

**BETHESDA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

LITERARY MAGAZINE

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Thank you to all of our contributing
writers!

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BAD DOGGY

By Annabelle J. Ham, Grade 2

BAD DOGGY! No, No, No,
You can't go out there; you just can't go!
You'll mash the potatoes and squish the tomatoes!

You'll ruin the flowers, the onions, the plants,
You'll scare all the good bugs and smash the ants!

You'll scratch the fence that Pop made,
And make its paint fade and fade.

Please don't go in the garden, please don't go,
Oh wait a minute come back here,
Bad Doggy No, No, NO!



BAD DOG
WANTED

Rain

By Ronit Das Varmas, Grade 5

There is a bunch of rain
No outside play today
Sometimes gives me a little pain
Little droplets dripping in the bay

I stay inside read my book
Getting bored get out a toy
Open the cabinet get out my nook
Go to play with another boy

I check the newscast
Like in the past
Says it will stop soon
Maybe at noon
Maybe when there is the moon

Then comes the sun
Time for outside play
Ready for a good day
Finally, it is done.



Spring Blossoms

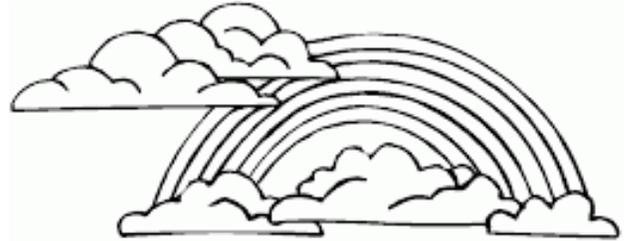
By Aneka Hoek, Grade 2

Spring blossoms, Spring blossoms
Flowers grow when Spring
blossoms.

Plants grow and people mow.

Leaves grow on trees
and there are busy bees.

Spring blossoms, Spring blossoms.



Rain

By Elizabeth Daly, Grade 4

First it trickles,

Then it pours,

It's like a lion trying to roar,
Pitter Patter, Pitter Patter, is the
sound rain makes,

It thunders on the car window,
As it slows down it no longer pours,

It no longer roars,

Everything is quiet,

As I look outside, I look up in awe,

The rain no longer thunders,
With the sun smiling through,

Together,

Sun and rain together,

Make a rainbow!



Life As An Eagle

By Grace L Wallach, Grade 2

Life as an eagle would be a whole new world where you could soar through the air and feel the cool breeze upon your wings.

I could use my sharp talons to catch prey when I am hungry.

I could swoop down to grab my meal and then fly back into the air.

I could use my sharp eyes to see any sign of movement. My sharp eyes would never miss a thing.

I could make my nest on the top of a steep cliff out of twigs and other natural material. This would be a great place to snuggle and fall fast asleep.

Life as an eagle would be a whole new world where you could soar through the air and feel the cool breeze upon your wings.



SKY

By Zola Welch, Grade 4

In the fall I sit on my patio and look up at the sky
and watch in awe as the birds paint the
Sky with specks of black fluttering
Like falling leaves I run to get
My sister and mom before
The show is over again.
I watch in awe and
This time I have
Some people to
Enjoy it



My Brother's Colors

By Saira Kang, Grade 3

My brother is blue
Sometimes he doesn't have a clue
My brother is red
He has a very tiny bed
My brother is yellow
He is a very nice fellow
My brother is pink
He likes to skate around the rink
My brother is green
He sure can dream
My brother is all colors
He is a rainbow floating around.

Soccer

By Luli Sabella-Capuano, Grade 5

The game that brings everyone together,
The players running down the field,
The one sport that never gets boring,
That I could play, all throughout the day.

The ball flying through the air,
Covered in dirt at every moment,
Honored to be used,
And honored to be wanted,
Ready to travel the length of the field.

And as the field unravels before them,
They smile big,
And they're hexagons seem to shine brighter,
Because they love the taste of soccer.

Sometimes they get a kick,
So fierce that they have to sit out,
And get re pumped,
Or patched,
Maybe even replaced,
But they don't mind,
They have tried their hardest,
And that is the biggest sign of hard work
they could ever wish for.



AMAZING VISITS

By Amelia Schreiber, Grade 1

Have you ever talked about Pennsylvania or Philadelphia? Well, that's what we're going to talk about today! Let's take our tour!

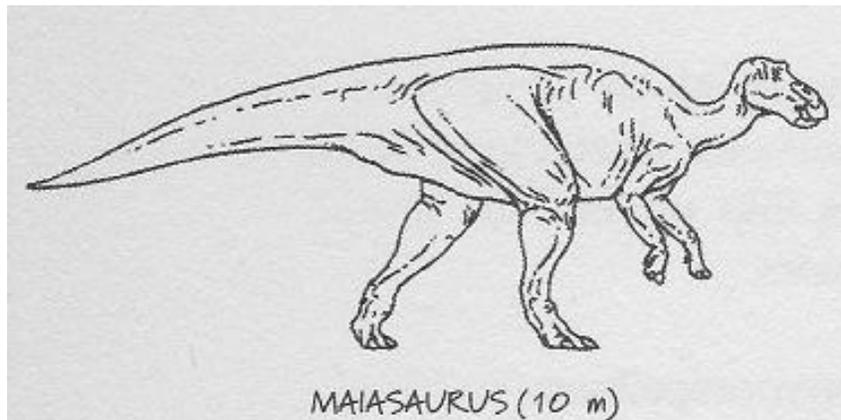
First, we're going to see the Franklin Institute. My trip to Philadelphia was amazing. We went to the Franklin Institute and got a tour of..... THE DINOSAURS!!! They were so life-like! We saw a T. Rex, a Pterodactyl, and a Maiasaura, a dinosaur that looks kind of like a duck. In the room before the T-Rex, we saw sap that was cooled and hardened with dinosaur bones in them. That is called amber. There was a whole wall full of them.

In the Big Heart Exhibit, we learned and did activities. We walked through the chambers of a real big heart. We crawled through veins and "scanned" patients.

We also went to the Brain Exhibit and learned that two lines could be the same length even though they are on a pyramid of lines which come to a point. The top line looked shorter than the bottom line, but they were the same length.

The Liberty Bell is a symbol of freedom. The bell is an interesting thing. It has a crack that was fixed multiple times. The final time it was fixed, they stopped the crack from growing.

The trip was so amazing! The dinosaurs were my favorite. How about yours? How was your tour? I hope you enjoyed! Thanks for coming!



