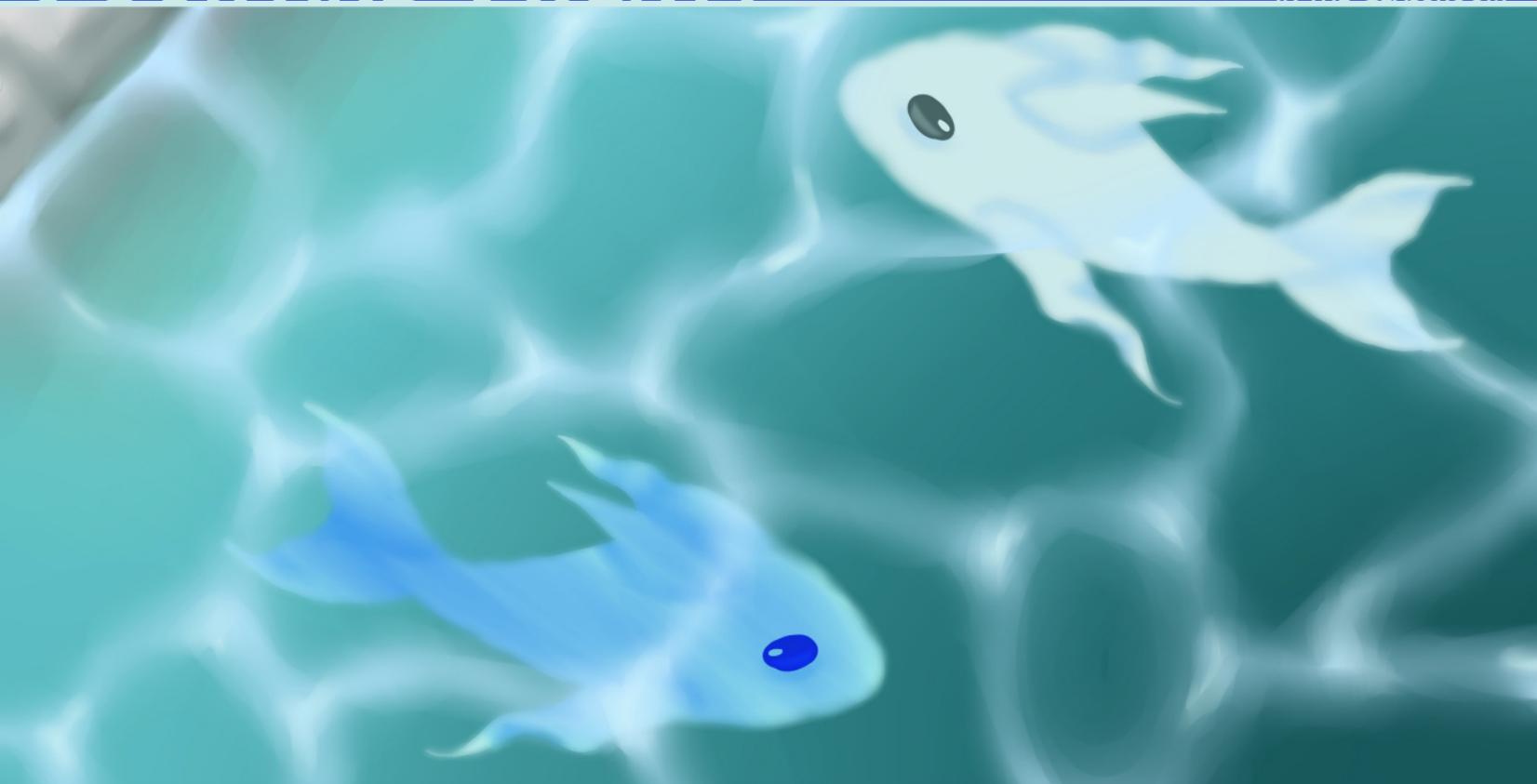


FOUR AND TWENTY

IN THE CLASSROOM



DECEMBER 2013

POETRY AND ARTWORK BY STUDENTS IN MR. VANDERBERG'S CLASS AT ST. JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL, ASTORIA, NEW YORK

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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS.



Dark skin, Albino mind
Oblivious to your surroundings
Bitter and empty: a blank
page with too much to say

LINETTE DIGENT

THE MOMENT

Shouldering earth through the world's eyes
Pressure at its climax
The moment I strive
Veins of ice awaken within me

BRANDONNE ALI

OCEANS LOVE

Love is eternal
Like the ghosts of waves
flowing throughout the ocean's surface
carrying the emotions of the forgotten

MICHAEL KELLY

RED

Hearts and lips are red.

Blood is red.

If red is a common color
why label us black and white?

DJAVAN GUY



Everyone always try to make things perfect!
Everything isn't a fairytale.
The truth is always untold Real Life ...
Is Hard !

