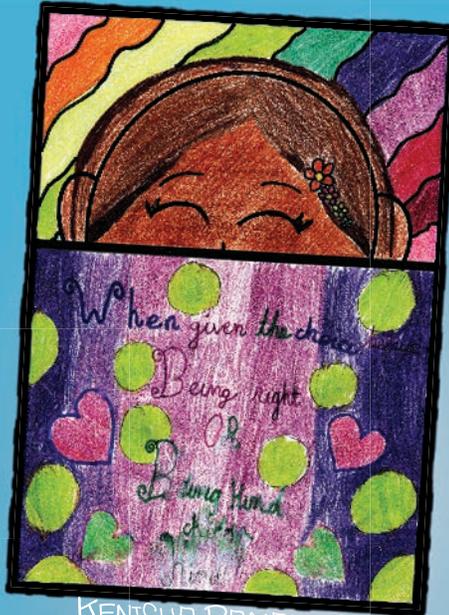
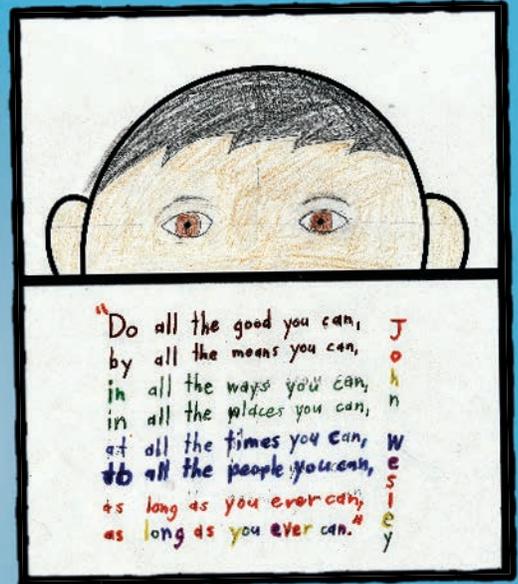


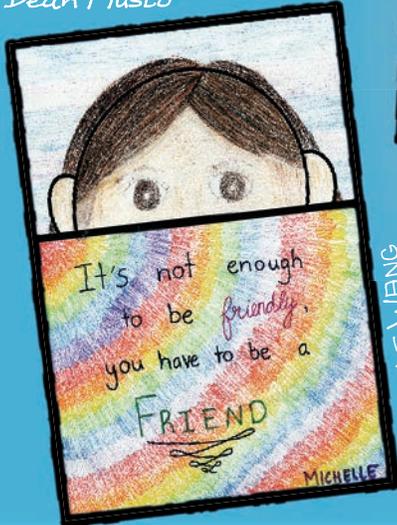
Dean Musto



KENISHA RAMAKRISHNAN



ALAN LU



MICHELLE WANG

Inspired by Mr. Brown's precepts, as described in R.J. Palacio's novel *Wonder*, Ms. Subramanian's fifth grade class members created their own inspirational posters. Look for their self portraits and words of wisdom throughout this edition of the *Star*.

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CONTRIBUTORS:

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SKETCH IN PROGRESS OF THE MOSAIC MURAL FOR THE NEW HASTINGS SCHOOL

Creating the Mural

Interview of Hastings mural artist Will O'Donnell
by observer (and Star editor) Robyn Piasecki

For three days in early June, the Hastings art room was transformed into a mosaic workshop as all four current fifth grade classes had the opportunity to impart their legacy upon the new Hastings school. Working with Ms. Bettencourt and renowned mural artist David Fitcher, students nipped and placed tiles to begin the mosaic that other classes will complete next year. If the mural looks familiar, it might be because Fitcher's work appears not only all over the world but also in many schools and public spaces in Cambridge; closer to home, however, he helped students paint the mural in the current Hastings gym twenty-five years ago.



I spent an entertaining hour with Will's group, which frequently burst into song (with selections from *Mary Poppins*) and chatted with the artist - all while choosing and expertly fitting tiles. While the entire mural has been sketched out, the fifth graders were working on a specific section (enlarged and placed under a sticky mesh backing) that was taped and will be preserved until the mural is ready to go up on the wall. I was so impressed with the process: how independently the students were working, how much they were accomplishing, and how easily David worked with the students. I asked Will about

his experience with an eye toward preparing next year's mosaic artists.

Q: How does someone make a mosaic mural?

A: They take the glass tiles and snap them into the shape they need. They put them on the sticky mesh on top of outlines. To pick colors, there are tables filled with tiles of different colors and textures.

Q: Did you have any training or receive any tips?

A: [David told us to] always keep the part of the nippers that crushes tile facing toward you so you don't cut yourself. Wear the goggles they provide. Look at the sketch and look at the colors and find the right tiles to make the right shades. Never leave the bumpy side up.

Q: Did everyone help?

A: Yes. Our group (half of our class) had two hour-long sessions.

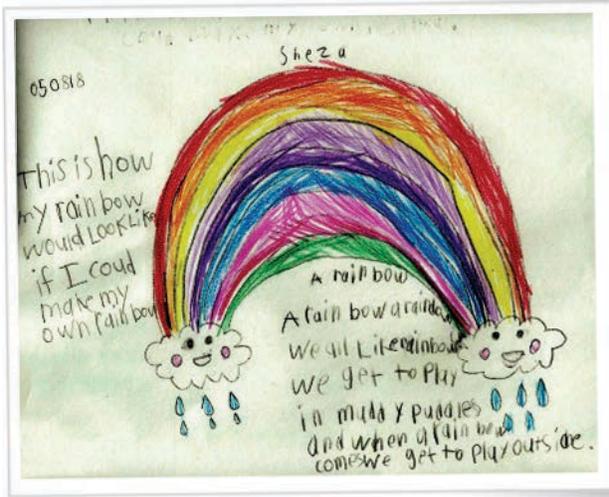
Q: What was it like working with David? Did he tell any good jokes?

