



# The Prudence Wave

## An Island Grieving

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On Tuesday, September 25 Shannon Cubellis died in a fire at the house he was renting on the West Side. Shannon was loved by all members of the Prudence Island School.

At school we discussed everything we love about Shannon. These were our thoughts:

*"He was an equal opportunity razzer, going out of his way to tease everyone from little old ladies to toddlers – and he had the ability to make everyone's day while doing it".*

*"Whenever we needed anything, he was always the one to ask. He never said no. Especially when we made Raya ask him."*

*"He saved the day at school, donating the rig to set up our green screen for movie making".*

*"He could make fun of anyone in a way that would make them laugh."*

*"Each year he went out of his way to sign up at Marcy's, buy us Halloween candy and pass it out to us."*

*"He could always make me smile. The way he would ruffle my hair right after a sarcastic insult. The way you knew he liked you if he made fun of you. The more he teased you the more he liked you."*

*"He was amazingly generous and would do anything for a friend."*



PIHPS Board  
Members Support  
Young Historians

*Grieving, cont.* Putting their feelings of loss aside, the members of the Prudence Island Fire Department made a heroic effort to keep the fire from spreading and secure the scene. Many of the PIFD fire fighters came over in private boats to assist in the effort and they remained at the scene for days. They were joined by islanders who brought water, made sandwiches and tried to provide as much support as they could. The entire island shares in the grief of Shannon's mother Lori, father John, sister Vanessa and grandmother Marcy. We all loved him and he will be deeply missed.

On Tuesday, in an effort to honor Shannon's memory, we gathered beautiful stones at Marcy's beach and painted them with our memories of him. We placed them in special spots around the Island that he loved so much in order to preserve his memory for years to come. We invite everyone on the island to do the same for Shannon.

*"As a little boy at the School on Prudence, he loved fossils."*

*"Remember when you could find Shannon anywhere on Island by following the thumping bass."*

*"I will miss his quick wit"*



*"Above all we were all amazed at what a good sport he was while acting in our movies. Doing anything we asked – hair, makeup and even saved his dirty old boots so we could use them as a prop."*





## Pipefish

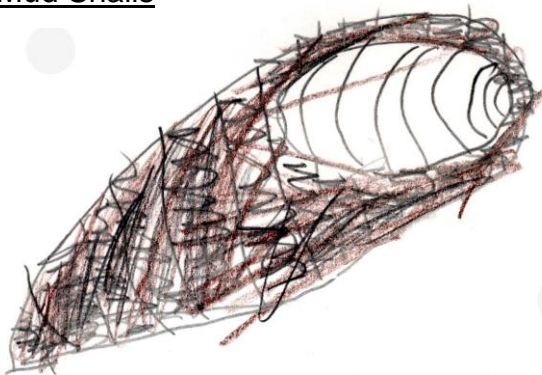
By: Marina, PISF 10<sup>th</sup> grader

So far this school year we have been seining twice. Some of you may not know what seining is. It's when you and one other person drag a huge net with tiny, tiny holes through the water and see what cool sea creatures you'll catch. We got to go with Maureen 2 times within a week. It's really cool. We got so many different types of fish. We caught pipefish, baby horse shoe crabs, sheep head minnows, silversides, all different types of crabs and a bunch more kinds of fish. It's fun catching things you have never seen before.

There are a ton of things I didn't know about pipefish, in fact I didn't know anything about them except that they were related to the seahorse. There are about 200 known species of the pipefish in the world. The pipefish can range from 1 inch to 26 inches in size. They can be really big or really tiny. Pipefish are a lot like seahorses but they also have their differences. Like seahorses, the female will deposit the eggs into the pouch of the male located in his chest. The male will then fertilize the eggs and incubate them until they hatch. Seahorses and pipefish have almost the exact same face. It's pipe-like, but the bodies are very different. The pipefish have a snake-like body long and thin, where as the seahorse swims at an upward angle and their body ends in a curve. What I think is pretty cool is that the pipefish create a vacuum inside their mouth so the prey is automatically sucked inside its mouth. They mostly feed on mysis shrimp, plankton, small crustaceans, insects, worms, and tiny fish. Being a slow swimmer because of their rigid body structure, the vacuum mouth probably makes it easier to eat, rather than swimming after their prey. There are so many cool facts about the pipefish; I don't think I can list them all. I think everybody just needs to know how cool and unique they are.

