

# The 5 Day Week

Due to lack of time, we will occasionally release issues that cover two months, including this one. This newspaper is for everyone in PS 107's community, not just us, and you can participate in it by submitting articles, poems & cover art when you have the opportunity. Unfortunately, we did not receive any cover art for this issue, but maybe we'll get some for February!

For last month's game theory experiment, the average guess was... actually, we didn't get any responses, so we won't be able to provide you with the winning number.

According to last month's survey, two thirds of all respondents said that images are necessary, as long as they're relevant, so we'll be adding more of those from now on.

Everyone unanimously agreed, grades ranging from 2nd to 5th, that recess coaches were unnecessary, reading the featured debate.

On average, the respondents were somewhat worried about middle school and its application process. When asked which event they'd add, 60% voted for a school play, 20% for a door-decorating contest and another 20% for an art show.

This month, our survey will consist of these questions, the first of which will be discussed later in the issue:

**"Save or spend your allowance?"**

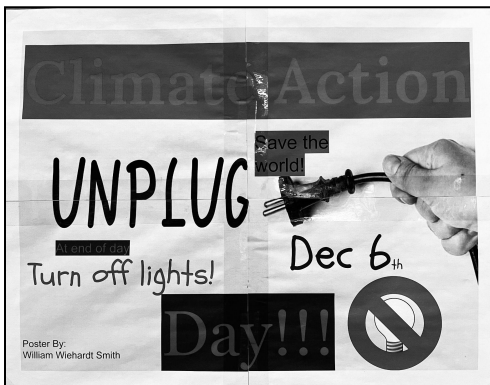
**"Which school lunch is your favorite?"**

See the back page for surveys, and turn in yours to Ms Joanna in the main office.

Again, we'll have submissions for the next edition's cover art. Make sure the size & proportions match a typical sheet of paper, and note that it'll be printed in grayscale. Any & every student & drawing is valid for participation (of course, as long as the drawing is appropriate). You have until February 15th, 2024 to work on it, which is plenty of time. Submit your drawing(s) to Ms Joanna in the main office by February 15, 2024! Make sure you include your name and class.

## CLIMATE ACTION DAY

By Mira Strenitz



On December 6th, 2023, P.S.107 marked Climate Action Day, an initiative emphasizing environmental responsibility. This happens four times a year, each time specifying a different eco-topic: Energy, Waste, Green Energy, and Water. December 6th was dedicated to Energy, urging us to be mindful of our power consumption. Looking ahead, Waste takes the spotlight on February 7th, Green Energy and Health on April 17th, and Water on June 12th.

Ms. Barnes, our science teacher, organized an Energy-saving contest on December 6th. The challenge? Figuring out which floor could be the best at turning off lights. A group of fourth graders from class 4-307 kept tabs on this task. Every grade, except for first grade, gets a day to

be the monitors for a specific Climate Action Day. Fifth graders will lead the charge on Waste day, second graders on Green Energy, and third graders on Water day.

The significance of this idea becomes clear when considering the environmental impact of our city's buildings. 70% of greenhouse gas emissions in the city come from the energy used by these buildings. It's not great news for the environment, but it's a problem we, as students and families, can actively address. With over 1,500 school buildings in the city, our collective efforts can make a meaningful impact.

December 2023/January 2024 Edition

# BIG CHANGES AT THE ARMORY

By Violet Kantor-Lieber, 3-304



Gym has been kind of different. Since half of the gym is shut down, we can only use one side- the left. We can only do relay races and run half-track. We have to use the bathroom *before* track because bathrooms are blocked off, too.

I called the Armory to find out why this is happening. “Half of our drill floor is being renovated,” said Tia Jones, a woman who works there. I asked her when everything was going to be done. “We don’t have a timeline.” She is hoping to learn more once the construction starts.

Clearly, the students at P.S. 107 are hoping to get the full drill floor at the Armory back as soon as possible.

## INTERVIEW WITH A NEW TEACHER

By Hannah Kwong and Jovie Roth

Ms Crystal Barnes is the new Science 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: “I love this community!”

