Volume 9, Issue 2, September 2017

Mission Statement:

AIT International School provides holistic elementary education (Nursery – Grade 6) in a stimulating and caring international environment that will help build a positive attitude towards learning. Our education is based on values that will support the growth of a reflective and responsible member of the society.
Dear Parents and Friends of AITIS;

AIT International School says an emphatic **NO** to bullying!

During the month of September I had the opportunity to meet with the parents of an entire grade to discuss bullying in the classroom, cyber bullying and the role all of us must take to ensure bullying is eradicated from AITIS and the lives of our children.

As discussed in the recent meeting many of our students are engaged in some form of cyber bullying. We discovered that students are using computers/internet at home to bully their classmates on a fairly consistent basis.

The parents were shocked when presented with the evidence of this bullying and the extent of it.

Although I have only spoken with one group of parents, so far, I am hoping that through this message all parents will be made aware that bullying is pervasive and on-going.

Parents are encouraged to check what their children are doing while online.

Also spending time discussing the proper usage of technology and how to avoid being bullied online would be an excellent pro-active step for all parents.

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Our children deserve an opportunity to learn and grow without being bullied. They deserve an environment wherein they are made to feel safe. The entire staff of AITIS has made the commitment to eradicate bullying. We need every parent’s help to make the elimination of bullying possible.

If every one of us unites in our efforts to make AITIS a safe and bully free zone for our children they will grow to be confident contributors to society.

Together we need to remember that we are here for the sake of the children.
Please help rid our campus of bullying.

Sincerely,
Kevin Mauritson, M.Ed
Principal/Director
HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY

The Health and Wellness Day was celebrated last 15 September 2017. When all of us reached school, we immediately put all our things and fruits on our tables. At around 8:15 a.m., the bell rang which signaled us to go to the pavilion to gather for a warm-up exercise. We were instructed by our Class Teacher to bring our water bottle and cap.

In the pavilion, each grade level had a designated area. When everybody was already there, Khun Sarita led us in our warm up exercise. The students, teachers, and even Mr. Kevin did the warm-up exercise, too.

After our warm-up, each grade level stood up and started to walk around the AIT campus. While we were walking, we sang songs and talked about the places in AIT that looked like the different Native American regions that we learned in Social Studies.

Every now and then we stopped for a minute to drink water and rest for a while because it was so hot. We also waited for the Pre-K section to come because they took a different route from us. As soon as they arrived, everybody went to the school altogether.

Before we went directly to our classroom, we freshened up ourselves first. Then, we went to our classrooms and ate healthy fruits. After eating fruits, we watched videos about bullying. Mrs. Jennifer discussed the types of bullying, how bullying affects a person who is being bullied, and how to stop it. She even told us to make a poster about cyber bullying. When we were done, we put our posters in our bulletin board and took a photo of us with our hands up to signify that we must stop bullying.

The bell rang once again to tell us that we had to head back to the pavilion for the closing ceremony. In the pavilion, the Grade 1 students performed a dance and song number about keeping our hands clean. After that, Mr. Kevin told the Grade 6 students to perform the same dance. It was really a fun dance so Mr. Kevin called each grade level to do the craze until everyone was already dancing. After that, we went back to our classrooms and waited for the bell to ring so we could go back home. It was a tiring day yet really a fun day!

Yamel and Sahaja, Grade 5 Voyagers

SBS FOOTBALL CUP 2017

The AIT International School Soccer Team joined the SBS Cup 2017 sponsored by Satit Bilingual School on September 20, 2017. The whole day event was participated in by five schools, namely AIT International School, Satit Bilingual School, Saint Dominic School, Satit Patana School, and Wad Slakhenux School. The games were separated into four categories; U7, U9, U11, and U13. Our school was able to join the U7 to U11 categories. Each team competed to as many as three games and the teams were ranked according to their win-loss record. The points or goals that a team acquired were used to break a tie in team records.

It was a very fun and exciting day for all players. The players fought well and played with great sportsmanship attitude. It is evident that our teams have great potential and much is to be gained with more practice.

The school sends its gratitude to all the parents who have provided their support and assistance for the welfare of the students and for the success of the event. Big thanks to K. Vasu “Coach Paul” Nersingh and K. Apiyut “oach Pond” Siyapan for guiding our players, to K. Iryna Fariza Mohammed for helping with her coordinating and “cheer-leading” skills, to K. Charinya Saichan for providing additional refreshments, and to K. Praipan and K. Supinya Vilailert for their generosity in sponsoring the Team Shirts.

Most of all we sincerely thank the following valiant students who gave their best and carried the school with great pride and sportsmanship:

Grade 2-3: Pal, Chevan, Ilan, Napat, Pitchayut, Melisa, Pasu, Hrithik,
Grade 4: Alexander, Thanop, Devan, Ilyas Adam, Pornanan, Wiss, Kritamate, Punn
Grade 5: Panyakorn, Kitipoom, Anawil, Chawis, Phon, Robin, Tanawit, Kornpech

Health & PE Teacher, Mr. Anjelo Mungcal

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Health & Wellness Day
SBS FOOTBALL CUP 2017
EMOTION COACHING - A 5 STEP DISCIPLINE PROCESS

A Type of Discipline that Focuses on Feelings

Emotion coaching is one of the five main types of discipline that is based largely on Washington-state’s psychology researcher John Gottman. According to Gottman’s research, when parents give kids the skills they need to deal with emotions, they’ll have more self-confidence, do better in school, and experience healthier relationships.

Gottman spent years studying how parents can best help children learn how to effectively manage their positive and negative emotions.

He broke down the process into five steps which focus on teaching kids about feelings so they can learn how to make better choices. It also helps build a positive relationship between parents and children while setting limits for misbehavior.

1. Be Aware of Emotions

Emotion coaching requires parents to become aware of their child’s emotions as well as their own emotions. Allowing yourself and your child the freedom to feel any emotion is the heart of emotion coaching. Feelings are okay and no one should be judged or criticized for feeling a certain way.

Pay attention to the ways in which your child responds to emotions such as anxiety, sadness, anger, and excitement. Look for cues, such as body language, facial gestures, and behavioral changes. Observe and listen to your child to become in tune with how your child expresses various feelings. This will help you identify his feelings before he begins exhibiting misbehavior.

2. Connect with Your Child

Gottman recommends that parents use highly emotional experiences as a way to connect with their child. Instead of turning away when a child has a tantrum to ignore the behavior, emotion coaching recommends that parents see emotional times as an opportunity for teaching.

Encourage your child to recognize his emotions.

Help him verbalize his feelings. Intervene when you notice he is becoming upset so you can offer guidance and prevent misbehavior. Don’t try to fix your child’s negative emotions but show him that it is normal to have lots of different kinds of feelings.

3. Listen to Your Child

Listening to a child is an essential part of emotion coaching. Validate your child’s feelings and show him that you accept his feelings. Also, show that you take your child’s emotions seriously. Encourage him to try and talk about what he is experiencing.

4. Name Emotions

Help your child learn how to recognize and verbalize his feelings. Don’t try to tell him what he should be feeling. Instead, point out how he appears to be feeling to validate to him that his feelings are okay.

Instead of saying, “Calm down. You shouldn’t be so upset just because you can’t have another cookie.” Say, “I see you are really mad and sad because you really wanted another cookie and I said you can’t have one.” By showing a child you can name his emotions, it helps soothes him and he won’t have to put energy into trying to show you how he feels.

5. Find Solutions

Emotion coaching focuses on preventing misbehavior when possible. When a child is entering into a situation where he’s likely to become easily frustrated, help him identify ways to manage his frustration ahead of time.

Say, “I know going to the grocery is hard because it takes a long time and sometimes you feel impatient. Today, when you start to feel frustrated, tell me and we’ll take a break for a few minutes to help you calm down.”

When your child misbehaves, encourage him to identify that feeling that led to the behavior. Then teach problem-solving skills and work together on finding creative solutions. When possible, let kids develop their own creative solutions.

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A child who tends to throw things when he feels angry would be encouraged to create a list of more appropriate behaviors he can do when he feels mad.
He might decide that drawing a picture, doing 10 jumping jacks, or ripping up a piece of scrap paper are all more appropriate ways to deal with his anger.
Catch your child being good as often as possible and use praise to encourage positive behavior. Set limits when necessary by using discipline techniques such as logical consequences or time out. Just make sure that children are clear that any negative consequences are due to their behavior and not their feelings.

Counselor/ Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Hasmina Guiani Ambor

**STUDENT CENTERED LEARNING AT AITIS**

Science Activity by Grade 4

Science Activity by Grade 4

Science Activity by Grade 4

Social Studies Activity by Grade 4

Social Studies Activity by Grade 3

Social Studies Activity by Grade 3

Language Arts Activity by Grade 5

Science Activity by Grade 5
Nursery

"Nursery children did a lot of fun activities while learning the Five Senses. The children were blindfolded and asked whether they can see their friends or things around them. They used their ears to hear the school bell ringing, drum sounds and some musical instruments. They used their nose to smell flowers, shampoo, baby powder and coffee for the sense of smell. They tasted sweet sugar, salty soy sauce, sour lemon and bitter coffee. In addition, the concept of soft and hard was introduced for the sense of touch."

(See pictures 1-2)

Pre-K 1A

These 'Little Ones in PK-1' were having FUN learning the Science concept of 'floating and sinking' while exploring and experimenting how and why different objects float and sink when placed into water.

