

City Kidz World

Volume 6: Issue 19 Winter Issue

10 Contests Inside!

Inside
Short Stories!
Essays!
Art!

Annual
Middle School
Short Story Contest
Winner!

Nina Soukhanovskii

Meet Eagle Scout: Devon Weiss

Words from the Founder and New Editor-in-Chief

The Reason we Do It...

Why create the Writing Studio and the City Kidz World literary magazine in 2008? When I first decided to develop a literary program for children and shared the idea with like-minded individuals, they said, "That is a wonderful idea...but, how can you make money from something like that? You are providing a free magazine and you are charging reasonable prices for helping children develop a comprehensive language arts foundation... and you don't seem to be putting your name on it or trying to promote yourself..." However, no matter how impractical, this mission of building a creative writing community for writing and language arts, which includes publishing children's stories, remains my passion. I love providing this service to the community!

Five years after starting the Writing Studio and the City Kidz World magazine, the Writing Studio students number in the hundreds and we have published and distributed 19 literary magazines. We distribute the magazine to all of the classrooms of participating children and all of the local libraries and family centers. We have a growing staff of writing coaches and we are building relationships with educators across the state and the country. We provide opportunities for interns and we conduct assemblies and short writing lessons in schools across the state. We also conduct talks for parent groups and provide advice about how students may become better writers - starting at home.

For the Glory!

I once read a book in which the main character identified three key reasons why any person does anything. Those reasons are either for power, for money or merely for the glory. My role in City Kidz World, as the founder and head writing coach has been quite low key and sans compensation for several years, therefore I am not gaining personal power or enriching myself. The money that comes into City Kidz World is used to compensate the best language arts enrichment coaches in New Jersey, improve the studio, and publish a great full-color literary magazine by and for children. The only reward left is glory. Indeed, it is glorious to work with children on their reading and writing during the most formative reading and writing years of their lives. My personal reward as the founder and head of the Writing Studio and the magazine is to help children build a solid foundation and to give them a voice through their own magazine. As I now tell all of the writing coaches at City Kidz World before they teach their first lesson, "Here at City Kidz World, we do it for the Glory!"

I hope you enjoy our magazine. Every page represents the hard work and creativity of a young writer! We are so proud of all of them!

-Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D, Founder, City Kidz World literary magazine



Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D

Founder - Dr. Melissa Edwards, Ed.D, founded City Kidz World magazine and Writing Studio in 2008 with the belief that sustained writing and feedback on writing produces the best outcome for students. She came up with this idea based on her research about emerging and developing writers and 20 years of teaching language arts and English at multiple levels: early childhood, adult, k-12, and higher education. Also, Dr. Edwards has discovered that students respond to both external and internal motivations when it comes to writing. Prompts that get students started, feedback on completed writing prompts, and the completion of the final draft, will help students improve as writers; Providing students with opportunities to be published, creates that extra push for writing students to work on honing their crafts! There are limited opportunities for children to see their polished and perfected writing in print in this digital age and so Dr. Edwards is committed to providing this printed literary forum for children, which can be found in libraries, schools, bookstores, and recreational facilities in New Jersey and in other states.

Dr. Edwards is a full-time English and journalism professor at a local community college and a facilitator for English and communications courses at a reputable online university. Dr. Edwards writes creatively and for professional purposes - publishing stories and articles in other publications when she is not teaching students of all ages for CKW. Melissa Edwards has a doctorate in education.

Questions for the Editor

Dear Editor,

I really love writing creatively, but sometimes when I am asked to write an essay, it is really difficult. I thought I was a good writer. Why is it so hard?

Signed,

The Best Creative Writer Ever

Dear Best Creative Writer Ever,

I am willing to bet that you love reading creative stories. If that is the case, you probably love to write the same types of stories that you read. If you want to improve your non-fiction writing, you can begin to read more non-fiction. Writing non-fiction will then become easier for you.

Signed,
The Editor

Have something to ask the Editor?

Send in

Questions for the Editor. We will help you with all of your writing questions and problems!

editor@citykidzworld.com



The Best Writing Coaches in New Jersey

Site Director
Math and English Teacher



Daniel Dominguez is a veteran CKW teacher. He can persuade even the most reluctant writers to get their thoughts out. He has a degree in English. Daniel is also the Site Director for CKW.

Administrative and Technology manager Language Arts/All Levels Senior Teacher/Language Arts/All Levels



Julia Kravchin is a gifted teacher who is patient, intelligent, and always ready to help! She has multiple talents with an education from Rutgers that includes literature and art. She also has experience in teaching ESL.



Laurel White is a fantastic teacher with several years of experience. She encourages children to be creative, while helping them master spelling, punctuation and vocabulary. Laurel teaches in homes and in the studio. She loves teaching our youngest students.

Math and English Teacher



Jess has taught freshman composition and fiction at the University of Washington, and she has taught writing at an arts camp. She also taught at a camp for gifted middle school students. She is great at teaching math and English.

Language Arts/All Levels



Rafael Manzanares is a brilliant academician with fantastic ideas. He is an expert at teaching critical thinking. He is working on his master's degree in education.

Language Arts Teacher



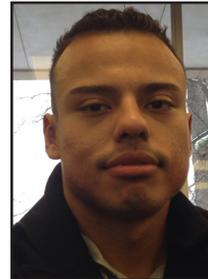
Roman Alexander holds two bachelors' degrees from Rutgers University, one in history and the second in criminal justice, as well as a master's degree in history from the University of Oregon. Historical writing and research are passions and he aspires to one-day work in academia.

Language Arts Teacher



Regina is a two time graduate of The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts in English Secondary Education and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her past teaching experiences have been on both the middle school and high school levels.

Language Arts/All Levels



Martin Alonso is a distinguished teacher who finds creative ways to engage his students. He is an honors student at a local college, studying for his degree in English. He is also a skilled photographer and videographer.

Language Arts/All Levels



Lois Mandell is a teacher at City Kidz World Writing Studio, a home instructor, and a student in the Teacher of Students with Disabilities graduate program at Rider University. Currently teaching for nine years, she loves watching her students grasp a new idea and excel in their learning.

AWESOME ILLUSTRATION INTERNS



Gabriella Farfan is a recent illustration major graduate. Her passion is creating memorable characters that come alive through her drawings. She loves to do this in either 2D illustration or animation. Her biggest inspiration is Disney and she hopes to be able to work there someday.



Ben Clifford is a 24-year-old graphic designer/illustrator, living somewhere in the mountains of America with his cat Boots (Maine, to be precise). Ben's one

and only true passion in life is writing and drawing comics. He has been known to skip meals and social activity just to draw. Ben enjoys fine wine, cycling, and movies.



Kirstie Belle Diongzon has illustrated for three issues of City Kidz World magazine. She is an art student.

Cover Models;

Krizia Dominguez.
Parum Shab
Palash Shah
Ellison Murray
Anshika Virani



Career Opportunities: City Kidz World hires teachers and interns to help us do our wonderful work. Contact info@citykidzworld.com for more information.

Table of Contents

Meet Eagle Scout: Devon Weiss...5
 A Weird Treasure Hunt.....6
 Zombie Attack.....6
 I LOVE.....7
 Aashish mAKes A ChrIstmAs CookIe.....7
 Ellison's Fun Day...7
 Introducing Sohum...7
 The Halloween Night...7
 Small Moment Contest...7
 Four Monsters...8
 Best Beach...9
 Some facts about Polar Bears...9
 Art work by Tanmay Singh...10
 Cinderella...1
 Ice Cream Party!...11
 Maria's Journey for Success and Happiness...12
 Art work by Hafsa Rahaman...13
 My First Victory...14
 LIFE...15
 My Bestfriend John Green...15
 When I was 18...15
 Jx4...16, 17
 My Dog ...17
 Sam's Adventure to the Eye of Jupiter...18
 Max's Adventure in Raxus Galaxy19, 20
 THE BOY GENIUS...20,27
 A Dark Halloween Night...21
 The Halloween Party ...21
 The Treasure...22
 The Finding of the Three Keys...23
 Vocabulary Contest...24
 A Taste of your own Medicine...25
 Everyone Needs Help Sometimes...25
 Trapped in a Videogame Contest Winner26
 A Snorkel in the Hawaiian Ocean...27
 Fortune...28
 the Boy And the Eagle...28
 The Fascinating Tooth Fairy...28
 Summer Trip...29
 Having Friends...29
 Four Objects...30
 Bitten...30
 The Big Adventure...31
 Stacy Stays Home...31
 The Way Technology Impacts People in This Day and Age...32
 Doomsday...32
 The Special Present...33
 The First Goal...34
 A Trios Exploration about Alligators...35
 Rosy and the Diamond...35
 The Bad Memory Mystery...36
 Giraffe Myth...37
 Annual Middle School Writing Contest 1st Place Winner...38,39,40
 The Trapping Animals...40
 Inventing a Video Game Contest Winner...41
 Harrow High School...42
 Basketball Footsteps43,44
 Thomas Edison Energy Smart Winners and Participants...45,50
 ICE SKATING...46
 A Fall Story...46
 THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!...46
 An Unexpected Event...47
 THE SNAKE...47
 My Cherished Moment in Tae- Kwon-Do...48
 My 10th BIRthAy!...48



Table of Contents

My Cruise Trip to the Bahamas...48
 MY FIRST TIME RAPPELING...49
 Time To Show My Talent...49
 My First Fishing Trip...49
 The Pit Stop Race...50
 A FUN DAY AT A FUN PLACE...50
 GNext Education...51
 Tears Of A Phoenix...52
 Photography Contest...52
 Meet an Up and Coming Young Actress...53
 Movie Pitch Contest Winner...53
 Guitar Lessons...54
 Information page...55
 Writing Rock Star Collage...56

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Index

Aayush Kishore.....14
 Aashish Goutham.....7
 Aditi. G. Anand.....31
 Amrith Yedlarajaiah.....49
 Ananya Gulati.....15
 Anjali Gullapally.....46
 Ani Jasti.....36
 Anjali Harish.....28
 Anjali Rajgopal.....46
 Ankitha Radhakrishnan.....31
 Ankitha Ungarala.....8
 Ansh Tandon.....20
 Arjun Tewari.....28
 Atharva Shailendra Desai,,,41
 AyushPrakash.....35
 Bhargav Jillepalli.....35
 Catherine Alexis Lee...47
 Damayanti Pachade.....46
 Devon Weiss.....5
 Dharani Moorthy.....48
 Divyashree Balaraman.....7
 Ellison Murray.....7
 Everett Murray.....17
 Farhan Mohammad.....30
 Hafsa Rahaman.....13
 Haiya Solanki.....11
 Harshil Cherukuri,,,34
 Harveer Kamboj.....18
 Hitesh Ale.....26
 Isha Shah.....27
 Ishaan M. Patel.....49
 Ishika Maheshwari.....37
 Jayashree Balaraman.....12
 Jiya Joshi.....9
 Karishma Yadlapalli.....53
 Kaustav (Riju) Patra.....52
 Krisha Mahadevia.....33
 Krish Shah.....6
 Krishnan Tholkappian.....48
 Laasyasri Vaddepalli.....54
 Likhitha Kandukuri.....25
 Mariam Elawadi.....42
 Meghan G.....47
 Natalia.....48
 Neel R. Viswanathan.....50
 Nikhil Chandrasekar...50
 Nikhil Pampati.....43
 Nina Soukhanovskii.....38
 Palash Shah.....6
 Parum Shah.....34
 Pranav Kota.....9
 Riya Ubriani.....53
 Rohan Saha,,,22
 Rohit Rao.....41
 Rohith Bandi.....23
 Sahiti Kota.....40
 Sai Aneesh.....30
 Saisiddharth Mariappan...16,21
 Sainthavi Sivakumar.....29
 Samhitha Marepally.....20
 Sana Khalid Aakhunzzada.....42
 Sarah Andrews.....7
 Sarayu Kodali.....11
 Saumya Khurana.....21
 Shaurya Srivastava.....15
 Simar Kamboj.....19
 Sohum Gupta.....7
 Sumanth Chiluvuri.....32
 Tanmay Singh.....10
 Varun Mathur.....49
 Varun Tewari.....25
 Vishal Madiseti.....32
 Yasasvi Tallapaneni.....28
 Yash.....29

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Submit stories and pictures to
 material to City Kidz World
 magazine at
 editor@citykidzworld.com.



Meet Eagle Scout: Devon Weiss

Camping Nights-148 nights
Service- 223 hours

plus my Eagle Project of 167 hours

BSA High Adventure & Summer Camps

Camp Henson- 2007

Camp Minsi- 2008

Camp Henson- 2009

Camp Rodney- 2010

National Jamboree- 2010

Camp Read- 2011

Camp Minsi-2012

National Jamboree- 2013

Troop Leadership

Junior Assistant Scout Master, Senior Patrol Leader,
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Historian, Patrol
Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader

Order of the Arrow-

Sakuwit Lodge 2

OA Ordeal 05/15/2010

OA Brotherhood 06/11/2011

Membership Chair- 2011

Assistant Service Chair- 2012

Service Chair- 2013

Training

National Youth Leadership Training

National Advance Youth Leadership Experience

Extreme Leadership Experience

National Leadership Seminar- OA

Earned 50 Merit Badges

A Recap of My Eagle Project

I led a team of scouts and adults to catalog over 300 books that were William Flemer III's book collection. He was a Botanist and owner of the Kingston Nurseries, who wrote books and had a vast collection of horticultural books. We cataloged these books for an appraisal. It was in the Lock Tenders House in Kingston, NJ. My family helped move donated furniture from Newton, NJ, into the troop trailer and drove it all the way down to Kingston, NJ, in a snowstorm. I then led Troop 10 to unpack the furniture from the trailer into the Lock Tenders House, which is a 2-story building. This totaled 561 total hours of service. I enjoyed this project and learned many aspects of leadership.



Trail to Eagle

Joined Unit 04/12/2007

Scout- 05/24/2007

Tenderfoot- 10/24/2007

Second Class-

10/02/2008

First Class- 03/05/2009

Star- 10/15/2009

Life- 07/13/2010

Eagle- 05/29/2013

Bronze Palm- 09/19/13



What was the most challenging aspect of becoming an Eagle Scout?

The most challenging aspect of becoming an Eagle scout was the service project. I started my project with cataloging 150 books that were in boxes. That took me a couple of work days. Then they found another 150 books so that took me a few more work days. In total I cataloged 300 books. They wanted an appraisal for the books, so I had to type every little detail about every book into a spreadsheet. For example, title, author, number of pages, copyright date, its Library of Congress number, etc. They had these huge filing cabinets donated to be put in the house, so I had a work day moving them into the D&R Canal Lock Tender's House. I also fundraised with a car wash to purchase table, chairs, and a lamp for the library room. I received a donation of metal shelving to display the books. On the day I called the Kingston Historical Society to tell them how much was fundraised, they told me that the day before someone called and donated a lot of furniture, but it was two hours away. This became another work day to pack it into my troop's trailer and haul the furniture back. Lastly, I had to unload the furniture, so that took my last work day. All in all, I had over 500 total man hours, with my time of 167 hours in those 500 hours. It was a lot of work and I am grateful that I have a giving and helpful Boy Scout Troop and family, who care about me.

What Is most rewarding about being an Eagle Scout?

The most rewarding part was after I received the Eagle rank. My family was proud of me, my Troop was proud of me and a lot of people truly believed that I deserved Eagle, including myself. I worked hard in my scouting career and felt I truly deserved this rank. Before I got Eagle, a lot of people kept telling me that if you get Eagle, a lot of doors will be opened for you in your career and a lot of people will respect you. Hopefully they are right. To conclude, what is most rewarding is that I can now start my career in life. I plan to stay active in my home troop as I will be attending college in the area.



A Weird Treasure Hunt

By Krish Shah

You may actually not like this story. I will start with an introduction – what, am I kidding? I will start with the story first. There were two boys. As usual they were always breaking stuff and one day it was their lucky day...and not so lucky day. The not so lucky part was when....they broke a \$1000 vase. Don't ask me how it broke. Okay I will tell you. When they were playing catch, they purposely threw the ball at the vase. The lucky part was when they found a TREASURE MAP underneath the vase. The other bad news was they ripped the map purposely. I still haven't told you the names of the boys. The names are Elie and Jack. The other good news was that, there were 10 more maps. Wait I forgot to tell you where they found the maps. They found the maps in a toilet paper box. I know it might be a prize, but it was actually a real map. The first direction said: "Go to your toilet and flush it 10 times so the REAL MAP would come." Going forward the next direction said: "Walk 100 miles forward and get in the middle of nowhere until strangers are following you."

Elie asked, "Is this map watching us or can it talk?"

The map replied, "Yes I could do both of those things. But seriously now the strangers are following you."

"Are you going crazy because that is awesome?" said Jack.

Elie and Jack asked the strangers to go away, and the strangers said, "FINE."

Map says it is a game now. Map said to walk the pyramids at the water park.

"Can we play there too?" suggested Elie and Jack.

"You want to walk all 100 steps to get your swim suits?" said map.

"YES!" said Elie and Jack. So they went all the way back and got their swim suits. So they now walked 200 miles to get to the water park, but they had no money. To get the money now they had to walk 200 miles to the bank to get \$100. Finally they got to the real pyramids.

Map says, "NOT TO GO HERE!"

Elie says, "SHSHHHHHH I AM SCREAMING LIKE THE REST OF US."

Jack says, "I AM NOT SCREAMING, ACTUALLY I AM!"

So they got to the real place this time. Map says to go to that brick and press it. They did that and what happened was nothing.

Map said, "That brick - FORGET IT. It is right there!"

Elie and Jack said, "OHHHH! WAIT WHAT?"

Map said, "AHHHHHH! Right there."

Elie and Jack said, "OHHH!"

So this time they pressed the right

one, and now came a door which

led to a door. Map read that is was

a secret code. While they were fig-

uring out the code another charac-

ter comes, whose name is Bob. Bob

was Elie and Jack's nemesis. Bob

said I shall get that treasure.

"MUHU HAAAA," Bob's mom said, "Honey change your underpants. You wore it five days."

Bob said, "No, not when when I am doing my evil laugh."

"So the code is ego EGGLE EGGLE EGGLE." said Elie.

"Yes," said map.

"Eggle Eggle Eggle," said Elie.

Then came a frozen yogurt coupon.

"Really," said Elie, but that's not all, said map.

"Oh! it's an elevator," said Jack.

Elie asked, "So it's a new treasure. Is it not buried a 1000 years ago?"

Map replied, "Of course it is. It has danger."

Elie said in amazement, "Oh look, a frozen yogurt stand. That's what the coupon must be for."

"Are you looking for treasure?" asked Bob coming from nowhere.

"YYEEEESSS," said Elie and Jack in one voice.

"It's mine," said Elie.

"It's his," said Jack. "It's his."

"I meant it's mine," said Bob.

Elie, Jack and Bob asked, "Where is the next direction?"

"In 2 miles," replied Map. So they ran 2 miles. Elie found THE

\$1 million treasure. With the money the first thing they bought

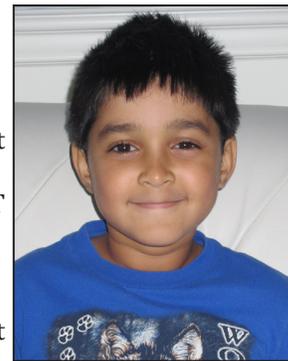
was a new vase. Then they got lots of game consoles. Then one

week later, you won't believe what happened. All the consoles

broke and guess what they found? They found a NEW MAP.

"Let's save this map for 10 more years," said Elie.

"I am listening to you," said Jack.



Krish is an awesome 2nd grader. This story has twists and turns! He is becoming a great writer.

Zombie Attack

By Palash Shah

There was an army of zombies who wanted to attack the humans. They wanted to get revenge because the humans attacked them. Then they went to Earth. They ran away from the zombies. They thought that they were going to win easily. They did not. They forgot the U.S.A army. The U.S.A army came. They said, "Oh no." But they still attacked. Zombies called

their army. They fought. Some guy was shooting bombs at the zombies. He was in a car. Then a zombie guy went on a helicopter and he dropped bombs. He missed all the times. Then the army guys shot every zombie. The U.S.A. had a celebration!



Palash is a fantastic writer.



6

Small Stories

I LOVE....

By Divyashree Balaraman

I love to have playdates at my home.

