

# Long Island School

*Our mission at the Long Island School is to provide a nurturing, challenging environment, which will enable each child to become a life-long learner and a contributing citizen.*

Spring 2016

## Our Graduates



**Natalie Johnson:**

"I will miss Natalie because she is nice, cool, and funny."  
 "I will miss Natalie because she is kind, smart, and helpful." Natalie is kind because she lets me use her stuff. Natalie involves everyone. Natalie is very amazing.



**Evan Elder**

"I will miss Evan because he is smart and helpful."  
 "I will miss Evan because he is kind." Evan is cool and funny because he has a lot of jokes. He also makes funny faces. He is cool.



**Hazel Johnson**

"I will miss Hazel because she is so nice and funny and she helps people."  
 "I will miss Hazel because she is kind and she helps me."  
 "Hazel is awesome because she is my sister."  
 She is smart because she practices her math.

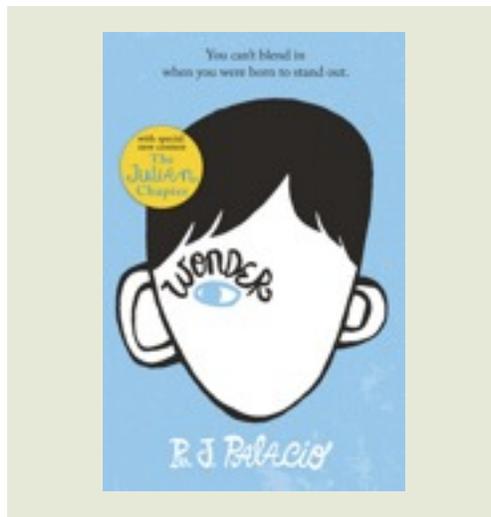
## Wonder

Review by Agnes Mae LaMontagne

We read a book called *Wonder* by R.J.Palacio. *Wonder* is one of my favorite books.

The main character is a boy named August who has a facial deformity. August goes to school for the first time and needs to deal with bullies and kids who are scared by his face and don't know how to deal with him.

I recommend that you read the book because it deals with a lot of issues that kids in middle school have to deal with. There are many good acts of kindness in the book One example is a



teacher who gives the kids precepts or ideas to live by. My favorite one was, "When given a choice between being right or being kind, choose kind."

## Lacrosse

by Annabel Kimball

Lacrosse is a game that is popular with girls and boys. The Native Americans invented the game. We played after school with Will Tierney. He taught us how to play. Boys and girls have different types of sticks. The boys' sticks have a deeper pocket than the girls. The girls' teams wear face masks. Boys' teams don't. Everyone wears protective equipment in a real game. The ball is small but kind of hard. It can hurt when it hits you. I think it is fun to play.



## Observatory

- by Isla Norton

We went to The Portland Observatory. We went to the top of it. It is 86 feet tall. We sat where a President once sat. The observatory is an octagon so it does not blow over. In the old days, they would fly flags on top of the observatory to tell the people in town what ships were coming in. I liked learning about it. It was fascinating. Marshal said, "It was great!"



## Worm Guy

by Aran Johnson

The "worm guy" came again. His name is Jock and he came in the fall and taught us how to keep worms, feed them, and keep flies off them. He gave us worms to make good compost from the worm castings.

This time, he checked the worms. He told us that our worms were doing good. We looked for worm cocoons, small juvenile worms, and big worms. We had almost 200 worms out of one worm bin. He said that that was good for our first harvest.

We put worm castings in one plant and not in another for an experiment. We will check them in the fall. Alanna also made some worm tea with the castings and that is supposed to give them good nutrition. We like raising worms.



## Bike Safety

- Tilly Rich

In April, we had bike safety to be really safe on our bikes. Pierre Avignon came to school to talk to us about how to be safe on our bikes. We brought in our helmets to make sure they fit. It you don't wear your helmet, it can really hurt your head. I have a new blue helmet and a new bike. My bike is purple, pink, blue, and white. Devon learned that, "You should always ride on the right side of the road."



## Symphony with John Williams Music

- by Tony Camden

We went to the Portland Symphony at Merrill Auditorium on April 25th. We liked all of it a lot. We listened to music by John Williams. The music we listened to was from Star Wars and other movies. It was very funny because the conductor used a light saber to conduct it. One of the musicians dressed as Princess Leia. Isla and Marshal both said that they liked it a lot because it was music from Star Wars.

## The BFG

-by Carol Anne LaMontagne

Second through 5th grade went on a field trip to see the play about the BFG (Big Friendly Giant). The play was at the Merrill Auditorium. I liked the book a bit better, but the play was good. I liked the giants that were costumed, big puppets. A scary part was when the BFG's giant hand came through the window and grabbed Sophie. Everyone screamed. The play was a little confusing because it was different than the book and Sophie had a little puppet which didn't seem to fit in. We also had very high seats that were very far from the stage.

