

OUR DUE

PROCESS

youth ages

I0-I3

Summer 2024 Middle School Zine

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“Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, and what you believe shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish.” –

John Jakes

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You cannot be a writer unless you see yourself as one. Each program begins with an exploration of ourselves as writers, creators, and communicators. Some work is developed by the individual, and some work is a collaborative effort.

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Enjoy youth pieces from Podium partners at:

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**Fairfield Middle School
Higher Achievement Summer Academy
Petersburg Boys & Girls Club**

I Care About Social Justice!



Lookism

La'Bria T.

Fairfield MS

I care about lookism because I think that people who are not conventionally attractive should be treated the same way as people who are.

Animal Rights

Jaya D.

Fairfield MS

I care about animal rights and endangered animals because all beings should be treated equally, no matter what species they are. I also really enjoy animals a lot.

No Matter Their Genders

Janiya D.

Fairfield MS

I care about women's rights because I feel like everyone should be treated equally no matter their genders. In the work community, women should get paid the same as men.

Black Lives Matter

Journey J.

Fairfield MS

I care about Black Lives Matter because Black people should be treated the same as white people.

Equal Rights
Mackenzie B.
Fairfield MS

I care about equal rights because everyone should be treated equally and how they want to be treated.

Racism
Autumn C.
Fairfield MS

I care about racism because I feel like everybody should be treated the same.

Food Matters
Ke'mora P.
Fairfield MS

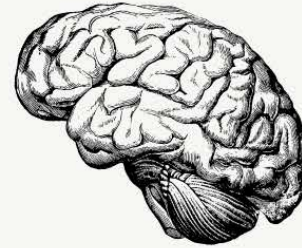
Why does food matter? Food matters because you never know if people are hungry, and so they don't starve.

Eat for Free
Roshad B.
Fairfield MS

We should be able to eat for free, so no one starves to death.



Think
Elijah C.
Fairfield MS



Think before you act. Bullying is bad.

Car Crash
Anonymous
Fairfield MS

People should not drink because if you drive and drink, you can get into a car crash.

Food Insecurity
Kierstin B.
Fairfield MS

The majority of white people have more access to food. If we stop being greedy and share, that might help everyone.

Broken Heart
Vaylen B.
Fairfield MS



A broken heart is like a bond with Venom. You can't control it, unless you find a cure.

A Better Life
Jesse H.
Fairfield MS

I think it is important to be happy. You will have a better life.

The Right Stuff
Avary C.
Fairfield MS

Parents need to make sure their child is on the right stuff because that's where it starts off. When you give your child a phone, you need to make sure their maturity level is high enough, so they don't watch bad material like violence.

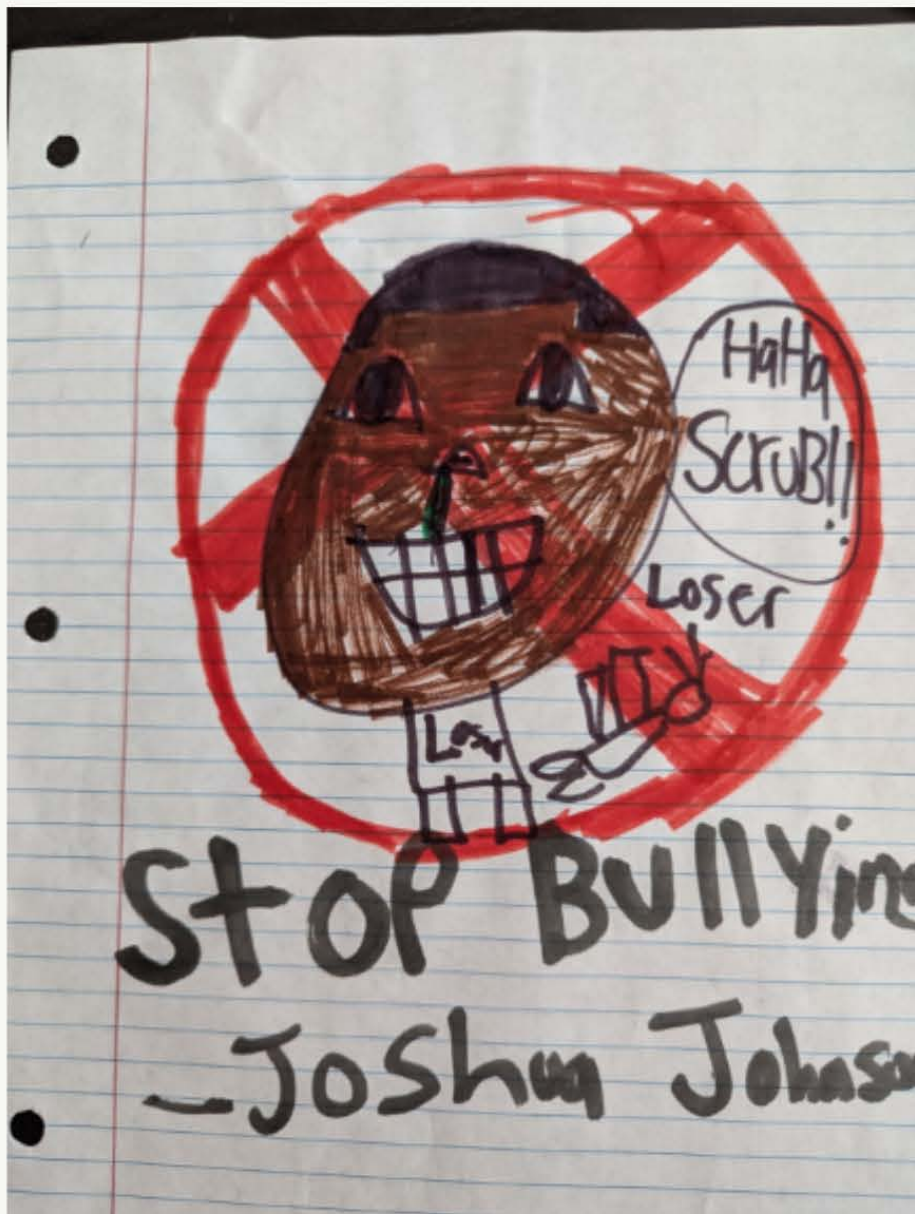
Self-Harm Awareness
Beverlin P.S.
Fairfield MS

