

ARTICLES - POEMS - SURVEY - FAQ - EXPERIMENT - PUZZLES - EVENT IDEAS - DEBATE

The 5 Day Week

Much has changed since we set foot in this school yet again after the relaxing summer, but not that much. And just a quick note - we spend lots of time and group effort to bring these fourteen pages of engaging content to the whole school, including you!

COVER DRAWING SUBMISSIONS

We've decided to add a drawing to the cover of every newspaper, starting from the next one. You can submit your drawings, and one of them will be chosen- the form closes on December 20th, any drawings by grades K-5 are eligible. Each participant can upload up to five drawings, and two runner-ups (if enough submissions) will also be included in the issue. Audition [here!](#) We put a sample drawing to the right of this text.



MONTHLY SURVEY

For this month's survey, the questions are: (The first is optional if you aren't thinking about middle school, and the second is debated on page 9, and the third one has an article in more detail on page 8)

“How worried/excited are you for middle school and the application process?”

“Are recess coaches necessary?”

“Which event/fundraiser would you add?”

Take the survey [here!](#)

A lot of you enjoy reading this newspaper for the survey and puzzles, so we'll get right to it. Out of 210 readers, 29 responded to the survey, which is a good start! In October's Survey, over 85% of respondents were in 4th Grade, and only one of you was in 5th Grade, could this mean anything?

We try to make these articles interesting for all grades, so if you have any suggestions for this newspaper that will make it more appealing to you, be sure to fill out the [Feedback Form](#). As we got from the feedback form, starting from the next issue we will add a student-made drawing on the cover (see more in the next article).

Without further ado, only 5 out of 29 people think that schools should have uniforms, 10 people love Art, 9 people enjoy PE and 2 people each for Social Studies, Math, Reading, Writing and Science. 3 people wanted a student council (PS 107 already has one for 5th Grade, other grades aren't in much need), 2 people wanted more hygiene in bathrooms, particularly the one on the 2nd floor, and one person wanted something to be done about bullying. About how the world will change in the next 20 years, lots of responses said things about technology and the climate, but one really stuck out to us- “WWIII”.

GIVING AND GETTING

By Sif Horowitz-Sorensen

Your helping hand at... giving and getting!

It's in the name – celebrating Thanksgiving means setting some time aside to give thanks. But what exactly does that mean? Many of us all follow the tradition of sitting around the table, this coming Thursday with a big fat turkey! And surely most of us are thankful for that. But looking just a little bit further ahead, the holiday season is just around the corner, and there is no better opportunity than to use the lessons of Thanksgiving.

With all the fancy advertisements we are forced to watch every day, it is easy to think of the holiday season as a season of getting. But let us also make it one of giving. Here are some tips on making wishes – for yourself and for others.

When it comes to wish-making, there is no better place to start than to wish peace and health for the world and our loved ones. But let's be honest: I bet you have at least a couple of wishes for something that you, yes you, will be unwrapping. I know I do. But if you are lucky enough to have a family where gifts are exchanged, please consider what you may be able to do volunteering for those who are not so fortunate. Let's use the spirit of Thanksgiving to help you make your own wishlist and your own will-do-list.

Tip 1: Some of the most memorable gifts may be experiences: are there any places you want to visit, and are there places where your visit will be a gift?

Maybe there is a new ride at Coney Island you want to try? Is there a new pet in the petting zoo? Are there any long-distance friends you have been hoping to see and you could wish to go visit? If so, I think it would be a great opportunity to put that on your wishlist and they don't have to cost much at all. Are there also some places where you can help? A visit to a relative who can't easily travel is one idea, but there are many places in the neighborhood where you can help. If you have some spare time, the Community Outreach group at our own school is a great place to start.

Tip 2: Instead of adding more stuff, maybe you can update: do you have any outdated items?

Is your water bottle beginning to wear down? Have you been staring at a new pair of new Nikes? Is your soccer ball really dirty? This could be a great time to replace items like these. But ask yourself if you have something you don't really need that you can donate. Have you outgrown your winter coat? Got two of the same board games? Didn't love the pajamas you got from your auntie? (be sure to say thanks anyway!) There is so much you can donate and so many places who will be happy to accept these items. Try to ask your parents or your teachers.

Tip 3: Skills are often more valuable than many material goods: what about lessons?

