

BROWN BULLETIN

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FROM THE OFFICE OF M. J. GIULIANI & F. FRENETTE

MARCH 2007

STAFF NEWS

- Congratulations to Samantha Diamond and her husband, Thomas, on the birth of their daughter, Olivia.
- We will be saying goodbye to M. Plante (Room 38) at the end of this month and we thank him for his time and efforts.
- We are delighted to welcome Ms. Anna Fischer Harrison to Brown School. She will be teaching the students in Room 38 until the end of this school year.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be sent home on Monday March 26. Teachers may request a parent teacher interview at this time and they will contact you. Parents who would like to request a meeting with a teacher are welcome to do so.

Friday, March 30 is a professional activity day set aside for reporting to parents. We appreciate working closely with you to ensure your child's success. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you would like to meet.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

All of our students have an opportunity to attend a theatre production at Brown School this year. Our School Council has funded these shows and we thank them for their support in providing this enrichment for all of our students. On Thursday March 1, the students in JK to Grade 3 enjoyed a performance of "Anansi the Spider" presented by Little Red Theatre. The Junior students will be seeing a presentation from Cascade Theatre on April 10. The ballet Jorgen will perform "The Emperor's New Clothes" for the entire school on the morning of May 4.

AUTISM INFORMATION WORKSHOP AT BROWN

Brown will be hosting an Autism Information Workshop during the lunch hour on Wednesday, April 25th. Our guest speakers will be a representative from the TDSB and a Brown Parent. This workshop promises to be highly informative and is open to all who are interested - teachers, parents and caregivers. Please watch the April Bulletin for more details.

PUBLIC SPEAKING DAY / LE CONCOURS ORATOIRE

On Friday, February 23 Brown School held its first Public Speaking Day. Many of our primary students recited poems and speeches they had memorized in either French or English. Our Junior students wrote speeches to present. It was a wonderful learning experience for all of our children. The students who stood before the judges, staff, our guests and their peers to speak did so with confidence and poise. The children in the audience followed the appropriate expectations of a receptive audience by listening attentively.

Thank you to Mme. Vernon for organizing this event. The positive participation of our students, staff and parental support made this a memorable event.

We are proud to feature a selection of the presentations at the end of this Bulletin.

Wednesday March 7 & Thursday March 8.....	Grade 6 Play
Monday March 12 to Friday March 16.....	March Break (no classes for Students)
Monday March 19.....	First Day of Spring Term
Wednesday March 21.....	Pizza Lunch
Friday March 23	Grad Photos (AM)
Monday March 26.....	Report Cards sent home
Thursday March 29	City Finals Swim Meet at Central Technical School (no pool classes today)
Friday March 30.....	PA Day reporting to parents (no classes for students)
Friday April 6.....	Good Friday school holiday
Monday April 9	Easter Monday school holiday

WHO SAID FEBRUARY WAS BORING?

Not at Brown! February was African Heritage Month and Lunar New Year. Brown recognized the importance of these celebrations. In many classrooms, teachers created beautiful arts and crafts with their students.

One of these was the African masks made by Room 25. They are in the display window by the office. If you see them, you won't believe that they were made by Grade 2 students! It was a long task and fortunately the Grade 6 students from Mme Vernon's class helped. The 7 and 8 year-olds had amazing patience to glue on every single bean to their mask. The results were fantastic. The students in Room 25 were very interested in other cultures. Mme. Dorcin read them a book that she wrote about a magic African mask, *Kaluah et le Masque Magique*, and it raised their curiosity even more to learn about the African Heritage.

Ms. Stella's students did research on famous African Canadians. They collected all the information and made an African Heritage Month booklet. Then, they shared their information with their classmates and made a presentation to Mrs. Hazan's, Ms. Hirsch's and Mr. MacDonald's classrooms. They were amazing!

As part of the Lunar New Year activities, many teachers brought the taste of Asia to their classrooms, warming up rice, egg rolls and spring rolls and giving them to their students with fortune cookies revealing their daily fortune. It was like going to a Chinese restaurant every day!

Mme Gagnon read tales about Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese culture. She prepared many activities related to these celebrations. Mme Gagnon also collaborated with Mme Dorcin to make multicultural exhibits inside the library. Everyone was impressed.

