



# Seeing Beauty

Princeton Elementary School

Orlando, Florida  
2008





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A Photography Exhibition of Princeton Elementary School  
Photographs taken by Room 159 & The Fifth Grade Girls' Photography Club.

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*Seeing Beauty* is a photographic exploration about learning to see something that we encounter everyday in a new way. These students did not bring back photographs of boring flowers or cliché pictures of friends saying cheese. Instead, through their images, they show us the beautiful world in which we live—differently. Through the process of their pictures they were patient, open to discovery, and chance. Their images show us a unique way of seeing. This freedom to take risks and listen to their own voice empowered them.

Photography brought out the best in my students. They didn't walk out the door with the camera - they ran. When they took pictures, they were engaged and creating something new. I became aware of how proud they were of their work. Their level of engagement in photography surpassed what I'd seen from them otherwise. I began to wonder, with the emphasis on bubbling in multiple choice tests and answering short response questions—mainly in reading and math... exactly for what are we preparing them?



In the prism of human intelligence the areas of reading and math are slivers, and at the same time connected, not separate, to other fields. The global challenges we face—fresh water supply, alternative energy and connecting with other cultures, for example—will need creative problem solvers. Yet, the data driven and widespread assessment that we currently employ nationwide limits and traps students.

This became clear to me when children reading up to 3 years behind grade level could create beautiful images and describe their meaning. Or a child who is newly vision impaired was at ease talking about his favorite picture. It felt very good to allow these students a platform on which they could be successful. Yes, the reading part is very important, of course; it should not be ignored. There is nothing wrong with multiple choice and short answer tests as part of a broader spectrum of evaluation, but do we assess in this way because it is easily quantifiable? If so, what are we missing in the process? How is this effecting our students? Isn't our goal to give them self-efficacy, voice and competence? Isn't education freedom? Yet through our acute assessment, many children are taught they are failures at a very young age.

Watching my students eagerly learn—every single one of them—helped expose me to a new part of them. I began to see each of them a little bit differently.

And maybe they began to see each other in a new way too. The following images are all theirs, born of listening to their own instincts and voice.

Dowell Bethea  
4th Grade Teacher, Princeton Elementary School  
2008

## Shape Wonderland

By Leonardo Pena

The picture I see kind of looks like all different shapes: pentagon, hexagon, triangle and trapezoid. I walk through and feel it. I see a hexagon, and then another. I go to the pentagon and then a triangle. It feels like there's a wonderland of shapes around me.

One shape is talking to me, like the hexagon saying, "Hello, I have six sides and I have 6 vertices." Then the triangle comes in and says, "I have three sides and three vertices." There's a house that looks like a pentagon. Then the pentagon comes out of its house greeting me.





Leonardo Pena



# The Little Girl That Sat on the Stairs

By Jamie Lockett

When I set up a picture, it's like I already know the picture and have met the person.

This time I am taking Clara's picture, so we go to a bench and sit down there. The bench didn't feel right. After we took that picture we went to the stairs by the portables and she sat down. I had her not smile. It was the right lighting and the right colors.

The place was just right. Even the right shade. It had trees right by the portable.

I love making lovely pictures.

I had Clara put her hair behind her neck and face her head a different way. It was a good point of view and angle when I took this picture. I think I did an outstanding job and so does my teacher.

I tried to use a reflection, but that just didn't look right.



Jamie Lockett

# The Moss Tree

By Jacob Fontes

I see the world sideways.

My picture is a tree with moss.

It shows emotion because I tilted it.

It would be boring if it weren't sideways.







# No Smile Abbey

By Jamie Lockett

When I started taking my pictures I had to make sure that it was the one I wanted.

I tried to find a place where it had enough lighting—it was hard. But I found a way to do it. I picked the little park.

I tried to make it sizzling and hot.

I just asked Abbey to sit down and do nothing; not even smile. Abbey was seated right in front of the slides. She had on a nice yellow-green jacket.

It was like I captured her in a moment she was thinking about an answer—*focused and the right style*.

The background was nice and pretty. The sand at the park was the right shade and everything! I thought she was going to move. I thought she was tricking me. She wasn't. It had base and contrast. It was cool how I got it like that.



Jamie Lockett



# Handrail

By Clara N. Mueller

My photo of the railing is supposed to bring a three-d effect.

