

Issue 18 April 2013

# The Prudence Wave

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PIHPS Board Members Support Young Historians

## John Brown on Prudence Island

By Meg, PISF 11th 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.

By 1809, John Brown, a prominent figure in Rhode Island, had purchased most of Prudence Island - more or less everything North of Broadway. Here he built three of the most well known farms on the Island. They were operated by tenant farmers and were called the Baker, Bacon, and Potter's Cove Farms. Before they were known by these names they were the Wanton Farm, the North Allen (or Chase) Farm and the North End (or Cove) Farm.

Before the Revolutionary War, John and his brothers were very well known and respected merchants, exporting goods grown on their farms to other colonies. The taxes the British set on such merchants were outrageous in colonists' eyes, and they protested them at every turn, or ignored them all together.

When the much hated British Schooner, the *Gaspee*, ran aground off of Namquit Point (Now Gaspee Point), Captain Lindsey went straight to John Brown. He knew that John, more than most, hated the *Gaspee* and her captain, Dudingston, and would have enough of a vocal influence, as well as the financial means to do something about it. The *Gaspee* had been terrorizing Narragansett Bay and its merchants for long enough, and John resolved on its immediate destruction. He orchestrated the plans for the ship's demise, and several of the Captains in his fleet of merchant ships joined the cause.

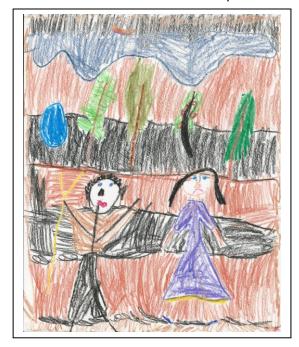
That night, the *Gaspee* was burned to the waterline and only Captain Dudingston was injured. John Brown, while later telling the story to his grandson, said that he was the last to leave the ship to make sure no one took any incriminating evidence leading the British to them. The story went viral in Providence, but when British investigators came to weed out the perpetrators, no one would be a witness to the account, and no one had enough real evidence to convict, thanks to John's forward thinking.

In the 1780's, John went on a buying spree, purchasing waterfront property on both Aquidneck and Prudence. This land had been confiscated from colonists still loyal to the Crown, and was sold at a discount by the government. On Prudence, he set up tenancy at the Wanton Farm, the North Allen Farm and the North End Farm.

### PERSEPHONE

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

One day, Persephone was picking flowers with her friends, the nymph daughters of Oceanus. The next thing she knew, the ground opened up and a chariot pulled by black horses came out of the ground. A man inside the chariot grabbed Persephone right as the ground closed. She found herself in the underworld. Hades, the king of the underworld, forced her to marry him. Persephone was not happy in the underworld and Demeter was sad, so she begged Persephone's father, Zeus to send his messenger, Hermes, to go get her. Before Hermes reached her, Hades popped a few pomegranate seeds into her mouth. He knew that once he did that, Persephone would have to stay in the underworld, because pomegranate seeds are the food of the dead. Zeus made a deal with Demeter and Hades, so that they could both spend time with Persephone. When winter is here, Persephone is with Hades. When spring, summer, and fall are here, that's when she is up on earth with her mother, Demeter.



When Persephone is in the underworld, she always has a frown.



When she is joyful, her eyes sparkle like diamonds in the sky.

#### JOHN BROWN cont. from page 1:

James Allen improved the Wanton Farm for 12 years under John Brown's service. The land included Sandy Point, and a wharf that was built a half mile or so north of it. The farm also had an Orchard, a house, a barn and crib. It was primarily a grass farm and included 16 acres of salt marsh. This land had been sold to Caleb, Joshua and Ebenezer Allen for 35 dollars an acre, according to John Brown's will written in 1802. Some years later it became known as the Baker Farm.

The North Allen Farm, 380 acres, was let out to the Chase family whose descendants own the property to this day. The Chases were some of the oldest known islanders whose ancestors had settled here as early as the 1700s. It is now known as the Bacon Farm.

Captain Simeon Potter, a Famous Mariner from Bristol R.I. mortgaged roughly 1532 acres of land from John Brown in 1794, but was not the reason for the name of the farm or the Cove. That honor would be bestowed upon Rowse T. Potter, the first official Potter to settle on Prudence. Rowse was a valuable member of the Prudence Community and Potter's Cove was named after him. The farm and its buildings were later torn down, but the Cove still bears the name.

