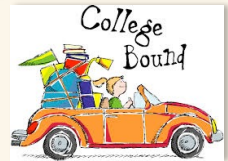


# PANTHER PRINTS

Fall 2014

BY KATIE KUNZ & KERRIANNE  
DUNHAM, 6TH GRADE

## Survey Says..



### College...

#### Life after PSD

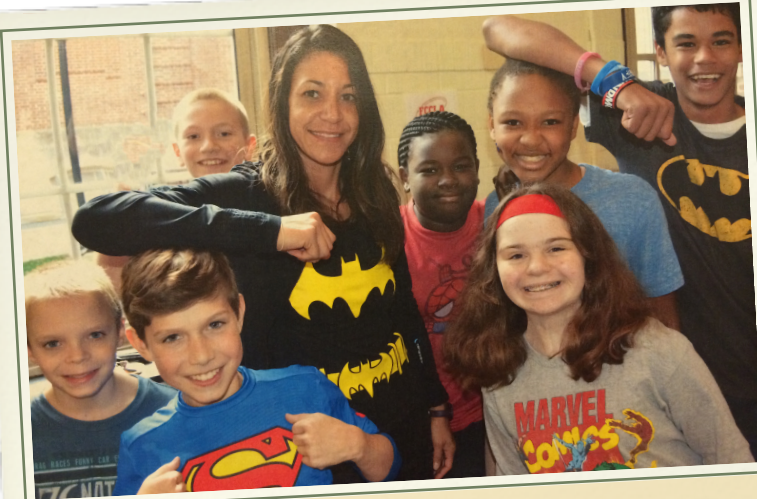
96% of sixth graders surveyed at PSD say that they want to go to college, while only 4% were unsure of their plans after high school graduation.



### Favorites...

#### Special Classes

When asked about their favorite courses, 70% of students interviewed reported that Gym Class was their preferred class, 20% reported Music as their all time favorite and finally 10% of students asked named Art as their best class.



### SPIRIT WEEK

SUPERHERO DAY!

*Student Council plans many events throughout the school year, such as Superhero day!*

### A ROCKING GOOD TIME

BY KAMRIN SIMMS, 6TH GRADE

The dance began at 7:00pm on Friday, October 24th. Students paid their \$5.00 admission and were welcomed into the transformed gymnasium. The DJ played great music the whole night. Students really enjoyed dancing and hanging with their friends. Additionally, the theme of this dance was Halloween, students were encouraged to come in costume. Their costumes were spectacular! There were Crayons, Superheroes, Red Riding Hood,

Thor, and more. The snack bar was open and full of yummy affordable snacks and drinks. The snack bar sold candy, chips, cookies, soda, water, and cupcakes and more. The Student Council sponsored Halloween dance was a roaring success. I highly recommend going to the next dance at PSD. It will be an event you will not want to miss.



# A Conversation with Mr. Scira

By Keerthan Durasala, 6th grade



**F** or how many years have you been teaching in P.S. DuPont Middle School?

R. I have been in room 300 for 5 years, this is my 6th.

Q. Did you teach in any other school?

R. I taught at Hanby Middle School for 15 years.

Q. Was Art your most favorite subject from the start or did you switch to it later on?

R. It has, is, and always will be my favorite subject. It was the one course that touches on ALL the subjects and allows an Artist to make observations and critiques on the society and themselves as a whole. My other favorite subject is Science.

Q. Do you truly like Art or are you just teaching it because you have an artistic talent?

R. Nothing makes me happier than seeing a student showing the look of accomplishment when he/she masters a concept or technique. I really love my field of study and creating is simply a way of life for me. I also wanted to show my students how to express themselves with art because in a situation when the outside world is too much to bear, nothing feels better than showing everyone your ideas through art.

Q. You have also been teaching us many life skills in class, why do you think teaching life skills along with Art is important?

R. Let's just say that life is the ultimate teacher and I have had A LOT of experiences, both good and bad. I care about my students and don't want them to learn the hard way in which I sometimes did. We all make mistakes. I feel there is no nobler cause than to pass your knowledge and experience to help a student succeed.

Q. Did you have your parents' support in school?

R. Absolutely! My parents always told me that it isn't money that brings happiness. Setting out to follow your dreams brings peace and contentment. Another thing they sent me out into the world with was the advice to, "Learn to be a life long learner. Every day should bring you something new you learned. If you didn't learn something new, you weren't paying attention."

