



TOGETHER

The 2022 PAL After-School Poetry Anthology

Welcome BACK Pal!

Thesun



Jinnet



MC



Kishawn

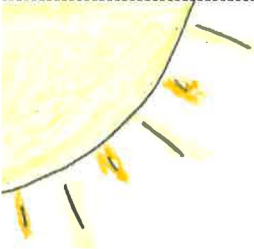


MIKEY



TOGETHER

The 2022 PAL After-School Poetry Anthology



*Let's get together to celebrate the days we smile
Together. To the days we help each other. Let's enjoy
How the moon comes down while we have a cup
Diving into our dreams, hopes, believes enjoying
Together while we drink the sad days away with smiles
And laugh just like time passes so does our pain
Like the time we spent with our family is priceless
One day there the next day not but instead celebrate that
there by your side the you get to see them smile
Time passes fast day by day we get older but wake
Up with a smile embrace what you got left because
Pain is not forever happy is neither by while you still.*

by CARLOS MARTINEZ
8th Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*Everybody has a name
Everybody has a name
Some are long, some are short
All are right none are wrong
My name is Yanely and it is
Special to me because it is
Exactly who I am and who
I want to be.*

by YANELY RODRIGUEZ
5th Grade / PS 78

*I wake up tired everyday always second
Guessing myself asking myself if it's even
Worth it, I follow the same cycle everyday
I wake up and get ready for school
Monday to Friday waking up extremely
Tired asking what the outcome of this
Is then it hits me I want to be who
I imagine myself to be I want to be the
Nurse in the all-white clothing making
Thousands of dollars, while doing the
thing
I love, I want to be the adult
In my dreams with a closet full of clothes
and shoes
And a heart full of joy that's what keeps
me going*

by EVELYN ANNAN TENUO
5th Grade / PS 78





*Keep you mask on your face
Home was our place
And there we stayed
Did our school work and played
Inside all the time was not fun
Join us now in the sun
And be together as one
Hooray we can celebrate.*

by KHADIJAH DAWOOD
1st Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*I am smart and funny
I wonder why people are so disrespectful
I hear screaming a lot
I am different
I am special and gorgeous
I never forget my stuff
I worry about bad grades
I try to get better a basketball
I feel tired
I cry when I get hurt
I am wonderful and kind
I am a queen*

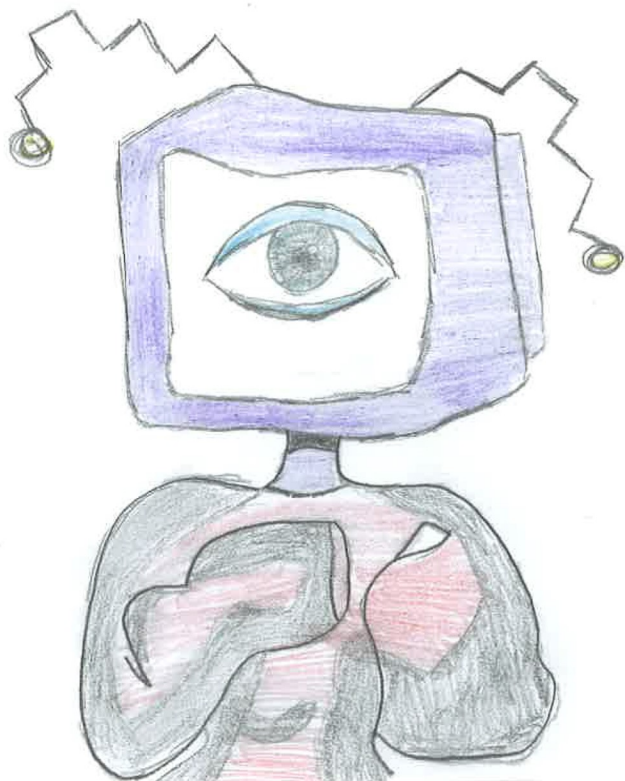
by NAEEMAH PEROU
6th Grade / Harlem Center

