

NEWSPAPER IN  
EDUCATION

SUPPLEMENT  
2006



Friday  
March 24,  
2006

**17 local  
schools  
participated  
this year!**

See the creative talents of  
local area school children in  
these contests:

Design-An-Ad, Editorial Cartoon  
Feature Photo, My Favorite Storybook  
Character, Original Artwork  
and Student Essay

Dear readers,

For a second straight year, I am proud to announce that participation in the Newspaper In Education supplement has increased dramatically. Historically, NIE is considered something solely for elementary schools, but in the past two years, there has been an increased recognition from the local middle and high schools.

Last year was the first year where there was any high school participation in the supplement, as Gardner High participated in the Feature Photo contest, which was added to five other contests in the supplement. This year, students from Gardner High, along with Oakmont Regional High School and Quabbin Regional High School each participated, along with 14 other schools this year.

By turning page after page of this supplement, you will see the writing and drawing talents of many talented young people in Greater Gardner. As the Newspaper In Education program at *The Gardner News* grows, it becomes ever more apparent that our schools are filled with exceptional young minds ready to lead us into tomorrow.

This year's winners and honorable mentions were, as usual, difficult to judge. All of the students should be commended for a job well done. A special thank you goes out to **every single** teacher and administrator who helped make this year's supplement a success. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom.

NIE is a worldwide effort that connects teachers, students and local newspapers by providing stimulating teaching materials to facilitate learning. Whether the subject matter is the ABC's for primary grades, or real life learning (exercises in finding a job through the classified section) the newspaper offers something for every subject and grade level.

Students who learn how to read, enjoy, understand and use newspapers are equipped with a lifelong learning resource.

*The Gardner News* is proud to offer our very own NIE program to Greater Gardner schools, and your support is very much appreciated. Parents, businesses and other organizations can help. For a surprisingly small donation, you can help pay for the educational services we provide.

Once again, congratulations to all our winners and a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in *The Gardner News 2006 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.

Sincerely,

Andrés Caamaño  
NIE Coordinator

# NIE Contest Winners

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Nicole Plourde, Master's Christian Academy**  
2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Brianna Bosselait, Sanders Street School**  
3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Bradley Logan, Hubbardston Center School**  
Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Alysha Rentas, Sanders Street School**

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Ronald Alger, Holy Rosary School**  
2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Brittany Pontbriand, Holy Rosary School**  
3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**George Condon, Westminster Elementary School**  
Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Sabrina Streeter, Elm Street School**  
Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Courtney Roche, Sacred Heart School**  
Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Brittany Aresenault, Elm Street School**  
Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Koral Bushee, Elm Street School**

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Alan Couture, Holy Rosary School**  
2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Adrianna LeBlanc, Holy Rosary School**  
3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Brittany Richard, Holy Rosary School**

1st Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Shawn McGrath, Holy Rosary School**  
2nd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Annie Perreault, Holy Rosary School**  
3rd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Glenn Viner, Westminster Elementary School**

1st Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Gabrielle Istvan, Sacred Heart School**  
2nd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Jamika Nance-Garcia, Sacred Heart School**  
3rd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Keith Eaton, Narragansett Middle School**  
Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Stephanie Duke, Holy Rosary School**  
Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Alan Couture, Holy Rosary School**  
Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Danny Varteresian, Sacred Heart School**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Jasmine Abou-Elias, Sanders Street School**  
2nd Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Josslyn Seals, Sanders Street School**  
3rd Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Hannah Sevigny, Master's Christian Academy**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Chris McGahan, Elm Street School**  
2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Meghan Garven, Westminster Elementary School**  
3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Anna Porpora, Overlook Middle School**  
Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Ronald Alger, Holy Rosary School**  
Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Angela Mossey, Elm Street School**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Stephanie Sprague, Gardner High School**  
2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Chandler Ervin, Master's Christian Academy**  
3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Elizabeth Phinney, Sacred Heart School**  
Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Thomas DeMasi, Sacred Heart School**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Nick Belland, Oakmont Regional High School**  
2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Christina Foley, Oakmont Regional High School**  
3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Benjamin Moriarty, Oakmont Regional High School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Kevin Murphy, Westminster Elementary School**  
2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Nathaniel Long, Sacred Heart School**  
3rd Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Rachel Quaye, Westminster Elementary School**  
Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Alex DeMarco, Westminster Elementary School**  
Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Molli Wallace, Westminster Elementary School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**Lauren Laperiere, Holy Rosary School**  
2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**Kaitlyn Bissonnette, Quabbin High School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Danielle Gorczyca, Quabbin High School**  
2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Samantha Hirons, Gardner High School**  
3rd Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Lindsey Sprague, Gardner High School**  
Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Timothy Posthwaite, Gardner High School**

1st Place Storybook Character, K-3  
**Cesar Herrera, Helen Mae Sauter School**  
2nd Place Storybook Character, K-3  
**Shayna Yacyshyn, Elm Street School**  
3rd Place Storybook Character, K-3  
**Kyle Strom, East Templeton School**  
Honorable Mention Storybook Character, K-3  
**Mikaela Mutchler, Hubbardston Center School**  
Honorable Mention Storybook Character, K-3  
**Stephanie Williams, East Templeton School**  
Honorable Mention Storybook Character, K-3  
**Nalani Lewis, East Templeton School**  
Honorable Mention Storybook Character, K-3  
**Jillian Brouillet, Templeton Center School**  
Honorable Mention Storybook Character, K-3  
**Cassandra Gurney, Waterford Street School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades K-3  
**Rebekah Provencher, East Templeton School**  
2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades K-3  
**Joseph Capps, East Templeton School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Joseph Cormier, Westminster Elementary School**  
2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**George Condon, Westminster Elementary School**  
3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Katie Hollenbeck, Westminster Elementary School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Andrew Pontbriand, Holy Rosary School**  
2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Chris Tomer, Gardner High School**  
3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Cole Dowse, Sacred Heart School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Michael Smart, Gardner High School**  
2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Sawan Chantayom, Gardner High School**  
3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Cindi Brown, Gardner High School**



TGN photo  
Couture

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Alan Couture, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Bill Marsh**



TGN photo  
Marsh



TGN photo  
Alger

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Ronald Alger, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Nancy Barrieau**



TGN photo  
Barrieau



TGN photo  
Rimery

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Samantha Rimery, Grade 11,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:  
Maria Murphy**



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Murphy



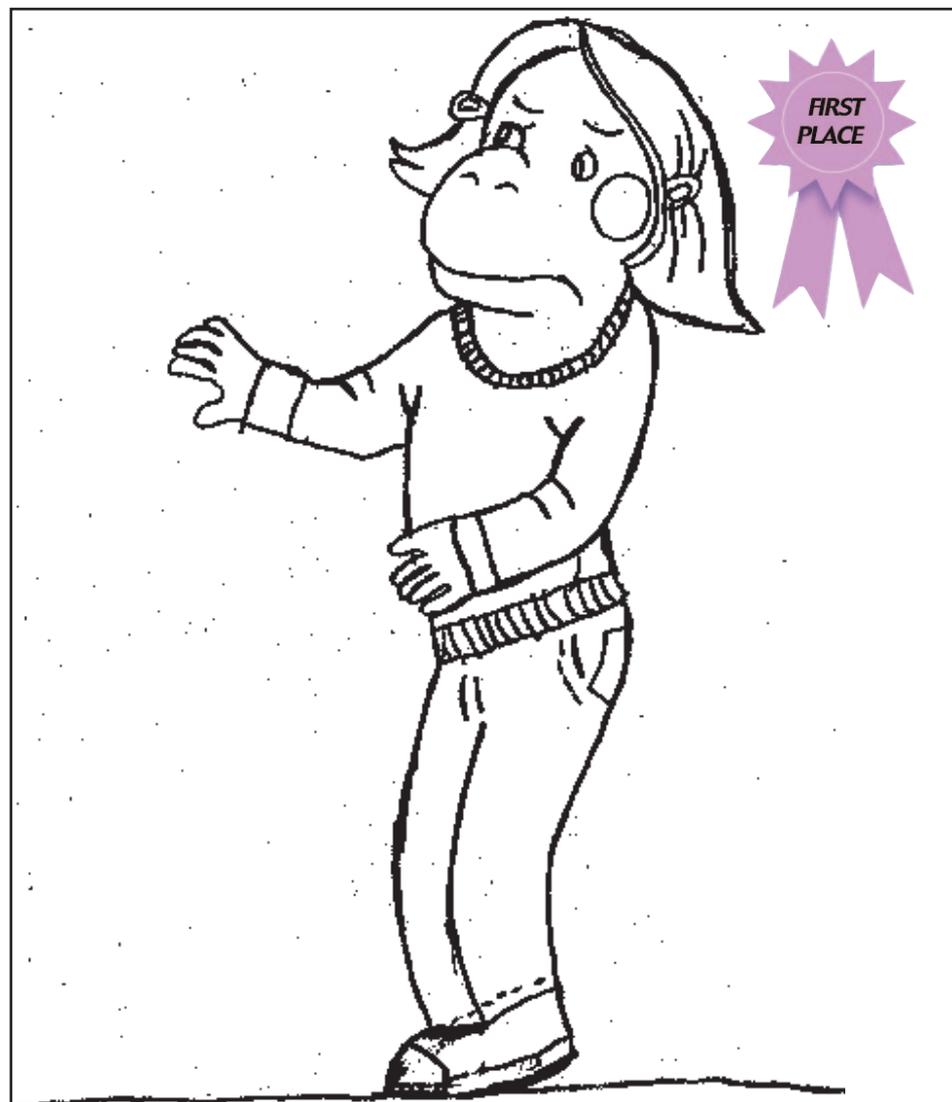
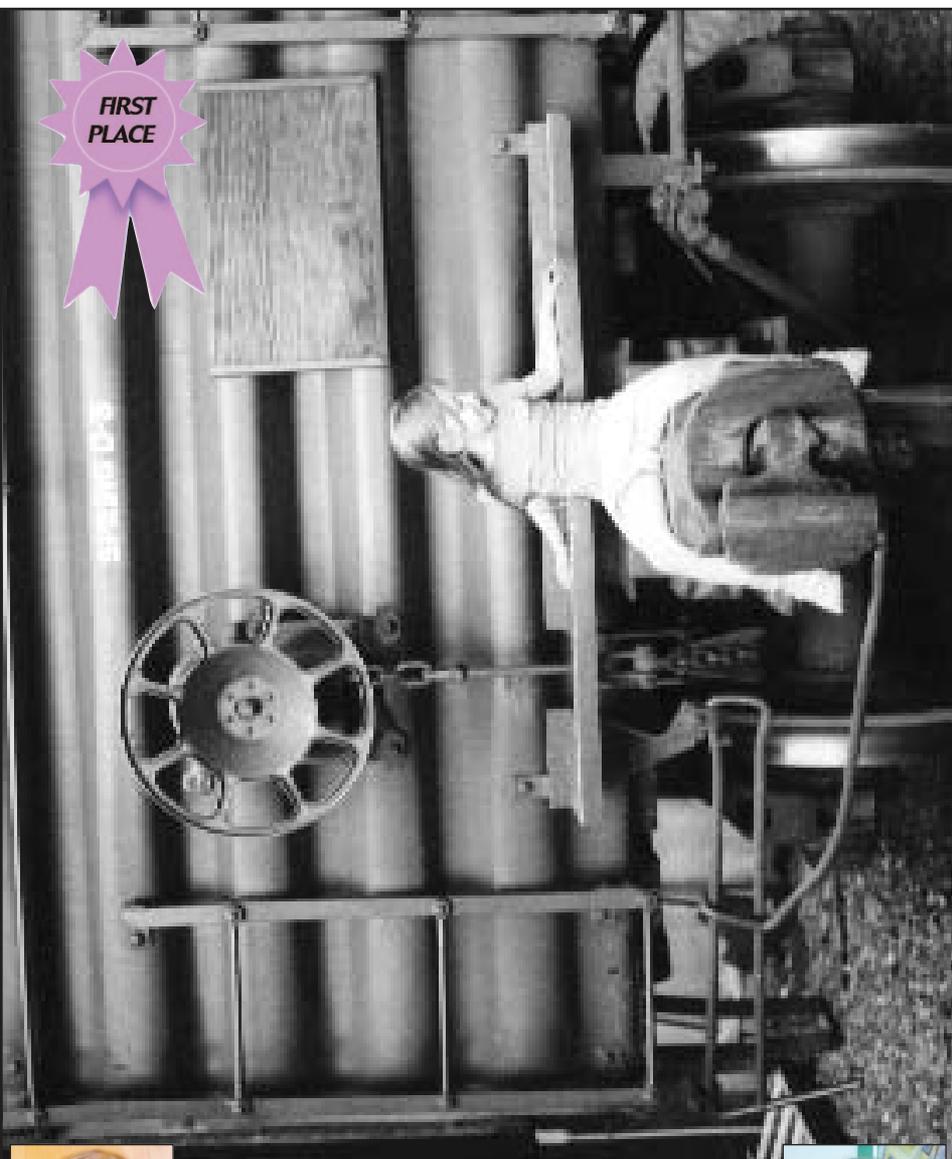
TGN photo  
Columbo