Q. What would be your biggest weakness if you would like to share it with us?

R. My biggest weakness is that I care deeply on a personal level. When my students succeed, I feel proud and pleased. But, when my students don't give all their effort and make choices that are beneath them and end up in trouble, it hurts me personally. Waste of potential, materials, and time really gets me down. It is all about making the right choices and, taking responsibility for one's own actions.

Q. Do you feel that P.S. DuPont is the way you want it to be or do you

feel like some things should be changed?

R. You won't find a more dedicated and caring staff. What I would like to see changed is a student body that takes PRIDE more seriously. We, as a school, should not encourage or support anything that degrades, embarrasses, or fails to lift each other up. That means having the courage to confront each other in getting along and helping each other get the best education we can.

Q. I have heard that many kids think that you are a very good teacher (including me who practically hates art). What do you think about this?

R. I am humbled and thrilled at the same time. I work very long hours; do a lot of research to be the best I can be. I use humor to discuss serious things with my students and am pleased when they start thinking in reality. You CAN achieve whatever your goals are, IF you are willing to work at it, to keep working at it, and not stop working at it until your goal is reached. It is hard and many times you will fail. I learn more from failing at an attempt at a new technique than instant success. If the students feel I am doing a good job, and parents feel I am doing a good job, then I am pleased and will work even harder to do an even better job. It is a privilege to learn, and a bigger privilege to teach here at PSD.

( Photo on page 5 )

# SPORTS

Lets Go Panthers!

By Maggie Kunz &  
Kamrin Simms, 6th grade

The Panther Cheerleaders are full of energy this Fall Season. According to some of the members of the squad their favorite cheer this year is "Pump it Up." Squad members Taylor, Jessica, and Zorah say that "the coaches are fun, fair, and charismatic." Squad members Taylor and Jessica really cheer their hearts out for the Field Hockey team and the Wrestling team too. Both teams are fun and entertaining to watch, according to the girls. The squad members love working together. Cheering takes high energy, dedication, and a bright personality. All of the girls on the squad are great, says Zorah. Taylor says that her teammate Alli is really nice and easy to cheer with. The girls will be cheering at upcoming Soccer and Field Hockey games. The whole team will be at the games, Aeronyh, Alli, Cece, Jada, Japan, Jessica, Nykia, Sammia, Simone, Taylor, and Zorah.



Field Hockey  
By Kamrin Simms, 6th grade

**Maggie Kunz is a 6th grader who plays center defense. Maggie says that she loves being a member of the Field Hockey team. She indicated that all the players on the JV team are really nice. She really enjoys playing with Aislin and Caroline as the back line. Maggie reports that the George Read Middle School team was a very tough and aggressive opponent. So far this season the PSD team has tied once and lost once to George Read. Maggie tells us that playing Field Hockey is a great way to keep in shape while having lots of fun.**



## Minecraft

As Owen Hill, the chief word officer of Minecraft, said in his article Yes, we're being bought by Microsoft, "The deal is real." Microsoft bought Mojang for 2.5 billion dollars on September 15, 2014. Minecraft was too big for Markus "Notch" Persson, creator of Minecraft so he and other developers Jakob Porsér and Carl Manneh have left. Notch says, "It's not about the money. It's about my sanity." If any Minecraft lovers out there are worried, I am sure Minecraft will continue being awesome. I do not believe they will add smart phones. A recent update 1.8 "The Bountiful Update" is available for PC/Mac. This means that we are two updates away from 2.0! And BUNNIES! And GUARDIANS! And MUTTON! For easter-egg hunters, name a bunny "Toast" and that bunny will change textures to a black and white bunny. This was added because a developer's wife's rabbit ran away.

By Nick White, 6th

BY JAMES SQUIRE, 6TH &  
JULIAN TINGEY, 7TH

## Laughs & Giggles

What does a nosy pepper do?

-Gets jalapeño business!



What do you do with a sick boat?

-Take it to the dock!



Why did the Rap Artist take an umbrella?

-Fo'drizzle



Two atoms are walking down the street together. The first atom turns and says, "Hey, you just stole an electron from me!"



"Are you sure?" asks the second atom.

To which the first atom replies, "Yeah, I'm positive!"



What do sharks say when something cool happens?

-JAWSOME!



What do you call a fake noodle?

-An IMPASTA!



# New Kindle Fire

By Keerthan Durasala, 6th grade

Recently a new Kindle Fire HDX tablet has been released.