My favorite playdates are with my friends - Eva, Ishaan, Shwetha and Henaya. We love to have fun playing Hide-and-seek in a dark room. We count up to 10. Then we try to find each other. When we are done, we will watch TV and eat snacks. We watch Good Luck Charlie, and eat Sun Chips. Then they have to go home in their Mom's red car.

AASHISH MAKES A CHRISTMAS COOKIE

By Aashish Goutham

One day I was making Christmas cookies,

I like Christmas cookies.

Cookies are healthy food, My cookies are healthy Christmas cookies.

I'm eating Christmas cookies. Cookies are good. I'm buying cookie dough in a dough shop.

Ellison's Fun Day

Once upon a time on a Saturday the sky was pale. On that Saturday it was my birthday. For my birthday I got a Rainbow Loom kit. When I got home, I opened the loom box. I saw lots of looms. I saw glow in the dark rubber bands and regular rubber bands. Then we went to Rai Rai Ramens. At Rai Rai Ramens I got a bowl of soup that was bigger than my head. When I got home, it was time for bed.



Divyashree has a great imagination.



Aashish wrote a story to make everyone hungry.



Ellison loves writing about food.

The Halloween Night

By Sarah Andrews

One nice Halloween night, a little witch was flying in the sky looking for trick-or-treat. It was her first time trick-or-treating and flying on the broomstick. She was looking for a town to trick-or-treat in. Suddenly, she fell off her broomstick. She was so scared she screamed as loud as she could, but before she hit the ground, a handsome guy came to catch her. She was happy that she did not get hurt, but then she said it is her worst Halloween. She said trick-or-treating is the worst thing in the world. "I would never go trick-or-treating. It is the worst thing in the world. I do not like trick-or-treating!" she said. Finally she went home.

Introducing Sohum

By Sohum Gupta

My Name is Sohum, I am in 1st grade.

I love to play with trains and cars and trucks. I love to explore about them. Trains are very useful vehicles. It carries passengers and freight. Trains run on the rail road which is a special kind of road made for train's wheels. There are various kinds of trains like electric, engine, steam engines and diesel engines. My favorite type of train is steam engines. They use coal to run. They are the oldest kind of trains, the rest are new. When I grow up older, I will try to make a hybrid train.



Sarah knows how to put a story together.



Sohum loves writing about cars.

Calling All 1st and 2nd graders!

**We want your small moment!
Send in your great stories to
editor@citykidzworld.com**



Four Monsters

By Ankitha Ungarala

In New York City there was a college for people with really good talents. There were five girls who were best friends. They were always included in the best plays in school. In one play, something really strange happened.

It all began one hot summer day. All the five girls were signing up for a play called "The Seven Seas." It was a family comedy about the seven seas. The five girls were Lexy, Briana, Jarleen, Alexa and Alina. When they all signed up, they got their parts. Lexy was a pirate, Briana was an island princess, Jarleen was the princess of Lexy's boat, Alexa was an island queen, and Alina was the queen of Lexy's boat.

One hour later, Alexa opened her locker for her music class when suddenly she saw a blue necklace with a note on it. It said, "When you finish music class, come meet me at the student mash bash."

She was really curious.

"The student mash bash?" wondered Alexa.

Then suddenly all of Alexa's friends came to warn her that it was music class time.

"Oh sorry," said Alexa.

She put the necklace on, took her music book, and skipped to class. After music class she opened her locker and looked at her note again.

She asked billions of people, "What is the student mash bash? Where is it?" Then after thinking hard about it, she finally knew where it was. It was in the student conference room. She never knew that it was there. But what was it?

She went inside and found a little portal leading to a magical place. It was pitch black, but she went inside. She went inside and found a dead tree. It was also pitch black. There was a big machine that said, "Step inside if you dare!"

Then all the girls came in and saw the portal. "Oh no!" said Lexy.

"Alexa must have gone after music."

Then all the four girls hopped inside the portal and there they saw Alexa.

"Oh my goodness Alexa. We have been worrying about you!" said Jarleen.

"Who are you?" asked Alexa.

"We are your BFFs," said Briana.

"No! They are my BFFs," said Alexa. She pointed at a monster with seven eyes and an alien with 20 eyes!

"Ahhhhhhhh!" screamed all the girls.

"Y---your friends are monsters?" asked Alina.

"No!" said Alexa. They are my friends.

"Alexa we need to get you out of here. It's - you know - evil." Then all the girls dragged Alexa out of the Portal.

"What happened?" said Alexa.

"You were trapped in a portal," said Jarleen. Then when all the girls helped Alexa figure out what was going on, the monsters came out of the portal! Nobody noticed that they had come out, but what Lexy did notice is that they came out with special teeth, ears, and a string of gold, two special screws and a mask that was blue. Lexy was speechless. When she saw the five things in the monsters' hands, she shouted, she hollered, she did everything to show how scared she was.

Then all the girls saw the monsters walking in the lunch room. Now they were all speechless too. They ran and hid in the janitor's closet. "O---M---," said Jarleen, but then suddenly she was gone just like that! They looked outside and found Jarleen was looking like a wolf. "Oh Go---" Alina did not last. She was blue with scary nails and she had a black dress with blood on her. She had neon purple eyes. She turned blue and looked like she was in the ocean.

"I am gonna cr---," Lexy didn't last to till she jumped out of nowhere dressing like a mummy. "This is crazy so let's g----," Alexa did not even come up she disappeared.

Briana was the only one left she was about to be eaten, but "Aahhhhhhhhhhh!" said Briana.

"It was all a dream, one little dream!"

For the rest of the night, Briana slept so nicely that she didn't even get up.



Ankitha is a great writer. This awesome story has wonderful description and it is scary.

Best Beach

By Jiya Joshi

Aren't beaches fun? I remember the first time I went to the beach. I think I was 6 or 7. It was my first time going to the beach so I was scared about the waves. It was mainly because the waves were so big and I was so small.

We were close to the beach. I was jumping up and down. That's what I do when I am excited. After two hours, we were finally about to be there. I was a little scared and a little happy. I was scared because of the big waves. I was happy because my best friend was going to be there!

We were finally there! I was so excited. My best friend and I ran to each other, held hands, and jumped up and down. Thithi is two grades higher than me. She is also my size.

Thithi and I ran to the sand and made sand angels. It was really funny. We gathered tons of seashells to decorate our beautiful sandcastle. We made a tunnel. It was huge! We covered the tunnel with more seashells. We even covered Thithi with sand.

Finally, Thithi wanted to go into the waves. "Oh no..." I whined, "Why do we have to go?" Thithi knew I didn't like the waves. "Come on. It isn't that bad," she said. I trusted her so I held her hand started to walk with her. "Brrrrr," I screamed. I was shivering. She brought me deeper in the water. The rocks and shells were poking my feet.

"Ouch," I thought to myself. I felt a little warmer. I started to splash. It was fun until a big wave almost wiped me out. I had water in my mouth and in my throat. I didn't feel well. Thithi carried me back to shore. I still had fun so I kept on going into the water.

At the end of the day I couldn't believe that I actually had some fun. I learned something really important that day. That lesson was until you try something new, you won't know if you'll like it. I took a shower and had to leave. I thanked my best friend a ton of times and left.

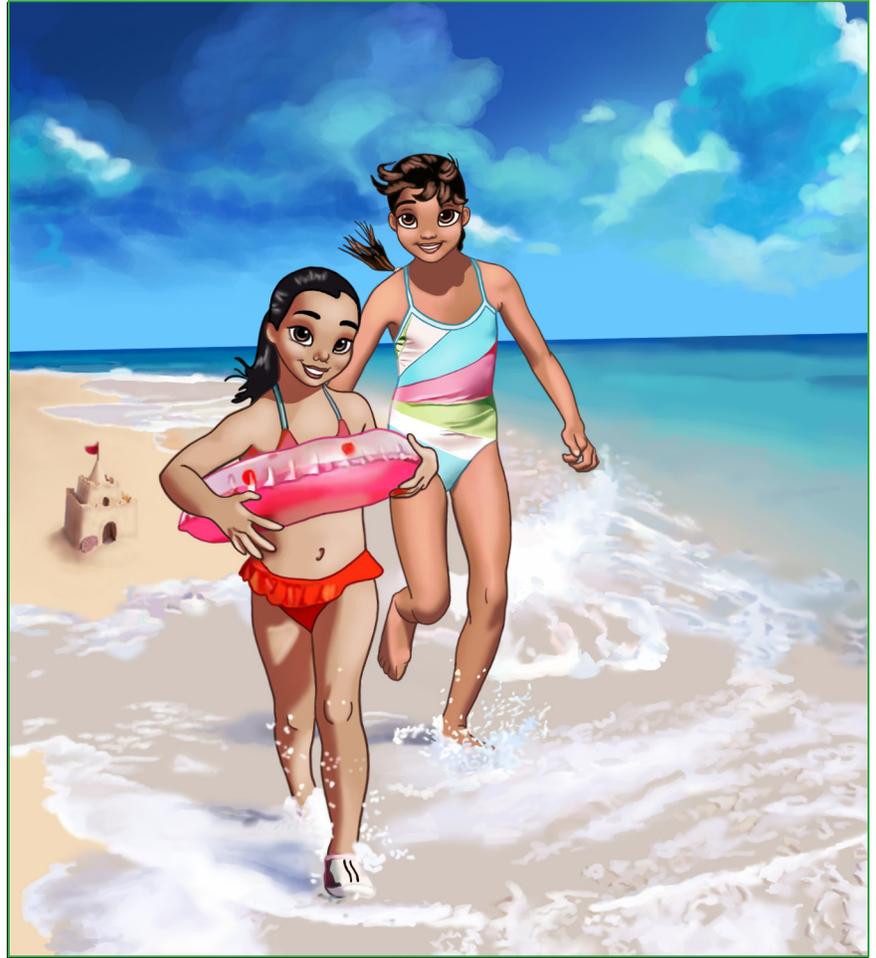


Illustration by Gabriella Farfan



Jiya is a hardworking writer who is creative and uses great vocabulary!

Some facts about Polar Bears

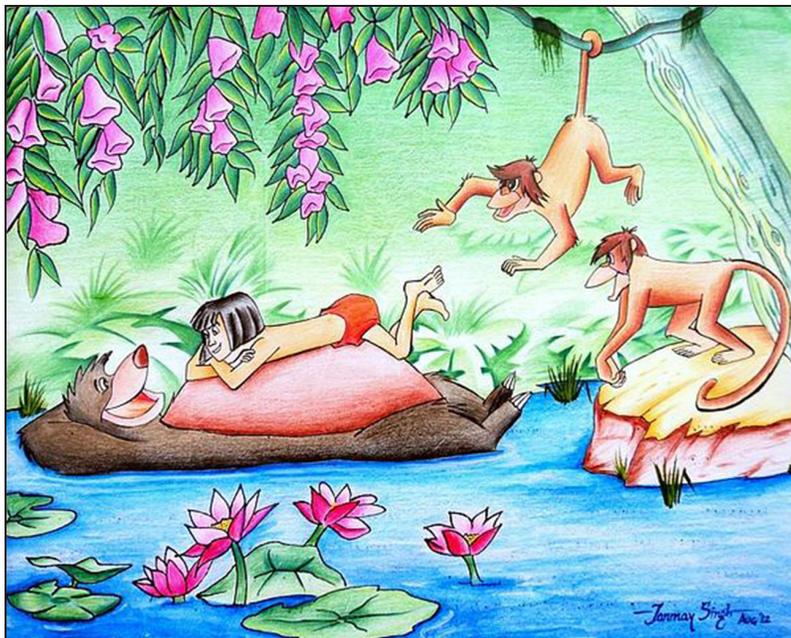
By Pranav Kota

Polar bears live in the Arctic. Where it is very cold and snows in all the seasons. Polar bears hunt seals and fish for their food. Polar bears are white. Polar bears swim in the cold water. Polar bears have white fur on their body and also they have black fur under their outer layer of white fur. Polar bears spend most of their time at sea. Polar bears have 42 teeth. Female Polar bears give birth to their babies. Polar bears can reach speed up to 25 miles per hour.

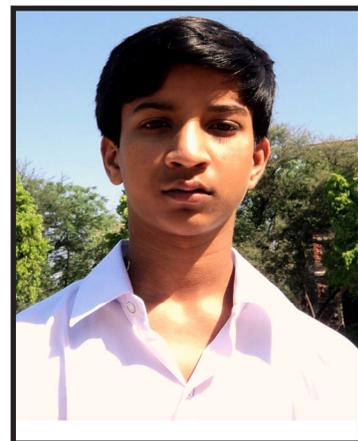


Pranav is in 1st grade, but he writes a wonderful fact paragraph! Keep up the great work!

Accomplished International Artist: Tanmay Singh of India



By Tanmay Singh



Tanmay is a budding artist in India. He has submitted several works of art to this magazine over the years!



CINDERELLA

By Sarayu Kodali

Hi my name is Sarayu Kodali. In this story I am going to make Cinderella into a horror story. Hope you like it!

Once upon a time, there was nice and sweet girl named Cinderella. She always loved her parents, but they died. Ever since then, Cinderella had a wicked mean old stepmother who made her do chores and two mean stepsisters who always teased her.

One day, the stepmother and stepsisters secretly went to a ball without Cinderella knowing so she wouldn't whine. Cinderella was wondering what happened to them, but she kept doing her chores so she would be a good girl. She kept on thinking about what happened to them and she was worried. So she sat outside on the porch and cried. A few minutes later, a spark showed up in the sky. It was the North Star. She thought that if she followed the star she would find where they were. She knew she could go to the wrong place, but it was worth a try.

She kept on following the star till she came. It was the ball!

It said, "Prince X Party! The most beautiful girl will spend time with me!" Cinderella always wanted to meet the Prince. Now it was her chance, but she was in a rotten, old dress and if she wore that, there was no chance of her getting to meet the Prince. She

wanted to see what it was like inside the palace. She looked inside to get a little peek. There she saw her stepmother and stepsisters talking to the Prince. She thought bad of them. She wanted to get home as quickly as possible so they wouldn't know she was there. She ran quickly to her house. While she was running something appeared to her. It was a beautiful fairy. She said, "Come with me and you will see, I will make you beautiful, just like me, and nobody will recognize you." Then she said, "Come back by midnight so you don't look rotten and messy again." So she went back to the ball and entered. The Prince thought that Cinderella was the prettiest so he picked her to drink punch with him. In reality, he gave her a love potion and turned her into a strong heroine. The fruit punch also magically subdued the stepmother and stepsisters. By the time it was over it was midnight and the Prince thought, "What have I done!" Cinderella thought, "What happened?" The news spread all over the world that there was a strong heroine at the party. Some people found out it was Cinderella and tried to capture her and subdue her. In the end, Cinderella made it to heaven and saw her mom and dad there so they continued to have a happy life.



Sarayu works hard on her stories. This is creative.

ICE CREAM PARTY!

By Haiya Solanki

Once upon a time there lived a princess who loved ice cream. Her name was Creamy. Her mom, the queen named Katie, asked her if she wanted to invite her friends for an ice cream party.

Creamy said, "Yes yes yes!" jumping up and down. Her friends' names were Kristy, Alice, Grace and Ani.

Creamy's mom said, "Let's get started with the decorations."

"Okay!" said Creamy. Creamy helped her mom put up pink and purple streamers and colorful balloons. They decorated everything. They made arrangements for ice cream and yummy snacks.

In the afternoon, her friends came. Everybody said hello to everyone. Everybody had brought their swimming suit. Suddenly it was raining. All friends were sad. Creamy got an idea.

She organized some activities and crafts that they can do together with her mom's

help. They played dress-up with the clothes. They played snakes and ladders and made some different colored hats with paper and glue. Three hours passed. It was still raining. All the friends want to play outside. Ani had a solution. She said that they could play in the rain and have ice cream. Everyone liked her idea. Everyone went outside and cheered. They also brought their pets too. Soon, the rain stopped. Now they were so happy and had ice cream and snacks together.

Princess Creamy and her friends had wonderful day together. They had enjoyed it very much.



Haiya is one of the most creative 2nd graders!



Editor's Choice

Maria's Journey for Success and Happiness

By Jayashree Balaraman

There once was a girl named Maria. Maria moved from Trinidad to New Jersey. Maria always spoke English with an accent. The next day, as Maria was getting ready to school, she thought that everyone would hear her accent. She finally said to Lucky, her cat, as she was stroking the white part of Luck's fur for luck, that she would want to stay home with the cat and mom. As she finished her breakfast, she looked into her mom's eyes. There was a little glimmer in mom's eyes, Maria thought, as she kissed her mom goodbye and ran out of the kitchen with her backpack. The reason she ran was that if she saw mom again, Maria would have started crying due to anxiety.

As she began to walk to the bus stop, the bus was already there, so Maria ran like she was on fire until she reached the bus stop. Maria said "Sorry!" Everybody but Anna started laughing because of her accent. One boy even asked, "Why do you have an accent?" Maria was completely embarrassed because of what the boy had asked. Mimi and Arlette were even meaner than the boy was. The two girls were whispering mean things about Maria. Everybody on the bus including Anna could hear what Mimi and Arlette were whispering. Maria did not want to have eye-contact with Mimi and Arlette because then she would scream back and everybody would hear her accent again!

When Maria got to school, she walked to her homeroom class. Her teacher's name was Mrs. Wellington. "Come on in!" Mrs. Wellington welcomed Maria. All the children were having a fun time in the beautiful classroom. Maria told Mrs. Wellington what had happened on the bus. The teacher calmed her down and said she would take care of it.

Later in the day, it was Maria's turn to read aloud. Mimi and Arlette were in Maria's class. Maria was shaking with fear as Mimi and Arlette were giggling their heads off. As Maria started reading, everybody except for Mrs. Wellington and Anna started to laugh "Students, why are you laughing at Maria?" asked Mrs. Wellington. However, it was too late Maria had run out of the classroom and locked herself in the bathroom sobbing. Meanwhile, Anna was rushing to the bathroom and asked in a kind voice

if Maria was there. Maria immediately stopped sobbing and went to unlock the door. "Do you want to go back now? Because I have come to get you," told Anna quietly. Then the two girls went to the classroom and even went home together.

Maria was glad that she was finally at her home sweet home. Maria was at dinner and told her parents everything that had happened in school that day. "First I was embarrassed on the bus, second I got embarrassed in class at read aloud." Maria told how the students had laughed at her in the classroom. Maria's dad suggested that she tell the principal what had happened in the classroom.

The next day, Maria was walking to school. She had really wanted to talk to the principal about the situation going on. As she reached school, Maria went straight to the principal's office. Maria kindly knocked on the door. "Come in," said, a friendly voice, Mrs. Bernstein. As Maria went in, the principal was looking at a newspaper. Maria wanted to go back, but it was too late.

"What's up Maria Barton? How is school?" asked the principal kindly. "Um, I want to tell you something. These two girls Mimi and Arlette are bothering me. They say I am not speaking English when I am!" exclaimed Maria. The principal comforted Maria and promised to sort it out at the earliest. Later, the principal and Mrs. Wellington called the girls Mimi and Arlette during recess time and patiently explained to them about the situation. Mimi and Arlette realized their mistake. On the bus home, Maria sat alone first and Anna asked if she could sit with her. Later Mimi and Arlette also became friends with Maria and the four girls became the best friends forever.



Jayashree is a hard working writer. Her stories rock!