John Brown had an enormous impact on the land and families here on Prudence, and we can still see the impact he has today.

## Aribella's Dino Facts

By Aribella, PISF kindergartener



### <u>Stegosaurus</u>

- They walk on all fours.
- They have plates on their backs.
- He has spikes on his back that he swings back and forth to defend himself against meat eaters!
- · He eats plants.
- He attracts girls by swishing his head around!!

# Children's Theater Camp

The 2013 Josie Avery Theater Camp at Farnham Farm will take place this summer from August 5-9.

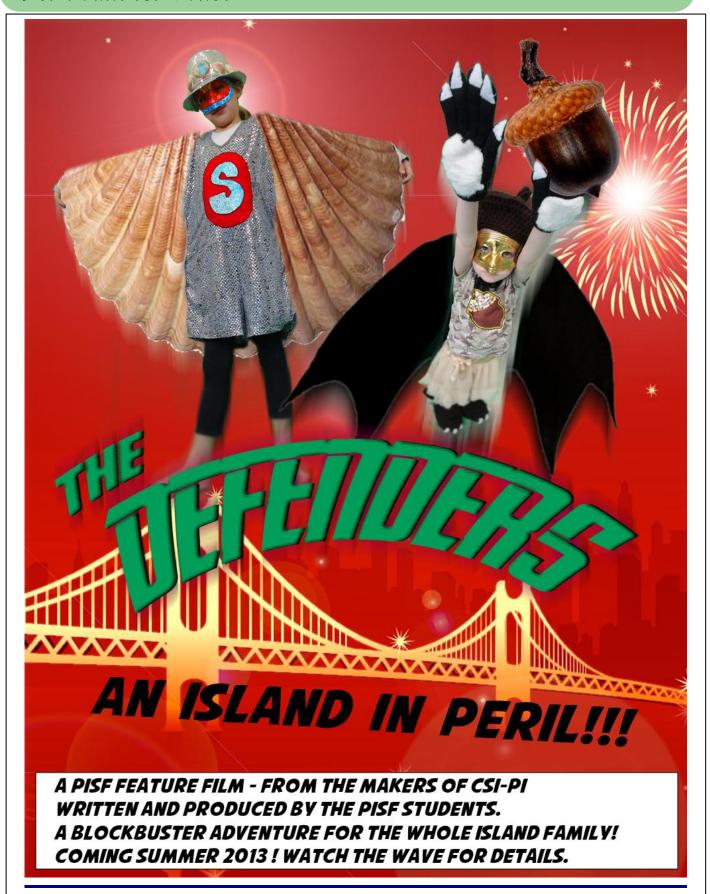
The Blueberry Patch Players is proud to welcome back
Barbara Blossom to run the camp.

The camp is open to children that are six years old (entering first grade) and older.

If you are interested in signing up for camp, please do so soon. There is limited space available and there was a waiting list last year.

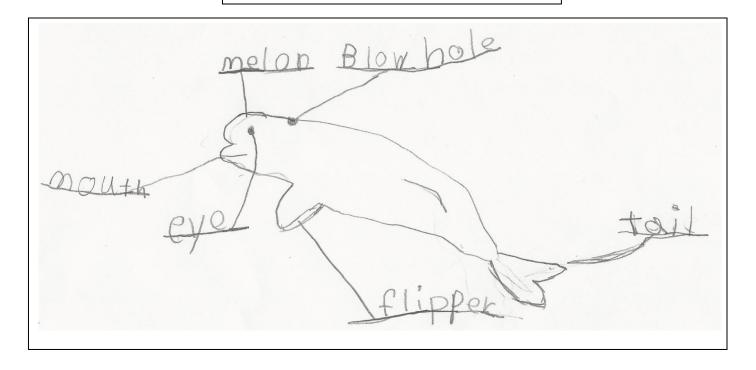
To sign up please contact Jen Young

683-5756 or jenyoung2526@gmail.com



# Under the Sea with Shelby

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



Beluga whales are my favorite whale. Beluga whales live in cold waters like the cold, arctic oceans.

