

Volume 2 Issue 1 A Member of the National Elementary School Press Association January 2009

# ❄️ Stuck At School! ❄️

A Group Article written by the Journalism Club

**O**n October 28, 2008, the students, teachers and school staff at Cucinella School were stuck at school because of the horrible snow storm. All the power went off! It was dark! Everyone was hungry! And we wondered, "would we ever get home!?"



Long Valley got between 12 - 16 inches of snow! No one expected so much snow so all the kids in town went to school that morning.

While the kids were in school, trees were beginning to fall down on people's property and into the roads. The falling trees made electric and phone

wires crash down too and almost everyone lost power, including Cucinella School!

There were no lights, power, telephones, heat, computers or t.v.'s. The buses couldn't get back to the school because the trees were blocking the roads and there were a lot of car accidents. So, most of the kids got stuck at school long after they would have

gone home. All of the teachers and school staff got stuck too.

When school time ended, the kids broke up into groups in different classrooms, the cafetorium and the gym and got to play games like "silent ball", "7-up," and "hangman." Mrs.

*Continued on pg. 2*

- Feature Stories...1-7
- Advice Column.....8
- Role Models.....9-11
- Behind the Scenes at Cucinella.....12-13
- Movie Reviews.....14
- Restaurant Reviews.....15
- Book Review.....16
- Mystery Teacher...17
- Jokes.....17
- Poetry.....18
- Word Search.....19

Inside this Issue



# News from the Nest Staff

Advisor/Editor: Beth Holt

## Staff Reporters

- Kayla Demarest
- Anna Klaassen
- Stephanie Galayda
- Jill Wilson
- Kiley O'Donnell
- Cassidy Orban
- Emily Deehan
- Katherine Holt
- Sydney Manning
- Robyn Sciancalepore
- Alexis Mixon
- Cameron Beltram
- Katie Brown
- Michael Cohn
- Erik Henwood
- Macy Henson
- Danielle Wohning
- Ben Van Valen
- Kyra O'Dowd
- Allie Kowalewski
- Dominic Grauso

Views and opinions contained in the *News from the Nest* student newspaper are those of the Journalism Club students and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Cucinella PTO or the B.A. Cucinella Elementary School. Information is gathered by the Journalism Club students to the best of their ability. Any significant errors or omissions brought to our attention will be noted in subsequent issues.



*continued from pg. 1*

Reiber, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader teacher, commented, "The best part was when school time ended but we were still in our classrooms. I felt like I didn't have to 'teach' at that point so we played games until the students went to the cafetorium. It was really fun to 'hang out' and just have fun with them!"

Some kids thought it was kind of fun. But lots of kids were getting hungry and scared and some started to cry. Thankfully, the cafeteria workers (who were also stuck at school) gave out leftover cookies for the kids who were still there.

Mr. Papera, the school's principal said, "The most difficult part was the lack of communication with the rest of the community. The phones, cell phones, and internet were up and down. When the phones were up, the circuits were overloaded. We were really cut off from

the rest of the district."

The school's office workers really seemed to have it tough. They had to use flashlights to see and struggled to help parents, who braved driving on the dangerous roads, to sign their kids out. Because the intercom system and telephones were down, the office workers had to walk to every classroom to get the kids whose parents came to get them.

Mrs. Manzella from the school's office said, "We were exhausted by the end of the night. We had not eaten anything all day because the office was non-stop from the minute they announced the early dismissal and then withdrew the early dismissal."

Mrs. Manzella said the best part was when they found out that the last 2 children had been dropped off safely at around 7:45 p.m. She added, "We in the office gave a loud sigh! I'm still trying to forget that

day!"

One of the parents commented, "I hitched a ride to the school with a neighbor at 5 p.m. and finally got there 45 minutes later. And the school is only 1 mile from my house!"

According to Mr. Papera, the best part of that day was "seeing everyone pull together and pitch in. The staff was phenomenal. The students went with the flow and did a great job listening and following directions in a difficult time. Parents and community members coming and going into the building were patient and understanding. It was a true community effort to make sure everyone was safe."

According to the kids, the best part was that, because of the loss of power in town, they didn't have to go to school for the next two days!

## A Special Thank You

Dear Teachers and Staff Members of Cucinella School,

On behalf of all of the kids at Cucinella, the Journalism Club would like to thank you all for everything you did for us on that snowy day!

*Sincerely,*  
*The Journalism Club*



# HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS?



by Macy Henson (Grade 5), Staff Reporter

**A**re you curious how Cucinella families celebrate the holidays? I visited a Cucinella family that prepares for Christmas with a tradition called "Elf on the Shelf." The Garcia's (Jack, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; and Lauren, 1<sup>st</sup> grade) have an elf that visits them everyday during the holidays to observe their behavior up until Christmas Eve. The elf, whom they named "Jingles," goes back to the North Pole every night to report to Santa whether the children have been naughty or nice. "Jingles" then shows up every morning in a new spot for Jack and Lauren to find him. So far, the chandelier in the foyer has been the most surprising place to find him. The children are not allowed to touch "Jingles" at any time or the magic will disappear and then "Jingles" will just be a regular stuffed elf. After Christmas, "Jingles" returns to the North Pole and stays there until



Jack & Lauren Garcia Photo by Macy Henson

sometime after Thanksgiving the following year.

I started asking students around Cucinella and found out that most students visit family during the holidays. Some families light menorahs. Other families bake cookies together, and some open Advent calendars daily until Christmas. It seems it doesn't matter whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah or Kwanza, kids

just want to hang out with the family.

The way my family likes to celebrate Christmas is by watching the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" on Christmas Eve. That always reminds us that, no matter how many presents you get for the holidays, family is the best gift of all.

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays!



Photo by Macy Henson  
Jingles watches from a chandelier.

