

THE JOHN H. FINLEY POST

Excellence Without Excuses

October 2018 Post
Volume 2, Issue 1

Principal Odelphia Pierre
Assistant Principal Andrea Story



Contents

Interview with Ms. Colomer	Pg. 1
Interview with Ms. Ryann	Pg. 1
Upcoming events/ Holidays	Pg. 1
Computer Learning Month	Pg. 2
Learn a New Language	Pg. 2
Math Problem of the Month	Pg. 3
History of Halloween	Pg. 3
Diversity Awareness Month	Pg. 3
Pumpkin Spice Cupcake Recipe	Pg. 4
Our School Logo!	Pg. 4
Acknowledgements	Pg. 4

Upcoming Events/ Holidays

- ◆ Columbus Day - Oct. 8th
- ◆ Halloween - Oct. 31st

An Interview with Ms. Colomer

by Noah R.

Where are you from?

I am from Puerto Rico and my family still lives there.

What schools/universities did you attend and for what degree?

I attended the College of New Rochelle for a Bachelor's in Business, and Hunter College for a Master's in Education.

What was one of your first jobs?

My first job after finishing college was being a sales person at a department store.

What did you like most about it?

I liked that I got to meet people.

What did you like the least about it?

I did not like working Saturdays and Sundays and the hours of work were different every day.

Why did you decide to work in the education field? Was there a special moment or person that inspired you?

I decided to work in the education field because I have always loved school. I love to learn and always enjoyed doing well in school, so I decided to share my love of education with others, as well as, try to inspire children to love learning too.

Is there someone you look up to and why?

The person that inspired me to go into the education field was my high school principal. She used to remind me that I could be whatever I wanted to be, and that I had potential to be successful in my future. She is still the principal in my High School, and I still visit her in her office.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I love to read and watch documentaries. I also love to take long walks.

An Interview with Ms. Geldner by Fanta C.

Where are you from?

I am from Minnesota. My family is 50% Australian and 50% Heinz 57

What schools/universities did you attend and for what degree?

I earned my undergraduate degree at Minnesota State University in Resource MGMT. I received my graduate degree at Manhattanville College in General and Special Education.

What was one of your first jobs? What did you like most about it? What did you like the least about it?

My first job was doing chores around the house. What I liked most was getting allowance. I think I liked least was waiting until I saved enough money to buy my own bicycle which was \$144. It was pink with handlebars and a banana seat.

Why did you decide to work in the education field? Was there a special moment or person that inspired you?

I became interested in teaching because I coached ice hockey. I also care about the well-being of future generations and enjoy teaching Science concepts.

Is there someone you look up to and why?

I look up to my mom because she is a smart woman who is also clever and witty with jokes. Additionally she cares about the well being of all living things, and is open-minded.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I like to play ice hockey, ball hockey, enjoy gardening, nature, science (even bugs), playing cards and politics. I always vote. In fact, I already voted this year.

Computer Learning Month
by Fanta C. and Abdramane S.



Exploring Computer Science is a yearlong course developed around a framework of both computer science content and computational practice. Assignments and instruction are contextualized to be socially relevant and meaningful for diverse students. Units utilize a variety of tools/platforms and culminate with final projects around Human-Computer Interaction, Problem Solving, Web Design (HTML, CSS), Programming (Scratch, Edware), Computing & Data Analysis, and Robotics. ECS is recognized nationally as a preparatory course for AP Computer Science Principles.

(<http://cs4all.nyc/programs/courses/>)

Learn a New Language!

English - Computer

Arabic -

الحاسوب

alhasub

Chinese -

电脑

Diànnǎo

French - Ordinateur

Italian - Computer

German - Computer

Spanish - Computadora

Swahili - Kompyuta

Computers and technology are a very important part of our everyday lives, but there was a point in time when many people did not own or even use them. If you can believe that!

Well, as a result of this known importance, Computer Learning Month was established on October 20th, 1987 by both houses of Congress and was supported by a wide-range of hardware companies, publishing houses, teachers, state and national organizations.

It is now a national campaign that is meant at promoting the creative and productive use of computers in the classroom as well as across the nation. Computer Learning Month was established to encourage those who aren't as familiar with computers for reasons ranging from not knowing how to use the most recent version of Microsoft Word, to not knowing how to code, those ways to finally become more computer savvy and knowledgeable. For instance, how many of us can say we were taught how to code from scratch or can create cartoons that move and talk online using code?

Making a guess, we'll say that most people do not know how to code, from scratch, or create a webpage on their own. Many of us know how to type, check our email or messages, use photographing apps, as well as other apps already available by other companies, or research information, but that might be about it. For most of us, that is all we really need. However, the computer can do so much more and knowing how to use one can open so many doors! This is why Computer Learning Month is so important.

Computer Science Program at PS/MS 129

Exploring Computer Science (ECS) is a new course being offered to middle schoolers at John H. Finley. Currently there are about fifty 6th and 7th graders enrolled in the course. Ultimately ECS has the potential to enhance a high school application in two important ways. One, the class can be counted as a math or science course. Second, the course is a stepping stone for AP ESC offered in high schools. As if the logistics aren't fascinating enough, in addition the course provides students with 21st century skills and equips them to be lifelong learners!

If you are a student interested in the course, but you missed out this year, have no fear we will offer the course next year too!

John H Finley Expands Global Scholars to 115 students!

