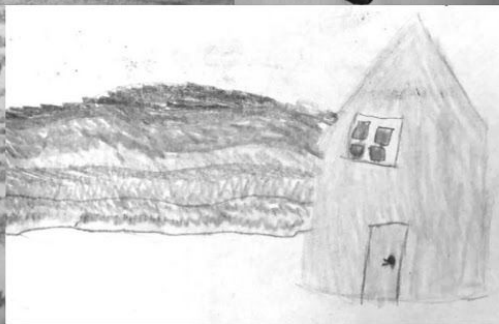
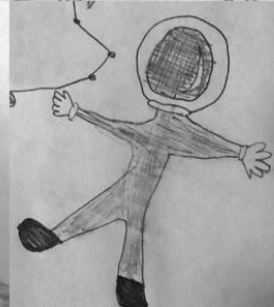
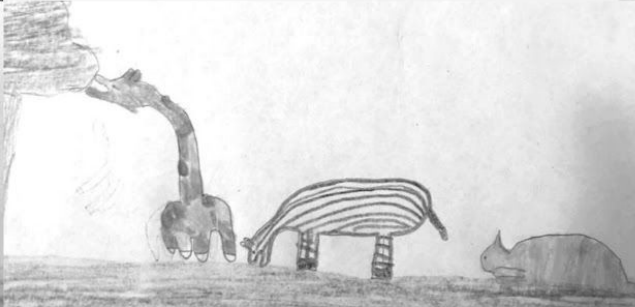
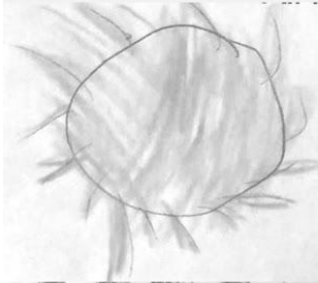


ff the OWall

John Lyman School • 2018-2019

*Writings accepted by the
Literary Board.*

Cover illustrations
done by the Art Board.



The Writer's Wall

The writings in this anthology were submitted to the John Lyman School Literary Board by kindergarten through fourth grade students. Students submitted writings throughout the school year that they felt were representative of their best work. In order to be considered for the Writers' Wall, submissions had to meet specific guidelines and parameters set by the Literary Board, including teacher and peer review. In some cases, suggestions for improvement were made and a piece was revised by the author and resubmitted. Once a piece of writing has been accepted by the Literary Board, parent volunteers type it so that the work can be displayed on the Writers' Wall located in the main entrance of John Lyman School. The printed writing is mounted on construction paper and is then sent to the Art Board to be illustrated. The writings are also formatted for final publication in this book by the Literary Board advisor. "Off the Wall" is then distributed at the end of the year to each family in the Integrated Day Program, as well as the Board of Education, and both town libraries.

The Literary Board

Advisor: *Mrs. Jennifer Nickle*

The John Lyman Literary Board is comprised of third and fourth graders who meet weekly with Mrs. Nickle to review pieces of writing that are submitted by students grades K-4 at John Lyman School. The students on the Literary Board use their knowledge of writing craft to create a rubric to guide their selection process and to make suggestions for revision to the writers. The Literary Board members exhibit high levels of diligence to fairly critique and write responses to each writer who has submitted a piece of writing. Pieces that are selected are displayed on the Writer's Wall. The Literary Board also collaborates to nominate and vote weekly to recognize writing pieces to be awarded "Piece of the Week" (POW).

The participants in the Literary Board should be commended for their hard work and dedication. We are proud to share this anthology of 2018-2019 student pieces with you.

2018-2019 Literary Board Members:

Will Bachinsky-Kremzar, Allison Booth, Piper Cleveland, Jonathan Morehead, Evie Volenec, Kylie Dailey, Kacey Greco, Gavin Hutter, Audrey Kurtin, Daphne Liss, Liam Tietjen

The Art Board

Advisor: *Mrs. Carrie Howes*

The John Lyman School Art Board is comprised of Second, Third and Fourth Graders. Interested students submit applications in the fall. Those chosen meet weekly to illustrate the typed and mounted pieces for final display on "The Writer's Wall." In addition to this important job, they chose various themes for the monthly Artist's of the Month art submissions. Together with Mrs. Howes, they chose the student artwork to be framed and hung on the Artist's of the Month wall.

2018-2019 Art Board Members:

Whitney Aingworth, Max Baldwin, Alivia Christopher, Ellory Connell, Savannah Davidson, Phinneaus Dreyfus, Benjamin Eddinger, Ellery Halabisky, Aidan Healy, Maya Keast, Hunter Kozacek, Eli Morton, Abigail Muro, Addison Nappi, Siya Patel, Addie Poetzsch, Peyton Root, Aria Russell, Aidan Sinacrope, Annabella Tosto, Grace Velardi

Trees

By Ronan LeDuc, grade 2

Trees have roots.
Trees have leaves.
Trees have trunks.
They are homes for animals.
Trees have sap.
Trees have bark.
Trees have veins.
They help the tree live.
Trees have water.
Trees have seeds.
And more more more!
Trees have so many parts that you cannot
imagine.

California

By Bella Padilla, Grade 1

Over the summer I went to California to visit my grandparents. We went to Disney. We went on a bouncy thing. They buckled me up and lifted me. They told me to jump and I got really high. I saw a lot of rides and games when I was bouncing. After Disney we went home. When we got home, we watched a movie that was called *Moana*. We also had some milk and sugar cookies. When the movie was over we went to bed. When I went to bed, we played a quick game called *Get Away from the Big Spider* with Abuela and Michael. I never got trapped by the spider. I had a lot of fun.

Santa

By Reese Penney, Grade 1

I was asleep and Santa came and jingled his bell. I heard it. So did my brother. I got a toy dog. My mom went to her room to go back to sleep because she was tired from us waking her up too early. We brought presents to her in bed. We played with our presents. Then we had a party. I hope that will happen again this Christmas!

Getting My Bike

By Braeden Zupnik, Grade 2

I went to a bike shop in Middletown, CT. My mom and dad and brother were with me. Before we got there I asked, "Where are we going?" They said it was a surprise. I was so happy because I love surprises. When we got there I saw my grandma and grandpa through the bike shop window. When we got inside my grandma and grandpa said they would buy my brother and me a bike. They got me a blue bike. My brother got a black and green bike. I was so happy! After they bought our bikes I said goodbye and thank you, then left. It was the best day ever!

Creative

Allison Booth, Grade 4

Tie tie tie
Beautiful knotted colors
All tied in one
Handing one to one friend to another
Making friends in joy

Sketch sketch sketch
Drawing beautiful drawings
Not always good
Showing one friend after another
On the bus or in the classroom

Wrap wrap wrap
Making one thing after another
Don't always come out as planned
Always colorful
Trying to teach friends



POW

Perfectly Evil

By Lily Ramadanovic, Grade 4

You might imagine Halloween as a happy place where you can go trick or treating in funny costumes. Well you might not imagine, no you should not imagine, what I saw on October 31st...

The sky faded from a light blue to a darker and darker blue and finally made its way to pitch black. Strangely enough, that was the only place it happened in the whole sky, so I followed the color and soon found out why the color only went to this very spot. An owl shaped structure stood before me. It stretched as tall as a tree from the Redwood Forest. It was pitch black except for the yellow light shining through the old windows. Around the windows cracked pieces of wood bent towards the ground. While I was watching, it finally cracked and fell to the burnt looking grass. My eyes soon followed along the grass to discover ten small gravestones spread across the yard. Each gravestone was freshly padded with dark dirt. My heart dropped when I heard the sound of a wolf howling to a stray dog. Thinking the wolf was nearby, I instantly rushed to the rickety old steps. When I did, I caught sight of a suspicious scarecrow. He had a straw hat and a red and white striped shirt with baggy jeans. He was hung on a rounded stick. His expression was frowning in my direction. He moved closer and closer to me every time I stepped back. His worn out sneakers squished from the rain storm last night. Black crows were surrounding him as if he invited them there. I scurried to the back of the house. I listened carefully. Not a single sound echoed in my ear. My heart was beating in my stomach. I listened again and again. Then finally I heard an owl from a nearby tree. That is strange, I thought to myself. Why is an owl the only sound I hear...

The Candy Store

By Matteo Perrelli, Grade 1

I went on a trip to Massachusetts with my dad, mom, venus fly trap and Luca. The candy store we went to was the greatest! I got licorice, gummy bears and Sour Patch Kids. My favorite was the Sour Patch Kids because they are my favorite candy. I got gummy pizza and gum, too. I thanked mom and dad for the candy and we drove home. I had a good time and I was super happy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Scary Thing Under the Stairs

By Lauren DelGREGO, Grade 4

Late on Halloween night, a quiet little girl was walking down the stairs when she realized that the door to the small cupboard under the stairs was open. She heard chilling whispers from inside. She got closer and heard The voice calling her name, but when she looked inside, she saw nothing except for the old dusty, abandoned objects that lie on the shelves. then she saw an old repulsive, grotesque teapot, and something was coming out of it. Her heart was pounding as she slammed the door, and dashed down the moonlit hallway. but the sinister whispers continued...

My Fun Playdate with My Cousins

By Talia Girgenti, Grade 1

I went to my cousin's house. Their names are Juliana and Mikey. I played in the pool with my cousins and their friends. Then I went in the woods on a trail behind their house. We saw a cabin and my cousin Mikey was already there in a rocking chair on the front porch. I went inside and played in the cabin. After that, we went back to my cousin's house. Then my uncle told me a story about my cousin Mikey leaving a bag of Cheetos on the table in the cabin. I was tired. I played on my tablet until it was time to leave. I want to go again to my cousin's house.

