



The Lustig Letter



VOL. 1, NO. 7

THE SCHOOL ISSUE

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REPORTING FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Sudbury Valley School

Adelina, a student from Sudbury Valley School, sat for an interview. At Sudbury Valley, the kids run the school. The kids decide what they learn, what time they come to school, and even whether to fire teachers. This interview is absolutely crazy amazing.

The Lustig Letter: Do you learn math?

Adelina: No. One of the things about our school is there are no classes, you just learn whatever you want.

The Lustig Letter: Can you have a food fight at school?

Adelina: We bring our own lunches. Sometimes we have bake sales. But no, we don't have food fights.

The Lustig Letter: Can you watch YouTube all day?

Adelina: Yes, you can watch YouTube.

The Lustig Letter: Have you ever fired a teacher?

Adelina: No, all our teachers are quite nice.

The Lustig Letter: What's the worst thing about your school?

Adelina: There are some bullies.

The Lustig Letter: Do you think it's going to be hard when you go to college?

Adelina: I think I'll be ok. I'm smart-ish.

The Lustig Letter: What happens in school if you misbehave?

Adelina: There's a judicial committee. If something happens it is put to the judicial committee and they decide what the punishment is. You can get referred. You can potentially get expelled. Stuff like that.

The Lustig Letter: What time do you have to be at school by each day?

Adelina: 1 PM.

The Lustig Letter: Is there a dress code?

Adelina: No.

The Lustig Letter: So, you could come to school in a bikini?

Adelina: Yes.

The Lustig Letter: At our school the girls have to wear skirts. And the boys

have to wear collared shirts and pants. Does your school have a principal?

Adelina: No, just staff.

The Lustig Letter: Do you wish you went to a regular school?

Adelina: Definitely NOT!

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. ROBIN



Zoey and Coby



Lauren Eskreis-Winkler



The Lustig Letter: Can you tell me something that will make me and my friends want to quit our school and join your Forest School in Thailand?

Mr. Robin: Our school starts at 10. You don't have to get up that early in the morning. And we don't give homework. The school is in Bangkok, a beautiful city. It's always warm, it never gets cold. We have ducks, chicken, fish, and hug bullfrogs. We spend a lot of time outside. The best thing about the school is that the kids are very kind. If there's a new kid that comes to our school, they're always welcome.

The Lustig Letter: What is the craziest thing that ever happened during forest school?

Mr. Robin: We like to invite people from the outside to come teach our kids. We've had an ambulance come. The kids go into the ambulance, check out, turn on the alarms. When the fire department came, the kids played with the fire engines and shot water from the water cannon. Another time, the [lesson] theme was about dangerous animals. Someone came with venomous snakes, but the snakes were in bottles.

Another time, one of the rescue workers arranged with his friends to bring an old car. This was a broken-down car that was not being used anymore, but the windows were intact. The kids

practiced how to escape from a car that is broken down. Like, if you're in an accident, how do you get out of a car? The kids were invited to smash the windows of that car.

I think those were among some of the most exciting things we had happen.

The Lustig Letter: What is the hardest part of being the principal of a forest school?

Mr. Robin: I'm not the principal of the school. My wife is the owner and principal. For her, the hardest job is to manage all the things that she has to do. She's designing the curriculum, she has to do the marketing, she deals with the government, she does the financial stuff. Some parents are sometimes unhappy or want something different for their child. So, I think for her, managing all these tasks [is the hardest thing] and still to keep it all together. There are so many things to take care of on a daily basis.

The Lustig Letter: Has anyone in your school ever been stung by a bee during forest school?

Mr. Robin: No, not... not that I remember. What we do have are a lot is mosquitoes.

The Lustig Letter: Has anyone in your school ever been bitten by a mosquito during forest school?

Mr. Robin: Yes, definitely.

The Lustig Letter: What are the most

dangerous mosquitoes that you have?

Mr. Robin: Like, mosquitoes that have dengue fever? No, we just have the normal ones.

The Lustig Letter: Can you tell us something about your school that you've never told another reporter?

