



## A Fond Farewell to Principal Ann Meyer

**By Kirsten Dinsmore, Grade 8  
Jenna Meleedy, Grade 8  
Kate Watchmaker, Grade 6**

With the click of her heels, you'd think you're in *The Wizard of Oz*. Everyone knows the familiar sound of our principal, Mrs. Meyer, striding down the hallway outside of our classroom doors. We all know who she is, but what do we really know about her? Well, after a good 19 years at Miscoe she has decided it's time for her to depart from our beloved school and go into retirement. 2017 will be the last year Mrs. Meyer serves as principal; and so as a final goodbye, we want to tell you a little about her past and her life leading up to now.

Mrs. Meyer has always had a strong passion for science. She attended the

University of Rhode Island, Stanford University, Worcester State and Framingham State to receive degrees in microbiology, genetics, chemistry, math, education, and administration. All in all, she earned five undergraduate degrees and four masters degrees.

While in Stanford, she worked in the Boston Children's Hospital and built her own entire genetics lab to experiment with microorganisms, which Mrs. Meyer commented was in of her utmost accomplishments. After Stanford, she was married to her husband (who was a professor at Harvard), and had kids. Her children started moving through our school system as she graduated for a fourth time, eventually becoming Mendon-Upton's PTO President.

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## Home of the Braves

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This issue of *Home of the Braves* is dedicated to Mrs. Anne Meyer.

## April—Autism Awareness Month



**AUTISM SPEAKS™**  
It's time to listen.

**By Kaley  
Dirazonian, Grade 5**

As you know from the morning announcements, April was Autism Awareness Month. The first National Autism Awareness Month was declared by the Autism

Society in April 1970. But what exactly is autism? And why do we dedicate April to it? Well, for starters, autism's full name is Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD for short. Autism is a mental disorder that causes kids to learn a different way or be less outgoing. People affected with autism are often diagnosed at two years of age, but that leaves a question still unanswered. When does autism actually start? Scientists aren't completely sure because they believe the triggering for this disorder happens before any signs of autism appear. These kids are just like anyone else, though. They like to have fun, and often times they have amazing strengths.

Some strengths associated with autism are:

- Special knowledge in a topic of interest
- Ability to carry out tasks with a high degree of accuracy
- Tendency to be honest

- Exceptional skills in creative arts, such as art and music

There is no current cure for autism, and with all the benefits, why cure it? This mental disorder makes it hard to hold conversations, make eye contact, and causes delayed learning. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2016, one in every 68 newborn babies has autism. This is nearly twice the rate it was in 2004, one in 125 newborn babies. Autistic people need a little extra help to learn, because autism makes it hard to learn the same way as others.

The Autism Society estimates that the United States is facing almost \$90 billion annually in costs for autism. That's including research, insurance costs and non-covered expenses, Medicaid waivers for autism, educational spending, housing, transportation, employment, related therapeutic services and caregiver costs. It can be expensive to care for children dealing with this disorder.

We shouldn't judge those with autism, or look at them differently. Instead, we should be aware of the difficulties that they face and do what we can to help them. We need to welcome them as friends and respect everyone's differences!

Sources: Autism Society's website & World Book 2011 edition

### A Few Words With The Miscoe Hill Baseball Team

By Carolyn Acker, Grade 5

Mr. Rosenau, seventh and eighth grade baseball coach, hopes that being a student on the baseball team helps them work as teammates and learn how to balance academics and sports. "I also hope the teachers get to see another ability of the students they teach," he goes on to say.

He says some of the games they have played were in Northbridge, Ashland, and Uxbridge. Their practices are always in the upper gym of the school or outside on the Miscoe baseball field. Mr. Rosenau says at tryouts they did throwing drills, fielding, and hit off the tees. Mr. Rosenau was asked if it was hard to place the kids from tryouts. He answered, "Yes, it was very hard to place all of the kids. But, I am very happy with the group I have now. I definitely saw a lot of potential at tryouts. I feel if the kids keep working, the kids who made the team and those who did not could be All-Stars." The reason Mr. Rosenau wanted to coach the baseball team was because he loves baseball, loves coaching, but most of all, likes to work with kids from class outside of school and see their other abilities.

"Even though I am a lefty, I am a third baseman," Joey Acker, seventh grade baseball player says. "They normally don't have lefties play infield at all, but I mostly play third base for the middle school team. In practice, we normally work on situational drills, as in who throws where, and where to go. Other than that we work on cardio for speed and stamina." Joey said he found out that he made the team in the middle of tryouts on the third day. "I think I can improve the baseball team by doing the best I can and inspiring people on the team," Joey says. Joey wanted to join the baseball team because, "I love baseball and I thought it would be fun to play with people that I'm not used to playing with. I hope it's fun for everyone else too," Joey said.