## Cute pet!

by Cassidy Orban  
(Grade 4)  
Staff Reporter



A Cairn Terrier dog like "Tucker."

*Editor's Note: This is the first article of what we hope to be a regular feature series in our newspaper about student's pets.*

**I** thought it would be fun to find out why and how one student got her pet.

Jackie Drzewinski, Grade 4, has an interesting way she got her dog, "Tucker." She really wanted a dog but her parents wouldn't let her get one. Then, Jackie asked her parents if she were to not ask for any presents or a birthday party at all for her birthday,

could she just get a dog. They agreed. So, for Jackie's next birthday, she got "Tucker." Jackie was so happy.

I asked some other people what animal they would like besides the one they have now. The weirdest animal wanted was from Katherine Holt, Grade 4, who really wants a duck! She wants a duck because she said, "they are adorable, usually very small and kind of easy to take care of."

Be on the lookout for more pet stories in future newspapers!

# Council This!

by Alexis Mixon (Grade 4),  
Staff Reporter



**I** interviewed Mrs. Langsam, who is the Cucinella school's guidance counselor. I asked her a few questions about her job and how she became a guidance counselor.

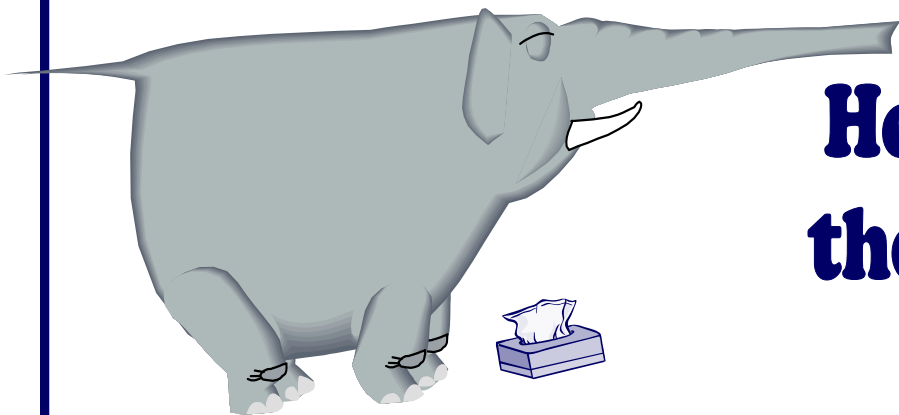
Mrs. Langsam said that her favorite part of her job is "helping kids, parents and teachers." I also asked her how she makes kids happy. She said "by helping them work out their problems and making them self-aware." Being a guidance counselor seems like hard work. Mrs. Langsam said that "helping people make a compromise" is the hardest part of her job.

I wondered if Mrs. Langsam wanted to be a guidance counselor when she was little but found out that she actually wanted to be a veterinarian! She didn't decide that she wanted to be a guidance counselor

until she was in college.

An interesting fact about Mrs. Langsam is that she has toys in her office "because it helps kids talk and feel more comfortable."

According to Mrs. Langsam, the best thing about her job is "when a child feels better about themselves and learns how to handle their problems better."



AAAACHOOO!

# How to prevent the Cold and Flu

by Jill Wilson (Grade 3)  
Staff Reporter

**T**o stay healthy in the winter, you should eat right, dress right, and always wash your hands. I learned all of this from my grandma, who is a school nurse.

The most effective way to prevent a cold is to always wash your hands. Since you touch almost everything with your hands, washing them regularly helps to prevent spreading any germs or viruses.

Two additional ways to prevent a cold are to eat right and dress

warmly. You should eat right not only in the winter, but all year 'round. If you eat too much junk food it makes your body weaker, so your body is unable to fight off germs that can cause a cold.

Dressing warmly is also very important to do in the winter. Just like eating junk food, not dressing warmly makes your body weaker. So make sure you always have a coat, and, if necessary, a hat and gloves. Eating right and dressing warmly are important for not catching a cold in the winter.

You can prevent the flu the same way.

The flu is caused by a virus, so it's important to wash your hands. This way, if someone who has already caught the flu or a cold comes in contact with you, the germs will get washed away.

"Getting a flu shot is also a good idea in the winter," said my grandma.

Although there are many other ways to help prevent a cold, the ones that I have mentioned are the most effective according to my grandma.

# So Many 4th Grade Projects!

by Katie Brown (Grade 4), Staff Reporter



Photo by Beth Holt  
Model of the Earth

**I** decided to interview Mr. Morris to find out more about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade projects because he is the best teacher I've ever had!

When I asked Mr. Morris what the 4<sup>th</sup>

graders will be doing for projects this year, he responded, "the 4<sup>th</sup> graders are building a model of the earth (which we already did) and a weather instrument, constructing an electricity gadget and making a pretty bird." I know that I am so excited to do some of these projects!

I also asked Mr. Morris if he would like to do

☹☹ I am a project kind of guy! ☹☹

these projects if he were a kid. His answer was, "I would enjoy the school projects because I am a project kind of guy!" When Mr. Morris said that I laughed so hard I almost cried. I am so glad that Mr. Morris has a big sense of humor.

Finally, I asked him what kind of project he would like to do, even if it was one we are not doing in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. His answer to that marvelous question was, "I would want to build a robot because it is so cool and, like I said, I'm a project kind

of guy." I agree a robot project would be really cool. I would want to build a robot too.

Thanks so much for reading about my interview with Mr. Morris, who, in my opinion, is the best teacher in the whole world!