A: It was fun. The jokes were ok.

Q: What was your favorite part?

A: It was fun to cut tiles and put them in and really satisfying to put small shards into place.

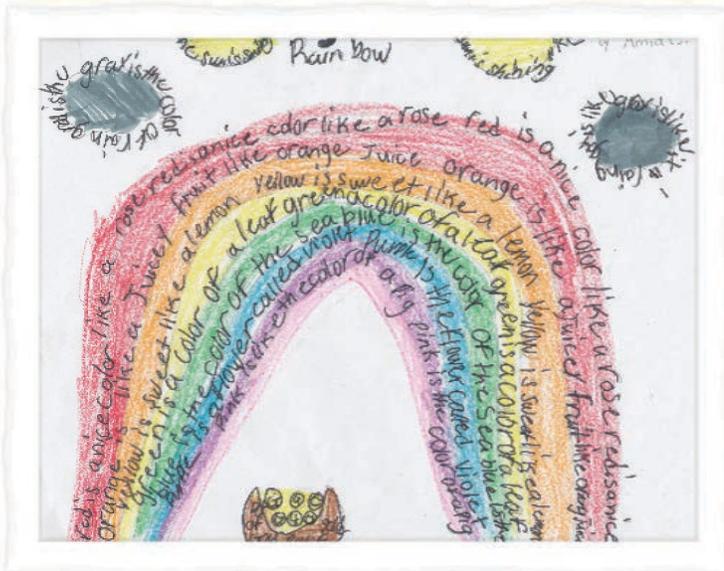




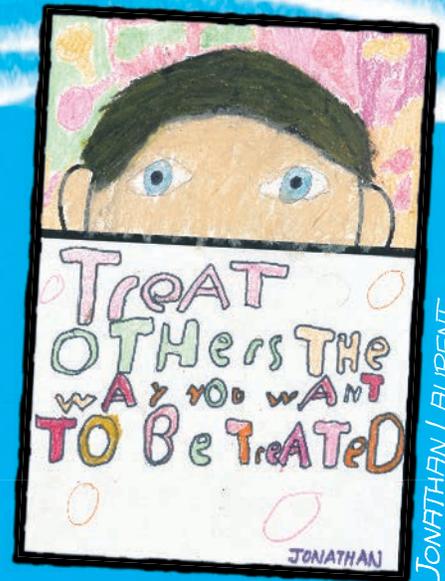
BY SHEZA YEASMIN (KINDERGARTEN)



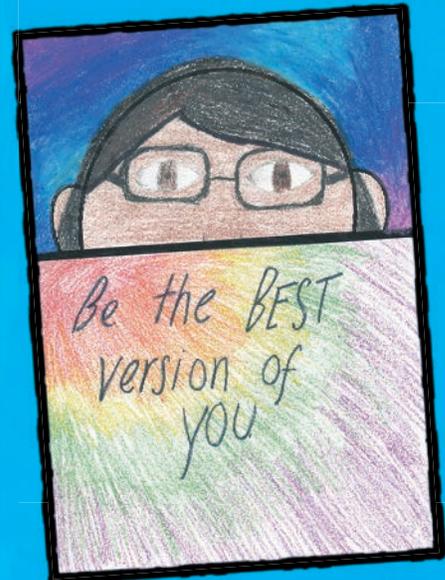
BY AVERY HORVATH (GRADE 2)



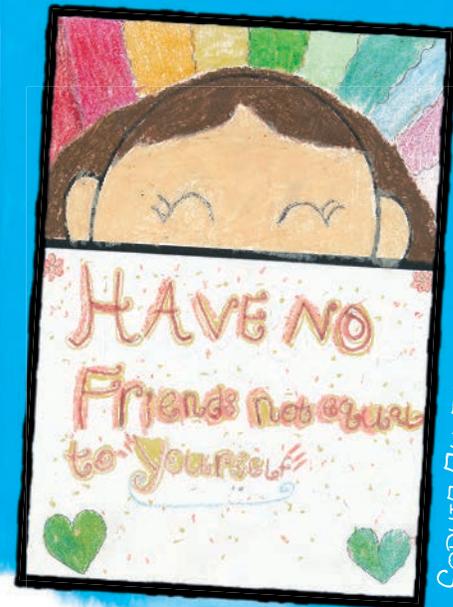
BY AMIA CHANNER (GRADE 2)



JONATHAN LAURENT



SIYA SETTY



SOPHIA ALVAREZ

Ms. Contre's Class Designs the New Hastings Playground

A consistent highlight of the school day, recess is affected significantly by the design of the playground - as Ms. Contre's fourth graders well know. This spring, they worked in small groups using actual components of the future Hastings playground to create their dream spaces. They wrote persuasive letters to Mrs. Lipsitz explaining why she should choose their group's design, and they then found the area and perimeter of their redesigned playground. Here are some examples - which one would you choose? You can view all of the projects online at <http://hastings-pto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Star-June-Playground.pdf>

Dear Mrs. Lipsitz,

Our playground is the one you want to install in your playground because we have plenty of running space; another reason is we have a safe playground format; and, finally, we installed fun and safe activities on every structure.

One reason why our playground is the one you need in your school is that we have plenty of running space. Whee! Whee! We figured out that we have 60% structure and 40% run space. Which shows that kids have plenty of space to run around and have an excellent time. And older kids have space to hang out. Things that kids can do with this space are play lava tag, play catch, play football, kick in a soccer game or just run around.