The 'tasting' activity in Science allowed these 'Young Learners in PK1' the opportunity to experience and become aware of the four basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, and bitter.

(See picture 3-4)

Pre-K 1B

The theme on the Five Senses is one of the most favorite topics of the little ones as they fully engage in real life experiences to comprehend the usage of their senses. Smelling flowers and tasting different kinds of food were just a few of the activities they had done. (See picture 5-6)

Pre-K 2A

Pre K 2 children learnt a new song about Family! They enjoyed singing the song with actions. (See picture 7)

Pre-K 2B

Exploring the sense of smell makes the Pre K 2 Class more curious about their environment and they proudly show off their artwork. (See picture 8)

KG A

In the photo, Kindergarten Jolly Kittens show their beautiful artwork. (See picture 9 on p. 17)
My Home
By Grade 1 Lily

My home is big. There are many things in my home. There are many rooms too – bedrooms, bathroom, and playroom. My Mom cooks many healthy food. I like to play with my big brother and younger sister. We like to eat healthy food too like banana and mango. Sometimes, I play with my Dad too. We also like to bake a cake a cake in our kitchen.

Marie

We have a garden near our home. My home has two floors. There is a mirror when you enter our home. We have three bedrooms, five bathrooms, and four toilets. We have a swimming pool. Our home has many books – Thai, Chinese, and Spanish.

Proundpimfha

My home is big. We have one toilet. There are plants and books in my home. I have a big family – one brother and one sister. We like to play together.

Lintang

My home has three floors. It is big. My home has four toilets and five bedrooms. We also have a big backyard. We have 2 cats, 7 kittens, and 2 dogs. Our home is gray, brown, blue, and black color. I am very kind when I am at home. I don’t fight with anybody. I don’t speak bad word. I like to play in my home. I have 7 balls. I love my family. I don’t watch TV long. I walk with my family around. I also like to read books in my home.

Akarat

My home is big. We have plants and fish. My Mom and Dad like to cook. My Mom cleans our home. There are many things in my home.

Siarawasaya

My home has 4 rooms. It has 2 floors. The color is green, brown, and yellow. We have plants in our home.

Boonrab

My home is big. It has 4 toilets and 3 bedrooms. We have a pet fish, cat, and dog. My Mom and Dad like to read. My Mom likes to cook and bake. There are trees around our home.

Manussanun

My home has 2 clocks. It has 1 toilet and 4 beds. My home is tall and big. It has flowers and trees around. Our home is white and pink. We have a blackboard. My sister and I help our Mom clean our home.

Roba

My home has 3 bedrooms. The first room is my parents’ room. Then my room. The last room is my big brother’s room. I have many books in my home. We have a garden. My Mom and I plant and read together. I help my Mom clean our home. Mom likes to cook.

Inaya

My home is big. It has 6 rooms and 1 toilet. It has a shower and curtain. We have a balcony. I have a big TV. My home has 3 floors. It is white color. Our door is yellow. We have a living room. The kitchen wall has green tiles. I play and watch movie with my family.

Aishee

We have one toilet and 3 rooms. We have a big TV. My home is big. We have a flower vase on the dining table. There are trees around our home.

Rudrakshi

My home is big. It has 2 floors and 3 toilets. My home has 2 floors. I have a computer in my bedroom. We have plants inside our home. I help my family. I play with our baby. I help feed our baby. Our baby has teeth now. We have pet a dog and fish.

Shanya

My home is tall and big. It has 3 toilets and 2 bedrooms. It is pink. We have a garden with grasses and trees. My home has 7 floors. I have a small blackboard. My brother, sister, and I help my Mom clean our home.

Boontemduang

My home is big. It is for you to live. It has 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, a TV, a kitchen. We have a lot other things in my home. We have books about country’s food. We have a garden with trees. I play with my Dad hide and seek and spy with my Mom. I like to read books.

Saoirse

We have grass, flowers and trees outside. My home has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. It is a big home. We also have one working table. It is a big table. The roof is red. My home is pretty. I can bake pancake in my home. My Mom can bake cheese cake too.

Pareeya

My home is big. It is white and has 3 floors. We have many books. We have 2 beds and 1 toilet. The door is gray. We have 2 ovens in the kitchen. We have computers, toys and plants. I love my home.

Esabel

My home is big. We have flowers. I play games with my Dad.
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Sometimes, we go out to play with my new bike.

Nyan Paing

My home is tall and big. It is pink. There are 4 windows and 4 rooms. My home is nice. In the kitchen, I can make waffle. My Dad can make a cake.

Warat

My Home

By Grade 1 Sunflower

This is my home. It is big but a little bit dirty. My home has five rooms. At home with me are my mom, big sister, dad, and me. It has bikes outside. Inside, it has piano, computer and a TV.

Su Yamin

This is my home. It is clean. Sometimes, some people come to visit us. I have a big TV inside. Outside my house is a garden where I always play. I love my home.

Aahana

This is my home. I have a dog inside and trees outside. My home is clean and it is painted white.

Burapol

This is my home. It is clean. My home has toys. I also have a dog and a cat at home.

Palin

This is my home. It is not so big but I love it. My home has a lot of toys. My home has a lot of colors, too. There are many trees outside my house.

Pitshamon

This is my home. It is clean. My home has plants. My home is big.

Yathida

This is my home. It is clean and big. My home has four bedrooms. It has plants outside and a piano inside. I love my home.

Wynn

This is my home. It is long and big. I have a big TV at home. I have a bookshelf, too. My home is a little bit clean. It has many beds. I have plenty of toys at home.

Ba Khoi

This is my home. It is clean ad tidy. I have three pet fish at home. My home has five sofa and a piano. I have two bedrooms and a living room. My home is in a building.

Nysa

This is my home. It is up in a building. My home has plants and flowers.

Udhayasri

This is my home. It is clean. I play with the balls at home. I like to play different games there. My home is just near. I like my mom and dad. I like living in the city too.

Safia

This is my home. It is clean. My home has a TV and books. My home is big.

Achiraya

This is my home. It is tall. My home has wheels and plenty of balls. It has plenty of plants outside. I have a computer at home, too.

Witwisit

This is my home. It is tall. My home has four bedrooms. I have a tree beside my house and the tree gives us shade.

Thanatul

This is my home. It is clean. My home has six bedrooms. I have a dog and a fish at home. My home has a garden outside. There are plenty of flowers in the garden.

Sudchaya

This is my home. It is clean and big. My home has three rooms. I have many toys. My family loves my home. I have many books at home and a TV, too. It has two sofa, a piano, and a computer.

Sasikorn

This is my home. It is clean. I have a dog at home. My home has flowers around. My home has six rooms and I have a piano in one of those rooms.

Pishaporn

This is my home. It is tall and big. I have a dog and pigeons at home.

By: Sonarat

This is my home. It is clean. I have a cat at home.

Chotiwat

A friend is someone who helps me. My favorite friends are Safia and Chotiwat. We clean the school together. I like my friends because they help me how to read.

Abhishek

A friend is someone who eats with you and plays with you. My favorite friends are Sudchaya and Nysa. We laugh together. I like my friends because we read together, play together, run together, and walk together with Sudchaya.

Abhishek

My Favorite Friend/s

By: Sonarat

A friend is someone who helps me. My favorite friends are Safia and Chotiwat. We clean the school together. I like my friends because they help me how to read.

Abhishek

A friend is someone who eats with you and plays with you. My favorite friends are Sudchaya and Nysa. We laugh together. I like my friends because we read together, play together, run together, and walk together with Sudchaya.

Abhishek

This is my home. It is clean. I have a cat at home.

Chotiwat

My Favorite Friend/s

By: Sonarat

A friend is someone who helps me. My favorite friends are Safia and Chotiwat. We clean the school together. I like my friends because they help me how to read.

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Terapa

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My Favorite Friend/s

A friend is someone who loves me. A friend is someone who cracks jokes and makes me laugh. My favorite friends are Udhayasri, Phyothiri, mommy, daddy, auntie, uncle, cousin, grandpa, and grandma. We eat together. I like my friends because they are smart, brave, kind, quiet, and they tickle me.

Su Yamin

A friend is someone who plays with you. A friend is someone who cracks some jokes. My favorite friends are Witwisit, Sasikorn, and Pitsampon. We play together. I like my friends because they play with me, love me, and read a book to me.

Achiraya

A friend is someone who helps me. My favorite friends are Safia and Abhishek. I like my friends because they are always happy.

Chotiwat

A friend is someone who plays with you. My favorite friends are Nysa, Aishee and Rudrakes. I like my friends because they are kind to me.

Sonarat

A friend is someone who helps you. My favorite friends are Witwisit and Chotiwat. We have fun together. I like my friends because we play together and we have fun.

Pishaporn

A friend is someone who helps and teaches you. My favorite friends are Witwisit, Chotiwat, Wiss and my brother. We have fun together. We laugh and make jokes. I like my friends because we play games together. They are helpful, smart, and happy to be with. We are very brave, too.

Wynn

A friend is someone who helps me. My favorite friends are Abhishek and Chotiwat. We always play together. I like my friends because they are smart. We love each other.

Safia

A friend is someone who you learn from. I play with my friend. My favorite friend is Palwit. I have fun with him. We play together. I like my friend because he plays ball with me. I like my friend so much.

