

# The Phoenix

## East Somerville Community School



### Neon tigers

by Anais Lopez

The neon tigers are one of a kind. They're right next to the ART ROOM!!! Don't just pass by them. LOOK at them as if they were in an art MUSEUM!!!

Ms. Richard, our art teacher, explained how this project was made by the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. First, each class chose an animal. Ms. Fothergil's class chose the tiger as their animal. Then they chose a picture from Google and used it as a model. They broke it into

*Continued on p. 2*

### My 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

by Yasmin Nazhar

Ms. Duran is my 5th grade teacher. It has been her first year teaching at ESCS. Last year, she was a paraprofessional in kindergarten here.

Only two years ago, she was a project manager at the company, beep! Directed, which is an internet marketing service. She had studied business at Boston College and thought she might like that career, but she grew tired of it.

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All her life she had wanted to be a teacher. She decided to quit her job at beep! Directed and become a teacher.

Karina Duran grew up in Somerville. Her favorite childhood memory is going to the park to play with her friends. She went to Somerville High School. She told me that she liked to play *super mario bros* on her super nintendo.

Her favorite book is *The Alchemist* because it speaks to her to follow her heart. She speaks English, Spanish, and also Italian. She has a kitty called Sadie, a tuxedo cat, even though her favorite animal is puppies. Her favorite movies are *Meet the Robinsons* and *Rudy*, both of which made her weep. She loves thriller movies like *Insidious*, *The Conjuring* and *The Ring*. Her favorite subject is social studies because “it is interesting to learn the cause and effects that made history develop the way it has.”

On weekends she runs, does workouts and watches random shows on TV. Her hobbies are singing, coloring, reading and playing the guitar and the piano. She has been to her friend’s wedding recently. The

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*The poems in this issue were written by poets in Ms. Ceballos’s 4th grade*

last book she read was *Number the Stars*.

Her opinion of being a teacher is that it is exhausting but fun. She told me, “The worst part of being a teacher is having to stand all day. The best part is to interact with different personalities.”

## Neon tigers *continued from p.1*

simple shapes; for example, they studied the stripes. Ms. Richard explained that stripes of a tiger are not like a striped shirt. When you draw a tiger you have to look at your model carefully. Also, the nose of the tiger looks like a “T” which helped them when they drew the tiger’s face. This kind of drawing is called “drawing from observation.”

SO PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THEM!!

## SNOW

Hayley Machado

Snow falls and covers  
The ground.

Snow as white as can be.  
Snow can be very cold, but  
That’s not up to me.

Snow,  
Snow,  
Snow,

When can you go?

I want summer not frigid cold.

Snow, snow, snow, when can you go?

# George's Island

by Jordan Hernandez

At 9:00, it was the start, we were packing up our snacks, counting how many students came, if the total was 18 students. Then we went on the subway, taking the orange line then to the blue line to Boston. We went to the boat but first we needed to get the tickets, after we would give the tickets to the person standing in front of the boat. We went to the top deck of the big boat and sat. Halfway on the way to the island we ate snack, and we enjoyed the view of the ocean. The whole fifth grade was there.

There were many other islands in the ocean but we were heading for George's Island. The big boat docked, and we were there, we were so excited. We hopped off the boat and walked to the front of the island where there were rangers who told us the rules of the island. Then we explored, we went to

## Kindness

Cassie Pratt

Kindness,

A flower that never dies.

A day that never ends.

A light that can never be turned off.

more places on the island, most of the places were dark so we had a flashlight to see where we are going. We left and enjoyed the breeze.

# The Phoenix

The student publication of the  
East Somerville Community School

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# Student government

by Anais Lopez

What is student government? Student government is kids from grades 3-8 coming together to give some ideas to help out the school. Third to 5<sup>th</sup> and also 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> are the two groups which meet separately and sometimes work together. We meet Wednesday mornings at 7:30 in the cafeteria, so that kids who want to join have to come to school early.

In the past, we have done the food drive, in which we collected canned goods and other nonperishable foods for the food bank for the needy. Another project we did was the 100 bottle caps on a string for the 100 day of school for the kindergarteners, to show them what a hundred looks like.

Another service project we have done in the past year is collecting soda cans and bottles to raise money to help save the endangered species, grizzly bears. The person who suggested it was Mariela, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

This year we are continuing to work on saving endangered animals. Now, however, we're working to save the white fox. As we were deciding on an animal, I said, "How about the white fox?"

"That's a great idea," the group agreed.

# At the New England Aquarium

by Juan Buruca and Jordan Hernandez

When we went to the New England Aquarium we thought "This is going to be fun, especially with our friends."

Everyone in the fifth grade went to the New England Aquarium and we all enjoyed it.

It was a good field trip to take pictures and share them to your family when you come back home. We watched a mini movie too!

Laughs , Smiles, Memories, Joy, and Fun!

My classmates and I were amazed when we saw a 90 year old Turtle... IT WAS HUGE. The film was called *Galapagos Island*.

There were seals, penguins, sea horses, baby sharks and more!

