



LONGVIEW SCHOOL
 296 LOCUST AVENUE
 CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567

LONGVIEW SCHOOL
 296 LOCUST AVENUE
 CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567

The Long View

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2007



WASTING TIME

BY MARK JACOBS, CO-DIRECTOR

Wasting Time

By Mark Jacobs

How many times have we been told to “stop wasting time?” How many times have we ourselves said this to our children? As you consider the phrase more deeply, “wasting time” begins to

seem stranger and stranger. Is time the sort of thing that can be wasted? Literally, of course it is not. Time is not a thing at all, and things are what we waste or conserve. But metaphorically, is it still possible?

As we grow older, we come to

think of time as being something of value, something that can be spent wisely or foolishly. It is in this sense that we speak of time when we talk about wasting it. In this sense, time is perceived analogously to money. With

(continued on page 2)

CALL TO SCHEDULE
 A VISIT
 (914) 739-2742

*ROLLING
 ADMISSIONS*

*Longview offers
 sliding-scale
 tuition*



WHAT'S COOKING AT LONGVIEW?

COOKING COMMITTEE HAS A DIFFERENT ANSWER EACH WEEK.



money, we can determine if we have spent it wisely based upon what we got in return for our money. With time, it is a little trickier.

Consider time children spend in traditional schools. Children are expected to have a certain amount of seat time. While in their seats, kids are mostly talked at. They are treated like vessels that must be filled with facts and figures, more and more information. Students vary in their willingness to participate in this process and as a result respond to this form of “education” in many ways, ranging from diligence to resistance, with interest, compliance, and distraction in the middle. Many children are successful, if by that one means being able to regurgitate information on a test a week or two later. Unfortunately, regardless of the student’s level of compliance, little is retained long-term. Honestly, how much of what you were taught in high school do you still remember?

What is overtly taught in schools is only a small part of the students’ education. The structure of schools also instructs. Our children are taught

- ⇒ to obey authority without question (as challenging the teacher or administration is typically perceived as disrespectful);
- ⇒ to accept spending most of their time in pursuits in which they are not interested;
- ⇒ that their work has little value in the real world (by spending so much time doing busywork which is completed and then discarded);
- ⇒ that all of the important decisions will be made for them by well-intentioned adults;
- ⇒ that resolving conflicts is best left to adults in power; and
- ⇒ that meaningful work (that which must be done in order to enable schools to function) is best left to those more qualified than themselves.

Is learning these lessons time well spent? Further, is most of the way time is filled in traditional schools time well spent or time wasted? If our goal as parents is for our children to grow up to be independent, responsible, thoughtful, capable, happy adults, then I would

argue that too much of this is not just a waste of time, but even worse, is time spent counterproductively.

How do Sudbury schools like Longview compare? With a cursory look at Longview, it may appear kids waste much of their time. Kids spend lots of time playing and hanging out. Is this wasting time? I would argue that it is not. Play and conversation are the primary ways people learn. These types of learning are different from the insubstantial way “memorized” facts come and go from memory. These are a deeper learning that help us to forge our very personalities which will serve us well or badly as we confront or run from real-life challenges. It is through play that we are able to try on a variety of selves, choosing those which seem to fit who we want to be and discarding those that don’t seem to suit us.

What about computer games? At least with those, don’t we know our kids are wasting their time? I would argue that these also are not a waste of time. The time kids play on the computer is invaluable. Some chil-

(continued on page 10)

THE WRITER’S VIEW

Lilo and Stitch

By Cameron Walton

Once there was this girl. Her name was Lilo. She wanted a friend, but not just any friend. Lilo’s big sister Nani asked, “A brother or a sister?” Nani thought maybe a dog.

Nani went to the dog store. Lilo picked out the dog. It was Experiment 626. Lilo named the dog Stitch. Lilo and Stitch did a lot of things together.

The secret everyone knows is that Stitch isn’t really a dog. Everyone knows that Stitch is a real live alien from outer space.

§



Thank you so much to Loretta for volunteering so many hours this fall!



