

# The Otter Prophet

*“News From Your Furry Friends”*

## 2017 New York State Election Results

By

Julian Sanchez and Andy Campbell



*Chuck Schumer  
and Kirsten  
Gillibrand*



*Charles Rangel*

Do you know what happened on November 8, 2016? Not only was our president elected, New Yorkers voted for their senators and congressmen. New York State re-elected Senator Charles “Chuck” Schumer. Senator Schumer is a democrat and has been in office since January 6, 1999. He has been a senator for 17 1/2 years. Our other senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, has been in office since January 27, 2009. She will be up for re-election in 2018. Something that Senator Gillibrand cares about is affordable health care . “Family medical leave is about meeting the needs of family and employees”, said Senator Gillibrand.

Of the twenty-seven representatives elected to Congress, eighteen of them are democrats and nine are republicans. Congressman Charles Rangel, who serves the Harlem neighborhood where several Gillen Brewer students live, has been a representative since 1971 (45 years!). He belongs to the Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for writing our tax laws.

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#### SOLVE THE RIDDLE:

**IF I EAT, I AM OKAY. IF I  
DRINK I DIE. WHAT AM I?**

**ANSWER ON PAGE 4**

Joaquin Castillo and  
Braque Hershberger



## TEACHER FEATURE

By Joaquin Castillo

Braque is a science teacher because he likes explaining things. He enjoys the students at Gillen Brewer because they come from all over New York City—Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx. This year, some students have

been studying electricity.

Many classes also have been studying animals. For example, the Battleships and the Pumpkins have recently had crayfish in their rooms, and the Otters and the Clouds have crabs in their classrooms. There are also wolf spiders in one of the rooms!

*“I think science is very interesting. I love teaching about animals, plants, forces, and outer space.” - Braque*



Nuts and Bolts

Go Go Trucks

Straddle Ball

Fishy Fishy

Pin Down

## THE R.E.P. PROGRAM

By Andrew Stout

The students at GBS take Recess Enhancement Program classes at Asphalt Green. REP stands for Recess Enhancement Program. Enhancement means improvement. The program teaches activities that kids can do during recess. This is important to increase activity levels for kids during the school day. It is also important so they know games when they go to different schools. The games are made by the 6 REP managers.

Pedro Raicovich, Associate Sports director of Asphalt Green, stated that “Recess Enhancement is focused more on playing games than actual sports.” Coach Nick also remarked. “I like my job because I get to have fun with the students every day.”

Two of the most popular games are Nuts and Bolts and Straddle Ball. In Nuts and Bolts, your goal is to outlast the other people. Everyone wants to stay away from the tagger who is in the center. If you are tagged, you become a tagger as well. You win if you are the last person who wasn't tagged. In Straddle Ball, the main objective is to get people out by rolling the ball between their legs. You win if you are the last one standing. If the ball rolls between your legs you lose. “It's fun to dodge every tagger. It's very easy for me,” says Oliver Hansen.

## Favorite Video Games

Super Smash Brothers  
Subway Surfer  
Pokemon Alpha Sapphire  
Sonic the Hedgehog  
Street Fighters  
P.V.2.G.W. 2  
Magic the Gathering  
Mortal Combat  
Five Nights at Freddy's  
Skylander  
Pokemon Moon  
Minecraft  
Super Mario Maker

## VIDEO GAME SURVEY



By Alex Garcia

Video games are really popular in the Gillen Brewer School.

The Clouds, Battleships and Otters classes recently participated in a survey called “What is Trending in Video Games at Gillen Brewer?” The survey asked questions such as “Do you play video games?

Why or Why Not?” as well as “What is your favorite video game character?” Most of the kids in those classes said “Yes” they played video games, and not very many said “No”. Some of the words students used to describe their favorite videos were “cool, scary, funny, hard, tricky”.

