

CHAPIN TODAY

Just about every item on a supermarket shelf has a barcode printed on its packaging. Used as a method for relating packaging to contents, the system has been revolutionary. In a recent science workshop, Class 7 students learned that barcoding also plays a significant role in the sciences.

Melissa Lee, a lab manager from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, conducted a six-day workshop in the girls' science class to demonstrate the process of DNA barcoding, which uses a short genetic marker in an organism's DNA to classify it as a particular species.

Mrs. Lee brought three samples of fish from her local supermarket. The girls were tasked with extracting the DNA from the fish samples during the first three sessions. Once completed, those samples were sent to a lab for DNA matching.

"The girls used micropipettes, a microcentrifuge and water baths, which they wouldn't normally be using," noted Class 7 science teacher Emmalee Fay of the unique opportunity.

The last three sessions of the workshop were dedicated to analysis. One goal of the analysis process was to see whether or not the extraction procedure was done correctly. Another goal was to familiarize the girls with the computer database used to look up the results. The most interesting part was the subsequent conversations.

For some reason, the girls were not able to match the DNA in one of the samples. This may have occurred because of an extraction error. The second sample was correctly identified as being Chilean Sea Bass, as the supermarket had identified it. The final sample came back, surprisingly, with only bacterial DNA, not fish DNA.

The students deliberated over the reasons why they could not match the DNA of one sample; why they got only bacterial DNA for another; and whether or not the store knowingly sold fish that was mislabeled.

"DNA, DNA replication and genetics are studied in one unit of the Class 7 science curriculum," said Ms. Fay. "The workshop really helped the girls to think more deeply about cells and DNA through real-life application."

Another thing learned at the workshop offered through Chapin's partnership with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Chilean Sea Bass is just a type of cod renamed to sound more appealing and to charge a heftier price. The proof is in the DNA.





"Finally, she could stand. She balanced with the help of crutches, bit her lower lip and let the crutches be taken away. I won't forget that moment. Tears ran down my cheeks, but I blinked so I would not miss seeing any of her joy and excitement."

- Larry Burrows, LIFE photographer and grandfather of Sarah Burrows, Class of 2001

Dear Friends,

One of the jewels in the entryway of 100 East End Avenue is our spectacular Ethel Grey Stringfellow Art Case. It houses a rotating array of fascinating exhibits, each with a thread that ties it to the Chapin community.

In keeping with the year's theme of "Brave for Others, Brave for Self," a special exhibit was installed in February and has, through March, mesmerized all who have viewed it. Inside the case are extraordinary images taken by LIFE photographer Larry Burrows that depict a girl who is the epitome of bravery.

Mr. Burrows came upon 12-year-old Nguyen Thi Tron, then the same age as his own daughter, in 1968 while covering the war in Vietnam. He was instantly captivated by this young girl who had lost part of her leg to American gunfire while gathering firewood.

Opening the November 1968 edition, LIFE readers were immediately transported to Tron's world. They were introduced to a determined girl being fitted for a prosthetic; learning again to ride a bike; trying to regain a sense of normalcy; and experiencing moments of sadness. Through Mr. Burrows' lens, the world learned of Tron's bravery and determination. His goal of presenting the human side of the polarizing war had been achieved.



An immediate outpouring followed in the US with funds sent that afforded the family some financial help and a new sewing machine. Mr. Burrows continued to visit Tron and shared her story until his untimely death in 1971 while continuing to cover the war.

Almost thirty years later, in 2000, Larry Burrows' son, Russell, and granddaughter, Sarah (Class of 2001), who had grown up listening to tales of this brave young girl, searched for and found Tron. Then 43, she had become the village tailor and nurse. Despite the language barrier, the connection between the three was extraordinary.

There are so many wonderful elements to this story: the power of resolve, the strength of connections, and the spirit of community.

I urge you to read the original LIFE article, which may be found online.