Brown teachers really have multiculturalism close to their hearts.

SPORTS CORNER

ICE HOCKEY

The Ice Hockey Team has finished their 2006/2007 hockey season with a big sense of accomplishment!

The team finished the regular season with 3 wins and 2 losses and advanced to the quarter finals against Northlea P.S. The two teams had met in a previous game where Brown lost by a score of 8-1. The team learned a lot from that game at the tournament and they were determined to show Northlea that Brown was not going to let that happen again.

At the quarter finals, the team was full of energy and it showed throughout the game. With plenty of chances to score and some great saves by both of our goaltenders the team felt good about themselves even after a 4-2 loss. The score was much closer in the play-offs than it was the first time they met.

The team has many things to be proud of this year and the coaches (Mr. Ellis and Mr. Profiti) would like to express how happy they were with the team's attitude, effort and determination. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing the Grade 4 and 5 players again next year!

A huge thank you to all the parents of the players who have been so dedicated this year. Your efforts are appreciated by all.

-- Mr. Ellis and Mr. Profiti

THIRD TERM SPORTS

The third term will have the following teams:

Co-Ed Badminton	Grades 4-6	Coaches: Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Pare
Girls Slo-Pitch	Grades 4-6	Coaches: Mr. Wittenberg, Mrs. Regan and Mme. Legge
Boys Slo-Pitch	Grades 4-6	Coaches: Ms. Stella and Jonah Weslak
Track and Field	Grades 3-6	Coaches: TBD

More information about third term sports will be made available after March Break.

Please continue to check the school website for all information regarding team sports at Brown!
www.brownschool.ca

How to Get Your Kids to Tell You What's Really Going On In Their Life

"Nothing," "I dunno," or maybe just a shoulder shrug - these are often the responses parents dread and are faced with when trying to talk to their children. Wouldn't it be great if every time you asked your child, "How was your day?" she/he would respond willingly and openly? It takes patience, time, understanding, trust and effort to create the optimal surroundings for your child to be open and giving in the conversation. Here are nine strategies, some of which you may already be doing!

1. **Don't push.** Silence sometimes is golden. Wait until the right time and refrain from sounding like a prosecutor. Think of friends that you really feel comfortable talking to. They're usually calm and open. Use those same listening strategies with your child.
2. **Listen during active times.** Some kids (particularly boys) are more responsive talking when they are doing something active. So find active things that your child likes (kicking a ball, shooting hoops, building Lego, playing a board game) and do it together. You may find your child is more conducive to talking.
3. **Talk about your child's interests.** Try tailoring the conversation around your child's interests: her CD collection, his hockey cards. It might be a great entrée to a discussion about what's going on in your child's life.
4. **Go to your kid's zone.** If you want some one-on-one talking time with your child, go to a place your child enjoys: a mall, the batting cage to practice his swing, a local ice cream shop, the park. Your child will be more relaxed because he's in his territory and more likely to open up.
5. **Ask specific questions.** Kids get turned off by those generic, "How was your day?" type of questions. If you want to invite conversations, ask more specific questions. "Who did you sit next to during lunch?" "What game did you play at recess?" "Tell me about the story your teacher read today."
6. **Ask questions that elicit more than one-word answers.** Make skillful use of questions that your child must respond to with more than a one-word answer. "How would you have ended the book?" "What would you have done differently in the game?" "What are your feelings about...?"
7. **Find the best time and place for listening.** Research says that parents can learn a lot about their kids en route to school and activities: the car pool when your child is locked in the car with you can be a great place to talk, when you're starting dinner and your child is in the kitchen, or at bedtime when your child is calm and relaxed.
8. **Mandate family dinners.** Family dinners are the greatest place to give kids your full attention and hear what's going on in their lives. If many of your days are hectic with lessons and practices, check your calendar and set aside special week days for this important "together time."
9. **Turn on the answering machine and turn off your cell phones.** Many families have set a "no phone calls" time from 6- 8 in the evening. That's the time when the family usually gathers for meals and sharing their day. Set times in your home when you will listen to your kids with your full presence and attention.

The most important secret to improving conversations with kids: cease the judgments and try to stay non-critical. Judging, criticizing, or always offering advice are big-time communication stoppers for kids. Holding back opinions is the secret to getting kids to really say what is on their mind.

