, "I love P.S. 29 because our school newspaper club is made up of changemakers." This tells me that our school is pretty cool.

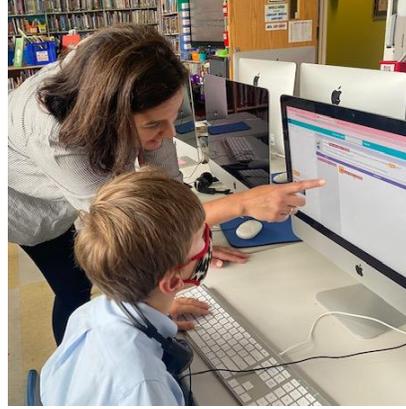


Sketch by Kylie Sieberg (5-506)

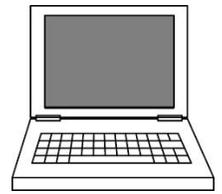
## Behind the Tech: Who is Ms. Sperry?

By: Ingrid Chan (4-510), Angelica Patterson (4-510), Hugo Kotlus (4-521)

Have you ever wondered who that teacher behind the desk filled with books is? She lives on the 4th floor and has a million books surrounding her. She's Ms. Sperry, our technology and library teacher! But, she's not just a library teacher, she is also our Media Literacy teacher, too!



*Ms. Sperry with Raphael Schwartz, working on Hour of Code tutorials!*



Ms. Sperry, our Library + Technology teacher, has been teaching here since 2005. She taught at two different schools in Williamsburg before teaching at P.S.29. She was going to be a first grade teacher but there was low enrollment that year and she got sent to another school where she subbed for a computer teacher who took a long leave after back surgery. When the old computer teacher came back, she went back to being a classroom teacher for a few years before joining P.S.29. She taught third grade here for one year, then began teaching library and technology when the old librarian retired. Ms. Sperry's favorite year was her first year because she taught some really nice third graders, but her current year always feels like her favorite (except the remote years). She says that the tech that she teaches has changed. Also, she says that many teachers have come and gone, but it is always a community of great families and dedicated teachers that come together to learn and grow.

When you ask others about Ms. Sperry, this is what they've shared. Mr. James, a paraprofessional at P.S. 29, said, "I like working with Ms. Sperry and she is an amazing coworker." He goes on to say, "Ms. Sperry's personality is that she is passionate, nice, and is a great person to work with. And whenever I'm working with her I have some form of authority. I think she is very fair with students and will never get anyone in trouble if they shouldn't be." Mr. Danny, a teacher at P.S. 29, also said, "Ms. Sperry is great with her students, is always really positive, and is a great teacher. She is very helpful, and whenever I have any technical problems, she always knows the answers." A P.S. 29 student, Adriano Piottelli said Ms. Sperry was an "awesome teacher" and even the "best librarian."

In conclusion, Ms. Sperry, our library + technology teacher, has been with us for 17 years, 16 as our library + technology teacher. She has been a NYC teacher since September 2001. She says that she would not like to be famous, but she does joke with her students that is she "Cobble Hill-famous."

## An Inside Look at Ms. Nancy

By Oona Van Every (5-506), Claire Petrone (5-506), and Una Schmidt-Aguirre (4-524).



Ms. Nancy is a 4th grade teacher who has been teaching for 11 years. She came to P.S. 29 after teaching in Bed-Stuyvesant, where “I felt I wasn’t making a difference,” she said.

She loves teaching 4th grade because the kids are nine or 10 years old, so it’s easy to have good conversations with them. Ms. Nancy’s favorite subjects to teach are writing and the power and perspective reading unit.

She has been teaching for 22 years, and she has taught 4th grade, 5th grade and science. Her favorite grade to teach is 4th grade.

“I started teaching because I wanted to give back and make a difference in the lives of students, just like my teachers did for me,” she said. When she was a kid, she wanted to be a teacher by day and an actress at night, she said.

She also teaches the LGBTQIA+ affinity group. Something she likes about teaching the LGBTQIA+ affinity group is that she can provide a safe, non-judgemental place for kids to be themselves. Outside of school, she likes to spend time with her family and cook.

She also has a dog. She doesn’t like chocolate ice cream. The reason? “I guess I’m more of a savory person,” she said. Her favorite candy is sour patch kids, and her Hogwarts house is Hufflepuff.

When not teaching, Ms. Nancy enjoys thrift shopping. “I made a global goal and a promise to myself that I would reduce my carbon footprint by not purchasing all of my new clothing,” she said.

She can’t see teaching anywhere else but P.S. 29. “I am always learning something new,” she said of her current job.

## P.S. 29 TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Una Schmidt-Aguirre (4-524) and Camilla Sinclair (4-507)

*We interviewed 3 teachers asking them questions about their daily life. They opened up about things they do, not only at school, but outside of school. We received unique and special responses from each teacher.*

### Ms. Lindsay - 4th Grade Teacher:

Q: Why did you come to this school?

A: I had heard really nice things about Dr. Fagin and the P.S.29 community from Mr. Silverstein, who was a former coworker at my old school, P.S.503. After nearly a decade in classrooms without windows, I felt I needed a change of scenery.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: I really looked up to my teachers growing up, and have always enjoyed working with children.

Q: If you could teach anywhere else, where would it be?

A: I always thought it would be very cool to teach on a ship. That way I could enjoy being out at sea exploring the world while I was teaching others.

Q: When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: Everything! At one point I wanted to be a ballerina even though I never took ballet class. Also a veterinarian. But I always wanted to be a teacher.

Q: What is your favorite subject or unit to teach and why?

A: I always loved teaching history. I used to be a high school history teacher. But I have come to love math.

Q: What is your favorite out-of-school activity and why?

A: In the winter, I love skiing and snowboarding. In the summer I love swimming and hiking. But all year round, I love reading.

### Ms. A: Art Teacher

Q: Why did you come to this school?

A: I came to P.S. 29 because I was looking for an art teacher position close to home. I can walk, I can ride my bike or my husband can drive me.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: I became a teacher because my mom is a teacher, my sister is a teacher and I am the queen of babysitting in my neighborhood.

Q: If you could teach anywhere else, where would it be?

A: I can't honestly teach anywhere else.

Q: What is your favorite subject or unit to teach and why?

A: One of my favorite areas to teach in art is printmaking. I was printmaking because I was a queen in college.

Q: What is your favorite out-of-school activity and why?

A: If I am not making art at home, then I do a lot of hiking and find new things to work with in all my classes.

### Ms. Carolina: P.E. Teacher

Q: Why did you come to this school?

A: I came to this school because it is a wonderful community that I have always admired.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: I have always loved to be physically active and I have always loved kids, so that’s why I became a teacher.

Q: If you could teach anywhere else, where would it be?

A: If I had to pick another school other than this one it would probably be my old middle school, M.S. 51.

Q: When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: I wanted to be a police officer, so I am glad I fulfilled my dream.

Q: What is your favorite subject or unit to teach and why?

A: Well, P.E., of course!

Q: What is your favorite out-of-school activity and why?

A: I enjoy spending time with my family and many pets!

## PS29 Staff Old and New

By Emerson Hart (5-500) & Sienna Mark (5-500)

Have you ever wondered who has worked at this school the longest? And who is super new to this school? Well, today you're going to hear all about them and their different ideas about the school. You might have seen them around or heard about them before. If you do know them then get ready to learn a lot more! If you haven't then this is a great chance for you to get to know them.

First we have Ms. Maria Monforte, who is not only our amazing school secretary, but also a person who has worked here for a very long time! She started in 1989. She started here when she was 33. Her mother was already a substitute teacher here sometimes, and so when she heard the school secretary was about to retire, she thought it was the perfect time to apply.

When asked if she could go back in time and choose a different school her answer was, "I would absolutely choose PS29 again! I've had the opportunity to work at other schools, but I always choose to stay here." Which brings up one of the most important things about PS29. People here are dedicated to this school. Ms. Maria is definitely one of them.

Starting new things can be hard, we all know that, and this was Maria's experience starting at PS29: "I was very nervous and afraid to start this job because it was the first time entering the building, and I made a lot of mistakes at the beginning. There was a lady who would get really mad at me for messing up and I wanted to punch her in the nose! Learning new things was hard too, I had to meet everybody for the first time!"

We asked her how her feelings have changed in her years at PS29 and she said, "Now I feel like I run the school, everything has changed. I'm not nervous at all anymore. I've seen so many principals come and go." Since she's been here so long, she's also seen a lot of things change. For example, she says, "We used to have typewriters, now computers. We had no copiers, and it would get me dirty sometimes. I would have to make all the papers for the classroom, so that was really hard. On typewriters we would correct them with something like whiteout! We had carbon paper so when you typed, it made a second copy for you. We used to write on chalkboards, and I honestly liked that a little better." Me too, I think chalk boards are more fun.

