

RAVEN'S
QUILL 2012-
2013



Rooftop school
k-8

Winter

THE RAVEN'S QUILL

Welcome to the 4th edition of *The Raven's Quill*, Rooftop's literary magazine written by students Grades K-8.

Each edition contains written work submitted by Rooftop teachers. We are proud to present this Winter 2012-2013 Edition and hope you will enjoy the wonderful writing that has been submitted.

Each edition has a theme and the theme for this edition is "*Home is Where the Heart Is*," after considering the meaning of home in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Students from various classes wrote their thoughts of what home means to them. There is also a section of poems written in response to the tragedy in Connecticut.

We hope you find, as our student writers did, that the power of words can bring healing and solace, as well as hope. Enjoy!



The Tree

The tree — it's a great thing!
The tree
The tree I know would give us oxygen.
The tree
The tree — it's one thing I like.
The tree
The tree is sprouting all about.
The tree.

— Jordyn M., 4th grade

There's no place like home. Some of our favorite places in San Francisco — from the Golden Gate Bridge to San Francisco's City Hall — inspired the colorful collaged ornaments on the Rooftop School tree on display at Davies Symphony Hall during the holidays.

“Home & Heart” Poems by Ms. Cooke’s Class

In My Heart

In my heart, my family gives me love and care.
My family lives in my heart.
All the care and love makes me happy and strong.
My friends make me feel like I belong.
In my heart, my family gives me love.

— by Kalin R., 2nd grade

Home is Where the Heart Is

In my heart, is my family’s care and kindness.
Their love for me, and my siblings
Their selfless help with homework
Their help, to keep me healthy
Their care, to bring my friends over
Their love, to cook dinner for me each night.
These people are my parents.

— by Emilia O.-S., 2nd grade

Home is Where the Heart Is

Home is where the heart is.
There is nothing better than the heart, or the home.
A stuffy or a toy doesn’t feel as good
As the love in my heart for my family.

— by Nicholas Y., 2nd grade

In My Heart

In my heart I have family and friends.
They are nice and kind.
We have fun together.
They are helpful when I need them.
We celebrate together, some of the holidays.
Some of us help each other how to read, or write or draw.
I love my family and friends.

— by Corinne S., 2nd grade

Students made “*Home is Where the Heart Is*” origami houses to raise funds that were sent to *Save the Children* to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.



Thoughts from Ms. Kastner & Ms. Whitcomb's 3rd Graders

My Special Place

My special place is where it is always sunny. Nature is everywhere. I can hear the waves when I sleep. Everyday I would play in the water. I would get everything I wanted in my favorite place.

— by Emelia, 3rd Grade

My Special Place

If I could have a special place it would be near a desert and on a rock. It would be so hot my skin would be dark. It would have lots of company and happiness. There would be plenty of water and food. When the hot summer came everybody would come out of their houses and jump into the pond.

— by Timothy, 3rd grade

My Special Place

My special place is a beach house. You can go out whenever you want and play in the sand. You can skip rocks and your school is across the street. The sun is shining all the time and you can see turtles at night.

— by Toby, 3rd grade

My Special Place

My special place would be high in the mountains. It would be a little cottage with lots of windows to see the beautiful sunset. You could see the sparkling rain drops fall from the dark gray sky and form dew drops on flower petals and tree leaves when the sun comes out. I would have a great view of the meadows and lakes with drooping willows, gorges and mini waterfalls coming from the melting snow in the spring. In the winter, the snow would fall in delicate form and beauty. The lakes would freeze so I could go ice skating. In the morning, I would hear all the birds chirping wonderful melodies with pure care and loveliness. In the spring, there would be lots of sleepy animals coming out of their dens from the winter hibernations. At night the nocturnal animals would come out and catch mice and other animals. The mountains are full of wonder and surprises.

— by Klara, 3rd grade

Thank You Earth

Thank you trees for giving us clean air to breath.
Thank you lakes for giving us fresh water to drink.
Thank you sun for lighting up our day from morning til night.
Thank you moon for lighting our dark starry night.
Thank you earth for giving us all we need.

— by Skyler, 3rd grade

Thank You Earth

Thank you sun for helping the children to be warm.
Thank you moon for the light that shines on the people outside.
Thank you trees for giving us air and materials to use.
Thank you rain for watering our plants to make them grow.
Thank you oceans for keeping sea animals safe.
Thank you humans for giving goodness to us.