Seahorses being my favorite sea animal made it very fun to research the pipefish because of their similarities and being in the same family. They are practically cousins. It was even cooler meeting the pipefish in person. I learned a lot about all sorts of cool fish and I really enjoyed it considering one of my interests is marine biology.

Mud Snails



By Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup>  
grader

## Fiddler Crabs

By Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

- There are different kinds of fiddler crabs: sand fiddler, marsh fiddler, mud fiddler. The scientific names are Uca Pugilator, Uca Pugnax, Uca Minax.
- Fiddler crabs live in burrows.
- They dig their burrows with their walking legs.
- The males go out of their burrows and they show off their large claw, so they can attract a female.
- The large claw is to protect themselves.
- The male's large claw can grow up to 2 inches long, their carapace only grows to about 1 inch.
- Male fiddler crabs have a purple-gray or blue carapace (shell).
- Females have lighter shells.
- Fiddler crabs have gills so they can breathe in water, and they have 1 lung so they can breathe the air. They can stay out of water for months at a time.

Fiddler crab



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*Mummi Chogs*By: Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

Mummi Chogs (A.K.A. mummies, gudgeons, and mud mummies) are found in the United States and the Atlantic coast of Canada. Mummies are found in habitats like mud & salt marshes, channels, and grass flats. Living in these places has its perks because it has access to its prey such as insects, spiders, fish, larvae, freshwater shrimp, detritus, and algae. Unfortunately living in its habitat also has downsides because the Mummi Chog also becomes available to predators like larger birds and fish such as the black duck or trout. Mummi Chogs are considered omnivores and travels in schools of hundreds! Something special about these “Mud Mummies” are that they can withstand many different temperatures as low as -10degrees Fahrenheit to as high 98degrees Fahrenheit! Mummi Chogs are often used as live bait and lay their eggs at high tide marks in dead vegetation and empty mollusk shells.

**FUN FACT ABOUT MUMMI CHOGS:** In 1973 the Mummi Chog became the first fish in space when carried on Skylab 3!

*SHEEPSHEAD MINNOW*A poem by Raya (PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader)

Sheepshead Minnow, we found you in a seine net

We saved your life, as some people do And you are really cool, even though some people don't think you look like a sheep's head

On your belly and on your tail and under your chin you are salmon-color You have a bit of red on your dorsal fin – it's more dark than the rest of your body

Sheepshead Minnow, you grow up to 2 inches, but that's as big as you get  
You eat plankton and smaller fish. Snowy egrets eat you. Sheepshead Minnow, you have a bigger scale above your pectoral fin

We freed you at the T-wharf



## Washington Here We Come!! (Hopefully....)

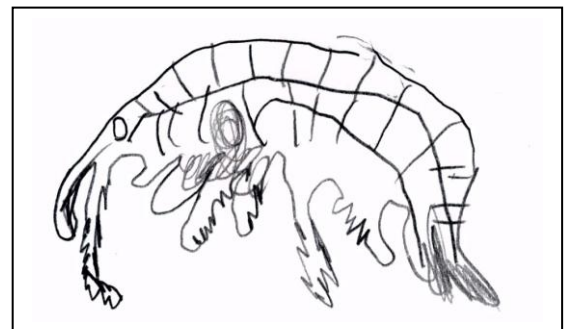
By Meg, PISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader

Marina and I have been begging for one all year, and we're finally going! ROADTRIP!!!! To where, you ask? It was decided that since we are studying American History this year with Joe Bains, why not our Nation's Capital? We are going to drive the 400 odd miles all the way to DC. Literally, we all had a dance party to celebrate this awesome chance of a lifetime for us humble island young 'uns. I've already started planning playlists on my Mp3 player for the eight hours we're gonna be in a car. This is not all though! We plan to stop at places on the way for educational purposes, as well as all the amazing opportunities to learn that we'll have in DC. We have already started looking at all the cool places we'll visit. The National museum of American history, and the Library of Congress, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument and of course The White House or Obama's house as Raya puts it. Not only will we be getting a history class from this trip, but also Science and Art as well as Gym and important navigating skills. The International Spy Museum is right in DC! We'd get a cover name at the entrance, and sneak through the largest collection of spy wear and spy history in the US! Plus, Marina will get to test her sleuthing skills in this exciting exhibit. Then there's the National Aquarium and the National Museum of Natural History, and then of course the National Zoological Park, not to mention Georgetown Cupcakes (this is especially exciting for our younger ones). As for gym, the older kids are planning to go to this treetop jungle gym called Go-Ape Adventure. We'll get to ride zip-lines and swings, and rope ladders and bridges, together spanning more than seven football fields, all forty feet off the ground! It is so awesome! My adrenalin is already pumping! And the very best part? Us kids are planning the trip! From the time we step from our front doors with bags all packed and onto the trail of awesomeness, to the trip home, we will have virtually every minute of every day planned and budgeted. This is where we'll need your help! In the next few months there will be a lot of opportunities for you to sponsor our excellent and memorable road trip to celebrate the timeline of our great country.

## SCUD

A poem by Raya (PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader)

Scud,  
Scud,  
You move in the mud just like hermit crabs  
  
You eat tiny plants and animals  
You live in creeks on Prudence Island  
Scud, you are 17 mm long  
  
We found you in September.



Amphipod  
Gammarus  
AKA Scud

Dear Raya!

Every month we will continue to do a Dear Raya Advice Column, where islanders submit anonymous questions and Raya will give her best second grade advice. Please submit your questions to the Dear Raya box inside of the Prudence Variety Store or E-mail them to ThePrudenceWave@aol.com.

Dear Raya,

What is your favorite part of summer?

From,

Summer Gal

Dear Summer Gal,

My favorite part of summer is having all of my summer friends around because we can do theater camp. We even have them over just for play dates.

Love Raya

Dear Raya,

How does sea glass get to be so smooth?

Thanks,

Sharpy MacGonagle

Dear Sharpy,

Mermaids find glass, get it all smooth and make it cool. They turn it different colors too. And plus the waves get them a little bit more smooth.

Love,

Raya

Who is this??



Who is this????

We will give you the answer in the November edition of The Prudence Wave!

Last month's 'Where is This?' :

This was the burned section of the T-Dock.