At the Fair

By Braeden Zupnik, Grade 1

I went to the Durham Fair in Durham, CT. When I got there I wanted fried dough, but I couldn't get it because there was a table full of a lot of dead hornets. I got some creamy delicious ice cream in a different area instead. It was vanilla and chocolate swirl. Then I went to the ride area. I had to wait in line to go on the ferris wheel. It felt scary because I was high above the fair and I didn't want to fall. There were also a lot of hornets up in the air flying around the ferris wheel. When I got off I went to the animal area. I saw pigs, llamas, and other animals. After I saw the animal area I really wanted to go on more rides. After that I played a game and I won a silver chrome fidget spinner. Before we left, my mom wanted to get a lemonade. "No!" I said because I didn't want hornets around me, but she got it anyway. I had an amazing time and I would like to go again!

My Play Date with Zoe

By Laina Debowsky, Grade 2

I had a play date with Zoe one afternoon. It was a pajama playdate just for fun. First, we watched T.V.. The show we watched was Little Big Shots. We ate 2 bowls of mac and cheese for lunch. We asked for more, but there was no more mac and cheese. We had applesauce and Zoe didn't even eat her applesauce. Then we ate pretzels on a blanket inside like a picnic. Then we played until Zoe's mom came before dinner. We played with toy doggies. We walked them because they have leashes. One of the dogs actually didn't have a leash, but we put a jump rope on it to be a leash. We had a really fun time!



*****POW*****

Going to the Rodeo

By Dillon LaPointe, Grade 3

"Yes!!!" I could hear people cheering as we walked into the stadium. I was so excited to finally be at the rodeo. We had traveled all day to get there and were staying for four days. There were two entrances and we had to get a stamp on our hands to go in. There were hundreds of metal benches. We sat fifteen benches up. They were really good seats. There was a big dirt oval that people rode crazy horses on. The horses were all different colors. Cowboys and cowgirls rode the horses and bulls. Some fell off the horses.

Then the beasts, the bulls, came out and everyone who rode them fell off! When a person fell off a bull there was a dude with a red flag. He waved the red flag to get the bull to charge at him. When the bull charged, the dude had him run toward an open gate. At the very last minute, the dude would step away so the bull would get locked into the gate!

Finding Stella

By Noah Trifilo, Grade 2

My dad's friend saw her on the side of a busy road. It was a cat. She was black, brown and white with no collar. Dad picked her up with a box and a blanket. The cat was in the closed box. Mom always wanted a cat, so Dad drove her home. We agreed to keep her. Later that day, we took her to the vet. She had worms in her tummy. After the vet, we took her to get a litter box, a hideout and a collar with roses on it. We named her Stella. She is really feisty and I love her. I am so happy that my dad brought her home.



POW

My First Time Catching a Fish

By Kylie Dailey, Grade 3

It was a sunny day at my Grandpa's house. My dad told me that we were going fishing. I was so happy. I gave my dad a big hug. We got in the blue boat. We stepped inside of the boat. We went to go fishing. I was so excited! We put fake worms on the hooks. Just then I heard a splash coming from the side of the lake, so we paddled together towards it. We thought the fish were jumping and I threw my bait out with my dad. Then he threw his bait out. I told my dad, "Where are the fish?" My dad said, "We have to have patience!" So I said, "Yes, Dad!" Suddenly, my dad got a tug on his pole. He pulled the line in. It was hard. A Bass popped out of the water. That is my favorite fish! I was happy for him, but I also got a little sad because I didn't get any fish. Dad said, "You will get one soon." I said, "Yes." So then I finally got a tug. I reeled the line in. I pulled on the pole so hard. It was huge! It was at least two feet long. The color of the scales were green, and it had a green round eye and a white round eye. I was so excited. I took a picture with my fish for the first time. I almost jumped off the boat because I was so happy. I tried to take the fish off the hook with my dad. It was flopping all over the ground, so I couldn't really get the hook off. Finally we did because I caught the fish and my dad took the hook out. Then I let it free. The Bass swam away. I will never forget when I caught my first fish!

The Sleepover

By Gavin Hutter, Grade 3

"We are here!" I said. we ran up the stairs to the door. my friend jacob was sleeping over my house today. he pulled legos out to play. we made up a game called "silly bob." there is an evil guy who is trying to destroy the galaxy and there are some guys trying to stop him. (when jacob comes over we always play it.) "time to go to bed," my dad shouted across the hall in the kitchen.

Soon after, we went up on my bed and talked until about 11 o'clock at night. then I fell asleep. when I woke up, jacob was on the floor playing legos. we played a game called star wars battlefront on my xbox. then my mom brought us to dunkin donuts. We both got an oreo donut. After that, we had to drop jacob off at his sister's cheerleading contest. then we went home.

I hope jacob comes sometime soon to sleep over and come to play with me.

M&Ms

By Zoe DiPietro, Grade 2

My costume for Halloween was an M&M. It is orange and white, too. There was an M on it to stand for M&M. I love M&Ms because they are so tasty and I like the chocolate in them. I mostly like the ones with peanuts in them. They are so good. I chose it because my mom said to be one. I like my mom's ideas, so I said "yes." I love Halloween. I wish to be an M&M again.

Trick-or-Treating

By Mya Nappi, Grade 1

My sister Addy and I went trick-or-treating at our friends' house. I was with my mom, her boyfriend, my dad, Addy and the twins. My dad was a dinosaur. His costume was orange. It was inflatable. Addy was a baseball player and I was Mal Coronation from Descendants.

It was fun! The best part was that Addy and I got to see the babies. Their names are Ava and Michael and they're twins. One was being a puppy and the other was a unicorn. Michael was a dalmation with a collar that was blue. Ava had purple, pink and blue. It was really cute.

I hope we go trick-or-treating with them again next year.

My Aunt and Uncle's Wedding

By Gianni Williams, Grade 2

Over Labor Day weekend, I went to Auntie Christina's and Uncle Santos' wedding at a church. We did a blessing with holy water. After the church, we went to a different place for the celebration. It was big, but not as big as the church. My brother, my cousin Liv and my little cousin Ella went upstairs and it was weird because there were signs that were dusty and hard to read. We played hide-and-seek upstairs. We went back down to the wedding after hide-and-seek. There was a bartender at the wedding. I got a Diet Coke. We played bean bags and we danced and danced. We went back to the hotel and we went to sleep. I had a great time with my family.

Decorating My Christmas Tree

By Nathan Kotos, Grade K

I love to decorate my tree. I love to put my Maisy ornament on.

Disney Safari

By Peyden Dubuc, Grade 1

I went on a safari ride with my mom and dad at Disney's Animal Kingdom. On the ride I saw giraffes running downhill and we heard a lion roaring. When we got over to the lion, we saw it sleeping. We saw zebras and a cheetah eating far away. The safari went through a river. We saw crocodiles. I had fun on the safari. I hope to ride the safari again someday.

Phobia Phear

By Ava Pizzo, Grade 4

CREEK! I was on my first roller coaster, I was really excited, I was shaking. It was the spiniest and you go upside down the most on it. It is called Phobia Phear, My Mom and I went on it. Anna, my sister was supposed to go on but she chickened out. It was at Lake Compounce. It was my first time there.

Back to the story. We were right about to go on the spinny upside down part. My mom was not looking so good it looked like she was about to throw up and at that moment we went on the spinney upside down part. it lasted about 30 seconds it was over but then I realized we were going down a big drop! I was a little scared but I was ready to go down the drop, but my mom did not look ready at all.

We went down it felt like I was flying it was so fun. But then it stopped, I LOVED it.

My mom and I got off my dad, my sister and brother said it made them dizzy looking at it. My mom felt dizzy, but I felt normal and ready to go again.



POW

Thanksgiving

By

Roland Overton, grade K

On Thanksgiving, first I ate turkey. It was yummy.
Then I played Monopoly with my aunt. I won!
Then I watched "Wreck It Ralph Wrecks the Internet." The movie was awesome.

Mila's House

By Aria Russell, Grade 2

I went to Mila's house with Faith and Angelina A. The first thing we did was pretend to make an island and a boat in the play area. We made an island cookie, a ship cookie, and a cone cookie. While the cookies were baking, we rode on the boat in the kitchen. The kitchen was the island. We made the island by using colors for different parts, like the blue was the water, the yellow was the island, and the green and brown were the trees. We made the boat by setting up two chairs facing each other. We used a blanket on the top. Then we played with dolls. We used lots of birthday stuff like streamers and the pretend treasure chest. We put the cookies in the treasure chest.

Next we watched TV. The show was called "Superlight." We played outside for a little while. When we came back in, we had a pillow fight and we made a fort. We had dinner together too. We had popcorn, chicken, pasta, and potatoes. This was a great day because we had fun making the island and the boat together.

The Playground

By Addison Nappi, Grade 3

One weekend day, My little sister, Mya and I were bored.

We wanted to do something. So I said, "Do you want to go play on the playground.?" And she said, "Yea, sure." So we put our coats on because it was chilly.

And we made our way out of the back door and headed to our playset. We ran up the hill and went on the swings. I was kicking my legs and swinging high.

Then we went on this gymnastics thing that we have. It is kind of like a triangle shaped bar. You could do flips and hang on it. I love flipping forward on this bar!

After some fabulous flips, we climbed up the ladder and went down the slide. Our slide goes straight down but has some bumpy waves along the way.

Suddenly, I felt some drops on my face. It started to rain, so that meant it was time to go in. We jumped off the playground and went inside, super speedy!

