

LONGVIEW SCHOOL & HOMESCHOOLING CENTER  
296 LOCUST AVENUE  
CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567

# The Long View



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1  
FEBRUARY 2004

## THE TRUTH ABOUT LYING

BY MARK JACOBS, CO-DIRECTOR

People lie. Adults lie. Children lie. Many “experts” have explored why children lie. According to Dr. Robin Alter, “The natural response to being confronted with a transgression is to lie about it...Children lie because they are not strong enough yet to tell the truth...The child’s fragile embryonic ego says ‘Oh my god, if I’ve done this horrible thing, I must be a horrible monster. I can’t possibly admit to this because then everyone will know what a horrible person I am.’ This moment of guilt is all encompassing to them.”

(<http://www.docrobin.com/14.php>)

At Longview School and Homeschooling Center, based on the Sudbury model of education, we frankly disagree. By upholding the

importance of empowering all members of the school community through a real (not mock) democracy grounded in a student-run judicial system, our children take on the role of both citizen and legislator. In School Meeting (the governing body which makes all the school rules and is the final authority on every and any matter related to the school), everyone gets one vote, students and teachers alike. As the teachers are quite outnumbered by the students, this amounts to students wielding true power. Most teachers and administrators at other schools would be terrified by this state of affairs. For us at Longview, this is simply another opportunity for kids to make responsible decisions by being empowered to do so.

Our Judicial Committee (JC) enforces the rules made by the School Meeting. This committee is chaired by a student, and is composed of two or more students and one teacher. JC investigates complaints on a daily basis, helps with mediation, and metes out warnings and consequences. Over the course of the school year, every student serves as a JC judge, and most experience the other end after being written up for breaking some school community rule.

So, what does all of this have to do with lying? One of the most remarkable phenomena in our justice system is that people do not lie. In over 150 write-ups over the last two years, I have heard only two or three lies. Contrast that

with the myriad of lies told in our courts every day. It is not that our students are lying and just not getting caught. In over 99% of the cases, either the accused student admits her/his wrongdoing or it is found that there was no wrong committed. Students are simply telling the truth.

This should give pause to those who are pessimists regarding children’s honesty. Maybe children’s egos are not quite as fragile as experts such as Dr. Alter think. We at Longview would argue that when children are given the trust and respect they deserve, and so are granted ownership of the legislative and judicial processes, they are just as able and willing to admit guilt as an adult. Maybe more so.

## THE AUTHOR’S VIEW



### THE CHRISTMAS MONSTER

by Elijah Shaheen,  
age 7

[This is a story written in the process of

acting it out. Elijah acted out almost all of it, but sometimes Mark made up his own lines.]

First, there will be a loud, loud noise which sounds like this: “Hee-haw! Hee-haw!” Next, there will be

baby animals in the office tearing down all of the stuff. Next, there will be some sort of socks, but they will go into Mark’s stomach. Last, but not least, there

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## LOOK WHAT'S COOKING

### SNOWMAN CUPCAKES\*

- 1 package (18.5 oz) yellow or white cake mix plus ingredients to prepare mix
- 2 containers (16 oz each) vanilla frosting
- 4 cups flaked coconut
- 15 large marshmallows
- 15 miniature chocolate covered peanut butter cups
- Small red candies
- Pretzel sticks
- Green & red decorating gel

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line regular-size (2 1/2 inch) and 15 small (about 1-inch) muffin pan cups with paper muffin cup liners. Prepare cake mix

according to package directions. Spoon batter into muffin cups.

Bake 10 to 15 minutes for small and 15-20 minutes for large cupcakes or until cupcakes are golden and toothpick inserted into centers comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks 10 minutes. Remove from pans to racks; cool completely. Remove paper liners.

For each snowman, frost bottom and side of 1 large cupcake; coat with coconut. Repeat with 1 small cupcake. Attach small cupcake to large cupcake with frosting to form snowman body. Attach



### OUR COMPLETED SNOWMEN

marshmallow to small cupcake with frosting to form snowman head. Attach inverted peanut butter cup to marshmallow with frosting to form snowman hat. Use pretzels for arms and small red candies for buttons. Pipe faces with decorating gel.

\*Reprinted from *Just for Kids*, Publications International, Ltd., © 2002

## THE VIEW FROM THE ROAD



Sebastien, Ben, Elijah and Michael making apple cider at the Greenburgh Nature Center.

Ben and Michael in Albany in front of the NY State Department of Education building during our visit to hearings to oppose high-stakes testing in New York.



## THE CHRISTMAS MONSTER (CONTINUED)

will be a very, very, very big wind storm. It will blow the whole classroom apart. And that's when the Christmas monster bashes through that green picture.

*Hee-haw! Hee-haw!*

"Mark, what's that sound?" asks Elijah.

"I don't know," says Mark.

