

40, NUMBER 3

## A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

#### WINTER 2016-17

## Chromebooks Distributed

It was hard to find a student without a smile on Thursday evening, December 15th, when seventh grade students each received their new Chromebook to begin taking home each evening as their work tool. This concept is called a 1:1 model of instruction – one device for one student. Superintendent, Robert C. Fenter, shared, *"We have prepared mightily for this effort, both in infrastructure, professional development, and thought-*

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ful planning. We thank the Board of Education for their vision, our leaders for their guidance, our teachers for their significant contributions both in the classroom and as a support for the professional development of their colleagues, our 1:1 Implementation Committee chaired by Mr. Matuk, and, of course, the Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation for their tremendous support of this effort." The Chromebook carts used in the classrooms for 7th Graders, will now be continued





# Dr. William Bernhard Retiring



After ten years as our district Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business, Dr. William Bernhard will retire this coming August. Superintendent, Robert C. Fenter, shared, "I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Dr. Bill Bernhard has made the difficult decision to retire as our Assistant Superintendent for Business at the end of August. For those of you who have had the opportunity to get to know Bill, you know that he is not only a talented school leader, but also a wonderful

person. We will miss him greatly and thank him for his 10 years of outstanding service to the students and staff of the CSH School District." Board of Education President, Amelia Brogan, shared, "It has been a privilege and honor for the Board of Education to work with Dr. Bill Bernhard who has faithfully served our district for the last 10 years. Always a gentleman, Bill treats everyone with dignity and respect. Bill's integrity, wisdom and guidance have been invaluable. He has kept the district on a steady path of fiscal health despite very challenging times. We truly thank him for his service to the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District. Although we will miss Bill as he retires, we wish him the best as he starts this next journey." Dr. Bernhard will be honored for his service to public education at the March SCOPE awards dinner, where he will receive the Administrator Service Award for his forty years in public education. Best of luck from the entire community Dr. Bernhard, you will be missed!

*Cover nameplate: High School Musical Mary Poppins:* This mini-Broadway production was (in the words of Mary Poppins...) "Practically Perfect in every way!" Bravo to the cast and crew, who delighted audiences with brilliant performances of song and dance and even flying kites and acrobatics! It truly was amazing, and our hats are off to Director, Ms. Andrea Galeno, Musical Director. Brent Chiarello and the pit orchestra, and choreography by Ms. Bailey Whitney. To everyone who was involved, thank you for a magical night of theater.

#### Honors . . . Honors . . .

#### Chromebooks, cont'd

used for the 8th Graders. By Sept 2018, grades 7-9 will all have Chromebooks, and by 2018 all grades will have the Chromebooks. The night the Chromebooks were distributed, all parents and students were given Policy Handbooks, and asked to support and be a partner in this initiative. They were given reminders in the care, intention, and goals, along with instructions for the repair/replacement help center set up in the HS library. Best of luck with your Chromebooks, and the amazing learning opportunities that will continue to take place with the 1:1 initiative.



Book Published: The Survival Guide for Kids in Special Education (And Their Parents): Understanding What Special Ed Is & How It Can Help You, by authors Wendy Moss Ph.D. (Lloyd Harbor School Psychologist) and Denise Campbell M.S. (Assistant Superintendent for Student Services & Human Resources). When kids learn they might receive special education, they often have questions and worries. This book gives kids tools and strategies they can use to deal with their concerns, whether they are in the process of being evaluated for special education or already receiving services. Readers will learn to cope with their challenges, understand reasons for testing, and see the benefits of accepting special education support.



Congratulations to: Dominique McLymont, Cole Smith, Elijah Gordon, Jessica Schaffer, Jacob Bruno, Annika Lacroze, Julia Bavaro, Liam Kaley, Samantha Paris, Anna Sbarro, Davey Shammah, Lauren Bavaro, Gabby Rivadeneira, Sianna Monti, Georgia Gleusner, Juliet Quaglia, Makayla Read, Melissa Schaffer, Mia Naccarato, Matt Rossman, Benjamin Bruno, Emma Solis, Isabelle Weiss, Colleen Curry, Hunter Guarneri, Will Shepard, Eric Wang, Mimi Monti, and Cricket Cope.