## PISF Wish List

### • \*\*VOLENTEER TO CLEAN THE SCHOOL\*\*

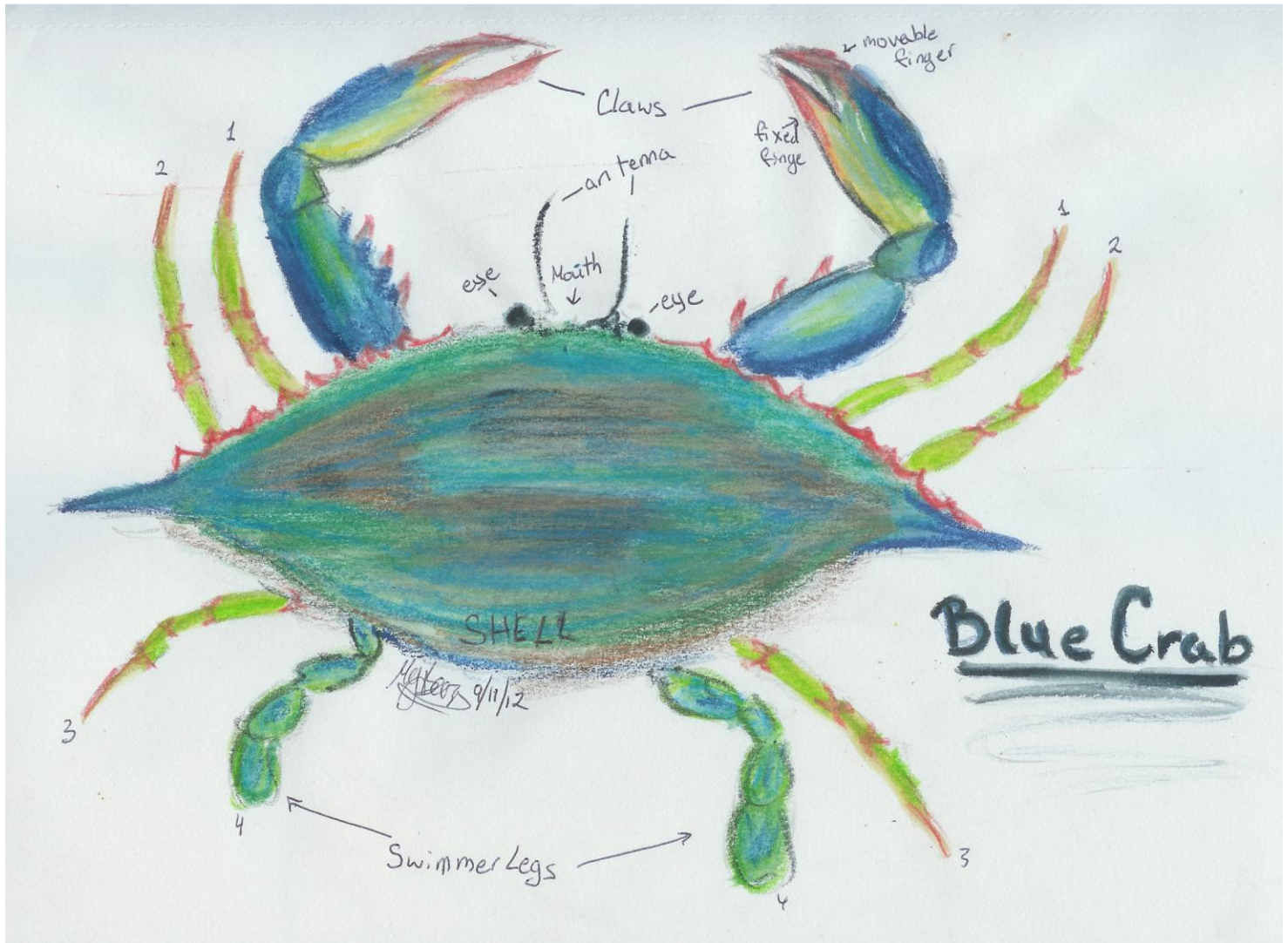
(The kids do an amazing job with all of their chores, but we need an adult to deep clean once a week.)

- garden gate builder
- Bird Seed
- Paper Towels
- A new printer
- Guitar wall hangers
- Tacky Glue
- Cozy Rug