Well, now that you know a little bit about Ms. Maria, maybe next time you pass the main office you'll stop in and say hi, or now you just have a fresher perspective about PS29. Either way, big thanks to Ms. Maria for doing this eye-opening interview with us.

Now we are going to give you a scoop of what it's like being right in the middle. Like when you know the school well, but there are still things to learn and explore. Mr. Carver can tell you all about it. He's worked here for 10 years now! We asked why he chose PS29. "Actually I was working at another school and someone who I worked with had just gotten a job here," he said. He told me to apply, so I did." We're all glad he took that person's advice to apply here! When asked what he would do if he was given the opportunity to choose PS29 again he answered, "Definitely, it exceeded my expectations."

What's changed during your time at PS29? "I think our part of the IDEA community (Which is like a team of people who work here) too I think it's gotten much stronger, and now we are talking about things like identity much better than we used to. We didn't have Ms. VanDuzer as a math coach, but now we teach better math." And finally we asked him, "Do you think that you've worked here for a long time?" He said, "Yes, I think PS29 is so great because we have teachers who stay here and are committed. I think 10 years is a long time." 10 years is a pretty long time. Which is why it's amazing that there are people here who have worked here for longer than that. Thank you to Mr. Carver for agreeing to do this interview with us.

Now finally, the person who has worked here for the least amount of time. Ms. Vincent is a wonderful teacher who has only worked here for one year! She started in September 2021, and has made a great change in the PS29 community already. We asked a few questions and would like to share what she said to you. We asked, "What's it like being the person who works here the shortest?" And she answered, "It's actually a little exciting because you are learning new things everyday." We felt the exact same way in our first day here too! Next we asked, "Do you think there are any disadvantages or advantages?" She replied, "Things that I can do. An advantage would be teachers who have worked here for a while telling me tips and a little day is like a first day for me, like the first time doing it. - it's a little bit hard, because it takes a while to adapt, but also exciting!" she continued.

"I feel like it's a little bit harder teaching the little kids as a new teacher. I would do kindergarten again though." Next, we both asked, "What made you choose PS29 out of any other school?" She answered, "This is the school that I was hired at, and this is a great school, and a great community." Then, we asked her, "Did you work at a school before this?" her response was, "Yes. I did. The school that I worked at before is smaller, and has less staff."

Next, we asked "Is there a reason you chose PS29?" In response she said, "I could be in different grades. And at the school that I worked at before. I didn't have that many options." It is pretty amazing that you can move around to different grades. Then we asked, "What do you think about the teachers?" and she replied, "Everyone is very nice, very friendly, and very helpful." Everyone knows what it's like being new at something and we're glad that Ms. Vincent feels happy here at PS29. We're definitely happy to have her here! Ms. Vincent works with a co-teacher and we asked, "Do you think that it's helpful working with a co-teacher in your first year?" She responded, "I really enjoyed having a co-teacher this year, having another person helping with ideas. It's really nice." Then finally we asked if one day she might not co-teach, and she said, "I would like to work with someone and I will always be with a co-teacher because I'm a special teacher." We completely agree that working with someone else is a lot more fun, and so a big thank you to Ms. Vincent for working with us with the interview!

Now that you've learned about what the experience is for someone who's worked here for the longest time, and the shortest time. They all have different experiences yet similar, in a way that they all work in a community of caring, kind, passionate people. I know that we've learned a lot more about PS29 through these interviews and we hope that you have too!

## Lynn for the Win

By: Molly Baler (5-506) and Viola Hannigan (5-505)



Ms. Lynn, a third grade teacher at PS29, has brought happiness to so many students, including us. She has taught at PS29 for eight years. However, in total she has been teaching for thirty three years. PS29 is the 5th school that she has taught at in her thirty three years of teaching. She said she has always wanted to be a teacher since her childhood and she felt that it was the thing she wanted to do, so she did it!

She runs a program called Strong Girls. This program was actually inspired by her daughter. Her daughter loved sports but the other boys at her school wouldn't let her play so she took it upon herself to make the Strong Girls program. Her program specifically (yes, there are other programs) was the first one in New York.

When girls go to Strong Girls they get the motivation to really just be happy and stand up for themselves and when they start playing sports they motivate each other.

Do you like books? Will you just sit down on your couch (or floor, whichever you prefer) and read a book? Well, guess what! Ms. Lynn does the same thing. She loves to read. She'll read at home, at the park, or even just during her lunch break. You're probably thinking, "Well, if she reads half the time, then she has to have a favorite book." We interviewed her about that, too. Her favorite book is *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo. This book is often read in PS29, sometimes in third grade, sometimes in fourth grade.

Ms. Lynn is a kind, caring, and fun teacher. She is probably the best teacher we have ever had and we hope when you meet Ms. Lynn you will have the same reaction!

## Opinion

### To Mask or Not to Mask: That is the Question

By Athina Cambanis (5-527)

Most people at PS 29 say they feel comfortable not wearing masks, or feel safe when other people around them aren't wearing one. But some still choose to keep their masks on. The Mask Mandate was lifted on March 7th, 2022. Since then, there has been a rise in COVID-19 cases across New York City. In six recent interviews, teachers and students have shared a variety of opinions about wearing masks.

Dr Fagin states that like most people, she's tired of the pandemic and the masks it has brought along. "However, I am really thankful for the masks, because as a principal, I can see first hand how effective they are," she said. "For so many months we didn't have a vaccine for students as PS 29. We were in classrooms together all day, wearing masks, and there truly did not seem to be a spread of the virus. There's no doubt that once we did away with a mask, the contagious virus spread more easily."

Munroe Harleman (4-509), says that she wouldn't have lifted the mask mandate. "[People] do more at home tests, and it's easier to keep it a secret if you have COVID-19," she said. "It's not really reliable, the number of recorded people who have the virus. I would have waited until I'm sure that everyone can feel safe and comfortable and the COVID cases go down."

"I feel like it's cool that [wearing a mask] is optional," Kylie Sieberg (5-506), explains when questioned about how she feels about the mandate being lifted. "Some kids still wanna wear it. So there are good parts about it, because some kids wanna take it off, and you can breathe better. And if it gets hot inside, you can take it off and not get in trouble."

Romy Dixon (5-500), says that he doesn't think not wearing a mask is worth it. "If you have an option to be more safe, you should take it," he states. "My family has been wearing masks through this whole thing [pandemic], and we haven't gotten it, and none of our other family members have gotten it. So I feel like it's at least working a little bit."

The most common point of view from the people interviewed were that they were fine with other people around them not wearing masks, or not wearing masks themselves, though some still have their feet firmly planted on the opinion of keeping their masks on. In the end, everyone is getting used to a new world where it is an individual choice.

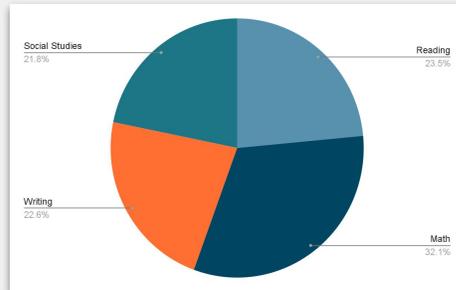


### 4th & 5th Grade Poll: Favorite Things

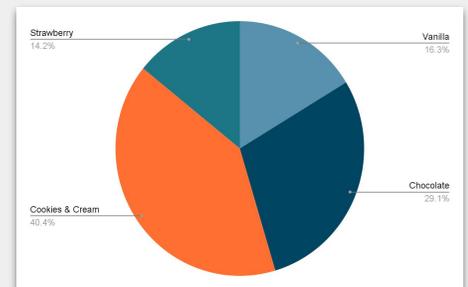
By Evie Rocco (4-509)

I surveyed 221 students about their favorite things. With the help of my friend Owen Palmer, we found the following:

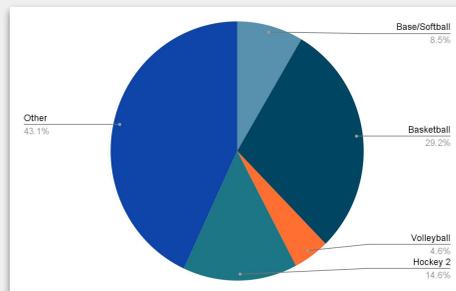
#### Favorite Subject:



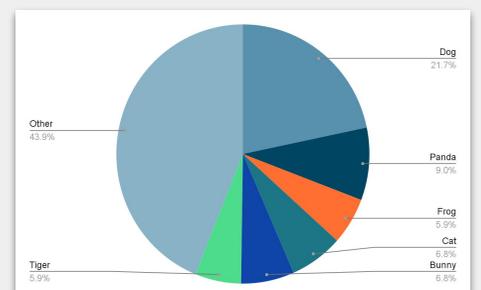
#### Favorite Flavor Ice Cream:



#### Favorite Sport:



#### Favorite Pet:



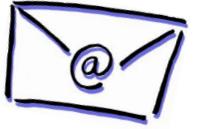
I also asked students if they preferred masks or no masks. Out of 221 students, 145 students said they prefer no masks.