Photo by Beth Holt  
An "Anemometer"  
Weather Instrument

## The Long Wait to See Santa!

by Anna Klaassen  
(Grade 3)  
Staff Reporter





# Text Dictionary

by  
Emily Deehan  
(Grade 4)  
Staff Reporter

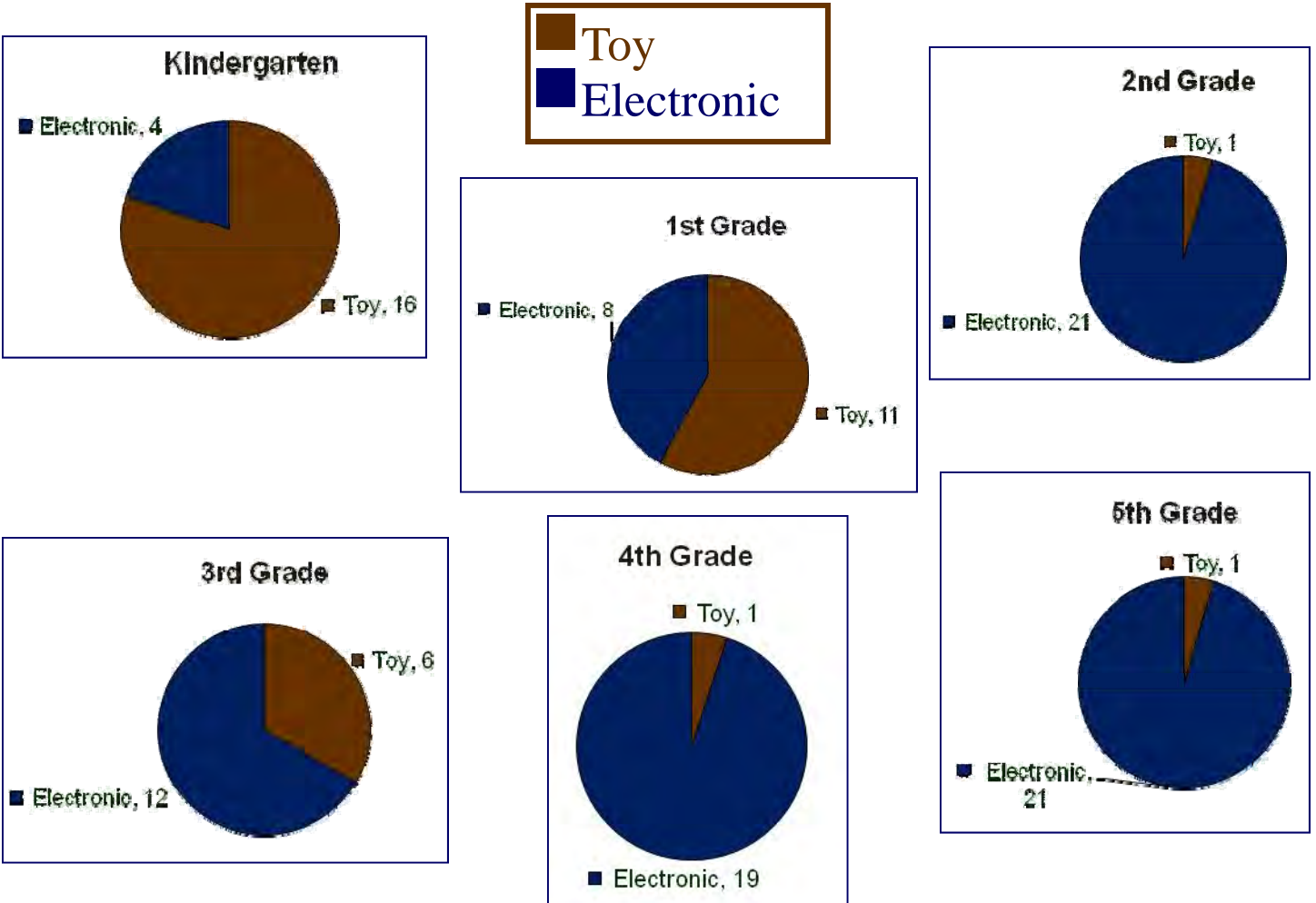
**D**id you ever wonder how to text message? If you have a cell phone and want to learn some quick ways to send a written message to someone, read this article to learn weird but cool words in the text messenger's secret dictionary!

**2** = to or too  
**2B** = To be  
**2Day** = Today  
**2Moro** = Tomorrow  
**4** = For  
**8** = Ate  
**A?** = Eh?  
**AKA** = Also Known As  
**ASAP** = As Soon As Possible  
**B** = Be  
**B4** = Before  
**BBL** = Be Back Later  
**BCNU** = Be seeing You  
**BF** = Boy friend or Best Friend  
**BFFL** = Best Friends for Life  
**BRB** = Be Right Back  
**C** = See or Sea  
**CUL8ER** = See You Later  
**CUZ** = Because  
**D8** = Date  
**DNR** = Dinner  
**EZ** = Easy  
**F8** = Fate  
**FYI** = For Your Information  
**G2G** = Got to Go  
**GF** = Girl Friend  
**GR8** = Great  
**IDC** = I Don't Care

**IDK** = I Don't Know  
**JK** = Just Kidding  
**L8** = Late  
**L8R** = Later  
**LOL** = Laugh Out Loud  
**LUV** = Love  
**NM** = Nothing Much  
**NThing** = Anything  
**OMG** = Oh My God  
**PCM** = Please Call Me  
**PLS** = Please  
**QT** = Cute  
**R** = Are  
**R8** = Rate  
**R U OK?** = Are You o.k.?  
**SPK** = Speak  
**THNX** = Thanks  
**THNQ** = Thank you  
**TTYL** = Talk to You Later  
**U** = You  
**UR** = You Are  
**Wan2** = Want to  
**W/E** = Whatever  
**WOT** = What  
**WRK** = Work  
**XLNT** = Excellent  
**Y** = Why



One of your parents probably asked you what you wanted for the holidays this past year. But the question is "would you rather have a toy or electronic?" By "toy," I mean something like dolls, cars, clothes, etc. By "electronic," I mean movie, video game, iPod, DS, Wii, play station, etc. To find out what Cucinella students preferred, I went to 6 classrooms; one from each grade and asked how many would prefer a toy or an electronic. The results are shown below. I would like to thank Mrs. Burrow's class, Mrs. Babb's class, Mrs. Draghie's class, Ms. Swetits's class, and Mrs. Follari's class for letting me come in to their classrooms and answering my questions.



