

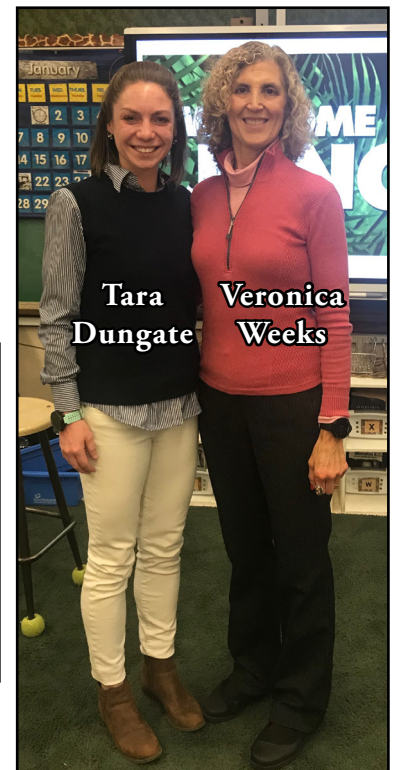
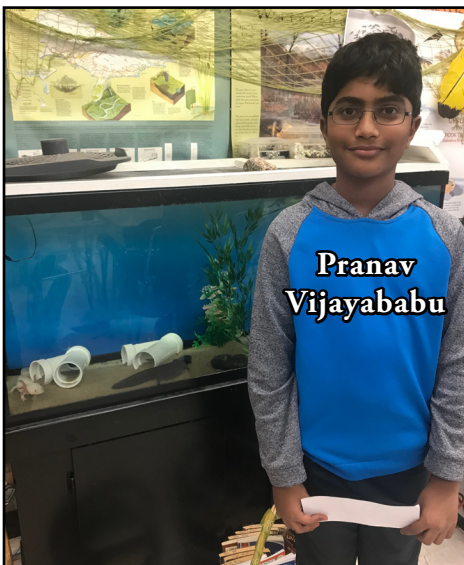
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“WELCOME TO THE WILD!” COME ON A LEARNING ADVENTURE WITH TEACHERS VERONICA WEEKS, TARA DUNGATE AND THEIR FIFTH GRADE CLASS AT BRETTON WOODS!

At a recent interview for our “Teacher Spotlight” feature with Michelle Beutel, Michelle was asked “If you could sit in on another teacher’s class for a day, who would it be and why?” Her answer was “I would spend the day in Veronica Weeks and Tara Dungate’s room. I’m literally fascinated by all of the animals in there!” After reading that response, I knew that I had to find out for myself what was happening in their classroom!

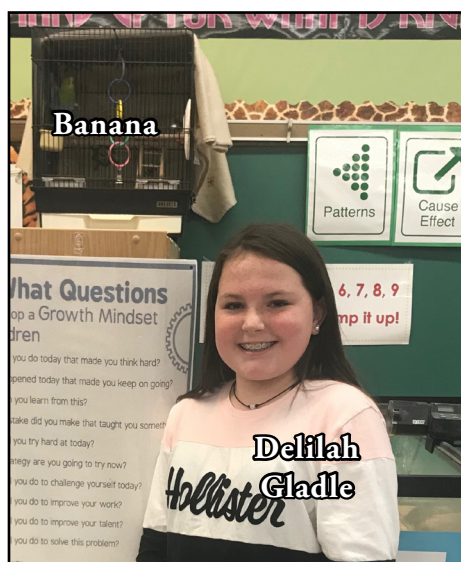
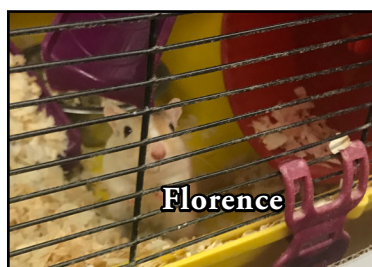
I visited Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate’s classroom on Thursday and when I saw their welcome sign, I knew this was going to be an adventure! The students warmly greeted me and they were all ready to take me on a tour of their classroom creatures.

