

# THE JOHN H. FINLEY POST

Excellence Without Excuses

December 2017 Post  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Principal Odelphia Pierre  
Assistant Principal Andrea Story  
Assistant Principal Maria Penaherrera



## An Interview with Mrs. Pierre by Malia B.

*"Strive everywhere you go. If better is possible, good is not enough."* – Odelphia Pierre

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### Upcoming Events/ Holidays

- December 6<sup>th</sup> - Bake Sale
- December 12<sup>th</sup>  
My Plate Performance
- December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Visitor: Dr. Preston James
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Winter Formal (Grades 6-8)  
4:00 - 6:00  
Tickets are \$5
- December 25 -29 Winter Recess (School resumes January 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Malia: When is your birthday?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "September 3<sup>rd</sup>."

**Malia: Where are your parents from?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Trinidad."

**Malia: What is your teaching profession now?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Principal."

**Malia: What schools/colleges did you go to?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Long Island University for my bachelor's degree. Brooklyn College for a master's degree. Went back to Long Island University for an administrative license."

**Malia: What got you into the teaching profession? Why are you the principal?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "I love working with kids. I couldn't see myself doing another job. I love people. Additionally I have a good sense of motivation, patience, and the desire to help others learn."

**Malia: What was one of your first jobs?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Teaching in a daycare center as well as part time in a library. I always did everything around people."

**Malia: What are some of your hobbies?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Traveling (love to go on cruises), bowling, watching sports such as: football, basketball, and baseball. I also love any board game or puzzles."

**Malia: What is a fun fact about you?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "I make people laugh and sometimes say crazy things. You would never be bored around me because I make crazy jokes."

**Malia: When did you start working as the principal?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "1999 as a principal, 18 years ago."

**Malia: Do you love your job at P.S/M.S 129?**

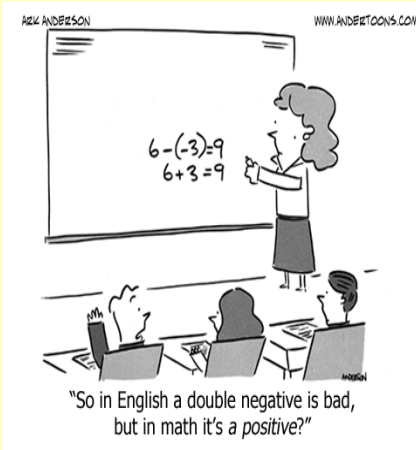
**Mrs. Pierre:** "I love what I am doing and I love every moment of it."

**Malia: What is/are your favorite color(s)?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "Pink and green"

**Malia: Is there anything else you will like to include?**  
**Mrs. Pierre:** "This made me reflect. I was so scared when I first worked here. What prepared me was the people, my ability and the resources. I met great children, parents and amazing teachers. They motivate me over the years. Excellence without excuse. We will never have to apologize to be smart. If you are smart, do not let anybody call you a nerd. Never give up your beliefs. Strive everywhere you go. If better is possible, good is not enough. Go from good to great, then you will always be on the right track."



Cartoon by Garrett D.

**December - Safe Toys and Gifts Month** by Jenifer P. and Malia B.

Well, it's December and time to begin to buy or make presents and/or cards for someone you care about! However, there are some things to keep in mind when you do.

Shoppers who are buying toys for a child or a younger sibling should be aware that small parts in the toys, such as magnets and "button" batteries, can lead to death or injury. In 2007, "toy makers recalled over a million toys worldwide because of safety concerns as a result of lead paint and small magnets." (Mayo Clinic, 2017)

When it comes to the joy of receiving toys and gifts, children and teens might look at their favorite toys and forget about the risk

and the safety issues that are connected with the toy. "According to the U.S. Consumers Product Safety Commission, hospital emergency rooms were treating an estimated 251,700 toy-related injuries in 2010 throughout the United States. 72% were to people less than 15 years of age." (Mayo Clinic, 2017)

So it is really important that if you are giving a toy to a younger sibling, any family member, or friend that you consider the safety and age range of that toy.

