

Jerry
Burke



WEST SIDE STORY

West Side Story

Issue 2
Winter 2009



From the Editor's Desk...

Table of Contents

Short Stories	2
Reflections/ Narrative Writing	9
Interviews	26
Poetry	27

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our second edition of *West Side Story*, the literary magazine at the West Side School. I am excited to present our second edition, which is filled with wonderful and creative writings from the students of West Side. As you read, you will see the great work and dedication the students have put into their writings. I am very proud of all the students who shared their feelings and contributed their great thoughts and

ideas. It has made the second edition of *West Side Story* a great success!

I hope that even more students will become inspired and decide to express their thoughts in our future editions of the *West Side Story* literary magazine.

I would like to thank all those who participated, including our talented students and their motivating teachers who continuously encourage creative writing. I would also like to thank

Mrs. Herschlein for her great support and encouragement for creative writing.

From your editor,
Ms. Piccolo



Special thanks to Jay B. from class 6G for creatively designing the front and back cover of our literary magazine.

Message from the Principal

Dear West Side Writers,

Thank you for taking the time to share your stories and poems with us. Your writing will make us smile, wonder, imagine, and learn! Writers write to inform, persuade, and entertain an audience. As your audience, we appreciate the effort you put into creating images and characters for us to enjoy.

Some of your pieces are the result of a classroom study of "small moment" writing. That means you "zoomed in" on a point in time and described an experience slowly and carefully, using sensory details and dialogue to make the scene come alive! That kind of writing helps your audience get "lost" in

your story!

At West Side School, we love to hear our writers' voices. Thank you for helping us to hear your unique and very special writing voice.

Happy Reading!

Wishing you all the best,
Mrs. Herschlein

Winter



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West Side Story Literary Magazine

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Table of Contents

Short Stories	2 - 8
Reflections/Narrative Writing	9 - 25
Interviews	26
Poetry	27 - 31

Short Stories

When the Vikings Set Sail

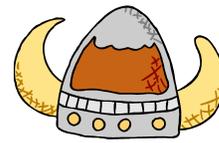
By Thomas C. - 4V

One day two Vikings were farming their crops when one saw something shining in the dirt. His name was Lee.

"Look at that," he said.

He picked it up.

"It is some kind of horn," he said.



The other one, named Ken, was staring at it.

"It looks magical, try blowing it!"

Lee blew it, and it was loud! Suddenly, they heard a strange whirring sound when a pile of gold appeared in front of them.

"WOW!" cried Ken.

They immediately started to use up their money for a Viking ship, a few axes, two clubs, and two Viking hats with horns. Lee tried to blow the horn again, but the horn did not make its usual sound. Instead, a strange female voice came out of the golden horn:

"I have given you your free chance to use this horn, now you must go to the island of Gajara. Go to the cave of the Cyclops and bring me his diamond in order to use this horn again."

Ken and Lee both looked at each other.

"How are we going to get to the island of Gajara?" asked Ken.

"Well, we have the ship," Lee said.



Ken turned to face the massive Viking ship.

"Let's go," he said.

They both put on their Viking horned hats and loaded their ship with everything they needed for their quest. Lee put up the mast and pulled the ropes tight as the ship left shore. With Ken at the wheel, Lee made sure everything was good on the ship and looked out for bad weather. Lee had just started to relax when a giant whale jumped up in the air and smashed down in the water making big wakes that almost capsized the boat.

"That was massive!" cried Lee.

"Let's just hope it doesn't come back," said Ken.



After many days and what Lee felt was like weeks, they finally caught sight of the island waiting in the distance for them. When they arrived at shore, they got their weapons and as much food as they could fit in their pockets. They started to scale the mountain. When they got to the cave, sure enough, there was the Cyclops waiting for them on a boulder. It noticed them and walked toward them. They started to get their clubs and axes ready when Lee spotted the diamond laying on a rock behind the Cyclops.

"You hold him off while I get the diamond," said Lee.

He ran in between the Cyclops' legs and ran to the rock. He grabbed the diamond and stuffed it into the pocket he didn't put food in. The Cyclops noticed them running out of the cave with his diamond. The Cyclops ran towards them in fury, but missed and fell off the ledge of the cliff.

"NO!" cried Ken as he started to run down to the ship.

But it was too late. The Cyclops had already fallen on the ship and crushed it.

"Now how are we supposed to get home?" asked Ken.

"Where's that whale?" asked Lee.





"I think it went east," answered Ken.

"We can build a new boat from the pieces of our old boat," Lee said.

They jumped down from the ledge and got to work. Lee started to look for other parts of their boat, while Ken started to build the hull of the boat with the pieces Lee had collected. When they were finished, they both were very tired and their ship was disordered.

"It's not very good, but it will do," said Ken.

"As long as that whale doesn't come back," added Lee.



