

September 30, 2013

The Dolphin Splash

This is the first edition of the Exploratory Writing classes' newsletter, the Dolphin Splash. We look forward to reporting news around our school as well as having a sports column, a book corner and an advice column, *Ask Mike*, in addition to other features such as cartoons. Enjoy!

Book Review by Ben Murray

The Bomb by Theodore Taylor

After the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, World War II ended in the Pacific. The Bomb, by Theodore Taylor, relates the story of the decision by the U.S. military to use the island of Bikini for further testing of the atomic bomb. The military chose to relocate the islanders to another island. Many of the islanders trusted the U.S. government, but the main characters chose to stand their ground and go against the orders. The main characters: Sorry, a sixteen year old boy, Abram, his uncle and Tara, a local teacher, fight for their beliefs until the end. They attempt to defeat the U.S. military with just a small red canoe. Although their mission was unsuccessful, they show courage and bravery.

I thought the book was written with lots of interesting details about events prior to the testing bomb on Bikini Atoll. I definitely recommend reading The Bomb. Although the story has an unhappy ending, it tells an interesting tale about the courage of Sorry, Tara, and Jonjen--Sorry's grandfather.

Responses to *Bully*, an anti-bullying documentary by Lee Hirsh

Students in Middle School viewed the film *Bully* in September. This is a power statement against the violence and heartache this subject causes. Below are some of the responses this film evoked:

I felt sorry for Alex because he got stabbed by a pencil. I would be Alex's friend. Andres Arroyo

Bullying is a sin, but some don't think so. In the documentary, Bully, kids that are a little different from others are bullied, harassed and physically hurt...Bullies think they have power over everyone and everybody is afraid to stand up for themselves. The ones who bully others think that they look cool. But is there anything cool about hurting people? Uliana Vasiliev

I felt sad because these kids were bullied every day. I felt like if they needed a friend, I could be their friend. These kids had been through a lot of pain and for a lot of time; they had been abused and ignored. If we all "Stand for the Silent," we will make a change. Gwen Bailly

This has shown me that I should try and help everyone that is getting bullied. I should always feel empathy for the people getting bullied. I truly hope this documentary shows other people how bullying is one of the worst things a person can do. Nikolas Caceres

I thought Alex was the strongest out of all of them. Nismah Ismail

It changed my heart. Saskia Hubers

I will defend people when they are getting bullied. Cristopher Bac

I think other people should watch it, because it could change lives and even save lives. Dakota Beaumont

It was intense, yet my eyes couldn't look away. It was so sad, but I wanted to know what happen next. When I saw Alex Hopkins with a friend, it made me smile from ear to ear. The movie showed me to be sure to 'taste your words before you spit them out.' Maya Weissman

Pet Corner

Hamster Care by Fanny Sanchez

When I decided to get a hamster, I read a Beginner Sheet and learned many things. Dwarf hamsters are nocturnal and my Robo-Dwarf hamster is very shy. It may take 3-4 days to get used to its new home. I got mine on Sept. 21, so she just hides in her little "hide-house" and sleeps there. The only time she gets out is when she's hungry. But then later on, she might play with her exercise wheel and chewing toys. It's important to give your hamster chew-toys because their teeth just keep on growing. For bedding you need to put paper bedding or wood shavings. Mine got the paper bedding out of her hiding house, and she covered the little way out so that she wouldn't be disturbed.

Her name in Spanish, Canelita, means cinnamon. My mom and I chose it because she has brown fur at the top, and white on her belly. She also has two black lines going down from her eyes to her back.

You should feed your hamster pellets with vitamin C. If you don't, you'll have to give it a type of liquid supplement mixed with its water. You could give it veggies like squash, broccoli (a good source of vitamin C for hamsters, as well as humans), shredded carrots and others. For treats give raisins, seeds and alfalfa hay, but not too much or else they'll want treats rather than their pellets. Hamsters live up to 2 years. They grow up to 3-4 inches. They prefer to live alone. If you touch their nose and it feels wet, it might be sick. After these few days, I've been having so much fun with my adorable new pet.

Ysabella Alvarado Introduces the Advice Column, *Ask Mike*,

Hi Students of Clifford School,

We will soon be having an advice column called, Ask Mike. If you have any questions about anything, send a letter to Mike. We will have a shoebox outside of Rm. 31 labeled, Ask Mike.

Mike would like to add that he will be happy to help students at Clifford:

Hello, my name is Mike. I am really good with advice. So send in your questions to the shoebox next to Rm. 31.

Student Council Elections by Moises Amaya

Student Council elections will be in full swing in the next few days. Many candidates have presented themselves and are strictly following election procedures.

In student council there are 8 open positions. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are for 8th graders. There will be officers and senators for 6th through 8th grades, as well as Spirit and Community Commissioners for these grades.

Poetry Corner

Down by the Field by Toni Shinabery

Down by the field where the water flows,
I take my bucket and fill it with the water of the stream.
I run up the field with the bucket of water and fill myself with glee.

Down by the field I rest by the stream
and I fill myself with glee from the peaceful sounds of the stream
and I could nearly scream with all this glee.

Down by the field where the cabin lies
I look up and I can see the sun's rays.

Down by the field I nearly laugh myself to death,
because this field fills me with happiness and glee.

Sports Corner by Monica Mejia, Jack Weber and Joseph Kastelic

A visit from Francisco Peguero

It was Giants Day at Clifford and a very special player came by to visit us. His name is Francisco Peguero. He's on the Giants team and was signed with them at age 17. He's from Nigua, San Cristobal, Dominican Republic. He was born on June 1, 1988 and is 6' tall and a great player.

Francisco is a left-fielder and bats with his right. He also pitches with his right. He loves playing baseball and likes to meet new people. He started to play baseball late. He started at age 12. His uncle would take him to a baseball field.

Francisco collects cards, but of himself! He likes to eat rice, chicken and Panda Express. He tells us to stay in school and not to give up. To always listen to our parents, teachers and other helpful people. His routine for being a baseball player is to do agility practice. He's not bothered by the paparazzi. Being a baseball player he said is, the "MAXIMUM."

Monica Mejia

Francisco Peguero is a new outfielder on the San Francisco Giants. Peguero was born in the Dominican Republic and started playing baseball at the age of 12. Amazingly, Peguero was signed to the Giants organization at the age of 17; that's only 5 years before stepping up to the Majors.

Peguero is now the left-fielder and sometimes center-fielder for the Giants. He has stats so far for just starting off in the season. As the season has been going, I've watched him closely and I have noticed that he is getting better with every game that he plays.

Peguero speaks Spanish and a little English. He is batting at .281 (which is pretty good for starting). *Jack Weber and Joseph Kastelic*

Recipe Corner by Lydia Perrone

The Perrone family has a full file of tasty treat recipes and I have selected some of the most delicious recipes to share with you!!

Blueberry Buttermilk Breakfast Cake

Ingredients: 1 stick unsalted butter
2 tsp. lemon zest
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup + 2 Tbsp. sugar (1 Tbsp. for top)
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
2 cups blueberries
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup buttermilk (plain yogurt thinned with a Tbsp. of milk works, also)

Heat oven to 350 degrees F.

Instructions:

Cream together butter, zest and sugar. Add egg and vanilla, and cream, again. Toss blueberries in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour and set aside. Whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Add flour mixture to butter batter a little at a time, alternating with the buttermilk. Fold in blueberries.

Grease a 9 by 9 inch pan. Spread batter into pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Let cool in pan 15 minutes before cutting.

Enjoy!