We had lunch, and many seagulls all over us. We were scared; we thought they were going to poop on us.

That was our experience at the New England Aquarium!

# New Year birthday

by Aida Loja

It was December 31st, 2016.

My sister's name is Isabel if you were wondering and she turned 5 years old. My dad and mom were calling all their family so they can come to my sister's birthday. My mom and dad thought that everyone should bring food so it wouldn't be so much work for one person. Everyone was asked to bring different types of food or drinks, like one person can be anchored on buying the cake and the other can bring champagne.

The party was to be a surprise for my sister so my mom asked me to make up a story so she doesn't know what was going to happen that day. Then my dad and my brother Javier went to decorate the nutrition club where my parents work. My mom, sister and I stayed home to make food. I helped my mom to cook and my sister was playing in my room. My mom and I were making empanadas. Empanadas are a type of bread with cheese inside the bread and it is very hard to make them. We made about 50 or more because a lot of my family would come. What my mom and I used to make empanadas was flour, oil, eggs, hot water and cheese. I had to open the cheese and break it down to little pieces and it was very hard work. It took us five hours to do it and it took three hours to cook them on the pan. My mom and I got very tired and we were sweating a lot.

When we finished, my mom went to her room to rest a little. I went to my room to change my clothes and then I started changing my sister's clothes. I needed to dress her very pretty because it was her birthday and it was a special day for her. I had her put on this dress that was light green and pink with flowers. She was very happy how I dressed her and then I did a beautiful braid for her that took me 30 minutes. When I finished doing my sister's braid that she really wanted me to do, I started to do my hair, but I didn't do a braid because I don't like braids. I

went with my hair down and wore a dress. Then I went to my parents' room to wake up my mom to dress up so we can go to the party. She woke up and she started to dress up. She looked so pretty and I looked at myself and I said in my mind, wow. I was so surprised.

When we were all ready to go my mom called my dad saying "come pick us up because we are all ready and the food is done" and my dad said "ok, I am coming." My dad came and he brought the food to the car. Then my dad drove to his work and we got there but my sister really was not knowing what was going on. There my siblings and parents were waiting for my uncles and aunts to come and minutes were passing by and nobody came and then when I was going to the bathroom and when I opened the bathroom door to get out suddenly my aunt and uncles came and they were with presents and food. Well, the presents were for my sister. Then I ran really fast to hug my aunts and uncles and I was so happy that my whole family had come.

At 9:00 pm it was time to eat and everyone had to do a line because there was a lot of food. When everyone got their food my dad told me to put on a movie for everyone to watch while eating, so I did. I put on a Christian movie. My dad turned off the light and it was now very dark. When the movie finished we started to put away the food so we can do the 12 grapes and drink the champagne. When we were doing that it was 11:50. Everyone had to eat each grape but first they have to make 12 wishes and we needed to give 12 people hugs. When that was over my dad brought the cake from the refrigerator and he put it on the table. It was 11:58. My dad called everyone to gather around so we can sing Happy Birthday. Then I went to get my little sister to close her eyes so she can't see. Then it was 12:00. I rushed to look for her and then I found her and I put her on a chair so she can sit and then I opened her eyes. She was so happy because it was a princess cake that said her name and that had a candle that said number 5 because she was turning 5 years old. We sang to her and then she had to blow the candle. Then she needed to take a bite of the cake. While she was taking a bite of the cake so she can be the first to try the cake. I put her face on the cake and when she looked at us she looked

so funny and everyone was laughing and she was too. Then everyone wanted to take a picture with my sister and they did.

At 12:29 it was time to break the Pinata, so my brother gave all the kids a bag to collect candy and also got me one so I can get candy. My dad got a chair and he climbed on it and he was standing on top of the chair so to be high up and everyone had to get one piece of the string and when my dad counted to 3 we had to pull the strings. I got a lot of candy; I got more than 30 candies. I was so happy but my sister was sad because she got only a little of candy so I went up to her and I gave her half of my candy and she was so happy that she hugged me and she told me that she really loves me so much. Then everyone at last gave her gifts that they bought for her. She got a Frozen book, color pencils, a coloring book of Frozen, stickers, Shopkins and she also got a jacket. The one that she most liked of her presents was SHOPKINS. She was soooooo happy. Finally it was 2:30 am and everyone was so sleepy. Everyone helped clean up so the club could be clean. When we finished cleaning some of my family went to my house to sleep and some went to their own houses to sleep. When we got home we were very tired and everyone fell asleep and slept until the next morning at 11:30. We all slept well knowing that we had celebrated such a wonderful birthday

## Undertale

My Most Favorite Game  
by Yasmin Nazhar

UNDERTALE is a RPG where you control a human who falls underground into the world of monsters and you must venture out to find your way out. I would give this game a 5 star rating because of the humor, the puzzles and sometimes a little bit mysterious sense. I don't really think that UNDERTALE was

made to scare on the mysterious side but it does cause you to think about the connections between things or it makes you have a theory. Sometimes they switch to serious modes in more grief situations but it is really made to think about love and compassion--unlike other rpg games, this one really takes a turn.