They got on the ship and left shore. It was two hours since they left Gajara and they thought they weren't going to get into any more trouble when the whale came back.

"Oh, God!" cried Lee.

Before Lee could run to the other side of the boat, a big wave splashed over the ship, knocking Lee and the diamond overboard.

"Lee!" cried Ken, running towards the side of the boat where Lee had fallen.

Lee was fighting to get to the top of the waves. When he got to the surface, he saw Ken looking over the side of the ship.

"Are you all right? Ken shouted.

"Yeah! Well, at least I think so," Lee shouted back.



They could barely hear themselves over the loudness of the waves. Lee searched for something to grab for support, while Ken looked for something to throw to him. Then, Lee saw the whale's back and swam over to it. He climbed on its back and waited for it to get closer to the ship. Suddenly, the whale blasted its blowhole and Lee was thrown upward. He stayed afloat on the blasted water then fell headfirst onto the boat and lay there, unconscious.

"Lee, Lee, Lee!" cried Ken.

Then, Ken remembered that he was surrounded by water and dunked Lee in the water. With a sputter and a cough, Lee woke up. Meanwhile, the whale was very annoyed and very sensitive. It did not like to be touched on the back. So, it decided to get revenge. It swam over to the boat and opened its mouth as wide as possible. In a gulp, the whale swallowed the boat whole.

Ken woke up wet and tired. He sat up and looked around. Then he finally noticed that he was inside the whale's stomach. He saw Lee lying on the left side of the stomach. He woke up in a daze.

"W-what happened?" He said, still shivering from the cold.

"We got swallowed by a whale," answered Ken.

"And how did that happen?" asked Lee, a little disappointed.

"Long story," answered Ken quickly.

Then Lee stood up, staggered, and regained his balance.

"Ken saves the day again," Lee joked.

"Oh, *c'mon*. Now who saved you from the water, huh?" asked Ken.

"The whale did," said Lee smiling.

"Oh, yeah, but still!" protested Ken.

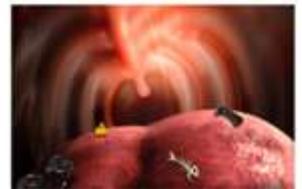
"O.K., O.K. Let's stop fighting and face the facts! We are trapped in a whale and we have no weapons or tools," said Lee.

By the way, where's the diamond?" asked Ken.

Lee stuffed his hand in his pocket and pulled out the blue and wet diamond.

"Great. Let's find a way out of here!" said Ken happily.

It was 30 minutes after they started to walk and they still hadn't found any way out when they saw an old man sitting on the bottom of the whale playing a harmonica. Ken noticed that every time the man played a tune, some part in the



whale moved. Lee noticed this, too. Suddenly, Ken had an idea. He walked up to the man and asked if he could make the whale shoot its spout.

"Sure. But forgive me for asking, why do you want to do that?" he asked.

"To get out of here," answered Ken.

The man looked puzzled.

"After all these years, why haven't I thought of that?" the man wondered.

"Can I come?" he asked.



"Who said you couldn't?" Ken and Lee said.

The man smiled and walked under the blowhole. He played a note and in a matter of seconds, the water came rushing toward them. WHOOSH!!!!!! They were thrown upward. Luckily, the whale was just passing land. They landed swimming distance from land. Ken and Lee could see their house, their dock, and their neighbors. When they got to land, they plopped on the beach. The man stood up and looked around.

"My brother lives here," he laughed and smiled.

"What's his name?" asked Lee.

"Ringo," he said and laughed again.

"I know him! He's our neighbor!" He ran toward a small house.

"C'mon!" Lee said to the man.

The man ran towards Lee. Suddenly, a plump man walked out the door.

"Ringo!" cried the man.

They hugged each other. Then, Ringo started to pull the man's arm into the house. The man was just able to sneak a "Thank you" to Lee and Ken. Later they returned to their horn and put in the diamond. They blew into the horn and it made gold. From then on, they shared the gold with the town's people and everyone was happy.

The Great Whale

By Danielle M. - 5B



Chapter 1: Toby's Born

One day a little whale named Toby was swimming along shore. Toby was only a whale that was fifteen minutes old. He was with his mother looking for food. Toby was a humpback. He could eat almost 15,000 pounds of krill a day. Mama whale was hungry too, but she had a calf to feed. The saying echoed in her mind, "The calf goes first." She hadn't eaten in almost a month. So Toby and mama whale set off to the whale feeding grounds. It took a very long time for them to get there. Finally, they got there before they starved. Mama Whale showed Toby how to catch food. When Mama Whale and Toby were finally finished, they went back to the birthplace and fell asleep.