Math class using manipulatives as part of a lesson

dren learn to read, write and type by playing computer games. Others learn math and reasoning. In addition, just using the computer helps our children feel comfortable with technology. Also, most games provide a natural context for meeting goals--moving up in levels and mastering games is a natural type of testing in which you pass when you move on to the next level or win the game. Surprisingly, playing computer games typically involves using social skills. Rarely does a student sit by himself or herself for long periods of time in front of the computer. Rather, using computer games is often a team effort, or one in which an expert student spends time teaching those less skilled or a group works together using problem-solving and interpersonal skills.

Longview students are also learning essential lessons about getting along in the world. They learn:

- 1) in order to make their world better, they must participate in a democratic government;
- 2) they are responsible for creating a just environment as they participate in all the roles in our judicial system (from judge to

juror, from defendant to complainant); and

- 3) their work is essential for the school to function (from paying bills to keeping attendance records to keeping the school clean and orderly, all of which is accomplished through their labor).

Indeed, from what we often consider down-time to the frenzy of creativity around a class, chores, clerkships, or committees, Longview students learn to spend their time wisely. Most importantly, students have the opportunity to choose how to spend their time for themselves, so that when they are older, in college or at work or when they have their own families, they are accustomed to making good choices about how to spend their time wisely.

I find it curious how a person's evaluation of wasting time tends to change throughout his/her lifetime. Infants, toddlers, and young children hardly understand the concept of wasting time: they are far too busy to step back and evaluate whether they are wasting time. Adults up through middle age (and young adults who seem to incorporate many of their par-

ents' judgments about this) can be harsh critics, judging their time and the time of others as often being wasted. What is most curious is the seeming circle we circumnavigate during our lives. As senior citizens, we tend to return to the feeling that all time spent fully involved in an activity, any activity, is time well spent. Countless seniors on their death beds have left this world with advice to their loved ones to live fully, regardless of what they're doing at any moment. Isn't that just what kids learn at Longview? Here children learn they, and only they, have the responsibility to choose for themselves how to spend their time. Sure, sometimes kids feel they are wasting time at school, but the empowerment that comes from being given the autonomy to face this feeling and move beyond it is well worth it. §



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS



Jack



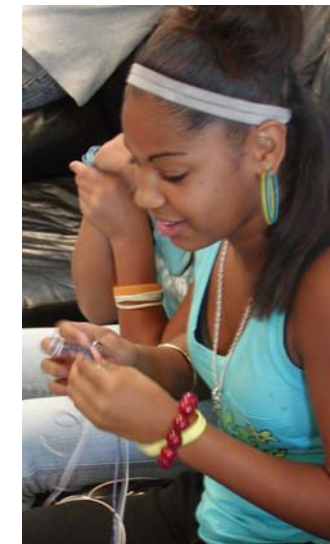
Teshome



Kamaria



Khalidah



Dara



Ayanna

FROM SLEEPY HOLLOW TO LONGVIEW AND BACK AGAIN

Spanish is one of the many classes at Longview. Although this is an introductory class, students have begun writing letters back and forth to pen pals. All of their pen pals are students in a Spanish 2 class at Sleepy Hollow High School. Pull out your Spanish to English dictionaries because here is some of their correspondence.

Querida Dara,

Hola, mi nombre es Alfredo Diaz yo soy dominicano y vengo de Tenares. A mi me gusta la pizza. Yo soy 5'3 pies. Aora dime de tu

Alfredo

Hola Kamaria,

Yo me llamo Eliana. Yo tengo 14 años. Yo tengo 2 hermanos, un mayor de quince años y el otro de tres. Yo vivo con mi mama mi papa y mis hermanos.

Eliana

Hola Alfredo,

Soy 5'2"pies y tengo 15 años yo soy afroamericana,yo tengo 3 hermanas Khalidah, Ayanna, y Kamaria y yo vivo en Beacon y estoy en noveno. Soy tu nueva amiga.

Sinceramente,
Dara

Hola Eliana,

Yo tengo diez años. Tengo tres hermanas. Tengo una perra, dos gatos, y dos pajaros. ¿Tienes animales?

Adios,
Kamaria



Querida Khalidah,

Hola. Como estás? Mi nombre es Luis Oliver. Yo soy catorce años y yo vivo en Sleepy Hollow. Yo tengo 3 hermanas y 2 hermanos. ¿Usted tiene hermanos y hermanas? ¿Donde lo hace usted vivo? Digame mas sobre.