It entertains you with sense of humor like when they make fun skeleton puns (it's not that bad) or when you hang out with your

new friends. Although monsters in the underground look like they want to kill you, they are actually protecting themselves. If you think about it, you're actually the intruder in their place. Your race is the reason they were there in the first place. So they might think you went there to defeat them again.

UNDERTALE is built on puzzles. For example, you need to think about how to spare monsters you encounter or by using your knowledge about previous monster encounters to take on the weird melted, distorted monsters that you will encounter in the true pacifist ending. There are puzzles basically everywhere!

There are theories about Undertale because of mysterious things there. For example, In some FUN dimensions (there are 100 different types of timeline and they are called FUN) you meet someone called W.D. Gaster or one of his followers. Furthermore, there is even a secret entry found in true lab, in Gaster's wing dings. This begs the question, who is Gaster? Sans, too, gets mysterious. Having a code for time travelers, pranking you across time and space and even has a secret room behind his house.

UNDERTALE has 3 different endings, neutral, pacifist and true pacifist ending. In the neu-

tral ending, which you get by killing everyone, you meet Chara, a human soul who has followed you and your journey since you fell into the underground. He offers you to destroy the world together. If you don't, he will jump scare you and destroy the world anyway. In the pacifist ending you escaped from the underground even though the monsters lost everything and have to stay underground. However, the true pacifist ending is when the monsters and you escape to the surface.

What makes this game good is that it is very different from other types of RPG. You spare your enemies, not kill them. EXP stand for execution point and LV stands for level of violence. This shows that the game is not meant to be a game where you kill everything you see. Another thing is that throughout the game there is this fun mascot who is an annoying dog who annoys you. Like when you see a powerful object, annoying dog steals it.

In conclusion I love UNDERTALE because of the humor, the puzzles and sometimes a little bit mysterious sense.

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EVEN DURING THE SUMMER!*

*“It’s time to say goodbye  
Jaqueline” said the doctor. Tears  
going down both my parents’ and  
my cheeks.*

*“You’re gonna make me cry  
too” said the interpreter....*

## Surgery day

by Jaqueline Henriquez

8:00 am of April 27, 2016. It was my surgery day.

“Mom, it’s too early for this my appointment isn’t until 2:15 pm” I whined.

“The doctor said to get there early,” said my mom. I had to force myself to get up, I was so nervous for that day. The worst part was I wasn’t gonna be able to eat the whole day. Once we were all ready my parents stopped by Dunkin Donuts to eat. Since I couldn’t eat I had to watch my parents eat. At this point it was 10:00 am.

“We’re gonna be late” said my mom. There was a lot of traffic on our way to the hospital, but finally we made it.

“Hello, what’s your name” said the lady at the desk

“Jaqueline Henriquez,” I said.

“Please have a seat in the waiting room,” she said. We were only sitting for 5 minutes and one of the nurses called me. She took me to a room and told me to change into a hospital gown while she confirmed some in-

formation with my parents. It was really cold in there so she brought me a blanket and let me watch TV while I waited.

“Oh my god, there’s nothing to watch,” I said, frustrated. Since it was early in the morning there was really nothing to watch except kid shows. Time was going by and it was suddenly 4:00 pm. My appointment was at 2:15 pm. A few minutes passed; she finally came. One of the nurses was putting medicine in me and my doctor explained everything that was gonna happen.

“Jaqueline, it’s time to go now,” said the doctor. Tears were going down my parents’ cheeks.

“You’re gonna make me cry,” said the interpreter. I say goodbye to my parents and then the nurse takes me to the OR. I don’t remember what happened after because now I was on anesthesia. I woke up around 7:00 pm; the nurse called the doctor.

“The surgery was a success, you don’t need to stay overnight,” said the doctor. I smiled. I couldn’t talk since I got surgery on my throat. The benign cyst that I had for many years, unnoticed by me, was now gone and I didn’t have to worry about it anymore. My parents came in really happy, they were so glad I was okay. It was a terrifying experience but I got through it.

# Top sneakers 2016

by Angel Gutierrez

2016 was a really good year for sneaker releases. A lot of original colorways for Jordan's came out. In 2014 we saw a lot of non-original colorways, and I didn't like it because they weren't good colorways. Original colorways are almost always better than the new colorways that Jordan brand releases today. Too bad I didn't have enough money to buy these shoes; a lot of these sneakers on my top 10 list are above \$190. This top 10 consists of streetwear sneakers. I determined these by looks, comfort, price. My honorable mentions are shoes that couldn't make my top 10 but they are still great shoes

I have three honorable mentions.

Honorable Mentions:

- Air Jordan Master 12's
- Air Jordan Space Jam 11's
- Air Jordan Flu Game 12's

The reason why Master 12's aren't in my top 10 is because it is too simple of a shoe. It's mainly a black shoe with gold on the lace tips. The price is \$220. If they had more gold they would be in my top 10 because one of my favorite colors is gold.

