SHINE ON!
Young Leaders Rising

Showcasing youth voice, action & engagement

SPRING 2013

THIS ISSUE IS IN MEMORY OF
KONG MENG LEE
— MAY HE REST IN PEACE —

Shine On! is a publication of Community Education, Minneapolis Public Schools
**About this issue:**

This edition of Shine On! recognizes the various ways that art impacts, influences, and is a part of our everyday lives. We wanted to offer our audience a theme that was less focused on education and more focused on our love of the arts, but surprisingly, the bulk of submissions intersect with day or afterschool experiences. Thank you to each and every person that sent in submissions or that helped others send in submissions—we received so many!

As you read through this unique edition, there are some common themes we picked up on while reading submissions—see if you can make the connections yourself. Determining a single winner for each category—essay, poetry, original artwork, and photography—was challenging, but it had to be done. Please commend the winners if you know or happen to meet them.

This fall, we look forward to hearing from just as many voices, if not more, and we anticipate Shine On! being just as successful. On a large scale, we are committed to giving voice to the plethora of peace-making civic engagement, community service, and service-learning projects going on all around the state. As we continue brainstorming our next theme, we invite your input and welcome your suggestions, so please use our Survey Monkey to help us decide our next theme!

**Read on! — The Shine On! Youth Editorial Board**

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**Inside this issue:**

- Poetic Words of Wisdom (Poetry) …… 3-4
- Originality (Original Artwork) …….. 5-11
- Articular (Essays) ………………………… 12-15
- Picture This (Photography) ……….. 16-17
- Food for Thought ………………………… 18-19
- Join the YEB Board! …………………. 19

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**Let us know what YOU think about Shine On!**

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/K88PJLL and complete a brief survey to give us your feedback.

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**About this issue’s cover:**

“You can light millions of candles with just one, so let’s make it shine!”

— Robby Horng

On Sunday, March 24, 2013, the Northside community lost a dear friend, Kong Meng Lee. Kong died a hero for his sister, a victim of domestic violence; he will be remembered for his bravery and courage.

Kong was an amazing friend, brother, and student, and participated in many after school activities at Patrick Henry High School, even after transferring schools for his junior year.

To many, Kong was the funniest, kindest, and most loving person anyone had ever met. He will be missed and always loved by those who got to experience his smiles, jokes, and warm hugs. This issue is dedicated to our friend, Kong Meng Lee, may he rest in peace.

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**Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**
We would like to thank the partners that helped us make this edition of Shine On! so successful. Special recognition and appreciation goes out to Utrecht Art Supplies for their generous gift card donation for each of our contest winners—thanks, Jerry!

Utrecht Art Supplies
1601 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

We would also like to thank local graphic designer Matthew Barnes for contributing his artistry to design our exquisite call for submissions flyer. Thanks, Matthew!

MatthewBarnes04@gmail.com
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Lastly, we would like to send a warm thank you to Sica, owner of the Fox Den Salon in Uptown Minneapolis. The YEB members loved the bountiful sweets, snacks, and drinks! ●
My Teacher

You can’t believe the pain that
my mind and body been through
I’ve seen things that you would scream
if it happened to you
Yet he has stood by my side
Always said hello and goodbye
It used to make me want to cry

It’s the best part of my day
When I was with him my life wasn’t
ever grey
As I leave middle school he will be
the one I remember
Whenever I saw him my joy used to
glow like ember
Words couldn’t express how happy I was

I used to love writing poems in his class
He made me confident
I would read when everyone else
would pass
And the short stories were too fun
My interest rose like the sun

He was the best teacher ever
He was so very clever
He was the one who always recycled
Now that’s how I know my teacher Michael

— Ramone Bridge, 8th Grade
Marcy Open School

Poetic Words of Wisdom

“Expression is my lesson to release all this tension.”

“Life is like a sunset; we go down and get back up.”

“Whatever you do, you should do it with feeling.”

“A friend breaks you only to set you straight.”

“Life’s a beach. You just gotta swim.”

“When you were learning how to walk, you would fall
and get back up. Same goes with talent.”

“A friend isn’t a friend without honesty.”

— Robby Horng, 10th Grade, Roosevelt High School
Shine On! Youth Editorial Board

False Expectations

By Janet Glocker’s 4th Grade Class
Waite Park Elementary School

This poem is based on our discussion during our
Second Step lesson, “Dealing with Fear.” Fear is at the root
of some impulsive behaviors. It can be a crippling emotion,
which can interfere with a person’s ability to think clearly and
also inhibit their willingness to attempt activities. Fears can be
from real or imagined threats. We can recognize bodily sensations
associated with fear (trembling). We can identify what we are
afraid of and why. We can use calming techniques and problem
solve with someone to ease our fears.

