



THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG PS143Q LION PERSPECTIVE



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COLOR RUN

2023-2024 School Year Reflections

DISNEY'S LION KING JR.

LEAVING OUR PAW MARKS

Amplifying the Student Voices of
PS143Q Louis Armstrong School

Volume 01 Issue 1 2023-2024



Autographs



Note from the Principal

Greetings to the most brilliant, multilingual children in the universe!

As your principal, it fills me with immense pride and joy to write this message for our first edition of The Pawprint, our extraordinary student newspaper.

This publication is more than just a collection of articles; it is a vibrant showcase of your voices, perspectives, and creativity. Each word, drawing, and idea reflects the incredible diversity and talent that make our school community so special. Through The Pawprint, you share your thoughts, feedback, and stories with the 143 family, and in doing so, you inspire us all.

As you turn these pages, know that your voice matters deeply. The

stories you tell and the perspectives you offer are shaping not only our school community but also the world beyond it. You are the leaders, innovators, and storytellers of tomorrow, and it is an honor to watch you grow into those roles. Thank you for your courage to express yourselves, for your dedication to learning, and for your unwavering curiosity. Each of you brings something unique and irreplaceable to our school, and I am so proud of all you accomplish, not just in this newspaper but every day.

Keep shining brightly, keep sharing boldly, and always remember - you are extraordinary and you belong right where you are.

With great admiration, pride, and endless love,

Your Proud Principal

Justine Lucas



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Note from the Editor

Dear PS143Q Community,

I am humbled to have this opportunity to get to work with enthusiastic and talented students. I am always learning more from you all each day. Thank you to Principal Lucas for allowing me this opportunity.

I also want to thank the fifth grade students who have been giving up their recess to meet with me to prepare and write this magazine. They call themselves The Library Club and it has grown to include: Dave, Kim, Sophia, Gaia, Annelys Jackelyn, Malia, Ariany, Beila, and Jaelynn.

Thank you to the Happy Corona Team leader Ms. Caceres and teacher Ms. Bermeo for your support in allowing me to work with the Happy Corona students after school. Shoutout to the Happy Corona students who contributed to this magazine issue including: Jesly, Kristen, Neyla, Annelys, Gaia, Zoey, Beila, Henry, Ashley, and Jayden.

Thank you to our proud art teacher, Ms. Muevecela, for co-teaching the Art Club with me on Mondays in the library. It has been fun offering second graders a time during their lunch period to make drawings for the school magazine and trace them with an apple pencil to make digital art.

Thank you to our school photographer, Mr. Chan, who not only teaches fifth grade, but also runs our Media Club, photographs many events, and is always willing to collaborate.

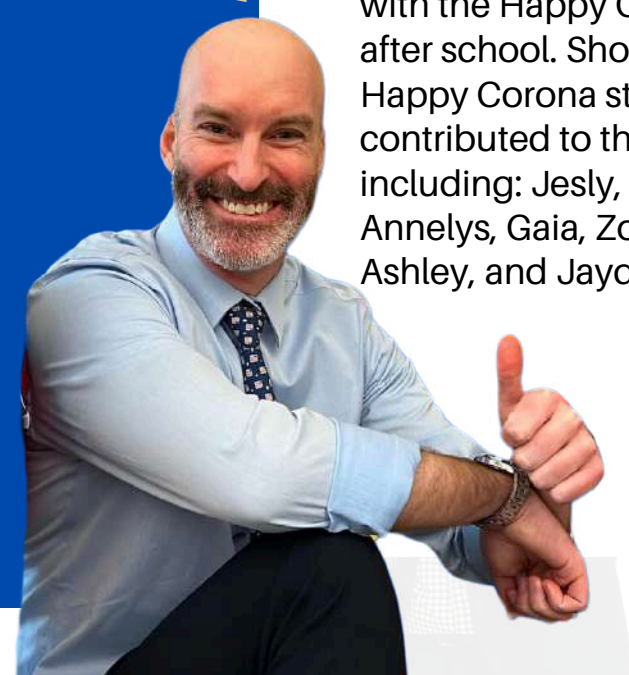
Finally, I would like to thank all of the teachers who sat down for interviews with our student writers for this issue including: Ms. DiGregorio, Ms. Pauta, Ms. Pineda, Ms. Contreras, Ms. Novoa, Ms. Konidas, and Ms. Hiller.

I look forward to celebrating the students who created this magazine and preparing the next issue! Go Lions!

Your Proud Librarian,

David Mercaldo

Mr. Mercaldo



Fall Festival 2023



A CLASS POSES WITH THEIR PUMPKINS AT THE 2023 FALL FESTIVAL.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

The 2023 Fall Festival would not have been the same without pumpkins. One very special thing about our school is that every student gets to dress up and get their own pumpkin every fall. Well, that is actually two special things about our school. Some kids really look forward to getting their very own pumpkin at The PS143Q Fall Festival's pumpkin patch.

The Fall Festival is more than just pumpkins too. We also get to try to escape from a

giant corn maze, jump to our hearts delight in the enormous bouncy haunted house, and show off our dances moves to DJ Zeke.

"I liked the pumpkins because of all the shapes and sizes were ones I could pick up and do!"
-Zoe R. (Class 210)

The Pumpkin Patch

During my investigation, I interviewed a few second grade students about their

experience at the pumpkin patch. Kamilah, in class 207, had this to say: "Getting a pumpkin was really fun because I was able to paint my pumpkin like a creepy face! It had triangle eyes and a scary mouth! Zoe R. (my cousin) in class 210 explained her experience at the pumpkin patch, "I liked the pumpkins because of all the shapes and sizes were ones I could pick up and do!" Christian B. in class 201 shared his perspective of the pumpkin patch, "I loved the

pumpkins because when i took it home, I ate it, and it made me really strong!" This shows that different students had different positive experiences at the Pumpkin Patch. Every student at our school got a pumpkin this day which is over 1,300 pumpkins! Shout out to our principal, Ms Lucas, for getting the pumpkins and all the teachers who handed them out.

The Corn Maze

The parents of the PS143Q PTA were responsible for setting up the Corn Maze. We sat down with Ms. Jen who shared this story, "One time I entered the maze with some second grade students and we ran into a dead end. I was trapped for three whole minutes. i was feeling lost like I had no sense of direction. I decided to start running with the students and eventually I found my way back out."