My first tour guide was Pranav Vijayababu and our destination was a large tank that housed Axolotls named Inti and Mama Killa. Axolotls are salamanders that stay in their larval state in water. Pranav said, “Inti has a gene that allows her to glow bright green under a black light. Axolotls can regrow limbs and can regenerate their heart, spine, lungs and brain. They are critically endangered and are only found in one lake in Mexico.” These are amazing creatures!



Next up was the tour guide team of Trinity Garcia and Sofia Meneses. They took me to two cages which are the current homes of two gerbils, Florence and Carolina. A fellow teacher, Ms. Kastan had told the class about a dog rescuer who discovered abandoned gerbils when she went to rescue dogs during the hurricane in North Carolina. Ms. Weeks had contacted her and they were asked to save the gerbils. The class took them in and they have a "DonorsChoose Campaign" to try to buy them new, large cages. The class is also trying to find them forever homes. Trinity said, "They are very funny and love to roll around in plastic balls!"

The journey continued with Delilah Gladle. Delilah took me to the home of Banana the Parakeet. Delilah explained, "Banana is a parakeet that Ms. Weeks saved three years ago on the playground outside. It was in the middle of winter and Banana

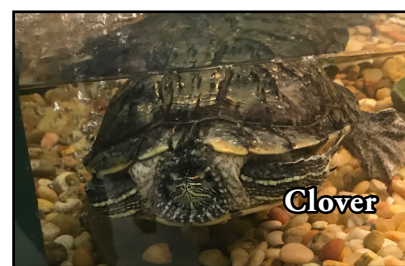
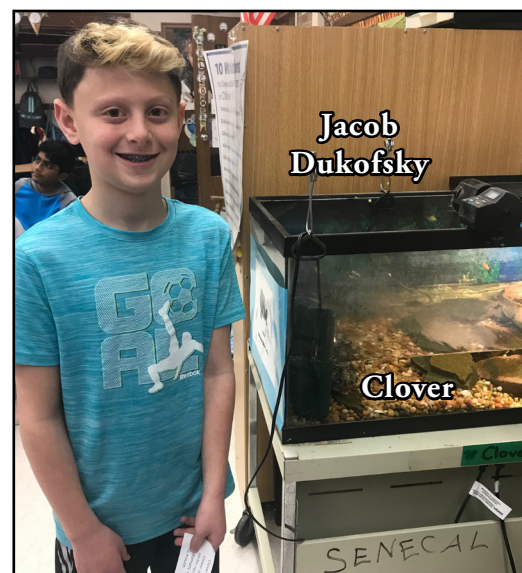
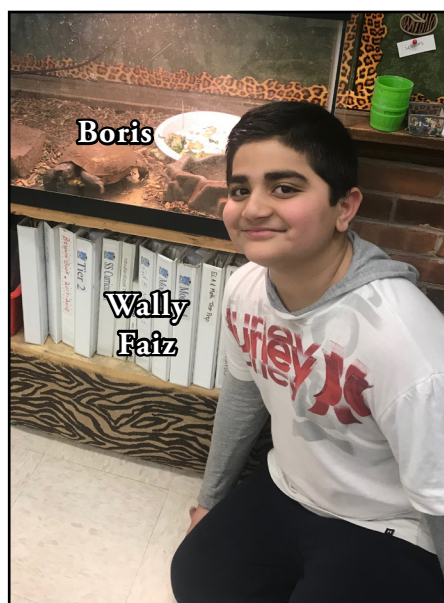
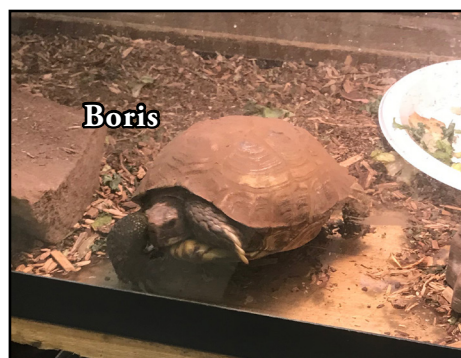


would not have survived outside. She has been a part of the classroom ever since." Delilah also said, "Banana goes crazy whenever she hears Spanish being spoken." Ms. Weeks said that perhaps Banana came from a home where Spanish was spoken.