*“My favorite game is subway surfers because I like running and jumping”.*



hannukiah



## CHANUKAH TRADITIONS IN THE CHAMOY FAMILY

By Kayla Chamoy

Jewish people celebrate Chanukah and Jewish traditions on December 26<sup>th</sup> at home to remember the miracle of lights. Chanukah is an excellent holiday celebrated by Jewish people. To celebrate, the Jewish people listen to music about the Maccabees and light candles. We light a candle in our homes on the menorah every day for 8 days to remember a miracle. It is a lot of fun to get presents every day for 8 days.

On Chanukah, I celebrate with my family. My Bubby (Bubby means Grandma) loves the song “Light One Candle for the Maccabee Children.” Bubby loves getting presents and she thinks “how kind a person is to give her a present.” She also loves lighting the menorah, which symbolizes a miracle made by the Maccabees who were Jewish soldiers. The miracle of Chanukah is that Jewish people long ago thought that the oil for light would only last one day, but it lasted for 8 days. In the end, that’s why we celebrate Chanukah.



## THE SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY OPENS

By Zachary Fallis

Phase I of the Second Avenue Subway has finally opened, adding new Q service from 57th street and 7th avenue to 2nd avenue and 96th street. The new Q train should reduce traffic issues on 2nd ave. by 10%, and make the 4,5,6 trains less crowded. It will stop at 96th, 86th, 72nd and 63rd streets. Eventually, the Q

will expand up to 125th street with a new T train that will go all the way downtown. Many people were affected by the construction because sections of the street were closed and there was noise. Some people are worried about the cost of rent increasing. But many think it will help people during rush hour to get to work and back home more quickly.

*“I’m excited the Upper East Side will have more options for subway transportation!” - Jen Hogan, Gillen Brewer SLP*

## HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

By Oliver Hansen

Y Q U Z X C H I M N E Y Z Y R  
E L N P Q M S T U B A Y S A E  
N F C H R I S T M A S E M O A  
M X C N B F R O T I B S X Z T  
I L O B F X N O B Z I T X B N  
H O N C D E S A N B L X Y T A  
C Z D R E I D E L W B W T N S

### WORDS

CHIMNEY  
SANTA  
CHRISTMAS  
DREIDEL

*Answer to the riddle  
on page 1:*

**FIRE !**

# CHRISTMAS FOOD TRADITIONS IN PUERTO RICO, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND THE U.S.A

By Kayla Castillo

Let's talk about desserts. In the Dominican Republic, they eat sweet potato pie, flan, rice pudding and Dominican cake. Dominican people are very happy for Christmas day. The 12 days of Christmas begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December and ends on January 6<sup>th</sup> , on Three Kings Day. People wait 12 days for their presents so that's the 12 days of Christmas!

Puerto Rico celebrates Christmas differently from the U.S. and D.R. Puerto Ricans celebrate Christmas in a very jolly way. Parties and meals take place at people's houses. Speaking of houses, they are decorated very nicely. They celebrate on Christmas Day which is on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

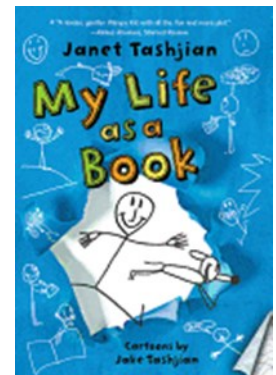
Christmas desserts are important in the U.S. A very traditional dessert is gingerbread cookies. Sometimes the gingerbread dough is made into houses. What you make for Santa on Christmas Eve night (if you believe in him) is you make him chocolate chip cookies. Another popular American treat during Christmas is candy canes, which is peppermint flavored candy. Americans have fun making these desserts and it gives more spirit too.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT: JANET TASHJIAN INTERVIEW AND BIOGRAPHY

By Tyler Brown

Janet Tashjian is the author of young adult literature and has written books like Tru Confessions and Marty Fly Private Eye. Janet is 60 years old and was born in Boston. Her first novel was made into a Disney movie and in some of her books the characters' personalities are just like Janet's. It takes her 3-5 months to write a novel and to edit! Many people enjoy the gift of Janet's kids and adult books. Make sure you support her so she can make more books!