"Hey, look, a baby anteater. Hey, look, a baby jaguar. Hey look, a baby hippo, a baby polar bear and a baby snake. What are we going to do? What's going on?"

"Look! Socks!" Glug.  
"Mark, watch out, they are going in your...glug...stomach." Strange noises.

"What's going on, Mark? Why is your stomach growling?" asks Elijah.

"I don't know, but it hurts," says Mark.

"Hey, what's all this wind doing in the classroom. There goes the chair. There goes your present. There goes the computer," says Elijah.

"Oh, no," says Mark.

"Uh oh, the ground is shaking. I didn't say that," says Elijah.

Strange growling noises.

"It's the Christmas monster! Run for your lives! I wish I

could stay, but I have to go hide in the snow," says Elijah who runs outside.

More growling noises. The monster taps Mark on the shoulder. Mark looks. The monster growls and chases Mark.

"Run for it!!!"

"Ruit cake. Ruit cake," growls the monster.

"Did you say, 'Fruit cake. Fruit cake?'" asks Mark.

"Mark, I think he wants to turn you into a fruit cake," says Elijah.

"Fruit cake! Fruit cake!" growls the monster.

The monster turns Mark into a fruit cake and then proceeds to eat Mark.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Fruit cake! Fruit cake!" yells the monster. The monster leaves.

"Hey, Mark, where are you?" asks Elijah.

"I'm right here, but I'm a fruit cake," says Mark.

"Don't worry, I'll use my turning-back-into-a-person shot. It will hurt a bit, but it will be all over soon," says Elijah.

Elijah gives Mark a shot. "Ahhh!" says Mark.

Elijah says, "There, it's all over. You are a person

again."

Mark asks, "What are we going to do about that monster?"

"I have an idea, Mark," says Elijah. "There is one way to stop him. Do you know all monsters are afraid of heights? Maybe if we build a really high tower and make him climb up there. Then we could make him fall down and take off his mask. Fancy that!"

"It's time for me to have a snowball fight with Ben. I promised to go out with him. Have fun capturing that monster," says Elijah as he leaves.

Growling sounds.

"Come, monster. I have a great climbing place for you. Do you like to climb?" asks Mark.

"Uh...OK, I like to climb, but only on short space. I'm afraid of heights," says the monster.

"Don't worry, it won't be that high. Come with me," says Mark.

"OK," says the monster.

They go hiking. "There you are at the top of the building," says Mark.

The monster screams, "Me don't want to go! Me want to go down!"

"OK, you can come down.

Just hold this rope. Got it?" asks Mark.

"Got it!" says the monster.

Mark pulls on the rope and the monster falls.

Growl.

"You are a flat monster now. Let's see who the monster really is. Hold still. Let me take off that mask," says Mark.

Mark removes the mask.

Mark says, "That's no monster. That's Elijah. You should be ashamed of yourself Elijah. Dressing up as a Christmas monster. Scaring all the teachers and the children. Why did you do it? Why?"

Elijah says, "I only wanted to have a happy Christmas. I always wanted to have a nice, happy, beautiful Christmas. And I would have gotten away with it if it weren't for you."

"Don't you know Christmas is about giving and not scaring!" says Mark.

"Yeah, but everybody called me funny names, like Elijah snocky and they said my mom was ugly," says Elijah.

"They weren't very nice, huh?" asks Mark.

"Yeah, they said my mom was ugly," says Elijah.

*(continued on page 6)*

THE POET'S VIEW

**IF I WERE A ....**  
 By Karla Kuskin  
 (model poem from a published poet)

If I were a sandwich,  
 I'd sit on my plate  
 And think of my middle  
 Until someone ate Me.  
 End of sandwich.

**IF I WERE A HORSE**  
 By Sharon Stark,  
 age 8

If I were a horse,  
 I'd run through the meadow  
 With someone on my back.  
 I'd be happy  
 And I'd leap.

**IF I WERE A TOMATO**  
 By Maeve McGee,  
 age 5

If I were a tomato,  
 And someone took a bite of me,  
 I would be gone.

**IF I WERE A WIG**

By Maeve McGee,  
 age 5

If I were a wig  
 People would put me on their heads  
 When they're bald.



SCIENCE VIEW

**SCIENTISTS: Rory, Trevor, Michael, Ben, Sharon, Maeve**

**PROBLEM: To see how strong an eggshell is by seeing how many books we can balance on top of an uncooked egg before it breaks.**

HOW HARD IS AN EGG SHELL?

**MATERIALS:** Clay, an uncooked egg, 2 stacks of coins equal to the height of the propped up egg, a tray, many hard-covered books.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1) We stood up the egg in a circle of clay.
- 2) We made 2 stacks of coins which kept falling so we used a round plastic tinker toy piece to make 2 piles as high as the egg.
- 3) We put one book at a time over the 2 stacks and the egg.

