

**Prudence Island School** 

Issue 17 March 2013

The Prudence Wave

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PIHPS Board Members Support Young Historians

Allin Family Tragedy Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

In honor of Portsmouth's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2013, we will be writing a monthly story in honor of our own Prudence Island history. In our American History studies we tie Rhode Island and Prudence Island historical events into what was happening in America during each time period.

Imagine this: Late 1700s, Prudence in ruin, charred to ashes and smoke. Farms annihilated, all residents once here now fled to safe havens on the mainland. But there was one family spared, a family so helpless that one British commander took pity on them. Two cousins, two sweet hearts, eleven children, sounds great right? Unfortunately there's a dramatic twist—eight of the thirteen were blind. This is where our story begins.

Now you may have been wondering, how could there be thirteen Allins if there are eleven kids, the two cousins and the sweethearts? Well interestingly enough the two sweethearts were actually distant cousins! Meet Thomas and Rebecca Allin. The two met while Thomas worked as a ferryman on the route from Prudence to the mainland. Thomas knew Rebecca was for him the second he saw her and as crazy as it sounds proposed to her that very afternoon, on the first day they met! Get ready for the waterworks people, she accepted! After the two were married, in the year 1750 they had their first child - a girl they named Freelove. Within the next sixteen years Rebecca and Thomas welcomed ten more children into the world, their names were Joshua, Margaret, Mary, Rebecca, Patience, Thomas Jr., Mehitable, John, Hannah, and Sweet Allin.

Only the first four out of the ten children were sighted. This is because shortly after the birth of their fourth child, Rebecca, Mrs. Allin caught a tragic disease. Though we're still not sure of what illness Rebecca Allin was infected with, we do know that it caused her to go blind, and that the next seven children were born without sight as well.

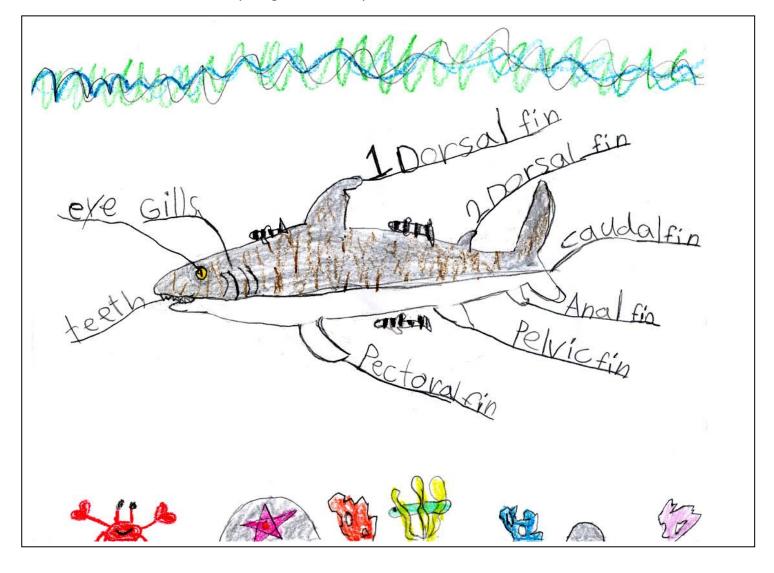
The Allins oldest boy, Joshua, fought in the first battle on Prudence in 1775. He was captured by the British and taken to be held as a prisoner of war at the Forten Prison in England. One year after Joshua was taken from his family home, British troops returned to the island to burn all remaining houses that were left. Once they found the "Blind Allins" they once again took pity on the family and spared them. Before the commander – the same one who had spared them the first time- went back to the mainland Thomas tried to convince him to send Joshua back home, and as expected complied with his pleas.