What's unusual about the photo is I put the arms in the background not the foreground. It makes it hard to know who is in the photo. You wonder is it me? No, it is Kenley.

Kenley's arms and the railings are similar. Can you see that?

Reach out and grab the railing... but it's a photo not the real thing.



Clara Mueller

# Spy

By Marquisha Humphries

Do you know what my picture is?

Everyone says it's a box; it is.

But what kind of box? I bet you can't guess.

It's a metal box and it looks like a spy box when you look through the hole.

I tried to see what was inside and I got under it and took my picture.



Marquisha Humphries



# Leaf Grass

By Clara N. Mueller

Can you see the grass under the leaves? Look closely, very hard... Now can you see it?

I set the picture up because I saw some grass sprinkled with brown leaves. I tilted the camera so it would look like a wall of leaves. Then I snatched two handfuls of the leaves and asked Kenley to put her hand on the leaves.

Kenley worked with me on both my pictures. She was really helpful.





Clara Mueller

# The Rough and the Smooth

By Alex Carpenter

I walk down the side walk and look at the corner. I see a wall and the gutter side-by-side. The wall feels rough with dents and scratches. When I look beside the gutter it shines--smooth as marble and slick as water. I approach to take a picture.





# Sun School

By Kenley Mills

I'm walking to school

All happy and joyous. I look

Up and see a glare popping

Off the school window. With my

Camera in my backpack

I decide to take the picture.

It seems a little crooked

But that makes it perfect.





# Self Portrait

By Jacob Fontes

The picture of me is in the upstairs boy's bathroom.

I love the pattern on my left and right sides and behind the mirror on the wall.



Jacob Fontes



# Shadows

By James Turner

The shadow is of me.

The background has rectangles and squares together.

The foreground is of me, trying to get a good picture of my shadow and my camera all together.



