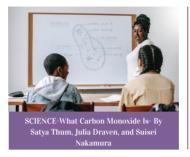
October 2023 Page 1

BTW: Here's the News

Schoolwide evacuation special edition







Carbon Monoxide In Booker T. Washington Middle school



Birds eye view of all Booker T. students and Faculty standing outside in their yard.

- Hazel Fienman

What Happened?

By Emma Gorvitz

On Wednesday, October 25 at 9:50 A.M., a manhole below Booker T. Washington Middle School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan caught on fire. The explosion caused tons of electrical problems all over the school and dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide in the basement of the school. In order to be safe from the chemicals in the air, all students and faculty had to evacuate the school. Everyone in the building first evacuated along 107 Street and Columbus Avenue, and then were moved to the school's recess yard. The students were told to sit down with their class and the teacher that they were currently with and stay calm. After about 2-3 hours, Fox 5 News helicopters started to make appearances above school grounds to take pictures of the students and staff from overhead. In Fox 5 New York's article on this event (https://www.fox5ny.com/news/nyc-stud ents-staff-evacuate-school-after-carbon-monoxide-incident), the author Amanda Geffner states that "all students relocated to a nearby school." As a primary source, I can report that this was not the case. Principal Dr. Elster's original plan for the situation was for half of the school to go to Mont Haul and the other half to go to a different nearby school, but this plan never actually occurred. This is a depiction of what happened at the school in a comic strip:



Booker T. Fire-Comic Strip - Nina Porter

Timeline of events

By Ella Edwards

- At around 9:40 ammhe lights started Flashing in all the rooms and naiways. At 9:48 AM the fire diarm starts ringing and the classes evacuate onto the sidewalk. 9:48 AM -At around 10:10 and, the students start to pile onto the feild as firetrudes arrive. Ataround 11: 20 am DIEISHER carne-10:10 AM but with a megaphone and announced that the mannoie had blown up and we'd need to evacuate to a different school. 11:20 AM "At around 12:00 PM students stanted to be brought inside to quickly gettheir belongings. At 12:20 pm+ne last rew students piled book onto the feild with b-12:00 PM ackpacis and the teachers with brones before Anding out they would not be evocuating to a different school. -At 12:40 pm the phones were handed out along 12:70 PM with school lunches. At 2:00 PM Staff arrived with 12:40 PM water for students without it 4 3:00 pm students were finding dismissed 2:00 PM to go home. 3:00 PM

My Experience with Mr. Beauvais

By Jamie Bontempo and Eli Sharett

When I came into the gym office to interview Mr. Beauvais, I realized that my experience was going to be less than ideal. He seemed cartoon angry at me as soon as I walked through the door. When I asked my third question he was so frustrated with me that Mr. Beauvais stated "I am going to [insert funny violent act here] you if you ask any more questions!" Mr Beauvais told me "You're not a real reporter. You're just a little short kid in an orange t-shirt!" After my "interesting" experience with my interview I collected some information from my peers and teachers. Here are some of the best quotes I collected. Ms. Saltzman said "He's out of control!" A student named Suisei stated 'He's an old man who should just retire already! He's crusty, dusty, and musty!" Lastly, Elliott, who came into the room after me, said "Mr. Beauvais told me to pummel you, Jamie."

Reporting From the Trenches

Today, while I was interviewing Mr. Beauvau I learned that sometimes interviews do not go the way you thought they would. My experience was less than ideal as Mr. Beauvau sometimes refused to answer my questions. At the end of the interview he was so angry at me I had to escape the room. This article will give you tips to help your experience go smoother than mine.

1. Always Keep Eye Contact If you keep eye contact with your interviewee they will take you more seriously and are more likely to answer your questions.

2. Give Them the Time to **Answer Your Questions**

Do not make your interviewee feel pressured and give them time to respond to you rather than quick firing questions at them. They will be more likely to answer you this way.

3. Do not ask Questions that Make them feel Uncomfortable

If you ask an interviewee a question that makes them feel uncomfortable they will probably not feel inclined to answer your question.

