

# Warrior Spearhead



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EDITION TWO

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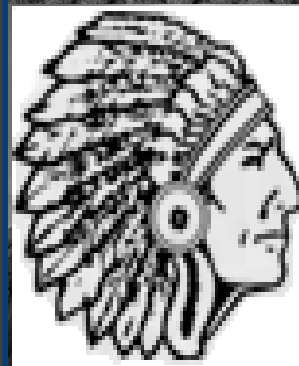
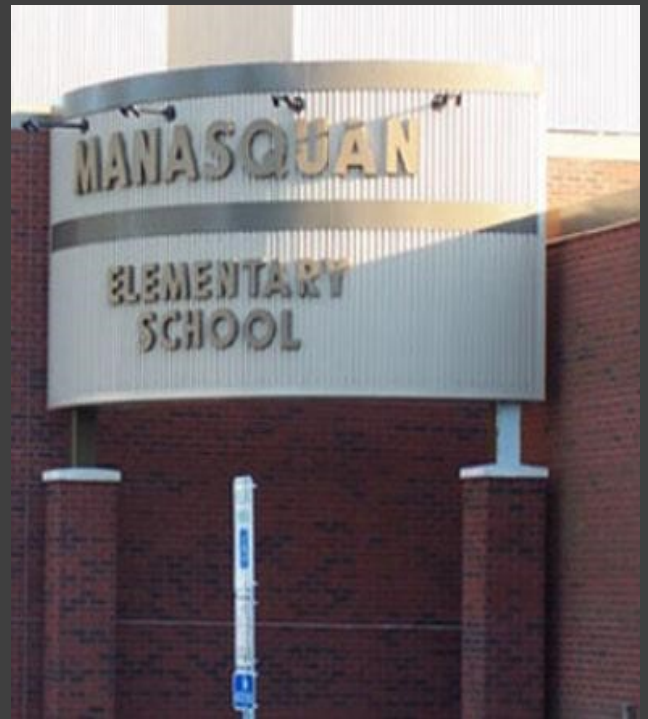
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STEM

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THANK YOU!

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## OUR STAFF-

This edition of the Warrior Spearhead was created with help from the members of the 8th Grade STEM class and our lovely 7th grade writer Ellen Gallagher.

# The Case of GP and JH vs. Great Oak High School

By: Ellen Gallagher

On January 19, 2017, Manasquan Elementary School's seventh grade STEM class shocked staff and parents during the Mock Trial at Manasquan Town Hall. The class had managed to come up with, write and preform a court case. The students played the parts of defense lawyers, prosecutors, bailiffs and witnesses.

The case was an appealed case about two girls (Grace Price and Jessica Hagerman) who were charged for possessing drugs on school grounds. The drugs were found in their gym locker which they share. The reason that the school found the drugs in the locker was that the school janitor (Matt Rose) found a baggie on the floor of the girls' locker room. The white powdery substance in the baggie lead him to think that it was cocaine and therefor searched all of the lockers and the bags, purses and clothes on the floor.

The defense lawyers (Ellen Gallagher and Luke Damen's) argument was that Miss Price and Miss. Hagerman's 4<sup>th</sup> amendment right of search and seizer was taken away from them when the janitor searched their personal belongings. Miss Hagerman stated in her testimony that she felt "angry that they went through all my stuff without, at least, telling me



first." The prosecutors (Machaela Lynch and Jake Edwards) argument was that since the girls were selling and processing drugs on school ground that, they were creating an unsafe environment for their students. In Mr. Edward's closing statement, he said that this was an act of "loco parentis, which means, acting in place of a parent." In the end, the jury, who was parent volunteers of the STEM class could not decide.

In the end Mrs. Yellovich, the social studies teacher who guided this class in the making of their court case, said, "This was a huge assignment. The students did a phenomenal job and made the teachers very proud."

Mrs. Ward, a Language Arts teacher, also helped the students with the writing. She said, "I am so impressed with everyone's hard work. The trial came together beautifully and we couldn't be prouder."

## Manasquan Mighty Milers

Ali Presbrey

How many of you would like to run and one day would like to run a marathon? If you do, you should join the Might Milers! Mighty Milers is an organization run by the New York Marathon organization. They wanted to promote children to start running for more physical activity. What they did was bring the program to schools around the country. The administrator tracks and documents the kids' miles on the Mighty Milers website. The kids win free gifts for running miles.

At Manasquan Elementary School we have an awesome Mighty Milers program run by our nurse, Mrs. Melillo. She wanted to start this club, so kids could get physical activity because running has great benefits. It is good for your heart, it is a great leg workout, it is considered meditation, it works your core, and it torches many calories. Every Wednesday morning a group meets in the gym to run miles. Any child of all grades can join this club to run, so if you want to join just talk to Mrs. Melillo to sign up! Wednesday mornings the kids are accompanied by high school cross country runners to teach them how to properly run and pace themselves for long distance runs. Nurse Melillo tracks their miles online and kids can win t-shirts, drawstring backpacks, Target gift cards, and money for their classrooms. Also each month the Mighty Milers organization has monthly promotions, and for the month of November several students from MES won New Balance sneakers. The students are

picked randomly for the promotions. So if you like to run and win prizes, Mighty Milers is the place for you!

## 2017 Lip Sync

Haley Griffith

On Friday, March 10, the annual MES Lip Sync was held in the cafetorium where an audience of adults and children were entertained by students dancing their hearts out on stage. Lip Sync is a night where students get a chance to get up on stage and dance to any song they choose with their friends or solo whether it be for fun or to really show what they've got. The talent from the entire night is included on the next page.

The night was ended by a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders getting up on stage dancing to a remix made by Megan Priest and Talia O'Reilly. It was their way to set an example for years to come and show that you are never too old!

Overall the night was a total success! Each performance was so different than the one before keeping the audience constantly interested. Some performances left the audience laughing while others left the audience in awe. Either way, each student did an amazing job and had a lot of fun.

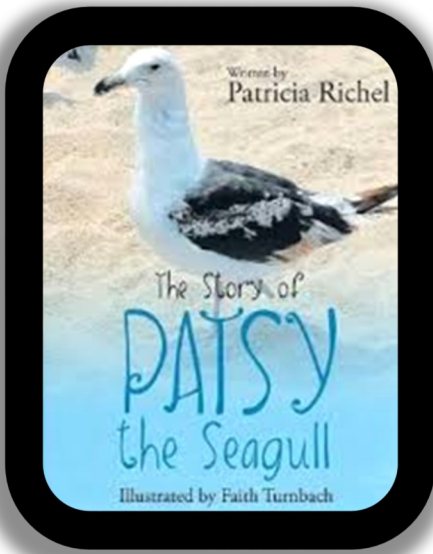
# List of Lip Sync Performers

- Ozzy and Nate Canarick performing to “Canned Heat”
- Emma McNulty, Cameron McLaughlin, Lily Nordell, Teresa Cesario, and Olivia Cesario performing to “Time of My Life”
- Jamie Murphy, Patrick Devane, Collins Sharkey, and Thomas Generelli performing to “Ghostbusters”
- David Seeley, Nick Bounassi, Jack Mead, Anthony Lofferredo, Kyle Cappadanno, Max Salerno, Tanner Vallio, Will Minervini, Michael Nitto, Ryan Mulvaney, Julian Walthall, Louis DeGenova, Michael McNulty, and Jason Larned performing to their own mashup, “Lit Mashup”
- Stella Covery, Tallie Lake, Mackenzie Longo, Jamie Jackwicz and Marissa Martell performing to “Can’t Stop the Feeling”
- Meghan McGreevey performing to “Monster”
- Brighton Muly, Charlotte Califano, Charlotte Quinn, Ella McCarthy, Reece Rampone, Juliana Runge, Anna Pharo and Finley Reisher performing to “Trolls Mix”
- Hazel Height, Roree MacDonald, Paige Franklin, and Paige Donnelly performing to “How Far I’ll Go”
- Owen Korth, Jack Bryant, Brady Schlatter, Donovan Roll, JP Sanders, Kennedy Larned, Hunter Monte, Ryan McNulty, Harry O’Hea, Oliver Cafiero, Nate Canarick, Sabrina Boyle, Lily McMenamen, Sarah Furlong-Leonard, Molly O’Boyle, Makenna Hunt, Cecilia Bonner and Samantha Stuart performing to “Thriller”
- Ava Sharkey, Madelyn Schlatter, Sophia Covery, Lily Pellegrino, Emily Spears, and Maeve Korth performing to “Girl in the Mirror”
- Abby McCartney and Elizabeth Campbell performing to “Cake by the Ocean”
- Grace Buckley, Mirabelle Elliot, Sadie Tuzenue, Samantha Palmieri, and Havaquelyn Spears performing to “Conga”
- Megan Liggett and Ally Attardo performing to “24K Magic”
- Ronan O’Grady, Declan O’Grady, Liam Opatosky, John Lake, Lucus Longo, Quinn Juska, Mathew Dayton, Michael Lofferredo, Kellan Quinn, PJ Murphy, Jake Romono, Thomas Canning and Dylan Mettessich performing to “Fight for Your Right to Party”
- Julianna Martell and Caroline Giblin performing to “Magic”
- Sienna Vowell and Tate Toole performing to “I Want to Break Free”
- Kiley Byrne and Andie Meier performing to “That’s My Girl”
- Natalie Goble performing to “Stitches”
- Caroline Watson, Morgan Feeney, and Alana Young performing to “Can’t Stop the Feeling”
- Sadie DePasquale, Regan Prime, and Elizabeth Edwards performing to “Better When I’m Dancing”
- Kailie Rothery, Lizzie Langella, Catherine Canning and Emma Franklin performing to “Marry You”
- Carina Martell and Mackenzie Heim performing to “Something Big”
- Fiona McKeon and Charlotte Mckeon performing to “Play this Song”
- Madeline Marshall and Emelia Thompson performing to “Paris”
- Colleen Ragan, Eleanor Ragan, Maeve Ragan, Isabella Juska and Kelly Juska performing to “Just Dance”
- Soleil Roma, Reese MacDonald, and Joey Presbry performing to “Scars to Your Beautiful”
- Alejandro Martinez, Alexis Carrillo, Brenda Carrillo, Ingrid Alejo, Jesus Martinez, and Monse Martinez performing to “Can’t Hold Up”

# Patricia Richel's Visit to Manasquan Elementary School

By Brigid McCarthy

Have you ever met an author, up close and personal? Well, Ms. Melfi's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes had that very opportunity, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Patricia Richel has written two children's books, *The Story of Patsy the Seagull* and *Patsy the Seagull's Return to Happiness Lake*. Both books are illustrated by her granddaughter. She came in to tell the students about her book and how it came to be.