The Haunted Bouncy House

Shirley of class 511 explained, "I heard kids screaming and saw bodies flailing around that spooky bouncy house. I thought to myself: Yeah, that's not for me. I preferred the pumpkin patch and dancing." Matthew G. of class 509 had a much braver experience. "Ouch! I was jumping around and hit my head on the top of the cobweb filled bouncy house. I was not hurt though. I was getting some air with my

jumps! My friends and I were jumping four feet high and bumping around! It was a good experience. I rate it 9 out of 10." It wasn't only boys who were brave enough to enter the bouncy house. Arianny of class 502 looked up at the looming spider above the bouncy house and gathered her courage and followed her friends inside. "I didn't have any injuries, but I was the last of my friends to get in and had trouble getting out. Luckily, my friends, Ashley, Bridgette, and Gisele, helped me get out."

Conclusion

So, now you know about the PS143Q 2023 Fall Festival. It was a fun day full of pumpkins, mazes, and bouncing children. I hope it is for many more years to come.



Photo Credit: Mr. Chan

A STUDENT HOLDS A PUMPKIN
IN A CREEPY COSTUME.



Photo Credit: Mr. Chan

SOME COSTUMED TEACHERS AND STUDENTS POSE WITH THEIR PUMPKINS.



DRAWING BY
RENATTA F.
CLASS 207



DRAWING BY
JOHN
CLASS 202

Story by Zoe S.
Class 509
Happy Corona
After School





A GINGERBREAD BOUNCY HOUSE, A SNOWMAN BOUNCY HOUSE AND A RIDE-ON REINDEER
AT THE 2023 WINTER WONDERLAND.

Winter Wonderland

2023

It was quite a cold winter day on December, 13 2023 and a very special day as well. It was the day of the Winter Wonderland! It is a fun event that takes place at our PS143Q school every year. There were two kids named Kim and Dave especially excited to go there and play. When they got there, they were amazed by the fun activities and the great music! First, they went to the reindeer ride and got a record of 30 seconds! It was so fast it knocked people off, and it did not even give them a second to catch their breath!

Snowman Inflatable House
Next, Dave and Kim went to the snowman inflatable bouncy house. The line was SUPER long and took about ten minutes to get to the front. When the two fourth graders finally got in the bouncy house, they had a competition on who would fall first. It was a bit treacherous because some people took more dangerous routes to win by pushing people over. Once it got too crazy, the adults in charge kicked us out of the bouncy house. Only one kid tried to stay in the bouncy house longer!

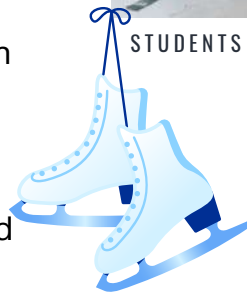
Ginger Bread Bouncy House
Dave and Kim decided to try out the other bouncy house next. This time it was a ginger bread themed bouncy house. When they got there, they got on the line. They had to wait for a very long time because everyone wanted to get on the bouncy house. After the time consuming line, they finally got on the bouncy house with their friends. When they got inside, they started to hop around like bunnies onto the floor. It was an amazing time to be alive! Dave was getting some serious air and Kim was smiling ear to ear!

The Ice Skating Rink

After they did the bouncy house activities, Dave and Kim went over to the ice skating rink. When they got on the line, they were surprised because the line was not very long. Once they got to the front of the line, they waited for their correct size of ice skates. There was a parent volunteer there that helped them put their skates on. Then they got on the rink and fell on their butts and tried to stay stable, but it felt impossible to stand on the thin blades. Luckily, they quickly learned how to stand by holding on to the edge of the rink. Then the fun really started when they slid across the ice and had a grand old time!



STUDENTS PRACTICE ICE SKATING.



and began to slowly move forward. Then the diver put the train on full pedal to the metal. After it started to accelerate, it felt like we were going 60 miles per hour, but they were actually not going very fast at all. Then it started to slow down and stop. They were disappointed the ride was over, but enjoying themselves.

We interviewed a few of our friends about the experience. Gaia said, "The most fun things were the choo-choo train and the ice skating." Kim agreed that ice skating was fun. It was truly a Wonderland. Sophia also agreed by saying, "It was a magical experience."

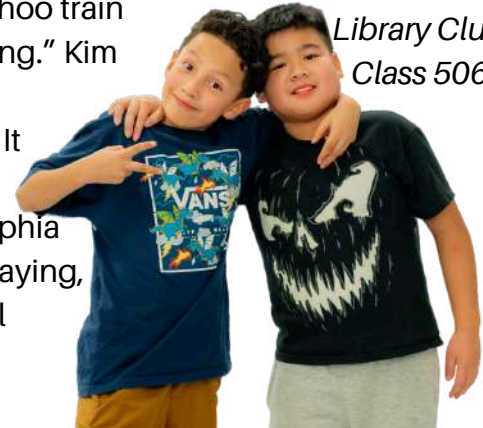


TEACHERS BUNDLE UP WITH THEIR FURRY HOODED JACKETS.

Obstacle Course

The last activity of the Wonderland they did was the obstacle course. When they arrived there, they knew they had to be quick because all the teachers started to round up all the students to go back inside. They entered the course and... Wham! They both fell to the floor with a thud. The inflatable dummies put a halt to their progress. When they got past those, they slid down the slide and into their class waiting for them. And just like that, the 2023 Winter Wonderland was over.

By Dave and Kim
5th Grade Students
Library Club
Class 506



PRINCIPAL LUCAS RIDES THE WINTER EXPRESS TRAIN WITH SOME STUDENTS.

The Winter Express

Next, after Dave and Kim exited the ice skating rink, they saw something that caught their attention. It was a miniature train ride with yet another very long line. After a while, they finally got on the train ride and got strapped in. Then the train started

The Lion Pride



TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: COACH MS. CASTILLO, JUSTIN (11), JASMINE (16), IAN (13), YARETZY (18), YARETZY H. (6), SAYRON (5), GENISIS (20), ARTHUR (10), JOLIE (17), ANGEL (15), ROBERT (8), COACH MS. KONIDAS
BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JONATHAN (7), JEREMI (14), YATHZIRY (2), JASON (4), ARIEL (9)

The PS143Q Lion Pride basketball team finished the 2023-2024 season with a 10-2 winning record as the runner-ups in the Elmhurst Queens elementary basketball division.