The Race

By Anna Arnold, Grade 3

I untied my shoe and slid my chip through my laces. I stood up and looked at my watch. It said 8 o'clock in the morning, only one more minute until the race started. I looked around me. I saw fields, roads, and sidewalks. I knew right away I was going to run a hard race. I glanced at my watch, only 15 more seconds until the race started. I quickly did 4 toe touches, 6 high knees, and 8 butt kicks.

"On your mark, get set, go!" And I was off! Halfway through the race I heard panting, pant, pant, pant. I looked around me and saw my sister. She was sweating. And then she fell. I shouted, "Mia, Mia are you okay?" I helped her up, and when I did, she didn't want to run anymore.

"Anna, can I go on the piggy express?" she asked. I lowered my back so that I was the size that she could climb on my back. "Get on," I grumbled. My sister got on my back. But she was so lazy that she didn't wrap her legs around my belly. "Great," I mumbled. "I have my younger sister on my back, and she is dragging her feet on the ground, which makes it heavier to carry her." I started to run. I heard laughter behind me. I spun around. People were pointing at me and my sister. I felt my cheeks getting hotter and hotter.

"Anna," my sister asked.

"What," I said in an angry voice.

"How come your cheeks are turning red?"

I was so mad. I ran as fast as I could. When I stopped running, I heard cheering. That sounded so weird for me because when I took off running all I could hear was laughter. I twirled around. I saw people looking at me and my sister. Then, I heard a voice that was coming from a microphone. It said, "We have two winners!"

Mia whispered in my ear in an excited voice, "Anna, we just won the race!" A man handed us a trophy. It was gold and said number one winner. My parents rushed over to us.

"Anna, Mia we are so proud of you," they shouted at the same time.

I cried out, "Mia, Mia, can you believe we actually won!" Next I turned to my parents. "Mom, Dad can you believe me and Mia actually won?" I was jumping up and down with excitement.

"Anna, if you were in a jumping contest with a bunny, you would win by a lot," my dad said. I stopped jumping and said to my Dad, "Very funny."

Mia tugged at my sleeve and said in an excited voice, "Anna look!" I looked where she was pointing. I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw cake, cookies, chips, brownies, donuts, popsicles, water, fruit, and trail mix. I ran over to where the food was.

"Help yourself," the man said. I grabbed a plate and started to put some food on it.

"I totally earned this special treat," I said. When I was done eating, my Mom said, "Mia and Anna, it's time to go!"

We drove to my favorite pizza place. My Dad and I played Tic Tac Toe until the waiter came. I ordered a Margherita pizza, pink lemonade, and vanilla ice cream. My dad said, "Anna, we are so proud of you!"

When I got home, I put me and my sister's trophy in a place we both could see it, in our toy room. Even though I was the one who got us to the end, we won the trophy as a team. And it was only fair to share.

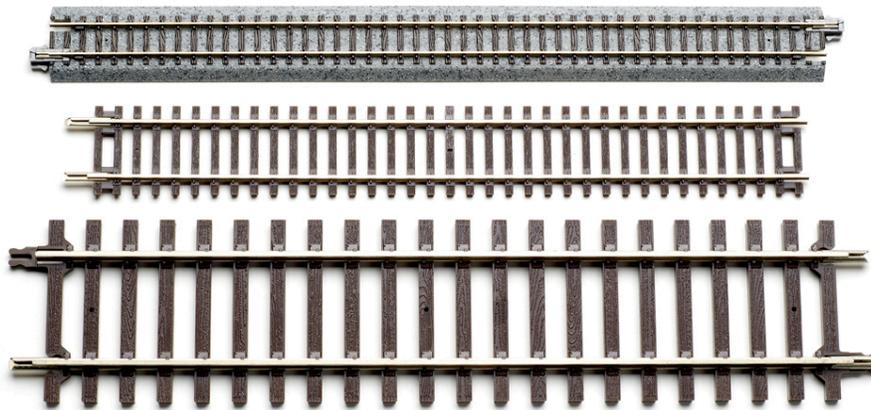
THE END



The Long-Awaited Model Train Set

Ryan Philip Wise, Grade 4

It was Wednesday, October 19, 2016, my tenth birthday. I was riding home in the car at about 6:40 pm from my orchestra rehearsal with my mom. "When will we get home?" I asked my mom. "Soon," she said. I was excited to open my presents. My grandparents had come after I got home from school that day. When I got home, my dad was making my favorite dinner, meatball subs. The dining room was decorated with lots of tie-dyed items (tablecloths, cups, plates, and peace signs hanging from the ceiling). Once I enjoyed my meatball sub, I said, "When will it be time to open my presents?" I hoped that I would get a model train set since I had asked for one. Once my grandparents and parents were done eating, we went into our living room. I lined up the presents in size order and opened the smallest one first. In the third present, there was extra model train track! That is when I was sure that in the big package was a model train set. My mom said, "You can open the big present now." I took the big package and carefully opened it from the end. I saw the illustration of a model train! I quickly pulled off the rest of the wrapping paper. I had gotten the Bachman Thunder Chief electric train set. "Thank you mom and dad!" I said excitedly. On Friday, after dinner, I hurried down into my basement to set up the train track and put the train on the track. I turned on the controller, clicked the #3 button, and slowly turned up the speed knob. It started moving forward; it had worked! The next Saturday, my dad went to Home Depot to buy more than \$100 of lumber, so he and I could build a train table. Now, almost every weekend and most weekdays, I work on my model railroad adding buildings, roads, and scenery.



UNEXPECTED

By Austin William Barker, Grade 2

CHAPTER I

Everyone was unhappy. The Pharaoh had died. They built a beautiful pyramid and carried his mummified body to the tomb with his riches. They knew it was safe because if anyone tried to steal anything they would get the Pharaoh's curse.

CHAPTER II

It was a snowy day in Minnesota. Sam was sitting with his grandfather Tom. They were talking about when Tom was a National Geographic photographer. Sam asked, "What places did you travel to?"

"Well I went to Egypt and ---"

"YOU WENT TO EGYPT???? I have a question. Could someone break into a Pharaoh's Tomb and is there such thing as the Pharaoh's Curse?"

"The first question yes, the second one no. But remember, it's a long journey."

CHAPTER III

Sam is in his forties and has a wife and three kids. He is a lawyer on a plane going on a work trip to Germany. Suddenly the plane crashed! Sam was treading water in the ocean. But he saw land! He had reached the Azores! He swam to land and sat on a rock. He thought about what his grandfather had told him when he was a kid and he decided he was somehow going to go to Egypt.

