

THE BAY CURRENT

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Spring 2023

Debate Team Makes a Statement

by Elissa Dasdemir

The Debate Team Championship Tournament was held over the course of two grueling days of incessant arguing and prepping. The tournament was held on April 1st in the Bronx at PS/MS 5 and April 2nd in Manhattan at MS 104. Competitors that made it to the elimination rounds were eligible for the last round of April, and if you advanced, the second day of the Championships.

NIA is hosting the debate team with advisors Mr. Tutone, Mr. DeVivio, and Mr. Mascioli. Typically, debate tournaments take place on the first Saturday of every month. Each tournament always centers around one topic, and the championship reused the second resolution: "Should the U.S. Government reallocate NYPD resources to Social Services?"

The preparation began with knowing the topic well. The team did a ton of research and examined all details relevant to both sides of the argument. When it was show time, the team competed against all five boroughs in NYC. Some of their competition was Mark Twain, IN-Tech Academy, Hunter's Point, Cavallaro, Special Music School, Yorkville East, Horace Mann, and so many more.

Overall, Bay Academy's team was very successful in the championship. The team saw quarter-finalists, octo-finalists, and semi-finalists, and every person on the team qualified for the championship! Qualifications for this tournament required the debater to have a winning record, and a minimum of a two-tournament attendance. They also had to prepare vigorously for the championships.



Now that the tournament is over, current team members are busy training next year's rookies, with the new season ahead sure to be a great success! Congratulations to the Bay Academy debate team! Your hard work and dedication certainly paid off.

Left: Debate team members celebrate their success, under the direction of advisors Mr. Tutone, Mr. Mascioli and Mr. DeVivio

Pi Day was celebrated at Bay Academy with a longest-digits contest, a pie eating contest and a not-to-be-missed opportunity for students to pie their teachers in the face. Mr. Judge, below right, was one of three winners in the pie eating contest, while student Sofia Rakova was able to recite the most digits of pi. Proceeds from this exciting event benefited St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, with \$1143 raised in donations.



by Nicole Kremyanskiy

The 8th grade senior trip to Boston took place from Wednesday, March 29th through Friday, March 31st, three days of amazing fun. Students got an early start, leaving school by 6:15 am for a 6 hour trip! Our first stop was Quincy Market, a huge food hall in a historic downtown building. After lunch, students headed for the New England Aquarium. It was quite big, with a variety of different sea creatures available to observe. There was even a section where visitors were allowed to touch stingrays! The day ended with a pizza party and a DJ! Everyone was invited to dance and we all had a blast! Just like that, everyone's first day in Boston was over. Even the teachers had a great time!

The second day had a lot in store for Bay Academy students. The morning began with a visit to the Museum of Science which was even bigger than the aquarium. There was just so much to do and so much to explore. Because of rain, our afternoon walking tour was adapted into a fun bus tour where we got to learn about sites around Boston. Later that day we went to Dave and Busters where there were so many games to play. We were able to win tickets and exchange them for prizes. Dinner was delicious with mini burgers, french fries, mini pizza, chicken nuggets and more. At around 10 pm, we went back to our hotel and went to sleep after recounting the great day with our friends before bed.

The last and final day, students were awakened at around 6:15 AM. We all then headed to the main lobby to have breakfast. Once we were done, we packed our bags and went to our tour buses. We were finally heading home.

Seniors Take on Boston



Above: 8th graders enjoy the day at the New England Aquarium.

Building a Brighter Future at Bay

by Angelina Kobryn

This year, Bay Academy had the chance to participate in an exciting environmental initiative - solar panels! As solar panels work in a variety of climates, reduce costs, and are a renewable source of energy, the Bay Academy is helping to make a significant environmental impact.



According to Mr. O'Neill, our school applied to participate in the solar panel program through the Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Once accepted, the city installed panels over the entire span of our roof. The energy collected is returned to Con Ed, who in turn distributes the energy back to New York City. Bay Academy's role in this energy cycle has earned us an "A" rating for efficient schools.