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Josh Columbo, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:  
Mark Kobel**



TGN photo  
Kobel



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Danielle Gorczyca, Grade 10,  
 Quabbin Regional High School*  
 Teacher:  
**Kerry Bart-Raber**



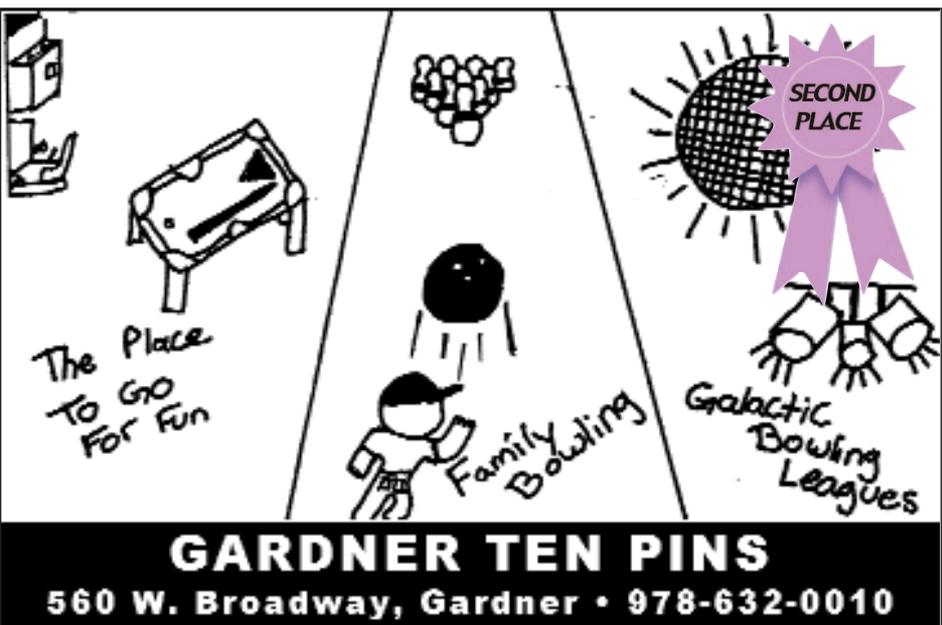
TGN photo  
**Bart-Raber**



*Francine*  
**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
*Cesar Herrera, Grade 2,  
 Helen Mae Sauter School*  
 Teacher:  
**Sheila Heglin**



TGN photo  
**Heglin**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Chris Tomer, Grade 9,  
 Gardner High School*

Teacher:  
**Mark Kobel**



TGN photo  
**Kobel**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Sawan Chantayom, Grade 12,  
 Gardner High School*

Teacher:  
**Maria Murphy**



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

*Gabrielle Istvan, Grade 8,  
Sacred Heart School*

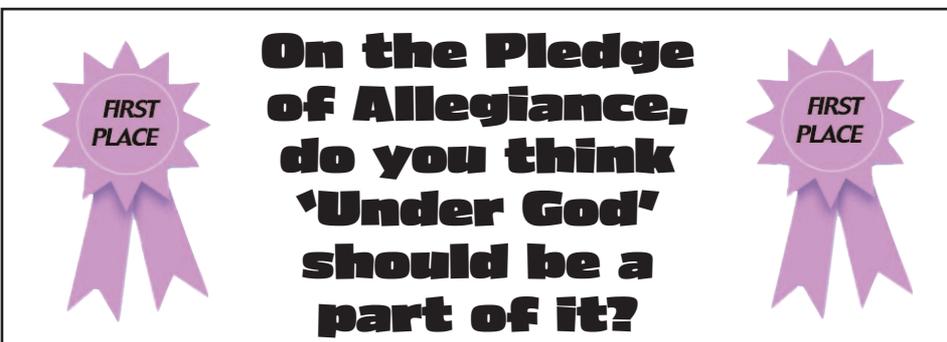
*Teacher:  
Pat Feeley*



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Istvan



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Feeley



**On the Pledge of Allegiance, do you think 'Under God' should be a part of it?**

The debate over whether or not the phrase "One Nation under God" should be removed from the pledge of allegiance has yet to be resolved. Some people say that it should be removed, because not all peoples of this nation are "under god." Others argue that it is a piece of history and should be left in tact, to commemorate the times in which it was written. When one examines, however, the basic principles upon which our country was founded, it becomes clear that the phrase should not only be omitted from the Pledge of Allegiance, but it should have never been put there in the first place.

The first Americans, our forefathers, who founded this great country, fled here in search of religious freedom. They did not agree with the religious persecution which England practiced, and so they began a country of their own, a country where any man or woman had the right to practice the religion of their choice, and not have to fear punishment for doing so. So then, it is safe to say that America was founded on one basic principle, that government would have no part in controlling religion, and furthermore the government would have no affiliation with any religion, a practice often referred to as separation of church and state.

You may wonder how something that happened hundreds of years ago is relevant in today's world. The answer is simple, allowing the phrase "one nation under god" to be a part of the pledge of allegiance is not too dissimilar from the religious persecution from which our forefathers fled. Because in present day America, there are thousands of people who do not believe in any god, that phrase excludes said people from the rest of society. As we have seen in the past, exclusion, in a way, is a form of persecution. And so, if our country wishes wave its flag without shame, it must first remove the bars that separate us from those past principles, and lead us into a future where all men, women, and living things, regardless of race, size, or religion can be accepted as a part of united society.

**STUDENT ESSAY**

*Nick Belland, Grade 11,  
Oakmont Regional High School*

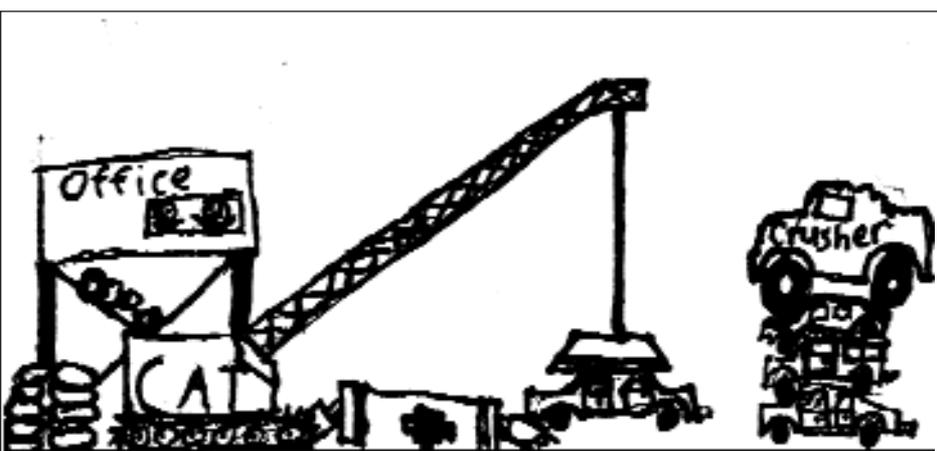
*Teacher:  
Mark Nevard*



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Belland



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Nevard



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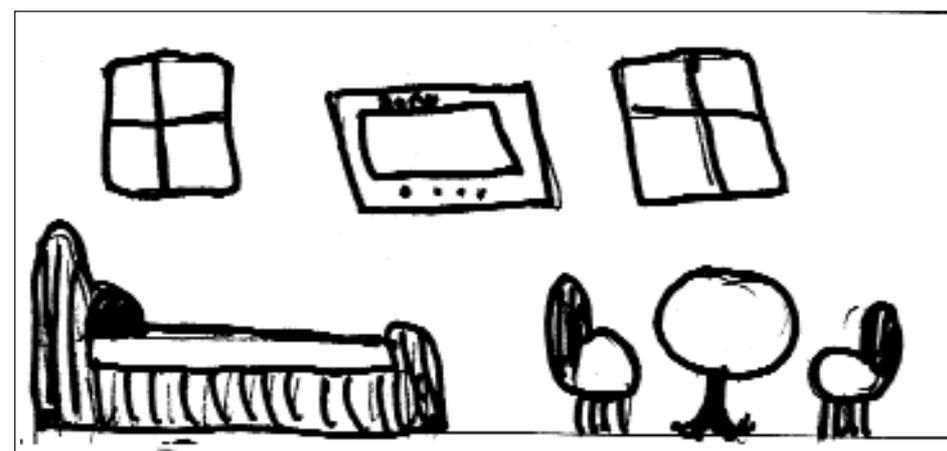
TGN photo  
Bieksha

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Casey Bieksha, Grade 6,  
Hubbardston Center School*

*Teacher:  
Ted Newton*



TGN photo  
Newton



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Moulton

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Summer Moulton, Grade 5,  
Narragansett Middle School*

*Teacher:  
Janet Dupuis*



TGN photo  
Dupuis



TGN photo  
Murphy

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Kevin Murphy, Grade 5,*  
*Westminster Elementary School*  
**Teacher:**  
*Caron Roubakis*



TGN photo  
Roubakis



**What makes  
the best pet?**



**W**hen you hear the word “pet”, what do you think of? I think of a dog. You might think of animals like horses, cats, or fish. But I think a dog makes the best pet. I’ll tell you why.