4. Do not ask More than Five Questions

If you ask more than five questions your interviewee might start to get bored and stop answering questions. Personally I like to ask a maximum of four questions when I am interviewing someone.

I hope these tips and tricks help you have a much better interviewing

experience than mine.

Teacher interviews By Emerson Holbert

I, Emerson, will be interviewing a primary source on this topic, the teachers! I started by interviewing Ms. Cohen, an ELA teacher for 6th grade in Booker T. I first asked what her initial thoughts were when the the fire alarm went off,

stay and work" she said

"I didn't have a class and we've been

having a lot of fire drills" "but I knew i had to go anyways". I also asked the same question to another teacher named Ms. Zilker a 7th grade math teacher for Booker T., she responded with "I thought it was a typical fire drill" she said "but surprised it was right before the bell rang" (bell is to indicate next period in Booker T.).

By the answers to this question it seems that the teachers thought it was just a drill like we've been getting a lot. Next I wanted to interview another teacher named Ms. Lichtman

who is the science teacher for "I wondered if I could teacher interviews 7th grade. I asked her a different question; in that what she did on the yard that day "I tried to keep the class calm and together" she said "I also got to play games later, which was fun". I even got a answer from Ms. Zilker for this question where she answered in "I made sure everyone got a snack while also doing things like braiding hair and playing Mafia". Based on the answers of these questions we can see that

teachers though having to do work could

also have some fun.

The inside scoop: What really happened? With Dr. Elster

Abby Brown, and Smith Valente



Booker T Washington Middle School Principal, Dr. Flster

On October 25, 2023, on the Upper West Side, the public middle school, Booker T Washington had a manhole fire and carbon monoxide leak. We've heard a lot from the kids, but here's what the teachers have to say, including Booker T Washington's principal, Dr. Elana Elster.

We were able to interview Dr. Elster about yesterday's events. Dr. Elster was watching 705's math class as this all began. As you might know, minutes before the fire alarms went off, the lights, all throughout the building, began to flicker. At the time Dr. Elster thought nothing of it, it's an old building, she said. But once the fire alarm went off she knew something was wrong and immediately went into the hall to figure out what was happening. Where she ran into the dean of Booker T Washington, Ms. Orcher, which is when she learned smoke had come s inside the building



A photo of Booker T Washington Middle School

Dr. Elster had to make the tough decision, against the wishes of her superintendent, to keep the children of Booker T Washington in the recess yard instead of evacuating to two other schools. She made this decision for multiple reasons. If we had split the school into two and gone to the evacuation sites all of the students would have been sitting in the auditorium for three hours with nothing to do. The weather was nice, we had access to food, water, and bathrooms so Dr. Elster made the decision to stay put.

Dr. Elster said the most challenging part was not knowing what was going to happen, would the students be allowed inside the building at all? Could school happen the day after the incident? Would the students need to be sent home? These were some of the thoughts running through her mind.

The inside scoop: What really happened? With Dr. Elster

Abby Brown, and Smith Valente

Dr Elster also shared a little bit about the school's **Building Response Team** (BRT) and the carbon monoxide levels that were recorded overnight. The **Booker T Washington** Building Response Team is lead by the vice principal of our school, Ms. Lynch, and includes Dean Orcher, Dr. Elster, and Ms. Pejovich, the parent coordinater. This team met up before school the day after the crisis to discuss that if something like this were to ever happen again what they could do better. Over the night after the accident the carbon monoxide levels were measured in the basement of the building. Around 1:00 AM the level dropped to 0 PPM (Particles Per Million), and the highest point throughout the day was 16 PPM.

Dr. Elster was not the only faculty we interviewed. We interviewed one of the schools security guards and 705 homeroom teacher, Ms. Misthal.



To them we asked only two questions- what was your first thought when the fire alarms went off? And, what did you think when the lights started to flicker? When the fire alarms went off, the security guards first thought was to evacuate the building. When the lights went off he, like Dr. Elster thought nothing of it; he thought it was simply the power going out. When interviewed, Ms. Misthal didn't think much of the fire alarms or lights. She thought it was most likely a

fire drill and that the lights were just flashing because of electricity problems. Ms. Misthal even joked that she thought the lights flickering were, "a ghost in the building".