## Character Recognition Awards

**Jr./Sr. High School**: Recognizing good character in students is something to be celebrated, and Principal, Jay Matuk, makes sure students are honored in a big way. He shared, *"This is one of my favorite cere-*

monies here at CSH, because what matters most is a student's character. Their contributions can't be quantified on a state assessment.... these students are

"As teachers, we don't remember test scores after graduation, we remember these moments."

making an impact well beyond exams." Faculty members can recommend up to three students who best exemplify specific attributes selected for that quarter of the school year. They are then invited, with their parents, to a ceremony honoring good character, and awarded certificates by the staff. The goal is to help promote a positive school environment essential to the healthy development of



young adults, and to recognize role models. On January 26th twenty-nine students were recognized for the attribute of *compassion*. Ms. Sihksnel was one of the first teachers to express, *"Beautiful people do not just happen."* 

Ms. Waters shared, "As teachers, we don't remember test scores after graduation, we remember these moments." It is an emotional day, of teachers shedding tears of heart-

warming stories. Mr. Matuk said, "We are a family here, and this ceremony shows a side of teacher/student relationships and bonding that parents don't have the opportunity to see." The heartfelt stories told by the teachers, spoke volumes about the character of our student body. Thank you to these special students for being role models, and sharing their compassion towards others.

Extraordinary artwork was on display both in the gallery of the Jr./Sr. High School and at the Public Library during the month of February. Here is one example of "scratch art" by Camille Roberts.

#### Honors . . . Honors . . .



## **Blue Ribbon Presentation**

West Side Principal, Mr. Kurt Simon, had the distinct pleasure of presenting at the National Blue Ribbon Schools Conference with teachers, Ms. Manning, Ms. Ryan, and Ms. Wojcik. As a recognized 2013 Blue Ribbon School, West Side was asked to submit a proposal which was accepted last summer. After preparing throughout the fall, West Side presented on "Fostering a Growth Mindset and Grit in the Elementary School." They shared what has been accomplished in the West Side school community over the past eighteen months. The workshop highlighted the importance of recognizing failure as an attempt to be successful, acknowledging students for showing perseverance, and creating a culture that understands the positive impact this can have on our students and their learning. Mr. Simon shared, "What an honor it was to represent our school at this national conference!"



Goosehill Art: Senator Carl Marcellino invited students to submit a piece of artwork to his office in response to the question, *"What are you most thankful* for?" Goosehill

first graders responded thoughtfully to the question and illustrated their ideas in art class. Art teacher, Mrs. Beneville, selected one piece from each first grade class to submit to the *NYS Senate Thanksgiving Showcase*. The art and writing of **Julie Choi, Kyle Benson, Sadie Flynn, Tyler Altholtz, and Christopher Coco** can be found on the Senator's website.

Music Honors: Brent Chiarello, K-12 Music Coordinator, congratulated this year's 65 students (grades 5-12) selected for the January 2017 All County Honors Music Festival at the Tilles Center. West Side Geography Bee: Congratulations to 2017 champion, Molly McHale and runner-up, Bennett Vitagliano. And thank you to all the 5th and 6th grade participants.

Jr. High Geography Bee: Congratulations to 2017 champion Tyler DeShutter, runner up, Theodore Packert, and third place Andrew Johnson.

Spelling Bee West Side: Congratulations to champion Jonathan Brown (6th grade), and runner-up James Tucker (6th grade). Jonathan went on to compete in the Scripps National Regional Bee at Hofstra in February, advancing to the final round. On February 12th, he competed against 48 students from the LI region.

**Spelling Bee Lloyd Harbor**: Congratulations to champion Henry Dam (6th grade), and runner up, Kathleen Engel (5th grade). Henry competed in the Regional Bee at Hofstra in February.



ASSET Award: Jessica Raniere was selected as a Bright Light by the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technology (ASSET). Bright Lights are selected due to their exemplary integration of technology into their educational environment. Jessica, who teaches English Language Arts at the Jr./Sr. high school, was honored at the ASSET luncheon on January 19th accompanied by John Contess, the district's Director of Technology.