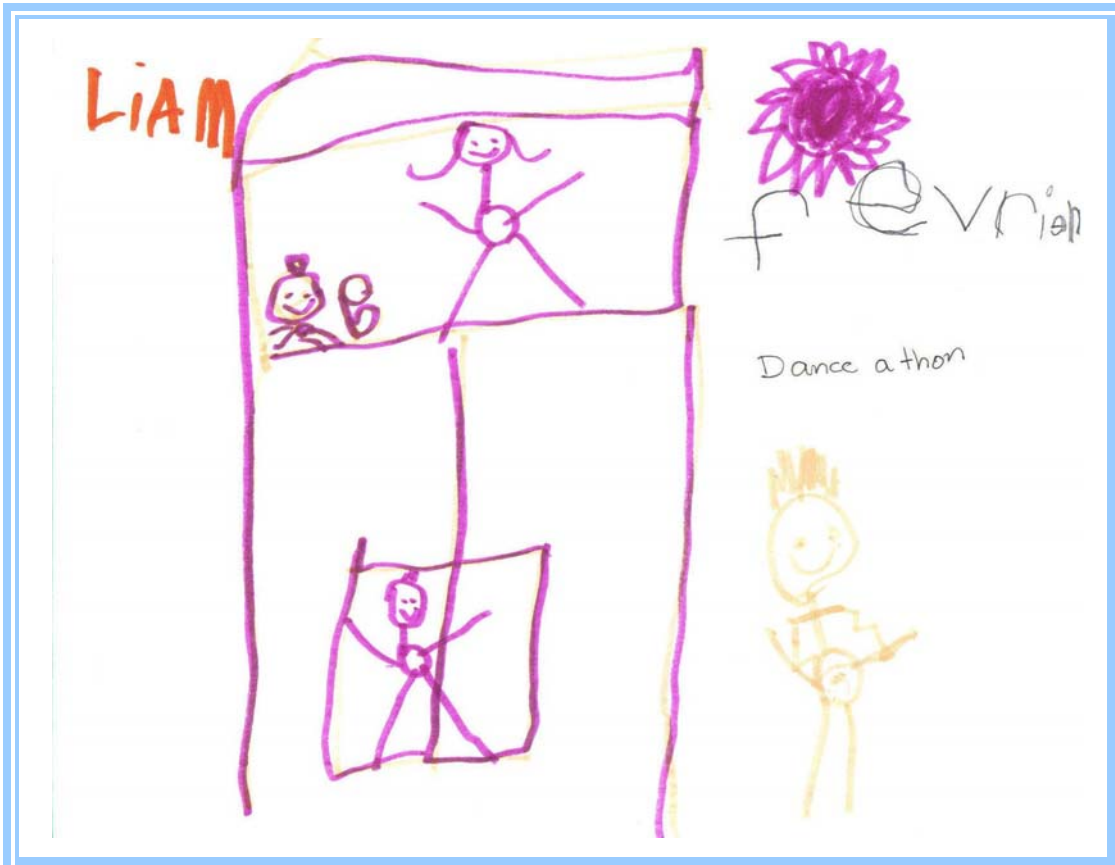
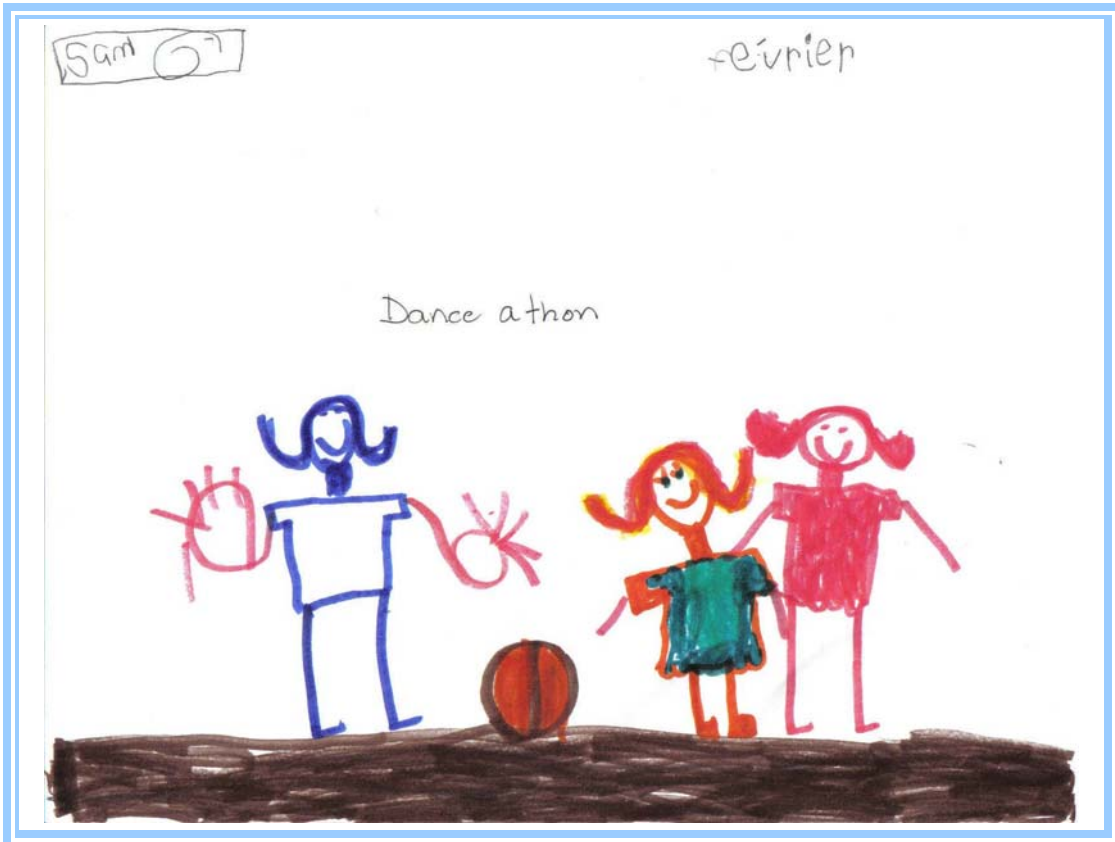
-- Natalie Esakov, Guidance Program & Services Department