# Advice Column

by Katherine Holt (Grade 4), Staff Reporter



**Dear Katherine,**

Some of the kids in my class are mean to me and I don't know how to get them to stop. I don't want to tell the teacher since I am in fifth grade and she might think I am being a baby about it.

Confused at Cucinella

**Dear Confused at Cucinella,**  
If you are being bullied, try to get them to stop first. If they keep doing it, tell them that if it continues, you will tell the teacher. If they still don't stop, tell the teacher and your parents. Who cares what anyone thinks. It's the right thing to do. So, do it!

Sincerely,  
Katherine

**Dear Katherine,**

The kid next to me is always copying off my paper. I feel bad because she is not prepared, but what if the teacher thinks I copied? What should I do?

Serious Student

**Dear Serious Student,**  
Don't feel bad if she's not prepared! Tell her that next time she should study or at least try it by herself first. If she bugs you about it, give her some warnings. Then, if she gets really bad, tell the teacher! I hope this advice helps.

Sincerely,  
Katherine

# Role Models

## Our Teachers' Role Models

by Sydney Manning (Grade 4), Staff Reporter

**M**y article is about role models. I know, you're wondering "Sydney, what is a role model?" A role model is someone you look up to; someone who gives you inspiration or motivation to succeed in

something. I wanted to find out who the role models are and why for some of the Cucinella teachers so I interviewed them.

I wanted to find out who Mr. Papera's role model was because he is our school principal. Mrs.

McAllister was my 2nd grade teacher. I interviewed her because I missed her and wanted to know who her role model was. She was one of my favorite teachers! Mrs. Hille was my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. She rocked! Finally, I interviewed Mrs. Sonzogni, my 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Here is what they said:

### Mr. Papera

" Dr. Betty Ann Wyks is my role model. She was the superintendent for the last school I worked for in North Caldwell, NJ. She was my "principal" teacher. She helped to teach me how to be a principal. I think everybody should have a role model. It's very important to have role models."

### Mrs. McAlister

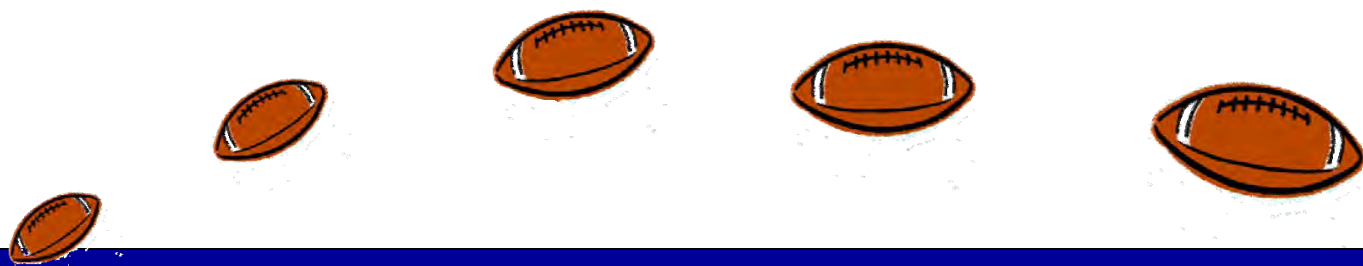
"My role model was my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher because she made school fun and I would beat her in math races! Also, Abe Lincoln, because he was honest and he didn't have much growing up and still became president of the U.S.A!"

### Mrs. Hille

" My sister is my role model because I admire her. She is a great mom and a very generous person. Also, my aunt is my role model because she was a teacher."

### Miss Sonzogni

" My mom is my role model because she loves her job and her family and can balance both. Also, Oprah Winfrey, because she helps so many people and I would like to help as many people as she has."



# Sports Role Models

## Peyton Manning



by Dominic Grauso (Grade 5),  
Staff Reporter

**P**eyton Williams Manning was born March 24, 1976. Peyton has an older brother named Cooper and a younger brother named Eli, who is the quarterback for the New York Giants football team. Peyton was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Mannings had to live in New Orleans because their father, Archie, played football for the Saints football team.

Peyton's high school career was great. He threw for more than 7,200 yards and 92 touchdowns. Peyton was then named the best offensive player in the nation. When Peyton's high school days were over, he had to make a tough decision. It was which college he would choose to go to. It came down to the University of Tennessee or the University of Mississippi, also known

as "Ole Miss," where his dad went to college. By then, his brother Cooper was already playing as a wide receiver at Ole Miss. But, during his freshman year, Cooper's right hand felt numb. Then his left leg felt numb. He had to go to many doctors before being diagnosed with Spinal Stenosis. This terrible condition narrows the spinal cord and can cause paralysis. Cooper had to have an operation. Cooper could never play football again!

Peyton surprised many when he finally decided to go to the University of Tennessee. His team had a 10 and 2 record at Tennessee with Peyton as quarterback. He was voted in the top three for the Heisman Trophy Award winner recipients but he never won one. During his junior year, he had to make another big decision. That was whether to go play with the National Football League (NFL) or stay for his last year of college. He stayed at the University of Tennessee. The NFL team that would have gotten Peyton was the New York Jets, coached by Bill Parcells.