Strangely Alone

Relax, shivers on my spine.
Focus on happiness.
Take a break and despise the dark.
Look closer at the freaky night wonder.
Beat on a drum when you are roughly afraid.
Count to 3 or 10 as the wind breaks
behind the shadows.
Cover up with a blankie under the
twisty stairs.
Calm down. See things. Rest.
Sing with the noise and imagine beauty.

— Mckenzie Freeze, 12th Grade
Parkcenter
Organic Poetry

By Patricia Fasching
4th Grade Teacher
Lyndale Elementary

HIGHPOINT CENTER FOR Printmaking offered classes to our students with water and rain garden themes (our fourth grade science curriculum), so we included artwork and a slide show in our showcase. The students wrote poems on paper then dyed the paper with organic materials at Highpoint.

Here are some of the students’ poems:

The Leaf
The leaf goes away.
Floating further from the shore.
Smaller as it goes.
—Elena Geffen

The Nice Wind and the Cold Water
Pebbles splashing in the water
Leaves flying in the air
Imagination comes from everywhere
Wind swirling round and round
Rippling like paper
Down to the ground
—Suhur Abdullahi

Imagine
Flowers blooming in spring
Water falls down
Spring is beautiful
—Pablo Castro Torres

Let us know what YOU think about Shine On!
Take our survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/K88PJLL to give us your feedback.

Art is My Life
Amazing
Rapid
Thoughtful

Inspirational
Shine

Miracle
Yellow

Lively
Interesting
Funny
Exquisite

—Maeve Walls, 5th Grade
Marcy Open School

We are Artists
Forgiveness is happy.
She is a girl with faith and joy.
She loves the colors blue and yellow.
She loves to smile have fun and laugh.
She sings and dances.
It’s her passion.
Forgiveness dislikes basketball and 7th graders.
She has a phone and an iPod.
It is made of her favorite colors.
In the mountains with a dog and cabin she treats others with care and respect.
Her quality is the same in every way.
My mom and I have a cabin in the woods too.
And that is how we are alike.
—Anieka Gray, 6th Grade
Jefferson Community School
SECRET MESSAGES

BY DELPHIN NIYOKURU, 11TH GRADE
EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

besides the love of art and creativity, art has been awesome and helpful for a very shy and quiet boy like me. Art has been part of my life ever since I was young. Three years ago, when we moved to the United States, I did not speak any English, nor could I understand it, but through art, I could express my feelings. I am the type of a guy who does not always just do art because it looks cool, but because of the mystery behind it. I always try to put secret messages into it.

UPPER RIGHT:

Learn From Others
Self portrait

Green: color of healing or getting better.
Quotes around the main figure: symbol of living looking to how other people have lived.

LOWER LEFT:

Smile Through the Pain
Photoshop of one of my paintings

When I created this piece, I was going through a hard time, so I made this to encourage myself and give myself strength.

LOWER RIGHT:

Reality When You Smoke, Painting

This is of a person smoking a cigarette, and a cigarette smoking a person; I put a lot of thought into it.

Person (in black color): a symbol of evil... not clean and dirty.
Woman: a symbol of vulnerability.
Cigarette: a symbol of killing or harming.

CERAMIC FISH

BY ANDREW FOHRENKAM & ESTEFANIA SORIANO-AGUILAR, 5TH GRADE, NELLY STONE JOHNSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Each of the kids created their own fish. Each child drew four sketches to use in creating their fish and learned how to attach pieces to the clay using the slip and scoring technique. In Andrew’s clay fish (above) he was learning about clay and texture.

LOOK FOR ESTEFANIA’S FISH NEXT TO THE “INSIDE THIS ISSUE” LETTER ON PAGE 2.
Cityscape & Cherry

Tahry Mol, 12th Grade
Broadway High School

My name is Tahry Mol. I have two children, and I am a teen mom. I never took an art class before coming to Broadway. Our art teacher, Ms. Arzayus, taught me how to mix paint and helped me pick a subject I was interested in working on.

Using acrylic paint, I chose to paint the city skyline and the Claus Oldenburg sculpture because I took my kids to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden at the Walker Art Center and was very impressed with the size of this specific art work. I chose to paint in an impressionistic style because I love color and the child-like look of the brush strokes.

