Give the gift of life
Adults: Blood & platelets needed

Happening’s holiday drive by Maya Lubeck-Schricker

Over the past year Naomi Rafal and I have been researching and writing about blood donation. We have gone to the Somerville High School to talk with students in the health sciences class. We asked them questions about their perspectives on blood donation. But that was only our first step. At the beginning of this school year we went to the Boston Blood Donation center. We even watched Alan (our advisor) give platelets. We learned how long and how much work it took to donate blood and platelets. At the donation center we talked to the recruiter and learned how hard of a job it was to get people to donate. There is just enough blood in the world, but it is so hard to get people to donate. Continued on page 4

Christine Rafal elected to school committee by William Quan

Christine Rafal is the new Ward 4 School Committee member. Ward 4 is the area where the Healey School is in. Christine Rafal is the parent of Marisa and Naomi who go to the Healey School!

Dr. Rafal is an expert in education. She has studied education for many years and has worked as a teacher and a consultant for various schools and educational organizations. Just as importantly, she has volunteered and worked at the Healey School and helped or led a number of projects for us, for example, co-advisor to Happening at the Healey. Christine, as she prefers to be called by kids and adults who know her, has an Ed.D. (doctor of educa-

Photoshop image art by Maya and Eliza
tion) from Harvard University and other degrees from Tufts University and Stanford University.

I interviewed Christine Rafal to get a better idea about the school committee and why she wanted to serve on it.

*What are your plans in the future for the Healey School?*

I see my role as mainly a supportive one. I trust that the students, teachers, principal and other staff at the Healey are trying their best every day. School Committee members work directly with the Superintendent and for voters, but only indirectly with people in the schools. Still, because the School Committee sets policies and allocates monies, my plans for the Healey School and for each of Somerville’s schools revolve around making sure everybody has all the help and materials they need to actually accomplish their learning and teaching goals and to stay safe and happy in the process.

*What is your biggest goal for Ward 4?*

My biggest goal for Ward 4 is that all our residents can observe that Somerville public school students receive a great education. For my part that will mean not only continuing to set great policy with the rest of the School Committee, but also helping the Superintendent and, through him, school employees to interpret and implement the policies for the best results for each and every student.

*What is your biggest goal for the Somerville Schools?*

My biggest goal is for each student who comes out of a Somerville school to be wonderfully prepared for the next step in his or her life, whatever they want that step to be. I hope to help all Somerville students be confident and fully equipped to follow their dreams.

*What is your biggest goal for Somerville?*

My biggest goal for Somerville is that it continues to be a great place for a diverse range of people—all ages, all backgrounds—to live...and that it continues getting better and better.

*Why (in your perspective) do you think you got elected?*

Because I got 56% of the vote, and my opponent got 44%. And I think the main reasons more people voted for me were:

- I have a strong background working in the field of education;
- The people wanted a more active voice representing them on the School Committee, and they believe I can be that voice.

*Why was your biggest reason for wanting to be elected?*

I have thought about running for School Committee for a long time. I decided to run now because I also wanted a more active representative for Ward 4.

*How does having kids of your own (in your perspective) change the way you approach your job?*

I think having kids of one’s own in the school system helps you have a better sense of what is going on in the schools on
a day-to-day basis. It might seem like it could make you care even more about

the policies being set and fight for money being spent on the right things, but these are cares all government leaders are supposed to have. A government has to take equitable care of all its citizens, so government leaders have to consider each person as equally important (which they are!). I think in a few months it might be interesting to ask my kids how my being on School Committee affects them. They will be giving up quite a bit of evening time with me.

Christina Rafal ran a great campaign and so did her opponent. She will take office in January 2010.

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**crushes**

by Abigail Powers-Lowery

Now everybody loves crushes!!!!!!! at natures classroom (3rd 4th) some gossip: it started in the boys cabin at night my friend somebody saw the boys LIGHTS ON. Next morning I was walking to breakfast and I asked a friend and he told me somebody LIKES ME! And I don’t like him! I am going to faint bye!!!!