The Lion Pride team was led by starting five: point guard, Ariel A., shooting guards Arthur C. and Angel G., power forward Dakari C., and center Robert R. They were also led by their head coach Ms. Konidas and coach Ms. Castillo.

“I am very proud of this team! They worked hard for their success and earned this winning season!”

-Coach Konidas

Coach Konidas attributed the team's success this year to their strong work ethic. “Many of the players worked with me the year before in basketball club where they developed stronger basketball

fundamental skills.” This team came to fifth grade with the prerequisite skills needed to take their game to the next level. The team worked hard to reach their goals. They worked in class on their studies, but also came to school early to practice basketball and came to school on Saturdays for more basketball practice.

All the hard work paid off for the PS143Q Lion Pride when they started the year with a

winning streak. The Lion Pride defeated PS7Q, PS13Q, PS14Q, and PS89Q.

The Lion Pride did not lose a game until they went up against their rivals: The PS19Q Panthers. The Lion Pride played well, but it was not enough to defeat the PS19 Panthers.

In the playoffs, it was the same story. The PS143Q Lion Pride dominated the competition, beating every team a second time, until it was time to face their rivals, the PS19Q Panthers in the divisional Elmrone Queens finals. The winner of this game would advance to the Queens basketball championship game against the winners of the "Ridgewood" (Glenwood and Ridgedale, Queens division) to battle for the best basketball team in District 24.

The stage was set for the PS143Q Lions to have their revenge on PS19Q. The PS143Q Lion Cheer Team was there supporting their team and it looked like the Lions were poised to win.

PS19 was ready for the challenge though and ended the Lion Pride's season in a crushing playoff loss. Our news team reached out to PS19Q for comments on, our rivals, the Panthers season. Ben Silverblatt, the Physical Ed teacher and Coach of our Panthers basketball team, said, "We learned a lot last

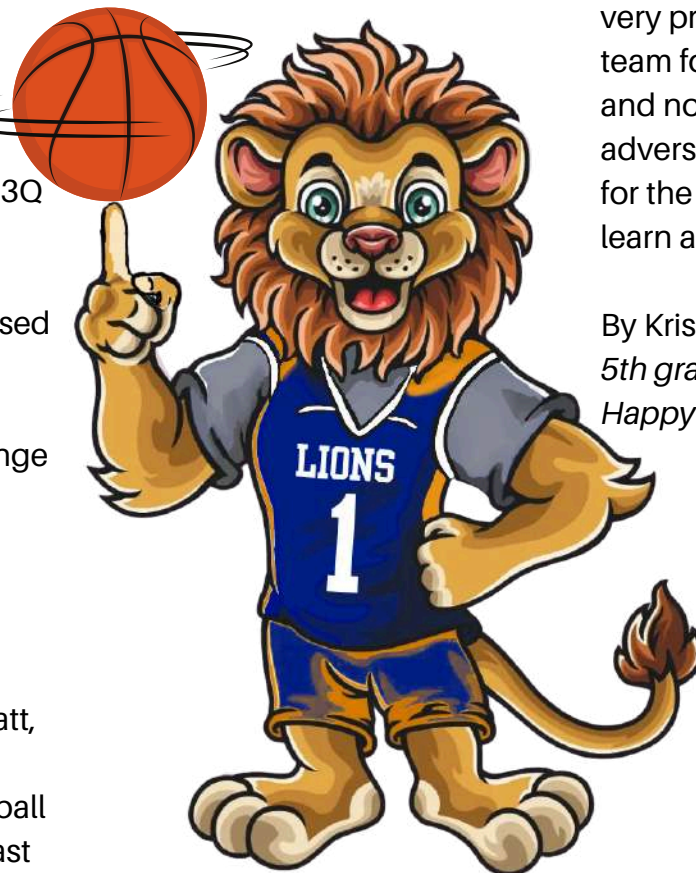


THE LION PRIDE BASKETBALL TEAM WITH THE TEAM'S MASCOT: LOUIE THE LION.

season when we went to the finals as a huge underdog. We learned to never give up, to win with humility, and most importantly to lose with grace and respect."

The PS143Q Lion Pride finished as second best in the Elmrone elementary public school division. Elmrone is short for the combination of Elmhurst and Corona neighborhoods in Queens, New York. We are all very proud of our basketball team for playing with teamwork and not giving up in the face of adversity, and we are grateful for the competition to help us learn and improve our game.

By Kristen F.
5th grade student, Class 502
Happy Corona After School





Lion Cheer



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ASHLEY, KEYLA S., ARIANNA L., BRIDGETTE, MARIANNA S., ERICK, AYLIN H., NEYLA C., JULISSA, EMILY H., SOPHIA P.

The P.S.143Q Cheerleading Team had a successful first season from 2023-2024. The P.S.143Q Cheerleading coaches were teachers Ms. Harrington and Ms. Fortin. The team met to practice on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:40pm. We had twelve cheerleaders that were each in 4th grade. The cheerleaders names were Ashley, Keyla, Arianna, Bridgette, Marianna, Erick, Aylin, Neyla, Julissa, Emily and Sophia. Each teammate had

different strengths that contributed to the success of our 2023-2024 cheer season.

For our first rehearsal we learned "GO." This first routine helped the players know when to advance or proceed. Another routine was "DRIBBLE." This routine was made of jumps and turns. This routine helps the players know when to dribble and pass the ball to their teammates. If you don't keep dribbling, it's called traveling.

If the referee in basketball, sees a player "traveling," he will blow the whistle and give possession of the ball back to the other team. This shows our "DRIBBLE" routine has real influence on the game. I talked to some of the players and they said that our routines are good reminders for them while they are on the court.

Finally, after many weekly practices, it was game day. Our PS143Q Lion Pride

basketball team had their first game which meant it was our cheerleading team's first game too. Our first game was at PS.13.

Finally, we got to use our "Dribble" routine. I liked our "Dribble" routine because of the beat and spins that it included. Some of the chants that were the team's favorites were "Dribble", "Go", and "Let's Go Lions."

Both the basketball team and our cheer team put in a lot of effort into our first game and we won! It was so exhilarating to win our first game! After we won we continued cheering and celebrating. We were so proud of our school.

