

Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart

# The Quill



Anniversary Edition

Volume 19 2023-2024



# The Quill

The literary-art magazine of



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**Volume 19**

**25th Anniversary Edition**

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# The Quill

## Volume 19

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The Quill is an annual publication of Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart. Since 2020, the magazine has been digital rather than print. Digital editions are available to the general public through the school's website [www.princetonacademy.org](http://www.princetonacademy.org). The decision to focus on the 25th anniversary was chosen by the staff, and a contest was held to determine the cover design. Writing and art were chosen by the editorial board and approved by Mrs. Benditt over the course of the school year. Submissions were voluntary. No costs were incurred in its publication. The layout was created on InDesign, and the font used is Acumin Variable Concepts with Marker Felt Thin applied to the titles. The editorial board would like to thank Mrs. Benditt and the administration for their support.



# Foreword by Mrs. Benditt

Dear Reader,

After a challenging year, in which our beloved Princeton Academy almost closed its doors, the editorial board and I are pleased to present the twenty-fifth anniversary edition. In this edition, students focus on their favorite people, places, traditions, and memories of the school. We hope that you enjoy these memoirs and look forward to creating many more as our school joyfully continues. We dedicate this edition to our new Interim Head of School Mrs. Kathy Humora.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lorraine Benditt



My School by Chase Clewell

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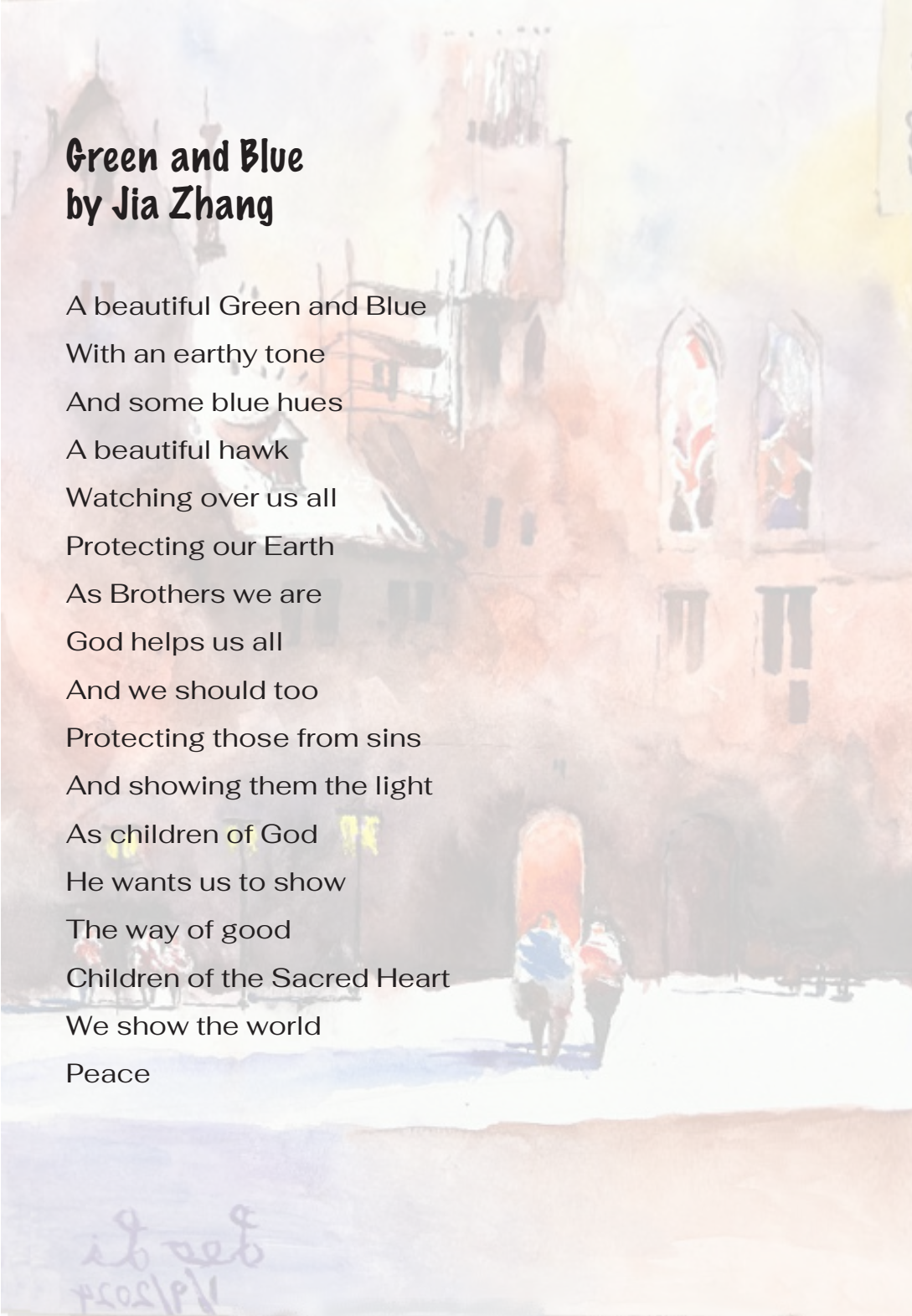
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Academia by Leo Li



## **Green and Blue by Jia Zhang**

A beautiful Green and Blue  
With an earthy tone  
And some blue hues  
A beautiful hawk  
Watching over us all  
Protecting our Earth  
As Brothers we are  
God helps us all  
And we should too  
Protecting those from sins  
And showing them the light  
As children of God  
He wants us to show  
The way of good  
Children of the Sacred Heart  
We show the world  
Peace



## A New School

by Jessie Li

When I first visited PASH, I felt like I was made for the school. I decided to come here and hoped to have a great experience. My first thought in the middle of my shadow day was: “This place is kind of small, but it gets the job done.” I felt that way until I saw the gym. My overall impression of this school skyrocketed because of that first experience seeing a gym basically the same size as the main building itself. Then the rest of the day went on, and I had a great experience.

Before I transferred to PASH, I went to a public school called Millstone River Elementary School. Though I was able to make many friends, I was limited to learning what was possible. Instead, my parents and I decided to try a private school hoping for me to get a better education. We agreed that I should go to either Chapin School or PASH. During my visit at Chapin, I saw that its educational system, its sports system, and its effort to make it the best for its students were weak, like a needful animal, and that is one of the reasons I chose PASH.

On the first day of school I nervously walked in and saw everybody talking to each other just like my old school. This gave me a feeling of confidence and helped me get to where I am now. In conclusion, PASH has given me many opportunities to challenge myself to the greatest of my abilities and given me a new way to see many things in life.

## The Grotto

by Baxter Sandoval

Do you have a favorite place to go when you just need to get away from the noise? The grotto is mine. The grotto is by far my favorite place on the Princeton Academy campus. It’s so peaceful and quiet. Unless there is someone walking around, the only things you can hear are birds chirping and sometimes little animals rustling around in the bushes. The stones slope up to form the peaceful grotto in the side of a hill, forming an overlook from which you can see into the forest. The stone benches curve from one end to the other. The moss gives it a wilderness look. All this collectively creates my favorite place at PASH.

Sometimes a teacher will take us or let us go to the grotto. It’s better alone, but as long as the group is quiet, it’s just as peaceful. Once, a teacher had us build forts out of sticks, and the grotto was the perfect place to find the materials. There is also a creek not too far from the grotto that you can see from the middle of the hill. The creek is very tiny and barely qualifies as a stream. It’s only about six inches wide, but it’s very long.

This is why my favorite place at PASH is the calm, peaceful grotto tucked in the forest on the bottom of Acorn Hill. I suggest that if you visit PASH, you should set aside some time and go to the grotto.



School Seal  
by Will Lawler

## Favorite Places

### The History of PASH by Sam Battaglia

In 1998, Princeton Academy was incorporated as a Sacred Heart school for boys. Olen Kalkus was appointed as the school's headmaster, and the school received \$1 million to purchase a permanent home. One of the buildings that was acquired was the Manor House, which hosts performing arts and other classes today. The Manor House was originally built as the home of Helen and Thomas Dignan but was sold to the Marianites of the Holy Cross, who preserved the building as an institution for learning and an architectural treasure. In 2015, the Manor House was renamed to the Kalkus House, named after the headmaster Olen Kalkus. The Our Lady of Princeton property was purchased in 2000. The school raised more than \$2 million, and \$6 million was borrowed. The Manor House and the Our Lady of Princeton property remain as parts of Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart today, both as learning centers and as pieces of history.

Later in 2004, Princeton Academy was approved to build a new Athletic Center and Convocation Center by Princeton Township. The two new buildings started construction a year later and were finished the next year.

The Athletic Center is now used as a gym, benefiting the health and well-being of students. Before the centers were finished, Princeton Academy had received a membership in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools and began its work on the Sacred Heart Commission of Goals. In 2007, Princeton Township approved the construction of the Chapel Library, along with the expansion of the athletic fields. These were finished in 2008, along with a greenhouse. The Chapel Library was constructed by converting an old chapel into a school library, and it is now a great learning environment for students at Princeton Academy. In 2012, the "Building for Our Boys" campaign was launched to complete the Master Plan aiming to renovate and build upon the current Princeton Academy buildings, and in 2013, the Y Wing renovation was completed as part of the plan.

