

The AFAS Journal



The mosaic

by Maya Roldan and Leah Ackland

The mosaic was finished just a few months ago, and staff, students, and parents alike have been enjoying the beautiful art installment located across from the main office.

When asked how it came about that she and David Fichter collaborated, Mrs. Taremi explained that she used to teach at the East Somerville school, and met

him there while creating a mosaic. While the mosaic was still a work in progress, she changed jobs to become the art teacher at the Argenziano school.

Mrs. Taremi managed to get a grant for David Fichter to come to the AFAS to help us create a mosaic of our own. He was here for two weeks, and in that amount of time, the whole

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Fun facts about Mr. Mathews

by Lucca Valdes

- Mr. Mathews is 6 ft. 3 in. tall
- Used to play football and baseball but *not* basketball
- Has 3 kids
- Lived the first few years of his life on a fishing boat
- He lived in Somerville for over 10 years
- Now lives in Newton, MA
- His kids are in 4th grade, 8th grade, and 11th grade
- His favorite candy is Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- Favorite animal is a goat
- Has a pet dog
- Favorite color is candy apple red
- Favorite food is a burrito

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School's out for the summer? Email kjd@12zine.com and let us know you want to join...

The AFAS Journal

*Student newspaper of the
Albert F. Argenziano School
"The Lions" Somerville, MA*
Alexander Mathews *principal*
Glenda Soto *assistant principal*

Staff

2nd year

Maya Roldan

Leah Ackland

Maya Jaugust

1st year

Lucca Valdes

Demerise Calzaretta

Brianna Bartlett

Landon Murphy

Jholet Miguel

Marcus Odilon

Sakshi Hastir

Alan Ball

adviser



International Women's Day

by Maya Roldan

On March 8th, thousands of people worldwide went to events to hear women speak about women's rights and economic and social equality. Events also can range from theatrical performances and local craft markets to conferences and government activities. There were several events in the Boston area, including some in Cambridge. Somerville girls were invited to Hubspot, a local software company, to learn about coding and meet programmers. The theme of Women's Day 2017 was #BeBoldForChange. This means that women, girls, and others alike should fight for their rights and work to eradicate unfair treatment based on gender.

Last day of school

by Someone

On June 21 the 600 of us will be let out from school and we will have about two school-free months. In that time we will get to go to the beach, visit relatives and friends, and **NOT DO SCHOOL WORK** (Just the summer homework some teachers give the students☺). So what are you doing over the summer?

Last day of school events

The last day of school will be a half day. On most "last days of schools" kids clean their desks, put their classroom library books in order, and take home our math books. We also learn who our new teachers and classmates are. Some teachers are asking their students to bring in white T-shirts so their class can sign them. Then they get to remember who was in their class that year.

We only have three days left until the last day. And we have the showcase on Tuesday. So when the last bell rings we are free for the summer. Yay!!!

The first six months with Mr. Mathews

by Maya Jaugust and Lucca Valdes

Last year, the Argenziano school was sad to see principal Barbara O'Brien retire, but welcomed new principal, Mr. Alexander Mathews. This is Mr. Mathews first year at the Argenziano School, and upon asking him if he liked it here, he gladly answered: "I love it here!"

He told us he liked being the new principal for many reasons, one of them being that he likes "Interacting with lots of different people around lots of things that are important." Mr. Mathews also said that he liked "the diversity. We have children from many different countries and cultural backgrounds." Mr. Mathews previously was principal of the Sarah Greenwood School and before that he taught English and social studies to eighth through eleventh graders in New York City and Lynn, Massachusetts.

We talked with Mr. Mathews about the mosaic on which our wonderful art teacher, Ms. Taremi, teamed up with artist David Fichter to create. Everyone at Argenziano worked together to make the mosaic, which shows the diversity of students at



the school. Mr. Mathews told us that he loved the mosaic and that he thought that it was beautiful. He even put a few tiles down!

We unfortunately had to close this interview but we had to ask one more thing. We asked, "Is there anything very unexpected about this school?" He replied with enthusiasm, "The food here is great!"

One Argenziano

by Eyewitness

In April, there was an Assembly in the gym with every grade in the school like the PEP RALLY. Mr. Mathews talked about heritage of other people and how it is great to be that way, and we have to respect that many people are from different religions.