**The great glove hunt**

By Maya Lubeck-Schricker

On Tuesday morning at 7:46, a great hunt took place. THE GREAT GLOVE HUNT!!!!!!! It was a snowy morning everyone had gloves. A reporter named William decided to have a GREAT GLOVE BATTLE!!! But, others disagreed, they were tired of William throwing gloves at them. They were other people’s gloves too! They stole their gloves back and took William’s away. The others hid his gloves behind a computer, but he soon found them and resumed the battle. It went on but eventually they stole his gloves again. This time they hid them somewhere else...He is still looking for them to this day...

P.S. They were in the sweater sleeve on the table. We gave them back at the end of the newspaper session.
Happening blood & platelet drive continued from page 1

At some points of the year it is especially hard to get blood. For example over Christmas break. It may be less convenient or just overlooked to donate at that time but it is really needed.

We want you to donate (if you can). We’d really like to try to get people to help out the Red Cross over the holidays. Please go to the Boston Blood Donation Center. Or any donation center around the world, and donate. We are doing our own version of a blood and platelet drive. We want people to donate, and get familiar with donating. It does take a while (about 2 3/4 hours plus getting there), and you do have to have a certain minimum weight and iron and nerves of steel (lol, not really), but why not go and try?

We think this is important and will reward people who do this for us. Please consider donating platelets or red blood cells at this critical time. You need to be at least 17 years old. Make an appointment and donate a double unit of red cells or platelets using an apheresis machine between December 15th and January 15th! Let us know after you do this. Happening at the Healey will reward you with great gifts, including a T-shirt and a pair of special edition custom-made Platelet Hero or Red Cell Hero WhyJeans. And if you are a teacher, we will do something special for your class also.

Please contact Melissa (617 556-2200) at the Red Cross Apheresis Center in Boston or call any other center that is convenient for you! PLEASE CONSIDER DOING THIS IF YOU DO YOU WILL FEEL WONDERFUL.

ADRIAN: what do you want for Christmas?
ELIZA: Money, lots of money. And world peace. Don’t deny me!

Happening’s Holiday Drive doesn’t want your money, canned goods, or clothing. We want you adults to donate platelets and blood. Our holiday virtual blood drive is extended through February. Please make an appointment! 617 556-2200
A young girl named Jess Rawdon was extremely excited to assist her aunt at work one day. And though at the time she might not have known precisely what to expect, she was still amazed at what she saw. Her aunt (an occupational therapist) worked with people who could not write, people who had severe speech impediments, and even those who couldn’t talk. From that day on, Jess had pretty much decided what she wanted to do: She, like her aunt, wanted to become an occupational therapist.

Years later Jess Rawdon attended the University of New Hampshire. It was there that she underwent a five-year masters program, and so far she was fulfilling her dream of leading a career like her aunt’s. But, everyone has their own path to take and hers differed a little from her aunt’s. Instead of working with patients who have severe, hands-on, physical problems, she now helps children work through the emotional problems they are facing. We all face emotional struggles at some point in our lives, but sometimes the children Jess works with have been abused or neglected and she is someone they can talk to.

She currently works at Tufts Medical Center in the inpatient pediatric psychiatry unit. In the 7-10 days that children generally reside there, she is not only someone they can talk to, but also someone that they can get things like stress balls from. On top of that she does projects with them. These projects not only help to build self-esteem and gain independence but also provide them with tactics for them to use in life, even after they leave. But sometimes it is merely an opportunity to create beauty.
One of Jess’s favorite projects is a papier-mâché volcano. While they create this volcano, they discuss anger, and how if anger is kept inside too long it can erupt from within, just like a volcano erupts lava.

Yet another project the children did was a beach scene, to which each child added their own building. They formed a boardwalk of Popsicle sticks, a hut out of a paper bag and every participant added their own unique building and/or shop.

Along with inventing fun projects for them to do, Jess also provides entertaining courses for them to take. For example, they can do culinary arts, yoga, painting, and sewing. One girl, with slight guidance from Jess produced a quilt. The quilt that this child made probably would have been warm in and of itself, but she also put some rice inside the layers of the quilt to provide it with some heft. Just enough heft, that when she draped it over her shoulders, it felt like she was being hugged. Because sometimes all we need is a warm and re-assuring embrace to let us know that everything is going to be okay.