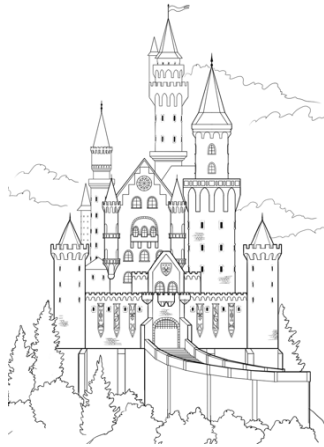
Have you been wanting to learn to play an instrument? Maybe the piano, or the violin. Have you gotten really into basketball or soccer at those PE activities in the Armory? Have you been watching tennis on the tv, and you really want to try it out? There are good programs at the Armory, and other places in our neighborhood. For a more affordable option you might wish for a soccer ball, and watch some YouTube videos on how to play. But let's also think about giving. If you are good at a sport or an instrument, perhaps you can find a way to give lessons? Perhaps this could be at recess or at the playground – keep your eyes open!

Remember, it is not about how much or the size of what you get or what you give. Be thankful, even for that itchy scarf from your grandma you might not love (and why don't *you* knit *her* one this year?) By being thankful, you both get and give!

With love and thanks,
Sif

FANTASY-THEMED POETRY

We present to you four poems in this edition, written by our own writers, to compensate for the lack of poems submitted in the last edition, three of which are on the theme of fantasy, and one of which is a short free-verse, which was actually the only submission on last month's form. Just note that we'll still release a form every edition if more people are interested, submit for this month's one here. And without further ado, here is the anthology of, all original poems written by Mina Sophie Sommer:



Darkness

I am lost
I cannot see
Not my hand
Nor my knee

I am lost
Know not where is this;
Emptiness
But a dark, cold abyss

I am lost
In this endless void
Here, there is nothing
And it can't be enjoyed

Paradise

Lilies Glisten
Roses Shine
On thy Waters
Beautiful and Divine

The Sun is Pretty
The Moon is Kind
The Land is Giving
Everything is Living

The Birds Sing
A Ballad of Love
And Fly up High
Far up Above

Another poem in this anthology by Mina Sommer later in the issue!

And for that only submission, it was under the theme, 'Over The Years' and is in the style of William Carlos Williams' *The Red Wheelbarrow*. The audience-written poem goes like this;

Water Bottle
By Anonymous

So much depends
Upon

My loved used
water bottle

Lying in the cabinet
Untouched and unused and forgotten.

ARMORY UNDER RENOVATION

Starting from November 9th, the armory where we go to Physical Education is under renovation, as required by law, since it hadn't been in quite a while. No one knows how long it will take, but guesses range from being finished next month to two years from now.

"It's a relief that we aren't required to run twice as many laps, though it's a bit *more* than a half being shut down for construction," Camila Roeder of 5-301 said about the incident. This isn't so horrible though, we can still do most gym activities freely. Renovation or not, in the end, we still get to do the same things.

FAQ SECTION

We just wanted to clarify- by 'ideas' in our feedback form, we meant ideas for the 5 Day Week. One student asked why 'school only goes up to 5th Grade'. This is mainly because of administrative purposes, after all it would be quite a hassle to find enough space for a K-12 school, and not the most convenient for both the littler kids, teachers and older ones to go to the same building daily.

DIWALI - A CLOSE UP

By Mira Strenitz

On Sunday, November 12, 2023 was Diwali. Diwali is an Indian national holiday, and the biggest festival of the year for many Indians. Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, when King Rama slayed the demon Ravana.

On Diwali, families and individuals go shopping for new clothes, jewelry and kitchen household items. Neighbors and friends go to each others' houses on Diwali and exchange gifts, like nuts and dried fruit. Cleaning and decorating homes is also a big part of Diwali, as it is believed that the goddess of wealth and good fortune, Lakshmi, would rather visit and bless clean homes. Hindus decorate little altars in their houses to worship and pray to Lakshmi. This is called Lakshmi Puja.



People also light diyas, little clay lamps in which tea lights are placed, for it to be easier for Lakshmi to find her way to houses and to symbolize light over darkness. While decorating their homes, people make unique designs called rangoli on the floor. Rangoli is usually made of a pigment or colored powder, to symbolize good luck. Diwali culminates in huge fireworks all over India.

Women, men and children also do Indian classical dancing together; in fact, at our school on Monday, November 13, a Diwali dance was held for after school students!