In 1998, when Peyton had graduated from college, the NFL's Indianapolis Colts chose him to be their starting quarterback. His first pass was intercepted, but he

kept trying and his first career touchdown pass was to Marvin Harrison. His first season ended with more than 4,000 yards of passes and the season after that he had 4,135 yards. He was only the 5<sup>th</sup> quarterback to pass for more than 4,000 yards in consecutive seasons. He played in the Pro Bowl 6 times. He signed a new contract in 2004 worth \$99 million over 7 years. Dan Marino held a touchdown passing record with 48 touchdowns but Peyton had 49. In that same season, the Colts won 13 games straight.

Peyton Manning is one of only two NFL players in history to win the prestigious "Most Valuable Player" Award *3 times*! He won MVP in 2003, 2004 and just recently again for 2008!

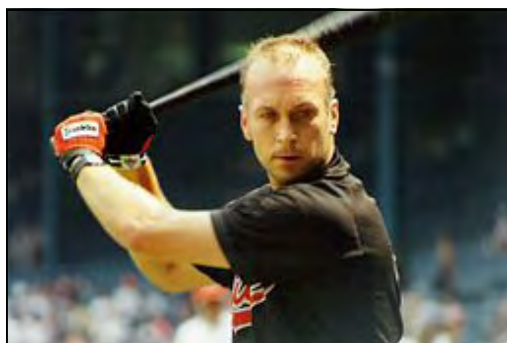
Peyton helped to raise \$120,000 for high schools in Indianapolis. He also helped in "Toys for Tots" by donating thousands of dollars. He donated \$25,000 to a hospital. Peyton married Ashley Thompson in 2001. Peyton and his brother Eli were helpful with the victims of Hurricane Katrina by organizing 30,000 pounds of supplies and by flying down to help the unlucky people repair their homes. Peyton is not only a very good football player. He is also a very good role model.



## Sports Role Models

### Cal Ripkin, Jr.

by Dominic Grauso (Grade 5), Staff Reporter



**C**al Ripken Jr. was born on August 24, 1960 in his homeland Havre De Grace, Maryland. His father's name was Cal Ripken, Sr. He also has a brother named Bill.

Cal Ripken's father and his brother Bill spent lots of time with the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. Cal Ripken, Sr. managed the Orioles team and his brother Bill played

second base.

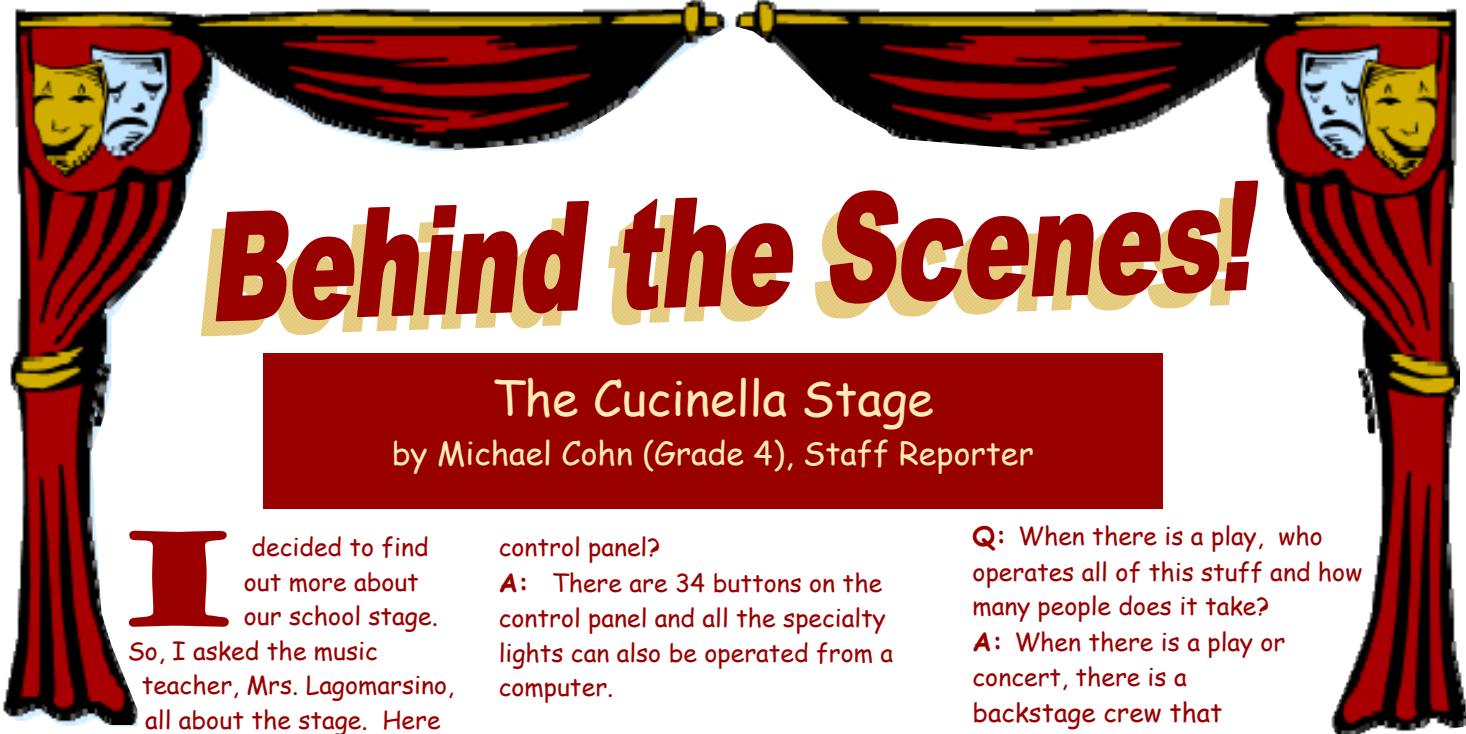
When he was young, Cal Ripken, Jr. didn't see his father too much. To see him more often, he decided to play baseball. So, he played for the Orioles from 1981-2001. He was 6 ft. 4 in. tall and weighed 225 lbs. His team number was 8. He batted and threw right-handed. Ripken, Jr. played shortstop for many years before switching to 3<sup>rd</sup> base close to the end of his career.

