

# African Road Elementary

March 2010

Office of the Principal

Issue 6

Dear Parents:

## **FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR:**

Happy almost spring, ARE families! Thank goodness, spring is on the horizon. As usual we have been very busy. Let me fill you in.

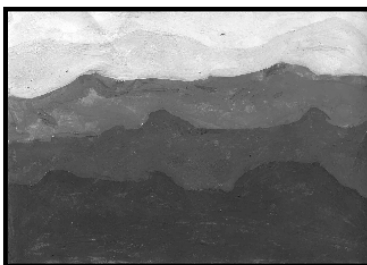
In February, I completed my third-grade classroom lessons. The focus of these lessons was problem-solving. We reviewed and practiced Kelso's nine choices, which are strategies for dealing with small problems. Kelso's choices include telling someone to stop or walking away from someone who is bothering you. I reinforce throughout my lessons however, that when a problem is ongoing or dangerous, students must go straight to an adult. Please encourage your children to use these skills at home too. To fifth-grade parents: your child's course selection sheet is due back to me by Friday, March 12. If you have any questions or concerns about this transition, please contact me. Remember my new phone number is 757-2311.

In March, I will be doing several test anxiety and stress management

lessons for Grades 3 and 4. These lessons have always been part of my curriculum, but they are now completed in March since our state tests are in April and May.

This month, all Banana Splits groups will be coming to a close. I will be starting girls groups for Grades 4 and 5. These groups will focus on building friendship and assertion skills, talking about positive self-image and working through problems. These groups are completely voluntary. Anyone interested can sign up, but a parent must sign a permission slip. If you have any questions about these groups please contact me.

Have a great day!  
Mrs. Ferratella  
School Counselor



**Michael Jansen**

## **STUDENT AWARDS:**

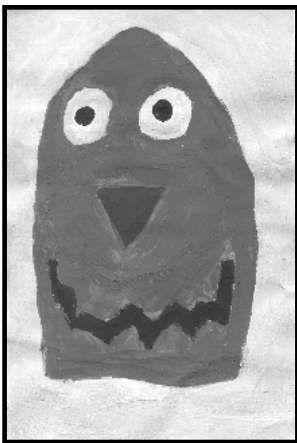
The second student awards assembly of the 2009-2010 school year was held on February 19.

The following students received awards at this assembly:

Cole Goodchild, Hailey Kelly, Jeremy Dorish, Katelyn Mahoney, Teresa Deskur, Andrew Raychawdhuri, Allison Krauss, George Gramatikov, Alexis Van Donsel, Meagan Lynch, Mahek Pannu, Hailee Coughlin, Ashley Sisson, Stavros Metritikas, Jared Butler, Megan Topp, Cheemon Tahir, Brian Salomons, Eva Yarbrough, Hanna Greenblott, Evan Epstein, Megan Sanford, Austin Gillen, Kelsey Mikeska, Matthew Lynch, Vincent Gialanella, Rachel Liss, Marisa Lorenzetti, Aarman Pannu, A.J. Mills, Yunjae Lee, Naomi Epstein, Vicky Kapoor, Aysha Puzhakkaraillath, Tina Zheng, Taiga Mori, Eva Yarbrough, Angela Choi, Catherine Deskur, Joshua Tozer, Megan Sanford, Barzan Avdel, Maxwell Goldman, Sarah Miller, Nestor Moreno, Emily Xiao, Jonathan Shapiro, Eeshah Ahmed, Anthony Haykal, Joshua Klotzkin, Jimin Kim, Jessica Luo, Walter Yacynych, Antigone McCarthy, Teresa Deskur, Minjung Kim, Cory Powers, Andy Isaacs, Sydney Gallagher, Hailey Kelly,

Dominick Russell, Jared Pascarelli, Christopher McCoy, Emilee Moro, Laweren Waples, Seaborn Kelley, Jordan Case, Harry Singh, Alexis Herringshaw, Karaleah Scelsi, Brian Salomons, J.D. Burford, Ally Butler, Lucas Fiske, Abby Herringshaw, Eric Salomons and Courtney Franz.

Recognition for these awards is based on work habits and/or prosocial behavior observed during that time period by a staff member.



