

# Lab, What Dewey Know?

Issue #2 (2018-2019)

12/11/2018

## Interviewing Ms. Sanders

By: Orlie Weitzman and Mia Lichtenstein

We wanted to learn about how some of the teachers came to teach what subjects they teach and the process that they went through to becoming a teacher. We interviewed Ms. Sanders and asked her some questions about her favorite parts of teaching science and what made her want to teach science.

**Question #1:** Did you always want to be a science teacher?

When I was in fourth grade I wanted to be a famous singer.

**Question #2:** How did you become a 4th grade science teacher and what was the process to becoming a teacher?

It's so funny how I became a teacher. I actually worked at a bank for a while after college. I didn't like it. I had always liked tutoring people and teaching them things and helping. So I became a teacher in the Chicago Public School system.

**Question #3:** Did you get to choose what subject you got to teach and if so why did you choose science?

Well, when I was a new teacher we didn't get to choose what we taught. The year I began no one else wanted to teach Science! I would have chosen it anyway, because I've always liked Science.

**Question #4:** What is your favorite part about being a science teacher?

Experimenting. Even though I do the same experiments year after year, my favorite part is learning along with the students.

*Continue reading on page 2*



## Holiday Birthdays: Fun or Not?

By: Maggie Yagan and Anaya Douglas

Is your birthday on a holiday? If you said 'yes,' then you are one of the rare few that do. We interviewed some people with holiday birthdays or birthdays close to holidays to see if they think it's fun or a fail. Anaya Douglas, a 5th grader, has a birthday very close to Mother's Day and one year it actually landed on Mother's Day. She says, "I remember I was turning four and my birthday was on Mother's Day, and I was sick... I felt so bad because my mom had to take care of me and she didn't enjoy Mother's Day as much as she should have."

Evelyn, a 5th grader, interviewed her brother Alex Halbach, whose birthday is close to Christmas, and he told her the following (keep in mind he's two years old!) "When I have my birthday, many people come and I get lots of presents." Jack Yagan, a 2nd grader, says, "My birthday is right around Thanksgiving, and I don't really like it, because everyone is always so excited about Thanksgiving, I feel like people are paying less attention to my birthday and more attention to Thanksgiving."

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## Lab Indian Boogie Night

By: Ravi Shah

Lab Indian Boogie Night was an Indian dance party that took place at Lab School on October 26, 2018. It was in the Kovler Gymnasium, 6:00pm - 8:00pm. About 51 people signed up and over 125 came and joined!

Kids from Earl Shapiro, Blaine and Middle School came to this epic night. Lab Indian Boogie Night was really really fun according to a lot of those Primary, Lower and Middle Schoolers. The part which a lot of people enjoyed was the FOOD! There was rice and dal, and sambar (a sweet piece of bread.) This food is ALL Indian food, and many people from all around Chicago who have Indian ancestors really love this food.

Not just this food people have loved, people all around Chicago and Illinois have liked idli (steamed rice cakes) and sambar (a lentil-based stew.) There was pizza there too but very little. There were only a little amount of drinks, they had fruit punch and water. People had a LOT of Indian outfits - some Indian outfits people were wearing were a lot of sparkly dresses and glitter dresses. The MUSIC was also Indian music. Even though India has a lot of places in its country Boogie Night just played regular Indian music, which was really cool. Everyone enjoyed the Indian music. A lot of people (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th graders) were there.

I thought the Lab Indian Boogie Night was very fun. I loved the food, music and the entire night itself. I hope they will keep doing this because I had so much fun. The night was organized by the Desi Culture Crowd. Next year, stay tuned in the fall if you are interested in attending!

