

January 29, 2014

The Dolphin Splash

Our fourth edition of the Exploratory Writing Classes' newspaper places us at the transition point, looking back as well as looking forward. What better name for this period than that of the Roman god, Janus, guardian of beginnings and transitions.

Looking Back

We looked at memorable moments from our past.

A Special Time I Remember by Cristopher Bac

A special time in my life was when I scored my first goal. I was 10 years of age.

It was our semi-final game. We were in a tie; it was 3 to 3. It was our last chance to score.

The coach put me in. I felt nervous because it was our last chance. They passed me the ball and I scored. I felt good about myself.

The Time I Went to the Oracle Arena by Dylan Barnwell

The time I went to the Oracle Arena was the best. It was the best because we had V.I.P. parking and we sat at the sixth row. So we were really close to the basketball court. The players were so tall. That was the first Warriors game I had ever been to. It was the best!

Editor's caveat (warning): This deals with Irene's recent tonsil surgery and may not be suitable for the faint of heart.

On That December Day, by Irene Katakis

The day was finally here! It was my 12th birthday! Now for most people this day is the best day of the whole year, but not for me—well at least not this year. Today was also the day I would get my tonsils out.

“Sweetie, wake-up” my mother uttered in her soothing voice.

It was about 6:45. My surgery was at 8:30, but we had to be there at 7:30 to go through the preparation. I slowly raised myself out of bed. I imagine I looked like a person coming back to life. I licked my lips. My lips and mouth were so dry. I wanted to get a drink of water, but I couldn't have anything to eat or drink.

I went to the living room and lunged to the couch. As I was sitting, I watched my brother eat breakfast. Even though I wasn't allowed, I still very much wanted to grab his food and stuff it into my mouth.

About 30 minutes later my brother's ride to school came and my mom and I went off to the hospital. I didn't bother changing. I stayed in my red and white striped *one'sy* pajama.

“Mom,” I mumbled. “Do you think everything is going to be ok?”

“You're going to be fine. Trust me; nothing happened to your brother,” she reassured me.

When we got to the hospital, we signed in and waited to be called.

“Irene Katakis,” the nurse hollered.

I stood up with my mother and went to the back room where I would start the prep.

“Hello, I'm Mary and I'll be your nurse today,” she said in a perky tone.

She gave me a gown to put on and a cap you would see sick people in. I got dressed in the clothes and laid back down in the hospital bed.

“Okay, now I need to put this IV in your arm, so when you're in the operating room you can be hydrated and they are also going to put you to sleep through this,” Mary proclaimed.

She pulled out the IV and I saw the huge needle. Well, at least it looked huge to me.

“Do we have to? I hate needles!” I whined.

“It won’t hurt a bit. Don’t worry,” she said trying to make me feel better.

I held my mom’s hand and squeezed it when the needle cut through my skin. It went by really fast, but it stung for a long time. About 5 minutes later, my doctor and two other nurses came into the room.

“Okay, it’s time for your surgery,” my doctor sighed.

“Okay, good luck babe!” My mom smiled while hugging me.

They lifted my hospital bed and rolled me to my surgery room. As I was rolling to the surgery room I said: “Instead of having a birthday cake today, I get a hurt throat.”

“It’s okay.” she explained. “You know what? We will sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to you right now!”

We entered the surgery room and everyone in there broke out into song. When they finished singing, they had me lie down and put a mask on my face.

“Okay, now I want you to take three deep breaths,” the nurse announced.

I took one deep breath.

“One...”

I took another and noticed it was getting harder for me to stay awake.

“Tw...”

And I was asleep.

“Beep...Beep,” I heard as I awoke. It was hard for me to keep my eyes open, but I eventually got the hang of it.

An hour later (or at least it felt like an hour), I got to leave. And right when I got home, I went to bed.

Wait! I almost forgot to say that when I woke up and got up to leave, I was very weak and it was hard to walk. I had to hold onto my mom to walk.

Well, that’s my December day, and probably one of my most unforgettable birthdays ever.

“Every generation rediscovers the *Titanic*,” says Robert Ballard, Professor of Oceanography and explorer.