AFAS Journal club

by Jholet Miguel

The Argenziano has many clubs, like journal club, which meets on Tuesdays right after school. We write for the school newspaper. In charge is Alan. He inspires us to write what is going on in the school. In the journal club there is Landon, Marcus, Brianna, Jholet, Lucca, Sakshi and Demmy in fifth grade and Leah and Maya in seventh grade and Maya in sixth grade. We all write interesting articles or sometimes work with partners to work together on articles. We are such a great team. We work together and we are happy we are in journal club.

TOOK

by Brianna Bartlett

I am reading this book called **TOOK**, a horror book by Mary Downing Hahn. Folks say Old Auntie takes a “girl” and keeps her fifty years—then lets her go and takes another one. Thirteen-year-old Daniel Anderson doesn’t believe Brody Mason’s crazy stories about the ghost witch who lives up on Brewster’s Hill with Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog. He figures Brody’s probably just trying to scare him since he’s the new kid.

Daniel Anderson is a thirteen year old kid as you read above he loves his sister very much. He has red hair, he has lots of words to describe him. One he is very curious and likes exploring around especially to the haunted house. But Daniel’s seven-year-old sister Erica has become more and more withdrawn, talking to her look-alike doll. When she disappears into the woods one day, he knows something is terribly wrong. Did the witch strike? Has Ericka been “**TOOK**”.

My opinion, it is very good and you should read it.

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Sixth grade bridge unit

by Maya Jaugust

A lot of construction has been happening in the sixth grade for their bridge unit! The students have been put into groups and assigned a type of bridge to build, such as arch bridge, cable stayed, suspension, beam, and a few other types. They were given two hundred popsicle sticks, a whole lot of toothpicks, a hot glue gun, fifty hot glue sticks, wood glue, a rectangle of poster board for the road, and for the groups that needed it - wire. The sixth graders had to be careful not to run out of any supplies, because unless they traded with other groups, that was all they were going to get!

Once the bridges were finished, everybody set to work making a poster about their type of bridge, including the original blueprint, reflections from the group members, pictures of some famous bridges of the same type, an aerial (bird's eye) view, and a side view.

Everyone is hoping their bridges are sturdy, and they are to be tested on Monday, June 19, by stacking dictionaries on the roadway. The real question still remains: will they hold?

My Parents

by Anarghya Rajbanshi

Ms. Yarmel 3rd grade

When I need help they are
always there for me. They
always love me even when I make
mistakes. They tell me "Learn from
mistakes." They help me accomplish things
I need help with. They teach me things
to keep me safe. I love my family and
they love me too.

Science wordsearch by Eyewitness

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

*There are 17 single words and three 2-word terms that are related to science, hiding in the grid above. Be the **first** to send a complete, correct list to kid@12zine.com and win a scientific calculator!*

Bonus: there is another, 18th word, same word embedded in 2 other words. Identify it for a bonus.

Are you an AFAS student who wants to submit an item for this newspaper?
Email it to kid@12zine.com