Belugas can grow to about 15 feet and 3300 pounds. They are one of the smallest whales. They do not have a dorsal fin. They are creamy-white but when they are babies they are gray. The babies swim near their moms for three years. They have a dome-shaped head. It is shaped like a dome because of their melon. They use their melon to help them echolocate their food and predators and to see where they are going.

They have teeth, but not to chew their food - they swallow their food whole. They use their teeth to grab their prey. They eat fish, crustaceans, squid, octopus, crabs, sea worms and other small prey.

They are very social animals, and spend most of their time at the top of the water, splashing with their tails and spy hopping. They can turn their heads – not many whales can. They love to squeak, click and make all the sounds they can make. Their pods can have anywhere from 10 to 10,000 whales in them (Wow, that's a lot of whales!).

The beluga whale isn't just called the beluga whale – it is also called the white whale, white porpoise, squid hound, and sea canary. It is called a sea canary because it makes noises constantly, like a canary singing.



Well he is a dog and his name is Copper. He gets trash out of the trash can. Trash all over the floor... Then he goes downstairs.

He has hair on his back. He has ears. They go down like this (visualize cute Memphis with his hands hanging down by his face).

I like to play with my dog. I like to play fetch. I always talk to my dog and I talk to God.



Copper drawing by Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

## 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 docteur mange la viande.

Shelby:

Le garçon mange l'œuf.

Julianna:

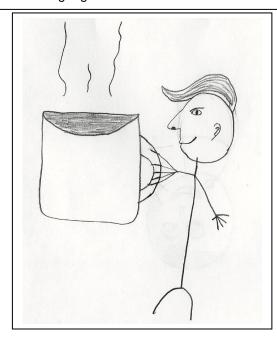
S'habile aux Elals-Unis.

Marina:

El hombre bebe café.

Meg:

Li duas livros.



Georgie's favorite German word (PISF British Correspondent):

Antivereinigtenstaatenskonstitutionsverbesserungsspirituosenwarenhaendler

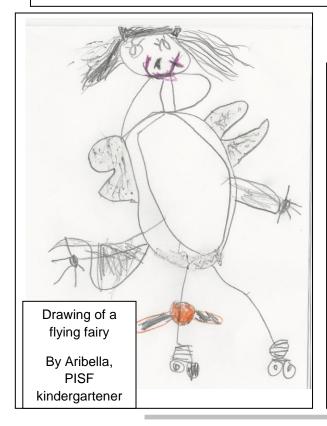
### Where is this??



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

Last month's 'Where is This?'

This was a drawing of The Prudence Variety Store and the Prudence Post Office by Shelby



### **PISF Wish List**

- Cozy Rug
- Sewing needles
- **Erasers**
- Tacky Glue!!
- Printer paper
- Window crayons
- Flash drives

# Periwinkle Printing Screenprinted Fashions



0294 Narragansett Ave. Prudence Island RI 02872

Eliza Volkmann 401-742-4641



Painting by Meg, PISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader

## Shelby's Shark Toons

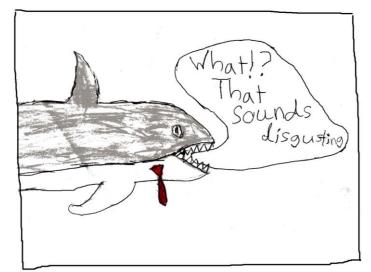
By Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

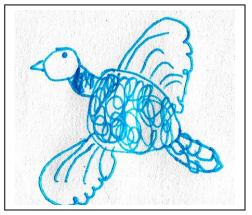


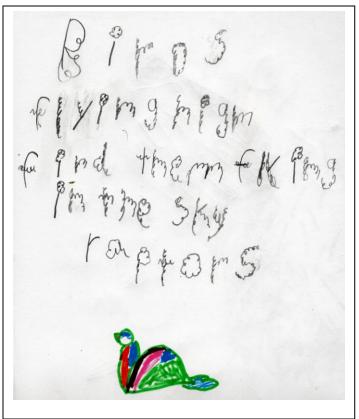


## Bird Poem

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







# Recycling Wrap~Up By Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

In the past few papers we've talked a lot about recycling and how to make the island transfer station more efficient while trying to the keep fees low! In case you're not completely engrossed in all this go green on island business, this is an article you don't want to miss!