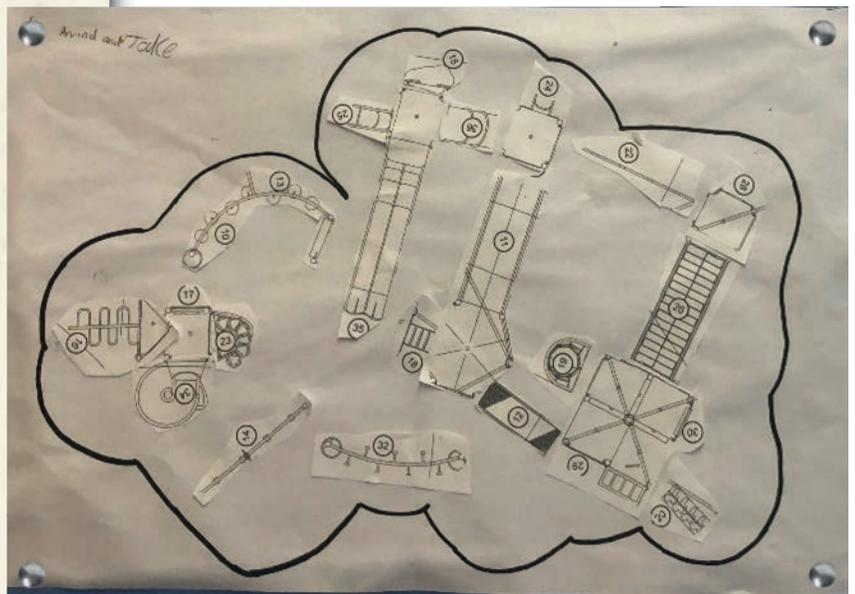
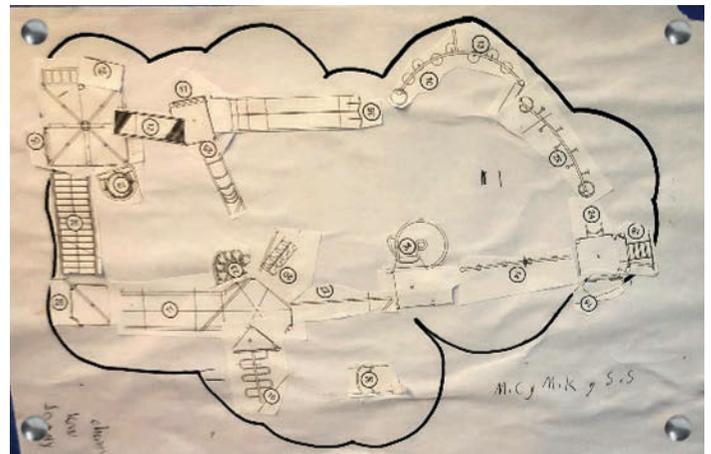
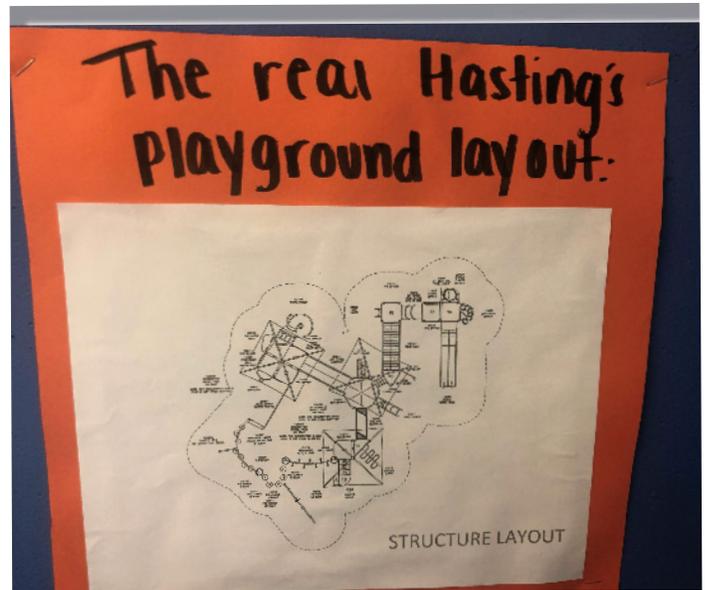
Our second reason that our design of the playground is just super amazing is that our playground format is safe because we have our slide away from other structures so your students have a safe and fun ride down. And kids who are riding down the slide will not bump into other kids and also kids won't crash into fences.

