HOPE

THE 2020 POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE
POETRY ANTHOLOGY
Each year, participants of the PAL After-School program representing different cultural backgrounds, age groups, and New York City neighborhoods, come together to express themselves through poetry. They skillfully use language to produce writing that resonates with them.

In this time of social distancing, it is art like this that reminds us of the

**H O P E**

for our future.
Shooting hoops is like rhythm and rhyme.
If I make this hoop someone give me a dime.
When I make a shot I feel like I’m unstoppable,
When boys think it’s impossible.
I’m hot like fire, cool on my feet
Feeling like I deserve a treat. When my team
Wins I feel like a celebrity while the other
Team is my enemy
Seriously, don’t mess with me

SHOOTING HOOPS

By KATELYN MOLSEN
Wynn Center | Gr. 5

Art by
APPOLON PROPHETE
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 3
Winter
Winter, winter incoming
It’s so lucky that it’s past
Fall
It’s getting chilly, it’s starting
To snow
The jolly days that we all know,
Funny jokes and laughing all day
He’s real that’s why they say.
Milk and cookies
For the Big Guy,
He goes away with reindeers that fly.
White snow falling everywhere.
We’re going to need another
Season to spare.
It’s been a long time
I’ve got to say,
Now you know that I love
Winter Days!

Art by
JOAQUIN FISHER-RAMOS
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 8

WINTER

By ANDRE WILLIAMS
PS 47 | Gr. 5
In my country you will see
Congo trees and the big blue sea.
You see coconut trees while sipping tea.
You visit my country, that’s all
you visit my place, and never leave.

**MY COUNTRY**

By Skylar Rosado
William J. Duncan Center | Gr. 5

Art by
Benny Bowers
Harlem Center | Gr. 2

Kind I am
Even when
Nobody is.
You can
Always count on me.

**KENYA**

By Kenya Davis
Harlem Center | Gr. 3

Art by
Jared Fisher-Ramos
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 6
Art by
JOSEPH CRUZ
PS 48 | Gr. 1

Amazing big girl
Special like others
Please don’t judge me
Eating pizza
Nothing left over

ASPEN

By ASPEN WHEELER
Harlem Center | Gr. 2

Johniya
Smart, nice, polite, kind,
Family.
Curry chicken and rice
Grandpa’s
Rainbow

ALL ABOUT ME

By JOHNIA MATTHEWS
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 2

Art by
LUIS AURY S URBAEZ
Webster-Giannone Center | Gr. 3
Alarm

I am an alarm, I wake you all up with a ring, ring, ring.
I tell you “get up!”
You call me annoying and I even sing!
Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring.

ALARM

By BENJAMIN JIMENEZ
Michael J. Petrides School | Gr. 5
Food Family

Play me, why do they hate me McDonalds is tasty.
I love my family to death, I get no sleep bon appetite;
Smash a watermelon when I eat it
It taste like sweet heaven

FOOD FAMILY

By AMOSUN TOLUMALASE
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 7

Art by
FRANCISCO GUTIERREZ
Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. K
I feel like
I feel like a terrible sister.
I feel like a happy sun
I feel like a tired flower
I feel like a sad apple
I feel like a mad pencil
I feel like

I FEEL LIKE

By JAYLAAN TORRES
New South Bronx Center | Gr. 2

Share my toys
Helping you today
Amazing little girl
Natural all the time
Important as the sky
Young as the light
Always on task
Happy in the pool

SHANIYAH

By SHANIYAH CLAYRON
Harlem Center | Gr. 2

Art by
JATOBI INUMO
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 5

Art by
DESTINY ABINACER
MS 118 | Gr. 7
I will always remember PS 105
I will always remember the big gym
I will always remember the big green leaves on the trees
I will always remember the big auditorium, where the dragons come every Chinese New Year
I will always remember the big stage where I used to perform
I will always remember the big white columns in front of the big school
I will always remember my teachers
and I wish I could see it all again.

MY OLD SCHOOL

By YAAI CUI
PS 13 | Gr. 5
Blue is the feeling of sadness.
Blue is the feeling of loneliness.
Blue is the empty ocean.
Blue is the sickness in your body.
Blue is guilt grabbing your thought.
Blue is the tears slowly falling down your face.
Blue is the room spinning, after getting dizzy.
Blue is sadness.