After our first game, we resumed our rehearsal cheer practices on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:30. One of the most favorite routines in the team was "Half Time." This routine was made out of jumps, claps, and spins. We would usually perform it in half time, where the teams would take a break.

While the season went on, our basketball team experienced a "foul." A foul is when an opponent knocks into their opponent. If the player was in the act of shooting, then this leads to a "shooting foul," where the fouled player has two free throws. If you shoot from the foul line you get one point for each free shot. We don't have



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JULISSA, KEYLA, SOPHIA, AND MARIANNA.

"LET'S GO LIONS!" -Lion Cheer Team

a chant for when our team is shooting foul shots because we want to be quiet so they can focus on their shot, however if they make the second shot, it is a good reason to cheer!

In the next games, we experienced a lot of "rebounds." A rebound is when you miss the shot and you catch the ball again, then you automatically get to shoot again.

This was the best year yet for our school's basketball team who only lost one game in the regular season. I feel like our cheer team played a big role in that success. Our cheer team knew our chants, and performed well at each game. It was a lot of fun traveling to other schools and showing our PS143Q Lion Pride! We will be back next year. Go Lions!

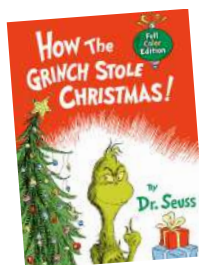


By Neyla C.
5th grade student
Class 501
Lion Cheer Team





THE GRINCH SURPRISES CLASS K09 IN THE LIBRARY.



The PS143Q GRINCH

The PS143Q Grinch

This past December, did you happen to see a green furry man in a Santa suit walking into classrooms in PS143Q and scaring our children? You may know him from the popular Dr. Seuss story titled, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." You may have read this book or seen the cartoon movie, or the live action movie with Jim Carey. If you are familiar with the story, then you would know the Grinch does not like Christmas and the Grinch does not like kids! So how did

this malicious character get to be this way? Why is he here bothering us at PS143Q? Is it really the Grinch or a staff member in a mask? These were the questions our investigating news team were tasked with discovering. Read more to find out.

Who is the Grinch?

The Grinch is a green, furry character created by Dr. Seuss. He lives on a mountain called Mount Crumpit, and he really, really hates Christmas! He thinks



DRAWING BY ALAN O.
2ND GRADE

the Whos in Whoville are too loud and happy, especially when they sing and celebrate. The only thing the Grinch enjoys is ruining the holidays. Even though he has a dog named Max, the Grinch's heart is two sizes too small.

Why is the Grinch So Mean?

The first reason The Grinch is so mean is because the Grinch had a lonely childhood. When the Grinch was a little kid, he had a tough time. He didn't have many friends, and other kids made fun of him. This made him feel sad and alone. The second reason the Grinch is so mean is because The Grinch hates Christmas. The Grinch thinks Christmas is silly and annoying. He doesn't like how the Whos get excited about it and make noise. It bothers him a lot! The third reason the Grinch is so mean is because he is protecting himself: Because he felt hurt in the past, the Grinch built up walls around himself. He acts mean to keep others away and to protect his feelings.

Why does the Grinch Keep Bothering Students at PS143Q?

There are a few theories as to why the Grinch keeps bothering our students at PS143Q Elementary School. One theory is that we are one of the most joyous well decorated places outside of Whoville, and the Grinch hates to see us so happy. Another reason could be that the teachers at PS143Q invite The Grinch to their classrooms because they enjoy scaring their students. Most of the data we found shows that the teachers at PS143Q actually like their students, so we are leaning towards theory one.

Who is the Grinch?

The Grinch has often been spotted coming out of the library, so we interviewed Mr. Mercaldo about this coincidence. Mr. Mercaldo was able



THE GRINCH SURPRISES A FIRST GRADE CLASS IN THE LIBRARY.

to provide photographic evidence of him with the Grinch proving that he is not The Grinch. Another theory is that the PS143Q Grinch is someone's parent in our community, but then why does the Grinch remain even after students graduate? Another popular theory is that The Grinch is Ms. Hiller in class 305. We sat down with her for an interview in which she

said, "I can neither confirm nor deny who the Grinch is." We are not saying that Ms. Hiller is the Grinch, but let's just say we have never seen the two of them in the same room together.

This mysterious Grinch continues to torment our school every December holiday season. If you have any information about the identity of this green character please send it to the Lion News Team at your earliest convenience. Be safe out there.

By Annelys and Sophia
5th grade students
Library Club
Class 506



EVIDENCE THAT MR. MERCALDO IS NOT THE GRINCH.



Opinion: Ronaldo

Ronaldo is the Best

Cristiano Ronaldo is the best soccer player of all time because of three reasons. The first reason why Ronaldo is the best is because he is the top goal scorer. The second reason is because Ronaldo has many awards and trophies. The third reason that Ronaldo is the best soccer player is because he is the best at social media.

Goal Scorer

Ronaldo has scored more than 800 goals in his career. That's a lot! He can score in many different ways, like with his feet, his head, and even from far away. He's really good at kicking the ball into the net.

Awards and Trophies

Ronaldo has won five Ballon d'Or awards. These are given to the best soccer player each year. He has also won five UEFA Champions League titles. These are big competitions where the best teams in Europe play against each other.

Social Media

Ronaldo has the most followers on social media. Ronaldo just reached one billion followers across all his social media accounts. That's more than any other person in the world! This shows that many people like him and want to know what he's doing. It also helps him make money and be famous even when he's not playing soccer.

Ronaldo is the Best

This is why Ronaldo is the best soccer player of all time.

**"Ronaldo is the best soccer player of all time."
-Dave A.**

DRAWING BY GAIA G.
CLASS 511

GOAL!



By Dave A.
Class 506
5th grade student
Library Club



Opinion: Messi

Messi is the Best

Lionel Messi is the best soccer player of all time for three main reasons. The first reason is that Messi has won the most trophies and has made record-breaking achievements for his scoring. The second main reason Messi is the greatest is because of his National Team success. The third reason Messi is the greatest is because of his brilliance and versatility playing multiple positions. This is why Messi is the best soccer player of all time.

