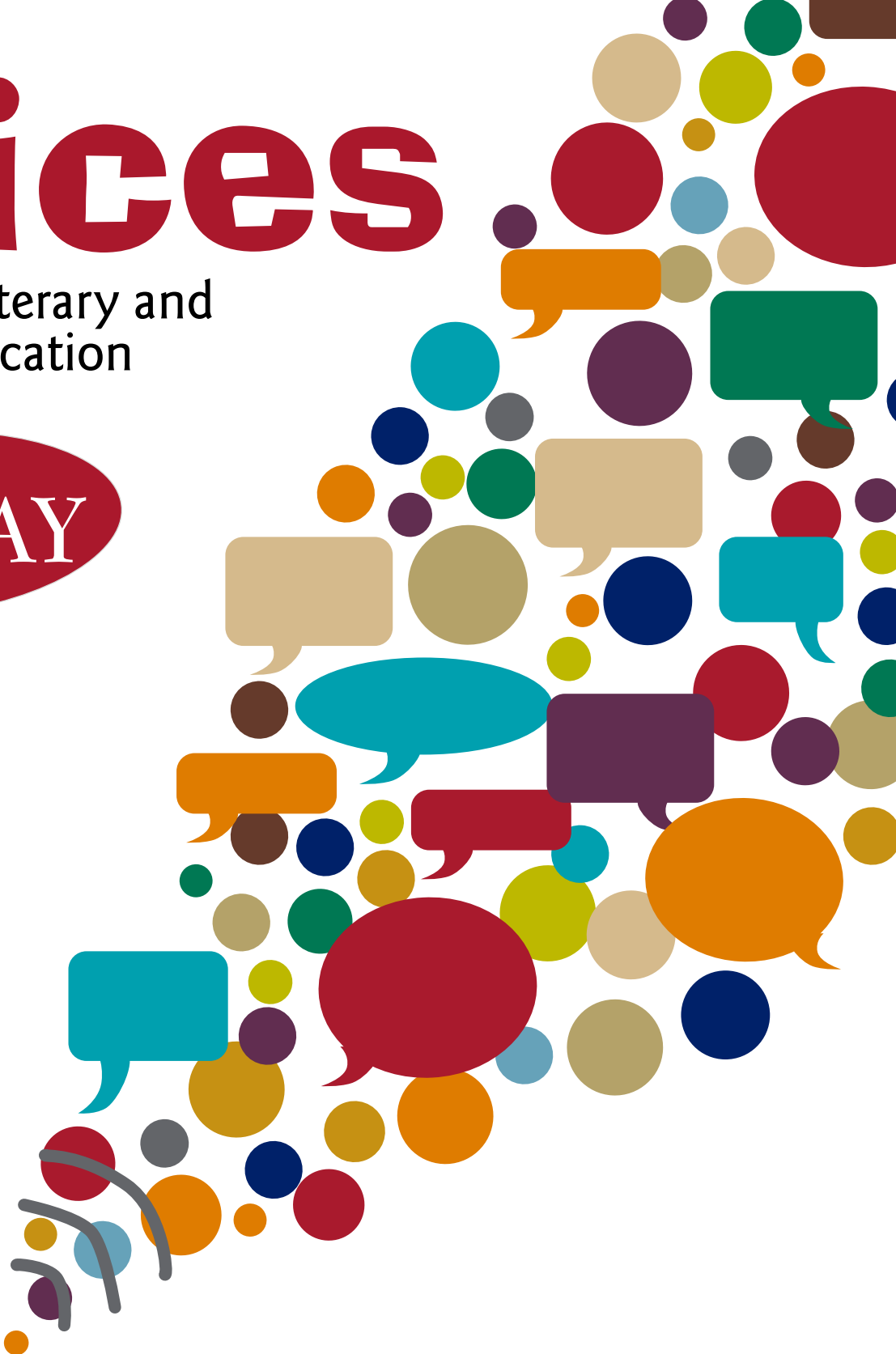


2021

# Voices

A Student Literary and  
Art Publication



Roseville  
Area Schools



## Dear Friends of Roseville Area Schools,

Welcome to our 2021 issue of Voices, ISD 623's student publication of art and writing. Our theme this year is power. Power is a thought-provoking concept that can be interpreted and reflected upon in a variety of ways.

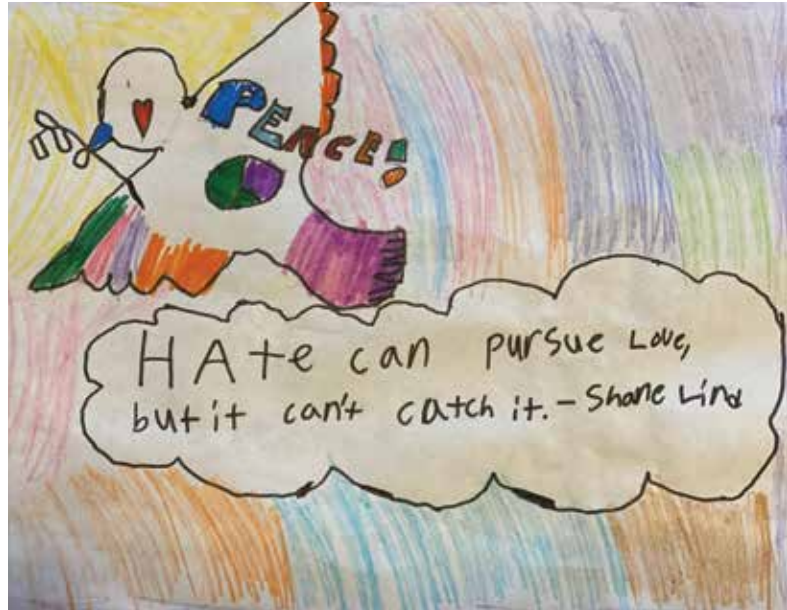
In the last year, we have all been affected by the power of the pandemic, the power of politics, the power of protest, and more. The power of our community has helped us get through these challenging times. We have also been asking important questions about power, like who holds power and why? Recognizing the power of our voices for social justice, we have been speaking out for positive change.