What self-harm represents to me is needing to not do things that can cause you harm. I had someone die from it, so I feel like people who self harm need more understanding. They go through a lot of stuff, and someone can just say, "Go kill yourself." They may think it's nothing, but that little statement can put the thought into someone's mind, and it can grow. People may think, "I don't belong here because people don't want me here." Please don't self-harm. It just makes your life miserable.



To Not Bully
Joshua J.
Fairfield MS

This drawing means a lot to me. This drawing says to not bully others because a lot of people in this world get bullied, so I made a drawing about not bullying.



We Wear Our Social Justice: Button and Tote Bag Creation!



Stop Bullying
Lakyah T.
Fairfield MS

My button is about how we need to stop bullying because it is very harmful and can cause a lot of consequences like suicide and mental problems.

Stereotype
Miles Hall
Fairfield MS

My button means to stop stereotypes of what some people think Black people are like.

Colorism
La'Bria T.
Fairfield MS

This tote is about raising awareness of colorism because it's more subtle than racism. Some people treat colorism like it's racism, but it's an entirely different thing from racism. My words are inspired by the study conducted about white and Black baby dolls. Which was more beautiful? The majority said the white one was more beautiful.

Big Problem in the World
Autumn C.
Fairfield MS

I made this button because racism is a really big problem in the world. It's harder to stop racism, but since racism is so big, the amount of protesting to stop it is also big.

Stand Up for Yourself
Kyree M.
Fairfield MS

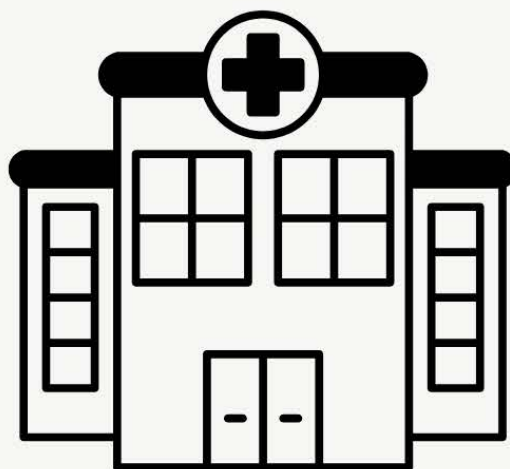
My button says to stand up for yourself and don't let anyone boss you around.

Narrative Relays

A-Z Relay: A Trip to the Hospital

Brandon G., Leilui G., Joshua C., Jillian P., and Taniaya F.
Petersburg Boys & Girls Club

A long time ago,
Banana Boy
Calls
Derick at dinner time.
Every night
For 3 hours before bed, and then
Gio calls Banana Boy and
Heather the next day, but
Instead, Heather was busy taking out her dog,
Jules. As Heather was
Kicking her ball, she tripped and broke her
Leg and began to cry, yelling for her
Mom to help her.
Now, her mom was
Outside planting
Pretty flowers, but as Heather's mom heard Heather crying for her, she
Quickly
Ran to her to
Stop her from panicking and to dry up her
Tears. After Heather calmed down, her mom helped her
Up and then rushed her to
Vix's hospital.



A - Z Relay: Farm Life

Denivah D., Javion M., Ravon M., and NyJai W.