**"Every strike brings me closer  
to the next home run."  
~ Babe Ruth**

Kyle Tewksbury is an eighth grade player for the Miscoe team. He says, "My positions on the baseball team are second base, short stop, and center field. But the important part of being on a team is being ready to play wherever the coach puts you," Kyle says. "At the end of the tryout on the third day, the coach pulled us all into a private room and informed me that I had made the team. I was very excited because there were so many kids with incredible talent who tried out, that it made it hard for the coach to make any cuts at all," Kyle says. "I wanted to join my middle school baseball team because I wanted to represent my school and go out every day and give it my all. I think I can improve my team with my athleticism and true love for the game," Tewksbury says. "A baseball team isn't made up of just one person. Every single person on the team contributes to our success and without them and Coach Rosenau leading us, we would get nowhere."

Best of luck to the Miscoe Hill Braves.

## LOCAL SUMMER CAMPS!!!

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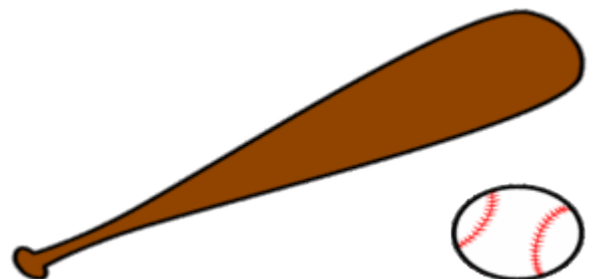
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# A Chat with Miscoe Hill Librarian Ms. Arnold

By: Kylie Bodzinski and Ava Lozeau, Grade 5

We interviewed Ms. Arnold, the librarian at Miscoe, and enjoyed learning a few things about her. She has been a librarian for 13 years and she loves it! Miscoe has been lucky enough to have her for the past two years.

We asked her what she wanted to be when she was growing up and she answered, “an archeologist!” When asked if she has always enjoyed reading, she replied that “reading was not my thing” and she didn’t have a library class like we do today. But she has changed her mind and became a librarian after attending Simmons College in Boston.

Ms. Arnold says that she “loves what she does” and it shows because she always has a smile on her face when she is helping a student find a great book to read. A fun fact we learned about our favorite librarian is that lemon pound cake is her favorite treat!

## Summer Reading Suggestions

We asked Ms. Arnold what some good books are to read over summer vacation and here are some of her



recommendations: If you enjoy fantasy you should definitely give *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan a try. If autobiographies are more your thing, then take a look at *I am Malala* by Malala Yousfzai. If you love historical fiction then read *Chains, Forge, and Ashes* by Laurie Halse Anderson. If you enjoy a good coming of age fiction novel, then you should try *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander.

We hope you will give one of these books a try over the summer! We know we will!

# Wonderful Memories!



*Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Ferrari see how long they can stay taped to the wall during the Rachel's Challenge Fundraiser in 2014.*



*Left to right: Mrs. Gallagher, Clough principal; Dick Grady, former 6th Grade social studies teacher ; Ann Meyer.*



**Glad for my iPad**

By Ranya Harrati, Grade 5

"Google is my partner and knows everything," says Mr. Perrotta.

Mr. Perrotta is a big help to the school. He's not talked about much, but we should definitely appreciate what he does. Coming in at 8 am and leaving at 3 pm plus working over the summer, Mr. Perrotta fixes and updates iPads.

He doesn't do it alone. Mr. Perrotta works with four others at the help desk, which is located right next to the library and across Mr. MacMurray's classroom. His coworker's name is Emily, and his bosses' names are Dave and Joe. "There is one last, very important member," says Mr. Perrotta. "My biggest help is Google." (It's okay Mr. Perrotta, I'm sure you're not the only one.) Without them, many things on our iPads would be slower, and more difficult to use. And if you have a bug or glitch on your iPad, you would probably have a hard time using Google.

Just two years ago, he wasn't here. He worked as a middle school teacher from 1997-1999, and then eventually got a job here. He started about one year and eight months ago, in September.

It's a good thing that Mr. Perrotta enjoys his job—otherwise, we'd be dealing with a cranky or grouchy person. But that would be better than him not being here at all. Try to imagine no updated iPads, or ones that have problems, bugs, and glitches (warning: it may be too hard). The iPads we use all the time are perfect thanks to Mr. Perrotta.

**Computer Programming- What is it?**

By Brian Dubowik, Grade 6

Computer programming, also known as coding, is what makes computers run. Games, search engines, websites, even the operating system Windows are all powered by computer programming.

There are many different ways to program. These are known as "languages." There are many different languages, such as JavaScript, SQL, Python, and C++. They each have different commands (lines of code). The most popular for schools are code blocks, which say stuff like "move\_units" and are snapped together on-screen.

Every December, there is a big event called Hour of Code. It takes place during Technology Class, and you spend an hour coding using some of the sites or apps I'm going to talk about.

