



**Eleanor Van Gelder Elementary School**

**Edition #5; February 2020**

## **The Scary Ride**

Miguel Schlickmann Sylvestre

It was early Saturday. I woke with the bright, neon yellow, strong sunshine. I went, stepping as slow as a slug, crawling on the floor, reeeeeeally slow, with its hard and enormous shell on its back. I got my switch so I could play while my mom, dad and sister were asleep. I played for about an hour when suddenly, I heard a noise coming from the hallway. It was like some stepping footsteps.

Then, my dad and mom were awake. They both said "Morning!" In different times. Then my sister woke up, and it was a mix of "Morning's." We ate breakfast and my dad said, "Let's get ready to go to... drumroll please... SIX FLAGS!"

We changed our clothes, we put everything we needed in our two backpacks that we always take to Six Flags, brushed our teeth, and put our socks and shoes on. "Now we're all ready to go!" I exclaimed.

We got into our car and me and my sister had already turned our electronics on. I had my Nintendo Switch and my sister had our tablet. We went to Six Flags so fast I felt like I couldn't play that much. I was playing Minecraft when I noticed that we were at the Six Flags parking lot. We got out of the car, which was really far from the entrance. We were walking to the entrance when my mom noticed she had forgotten her phone in the car. My dad went running to the car to get her phone and when he got back he scared us.

We passed through the security. I was already holding my platinum membership in my hand to get into Six Flags. My mom wanted to go on the Superman Ultimate Flight Ride so bad! She insisted I go with her. The ride line was empty so we went running all the way to the chairs place. I said, "Mom, I'll stay here."

After the ride, which was 5 minutes, my mom said "Miguel!! This ride is wild. It is so cool and it goes slower than the Train Ride roller coaster. Come with me, even your sister wants to and she is younger." We were going to the line again when I finally decided and I told my mother, "You know what, I am going to try this ride." My mom bet \$10 that I would ask to go again.

When we got to the line, I was the next person to go on the ride. I sat down, started to cry softly and then I said "Mommy, I don't want to go!" The chairs bent over and then I started to cry louder. When we started moving, the cry burst out of me. It was scary at first, when we went up really fast, but it wasn't so scary when we bolted down. We got so much speed that when it was the loop part, the car slowed down a bit, but with that much speed when I went through the loop my back hurt. The loop was so tough that I had to hold myself in the bars because it was fast and tough. I got out of the ride, and asked, "CAN WE GO AGAIN!"

This is slowly changing me because I am slowly losing my fear of going on roller coasters and this helped me. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M GOING ON THE ROLLER COASTER AGAIN. SEE YA!





## Interview with Ms. Bilbao Abdo Shaqra

**Q: When did you first realize your aspiration for teaching?**

*I was in New Orleans, Louisiana, around the time of Hurricane Katrina. I was a sophomore in high school, and I had gone there to help rebuild structures that had been struck. We also helped rebuild a library, and I remember meeting a lot of nice kids in a school. I thought, this is the way I would like to give back to society: helping children.*

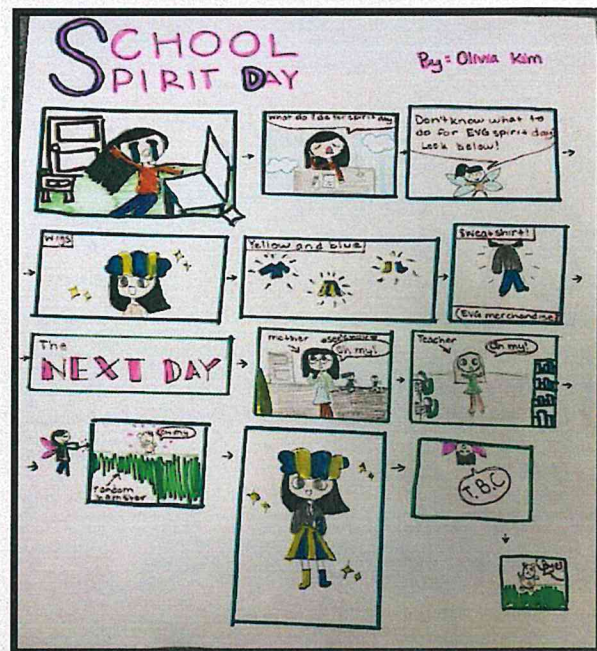
**Q: What was the first experience you have ever had with teaching/education, and how did it feel (before EVG)?**

