



Harrison Elementary School's Newsletter Editors in Chief: Mrs. Szelingowski and Mrs. George

With the end of the year approaching every grade does a special project, be it a play or presentation. Below is a description of each.

The Power Of Yet In Kindergarten

By Daniel Liang

This amazing play was a culmination of the kindergarten school year. The kindergarteners learned the lyrics and dance moves to songs, as well as how to sing in Spanish. They presented the songs in front of their parents and their fifth grade buddies. The songs chosen were meant to echo the school wide theme of mindfulness, practice, and patience. The excited kids were trying to share this message: With the Power Of Yet, anything is achievable. When asked, Gabriel Sawera said, "My favorite song was the Harrison song because there are letters that I can hold up. It also has the name of our school." All in all, the play was a success and the kindergarten children put on a great performance with their loud voices and smiles.

All About The Pond

By : Akshaya Shankar

This year ended with a SPLASH for the 1st grade students! A simulated trip to the pond concluded their first grade year. The children studied the pond ecosystem and the biological interactions that exist in it. They reviewed the various life forms in the pond, but focused on

three in particular: bugs, plants, and frogs. After learning about this complex ecosystem, they practiced songs and memorized lines that would be a part of a presentation to parents. When asked to share her experience and opinions, Elina Brahmandan from Mrs. Green's class said, "I liked the songs part the best. They were easy. I think that learning my lines was very hard. I was in the "bugs" group. I was very nervous but excited." Overall their performance went well. According to Elina, "It was really fun!"



Our Beautiful Butterflies

By Charlyze Xiao

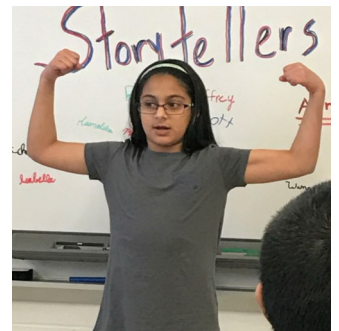
Every year, the second grade presents a Monarch Play as their end of the year presentation. The activities started on April 28th, when the caterpillars arrived at school. The students were going to study and watch them grow into butterflies. In addition to learning about butterflies, everyone had to practice and master a part for the play that they would present to their

parents. After a long time of practicing and rehearsing, they were ready. On May 19th students performed the butterfly play. All that participated were dressed in black and wore handmade butterfly crowns. Students "fluttered" into the room as they play began and sang their songs. After the play finished, the parents were brought back to the classrooms and were shown butterfly books that students created. When Eli Tuazon from Mrs. Faber's class was asked about raising butterflies, he said, "The butterflies were really amazing to see." He also went on to describe all that he learned from studying butterflies. Just as the butterflies grew, the students, like Eli, grew in their learning.

Storytelling Festival

By Leah Margolis

The third grade students took part in the annual storytelling festival run by the third grade teachers, Mrs. Caulfield, and the Beauty and the Beast Storytellers, Mitch Weiss and Martha Hamilton. The children learned and read about "how and why" stories throughout the year. This all lead up to one week in Spring when Mitch and Martha came and tutored the students on how to verbally present "how and why" stories. The students also created two storyboards using their tale, one on regular paper, and the other using a website. Third grade student, Kamalika Vora, from Mrs. Fischer's class explained her story choice. "I chose the story Why Chipmunks Have Stripes. I chose this story because I thought it looked interesting, and I thought it was funny as well." As you can see, this festival helped students practice public speaking and further expand their knowledge of folktales from around the world.



Character Connections

By: Hanna Hantman

Every year the 4th does a presentation called Character Connections. Each student gets to pick a person either from history or that is still alive today to study. Then they research and learn about the character. From the information that they have gathered, they then compose a speech and create a book describing why that character has the certain character trait. Parents come to see their children perform their speech and look at their research. What is really special is that they dress up for the part, and end the day with a celebration. Carolyn Zhou from Mrs. Raiola's class, said "my person was Elizabeth Kenny and that she was a nurse and back then did things men were supposed to do." The purpose of this project was to learn about and make a connection with these great people and their positive traits.

Colonizing Mars

By Samuel Jiang

5th grade focused on space exploration and colonizing Mars. Each class was split into different groups which had to focus on building a different facility that would be needed for the initial colonization of Mars. The students had to research problems they would face on Mars and display their findings on a poster, build a 3-dimensional model of the facility, create a blueprint for the model, and present their research to an audience. When asked about the presentation Anlin Wei answered, "My favorite part of the presentation was when we had to solve the problems of colonizing Mars and the applying the solution to our 3D model. I liked this because you get to be creative and you also learn to solve problems and expand your critical thinking." In all, the project was a great learning experience and giant success.



Harrison's Mindful Marathon

By: Hannah He

This year at Harrison, a new event took place: the Harrison Mindfulness Marathon. This incredible event started on Earth Day weekend. It was an idea created by our nurse, Mrs. Milano. Everyday, each class would go out onto the black top and walk/run. If it would rain, classes would walk inside the building. After we came back to our classrooms, the teacher would record each class' progress on the chart outside on the door. The goal was to walk 26 miles, the equivalent of a marathon.

Are you wondering how Mrs. Milano, our school nurse, came up with doing this activity? When asked, she says, "The purpose of the marathon was to get everybody up and moving." She also included that most people lay around with electronics and never exercise. "Studies show that exercise can improve your grades. This year, we're hoping that the grades can go up." When asked what goals she wanted to accomplish, she said she wanted the PARCC scores to increase. The mindfulness walk began around the PARCC dates, which was mid-April. I hope we can trust those scientists, and that it helped the students with their testing! In addition, she was asked which classes reached the goal of the marathon. In reply, she answered, "Most classes did not, but some did." She says that there was not an actual goal. The marathon was created to push yourself to walk more and to say, "I'm not there, YET."

The Harrison Mindfulness Marathon has been an amazing initiative to becoming healthy beings. This helped us to reach the goal Mr. Russak, the P.E. teacher, wanted us to reach: 60 minutes of fun/exercise everyday. This mindfulness walk can build up your courage and perseverance to do things you didn't think you could do. Always tell yourself: "I'm not there, YET." From this experience, the students of Harrison School learned to face and overcome challenges.

Superhero Central

This issue's super message comes from artist Nathan Zhuang. His beautiful artwork reminds us to end the year with a blast!

