



The P.S. 11 Planet



Spring 2016

4th Grade School Newspaper of P.S. 11

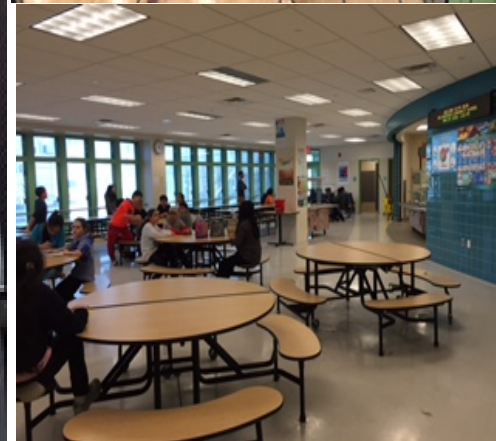
Volume 1, Issue 2

4th Gets Ready To Go Forth!

By Daniela, Erin, Rebecca, Cara, Zara, Samantha, Eleni, Omar, Tai, Nicole & Sumaitaah



Entrance to P.S. 361 where P. S. 11 fifth and sixth grade students will attend classes during the 2016-2017 school year.



Gymtorium and cafeteria at P.S. 361.

Get ready, fourth graders to move to a new home! The gleaming hallways and state-of-the-art cafeteria, science lab, and art room are waiting for you!

During the winter, the writing club students investigated P.S. 361. As we left P.S. 11 shivering in our raincoats and huddled under umbrellas we prepared to make the long trek over to the new school. We were surprised to discover that in about five minutes we were already there! After entering the special doors designated for P.S. 11

students we walked down a shiny green and beige hallway and noticed students chatting and eating at circular tables. A digital screen advertised what was for today's lunch. "That's the cafeteria?" asked one reporter incredulously. Yup! So get ready for some beautiful classrooms, a sparkling cafeteria, elevators, and a new gymtorium next year, fourth graders.

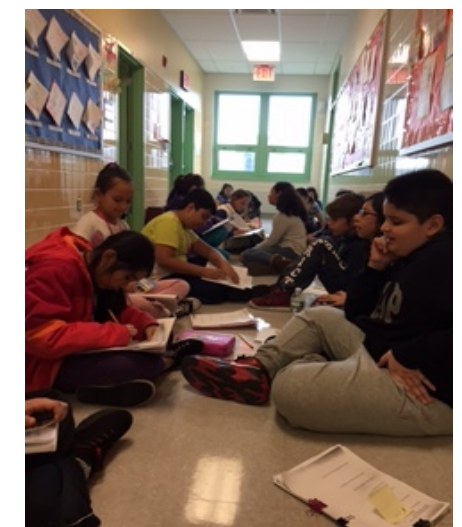
The new classrooms and elevators sound beautiful but how do the current fifth graders feel about going to the new school? Many of them believe that there are advantages to 361 but claim that P.S. 11 will always be their

favorite school. Adam, a fifth grader, explained, "I like how clean P. S. 361 is. I like how the classrooms have bathrooms and the library has computers. But I prefer P. S. 11 because I have been to kindergarten there and it is the place where I had my first freinds and memories. Ashley of 502 agrees. "I prefer P.S. 11. It is old but it has memories for me."

Teachers and administrators have also learned to adjust to being a few blocks away from P.S. 11. Ms. Sullivan, assistant principal explained that several positive things have developed from the experience. "I feel

lucky to have so many wonderful teachers and students to work with here at P.S. 361," she said. Although Ms. Sullivan misses "seeing teachers and students at P.S. 11" she has found that, "I am able to work very closely with the students and teachers here because there is a smaller group of people." Teachers also voiced their opinions about the temporary move to the new building. "When we were preparing to go to P.S. 361 I knew I would miss my P.S. 11 colleagues but I was excited to have the opportunity to work in a brand new school," explained Ms. Schultz, a fifth grade teacher. Now that she has made the move Ms. Schultz feels comfortable and is enjoying her experience at P.S. 361.