Mr. Robin: The location we're renting for the school was previously owned by a policeman. What we found out later was that he was involved in a diamond heist. Allegedly he stole a big diamond from Saudi Arabia, and brought it back to Thailand. Maybe there's a big diamond hidden underneath the school. We're still looking for that.

The Lustig Letter: For school, is there a bathroom inside or outside?

Mr. Robin: Both.

The Lustig Letter: Do you have forest school outside if there's a tornado?

Mr. Robin: There are certain conditions when we have to stay inside. Sometimes the PM2.5, the fine dust particles, get very high. So we move everything inside. We haven't had any tornadoes yet. We have thunderstorms during monsoon time and there can

be flooding. Bangkok is built on a swamp. So, every now and then, yes, we move inside.

The Lustig Letter: Thank you for the interview!

Mr. Robin: We're ready for you whenever you want to come. I'm sure my son Gandhi would be happy to have you join our 4th grade. Whenever you want to come over, you're very welcome to. to come and see us in person here.

The Lustig Letter: Unfortunately, we live about 8,000 miles away.

Mr. Robin: Yes, it's quite far, but if you ever come to Bangkok, you're very welcome to visit us.

Business Phone: (847) 563-8061
 Email: Debora@spotlessdogwash.com
 Business Address: 1121 Emerson St. Evanston, IL 60201

Hours of Operation

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 Thursday - 8:00 am-5:30 pm
 Friday - 8:00 am-5:30 pm
 Saturday - 8:00 am-5:30 pm
 Sunday - Closed

Grooming by appointment only. Wednesday - Saturday 7:30 to close

Contributors



Contributor. Jordyn Hassan is 10 years old. She enjoys art,, dance and hanging out with friends. She is so much fun!



Contributor. Sid Goldman is a fun-loving kid who joined the newspaper staff for a day. She snuggled in a hanging chair while she wrote her articles.



Managing Editor. Abie baby Lustig is almost 1 year old. When he is not gurling, screaming, or sleeping, you can find him typing away madly on his computer keys. He does not realize his computer is always off.



Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder. Bevy Lustig is 9 years old. When she is not interviewing people, formatting *The Lustig Letter* in Canva, or pitching newspapers out her minivan door, she can be found doing backflips. She is a little obsessed with gymnastics.