There are many ways to learn programming, one is called Scratch. Scratch is a website where you can create projects using coding blocks and can draw characters, backgrounds, objects, and upload music and pictures. If you have an account, you can share your projects. The website is [scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu). It is my personal favorite programming site.

There is also Hopscotch. It is similar to Scratch but with less features. It's an app, and the creating feature can be used without wi-fi. There is no way to draw characters or anything like that, so you have to use words you type or shapes included in the app. The app is free, but you can get more advanced features by paying a monthly fee.

A way you can learn by playing coding games is a website called [code.org](http://code.org). On this site, you can code an Angry Bird (from the game) to make it through a maze. You can solve puzzles to show you how to use certain blocks to make a sports game or your own version of Flappy Bird. You can use it on both a computer or an iPad.

There is also Code Combat. You play as a warrior, and can use many different programming languages to collect all the diamonds or defeat the enemies. The game gets harder and harder as it goes on. I haven't used it that much, but I enjoyed it when I did. The website is [codecombat.com](http://codecombat.com).

There are many other programming sites/apps, but these were my favorites.

Computers have become more and more important. Programming is a useful skill to learn, as there are many jobs available such as software developer or game designer, and it can also be enjoyable!

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## iFair

**By Rachatawan Greenwald,  
Grade 6**

On March 30th, I went to the iFair, which is an annual event at Nipmuc High School to help out Mrs. Gervais and Mr. Schwab. When you walked in, there were two tables with different people demonstrating robots to us. One robot was the Sphero. It is a robot that is shaped like a sphere, and the outside shell of it was clear so you could see the mechanics that make it work. I didn't get to walk around much because I was stationed at a stand to help Mrs. Gervais demonstrate one type of robot, so I only saw what my friends did.

One of the stands had kids teaching us about 3D printing with our own art teacher, Mrs.

Gentilli. They had 3D printed castles, numbers, and much more. Mrs. Gentilli and her 'helpers' used a machine that works really quickly to move the hot material into the shape they desired. On the iPads, they modeled what they wanted their creations to look like.

The stand my friends and I were stationed at was right next to Mr. Schwab's. We were demonstrating robots named Dash. There is another type of robot we use in 6th grade called Dot. The Dash robot has three apps we could use to make them move and interact. One app is called Go. The Go app allows you to drive Dash around the room. You could also press buttons to make them say things or to imitate animal sounds. The second app you could use is

called Xylo. The Dash robot has some accessories that go along with him. One of them is a xylophone that you could use with the Xylo app. You just tap the tunes of what song you want to make. Between you and me, it seems more complicated than it really is.

Some people, like myself, love coding with blocks. Fortunately, there is another app you could use to interact with your robot. This is my favorite app. It's called Blockly. This app is exactly what it sounds like. You get to drag different coding blocks together to make the robots do a dance or other types of things. If you have Legos at home, you could make a small contraption that would hold a dry erase marker, and you could make Dash draw! If you guys have any other questions



*One of the stations at the iFair. Lego robotics, anyone? Photo by Rachatawan Greenwald.*

about these robots, come visit the technology room and ask our two technology teachers or Mr. Quinn. Come on down! You know you want to! Don't worry, they won't bite.

## Designing Ads for The Home of the Braves

**Michael Byrne, Grade 5  
Bryson Fitts, Grade 6  
Will Spargo, Grade 5**

The ads in the winter and spring issue of *Home of the Braves* were designed by Michael Byrne, Bryson Fitts, and Will Spargo. We met in the technology room after school with the Newspaper Club. First we brainstormed ad designs for publication. We each chose from several options, then we used the Publisher software to create our ads.

We learned design features like colors, fonts, boxes, and how to place information. Ads are great visual features because they catch the attention of the reader. We learned how ads help publications. They announce important dates and events. They also help sell products.

Designing is a fun and creative way to be involved in the Newspaper Club. We encourage other students to try it!

## Call For PTO Members!

**The PTO is looking for new board members and general members! Spots are open for the 2017 - 2018 PTO.**

**General membership is \$5 and meetings are the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Come join us!**



***Mrs. Meyer, thank you for all the wonderful memories you created with the school, we won't ever forget them.***

## **Lasting Impressions:**

- "She was a great assistant principal."
- "Very generous."
- "Smart—really good at math and science."
- "Being in her classroom she really liked science... I remember I really liked her."
- "Her leadership will be dearly missed."
- "I have always been impressed with Mrs. Meyer's ability to be positive and upbeat all of the time."
- "Mrs. Meyer is someone that cares deeply about her students and her staff."
- "She is sincere, warm, funny, and genuine."
- "Ms. Meyer has taught me to believe in myself."
- "The first time I met her was in my interview, and in the interview I got the sense she was easy to talk to and had a really open style of leadership. I knew right away my vision meshed well with hers and I was excited to work with her."
- "When I first went to Miscoe, Mrs. Meyer was someone who was really committed to the school, she is so nice!"
- "She's really intelligent and smart."
- "She has an extremely big heart, she's very kind."
- "She is dedicated to the students."
- "So nice and kind to the teachers and everybody at the school. Always trying to encourage students and teachers."
- "Look at this adorable woman. Professional, very professional, but yet, very personable."
- "She was quiet and reserved."
- "She has excellent taste and always looks well put together."
- "She has never ending support with everything."
- "My first impression of her was that she was very professional, very determined, very hard working."