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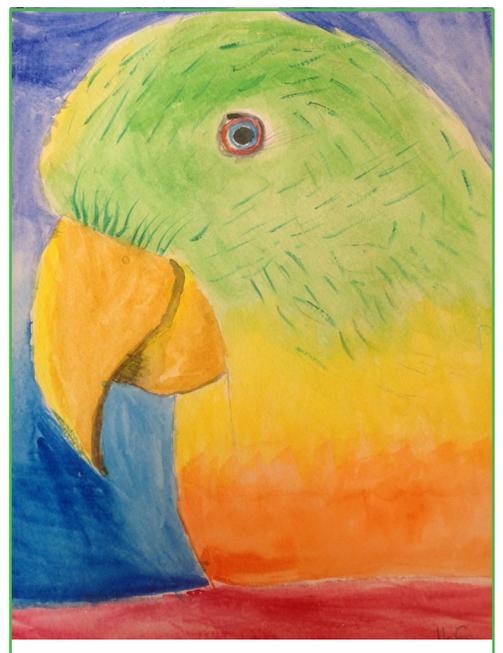
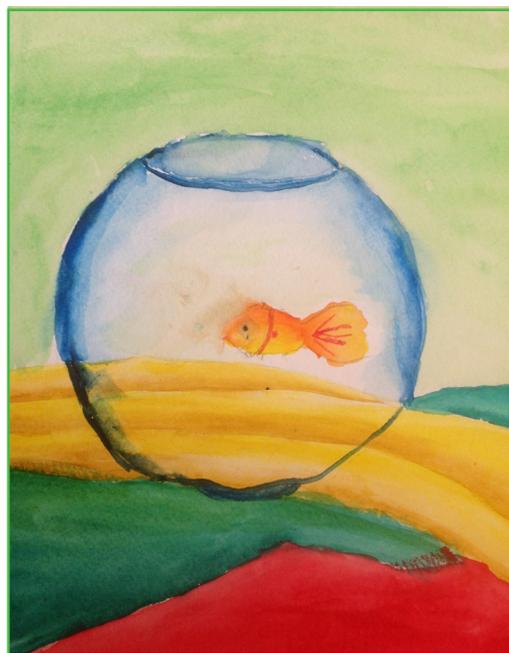


Art Work By

Hafsa Rahaman



Hafsa is a great artist! She has been submitting art work to City Kidz World for more than a year.



My First Victory

By Aayush Kishore

It was a cold October day. The cool, fresh air blew against my frosty, pale white cheeks. There stood a skinny boy with lots of jet black hair and a blue and yellow neon sweater with dark, brilliant red shorts in front of a sky, blue tennis court. The birds were chirping and a loud noise from the garbage truck was heard by everyone around him. The only thing that he could see from his dark sienna brown eyes was his opponent and the court. His hearing was even more incredible. He could only hear the fast thumping of his heart. He felt a small drop from the dripping sweat coming from the end of his tanned nose.

It was match point, which meant that if he won one more intense point, he would be soon standing with a golden trophy and on the base would be engraved the name Aayush Kishore. This boy was me. I took a deep breath. The only trouble was that if I lost one more point, I would lose the match.

Trembling, I slowly picked up my yellow and black Babolat racquet. I tossed the lemon yellow tennis ball as high as my short hands would reach then I smacked it as hard as I could as though I was trying to hit a homerun. As quickly as the ball had reached the other side, it came smashing back in a blink of an eye at the same great speed I had given the ball. The ball had so much angle that it ran off the court into my neighbor's court. But no time to say sorry. The next ball was just like the first ball except worst. I was out of luck as it slammed into my face. Last time it bounced into the other court. This time it bounced into a hard, stone brick wall. I felt the searing pain in my head everything went blurry. But I could see the lemon yellow ball in the distance. To my shock, it lay against the metal fence on the other side. My chocolatey mouth from before the game hung open in disbelief. A second later, two worried parents were rushing over to where I was. "Are you okay?" squealed my mother.

"Oh my gosh my little sweetheart is hurt!"

On my head was a bloody cut. But in the end, I got my trophy with my name Aayush Kishore engraved on the bottom of the marble base just like I had imagined. I was so overwhelmed with joy that the cut felt better. I had to sit out for recess for two whole weeks! Mothers! But in the end, what I really learned was that if you want to achieve things in life you, have to work hard, even when bad things happen.

Aayush is a prolific writer. He submits to City Kidz World regularly.



Sports Story Contest!

Do you have an Exciting Sports Moment you Want to Describe!

Ages: 7 to 14

Word Count: 300 to 600 words

Deadline: March 5

Submit to editor@citykidzworld.com



Poetry Page



Ananya Gulati

Ananya is a great poet. She works hard to develop her great ideas.

LIFE

By Ananya Gulati

Life:

*Full of adventure
Full of love*

Life:

A complex subject You can't define

Life:

*So fun
But depressing*

*At the same time Life:
Educational, Beautiful,
Enjoyable*

Life:

*Precious and delicate So enjoy it
While you can!*

Poetry Contest!

Submit your best poem by March 5.
editor@citykidzworld.com



Shaurya Srivastava

Shaurya is prolific! He writes all the time and here are two of his great poems!

My Bestfriend John Green

By Shaurya Srivastava

*My best friend John Green
Wears once a day blue jeans
He eats stinky cheese
And plays ball with ease
His mom who is called Annette
From a weird planet
Lives life like a breeze
Discovering weird things
He is a nice guy
With a wish to fly
He and I are always friends
My best friend John Green!*

When I was 18

By Shaurya Srivastava

*When I was 18,
I was the size of a tree.
Big, tall cool and free*

*I tried to be neat,
But I still smelled like raw meat,
Neat freaks smirked at me.*

*I was daydreaming,
About being the prince charming,
So I failed my test,*

*I felt quite awkward,
Still I felt very happy,
When I was 18.*



Jx4



Illustration By Benjamin Clifford

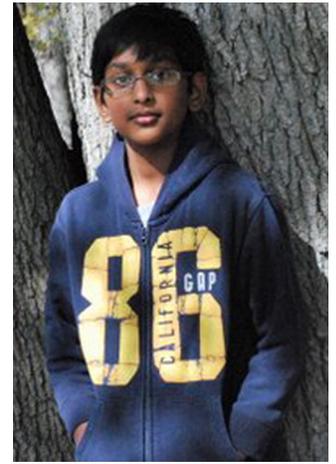
By Saisiddharth Mariappan

Boom! Smash! The sound of metal was everywhere. Panic sounded in the sky as the screams held in midair. How did this all happen? It was all because of a teensy-weensy mistake. This is how it all started:

“SSSS!” The sound of metal melting filled the room. As it came to his side, Jake Chester shaped the melted metal into a suit of armor; then a head, arms, legs and a core in the middle, forming a button next to it. Then, as if on cue, Jack Chester pulled it onto a giant, metal tray. After that, he passed it to John Chester, who put it into the freezer while Jerry Chester ran around the room shouting “WE MADE A ROBOT!” until Jake told him to be quiet. Ten minutes later, John pulled it out of the freezer and ta-da! It was an advanced robot!

There was a stunned silence in the room. Suddenly, Jer-

ry started running around saying “LET’S NAME IT JJ!” until Jack seized him by the arm and dragged him into the timeout chair, which was made especially for Jerry. While Jerry sat there, Jake brought up an idea. “Why don’t we call it Jx4?” “I think that’s a great idea!” Jerry added in sarcastically. After that John put some tape on his mouth.



You will love this action-packed story by Saisiddharth

John and Jack agreed with the name (Jerry did not) so the robot’s name was Jx4. Finally, they added the finishing touch: a feelo-meter. There were six modes: happy, sad, grumpy, glad, upset and awesome. “Let’s go,” said Jack. As soon as they left, Jerry jumped out of his chair and pressed the button on Jx4. But what Jerry did not know was that he pressed the multiply button, so Jx4 multiplied into six Jx4’s. The robots were not good anymore. They blasted Jerry out of the way and flew up, leaving the ceiling to fall on Jerry. Just before he fainted, Jack rushed in and pulled him out of the way.

“Why did you do it?” asked Jake for the millionth time. Jerry knew this was his fault. He was more mature now. He was 8, John was 11, Jack was 14 and Jake was 16. It was almost two years and they still had not found the robot.

“I’m sorry,” Jerry whimpered. The robots had launched a COLOSSAL attack on December 4th.

“I have an idea,” Jack said. “If we were able to build a robot, we can build a time machine, right?” That’s it!” Jake exclaimed.

“We could go back in time and stop the attack!”

So they started building a timemachine. It took them four months, but in the end they succeeded. But they needed someone to test it.

“Uh-oh,” Jerry thought.

“Why don’t we make Jerry go?” John suggested. Every bone in Jerry’s body froze.

He couldn’t hear anything they said other than “It’s the green button, Jerry” They pushed him into the time machine and he got teleported to... the 1990’s! Jerry pressed the green button and he was... back home! As soon as the others saw he came back, they hopped in as well. And then... they were there.....

“Boom!” “Smash!” The sound metal was everywhere. Panic pierced the sky as the screams held in midair. “God!” thought



Jx4 cont from page 16

Jake. And then they saw Jx4, only he had grown bigger; and so had the others robots. Jx4 was clearly the leader Whatever he did, the others did too. "Maybe..." Jerry thought. "Jake! Throw me at Jx4!" he yelled. Jake didn't need telling twice. He picked up Jerry like he was a feather and hurled him at Jx4. Jerry held on for dear life as he tried to climb up to the core. "Jerry!" he heard Jack and John screaming. He looked around and saw Jake throwing everything he could at the other robots, from soda cans to tires. Jerry kept climbing until (at last!) he reached the core. Now, all he had to do was press the button. Luckily, he had brought a hammer. He loved using a hammer because his favorite superhero was Thor. Thor's weapon is a hammer so he liked hammers. He banged the hammer as hard as he could on the button and

viola! It went down with a CLANG! Just then, he lost all his energy and fell... straight into John's hands! He opened his eyes to find one tiny robot: Jx4! The four Chester brothers cheered together. They decided the feelo-meter should be remade. "Well, should we go now?" Jake asked. "Yeah!" they said together So with a click of a button, they were back in their time (though dizzy). And from that day on, Jx4 became part of their family. Soon, the 4 Chester brothers and Jx4 became famous. Many robots were made by Jx4's design, but none of them were as good as the original. The brothers passed the plan for the next generation of the Chester family to know. After all the brothers died, Jx4 still plays a major part in history. People will never forget the story of Jx4!

My Dog

By Everett Murray

When I got my dog, it was the best day of my life. We went to the dog store where we saw a lot of dogs to choose from. In the corner, the dog was waiting for us to choose it. We did. We got the most smallest and youngest dog there. We named her Sheba

When we first got her she skipped around not knowing what to do and barking at other dogs. Sheba is five years younger than me. Sometimes we wouldn't find her for awhile because she would slip under a gate to another yard. We would have to get her, of course. On top of that she would always jump on couches and leave fur on the couches.

Now that she is five years old, in dog years she is thirty five. Dogs only live up to fifteen and so she does not ruin couches anymore. She is better at listening and she doesn't explore as much.



Everett has been writing for City Kidz World since he was 7 years old. He loves his dog.



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Sam's Adventure to the Eye of Jupiter



By Harveer Kamboj

Illustration By Gabriella Farfan

"Bring, bring!" went the alarm. It was 1:00 in the morning. Sam was excited because he was going to the Eye of Jupiter. He said, "I don't want to be late."

He quickly got ready and snuck out of the house. He walked to the space station. He snuck all the way to the rocket. He put on his seatbelt and pressed the launch button. He felt his jaw on his lip. He entered the atmosphere. He was really surprised about what he was seeing. He always wanted to go into the Jupiter's Eye. When he reached it, his teeth were chattering. He landed the rocket. He put on his space suit and got out. It was burning hot. It felt like 37,000 degrees. There was a huge stone about to fall and Sam was under it. Right before the stone fell, he quickly dodged it and said, "That was a close one."

It started to get hotter and hotter. He said to himself, "It is time to leave."

He quickly went to the rocket and pressed the set button. He headed back to Earth. When he entered the atmosphere, he heard a sonic boom and he broke the sound barrier. He landed safely in earth. He was so tired that when he got home, he went to sleep. He dreamed about another adventure.

Harveer is a great 3rd grader who put a lot of work into this interesting story.



Max's Adventure in Raxus Galaxy

By Simar Kamboj

Dan was going to his baseball game. Stacey was going to take care of Max while Dan was gone.

"Don't give any sugary stuff to Max, Stacey. Okay?" Max's mom said. Max's mom was taking his older brother, Dan, to his baseball game.

"Good luck Dan," Max said to Dan.

"Thanks," he answered. As soon as Dan left, Max had the chance to play with his toys. He went to his room.

"Yes," he said to himself.

"I can play with them," he included. But before playing with the toys, he saw something called the "Portal of Power." There was a swirl of green and purple mixed together in the portal. Max put his hand on the mysterious object. Something weird was going on. He got shrunk and he was sent to Raxus Galaxy. Raxus Galaxy was the toy galaxy Dan played with.

"Nooooooo!" he screamed.



Illustration By Benjamin Clifford

"Where am I?" Max said to himself.

Out of nowhere lasers started shooting him.

"Watch out!" Captain Craig said. Captain Craig quickly caught Max and he put him into his spaceship.

"Who are you?" Max asked.

"I am Captain Craig: captain of the troopers," he answered.

"Who are the troopers?" Max asked.

"Can you drive this?" Captain Craig asked.

"Sure," Max answered. Max dropped him off at Planet Inspiron.

"Drive the ship and attack Drago Vegan, okay?" he asked.

"Okay," Max answered. So he started to do his mission.

Max tried to fire at Drago Vegan, but he couldn't tell which one was Drago Vegan. Drago Vegan was a man who wanted to destroy Raxus Galaxy. He saw people who looked similar. They were the droids! He started to attack them. After attacking the droids, he saw someone different. It was Drago Vegan! He was in a spaceship trying to attack Max.

"You are not going anywhere now," Drago Vegan said to himself.

"Oh no," Max said.

WHOOSH! The torpedo went straight to attack him. Max tried to escape, but he couldn't escape. It was too late. Max was attacked.

"Wake up," Trent Walker said.

"Who are you?" Max asked.

"I am Trent Walker. This is my younger brother, Travis Walker. We are here to help you," Trent said.

"Where am I?" Max asked as he was getting up.

"You are on Planet X," Travis said.

"Did you get attacked by Drago Vegan," Trent asked.

"Yes, but why?" Max asked.

"Well, we were attacked by him. We were also were fighting for freedom," Travis answered.

"Let us train you how to use the "Sword of Power," in order to become a master, you need to be trained," he said to Max.

"I have to get back to Planet Inspiron. You are the chosen one to defeat Drago Vegan," Trent said.

"Only you can stop him," Travis said.

"Why me," Max asked.

"Why? Well, you already know solutions to get victory from Drago Vegan," Trent answered.

"When will my training start?" Max asked.

"Right now," Trent and Travis said together.

Max was getting trained. The more he trained, the stronger he got. Trent was teaching him how to use he force motion and how to use the "Sword of Power", while Travis was building the ship. Max was ready for the battle.

"Are you ready Max?" Trent said.

"Yes," Max answered.

"Now show what you know you know to Drago Vegan when you fight him," Trent said.

Max's Adventure *con't on 20*

THE BOY GENIUS

By Samhitha Marepally and Ansh Tandon

Once there was a boy named Max Meeks. Max was 8 years old and had very dark hair. Max lived in New Jersey in a big, red brick house with his parents Marvin and Nancy Meeks. But Max was not an ordinary child. Max was the smartest boy in America. By the age of 8, Max had already graduated from middle school and was ready to start his first year in high school. Since Max was so young he would be the shortest student Hersey High school ever had. The school was named after the famous chocolate company, and if students did well in class they would get free candy for a month. This story is about Max's frantic first day of high school.

Max woke up on September 4th and was very excited and nervous for his first day of high school. Max went to the bus stop and waited for the big, yellow school bus. As the bus pulled up, the school bus driver opened the door and was very surprised to see a little 8-year-old boy. Max tried to explain to the bus driver that he was starting his first day of high school, but she did not believe him and closed the doors and drove away without him. Max didn't understand why the driver closed the doors on him and ran after the bus screaming, "Wait for me, wait for me, wait

for me, I don't want to be late for school." Max was running so fast that he managed to catch the bus at a red light and had to climb through the

back window to get onto the bus. But while trying to climb into the bus, Max lost one of his new shoes and Max would have to hop with only one shoe until he got some new shoes. Also while chasing the school bus, Max lost his lunch box.

The bus dropped Max off at school, and the bus driver was amazed to see Max get off the bus. Since Max only had one shoe and lost his lunch he needed to call his Mom for a new



These two writers put their heads together and came up with an awesome story. It is funny. Enjoy.

The Boy Genius *con't on page 27*

Max's Adventure in Raxus Galaxy *con't from page 19*

"The ship is ready for takeoff," Travis said.

'Let's go,' Trent said.

And in a second, they took off.

"Travis and I will stay in the ship attacking the droids that are in the air. While we are doing that, you would fight Drago Vegan, do you got it," Trent asked.

"Got it," Max said.

Travis dropped Max on Planet Inspiron.

"Well, well, well, look who has arrived," Drago Vegan said evilly.

"I'm not going to let you destroy Raxus Galaxy. It is a peaceful galaxy and it should stay like that," Max said bravely.

"Oh yeah, well you are wrong," Drago Vegan said taking his "Sword of Power" out.

"Well let's find out," Max said taking his sword of Power" out.

They had started to fight.

Drago did a 360o front flip and tried to hit Max with his sword, but he quickly dodged the move. Max did a 360o spin and attacked him. Drago didn't move. He used his force motion to push Max back. And WHOOSH! Max fell with that gigantic push. Sweat was running down his face like a waterfall. Max didn't give up. He did whatever Trent had taught him. He jumped

over Drago, trying to hit his sword powerfully and it flew out of his hand. Drago thought he had an easy chance to attack Max, but he was wrong. Max used force motion to move the big rocks so he could block him. Max lifted him up and choked him. He took a rock and dropped it on top of Drago. Drago Vegan was dead. Travis and Trent killed all the droids. Victory was running all over Raxus Galaxy. Everybody thanked Max especially Captain Craig. Max found the "Portal of Power"

Epilogue

Max safely returned home. Peace still remained in Raxus Galaxy. But, Drago's brother, Dran Vegan, started to attack Raxus Galaxy along with his friend, Harlexs Vade. Stay tuned for the next adventure of Max.

Simar is imaginative. This is a really interesting adventure. Read it and enjoy it!



Do You Have an Adventure to Write about and Send in?

editor@citykidzworld.com

A Dark Halloween Night

By Saisiddharth Mariappan



Illustration by Julia Kravchin

*I let out a scream of delight,
For it is a dark Halloween night.
I sprint down to the woods,
My friend shouting, "You could?"
And when I stop, the temperature drops,
And the monster is there,
Covered in hair,
His aura is like fire,
And I knew my friend was a liar!
He told me the monster's aura is like metal,
And the cold will make my teeth rattle.
And when it hit me,
It felt like the beast bit me,
And I let out a howl of pain!
Then the skeletons came.
Oh god! This is odd!
They danced, they spun, they twisted, they turned.*

*I was MAD!
I chased the skeletons, making them run.
Punching the monster wasn't that fun. Then
the monster went POOF!
Then I saw that my friend was gone.
I walked home, all alone,
And I knew that I would never scream with
delight on a dark Halloween night...*

*Saisiddharth writes poems
and stories. He has a super
imagination. Enjoy his work.*



The Halloween Party

By Saumya Khurana

On Saturday I am going to have a Halloween party. All of my friends are going to be there. The Halloween party is going to be at my house. I might help with getting the games and other stuff ready. I am going to tell everybody what the rules are in the games. I might ask a friend to help out. My mom, me and my sister are going to make our own kind of pumpkin juice. I think we might need orange juice, Fanta and one spoon of sugar, but not too much.

My friends and I all drank the pumpkin juice. "This is so good," we all said. After that we had a Halloween

dance. Everybody danced the way they wanted to. Some people were dancing and acting like their costume's character. We danced to Halloween songs. Lots of the songs were creepy. Some were about Halloween. After the dance, everybody left. Everybody had fun.



*Saumya wrote
a nice scary
story!*

The Treasure

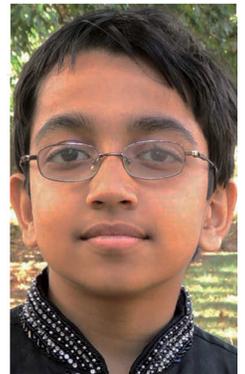
By Rohan Saha

Have you've ever found a treasure that would make you the world's most successful and richest man on Earth? Well in a few weeks, that will happen to Stark! During the year 2557, He was walking his way towards the humongous, orange, and rocket propelled bus. It's going to be a normal day, he thought. Then his best friend Styx walked over and exclaimed, "Yo, what's up? Tomorrow is the science fair! Are you going to enter, man?"

