



Feb. 2025

“We’re Better than
The New York Times”

Issue No. 3



*Sailaja Duraiswamy, Grayson Bea Maiselman,
and Aicha Hoummadi at the White House!*

5th Grade Visits the White House

By Grayson Bea Maiselman

The 5th grade got to go to the White House in December. We were lucky to get this experience because Ms. Perez’s dad works at the White House. I was so surprised, and other students enjoyed it as well.

“I liked the pictures of [President] Biden’s dog and cat,” said Connor. Madisyn said that she “loved seeing history,” and Ammanuel commented, “I liked the beauty of it.”

Ms. Bechil liked everything. It was the best field trip.

It was very hard to get in. We had to go through so many security check points. Security even asked us our birthdays, twice.

Continued on next page

Garrison Elementary is proud to celebrate Black History Month!

Look for coverage of events at the school in our next issue!

Continued from previous page

They also had us go through a room with a dog that sniffed us up and down. Then the final checkpoint was like security at the airport.

We got to see a lot of rooms in the White House. One of the rooms had a moving carousel with animals. Another room had a lot of different types of bread. I also saw the State Dining room with two huge Christmas trees and a painting of Abraham Lincoln. We also went into a library that had swords on the wall. We were not able to visit the Oval Office, but we got to meet Ms. Perez's dad.

We were also given goodies by the White House staff. One of the gifts was a booklet that described all the rooms. When we finished the tour of the West Wing, they gave us special chocolates. After that, we met the Press Secretary and explored the press room.

We were given special Hershey Kisses Chocolates, and the box had Biden's signature on it.

The 5th grade class had an amazing time visiting the White House.



Garrison Students Visit the Vice President's Home

By Amelia Ferry

In December, Garrison students went to Vice President Kamala Harris's house for a party! This was before she left office last month.

Mkayla, Gabrielle, Skye, Sydney, and Emani were among the kids who went. They were chosen to go because they showed Wildcat values like

empathy, perseverance, and others.

What did they do there? Everyone ate cookies and made Christmas ornaments.

Mkayla (3rd grade) said, "It was fun, and it was also interesting to see her."

Gabrielle (3rd grade) agreed, saying, "It was fun, and we got to see her house."

Skye (5th grade) also agreed. She said, "It was nice and cool and there was lots of food!"



The Garrison group visits with Vice President Harris and First Gentleman Doug Emhoff!

Meet Our Librarian

By Madison Hardaway

Let's talk about the life of Ms. Coleman!

According to Ms. Coleman, she came to Garrison in 2023. She always loved to read, and her mother and grandmother taught her when she was three years old. She decided that she wanted to be a librarian when she started working at DC Public Library in 2009.

Ms. Coleman recalled that when she first came to Garrison, most of the kids were nice, but some kids were not so nice because she was new. Later, they started to get along better.

Unfortunately, some books have never been returned because some kids lost them. That means that other kids cannot read them. Many Garrison students are very responsible with their books, and most love to read! They are always recommending books to add to the library's collection.



Please help Ms. Coleman and the school, and return your library books!

Capoeira Comes to Garrison

By Luka Maru

Vivek Maru has started a Capoeira class at Garrison. Capoeira is a form of martial arts that involves fighting, gymnastics, and dancing.

Imagine that you were enslaved in the 17th century, and you were told that you cannot use your fighting style because it is illegal. What would you do? Well, the enslaved people used Capoeira to disguise their style, and legend says they used Capoeira to break free.

We surveyed some of the participants to see what they think.

“Capoeira is good!,” said Teddy (age 6).