So how do solar panels benefit the environment? When you generate electricity with solar panels, no greenhouse gas emissions are put into the atmosphere. The sun also produces more energy than we will ever require. This makes solar energy a renewable resource. It plays a significant part in lowering fossil fuel emissions and preventing climate change, which is essential for preserving people, animals, and ecosystems. Additionally, the use of solar energy can reduce water consumption and improve air quality in the long term.

Public schools play a big part in this, even Bay Academy which is one of 60 solar installations at public schools in New York City. 75% of the solar energy produced by the city comes from installations on public school buildings collectively. Solar installations on city properties will help New York achieve its goal of reducing emissions from city government operations 40% by 2025 and 50% by 2030. (NYC DCAS)

Participating in the solar program also helps to educate students and to "engage them in being the creators of a greener, more sustainable New York City", says Schools Chancellor David Banks. In order to prepare participating high school students for college or careers in the field, the Solar CTE program offers them curricular and technical instruction as well as work-based learning opportunities in order to possess the knowledge required to contribute to the revitalization of New York. With the help of initiatives like these, New York City will be able to meet its ambitious goal of producing 100 MW of solar energy on city properties by the end of 2025.



Above, the NYC first place Science Olympiad team, with coaches Mr. Caputo, Mr. Lilly, Dr. J, Ms. Poon, and Mr. Li

The Bay Academy Science Olympiad team represented New York City as first place champions when they competed in Syracuse, NY in April. Impressively, the team came in 3rd in New York State among all competing middle school teams. Students competed in categories such as Bridge Building, Anatomy & Physiology, and Sounds of Music. Congratulations to the team, who continue to excel at the highest level.

To Be Honest...

Opinions are the columnists' own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Bay Current or the Bay Academy.

The High Cost of Higher Education

by Alan Kofman

There is already a precedent in US history of free education, where everyone and anyone has the right to attend grades 1-12 (elementary, middle, and high school) for free. Upon observance of this costless schooling system, a new argument has evolved. Should college and university be free as well? Without a doubt, there are benefits to having a tuition-less college. Not only would the problem of student debts be alleviated, but it would also fit with our country's traditional pattern of free education. Yet, with full acknowledgment of the advantages, I believe there is a pressing aftermath to eradicating tuition for higher education.

Tuition is one of many dilemmas college students face when pursuing university. A CollegeBoard report, labeled "Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid" shockingly determined that tuition is less than 30% of what an average student must pay over the course of higher education. Even if college is free, every single student must pay approximately \$16,590 per year to cover transportation, supplies, boarding, and other fees. Even so, this decision would destabilize our national economy in the long run. According to the US Senate, the costs of programs like Bernie Sanders' free college would amount to a staggering \$47 billion per year. The states were, in the end, compelled to cover 1/3 of that cost. Robert B. Archibald and David H. Feldman, both Professors at Williams & Mary College, directly quote, "This will require tax increases, or it will force states to move existing resources into higher education and away from other state priorities like health care, prisons, roads, and K-12 education." An account labeled the Campaign for Free College even stated that Wyoming could lose a potential \$77 million and California \$5 billion in tuition revenue. This huge amount of money lost, though differentiated by state, would surely debilitate our economy.

Besides losing billions of dollars, states like New York would have to pay an additional \$55 million to fully subsidize college tuition. The director of Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, Neal McCluskey, calculated that every single taxpayer would have to pay an extra, annual \$1360 to fund these free colleges, which aren't really free. Finally, eliminating college costs may turn out to be the same thing as eliminating college. Valencia College delineates that millions of people who shouldn't be able to attend college would just be wasting their own time, if not to mention taxes, in a futile attempt to get degrees they don't need nor really want. A National Review survey found that under California's community college waiver program, 50% of the attendees were accepted for free. Fewer than 10% of those students completed a two-year degree over a six-year span of the program.