Witwisit

A friend is someone who helps us and plays with us. My favorite friend is Palin. We play together and laugh together. I like my friend because he plays with me and helps me.

Burapol

A friend is someone who plays with me. My friend makes funny jokes and we laugh at them together. My favorite friend is Proundpimfa. We eat together. We talk together and we hug each other. I like my friend because she is smart.

Sasikorn

A friend is someone who helps. My favorite friend is Burapol. We play together. We laugh together. We love each other.

I like my friend because he is brave and smart. I love him.

Palin

A friend is someone who loves me. My favorite friends are Achiraya and Sasikorn. We play together. I like my friends because we play together and are always happy.

Yathida

A friend is someone who plays with you. My favorite friends are Kait. Maysale, Sara, Pinkie and Vanahn. We say sorry when we did something wrong. I like my friends because they are pretty. They are kind and sweet. They are very, very good.

Sudchaya

A friend is someone who do things together with you. You play and read together. My favorite friends are Sasikorn, Witwisit, and Lita. We help each other. We read together. I like my friends because we play together and we are smart.

Thanatul

A friend is someone who gives gifts to us, loves us, and cares about us. We love them. My favorite friends are Aahana, Aishee, and Rudrakes. We learn and play together.

I like my friends because they say “I love you.” and they are kind to me.

Nysa

A friend is someone who you play with and clean things with together.

My favorite friend is Marie. We always play together.

Udhayasri
The Unknown

Rubin’s house in Scorpscotch Town was destroyed. No one knew the truth of what happened to Mr. and Mrs. Rubin and their house.

Twenty years ago, a rich happy couple lived in possibly the largest house in Scorpscotch Town. One evening the maid went to Rubin’s king sized bedroom after cooking dinner. ’Dinner’s ready!’ said the maid pushing the door to the bedroom but finding all of them dead. The maid screamed and ran outside to alert someone. “Bwaha ha ha ha,” something echoed. Everyone screamed and panicked as they heard a giant THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! Then a BOOM! Everyone was now dead. Well except a little boy named Frank Rubin. He didn’t even know that disaster happened because he was sleeping in a large basement of that house with an HD plasma TV with an extra comfy sofa. When he woke up, he just turned on the TV and ate some popcorons. He eventually found out because of the police car sirens. They rescued him and took him to an orphanage. At first Frank was bummed out because he didn’t get to bring his TV with him. After a while, he was starting to hate the orphanage. The orphanage didn’t give him a TV, popcorn, a comfy sofa, a computer or a trip to Dream World.

Frank left the Orphanage when he was 15. Twenty years later, Frank lived in San Diego. He had a little house that had one bedroom a toilet and a large (but not as large as his room) living room with a kitchen. Frank worked in a shoe factory and the pay was not much. One day Frank was sitting on the couch (not an extra comfy though) watching the news on the TV (not HD plasma TV) when the power cut off. ‘Dang it!’ said Frank angrily. Then the power went back on. ‘Breaking news Wa-’ the power cut off again. Then on, ’DC has been des-‘ the power cut off and on and off, ’by something unknown-‘ off then on, ’And so a lot- BOOM!’ The news went black. The power was still on. Something happened to the news thought Frank. After a while Frank didn’t realize what the news was talking about. Later, Frank’s friend Tom told him what it was about. He told frank about the forty feat long creature and the destruction it caused. Frank found it unbelievable but still Frank was frightened. He was not sure if he could believe Tom. Tom had always been honest but the story was just too hard to believe. Well, Frank eventually found out because the news was working this time. ‘Holy molly pepperoni!’ said Frank surprised. ‘It looks like its heading this way!’ He told Tom about this and said that he was going to move. ‘Why?’ Are ya even sure?’ said Tom. ‘It might go to Canada instead, right? I mean how’re ya sure?’ ‘I just think so,’ said Frank, there are more chances that it comes here than go to Canada. Its path is like a line heading over here than anywhere else. Heheh! ‘This ain’t funny!’ said Tom angrily. ‘If you’re moving, go ahead!’

And so Frank moved to China before San Diego was destroyed. He felt sorry for Tom. Frank’s new home was smaller than ever. One small little living room, with a bedroom, and a toilet. His new job wasn’t a whole lot better. It was farming, and doing that in the hot, hot sun was not fun. One evening Frank was digging a hole to plant a tree when his shovel hit something hard. He picked the hard thing up. It was a sword! With a piece of paper attached to it. It said:

Hello to whoever finds this sword.

This sword contains
Magic of all kinds
Powerful enough
To control all minds
It will not work
If you give it to a friend
And since it’s this powerful
It won’t break or bend
And if you in trouble
And you want it done
Just eat a slice of bun.

At first, Frank thought he didn’t need a sword. But it might come in handy, thought Frank. Therefore, Frank kept it in his backpack, which he wore most of the time. One day Frank was on a trip to a museum wearing his best clothes and his backpack which the sword was in. A strange man with a top hat and a crane and a missing eye said, ‘Hello!’ in a British accent. ‘You must be Frank Rubin! Come follow me! I have something to show you!’ The man was acting very strange. He was chuckling a lot and dancing as he was walking. He led Frank to a cave outside. ‘Where are we going?’ asked Frank ‘You shall see in a minute!’ said the man with an evil laughter. They were deep in the cave. There were torches to light the cave. Then they stopped. It was a huge underground basement.

‘Frank! Look over here!’ Frank turned around and saw Tom tied up. ‘What is going on?’ said Frank. ‘He’s the-‘ ‘Silence!’ shouted the man. ‘Would you like a cup of tea?’

‘WHAT IS GOING ON?’ Frank yelled. The man smiled in a very creepy way.’ I will show you’ said the man. Then the man grew taller and bigger.

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And then a creature forty feet tall with black armor and blue eyes, holding a scythe, was standing in front of him. ‘I am the Unknown!’ ‘Why would you drag me here and kill me?’ asked Frank calmly. The unknown sighed, ‘Because you are the only people who have seen me. No one who sees me is supposed to be alive. Tom here saw me walking north when he was at his old home in the forest and I suppose that he told you I’m forty feet tall. I’ll have to kill you and Tom. Frank took his sword and freed Tom. ‘NO!’ bellowed the unknown and made several slashes with his scythe which Frank and Tom dodged. ‘Hey Tom! Do you have any bread?’ asked Frank dodging the fireballs. ‘What for?’ asked Tom breathing heavily. ‘Do you have any bread?’ yelled Frank. ‘No but look!’ yelled Tom. Frank saw a slice of bread on a mat as they got out of the cave. Frank ate the slice of bread as quickly as he could. The unknown’s scythe hit him in the head. Nothing happened. The unknown hit Frank again as the people around them ran. Nothing happened again. Then slowly the unknown began to fade away. The unknown was becoming smaller and smaller. Then he vanished. ‘What happened?’ asked Tom. His eyes were as big as pie plates. ‘I dunno,’ said Frank. This was the most confusing and happiest moment of Frank’s life.

Khang Do huy, Grade 4 Fantastic

My Best Friend

My best friend’s name is Jood. She was my first friend in the whole world. Jood was the only child in her family just like me. When I met Jood, she was 2 years old. She would be 8 years old now. Her birthday is May 29. She is from Sudan, in the continent of Africa. She came to Thailand almost the same day my dad and I came to Thailand.

I met her in AITIS Nursery class. I was very shy that time but when I met her I was not shy. Though she was a Muslim, she was still my best friend! Jood never had the same hair style. Her hair was always beautiful. Her eye is brown. It made her look prettier than she was already. She was shorter than me but she was still my best friend. By now she should be same height as me, or even taller!!

During one of our Talent show in our school, she did a very nice performance. It was ballet dance. She was a little thin but healthy girl. Her favorite food was pasta like me. She was non-veg, again like me. Her favorite meat food was chicken. She can only eat Halal food.

When she moved back to her country, Sudan. It was hard, very hard, super hard to say goodbye to her. We were both 6-years-old when she left. We both were really sad. I talk to her through internet but it is still not the same. My dad and mom were very close to her dad and mom. I wish I could meet her again. All of my birthday wishes are; I could meet her again. My parents tell me, I will surely meet her again one day.

Kavya, Grade 2 Eager Beaver

My Best Friend

My friend’s name is Devan. He is 9 years old. I met him in the year 2015 in ST-8 of AIT campus. On that day, I was passing by ST-8. I saw Devan and I asked him if I could play with him. He said, “Okay” and we played together. He is also from Indonesia.

He lives in ST-6. Devan is small in stature. His favorite talent is dancing. He’s from Indonesia. Devan is a fast runner.

He likes to play soccer. Devan likes to eat noodles. He likes to watch “We Bare Bears” movie games. His favorite trip is riding on airplane. Devan is handsome, playful, kind and helpful. As a friend, I learnt many things from him.

Umar, Grade 2 Eager Beaver

My Best Friend

My best friend is Pinky. I met her in AITIS playground. I asked her, “Can I play with you?” She said, “Yes” That was how we became friends.

Pinky is 8 years old, the same age as me. She has curly and long hair. I am taller than her too. She is from Sri Lanka. We love same games so we became best friend. I play Monkey and the Crocodile with her. Sometimes I eat lunch with her, I can eat all food and she is easy in eating too. She loves watching cartoons but I don’t.

In the future, we will take a school trip together. She loves Thailand. She’s good at running.