James Turner

# Smiling at Myself

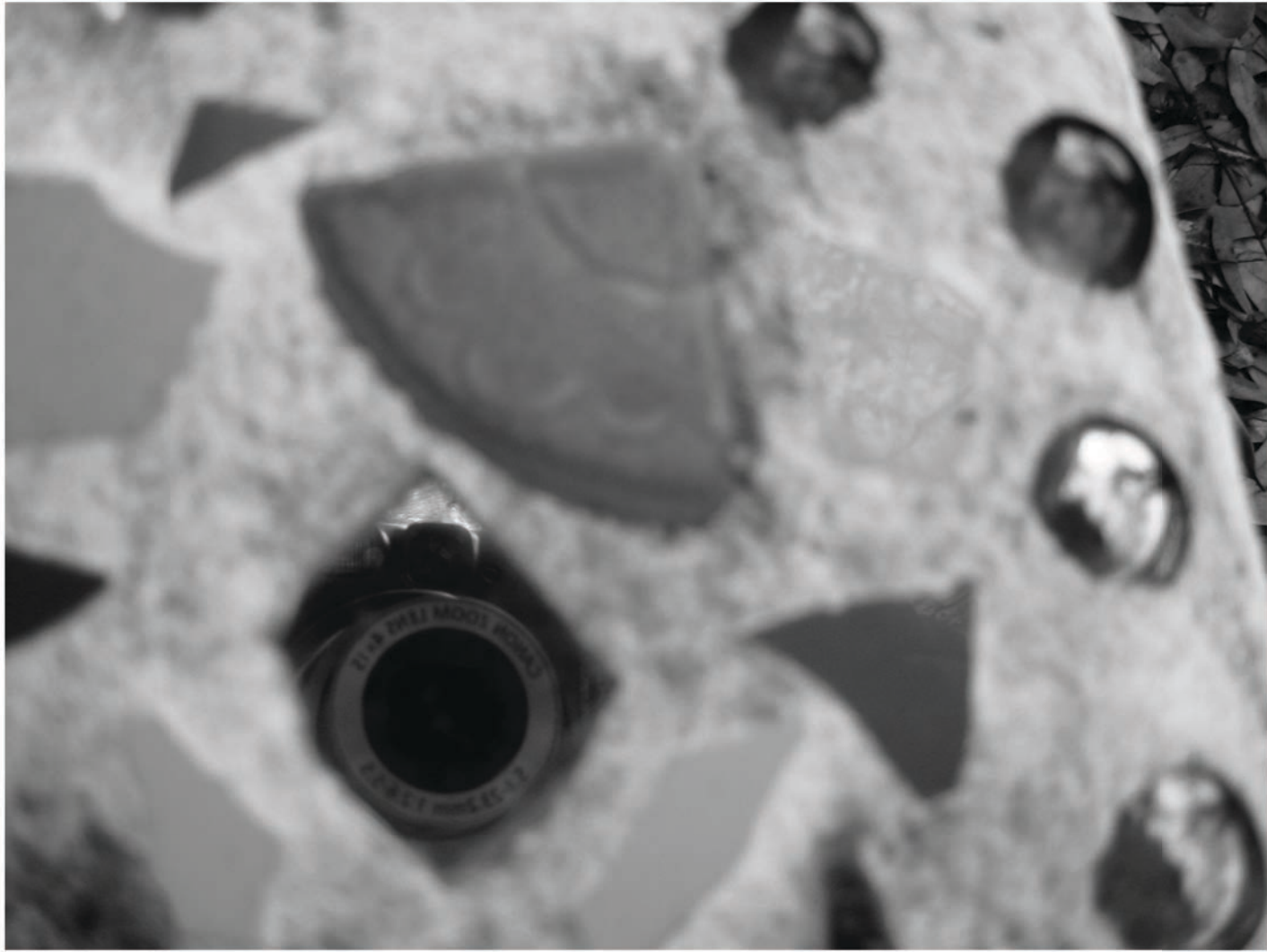
By Abbey Brunault

I raced around with my camera in hand, starting to take a photo, but then not knowing how to put my twist on it. This frustration reminded me of the sketches of picture ideas in my thoughts. Nothing seemed to come with endings.

Crunch. The crackle of mulch underfoot brought me back to planet Earth. Without knowing it, I had wandered over to an area with backless cement benches. Pushed into these seats were shimmery, colored marbles and shards of broken mirror. There were words written in the center, but I couldn't make out the scratched letters. I thought long and hard about what I would do with the benches and then it came to me.

My fingers scrambled into place on my camera, almost dropping it and my feet sped me over to kneel on the bench surface. After I got into position, I rapidly pressed the button to snatch my photograph. I looked back at my picture. I took a close up of the bench, and in one shattered piece of mirror, there was my camera, smiling at itself.





# Sunlight

By Mattaiah Pierce

As I walked, I found a hole in the roof overhead.

I looked through it and saw beauty,

so I took a picture.



