



Phoenix Press

We Bring News From FCS Lower School



ISSUE #5

A PUBLICATION OF THE 5TH GRADE NEWSPAPER CLUB

MARCH 23, 2017

WHAT'S SO SIMPLE ABOUT SIMPLICITY?

By Savina Copas, Madison Williams and Quin Stovall



S P I C E S! Quaker testimonies put us to the test! This year's fifth grade play on March 17th jumped right into the Quaker theme of Simplicity. *The Apple Pip Princess* was about three princesses who had to choose a way to make the kingdom more beautiful. This story showed that the simplest choice can give the biggest reward. In *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, a greedy king wanted a quilt from a mysterious quilt maker. She wouldn't give him one unless he gave all his things away. The king found that you don't need a lot of possessions to be happy. The 5th grade and Teacher Peggy worked hard to make this play a success. Everyone was very happy with the outcome.

Pippin

By Noah Porter, Sevren Fahr and Emilio Ovalle



On Friday, March 3rd, Kindergarten-5th graders got on buses and went to our City Avenue campus to see the Upper Schoolers perform a preview of the award-winning Broadway musical, *Pippin*. Some of us also went to see the entire play on Friday or Saturday.

Pippin, played by Alex Black Bessen, is a prince who wants something meaningful to do with his life. He doesn't know what that is, but someone else does...

Enter...*the Leading Player* (Noelle Mercer). She leads a performing troupe who is there to entertain and cheer on the audience repeatedly as Pippin struggles to find meaning in his life.

The costumes in this play were vivid and colorful, and really helped portray the story with tights, hats, shoulder pads, awesome shirts, and, in the case of one character, pajamas! The scenery had castles and platforms with colorful lights shining all over them.

The acting and the dancing were breathtakingly amazing. The actors really brought the story to life. And last but ABSOLUTELY not least were the songs like *Magic to Do*, *Corner of the Sky*, *On the Right Track* and *Simple Joys*. They stick with you wherever you go, and bring a positive message to your heart.

Overall, this play was a wonderful Upper School production!

Magical Tricks and Illusions

By Jey Brown, Hannah Lowry and Jacques Pierre



January 27th was filled with illusions and magic because 4th grader Theo DeSouza's father performed a special assembly. Marc DeSouza, a world famous magician, did a very intriguing string of magic tricks, including classic card tricks with some Pre-Kers.

Two of our favorites were the one with the double-sided door and the bunnies, and the Chinese sticks that grow. Theo performed a trick too, with the help of his friend Omar.

Mr. Desouza performed again on Family Night, March 1st. The parents finally got to see how amazing and spectacular Mr. Desouza is! He did a trick with his pet raccoon, Rocky, who climbed up his arm and shoulders. He put Rocky (who looked real) in a box and closed the lid. He then took each wall off the box and placed them in a pile. Rocky wasn't there! "Where is Rocky? Oh wait, I think I see him," said Mr. Desouza, pulling Rocky from a kindergartener's hand! The crowd erupted and Mr. Desouza bowed. Another great trick was the self-levitating ball.

The show had everybody laughing, smiling and thirsty for more. "It's cool and it never gets old," said Quin, a fifth grader who has seen the show every year for 7 years. This show inspired us to believe in the impossible.

Wild About THE WILD ONES

By Hannah Lowry, An Huynh and Clara Behling



The day we had all been waiting for, February 10th, was the day C. Alexander London came to Friends' Central Lower School to visit 3rd-5th graders. Alexander London is an author who writes books for children and young adults. He has written over 20 books. Some of his well known book series are *The Wild Ones*, *The Accidental Adventures*, and *Dog Tags*.

As a child, Mr. London didn't like to read until his fifth grade teacher handed him a book called *Redwall* by Brian Jacques. This book is about a young mouse who goes on an adventure to save his abbey from the evil rat leader. The book inspired Mr. London's love of reading and eventually gave him the idea for *The Wild Ones*. Another thing that inspired *The Wild Ones* was his dog, Baxter and the neighborhood's stray cat. Everyday, Baxter would try to attack the cat, but the cat was smart enough to know about leashes. He was also inspired by a couple of naughty raccoons in his backyard.

Besides the assembly, our fifth grade book club was in for a treat. Mr. London came and talked to us about the *Wild Ones* during our lunch period! He answered most of our questions and we learned lots of cool facts. For example, Mr. London's barber wanted to be in the book, so the barber in *The Wild Ones* is based on a real person. Also we learned that as a kid, Mr. London learned the structure of a story from just playing *Wii*. We were so lucky to have Mr. London come to our school!

Author Emily Jenkins and her Creative Flow

By Avery Lewis, Daphne Volpp and Grace Schlegel

On Valentine's Day, the 14 of February, Emily Jenkins, an admired author and skilled orator, visited Nursery- 2nd grade. She talked to the kids about her books and got them to notice the fine details, taking them into the stories so that they felt as if they were there. She talked about a couple of her books, including *Water In the Park*, *The Greyhound and the Groundhog*, *Lemonade In Winter* and *Toys Meet Snow*. When she showed the children her books all their faces lit up.

She also talked about her life as an author, and how she loves her job so much. She said she is more creative and inspired when her room is messy. Emily Jenkins has written 44 books for varied ages, including *Toys Go Out*, and brought her fascinating creative flow to us.



KB in the Rainforest

By Phoebe Davidson and Nora-Simone Thorne



On February 2nd, KB performed an amazing play about the rainforest. Each kid got to pick the animal that they were in the play. Animal groups such as the four toucans would sing a song together. Their music teacher played the songs.

KB also created a giant mural of the rainforest layers. Each kindergartener created an animal using craft materials. With the help of 5A, they used Makey-Makeys and Scratch programming to make their animals talk when you touch them. They recorded themselves telling one or two facts about their animal. The mural and the play were a great success.

Robotics Club

By Jacques Pierre



This year, Mrs. B hosted a robotics club for fifth graders. We used the LEGO Mindstorm app to program robots to complete missions. There are missions throughout the course that reward you with a different amount of points.

At competitions, you face a team and have 2-½ minutes to get as many points as you can. Whichever team gets the most points at the end of the given time, wins. This year, the robotics team didn't have enough time to go to the competition. Instead, we hosted an expo for people who are interested in joining the club next year.

Sometimes programming the robots can be frustrating. But when you finally get it to do what you want, you feel a sense of accomplishment that is amazing. I definitely encourage 5th graders who are interested in joining to ask their parents. It's very fun!