## A Trip to Learn about Longfellow

- by Carol Anne LaMontagne

Second through 5th grade went on a field trip to the Maine Historical Museum to learn more about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. We studied about Longfellow at school with Ms. Caliandro. We watched videos of the poems of Paul Revere and Hiawatha. After the videos, we drew our own pictures of Paul Revere and Hiawatha. I liked drawing the pictures. There was also an exhibit of old fancy clothes like from "Downton Abby", which my grandmother liked to watch. I really liked seeing the fancy clothes.

## Earth Day Clean Up

-Caroline Daughdrill

On April 15, we cleaned up the side of the road near the school. There was a lot of trash. Everyone at school helped out. We collected two bags of returnable bottles. We didn't go far off the road. We mostly found old bottles and cans. It was pretty dirty.

## EMT Visit

By Marshal Rich

The EMTs came to visit the school to teach us about what they did. They showed us the tools that they use to help people. They showed us splints, bandages, and medicines. They took our blood pressure. They showed us the ambulance. I learned that when little kids are hurt, they sometimes get stuffed animals. I learned that if you faint, you can't choke. Tony liked the pulse oximeter the best.



## Opinion Piece: Should We Have Homework Over Vacation?

Pro:

by Kineo Sommers and William Tierney

William and I think school should give homework on weekends. If kids don't have homework on weekends then they might forget what they learned that week. The teachers would not have to spend so much time to reteach what the students learned that previous week. If the kids got homework on the weekends, teachers could spend more time teaching new subjects rather than having to reteach previous subjects all over again. Kids could learn a lot faster and succeed better in their grades. We think the same about the summer. Kids should work some on school work even in the summer so they don't forget what they have previously learned. They should at least remember to read!

Con:

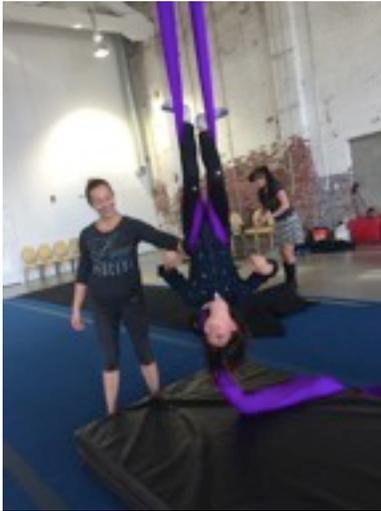
by Elizabeth Tierney and Izzy Elder

We do not think there should be homework on weekends or school work in the summer. Here are some reasons we think so.

In the summer when it is warm and sunny, we think you should enjoy the time outside. Even when it is sunny in the winter, it is often too cold to be outside. Homework or school work take away from spending time at the beach or on vacation with your family. Any school type work should only be done on rainy days. Week-ends should be a time to spend with family and friends.

These are some reasons that we think homework should only be done on school nights and definitely not in the summer.

### Circus by Izzy Elder



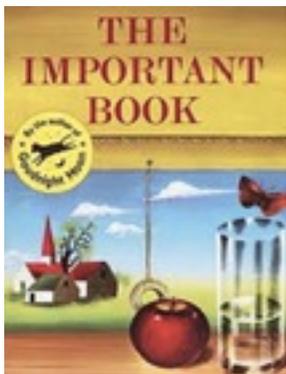
One day in May, we went on a field trip. Kineo goes to a circus college in Portland. He told us all about it and showed us how he learned to do a tripod. He said we could go there on a field trip. When we went, we learned how to juggle and we got to go on cloth straps that are like swings. We swung upside down. It was fun. They were like gymnastic swings. We all wish we could go to Circus College.

### Volcanoes by Devon Johnson



In May, the school studied volcanoes. Mrs. Train's class made volcanoes out of dough. It was sticky. We built the dough up over a bottle. We left the top open. The next day, we painted them. I used red and black. The red looked like lava. We brought them home and erupted them. I poured water, baking soda, and vinegar into the bottle. I used a little bit of dish soap. It made it bubble. It was cool. I liked doing it. My family liked watching it. My sister also made a volcano. Hers was a shield volcano. Mine was a composite volcano. "I think it was cool because it burst out crazy," said Tony Camden.

# The Important Book



After reading “The Important Book”, by Margaret Wise Brown,

Mrs. Train’s class came up with ideas of how and why we are important.