TREE CUT DOWN AT RECESS

By Maria Minkova

That strange feeling walking past a tree you've seen since kindergarten, no longer there... As of November 6th, an oak tree across the street from PS 107, Brooklyn, was cut down by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. It happened during 5th Grade's recess, and half of the yard was sealed off for safety measures. It had Assonus Root Decay, and would fall

down within a decade anyway, crushing the historic synagogue behind it. In other words, however sad the sight may be, it was completely necessary. The schoolchildren watched, sitting down on the line dividing the yard; some in excitement, others in despair, as ropes were tied to its branches and a construction worker with a chainsaw cut through the wood, for it to be

lowered down and shredded. The tree had been 25-30 feet tall; A student witness named Camila Roeder said, "That tree was huge, it must have taken many lifetimes for it to grow as tall as our school." And just like that, once as tall as the school it neighbored, the tree was reduced to a stump. Hopefully, the city plants another tree in its place.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Compiled by Maria Minkova

Mark your calendars, because here are the lesser-known holidays in this month that are yet to come; (don't forget about Thanksgiving on the 23rd)

- Homeless Youth Awareness Month
- Better Conversation Week (Nov. 20-27th)
- Toilet Appreciation Day (Nov. 22nd)
- Universal Childrens' Day (Nov. 20th)
- Name Your Computer Day (Nov. 20th)
- Have a Bad Day Day (Nov. 21st)
- National Reading Week (Nov. 20-27th)
- Dog Appreciation Day (Nov. 25th)
- Unthanksgiving Day (Nov. 23rd)
- Cyber Monday (Nov. 27th)
- Diwali (Nov. 12th)

TWO THIRDS - A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

Thought of and Arranged by Maria Minkova

Every participant, including you, will guess a number between 0 and 100 (including 0 and 100). But *please* don't just guess your favorite number - that won't work. Instead, two thirds of the average response will be the winning response. For example, assuming that the majority guesses '100', the correct answer would be 67 (as the number is rounded)*. If everyone thought everyone guessed 100 (thus guessing 67), the correct answer would actually be 45. Thus, 0 would only work if every single person guessed 0. Don't just choose a random number, actually think about what others will guess.**

*You are allowed to use calculators.

**Also, please don't make any deals or bribery to other participants to help you get the winning guess.

ANECDOTES - SHORT STORIES TO SHARE

Recently in writing class, the fifth graders have been writing anecdotes, (not to be confused with antidotes,) or very brief stories about significant moments. Two staff writers have selected one of theirs to publish in this issue;

'Devil's Eyes' by Freya Nassy

When I was five years old, my mom and I were in a mall shopping for clothes.

I said, "Can we get some lunch somewhere?"

"Of course, we can go to the food court," said my mom.

And so we went to the food court, which was upstairs. Since we had a lot of bags, it was a crowded place after all. We didn't want to walk up all of the stairs. Soon we noticed an escalator on the other side of the mall, so we waddled over there. Then a huge crowd of people just swept us into the elevator! Somehow we managed to get in the back of the elevator, so we couldn't get out. I started to cry and then soon I was rolling on the elevator ground.

My mom looked at me once and gave me the death glare. And then said please get up. I just screamed more, louder and louder each time higher pitched. Then all the people around us started to stare, with the devil's eyes...

Why are they looking at me like that?, I thought. It was really starting to scare me at this point. When the elevator finally got to the landing platform, everyone rushed out and we once again got swept in with the crowd. But this time the crowd actually took us to the right place, the food court.

As I sit here writing this, I realize that I was a very claustrophobic kid. Five years later, I will never set foot in a crowded elevator again.

'Mum Ball' by Nora Claire Gallagher

One morning, me and class 5-305 were playing Mum Ball in the classroom. (Mum is another word for quiet, but we don't use it often, since it's more British.) Mum ball is where everyone in the classroom has to stay quiet while passing a ball around the room without dropping it. If you do, then we all have to start all over again.

We were trying out a brand new strategy, passing it to the nearest table in a sort of checkers pattern. Ms. Shirley gave Isla the Mum ball, so she passed it to me then I passed it to Julia who passed it to Freddie who passed it to Addy S. who passed it to Freya who passed it to Addy B. who passed it to Zori, and since she was the last person standing she tried to throw it across the room but failed. Some people were arguing, but they eventually got over it.

The loss inspired us to practice even harder, and, in the next few days we actually completed a full round! We were, in fact, the very first class to complete a full game of Mum Ball!