I’ve had a dog for four years now. His name is Timber and he was rescued from Virginia by the Sterling Animal Shelter. My family agrees that getting him was one of the best things that has ever happened to us. When I get home from school, he greets me with a tail wagging so fast it looks like it’s going to fall off!

Have you ever heard the saying, “A dog is a man’s best friend”? I think that saying is true. A dog will always love you! One thing I love to see is my dog do is wagging his tail when I pet him or play with him.

Right now, I can’t imagine life without my dog. He’s so loyal to me and has become very attached. I know that he cares about us because sometimes he sees the reflection of our lamp in the window, and he will bark at it because he thinks it’s someone at the door! I know a dog that sits on the doorstep of their house, and barks every time a car goes past their house!

Dogs are probably best known for their loyalty. Many movies are based on true stories where a dog saves a person. Dogs are characters in shows like Scooby Doo and books like Old Yeller.

I once read that every time a human is born, 45 dogs are born. That is way too many dogs for a shelter to hold, which leads to many dogs without homes. It makes me upset how people abandon their dogs by the road when they cannot take care of them anymore, instead of dropping them off at a shelter.

Dogs come in many shapes and sizes. I think it’s funny how some dogs look like their owners! If you count mixed breeds, there’s between 200 to 400 different kinds of dogs, so I think there’s a perfect dog for everyone!

If you’re having a bad day, play with a dog...they will love you no matter what!



TGN photo  
Garven

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Meghan Garven, Grade 5,*  
*Westminster Elementary School*  
**Teacher:**  
*Mike Fitzgerald*



TGN photo  
Fitzgerald



TGN photo  
Stanford

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Michael Stanford, Grade 12,*  
*Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Maria Murphy*



TGN photo  
Murphy



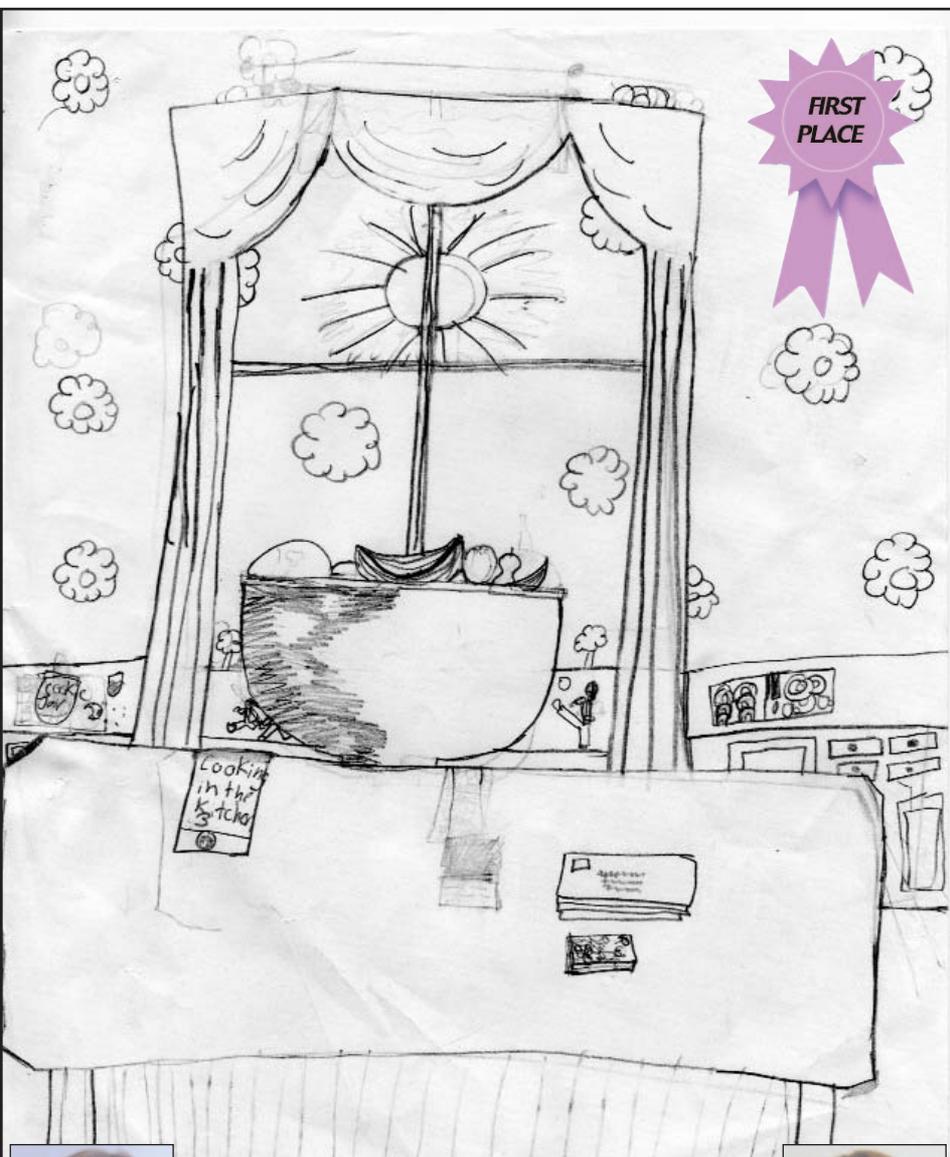
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Hollenbeck

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Kati Hollenbeck, Grade 5,*  
*Westminster Elementary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Robert Myette*



TGN photo  
Myette



TGN photo  
Plourde

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Nicole Plourde, Grade 3,  
Master's Christian Academy*

**Teacher:  
Karen Casker**



TGN photo  
Casker



TGN photo  
Laperriere

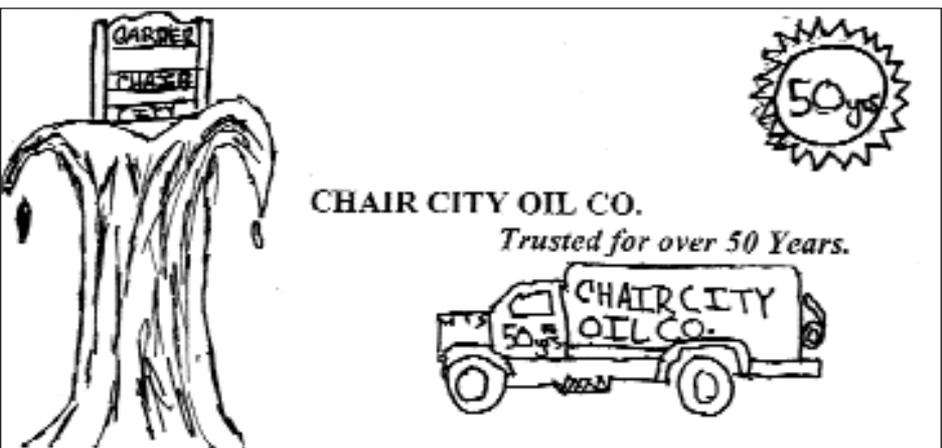
**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Lauren Laperriere, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Bill Marsh**



TGN photo  
Marsh



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Curran

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Matt Curran, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:  
Mark Kobel**



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Kobel



TGN photo  
Draleau

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Logan Draleau, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Joyce LaBonte**



TGN photo  
LaBonte



Thom Sullivan and Wade Maillet stand outside Gardner High School while doing an assignment in Photography Class last fall.



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Samantha Hirons, Grade 10,  
 Gardner High School*  
 Teacher:  
**Mark Kobel**



TGN photo  
**Kobel**



**What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?**



Oakmont Regional High School once had quite the positive reputation within the towns of Ashburnham and Westminster and even in surrounding towns. High MCAS scores and great student involvement in the community have been highlighted as just a few of our strong points. However, recent events have tarnished and possibly destroyed our reputable status within the community. In the past school year, there have been more substance abuse policy violations than ever before at Oakmont. I recognize along with our administration that this is a growing problem that needs to be dealt with within our school. However, what I recognize along with other students that the administration does not is that Oakmont isn't as bad as its being made out to be.

It's somewhat not the fault of the Administration. The only way that you can really tell what Oakmont is like is to be a student and as hard as they may try, due to their positions of authority, they will never receive the trust and level of confidentiality from a student that they would like to receive. In conclusion, it's virtually impossible for them to understand what all of the students at Oakmont are really like. They are only seeing the good majority, the ones who win sports awards, hold class office, and give back to their school and community that they live in.

What I don't understand though is if the majority of us are good students that they're proud of, then why are they treating us as if we've all committed some sort of awful crime. Last week, we were all seated in homerooms and forced to listen to a 15 minute monologue about how the student reputation at Oakmont has decreased and how Oakmont is disappointed that such events would happen etc. One has to question, what does this accomplish?

I'll tell you what it accomplishes. Nothing. The 1% of the student population who are seriously screwing up their lives with drug usage chuckled under their breath as they listened to the speech that they've no doubt heard many times before. However, for the rest of us and especially myself, I felt discouraged and stereotyped. I wasn't doing drugs so why should my class time be depreciated because of the small amount of kids that are screwing it up for us all?

The biggest thing I want changed at my school is for the administration to start recognizing how privileged they are to have a student body like ours. After I went to Gardner High School for two of my high school years, I came to Oakmont and it all seemed like one big over exaggeration. "Important" issues such as students using myspace.com create skepticism, hostility and distrust among students towards the administration. If anything, the administration is pushing students away. I mean, when was the last time that we all sat down in homeroom and listened to the wonderful things that our student body does, besides athletics. Why can't our faculty just realize that preoccupying themselves with issues that negatively affect only a small percentage of us and that the rest of us are too smart to even think about, does much more harm than good?

I'm writing this essay as someone who is involved, someone who cares about her colleagues and someone who knows better than to make stupid choices that tarnish the reputation of the place that so kindly provides them education. I just wish that Oakmont would realize that there's so many more good students here than they know and if they just took the time to stop putting negative connotations on the entire student body, maybe they could open their eyes and find out.