With all the information we gathered from the P.S. 11 students and staff at P.S. 361 it seems that the adjustment to the new school will be a positive one. Ms. Pat, a P.S. 11 school aide summed it up pretty well. "You're going to love it here!"



Fourth graders interview fifth grade students at P.S. 361.



Staff Spotlight

Ms. Jovita

BY ERIN, SAMANTHA, AND ELENI

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I grew up in NYC. I am a native New Yorker.

Q. Do you like working at P.S. 11?

A. I love working at P.S. 11! I love the children and the parents. I love the principal and the staff. I just love this school.

Q. What is your favorite dessert?

A. Seven layer cake!

Q. What are your favorite activities?

A. Arts and crafts. Going to the park and sitting by the water.

Q. What do you do in the summer?

A. Relax and do a little bit of everything.

TOP 10 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

By Eleni, Omar, and Samantha

1. Sail a tiny boat at Central Park

2. SEE A BROADWAY SHOW FOR FREE IN BRYANT PARK

3. Visit Coney Island and go to Luna Park

4. TAKE A FERRY RIDE TO GOVERNOR'S ISLAND AND PICNIC WITH YOUR FAMILY

5. Visit the Water Playgrounds (Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6, Chelsea Waterside, East River Park, Ancient Playground)

6. Attend a free outdoor concert

7. Try a free kayaking clinic (Long Island City)

8. TRY CAMPING!

9. GO SWIMMING!

10. Find a free fishing or swimming clinic.



photo by kollalbudget.com

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Johnson

BY OMAR, ELENI, AND DANIELA

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Manhattan.

Q. How long have you been working at P.S. 11?

A. I've been here 7 years.

Q. Do you like working at P.S. 11?

A. Yes, I do because the people here are easy to get along with.



Q. What is your favorite part of this job?

A. I love children. I love to keep them safe and I love being able to be a positive influence on them.



P.S. 11 PLANET STAFF

P.S. 11 Staff Writers:

Front Row: Tai, Samantha, Rebecca, Omar, Eleni

Second Row: Nicole, Sumaitaah, Daniela, Zara, Erin, Cara

Adviser: Mrs. Ashton

Letters to Little Miss Know-It-All can be anonymous and given to your classroom teacher or placed in Mrs. Ashton's mailbox in the P.S. 11 Office



Skyping With South Africa

By Cara, Zara, and Erin

Swoosh! What's that? On March 14th, Ms. Damacco and her 6th grade class participated in a Skype exchange with Sarah, Ms. Stein's 20-year-old daughter. Sarah is a college exchange student studying health in South Africa. During the experience of Skyping with Sarah, Ms. Damacco's students found out a lot about South Africa. Some of them even decided they want to move there so they can ride elephants!

Ms. Stein, speech specialist, and Ms. Damacco, Class 606 teacher, teamed up this past spring to help Class 606 learn about how students go to school in South Africa. Sarah Stein was prepared to answer the students' questions based on her experiences during her time in South Africa. According to Ms. Damacco the exchange encouraged the students to "hear and see people living there instead of reading about it in a book. This is more interesting." Students were ready to do the Skype exchange because their class had recently been in a City Lore show that had focused on African traditions in music. Ms. Damacco further helped students understand the culture by studying South Africa before they asked Sarah specific questions about kids that lived there.

Class 606 members found that the Skype exchange helped them in a variety of ways. Many of the students explained that they did not often think about how other kids in different countries learned in schools before this experience. "My favorite part was that I got to learn what's going on in South Africa," commented Frank. Deniss said that she enjoyed the Skype exchange because it allowed her to "meet someone new."

Most students stated that they would rather live here in Woodside than South Africa. But Alan disagreed, explaining that he prefers South Africa, "because you can ride elephants and hold their trunks and walk them." Ms. Damacco claims that she would rather stay at P.S. 11 because "we have the best kids." We agree!