Space Jams are an amazing shoe. They are very classic. I have a special place for them in my heart. I love these shoes, but this version of the Space Jam 11's isn't as attractive as the previous releases of the Space Jam. Instead of blue, it's a concord purple. I don't like the 2016 version as much as the 2009 or 2000 version. Those editions of the Space Jam 11's are very nice. This edition also has a 45 where the 23 is supposed to be. The 45 is the number he wore when Michael Jordan came back from retirement. If I'm being honest, I like how the 45 is stitched and not graphic printed. Overall it's a really nice sneaker but the sneakers on my top 10 are nicer.

Flu Game 12's are probably the most iconic Air Jordan 12. To a lot of people these are their favorite Air Jordan 12, but in my opinion, they aren't that special. It's a black and red sneaker and there's a lot of black and red sneakers that look better in my opinion. This is still an attractive shoe but it doesn't compare to a lot of the shoes in my top 10.

**Top 10 sneakers that released in 2016, in my opinion:**

10. Adidas Ultra Boost 2.0 - "Triple White" Colorway
9. Saucony Shadow 6000 - "Dirty Snow" Colorway
8. Reebok Questions - Bape Collaboration
7. Air Jordan 11 low - "Cherry" Colorway
6. Air Jordan 12 - "Wings" Colorway
5. Air Jordan 1 - "Bred" Colorway
4. Air Jordan 4 - "White Cement" Colorway
3. Air Jordan 1 - "Black Toe" Colorway
2. Adidas YeezyV2 350 boost - "Core White" Colorway
1. Air Jordan 8 - "Champagne"

10 - Adidas Ultra Boost is probably one of the most comfortable shoes I've ever walked in. The boost technology makes every step super comfortable. Boost is made of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), which is a type of plastic that makes the shoe 100x more comfortable.

9 - Saucony Shadow 6000 in the Dirty Snow II colorway is probably my favorite Saucony sneaker. I like them a lot because the black/gray/off white all complement each other so well. It's also a shoe you can wear with anything. Also, Saucony uses great

leather and the quality of the suede is amazing.

8 - In my opinion, the Reebok Question Bape collaboration is one of the best colorways in the Question line. The Bape camouflage all around the shoe makes the shoe look really good. The Reebok Questions is a classic looking sneaker. Bape is a commendable brand that makes really nice clothes so when these two brands came together the shoe came out to be really nice.

7 - The Air Jordan low 11 isn't my favorite model in the Air Jordan line but the Cherry Colorway is a great colorway on the 11 lows. It's a white and red shoe but the red really pops because the patent leather is shiny. Red is also my favorite color so that's why this shoe is on my list.

6 - The Air Jordan 12 is one of my favorite Jordan silhouettes. The Air Jordan 12 in the "Wings" Colorway is my favorite colorway for the Jordan 12. The shoe is mostly a black/white and a little bit, but enough, gold. They're an eye-catching shoe when you're walking in the streets. Gold is my one of my favorite colors. Also, they have this crazy effect when you rub acetone on it. It makes the black part have gold wings.

5 - Now we're getting into my top 5. These sneakers are up there in my top 15 sneakers of all time. The Air Jordan 1 in the "Bred" colorway. This sneaker's back-story is really interesting and crazy. If you don't know the story, the shoe is black and red. Red goes really well with black. So if you get them dirty you won't really notice

4 - I really like white shoes. The Air Jordan "White Cement" 4 is just a really attractive shoe in general. The gray and black speckles on the midsole look really nice. It also matches with a lot of outfits.

3 - We're getting into my top 3 sneakers that released in 2016. This sneaker is favorite Air Jordan 1 colorway. The Air Jordan 1 "Black Toe" includes my favorite colors: red, black and white. It's perfect because you can wear it with anything. It's not too much red or black and it has enough red. In my opinion, if

this shoe never got dirty, I would wear them every day.

2- The Yeezy 350 Boost is a good looking silhouette, a lot of people like it. A lot of people like Yeezys who aren't even into sneakers. When the Yeezy V2 350 Boost came out. I thought they looked amazing. All of the colorways for the Yeezy V2, in my opinion, were nice but the "Core White" colorway beats them all. The boost technology makes the shoe really comfortable. It's a sneaker I could wear almost anywhere.

1- This shoe is one of my favorite Air Jordans of all time. This sneaker is my favorite that released in 2016. It will always hold a special place in my all time favorites. The Air Jordan 8 in the "Champagne" colorway is my number one by a mile. The colors is a "milky" off white with gold. In my opinion that color combination looks killer on the Jordan 8. There is no shoe that tops it, that released in 2016.

... in my opinion.

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# New York

## *whirlwind*

by Drea Zaniboni

On September 24, 2016, we woke up early in the morning, me, my sister, my mom, and my mom's boyfriend (at the time). We got in the car. My sister and I didn't know where we were going because my mom and her boyfriend Donnie made it a surprise. At first we thought we were going to Vermont or Rhode Island but my mom just wasn't going to tell us.