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Christina Foley, Grade 11,  
 Oakmont Regional High School*  
 Teacher:  
**Mark Nevard**



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**Nevard**

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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Rebekah Provencher, Grade 3,  
 East Templeton School*

Teacher:  
**Laura Ethier**

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**Provencher**



TGN photo  
**Ethier**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Laura Vaillancourt, Grade 12,  
 Gardner High School*

Teacher:  
**Maria Murphy**

TGN photo  
**Vaillancourt**



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Cassandra Gurney, Grade 2,  
Waterford Street School*

**Teacher:**  
*Elizabeth Ervin*



TGN photo  
**Gurney**



TGN photo  
**Ervin**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

*Shawn McGrath, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*

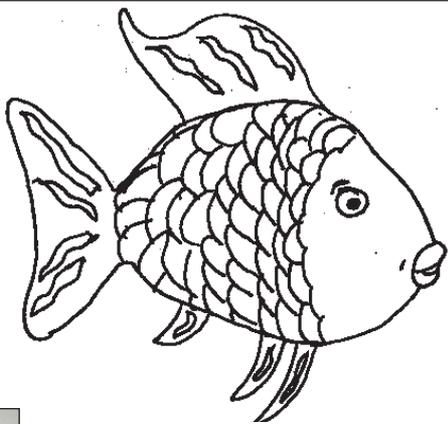
**Teacher:**  
*Jennifer Jensen*



TGN photo  
**McGrath**



TGN photo  
**Jensen**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Kyle Strom, Grade 3,  
East Templeton School*

**Teacher:**  
*Kathy Carruth*



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**Strom**



TGN photo  
**Carruth**



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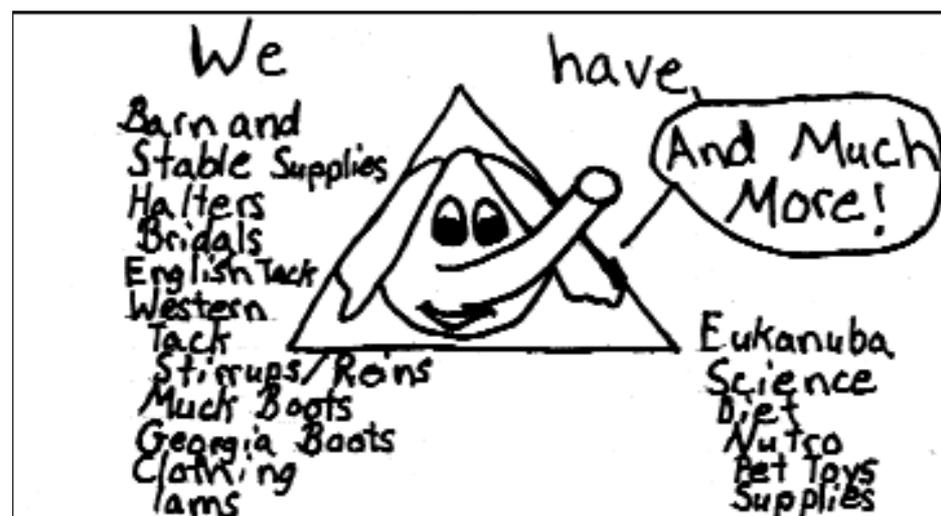
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Victoria Shaughnessy, Grade 6,  
Sacred Heart School*

**Teacher:**  
*Annette Lussier*



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**Lussier**



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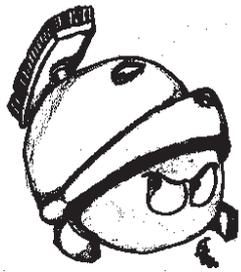
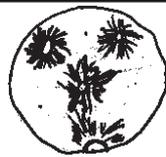
TGN photo  
**Aubuchon**

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Brittany Aubuchon, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Eric Sifert*



TGN photo  
**Sifert**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Sabrina Streeter, Grade 5,  
Elm Street School

Teacher:  
Lori Sweet



TGN photo  
Sweet



TGN photo  
Streeter



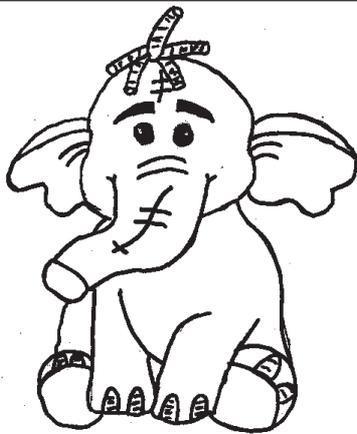
**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
George Condon, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School  
Teacher:  
Mike Fitzgerald



TGN photo  
Fitzgerald



TGN photo  
Condon



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Brittany Arsenault, Grade 5,  
Elm Street School

Teacher:  
Lori Sweet



TGN photo  
Sweet



TGN photo  
Arsenault



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Annie Perreault, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary School

Teacher:  
Donna Bresnahan



TGN photo  
Bresnahan



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Julia Richard, Grade 5,  
Narragansett Middle School

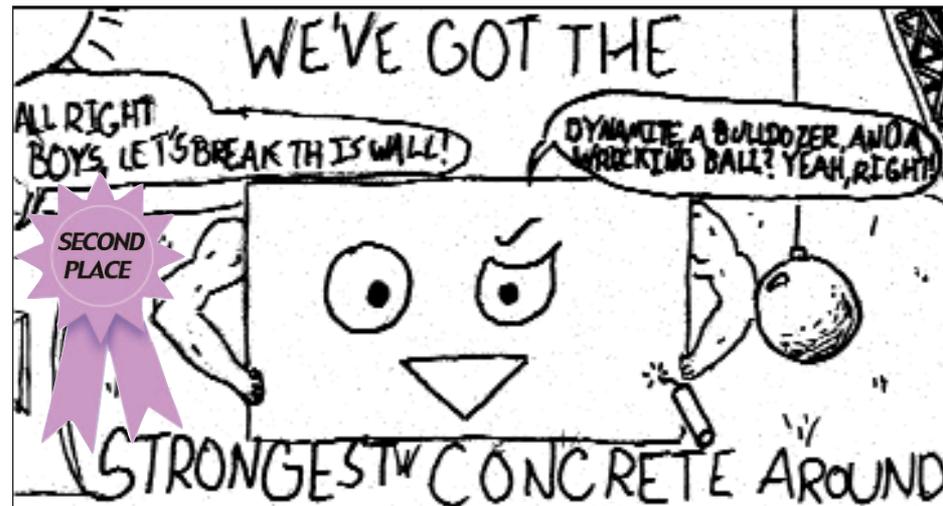
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George Condon, Grade 5,  
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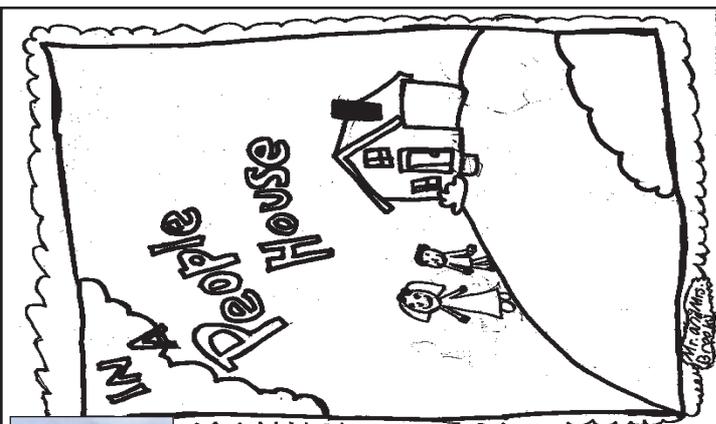


**FEATURE PHOTO**  
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 Westminster Elementary School  
 Teacher:  
 Robert Myette



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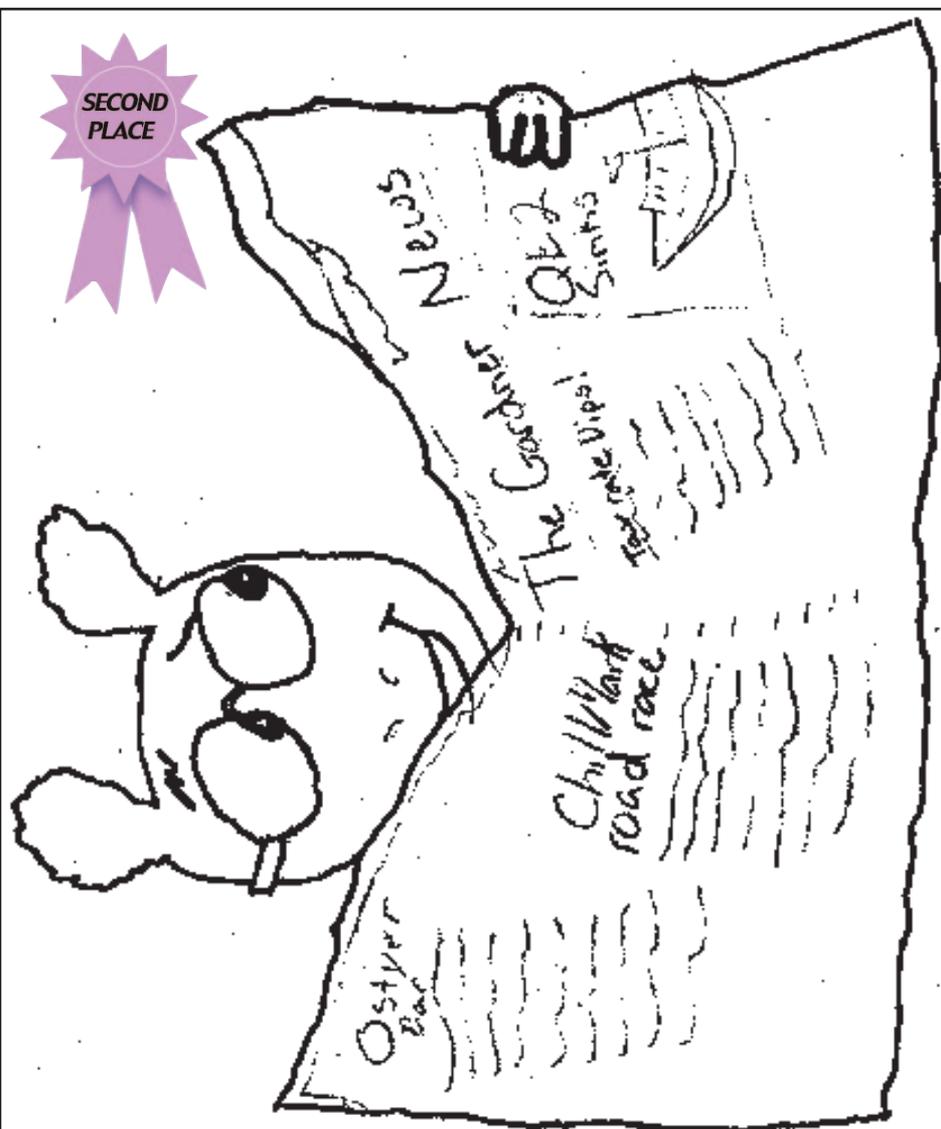


**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
 Nalani Lewis, Grade 3,  
 East Templeton School  
 Teacher:  
 Kathy Carruth



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 Lewis

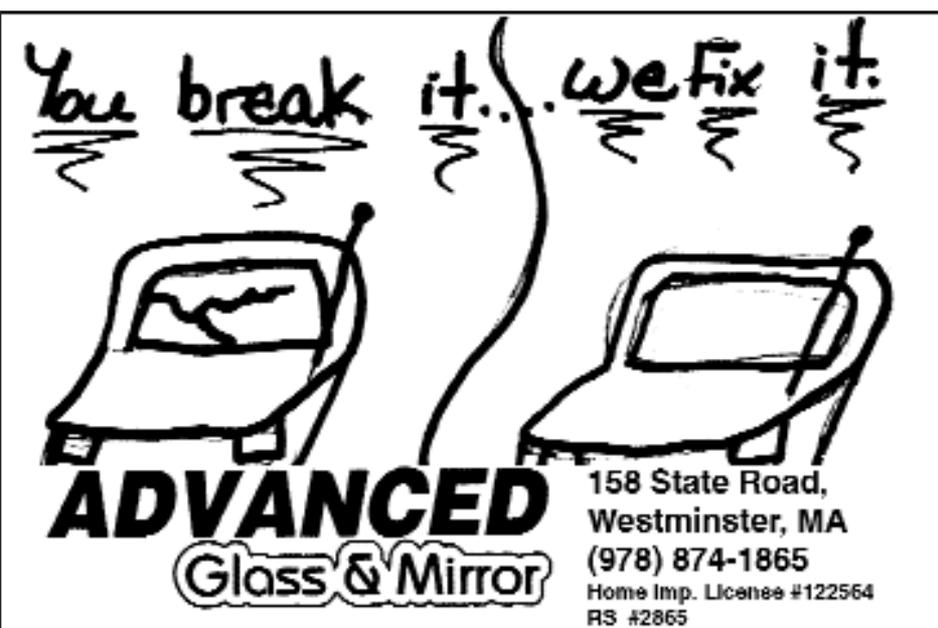


**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
 Shayna Yacyshyn, Grade 3,  
 Elm Street School  
 Teacher:  
 Donna Murphy