Intouch, Grade 2 Eager Beaver

Grade 1 Classroom Activities on Health & Wellness Day
Nerf Toy Guns
Nerf is a toy gun that is very famous to boys. First, I will talk about the Big shock. The Big shock has two mega darts. I like to shoot it from the roof then I put the basketball ring on the playground most of the time. The next kind of gun that I am going to describe is the Masterdoon. There is something special about it because it has 27 darts. It shoots mega darts too. Sometimes I shoot Scott with it while he is working on his YouTube channel. It’s one of my favorite Nerfs.

The next kind of nerf is the Strong Arm. It has 6 darts. I like the design of it and the way it shoots, too. I like to use this to play with my brother. The next one is the Centurian. One thing that is special about the Centurian is that it can break into 3 parts. It can shoot very far too. The Centurian is the top three longest Nerf guns in the world. My brother always uses the Centurian to play with me. The next is the Viligon. The Viligon has five darts. It is special because it uses flat round darts. It can shoot fade, and, draw easily because the dart is light. It is the very old version of Nerf. The next one is the one that I really like most, it’s called the Cyclone Shock. The Cyclone Shock has 6 mega darts. It is my favorite because it shoots so hard. When it shoots, the sound is so loud. It tears my brother’s shirt and makes his belly red.

I really want to have all of them but it is quite expensive. I think Nerf now-a-days is a hit for boys. The one on the top of my list is the Hyperfire but I still don’t have it. I like to play Nerf wars with my friend and my neighbor.

I really want all the boys ages 10-14 years old to play Nerf. I think all of them will like it. I hope you will collect all of the Nerf versions and enjoy it. Bye!

Wiss Jittathorn, Grade 4 Fantastic

The Pencil and the Sharpener
Last year, 1,000 pencils and 1,000 sharpeners were made in a factory. Surprisingly, five of the sharpeners were alive because there was a mistake in today’s production. They escaped from the factory to the dark forest. They ran as fast as they could until one of them almost fell down from the cliff. Fortunately, the rest could help him go up to the edge of the cliff. They kept running along the path. Suddenly, a lion appeared from the bush and chased all of them. Unfortunately, one of the pencils got eaten by the hungry lion. They found that there are many dangers in the forest. They ran more carefully and finally found a house by the river. All of them went into the house, all of them were able to go into the

Achawit Songtrai, Grade 4 Fantastic
My First Week in School

I like my friends very much. They are funny. My friends are Tanishka, Alice, and Nuanploy. I like my teacher too. He is the best. My teacher is funny. He teaches very well.

My favorite subjects are Art, PE, ICT, Music and Thai. I like PE because of sports. I like Art because I like to draw.

There are rules in our class. I follow the rules. My group follows the rules too. The rules are – “Show respect, Raise your hand to speak, Listen when someone speaks, Use a soft voice in class, and Always walk in class.”

We all have baskets of our own in class. We keep all our text books in them. We have desks to keep things that we need to use every day. We also have folder boxes to keep our folders in.

We have four groups in our class. The four groups’ names are – Eagles, Penguins, Nightingales, and Swans.

We get to watch lots of videos in class. We watched – “The Man, Planet Earth, and many more exciting videos.

There is a reading corner where we get to read books. We have lots of stuffed toys there too. There is a tub full of books!

Karynne, Grade 2 Trail Blazers

Pitch’s Bad Summer Break

Once upon a time… How many times have you heard that catch phrase? We’ll skip that.

It all started on a holiday in summer. Mom said, “We are going to the mountains!” I was so happy and then I said, “Can I invite the two leaders to come too?” And my mom said, “Yes.”

The next day I was ready. We met all the leaders. P, my brother the only boy who was in charge of the whole group. Me, not included in the two, is to put everybody in a happy mood. My friend Prompt has the same job, but with more mayhem. The last time I went to Prompt’s house, it was a madhouse.

We packed things we needed. I packed my adventure backpack, P packed his Kumon bag, Prompt packed giant bag, and we put all our bags into his bag. He said, “My bag is the biggest.” and smiled. P and I rolled our eyes. We didn’t want another madhouse trip.

Mom said that we were going to rest in a motel for the day. I felt sleepy. When we reached the motel, I was very sleepy. I went outside and saw my dad, P’s Dad, and Prompt’s dad all enjoying drinks.

I went to P’s rented house and played games on the great good 3Ds’. I won in the game called “Mario Cart”. I got first place all the time and P got second place all the time.

“Breakfast time!” mom said. I went and had breakfast. I had fried egg and fish sauce. At the end of my meal I had chocolate milk. I went to P’s house because he told me to get the 3Ds. I took the 3Ds and went out, but I fell and the 3Ds fell too. I grabbed them before I hit the ground. I used one hand to break the fall before I hit the ground.

Then it was afternoon. Mom said, “It is time to leave our rented house.” My mom said again, “Be ready after five hours.” We played and played. Finally it was time to stop the ride. We got off the car and had ice-creams and barbecue chicken… until it was time to say goodbye, except P and me. We had a big hug instead. “Bye! Bye!” Said me.

Phonphan, Grade 2 Trail Blazers

Eating healthy food like vegetables and fruits is a habit that every child should practice. During the Health and Wellness Day, the Kindergarten students show that fruits are a big part of their life. They happily munched the different fruits that they brought and shared with their classmates. It was fun seeing them excitedly putting the different fruits on their plate.

Kindergarten Jolly Kittens with their Artwork

Phonphan, Grade 2 Trail Blazers
**A Giant Storm**

One day my family and I were in the house, stuck with food and water. Lucky for us, as the storm didn’t flood our hometown. My family played many games to pass the time. My dad gathered food and water from the nearby stores. We also had a T.V, radio, cellphone and tablet to check where the storm was heading. We were stuck in our house for about 2 weeks. The storm was so strong that I could not go to school for about 4 weeks. I don’t know why they doubled the weeks, we heard in the news that other places were flooded and houses were destroyed.

People were found walking in the rain seeking for shelter. I was concerned for those people. I was also concerned of the cameraman as how did he even film that. My mom was also concerned of her own family because her family lived next to a river. After the storm was over and everything became normal, my teachers decided to ask others to help the sick and homeless. People were asked to donate money, food and clothing for the victims of the storm.

Zachary, Grade 5 Ace Achievers

**Exotic Football Facts**

Football is the most popular sport in the world. It is about tricking, stamina, scoring and defending. Whichever team gets the most scores in the match, wins. And in a tournament, the winning team will keep on being promoted to the next round until the finals. The team that wins the finals will get a trophy and even other prizes! That is why I want to be a football player.

The best goals and skills I ever did were— I passed Chawis and scored from about 15 meters. I scored the Grade 6’s goal from the center of the field, and dribbled a Grade 8 player with a flip flop trick! That’s not all, there are many skills— roulette, backward turn, and much more! I shot very hard, so I can score from the center of the field! But best of all, I knew how to dribble the ball. Dribbling skills are the most important requirements for football. When a player scores a goal, they show off! Even the scorers’ teammates celebrate! The loud audience cheering for that team even feels proud. They feel happy! The most excited person is the coach of that team who feels proud and happy! He may not substitute that player— right to the end of the match!

Football is a really exciting sport for me and is my favorite sport for life! When I score, I feel very proud and celebrate. In my whole life, I’ve scored many long shot goals, and, as a goal keeper, many difficult saves. At the interschool tournament, in whole of Bangkok, our school’s foot ball team won second prize, for all the goals we scored. That time our whole team was super-duper proud! I never knew our team was that good. Our students were screaming their heads off! That was the most successful tournament we’ve ever played, even the principle Mr. Kevin was so excited, happy and proud to see that his students achieved such a remarkable success! I hope in the future, our school’s team would win first place in tournaments.

My best footballers are Christiano Ronaldo, and Lionel Messi. They influenced me to play football and they are the highest paid, and best footballers in the world. Whenever they play a football match, they drive their fans crazy. Whenever they shoot, the audience have a thunderous sound across the stadium. Whenever they get the ball, they dribble every player in front of them. The coach of Christiano Ronaldo’s team, and the coach of Lionel Messi’s team must be very happy to have these players in the coaches team. These great players’ skills are extraordinary and their shooting powers are tremendous. Their shots go through the field like a bullet. Wherever they go, big crowds gather around them, just to get a glimpse of these great players.

Christiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have millions of fans. Guess what! I’m one of them! Three cheers for football! Hip-hip-hooray! Hip-hip-hooray! Hip-hip-hooray!

Alex, Grade 4, Edelweiss

**My First Animal Friend**

Once there lived a bunny named Roses and a girl named Katharena. We weren’t best friends. They didn’t share our things and they fought all the time with each other. Katharena told her friend Roses, “I will not share my things with you anymore.”

The next day they didn’t talk to each other. They fought and fought. They kept fighting the whole day. The day after, they felt very sad. They said, “Why do we fight with each other?” They then went to each other’s homes.

The very next day they became best friends and they liked each other. Roses told Katharena, “Let us play hide-and-seek.” Roses said, “Sure.” They went to Katharena’s house to play hide-and-seek.

The next day Roses asked, “Do you want to bake cupcakes?” Katharena said, “Sure.” They baked cupcakes together.

The next day they looked like twins because they both were dressed the same way. They really looked like twins!