In *The Story of Patsy the Seagull*, Patsy and his friend, Harriet, love living at the beach. But one day, a hurricane blew on the beach and carried Patsy and Harriet into a westward wind current, all the way to a lake in

Pennsylvania. They had never seen the different animals, especially one as big as Dexter the Deer, and they were afraid. Mr. and Mrs. Duck befriended them and showed them the beauty of a lake even though it was so different from a beach. They eventually realized that there is no place like home, but you can find the beauty of home in anything around you.

In the second book, *Patsy's Return to Happiness Lake*, Patsy and Harriet decide one day to return to Happiness Lake to visit their friends. Mr. and Mrs. Duck remembered them and introduced them to their visiting relatives from Ohio, Lori and Steven. Immediately they began to make fun of Patsy who has a missing leg.

In the end, Patsy realized that perfect is overrated, and that he was perfect the way he is. And you should always be kind to others, no matter how different they may be.

As Richel read both of her books, the audience was attentive, enthusiastic, and riveted. Richel told the students how the book was based off a real-life bird that she often saw and fed at the beach.

Richel finished with, "I had never excelled in writing when I was in school, but you use it for everything. I would never have seen myself writing one children's book, let alone two. So, my advice is that if you have a talent for writing, please, please practice, please expand your ability. And if you don't, work on it."

Thank you for coming, Patricia Richel!  
The class loved having you.



# Dribble! Pass! Swish! Teachers vs. Students is a Can't Miss!

Connor Walsh

The National Junior Honor's Society hosts an annual basketball between eighth grade students and teachers. This Manasquan Elementary School tradition has been going on for more than 10 years! The date for this year's game is not yet determined, but you will see flyers all around the school soon. And this year, the undefeated teachers made lose to this years talented eighth graders. The eighth graders include Izzy Ragan, Christina Guinco, Mckenzie Ramire, Gavin Tuite, Joseph Battaglia, Sean Wayne, Connor Walsh, and Jack Collins. Some teachers include Mr. Russ and Mr. Manser.

Last year, the teachers snuck away from the eighth graders at the end of the game. The teachers have always gotten lucky in these games. But the class of 2017 has figured out a few genius plans to win. "We should foul the teachers and make them shoot free throws instead of throwing in layups over our head," said Joseph Battaglia. Jack Collins thinks we should focus on playing great team basketball and should focus on perimeter scoring. All these plans account for the teacher's height, but let's see how the teachers plan to slow down the speedy eighth graders. "Cheat as much as possible, and we'll play with as much players as possible," says sixth and seventh grade math teacher Mr. Manser. He certainly knows how to boost his teams odds.

Now to talk about the organization that is

hosting the game; NJHS. NJHS is a club you can be a part of once you're in sixth grade. It promotes community and school volunteering. In high school, you can be a part of National Honor Society, which goes on your resume and helps you get into a good college, so I recommend you join in sixth grade. They meet once a month and you are expected to have a total of 5 hours of volunteering per month. They are led fourth grade teacher Mrs. Saake. NJHS also leads many events in the elementary school such as the canned goods drive. "It is a great night and our biggest fundraiser," said Mrs. Saake. "We raise close to one thousand dollars and everyone has a really great time. You should really come." So, you heard it here first; Dribble, Pass, Swish! The Teachers vs. Students is a Can't Miss!

# Duck, Dip, Dive, and Dodge

## Peyton Rydholm

Ever wanted to be able to be in your own dodgeball tournament just like in the movie "Dodgeball"? Well, this past Friday, March 3, our school held the Second Annual Dodgeball Tournament, this is for grades five through eight, and all are welcome to complete. Each team has to consist of at least six people, and at least two of both girls and boys. Each member has to bring in \$3 as their entry fee and each fan has to pay an entrance fee of \$3 also. This year there was a great turnout for both players and fans. This is a great way to get involved with events within the school and have fun while doing it. Some of the teams that were entered this year were, "The Raging Memers", "Minnesota", "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Warriors", and "Nerf or Nothing". There is not an actual trophy for winning but the bragging rights are just as great as a prize, especially if you are "Da Peeps". "Da Peeps" a team that formed last year and stayed together to come back out for this year. Da Peeps have now won two years in a row, for the whole two years this has been going on. The team consisted of eighth graders Tommy Rice, Izzy Ragan, Christina Giunco, James O'Neill, Luke McHugh, Stephen Schmieder, Jack Collins, and the guy himself, Mr. Peeps. I sat down and asked team member Tommy Rice some questions about their strategies. Being on a team myself this year called "The Under-Average Joes" I would like to know what helped them win. "Charge the front line as soon as the game starts, so the other team backs away.

When they back away that means, your team can

get every single ball and that starts you on a good note. Also, when throwing aim for the legs so they cannot catch it. If you were to get hit with a ball, which I was not, try to make the ball bounce up so a teammate can catch it off the bounce. And teamwork makes the dream work, always work together, that will help you in dodgeball and life." Said Tommy Rice, 8<sup>th</sup> grader on "Da Peeps".

After I asked Tommy a question, I walked over and asked Christina Giunco questions because they ran this whole tournament for student council. This is a big event in our school and had to have taken awhile to put together and set up. "It takes like a month to get everything approved but on the day of, it just takes a lot of preparation."-Christina This comes a shock to me because I would have thought this takes a couple of weeks maximum. I didn't realize that it took this long. That must be frustrating too for the people running it. Putting in all that work and run it, and for people like Christina, playing also. "When eager and impatient people came up to us and questioned us about our ref calls."-Christina

After speaking to Christina, I wanted to ask the mascot of "Da Peeps" some pointers on being on a team and how he feels about this being his last time to win. "It feels amazing to be the mascot of my team, but being two time champions is even more of an honor. Yes I am sad because I know that we would have won again next year. Get the best players in your grade because that's what we did, and just have fun!" This is really the main idea of the dodgeball tournament, just to have fun. Gather all your friends, make a fun name, and get a chance to throw dodgeballs at your older and younger grades.



This is a great way to have fun and raise money for the school. The players even raised over two hundred dollars which will go towards new bike racks for the school. Living in Manasquan as we all know means that biking is the main way of transportation. These new bike racks will be a great asset to the students who ride their bikes to school every day and will ensure a safe place for those bikes during the school day. Also, a special thanks to our very own Mrs. Kopec for leading and putting this whole tournament together. "The dodgeball is a great way to promote school spirit and it gets a lot of kids involved in after school events." As Mrs. Kopec stated in my interview with her. She also mentioned about how the tournament has gotten bigger and more teams joined this year than last, and hopes that this will just keep on growing as the years go on. Just remember to have fun and don't be scared to join next year whatever grade you are whether it be fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth. Hopefully you will be out on that court next year, take it from me being on a team this year, it really is a great experience.

## **Fifth Graders Turn to Wax**

### **Cameron Perna and Ethan Willis**

On Tuesday, March 21st and Thursday, March 23rd, the fifth graders here at Manasquan Elementary School turned the halls into a wax museum. On Tuesday, there was a full dress rehearsal where students got to see the fifth graders in full costume as their chosen person, and Thursday was the performance.

Each student wrote their own short biography, which they were prepared to say when someone came around and pressed a button, which "activated them" and they would start talking. If

someone didn't press the button, they would hold a pose and remain frozen as if they were a wax figure until someone did.

There were all kinds of celebrities present! For example, Luke Ramire played Stan Lee, Megan Spears was Emma Watson, and Austin Griffith chose Milton Hershey.

Reese Willis, who dressed up as J.K. Rowling, said, "I wrote a book report and I turned it into a speech. I cut out my speech and used it as a note card". After this, we also asked her if she learned anything interesting about J.K. Rowling in the process of the project. She replied with, "I learned a lot about her, and it [the project] took a very long time. I also learned about J.K. Rowling's process of making books".