These school buildings have helped me learn throughout my two years here. The gym has helped me to become more competitive and improve my sports skills. The main school building is where most of the the learning and interaction with my peers takes place . In these buildings, so many classmates and I have had success, happiness, and encouragement.



Kalkus House by Jack Crosby

## Kalkus House History by Jack Crosby

The Kalkus House is an important part of the Princeton Academy campus. The Kalkus House was first constructed in 1930 to be a 22 room house for Helen and Tomas Dignan. It was the largest and most elegant house designed by Rolf Buahan. Rolf Buahan was one of the most prolific architects of his time in Princeton. Tomas and his wife Helen had been married for a few years before building the Kalkus House. Tomas was a Princeton University graduate and a football and baseball star. When he graduated from Princeton University, he held various positions, for example as athletic director at The Lawrenceville School. He also worked in the insurance and motion picture industries, and at one time was a candidate for the U.S. Congress.

They had four children living with them in their house; three boys and one girl, and the children were entertained and treated lavishly. The second floor of the house included eleven bedrooms – one for each Helen and Tom, two for the children, two

for nannies, and five for houseguests. Helen and Tom were regularly featured in newspapers. One of those newspapers was the Princeton Herald in 1947, and it commented on the reception of one of their debutante daughters. “Mr. and Mrs. Dignan and their daughters received in the morning room, which was decorated, as was the entire first floor, with bouquets and baskets of flowers received by the debutante. Mrs. Dignan was gowned in black satin, and her corsage was of white orchids. Miss Dignan wore an afternoon gown of gold lamé.” As you can see from this excerpt, they were famous and rich. This is what it was like for Helen and Tom when they were the owners of the house.

When the school bought the property, they bought the Kalkus House with it. Before the school bought the house, it had been purchased from the Dignans as an art showhouse. Some changes that were made from the original house are the chandelier, light fixtures, and some decorating in the bridal suite. Today the Kalkus house is still used for lots of activities. Some include theater arts and some meetings. The Kalkus house plays an important role in the school campus.



# The Library

## by Andrew Chen

One of my favorite places on the PASH campus is the library. I often spend time after school in the library, either reading, doing homework, or having fun with friends.

The spot I like the best inside the library is near the wall on the left, next to the computers. It is quiet, yet featureful. The afternoon sun shines through the vivid and colorful stained glass windows and projects its beautiful colors onto the wall. During certain parts of the year, the sun shines just right through the windows to make discernable, and sometimes crisp and clear, images from the window onto the ground. When I have had a rough day at school, sometimes just looking up from my favorite reading spot brings me the peace I need.

I also really enjoy being in the library to find books I love to read. When I struggled with choosing a book to read, the librarian Mrs. Dowling could always give me great suggestions on finding the right books. She would also recommend other series I might like based on what I had read and the questions I asked her. I really enjoyed reading all the books Mrs. Dowling recommended. Some of her recommendations are still my favorite books.

The library provides a great venue for hanging out with friends. When I was a new student, I could meet new people and get to know others better. Even though we are such a small community, we still don't get to meet people from other classes a lot. The library also is home to many other activities, such as chess and homework. I got to meet and know so many more people from other classes and grades just by spending some time in the library with them.

Spending time in the library is a won-

derful experience, as it provides a great place to make friends and have fun, such as playing chess. The beautiful library meanwhile serves as a great place for students to establish a close community through their daily interactions. Best of all, the hundreds of books lining the bookshelves each contain a story and a world you can dive into, with beams of colored light streaking overhead.

## A Special Place

### by Waliyy Mullaly

PASH is a special place  
everyday we are looking  
forward to recess to play  
down below in the fields where lay  
all the fun and memories  
recess soccer/football field is a place where  
we feel  
like we are all Messi or Ronaldo  
running around chasing the ball  
up and down up and down  
"the next goal wins!" they shout  
as they come back into the game  
after being eliminated in a game of World Cup  
having no referees makes it  
a fun but different experience  
recess soccer/football  
is something you must try  
because once you do  
i promise you'll never want  
to miss a recess again  
PASH certainly is a special place

## **My Favorite Place on Campus** **by Anthony Hung**

My favorite place on campus is the recess field in front of the main building. This recess field is primarily for the 5th, 6th, and 7th graders, but sometimes 8th graders also play on it. It is made up of two parts and is one of the largest spaces on campus. The smaller part is closer to the entrance to the main building and has a ring of blue Adirondack chairs on it. The bigger part contains a gaga pit, soccer goals, and a few picnic tables.

During my time here at PASH, I have made so many memories. In my Lower School days, I remember sitting on an Adirondack chair and waiting for the bus to arrive. When I turned into a middle schooler, I hung out on this field everyday for lunch and morning recess. I remember playing gaga a few times during 5th and 6th grade, and I remember walking around and hanging out with friends. This place has also not just been a place for fun, but also a place for intellectual learning. In the event of a sunny day, teachers would take us outside so that we could do our classwork in the sun. This made learning a lot more enjoyable.

Another reason why this place is my favorite place on campus is because of the events that are hosted on it. Every year at the beginning of October, our school hosts a bonfire on this field. I have been to this event multiple times, and I can confidently say that this is one of the school's best traditions. Tents with snacks are put up, and this year we even had pizza. The air is full of excitement as the wood is set aflame, and then everyone huddles around the fire, feeling the pleasant heat in the cool weather.



Recess by Sean Park

## **The League** **by Asa Gee**

One day when we were going out to the playground back when I was in Lower School, I ran to the top platform of the playground equipment for no particular reason. "I win," I declared to my friends. The next day, I did the same. On the third day, my friend caught on. He called, "Second Place." From that day on, we'd race to the top of the playground equipment. Gonzalo found a loophole where he could just jump and touch the top from the bottom. That's when we decided to make official rules. When you set foot on the top platform of the playground equipment, you would be numbered First, Second, and so on. That's it! Still to this day, if we have an opportunity to go to the playground, it's still a race to see who will get first in The League.



# Fun Times at the MAAC

By Vincent Li

The MAAC is where we have PE;  
The MAC is where we have Mass.  
In the MAAC, we have lots of glee.  
Mr. T, Mr. Clewell, and JP,  
Our teachers for PE.  
Father Tom  
Is the one to preach.

We listen as he speaks,  
And we watch as he walks  
When we play kickball,  
We run like cheetahs.  
The MAAC is where we have PE;  
The MAAC is where we have Mass.  
In both we have fun  
Without any pause.



MAAC by Vincent Li

## The Tie Ceremony by Yidrew Chen

At Princeton Academy, the tie ceremony marks our upcoming transition from middle school to high school. The ties themselves represent a strong brotherhood and links you to other members of the Princeton Academy community.

This year, the ceremony started with multiple small speeches. Mr. Stevens talked about examples of leadership. Mr. Jeans and Mr. Harrington talked about what the tie meant to them. Mr. Land recited a poem called “Man in the Mirror” about not cheating yourself by pleasing the man in the mirror, yourself. Finally, Mr. Dugan explained the symbolism of the ties.

One by one, all the 8th graders were called up to the podium to receive their ties. When we got up to the podium, we read the names of younger students and gave some reassuring words about the school year ahead. This showed that since we were now the leaders of the school, everybody would be looking up to us and that it was our responsibility to act as leaders.

Finally, the ceremony ended with Mr. Dugan attempting to teach us how to tie our ties. Some of us got it, but some of us still can't tie our own ties without the help of Jason Tatum.

The tie ceremony serves as more than just a symbolic gathering. The ties themselves represent more than just an adornment. They embody the values and goals of PASH. They also reinforce the friendships and brotherhood within the community.

## Moving on by Allen Chen

As the talking died down, I could feel the eyes of the students focus on the class of 2024. All of us had just started school, and we were asked to attend the Tie Ceremony, which is a tradition that happens every year. Each year, the new eighth graders get a tie to represent their connection with Princeton Academy while the rest of the Middle School watches.

This year around thirty students attended, and each of us had to sit in a chair in the middle of the gym. As my teachers and Head of School Dugan gave short speeches about our class and their experiences, I nervously stared at our audience. Names were called. At first, I heard “Qi Ao” and watched him walk over to the podium to claim his tie. He said a sentence about his experience at PASH and swiftly returned to his seat.

After a few people had received their ties, I realized that I was next in line. After Brennan finished his acceptance, Mr. Dugan called my name. I was nervous as I walked up to receive my tie, but I took some deep breaths and calmed down. When I got to the podium, Mr. Dugan gave me my tie, and I shook hands with him and Mr. Stevens, Dean of Students. I spoke about a memory I had at PASH and went back to my seat. After all of us had received our ties, Mr. Dugan gave a closing speech, and we returned to our homerooms.