Tanishka, Grade 2 Trail Blazers
My Trip to Japan

Wow! I still remember an awesome view of Mt. Fuji

One fine morning the alarm clock rang, it was still 3:00 am and I had to get prepared. For what? A tour in Japan! One hour passed and we left the house. Then went to the train station and got our tickets. I always gave my ticket to my mom because I was too scared to handle it and then might lose it. We arrived at our destination and got off the train. The moment I stepped out of the train lots of people were in front of me so I had to grasp my mom’s hand tightly. Then we walked all the way to a place where we had to get our tickets and waited in a long line. After a long line a lady called us and so many other people to show us the way to the bus and where we had to sit. After the bus started moving, that’s when the real fun began! I sat on the bus for two hours or so. But it didn’t look like where we were supposed to go to. A peach picking place. But what’s this? A wine factory! We went in but didn’t stay for too long because there was a limit of time like 20 or 30 minutes. I wanted to try wine but my parents said, “NO”, but instead they let me try grape juice that looked like wine. I mean who would sell juice at a “WINE factory? It was finally time to go. When I was just about to get more juice. It was really boring just sitting in the bus doing nothing. I didn’t sleep but counted until 2000! I looked to the left side of the window and guess what I saw. Well, I saw MT. FUJI…..and we were just about to stop at the bottom of it. We got off the bus and looked around. There was a place full of water and people took some, poured it on their hands, and then to their face. My brother wanted blueberry ice-cream even though it was cold. He didn’t get it because my father didn’t allow him to. So he cried and my father just gave it to him. After looking around, so much we forgot about the bus! Luckily a lady from the bus found us. Then we were back on track. A few hours later, we arrived at the peach picking place and the good thing about it was after we got the peaches we could eat it! When I touched the peaches, they felt so soft! I picked two peaches and so did everyone in my family except my brother because he only picked one. We then went to the table and my dad sliced the peaches. Mmmmm! It was so sweet and juicy. We then said BYE to the peach picking place and headed straight back to the bus. Now it was time to go home. After hours of waiting, we finally arrived home and I felt sad but in my mind, I said, “Don’t be sad because it ended, be happy because it happened. After that, we got bags and presents and left the bus. We bought tickets and rode the train back to where I lived in “Isogo”. I opened the door and said, “That was fun!”

Anyways more trips and adventures are awaiting for me. BYE!

Sasha Pilongo, Grade 5 Ace Achievers

The Monkey Stole My Banana!

Ahh! I would like to share one of my interesting but upsetting story that happened to me during my last visit to Nepal. My elder sister, parents, my uncle, aunt, cousins and I went to a place that I fear the most, a monkey temple. It’s not a normal temple. They have huge goats that I call the Great grandpa goats. There are also big fat cows. But the thing I fear the most are MONKEYS! They are not only monkeys, I call them the sneaky monkey thieves, because they sneak at other people and they are so clever that they steal other people’s stuffs too. When I was praying a fat monkey came and stood there for a while and the monkey smartly tip-toed and Bye! Bye! The monkey stole one of my favorite fruit, a banana. That monkey was so naughty. As they went a little far, the same monkey stole one of my family members purse. Her daughter screamed at the monkey for stealing her mom’s favorite purse. I got so angry that time, but I controlled myself. There were plenty of the monkeys there, but they weren’t that bad, some of them just took care of their babies and some of them were running around the temple. Well monkeys do love bananas but Nepal’s monkeys love bananas and stealing other people’s stuffs.

Anushka Karna, Grade 5 Ace Achievers

Grade 1 Science and Social Studies Activities
I Saw a Tarantula!

Ahh! I was so surprised to see the Tarantula spider in the glass box and I am still scared of it. I went to the zoo with my friends and teacher. That time I was in grade 3 at my old school. We went to the zoo and saw many animals like lion, water monitor, snakes, and spiders. For me, the place that I was most scared of was the spider room because I am scared of spider. So I wanted to stay outside but my friends insisted me to get inside. I went with them.

Second was Crocodile Bridge. It is a bridge that has many crocodiles below but I saw the giant fish of amazon that was so big. I think it will be bigger than Boongyal if it was fully grown. Then we ate lunch under a big tree. Suddenly the crow just came and stole my teacher’s pork in front of us. It was really funny!

Next we went to a tour bus and it explained about many animals like birds, monkeys and last we went to snake room. I saw many different kinds of snakes.

"Where is Anaconda?"

I asked as there was no Anaconda in the glass box assigned for it. I think maybe it escaped.

Then teacher said it was time for us to go back to school at 2:45 PM. I enjoyed the visit to the zoo.

I Don’t Like Baboons!

I never liked baboons ever since that day.

It all started when I went to a temple of Pra Pin Kaew. I visited the temple every Sunday, but one day I brought a banana! I had 2 though. I left to use the rest room, but when I came back I had none. Someone or something stole them. Well that’s a problem, because I was hungry. I bought another banana but a baboon took it. I didn’t stand there, I ran after it for about 1 to 2 minutes. I gave up after that, so I threw a rock. It slapped me, so I slapped back. This continued for at least 30 seconds. One more slap from this baboon and I will faint. Guess what? It slapped me.

Obviously, I fainted. When I came to my senses, my friend was laughing incredibly hard! He asked me what happened. I told him I got slapped by a baboon. I googled it & it said there are no records of being slapped by a baboon and fainting. I was like: this can’t be happening!

I went home, looked at my face. It was incredibly red. That is how my day ended.

Boongyal Intharath, Grade 5 Ace Achievers

The Arawaks and the Caribs

Arawaks and Caribs

Sometimes similar
Sometimes different
Similar in some ways like a feather hat
Different in some ways like their habitat
The Arawaks were short
But the Caribs, not so short
The Caribs were warlike
But they liked to tell stories under the moonlight
The Arawaks were peaceful.
The kind of people that was wonderful.
The Caribs were nasty,
And they liked to eat pastry.
The Arawaks women were kidnapped by the Caribs,
Either to be their wives or to be their slaves.
The Caribs killed the Arawakan men
To barbecue and eat them.
Now you know all about the Arawaks and the Caribs
So give me a high five, and let us now sleep on our cribs.

Chawis, Snigdha, and Phunthita
Grade 5 Voyagers

My St. Basil’s Trip

My trip to St. Basil’s Cathedral was so much fun. It is located on the Red Square in Moscow (Russia). The full name of St. Basil’s Cathedral is CATHEDRAL OF VASILY THE BLESSED. It was built from years 1555 to 1561 (6 years), and now it is 2017, so it is now 456 years old.

My family and I went inside the church and there were a lot of people. Before, it was a church but now it is like a museum. Even if it’s not a church anymore, there are still people who are singing outside about Jesus Christ and some of the people still also pray there. When people pray in St. Basil’s Cathedral, they also light candles and pray to priests.

The castle-church-museum is very colorful and beautiful. It also is one of the 28 wonders of the world (not 7 wonders of the world). It looks like a castle but it was a church (before) and it has 9 big domes that look like swirly ice cream (yummy). The domes are so colorful and beautiful.

I went there when I was 6 or 7 years old and I could still remember it because it was so cool. I love it there but I also want to go to other places and countries and visit other wonders of the world.

“That will be so cool!”

I am excited to visit St. Basil’s Cathedral again someday.

Angy, Grade 5 Voyagers
Vietnam, My Homeland

Xin chao, welcome to Vietnam the world of lights, street food and wonderful sights. It is the place to be raised in. You will know why when you visit it. North of Vietnam contains mountains, bays, and caves, while South of Vietnam has always fresh and the best food.

I wasn’t born in Vietnam but I was raised there for most of my life. I lived in Saigon which is the busiest city in Vietnam. My mother is from the North and my father is from the West coast but they moved in Saigon when the greatest war of Vietnam ended. Since I mentioned about war, you will be surprised to know that my great grandmother was a famous soldier for the 1955 war. She was sent to China to be safe during war time when she was small. Anyways, when the war ended and she was a bit old, she came back to Vietnam.

Vietnam is the world of street food. In the West we are thankful for the Pacific sea that provides us with fresh seafood. In the North, the place is famous for the very delicious Vietnamese food, Pho. In the South we have my favorite food, spring roll which is made out of shrimp, lettuce and rice noodles wrapped around a thin layer of rice paper. To eat it, just dip it in fish sauce and enjoy the flavor in your mouth. In my old school we used to play some of Vietnamese cultural games like jump stall or kick the shuttlecock. It was so fun, I wish I could meet up with my old friends and play it again.

Vietnam has delicate clothing like ao dai. It is tight tunic shirt with flower or conical leaf hats designed on it and worn over a black or white trousers.

Vietnam is home to the largest cave in the world named son doong cave, but the most beautiful sight in Vietnam is Halong bay, the blue sea mixed with gray rocks and green leaf, nothing can stop you from wanting to buy a house and stay there forever. Trust me it is as gorgeous in the pictures as it is in real life because I have been there.

In conclusion, Vietnam is my home country that I am very proud of. I wish no one will pollute the ocean so that Ha Long bay will still be green after centuries. If you ever get to go to Asia you should go visit Vietnam.

Van Anh, Grade 6 Explorers

I Love Vietnam

Vietnam! That’s where I’m from. When I say Vietnam you probably think about the Vietnam war, planes, things like that, but Vietnam is actually very nice. All the townspeople are nice and friendly. Plus, the view is beautiful too!