In retrospect, the drawbacks of free college do not surpass the benefits. Having to amp up taxes in order to possibly shatter our economy and provide higher education to those who won't use it certainly is not in the best interest of our country. Prevalent access to university is greatly beneficial, but the price of free college—our country—does not outweigh the other end of the spectrum.

BAY BACK WHEN

by Alan Kofman and Justin Tong

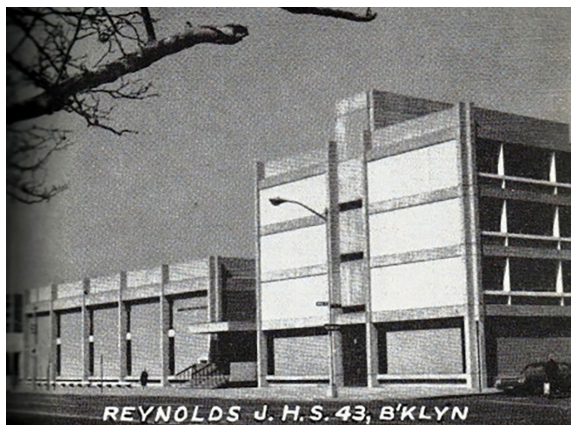
For years now, the halls of Bay Academy have been traversed; decades have passed during which students have sat in classrooms and written on top of desks. Education has been bequeathed from teacher to learner, and yet the setting of every test and quiz is weighed down with both history and a background.

James J. Reynolds Jr. served under the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, from 1963 to 1969. He rose to presidency after the devastating assassination of President Kennedy. Having already been Vice President for 1,036 days, Johnson was inaugurated as the 36th President of the United States. It was under his presidency and leadership that 'A Great Society' was envisioned. This dream soon became Johnson's agenda, and with Reynolds as the Secretary of Labor, the Johnson Administration fought against what 'A Great Society' was purged of: poverty, lack of education, crime, voting obstruction, and so on. Even before that, Reynolds was working under President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to 1965, as the Assistant Secretary for Labor-Management Relations, working to better the working conditions in the nation.

In honor of the legacy James J. Reynolds built through his accomplishments, the Reynolds Junior High School was built. Located on 1401 Emmons Avenue, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, the school name was later changed from J.J. Reynolds to the Bay Academy For The Arts and Sciences. Reynolds Junior High operated roughly from the late 1960s until the mid 90s, and, just like Bay Academy, saw the graduation of waves upon waves of students.

To put it in the words of Mrs. Goldberg, who taught in the original J.J. Reynolds Middle School, "When we were Reynolds, classes were much more teacher dominated. Classrooms were set up in rows with teachers at the front of the class. There is a greater amount of student driven instruction now." The school used to host 9th grade as well, and the clubs were much fewer. The few that did exist extended to "...the environmental club, the careers club and the yearbook staff." There was a basketball and volleyball team as well. SMART Boards, which would not be implemented in the conventional classroom until years later, were out of the question. Instead, traditional chalk boards were used. It was, all in all, "...a different world."

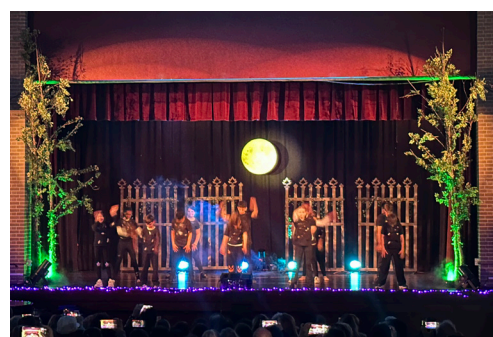
James J. Reynolds Junior High School, an homage to the extensive legacy Reynolds left behind, had a learning atmosphere that is radically unlike what we know. Nonetheless, its purpose: the giving of knowledge, is still being fulfilled today. The ideals of the Reynolds Junior High stand today, in every one of Bay Academy's students, as they stood years earlier.