KIA RHEUBOTTOM

CITY LIFE

Routines are my life
Shadows of urban times pass me by
A state of paralysis
But standing in perpetual motion

JONATHAN LOPEZ



I walk alone. A creature
stalks from the shadows
frozen in place, panicking.
It passed me sparing my life.

MARIE OCCHINO

I AM A WRITER

Ebony ink courses through my veins
My skin is white vellum
Scripture of words in my conscience

NAYIB PRADO

CONVICTION

Stride high, stride low
With unblinking gravitas
Through serenity and strife
Until you collapse into paradise

ARMANI MENA

*

Writers
Right their wrongs
By writing their wrongs
Done right

IAN McERLAIN

MY MIND

Cluttered as a closet,
Wandering in a profusion of despair,
Thinking of words to indite
As I commence to flare.

SABRINA MENDOZA

VULNERABLE SOUL

It was intertwined with lust, vulnerability
and the idea of being loved.
Spoken were words not wanted to be heard.

JEANETTE MONTROSE

NARCOLEPSY

Latent dreams flush my subconscious

Transference to cataplexy

Powerless and weak

Nostalgia emanated my memory

CATHERINE HALL

BEAST

Times of Animosity

Moments of Peace

A Beast on the inside

Determined to escape

VICTORIA PHILIOS

DEAR DIARY,

Electric pulses harmonize
In an insidious interval.
Doleful of olden days
Icy nucleus extending for potential.

BRIANNA TENÈ HARRIS

LIVING

I survived freshman year

I survived sophomore year

I survived junior year

I don't know about senior year.

LENIN SALES

*

some like the ink flow on their canvas
no one can bring me down when I'm happy
I'm an athlete

JUSTIN BRASWELL

THE IN BETWEEN

And there we stood
two steps from eternal damnation
we ran to eternal glory
once unto the blinding light

ADRIEN ROBERT

BROOKLYN

The vivid creations of letters
tattooed on the sides of the limestone
abandoned buildings. Captivate
my pupils and sub-conscience.

SHANNON ADELEYE

TIME COOKS RAIN

Clock cannot catch white-horse, youth
Fades into yellow photos, we
Clasp daydreams, tightly; evaporate

LIN WEI CONSTANCE KANG

BE PREPARED

Rise to the occasion,
Always be prepared
No matter what you do
Don't be intimidated

ANDREW MARIN

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSENCE

The squeaky Styrofoam lunch trays
that made my ears cringe
Classes trotting in unison
These memories will never disintegrate.

ANTHONY SANTANA

“OH NO...”

Walls are stretching
Faces are blurring and contorting
Everything is warm and beautifully acoustic
This. is. not. soda.

CHRISTOPHER ROJAS

TRUE SNEAKERHEADS

It's about history

Not about price

It's about appreciating

Not impressing

WALTHER ASTUDILLO

WHAT IS DEPRESSION?

Depression is similar to
Plunging continually into a void
As peers observe
Helplessly

DANIELLA MARINO-VASQUEZ

THE METAMORPHOSIS

Phrases and pictures strewn on plastic
Abandoning my cocoon,
Squinting at the bright sunrise.

RHIANNON DEVÖN MONTES



He swam through the roaring waves
His heart racing and hope rising
Survival, the only option
Nature killed the man

JORGE PADILLA



Oh, how foolish am I
To seek happiness
In people who I don't know
In people who don't know me

KASSONDRA GONZALEZ

DRIED RIVER

Rivers conceived from the tears of trees
Mending its missing membrane
Dried and died from the dreaded fumes

NICOLAS INIGUEZ

SUNKEN

For you once were my sail.
Now, Truly my demise.
Lamentably drowning in someone,
Who had once kept me alive.

KIRSTEN MENDIETA

ALPHA STEPS

Glance forth at the labyrinthine pathway
Softwood gathered onward
Rays grazing beyond the horizon
Here is where your journey generates

MARIELYNN KOLOKOTSAS

REMINISCING

Reminiscing the past
Regrets and Triumphs
Trials and Tribulations
Isn't it funny how life is set up?

TASHA JOANIS

THE CURSED ROSE

A rose symbolizing beauty
Masked by the devil's heart
Petals falling one by one
Determining someone's fate on stone

VANESSA COLON

HUMANITARIAN

You give so much of yourself,
but what is left for you?
Or is our success
your reward?

ANDREW PAPANICOLAOU

HEART

Before my show she told me,
“Break a leg!”
I did.
Now we’re dating.

JAD HOUMANY

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All poetry in this issue from from Mr. Peter Vanderberg's Creative Writing Class in St. John's Preparatory School, Astoria, New York. The cover artist is also a poet in the issue: Devön Montes (bio below).

SHANNON ADELEYE, of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, loves to sing and dance in her room. She loves family and friends. She is inspired by life: things she has experienced or what she would like to experience.

BRANDONNE ALLI draws inspiration from nature, and past and current events. He has been published in *A Celebration of Young Poets* spring of 2006 and 2007.