Here in our own Chapin publication, we discover other heroes who smiled back at us from the walls. Along the Gordon Room Hall we were introduced to the many heroes chosen by students from Kindergarten through Class 3 and their parents. Tasked with profiling someone they deemed brave, the result was an incredible display of individuals and an exceptional understanding of just what bravery means.

This issue also details the inspiration for the most recent Upper School play, *Nellie Bly*. Our drama students were instantly

riveted by the tale of this brave journalist who committed herself to an asylum in 1887 to expose the injustices within.

These are only a few of the articles in an issue filled with examples of the incredible accomplishments and demonstrations of bravery exhibited by our girls at Chapin each day. I know you will be inspired.

With my warmest wishes,

Patricia Haupt

Head of School



CELEBRATING SUPERHEROES

Middle School girls share their accomplishments in their own words.

With only one day left until the spring recess, it's reasonable to assume that the Middle School girls were already in a celebratory mood. A special Assembly, however, proved to be even further cause for celebration.

"We're here today to show the incredible work you've been doing," explained Head of Middle School Mary Rafferty. "It's impossible to list it all, but today we'll share a sampling of what you've achieved. This Assembly is about you and by you!"

Girls representing each Middle School grade were randomly selected to represent one project from the year. While told there was no need to prepare, like true Chapin girls, prepare they did. They provided for their peers perfect snapshots of Middle School students' countless achievements since the beginning of the year. Here are the highlights:

Allison Moon, Class 5, ushered the girls into the Assembly Room with her beautiful rendition of "The Wind" on the piano. While seated, the students enjoyed a slideshow featuring the work of students in Class 7 whose photography and writing earned them Scholastic Art & Writing awards. These talented girls will soon learn the names of those advancing to the national level of this distinguished competition, which is open to students in grades 7-12.

As it was national Pi Day, or "3.14," two girls in Class 5 offered the definition of Pi—the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter—and then recited from memory the first 63 digits (of possibly a trillion) that follow the decimal. It was then announced that one of these students, Meredith Devine, is advancing to the state level of the National Geography Bee, having placed in the top 100 of contestants from New York State.

Representatives of the four winning teams from Chapin's recent NAIS Virtual Science Fair (VSF) followed. These girls in Class 6 highlighted their winning experiments and announced that they had earned spots in the national VSF competition being held in early April. In other Class 6 news, student Olivia Cranshaw recently earned the title of #2 Girl Scout Cookie Seller in the five boroughs. She shared with her peers her passion for the Girl Scouts, noting that they, like Chapin, promote courage and strength.

The ingenuity of the girls in Class 7 was clear from their discussion of their recent technology days. Their accomplishments in the computer build, in their conductivity experiments and in their use of 3-D printers to create educational toys for their peers at the Kibera School for Girls were amazing.



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(Continued on back cover)

LOWER SCHOOL WALL

Bravery


WALL

family and friends

Each gets others in very special way

*it. The brave man
is afraid, but he
is not afraid.*

From the family of Emani Bobb
Class Two



We chose Nelson Mandela because
he sacrificed his freedom for the
freedom of others and was willing to
trade his life for equal rights for
all South African Citizens.