In the following pages, you will see students reflecting on power in different ways. Among many things, this issue will help you ponder the power of a smile, the power of parenting, and the power of being our true selves. Our goal with the Voices publication is to empower student voices through honoring and appreciating their written and artistic expression. We hope you are as inspired by these amazing young people as we are.

Aldo Sicoli  
Superintendent (retiring June 30, 2021)

Jenny Loeck  
Superintendent (as of July 1, 2021)

Roseville Area Schools



Shane, Grade 4

## Moving On

By Tehilah, Grade 8

Wow! Years went by so fast well it's been a blast at last  
now it's time to move on  
The next stage only comes once  
I can't wait to see what happens next  
As I reach out and take a big step  
Moving on, moving on, moving on  
Onward I say on the next stage  
Honestly I feel kind of scared  
this is one of the greatest things I fear  
Moving on leaving everything behind you as I finally  
Arrive, arrived at my next destination  
Putting myself out there I am ready ready as I'll ever be  
ready to face the challenges  
my life so far balances I wonder if I can hold on long  
enough.

Disclaimer: Selected pieces were chosen from work submitted by teachers and students in spring 2021. Due to space limitations, not all submitted pieces can be included. Also, in a few cases pieces have been lightly edited from their original form.

# An Ode to Water

By Edward, Grade 8

Is an ode to life  
Without water,  
Our world would be  
An arid abomination,  
Where all life shrivels up,  
Turns to dust,  
And flies away with the next breeze  
But, a simple, tender touch  
Of blue beauty  
Is all it takes for  
green grass to pop out of the ground  
It surges through stems  
And decorates the ground with color  
For all eyes to see;  
The same eyes that water  
Helped create



Ava, Grade 6

## Define Power

By Ngoc, Grade 6

What is power exactly?

Is it something you see on the street?

Is it something you find in your living room?

Is it something you can make?

Some say it's wealth

Some say it's fame

Some say it's status

And well, some say it's all of those things.

I think having power is being someone who  
has the power to influence others.

You always have the power to do something  
that would influence someone else.

Whether it's big or small.

In a positive or negative way.

The way you choose to use your power.

Words can be powerful.

Actions can be powerful.



Cora, Grade 3

# Leave Meeting

*By Elena, Grade 5*

Many may think there's just one answer to these problems,  
Too many,  
The wind that carries this power away,  
comes too quickly,  
Too abruptly.

Too many times abused.  
Not ever used.  
Fix what we have broken.

We push away the thought of our doing,  
Too much for our weak minds to handle,  
But we can't cancel this meeting, we can't  
push it back,  
This time there is no "Leave Meeting".

We need to do this now,  
Fix what we have broken,  
Not too late for all the what ifs coming true,  
Fix what we have broken.

No More "Muting" systemic racism any longer,  
For this is here,  
this is now,  
Fix what we have broken.  
Doesn't this affect us all?  
While change of climate pulls us down,  
The temperatures go up  
Melting these glaciers,  
Heating this planet  
Fix what we have broken.

We have the power,  
You have the power,  
But what will you do with it?  
Fix what we have broken.



*GowNong, Grade 7*

# Live For Yourself

*By GowNong, Grade 7*

TRANSLATION NOTE: “生きなくちゃいけない。” translates to “I have to live on (for myself)”. It's written in Japanese and is a reference to the song “生まれた意味などなかった” (translated to “There Was No Point In Being Born”) sung by Mafumafu (まふまふ).

The character drawn is shown busting a glass wall, a reflection of high and strict standards that were expected to be reached. The message I wanted to show is that everyone's expectations shouldn't control your life. It's in your hands to choose how you want to live your life and have fun.

# I Was Born, Wasn't I?

By Dash, Grade 8

Cold, grey, and quiet  
Or something else I cannot comprehend  
Can't map upon my human mind;  
No hands the world may lend  
No support nor explanation  
Just irrationalities  
Acting irrationally  
Rationally hurting me  
Or rather not helping me  
For how could they  
When were you aided by absurdities  
Absurd and unexplainable like how  
Ethics deny mortality  
Pushing back reality  
A light show or formality  
Perhaps it is not worth the trouble  
My life crumbles  
Nothing becomes rubble  
But how for me  
How then can I live with trouble  
Knowing I could take what I was given  
Indifferent men make an indifferent world livid  
Why? Because it's given to me  
Why give in, let despair run through me  
When I could eat it  
Digest it deeply  
Fight the world  
Or maybe Free it  
Whatever substance built whatever shape I'm living in  
A heap of insanity and circumstance  
A leap that's insane to enhance my abilities  
An ability to respond to absurdity all flirting-ly  
Like giving the same energy  
Like forget it, give life back to me  
Like screw it, make me legendary  
For legends make me all so merry  
Not tryna find a reason  
To this world I provide treason  
Or I try  
Just existing, so exist, like existence does, without reason  
Unreasonable, different in this indifferent world  
Or shape of some kind  
Squiggles or some lines  
That I am creeping through  
Leaping to the other side  
Absurdity is where I'll lie  
Be like it, mock it, fight it, shock it  
Why?  
I was born, wasn't I?



Dash, Grade 8



Parkview 8th Grader

## My Mother

By Emily, Grade 8

No training was needed  
Not for this infant  
Yet when I arrived; she ultimately conceded  
Armed with nothing but resistance  
And a thirst to thrive

Always thinking of the future  
Never the moment  
Strong opinions  
And blood fueled with persistence

She took only minutes to listen  
To what she was doing wrong  
Fixed her ways  
And now we're going on strong

Making sure I wasn't raised as a delinquent  
Instead grown with maturity  
I follow her example  
With great proficiency

I say I'm running out of time  
She hands me a watch  
Tells me to shoot for the stars  
Because she could not

'Be like a bison' she said  
'Go towards the storm, not any from it'  
These words let me leave my worries for dead

Her institution is not one I support  
But yet it is one she was made for  
It gives her a purpose  
The same purpose I've vigorously searched for, my whole life

Our story only begins here  
For there are years to come  
Years filled with life lessons  
And worries of net income

I was built from steadfastness  
But raised on first generation struggles  
She'll always be there within the vastness  
And so I say  
Ode to my mother, and her iron knuckles.