## Dear P.S. 29

By: Lily Klingensmith (5-505)



### Middle School Woes

*I have been friends with Sally for 5 years. We are now going to different middle schools. Will our friendship survive? Help!*

Hi! If you're going to different places for middle school it does not mean that you wouldn't be friends with Sally later but it might just mean that you won't be as close with them. You and Sally could do something after school or you could hang out together. You could also call them or text them to stay in touch. If you try to do all these things but you and Sally are not becoming closer or staying friends you might just need to say bye to each other and make new friends at your new schools. In middle school you can have new friends and become close to them too. Friendship is like riding a bike. Even if you stop riding for a while you will still have that skill. Friendship is just like that.

### Questioning Identity

*I have a secret. I haven't told my friends or even my parents. I am questioning my gender identity. I am considered a "female" but I relate with "boy" things like sports and Pokemon cards. I feel uncomfortable and I want to share what I'm feeling but I'm super scared. Help.*

Hi! If you feel more comfortable having he/him pronouns you should tell your friend or a trusted adult. If you really feel like you can't tell anyone then you can wait till you're ready. I know it might feel hard to tell them but once you do you'll be really happy because then you won't feel like you have to hide something really important to you. You can still enjoy things like Pokemon cards and sports as a girl. If you feel stuck I recommend talking to someone who has experienced the same thing about how they opened up. You're not alone.

### Friend or Foe?

*I have a friend who I considered a best friend. But lately, I've heard her talking behind my back and calling me a "baby." I don't know why she is doing this and it makes me super sad. How can I confront my friend? I'm afraid to ruin our friendship by telling her how I feel. Help.*

Hi! If you feel like your friend is not being nice and saying things behind your back, you should confront her. Friendships have good and bad moments and it's ok to have bad moments too. She might not even know what she is doing. If you feel like telling her is going to ruin your friendship she might not be your closest friend any more. Friendships evolve overtime and sometimes to be closer you have to take a break with each other. Don't be afraid to confront people because often it can clear a misunderstanding

### Being Different Is Not Always A Bad Thing

*I'm a vegan. I don't eat a lot of the same things everyone else does. How can I teach and tell others about my food discretion without feeling alone? Thanks.*

Hi! You're vegan and that's who you are. Everyone eats different things, don't feel alone! There are a lot of famous vegans such as Ellen DeGeneres, and even Ariana Grande! Who knew! If you want to tell people about what vegan means, you could make a poster or just explain to people how much healthier for you the diet is. Also to prevent people from making rude or hurtful comments you can inform people of the green impact vegans make on the world. Keep eating how you like and don't let what others say bring you down.

## Keep Abortion Rights For All

By: Oona Van Every (5-506), Claire Petrone (5-506), Viola Hannigan (5-505), Molly Baler (5-506), Neeve Leyl (5-527) and Whit Harrison (5-505)

If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you might know how some Republicans on the Supreme Court are trying to take away abortion rights for women. As you may know people are not taking this like it's a normal thing. Some are marching and some are fighting for injustice, and we are fighting with them. Even the President and Vice President don't approve.

What are abortion rights you may ask? Well abortion is when women have the right to be able to not have a baby when they're pregnant.

Claire Petrone went to an abortion rights march and there were so many people there who care about this issue! A senator was marching and reporters were there as well. You may think this is just another minor thing that will be solved over time but this is not going to be fixed if we do not fight! There is still time before they make this an official law but even though we have time doesn't mean it's unlimited. This is our bodies that we are fighting for, our futures even. This is our generation we're talking about, so make this something that we are going to be able to tell our kids and grandkids about.

# We ♥ Animals!

## Sean Casey Rescue Center Has Dogs, Even Bearded Dragons

By Clara Braithwaite (4-507)

Sean Casey Animal Rescue Center is a center that takes in and cares for all sorts of animals from cats and dogs to hurt pigeons and bearded dragons. This rescue was founded by Sean Casey and has now been open for 25 years, and was originally a place that only took in reptiles and other cold blooded creators (which explained their logo, a Cemilion!). Of course, Casey loves all of the shelter animals, but he likes one in particular

"I love the dart frogs," Casey says. All in all, this is a trustworthy society that takes animals such as dogs from kill shelters, streets and owners that can't take good care of them.

### ADOPTING AN ANIMAL

Here is how Sean Casey's Animal Rescue adoption system works:

First, you must be sure that you are ready for a pet by thinking of these simple questions:

- What kind of pet do I want?
- Am I ready to pay for all of the expenses for the animal that I want to adopt?
- Does my living situation have room for a pet?
- Do I have a decent amount of time and energy to give to my pet?
- Am I ready for a pet to come into my life and others lives?
- Is anyone in my household allergic to the animal?



If it's all clear, you can move on to meeting the animal, so you know who you want to adopt. You must be 21 years old, or be accompanied by someone that age who gives you permission to adopt. You might want to get to know the animal more. For example, you can take a dog for a walk. You have to fill out an application form that will probably have questions like: Have you ever had a pet before? What makes you want one now? You give them your driver's license as well as your form. They review them both to make sure that you have not mistreated an animal so they can trust you with him or her. Then you're all set after you pay the fee that includes the expense of all the food the shelter has given your pet, and if they were neutered or spayed.

### SUPPORTING THE SHELTER

You can support the shelter by adopting an animal, so they can take in more. Their limit for dogs is 40; it is 30 for cats. If not possible, you can donate money, food and other things that they might need.

You can also walk dogs, this is both a good experience for you and the dog, because this might cause you to adopt a dog later on. If not, you are still helping the dogs have a good experience interacting with people. This is good for the dog because not many had a good experience with people earlier in their life and you are helping them get over that fear.

### DOGS

There are many dogs at the shelter. Some puppies and others that are very old, such as Frainnie, a 14-year-old dog who has been at the shelter for about three months, compared to the average of 18.5 days. It seems that an old dog would be perfect for an old person. Except for one thing: Frannie may be old but she is still pretty active and loves her walks. But this is what the shelter is here for; they will stay with Frannie until she gets adopted.

But not all are as tempted to walk as much as Frannie, since they have all come from not so good places. Many are skittish around noise, streets, people and even other dogs. This is good to keep in mind if you are thinking about adopting a dog. For example, if you are a family that needs to have a dog walker come in the middle of the day, you might want a dog that is not vicious or uncomfortable around other dogs. Even crossing the street can be a problem. After all, if you live in the city, it will be hard to avoid streets.

Of course, there are solutions. For example, Lupay is one of those pups that are afraid of crossing streets. The real solution to this is not stopping at every crosswalk, but walking across the street confidently. This gives the dog the confidence that they need to cross the streets.

Of course there are dogs that have no problems at all, and get adopted fairly quickly, such as Falcor, who loves people almost as much as he likes pets. And Sonia, who took one walk and got to people wanting to adopt her!

All in all, if you want to adopt a dog: Sean Casey Animal Rescue.

### ANIMAL FOSTERING

Sean Casey is not only good if you are looking to adopt a dog. They also have many other animals such as cats.

Like dogs, many are skittish and sometimes aggressive around humans, and many are too young to adopt, so many animals need foster care. This is when the shelter turns to their neighbors for help. These are people that may not be ready for a life long companion, but will easily give their life to an animal for a couple of months or until the shelter can take them in; this is called fostering. Fostering allows SCAR to take in new animals that need homes, also this animal could be less comfortable in the shelter than others. This affects their behavior causing it harder to get then adopted. Though this may be bad news for the shelter, it is a fun experience to get to know an animal a little bit more.



