

October 2008

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AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE



New Faces at ACES



Ms. Romero's class

by Dominique Szymkiewicz and Alexia Barandiaran

Have you seen the new faces at ACES? As you all know, the start of the new school year brings in a whole new kindergarten class. We went to see how the kindergarteners and their teachers are adapting to the new school year.

Ms. Damas's students are adapting very well, other than they still need to get used to the rules and proper behavior. **Ms. Zeidler** is teaching about the five senses and the students are learning how to read and write. **Ms. Ramirez** loves teaching kinder-

garten and will never do anything else. All the teachers told us they love teaching in their learning environment.

Five year old **Victoria Szymkiewicz**, who is in Ms. Damas's class, says her favorite thing about school is the centers. Some of the centers are computers, art, puzzles and many more. **Chloe Mendez** in Ms. Zachar's class says she feels good and feels like she "is a big girl now." **Sophia Silver** in Ms. Zeidler's class says that one fun thing she has done is science. We also interviewed **Abigail Apablaza** who says "everything about this school is

awesome." **Armin Farshchi** in Ms. Romero class says he "really likes going on the computer."

So far it seems the kindergarteners are really enjoying school and happy to start the new school year. So now when you go visit the kindergarten class or see the students walking in the hall you'll know a little about how it feels to be in kindergarten.



Ms. Zeidler's class



Ms. Damas's class

A Whole New World

by Pedro Rojas

It's a new school year and the sixth grade students and teachers are ready for it. **Ms. Wilson**, a former fifth grade teacher, says she is excited for the year and says the biggest difference between being a

middle school teacher and an elementary school teacher is that she only is teaching one subject this year; reading/Language Arts.

Some sixth graders are saying that they are excited, but nervous, for this

new school year. Sixth grader **Destinee Gutierrez**, says that she is most eager to work in journalism and that so far the year has been great, "I'm doing better than I expected," she told us. Some other kids are excited for P.E. and math as well. Others told



6th grader Destinee

Spotlight On A New Teacher

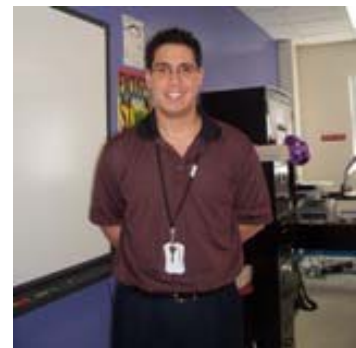
by Rachel Delaney

The sad leaving of Mr. Carbone has brought the happy incoming of a new middle school math teacher; **Mr. Matamoros**. Born in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, Mr. Matamoros tells us, so far he's been having a great experience at ACES! He likes the teachers because they really have been nice and very supportive.

Mr. Matamoros has many hobbies including chess, art, theater, and he

also likes to dance. He is not married and has no children. Mr. Matamoros is very social, and focused. A lot of students like him. 7th grader **Sammy Jadotte** says "Mr. Matamoros explains the work to make it easier and gives us time to complete the assignment." 6th grader **Fabio Utrilla** agrees. He says, "Mr. Matamoros helps me understand the work better."

It is obvious Mr. Matamoros is a great new addition to the ACES family!



"Mr Matamoros explains the work to make it easier and gives us time to complete the assignment.

-Sammy Jadotte

A Whole New World (cont'd from page 1)

us they (cont. on page 2) miss elementary school and their old teachers.

This year is different for the incoming sixth graders because of several reasons; they now have seven periods which means seven new teachers, the students no longer have recess, and

only go outside during P.E, and finally, they are in school for 30 more minutes.

Now that the 2008-2009 school year has begun, the sixth graders are ready to achieve and succeed!



bottom row left to right: Aline Lacerda, Hany Zerbib, Josefina Buscasust, Tatiana Tejada.

standing left to right: Sasha Matvienko, Nikki Saecker, Alan Buenos, Mona Mughar, Karena Halvorssen



left to right: Victor Pires, Alec Eidelstein, Leon Liberman, Isaac Rosenheim, Adam Brown

New Students at ACES

by Amanda Waldmann

Every year ACES adds a few new students to their family. For the 2008-2009 school year there are 37 new students. In this issue we will be introducing you to two new students; **Amanda Zanardi** and **Tomas Buenos**.

Amanda is 12 years old and is from Brazil. She has a little sister. She told us that she used to go to Highland Oaks and she likes ACES very much. Amanda said she switched schools because this one is closer to her house. Her favorite subject is science. Some-

thing interesting about Amanda is that she loves things from the 1950s. She loves watching the actress Lucille Ball and she likes to draw.