Ella, Grade 5

## 20/20 Vision

By Charlotte, Grade 8

Last year was filled  
with surprise after surprise;  
none of them healthy or good.  
We stumbled through our lives  
with blurry eyes  
not knowing what to do  
or when we would.  
This year we trek  
with glasses in hand  
all we need now is the  
cloth and solution-  
to wipe away the dirt, the grime, and the fog  
so we can finally see our good surprise  
of healthy resolution.

## Power

By Nora, Grade 4

It's something that we all have no matter how small.

It starts as a seed (a thought or idea).  
You water it with courage and confidence.  
Then out blooms power and actions.

To me power is strength and courage, confidence and deep feelings.  
It is a position above others like the president.  
Parents are strong and powerful,  
They parent A.K.A. saying "No" 5,000 times a day, which is difficult and stressful.  
I personally think women are more powerful than men  
They go through pain beyond anything men have experienced.

Power. Feels amazing.



Sofia, Grade 4



Ruth, Grade 8

## Now

By Kalia, Grade 7

Now is the time to change  
Now is the time to think and reflect  
Now is the time to work harder  
Now is the time to stop being your old self and be who you dream of being  
Now is the time to tell your story  
Now is... it is not too late to work on yourself  
Now you found your purpose

## Power Helps All

By Adele, Grade 4

Power hour it's all the time  
Sometimes it can be like sucking on a lime sour bitter and tart  
But sometimes it comes straight from the heart  
It hums and hums for people to hear  
It is so very clear  
That power helps all  
No matter what it is just someone to talk to  
Power helps all!

# Powerful

By Allie, Grade 6

Dear World,

Power comes from your heart, your soul. It is something that all of us possess, that we feel.

Power can be anything. Use it wisely though. Don't ever use it to harm people. Use it to take a stand, but not in a way that will hurt.

Power can be used just to take a stand, to make people look. It can be used to make people listen to your opinion.

Power can be abused though. It could be used to harm people, by taking too much of a stand, and by thinking that having power means that you are better than everyone else. It doesn't though.

Power can be both seen and unseen. It can be seen when taking a stand, and using it verbally. It can be unseen if it just stays inside of you, and you use it as fuel.

Power is like a car's gas. Power can be used to fuel your everyday actions. But once you use too much of it, it runs out of fuel, and it doesn't work anymore, and people start to think of you as something different.

They start to think of you as someone who is just looking for attention. Like a car, if you are speeding, people will think that you are trying to show off.

You can feel powerful at any time. The feeling can come from a song, a word, a video, or a speech. Practically anything.

Power looks strong, and like you don't care what anyone else thinks. As long as you're happy, then nothing else matters. Power feels good, until used too much.

Power is everything and anything. It can come from anywhere. But most importantly, it has to come from inside you. From inside your heart and soul. Because that is what matters most.



Daphne, Grade 8



Ruth, Grade 8



Calvin, Grade 8



Kai, Kindergarten

## Power is Everywhere

By Motoharu, Grade 4

Power is your dog, when you pat it for the first time, when you will feel that it is living

Power is speaking up, when you want to tell your feelings, thoughts, and ideas

Power is family, when the family help each other, when you gain power

Power is everywhere





Tyler, Grade 4

## Standing Tall

*Danielle, Grade 3*

My tree stands tall  
 Over the years he's had friends  
 But none like me  
 I visit at night or at day  
 But I'm always there  
 Listening  
 Watching  
 Seeing  
 I never leave, I'm always there  
 Listening  
 Watching  
 Seeing  
 I'm the wind

## Beautiful

*By Kyleeana, Grade 4*

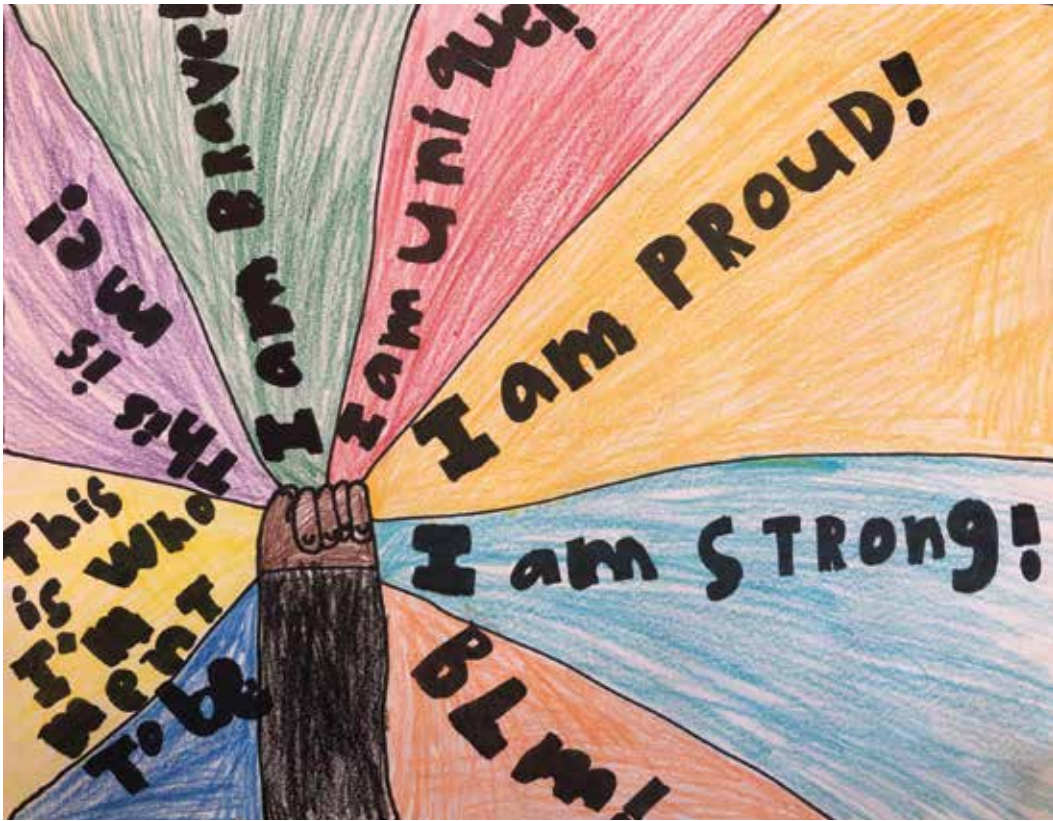
Black lives matter  
 But it did not used to be that way  
 I thought all those times were gone  
 But I guess not  
 People's lives are in danger.