I would recommend this project for anyone. I really had fun painting this picture, and my next art project will be a painting in a similar style.

Mexican Pride

By Osiel Gonzalez, 10th Grade
and Pablo Gonzalez, 12th Grade
Wellstone International High School

I study at Wellstone International High School. I’m in the tenth grade. I like to draw because it is the best way to express my feelings. I started to draw one year ago from my friends in Mexico. I draw street art and graffiti because I like the lettering.

My first drawing (upper left) is about Mexican pride. The blocks remind me of my father because he works in construction.

The other drawing (at right) says “I love you Kari.” I made it because it is the name of my best friend. I made it because it makes me happy, and she is important to me, and it is important to me because I love her as a friend. She lives in Mexico. I met her in my barrio. A barrio is a Mexican neighborhood. Kari is able to see my graffiti drawing through Facebook. I like Facebook because I can text with my friends, family, and other people from Chicago, Los Angeles, Minnesota and Mexico.
Georgia O’Keefe Inspired Paintings

Jennifer Terrones-Rodriguez (above left) & Ronnisha Tolbert (below), 8th grade, Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

Each student created paintings after learning about Georgia O’Keefe. Each student created four sketches from observational drawing and then chose their favorite to create a larger painting. The students learned how to mix colors and create a composition using inspiration from O’Keefe’s works.

Hoot’n Owls

Sofia Hernandez-Limas, 2nd grade Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

Sofia learned about texture to create her fun owl. She used bits of construction paper, found objects, crayon color, and watercolor paint to make her beautiful art.

Radial Symmetry

Talaya Quinn, 8th grade Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

Talaya studied graffiti art to create her own name tag. The students learned about the legalities of this art form and used the style as inspiration to create their own art. Talaya used new drawing techniques of using value and layering her color pencil.

Monster

Dakayla Williams, 1st grade Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

After listening to the book *Where the Wild Things Are*, Dakayla drew her own monster. Each of the students was expected to use three different types of lines and four shapes to create their art. Dakayla used oil pastels to draw out the monster, and then she used watercolor paint to fill in the negative space.

Textured Lion

Gabriel Rios-Mendoza, 2nd grade Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

Gabriel created a portrait of a lion using construction paper. Here, the kids learned how we could use paper to create different types of texture. Gabriel also chose to make his lion look as though it is hiding in its environment.
Mai Yang, 5th Grade
Jenny Lind Elementary School
Community Education

“I made this in school, and the reason I drew it is because I love art, and I like to create lines and shapes. I didn’t know what to draw, but I just started making all these lines, and it turned out great.”

“I wanted to draw something simple. I like to draw freely & blend colors to make a new color.”
—Victoria Lee, 5th Grade, Jenny Lind Community Ed.

The 2nd and 3rd graders in our After School weaving class were asked what weaving means to them and what they like about it. Check out their responses:

“I like finishing projects.”
—Donaven

“It’s calm and relaxing.”
—Alexis

“Weavers Achievers
Marija Nicholson, Coordinator
Andersen Community Education

““The reason I drew this is because I like clothing, and I like to color!”

Above: Marvin & Donaven at work on their weaving on tabletop looms.
The Dignity & Respect Art Contest

Students, Teachers and Parent Teacher Organization, Lake Harriet Middle School

The DIGNITY AND RESPECT Campaign is a national initiative promoting ways to make the world a better place for all to live—with all of our differences. This year, the Diversity Committee and middle school teachers sponsored a photo, video, and drawing contest based on the 30 tips for promoting dignity and respect. Every day, we have the opportunity to practice dignity and respect in our school community. Middle school teachers used time in advisory to share one dignity and respect tip each day. Students who chose to participate in the contest had to weave one or more of the tips into their creative work.

Every day, we have the opportunity to practice dignity and respect in our school community.

Five winners in each category—photography, video and drawing—were chosen by a panel of independent jurors (YEB) not affiliated with Lake Harriet Community School.

This project fits into the larger school Positive Behavior Support goals of: creating a school climate where all students feel welcome, safe, and respected; reducing bullying and racism; and increasing academic success and reducing the achievement gap.

I think of graffiti art as any other regular art form. If graffiti is seen as something bad, then why do people get recognition for it?