— by Jade, 3rd grade

Thank You Earth

Thank you clouds for giving us rain so it does not have to be sunny all the time.
Thank you worms for giving us soil.
Thank you trees for giving us oygen.
Thank you sun and moon for giving us light during the night and day.
Thank you bees for pollinating our flowers.
Thank you plants for plants for providing food for us.

— by Jude, 3rd grade

Thank You Earth

Thank you sun for making our plants grow so we can eat them.

Thank you moon for lighting the light sky for us.

Thank you bees for pollinating our plants so we have honey.

Thank you oceans for letting our fish live.

Thank you stars for lighting the night.

Thank you trees for giving us oxygen so we can breath in.

— by Dezyre, 3rd grade

Thank You Earth

Thank you trees for giving us shade and oxygen.

Thank you rain for helping our plants grow.

Thank you sun for keeping us warm and healthy.

Thank you wind for keeping us cool when it's HOT!

Thank you worms for helping our plants grow.

— by Liam, 3rd grade



Illustration by Rachel, 4th grade

“Home Is...”
by Ms. Toupin’s 3rd Grade Class

What is home?

Home is a resting place

Home is a quiet place

Home is a place to relax

Home is a place where my brother hits me

Home is a place where I get Doritos but not from Devin

Home is a place full of fun

Home is a place I get to see my friends

Home is a fun, fun place where I get to have play dates

Home is a place where I get time for my family and a place
where my brother and my mom and I have fun!

— by Brenda, 3rd grade

Home is....

-where I eat my mom’s yummy dinner every night

-where my feet feel cold on the black wooden floor

-a house on Eastwood Drive

-where I can draw my imagination onto a piece of paper

-a place where I hear m neighbor’s little sister cry.

Why does she cry so loud?

-where I can pick the green sourgrass from my back yard. ‘

Why is there so much?

-where the love starts, home is

— by Mia, 3rd grade

Home is....

Home is where my heart is.

I like it how it is.

I have some cabinets and some magnets.

I like it how it is.

I smell rosemary when it's Christmas time.

I see a couch when I'm in my house.

I like it how it is

Home sweet home! Don't moan and groan.

When I go into my backyard,

I play with balls on the lawn

Like baseballs, footballs and soccer balls,

Oh it's really fun!

— by Caleb, 3rd grade

Home is...

-the smell of coffee beans and moms and dads

--the sound of my mom and dad saying, "I love you!"

-the sound of my mom typing on the computer! (Zip!)

--the sound of the refrigerator opening and closing (Ekk)

-the smell of my dad baking cookies! (yum)

-the sound of my sister and I watching TV (Figgy)

-the sound of me flipping pages of The Harry Potter books (weshh)

Home is the sunny side of me, so home is heaven!

— by Max, 3rd grade

Home is....

- a pink home and a black and white dog and a brown and white bunny.
- the smell of a new Christmas tree
- 4 children who never stop watching TV.
- a Dad that only doesn't work on Saturday.
- a sister that has her only dog.
- a person that has a bunk bed
- sounds of 2 kids jumping and running
- 3 kids that go to the park.
- a mom that helps you with the Christmas decorations.
- a dog that is one year old.
- a bunny that eats everything!
- And that has been my home!

— by Angela, 3rd grade

Home is...

Old home, new home, not much difference.
Bad days, good days, not much difference.
Sometimes you're sad, but home cheers you up.
When there is thunder, home says don't be scared.
Home holds your memories and ideas tight.
Home is where you feel safe and protected from hurt.
Home makes you complete.
Home is where you play and go to sleep.
Home is where you have sweet dreams.
Home, sweet home.

By Marvin R., 3rd grade

Home is...

- where I roam free in my mother's garden
- where I feel comforted by my family
- where it smells like cinnamon and mint.
- where there is always something cooking in the kitchen
- a place where I can have some peace and quiet
- where it sounds like peace and love
- where the heart is, home is

— by Amanda, 3rd grade

Home is...