Jacob Dukofsky was ready and waiting to continue my tour and took me to visit Clover who is a red-eared slider turtle. Jacob said, "Clover will come up on his rock to sun himself and sits under his automatic feeder waiting for kibble to drop into his mouth."

Next up was Wally Faiz. Wally showed me the tank where Boris the Russian Tortoise lives. Wally said, "He eats greens and other fruits and vegetables. He loves to run around his tank like our marathon-running teachers, Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dun-gate!"



Cassie Delgado, my next tour guide, continued this awesome adventure I was on! She took me to visit Cloud, a dwarf hamster. Cassie said, "Cloud is our dwarf hamster who is the cutest little guy ever! Students take him home over the weekends and holidays. He loves to roll around in his plastic ball and is a real chubby little guy!" Cloud is definitely a cutie!

Mikaela Hennessy took me to visit Marshmallow who is a Lionhead Bunny! Mikaela told me that Ms. Weeks got Marshmallow as a baby and that he loves Cheerios! Mikaela said, "Marshmallow has a bad tooth that keeps growing and we have to get it clipped every month. He is very sweet and goes home with students over the summer." Ms. Weeks said that Marshmallow has a playpen and the students are able to go in it and sit with Marshmallow.

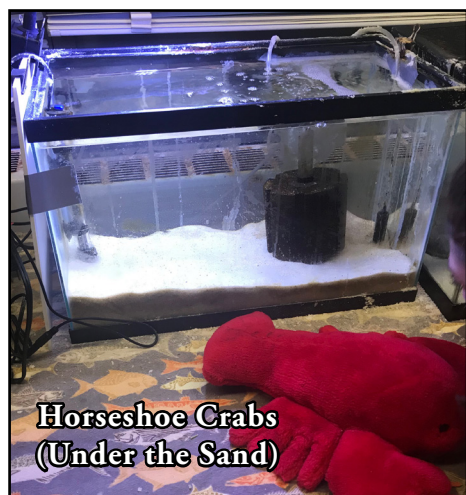
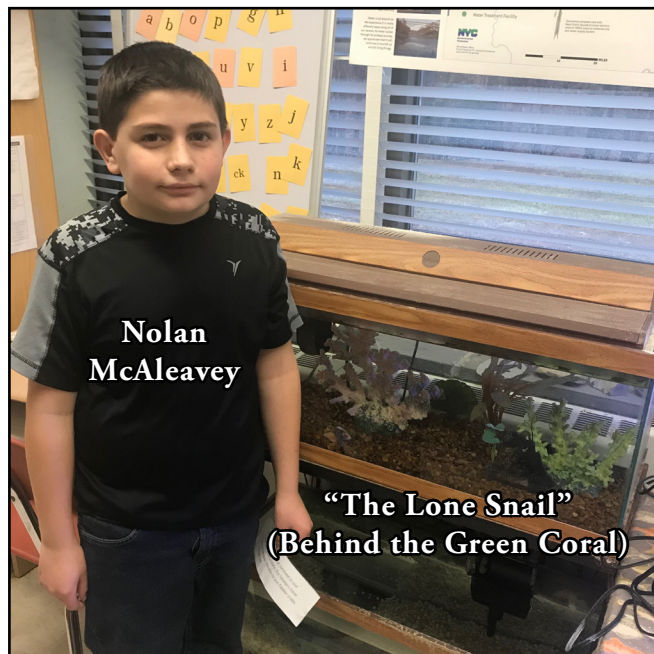


I learned next from Katherine DiTuro about another cute rabbit named Butterscotch. Katherine said, "Butterscotch is our female Lionhead Bunny. She is sweet too and goes home with a student over the summer. She likes to sit on top of her shelf in the cage." Butterscotch was a little shy today but smiled for her close up!