Equal

Tarius Seas, 7th Grade
Marcy Open School

I have a connection to art because I have been drawing for a very long time, and it did not start with this graffiti style. Actually, it started with me just looking at books and just drawing. Then when I was in fifth grade, two of my friends began getting into graffiti. I never really knew what it was until I started noticing it around much more. It seemed to be everywhere. As I practiced and studied, I really got into it. I learned some lettering alphabets and created some of my own. I chose to write the word “equal” because when people hear graffiti they think vandalism, defacing property. I think of graffiti art as any other regular art form. If graffiti is seen as something bad then why do people get recognition for it? I had an art show based on it at age 13 at a coffee shop in Northeast Minneapolis. My art has been appreciated many times in art class and used for our school T-shirt design. Graffiti allows me to express my feelings through art, and I have fun creating it!

Piano

Beatrice Kennedy Logan, 4th Grade, Marcy Open

“Playing piano makes me feel happy. When I play a piece of music by a famous musician, I feel like I am there listening to them actually playing. I love listening to music, too.”
Banner Mural

Kristin Hill Avirom, Community Education Coordinator
Sanford Middle School

LOCAL ARTIST, TAYLOR LINDGREN, worked with Sanford Middle School students on a mural that included the school’s name as well as portraits of the students using a stenciling technique. The students enjoyed the creating of stencils from photographs and of course spray painting the colors.

Mixed Medium Mural

By jeREmiAh, Resident Artist, Green Central

While the project is being facilitated by local artists, Greta McLain and Jeremiah Bey—both young with great energy and a long history of working with youth—the students have certainly taken creative charge.

STUDENTS AT GREEN CENTRAL are preparing to paint and build a mixed medium mural in their school’s lunchroom with a grant from the Office of Equity and Diversity. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will use a mix of painted and mosaic images to create a work of art that celebrates the individual talents and histories of the students inside the building, while embodying the characteristics of the neighborhood at large. And while the project is being facilitated by local artists, Greta McLain and Jeremiah Bey—both young with great energy and a long history of working with youth—the students have certainly taken creative charge. This is definitely a student driven affair that we are excited to be a part of.
Meaningful Art
Leila Griffin, 4th grade, Marcy Open School

Art TO ME MEANS having something to help you express yourself. For example, when I am mad or sad, I paint or draw. Even though they turn out weird, I love them because art relaxes me. My art piece is a blend of colors. It is a mural. I cut the paper into fourths and did a different drawing in each one. Each drawing represents an emotion.
Inside the Mind: My Blogging Process

By Mahad Muse, 10th Grade
Wellstone International High School

Conversation
I begin my blogging process with a conversation in my mind. While my hand is moving, I am having a conversation. The conversation is with the two voices in my mind, and they’re just talking. When they are talking, they are not lying; only telling the truth. Sometimes the conversation is passionate, and they exchange kind words with each other. Other times, it’s like they’re enemies. One is always negative while the other remains positive. The negative voice constantly torments, showing no mercy; he enjoys making his opponent feel like a weakling. However, you should never doubt yourself. You need have confidence and conviction to rely on your own strength, to know that you can overcome your negative fears.

Recording
While the conversation is going on, my hand acts like a record player. While I am thinking, I never miss a beat. I think of my hand like a recorder, but instead of recording a voice using technology, I am recording my thoughts on paper. Strangely, on paper, I am able to capture unseen/unheard/unknown voices (use your imagination to comprehend what this means). Recording these voices, the conversation is not only passionate and argumentative, but the conversation is also logical. They help me see from more than one perspective. They help me understand myself and others. The voices help me empathize, show mercy, and sympathy. They help me look into the darkest parts of my being that I am scared to look into. The voices become my guide. They constrain me when I become arrogant, and lift me up when I doubt myself the most, and they help me show kindness towards others.

Engraving
My composition consists of the old and new English. I try to frame it elegantly because as much as I like new English, the old English adds more finesse. Also, I try making my writing as visual as possible by using metaphors and similes. If I were talking about a red wall, I would say, “The wall is as red as wine, or it is crimson like blood,” or instead of the moon was shining, I would say, “The shining of the stars pale in comparison to the arrogance of the silver moon.” I use words that people don’t usually use in conversations, and I try to have my readers contemplate what my words mean. My words might mean one thing to me, but my readers might read them in a way I could never conceive. Similar to how I draw inspiration from others, I hope others draw inspiration from me.

Listening
For some people completing a blog post might just be clicking the publish button, but to me I compare it to being a parent. For me, publishing my blog is like when a parent lets their child go into their world for the first time. As a parent, I am fearful of the mistakes my child might make, but yet I am excited for them to taste freedom. I’m fearful because when my child makes a mistake, I make a mistake, and when my child inspires others, I too inspire others.