Tomas Buenos is 13 years old, and has no siblings. He is from Argen- (cont. on page 6)



Amanda Zanardi—7th grade

Need Advice?

Hello ACES,

I'm Nancy, your advice lady! You can ask me anything you want. I decided to write this column because some children need advice and don't know where to go. If you want any of my advice, you can write your question on a paper and bring it to **Ms. Chiodi's** class (room 8120, next to the middle school art room). She will give it to me, and I will answer it in the next issue of the

newsletter. I suggest you keep your identity safe by creating a fake name. Don't ever write your real name!

Here is an example of one type of question you can ask:

Dear Nancy, People don't listen to me, they just laugh. What should I do?
Sincerely, Laughed at in ACES

I would answer this by telling this person the fol-

lowing:

Dear Laughed at in ACES,
You should tell the people who laugh at you to listen and not joke about what you are saying. If someone isn't listening you can also pull them aside and tell them to take you seriously.

Sincerely, Nancy

So if you need help with anything, or just want some advice, write to me! I will be happy to help you out.

Taylor's Picks

by Taylor Light

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" This mysterious ad begins Trenton Lee Stewart's book, The Mysterious Benedict Society. Let me tell you something, I hate reading but, I **LOVED** this book!

Four young gifted children, Reynie, Kate, Sticky and Constance conquer unbelievable odds and crazy hard challenges to save the world. Can they be the heroes we are looking for? If they work together, and each uses their talents, no one will be left behind.

Reynie, an astoundingly smart orphan is one child who takes the test. Test you think, who would want

to take a test? However, these are no ordinary tests, you'll have to read the book to find out! Amazingly, he and the three other children are the only ones who pass the test. Soon, they met the genius Mr. Benedict, a narcoleptic and his sidekicks, Number Two and Rhonda.

The children travel on their first assignment to a mysterious boarding school on an island, to find out everything possible about the school's director Mr. Curtain. Sneaking around as undercover students, they discover his evil plan to use mind control to control the world. Stopping him seems impossible, even for Constance, Sticky, Kate, and Reynie. Kate an extremely athletic, 12 year

old who can measure anything just in her head, happens to be my absolute favorite character. She can climb a rope on the side of the wall in a minute and run faster than the wind. Sticky can remember anything in the entire universe and I am not over exaggerating. In addition, he knows almost every thing because he can read ten languages and a book in minutes. Then there's Constance. Oh Constance, you will find out about her in a surprising manner. Finally, yet most importantly, Reynie, an astonishing riddles and puzzle solver and insightful wonder boy. I could not help trying to figure out the puzzles and riddles before reading the (cont. on page 7)

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?"



Peace Day Spotlight

By Destinee Gutierrez and Carolina Pulido

Happy Peace Day! As we celebrate peace day we would like to turn the spotlight on Brigitte Benchimol! As some students know she has written an award winning series of books called Jadyn and the Magic Bubble.

Ms. Benchimol came to ACES to speak with the fourth grade classes about the second book in the series I Met Ghandi, and how peace inspired her to become an author.

Ms. Benchimol was

inspired by Ghandi who spread his message of peace around the world to become a children's author and help teach children how they can create peace in their world. She developed the Jadyn and the Magic Bubble series of books after meeting Ghandi's grandson, and seeing a picture in a magazine of a boy blowing a bubble. The series revolves around a boy named Jadyn who travels the world discovering himself and learning how to be a better citizen of the world.

Mrs. Benchimol be-

lieves that peace is total acceptance and understanding. She believes in making everyday count, feeling great, and bringing her mission to bring peace to others. She also says "peace is possible because (cont. on page 8)



Peace in the City

by Kristen Fox

Along with students and faculty, the ACES Peace Day ceremony included several important members of the city of Aventura. **Mayor Susan Gottlieb, City Manager Eric Soroka, and City Commissioners Michael Stern and Teri Holzberg** were among those in attendance.

Each official had a specific idea of what peace means to him or her. Mr. Stern said "peace is love and happiness." City Commissioner Teri Holzberg said "peace means love of the cultures, not wanting to destroy one another, trying to live together with happiness and love."

Aventura's City Manager, Eric Soroka, a man who we know very well, summed up peace in a few, but very moving words; "Peace means to me happiness, love, everyone getting along, doing good things for everyone." He told us all the people, children and residents he serves are what inspire him to bring peace to the city. When he needs peace in his life, he spends time with his family and his dogs.