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

A: “I think the students have a lot of school pride. I see no bullying, and that they’re kind.”

**Q: What are your first impressions of PS 107?**

A: “My first impression of P.S.107 is that it has a good school climate and feels like a family.”

**Q: What are you looking forward to this year?**

A: “I’m really looking forward to exploring the Billion Oyster Project.”

**Q: What do you like to do outside of teaching? (Hobbies, interests, etc)**

A: “In my free time, I like to read comic books and watch marvel movies, Guardians of the Galaxy especially.”



December 2023/January 2024 Edition

# WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

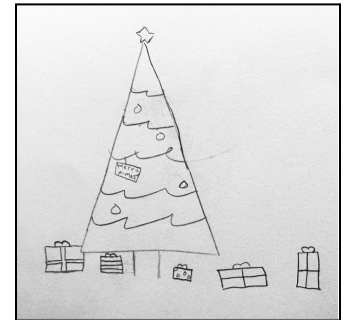
By Freya Nassy and Nora Gallagher

Illustrations by Owen Allen

Editor's Note: All around the world, holidays in winter all have one thing in common; and the idea of having to prepare for winter in the old days has shaped our cultures a lot. They usually revolve around the ideas of light and warmth, and to celebrate the days we have together. Holidays in the fall are directly related to food and the harvest, and the last days before winter, while spring holidays celebrate the coming of buds and blooms.

Picture yourself on Christmas Eve. Probably at your grandparents's house or somewhere else visiting family members. It's nighttime, the sky is dark and you're trying to go to sleep. Well, you might not know, but there are a lot of winter holidays other than Christmas. Here you can now explore the magical land of winter holidays.

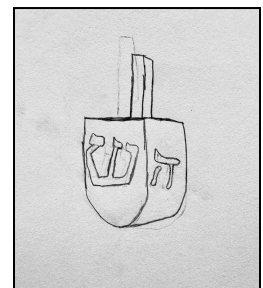
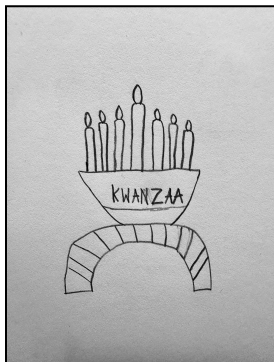
On the night of December 5th is when Saint Nicholas Day is celebrated in Europe. In some countries, people leave their slippers and a carrot for the horse and St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas represents the patron saint of children, sailors, and even merchants. St. Nicholas sometimes comes along with his companion Krampus, a scary mythical creature. But in some countries parents even pay actors to dress up as St. Nicholas, an angel, and Krampus. Krampus would carry a sack to put the "naughty" kids in. And then the angel would carry candy to give to the "nice" kids. "Don't worry, no kids were ever actually taken by Krampus, because the parents wouldn't let them," said Freya's mom.



Chinese New Year is in January or February. It is when the moon makes it to a year's rotation. People will celebrate by wearing bright red clothing, having big dinners, and exchanging gifts of money and more. People will also clean their houses of any bad spirits. And then not clean their house to keep the good spirits in. There is also the dragon dance where many people gather and have on bright red parts of a dragon's body, and then dance to drums and other musical instruments. "This is a great festival that has great food," said the writer, Freya.

Christmas is on December 25th. Christmas is about a man named Santa Claus who goes around the whole world and delivers presents to every kid and adult in the whole world. Some things that kids will do is bake some cookies, and with the cookies a tall glass of milk and sometimes a plate of carrots for the reindeer. In my family we have a tradition where we open one of the Christmas presents on Christmas Eve. People also hang stockings hoping that Santa Clause will put in some chocolates or any other candy.

Hanukkah, (sometimes spelled Chanukah) is a 8 day long "festival of lights," which begins each year on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month called Kiselev. Because the Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar cycle, the dates of Jewish holidays according to the Gregorian calendar change yearly. Hanukkah is also very fun. Kids and adults get to eat latkes, a pancake made of only shredded potato, challah bread, a fluffy loaf of bread, sufganiyot, a pillowy doughnut filled with sweet jelly, Gelt, chocolate coins wrapped in gold wrappers (which you have probably had), and more! "It is amazing!" said Julia Brilliant, a student at our school who celebrates Hanukkah, and I must agree, it sounds pretty amazing!