CSH junior student, Eli Gordon, kicker for the Seahawks Varsity Football team, presented a check on December 7th for \$1,000.00 for breast cancer research, as part of his "Kick Cancer" fundraising initiative, to Dr. David Spector, Director of Research and Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Gordon pledged \$25 for every extra point he made this season; with matching funds the total contribution came to \$1,000.00. Gordon came up with the idea for his "Kick Cancer" fund after participating earlier this year in the Carolina Panthers' "Keep Pounding" 5K. Gordon coordinated his efforts through Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory cancer research facilities, and in memory of former CSH High School teacher, Victoria Terenzi, who passed away earlier this year from breast cancer. Great job Eli!

## News Literacy

High school: The proliferation of fake news has led to a global discussion of the power of false and inaccurate news and the ease with which news consumers, all of us, succumb to what we immediately read, hear, and see. Students at CSH High School have been at the forefront of battling this issue for years with the course titled News Literacy. Senior Dana Krauss said, "News Literacy is a class that inspires students to involve themselves in their local, national, and international communities. Walking into the room with Ms. Waters posing the question, "What's going on in the world?" opens the door to discussions not offered in other classes; it's an opportunity to re-invent our own opinions and see the perspectives of others."

Recently, the importance of courses such as *News Literacy* have hit the pages of the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times, Newsday*, and numerous mainstream media sites, blogs and websites. Stanford University recently published "*Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning*," examining and exposing what adolescents know and



don't know about how to determine the veracity of what comes across their Facebook feeds and hits their eyes on the screens and pages they are exposed to. In 2011, Ms. Waters spent part of the summer at Stony Brook University enrolled in the News Literacy Summer Institute for High School Teachers. She then took what she learned and implemented the News Literacy course that has since hosted guest lecturers from NBC, 60 Minutes, Newsday, Talking Points Memo, and more, and through which many CSHHS students have honed their critical thinking skills, logical reasoning prowess, awareness of news outlets, and understanding of the role news and information plays in the lives of individuals around the world.

Moreover, CSHHS students are able to take the course for college level credit through Stony Brook University's Accelerated College Education program. Ms. Waters expressed, "Over the years, students have

shared with me that this class helps them understand more about the world and allows them to feel smart during dinner time conversation. Other students have said this course was a talking point during college admissions interviews, helped them on their SAT essay, or, what most excites me, really gave them some additional thoughts and directions for their own potential future." This elective is open to students in grades 9-12 and can be taken for a semester or for a full year. The district is also offering a "News Literacy" adult education class beginning March 16th modeled after the Stony Brook University curriculum.



# On the Stage!

West Side Fiddler on the Roof: Students put on an amazing performance of Fiddler on the Roof in December. This musical tells the lifeaffirming story of a poor milkman and his five daughters, whose love, pride and faith help him face the oppression of turn-of-the century czarist Russia. Bravo to the cast and crew, and Director, Ms. Eliana Lichtman and Musical Accompanist, Mr. Chris McKee. Additional thanks to Mr. Ellis Adler and the entire Theater Arts Committee. Dance numbers to famous tunes like "Tradition!" and "Matchmaker" were spellbinding...Bravo!



## Manuary 2017 Winner Mr. Natale

Thirteen male teachers volunteered this year for the annual longest beard "Manuary" contest, which brings awareness to a fundraiser initiative for food donations to local food banks desperately in need. Student donations succeeded in topping last year's donations by more than 1100+ donations totaling 6,006 units of food collected, WOW! Donations were sent to Long Island Cares, and several others. The teacher who collected the most and this year's winner was Mr. Natale, with Mr. Topping close behind in second place, and Mr. Pesca in third. Many thanks to all the contestants for joining the race for the most donations and growing a beard in support of this initiative. This has become a great tradition at the high school and a wonderful way to help local food pantries. Thank you to community service coordinator, Ms. Alison Halloran and her Leadership Class for organizing this drive.

## Discoveries Revealed with Bacteria and DNA...

Lloyd Harbor: 6th graders were privileged to visit the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory at the DNA Learning Center for science workshops in their continued yearlong collaboration with CSHL.