Mattiah Pierce

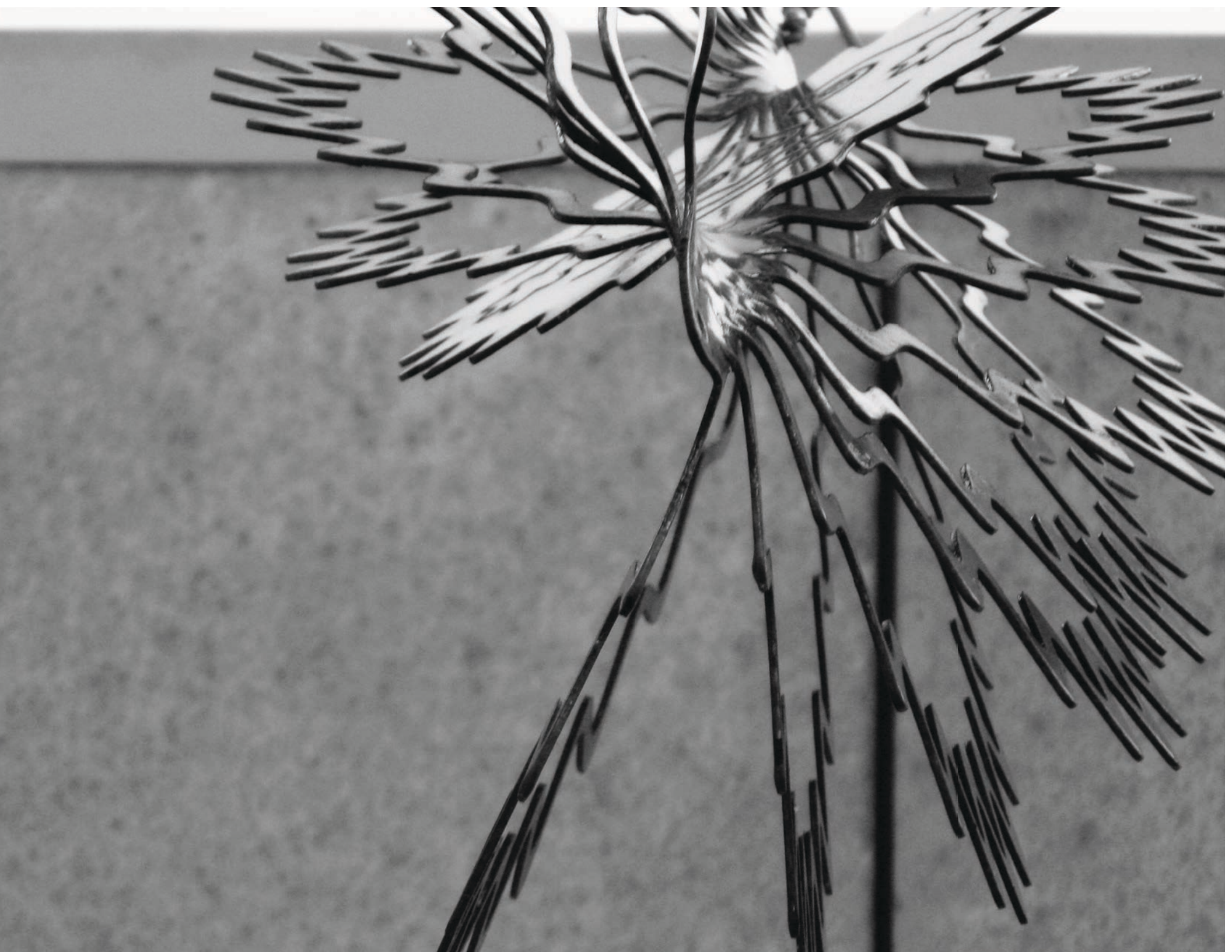


# Wind Moving in Different Ways

By Demi Murphy

The wind moving in different  
Ways. Making all of the suns twist  
And turn with repeated patterns.  
Lively with the sun beating  
Down on the children.





# Leaves

By Emily Chavarie

Up, up they go. Then down,

Down. Millions on the

Ground, little in the

Air.

Bright but dark.

Shining through.





Emily Chavarie



# Walk on the Line

By Demi Murphy

Marching along our school's yellow line.

The wind blowing pushing us forward

To move along.

Every corner is surrounded by other

Living things.

Nothing is still and nothing is

Calm.

All the leaves have lived and

Now fallen

Onto our school's

Sidewalks.



Demi Murphy

# Fresh White Kicks

By Larry Shepard

My shoe is white.

My shoe is slanted.





Larry Shepard

# The Face

By Matthew Wemple

My portrait is someone that I saw walking by me in the hall. I asked him to stop so I could take a picture of him.

I zoomed in all the way.

I took the picture and thought he looked relaxed.

I didn't mean to cut off his head and his chin, but to be honest, it looks better.



Matthew Wemple



# The Paper

By Robert Herndon

I thought that the composition of this piece was interesting because in a way it is paper on paper.

I also thought the meaning is very interesting because it is saying not to litter.