With all of that written just remember to be safe and have fun!

**Learn a New Language!**

English - Good morning

Spanish - Buenos días

Arabic - Sabah alkhayr

(صباح الخير)

Chinese - Zǎoshang hǎo

(早上好)

French - Bonjour

Italian - Buongiorno

German - Guten Morgen

**Keeping Our School Clean** by Aviance D.

"Pick that garbage up!" Now I'm sure we've all heard that or said that to someone else when they are being too messy and seem too busy to bother with cleaning up after themselves.

A fellow eighth grader, Djata, was very eager to share how she felt about this situation. "Even though there are janitors and teachers to clean up the rooms, at times, it is still messy. There needs to be a solution. We need to do more as students. We need to be more conscientious and thoughtful about what we do with the items we no longer need because the janitors, teachers, administration can only do so much," Djata stated.

A gum wrapper or a crumpled paper on the floor might seem like no big deal, but if everyone is doing this, then it is a big deal. "Not only are the rooms messy, but our hallways and lockers are as well," Djata stated. Inside the lockers at times there can still be items from the student it belonged to last year. "There are empty food wraps still in there or old milk in the lockers, which not only smells bad, but attracts bugs," Djata continued.

While realizing that it does smell is recognizing the issue, it is not solving the problem. We need to, each and every one of us, start cleaning up and caring for our school. So if you see a gum wrapper on the floor, just help out and throw it out.

**How to Make a Positive Impact** by Jasmin C.**How You Can Help Make a Positive Impact****1) Make friends with someone you don't know at school**

If you've ever been isolated from others at school or you were new at school and it took time to make friends, you know what it feels like to be left out. Or even if you were never isolated, imagine how it would feel.

This month make friends with someone at school who you don't know.

Be a leader. Take action and help to make a positive impact for our school community.

**2) Challenge Others To Be Kind**

Make kindness go viral with an act of kindness and challenge friends and classmates to pay it forward with their acts of kindness.

## Oh No! What?! No Way! That Really Happened?! Or Did it Really? by Cire B. and Angela P.

Have you ever played the game telephone? Well gossip is very similar to it. At the end, the sentence once mentioned can become very twisted. This game can be funny, but in real life, gossip can be hurtful.

### Talk Versus Gossip

Talking is how you spread your thoughts, ideas, and experiences to those around you. Additionally it is not always inappropriate to tell your friends about someone you might know. For instance, saying "I like hanging out with Jake. He tells the funniest stories!" is fine, as those words are not harmful to anyone.

However, when you say mean things, tell stories that you're not sure are true, or reveal information you know was supposed to remain private, you're spreading gossip.

What if you see Jake go into the principal's office and you started to wonder if he is in trouble. Then after you wonder this you immediately started to tell other people that Jake's in big trouble. However, you really have no clue why Jake was in the office to begin with.

Then before you know it, everyone is talking about how Jake is in big trouble and thinking of scenarios for why. "Maybe he played a prank on his teacher," someone says. "Maybe he got into a fight with a kid who didn't laugh at one of his jokes," another student suggests. When Jake finally comes back EVERYONE wants to know his business.

Jake might be a little angry or confused about all the questions, especially when he explains, "I went to the principal's office because my mom was there to take me to a doctor appointment."

That's how **rumors** work. They start small and often blow up into something far different from the truth.

### What If It's True?

Even if it **was** true that Jake was in big trouble – and you knew this for a fact – it wouldn't have been right to tell everyone else about it. Before you blab, try this out: Ask yourself if you would want other people to know

that kind of stuff about you.

Sometimes a friend will admit something to you and ask you not to share. This information might not seem so secretive to you and you might not be sure why you can't share. Sometimes you might just overhear something and you have tons of questions about the situation and what to share what you have observed. But remember you only heard **one piece** of the story.

### When It Is Okay to Tell

Of course, sometimes it's OKAY to talk about another person, especially if it involves possible dangerous behavior. What if a classmate brings a dangerous object into school or your friend tells you something that is considered unsafe that might be happening at home? In cases like these, you need to tell a parent or another trusted adult. Telling a grownup who can help is **not** gossiping.