Isla Norton  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I like to ride my horses Koda and Lucky. I have a dog named Walter. He is brown. I have brown hair and brown eyes. I live on Long Island and go to school at The Long Island School. I have two brothers, a mom, a dad, and lots of cousins. I like to garden. My birthday is April 6th. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Antonio Camden  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I love to collect flat rocks with my dad. I love to go to Wreck Cove. I like to play with my friends. I especially like to play with Marshal. I like to play video games. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Annabel Kimball  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I love to sing. My favorite color is purple. I love to swim. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Devon Johnson  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I am good at lobstering. I think it is fun. I am good at Rip Sticking too. My hair is brown. My eyes are greenish blue. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Caroline Daughdrill  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I like to sing. I like it when mom reads books to me. I like to make cities out of boxes. I like fairies. My birthday is August 24th. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Tilly Rich  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I play with my toys. My favorite is my unicorn. When I grow up I’m going to be a singer. I will also work at an animal place. I will dye my hair blue. It is brown now. I like to help my Noni. I like school. I am usually silly. I laugh like crazy when friends come over. I am crazy. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Marshal Rich  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I have brown eyes. I’m funny. I like to play video games. I help out at home. I pick up trash. I laugh a lot. I am smart. The important thing about me is that I am me.

Silas Norton  
May 2016

The important thing about me is that I am me. I like to play tag with Devon. I like to play capture the flag. When I grow up, I want to be a race car driver. I am nice. The important thing about me is that I am me.

# Earth Reports

*Mrs. Johnson's class reported on different Earth events. They shared demonstrations and a slide show with Mrs. Train's Class.*

**Hurricane**



**Volcano**



**Earthquake**



**Tornado**



**Glacier**



**Geyser**



**Tectonic Plates**



**Weathering and Erosion**



**Tsunami**

## Cemetery by Natalie Johnson



On May 27th, the whole school went up to the cemetery. We went to plant flowers. Each student got a flower. They got to plant it at someone special's grave. Six of us did our great grandparent's grave. First we dug a hole for our flower. After we put our flower into the hole, we got some good dirt and put it into the hole with our flower. Then a helper went around with a watering can and watered the flowers. After that, we got to look around at all the old and new gravestones. Then we hopped on the bus and went back to the school. I like going to the cemetery, especially to see our relatives' graves.

## Lab Venture

by Evan Elder

On May 26th, the fifth graders went to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute for Lab Venture. Lab Venture is where we learned about how lobster, lobstermen, cod, herring, and copepods are connected.



At Lab Venture, they had four learning stations. The first station was looking at how lobster behave around cod. Cod eat lobster. So we observed the cod's and lobster's behavior. We took a video. The next station was observing plankton. We observed plankton with warm and cold water conditions. The cold water plankton grow larger and forms larger groups. Hazel and I took a video of the plankton and GMRI showed our video at the end of the day as the best example. The third station was a virtual lobster trip. What do you do on a virtual lobster trip? We got to pick our own fisherman and explore how to catch fish without catching too many juveniles or by-catch. At the fourth station, we examined lobsters and measured and sexed them by male or female. We took pictures of them too. We really liked doing hands on experiments and learning science in new ways.



## Music Program

by Agnes Mae LaMontagne

The school held a music program on June 1st with Mrs. Fabiano. Mrs. Train's class did interpretive dancing to the music from *The Carnival of the Animals*. Mrs. Johnson's class did recorder music. Many parents and community members came to our performance.

## Step Up Day

by Hazel Johnson

On May 19th, the fifth graders and Mrs. Johnson went to King Middle School. We got to shadow a sixth grader named Anna. That means we got to follow her around and see what her classes were like. At King, there are two houses. Anna is in Windsor House. We went with Anna to her History class and Spanish class. Then we went to lunch, but we did not have it in the cafeteria. After lunch, we went to Gym. We got to play outside at Deering Oaks. Then we went to computer class. That was my favorite class. The sixth graders were making posters. Anna made a forest poster.

In the afternoon, we went to the auditorium with all the other fifth graders from other Portland schools that were going to "step up." King's principal for this year and new one for next year welcomed us to our new school. After that, all the fifth graders were split up into groups to tour the 6th grade classes and meet the 6th grade teachers. We toured York house. We met most of the York teachers. We even got assignments for the summer time.

I asked the other fifth graders what their favorite part of Step Up Day was and Evan said: "My favorite part of Step Up Day was computer class because we learned how to make posters. We went on this site called "Be Funky" and that is how we made the posters." Natalie said, " I liked Gym because we got to go outside.

Step Up Day is fun because you get to see who your new classmates and teachers will be and then you are less nervous.

# This newsletter is dedicated to Mrs. Johnson

*Mrs. Johnson will be retiring after over 35 years of service to the Long Island School. Mrs. Johnson first started teaching on Long Island when it was still part of Portland in 1980. She has helped educate generations of Long Islanders throughout her career. Her creativity and ability to juggle many grades will be missed.*



This newsletter is made possible by donations from:  
The Long Island Parents Club  
Melissa San Soucie

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