Titanic by Cole Bradley

The *Titanic* was the biggest ship of her time. With 16 water-tight compartments, she was 882 feet long. The *Titanic* was built like a battleship and took 3 years to build.

She left dock in April 1912, and set off over the Atlantic Ocean. The *Titanic* was carrying over 2, 200 passengers to New York. The first few days went well and were calm.

But at 11:40 pm an iceberg was spotted. The *Titanic* tried to turn away, but it was too late. The iceberg scraped *Titanic*’s bow, puncturing 6 of her water-tight compartments. The *Titanic* could float with 4 compartments flooded, but not 6.

The *Titanic* stopped. No one knew she had hit an iceberg. The bow dipped down while the stern tipped up. Once people saw water inside the ship, they ran up to the ship’s deck. There were only enough lifeboats for half of the people on board.

The lifeboats started to be launched only half full. Soon all of the lifeboats were gone. Now the bow was completely underwater. Suddenly the first funnel (smokestack) collapsed into the water crushing people.

Soon all the lifeboats were gone. The lights started to flicker; suddenly the *Titanic* broke in half. The bow disappeared under the waves while the stern kept floating.

The stern started to sink. Soon it was vertical; then the stern began to take its final plunge. The stern quickly disappeared under the wave.

Four hours later, the *Carpathia* picked up the lifeboats. It hurried over to New York where it was confirmed, out of the 2,200 people on board, only 700 survived. It was a sad moment that would never be forgotten.

Transitions

2014 (Resolutions) by Moises Amaya

In 2014 I have a lot of plans to do, and I have goals to accomplish. One of my plans this year is to spend a good time at my mom's, my dog's, my sisters', my brother's, my dad's and my birthday celebrations. Another plan is to watch the Winter Olympics. And I hope the U.S. A. wins most of the gold medals. I also want to watch every World Cup game that is going to be played in Brazil.

The goals I want to accomplish are: to get straight A's every semester, to walk my dog more so that he can lose weight because he is really chubby. Also I want to get more money to put in my bank account, and to go on vacation.

Those are the plans and goals I want to accomplish in 2014.

We were practicing 10 minute Personal Narrative Assessments and these two gentlemen left me in the dust. Their Christmas gifts rolled out with motors and wheels.

Motorized Christmas by Cameron Martin

An unforgettable time was when my uncle gave me a motor bike. It was a Christmas gift. It was half-broken because of its age. It was also around the size of a dirt bike. The color was red with an old chrome exhaust pipe.

The next summer I was taught how to ride it. My uncle showed me how to put gas in it, use the choke, start it, ride it and stop it. My cousin taught me how to drift and my other cousin showed me where the best place for storage space would be. I learned the bike was awesome on mud!

Last summer I got it fixed up. Now its main use is going to my uncle's place or hunting. In the future I plan to give it a paint job, some storage space and a radio.

Best Christmas Ever by Dangelo “DJ” Diaz

It was a sunny day; I was ready to go to Los Gatos to get scooter parts. When I finally got to Los Gatos, I asked to buy a part for my scooter.

But then the guy said it wouldn’t fit and I got frustrated because I had gone all the way to Los Gatos for that scooter part. The guy then said he would try to cut some spare parts and try to fix it. But he said the part he needed to cut was too close to his hand, and it might get chopped off by the saw if his hand slipped!

He tried and he came back with two hands; and I was glad he came back with two hands. He tried it on and the scooter part fit on the scooter. And I was happy.

Speaking of transitions, some students were not only rolling along, but flying over the holidays. Melissa recounts her experience at iFLY, with indoor skydiving.

I Fly by Melissa Rosas Martinez

When I went to iFLY, I was so excited after I found out what it was. It took a while to get there, but when we arrived we registered to fly (dive) once. However, before we could fly (or dive) we had to take lessons. After we took our lessons, it was time to fly!

We had to put on special gear, like a skydiving suit, ear plugs, and special goggles. I was the first one to go. I looked funny because the air was blowing hard on my face and the goggles were on tight. I was a little scared, but I had fun! I’ll never forget that day.