It is a newer model of the original Kindle Fire HD. The main difference is the number of pixels in the device. Pixels are small digital squares that make up a larger image, such as the image on a screen of a Kindle Fire HDX.

The more pixels the better clarity and crispness on the screen. The HDX is better than the HD to watch videos, view photos, watch movies, play games, etc. Also, there is a big

difference in price, the Kindle HDX is more expensive. The new HDX model is available in two sizes, a 7 inch and an 8.9 inch. Kindle also makes a paper-white model which is much less expensive than the Kindle HDX and makes an awesome e-reader.

The Kindle Fire HDX battery lasts up to 10 hours for reading, surfing the web on Wi-Fi, watching video, or listening to music.



For this recipe review I chose churros because of Hispanic Heritage month. I thought that it would be a great idea to highlight a popular Hispanic food! Churros are very popular at events like fairs and carnivals. In Mexico, people sometimes wait in line for hours to get one of these spectacular treats

continued on page 5

## A YUMMY TREAT! BY MELISSA KUNZ, 6TH

### Churros

- 1 cup of water
- 1/3 cup of butter
- 2 & 1/2 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups of vegetable oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla



- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup white sugar

## A Yummy treat.. (continued from page 4)

**C**hurros can be made in many different ways and have many different ingredients. It seems as though no two churro recipes are alike. Traditionally, a churro is a long cake-like pastry that is cooked in 100% olive oil. They are sometimes referred to as "Spanish Donuts." You can eat them plain or rolled in a seasoning. For example, in Spain, people often roll them in cinnamon. Churros are used for many occasions. They are a food that is easily cooked in a pan over an open fire. Over the years churros have changed, once they were the size of a breadstick, now they are fairly large and can be eaten as a snack or a special treat. Churros are a common treat that can be found throughout North and South America, but they are most popular in Spain. Wonderful churro recipes have been passed down for generations. If you are interested in trying one of these tasty churros, here is an easy recipe for you to try at home, be sure to get an older family member to help and join you with your churro making experience. experience. you with your churro making experience.



### Preparation (Makes 20 servings)

In a medium saucepan, combine water, butter, and brown sugar. Add egg and vanilla, beating well with a wooden spoon. Add salt. Bring to boil over medium heat. Add flour all at once, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon. Cook and stir until mixture forms a ball and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Remove from heat. Cool for 10 minutes.

Transfer mixture to a decorating bag fitted with a large star tip. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Pipe 4x1-inch logs onto prepared baking sheet.



Mr. Scira's Art Classes are working on creatures as pictured above. His students are using marbles for eyes. (Read the full story on page 2)

Heat 3 inches of oil in a deep saucepan to 375 degrees F. Fry a few logs at a time in deep hot oil about 2 minutes or until golden brown on both sides, turning once. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm in a 300 degree F oven while cooking remaining churros.

In a medium bowl, combine granulated sugar and cinnamon. Roll warm churros in cinnamon-sugar mixture to coat. Serve warm. YUM!

## Train your Brain with Trivia BY DIVITA TADUVAYI, 6TH

1. What percentage of the Earth's surface does Europe cover? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is Korea's best loved cartoon? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the most popular candy bar in the world? (named after a horse) \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Italy, what is a Venice gondola pilot called? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What number is considered an unlucky number in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cultures? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which country has the longest life expectancy in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
7. According to *The Economist* magazine from 2002-2005 what was the best city to live in? \_\_\_\_\_

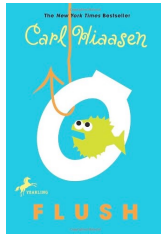


# ENTERTAINMENT

## Flush

By Julian Tingey, 7th

The book *Flush* by the author Carl Hiaasen is a very excellent fiction novel. The story follows a kid named Noah Underwood and his journey to foil the plans of the owner of a famous casino who dumps his waste into the water. This book, along with Mr. Hiaasen's other young adult novels, send a very eco-friendly message to kids, as most of Hiaasen's main characters are saving nature in one way or another. I love this book because Hiaasen has such a great method of story telling while educating folks on such an important environmental issue. This story is so enjoyable. You could easily find this and Hiaasen's other novels at your closest bookstore, library, or online. I give this book a 5 out of 5 panther paws!