We were all happy to receive a neat tie and excited to use it soon for Mockbrook Academy. Mockbrook Academy is a day when the eighth graders are freed from regular classes to attend mock secondary school admissions interviews, conducted by the administrators and teachers at PASH. The Tie Ceremony was really exciting for everyone and getting the tie gave me more confidence during real interviews because I knew I was representing Princeton Academy.

# Favorite Activities

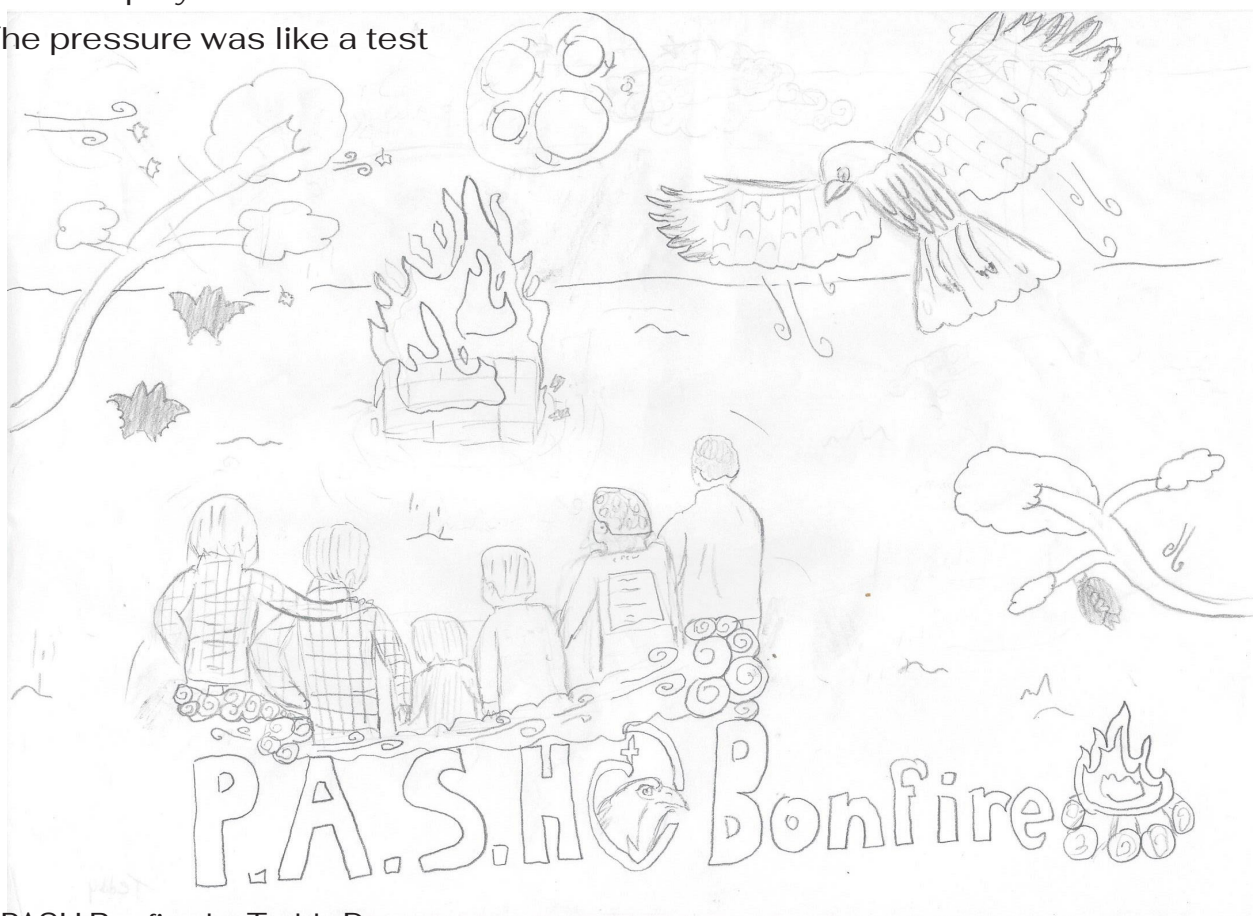
## The 2022 Bonfire

by Vincent Li

I remember the 2022 Bonfire  
We ran like we would never tire  
We played many games  
And never got bored  
No other bonfire was the same  
We watched as hawks soared  
The hot chocolate was so tasty  
The fire shone powerful and bright  
Firefighters protected our safety  
The doughnuts were the best  
I took a big bite  
When we played "Hide and Seek"

When we told scary stories  
We would shriek  
I remember the 2022 bonfire  
We ate  
We played  
We ran  
I remember the 2022 bonfire  
This one was my favorite  
All I wanted to do was savor it  
But once it was over  
All I could think about was the next  
one

The pressure was like a test



PASH Bonfire by Teddy Dugan

## Founder's Day Bonfire by Ford Pisano

I attended Princeton Academy for four years, and let's just say I have collected a lot of memories since that first day in fourth grade. However, the most memorable of those moments has to be my last bonfire at PASH. Every year, Princeton Academy has an annual gathering with the whole student body and its families. The bonfire lasts hours, and hundreds of people come. I always go with my family and plan beforehand to see which of my friends are coming.

The bonfire is in the middle of our recess field, which leaves so much room for activities. Usually parents will set up class tents with snacks and drinks for the kids to have during the event. There are also fire trucks and firemen there to make sure everyone has a safe night. When you get there everyone gathers around the bonfire to watch it get lit. After that, everyone goes and finds their friends to do whatever they want to do together. Sometimes people play football, soccer, or even manhunt.

I personally remember from my last bonfire that after the annual lighting of the fire, I went to go find my grade, and we made teams to play football. We played for so long it must have been more than an hour. The food from the parents is always so good and the whole night is so fun, and it always has been.

## Scorch by Teddy Dugan

Whistling winds,  
Pattering feet,  
Roaring flame,  
Glowing in the dark,  
A place that bustles every year,  
That brings everyone near  
And fills the whole school with cheer.  
Can you guess this momentous occasion?  
It passes on generation to generation  
And gets better every year.  
Wood stacked,  
Fields obstructed,  
And a torch  
Scorching our big  
BONFIRE!



Bonfire by Layne Park





The Bridge to Terabithia by Jack Crosby







## **Jingle Mingle**

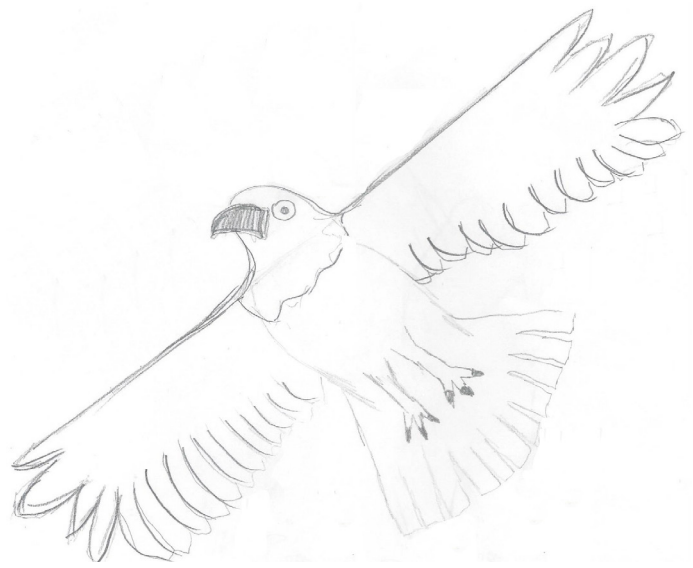
**by Gregory Fernandez**

My favorite event over the years at Princeton Academy has been the Jingle Mingle, and this is why I like it. The Jingle Mingle is a fun event that happens every year around Christmas time. There's a lot of food at the Jingle Mingle, and everyone is allowed to play together. There are brownies, sandwiches, cookies, and lots of appetizers. For the last Jingle Mingle, we played tag in the dark. That was the most fun time ever. For the last Jingle Mingle, nearly all my friends showed up. It was awesome, and I really liked it. Joseph got hot chocolate for me and all of my friends. We had sandwiches and then played TAG in the dark. That was hard, because you couldn't tell where the tagger was. I met my prayer buddy there! I was just eating and then I saw him in the crowd.

After seven years at Princeton Academy, I have learned to appreciate all its traditions. Seeing my younger brother experience the same traditions, Jingle Mingle being one of them, brings me back to the time when I, as a young Princeton Academy student, used to make Christmas ornaments, color in coloring books, and play with my friends. Caroling together was a big part of the experience. Now, as an older student, I may not appreciate this tradition as much and skip it to do other things. Nevertheless, I am grateful that it remains a strong tradition for not only the younger students but also the parents.

As I think about my years at Princeton Academy, I will always look back on my memories of the Jingle Mingle with fond-

ness and gratitude that such an amazing place exists. For the past 25 years, boys such as my brother and I have been so lucky to call it our second home. The Jingle Mingle is only one of the many traditions that makes my school a special place, and I hope that this is only one of many more celebrations in the long future of Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, a place I call home.



The PASH Hawk by Sean Park

## **School Clubs**

**by Vendansh Vajpayee**

School clubs: every Wednesday, every week, everybody goes to his club. There are so many clubs: E-sports Club, Board Game Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club, and last but not least, Chess Club.

