



# The Lamb Pages

All the News from Riverside Elementary School

Issue 5, May 2014

## Teacher of the Year!

By Joelle M.

DO you know who the teacher of the year is? It's our Reading Specialist, Mrs. Taylor. I sat down with her and asked her a few questions about her life.

The first question is how long have you been working at RES? She said 17 years. She worked in second grade for 10 years and has been our reading teacher for the past 7 years. Her day is very busy. On most days she works with kindergarten, first and second grades on reading, writing, and word work. She also meets with teachers to discuss what books to read and what types of lessons to teach during reading.

I asked her what is the best part of your job? Mrs. Taylor says that the best part of her job is teaching kids reading because she loves reading. She shares that the hardest part of her day is fitting in all of the things she needs to do in her busy day. I asked what she hopes her students learn. She hopes her students learn how to feel good about themselves as readers.

Finally, I wanted to know where she grew up. She grew up near Riverside in Edgewater Park. She went to school in Delanco and Edgewater Park. For college, Mrs. Taylor went to Northeastern University and Drexel University. The last thing I asked her was to tell something about her that might surprise people. The most surprising thing was she went swimming with dolphins. She even keeps a picture of it on her desk!



RES's display at the Burlington County Education Association's 23<sup>rd</sup> Mall Expo!

## The Lamb Pages Staff

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kely A.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade    | Eric J.--4 <sup>th</sup> grade      |
| Ayzelin B.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade | Amy L.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade       |
| Leslie C.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade  | Joelle M.--4 <sup>th</sup> grade    |
| Joslyn E.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade  | Marilyn M.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade   |
| Taylor F.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade  | Alexandra M.--4 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| Ian H.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade     | Michelle S.--4 <sup>th</sup> grade  |
| Brea H.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade    | Calvin V.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade    |
| Kaya H.--4 <sup>th</sup> grade    | Ivan V.--5 <sup>th</sup> grade      |
| Advisor: Kristen Frey             |                                     |

### **Read If You D.A.R.E.!**

By Joslyn E. and Marilyn M.  
DID you know that Officer Congemi of the Riverside Police Department teaches D.A.R.E to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at RES? Well, now you know! Around the middle of January, Officer Congemi started to teach the 5<sup>th</sup> graders about D.A.R.E.--Drug Abuse Resistance Education. First of all, Officer Congemi teaches us about saying no to drugs, but he makes learning fun. In the beginning of D.A.R.E, Officer Congemi gives everyone a pencil case that has a ruler, a pencil, and an eraser. Officer Congemi teaches us a lot of things out of a booklet.

In D.A.R.E. we have learned about reaching personal goals, what it is like to be a police officer, and the dangers of drugs and tobacco. Then every 5<sup>th</sup> grader was asked to write an essay relating the information to themselves.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a D.A.R.E. graduation and one person from each class was chosen to read their essay to the audience. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders really enjoyed the program and thank Officer Congemi for all of his hard work in teaching us this very important information. Hopefully, after reading this, everyone will be excited about having the D.A.R.E. program in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

### **Are You Smarter Than an ELP Teacher?**

By Brea H. and Joelle M.  
DO you know who the ELP teacher is? Mrs. Harris has been teaching our ELP (Extended Learning Program) for the past two years. We sat down with her and asked her a few questions.

Most importantly, how do you get into ELP? She said a parent or teacher nominates a student. Also entrance into the program is based on NJ ASK Test scores. Once you are in ELP, you get to work on projects and skills that go beyond the classroom. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, students work on a main project of the marking period. On Thursdays students work on thinking packets or trivia cards, and on Fridays they work on technology skills.

So what is Mrs. Harris' favorite thing about ELP? She answered that her students are her favorite thing about ELP! She hopes to bring her students together and make them work as team players. Before teaching ELP, Mrs. Harris taught kindergarten for 7 years, she was a reading teacher for 6 months, and a third grade teacher for one year. Along with teaching ELP, she teaches third grade health, and fourth and fifth grade reading. If you work hard, maybe some day you will be able to have fun in ELP too!