#### Facts About Me

**Breed** Dogo Argentino Mix  
**Color** White  
**Age** Puppy



# We ♥ Animals!

## Amazing Animal Facts

By Hana Turner (4-510), Karen Wong (4-507),  
and Maya Foxwell (4-509)

*Do you know which bird is attracted to a weird smell? No? What about a sea animal that cannot blink? Still no? Or a bug that has thousands of muscles? Maybe? No? Don't worry, you're in luck, read on for the answers and more amazing animal facts! There are Weird, Surprising, Funny, Cool and Gross facts about animals! Enjoy!*

### Weird

- What kind of sea animal can't blink? Sharks! I bet the eyes are hurting them right now.
- Did you know a rhino's horn is made out of hair? I wonder what they feel like.
- What kind of insect is strong? Caterpillars have 4,000 muscles! But don't let a caterpillar sit in your chair, because most of their muscles are in their bottom.
- What kind of animal is mostly water? Jellyfish! They are 98% water.
- What kind of birds are attracted to the smell of rotten eggs? Penguins!
- Do you know what animal can make more Facial Expressions than dogs? Horses!
- What kind of underwater animals have no bones? Sharks and jellyfishes! They can wiggle all they want!
- How many times do you think a tropical ant could snap its jaws together in an hour? 145 miles an hour!!
- Chickens, the annoying \*bouk bouk!\* animals might be magical. Did you know that chickens can lay green and blue eggs?

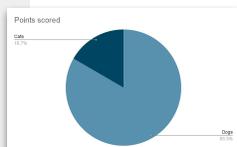
### Surprising

- Do you know what kind of animal lives in an underwater volcano? Scientists found sharks living under an underwater volcano.
- What animal is a lazy bunch? Why koalas of course. Koalas only stay awake for 4 hours a day.
- \*sigh\* While I am still waiting for the slow old turtle, let me tell you a fun fact. Do you know why turtles are so slow? Maybe it's because they existed before Dinosaurs.
- Did you think that every horned animal is born with them? Well, you're wrong, Giraffes are the only animals born with horns.
- What is a VERY slimy animal? A frog! The world's biggest frog is as big as a house cat.
- Guess who is the best driver in this town! Why it's the dog who drove their owners car into a lake of course! A dog once drove his own owner's car into a lake in Maine.
- What kind of animal do you think can survive without oxygen for 18 minutes? Naked Mole Rats!
- \*awwwwwwwww\*What kind of newborn animal is the size of a raisin? Tasmanian devils.
- If you were in a fight, and you could choose an opponent, coconut crabs or grizzly bears? Which would you choose? Well, I hope you didn't choose coconut crabs, because did you know coconut crabs pinch harder than grizzly bears bite? \*eek!\*

### Who's a Better Pet? Cats or Dogs?

By: Cate Errico (4-524)

I asked some of the students in 4-524 their personal opinion. Many preferred dogs because: they are a little more playful, and they are loyal.



### Funny

- Believe it or not, if you talk to your pup in a high pitched "baby voice" helps it pay attention? Maybe its because it makes it feel like it's the oldest.
- What kind of company makes bodysuits for camels? A company in the Middle East makes bodysuits for camels to wear while training for a race.
- If you were to go on a trip with a group of goats, that will make sense because a group of Goats is called a trip.
- What do you call a smart cat? A cat named Bubba attended high school in California, U.S.A
- Did you know some bees throw up Nectar to keep their heads cool while they fly?
- Pretty much makes sense that kangaroos lick their forearms to stay cool in the desert because it is hot.
- Shrews must be starving because shrews eat almost nonstop.
- Did you know Ravens can mimic human speech?  
Did you know a group of rats are called a mischief? Why of course!

### Cool

- You might think this is almost impossible for you because snails smell with their lips and humans can't!
- How many degrees can you rotate your ankles? The coati, a member of the raccoon family, can rotate its ankles 180 degrees. "WOW"
- On Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, Red Crabs outnumbered people by about 29,000 to 1. A LOT of crabs there.
- Did you know Swarms of jellyfish stretching 100 miles have appeared in the Gulf of Mexico.
- If you thought the chickens were cool, you'll think this fact is awesome. Not only are there magical chickens there are magical bees too. Did you know that some bees are purple.
- Did you think Fireflies are really beetles?
- Since Armadillos are land animals don't you think it's impressive that they can hold their breath for as long as six minutes?!
- Some giant jellyfish have tentacles that could stretch more than the length of a basketball court. Long tentacles.
- If you thought that all octopuses are squishy, you are wrong. Ancient Octopus have hard shells.

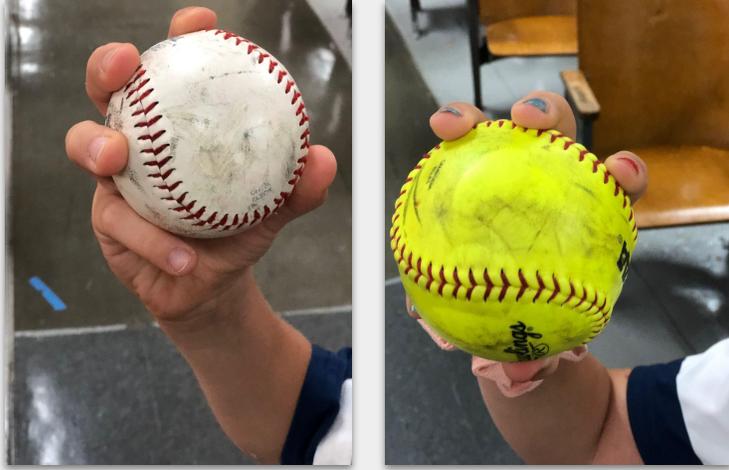
### Gross

- Did you know an ostrich's eye is bigger than their brains? Those are some big eyes.
- If you were to do surgery on a squid what do you think you would find? 1 heart? 2 hearts? Or more? Well the answer is more because some squids have 3 hearts!
- Have you seen a huge worm on Scottish island? Worms the size of snakes were found on a remote Scottish island. I hope there not poisonous orals I'd be in danger
- What do Bonobos blow for attention? Raspberries!
- This is mean to their mother but some baby spiders eat their mother.
- If you don't really like cockroaches you might not like this fact. Cockroaches that lived 250 million years ago were as big as today's house cats.
- Did you know some frogs have green bones? That makes me wonder, what are they eating?
- Together, a tarsier's eyes weigh nearly as much as its brain. I wonder how much those eyes weigh?
- I bet you wish that you have never been stung by a mosquito before, because after I tell you this fact, you will be in discus. Mosquitoes actually pee on you while they suck your blood. \*ewwwwwwwww\*

## Sports & Recreation

### Softball and Baseball: What's the Difference?

By Poppy Hilton (4-509) & Loic Sarmazian (4-508)



baseball

softball

Most people think that baseball and softball are the same. They think that baseball is for boys and softball is for girls, but there is a lot to learn about how these sports are different and similar. This article just scratches the surface!

There are a lot of similarities between softball and baseball. For example, there are the same amount of bases and there are the same positions. You also use a bat for both softball and baseball. The scoring is the same because you can get singles, doubles, triples and homers in both sports. You also get outs in softball and baseball. In both sports they throw strikes and balls, and work the count. The reason why we know all this is because we play in the 78 league. Poppy is a pitcher for 78 Margolis Sharks, and Loic is a catcher for PS Kalin Sharks.

There are a lot of differences between softball and baseball. For starters, the balls are different. In softball, the ball is big and yellow, and in baseball it's small and white. The pitcher's mound in softball is closer to home plate, and in baseball it is a little farther away from home plate. But when you're hitting, the speed of the pitches feels the same. The pitching wind-up is different because in softball you pitch underhand and in baseball you pitch overhand.

In softball, a pitcher releases the ball at six o'clock and in baseball, we release it at 12 o'clock.

*Below is an excerpt of an interview between Loic (L) and Poppy (P).*

**P:** How is your season going so far?

**L:** It's going well. Our official record is 11-0.

**L:** How is your season going?

**P:** It's going well. We have been undefeated so far.

**L:** What do you think are some of the differences between baseball and softball?

**P:** Well, the ball fields are bigger than the softball fields in the major league.

**L:** How do you think your season is going to end?

**P:** I dunno. Because I'm playing against Weinstein.

**L:** How good is Weinstein?

**P:** Undefeated. (Like us)

*(UPDATE: It turns out that Poppy's team won, so maybe Weinstein wasn't that tough)*

**P:** How did you do as a player this season?

**L:** I think the team and I worked together well.

**L:** Do you think learning about the similarities and differences in baseball and softball will help you learn more about baseball?

**P:** Yes.



Loic and Poppy, ready for the field!