## Terrifying Crustaceans

By Meg, PISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader



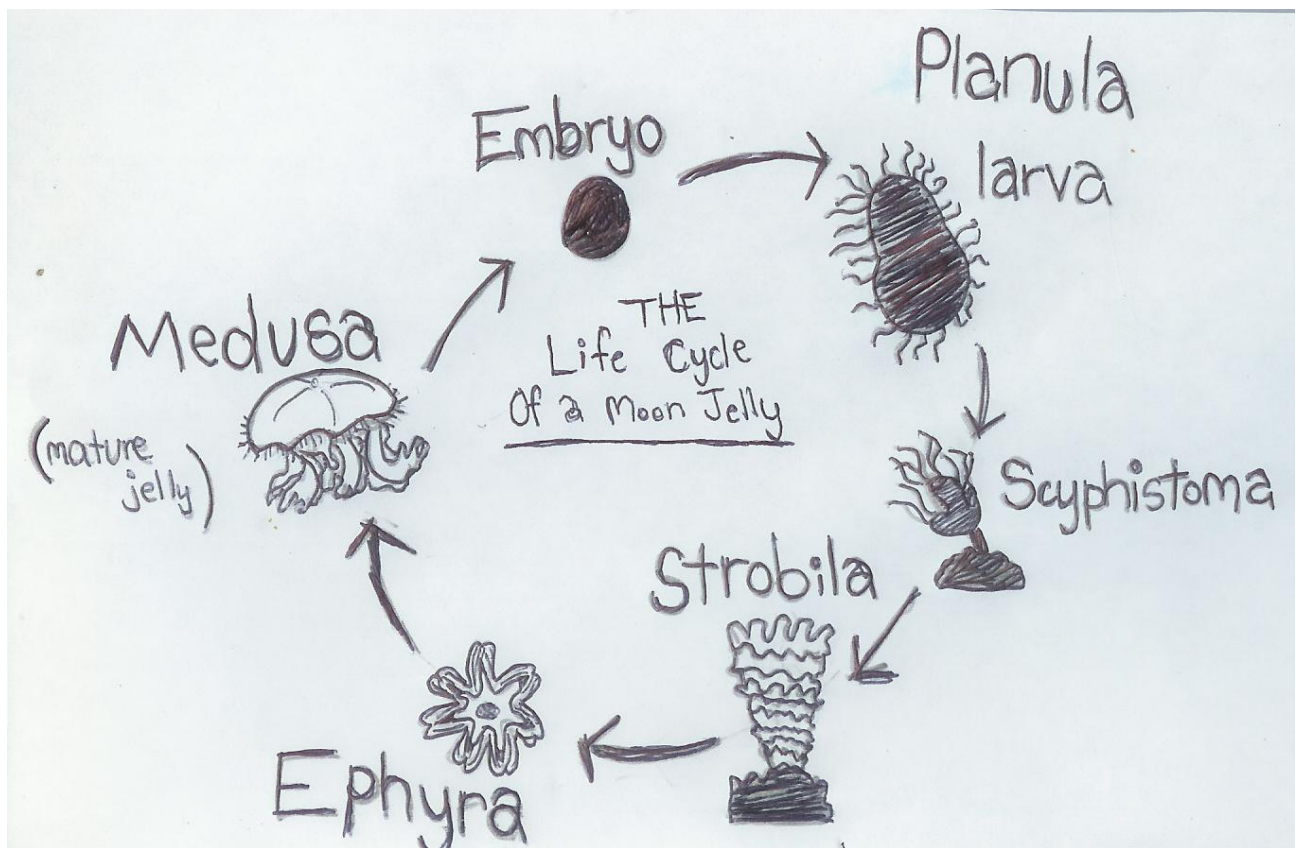
Known as the feistiest crabs in our Bay, the Blue crab is not something you want to trifle with when casually walking the marshes or snorkeling in the shallows. With powerful claws and a hostile disposition, these crabs will chop off your finger before you can say “I come in peace”. They’re back pair of legs has evolved over time into a pair of swimmers, which help it travel with lightning fast speed and enable it to assault an unsuspecting toe with shocking accuracy. These antagonistic creatures can grow up to 9 inches and are a tasty treat for those of us who won’t go into anaphylactic shock upon taste.



*Moon Jellies*By: Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

Moon Jellyfish are the most common and widely recognized jellyfish. These jellies are found in the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific oceans. They are easily recognized due to their four pink/violet crescent shapes on the bell of the jellyfish. Like many other types of jellies these ones are limited to movement and flow with the tides. The life cycle of this jelly is unique because it spends almost all of its young life on the ground.

The Life Cycle of a Moon Jelly: First the jelly starts out as an Embryo; it then develops into a free-swimming larva. The larva soon sets to the bottom and becomes Scyphistoma, this stage develops into Strobila that sends off many very small Ephyra that later on become a fully mature jelly/Medusa.

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*401-450-5342  
By Susan Mazur*



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## Silverside Study

By: Marina, PISF 10<sup>th</sup> grader



## Prehistoric Tanks

By Meg, PISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader

Like tiny tanks, Horseshoe crabs creep along the sandy bottom of the Bay, seeming to be indestructible ships prepared for battle. In fact in ancient Asian mythology, they are brave warriors fallen in battle, which then became these helmet-like crabs. Despite this and their fearsome appearance, horse shoe crabs are gentle invertebrates.

They are more closely related to spiders and scorpions in the way they molt, splitting the front of the shell, and crawling out, instead of out the back.