- a blue brick house
- a black and skin colored lamp
- parrots squawking as they rest on my birdfeeder
- the bottom of my Beautiful Oops bird house
- a lemon tree growing baby lemons
- seeds littering the family balcony
- squirrels scurrying around the balcony
- stairs, carpeted by a tan carpet
- a room with a bunk bed, closet, and toys littering the floor
- a soup smell wafting through the house
- pine needles sending off the Christmas Holiday Smell
- the dishwasher churning, letting out the Clean Dish Smell
- the laundry machine beeping, smelling of warm, soft pillows
- eight toothbrushes from the orthodontist
- two bottles of bubblegum fluoride
- a train huffing and puffing around the Christmas tree, sending off small puffs of smoke that smell like birthday candles
- apples just sitting in a blue bowl
- And one giant tree that squirrels call home

— by Poppy M., 3rd grade

“These Are The Things I Know Are True...”

by Ms. Woo’s 4th Grade Class

These poems were written by students in Ms. Woo’s class as they struggled with the events that occurred in Connecticut. They were inspired to focus on what remains true and beautiful in our world and wrote their poems to the beginning line from San Francisco author Amy Tan’s novel and opera, *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*, “These are the things I know are true...”.

This I Know to Be True...

Sometime in life, something has to end
but this I know to be true.
There is good in everyone,
even if you don’t know it.
There’s always you and your family to make you happy
This I know to be true.
If you don’t have a friend, make a friend
so you don’t have to be alone.
There’s still the sun, moon, and stars.
No need to be sad.
This I know to be true.

— by Justin, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

Sometimes in life, terrible things happen,
but this I know to be true,
that the sky is blue,
that the rain still falls,
and that there is such a thing as happiness.
But this I know to be true,
some terrible things happen in life
but there are more beautiful things.
That I know to be true.

— by Sophie, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

Even when something bad happens
the grass is still green
and most people are true,
birds can still chirp,
trees can still grow,
flowers can still blossom and most importantly,
people still have good inside them
it might not look or seem like it
but it's true
everyone matters,
everyone cares
and you can know that
someone will be there for you
This I know to be true.

— by Elena, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

Through the clouds I see
things that are not always there.
Though you may think their mind is clouded
it may not always be true.
The loneliness could be the only thing
that is triggering the madness that you may be seeing.
Though everything will still be there
no matter what happens.
The sky, the clouds, the trees, and water
will all still be there for you.

— by Josie, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

This I know to be true
There will always be day and night
This I know to be true
The seasons will always come
Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer
This I know to be true
There will always be happiness
This I know to be true
There will always be beautiful and ancient writing
This I know to be true

— by Annie, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

This I know to be true
My family will always love me
no matter what I do
the sun will shine
the flowers bloom
but it will sometimes rain too
but this I know to be true
the sun will always shine again
the flowers always bloom
and no matter how much bad there is in the world
there's a lot of good stuff too
this I know to be true
snow will always fall
peace will always come
all the stuff that's bad and dark
will always end in love
This I know to be true

— by Ronin, 4th grade

This I Know to Be True...

This I know to be true...
The sun will rise in the morning,
The moon will rise in the night,
The flowers will bloom,
The birds will fly,
and the stars will always be true.
The snowflakes will fall,
The spiders will build their webs,
and the sea will still be beautiful.
Though tides and waves will change,
This I know to be true.
You will always be you.

— by Olivia M., 4th grade



One of Mr. Roger's 4th graders holds a Blue Marble destined to travel to the place dubbed "The Blue Heart of Our Planet" by Bay Area explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle. When our Blue Marble arrived in Paradise Bay, Antarctica, our students were physically connected to one of the most remote places on Earth.

“Art Is...” Winter Solstice Poems

written by Mr. Weis’ 6th Grade Class

San Francisco author Deng Ming-Dao states that in the Taoist tradition “the Winter Solstice is a reminder that darkness reaches its greatest extreme—for exactly one day... The darkness of the solstice cannot be avoided—but human beings can outlast it and live to see the next day.” On Friday, December 21, the 6th grade students wrote these gratitude poems after brainstorming a list of things that they were most grateful for, especially after the Mayan Calendar predictions.

On this Winter Solstice day,
This day of laughter and smiles
This day of new beginnings
This day of celebrating
I have lived another day

I am thankful for...
Beds, sleep and all together REST
Winter Break, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah
Writing, pencils, pens and paper
Books, movies, and friends to share them with
iPads, iPods, i whatever else
Jokes, cheesy puns and riddles
Family, friends and my cousins
My house, shelter and warmth
That is what I'm thankful for.

— Joley, 6th grade

Today, the world will be covered in darkness
But we've lived through another day.
We will sleep through the darkness. We will be thankful to be alive.
We will be thankful for a blanket and a heater to keep our cold house warm.
We'll be warm as we watch the movie *Pitch Perfect*.
Laughing along with the jokes.
I am grateful to be alive.