Ripken, Jr.'s nickname was "Iron Man" because he broke Lou Gherig's record for the most games played straight. Lou Gherig played 2,130 games but Ripken, Jr. played 2,632! *Sports Illustrated* magazine named him sportsman of

the year. He won this award because he was a good sport, a good role model, and a very good athlete as well.

Ripken, Jr. retired from baseball in 2001, with a career of 3,184 hits and 431 homeruns! After he retired, he started a league for kids 12 and under. The league was called Cal Ripken Baseball. On January 9, 2007, he was inducted into the baseball "Hall of Fame." Ripken, Jr. won many awards. In 1982, he won "Rookie of the Year." Another award was in 1983, when he won the "Silver Slugger Award." His last was in 1991 when he won the "Most Valuable Player" award. That's why he is a good role model.

Who is  
Your  
Role Model?



# Behind the Scenes!

## The Cucinella Stage by Michael Cohn (Grade 4), Staff Reporter

**I** decided to find out more about our school stage.

So, I asked the music teacher, Mrs. Lagomarsino, all about the stage. Here is my interview:

**Q:** How do the stage lights work?  
**A:** There's one switch for the main stage lighting. Then you have a master control box for the specialty lighting.

**Q:** How many lights are there?  
**A:** There are 36 different lighting combinations for the specialty lights.

**Q:** How many buttons are on the

control panel?  
**A:** There are 34 buttons on the control panel and all the specialty lights can also be operated from a computer.

**Q:** How does the sound work?  
**A:** There is a central sound control center that controls the microphones and background music. There is also a CD and cassette player and you can hook up four microphones.

**Q:** How does the curtain work?  
**A:** There are four sets of curtains. They each operate on a rope and pulley system. The ropes and pulleys are operated by individuals.

**Q:** When there is a play, who operates all of this stuff and how many people does it take?

**A:** When there is a play or concert, there is a backstage crew that operates everything.

**Q:** Is there anything else interesting about the stage you'd like to share with me?

**A:** Yes. The stage has a back door. It also is handicap accessible. There are also two sets of stairs in the front of the stage. It's air-conditioned and has beautiful hardwood floors. The stairs are hollow inside so it serves as a chair storage area.

### Where do you Sit?



by  
Stephanie Galayda  
(Grade 3)  
Staff Reporter

**I** interviewed Ms. Ressler, who, along with Mrs. Spano, is one of the lunchtime monitors in the Cafetorium, about seating arrangements.

**Q:** How do the seating arrangements work at lunchtime?

**A:** Sections (by grade) are chosen in the beginning of the year by the teachers. Then, the kids get to sit where they want within their assigned section.

**Q:** Can kids pick who they sit with?  
**A:** They get to sit with whomever they want within their section.

**Q:** How often do they change seating?  
**A:** Once a week.

**Q:** What kinds of things do you let the kids get away with that you'd rather not?

**A:** We try not to let the kids get away with much except the noise level.

**Q:** What kinds of things don't you let them get away with?  
**A:** Messes. They must clean up after themselves or let us know if a custodian is needed.

**Q:** What happens if you don't like your seat?  
**A:** Because the kids pick where they sit, it's usually not a problem. But, if there's a problem, Mrs. Spano and I make reasonable efforts to resolve it in the best interest of the child.

**More...**

# Behind the Scenes!

**All About the  
Office Ladies**  
by Robyn Sciancalepore  
(Grade 4), Staff Reporter



with and especially enjoys talking with kids and parents. She does not like early dismissals because of bad weather. The most interesting thing about her job is that she has so many different things to do and there is *always* something to do in the office!

the same.

Ms. Burgher likes working with children and she also likes office work. She does not like when people hang the phone up on her. Ms. Burgher is interested to see what all of the supplies are that the teachers order because she is the person who does all of the supply ordering for the school.

These three ladies do so much work for us that, the next time you see them in the office or even in the hall, I think it would be nice if you said "thank you" to them for all of their hard work!

According to Mrs. McIImail, the best part of her job is working for Mrs. Battitori. Mrs. McIImail does not like when she sees a child sad. What interests Mrs. McIImail most about her job is that there are never two days that are

**D**o you know what the office workers at Cucinella School do? Well, I'm going to tell you what I found out!

There are three workers in the main office. They are Mrs. Manzella, Mrs. McIImail and Ms. Burgher.

Mrs. Manzella works very closely with Mr. Papera. She likes all of the people she works



Photo by Nadine Sciancalepore  
"The Office Ladies"

left to right:  
Mrs. Manzella, Ms. Burgher, Mrs. McIImail

# Movie Reviews

by Ben Van Valen (Grade 5), Staff Reporter

**Movie:** Madagascar, Escape 2 Africa - Rated PG

**Starring:** Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer

**Summary:** This kid-friendly, animated sequel starts off where the first movie left off. Back in Madagascar, the main characters are on a plane built by the penguins and are about to fly back to New York City, when something goes wrong and they crash land in Africa.

**Who would like this movie:** This movie is for all ages, boy or girl. Also, if you like action, adventure, humor or scariness, this movie is right for you.