From the family of Kera Singh
Class Three



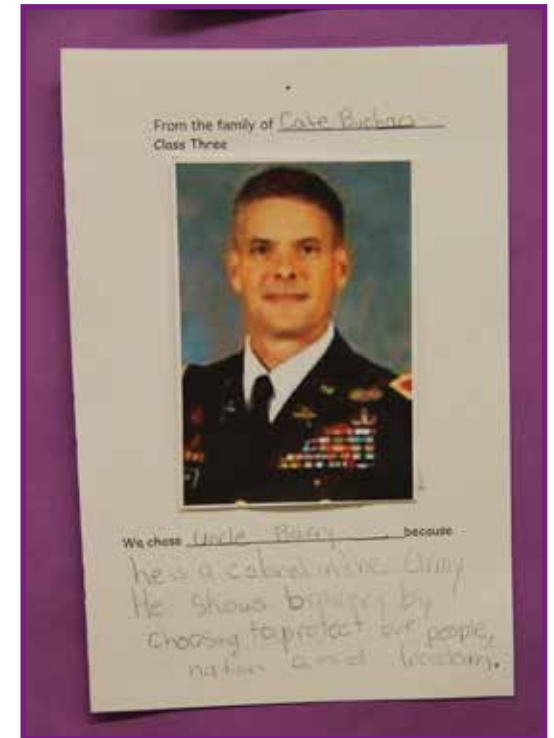
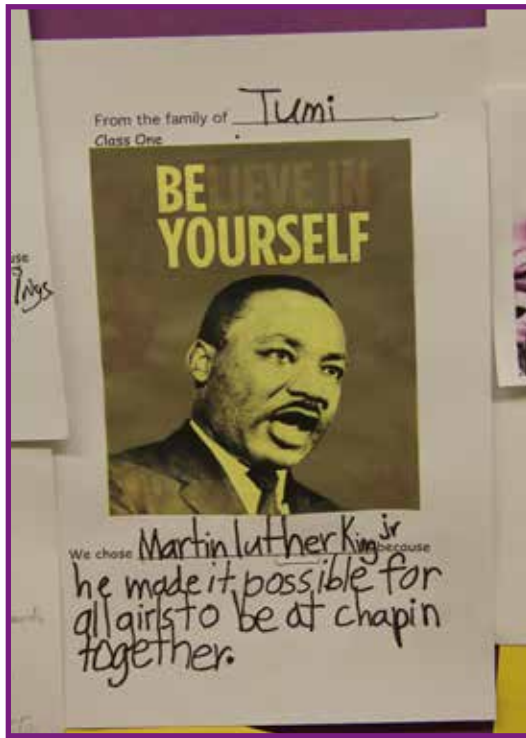
THE SINGH FAMILY

We chose Susil Singh because
she had stomach cancer 10 years ago
but she did not pass away and lived 9
more years to see all of her grandchildren