Every day in the afternoon the children who are permitted to leave the unit go up onto the highest floor of the hospital (the eighth floor, which gets priority on the elevator, meaning it goes directly to that floor, regardless of any other buttons that had been pressed). On the eighth floor is a gigantic room, donated by the family of Garnet “Ace” Bailey, a hockey player who died on September 11th, 2001. The room (called “Ace’s Place”) is filled with board games (lining a whole wall), a big foosball table, a vintage looking jukebox (which still is in working condition), coloring books for the younger kids, a computer, and more.

Gabi, Jess and Marisa: rooftop basketball court of the Floating Hospital for Children, Boston, MA
Then, when you walk outside two double doors, it is as if you are suddenly transported to another world. Really though, you are in an enormous fenced in roof. You are almost level to the surrounding buildings, and far below you is the busy Washington Street. Even though you are high above everything (and on a roof) you feel completely safe. Around you are climbing structures and basketball hoops. To us, just the thought of playing basketball on a roof was exhilarating.

This though is a place for healing, not just play, and some of the children with whom Jess works have faced serious trauma. When we inquired what advice Jess would give to the children of the world, her reply was basically this. “Hold on, don’t give up, soon you will be an adult and have even better ways to get yourself out of horrible situations.”

The organization that Jess works with does an exponential amount of good for the children of our community and beyond. When we were there Jess informed us of something very sad; she said that because her organization wasn’t receiving enough funding, and that they might be closing. Through this article we hope we were able to inform you of many things, but we also hope that we were able help you see just how important the work Jess and her organization is and that you will help us to keep her organization alive.
Run away to join the Circus?
by Lucy Coombs

Did you know that you could join a circus without even leaving Somerville? The circus is called The Open Air Circus. The manager of the OAC (short for Open Air Circus) is Peter Jehlen. He does the OAC because of the community and because he likes to get people involved. Some of the tradition of the OAC is that there is always a cast party, stilting is always the most popular and everyone has a lot of fun. He says that the hardest part about running the OAC is balancing wants and needs. 180 kids for an OAC performance with them all bringing parents and other family members. The first manager was Be Sargent. There are many assistant managers. There is Lori Manz, Patty Goodwin, Sarah Shugars, Vicki Halal, Victoria Wolfson and Pat Jehlen. The first act that Peter did was stilting square dance. Peter Jehlen’s first experience with circus was when his sister and brother learned how to stilt in their backyard. Peter said that his favorite thing about the OAC is getting everyone involved!

HEAD IN THE SKY
by Nia McLean

Have you ever been stilting? Well….. I talked to Lucy Coombs and here’s the scoop. Lucy has been stilting for four years. She told me that stilting is hard. Lucy has stilted in the Open Air Circus. Stilting is verrry fun, says Lucy with a smile. That’s cool but WHAT’S AMAZING is that Lucy has a prosthetic leg. (See Lucy’s article in 12! magazine.)

READ 12! magazine in the school library or buy one at www.12zine.com. Write for 12! If you are 11, 12, or even a 10-ager if you can write to please a 12 year old.
Today, I was doing my homework at Journalism and I finished my homework. Here’s a joke: you can’t do your homework in after school because it starts with home and you are in school. That is my joke.

The Rose
Nattasha Vega Gonzales

OH! Stuff. I got that stupid phrase stuck in my head. He Who Walks Behind The Rose! HEWHOWALKSBEHINDTHEROSE! Hewhowalksbehindtherose!

Henry Augustin:

In the computer lab there is something on the wall that looks like a centipede. You can see it and feel it.
The Great Glove Hunt Two!!!
By Maya Lubeck-Schricker

As you can guess there has been a second!!!! William threw his gloves at me and we threw them back. As you can guess he wanted revenge for our revenge. We took them after he threw them again. Then I hid them... My hiding places are the best, he couldn’t find them. Then we stole his backpack and took out his keys, I hid them too. Then the backpack was taken and is still being held (possibly). As you can guess, William couldn’t find any of these items. We gave him clues. I said that the keys were under black. He tore up the room looking under coats and backpacks... But after he walked passed my coat twice he found them under it. The gloves were in Alan’s bag. He could never find them so I gave them back...
Happening Photography Dept.