He got up and saw a man!

"Hello! My name is Pedro. What's yours?"

"Sam."

"How did you end up here?"

"My plane crashed in the Atlantic so I swam. Pedro, do you travel a lot?"

"No."

"Would you like to travel to Egypt?"

"Sure!"

"How will we get there?"

"There is an ocean liner tomorrow morning."

CHAPTER IV

They woke up early the next morning to catch the ocean liner! After a long journey,

they got to Cairo. Together they planned that they were going to steal the Pharaoh's treasures. They made a list of the things they would need: shovel, metal detector, flashlights, bandanas (in case of sandstorm), water, food, sack, dark clothing (so they can't be seen), Hieroglyphic translation book. The next day was spent renting a jeep and shopping. Finally they were ready.

CHAPTER V

They arrived at the area with the pyramids. Pedro spoke first.

"Get out the metal detector." After trying several spots, Sam said, "This is NOT working!!!!"

"WHAT????? We can't give up. How about one more spot?"

They got back in the jeep and found a spot that looked good. The digging began. Suddenly they heard a noise - CLUNK! They kept digging until they saw a stairway. They got out their flashlights and slowly walked down. Sam and Pedro were amazed to see the tomb which contained the Pharaoh's mummy and a treasure chest with a scroll on top. When they unrolled the scroll, they saw it was written in hieroglyphics. "We're in luck because I brought the translation book," said Pedro. After 2 hours they figured out what it said:

I hereby rule that anyone who discovers these treasures shall not suffer any punishment and shall be able to keep these if they wish to. Signed: The Pharaoh

The friends opened the chest and saw the riches. They loaded up their sacks and ran up the stairway. But who was there to greet them? The Egyptian police.

"We arrest you for stealing from the Pharaoh's tomb," shouted the police.

CHAPTER VI

After a few hours the two friends were standing in court in front of the head magistrate, "You have broken the law!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Do you have anything to say?"

Sam spoke, "Yes. Read this scroll."

"Don't be stupid - I can't read hieroglyphics," he shouted.

Pedro said, "No problem we already translated it."

The judge chuckled, "How do I know this is correct?"

Sam said, "Take this book; it will tell you the meanings of the symbols."

After an hour, the magistrate spoke, "Now I believe you. You are free to go and keep the riches."

Suddenly, Sam had an idea, "Pedro, would you like to live with me in Minnesota?"

Pedro replied, "Of course!!!!!!!"

Later that week they were on a plane to Minnesota having a conversation about their treasures.

"I think we should donate them to a museum," said Pedro.

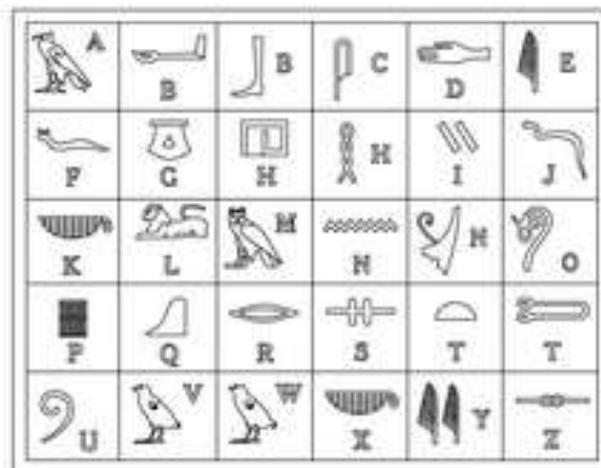
"That's a good idea but I have a better one. Let's build a new museum. What should we call it?"

"THE SAM and PEDRO HISTORICAL MUSEUM!"

CHAPTER VII

Before they knew it they were sitting in front of the fireplace telling about their adventure. There was Pedro, Sam, his wife and kids. Just then Sam remembered how his grandfather Tom told him a story when he was little.

Three years later they were in front of a crowd of visitors to the museum which had recently opened. In the crowd they spotted a school group. In one of the classes they saw Sam's children and they smiled.





Football and the NFL

By Vaughn Garcia-Hidalgo, Grade 5



I love everything about football, playing, watching and talking about it. I learned about football from my Dad when I was younger, he told me about the rules, teams, players and everything else. I know that the NFL has 32 teams in the League.

There are bad teams that always lose like the Browns, Panthers, Chargers, Jets, 49ers, Jaguars, Saints and Bears. There are also ok teams like the Redskins, Dolphins, Giants, Cardinals and Cowboys. And then there are the make it to the Playoffs every year teams like the Packers, Steelers, Falcons, Chiefs, Seahawks and Patriots.

The NFL has their star players like Tyreek Hill, Antonio Brown, Odell Beckham Jr., Jordan Reed, Richard Sherman, Julio Jones, Von Miller, Aaron Rodgers and J.J. Watt among others. I know all this because I follow the NFL inside and out.

I would not have known any of this if it wasn't for my Dad.

The last thing I need to point out is that the Redskins will win the Superbowl again!!



The Tickle Monster

By Rylan Kaneshiro, Grade 1



There were two animals named Matthew and Jackson. Matthew was a panda and Jackson was a dog. They were going to their friend's house. Their friend's name is Zebra. Then it started to rain. Good thing that Matthew had a big umbrella for everyone to fit. On the way, they saw a tickle monster. She had big teeth and big claws to eat her food. She was blocking the way with a wrench and a plate so they called the Queen of the Animals. Then she came with a big jet plane. She said, "Come aboard before the tickle monster gets you!" As they were flying back to Matthew and Jackson's house, Zebra saw his house was gone from the tickle monster. So Zebra lived with his friends and lived happily after. The End.

Caps For Sale

By Benjamin Trackman, Grade 2

Dear Bethesda Elementary Readers,

Do you like reading books with characters that are mischievous? Well, if you do you just might like to read Caps For Sale written and illustrated by Esphyr Slobodkina. In this story, there is a very organized peddler that sell caps. He arranges his caps in perfect order on top of his head. One day, he gets tired and rests under a tree. Next, some playful monkeys come along and steal his caps.

My favorite characters are the monkeys. I like them because they are playful and mischievous. Another reason I like them is because they make the peddler angry. They tease the peddler while he's sleeping!