"Obviously, dude!" he replied. Stark raced towards the bus, as it started leaving. The bus zoomed past everyone under it. After 10 minutes, the bus arrived at the gigantic-sized school. Stark was the smartest kid in his grade, which says something, since approximately everyone was in Gifted and Talented. During recess, he always went to the forbidden forest to rest. As he was walking, he found a scroll that was colored totally red. He picked it up and called Styx to come see it. It was called "A Billion Dollars" and it said, "If you want to be the greatest person on the planet of life, then you shall read on. In this scroll, there is a map that shows the path to time and success. If you shall find this treasure, you shall become the biggest, well-known person in the world (If you know how to use it.) Last, but not least, IT SHALL NEVER FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS." Stark and Styx looked inside and found a map that lead to a place that none of them knew. Stark asked, "Do you want to....you know go on an adventure during winter break?" "Ummmm...ok!" he replied, smiling. On Friday, they decided to go on their adventure. Both of them told their parents they were going to a camp.

They started their adventure in Phoenix, Arizona. The map said to slip into a hole by the, "JG industries" building. Finally, Stark spotted it by the back door. Inside there was a plain route that seemed to go on

forever. "The map says to go left, but I see a brown wall on our left," Styx pointed out. "It could be some kind of go-through thing. Let's just go and find out," Stark suggested. Stark and Styx went through the brown and solid wall. Inside, was a goo monster sleeping like a dog that ate 20 steaks! They rushed past the filthy and gooey monster. According to the map, they had 40 ft. to go! The problem was...there was a 7 foot dog staring and growling its sharp teeth at them! They found some swords and shields, so they grabbed them. It took a while, but they slayed the monstrous dog. At last, they found a time machine! The boys took it to the scientists and got a lot of money! Twenty years later you could find a time machine at any shop!



Rohan has a great imagination when it comes to time travel.

Ready for the Summer Writing Contest!

Age Categories:

6 to 8 - 100 words

9 to 10 - 300 words

11 to 13 - 300 to 600 words

High School - 600 plus words

Deadline: March 1

Send Story to editor@citykidzworld.com



The Finding of the Three Keys

By Rohith Bandi

"Hey Flap," said Trot.
"I found a new show dude."
"What's the show?" asked Flap.
"Contest winners!" said Trot!
"What's it about?" said Flap.
"It's just live shows taken on cameras about contests that people can win," said Trot.
"If I win, I would be the top famous dude!"
"Do you want to go participate in that contest? Before that I would like to say that I created a teleporter, which can teleport you anywhere!" said Flap.
"Now, let's go there."

A second later they were there.
"Why is it transporting us to this place?" said Trot. "Maybe it leads us to the contest!" said Puffin.
"Signing up for the contest here?" said Puffin.
"Yes," said another animal.
"You sign up on that sheet over there and go through that tunnel."
"Thank you," said Trot.
"Now let's sign," said Puffin, happily flying to the sign-up sheet.
"No we're done signing so we gotta go in the tunnel, right?" said Puffin.
"Yeah!" said Trot. "But why is this car kinda thingy here?" Trot continued.
"I guess we have to sit in it," said Flap.
"So now what?" said Puffin.
"Does it take us somewhere?" said Puffin.
A TV popped out of the car and it started saying the rules of the the contest.
"You have to get the three keys that are hidden in the big building. This clue will be given to all competitors. There is a trap door that leads to the keys. One more clue, said the TV.
"The first clue will be on the first floor!"
They entered the building.
"This place is huge," said Trot.
"Crowds were everywhere."
"Now let's start to look around," said Flap. "We can't look around here because there are lots of people!"
"Let's search the second floor," said Puffin.
"But there's no one there," said Puffin.
"Aw come on. Let's just look around if we find something," said Flap. One minute later they were at the second floor. The room was filled with glimmering gems and sparkling coins.

"This sure looks like a king treasury," said Trot.
"Now let's search for clues," said Flap. They were searching for hours. But they did not find any clues.
"All we find is just coins and jewels," said Flap.
"No, looks like someone found something," said Puffin.

"What is it? Gold or Jewels?" said Trot.
"No, not that. It's a clue here," said Puffin. Giving it too Flap.
It says One more One less. What does this mean?" said Flap. I guess there's another clue on the back," said Trot.

Flap flipped the paper over floor. Why does it say floor? "I guess it means the middle floor!" said Puffin.
"So one less one more means middle and that means... what!" yelled Flap.
"Middle Floor," said Trot. That means we go up to the middle floor. A minute later they were there.
Again there was glimmering coins and sparkling coins. "Aw Come on. We need to search for hours again," said Trot.
"No we don't," said Flap, flying to a rack and grabbing a paper. This one also says one more one less," said Flap. Maybe there's something in the back.
"What does this letter stand for?" said Flap. Let's use one more one less strategy," said Puffin.
"So before S comes T, after S comes R and there is nothing before A. So, we leave it as A, after q is P that spells TR TRTRA AAP PP," said Puffin.
"Now let's do with the other half," said Trap. Before C is D and after P is O before N is O and after S is R that spells DO DODOO OOR RR. That spells TRAP DOOR. So, there is a Trap door around here. They walked around the room for a minute. Suddenly Trot fell in a trap door.
"Let's hop in," said Flap jumping into the trap door.
"Ok," said Puffin. They didn't know it was leading them to a secret room in the first floor. "Why is it leading us here," said Trot. The room was empty except there was a hammer in the corner and there was an "X" on a locked door.
"So what we supposed to do now?" said Flap. I guess we supposed to hit the door with the hammer. I know just what to do," said Trot running to the hammer. Trot picked up the hammer ran all around the room, jumped in the air and did a



Who knew that Keys could be exciting in story. Rohith is a very imaginative writer. Enjoy this adventure.

The Finding of the Three Keys *cont on page 24*



The Finding of the Three Keys *cont from pg. 23*

back flip and hit the door. The door opened.

"So this is where the keys are hidden," said Trot. "Wait a second. Is this the first floor?" said Flap.

"Yes it is," replied Trot. The keys are hidden here.

"I found a key," said Puffin. It was diamond blue key.

"I found a key," said Trot. It was a shiny gold key. I also found a key. "It was a key made out of amber," said Flap.

The speaker came on and said we have winners here. The winners are Flap from New Origami City, Trot from the Las Orsanos City and lastly Puffin from Sanorigito. The loud speaker announced, "Everybody please go to the main hall," and Winners please go to the second main hall.

"Yay we won," said Flap. Okay how are we going to get out of this room. The door opened itself. They raced to the second main hall. There were two animals that gave the trophies. They all returned home. There was a phone call calling their house. Flap picked up the phone call. "Hello," said Flap. The automated message said, "You will be paid \$100,000."

Flap ran to Puffin and Trot and said, "We're rich!"

Vocabulary Contest

Write a story of up to 500 words with these 10 Vocabulary Words!

Middle School and High School

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Ebullient

Heinous

Mawkish

Prolix

Ruminate

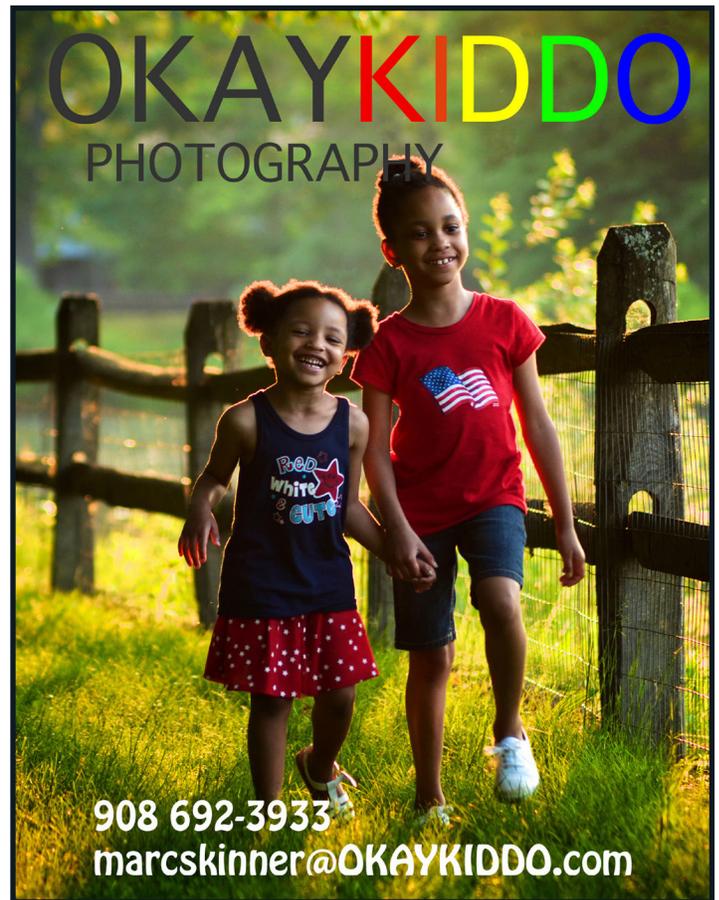
Unctuous

Ineffable

Behest

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Sagacious



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Deadline: March 5

A Taste of your own Medicine

By Varun Tewari

One day there was a boy named Christopher. He was a very kind person.

"You have to go to school," said his mom.

"Got it," replied Christopher. When they went to school, he met up with his friend Jackson.

"What's up buddy?" asked Jackson.

"Nothing," said Christopher, as they walked to class. Christopher said, "Maybe we should use the elevator." "Good thinking," replied Jackson.

They entered the elevator and pressed the button for the second floor. They arrived to their homeroom in room 307. When they entered the room, most of the other students were already unpacking. Jackson and Christopher sat next to each other.

"Attention everyone, please be seated and open your textbooks to page 134. Please do the first 24 problems.

While Christopher was working, he heard a person say, "I'm done."

The teacher lifted her eyes and exclaimed, "Who said that?"

A boy in the class named James raised his hand. James was the smartest student in the class.

"Let me see your answers," the teacher said.

He walked up to the teacher's desk. The teacher checked and they were all correct. James received a prize and after all the students went to lunch. After lunch, the students did reading and then went home. The bus ride home was a total madhouse.

When Chris got home his parents had some big news for him. Chris's father found a new job in Summerfield, a town very far away. Chris was very scared because he would have to leave all of his friends and start a new school.



*Brilliant.
He is a great
writer.*

Chris's first day at his new school went well until lunchtime. During lunch, Christopher met the school bully, whose name was Randy. Randy terrorized everyone at Summerfield Elementary. All of the students were very scared of Randy. During lunchtime Randy forced Chris to give him his lunch money. Chris was very upset, but he was too embarrassed to tell anyone what happened.

Everyday, for the next month, Randy took Chris's lunch money. If Chris refused, Randy would punch him, which really hurt. One day Chris decided that it was time to do something, and he asked his mother to take some karate lessons. He told his mom that it was good exercise and she agreed. For the next few weeks Chris trained very hard in self-defense techniques.

One day, as usual, Randy demanded that Chris give up his lunch money. This time Chris said, "No." Randy tried to punch him and Chris moved out of the way and Randy hit the wall with his fist really hard and broke his arm. Randy fell down crying. Everyone in the cafeteria saw what happened and started laughing at Randy. After that day, Randy could not pick on anyone for a long time because of his broken arm, and because Chris said he would protect everyone. Chris became the hero of everyone in Summerfield Elementary.

Everyone Needs Help Sometimes

By Likhitha Kandukuri

It was Saturday afternoon and mom and I were at this place called a rollerskating rink. When I came inside there, I heard loud music coming into my ears, saw two big disco lights, and a big skating rink. It looked amazing.

At first I just wanted to watch and then I wanted to try skating. My mom went to get a snack, so I tried on my own and was wobbling on the rink. Whoa! Whoa! Okay Likhitha, I can do this. I wasn't really balancing, but I still tried. I had to hold the walls. I tried walking, but it didn't look good at all. I was trying to skate. Just trying. Then suddenly I started to skate in circles, beautiful circles. But then I actually fell down. I was hurt. (Actually it was mostly my knee that hurt a lot). Crash!

"Are you okay?" A girl came over to me and asked. She was holding my hand and took me to a seat at the benches. She ran over to the manager to get a bandage. She put the bandage on my knee. Then she got some water for me. Then

she was looking at me.

"Are you okay? She asked me again. She smiled and saw my mom coming with a chips packet.

"Yes, I'm fine. Thank you," I said with a smile also. My mom told me to rest for 10 minutes. Then the girl taught me how to roller skate. Then we were skating together holding hands. I felt really happy. I felt like we just became friends. Close friends.

This girl helped me a lot. Who helped you?



*Take her advice.
She is great at
narrative.*

Trapped in a Videogame

Contest Winner

1st Place

Hitesh Ase

The Uncontrollable Video Game Escape

Ritik, a smart tech person, was playing a game called Minecraft on the smart reality console. The reality console makes it feel like you are in the game. Suddenly Ritik felt a small spark on him. "What was that?" he asked himself. Then around him sparks lit up and then he was gone.

He fell through a void filled with 1s and 0s. Then he fell and hit the ground, but not the regular metal floor. It was grass. He stood up and looked at himself "AAHH! I am blocky!" he screamed as he walked backwards. Then he fully realized he was stuck in the game Minecraft.

Then he gained some confidence. He also realized that he was stronger. He punched wooden logs to get wood so he could start making tools so he could escape somehow.

"Ok four wooden planks," he slowly moaned. He knew this was the crafting bench recipe. This allowed Ritik to make new, better, and stronger items. He had to mine wood, ores, dirt, stone and many other items so that he could build and create.

"Ok time to mine some stuff," he said to himself. He was on the hunt for ores like iron, stone, copper, tin, alumite and many different types of metal. Also he was searching for rare and amazing stuff like diamonds, rubies, emeralds and many other rare things.

Then he made some simple tools made out of stone and iron. He had a stone bulk spade, an iron titan hammer, and an iron silk touch one miner, an iron titan long sword and ten pieces of T.N.T. He mined and destroyed blocks with T.N.T and his tools. He gained so much stuff that he needed five chests to fit everything.

He ran back to his house because it was night and there are so many monsters. They were all waiting for Ritik to come outside. Ritik crafted the legendary armor of Minecraftia and a powerful

diamond sword. He jumped out of his house and swiftly slashed his diamond blade at the terrifying monsters and zombies of the night. Then he targeted the Endermen, incredibly powerful creatures of Minecraft.

"Hi yaaaaa," he screamed, while he jumped and slashed an Enderman. The Enderman dropped a magical eye called the Eye of the Ender. Then an amazing idea came to Ritik's head. He thought that if he defeated the Ender dragon, the game may overheat and let him out.

At dawn he threw the Eye of the Ender in the air. Then the Eye of the Ender flew with the magical wind of the Ender. The eye landed on the Ender Shrine. Next the shrine blew up like a nuke. The lightning in the Ender clashed violently.

Then suddenly a violent roar came from a mysterious thing. The Ender Dragon swooped down from the Obsidian Tower. He took his purple enchanted bow out and shot the dragon. The dragon was furious. It came down like lightning and BOOM! He fell a mile away.

The dragon teleported towards him.

"Ok dragons. Want to fight? Then here it goes!" screamed Ritik.

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH, Ritik turned yellow and jumped and slashed the dragon with his unbreakable diamond sword. Then he fell into another void. He appeared in his house. He went up stairs and slept.



A Snorkel in the Hawaiian Ocean

By Isha Shah

The majestic waves were zipping past us as we rode on the moving boat. I could see the ink-blue water around me, forming waves and splashing vigorously. On the boat, I saw people wearing black and blue snorkeling outfits, getting ready to dive in the refreshing ocean. I was jumping up and down, waiting for our boat to stop, and getting ready to witness the land of fishes! My cousin and I, who were both 12, had been watching the waves in motion for over an hour; it was time to experience them.

"Mom, how much longer till we stop?" I complained.

"Just a few more moments," she replied. Her voice was followed by the announcement of the loudspeaker, "... we have now reached the marine reefs..."

"Yes!" he and I said as one voice. We got ready, putting on the last of gear. We were confidently looking around, seeing the waves grow arms of their own and shake underneath us.

Akash and I finally got to the tube leading to the ocean. I dipped my foot into the ocean. An immense feeling struck me, and a shiver ran through my body. The waves were gently picking up, and my body was shaking in the middle of the deep-sea.

While looking around, it didn't feel as if I were in the center of the ocean, with water 100s of feet below me. However, the moment my head went in the water, a mind-blowing world

appeared. I saw gorgeous coral reefs 50, 60, 70 feet below me in many colors. Shades of reds and blues, yellows and greens: These were colors you saw in your imagination and they were all underneath me. I saw fishes swimming around me in various shapes and sizes. I wasn't in our ordinary world anymore, but in the world of Nemo, with his adorable fish friends.

I took my head out of the layer of water and instantaneously it all vanished. I slowly turned towards Akash, "This is so incredible!" I exclaimed.

"I know it's beyond anything I have ever seen," he said stunned.

I eagerly looked inside the water. I was delighted and fascinated with all the unbelievable marine life I could see. Looking around me, I knew one thing for sure. This was the perfect day to snorkel in the phenomenal Hawaiian oceans.

Now I want to swim in the ocean. Isha makes the sea come alive with her writing.



The Boy Genius *con't* from page 20

shoe and lost his lunch he needed to call his Mom for a new lunch and a new pair of shoes. Too bad that when Max called his mom from the main office she did not pick up. The school let Max borrow some money to buy a new lunch, but they did not have any shoes in his size. They did have some larger shoes so they let Max wear those until his mom could bring him some shoes in his size.

It was time for Max to go to his first class in high school, but Max did not know where his first class was. There were many people in the halls that were much taller than Max. Max's big shoes also made it very difficult to walk around. The tall high school students did not see Max because he was so small. Max became very lost in the huge crowds and was accidentally pushed around by all of the people in the hallways. Time was running out for Max to get to his class on time and he became very nervous. The large crowds accidentally pushed Max into the girl's locker room, and as the girls saw little Max in the room, they screamed, "AHHHH, who let this little boy in here." Max was so embarrassed. Max quickly ran out and asked the nearest teacher where his class was, and she helped him find it.

Max went to his classroom, where all the other students were very surprised to see him. Max was so nervous during the class that he really had to go to the bathroom. The teacher let him go. In the bathroom all of the toilets were really high up and Max could not reach them. So Max decided to climb on top of the toilet, but because he had shoes on that were too big for him, he slipped and fell into the toilet!

"EWWW, help, help I fell into the toilet!" screamed Max. Someone

outside heard Max's screams and ran in to help get him out of the toilet. For the next few classes Max was all wet.

Besides being wet, Max made it through the next few classes without too many problems, but then came lunchtime. The cafeteria that day was serving extra, spicy chili. Max never had chili before, but he heard that it was delicious. Max ordered an extra large bowl of chili in the cafeteria. When Max sat down to eat his chili it was so hot and spicy that it burned Max's mouth and he screamed "AHHHH, helthhhhhh my mouth is on fire! Max ran to the bathroom and splashed water on his face. He saw a custodian's bucket and filled it and splashed the water on himself to help with the heat. Once again Max was all wet.

The next class was gym, and Max really wanted to play football, but since he was so small the gym teacher only allowed him to do ballet during gym class. Max was humiliated because he was forced to wear a pink tutu because they did not have any men's ballet costumes in his size.

After gym the day was finally over. Max's first day in high school was the worst day of his life. All the crazy things that happened to Max didn't make him feel like a genius at all. When Max got home he told his mom about all the terrible things that happened to him during the day. His mom was shocked, but told him things would get better. As the school year went on Max got used to the new school and even made some friends. Max eventually became the best student at Hersey high school at a very young age and ended up winning the most free chocolate of any student in the school.

Fortune

By Yasasvi Tallapaneni

I was really bored. I had nothing to do. I decided to go to the attic because I never had time to look at what was in it. I quickly went up.

There was a bunch of dusty stuff. None of them were good items except this one old painting. It looked like an ugly, weak man. It was very realistic. I wondered who it was. Then, I looked at the back of the painting. Then, I knew it was me. I couldn't believe that I looked that hideous. It was me when I was five years older than how old I am now. I quickly ran downstairs with the painting to show my parents. When I asked them about where they bought it, they didn't reply. They finally said, "We bought it from a fortune teller. He said that you will become weak and ugly. He told us that you would die

in a young age. He told us that he could make a portrait of you the same year you're going to die. That's why we bought it. I still hope that you won't die in 6 years. If you keep healthy and do a lot of exercises, you will still live."

I felt like I had to cry. I felt really sorry for my parents. I hoped for the rest of my life that I wouldn't die.