## Classroom Spotlight: Third Grade

### **Mrs. Boggs, the Best Science Teacher Ever!**

By Taylor F.

IN the Science Lab (a.k.a. Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. Dursi's room), the day, Mrs. Boggs says, is very busy! That's because everyone is focused on learning and doing their best. Mrs. Boggs says that she hopes the students learn to be independent learners, are going to be able to summarize a story, memorize multiplication and division facts, and hope they want to be scientists by the end of the year.

Mrs. Boggs's favorite books that she reads are *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *Stone Fox*. The new addition to Room 602 is a kind of workshop that improves the scientist's writing. You guessed it: Writer's Workshop. Now this is an interesting fact about Mrs. Boggs, the scientist: She has been teaching for 30 years, but she has been co-teaching with Mrs. Dursi for 14 years. Other than third grade, Mrs. Boggs has also taught 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Isn't that amazing? Mrs. Boggs's favorite part about teaching is of course, science and watching the children learn.

Any hopes for the year Mrs. Boggs? She says that she hopes that every child grows and is proud of their accomplishments. She shares that she is looking forward to the Life Cycles unit in science. One more thing for any second graders that will have Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. Dursi next year: You are going to have so much fun!

### **A Day With Mrs. Dursi**

By Kely A.

MRS. Dursi says that her inclusion classroom is quiet and productive. It is not crazy like other classrooms might be. Mrs. Dursi's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders spend all year learning how to write paragraphs, practice good spelling and grammar, make their writing pop, and have all of their multiplication facts memorized.

Each teacher has favorite books they like to read throughout the year in third grade. In Mrs. Dursi's opinion, her favorite books are *Come On Rain*, *How Are You Peeling: Foods with Moods*, *Crazy Like a Fox*, and the *Magic Tree House* series.

Most of you might not know how long she has been teaching third grade, but I will tell you. She has been teaching for 14 years with Mrs. Boggs. Some of those years were in the old building, which is now the middle school. That's amazing! Before 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Mrs. Dursi taught in a private school. She taught in just one room where there were multiple grades.

Mrs. Dursi says her favorite part about teaching third grade is seeing the sparkle in her student's eyes and seeing her students being capable of doing their independent work. Her hopes for this year are that her students learn the taught skills, do well on the NJ ASK test, and enjoy third grade.

## **Ms. Black Breaks the Code to Awesome Teaching!**

By Michelle S.

WHEN I asked Ms. Black what her day was like, she responded, “We practice math with fun activities. For example, on Valentine’s Day, we did related facts in candy hearts.” Ms. Black also adds fun to science experiments and reading. The class was reading *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. Have you ever heard of a mouse on a motorcycle? Now that’s just funny!

Sherley, a student in Ms. Black’s class, says that third grade in Ms. Black’s class is awesome with a capitol A! Robert, another student in Ms. Black’s class, says that third grade in that classroom is amazing!

Ms. Black says that by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students should know how to multiply and divide, read third grade level fiction and non-fiction, and write narrative, informational, and opinion pieces. They also have a writer’s celebration at the end of every writing unit. Her favorite books to read are *The Tiger Rising*, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, and the *I Survived* series.

Ms. Black has been teaching here at RES for 6 months, since this is her first year here. She says her favorite part of teaching is how enthusiastic the third graders are for learning. She hopes that every third grader is ready to enter 4<sup>th</sup> grade and create many cherished memories. Now you know how Ms. Black breaks the code to great teaching!

## **The RES Newbie**

By Alexandra M.

DO you know the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Theis? Well I am going to tell you all about her! Mrs. Theis says that her day is very busy, awesome, fun, cool, hard, and wonderful. She says her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students should know how to write using supportive details and descriptive words, multiply, and know all about their community. Mrs. Theis says that she loves to read *How to Be Cool in Third Grade*, *Stone Fox*, and *Mania C. Magee*.

Even though Mrs. Theis has only been teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for one year, she has been teaching for a long time. She taught in the high school most recently, but has also taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Her favorite thing about teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is how different each day can be. She says that she loves seeing the improvement in her students from the beginning of the year to the end. Her hopes for the school year are that everybody does well on their tests, enjoys 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and that the students learn the value of learning!