### Gossip Busters

If you happen to hear a rumor, don't repeat it – and don't listen to it either. Additionally when someone trusts you with a personal secret, keep it to yourself. Unless of course it is considered unsafe activity, then tell a teacher or administrative staff member of the school immediately or another trusted adult.

If you're the victim of gossip, talking to a close friend, sister, brother, parent, teacher or guidance counselor can help you feel better.

At first, gossip might seem like fun. It can feel like a private little club with you and your friend whispering about another person. But if someone gossips *with* you, he or she also might gossip *about* you. And it doesn't feel good to be on the receiving end. Stick with friends who would rather live their own fun lives than talk about someone else's!

## Math Problem of the Month

Jose removes 30% of the water in a jar. He then removes 40% of what remains in the jar. What percent of the original amount of water is now in the jar?

Answer will appear in the next edition.

Be the first to answer correctly and your name will appear in the next issue. Must show all work and explain your answer.

Turn in your answer to: Ms. Fagan or Mr. Kroenert



## What Is Bullying? By Hanan A.

**Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived discrepancy or one-sidedness of power. The behavior is usually repeated over time. Kids who are bullied and those who bully others may have serious, long lasting problems.**

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

For instance children with albinism are teased and physically bullied by classmates who don't understand their condition. The students who are made fun of withdraw from learning – and many ultimately leave school early. Bullying in schools is a subject that is talked about a lot. But what is bullying?

### Types of Bullying

There are many different types of bullying that can be experienced by children and adults alike. Some are obvious to spot, while others can be more subtle. The different types of bullying that you should be aware of are as follows:

#### Physical Bullying

Physical bullying includes hitting, kicking, tripping, shoving, pinching and pushing or damaging property. Physical bullying causes both short term and long term damage.

#### Verbal Bullying

Verbal bullying includes name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse. While verbal bullying can start off harmless, it can escalate to levels which start affecting the individual target.

#### Social Bullying

Social bullying, sometimes referred to as covert bullying, is often carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Social bullying includes:

- lying and spreading rumors
- negative facial or physical gestures, menacing or contemptuous looks
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- mimicking unkindly
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance.

#### Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying can be obvious or secret by using digital technologies, including hardware such as computers and smartphones, and software such as social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other online platforms.

Cyber bullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private and sometimes only known to the target and the person bullying. Cyber bullying can include:

- Abusive or hurtful texts emails or posts, images or videos
- Deliberately excluding others online
- Nasty gossip or rumors
- Imitating others online or using their log-in

## Recipe to Try:

## Cookie Pops!

The John H. Finley School  
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Prep Time 24 Mins    Chill Time 2 Hours    Cook Time 11 Mins    Yield 4 1/2 dozen

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### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup canola or vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Colored sugars, sparkling sugars, and multicolored jimmies
- 4" white craft sticks

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Beat butter and shortening at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; add sugars, beating well. Add eggs, oil, and vanilla, beating until blended.

#### Step 2

Combine flour and next 3 ingredients; add to butter mixture, blending well. Cover and chill dough 2 hours or overnight.

#### Step 3

Shape dough into 1 1/2" balls. Roll each ball in colored sugar or jimmies in individual bowls, pressing gently, if necessary, to coat balls. Place 2" apart on ungreased baking sheets. Insert craft sticks about 1" into each cookie to resemble a lollipop.

#### Step 4

Bake at 350° for 10 to 11 minutes or until set. Let cool 2 minutes on baking sheets; remove cookie pops to wire racks to cool completely.

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EXCUSES!**

**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.johnhfinley.org/>

## Help to Create Our Newspapers' Logo!

Our school mascot is the Panther.

We need a drawing of one for our school newspaper. So take out those pencils and put on those thinking caps and start sketching some ideas! Our school colors are black and maroon, however, your drawing can be any color or colors.

Drawings are due Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Afterwards students will vote on the drawing they like the most from our website.

Hand in your drawings to Ms. Fagan, or Ms. Wynn.

**Example**