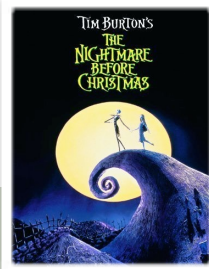


## Tempest

By Shamem Begum, 6th

*Tempest* is a book about time travel. But it is NOTHING like any other time travel book that you have read. Completely forget about all other time travel, books, movies, and plays, because this book, created by author Julie Cross, is definitely the best. This book is about a boy named Jackson

Meyer, and let me remind you again, ACT LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD OF TIME TRAVEL, because in this book time travel has a new meaning. First, you don't need a machine. Second, there are two kinds of jumps, which is the way people time travel. The first jump is a half jump, which goes to the past and can be used to get information, and doesn't affect the present. The next one is a full jump which is basically the exact same thing. Actually, it's EXACTLY the same thing. The only difference is that you can't go back to the present with the half jump if you performed a full jump, and vice versa. Jackson Meyer is a 19 year old boy who attends college, and has a girlfriend named Holly. One day, Holly gets attacked by two strangers. Triggered by emotions, Jackson Meyer makes a full jump into 2007. Will he stay in 2007 and meet Holly again? Will he attempt to make a full jump back to 2009? Or will he not meet Holly at all? Read *Tempest* By Julie Cross to find out.



## Movie Review

*The Nightmare Before Christmas* is an excellent movie for children and adults alike. Created by the genius mind of Tim Burton, the director of movies like *Alice In Wonderland*, and *Frankenweenie*. Henry Sellick is the director. He also directed movies such as *Coraline* and *James and the Giant Peach*, this movie is terrific. The movie follows Jack Skellington, king of Halloween town, and, after stumbling in Christmas town, he begins his quest to become the new Santa Claus. This movie combines such themes as love, comedy, and even a little fear, and has some of my favorite songs ever. I give this movie: a 5 out of 5 panther paws!

By Julian Tingey, 7th

BY JULIAN TINGEY, 7TH

## Panther Prognostications

**Aries March 21- April 19:** You will find a small sum of money on the sidewalk soon.

### Taurus April 20- May 20

On the 12th of January, you will see a dancing monkey.

### Gemini May 21- June 20

On the your next test, your grade will be a B or higher.

### Cancer June 21- July 22

On the 23 of December, you laugh really hard.

### Leo July 23- August 22

One of your friends will give you a gift this week.

### Virgo August 23- September 22:

On your birthday, you will get lots of money and hugs.

### Libra Sept. 23-October 22:

Study, study study, you will have lots of tests this week.

### Scorpio October 23- November 21:

Stay away from anything purple on Wednesdays this month.

### Sagittarius Nov. 22- December 21:

You will be very happy for the whole week.

### Capricorn Dec. 22- January 19

Be careful during the next leap year, watch for cracks in the sidewalk.

### Aquarius January 20- February 18

You will be unusually cold. Wear a big wool sweater on Thursdays in January.

### Pisces February 19- March 20:

You will make a big life decision very soon.

# What is Stud. Co. up to?

By Julian Tingey, 7th & Kerrienne Dunham, 6th

The Student Council runs many events throughout the school year at PSD. According to Ms. Harwood, the Student Council sponsored the Halloween Dance which took place on Friday, October 24th. Additionally, they planned spirit week. Spirit week ran from Monday, October 27th through Friday, October 31st. Monday was PS Pride Day, Tuesday was twin day, Wednesday was pajama day, Thursday was superhero day and Friday was flannel fall day. Additionally they held trivia contests and gave out prizes for the best displays of the Spirit week themed days. In November, student council will run a Thanksgiving food drive and have a table at the Vendor Fair. Be on the lookout for more great Student Council sponsored events throughout the school year.

**Student Council** is a very cool group! It consists of a collection of students from different grades who work together to plan important events. I, Julian Tingey, am a member of the council and I will be able to provide you with an insider's perspective. The executive board is a group of students who are chosen in seventh grade as the junior executive



Gianna Powell, Trinity Morse, and Emily Pfeil are enjoying their lunch in Pajamas! The girls were happy to participate in Student Council's Pajama Day.

board. When they return the following year, the junior board members take the place of the board that left, since board members are eighth graders. When a new event is near, for example tournaments, dances, and fundraiser events, we decide collectively what our roles will be, while the board gets the

supplies. An example of this was the Halloween dance. When the Halloween dance was near, we decided what items we would use as decorations, what types of snacks would be offered, and some of the activities. The theme for Student Council members is teamwork..



Check out the Winter Edition of Panther Prints for the Answers to Math Fun and Trivia Questions!