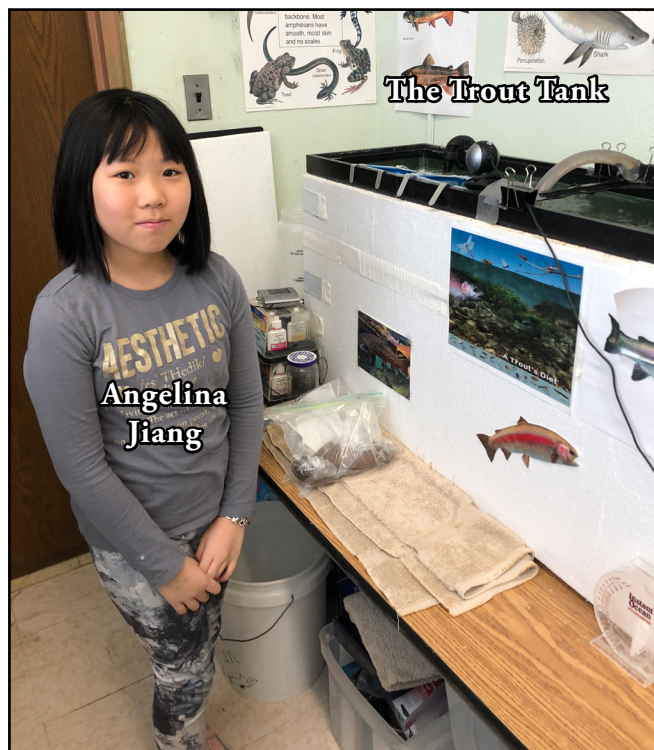
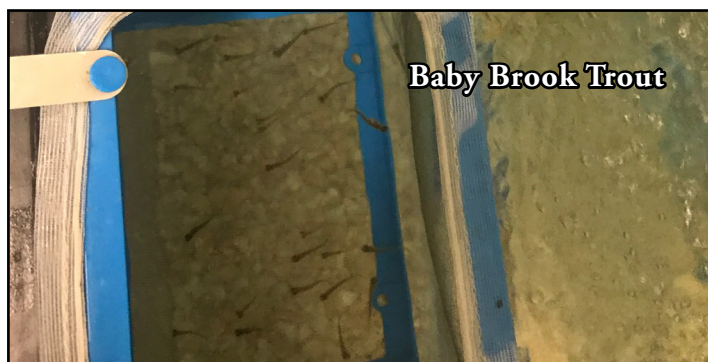
Nolan McAleavey took me next to visit “The Lone Snail.” Initially, Ms. Weeks said that the tank contained three lobsters, but they have since passed away. They believe that the snail was attached to one of them. Nolan said, “We plan to put fiddler crabs in the tank soon.”

Delilah Gladle was up again to talk to me about their Horseshoe Crab tank. Delilah explained, “We participate in a program with Malloy College called CERCOM which stands for the Center for Environmental Research and Coastal Oceans Monitoring. In this program we raise horseshoe crabs in our classroom. They will be returned to CERCOM in the spring where they will continue to grow.” None of these horseshoe crabs were visible in the tank. Delilah said, “They hide under the sand at this time of year so it is hard to see them. We have to check on the salt content of the tank daily. Horseshoe crabs are a keystone species which means that they are very important for other species in our waterways. We are trying



to save them because their populations have declined.” Ms. Weeks said that when the sun is on the tank, they tend to move around and you can see lines in the sand. There are about 35 Horseshoe Crabs under the sand!