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 Yacyshyn



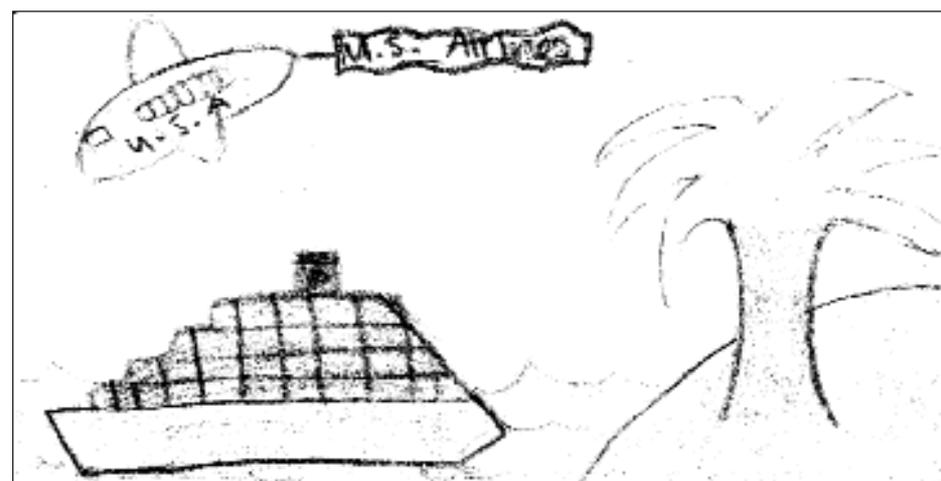
**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Sara Austin, Grade 5,  
 Narragansett Middle School

Teacher:  
 Janet Dupuis

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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Amber Miller, Grade 6,  
 Narragansett Middle School

Teacher:  
 Janet Dupuis

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 Miller



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 Dupuis

## What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?



The biggest thing I would change about my school is that I would make the school lunches better.

I would do this because the food tastes horrible, and last year the carrots and pretzels were expired about 3 weeks ago. One time my friend Anthony's bagel had a bunch of green mold and smelt bad. Some of the food was freezer burned and the bread is sometimes stale.

The reason for this is the provider only wants to make money and ships bad food so he can afford a brand new car while the children suffer with the bad food. This is also partly the government's fault, because they're like the provider, they just want to make money so they don't give them the money that they need so they have to hire the cheapest choice which is the provider if the government had given them enough money they could have hired chefs and cook good, and not moldy or stale bread.

They could get good drinks like Gatorade, They could get higher quality food like steak and fish. They could get real silverware, like forks, spoons, butter-knives, instead of them all combined making "Sporks." The trays are always falling apart. The reason: They are styrofoam, and easily breakable.

Another problem with school lunches is the portions you get for your \$1.50. Every time I eat school lunch, I am forced to leave hungry. This is also problem, because we don't get much time to eat at all. Also, we have silent lunch. One of the main reasons for school is socializing and meeting new people, but you can't do that when you can't talk to people. If it is slightly rainy out, or a little cold, we have "Indoor Recess." What we do during "Indoor Recess" is simple, we go into the auditorium and watch 4-year-old movies about talking dogs and flying toys, and we can't talk, once again which ruins our language skills. Also, the TV is so small, we can barely see the movie and the talking dogs.

When it's not raining, there's barely any time for recess. Also, there is not two recesses, there is only one short recess. The playground is crowded with kids and if you get in the line for the tire-swing, you won't get on the tire swing until the end of recess. Not to mention there isn't a variety of playground equipment. Just 3 tire swings, 3 slides, 3 groups of swings, and a tether ball and basketball court.

I wish there was some kind of new equipment, such as a zip line. Or I wish they'd renew, or clean up the existing equipment. Most of the equipment is rusted, and dirty. It would be great if they would also repaint the equipment, so it wouldn't look so dull and awful. There are also barbed-wire fences near the playground, and there's a broken down old bike that's been there for about 2 years.

I am unhappy about the strictness of the rules, because if you try to do one thing in the playground, you get yelled at for it. I find this takes the fun out of recess, because you can only swing forward on the swings, push low on the tire swings, not use the basketball court for anything but basketball, etc. Also, there are rules from the principal stating that games like tether ball, you can not play your own way, you have to play the exact way people are supposed to play it, but sometimes, I want to make my own sport, and have fun. When I start playing, however, the principal, or teacher, yells at me and makes me stop.

The fact that if you don't bring your coat outside, even when it is warm, you have to stay inside the lunch and get yelled at for many minutes. The teacher yells at you, because you don't have anything to do. And even though you tell her you just got out of recess, the teacher says that that is no excuse. Not to mention, you aren't allowed to eat your lunch while staying inside for not wearing a coat. they even send you in if you have a sweat shirt on.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Chris McGahan, Grade 5,  
Elm Street School

Teacher:  
Allen Dernalowicz



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McGahan

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Dernalowicz

## With Hurricane Katrina, how has that changed your view on daily life?



So many emotions and feelings come to mind when the subject of Hurricane Katrina is brought up. I heard, and still hear unimaginable horror stories, nightmares

about the devastation, destruction, and loss due to Katrina. It is truly disheartening and depressing to see the pictures of leveled houses and homeless and injured people in the newspaper and on the news. It is natural that people see all of the sadness and loss, but not every result of the hurricane was negative. Much good came from such a tragic event, such as my greater appreciation for the little things in life, such as coming home to the smell of cookies baking in the oven. It also provided me with a new perspective on life, and recognizing the good in everything and everyone. I think what is most important when horrible things happen is to be optimistic and hopeful, and to try to see the bright side of everything. I've learned that there is always a bright side. I just have to open my eyes and allow myself to see the possibilities.

Sometimes it takes a major tragedy to make people realize how fortunate and blessed they are. At least this is true in my case. I used to take many of life's comforts and enjoyments for granted, such as seeing and spending time with my family and friends every day. Feeling safe and secure in my own home and community was an issue I hadn't considered before this occurrence. Not only did I take these luxuries for granted, but I also took certain necessities for granted as well, including having clothes in my closet, food in my cabinets, clean water to drink, and a house to come home to every day. They are all so important to my life, happiness, and peace of mind. I would think that these very things are equally important in every one's life. Imagine what it must have been like for the victims of Hurricane Katrina who were living without these luxuries and necessities.

After the hurricane, I began to think a lot about my life and questioned whether I was taking full advantage of my opportunities and capabilities. I can't help but wonder what my life would be like if I was living there. Would I still be alive? How would this have affected my family and friends? Would I still have a home? It motivated me and made me want to live my life to the fullest. I promised myself that I will savor every moment and not take one day for granted. This involves being the best person I can be, working hard in everything that I do, and having a good attitude about my life and what's going on in the world. While achieving these goals it is also important to enjoy and make the most out of every day.

I believe that times of trouble can bring out the best in people. It is absolutely inspiring how everyone came together for one cause, which was to help everyone affected by the hurricane. So many people did what they could to contribute to the effort, whether it be money, food, clothing, medical attention, and donations of time. Our nation showed so many admirable traits: courage, human decency, compassion, and understanding. It makes me proud to see what we can do if we put our differences behind us and work together. We can and have achieved so much all due to the concern and generosity of the American citizens.

There is no future without hope. The supplies of water, food, medicine, clothing and shelter provided the hurricane victims with the necessities of survival, but more importantly, they provided hope for the future. Hurricane Katrina will always invoke feelings and memories of despair, however the individual acts of courage, bravery, and compassion will remain with me throughout my life.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Stephanie Sprague, Grade 9,  
Gardner High School

Teacher:  
Cathy Rahaim

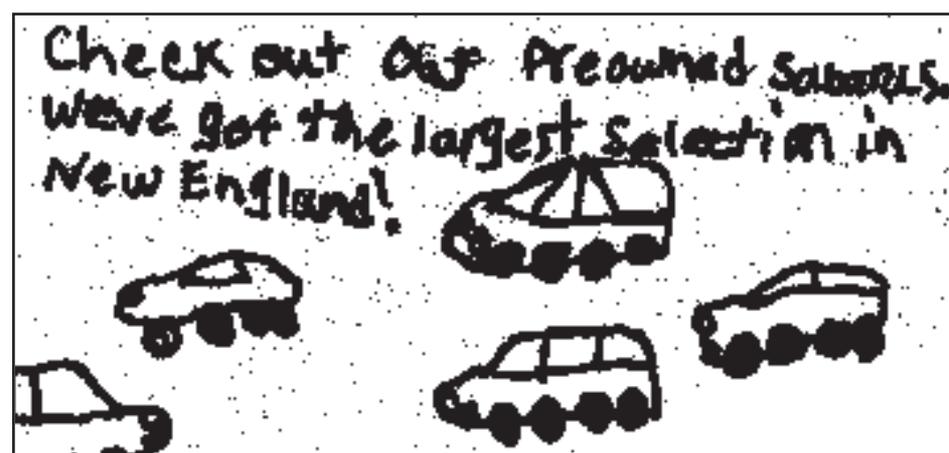


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Teacher:  
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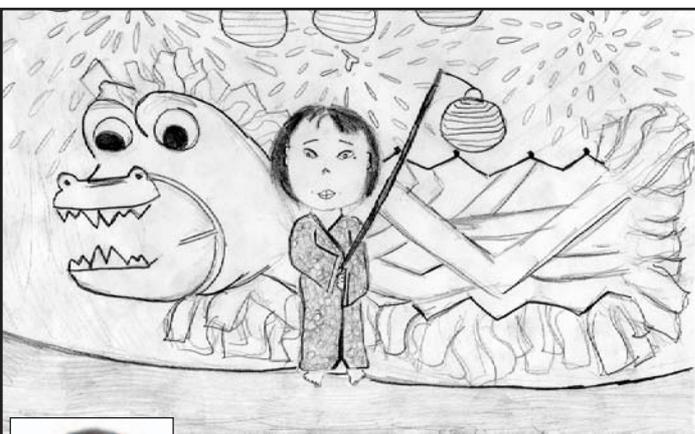
**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Bryan Cruz, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School

Teacher:  
Eric Sifert



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Cruz

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Sifert



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Brittany Pontbriand, Grade 5,*  
*Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Nancy Barrieau*