Tu amigo,
Luis Oliver

Hola,

Mi nombre es Khalidah. Yo soy trece años, vivo en Beacon Nueva York. Yo tengo hermanas. Los nombres son Dara, Ayanna, y Kamaria. Yo tengo 5 animales 2 gatos, 1 perra, y 2 pajaros. Mi favorito colores son negro, rojo, naranja, azul, verde, y amarillo. Hablamos despues.

Adios,
Khalidah

ON THE ROAD



Sunasian, Ben & Jessica sketching



Longview students and other children from the 6 New York free schools watching a turtle eat during our visit



Cameron after hitting a shot during our tennis class



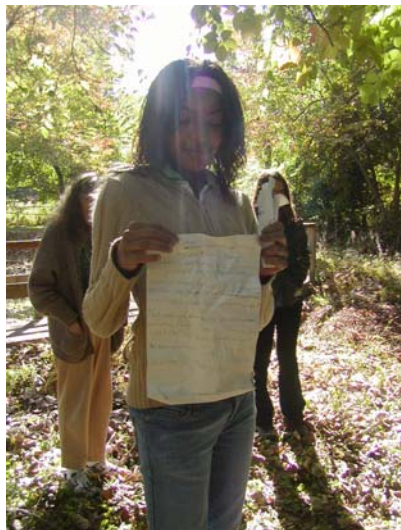
Max serving



Nekoda with a puppy during our visit to The Pet Company at the JV Mall

A FUNERAL AT LONGVIEW

The students found a mouse wandering the school. She died. Below are pictures from the funeral and the text of the eulogy Khalidah gave at the ceremony.



Squeaky:
We're sorry your life ended. Our intention was to catch you and set you free, but our plan didn't go too well. We didn't mean to kill you. We are very sorry. It was a total and complete accident. We were going to let you out to be free and an accident killed you!

Querida Rebecca,
 Mi nombre es elayne hernandez. Yo soy dominicana y se mucho español.

Yo tengo el pelo negro, me gusta mucho chatiar por el internet. Me gustaria saber un poco de ti.

Sinceramente,
 Elayne hernandez

 Elayne,

Hola mi nombre es Rebecca Simons. Yo soy de Highland Mills. Me gusta hacer arte. ¿Tienes hermanos?

De Rebecca



Querida Ayanna,
 Quiero conocerte y que te balla bien en esa clase.

De Ignacio Rodriquez

 Querido Ignacio Rodriguez,
 Necesitas escribir mucho mas. Me llamo Pablo yo estoy substituyendo por Ayanna. Subtituo por Ayanna porque ella esta enferma. Yo tengo diez y seis años, ¿y tu?

De Pablo

 Ben,

Hola yo me llamo Kenny. Yo tengo catorce años y estoy en el grado nueve. Yo voy para la escuela de Sleepy Hollow. Mi cumpleaños es Enero 31. Yo soy muy atlético y a mi me gusta mucho deportes.

Kenny

 Hola,

Me llamo Ben Pousada. Yo tengo 10 casi 11 años (en 5 días). Yo estaria en el 5to grado pero mi escuela no tiene los grados y a mi tambien me gustan los deportes. ¿Como es tu familia?

Adios,
 Ben

Hola Jessica,
 ¿Como estas? ¿Como te llamas? Yo me llamo Cierra. Yo vivo in Terrytown, NY. ¿A donde tu vives? ¿Cuantos anos tiene? ¿Te gusta to escuela? ¿En que grado estas? Pues si...¿que haces en to tiempo libre?

Cierra

 Hola Cierra,

Yo estoy bien. Mi nombre es Jessica. Es muy chistoso lo que tu escribiste. Yo vivo en Garrison. Yo tengo 13 años. A mi me gusta mucho mi escuela porque podemos hacer lo que nosotros queramos. Estoy en noveno. En mis tiempos libres yo dibujo mucho y tambien corto cosas de catalogos y las pongo en mi cuaderno. Algunas veces yo juego cartas. Y escucho mucha musica como reggeton y salsa. Bueno ...

Sinceramente,
 Jessica





Kamaria



Dara



Nekoda



Khalidah



Rebecca's Painting



Khalidah's Painting



Nekoda's Painting



Ayanna's Painting



Jessica



Teshome



Sunasian