*I was a student teacher in Trenton, and I had a 2nd grade class. We did a lot of hands-on experiences with science, and I loved it.*

**Q: Describe the events leading up to EVG, the atmosphere of the school upon arrival, and the first people you met the whole building (besides the principal and the superintendent).**

*I remember going home that night, telling my parents how it was a comfortable, welcoming class. I knew that this school would be special.*

## Comic: School Spirit Day Olivia Kim



## Avengers Infinity War Movie

Harrison Greenspan

Avengers Infinity War is the 20<sup>th</sup> movie in the MCU. MCU stands for Marvel Cinematic Universe, which is a collection of movies that are all tied together. This movie was special because almost all the heroes appeared in it. This included old heroes and relatively new ones such as Black Panther.

The main villain in the movie is Thanos, who is extraordinarily powerful. His goal is to get all six infinity stones which will grant him all the power in the universe. Thanos wants to use this power to wipe out half of the universe. He thinks by doing this, he is showing mercy and everyone will live a better life.

However, the Avengers think he is wrong, and they do all that they can to stop him. They almost took the infinity gauntlet away from Thanos, which is where he keeps all his stones, but in the end, he snaps his fingers and then half of the living turn into ashes. Even around half of the Avengers disappear. There are many theories as to what happened to everyone. The next movie, called Avengers Endgame, will answer these questions next year.

## The Curse of The Billy Goat

Joshua Yu

In 2016, the Chicago Cubs had a great season at Wrigley Field. But what made that season so great? Well, the Cubs won the World Series. It was their first World Series championship since 1908. That's 108 years! Wait, but what happened to the Cubs? How did they not win a World Series in 108 years? They had Hall of Famer Ernie Banks, Greg Maddux, and so many more good players. And they still didn't win? It was speculated that there was a curse on the Cubs.

The curse was called "The Curse of The Billy Goat." The curse was set by the Billy Goat Tavern owner, William Sianis, in 1945. It lasted for 71 years. The reason why William Sianis set the curse on the Cubs was because the odor of his pet goat, named Murphy, was bothering other fans. Sianis was asked to leave Wrigley Field during game 4 of the 1945 World Series. Outraged, Sianis allegedly declared, "Them Cubs, they ain't gonna win no more." This has been interpreted to mean that the Cubs would never win another National League (NL) pennant, at least for the remainder of Sianis's life.

The curse ended when the 2017 Chicago Cubs beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS in six games. Then, they went on to the World Series to face the Cleveland Indians. They won the World Series in seven games. Since the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in 2016, they broke the 108-year drought of not winning a World Series championship and ended the 71-year-old curse on the team.



## Interview with Ms. Bilbao

(continued)  
Abdo Shaqra

**Q: How is your passion regarding Language Arts different from any other subject? In other words, what made you want to advance and teach language arts specifically?**

*I had a lot of language arts teachers that really helped me, and made me feel important. In never really had that feeling with the other subjects.*

**Q: What are some hobbies or activities you like to do in your spare time?**

*I like to go hiking and camping. I also like to play guitar, and to write and read poetry.*

**Q: What are the easiest and most difficult parts about teaching from your perspective?**

*The easy thing about teaching students are the kids, while the difficult parts are the other little aspects: this includes grading assignments, planning lessons, and much more.*

**Q: What's your favorite genre of reading? More specifically, what's your favorite book you have ever read?**

*My favorite book is called The Things They Carried by Tim O' Brien, which focuses on the Vietnam War; my favorite genre is historical fiction.*

**Q: To any incoming sixth grader, what advice would you provide about topics like confidence, perseverance, and responsibility?**

*I would say that anything is possible if you put forth your best effort and you try really hard. I would also say that you should make the best of your future years in high school and middle school, because they go by very quickly.*

## Mystery Picture

Can you guess the image?



Look for the answer in our next edition!



