

# THE JOHN H. FINLEY POST

Excellence Without Excuses

February 2018 Post  
Volume 1, Issue 3

Principal Odelphia Pierre  
Assistant Principal Andrea Story  
Assistant Principal Maria Penaherrera



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## Upcoming Events/ Holidays

- Feb. 16 - 23  
Lunar New Year and  
Midwinter Break  
(School Closed)

## An Interview with Ms. Penaherrera

by Malia B. and Jenifer P.

**Malia B.:** Where are you from?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** Washington Heights NYC.

**Jenifer P.:** Where are your parents from?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** Cuba and South America.

**Malia B.:** What was your teaching experience prior to this job?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** I was a bilingual teacher for many years. Now I am a supervisor.

**Jenifer P.:** What schools/colleges did you go to?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** Manhattan College for my Bachelors Degree, Fordham University for my Bilingual ESL Studies license, City College for a Science Internship Program. Afterwards I went to Hunter College for supervisory courses as well as Columbia University where I also took courses in Urban and Educational leadership.

**Malia P.:** What got you into the this teaching profession? Why are you the assistant principal?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** I love children and decided to study to help other children because my youngest brother was born with a disability.

**Jenifer P.:** What was one of your first jobs?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** I was a baker. I used to bake cookies at Macy's. Additionally I worked in college as a professor's assistant in the philosophy department.

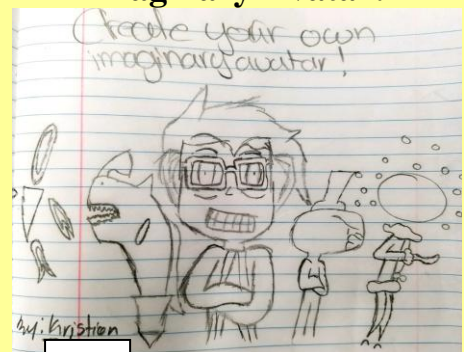
**Malia P.:** What are some of your hobbies?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** I like traveling, I enjoy reading in Spanish. Additionally I enjoy helping to rescue animals and spending time with my family.

**Jenifer P.:** What is a fun fact about you?

**Ms. Penaherrera:** I love to work with teachers and children and do projects with classes.

## Title: Create Your Own Imaginary Avatar!



Artwork by: Kristion J.

## Congratulations Jaquan J.!

Jacquan comes in 3<sup>rd</sup> in NYC in the Braille Challenge!

- interview by Ms. Fagan



**Ms. Fagan:** "What was the name of Challenge?"

**Jaquan J.:** "The Braille Challenge."

**Ms. Fagan:** "Was this your first time participating in it?"

**Jaquan J.:** "Yes it was."

**Ms. Fagan:** "Where was it located?"

**Jaquan J.:** "It was located at John Kennedy High School."

**Ms. Fagan:** "What were some of the activities you participated in?"

**Jaquan J.:** "One was a challenge in arts and crafts. Another was an activity called Goalball. During Goalball players have to be silent for the whole game. Some students get blindfolded that have some vision. Additionally some of the balls the players use beep. The goal is to be able to make a goal without the use of sight. In a third activity we were told several words and had to spell them using Braille. The final challenge was reading Braille passages and responding to essential questions. Each passage was timed for 25 minutes."

**Ms. Fagan:** "What a wonderful job you did! Was there any part that seemed more tricky at first, but you were eventually successful at in the end?"

**Jaquan J.:** "Some of the spelling words. The words, "Doughnut" and "Oatmeal" were challenging, but I was successful in the end with both words."

**Ms. Fagan:** "So I think I know the answer to this, but did you enjoy the competition?"

**Jaquan J.:** "Yes!"

**Ms. Fagan:** "What was your favorite part?"

**Jaquan J.:** "My favorite part was playing Goalball!"

**Ms. Fagan:** "What prizes did you receive?"

**Jaquan J.:** "We received a gift card to Target, Braille Uno cards, a trophy of a lion, a cup, M&Ms and earbuds."

**Ms. Fagan:** "If others wanted to participate for the Braille Challenge what should they do to prepare?"

**Jaquan J.:** "They would have to know how to spell at least 40 spelling words in Braille. They would have to read Braille at a certain rate and respond to questions."