We have cameras to take care of, pictures to take, captions that need writing, photo essays to do, events to cover. Interested? Join us! We meet every Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 7:30 A.M. in the computer lab. Catch us there! Or talk to Ruby Viens.

Our newest photographer Ruby in her funky fashion

fashion!

Around the school

By Alex Flores

I went to the book fair but I couldn’t buy a book because I was too late but I still have a chance to go tomorrow. Also I saved my dad’s money.

The boys and girls club are taking pictures in the cafeteria and the rest of the boys and girls club are playing scramble. There are lots of students in the boys and girls club playing games like checkers. For next week the boys and girls club are looking forward to a frosty snack.

CUT THEM UP!

Script for a green ad
by Adrian Lainoff

Tom: Hey, what’s this.
Sam: Oh! I know what that is.
Tom: Well? What is it?
Sam: It’s a bottle and can holder.
Tom: What!?
Sam: It’s for holding bottles and cans. But it’s very bad for birds and water animals. Thy get caught in it and it strangles them and they die.
Tom: Oh my gosh, that’s horrible.
Sam: Yeah. It’s pretty bad isn’t it?
(A teenager walks by)
Josh: Hey guys, what’s up? Woe, they still make those? Dang it, the last time I saw those was when I was just six years old. I saw it in a restaurant and it was holding both soda and juice....

WWW.DANBALL.COM
by Guilly Coelho

DANBALL IS A GAME WHERE YOU’RE GOD. Using water, fire, c-4, ants, player, fighter, wheel, nitro, thunder, acid, vine, seed, fan, gunpowder, ice, super ball, clone, fireworks, oil, stone, magma, virus, torch, gas, soapy, metal, bomb, laser, salt, glass, and Sometimes they present new things like bird. To go on you go to google.com: look up danball and it’s the first one on the page.
On Google Earth We Have Found A Flight Simulator!!
By Jonah Estabrook

Directions to the game: Double click on Google Earth, when it is ready, go to the place you wish to fly. When you are there go to the upper left corner of the screen and click on “Tools”. Then click on “Flight Simulator” and you can figure out how to do it from there.

Our field trip to the MFA
by Lucy Coombs

On December 7 two of the 5/6 Choice classes went to the MFA. The classes were Ms. Adams and Mr. Stepheno. We saw tomb 10A there were things like statues, wooden boats and parts of a coffin. It was very interesting and we got to see how the Egyptians lived hundreds of years ago.

Nature’s Classroom
Water Rockets
By Jonah Estabrook

At Nature’s Classroom there was an activity for water rockets, most people didn’t do the activity, but it was fun watching the rockets launch. The people who made the rockets were very creative, like adding colors and adding cardboard to make their rockets more aerodynamic. The rockets were a disaster, they flew all over the grass field, like into the woods and onto the volleyball court. The rockets were propelled by air pressure and water. The rockets were also absolutely amazing!

Nature’s Classroom
by Denise Umaña, Ella Bauerle and Rene Diaz

After every meal we got to choose an activity. Two of the choices were squid dissection and roller coaster designing. At squid dissection we got to paint our faces with squid ink. It was really gross. At roller coaster we designed a roller coaster and then we put a marble on the roller coaster to see if it would stay on the track.
All our friends went to N.C.