Record-Breaking Achievements

Lionel Messi is an incredible soccer player who has achieved amazing things in his career. He has won the most Ballon d'Or awards of any soccer player, receiving the honor 8 times in total. During his time with Barcelona, he scored an incredible 672 goals, which is the most all-time for the club. Messi also made history by winning the Golden Ball twice! His incredible skills and dedication have made him one of the greatest soccer players ever!

DRAWING BY GAIA
CLASS 511

National Team Success

Lionel Messi has had amazing success with Argentina's national team. He finally won the FIFA World Cup in 2014 and 2022, which was a big dream come true for him. But Messi's success with Argentina didn't stop there. He helped his team win the Copa América in 2021 and 2024. He's also scored more than 100 goals for Argentina, which is really impressive. Messi's hard work and

talent have made him a true hero for his country's soccer team!

Versatility

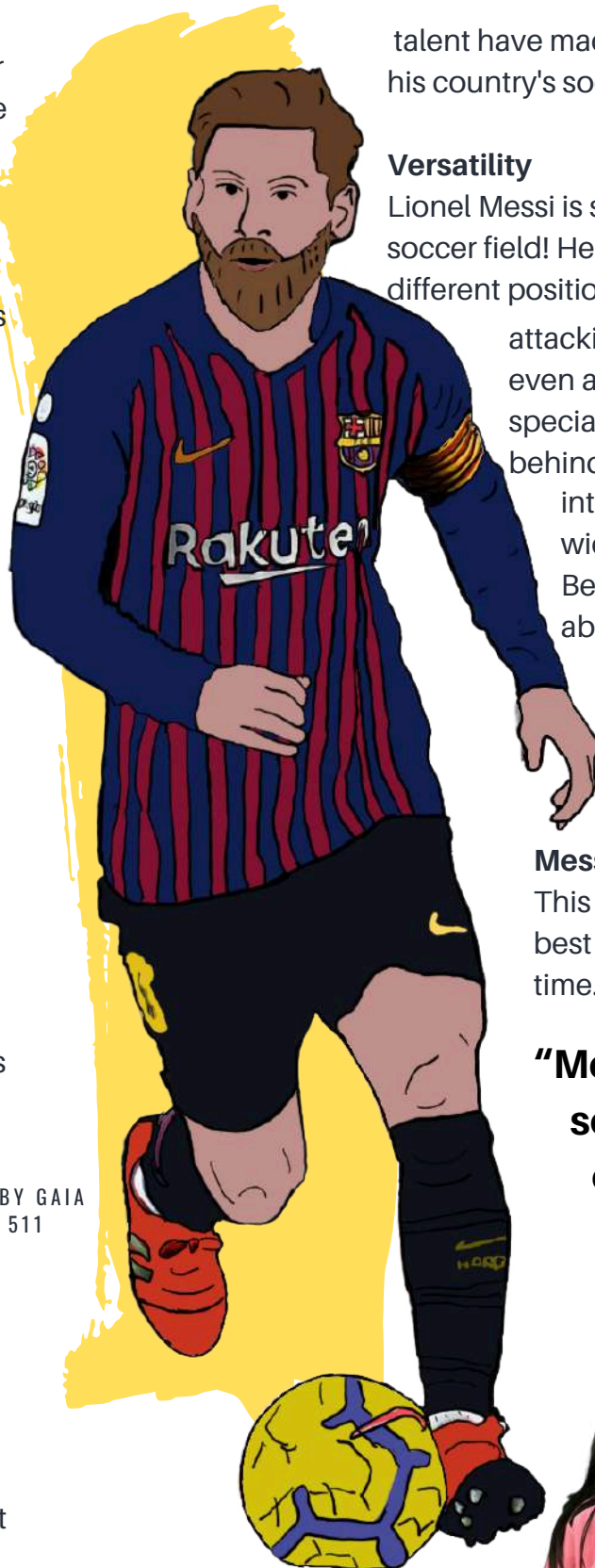
Lionel Messi is super versatile on the soccer field! He can play in many different positions like forward, attacking midfielder, and even as a false nine. His special skills let him run behind the defense, drop into midfield, or play wide on the wing. Because of his amazing abilities, Messi can create goals and opportunities in almost any part of the soccer field!

Messi is the Best

This is why Messi is the best soccer player of all time.

"Messi is the best soccer player of all time."

-Jesly S.



by Jesly S.,
Class 502, 5th Grade Student
Happy Corona After School





THE PS143Q SCHOOL WELLNESS TEAM 2024 CHANGE TOMORROW TODAY VOLUNTEERS.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

Change Tomorrow Today

On Tuesday, April 9, 2024 from 4:30-6:30pm, the School Wellness Council hosted the second annual Change Tomorrow Today event. The School Wellness Committee is a large team of teachers who really care about our school, PS143Q, and meet regularly to make plans to improve our school and community. This event was the second Earth Day themed event planned by the School Wellness Committee. Fifty teachers volunteered their time for this wonderful event, and each one received a special green T-shirt to show their School Wellness Committee pride. Fifteen fifth graders also volunteered and received special orange T-shirts that meant a lot to them.



DRAWING BY
MARC, 201



DRAWING BY JOHN, 201

Origins of The Change Tomorrow Today Event

The First School Wellness Event was in 2023 and started because the School Wellness Team wanted to do more to promote Earth Day and to get the children and families involved in caring more for the planet. Mr. Heinz came up

the bike riding event. Mr. Heinz wanted to promote both STEM and fitness while showing how bicycles are a good way to get around without carbon emissions that hurt the ozone layer. Bikes don't cause pollution like cars do, so the team agreed. Some teachers donated bikes, and



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

MS. KONIDAS SHOWS A CHILD HOW TO RIDE A BIKE AT THE PS.143Q LEARNS TO RIDE STATION DURING THE EVENT.



MS. MUEVECELA AND MS. CASTILLO AT THE ARTISTIC PING PONG PADDLES STATION.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

District 21 NYC Council Member, Francisco Moya, was able to donate an additional twenty bicycles and helmets. The helmets are important for safety to avoid traumatic head injuries. On the first event many teachers volunteered but there was no music.