**OBSERVATIONS:** When the 40th book was piled on top, the shell broke.

**CONCLUSION:** It was getting so heavy on the egg.



Drawn & computer enhanced by Sharon



# LONGVIEW REVIEWS



mies, and sometimes other things. But Starcraft is just a shooting game. That's it. Just shooting. It is in the future. Warcraft is in the past game. And Diablo, I

## THREE COMPUTER GAMES

By Ben, age 7

This is about three computer games. Two I love, and one I like a bit.

What I am talking about is three different games that one company made:

- 1) Starcraft,
- 2) Warcraft
- 3) Diablo.

Sometimes Warcraft and Diablo are very violent. Sometimes they are not. Starcraft isn't very violent, but Warcraft is—it has blood and bones. And then Diablo is about in the middle. Warcraft is the highest, but Diablo will give you nightmares about skeletons and mum-

don't know.

Rory plays Diablo so much and when he got used to it, it wasn't actually that bad to him. He didn't get nightmares anymore. So what you have to do is get used to it.

Diablo isn't that fun for me because I don't really want to get nightmares. But if you watch it, it doesn't give you nightmares—only if you play it.

Why it's worth it to play Warcraft is that it is a really fun game and it doesn't give you nightmares. What makes it fun is the fighting. Maybe for kids who don't like fighting games, they don't have to

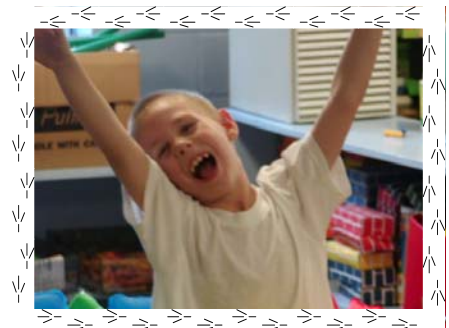
watch it. For kids who do like fighting games, they love it. You have all of the control you need to destroy the other people's bases. There are guys called heroes and they have levels. The highest level they can get to is 10. If you don't type in a cheat that makes you invincible like "whosyourdaddy" and you have two heroes that are tenth level, then still you crush other guys. They are like invincible.

Cheats can be good and they can be bad. They are usually good though. Cheats are a piece of paper that have a whole bunch of words on them. You have to type in some of the words and the others tell you what they do. Like in Warcraft, just like I said, "whosyourdaddy" makes you invincible, and that's one of the cheats on there.

Starcraft is a very good game. There are expansion sets for it which are even better. If you destroy all of your opponents' bases, you win. You also have allies that will help you

destroy your opponents' bases. One of the cheats that can be really helpful is "there is no cow level." If you are on a very frustrating level and you can't beat it, you type in those words and you beat the level. There is another very good cheat. It is called "show me the money." It gives you 10,000 minerals, which is just like gold, and 10,000 Vespene gas, which is the same as regular gas, which you use to make guys, buildings and workers. And then there is another cheat called "black sheep wall." It shows you the whole map which helps you a whole bunch so you see your opponents' bases and see what they are doing. You are like spying on them.

Now, I am not talking to the grown-ups out there. I am talking to the kids. If you would like to play one of those three games, you should write a note to me at Longview School so me and my friends can teach you how to play (if my friends would like to).





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## THE CHRISTMAS MONSTER (CONCLUDED)

“But aren’t there a lot of nice children to play with?” asks Mark.

“No, all the children threw garbage at me and gave me some yucky juice,” cries Elijah.

“So what would you ask Santa to give you for Christmas?” asks Mark.

“All I wanted was a game cube,” says Elijah.

“And some friends?” asks Mark.

“Yes, and some friends. I only did all of the stuff because I didn’t want to go in

jail. Besides, Santa is a good guy,” says Elijah.

“Why would you have to go to jail?”

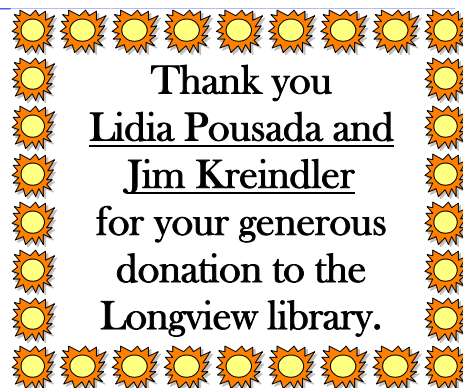
“In jail I could spend my time making coat hangers and lifting weights and doing kitchen duty. All of that is just not right, not right I tell you and I don’t want to go to jail,” Elijah cries.

“How about we forgive you if you can join with the Christmas spirit?” asks Mark.

“I can join the Christmas spirit. Yes, I just did it and my back hurts really bad,” says Elijah.

“No more scaring children and teachers?” asks Mark.

“OK, I won’t scare anybody again, says Elijah.”



Thank you  
**Lidia Pousada and**  
**Jim Kreindler**  
for your generous  
donation to the  
Longview library.