## My Baby Brother

Declan Hutkoff

It was 1:27 PM, November 19, 2014. I was in Kindergarten, it was the day after my new baby brother was born. At 1:45 PM I waited for my grandparents in the main office. Before I knew it, my grandparents were here and they picked me and my other brother up and brought us to the hospital. On our way to the hospital we got caught in an enormous amount of traffic. Now when me and my grandparents get stuck in traffic we play a game. We took turns. We blew. And blew. And blew. And blew. Until finally I blew out the light. "Finally we can go now!" I say in delight.

When we got there I kissed my mom and she showed me the baby. She said his name was Peter Murphy Hutkoff. I kissed his forehead and said, "I love you so much, and I hope you become a great man some day." My mom said to me, "I love you so much." I said, "I know, I love you too!" I hugged her and she was as tired as a soldier after war, so she fell asleep on my shoulder. I let her down on the pillow, kissed her forehead that was on the pillow, my new baby brother's forehead that was on her lap, and my father's forehead that was on the cot that he was sleeping on. It was getting late so me, my other brother, and my grandparents left and we went home.



## Interview with Mrs. Smith

Miguel Schlickmann Sylvestre

### Q: Why do you like to teach?

I like to teach because I want to see how kids learn and how they learn to be confident in themselves.

### Q: Why did you come to EVG?

I love the community around Edgewater and it was a great school when I first walked in.

### Q: What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

### Q: Did you teach anywhere before EVG?

Yes, I taught for 4 years in the Washington DC area.

### Q: What do you like to do for fun?

I love to hang out with my dog and my husband, bake, and go to Rangers games.

### Q: What or who inspired you to become a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher since I was in first grade because I like helping others and impacting the world.



## Get to Know Ms. Vecchio!

Jacob Fradkin

### Q: Do you like this job?

A: Yes!

### Q: What is your favorite style of music?

A: Broadway/ Alternative.

### Q: What is your favorite instrument to play?

A: Voice/ Piano.

### Q: Where did you go to study?

A: Penn State.

### Q: At what age did you start learning music?

A: 5, when I was in my first musical

### Q: What inspired you to become a music teacher?

A: My high school teachers.

### Q: Do you think we need to make any improvements to our music programs?

A: We need more teachers for an orchestra.

### Q: What is your favorite concert you attended?

A: Muse, a British Band.

### Q: What is your favorite book to read?

A: Harry Potter.

### Q: What is your favorite holiday to celebrate?

A: Christmas!

### Q: What is your favorite season?

A: I like fall and summer,

### Q: What is your favorite vacation destination and why?

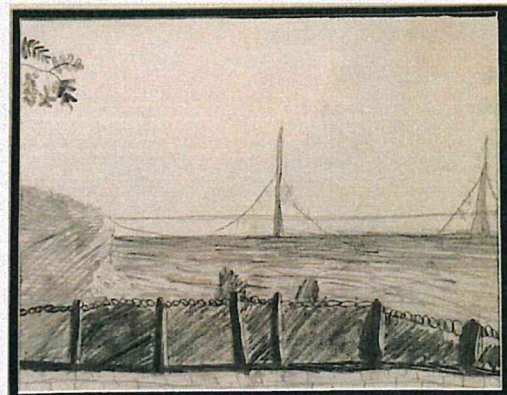
A: I like Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic because it's authentic.

### Q: Besides music, what other subject would you teach?

A: Art because I love to paint and do calligraphy.



Michael Royter



Michael Royter



## Why Chocolate Milk Should Be Banned in Schools

Declan Hutkoff

Did you know that chocolate milk is really high in saturated fat? Well now you do! Chocolate milk should be banned in schools in schools because chocolate milk has way too much added sugar. Also, chocolate milk is really low in protein. Lastly, most chocolate milk in schools is not lactose free. Maybe schools shouldn't serve chocolate milk in schools. Chocolate milk should be banned in schools.

One reason chocolate milk should be banned in schools because chocolate milk has way too much added sugar. Having a "sky high sugar content," isn't good for growing kids, especially in school. This can make kids jittery in school and they won't be able to focus. Too much sugar for kids can make kids get bad grades because they aren't focusing. This is why chocolate milk should be banned in schools.

