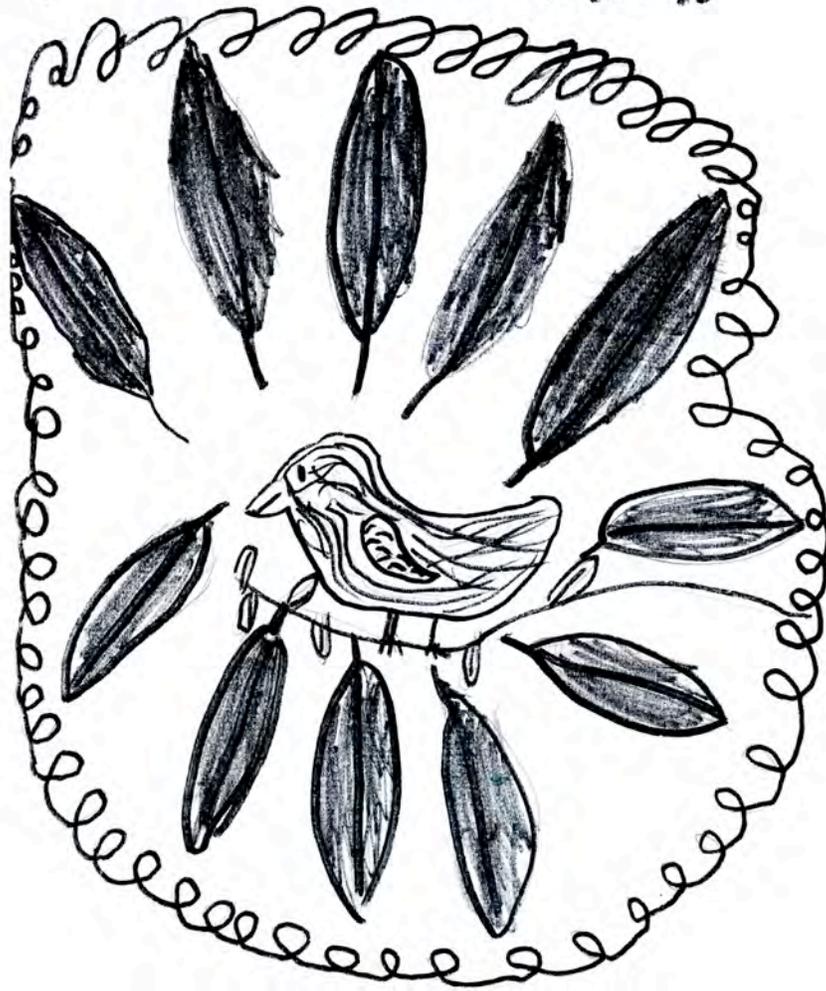


# The Raven's Quill



Rooftop School Literary Magazine  
Winter 2012 - Volume 2

## **THE RAVEN'S QUILL**

Welcome, Readers!

Rooftop's Literary Magazine, "The Raven's Quill", was developed to showcase the writing of our talented Rooftop students. Within the covers of this magazine, we hope to reflect the inner thoughts, private dreams and wild imaginations of our creative student body. Each of these student entries has been submitted by their teachers as reflective of the given theme or of particular literary value.

At Rooftop, every day is a celebration of life and spirit. We celebrate our diversity and the rich cultures we represent. We celebrate our creativity and innovation to be change agents. We celebrate our Earth and its bountiful beauty. And most of all, we celebrate the community we all share and the warm friendships we exchange with each other and with those outside our walls. This Winter Edition spotlights the talented writing of our Rooftop students and their expressions of celebration and we CELEBRATE their literary gifts.

We hope that you will enjoy the second edition of *The Raven's Quill*.

## **Celebration**

Celebration is an action  
A feeling of happiness  
Celebration is when  
You spend time with family  
Celebration is when  
You make time for a special occasion  
Celebration is when,  
Birthday comes, you won a championship,  
You are watching a big game, or  
You just want to have fun.