We then asked Alex Schmieder, who dressed up as Derek Jeter, about why he chose that person to be in the wax museum. He said, "I have always been a fan of Derek Jeter, I have played Baseball my entire life looking up to him and he is a great person who is very honest and respectful." I then asked Alex on his thoughts if Manasquan should continue the tradition of the wax museum and he answered, "I think that MES should definitely keep the tradition alive, it is fun for all involved in making it happen and the students get to know a bit more about their role model than they probably did before."

In conclusion this is a very fun event that the fifth graders get to experience, they get to dress up and live as their role model for all to see. These two fifth graders seem to strongly agree that Manasquan should have a wax museum for other grades like seventh and maybe eighth graders to build on the previous years' experience and know even more about your role model. Although it can be a long process of finding the information, the wax museum gives many people a great memory that they will remember for many years to come.

# Students of the Month

## Christina Giunco

Every month, a remarkable student is chosen to be the MES student of the month. They are chosen out of a number of brilliant and amazing students to be recognized at the Manasquan school district Board of Education meetings held at the high school every month. Each student is known for standing out in their own special way, having high academic marks, participating in extracurricular activities, and acting as a role model to their fellow peers here at Manasquan Elementary.

From the Vice Principal, Mr. Kirk himself, described the matter in which he and the Board choose a student of the month. He states, "We have a remarkable committee of faculty and teachers who choose the students based on a list of criteria such as leadership, academics, and character. Students chosen are sometimes the ones who fly under the radar. The ones who are not recognized as often as they should for their strong academic and outstanding abilities. Students chosen by the committee aren't always the visible leaders, but a leader in their own way."

The students then select a teacher who they feel has influenced and supported them through their years here at MES.

## September Student of the Month-Stephen Schmieder

Stephen is an all-around kind heart student with exceptional grades. Taking part in many activities such as Boy Scouts and NJHS. Stephen is a well-rounded student who maintains a high grade point average.

Teacher chosen: Mrs. Trischitta- "I have had Mrs. Trischitta for two years now and she is my favorite teacher and makes learning fun!"

## October student of the Month-Jillian Spalt

Jillian is a star athlete with a two-year undefeated season in Manasquan cross country. She's is an exuberantly kind student with strong academic grades.

Teacher chosen: Mrs. Ward- "I chose Mrs. Ward because she was an excellent 7th grade teacher. She expanded my horizons for a future in writing and the love of reading."

Mrs. Ward was very thankful and lucky to have the privilege to teach Jillian.

## November student of the month- Kate Capodanno

Kate is an excellent student, kind to all, and recognized for her starting position on the MES soccer team. Help carried the 2016-2017 girl's soccer team to an MCAL title against Belmar.

Teacher chosen: Mrs. Walling- "I chose Mrs. Walling because she is not only an amazing teacher but I can talk to her on a personal level. She's there for me along with every other student and I felt as if she needed to be recognized."

Mrs. Walling felt very grateful to have amazing students that would nominate her to become teacher of the month. She's excited for the tradition and for the other students and teachers to be nominated for such an award.

## **December student of the month- Amanda Bautista**

Amanda is an all-around kind student and is a joy to be around. She is an excellent student and well known throughout the school by students and faculty.

Teacher chosen: Mr. Clark- "Mr. Clark is a goofy teacher who interacts with his students. He's an excellent band director who pushes and challenges us to do great things.

Mr. Clark was very surprised and very thankful to Amanda and he was surprised to be so honored.

## **January student of the month- Luke McHugh**

Luke is an excellent student who takes part in many extra circular activities such as MES boys soccer, NJHS, and newspaper.

## **February student of the Month-Emma Cunningham**

Emma is a strong and well known student by all the faculty here at MES. She takes part in many extra circular activities including dance, drama and field hockey while maintaining an excellent grade point average.

Teacher chosen: Mrs. Sliwoski- "Although I never had her as a teacher, I have been lucky enough to spend a lot of time with her through my years within the Drama Club. She helps me with my performing but also has shaped me into the person I am today.

Mrs. Sliwoski felt very grateful and excited especially when getting the opportunity from a student who she very much respect.

Even though there are only nine months out of the school year, those who are not chosen doesn't mean teachers do not recognize their dedication and ability throughout the year. There are not enough months for teachers to choose all students deserving of the award. There are still a few months to go, don't think your hard work is going unnoticed.

## Upcoming Softball/Baseball Season

### Haley Griffith

Last year's softball and baseball seasons were both a major success from beating rivals to winning championships both teams brought their all and it definitely paid off. The boys' baseball team went 8-2 and the girls' softball team went 12-0 and won the first ever MCAL Softball Championship. Both coaches were extremely pleased with the outcome of last year's season and I got a chance to speak with Mr. Wahl (baseball coach) and Mr. Glenn (softball coach) about the upcoming seasons.



#### Mr. Wahl-

##### **What do you think your biggest challenges will be this season?**

Pitching. In years past we have had two solid pitchers then two relief, this year we do not have as many. It will be a collaborative effort between all of our pitchers.

##### **Who do you think will be your toughest competition this season?**

All teams will be tough but I think Antrim Brielle and St. Catherine's are going to be the top three. But you never know when you have a transfer student nobody knows about then that's a game changer.

##### **What do you like most about coaching baseball?**

What I like most about coaching is being able to

see students in a different element.

#### Mr. Glenn-

##### **What do you think your biggest challenges will be this season?**

Keeping my players from being too confident. We are coming off a undefeated season, and we will be looked at as the top team. So I keep reminding my players to keep playing hard and playing our game is going to be key.

##### **Who do you think will be your toughest competition this season?**

I think Antrim, but I know teams will really bring their best this year against us since we are the defending champs.

##### **What do you like most about coaching softball?**

My players. They really make it fun to coach.

Being a softball player and playing for the school softball team I can tell you that it is a great time of year and my personal favorite. The weather starts to get nice and you get to go outside with your teammates and friends and play a great sport. Playing softball, baseball, or really any sport is a great way to make friends and stay active. I am over the top excited about this year's season. We had a fun team and a very hardworking team last year and being that this will be my last year playing, I am hoping that we can top last year!

Make sure to come out and support this year's softball and baseball teams!

## Seuss In Squan

### Joe Battaglia and Thomas Rice

On Thursday March 2, 2017, Read Across America Day, members of the eighth grade STEM class put on an original play for kindergarteners through fifth graders. The eighth graders performed this play in nine days, while learning their lines, making the set and props, and either buying or making their costumes. The original script was written by their language arts teacher, the one and only Mrs. Trischitta. Mrs. Trischitta composed this original script using rhymes and lines from various Dr. Seuss books, as well as incorporating details from the class' previous project regarding elephants. Various characters from different books made appearances, such as Horton from *Horton Hears a Who*, the Cat in the Hat from *The Cat in the Hat*, Sam I Am, accompanied by a giant green egg and a giant green ham from *Do You Like Green Eggs and Ham?*, Marvin K. Mooney from *Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now*, as well as an appearance by Dr. Seuss himself.

We would also like to thank about Ms. Kopec's STEM and Engineering class for helping us build our props and sets. They contributed many props that were used throughout the play, as well as part of the set that brought the characters to life on the stage. We could not have done it without them!

We were able to catch up with Dr. Seuss, played by Jack Hamilton, and asked him what he thought about the play. We asked Dr. Seuss: "Do you think the play would have been the same if it were adults acting and the children as the audience rather than when it was the group of eighth graders performing the play?"

Dr. Seuss answered, "I think the play would be equally as good, but I don't think that the children would have enjoyed the play as much if it were performed by adults. I say this because our class, the group of teens, was interacting with the audience and actively engaging the audience during the play, making them laugh throughout the whole thing."

We were also able to catch up with some of the other characters, Horton (McKenzie Ramire) and the narrator (Brigid McCarthy). We asked them a few questions about the play, including, how they felt onstage, what their favorite part/ character was, and what themes did the play contained.

Brigid responded to these questions in the order they were asked. She responded, "I felt alive, however cheesy that may sound. I was onstage with people I loved being around, I was performing for an enthusiastic audience, I was in a fun costume. Everything felt almost magical.

My favorite part was when I first introduced The Cat in the Hat (Connor). The audience laughed, and it was really the first big action of the show, so there was also an element of surprise.

There were themes of kindness, friendship, and happiness, but the most important one was the magic of books."

McKenzie (Horton) also responded to the questions in order by saying, "It was exhilarating seeing everyone there and it was so much fun being on stage in costume and I loved seeing all the little kids so into the play."

She continued, "My favorite part of the play was Marvin. I think every character that interacted with him taught the kids that sometimes you will come across people who are stubborn but we need to accept those people and find this GS that they will enjoy.

As Horton, I relayed many themes to the kids, such as the poaching of elephants. I also talked about pre-judging and how we should try new things before we push them out. I told the kids "it's good to me you and it's good to be me" and that only we can make the world a good place by being kind. The fish talked about friends and the sneetches talked about having differences. I think there were so many themes, hidden or not, in the play."

It was astonishing that we were able to pull off this original play in nine days. For students, who have never acted before, to memorize lines and get/ make a costume in eight days is mind blowing. Especially since it was many of our first times on stage. Throughout the play process, there were many great moments that allowed the play to come to a whole at the end. Between the original script written by our fabulous director, the set, the props, the characters and costumes, stage and lights, and our fabulous sound guy, all these things really brought the play together into this fabulous production that made Dr. Seuss characters come alive on stage during Read Across America Day. This was a fabulous experience that we are sure everyone enjoyed, and we want to thank everyone who contributed in making this play happen.