Do you have news or events to announce in an upcoming Bulletin? Send the details to bulletin@brownschool.ca

FEBRUARY'S DANCE-A-THON WAS A LOT OF FUN!

This year's Dance-A-Thon, held on February 14, was a huge success! Thanks to your support, Brown students were able to raise money for our school and our Outreach initiatives. Many thanks to all who volunteered during the event!

We are proud to share illustrations of the Dance-A-Thon from two students of Room 15, SK French:



We are delighted to share a selection of speeches from our recent Public Speaking Day with you:

J'ai Deux Yeux, Tant Mieux

J'ai deux yeux, tant mieux
Deux oreilles, c'est pareil
Deux épaules, c'est drôle
Deux bras, ça va
Deux fesses qui se connaissent
Deux jambes, il me semble

Que j'ai deux mains, très bien
Deux coudes qui se boudent
Deux hanches qui se balancent
Deux cuisses qui glissent
Deux genoux, c'est doux
Deux pieds pour danser.

By Kreher, Room 15 (SK)

Bonhomme Bonhomme

Bonhomme, bonhomme
Comme tu es beau
Avec ta pipe et ton chapeau
Bonhomme, bonhomme
Comme tu es beau
Avec trois boules et foulard chaud

By Alexander, Room 15 (SK)

Au Feu!

Le cendrier s'est renversé
Sur le tapis
Au feu!

Le tapis bleu
A mis le feu
Dans le salon.
Au feu!

Et l'incendie
A tout brûlé
Dans la maison.
Au feu!

By Philip N., Room 25 (Grade 2)

La Neige

L'eau de l'hiver
est devenue
Cristaux de neige,
Flocons de neige,
Boules de neige,
Bonhomme de neige.

Et au printemps,
Tout a fondu.

By Sara A., Room 25 (Grade 2)

Honourable judges, students, staff and parents. My name is Andrea and I will be presenting a poem on the topic of friendship.

The title of my poem is "Friendship Is"

Friendship is caring, looking out for one another, helping, listening and being loyal and fair.

Playing together, enjoying each other's company, and having the same interests.

It doesn't matter what your background is or where you're from.

You can always and will always be friends.

Thank you.