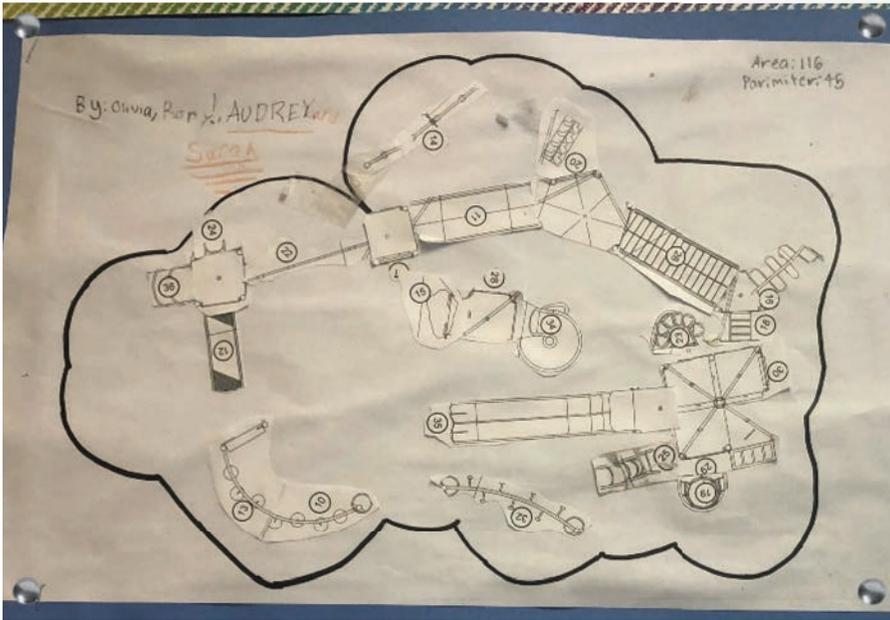
Our final and most important reason why you need to use our design is that all of our structures have fun and safe activities. We have six structures with more than one way to get up and also more than one activity on each structure. Such as...We have transportation from one structure to another structure if you are not running around and playing and you just want to go to another structure you don't need to run a marathon to get there you just walk through a six foot tunnel.

In conclusion, I would like to say that our playground is the best, safest, and the most fun. One, there is a lot of running space. Two, it is very safe and there is no chance of a collision; finally, on every structure there is something to do on every structure and you just don't climb it for no reason. I hope you like our design of the structure and our playground is the one you pick.

Sincerely,

Jacob Wall and Arwind Rajarajan





Dear Mrs. Lipsitz,

Do you want to know why you should pick our playground? Well, keep reading and you will find out! We think that OUR playground should be chosen for the new school because kids will be able to run around on and off the structure, they will have many things to do in the playground, it allows kids of all ages to play on the playground; lastly, OUR playground should be picked because it is safe.

Our first reason why OUR playground should be picked is because kids will be able to run around on and off the structure. For example, there is a big open space to run. You can play all different types of tag, you can make up games. You can play Law; Wizards,

Dwarfs and Elephants; Flinch; Cops and Robbers, and more! You can run on, off, under, and around the structure, too.

Our second reason why OUR playground should be picked is because kids will have many things to do on the playground. For example, you can go on the geoplex climber, monkey bars, slides, a moonwalk climber, and the tight walk climber! This allows kids to climb to get on and off multiple structures.

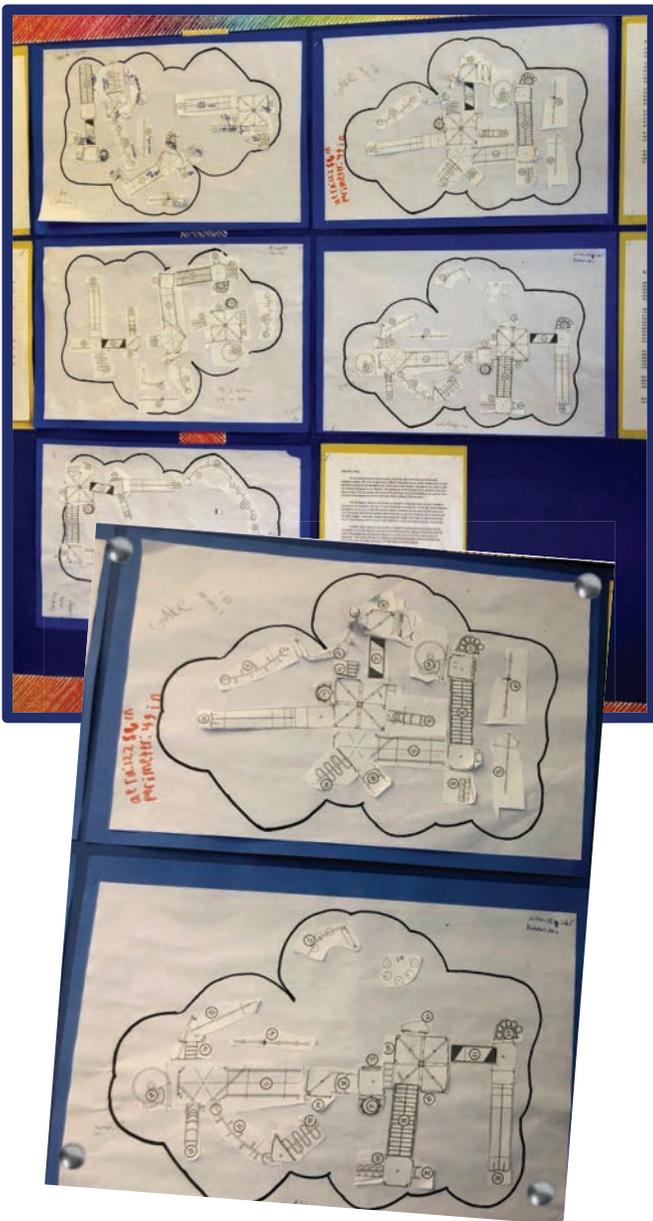
Our third reason why OUR playground should be picked is because a variety of ages can play at our playground. From ages 2-14 kids will have a great time! Different obstacles will be fun and exciting and maybe even challenging kids, such as racing to the top of the rock wall or "I beat you down the slide."