***"She bleeds Miscoe green. The amount of hours that well-provided, and that the educ***



*Having FUN on Field Day!*

### **Mrs. Meyer—Continued from front page**

As the new Principal, Mrs. Meyer decided to begin working on a few small projects. She quickly became the Chairman of the Building Committee and Project Manager for the construction of two new elementary schools in the district: Memorial and Clough. That's right, it was her that initially pushed and supervised the creation of the schools not too long ago; though that was only the beginning of everything she's done in the district since then.

Once Clough had opened its doors (just a few months after Memorial), Mrs. Meyer realized that some of the teachers had a hard time teaching science classes, and recognizing her knowledge in scientific fields, she substituted in for them, "Since my background is science, elementary teachers don't really like teaching science, I started teaching science as a volunteer in their classrooms and they encouraged me to go into teaching. So I did."

Both Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Gervais had Mrs. Meyer's children in their classes once they were in middle school. Throughout decades, teachers like Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. Gervais, Mrs. Lambert, and Mrs. Manser that decided to stick around became very close with the district and the people in it. Each teacher we interviewed all said they felt that she encouraged positivity, and trusted them with their jobs. Mrs. Rhodes even had this to say when thinking of Mrs. Meyer, "She talks so highly of all her teachers, that it just makes you feel good as a person, that you know she respects you as a leader and she trusts you to

do your job. That's probably how we've grown the most, it's that she trusts us to do our jobs so we can do our jobs. We don't always feel like someone is watching over our back at us. So that's probably one of the nicest things as a teacher to know that you're trusted."

Mrs. Meyer started teaching technology part time at Miscoe and coached Nipmuc's track and field team before joining Mrs. Rutkowski in teaching 6th grade full time in 1998. Coincidentally, the duo worked out perfectly. Mrs. Rutkowski didn't like science so Mrs. Meyer would teach Science and Math and Mrs. Meyer disliked ELA, so Mrs. Rutkowski taught that and Social Studies. Both teachers loved the topic the other teacher disliked. They worked like this for three years until Meyer was promoted to the role of Assistant Principal, where she would mainly work with students. She had been encouraged by her fellow teachers to take the job, "They were the ones that said, you should apply for the job, you would be great at this job. You should apply, so I was kind of pushed into it a little bit." She was in this role for five years, and as many teachers recount, did a very good job.

"When she was an assistant principal she was in charge of disciplining kids who needed to be redirected, she was extremely good at that," said Mrs. Manser.

"Almost all the time she'd be really clear that the behavior was not acceptable, but that the kid was okay," Mrs. Lambert added.

For three of her five years, Mrs. Meyers ended up being unofficially hired as both assistant principal and principal to fill in for the official principal, who was in and out of the office. As Mrs. Lambert informed us, "At times the principal could be here then she couldn't be here and could be here then she couldn't be here then she'd be here then she couldn't be here. That's a really difficult role to play." Even with all that excruciating pressure on top of her, she continued to balance both jobs and all the responsibilities that came with them! As Mrs. Manser also included, "She worked so hard, extraordinarily hard, trying to do both jobs."

Eventually, over time she was promoted to the official position of principal of Miscoe Hill Middle School, and stayed with us every step of the way. In about 2009 and 2010 a number of people in the staff dropped out, including many principals of other schools; but she stayed with Miscoe Hill and supported our district. That time was hard for every teacher, and in that time Mrs. Meyer pushed us through and gave us many of the incredible things we have now! "When I first started here, we had no enrichment, no sports, and no honors program — kids didn't stay after school, we



she puts into the school community ensuring that everyone is safe, everybody's education is forward-thinking is remarkable." ~ Dr. Maruszczak



*Principal for A Day with 5th grader Maddie Duplessis and 8th grader Michael Consigli with vice principal Anthony Amitrano.*

didn't have chorus, no drama. So we didn't have anything," said Mrs. Meyer. Teachers of the same grade and subject were also completely uncoordinated, teaching completely different things. "We need something that a kid is interested in." She believes that students being able to invest and expand their interests with programs in school is an extremely important factor in their happiness and

willingness to learn. Because of her, our yearbooks are now filled with pages and pages of proof.