Petersburg Boys & Girls Club

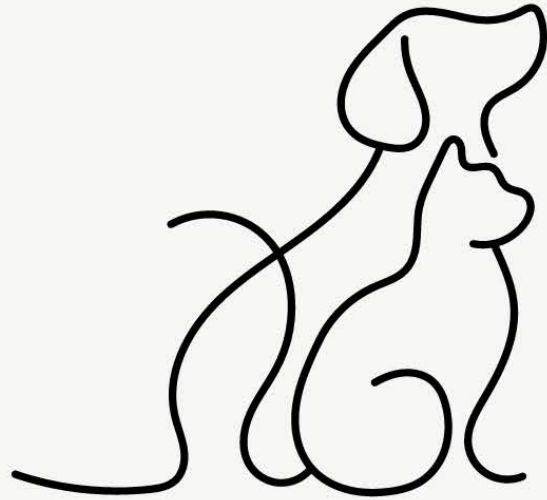
A long time ago
Before the 1800s,
Cheche Smith
Delivered food to
Each
Farmer for their
Goats;
However,
It cost
Just about too much money to be
Known. Their names were
Larry,
Maleeya,
Niasia,
Owen,
Piggy, and
Qinton.
Restless and
Sleepless,
They continued
Until they got to the
Village
Where they found
eXtra food.
You would expect them to find a
Zucchini, but they didn't.



A - Z Relay: Cats and Dogs Escape!

**Zammaun Z., Jouynn P., Cam L., Chris T., and Phillip R.
Petersburg Boys & Girls Club**

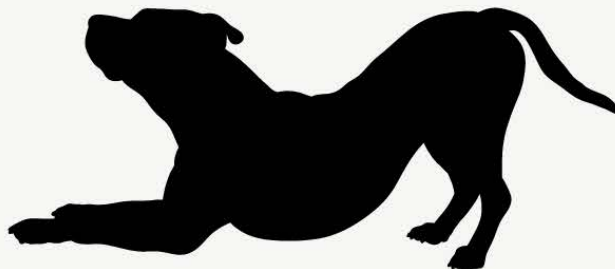
A long time ago,
Before humans were invented,
Cats and
Dogs
Escaped
From the
Gates of prison.
However,
It was awful, they were
Just
Killed by
Living
Mountain lions.
Now, they
Open the new
Palace for
Queens, kings,
Rulers, and
Servants.
They even
Used their claws to travel through
Vents for help.
When
Xavier the King wrote in
Yellow ink to kill
Zenith the queen of evil. Now, they travel the Earth to eliminate other evil.



A - Z Relay: One Puppy Named Quincy

**Zaylaa M., Jahmira H., Maleeya H., PhiChemia J., and Samaiyah Y.
Petersburg Boys & Girls Club**

A long time ago,
Buster had a dog
Called Cookie that
Died
Eating chocolate
From last Easter, and then it
Grew as big as an Easter bunny. But
How can a dog get that big?
I wondered that too. It was
Just a dog, and very
Kind, just
Like a dog is supposed to be, but
Maybe a little mean too, but
Never too bad, and that's just my
Opinion. Also, unfortunately, she had
Puppies on the way. One puppy did live, and its name was
Quincy and he could
Run really, really fast. It was
Super surprising
To watch Quincy
Use their little legs to run
Very fast!
Who would've thought they could run that well?
Xavier and Quincy were a good duo (aka best friends)
Yet one day, they stopped barking with each other, and then Quincy got
married to
Zariah.



Story Building & Scripts

White Swan vs. Black Swan

Jasira C.

Petersburg Boys & Girls Club

Title: White Sawn vs. Black Swan

Setting: Ballet Practice

Time: 9:00 pm – 1:04pm

Characters: Emily (white swan) and Anastasia (black swan)



Emily and Anastasia were best friends, but something was off with Anastasia. Every time Emily was in the spotlight, Anastasia would get a little jealous or try to sabotage Emily's shine. Well, one day, Emily was walking home from school when Anastasia pushed her and made her drop her stuff. . .

Snakes

Jillian P.

Petersburg Boys & Girls Club

Title: Snakes

Time: 7pm

Characters: Jillian, Jasira, Maleah, & Jonathan

Jillian, Jasira, Maleah, and Jonathan are walking in the woods, just hanging out. Maleah and Jonathan start acting weird, and they walk off with Jillian and Jasira wondering what's going on. Jillian and Jasira follow the other two.

Jillian: Jasira, do you know what's going on?

Jasira: No, but we should follow them, so we don't get lost.

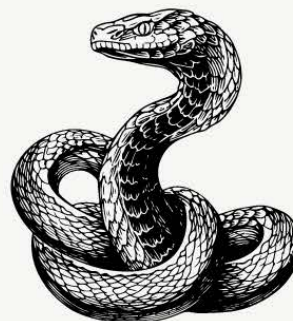
Jonathan and Maleah start running away.

Jillian: Why are y'all running?

Jasira: Y'all wait!

Maleah: No! We hate you guys!

Jonathan: Leave us alone!





Twinside Out
Maleeya H. and Jonathan J.
Petersburg Boys & Girls Club

Title: Twinside Out
All nine emotions wake for a new day.



Joy: Hi, I'm Joy. I'm the leader of emotions. This is Anger.

Anger: WHAT! (angrily)

Joy: This is Disgust.

Disgust: Ugh.

Joy: This is Sadness.

Sadness: Awwww.

Joy: And this is Fear.

Fear: AHHHH!

Joy: And we are the emotions of twins Jaicey and Maicey.

Jaicey: Hi, I am Jaicey, and I'm starting my first year of high school.

Jaicey sees Maicey.

Jaicey: And that is my sister.

Jaicey sighs.

Jaicey: Twin sister Maicey.





I Podium