*Why celebrate separated
When we could be united
Why celebrate separated
When we could be fighting
In person or online
You can lean on me
Literally, not figuratively
Celebrate together, celebrate reunited
We're from the best love story, details
That were cited*

by DAVAUGHN PIERCE
8th Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*All of us had to stay inside
Now we are back together
No more Zoom we are in the
Same room Let's celebrate
Outside In the beautiful weather.*

by JASBETH JUAREZ
3rd Grade / Webster-Giannone Center





I'm so happy to see you

*Join us together
And we will feel better
Never be apart
Now a new start
Always together
Today Covid is away
Understand we like it that way*

by JANNATU MOHAMMED-BABAR
2nd Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*Now we can be together
You and me like birds of a feather
So we are going to celebrate
I'm so glad
And no longer sad*

by NYASIA LAUREANO
2nd Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*I love my mom because she is the
Reason why I'm here alive and in
school trying to get in a good school
When I'm a teen and she is the reason
Why I have a roof over my head.
She is the one that takes care of me, my brother and the dogs.
She is the one that feeds me every day.
She is the one that takes me to school and back and she's
The one that helps me get better when I'm sick.
She is the one that's there when I'm feeling away.
She is the one!!!*

by A' MIR GUADALUPE
5th Grade / Harlem Center





*Butterfly so high butterfly how long can you fly to me
Butterfly how beautiful you are
Butterfly butterfly butterfly owl stay alive even when you are not here
Butterfly how long can you fly in front of me my dear butterfly
How beautiful you are to me
Butterfly one day y'all visit me oh can you see butterfly butterfly so high in
the skyyy!*

by MIA GORDON
2nd Grade / William J. Duncan Center

*Green,
Xanadu green,
Just like my home,
When I'm there my file is lit,
Always have I been in love with it,
I have to pay off a loan,
Reminds me I'm alone
But from now on,
I'll enjoy my,
Home.*

by NOAH JAMES
5th Grade / PS 41

*What if I told you I was kind
Different and me not loving you for who
You are no what exactly my intentions
If I told you I was prolific would
You believe me to find it in your heart to
Receive me. If I told you I'm this way
I'm like girl would you look me in my
Face or would you say things to make
Me run away.*

by MOHAMED VABO
5th Grade / Harlem Center





*We unite with friends.
We unite with family.
We try to stay safe.
We try to stay from getting hurt
We want Covid to go away so we
Can celebrate another day.
We want to celebrate with family and
Friends and family forever*

by JANIYA PHILLIPS
4th Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

*When school is out for the summer
It's just our time to recover
From hard work and sitting down.
Our energy now knows no bounds.
Through the waterpark we do run.
Spring through the water is so much fun!
During the summer there is good weather
And our friends are always together.
As the summer comes to an end,
I know school is around the bend.
It's still summer and time to play!
School is a problem for another day!*

by AIDON MALDONADO
5th Grade / PS 41





*The dog runs with a frisbee.
Watching this makes me dizzy.
He runs off with great haste.
Knowing I must give chase.
The dog he runs up and down,
As if I chased him from town.
When I catch him he wants to play.
Just like the beginning of the day.
After all that running he must eat
Then tomorrow it's on repeat.*

by JUSTIN MCKEON
5th Grade / PS 41

*PAL has nice and cool kids.
PAL has the best workers.
PAL helps me with everything.
PAL has the best games.
PAL is the most fun place.
PAL makes me happy.
PAL teachers are a kids best friends.*

by AMINATA DIALLO
3rd Grade / Harlem Center

*I will always remember going ice skating
and staying in a hotel with my family.
I will always remember my birthday
and having fun, eating my birthday cake and opening my gift.
I will always remember going to Pennsylvania for Hershey Park.
I went on rides and saw how the chocolate is made.
We got candy and chocolate and got to see a movie.
I will always remember my baby cousin being born,
feeding and playing with him.
Pulling him up and celebrating his birthday.*