We ran upstairs, grabbed towels to dry off and jumped into our mom's bed to get warm and cozy. Then we took a nap. What a nice way to end our sister adventure!



POW

Free

By Ruby General, Grade 4

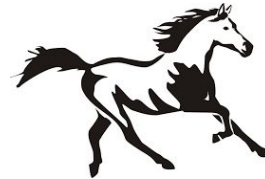
Joy trickled up my spine. I, yes me, would be riding a horse named Danale. He was a light brown horse with a white star on his forelock, which is the hair in between the ears. He was one tough cookie who had a mind of his own. I had seen him being naughty with my friend Hannah before. When she wanted to get in the rail, he went right in the middle of the ring to hang out with his friends.

After I got him ready, we moved into the ring. There was a cold breeze that couldn't touch my warm feeling inside. I hopped onto his warm tall back. I felt tall and confident. My riding instructor was impressed with me and the way I pushed my heels down. I was trying to make it as though my heels were digging into the earth like a shovel. Then, she told me to pick up a canter, which is a little bit faster than a slow jog. I blew Danale a kiss and squeezed his sides...

Suddenly, Danale picked up his legs and bolted into a canter. As we cantered across the ring I felt a smile creep upon my face. I didn't realize that I was smiling until I felt like I was about to outstretch my lips. The wind whipped back my hair and I felt like my helmet was about to fly off. I had never gone this fast before. I was having a blast when my instructor told me to halt. Even though I was having a lot of fun and didn't want to stop, I knew that my instructor was right. I did not want to overwork him because he can get really grumpy when he gets tired. He can **nip**, kick, and chew.

As I jumped off, I gave Danale a kiss and pat. When I was done rolling up his stirrups, I stared into his eyes that always looked cold and fearful. I felt hypnotized. I wasn't nervous although I knew that he was known to bite. For a moment there was silence. I felt like it was almost too silent. Like that quiet moment just before a performance when the audience is patiently waiting.

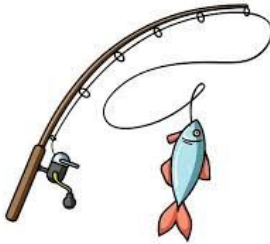
As I walked toward his face he gave me a frightful nip as if to say "Back off!" I twitched as if expecting to get hurt. I slapped him on the neck hard enough to say "Don't do that to people." I was shocked. I did not expect it at all. I had thought we were friends. Well, I guess not... for now.



I Went Fishing

By Myles Wolk, Grade 1

I went fishing with my dad. We went to a rocky bay on a point in the Connecticut River. We were fishing off docks. I have a blue rod which catches fish. I use "smellies." They are rubber baits. I caught a North American Pike that is a rare fish. The fish I caught had big teeth. It was brown and green. It was two feet long. We let it go. Then we packed up for the day and we went home.



POW

One Day at the Park

By James Overton, Grade 3

Have you ever been past angry? Well I have. My little brother Ro was happy when he raced to the playscape, and I was happy to. Then I saw a 13 year old boy bullying a little kid who looked like he was not having fun. I knew this because he was shoving and saying mean things.

Then I looked at the 13 year old he was super duper humongous. He had a lot of spiky greasy hair. He was smiling. He had a black shirt that said, "Best Gamer" written under dark yellow eyes. I knew something bad was about to happen. I walked over. He yelled, "Hey Ugly!" I was past my limits. I thought to myself, "Hit him!"

Then I heard a voice In my head. "Do it." I was trying to disagree with the voice. it said "Do it!" do it But then I thought I will make it look like I do not care. So I told him so what Then he walked away angry and depressed. I had saved the day.

My mom came over and asked what just happened. I helped someone she said she saw it all but to come to her for help next time. Wow, what a fun day at the park!

The Greatest Showman

By Samuel Herrick, Grade K

I was watching The Greatest Showman.
There were horses in the movie.

Feeling Free

By Jane Waterman, Grade 4

Crunch, went the leaves, I yelled, startled by the sound of the new spring leaves under my feet. Silly me, it's just leaves! I thought. I took my first step into the wondrous woods. My family and I had driven to Vermont for a week of relaxation. We were staying in our grandparent's cozy yellow house. As for my grandparents, they were in their house in Florida, where they stay for the winter. The air was crisp, it had been a chilly Vermont day. It just so happened that right next to their house was a wonderful, wondrous woods. At least that's what I called it. So, here I was for the first time taking my first step into the forest.

"Whoa," I quietly whispered. The birds were chirping wildly jumping, looking high and grand. The trees were talking to the animals, birds and bushes and calling to the sky. The trees were friends with the forest and mother nature cared for them dearly. She loves them for how much the trees help us and keep us alive. The little snow that was there was crying for darkness so they wouldn't melt from the sun.

I gazed at the next scene of the forest. It was the most beautiful sight ever, of course! A couple of birds were peering my way, tilting their heads side to side. Suddenly exclaimed a wild hoot.

I kept on walking into the forest until I saw the waterfall. It was softly flowing and swaying back and forth, crashing onto the rocks. My eyes widened and my mouth slid open. I walked closer to the river carefully making sure that I didn't fall in. The bubbles were quickly rushing down the stream. I moved to the next scene of the forest. Most of the trees had fallen but it was still very interesting and beautiful.

"Jane! Where are you?" my sisters yelled.

Still a little startled from the scream, I replied, "I'm coming!"

I walked past the broken trees, to my sisters, feeling disappointed I couldn't see more. I was still very glad though that I got to go in the forest and explore on my own. The feeling of the forest felt different. I had never experienced that feeling before. I was *Feeling Free*.

My Friend's Party

By Carter Collin, Grade 2

I went to my friend's birthday party. There were 20 people there and all of them are my friends. His name is Shaun. It was at Laser Tag. Your gear glows in the dark, except if you are in camouflage mode. Then no one can see you, which makes it easier for you to get points. It was fun but our team lost. We were on the green team. The other team was the red team. That's the team that won.

There was an arcade there too. I played Skee ball. You get a lot of tickets. I got a lot of points and I got to shoot lasers from the gun and I won the tickets. I think I got more than 200 tickets and I spent the tickets on toys. I got five toys. I was so happy!

But I was sad when I left. Shaun was sad too. We wanted to have a playdate after the party but we couldn't because his cousins were going to his house. We did have a playdate the next day.

I can't wait to go back there again.

Cape Cod

By Matthieu Thiel, Grade 2

My friends and family go to Cape Cod one week a year. Our friends are all older than me. One of them is nine years old. I am eight. Another is fourteen years old. The last name of our friends is close to "Misincousin" so that is what we call them because it is easier to say.

This year we went to Barnes and Noble. We got gift cards to Barnes and Noble from our uncle and we all had money to spend. I bought a Nerf gun. It is called the Mediator. My friend got it too. It was awesome. My brother got a Nerf gun too. It is called the "Helos." We used the new toys to shoot the house because we wanted to test the Nerf guns.

We brought a lot of cards. We went to the beach. The house is near the beach and there was a creek nearby too. We caught ten jellyfish with a tiny net.

We call the house "the Cape." It is the best place ever.



POW

The Dog Show Weekend
By Leah Ozycz, Grade 1

I went to the dog show. The dog I saw was a German Shepard. The German Shepherd tackled someone for training to be a better police dog. I did not see a dog do the obstacle course this year, but I have seen that before. I had so much fun. We saw our friends at the dog show.

The next day I went to my mommy and dad's friend's house. The same people were there. I got to play with a soccer ball. I played outside with the ball. I kicked the ball and I had to run after it. I had a great time.

I go to the dog show and our friend's house every year. It is important to my family.

Sun and Moon

By Alexa Saraceno, Grade 2

The sun shines bright
Like a glowing star.
Shimmering and shining
All day long.
Sunny days,
the beach is a good place to go.
When the day is done
The moon and stars come in
And the sun goes out.
The moon and stars glow bright.
All night long.

Going to Pumpkintown
By Angelina Alfano, Grade 2

I went to Pumpkintown with Danielle, Bella, Amanda, David, Jay and Grandma. I played on bouncy tires. I had a blast. Next I went in a jail with my baby sister and my big sister. The jail was fake and there was a fake person in it. It was a pumpkin!

Then I got a dog balloon. I had apple cider and popcorn. I went on a hayride too. On the hayride, I went with my sister, my mom and my dad. It was fun to get a sticker at the end.

Pumpkintown was very fun. I want to go to Pumpkintown again.

At Zoe's Birthday Party
By Dani Greco, Grade 2

Over the summer at Zoe's birthday party we made tie-dye shirts and then we played in her backyard. Then our parents were deciding if my sister and I could sleep over and they said, "Yes, you can." I said, "Yay!" We got our sleeping bags from the car. Then we went in Zoe's house and watched *Ferdinand*. Zoe's dog was licking us. After the movie, we went to bed. I wish I could go back to Zoe's house.



POW

My Dog Lulu and Me
By Camilo Coutin-Vazquez, Grade 3

My dog, Lulu
Had grey and black short fur.
Usually peed on the living room floor.
Ate my food when I was on the floor eating.
Didn't like to play a lot.
Always liked to watch my brother and I instead.
Used to be my bodyguard.
Barked loudly when I cried.
Stayed with me wherever I went.
Followed me outside.
Sat with me in the backyard.
Liked to be accompanied.
Passed away in my mom's arms.
Was my best friend
And is always missed.
My dog, Lulu

Space

By Abigail Muro, Grade 2

Space is dark at night
Stars lighting up the sky
Beautiful spheres spinning around
Different colors
Different looks
Different sizes
Different planets
Stars shining bright up in the sky
Constellations
Beautiful connecting stars
Different pictures
The sun made of fire
93,000 miles away from earth
The moon dark and bumpy
Sun lighting the moon up
Planets go from day to night
Space is unique in all different ways.

