



# Phoenix Press

## We Bring News From FCS Lower School

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## Fifth Grade Hits the Big City

By Savina Copas and Daphne Volpp

May 26, 2017

Dear Lower School,

**Greetings from New York! It's been full of adventure! We just visited the UN and now we're heading to Bryant Park for a fifth grade picnic. We are kind of rushed with only fifteen minutes to eat, but aside from that it's been a great day! Oh, we have to go now, don't want to miss the bus.**

**See you tomorrow,**

**The fifth grade**



Fifth graders have been studying peace and conflict resolution in the world. On May 26th, we boarded buses at 7:00 a.m. and headed to the Big Apple. When we got off the bus, we saw the magnificent, extraordinary United Nations! We walked through the courtyard, and saw many statues and memorials along the way. Next, we came to the main entrance where we split in three groups. We took a moment of peace in the meditation room. We went to many fabulous exhibits, including the General Assembly room and even saw a meeting in action!

Our final activity in the UN was an amazing guided tour, where we saw many unique gifts given to the UN by different countries. Then we went to lunch in Bryant Park. It was an awesome trip and, fourth graders, you have a lot to look forward to!

## ONAS!!!

By Phoebe Davidson and Nora-Simone Thorne

**You want fun, you want adventure, you want Onas...**

**A fun experience for the fifth graders!**

From getting your group through a giant spider web, to zip lining across a lake, rising fifth graders, huh, you're gonna have fun!!

The fifth graders went from May 25 to May 26 and spent two days in platform tents. It was rainy, it was cold, but that didn't stop them from having fun! They got to do low ropes course, high ropes course, canoeing, archery, rope swing, tire swing, and team building activities.

At night the kids played cards, told stories, had karaoke parties, played hide and seek, and had a blast. Lights out was at 10 o'clock. They woke up at 7:30, and some woke even earlier. There was an awesome blacktop, and a great dining hall.

Summer camp is still open for registration! Throughout this experience the fifth grade had a blast and an amazing time. They wish they could do it again!

P.S. They had an awesome dog named Mackenzie.



## The "Bizarre" Bazaar

By Daphne Volpp, Savina Copas and Jey Brown

**"HENNA, HENNA COME GET YOUR HENNA HERE!!"**

In April, the fifth grade had a bazaar in Mr. Denton's classroom. It was a simulation of the Silk Road. Fifth graders dressed up in traditional Middle Eastern clothing and each ran their own stand such as spices, henna, food, brass and silk. The spices had a spicy twist...they ran out of bags for the pomanders (little bags of spices)! Many of the stands' businesses were booming, such as the grape stand, brass, henna, and especially spices.

Many classes and parents came to bargain and buy. First, they got some riyals from the money changer. Then they were free to bargain with the shopkeepers.

The reason this bazaar was so "bizarre" is because it was the last bazaar Mr. Denton will ever do. Even though it will never be the same, the show must go on! The other classes will have new opportunities with new teachers and friends. We will miss the wonderful bazaar Mr. Denton has run all these years. It has been a treat to do this with him.



**Mr. Denton's last bazaar!**



# The Gift of Music

By Clara Behling and Avery Lewis

*Simple Gifts*, *This Land Was Made for You and Me*, *Ho Ho Wantany*, *Tafta Hindi*, and *Draw the Circle* were just a few of the songs 4th and 5th graders sang at the Spring Concert on April 27th, led by Mrs. O, our music teacher.

First, everyone performed *Simple Gifts* for the opening song. This is a song the Shakers sang together about "simplicity", which was something they strongly believed in. Then the Rainbow Ensemble shared three of the songs they have been practicing for a long time. The ensemble consists of two 2nd graders and two 5th graders. They played beautifully with three violins and one cello.

Next, 4th graders sang *This Land Was Made for You and Me*, by Woody Guthrie. They sang two famous verses and two verses that are not as well-known. His songs explain his life during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. Then the 4th and 5th grade chorus performed *Ho Ho Wantany*. The song is a lullaby which the Iroquois women sang to their little ones. The women are very highly honored in their tribe for giving life.

The Middle Eastern song that 5th grade performed next was called *Tafta Hindi*. It is a song about a merchant selling Indian tafta. We dedicated this song to our 5th grade humanities teacher Mr. Denton, who has been teaching about the Middle East for a long time and is retiring this year.

We ended the concert with a song called *Draw the Circle* and finally *Simple Gifts* once again, but this time the whole audience was free to sing along. It was a beautiful performance and a simple gift for the parents!



## From "Israel" to "Irving"

By Jey Brown and Jacques Pierre

On Friday, May 26th, 4A put on a wonderful play about the life of Israel (Irving) Berlin. The play started with him sitting his grandkids down to tell them the story of his life. He and his family immigrated to America because their house in Russia burned down when he was 5 years old. *Rhynland* was the name of the ship which the family suffered on for many weeks in steerage with no room to walk around. When they finally arrived at Ellis Island they were checked by doctors for diseases and barraged with questions about their health and well being.

One day, Izzy and his family went to the market to get an apple, but they couldn't afford it. So Izzy decided to find a good paying job. His first job was a *Newsy*, delivering newspapers. Believe it or not, Izzy fell into a river delivering one day and held onto the five pennies that he earned.

After his father got sick he became a singing waiter, and then wrote a song for all of the customers. He changed his name to Irving and went on to write famous songs like *White Christmas* and *God Bless America*.

Ms. McBee wrote the play (with the help of Sasha Groch) because he was a great example of how immigrants going to America could become a regular citizen or even a famous celebrity.

The scenery was very realistic and was made by 4A students in the Light Lab. "The kids worked very hard and really owned all aspects of the play," said Ms. McBee. "They did a great job!"



## 2nd Grade Performs Anansi

By Quin Stovall and Emilio Ovalle

**"It's so hot, it's so hot, it's so hot under African skies!"**

This year's second grade production of *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock* was a big success, starting out with the well-known and well-loved song *It's So Hot* which, when finished, got much applause. Many parents were even brought to tears!

This marvelous play was rumored to have been the best one yet. All of this was possible because of the 2nd grade teachers: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Kollender and Mrs. Adorno. *Anansi the Spider* is a humorous African folk tale known to many. This particular story features the trickster Anansi, the banana-loving elephants, the yam-loving lions, the dancing mango-loving rhinos, the wise old zebras, the tricky old bush deer, the narrators, and, of course, the strange moss-covered rock.

The story begins on a hot summer day, when Anansi bumps into a moss covered rock in the jungle and utters the magical words, "This is a strange, moss covered rock," that instantly makes him fall asleep for one hour! He wakes up tired and confused. After he realized what had happened, he figured that he could use this rock to trick other animals and steal their food without having to lift one single finger. Eventually, the animals turn the trick right back on Anansi.

The actors spoke loud and clear, good for all to hear. The singing was magical and the scenery was simple yet beautiful. All of this came together to form a wondrous play that we'll all remember!



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