Ending
Writing is just like any other art. Art needs three things. It needs to be visual, like a silent movie. When it comes to art sight is important, but it is not everything. For art one also needs to empathize, so in writing one must personalize their words. Your words should be your friends: living, breathing, thinking creatures, just like you and I. When someone experiences a work of art, they empathize with the artist, and when I write I ensure that I empathize with my words. I experience their pain, and rejoice in their delight. Finally, art needs inspiration because our world needs motivational momentum. You should not write to inspire, but rather write because you were inspired.

For more of my writings, visit my blog: mahadM83.wordpress.com.
Triumph in My Heart

By Maria Ferrusquia, 10th Grade
Edison High School

ACTING IS ONE OF THE MOST important and fun activities in my life. It is something that fills my heart with satisfaction. Acting is not just about you standing on stage in front of tons of people watching you. Acting goes beyond yourself, beyond the person you are because when you are acting you are supposed to imitate the character, to act entirely like someone else. Additionally, you have to memorize all the paragraphs or lines you have to say. In my story, I will tell you that to memorize lines was one of the hardest things for me and you will realize why if you read my story.

My story began last year when I was in ninth grade. I got into a play called Charlotte’s Web. The drama teacher is a very funny and intelligent person. The majority of students played two or three characters; I was Mrs. Arable and the Goose. All participants of the play stayed after school three days a week to practice.

I loved being in this play because I always liked acting, and especially since I had never been in a play before. Having to learn all the lines I had to say was the one thing that was really hard for me because I came here to America in just the 8th grade. This means, I only had only been here a year and a half, and our play was in the mid-9th grade. I did not know a lot of English. I knew almost nothing. So for me to memorize the lines was even more difficult.

The teacher understood perfectly that I did not know enough English, but he said it did not matter, and that if I liked acting and was willing to learn the lines that everything would be fine. He helped me a lot with pronunciations of some words. I learned quite a bit in 8th grade listening to my classmates and teachers speaking English; my 8th grade English teacher helped me a lot. My 9th grade English teacher helped me a lot too; she was always nice to me. She supported me a lot with learning the lines of the play.

There were days that I felt very bad because I thought I could not achieve; I thought I could never learn the lines until the very day of the play. There were many days when I stressed, and there were also days that I cried because I thought I would not make it. However, I never gave up because I love acting and because although sometimes I passed through moments of despair, something in my heart always told me that nothing is impossible and to keep fighting.

I kept fighting every day after school when I went to rehearsal. I kept studying my lines, and sometimes I studied until 11 pm.

The day came when the teacher would listen to everyone say their lines. I was very nervous, but I concentrated, and I remembered what my heart always told me. When I finished saying my lines, the teacher approached me and said, “Congratulations, you tell all your lines well.” For me that was great because if I had already told all my lines to the teacher that meant that on the very day of the play, I would be fine. When opening night arrived, I was nervous, but not too much; I knew that everything would be fine because I knew all the lines. I was happy because my mom and my uncle came to see me and also my English teacher, Ms. Laura.

When the play ended, I was really happy. I felt a great satisfaction of happiness and triumph in my heart. Triumph because that day I achieved many things. My mom and my uncle congratulated me and also my teacher. That was one of the best experiences I have had in my life, but honestly what made me feel more proud of myself was that I never gave up, and I learned all my lines in English. Today I can say that I have learned a lot of English. Nothing is impossible if you give your best effort.

The Beauty of Art

By Semira Mesfin, 11th Grade
Patrick Henry High School
Shine On! Youth Editorial Board

ONE OF THE MOST distinct memories of any art class I have taken was the day that my current art teacher asked our class, “What is art?” I find that to be one of the most difficult questions to answer. The best and worst part about this question is that there is not really a correct answer. I certainly do not have a set answer.

To me, art makes you feel; it is practically therapeutic. You do not have to know who, what, when, where, or why something was created to have some connection to any piece of artwork. Even if you are not necessarily interested in art you can still find something to relate to, and that is why art is so powerful. Art also allows the creator to connect to their work.

I would like to focus on a specific genre of art, theater. I was recently in my high school’s production of Little Shop of Horrors. It was an amazing experience. The cast was like a family and we worked together so well. I believe that theater is a particularly great place to experience the feelings that art can produce. You get to be someone else on stage and portray a character how you want to. Being someone else for a little while is also a really nice way to get rid of some stress from our daily lives. I had not had the chance to participate in any of my high school performances due to other commitments, but I am glad I made the choice to audition for this show. I truly hope that I can continue to experience a great theater program beyond high school.