Finally, Mayor Susan Gottlieb said "peace means love, respect, caring, and concern for other people. Doing all of that will bring harmony to not only your school and community but to the country and the world." She told us she is

inspired by people who motivate us to non-violently seek change; people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Ghandi."

Peace Day at ACES turned out to be a great success. We should all be grateful we are a part of such a giving, peaceful family!



Ms. Alm, Mayor Gottlieb, and City Manager Eric Soroka



City Commissioner Teri Holzberg



Michael Stern

International Peace Day

by Sofia Manzo and Aliza Lichy

This year was the fifth annual Peace Day that ACES celebrated. The Mayor, **Susan Gottlieb**, City Manager, **Eric Soroka** and commissioners along with volunteers, students, teachers, Stride for Safety Representatives and **Bridget Benchimol**, the author of the series Jadyn and the Magic Bubble, were all here to celebrate Peace day with ACES.

All of ACES prepared for Peace day for weeks. They wrote poems, essays, and made projects about peace and what it means to them. "The thing I look forward the most about the assembly is what students

think about peace" said **Mr. Delgado**.

We saw projects made by **Ms. Arrastias's** and **Ms. Peralta's** classes. The winners for the Peace Day Poem and essays were announced and read. Seventh graders **Donovan Vasquez, Salvatore Liberti, and Rafael Sarmiento** were among the Peace Day poem winners chosen to present their work during the assembly. Eighth grader **Carolina Suzrez's** Peace Day essay was read by fifth grade **Romi Zachar**. All of the written works presented a wonderful interpretation of what peace means to each student. "The ceremony was amazing, I was peace-

ful while watching it, it made me realize how special our school is." said Ms. Arrastias.

Ms. Benchimol gave a speech about her books and how Gandhi inspired her. She said her favorite part about him was what he used to say "My life is my message."

After the ceremony there was peace cake and everyone got to spend some time together and have cake while Mrs. Benchimol signed books.



Ms. Zeidler wishes everyone "peace".



Ms. Arrastias looks peaceful with her students.

Fairchild Play

by Nicholas Iregui and Alex Lopez

From Peace Day to Earth Day, there are a lot of opportunities for students to showcase their hard work and willingness to shed light on a very important issue; the environment. At ACES, the drama kids combined their talents in acting and singing, and put together two skits about recycling. The first and fifth drama classes competed against each other to see who would be chosen to perform the skit at the Fairchild Gardens in

Coral Gables.

The directors were **Sidney Groll** and **Billy Scott**. Sidney and the first period drama students wrote and performed a skit utilizing the melodies from "It's a Hard Knock Life" from the musical "Annie", and "Loathing" from the musical "Wicked". Billy Scott, and the period five drama students composed their own music, and wrote a skit about the importance of recycling.

Billy Scott said he was motivated to participate in this project because he was

cut by a can in a river in Haiti. As a child Billy saw videos about what pollution does to animals, humans and the earth He hopes to help make the school go green, and help people appreciate the earth and its environment.

Each class performed their skit in front of other ACES students and teachers. Sidney Groll's skit featured performances by eighth graders, **Donna Rafai**, and **Maya Mevorach**, seventh graders **Sarah Belfer** and **Sabrina** (cont. on page 6)



The first period drama class, performs their recycling skit.



Fairchild Play (cont. from page 7)

Piper, and sixth grader Karena Halvorssen. Billy Scott's actors are: **Gabi Patino, Clarisa Bigott, Sarah Rahal, Emanuel Avila, Mona Mughar, Victoria Shtymen, Hanny Zerbib and Melody Kleinman.**

Ms. Louiseau, Ms. Chiodi, Mr. Verdier, and Ms. Lendick judged the performances and chose Billy Scott and his team as the winners. They will be performing their skit, October 16th, at Fairchild Gardens in Coral Gables. Ms. Lendick, who as most of us know, runs the Fairchild Garden program here at ACES said "Bravo to the actors who are involved

with changing the world... one student at a time!"

Congratulations to everyone who participated, both performances were fantastic!



6th graders Melody Kleinman and Hany Zerbib perform as peas.



The winning team, directed by Billy Scott, will be performing their skit at the Fairchild Gardens on October 16th.

New Students at ACES (cont. from page 2)

tina. He used to go to Highland Oaks. When asked how he likes ACES Tomas said 'good, I like it.' He likes P.E because he loves playing sports. He told us that he switched schools because he didn't like his old one. Tomas has two hobbies; soccer and watching movies.