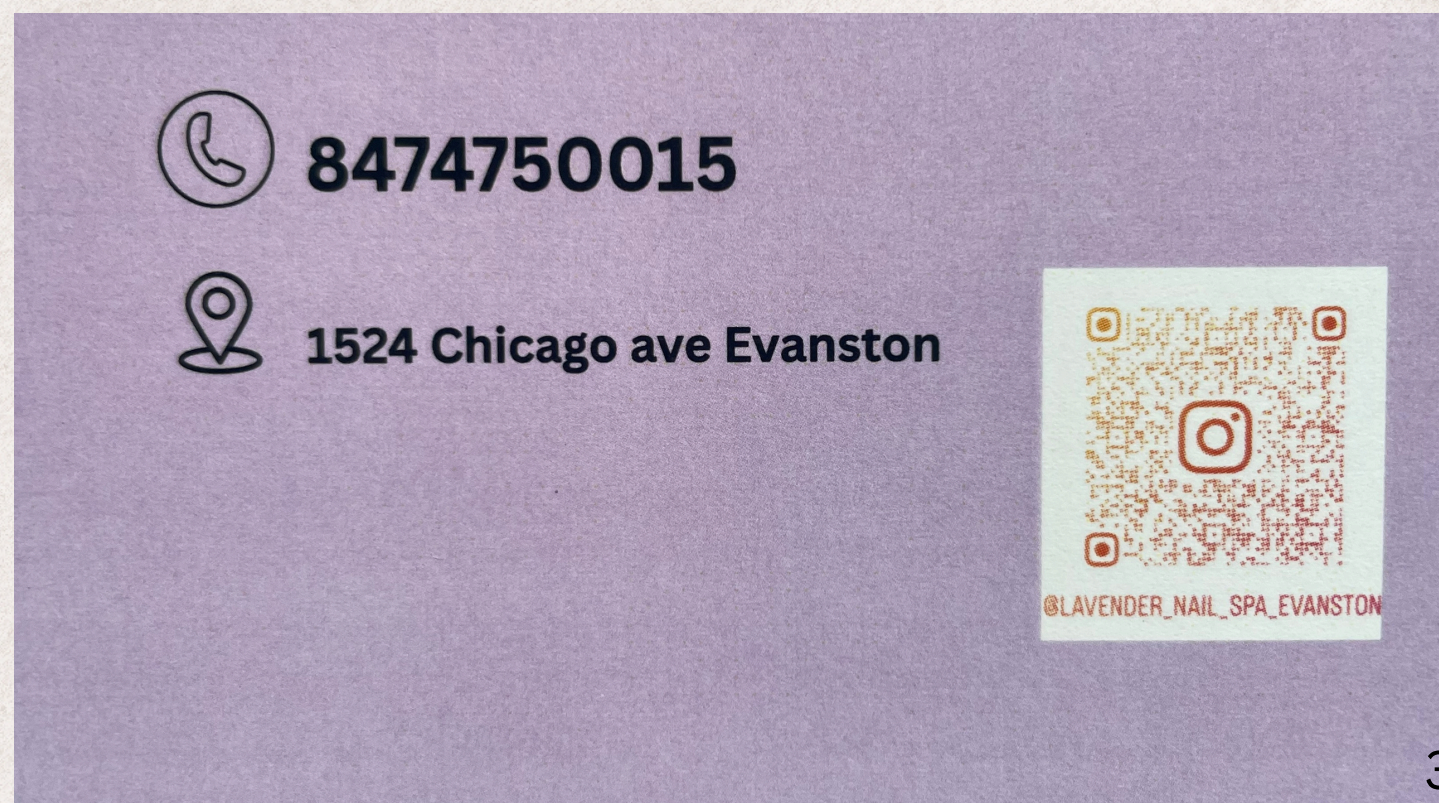
Contributor. Sara Hassan is 10 years old. When she is not super busy with real school and homework, she spends her time discoing to the music. She loves to dance and act and dances at Kaleidoscope Dance!



Advertising Executive, Contributor, and Co-Founder. Evie Lustig is 6 years old. She is sweeter than sugar. When she is not selling ads, she can be found doing accents and traveling the world. Evie is curious about everything.

