

## Cassidy Collects Cans for Thanksgiving

By Omaet Gutierrez

This year there was a food drive at Cassidy. The person who organized the food drive was Ms. Apple. It's the first year that Ms. Apple has been in charge. Last year, Home and School was in charge of the canned food drive. Every grade level was asked to bring in different food groups.

The canned foods will go to families for Thanksgiving dinners. Families will be chosen to receive the food based on need.

The canned food drive started on November 12, 2013 and ended on November 22, 2013. Room 307, Grade 5 collected the most cans with a total of 99 cans. The second place class was room 302 with a total of 98. If your class won, you can dress down Wednesday, November 27. The canned food drive was a success. We didn't get a total of items collected, but we did collect enough to provide dinners for 22 families this Thanksgiving, with some staff members donating turkeys, and we even have some extra food items that we will donate to a nearby shelter.



Some of the food collected in November

## Cassidy Welcomes Mrs. Shuttlesworth

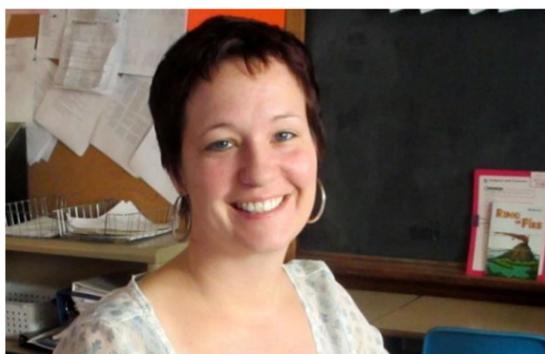
By Sade Moultrie

Mrs. Shuttlesworth is a new teacher at Cassidy. She teaches the fifth grade in room 310. Mrs. Shuttlesworth is thirty six years old. Her favorite part about teaching is when kids ask her to do funny things. Mrs. Shuttlesworth said she loves Cassidy, and she said she enjoys teaching.

Her favorite thing to do while not teaching is sitting outside by the firepit, fishing and hiking. She's very active. She became a teacher because she hated being an accountant. She always loves being with kids, but she doesn't like when she has to repeat herself to kids. She does not like yelling. I like her as a teacher.

She went to Temple University to become a teacher. She first took accounting but then took education.

If you're in fourth grade this year, I think you would want Mrs. Shuttlesworth as your teacher next year.



## Cassidy is Pretty in Pink (For a Day)

By Aniyah Worsley

Pink Day is Cassidy's way to help stop breast cancer. It happens every October because it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We need everyone to be cancer free and have a happy life.

There are many ways you can get cancer. Money has to be collected for research to find a cure. Some people have surgery. Some people take medicine. Some people have radiation to kill the cancer cells. There are other experimental therapies. It depends on each person's case on how to treat breast cancer.

Ms. Apple thinks it's great because we collect money for women who can't afford to have mammograms. Pink Day is a day when people who donated a dollar or more were allowed to wear pink to school. This year Cassidy collected \$453.



These students earned the right to wear pink

## Instrumental Music

By Jada Dorsey

This year is the second year that we have instrumental music. I interviewed students that played an instrument last year and this year. Nakia Richardson said she wishes she had lessons every day and not just one day a week. Also she told me that she plays the flute and gets to take it home because she's good and is an advanced student. She practices fifteen minutes every day at home.

I then interviewed Kristina Hightower-Wilcher. She said that she plays the trumpet and plays it because it's a fun thing to do for a young person. She said she practices for at least forty- five minutes a day.

If you want any advice about signing up for instrumental music next year ask these two girls. But get ready to see their concert in December.

## Cassidy Takes a Trip to Rolling Thunder

By Jaylen Dorsey

Lewis C. Cassidy is going to Rolling Thunder for a field trip. The Rolling Thunder Skating Rink is really fun. I know because I went there. It's cool. They have a lot of games that are fun. The rolling rink is big and has a D.J. right in the middle.

The school is going on the twenty-sixth of November. In order to go, students have to pay ten dollars and be really good. Only second grade to sixth grade is going. I hope you had fun if you went.

## Stop Bullying-- Stand Up Speak Out

By Kristina Hightower

At Cassidy School the students watch a video every Wednesday and play an activity to help bullies stop hurting their peers.

Mrs. Meehan believes that the videos are a way to make children aware of the problem and solutions to acts of bullying. Also, bullying happens almost all the time. It can happen all around the school, even in the bathroom. We are doing this program so we can prevent bullying so nobody will get hurt.

Mrs. Meehan also believes that some students might think about the issue more. They may realize that being a bully is not cool.

We are also doing this program to teach the kids not to be a bystander. Students shouldn't sit around. They should stand up and help the student being bullied. I also hope this will teach kids to learn something new.

## Love, Love, Library

By Jocelyn Louineus

If you are looking for a book you can always find it at the library at Cassidy! They have fiction, non-fiction, history and many more. You can learn anything you want in the library. Some of the books were donated, and some of the books were already here. Ms. Lynne, one of the librarians, donated some of her son's books.

If you were a student five years ago, there would have been no library because this library used to be a storage room. This library was formed in the fall of 2009. The last library closed in 2002. The library was stopped because the librarian retired.

Students commented that they love the library because they can learn different things by reading an interesting book. Mostly all the librarians said that they love the library. All of the librarians are volunteers and don't earn money.

Cassidy School was one of the first school libraries that WePAC worked with, and the classes always do great. WePAC stands for West Philadelphia Alliance for Children.

If you would like to have the library open for more hours every week, please ask an adult in your family and or your neighborhood to contact WePAC about volunteering. Email [volunteer@wepac.org](mailto:volunteer@wepac.org) or visit [wepac.org](http://wepac.org) online.