There are four major places I must talk about. Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh/Saigon, Ha Long and Vinh. Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam and it’s like all the cultures of different places in Vietnam mixed together. In Hanoi everything is there, historic buildings, markets, the country side and a lot of modern places. Ho Chi minh is also awesome. It’s like Hanoi but busier. And it’s more modern there. Ha Long is one of the most beautiful places I have been and I’ve been to 14 different countries. Ha Long is more of a nice place for vacation rather than a place to live. The beaches are magnificent. Ha Long Bay is a must go to when visiting Vietnam, it’s beautiful and the water is super clear. Vinh is the countryside of Vietnam and the people are very friendly and nice, this is more of a minor city but if you want to experience the country and old side of Vietnam, I recommend Vinh.

Another awesome thing about Vietnam is their food. Vietnamese cuisine tastes very good. All the spices and herbs make a wonderful smell and taste. Pho is one of the most common dishes in Vietnam, it is clear noodles, broth and chicken/beef with some herbs. It is amazing, you can find Pho in the USA but it won’t be as good as the one in Vietnam.

Even though some people say Vietnam is horrible and the people are rude, that’s not true. Vietnam is an awesome place with wonderful people!

Mai Thao, Grade 6 Explorers

My Country, the Philippines

My country, the Philippines, is an archipelago which means it is a place with different islands together to make one country. The Philippines has three parts, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The Philippines has beautiful beaches. The country has beautiful and tall mountains which are great places to go hiking. There are beaches everywhere! Some of the beaches are rocky and have white and grey-yellow sand.

I come from the City of Baybay that is a component city in the province of Leyte in Eastern Visayas, Philippines, and my house is near the VSU which stands for Visayas State University. There is a PCC shop there, which has the most delicious milk I have ever tasted in my life. PCC stands for Philippine Carabao Center and Carabao is a buffalo. There is also a market where my friends and I always go around and enjoy. So, that’s it, about my homeland.

Jori, Grade 6 Explorers

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**India, My Homeland**

Hello Everyone, Namaskar! You might be wondering what “Namaskar” means. “Namaskar” means hello in my language. You can also say “Namaste” for short. Any ideas, which country I am from? If you guessed, it is...India, you are definitely correct. I am from India, The Incredible India! India is very famous for its spices, festivals, grand weddings, Bollywood movies and dances. Many people from other countries dance to Indian songs, like to eat Indian food and like to watch Indian movies. Indian movies are called Bollywood Movies. They are sometimes also translated to other languages!

India is the biggest democracy and has 29 states and 7 territories. Our country has many land features such as rivers, mountains, and lakes. India has a lot of interesting places like Golden Temple, Taj Mahal, and Amor Fort. You might find India very crowded with a lot of people around you because India has a large number of population. In summer time in India you might find it really hot! When it comes to winter you might find it the opposite! It is really cold! The temperature can go down to -4 degrees Celsius. Then there is this season you all might love. Rainy season, rainy season is when it is raining most of the time. You can go around splashing with water and find a lot of animals like snails and insects coming out.

Taking about animals and insects, India boasts a variety of species and organisms. ... It is home to Bengal and Indochinese tigers, Indian lions, deers, pythons, wolves, foxes, bears, crocodiles, wild dogs, monkeys, snakes, antelope species, varieties of bison and the Asian elephant.

There is one more thing that you will love, FOOD! India’s food and sweets taste really good. The different varieties of delicious food from different states are very famous! Some of the most famous food is samosa, chicken tikka, paneer pakoda, and idli sambar. Some of the most famous sweets are jalebi, gulab jamun, rasgulla, kaju barfi.

India is home to many festivals like Diwalli, the new year, holi, navratri, dusshera, raksha bandhan and janmasthami.

Diwalli, also the festival of light is a celebration of the return of two most known gods to their home after a long exile. On this day people light up their houses, wear new clothes, participate in family prayers, and share sweets with other people.

Holi is the festival of colors. We use colors to put on other people. This is a celebration for arri val of spring and celebration of victory of one of our prince over an evil named Holika!

Navratri, known as the maha puja ( the great puja), means nine nights and on the tenth day Goddess Durga, who is worshipped throughout the nine days, is immersed in holy water after puja. Navratri festival is celebrated twice a year, though the one that is celebrated in September or October is well-known and celebrated with extreme passion and fervor.

Dusshera celebrates the Hindu god Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana and the triumph of good over evil. On this day, we make a statue of the evil Ravana and set the statue on fire to celebrate Rama’s victory.

Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna is celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in India in the month of July or August.

Anusha, Grade 6 Explorers

**I am from Camotes**

Hi! I’m Farrah and I am from Camotes Island in Cebu in the Philippines. Camotes Island is a very nice place. There are four barangays (towns) in Camotes Island. The four barangays in Camotes are Poro, San Francisco, Tudela, and Pilar. I live in Esperanza in Poro and I attended a school in the center of Poro, which is a long way. There are tons of beaches and resorts in Poro, like Santiago Bay, Busay Falls, Bohu Rock, Mangodlong etc. I have been to most of them. There are also four islands in Camotes.

There is an important festival in Poro during which the communities in Poro gather around the main community of Poro. Some wear the costumes and dance in the schools of central Poro like the elementary schools. This festival is called Tagbo or Sinulog Festival which is also celebrated in Cebu, and it is celebrated on the third Friday of January.

In San Francisco there is a mercado (market) where I usually used to go with my family on Sundays. This place is very nice. There are many stores and shops there. There are more stores and shops there if it is Sunday.

I remember when I used to eat barbeque hotdogs and puso (hanging rice) there. I also remember when I lived there, my family owned the most popular Water Filling Station in Camotes, which was called Farrah Faucet. A lot of people used to buy water from there. In the morning before I would go to school, my grandparents would drive and stop there.

So that’s all about Camotes Island!

Farrah, Grade 6 Explorers
My Homeland, Jakarta, Indonesia

Hello! I come from two countries, U.S and Indonesia. I’ve never been to the U.S so I’ll be talking about Jakarta, Indonesia. You’re probably thinking, “Oh! She’s going to say that it’s a wonderful place!” or “She’s going to say that it’s like a paradise!” Well, sad to say…YOU’RE WRONG! Traffic there sometimes lasts more than four hours! This is only in some places. Not every place in Jakarta is like this. People there are actually very nice…well to me they are. I love Jakarta because there are so many places to see and explore, but there are only two places that I really like in Jakarta.

My grandparents’ house in the area called “Tomang” (I call the house itself Tomang, because my mom told me we lived in Tomang and I took it the wrong way). And the mall called “Taman Anggrek” (translation: Orchid Park…it’s not a park though).

My grandparents’ house is quite big and was also built by my grandfather. Amazing right? It’s a two story house and I remember getting lost in the house when I was small. There are so many rooms! If you didn’t know the house, it would take you almost forever to find just one room. The garden is quite big, and I mean it. You could play hide and seek and hide behind the trees, plants, bushes, and bicycles (yes we keep our bikes in the garden, carry them through the house, outside and do whatever it is we want to do with them) and not be found. Also a little known fact, every time my entire family from my mom's side is free or on vacation or some sort. We all gather there in Tomang and take a family picture, and it gets really, really crowded. My family from my mom’s side is huge cause my mom has a lot of siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Which means I have a lot of aunts, great aunts, uncles, great uncles, and cousins. So yeah, it gets really packed sometimes, but I do enjoy playing with my cousins while the adults talk or chat or something (I don’t really know cause I don’t hang with the adults much).

Taman Anggrek is a really big mall; you could spend hours in there. The best place there would be the arcade called “Time Zone”. There are a lot of stores and, well I basically want everything from there…! Also there’s an ice rink there and it is so crowded. Why is it crowded? Because a lot of people like ice-skating and it’s the only ice rink in the mall. Just like my house, you can easily get lost. I remember coming in a different way and then wondering where I was. I asked my mom where we were and she said the department store. I just went “OHHHH!” I was so lost. Good thing I had my mom with me, or else I would’ve stayed lost. Anyways, that’s my home, or country, or whatever you want to call it! See you next time!

Kait, Grade 6 Explorers

The Storm

Once there was a girl named Emma. She lived in a village with her parents and sister. Her father caught a life threatening disease but before he died he gave Emma a book with blank pages. Emma cherished the book and took care of it very well and she turned the book into a memory book of moments either sad or happy.

One day, there was a festival in the village which was hosted in the center of the village with lots of foods, and everyone in the village was invited to it. When Emma’s family was leaving for the event, Emma took her memory book with her.

When they arrived at the festival, there was a campfire in the middle with plenty of food around. People were playing traditional musical instruments, singing and dancing. They were also busy enjoying food. But the weather didn’t seem to cooperate. Very soon strong winds started blowing and it started raining very heavy. The mayor ordered everyone to go to the nearest storm shelter. But unfortunately, Emma and her family got separated.

Emma somehow managed to get to the shelter but then realized she had left her memory book in the center while she was dancing. She wanted to go outside but saw the tables flipping over, food flying all over and wood from the campfire hitting one of the houses. She realized that the storm was very strong but she didn’t give up on figuring out how to get her memory book. She stepped outside the shelter when a man grabbed her arm and asked her, “What are you doing? It’s dangerous to go outside in this storm, you’ll die out there.” “My memory book,” answered Emma. “It contains all of my memories and it was given by my late father, so I have to go out there and get it. I don’t care if I die or not, as long as the memory book stays in the hands of my family,” Emma opened the door and rushed outside.