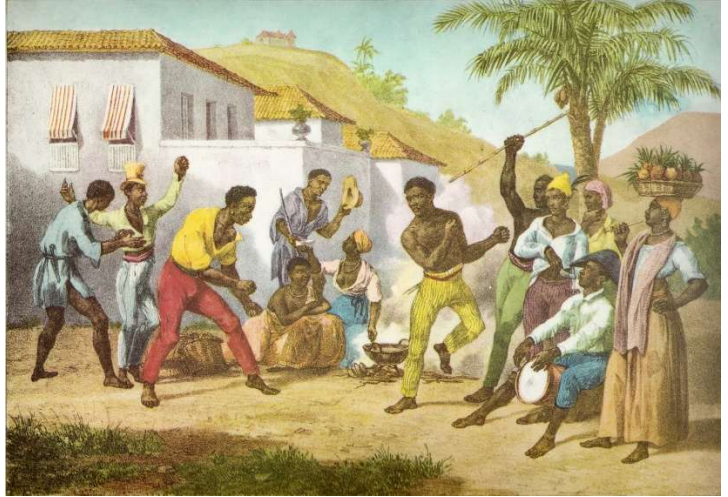
“Capoeira is awesome!,” Sajan (also age 6) commented.

Sidney (age 9) said, “I thought it was nice.”

Grayson (age 10) added, “I love Capoeira. It’s great fitness.”

“If I could come every day, I would,” said Ms. Boone (age unknown). Welp, see you in the next paper because, as our motto goes, “We’re Better Than *The New York Times*”!

Full disclosure: Vivek Maru is my dad.



“Capoeira or the Dance of War”
by Johann Moritz Rugendas (1835)

“Story of our Schools” Program Continues to Inform and Delight

By Sailaja Duraiswamy

This month for Story of our Schools, we went to Ford’s Theater to see where President Lincoln was shot.

It was really cool. We got to see the place where President Lincoln sat. We even saw the bloody pillow. The bloody pillow is where they rested Lincoln after he got shot. It still has some blood stains on it!

We also interviewed some people involved in the project, including Mr. Frank Smith. They taught us about our school and about Camp Barker. It turns out that Smith had the idea for the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C.!



Ford’s Theater

Politics with Emmie and Sailaja

By Emmie Ober and Sailaja Duraiswamy

It is the new year, and as most people know, last year was an election year. The inauguration is when the new president is sworn in, and that took place on January 20th.



Donald Trump is back in the White House

Speaking of inaugurations and being sworn in, the new Congress was sworn in on January 3rd. Some of the new representatives include Ryan McKenzie, Brandon Gill, Craig Goldman, Julie Johnson, Sylvester Turner, Adam Gray, Derek Tran, Mike Haridopolos, and Emily Randall.

As of 2025, the Republicans control the House of Representatives. This is also true for the Senate.



John Thune leads Republicans in the Senate

We recently spoke with Jonathan Capehart, a Pulitzer Prize-winning political columnist and anchor on the cable news network MSNBC, to get his take. Capehart visited our newspaper club and said, "Obama and Biden are tied for me as the best president I met." Based on what he said, he probably did not want Trump to be the president.

Some other people who said this include Mr. Kip, Ms. Coleman, and Ms. Williams. Ms. Bechill partially agrees with this and said, "I will not idolize any of the presidents because none of them are near to perfect."

Trump was recently confronted by the Bishop of Washington, who was talking to a crowd but directed some of her comments to Trump. She wanted to treat all people equally and protect people. He later commented that she was nasty and owed him an apology.



Rev. Mariann Budde, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, delivers a speech in front of Trump

On January 20th, Trump issued a bunch of executive orders, including an executive order banning birthright citizenship. Two days later, a group of 18 states (including the state of New Jersey, represented by Sailaja's dad) filed a lawsuit against the government.

On January 23rd, a judge in Seattle who was appointed by a Republican president said that what Trump was doing was "blatantly unconstitutional" and that he could not see how anyone could back Trump up.



Judge John C. Coughenour

GAMING

New Roblox Release Generates Excitement

By Chris Claros Reyes

On January 18, 2025, Roblox released a new update in Blue Lock. If you are “unc” (an old person) and do not know what Roblox is, it is a multiplayer game with various servers that players can join to enjoy different activities.

The new addition is a soccer game from the company Blue Lock, and it is done in the style of anime. You can now get new styles, new flows, score animation, and new “emotes,” which are victory dance moves.