Educators, Ms. Gottlieb and Mr. Thomas, led two sessions. One lab involved "Making Glowing Bacteria" using the GFP gene found in Jellyfish added to E.coli bacteria cells which when exposed produces an ultra-violet light. The second workshop was a forensic investigation of the famous Romanov dynasty in Russia. Based on DNA evidence, students had to determine the Mystery of Princess Anastasia, revealing if she was the real princess or an impostor! Both West Side and Lloyd Harbor participate in classroom and DNA Learning Center visits throughout the year for fifth and sixth graders. Thank you to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory for these amazing opportunities in education.



# **Discovery Chests**

Lloyd Harbor: Sixth graders in Ms. Mathews class learned, "While the internet may be one source of research, it's not always factual. There is nothing quite like "an artifact" to hold and learn from." True life replicas were strewn out on the floor for students to hold, choose, and use in

their research unit of study on Egypt. A treasure chest of hieroglyphic kits, pottery fragments, stones, granite, sand, and more, were shared. One student said, "*It feels like Christmas!*" This is the District's second year participating in the *Journey Arts in Education* program with the Huntington Arts Council. Teachers can request "Discovery Chests" provided for free to their classrooms to coincide with a curriculum unit of study. Thank you to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Bellino, for bringing the program to life two years ago, and to Art Department Chair, Andria McLaughlin for facilitating in its success.

# Small Moments

Lloyd Harbor: Third graders in both Lloyd Harbor and West Side worked creatively on a unit of writing which was part of the *Columbia University Teacher's College* Education Program. They were challenged to think of spectacular small moments, and then



"zoom" in those moments and "stretch" them out with details. These personal narratives helped students learn how to capture readers' attention by using action, dialogue and descriptive details in writing. Ms. Terry's third graders are pictured here in front of their bulletin board of "Small Moments" that included phrases like, "*Sizzle, Sizzle, I could hear the heat*" and "*Swoosh, Splash, Thump, my heart was racing!*" Thank you for sharing your small moments with us.

## The Amazing KAP!

Lloyd Harbor: Catching "acts of kindness" is an initiative that LH School Psychologist, Dr. Moss, has expanded upon this year, in collaboration with Ms. Fuller, Ms. Massimo,



and Mr. Gray. Based on the acronym KAP (*Kindness, Altruism, and the Power of a smile*), students in the entire school had the opportunity to create and draw a

KAP Superhero! The winning entry (inset) was designed by Brody Reim, a third grader. Staff members award certificates when they catch students doing an act of kindness. If a student receives five certificates, then they can select one of five fun "brag-tags." If a student collects all five brag-tags, then a special honor is awarded to that student for being a role model of exemplary character. Lloyd Harbor School has adopted this superhero as part of their SEL (social-emotional learning) program. Dr. Moss, along with LH Social Worker, Ms. Fuller, and West Side Psychologist, Ms. Latham, also coordinate their efforts designing monthly class lessons for both West Side and Lloyd Harbor SEL learning.

### WOW Words of Wisdom

Llovd Harbor: Principal, Valerie Massimo, introduced a program this year entitled WOW, which stands for Words of Wisdom. With the help of Social Worker, Ms. El Fuller, a monthly theme is chosen along with a corresponding weekly quote. The student Peer Mentors group (led by Dr. Moss) takes a turn each Monday introducing the new quote of the week on the LHTV Morning News live broadcast. They read a short passage that relates the quote to our daily lives. Our monthly theme for February was Diversity. The Words of Wisdom are also sent home in the Friday notes so parents can continue the conversations and learning opportunities at home. What a wonderful way to start the day!

## Libraries In the Palm of our Hands...

#### West Side and Lloyd Harbor

Schools are continuing their efforts with LightSail and learning about the app's capability. When LightSail was introduced by elementary principals, Valerie Massimo and Kurt Simon, it was launched using iPads and mini iPads provided with the support of the CSH Educational Foundation. The app, now in its second year of use, supports the goal of creating lifelong learners with a love of reading.