We are very happy to have both Tomas and Amanda, and so far it sounds like they are happy to be with us! Here are several other new students; **Florencia DaDone, Bruno Aruda, Ester Gregori, Kia Bradfree, Jonathan Hillel, Tariq Williams, and Anthony Paul.** It

sounds like it is going to be a great school year!



Florencia DaDone—6th grade

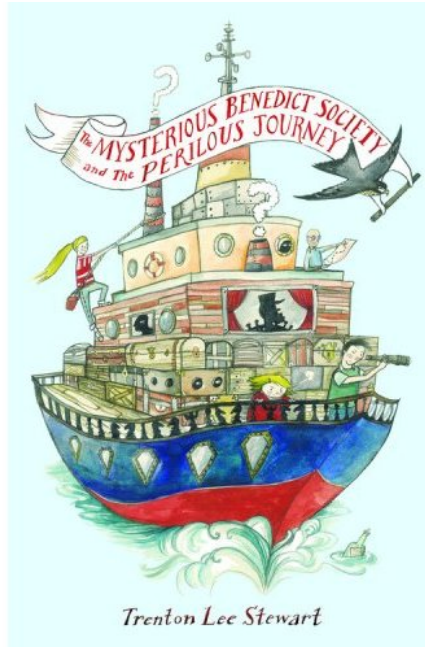


Tomas Buenos —7th grade

Taylor's Pick (cont. from page 3)

next page to see if I was right. There are so many interesting twists and turns, no one, not even an adult will be disappointed.

Did I like it? Let us just say I finished this 500-page book in about four days and I am already reading the second book. Oh! And yes, it is just as good! There is even a website dedicated to the Mysterious Benedict Society. Let me just conclude by saying that by just reading one chapter of this book, you will be done before you can say, "Are you a special child looking for special opportunities?"



Who Will Be, After Bush 43?

by Leanne Suchar

As the 2008 election comes to an end, there are two candidates that have been fighting their way to the top. Barack Obama and John McCain have been at each others throats since the end of the primaries. Now they are weeks away from seeing who America chooses to be the next President of the United States. One of these two very eligible candidates is on the verge of becoming the next President of our country.

Barack Obama

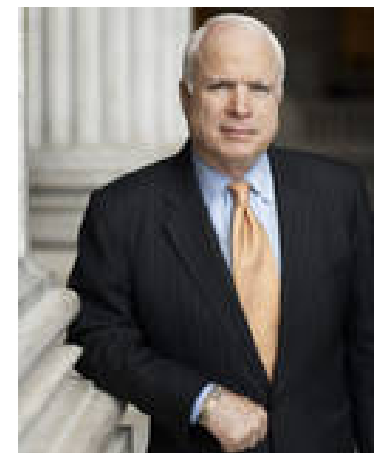
Born in Hawaii on August 4th, 1961, Barack Obama has been a favor-

able candidate for many of the young generations throughout the election process. Obama was born into a very multicultural family, with a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya. His father, Barack Obama Sr., was born in a small village in Kenya. Ann Dunham, Obama's mother, was born in a small town in Kansas. Ann and Barack Sr. met at the University of Hawaii. After the birth of his son, Barack's father returned to Kenya. Barack was raised by his mother in Hawaii. They later moved to Indonesia where they also lived there for a few years.

In 1983, Obama gradu-

ated from Columbia University. He moved to Chicago in 1985 and became a community organizer with a church-based group. The group helped to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods with crime and unemployment. He received his law degree from Harvard in 1991. Obama also became the first African-American to become president of the Harvard Law Review. Later he returned to Chicago to be a civil rights lawyer and teach constitutional law. He later served in the Illinois State Senate and served there for eight years. In 2004, he became

(continued on page 5)



Who Will Be, After Bush 43? (cont. from page 4)

the third African-American since the Reconstruction to be elected to the United States Senate.

John McCain

John McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone, Panama on August 29, 1936. McCain was one of three sons to John S. McCain Jr. and wife, Roberta. McCain's father and grandfather were admirals in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, John followed family tradition and entered the United States Naval Academy.

In June of 1967, McCain went to fight in the

Vietnam War, as a lieutenant commander. On October 26, while making his 23rd mission over North Vietnam, his plane was shot down by an anti-aircraft missile. He landed in a lake near Hanoi with two broken arms and a broken leg. He was captured by the Vietnamese, and spent the next five years as a POW (prisoner of war).

When the Vietnamese learned that he was the son of a U.S. Navy officer, he was offered an early release. He denied this request and was kept captive for the next five and a half years. On March 14th, 1973 McCain was released with many other American pris-

oners. In November of 1982, he was won a seat in the House of Representatives. McCain was later re-elected in 1984.