A lot of people read Janet's book: My Life as a Book. Here is what people had to say about it on [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com): Roy liked the book and said "Really good, and it is a kinder version of the Wimpy Kid because instead of whining about it he learns from his mistakes and fixes it!" Jackie agreed and said "Quite a good book because it is a really an engaging read!" Gail said, "I gave this book to my 9 year-old grandson at Christmas and he loved the book. My Life as a Book is the best book hands down."



### Other Books in this Series:

My Life as a Cartoonist

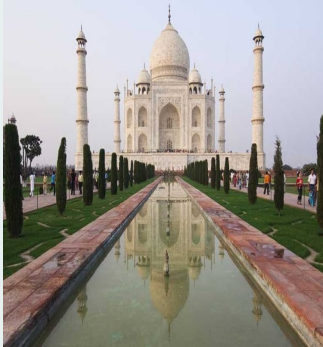
My Life as a Stuntboy

My Life as a Gamer

My Life as a Joke

## INDIA: A CULTURE LIKE NO OTHER

By Rohan Tandon



The Taj Mahal



Diwali

India is a culture like no other. They have many traditions like Diwali, Indian weddings, and interesting buildings like the Taj Mahal.

Diwali is celebrated in October or November each year for five days!!! In Northern India they celebrate the “story” of **King Rama’s** return to Ayodhya after he killed evil **KING RAVANA**. On the first day people clean their house. On the second day they decorate their house. The third day is the main day of the festival. The fourth day is the first day of the **NEW YEAR**. On the last day of **DIWALI**, brothers visit their married sisters.

Indian weddings are fun and spectacular events. It lasts about three days and there are about 100 to 10,000 people who usually attend weddings. The first day is the ceremony. The groom holds a sword and

rides a horse. The bride wears a Sari and waits for the groom. They say vows to make them husband and wife. After the ceremony on the second day, there is a big party with fireworks, music, dancing and food to celebrate. On the final day there is a big party and the bride and groom go around a fire to show that the bride’s parents gave away their daughter. The guests feel really tired after all that partying.

The Taj Mahal is one of the new Seven Wonders of the World!!! It took 22 years to build. It was completed in 1653. It was dedicated to the wife of Shan Jahan. Did you know it is also a tomb? The Taj Mahal is amazing.

# BERLIN: A GREAT PLACE FOR WORK AND VACATION



*The Amplemann*

By: Oliver Hansen

Lots of people like to go to Berlin for work and vacation. There are outstanding sights to see in Berlin that are historical and fun. The Berlin Wall was created in 1961 during the Cold War to separate East and West Berlin. The communist countries were in the East and the non-communist countries were in the West. The Wall was taken down in 1989 and Germany became one country. The Brandenburger Tor (Gate) is the last historical gate in Berlin. It used to show separation between East and West Berlin, but now, it shows unity. The top part is made of copper, just like the Statue Of Liberty.

The Lego Discovery Center in Berlin is a great place for your kids. It has rollercoasters, 4D movies, and a mini-land of Berlin made out of Legos. Kids can create race cars out of Legos and see if they can make it to the finish.

If you need to go to work, most likely it'll be in Potsdamer Platz. Potsdamer Platz is like Time Square in Berlin. It has many things, museums and all. If you want to go there from Anhalter Bahnhof, where some hotels are, just take the S1, S2, and the S25.

Thumbtack employee, Jonathan Hansen, just traveled to Berlin for a business trip. First, he

attended a conference about software developing. Berlin was chosen as the meeting place because it is between Omsk, Russia and NYC. He also enjoyed seeing the front of Brandenburger Tor because he remembered seeing it on the news when he was a kid. His favorite food in Berlin was Berliner Currywurst. He even said, "Das schmeckt sehr lecker!" which translate to: "That tastes very good!" Berlin is waiting for you to come and explore!