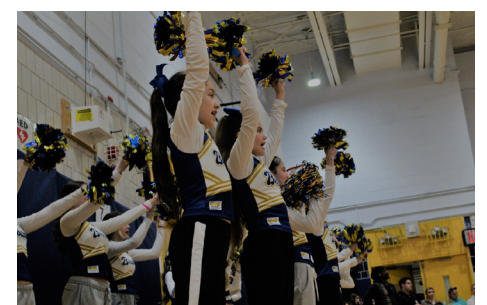
Students Shine at Bay Academy



Top, left and right: Drama students send a message about tolerance in "Hoodie." Left, Dance students mesmerize the audience in their performance of "Thrills and Chills."



Below, Bay Academy's boys basketball team scores a victory against Christa McAuliffe Middle School while the cheerleaders rally the crowd.



Bottom, left and right: Winds, Strings and Vocal students stun at their spring concert.



Scan the QR code to connect to Bay Academy's website. Find dates, news and events happening now!



LAB NOTES



The Legend Of The Tomb Of King Tutankhamun

By Hailey Li

It's a mystery as old as time- the puzzle of King Tutankhamun's tomb. The legend goes that anyone disturbing the remains of the great pharaoh will be faced with illness, bad luck, and even- DEATH. But how did this legend come to be? Better question yet: If you disturb the remains of King Tutankhamun, will such a catastrophe come?



It started in November 26, 1922, when British archaeologist Howard Carter and his financier companion Lord Carnarvon explored and discovered the infamous chamber housing the burial of the young pharaoh Tutankhamun. The pair opened the coffin to discover the many riches and luxuries that filled the coffin, consisting of pure gold jewelry, burial memorials, jewels, and other rare adornments. The pair celebrated, with the discovery making headlines across the world. But then disaster struck.

Two months later, Carnarvon was found dead, killed by blood poisoning by a mosquito. Perhaps it was a mere coincidence - an outbreak was rising during this time, so people did not pay mind to it. But one by one, the loved ones around Howard passed away, all from strange circumstances- Howard was the only one who was spared. In total, eight victims were deceased in a short period, all exactly having one thing in common- they all visited the tomb of King T.

Arguably, this phenomenon could be nothing more than just pure coincidence. But if one were to talk to any historian, even they cannot deny your thoughts. And if you were a great royal living in the past, you would likely also be just as enraged if someone came into your resting place uninvited. Not only because of the fact that someone intruded into your space but also by stealing sentimental objects given by your loved ones. Now, you as the reader cannot deny that this feeling is enraging. So if you had the power to gain redemption for those who did you wrong, even you might use that power for misdeeds. This power is supernatural and the presence of the supernatural can only be opinionated by the individual- as not even science can prove it is factual.