When asked if she had anything to add, Ms. Misthal stated "I will never forget that day". Dr. Elster really illustrated why Ms. Misthal might say this, by saying, "In all my 37 years in the DOE (Department of Education) this has never happened".

What The Students Experienced

By Emily Bagirov

Everybody was evacuated from the school building on October 23. However we all have different experiences of the event. Here is a closer look at what some people saw, thought and felt during the evacuation:

When the fire alarm sounded, some people were relieved to have a break from school. "I

didn't feel like going to school

class 705. Mika (705) was just really happy." suspicious of the alarm, I because they just don't classes." Said Hazel, in became clear that the "saw the firefighters"

Many people

that day." stated Cat, from the also comments "Thank god, I

However, some students were thought it was a real fire, set off the alarm in between an interview. Eventually it alarm was real when people (Reina).

theorized that the fire was

caused by "a problem with the gas." Comments Romain from 606. Unfortunately, many people also said, "Honestly, I thought it was someone vaping in the bathroom, because we had drills for that reason before." (Hazel 705).

The general opinion of the public seems to be that the faculty "could have done a little better" says Yangmo from 606. She also adds that "Some people lost their water bottles and could not go back to get it." This is an interesting decision since we were allowed in the building for some time. Cat also says that "It would be just easier if we were just sent home." And many people seem to share her opinion. Students also complained that more of an effort should have been made earlier for food and drink. In conclusion, there were many varying experiences during the evacuation and all tell a story of what really happened.



OPINIONS The funny side of the fire

By: Mika Hadas, Lia Goldman, and Peter Skorney



On October 25th, 2023 a once in a lifetime crazy event happened in the Upper West Side middle school Booker T Washington located in NYC. A manhole had exploded right under the school at around 9:40 AM leading to hundreds of staff and students grade 6-8 having to evacuate the building, and stay in the Booker. T. Washington yard for over 5 hours! These long 5 hours were filled with concern, complaints, cries, sweat, and.... Laughs. Yes you heard us right, the long and hard five hours were filled with many funny sayings and events from both teachers, students, and staff around the yard!

Photo taken by Booker T Washington student of all the students in the vard

Due to the hot temperature outside, numerous students including Mika Hadas, Lia Goldman, and Peter drank lots of water resulting in them needing to use the restroom. Luckily Anibal Aviles Playground had a bathroom right across the street! Here are our Mika, Lia, and Peter's top 10 things they heard as they were waiting for their turn to use the Anibal Aviles Playground bathroom by anonymous middle school students.

Starting off easy we had a lot of talk about being happy that school was "over" for the day with kids saying At least I missed my double period" which in Booker T Washington Middle School means the same class twice in a way for 2 periods.

"Best day ever! I had the worst schedule today!"

"Thank god. I didn't study for the test I had this period."

Another thing that was heard quite a lot was kids talking about running away!

"I can't believe he ran away" Talking about a kid who made a run for it on the way to the bathroom

- "I might make a run for it to the deli really quick."
- "Do you think the fence is low enough to climb over?"
- "Do you think I could outrun Dr. Elster?" Talking about the Principal of the school.

Then we had some more random talk the students saying

- "The school is about to blow up" It in fact did not
- "The bathrooms are so bad I might piss in the bushes"

"Oh my god I hope my phone is okay!"

Quotes from the teachers

Now that you've heard from the kids, lets ask the staff of Booker T what the funniest thing they saw or heard was to give us another perspective of the humor that happened during this crazy event.