Now these two very eligible candidates are on the verge of becoming something they have worked toward since the very beginning. Voting begins on November 4th, 2008. Although we are still too young to vote, we can still encourage our parents, friends, cousins, everybody of legal age to get out there and vote! It will make a difference. Whose side are you on?



Senator Joe Biden—Barack Obama's running mate



Alaskan Governor, Sarah Palin, is McCain's running mate.

Peace Day Spotlight (cont. from page 4)

war doesn't take us anywhere", so she likes to think peace is possible. As she closed her presentation her closing words were "to find peace you must find what makes you feel whole and to find happiness in your inner soul."

Ms. Benchimol is currently working on the third book in the series Kenya! Kenya! which will be released in 2009.

We asked several fourth graders "what does peace mean to them?" Mila Sircorsky says "peace means to not have any war and no violence in the world". She

also said "it is to be nice to your friends and family."

We also interviewed Michel Duek, who said that peace is "when people don't fight and when there is no war and when people cooperate with each other."

According to Elizabeth Korken, peace is "no violence around the world, no fighting with your brother and having respect."

So we ask you "What does peace mean to you?"



From left to right: Ms. Benchimol, Aventura Mayor Susan Gottlieb, City Manager Eric Soroka

An Author at ACES

by Carolina Pulido and Pedro Rojas

On September 15th, ACES welcomed a very special guest. He is Paul Feig, the director of the critically acclaimed TV shows “Freaks and Geeks” and “The Office”. He came to ACES to talk about his new book called Ignatius McFarland: Frequentaut.

The book, based on Paul’s favorite subject; science, is about a little kid who builds a rocket ship, Paul talked to the students about his experiences writing Ignatius McFarland, and read them the first chapter of the book.

Paul’s resume also includes being an actor on “Sabrina the Teenage Witch,” and he also directed several movies. One of the movies he worked on was “Unaccompanied Minors”.

Paul says that you need to connect with your actors and if you want to be an actor you need to have acting lessons. Ignatius McFarland is Paul’s first children’s book. He has written a couple adult books, including Banana Land.

Paul says the hardest part of writing is to actu-

ally sit down and write. Paul has had a successful writing and directing career and hopes to keep it that



Paul Feig autographs a copy of his book for fourth-grader Anika Ramchandani



Mr. Verdier, Ms. Alm, and third grader Daniella Valdivieso pose with TV/Movie director and author Paul Feig.

Safety Patrols at ACES

by Dan Sicorsky

Have you ever seen some ACES students walking around with a yellow belt and badge on? Did you ever wonder why? These students are our safety patrols. Every year ACES chooses about 16 safety patrols from the elementary school to keep everyone safe. 5th grader, **Francesca Condom** said “it’s really fun and I’m glad I was chosen.”

To be a safety patrol, students need to work very hard and be very good students. Only students with exemplary grades are chosen for such a special job. 5th grader **Jake Shapiro**

said “I feel proud of myself because I’m a good student.”

Of course safety patrols have to have supporters that help them out in their job and those special people are **Ms. Haynes** and **Officer Manny**. They really enjoy working with the safety patrols. Officer Manny thinks that it is a great responsibility to work with this group of students. He says “we’re trying to provide a leadership role and to provide safety in the school.” The school is very glad to have safety patrols working to keep the whole

school safe.



Officer Manny and Ms. Haynes, with the elementary school safety patrol.

Pop Some Popcorn!

by Ana-Lis Garcia

Have you ever heard of monkeys going to the moon? What about flies?

“Fly Me to the Moon” is a movie about three young flies, Nat, IQ, and Scooter, who want to go to the moon. The three flies set off on a courageous mission to become the first insects on the moon, by hitching a ride on the historic Apollo 11 space flight.

Scooter overhears Mike, a human, say that he works at NASA, the space center. This is when the adventure begins. The trio decides that Mike will be their way to outer space. Throughout

their escapades, Nat, IQ, and Scooter get the help of Nat’s grandfather.

Grandpa battles the evil, Russian fly, Yegor, who tries to sabotage the computer flight plans, and prevent the three young flies from returning to Earth.

This movie is filled with adventure, excitement, and even a love story! Although I enjoyed this movie, I recommend it to seven year olds and under. I think young kids will get a kick out of it.

For its humor, adventure, and storyline, I give “Fly Me to the Moon” three and a half stars.

“For its humor, adventure, and storyline, I give “Fly Me to the Moon” three and a half stars.”