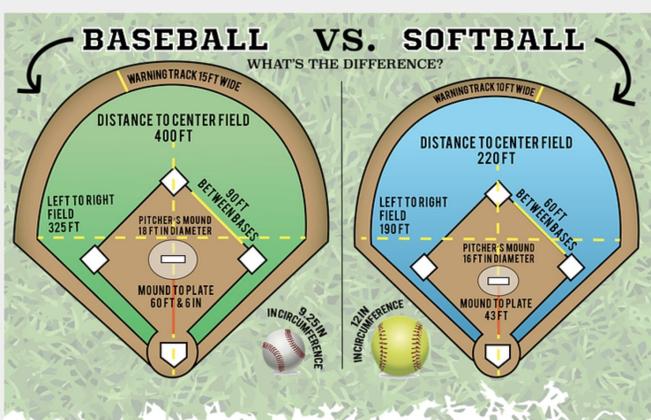


Image courtesy of StickandBat.com

## If the Nets lost KD & Kyrie...

By Atticus Whidden (4-507)



*Photo Courtesy Sporting News - Jacob Kupferman/Getty Images*

When you first hear the Brooklyn Nets, who do you think of? Probably Kyrie or Durant. But what if those players left? Would the Nets be still at their rank? Keep on reading to find out.

Of course the Nets would be alright, because more Nets players would get chances to score. Just think, what if Kyrie and Durant were unknown? Would they get passed to more? Currently a lot of Nets players depend on Kyrie or KD. Other players like Bruce Brown, Seth Curry, and Joe Harris would be able step in or maybe show more potential. Joe Harris scored more than 25 points 12 games in a row, if he got passed to more he would be able to score more points. Same with Bruce Brown; Brown was able to score 20 or more points in 11 games in a row.

But there are also some flaws to the Nets losing their two prized players. For example they would lose KD as captain and would have to pick another one. KD and Kyrie are both great shooters with great handles and that's really something that every team needs. Losing their two best shooters would be a big downfall.

In my opinion, the answer would be "No". But, who knows? The nets might be better or worse; it all depends on what YOU think. People have different perspectives on the world which means they have different opinions.



## The Golden Win

By Kingslee Chilombo (5-506)

Warriors win the Championship, 103 to 90! This is a historic win because the Warriors have now won 7 championships (1947, 1956, 1975, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022). It's even more historic because this Championship was won by the original big three - Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson (Klay was out for 941 days from injuries!)

This win was huge because the Warriors had rookies who played an important role. Jordan Poole helped the Warriors with his 3 point shots (Did you see the half court shot he made at Game 2?) Andrew Wiggins helped the Warriors with defense. He had an average of 8.8 rebounds in the final games. Kevon Looney and Gary Payton II were also helpful with defending Jayson Tatum. This all star team was able to win it because they worked together. Teamwork definitely makes the dream work.

## DO YOU PLAY BASEBALL IN HEAVEN?

By Leopold Estellon (4-521)

*This story is inspired by the book Scary Stories to tell in the Dark, THE BAD NEWS.*

Once, there were two friends named Ted and Rob. They LOVED baseball! Ted played second base and Rob pitched. But one day they asked each other a serious question: do people play baseball in heaven?

"The first one who gets there should tell the other," said Ted.

"Good idea!" replied Rob.

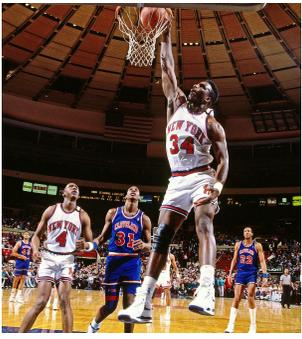
Years passed, as they grew up they didn't play baseball so much. But one day something happened, it turns out Ted got to heaven first.

Then one day, Rob found Ted (or his ghost) sitting on the couch. "So? Do people play baseball in heaven?" asked Rob.

"Well, there's good news and bad news. The good news is we DO play baseball in heaven. I even play second base like in the old days. The bad news is that you are scheduled to pitch tomorrow."

"GULP!"





## A Divided City

By Zeina Hykal (5-500), Raphael Schwartz (5-500)

We are stuck in the middle of a split city. Manhattan and Brooklyn, Knicks and Nets. In this article, we will explore different peoples' opinions on which team is better, the performance of their team, and what they think of this rivalry of two boroughs. This is a tale of two cities...

### New York Knicks- Knicks Past

In the past the Knicks were a pretty good team unlike how they are not doing their best in the present. I mean not even making the playoffs. In the past the Knicks made the playoffs a few times with some peoples favorite player Charles Oakley," says Skye Hilton, a parent of a student attending P.S. 29.

The rivalry in the 90's was between the Knicks and the Indiana Pacers. The Knicks were in the playoffs and they were both really good. The rivalry wasn't as heated back then between the Knicks and Nets.

In the rivalry in the 90's between the Knicks and the Pacers, "most Knicks fans despised Reggie Miller, because he was really good" says Skye Hilton. They were both great teams in the 90's, and they often competed against each other in the playoffs.

The New Jersey Nets were not great in the 90's, "but they had a good player, under the name of Jason Kidd." says Skye Hilton. The rivalry is more heated nowadays because the Nets are getting better, they are closer to the Knicks geography-wise, and there is just more all-round interest for the Nets."

### New York Knicks - Present

The Knicks were here first. Mr. Michael Maniaci (5-500) claims that "Because the Knicks have been here longer, they deserve more respect."

The Knicks play in a world famous stadium nowadays: Madison Square Garden Arena. (MSG) "Unlike the Nets" Maniaci says, "They keep it too dark in Barclays which lulls everyone to sleep and so does the way the Nets play because they're so boring." Big roast right there from Mr. Maniaci. Keep up the good work!

Maniaci also says that in New York, the Knicks are more loved than the Nets and that the majority of Nets fans are tourists going to see them play.

Durant made a mistake by not transferring to the Knicks. "They are young with a bright future", Mr. Maniaci says. Especially RJ Barrett, the 22-year-old Canadian wonderkid on the Knicks.

### The Nets Past

In the past, the Nets have been located in many different areas: First, they were the New York Nets (1968-1977) , located in Long Island. Then, for the longest period of time, they were the New Jersey Nets(1977-2012). During this time, according to Mr. Adam Gerloff, (5-500) "The Nets were worse than the Knicks, but they were still a pretty good team. " During the New Jersey Neets era, Mr. Gerloff liked Joe Johnson a lot. This Nets team would shortly have superstar Jason Kidd, but I think many can agree that the Nets currently have their best squad ever. From 2012 to now, the Nets have been the team we know them as: The Brooklyn Nets, playing in the Barclays Center, a team with many superstars. Mr. Gerloff also believes that the change from New Jersey to Brooklyn was hard for the Nets. "A lot of Jersey people were mad, and it was hard to get a fanbase in New York City, because most already liked the Knicks." He adds, "It's a growing fanbase."

### Nets Present

As already stated, the Nets have grown to a much wealthier and skilled team. With their move to Brooklyn came thousands of more supporters and Nets enthusiasts. With the extra money brought in, many superstars were signed to the Nets, more notably Kevin Durant, Ms. Son's (4-509) favorite player, Kyrie Irving, Layth Saleh's (5-500) favorite player, and Ben Simmons. While the Nets did do better than the Knicks this year, many Nets fans are disappointed after this season. The Nets got blown out 4-0 in the playoffs by the Boston Celtics. Ms. Son and Layth believe that it was a lack of coordination, communication, and teamwork that saw the Nets get eliminated without a fighting chance. According to Ms. Son, "The Nets have little chemistry."

### 5th Grade

We polled 10 people in the fifth grade who we know like basketball. We asked them a simple question: Knicks or Nets? Thinking that there would be a vast majority of Nets fans (because we live in Brooklyn!), we were extremely surprised at the outcome. Out of 10 people, 5 voted for the Knicks, and the other 5 voted for the Nets. This poll shows that our city and grade are extremely split when it comes to a huge NBA rivalry.

### The Verdict

Even though this city is very split in terms of fans, we see that in a small poll out of ten random people in the fifth grade we are not changing and are staying split. This shows that there is space for fans of either team to inhabit this split city. This will also push this rivalry to be even more intense and splitting. I think that it being so tight makes the fans even more hyper and supportive of their team. Even though this is so divided, I think we can all agree that both teams are equally great, and that this sport and rivalry will continue to enlighten NYC for years to come. As Mr. Maniaci says, "this interview is over!"

# Just for Laughs

## The Best Medicine

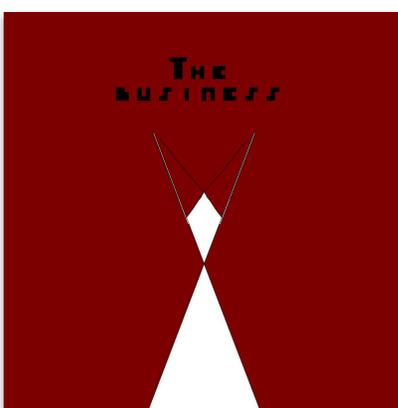
By Romy Dixon (5-500)

Plenty of businesses have been started by students right here at PS29. Ever since Eat Pie Shop's kid marketplace, even more students than ever have been inspired to start their own businesses. There are lots of creative ideas, businesses for selling jewelry, stickers, paintings, guidebooks, and more. But I'm not here to talk about any of those. I'm here to talk about my and my associate's experiences running joke businesses through 4th and 5th grade. As well as offer some insight into why I believe joke businesses are an art in their own right.