Chapter 2: Toby's Friend

The next morning, Mama Whale and Toby woke up and had absolutely nothing to do. Mama Whale was busy cleaning up the coral bed with Toby stuck with nothing. Toby decided to go wander off further into the reef to see what he could find. So Toby said goodbye to Mama Whale and set off in the reef. Toby swam on and on until he finally found something, a strange something-- something that he hadn't seen before. MERMAIDS! Millions and zillions of them. So, he swam right up to one and said, "Hi. I'm Toby, and I'm from Coral Bed Pacific."

The mermaid replied, "Hi. I'm Shelia. And I'm from The Blue Atlantic."

Toby responded, "Do you want to be friends because I have no friends."

Shelia shouted, "Sure!"

To find out more about Toby and Shelia, see Danielle M. in class 5B for the full copy of the story.

The Adventures of Trippo the Hippo

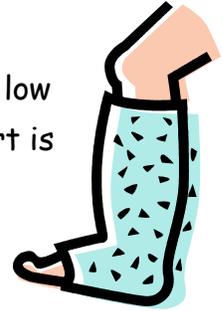
By Sean R. and Malcolm P. - 5B



One day there was a hippo that was kind of chubby-- just a little chubby. He just didn't want his friends to make fun of him. So at night, he went for a jog but he kept on tripping for no reason. So he went to the hospital for all the scars on his face.

The doctor said, "Son you have Trippophobia. Some people have low Trippophobia, but you have the highest and rarest case. The worst part is you have to drink bad-tasting medicine."

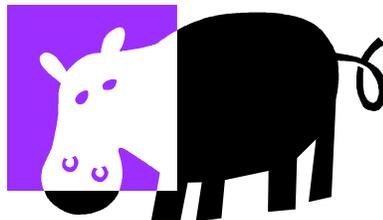
"Nooooooooooooooooooooo!" said Trippo.



So he walked to Value Drugs. He almost broke every bone in his body, and all he had to walk was one block. Finally, he took his medicine and it turns out he was allergic to it. There were also side effects. Some of them were Flippophobia and very, very bad Trippophobia and if he was allergic, he should tell his doctor.

He went to the doctor's office and the doctor said, "Take the Flippophobia medicine."

He went back to Value Drugs, but this time he almost hurt himself because his legs were broken. He went through a lot of tripping and flipping. Finally, he reached Value Drugs and, by accident, he tackled an old lady by falling on her. The lady got mad and sprayed his eyes with pepper spray. I know it's not normal for a hippo to tackle an old lady, **BUT GO WITH IT!** I also know that old ladies don't carry pepper spray with them, **BUT GO WITH THAT TOO!** To be continued...



REFLECTIONS/NARRATIVE WRITING

Tubing

By Alexander K.



As I waited, I felt the adrenaline rush through me. I watched as my dad let the rope go... I held on to the rope so tightly that I almost broke it. Then the engine started. It broke into speed! I thought I was going to fall off. I thought I was going to get left behind in the lake.

The tube went up and down and up and down! Water splashed in my face. The lake water was warm like hot cocoa, but the rain falling from the sky was cool. We went faster and faster! It was a thrilling ride!

Shortly after, we slowed down. Then, we completely stopped. A few minutes later I got off the tube. I WAS SOAKED from head to toe and so happy!

Boogie Boarding

By Cris C.

Well, my day went pretty smoothly until my cousin Ethan begged me to go boogie boarding with him. It was a bad idea when I said yes. Ethan and I walked down to the water with our boards. I was terrified because the waves were crashing on the shore like meteors.

Ethan said "Don't worry! This will be fun!"

So I took my board and jumped in the water. I paddled and paddled until I was in the right spot. I found a big wave that was nineteen feet tall. Ethan said to take it. So I did. I was going so fast, wind was blowing in my face. Then, I ramped up over another wave. It was great!

So I said "Can we do it again?"



Ethan and I paddled back out to the water and waited for a good wave. This time it didn't go as well. I caught a wave, but got water in my mouth. The water didn't taste good. It tasted really, really salty! Then, the wave pushed my boogie board up in the back, which pushed my board down in front. Next, I made a face plant in the sand under the water! I almost threw up! I'll never forget that day!

Sidewinder

By Cynthia P.

One day I was in Hershey Park and there was a ride called Sidewinder. It looked even scarier than the horror film "Friday the 13th." It went backwards and upside down. At first I thought the carts would fall off the track. Then I realized it was on like a trap.



So I said, "I'll try it."

I got onto the ride, sat down and the seatbelt locked.

Then a strange man came over to me and said, "I HOPE YOU MAKE IT BACK ALIVE!!" And then he laughed a creepy laugh like 'Mwa-Ha-Ha-Ha.'

"Ok. That was very freaky," I said to myself.

Now, I wasn't scared, I was terrified! A man had just told me I wasn't going to make it back alive!