Teachers in grades four, five, and six have worked with their students to build an understanding behind this powerful reading tool. The beauty of this technology is that it gives teachers real time feedback from the student's independent reading, and teachers use this information to personalize student learning and improve instruction. Having the ability to address the needs of the individual learner is paramount. The library of books the students can choose from is vast and, as in the past, we will look to them for book suggestions. Power Challenges also help students with their book selections. In January, students at both elementary schools participated in both a school-wide as well as a Nationwide LightSail 25 Reading Challenge. Grades four through six competed against each other testing their reading stamina. Students hoped to set a new record this year, beating the overall total of minutes last year. This year's combined total of reading minutes at the end of the challenge on Feb. 10th was 80,000 minutes. The overall grade level winners for each school were 5th grade at Lloyd Harbor, and 4th grade at West Side. Great job!



## Author Todd Strasser

West Side: Students at West Side were entertained while being educated about the life of an author. Todd Strasser's joyful and comedic approach, had students laughing and eager to ask questions. He spoke of rejection and failure, "All successful people have one thing in common, they all keep trying." He told them, "I was a kid once too! Write about things you experience, what you see, smell, hear and write out the scene so others can imagine it." The kids were amazed to hear his books still get rejected, one book has been rejected twelve times! One student asked, "What motivated you to be a writer?" Strasser explained he couldn't read by third grade, yet his mom was a journalist and grandfather a song writer. They all loved to read, so why wasn't he able to? He wanted to be like his family and prove he could do it, that motivated him, and he simply worked very hard. What a great lesson to share...never give up!

### Science Epigenetics

West Side: Scientist, Dr. Gingeras, from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, visited



the 6th graders at West Side to present information about Epigenetics, his field of study. The 6th graders were learning about genetics in science, and he focused on the epigenetics of identical twins. The insight scientists gain from studying identical twins helps them better understand how nature and nurture work together. Identical twins share identical genomes, but their environments become more different as they age. This unique aspect makes identical genes an excellent model for understanding how genes and the environment contribute to certain traits, especially complex behaviors and diseases. CSH School District is grateful for the continued collaboration between the District and our neighbor, CSH Laboratory.



## Persuasive Writing

West Side: As part of the third grade "persuasive writing" unit, students were encouraged to select an idea for a need in their school that they could present to the parent group PTG to implement change. Third graders brainstormed ideas, and agreed that indoor recess needed a boost (after 25 days of indoor recess already this year!). Art supplies were very low, and students wanted to be more creative during recess time. All the students drafted letters, and the strongest drafts were chosen to be presented at the PTG meeting in February. Dr. Dawkins' and Mr. Farmer's classes attended, and the parents listened. They had no idea art supplies needed replenishing, and they thanked the students for bringing this to their attention. This *was truly district writing in action!* 



## Lights, Camera...Action! The Nutcracker ...

Goosehill: At the December *Spirit Day Assembly* students and parents enjoyed a performance of *The Nutcracker*, composed and directed by first grader Christopher Coco! He and his friends: Anthi Tsafos, Zoey Eisenegger, Ben Neri, Molly Yulico, Mia Damast, Aeryn O'Rourke, Ava McKean, Colbie Canty, Julia Cortese, Anthony Duke, Beckett Bertsch, and Owen Zarboutis created scenery, made props and rehearsed during many recess periods to prepare for the performance. Principal, Lynn Herschlein, shared, *"They all did a terrific job and delighted the audience! It was wonderful to see children show such initiative and commitment to a creative project."* These students all hail from Mrs. DeRop's class, and they all love reading and acting out plays. She shared. *"They put together a play about a turkey and a farmer and performed it for our class right before Thanksgiving. They wanted to do another one for the holidays for the whole school this time. Christopher asked if anyone has seen the Nutcracker, and then Molly said that she has a nutcracker at home. Molly brought her Nutcracker to school and the idea came to life!" Ms. Kotsky brought it to life with music, ...adorable!* 



## Building the White House

Goosehill students have been reading Scholastic News and learning about the Presidency and the White House. After watching a few minutes of the Presidential Inauguration, students were so interested in the topic that it spilled over into their play. Take a look at what they built with their blocks – The White House!