## Reflections

By: Ana Rossi

This fall me and my family went to two museums that I thought were very interesting. The first museum was The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA). There we saw a photograph exhibition by Kenneth Josephson called "Picture Fiction". It showed pictures, but they were not ordinary pictures, like a picture of a family or a landscape. His photographs were different because they tried to change the way we observe reality. One that I really like was a picture of a picture. A picture of a picture is when someone takes a picture of something, prints it out, and takes another picture of the same person or thing, but the picture that was printed out is also in the picture. I thought that those pictures were very cool! It reminded me of another museum that I went that had another interesting exhibit. This exhibit was called The Infinity Mirrored Room made by Yayoi Kusama, a Japanese artist. You went into a little room together with three more people. Not a lot of people could go in because it was small. In the room there were lots of mirrors on the walls and mirror spheres on the ground and hanging from the ceiling. You could see your reflection multiplied a million times, and it looked like there were lots of you. It was amazing! I found these two museums cool so I made my own artistic reflection.



## Holiday Birthdays: Fun or Not?

(continued from page 1)

Analia Arias, a 3rd grader, has a birthday very near Halloween. When asked if she liked it, she replied, "Yes! Because then my birthday is a costume party!"

Addison Brown, a 4th grader, says that she likes having a birthday on Christmas because she gets lots of extra presents.

We also interviewed Ms. Zwaska about her summer birthday. Ms. Zwaska says, "Many people have always asked me if I mind, or if I'm bummed that I have a summer birthday, but I think birthdays are what you make of them, and my family always made my birthdays special."

Based on our interviews we realized the results are mixed, and it really comes down to personal preference. What do you think it would be like to have a holiday birthday?

## Interviewing Ms. Sanders (continued from page 1)

**Question #5:** Do you ever get bored?

I get bored easily, as a person. But with teaching, there's always something new. And a great thing about working at Lab is that I can change my curriculum.

**Question #6:** How many years have you worked as a science teacher at lab?

I taught in Chicago Public Schools for four years and this is my fifth year at Lab.

**Question #7:** What has your experience been like at Lab so far?

This is the best job I've ever had. I have the freedom to teach what I like and that keeps it fun and interesting. I am super excited about so many things here!

**Question #8:** Do you do different things with your classes every year and why do we do the projects we do?

I try to introduce different themes - like we did Circus Science this year - or other examples are Science Chef, Kitchen Science, and this year we'll be looking at the Flint water crisis.

**Question #9:** Do you do science at home?

Oh yeah. I have 3 sons at home. They like building and engineering, and we make things like slime and snowflakes.

**Question #10:** What is your favorite thing to teach or learn in science?

I LOVE the periodic table. Everything in the world is made up of elements. In Science it's like learning your ABC's.

**Ms. Sanders then launches into an upbeat song naming many of the periodic elements!**

## University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Cool Facts and History

By: Ellie Rosenberg and Isaac Hamilton

The University of Chicago Lab Schools was opened in 1896 by John Dewey. That's 122 years ago! There are many families that have had more than one generation of Labbies! For example, Jason Cross, a 3rd grader at Lab, along with his 5th grade brother James, represents the third generation of Labbies in his family. Both their mother and grandmother attended the Laboratory Schools.

Earl Shapiro Hall (ESH) was opened in 2013 to make room for additional classrooms. The building is for Nursery 3 through 2nd grade. After ESH was built they did construction on the Historical Campus to expand classrooms so they could have more students at our school.

This school year we have 2,161 students at Lab, which is approximately 300 more students than we had before construction on the additional classrooms.

Sports is a big part of our school. Our nickname for all of our teams is The Maroons.

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## University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Cool Facts and History (continued from page 2)

The Middle School has 22 sports teams and the High School has 32 including baseball, soccer, tennis, track and field, cross country, golf, sailing, swimming and diving, volleyball, basketball, dance, fencing and squash. Interestingly, 63% of U-Highers and 67% of Middle Schoolers play on at least one sports team. These numbers make me think that a lot of Lower School kids would be interested in having sports teams. Unfortunately, the Lower School does not currently have any sports teams. When asked about this, Mr. Ribbens, Director of Athletics, said, "I think there are a couple of reasons why we don't have an athletic program for 3-4-5th graders at Lab. First there are very few schools (if any) that offer an athletic program for these grades so we could not find teams to compete with. Second we don't have any space to have teams practice or play contests based on our current Middle and High School teams. Third, I think having students be able to play 7 years for their school (starting in grade 6) is seen as enough by our school and families."