See Allin Tragedy continued on p.4



All kinds of sharks are different in color, shape, size and what they eat. The whale shark is huge with white spots and stripes. It eats tiny krill. The hammerhead has a rectangular plate-like head and eyes on the sides of its head. The sand tiger shark has a goldish-brown color and a very pointed snout. The nurse shark is a slow-moving shark. Its fins help it almost walk through the sand. The wobbegong has camouflage, so it can hide in the coral reef. It is nocturnal. It has a mean bite – it will stay on its prey and not let go. It grows to about six feet. The blue shark has a narrow snout and big cute eyes. Blue sharks are valuable to fishermen around the earth. Many people think they are cute, but they can be dangerous. It's hard to believe, but the tiger shark is much more dangerous than the blue shark, even though it's smaller. The tiger shark is striped and has a square-shaped nose. Its teeth are curved and have sharp points all over the sides. The tiger shark is my favorite

because it can eat almost anything, and it is very beautiful.



**P**9 Transfer Station

By Marina, PISF 10 grader

Currently the transfer station situation on Island is possibly not working as well as it could. Each year in order to use the dump you must purchase your sticker by April first for the cost of \$130 at Portsmouth Town Hall. You can also purchase a 4month pass for \$60 and weekly passes for \$20 in order to use the dump. In addition to the dump sticker there are additional fees for large items, such as tires, mattresses and box springs.

There are a few reasons as to why the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee people say the current sticker program is not working. One reason would be that only 207 stickers were sold in 2012 when this island contains 450 houses. That means less than 50% of islanders are participating. It may be possible to run the dump in a more efficient way and save money. Seeing how the containers get emptied every week on the same days, it is possible they are being removed not full, which would be a waste of money. Brush could be chipped and used by residents instead of put into the dumpsters. These are just a few reasons as to why the dump isn't being run as efficiently as it could be.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee asked the Prudence Island Planning Commission to put a subcommittee of Prudence islanders together to help work on the issue. Gene Cardin, Kate Hibbard and Pat Rossi are our island representatives. So far they are looking into three possible solutions to lower the cost to the town and the residents. One of the three solutions is you could purchase special bags in two sizes, small and large. This means you would only be covering the cost for the bags rather than buying sticker when you may not use the dump as often. Another solution is you can buy stickers for your own bags. The third solution is you can weigh your trash and then pay by the pound. With all of these solutions recycling would be free, hopefully encouraging people to recycle more and save the planet!!

<u>New PI Recycling Slogan</u>

It's official.... We have a winner! Congratulations to Clare Kelley for writing our favorite PI recycling Slogan. She will be awarded a stunning crown made from recycled items and invited to attend a celebratory lunch at the PI School. Below is the winning slogan. Look for it on recycling posters around the island.

# Make a splash, recycle your trash!



#### Hooray!! He's finally here!!

Please join us in welcoming

Wyatt William Jenness

Born February 13

8 lbs 14 oz

21 inches

#### Allin Tragedy continued from p.1

On the way home Joshua met a beautiful girl by the name of Waite Green, this too ended in tragedy. Shortly after marrying, Joshua bought land on the west side of Prudence but later moved back into his family home until his house was complete. Waite gave birth to a baby boy, but soon after died due to improper care. Joshua, distraught and grieving over his lost love, brought the baby to his mother-in-law in Newport and returned back to Prudence, alone.

The family decided that there was nothing left for them on Prudence any longer and bought a sloop hoping to make it to New York on the Hudson River. The Allins set sail that fateful day, but never reached their destination. It's said that the boat sank at some point in the duration of their journey, and that all perished in the sea. The Allins were never heard from again.



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

What I loved most about Blizzard Nemo was waking up under a pile of blankets, completely warm and toasty. My family fared much better than most. Thanks to our woodstove Mighty Moe, we were toasty and warm and had means to cook our food. I know some people here weren't nearly as fortunate as us. The PI Volunteer Fire Department was instrumental in helping out all those without heat and shoveling them out of their houses. We are all very thankful to have them to help out, both in Sandy and Nemo.