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Chess Club is not very popular. Most people overlook it, thinking it could be boring. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Chess Club is like the hidden gem of clubs at PASH, a club that is criminally underrated and overlooked

Nevertheless, chess may look boring on the outside, but imagine yourself playing the game. Imagine yourself having to think constantly, trying to outsmart your opponent, having to calculate not only the next move but the move after that, just to win. One wrong move and your whole masterplan is in jeopardy. It may seem intense, and it is. Doing activities that are physically intense are challenging, like playing sports. However, activities that are mentally challenging are on a whole different level. That amount of stress is crazy, and losing is not fun. It never is. When you have tried to do everything in your power to outsmart your opponent, but they still win, it's hard. I know that for a fact. It just crushes you.

I love to play chess, and I've felt that crushed feeling a lot. No one likes that feeling. Nevertheless, chess is fun, and that's what matters. Whether you're just playing to pass the time or you're a Grandmaster, chess is always fun. That's why Chess Club is a hidden gem. Even though students nowadays like clubs like ESports, Chess Club is a classic, and it always will be.

## Recess by Luke Tsui

There are many reasons why we go to school. However, there is no way to deny that the most important aspect of school is education. Whether you are a popular kid or a shy kid, you are required to learn because that's school. However, it is also important to make good friendships and have fun at school. That's the point of recess. It's a fun time to make friends and have fun but also to have a break from the humid classroom.

One important reason that recess is essential is for a kid to have fun and hang out with his friends. I would not have known many people on the inside of our community without recess. Recess is a great time to play with friends. Even though they might be in your class, you can't really hang out with them until recess, or else your teachers will get mad.

Another reason why I think recess is an essential part of school is because you get a break. Pretend you're in an imaginary 7th grade history class, which is 90 minutes long, and it's a rainy, hot spring day. Not only do you want to go outside, but the teacher also wants to! Recess is a great time to clear your mind of troublesome thoughts and focus on other things, like the way a cloud is in the shape of a chicken.



PASH Athletics  
by Teddy Dugan





The Quiet Brook by Jack Crosby

## **Music Club**

### **by James Sullivan**

My favorite Princeton Academy activity is music, and my favorite club is Music Club created by myself, James Sullivan. Ms New is the music teacher and helps me out in my club. My friends and I had great fun in music class when we showed Mr Dugan our skills and during the Winter Concert when I was with the eighth graders.

Music Club performed at the Evening of the Arts, a night devoted to presenting work from the art and music classes. I love PASH music classes because they let me learn at my own speed.

I like that when I practice at home, I can make something. Before I know it, it's a nice song. Most of my favorite things come from music. Presently, I am on the college level for music even though I am only in fifth grade, and Ms New has helped me. PASH has an incredible music program that's so much fun.



# The Marvel Museum

## by Salman Tariq

What's one of your favorite memories at PASH? Well one of mine is when we went to the Marvel Museum in New York when I was in first grade. During Congé, a special day in which the whole Lower School suspends classes to enjoy a special treat, we went to the Marvel Museum. The entire Lower School attended.

We traveled in buses to New York City, and we met up in a room. Mr Mclean told us to be respectful, and then we went in. The first thing we did was go inside and just look around. There was an Iron Man exhibit with a bunch of infinity stones stuck in bigger stones around the museum. The infinity stones were really cool because each had a little description. At the Iron Man exhibit, all of his suits were displayed.

There was also this big Hulk standing in the corner. In addition, there were a bunch of comic strips on the walls. An Ant Man suit was in a big case. Near the end, we watched a video about how all the movies were made. The presenters showed us the props as well. The video was very immersive and kid friendly. It was also 3D, which added a nice touch.





## My Favorite PASH Memory by Bodhi Sykes

My favorite PASH Memory is learning about Medieval times in third grade.

First we had a project to make a castle out of cardboard boxes and other cardboard materials. Mrs. Schnitzler was my teacher in third grade.

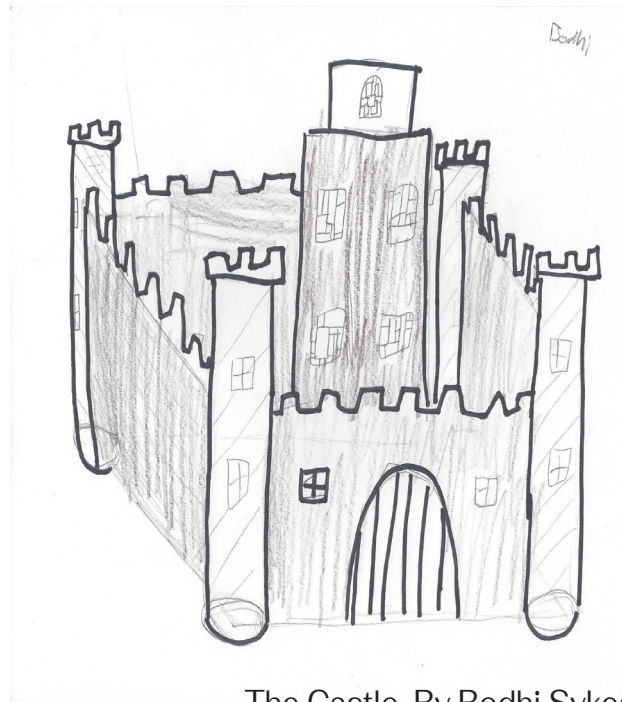
My group was in charge of the draw-bridge. We had to use yarn and cardboard and markers to make it look good and work. We also had other groups to make the walls, the first floor of the building, the second floor, and the third floor. We also had to make stained glass windows out of colored paper. We had to make paper trees and paper people. We made a really cool well out of paper and made it look like stone



The Knight by Layne Park

with a top made out of cardboard.

We learned about what it was like to live in Medieval times. Take my advice, that it was BAD. Also we learned that each floor was for a different purpose, like feasting, cooking, or lounging. It was really fun. We had to read lots of books. Some were fun; others not. We also watched videos about different knights and what the designs on their armor and flags symbolized. For a



The Castle By Bodhi Sykes

field trip, we went to Medieval Times and watched knights joust

We also read a book that was about the roles people played. It also talked about becoming a knight and what the knights in training were called at each stage. They would start as pages and then become squires and then finally become knights. There was also a section about kings and the laws they made.

We learned about what Medieval people ate and what they drank. People usually ate cabbage, beans, bread, eggs, and fish. They also drank ale, beer, milk, and wine.

Lastly, we made shields and put special animals and different designs on them for a knighting ceremony. Our teacher planned to have the ceremony in the Kalkus House, and we would be knighted with a sword. We also had a feast to actually feel how it was to be at a Medieval dinner. While we were getting knighted, we would get a medal, and our parents were there to watch. This is my favorite memory at PASH; what is yours?

## Medieval Times by Aiyana McCollum

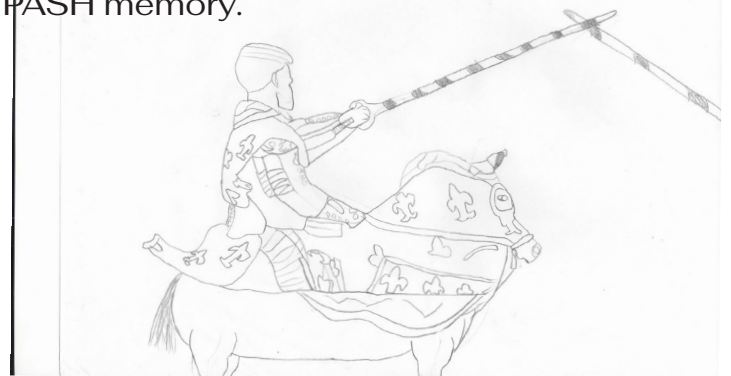
At a school field trip in third grade,  
  
We watched a sword fight  
  
That didn't use spades.  
  
Swords clanging; swords banging,  
  
Axes flying, tyrants smiling,  
  
Kids jumping in an uproar.  
  
Blue side winning;  
  
Then green side was sent to the floor.  
  
Red knight knocked blue off his horse.  
  
"No," we cried, but it was too late,  
  
For in the next gate  
  
Awaited sorrow  
  
For those robed in in blue.  
  
The black knight ruining dreams,  
  
Swinging sand into the air.  
  
People screaming, knights riding.  
  
Medieval Times.

## The Best Field Trip by Jase Johnston

In third grade, I went on a field trip to Medieval Times with the class of 2027. It was an hour bus ride. I listened to the roaring engine until the bus brakes squeaked to a stop. When the doors opened, we pushed and shoved to get out of the bus. We ran like a freight train pushing forward with excitement with our hearts pounding with energy.

Finally they let us into the arena to take our seats. I watched as the warriors came into the battle arena to take their positions. The King and Queen said, "Let the match begin!" The knights immediately turned to engage. I flinched as sparks flew off the blades, and maces flew around like birds flying up and down.