WALTHER ASTUDILLO is a true sneakerhead who appreciates the style and meaning of sneakers.

JUSTIN BRASWELL is a seventeen-year-old athlete who is aspiring to be a basketball player at the collegiate level.

VANESSA COLON is a senior student at St. John's Preparatory School. She is an author in training. And is a member of SJP's literary magazine. She loves to write stories/poems, dance, and act.

LINETTE DICENT is a senior. She aspires to be a Navy nurse and is excited to serve. On her free time, besides writing, she enjoys researching music. It is said that techno helps her creativity.

KASSONDRÁ GONZALEZ is an artsy, introverted Tumblr addict who revels in pop culture and chocolate chip ice cream. She admires Marina Diamandis and Audrey Hepburn.

DJAVAN GUY attends St. John's Prep., plays soccer, and is inspired to become pro.

CATHERINE HALL is a senior at St. Johns Preparatory School graduating in 2014. She prefers to be called Caity. Caity enjoys sleeping and playing volleyball on her free time.

BRIANNA TENÈ HARRIS resides in Queens, New York. She has had poems published in the Literary Magazine at St. John's Prep School. She enjoys writing about romance and deep adventures.

JAD HOUMANY enjoys guitar jam sessions on NYC rooftops. He is also the lead vocalist of the band Manifest Me.

NICOLAS INIGUEZ is a junior residing in Queen, New York. He enjoys drawing surreal images inspired by nature, writing fiction, and loves the Markhor goat.

TASHA JOANIS loves to write short stories and fan fiction. Her favorite subject is English. She also loves listening to music.

LIN WEI CONSTANCE KANG was born a creative geek+nerd, with dual core brain processor, full of interesting and unique life stories, always carrying responsibilities and dreams.

MICHAEL KELLY is a senior in high school and enjoys playing basketball on his free time.

MARIELYNN KOLOKOTSAS is from Brooklyn, NY. She loves to have fun with friends and take in the world around her. She had a short story published in St. John's Preparatory Literary Magazine in 2013.

JONATHAN LOPEZ was raised in New York City where he spends his time playing soccer each day. He enjoys writing freely on his own time as well as writing creatively in the classroom.

ANDREW MARIN enjoys writing memoirs and playing basketball.

DANIELLA MARINO-VASQUEZ was born and currently resides in Astoria, New York. She enjoys reading and contemplating her place in the universe.

IAN McERLAIN is a writer who resides in Astoria, NY. He loves film, music, writing, socializing, being sarcastic, sleeping, eating, breathing, and New York. Critics commonly compare him to Whitman and Thoreau.

ARMANI MENA lives in Queens, New York, and was born on September 28, 1996. His favorite seasons are Fall and Summer. Armani enjoys hikes through the woods, riveting stories, and pleasant surprises.

KIRSTEN MENDIETA, once published in St. John's Prep School Literary Magazine, enjoys iced caramel lattes. She has a profound love for the Bee-Gees and Frank Sinatra. She loves winter and has a passion for writing.

SABRINA MENDOZA is not really a writer but she does love and enjoy poetry. In her spare time she'd rather play basketball. She loves nature and animals. Amen.

DEVÖN MONTES likes to write, draw, and play video games.

JEANETTE MONTROSE is a poet and didn't even know it! She loves to write about life experiences and nature. SHE'S PRETTY THOUGH.

MARIE OCCHINO likes to spend her afternoons playing soccer for the varsity soccer team at St. John's Prep. She's a triplet from Astoria, New York.

JORGE PADILLA is a student at St. John's Prep. He likes to get involved with community services and volunteer at United Cerebral Palsy. He is a member of his school's campus ministry team.

ANDREW PAPANICOLAOU is from Astoria, New York. He is a fan of stand-up comedy and enjoys reading and writing humorous pieces. He spends his free time watching sports.

VICTORIA PHILIOS is a creative, fun and emotional person. She writes from the heart and expresses things everyone can understand. She loves hanging with friends and loves to travel to different places.

NAYIB PRADO is an eleventh grader who dreams of one day writing a novel. He enjoys running, writing, and playing video games.

KIA RHEUBOTTOM loves to play Basketball, sing, dance, and go shopping every day possible. Her favorite color is purple. She loves Tinker Bell. She has faith that one day she'll marry Chris Brown.

ADRIEN ROBERT is a lover of books, movies, and pizza.

CHRISTOPHER ROJAS is a public menace that wishes to free cute caged animals to see them retaliate against their captors, or attack him instead. Preferably the latter.

LENIN SALES is a senior who enjoys meditating, playing soccer, and training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu on his free time.

ANTHONY SANTANA is a tall teenager who is also a future Navy sailor come next summer. He enjoys playing basketball and rarely likes to miss school.

Four and Twenty is an online poetry journal focused on short form poetry. We specifically seek out fresh and emerging voices to include in the journal. Our guidelines are simple. All poems must be four lines or fewer in length and contain no more than twenty words (hence, *Four and Twenty*).

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