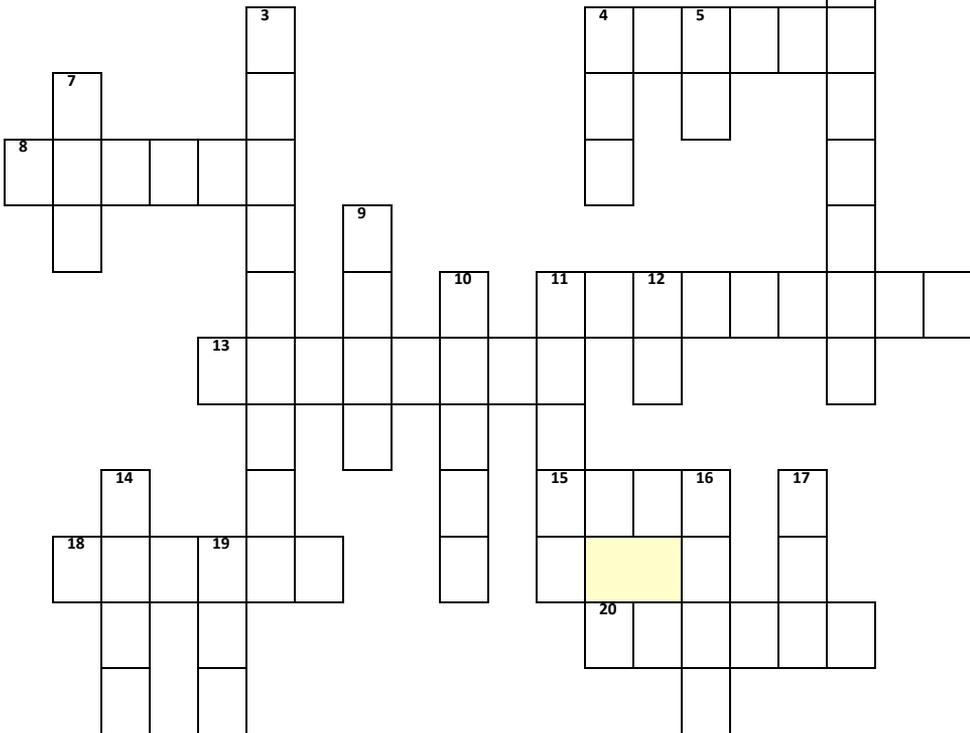
Can't wait for summer! by Lucca Valdes

DOWN

2. melts, but it's oh so good (2 words)
3. pyrotechnics (hint: see 14 down)
4. unwelcome guest at picnic
5. California (abbreviation)
7. star of the solar system
9. blooms in June with thorns
10. Atlantic, Pacific, etc.
11. shoreline terrain
12. cool machine (abbreviation)
14. 4th of _____.
16. hotel or backyard _____.
17. how's the weather?
19. birthday's on (14 down)

ACROSS

1. vacation by car
4. you might find one at 11 across
8. hottest season
11. super fun part of a beach
13. dripping sweet hot day delight
15. kids go in summer, for fun, instead of school
18. month with no holiday
20. everyone wears them all summer



Band performance at the high school

by @the Park

I play the snare drum in band at school. I have played it since it became an option in fifth grade. We have performances once in a while, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. concert and the Spring concert. We could even have one at the high school, but rarely. On the occasion that there is one, there are many sights, smells, and sounds to behold.

Before it starts, I can hear the sounds of the different instruments warming up, and the squeak of chairs and music stands being moved across the stage so all the instrument players can see their conductor once the show starts. I can hear people outside the auditorium talking, and the stage doors opening and closing. When it starts, I can hear the orchestra playing and the audience applauding at the end. One might hear the shuffling of music from the stage or faint murmuring from the audience once in a while.

I can smell the wood of the stage, the paper of the music sheet, and the musty red curtains.

In the beginning I can see people slowly filtering in and taking their seats. One might see a little chaos with everyone trying to find their spot on the stage. Once it starts I can see the bright spotlight being shined onto the stage, making it hard to see the audience with its glare. One can see the players paying rapt attention to the conductor.

I can feel the wood drumsticks in my hands—smooth at the top parts but grooved at the bottoms because of all of the impact on the drum—poised over the drum and ready to play at the motion of the conductor. I can feel sweat creeping down the back of my neck because of the hot spotlight. I can feel the sticks come in contact with the drum, and the pulse radiating through the stage near me from the other drums.

Then I can hear the audience's loud applause echoing off the walls once more before the concert comes to a close.

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Future City by Siddhanta Shrestha

The winner of the 2017 New England Future City Regionals is Samanborg. The 7th and 8th grade students from the Argenziano School, along with the 7th and 8th grade science teacher Mr. Coughlin, won the New England Future City Regionals.

It is the first time that a Future City team from our Argenziano School went to the finals. Future City is a competition where teams all around the world design and engineer a city based on the topic that is different every year. Examples of some topics are waste management, solar energy, and wind energy.

This year's topic was public space. The 7th and 8th grades created Samanborg, which means "together city" in Icelandic, to have everything a city could have. The city is powered by geothermal energy, which is heat from the earth.