I wanted to get off the ride so badly, but I knew I wasn't going to be able to get off because the carts started to go backwards slowly. So I hung on for dear life. Then, I heard a click sound. But then we dropped and went upside down four times. But then there were no more tracks, and the carts dropped backwards! I was screaming so hard that I couldn't talk for the rest of the day.

When the ride was over, I said "That wasn't so bad."

Then my cousin and I went on the ride over and over again until we had to go back to the hotel.

Tower of Terror

By Jordy B.

I went up and down, up and down. I couldn't feel the ground. I was on a ride that was like an out-of-control elevator!

I was in Disney World, on the Tower of Terror. My stomach was rumbling. I felt my head with my hand and I was burning. I heard the sound of people screaming all around me. Meanwhile, I was screaming too.

"I will not go back on when the ride is over," I thought to myself.

I heard more screaming again! Everyone around me was screaming!

"When is this ride going to be over?" I thought.

In the end, I didn't like riding the Tower of Terror at all! It was as scary as a nightmare!



The Big Bad Wolf

By Katherine B.

I was at Bush Gardens and there were a lot of people! The place was humongous. There were lots of rides and food! I could smell popcorn everywhere!

I had just been on a rollercoaster called The Loch Ness Monster. I had never been on two roller coasters at the same place before, so it was weird to go on another one. However, I was in line to go on a roller coaster called the Big Bad Wolf. My heart was pounding so badly. I was so hot and nervous.

But then I kept thinking to myself "This isn't going to be so bad."

My heart slowed down, just as we got to the front of the line. I could see the rollercoaster. It was blue with brown stripes. Then, a buzzer went off and the ride began. The people on it seemed to be having a good time. I was starting to feel better. This wouldn't be so bad!

Then it was our turn. I sat down on the ride next to my dad. The buzzer went off. It felt like the seat was buzzing, too. Then the ride began. Well, I learned that I was wrong when I said that the ride didn't seem so bad! I was definitely wrong. My hair felt like it was flying and so did I. I held on to my dad. The rollercoaster looked like it was going to go straight into the water. I screamed! Then, it made a sharp turn and it felt like the ride was going to fall off the tracks. Then The Big Bad Wolf went straight and made a couple more turns. Finally, the ride was over!

I stomped my feet and smiled.

Then I asked my dad, "Why was it so short?"

He didn't say anything for a second, then jumped up and said "I don't know, but it was crack-a-lacken!"

The Tower Of Terror

By Lauren S.

When I went to Disney World I went on a ride called the Tower of Terror. When I was waiting in line, I smelled the snacks people were selling. A lot of vendors were walking around because the line was so long. I was squirming and nervous. Also, I was trying to convince my dad to take me on a different ride while my mom and Austin went on the Tower of Terror.

When it was our turn to get on I said, "I don't want to go on!"

But my little brother Austin pushed me on. When I got into my seat I buckled up and grasped to the arm rest for my life.

When I felt my feet start to rise, I closed my eyes so tight! It was going slow at first. But then it started going a little faster and then, a lot faster. All of a sudden we shot up into the air! It was like I was flying, but my eyes were still shut tight. I did not dare to open them. Then, my dad shook me, so I opened my eyes.

"Don't shake me!" I yelled.

"But it's fine." he said.

I was so angry. I yelled "Leave me alone!!"

Then I saw everything below us. We were so high! I heard people screaming and yelling.

When the ride was finally over I was shaking.

Then I yelled, "I'm never going on that ride again!"

Uncle Eddie

By Olivia G.

As I sat in my room not believing that he had died, I remembered when I was with him for the last time...Before he died from cancer and a blood clot at the same time.

I remember Uncle Eddie sitting at the head of a table at a restaurant and me running over to him. He gave me a great big hug. It was like a bear hug. He was wearing a very soft sweater. It was blue and it felt so warm. I did not know it would happen to him, but my parents did. I did not realize he was so sick.

The day they told me Uncle Eddie died, I ran into my brother's room screaming saying, "He died! He died." My brother told me, "I know," and I ran back in the kitchen and cried, and cried. My brother did not make me feel better at all but then he gave me a big dog that looked like my uncle's dog, Andy. It made me feel better. I put the dog on the beanbag chair near my window. I sat down and thought about how my uncle was very loving and caring. Everyone who knew him liked him. When he died it was like someone cast a spell on everybody who knew him to be quiet. I missed him very much and so did everyone who knew him.

Samantha's Birthday Party

By Sophia I.

It was the day of my friend Samantha's birthday. I was so excited. It was at a sports place that was in a big building. When I went inside there were games on one side and three different courts on the other side. Two of the courts were batting courts and one of them was a big soccer court.

I was the fourth person to arrive. While we were waiting for everyone else to come, we started a soccer game. When I had the ball, somebody was guarding me. Then, I tripped and fell! I hurt my arm really badly! When I was on the ground, everyone was staring at me. I could almost taste the grass on the ground and it was disgusting!