"She bleeds Miscoe green," said Dr. Maruszczak, our superintendent. "I think she's remarkably hard working, remarkably loyal. The amount of hours that she puts into the school community ensuring that everyone is safe, everybody's well-provided, and that the education is forward-thinking is remarkable. Absolutely remarkable." For the past six years, Mrs. Meyer has been spending her days writing reports inside and behind a desk. Many people don't know much about what a principal does, but that's essentially it. She attends 504, IEP, and teacher meetings, but mostly deals with parents who have complaints or what to do about illnesses. "My favorite time of the day is going out and observing classrooms and seeing what the kids are doing, really my favorite time and I feel like I'm playing hooky is when there's a drama production or going to a sports program or like a festival or something like that, those are my favorites," she told us. Her favorite job here has been teaching 6th grade with Mrs. Rutkowski, "I liked assistant principal and I like principal, but the biggest thing I miss is not being with the children. So all day long when I was a teacher, I was with children. Now, as

principal I get stuck behind a desk writing a ten page report for the department of education."

After retirement, Mrs. Meyer plans to spend time with her family and her second grandchild, who was born in May of 2017. She also plans to revisit Rome, one of her favorite places in the world, and plant 17 blueberry bushes, 10 blackberry bushes, 10 raspberry bushes, and a few strawberry bushes in a new berry garden. She and her husband, who has a degree in stellar atmosphere, want to discover meteors together and study them.

Over the 19 years Mrs. Meyers has been here with us, we've learned that she is so generous, kind, and cares so much about the school, the teachers, the parents, and the students within it. So, to Mrs. Meyer, on behalf of everyone in the school, we hope that you have a wonderful retirement. We hope you enjoy the little moments like playing with your grandchildren, sewing, gardening, and more. We hope that your bushes grow to be tall and healthy, that you have a great trip to Rome, and that you discover amazing things in the meteors you find. Thank you for everything that you have done for our school and the community. We will all miss you terribly.

## Memories:

In Mrs. Meyer's past she accomplished many things: supporting the school, building the district, raising two children, running in several Boston Marathons, becoming a geneticist, completing multiple colleges, and much more. After all the memories she has made in her life there are always the fun and goofy ones. I'm sure everyone can agree that seeing your principal getting taped to a wall is really memorable.

Another really funny story was one we got from Mrs. Rhodes, "Once we come back to school, and we always start two days before you guys. We meet up at Nipmuc, and every year, they announce the principals, they say the principal of Nipmuc, and the other principals. Then they call Mrs Meyer, and she gets a huge yelling. All the middle school teachers are hooting and hollering and everything. Then, everyone goes 'well, they must like you there.' Because nobody else does that for their principals."

Mrs. Meyer also -you wouldn't believe it!- had beautiful long hair that went down to the end of her back that she always put in a long braid! Mrs. Rhodes also informed us that she used to make a theme of her house during every season. She would

buy specific curtains, plates, and more decorations to decorate her house to look like autumn or winter, etc. Every teacher we interviewed noted that she was not only incredibly smart but completely neat and decorative.

Even before coming to our school Mrs. Meyer shared with us some interesting stories, one of the them being six years ago, when Mrs. Meyers and her husband went on a trip to the beautiful city of Rome, Italy during Christmas vacation. "It was so gorgeous! It was just so beautiful!" Between the views, art, and people, it was a trip that she'd never forget. "And the people in Italy are just so nice, they talked to you, they helped you out."

Mrs. Higgins shared one last funny story! "Some of my favorite memories with Mrs. Meyer is sending her on scavenger hunts this year. I have designed multiple scavenger hunts (and more to come), with the help from other staff members, that sent her all over the building answering silly questions of figuring out math riddles. The final result is her always ending up in my classroom with a big smile on her face!"



*Raising money for a great cause, Rachael's Challenge in 2014.*

# Miscoe and the Arts

## M.E.S.S.: A New Acronym

By Allie Martin, Grade 5

*Mess/noun: A dirty or untidy state of things or of a place. Disorder, disarray, clutter.* That is probably what you know a mess as, a state of disorder or confusion. Two years ago, Miscoe Hill Middle School brought a new definition to the word. Well, more like a new acronym. Here at Miscoe, M.E.S.S. stands for Miscoe Elective Student Showcase, an event that showcases the work of students. There have been art shows here since 2009, but only recently did M.E.S.S. start to showcase what students are doing in other electives.

On April 11, little glowing paper bag lanterns illuminated the hallway and led students and their families to the art rooms where artwork from the whole year was on display. If you're headed the other way, there was the library, foreign languages, and technology room, all filled with students' work. M.E.S.S. was an amazing night with artwork and other work on display. They

showcased what great work has been going on here all year, and the what students love about school. There are many kids who don't like learning but love electives, and this night showed that students have been working hard. Mr. Hansen, Mrs. Keeler, and the other elective teachers worked hard on putting this together.