**Cindy Zheng**

**SUZY KLINE:**

Many thanks to the African Road PTO, the Glenwood PTO and, in particular, to Jane Miller for our author visit from Suzy Kline. The visit was a success in inspiring our young readers and writers - and in the smiles she brought to all of our faces.



**GRADE 3 TRIP TO CHINA:**



On Friday, February 19, the third-graders at ARE embarked on a "trip to China." The trip started with the third-graders getting their passports ready to board the plane, piloted by Mr. Brower, in the cafeteria. They enjoyed a movie about China and a snack while on board. Once they arrived, they were greeted by Mrs. Ivanova, the curator of Chinese artifacts at BU, who shared her knowledge of Chinese culture. The fun continued the rest of the day in our classrooms, with the assistance of many parent volunteers and a PTO grant. The teachers and students all had great fun and gained a greater appreciation of Chinese culture.

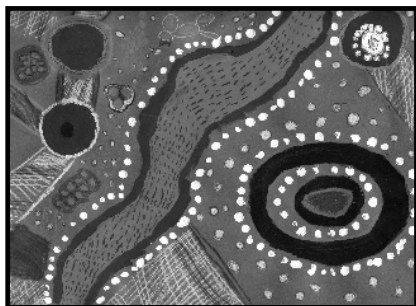


**ART NEWS:**

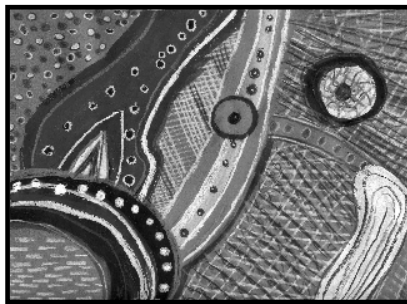
***A Day without Art***

What would a day without art be like? You might think you would have to take down the painting hanging over your sofa and that would take care of it, but there is so much more. Let's start with breakfast. The cereal box would be plain brown, no colorful box design. You need a designer for that! Then it's time to get dressed for school. Uh-oh, no cute, striped leggings or T-shirt with a cool logo or designer jeans. Sorry, you'll have to wear plain brown burlap sacks. Driving down the parkway to school would be drab and dull. No big yellow Moe's sign with funky typestyle, no fun red and white Target sign, no golden arches, no cute rubber ducky to wash your car... all of these signs were created by artists. Once you got to school, you'd miss the brand new auditorium. That was designed by an architect, another kind of artist. The halls and classrooms would be empty and bare. No bulletin boards, no snowflakes hanging from the ceiling, no three-foot-tall penguins in the hall. And worst of all, no hour in the art room. No art teacher, no paints, no crayons, no beautiful colored papers. No imagination, no creativity, no joy in expressing yourself, no pride in making something yourself. This is just horrible! You can't wait to

get home to your cozy house. When school is finally over, the bus pulls up to your house. But all of the warmth and welcome of your house is gone. The walls are brown and dull; the furniture is plain and brown. Your Mom's collection of dishes has vanished, the flower arrangement in the dining room is gone, the curtains have lost their lace, and, yes, the painting over the sofa is gone. Will this never end? You just want to go to your room and play some video games, but you can't, because all of the graphics in the games were created by artists. Maybe if you just curl up in bed, this day will be over. Oh no! The flowered comforter is gone, the matching sheets are gone, your favorite posters are gone and even your stuffed animals have vanished. When you finally fall asleep, you dream of colors and textures and lines and shapes. And when you wake up, there they are. The day without art is over, and all the beauty and joy of art has returned to fill your world.



**Elizabeth Bader**



**Eric Flynn**

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND:**

The Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition was held on February 27. Congratulations to the Column Structure team, coached by Drew Deskur and Tammy Powers, the winners in their category. They built a balsa structure that weighed less than 18 grams and held an impressive 525 pounds (though the team was officially scored at 395 pounds because their allotted time expired with 395 pounds of weights applied). They also integrated the structure into a skit that they wrote and performed. They will compete in the State competition at the Binghamton University Events Center on Saturday, March 27.

Not only was Drew Deskur the lead coach of the winning team, he also served with me as building coordinator, and did an outstanding job.