By Andrea H., Room 23 (Grade 3)

Honourable judges, students, staff and parents. My name is Veronika and I will be presenting a poem on the topic of friendship.

Hi, my name is Veronika. I'm from the Czech Republic. When I arrived in Toronto, I didn't have any friends here. My best friend was Buffy – my uncle's dog. But I missed having other friends. I'm very glad I have more friends now. At school my best is Anja. But I'm playing with the other children too. Me and my mom, we have met another Czech family in Toronto. They have four children: Julinka, Barunka, Elinka and Thomas. They are very friendly and nice. I always enjoy meeting them.

I am very glad that I found new friends in Canada.

Friendship is very important to me. I think friendship is very important to everyone.

Thank you.

By Veronika S., Room 23 (Grade 3)

Excerpts from Cherry's speech on Princess Diana:

Royal families interest me a lot, so I choose a princess to do my speech on. This princess was gorgeous and kind to people. Even people with AIDS, leprosy and many other diseases. Princess Diana was one of those people who led a remarkable life.

Diana was born on July the 1st, 1961. She was the third daughter born to Frances Ruth Burke Roche and Edward John Spencer. She had two older sisters, Sarah born in 1955 and Jane born in 1957. A son Charles was born in 1964.

Diana was invited to Prince Charles' 30th birthday party and that was followed by several other dates. Finally, when Prince Charles decided that Diana was the perfect person to help him rule England, he gave a tour of Windsor Castle. Ending up in the nursery he proposed to her and she said "yes".

On August 31st, 1997, Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, had just eaten at a hotel in Paris. Driven by a chauffeur at least a dozen photographers chased their car while traveling through a tunnel. The chauffeur tried to speed up to escape the photographers, the car got out of control, and..... Diana was taken to a hospital, but at only 36 years of age she already needed a funeral.

We remember Diana as the People's Princess. She has touched our hearts and we will treasure her memory forever. Thank you.

By Cherry, Room 41 (Grade 4)

Mon voyage à la République Dominicaine

Je suis allée à la République Dominicaine pendant mes vacances de mars. Je suis allée avec ma famille et des amis de mes parents. Quand j'étais là, nous avons nagé très souvent. L'eau était très chaude.

Le troisième jour quelque chose de drôle est arrivé. Mon père, mon frère et son ami sont allés marcher et ils ont vu un lézard. Ils ont suivi le lézard et le lézard s'est caché en-dessous d'une roche. Mon papa a dit: "Je vais compter jusqu'à trois et je vais lever la roche. Vous allez attraper le lézard. Et 1, 2, 3 et mon père a levé la roche. Ils ont vu une énorme araignée qui était en train de manger le lézard. Ils ont tous couru à la maison. Ils ont couru à l'intérieur et ils ont dit tous en même temps: "On a vu une grande tarentule quand on est allé marcher". On a bien rit. Après on est allé à la piscine et on a mangé le dîner.

By Mary-Jane, Room 36 (Grade 3)

Le Canada

Honorables Juges, chers professeurs, chers parents, étudiants. Aujourd'hui je vais vous parler du Canada. Les sujets comme: comment le Canada s'est fait, pourquoi il y a la Confédération, les gens à l'arrière-plan et les premiers ministres des provinces.

Je vais commencer avec comment le Canada s'est fait? Le Canada a été découvert quand les explorateurs sont venus d'Europe. Ces terres étaient très riches. La France et la Grande-Bretagne étaient en guerre parce que les deux pays voulaient ce territoire. À la fin, la Grande-Bretagne a gagné contre la France à la guerre de 1763. Le Canada a commencé parce que les colonies (la Colombie-Britannique, la Nouvelle Écosse, le Nouveau Brunswick, l'Ontario et le Québec), ont décidé d'être le Canada. Alors, tous les premiers ministres des colonies sont allés à l'île du Prince Edouard pour être un grand pays le 1er juillet 1867. Maintenant le Canada est le deuxième pays plus grand du monde.

En 1860 le Québec et l'Ontario était une seule colonie. Mais parce qu'il y a avait beaucoup de personnes, ils ont décidé de former deux provinces différentes.

Il y avait beaucoup de problèmes dans les provinces, c'est pourquoi, les premiers ministres des provinces ont décidé de s'unir et de former le Canada en 1867. Quand le Canada est devenu un pays les premiers habitants du pays, les autochtones se sont installés dans des réserves qui sont des terres pour eux seulement.