BLUE

By RANIA LABDOUNI
PS 78 | Gr. 5
I like the ocean. The ocean is calm and relaxing.
The ocean is filled with wildlife and sea creatures.
The ocean surrounds your county. Everywhere you face
Is ocean, north-south-west-east. The ocean is filled
With mysteries.

OCEAN

By Nicolas Roodram
PS 48 | Gr. 5

Breakfast
Breakfast
Yummy, delicious
Cooking, sizzling, amazing
Best smell of the day
Tasty

BREAKFAST

By Jermaine Godson
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 3
Art by
CAMBRIANNA ANNE MATOS
PS 47 | Gr. 5
Cool as a fridge,
Better than a smidge
She doesn’t like to flee,
And is full of glee...
My Grandma

MY GRANDMA

By AMBERLY ESPINOZA
Michael J. Petrides School | Gr. 5

I have a nickel
I have a dime
I have a penny
But I don’t have time.
I go to the store
To buy something fine
I have another thing
On my Mind

NICKEL, DIME, PENNY

By DELMY CENTO
Port Richmond Center | Gr. 5
They scream black lives matter
But do we really matter
We walk
We talk
We don’t fall
Were the ones that always stand tall
Treyvon, Eric when will it stop
They’re killing us
I’m talking about the bad cops
We are so sweet
We will never be beat
Make it stop
Make it stop
The other ones don’t get what we got
Black Lives Matter

ART BY
TONAIYA JOHNSON
Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. 6

BLACK LIVES MATTER

BY A’NYELLE JACKSON
Port Richmond Center | Gr. 8
Hope is like a flower in a drought
Hope is like staying your ground if you can’t win.
Hope is like determination through weak-mindedness.
Hope can be anyone and everything.
Hope can be your strength or your weakness
Hope is like light in a shadow
Hope is for everyone
Hope

**HOPE**

*By JOSHUA DOREMT*

Pathways Prep | Gr. 8

Art by

**TONAIYA JOHNSON**

Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. 6
An argument is like a fire. When it starts, you get a warm feeling inside. That feeling is anger.

An argument is like a fire. When you add more to more to it, it gets bigger.

An argument is like a fire. There are only 2 ways to put it out.

You can let it burn out or you can put it out yourself.

An argument is like a fire. No matter how it goes out it will leave you feeling cold.

An argument is like a fire.

**AN ARGUMENT IS LIKE A FIRE**

*By Talise Peele*

*Pathways Prep | Gr. 8*

Art by
*Eseosa Osa*

*Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 4*
Here at Polo Grounds
We dance for hope
Here at Polo Grounds
We dance because we’re dope
Here at Polo Grounds
We dance and cheer for each other
Here at Polo Grounds
We practice to win.
When we have our shows.
Here at Polo Grounds
We are the Polo Angels.

HERE AT POLO GROUNDS

By Kaylee Luke
Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. 4

Art by
Miguel Bello
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 4
My name is Isabella
Spell it just like Cinderella
You should see the way I cook
Just come over take a look
I like singing dance and art
To the bottom of my heart
But sax most of all
Did I mention I am tall
My favorite season is the summer
But it’s short, what a bummer
Playing Sims 4 is fun
How many of me, only one

ME!

By Isabella Kwasnilki
Michael J. Petrides School | Gr. 5
My name is Heaven
Y’all can’t stop me
Try to guard me
Don’t go home crying to mommy and daddy
This is just a warning
I might be like magic
Throw off the backboard
Dunk on you like Jordan
Cross you and make you see Heaven

HEAVEN

By HEAVEN HART
Harlem Center | Gr. 5

Art by
AMARI DESRAVINES
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 4
Art by
MAMADOU BAH
Goldie Maple Academy Beacon | Gr. 5

I am from parties’ day and night
I am from cool tricks and flips
I am from delicious food and Spanish cuisine
I am from Latin dances
I am from loves ones that passed and
New ones who come

I AM FROM

By JAYLA NAPOLEN
Michael J. Petrides School | Gr. 5
It’s the snowy time you should know.
When it starts to fall and you say on beautiful snow.
In the spring the birds will sing and the big dove will come for love.
In the summer we have some fun.
Go to the beach in the beautiful sun.
In the fall play kickball such a pain when it starts to rain.