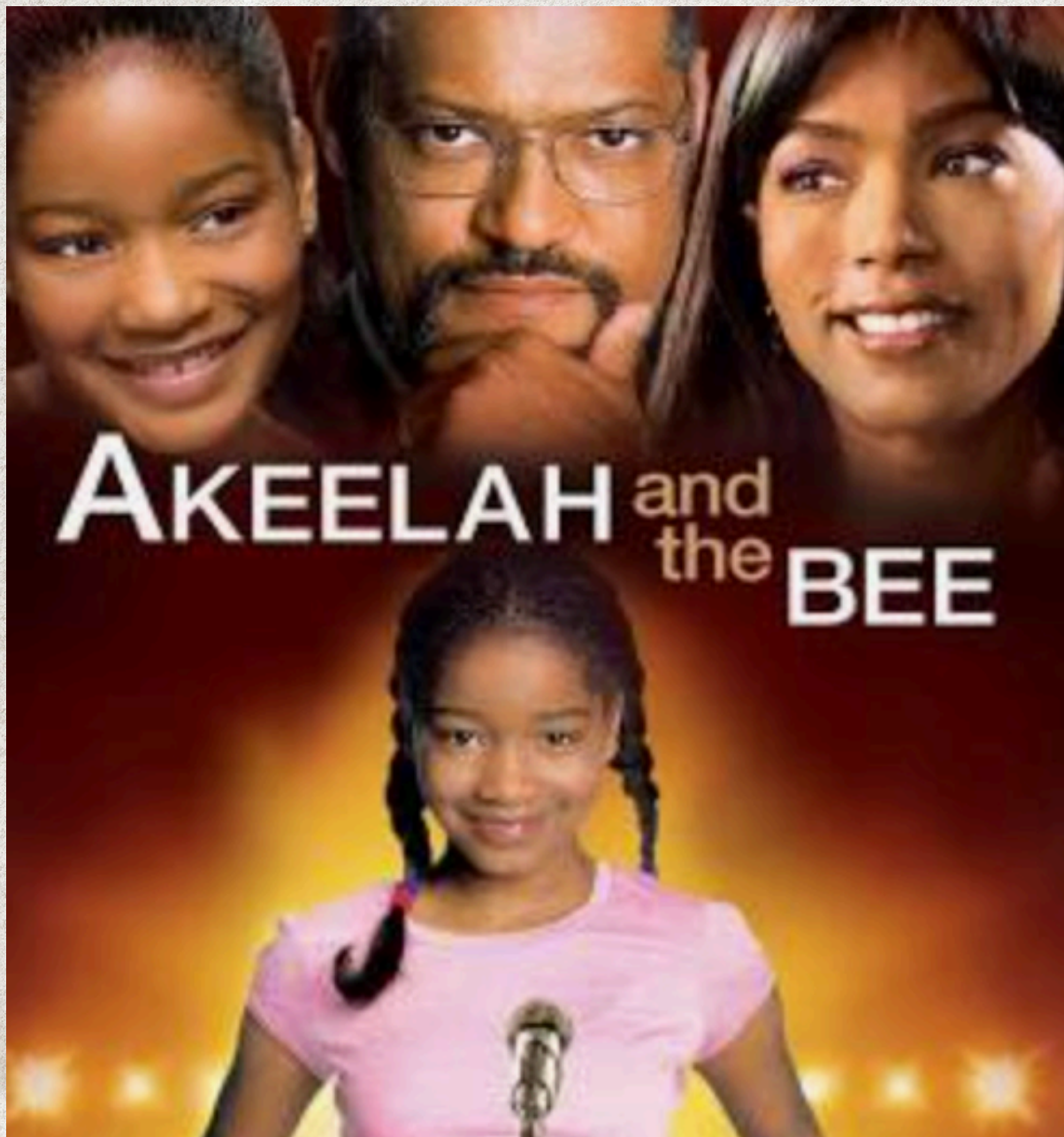


Contributor. Miriam Teitcher is 9 years old. She can be found acting in school plays, doing art, or reading Harry Potter.