"There is so much talent in this school, and this is just another opportunity to put their work on display," said Mr. Hansen, seventh and eighth grade Art teacher. "This year we included Library, Technology, Spanish, and French electives along with Art!" he said.

Mrs. Keeler, the French and Spanish teacher, also participated in M.E.S.S. "I like having the chance to meet parents and prospective students," she said. "I also enjoy talking about what we do in class and hearing about what the students want to learn." She showcased masks that students made for Mardi Gras and family trees. The students also decorated tissue boxes with facts about different countries. Students in art had family portraits, clay pots, animal



Art display at M.E.S.S. Photo by Allie Martin

letters, cereal boxes, still life drawings and weavings on display. The other electives also demonstrated what they had been doing. Students and teachers worked hard to make M.E.S.S. a great success.

## Korczak's Children

By Avery Allcock, Grade 5



You may have seen *Korczak's Children* and might agree that it was really good, but have you ever wondered what kind of work goes into the production or why Mrs. Appleby and Mr. Rogers picked this play? I sat down with Mrs. Appleby to get those answers.

I asked Mrs. Appleby why she chose this play. She replied, "I read the script and I felt this was the play I wanted to do. Many of the seventh and eighth graders wanted to do a more serious play. There are a lot of speaking roles and I knew people who don't normally get parts could get them."

*Korczak's Children* is about Janusz Korczak and the orphanage he runs in a ghetto during World War II. There are a lot of characters in the production and I asked her who her favorite characters were. Mrs. Appleby really likes Korczak and Symonek. "Korczak can be fun and energetic but serious when talking to others. Symonek is just a really fun, fantastic character," Mrs. Appleby explained.

Did you know Korczak has over 360 lines? "I did not count them but one of the kids told me it was over 360 lines!" Mrs. Appleby said.

Like every great story, there is an important message to be learned. When I asked her what the message was, she said, "First, we need to remember all of the Jews who were unfortunately killed in the Holocaust. Second, we need to make sure nothing like this ever happens again. I think that the United States turned a blind-eye on what was happening in Germany when it first started happening."



## Terrible

By Luke Venable, Grade 6

Walter Swinebum hated his name. Being a Walter Swinebum was just terrible. You would think that a 15 year old in 10th grade would be able to defend himself but because of his name Walter had been bullied everyday since his best friend Leo moved. Leo had sent him emails about his terrible moving experience but Walter thought that that was nothing compared to what he was going through.

Fine, Leo moved and had to meet new people but at least he had a cool name. Leo D'Fury. He was also athletic and smart. He would have no problems making friends. But Leo had protected Walter from all the bullies. Now that his friend and protector was

gone what was the scrawny nerd with glasses, Walter Swinebum, worst name ever, going to do about them?

Walter dreaded every day of school, which ironically, was where he was going now. He entered the school courtyard and pulled up his head trying to go unnoticed by the kids around him. His plan failed though, just as it always did. The bullies surrounded him and pressed in. He tried to run but as always they tripped him.

The bullies had a strict schedule. Basically, beat up Walter, steal his money, and make him feel worthless in as little time as possible. They took his bag, his sweatshirt, stole his lunch money, and kicked him a couple times until he was curled up whimpering in pain against the fence. The

bullies laughter as they ran away taking all of Walter's stuff with them.

That day as Walter trudged home he heard footsteps behind him. He looked over his shoulder to find the bullies trailing behind him. Walter broke into a run but the bullies sped up their pace also. Walter tripped and the bullies were almost upon him. A car skidded a corner and pulled to a stop in front of them. The door slid open.

Leo D'Fury jumped out of the car. Cloaked in full black he walked forward. Walter smiled, he knew what was coming. The bullies turned to run but Leo grabbed the leader by the collar and spun him around, driving him to his knees. Leo spoke, "You will return to me double what you have taken from Walter. Then you will never bully him again. Oh,

and just in case you do, I'll just tell you now that next time I come back here and have to stop you then you will hurt all over. Wait I said that wrong, you will hurt everywhere that is still there."

Leo turned but then the bully said, "Are you threatening me?"

Leo turned back to him, "I'm sorry I must have done it badly. I thought I made it pretty clear. Now hand over the money." The bully snarled as he handed over a wad of bills that must have been at least \$300. Leo walked back to Walter and pressed the money into his hand. "We need to talk." Leo said.

## End of Year Events

5th Grade Spring Concert - 6/6

6th Grade Spring Concert - 6/7

Renaissance Fair (8th Grade) - 5/19

Engineering Day (8th Grade) - 6/9

Semi Formal (8th Grade) - 6/10

Six Flags (8th Grade) - 6/15

5th Grade Field Trip  
Where - Freedom Trail  
When - 6/5 & 6/6



## Summer Cleanout

By Josie Delongchamp, Grade 6

Andrew George, Grade 6

BEFORE



AFTER



Photo by: Josie Delongchamp

Every kids favorite part of the year is the last day of the school! But there is one thing we all dread... cleaning. In this article we will walk you through the steps of cleaning out your locker, desk, and backpack.