Epilogue

I am now 17 years old. I still remember that I had to die in the next hour. I would turn 18 years old in the next hour. Hopefully, the fortune teller made a mistake. Finally, it was over. I didn't die. "Hooray," I screamed.

THE BOY AND THE EAGLE

By Arjun Tewari

A long time ago there lived a boy named Junior Seattle in Apache Land. Today Apache land is called Texas. Junior lived with his tribe, on the Great Planes. One day Junior was sitting on a hill. He loved to help people. His Dad was the chief of his tribe.

One day he was with his Dad on his Dad's horse. When he came to a stop. He saw an eagle on the ground so he picked him up. He brought the small eagle to his teepee and put a small piece of deerskin on his wing. After a few weeks, the eagle healed up and his wing was much better. Junior named his new eagle Blackfeather because of the black feathers all over his body.

As Blackfeather healed up, the boy and his new pet became best friends. They went fishing, hunting, and played many games together. The eagle had very good vision, so the two of them spied on other people in the village. They also

liked to watch the sunrise together every morning.

One day Junior was walking with his trained eagle on his shoulder. Then they suddenly saw a poisonous snake in the grass, and Junior became very frightened. The snake was very angry and wanted to bite Junior. The eagle quickly flew off Junior's shoulder and sunk his talons into the deadly snake. That

day the eagle saved Junior's life, just as Junior had saved the eagle's life when the eagle was small and hurt. After this the eagle and Junior were best friends for life.



This story brings eagles to life. He is a great writer.

The Fascinating Tooth Fairy

By Anjali Harish

I think the Tooth Fairy is nice. She lives in a small house. She has a stand in that house. She has a jar in which she puts teeth. Some people think she does not exist, but I think she does.

Like I said, the Tooth Fairy is fascinating and she is special.

Do you know why? She is a guardian. Guardians are wonderful because they have powers. Santa is one of them and

so is the Easter Bunny.

But there is one problem. What if you wanted to keep your tooth? What would you do? You have to write a note to the Tooth Fairy.

The day I lost my tooth, the Tooth Fairy gave me a My Way SpinBrush, but I wanted a Webkin. It was a cool toothbrush though! I also got \$10.



Anjali is good at writing.

Do You Love Fairies? Write a "fairy story"! Submit to editor@citykidzworld.com

Summer Trip

By Yash

“Woo Hoo!” I said.

Our family and friends were going to Connecticut. I was so excited that my head was going to blow! As soon as we were there, I was going to jump out of the car, but...my friends were not there yet!

“Aghh!” I whined. I played on my Nexus 7. “Honk,” I heard. It was my friends! I jumped out of the car and met my friends.

We were all hungry so we went to a restaurant. I ordered chicken nuggets. It seemed to take 600 hours for my nuggets to come. When I saw the server coming with my food, I was so grateful. Before I knew it, I had gobbled some up. They were so yummy!

“Who wants to go to the beach?” asked my Dad. “Me!”

we all said. We went to our rooms and changed into beach clothes. As soon as we arrived at the

beach, we put our feet in the sand. “Too hot!” we screamed. Then we ran and dug our feet in the water.

“Ahh!” I said. Splish! Splash! The water went.

“Water fight!” I yelled. We dunked water on one another. Then when we were tired, we towed off and played in the sand. We played soccer and made sand castles and buried each other in the sand.

We also set a net and played volleyball. After all that play, we were starving.

“Food!” we all begged. We went to the food shop and grabbed hot, cheesy pizza and cold frozen ice cream for dessert.

Then we went back to our hotel rooms and played a little bit. It was so much fun. I was so tired that before my Mom, Dad and sister slept, I was fast asleep dreaming.



Yash makes this trip sound fun!

Having Friends

By Sainthavi Sivakumar

“Hey come on Cate,” said Anglina.

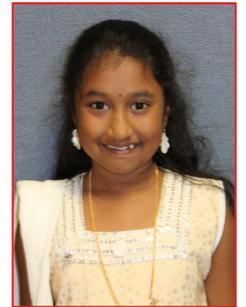
Cate slowly came over to Anglina and Cate asked, “What is it Anglina?”

“Anglina just called for fun,” Anglina’s friend said.

Cate ran away from Anglina’s friends. After Cate said bye to Anglina from all the way across the lunch room, Anglina and Cate went to their classrooms. Cate was trying to hide herself behind another classmate from Anglina’s friend.

Next, when the day was over, Anglina called to Cate outside the school. But then Anglina’s friends came to hang out with Anglina. Cate was alone after Anglina’s friends went to their buses. On the bus, Cate was saying to Anglina that if she was near Anglina, her other friends shouldn’t come near her because Cate did not really like them. Anglina was thinking, “Why does Cate care about my friends coming near me?”

For the rest of the day on the bus Cate, did not talk to Anglina. Anglina was really confused. Why did Cate not want her friends around her? When their bus stop came up, they usually left the bus together. But today, Cate went in a different direction and Anglina went to her house. Cate was really sad that she got mad at Anglina so she decide to be friends again with her.



This is a nice short story. She has talent.

The next morning, after Cate had thought a lot, she decided to be friends with Anglina. She thought that whenever Anglina’s friends do not come to Anglina, then she will go to Anglina, but when her friends come, then she will stay there, but not talk at all and stay in the corner away from them. She would not see them that way.

Anglina and Cate became best friends again.

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Four Objects

By Sai Aneesh Gangishetty

Hi, my name is Sai. I am writing a fiction story by name, "Four Objects - a crystal ball, a small yappy dog, a bottle of brown medicine and a red wig". Have a nice reading time!

There was a boy who lived in Wisconsin. He had small yappy dog. The boy's name was Tony Strake. He named his dog Dollar because he really liked money. Tony, Dollar, and Tony's grandpa Henry Strake lived in a house. His grandpa was not that good at breathing. He used a bottle of brown medicine to feel better.

One day the old man was about to take the medicine, but it dropped down the window while he was picking it up. He could not have the medicine and he died that day. Tony felt so sad that he cried so much and felt slept without his knowledge.

He had a dream in the middle of that night where he saw a man with a long, red wig. The guy told Tony not to feel sad and there is something really shiny and glittering in the backyard. Then he disappeared. Tony and Dollar woke

up at 5:30 in the morning. They both searched everywhere. Dollar barked when he got to the big, old pine tree. Tony went to Dollar and picked up a heavy crystal ball. He went to his grandpa and put the crystal ball next to his head. Tony closed his eyes. His grandpa woke up like he wasn't even dead! Tony looked next to his grandpa. The crystal ball disappeared. He hoped this was not a dream! But he was so happy to see his Grandpa alive!



Sai put a lot of imagination into this object story.

Bitten!

By Farhan Mohammad

"Sam, I asked you many times to clean the dusty garage," said Sam's Mom.

"Fine," Sam screamed as he stomped his foot into the garage. "Honey, do you want any crispy yummy cookies while you work in the garage?" Sam's Mom asked.

"NO, BECAUSE I HATE YOU AND DAD FOR MAKING ME CLEAN THE GARAGE!" Sam shouted.

So when Sam was cleaning he found lots of old and disgusting bugs, dust and old stuff from a very long time ago. He kept cleaning and cleaning until Sam pulled down a big, brown ladder and started dusting areas. Then after that, he went to clean the dark end of the garage (This is where lot of dust and dark brown spiders resided). He pulled up the ladder to the dark spot.

Then he used his hands to clear away the dust and . . .

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHH," Sam screamed. After that his dog's ears perked up and the dog ran. Sam closed his eyes. "BEE-DOO-BEE-DOO-BEE-DOO," Sam heard an ambulance sound.

"Huh," he said to himself. When he woke up he saw he was in a small, white ambulance.

"Ouch," Sam exclaimed as he lifted his arm up.

"What happened?" he asked his Mom. His Mom just looked at the spot where he was bitten and cried.

Sam looked at the spot where he was bitten and said again, "What happened?"

His mother said, "You were cleaning and then a small hairy

spider bit you."

Sam was thinking, "Was the spider poisonous?"

Just then, Doctor Cribbs came in and said, "He will be fine. Just make sure he drinks

the purple medicine."

Sam's Mom said, "Okay" and said to Sam,

"I am sorry Sam. Dad and I should have cleaned the dusty garage."

"It is okay Mom. It is okay," Sam replied.

The next day Sam tried the medicine and he waited for a long time. Then he looked at where he was bitten and said, "It is getting bigger! Daaaaaaaaaaaaadddd! The medicine isn't working."

Sam's dad ran downstairs and rushed to Sam. Sam's dad called 911 and the ambulance came and took him on the stretcher. Sam was shocked.

"He has to have surgery," explained Doctor Cribbs. So the doctors performed the surgery and they gave his parents the news. "When Sam was bitten, the spider was poisonous, but it did not bite him with its fangs. It pinched him with one of its arms, so it gave him a big red rash, but we performed the surgery and now it's better!"

Sam thanked the doctor and remembered that it was his birthday.

"Great!" he said.

"Presents! I can't wait to celebrate," said Sam happily.



Enjoy the work of one our regular writers! He is awesome.



The Big Adventure!

By Ankitha Radhakrishnan

"Get up sleepyhead!" shouted Katie.

"What is it?" asked Lorcia in a sleepy voice, staring at Katie's wide open blue eyes.

"We have to go to the field now with Silvia, Sparkle and Jenna!" They were their two pegasus' and their dog. They both sat on them and up, up and away they went!

When they got to the field, a huge storm came out of nowhere! Luckily, they had a secret shelter that nobody could ever find! They all raced inside! Thunder boomed and the pets got spooked and flew away!

"Come back!" Lorcia shouted! After the storm broke up, Katie and Lorcia heard "neigh" in the distance. They ran as fast as they could to the sound.

After days of hiking the two friends found themselves in Washington DC! They both got rest and started the big

search again.

"Lorcia, got any water?"

"Yup, here you go Katie." After about sixty days they had made it all around the world except for Antarctica! Silvia, Sparkle and Jenna were in the middle of the field the whole time! They ran and came back to field sweet field! Katie and Lorcia rushed over to hug their sweet things!

"We will never leave each other again!"

They all said that at the exact same time! They never left each other since that day .they all lived happily ever after!



You will enjoy this great creative short story.

Stacy Stays Home

By Aditi. G. Anand

"Get up sleepy head," cried Stacy. She made breakfast and started driving. She rushed to Wyckoff Elementary School. She saw her best friend, Collen, and they walked together to the classroom to meet the students.

They started their work. They had a long day even though it was a half day. Since it was the night before Thanksgiving, Collen and Stacy decided what to buy. They shopped.

On Monday morning, Stacy got a strange email and she opened and read it.

"Ahh, the dirty wall is about to fall," shouted Stacy. Collen came in and she read the email and she was happy for Stacy. They read more of the email. It said you have to move to California to be on Teacher No.1 – A teacher reality show. Collen and Stacy were so sad. They sat together with a sad face. They went home.

Stacy started packing for herself and Bailey (her dog). Days went by and it was the day that Stacy and Bailey had to leave. Collen and Kiky (Collen's dog) were going to the airport and it was time for Stacy and Bailey's plane and said, "Goodbye." They reached California and found out that "Teacher No.1"

moved to New Jersey. Stacy jumped for joy and came back to New Jersey. Collen came to pick her up. She was happy that Stacy came back and few days later Stacy was on "Teacher No. 1". Collen and Stacy were happy together forever.



Aditi writes a great creative piece! Enjoy!

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The Way Technology Impacts People in This Day and Age

By Vishal Madiseti

"Hey Mom I'm back from school. I'm going to play some video games."

I run to my XBOX 360 Kinect and turn it on. After turning on the game, I find myself shooting zombies in the game "Black Ops 2." I play for more than three hours. I am just sitting there and playing, only playing. I finally turn it off after a long time. The XBOX is really hot so I put the air conditioner near it so it can cool down. I discover I am having a hard time seeing, I feel mad, and I feel a headache coming on. Eye strain, violent reactions and brain problems begin to happen.

If children use a lot of technology, they might get eye strain. With the eye strain, you might not be able to see properly. It affects children because if they lose eye contact, they may not be able to see. Then they have to get glasses. If they get glasses their parents lose money. If they lose money, they might not have money to give for their kids' education, food and shelter. If a child plays a violent video game, they can become violent. For example, if a child is playing "Halo" (a shooting

game) they think of shooting. They might think about shooting and if they think about shooting, they might yell or scream at someone. They might scream at their parents or their friends. They might act mad and not listen to parents or not do their homework properly when someone is teaching him/her. That is one of the reasons why technology affects people.

If a child uses a lot of technology that child might get brain strain and then their brain might have problems. With brain problems, they can't focus in school. Then their parents get mad at them for getting bad grades in school.

In conclusion, I have decided that technology affects people negatively. Its effects are loss of eye-sight, violent reactions and brain problems. I won't play video games frequently or use technology excessively because of these reasons.



Vishal is a hard working 5th grader who has been putting in extra writing time since the summer.

DOOMSDAY

By Sumanth Chiluvuri

"Tup up tup ta ta ta ta ta tup tup tup tup ta ta tup tup ta ta ta ta tup ta goes the drums of human hands banging on them. People are laughing, crowds are cheering, and everything is a blast of bursting happiness. The morning baker is working hard, hard, hard, hard, hard and hard to make dozens of cookies, cupcakes, cakes and pastries for every human in this town, not even leaving one out.

Suddenly, everything is dark. BOOM! Blasts are coming at us and people are getting hurt.

"What's happening? OH! I see alien ships. They're invading Earth. We have to get the nuclear launchers and all the blasting weapons."

Last, but not least, humans change into ROBOTS!
Boop,beep,bop,beep.

Ok robots, blast off and ATTACK!-BOOM,BANG,CRASH-A snakes are falling ,get into safety. Lets attack again-SPLASH,BAM,CRACK,DASH. Boosh the aliens lose and they crash.

"Victory is ours. General we just got a notice saying more aliens are coming."

"Who cares they won't be here until tomorrow. Night time-capture."

Next morning:

Ah! Aiens took over. The Resistance comes to fight. Lazy fight, again lazy fight. Boom, capture, bam, capture.

"Oh it's a tie. No it's not going to be. We will win. Robots and forces attack

again. Boom, Bam. Ya we are winning,
capture, capture uh we are losing."
"Capture,capture-Finally
Ba

Bam, Ba Bang, BA Boom and we the
robot forces have won!Victory is ours.

Back to human formations.
BEEP,BOP-
BOOP and finally.

"LA.As everything is back to normal and all right(well except for the damage costs and rebuilding the whole torn apart town. At least we have dozens of hammers, saws, screwdrivers, nails and chainsaws. Well at least after a few days everything, we will.

Boom!
"What the? Why, it looks like a treasure box. Lets see what's inside.

Twist, twist and open.
"Ah, too shiny, can't see,wait. I can see, and it is GOLD. Awesome. Who is it from? Um it says GOO GAGA. Ah ya where was I again before this box fell? Who cares? General ya,the cookoo clocks are coming to attack us with the Vishals and Laasyas.

"You have got to be kidding me!"



This is a very zany story. See if you can keep up!

The Special Present

By Krisha Mahadevia

As Santa was walking down the chimney, Amy heard a big THUMP! Let's talk about Amy for a minute. Amy is a great girl who loved to do Rainbow Loom. Most of the time she got 100% on her tests and quizzes. Two of her favorite hobbies are playing basketball and skiing, but most of all she loved helping poor and sick adults and children at the hospital. Every Tuesday and Thursday, after school, she would ride her bike to the hospital. The hospital was a few blocks away from her house. Now let's get back to the story! It was Christmas Eve that night. When Amy heard that THUMP she got out of her bed and drifted down the dark hallway rubbing her eyes. When she turned on the lights she saw a guy with fluffy, white beard, a red hat with a little white ball on top. He had black boots and a big, red sack with presents in them. There was also a little elf with a green hat and carrying goodies and treats. Do you know who the guy was? You are correct! It was Santa clause!

Amy whispered to herself, "Am I dreaming?"

Santa said, "No you are not Amy!"

The elf said, "Hi, I am Eddy. Where should I put your goodies?"

Amy said, "In the five stockings."

Santa laid the big, red sack on the ground on the floor. He took out a present with blue wrapping paper with a red ribbon on top. Then he took out another. It had pink wrapping paper with a yellow ribbon on top. Then he took out another, another and another and he took out 15 more presents.

Amy whispered to herself, "It's a Christmas Miracle!"

Santa whispered so Amy's parents wouldn't hear him, "Do you want to help me give presents to the kids?"

Amy whispered, "I would love to help you out!"

Santa said quietly, "First we need to get you in discuss." So Santa snapped his fingers and PUFF! Amy was wearing a beautiful red dress, outlined with white fur and she was wearing a sparkly, red hat and a white ball on top and sparkly red shoes. Santa and Eddy (Elf) and Amy went out the door. Amy saw beautiful reindeers and there was Rudolph. He had a bright red nose! Amy walked in the freezing snow and the snow was crunching! Amy saw Mrs. Clause. Mrs. Clause waved to her and smiled. Amy smiled and waved back to her. When Santa, Amy, and Eddy (Elf) sat down, Amy said to Mrs. Claus, "What are you doing here?"

Mrs. Clause said, "I am just here to see Santa Claus do his magic!"

Amy said, "That's great. I have always want to see you!"

Mrs. Clause said, "Now you saw me!"

Mrs. Clause shouted happily, "Let's go Santa, Let's spread some joy!"

"Ho, Ho, Ho!" shouted Santa joyfully! And up the sleigh it goes! They flew high as a bird!

Amy said, "It has been my dream to fly up in the sky!"

Amy saw her best friend's house! It was so cool.

Santa shouted happily, "Next stop Jay's house!"

When Amy, Santa and Eddy landed on Jay's roof top the three stepped out of the sleigh Santa took out the big, red sack of presents and carried it behind his back and he went through the chimney and "THUMP!" Santa fell into

the fire place. When Santa came out of the fire place he laid the red sack of presents on the floor. Santa whispered, "Do you want to help me lay the presents out?"

Amy whispered, "Sure!"

Santa took out a huge box. It had green wrapping paper and a blue ribbon on top! Then Amy took out a small box. It had purple wrapping paper and a red ribbon top. Then they took out another, another, and another until there were 14 presents laid out! The Amy took out the goodies and put them in the three stockings! After they were done they got out of the door and hopped in to the sleigh. Santa shouted happily "Ho, Ho, Ho!" And up, up they go! Santa shouted happily, "Next house Jenny's house! When they got on Jenny's roof top Santa, Amy, and Eddy went down the chimney, and "THUMP!" They took out the presents, and Eddy put the goodies in the four stockings. After they were done, they went to another house, another house and another house. After Santa and Amy were done giving out presents to every kid in the world, Santa dropped Amy at her house. Santa whispered to Amy, "You can keep your outfit and thank you for helping me. Also what would you like for Christmas?"

Amy whispered, "I don't want anything. I already have a great family and lots of presents."

"But I would really like the poor people and sick people to get healthy, and the poor people have clothes, food, water and a place to live."

Santa said, "You are a very generous and kind girl!"

So Santa snapped his fingers and "POOF!" All the poor and sick people were healthy and had food, water, clothes, and shelter! And Santa said, "Merry Christmas!" Then Santa disappeared! Then Amy changed into her pajamas, got into her cozy bed, and fell into a deep sleep thinking about when she would open her own presents!



This story has wonderful details! Enjoy!

The First Goal

By Param Shah

Memoir style

It was about 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning in South Brunswick, New Jersey. My mom and I were in our car going to Sondek Park.

Once we got there, we saw lots of people. It smelled like nature. I am a big soccer fan, so I play recreational soccer. I thought this game I was about to play was going to be the same old game where I would get hurt or do something crazy, but this day was one of the days I achieved a goal.

The astounding event began at the start of the 3rd quarter. Our team had possession of the ball to start off the half. I was one of the two strikers (The striker is a position on the field that mostly attacks the adversary's goal). I passed it to my friend to start the quarter. I dashed straight up the field. I faked to one side and went to the other side. The defenders looked confused and I found myself open. My teammates passed the ball over my head and into an open part of the field, so no defenders would be near me. I ran towards the ball and after I made sure I had possession of the ball, I looked up and see that no one was beside me and the goalie in the 15yard box.

