

# The Creative



2012-2013, Glendale Pacific Montessori Elementary School

## **GPME, Educating Young Hearts and Minds Since 1976**

1212 N. Pacific ave. Glendale, CA 91202. 818-243-5172.

This newspaper is an effort put forth by grades 4-6 at GPME. It has been edited by our wonderful 6th graders, Jason Colella and Roxy Jamin.



### **Riley's Farm**

When we went to Riley's Farm we went to the blacksmith. After the blacksmith we went to play some games.

We learned how to play hoop and stick, graces, paddle ball, and horse shoes. After we played the games we learned how to fire guns. The guns were actually sticks but we pretended that they were guns.

Next we went to a place outside to learn about the stamp act and about all of the many taxes you needed to pay at the time. If you didn't pay taxes that you needed to pay at the time. If you didn't pay taxes then the people at Riley's Farm would give you a reward. Only two people didn't pay the taxes and they were Roxy and Danny.

After learning about the stamp act, we learned how the weave. They said that we needed to split up into groups, and there needed to be four people in each group, each person would do one job. The jobs were supervisor, loom, shuttle, and stick divider. Then after weaving we went to

court. In court we learned that in the time of the Revolutionary War the trials were very unfair because in the time the judge chose everything and because even the witnesses could be accused of being guilty. Next we went to a baking place where the red coats were making a woman make 144 biscuits because of the quartering act. It smelled very good in the baking room, like fresh biscuits. We helped her make biscuits. We rolled up the dough we signed a freedom petition but we only signed our initials so that the red coats could not track us down from knowing our full name. After the bread and biscuit baking we went to eat lunch. For lunch they gave us corn bread, a slice of cheddar cheese, and beef jerky, and our own lunch that you had to bring from your house.

After lunch we went to war, at war we got behind a rock wall. We had to be careful not to touch the wall because he said there were three rattle snakes inside the wall. When the red coats came charging we shot them with our sticks. We won the war!

– Jason Colella, reporter and co-editor of *The Creative*.



## Plants Have Feelings

Some people think that plants are just, well, plants. But I think that they have feelings. Plants are alive, they eat and

they drink like humans and animals. And sometimes they react to music and sounds. And

we all know that plants drink water but they also eat the air we exhale and turn it into the air we breathe, so if plants weren't here then we wouldn't be here. And I heard that plants can read minds so be careful when you're around plants.

Leila Babbit, reporter for *The Creative*.

## GPME Theatre



GPME Theatre's amazing director Kelli is at it again! Usually, GPME usually only does theatre during the summer school program, but this year, Kelli has decided to have a little drama class during the school year, every Wednesday after snack. Kelli and the upper grades have performed many amazing plays, including *The God's and Goddess's Bake Off*, a comedic twist on Greek mythology. Then we did *Pandora's Box*. After that, for the second half of the year, we moved on to a bigger production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, including Kelli's third grade classroom. Expect to see it on June 12, 2013, at GPME school. More GPME Theatre to come in the summer, with GPME's production of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*!

– Roxy Jamin, reporter and co-editor for *The Creative*.

## Channel Islands



Channel Islands was a complete success for GPME! We saw many different animals and plants. We saw seals, sea otters, and island foxes. We made sunscreen out of dead krill. It was really fun. Jason Colella, a student at GPME said, "It was full of nature." I agree.

Bodhi Corbett, reporter for *The Creative*.

## Reading Together



Almost every Friday after lunch, Kendall's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class reads with Lisa's K–2 class. The ones that can read, read to us. The ones that can't read, we read to them. "It was great, it was a social action [with the smaller kids]," says Angus McPherson, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at GPME. We all had fun!

–Roxy Jamin, co-editor and reporter for *The Creative*

# WHY HOMEWORK SHOULD BE CREATIVE

BY: ROXY JAMIN



Homework: most kids dread it, most parents love it, and most teachers dislike checking and preparing it. But why would this innocent 45 minutes after school spent doing math be so impactful on the brain? The answer is this simple:

Most children use their left brain in everyday schoolwork. The left brain deals with subjects like science, math, logic, and language. This area of the brain is exercised strongly. Which is good. But people don't realize that the right brain is just as important. Why would one side of the brain be more superior than the next? No reason. It is simply a myth. Both sides of the brain are very important to keep a human mentally fit and healthy, as well as happy. But since so many children use their left brain in school, many are stunted in their right brain and don't have many connections there. But this part of the brain deserves to be just as strong. "... it's good for you to have [the left brain and right brain] equal because you need the right just as much as you need the left," says Lola Jamin, a ten-year-old classmate.