**I rate this movie:** \*\*\*\* (Excellent)



by Cameron Beltram (Grade 4), Staff Reporter

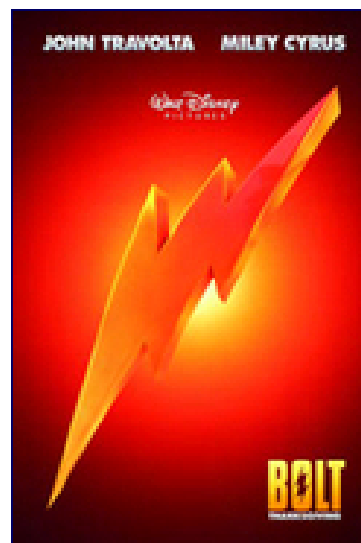
**Movie:** Bolt - Rated PG

**Starring:** John Travolta (as Bolt) & Miley Cyrus (as Penny)

**Summary:** In the animated movie Bolt, Bolt (the dog) ran away trying to protect Penny, his owner. He ends up in New Jersey and meets Whiskers the cat. Whiskers and Bolt try to walk back to Hollywood but encounter Rhino, the hamster, on the way. The 3 of them get caught and Whiskers goes to the pound. Bolt and Rhino bust Whiskers out. If you want to know how they bust her out or even if they do bust her out, go see the movie. I will tell you at least 1 survives. The others... who knows?

**Who would like this movie:** People who like adventure and animals will love this movie.

**I would rate this movie:** \*\*1/2 (just o.k.)



# Restaurant Reviews

by Erik Henwood  
(Grade 4), Staff Reporter

**Restaurant:** Fuddruckers  
Roxbury, NJ

**Summary:** Fuddruckers claims to have "the world's greatest hamburgers." It even said that on a sign when we walked in the door, with an arrow pointing to the kitchen! I figured it must be good; but I had to see for myself.

Instead of a waitress coming to your table, you go to the counter and order there. There's so much to choose from! For example, there is a Tuscan Burger, the "Jersey Burger," a patty melt, and the "Philly Cheeseburger." I got the Bacon Cheddar Burger and it truly was the "world's greatest burger!" All of the meals come with all-you-can-eat "Fudd Fries." We also had "cheesy nachos" for an appetizer. They were all delicious! Even my mom couldn't stop eating them!

There is even a fun-filled arcade! There was basketball, skateboarding, skiing, and car racing arcade games. I

didn't have enough time to play all of them. But I know they'd be really fun for kids of all ages!

**Who would like this restaurant:** Kids of all ages and adults too!

**I rate this restaurant:** \*\*\*\*  
(Excellent)

by Erik Henwood (Grade 4),  
Staff Reporter

**Restaurant:** Applebee's  
Hackettstown, NJ

**Summary:** Some types of foods that they serve at this establishment are steaks, burgers, and chicken, too. The meal that I had was amazing! I had a steak with mashed potatoes, shrimp, and broccoli. The steak was cooked to perfection. The mashed potatoes were so creamy. The shrimp was really juicy. Honestly, the broccoli was not that good.

**Who would like this Restaurant:** I would recommend this restaurant to ages 4 and up. I think kids of all ages would enjoy the appetizers. They have chicken wings, nachos, and potato skins.

**I rate this restaurant - \*\*\*\* (Excellent)**

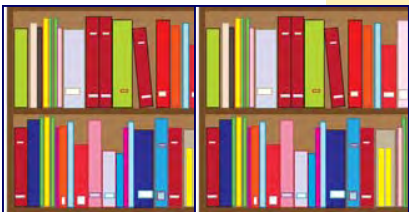
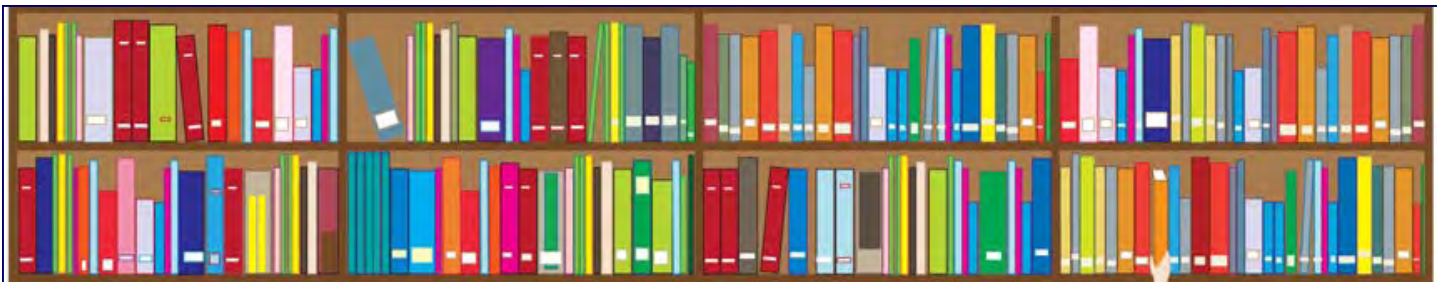
by Ben Van Valen (Grade 5),  
Staff Reporter

**Restaurant:** Fujiyama - Route 57, Mansfield, NJ

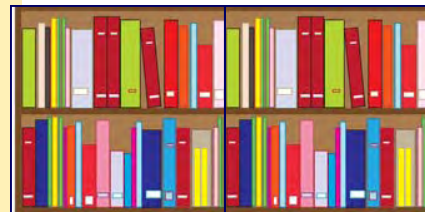
**Summary:** Fujiyama is a Japanese restaurant that has an upstairs and downstairs. The downstairs is the "hibachi" part of the restaurant. That's where I went. The downstairs restaurant is very neat because they cook right in front of you! There are many types of food, like steak, chicken and sushi.

**Who would like this Restaurant:** Really anyone would like this restaurant for its features. The chefs who cook in front of you have a few surprises for kids. One such surprise is a little jackpot that, when the chef pulls the lever, it squirts water at you! If you want to go, I recommend reservations.