I pulled my leg back and aim for the goal, but before I shot, all of a sudden I felt confused what to do. I had never shot in an actual game before. I decided to think of all the

hard work I have done; I ran a few laps and practiced with my dad before the games. I remember doing lots of laps and suddenly I felt self-conscious. I knew that sooner or later, I would get better. I knew that I wasn't going to go through this process again, so it all led up to this moment.

I shot the ball. It twirled in the air and bounced at the same time. Surprisingly it hit the goalie's hand, but it still went in the net, so it counted as a goal!

I ran around the goal and put my hands up in the air. The goalie goes to his knees and puts his right hand on his head. I go to all my teammates and give them all high fives. I felt as happy as a monkey getting a banana. The score was 2-1 with our team in the lead and that was the score of the game. I knew that this was a memory I was never going to forget. This is my favorite sport and today was the first time I achieved something in that sport. I knew this wasn't possible without my parents' phrase, "If you say you are the best, you will always be last, but if you say 'how can I get better' you will always be a true winner." This is why my 3rd grade year as a soccer player is important.



If you love memoirs, you will love this great one by Parum.

Surprise

By Harshil Cherukuri

"Hurry up"! Shouted my mom.

"Where do we need to go"? I hollered.

I quickly came down wearing my new shirt and pants my mom gave to wear on my 9th birthday. My mom said to get in the car. As I was getting into the car, I saw that my dad did not go to work. I was gossiping with my dad until my mom arrived. My dad was driving on the road to Funplex. I thought he was going to take me there. He just drove past Funplex. Then I thought he was taking me to IHOP. He just zoomed through my guess like a cheetah running as fast as it can.

I asked him, "Where are we going?"

He said be patient and wait. He said it will take them another 20 minutes to go to the special place. I slept in the car. When we arrived my dad went into the store and gave a receipt and they said they will bring the box to them in a minute. Boom! The box prostrated. It was a huge box and it could not fit in our car. So they asked if we needed them to deliver. My mom said,"No thanks."

Then there was a mini truck backing up and it was my Uncle Rajan who was in it. My uncle said, "Happy Birthday" to me. The gigantic box was getting loaded into my uncle's truck. Happily and joyfully, I came on my uncle's truck. He asked me what restaurant we should go to.

I said, "Don't know!"

When we were coming back, we were going as

slow as a snail because of a car crash in the middle lane. When we went home, we unloaded the box. My dad and my uncle carefully opened the huge box. After they opened the box, I could not wish for anything better than a trampoline! My eyes were wide open and I screamed, "Oh my god!" I jumped up and screamed like a person winning the lottery because I always wished to have a trampoline for my birthday, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

It took my dad and my uncle about 4 hours to build it. Four hours passed and the trampoline was about to be finished. After they were finished, I could jump around on the trampoline. Jumping was my favorite thing to do. After that we went to a restaurant called Ruby Tuesday. We ordered a guacamole dip, Parmesan pasta, and a four way sampler. After we ate all of the food, we had a mouthwatering dessert called gourmet cupcakes. We all talked to each other about how my birthday finally went out. I was really happy because this was one of my best birthdays I had. When we were going back to our house, I couldn't think of a better surprise than what my family did for me.



Harshil writes a wonderful personal narrative.

A Trios Exploration about Alligators

By Bhargav Jillepalli

Trees were rustling and branches shaking. Kim, George, and Dan were living in Florida near Everglades National Park. Kim is a 14-year-old girl with blonde hair. Kim is kind and loyal and she is great at finding animals. George is 13 years old, with brown hair. George is creative and cool and great at telling plans and studying. George is a good sportsman. Twenty-year-old Dan is a good wrestler. The trio like to walk and explore about nature a lot.

It was during one of those walking trips, Kim, George, and Dan spotted a swamp and walked towards it. When they came to the swamp, they found something white. Dan was thinking that it was a rock, but Kim said, "It is an alligator's egg, silly."

They tried to take the egg from the swamp. When they took the egg home, they wanted to keep the egg in a safe place, so they hid it in a bush near their house. Kim, Dan, and George thought they needed food for this animal in the egg when it hatched. They took food from the swamp to help the baby alligator survive. They were keeping track of the days when the egg would hatch into an alligator. They were worried about the egg and what might happen to it. They put a cage around

to protect the egg.

The next day Kim, George, and Dan went to check on the egg. When they went outside, the egg was hatched. The trio tried looking for the baby alligator, but they couldn't find it. Kim, George, and Dan were sad, but then they saw something white move. They didn't know what it was. The alligator was looking for moving into the dark-green swamp in search of food and its mother. When Kim, George, and Dan went near, they saw a dark shadow coming out of the stinky swamp. It was so huge that it took up the whole swamp. They tried to figure out how to make the dark mommy alligator come out and look for its baby. Instincts worked and the mommy and the baby alligator were able to get back together to their swamp. Kim, Dan and George were happy for the ending. The incident got them curious to find the facts about the Albino alligator.



This is a great alligator tale! Enjoy this awesome story.

Rosy and the Diamond

By Ayush Prakash

Once upon a time there was a babysitter whose name was Rosy. The baby's name was Steve. The babysitter was always talking in her phone while the baby was always crying. They lived happily in a house near a forest.

One day they didn't have a happy time. What happened was the same routine every day. They would walk, talk and the baby cries. They were walking on the sidewalk. There was a forest, a distance away. Rosy was talking in her phone with a friend and the baby was crying. She accidentally dropped the beads of her necklace. She stopped and bent down and started to pick up the beads. Meanwhile, the baby saw some dragon minions going toward the forest and one of the dragon minions dropped a diamond gem.

The baby jumped out and walked to the diamond gem and grabbed it. When she got up, she just freaked out! Then the dragon minions caught them both and took them to a small magical hut, but they didn't know that. When they went in, they suddenly got zapped right to a tower: a dark tower.

The baby hid the gem in Rosy's pocket. Then the dragon minion told the old wicked witch in the tower that the baby ate it. The witch zapped the teenager babysitter to a place better than the tower, a fairy house. In it was young and beautiful fairy named Pushpa. She was willing to help Rosy to get Steve back and in time before his parents come home and saw no one was there. Rosy asked the fairy Pushpa "Where is the path to go to the witches tower?" The fairy Pushpa sung, "Walk on the gold brick road and you can go anywhere."

"What do you mean?" Rosy asked questioningly.

"I mean you have got to follow the right path with your heart and you can go anywhere."

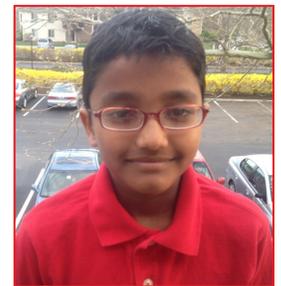
"Ok but can you come with me?" asked Rosy.

"Sure I can," said Pushpa. They started with lots of hope and some fear, and as they went on, they ran into a trap! It was from these people called the Minion Mans. When they found we were going to the witch's dark tower, they released us Rosy told them. "We are going to fight the witch." The M minions allowed us to let them come. We let them come because it is better to have more friends instead of how they are or how they look. So they were off to the witch's dark tower.

once they got to the tower, it seemed quiet a little to quiet. When they got to the top, Rosy, Pushpa and the M minions saw the witch, D minions and Steve.

"ATTACK!" the witch wildly said. The D minions attacked the M minions.

While the witch was distracted, Steve slipped out of the cell and took the witch's wand. Steve zapped the witch and D minions to a far, far galaxy. Finally they went home and the fairy turned into Rosy's sister.



Ayush has been working hard on his writing. You can tell from this nice story!

The Bad Memory Mystery

By Ani Jasti



Ani has written at least 3 stories for the magazine. He rocks!

It all started on a sunny February 16. Everyone was in business. The birds were chirping and kids went to school. I was busy on my algebra test at Hilden Senior High school. It was 2:28 p.m. I had one last problem: $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$. I've got to think fast. Only 30 seconds of school and the end-of-the-day bell. Just as I was going to write the answer, school was over. All of the people had to hand in their tests as soon as possible. I was the only one not done with the test, so I got a C- for a grade.

"Why would a test like this get me a grade like a C-?" I exclaimed. My best friends, Timmy and EJ came to make me feel much better.

"It's okay, Kyle, everybody had a bad memory like yours," EJ said. Bad memory? This is the worst time of my life! Topping my biggest scar ever! Why would anybody think that this was a bad memory? This is as bad as a tornado strike! This is when I speak up.

"The truth is, I am a straight A student. I was interested in science-y stuff. I was the smartest, most accurate student until 11th grade (right now)." There, I said it. Are you satisfied now? Just end the stupid conversation already! Finally, Timmy and EJ back away from me. I take a jog back home because it isn't that far away from Hilden Senior High. At 2:40, I reach home. Dad comes, and says "How was your day, Honey Poo?"

"Horrible, I got a C- on my math test," I mutter as I go to my room for studying for my English test. Next, I take a 10 minute run to become flexible for Physical Education. What could possibly go wrong with tomorrow? I wouldn't despoil my best chance of getting an A+ for an easy English test, but I am R-E-A-D-Y to get that A+ for that report card! I am going to pulverize that test! The English test day is here already. I am so lucky to be the only one to study my English test. Probably I'll get an A++! Who knows? At 7:00, I reach the bus stop. I meet my truly trusted friends, Timmy and E.J.

"Hey, dudes!" I say as I go all the way to the back, where all the 12th graders sit. I cannot believe that Terri has already filled up the back seat with all his annoying cronies, Ken, Dan, Craig, and Mikey.

"Well, well, look who finally came to visit us, Kyle the Nerd and his whining babies. If you would like, you could be stuck here for life!" said the annoying wizard of annoyingness. Gosh, could Terri ever take an anti-bullying pill? He is just cold.

"Can you please stop it for once? You're the trailblazer for bullying, which will never end at all." Finally, we get to school, and Terri leaves off to his class along with his annoying posse. We head over to homeroom for 1st period. Ms. Kryzkowski is not really that bad, in fact, she teaches in one of the best periods of school. I still am sad that not even Timmy and E.J. are in my homeroom. They go with someone else, but I don't know which teacher it is. We needed our homework done, and I had the

perfect thing for her: The perfect thing that would get me an A++. I announced all of the answers to the whole class. Most of the class got the wrong answers, but hardly any of the class got three fourths of the homework correct. I was probably wrong about me being the dumbest kid in 11th grade. I am the smartest kid in 11th grade. Next up in school is Math. I am relieved that I am going to Math. It is the best subject of the day. This will get me an A++ for good! "Who would like to share their homework first? Kyle, you look like you've really done your homework, so why don't you show us what answers you got!" said Ms. Dalenski. I announced all of the answers to the class, and almost all of the class got all

of the answers wrong. I was wrong about me being the smartest kid until right now. I am always the smartest in every class! Next period is Math. I'm glad that Math is here, because it is my favorite

period of the day. Our teacher is Mr. Triluy, and Timmy is in my math class. This is going to get awesome. Guess what? I aced this class like a pro. I got to read my homework again, and the problem everyone but me was confused on was the 3rd problem. It was actually a formula. The formula is $\sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) \pm \cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta)$. It got everybody so mystified. "Good job, Kyle! You got all the answers right with your charming brain!" cried Mr. Triluy with joy. Never underestimate the power of an 11th grade Einstein. Well, I expected no more than this. In fact, I expected a less congratulate-y compliment. 3rd period is English. Oh no. No. No, no, no, no. English? This almost gave me a nightmare. I was afraid that I was now going to get an F for a grade. This could be the worst time of my life. As I quietly walked in for the test, I was looking at Mr. Pierro. He was looking at everybody like all of us failed a test and all of us got an F. He told us what the test was going to be in the test. It turns out that this was a school test where we do a test with the entire school. Not even a single person was gone for the test, even if they really needed to. So we waited for Mr. Pierro to start us on the test. All of us were totally nervous. None of us but me were glad they studied for the test.

"Ready, Set..." said Mr. Pierre. All of us were sweating like water fountains.

"Go!" exclaimed Mr. Pierro. All of us were rushing our pencils through the test. I, on the other hand used my practice to get through the test. It was 1:45p.m. I thought I had enough time to complete the test. I was on problem 28 because I studied for my test. Now, I did the test like I was Superman fighting a bad guy. This is going to be a walk in the park. I was surprised when

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

The Bad Memory *con't on page 40*

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Giraffe Myth

By Ishika Maheshwari

One hot, sunny afternoon, Gina the Giraffe and her two friends, Rodger the Rabbit and Teddy the Turtle were enjoying themselves in the cold, wavy aqua pool. Until...Gina twisted her neck by doing a really bad flip underwater

As Gina got out of the pool minutes later to relax her body, she realized that her neck started getting shorter and smaller minute by minute. This had happened because she did the flip underwater, which caused her neck cords to react. When Rodger and Teddy saw this they got out of the pool too and told Gina to go home to her house with them directly and immediately. So then they did.

When the three friends reached Gina's home, Rodger told Gina to go take a shower, while he went to go get some cold milk for Gina.

After she was done with her milk, she asked Rodger if she could check her neck for her since he was a physician and knew how to check a proper neck in this situation. Unfortunately he didn't see any signs of the reaction. He asked Teddy to call Mr Owl, the real doctor, who can really help with these problems. They left for the doctor's office.

When they reached the doctor's office, they had to wait in the waiting room for a few minutes until they were called in.

When Mr Owl came into the room, he asked Gina how the neck problem happened. So Gina herself had told Mr Owl the incident that had happened at the pool that afternoon. When Mr Owl had seen her neck after listening to the story he said, "I'm sorry, but I can't fix a problem like this. It will take some time and probably you can die so I wouldn't want to take the risk.

"That's ok," Gina replied in a low voice thinking what will happen now to my neck, besides dying. The three friends left the doctor's office.

As they were on their way home, Rodger thought of something. If you mix in natural substances then the neck can grow back normal. So Rodger asked Gina to rest on the couch, while he and Teddy went to mix natural substances to cure a medicine for Gina. They mixed... parsley, garlic, red spice, etc. into the mixture for Gina.

When they were finished with the mixture, they gave it to Gina to take a few sips, but she didn't like it. She knew if she would have a few sips three times a day it would make her back to normal and so she listened and took it the mixture as directed.

In a couple of days, Gina's neck was back to normal - thanks to Rodger's idea. She called up Rodger and thanked him.



Illustrated by Kirstie Belle Diongzon



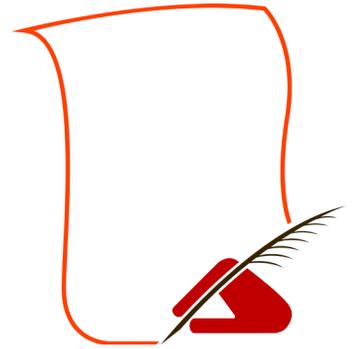
Ishika is a wonderful writer. This myth is really interesting. Enjoy it!

Can You Write a Myth?

Send it to editor@citykidzworld.com

Annual Middle School Writing Contest

1st Place Winner



Nina Soukhanovskii

The Jewel of Magic

By Nina Soukhanovskii

Nelly walked into her school. She calmly proceeded down the hall, looking for her locker ahead of her. Suddenly, she felt somebody shove her from behind.

"Ouch! That hurts!" Nelly complained. She scrambled up and gathered the books that fell out of her unzipped backpack.

"Whoops! Sorry!" a voice answered. It was strange and raspy; Nelly had never heard it before. Curiously, she whirled around. Nobody was there.

"That was strange!" Nelly exclaimed, bewildered. Just then, a piece of paper fluttered from the ceiling. Nelly grabbed it, and with one last glance at the ceiling, she rushed to her homeroom.

* * *

The rest of the day went normally. The teachers taught their subjects and assigned homework. Nelly completely forgot about the voice and the note.

Nelly's last class was

writing. As usual, Nelly counted the minutes until school ended. The teacher, Ms. Parkinson, noticed that most people weren't paying attention and tried her hardest to get everyone's attention.

"Class! Settle down! The homework is to write a mystery and type it on the computer. It is due tomorrow!"

Ms. Parkinson told the class. Everyone groaned, for they thought that it was the biggest homework assignment ever. Just then, the last bell rang, and everyone ran out of the class. Nelly gasped as she remembered the piece of paper. Quickly, she unfolded it. It said:

The keeper of this note is in for some trouble. Please beware of the third Friday of May.

"Huh? What?" Nelly wondered. She did not understand the note. What does it mean 'beware of...'?

Before anyone could see the note, Nelly stuffed it into her pocket and headed toward her locker.

* * *

Nelly had an older sister, Jessy. Unlike many teenagers, Jessy was nice and always willing to give advice. When Nelly showed Jessy the note, Jessy snorted with laughter.

Jewel of Magic *cont on page 39*



This is her second time writing for the magazine. She gets better and better!



The Jewel of Magic *con't* from page 38

"Come on! There is no such thing. Anyone could've easily faked that! Plus, tomorrow is the third Friday of May," Jessy explained to a surprised Nelly.

"It is?" Nelly sputtered. She thought over what Jessy had said. She must be right, Nelly thought.

Still, Nelly had trouble sleeping that night. She was nervous about tomorrow. Was the note fake? Nelly thought so. Little did she know about what awaited her tomorrow...

* * *

Nelly stretched open her eyes. Her hand automatically started to reach for the alarm clock. Strangely, though, it wasn't there. In fact, nothing was there. Nelly gave a yelp of surprise.

"This isn't my room! I want to go home!" she pouted. Nelly looked around. There were three more girls in bed with her. All of them were sleeping.

"Who are you?" Nelly panicked. She did not know these girls. Were they enemies?

"Wha...Oh! Where am I?" one girl woke up with a start. This made the other two wake up. They screamed at the same time.

"Hi, guys! I'm Nelly. Do you know what is going on?" Nelly asked, this time in a nicer tone. One girl spoke up,

"I'm Ira, and no, I don't know what is going on. I am just as surprised as you are, Nelly," she said.

The other two girls replied with "I'm Sally!" and "I'm Jaque!"

"Great! Now, how do we go home?" Nelly pressured the girls. They shrugged. Suddenly, a wizard in a black cloak appeared with a flash of light.

"Well, well, well! Who do we have here?" he rasped. Nelly gasped as she recognized the voice. The other girls did too, for Sally dove under the covers and Jaque shrieked with fear. Ira made a face.

"Go away you toad! This is all a prank, and you are some kind of hired prankster," she said aggressively. The wizard cackled. His cackle sounded like a rusty gate being pried open.

"Ah, my girl. You are brave and clever (just what I need), but do not waste your wits on me. What I need from all of you is to fetch me The Jewel of Magic. Now, go! Good-bye, now!" the wizard explained in his raspy voice. He disappeared with another flash of light.

"You! You! I'll get you one day! I'll..." Ira screamed after him. She never finished because she was suddenly taken out of bed by invisible hands and taken somewhere with such speed, she had to shut her eyes. The same thing happened to Nelly, Sally and Jaque.

"Where are we?" Sally questioned after a period of silence. Nelly shrugged. Jaque looked around and wrinkled her nose with disgust.

"Wherever we are, it smells like a pig pen," she explained to Ira's questioning look.

"I guess we should go," Nelly told them. Jaque nodded furiously, eager to get started. The girls proceeded down the corridor. It seemed to get darker with every step. Finally, it got so dark that it was impossible to see.

"I can't breathe! It still smells like a pig pen!"

Jaque complained angrily. She imitated puking, even though nobody saw her

"Um...light, anyone?" Ira asked. She tried to feel for the wall. Her hands roamed around in the darkness until her hands felt the cool, rocky wall.

"Guys! I found the wall! Follow my voice!" Ira called excitedly. She jogged along the wall, her hand brushing against it. All of a sudden, Ira felt that the corridor split into two.

"Which one should we take?" Ira asked after explaining the situation to her companions.

"Just choose randomly! It doesn't matter!" Sally answered.

"Shhhhhh! Do you hear it?" Jaque hissed. A distant rumbling sound was coming from the left corridor. The girls plunged into the right corridor without a second thought. They ran for a long time. They might've ran for longer if the corridor didn't become into a dead end.

"I, huff, am not, huff, going back, huff! We came here, huff, and now it, huff, turns out to be a dead, huff, end! Hard work, huff, for nothing!" Nelly panted. She plopped down on the hard rock floor

"I'm hungry!" Jaque whined. She rubbed her stomach, which was aching with hungriness.