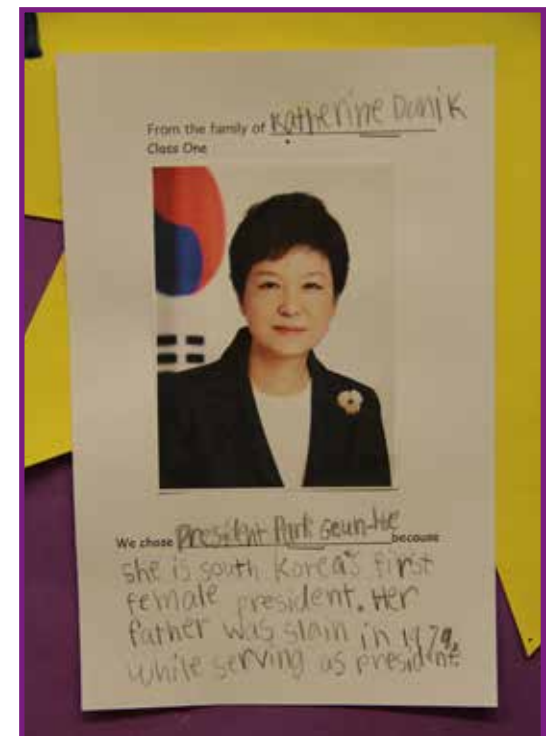
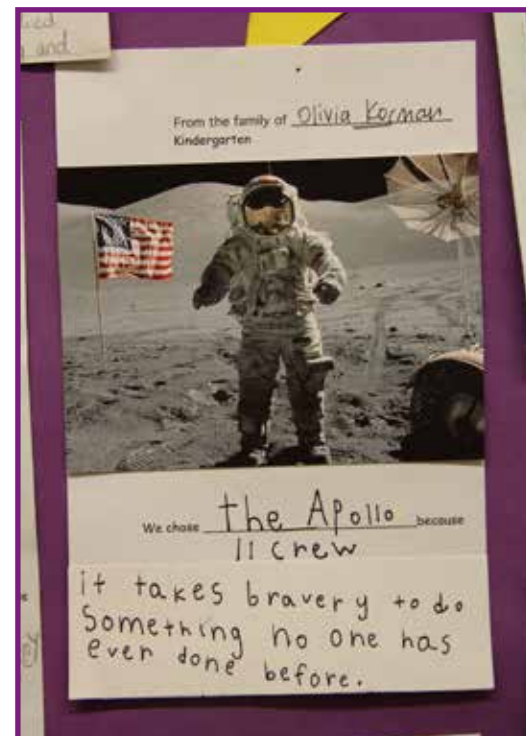
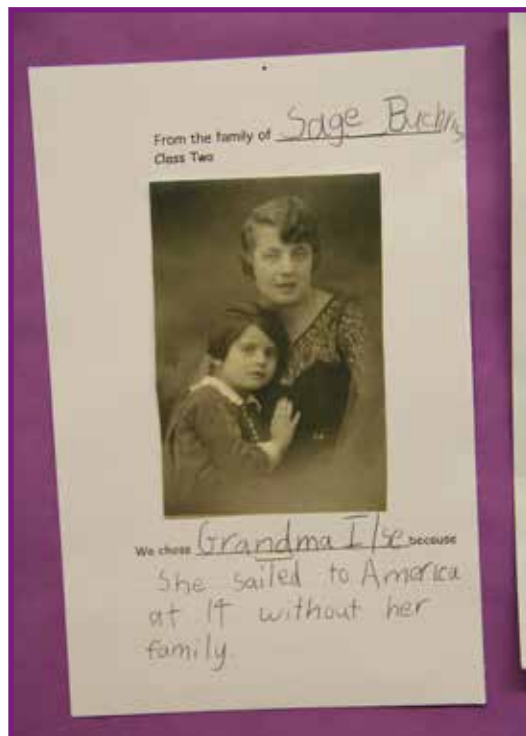
From the Family of Oliver Vites
Kindergarten



We chose Abeulo because
he left Cuba
so his family
could have a
better life and help



A special assignment was created for the girls in Lower School as part of International Week. To commemorate Chapin's "Brave for Others, Brave for Self" theme this year, students and their families were asked to have a conversation about courage and bravery, and to select a person, from the present or past, who demonstrates or has demonstrated bravery, or lives or has lived bravely. The result was a stunning, personal collection of relatives, community members, and individuals from around the world who are true heroes. A sampling is found here.



The Indomitable Nellie Bly



Upper School drama students find inspiration in the courageous acts of a journalist from the 1800s.

"For 10 days I was one of them. I experienced and saw and heard the treatment accorded to this helpless class of our population—of course my own release was promptly secured. I left the insane ward with pleasure and regret—pleasure that I was once more able to enjoy the free breath of heaven; regret that I could not have brought with me some of the unfortunate women who lived and suffered with me, and who, I am convinced, are just as sane as I was and am now myself."

- Nellie Bly

The words above are those of American journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochrane—more widely known as Nellie Bly, her pen name—who was a pioneer in the field of investigative journalism in the late 1800s. Bly first gained notoriety for risking her life to investigate reports of neglect and cruelty at the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island. Feigning madness, Bly succeeded in being committed to the asylum's women's wing. Her subsequent newspaper exposé brought to light the abysmal treatment of women in the institution, and resulted in a grand jury investigation. Her work also brought Bly considerable fame.

Bly's fascinating life and her tales from the asylum were chosen

as the subject of the Upper School drama students' most recent play. The girls and drama teacher Luc Hotaling, also the play's director, collaborated on the script *Into The Madhouse: The Story of Nellie Bly*, which details her time on Blackwell's Island and her article. While researching, the group read Bly's book *Ten Days in a Mad-House* and *Women of the Asylum: Voices from Behind the Walls, 1840-1945*, edited by Jeffrey L. Geller and Maxine Harris.