In *Weekend* by Caroline Tonga, we view the rhythm of the weekend and the quiet serenity of the commonplace that many might not see or appreciate.

On Friday after school, unlike others, I really look forward to going home. Here in school, it is either very boring or very entertaining. At home I look forward to school starting soon. The things I usually do are laundry, dishes or babysit.

Babysitter: When I babysit, sometimes I babysit both my nephews. But most of the time, it is just one, the oldest. I'm the one that babysits because my sister (not the mother) doesn't have patience with babies. The other reason I babysit is because my older sister (the mother) always goes out on weekends.

Dishes: I do the dishes when I'm bored or when it bothers me.

Laundry: I do laundry most of the time. The thing I hate most about doing laundry is that when I put it in the washer, I get lazy, immediately thinking I'm done. What's the most tiring thing? It's folding, because usually we have a lot of laundry to fold. And next would be my mom's laundry.

Assembly Extravaganza!

We were treated to an entertaining and educational assembly by the team, Earth Capades. Adán Medina tells us about his "take-away."

I learned about water: How to respect it, save it and take care of it.

First the Earth Capades team told us how to not to put trash in the water. Next they did tricks, like juggling, magic and doing the Chinese yo-yo. Last, they told us where our water comes from—it's Hetch Hetchy Reservoir!

In conclusion, I have to save water.

The Art Appreciation Corner

A cut paper collage, by the French modern artist, Matisse, made us wonder about the meaning of titles and perhaps see that, to quote Marshall McLuhan, "the medium is the message."

Commentary by Carl Hoynowski on "*Horse, Rider and Clown*", plate V from *Jazz*, 1947, by Henri Matisse:

This collage shows a horse with its head down. You can just see a foot coming from a very big dress in the upper corner of the composition.

The dress is blue with black shapes in it. This collage is called, "*Horse, Rider and Clown*". The girl, which you only see the foot of, is the "rider"; the horse is the "horse." But there is no clown. There is a green shape in the corner, but no clown.

I think Matisse meant not to add a clown because he wanted to add a little mystery to his painting.

Commentary by Eric Linares

There is a pink horse that has a bent neck on the right side of the collage. It looks like a piñata or plush toy. There is a woman riding the horse, but you can only see her dress. There is a long yellow line that looks like a whip or a rope. I can't see the clown. Everyone says there is something in the lower left corner that looks like a clown, but I think it's a duck.

The painting makes me feel happy. If Matisse had used more realistic colors for the horse, it wouldn't have been fun. When I am sad, I want to look at this work and I think it will cheer me up.

Commentary by Connor Fagans

In the collage, "*Horse, Rider and Clown*," by Henri Matisse, I see a horse with its head bent down. There are lots of odd shapes scattered around. There is a navy blue background.

There is a girl riding the horse, but only part of her dress is showing. Her dress is black and white with diamond shapes on it as well as some more of the odd seaweed-like shapes. The name of the collage includes the word "clown," but the clown does not appear to be in the composition. There is a glove shape in the corner, so I think the clown is out of the frame. There is a white border with more black shapes on it. Some of the shapes from the inside the collage, stick out onto the border. There is a *bendy* line that goes throughout the middle of the composition.

The main background color is dark purple. There is a lime green quarter circle in one corner with more odd black shapes on it. It is a wonderful piece and if it has a message in it, I think it is that things don't have to look normal in order to be there.

The Advice Corner, Ask Mike

Dear Mike,

I'm leaving the school soon, and I can't find a good way to tell my friends. Any advice?

From,

???

Dear ???,

A good way to tell your friends is when they are in a good mood. You could invite them to go with you to your house, apartment, or to a beach or anywhere you think is best to break the news gently.

Sincerely,

Mike

Dear Mike,

I really like this boy who is 2 grades ahead of me, but I'm too shy to talk to him! What should I do?

Sincerely,

Shy

Dear Shy,

I really suggest that you find someone your own age, but if you really like him then I think you should start hanging out with him. Make him a friend. Then he would probably start hanging out with you. Then he would start liking you.