"Guys! There are markings on the wall!" Ira exclaimed. While Nelly and Jaque were talking, Ira had scrutinized the wall and found markings. Everyone rushed over:

"What does it say?" Sally asked with excitement. She was always eager to find out things. Ira squinted her eyes, trying to make out the jumbled markings. At the same time, the wall crumbled.

"Watch out! Run!" Ira screeched and dove out of the way. A huge, robotic hand shot out of the hole, and groped around for something to pick up. Sally scrambled up and pulled Nelly away from the hands reach. The hand caught Jaque's foot and pulled. Jaque rose in the air:

"Guys! Help me! I'm caught! Help!" Jaque screamed with horror. Nelly lunged towards the wall, but only smashed her face against it. The hole had closed up trapping Jaque, the hand and whatever else was in there inside.

"Oh-no! We lost her!" Ira groaned. That meant more work, saving Jaque and finding the stupid jewel. Ira huffed... frustrated.

"Why don't we give up?" Nelly suggested, "It's too much work, anyway!"

"No, guys! I have a plan! Listen!" Sally eyes lit up as she explained what she had been thinking. Nelly's eyes were wide. She had an uncertain look on her face. Ira shook her head in disbelief.

"Well, it's better than giving up!" Sally argued.

The Jewel of Magic *con't* on page 40



THE TRAPPING ANIMALS

By Sahiti Kota

Once upon a time there were four kids named Mia, Brad, Sara, and T.J. They wanted to walk in the woods. When they walked in the woods, they heard sounds that were creepy and one sound was, "WOO WOO WOO." Then Sara was so scared. Then T.J. stepped on a stick and then a tiger named Sam woke up and his friends woke up too and they saw some people in the woods and the tiger said, "This is King and Queen Mary of the gold forest!" The tiger ran toward the people and then Sara screamed, "Look out."

The kids started running and Brad got an idea and Brad yelled, "You two girls go that way and me and T.J. will go that way and make a trap."

Then the animals stepped on the net and the net went up and Mia said, "We saved the day."



This story shows that Sahiti has a magnificent imagination.

The Jewel of Magic *con't from page 40*

"That's true, actually. Let's try it!" Ira gave in. Slowly, the girls approached the wall. As planned, it crumbled and the robotic hand shot out. Ira, Nelly and Sally ducked and squeezed into the hole. It closed up behind them.

"Wow!" the girls chorused. The room sparkled with jewels and diamonds. They were colorful, with different shapes and sizes.

"Okay, focus on finding Jaque!" Sally commanded. She began looking under the tables, which contained piles of tattered boxes.

"Um, I think I found her," Nelly muttered.

"Where? Show me," Ira asked. Nelly pointed to ward a corner. It had a lonely, tall coffin standing in it. Ira laughed and shook her head.

"Hey, Ira, I think she's right. Let's check it out!" Sally exclaimed. She rushed toward the coffin and banged on it.

"Ouch! That hurt, you know," a mean voice answered. Sally shook her head sadly.

"It's not her," she said.

"Wait! Sally! Nelly! Ira! It is me!" Jaque's voice called. Ira's face lit up and she pried the coffin open. Jaque fell out, her hands and feet tied together. Her eyes were full of fear. Nelly untied Jaque, and Jaque jumped up immediately.

"We have to get out of here! Quick!" she yelled. Ira and Nelly stared at her.

"Guys! I found it! The Jewel of Magic!" Sally cheered.

While Ira and Nelly saved Jaque, Sally had been searching for the Jewel of Magic and found it.

"Finally!" Ira sighed.

"Hooray!" Nelly celebrated.

"Get out of here!" Jaque screeched. All of a sudden, there was a rumbling noise. It sounded really close. Jaque screamed. Nelly began to shake. Ira began to run around in circles. Sally, the clever one, exclaimed:

"Jewel of Magic, take us to the wizard's loft!" In a flash of light, they were standing in the same room they found each other in. The wizard was there, waiting for them. He cackled.

"Back so soon? Give it to me!" he rasped, still cackling. Sally shook her head.

"You toad," she giggled.

"I have a surprise for you. Jewel of Magic, make him perish forever!" she cast the spell. Calling for help, the wizard melted in the blink of an eye. The girls cheered.

"I want to go home!" Jaque whined.

"Okay, Jewel of Magic, take us home!" Sally commanded. In a burst of orange light, Nelly found herself in bed. It was her own bed, though.

"My writing homework!" Nelly gasped. It was still the middle of the night, yet Nelly got up, and wrote down her mysterious adventure. She would never forget it, nor the three friends she made in it.

The Bad Memory Mystery *con't from page 36*

I looked at my left. Timmy was on my left, and E.J. was on my right! I was not able to talk to either one of them because Mr. Pierro had an eye on everybody, including the ones that looked like they were going to flunk the test and disobeyed some of the rules on the walls. I felt a chill on the linoleum floor below the cafeteria. Next thing I know it is 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon and I still have a ton of work to do. Not even five of the kids looked like they were going to flunk the test big time. This is it. It's problem 252 p.m. The final problem of the test. This will cost big stuff in

my report card. I write the answer to the problem. Whew! Close to an F, but I made it in time for the end of school! I walk out of the school like I was the new Albert Einstein. I was surprised to see this, but I saw my dad out the door from the cafeteria! He was also surprised to see me. I was following him to our car. "So, how was your test today?" said Dad. Oh, it was good, alright. But it sure is enough to get yourself an A+++++++ if possible! It was all thanks to the studying.

Inventing a Video Game Contest Winner

Atharva Shailendra Desai

By Atharva Shailendra Desai

If I could create my own video game, it would be an action game. It would be about World War II. It would be the best video game ever. The main point of this game would be to rule the whole world by defeating all the armies in the world, and by saving up as many soldiers as you can.

The main characters are Adolf Hitler (the commander of one of the most cruel armies), and the strongest person, Atharva. He is the captain of my army. The fascinating thing about this game is that you get to create your own weapon and no one else can copy it. There is only one country that rules the world and once you start the game there is no turning back. This video game goes on forever. So even if you rule the world any country can attack you that is why this game is

called Infinite War:

I recommend not playing this game if you don't like violent games. The advantage about this game is that it gives you facts as you play, so if your parents

say it is time to study then you can tell them you are already doing that. If you want to be the best in this game then listen to the facts it includes. What I mean to say is that this is the best, the most fascinating, the hardest, the most amazing game in the history of the universe and it will be like that once I make it.



Work Disaster

By Rohit Rao

"You're fired!" screamed John and walked back inside his store yelling at other people. Jake slowly started walking back to his apartment.

"What happened?" Lily asked immediately looking at John's face.

"That capricious boss fired me," John muttered back silently. Lily did not respond but knew that she was the but-tress in the family and couldn't break down now. But in her mind, she could not help but think that the nadir was finally here. That night she couldn't sleep with the maelstrom of emotions running in her mind.

In the morning she dropped Alex of at school and came back home, since she had taken a day off of work. Lily knew that her usual ebullient smile and her gregarious attitude were rapidly fading away.

"I'm not trying to deride you or anything, but you can't stay home, go out and find work," Lily sadly said. John slowly got up and started to walk around Market Street and somehow ended up back at his old workplace. His boss tried to abjure him, but then slowly trying to act sacrosanct, came up to him and said in an unctuous voice, "Did you find work yet?"

In a tenuous voice John lied, "Yes I have" and walked away. To make things worse Lily and John got a complaint from Alex's teacher. "It seems that Alex was very moody today," Mrs. Delestro annoyingly said.

"I'm sorry about today we'll make sure it won't happen again," replied Lily. At home Alex got grounded. John on the other

hand was getting very stressed out. Then the phone rang.

"I got it," John said.

"Hello?" asked John over the phone.

"Yes Mr Somon - we would like to confirm that you are not working anymore right?" asked the man.

"Yes, but why?" replied John.

"We are the Teplville's Times (newspaper) and we'd like to hire you," said the man.

"YES!" John replied overexcited. John hung up and hugged Lily.

"What happened?" asked Lily very curiously.

"I have a job!" John yelled back.

"This isn't fallacious right?" Lily asked.

"We'll see but for now CELEBRATE!" replied John.



Rohit has quite an imagination. This story has great details.



Read Writing from Harrow High School



Students in London My family Traditions



Sana Khalid Aakhunzzada

Hello! My name is Sana. I am 15 years old. I belong to an Afghani family. I was born in Afghanistan, but I lived in Pakistan. I am now living in London, England. I am a student of Harrow High School. I have been in this country for one year. I can speak four more languages, (Pashto, Dari, Urdu, Hindi and English). For me this is a big advantage because I can communicate with different people. Everyone wears clean

cloths and goes to the Masjid (Mosque), for prayer.

We have a month of Ramadan. In that month we have to fast from sunrise till sunset. During Ramadan you cannot eat, drink and smoke. After that we have a celebration, which is called Eid. On that day we wear new cloths and go to relatives houses. It is like Christmas.

My family Roles

First of all, no matter who you are speaking to, speak politely; respect everyone, be polite and a good person. No matter who is visiting your home, treat them the best as you can. We usually served food on plastic or vinyl tablecloths spread on the floor and sit where you normally sit. Eat with your hands. Do not eat with your left hand. No alcohol is allowed in our house because in our religion we cannot drink that.

I love my religion, family and culture!

Culture and Religion (Islam)

We believe just in Allah (God) and his Prophets. Friday is the best day of the week for us because it is a holy day.

Languages are your Key to the World

My name is Mariam Elawadi and I am 14 years old. I was born in Alexandria, Egypt. "Languages are your key to the world." That was what my father told me. I always remember that, and in fact it seems to be true.

My mother language is Arabic, but since I was four years old, I was learning at St. Jeanne Antide Institute, which is one of the best schools for teaching French around the world. After studying for eight years at that school, I had to go live in Pisa, Italy, where my parents were doing research in medicine. Italy is a wonderful country: history, arts, music, opera, sciences... Italy is an open museum. I didn't know Italian, and I did not have any opportunity to learn some Italian before travelling. In fact, it's now rare to find Italian schools in Alexandria in spite of its Greco-Roman culture and history.

My first scholastic year in an Italian school (Leonardo Fibonacci) was quite complicated because it was difficult for me to understand what the teachers and students were saying. Luckily, I learned Italian during this year because I know

French, which is a Latin language as well, so it's similar to Italian, and I was trying to match expression and words.

Aurora was my best friend and she is Italian. She helped me to learn and understand her mother language (Italian) and from my side I taught her and other friends some French and some Arabic.

Now I am living in the UK for four months, and knowing three languages has helped me enrich my English vocabulary for better expressing myself and understanding others.

"TALK TO LET ME KNOW YOU"



Mariam Elawadi

BASKETBALL FOOTSTEPS

By Nikhil Pampati



Illustration By Benjamin Clifford

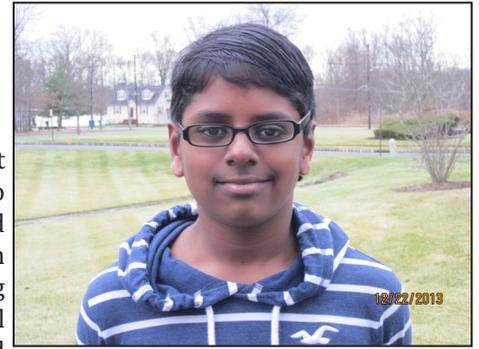
Almost every kid I know plays some kind of sport. Well, that's them. My main thing is video games. Usually, the only kind of sport I would ever play is in video games. Every time I go downstairs to play video games, my dad yells, "Go play outside like everyone else."

Well, I am not everybody else. I'm Bob. My dad always says, "Never be a follower. Be a leader."

Well, if he doesn't want me to be a follower, then I should not go outside because everybody else does.

The only problem with me being a gamer instead of an athlete is that I won't follow in my brother's footsteps. He was the star player of the high-school basketball team, and now my parents (Jackson and Margot Pater) expect me to play as well, or even better than my brother. Frankly, I hate basketball. But even though I do, I tried out for Huntington's basketball team in my sophomore and freshman years. Of course I did not make it; I probably was not even close. Can you believe I tried out? Well the only reason is because I wanted to make my brother and parents happy.

Now, right about now, I would have finished my homework



and would be about to start my video games, but instead I am going to an informative meeting for Parents. I still don't get why I had to come. Seriously, it's for parents. It's bad enough that I have to go out

Nikhil knows how to write. This is a fantastic story. You will enjoy it.

for tryouts, but now they're making me go to an informative meeting. Well, it is not a surprise since I have gone every year that I had to tryout. So that makes a little less sense if I have to go, but I already know what they are going to talk about. Every year they talk about what the basketball tryouts are going to cover, what will happen after your kid is chosen, etc. But it looks like I will have to go anyway.

So, my mom and I are heading to the informative meeting and then my mom tells me we are going to stop for some groceries. Yay, grocery shopping! (sarcastic comment). As I drag my body out of the car like a callow child, I am wondering if I should just beg my mom to let me out of the informative meeting for basketball. Then I think, "I should tell her that I do not want to even try out for the basketball team." So as my mom is hurrying into the store, I rush behind her while she is getting a cart and going to the vegetable aisle I just come behind her faster. Once I am finally caught up to her, I start complaining, "Mom, I don't really want to go to the informative meeting."

"Don't be silly honey," says my mom.

"I don't think I want to try out," I whisper.

"Ha-ha," laughs my mom.

She goes to the cashier and tells me that if I do well in basketball, I can matriculate to a good college with a sports scholarship. Then I say, "Mom, I don't even like basketball because it's a waste of time."

After I said that, both the cashier and my mom look at me. Then I start to get the feeling that I said something wrong. Before my mom even opens her mouth, the cashier says, "As a two-time NBA all-star and a Hall Of Famer, I can tell you that basketball is not a waste of time."

I could not speak, but when I finally could I ask him, "Do you play basketball?"

From the background seven people sigh and

Basketbal Footsteps con't on page 44

Basketball Footsteps *con't from page 43*

thensomebody shouts, "Son, that's LeBron"...

The cashier cuts him off and says, "Thanks, but I can introduce myself. Hey kid I'm LeBron James and I play for a basketball team called the Miami Heat. The actual reason I am a cashier right now is because my doctor told me that my wrist is... well, was broken and I should rest for a couple of weeks. I am actually going to go back to playing in a couple of days."

I can't do anything but freeze, while everyone just looks at him with amazement. For some reason, I think my mom paid him to beguile and have me believe that he is famous and he could tell me that basketball is all good and awesome, etc. But then again, he kind of sounded serious. While I was trying to soak all of this in, my heart was racing 120 beats per second. I felt as if I was getting pushed off a promontory.

He then said, "You know what kid, give me two days and I'll show you how exciting basketball can be."

At that moment, I had so much verve for basketball because I was talking to a star player about the sport. I was so excited; I agreed to let him be my "mentor." He gave me his card with his number. I was so preoccupied with the thought of him being my mentor; I forgot we were going to the informative meeting in the car.

When we reached the informative meeting, the coach tormented me by talking very slowly, which made the meeting go on for so loooooooooooooong!

After the informative meeting, I asked my mom if we could go to GameStop and get a basketball game called NBA 2K12. My mom was so excited that for once, I asked for a basketball game. So she got me that along with a basketball themed Xbox controller.

After I went home, I played my game and I actually enjoyed it!

The next day was the day I was going to take up LeBron James and take his advice and coaching about basketball. So as soon as I got up, I called LeBron James and I told him that I was available today and we could meet at the basketball court in my Community Park. I gave him directions and he said, "See you this afternoon."

All during school, basketball was all I could think about. Finally,

the afternoon came and LeBron James was at the park waiting for me. I waved hi to him and he just said, "Let's get started."

We did some drills (knockout, passing drills, etc.) and we actually played a real game. Can you believe it? I tried to play a basketball game with a professional player. Afterwards, he told me that we should meet up here at the same time tomorrow.

When I went back home, I told everything that happened to my parents. I was actually excited for the tryouts this year.

The next day I arrived at the park and I could not see LeBron James there. I got worried, but I waited. I waited for an hour and he did not show up. "Of course," I thought, he must have known that I stunk and he just bailed. What was I supposed to do? The tryouts were tomorrow and I stunk at basketball.

The next day I worried throughout the school day how I was going to play in the tryouts. Then the bell rung for each period and finally the tryouts came. As I entered the gym the coach just looked at me jokingly. Then the drills started, and I actually flew through them the way my dad goes through doughnuts. At the end, everybody looked at me like a twister had just hit their homes. I could tell that they were impressed and scared that I had gotten so good at basketball.

Then somebody yells to me, "What, were you trained by a professional?"

And on cue, LeBron James walks in and goes, "Bob, good job. I saw the whole tryouts. Sorry I could not come yesterday. I was not feeling well."

Everyone just stares at me talking to LeBron and watching him leave the gym while the coach is trying to get an autograph. Then they start asking me questions like, "How was it like to train with a professional? How did you get him to train you, etc.?"

I just answer them all with a smile. I do not know what the outcome of the tryouts are yet because they still have to decide, but all I know is that whatever happens, I sincerely loved and tried my best at basketball.

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Grand Prize Winners of the school-wide “Small Moment” writing contest

Damayanti Pachadé

Anjali Gullapally

By Anjali Rajgopal



Thomas Edison Energy Smart School students in November at the City Kidz World magazine assembly.



Featured Stories: Grand Prize Winners

Ice Skating

By Damayanti Pachadé

The temperature outside is ten degrees below zero, and the river is frozen a foot thick. It is quiet except the sound of blades scraping on black ice. That's me doing my favorites sport, iceskating. It was my first time ice – skating.

One Saturday morning, my friend called me to go along with her and she said it is a surprise. I was pretty excited and was wondering where she would take me. I suddenly realized it was an immense ice skating rink. I was shocked. We both wore our skates and went to the ice rink.

As it was my first time, I was kind of scared. When I stepped on the ice rink, I thought I would slip so I stepped off the ice rink. My friend asked me, "What happened?"

I replied, "I am scared I might slip off the ice. My friend told me, "Don't be afraid. Nothing

will happen."

I said, "Ok."
I stepped back on the track. In my mind I remembered how I skated in the roller skating rink. After that, I started to ice skate slowly. I couldn't even believe myself. I was so happy that I was spiraling so fast. Suddenly, I saw my friend was watching me astonishingly that how much I was enjoying. So, I asked her to do the spirals as it was so much fun! My friend replied, "Ok!" So, she came started to do spirals on the ice rink. She was so velocious that I couldn't even catch up with her. I was so exultant that I couldn't even stop. I was iceskating for so many hours that I did not even realize it was evening.

When I was going back home, I cherished those moments I spent with my friend and will be remembering them throughout my life.



By Anjali Gullapally

A Fall Story

It was a nice and sunny, fall afternoon with temperatures around the mid-60s. I quickly finished all my school homework and weekend studies. My parents were happy to let me to go and play with my brother, who had also completed all his studies.

I ran freely across our lawn, full of crisp and colorful leaves. I could hear the loud crunching under my feet. I love walking barefoot in the leaves! The tingling made it feel so good on my feet. My brother and I were playing a really fun game of hide and seek tag! Suddenly, out of nowhere, my brother tripped over a long tree stump and fell to the ground with a huge THUD! A long stream of red blood shot out from a large cut on his left leg.

Just then, I thought, I can't leave my little brother lying there in such agony. I quickly rushed inside to tell my mom. When I told her, she frantically searched everywhere to find the bandages and an antiseptic cream. She was so worried that she searched everywhere but could not find the bandages. I just couldn't help it and started to cry rather loudly. My mom calmed me down after a few chaotic moments, she remembered where the yellow bandages were. My brother's wound was now covered with a soft waterproof bandage and he said it was not hurting him that much anymore. We all were so relieved and we continued our fun game of tag!



By Anjali Rajgopal

THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!

"Ah! Christmas Eve! A happy time," I said merrily staring at the glowing Christmas lights. "Yeah isn't it?" my brother Neel said. I'm so excited to go to RED LOBSTER. It is a fun place so we left home in a jiffy. The car ride was a tiny bit weird because we started talking about lobsters that go down your pants. "Finally after so a long we are here," I said sighing.

"Oh come on! It was only ten minutes," daddy said smiling.

"Yeah says you," I said pouting.

We entered RED LOBSTER and stopped at the counter that had a women standing behind it. The women asked for the number of people we had. My dad answered and said we were four of us. The women also led us to our table. The table was made out of wood and not very sturdy.