In the future, lots of holidays will begin and others will die out. Christmas Eve and Hanukkah are coming up, so enjoy those!

**December 2023/January 2024 Edition**

# PS 107: 1895 TO THE PRESENT

Sourced from the PS 107 Centennial Yearbook and written by one of the editors

Let me tell you a tale of the school once called Public School No. 107. Try not to blink- or you'll miss the history that is in the making!

Doctors, lawyers, scientists, journalists, radio announcers and even millionaires... The list goes on and on. What do they have in common? Believe it or not, all their interests & success began in the classrooms of this school! Our school has witnessed about 11,500 students graduate and 32 principals. It finished construction in 1895, only taking a year to build by the architect James W. Naughton and the contractors at P.J. Carlin & Co. was founded by

John W. Kimball, hence its full name. It had 25 classrooms, an assembly room (now the cafeteria), 4 bathrooms, a heating system of coal-fired stoves and ventilation shafts and was lit by oil lamps.

This time period was a crucial part of NYC history, for a great migration to America was underway, and Brooklyn started expanding its borders; in 1894, the towns Flatbush, Gravesend and New Utrecht were absorbed. The formerly rural Park Slope had been recently undergoing a transformation from farmland to housing and industry.

These changes also meant for the government that had just made education compulsory an urgent challenge to establish schools fast enough to educate the thousands of additional children. The public school enrollment approximately went from 71,000 to 117,000 over just nine years (1886 - 1895), a staggering rate of increase. Brooklyn still had between 500 to 3,000 children excluded for lack of room annually, for an entire decade. Overcrowding was a perennial problem then, a 'disgrace to Brooklyn', bemoaned the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction the year before our school opened.

Grades were named differently back then- 1st grade being called '7th Primary', 2nd grade split between '6th Primary' and '5th Primary', and so on until 4th grade



PS 107's Big Yard under construction

being known as 2nd & 1st Primary. In this system, grades 5 and up were called 'grammar grades', so 5th grade was '6th-5th Grammar'. Back then, attending school was only mandatory up to 7th grade, so the school years past that were more like university. Also, kindergarten wasn't an official part of education, just a form of daycare until 1897.

Looking at the gradebook from PS 107's first year, we can see that girls and boys were taught separately; the 'G' or 'B' next to each grade showed whether that class taught 'feminine skills' or 'masculine skills'. To make things worse, teachers of boys' classes were paid extra yearly. In 1892 (before our school was built,) this sum was raised to \$50, now worth \$1,800 today. Fortunately, this was abolished in 1905. Back then, the curriculum, or 'course of study' also contained geography and world history rather than the

history of just America. It was also more

important for a word to be written in excellent penmanship than to even be spelled correctly.

As a teacher wrote when our school was relatively new, "I teach witing and spelling". The book list was very

"A house without books is like a room without windows," said our school's very first reading teacher, Ms. Ward.

different from the present, as well; students were required to have read Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* by entering 5th Grade (3rd Grammar) rather than children

Every week someone was assigned to fill the inkwells. It was considered a privilege.

enjoying read-alouds on the works of Kate DiCamillo and inferring on them.

If you attended this school in the year of 2019-2020, you certainly remember the scaffolding surrounding the building. This is because trace amounts of lead, a commonly used construction material in the past, was found in the cement holding the bricks in the walls together. Additionally, lead powder had a strong white hue and was thus used in paints- so it was all over our school. The reason why is that it was proven radioactive, and could potentially cause illness with daily exposure to it, so it had to be removed from older buildings. This is also why currently not a single classroom or hallway is painted white.

**Fast-forward a century** of mostly uneventful teaching and learning. In 2020, a global pandemic began from COVID-19, and all schooling was made remote due to quarantine; the quality of education plummeted and NYC was seeing its hardest year since the Great Depression.