The right brain deals with "creativity, and free spirit, passion and laughter, taste and vivid colors, the urge to paint on an empty canvas, imagination that stretches towards infinity, art and poetry, the ability to be anything you want to be." says a Mercedes Benz ad campaign.

This part of the brain leaves children and adults smiling, laughing, and even crying at times. It is emotion. But kids are seldom encouraged to entertain this brain, or they are too busy watching TV or playing on the computer to engage in activities that strengthen this brain. That's why homework should engage in RIGHT BRAIN subjects, such as art, poetry, movie making, theater, sculpture, and music. After a long day of left brain-inspired activities, a vacation to strengthen the right brain can be refreshing and prevent depression. Eleanor Updale, a British children's author, who wrote the *Montmorency Series*, *Johnny Swanson*, and *The Last Minute* claims that "homework is turning children into couch potatoes." as they spend an increasing amount of time in their bedrooms instead of playing outside. "It's polluting family life," as less and less time is spent with family as the school years go on.

Homework also adds stress to the everyday lives of children. "Will I get this in on time???" is a common thought. "I don't want to DO THIS!!!!" is a sign of exhaustion and boredom. And a child learns best when they are motivated to do something. "Well, the creative homework would be good for kids because they get to ... go out of their comfort zone a bit. It's ... like they are expressing themselves. Some kids might think normal homework is hard. They might not focus," says eleven-year-old classmate Bodhi Corbett, a student in Glendale Pacific Montessori Elementary's fifth grade. Eleven-year-old fifth grade student Amel Murray agrees. "Because, I guess, it would be fun to do creative homework. You get to learn, and do something you enjoy at the same time."

When children haven't been doing something for a while, they begin to want to do it. Even if a child did only art for a while, they would yearn for math and language. So it's all about balance. If a child does only math and language and logic for a day, homework should be art. Even short extra-curricular activities or music lessons can be overpowered by left-brain-activities if the majority of the time is spent working on the left brain. It's all about balance. So I think homework should be creative.

# All About Our Teachers

The teachers at GPME have very diverse backgrounds and all traveled different routes to arrive at GPME. These pages aim to shed a little bit of light on our amazing staff.

## Nina O'Brian, Principal



I, Nina (Christina), was born in Burbank and raised in North Hollywood. I attended Colfax Elementary School, Walter Reed Junior High, and North Hollywood High and graduated from Cal State University, Northridge with a degree in Psychology. I got my teaching credential from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA.

I sent my resume to every primary school in the Los Angeles area phone book. One of the people I heard back from was Mrs. Utrecht, owner of Glendale Montessori School, who gave me an interview and hired me the same day. I have been here ever since. I received my Montessori training during the summer of 1976 from the Los Angeles Montessori Training Center.

I bought the elementary school from Mrs. Utrecht when Kelli was born in 1986, and I have been teaching peace ever since.

## Bob Layport, 4th Grade



Bob Layport--Born in Ohio, raised in southwestern Pennsylvania, a region rich in forests and rolling farmland. A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, College of Fine Arts, he has lived in Southern California for the past forty years. In 1983 he became Montessori Certified and began teaching at GMES. Later that year he and his wife Wendy were married, and in 1987 their daughter, Bethany Rose, was born. Through more than 30 years of teaching it has been the spirit of the child that has inspired him, awakening the sense of wonder he knew as a child. He is deeply grateful for the wonderful children he has known through the years exploring the many mysteries of his world. His secret passion is the beauty of Nature and the many hours spent hiking, painting, and photographing the wonders of the California and the West.

## Lisa Meyer-Swovelin, K-2



I am the youngest of four daughters. My dad was a pediatricist and film editor. My mom was a school teacher and a realtor. Growing up, I was a ballet dancer. I became a professional for a while. Always loved animals, and never could have one! Started with two water dogs. I had a tarantula, two guinea pigs, two hamsters, parrots, frogs, cats, dogs, fish, etc. In high school I moved to England. I took international Montessori training. I came home to California, and took American training. I got married, and had two children, first, Alanna, and then Preston.