## Math Fun! By Keerthan Durasala, 6th

1. Mr. Spud is planning to harvest his crop of potatoes to sell to the supermarket for Thanksgiving. The field has 187 rows of potato plants with 425 potato plants in each row. How many potato plants will Mr. Spud have to sell to the supermarket?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the one temperature that will be the same in both Fahrenheit and Celsius?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The radius of a cylinder is 4 inches and the height is 6 inches. What is the surface area of the cylinder? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In a state with a sales tax of 6%, a book cost \$19.61 including tax. What was the price of the book before the tax was added?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Q & A WITH MS. TASSMER**

BY KEERTHAN DURASALA, 6TH

**Ms. Tassmer is a science teacher for 7th and 8th grade. She is also teaching a new class this year, 6th grade O.L. (Organizational Leadership).**

Q. Ms. Tassmer, Do you feel comfortable teaching a new O.L. class? **A. Yes, it is a nice class.**

Q. For how many years have you been teaching at P.S. Dupont?

**A. 5 years.**

Q. Did you teach in any other schools before coming to PSD?

**A. I used to teach in Hanby Middle School.**

Q. Do you like science or do you just teach it? **A. I love science.**

Q. Did you always like science? **A. I liked science from the start. I wanted to become a doctor. I changed my mind because I once saw a young patient in a hospital pass away. That experience was tough, and also a major reason that I changed my mind and decided to become a science teacher.**

Q. What's your most favorite thing about P.S. Dupont?

**A. The staff and faculty here are awesome.**

Q. Do you feel that anything could be improved in the school? **A. We need stop bullying in the hallways.**

Q. Who was the person that supported you the most?

**A. It is a tie between my mom and dad.**

Q. Do you think that you are a better science or O.L. teacher?

**A. Of course, it's science.**

Q. What do you consider your biggest weakness? **A. I care too much about things being absolutely perfect.**



**PSD's Newest School Counselor** By Kyle Nisbet & Brooke Hill, 6th

This school year, PSD welcomed a new guidance counselor for the 6th grade students. His full name is Mr. Kyle Gaffney. Lets learn more about him. Mr. Gaffney lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and two year old Poodle puppy named Reggie. Mr. Gaffney says that family is very important to him. He says that he is very lucky and thankful for all of their support. Mr. Gaffney and his wife recently visited Costa Rica. Their puppy, Reggie, is learning to become a therapy dog. His wife, Mrs. Gaffney, works at the Children's Hospital. Mr. Gaffney completed his undergraduate degree at DeSales University. He really enjoys working with the staff at PSD. He says that he learns a lot from Mrs. McDermott and Mrs. Crowley. Mr. Gaffney loves sports such as basketball, soccer, and baseball. He has been inspired by professional athletes Eric Thomas and John Wooden. His favorite drink is iced tea and his favorite foods include grilled chicken and edamame.

**DEAR P.S.D.,**

I'm an average student here at P.S.D. But I can't ever seem to be able to get to class on time! How can I get myself to and from my classes without being late or getting detention? ~Running Late

**Dear Running Late,**

I think lots of students here at P.S. DuPont have this problem. But don't worry! Some tips for getting to your next class on time are to first of all, don't stop to chat with your friends in the hallways. Though talking to your friend is fun, it will only hold you up. Also, remember to always get your materials for your 1st and 2nd period classes in the morning, and get you 3rd and 4th period materials when you go to your locker after 2nd period. If you have a lunch box, it's okay to take it with you! Stopping at your locker five times a day is a bit too much and also against the rules. And lastly, keep to the right in the hallway. Yes! Most students stick to the right, and it's easier and faster to go with the flow. Good luck!

**Dear P.S.D.,**

I'm in 7th grade and I'm a mess! I can't find anything or keep myself organized. My locker and binders are disastrous. But whatever I do to organize them isn't working. Please help! ~Messy Millie

**Dear Messy Millie**

This is a problem that can be fixed easily. Remember that cleaning up your binder and locker will be something that you have to maintain. Start with hanging up your backpack, lunch box and jacket on the hooks in your locker. That way, you can lay your books, pencil case and other materials on the bottom. You can also use a locker divider or a bin to hold you A-day and B-day materials apart. Always carry around your agenda to write down assignments. Always! As for your binders, don't overwhelm yourself. Keep a little bit of notebook paper in each of them. And, you can binder-clip index cards into them. Always come with pencils in you pencil case. These are just some tips! There are lots of ways to keep organized.