"Yuck! I said."

When I stood up I couldn't move my arm at ALL! I was about to cry, but I didn't want to make a fool of myself. So I sat out for the rest of the soccer game. However, when more kids arrived, it got louder and louder. It was like a carnival. Then they started to play more games. Everyone was having fun except for me. I felt so down-hearted.

Then there was a break. Everyone came over to me and said, "What happened? Why you are sitting out?" It was getting annoying, but I was happy they cared about me.

Then, they started to play their last game. It was soccer. I decided to join and play the game because it was my favorite sport and my arm was starting to feel a little better. When we played, I was on Samantha's team. We had to take turns going out on the court because there were so many kids on our team. When it was finally my turn, I ran out to play and the game was OVER! I didn't even do anything! I couldn't believe that the last game was over and I didn't play at all. I was so mad! However, then it was cake time! We were going to have ice cream cake with cookies and ice cream.

"That's my favorite" I said.



After the cake it was present time. I thought I got Samantha a great present and when she opened it up, she loved it! I guess I was right! I did get Samantha a great present. At that point, I was happy! Even though I hurt myself and didn't get to play any games, I was happy Samantha liked my present.

Dielga

By Thomas F.

Matt and I were in Montauk. We were at the Driftwood Hotel. Matt's family had left and Matt was going home with us. The day we left, we packed up and went in the car. I told Matt that I needed some help catching Dielga, a character in my DS game. So, then I turned on my DS and began playing it.

On the way home, we stopped at World Pie. Then we got ice cream. I had Oreos. It tasted good. Matt and my mom got Mint chip. My sister and my dad got coffee ice-cream. Then, we went back in the car and I went back to playing my DS.

While playing, I went to Sphere Pillar, a place in my DS game. There, I saw Dielga. I went to him and I caught him! I was so excited! But then, my DS ran out of juice! I was so angry I was about to scream, but I did not.

So, my sister said I could use her DS. I started playing again and I was about to catch Dielga when we arrived at Matt's house. I said good-bye and continued playing. Finally, I caught Dielga. I was thrilled.

The Stealer

By Alexandra V.

Late one night at about 2:00 in the morning I woke up from the sound of a loud car alarm. It made me shake and shiver and sounded like one million cars in my ear. Hearing that sound made me feel hot and nauseous.

Then I heard my parents' loud footsteps down the hall racing downstairs. It made my mouth drop open when I heard the noise. So, I cautiously walked down the hall as slowly as a snail and felt the comfort of my feet go across the soft rug. I glanced out the window and saw a man dressed in gray looking up at me!

"What is he doing at my house at 2:00 in the morning?" I said.

Then my mom brought me upstairs into my room. I got that hot and nauseous feeling again.

"Mom, who was that freaky guy and was he going to steal something from our car?" I said in a half asleep and half-awake way.

"Go to bed, Alexandra," said my mom. "Everything is fine. Go to sleep and I'll tell you in the morning."

I tried to think positively but it was very hard! When I looked outside all the emergency lights were on. I overheard my parents talking about what had just happened. It made me shake and shiver and again I still had the hot and nauseous feeling.

Sooner or later I fell asleep. I didn't dream about anything, but I thought about "the man." When I woke up for school it felt like I had slept for only three minutes. I was still hot, but not as nauseous as the night before. As I picked out my clothes for school, I thought about what happened the night before. I still didn't have any answers about who the man was or what he was doing. I didn't have any answers until I went downstairs that morning.

Skiing

By Connor C.



I was freezing! It was winter and I was freezing! I was skiing with my family. I thought it was not so cold so I didn't wear any gloves. I was in a bad mood and I was freezing. Then, when I was going down a mountain, I fell on my face! It turned red. I kept on falling. I was so mad!

Then, as I went down one of the mountains, I went too fast! I had the biggest fall I ever had in my life! My dad came, helped me and packed me up. Then we went down the mountain again.

This time I fell again, but I hit my sister. She fell so hard that I thought she was dead. I heard a big sound and got so scared. Then she got up. I was so happy, but then she fell again. Then my dad came, helped her and packed her up.

It was not a good skiing day...and I was FREEZING!

Superman

By Davey S.



One day my family and I went to Six Flags. It was packed, but we got a good parking spot. When we got out of the car we saw a ride called Superman. It looked as frightening as a scary movie. It had spins and twirls and went upside down.

My mom said "That looks like a fun ride." So we walked over to it.

We went to the line and it was so long! I was so bored! It seemed like we were going to have to wait forever!

In my mind I was saying "Hurry up line! Just go faster!"

I imagined that I was already on the ride and it felt like I was flying through space. I couldn't wait to go on! The only good thing about waiting was that it smelled so good while we were in line. There was a good smelling food cart nearby.