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**Pontbriand**



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**Barrieau**



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Kaitlyn Bissonnette, Grade 9,*  
*Quabbin Regional High School*  
**Teacher:**  
*Dawn Bissonnette*



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**Bissonnette**



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**Bissonnette**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Adrianna LeBlanc, Grade 7,*  
*Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Bill Hulette*



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**LeBlanc**



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**Hulette**



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Nathaniel Long, Grade 6,*  
*Sacred Heart School*

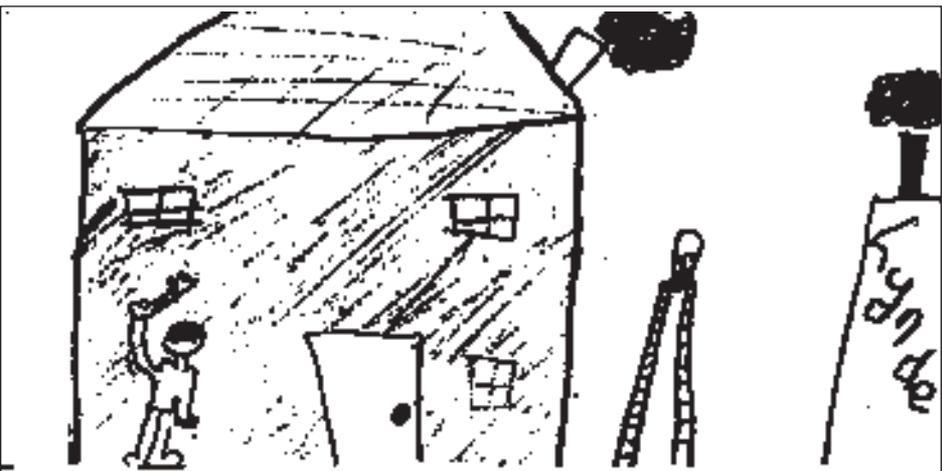
**Teacher:**  
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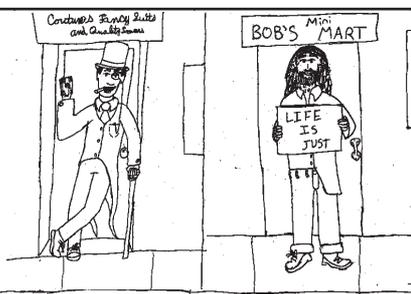
**Teacher:**  
*Mark Kobel*



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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

**Alan Couture, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School**

**Teacher:  
Bill Marsh**



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**Marsh**



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**Couture**

**What makes  
the best pet?**



I think a dog is the best pet. A dog will love and follow you. He will sit, heel, stay, and come when you call. He will sleep in your bed and play with you toys. He will lick your face, feet, and hands.

I think dogs are a good pet because you can take them wherever you go. My dog likes to ride on the four-wheeler with me. He also likes to take boat rides at our camp.

Dogs let you know when people are arriving at your house with their body language like barking. I think that's better than a doorbell.

Dogs are good for eating leftovers and always looking for a treat. They can also keep you healthy by taking them for walks and playing ball. They are good listeners just like a friend. I think a dog is a good pet because he's always happy to see you!



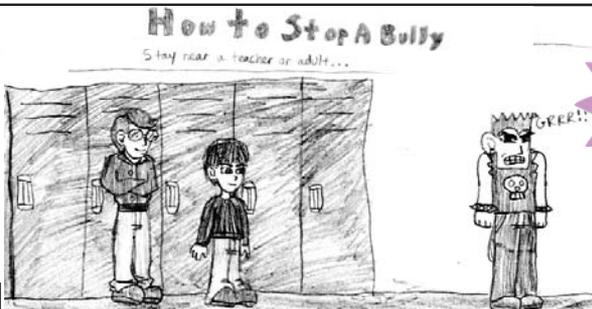
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**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Ronald Alger, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary School**

**Teacher:  
Nancy Barrieau**



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**Barrieau**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

**Keith Eaton, Grade 8,  
Narragansett Middle School**

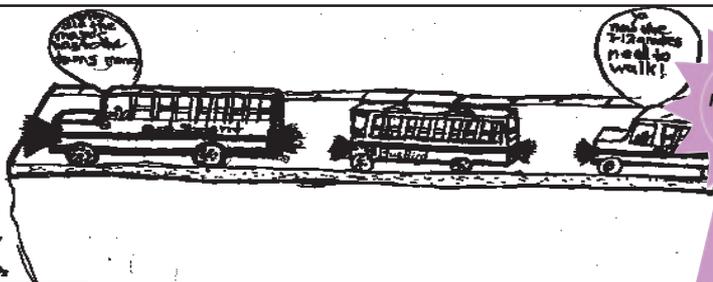
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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

**Danny Varteresian, Grade 8,  
Sacred Heart School**

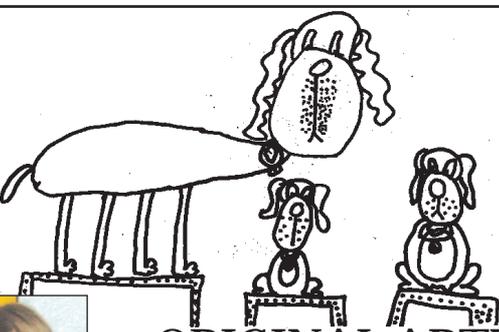
**Teacher:  
Pat Feeley**



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**Feeley**



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**Varteresian**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
**Brianna Bosselait, Grade 3,  
Sanders Street School**

**Teacher:  
Ann Powers**



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Andrew Pontbriand, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School**

**Teacher:  
Bill Marsh**



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**Marsh**



## Do you think 'Under God' should be a part of the Pledge of Allegiance?



Do you think "one nation under God" should be taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance? My answer would be no, and this is why. On Sept. 8, 1892 the Pledge of Allegiance first appeared. It was in a Boston magazine called The Youth's Companion. The original version of the Pledge did not have "one nation under God". It was President Dwight D. Eisenhower who approved this, and while he was approving it he said "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future, in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

The "one nation under God" in our Pledge stands for the 50 individual states united as a single Republic under the divine providence of God, "our most powerful resource." I believe in God. I have much faith that he exists, and since I believe in him as an American I have my freedom to say that this country is the one under God. I think that God is our most powerful resource, and that if we follow him our country will keep growing. I know there are many people in the world who believe in other religions, so I can understand why they want the "one nation under God" taken out. I also know I can't force people to believe in God. If you think about it, God is being taken out of a lot of things. For example now at some schools children can not say the Pledge because of that line, even if they do believe in God. Also B.C which meant Before Christ in our timeline is now changed to B.C.E which stands for Before the Common Era. People are losing faith in God and less people are following him and standing up for him. But like Eisenhower said "God will be this Country's most powerful resource." God created us, and I think if this country wants to remain strong, we should accept that God is an important part in our lives. This is why I believe the Pledge should not change again. God is not only the country's most powerful resource. He's the world's most powerful resource.



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Elizabeth Phinney, Grade 7,*  
*Sacred Heart School*

**Teacher:**  
*Donna Carrier*



TGN photo  
Phinney

TGN photo  
Carrier



## With Hurricane Katrina, how has that changed your view on daily life?



Hurricane Katrina was a devastating hurricane that affected people all around. People watched, on TV or for themselves, the flooding, debris and wreckage, and citizens crying for help. They had no food, water, home, or clothing. It was very sad to see.

When I watched the television showing all these pictures, it made me think of how fortunate I was. I have a home, a family, food, and so many other blessings that they had lost. These are things we take for granted every day.

This hurricane gave me an understanding of how much we possess. Sometimes we have so many things we don't know what to do with it all. I am thankful that I have so much. Many do not think about what it would be like to lose everything, unless it has happened to them or people they are close to. I think we should all become more appreciative of what we do have, and not so much wanting what we don't.

For example, instead of wanting the new car, would you be able to walk anywhere you go for a few days, not using the car you do have? I think you would want the car you have after all.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, I learned an important moral. Be thankful for what you have, because, at any time, it could be taken away.



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Chandler Ervin, Grade 8,*  
*Master's Christian Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Sheila Gauvin*



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Ervin

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Gauvin



## Do you think 'Under God' should be a part of the Pledge of Allegiance?

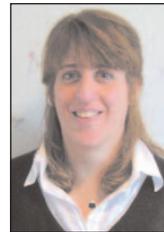


Yes, I believe that "under God" should be in the pledge of allegiance because God should always be in everything we do. We have freedom and we should be able to say it. If you take it out we won't be able to say it, but we want to. If the people don't want to say it they don't need to. The troops are risking their lives for us. Jesus died on the cross for us, and we should live a good life for him.



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**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Hannah Sevigny, Grade 3,*  
*Master's Christian Academy*  
**Teacher:**  
*Karen Casker*



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Jake Babcock, Grade 5,*  
*Narragansett Middle School*

**Teacher:**  
*Janet Dupuis*



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Dupuis





## What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?



This is what I think should change at my school. First of all the biggest problem I have with my school is at indoor recess. The fifth grade and the third grade both have the same recess. I don't care about that, but the movies we see during indoor recess are so boring. They are third grade movies and never fifth grade movies. We have to sit there watching The Lion King and Toy Story movies. Most of us have already seen that movie when we were younger. I think that all of us should vote on which movie to watch. That's the first thing I think that we should change at my school.

The next thing I think should change in my school is that we should have gym every day of the week except for maybe one or two days of the week. Kids usually don't get enough exercise in a day, so if we have gym almost every day of the week it will be fun but we will also get more exercise. I'm sure my school can make some time for us to have gym every day. We could probably have gym after lunch so we don't have to have science and social studies every other day. That is the second thing I think should change at my school.

The next thing I think should change about my school is there should be less bullying. The principal and the guidance counselor have tried to stop it, but I still see bullying around sometimes. I think we should set up a bullying program for kids who have been bullied. They would come, tell us who's bullying them. Then we would bring them to the program. The person who is being bullied will confront the person who is bullying them and tell them that they don't like to be bullied. If they feel bad we could help them get over bullying and begin a new chapter in life. We could put or build the bullying program in the auditorium and build a new one or just build a bullying program. If the school does not have enough money, we could put on a bake sale, sell stuff, and have donations given to us. That was another thing I think we should change at my school.

The last thing I think we should change at my school is I think we should have better lunches. I know they have a bagel for lunch or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich if you don't like the main meal, but sometimes they run out. The main meal is usually bad too, like the hot dogs and I hate their pizza, no offense to the lunch ladies. Those are four things I think should change at my school.



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Mossey

### STUDENT ESSAY Angela Mossey, Grade 5, Elm Street School

Teacher:  
Allen Dernalowicz



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Dernalowicz



## On the Pledge of Allegiance, do you think 'Under God' should be a part of it?



It was over sixty years after the original Pledge of Allegiance was written when Congress finally added the words "under God" to it. It's a wonder how a phrase not even so important to be added to its first draft is causing such a fuss in society these days. People are arguing from religious standpoints, legal standpoints, and social standpoints on whether to keep it or remove it. What should the government do? What can they do?