I watched them fight until the serfs brought out our meal consisting of a chicken wing and cornbread. They also brought root beer. I watched in amazement as the final round started. I glanced up and saw the knights bleeding out with sweat and heard their battle cries. The crowd roared like a lion; first one side then the other side. I cheered with them. Then the knight swung his sword one final time. It was the final blow! The crowd cheered at the knight who won. It was an intense battle, but the knight became victorious! That was a memorable PASH memory.



The Joust by Oliver Bogumil



# The Franklin Institute

## by Layne Park

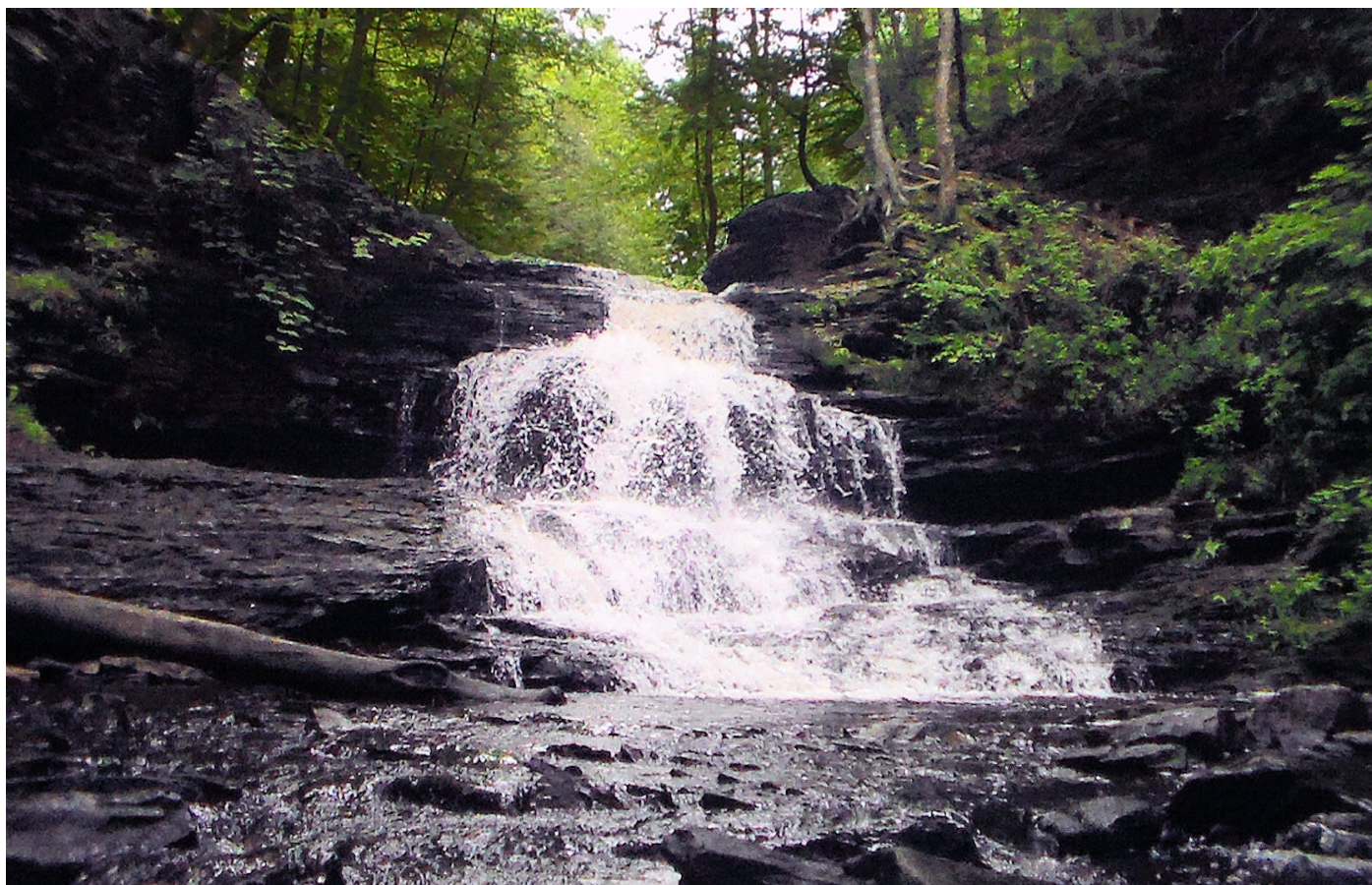
One of my favorite times in Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart is when we visited the Franklin Institute. There were displays of cool things, such as an electricity room, a heart and organ-ism room, a room of optical illusions, and more.

Our fourth grade class first visited the electricity room because we were learning about electricity in science class. There were a bunch of cool electrical items. My favorite is the orb. When you touched the orb, it sent static electricity down your body so your hair went up. Your body was filled with static, so

when someone touched you, they got shocked.

One of my favorite rooms was the heart room. It had a big playground that was in the shape of a heart. There was this lady who was showing us the eye of a cow. It was disgusting. Then we went to the sports room, which was filled with sports equipment and games. There was a game in which you had to try to jump and hit the highest button.

I loved this trip, and it is one of my favorite experiences at PASH.



The Falls in the Forest by Jack Crosby

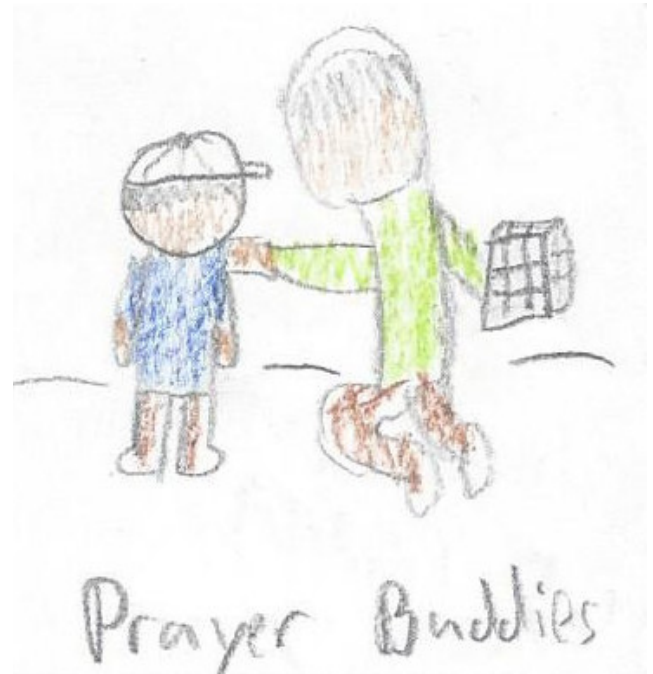
## Prayer Buddies

by Charlie Nastro

A very memorable tradition at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart is Prayer Buddies. My favorite Prayer Buddy is my first one. His name is DJ. He was the best. He was funny and nice.

My favorite activity to do with him was just play around, talk and have fun. He had such a big impact on me. My favorite Prayer Buddy activity that we did together was the Stone Soup. After reading the book *Stone Soup*, we made a soup out of ingredients that all the buddies brought from home, plus the broth and chicken that Mrs. Kazi provided.

I couldn't wait for fifth grade when I would have my own younger prayer buddy Peter to make the same memories together as DJ and I had made. I hope he will carry those memories on.



Best Prayer Buddies by Teddy Dugan

## The Water Walk

by Anthony Multari

At the beginning of the year, we read a book called *A Long Walk to Water* for a project called "Water for Life". It is about two kids who are totally different but who both have one thing in common. They are low on water. Every day, they have to walk hours to get unsanitary water so they can live. This project made me realize that not everyone is as fortunate as me. The project was a very memorable part of sixth grade at Princeton Academy.

Mrs. Benditt wanted us to understand what the characters in the book were going through, so one day we all got gallon

containers and filled them up with water at the creek on campus. We walked a whole mile with a full container of water that we carried. After that, I was totally exhausted and understood how hard it was to carry water for miles each day.

Once we were done, we were interviewed for the Princeton Academy website. We were asked questions like, "What was it like after?" or "Can you please explain the project to us?" We all answered at least one question with numerous details.

I feel very bad for the people that have to collect water everyday for many hours. All in all, this project gave me a deeper understanding of people who have a lot less than me.



# The Benefits of Independence within Science

## by Justin Zhang

During my first year in sixth grade at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, I walked through the maze of ISP (Independent Science Project) posters, unconscious of the perseverance and dedication behind them. However, once I entered the third trimester of seventh grade, I realized that there was a reason why we spent two months on this project.