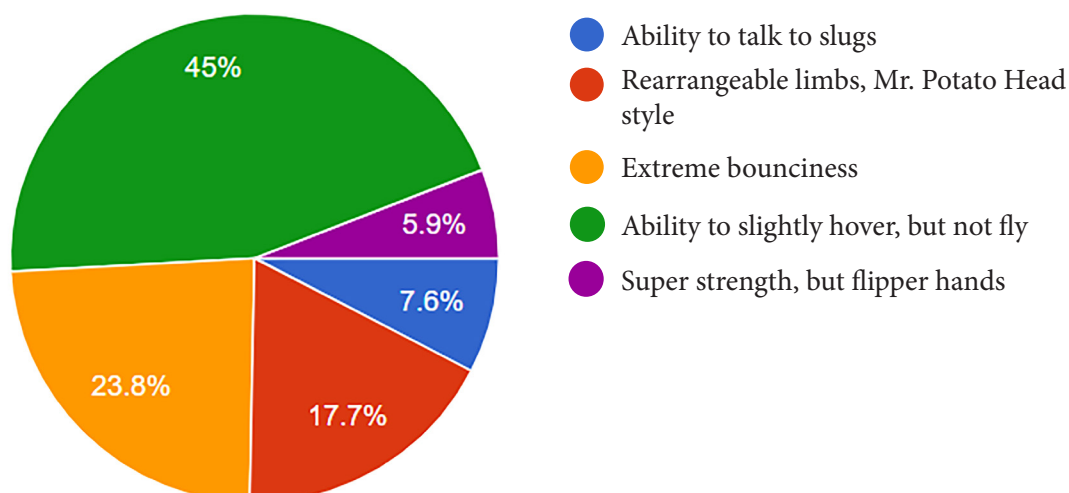
But if it wasn't for the curse, what could have unleashed harm to the explorers? One of the many explanations is mold and toxins. Exhumed bodies are dangerous, this is due to the aging and decades of being buried underground with bacteria and microorganisms. This fact is true, especially with Egyptian mummies. The ancestors of modern Egyptians were infamous for their use of toxins for makeup, clothing, furnishes, and much more. A prime example of this is the black eye makeup common people used at the time. The makeup was made with lead-based substances that cause inflammation, with heavy doses causing permanent paralysis as it attacks the brain and central nervous system. Not only that, the tomb walls many Egyptians were buried in that also included King T, could have been covered with a bacteria known to attack respiratory systems. Those who inhale such bacteria could have deadly side effects that lead to other deadly diseases such as bronchitis, pneumonia and tuberculosis. All of these diseases cause the lungs to fail, and the subject will have compromised airflow. Harmful bacteria is a deadly matter, killing millions unknowingly in a short span of time.

Another hypothesis made was that the victims were ill before discovering King T's tomb. While others hypothesize that Harold had poor health throughout his life. But no one will ever know the truth of the infamous curse of King T, as it is nothing more than a theory.

Fun fact: Meal time in France is considered part of the curriculum. Although kids generally learn eating and tasting food at home, these skills are reinforced in schools. Kids are expected to learn not only about different foods and where they come from (schools try to source locally), but also to display good manners and etiquette.

THE POLL

We asked 409 Bay Academy students: Which bad superpower would you choose?



REVIEWS IN THE NEWS

Books to Check Out

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Reviewed by Alan Kofman

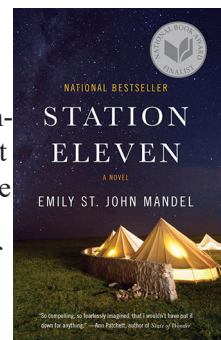
Written in the lines of DNA, in the earliest hints of human evolution, is desire; of yearning for a fresh start. There has always been, and now more so than ever, an unexplainable, shared fascination for dystopian fiction. It may be this desire that urges us to turn the page and dwell further in the world a book creates. In the case of dystopian fiction, it is a world of collapse and one that a rational person would never wish for. Then, why do we read it?

Perhaps the most sensible explanation is that we have always loved exaggerating things; after all, fiction is often just a stretch of the truth. Dystopian fiction is a stretch of problems, contorted in such a way that everything is bad. Others, however, may like the idea of heroism, and post-apocalyptic. Orwellian-style novels certainly pave the way for the emergence of gallant heroes and vigilantes. And others may just like seeing their desire for a clean slate coming true. Whatever the reason—heroism, exaggeration, or a new beginning – Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel, is a perfect combination of the three.

The novel is set in the wake of the 'Georgia Flu', a deadly swine disease that has wiped out all but a few pockets of humanity. The lone survivors have spread out and traveled the land by foot, beware people dubbed ferals, those who have reverted into a mad, wild, and dangerous state by the loss of civilization. Conventional calendars are no longer utilized; instead, years are marked as Year One, or Year Two, in reference to how many years have passed since the flu. This flexible timeline allows for brilliant character development. Mandel weaves the story by jumping back and forth the years post-flu, and pre-flu. This slack time frame also allows for abundant foreshadowing. Items, many of which are symbolic to key themes in the story, are pawned from one character to another without them knowing.