While we were driving I had my headphones on listening to music and my sister heard (I later found out) the GPS say "recalculating to Times Square." I looked over my shoulder and I saw my sister's jaw drop, I took my headphones off and I asked her "what's wrong" and she said whispering to me "I know where we are going" I said "where" but she wasn't telling me because she wanted it to still be a surprise for me, and my mom didn't know what was going on and so didn't know that my sister knew.

After a couple hours we stopped in Connecticut to use the bathroom and get something to eat. We got back in the car and after about 15 minutes I was dying to know where we were

going and my sister was on her phone texting her friends where we were going so I did something I regretted, I ripped her phone from her hands. She didn't want me to know so she unbuckled and started jumping on me and pushing me but then she didn't care and let me have the phone. My mom was yelling at us to stop fighting so we did but she still didn't know that my sister knew and that I had Rachael's (my sister) phone and I was about to know where we were going so I flipped Rachael's phone over to see the text message saying "WE ARE GOING TO NEW YORK CITY." I told Rachael that I regretted looking at it and she said "I told you not to but you did anyway" and my mom had no clue what was going on between us.

About another hour later we were finally there because my sister and I were seeing buildings, our mom said "Do you know where we are!!!" and my sister said "yeah, we are in New York City" because my sister and I already knew where we were going. We kind of had to act surprised. We were in traffic for about 20 minutes before finding a garage to park the car in. After we parked we started walking around. I started to get really cold and had forgotten my hood-

ie in the car so because we didn't want to waste our time going back to the car we stopped at a store and I got a sweater that said "I love NY" on it. We kept on walking and exploring and we were getting really hungry so we stopped at a pizza place. Afterwards we went to the Hershey store and I got a kiss shaped pillow and my mom and sister both got candles that smelled like chocolate.

We started to head to the Empire State Building. While we were in line my sister and I took a picture in front of a greenscreen with the Empire State Building on it. We waited in line for about 10 minutes to get the tickets (the line went really fast) to go to the top of the building. We finally got on the elevator to go to the top, it wasn't the top top but we went on the 80th floor. It was an amazing view. We walked around every side, we saw Central Park, people sitting on the top of their roofs, and so many taxis. I remember putting my arm outside of the fence and feeling something squishy, I looked and saw so many pieces of gums, it was awful. We stayed there for about another 40 minutes and then we left and got on the subway.

We were on the subway for an hour and then finally got off

but the train station was underneath a mall so when we got off we walked around the mall and went in a few stores and then left and went to the 9/11 Memorial. I don't really know how to describe the Memorial but there was two big holes in the ground with water falling from the sides of them but the two holes were in the exact same spots as the buildings were and on all 4 sides of both the square were the names of people that passed away. We walked around for a few and then left.

I then asked my mom if we could go to Central Park so we did. We didn't walk through the whole park because it's a really big park but we did follow a trail for about 3 hours. We went through the woods as a little shortcut for about 3 minutes and when we got out there was a lake and also a wedding. So we sat next to the lake on some rocks for a while. As we were resting I started hearing music, I asked my mom "what is that" and she said "oh Metallica and Rihanna are playing in the park tonight." We didn't go to the concert but because my family are big fans of Metallica we did sit outside of the fence for an hour listening to them.

All our phones died except for my mom's boyfriend's phone

but it was about to die so we had to leave and get back to Times Square. My mom and sister charged their phones on a phone charger that was on the sidewalk. After we walked around for a few and then went to get dinner. After we left we walked back to

Times Square again and we passed the Trump Tower, it was really big. We finally got back to the garage to get out car. We left New York City at 11:00 p.m. and got home at 3:00 a.m.. It was an amazing and fun day and I hope to go back again some day.

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## Our advantage

by Nevaeh Sanchez

Some people ask why do we have to go to school? Is there a purpose for it? Do we really need to learn about things we don't even like? To me school is an opportunity for children and adults at any age to be able to get the education they deserve. Maybe 50% of people can say school is a waste of time, but in reality some people don't even get that chance to decide if they want to go to school or not. Have you ever thought about people in other countries and how they can't even afford the education you get or the food you get for *free* at a public school?

Sometimes we take advantage of the things we don't need and throw it out. For example food, but this essay is about how people just like us get the most essential thing without even asking for it and we just use it up like it's irrelevant. I guess when you're younger you don't really think

about education or what lies ahead in the future but what I do know is, as you get older things start to change, and all that matters is how you will turn out in the end. If you waste all your time fooling around in school why even go? In my opinion, I think that we as people should be grateful for what we have, and how much we have of it. If you want to be someone in life you have to work for it, there's no loophole around that.

Have you ever thought about what it's like for others around the world who don't get the same advantage as us? Not enough food, not enough water, and definitely not enough education for those who need it the most. Who are we as people if we're not grateful for what we have?