Another reason Chocolate milk should be banned in schools is that chocolate milk doesn't have enough protein. Eight grams of protein is not enough for a growing human body. Powdered milk has thirty-four grams of protein. Maybe schools should serve powdered milk instead of chocolate milk. That is also why chocolate milk should be banned in schools.

My last reason chocolate milk should be banned in schools is that most chocolate milk in schools is not lactose free. "Only about fifty-seven percent of teenagers in the U.S. drink milk in schools." I think this is due to the lack of lactose free milk being served in schools. Serving lactose free milk in schools could help make lots of kids grow at a faster rate than before. That is why chocolate milk should be banned in schools.

In the end, chocolate milk should be banned in schools. First, chocolate has way too much added sugar. Second, chocolate milk doesn't have enough protein. Lastly, most chocolate milk in schools is not lactose free. Did you know that chocolate milk can cause heart disease?

## Why Phones Should be Banned in Class

Harrison Greenspan

Phones are cool and useful. They are new gadgets that have everyone excited. It's fun to use your phone to call, play games, and watch videos. However, phones have their bad sides. Kids should not have phones in schools for many different reasons. The first reason is that phones could start cyberbullying. Also, kids get distracted by their phones and the noises that they make. Lastly, students may use phones to cheat on assignments. Although they can be very useful, phones don't work out in a school setting.

First of all, cyberbullying is a huge problem and using phones during school encourages this. A lot of kids these days use social media such as Snapchat or Instagram. There are a lot of hateful comments on these platforms. Even worse, some students even pick on their classmates directly. In the Arctic, they talk about cyberbullying becoming more of an increased issue with access to social media sites, not to mention the distraction that social media and texting can pose to educational process for any child. If kids use their phones and get into online arguments during school, the amount of cyberbullying could increase. This would not make any sense because a lot of schools are trying to solve the problem of cyberbullying.

In addition, it is easy for kids to get distracted by phones and noises. Students learn best when they are focused. Principal Taylor says "They make dam sure that the volume is turned off. A lot of adults need to learn that."

Phones have a lot of distractions such as games, text messages, and music. If kids are on their phones when a teacher is talking they will miss out on a lot of important information. They would not learn since they had been too busy using their phone to listen to the teacher. Even though some kids don't have phones in school or choose not to use them, they will get distracted by other kids that don't make the right decision.

Last but not least, phones can lead to cheating. Students can go on their phones during a test and use the internet to look for answers. They can also text their friends and share the answers to questions that they know. Although this means that they can get higher scores, this is not fair to other students who try their best without cheating. Also, this will prevent kids from learning. They will be happy that they got a high score and not care about whether or not they understood what the teacher has taught. Cheating can lead to a bad habit which is hard to break, and by not allowing students to use phones in the first place, it can be prevented.

In conclusion, students should not have phones in schools for many different reasons. First of all, cyberbullying is a huge problem, and phone usage encourages this. Also, kids get distracted by phones and noises, making it hard for them to learn. Finally, phones in schools can lead to cheating, which isn't fair, prevents proper learning, and can become a bad habit. Even though technology is useful, it has many negatives in school. This is an important issue because more and more kids are starting to have their own phones.



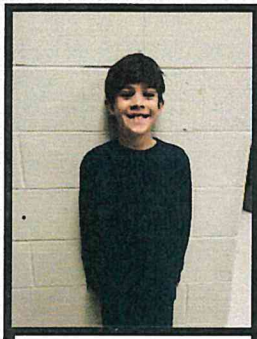


# The Golden Gazette Editors

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Olivia Kim



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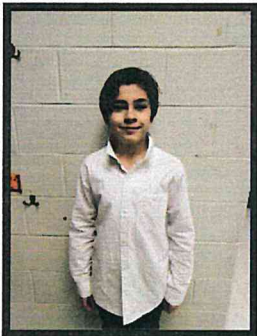
Yu Jie Teo



Miguel Schlickman  
Sylvestre



Joshua Y



Abdo Shaqra



Harrison  
Greenspan



Daniella Pinos



Jacob Fradkin



Emily Kim

Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade EVG Spelling Bee winners!

**First Place:** Grace Kang (left)

**Second Place:** Chiara Dacosta (right)



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