- The funniest thing that Ms. Desantis heard was when a student asked her "can I order grubhub for lunch?"
- -Meanwhile, Mr Barton overheard was a student saying "I hope the whole school burns down. Just not my phone."
- -The quote that made Ms. Saltzman laugh was when a teacher came up to her and said "excuse me, but a student just got pantsed over there."
- -Ms Cardona said she almost burst out laughing when Mr Behar said on the megaphone "If you don't pick up Garbage, you are garbage!"
- -Ms Sun thought that it was funny when the whole school stood up and yelled "Help Us!. Help Us!" at the newscopters

YARD GAME NEWS

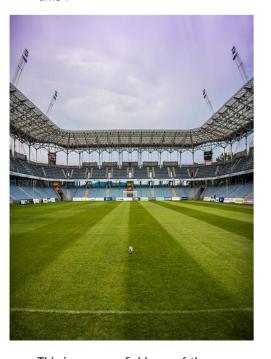
Yard Games to Play in a Crowded area: Reviewed



One of the games we reviewed was football and this is where Air Force college football plays their games

Concentration: 8/10

Concentration is a game where you chant words in a category and the first person to mess up loses. Many of our fellow students were seen playing this game in the yard yesterday. A teacher at Booker T. Washington Middle School named Ms. Foster quoted "It helps a lot to pass the time".



This is a soccer field one of the games we suggested to not play

Mafia: 10/10

One of the best games to play to relieve stress and have fun during a difficult moment. This was a more popular game yesterday and both the writers of this article were playing it. You can play by one student choosing a mafia, angel and cupid. The mafia chooses someone to kill, the angel chooses someone to save from dying and the cupid chooses two people to be in love and if one of them dies then both of them die. The innocents try to vote out the mafia before they all die and if they vote out the mafia the round is over and they win. A student in the seventh grade named Daniel said, "Great game to play, it really passes the time and relieved the stress of what happened yesterday." about mafia.

Telephone: 6/10

Many teachers love this game. Furthermore, this game is very inclusive and many people can play at one time. However, after a period of time the game begins to get tedious and boring. To play telephone, someone spreads a message to one person who spreads it to the next one and so on. Sort of like gossip at Booker T! The last person to get the message says it out loud to see if the message is the same as how it started. Ms. Foster quoted "This game helped students be quiet and listen."

Truth or Dare: 4/10

Somewhat fun but not very inclusive as only two people get to interact in the game at once. You play this by asking someone truth or dare and then giving them either a truth or dare based on their answer.

Football/Soccer: 2/10:

Most of our interviewees thought that the yard was way too crowded and disorganized to play soccer in.

Mr. Beavou quoted that "the yard was way too crowded and someone would get hurt." Both of these sports are contact sports where your goal is to score points.



Mafia was one of the games we reviewed and this is a cartoon mafia hoss

This is how crowded it was when we were reviewing these games



By: Jamie Bontempo, Eli Sharett

SCIENCE

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

By: Julia Draven, Satya Thum, & Suisei Nakamura

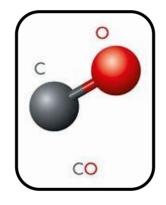
Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is created when gasoline is burned. Appliances and machines that don't have functioning ventilation systems can result with buildup at very dangerous levels. Appliances and engines that aren't well vented can cause the gas to build up to dangerous levels. A tightly enclosed space (like a school) makes the buildup worse.

Carbon monoxide consists of one carbon atom and one oxygen atom connected by a triple bond. It is the simplest carbon oxide. In coordination complexes, the carbon monoxide ligand is called *carbonyl*. It is a key ingredient in many processes in industrial chemistry.

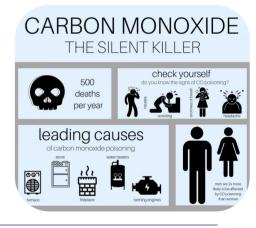
Symptoms Of Carbon Monoxide

By: Satya Thum

"Carbon monoxide poisoning is a chameleon in the medical world," Rod Brouhard, an EMT-P stated in VeryWellHealth. Its symptoms mimic many other conditions and there is not a single symptom that is the gold standard of all carbon monoxide poisonings.

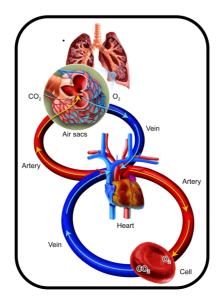


Carbon monoxide causes symptoms such as fatigue, headaches, confusion, dizziness, and sometimes even death. In terms of risk, unborn babies, infants, elderly people, and people with anemia or with history of heart respiratory disease are most likely to experience health effects with exposure elevated levels of carbon monoxide.