By Ms. Ryann

It all started 2 years ago with just 17 students enrolled in a trial program of Global Scholars. We joined the program in April of 2017 starting at unit 5:Community Action Project (CAP). That year the students tackled cyberbullying and the importance of being a digital citizen. The second year of the program, or the first full year, we expanded to three classes, two of which fully participated. In 2018 the students CAP was informing the world about food waste. They even had special guest director Anna Chai inspire their inner filmmaker! Watch the action here:

<https://www.johnhfinley.org/2018-cap-projects>

With the full support of Mrs. Pierre, here we are, year three! We have expanded the program to 115 students! This year the topic is water. The students enrolled will be collaborating with students in Spain in the cities Barcelona and Madrid; Paris France; Astana Kazakhstan; Beijing, China; Jakarta, Indonesia; Seoul, South Korea; Warsaw, Poland; Tbilisi, Georgia; London and Manchester in the United Kingdom and cities around the United States: Boston, MA; Fort Lauderdale/Broward, FL; Jacksonville FL; Everett, MA; and Hawaii! I can't wait to see the CAP's this year! Read more about Global Scholars on the web at globalcities.org or on our website at <https://www.johnhfinley.org/global-scholars>

Diversity Awareness Month

by Abdramane S.



October is Global Diversity Awareness month and is meant for us to show our commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is the time to support inclusive environments for all ethnicities and cultures.

Here are 3 tips to strengthen your cross cultural and intercultural awareness.

1) Show Respect

Showing respect is very important. Avoid making conclusions right away, or guesses about others by how they look or how they act. Get to know them for who they are.

2) Communication Skills

It is important to understand how others communicate verbally and nonverbally because these signs give hints in the conversation about how the speaker or listener feels. Several communication skills that are important include: Active Listening, Nonverbal Communication, Asking Questions, Clarifying and Summarizing, and Being Understand to Others.

3) Being Open-minded and Flexible

It is important to be open-minded when meeting someone with a different cultural background. No two people think the same way 100% of the

time nor do they solve problems in a similar way all the time. Avoid frustration or confusion by having conversations. Take steps to communicate in a meaningful way to allow for an effective, inviting, and inclusive learning environment.



History of Halloween

By Landin J.

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31. However, why do we do this? Where did the idea of Halloween come from?

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the darker and colder days.

Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to Earth. The Celts would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off the ghosts. Now, we dress up for fun and all the yummy candy.

Math Problem of the Month

$$1 + 4 = 5$$

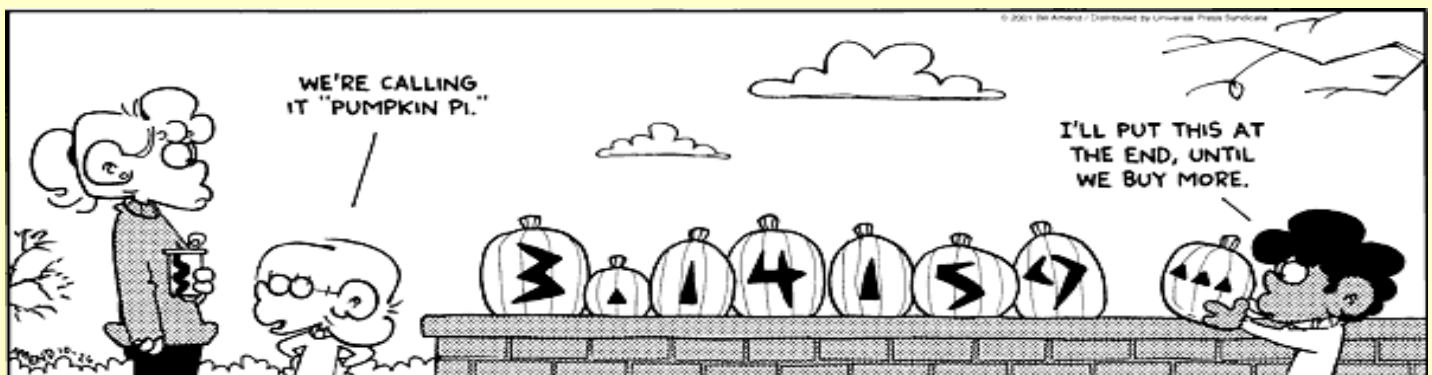
$$2 + 5 = 12$$

$$3 + 6 = 21$$

$$8 + 11 = ?$$

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.



Recipe to Try:

Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes

Prep time: 25 minutes, Cook time: 25 minutes, Ready 1 hour 40 minutes

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Ingredients – Cinnamon Cream Cheese

Frosting

- 1 (8 ounce package cream cheese, softened)
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 3 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Ingredients – Cupcakes

- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup pumpkin puree

Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease 24 muffin cups, or line with paper muffin liners. Sift together the flour, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, clove, allspice, salt, baking powder, and baking soda; set aside.
2. Beat 1/2 cup of butter, the white sugar, and brown sugar with an electric mixer in a large bowl until light and fluffy. The mixture should be noticeably lighter in color. Add the room-temperature eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to blend into the butter mixture before adding the next. Stir in the milk and pumpkin puree after the last egg. Stir in the flour mixture, mixing until just incorporated. Pour the batter into the prepared muffin cups.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until golden and the tops spring back when lightly pressed, about 25 minutes. Cool in the pans for 5 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack.
4. While the cupcakes are cooling, make the frosting by beating the cream cheese and 1/4 butter with an electric mixer in a bowl until smooth. Beat in the confectioners' sugar a little at a time until incorporated. Add the vanilla extract and 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon; beat until fluffy. Once the cupcakes are cool, frost with the cream cheese icing.

Pride Joy Focus

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**EXCELLENCE
WITHOUT EXCUSES!**

We're on the Web!

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

Our Newspapers' Logo!



Acknowledgement of Achievement for working on and contributing to the John H. Finley Post!

5th Grade: Abdramane S., Landin J., Fanta C., Noah R.