**Ms. Fagan:** "This sounds wonderful. Is there anything else you would like to add about the Braille Challenge?"

**Jaquan J.:** "It was really fun and I had a really good time!"



## John H Finley Students: An exemplar to the Global Community

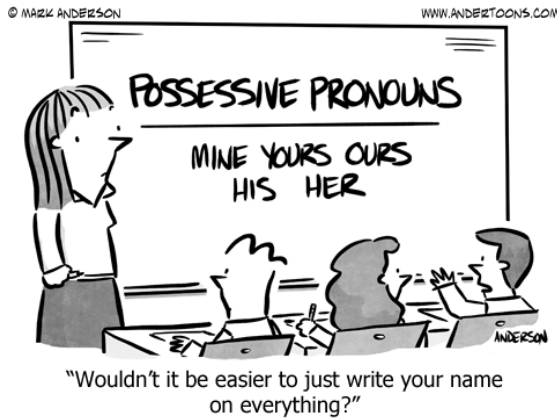
By Ms. Geldner

A Global Scholar Project, led by students in Ms. Nealy's class, was selected as an exemplar to the global community. Megan Wilhelm of Global Cities, Inc. (A Program of Bloomberg Philanthropies) said, "We want to congratulate your students (Jayden, Lizbeth, Sabha and Troyina) from the Compass collaboration on their exemplary presentation for the Unit 2 digital project, *Mapping the Food Environment*. It was great to learn more about the food environment near P.S. 129 and read their thoughtful reflections on food security, especially when it comes to accessing grocery stores and fresh, healthy food. We would like to share your students' presentation...as a strong example of student work."

Congratulations to all the students participating in the Global Scholars. Keep up the great work of leading the global community!

For information about Global Scholars please check the school website:

<http://www.johnhfinley.org/global-scholars-2018>



## CYBER BULLYING

by Hanan A.



**Talk to a trusted adult.** You deserve backup. It's always good to involve a parent but – if you can't – a school counselor, teacher, or administrator usually knows how to help.

**Block the bully.** If the harassment's coming in the form of instant messages, texts, or profile comments, do yourself a favor: Use preferences or privacy tools to block the person. If it's in chat, leave the "room."

**Be civil.** Even if you don't like someone, it's a good idea to be decent and not sink to the other person's level. Also, research shows that gossiping about and trash talking others increases your risk of being bullied. Treat people the way you want to be treated.

**Be a friend, not a bystander.** Watching or forwarding mean messages empowers bullies and hurts victims even more. If you can, tell bullies to stop or let them know harassment makes people look cowardly and mean. It's time to let bullies know their behavior is unacceptable. If you can't stop the bully, at least try to help the victim and report the behavior. Be the positive change that that person and your community needs. And remember this: Change starts with you!

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through text messaging, social media, emails, gaming, or where ever people can share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. This sharing of real or made up personal and private information about someone else can cause embarrassment to the victim as well as huge legal problems for the person or people doing the bullying.

### HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO STOP THE BULLYING:

**Don't respond.** If someone bullies you, remember that your reaction is usually exactly what the bully wants. It gives him or her power over you. Who wants to empower a bully?

**Don't retaliate.** Getting back at the bully turns you into one and reinforces the bully's behavior. Help avoid a whole cycle of aggression.

**Save the evidence.** The only good news about digital bullying is that the harassing messages can usually be captured, saved, and shown to someone who can help. You need to do this even if it's minor stuff, in case things escalate.

### Learn a New Language!

**English** - How was your day?

**Arabic** -

كيف كان يومك?  
kayf kan yawmuk?

**Chinese** -

你今天过得怎么样?  
Nǐ jīntiān guòdé zěnmeyàng?

**French** - Comment  
était ta journée?

**Italian** - Com'è stata  
la tua giornata?

**German** - Wie war dein  
Tag?

**Spanish** - ¿Que tal tu  
día?

**Swahili** -

Umeshindaje?

## Celebrating African American History Month

### The Greatness of Barack Obama

By Janiyiah W. and Mafata D.

Many know Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and first African American president of the United States. During his presidency Obama made many wonderful decisions. Some of these were that he pushed for healthcare reform and signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law in 2010. This law is sometimes called "Obamacare." This law was intended to help poor afford health insurance. Another accomplishment was President Obama's foreign policy relations. President Obama's foreign relations accomplishments include a nuclear program agreement with Iran, and getting rid of Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi as well as Osama Bin Laden, and he opened diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Some interesting facts about our former President are that:

- He likes to play basketball. His favorite sports teams are the Chicago Bears for football and the Chicago White Sox for baseball.
- Mr. Obama can speak Indonesian and some Spanish.
- Before becoming President and an Illinois state senator, Mr. Obama worked as a civil rights attorney, community organizer, lecturer and professor.