Angelina Jiang, my next tour guide showed me a large tank and when I looked over the side I was surprised to see baby Trout! Angelina said, “Our class went to Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery to see the trout eggs get fertilized and then we brought them back and hatched them in our tank. They are Brook Trout and they are native to Long Island.” Angelina also said that there is a webcam on the tank and they are able to watch them on their iPads! She said, “The Brook Trout babies will be released in the late Spring and we will be there to wish them well.”



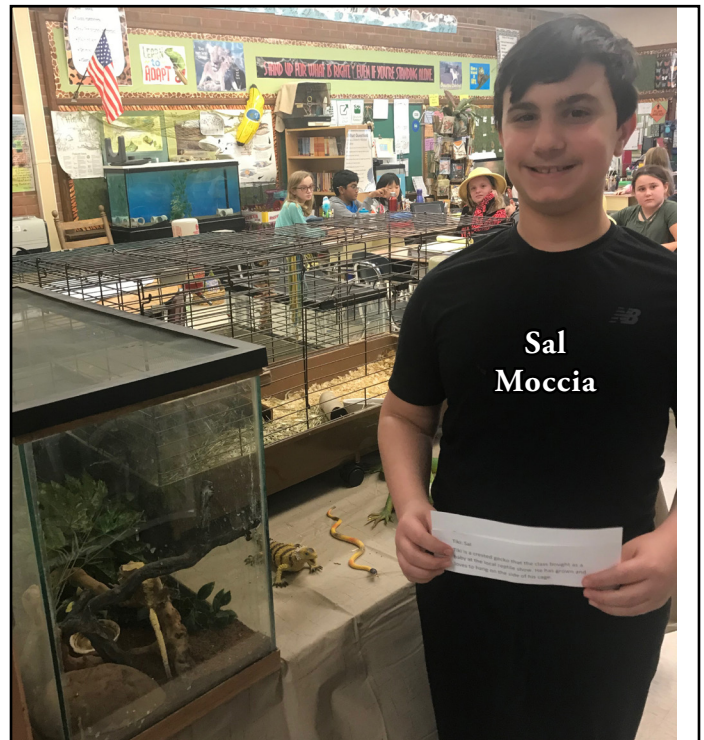
My next tour guide was Sal Moccia. Sal took me to the home of Oscar. Sal said, "Oscar is a Chinese Cave Gecko who we got from a lady who could not care for him any longer. He loves to hide in his cave and eats crickets." Sal also said, "Oscar needs daily spraying to keep his enclosure moist." Ms. Weeks said that Oscar's eyes are red.

Sal took me to see another one of their reptiles. We visited the home of Tiki who is a Crested Gecko. Sal said, "Tiki was bought by the class as a baby at the local reptile show. He has grown and loves to hang on the side of his cage."

I was sad to see that our tours were winding down and we were at our last stop. My last tour guide was Julia Mennella. Julia spoke to me about the Bobwhite Quail. The class does not have one at the moment, but they will be hatching Bobwhite Quail eggs in the Spring. Julia said, "We hatch Bobwhite Quail for release into Caleb Smith State Park. Quail eat ticks and are very important for the environment." Julia also said, "We will incubate 100 eggs in the Spring and we take care of the babies once they hatch. Then, they go to outdoor pens at Caleb Smith to grow more. We meet at Caleb Smith for a big release in early summer. It is amazing to see the birds go back into the wild." Julia was able to show me a photo of a Bobwhite Quail.



