

My math world

By Jacob Toro

BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRADE 6

Math is so amazing. I love how it makes you think and there is almost always a right answer. I like to explain how I do my work, and talk with others about problems and answers. When I am in math class it is like I am in my own mathematical world, with numbers and equations, figuring out the answers to problems. I look at the numbers all around me and I figure out the answers. When I'm in my math world it's like no one is there but me, and that's just the way I like it!

My favorite part of math is algebra, because I get to use negatives, positives, variables and different mathematical expressions to figure out the answer. I really like algebra because I get to go below 0, and I get to multiply, divide, subtract, and add them together to get answers.

I like math to be challenging, so that I really have to think about the problem and explain how I got my answer. If the work in math is easy it isn't fun and it doesn't take me that long to do, but if the work is challenging I have to think hard to find my answer. If the work is challenging and I get a good grade, I know that I had to think and I earned that grade.

Math can sometimes be hard, but if you try your best and really think, you can almost always find the answer to a math problem.

School

By Zinifra Kochaliyeva Israilovna

SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL, GRADE 12

On August 27, 2006 I came to Spaulding High School and for me it was a very big school.

At Spaulding I learned many things that I did not know and one of them was English. I did not speak English and English class taught me to speak in English and write. My English classes helped me a lot because I always had hard times in my other classes. Now after three years taking English classes I am speaking very well and my grammar is getting better in every essay that I write. I am very happy that I came to Spaulding High School and took English classes.

More student writing
at
youngwritersproject.org

We asked students this week to write about experiences that engaged them in school. Interestingly, we didn't get our usual deluge of responses and many of those we received focused more on what seemed boring, meaningless, frustrating or stressful about school. Here are a few selections about some of the school experiences that have engaged students, as well as a few of the more general reflections on school that we received.

The locker

By Jamie Hack | CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

The best thing that happened to me during school was getting stuck in a locker. I was in fifth grade when this incident happened. I had a free period, and I was bored so I walked out into the commons area and sat down. Then I had a brilliant idea. I thought I would do something extraordinary by shoving myself into a locker. Boy, I was wrong.

I opened the broken locker and stepped in. I fit very well inside. Too well, if I say so myself. My whole body was in the locker except my big head.

People would say that “I was as snug as a bug in a rug,” or something like that. Yep, you guessed it. I was stuck. I was just hanging out inside the locker. I was starting to gather a crowd of people who were walking by.

You want to know the real reason I got myself in this predicament? I wanted to set a school record. Everybody told

me that it was impossible to get stuck in a locker. I just wanted the satisfaction of proving them wrong.

The janitors came by with a crowbar. They had to practically break the locker open just to get me out. I escaped the doom of the locker and I got a round of applause. Hi-fives went around, and I felt like a hero. I even have the picture to prove it.

I went back into the class room and got scolded by my teacher. I got in a little bit of trouble but not enough to get sent to the Planning Room. There was going to be a fire alarm in the building, but luckily somebody walked past the office and told them to hold off because I was in the locker.

For the rest of the trimester I got called “Locker Boy” and “The kid who got stuck in a locker.” I was famous around the school.

School

By Molly Mitchell | CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

(Excerpt: Full story at youngwritersproject.org)

I don't like school. I don't think we need to go to school for twelve years of our lives. Then, if we go to college, that's an extra four or more years added. I think we should learn what we really need to — like how to pay bills and add, subtract, multiply and divide. We also should learn how to read and write.

After that, we should be able to choose the classes we want to take for a couple of years. For example, if I want to be a scientist I would take science class. If I want to be a carpenter, I would take math class. If I want to be a teacher I would learn all the things teachers need to know. If I want to be a writer I would take a language arts and writing class.

Twelve years is a waste of time and even money. Life is short. We probably won't even use half of this stuff in our life anyway, so why waste the time teaching it to us? ... People are getting tired of school. Teenagers in high school are dropping out all the time.

Talk about pressure. School is one of the greatest reasons for the pressure in a kid's life. We get a week to finish a project and do a good job at the same time. What if your parents don't have the money to buy a lot of supplies? We have homework almost every night, and it needs to be done the next day. The cliques at school aren't any help. Plus, there is so much pressure to get good grades. A 'C' isn't good enough? Sorry Mom, but I didn't get it.

If you ask the wrong question, people will laugh at you or some teachers will even think you are stupid. Most of it is confusing. Your dog really eats your homework, and no one is going to believe you unless you bring in the evidence. Then some people will still think you're lying, “You probably ripped it up!” If you forget your work, you're in trouble. You only get half credit for it. Sorry my power went out in the middle of the night and reset my alarm clock. Sorry I have a 'D.' Sorry I am not smart enough for you. I tried. ...



Young Writers Project is an independent nonprofit that engages students to write, helps them get better at it and finds audience for their best work. YWP provides writing prompts; maintains a supportive online community, youngwritersproject.org; trains college mentors to provide students with feedback and builds Digital Writing Classrooms for schools and afterschool programs. For more go to: ywpschools.net.

My old teacher

By Ryan Kelley

OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, GRADE 9

“You don't miss something until you don't have it anymore.” Well last year my teacher retired after many years of changing kid's lives. On Tuesdays we always read the paper and looked at the Young Writers Project prompts.

And he would tell us to keep submitting our work into the paper. A lot of my classmates got in and if you didn't that week he would tell you to keep on writing.

Well now he is retired, and I hope he still reads the paper so he can see that I got in just for him. So this one is for you Mr. Fish, my old teacher.

Next Prompts

Lost. Tell a story about losing something or getting lost. Write a story or poem about how you feel or how someone else felt because of a loss. *Alternate: Utopia.* What does your utopia look like? Provide images if you'd like. **Due Friday.**

Stuck. Describe a time when you found yourself in a tight spot. Tell us how you got there and what you did to get out of it. Or write a story about someone who finds themselves in a difficult situation. *Alternate: India.* What images come to mind? Write them down and tell us where those images come from. Do you think the images are accurate? **Deadline: Jan. 8**

Submit work at:

youngwritersproject.org