Robert Herndon

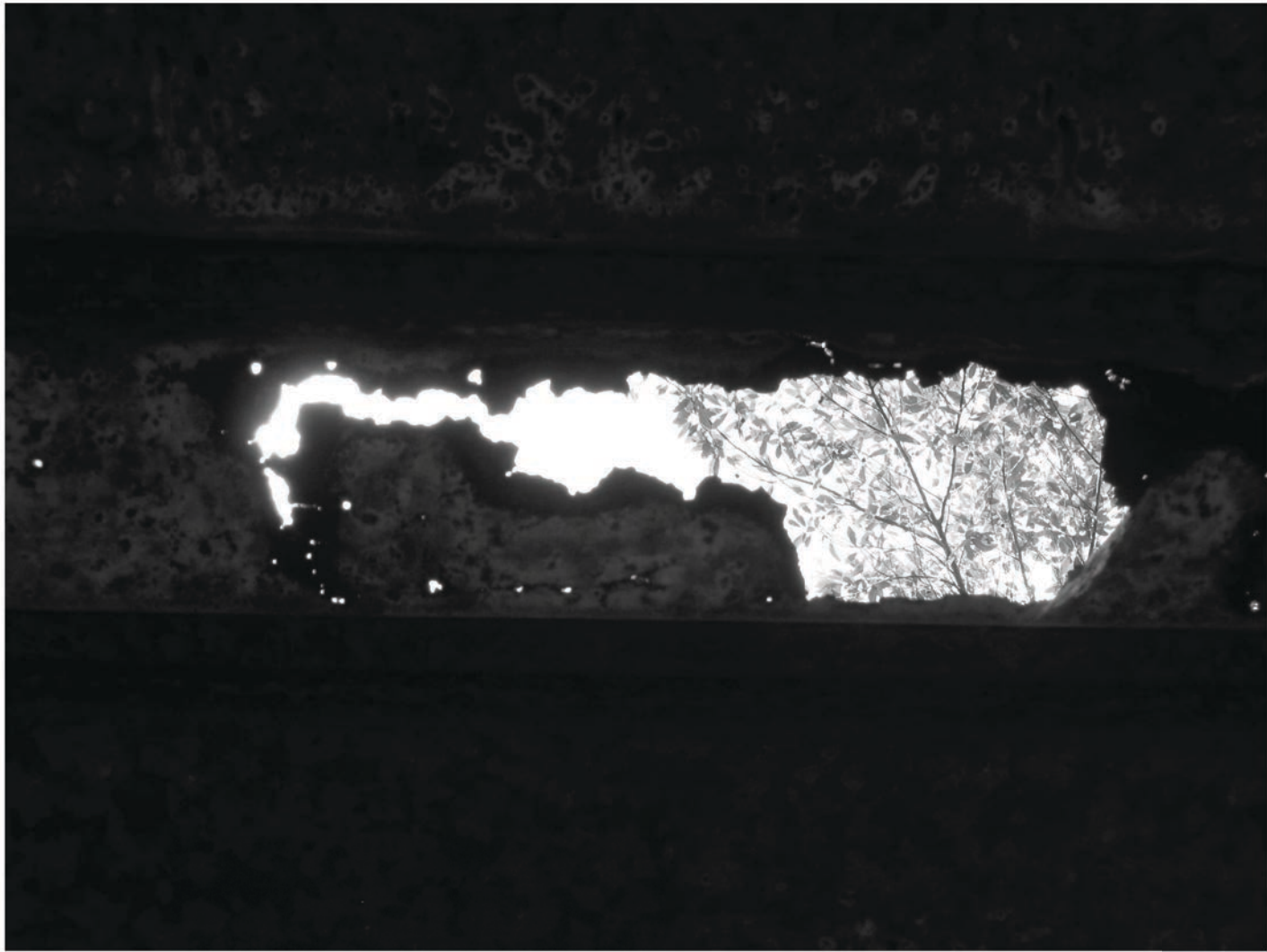
# The Pot

By Matthew Wemple

The picture is taken in the walkway of a hole in the ceiling. To me the picture looks like a pot or Captain Hook's hook. But what makes my picture unique is that you can see the tree in the background and in the foreground there is a pot or hook.

By recognizing depth of field in my pictures I now see it in my everyday life.





Matthew Wemple

# Skateboarding

By Ian Day

Roses are red, violets are blue.

I like skateboarding.

I hope you do too.





# Walk Through Life

By Cassie Barron

Instead of going in the elevator, I went to the stairs.

Step by step in the hard journey. Easy going down, but harder going up.

Many stories or just one, but I would make one up for fun.

Find something fun to do like skipping down and up.

After a long journey at last you step off the last step

Then walk away leaving the hard journey behind you.



Cassie Barron

# Silly Face

By Johnny Eberwein

It's plain to see what this face really likes to do.





Johnny Eberwein

# A Family of Chairs and a Little Boy

By Cassie Barron

A family just sitting.

A family that is used for sitting can be one just like us, with parents, siblings and pets playing the sitting bet game.  
Betting on who will be sat on next.