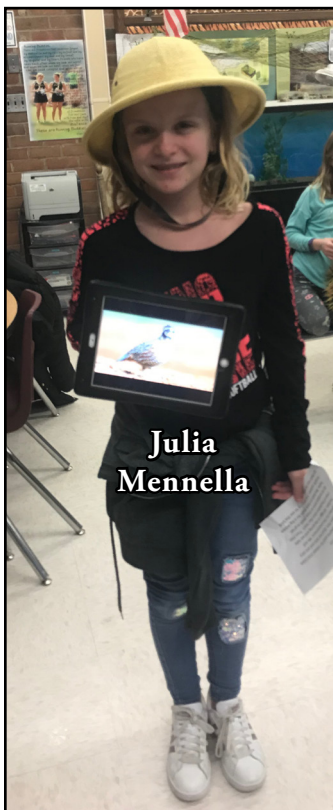
Oscar



Sal
Moccia



Tiki



Julia
Mennella

Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate have found their way to being magnets for animals and birds. Their students told me that they are sometimes visited by Wild Turkeys. They all had on their iPads some video they took of Ms. Weeks outside feeding and talking to the visiting Turkeys recently. Also, a few years ago, they rescued an owl who had become entangled in a sports net outside of the school.

Outside of their classroom window, Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate and their class at the time, planted a Butterfly Garden. They put in the garden plants that would attract butterflies because they have strong aromas to attract them. They have had butterflies released there. The butterflies tend to stay right in the garden and they are able to watch them.