The words "joke business" might not mean much to you. Allow me to propose my definition. To me, a joke business is a business that isn't completely serious in some way, maybe its entire existence is a joke disguised as a real business or its products/services are good-hearted pranks in some way. For example, a joke business could be a business that sells magic beans or bottled air. Or a business that doesn't actually sell any products or services, but exists to freak people out and make them laugh with strange advertisements and websites.

Now that we're all on the same page about what we're talking about, I think I should explain *why* we're talking about it. This probably seems like a pretty random topic to you, so let me present a bit of backstory into what led me to write this article.

4th grade was a strange year. We did return to school, but COVID-19 still had changed a lot of things. We had to have plexiglass dividers at our tables, we only had half of our class, we all had to wear masks, we weren't allowed to eat with other classes, all our specials were outdoors, and on top of all that, we weren't even going into the school building every day of the week. Point is, with all this chaos and uncertainty, many people (myself included) felt like they wanted something stable to rely on. An activity that happens at the same time and place every week, a project to work on, etc. I enjoy projects, but I sometimes dislike the limitations having a concrete project idea forces you to deal with. I also wanted to be able to do something with friends that we could work on in school, since I couldn't really interact with them much outside of school. So together, we came up with the perfect idea. We should start a business. Not just any business, but *The Business*. And that is why I'm writing this. Because in a time when I needed some structure to my life, the structure I stumbled upon was a joke business.



*Example of a joke business logo.*

While starting a normal business with your friends will definitely provide some, maybe even most of the joy one gains from a joke business, there are certain checkboxes a regular business will be unable to fill. For one, often the process for starting a business begins with finding something you are talented at or passionate about, and finding a way you can use it to make money. However, with a joke business if all you enjoy doing is making jokes and goofing off, you can gain money through that for much less effort. It may even help you make new friends of people who have a similar sense of humor to you. That is exactly what happened to me, after starting my business I not only tightened my bond with current friends, but I also was able to meet/befriend lots of new people.

The real appeal of joke businesses is almost crystal clear just from looking at the name. As interviewee Dagan Rosenblatt stated, "...it's very fun to see people buy things you know aren't real. It's like scamming, but it's not scamming, 'cause everyone's in on it." Joke businesses are well, a joke. Running one is like creating a community of people with understanding of an inside joke. It's an adventure in itself just watching and helping the community you create grow. And that isn't just my experience talking. I sat down with Lucien Moullard, a customer of my past business, and asked him if he would ever like to run a joke business himself. He responded with this: "Yes, I definitely would, because I find it funny and I'd like to make money. Also, it would be nice to watch it grow." Even those who are not knowledgeable about the process of managing a business can see why a joke business is desirable.

I've been showering nothing but praise at the concept of a joke company, so I think it's due time to address some more unfavorable aspects of it's being. First of all, it's much more personal. Putting things you find funny out in the world to find others who feel the same way may help you make friends, but it also can leave you vulnerable to those who don't understand the humor or just don't find it funny. In other words, it's a double edged sword. It makes you a target for like-minded individuals, and a target of the potentially hostile intentions of those who think differently. Related to that, because of its personal nature, even outside conflicts can impact it. I think Dagan Rosenblatt put it best-"If you got into a conflict, the business could be affected by it, the reputation of it all could take a hit. Joke businesses are more fragile than normal businesses." But why is this the way things are? Well, I believe it's due to the fact that humor and jokes run on human emotions and desires, to have fun, to laugh, to make friends, etc. But common businesses don't really have that to them. They usually follow more materialistic values, and while joke businesses certainly have some of that in their blood too, if handled correctly it doesn't overtake the genuine human wish...to just have some fun.

And that concludes my opinions on joke businesses. I strongly support the idea that joke businesses can help people through difficult times, and make good times even better. Though that doesn't come as much of a surprise...after all, laughter *is* the best medicine.

# Games & Entertainment

## Pokémon: Rise And Fall At PS29

By Oliver Gough (5-506), Whit Harrison (5-505)  
and Sebi Winard (5-504)

Pokémon was thriving at PS29 until spring break. Around that time, the trend mysteriously died out. Read on to find out what students at PS29 think about the end of Pokémon.



*Photo Courtesy NintendoLife*

### Interview With Kingslee Chilombo (5th Grader)

Q: Did you like Pokémon when it was trending?

A: I didn't have a lot of cards and when I started getting a lot of cards I started getting into it. When it was trending it was more fun and when it was not trending it was not as fun anymore.

Q: Why did you stop collecting?

A: I stopped collecting because it started getting boring. Occasionally I still get packs of Pokémon, though.

Q: What do you think about Pokémon dying down at PS29?

A: Once you reach fifth grade after a quarter of the year you start getting bored, but I feel like second graders and third graders still like Pokémon a tiny bit.

### Interview With Adrian Barber (5th Grader)

Q: Why did you stop collecting?

A: I stopped collecting because everyone stopped trading, but I do get packs every now and then.

Q: What do you think about Pokémon dying out?

A: Pokémon died down for kids in PS29, but around the world it's still rising. Kids get interested in other things and that's why it died down.

### Interview With Eli Paterson (5th Grader)

Q: Why did you stop collecting?

A: One person stopped collecting, then another person, and then another, and so I decided to stop.

Q: Did you think it was annoying how people keep talking about it?

A: It was sometimes all people talked about so it was sometimes annoying.

Q: Why do you think Pokémon was popular and then died down?

A: Well I think it should not have died down because they started making alternate arts, the chain reaction happened and people stopped.

### Interview With Leo McMillan (4th Grader)

Q: Did you like Pokémon when it was trending?

A: Yes. It was fun, but the only reason it was fun was because everyone had good cards to trade.

Q: Did you stop collecting?

A: I never really stopped collecting but everyone kind of slowly stopped so at the end it seemed kinda pointless.

Q: Did you think it was annoying how people keep talking about it?

A: Yes because I think there are other things they had to do but instead they traded.

Q: Do you still collect Pokémon?

A: I have a Pokémon binder, but I do not trade.

### Interview with Colton Harrison (3rd Grader)

Q: Do you still collect Pokémon?

A: Yes I do.

Q: What do you think about Pokémon dying?

A: I don't want it to die because it's a fun game and it's fun to trade.

Q: Why do you think Pokémon was popular and then died down?

A: It's because everyone at Kids Club used to have them and said, "Do you want to trade?" But then the older kids stopped, and then other kids of all ages stopped, and then Kids Club banned it.



*Photo Courtesy DeviantArt*

## Cobble Hill's Cinematic Treasure

By Erik Skladany (5-527)



Photo Courtesy CobbleHillTheater.com

Do you love to go to the movies? If so, you may find yourself at Cobble Hill Cinemas, a local movie theater on Court Street in Brooklyn. Cobble Hill Cinemas usually has up to four films playing throughout the day. It is a small, local place with a few secrets behind it you probably didn't know. I decided to interview the owner of this place, Andrew Elgort, to get the inside scoop on the most popular independent movie theater in Brooklyn. Here are some facts about Cobble Hill Cinemas.

The theater opened in the 1920s, and it was known as the "Lido," according to [whatshouldwedo.com](http://whatshouldwedo.com). It looked much different. It had a big sign on the front facing sideways that read: "LIDO," in big, bold letters. This was later replaced in the 1960s, and it became known as Cobble Hill Cinemas.

Both Ethan Hawke and the late Heath Ledger came often. They are both very famous actors. It is a fiveplex (meaning there are five theaters in one building) and there are solar panels on the roof. A few years ago, a stolen car bashed straight into the building, right through the front windows. Nobody was hurt. The most popular candy there is Buncha Crunch, and the most popular combo there is a large drink with a large popcorn, the Super Combo. A little after the theater's 40th anniversary, Spider-Man was filmed there with star Tobey Maguire.

Overall, this homey little place really changed over the course of 100 years. Well, now you know lots about good old Cobble Hill Cinemas. From the 1920s to the 2020s, it has remained a very popular movie theater in Brooklyn. The Cobble Hill Cinemas official website can be reached at: [cobblehilltheatre.com](http://cobblehilltheatre.com) (Credit to: [WhatShouldWedo.com](http://WhatShouldWedo.com) for providing information as to when it was made, and what it was called in the 1920's, and Andrew Elgort, the owner of the cinema.)