Maybe the reason people don't take school seriously is because they're afraid of being made fun of for trying. Maybe they don't believe in themselves but whatever reason it is, I think when you actually have the guts

to try, you make yourself the bigger person, you're being you and no one can tell you who to be or what to do, except you, yourself. A wise man, Nelson Mandela, once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In my opinion, what he's trying to say is, you can have any type of weapon that hurts people but deep down you know whatever you do with that "weapon" it will not change the world but you will most likely destroy it. Our advantage is something that not many have, what are you doing about it if all you're doing is giving up what isn't yours to waste?

## The Importance of School

by Diana Posada

People hate school, people love school. Everyone has a choice, either choose to do good, or choose not to. Everyone visualizes things differently, everyone has different opinions, different perspectives.

You must know at least one person who always likes to do their homework and do well in school, they're well mannered. They're respectful. What motivates them, though?

Well, they might think of the saying, *hard work pays off*, every morning. What motivates you to do everything you do? Students tend to sometimes give up easily. Personally to me, it breaks my heart, watching some kids fail classes, give up on school, and miss many assignments. I ask myself, how? How exactly do they do it? Every student can work hard, do their homework and try. Their reward? Their future will be fascinating and amazing. Whenever anyone tries to complete something, they will feel better. And in the end, the destination can be beautiful. Just like a saying that I read a lot, "You can't have a rainbow without a little rain." Meaning that the destination can't be so great if no work is put in.

One of my 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers once came up to me and talked to me about a student needing help with his math and she politely asked me, "Will you be willing to help him?" She looked so desperate and sad, as if she were almost going to cry. I looked into her eyes, filled with sadness like she herself wanted to help the student out but simply couldn't because the same student didn't care what she had to say. Not knowing how to respond, I said yes. She hugged me and thanked me. Imagine your-

self being in a situation like that. Watching one of your teachers suffer because they want their students to have a good future, to succeed, but they won't listen. If you go up to that same student now, he is the one who is being complimented and the one who is succeeding, and earning good grades. I truly am proud of him. His mindset grew. It's not about being smart. It's about wanting to do it. If you're struggling ask for help, practice and you'll get bet-

ter. This life experience taught me that anything is possible, you just have to ask for help and practice it. In the end, everything will pay off.

Many kids don't see the potential that they have in themselves. Nobody is "dumb" or "stupid." You're capable of anything, anything is possible if you put your mind to it. School can be stressful and it can make you give up easily but why should you let it jeopardize your future?

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I have a great dog. He is my first pet. I've only had him for a couple months but I have always wanted a dog. He is a hound/Labrador mix. He was very calm and didn't bark much at first.

But I still had quite a lot to learn. For example, I needed to learn how to take care of him, also how to feed him, and how to put him in his kennel. At first he wouldn't go in at all; you would need to drag him in, but now he goes in on his own.

He was in a high kill shelter in Kentucky before he was brought to Cape Cod because of his calm attitude. When we got him, he was a little anxious, but he adjusted and now rules the house. We named him Leão (lay-down) which is Portuguese for Lion.

We named him that because my great grandfather, who was a shepherd in Portugal before he fled from WWI, had a guard dog who was his favorite and never forgot. His name was

## My dog

by Rui J. Teixeira

Leão. My dog is not the same breed but he is still a tribute to the original Leão.

Leão overall looks like a Labrador in body shape but his coat is very red. He also has a lot of neck fat because he's a hound. One weird thing about him is that he has one brown eye and one brown and blue eye. He is a large dog but he thinks he's a lapdog. He is only two years old as of December 29. Because he is a Labrador he hates birds; he once saw a chicken and he completely lost it. Because of his

hound genes he smells every-  
thing even more than the average  
dog. One thing about him is he is  
completely food motivated, he

won't do anything unless there is  
food involved. But he is still a  
very good and loyal dog.

---

## The Snow IS NOT THAT WHITE

Sophia Luberic

The snow is not that white

Do you want to play in a snowball  
Fight?

We'll make

Sure the snow is  
White.

But at the end of the day we are all

Kids, so who  
Cares

Give it a  
Lick.

Phoenix

Sophia Luberic

Roses are red, Phoenixes are cool

They rise from ashes

Just like my school.

They are strong and fast

Also they are kind, sweet,

Don't forget smart and proud

Just like any person that wants to be.

All you have to have is a kind heart

One day you will see

A

Phoenix.

Dancing Words

Hayley Machado

Dancing words fly

Across the page.

Dancing words will take

The stage.

Dancing words fly

Dancing word soar.

Dancing words

Stop.

# Breath In The Mist

by Carlos Valdivieso

(book 1)

It was a misty day with the smell of terror and destruction in the air. Rost, the golden-maned lion, king of the Meridian kingdom, awakened. He got out of bed to wake up his son Ramboo, just to find his son dead. He shouted for help, he was barely breathing. The queen, who was sleeping in the guest room after their fight last night, came running. Soon the entire north side of Meridian was there crying for the prince. It was a sad day for Rost knowing the murderers were still out there.

Rudy, the silver panther, is the leader of the shadow karja with his right and left hands being Raja the sleek lioness and Rush the simple-minded silverback gorilla.

“Boss, I found a sign saying something about a prize for the people who find the killer of the prince, and I was wondering if we should do it,” stated Rush.