The Future City Regionals were held in downtown Boston. Teams from all over New England came to present and compete to go to the nationals in Washington, D.C. Our team from the Argenziano School came in first place with their city Samanborg. The team also won two awards, one for Best Presentation and another for Best Virtual City. The team got to go to the Nationals in Washington, D.C.

While in D.C. members of the Future City team along with family members got to tour the city. They visited memorials like the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument. They also got a tour of the Capitol Building from Somerville's U.S. Representative Mike Capuano. The Smithsonian Museum was a popular sight in D.C where the team visited. Along with the Smithsonian, the team also visit-

ed Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

The Finals were held on their last two days in D.C. Unfortunately, Samanborg didn't win the Finals. The team that won the 2017 Future City Finals was Texas North. Even though Texas North won, the students who participated in this year's competition had fun visiting Washington, D.C. and coming up with great ideas for their city Samanborg.

They hope to go to the Finals again next year with more experience.

Drama club

by Marcus Odilon
and Brianna Bartlett

This school has many clubs you can participate in including drama. It takes place every Friday in the atrium. You have the option of staying in the library or going home following your regular schedule before the club starts. We all group up in the library, play computer games and then go to the cafeteria to eat snack which is provided to us or brought from home. The food fills us with energy before we start the actual club. During drama we start by playing

games with a volunteer, who does improvisation with us. We then do larger scale improvisation activities for the rest of the time which focuses on working together. It's really fun! We get to do different scenes, and act them out. A great aspect of drama club is meeting new people and expressing ourselves. It's great to surround yourself around different types of people and that is another positive aspect of drama club. The club has many benefits and is very entertaining and lively. The club welcomes students from fourth to eighth grade. It has a great variety of personalities and everybody has a great attitude. Drama club is really fun and a great opportunity to make new friends. You should surely join if there is an opening.

Mosaic *continued from p. 1*

school got a chance to work on the mosaic.

There was a long process of creating the mosaic. Last school year, students researched flowers representing their heritage, and then illustrated them in art class with Mrs. Taremi.

Then, Mr. Fichter drew his rendition of the mural on a large piece of paper. This year, the drawing was put on a table in the art room. The mesh was installed, and Mr. Fichter outlined the image onto the mesh, before students applied the glass mosaic tiles. "Tile by tile, it came together," Mrs. Taremi said.

David came around and made sure everything was accurate, before taping down the pieces so they wouldn't fall off while the mosaic was being transferred downstairs. Many parent volunteers came in to apply the mosaic onto the wall. "We cut it into sections and labeled them," Mrs. Taremi explained, on how it was transported. "We applied the cement and stuck the tiles on. The tape was kept on until the cement dried."

A day later, the tape was pulled off, and the grout—an eggplant color, chosen by Mr. Fichter—was applied. Grout is a cement-like paste, used for filling in the gaps between tiles. Afterwards, the mosaic was wiped clean and left to dry, and then it was complete!

5th Grade Otis House field trip

by Lucca Valdes

In early spring, the 5th grade took a field trip to the Otis House on Cambridge St. in Boston. This mansion belonged to Harrison Gray Otis in 1796. Mr. Otis lived in this mansion on the South Slope of Beacon Hill for 4 years. When the 5th grade arrived at the museum, some kids got a tour of the mansion, and some got to make a stucco work (plaster plaque) with gypsum. Every 5th grader received a character. Each girl and boy was assigned a character to “be.” We wrote “autobiographies” on the characters in advance. At the mansion, we had nametags telling who we were, our profession (if you had one, some people were too young to have an occupation), and what street we lived on. Many people lived on the North Slope of Beacon Hill (such as Rachel Floyd, played by Isabella McGlashing and Mrs. Cushing, played by Sabrina Medeiros). These people made a fair amount of money, but were not rich. Few people lived on the South Slope of Beacon Hill, the more wealthy side (such as Captain Hazen, played by Jerrell

Calixte and Nathan Appleton, played by Zachary Fellingner). The occupations of the people ranged from a chimney sweep (Diego Oliver), to a mother (Demerise Calzaretta and Jessica Sheehan), to a school mistress (Rachel Eckley). Some of the other people were