## Minecraft Mode!

By: Leopold Estellon (4-521)

Minecraft is a creative game in which you fight and build to survive. Minecraft has two modes: survival mode and creative mode.

In survival mode, you have to fight bad mobs. Mob stands for mobile entity. The good mobs are villagers, cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, ocelots, rabbits, and basically any animal you'd see in real life. The bad mobs are blazes, chicken jockeys, creepers, the drowned, elder guardians, endermite, evokers, vexs, ghastrs, guardians, hoglins, zoglins (zombie hoglins), husks, magma cubes, spider jockeys, skeletons, and so on. In survival mode you have to build and craft your way to survive.

In creative mode, you cannot die. You can search up blocks, even obsidian and bedrock, the two most strongest blocks in Minecraft. You can easily switch modes by typing this: `/gamemode survival` or, `/gamemode creative`, in the chat.

As you can see, Minecraft is really awesome!



Photo Courtesy of VG247.com

## I am not throwing away my shot!

By Luke Spector (4-524)

*A ranking of all 46 songs from the smash-hit musical Hamilton. Trust me you will disagree, don't worry. This is our ranking and we can do another ranking based on what you and other kids think. Oh, and all the songs are fantastic.*

### 46. The Story of Tonight

This is a nice calm down after the song My Shot, not much else.

### 45. Schuyler Defeated

Why am I ranking this higher? Maybe because I like the Philip and Eliza part or Hamilton and Aaron Burr.

### 44. A Winter's Ball

Nice short introduction to Helpless. That is really it.

### 43. The Story of Tonight (reprise)

I like this one more than the first because it has more stuff going on. And of course it leads into Wait for It.

### 42. Aaron Burr, Sir

This is a short calm down after Alexander Hamilton. Honestly, this was a tiny bit disappointing. But it leads Into My Shot: awesome! Relax, it is not even in the top 10.

### 41. History Has Its Eyes On You

Awesome message from George Washington before Yorktown.

### 40. Cabinet Battle #1

I don't remember this song as well as others but I will place it here.

### 39. Best of Wives and Best of Woman

Perfect 0:47 second goodbye song.

### 38. Farmer Refuted

Hilarious, but too short. Cracks me up at, "My dog speaks more eloquently." Also "A Message from the King!" You'll Be Back is very obviously going to be in the top 10.

### 37. The Adams Administration

Welcome folks to the Adams administration. King George has a hilarious dance. Alexander Hamilton has a hilarious message. Good but short.

### 36. That Would Be Enough

Nice, sad song.

### 35. We Know

I feel so guilty that they found out thought, Alexander.

### 34. Meet Me Inside

Short song, but our hero is fired from work!

### 33. 10 Duel Commandments

It's the 10 duel commandments!

### 32. Blow Us All Away

We are relaxing and, wait, Philip was shot? The answer is in a song 10 times better.

### 31. Cabinet Battle #2

Just better for some reason than # 1.

### 30. Stay Alive

I'm a general, whee! Funny.

### 29. What Comes Next?

By far the weakest King George song but still funny.

### 28. One Last Time

Teach me how to say goodbye.

### 27. Wait for it

I'm not willing to wait for anything. Good song, totally.

### 26. Dear Theodosia

Wah, so uh what word, I will just go with cute. Thank you Dad, I feel love.

### 25. Hurricane

Good song, Great drama.

### 24. Say No to This

Alexander Hamilton, what the heck are you thinking? BIG

MISTAKE!



### 23. The World Was Wide Enough

A dramatic moment for Alexander Hamilton's death and Aaron Burr's future.

### 22. Stay Alive (reprise)

Yes, Philip did die. Sad but dramatic.

### 21. Alexander Hamilton

Perfect opening song, every bit of it.

### 20. Burn

So Dramatic. Betrayal.

### 19. Your Obedient Servant

Really grown on me over time.

### 18. It's Quiet Uptown

Sad, love every bit.

### 17. The Election of 1800

Fun and funny.

### 16. Satisfied

Ah, the time travel song is so catchy.

### 15. Non-stop

I am actually writing like I'm running out of time.

### 14. Right Hand Man

George Washington is EPIC!

### 13. Take a Break

He has made good choices, just one refusal and it leads to everything!

### 12. The Schuyler Sisters

New York city rules!

### 11. My Shot

I am not throwing away my shot!

### 10. Helpless

The Wedding song.

### 9. You'll Be Back

Classic original King George song is hard to beat!

### 8. I Know Him

This was very hard compared to You'll Be Back even though it is short like What comes Next, it is just Soooooooooooooooooooooo funny.

### 7. Guns and Ships

Such fast rapping, gotta love following along.

### 6. The Room Where it Happens

I wanna be in the room where it happens.

### 5. The Reynolds Pamphlet

King George dance is so funny! I still like the song.

### 4. Washington on Your Side

It must be nice to turn 10. Just something.

### 3. Yorktown ( the world turned upside down)

1781: We get to the top 3, bronze, and trust me it is hard to beat this.

### 2. Who lives who dies who tells your story

The last song in the musical makes silver! Due to drama!

### 1. What'd I miss

The ultimate Hamilton song is totally perfect!!!!

**We hope you liked this ranking.**

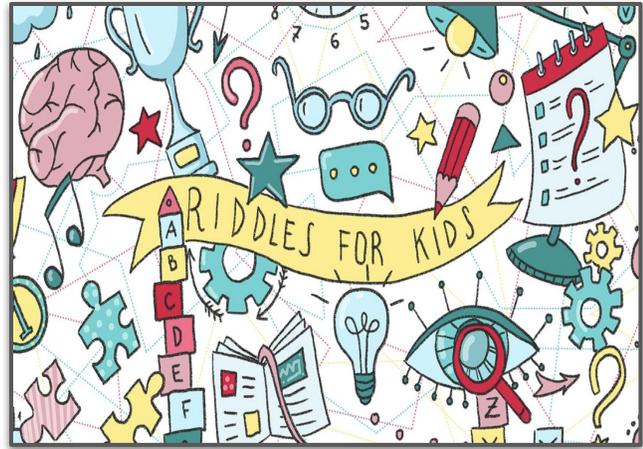
**Next year we'll take a vote to find the most popular song!**

# Fun & Games

## Teasers and Riddles!

By Munroe Harleman (4-509)

1. If there were ten adults on a boat six went swimming, 3 went diving and 1 went fishing, how were there four people left?
2. There were ten fruits on a counter and six vegetables and four berries one kid ate a cucumber and a banana and four strawberries. There were 6 fruits left. How is this possible?
3. There were 20 people in a baseball stadium in the group. 5 got drinks, 6 got candy and 3 got food. There was one person left. How is this possible?
4. One person was driving a car they stopped. They saw three doors, one gold One diamond and one emerald. Which door do they open up first?



Answers  
 1.They were kids. 2. Cucumbers and bananas are berries. 3. There were to groups called the group. 4. They opened the car door.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

### WORD SEARCH

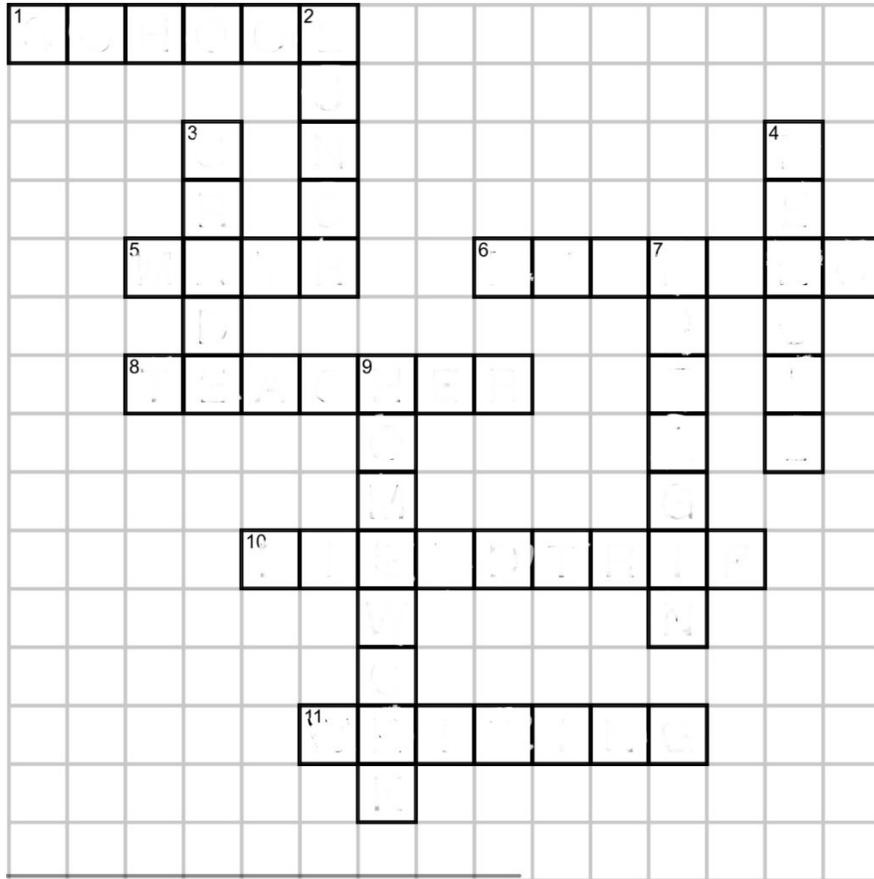
FIREWORK THTEUKSDHMNNQWERYUIOPASDFLAGTHM  
 IFEDSEDEZCVNANMKLJIOPUIYTFGREDBOHUMOPOJHI  
 FERDSRFFRIJTERYHUULUIHGBJNMLTLJIOIIIIUPKIOPI  
 REDFEREWBAFDKYTHILSGRFJLFREEDOMELHDFCZWKI  
 IFDXGXTBMASVXPJGVIYDSULIURDCSCFVGBHNI WAZO  
 KFDCXLIYFCETFXVRGHEFDCIEGDSERMNBVCXLKJNM  
 AMERICAEHCDSESZXCVTAMERICANNHGFLUJIUGFREI  
 EDGYYGJKLQWASHJFORTHDSDFRWW SXZUIVVWDECD  
 DSXCERFDCVGGDCVNMJKPOIUSWEWSDDEFRTHSAXD  
 DLDECDFSCWHITEDCFDERGCKMAXDCCKQERHBHKLPI