### Mindful Mornings By: Kiran Brown

Feeling stressed? Come to Mindful Mornings with Mr. Rob. He provides a 20 minute session of mindful activities. Some of these activities include Mindful Breathing, the Distraction Game, and many more fun mindful games to improve your posture, awareness, and help make your day stress free. In 4th grade I had Mr. Rob as a Homeroom Teacher. We practiced mindfulness every day... and it was awesome! I've also been to his Mindful Mornings meetings open to all Lower School students that take place on Wednesday from 7:55 - 8:15. Hope to see you there!

## POETRY CORNER



Illustration by: Arianna Novak

### FALL AND WINTER IN CHICAGO By: JULIAN ROSSI

FALLING LEAVES, BURNING LIKE  
FIRE ON THE HORIZON.

SWIRLING BETWEEN TREES IN A  
WALTZ.

THE WIND PLAYING AN INVISIBLE  
PIANO IN THE AIR.

THE DEW ON THE LEAVES AND THE  
GRASS SHINES LIKE DIAMOND  
CHANDELIER.

THIS TIME OF FALLING LEAVES  
AND CHILLY WINDS TURNS WHITE  
WITH CRISP SNOW.

ICE DANGLING FROM ROOFTOPS.  
RED TURNING WHITE.

THE GRASS ENTERING THE GATES  
OF SLUMBER ONLY TO BE  
AWAKENED BY THE LIGHT OF THE  
SUN OF SPRING.

COLD ARRIVES WITH FULL MIGHT,  
SHAKING HOUSES AND BRINGING  
FEVER.

THESE TWO SEASONS WE TREASURE  
WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE  
FIRST FALL AND WINTER IN  
CHICAGO.

### WINTER By: CLAIRE DRIVER

THE SNOW SEASON HAS COME  
AGAIN, THE TREES ARE COLD AND  
BARE, THE HOLIDAY HAS COME  
AGAIN, LET CHRISTMAS DAY BEGIN!

### THUNDERSTORM By: MAGGIE YAGAN

LIGHTNING CRACKS AND THUNDER  
BOOMS,

CLOUDS COMPLETELY OBSCURE THE  
MOON.

I REALLY HOPE THIS STORM WILL  
END VERY SOON.

I SEE ANOTHER LIGHT FLASH  
ACROSS THE SKY,

AND I TRY VERY HARD NOT TO CRY.

I RUN TO MY PARENTS' ROOM AND  
HIDE UNDER THE BED.

"I REALLY HATE THIS STORM!" I  
SAID.

I WAS CRYING, AND MY EYES WERE  
RED.

MY MOM SAYS, "IT WILL BE  
OKAY."

AND I KNOW THAT SHE'S RIGHT,

BECAUSE, AS ALWAYS,

IT WILL DAWN A NEW DAY.

### 3D Printing At Harold Washington Library By: Alexander Woo

Me and my dad got on a train at Roosevelt and got off at Jackson. We took the Red line. We were going to the Harold Washington Library. The cool thing about it was that on both platforms there was a person playing guitar. We came to the library because they had a 3D printer that would make COOL plastic objects. We got to the maker space and it was so COOL! We wanted to make a tablet holder. There were six colors. The colors were red, yellow, purple, black, green, and blue. We picked the color blue. It only starts printing when the plastic gets heated to 230 degrees Celsius! Before you even start you have to design it. You design it on a computer. The one rule is "Don't touch the 3D printer when your design is being made!" The material that it's made of is polylactic acid (PLA). It smells weird. We saw it and it worked!!!

## Lower School Loves Pretzels

By: Laila Valenti

Pretzel Day has been a fundraiser at Lab for many years. Have you ever wondered what the money you spend buying pretzels is for or when Pretzel Day started at Lab?

Annette Steinbarth, a German teacher at Lab, ran Pretzel Day for many years and has the answers to many pretzel-related questions. A former German teacher, Herr Heggen, started the tradition at Lab. He made pretzels with his high school students and sold them to fundraise for a trip to go to his hometown in Germany with his students.