I think everyone should get involved in art in some way. Luckily, art is not just drawing, painting, or sculpture. You can find your outlet through dancing, music, writing, theater or anything that allows you to get you to be stress free, and that is the beauty of art.
When I signed up for Karen’s Acting class at Barton Community Education last year, I was a shy, quiet girl who did not know the first thing about acting. Looking back, I realize how much progress I have made! Now I can project my voice so that the back of the auditorium can hear me, and I can show emotion without second guessing myself and wondering if I was doing it right.

This year, when I signed up to do the play Charlotte’s Web, I thought it would be a fun play and a good experience. It turned out to be so much more! At the very first rehearsal, me and the cast of 44 others from grades 1-8 were all a bit edgy. None of us really knew each other and we all were nervous to be in a new play. After rehearsal, we all slowly started bonding. We started to become much more than a cast, we were like a family, a great big family where every member had a love for acting. Rehearsals started becoming the highlight of my week (every Tuesday and Thursday evening).

Finally, we had only six more rehearsals until our first production. We started seeing the real set up, costumes, props, and make up. We were all super excited. Rehearsals slowly passed, and now, we had our first real audience, about fifty kids and a handful of teachers. Backstage, everyone was super giddy and excited. I knew I should not be nervous, I had been in plays before, but, still, I was nervous. The minute I stepped on stage all nerves folded away as I got caught up in the scene and being my character, Fern!

Our first performance went well; there were only a few mistakes. Our next performance was in the morning the next day. We were all nervous and tired but we managed to...
do an almost perfect show. Our third performance was considered opening night, even though it was not our first show. It was our biggest audience so far, and the whole cast was jumping up and down with nerves, trying to resist the urge to peek through the curtains at the audience. I was quickly going through my lines one more time in my head. I stood by the curtains, waiting for my entrance. I stepped on the stage and immediately felt the bubble of pure joy deep down inside that only acting can bring. I said each word with as much emotion as I could and tried to articulate as much as possible. The play ended only too soon.

At our last performance, I was so nervous backstage that all I could do was recite my first five lines over and over in my head. As I stepped on stage, I took a quick glance at the audience; there were about 500 people there! I knew from the very first day of signing up for this that theater is a real thrill.

This play was more than fun; it was a learning experience that changed me and the rest of the cast. I love theater now, and no longer am I a quiet, shy girl.

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Reading

Art: a hobby compromised

By Mckenzie Freeze, 12th grade
Park Center

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I used to get bullied. I don’t know why, whether it be because of my huge head or my high voice (at that age), or the fact that I didn’t “talk black”; I’ve always been different. I don’t know if I’ll ever fit in. I used to get in trouble all the time. I was sent home so many times. My mother’s tears seemed to become permanent, the weight of her stress made it impossible to smile.

One time when I got suspended for calling my 4th grade teacher a (bad word), my mom had to take me to work with her. I still have no clue what she did. All I remember is that she spent a lot of time staring at the computer screen, rubbing her forehead and wiping the dew from her eyes.

On her break, she took me to the bookstore because she got sick of the “blank look” on my face. Around that time, people were making a huge deal about Harry Potter, which had just come out. I needed something to do. She bought it. I was scared. That (book) was about 800 pages.

Under the glare of a mom scorned by the ignorance of her young son, I opened the book, and I swear I never put that (book) down. I was done in about two days, and I was actually happy to read a story about another outcast rising above persecution and finding love and friends along the way. It gave me hope. My young mind was not developed enough to decipher between fact and fictitious propaganda. Though I continued getting in trouble, I still read.

Seventh grade was pretty whack. I disliked all my teachers except for Ms. Prybl, my English teacher. She had a really big heart, told weird stories and always recommended books to me. My favorite was The Outsiders because I thought Pony Boy was the coolest dude ever.

Eighth grade was probably my worst year ever. I switched to a small school. Only one hallway, so there was really nowhere to run. So I fought back. I got expelled. I read like six books waiting to be transferred back to another school. One that stood out to me was called School Bus. It’s about a kid who switches from being homeschooled by his hippie mother to going to a big middle school. Though he starts out a total misfit, everyone loves him in the end. He gets the girl and gains the bullies’ respect. What a happy ending.

A point came when I started to hate books. I stopped reading. I stopped doing everything. Now I’m bullied because I’m “stupid.”