### Third Graders Rock!

By Joslyn E.

THIS month, I interviewed Jessica S. in Mr. McLoughlin's class.

Jessica has been going to RES for about 5 years. Jessica enjoys science class because she does well in that subject and her class does many exciting and interesting projects. Jessica claims that her least favorite subject is math because it is difficult and challenging for her. *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopy Pants* is Jessica's favorite book to read.

The best part about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for Jessica is that her teacher doesn't yell and he gives exciting assignments. Jessica's favorite hobbies include lyrical dance and softball. When Jessica grows up, she is hoping to become a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher because it sounds exciting and challenging. Next year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Jessica is looking forward to having a nice teacher and learning new things so she can become smarter. "I like being in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade because I think it's fun."

By. Marilyn M.

This month I interviewed Raphael D. from Mr. McLoughlin's class.

Raphael has been at RES for about 4 years. Raphael says his favorite subject is math because he is very good at it. He shares that his least favorite subject is reading because it's very confusing for him.

Raphael says his favorite book is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

Raphael thinks that the best part about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is his teacher, Mr. McLoughlin. He adds that his teacher is very nice and makes learning fun. Raphael's favorite thing to do outside of school is to play with his friends.



Our 5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade  
Spelling  
Bee  
Champ  
**Marilyn  
M.** and  
runner up  
Taylor F.  
Way to go  
girls!

### **The Way I See It...**

EACH month two Lamb Pages writers will take sides on hot issues affecting our school. This month, we take on music for 5<sup>th</sup> graders...

### **More Learning 5<sup>th</sup> Graders!**

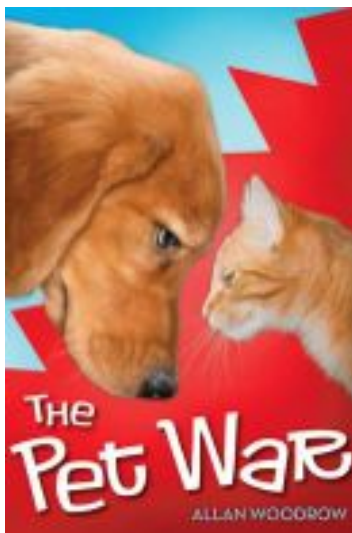
By Michelle S.

I think 5<sup>th</sup> graders should not have music once a week. First, 5<sup>th</sup> graders may know a lot of things, but learning NEVER stops! They need a break once in a while, but they need more learning time, not break time. If they have music every week, they are losing a lot of learning time. The time that they are not in music they are preparing for their big move to middle school for next year. I bet being in middle school is tough, so they HAVE to do everything to be prepared this year. I know people love singing, and I am one of those people. But the 5<sup>th</sup> graders really need to be focused on their education right now, not their vocals.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Blues...**

By Leslie C.

This year 5<sup>th</sup> grade only has music once a month! Almost all of the other elementary classes have music each week, yet, 5<sup>th</sup> grade only sees Mrs. Aviles once every few weeks. Future singers, like me, don't get the chance to let their voices out with someone who can teach them the proper way to do it. Yes, we are headed for middle school next year, but singing and music can have a huge impact on our lives and the way we learn. Music can help build concentration and help students in other areas like reading and math. Even though all of the specials we have are important in their own way, music is super important to me and others and only having it a couple of time throughout our 5<sup>th</sup> grade year is unfair. We don't think that we should be feeling the 5<sup>th</sup> grade music blues!