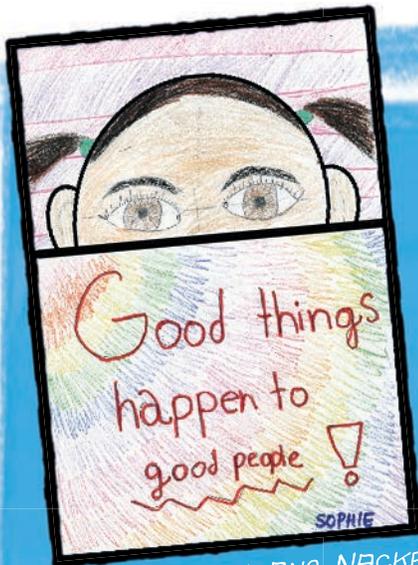
Our final reason why OUR playground structure should be picked is because the playground will be safe for kids. We designed our playground so there is enough space for kids to play and not get hurt. We made sure that all the climbers lead to a platform. Some more things we did is make sure that when you go on the slide you have room to get off. This is important because you will not get hurt because you will not bump into anything.

In conclusion, now that you have read OUR essay are you going to make our playground real? Because it would be a great idea!

Sincerely,
Sarah Beuttell, Rory Kilgore, Olivia Hurley, Audrey Boulter

P.S. Ours is the best!