ANOTHER FANTASY-THEMED POEM

The War

By Mina Sommer

Where nymphs lurk
And trolls irk
Where faeries fly
Where some might lie
This is the land of Dark

Then there's the land of Light
Where mermaids sing
And form a ring
To spread joy
But, they don't know
There's a secretive ploy

When the light
Turns to night
When dusk
Turns to dawn
There lies an army,
Standing still on their lawn
This army is dark
On their flag is a lark
Impaled by a spear
That tries to bring fear
"To the land of joy!"
A troll says
"We will now destroy
Your land
Because you've formed a band
Whose mission it is to annoy

Our people
We know it's a decoy
To hide your dark ploy

"What?"
Ask the mermaids
"How?"
Whinny the unicorns
"Why?"
Wonder the Pygmies

"Did you listen
To what Roy just said
Or would you like me
To put you to bed?"
Asks Lyra,
Nymph General

"No, no
We heard"
They say
Afraid
"But we know of no band
We don't understand
Why you would accuse us
Of sending a decoy
For a dark ploy"

"Don't act dumb"
Says elf Glum
"Or you will be numb"
"Do you know who this horn-horse is?
Or this winged burrwhizz?
Maybe this lilyrae?
Or this sparkfyre?"
"No, no"
They say
"We've been waiting all day
Or night?"

For this "fright"
That brought you
To the land of the light
This was part of our ploy
For you to bring the decoy
And us to enjoy
To thrive
Through your demise"

The dark
They stand
In the Light Land
Silent
Unblinking
As times pass
"Where is this demise?
Is it a surprise?
For as far as I know
We now start our rise!"
Says General Lyra
Looking to her sister Pyra
"*This war has begun!*"

And they're all still there
To this day
Against an invisible wall
That stands many skies tall
But they do not sway
Their strong match their weak
But they don't know the wall has a
leak
Where they can pour through
And they can go to
An actual war
Now comes the end of this lore

FUNDRAISER & EVENT IDEAS

Thought of and selected by Maria Minkova

Annual fundraisers and events are interesting, but can get dull when you've been in this school for long enough. We do acknowledge that the school already has some interesting events, such as the 'Reindeer Run', Talent Show, Picture Day, Heritage Day and Fall Festival. With the 5th Grade's student council elections behind us, we can share with you some (highly theoretical) events that would be interesting to have for our school;

#1 Write-A-Thon

You're all familiar with the Read-A-Thon, yes? Introducing: the Write-A-Thon! It works very similar to the Read-A-Thon, being a fundraiser that provides things like gift cards as rewards for first, second and third place per grade and schoolwide. But rather than the spots being determined by how long each participant read, a narrative/essay will be written by each participant on an annual genre/theme and winning disquisition voted upon blindly by teachers and staff. This could be an interesting competition for those who don't quite have the time, endurance or determination to read about 3 hours per day. It could be placed in the opposite part of the school year as the Read-A-Thon to give everyone plenty of time to cool down.

#2 Art Show

Nearing the end of a school year, there could be an event where parents gather in the cafeteria or Big Yard (on different dates for different grades/classes) and all the artworks in Art Class of that year of every student will be on display.

#3 School Play

As an alternative to 3rd-4th Grade having Dance class weekly, perhaps there could be a rehearsal for a play, and a performance at one point of the year, in the Big Yard or Cafeteria. This can also be an idea for an afterschool program.

#4 Hang a Gratitude Chain

Sometime around Thanksgiving, everyone in the school grades K-4 could write one or two things they're grateful for on a strip of colored paper. The two ends of each paper would be taped to one another, making a ring, and each connected to form a long chain. If calculations are correct, this would be just about the right length to hang on the fence surrounding the Big Yard.

#5 Door-Decorating Contest

To be brutally honest, the doors to each classroom are rather dull. To help fix this as well as have some fun, there could be some sort of team contest by grade to decorate classrooms' doors, and judged based on aesthetics and how well it matches the classroom it's for. For fairness, all teams work with the same materials (all easy to remove off the door) such as construction paper/cardstock, pens to write on it with, and tape. Also, this could be on-the-spot and with a time limit, making everyone improvise. This can be held at such a period in the school year where any students' artwork currently hanging on the door is handed back to them, for convenience.

#6 Book & School Supply Drive

Near the start of each school year, rather than asking for donations for books and school supplies, there could be an option for parents or members of the PTA to donate these resources, if in good enough condition.

RECESS COACHES - YAY OR NAY?

By Owen Allen and Oona Cowie

Recently at PS 107, we have acquired new recess coaches. Do students and teachers like the new staff? Do they think it's more yay or nay?