The teams are as follows:

**Column Structure**

Coaches: Drew Deskur and Tammy Powers

Team Members: Eli Holmes, Teresa Deskur, Cory Powers, Austin Gillen, Nathaniel Knipscher, Narayan Jaen and Reyna Jaen

**Food Court**

Coach: Hayley Crimmins

Team Members: Haashim Shah, Elliot Weissmann, Eric Salomons, Tommy Yarbrough, Lauren Lee, Katelyn Mahoney and Sean Yang

**Discovered Treasures**

Coaches: David and Shari Klotzkin

Team Members: Joshua Klotzkin, Angelique de Rouen, Alicia Yin, Catherine Deskur and Emily Huber (a Union-Endicott student)

**Surprise Party!**

*(Non-competitive category for Grs. K - 2)*

Coach: Jeff Donacik

Team Members: Nathan Mahoney, Benjamin Klotzkin, Dora Donacik, Theo Donacik, Eva Yarbrough, Daniel Knipscher and Lacey Lee.

Pamela Smart  
Odyssey of the Mind  
Coordinator

**OPEN HOUSE:**

The African Road Open House will be held on Wednesday, March 24, from 7 - 8 p.m. Visit your child's classroom, browse the artwork displayed around the

school and patronize the PTO sponsored Book Fair.

**ARE WINTER CONCERT:**

The fourth and fifth-grade chorus, fifth-grade band, VMS beginning band and fourth-grade orchestra held their winter concert on February 23.

Members of the fourth- and fifth-grade chorus are:

Tyler Andrews,  
Leslie Briscoe, Gia Caler,  
Shaniya Clark,  
Hailee Coughlin,  
Anika Dalvie,  
Teresa Deskur,  
Courtney Franz,  
Sydney Gallagher,  
Allison Hanafin, Eli Holmes,  
Kelsey Horn,  
Howard Horowitz,  
Mollie Hubal, Ciara Jacoby,  
Hailey Kelly, Minjung Kim,  
Allison Krauss, Jiwon Lee,  
Lauren Lee, Rachel Liss,  
Meagan Lynch,  
Katelyn Mahoney,  
Max Mavian,  
Antigone McCarthy,  
Christopher McCoy,  
Kelsey Mikeska,  
Mahekpreet Pannu,  
Suhanya Pathman,  
Danielle Pittari,  
Demeree Podest,  
Jonathan Price,  
Tara Roberts,  
Zoey Rouhana,  
Sarah Sperber,  
Cheemon Tahir,  
Alexis VanDonsel,  
Laura Waring, Paige Weiss.

Members of the fifth-grade band are:

***Flute:*** Lauren Lee, Jamie Mun  
***Clarinet:*** Alyssa Chapman,

Allison Hanafin,  
Abby Herringshaw,  
Allison Krauss

***Oboe:*** Stephen Biechele

***Alto Sax:*** Josh Brimelow,  
Jake Karis

***Bassoon:*** Eli Holmes

***Trumpet:*** James Edwards,  
Joey Pirc,  
Eric Salomons,  
Haashim Shah

***French Horn:*** Danielle Pittari,  
Brian Salomons,  
Johnathon Scott

***Trombone:*** Elliott Weissmann  
Nicholas Mandujano

***Baritone:*** Vianna Richards

***Percussion:*** Kevin Fang,  
Jay Lethin

Members of the fourth-grade orchestra are:

***Violin:*** Shaniya Clark,  
Hailee Coughlin,  
Teresa Deskur,  
David Foran,  
Sydney Gallagher,  
Quintan Gerhardstein,  
Sahib Ghotra,  
Austin Gillen,  
Michael Jansen,  
Minjung Kim,  
Meagan Lynch,  
Katelyn Mahoney,  
Antigone McCarthy,  
Mahek Pannu,  
Nevin Singh,  
Alexis VanDonsel,  
Laura Waring

***Viola:*** Trey Avery, Gia Caler,  
Adriel Domingo,  
Cole Goodchild,  
Jiwon Lee,  
Colin McCarthy,  
Andrew Raychawdhuri

***Cello:*** Andy Isaacs,  
Cory Powers,  
Zoey Rouhana,  
Sarah Sperber

***Bass:*** Eric Lethin,  
Joseph Mangiacapra

Congratulations musicians!

Sincerely,  
Joanne Mitchell  
Principal