Maine

By Adeline Magoon, Grade 2

My family and I went to the beach. We brought sand toys down to the beach. We put buckets and shovels on the sand. The colorful sand toys were spread all across the beach. The water was so cold it felt like you were swimming in frozen ice.

My mom did not go in the water because it was too cold for her. At the beach, there were hundreds of people because it was so hot! I needed a fresh cool down because it was so hot. I went in the water and it cooled me down because it was so cold. Then I had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and strawberries. The strawberries were very sweet. We got all our stuff together and left. It was fun and I said I wanted to go back tomorrow!

Disney World

By Chace Hartline, Grade 2

I went to Disney World. I went on a roller coaster. It was like the wind blasted through my body. It was a really cool coaster. It was in the Wild West. It was called Thunder Mountain. After that, we went on some other rides. They were also cool and fun. Then we went to the hotel it was *Cars* the movie themed. Then we went to the pool. We went to the small pool and played in it. Then we went to bed. When we woke up we went to eight other places, they were fun too. We went to all the other parks including the one that just opened a few days before, it was called Toy Story Land. It was really cool. There were a lot of rides and I liked all of the rides. It was my first time in Florida. I hope I can go back to Disney World one more time.



POW

The Big Rainy Day Boat Adventure

By Leith Yaghi, Grade 3

Another boring day. It was on election day. My mom left me, my brother Hemid and my cousin Anissel at home because we had the day off. I'm telling you it was boring.

So my brother asked my older sister Maha if we could go on the boat down the hill in my pond. She said yes. The boat could fit four people. There were two seats in the front for driving, and there were two seats in the back. It had one space to put the fish in it.

We went down the hill to get worms. We looked under heavy things, that's where the good worms are. Next my brother started taking the water in the boat out of it. My cousin Anissel started fixing the fishing rods and I was holding the worms.

After like an hour, we were going on the boat. Once we got on the boat, it started raining. My brother said we could still go on the boat. I didn't like where I was sitting because I was sitting in the back. I thought I would fall off when they were driving the boat. So I just sat back. We all went on the boat. The rain at first was soft and slow. Then, after we had been on the boat for 20 minutes it started raining hard and fast. It started filling up places where we put our feet and my brother and my cousin Anissel and my feet were starting to get wet.

Hemid and Anissel started to fish. But we didn't get any fish. It was funny when my brother Hemid got mad every time when he didn't get a fish, which was every time. We had a blast!

Hemid put the boat on land. My cousin Anissel ran without me and I was still in the boat. My brother Hemid was being funny and told me to do 10 laps around the pond with the boat. So I did it. I did it by myself. It took about one hour. Later we went up the hill and took a shower. At the end of the day all of us had a blast. I guess it wasn't such a boring day.

Thanksgiving Break

By
Kate Murray, Grade K

Me and mom made a cake and cake balls. Then I ate some cake. It was good. It had some pink frosting. And then I played with my dollhouse.

Fall Leaves

By Bella Panico, Grade 2

Near the woods, I looked out the window and I saw the leaves. From that moment I knew fall was finally here. It was a cloudy Thursday. I ran as fast as a **Cheetah** to get outside and enjoy the weather. I open the door and went down to gray stairs. I then opened the garage door and ran outside for fall!! I got my dad's gray rake. I raked the leaves by myself. Breaking all the colorful leaves; red, orange, yellow, and brown. Then I got ready to jump! I took three steps backwards. Then, I ran and ran and ran and jumped!!! BOOM! The leaves spread everywhere. Suddenly it started to rain!!! I dashed into my home and started to make hot chocolate. A little bit of milk, a little bit of chocolate! In the microwave it went. Beep! It is done! I need to tell myself to be careful. Then I took one big sip. The feeling of warmness went everywhere. My arms, my head, all over! I walked up the brown stairs, then I opened the door to my room. I cuddled up. Suddenly, I fell asleep. The next day, I hoped I would have as much fun!

Finding Bigfoot

By Will Bachinsky-Kremzar, Grade 4

As Owen and Braden were putting down bear traps they thought about catching bigfoot. They were at Yellowstone National Park. They saw bigfoot disappear in the mythical swamp. Owen and Braden went in to. There were snapping turtles the size of tires. There were also crocodiles and alligators the size of two locomotives. The swamp had trees growing out of the water. You can tell this looks like its made up. Then Owen and Braden heard a fearsome roar by one of the traps.

Then they started charging at it at full speed. They saw that bigfoot got caught in one of the traps. After that they were heading back to their trailer. Their trailer had a fridge a box with cameras a bed and a computer. The next day they saw that all the traps were snapped.

Then the forest was quiet. Then they saw bigfoot charging at them. Then Brayden sprayed Bigfoot's eyes with flex seal. Then Bigfoot started to swing his arms wildly as he roared like King Kong. Then Owen threw a Raechat at Bigfoot's shine. It hurt him a lot and fell to the ground in pain. Then Owen jumped on Bigfoot. Bigfoot was an ape gorilla that can walk.

He had bald spots almost every foot. His fur was gray like a wolf. He also had green glowing eyes that could stare in my soul.

Then Owen and Braden tied Bigfoot to a sled and pulled it up to their trailer. They put a tracker on him and then put him in the cage. The cage's bars were prison bars and he couldn't escape. Then they used a backhoe to pick up the cage and put it in the back of the pickup truck which was sky blue.

They then got inside the trailer and got all their stuff and when they were done packing up they got in the truck. They were going to bring Bigfoot to a scientist to do research on him. But instead they keep him.

They played together and Bigfoot was better than a ninja at Fortnite. They became best

friends and they found out from Bigfoot there were more of them.

Now they were in the snow in Antarctica the brutal wind beating on Owen and Braden's face the snow was crunching. Then they heard a fearsome roar and that roar was a yeti.
THE HUNT IS ON!!!

Cliffs of Moher

By Phinnaeus B. Dreyfus, Grade 2

I went to the Cliffs of Moher over the summer with my two sisters, Toby, mommy and my step brothers. On the way we stopped at a crystal store and food shop. At the store I bought an amethyst and my sisters bought something, too. Isannah bought a necklace and Josephine bought a crystal. Then we got in the car and drove to the Cliffs of Moher. When we got out of the car, we walked to a nearby tower. We walked up the staircase. When we were at the top of the tower, my mom took some pictures. It smelled like fish because it was close to the sea. Then we went back down to eat. We had pizza. After that we went back to our rental home in Ireland. It was an awesome trip because it was where part of the sixth Harry Potter movie was filmed.



POW

Mary Poppins

By Charlotte Collin, grade K

I was at Mary Poppins Junior. Mary Poppins was happy because the kids were singing Supercalafrajlisticsxpaladois and A Spoonful of Sugar to the father. I was with my grandparents.

The Soccer Camp Event

By Phillip Faiella, Grade 1

After school I went to soccer camp and there was a lot of games, too. I mostly played soccer and wimbly. If you don't know what wimbly is, it is when you try to get a ball in a goal but it's a little different than soccer. Everyone is on the same team. My favorite game was wimbly. Soccer camp had to end. Home we went. I had a great time. When I got home I had a nap. I slept for hours until it was morning! I was so tired out. I felt great the next day when I went back to school.

My Friend Colin's Birthday

By
Nathan Armstrong, Grade K

First we sang Happy Birthday to Colin. It was his 8th birthday. After that I played video games. I played Mario Odyssey. Then we ate ice cream. It was yummy!

My Thanksgiving

By
Joseph Keast, Grade K

First I ate turkey. It was yummy! Then I ate pie. The pumpkin pie was yummy! Then I went to the movie theatre. I saw Ralph Wrecks the Internet.

Getting Ready for Santa

By
Kate Griese, grade K

First my mom put away the Thanksgiving stuff. Then I ate dinner. I ate potatoes and meat. Last I put up the Christmas tree. It was fun.



How to Catch A Grasshopper

By Christian Parker, Grade 1

I will teach you how to catch a grasshopper.

1. Get a box or container
2. Put some grass with tiny bugs in the box.
3. Find a grassy hill. Take the box with you.
4. Go by yourself on tiptoe to sneak up on it.
5. Slowly cover it with two hands.
6. Carefully scoop it up into your hands.
7. Carefully put it in a box or container.
8. Grab the handle of the box to carry it.
9. Carry the box inside.
10. Keep it as a pet.
11. Feed it food every day, like small bugs.

Play Date with Gabby

By
Rylee Ildefonso, grade K

I played with Gabby with the dolls at her house.
It was fun.

Catfish

By Myles Wolk, Grade 1

I went fishing with dad in Middletown on a boat in a pond. It was the first day of fishing season. We went fishing near a waterfall. We went fishing in a long, round pond. It's a quiet fishing spot. It's not busy. I caught a catfish. It was black and it was big. It pulled the pole. In its fins, it had sharp spines. We used a stinky chicken liver to catch it. The chicken liver was green. After we took a few pictures of the catfish, we let it go. It was an exciting day of fishing!

Mila's House

By Aria Russell, Grade 2

I went to Mila's house with Faith and Angelina A. The first thing we did was pretend to make an island and a boat in the play area. We made an island cookie, a ship cookie, and a cone cookie. While the cookies were baking, we rode on the boat in the kitchen. The kitchen was the island. We made the island by using colors for different parts, like the blue was the water, the yellow was the island, and the green and brown were the trees. We made the boat by setting up two chairs facing each other. We used a blanket on the top. Then we played with dolls. We used lots of birthday stuff like streamers and the pretend treasure chest. We put the cookies in the treasure chest.