The pages of these books were filled with horrible tales of women incarcerated against their will, usually by indifferent men who deemed their behavior "inappropriate." Clear, too, were the treacherous conditions in which these women were forced to live.

As fate would have it, an expert on Nellie Bly simultaneously visited Chapin. Matthew Goodman, author of *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, had agreed to be a featured author at Chapin's annual Book Fair in November.

"It was actually a coincidence that Matthew was coming to speak at the Book Fair and we were doing this play," said Mr. Hotaling of the serendipitous timing. The excitement to bring the play to the stage was only heightened after Mr. Goodman spoke at Upper School News.

Mr. Goodman's book details yet another incredible feat of bravery: Bly's 1889 attempt to go around the world unaccompanied. Having already proven to be fearless, many people bet that Bly would best the time of another female journalist, Elizabeth Bisland, who was also making the attempt.

Mr. Goodman spent four years working on this narrative history: two years doing research and two years writing. "Everything in the book is true," he said at News. "All of the dialogue is taken from written sources. It's put together like a novel so readers can experience and feel what that journey would be like."

When he learned of the play, Mr. Goodman quickly agreed to consult with the students and provided them with feedback on two of their drafts. His notes were invaluable in creating the dramatic structure for the play and in ensuring its historical accuracy.

Through the finely crafted script and powerful performances, *Into The Madhouse* conveyed a woman's utter lack of power during a painful time in history. Also expressed, however, was the bravery exhibited by one woman and its powerful and lasting impact. ❖

– Alile Eldridge



Photographs on these pages by Michael Sherman.

UNDER



THE SEA



A Kindergarten science unit that began with the question “What is a fish?” culminated in the Kindergarten floor’s transformation into the Long Island Sound ecosystem. The girls spent the term learning all they could about fish, mollusks, crustaceans and other creatures of the sea (Moon Jellies and Sea Stars were among the favorites), and how to classify them. The mummichog was selected for a classification exercise in which the girls noted the following: what the fish is covered in (scales), breathes in (water), stays safe in (a school) and lives in (shallow water). Each girl then created her own mummichog, resulting in a school of about 60 for the wall. After studying different adaptations—schooling, camouflage, warning colors, bioluminescence, spines, and false eye spots—the eager students created their very own imaginative sea creatures. A field trip to the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT allowed the girls to see and touch many of the marine life they had been studying. Over the next few weeks, they were visited by Middle and Upper School girls who helped them paint, cut out and decorate animals for their own hallway ecosystem. Horseshoe crabs, salmon, sea horses, seagulls and jellyfish were created, to name only a few. Larger animals, such as sharks, egrets and seals, were added as finishing touches. Beautifully crafted, labeled, and classified animals were on display at every turn in the delightful under-the-sea world, which gave the real Long Island Sound some stiff competition! ❖



CHAPIN EVENTS



Host Michelle Gerwin Carlson '80



Dr. Patricia Hayot with Lynn Laporte Ducommun '71 and her husband Robert Ducommun.

LEADERSHIP DONOR PARTY

Michelle Gerwin Carlson '80 hosted more than 100 guests at a party in her home on the evening of February 11. The event was in honor of the current parents, past parents and alumnae who have taken a leadership role in their support of Chapin.



Brian Higgins and Clarence Mitchell.



Left to right: Nanar Yoseloff, Anthony Yoseloff, Sarah Lane, Eric Lane, Evangeline Yung and Raymond Yung.



Phoebe Rentschler Stanton '46 and Linda Beard Brandi '65.

2013-2014 MILESTONES

150th ANNIVERSARY OF MISS CHAPIN'S BIRTH
100th ANNIVERSARY OF ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

"Remember that your school symbol is a wheel and that like it, education has no beginning nor end, no beginning that we can remember, no end that we can see...you have learned more about Fortitude and Rectitude, and now we send you away, that life may teach you. Fortitude, you know, includes not only Courage, but Strength, Endurance, Patience – that one must learn to be brave for others as well as for oneself."