The Republican Senate Review
by William Quan

Scott Brown and Jack E. Robinson (not to be confused with Jackie Robinson) were the Republican senate candidates. Scott Brown won by an overwhelming margin with 89% voting for him and a mere 11% voting for Robinson. Scott Brown got 350 of 351 cities and towns and Jack E. Robinson got the lone town of Heath. Scott Brown got 145,465 votes and Jack E. Robinson got 17,241 votes. Brown will be in the final against Martha Coakley and Joseph L. Kennedy (no connection to Ted Kennedy).
President Obama’s Speech
by Jeremy Nelson

On December 1st of 2009 President Barack Obama made a speech at West Point Academy, announcing the increase of troops in Afghanistan, the withdrawal in Iraq and the eventual withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Obama began the first portion of the speech mostly highlighting how much we screwed up (this is a direct quote from Keith Oberman on MSNBC). Obama also mentioning that in 2002 victory was declared in Iraq by President George Bush. He also said that we allowed Osama Bin-Laden to literally slip through our fingers from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

Obama proposed that the U.S. would have an increase of 30,000 troops into Afghanistan. He said that “if the situation was not so dire I would order every single US soldier home by tomorrow, for I do not make this decision lightly.” He said he did not want us to be there any longer than needed and he will do his best to make that so.

Even though Obama started his speech with sending in troops the bulk of the speech seemed to be framed around getting out. He announced that he wanted to have troops out no later than August 2012. He seemed to talk a lot about having allies help with the surge and the withdrawal. “This is a burden I do not want to bear alone” he said.

After the speech Senator John McCain said he liked all but one part about the speech. He did not like the set withdrawal date. He said having a set withdrawal date would be like saying to Al-Qaeda “Hey, the pressure is on till then!” Implying that once we say when we are leaving Al Qaeda can write in their date books, we can regain control. He also said it would be giving the terrorists a sense of security, knowing that we will be leaving.

Obama’s presentation was sadly the grim truth; he worded it in a depressing yet realistic way. Sometimes the truth is depressing.

The Democratic Senate Review
by William Quan

On December 8, 2009, the current attorney general of Massachusetts, Martha Coakley, beat out 3 other democratic candidates to win a place in the Senate final against Republican Scott Brown. Michael Capuano who is the congressman of the 8th congressional district was also one of the candidates. Steven Pagliuca who is the co-owner of the Boston Celtics ran also in the primary. Alan Khazei, the founder of City-Year, a volunteer organization, was the fourth Democrat
who ran.

Coakley won the race with 47 percent of the vote and won 333 of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Capuano won 14 cities and towns and got 28 percent of the entire vote. Khazei won the town of Alford and got 13 percent of Massachusetts’ vote. Pagliuca got 12 percent of the vote but got no towns or cities.

New member!
by: Eliza Forrest

There is a new member of the newspaper club who is joining Maya, Lucy and Eliza as teaching assistant for the K-2 Words, Letters and the News after school club. His name is Jeremy and he is 11. This is the interview with him that the young newspaper club members wrote.

Q: what is your lucky number? A: five.
Q: what is your favorite food?
A: egg and cheese
Q: what is your favorite subject? A: math.
Q: what is your favorite thing to do?
A: soccer, video games, and snowboarding.
Q: do you have any pets?
A: a poodle puppy named loki.
Q: do you like baseball?
A: yes, I like watching it.
Q: what is your favorite red socks player.
A: johnathan papelbon.

K-2 Club new members
by Lucy Coombs

Two new members joined the K-2 Club since our report in the last issue of Happening at the Healey.

Angelica Ciannella is 7 years old. Swimming is her favorite thing to do. She used to have pet gold fish. She enjoys coming to the club. Her favorite club activities are painting, writing and rubber stamping.

Angelica’s favorite colors are pink, purple, blue, green and yellow. On the playground she likes to play tag and play on the swings. Her lucky numbers are 6 and 7. And her lucky letter is A. On TV she likes Tom and Jerry cartoons and the Disney Channel. Her favorite club assistant is Lucy (me!)

Hebaq Warsame is 8 years old. Her favorite thing to do is play with her brothers. On the playground she likes to play with her friends. Her favorite color is pink. Basketball is Habiq’s favorite sport. Colby Bryant is her favorite player.

Hebaq’s lucky number is 100 and her lucky letter is J. Her favorite word is cat. Her family is from Somalia and dinosaur is her favorite imaginary animal. Her favorite animals are cats.
He’s watching you!!!