by ELLEN WOC
2nd Grade / PS 13



*Reunited and celebrated.
Here comes Covid taking our people away
Wiping lives away like mops
I really wish Covid could stop
Excited to reunite with my friends
It felt like I would never see them again
Celebrate all the good times you have
There's no telling how long it will last
Reunite with my friends and family
Thats all I really need to make me happy*

by **TERRELL DAVIS**
6th Grade / Webster-Giannone Center

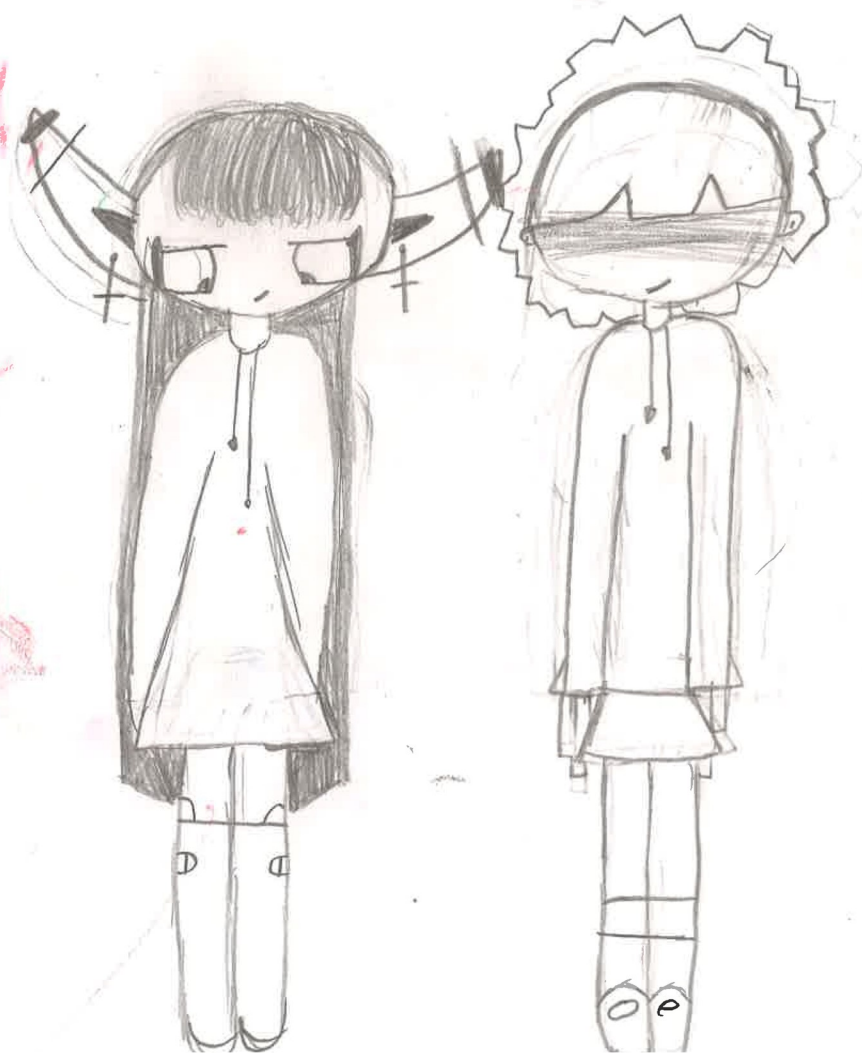


*There one was a man name Larry,
Who has a brother named Harry.
They were unlike each other.
They fought and loved,
But came from the same mother.
These two were best friends.
And could always make amends.
When they're together you will stress,
As they will make a mess.*