It was the fall of 2008 when a PS 107 parent, Marney Fuller, stepped up and proposed working in art class with the children to help create larger-than-life wire statues of a spider, a butterfly and a caterpillar to scale the pipes over the schoolyard. 14 years later, in 2022, the statues began to rust, so they were temporarily replaced by a bumblebee while they were remade- this time the wire was of stainless steel; and now a bee has joined those three insects, and will likely outlive us all. Titled 'Ecosystem,' it got a plaque in the Big Yard- you can see it for yourself.

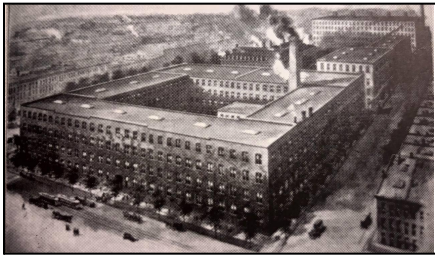
When you grow up - and you will - be sure not to forget the memories you got at this school.

**Mark the date:**  
PS 107 is turning 129 at the beginning of the next school year! Thus, it will be 130 years old in 2025

**A fortune to build!**  
Total construction costs, of land, building and furnishing were about \$135,000 or 5 million dollars in today's money!

**Interesting...**  
Brooklyn didn't merge with the other boroughs until 1898, which is why there are schools called PS 107 in the Bronx and Queens.

**You might know**  
the brick building right by our school- 420 12th Street. Well, it was a clock factory built about when our school was, and was eventually shut down and repurposed as an apartment building. This is also when the armory and local theater were constructed.



**Middle School here?**  
PS 107 used to teach 6th and 7th grade as well.

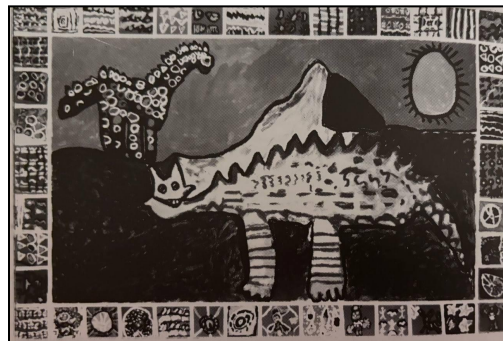
**Did you know?**  
In the 1890's, despite younger kids being harder to attend to, the average 1st grade class contained 70 students due to lower teacher income (so less teachers) and a high teacher-to-student ratio due to immigration. Older grades had an average of 40-50, which is still a lot by modern standards.

**In fact,**  
When it opened in 1895, our school had a thousand children enrolled and now we only have half that amount.

# WHAT IS PS 107?

By Sif Horowitz-Sorensen

If someone asks you what P.S. 107 is, you might say a school. And yes, you are correct, but there are millions of schools out there, and the real question is “What makes P.S.107 a unique school?” So P.S. 107 is different in many ways, and you could begin with its location. It’s in Park Slope, near Prospect Park — but how much does that help people when they are trying to picture P.S.107? A little, maybe. Is it the building? Well, the red bricks and flag outside and big spider in the yard are cool, but technically P.S.107 could be in another building and still be P.S.107, so no. We could also talk about the specialties like art, music, science, or gym. But, many schools can have those things. I tried to google P.S.107 and everything on the website sounds great, but other websites for other schools make them sound great too. Could John W. Kimball have anything to do with it? Yes. Back when he lived, he could have, but it’s not fair to say that he carried P.S.107 on to what it is today. Could the definition of P.S.107 be in the numbers?  $1+0+7=8$ ,  $10+7=17$ , but I don’t think that has anything to do with it either. Is it that us students are all so smart and generally awesome? Well yes, that must be it (duh)! But then again, each of us has to leave at some point.



In 1992-1993, six large, brightly colored panels of children's art, titled 'Habitat,' became a permanent installation in the hallways of our school.