"well at least the food is good," I said, starving to death. I guess I was right because the next thing I saw was delicious food on the wood table. At first I took baby bites and then monster bites. In the meanwhile we played a game called twenty questions. "20 questions" is a game where you choose an object or an animal and the others have to guess it. Trust me! there were a lot of funny answers. We over-ate

and didn't have time for dessert. Instead we went home talking about dinner and Christmas.

"Mom, do you think Santa came?" I asked feeling sleepy. "Well I wouldn't bet on that," dad said politely. We reached home and hurried to the Christmas tree. All eyes were glued to what was under the tree. I took a good look at the tree and found presents for all of us, even mom and dad. I opened my gifts and I got rock painting set and a chemistry set. I've been waiting for those for my birthday, but got it for Christmas. I was excited and Neel was too because he got a geo-gamy set and a science kit with cool inventions.

I was surprised that my parents got gifts too. My dad got a lap-desk for his computer and my mom got a henna kit.

The most interesting part of this moment was that I was pretty sure there were no gifts under the tree before we left. I had checked. But when we came back, there were plenty of gifts under the tree for all of us. How could this be? It remains a mystery till today. I guess Santa is real and I sure hope he does not forget to visit my house this Christmas.



An Unexpected Event

By Catherine Alexis Lee

My mother and I decided to go to Toys R Us to look for various Christmas gifts and toys. It was a beautiful and sunny Saturday morning. We started our day by having a big breakfast. I had many different choices of fruits and cereals. I decided I wanted to eat something light and colorful like strawberries, blueberries, honeydew melon and scramble eggs. I wanted to make sure to eat a healthy breakfast. All I could think of was arriving in front of the huge bright and colorful Toys R Us sign!

I have been to a Toys R Us store many times before. This time it was for a special occasion. We were visiting my favorite Toys R Us store for our Christmas holiday shopping spree. Every aisle had the most wonderful toys imaginable. I went directly to the huge Barbie dolls and Monster High dolls section. I was very fascinated by the different types of dolls on the shelves. My mother let me choose any of the scary looking monster high dolls and the Barbies. My favorite doll is Frankie Stein and Cleo De Nile. I think we spent many hours looking around the store and shopping. It's always a wonderful experience going to Toys R Us.

It had already started to snow when we were leaving Toys R Us. I think there was about two inches of snow on the ground. I was thrilled to see the beautiful white snow. I was so excited

to get home to open one of my gifts. I helped my mother put the big bags of gifts in the trunk of the car. She turned the car keys and it did not make any noise. I heard my mother say in a low voice, "Oh, no the battery is dead!" She pointed to the snow outside and said the weather is getting worse. We began to panic and I was not thrilled anymore with the snow.

"How were we going to get home?" My mother decided to call AAA fast car service. All I heard was my mother saying it was going to take three long hours for them to come. We could not believe this terrible moment was happening to us. It was beginning to snow harder and it was getting extremely cold. We decided to go back inside the store. I was very tired and sleepy. Finally, after two hours, the guy from AAA service came and started the car. There was a lot of snow on the ground by the time he came. We drove directly to Pep Boys and they put a new battery in our car. I was scared, wondering if we were going to be able to get home in the snow. We arrived home safe and I was very happy that everything was fine.



THE SNAKE

By Meghan G.

"Ahhhhhhh."

My heart was beating fast. I don't know what happened, but my sister screamed loudly. My sister's name is Misha. A regular, happy scream would have been normal, but this, this was a scream of terror. Misha is 4 years old, so you would probably think that to get her to scream with terror would be normal, but for us, it's super hard to get her to scream. Back to the scream. Since she doesn't scream so easily, you must be thinking what I'm thinking, THIS HAS TO BE BIG!

I rushed to the garage wondering what had happened. When I got there, I was panting like a dog on a sweltering hot day. I stopped dead in my tracks. There, slithering right in front of me, was a...SNAKE!

I yelled to Misha, "Get out of the garage!" Next, I rushed into the hall, grabbed a trash bag and called to my dad, "There is a python in the garage!" Daddy came

running to the garage, and then he stopped dead in his tracks, "That is a garter snake, not a python."

"I can't tell the difference. Now can you take the amphibian to the park!"

"OK."

Daddy captured the ugly, black, blue and dark green, snake that had scared the heck out of us. He dropped it, unharmed, in the park. If only Misha had known that it was a harmless snake, and just walked out of the garage, and told daddy that there is a garter snake.



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My Cherished Moment in Tae- Kwon-Do

By Krishnan Tholkappian

Yes! I broke my first wooded board in Tae- Kwon Do!
But let me narrate from the beginning.

I was excited to go from no belt to white belt. I knew everything in Tae- Kwon- Do from Ten-Basic-Motion to Self Defense. As soon as I got inside the Dojo, my masters, named Master Cho and Master Kim, assigned the students spots.

Then, the testing began. First, we started with Self Defense. Second, we did Ten-Basic-Motions, and ultimately it was breaking time. I got nervous because, the guy before me failed to break the wood, and I thought that it's impossible to break the wood with my bare hands.

Then, the masters called me up to break the wood. But then CRACK! I broke the wood straight in the middle with my strong hands!. HOORAY! I broke my first wood in TKD. I gave all my TKD tapes to my dad, and I ran to the front of the Dojo, AND I GOT MY WHITE BELT! Parents started taking pictures and I was

on the website.

One week later; I started learning a new thing called FORM. Even though I am now a brown belt, the good old white belt is still the mostmemorable.



Tae- Kwon- Do Belts in order

1. White
2. Yellow
3. Orange
4. Green
5. Blue
6. Purple
7. Red
8. Brown
9. Junior Black
10. Black

MY 10TH BIRTHDAY!

By Natalia

On December 5, 2013, at around 6 a.m. my alarm went off. It was time for me to wake up. I was too exhausted to get out my big, large bed. When I was awake, I went in my big wide living room. I was so excited because it was my 10th birthday. I turned on my black TV to watch my shows. My mom woke up and said to me, "Happy birthday Natalia."

"Thanks," I said.

I had a huge breakfast, went to my room, and went in my drawer and got my blue uniform. I went in my shiny, blue car with everything I needed for school. I went to daycare (daycare is where I wait for my bus). The daycare was brown and wide and it has a bank and a pizza store.

When we were in the big, shiny, blue car, my brother said, "Happy birthday." I said, "Thank you."

The bus finally came. I went in the bus. I was waiting until we got to my school, which has lots of students and teachers and staff. When we got there I was excited to tell my teacher that today was my 10th birthday. My school is a big, brown school with a yellow slide and lots of blue water. I went inside and put my stuff in my cubby. Occasionally, I'd be late for school, but not today. I went in the really cold room with the 20 children in my classroom. I was so cold that I had to wear my warm, blue school jacket. When I saw one of my friends she said, "Happy birthday," without me reminding her. When she said that, I was fascinated because I couldn't believe she remembered it was my birthday. My friend has black hair and she I very helpful.



My Cruise Trip to the Bahamas

By Dharani Moorthy

It was a chilly evening at Manhattan, New York. My family was among the several people on a humongous cruise ship. It was my first cruise trip and I was very excited. We were on our way to the fabulous Bahamas Island. The colorful cruise ship started moving slowly. We saw the beautiful city view and the Statue of Liberty behind us.

The ship had a gigantic pool for everybody to swim and play. It also had a big water slide and a whirlpool tub. It had a nice play area for all the kids.

Every day, me and all my friends went to the play area where we all had so much fun. There was a soft little bunk bed for me in our room. My dad and I played chess at the game room where they had huge chess coins. The

food was awesome and delicious at all the restaurants in the ship.

We arrived at the hot sands of the Bahamas. We went on a glass bottomed boat to enjoy the colorful fishes and coral reefs. We had so much fun at the Bahamas and returned back to the ship in the evening. On the last day of our cruise, we enjoyed playing in the pool for a long time. After seven days of our trip we returned back to our sweet home. It was really an adventurous and memorable trip.



MY FIRST TIME RAPPELING

By Ishaan M. Patel

It was two days before the long awaited Spring Break and I couldn't wait! We were going to amazing Costa Rica. Before leaving, I went on the computer and quickly surfed the internet to read about its physical characteristics. Costa Rica has a thick, green rainforest.

The day we were departing, I was very depressed because there were severe thunderstorms the night before our flight.

When we arrived in San Jose it was burning hot. When we reached the Oso Peninsula. I saw amazing birds and a tropical forest. At our hotel they asked us if we would like to participate in their numerous activities. My dad signed us up to go rappelling in tall waterfalls for the next day. I was extremely nervous when I heard him say that!

The next morning we quickly got ready to go rappelling. I was very anxious. Our guide told me that we would

have to rappel down four large and small waterfalls. We hiked down a rocky and steep trail to reach the top of the first waterfall.

As I looked down, it was an incredible moment for me. I was nervous and very scared, but also excited at the same time. I was ready to easily give up and not go ahead with it. My dad gave me lots of courage to try it. I struggled to rappel down the first small waterfall since I was a beginner. I scratched my knee, but it was so exciting that I ignored it.

At the end of that waterfall, I learned how to easily rappel and my dad told me that I was now an expert. The last waterfall was immense, but I managed to slowly get down without a problem.

This was my first time rappelling in real life instead of playing it on a video game or other electronics. When was your first time doing something and how did you feel?



Time To Show My Talent

By Amrith Vedlarajaiah

Last year, at a TEECS School, there was a talent show. I signed up and was going to perform Tae Kwon Do (a type of martial arts). In the auditions, I performed my Tae Kwon Do form and they selected me for the final round.

On the day of final round of the talent show, when my name was announced, I was feeling extremely nervous and frightened as I walked towards the middle of the stage. There were many teachers, kids and parents, including my dad and mom, in front of me. I quickly took a glance at everyone. I remembered my master's advice to take a deep breath and then introduce myself to the whole school, while breathing heavily. I said to myself that I had to do this.

Tae Kwon Do was my biggest and strongest talent. And so I began! As I started performing my Tae Kwon Do form, slowly everyone started clapping and cheering. Their cheers increased my confidence level and the nervousness that I had in the beginning vanished.

Next, I asked one of the teachers to hold my wooden board. As I spun around and kicked, the board broke. This kick was called a "back kick". Everyone applauded like crazy. So I felt that I made it! That day I have realized that there was no need to be scared at all. A lesson I learned was to never give up on your dreams by getting nervous or scared.



My First Fishing Trip

By Varun Mathur

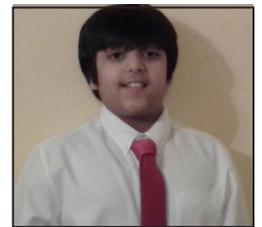
Oh! It was my luckiest day when I heard that my dad was taking me fishing in the deep sea. Never had I got a chance in my whole life to go fishing, a thing that had always fantasized me. When I reached the deep sea, the excitement was growing and one look at the deep blue ocean, the smell of salt water air and the sea gulls were enough to make my heart jump out of my dry mouth. "Here boy, let us get onto the Pride of the sea," my dad said, pointing towards a big, white boat.

"That is the one that will take us into the ocean."

We got aboard and the thrill and chill was beginning to get unbearable for me as I wanted to get a real big catch, big... maybe the biggest, as I wanted to boast about it to my mom,

sister and my friends.

Slowly, a loud siren honked and I could feel the boat moving away from the marina bay. The attendant came over, showed us where the bait was and how we would attach it to the hook and drop the fishing line when, they would announce it over the loud speaker system. "Ah, at last" it happened, after going a few distance the boat stopped and I got my first chance at fishing. Dropped the line after attaching the bait and within a few minutes, I think I



My First Fishing Trip *con't on page 50*

The Pit Stop Race

By Nikhil Chandrasekar

"I'm going to kick your butt, dad!" I yelled.

We were at North Carolina in the huge NASCAR Hall of Fame building. NASCAR stands for the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. My dad and I were going to have a race to see who could be a good pit crew member (lift a fake car with a lever, change the car's tires with a compressed air gun, which can rotate clockwise and counter clockwise, and give it fake gasoline quickly).

When the timer started we ran to the big lever, which I had to pounce on to pull down. After I had finally pulled the lever down, I went to the wheel. First I grabbed the compressed air gun and put it into counter clockwise rotation. Then I used it

to pull the wheel off and put it back on. After that, I smacked the button on the compressed air gun, which put it into clock-wise rotation. After putting the wheel back on, I ran for the gas tank.

I pulled it down and filled it until all six green lights glowed. It then took me forever to lift it back up because it was connected to a high rod. After finally lifting the gas tank, I lowered the car with a twist of the handle. I was close to being victorious, but my dad beat me by two seconds because he didn't have trouble with the gas tank. NASCAR was the best part of my Thanksgiving break.



A FUN DAY AT A FUN PLACE

By Neel R. Viswanathan

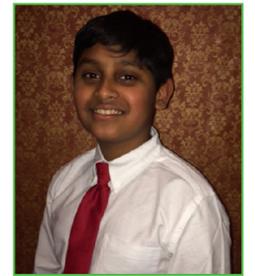
Last year, my friends and I had an awesome day at Chuck E Cheese. We went there in support of the school and ended up having a wonderful time together. My friend's mom drove the four of us there. We could not wait to get out of the van and start playing. Once we got there, they stamped our hand with invisible ink with the same number for all the people in our group. They do this for the safety of the kids so that no kid can be kidnapped.

I bought \$20 worth of tokens. My friends and I played cool racing games and shooting games. Most of the games allowed you to earn tickets. We wanted to collect as many tickets as possible so we could purchase toys for all of us. We had lot of fun trying to figure out which game would give us the most tickets. We also made sure we had a lot of fun playing the game. The game we played the most was a game where you had to throw a blue ball and aim for the highest numbered hole to get maximum tickets.

This was a great time for us to bond and be-come

good friends. We had to work together as a team and help each other to win as many tickets as possible. With our efforts, we ended up with 1226 tickets. We had to load our tickets into the ticket-muncher that ate up all our tickets and gave us a slip

for the total number of tickets we got. We ran up to the front desk to trade in our tickets for toys. We had to look for toys that all four of us were interested in and that we could purchase with the tickets we had. We each ended up getting a balloon guitar, candy and vampire teeth. We spend nearly 3 whole hours at Chuck-E-Cheese and we loved every moment of it. I was very happy and thought it was the best day ever. While we were leaving the place, the staff checked our arms for the invisible number that was stamped on our arms. Once she made sure that we were all part of the same group, she let us go. It was very cool. My friends and I remember this day with fond memories. I look forward to doing it again with my friends.



My First Fishing Trip *con't* from page 49

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showed us where the bait was and how we would attach it to the hook and drop the fishing line when, they would announce it over the loud speaker system. "Ah, at last" it happened, after going a few distance the boat stopped and I got my first chance at fishing. Dropped the line after attaching the bait and within a few minutes, I think I could feel something, I was excited, I could feel my heart pounding, and blood racing inside me. I called for my dad, and he was like, go ahead start winding up the line, I did as quick as I could, and guess what? "Bingo" I had got my first big catch. My dad now, came running over to me and started helping me, it was my first catch ever, a big one too, a keeper (as you could call it), it was a "Fluke", yes that is what that fish was called, it was also a big fluke for me, as I knew that this catch had nothing to do with my skills, personality or anything else. My happiest moment in life, as I could say. I have had many but, yes, so far this was it. The catch was 14.5" inches long, and was my souvenir and dinner that night. That evening and for a few days I could not stop talking about this small but striking moment in my life.

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Preparing Future Innovators...

Tears Of A Phoenix

By Kaustav (Riju) Patra

A phoenix is a bird that never dies.

Resurrected from its ashes, built to survive.

One may think the phoenix leads a happy life,

*But the phoenix feels a pain worse than the stab of a
knife.*

*Life becomes a never-ending cycle, like the moon and
the sun.*

From its inevitable fate, the phoenix can never run.

He provides strong wisdom, but to no prevail.

The world makes the same mistakes, without fail.

The phoenix sees loved ones come and go.

He falls for love and death's throes.

Sometimes he sees a hope of a better world to be.

But the tears of a phoenix are not a rare sight to see.



WHAT: CALL FOR ENTRIES: "SeasonScapes" --High School Student Juried Photography Exhibition

WHO: Princeton Photography Club and D&R Greenway Land Trust

WHEN: Digital Submission Deadline: Friday, February 14, 2014

WHEN: Acceptances will be announced via e-mail February 28th

KEY: Five winners will be awarded prizes. Best-In-Show being \$250

WHERE: Submission details on website: www.drgreenway.org

D&R Greenway and Princeton Photography Club invite high school students to submit digital images expressing the seasons for "SeasonScapes", the annual juried exhibition held at the land trust.

Applicants are requested to photograph open space, evoking a season or the transition between seasons. The photograph may be digitally manipulated or unaltered.



Digital submission deadline is Friday, February 14, 2013. Specific for submission may be found at www.drgreenway.org.



Meet an Up and Coming Young Actress

Riya Ubriani

Riya was in a local play. Let's read about her experience!

Questions:

Q: What play were you in?

A: Breaking News: Baby born in Bethlehem.

Q: What was your part?

A: Hadria Harrasus; a reporter.

Q: What did you like most about your part?

A: Well, that my part was one of the lead role. It had couple of songs and few funny lines also.

Q: How did you prepare for the play?

A: I practiced my lines and the songs from the play every day for a month.

Q: What was the most difficult part of being in the play?

A: Even though this was my first time being in a play, nothing really seemed difficult. I actually quite enjoyed myself.

Q: What was the most interesting part of being in the play?

A: That I got to show my talent and I got lot of compliments after the play.



Movie Pitch

Contest Winner

Karishma Yadlapalli



Agent C. and Agent K. need a new partner. During the search, a mission comes up. In Hawaii, there is a criminal and she is the master of disguises. She has a weapon that is so powerful that it can neutralize an army. Agent C. and Agent K. must get that weapon from the woman. Will the duo find the lady? Will the duo get tricked by one of her disguises? Will they find a great enough, "daredevil" partner to help them stop the lady?

Watch for this movie in a cinema in years to come!

Guitar Lessons

By Laasyasri Vaddepalli

Ringaringaringaring! The school bell rang. The classes were dismissed so that we could go home. I walked home and took off my backpack. I sat down on the couch to relax. My mother came downstairs to tell me shocking news.

"I enrolled you to a guitar lessons, and guess what? Your first class is today!" my mother happily told me as she put a brand new guitar in my hands and an empty music folder. I was discouraged. I didn't want to go, but my mother told me that by 6th grade, I should be learning how to play an instrument and that it would help in High School. I was finishing up my homework so that I wouldn't have to do it after guitar lessons. After I finished my homework, I put it into my backpack. I started hearing a hammer banging outside. I stepped outside to look where the noise was coming from. I saw my neighbor building a shed in his backyard. I went back inside the house. My mother gave me \$10.00 to buy some bread and some cookies from the bakery. I got on my bike and rode to the bakery. A baker was placing a batch of cookies in the oven by the time I got there. I gave him the money and bought the bread and cookies. I went home and handed the bread and cookies to my mother. My mother said it was time for guitar lessons and told me to get in the car. Then she came and drove me to my class.

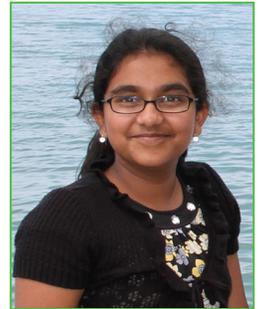
When I went into the classroom, I saw six students sitting

in chairs and the teacher was playing drums. Then he stopped and greeted me. I could tell that he was a very nice person. He even complimented me. When everyone had come, he taught us the parts of the guitar and then the names of the strings. In the middle of class he threw a plastic, toy snake on someone and freaked us out. After we had discovered that it was fake, we all started laughing and so did the teacher.

Then we went home. I didn't usually like instruments and music, but now it seemed interesting.

The next time I went to class, he taught us how to play some notes. Some kid was trying to be silly and accidentally broke two strings on his guitar. The teacher then said, "How did you break this great treasure?" I didn't know why he said that word (treasure), but later I found out that he considered it treasure because instruments were important to him. A year went by and now I can play super well. I love playing the guitar now and I hope to be in a band when I grow-up. My music teacher is my most favorite teacher now and I love going to class. I hope this never ends! I love playing the guitar!

Laasyasri is great writer is interested in developing her short story writing skills.



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