- Chris, 8th grade

## **Christmas**

Snowing at Christmas  
A child opening presents  
What a happy sight

Look up at the sky  
No snow flakes, just normal fog  
Christmas in San Fran

Jingle bells ringing  
Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas  
Very jolly time of year

Sitting by the fire  
It's satisfying crackling  
The red flames dancing

Blue eyes peer outside  
Nose prints all over the window  
Coacoa warms your hand

Ornaments hanging  
Lit up faces are gazing  
A heart warming sight

- Jack. 8th grade



## **Celebrations**

It's not what you feel  
But what you express  
You hang your pride on your chest  
Like a winner  
You celebrate for your team  
Who cares if you win or lose  
Just celebrate for you being  
You  
Celebration means joy and glee  
So don't be mean if  
You're the losing team  
Be happy and you'll see what celebration  
Really means

- Malik, 8th Grade

## **Celebration**

Celebration,  
A fun and happy time.  
It could be a party, a dance, or just something  
Simple and easy.  
Like going out to dinner,  
Or Mom baking your favorite chocolate cake.  
Sometimes gifts are given,  
But not always.  
Sometimes there are big intricate decoration,  
Or bright colored balloons.  
And other times the subject of the celebration  
Wears a poofy, sparkley dress,  
With high heel shoes,  
And fancy jewelry.  
Or a nice tuxedo,  
With freshly polished kicks.  
But other times the attire can be jeans and  
t-shirts,  
depending on the situation,  
of the celebration.  
But what really matters,  
Is the joy inside.  
Not just what you see.  
The real celebration is in your heart and smile.  
Not in the bright balloons or the sparkley dress.

- Miya. 8th grade

## **Celebrations**

Skeletons dancing in the breeze,  
Swishing and swaying like the neighboring trees,  
Flowery dresses and large feathered hats  
Adorning their bodies in the animated acts,  
One pulls off a mask, holds out a gloved hand  
And whirls you away from the rest of your band,  
Dropping your trumpet,  
You swish and you sway  
Honoring your ancestors on this celebratory day.

- Malachi, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Celebrations**

I remember Christmas in Seattle  
I remember the tree, placed beside the TV  
I remember that one rather large present that lit up my face  
I remember my sister, too little to remember anything  
I remember Bobby, before the accident  
I remember the celebration

- Kira, 8th Grade

## **10th B-Day at the Water Park**

I remember the love and joy on my 10th b-day,  
having fun in the sparkling blue crystal water, sliding down the watery water  
slides,  
smelling the fresh air.  
I remember my 10th b-day at the water park.

- Ali Shaikh, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Dewali**

Crack of dawn,  
up and ready,  
buying goods,  
Decorating and cleaning,  
cooking dinner,  
Having fun,  
Magical smells take me away,  
smiling through,  
the whole day,

Shapes and sizes of indian sweets  
Crackers to pop,  
spices to eat, the  
Dyias split through the darkness,  
and burst through the night,  
the party's begun,  
Happy Dewali to everyone.

- Kiran, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Courage by Ms. Mocklin's Class

Recently, in our 5th grade class, we studied and talked about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and how his actions were inspirational and courageous. The students were asked to write about what courage meant to them. Here are just a few of the students' work:

## Does It Matter?

Courage, courage . . . .  
What does it mean?  
When are you courageous?  
Does it matter . . .

Why yes, of course  
Courage does matter  
Courage is a dream  
A dream of courage  
Those words taste sweet  
As sweet as sugar

He had a dream  
A dream of equality  
We have a dream  
A dream of courage.  
- Sophie, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## COURAGE

Courageous  
Otstanding  
Understanding  
Rosa Parks  
Admirable  
Great  
Elegant  
Smart

- Franklin, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Courageous

Caring  
Otgoing  
Usually focused  
Responsible  
Always honest  
Going with anything  
Educated.  
Otstanding  
Using a speech voice  
Standing up for others

- Justin, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Courage

What is courage?  
Is it fighting dragons  
In a fairytale  
Is it going to war  
In a nightmare  
To some this is  
All it is  
But it's more than just  
This  
Courage is  
Much  
Much  
MORE  
Its standing up  
When others sit down  
Its choosing good  
When others are bad  
It's keeping what others  
Lose  
HOPE

What do you think?

- Sydney, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Courageous**

Being courageous means to believe in what you think is right.

Being courageous means standing up for yourself and others.

Dream beyond limits.

Don't care about what other people think.

With courage you can do anything.

Courage is with you wherever you go.

You just don't see it.

You need courage to believe in yourself.

- Addie, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Courage**

Courage means . . . .