## **BOOK REVIEW**

### The Pet War

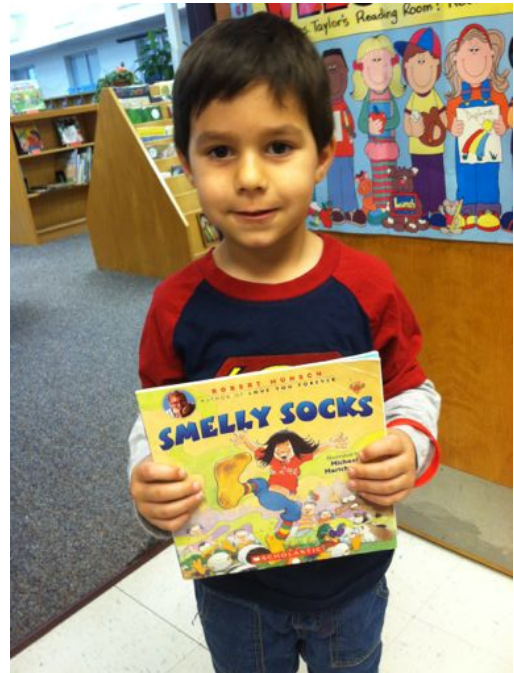
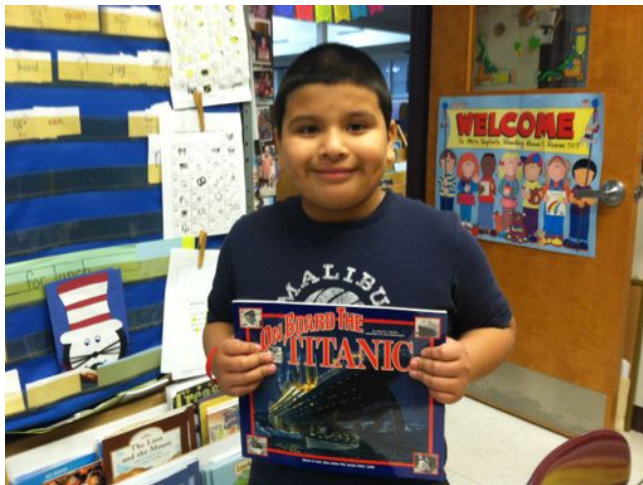
By Alexandra M.

THE Pet War is about a boy named Otto who wants a dog. His neighbor moved away with his dog that Otto plays with. He asks his mom to buy him a dog. But his sister, Lexi, is better at convincing his mom so he asks Lexi to ask his mom for a dog. When Otto told her, she got an idea to ditch his idea and ask for a cat, so at dinner she asks for a cat. In shock, Otto screams, "That wasn't the deal!" Otto's mom decides that whoever raises \$500 first will win and get a pet of their choice. Read The Pet War to see what happens next. This is an awesome story about two competitive siblings!

The Operation R.E.D. (Read Every Day) winners for February are: Sam M. (1<sup>st</sup> grade--Mrs. Galvin), Alexa F. (5<sup>th</sup> grade--Mr. Jackamonis/Mrs. Quigley), and Michael D. (4<sup>th</sup> grade--Mrs. Buffetta).



The Operation R.E.D. (Read Every Day) winners for March are: Michael Y., (3<sup>rd</sup> grade--Mr. Chiola), Lucas N. (1<sup>st</sup> grade--Mrs. Sommers).



## Spring Has Sprung!

By Michelle S.

Guess how many exciting things are happening in spring? There are so many I can't even count them all!

One of favorite things that has returned is now that it is nice outside, we can eat on the playground. That means we can get more fresh air!

Another student favorite is the spring concert season. Students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade have been practicing their songs and will perform in front of their parents on stage. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can get in on the action through chorus and drama club.

The drama club actresses and actors are going to do the play Into the Woods Junior! This play is going to be performed on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. If I were you I would come and see both nights because I have a feeling it's going to be amazing!

The next spectacular part of spring are field trips! From the Philadelphia Zoo to PAWS to The Old Schoolhouse, RES students will be heading out for some fun and educational adventures!

Students from Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade have been raising butterflies in their classrooms and will soon be releasing them into the wild. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will soon have a years worth of reading rewarded through the Amazing Reading Race. These great readers will compete through many obstacles to try and win the race. And you can plan on watching the sky soon as 4<sup>th</sup> grade gets ready to build and launch rockets on the football field.

Finally, the most well-known, well-loved event is coming soon. You guessed it--Field Day! This event will take place before the last week of school and all students of RES will be able to show off their athletic skills through relays and fun games like asteroid. We look forward to this time of the year...not just because the weather gets warmer, but because the days get more exciting!





**Decisions** By Eric J.