Just because of their skin color,  
 Black  
 I am black and white beautiful  
 That is who I am  
 Just because we are all different doesn't mean  
 we all can't get along.

We are all different  
 But that doesn't define who we are  
 I'm going to be me  
 And no one is going to change that  
 Because that  
 Is me.



Gwenyth, Grade 4



*Kairi, Grade 4*

## Feelings Are Powerful

*By Yeimah, Grade 3*

- I feel anxious
- I feel brave
- I feel confident
- I feel delighted
- I feel elated
- I feel forgiving
- I feel grateful
- I feel happy
- I feel inspired
- I feel joyful
- I feel kind
- I feel loved
- I feel marvelous
- I feel nice
- I feel overjoyed
- I feel pleased
- I feel qualified
- I feel relaxed
- I feel satisfied
- I feel thankful
- I feel useful
- I feel vibrant
- I feel wishful
- I feel excited
- I feel youthful
- I feel zealous

## Recognizing Human Rights

*By Gianne, Grade 2*

We live together in a community full of power,  
 power is the feeling of being brave, strong, fight for what you need and want  
 including your human rights  
 that is something you need to live happily and include in the community.  
 Some people still do not understand these things,  
 so we need to fight for our rights and we have to stay strong,  
 stand tall, never give up,  
 care for each other and love each other  
 because we all need our rights.  
 Everyone needs life on our Planet Earth and never give up on your dreams  
 no matter if your boy, girl, black, white, indigenous or from a different country.  
 We all have power in use and every single day we get stronger.  
 We are all important so be strong, brave, never give up, be powerful, be kind, BE YOU.  
 Every single one of us needs our rights  
 because we all matter in life no matter who you are, you are special, you are amazing.  
 We all have a spot on our planet earth.  
**JUST BE YOU.**



*Briony, Grade 4*

## **The Power of Poetry**

*By Gemma, Grade 4*

Poetry is a diamond  
clear and smooth yet small and silent  
it is worth more than a mansion

Power smells like sweet tea and tastes like warm bread,  
Power feels like a warm hug holding you close,  
and looks like letters are speaking to you by only forming words,

It reminds me of climbing a tree the higher you get the happier.

Poetry has all those things

so if a poet feels powerless  
a poet should write a poem because  
all poems have power

but if that doesn't work  
write a story because  
all stories have power

but if that still won't work  
write a list because  
all writing has power.

I feel powerful when I complete a book, story, or poem,

I am empowered by poetry  
and my power comes from my pencil

**With words, I am unstoppable.**



Adam, Grade 4

## The Power We Hold

By Makayla, Grade 6

What does power mean to you?  
 Does it mean controlling everything and everyone in the world?  
 Does it mean being able to control yourself?  
 Does it mean being able to hold fire?

Power can mean many different things,  
 It only depends on how you use it and see it.

You might say, "I'm a kid. What power do I hold?"  
 You might not know, but you hold just as much power as adults.

You can't buy power, because you already have power.  
 Power comes from who the person really is.

There are many types of power that each of us hold:  
 The power of writing,  
 The power of art,  
 The power to be able to accept mistakes.

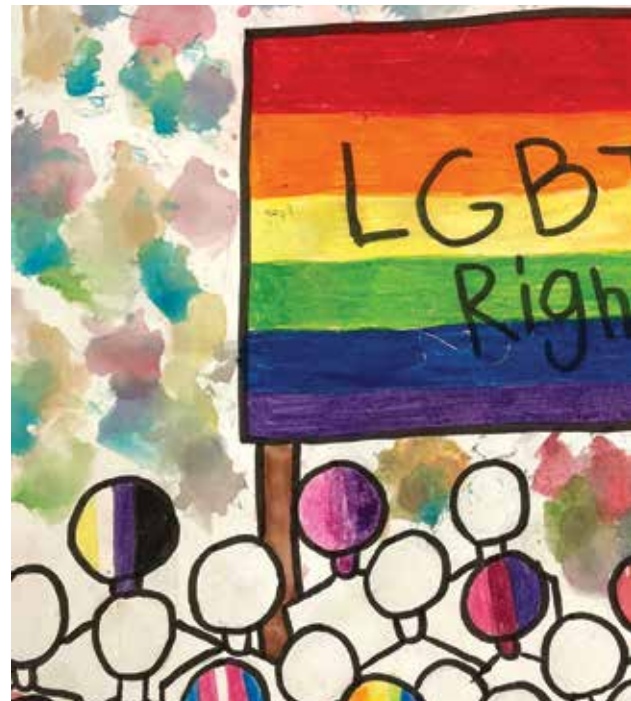
We all have our own power.  
 Maybe we haven't discovered it yet,  
 Maybe we already have.

All we can say for now  
 Is that power  
 Comes from everyone  
 If they put their heart and mind into it.