When you see some one being mean to someone you need to say,

“That is not nice! You need to stop.”

Courage means when you see something wrong you need to do something.

Don't STOP and stare . . . . do something!

Courage means when you stick up for yourself and others.

Courage means power, strength, and independent.

That is what courage means to me.

- Jada, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **You Have Courage**

**COURAGEOUS**

You are courageous

You are brave

What does that mean to you?

It means you can follow your dreams without anyone else telling you what to do.

You are your own leader

You are a role model.

Lots of people follow your lead

You have courage

**COURAGE**

- Charlotte, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **COURAGE**

To me courage means to stand up for things.

To be courageous is not to be smart and clever, it is to stand up for what is right,

Courage is power that allows you to want to do or try anything.

You must stand up for what you believe, to not fall back when someone needs help.

If you stand up for what you believe, you can have the courage to try anything.

This is what courage means to me.

Do not be scared to believe.

If you have courage, you can do anything.

- Wesley, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



*"EXPRESSIONS IN BLUE" Class Project Art by 7B students*

## **Joke Book**

from Mr. Prizmich's Class  
by Aaron

*What does a spider like on the computer?*

A: The web

*Why was the math book so sad?*

A: It was full of problems.

*How did the alligator get his name?*

A: Walking through a gate in an alley.

*What did the X say after dinner?*

A: Can I have extras?

*What do you call a cat who does Xeroxing?*

A: A copy cat

*What do fish hate about the computer?*

A: The internet

*What did the kid say to the joke?*

A: Are you kidding me?

# **Class poems created by Lissa Gould's Kindergarteners- Room 5**

## **Earth Poem**

Leaves feel crunchy  
Grass lives in the field  
Birds remember the waterfall  
Leaves change color in autumn  
Water shakes like a wave  
Earth hopes for life

## **Earth Poem**

Cheetahs, orange like a flame  
Peace doves sail over the sea  
Pandas sleep – wind blowing  
Butterflies tumbling into the grass  
Tigers run and sigh  
Dogs believe in cats  
Earth searches for help

## **Ocean**

Dolphins shake their tails through the sea  
Sharks feel smooth like a petal  
Sea turtles search for food  
Water Bug waits to eat  
Hammerhead Shark springs out of the water  
The Ocean believes in peace

## **Misunderstood Me**

*Most people hate me,  
Loathe me  
Think all I do is  
Take up space  
They think I'm worthless  
Useless  
Why can't we just get along?*

*All I want to do is share our space  
All I want to do is love people  
Show them I'm not all  
Bad*

*Yet all they do is scream and  
Run away  
They call for help  
They call for my demise*

*I don't want to hurt them  
It's not my fault I have  
Claws, fangs, razor sharp teeth  
Not my fault I'm  
Poisonous by nature  
It's not my fault I have  
The ability to kill you humans*

*So why do you hate me  
Loathe me  
Kill my own kind?*

*The misunderstood  
I'm just a poisonous plant to you  
Just a destructive fish to you  
Just a malicious and  
Terrifying animal to you*

*But to me, I am more than just  
An annoyance  
I am poison oak  
I am sharks, I am snakes  
I am tigers, I am barracudas  
I am  
Life*

*- Alejandra, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

## Thousands

*Ten multiplied and multiplied  
How many thousands of things are in the world?  
Ounces of thousands of grains of sand and rice  
Up, up, up thousands of feet tall  
Seashell in the sea- thousands of them  
A single person thinking about themselves out of thousands of people  
Not a single drop of rain is a sign of happiness  
Do think about thousands and not only yourself*

- Risa, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

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## Puerto Rico

By Sierra, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

We were in the car at 2:30 A.M! It was a cold, foggy morning in San Francisco last summer. My grandma, aka Nunny, was picking my sister Skyler, my mom, and me up to go to the airport. We couldn't wait to be in Puerto Rico! We were looking forward to going to the beach, snorkeling, and visiting a town called Old San Juan!

Steps Beach was really fun! The reason it is called Steps is because there are some old stone steps resting on the sand that were so rough, I scraped my foot. We climbed a long palm that was over the water, and there was a nice tree to climb. Last we walked the high tide water, "Which was nice compared to San Francisco's cold water," I commented after the trip. "I can't wait to go again tomorrow," Skyler yelled.