If I really think about what makes P.S.107 a truly unique place, I come to the conclusion that it is the community we have built up around it. Everyone shows a lot of care and trust at P.S.107 - kids, teachers, parents and all the staff that



come to the school every day. The teachers especially always find a way to make everything happen and help us kids, even if that means taking time away from the other, maybe more fun things they could be doing. I also think P.S.107 makes enough time in the school year to have gatherings where you can be in touch with kids from the other grades. This is very important because you should be able to connect with someone twice or half your age, and P.S. 107 is doing a great job at making that happen. There are extra school activities in the morning, like the Thursday morning track run and Math Magic, which students of all ages can join. There are the Fall Festival, Spring Fling, Craft Fair, Art Day, to name a few (please, could we have a few more movie nights though...?). P.S.107 is a

combination of all of these things. Oh, and we also learn some stuff too ;)

I already know as a ten year old, that we are very fortunate for all the school’s efforts to make it a fun place for everyone to learn and grow. And even when we leave the school, we remain part of it as alumni...so it’s actually part of us forever!

So *what*, then, is P.S.107? *We* are P.S.107! And that, I think, is pretty cool....

December 2023/January 2024 Edition

# SNOW WITHOUT FOOTPRINTS

A short story by Rory Piercy, 5-306

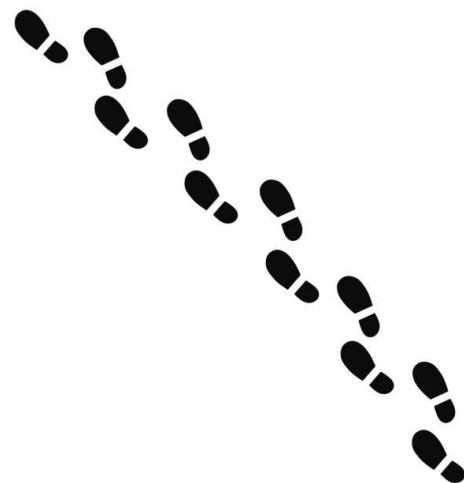
One snowy day, Olive and her best friend, Mia, went out to go sledding. On their way, something caught Olive's eye. She staggered off the path to find a smooth, shiny, black rock. She decided to take it for her rock collection. She grabbed it and plopped it in her pocket.

She and Mia got to the bottom of the hill at the park. Mia stepped onto the snow and sank in. Olive stepped onto the snow and started to walk up the hill.

“OLIVE!” Mia screamed,

“YOUR FEET!” confused, Olive looked down at her feet and saw that she was floating a few inches off the snow. She and Mia looked at each other and looked around to see if this was a trick. No one was near them. They were so scared, they skipped sledding and went right home.

The next day was a bit warmer, so Olive grabbed a lighter coat. When she and Mia got to the snow, Mia sunk in, as usual. Olive waited a minute before taking a slow step onto the snow. She sunk right in. Later that night, Olive found her rock in the pocket of her coat. She looked at it for a minute. “Could it have been the rock?” she thought. “No, that's crazy.” She put it into her rock collection never to see it again.



## SAVE YOUR ALLOWANCE!

By Ramona Stockwell

Do you have an allowance? If you do, do you save it or spend it?

I think it is better to save your allowance. There are many reasons it is smart to save your allowance rather than spend it all every week. One reason is wouldn't you rather buy one laptop than a hundred tiny toys you don't really care about. If someone gets seven dollars every Friday after school and just went and spent all before dinner they would end up with a ton of junk they really don't need or even want that much. You should save your allowance because maybe later in life you are having money problems and luckily have your allowance to help.

Another thing you can do is invest in companies you believe will be successful. This will make (if you're lucky) even more money a week than your allowance! I will warn you not all companies work out so be careful. You can also invest in the stock market where you can grow your money.

A very kind thing to do with your allowance is to save it up to buy food, coats, clothing, and many other things for people in need, as Carla Swickerath says “Helping others can bring more joy than buying something for yourself.” Saving your allowance and using it to help others can make a big difference in someone's life.