The 2013 dump stickers must be purchased from the Portsmouth town hall starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. You can purchase an annual dump sticker for \$130, a seasonal dump sticker (4 months) for \$60, and a weekly pass for \$20. For the 2013 year, the town upped sticker prices by \$10.00 and will probably be looking into a pay as you go program for next year. If we recycle as much as possible we could also cause our sticker prices to drop- we're not only making the world greener, but recycling could make our wallets greener too.

Also, the Portsmouth solid waste/recycling committee and the sub-committee are working to get the shredder back onto the island so all of our yard and outdoor products like leaves and brush don't go into the dumpsters and use up valued space! A plan is also in the works to try and recycle e-waste on island; e-waste items are products like computers, printers and other electronics we can recycle (If only we could recycle e-mails too, we'd have much greener internet!!!).

Another thing to consider is that you can recycle a lot of other stuff you use every day to make the world- and the island- a healthier and happier place to be! There're tons of products we can recycle that I've mentioned already but there are also guidelines on the items we can and cannot recycle. Many of you may not have known that we have a metal recycling dumpster at the transfer station here on Prudence! Items like old or rusty bed frames, metal chairs, trash cans, lawn mowers, tire rims, and window screens can all go into this dumpster. Here are some examples of things to stick in the trash that can't be recycled; plastic bags, batteries, food, Styrofoam cups, greasy frozen or refrigerated food boxes, and light bulbs can't go into your recycle bins! You could also bring your plastic bags back to the grocery store, buy rechargeable batteries, and start a compost bin instead! Even little things like this make a big difference when their added together.

Make a splash, recycle your trash!





# Washington Here We Come

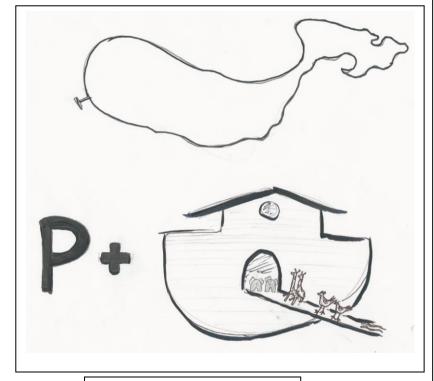
By Julianna, PISF 8<sup>th</sup> grader

As you all know, we have less than a week until we head to D.C.! Over the past few months we've worked really hard doing calculations for costs and researching all the attractions that are only offered in the capitol! However after all this planning you'd think now would be the time to sit back and relax, right? Wrong. In fact right now we're writing a grocery list and planning meals for the trip! We also just bought tickets to Go Ape, the Spy Museum, and tickets to a dance show at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (I'm especially excited for the last one!). Amazingly we've got everything done... except for packing which I have yet to start! Make sure to check out the May edition of the Prudence Wave to hear all about our adventures in Washington D.C.!

## Prudence Picto-Puzzle

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

Use the pictures to figure out a favorite Prudence Island location



March Pictopuzzle Answer:

1. T- wharf



Cardinal Drawing
by Shelby, PISF 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

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

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

Jim Grant is one of the coolest guys ever to be on this island. During our interview we heard some awesome stories and had some good laughs. It was really fun seeing how Jim and Joe Bains act around each other. They have been really good friends since they were just babies. Jim was born October 13<sup>th</sup> and came to the island two weeks later.



One of the many cool, interesting things about Jim is that he went to school out here just like us. He says things were a lot different at school than it is now. The desks were in rows according to grade, the start time was quarter to nine, and there were out houses! From my understanding it seems as if Jim and Joe were some of the trouble makers in class. One of the stories Jim told us was when Joe dared him to stick his foot in the well, even though they were told not to go near it. Of course Jims foot got stuck, but when it was time to go back in for class everyone left little Jim outside stuck. It didn't take long for the teacher to realize that Jim wasn't in class. Someone had to fess up to where he was. They eventually got his foot out, but with the help of the cop at the time.

Some of Jim's hobbies include mountain biking, cross country skiing, and bird watching. Something not many people know about him is that he likes country music, and by country music I mean LUKE BRYAN! Yes, he said it and I quote "he's pretty good". Another thing about Jim is he was drafted into the marines for two years. He was in Vietnam for one year and then back in America for his last year.