My favorite part in this story is when the monkeys steal the caps! They have to sneak up on the sleeping peddler to get the caps. When the peddler wakes up he is really crazy about his caps being stolen. He stamps his feet and shakes his finger and yells. He is so mad because he sees the caps that he worked so hard to keep organized are now scattered all over the tree.

I like how the illustrations help you understand the story. The illustrator uses bright colors in the setting and on the caps. My favorite picture shows the peddler looking up in amazement as the monkeys drop the caps. The monkeys are scattered all over the branches of the trees and the peddler is on the ground looking up confused. Well, if you haven't read Caps For Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina, it is definitely worth reading. I like this book, and I hope you will, too.

Your friend,
Benjamin Ellis Trackman



THE ALWAYS TO BE REMEMBERED DOGS

By Grace Das Varma, Grade 3

"Hurry up boys. You can't take forever." But that did not make Buddy and Chance move. They insisted on having their way, and they were going to get it. "Okay fine," said my Mom.

Buddy and Chance were the two dogs that were part of our family. Buddy was a golden retriever that was always the boss. My dad named him "The Main Man". He always got his way, no matter what. He was always ready for a belly rub and a game. Chance, on the other hand, was always up for a game of fetch. He always walked the way Buddy did. They were "Partners in Crime". They always stayed together and followed each other around inside the house or outside in the backyard.

As soon as we reached home, it was time for play. Buddy quickly ran to the toy basket and picked up his special ball.

Nudge

Nudge

I could feel Buddy's small sweaty nose against my leg before I bent down and took the sloppy green ball from his wet mouth.

"Buddy." Grace said as she walked up to Buddy.

Buddy and Chance both loved swimming. We would go to the creek at least once a week and throw sticks into the water. Buddy and Chance would race there thrashing through the dark blue water. Whoever got it first would race back to me and the other would fight for it. Although they loved swimming, Buddy had a fear of the deep ocean water. He would proudly walk up with confidence but as soon as a wave came, he only let his little paws skim the water as he backed away. Chance, on the other hand, loved water. He would rush into the ocean paradise leaving Buddy far behind on shore.

Then one day it happened. Tears rolled down our eyes. Happiness faded away. And that was it. Nobody could replace them.

I was taking Buddy out for his walk around the neighborhood. We had stopped for a minute at the house across the street for Buddy to do his business until...

We waited. But Buddy just did not move today. So I called him over as if I had a treat. He still didn't come. So I decided to carry him over back to our house. As I was picking him up, I was wondering about anything you would never wonder about.

After a few minutes I gave up and asked for help. We managed to pick him up and take him inside.

That day, Buddy also refused to eat! What was going on today? It kept going on like that the next day till I decided to take him to the hospital. I

carefully drove there making all the twists and turns.

When I finally made it, I told the receptionist what had happened to him and she rushed over doctors as well as a stretcher.

"This is a serious incident," one doctor stumbled out of mask while carefully landing Buddy onto the stretcher.

We as a family were scared. One of the doctors came over to us and said they would give us a phone call when the results were concrete.

So, we went home knowing nothing to do.

A few days later, we got a call saying, 301-VET-CARE. I answered worried.

"What," I cried. I couldn't believe it. What would Chance do? It would be so different for him.

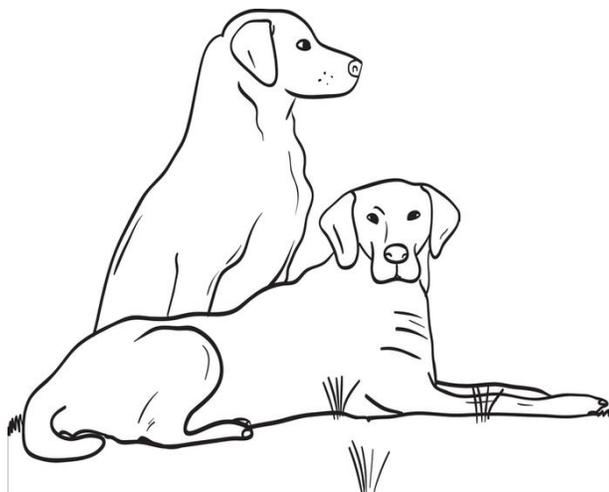
Chance. On our walk, he started off normally like a normal day but previously he had been limping. But today he seemed perfect. Until a few minutes later. At the curb, he sat down on a bright green lawn with pretty flowers. Kind of like what you would imagine at a funeral. But this was no funeral. He didn't budge; even when I screamed, "Chance, do you want a treat!" He'd normally run to me but today he just sat. Why? So we called the hospital and the ambulance rushed over. They carefully picked up our beloved dog. What happened?

We went to the hospital to see how he was doing the next day. The doctors came up to us with unusual faces like something bad had happened. We were shocked as we heard the bad news. My heart grew apart. I tried to stop crying but it seemed like an endless waterfall that kept coming pouring and pouring down my face. It couldn't have happened, I repeated to myself. But that didn't help because I knew Chance had faded away.

Throughout this pain from both dogs, we stayed strong as a family.

Three months later, we got a new dog, Coby.

Now, we are having a wonderful life with Coby, but no matter what, we will always remember Buddy and Chance.



Stuck

By Papatya Erdemir, Grade 5

Since I was a small child, I loved playing video games. I have always wished I would actually get to live one. This weekend I did.

I was playing this game called Egg Wars with my best friend Sarah. Her avatar was an alien, or a Star Wars character in the game, and I was a Catboy.

In the middle of the game, I found myself no longer in front of my computer in my room. I panicked and looked around. I was in my Egg Wars Castle. "This is impossible!" I shouted.

"Isaac!" I heard Sarah say. I turned around expecting to see Sarah's warm green eyes, beautiful brown hair and light skin. Instead I saw Sarah's avatar. An alien.

"What's happening!" I shouted. "Am I a Catboy?" I asked. I was frightened, very frightened. I was trying to hold back my tears.

"Yeah..." she said. "Am I... you know..." I could see that she was trying to hold back her tears, too.

I slowly nodded. I looked at the nearby teams. They were as surprised as we were. Except one team.

Since I started gaming, I have always known that there would be a team that always had more Diamonds and Crystals. They had the best protection against other teams and wiped out most teams in a flash. I liked to call them "the careers." Sarah and I first came up with this name when we were reading "The Hunger Games" trilogy. She made a statement about how the careers were like the guys who always win the Egg Wars, so I just called them that from that day on. The careers didn't mind using real money for rare items no average player can get. There would be times Sarah and I would get wiped out within the first five minutes.