by BRANDON ABRAMOV
5th Grade / PS 41

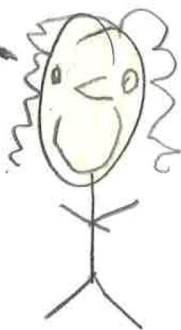
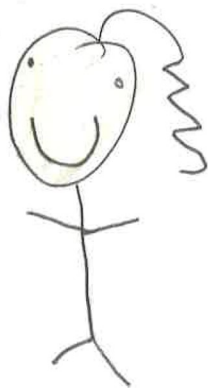
*One day as I walk through the fog
I found a rather large dog
I can see she loved to play.
She ran so fast without delay.
Through the fog I could barely see.
I began to wonder where she may be.
As I turned, a shadow did roar.
As I fell into a pile of sticks,
I too was welcomed with giant licks.
This poor dog it had no owner.
So I just thought that I should own her.
Now she lives a life of bliss.
All from one knock-down kiss.*

by EMILY STROBEL
5th Grade / PS 41



*The fox is a cunning little fellow.
Even though they are quite mellow.
Some say they're prone to deceive,
If this means they will achieve
They are known to possess great wit
So much so, they'll make you quite evil,
But will surely cause a great upheaval.
They'll laugh and joke from all their fun.
Next thing you know, they're on the run
Those foxes you may chase with speed
Though I doubt you shall succeed!*

by **IZABELLE MORALES**
5th Grade / PS 41



PAL thanks the many talented After-School youth who submitted entries and illustrations for this year's edition of the Poetry Anthology. They are all winners in our eyes, and we are excited to see how their poetic and artistic talents develop in the years to come.

We also offer our gratitude to Dennis Santella of Affirmation Arts for once again hosting the Poetry Jam in their stunning gallery space.

The 2022 PAL After-School Poetry Jam and Anthology are made possible by the generous support of The William Talbott Hillman Foundation and The Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, as well as other generous individuals.

This anthology represents the best and brightest of the young voices at PAL. We invite you to join us in celebrating the talent and promise of all the youth who took part in The Poetry Jam—most especially those whose outstanding work earned their place in this collection!



This anthology not only compiles the writings of some of PAL's best young poets, it also showcases illustrations by some its most talented artists. These After-Schoolers produced artwork that were selected for inclusion in this publication, each one painting an even more vibrant image of the writing it inspired.

ADE ADELEYE, Gr. 3
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon

NOUR OMAR, Gr. 5
PS 13

AYRIEZ BROWN, Gr. 4
Polo Grounds Cornerstone

ABRIELLE ORTIZ, Gr. 1
PS 48

DERRECK CARRASCO, Gr. 2
Webster-Giannone Center

MELISSA ORTIZ, Gr. 3
PS 48

CECILE DIAMOND, Gr. 4
Harlem Center

JACOB SUAREZ, Gr. 7
Polo Grounds Cornerstone

JANESSA GAINES, Gr. 5
Webster-Giannone Center

JANELLI SMALL, Gr. 6
New South Bronx Center

ARIEL GONZALEZ, Gr. 8
Port Richmond Center

MEKHI SWEAT, Gr. 3
Webster-Giannone Center

MADISYN GRAY, Gr. 5
William J. Duncan Center

ISAFOU TRAWALLY, Gr. 5
Webster-Giannone Center

ROSS JAMES, Gr. 3
Harlem Center

ALAIA VENTURA SANTANA, Gr. 1
Webster-Giannone Center

ISABELLA NUÑEZ, Gr. 8
Port Richmond Center

MADYSON WILLIAMS, Gr. 5
Harlem Center



Every weekday, PAL centers come alive as children burst through the doors for an afternoon filled with fun, excitement, learning, and camaraderie. Offered after the school day ends, the schedule is designed to accommodate working class families with child care needs. Activities are designed to reinforce school lessons, foster creativity, build positive character traits, encourage teamwork, and develop leadership skills.

The Police Athletic League, together with NYPD and the law enforcement community, supports and inspires New York City youth to realize their full individual potential as productive members of society.

PAL's philosophy is grounded in the belief that young people's individual strengths and capabilities can guide them to mature, productive adulthood with our encouragement and commitment. PAL's activities are experiential opportunities for young people to expand their horizons and realize their full potential.

PAL is committed to training staff in current youth development practices and works towards ensuring that all youth have a voice and an opportunity to succeed.

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