The 2024 Stations

The 2024 Change Tomorrow Today event had expanded to include fourteen stations! The event even had Mr. Mercado Djing music with an Earth Day theme. The other stations included Recycling Relay Races with Mr. Loyaga, Ms. Velez, and Ms. Zapata, the

Paper from Paper station with Ms. Urquilla, Ms. Izumi, Ms. Tia, and Ms. McFaul, the Read and Reuse station with library books donated by Mr. Mercado and the table was hosted by Ms. I. Caceres, and student volunteers, The Paper Jewelry station with Ms. Rhehberg, Ms. Salinas, Ms. S. Ramirez, and Ms. Bermeo, the Sustainable Fashion/Home Good Station with Ms. Cicillini, Ms. Almeida, Ms. Vargas-Pena, and Ms. Pauta, the Ping Pong Paddles station with Ms. Castillo, Ms. Muevecela, and Ms. Youseff, the Planting station with Ms. Pineda, Ms. Ayala, Ms. Ng, Ms. Gomez, the

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle information station with Ms. Gomez and student volunteers, and the PS.143Q Learns to Ride (bicycles) station with Mr. Heinz, Mr. Bluman, Ms. Konidas, and Ms. Tanaka. All of these stations worked together to keep families and community members engaged in the event, but some of my personal favorites were the Learning to Ride station and the Recycling Relay station.

Community Volunteers

Not only were there teacher and student volunteers, there were also several community

organizations. Cooks, Didi Wang and Geneva Thomas, set up the *Allergic to Salad* table, and Tom Hurtubise set up a table on behalf of the *Queesz Zoo*. Members of the *New York Police Department 115 Precinct* attended as well as John Moncayo of the *New York Fire Department*.

Special Guests

Special guests that dropped by for a visit to the Change Tomorrow Today event included Adrianna Rozell of the NYC Office of Sustainability and Erin Bauer and Tyron Johnson of the NYC Office of School Wellness.

Impact of the Event

We sat down with PS143Q's yoga teacher, Ms. DiGregorio, who also serves as the leader of our school's School

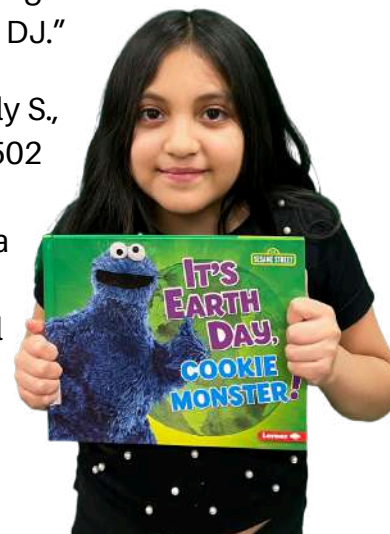
Wellness Committee. When we asked Ms. DiGregorio about the impact of the second annual Change Tomorrow Today event, she said, "As a committee, we hope to make a big impact among our 143 community and environment every Earth Day." It is amazing to have this type of leadership from our teachers.

"We hope to make a big impact among our 143 community and environment every Earth Day."
-Ms. DiGregorio

Conclusion

When we asked her what is next for the School Wellness Committee, she said, "Stay tuned for our next Change Tomorrow Today 3rd Annual Earth Day event on Thursday, April 10, 2025 from 4:30-6:30 in the school yard again featuring thirteen stations plus a DJ."

by Jesly S.,
 Class 502
 Happy
 Corona
 After
 School



MS. DIGREGORIO, MR. BLUMAN AND THE 5TH GRADE VOLUNTEERS.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan



CHILDREN ENGAGED IN YOGA DURING THE CHANGE TOMORROW TODAY EVENT.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

Trip to The Bronx Zoo



Photo Cred: Ms. Contreras

CLASS 101 POSES AT THE BRONX ZOO ON MAY 3RD, 2024.

On May 3rd, 2024, two of our first grade classes: 101 and 102 embarked on a field trip to the Bronx Zoo. The trip was planned by former first grade teacher and current Assistant Principal, Ms. Merino, who chose this trip as a culmination of our first grade's reading module: "Amazing Animals."

Chaperones on the trip included Ms. Contreras, Ms. Novoa, and a few parents. Ms. Contreras said in her interview that the educational purpose of the trip was for students to "learn more about animals and their habitats." Henry recalled reading about his favorite animal, cheetahs, in

class and was excited to see the fastest land animal at the Bronx Zoo.

The school bus arrived at the Bronx Zoo early in the morning. Jayden referred to the bus as the cheese bus because he is humorous. The first thing we did at The Bronx Zoo, was eat lunch.

After a scrumptious lunch, we encountered the most magnificent creature: a vibrant blue and green peacock! Ms. Contreras later said the peacock was her favorite animal because it was so

very nice and colorful. We all agreed the peacock was our favorite feathered friend.

"Everyone should go to the Bronx Zoo one time."

-Ms. Contreras



Photo Cred: Ms. Novoa

A PEACOCK POSES FOR A PHOTO ON MAY 3RD AT THE BRONX ZOO.



Photo Cred: Ms. Contreras

CLASS 101 GETS EXCITED ABOUT SEEING THEIR FIRST PEACOCK.

After seeing the peacock, the classes moved on to the giraffes. Henry and Ashley immediately recognized the giraffe from learning about them in class. They recalled, months later, that Ms. Novoa's favorite sea animal is the orca whale and her favorite land animal is the giraffe. Our news team has confirmed, through our sources, that Ms. Novoa does indeed like giraffes. We were mesmerized by the long necked giraffes who were grazing, or eating leaves, off of the trees, while we all watched!

The next animals we observed were also eating: pink flamingoes! We wondered if it was the shrimp they eat that turns their feathers so pink? We looked it up and we were right!