What Carbon Monoxide Does to Your Body

When breathed in this chemical is highly hazardous, due to the fact that they bind with hemoglobin in the blood. This reduces the ability of blood cells to carry oxygen around the body.



The most common source of carbon monoxide is the partial combustion of carbon-containing compounds. Numerous environmental and biological sources generate carbon monoxide. In industry, carbon monoxide is important in the production of many compounds.

Upon emission into the atmosphere, carbon monoxide affects several processes that contribute to climate change. However, carbon monoxide has many different values for living organisms. It is produced by many organisms, including humans.

SCIENCE

How Can I Stay Safe?

By: Julia Draven

Keep any machines that operate through fossil fuels outside during and after usage. Make sure cars are only turned on during active usage.

If you start showing key symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, leave the area and go to a location with good ventilation. Contact a physician if needed. Purchase a carbon monoxide detector, (prices range from 20-100 dollars). Keep your detector clean and filled with fresh batteries. Replace as often as indicated by the manufacturer.

Carbon monoxide detectors come in all shapes and sizes. Round, square, small, big, and much more. Carbon monoxide detectors typically have two led lights as well as a main button.

They do not require electrical connection and operate on batteries.



Poisoning is deadly! Stay Safe!



OPINIONS

A Letter to Fox 5

Written by Catherine Koeppel and Estelle Mao

Dear Fox 5,

Yesterday morning, one of your reporters, Amanda Geffner, published an inaccurate and unreliable article written about an incident involving a carbon monoxide leak at our school, Booker T. Washington Middle School. The article incorrectly states that all students evacuated to nearby schools and that nobody got injured. As M.S. 54 students, we would like to state the facts more accurately than Geffner, considering she was not present. As primary sources from the incident, we can confirm that there was no evacuation whatsoever to any nearby schools. All students and faculty remained in the school's field, which you can see in the picture provided in the article. Another incorrect piece of information in Geffner's article is that "The FDNY reported that there were no injuries". Students passed out and were unconscious due to heat exhaustion and dehydration after sitting in the sun for hours on end. Two students in our class twenty five, within a school of nine hundred, suffered after sitting outside. Elliott Kuff, one of those two students, felt dizzy and severely dehydrated. Olive Katz, another student in our class passed out and remained unconscious on the grass for multiple hours, making the claim in the article completely incorrect. On behalf of our school, we would appreciate it if your team and the author could correct the article, because Fox should be a trusted source, and it is really important to ensure this. If this is not possible, it would at least be helpful if you let the author of this paper, Amanda Geffner, know the information she incorrectly published on Fox's website. We thank you not only on our behalf but also the school's for considering us.

Catherine Koeppel and Estelle Mao Booker T. Washington Middle School Class 705

Reply Much???...

Unfortunately, Fox 5 did apparently not feel the need to reply to our email. We are still waiting for a response from them, as they have chosen to "ghost us". If not too bold, we think this is irresponsible of them, as they posted an inaccurate and unreliable article for the whole world to see, and do not stand to be corrected. We will definitely update if we receive any further information or any replies, but for now... stay tuned!

If you have any questions, ask us in person or email us at our school emails! (We would never not respond, unlike Fox 5:(...)

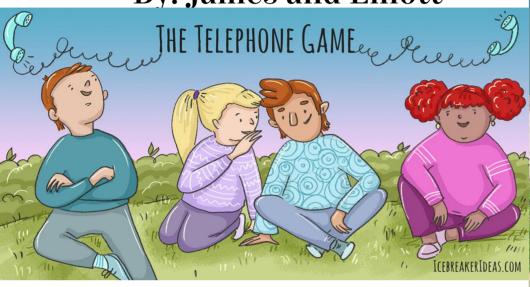


Amanda Geffner, Fox 5 Reporter, Incorrectly published unreliable article



YARD GAMES NEWS

How to play the games mentioned By: James and Elliott



Quack Diddly Oso

Quack Diddly Oso is a game made for lots of people. It is a lot like hot potato with the last person to have their hand slapped is out.