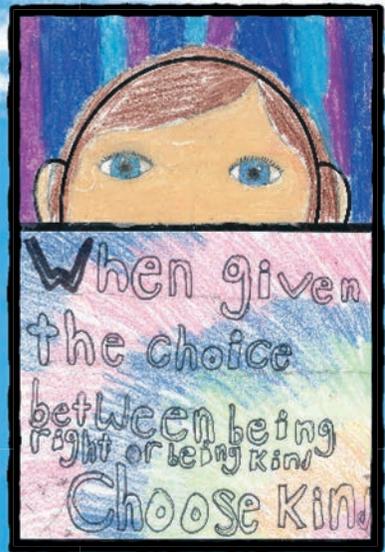




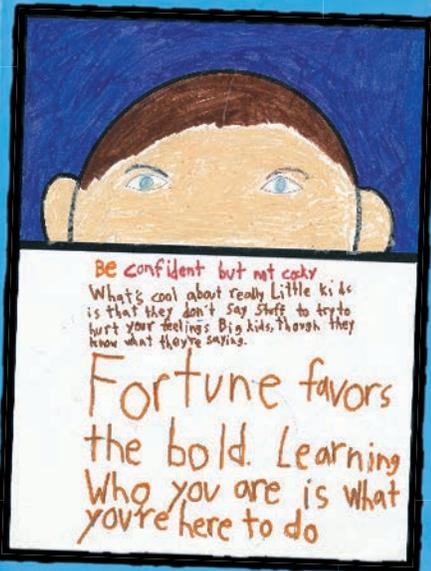
SOPHIE ZHANG-NACKE



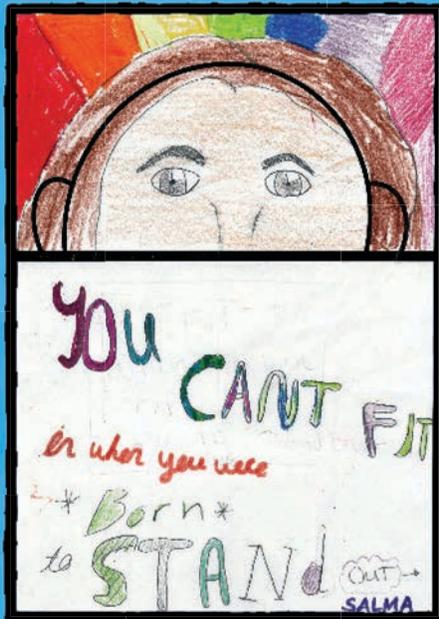
ANACHA CHAKRAVARTI



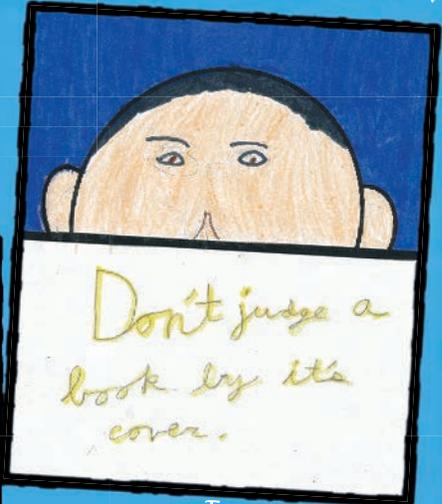
SHARNA WHITE



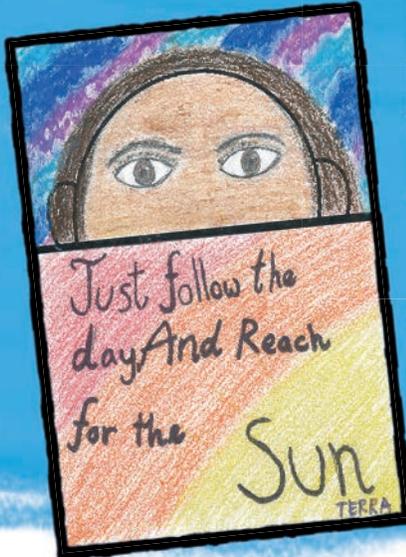
URI NETZER



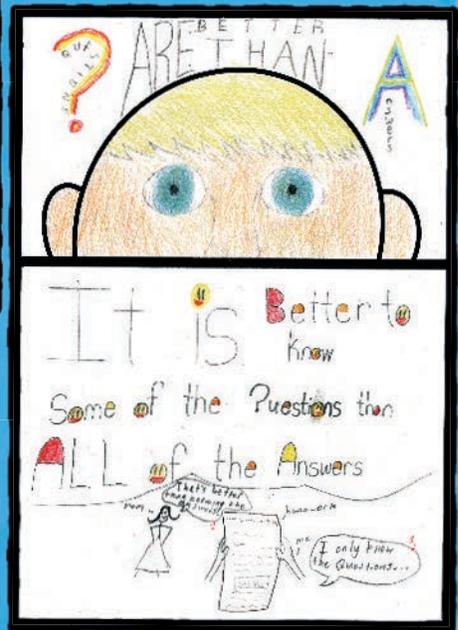
SALMA L'BAHY



JAYLEN ZHANG



TERRA SHARMA



CORMAC DOWGERT

The Royal Eyeball-Cupcake Music Band

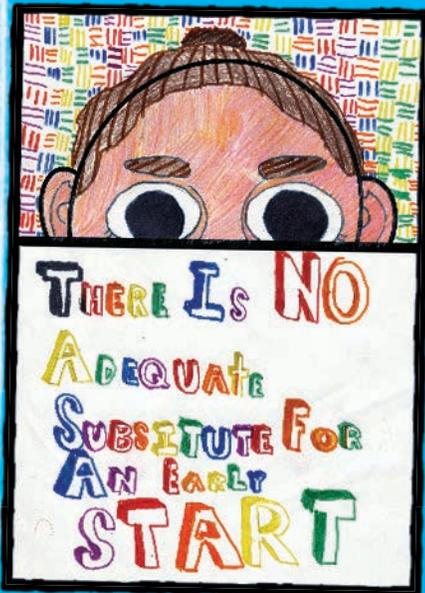
A poem by Ariana Gaebe (Grade 5)

The Royal Eyeball-Cupcake Music Band
 Made music that was so extremely bland,
 But the eyeballs and cupcakes hopped
 Out of their spots but their owners had thoughts.
 Their owners made plots and plans
 To use all their pots and pans
 To smash and hit and destroy
 The Royal Eyeball-Cupcake Music Band.

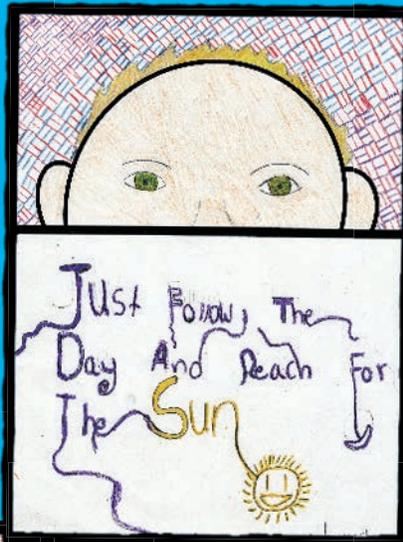
PIANO MUSIC

By Sami Hassan (Grade 3)

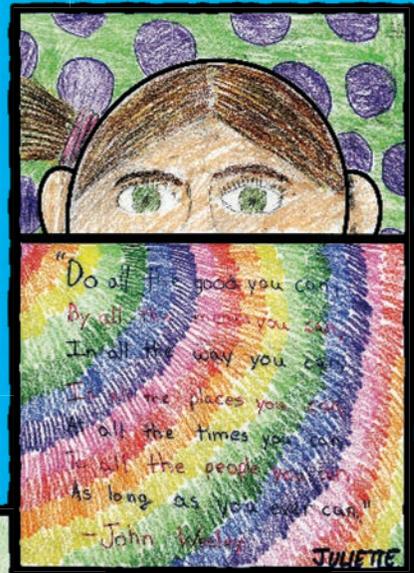
Piano music makes me goin'
 Piano music makes me movin'
 I played piano on stage
 Piano music keeps me low in rage
 Piano piano all night
 Piano piano gives me no fright
 Piano has a good tune
 Like the flowers that are in June
 Piano Piano so smooth
 It makes your mind soothe
 Piano big
 Unlike a fig
 Piano stays
 Piano PLAYS
 Now you can see
 I like piano
 It's no DREAM