Le premier ministre du Canada est Stephen Harper qui est aussi le chef du Parti Conservateur. Stéphane Dion est le chef du partie Libéral et Jack Layton est le chef du N.P.D.

Stephen Harper est devenu le 22e première ministre le 6 février 2006. Stephen Harper est né le 30 avril 1959 à Toronto. Il est aller en Alberta pour travailler dans l'industrie pétrolière.

Maintenant je vais vous parler du chef Libéral, Stéphane Dion. Avant que Stéphane Dion était en politique il a enseigner la science politique à l'Université de Montréal pour 12 ans. Il est né le 28 septembre 1955 à Québec.

Jack Layton est le chef du N.P.D. Jack Layton a grandi dans un petit village qui s'appelle Hudson au Québec. Il a deux enfants (Sarah et Mike) et il vit à Toronto avec son épouse Olivia.

C'était les chefs des trois partis politiques.

Le Canada est un grand pays et un pays extraordinaire parce qu'il y a des bonnes écoles, des bons premiers-ministres, des belles maisons, la sécurité est fantastique, des docteurs intelligents qui trouvent des soins pour le cancer. Il y a des fantastiques hôpitaux et il n'y a pas beaucoup de tornades, tremblement de terre ou de sécheresses et tous des différents personnes des différents pays pour vivre ici, ensemble! Particulièrement de magnifique paysage. Je vais donner le Canada 10/10 et avec l'espoir que tu vas donner le Canada 10/10 aussi. C'est pourquoi c'est un excellent et magnifique pays!

By Laura, Room 38 (Grade 5)

I Caught You A Delicious Bass...

The whole point of fishing is of course to catch fish, but there is much more to fishing than catching fish. The basic equipment includes a rod, a reel, some line and a hook or lure, with or without bait. Live bait can be worms, frogs, crickets, leeches, rats and even smaller fish like minnows or perch.

Any good fisherman also has to give careful consideration to the question of the lure: Will I use my floater or my sinker? Or perhaps the spinner or even the popper is best for today...

Then you need to find some catchable fish and even in Canada this can be a challenge for any fisherman. Weeds, rocks, under docks, heavy cover, earlier or later, murky water are all good, depending on the type of fish you are after.

Patience is of the essence—if you are impatient take up another sport like running or something...I have devoted many hours sitting in a smelly boat only to reel in a rock, a crayfish, and even an angry snapping turtle. I even missed my dad's leg by a few inches.

You probably want to know about the best fish I've ever caught. Two summers ago at a friend's cottage in Muskoka I caught a huge (and very delicious) large-mouth bass. It really did have the most enormous mouth...

Some of the best places I've fished include Lake Nipissing in northern Ontario, Lake of the Woods in Kenora, and Elephant Lake. I have also been out in the ocean with a hired guide off the coast of Florida where we fished for lady fish and sea trout with shrimp for bait. A pod of dolphins frolicked in the turquoise ocean beside our boat.

We usually catch and release, but every summer on our annual fishing trip with the guys we have a "shore lunch." Our guides cook, clean and serve the freshest pickerel and bass that we caught earlier. The fish is fried with bacon, beans and potatoes. After lunch we all run into the lake for the rest of the afternoon.

With any sport, there are always some important things to keep in mind regarding safety. One of the most common accidents involve fishermen hooking themselves with lures: the parry sound hospital's emergency department has an entire wall filled with hundreds of fishing lures that have been extracted from unlucky fisherman.

Fishing is popular all around the world. In Africa you can catch a fish 5 times Coltán, 4 times Ryan, and 2 times Mr. Wittenberg—it's called a Nile perch. Also in the United States, President Bush recently said that his favourite moment while in office was when he caught a 7 ½ pound large mouth bass at his cottage.

People often make fun of fishermen for exaggerating. My grandfather, a retired judge, once had a fishing boat he called "the witness box" because he said people lie and exaggerate in two places: in courtrooms and in fishing stories.

So this summer, you too should try fishing.....and I bet you won't top my record of a fish **thiiiiiiiiissssssssssss bigggg!!!**

By Jake, Room 33 (Grade 5)