SEASONS

By ABLE TIMBO
Michael J. Petrides School | Gr. 5

Art by
LILY POTTER
PS 47 | Gr. 5
The Best in the world
Hello world here I come
Ever lasting hope and happiness
Special in every way possible
Unique in everything I do
Never resting hopeful boy
I am Thesun

I AM THESUN

By THESUN BRITO
Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. 6
Outside Your Shadow
Can I go into the bright sun
Circling at dusk as a hot day
Free in the earth. I can pass.
Made unaware of your soul.
Your shade encounters my
Direction. She’s an eclectic
Combination of moments of joy.
She’s dressed in plaid and
Jeans. No need to play coy.
As I see the sunrise, I
Relax and sit and watch.

OUTSIDE YOUR SHADOW

By JAZLYN RUIZ
PS 47 | Gr. 5

Art by
FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ
Webster-Giannone Center | Gr. 4
Up and awake late at night
Feeling scared and fright
Now that it is 3AM
When am I going to bed?

Something makes a sound from a far.
I look at the door it ajar
Now that it is 3AM
When am I going to bed?

Trembling with fear
As it comes near
Now that it is 3AM
When am I going to bed?

My pet hops on my bed
And licks my head
Now that it is 3AM
I am going to bed.

**KIDS!**

By KAYLA ROSE
Breukelen Cornerstone | Gr. 2

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3 AM

By SEBASTIAN HERNANDEZ
Port Richmond Center | Gr. 5
My friend is so nice,
We like to eat rice,
But we don’t like mice,
Because they are not so nice.

FRIENDS

By KLylie Rose
PS 78 | Gr. 1
It is Fall
Different color leaves,
All red, orange and green,
But the best part of it,
Is Thanksgiving and Halloween,
When the whole family
Can be seen
But the leaves fall, and fall
All into a pile, and then
Come times when you can
Jump, play and smile

IT IS FALL

By CHÉDIVERT ORTIZ
Polo Grounds Cornerstone | Gr. 6

Art by
ELISA YANG
William J. Duncan Center | Gr. 3
Halloween night
Not a soul in
Sight I hear
Foot steps who’s
That coming I
Want to start
Running who can
It be let me
See oh, it’s
Just my cousin
Trying to scare me.

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

By JASLEEN PAULINO
Webster-Giannone Center | Gr. 4
Night
I’m not afraid of the night
In my dreams I see a
Light
In the sky I feel like I
Might die
Far away in the land come
With me and I’ll show you
The way
Thunder crashes down on me
It’s too great for my eyes to see

NIGHT

By KAYDEN HUGHES
PS 47 | Gr. 4
The sky is bluer then blue.
   So true
Birds can be spotted.
Kites can be seen flying.
Clouds can be seen laying,
Fingers can be seen playing
With the clouds
Snow can be seen dropping
down
down
down

THE BABY BLUE SKY

By LUNA VARGAS
PS 47 | Gr. 4

Art by
DARCY LAZARRE
Pathways Prep | Gr. 7
PAL thanks the many talented After-School youth who submitted entries and illustrations for this year’s edition of the Poetry Anthology. They are all winners in our eyes, and we are excited to see how their poetic and artistic talents develop in the years to come.

The 2020 PAL After-School Poetry Jam and Anthology are made possible by the generous support of The William Talbott Hillman Foundation, The Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Affirmation Arts Foundation and DYCD, as well as, other generous individuals.

We also offer our gratitude to Community-Word Project for collaborating with us again on this project. We appreciate their continued support of our youth. Through this partnership we are able to strengthen the arts programming.

This anthology represents the best and brightest of the young voices at PAL. We invite you to join us in celebrating the talent and promise of all the youth who took part in our literacy and arts programming.
PAL AFTER-SCHOOL

Every weekday, PAL centers come alive as children burst through the doors for an afternoon filled with fun, excitement, learning, and camaraderie. Offered after the school day ends, the schedule is designed to accommodate working class families with child care needs. Activities are designed to reinforce school lessons, foster creativity, build positive character traits, encourage teamwork, and develop leadership skills. Over 3,000 New York City children participate annually.
The Police Athletic League, together with the NYPD and the law enforcement community, supports and inspires New York City youth to realize their full individual potential as productive members of society.

PAL’s philosophy is grounded in the belief that young people’s individual strengths and capabilities can guide them to mature, productive adulthood with our encouragement and commitment. PAL’s activities are experiential opportunities for young people to expand their horizons and realize their full potential.

PAL is committed to training staff in current youth development practices and works towards ensuring that all youth have a voice and an opportunity to succeed.

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POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

The best friend a kid can have