"There's no place like the zoo." -Ms. Novoa

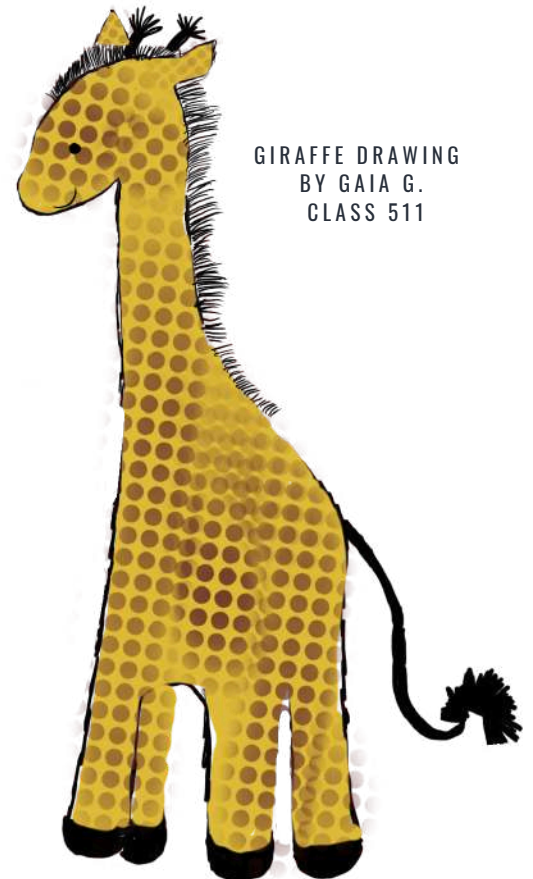


Photo Cred: Ms. Novoa

GIRAFFES ENJOYING THEIR LUNCH AT THE BRONX ZOO.

The next animals we went to see were the gorillas, but they were asleep! We understood that gorillas need naps too, so

we continued on walking across the zoo. We walked so much this day!



GIRAFFE DRAWING BY GAIA G. CLASS 511

Cold blooded reptiles were up next. We saw so many reptiles! The gigantic anaconda snake was terrifying!

The biggest lizard in the world, known as the Komodo dragon, left an interesting smell in our noses and made many of us gasp when we saw it. We didn't know dragons were real!

We also saw some turtles and lizards before we walked over to take our pictures. You have to be careful not to touch turtles because they carry a lot of bacteria and they snap.

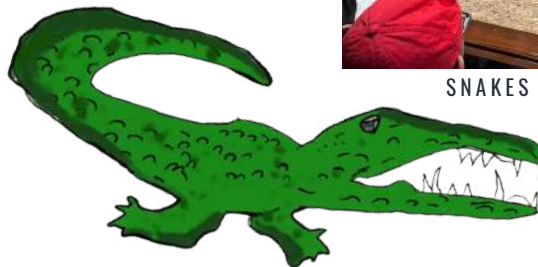
In our interview, we asked Ms. Contreras if all of the animals looked comfortable and had enough room. She said the reptiles looked like they didn't have much room.

We looked into this and found that the Bronx Zoo was in compliance with New York state laws and has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for its high standards of animal care.

We found in our research that some people did not agree. Some people thought the Asian elephant named Happy should not have to live alone. The elephant advocates sued the Bronx Zoo in 2018. The Supreme Court of New York ruled in 2022 that elephants do not get the same rights as humans sparking some debate.

**"We saw so many reptiles."
-Ashley**

ALLIGATOR DRAWING
BY EDWIN C.
CLASS 207



SNAKES AT THE BRONX ZOO.

Photo Cred: Ms. Novoa



REPTILES AT THE BRONX ZOO ON MAY 3RD, 2024.

Photo Cred: Ms. Novoa

Overall, we felt like this field trip to the Bronx Zoo was a great experience! We were able to connect our learning in the classroom to real life animal encounters! It was a very memorable trip, and that is why we chose to write about it for our news article. There were so many fun highlights but some of our favorites were the peacock,

giraffes, and when Jayden reminded us: Don't stick your hand in the lion cage! If you have the opportunity, we recommend you visit The Bronx Zoo! You won't regret it.

By Henry, Ashley, & Jayden
2nd Grade Students
Happy Corona After School





FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS BEGIN THE COLOR RUN RACE ON 112TH STREET.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

The Color Run

I walked out onto the road with the blue paint in my hand. I was wearing the white, color run t-shirt, cool, blue-green-yellow sunglasses, sweatpants, and sneakers. I was feeling fast and ready to run. I felt excited about holding the colors and seeing everyone holding colors.

"Five, four, three, two.." The countdown made me feel as excited as a monkey when he sees his owner. I just couldn't wait to throw my blue colors all around.

"One, GO!" I suddenly could no longer see the sky at all. The sky was replaced by all the colors of the rainbow. I threw my blue colors and

changed the sky to dark blue for a moment. Then I took more of my color and threw it right at my friend Steven. The blue colors I threw exploded all right into Steven's chest. He looked at me like the race was on, and he was ready to chase me down and throw his colors at me! I took off running like a cheetah. I was zig zagging around the other first graders, Kindergarten, and teachers.

Steven's mom, Priscilla, slowed me down when she hit me with a bunch of yellow color. Steven tried to catch up, and he hit my ear with green color before I ran off again. I was motivated to run my fastest.

The Color Run was a fun and a new experience that I will always remember. I can't wait for the next one!



by Alan O.
2nd Grade Student
Art Club



Friday, May 24, 2024 was the 4th annual PS143Q Color Run. It was simultaneously both one of the most fun and most messy days in our school's history. There was blasting music, powder, balloons, and fun galore.

The Origins of the Color Run

The origins of the Color Run started at Principal Lucas's old school where she was an assistant principal. So when she took over PS143Q, she wanted to continue the Color Run here in 2018 and 2019. Then the Covid-19 pandemic put a pause to the Color Run. Our school community was so excited when I was in third grade in 2023 and the Color Run resumed.

How did the 2024 Color Run Happen?

We sat down with Principal Lucas who explained to us the process of planning the 2024 Color Run. Ms. Lucas explained, "We worked with admin, the PTA president, parent volunteers, and even the New York Police Department to file a permit to use Hyde Park. Shoutout to everyone who helped plan it. It takes a village of the teachers who went outside and parents who came to support." Principal Lucas also had to book a DJ and order all of the supplies. Principal Lucas and her team bought five big boxes of color and never ran out of powder.

How was the Color Run Organized?

The Color Run lasted all day long. Our school is organized into three houses: House One is Kindergarten and First grade, House Two is second and third grade and House Three is fourth and fifth grade. There was a scheduled time for each House to have an equal time to run two laps around Hyde park. I remember looking out of the window all morning at the colors while waiting for House Three's turn! It was a well organized event so that we could all be safe because our school is too big to all run at once.



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

HOUSE 1 STUDENTS ENJOY THE COLOR RUN.