At the present time, the words "under God" are still recited by the majority of the pledgers, which would be the millions of school children across the United States. Every day, the students stand up with a hand over their heart and make a pledge to the government, the flag, and to the people of the United States. They start saying it young, when they have no idea what it means, and they can never integrate themselves away from it.

There is not an answer that will please – or appease – both sides of the issue of keeping it or not. If Congress keeps "under God" in the Pledge, then a continuous influx of protests will arise saying the government is breaking the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. If they remove "under God", the Christian front will protest saying the government is establishing irreligion upon the citizens of America as well as forgoing their right to practice their own chosen religion. Despite the catch, this quandary is resolvable.

Saying the phrase "under God" does not present a true religion upon anyone. By no means can any God from any religion be chosen from inference. "God" is an ambiguous term by itself and especially in the context of the Pledge. Regardless, the meaning behind the phrase does present a religion.

When the phrase "under God" was added in 1954, it was to separate the citizens of the United States from those of the Soviet Union, which was stereotyped to be the Atheist and Communist country of the world. Hence, the reason it was added was to set us, a country built on religion, morals, and God, above the Atheists, Communists, and disbelievers in God. By adding the phrase, Congress was showing the world the whole United States is at heart, a religious and god-loving country, when in fact, it is not in entirety.

The United States is based on freedom, choice, and dignity – especially regarding religion. The phrase "under God" in the Pledge prohibits Atheists, Buddhists, Deists, Polytheists, and many others from receiving their deserved dignity and respect regarding choice. This is not because the phrase "under God" presents a religion or God upon them or anyone else, but because it undermines their rights to the freedom of choice of religion without the fear of social disturbance as a resultant. In America, there should be one tier of equality, not multiple ones.

The United States, by keeping the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, is setting itself up for a future of conflict. There will no doubt be many cases regarding the legality of this phrase in the future. The best idea is to have both sides swallow their pride and reform a more inclusive and respectful Pledge of Allegiance together, for if not, continual conflict will be inevitable.



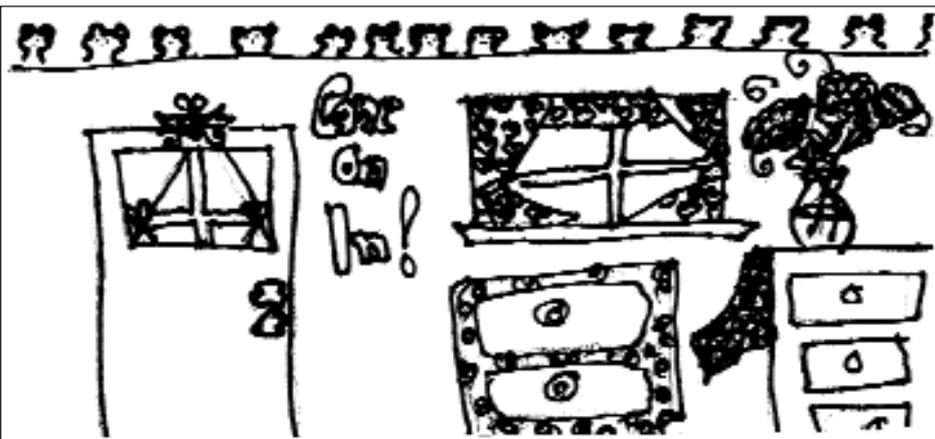
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Moriarty

### STUDENT ESSAY Benjamin Moriarty, Grade 12, Oakmont Regional High School

Teacher:  
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### DESIGN-AN-AD Ashley Tarr, Grade 5, Narragansett Middle School

Teacher:  
Janet Dupuis



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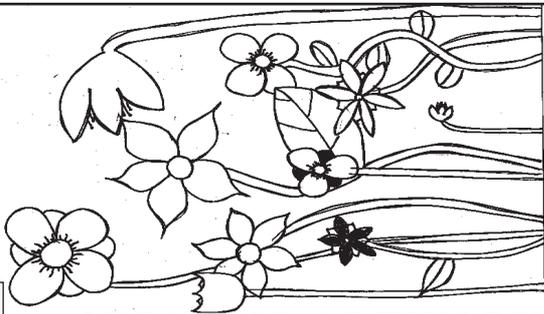
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### DESIGN-AN-AD Cindi Brown, Grade 11, Gardner High School

Teacher:  
Maria Murphy



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**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Brittany Richard, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Bill Marsh**



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**Marsh**



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**Richard**



Peak - a - Boo" Chelsea Richard of Gardner High School peeks out from behind a tree after school one afternoon.



**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Lindsey Sprague, Grade 9,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:  
Kathy Carruth**



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**Kobel**



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**Sprague**



**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Rachel Quaye, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School*

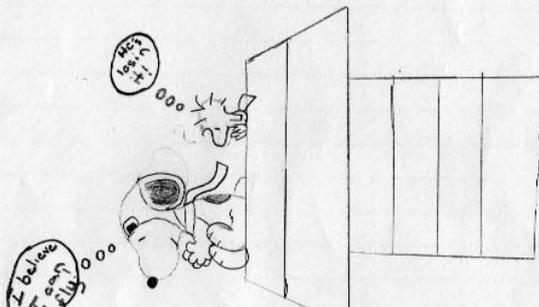
**Teacher:  
Robert Myette**



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**Myette**



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**Quaye**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Courtney Roche, Grade 5,  
Sacred Heart School*

**Teacher:  
Jan Gleason**



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**Gleason**



TGN photo  
**Roche**

**What makes  
the best pet?**



I think puppies make the best pet because they are playful, cute, and cuddly. You can teach them how to protect your house and to protect you. You can also teach a puppy to do tricks like roll over, and jump in the air. They're nice to sleep with but in the mornings you'll be all furry because of the puppy. That's why I think a puppy makes the best pet.



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**STUDENT ESSAY**

*Josslyn Seals, Grade 3,  
Sanders Street School*

**Teacher:  
Ann Powers**



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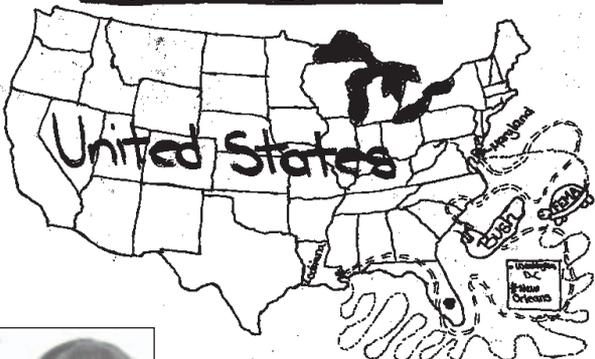
**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Cole Dowse, Grade 7,  
Sacred Heart School*

**Teacher:  
Donna Carrier**



TGN photo  
**Carrier**

It seems as if it took awhile for Bush and FEMA to find these way to help Orleans



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Jamika Nance-Garcia, Grade 8,**  
**Sacred Heart School**

**Teacher:**  
**Donna Carrier**



TGN photo  
**Nance**



TGN photo  
**Carrier**

**What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?**



One of the biggest things I would change about my school is better and healthier lunches and snacks. Some of the things I would change is a salad bar, fruit bar, soup bar, suggestion box, and sandwich bar. These foods would increase good food choices. Today's students don't eat right and there bodies are paying the prices. Children today have bigger bodies and weigh more than people a couple years ago. If we add better food, than kids will eat better and won't face the bad weight problem because of school foods. The food pyramid talks about people eating 4-5 fruits and vegetables a day. This would be a way for our school to follow this guideline. Here are some things I would change about my school.

First, I would add a fruit bar. Since right now there are unhealthy snacks like ice cream, chips, and cookies. In the fruit bar I would put a variety of fruits like pineapples, apples, bananas, kiwis, peaches, pears, and melons. I would add yogurt and granola for toppings. People today in schools either eat bad food or bring their own lunches. Adding a fruit bar would increase good food choices and the kids would like fruit as much as junk food.

Second, I would add a better variety of lunches instead of a different special each day. There would be a sandwich bar. This sandwich bar would serve cold cuts, peanut butter, jelly, fluff, tuna fish, and egg salad. I would add a sandwich bar because most people like sandwiches and kids can make their own. They could choose white, wheat, or subs to put their sandwich ingredients on. This way kids can have new sandwiches or the same sandwiches everyday.

The third thing I would add would be a soup bar. There would be three soup choices a day and students would pick their own and serve themselves. There would be crackers to put on top of the soup. Also spices to put on top of the soup, too. Some of the soups would include chicken noodle, tomato, and vegetable soup. The soup could come in a cup or a bowl depending on how hungry the student is that day. This would be another good food choice for lunch.

The fourth thing I would change about my school is a suggestion box in the cafeteria for any other healthy foods kids would like to eat for lunches or snacks. This way if kids don't like any of the foods or want something different they can suggest it. Then they would vote on the foods and pick which one most kids like. This would happen every week or month depending on the reaction from the kids about the food. This box will help both the kids and the adults because they'll get to eat what they want to eat.

The last thing I would add is a Salad Bar. I would put a salad bar in the cafeteria because if kids for some reason did not like fruit or sandwiches they could get a salad. There would be some different parts of the salad lettuce, tomato, carrots, and cucumbers. Everybody knows you need dressing for the salad, too. Some of the dressings I would have are Honey Mustard, Italian, Ranch, and Honey Dijon. Some kids are vegetarians so they would like the salads for lunch, too.

As you can see these are a few things I would like to change about my school. By providing kids with healthier lunches and snacks they will not be hungry in class or fall asleep. With these food choices they will have more energy for classes after lunch. Better and healthier lunches and snacks should be provided to not just students in my school but others as well This way kids will enjoy lunch more and eat healthier. This new system would allow kids to have more choices.

**What makes the best pet?**



A cat makes the best pet because it's cuddly and sweet. It's playful and cute. They love and they care. What more can I ask for? Well...kittens are cute and bright and playful, too. If you're lonely or sad, a cat will sit on your lap. They're very smart. They also listen well. For an example if you say come they will come. You also don't have to take them for walks because they use a litter box. And that's why I think a cat is the best pet.