Well…. We are. We as in Happening at the Healey school newspaper staff. WE are watching you because we are trying to get people to save box tops, walk to school and to do everything else that is good to do! Oh, and we also have a snowflake contest so we’re watching for you to enter a snowflake in the contest! By the way, the snowflake contest box is in the office. But, the point of this article is that we are in fact looking out for your good deeds and we haven’t given up on our contests and promises! Good Bye! ~ Maya L.S.

Happening at the Healey 2009
A headline year!

- 12! published (please buy one or read it in the library!)
  Visit www.12zine.com for more information
- Recyclathon II -- $300 raised to help schools in Haiti & support Happening’s photography dept.
- Morning (before school) newspaper meetings begun, Sept. 2009
- HH first PDF version. Please make sure you are getting yours, send us your email address adhnews@aol.com
- First HH color print edition
- Happening sponsors after-school word club for K-2; 6th & 7th grade news staffers Maya, Lucy, Jeremy and Eliza assist as teachers
- Snowflake magazine begun for kids 10 and under
- Happening recycles ink & toner cartridges—Give your empties to Happening, we work great things out of them.
- December 2009- Happening Blood and Platelet Drive: Adults, Give Blood & Platelets—PLEASE! Holiday drive extended through February 2010. Let us know you are doing this…..

GOT A PROBLEM?
Ask Lilly and Opal

Happening’s own advice column.
Write to ADHNEWS@AOL.COM. Your privacy is completely guaranteed!

(IF YOU HAVE A REAL MAJOR PROBLEM YOU MAY WANT TO ASK MOM, DAD, YOUR SISTER OR BROTHER OR A TEACHER) BUT IF THIS IS SOMETHING BEST HANDLED BY A PEER, … ASK LILLY ANDopal!
The Patriots are not rolling like they should be
by Jonah Estabrook

The Patriots are 8-5 and they should be 11-2. Bad passes and bad decisions are blowing the season. Bill Belichick (the coach) seems to be making bad trades.
The Fun Pages: make sure you print your name and classroom here

Take a copy. Do the puzzles, do the best you can. Hand them in to Happening (use our temporary “mailbox” — see Ms. Baxter in the main office).

There will be fun prizes, including Box Top Bonuses to give in to your classroom to help your class win the Box Tops competition, school supplies, funny money you can save for bigger prizes.
HAVE YOU BEEN READING YOUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER?

Many clues from the last issue of Happening at the Healey  BY NIA MCLEAN

ACROSS
2. status of many Happening reporters
5. short for Albert, Alfred, Alan, etc.
6. on September 27, Healey friends and family went to Sacco's ---- Haven
8. Happening at the Healey has two of these
10. where it's --
12. calling all --------- by Nia McLean
15. what planet is not a planet?
17. short for advertisement
18. knockout (boxing, abbreviation)
19. king (Latin), sometimes a name for a king-size dog
20. bowling cost --- dollars each
22. soccer and a school, on ---- Street
23. teachers ---- by Maya Reynoso Williams & Hayden Latimer-Ireland
25. two (Spanish)

DOWN
1. Happening reporter Bauerle
2. physical education, or a place for indoor exercise
3. boys name or a --- of sun, or of hope
4. animal --------- officers visit school
7. City of Angels (abbreviation)
9. some of the K-6th classes went -------
11. Simon Davenport wrote his article with his ----
13. class of Ms. -------- went to Smolak Farm.
14. name of the 4th grader wearing low top Converses & wrist bands
16. What should all Cheerios eaters bring to school?
21. negative adverb
24. a homophone of sew and sow
13 winter words got lost in a snowstorm. Can you find them?
(2 are given for free to start you off, plus a few clues [footprints?] on the grid.) That’s right, we’re not telling you what the words are!
Christmas Party
by Maya L.-S.

hot chocolate  red cupcakes  snowglobe
egg nog  brownies  green
drinks  water  junk food  mistletoe
ice cream  Christmas tree  tablecloths
marshmallows  red  ornaments
soda  party room  snowflakes
Christmas cake  red party room

Hints: 2-word clues and compound words may change direction or intersect! 2-word clues may be separated by a “—” (or not). Intersecting words may have a letter in common or not.