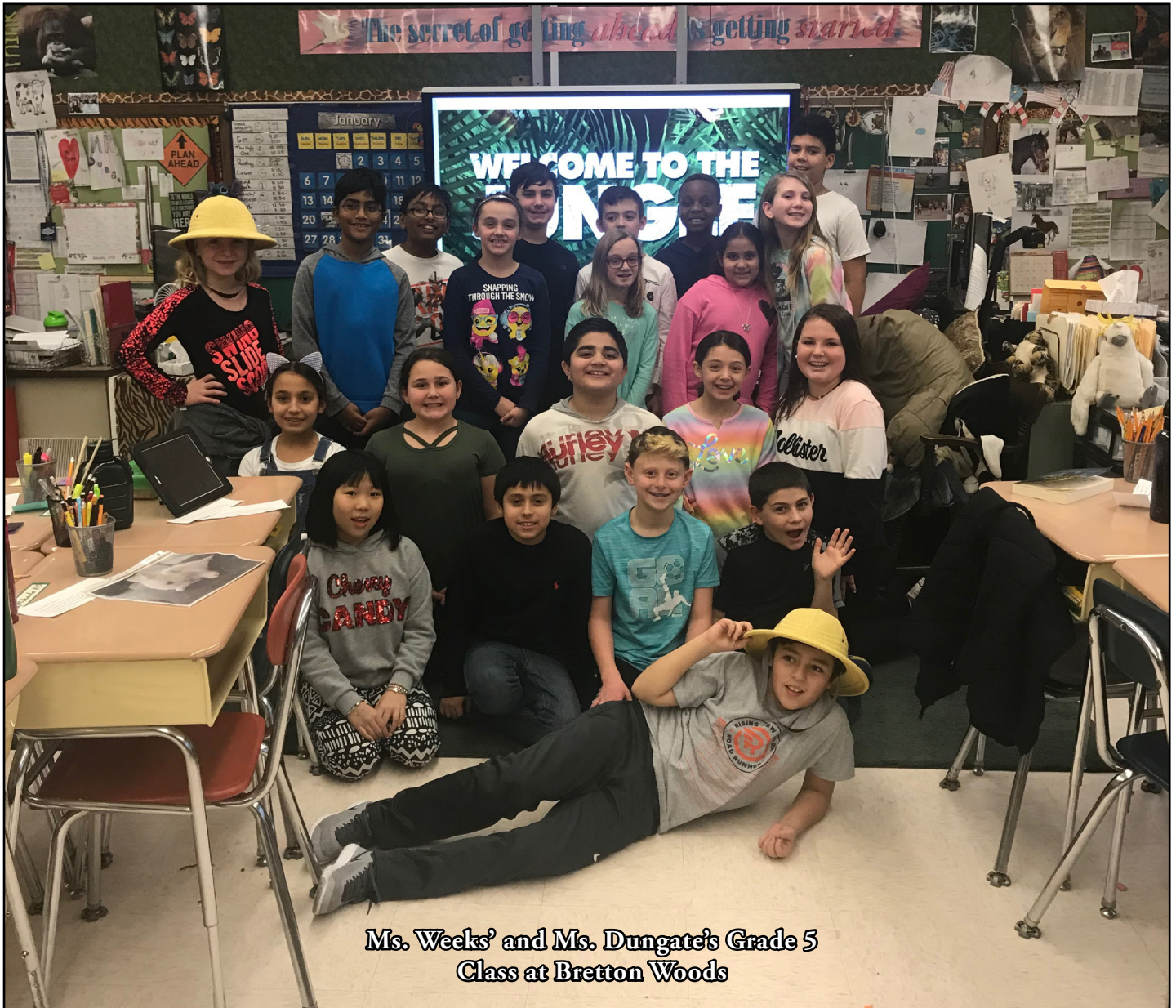
Feeding Wild Turkeys



Rescued Owl

Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate belong to the Greentree Ecology Teachers Group. Their motto is “No Child Left Inside.” They have made Saturday trips with their students to the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery, the Long Island Reptile Expo and Belmont Lake to name a few.

I would like to thank Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate for allowing me to come into their classroom and also a BIG thank you to the students who were so gracious and well-informed during the tour of their classroom. This was a wonderful visit and I hope to follow up with them in the future to see the growing Brook Trout and the hatching of the Bobwhite Quail eggs.



**Ms. Weeks' and Ms. Dungate's Grade 5
Class at Bretton Woods**

HAUPPAUGE ROTARY “STUDENT OF THE MONTH” IS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, SERGIO GIRALDO

Hauppauge High School Senior, Sergio Giraldo, was recognized on Wednesday, January 16th as the Hauppauge Rotary “Student of the Month.” Sergio was the guest of honor along with his high school mentor, Social Studies teacher Mrs. Kelly Barry, and his little sister, Clara, who attends first grade at Forest Brook Elementary School. He was also joined by his High School Assistant Principal, Joy Ferrara.

Sergio has played on the Varsity Soccer team in grades 10, 11 and 12. He has also been a volunteer at JVC Broadcasting and has helped run food drives for victims of the earthquake that devastated Ecuador and the hurricane that destroyed much of Puerto Rico last year.

Sergio has also volunteered at his local fire department during Hurricane Sandy. He sorted supplies and loaded up trucks to deliver the items to those in need.

Congratulations Sergio on being this month’s “Hauppauge Rotary Student of the Month!”



"TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Amy Thompson

Grade 6

Middle School STEAM & Social Studies



Why did you want to become a teacher?

Teaching was the only job I have ever wanted. I started teaching to my Cabbage Patch Kids as a young child. I love the idea of impacting someone's life in a positive way.

Where did you go to college?

Salisbury State University in Salisbury, Maryland.

What did you like about college?

I loved experiencing college because it was in a different state from where I grew up. I loved being on my own and having an apartment.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is when the students are genuinely excited about what I am teaching and when a student comes back and says, "Remember when . . ."

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 21st year in Hauppauge.

Do you have any traditions or superstitions regarding the first day of school?

I start off the first day of school welcoming students & saying how in a blink of an eye I will be congratulating you on a successful year and you will be moving on. Make sure to enjoy the ride!

What makes a good day at school for you?

When I know I made a difference in a child's day! If the students and I leave smiling, I know it was a great day.

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

I am in my fifth year teaching with the NAO Robots. I am happy with how the program is developing and evolving. Incorporating kidOYO into our curriculum and seeing it spill over into other classes is very cool.

How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

Technology is forever changing so I am constantly learning and adapting. Technology allows for a smoother delivery of material most of the time. It can be frustrating when technology does not do what it is supposed to. I am often saying, "Technology isn't perfect! "

If you could sit in on another teachers class for a day, who would it be and why?