“WE ARE THE MURDERERS!” screamed Rudy while his black as coal eye slowly sucked the little brain Rush had left. Then out of what seemed nowhere Raja came in gently and cautiously.

“I got rid of the fingerprints on the talon we used to kill the child and threw it in the ravine. The only ones who can find it are the outcast cheetahs from the Nora tribe, but no one listens to them,” whispered the lioness.

“Thank you, something finally done right,” said Rudy.

Zip was a Nora no, an outcast Nora. Zip was staring at the carcass of the dead gazelle. Normally she would just casually walk in and get a chunk but she couldn't after she saw what the shadow karja did to the prince, all she could do is wonder about what happened to the gazelle. She walked closer and closer and got a huge chunk of the carcass. She had to feed her son herself because her husband Gaze died because of the shadow karja.

She entered the ravine and noticed a falcon talon and thought “I could use that to cut the chunk of meat into pieces” Cross, her son, could eat. She grabbed it and found a blood stain. She worried they had killed the gazelle with it. She brought it to the lab for them to

look at. It had the blood of the prince. They thought it was Zip who committed the murder so they arrested her for life, and sent Cross to a foster home of jaguars.

When Cross grew up and became a mercenary, his 88th contract was to kill someone in prison. When he was walking down the hall he heard someone say "Cross, is that you?!" He looked over his shoulder to see, it was his mom....

END OF BOOK 1

TO BE CONTINUED

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## The Death Letter of Mr. Bruce

by Iskandar Nazhar

"Any statements, Mr. Bruce?" Everything in this world no longer seems clear to me. Flashes of lights blind me, the loud roaring of the people deafens me, until I can only hear mumbles. I don't know if I'm going to die. They push me into the seats of a confining vehicle. They pulled me out, put me somewhere else. I have no thoughts, I could be named unconscious if someone else were to enter my mind. My vision, my memories black out, but I continue to walk with guide due to being pushed, but I amazingly follow orders.

They all ask me questions, but as I am near the end of death so I dare not say anything. No matter how old, how understandable, how ugly, they still ask. They ask, ask, ask, ask, ask! But I do nothing and get pushed forward by the wind. They intimidate, taunt, spit, they do anything but they all soon blur out. I kinda like it quiet, I'm gonna die so at least I get some peace and quiet.

But something was off about this quiet. I started seeing shadows, lurking between the blurred people. Suddenly the very low rumbling of the mumbling stopped. It was pitch quiet. Soon everyone around started to cease in colors, and it spread quickly like a virus. Soon the colors of the world were as grey, until it was all black. I was thinking to myself, this is it. But due to my feelings, I knew this is not my end, this is the coming terror to haunt me 'til my death. And I knew as I heard a screeching wail of the ground as a cane dragging through it. Now, he has come.

I try to repeat my prayers, but every time I do, I smell bleeding as blood drops out of my nose. Soon the scratching stops, and as it stops a man in a white tux approaches me from the infinitely black void. As

he walks, I notice he wears a bowling hat, a nice tux but has no visible face. There was something very sinister and peculiar of his presence as the white tux doesn't seem to appear white to my other senses, as my senses tell me it shows the color of evil black. But eyes are not helpful or tell lies in times like these. The evil black color is much worse than the infinite void of depression and helplessness the man seems to be in power of. The face of this figure may be much worse as if any living soul is to see it, it may endanger and end life even haunting them after death.

Suddenly the figure slowly extends his hands as to touch my face, but as he does so, a low moan is picked up by my ears and soon evolves into a high pitched noise. As the sinister hands get closer, the noise gets higher and higher, till my ears bleed until...

"Mr. Bruce!" I look around to locate the voice which had summoned me. As I do, I grab my ear to find my fingers smothered in blood. The bleeding however exceedingly much seems to not disrupt my way of hearing. I stared at the blood to find it very black, similar to the black of total void that wails for help. I stared quite blankly for an unknown variable of time before hearing my blood actually wailing for help. The wail however is quite unusual as it gives off an essence of an eternity of pain and the desperation of natural light and warmth. I stare in shock for quite some time unable to figure it all out.

"Mr. Bruce!" Once again I look for the voice which had snapped me out of the hypnotization of my own blood, but only to find my hands are welded together with handcuffs instead of blood. I gaze over in front of me to adjust to the new light. Everything seems to have been split in two but slowly center into the middle revealing two very stern eyes glaring back at me. I slyly cocked my head to one side feeling a bit drunk. The sounds of his summoning still echoes in my head.

"I need your attention!" said the figure that appeared to be a cop. "Or else--" The cop raised his hand over his neck and pretended to slit his throat making the sound. Suddenly his voices distorted and faded away only repeated images of the cop slitting his throat over and over again. Dark shadows started creeping from the side of my vision and suddenly blood came out of his throat. I felt dripping from my hand I looked down to see a knife. The cop fell on his back and everything went white.