Recess coaches are a rather controversial topic among the students. According to Emma Bonenberger, a fifth grader, who has thus had more experience without them, "The recess coaches don't help much, but I don't have a problem with them. They're fun and nice to have around." Another idea comes from McKenzie Jones, also a 5th grader. They said, "I want freedom like the colonies got theirs." In other words, McKenzie thinks the recess coaches don't give us freedom to do what we want with our free time.

Many people don't like them, but many people also do. McKenzie may not like them, but teachers Miss Summer and Miss Melanie have other ideas;

They said, "We appreciate the extra help." Many teachers like the extra company, like Ms. Maria, a 2nd grade paraprofessional, Ms. Maria says, "The kids enjoy it and like the new games." But she also suggested a more variety of games. Some things the coaches could do better are giving people who don't want to play any of the games an area to chill - giving more equal zoning (or no zoning at all) and paying more attention to everybody. (Though on the other hand, football typically requires more space than, say, jump ropes.)

The vast majority who have been in this school before this addition believe that everything was fine before it- some even compare this with 'unnecessary corruption'...

In conclusion , it's still a very split topic, but now you have some understanding from both sides of people liking them and people disliking them. In the end, it's all a big MEH.

INTERVIEWS WITH STUDENT EQUITY TEAM

By Maria Minkova

The students equity team is a group of students in 4th and 5th grade who meet every two weeks, and focus on equity and diversity in our school.

"I joined to try something new, and I'm interested in learning more about equity, as a fun thing to do," said Jovie Roth, a member of the equity team and rainbow club. According to her, "Once we went to Bareburger next to my grandmother's house. They didn't serve us for about 45 minutes because of my grandma, who was thai." "Maybe this can be another reason I joined."

Other interviewed members include Hannah Kwong, Anna Baratti and Nora Gallagher.

INTERVIEW WITH A NEW TEACHER

By Hannah Kwong and Jovie Roth

Ms Hannah Boal is a new 5th grade teacher at PS 107 this year! Hannah and Jovie met with her to find out what she thinks of her time at PS 107 so far.

Q: Why did you want to come to PS 107?

A: Ms. Hannah says, “The main main draw of PS.107 was the sense of community here, also I was very attracted to the way PS 107 seems to be a beacon for change and progress.”

Q: What do you think of the children at PS 107?

A: “I’m loving to get to know the children of PS 107. I’m very impressed how the students here embody the values of the school through their actions. For example, I’m very impressed and proud to see how the older students assist younger students during STEM during afterschool.”

Q: What were your first impressions of PS 107?

A: “My very first impression of Ps.107 was when I was on a call with Ms. Joanna and we talked a lot about the values of Ps.107 and I was excited to share many of the values of this school. Also I loved the bugs on the walls of the school.”

Q: What are you looking forward to this year?

A: “I think the thing I’m most excited for this entire year is the 5th grade talent show. I’m also excited about the United Nations trip and I’m particularly excited to see students' impressions of the UN.”

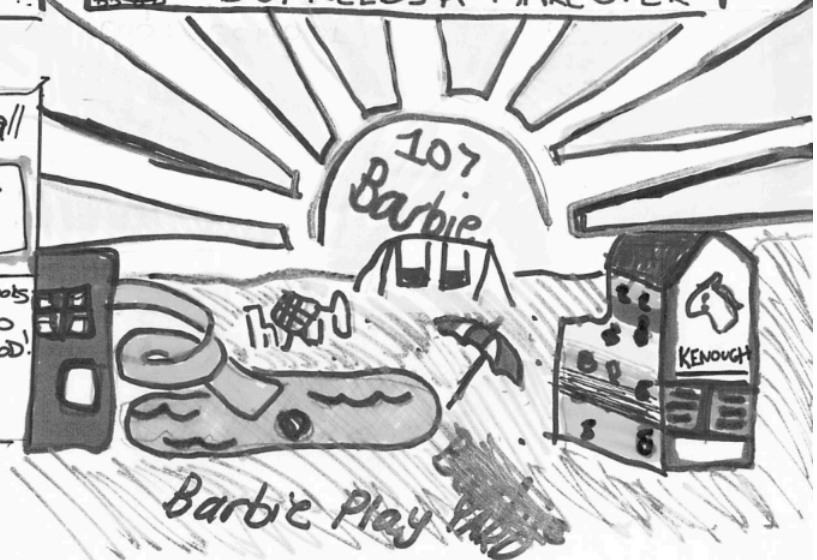
Q: What do you like to do outside of teaching?