### Gabby Douglas

By Allura C. and Jennifer S.

Born on December 31, 1995

Gabrielle Douglas is an American gymnast. She was a member of the United States women's national gymnastics team, which was also known as the 'Fierce Five' by the media, at the 2012 Summer Olympics, where she won gold medals in the individual all-around and team competitions. Douglas is the first African American in Olympic history to become the individual all-around champion, and the first U.S. gymnast

to win gold in both the individual all-around and team competitions at the same Olympics.

### Jackie Robinson

By Khimani C., Kamelah A., and Adrianao S.

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was an American professional baseball player who became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball (MLB). Robinson broke the baseball color line when the Brooklyn Dodgers started him at first base on April 15, 1947.

An exceptional base runner, Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times in his career, setting a league record. In 1955, he helped the Dodgers win the World Series. Before he retired he became the highest-paid athlete in Dodgers history. After retiring, Jackie Robinson become more vocal and encouraged all Americans to support the Civil Rights Movement.

### Malcolm X

By Hensy P., Annalise B., and Genesis L.

Malcolm X was a very passionate supporter of African Americans' civil rights. In the beginning of his work he was a part of a group that believed African Americans should form a separate nation from white Americans. Malcolm believed that African Americans should not be afraid to do whatever it took to defend their rights, even if that had to be done by force.

However, after returning from a trip to Mecca on May 21, 1964, Malcolm changed his beliefs. He said that blacks and whites should try to live together in peace. He also deeply valued education.

On June 28, 1964 Malcolm gave a speech in New York. He mentioned many important topics, but stated that, "education is an important element in the struggle for human rights. It is the means to help our children and our people rediscover their identity and thereby increase their self respect. Education is our passport for the future, for tomorrow belongs only to the people who prepare for it today."

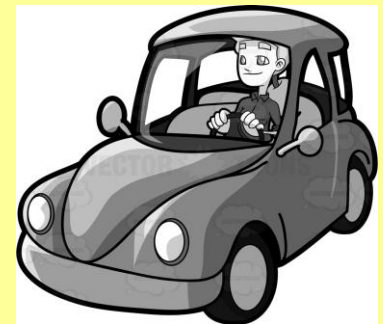
## Math Problem of the Month

Ms. Arcia lives 8.76 miles away from school. After school, she stops at the grocery store, which is 1.9 miles away from school. The trip back to her apartment from the store is 9.14 miles. How many total miles did she drive?

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.

Answer from January's paper: \$32.10



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**We're on the Web!**  
<http://www.johnhfinley.org/>

Recipe to Try:

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 25 minutes

Yield: 24 pieces



#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon espresso powder (optional)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 Tablespoon nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 cup chocolate chips, divided

#### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325°F.

Line a baking sheet or jelly roll pan with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, salt and baking soda. Set aside.

In a separate medium bowl, whisk the egg whites until they're light and frothy. Add the sugar, cocoa powder, espresso powder (optional), oil and vanilla, whisking until smooth.

Whisk the dry milk powder into the egg mixture, then whisk in the flour mixture, just until combined. Stir in 1/2 cup of chocolate chips.

Pour the batter onto the parchment paper. Using an offset spatula, spread the batter as thin as possible, and then sprinkle the remaining chocolate chips atop the batter.

Bake the bark for 20 minutes. Remove it from the oven, and using a sharp knife, cut it into squares. (Do not separate the pieces.)

Return the bark to the oven and bake it for 5 more minutes.

Remove the bark from the oven and allow it to cool completely on the pan before breaking apart the pieces.

## Help to Create Our Newspapers' Logo!

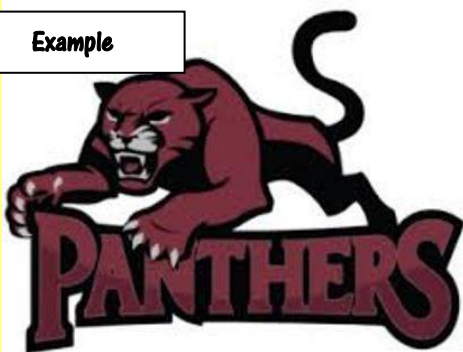
Our school mascot is the Panther.

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 Thursday, May 31, 2018. 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



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

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Janiyah W. and Mafata D.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Allura C. and Jennifer S.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Khimani C., Kamelah A., and Adriano, S.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Kristion J., Malia B. and Jenifer P.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Hanan A., Hensy P., Annalise B.,