TGN photo  
**Abou-Elias**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Jasmine Abou-Elias, Grade 3,**  
**Sanders Street School**

**Teacher:**  
**Ann Powers**



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**Powers**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Anna Porpora, Grade 6,**  
**Overlook Middle School**

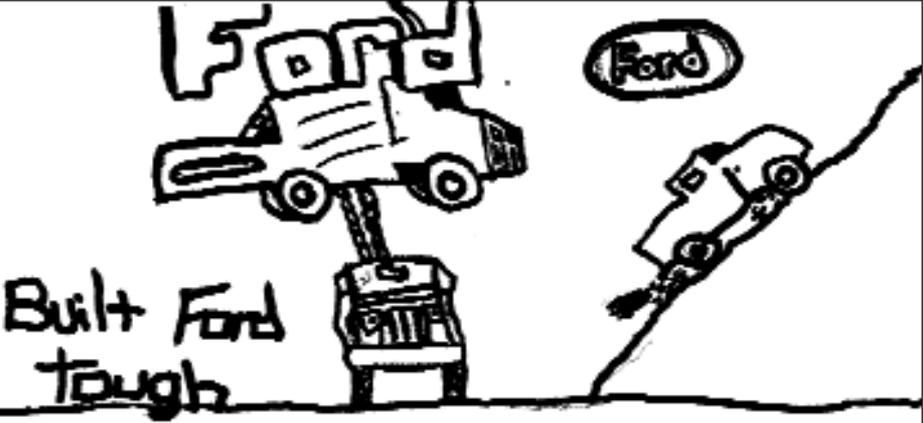
**Teacher:**  
**Mike Canu**



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**Soavannasack**



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**Dupuis**

**LAKINS**  
**Raegen Heck, Grade 6,**  
**Narragansett Middle School**

**Teacher:**  
**Janet Dupuis**



TGN photo  
**Heck**



TGN photo  
**Dupuis**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
 Glenn Viner, Grade 5,  
 Westminster Elementary School  
 Teacher:  
 Robert Myette



TGN photo  
 Myette



TGN photo  
 Viner



**Do you think  
 'Under God'  
 should be a part  
 of the Pledge of  
 Allegiance?**



The Pledge of Allegiance was first written on Sept. 8, 1892. "Under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance on June 14, 1954. They put it in because many of the Presidents were religious. If you took "Under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance you would have to take God out of our coins because coins have "In God We Trust" on them. There has to be a God because we weren't just put together by accident. It had to be planned. It is just like if you took apart a watch and threw up all of the pieces, would you be able to catch all the pieces back in a working matter? No. It's just like us. We weren't just thrown together. We had to be put together by a higher power. We should honor that higher power whenever we can.

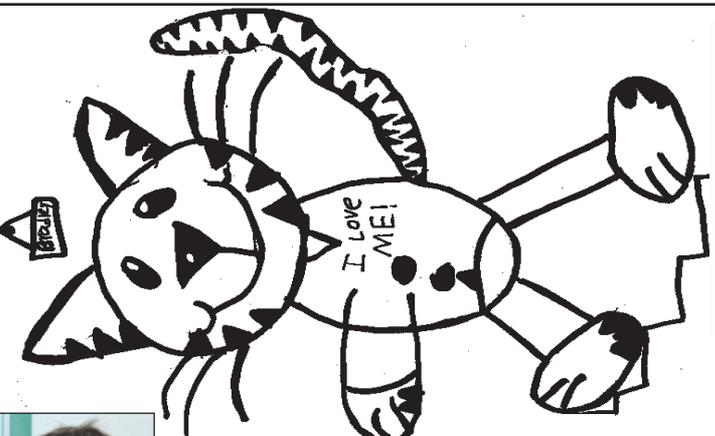
**STUDENT ESSAY**  
 Thomas DeMasi, Grade 7,  
 Sacred Heart School  
 Teacher:  
 Donna Carrier



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 DeMasi



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 Carrier



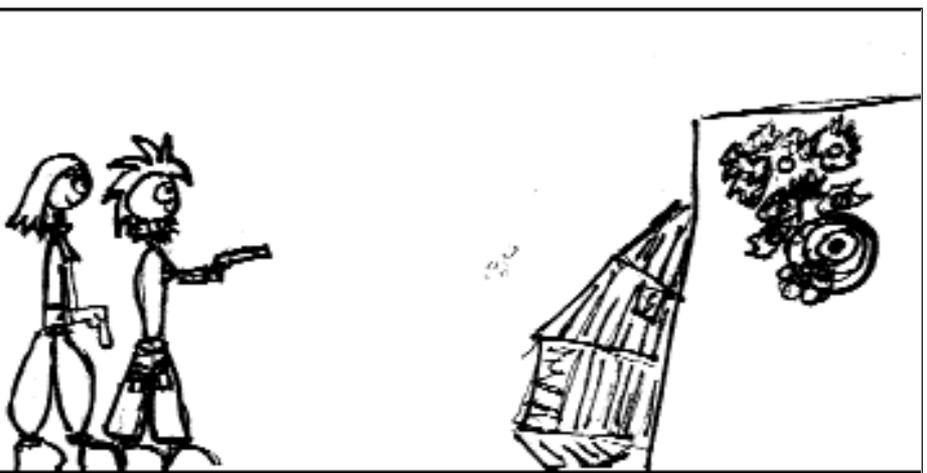
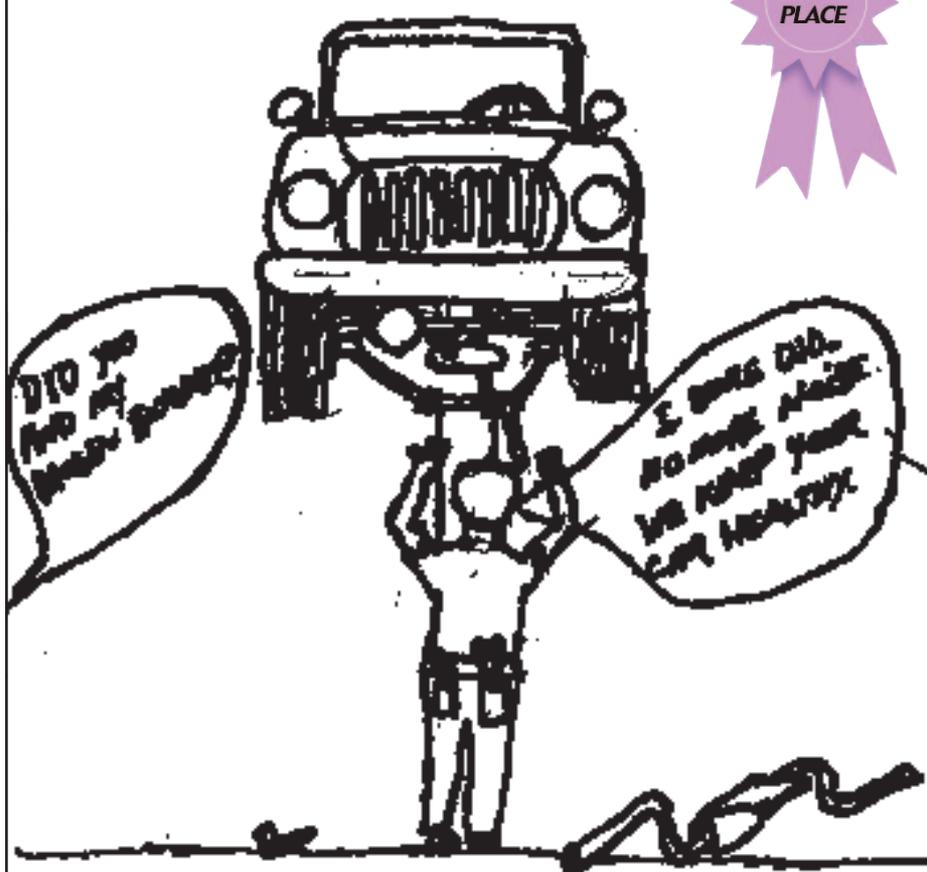
**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Bradley Logan, Grade 2,  
 Hubbardston Center School  
 Teacher:  
 Barbara Dietrich



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 Logan



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Gabrielle Jolly, Grade 4,  
 Hubbardston Center School

Teacher:  
 Kristen Coons



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 Coons

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Joseph Cormier, Grade 5,  
 Westminster Elementary School

Teacher:  
 Caron Roumbakis



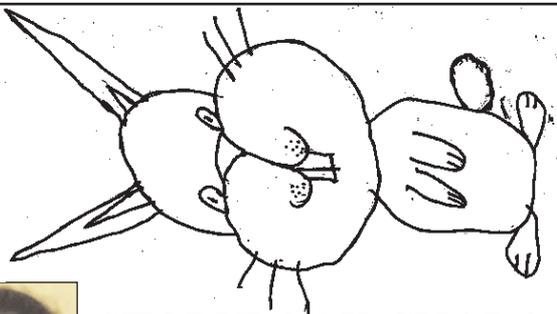
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 Roumbakis



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 Cormier



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 Jolly



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Jillian Brouillet, Grade 2,  
Templeton Center School*

**Teacher:  
Adrian Morgan**



TGN photo  
**Brouillet**



TGN photo  
**Morgan**



A student in Mr. Kobel's class is taking a picture for a class project outside of Gardner High School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Timothy Posthwaite, Grade 11,  
Gardner High School*

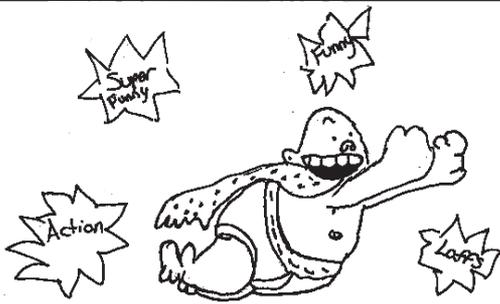
**Teacher:  
Mark Kobel**



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**Posthwaite**



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**Kobel**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Stephanie Williams, Grade 3,  
East Templeton School*

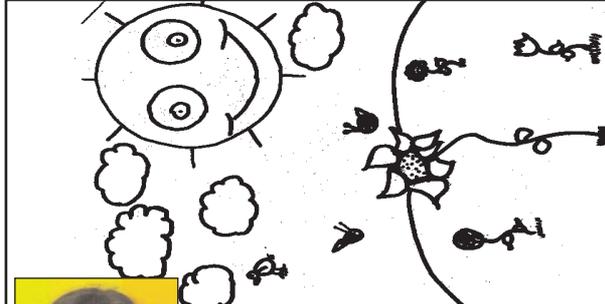
**Teacher:  
Kathy Carruth**



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**Williams**



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**Carruth**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Alysha Rentas, Grade 3,  
Sanders Street School*

**Teacher:  
Ann Powers**



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**Rentas**



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**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Mikaela Mutchler, Grade 2,  
Hubbardston Center School*

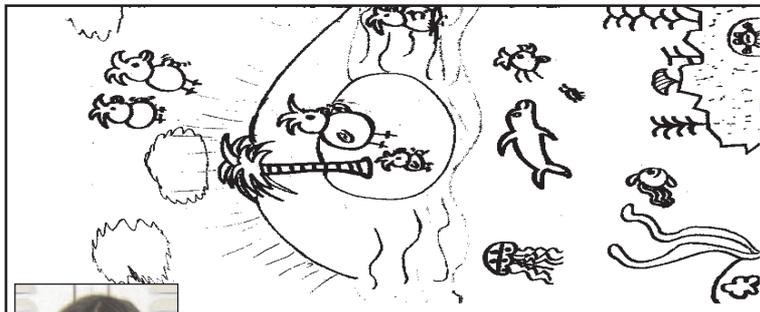
**Teacher:  
Kim Doyle**



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**Mutchler**



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**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Koral Bushee, Grade 5,  
Elm Street School*

**Teacher:  
Lori Sweet**



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**Bushee**



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**Sweet**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

*Stephanie Duke, Grade 7,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:  
Bill Hulette**



TGN photo  
**Duke**



TGN photo  
**Hulette**



**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Molli Wallace, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School*

**Teacher:  
Eric Sifert**



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**Wallace**



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**Sifert**