- John Calendar, an attorney played by Landon Murphy
- Katherine Gibbs, a mother and wife played by Jessica Sheehan
- Rachel Eckley, a music teacher played by Sophia Goode
- Sarah Preston, a milliner played by Michaela Hurley
- Rachel Reed, a boarding house owner played by Brianna Bartlett
- Hepzibah Hyde, a school mistress played by Lucca Valdes
- Sarah Lamson, a shopkeeper played by Sakshi Hastir
- Louisa Higginson, a mother and wife played by Jholet Miguel
- Rufus Eaton, a cabinet maker played by Marcus Odilon
- Rachel Floyd, a nurse played by Isabella McGlashing

Heritage Night

On May 17th, 2017 Argenziano was home to Heritage Night for the families of the Argenziano school. This special night that showcased the school's diversity includes cultural performances, chorus performances, an immigration museum, storytelling, interactive exhibits, henna, cultural foods, fashion shows and an art show.

Henna

by Brianna Bartlett

There was also Henna, courtesy of Kaya Beauty Spa on Highland Avenue. Henna is like a temporary tattoo that you put on with a pipe that looks like an ice cream cone with a mixture of water and Henna powder. The most important ingredient is lemon juice.

Stir the henna and lemon juice until they are completely mixed together and no lumps of dry powder remain.

When it is placed on your skin it feels cool.

Keep on until henna starts to crack. Keep it on longer, darker it gets.

Henna originated in India. Sakshi told me that Mendi is the Hindi word for henna.

The food

by Marcus Odilon

The food may have been the best part of Heritage Night. There was food from a plethora of countries. There was everything from dumplings to cake. Cuisines represented included Croatian, Indian, Chinese, and Italian American (pizza). Almost everybody filled their plates with cultural foods. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and at the end of Heritage Night there was no food left. I guess people like trying new foods from different places.

The fashion show

by Eyewitness

In the international fashion show, kids modeled outfits from their family's culture. Any kid in the school could be in the fashion show and boys and girls got to show the country of their heritage. Included were fashions from Nepal, Africa, India, Egypt, Brazil, and El Salvador. There were a lot of people in the audience and they enjoyed it a lot.

Patriots win the 51st Super Bowl!

by Lucca Valdes

Tom Brady made an incredible comeback during the 3rd quarter of the 51st Super Bowl. The Patriots' comeback was the best ever in the entire football history. In addition, Tom Brady is the 2nd person to win 5 Super Bowls and the only quarterback to win 5 Super Bowls. (Tom Brady is also a GOAT.)

Lady Gaga performed at halftime at the Super Bowl. Because the Patriots were so far behind way into the game, many New England fans fell asleep.

My friend Maya Jaugust asked: Am I nerdy for doing homework when my family was watching the Super Bowl?

What do you think?

sps7·8

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*If you are a Somerville stu-
dent entering grade 7 or 8,
submit your writing to
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CONTRIBUTORS

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Suyogya Acharya
Lizabeth Alarcon
@the Park
Emma Fitzsimmons Brann
Ben Buchheit
Joshua DaCosta
Giovanna Fonseca
Maya J. Jaugust
Isaac Leib
Aida Loja
Taylor Machado
Sabiha Miahjee
Justin Millette
Aline Mukadi
Marina Pereira
Maya Roldan
Abriella M. Staggs
Alena Thalput
Owen Thompson
Sarai Umana

A field day for the kindergarteners

by Maya Jaugust

On Thursday, June 15, the kindergarteners had a field day! Since they don't get to participate in the field day with the rest of the school, every year the sixth grade puts together their own special day, just for kindergarten.

There were three stations: bubbles, chalk and a relay race. Each station was manned by a group of sixth graders. If you saw all those colorful chalk drawings outside, now you know why they're there! For the relay race, the kindergarteners were split up into four groups, and had to run the race with a beanbag on their heads, and a rubber chicken in their hands. They all cheered on their teammates, and everyone was a good sport. I think even the sixth graders had some fun too!

The End

Cleaning out lockers,
Classrooms,
Forgotten work to be passed back
An air of excitement
Counting down, five days, four, three...
SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!
No more learning
Stuffy classrooms
Children spill out the doors
Saying to each other,
Keep in touch!
See you at camp!
Finally!

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