My eyes adjusted to find myself in a living room with completely empty white walls, and a fireplace with a crucifix over it. I walked over to the fireplace, but as I did I felt a slow vibration. I slowly extended my hands to reach the crucifix. As I was about to reach it I realized the vibration was a warning. Suddenly every wall of the room was stretched out beyond reach. Then the crucifix was turned upside down and filled every inch of the room. I stumbled at this sight, as I knew this meant danger. The upside down cross meant evil... I had to get out of there before it's too late.

As I scanned around for the exit I catch my eye on a door which is now or will be covered by unholy crosses. I dash for the exit to later know I entered it in time of a penultimate nickel. I turned around to make sure the door was closed but instead I find a plain white wall. I take a cautious turn to what I am about to encounter. I expected to be in an asylum only to find myself in a building very much like a warehouse but with animals.

At first I thought it was a ranch, only to find the mistreated, compressed spaces these animals living, that in fact the animals drown being in these spaces. Then I smelt something very familiar, blood. Then my view of this place became an abattoir. I then looked into the eyes of one chicken only to find that it's completely lifeless. Pupil? Nothing! Only a void of white. Then the meaningless bawking ceased only to be replaced by ear piercing screaming of babies emitting from the animals.

I fall to the floor blocking the sounds from my ears. But I quickly find no use, so I hug my knees singing to myself trembling a broken lullaby. I kept singing until I could not remember what I was doing. Which is then when the screaming stopped. I cautiously get to my feet to find that all the animals appear to be asleep.

I approach to examine one of them, to find it's dead probably for quite a time as it reeks the smell of rotten flesh. I scan through the bodies, and as I do the bodies seem to get worse, the more bodies I find. Being an abattoir, the bodies pile up until 7 feet. As I look, I find a pile of bodies which I was tempted to dig. As I do, I moved away many dead bodies to find a piece of clothing that no farm animal would wear. I uncover the being wearing the clothing to find a dead rotten human.

I spin around to reassure myself about what I'm seeing, but to find every dead animal replaced with dead humans and humans on meat

hooks and piles of bodies. One might assume dead men don't talk, I doubt that now as the mouth of dead lips whispered words in my ears. These words should never be heard in anyone other than me as it could result in death or eternal terror. Only two words could be revealed "Black Light." These words contain secrets of another world a darker one that lurks in the shadow of ours. These secrets are my burden, they help me, curse me and kill me... These words are truths, knowledge that cripples you. I absorb the words from unnatural, alien voices delivered by dead lips. I was stunned by the voices until I couldn't take it anymore as I felt that my head was bleeding from the inside.

I search for an exit through the misty pipes and steamy ground with dead bodies hooked from the pipes and the sound of dripping blood followed by the sinister voices emitting from the lips of the dead. I find a door that was clean and out of place out of nowhere, but that was the only exit from the sinister voices trailing me. I enter a room to find a plain mirror on the opposite side of the room, reflecting my every movement. I approach the mirror to absorb every detail of myself only to find a figure with no meaning, no will of life. I felt a sharp pain on my neck dripping blood on my hand, to find myself holding a knife. Then I reach out for my neck to find a gun onto my temple held by me. I shut my eyes to pull the trigger. Then I slowly opened my eyes after feeling nothing to find a noose around my neck and standing on a stool. I jumped, suddenly it was dark. The noose was gone. I found myself in a black void. I gazed out front to find the wailing of black stretch out forever. Suddenly my ears buzzed. I knew he was behind me. The man with the hat whispered into my ears in a voice unexplainable and so malevolent, unexplainable with just words, he said, "You are mine."

"Mr. Bruce! Anything to say?" I now find myself in the court. Even if they test or judge me I will still end up dead. I tried to make sense what the events meant. It made no sense but yet it made all sense.

I now eat my last meal in execution prison. I have caused all the deaths for the man. And now I shall die for him too. Good Bye.

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# Ms. DiNovis

by Jordan Hernandez

Ms. DiNovis is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Unidos teacher at ESCS. She has been my teacher for the past school year. I asked her some questions so that we all might learn more about her.

I first asked her if she likes being a teacher. She told me, “Yes, a lot.” She also told me that it feels good to be a teacher because it’s hard work. Her favorite thing about being a teacher is seeing students improve and feel better about themselves. She loves all of her students, past, present and future.

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# White Snow

Brenda Pineda

I woke up one morning  
Out my window I see  
A frosted cake  
As white as can be.

Ms. DiNovis is from New York. Before teaching, she worked in New York City in a finance job, but she did not like it.

I asked her if she had any pets, to which she answered, “No, sadly.” I asked her about her favorite food. “I like most kinds of food,” but she did not mention a favorite.

Her best friends at ESCS are Ms. Mrozicki and Ms. MacMartin. Her favorite movies to watch are comedies. Her favorite thing in this school is seeing the pride students have in their school.

I asked, “Is it hard to be a teacher?” and she answered, “Yes, very hard because you have to do a lot of planning and you have to check your work.”

Finally, I asked Ms. DiNovis, “Who inspired you to be a teacher?” It is her mother, because she was a teacher, and she still is.

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