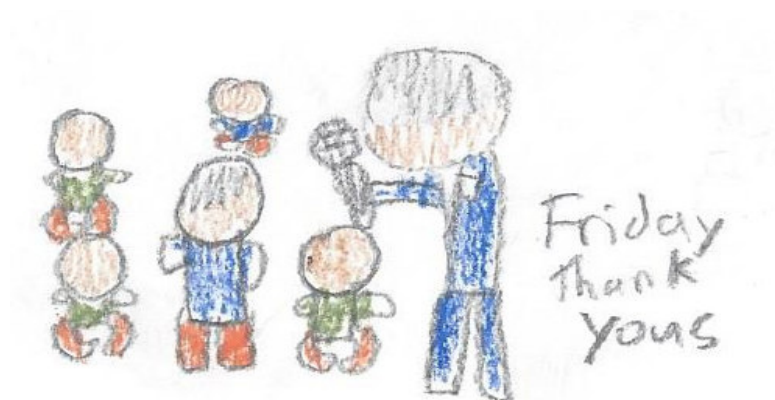
The ISP is a Princeton Academy tradition for the seventh and eighth graders. With three months left in the school year, students participating will begin formulating a project with a topic of their choice. Through extensive research and independent experimentation, students will present their passions with a poster.

The reason why the ISP is so important for both our grade and our growth is because it makes us practice many skills that are essential in daily life. This is a long project, and there is lots of work to be done, which requires students to use time management skills. Organization is also key so that the post-

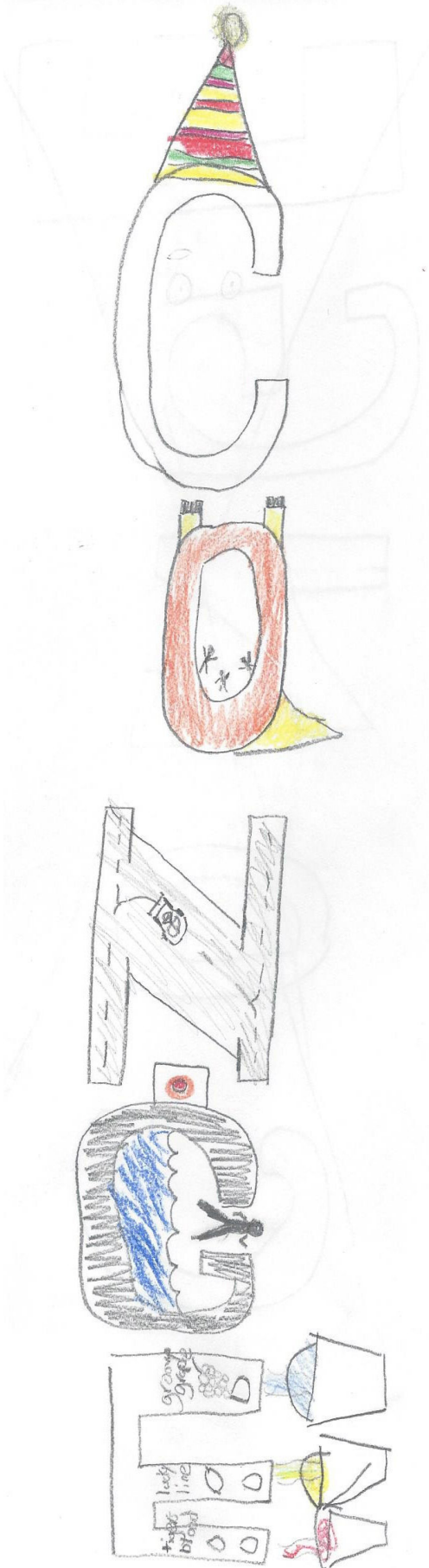
er looks good, and it should be easy to integrate information from the poster. Finally, public speaking skills are exercised during the ISP Expo. The ISP Expo is when the students will put up their posters for other students that are not participating in the ISP to see. Students will have to present their posters to the rest of the grade.

All of these requirements give so many benefits to students, but there is also a scientific aspect. Students will delve into what they are passionate about. This motivates students to learn more about what they love. A student can be an expert in his topic by the end of the year and can answer any questions regarding the subject.

Finally, the ISP helps students practice their time management, organization, public speaking, and help them delve much more deeply into a subject they are passionate about. After two years of the ISP, students will have a much better time getting out into the world and doing their own things.



Friday Thank You's by Teddy Dugan



# CONGÉ!!!

by Mikey Kim

It was just a normal day like any other. I was nonchalantly attending classes in the school that I'd only attended since the beginning of sixth grade. Was it fun? I had had the time of my life. I had been learning like I'd never been before, getting my grades way up, and actually engaging in class with fabulous teachers. The day was normal until it hit snack time and our Morning Show, an online program provided by the eighth grade class. It wasn't the first time I had seen it, but it just so happened that that very Morning Show was the catalyst to everybody's happiness that day.

The format was usually simple: announce the date, talk about the weather, sports, and everything that would happen throughout the day in our school. However, while the boys were making the weather forecast, a huge, bolded word popped up on the screen...

"Congé!!!"

The whole morning show cast screamed while noticing the word on the screen. Then my whole homeroom began to go nuts! The only problem was that I had no idea at all what Congé was. In the mist of everyone screaming, I couldn't help but smile, but I was beyond confused. It turned out that Congé is a super fun, crazy day that my school hosts once every year. There were many different stations for games, like flag football, laser tag, and fun bow and arrow training. There was ice cream too.

Every year, students are pumped for Congé to arrive, and this year is no exception. I'm ready for fewer classes and more fun!

# Traditional Congés

## by Julian Zhu

My favorite PASH tradition during my three years at PASH is Congé. Congé is a yearly tradition when the faculty and students are surprised with a day free of classes and filled with celebration and games, kiind of like field day, but with more excitement.

My personal experience with Congé has been magnificent. In sixth grade, Congé morning began like any normal day. I woke up, brushed my teeth, got dressed, ate breakfast, got to school, and got to class, until, strangely, the Morning Show, an online program produced by the eighth grade, wanted to make an announcement in the middle of class. At first, I was confused. Why would the Morning Show make an announcement in the middle of class? However, show's cast members enthusiastically announced that it was Congé!

From that point, the day changed. Classes were canceled, and the fun was began. First were the bouncy houses. They gave me the time of my life, making me feel like a little kid, bouncing around and carelessly playing. Next, I went into the gym to play airsoft, shooting at my classmates and ducking behind cover. After airsoft I went outside to claim my share of donuts from the donut truck, my favorite treat of the month.

Then it was lunch time, which went by in an instant. The final activities were archery, in which I had to shoot down the enemy's targets with a bow and arrow, and gel blasters, in which I had to take down my opponents with a gel blaster, the same as airsoft, still a blast. My day was coming to an end, and for the final activity, everyone in the Middle School was called for a gathering outside, where we all watched a play, which was funny and entertaining. What a wonderful day!



The Kona Ice Truck by Mac Henderson



# PASH Memories of Congé'

## by Bobby Casey

My favorite Princeton Academy memory is my first Congé. This special day with no classes was a carnival in the back of the Kalkus house. There was a bounce house, cotton candy, and snow cones. We had races and battles, like football. We played basketball and soccer, and it was the best day ever.

I am really thankful that the 8th graders were in charge of Congé. We could play all day long with no work. We had an amazing lunch from PAPA, which sent a food truck that served pizza.

Congé is a great way to experience



Surprise! by Teddy Dugan

the rich traditions of the PASH Community. The Middle School has to look out for students in the lower grades. It brings together the whole school with the experience of a lifetime.



The Falls in the Forest II by Jack Crosby

## **Congé' My Favorite** **by Conor Chen**

Over the many years I've been here at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, many great memories have been made, such as Field Days, Tie Ceremonies, and the Evenings of the Arts. Nevertheless, my very personal favorite of them all is Congé. Congé comes from the phrase day-off, or rather, in French, "Jour de Congé".

The main reason Congé is one of my very favorites is, without a doubt, because I've made so many memories from just that single event. Congé is just like Field Day but so much better with so many more features. We've played games, built teamwork skills, and had some treats at the very end. For example, we played games such as Jeopardy, in which we had to answer questions based

on the school's history and such.

Furthermore, we also went outside playing basic games one would experience on Field Day. During those games, we built teamwork and learned how to work together. Nevertheless, my favorite part of Congé is also, without a doubt, the part where we had ice cream at the end, but that's really just because I love ice cream.

Congé is amazing overall and over the two years I've been at PASH, it has held my very best memories. I believe that Congé will be my favorite out of many memories and always will be as it holds valuable memories that are sacred and will never be made again. Each year's Congé is truly a one time event, at least it feels like it is. Congé is one of many events that have brought the whole Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart community together all while having fun and making so many great memories!