– Interview by Jason Colella, co-editor of *The Creative*

## Kendall McCollum, 5 & 6



Hi, I'm Kendall! I have been teaching since 2008, I have taught a huge range of students, from 2-year-olds all the way up through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I am from Los Angeles, I attended Immaculate Heart High School, then went on to earn my BA in Humanities for Teaching from Seattle University. Currently, I am working towards my MA in Counseling at Loyola Marymount, I am also NAMC upper elementary certified. My husband, Quentin, and I recently bought our first house and we really love working on it and updating our classic 1950's Los Angeles home. GPME is such a special place and I love working here with all these wonderful children, I am very lucky to have found such a great school, thank you for welcoming me into your school community.

## Kelli O'Brian, 4th Grade



My name is Kelli, with an "i," because it was apparently a trend in 1986 to spell things with an "i" instead of a "y". I'm proud of my "i" and wouldn't change it for anything. I was born on November 13, 1986, which means that sometimes my birthday is on Friday the 13th. I've never found this to be unlucky. I have been somehow involved at this school all my life--from student to teacher. After I graduated from here in 1998, I continued on to Immaculate Heart Middle School, and then to Immaculate Heart High School, where I met Kendall! After IH, I went to Loyola Marymount, where I studied Theater and Biology (briefly). I love, love, LOVE theater, but also wanted to give my love of science and marine biology a chance to bloom some more. After directing the Summer School plays here for the past few years, I took the plunge and

received my Montessori Certification from NAMC in 2012. I have totally enjoyed my first year of teaching 3rd grade and cannot wait to do it all again for years to come!



## Matt Salmons, K-2, P.E.

On one hazy (presumably) September morning in Los Angeles, CA, I was brought into this world by a strange, rubber glove-toting, mask-wearing creature whom I would later discover was known as a "human," and more specifically as a "doctor." I, being human (presumably) myself, accepted my roll and, as such, joined my family in the suburbs. After several years, and just as I began to understand my surrounding environment, my parents stuffed everything they could fit into a Winnebago, which luckily included me (and my best friend at the time, a cat named "Nine"), and we hit the open road. Several minor fires later, we arrived in our new hometown of Lincoln City, OR.

In August 2009, and after (too) many years of college in various cities around the state, during which I studied forensic anthropology, audio engineering, photography, and real estate, I made the move back to Los Angeles. I began teaching at GPME shortly thereafter, while adding yet another two-years of school to my educational "career" at Musicians Institute. There I received a combined degree in vocal performance and independent artist development.

The future is an interesting subject that I tend not to get too caught up in. That said, I'm not one to ignore dreams of rock stardom. Regardless of where I end up or what I end up doing, I know that I'll never be too far away from a guitar, a camera, or a room-full of smiling (hopefully) students.

## Lisa Williamson, Art(ist)



Lisa is an artist living and working in Los Angeles. She works in painting and sculpture and also does a lot of writing. Originally from Chicago, she moved to Los Angeles from New York in 2006 to attend graduate school at USC. She received her MFA in 2008 and has been exhibiting her work locally, nationally and internationally ever since. She does teaching art at GPMES!

“You get to make a whole new language. You meet a lot of interesting people. You learn to be resourceful”

## Nick Mancini & Afton Heffley, Music



Vibraphonist and composer **NICK MANCINI** began his professional career as a drummer, at the age of 15. Later he graduated Manhattan School of Music's master's degree program in jazz performance and continued to live and work in NYC for 10 years; relocating to Los Angeles in 2006. He has performed and recorded with such diverse luminaries as Arturo Sandoval, Charles Fambrough, Harvey Mason, Marvin “Smitty” Smith, Poncho Sanchez, Kenny Werner, New York Voices and Jennifer Holliday; and at notable venues such as The World Famous Apollo Theater. Nick is on the faculty at California State University at Northridge and Long Beach, and GPME.

Hailing from Tulsa, OK, **Afton Heffley** has been teaching music since 2004, both privately and in class settings in Oklahoma, Arizona, & California. She is certified in the Orff-Schulwerk method of music education through Chapman University. She is a classically trained vocalist and pianist, and a self-taught guitarist. You can catch her performing out live regularly in LA, either solo under the moniker ‘Sangster’, as a duo with Nick, or as a frequently called upon backing vocalist for shows and in the studio. She is currently recording her debut EP through a crowd-sourced campaign to help her raise funds for the project.

## What is Happiness?

*The Creative* and all of its reporters got together to put into words what happiness means to them. Here is what we have:

“Happiness is part of your body. Happiness is everywhere. Happiness is needed everywhere.” – Anonymous

“Happiness... an amazing thing that goes out farther than the universe, never to meet a dead end, almost as if it is a race that never ends. It is simply love.” – Sophia Haydon-Khan, a reporter for *The Creative*.