A: “I love to bake and cook, I knit, I have a lot of plants that I love to take care of, I’m learning to play the ukulele and I love to go on bike rides around Brooklyn and explore Park Slope.”

GRAPHIC NOVELS

'Barbie Makeover' by Emma Bonenberger

Barbie makeover - Emma



S G N I W A R D I K O C I V C M F O
 A V K Q I S N O H N Q Z H W W B D M
 J R Z V B L M R D J T K Z H V N T N
 K J T D B R S I D N C E N K W D F H
 D D K I A R T A S E S J R U G S W D
 I D E O C C T U W Q N J G V R F B Y
 V H C B U L E G P U W Z E F I Y J V
 R W V G A A E F M I A X L P Z E C V
 C I A P N T J S L T I E P R C T W T
 F Z T Z T X E L Z Y B R Y D N D C S
 V U H T S R A S W O F J H K T A P O
 Y J G V Z B G N I V I G K S N A H T
 M A X L M P H O C C Q K F Y I X U E
 Z Q R U J X U N T T M S L D O H C Z
 V Q M V N S F X F Z C L P E Y P A R

Words:

- Drawings
- Mum Ball
- Thanksgiving
- Debates
- Articles
- Equity
- Interviews
- Fantasy
- Poetry
- Gratitude

More puzzles on page 14!

'Evil Zebra' by Anna Baratti

Evil Zebra by: Anna B. 5-301



'The Slime Lover' by Emily Sasha Levin

'Slime Lover'³

By Emily.S. Levin!



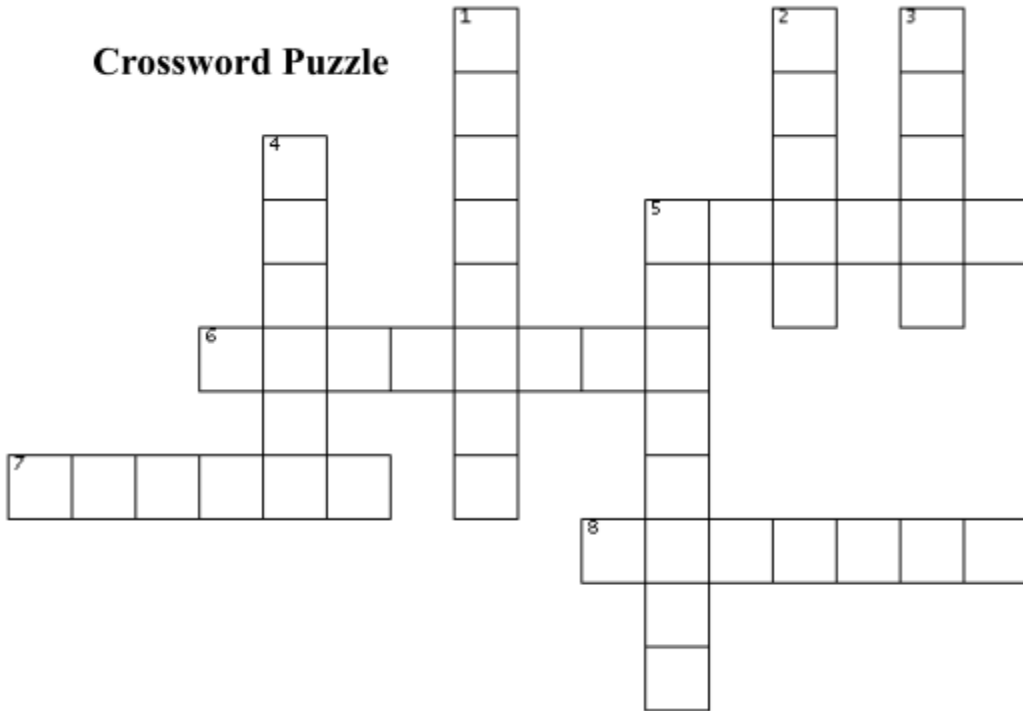
The End!



BRAINTEASERS

Made and compiled by Maria Minkova

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 5. Renovation
- 6. A poem
- 7. Pink
- 8. A debatable topic

Down

- 1. Thanksgiving
- 2. The ___ lover
- 3. Don't feed the wildlife
- 4. An indian holiday
- 5. A brief narrative

Math Squares

The missing values are whole numbers between 1 and 16. Each number is only used once, and remember that addition comes before multiplication.

Labyrinth

	+	5	×		13
×		+		×	
7	+		+		14
+		×		+	
	+		+		21
30		29		10	