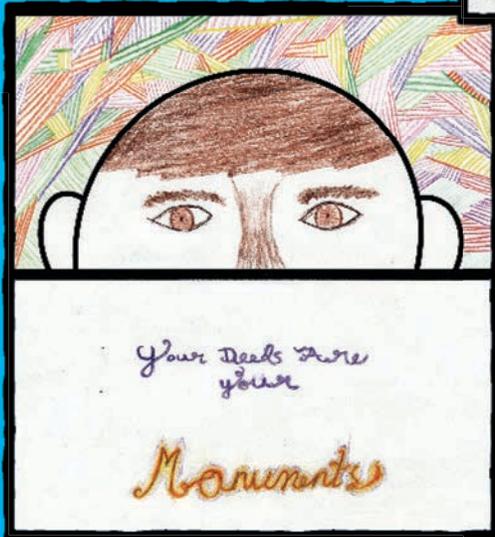
WILL O'DONWELL



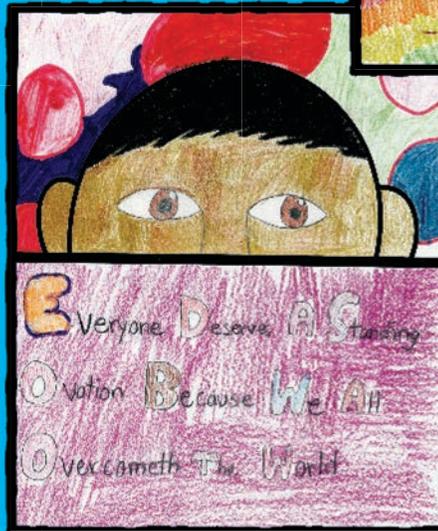
HANISH KEMP



JULIETTE CLAUSEN



KAMRAN QUADRI



SIDDHARTH KAWATKAR

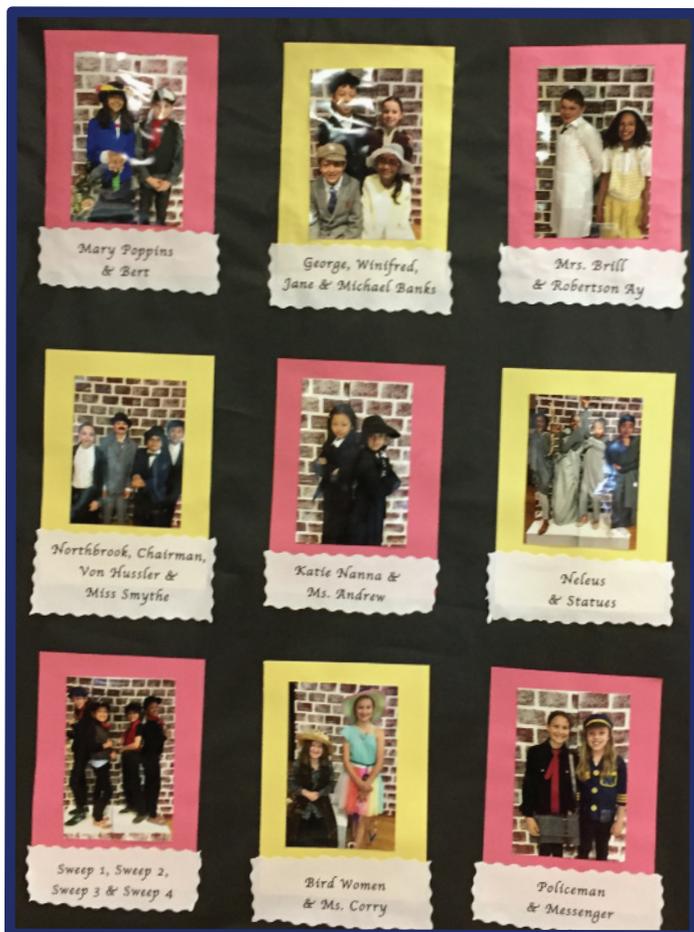
Mary Poppins: An Overview

An article by Minjae Suh, Anoushka Phadnis, Maggie Zhu, Cameron Boros, and Surina Patel

There is no doubt that when creating something fascinating like a musical it requires A HUGE AMOUNT of teamwork, effort, and communication, there isn't a better feeling than seeing what you've created unfolding into something... extraordinary, and beautiful. All of the time memorizing lines, actions, dances and unfolding into a "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" play!

All of our determination wouldn't have made a full show if we didn't work together. A huge production like *Mary Poppins* requires a lot of teamwork. Teamwork is critical for the overall production because without teamwork *Mary Poppins* would just fall apart completely! Teamwork was the glue for our production, but what good is teamwork without its best friend... collaboration? If we didn't collaborate, the play would be chaos. Nobody would know when to enter, when to change sets, or how to do the choreography. The play wouldn't be a musical, it would just be people doing a catastrophe on stage!

The play wouldn't have been astonishing without the dedicated actors, stage crew, teachers, ensembles, all the parents who bought props, costumes, and helped out with the sets to make the play. The teachers (Mrs. Steiner, Mrs. Finkel, Mrs. Subramanian, Mrs. Agne, Mrs. Jacques etc.) and students worked really hard to make sure the play wasn't a disaster. We're here to tell you a little bit about what happened behind the scenes. Behind the scenes was organized even with all the



people in the hall and props. There were so many people backstage making sure the ensembles had their props on time and the set was up. There were teachers and students in the classrooms painting sets or working through their breaks to make the *Mary Poppins* musical magical. Stage crew worked their butts off to make sure the music was on at the right time and the props were there as fast as possible and that the curtains were closed on time and that everything was organized. So as the writers of this article we want to shout out to all the students, teachers, and all the parents for helping us achieve this impressive play.

One person can't make a musical. Take away any one of the groups - Stage crew, Actors, Ensemble, or Directors, and the whole play collapses. Each part means something special to the play. People have to maximize efficiency to get as much done as possible with enough order so that it all comes together perfectly. Being in a play is truly a unique experience: at the end of the play you could bet every fifth grader that stepped out of Hastings had a big smile from ear to ear!!!

Q: What are you most looking forward to in the play?
A: Acting out the Brimstone and Treacle scene

Callbacks

After the teachers had some time to think about it, they issued callbacks. They took place about a week later than the audition, about 50% of all students who auditioned got callbacks. Which were repeat auditions with a prespecified song and scene. If you did not get a callback you were not in any of the roles, and you would be drafted in ensemble.

Rehearsals

A few weeks after the callback teachers issued roles, and then it was time for rehearsals. LOTS of rehearsals. Every school day since April vacation was spent entirely on Mary Poppins. There were dress rehearsals, acting rehearsals, singing rehearsals, full rehearsals, etc. In the rehearsals the teachers would comment on your acting and singing and “Block” you, telling you where you should go for that scene.

Stage Crew’s Job

Stage crew actually played a major role in the play. Between painting all the scenery, positioning the scenery during the show, managing the audio and props, closing the curtains, and other jobs as well. Stage crew was divided into 4 groups: stage right crew, stage left crew, props & scenery, and audio. Stage crew was required to make the show a success.

Costumes

I know from experience that many people will want to know about costumes, so, costumes requirements were issued by the teachers a few weeks into rehearsals, and each fifth grade family was responsible for buying them. Costume changes took place in the fifth grade rooms with one for boys, one for girls, and one that was both. Costume changes were sometimes very rushed, especially when there is only one scene in between.