The storm hit her very hard, Emma already got wet and felt the wind pushing her on each side, but she didn’t give up. A lady from inside the shelter shouted, “What is she doing?” She’s going to die out there!” The others also started shouting from inside the shelter. And that’s when Emma’s mother and sister in another shelter came to know about her.

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They all shouted, “Emma!” But Emma did not hear because the storm was too strong. The only thing she could hear was the sound of the strong wind and the heavy rain. Her mother stopped calling her because she realized that it was of no use as nothing could stop her from doing that.

Emma who was searching for her book frantically, finally found it. She grabbed the book and ran to the shelter. It didn’t take long for the storm to stop. It was a miracle that Emma was saved. Her mother and sisters hugged her.

The village people rejoiced, they all thought that the storm would go on for a long time because most of the storms that had occurred in the village took a few days. People started fixing everything. Emma was very happy to find her book back. This incident proved that how dear Emma’s memory book was to her and how much she loved her father and the gift her father gave to her.

Farrah, Grade 6 Explorers

Where’s Gorge?

In the heart of London, Frank was lying on his little cushion thinking about how great it will be if he and his brother Gorge get adopted. Frank thought about all the freedom they will both have. But there was one thing that Frank was worried about; being separated from Gorge. Some of Frank’s siblings were already adopted, the others got sick and lost their lives. While Frank was thinking, his eyes started filling with water. He was very sad and scared of his future.

The very next morning, Frank was woken up by the sound of Gorge meowing (or more like screaming). Thinking that Gorge usually never screams, Frank started looking around for Gorge when he saw a gray fluffy ball moving across the floor. Suddenly, he remembered everything and came out of the hiding place.

“He’s here!” yelled Vancy.

Frank got scared and went to the closest hiding place he could find. When he heard the footsteps getting closer, he ran for his life. He jumped here and there and even knocked down some glasses. Finally, he found a place to hide in properly. He saw a cabinet open, squeezed in, and closed the cabinet’s door. He peeked through the keyhole and saw a big shadow almost like a tiger. He also saw a gray fluffy ball moving across the floor. Suddenly, he remembered everything and came out of the hiding place.

“Gorge! How did you come here? Is this a dream?” shouted Frank.

“Frank I’ve been looking for you everywhere! Why are you in there?”

“I thought you were a tiger, so I had to hide. But how did you remember that I was taken by this family?”

“Oh it’s probably because I missed you so much so I remembered the family’s faces."

The door opened and there came in the family. Both Nancy and Vancy had grins that almost reached their ears. The family also brought some salmon and non-lactose milk for Frank and Gorge. “Today is Nancy’s birthday so we brought her a friend for you my dear Frank, he looks a lot like you, I suppose that he’s your relative,” said Mrs. Wilson happily.

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This time, Frank understood what they said. He tried every action to thank the family but he went too far so he ended up falling into a bowl of marmalade. “Woops, you’re going to need a little shower, and I mean both of you,” laughed Vancy. “Oh no! No way!” Gorge whispered to Frank. “It’s okay, they are very gentle and they give shower with warm water,” said Frank proudly.

From that day, Frank and Gorge never had to separate any more. And Frank, Gorge, and the Wilsons lived together happily ever after.

Phakamon, Grade 6 Explorer

My Personal Narrative

I have experienced many things and these are some of them. In Grade 3, I got a chance to play soccer against my home country Nepal. We lost the game and the score was one to zero. After that match, Mr. AJ gave me a spot on the soccer team. I played against many teams. We sometimes won and sometimes lost but that’s okay. Last time, we also played in a tournament and got third place. In near future, I am going to play another match. I also do “Kumon”. I studied three subjects - Thai, English, and Math. I got many awards and trophies for being above my grade level. I am very bad in Thai, very good in English, and good in Math. I think I am good in English because of my school.

I have also visited many museums and the Science Museum is my favorite. I learned about how cars are made, ancient Thai items, stars, and rocks.

I have also experienced pain and sadness. My cat chased me trying to bit me and it bit me. I fell down three times in a row. I got sick for playing in the rain because I got wet. I have been very sad because my dad’s mother died.

In my homework, I mostly got good score. Sometimes I forgot to do my homework and got bad score.

Robin, Grade 5 Voyagers

Ueno Park Museum in Japan

My family and I go to Japan almost every New Year! When we went there last year, we visited Ueno Park. Actually, there were more than one museums along the vicinity, but we didn’t have enough time to go to every museum so we just went to the Science Museum.

It was so amazing to be in the Science Museum! There was a real-life galaxy traveling Experience Theater and a prehistoric time animal’s room to explore. The museum also has a butterfly collection room and of course a caveman’s age room. The one that I liked very much was the crystal collection room and the crystal gacha machine.

When I played the crystal gacha machine, I inserted two coins and a ball rolled down. Inside that ball, there was a little bag that contained a tiny piece of crystal. My crystal was really beautiful and it was really fun to play in that vending machine!

There’s also a gift shop! My brother brought a shark collection figure set because he really likes sharks, fishes, and megalodons. I didn’t buy anything in the gift shop, so my dad just gave me extra coins for the gacha machines. Well, unfortunately, my brother wanted the coins too, so I needed to share. So I had coins only enough for 2 rounds of gacha. But it’s still fun! It was nearly night so we quickly ran to the train station and waited for the train to arrive. As soon as we reached Shinjuku, we walked from the train station to our hotel. Our hotel’s name was Shinjuku Blossom Hotel.

Lalana, Grade 5 Voyagers

Brighton and Hove, My Homeland

Did you know that United Kingdom is the top tenth country with the least corruption? Well this is exactly where my home town is. Brighton and Hove is just south of London. It has very nice weather and sometimes the temperature can get up to 32 degrees Celsius. It is a city near the sea, this is why there are so many seagulls. The seagulls in Brighton are very smart, if you throw a peace of food down a pier or a cliff, a seagull will quickly catch the food before it falls. Seagulls can also be very scary. They sometimes steal food while you are eating it.

There are many parks, forests, and meadows in Brighton. It is very nice to walk around because the weather is very nice both in summer and winter. But sometimes you may accidentally touch a stinging nettle, your hand or whatever part you touched will hurt, but it won’t do any harm. There are also many types of creatures like foxes and robins. But don’t think that these foxes are cute or nice because they eat rubbish and sometimes annoy people.

Brighton and Hove used to be two different places, but now they are joined together. However there is still a statue that separates Brighton and Hove. Both places are quite similar to each other, there’s nothing actually different.

People are very kind and social here, if you go outside at the dead of night, it will be totally safe. People are also very talkative and social, you can just safely talk to any stranger.
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People also care a lot for their home. This is why Brighton and Hove looks neat and clean.

Brighton and Hove is a very nice place to visit. There are many cool tourist spots and a ton of delicious restaurants. It also is very interesting place to study and explore. Its history is very cool and amazing. Brighton and Hove is one of the best cities I have ever known.

Phakamon, Grade 6 Explorers

**Brave Flying Shark**

There lived a brave Flying Shark who shot laser beams from his eyes. His neighbor Crazy Dave cutter shark, Slasher and Dasher the twin sword fishes and Marlin the Yellow fin tuna lived with him. They lived on Fin Street in the Pacific Ocean.

Long ago his mother and father did not have enough time to feed him so they sent him near the ocean. After swimming and flying for many days, he reached the house of a kind hearted robot dog who let him in. They had a wonderful life together for many years until he grew up strong and brave. It was time for him to move to another place because the brother of Robot Dog was coming to live from another part of the world.

So Flying Shark went flying over the ocean. Late at night he felt lost, cold and hungry. Finally he found a safe place and he started a fire to stay warm. Then he had some fish crackers. Later when he had regained his strength, he used his compass to find a good home. That was where he met all his good friends.

Now, whenever he gets home, all his friends greet warmly with, “Welcome back home!” He was very happy living in Fin Street. He felt it was the best place in the world!

Phyo Thri Win, Grade 3 Bright Sparks

**The Agents**

There was a secret trapdoor leading to the hally way in the dirty alley named Castor. That’s where all the agents meet. I snuck in there spying on them for nearly 3-4 hours. They were leaving tomorrow to catch the giant octopus that was living in the caves. I decided to pack my bags and follow them. I told my good friends Lag, Gal, Alg and Glag that we would leave by dawn. Ilog the commander on the other side scanned us and tried for it. I looked behind and saw that they were gaining on us! Then Glap tripped over and Zaapp! We were caught in the flighty cage.

I tried picking the lock but it didn’t work. Alg tried bashing it down with his fists only to get a broken finger! Then slowly Lag used a small tool to get us out by jamming it into the lock and twisting it around. It worked! We jumped out with a thud, ran throwing pencils at any crossing droid trying to catch us, knocking them out of the ship. When we reached the mountains, we went into a cave high up in the cliff where we found paintings of humans eating meat, chasing rhinos, humans lighting a fire etc. It was brilliant. We were so interested in the paintings we didn’t see the land octopus slithering towards us menacingly. And SNAP! Lag was gulped down! We fled for our lives. I released the latch of the parachute and thanked Alg for thinking about it. But RIIIPPPP! That was the sound of the latch tearing away from the parachute! It was freefaaaaaa! “What!??” I woke up. It’s just a dream I told myself. But something was not right. “Memon, are you alright?” asked Alg “You almost broke your leg! And Lag is covered in octopus spit.”