#### By Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

As we all know, blizzards can cause quite a bit of chaos- with flickering lights and howling winds it's easy to get the heebie jeebies! The night of the storm was particularly frightening, you see, there is a tree with a branch next to my window that likes to tap on the glass whenever I'm feeling scared or even slightly paranoid, no really; sometimes I think it does that just to mock me! Anyways, back on track, during the blackout I spent most of my time curled up by the woodstove (which as it happens is very good for making eggs when there's no electricity. Yum! ) with a good book and my handy book light. However on Sunday I left my book at home and spent the day sledding with the Bearses and some of the other school kids. The few hours of flying through the snow resulted in me feeling cold, wet, fatigued, and possibly scarred from the few wipeouts I suffered. In the end while drinking hot chocolate I was totally satisfied with my day of fun. I must admit I was relieved when the power came back on. Not only did I feel like I wanted to turn on every light in the house just for the fun of it, but I also appreciated electricity much more than I ever thought possible!





As always, the PYO Ski trip was a blast for all the age groups. Those of us on the island set out for Crotched mountain on the six AM ferry Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and we reached the slopes at around nine thirty. It was pretty chilly but the sun was out and the snow sparkled. Luckily there wasn't a horrid amount of people skiing that day so it was a short wait to get on the lift and there wasn't as much of a danger of crashing into anyone. Crotched Mountain is great for beginners and offers lessons for first time skiers and snow boarders. There are also more challenging runs for experienced riders and even jumps for the daring. We all had a great time and only one injury was sustained at the very end of the day. The Island crew left at around two to catch the six boat and I slept the whole three hour drive home.

Goddess of the Month By Raya, PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader

#### ARTEMIS:

- Artemis is the Goddess of the hunt.
- She helped her baby brother, Apollo, be born.
- She has silver arrows, just like her brother, Apollo.
- She has a pack of dogs and wood nymphs that run with her.

#### A Conversation between Artemis and Apollo:

"I am going hunting. Do you want to go with me?" said Artemis.

"Yes," said Apollo.

"Let's go hunting!" they both said.

Apollo said, "We have to get food for the winter."

"Yes, no one has food to cook." said Artemis.

"Do you want to catch fish and I will set the traps?" said Apollo.

"Okay!" said Artemis.







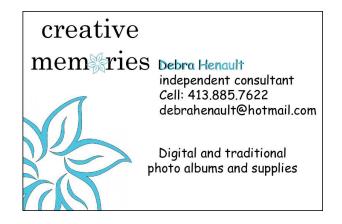
By Aribella, Raya and Shelby (PISF Elementary Students)

On the first Monday of every month, we are going to be going to stitch-n-chat at the Farnham Farm. Just Shelby, Raya and Aribella (the big girls have too much work to do). We went the first time this week. Aribella brought her excavation kit, and we looked for the bones hidden in the clay. We also learned how to make fantastical, soft, fluffy, fuzzy, fanciful, fun pompoms. We knitted and we chatted and we ate chocolate-covered cookies.

Raya: "I want to make some pot holders." Shelby: I want to make a baby hat for my new cousin."

Aribella: "I'm going to make more pompoms. Sarah gave me a hat that she had knitted. I knew it was for me, because she wouldn't tell me who it was for."

Favorite Language Sentences of the Month This year our students are each studying a foreign language. Each month the students will be sharing some of their favorite expressions that they have learned in their language classes. Raya: Le garcon mange le poisson. Shelby: J'adore le poisson. Julianna: Les adults du fluers. Marina: La nina no lleva zapalos. Estamos a praia hoje. Mea:



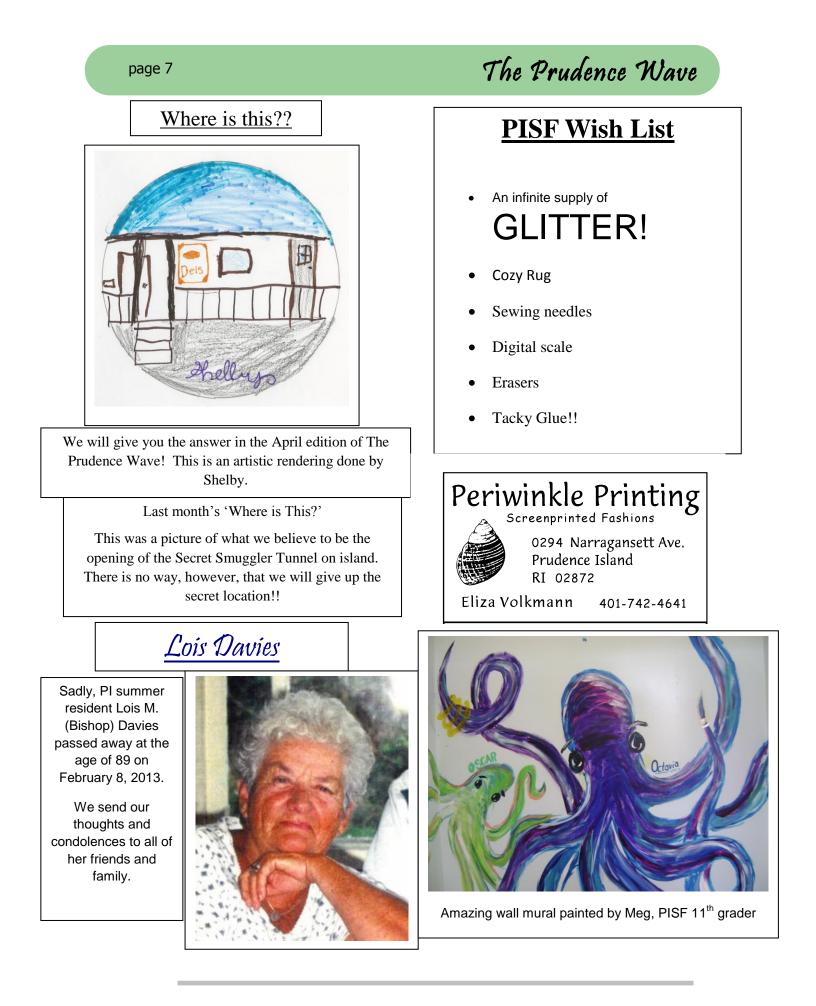
Aribella Masterpiece

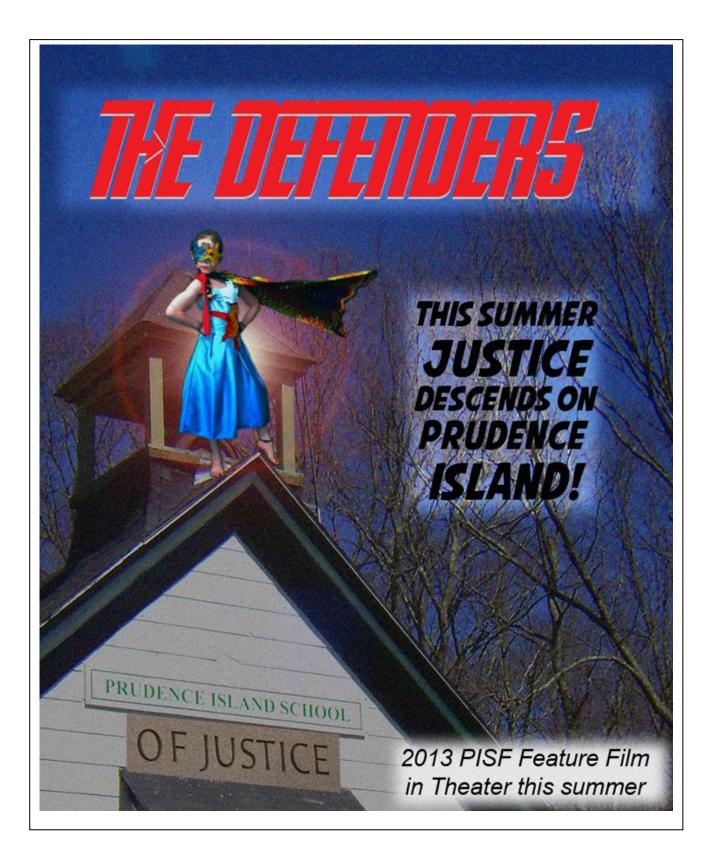
By Aribella, PISF kindergartner



This is a colored pencil drawing of an invisible chicken mobile!







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#### The Prudence Wave

#### <u>In Loving Memory: Kelvin</u> By Marina, PISF 10<sup>th</sup> grader

During Blizzard Nemo I was not on island. I was away at a LUKE BRYAN concert in New York!! Although New York did not get as much snow as here, there was quite a bit. It was probably up to my knees. I did NOT enjoy this snow at all because it killed my pet fish, Kelvin. I thought fish were friends! <sup>(2)</sup> R.I.P Kelvin.



Little Brothers

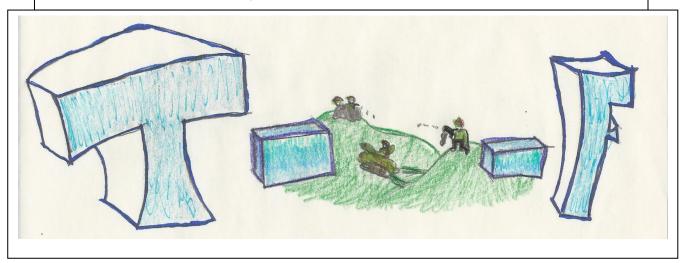
A Poem by Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

LITTLE BROTHERS

LITTLE BROTHERS THEY CAN BE A FUSS! BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS NEAR AND DEAR TO YOUR HEART

Prudence Picto-Puzzles

Use the pictures to figure out a favorite Prudence Island location



<u>February Pictopuzzle Answer:</u> 1. Pine Hill

<u>Intriguing Islander</u> of the Month

By Aribella, Raya, and Shelby PISF Elementary Students

Odila May Duffey Bearse is the oldest citizen on Prudence Island. We went to her house to interview her. She lives with Eliza, Allan, Meg, Carl, Katey and Matt. We didn't know her very well, so we were a little bit nervous, but she was really funny and kind. And she



likes to have conversations. We wrote on a whiteboard to communicate with her, because she is deaf.