Please note: If your class is interested in Skyping with students in other areas of the world, Ms. Damacco and Ms. Stein suggest that your teacher go to skypeintheclassroom.com and sign up to speak with people in other countries.



Sarah Stein with a lemur in South Africa while skyping with Ms. Damacco's students.

Little Miss Know-It-All

by Little Miss Know-It-All



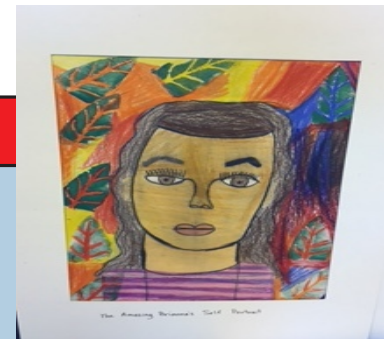
Dear Little-Miss-Know-It-All,
My best friend and I are arguing and I want to be friends again. What should I do so we can be friends?
Sincerely,
HELP ME

Dear Help Me,
I have had some experience with what you are dealing with. I would just say I am sorry and try to make it up to her. Although you may not have started the fight, you both would probably argue more if you tell her that she is the one who needs to apologize. I hope this advice helps and you and your friend are able to compromise.
Sincerely,
Little-Miss-Know-It-All

Dear Little-Miss-Know-it-All,
Sometimes I feel that I have too much homework. What can I do to fix this problem?
Sincerely,
Too Much Homework

Dear Too Much Homework,
After school kids usually have activities like soccer or gymnastics. That is great, but if you are struggling with too much homework, maybe you could go on a website like IXL or Startronic for 10-20 minutes and work on math or reading. After that homework would perhaps be easier and you would finish it quickly. Before you know it, homework may become a breeze.
Sincerely,
Little-Miss-Know-It-All

Dear Little-Miss-Know-It-All,
Sometimes other people make fun of me. I want to ignore them, but it's hard. How can I do this?
Anonymous
Dear Anonymous,
I went through this too. One thing you should not do is make fun of them, too. That will make them angrier and they will continue to make fun of you. Instead, try making a joke of it. Or maybe you can stay with a loyal group of friends who are brave enough to stand up for you. Or better yet, try to stand up for yourself. Remember, bullies have reason behind what they do. Maybe you can figure it out and help them so they won't bother you any more. There are many ways to stay safe. Most importantly, tell a teacher or a staff member that you trust. That adult can protect you and help you find a solution so that this situation does not happen again.
Sincerely,
Little-Miss-Know-It-All



P.S. 11 in the Arts

City Lore Puts P.S. 11 in Spotlight

By Sumaitaah and Nicole

City Lore has been an important part of the culture at P.S. 11 for many years. Many of us have participated in shows and worked with different artists from the time we began here. But what exactly is City Lore and how did it begin? "City Lore is a cultural organization that brings folk art and traditional art forms to New York City schools," stated Ms. Bilihoutis. Ms. Cassianos explained that City Lore has been working with P.S. 11 for over 20 years. It started because Ms. Cassianos

"wanted to bring artists to our students and teach them something special."

Students enjoy being a part of the City Lore program. "It was so much fun!" exclaimed Sophia of Class 302. Teachers also appreciate the chance for students to be involved in the program. "City Lore is a great way for them to let go and express themselves. For shy students it builds up their self-esteem and for active students it allows them the opportunity to utilize their energy in a positive way," explained third grade teacher, Ms. Camerlingo.

Hopefully, the City Lore and P.S. 11 partnership will continue for a long time so that students will have the chance to express themselves in many ways.



6th grade students perform in a City Lore show.