I saw these two careers laugh at our surprised faces. Both of them had masks over their faces, and were wearing a full body armor.

"Are you going to fight or just stand there, Catboy?" shouted the one on the right.

She took her mask off, and I saw a beautiful girl. She had pink hair and blue eyes. She reminded me of a character from an anime my sister watched. She looked at me to give her an answer. I wanted to impress her. So I just said the first thing that came to my mind:

"I have a really soft tail... Uhhh.... 'Grapefruit'. Do you guys have any of that?" I said, stopping between my sentences a couple of times to think of something smart to say.

"You didn't answer my question, Catboy. I take that as a no. C'mon, let's finish

`em Fish Bone!" the girl shouted to her partner and put her mask back on her face. They were running towards us with their weapons in their hands. Grapefruit girl. "Here's a plan: We act like this is the real game."

"What's your plan?" Sarah asked me.

I gulped, "I have no idea... I don't even know if this is the game anymore."

"You're so bad at making plans, Catboy!" Sarah said trying to sound like the Grapefruit girl. "Here's a plan: We act like this is the real game."

I nodded and followed her as she got her dagger in one hand and her bow in the other. We fought back to back, and wiped out two other teams. I had no idea what happened to them. I knew in the real game if your egg got broken by another team or if you got killed, you lost. But if it was in real life, would you... really die?

"Well, well, well. Catboy and.... Was it Darth Vader?" I heard the Grapefruit girl laugh behind my back. I turned around and saw her getting ready to attack. She had her sword in one hand and a shield in the other. I noticed Fish Bone was nowhere to be seen. Without saying anything we fought each other. One attack after another, I felt tired, but I knew I couldn't give up now.

We were all panting, with sweat all over our faces. Grapefruit girl chuckled and pointed to our castle. I gasped and ran as fast as I could seeing Fish Bone digging inside our last barrier. We were racing against time. I was so close when, Fish Bone cracked our egg open.

I gasped opening my eyes. I looked around. I was in my room. I looked around, puzzled. My mom was next to me. She told me that I just had a bad dream, and that she couldn't wake me up. Although I know that this whole thing being a bad dream is the most logical explanation, I just believe, the thing I went through was real. That I really had been stuck in a video game.



The Chicks Came!

By Sophie Kobayashi-Nguyen, Grade 1

Once upon a time there was a house and a farm. In the farm there were rabbits, ducks, quails, and chicks. And in the house were a mom with a dad and two children: one girl and one boy. One day the family wanted to rent chicks. So they did.

"I can't wait to get to Sophie's house" said the chicks. When they got to Sophie's house, they were kind of scared because she was huge for the chicks! But then they got used to her.

The chicks chirped all the time. "Cheep! Cheep! Cheep!" they went.

The chicks didn't know that it was Sophie's birthday and they were scared of all the visitors that came to the party. After the party, they were tired. They snuggled with each other under the heating lamp.

The family also got seven eggs to go with the two chicks. The eggs were in an incubator that kept the eggs nice and warm like a mother hen.

After 21 days, the eggs hatched! Sophie could hear the chicks cheeping inside the eggs as they were pecking out. When the chicks hatched, they were all wet. After several hours Sophie put them in the cage because they were dry and fluffy.

Mom put a wire rack to separate the cage so that the older chicks would not bother the younger chicks. The younger chicks watched the older chicks drink and eat to learn how to drink and eat too. "Peck! Peck! Peck!"

"Sophie has warm hands and I like to fall asleep on her hand."

"Someone dropped some seeds! Let me try to eat those."

"Ooh, there's a new person here. He's taking another chick in his hand."

Four weeks later the chicks had to leave. Sophie was sad. Six months later she heard that she could have more chicks! The family was very happy.



The Gift Trade

By Tomy Sabella-Capuano, Grade 3

Dedicated to my whole class, Santa and the Elves because they gave me the original Kevin's Christmas toy (a nerf gun), and to Mrs. Kupersmith, who always told me, "Keep on writing!"_

"WAKE UP KEVIN! I FOUND YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT!", shouted Stacy, Kevin's big sister.

Kevin was asleep, but that big shout knocked him out of this bed and woke him up immediately.

He was about to begin walking down the stairs but instead he tripped over his tired self and began rolling down the stairs. After getting some ice, he went to the Christmas tree where he found Stacy holding a box wrapped in wrapping paper that said "To: Kevin" on it. He quickly grabbed it from Stacy and began to tear it open in excitement. He was disappointed when he saw that it was a Nerf gun. He was disappointed because Kevin thought Nerf guns were boring and he was not interested in playing with it.

The next day, Kevin saw that the snow had piled up on the street. There was over two feet of snow everywhere. That night, a salting truck and a plow truck came zooming down the streets of London.

Kevin put the Nerf gun in his room and turned on his television to watch his favorite show. Suddenly, his mom announced that it there was going to be school tomorrow and he had to get ready for bed.

"Great," Kevin said sarcastically as he slumped up the staircase.

Little did he know that Stacy had already gone upstairs and taken a very long, hot shower. When he turned on the hot water for his shower, it was all freezing cold water.

"Ahhhhhh!" he screamed.

"What is wrong?" Stacy asked.

"When I turned on the water, only freezing cold water came pouring out!"

Stacy snickered, "Actually, that is not my fault."

Kevin thought that it was definitely Stacy who had used all of the hot water and was lying about it to avoid getting into trouble. Kevin wanted to get her in trouble so when he finished his shower, he went downstairs and told his dad. Dad said Kevin should have just checked the water meter.

Kevin said, "I did not know Stacy had taken a shower before me."

"You're just trying to get your sister in trouble", said Dad. "No dessert for you."

"YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE WAS A WATER METER!" shouted Kevin. Dad punished him with no movies for him on Friday. Kevin slumped back up the staircase

and into his bed. He always hated when he got punished like that. He loved having pizza and a movie on Friday night. Thankfully, it was April Fools day. He knew Stacy was reading on the top bunk. So he closed the blinds, walked over to the light switch, and just as he was about to leave and close the door, he turned off the lights.

Soon, he heard Stacy screaming "KEVIN!!!"

Then, Kevin asked, "What happened Stacy?"

Stacy yelled, "YOU TURNED OUT THE LIGHT AND CLOSED THE BLINDS, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!!"

"That wasn't me," Kevin said innocently.