Truth or Dare being played

Truth or dare.

Truth Or Dare is a game that is great for getting to know others. In truth or dare you choose someone to start. This person will ask ank someone else (truth or dare?) if you choose dare you are asked to complete a challenge of an others choosing and if you choose a truth you will have to tell a secret of an others choosing.



Werewolf and Mafia are two very similar games. They are both about killers. The point of the game is to find the killer. There are roles like healer who saves people about to be killed. The difference is that in Werewolf you can make roles but in Mafia you stick with the roles given.

In Telephone, the point of the game is to pass the message clearly to one person to another without any mistakes. It is a teamwork game that is very fun with a lot of people.



This is a picture of Bob The Weasel being played. In Bob The Weasel one person stands in the middle of a circle and closes their eyes for 5 seconds. Next they open their eyes to see the others passing around an object discretely and the person in the middle has to guess who has the object if guessed correctly the person with the object switches and goes into the center of the circle and the game repeats.

OPINIONS

What The Evacuation Looked Like For Students.

By: Jamie Lynch

It was a beautiful, perfect day on October 5, 2023 on the Upper West Side. Students and faculty of Booker T. Washington Middle School were in the first period of the day when the lights started flickering. The class 705 thought nothing of it. The principal, Dr. Elster even said that the school is an old building, and she thought nothing of it as well. Around 2 minutes before the bell was going to ring, the fire alarm went off. Because the entire school had practiced many fire drills before, the class carried on like it was just a drill. Many people began freaking out though we began the organized walk into the hall. It smelled like smoke. But, everyone was kept organized and filed outside. We lined up in our classes and patiently waited for the sign to go back in.

Once it became clear the sign would take awhile to show up, the whole school filtered into the yard next to the school, by class and grade. A firetruck and emergency truck was outside the school, so many people were worried. A fire drill consists of getting up and leaving right away, so everyone left their belongings, which caused kids to worry more. After an hour of sitting in the yard, the students and faculty were cleared to go back in, retrieve our belongings and come back out quickly. Everyone came back out and ate lunch. The teachers handed out the phones and Dr. Elster allowed the kids to run around and play, if they wanted to. The very responsible faculty handed out water and lunches to survive the, what felt like, 90° fahrenheit.

It is now the next day and the cause of the fire was identified. A fire started in the manhole under our school and caused carbon monoxide, from the pipes, to be released. Carbon monoxide is life threatening and would be very unsafe to keep 900 kids, and staff in a building where there was a rise in the amount of the gas. Mainly, I'm glad everyone and everything is okay. We owe a big thanks to the staff and Booker T. Washington for keeping us safe.

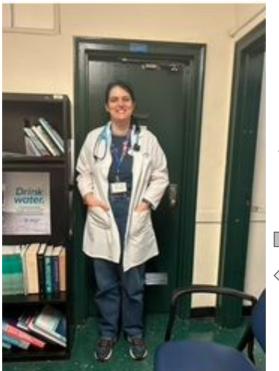
OPINIONS

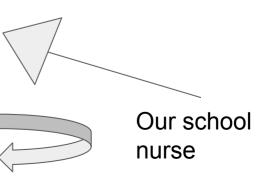
Why it's Important to Have a Trained Professional

Written by Olive Katz

Yesterday on October twenty fifth at Booker T Washington on 107th street we had a crisis. There were unstable carbon monoxide levels in the building of Booker T Washington. Having unstable carbon monoxide levels is extremely dangerous because if you breathe it in you will die. We all then had to evacuate the building around 9:40. All the staff and students were in the school yard in the blazing hot sun. Many students started to feel ill as there was no water or food in the vicinity. The students that were ill went to the nearest trained professional, which was the school nurse. The school nurse named Kaitlyn helped many students that were suffering. She found water and food for them. Without her many of the students most likely would have fainted, and that would have added so much more stress to everyone.