A Classy Election

By Cara and Zara

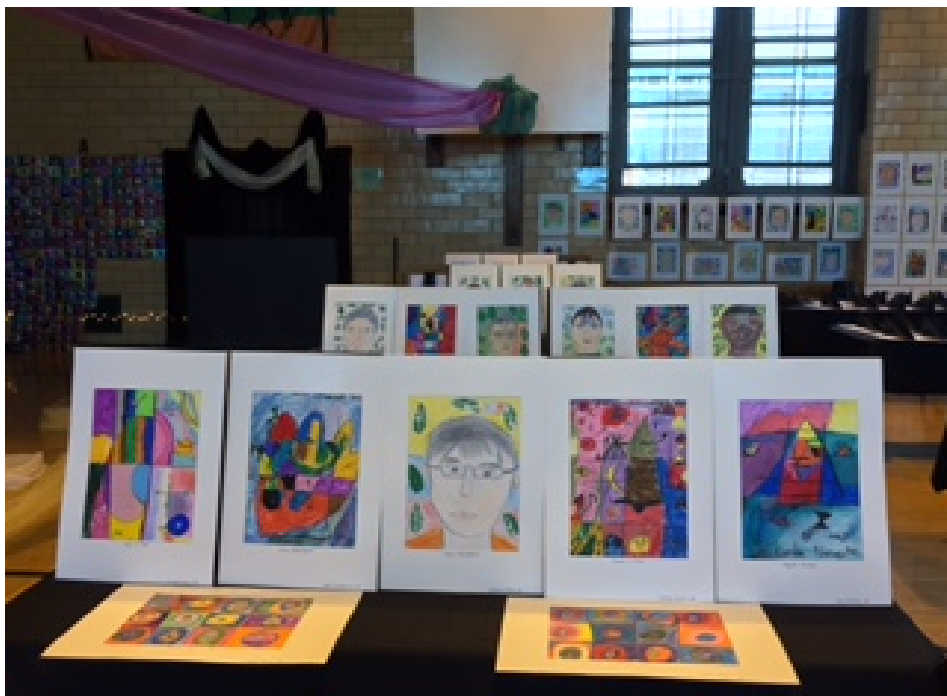
The election in Ms. Sodomsky and Ms. Collins' 4th grade class began with a simple question from their student Christian. "Can I be school president?" he asked Ms. Pena-Jorge, P.S. 11 Principal in a letter. Ms. Pena-Jorge explained that P. S. 11 does not currently have a school president but that Christian's class could elect a president for their room. That comment inspired Christian and many of his classmates to begin campaigning to become classroom president.

During the experience the entire class learned about how the election process worked. "It was a great experience,"



Class 407 candidates show enthusiasm for their recent election.

Art Gallery Honors Student Work



By Tai and Rebecca

P.S. 11's Art Gallery on June 15th was a huge success. The gym was transformed into a brilliant showing of color and creativity. Students from kindergarten through 6th grade had their artwork showcased throughout the gym.

The idea for the art gallery began when Ms. Cassianos, P.S. 11 art teacher remembered how she enjoyed attending her own children's art shows. She wanted to find a way to benefit the art

program at P.S. 11 as well as "make the students feel proud of their work. In this type of setting we are honoring their work. That helps them see their art pieces as important." Art teacher, Ms. Bilihoutis agreed. "We wanted our students to feel proud of their efforts and admire the work of their fellow artists," she explained.

Students enjoyed the experience. "I liked that everyone would see my art and have a chance to see how we all draw," stated Aisha of Class 303. "Yes," added

classmate Gabriel. "When my artwork was displayed I thought it was so cool that my friends could see it and I could see theirs too." Third grader Kelly was excited by the outcome of the show. She commented, "I worked so hard and put so many colors into my work. I felt really proud."

Both art teachers feel that the art gallery helps students appreciate their talents. Ms. Cassianos stated, "The students learned that they have more ability than they thought. They didn't think they could do it, but they did."



Ms. Cassianos and Ms. Bilihoutis pose in front of art display.

explained Kaylani, member of Class 407 and former candidate. "We learned about the real U.S. Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama. We also learned how to set up a campaign and create a speech. We were able to combine social studies and our class election. We now know how the election process really works."

Ms. Sodomsky and Ms. Collins feel that the students did not just learn about the presidency and how an election is run. Ms. Collins explained, "One of the most valuable lessons they learned from this project was how to have an idea that can be turned into a class experience."