Most of the stories Jim told us almost always had Joe in them. There was the well story, there was the story when they got a flat tire, and then there was a really strange yet sad story. Jim's house got washed away in the hurricane of 1954.(see picture below of his actual house being destroyed.) The strange part about it is the whole house was destroyed except for the coffee table and oddly enough, the cup that was on table stayed on the table and it still contained the coffee. They later built a new house and put the coffee table in it.

If you know Jim I'm sure you know these stories and maybe you know more, but if you don't know him, you are missing out. He is awesome and really cool. I think it's pretty awesome that I know him. Not everyone can say they know such a cool guy.



# Journals of the Month

#### Prompt:

Here's what the artist called her painting: Polar Bear Eating Vanilla Ice Cream in a Blizzard

To viewers, it looked like a plain white canvas. How might the artist describe what looks like a plain black canvas? You may choose any color.

### By Raya, PISF 2<sup>st</sup> grader:

My first painting is called hearts in the sky. You may think it is just a pink canvas, but if you look close you can see a little bit of red. My next painting is called midnight with a blue house and dew drops. It is my newest blue painting.

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

Pink: A Flamingo Eating a Strawberry Lollypop in a Cotton Candy World

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

Blue: A smurf eating blueberries while flying in a clear blue sky!

Black: A black cat sipping out of a black mug in a blackout!

Purple: A pickle with purple pickle disease in a purple room!

Green: A billion granny smith apples in an emerald field!

Pink: A swirl of cotton candy in the shape of President Obama

Clear: The Queen of England and the Beatles in green behind a green screen

#### By Marina, PISF 10th grader:

I have a black canvas here. I call it: A Dark Cloudy Night, with Hundreds of Bats Flying at You. I also have a light brown canvas. I call it: Under Swampy Waters with a Bunch of Sticks and Dirt. Perhaps there is a turtle or two hiding...

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

Black: A naught kid's stocking

Red: Red riding hood in a poppy filed with a Valentine's Day card

Orange: A lion in a wheat field with jingle shells

Yellow: A daffodil dancing on the sun with a goldfinch

Green: A tree frog in the foliage of a gigantic willow tree with a green apple lollypop

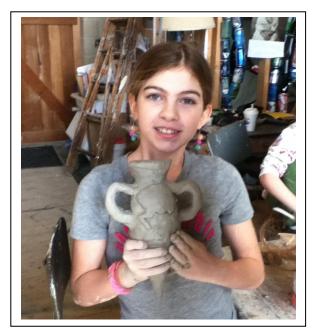
Yellow: A life raft in a field of daffodils with a goldfinch

Grey: An elephant on a foggy day in March with an ancient old man

# Artwork of the Month By Meg, PISF 11<sup>th</sup> grader

One Friday this month we decided it was time for another Allison Visit. For those of you who don't know her, Allison is a sculptor who owns a house on the island. She's pretty awesome and a very well-known figure in the art world. We went to her studio in Warren to work with some clay. Allison had been doing this really cool study with her clay classes on these cool clay pots that some archeologists found in the Black Sea called Amphora. They were made to transport goods to Rome at the height of the Roman Empire. Allison thought they were cool because they remind her of the human figure, a vessel just like a mother carrying a child. We made some small ones and designed them to reflect what we thought they looked like. Aribella made hers into a bird nest with some cute little eggs. Raya's was a crazy wild tornado, and Shelby's depicted a raging storm. Julianna's amphora was beautiful, with a beehive and a hummingbird, and Marina's had a "creepy face" that reminded me of an Inca carving. Mine had a swan in a marsh, and Jen's was a tree stump with windy knobby roots. My Mom made one with fish and other aquatic stuff found in the bay. We had a lot of fun, and can't wait to go back to Allison's studio so we can glaze them.











# Scenes from Our Classroom



Bird beak experiment with Maureen



A masterpiece by Memphis



Exploring the Blind Allin house remains with Joe



Chemistry lab demonstrating Conservation of Mass



Mourning Dove study



Our very first US History Jeopardy Tournament



A True PI Jungle Gym



Making Pysanky eggs





Fun with polymers!!



Team work