A family on sturdy land, a family on sticky land too, having fights, having discussion and 'stuck in the mud.'

Someone pulls them out with a mighty tug. Then sitting on the chairs, having a relaxing time.





Cassie Barron



# Reflection

By Mattaiah Pierce

A puddle drew my attention. It had a reflection of a tree and of the building. I set up the camera and took the picture.











# Metal Tube

By Stephen Cody

This is the inside of a drain pipe. The way the light is makes me feel like I have been trapped in a cave for months and have finally found an exit.

You can't tell what it is, so it makes you think.



Larry Shephard

# My God is a Good God

By Larry Shepard

Crucifixion

Resurrection

One

Shadow

Sad





Ross Mills

# Leaf from a Tree

By Ross Mills

Leaf, oh sweet leaf

That fell from a tree.

Make some shelter for me.

Please oh please.

When the wind blows you will fly

Peacefully to a new world.



Abbey Brunault



# What a View

By Abbey Brunault

A lime green preying mantis picked its way through the tall stalks of grass, so slowly that it looked like someone took a video of him and replayed it in slow-motion.

With its neatly folded front legs, the mantis gently pushed the long strands aside, which seemed to be getting thicker and more like gigantic buildings than grass. Then suddenly, the crumbly earth gave way to a slope and the slender insect slid down a stalk.

It realized that it was no longer in the grass, but the center of a huge, cup-shaped spider plant. The preying mantis turned its teal, berry-like eyes toward the sky and saw the bright glimmering sun, which blanketed it with warm, golden rays.

Even more amazing were the never-ending plant stalks. They stretched up far above the mantis, some with buds and flowers topping them like Maraschino cherries top sundaes.





# Jail

By John Eberwein

She's done for.

She's finished.

She's in trouble I say.

It's good because she's there for only one day.





Emma Crowder

# Growth

By Emma Crowder

Everything grows.

The most beautiful way of growth to me is the growth of Mother Nature.

To make nature so beautiful and special with love.

Everything beautiful all together in one picture.







# Two Palms

By Jordan Boulnois

It's light somewhere? Not the

Ground, not in a cave. But

Under the palms

Where we lay.

The sun is strong. It shines

Right through the great two

Palms

Where we lay.



Jordan Boulnois

Brielle Findley

By Brielle Findley

When you look at a crossing guard what do you think of? Maybe a bright neon yellow and orange vest warmed by an everyday person working their job?

I think about a determined person working to keep crossing the streets safe. Imagine the world and its number of unfortunate events increasing without people willing to be a crossing guard.

Next time, thank a crossing guard for their service, time, and hard work.





# Lizard

By Patrick Carter

This lizard is in the sun getting warmed up.







# Basketball

By Jac Crowder

I wanted people to see shapes from an ant's point of view.

Circle, square, rectangle and triangle.

I lay on the ground and tilted my camera up towards the hoop and made sure I got a lot of patterns in my view.

Then I took the picture.



# Satellite

By Ian Day

Oh, what is that high in the sky?

That's a satellite I spy.

A satellite with harmony.

A satellite enjoyed by many.





# Empty

By Brielle Findley

An empty auditorium waiting in the quiet darkness for kids to bring sound and noise to the cold atmosphere.

You must think what these chairs think. Maybe a countdown or a plea for help?

You also think what the kids first think as they join the silence. Maybe, "I wonder if my best friend is here?" Or, "Are they selling smencils today?"

But you never know.

Does it matter?

If chairs would speak what they heard today, many secrets would be spoiled like a century old apple. But once the kids leave, the chairs soak up the peace and silence once more waiting to see what is in store for tomorrow.





Alex Carpenter



# Environment's Harmony

By Alex Carpenter

Who knew that the simplest of pictures can show you so much?

Look carefully at this tree centered at the Princeton School. I get close and look up and see the sun's rays seep through the tree's branches. When I stopped to take the picture I figured out that the sight represents harmony in the environment.

Leaves separate to let a visual of nature's sky. The sky reveals the environment's path.



CANON ZOOM LENS 4x IS

6.8-27.2mm 1:2.8-5.9

4x  
OPTICAL  
ZOOM

8.0  
MEGA  
PIXELS

Larry

By Jacob Fontes

This is a picture of my friend, Larry.





Cassie at work





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