# Girls On the Run

## Ileigh Duffy

From the time spent playing on the playground, to years occupied in college, girls have always faced tough social situations where the world around them refuses to let them be anything other than its idea of what a woman should be. Girls are constantly made to feel uncomfortable with the fact that they're not a man, and life has always treated them unfairly because of this. Studies have shown that in their teen years, a girl's confidence will drop twice as much as boys will, what with complicated friendships, school becoming harder, and some may even have the feeling that whatever they do, it may not be good enough just because they weren't born male. Why should woman be viewed as any less powerful or important than men? Molly Barker, founder of Girls On the Run, asked herself this question came up with a simple answer; They shouldn't.

Girls On the Run (GOTR) is an organization that helps girls of all ages recognize their inner strengths and learn to celebrate what makes them an individual, not trying to make them fit the mold. The participating girls go through a ten-week course where they are led by trained coaches who help the girls learn what it means to be physically and mentally active, along with putting them in the mindset to want to stay this active and healthy all their life. These coaches help the girls tackle challenges such as activities and running games, and also help them to "develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and mindset." The program reaches its peak when the participants get to undertake a service project that positively impacts their community and, after all the training from their coaches, the girls are physically and mentally able to compete in a 5K, celebrating how far they've come in the last ten-weeks.

Girls on the Run International was brought to life in 1996 in Charlotte, North Carolina by Molly Barker. What started with thirteen girls has grown to over 200 councils in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. With the help of almost 100,000 volunteers, Girls on the Run served more than one million girls. GOTR in Central New Jersey is currently being run by Lynn Sherman, the program coordinator, and Donna York, the executive director. On her help and role in Girls On the Run, York says, "I have been in the field in youth development for over 30 years and GOTR is one of the only programs that truly makes a difference in the lives of all the girls that are given the opportunity to participate."



Here at Manasquan, the Girls On the Run program is being offered to girls ages 8-11 thanks to counselor Amy Young. Girls in grades 3-5 are given this amazing opportunity that will last from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, and parents can register their daughters online at <https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/GOTRCNJSpring2017ProgramRegistration>. The program costs \$135 to sign up for, and since space is limited, parents are encouraged to sign their girls up on or sooner than April 1<sup>st</sup>. The program will take place Mondays through Wednesdays from 3:05 to 4:15pm, and parents are encouraged to become volunteer coaches by completing the volunteer section online after registering your daughter. GOTR girls will participate in the Girls on the Run 5K on June 4th in Fair Haven. The Girls on the Run 5K is open to the public and families are encouraged to run. The registration fee for the race is \$25, information on registering will be sent via email. And need for further information can be directed to Donna York at [donna.york@girlsontherun](mailto:donna.york@girlsontherun).



# WAIT...WHERE?

## Jillian Spalt

Every year since 1989, there has been the National Geography Bee in various places around the world. The bee is held to test students from grade six to eight on world geography, knowledge of ecosystems and bio-geography. This year, Manasquan Elementary School hosted their second annual bee and many students wanted to participate but, only 10 could succeed. All of the students who wanted to test their knowledge went to Mr. Russoniello's room to take the test. Later that week, the ten students who made the cut off started to study by taking Kahoots, going on the bee's website, finding online quizzes, and studying the map.



The day came for the bee and grades 5-8 went to watch their fellow students answer questions supplied by the geography bee. During the

first round, just answering one question incorrectly would take you out of the final round. All contestants put in all of their brain power to the geography bee. In the end, there was a tiebreaker which was when Matt Rose got out so, he was in third place. Then, it was between Danny Hippie and Jack Butler where Danny Hippie answered one more correct answer and he became the second time winner and undefeated geography bee champion of Manasquan Elementary School. Danny Hippie will be graduating this year so, who will be next year's champion? Danny says, "if you have great question and an exciting audience, the bee is so much fun. It is really not about the winning, it is about the experience."

Danny and Jack competed in the districts bee successfully!

Without the help of the teachers, this event would not have been possible. Mrs. Lamorticella, Mr. Russ, and Mrs. Yellovich were all in charge and they all put a lot of work and effort into the event. We all hope that the bee will take place at Manasquan Elementary School for many years to come and maybe, in the future, we will have a student who makes it even further than a district competition.



It may not seem that hard but, how would you do on the bee? Take this little quiz to see if you have a knack for geography or if you may need to go out and buy a couple maps.

\_\_\_ Dresden, a city that has been rebuilt since World War II, is situated on what river?

- A. Darling River
- B. Elbe River
- C. Thames River

\_\_\_ Name the two large islands separated by the Strait of Bonifacio.

- A. Corsica and Sardinia
- B. Corfu and Cephalonia
- C. South Island and North Island

\_\_\_ What city is the judicial capital of South Africa?

- A. Capetown
- B. Freetown
- C. Bloemfontein

\_\_\_ Roosevelt Island is surrounded by an Antarctic ice sheet that shares its name with what nearby sea?

- A. Baltic Sea
- B. Weddell Sea
- C. Ross Sea

\_\_\_ Agulhas and Kuroshio are both names of what kind of physical feature?

- A. Ocean current
- B. Hurricanes
- C. Mountains

Answers: B, A, C, C, A



# Saving the Elephants

by Fredi Ramire

In the history books, they tell us when Woolly Mammoths went extinct and what the time period was like long ago. We don't ever think that something as important and well-known would ever go extinct during our lifetime. We hear terrible stories about elephants and rhinos being poached and how they, and other species, like the Bengal Tiger and the Mountain Gorilla, are going extinct. And yet, we don't do anything about it. We complain and ask ourselves, "Who would do something like that? They need to be stopped." But that is usually where the conversation ends, and we go back to our everyday lives.

Manasquan Elementary School, however, kept that conversation going and did something about the poaching of elephants around the world. Not only did we raise awareness of the situation, but we donated dollars to help protect elephants year-round. And it all started with two students and a dedicated class and teacher who decided to make a difference in the world.

Christina Giunco and Fredi Ramire did a research project for Mrs. Trischitta's Multimedia Literacy class. They researched the crisis of poaching and noticed how rapidly the elephants' numbers were descending. While further looking into the situation, they came across the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and noticed that it only took \$50 to "adopt an elephant" and provide it with 24/7 protection for a whole year. That's when Mrs. Trischitta and the STEM class took action.

Fredi and Christina made a movie for Movie Night, talking about the elephants and what was occurring around the world. A basket went around to collect money as the girls explained the STEM class' mission to adopt an elephant for the school. Around \$200 was collected just that night. The students also traveled to every class in the school, from kindergarten to the eighth grade, with information and activities for the kids to learn from. An envelope was given to all the teachers for the kids to donate money to when they could. The class with the most amount for the elephants at the end of a week would win a party.

Every student in the eighth grade class was assigned a group and a grade. During Mrs. Trischitta's class, they were hard at work creating fun activities for the kids and finding a way to teach kids about the terror of poaching and killing of elephants while condensing it to information that each grade could comprehend and understand. For the younger grades, the groups made activities and arts and crafts that allowed the kids to learn more about the elephants. For the first grade classes, group members Haley Griffith, Tommy Rice, Jack Collins, Joseph Battaglia, and Andrew Scranton asked the students to create an elephant out of paper plates and paint them. While creating their masterpieces, the group leaders explained what poaching was and told them why these creatures were being poached. Most of the classes were engaged and

asked questions about the elephants, poaching, and what they could do to help.

At the end of all of the hard work, over \$1400 was raised and almost twenty-eight elephants were saved by the elementary school alone. The class' dedication and mind set to this project and the school's support and commitment to helping these animals suddenly paid off. The STEM class' mission to adopt and save one or two elephants was far surpassed. Peyton Rydholm, part of the fifth grade group, exclaimed, "Working with the younger kids was a great way to get the word out about the cause. The kids had a lot of fun playing the games we planned and didn't even realize they were being educated while doing them. I believe that the future begins with them. Getting the word out starts with the people who will be leading the world after we are gone."

Mrs. Wahl's sixth grade homeroom raised over \$200 by themselves. Christina and Fredi went to that class. I asked her why her class raised so much money. She said, "I think we raised so much money because our whole class was horrified about what we saw in your presentation and it really hit us hard. I wish I had a better word than sad for what is being done to these intelligent, beautiful animals but all of us agreed that this was something that was important and because of that, the students really pulled through." Mrs. Wahl's homeroom will be getting a party in celebration of the money they raised. "It was amazing to see how enthusiastic this class was about the elephants and Mrs. Wahl did an unbelievable job promoting donations. They were one of our best classes," stated Fredi Ramire. "Not all of the classes had as much commitment and dedication as they did. I was shocked to see how much these kids cared about this problem that is occurring. They wanted to make a difference, and they certainly did."

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust even reached out to Mrs. Trischitta and wanted to put our school on their website. They were really impressed with our school's efforts to help the wildlife and the elephants and were so thankful to Manasquan Elementary School. They wanted more information and pictures to post on the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust website.

While the STEM class took initiative, the success of this rescue would not have been possible without the support of every teacher and every student who took the time out of their day to listen to the horror stories that are occurring around the world. Horton the Elephant said, "A person's a person no matter how small." And elephants were just saved by the smallest of all.