## Watch

By Madeline, Grade 8

Do you see it?  
 Do you see the shattered mirror  
 The shards of glass flying back at me  
 Blinding me with my own appearance  
 Those eyes of hatred  
 Oh how familiar you look  
 Why do you look at me like that?  
 I am you.  
 But watch.  
 I can change.  
 Watch.  
 Watch as I change.  
 I can be who you want.  
 Just watch.  
 Please.  
 Please watch.  
 I can be different.  
 I can make you believe,  
 that I am not you.  
 But I am.  
 And I always will be



# Power To The People

By Hazel, Grade 5

Supremacy?  
No, try equality

The power is in your hands to change the world  
You can change it one step at a time

Be kind to all  
Young, old  
Boy, girl  
Lighter or darker skin

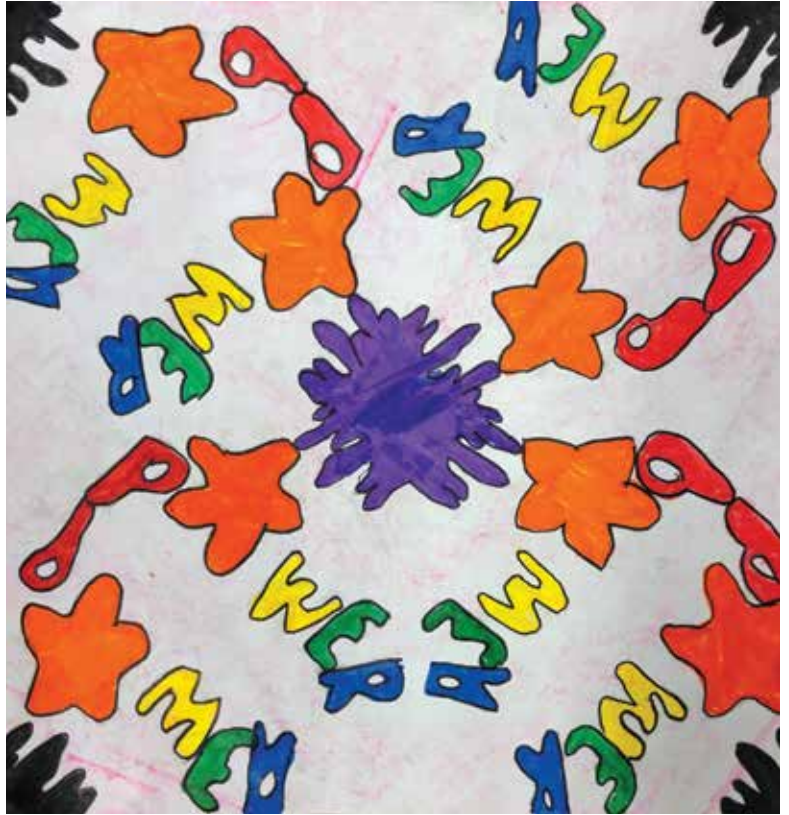
Give a voice to those who don't have one  
Be the power

Power to the people  
Live it like a destiny

Like a purpose

You can love  
Just find the light and embrace it  
For it's so true...

That there is ALWAYS a diamond in the rough  
ALWAYS light at the end of the tunnel  
And ALWAYS one unique, loving person just like you  
Who has the power to change the world



Alice, Grade 5



Sina, Grade 6

# What is Power?

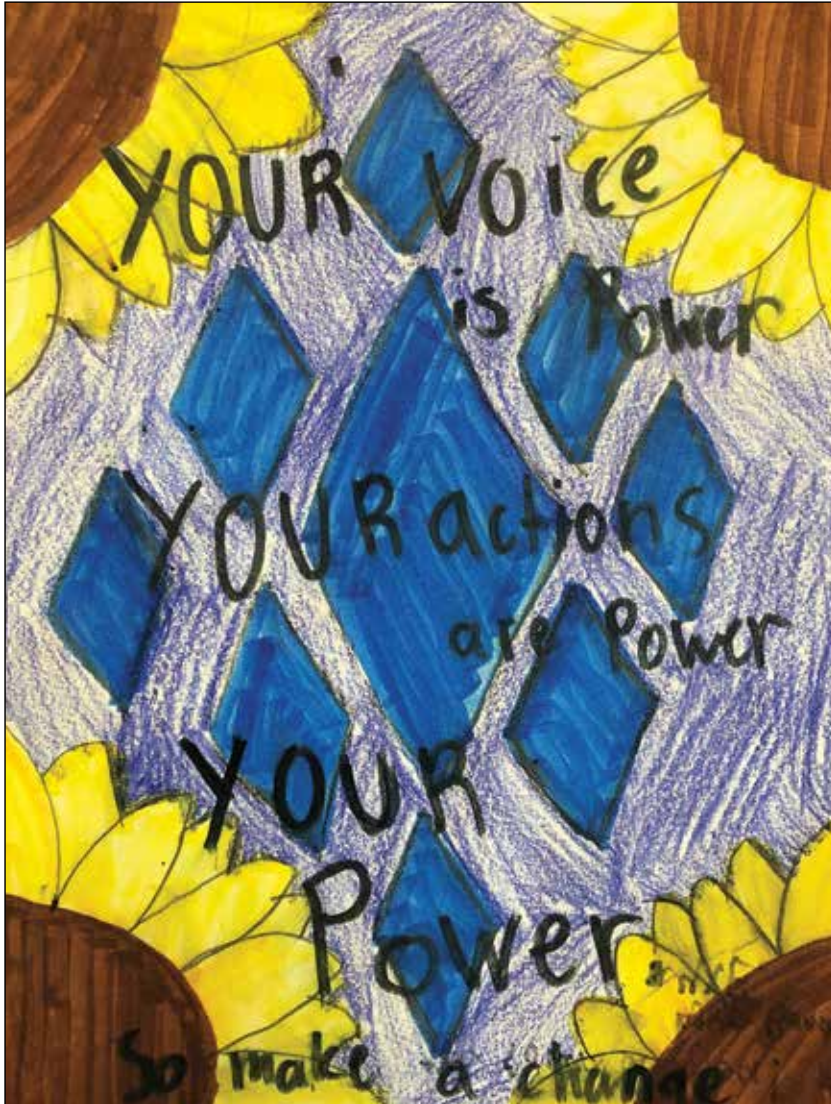
By Inaaya, Grade 6

Power is the blazing sun  
The ability to create lush lands  
And grow beautiful greenery  
But also to dry out the world  
Cracking and crumbling  
All life fading from view