## **Wolfy and Me, My Fourth Grade Experience** **with a Spider** **by Shane Moore**

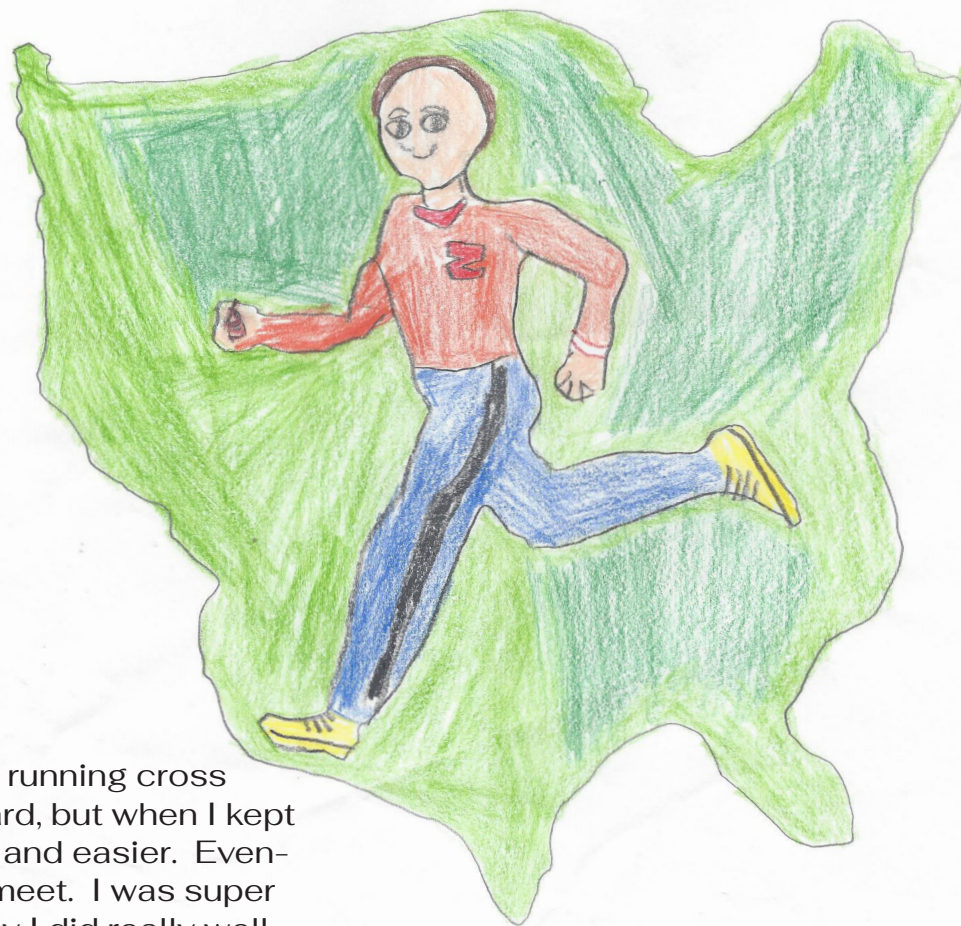
Creepy  
and sneaky,  
eight-legged,  
and freaky.  
But this one was different.  
He was under the carpet,  
Scary parts covered.  
He ran like a cheetah right over to me.  
His name was Wolfy.  
He was a spider but not scary:  
A wolf spider  
That was fluffy as a bunny.



Itsy-Bitsy Spider by Will Lawler



# Sports



## My Medal by Travis Kerr

When I first started running cross country, it was really hard, but when I kept practicing, it got easier and easier. Eventually, we had our first meet. I was super nervous, but surprisingly I did really well. I got third place, and after the race we got donuts and juice. When I went home, my parents were really proud of me because I got a medal the next day at school.

My coach congratulated me for doing so well for my first time. After school, I had practice, but this wasn't a normal practice. It was a four mile run; four miles are super hard. However, I was kind of excited because I wanted to know my one mile time. When I was running, I didn't know if I was doing well or not.

## Cross-Country By Travis Kerr

Then I saw the fastest runner on our team. That is how I knew I was doing well, but by the end my stomach hurt really bad. I felt so sick that I threw up. However, when I heard my mile time, I was super happy. I got an eight minute mile. If you don't know, that is a really good time for my age.

In conclusion, I really love cross country, and I am really grateful for my coach.



# Tennis

## by Colby Hartpence

I remember that day like it was yesterday. Driving down the cold road, the trees were bare and naked. Driving at a slow pace, we arrived after a couple of minutes to see the courts with the dark green and faded white paint of the clay. The balls in the fence were shaped like 2024. I walked in, the door creaking. I saw my coach; he was new this year. We waited for a few minutes until the others showed up. After a little while, everyone was there. We were ready.

After a quick introduction to the sport, we had our matches. I asked for mine. The word that came out of his mouth made my heart drop like an elevator with the cables cut. It was a classmate and a friend. He was about my height (5'3"). He also wasn't chubby nor skinny. He had semi-long hair, it was long enough to cover his forehead, and resembled a bowl cut. He was around my skill level, but I was better. However I could not get that into my head, I felt nervous because if I lost, I would be made fun of for weeks.

I stepped onto the court with my faded orange racket. With its brownish orange grip, it had been used for three years. I swallowed my courage and hit the ball. "In!" he yelled, indicating to me to continue playing. We hit back and forth. After a while, I won the point. My victory would be short-lived as I would lose three matches in a row. The score was 3-0, and one mistaken match could lose me the set. The score was 30-40, I was winning. The ball shot up in the air. Then, I spiked it as hard as I could. He dashed to hit the ball, but it was too far and fast for him to hit. I had won a match.

The score was now 3-1, I thought in my head, "I can win!" I went on a two game winning streak. Then it was tied 3-3. The next match decided who won. The score, once again, was 30-40; the ball shot up in the air. This was my chance; I could win, I was going to win. I swung the racket down. I closed my eyes knowing I had won only to open them to see him celebrating. I looked down at the net to see that the ball had hit the net and got caught in it. The game was tied.

After a couple of minutes, I had an advantage. I didn't want to lose this opportunity. The ball shot up. I SLAMMED IT! winning the match. My eyes closed and a smile came upon my face. As I yelled in victory. I knew I had come back from what some might consider impossible. I ran to tell my coach that I had won and that I would be ranked higher than him. I was so happy knowing that I had come back.

# Baseball

By Jack Barbrow

The weather was just starting to warm up. The flowers were just starting to bloom. One more thing that was just starting was baseball. We should be a good team because we had a lot of new players, and we looked great in practice. The first game was coming up soon, and we were ready. We had a great team and a great new pitcher. We crushed the first team we played against, and we almost even mercied them.

It was great even though I did not start, I still played a lot. It went this way for most of the season. In one of our next games, two people hit the fence off of a big hit. It was so much fun to play and watch all these awesome things happen. The whole season was pretty much just like those games, win after win. Nobody could stop us. We were the best team in the league by far until...

# Pickle Ball

by Max Wang

During my years at PASH, I have made wonderful memories. However, my favorite memory has to be the Pickleball Championship. The road to the Pickleball Championship was very hard and demanding. You would have to make it to the finals of the grade's playoff. If you wanted to have a chance, you needed a good win/loss record.

Going into the Middle School playoffs, my partner and I had an 11-3 record, which was good; however, I thought it could be better. I had to miss one gym class because of a doctor's appointment, and my

we played the team that we had beaten earlier in the season. The team we played was not even that good. All they had was a really good pitcher, but for us everything was going wrong. First of all, our pitcher was not feeling great, and our fielders were making sloppy plays and missing catches. This game made this memory almost not even make it into my favorite PASH memory. This game, which was our second to last game against PDS, where we lost 8 to 2, was devastating. Everybody was so upset because we thought that we were going to go undefeated.

That last game almost took baseball off the list for being my favorite PSH memory, but I still had fun through the whole season. It was really just that second to last game that made it not as fun, but I'm very glad that I got to play on that team. Our final record ended up being nine wins with one loss.

partner lost all three of that day's matches.

However, despite that setback, we would cruise through our matches, and reach the grade playoff finals rather easily, securing our spot in the Pickleball Championship.

On the day of the championship, I was really nervous but also excited. I was nervous because I wanted to do well, but I was excited because I was going to play in front of the whole school. The first match went pretty well. Our opponents weren't too experienced, and my partner and I were able to win pretty easily. For our semi-final match, we were playing a group of eighth graders, who were very experienced be-



# Field Day

## by Sean Park

Princeton Academy holds  
A lot of memories;  
They go by like a breeze.  
My favorite is Field Day;  
It's a memory that will stay.  
On Field Day no one studies;  
We play with our prayer buddies.  
We eat Kona Ice,  
And the pretzels are also nice.  
We play games like basketball;  
This memory is truly above all.  
When the day finally ends;  
We say bye to our friends.  
We go home with a smile;  
Next Field Day won't be for a while.



Field Day by Sean Park

*Continued from previous page*

cause they had both played squash. It was an intense match with a lot of back and forth, but in the end, my partner and I were able to come out on top with the victory.

At this point, I was getting very nervous. I had played two good matches, yet I had almost no confidence in myself. The whole school was intensely waiting for the final match to start. When we walked out and got ready to play, I could feel my whole body shaking, and my hands were sweating so much that I almost dropped my paddle.

The match started out great. My partner and I were playing great, and our opponent, an eighth grader who played squash, was struggling to win points. We got to two match points, and at this point I was thinking that we had won! However, things took a

turn for the worst.

We would lose both match points and were now trying to defend a match point. During this time, my hands were sweating so much, and I was so scared. However, I steeled my nerves and won the point by a nail-biting backhand down the line. We would go back and forth, and eventually it was down to a sudden death point. As I went for the volley, my heart dropped when I saw it go in the net.

Even though I lost, I still had a great time and had one of the most fun days at school during my years at PASH.