Sincerely,

Mike

Dear Mike,

I have trouble concentrating where I've been seated in class. What should I do?

From,

Mysterious Schoolgirl

Dear Schoolgirl,

You should ask the teacher if you are allowed to change your seat to somewhere you can focus.

Sincerely,

Mike

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

The Book Corner

Jasmin España López strongly recommends *The Popularity Papers* by Amy Ignatow.

The Popularity Papers is a book I'm reading by Amy Ignatow. It's about two girls that are going through changes in their lives. Their names are Lydia Goldblatt, who has blue hair, and Julie Graham-Chang, who likes to draw.

Julie and her boyfriend, Roland, used to be friends, but now they are a couple. Julie told her dad, but he feels anxious about Julie being in a relationship. Julie feels like she isn't ready to be in a relationship. She feels like she just wants to be friends with Roland. She doesn't want to hurt Roland's feelings because he likes her very much.

Meanwhile, Lydia's mom announces that she is getting married to Coach Eric who lives in England. Lydia and her older sister, Melody, have to accept it, but Melody feels like Coach Eric might abandon his kids in England. They both have to accept the inevitability of changes in their lives as long as they have their friends by their side.

The D. I. Y. Corner

Ombré Nails by Jessica Martin

What you'll need:

- 3 different shades of the same colored nail polish; example: light, medium and dark (pink, blue, purple, etc.)
- Base coat/ top coat nail polish
- White nail polish
- Make-up sponge
- Nail polish remover and Q-tips

Steps:

1. Paint one coat of the base coat to protect your nails.
2. Paint a few coats of the white nail polish onto your nails. Let it dry.
3. When the white polish is dry, get the make-up sponge and paint the 3 colors on it: light, medium and dark. Make sure they blend.
4. With the sponge side that is colored, dab the polish onto the white nails.
5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4, and you'll get the ombré (shadowed in French) effect.
6. Once the colors dry, add a top coat.
7. Once the top coat dries fully, you are done and ready to show off your fabulous nails!

My [Valentine's] DIY (Do it Yourself) by Saskia Huibers

Valentine's Day is coming up on February 14, so I think you should give a gift to your best friend or someone you care about. One gift idea I have is called, *Message in a Bottle*.

First you will need a **plastic water bottle**, dried with no water in it, some **pink and red foam paper**, a **red ribbon or a red string**, your choice, and some **regular red or pink paper**.

Your first step is to take the wrapper off the water bottle. Then take the red or pink paper and start to write nice things or things that you like about the person who will be the recipient.

After you finish writing, roll up the paper into tube-form (a scroll), then tie it with your red ribbon or string. Put it in the bottle, making sure the paper fits into the bottle.

When you're done, put your cap on the bottle and seal it up. Tie your string or ribbon to the top of the bottle and tie it in a bow.

Your last step is your foam paper. Cut your foam paper into hearts or XOXO. Glue your foam paper onto your bottle. Tada! Your gift is packed and ready to go.

This is optional, but you can put it into a bag and decorate the bag with hearts. I hope you like my DIY.

Recipe Corner

Marissa Torres tested and endorsed this special Valentine's Day treat.

Red Velvet Cupcakes

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
2 cups granulated sugar
4 eggs
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup milk
1 bottle (1 ounce) [McCormick® Red Food Color](#)
2 teaspoons [McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract](#)

Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting:

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
2 tablespoons sour cream
2 teaspoons [McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract](#)
1 box (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Set aside.
2. Beat butter and granulated sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Mix in sour cream, milk, food color and vanilla. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until just blended. Do not overbeat. Spoon batter into 30 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full.
3. Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cupcake comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire rack 5 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely. Frost with Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting.
4. Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting: Beat cream cheese, softened butter, sour cream and [McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract](#) in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Frost cooled cupcakes with Frosting.

Poetry Corner

Valentine's Day by Tonianne Shinabery

Chocolates
Treats,
Love and more,

Why is Valentine's never a bore?
It's personal.
And eventful.

A personal message from Tonianne: Love is everywhere this year. Share it with everyone.