One protagonist, Miranda Carroll, was an artist of a comic book series called 'Station Eleven' (which was also used for the novel title). She was the first wife of Arthur Leander, an actor, and also one of the first victims of the flu. Leander perished on stage, performing an act of King Lear. Previously, he received the comic books as a present and gave them to one of the child actors on set. This child actor was one of the main protagonists in the novel, who was developed in the times after the flu. Through this process, while potentially confusing at first, an elastic plot is created. By creating characters and objects that are, in one way or another, interconnected, it is possible for everybody's point of view to be established.

This omniscient narration and several settings are vital in entwining the plot, the nuances and perspectives of the characters, and even a dramatic, suspenseful tone. Yet these features all are threads, each one desperately needed in order for the final tapestry to be complete. That is the true beauty of Station Eleven and the one that easily fulfills our cravings for dystopian fiction.



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

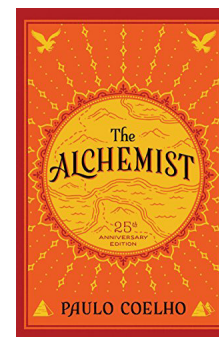
Reviewed by Anastasia Smelnitsky

I think reading this book, in a way, shaped me as an overall person. The way the author describes the protagonist, his actions, and his journey, helps offer an abundance of lessons and morals.

In the classic novel by Paulo Coelho, a youngster named Santiago sets out to find treasure in the Egyptian pyramids after having a recurring dream about it. Along the way, he encounters mentors, falls in love, and, most importantly, learns who he is.

For me, this book was very well suited for self-growth and personal development. This book beautifully illustrates some of the most vital universal lessons. The author sends out the message that you are to put yourself out there, and if you fail, try again. Although commonly said, Santiago keeps on overlooking this theme. He kept trying to find the treasure, and along the way, he learned a lot. Regardless of the bad he went through, in the end, he found the most valuable treasure that a man could possibly discover. It's like Coelho says, "You drown not by falling into a river, but by staying submerged in it."

This book is definitely a solid 5/5.



In Verse: Selected Poems From Mr. Montalvo's writing students

[Untitled]

By Kamila Badadjanova

A wicker ball hangs upon an outstretched arm
taken apart for a new purpose
reshaped into a bundle
which sparrows shall soon spring
and with birds comes blossoms
of the new season.

When it grows cold they fly away
the ferns die, the gardens wither,
the pale flowers of the clouds fall,

their unique pattern unseen by human eye
They bring with a profound cold, sharp as an arrow
which, with the bow, the boy wields and shoots
whizzing through the air and piercing a sparrow

Moonsaulting down, though once perched upon a
tree
resembling a lighthouse with fingers
reaching out grasping for light, green shines
like an emerald plate hit with golden luminescence,
and blooming sending fluttering petals like snow-
flakes
strewn across the grass
and when the clouds let out their tears
the drops fall, shining like pearls
released from their prisons and free of their clam-
shells.

They glow like the sun on a spring day
in a vast sky in which sparrows chirp and sing
and the wind flows like water running through
a spring, and the morning doves coo and chimes ring

What do a lighthouse, an arrow, a wicker-
ball, a clamshell, and a moonsault have in
common? These poems! Students were chal-
lenged to write an original poem using these
five words. Think you can find them? Read
how these young writers implemented these
words into their craft through these poems.

Are you up for the challenge? Join the NIA
Writers Workshop in September with Mr.
Montalvo to harness your craft and stay up
to date on more poetic challenges.

Trapped

by Isabella Khandros

The ocean is doing moonsaults,
to the sounds of crashing waves

I am stuck in a lighthouse,
covered with vines
coincidentally, no beam of life shines.

My mind has been stuck for days and days.
Feels like arrows to my head
“Don’t give up” someone once said,
but I don’t feel encouraged, I feel let down.

The rain is pounding,
that dripping sound
like a wicker ball
all alone, collecting dust.