Speaking from firsthand experience I almost fainted from dehydration and the heat. Nurse Kaitlyn was able to stop that from happening because she knew what to do. She was able to figure out my needs since I was unable to communicate them to her. She gave me food and water. In the end, without these trained professionals things most likely would have escalated even further causing even bigger chaos.





YARD GAMES NEWS

More of our favorites By: Elliott Kuff



1..2..3..4..5..6..
7..8..9..10! READY?!

of kids playing tag. Tag is a very popular yard game known all over the world where one person starts as "IT" if you are "IT" you have to chase the others you are playing with and if you catch and touch/tag them then they are "IT".

Welcome to Hide And Seek one of my favorites! In Hide And Seek on person starts as the "Seeker" this person will close their eyes and count for a certain number of seconds and when they are done counting they look for the others who have taken the time and precisely hidden around the area of choice.

This is Marco Polo a game usually played in a pool but also can be played in a yard. In Marco Polo one person will be selected as "Marco" they will close their eyes and yell "Marco" repeatedly and the others will yell "Polo" the goal is for "Marco" to find all of the others by sound.

Never Have I Ever

In Never Have I Ever everyone must form a circle then the first person will say "never have I ever" followed by a simple statement about something they have never done and anyone who has done what's said must complete a challenge.



This is Never Have I Ever being played



You can also try to race your friends to see who is the fastest as shown in the picture above

YARD GAMES NEWS

More games for you to play with friends By Daniel Strott



Rock paper scissors

Rock paper scissors is an original game that everybody knows. You and one other person has to choose between and they all have to listen to rock paper or scissors. Some counter for example paper counters rock,rock counters scissors and scissors counters says and giving them a task. paper

Scissors eats paper

Classic game of rock, paper, scissors

Simon says

Simon says is a game where there is a group of people one person. That one person has to try to get everybody else out by saying Simon But if the person that is Simon doesn't say Simon says then you don't do what they say.



Duck, duck, goose

Duck, duck goose is a game where everybody goes into a circle and one person gets picked out to tag someone around the circle. They have to get to the space where the person they tagged sat before they get tagged.

Heads up Seven up

Heads up seven up is a game where seven people are picked and the others have to put their heads down. Those seven people have to pick seven other people. Then those Seven people have to guess who picked them.

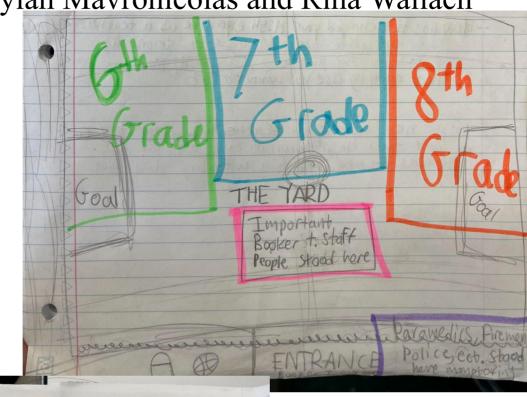


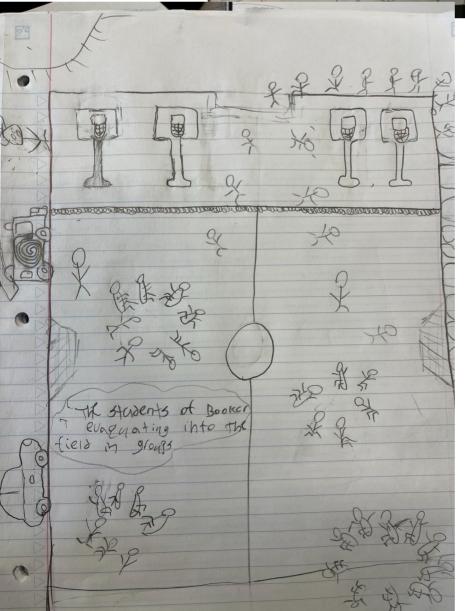
Aliquip ex ea commodo conseguat.

What the scene really looked like:

By Dylan Mavronicolas and Rina Wallach

The sections in the yard where everyone was seated, students and faculty.





What the yard looked like, a more descriptive view of the students.