The new update is fun, and you can use new skills that you can make, you can break ankles, and there is even “awakening,” which is a better form of the original style.

Also, the update is fast!



The new Roblox release in Blue Lock!

Garrison Students React to New Fortnite Release

By Surya Chandrasekharan

A new update for Fortnite recently came out. Fortnite is a great game that started in 2017. The update is known as the Godzilla update 33.20, and it is the second update to Chapter 6, Season 1 of Fortnite.

Henry Bartlett (4th grade) said, “It is amazing, and I think they should add a portal that turns you into Kong like the Godzilla portal.” Micah Fraiser (4th grade) commented, “I hate that it is 100 per cent that Godzilla spawns every game, even though I think it is a good idea.”



Godzilla comes to Fortnite!

THE SPORTS PAGE

Soccer Player of the Month

By Surya Chandrasekharan

The soccer player of the month is Jude Bellingham!

He is a 21-year-old English soccer player who plays center for Real Madrid, the best team in Spain. He is having one of the best seasons for Real Madrid. He is a rising star, and his rival is Kevin De Bruyne.

Micah Fraiser (4th grade) and Cheikh Touvaa (4th grade) both said, "Kevin De Bruyne is one of the best mid fielders in the world."

We agree!



Jude Bellingham

Sports Update

By Hunter Kelley

The Washington Commanders were in the NFC playoffs finally!

Mr. Kip, our principal, is a big fan of the Commanders. He said the perfect weather to watch games is "cold" and that he will "watch every second." "They won't win this year," he correctly predicted, "but in a couple of years."

Meanwhile, in soccer news: In the LaLiga League, Real Madrid recently played Barcelona and won 5 to 3 (unfortunately). Kylian Mbappé just moved to Real Madrid, but he has had a bad season.



REVIEWS

Amulet Book Series Is a Hit

By Hunter Kelley

Amulet is an amazing graphic novel series. There are nine books in the series, and the story is based on a planet pretty far away from here.

In the book, there is a thing called Stone Keepers. Stone Keepers have a power controlled by their minds, but they need a necklace that controls their powers.

According to our librarian, someone checks out an *Amulet* book once every day. It is the third most popular book in the school.

The *Amulet* series is a No. 1 *New York Times* best-selling series, and it is written by Kazu Kibuishi.



A boxed set of Amulet books



A Carnotaurus skeleton (above) and artist's rendering of the dinosaur (below)

Animal Review: The Carnotaurus

By Josue Labaceno Vasquez

In this issue, we will be talking about an extinct animal: the Carnotaurus.

According to my research, the Carnotaurus was a “theropod dinosaur” of the late Cretaceous period. The Carnotaurus lived around 72 to 69 million years ago and was a member of the Abelisauridae family of dinosaurs. It had distinctive horns above its eyes.

The Carnotaurus was first discovered in South America in 1984 and was named in 1985 by Jose Bonaparte. The Carnotaurus was between 24 and 26 feet long and weighed between 1 and 2 tons!

Their horns were cone shaped and about 6 inches long, just above their eyes. They have also appeared in a bunch of movies.

This Movie Is *Wicked*

By Grayson Bea Maiselman

The *Wicked* movie was great. The actress Cynthia Erivo was the best pick for Elphaba, and Ariana Grande was also great as Glinda.

I loved Erivo's performance when she was singing "Defying Gravity." She was so good at it that she was practically Elphaba, and I loved how she brought the song to life. I also loved how Grande's character's name was at first Ga-linda, but then near the end she changed it to Glinda. She did a great job singing the song "Popular."

I particularly liked that Elphaba had different hairstyles in different scenes. She is so nice in the story even though she hates Glinda. She still ends up doing something nice for Glinda because Glinda did something nice to Nessarose, who is Elphaba's half-sister.