**I rate this restaurant:** \*\*\*\* (Excellent)



# Book Review



by Kayla Demarest (Grade 3)  
Staff Reporter

**Book Series:** *Harry Potter*

**Author:** J.K. Rowling

**Main Characters:** The three main characters are Harry Potter, who is a boy wizard; Ron Weasley, Harry's best friend, who is also a wizard; and Hermione, who is a witch and a friend of Harry.

**Summary:** The three main characters attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Together, they work to stop Lord Voldemort, who killed Harry's parents, from coming to stir up more evil.

The other books in the series are *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. My favorite book in the series is the final one, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. I like it best because it reveals all the secrets of the previous books. I won't reveal to you what secrets...you must read the books yourself! These books are best if read in order. The first book in the series is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.



**Who Would like This Series?** Highly recommended for those who like adventure, magic and wizards! Generally, these books are at a fifth to eighth grade reading level but I'm only in third grade and I love them!

**I rate this series:** \*\*\*\* (Excellent)



## Mystery Location

Photo by Danielle Wohning (Grade 5), Staff Reporter



Can you guess where in the school this picture was taken?

# Guess the Mystery Teacher!

by Kyra O'Dowd (Grade 5), Staff Reporter

Can you guess which Cucinella teacher this is?

## Facts About this Mystery Teacher:

- This is his/her 3<sup>rd</sup> year teaching at Cucinella
- Likes to read, bake and shop!
- Is married but no kids
- Favorite teaching subject is Language Arts Literacy
- Enjoys dancing and singing in his/her kitchen!
- Loves to go to New York City and watch shows
- Enjoys reading on his/her rocking chair on front porch.



# LOL! Jokes LOL!

Contributed by Jill Wilson (Grade 3)

Why did the boy eat his homework?

*Because his teacher told him it was a piece of cake!*

What's harder to catch the faster you run?

*Your breath!*

Why does a flamingo only stand on one foot?

*Because if he picked the other one up, he'd fall over!*

Why did the skeleton go to the BBQ?

*Because it wanted some spare ribs!*

Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?

*Because it ran out of juice!*



# Rainbow Poems

Rainbow Rainbow  
Glad you came  
Rainbow Rainbow  
After rain  
Rainbow, Rainbow  
Very cool Rainbow,  
I see from school  
Rainbow Rainbow  
up so high  
Rainbow Rainbow  
in the sky

-Emily Deehan (Gr.4)

Something in the sky  
It's a rainbow with a little bit  
of shine  
And it's all of ours.  
Well I think it's mine  
I could just sing!  
It was a rainbow  
in the sky.

-Sydney Manning (Gr.4)



Photo by Mrs. Pecorari—Early Morning of Dec. 4, 2008

Rainbow Rainbow  
Look at you now!  
Rainbow  
up in the sky  
Rainbow Rainbow  
I'll see you soon  
Goodbye Rainbow,  
Goodbye!

-Robyn Sciancalepore (Gr.4)

Rainbow, Rainbow  
In the sky  
How I see you  
up up high  
When I see you  
it is rare  
For when you come  
it just rained  
And the sun  
has just come out  
Rainbow bye-bye!

-Kayla Demarest (Gr.3)

There's a rainbow  
by the school  
Bright and glowing  
in the sky!  
See Rainbow  
Love Rainbow  
Well...you better love it!

-Katie Brown (Gr. 4)

Roses are red  
Pumpkins are orange  
The sun is yellow  
Trees are green  
Water is blue  
Violets are purple  
Red, Orange, yellow,  
green, blue and purple  
are the colors of the rainbow.

-Kyra O'Dowd & Macy Henson (Gr.5)

Rainbow Rainbow  
In the sky  
Rainbow Rainbow  
Way up high  
Rainbow Rainbow  
Pretty pretty  
Rainbow Rainbow  
Shiny shiny

-Cameron Beltram (Gr.4)

# WINTER WORD SEARCH

by Kiley O'Donnell (Grade 3), Staff Reporter

Winter is here! See if you can find the words listed below. Words might be up, down, backwards, diagonal or even diagonally backwards!

f	r	e	e	z	i	n	g	l	y	v	f	e	r	x
a	y	y	r	a	u	n	a	j	k	r	c	p	t	s
m	u	s	k	i	i	n	g	h	o	b	q	l	h	c
i	r	t	y	k	j	d	a	s	b	n	w	z	o	m
t	d	c	f	v	c	m	t	s	n	o	w	c	l	c
t	a	h	g	h	b	o	t	l	m	n	o	z	i	m
e	a	p	l	t	f	b	l	e	o	a	i	y	d	t
n	c	w	h	i	t	e	k	d	j	v	b	c	a	x
s	z	e	z	g	h	g	k	d	v	m	u	t	y	b
r	g	j	l	i	n	o	n	i	g	l	o	o	s	s
c	f	b	z	i	f	q	l	n	w	o	l	p	y	l
s	o	u	t	b	s	m	b	g	p	t	y	m	t	u
c	w	a	f	g	s	n	o	w	m	a	n	y	l	g
r	k	e	t	i	a	b	b	m	l	p	y	t	d	o
s	t	o	r	m	v	q	m	o	g	s	x	l	f	m

coat  
cocoa  
cold  
freezing  
frost

hat  
holidays  
icy  
igloo  
january

mittens  
moguls  
plow  
skating  
skiing

sledding  
snow  
snowman  
storm  
white



*News from the Nest* is published by  
the Cucinella PTO Journalism Club  
and sponsored by the Cucinella PTO  
c/o BA Cucinella Elementary School  
470 Naughtright Rd.  
Long Valley, NJ 07853  
(908) 850-3161  
[www.cucinellapto.org](http://www.cucinellapto.org)