— Abby, 6th grade

Poem

The Winter Solstice passes,
Taking fear with it,
I know what I am grateful for
As the day has come to light.
An imagination to write this poem
And pets to imagine with,
Holidays that bring all joy,
And three homes to celebrate them in.

The niceness that's around my life,
that keeps me going every day,
As Winter Solstice passes, that's
What I have to say.

— Ben, 6th grade

My World

On this day
Day of darkness
Day of light
Day of life

Life continues
I look back
And I am grateful

Grateful for my education
Grateful for energy
Grateful for sleep
Grateful for love
Grateful for life
Grateful for my world

— Sydney C., 6th grade

On the Winter Solstice

On the Winter Solstice
The longest night of the year
I am grateful for...

The oxygen that lets us smell
the wonders of the world

I am grateful for...
The options, choices, opinions and respect that
We get as a right

I am grateful for...
A hot cocoa on a cold day

I am grateful for...
A roof over my head,
Food on the table, and
My family to enjoy it with me.

— Lila, 6th grade

“Personification” Poems

written by Ms. Sugawara’s 7th Graders

The following free-write assignment asked students to write from the point-of-view of their neighborhoods and city. This written material will be further developed into student performances for upcoming *The North Star Project*.

San Francisco

I am not who you think I am...
I am the walk on the beach at the cool time of evening
The ocean waves crashing against the sand
But you want to get home before darkness falls
I am the unexplainable excitement during a sports game
The favored team is winning, but then the underdog comes back
I am the dark of night
welcoming and hostile together
I am the feeling of adrenaline when you stand on the top of twin peaks
On top of the world
I may be uneasy at times and at others confident
I am someone that can overcome tragedy
And find good in everything
I can be dangerous at times
but fun too
I am San Francisco

— by Ben F., 7th grade

The Bayview

I am not who you think I am...

People call me ghetto
Poor
Unsafe
but for the people who do know me
Call me
Home
and say I am filled with
Culture
and have
History and
Love

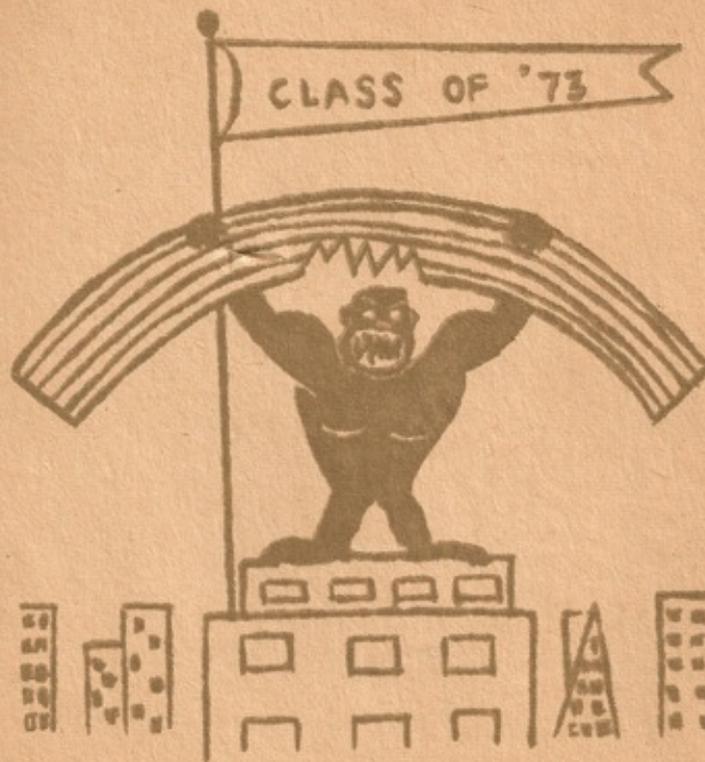
And to others they have
Nothing
to say because they have
Never Seen or
Heard of me

I am not who you think I am
like the news put me

— by Tatiana, 7th grade

From the Mission District murals to Victorian painted ladies, our world-class museums, and the hills and vistas of Twin Peaks, San Francisco is full of exciting places to learn and explore. Whether taking in *The Snowy Day*, experiencing a symphony concert, or stepping up to the open mike in an intimate art house, we hope that these kinds of experiences help your child to feel a stronger sense of connection to their home town.