AMERICA  
 JULY  
 AMERICAN FLAG  
 RED  
 WHITE

BLUE  
 FIREWORK  
 FORTH  
 FREEDOM  
 BYE

## Fun & Games

By: Maya Margolis (4-509)



### Clues

#### Across

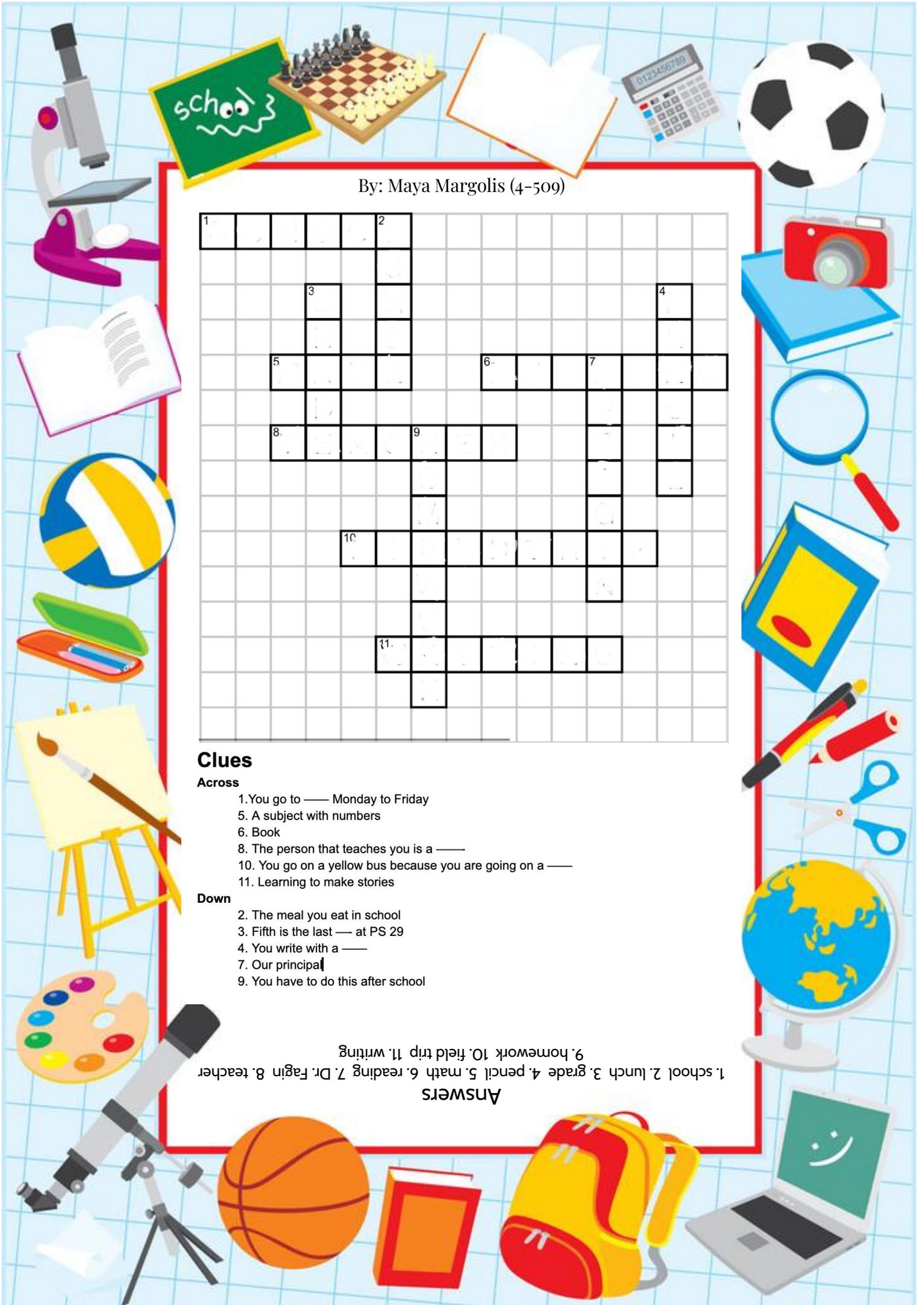
1. You go to — Monday to Friday
5. A subject with numbers
6. Book
8. The person that teaches you is a —
10. You go on a yellow bus because you are going on a —
11. Learning to make stories

#### Down

2. The meal you eat in school
3. Fifth is the last — at PS 29
4. You write with a —
7. Our principal
9. You have to do this after school

Answers: 1. school 2. lunch 3. grade 4. pencil 5. math 6. reading 7. Dr. Fagin 8. teacher 9. homework 10. field trip 11. writing

### Answers



# Many Thanks to Our Contributors

## Student Contributors

Inara Ahmed  
 Noah Bakhash  
 Molly Baler  
 Saul Barone  
 Elia Boss  
 Clara Braithwaite  
 Athina Cambanis  
 Alma Ceccaldi  
 Ingrid Chan  
 Kingslee Chilombo  
 Francesca Cohen  
 June Cole  
 Delainey Davidson  
 Romy Dixon  
 Camila Dominguez  
 February Enfield  
 Cate Errico  
 Leopold Estellon De  
 Galbert  
 Maya Foxwell  
 Anna Freimuth  
 Freddie Geraghty  
 Oliver Gough  
 Lola Greene  
 Viola Hannigan

Matisse Harleman  
 Munroe Harleman  
 Emerson Hart  
 Poppy Hilton  
 Zeina Hykal  
 Hewitt Kenney  
 Lily Klingensmith  
 Hugo Kotlus  
 Neeve Leyl  
 Emily MacIntyre  
 Stella Mailaender  
 Maya Margolis  
 Sienna Mark  
 Emilia Marraffini  
 Leo McMillan  
 Olivia Muhlfelder  
 Adriana Murati  
 Isaac Oestreich  
 Angelica Patterson  
 Claire Petrone  
 Titouan Picard Schantz  
 Otis Pollock  
 Lola Robohm  
 Evie Rocco  
 Grace Rocklin

Ava Samuels  
 Loic Sarmazian  
 Una Schmidt Aguirre  
 Raphael Schwartz  
 Kylie Sieberg  
 Casimir (Joe) Sifton  
 Camilla Sinclair  
 Saskia Sjoberg  
 Erik Skladany  
 Evelyn Sonderup  
 Luke Spector  
 Theodore Squadron  
 Hana Turner  
 Oona Van Every  
 Elliot Weber  
 Atticus Whidden  
 Sloane Willscher  
 Sebastian Winard  
 Stella Winton  
 Karen Wong  
 Fred Yanchyshyn  
 Dylan Yedinsky

## Parent & Teacher Contributors

Anne Barnard  
 Matthew Cole  
 Sunshine Flint  
 Skye Hilton  
 Jeremy Rocklin  
 Mike Spector  
 Dr. Rebecca Fagin  
 Ji Hyun Son  
 Susannah Sperry  
 Elisabeth Stephens