We found out some things about Prudence Island when we talked to Odi. She's been coming to Prudence Island since she was 18. When she first came to Prudence, there was no electricity. Back then, when a car broke down on the island they would just move it to the side of the road and that was that. For a few years they could not go under trees, because the bugs were so bad they would drop on you. One summer there was fog for a whole month so that you couldn't see the bridge.

Odi was born in 1916. She is 96 years old and in four years she will be 100 years old. When she was little she lived in North Hampton. She lived close to where Aribella and Julianna used to live. Her father owned a restaurant. She was very popular, because she was a fun girl and because every week she got to invite a friend to her father's restaurant for lunch. Afterwards they would go to the movies and see all three movies in town. Her father lost his business in the depression and went to work at an inn as a bartender. "They loved him and he worked there for many years." "I was an only child and I was a spoiled brat, and I don't think I knew there was a depression." She loves kids and pets. Her pets are a bird named Elliot (or Bell) and a dog named Lucy. Her favorite animal is the dog. When she was a little girl she had a dog named Maxi. She would say, "Poor Maxi, poor Maxi. Maxi is sooo sick." And Maxi would throw up.

When we asked her what cool things were invented since she was little, she said, "just about everything! It's unbelievable all the inventions that have come about in my lifetime!" Her favorite invention is the washing machine. Odi said, "I don't believe there were telephones when I was born." She liked to knit and crochet. She also learned to do smocking at the YMCA with a bunch of ladies. She knew a lot of good songs, because she worked at a store on Saturdays and they played music constantly.