“Happiness is doing something you love with the people you love.” – Anonymous

“Happiness is... being the best you can be— to make other feel as great as anyone else has the right to feel. Making difference feel normal. To enjoy life and all the wonders it creates.” –Anonymous

“Happiness is... anything you want.  
Happiness is... creativity and friendship.  
Happiness is... how you make of life.  
Happiness is... how you treat others.  
Happiness is... Hopi.  
Happiness is... love and kindness.  
Happiness is... everyone and everything in the world.”  
– Jason Colella, co-editor for *The Creative*.

## Redwood Tree

By Leila Babbit, reporter for *The Creative*



Not long ago, Bob Layport, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at GPME, handed a creative writing assignment out to his students, with the given premise: *Today we are facing many serious environmental problems. Imagine you are a tree or forest, a lake or stream, the air or the ocean, and write a story at least one page long expressing your personal feelings. Write from the point of view of the tree or forest, or whatever you choose.* Shortly after, I received the creative writing assignment of Leila Babbit, to put in *The Creative*. Here it is:

I am the tree in the middle of the red wood forest and this is my life... When the wind brushes against my branches it tickles me. When the caterpillars are fighting over who's going to be the prettiest butterfly it makes me laugh. When it rains all the animals take shelter under me. When there's a storm my branches quiver in fear, but I won't cry because I am strong and brave. The beavers take my bark to eat, but they won't cut me down, for I am too big. When the night comes the squirrels hide from the owls, I am their shield. The birds make their nests on me, I am their home. When a human cuts down one of the other protectors of the forest I feel sad. But when the birds sing it makes me cheer up. When a man picks off one of my leaves I am angry. I only let the animals of the forest pick off my leaves. I am the tree in the middle of the redwood forest. I'm the guardian of the forest animals, and forever will be.

## Interview with Sayeed Shahidi, Actor



**Roxy:** What do you like about acting?

**Sayeed:** I like the people you get to meet, and some of the experiences you get to have.

**R:** What is a typical day on set?

**S:** I go to "school", I go to hair and makeup, and then I get dressed into wardrobe, rehearse with fellow actors, do blocking for cameras, then shoot it. After that, we usually eat lunch, and then I go back to set school.

**R:** Do you shoot in front of a live studio audience?

**S:** I don't do it for the show, [The First Family] but I have performed in front of a live audience before.

**R:** Who is your favorite celebrity that you have met?

**S:** The nicest to me was Tyler Perry. The coolest people to me were Eddie Murphy and Chris Hemsworth.

**R:** What are you working on lately?

**S:** I am working on a TV show called the first family with my older sister and two other fake siblings.

**R:** How would you castmates describe you?

**S:** My "little sister" Layla Crawford, would say that I am very energetic. My "older brother" Khylin Rhambo, he would say that I am funny, and my real big sister, Yara Shahidi, would say that I am sporty.

**R:** What advice would you give to aspiring actors and actresses?

**S:** To first of all, be yourself and to have fun.

## Where are they Now?



The girls who graduated from GPME (then GMES) in 2007 (pictured above) have all just graduated from high school! Here is a quick run-down of these girls and their academic success. Juno Wheeler and Michelle Yeghyayan just graduated from Campbell Hall. Juno will be attending Chapman College in the fall and Michelle will begin her college career studying genetics at UCLA. Annie Lowrey earned her diploma from Flintridge Prep and will begin at Swarthmore College in the Fall. Rocky Livingston just graduated from Burroughs High School. Allie Specter just graduated from Hoover High and will soon be attending Fullerton College; Mia Rosenthal recently completed high school at Immaculate Heart and is now back East, she will be attending MIT.

We are so proud of these graduates and are happy to have such a wonderful group of young ladies representing our school Good Luck class of 2007!

# ASTROCAMP!



Astrocamp is, for starters, **AWESOME!** Trust me when I say this, it's worth the drive. Once you're up there, it's like you're exposed to a whole different environment. I have gone 2 times so far, but I can say that those experiences were both amazing. The instructors are funny and nice, and the dorms are comfortable.

But MY favorite experience at Astrocamp would have to be the night hike, night swimming, and Cat Walk, which is one of the ropes courses.