The next day was Friday. At school, Kevin thought he was learning all these boring things that he had learned in preschool. Actually, he wasn't paying attention because he was tired because he laughed all night about his prank of revenge on Stacy. At recess, he was imagining that the president made him vice president and that he arrested Stacy and all of Stacy's friends for being her friends.

He wasn't really careful and ended up on the ground twenty times. His friends thought he had a sickness and took him to the nurse's office. The nurse said he might have not been paying attention. Back at recess, he met a new kid named Ben. They started talking about what toys they had. Ben thought Kevin was lucky to have a nerf gun.

Kevin thought Ben was lucky to have an Air Hogs Hoverblade. They decided to trade their toys. The next day, when Kevin got back home, he started to play with his hoverblade. But when it was a few inches from the ground, it immediately turned off and fell on the ground. Kevin said, "I thought I put in new batteries. Maybe, they weren't long lasting." He called Ben and they planned to trade back the the toys the next day at recess. The next day they got their toys back, but Kevin was punished for trading toys.



A Bad Day for Jay

By Sebastian N. Feifer, Grade 4

"Say, I feel something soft on my chair!"

"Oops," thought Jay, "that whoopee cushion did not work."

"No video games for two weeks!" said Dad.

"Ha," said Jay's older brother, Fred. "You owe me \$20, remember when we bet?"

"Darling," said a voice. "You did not do your homework, so do it right now!"

Jay turned around to see his mother holding up a sheet of unfinished math homework. (The first problem $1+1=?$)

Fred laughed, "Poor Jay, the bus is here, and you need to eat your cereal and do your homework."

With those words, Jay rushed to the door only to trip over roller blades. Jay was flung into the door headfirst! (Even now the scar from the slam still remains.) Jay managed to get his shoes on and get to the bus before it drove away. On the bus Jay was teased about his bleeding cut, even his best friend John laughed!

"He slipped on rollerblades, how classy," said a few third graders.

At school the teacher glared at Jay's unfinished homework. And Jay almost fainted when he saw all the Fs on his report card. At math, Jay was distracted by people outside at recess, so when it was time to do the math test, he didn't have a clue what to do. The math teacher frowned at Jay's answers. Jay bumped into Katie, so she said, "Ms. Lula, Jay is kicking me!"

At recess, Jay lost every round of four square and was bullied by big Tom. At lunch, Jay got his least favorite food. As Jay crammed boiled potatoes into his mouth, he noticed a lonely boy sitting in a corner of the cafeteria. He was far away from the other kids, and he looked sad. Jay remembered his first day of school and did not make any friends, and when he got home he wept. Jay walked over to the kid and said, "May I help you?"

And the kids made friends.

Otto and Peter and the Silent World

By Max A. K. Esfahani, Grade 2

Chapter 1: Peter's Mistake

One day in Bethesda, Maryland there lived two boys named Otto and Peter. Otto was eight years old and Peter was six years old. Both of them wanted to be basketball players when they grew up. Both of them watched basketball all the time. They were even on the same school basketball team. Their grandpa was a basketball player even. They thought they knew the most about basketball in their school.

One day at recess Otto brought his magic basketball figure. Peter didn't think it was magic, but Otto did. Otto and Peter were playing basketball together. In the middle of the game Peter thought of the figure. Peter paused the game and snagged the figure out of Otto's pocket.

"Let's go to a place where no one can talk," Peter said. And poof, Otto and Peter were in a place where no one could talk.

Chapter 2: The Place Where No One Can Talk

Otto and Peter saw that no one where they were could talk. Then they tried to talk, but they couldn't talk. Otto tried to use sign language at Peter but Peter didn't understand. Otto was really mad at Peter. The place wasn't that colorful either. They walked more and they saw a big mountain. But it was really far away. They walked towards it. They saw other people that were struggling to talk. They tried to talk again. But they couldn't. They both got really mad and scared. They also saw animals that couldn't make sounds. Otto wanted to go back to play basketball. Peter was mad at himself. They both had frowns on their faces. Then Otto and Peter saw something that was colorful. They walked closer to that. They thought it was their school.

Chapter 3: The Colorful Thing

They walked even closer to the colorful thing. On their way there they saw other people trying to leave. Then Otto and Peter were finally at the place where there was color. But it wasn't their school. It was just a plain house. Otto and Peter knocked on the door. Then a person said "Come in!" Otto and Peter were amazed that the guy could talk. So they went in.

An old guy with a red mustache in a rocking chair was in the house.

"Can you guys not talk?" the man asked.

Otto and Peter did sign language to him.

"I think that is a yes," the old man said. "Do you know where it is now?"

Otto and Peter did sign language again.

"I think that is a no. Follow me," the old man said.

The old man brought a map and Otto, Peter and the old man left.

Chapter 4: The Way to the Mountain

When Otto, Peter and the old man left, everybody was looking at the old man because he could talk. Otto, Peter and the old man walked towards the mountain. "We are getting closer to the mountain," the old man said. They walked past trees and dirty lakes and other people. Otto, Peter and the old man walked past owls, squirrels, cats and dogs. They followed the map to the high mountain. They walked past buildings that weren't colorful. It was boring just walking past disgusting and dirty stuff. The old man was fine with it. There was even poison ivy. They still followed the map.

"We are one mile away," the old man said happily. But as he said it, he lost the map.

Chapter 5: Another Man That Can Talk

"Oh no! We lost the map!" cried the old man. "What will we do now? Well, I guess that I can't help you anymore. Bye."

Otto and Peter were frustrated. Now they would never be able to talk. But then they saw another guy that could talk.

"Can you guys not talk?" the other man asked. Otto and Peter did sign language.

"I think that is a yes," the man said.

The man was skinny and young.

"If you want to know how to talk, go to the top of the highest mountain here to get the magic talking potion," the skinny man said. Otto and Peter felt happy again!

Chapter 6: Talk Sweet Home

Otto and Peter climbed up the mountain to get the potion. Otto and Peter drank it.

"Yay!" said Otto and Peter. "We can talk!"

Then Peter gave Otto the magic basketball figure and they said "Let's go to Bethesda, Maryland!" Then they were home and they could talk and play basketball!