# MES Movie Night: The Untold Story Within Us

Rory Giblin

If you weren't in the gym on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, you missed an unforgettable night. Each of the Manasquan eighth graders that were in Multimedia Literacy in the first and second marking periods shared movies they made in class. These movies were about the most influential person, people, or things in their lives; who or what that had inspired them. These movies touched people in the audience; many were happy, as witnessed by the laughs and smiles of the audience, but some were sad, causing some people to cry. Each of the movies, while different, were uniquely good. One movie that really caught my eye was Peter Berlin's, it was about the death of his father and how it affected him. This was a movie that truly moved and impacted the audience. When you looked him, you never understood what he could've been going through. I asked my mom how she felt about the movie night and she explained, "It was an amazing reminder that we never fully know someone's inside story. That while friends may appear happy or sad, we really need to show compassion for

each other, to be more loving and understanding." She also added, "The night was a wonderful representation of the quality of Manasquan school and what it offers its students". However, not every movie was like this one, some were about happy topics, one movie, Trevor Wells was about his brother's and how he looks up to him. I also asked my friend Tommy how he felt it went and he told me, "Everyone's movie was something different, none were the same, but every single one was great in their own way." He hadn't taken the class yet, so I asked him if he was excited for it and he said after seeing the performance, he was. I also interviewed with Peter Berlin about seeing his own movie on the big screen in front of everyone he said, "it was an interesting new feeling, I knew that the entire gymnasium was watching my movie, I was quite nervous because of this." For me, it was an eye opening experience: I learned things about the friends who I sat in class with, who I laughed with, and who I thought I knew. I guess we each have our own untold stories within us.

# “How do I do it?”

## Brigid McCarthy

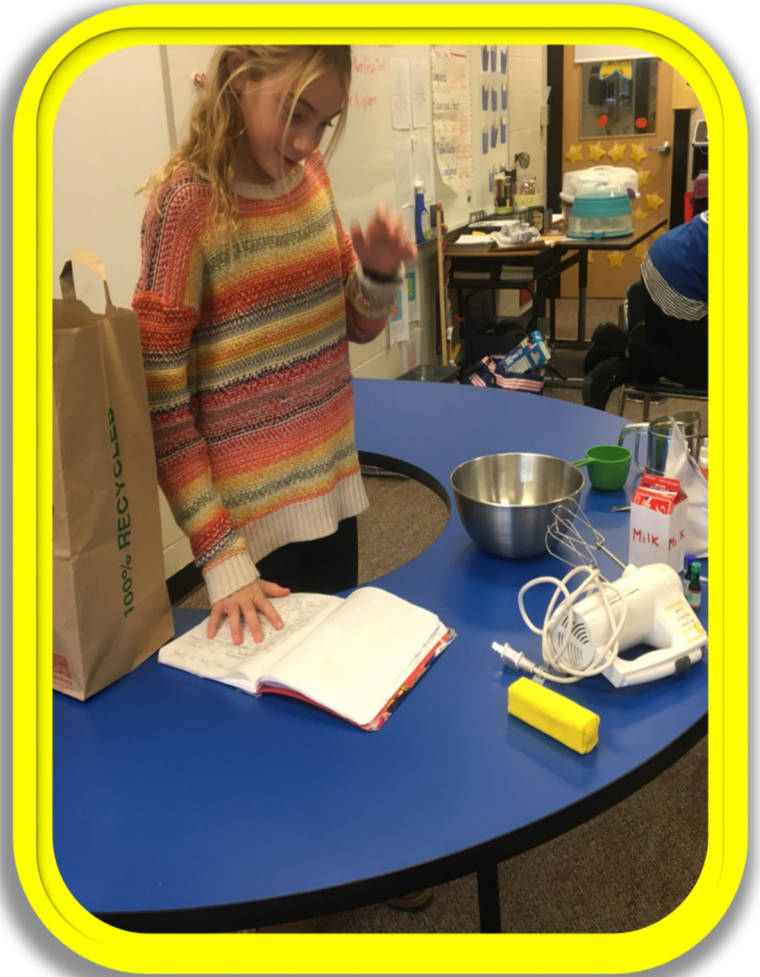
Mrs. Reichey’s fifth grade class had a chance to showcase their talents when they were assigned an instructional project.

The task was to teach the other students a skill. Can you cook? Cartwheel? Fix things? Your job is to share a skill you’ve mastered with the kids around you.

Expert bakers Kylie and Eleanor instructed the students about cupcake-baking techniques. Kylie showed how to make frosting for cupcakes and Eleanor showed how to make the cupcakes that Kylie frosted. Amanda, another pro baker, showed everyone a simple technique for making fudge, using a microwave, a fridge, and a few little ingredients. Brody showed the class how to make a special dessert called Brookies, which are brownies and cookies all in one pan!

On the mechanical side, Luke showed everyone the handy skill of fixing a bicycle chain, if it were to fall off. James impressed everyone when he took the skill of rigging a sail for a sailboat out of his pocket.

All in all, we may have some future instructors in our midst.



# MES Basketball Seasons are a success

Jack Collins

The girls' and boys' basketball teams had great performances this year. The boys finished with a record of 12-7 and the girls finished with a record of 11-8. The boys had many big wins like when they held off Brielle for the second time to defeat them 55-52. The girls also had many clutch wins including a big comeback win against Brielle coming back from down 15-0 and winning 21-20. There were also many tournaments during the year. The first was the St. Peter's tournament. The boys did a good job getting to the Elite 8 of the tournament before losing to the eventual winner, St. Catherine's. The girls had a rough time in St. Peter's losing to Mountz. This tournament was in the beginning of the season, and the girls of a lot of young kids on their team and they were just getting a feel for each other. Both teams were the 5 seeds for the MCAL playoffs. Sadly, both team's journeys ended early with the boys losing to Sea Girt and the girls losing to Bay Head in the first round. This ended the regular season and the Playoffs for the Warriors, but there was one tournament left, Run for the Roses.

The boys had a tough road all year with lots of close games but as the nine seed they had to play the eight seed which was St. Leo's. St. Leo's was having a great season making it to the finals of the Catholic School League. This was no easy game for the Warriors. This could possibly be the last game for the six eighth graders and they wanted to make it memorable. The first half was rough the Warriors were going into the half down by fourteen and they were feeling defeated, especially the eighth graders this is not how they wanted to go out. After the first half, they came out with a new energy. It was like a whole new team. They had a huge rally going into the fourth but were still down by twelve but thanks to eighth graders Jack Collins, Connor Walsh, Danny Liggett, Joe Battaglia, Gavin Tuite and Sean Wayne, they were only down by four going into the final three minutes. Sadly, great defense allowed St. Leo's to pull away and go down by ten eventually losing. Lou Certo the coach of the Squan boys was very happy with the boys last performance. He believed it showed heart, determination, and that is all he could ever want.

The girls lost in the first round of the St. Rose tournament. They took a tough loss, losing 38-11. The girls team includes three eighth graders, Christina Guinco, Izzy Ragan, and McKenzie Ramire. I asked the girls

basketball team about the eighth graders and asked to see what they thought about their team leaders. Every single one I asked said that they did a great job leading the team and the fact that there was only three of them leading a bunch of crazy 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders was just amazing. They always did what was best for the team not them and that is what you want in your leaders. I talked to Christina Guinco to see what her favorite highlight or game of the year was. She talked about a game versus Brielle Elementary School. Brielle was a solid team and this was no easy matchup f

or the lady warriors. They were going into the game ready because if they won that game they would guarantee their spot in the playoffs. The game started off very tough for the girls. The first quarter was one of the hardest of the year. They started the game down 15-0. They Brielle blazers were hitting from everywhere. The lady warriors went into the half down 15-6. This is where the leaders of the warriors stepped in. They eighth graders showed the maturity and proved that it is never over until it's over. The lady warriors came out firing in the second half hitting on all cylinders. With one minute left the warriors were up by one and they were playing great team ball and thanks to great team defense they closed off the game holding their lead and winning by one. Thanks to the great defense the final score was 21-20. The warriors only allowed five points in the second half. This was an amazing comeback for the girls. The girls on the team said that the message that their coach was always pushing was that you can only control your heart and hustle. That is exactly what the girls showed in this very important game. McKenzie Ramire, an eighth grader talked about the season as a whole. She said, "While we did lose our last elementary school game by a lot, I didn't feel sad. I was happy that I had been a part of a great team and coached by an unbelievable coach. I know that next year the 7<sup>th</sup> graders will step up next year and do a great job!" This quote from one of the team leaders for the girls just shows you no matter what the outcome there is always tomorrow and you should never give up on your dream. No matter who stands in your way.

As you can see the boys and girls had wonderful seasons and hopefully everyone can come back next year and support the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

# Students Stun Audience with Poetry

On Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, two eighth graders, Fredi Ramire and Brigid McCarthy, silenced an audience with their stunning poems at a poetry slam. Eight sending-district middle schools and their student poets gathered at Middletown Arts Center to compete for first and second place.

Slam poetry is much different from regular poetry. It's not meant to be written down or read. It must be performed. It's not meant to be interpreted. It is meant to be sharp and in-your-face. It is almost like a loud monologue that is performed with an intense emotional style. Slam poems usually narrate a personal problem or an issue you feel targeted by. For example, Brigid wrote a letter to President Trump and Fredi slammed about elephant poachers.

Brigid's poem, "President Trump, I have a dream," addressed what Brigid envisioned for America, now that President Trump is head of the nation. She received all 10's

from the judges and first place overall at the slam.