Next we watched TV. The show was called "Superlight." We played outside for a little while. When we came back in, we had a pillow fight and we made a fort. We had dinner together too. We had popcorn, chicken, pasta, and potatoes. This was a great day because we had fun making the island and the boat together.

Watching Math Drills

By Michael Bilello, grade K

I was on the couch. I was watching a DVD. The DVD was "Meet the Math Drills". I was watching it because I wanted to.

80's Day

By Emery Magoon, Grade K

I was celebrating 80's day with my grandma and grandpa. It was at my house and I was playing with my grandma and my grandpa and I was playing trains. I was wearing my 80's clothes.

My Kittens

By Mya Nappi, Grade 1

I got kittens a couple of weeks ago. The kittens are so cute and there are two. They are named Oreo and Munchkin. I chose both names. Munchkin looks like a munchkin. I chose Oreo's name because he looks like an Oreo. These are their full names: Munchkin Monkey Nappi and Oreo Pappy Nappi. Oreo is not a calico but Munchkin is. Munchkin is brown and Oreo is black and white.

They are really playful. Oreo loves my sister and me. Munchkin is like a puff ball and he is more cuddly than Oreo. Once I was sitting in a chair and Oreo climbed the chair and started snuggling with me. I've learned that making sure that the kittens are safe is a big responsibility.



POW

The Beach Club

By Brayden Fraschilla, Grade 2

As my brother RJ and I got out of the car, I met up with my cousins, Mateo and Alessio. Mateo is the older one. Then RJ, Alessio, and I were going to the beach. My mom insisted "Stop, you have to put sunblock on." I sighed, "Okay." So I put on sunblock. Then I was ready.

Then Alessio asked "Do you want to go on the trampoline in the water?" I wondered, "A trampoline in the water?" I was so confused how was there going to be a trampoline on the water, so I asked my cousin Alessio. He replied, "Wait until we get there, you will see."

As we were going to the kids pool, Alessio said, "Look there's a trampoline on the water." I looked and I saw a yellow thing with people jumping on it. I wondered, "Is that it?" Alessio said, "Yes." I was surprised. There was a trampoline on the water! And as we were walking to the kids pool I asked, "Is there a diving board?" Alessio confirmed, "Yes." Then we finally got there and I saw a small diving board. There was no one in line so I jumped... and into the pool I went! The pool felt refreshing and the breeze felt so cool.

I asked, "Can we go to the ocean?" Alessio confirmed, "Yes." When I got in the ocean water, the first thing I wanted to go on was the trampoline. It was shallow and people just made a line, so I got in line in the water.

Then, it was finally my turn to get on the trampoline. So I had to climb up a ladder, it was a really hard time because the ladder wasn't stable, it would wobble. I finally got up there and started bouncing and waiting for my brother and Alessio.

Then they finally got up and they started bouncing and I jumped off. I wanted to go on it again, so I went again, then I said to Alessio, "Can I go back in the water?" Alessio said, "Yes." So I went in the bay and I didn't go on the trampoline.

Then Alessio said, "Brayden, hear the two rocks smash together outside the water. Now, when I go underwater, Brayden go underwater too." Then Alessio and I went underwater and I heard the rocks smashing together. It was so cool! Then I went back to the cabin, took a shower, and so did my brother. Then we went home. I wish I could go there again. The trampoline and the pool were fun.

Hitting Lazars

By Nathan Kotos, grade K

I hit bombs at least 20 yards with a fat bat. I hit no comb backs but I did hit a lot of line drives right up the middle.

Monster Trucks

By Eric Giammetteo, grade 1

In October, I went to Monster Jam. They were selling flags and many monster trucks toys at the bottom of the hill. I got a black and white racing flag with a picture of a monster truck on it. Then the Monster Jam started! The engines were so loud! 'Nothing But Trouble' had his wheels stuck. His tires got smashed and then a piece of the monster truck's tire was trapped inside a piece of the engine. He almost caught on fire. But, he finished in fourth place. I had fun at the Durham Fair watching Monster Jam.

My Nanna and Aunt Came Over

By Tucker Ventola, Grade 1

My Nana and Aunt Jo came over to our house. First, we had lunch. It was a delicious lunch, because my dad makes the best chili. It had no vegetables, but it had some beef. Then my Nana and Aunt Jo took me to Kung Fu. I am an orange belt in Kung Fu, which is the third belt in the Juniors Division. Kung Fu is 45 minutes long. First, we do our warm-up which is running back and forth. Sometimes we do push-ups. Now that I have an orange belt I have to do push-ups on my knuckles. When our class ends another class starts. The next class has people with black and brown belts, they are at a higher level. After my class, my Nana and Aunt Jo brought me to a restaurant. We went to a Mexican restaurant called Puerto Vallarta. It has delicious Mexican food. They make guacamole in front of you. I usually get their kids chicken tenders. Before I walked in the restaurant I put on the clothes I had in my bag. Usually, I have a pair of spare clothes in My kung fu bag. This time I got the chicken tenders. After the delicious dinner, I had mints. I got a few peppermints and then my nanna and Aunt brought me home in their car. I hope they come again because I had a great time and because we did a lot of fun activities.

Going to My Cousins' for Christmas

By Logan Finn, Grade 2

We were going on an airplane! I went on a trip with mom and my two brothers. We had to get up in the middle of the night. We were going to Florida. We woke up at 12:00 a.m. in the middle of the night. We were there at the middle of the day. We were going to see my cousins. My cousins live in Florida. When we got there we played games. My cousins are Diego, Miguel, and Sophia. They are 7, 5 and 0 years old. I got presents on Christmas, like a Kindle. It was one of the best Christmas trips.



POW

Candy World

By Audrey Kurtin, Grade 3

Licking an amazing lollipop,
Looking at the caramel drop
It is so delicious to eat a gummy,
So yummy in your tummy
Just imagine candy made into a tree,
Watch out! There is a sweet honey bee!
The ground is just a soft fluffy marshmallow,
Walking by, you see a gingerbread fellow
The rainy juice is really sticky,
If you think of it, it's kind of icky!
Look at all the gummy bears bend,
I hope the candy world will never end!

The Big E

By Ryan Olszewski , Grade 3

On Saturday, my brother, my mom, my dad, and I hopped in my dad's Ram 1500 truck. We left and turned right. We went up a mini hill. We went on the highway. It was one hour to get to The Big E.

Then we had to park in the dirt near a lot of campers. There were cars and trucks parked in the parking lot. We saw my Memere and Pepere. I went into four different buildings. I was feeding goats and saw two camels. My dad pet a camel. I was scared to pet it. When we left we saw an elephant. We walked by it to go see the parade.

I saw a mini tractor trailer and I saw a big crab with a girl on it, but it was fake. I saw a lot of cars with people in them, and with girls in the back of the cars. I spotted horses pulling wagons. Every wagon had a person on it. There were only four horses for the two wagons. Then we went to go see grandpa. Soon, we left.

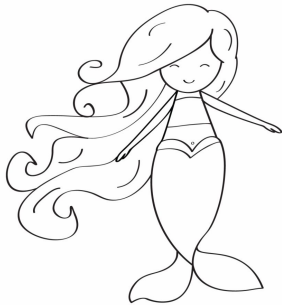
We hopped in my dad's truck. On the way home, I watched my dad's phone. When we got home my brother was asleep already.

Sewing Scales

By Aiyana Donecker, Grade 4

I heard the waves crashing down
On the cold damp sand
As the sunlight hit the scales
They glistened bright
The ocean looked
like diamonds
The mermaids scales
as smooth as seaglass
Washed up by the tides
I heard the seagulls above me
The warm sand in between my toes
As I saw something rise in the sea

As she got on the beach, I placed the teal shiny
scales on her bare legs
and she swam off
with a splash



POW

Excerpt from *Vermont narrative...*

By Ethan Greenwood, Grade 4

Matthew, Jack, and I all plunged face first into the water. What happened next, I wasn't expecting. I thought the water would turn my skin to ice, but, the water was surprisingly warm. All of us boys happily stroked through the water. My goggles pressed against my eyes as I continued to swim along. Then, we all dived under and swam down to the depths of the lake. While I swam down, all I saw was darkness covering my eyes. By now, we were five feet deep. My oxygen supply was low and Jack had already chickened out of doing it. That left Matthew and me, 8 feet deep. I kicked my feet wildly in the water trying to reach the bottom. 10 feet deep. My chest heaved. I tried to say something to Matthew but only bubbles came out. 11 feet deep. My lungs felt like they were going to burst. 12 feet deep. I couldn't take the pressure anymore! 13 feet. I felt like I was going to pass out. 14 feet. Ahhhhhhhh!!!!

Suddenly, my hand touched something soft and murky. The bottom. Happy with my accomplishment, I began to swim up with Matthew by my side. I could feel the sunlight pressing against my head under the water. I would break the surface in three, two, one! BAM!!! My head had smashed against something hard and wooden, knocking my vision dizzy for a few seconds. With my last ounce of strength, I burst out of the water onto a hard wooden platform. Matthew and Jack stared at me. Apparently, while I was swimming up I shifted to the right and my head hit the dock that we were standing on...

Halloween Night

By DJ Szymanski, Grade 2

The moon was shining so bright
Pumpkins looked like shining stars in the night
I went to pick one
Shiniest one
I had to squint my eyes
Then my eyes adjusted
I realized it was more beautiful than I imagined
The tall round orange oval
Attached to the vine in the pumpkin patch.
I put my hands out and picked it up
I held it and brought it back to my house.
I carved it into a cat
It made me feel good to have a pumpkin for
Halloween.