Finding a home

By Nico Borrelli & Ben Sclafani, Grade 3

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Jonathan. He lived in Chocolate City. He ate his house a lot. One day, the sun came up and melted the city, but little Jonathan survived. One thing was that Jonathan's hand got caught by the sun and the sun melted his hand. Now Jonathan was walking into another place—the Land of Lollipops. He decided on lollipops because lollipops don't melt. So, he got a house there for free because he was so nice. Jonathan still had one hand. One morning Jonathan set out to go back to his old town. When he arrived there he said, "I can't believe that my town is still melted." So little Jonathan set off to none other than the town of Twix Talbania, but he saw that Twix Talbania was melted because it is mostly made out of chocolate. Jonathan set off again to the town of Sour Patch because sour patches don't melt. When Jonathan got there, he was amazed to see how small this town was. But right as Jonathan walked into his apartment, everybody laughed. Jonathan thought, "Why are they laughing?" Then somebody said, "Ha ha ha! He is missing an arm." Then little Jonathan walked out and was never seen again in the town of Sour Patch.

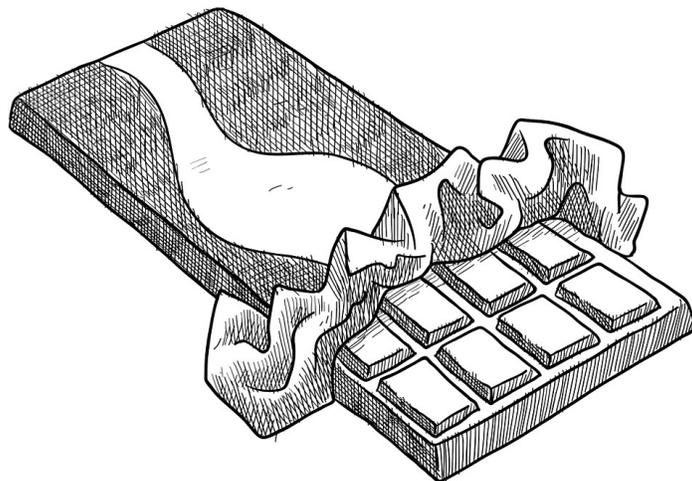
Soon Jonathan was on the road again. He was determined to find a place to stay. He walked and walked. Then he stopped— could it really be? Jolly Rancher Germany. Yes it was. Jonathan really wanted to stay there and now he could. Jonathan bought a condo there and thought he would stay there forever. When Jonathan went out for dinner that night, he met the king of Jolly Rancher Germany. The king said, "I invite you to my Palace tomorrow night for dinner, 6:00 p.m. sharp." "We do it with all of the new joiners." And just like that the King walked away. When Jonathan went to sleep that night he thought to himself, "What will I do at the king's palace?" Then the next day Jonathan woke up and said, "Wow this is the day that I get to go to the king's palace for dinner." Hours went by with Jonathan just waiting in his room for 6:00. Jonathan left his house at 5:30— he definitely didn't want to be late. Right at 6:00, the king opened his door. Then the king said, "Wow just on time!" "Come on in." Jonathan took a few steps in and was amazed when he saw a diamond chandelier hanging from the ceiling and also a golden throne. The king's servant said, "Right this way." The king and Jonathan followed the king's servant into a room that had a 78 foot wide dinner table and it was 79 feet long.

"Wow! This place is awesome. Are we eating here?"

"Oh sure, please take a seat."

The king went on about talking about Jolly Rancher Germany. They had a great dinner until it was time for little Jonathan to go home. Little Jonathan said, "Wow, thanks. This has been amazing. Thank you so much." When Jonathan was driving home, he thought to himself, "This town is weird, only the king is nice. "How about I stay here for only one night?" Jonathan woke up in his condo and said, "I am going to find somewhere to live right after breakfast." He walked down to Silver Diner where he had delicious pancakes. Sadly he whispered to himself, "I don't want to leave this town's wonderful meals." Jonathan thought that the town was terrible but the king and the meals were good. Jonathan made a choice he was going to leave Jolly Rancher Germany.

Jonathan tried to look for a place to stay but it was no use. Jonathan walked, drove, and taxied everywhere and he still couldn't find a place to stay. He checked houses, apartments, condos, hotels, but nothing was right for him. He came close to Candy Cane Canada but he didn't like it. He didn't give up, he kept looking. Until he reached the one and only town. Jonathan stared at this beautiful town. Jonathan went to sleep that night dreaming about his new town. Jonathan loved Kit-Kat Kingdom. He also loved Kit Kats. He was amazed that Kit Kats were chocolate but they didn't melt. Jonathan thought that his town looked and tasted awesome. One day Jonathan went to get some more Kit Kat clothes. Later that day, Jonathan thought, "I am not going to leave this town." Jonathan needed to go to the bank to get some Kit-Kat money, he got cash and a credit card all from Kit-Kat Kingdom's finest bank. He loved this place even though it was not quite as good as his original town that melted.



If I Had a Time Machine

By Mia Arnold, Grade 1

If I had a time machine, I would go forward in time to the year 2030 when flying machines are invented for people. It would help people travel instead of using cars or airplanes. There would be no waiting in traffic. You could not get hurt or run into people in the air because there would be separate lanes.

Flying machines would cost more than cars but less than airplanes. My flying machine would cost extra because it would have sparkles and glitter all over it. It would be pink. Two people could fit in it at a time. My sister and I would take turns driving it to school.

I would use my flying machine to get to places faster, like school and gymnastics. I wouldn't need to wait for my parents. It would be easy to drive it, even for a kid. But, you have to be at least 5 years old to drive a flying machine because you would learn about it in Kindergarten. All you have to do to get the machine started is to press a button and tell it where you want to go. You have to be careful because the machine will cause you to be lazy since you would not be walking places anymore. So, you should find time to exercise.

I could also use the machine to get my kite from the tree when it is stuck. When it is night, I would get out my flying machine and make different combinations with the stars in the sky. I could help Santa deliver presents and fly with the tooth fairies to help them deliver money to children.

When I come back to 2017, I would tell everybody what I learned and about the great flying machine. I would also bring back toys so people could see what toys will look like in the future. That is what I would do if I had a time machine.



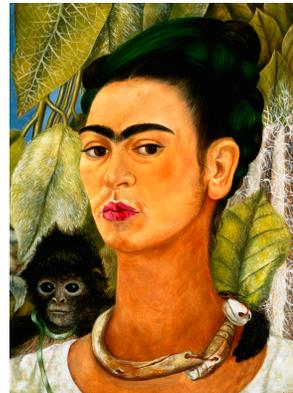
Frida Kahlo

By Kyra May, Grade 4

Frida Kahlo was born in 1907 and in the blue house her father is a photographer and her mother is a housewife. When she was younger she had three sisters- two older, one younger.