The night hike is where the instructors take you for a walk after you eat dinner. You have to dress **SUPER** warm though, because it is really cold outside. But once you're outside, the instructors show you lots of constellations with laser beams. I love the night hike because you are next to nature, and it is really cool.

The night swimming is where the instructors take you to a little indoor swimming pool at night. The pool is heated, so you aren't cold while you're swimming. After a few safety rules, then you can swim as much as you want! On the deep end, it's pretty deep, but in the shallow end, it goes up to your waist (depending on your height.)

Cat Walk is where you climb up this ladder, onto a ledge. Then, you have to walk across a really high beam. Once you reach the end of the beam, you have to fall backwards. Then the ropes catch you, and you can safely fall down. It's super fun!

I love everything about Astrocamp, it's hard to pick a favorite. You become more independent and open there, it is just truly, a great experience.

Lola Jamin, reporter for *The Creative*.

### 2013 Fundraiser Party

This year's fundraiser party was a roaring success! Sandino's parents' band, Quetzal played along with acts Cava and Nicky Corbett (Bodhi and Finley's mom). Matt's band, Will and the Won'ts closed out our rockin' party. Vegan Moni provided delicious food and the raffle and silent auction were great! All told this excellent event raised OVER \$3,000 for our school! We would like to extend a very special thanks to Martha Gonzalez for all her hard work organizing and to everyone who contributed to this amazing experience!

### St. Patty's Day



Saint Patrick's day was a lot of fun and full of excitement and cupcakes. We had a blast and the food was great, especially the green bagels. There were little leprechauns running amuck and green bagels and cream cheese. Our Saint Patrick's day celebration was awesome.

– Danny Shehayeb and Bodhi Corbett, reporters for *The Creative*.

### The BFG



***The BFG won the Best Books award in the Top Picks column! Here is a quick summary by Sophia Haydon-Khan, a student at GPME's 4<sup>th</sup> grade and a reporter for the creative.***

The BFG (Big Friendly Giant) is an amazing book about a curious little orphan girl who accidentally gets introduced to the BFG who lives in Giant country, a secret world that no human knows about. Or should know about. What will happen in this adventure to stop the other man eating giant.

– Sophia Haydon-Khan, a reporter for *The Creative*.



The Halloween party was amazing for GPME! The first thing we did after we arrived at school was the parade. We went on a parade around the block in our Halloween Costumes. Then we sang a few songs for Nick's Halloween concert. We sang *Halloween Night*, *Ghost Busters*, *Halloween*, *Pumpkin Patch Polka*, and Lisa's kids sang *Adam's Family*. After the music program we changed out of our costumes and carved our pumpkins. Then we finally went to Brand Park.

We played at the park and had lunch there. We also had snacks of cookies and little pizzas and stuff like that. And in the end when we got back to school our pumpkins were filled with toys and candy! "My favorite thing would have to be the park," says fifth grade student, Danny. Then we all played until our parents came to pick us up!

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students of GPME, edited by Roxy Jamin, co-editor of *The Creative*.



## USA WORD SEARCH



AMERIGO  
CALIFORNIA  
CONSTITUTION  
DEMOCRACY  
ELECTION

## Top Picks

The big reveal is finally here! The upper grades of GPME voted on their favorite sports, books or book series, movie (rated PG or G), school subject, school trip, and color!

### BEST SPORT:

Capture the Flag

### BEST BOOK:

BFG

### BEST MOVIE RATED G OR PG:

Back to the Future

### BEST SCHOOL SUBJECT:

Writing

### BEST SCHOOL TRIP:

Astrocamp

### BEST COLOR:

Blue

---

## Science Fair

It was an exciting time to show off all the things you learned when you were doing the science fair. It gives you a chance to learn more about the things other people were doing. This year there was lots of fun experiments and interesting facts. I hope it will always be like this.

-Sophia Haydon-Khan, reporter for *The Creative*

The Science Fair is really fun. Each student, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> does a science fair report and an experiment to go along with it. First you have to pick a topic, do a little research, and pick an experiment that fits in well with what you're taking about. Then you buy a poster board, and decorate it with facts, designs and other things. Finally, you get to show and talk about your project to Kelli's class, Lisa's class and the parents.

When you get up there to present your report, it can be a little scary. But once you start talking about your report, it is actually fun! Then all the kids ask questions about your report.

The science fair usually lasts 3 days, but this year, it only lasted 2, because of our small classes. But the science fair is really cool. I can't wait to see what people's project's are next year.

– Lola Jamin, reporter for *The Creative*

---