Some years later, one of Annette Steinbarth's former colleagues, Frau Sonneberg, took over and changed things up a little bit. She started buying pretzels instead of making them and the money she raised went to a lucky German student for a scholarship to travel to Germany with her.

When Frau retired, Annette continued the tradition! When a parent of three German students volunteered to help, they were able to expand the program and start start selling pretzels at ESH too! Pretzel Day has a long history at Lab, thanks to so many teachers and volunteers!

The pretzels we now buy in the Lower School are freshly baked from Kazik Bakery. They are also sold in High School and Middle School. Parents even volunteer to deliver them to ESH every Thursday! Now, high schoolers that are in the German program have to enter an essay contest to win the pretzel scholarship. Their prize is to be able to travel to Germany with Frau Pralle.

**Pretzels are available in Lower School Office for \$1.25 every Thursday at 8AM!**

Lower School students have lots of opinions about Pretzel Day!

I asked Mila Bhatoy-Bertrand (3rd Grade) if she enjoyed pretzel day. She answered "Yes, of course!" Then I asked her if there was a reason why she bought pretzels. She replied, "Well, I never had them last year so I really want to make a point of eating them this year." Lastly, I asked, "Do you think that the amount of money that you have to pay is fair?" She does think the price is fair.

I asked those same questions to 5th grader, Ava Lin. Ava said, "I like Pretzel Day because the pretzels taste so good!" Ava knew that that Pretzel Day was a fundraiser and said, "I buy pretzels because I want to donate money to the German Club" When asked about the price, she noted that, "it might be a little too much but it is for the trip so it is for a good cause."

Don't forget to try a delicious pretzel next Thursday! You will enjoy a tasty treat and be supporting a high school student's trip to Germany!

## Holiday Traditions

By: Evelyn Halbach

**Chanukah** - 5th grade teacher Ms. Mitz. says that her family celebrates this Jewish holiday with lighting candles (on a standing structure called a menorah) and by making and eating potato latkes (yummy pancakes) and by playing dreidel, which is a fun game that uses a spinning top.

**Kwanzaa** - Ms. St. Claire sometimes celebrates Kwanzaa, which is an African holiday usually recognized in December. She explains, "We celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The one that means the most to me is the first day. We celebrate Umoja, which means unity and family. Kwanzaa is really the only African American holiday and so it is special to me."

**Winter Solstice** - "My family goes to the Point. We have a big bonfire, and we light candles. When the sun comes up, we ring bells." says Zoey, a fifth grader.

**Christmas** - "On Christmas, my family usually stays home and plays board games. My Dad cooks chicken, and we usually eat cherry pie for dessert. Some people celebrate Christmas because it's the day Jesus was born, but my family mostly celebrates it out of tradition. My favorite part is opening presents and seeing what's in my stocking." says Laila, a fourth grader. Christmas is a Christian holiday.

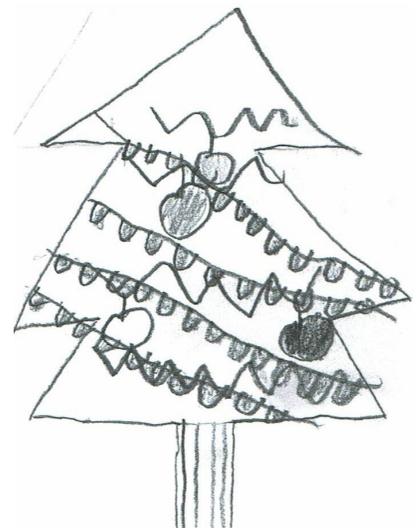


Illustration by: Arden McLean

**New Year's Day** - "My family and I buy apple cider and watch the ball drop." says Bayaan, a fifth grader. The ball drop refers to the New York City tradition on New Year's Eve of a huge electrically lit ball-like structure that comes down on the 10-second countdown until midnight on New Year's Day.

**St. Nicholas Day** - "On St. Nicholas, my grandma sends us a box of cookies. We celebrate St. Nicholas Day because my Mom is Belgian." says Mila, a third grader. Other traditions include leaving shoes out for St. Nicholas, who fills them with treats such as oranges to represent being positive, and chocolate coins to represent being sweet. St. Nicholas Day is a German holiday, usually celebrated on December 6th.