December 2023/January 2024 Edition

# POETRY

by Mina Sommer

## **In Spirit**

*dedicated to my grandpa*

Christmas trees  
Fallen leaves  
Snow covering the ground

With the sun down below  
With the streets all aglow  
Happiness will soon be found

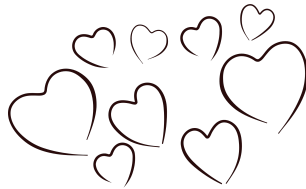
We walk down the street  
From the place where we meet  
In Spirit, I'm with you

But you're not there anymore  
I wish life were how it was before  
I will love you forever, and more

## **Christmas**

There's snow falling,  
Carolers calling,  
Lots of bell ringing,  
And a good heap of singing.

Now there's happy screaming,  
Children beaming,  
New toys are gleaming,  
With parents still half-sleeping,  
While happiness flies through the air.

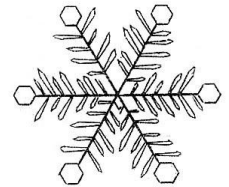


## **in the snow**

unwrapping gifts  
outside the snow drifts  
down onto the frozen floor

our christmas tree glows  
outside the wind blows  
it's cold, there in the snow

so we decide to mainly reside  
by the fireplace and its warm hearth



## **under the mistletoe**

nobody has spoken  
but love has awoken  
there under the mistletoe

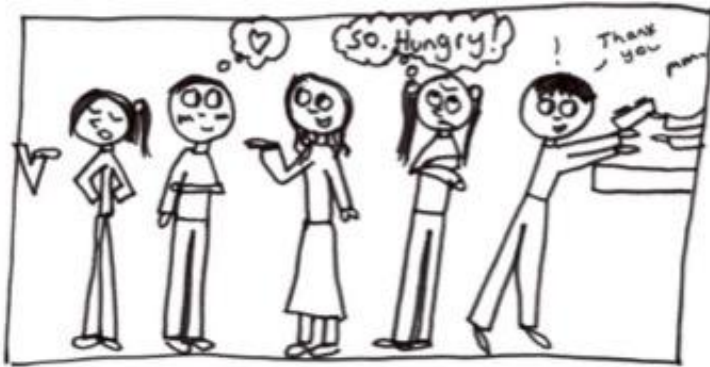
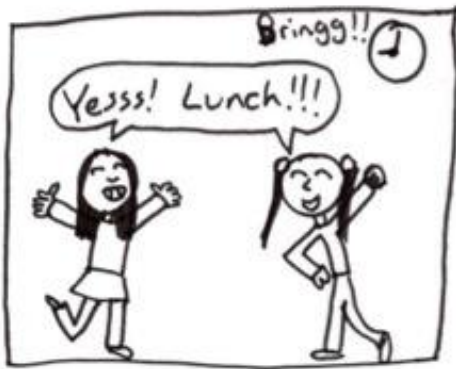
the silence continues  
it becomes broken sinews  
there under the mistletoe