For cleaning your backpack you will need a trash bag and a recycling bin. If you are like me, you have a really messy bag. Sort through the items you want to keep from the things you don't want. Put all your trash or papers in a trash bag or recycling bin. The stuff you want to keep will go in a separate pile.

Now let's move on to cleaning out our desks. I've always hated cleaning out my desk but it's not as bad as you think. What you will need is a trash bag, a recycling bin, Clorox wipes, and paper towels. First take all of the stuff out of your desk that you want to take home. Items you don't want, like year old candy, snakes, pencils, pens, and paper can be offered to the teacher (if he or she wants any of it). Throw whatever is left away, but recycle the papers! If you have any old books, give them to Ms. Arnold as she is trying to build up our fantastic library here at Miscoe.

Next, clean out your locker!!! This is what we all dread. Our lockers tend to be more messy because that's where we keep all our items, such as: backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes, gym clothes, etc. Here's a suggestion. Get a trash bin, put it up to your locker and it will catch crumbs. Take your belongings that you care about out of your locker and put it in your clean backpack. Then you should start to sweep all of your junk in the trash bin. When all your crumbs are gone wipe down your locker with wipes or spray.

I hope this article helps you clean out your locker, backpack, and desk. Stay safe and have a great and clean summer.

## What to do in the Summertime!

By Fiona Healey, Grade 6

If you are anything like me, sometimes during the summer you get a little bored with the hot weather and humidity and there's not that much to do in the scorching heat. Take a look at these fun things to do during the summer. Maybe you'll find something of interest.

- **Fenway Park:** Here, you will hopefully see the Red Sox hit a homerun!
- **Freedom Trail:** If you are into history, and how America came to be, maybe you'd like to follow the Freedom Trail and learn a little more about Boston.
- **New England Aquarium:** At this watery domain, you can find animals like little blue penguins, delicate leafy sea dragons, lumbering green sea turtles, and spry California sea lions.
- **MIT Museum:** If you are interested in science and technology, this is the place for you! Learn about all sorts of futuristic fun, new types of technology, science experiments, and more.
- **Skywalk Observatory:** Get fascinated by the beauty of Boston, the gorgeous city lights, and learn about some of Boston's amazing history.
- **Museum of Fine Arts:** If you like art, creativity, art history and more...this is definitely the place for you.
- **Arnold Arboretum:** Catch beautiful sights of nature, trees, flowers, and all sorts of different plant species. Get astonished by nature's beauty!
- **Franklin Park Zoo:** Look at all the rare and beautiful animals that live at the Franklin Park Zoo, like giraffes to red pandas.
- **John Hancock Tower:** Take a look at the amazing architecture, beautiful Boston, and explore this fascinating building.
- **Faneuil Hall:** If you enjoy shopping, looking around Boston, and learning, this place is definitely for you.



## Summertime Sadness?

By Cecelia Van Norman, Grade 6

No, this isn't an article on Lana Del Rey's hit song. That's completely unrelated. What is this about, you may ask? Exactly what it sounds like: Boredom. Summer is a great time of the year! No school, beautiful weather, and there's so much to do! Or is there? If you've got nothing on your calendar this year, read on, for this is your new summer bucket list!

1. Try a new food: For some people, this is quite difficult. I would know, I'm a very picky eater. But last summer I decided to take the initiative to try something new, and I discovered one of my favorite foods! So this summer (and I know this sounds like something your parents might say) I encourage you to be adventurous! Maybe you've always turned your back on your mom's cauliflower, or your dad's tuna casserole, but hey, you never know!
2. Redo your bedroom: This one of the best boredom-busters. Organizing your belongings might not sound very fun, but it can be! Make your room match your style! Display your trophies, frame your pictures, or show off your coin collection! And don't forget your craft supplies! There are tons of DIY projects out there to improve your bedroom!
3. Go camping: The weather is amazing in the summer, so you should definitely get outside this year! Camping is a great way to do this. And it doesn't have to be out in the woods. Camping in your backyard is just as fun! If you don't like it, you can go right back inside to your house, but it's worth a try!
4. Learn something new: I know what you're thinking. "Why should I have to learn something? It's summer!" Instead of learning to memorize the periodic table, you could learn something a bit more fun. Maybe a new sport? Or even take a babysitting course! There are many possibilities!
5. Get a summer job: When you hear the word "job," your mind probably thinks of an office or lab. But you don't have to have a college degree to earn some money. One idea is to simply become the neighborhood dog walker! That way, you make money and get exercise! You could also do host a car wash at your house and get the same benefits!
6. Volunteer: This is like getting a summer job, but you don't get paid. It will still be a great experience, though. Volunteering at animal shelters or at homeless shelters are some great options and you're working for a good cause!
7. Grow a garden: Imagine you're outside picking vegetables from your garden and you go inside to cut them up and make a delicious meal. Fresh vegetables are always tasty, and knowing that you put in the effort to actually grow them makes them much better. Your garden doesn't have to be limited to veggies, either. Flower gardens are great, too!
8. Throw a party: A party is a great idea if you want to have fun. Pool parties, slumber

parties, or masquerade parties are just a handful of theme ideas for your party! And don't forget the decorations! Make it the party that everyone will talk about when school starts again!