Ninth grade, I started to change. I got in trouble less, but my book count went down drastically. Throughout high school I’ve only read about ten books. My arguments with my mom become many, and I have found other ways to lose myself… so now I sit here, super depressed, really wishing I had a book.

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Music With Friends

By Emma Campbell, 5th grade

Thoughts from a band student at Barton Open, Anya Healy.

What do you do in band?
Well, Mike (Robinson) starts out letting us warm up, then he gives us new music, and we practice specific music.

What do you think of the issue of people not listening and goofing off in band? Why do you think that?
I think people should stop playing their instruments so loudly and not play their instruments when Mike is talking.

Do you like going to band?
Yes! It is fun, and I get to play my instrument with my friends.

What instrument do you play? Do you think it is hard? I play the flute. Yes, I think it is the hardest out of all the instruments Mike teaches. I think that because you have to balance the air and press different notes. The notes are very complicated.
La’Shay S. Foster

I’m taking an Advanced Photo class at Transition Plus and the one picture of mine that I am submitting was taken on February 13 at St Mary’s Cemetery on Chicago Avenue. The other photo was a close up of a power line pole where people post notices, it was outside the school building. I was inspired to photograph the pole because it reminds me of one of my boring days, still and stiff.

When I was taking photos in the cemetery, I had to admit it was not fun. Being there knowing that my grandmother died, and that is the place she was buried. When I saw her being buried, I never wanted to come back to a place like that again. This is what inspired me to use colors and not a black and white photo because my grandmother had nice warm colors to let me know she was in peace.

David Trefethren

I like taking pictures of people, houses, and cars. This photo was taken in a cemetery on a winter afternoon. It makes me feel spiritual.

These statements are from the students in my Advanced Photography class. When we went out to take pictures, we traveled to different areas of Minneapolis such as downtown, a cemetery, and Powderhorn Park, which is near our school. In our beginners’ class, students first learned about the “Elements of Composition and Design.” Then they had opportunities to take pictures showing the different elements. From there, they use their learned skills to take pictures of things that were of interest to them. The students also learn to do their own editing and tweaking of images. The students also had an opportunity to do a project with Wing Young Huie (below) who has a gallery just a few blocks away from our program. I hope this helps explain the images. It is really interesting to see how they interpret what they see.

—MaryAnn Sulik, Photography Teacher
Transition Plus High School
Brandin Henderson

I’m taking an Advanced Photo class at Transition Plus. Both of the photos that were submitted were taken at Powderhorn Park.

Top Right: Two Shadows
This picture was taken in Powderhorn Park. The sun was out for a while and I noticed our shadows, were in pretty good shape, so I decided to take the shot.

Right: The Park
When I took this picture, I looked at the poles that are straight and zig-zag lines, and I thought it looked pretty cool.

Kadesha Blake

I find myself photographing everything on an angle because straight on shots are boring to me. I am taking an advanced photography class, and my pictures was taken on February 13 at St. Mary’s Cemetery on Chicago Avenue.

The Angel That Looks Over Me
This picture means so much to me. It reminds me of my grandmother, and how she did not give up on life and still remains, in my eyes, one of the strongest human beings alive. My grandmother suffered from breast cancer. She had to get treatment, but during that time she lost her independence, and now has to depend on her caregivers to do the all the things she was used to doing herself. What makes me title this, “the angel that looks over me” is that beautiful smile she always has on her face and always telling me never to give up, never look at the negative, and continue going towards the positive.

Magali Cazares-Tapia

I’m in an Advanced Photography class and in October 2012, my teacher took us to the Chicago Avenue and 48th Street area to photograph what caught our eye.

Left: Tree
It was rainy, and after the rain had stopped, our teacher took us to Powderhorn Park; the colors there just caught my eye.

Above: Little Girl
I took this picture because the little girl was looking at the turtle—deep in thought—I found it interesting because she did not move for about three minutes.
YEB students represent various communities and cultures from around the world. Each of us believe that food helps unite us, and everyone agrees, “We love food!” This edition of Shine On!, we are premiering the launch of our food column. We reached out to local restaurants to cater our meetings and to try food that reflects our diverse communities. When tasting the food we first looked at the artistic presentation, followed by smelling the aromas, and finally diving in and eating. Below is a list of restaurants that donated to us. Each place included a variety of items, and the ones we enjoyed the most are described with honorable mentions.

Afro-Deli & Coffee
1939 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
afrodeli.com

Tasted: Harar Beef & Veggie Stew with Somali Rice and Beef, Chicken, and Veggie Sambusas

Honorable Mentions:
“The Harar Beef & Veggie Stew (below) with Somali Rice was outstanding. The spice of the stew was eased by the golden raisins in the rice. We highly recommend this to first timers eating at Afro-Deli.”