The next day, we went snorkeling. When you go about 10 steps in, there is a huge drop. I think that the drop was as tall as a giraffe's neck. A few fish you may see are some big blue tang and maybe a school of squid. Do you know how warm the water was? I think it was as warm as a bath. The last thing you may see is some pretty sea urchins. I had an awesome time in Puerto Rico!

We started to leave Rincon and head to Old San Juan. I had never seen so many gift shops. Also the food was so good with so many spices. Out on the street there were so many art, hat, and jewelry vendors. Also, the roads were cobblestone. San Juan was really fun!

The trip felt as long as a year. One of the things I will remember is the warm water of Puerto Rico. Also, I will never forget the tasty food. Some of the feelings I had were relaxed for the ride home and excited to see my dad!

# Canada

By Finn, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

My suitcase was packed and ready to go! “Get in the car,” mom commanded. It was summer and I was in San Francisco. My brother Cameron, my sister Imogen, my mom, and I were going to our family’s summer house in Canada. We had gone there a few times before and we knew what we wanted to do: have a nice plane ride, go down to the lake, and go cherry picking.

We were in the airport walking toward the plane. My mom was showing me, my brother, and my sister where to sit down. I sat about one or two seats in front of mom and Cameron sat across from Imogen. Suddenly, the plane started moving, first slowly then a little bit faster until, “bang,” the plane lifted right into the light air. I was next to the window, and when I looked out I watched everything fade away until we were surfing through the clouds. Once we were high above the ocean, I started to talk to the stranger next to me. Finally we landed in Canada.

We all chose a bag and started up the road to the cherry field. But when we got there the gate was locked. What did we do? We climbed right over it. We were in the field when we realized nobody was there. So, we put some money on their porch and started picking. One tree had so many cherries it could have filled the whole bag. We stuffed the sweet and sour cherries into our mouths until somebody yelled, “Stop!” On the way back we took a shortcut by going through a trail of dirt. We all wanted to make cherry pie so much, we acted like it was Christmas day.

After we were out of the airplane, we got picked up by my great aunt, who drove us to our summer house. Once we were all unpacked, we ran down the hill to the big tree with the wooden swing. We then started taking turns pushing each other. We finally started up the motor boat and went to the other side of the lake. On the way back we jumped out of the boat and swam back to the dock. Many times we yelled, “Geronimo,” as we jumped into the lake. We got a new tube and put it onto the boat, everyone wanted to go super quick. Then, my cousins came and we started fishing, but nobody caught anything. We all enjoyed the lake as if we had just won the lottery!

I didn’t want to leave, but I was glad to be back home. I will remember the wonderful sight of the fresh scented lake and the fun time I had with my family. I felt glad that I enjoyed the amazing week of my summer house.

# **My Grandmother's Cabin**

By Grace, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

I waited impatiently for the car to finally pull up. I was in San Francisco in June, 2010. Max, my sister, also waited for Grandma. We could finally get to go to the amazing Clipper Mills! We were looking forward to the swimming pool and the cooking. But I wasn't looking forward to the drive!

Our Grandma finally came and it was time for the drive. We stopped at our state's capital, Sacramento. It was as hot there as the Sahara Desert! We even ate lunch there. The food tasted like perfection! The only bad part was that it took forever to get there. There was tons of traffic, but we saw lots of cows and horses on the drive. I couldn't wait to get there!

I couldn't wait to go in the swimming pool. We were going to go there every day. The water felt so cold and fresh. I saw lots of insects and even a toad. My sister learned how to swim too. Sooner or later she swam faster than a shark. I even swam in the deep end. It was eight feet high and really scary! But, I got used to it and did several dives. "Cannon Ball!" I yelled as I jumped in the water. I couldn't wait to go tomorrow.

Now we could finally get to cook! First we made our delicious traditional pizza. It's always so good! The next morning, we made warm pancakes. "How do you like them?" Grandma questioned. At the end of the day, we made hot, sweet, marshmallow filled hot chocolate. "Yummmmm," slurped my sister. After, we watched a movie with our dad. What a delicious day!

My relaxing, fun, and exciting trip had finally come to an end. I will never forget my first cannonball in the fresh water. I will always remember the smell of pine trees in the early morning. I was really excited to see this amazing place. Now I was sad to leave this place for another year.