Power is a child's smile  
One of the strongest powers of all  
The beauty and innocence of childhood  
Which the people who were lucky enough to experience  
Will never forget

Power is in united arms  
The strength of which is immeasurable  
When hearts are together in one cause  
The ability of those people  
Is never ending and steadfast

Power is in every person  
A small flickering candlelight in some  
A burning bonfire in others  
Alight in all souls  
Ever ablaze  
Keeping our spirits alive



Kylie, Grade 4

## Words Have Power

By Koura, Grade 4

Words have power,  
 Falling strong, sometimes cutting like blades.  
 Light has power,  
 Destroying shadows, giving light.  
 Thoughts have power,  
 Creativity burning through doubt.  
 Actions have power,  
 Standing up has power,  
 Standing up for your beliefs,  
 Thinking, **knowing** you can.

I have power,  
 Being me forever,  
 Being **powerful** forever.

## Bring Me There

By Clara, Grade 5

Bring me to a place where power is words,  
 Power is getting the nerves,  
 To speak up for someone who is sad, or helping someone who is mad.  
 Bring me to a place where you sing all day,  
 And all of the kids just play.  
 Where the rocks feel rough  
 And the wind blows a gust  
 Of dust and sand into the air.

## Power Poem

By Ja'Liyah, Grade 3

Power  
 Strong kind  
 Listening learning encouraging  
 Love empathy happiness respect  
 Fighting standing up dancing  
 Magic electricity  
 Strength



*Oliver, Grade 10*

## **Lives Matter**

*By Gabi, Grade 2*

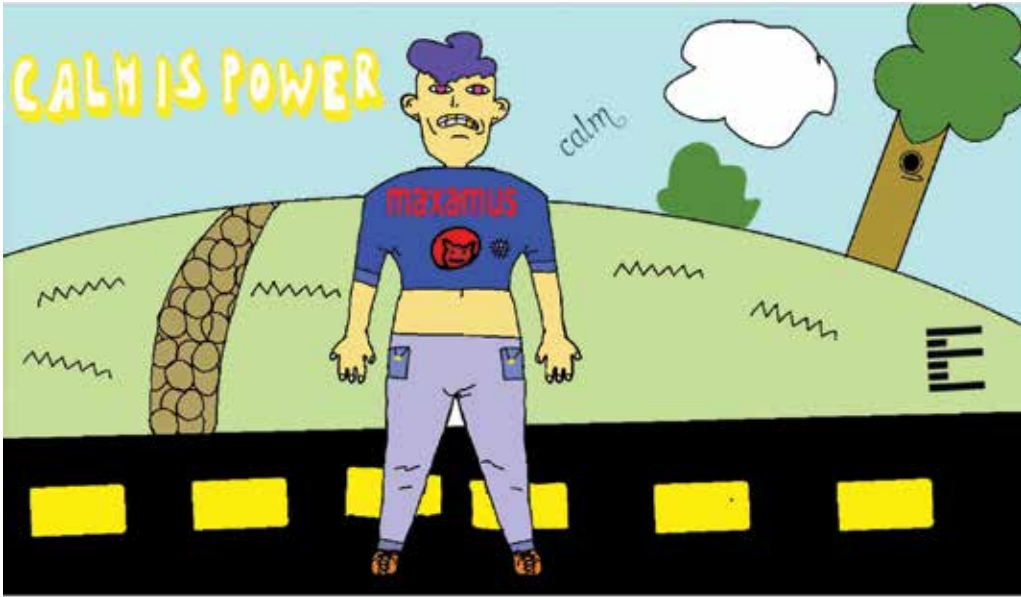
Letting people live is caring  
I feel bad about it  
Very violent  
Eager to end this  
Stop fighting

Make peace  
Ask how do you feel  
Try to make things better  
Try to not have so much killing  
Every person matters  
Really, no one deserves to die

## **Power Poem**

*By Seraphina, Grade 37*

Power  
Strong powerful and standing up for  
people  
Never give up be encouraging  
Use there power to get strong  
Brave save people have empathy  
Love people no matter what  
Have power in you and have kindness



Isaac, Grade 4



Sweden, Grade 8



Louisa, Grade 8

# Happiness

By Kalia, Grade 7

Happiness is a powerful word  
 A word that describes my tingly feeling  
 People talk in their excited, singing voice  
 People who are happy to hear the word happiness

Isn't it necessary to see your smile and say I love my world?  
 Nothing compares to seeing you smile, bringing us happiness  
 Easy to say but hard to show

Something that I wonder,  
 if I smile would it make other people's days?  
 SHINING MY WORLD  
 MAKES ME SMILE



Makenzie, Grade 3





Tayden, Grade 4

## Ocean Pollution

### *Ocean Pollution*

Dear Roseville Community,

I love the ocean and the life in it. But due to the pollution of the ocean, now there is less of that. Littering was traced back to the 1960s! Each year 10% of 260 tons of trash finds its way into the ocean whether by wind or by littering. 70% of that trash sinks to the bottom of the ocean where it harms the seafloor and the animals that live on it.

Pollution in the ocean is not a good thing. Soon enough there will be as much trash in the ocean as there are hairs on everyone's head! For example, we put trash and chemicals in the water we drink but still don't care. It is selfish to think, "Oh it's fine it doesn't do anything to me anyway". It doesn't now, but in time it will. The trash will be so great and the next generation will be the ones to take responsibility for your mess.