Finally, after two hours of waiting, it was time for us to go on. I was really scared and shaking, but I was also really excited. I sat down on one of the seats. Then the instructor came over to me. He looked at me and said "You are too small to go on this ride. The seat belt is too big for you."

I couldn't believe it! I was so upset! I had waited on a two hour line for nothing!

Ferrari

By Jesse S.

I was in my house and I was bored. I was in the kitchen when suddenly the alarm went off! I heard something really loud, so I checked the cameras. My jaw dropped when I looked in the camera and saw that my dad got a new car. It was a Ferrari!

I ran outside to get a better look! Then I got to go in it. It was so cool looking. It was black and really shiny. When I looked inside, I looked behind me and I could see the engine. I tried to touch the car, but my dad pushed my hand away and said "You can't touch it!"

He asked me if I wanted to go for a ride. My dad started the car and it was as loud as fireworks. It could go up to 240 M.P.H., but my dad only went 30 M.P.H. because there was a speed limit. This car was awesome!

Super Bowl

By Liam K.

Last year I was on a football team, a really good football team. Our first game was against the Chiefs. We tied zero to zero. We didn't lose one game all season. In the playoffs we didn't lose either and we made it to the Super Bowl!

The Super Bowl was at the Cold Spring Harbor High School. The funny thing was we were going to play the Chiefs...again! They were the first team we played in the season and now they would be our last.

There were so many people in the stands, I couldn't believe it. We were playing on hot, hard turf. During the first play of the game, there was a fake to me. Then our best player got the ball and scored a touchdown. There was a guy on me and he thought I had the ball, but I didn't.

I said, "I don't have the ball"



"Yes, you do!" he said.

"Look over there!" and I pointed to the end zone.

"Oh!" he said

Then the game continued. Our team was winning for a while.

When we were in the fourth quarter we were in the huddle and the coach said "42 smash." The 42 smash meant that the four back (me) would go down the two hole between the players. Our team didn't know that I was that good. We got out of the huddle and I saw so many blue jerseys and no red ones. Once I got out into the open, I saw so many red ones and only three blue ones. Two huge kids were right in front of me, but I ran by them. I wound up scoring and we won 25 to 14! The crowd roared as loud as a lion.

After the game, there was an awards ceremony. We all got trophies. The trophies were really cool. They were gold and said "First Place" on them. I could smell all of the good smells on the food table. When it was over, I ran over to the table and ate all I could. It was a crazy day, but it was still fun.

Cousins

By Maddy S.

Tick tick tick tick...

"Mom, is the clock broken?" I asked eagerly and surprisingly very fast.

"They should be here at any moment, Maddy." she seemed to say so slowly.

"Come on!" I murmured under my breath. "Come on! Where are you?"

BEEP went the alarm that was in my yard attached to a tree. It's a little camera in the yard that lets us know when something is moving outside. I was really scared, but then excited. My cousins would be coming at any minute. They were teenagers, so I didn't get to see them very often.



Then, I realized they were pulling in the driveway. I flew open the door, I ran and just missed the car door opening into me. Kitty Cat (Katie was her real name) and Jack jumped out of the car.

"Hi," I said.

"Trampoline?" asked Kitty Cat.

I knew that she was asking me if I wanted to go play on the trampoline, so I answered with a nod.

"Ra..." Kitty Cat started to say, but I knew what she wanted to do...RACE! I started running before she even finished her words. I was too fast for her!

Boing! Boing! "Hey, Maddy! Get the ball!" Kitty Cat said.

I hopped off the trampoline, got the ball, brought it back and tossed it to Kitty Cat and Jack. I got back on the trampoline. Then I heard Jack yell, "Hey! Heads up!"

Only it was too late...smack! I took a breath, but the cold air swept up into my gum and I yelled out, "Yyyoooooww!" I put my finger to where my tooth used to be. It felt so wet and gushy. It was like my heart was in my gum because I felt a buh bump - buh bump in my mouth. I couldn't believe that my cousin knocked out my tooth with a blow up ball! Luckily, it was a baby tooth!

Haunted House of Doom

By Samantha B.

On Halloween night, it was dark, scary and cold like Mount Everest. My dad wanted to take me to the Farmingdale Haunted House of Doom. I was there early so I only had to wait on line for thirty minutes. While we were waiting, we found some old friends. Then, we finally got to the ticket stand and my dad said, "Haunted house please, for two kids and two adults."

We got the tickets, but then we had to wait on line to go in. While we were on line I asked myself, "Am I going to die or survive in there?" I was starting to get nervous, but then we were next to go in! My heart was pounding hard.

I said, "Dad I don't want to go in."

Then the door opened and there was mist and it smelled bad. I was in the haunted house and there was no turning back. Then, my brother Matthew dropped my hat on the ground. When I went to pick it up, it wasn't there. Instead, it was on an actor's head. The actor was on a seesaw. Although I was a little scared, I walked over and took the hat back.