It was fortunate that the octopus didn’t find Lag yummy!

Kiragorn, Grade 3 Bright Sparks

**My Best Friend Forever**

Once I was very lonely. I was lonely because I didn’t have a friend. One day somebody moved in. I saw the transport moving van and I followed it.

The next day I went to that house. I met a girl. She had a lots of toys. She had a twin sister named Kavi. “What is your name?” she asked me. I said, “My name is Puntalinee.”

Then saw the twins at home. We were in the same class too. Our teacher’s name was Mr. Elvisa. When it was at the end of the day, we went to buy ice-creams together. The twins and I laughed. I got myself another ice-cream. On Saturday I went to her house and we played a lot. Then we played in my house too. We again had a lot of fun. My mom came and told me that the twins can have a sleep over at our house if their mom lets them.

We went to the twins’ home and asked the mom and she said, “Yes.” They had a sleep over at our place. In the morning, we played together. We also went to play games at Dream World. We played in Snow Land first. There was a cool slider in Snow Land. Kavi was scared of heights.

Then I went to sleep in the twins’ house. It was fun. We went to play in my house for half a day and then we went to sleep in the twins’ home. Then I slept in my house and the twins slept in their house. On that day, a new kid moved in. Her name was Nano.

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We rode our bikes and rode to her house. Her house was so big. We played all day long until it was night time. We said goodbye to each other and went to sleep in our homes.

In the morning the four of us woke up and went to buy ice-creams. Then we all went home.

Puntalinee, Grade 2 Trailblazers

The Boy of a Three Year Nap

Long ago there was a poor widow who lived with her son. All day long she sewed silk kimonos for rich ladies in town. Her only son, Taro was clever but as lazy as a rich man’s cat.

When Taro was nearly grown up, a rich merchant came to town. They were rich. Taro grew even lazier. His mother began to pester him and said, “The merchant is looking for a boy.” Taro said, “I won’t do it!” His mother said, “How should we live?” Taro said, “Cheer up. I have a plan, make me a black kimono and a hat like a priest wears.” His mother asked, “what will you do with them?” Taro said, “Oh they are part of my plan.” Taro’s mother made it for she did not know what to do. The next evening, Taro put on the new clothes. Then, with a piece of charcoal, he blackened his brows eyebrows and scowled lines on his forehead and on each side of his nose, then ran out of the house. At sundown the merchant came out for his evening walk. The merchant went on his stroll until he came to a shrine by the roadside. As he stopped to an offering, a black goblin like figure appeared before him. “I am the Ujigami, it is time for your daughter to get married to a lad named Taro,” said the Ujigami. “Couldn’t we wait a year or two?” asked the worried merchant. “Impudent mortal!” said the Ujigami. “How dare you bargain with me! If you delay my command I shall turn your daughter into a cold clay pot.” The Üjigami thundered and disappeared.

The next morning, the merchant went to the widow’s house and said, “The üjigami appeared to me last night and commanded that my daughter must marry your son.” “That’s terrible! Your daughter could never live in this wretched house. My Taro has no job. How can he keep your daughter?” said the merchant. “Do you consent to this marriage?” asked the merchant. The mother then replied, “You have my consent and greeted with joy.”

The wedding ceremony was the finest in the town. The merchant’s daughter has no signs of turning into a pot. As for Taro, he does a good job of keeping count of the rice. He has no time for naps. It has been a long time since anyone called Taro the boy of the ten year nap.

Bayinee, Grade 4 Edelweiss

The House in the Woods

The most powerful king and queen of all lived in an enormous castle. They had lots of gold.

They had top security because many thieves had their eyes on their gold! The thieves could change shape and would also turn into something small and sneak into the small holes. It was hard for the security guards to catch them. One day, the security quit because the job was too hard for him. “No”, said the king, “who will protect our gold?” “Am sorry, nobody!” said the security guard. So all the security guards followed their leader out of the castle. The thieves were hiding outside the castle and they watched them leave. That night the thieves broke in and the king and queen ran to a safe place and hid there. The thieves crashed the door by changing into powerful bulls. Then they took all the gold and flew away swiftly as eagles.

The king and queen became poor. They slept on the sides of the road, and begged food from other people. One day the king decided that he would build a house for himself. So he went to the nearest woods and found an old saw. He used it to chop some trees and made them into logs. The later found some nails and hammer. He used his tools and worked day and night. And finally he finished his house. He hunted animals for food and got water from the waterfall that was near their house. They lived happily ever after in their modest house living a modest life!

Melis, Grade 3 Bright Sparks

My Great Grade Two Class

Once there lived two friends. They were Karryna and me. One day Karryna told me, “I cannot play with you.” “Why?” I asked. “Because I am going somewhere.” She said. Later Karryna said, “I can play with you now, my mother told me that.” “Then let us play.” I said.

One day Karryna was sick. I was lonely because I had only one friend to play with. Suddenly, somebody asked, “Do you want to play with me?” I didn’t know who it was. Then I came to know who called me. It was Nanploy. I said, “Yes.” I played with her all day. When Karryna was well, I played with Karryna and Nanploy. We went and bought ice-cream for each other. We shared snacks together all the time. We also went to each other’s’ birthday party all the time.

We became best friends.

Alissarin, Grade 2 Trail Blazers
Tea party

When I was a little kid, unfortunately, my mom passed away from cancer and I started living with my stepfather. He was my stepfather because my real one had a divorce with my mom. I noticed quite a few weird things about my stepfather. He would often ask people if they have had a history of cancer in their family and he would always have tea parties with new people every day. Every night I would hear a shudder shriek of a person at exactly twelve o’clock, and the sound of a chainsaw being used.

My step dad would usually bake cookies and one time I ate one of them, “No Annie, don’t eat them, they’re not meant for you.” My step dad had shouted, and I had to spit it out but I felt sick, weak and dreadful. What did he mean? “They’re not meant for you.” As if it was meant for someone else. My step dad always gave me the scariest chills, he was big tall and creepy.

One night when I was having hard time sleeping, I came out of my room. I heard a scream coming from the basement. “What is going on?” I thought. I went down and saw something I dreaded the most. It was a dead body tied to a chair, blood everywhere and the body cut into pieces. Very soon, I heard the footsteps a big person. I rushed to the closet and hid in it. I was scared. I couldn’t see anything but I could hear faint sounds.

“Who is this person? Why is there a killer on the loose in my house and how did he get into my house?” So many questions I had but there was no answer. Then I heard somebody whispering my name. “Oh my sweet Annie, next is your turn. I am sure, I'm going to miss you when you're gone.

But why? Why did he want to murder me? Before I could figure it out, the sun went up. I tried to be brave and come out of the closet, but to my surprise, there was nobody around in the basement. I immediately ran upstairs to my room. My dad was in the kitchen preparing the same cookies for the breakfast. He asked me, “Annie would you like to join me for tea this afternoon?” I had to find out why he was doing this, so I agreed. “Sure dad!” I answered cheerfully. My step dad went to work and I sat on my bed wondering what to do. I rushed down to the basement again to find any clue but apparently, nothing was there except a chair and two closets, one locked and the other one that I hid in, so I went back up. I thought of a plan.

“Annie I’m home! Let’s have our tea party,” dad shouted as he entered the house in the afternoon. I thought, “This might be the last time I get to live.” I sat down and pretended to eat a cookie and falling straight on the ground. I heard him say, “Finally Annie’s also gone.” He brought me down to the basement. When he was about to tie me up, I opened my eyes and grabbed a knife that I had hid in my pocket. “I knew Annie, you will finally figure it out.” Annie darling! I always loved you but not more than your mom!” He said. Then he brought out a human figure from the locked closet that looked like my mom. “I have been doing this all these years to find the body pieces that looked like your mom and putting them together to recreate her. Look at this figure! “Doesn’t it look like your mom? But there’s just one thing missing, blood,” he muttered. He grabbed the chainsaw and pulled it but before he could do anything, my mom became alive. She took the chainsaw from him and hit him on his head. There he was, unconscious on the floor. The cops who were hiding in the house as planned came running and took care of everything.

To me things got complicated but the cops told me that it was not a miracle that my mom became alive. They had actually hid my real mom in the closet. They told me that when my mom was suffering from cancer, she noticed very weird behavior of my stepfather. He was turning psycho, so she had to get assistance from the hospital to pretend to him and the world that she was dead and continue with her treatment for cancer. They also told me that my mom was very much worried about me to be left alone with my stepfather but she had to take that risk. My stepfather was sent to the mental hospital. And from that day onward I lived with my mom.

Mai Thao, Grade 6 Explorers

The Lost Kitten

There was Caty and its cute Kitten. Kitten was sad because her mom did not give her milk. One day she thought that her mom was not real and so she went out of the house. She wanted to go to the waterfall. When she was walking she suddenly fell into a dark cave. There was a hungry cave-man inside and he wanted to eat her. Kitten said, “I wasn’t a good kitten. I want to go back to my mommy!” kitten woke up and cried, “NO!” Caty ran as fast as she could and asked kitten, “What happened?” Kitten said, “I had a bad dream mom-my, a caveman caught me for dinner.” Caty said, “Don’t worry my baby. I’m here for you.” Now kitten knew Caty was her real mother and she felt safe and happy.

Teesta, Grade 3 Bright Sparks