ROOFTOP SCHOOL



JUNE 14, 1973

The first drawing of Rooftop's mascot Kong on cover of the school's first yearbook from 1973.

Rooftop at 40

Standing at the top of the steps
My mind floating over
The city's rooftops
Considering Ms. Mayeda's words:
"Rooftop is as close to educational heaven as you can get."
Rooftop only an idea
For 7 earnest, young idealistic teachers
20 years earlier.
Like a floating artichoke seed
Above the Margaret Condon amphitheater,
It landed in fertile fervent soil
The best of the 70's Zeitgeist
Guided by consensus and 12 hour staff meetings
Nurtured by a robust community spirit,
And the question "What is best for our youngsters?"
(Ms. Mayeda again)
Through the next 20 years I would grow in
Admiration of and pride for this unique place.
Seeing in the engaged faces of the morning circle song
(Famously parodied by the king of morning circle-Bob Pringle-
"You're like Godzilla coming around the bend")
And the every day care, compassion and courage
Of all who land here
That Nancy's words were true as the clear vision
Of a wind raked sky.
Rooftops protect, watch over and embrace
A home.

— John Prizmich, SDC Teacher, Rooftop ES

“Home Is Where the Heart Is”

Home is where the heart is
where the orchids grow
and hummingbirds watch me
through the kitchen window.

Home is where the heart is
I check my armor at the front door
and wander through my heart of hearts
that no one else can see.