**Continue reading on page 5**

## Holiday Traditions (continued from page 4)

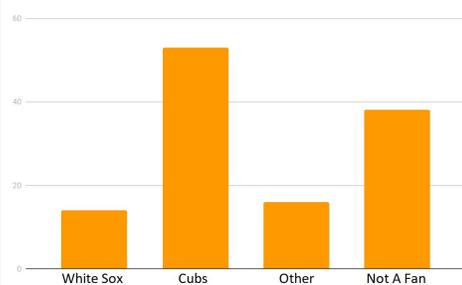
**St. Lucia Day** - "On St. Lucia Day, my sister dresses in white with a red sash, and wears a wreath of holly with candles on it on her head. At 6:00, she brings us breakfast in bed. She brings us scones, but traditionally, it's saffron buns." says Oliver, a third grader. St. Lucia Day is a Christian holiday.

**Diwali** - "On Diwali, we light oil lamps called deepaks, because light is the symbol of knowledge and inner peace. We also offer prayers to Lord Ganesha. We exchange gifts and mithais (sweets) and my favorite: lighting firecrackers. We make Rangoli, decorative patterns made of colored powder, dry grains, or flowers for the guests of honor at parties. We celebrate Diwali because it marks the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom after defeating the demon king Ravana." says Vedika, a fifth grader. Diwali is an Indian Holiday and this year it was celebrated in early November.

## Which Chicago Baseball Team is Most Popular?

By: Theo Lach

My survey here is about if you like the White Sox or Cubs better. My preference is the White Sox (my vote still counts!). The rivalry between the White Sox and the Cubs is very big - there are only a few games a season where they play each other, in what is called The Crosstown Classic. It is usually so big that almost always the tickets are sold out! My survey question is if you like the White Sox or Cubs better or do you like any other team or do you not like baseball.



## The Grass in Lab's Courtyard

By: Ava Lin

Every year the school closes the grass in the courtyard. The school doesn't want the grass to get muddy in the spring but last year they closed it WAY too early. There were a ton of leaves on the grass and we could only play with them for a couple days before Lab closed it. When it snowed, there was a lot of snow on the grass that we couldn't touch. Even when we do open it back up, they open it in the last week of school so we can only play on the grass for around a month and a half all year. The school has a good reason for closing the grass but they should either close it later in the Fall or open the grass earlier in the Spring.

I spoke with Joe Wachowski, Director of Building Operations: He says, "to allow the grass to grow in the spring, we have to germinate the grass (poke holes in the grass) and over plant grass seeds. Late fall is the perfect time to do it. If kids trample over the seeds, they won't grow in the spring. The reason we have to clear the leaves in late fall is because oak leaves are very acidic, and prevents the grass from growing. Also if we don't clear the leaves, the leaves get stuck on kids shoes and get into the school and create a big mess. In the spring, we can't open the grass until the grass thickens."

## Chanukah and Its History

By: Asher Dennis

Jewish people around the world celebrate a holiday called Chanukah. It lasts for eight days and seven nights. It celebrates the victory of the Israelites over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus about 2200 years ago.

A Menorah is a special nine-branched candelabrum, also known in Hebrew as a Hanukiah.

Each night of Hanukkah an additional candle is placed in the Menorah from right to left, and then lit from left to right. On the last night, all the candles are lit. A dreidel is a four-sided top that has a Hebrew letter on each side - dreidels are a common toy for children to play with during this holiday. During Hanukkah, families eat latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiot (jelly donuts), or other foods which are fried in oil, to celebrate and commemorate the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

The Jews, about 2200 years ago, had their temple attacked and they fled to the desert. They only had enough oil to keep their lamp burning for one day but miraculously the oil lasted for eight days. That is why in modern times Chanukah is celebrated for eight days seven nights.

## Preparing for Christmas

By: Analia Arias

In my family it can take two whole weeks to get ready for Christmas! In my family we like to set up a tree and decorate it with lights. We also like to decorate a table with little houses that say, Have a Happy Christmas! We never forget to decorate outside the house, too. We put green lights on the bushes and also little crystal figurines of Jesus and his family. We also see our cousins every Christmas, which is special. They are many different ages. We all hide presents for each other and then go on a hunt for them.