Fredi's poem was titled "Tusks." She slammed elephant poachers and what greedy and inhuman things they do to elephant populations all over the world. Fredi also received high marks from the judges and second place overall. "I felt nervous at first, but then I realized that everyone was just there to have a good time and express themselves," Fredi commented.

Overall, the day was a success! Both students represented Manasquan well.

Brigid will be performing her slam poem at the next Board of Ed meeting, and while Fredi will not be performing hers, she is instead giving an informal presentation on elephant poaching.

More of Brigid's poetry can be found on page 33 and online at

- [midnightinterruptions.tumblr.com](http://midnightinterruptions.tumblr.com)
- [Odafoto.com](http://Odafoto.com)

# The History of The Cube

Alex Vreeland

The Rubik's cube has a long and interesting history. The Rubik's cube is one of the only toys to last a generation. Most of the kids who bought the cube couldn't even solve it, so some of them resorted to pulling off the stickers and rearranging them. After its popularity spike in the early 1980s it was kept going by "speed cubing" competitions. So far the fastest the Rubik's cube has been solved, is 4.73 seconds by a 21-year-old from Australia by the name of Feliks Zemdegs. The fastest by a robot named Sub1 Reloaded was in a speedy 0.637 seconds. The robot was made by Albert Beer.

The Rubik's cube was created in 1974 by Hungarian architect and sculptor, Erno Rubik who made the Rubik's cube to help explain three-dimensional geometry to his students at the Academy of Applied Arts in Budapest. He started making a prototype of the Rubik's cube in his mother's loft out of rubber bands, wood, and paper clips. The original cube was twice as heavy and was called the "magic cube." Erno Rubik realized that he couldn't solve the cube. The more he tried to solve it the more mixed up it became. "It was a code I myself had invented! Yet I could not read it." There are 43 quintillion ways to mix up the Rubik's cube.

Once he did solve it about a month later he realized he could sell it. It took him three years to get it to market. Erno Rubik found a man by the name of Tibor Laczi who said he could sell it on the other side of the Iron Curtain, which was a boundary separating Europe into two separate areas at the end of World War II and was there from 1945-1991. Tibor Laczi has described Erno Rubik as "terribly dressed, looking like a beggar, with a cheap Hungarian cigarette hanging out of my mouth." Tibor Laczi took it to the Nuremburg Toy Fair of 1979 and attracted the interest of Tom Kremer who only came over because he heard people talking Hungarian. Kremer got the rights to the Ideal Toy Company and started selling the cube. It was the first puzzle to be advertised on TV. This brought the Ideal Toy Company out of debt as they sold 300m by 1983. By then sales slowed and there were thousands of cubes piling up in warehouses. After a while Tom Kremer acquired the rights and formed the Rubik's Brand Ltd with Erno Rubik as the honorary life president. This stopped the many copies and fakes. The Ideal Toy Company were now able to sell ten million a year.

I got interested in the Rubik's cube last Christmas when I decided I needed to know how to solve a Rubik's cube. By now it's like a bigger version of a fidget cube for me. If I ever need to fidget I just pick it up and spin it around. It's also fun to try to find the quickest way to the next part of the solve. It took me about a week using tutorial from YouTube to memorize the algorithms and patterns. I slowly got faster and faster. After a while I wanted to try using one hand instead of two. At first one hand was slow but after a day or two practicing it became easier. I eventually wanted to see how long it took me to solve it so I timed myself. My personal best with a Rubik's cube is around one/half minutes. Solving the Rubik's cube (especially if you do it without outside help) helps improve your hand-eye coordination, short-term memory, concentration and many other things.

Erno Rubik is associated with an exhibit that travels around the world called Beyond Rubik's Cube. It contains many interesting Rubik's cubes like some of Erno Rubik's first prototypes. They even have a cool interactive lit up wall that senses your movement and changes the lights. To find out more go to [brc.lsc.org](http://brc.lsc.org).

**If anyone in MES can solve a Rubik's cube and would like to be in a competition to see who is the best speed cuber in MES, please email:**

**Brigid McCarthy  
(21580@manasquan.k12.nj.us)**



# Plovers in Peril

by Megan Lisk

Chances are, you know about plenty of animals in danger. Due to the currently-occurring Holocene Extinction, the “sixth mass extinction” caused mainly by people, animals (and some plants) are declining at swift rates. And, chances are, you’ve heard of the ivory war with elephants, the fight to keep big cats alive, and the shark-finning debacle. But have you heard of the piping plover?

What does this have to do with me, you ask? Well, piping plovers aren’t from lands away, or even states away. These birds live right here, in Manasquan, New Jersey.

Piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) are small, robust shorebirds that are closely related to sandpipers with noticeable differences, the most recognizable being the shorter, thicker beak of the plover in comparison to the sandpiper’s long, slender, bill. Due to their low numbers, it’s not guaranteed that you’ve seen a piping plover before, but if you do, these birds are instantly recognizable by their light, sandy-colored feathers, and brilliant orange legs and bill. The chicks are adorable, with tiny, black-spotted bodies, disproportionately big, dark eyes, and long legs that are about the length of their own body. These birds live on the US’ eastern shoreline, upwards into Canada, foraging for food by darting along the wave’s edge, perfectly portrayed in the short film, *Piper*.

However, this lovable plover has been through some rough times. In the 1800’s, there was a huge demand for bird plumes as a vain fashion accessory, during a time where grossly ignorant masses started a trend of bird plumes in women’s hats. While the petite shorebird lacks the dramatic plumes like those of egrets, they weren’t spared. being killed in mass numbers. And, while the Migratory Bird Act, the saving grace for so many birds on the brink, was put into effect in 1918, banning the collection of feathers, eggs, and live birds without a permit, the species continued to decline. How so? Well, habitat destruction was, and is still a problem- since the species nest directly on the beach, the nest can be easily crushed underfoot, even as the mother and father escape easily.



Just a town away, in Sea Girt, there are numerous nests, ones that are in constant danger due to invasive fox and raccoon populations. These pests destroy the poor birds’ nests, worsening to the populations to its second decline. And, years ago, that same town received a hefty fine for the accidental destruction of a nest, and honestly, that’s the first step to justice.

This fight to protecting the piping plover isn’t occurring far away. It’s in your own hometown, on these beaches. And while here in Manasquan, we haven’t had huge plover conservation concerns like in Sea Girt, you can see a sign over by the beach’s playground depicting a piping plover, and their history.

This is the first step to conserving this beautiful little bird. We need to get people to recognize that there are problems, even in a quaint town like this. This is not something we can look past; the future of a species lays on the balance. Some people dismiss the piping plover, complaining it takes up too much space on beaches with its nests, but this is a horrible point of view considering the crimes. Piping plovers have been nesting in these lands for thousands of years, adapting every generation. And, in just a few years, humanity is attempting to “civilize” the wilderness, forcing animals out for their own selfish desires. There’s even a distasteful bumper sticker poking fun at the conservation of plovers, saying “Piping Plover: Tastes Like Chicken”, all because people want extra beach space.

Who would you side with? A bird who’s made its own, perfectly adapted to survive, or humanity, a species who’s so selfish, they force out helpless animals, destroy countless plants, and chase out indigenous people, members of their own species, just because they’re “in the way”?

The choice should be clear. This article should just be the beginning, the flicker that illuminates the problem in a true light. Piping plovers have sustained for thousands of years on these beaches, and if they hope to reside here much longer, they need human help. So, start up a fundraiser, talk to legislation, donate to bird foundations- just respecting plover a plover’s nest boundary is enough to help slightly.

# History of April Fool's Day

Andrew Scranton

Have you ever had a practical joke played on you on the first day of April, then remembered it's April Fool's Day? No matter how many times you remind yourself it's April first, you still get caught off guard. April Fool's Day was first popularized in by the British with an annual tradition of pulling pranks on each other on April 1<sup>st</sup>. According to History.com, this was not the first example of the tradition, though. One possible origin of April Fool's day could have been in 1582 when the French stitched calendars. Some French people found out later than others, or didn't find out that the start of the year had been moved from April 1<sup>st</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. The people who didn't know the new year's date had been moved continued to celebrate New Year's during April and became the butt of jokes. April Fool's Day could have started from the Roman festival of Hilaria, which is celebrated at the end of March, or the beginning of spring where people are fooled by the unpredictable weather. April Fool's Day did not originate from England, but gained popularity in England when people would send others on wild goose chases and the day after people would put signs on those sent on wild goose chases that said, "kick me."

News station have been taking part in April Fool's Day as well. In 1957 BBC reported that Swiss farmers were having a record spaghetti crop season and showed video of farmers harvesting spaghetti from trees. In 1996, Taco Bell said they were buying the Liberty Bell and renaming it Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, Burger King advertised for a left handed whopper and some curious people ordered the fake burger.

Some common April Fool's Day pranks are short sheeting, putting tape on the sensor of someone's mouse, and Rick rolling. Short sheeting is folding the sheets on someone's bed so that when they try to climb in to bed and get under the sheets they can't get in. If you put tape over the sensor on the bottom of someone's mouse, when they go to use it they will move it around a bit and get frustrated. Rickrolling was a prank that was popular in 2016. Rickrolling is having someone click on a seemingly normal link, but instead of what you expected, you get directed to Rick Astley's music video for "Never Gonna Give You Up".

This April Fool's, make sure to keep an eye out for any jokes that might come your way!