Odi and her husband Bud (Carlton Bearse) met because Bud's family didn't have a car, ever, so he bought a car when he went to college. But he didn't have a license. Odi had a license and so did her friend, Jane. They girls dated Bud and his friend, Bob. They drove Bud's car. Jane dated Bud and Odi dated Bob. But soon they switched, because they didn't like who they were dating. Then Odi and Bud got married and they had 5 children: Bob, Kenny, Sue and Joanne, and they had a baby that died when he was born. "Then I had Allan as a replacement." So, Odi is Allan's mom. Allan is a PISF board member. Allan is married to Eliza and Eliza is our teacher at the Prudence Island School. And this is the fascinating life of Odila Bearse.

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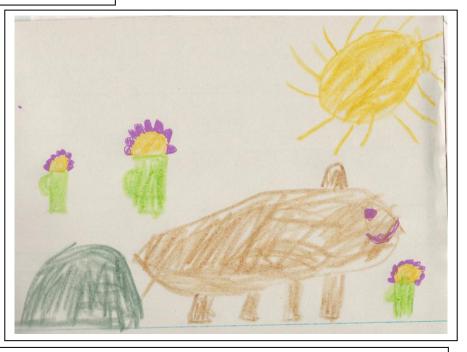
## The Prudence Wave



By Raya, PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader

Prompt: Make your own Groundhog Day prediction. How much longer will winter last?

My groundhog does not see his shadow. He hops right out and everywhere he steps flowers sprout and spring begins! Beautiful flowers sprout everywhere. Everyone loves spring!!



# Dead King Found in Car Park (Parking lot for you Americans)

By Georgie, PISF British Correspondent

Here in England we are all very excited as one of our lost dead kings has at last been found under a car park in Leicester, UK. Richard III was the king before the War of the Roses against Henry Tudor. He sadly died in this battle and Henry became Henry VII, whose son is the infamous Henry VIII. What happened to Richard III's body has been a mystery until 10 o'clock, my time, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

There had been two theories of what happened: 1. He was buried in Greyfriars church. 2. He was thrown into the river. Up until two years ago most people thought he was in the river, then someone had the idea to go and look for him where he was supposed to have been buried. Sure enough they found a body, but without conformation it was unknown. Due to the descriptions of him as being a 'hunchback' they were inclined to believe it was Richard the third, as this skeleton had features of extreme scoliosis. Now to prove their point a DNA test was required, however to do this they needed to find a direct family member. As they traced all his direct family links, a live member appeared; a Canadian woman was contacted. She was very excited and would happily give DNA, unfortunately she passed away. Her son instead gave samples for testing. Another anonymous donor came forward, now all they have to do is compare all three results. They were very similar and confirmed the skeletal remains were in fact Richard III.



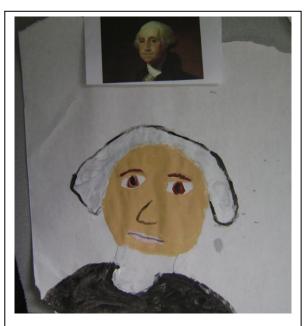
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A History Study



Painting of a young George Washington by Raya, PISF 2<sup>nd</sup> grader



Painting of Washington during his presidency By Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader



Made by the Bay Jewelry Contact Susan Mazur at : 401-450-5342 Made by sea glass found on Prudence!

Summer: PI, Rhode Island <u>Winter</u>: Hutchinson Island, Florida



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## The Prudence Wave

# Scenes from Our Classroom



Guitar class



Shelby working on a French lesson



Meg painting the Prudence Island history time-line



Crystal Chemistry Lab



Spider rescue mission



Valentine's Day decadence



Shelby helping Aribella with her reading.

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