The Show

The show was a huge success, and it was very fun to put on. And you may be wondering, what happens to the fifth graders when they are offstage? Well, the fifth graders go into the hallway where the nurse office is located, and their Ipads were distributed for the fifth graders to use until their next scene.

**Congratulations,
Hastings
Class of 2018!**



Mary Poppins, Jr.: Behind the Scenes

Article by Antony Rinaldi (Grade 5)

Every year that I can remember since coming to Hastings there has been a fifth-grade play, and I have greatly enjoyed all of them. However, this year has been my first time participating in the play, and now I see what’s happening behind the scenes. And believe me, there is a lot going on. Auditions, Callbacks, Drafts, Rehearsals, and Blocking are just some of the events that take place. Other things include stage crew, costume changes, and Ensemble. All of these things are required to create a successful play. And this article will (hopefully) help you understand just how all those things work.

Interview with Anagha Chakravarti (Mary Poppins)

Q: What are you most looking forward to in the play?

A: Acting in it along with the other actors.

Q: If you couldn’t have Mary Poppins as a role, what would you have?

A: Either Winifred or Jane.

Q: When you auditioned, did you expect to get Mary Poppins?

A: No, I expected to get drafted in Ensemble.

Q: Were you ever nervous about auditioning?

A: Yes. At my old school I participated in a play in 3rd grade and got a really minor part. That made me somewhat nervous about the audition.

Auditions

The very first step was to write down the roles we would most like to have. After that it was time for auditions. Auditions spanned out over a week and took place sometime in March (don’t quote me on that). Students were asked to perform one of 3 scenes, and sing one of 3 songs. You would do this in front of the teachers (Including Mrs.Finkel, Mrs.Steiner, Mrs.Agne, Mrs.Subramanian, and Mrs.Jaques) and the other students in the fifth grade. Once all auditions were done, the teachers started thinking about who they should give a callback to (a callback is a second audition, and required to get a lead role).



“Wow, SLIDE!” BY SIENA FOO (GRADE 1)

Moving to Kindergarten

By Siena Foo (Grade 1)

One day, I asked my five year old sister if she was wondering anything about kindergarten. To my surprise, she had many things to ask! I wrote down all the things she asked. I also wrote answers. Here are some things she asked:

Q: Is Thursday the only half day?

A: No. On parent teacher meetings, only if they are in a school day, it's a half day.

Q: Is school work hard?

A: Yes. But sometimes it can be a bit easy because you may know a lot or you know this in a snap.

Q: Do you get to pick when you eat lunch?

A: No. You have your lunch when it's time to eat. How do you know? Well, your teacher tells you.

Q: Can you run fast at recess?

A: Yes. But not on the wood chips, or you might fall and get hurt a lot.



Childhood
is a time for
Discovery!

TRISTAN GOODELL



Just follow the day
and
reach for the sun!

NURIYA KHWAJAJI



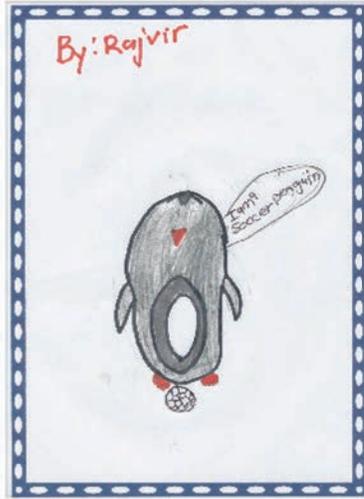
Learning who you
are is what
you're here
to do.

ARJUN RAMAKRISHNAN

Star Club Highlights: Inspiration - Self Portraits!



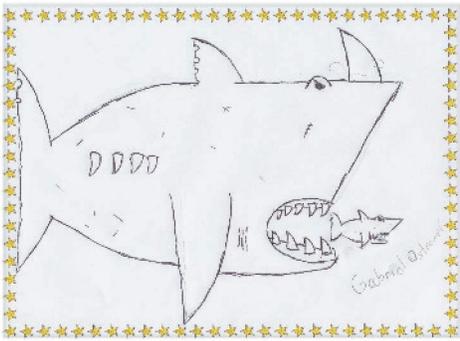
BY JACK SULLIVAN (GRADE 3)



RAJVIR KALRA (GRADE 3)



BY FINN O'DONNELL (GRADE 3)



GABE OSTROWER (GRADE 3)



ASEES KALRA (KINDERGARTEN)

I like animals!
I Love penguins! They
are cool!
They are super fun!



I love taekwon do!
tae means kick.
And Kwon means
punch.
I am a Blackbelt!

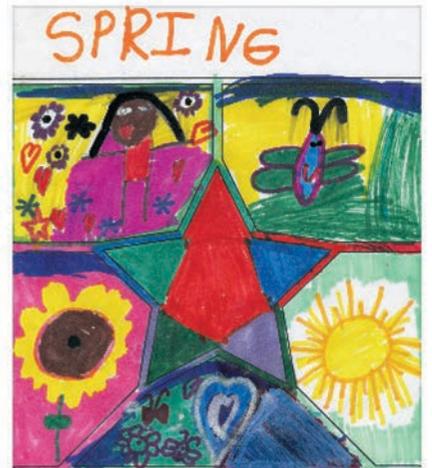
TWO HAIKU BY
RAJVIR KALRA (GRADE 3)



JACK SULLIVAN (GRADE 3)



FINN O'DONNELL (GRADE 3)



BY ASEES KALRA (KINDERGARTEN)