# Movie Reviews

Brigid McCarthy

## ***La La Land* (PG-13)**



*La La Land* is a movie-musical starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling. If you haven't seen this lovely flick, you must have at least heard of it. It's won seven Golden Globes and it won six out of the fourteen Academy Awards it was nominated for. It's popular with critics and audiences alike. It is one of my top movies of this year and of all time.

*La La Land* is a love story that centers around an actress, Mia, (Stone) and a jazz musician, Sebastian, (Gosling) who are trying to follow their dreams in a competitive world. It tells the story of the relationship the artists have with each other and their passions. It's about how hard it is to succeed sometimes, but how much the hard work is worth in the end.

One of *La La Land*'s highlights was the cinematography. Each scene is accented with a landscape, or a colorful costume, or just the right lighting to truly set the mood. The visuals of this movie were spectacular. And even though this film is a movie-musical, the musical component wasn't overbearing or hard to follow. There was an occasional number to move the story along, but there was plenty of dialogue. The main singers, Gosling and Stone, were quietly talented and it was lovely to listen to. The plot is riveting and

the whole movie was a treat, minus the heart-wrenching ending. Overall, this movie is worth your time. Whether or not you're a musical person, this movie is a must-see.

## ***Hidden Figures* (PG)**

*Hidden Figures* is based off true events; or, more accurate, true events that no one had heard about until now. This movie describes the story of three powerful, intelligent black women who revolutionized NASA and fought for their rights during the time of segregation. Katherine Goble Johnson was a computer who could do analytical geometry using her brains, a pen, and paper. She calculated plans for and was vital to three space missions. Dorothy Vaughan was the first black female NASA supervisor and a FORTRAN programmer, a programmer who not only taught herself but who taught other members of the staff. Mary Jackson was NASA's first female black engineer. This movie tells the story of how they became successful and how they changed the face of NASA.

This movie is inspiring, to say the least. I, myself, cried four to five times throughout the whole film because I was so moved. The scenes were dramatic and light-hearted at the same time. The leading actresses were flawless.

*Hidden Figures* and *La La Land* have become some of my all-time favorite movies. Both films are guaranteed to inspire you, move you, or at least have you cheering for a happy ending. Both films make you want to grab the world by its horns and conquer it.



# Family Vacations

## Stephen Schmeider

Family vacations can be times of fun and relaxation for everyone in the family. The kids can run around and have fun away from school while parents can rest and enjoy time away from work. For both parents and children, a vacation can be a stress reliever. Most people view breaks just as time away from the normal routine. Why not take a vacation where you can relax and travel to different places around the world? Over February break, my family went on a trip to Costa Rica. We all enjoyed the trip as a time away from the cold, bleak weather of New Jersey. We were able to spend quality time together, learn about different cultures, and relax by the pool.

At home, everyone is so busy during the week that we don't see much of each other, but during this trip we spent all day, every day with each other and without interruptions. This helped us to improve our relationships and helped us to have quality time together. We made memories that will last a lifetime. Whether we were ziplining, rappelling, or hanging out by the pool, we thoroughly enjoyed our time with each other.

In addition to spending lots of time together, we also learned a lot about the country of Costa Rica and its people. Our drivers were very knowledgeable and were able to answer our questions we had about their country. We learned that the Costa Ricans are very happy people and they love to practice their English as much as we like to practice our Spanish. We also learned that tourism is the number one industry in Costa Rica and it was evident in the hospitality they provided. Rice and beans are also very popular in the country. They serve the dish throughout the day and add their own twists to the recipe. It is very interesting to learn about how other people live their lives outside of the United States.

Costa Rica has become very popular in the past few years. This is because of the activities and all around culture of the country. There are many activities that you can do in Costa Rica such as ziplining, white water rafting, horseback riding,

rappelling, and surfing. These are all possible because Costa Rica has both forests and beaches. In the forests, you can zipline through the trees, raft down the rivers, and rappel down water falls. These are all activities that you can't do when at home. At the beaches, you can relax while in the sand while reading a book, or you could go surfing. The surfing in Costa Rica is very good. The water is always warm and there are always waves. It very well could be a surfer's paradise! There are also tons of exotic wildlife in Costa Rica. The most popular animal is the sloth. The sloths live in the forests and don't come down from their trees much, so you're very lucky if you are able to see one up close!

There was also lots of time for rest and relaxation while on this trip. There was plenty of time to sit by the pool, read, and soak in the natural beauty of Costa Rica. There were amazing views of volcanoes while we were eating fresh fruit and drinking smoothies every morning. It was great not having to follow a schedule while away. We could eat whenever we wanted and do what we wanted to do on our own time.

Family vacations are a great chance to explore this world with the people you love. They allow you to spend quality time together and learn about the world around us. Vacations also give parents a break from work and children time away from school. It's time to start planning your next trip!

# Manasquan High School's National Honors Society

Megan Priest

The National Honors Society is a club made up of high schoolers at Manasquan High School, who are recognized for their excellent scholarship and leadership skills. Together these students work hard to make our school and community a better place. Getting inducted into the NHS is not an easy job, not everyone that applies will get in. In order to be in this club you must have a grade point average of at least a 93% in all of your classes. Each person that applies must be able to show that they are a good character. You also need to have several service hours, that show you are a strong leader by helping out the town and community. If you do get the honor of being inducted into NHS, you must attend meetings each month, where you are required to hand in monthly service hours. You are also required to attend all scheduled activities, whether they are running a food drive or fixing up a garden in town. As an eighth grader about to enroll in Manasquan High School, I wanted to get a better understanding about the new school I will be attending and the National Honors Society, which I wish to be a part of. I interviewed a few Manasquan Elementary School graduates that are in the NHS, to see what they have done as NHS members, and what advice they had for me, along with other eighth graders going into the high school next year.

## **Jenna Stanley:**

Jenna is a junior at Manasquan High School and is in the National Honors Society. For her NHS project, she wanted to do something that would help out her old elementary school, MES. When you walk up the ramp to the playground, you will see a garden. Before the garden was very overgrown, but with the help of Mr. Kirk and her biology teacher, Jenna was able to turn the weeds, into a beautiful butterfly garden. Jenna also hopes to start a garden club at MES to care for the gardens here. So, if you are interested in science, gardening, or just want to help out your school, this would be perfect for you!

Jenna says that the best thing about MHS are the teachers. "The teachers across the street are super supportive and will engage with you inside and outside of class," she says.

One piece of advice she would like to give to incoming high schoolers is that people aren't incredibly judgmental. She wants kids to know to express themselves. Not wearing a shirt that represents you or has your favorite band on it because it "isn't cool" isn't worth it. "That shirt might actually introduce you to new friends that have the same interests as you," Jenna says.

## **Gabriella Farneti**

For Gabriella's National Honors Society project, she planned and ran a soccer camp for all children ages 10-12. Kids played in teams of five and she charged \$5 per person. All of the money Gabriella made, she donated to Children's Hospital and Jersey Shore University Medical Hospital.

Gabriella's favorite thing about MHS is that when you get older, you get to choose your own electives that interest you. You can also join clubs that have to do with careers you might want to obtain in the future. Through this clubs you get to meet new people with the same interests as you.

The advice the Gabriella gives to MES graduates is to get involved with the high school and join School clubs. "School clubs are so much fun and a great way to meet new people," she says.

### **Thomas Antonucci**

For his National Honors Society project, Thomas ran a flag football tournament for kids k-8<sup>th</sup> over the summer. There were teams of five and it was 5\$ per player. Tommy used the money to raise money for the Squan-A-Thon and The Long Blue Line.

Tommy's favorite things about MHS are all of the sports and extracurricular activities, such as the Squan-A-Thon.

Tommy's advice for future students at MHS is to enjoy your time at the high school. He says that the work will get harder and it will be very stressful at some times, but before you know it you will be graduating, so take it all in while you time lasts.

### **Cassidy Turnbach**

For her NHS project, Cassidy collected different items of school supplies and shipped them to a school in the Philippines. A few years ago the Philippines was hit by an earthquake. This cause many kids to have to work to make many for their families which means they missed out on their education. Cassidy wanted to help to make sure all children get the education they deserve. Together she was able to gather lots of tubs of pencils, notebooks, backpacks and more.

Cassidy says she loves MHS for the National Honors Society. She loves helping others and making a difference because it makes her feel good.

Cassidy's advice too new high schoolers is to try new things. "High school is a time to explore. You will have a fun time as long as you are open to new friends, new classes, and new clubs," she says.

### **Madison Rydholm**

For her NHS project, Madison did an event with bubble soccer, to raise money for a store her aunt owns in Avon by the sea. Bubble Soccer is a company for kids, where you get to play soccer, while running inside of a big bubble.

Madison's favorite thing about MHS are the amazing traditions they have at school. Madison said that everyone is more of a family than just students and teachers.

Madison's advice is to try your best and push yourself to the fullest. Always try your best in your classes and push yourself to talk to new friends.

## **Bridget Walsh**

Bridget's NHS project was a book drive and refurbishing a library at St. Paul's Tender Care Nursery School in Ocean Grove. She collected many different books and redecorated the library.

Bridget's favorite thing about high school is that in the hallways there are always some familiar faces and some faces you have never seen before. Overall, everyone is very friendly, and there are always new people for you to talk to.

Bridget's advice is to work hard, but don't take yourself too seriously. "Get all your work done, but also have some fun," she said.