Students take time out to read in the library

# Peaceful Posse – A Club for Positive Leaders

By Kalima Owens

Peaceful Posse is a club that helps students to be positive leaders. In the club we talk about real experiences, lessons, and information. In the group, regular students that go to Cassidy talk about personal things that happen to them.

Ms. Fatisha is the staff person in charge of the girls, and her mom is in charge of the boys. Only fourth to sixth grade is allowed in Peaceful Posse, and you have to sign a paper that Ms. Fatisha gives you, only if she sees you being a positive leader.

There are about ten to fifteen boys and ten to fifteen girls in Peaceful Posse. They

meet every Thursday at 2:00 in the back of the auditorium, and then the boys and girls split up to go to the art room and the music room.

The things we learned so far were about our different personalities and our feelings. We wrote letters to the soldiers in Afghanistan for Thanksgiving. At our last session, we learned how to trust people and have good listening skills.

I think Peaceful Posse is a good program for me, and I would tell other people about it so that they might want to stop bullying and be a positive leader instead. Kristina, who is in Peaceful Posse, told me that it inspires kids to be good leaders.



Cassidy fourth through sixth graders who participate in Peaceful Posse

## Spotlight on Ms. Bennett

By Shakirah Small

Ms. Bennett's plan for this school year is to compete and to focus on instruction. She has made other plans to improve Cassidy also. She changed the reward system for merits because she wants it to function better, and it did not work very well last time. Ms. Bennett is "loving" this school year so far. She really LOVES Cassidy.

When Ms. Bennett is in her office alone, she does paperwork and meets with teachers. As for the bathrooms, Ms. Bennett thinks that some days the bathrooms are fine, and they're doing better jobs keeping it clean, but she still thinks that rolls of paper towels don't belong in the trashcan.

Ms. Bennett is so concerned about bullying because she wants everyone to learn and be respected. She said Cassidy is "our family".

There are new things at Cassidy this year. Ms. Bennett is planning to create a basketball team, to teach instructional focus, planning to raise test scores and make this school an "ACADEMICS PLUS" school again.

How hard is Ms. Bennett's job? She said it is not easy; it's a challenge she enjoys. When asked if she has all the help she needs, Ms. Bennett replied, "Yes, but you can always have more."

Ms. Bennett cannot change the school lunches because the School District controls that, not her. If there was anything about this school she could change, she said she would move us to a brand new building. Our staff and children deserve the best.

When Ms. Bennett is not busy, she likes shopping, sleeping and going to nice restaurants. She likes spending time with friends and family, especially nieces and nephews. Before Cassidy, Ms. Bennett was a classroom teacher and was always in the field of education.



## Dance, Dance, Dance

By Nakia Richardson

Cassidy has a line dancing club. Ms. Muhammad is in charge of the line dancing club. Nakia is the team captain, and Amirah is the co-captain. The team captain makes sure that everybody is in order and makes sure they are doing the steps right. The captain choreographs the dances and makes sure they're on the same page. The co-captain takes over when the captain is not there or just helps out with the captain.

The club practices everyday at lunchtime or sometimes after school. The dance we are working on is Beyonce's "End of Time."

In second grade I started line dancing, and other people that were in it in second grade are still in it now. At Back to School Night we performed "Get Saucy" and "Blurred Lines." We wore jeans and Ms. Muhammad brought shirts for us. On the back of the shirts it says our nicknames and "Cassidy Line Dancing Club."

To be in the line dancing club you have to audition. Ms. Muhammad selects twenty to twenty-five students through auditions. Auditions were held at the end of November.

Performances for the line dancing club will occur at monthly awards assemblies. There will also be a Wellness Week in April where the Cassidy line dancing team will give out free smoothies and teach different dances.

Ms. Muhammad loves to dance because her aunt owns a dance school. Ms. Muhammad said that she started to dance at the age of eight.



Line dancing club members strike a pose.

# First in Math

By Rose P. Louis

"First in Math" is a website for all kids to play math games, and it is very helpful for kids who need help with math. Ms. Apple said, "We have 'First in Math' because it's challenging, and the games are fun, and it teaches all the



Yaseen Taalbi

skills that a kid needs to know from K to 8."

All Cassidy students are supposed to play twenty minutes a day at home. Ms. Apple also said, "Yes, every public school does 'First in Math', sometimes during school in the classroom.

A fifth grader thinks some of the games are hard. One student said that it is fun, and you're learning and having fun at the same time. This student said it is fun, and you learn math and do math games.

Another student said she thinks you learn and have fun at the same time. If there is a skill set that is super hard, it will almost take months to figure out.

What I think of "First in Math" is that it is good for kids who are not very good at math.

Yaseen Taalbi, is currently the number one player at Cassidy with over 7,500 stickers in "First in Math."

## From Student to Librarian at Cassidy

By Natecia Greenidge

Ms. Simon was a student here and now she is a volunteer librarian. She came here in first grade in the year 1952 and graduated in June of 1959.

One way Cassidy was different then is that there were no uniforms, and the girls were only allowed to wear skirts and dresses so they couldn't wear pants. Cassidy went up to seventh grade when she was here. Now Cassidy only goes up to sixth grade.

Another thing that has changed is that there were no African-American students here back then. The neighborhood was mostly Italian.

The last difference is that at Cassidy back then, all the students went home for lunch because they did not have a cafeteria.

One similarity is that people walk home just like Ms. Simon, and a lot of people love school like Ms. Simon. Ms. Simon said, "I did not have a favorite class. I just loved coming to school. I loved my teachers, and I invited my third grade teacher, Ms. Griffin to come to my house to visit my new baby brother."

I learned a lot from my interview with Ms. Simon, but the main thing I learned is that Cassidy then and now aren't that different because we have the same subjects.