As we continued to walk around, I felt like I was dying. Finally, we walked through the whole house! I was anxious to get outside. However, when I walked out the haunted house's doors, I saw the chainsaw master waiting outside! He was so scary! Then, the chainsaw master was done scaring us.

I looked at my dad and said, "Thank God I didn't die in there!"

It Was So Much Fun!

By Trevor B.

It was so much fun when I went to Adventure Land with my cousins. My brother and I went with my cousins Kai, Kendall and Cassidy. Kai is my age and is the only one that is my age in my family. Kendall is one year younger than my brother, who was seven and Cassidy was three.

When we got in the park, I saw the shaking pirate ship and a giant rollercoaster. I also saw the little cars running around the Eiffel Tower.

We went on a lot of rides. Then we walked over to the Antic Cars. When we got in the car, the back felt rough and bumpy like rocks, but the bottom was as soft as snow. Then we started. We were criminals on the road! We went through red lights and we also touched the disco. Then we went around the track and saw Uncle Brendan and Cassidy in another car. When we crossed the bridge, we saw a

water mill and heard a noise that it made. Then we saw a man and a lady in a car on the wall. Then we came into the circle and as soon as the man stopped the ride, we got out.

Then we said, "Can we go again?"

Baseball Game

By Zach N.

I was at a baseball game. Not just any baseball game. It was Yankees vs. Angles, game one of the playoffs. I was so excited to be there! In the stands, it smelled like crackerjacks and people were screaming "Hot dogs! Get your hot dogs!"

During the fourth inning, Vladimir Guerrero was up at bat for the Angels.

"I hope he strikes out," I thought to myself. I watched the first pitch.

"Strike!" yelled the umpire!

"Yes!" I screamed.



Then came the second pitch. This time, Guerrero fouled the ball right in my direction! The ball was like a mile high! I ducked and covered my head. The ball landed right in front of my row. My dad tried catching it, but the people in front of us got it. Meanwhile, I was still ducking. When the ball landed, the people in front of us looked at me and I was still ducking. My face turned red and my stomach felt like it was going to explode. The worst thing about it was I was on TV. Everyone could see that I didn't catch the ball and instead was just ducking!



My Dog is the Best Dog Ever

By Stamati S. - 3G

My dog is the best dog ever. The best part is that I got him when I was born. I loved him and when I was little he loved me too. His name is Conan. Every day I play with him in my backyard. He loves food. He loves any kind of food. His favorite is pizza. And so is mine. When it was my 1st birthday he was licking me all day. Then every time we eat he wants whatever we are eating. We always let him have some. My Grandpa likes him too. My sister plays with him a lot and I do too. When I walk him, we like to run. When I was seven he went to the hospital and he came back alive. I hugged him and he snuggled with me.

The West Side School Cheese Festival

By Brandon M. - 5A

I have an idea. One day in December everyone will bring cheeses from around the world to school for the West Side School Cheese Festival.

The West Side School Cheese Festival happens because there are children around the world that don't have any toys and need new toys to play with.

We'll sell lots of different cheeses like white cheese, yellow cheeses, orange colored cheeses, and even stinky and smelly cheeses.

Together we can sell the cheese with crackers and get money for the toys. We have to use a calculator to ring up every sale. We also have to reset the calculator each time and print lots of receipts.

We can make lots of money together and give it to the children around the world for new toys. I hope you like my idea.

Mrs. B. is the Best!

By Griffin K. - 5B

Mrs. B is the lunch aid.

She loves her friends, but she likes the Yankees the same.

She loves people who wear Yankees t-shirts.

She lets them go out first.

When she calls the tables out, she lets table 3 out first.

We all say she's the best,

When she blows the whistle

Everybody comes running in screaming...

Mrs. B. is the BEST!



Smileys

Griffin K. - 5B

Smileys are cool because there are so many kinds,

Like ice-cream guys, Elvis, and surfers.

These guys are cute and small,

None of them are very tall.

They are yellowish,

With black and white on their arms.

Some are boys and some are girls,

But, boys are always the best!!!!!!



Mythical Magical Creatures

By Kaylie T., Emma B., and Amanda B. - 5B



Trolls & Cyclops

Cyclopes live in abandoned lakes and rivers. They eat humans and some eat a special diet: moose and chipmunks. They usually carry big sticks. The sticks are normally used to settle problems. The one above is named Simon. He enjoys playing checkers & swimming.

Trolls live in a Magical place called Norway, on snowcapped mountains and deep fjords. They have bushy tails and crooked noses. The one in the picture below is named Merve. We found him in Norway under a bridge. They also live to be a hundred million years old. That's a fact!