These undersea spiders eat a steady diet of clams and worms they find as they crawl along the bottom. While using their back legs as pushers to move forward, two appendages near their mouths, called *Chelicere* feel around for tasty treats for supper. When a morsel is found, the three pairs of clawed legs push the food towards its *Gnathobases*, which are bristles used to tear up the food on the way to the mouth, since they have no jaw or teeth to chew.

As the horseshoe crab travels along, it picks up creatures that hitch a ride on the hard shell on its way through life. Some of these guests are harmful to the docile crab. For instance, if the shell gets a cut or a scratch, bacteria or fungi can gain a foothold to begin to grow. Luckily, the horseshoe crab has a trick up its sleeve, umm, shell. Its blood, similar to ours, is copper based, which makes it a shocking shade of blue when it hits oxygen. It also has a more helpful function: when any harmful bacteria comes in contact with the blood, it immediately gels, the way our blood clots when we get a cut, and it keeps most of the unwanted guests out.

In this manner, the blood is also helpful to biomedical companies that use this blood to test and see if any of their products have bacteria. The horseshoe crabs are collected by hand and then stuck with a needle to extract the precious blood.

Some scientists also believe that, because these creatures are so old and have been virtually unchanged for 450 million years, they must be doing something right. So they are testing the blue blooded creatures to see if there are any cures for cancer hidden amongst the anatomy.

Way back when, before all these cool facts were found, horseshoe crabs were collected and killed by the hundreds. It was rumored that they ate their weight in clams, threatening to reduce the fisherman's catch by a significant percentile. Even after this was proved false, they were still collected for medical research and also to be used as bait for Conk and Eel fisheries.

Horseshoe crabs became scarce, and affected so much of the diversity of the estuaries and bays in New England. Shore birds migrating to their nesting grounds fuel up primarily on the protein rich horseshoe crab eggs which are laid beneath sandy beaches in spring and summer. With the numbers of the crabs decreasing, the shore birds have been too.

Since this was brought to awareness, Fisheries Management has put regulations on the amount of horseshoe crabs collected for bait. The scientists have started taking only 1/3 of the creatures' blood, after which they are released back into the wild. They also have been developing a way to raise the crabs in captivity to reduce the effect on the wild crabs.





## *Intriguing Islander of the Month*

By Marina, PISF 10<sup>th</sup> grader

For all of you who don't know Maureen Dewire, you're missing out. She is not just some person you know, she is the person you know who dissected a sea turtle.

Maureen was born on August 30<sup>th</sup> and grew up in Stonington, Connecticut. Do you know her favorite sea animal? I do, it's a sea

turtle, a leatherback to be exact!! Maureen is very lucky that she got to work with sea turtles in North Carolina. But we are very lucky she came up north and found out about the island. She was introduced to the island when she saw the job posting for NBNERR around June 2011. She has been working with them just over a year now. But before this job she worked on another island located in NC. The island was Bald Head Island. She was the director of education and the island naturalist.

I know something about Maureen that most of you probably don't know: On Bald Head Island she has a tree named after her. The tree is a live oak that is at least 100 years old, cool right? Well it gets better. What you also don't know is that she also has a sea turtle named after her, Maureen the sea turtle.

Everyone must love something about the ocean. For some people it's the fish, different kinds of seaweed or maybe just the water. But for Maureen it's the unknown. There is so much we might not know about it and that's what fascinates her. Getting to hang out with Maureen and do cool activities on the beach is great. We always have so much fun with her. If you don't know her, I highly suggest you get to know her.



*Scenes from Our Classroom*



\*Gymnastic class



\*Transect activity



\*Art with Allison



\*Memphis's first day of pre-school!