In addition, she made art that really stood out and she put details that not many other artists can do. Her dad taught her how to use a paintbrush. Also, she taught herself how to paint and how to put her feelings into her art. She also, put feelings into her art that some other artists can't do like putting daggers, skulls, and bleeding hearts in their work. Additionally, she survived a terrible bus accident that the people might have died from.

The reason I'm writing about Frida Kahlo is that it inspires me to do art and it inspires you too. This is a painting that Frida Kahlo painted.



Monster Mini-Golf: My Favorite Place

By Nathanael Kovacs, Kindergarten

I went to Monster Mini Golf a few weeks ago. I love being there. I went with Ned. He is my friend from church. I like spending time with him. I played 10 rounds of golf. There is a green monster there and it is big and scary. But I like the monster, too. The monster did not get me. Dad saved me. I was happy because I got a chipmunk from the claw machine. I also got a duck from the machine. I smiled when I got it. It is dark at Monster Mini-Golf, but it is my favorite place.

Duffie Memoire

By John Duffie, Grade 4

Hello, my name is John Duffie and I was born on September 27, 2006. I have a cool mom and dad and I like trucks such as RTVs. Now one day I was in an Oshkosh snow blower in uptown Bethesda . Now, let me tell you my story about that moment. I was in the snowblower in the blizzard of 2016. Me and my dad were making our rounds in Chevy Chase for CCS . The truck was making a loud rumbling noise. I saw mounds of dirty snow on the sidewalk. When we were in uptown Bethesda (this moment is true) we needed grease for the blades and wheels . So my dad called Russell (his head mechanic) and said, "Hey Russell, the Oshkosh needs grease on the blades and wheels . Can you bring the mechanic's truck over and put grease on the blades and wheels? So Russell came with the mechanic truck and put grease on the blades and wheels. I smelled a strange aroma in the air and immediately noticed that the grease was slimy. I asked Russell "Why is the grease slimy? " Russell answered, " Because it has to keep machines parts together so they do not fall off ." "Oh," I said . So Russell put grease on the blades and wheels and left . The theme of the story is that you should always keep your equipment maintained.

My Jacket

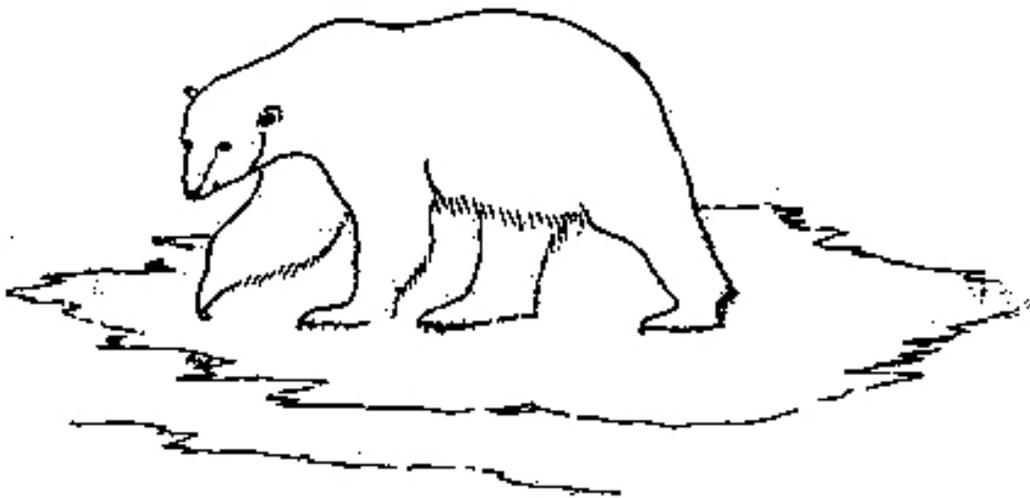
By Stella Schreiber, Grade 3

On the bottom of my jacket, there is a cord I can pull. When I pull the cord and zip up the jacket, a little zipper appears. If I pull the hood over my head and zip up the little zipper, then, I become a ball. I can be thrown. If I feel like I'm going to fall, I can just stick out my arms and legs and land. I can bounce between my brother and sister. I can bounce like a basketball, too. I can use my legs and bounce up to the basket and score! I can bounce onto the tennis court and you can hit me over the net. I can help you win! I can bounce onto the soccer field and my brother and sister can play with me instead of pumping up their ball. I can score goals for them against my dad! I can be a pretty fantastic ball...me and my jacket all!

Texas

By Ebru Duru Erdemir, Grade 1

One day, Eevee, Madelie, and Emily went on a trip to Greenland. It was cold as ice. Eevee said, "Let's go now." So they went. Madelie said, "Look at the polar bear." Eevee said, "You never know when you will see a polar bear," and then she said, "AaAAAAaaAaaAaA!!! You see there is a polar bear." So, polar bear was named Texas. Texas was a cute polar bear. They had so much fun. They went to the mountain. Emily said, "It's getting dark." They saw a light and somebody was there. "No," thought Texas because it is not good. It would give heat. Emily asked, "Who are you?" The ice was cracking! They got scared. They hugged the polar bear. They jumped to the iceberg, and then to the island. They took Texas because it was getting warm. Polar bears don't like warm. Texas screamed. They arrived at their camp. They fed Texas, and gave ice to her. It was a cold night. When they woke up the ice was still a little melted, and Texas was hurt because it was warm. Emily was learning how to be a scientist so she got her ice machine and froze the land again. Texas was happy. She jumped and danced around. The girls were laughing. Everyone was happy.



The Girls and the Panda

By Elena Smith, Grade 1

One day a girl was playing on a playground near a forest with her friends. She was remembering last winter when she made friends with Bei Bei the panda. Bei Bei taught the girl panda language, and now she could translate from panda language to English.

And then... the girl saw big eyes in the forest looking at her on the playground. She wanted to see who it was. It was a big panda. She went right to it, and her friends asked her, "What is it?" "It's a panda," she said. "Her name is Bei Bei. We became friends last year." Bei Bei walked out of the forest to talk to the girl. The panda told her that the forest was not clean because when people went on hikes and ate their food, they left trash behind. There was now so much trash that pandas couldn't live in the forest. After hearing this, the girls wanted to help the panda and clean up the trash. They went out to pick up the trash, and then they made a big poster so that other people would know not to leave trash behind. The panda was so happy!

The girls learned that we have to reuse, reduce, and recycle so we all can live on Earth, not on a different planet. There is no PLANet B!