**"IT TAKES A VILLAGE OF THE
TEACHERS WHO WENT OUTSIDE AND
PARENTS WHO CAME TO SUPPORT."
- PRINCIPAL LUCAS**

Conclusion

Overall, the Color Run was lots of fun for me any my friends. I ran two laps and got a bit tired. I saw my mom when she passed by and I was so happy to see her. I really enjoyed the experience of running the two laps, even though when I was in the park after, I saw that my hair had powder in it!



By Malia D. and Ariany E.
5th Grade Students
Happy Corona After School

The Lion King Kids



THE PS143Q THEATRE TEAM PERFORMS THE CIRCLE OF LIFE SONG.

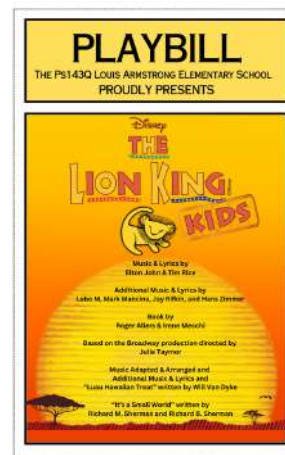
Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

On May 30th and 31st 2023 at 5:30 pm, in the PS143Q auditorium, the theatre club invited families and friends to the show called *The Lion King Kids*. When we entered the school, it was obvious this was a special event because there were many Lion King promotional posters lining the walls and a jungle backdrop for taking photos. Mr. Mercaldo greeted us and handed us a colorful playbill that looked just like a playbill from a real Broadway play.

When we got to our blue cushioned seats in our beautifully newly renovated auditorium, you could feel the

excitement in the air. It felt like we were sitting in a real Broadway show's theatre. The place was packed! We were both sitting in the middle of the auditorium. Beila was with her mom and Jaelynn was sitting with her oldest sister. The chatter of anxious parents, teachers, and children filled the room. The jungle themed decorations brightly hung around the stage. I browsed through the brochure and felt a sense of pride in my school. I

loves seeing the colorful images and interests of the actors, and I could see what songs to expect. Beila was so excited that her cousin, Brenda, was starring as one of the Rafiki's in the play.



OUR LION KING KIDS PLAYBILL



SOME OF THE POSTERS LINING THE HALLWAYS ON THE NIGHT OF THE PLAY.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LUCAS, COSTUME DESIGN MATIATIS, CHOREOGRAPHER TINGLIN-CRINER, DIRECTOR PAUTA, COSTUME DESIGN CHANG, PRODUCTION MANAGER PINEDA, PRODUCER SINGLETON. SET DESIGN FREEMAM, MUSIC DIRECTOR AYALA, STAGE MANAGER NG, AND CHOREOGRAPHER VELEZ.

Finally, the lights dimmed and it was time to start the show. "Nants ingonyama bagithi baba!" The show began with the Circle of Life song and we were totally into it. It was a glorious presentation of African animals: zebras, elephants, flamingos, baboons, giraffes, cheetahs, rhinoceroses, hyenas, and of course: lions!

As the show continued, our mouths dropped in awe at the sight of the majestic costumes and set designs. We were also impressed by the acting of the fifth grade cast. How did they remember all of their lines?

They had elephant memories. We were curious so we asked the play's director, Ms. Pauta, how much did the fifth graders practice? She responded, "We practiced three times a week for five months."

We know Ms. Pauta has high expectations for her students to perform well and get their lines correct. She is the type of director who has her cast practice until it's perfect, and she also loves her students. We asked Ms. Pauta, how she felt about the experience. Ms. Pauta explained, "I love watching students shine and have fun on stage." This shows

the Theatre Club has a caring leader and director.

"I love watching students shine and have fun on stage."
-Ms. Pauta



MUFASA (MICHAEL M.) EXPLAINS TO HIS SON SIMBA (LIAM L.) ABOUT THE GREAT CIRCLE OF LIFE.

Photo Credit: Mr. Chan

My cousin Brenda played one of the five Rafikis. In the movie there is one Rafiki, but our play had five to help with all of the lines. I interviewed Brenda after the show and she said, "My favorite part of the show was taking the field trips to the Lion King on Broadway and getting to perform in the real Broadway musical in Manhattan." When I asked Brenda what it was like being on stage she said, "Being on a stage in front of so many people made me feel nervous at first, but, as time went on, I began to feel more confident." At the time I am writing this, my cousin graduated from PS143Q, but she still makes me so proud for her performance as Rafiki.

One really annoying character was the villain: Scar. He is Mufasa's brother and Simba's uncle, so why does he treat his family so bad? I guess some villains are just power hungry.



THE RAFIKIS INCLUDED: ZAYANNA B., ALYSSA G., HANNAH R., AND BRENDA C.

Photo Cred: Mr. Chan



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

DYLAN R, (SCAR) SINGING HIS BIG SONG, BE PREPARED, WITH THE HYENAS.

SCAR EATING A MOUSE WHILE PLOTTING IN THE ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD.



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

SCAR AND HIS HYENAS ENTERING.



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

ANGEL C. (TIMON) AND ANDREW O. (PUMBA) PERFORM: HAKUNA MATATA.

Liam L. played young Simba and got to be the lead singer of songs like *I Just Can't Wait To Be King* with Zazu played by Angel A. Then, when Simba grew into an adult, he was played by Andrew H. and got to sing a duet called *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?* with Nala played by Abril Q.

Hakauna Matata was our favorite song because it is up beat, it has a lot of fun movements and good rhythm. Angel C. and Andrew O. carried the tune as the Timon and Pumba characters. Young Simba, played by Liam L., was also in this song.

At the end of the play I stood up and I gave a standing ovation. I was so happy for the teachers like Ms. Pauta who got flowers.

After the show, we interviewed Production Manager, Ms. Pineda, who said her favorite part of the experience was going to Broadway. Our students got to see the real Lion King show on Broadway and even perform one song on stage! This was an amazing production!



Photo Cred: Mr. Chan

RAFIKI LIFTS UP BABY SIMBA.



Photo Cred: Ms. Pineda

Photo Cred: Ms. Pineda

PS143Q THEATRE TEAM STUDENTS POSE FOR PHOTOS AT THE LION KING PLAY AT THE MINSKOFF THEATRE ON BROADWAY.

By Beila R., Jaelynn S., and Jihanna V.
4th Grade Students
Class 410, Library Club