## The New Bear

By: Jack Slidell

As a college junior Mitchell Trubisky took over as starting quarterback. He started in 13 games in the 2016 season. He decided to forego his senior season and got a spot in the 2017 NFL draft. Trubisky was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the first round with the second overall pick. He is nicknamed "Mr. Biscuit" as a play on his name. Go Bears!

## Winter Word Scramble

By: Alex Zhang and Gabriel Wang

Unscramble the following "winter" words and write the letters in the boxes.

- |              |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. ATSNA     | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. RITHASCMS | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. INPEREET  | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. WOSN      | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. ERDERINE  | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. LLYOJ     | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. ZYOC      | <input type="text"/> |
| 8. TWERNI    | <input type="text"/> |
| 9. NONAWMS   | <input type="text"/> |
| 10. ASOLDHYI | <input type="text"/> |

1. Santa 2. Christmas 3. Pine Tree 4. Snow 5. Reindeer 6. Jolly 7. Cozy 8. Winter 9. Snowman 10. Holidays

### Interview with Ms. St. Claire

By: Ava Williams

**Question #1:** What made you become a librarian?

I've always loved the library and so I got a library science degree.

**Question #2:** Who are your favorite authors?

Wendy Mass, Christopher Paul Curtis, Jack Woodson, Cynthia Kadohata.

**Question #3:** What is your favorite genre of book?

Realistic fiction and romance

**Question #4:** What is the purpose of being a librarian?

To help people find books, recommend books, teach information, and tell stories.

**Question #5:** What is the hardest part about being a librarian?

There are not enough hours in the day (to do everything I want to do!)

**Question #6:** If you could work in your dream library, what would it be?

Wherever it was, It would have to be kid-friendly.

### Fun Facts

By: Vicky Brown

- There are 200,000,000 Skittles made daily

- Cats have 32 muscles that control their ears

- One study found that hot chocolate tastes better in an orange cup vs. a white cup

### Menorah and Elves Together

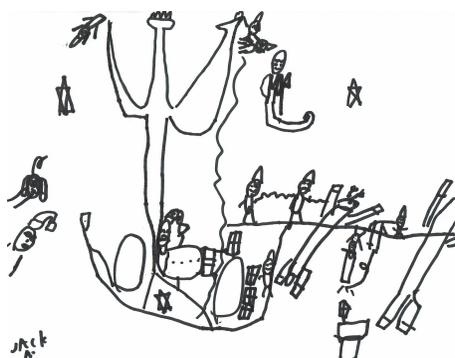


Illustration by: Jack Artz

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the crew of *Lab, What Dewey Know?* I wish you a peaceful, restorative and fun winter break. What a perfect time for some quality reading!

Ms. Zwaska

The newspaper crew would like to thank Ms. Lechowski for generously lending her computer lab for our work time and teaching us how to use Google Docs. Thank you, Ms. Lechowski!

### Student Journalists

- Addison Brown
- Alex Woo
- Alex Zhang
- Ana Rossi
- Analia Arias
- Anaya Douglas
- Arden McLean
- Asher Dennis
- Ava Lin
- Ava Williams
- Bayaan El-Bawab
- Beatrice Park
- Claire Driver
- Connell Quinn-Calabrese
- Elinor Evans
- Ellie Rosenberg
- Evelyn Halbach
- Freddie Neater-Dubow
- Gabriel Wang
- Hazel Danahey
- Isaac Hamilton
- Isaac Sutherland
- Jack Li
- Jack Slidell
- Jack Artz
- Julian Rossi
- Kiran Brown
- Laila Valenti
- Maggie Yagan
- Mia Lichtenstein
- Mila Bhatoey-Bertrand
- Minna El Shamsy
- Orlie Weitzman
- Ravi Shah
- Skylar Murphy
- Theo Lach
- Vicky Brown
- Zayn Thomas

"Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't."  
- Bill Nye