Apples

By Andrew Delgrego, Grade 2

Weaving through the trees
Apples waiting to be picked
Apples green and red
Branches full of apples
Apples hiding behind the leaves
Apples up, up, high in the trees

My New Year's Eve

By
Kate Griese, Grade Kindergarten

First I ate dinner with Corey and Randy. We ate chocolate fondue. Then I played Twister. After I played with Leo and Tiana. Last but not least, Uncle Randy dinged the bell 12 times and we had to eat all of our grapes. I ate all of my grapes. Now I will have good luck all year!

Sunflowers

By Ella Fappiano and Grace Velardi

Spring time is finally here
Flowers are blooming I could cheer
My garden is ready
I have to be steady
Taking out the weeds
Before I Plant the seeds
Watering the flowers
Like spring showers
It's already May
I've got to find a way
The sun is shining down
I'm not going to frown
April showers
Bring May flowers
April has past may has come
The scent is delighting now we're done



THE ATTACK OF THE ANACONDA

By Gavin Farnsworth, Lucas Gillooly & Gavin Burke, Grades 3 and 4

PART ONE: A Journey Begins

"We don't want to wake the..." Danny said as he stepped on the log That cut him off... CRACK! Danny heard

Katie stumbled down the hill thinking she would get eaten by the massive creature chasing her. Then she felt dizzy. She had been bitten by something...

Something big. Something poisonous. Katie started to faint. Even Danny could not believe his eyes. The massive creature had scales of gold and was shimmering in the sunlight that shined through the rainy blossomed trees. Everything seemed as if they were fake because everything was very blurry.

Then Danny saw a old man in the woods where they were. He heard his voice but his mouth never moved. It was a little weird. It even felt a little suspicious.

"You will never... return," Danny heard the figure say. And the old man seemed to fade away. Nothing felt real.

Danny heard the Echo of "You will never.....return..return..return..return...." and so on. 15 hours later Katie woke up feeling noshes she had a horrible headache then she finally got up but when she got up she saw the beast and screamed,

"Aaaaaaaaahhhhhhh!!" the beast did not see her when she did not scream but when she screamed the beast saw her and quickly jolted towered her. The beast was super mad because Katie hurt the beast's ear's.

"It's an anaconda!!!!!!!!!!" Danny yelled in terror. Katie went up to the anaconda and yelled,

"AHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!" And slapped it right in the face!! Shortly after that brotole slap it was uncoshins for 5 hours straight they all partied because they all thought the anaconda was dead but it was not Dead. The anaconda slithered in the grass toward them and jumped up out of nowhere and Danny dogged it right on time!! The large snakes friends came and started to try and bite the people!!! Luckily, Only 3 people were injured but the bad thing is they were Poisoned badly from 500 Different snakes.

The gods were not pleased with the snakes. Soon Danny saw the anaconda and ran into the pet shop. It was not a smart move to go into the pet shop. Once he got in their all he could see in his line of site was mini anacondas out of there Cages it was like a nightmare so Danny ran as fast as he could out of the store. seconds later he was at Walmart he ran through all the lines that had cool armed tools that he can use to help him.

The snakes at the pet shop slithered out of the pet shop. The Police Had arrived at the scene Just before the snakes got away.

"What Had happened to The poor kids inside?" The chief officer said in a Whimpering voice. The kids just spotted something that was not there before. They felt like it was not real. There was Danny laying on the floor just crying like a baby from an injury. He had jumped at the solid window that was see-through and was no glass. Then he fell on his face. But Katie tried to jump through the window and did. How did she? What had happened?

"DANNY!!!!!!" Katie yelled just remembering him. But for some weird reason, Danny himself was a snake. But the anacondas brain seemed to communicate with Katie.

He said "If you take me away from Danny, He will die." And She thought of taking Danny and trying to transform him back into a human. But it

was no use because she tried to pull him away but it looked like he was in pain when she did.

When she woke up it seemed that nothing had happened.”hi honey what was your dream last night?”

“Why? Because she was dreaming. So she got ready for lunch and told everyone about her little dream but when it became true. It happened all over again. It felt weird. No one believed her dream. Then she had a new dream. But that’s a different story”.....

Going to the Beach

By Taryn Adams, Grade 3

“Kyle, the beach is that way!” I shouted.

“Ok,” he replied. Kyle and I were on our way to the beach to see our grandpa. He was visiting from Florida. When we got to the beach, I saw an assorted variety of uneven rocks speckled all over the tan sand. The water was as blue as the sky, and the waves splashed really high.

Then we looked for Gom and Grandpa. When I saw mom, I ran to give her a big hug. I was so happy. Though as I ran, I could feel the rocks hitting my feet. They hurt. “Hi Grandpa,” I gave Grandpa a welcoming hug.

We sat down and ate our lunch. After I finished my lunch, I went into the water. “It’s freezing,” I shouted. I backed out of the water, and ran back up to the blanket. I grabbed my towel immediately and couldn’t stop shivering. But I really wanted to play in the water, so I ran back down into the surf. This time I forced myself to stay in. “Mom,” I yelled. “Put your foot in the water.” Mom doesn’t like cold water.

“You said the water was cold. There’s no way I’m going in,” she responded. I was getting kind of bored playing in the water alone; therefore, I raced out of the water and ran back up to the blanket.

“Kyle will you come down and watch me swim?” I asked.

“Sure Taryn,” he said to me. Kyle and I ran down to the water. I tricked Kyle as I dragged him into the water. Kyle said it was too cold, but I made him go in up to his waste and pushed him in a little above his waste. Then we started playing in the water. Kyle is a good big brother. He is really nice. If I asked him to do something, he will say yes most of the time.

When we were finished playing in the ocean, we ran back up to the blanket. Mom handed us towels. I was freezing cold. I felt as cold as an ice cube. Mom wrapped me up in the towels. This time I really couldn’t stop shivering, and my lips were purple.

When Kyle and I were all dried off, Grandpa took us to go get ice cream at the ice cream shack. I ordered an ice cream sandwich. It was delicious! When we finished with our ice cream, I went back into the water to swim. I swam for a little while. Then I got out of the water and got dried off.

Mom said to me, “It’s time to go home.” We packed up and headed to the car. But before we left, Grandpa gave me a \$25 gift card to Amazon. I always wanted another one. “Thank you Grandpa,” I said happily.

“You’re welcome,” he said back. We said our goodbyes and got into the car. “Bye Grandpa!” I yelled. “Bye Taryn!” he said. I wish he didn’t live in Florida because I like our time together. I can’t wait until the next time he visits!

Stitches

By Kiernan Walsh, Grade 2

I went to the movies for Joey's birthday party to see *Hotel Transylvania 3*. After the party, I had Nerf wars, but I bumped my knee into the fire poker. I felt my knee, it felt weird. I thought it was because the chiminea was old. I touched my leg. It looked red. I looked down. I was bleeding! My dad brought me to MedExpress. The person stuck a needle in my leg two times. Then they finished my stitches in my leg. My dad said, "You get a browning sundae at Time Out Tavern." That was because I didn't cry when they put the needle in my leg. They didn't have any more brownies. So my Dad said, "You can have an ice cream sundae." A couple days later I got my stitches out. One day later, Aaron and his sister came to see how I was. I was good. I hope I don't have to get stitches again.

The Forest

By Alivia Christopher, Grade 3

The soft wind blew through my hair
The short, spiky grass gently touched my toes
I heard the blue birds chirping
And saw the robins in their nests
Dark brown bark of the oak trees
was hard and rough on my hands
as I climbed to the top
The sun shone brightly on my face
The leaves were all different colors
Green, red, brown, orange, and yellow

The forest is my home
and I like it.

Getting A New Dog

By Carson Miller, Grade 3

Once I was going to get a new dog. I was so thrilled that I could hardly stay in my seat. We went to the Humane Society in Newington, Connecticut.

First we found a dog that we were thinking about getting. Her name was Buddy. She was so cute! We took her for a walk and played with her. I held her leash. I felt proud. We didn't choose her because she was kind of big and our house is small. She was all black because she was a Black Lab.

But then, we saw another dog named Breeze. She was brown, black and white. She was a mix of a Hound and an Australian Shepard. She had two brothers, but I didn't know what they were named.

So we decided to adopt Breeze because she was extra cute and soft. In the meantime, a man was getting the two brothers. And luckily, another man adopted Buddy, so we didn't feel so bad about leaving them.

Next we brought Breeze home. She acted tired at first. My dad and I were in the backseat. Then we changed her name to Sunny because in our house she has a sunspot where she likes to lay down. Sunny was all curled up in the middle of the car. When we got her home, she slept on the couch and became an important member of our family. We adopted her on February 13, 2016. We got her on the day before Valentine's Day because we would spread our love about getting a new dog. I felt really excited about getting Sunny.

The best part about her as a pet is that she is so cute and soft. She is three years old right now, but when we got her she was only two months old. Her birthday is December 2nd. I will never forget when we first got Sunny.

Italy

By Callie Avery, Grade 1

I went to Italy with my family. I was just a baby. Everybody got stung by bees because the bus that took us to the airport ran over an underground beehive. My Nonna got stung first, because she was the first one on the bus. Then everyone else got stung. We all felt bad. My grandma went inside to get cream to put on the bee stings. When we got to Italy we almost got bit by a snake. There was a snake near the bus when we got off, but he didn't bite anyone. We went to Italy because we went to see our family in Italy. Their names are Rita, Janie, and Roberto. My family told this story well because I understood it. This story makes me feel good and bad because we almost got bit by a snake and we all got stung. But it was good because we were all together, and not just one person got stung.