I see a closed clamshell beside
an open one and think to myself
That’s who I am,
trapped, but will someday open up
to the world

The Beach

by Madeline Yunayev

The sun rose over the water creating an orange
Color. The lighthouse suddenly stops working,

the beam shuts down, I walk to the water,
the water reaches out and grabs my hand

I look down and see a clamshell at my feet,
put the clamshell to my ear I imagine a wicker ball

Falling. I turn around and see a person doing
a moonsault and falling onto the sand, rocks in their
hair

They throw a rock into the ocean, into the right spot
I imagine an arrow hitting a bullseye. Finally, I
close

my eyes, lay on the sand with the water gently
brushing up my body until my eyes are irritated
from the water

Tapestry of Life: A Poem Weaving Five Elements by Abigail Gilman

A wicker ball spun in the air,
tossed by hands with practiced care,
like a dancer in a rhythmic trance,
it moved with effortless elegance.

With a leap and a twist, a moonsault flew,
the ball arced high, as if on cue,
gravity held no sway, no pull,
as if this moment was just too beautiful.

In the distance, a lighthouse stood tall,
a beacon shining, guiding all,
its light has a constant, steady glow,
leading the way through high and low.

Beneath the waves, a clamshell lay,
its treasure is hidden, safe from the fray,
a secret guarded never told,
a pearl of wisdom, more precious than gold.

And in the distance, an arrow flew,
swift and true, with aim so sure,
its target set, its purpose clear,
to pierce the heart, without a tear.

These five things, so different and true,
each with a story, fresh and new,
yet when they're woven, one by one,
a tapestry of life is spun.

Lonely

by Emily Feldman

My feet fall to broken sticks, stars glow
through dark sky, and the lighthouse ray
triggered the critters. Their loud growls
pierced like arrows, I knew they were coming,
I ran, tripped, felt myself spinning in moonsault
fashion. I could hear the creature coming closer,
like a tiger ready to pounce at me
I grabbed the wicker ball covered in mud
and leaves. Now I'm too late,
its footsteps grew louder,
I knew it was there,
it tried to talk to me in its clamshell attitude,
with oval shaped sky blue eyes
It looked at me hoping to indulge,
I sat up to look at his face and found a scratch
at that moment it sensed I was scared
so it ran away like nothing had happened.
All of a sudden my vision went black
And woke up to see my bedroom door,
I saw the window facing the distant world.
I wish I let that critter be my friend.



WHAT WE'RE WATCHING...

by Anastasia Smelnitsky

If I had to rate the new Mario movie, I'd probably give it around a 4.7 or maybe even a 5/5. With help from Princess Peach, Mario gets ready to square off against the all-powerful Bowser to stop his plans from conquering the world. There were several different elements of the movie that were particularly enjoyable, one of which was the relationship between the Mario brothers. It's extremely amazing how, no matter what troubles they go through, they persist on good terms and fight to get back to each other when in separation. I believe that it is absolutely crucial to have trust and a loving relationship/connection with someone. Being able to grow up with that kind of support is a great benefit and source of reassurance in life. I think the overall animation and elements were also very impressive, such as the mushroom land. The fantasy concept and settings were very pretty and eye-catching. The movie has a great hook and is something to enjoy with your family or friends.

WHAT WE'RE PLAYING...

by Alex Aleynikov

Super Mario Odyssey is a very interesting game. It's something you wouldn't expect for \$49.99, but this game has one of the best stories that Mario games has ever had. You start off trying to stop Bowser from having a wedding with princess Peach because she doesn't want to get married. Then Bowser pushes you off his ship and flies off, but a small creature with a hat, with cartoonish eyes, sees this happen and wants to help you. That's where the game starts and this is your introduction to Cappy, a new addition to the Super Mario games. You are now passed out on the floor of a land that you have never seen before. You get up and start going down the road ahead. At the end there's a smaller ship of bunny henchmen who try to stop you. It is challenging to beat the bunny, but certainly not impossible. There's more obstacles ahead and 15 more levels where you have to defeat multiple bosses at the end- and some are large and purple...but we do not want to give too much away! You will need to play the game yourself to find out more!