“The Beef and Chicken Sambusas (above) were really good too, and it went well with the green chutney, which was AMAZING and had a nice spice.”

Northbound Smokehouse
2716 E. 38th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
northboundbrewpub.org

Tasted: Wild Rice Burger, Onion Rings, Trout Spinach Salad, BLT, Fried Chicken Sandwich, Salmon Wrap

Honorable Mentions:
“The Onion Rings were so unique. The batter tasted sweet like doughnuts!!”

“The Salmon Wrap didn’t taste fishy at all. In fact, some of us who were scared to try it, because we didn’t like fish, actually liked it a lot.”

“The Wild Rice Burger is really really good because the texture is similar to an actual burger and the spices made it taste similar too. We highly recommended it for everyone, not just vegetarians!”

Left-Handed Cook
Midtown Global Market
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407
urbanspoon.com/midtownglobalmarket.org

Tasted: Brussels, Winner Winner Basket, Big Bowl, Popcorn, Pigs Ear Sammie, and Lilikoi Passion, Passion Orange, and Apple Iced Tea drinks

Honorable Mentions:
“The Brussels (below) looked like a vegetable, but didn’t taste the way they looked. They were salted and sautéed and really melted in your mouth, so good!”

“The Winner Winner Basket included chicken tenders and fries, and the side sauces made this stand out. One sauce tasted sweet and spicy like hoisin sauce.”

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Shine On! | Spring 2013 | 19

A story from Robby:
“A man went to Africa to donate food to little kids. While feeding kids one day, the guy offered food to a little boy, and the boy said, “I can’t accept it.” The man replied, “Why not?” The boy answered, “Because it’s not my turn to eat yet.”

Robby’s story informs us that in some places of the world, like Africa, some youth don’t get the chance to eat the way we do. This humbling story reminds us of how grateful we are for our first food sponsors. Special thanks to each and every restaurant! Support these local businesses by trying their food, and let them know you read about them in Shine On!

Sonora Grill
Midtown Global Market
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407
urbanspoon.com
midtownglobalmarket.org

Tasted: Pork Guajillo, Turkey Chorizo, Shrimp Caramelos, Tilapia Caramelos, Eggplant Fries, Tilapia Cilantro Salad, Chicken Verde Pincho

Honorables Mentions:
“The shrimp in the Shrimp Caramelos tasted so fresh. The inside was firm and the outside was crisp, and the glaze was spicy but not overpowering—DELICIOUS!”

“The Pork Guajillo had an amazing sauce and was very tender, highly recommended.”

“The Tilapia Caramelos was super creative and super delicious! It had fresh tilapia inside a hollow jalapeño with BOTH sweet and spicy flavors.”

“The eggplant fries were our favorite! They didn’t have a powerful vegetable flavor, but not like a French fry either, and the side sauce made them perfect, 5 stars indeed.”

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Pinstripes
3849 Gallagher Dr., Edina, MN 55435
pinstripes.com

Tasted: Feta and Spinach Phyllos, Tenderloin Sliders, Caprese Tomato-Mozzarella Spiedini, Caramelized Cheesecake, Frangelico Flourless Chocolate Cake.

Honorables Mentions:
“The Pork Guajillo had an amazing sauce and was very tender, highly recommended.”

“The Tilapia Caramelos was super creative and super delicious! It had fresh tilapia inside a hollow jalapeño with BOTH sweet and spicy flavors.”

“The eggplant fries were our favorite! They didn’t have a powerful vegetable flavor, but not like a French fry either, and the side sauce made them perfect, 5 stars indeed.”

Join the YEB Board!
Did you find this feature interesting? Would you or someone you know be interested in helping us with our publication? We are accepting applications for our Youth Editorial Board for the 2013-14 school year!

Starting pay is $10 per meeting, and we meet 2-3 times a month, on average.

For more information about serving on the Youth Editorial Board and how to apply to be a member, visit us at youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/shineon.

Let us know what YOU think about Shine On!
In order to provide the highest quality publication for future issues of Shine On!, it is important for us to receive feedback from our readers. To complete a brief survey to share your thoughts with us and offer suggestions, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/K88PJLL.
“YOU CAN LIGHT MILLIONS
OF CANDLES WITH JUST ONE,
SO LET’S MAKE IT SHINE!”

— ROBBY HORNG —