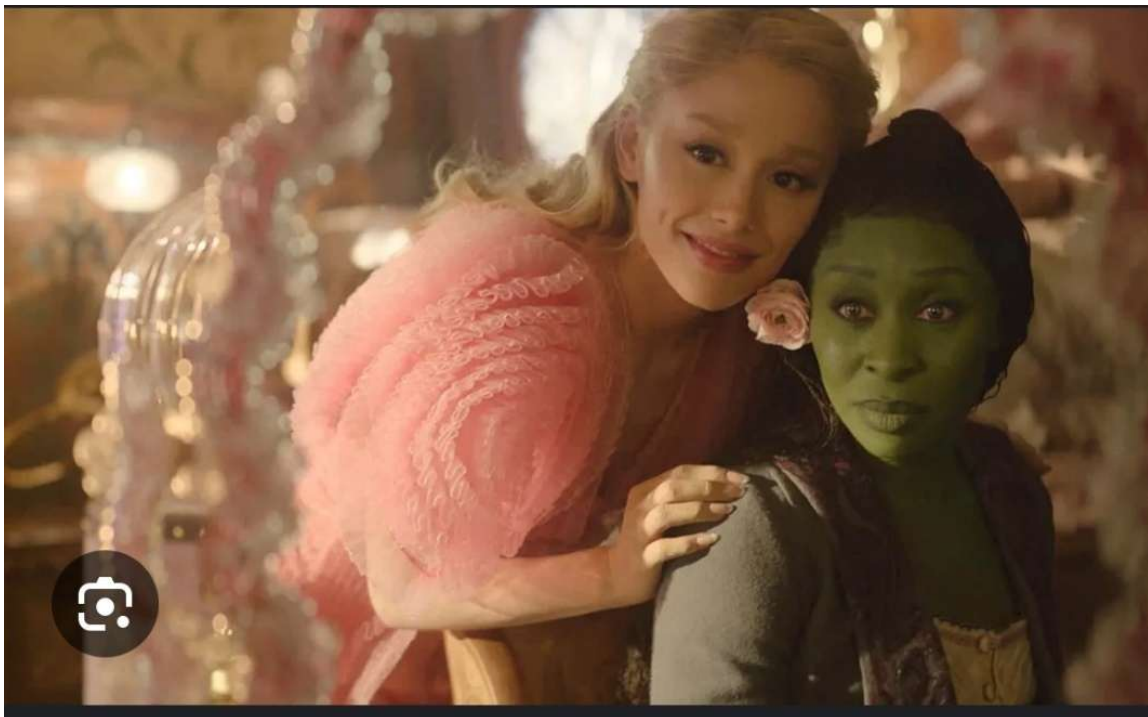
Erivo's makeup looked very realistic, and her singing was amazing. She can hit so many

high notes when she is singing. Her clothes were amazing, and she wore black, which happens to be my favorite color. Erivo made it look like she was actually flying in "Defying Gravity." As a character, Elphaba is kind to animals and humans, and she is so smart.

Grande's performance was also great. Glinda's outfits were so amazing, particularly with all the sparkles. I loved the way she was pretending to be dumb for the movie.

I never knew that Grande was an actor. I thought she was just a singer. She was so supportive of Elphaba in "Defying Gravity."

Grande and Erivo really hit it off, because after the movie they became friends. I like how Grande put her own spin on Glinda. I really liked how she hit so many high notes when singing, and she did a great job telling Elphaba's story to the munchkins.