***Many Rooftop students have been selected over the years to participate in an excellent, college preparatory program called Breakthrough. It is a yearlong program held at SF Day School and requires a four year commitment throughout summer and the school year. Students are selected by Breakthrough in the 4th grade and stay until the 8th grade. Here is a speech, written by one of our Rooftop students, Ahja Henry, who was chosen to present this speech at a Breakthrough event:***

My name is Ahja Henry. I am 12 years old, and I was a student of the Breakthrough program at SF Day School and now at University High School. I am a 7th grader at Rooftop Alternative School. Breakthrough was an experience of a lifetime. Not only because of the learning, but because of meeting new friends, having amazing teachers that I soon made friends with, and having fun and happy memories with everyone.

The thing I liked about Breakthrough was the fact that I made several new friends. These friends I still know and keep in touch with now. These are some of my best friends and it's all thanks to Breakthrough.

Another thing I appreciated about Breakthrough was all of the amazing teachers that taught me during my three summers there. The teachers from my first and second year were all mostly my best friends. I wish I could go back and see them again although we still keep in touch as well.

I really liked the electives we got to choose there. They tied the day together and made Breakthrough even more fun than it already is. There was a lot to choose from and those that I picked were great.

Finally, I loved the fun events like the Olympics, the fifth grade talent show, the sixth grade camping trip, and Celebration! These were all fun because we got to compete against each other. We also got to show off talent at the talent show, and hike and have fun at the camping trip. But, best of all was Celebration! Celebration was great because we got to showcase projects or routines of what we completed over the summer in front of other students and parents.

Although Breakthrough is really fun, it is a lot of hard work and a lot of learning. We learn about new skills that help us in the upcoming school years. The classes are about 45 minutes and there are English, math, humanities, and science classes. It is fun to work with teachers that are closer to my age and who also have a lot of fun learning. I never thought as a 7th grader that I would be doing amazing activities like: dissecting a squid in biology, having a live debate in humanities, and creating chosen snacks by working with measuring in math. All in all, Breakthrough was a great learning experience and is great for kids to learn, have fun, and meet new friends.

*A poem shared in celebration of the life of our friend and teacher MICHAEL KOOB*

## **The Lost Dancer**

by Jean Toomer

*Spatial depths of being survive  
The birth to death recurrences  
Of feet dancing on earth of sand;  
Vibrations of the dance survive  
The sand; the sand, elect, survives  
The dancer. He can find no source  
Of magic adequate to bind  
The sand upon his feet, his feet  
Upon his dance, his dance upon  
The diamond body of his being.*





# **Spirit of Rooftop**

*written by the students of B-203/Ms. Woo's class*

Gather our friendships.

Create a community within our doors.

Transform our children for the better.

Encourage kids to learn until they love it.

Inspire us to make good choices throughout eternity.

Support everyone here at Rooftop, no matter who it is.

Nurture the students and fill them with the drink of intelligence and happiness.

Care for the newcomers as they enter the gates of friendship.

Motivate the kids who have not yet found their talent.

Guide those within our reach to a better life.

Help teachers support us when we need help.

Support the ones that have been mistaken or have failed.

Influence us to help those who need help.

Inspire people to work hard and keep the school together.

Strengthen our academics and improve our thinking.

Help us see and clear the fog of wrong and right.

Support others to be there for friends and classmates.

Nudge those who are worried to be confident.

Guide us where we have to go.

Connect our friendship string together.

Teach those who want to create things.

Help our imaginations run wild as we grow.

Nurture the school's creative souls.

Inspire until you spy children with twinkling eyes.

Strengthen our little ones and open their minds.

Encourage students to have faith in themselves.

Remind us to stay as a complete and sturdy community.

Keep the songs and wishes inside our hearts.

Stand firm so we can come back and find you still looking over us and Rooftop.

# **The Raven's Quill**

*would like to offer special acknowledgement to*

**Denise Chan**

*who drew the image that graces the cover of our Winter edition*

*and thank our wonderful teachers*

**Ms. Lissa**

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**Mr. Prizmich**

**Mr. Rogers**

**Ms. Woo**

**Ms. Mocklin**

**Ms. Sugawara**

**Ms. Vernace**

**&**

**our many featured writers and artists**

*for sharing your talents with the Rooftop Community*

**Our Upcoming Theme**

***Spring: FOOD AND SUSTENANCE***