# Friends

## by Kalel Downing

Some of my favorite Princeton Academy memories have originated from my friends. The way that your friends can comfort you just feels special. Especially when you are feeling a certain way. Your friends are always there for you. Also, I love the funny times when your friends are making you laugh too hard to the point where you can't breathe. This is especially true when you need those laughs.

When you're feeling down, your friends will always help bring you back up. That's how you make those beautiful moments with your friends. That's what makes Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart special. It is because of the environment and the people around you, which boils down to your friends. Your friends are the people who create that good environment that makes you feel safe. Those safe times come from your friends, so do the funny times. All of those times create great memories at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, and those memories are the memories that you will hold onto for the rest of your life. That's how I got some of my favorite memories from the past because of my friends.

One of my favorite memories has to be the 2023 Blue/Green day. We got to do many things together as a community to have fun. The reason I bring this up is because all of our friends in our school are our brothers and create special memories that come from these kinds of events. We got to play a huge Capture the Flag game. You could put the football as the flag anywhere; that's why I liked it so much. One thing that made it memorable was the extent people went to try and capture the flag. Their attempts were so funny. One of my friends switched his blue shirt to a green shirt, so the Green Team would not notice him. He did get the flag. However, our coach caught him, so it didn't count. Also

one of my other friends got the flag and kept it while he climbed a tree so the other team couldn't score. Then when I tried to climb up the tree after him, I fell out of it.

That is why my favorite memories come from being with my friends because they can do things that will make me feel like I belong. They also make lots of things enjoyable in life.

## Mr. Clewell

### by Chase Clewell

My Dad

The one and only

My Best Friend

My Caretaker

My Influence

My Coach

Not just in sports, but in life.

He saw me get my first home run

Saw me go to my first day of school

Say my first words

Swim for the first time

Go to the movies for the first time

The list never ends

And I'm only thirteen

There is much more to come

He always said I'd be "too cool" for him by Middle School

If anything, I have only gotten closer to him.

He might be everybody's favorite

Teacher, Coach, and Mentor,

But he will forever be my favorite PERSON

Michael Jordan or Bald Eagle

Whatever you want to call him

He will forever be my

Teacher, Coach, and Mentor

But most importantly he is my

Best friend for life

# Friendship

## by Jerry Vertouzos

I have definitely developed my fair share of friendships at PASH that hold dear memories for me. These friends I have met are from across my journey, beginning in fifth grade all the way up to my current class of seventh grade at PASH. I will share a handful of the stories of friendships made at PASH that have been built on similar interests, on creativity, and on different personalities.

The first story starts in the beginning of fifth grade. I remember hearing kids talking about the NBA. At that time, I wasn't too familiar with basketball, but I knew enough to join the conversation. One of those kids, who is now one of my best friends, is Waliyy. Waliyy is an athletic kid who likes a lot of different sports and topics. As the year progressed, we were talking a lot in school about sports and video games. One day at the start of sixth grade, something clicked. There was this really popular game on Roblox called "Blox Fruits". It was a remade version of an anime called "One Piece". I remember we used to play that game so much that we were racing to unlock what was next. This story shows how similar interests can always help to form friendships. I hope to create more memories just like this.

My second story starts in the beginning of 6th grade when a lot of transfer students joined PASH. I remember trying to figure out the personalities of these new kids, and then I saw Connor. Connor was a quiet kid who really liked playing video games and creating new things. As I got to know him more by creating study guides and talking a lot,

he told me that he was going to start making youtube videos, as I was making them. He currently has almost 1000 subscribers and is making games for his Roblox group to try and find different methods to go big. This story shows creative interests can create friendships, and I hope that one day he can make it big on youtube and remember his roots and how he started.

My last story also started in 6th grade with another quiet kid named Sam. Sam appeared shy when he first arrived at PASH, but once he got to know me, Connor, and Waliyy, he started opening up. I saw that he loved the game of soccer as he is always following the big leagues and loves to watch them.. As the months went by, we started to hang out a lot inside and outside of school. This story shows that even different personalities can create connections in friendships.

In Conclusion, all of these friendship stories have helped build on my experiences at PASH. These friends have come along at different times and for varied reasons, but they are the ones I go to if I need help with something I am unsure about. Overall, this group of people have become friends at PASH with not just me but for everyone they have met.



Ties by Teddy Dugan



# INFECTION

by Teddy Dugan

Once on the playground my feet  
would fly.

When I was in the center, I'd let out a  
bellowing cry:

Infection!

Infection!

Once the cry was out it couldn't come  
back;

Everyone came like wolves in a pack.

Skunk in the barnyard we would start;

It was not for the faint of heart.

Once the infected was picked,  
The moments passed as time ticked.  
Everyone scatter! I would yell.

It was a game of survival, a game of  
chance,

A lethal battle, a lethal dance.

And when the brutal game was done,

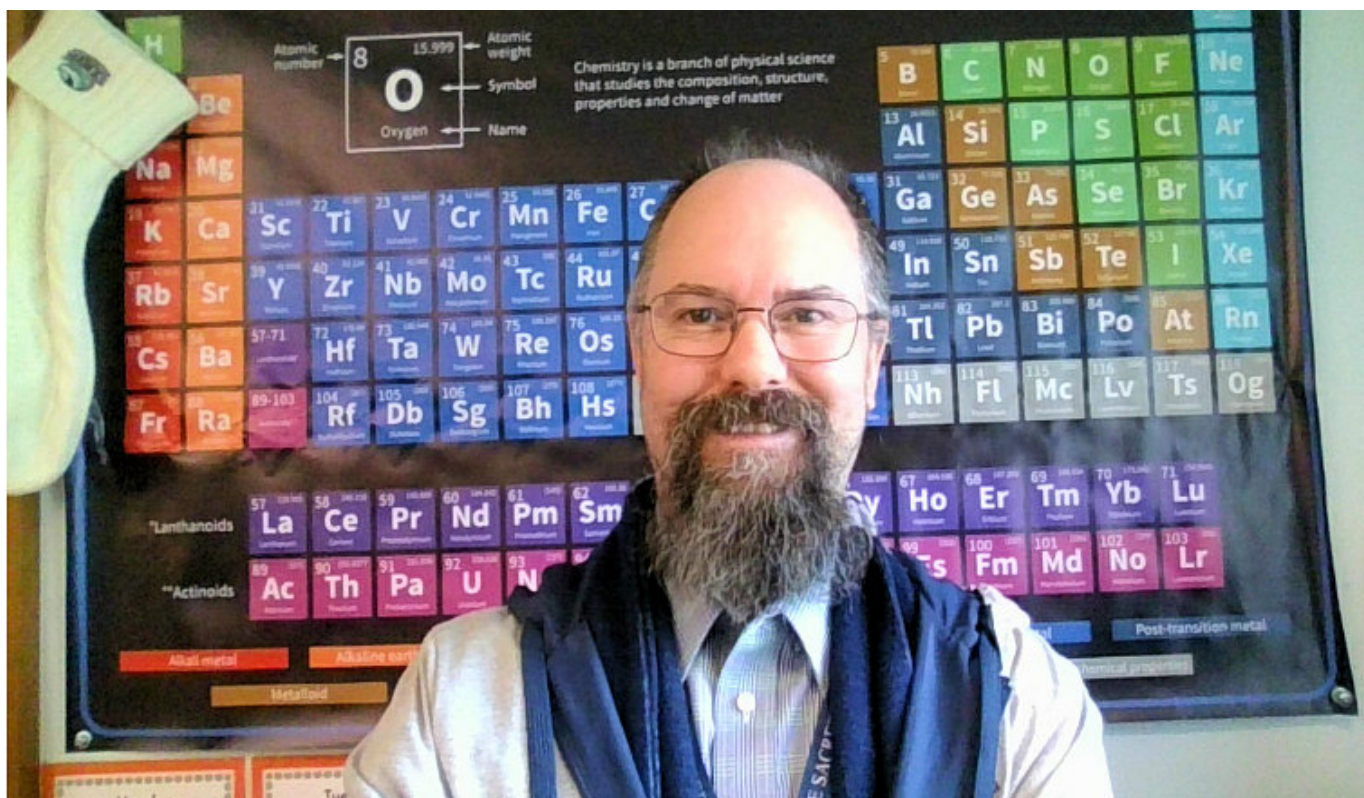
A new contest had just begun,

And all you had to do

was run.



Where We Play Infection by Teddy Dugan



Mr. Geraci by Teddy Dugan

## Mr. Geraci by Teddy Dugan

In first grade we rode the Polar Express,  
And after we had a long recess.  
First grade was fun and merry,  
But fourth grade was a little scary.  
Smoke enveloped the entire school,  
But Mr. G was pretty cool.  
He let us watch Flash all day;  
He followed the field day way.  
We played with circuits;  
Inside the class was like a circus.  
And when class was done  
To the bean bags we would run.  
And he would read us wonderful tales

Like *The Replacement* and *Narnia*,  
Where the hero always prevails.  
And on to fifth grade we go;  
With all his teaching he's a pro.  
Not just a teacher a friend for life;  
There to guide me through pain and  
strife.s