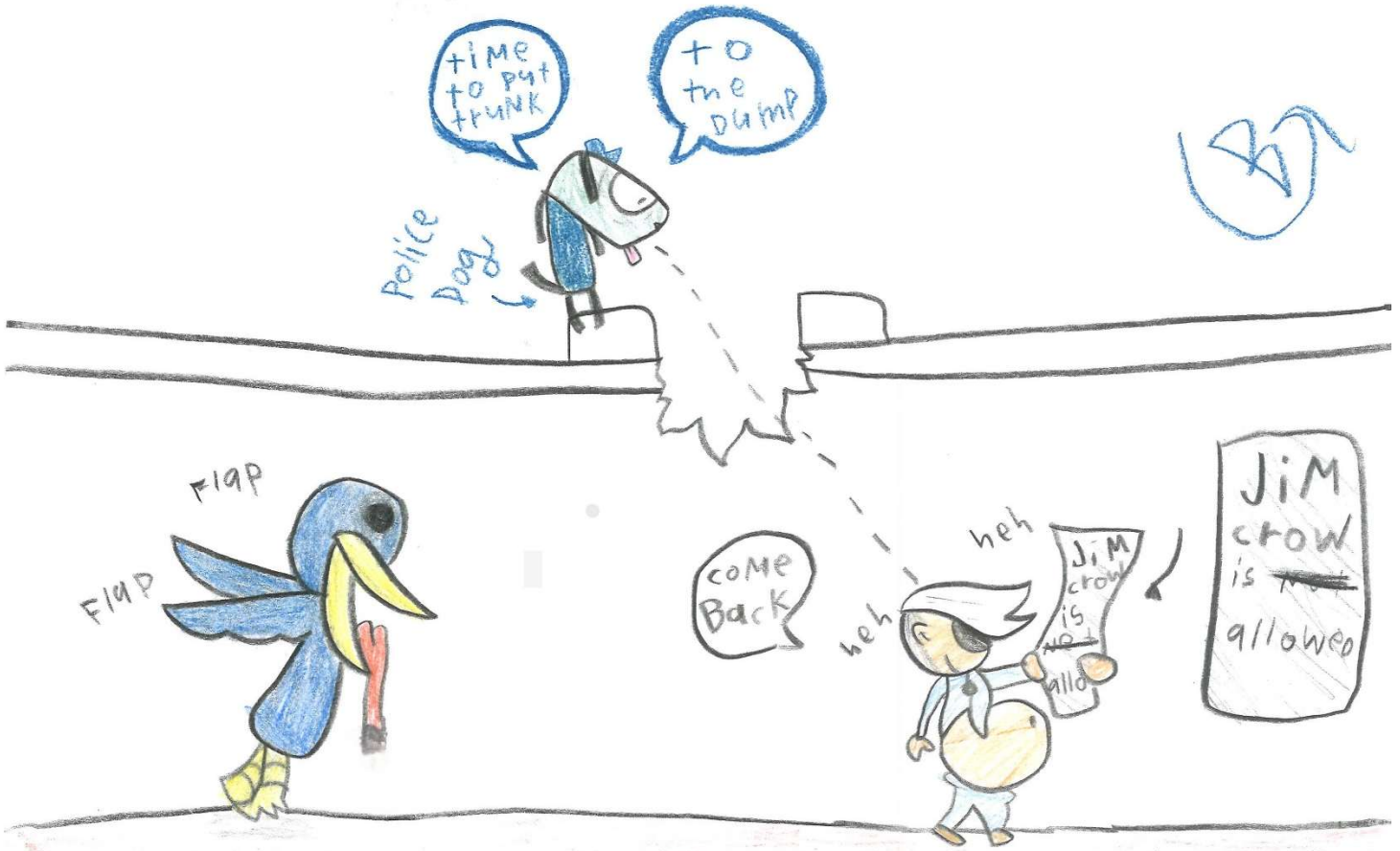


Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo star in the "Wicked" movie!

CARTOONS

Donald Trump's New Agenda?

By Buraimoh Gbadamosi



Democracy Under the Ocean

By Luka Maru



A Note from the Editor

The staff of *The Wildcat Wonder* was recently pleased to welcome two guests.

In December, the students were visited once again by **Ben Schreckinger**, who is a national political correspondent for Politico. “Mr. Schreck,” as he is known to the students, told the club about a recent trip that he took to Greenland to work on a story. The students asked him about his time in the country, who he met, and what sorts of different foods he tried.



In January, the students were pleased to welcome **Jonathan Capehart** to the club. Capehart is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post* and hosts a show on the television network MSNBC. He told the students about all of the American presidents he has met or interviewed over the years, including Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Barack Obama, and Bill Clinton. The students asked him a variety of questions, including who his favorite president is and what it’s like to host a TV show.



The Wildcat Wonder always welcomes constructive feedback and ideas. You can reach us by email at thewildcatwonder@gmail.com.