My Dog Eli

By Lucy Rinaldi, Grade 1

My dog Eli
A happy dog
A loving dog
A wonderful dog
Black and gold fur
Very soft fur
Everyday we go on a walk with my dog.
I feel happy.
I love Eli.

My Goldfish

By Justin Scribner, Grade 1

My Goldfish
He had a nice shiny orange body.
He had shiny fins
I miss him
I loved him so much.
He was the best fish I ever had out of all of them.
I loved it when he did cool flips in the tank.
He had other goldfish he loved.
I fed him fish food.
I woke up in the morning.
I found he was dead.
I was very sad that morning.
I told my parents and other fish.
Then my friend came over
They asked if I wanted to play
I said, "No."
I was too sad because my goldfish died.
And I am still sad.

Family

By Briann Pascarelli, Grade 2

I am in a home of loving people
Mom, Dad, and child
It is nice for them to care for me.
They love the songs that I sing.
It makes me happy.

Families care for you
They make food for me
They help me have a roof over my head.
They make me happy.

Everybody helps each other
It is sweet to help
It makes me feel good
That is what makes me happy.

Friends are just like family
We get to be with them.
It is fun
And I am happy.



POW

My Dog Charlie

By William Ziegler, Grade 1

I had a dog named Charlie. He had brown fur and was a medium sized dog. He was a mix between two dogs. He was a very good dog. We brought him to the vet. There was something wrong. He ate something and the vet couldn't do anything to save my dog. I heard little dogs whining, oh so loudly. Charlie could not survive. I saw his dead body. I started to cry. I think God will really take care of him. Everytime we would come back from a shop or being out he would always come up and run around the room with so much excitement. I'd give him a hug and lots of love. It makes me feel really happy and sad to think about Charlie.

Trees

By Ava French, Grade 2

Swaying trees outside
They are all growing tall
There are big stumps everywhere
Branches for building forts
Every place that could be seen
People tearing apart forts everywhere.
I will miss all of my forts
I am all out of sorts
I am as sad as sad can be
I hope I can build a fort again.

New Hampshire

By Levi Rosa, Grade 2

New Hampshire

I love it because we are making a vacation home there.

It was beautiful out in the woods.

Different colors, it was nice

There were a lot flowers

We want to plant flowers

They will go in the greenhouse.

On top of the mountain.

Close to the cliff

We were there for a long time

Huge forest all around us

We like to play tag on the hard surface of the mountain.

Go Far

By Gia Geel, Grade 1

I am going to do Go Far. I like running on the field. We get sticks and give them to the ladies. If you run you get something for your Go Far necklace. You get little things called charms. I like to get the charms. It is good because you get to run together with your friends.

No Gravity at School

By Peyton Palo-Mack, Grade 4

I walked into school without a care
But now floating gracefully in the air
There was a cloud of papers rising high
Peoples snacks were in the sky
Water bottles open up
Now there's bubbles
Pop! Pop! Pop!
Soon enough I was on the ceiling
I didn't even know what I was feeling
Struggling and trying to get down
But I couldn't even touch the ground!

My Trip with D.D.

By Kiki Eddinger, Grade 1

I got picked up from school on March 2nd, 2019. D.D. took me to the mall. D.D. is my grandmother. D.D. and Ari also picked up Fiona and Lucy from John Lyman School. We went first to Claire's with Lucy, Fiona, and Ari. Fiona and I got a big stuffed animal. I got a kitty named Quinn. Fiona's stuffed animal is a unicorn. Fiona, Lucy, and I got a mini backpack, but Ari already has a backpack. We got a lot of other things too.

Then we went to a shoe shop. In the kids' side of the shoe shop in the mall there was a spooky show going on. It was a movie about Halloween night.

After I picked out my shoes, we went to D.D.'s house to sleepover. We ate dinner, drank A&W, and had candy. We watched *Alice in Wonderland* and went to sleep.

In the morning, I played on D.D.'s phone. I downloaded a lot of games like Subway Surf, Hay Day, and farm games. We had pancakes for breakfast. Then we went home to my house and then D.D. brought home Lucy and Fiona. D.D. went to her house and fell asleep because she was tired from all of the fun.

Bare Trees in Winter

By Stella Reny, Grade 3

Bare trees in winter
No leaves to be found
Not on the branches
They're all on the ground

Some snow on the limbs
But evergreens don't fear
You'll always stay green
For all of the year



POW

VOICE IN A HOUSE

By Hayden Farnsworth, Grade 4

It was a chilly night. I slowly opened the door of a forgotten house. The house was warm and dusty and I started to say "hello" into the big room, but something big started to fly around and I became silent. "Hello!" I said again. Everything was still. "Hello" I said once more. The room started to shake as I slammed down to the floor. My face was hot and sweaty and I tried to get up but my legs were too weak. My arms were shaking and my feet were cramping. The room lit up, and the bright lights burned my eyes, but nothing was there. I heard booms like loud footsteps, and I heard a deep voice like a grown man's. The lights quickly started to flicker and then finally turned off, and that made the room go black...

Playing Catch

By Brody Belisle, Grade 2

I was playing catch with my dad. We used balls and mitts. My mom was watching. It was a bit hard and a bit easy. But it was fun! We had teams. I was "Team Panther" and Dad was "Team Lion." I threw the ball, but not to him so he wouldn't catch it. Sometimes I did it too high. When I threw the ball weird, so did Dad. He usually caught the high and a little wacky balls. I didn't catch most of his wacky balls - only one. We were both laughing.

After that we found a tree that was broken. So we picked the branches up and pushed them to the woods. I picked up the little, weak ones. Dad picked up the tall, strong ones. After that we went back inside and played tag.

I hope to play catch again soon!

Seeing Kelly Clarkson

By Leah Ozycz, Grade 1

I am going to a Kelly Clarkson concert. I like her music because I like her singing. I am excited! I am on "Team Kelly!" It is March 15. That's tomorrow. Kelly is going to sing her songs.

The next day...it is the day! I went to the concert. I went with my mom, my mom's friend, and my mom's friend's daughter who is 10. Another 10 year old girl came with us too. I have a "Team Kelly" t-shirt. We went early to Mohegan Sun to eat dinner. We had to try a few places but we switched to a different restaurant. We wanted to go to the place that has a bull to ride, but you have to be 20 or older.

I was awake until 1:00 a.m. That is the latest time I have been awake. I was up so late because I was at Mohegan Sun. It was far away so it took a while to get home. I had so much fun!

Summer!

By Sophia Fappiano, Grade 4

Sun touching everything
Under the umbrella at the beach
Making magical memories
Mmmm, gooey s'mores
Eating outside at the park
Running and playing until it gets dark!



POW

The First Shooting Star

By Anabella Tosto and Kacey Greco, Grade 3

One night as I walked down the street I saw a big flash up in the air. It looked like it was as bright as Rudolph's nose. Then I looked up and saw it move as fast as a cheetah. It was burning my eyes and as yellow as can be. When I looked up it was between the sun and the moon. It looked the size of a baby's foot. I couldn't tell what it was. It was shaped like a star. The sky was getting darker as I was looking up at that weird little thing. I saw a thing that was behind that star shaped thing. As I realized the thing was moving back and forth back and forth I took my lucky telescope out of my backpack and I got a much better view of it and still did not know what it was. But then I squinted my eyes, and then I realized it was a shooting star.



POW

Thanksgiving

By

Roland Overton, Kindergarten

On Thanksgiving, first I ate turkey. It was
yummy.
Then I played Monopoly with my aunt. I won!
Then I watched "Wreck It Ralph Wrecks the
Internet." The movie was awesome.

Excerpt from *Camping*

By Wayne Galarza, Grade 4

After the one hour miserable car ride,
we were finally at the cabin. It was my first time
camping and I was so excited. Matt and I ran to
the cabin and set up the fishing poles for
tomorrow. It was a little dark so we went to a
beach-like place for dinner. While dinner was
being made, we skipped rocks for a while, but
we got bored of that so we played at a little
playscape. It had slides, swings, a climbing
tower, and a miniature zipline. Finally dinner was
ready, so we sprinted to the table...

The Attack of the Snow Monster!

By John Zavier Lauderdale and Robert
Doubleday, Grade 3

Hi my name is bob! I live near a snowy
mountain. I have heard stories about snow
Monsters and the ice kingdom tomorrow I am
going to look for the ice kingdom. Wow did
not nosis but it is getting late. See you in the
morning...

Beep Beep Beep ernt "yuh" time to get up and
call JJ.

Beep boop beep . "What is it and why are you
calling me at 2:50 am!?! Remember we're going
to the mountain."

"Oh yeah be there in 10."

"Ok."

10 minutes later. Ding-dong

"Hi JJ. Lets go to the mountain." "Wait! You
almost forgot your long socks!! NO i did not
forget! Ok lets go!! . . ."

Huf huf huf huf "Are we there yet?" "I don't think
so." "What do you think?" "I think we should go
back ! no we have come all this way. "Fine but
hurry up." "What is that!? I don't know!"
"But it's BIG and it's coming towards us! Agg!"
said JJ.

"JJ are you ok?" Said Bob. "JJ?"

Great JJ slipped. Boom!

Now this thing is about to get me. What is that?
"Wait! It's a snow monster grab Agg! Agggggg"
said JJ.

I wonder where bob is? Bob was in the dongen
slam.

Great i'm stuck in the ice dungeon! Said bob.

Well I'm because I'm at the bottom of the hill. I
am calling the cops.

Beep boop beep 911 what is your emergency?

My emerschsee is my friend got caught by a
snow monster!