In conclusion, all eighth graders should have a goal to be in the National Honors Society at Manasquan High School. It is a great club that benefits our community along with other people around the world, and it feels good to know that you are helping others. I took in all of the advice given to me by the high schoolers and I now feel more prepared and excited for high school than ever. Everyone will face hard times, but Manasquan High School is a fun place where all the students and teachers want to help you be your best.



# Wild, Part Two

Megan Lisk

November burned out with its leaves of burnished gold, as December breathed its cold embrace to put autumn's mild climate to rest. It was at the end of December, when whisks of snow occasionally flickered and fell, when our story's climax really began.

It was a warm Saturday afternoon, the kind abnormal for winter, when warm sunlight spread across acres upon acres, trickling into the windowpanes and awaked the souls miserable for winter's coming. And in a little ranch house, where the remnants of icicles wasted away, Holly, who was typing up an essay on her laptop quietly, jumped at a ding- the sound of a text message on her phone which had slid into the creases of her couch as she worked. Hastily, she opened up her phone, and found the message was from Tori, her new friend, which read:

"My parents say we can stay the day, maybe even sleep over at my house on Friday! I can pick you up at 9. Got any plans?"

Delighted, Holly sprung to look at her calendar, checking to see if the date was, indeed, open. Tracing dates with a capped red pen, she made her way to Friday...the thirty-first, the day of her "involuntary transition". Her mind quickly hit a stalemate, and she dashed upstairs to her mother, who was still drowsy from working long hours. It took two taps on the shoulder to awaken her fully, and Becca glanced, half-asleep, at her concerned daughter.

"Mom, I got this message," Holly said.

"So? You can go, sure," Becca replied indifferently.

"But, Mom," Holly reminded her, "Friday is the *last day of the month*."

"Oh, sweet Jesus," Becca cursed to herself, "I knew you'd run into this sooner or later. Look, just tell her you can't stay the night, okay? Just run out at four-thirty, and you can fly the rest of the way."

The day came when Holly arrived at Tori's house, which, despite about a month of friendship, she had never seen in person. Its rustic white shingles were pleasing to the eye, and a knot of ivy twined against a red-brick chimney. A sapling dogwood, looking barren in these winter months, was another great touch, and Holly could only wonder how stunning its pink or white flowers could be once spring returned.

Holly rapped the door lightly, setting off a light-pitched bark from a comical-looking corgi. A creak in the door told the arrival of a man- Tori's father- with soft brown eyes that nearly mirrored his skin tone.

He smiled, saying in a warm tone, "Hey! You must be Holly, come on in," as he patted the panting corgi, who looked like she was smiling. Soon, he was giving her a tour of the house, and that's when Tori rushed down the stairs, embracing her friend in a warm hug. Looking at her, Tori was wearing fuzzy pink pajamas, a side of her Holly never expected to see.

"I'm so glad you're here!" Tori chirped. Remote in hand, she whispered, "I got a Netflix subscription."

That's all it took to make Holly ecstatic.

The day went rather quickly as Holly and Tori reminisced on 80's horror by watching movies like Gremlins and the Jaws saga, spent a lot of time talking to each other about various subjects, like classmates (nice and annoying), teachers, and sports, and looking at humorous YouTube videos, mixed with cute dog videos. It was now past four-thirty, and the sky was painted in brazen colors, in all the hues one sees within a dream. The clouds were cotton candy, rolled in the sky's brilliant hues.

Glancing at the clock, Holly darted up from her seat, her phone dropping on the floor. She looked at it ruefully, and glanced up finally at Tori.

"I've got to go," she proclaimed in a hurried tone, hurrying out of the room.

"But, wait!" Tori shouted, going after her friend. When she had finally caught up, Holly was on the front yard, catching her since she never was a stellar runner. Glancing quickly behind her, she noticed Tori grabbing her shoulder with an iron grip.

"Wait, Holly, I have something to tell you," Tori panted, "a secret."

"Heh, bet it can't be any weirder than what *my* secret is," Holly murmured. In the background, the sun slowly dipped under the horizon like a turtle into its shell

"I doubt it," Tori snickered, and, peering at the sun, and then into Holly's frantic eyes, she added, "Look, let's both reveal our secrets on the count of three- one, two, three."

It was too late, with the sun descending and the iron bird-trap on her shoulder. She felt feathers ripple across her skin, her legs thinning, scales forming. Humanity dwindling, the finishing touches became apparent. There sat a crane, one with a mark of the abnormal- rich blue crystals ripping through slate-grey feathers, capped off at the head with a faded navy. Her lanky neck and eyes, skewed to the sides of her head, offered a new point of view, but an awkward one for a natural human. She glanced over at Tori, who she was sure was horrified. But, when she looked, there was no Tori standing there.

There, in her spot, was a regal tiger, with rich auburn fur, thick obsidian stripes- and unmistakable amber eyes. Seeing Holly in crane form caused an inquisitive glance, and then, set off a snarl- her tiger instincts recognizing her as prey.

"Tori, no!" Holly cried, touching her scaly foot to her friend's thick, furry paws.

"You!" Tori shot back, "you...share my secret?"

"Yes, unfortunately, it is my curse," she replied, shaking her wings.

"I-I've never met anyone else like this; in fact, I've never really *met* anyone willingly. My parents make me stay in seclusion, but I guess they want me to reveal myself," Tori admitted.

"You know; this is probably the part you should be ripping me to shreds right now."

"Well, I *look* like a tiger, but do you really want me to act like one?" Tori retorted, baring her teeth in a playful way.

Holly giggled, "No thank you. I'd like a *normal* night right now."

Tori took one glance at the starry sky, then back at Holly, saying with a laugh, "You know, we both defy *normal*. A tiger and a crane, staring at the sky. I think *freak* is a better word."

To this, Holly answered, "At least we can be freaks together."

# The Children of Time

Jack Hamilton

Is this a gift or a curse I was born with? At the age of seven, I discovered...something about myself. It was completely accidental, but I found that if I just think hard enough, I can stop time. When I stop time, everyone freezes, everything stops moving, yet I am still there. I could move around, move other things, and once I start time up again, whatever changes I made were saved. It was fun at first, I used it to knock stuff over, and freak people out. Then it got worse.

Every moment I even thought about freezing time, no, considered it, time would freeze. I would age as well, I mean, my didn't just stop working. At the legal age of 13 my body was like that of a 16 year old, because I had frozen time for a whole year once when I didn't want summer break to end. It turns out that an entire year without the ability to talk to another person seems to create some antisocial personality disorders. That, and that year was extensively boring, I was just stubborn. I never hated my ability, though I did consider it a curse. A power with a drawback type thing. One day however, something changed that completely changed what I thought I knew about my power.'

It was May 12th, and I had frozen time because I wanted some extra sleep. I woke up at around noon to a sound outside. Obviously I thought this to be quite strange, I didn't do anything to cause a sound. What's stranger is that I heard it from outside, well, that and I had never heard a sound while time was frozen that I didn't know where it came from. So I opened my window and peered out, when I caught a flash of movement in the corner of my eye. I focused on the spot and what appeared to me was a girl, in a very...steampunk outfit.

To say this girl had an odd fashion sense would be an underestimate. This girl was wearing a top hat straight out of the 1600s, a long black tailcoat, and a brilliant gold crest or emblem or something similar on her jet black shirt. She had emerald eyes and this long flowing dark brown hair. She was clearly headed my way, and had her left hand in her coat pocket. I froze. Not only was I not expecting this, but I had not seen anything move without me causing it to when I froze time.

"Hey now, don't be scared, I know this is probably a shock to you." I didn't say anything. "Well, not the talkative type, eh? Well, whatever." She had a British accent, a very standard one at that. Though it was more chipper than I had expected. She got close to me, and fished out a golden stopwatch, one with a generic looking futuristic screen, straight out of *The Matrix*. "Would you like an explanation on what exactly is going on?"

"Um, yes, that would be great," I managed to get out weakly.

"Well, put your hand on this stopwatch, and we'll be off!" I did as she told. The moment I touched my hand to that stopwatch's screen, the two of us were whisked away at a speed faster than light, and within milliseconds we had arrived at a fortress lined with various little machines doing anything from spurting out random chemicals to scanning...something in the air. It was clear that we had arrived on someplace not on Earth. The girl turned to me and said in a manner very similar to that of a tour guide, "Welcome, new recruit, to the central control point of all time and space!"



## this is a poem to the planets

newfoundlands awaken;  
always here, never discovered  
never taunted with the trials of Gaea

this morning  
the sun will still rise  
but in a condescending fashion;  
“couldn’t you see?”

dear neighbors  
if you still our water  
and make our skies rain blood  
we will still hail you as miracles  
we will still put you in our history textbooks

dear neighbors  
why didn’t you call

maybe the line just sputtered and died

but there is something out there other than  
I  
guess.

the lunacy of you flickers in my hands.  
but you’re there and there to stay

## playing WITHIN fire

the edge of the stage is smoking

the light waters my eyes;  
the sparks dance around my fingertips  
just as I dance around the stage  
in a sort of disguise

the warmth spreads through my body  
and boils my blood  
I break through the mud

fluid sinks to my toes and leaks out in a puddle  
it shines like a rainbow and pops like a bubble

my toes burn with each caress of the earth  
but I smile like a soul rebirth

I smile and I perform

**-Brigid McCarthy**