9. Go to a museum: The idea of going to a museum probably isn't too appealing at first, but if you give it a chance, you might find that you enjoy it! If you like calm, quiet, and relaxing things, I would suggest an art museum. If you are the exact opposite of that, you might find the energy and hustle of the science museum more fun!
10. Face your fears: We all have fears. It's human nature. But sometimes we just have to overcome those fears. Maybe if you're afraid of boats you could go on a boat ride. If you're afraid of bugs, try checking out the insect room at a museum. Or if you have a fear of heights, try going on a Ferris wheel. Whatever your fear is, try to overcome it this year!
11. Visit your local library: Take out some books, sign up for some classes, get some museum passes. If you want to know more about anything, the library is the place to go! I hope you take something away from this article, try something new, and have a super fun summer!

**THIS SUMMER...**

**CHECK OUT YOUR  
LOCAL LIBRARY!!**

Book Groups | Storytime  
Museum Passes | Programs  
Books Galore

**ALL FOR FREE!**





# D.I.Y.— Do It Yourself

## D.I.Y. Flower in a Pot

By Naomi Singh, Grade 5

In this article, I will be tell you how to make a miniature clay flower pot with a flower inside. For this craft you will need Crayola air-dry clay (not Play-doh), small fake flowers, and paint of your choice. You can get all of these things at your local craft or art store. If you want to put real dirt and seeds inside the pot, you'll have to buy appropriate supplies for that.

Mold your air-dry clay into any shape of pot. Remember, flower pots are unique, so you

can't really go wrong. If you can't think of pot shape, try to make a cup like shape, or something tall and rectangular. Once you have created your clay into a shape that you like, you have two options:

- 1.) You can stick the fake flowers in right away and let the clay dry with the flowers inside.
- 2.) You can hollow out your pot, wait for it to dry, and then place your flowers in, so that you can switch them out.

Wait 24-48 hours for the clay to dry. If you chose the first option, you'll have to wait until the clay is dry before you paint it even though the flowers are already in it. If you chose the



**Finished flower in a pot project. Photo by Naomi Singh.**

second option, the flowers won't be in your way as you paint.

When you've finished painting, your done! Now you have a lovely little plant to give as a gift, or to keep in your garden, or use as decoration, or to give to someone on holidays like Father's Day! (If it didn't work, keep trying. You may need to attempt it several times before you get a flower pot that you like.)

## Home of The Braves

### Check out Home of The Braves on the Miscoe Hill website!

Printing: Smartfish Group, Waltham

Thanks to the Mendon and Upton Cultural Councils.



Questions or comments?

Contact us!  
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### Want to be part of our staff?

An email will be sent with information about our next issue.

## Summer Fashion Dos & Don'ts

By Linara Miller, Grade 5

With summer fast approaching, you might be freaking out about what to wear. What are some do's and don'ts for this season? According to some popular stores like Justice and Old Navy, shoulder cutouts and off-the-shoulder tops are in style. Jean skirts are also in, and patched denim... if you like it. Don't forget a denim jacket. If you are looking to embrace the summer time, try floral prints. Tropical prints are also in style. Shoes? Laceup flats and open toed sandals. Of course, flip flops will yet again fill the shoe racks.

As boys often wear shorts and T-shirts, summer styles aren't much different than winter, but at least they can finally take off their sweatshirts. Of course there are some new trends for boys, like the hybrid shorts—part short, part swim trunk. Or go-dry

gradient-print shorts and T-shirts. Go to Old Navy for these cool clothes. Don't forget shoes: sneakers and flip flops.

Mrs. Meyer has enforced some dress codes that students must adhere to. She doesn't allow necklines to go too low and shorts to be too short. But she does love fashion,

especially boots. "I think when you're young, you should wear a lot of things," she says. By that I think she means you should wear a lot of different styles.

I asked eight grade student Olivia Black what fashion she likes and dislikes and she replied, "During fall and spring you have to follow school guidelines but summer is more free."

Olivia says she doesn't like a lot of black and white in

the summertime and the "complementary colors" aren't that appealing.

Here's to finding your fashion and having staying cool this summer!