Santa's Workshop

Imaan S. - 3P

On a dark and snowy night I was putting my stocking on the chimney. Then I got chocolate chip cookies and a cup of milk. I also got a piece of hot-dog style paper. On the paper I wrote a list of things I wanted from Santa and then I fell asleep.

The next morning I ran down the stairs and looked in my stocking, but there was nothing there. I was sad. This was the worst Christmas ever!

Interviews

Interview with Mrs. Pellicone

By Alex A. and Sammy G. - 3P

Interviewer: "Do you like being a third grade teacher?"

Mrs. Pellicone: "YES."

Interviewer: "How does it feel to be a third grade teacher?"

Mrs. Pellicone: "IT FEELS VERY FULFILLING BECAUSE EVERY DAY I MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A THIRD GRADER'S LIFE."

Interviewer: "Is it easier knowing 20 kids than the whole school?"

Mrs. Pellicone: "YES."

Interviewer: "Which classroom do you like to be in more, the third grade classroom or the science room?"

Mrs. Pellicone: "THE THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM."

A Hockey Point of View: Offense and Defense, Hard or Easy?

By Julianne R. - 5B

I interviewed Malcolm P. and Emma B. and this is what they said:



For Malcolm, offense is more difficult than defense because he mostly plays defense and isn't used to the other position. In addition, you are the 2nd most important person on the team because you need to protect the goal.

Emma said defense is also hard, but offense is more difficult than defense because she doesn't like skating really fast up and down the rink.

What do you think is harder, offense or defense?



Poetry

Peanut Butter Jelly

By Mia N. - 2P

Peanut Butter Jelly,
Floating in my belly,
It tastes so yummy,
In my tummy!
It tastes so good and hearty,
It decides to have a party!
It tastes so delicious,
And it is nutritious!
I wish I could eat it every day,
But at school I could have it someday!



Peanut Butter & Jelly

By Nicholas A. - 2P

Peanut butter jelly floating in my belly.
It found a coral reef and also roast beef.
It's floating on a raft and doesn't want a bath.
The water is soothing, the peanut butter's smoothing.
Now that's the tale of the peanut butter jelly floating in my belly,
But, I have to say there wasn't much jelly.



Oh Gosh!

By Sammy G. - 3P

What was that? I don't know. Let's go see. I have a feeling that something no one has ever seen before is outside our door. I bet a good long stare would do the trick! But what if it was just the wind? It won't be. Oh no! You were right. It was just the wind! I'm sorry that I was acting like Mister Smarty Pants.
Gasp! Oh Gosh!

Colors

By Caroline W. - 3G

Colors, Colors

RED, ORANGE, BLUE,

Colors, Colors,

I like them too

Colors, Colors

GREEN, PURPLE, PINK

Colors, Colors

I think it was made of ink

Colors, Colors

YELLOW, BLACK, WHITE,

Colors, Colors

I like the Colors with all my might.



Ice Cream

By Caroline W. - 3G

Ice cream, Ice cream,

Yummy for you,

Ice cream, Ice cream,

I like it too.

Ice cream, Ice cream,

There are lots of different flavors,

Like hot fudge food,

I FEEL LIKE ICE CREAM TODAY...I AM JUST IN THE MOOD!



Santa's Workshop

By Noa S. - 3P

Santa's workshop is very nice.

There are lots of toys, including mice.

The mice are very nice and cute too.

So come on in and we will show you!

Everything will be all right.

Your mom will not be in any fright!

Mr. T

By Julianne R. - 5B

He shows us how to play,
But never ever makes us pay,
He drinks Dr. Pepper all day long,
When we exercise he plays an awesome song,
He makes us run,
But still lets us have a lot of fun!



West Side is Cool!

By Malcolm P. and Griffin K.

There are no fools in this school,
Because everyone is cool.
We have nice teachers in this school,
Because they are very cool.
Our school has some rules,
But it is still very cool!!!!
And that's why...
West Side is COOL!!!

December Thoughts

By Helena M. - 5A

- D rinking hot cocoa on winter days.
- E njoying presents from the holidays.
- C old winter days full of white snow.
- E xciting vacations!
- M aking great soups to eat.
- B uilding snowmen and snow angels.
- E ating holiday treats and sweets.
- R esting and watching a fire.



The Lost

An Original Poem By AJ T. - 6D

The lonely winds echo his name as if they couldn't say anything else,
An eternity away from happiness he rests, waiting for someone or something to set
him free.
As his heart suffers he wonders if it makes a difference if he liked it here,
But alas, he sits there, unable to move.
When will the day he is freed come?
Would it ever come?
He does not want to doubt it, yet it seems clear he is right, now.
Hope fills him as he realizes there is a possibility that they will find him,
But that hope fades away now,
As the wind echoes his name, they continue their search for him,
And he endures the ultimate pain.

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WEST

SIDE

STORY



where
is this
magazine?