- Maria Bowen Chapin

Kindergarten Admissions

Connected Families Coffee at Chapin

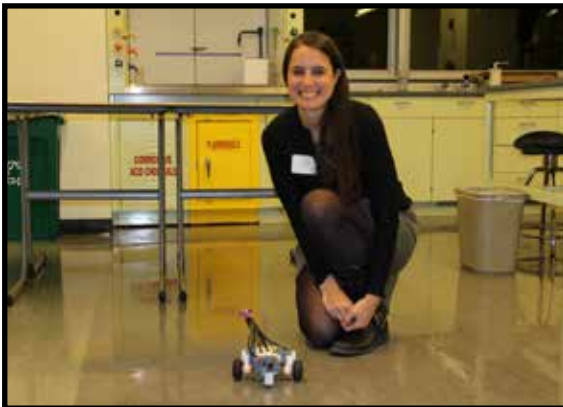
Tuesday, April 29
9:00 a.m.

An admissions information session for alumnae and current Chapin parents whose daughters are applying to Kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year.

To attend, please contact Deborah Carroll at carroll@chapin.edu.

ALUMNAE BACK TO SCHOOL!

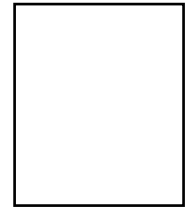
On February 12, Chapin welcomed more than 100 guests to its annual *Back to School!* event. There, alumnae spanning the Classes of 1952 to 2009 immersed themselves in the following: conversational Spanish, robotics, the exploration of ancient history with modern tools, molecular genetics, watercolors, Class 12 individual study presentations, African drumming and fear-free algebra. The successful event ended with a reception that brought together both old friends and new.



Top, left to right: Duane Neil, head of the art department, teaching watercolor techniques to Bo Thorne Niles '62, Jennifer Chu '06 and Caroline Friedman '09; Upper School science teacher Jill Hirsch with Carlyne Volpe '07 and Katie Friedman '07 in her Molecular Genetics: Genes, Chromosomes, Mutations and Diseases course. Middle row, left to right: Hope Yates '00 in Robotics; Baily Blair Kempner '02, Sarah Jane Sculco Gibbons '97 and Head of School Patricia Hayot. Bottom row, left to right: Stan Sterenberg, Middle School mathematics teacher, with Liz Mantel '09 and Veronica Brennan '09 at the reception; Alicia Headlam Hines '90 and Rebecca Warner '07; and Sloane Lederer '83 during the traditional African drumming workshop.

CHAPIN

100 East End Avenue
New York, NY 10028
Address Correction Requested



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Anneli S. Ballard
Director of Marketing & Communications

Alile Eldridge
Content Producer



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Emotional Intelligence Charters have been the recent focus of Class 4 Advisory. Representatives from two of the five Advisory groups explained the exercise in which statements of how the girls wish to live and feel are crafted. Among their principles were “to respect and support others, give constructive feedback, smile, be kind, and be flexible.” Soon, the students will work to combine the five charters to create a single Class 4 charter.

In Humanities, girls in Class 5 shared tales from their studies of countries around the world—and honed their presentation skills—using QuickTime videos that demonstrated their facility with multiple applications, such as Google Earth, PowerPoint, and Excel. Through the videos, the audience was transported to Iceland, South Africa, Cuba and China.

A surprise guest joined the girls at the close of the Assembly. Gale McFarlane, a senior who had wowed them with her beautiful voice last year, discussed recording an original EP with five of her own songs for her Individual Study. Cheers rang out after she performed one of those songs, “Superhero,” which urges girls to believe in themselves. “Believe in yourself,” she sang. “Reach within and you’ll find you’re your own superhero.”

It was the perfect end to a joyous event that celebrated accomplishments and also the bravery of those who stood before their peers to share them. ❖