I would love to sit in on Mrs. Borchers' class. I love physical education and would love to see her class in action. I always hear the students talking about her classes and see the love they have for her!

Is there a piece of wisdom you would pass on to your students?

Don't get hung up on the small stuff.

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I would take my students to Paris so we could go to "Musee du Louver" and see so much of what we study in sixth grade social studies.

What is one of your best memories of being a student?

We took an overnight trip to Washington D.C. in eighth grade. It was so much fun having a hotel room with my friends.

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

I love the ongoing student goal charts on the wall.

What advice would you give to new teachers?

Keep a journal of all of the fun and crazy experiences - they are easy to forget. It will be a great keepsake!

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I sure like to eat but I do not cook very often.

What word would describe you best when you were a student?

Fun.

Do you have any favorite books you would recommend to students to read?

I always loved "The Orphan of Ellis Island," by Elvira Woodruff.

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

Hauppauge chose me. It was a bonus that my Dad went to school here!

Thank you, Ms. Thompson for a very nice interview!

SOMETHING WAS COOKING IN ROOM C-22 IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND IT WAS DELICIOUS!

Leslie Brophy is the Home and Careers teacher at Hauppauge Middle School. She teaches grades 7 and 8 and also teaches a Career and Consumer Readiness class at the high school. I recently paid a visit to her 8th grade class in the Middle School to see what was cooking!

Home and Careers class is offered to 7th and 8th graders and is a quarterly class. The 7th grade students get to learn sewing in one half and cooking in the other. The 8th graders spend time learning about careers, job applications, resumes, financial literacy and cooking.

I visited with the 8th grade class this past week. Two cooking teams of three were manning the two kitchens in Ms. Brophy's classroom. The first team was making Macaroni and Cheese Sliders topped with Bacon. The second team was making Steak Sushi. The students had prepared the macaroni and cheese yesterday and also marinated their steak in a teriyaki marinade overnight. While the rest of the class who were anxious to eat waited, the six "chefs" got to work.

George Sourlis who was working on cooking the steak told me that he likes to cook at home with his mother and his grandmother. One of his favorite things to make with them is Chicken Parmigiana, he said.

Abigail Mensing said that she never really cooked at home, but likes to try out for her family some of the dishes she makes in class.

Gianna Hennessey said that she likes to cook with her grandmother and mother and likes to make pasta and homemade sauce.

Mrs. Brophy said she enjoys cooking with the students and finds it challenging sometimes to find dishes to make that can be prepared and eaten in the time allotted for class.

With just enough time to eat, the Macaroni and Cheese Sliders and Steak Sushi were served and thoroughly enjoyed by the students!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

EARN TREASURED RIBBONS

Hauppauge Middle School held their Science and Technology Fair on Wednesday, January 9th. The winners are listed below.

Congratulations to all of the students who worked hard on their projects!

Sixth Grade

First Place: Brandon Dolce - "Screen vs. Paper"

Second Place: Hailey Wilcox - "Swim to Greater Heights"

Third Place : Carissa Postilio - "The Greasy Truth on Chips"

Honorable Mention: Sai Lanka - "What Type of Surface Controls Soil Erosion Effectively"

Honorable Mention: Lauren Masaitis - "The Dirtiest Part of a Shopping Cart"

Seventh Grade

First place: Julianna Ferrara - "Skittleology: An Experiment in Color Dissolution"

Eighth Grade

First Place: Sreenand Mallisetty - "Is Banana Peel Based Bio-Plastic Strong Enough for Common Use?"

Second Place: Dharmik Namineni - "A Rocky Mystery: Which Sedimentary Rock Absorbs Oil the Fastest?"

Third Place: Krishna Kuruppassery - "The Effect of Temperature on Bacterial Growth in Milk"



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