— by Sue Smith, 7th & 8th Grade Science Teacher

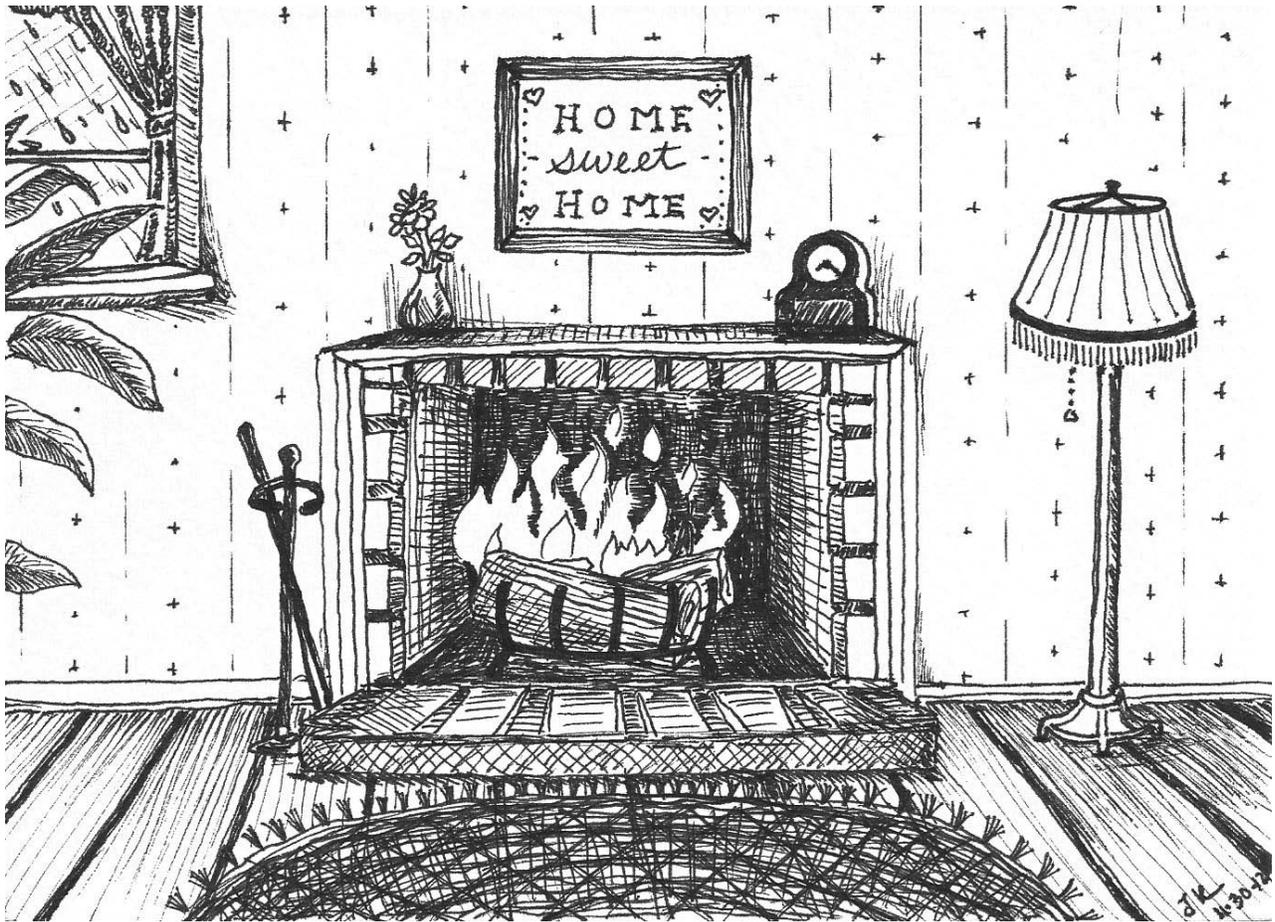


Illustration by Ms. Jenny Kennedy, 5th grade teacher

Tips on How to Be a Great Mom

Words of wisdom from Ms. Woo's 4th Grade Class of 2012-2013

- Don't be scared about baby fat because if you do, she will end up as skinny as a pencil! ~Nathan
- Take her to awesome places, like San Bruno Mountain, to see wild flowers, Mission Blue Butterflies, and the beautiful Bay. ~Luz
- Practice anger management. ~Kyle
- Normally, when she has a tantrum and cries, she's hungry. ~Brom
- Make sure that she has books so you can read to her. ~Isa
- Don't put her near the TV a lot because it will fry her brain. ~Jordyn
- Take your baby to the playground to play and take a walk in the park. ~Jose
- Don't spoil her *too* much. ~Karime
- Be prepared for when she is a teen. She might be snobby. ~Olivia C.
- Make sure her clothes are comfortable - no itchy tags. ~Olivia M.
- If she's sad, give her a cookie. ~Tyler M.
- Put a little fence around the stairs until she learns how to walk safely. ~Sophie
- When she is crying, just give her a carrot or a piece of watermelon. ~Justin
- Have the art supplies ready for the "artistic" mood. ~Elena
- Be stocked up with Pull-Ups and diapers. ~Emmanuel
- Don't feed her a lot of pasta. Put exactly 8 meatballs. ~Brianna
- Don't let her stuff her mouth so full of food that she can't chew because if you do, she will spit out half the chewed food and then refuse to eat it. ~Annie
- Teach her things in a fun way. ~Josie
- At the age of 2, teach her shapes. ~Ben
- Cradle your baby in your arms when she cries and sing a lullaby. ~Caitlin
- Feed your child well, but don't over feed your child. ~Kevin
- Have paper and crayons ready to go. ~Camilla
- Take your baby out somewhere so she can learn things. ~Xavi
- When she's crying, give her a better way to be entertained than giving her a phone or iPad. Give her something else, like take her outside. ~Lua
- Have fun with her. Play games! ~Braeden
- Never drop your baby. ~Daisy
- Put your baby to sleep early. ~Casandra
- When a baby is crying, that means she wants her mom.
- Rock her back and forth. ~Ismael
- Get her what she *needs* before you get her what she *wants*. ~Ronin

Extra Bonus Tips...

- Sometimes, even if your kids don't want to do something, you have to make them do it.
- Change her diaper every time it's stinky.
- Encourage her creativity.
- Don't do time outs. She won't learn anything and will just think she's going to her room.
- Let her be herself.
- Have fun! Play with her!



Happy Baby, Ms. Obayashi!!

The Raven's Quill

would like to offer special acknowledgement to

Justin C.

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

and thank our wonderful teachers

Ms. Cooke

Ms. Kastner

Ms. Whitcomb

Ms. Toupin

Ms. Woo

Mr. Prizmich

Ms. Kennedy

Mr. Weis

Ms. Wong

Ms. Smith

Ms. Sugawara

&

our many featured writers and artists

for sharing your talents with the Rooftop Community

Rooftop School has a longstanding love of the written word and a special relationship with poetry.

The Rooftop Poetry Archives captures almost a century of poetry associated with Rooftop — from a 1924 poem written to commemorate the founding of the Twin Peaks School PTA, to the lyrics of the Rooftop school song first sung in 1972, to a 2010 cento written by the teachers — and the Fall 2011 inaugural edition of *The Raven's Quill*, Rooftop's student literary magazine.

http://artsed4all.org/RooftopHistory/Poetry_Archive/Poetry_Archive.html