We as a people have the power to help the ocean and stop the pollution. Even if you don't think you can make a difference, you can! You have the power to help the ocean and that is what matters. To stop the growth of pollution there are things you can do to help! One way to help is by using less plastic and using reusable bags, water bottles, and straws instead! You can recycle! There are many ways to stop the pollution of the ocean yet we still hurt the ocean environment

Because of these reasons we should help stop pollution and save our oceans! We should try to reduce that 10% of trash into a 0 so that we can enjoy the wildlife and water our ocean gives us.

Sincerely, Agape



Mason, Grade 8



Luke, Grade 8

# More power!



*Madison, Grade 6*

## The Morning I Found Out

*By Jenna, Grade 8*

Opening my eyes  
forgetting everything about my dream  
not knowing what would happen  
in a couple of weeks,  
I looked at my phone and saw a  
text from my mom  
“You don’t have school for two weeks”  
but not thinking anything of it,  
who knew that everything would shut down?  
I didn’t for sure,  
I will never forget that day,  
not for a good reason,  
but I will never forget it

## Powerful

*By Adele, Grade 4*

Not many people know how to talk about power  
nor how to explain it.  
They usually have to do it or use it.  
There are a lot of different ways to use power,  
but there are two kinds of power that  
People zoom in on and blur out the others  
These two are using it in a bad or mean way and  
Using it in a good and kind way.  
for example a mean or bad way is bullying someone  
You have the power by controlling them with your anger and or in a physical way,  
A good example of a good kind of power is  
someone who is helping you and being kind to you.  
You can choose what kind of power you want to have and make a good decision.  
Sincerely, Agape



*Salih, Grade 7*



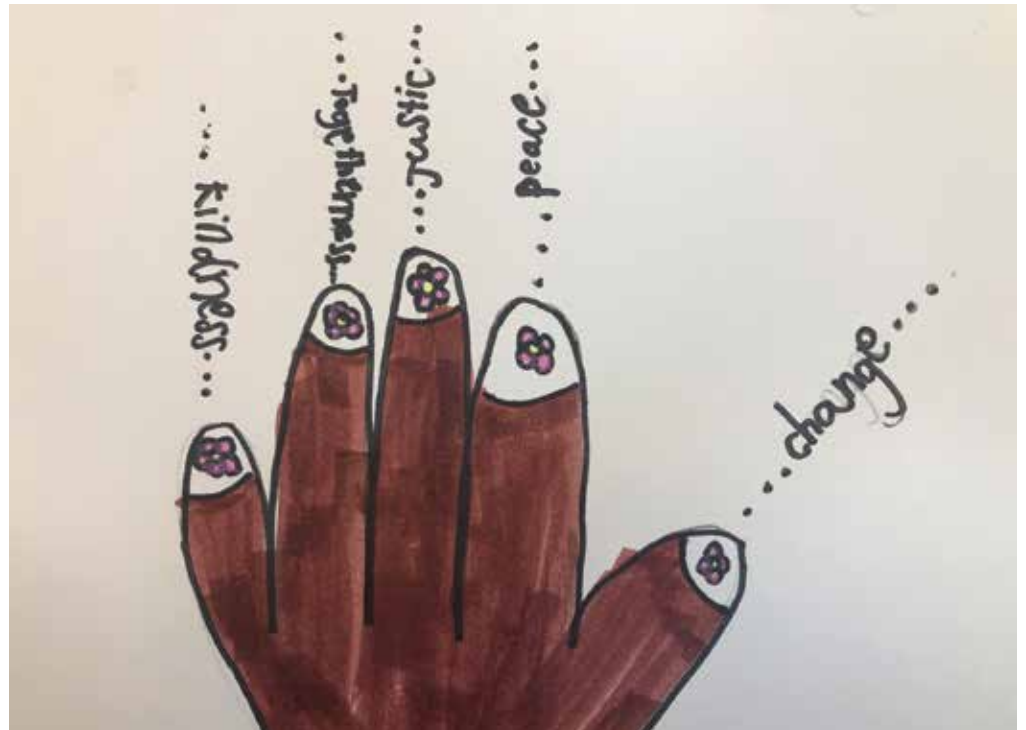
Sienna, Grade 6

## Puzzle Piece

By Deven, Grade 8

14

Wake up  
Look around and don't frown  
When I tell you  
The world doesn't revolve around you I mean it  
You're a tiny piece to the biggest puzzle called life  
This is a wake up call to realize  
You're a small piece to the puzzle  
How big your piece is and can get depends on you  
You can be someone who decides their piece size  
You can choose which pieces you connect with  
So remember you're nothing but small piece  
So wake up realize your worth



Maura, Grade 3



## **The Power of Fire**

*By Ella, Grade 5*

It glows bright in the night,  
It reveals everything in sight.

As it dances you can see that it is yellow,  
That makes it all the more mellow.

It cooks things we eat,  
In just one heartbeat.

During long winter nights,  
Just stay by the light.

Just be careful over there,  
For it can spread everywhere.

When animals go near it,  
They instantly fear it.

It can burn down any tree,  
It can even burn me.

It will never tire,  
For it is the power of fire.

*Arianna, Grade 5*

# Pride!

By Evan, Grade 4

What is pride?

Pride is not being afraid to express who you truly are.

Pride is not caring about the negative things that people say.

Pride is ignoring the one bad thing in life and focusing on the five good things.

Pride is letting people help when you're going through your darkest moments.

Pride is saying I do matter.

Pride is realizing that people care about you, even if it's only me.

Pride has an entire month dedicated to it.

Pride is loving who you love, and not letting people stop you.

Pride is loving your appearance.

Pride is loving who you are.



Evan, Grade 4

Express who you are, don't try to hide who you are.