# "The Lunch Talker"

By Emily Levin

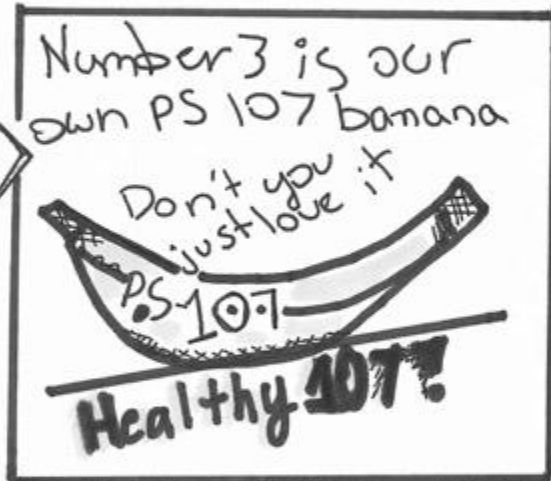
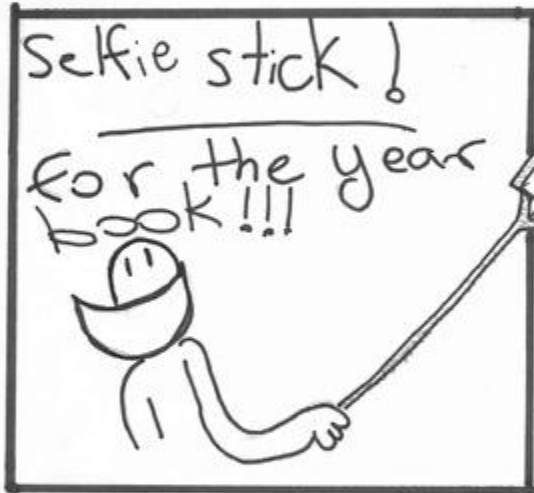
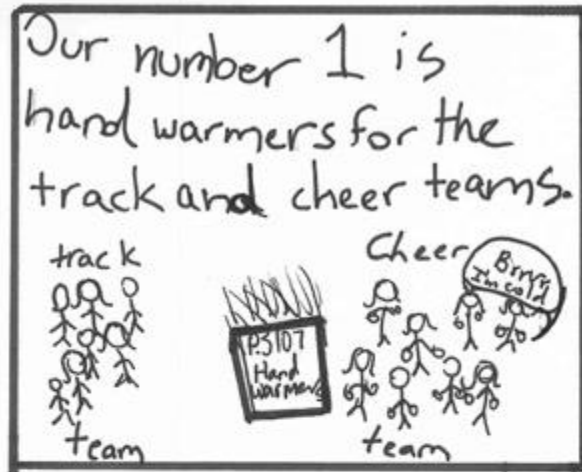


And that's why we should have more lunch time



# COMIC

By Emma Bonenberger



# The 5 Day Week Staff 2023-2024

Publisher: Joanna Cohen

Editors-in-Chief: Maria Minkova, Mira Strenitz, Sif Horowitz-Sorensen

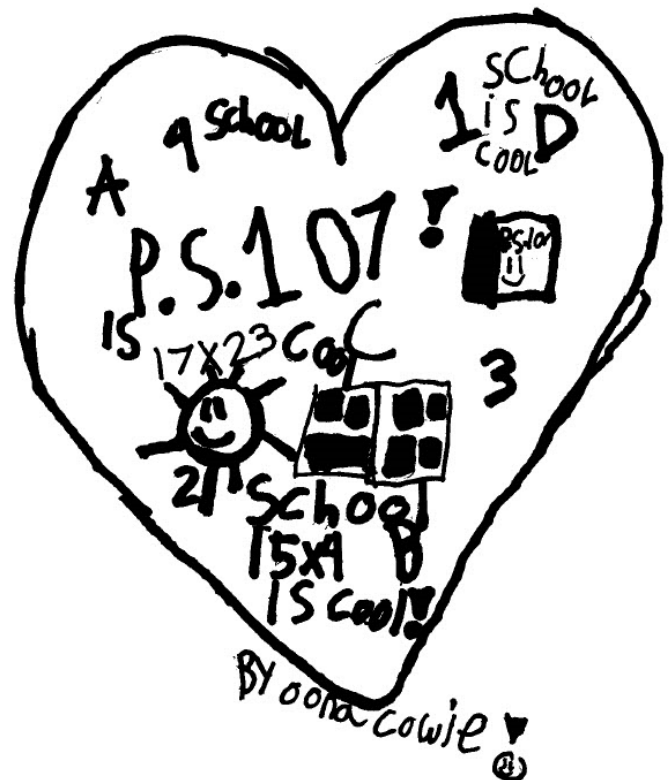
Staff Writers: Abigail Miller, Emily Levin, Emma Bonenberger, Freya Nassy, Hannah Kwong, Jovie Roth, Mina Sommer, Nora Gallagher, Oona Cowie, Owen Allen, Ramona Stockwell, Rory Piercy, Violet Kantor Lieber

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

Respond to these questions below, tear off this page, and return it to Ms Joanna's mailbox in the main office (you can also give it to your teacher, who will give it to Ms Joanna). Questions are optional! You can respond to none, one, or both. Responses are anonymous. Just tell us what grade you are in.

Your Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Should you save or spend your allowance?  
And why?



Which school lunch is your favorite?