

# The Hawk Eye



**Harrison Elementary School's Newsletter**  
**Editors in Chief: Mrs. Szelingowski and Mrs. Latino**



## Mix It Up Day

By Emma Wang and Brandon Ahn

Mix It Up Day started in 2002 by Teaching Tolerance, a national organization that encourages students to meet new people and learn about their differences. During lunch, students sit at different lunch tables than they usually sit. The goal of this campaign is so students could get out of their comfort zones and communicate with a new friend. There are many activities the children can do during this time that motivates students to cooperate with one another.

At Harrison, each student was assigned a color that symbolized what teacher's classroom they would go to. We watched a video about Usain Bolt that taught us to keep setting goals and working toward them. Then, each child decorated a shield and wrote their personal goal on the back, how they're going to achieve it, and they colored it. While we were decorating the shields, we interacted with the people around us to learn about their differences like gender, age, interests, cultures, etc. During lunchtime, we sat at the color table we were assigned. We communicated with one another and tried to make new friends.

While we were in the classrooms, we interviewed many students, asking them about the activities they were doing. Most of them enjoyed being in different classrooms, while some others enjoyed others parts of the day. Kyle Chen from Miss Craig's class said, "My favorite part of Mix It Up Day is lunch because I got to talk to people I don't really talk to." We asked Rebecca Boullosa from Mrs. Frohnafel's class what goal she wanted to work on. She replied, "I want to work on playing with my dog more often."

Overall, Mix It Up Day is about meeting new people, learning and understanding their differences, and learning how to treat others with respect. Mix It Up Day was created so that the students make new friends while having fun. By talking with others, and watching them work together, it seemed like almost everybody made a new friend.

## Singing Under the Snowflakes

By: Aimee Saju and Anita Joshi

Harrison Elementary School has many events throughout the year. One of them is the winter concert. Every winter, the fourth and fifth grade band, orchestra, and chorus members perform. For the past five years, the winter concert has been at Mount Pleasant Middle School.

During the chorus performance, the members sang a song called "No School Tomorrow." Part of the lyrics from the song say, "I'm wishing and I'm hoping that snow will fall tonight." What was unique about this year's concert is that it actually snowed that day! It was a very special night and during the final chorus performance of "Hot Cup of Cocoa" anyone in the audience who was in Harrison's chorus was invited to go on stage and sing along. This has become a Harrison tradition over the years which has created many memories.

We asked Katherine Hall, a fifth grade chorus and band member who plays the trombone, what she did to prepare for the concert. She said, "I have early morning rehearsals at 7:30

am. I practice during lessons and at home. It feels really good to show them (audience and parents) what I do in band. In lessons I practice 30 minutes. There is no exact time to practice at home, as long as I play it well and know the notes and accuracy."

Owen Pourakis, an orchestra member and cello player from Mrs. Mullen's fourth grade class was asked the same question. He replied, "We have to practice at home and during lessons. There is no exact time to practice at home, as long as we learn the notes, play well and practice. We also have to pay attention to what Mrs. Vatoci is teaching us. At first, going to the winter concert makes me feel nervous, but then I remember how hard I practiced and I don't feel scared anymore."

Harrison's orchestra teacher, Mrs. Vatoci, explained how she chose songs for the concert. She told us, "For the winter concert I have been choosing simple songs that fourth and fifth graders can play in unison. I also choose songs that tie in with winter or holidays."



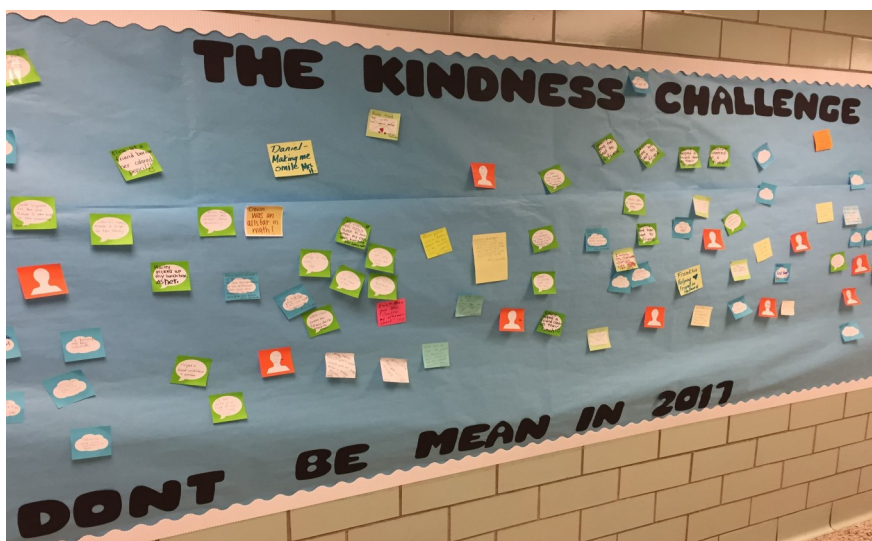
Harrison School had many talented performers that night, and we hope to see the same or even more in the spring!



**The Great Kindness Challenge**  
**By: Janine Nangini and Sylvie Friedman**

Every year over 8 thousand schools and over 5 million kids participate in the Great Kindness Challenge. The Great Kindness Challenge is where kids in grades K-12 from over 60 different countries accept the challenge to show the world that kindness matters. Children across the whole world are spreading happiness and are showing people that kindness makes a difference. The Kindness Challenge encourages kindness and prevents bullying.

Every school does the challenge in a different way. This year at Harrison the students and teachers were asked to write down the kind deeds that they saw others do on a post-it and stick it on the mural outside of the cafeteria. We asked three students why they think kindness is important. Kanav Sonawane in first grade said we need kindness in the world “so that we can make friends.” Emily Sosa in third grade said, “We need kindness in the world because otherwise people would be mean to each other.” Michael Ileya in fourth grade said, “If you don’t have kindness, everyone would feel down.”



Over all, the Great Kindness Challenge has been a success. It has encouraged students, teachers, and staff in over 8 thousand schools to be extra kind to each other. Over 5 million kids across the world are working hard to spread kindness and prevent bullying. Although the Great Kindness Challenge is only for one week, we should always be kind to one another.

## Superhero Central

This issue’s super message comes from artist Anlin Wei. Her beautiful artwork reminds us to start the year off with a “*superhero state of mind.*”