Were on the way... mean wille Bob was in jail...

How am I supposed to get to get of here!?! Wait
a minute. I have an idea. I could get that key

over there... to be continued in The Attack of the
Snow Monster #2 ...

Excerpt from *My Summer in Block Island*

By Landon Watts, Grade 3

SPRING

By Ava Palermo, Grade 3

Sunshine

Park time

Rocking at the park

In a tree

Nothing-stops-me

Going until dark

The next day, we spent some time at the beach. We stayed there for 5 hours. My dad, my brother, and I played frisbee. It was an orange and white frisbee with a hole in the middle. I was pretty good at throwing at catching, but a few times it was hurled at me so hard, I almost fell over!

After about 30 minutes of playing, it started to get very hot. The sand under my feet began to feel like I was standing on a frying pan! We sprinted as fast as we could into the ocean. The water was freezing, but it felt relaxing at the same time.

Excerpt from *Going to Six Flags*

By James Pongetti, Grade 4

"Yay!" I said as we pulled into the parking lot. It was my first time at Six Flags. I felt like my heart was going to explode because it was beating so fast.

The first thing we went on was bumper cars. We had limited time. There was a total of 5 minutes on a small, square clock with red numbers counting down. We were going so fast we saw sparks. I liked to crash into people. I was in a bumper car with my mom because I can't reach the pedals.

Bees

By Elizabeth Putnam, Grade 3

Bees bees bees
Making sweet honey
When they buzz buzz
Gosh it's so funny

Bees bees bees
Buzzing along their way
Gathering pollen
Every single day

Bees bees bees
A honey making machine
Whom rules this all ?
The queen!

My Day with My Family and Cousin

By

Joseph Keast, Grade K

I went to the YMCA in Middletown with my family and my friend Anna. First me and my mom went in the shower. Then I jumped in the pool. Then I played fetch. I was the dog. Then we got out of the pool and we got in the shower. After that me and my family went home. We went upstairs to listen to music. It was fun.



*****POW*****

POW My Vacation

By

Campbell Rivera, Grade K

I went to the Bahamas. I went with Mom, Dad, Hunter and Jacob. First I went on the rapid river. Me and Mom went on floats. The water went fast. Then I saw a dolphin jump in the air. The dolphin kissed me. I went to the beach. It was my favorite part. It was my favorite part because I went over the waves.

My Easter

By

Riley Harvey, Kindergarten

First Daddy drove us to Emma and Hailey's house. Second I played with a boomerang. After that I got two goody bags. I got candy and water guns. It was fun!

Me and My Mom

By

Cambell Rivera, Kindergarten

On vacation, first I went to get ice cream. It was mint chocolate chip. Then I went to get my nails done. It was blue. Then I went to find easter eggs with my cousins. My day was fun!

Me and Mom Going to Get Our Nails and Toes Done

By

Kate Murray, Kindergarten

Me and Mom went to get our nails and toes done. Then me and Mom picked out our nail polish. Then a nice lady painted my nails. Then the same lady painted my toenails. It was fun!

Going Fishing with My Family

By **Landyn Thomas, Grade 2**

I was fishing with my dad, my mom, my brothers, and my baby sister. We used rods and worms. It was very fun to fish in a pond. I got a big, big fish. My big brother caught one and my baby brother caught two. Then I caught the biggest fish in my pond. It took so long to catch but that wasn't the biggest fish. It was the second biggest fish. The fish kind of had dots and stripes on him. The fish had another fish in its mouth and looked like a shiny quarter. It was one inch long with lines on it. My dad had the biggest fish. I caught seven fish. That is the most fish I've ever caught. I would like to fish somewhere else with my family.

My Aquarium

By

Nathan Armstrong, Grade Kindergarten

I was at Mystic Aquarium. I was with my mom and my brother. First I saw a beluga whale. After that I went to the pink jellyfish. Then I got a shark tooth. It was fun.

Art

By Mya Nappi, Grade 1

I love Art because you get to decorate stuff. The best part is that you get to be creative and you get to do "oopsy art." Oopsy art is where you put paint on paper. It is relaxing too sometimes. Art can be frustrating because it can be something new. My favorite piece of art is a papier mache piece of art. I really like it. Maybe you will like it too.

Lake George

By Faith Gerardi, Grade 2

I went to Lake George. When I got there, everyone was in the pool. So we unpacked and then I went in the pool too and Emma was in the pool and Sonia and Will and Uncle Dean, Hunter, Blake rested in the pool for a while.

Then Auntie Lynne called us for dinner. Tina made raviolis and soup. After dinner, we played family. Emma was the mom, I was the baby with Sonia. My sister was the aunt. Then we watched a movie on Sonia's tablet. We watched "Rapunzel." Then we went outside and we played tag.

On the first day we went to the big lake. It looked so cool because it was so huge. I went to get a henna tattoo. It was a flower henna tattoo. I went to look at the boats too. I saw a lot of speed boats and sailboats. The water was warm. We went swimming in it and played "Marco Polo."

After dinner it was time for the movie. It was "Sleeping Beauty." After the movie, all the kids played on the playscape. The parents were sitting by the fire, except for Auntie Lynne and Uncle Joe, because the rule is that kids are not allowed in the playground by themselves at night when it is dark outside. Then we went to bed and we woke up. Then we ate breakfast and then we went home.

I like going to the village by the lake to watch shows. I missed doing that this year because it was too dark. I am going again next year in the beginning of the school year and I am so excited. I like spending time with my family.



When I Was Visiting My Little Brother

By Izabella Diaz, Grade 2

Day One

I went to see my little baby brother in the hospital. He was one day old. When I saw him, he was so small but he was so cute. He had black hair. He was small and he was a preemie. I got to hold him. I was excited to hold him. His name is Jaxson. Then my mom held him. Then my big sister, then my little sister with help. My dad held my brother, then my grandma did.

Then we got food at the hospital. We went back to the room and we ate. I looked out the window for a little while. Then we played "Roblox" on the computer. My sister Johna and I saw each other so we friended each other. Finally, it was time to leave the hospital.

Day Two

I forgot to say my mom and dad had to stay at the hospital for five days with my baby brother. My grandma drove to the hospital again so we could see my mom, my dad, and my new brother. I was so excited! Johna and I were listening to music on the way. We were mostly listening to country, but we did not care. We were finally there.

So we went inside so we could see my mom. We got in the elevator and went up. We got to the dorm. I hugged my dad and mom and kissed my baby brother. My auntie was there! I did not expect my auntie with my cousins Kie and James. Now there were so many people, too many. I asked to go on my dad's phone. He said yes. I showed James all the games my dad had on his phone.

James played the basketball game. He is really, really good at that game. He beat everyone who tried to beat him. He said, "You try to beat my high score." I was so close, so close. I was one point away so I tried again. This time I got 592 and James got 572. James said, "Good job." James left. We stayed a little longer, then it was time to go.

Day 3

We're Here, Finally

I missed you, baby Jaxson, and you, Mommy and Daddy, I thought.

"Can I hold him?"

"Yes. Wash your hands."

"OK." I washed my hands. I held

Jaxson for not even a second. I gave him back. He had a dirty diaper! My mom changed him. My dad was supposed to, but he didn't.

Johna yelled at my younger sister Natasha! She was drinking soda. My little sister started crying so I tried to calm her down. I told my little sister the months: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. She stopped crying. Yay! But soon she was asleep on the floor. That was why she was not crying any more. When the nurse came in, she almost stepped on Natasha. I was so scared, but she did not wake up. I was relieved. Natasha woke up and cried some more so we left.

Day 4

"Hello," I said to my mom.

"Hello," I said to my dad.

"Hello, Jaxson. What did you have for breakfast?"

My mom told me he had a bottle. I said, "How does he like it?"

"He just does. He likes it. The bottle is the only thing he ever tasted so he likes it."

It was time for breakfast. I got egg salad again. In fact I got ice cream with it. It was an ice cream sandwich. The whole thing was chocolate.

Day 5

"Hello. Can I go on your tablet?"

"Yes, you may go on my tablet," Daddy said.

I went in "Shopkin World." In "Shopkin World" I made a cupcake with sprinkles with blue frosting. It was cool. The cupcake was yellow. The cake was pink. The topping was a swirling top and on the very top was a cherry. The cherry was so big and small at the same time. I think it was the coolest thing ever seen in "Shopkin World." I played for one hour.

Then it was time to go. Yay! My dad, my mom, and Jaxson get to come home. I am so happy. We can all go home today!



The Haunted Laundry Pile

By Louisa Grant, Grade 1

One night I crept into my living room. It was dark and scary. Boards creaked under my feet and I could hear the wind howl. Suddenly, I saw green eyes. I froze. Then I dashed toward the lamp. I stumbled over something. I turned around. It looked like a pale white ghost. I sprinted to the lamp and turned it on. The lamp's radiance filled the room with pale, creamy, warm light. Then I looked where the green eyes were. It was just my cat with his green eyes scattered with white and in the center of his perfect eyes, there glittered black slits. They constantly widened. Suddenly I remembered. I swirled around. I had stumbled over some laundry. I settled down to pet my cat. After that I felt a little better.

My Dream

By Isannah Dreyfus, Grade 4

I had a dream that my feet were covered in hot sand
and the salty air was blowing in my face
I walked two steps so that the water could tickle my toes
I heard the seagulls honking overhead
I leaned over so that I could pick up a little hermit crab
I watched it scuttle in my hands
Then I put it down and I watched it scurry away
I was alone
I opened my eyes to see that I was actually at the beach
I sat down on the sand
and closed my eyes to dream some more

But I didn't have to dream
I was there.