\*Seining with Maureen





\*Marsh exploration



\*Picking grapes to make fresh Island grape juice



\*Crab counting



\*Jacob's second birthday



\*Impromptu physics class

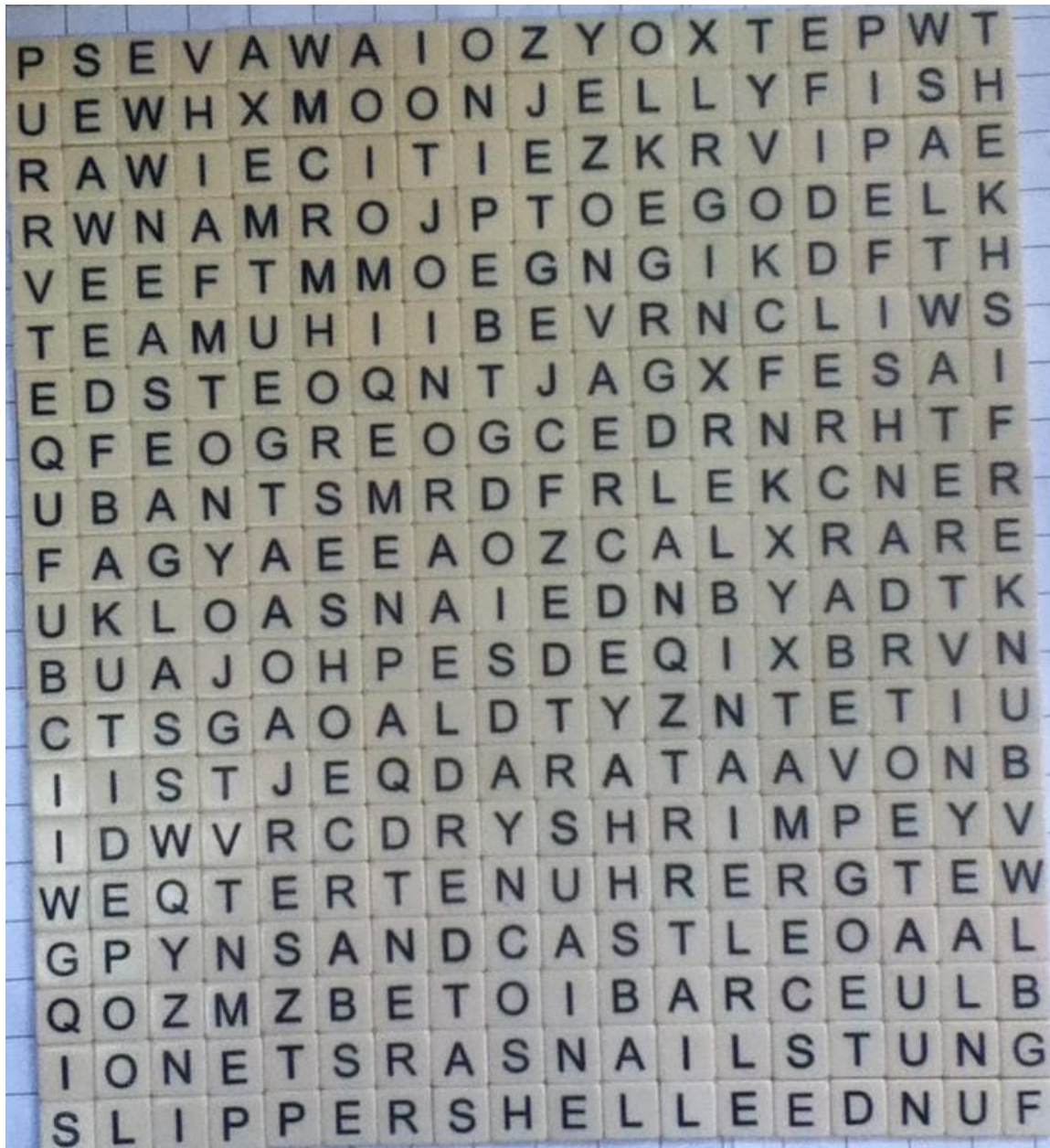


\*We made our own journals



## At the Sea Shore Word Search

By Raya, PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and Aribella, PISF kindergartener



PIPEFISH  
HORSESHOE CRAB  
MOON JELLYFISH  
FIDDLER CRABS  
COMB JELLY  
SWIMMING  
SANDCASTLE  
BLUE CRAB

HERMIT CRAB  
NETS  
SNAILS  
SHRIMP  
SLIPPERSHELL  
SPLASH  
FUN  
SALT WATER

BUNKERFISH  
TIDEPOOL  
SEAGLASS  
SEAWEED  
WET  
WAVES  
SEASTAR  
MERMAID