**Goosehill scientists** are learning about the States of Matter. After experimenting with solids and liquids, they had a chance to create gases using household materials. (vinegar and baking soda) They worked together to set up their experiment, made predictions about what would happen when they mixed the two together, and absolutely delighted in the results!



# You got this!

**Goosehill**: Physical Education teacher, Mr. Rory Malone, leads our youngest students on the path to fitness, encouraging them as they challenge themselves with indoor rock wall climbing. Using their strength, confidence, and agility, they strive to earn different levels of achievement based on the amount of times they don't fall off. The kids love the challenge, and those small hands and feet, along with great perseverance, tackle this mighty wall!



# Forces in Motion

**Goosehill**: Kindergarten started a new unit on "Forces and Motion" in science. Ms. Fransicovich's class was learning all about pushing and pulling with some hands-on fun. One station was comparing pushing different types of vehicles. The children made predictions and discussed the effects of friction and force. Fun!

Goosehill students experiment and collaborate to solve problems in the science room. What boat design will hold the greatest number of pennies without sinking? How can we build a bridge that will hold a toy car? What is the strongest design for a paper cup tower? Students brainstorm ideas, make their plans, and work together to complete their designs, which they proudly share with their classmates. Their excitement about engineering spilled over into recess one day! After spotting what they thought might be a deer out in the woods surrounding the school, a group of students designed and built their own "deer trap." When asked what they would do with the deer they catch, they replied, "Set him free out in the big forest!" COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 75 Goose Hill Road Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724

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### ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

## POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

Furry Friends Donation – Lloyd Harbor: The primary focus of Student Ambassadors is to inspire students to think beyond themselves and give back to others in the school and community. Lloyd Harbor Student Ambassadors had the opportunity to make a super cool cat toy to donate to a local animal shelter. The Student Ambassadors created the cat toy from recycled t-shirts. By braiding strips of fabric, the children were able to transform what was once a used good, and put it to good use! A local animal shelter, Little Shelter fell in love with the idea: cats and kittens will have their very own handmade toy.



### **Community Service:**



West Side School Community Service: On January 23rd West Side Student Council was delighted to present a check in the amount of \$439, along with donated items, to Mr. Fred Sganga, the Executive Director for the Veteran's Home in Stony Brook (an organization that provides skilled nursing care, adult day health care and short term rehabilitation to the 250.000 veterans who reside on Long Island). Mr. Sganga spoke to the children at morning assembly; he is also a Cold Spring Harbor resident. Student Council held a fundraiser: "Hot Chocolate and a Good Book" morning event in December. Thank you also to student council co-advisors Ms. Santoro-Goldberg and Ms. Ryan for *this wonderful collaboration!* 

### Cartwheels for A Great Cause

On January 17th at CSH Jr./Sr. High School, the *Cartwheels for a Cure* gymnastics meet produced plenty of memorable moments. Eight schools participated in the event which helped raise thousands of dollars for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The teams received a heartfelt message from CSH coach Teri

Kindelmann's 6-year-old daughter, Matison. She and her 4-year-old sister, Charlotte, have cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder that affects the lungs and other organs. Matison took to the microphone and thanked the gymnasts. "It's truly something very special to me and this year that my daughter was able to speak and thank the girls," Kindelmann said. The meet has grown from two teams three years ago to eight teams. Last year, with five teams present, the event raised \$6,000. This year, it was expected to reach close to \$10,000. This connection with the coach's daughters makes the fundraising event more special to the athletes. "Sometimes if you don't know people, you're not really sure what you're raising it for, but when you have a connection with them, it means a lot more," said Lily Hetherington, a CSH eighthgrader. After the competition, the teams gathered together and did cartwheels for three minutes. In the middle of the excitement were Matison and Charlotte, reminding the gymnasts one more time about the difference they were trying to make.

Animal Rescue Club Jr./Sr. High School: Spanish Teacher and Animal Rescue Club (ARC) Advisor, Ms. Merritt Monck-Rowley, introduced her daughter, Riley, and her service dog, Kaya, to talk to the Club. She explained how to obtain and register for an emotional support animal while away at college. College students are permitted to have service dogs live with them in the dorms as well as off campus. The students were very excited to pet the dogs and ask questions regarding rescuing animals. Thank you Riley!