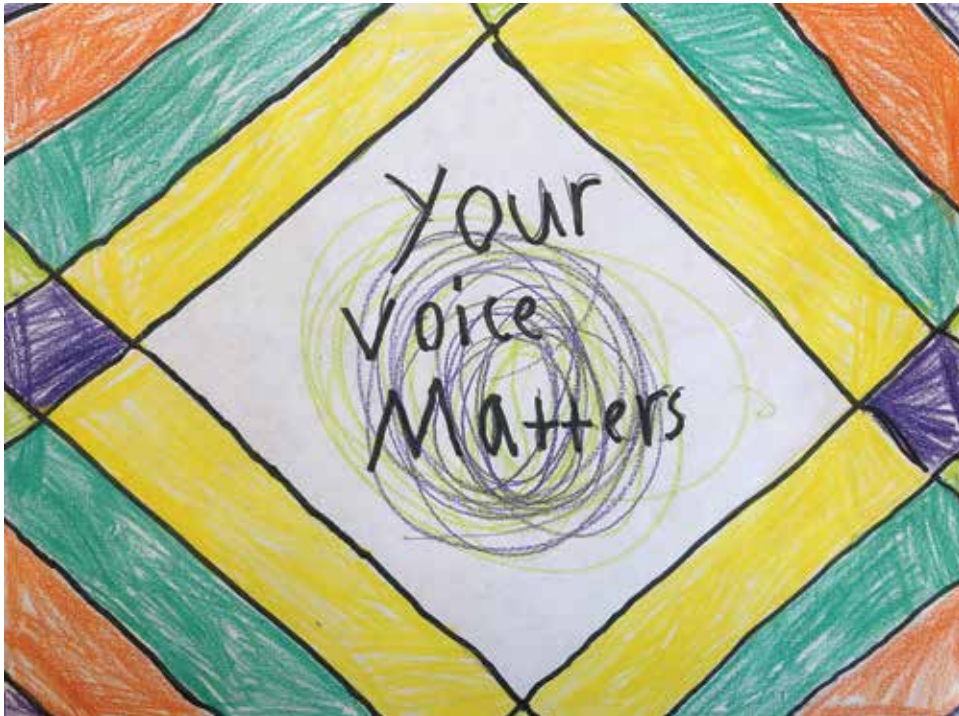
Be proud of who you are.

Author's Note:

*I know that you can't just tell someone not to be afraid and have them never be scared again, and you can't tell someone to be proud and have them immediately be proud of who they are. Anxiety and stress plus everything else anyone could have going on in their life has a giant impact on the way people feel and act. I am not part of the LGBTQ+ community but I am trying to spread the fact that homophobia and any other type of discrimination to any group of people is not okay. Especially because unless you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, LGBTQ+ people have no effect on you or your relationships and so we shouldn't discriminate towards someone who has or is something they can't control.*



Reina, Kindergarten



*Koivu, Grade 4*

## **The Power We Hold**

*By Makayla, Grade 6*

What does power mean to you?  
Does it mean controlling everything and everyone in the world?  
Does it mean being able to control yourself?  
Does it mean being able to hold fire?

Power can mean many different things,  
It only depends on how you use it and see it.

You might say, "I'm a kid. What power do I hold?"  
You might not know, but you hold just as much power as adults.

You can't buy power, because you already have power.  
Power comes from who the person really is.

There are many types of power that each of us hold:  
The power of writing,  
The power of art,  
The power to be able to accept mistakes.

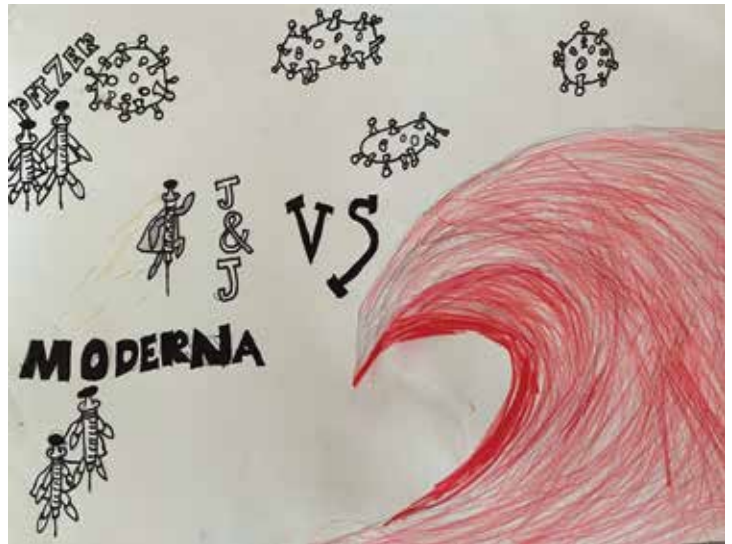
We all have our own power.  
Maybe we haven't discovered it yet,  
Maybe we already have.

All we can say for now  
Is that power  
Comes from everyone  
If they put their heart and mind into it.

# The Power of Fire

By Evyn, Grade 8

As the COVID year has gone by,  
I never really kept the concept of time in mind.  
Now there's only thirteen weeks left,  
and I'll be in ninth grade in no time.  
There's thirteen weeks left.  
I'll survive.  
To put it bluntly,  
this has been the worst school year ever.  
I thought it would be awesome,  
to have extra time off of school,  
But now?  
There's thirteen weeks left.  
I'll survive.  
It's been hard to stay focused on zoom,  
and now that there's people in the classroom,  
it's even harder.  
You can't even hear the kids in the room.  
But does it matter?  
There's only thirteen weeks left,  
I'll survive.  
I hate zoom.  
It's so depressing.  
But I understood the conditions,  
when I chose to stay home full time,  
so I can't really take away your time to whine.  
There's thirteen weeks of school left.  
I'll survive.  
Why should I pity myself?  
I just need to reset my mind.  
I plan on trying hard,  
and staying focused on next fall.  
Why not?  
There's only thirteen weeks left,  
After all.



Wesley, Grade 6



Charlotte, Grade 4