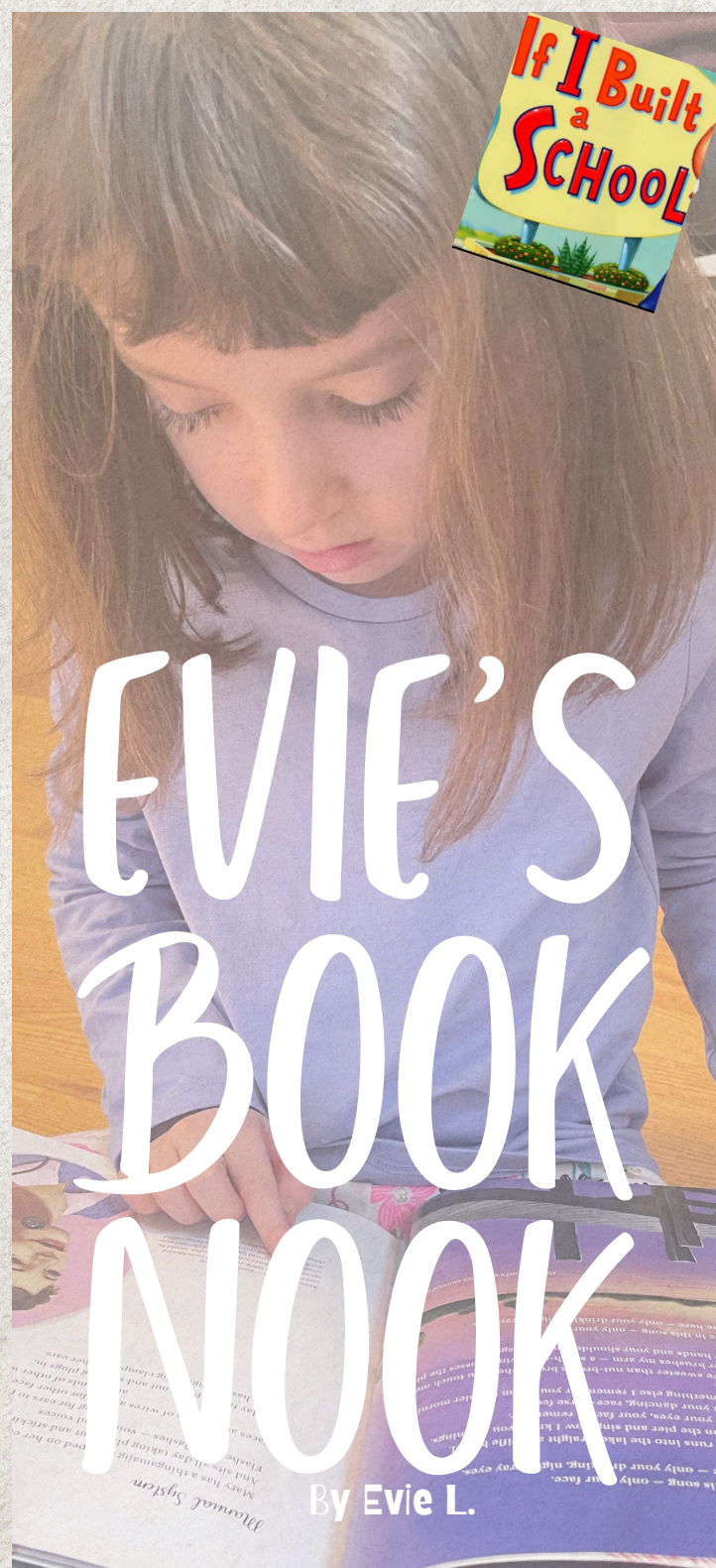


Movie Review: *Akeelah and the Bee*

By Bevy. L



Akeelah and the Bee was a fantastic movie. Akeelah is the main character. She is amazing at spelling. She has a school bee and wins first place. Then she moves on to a different spelling bee with a few schools from the area, and then moves on to nationals. I don't want to spoil anything, but this movie has some twists and turns! I recommend this movie for kids ages 8-14. This movie is not scary.



One time I walked into a library and I saw a very cool book. It's called *If I Built a School* by Chris Van Dusen.

In this book, a boy named Jack dreams up a school. At his dream school, you go into a pod, press a button and it takes less than 10 seconds to get to your classroom. At Jack's school you can write in the air, the roofs open, and the desks float. If you open a book, the pictures pop into real life and you can climb into them. There is sky diving during gym and for lunch, you speak through a microphone and order any food you want. I would want a sandwich.

That's Jack's dream school. If I designed a school, I would do it a little different.

For lunch, I would know what everyone in the school likes and I would put those foods in the machine ahead of time. For recess, I would make the slide lower than Jack's slide, because his is so high it's a little scary. Also, I wouldn't put a zoo in my school the way he did. Because animals can bite and you could be allergic to them.

H o m e s c h o o l v s . S c h o o l

By Sara H. and Jordyn H.



Today I was invited to homeschool with some of my friends. Which do you think is better, school or homeschool? Maybe you are thinking homeschool because there are no strict teachers and you can do anything. But can you?

That's what me and my friends had to figure out. We went over to Bevy Lustig's house since she does homeschool and we tested out homeschool. We had an amazing time! It was just like school, but at home.

First, we interviewed a girl who goes to a school where kids are in charge.

You are probably thinking I'm making this up but I'm not.

After the interview, we did a taste test of different school snacks. Then we watched a movie called *Akeelah and the Bee*. The movie was about a spelling bee and a girl who was good at spelling. It was a great movie! At the end of the day, we made a list comparing school to homeschool. Then we voted for which was better. There were two mats and you stood on one mat to vote for school and the other mat to vote for homeschool. Everybody ran over to the homeschool mat. We all loved it. I am guessing you would love it too!

S N A C K T A S T E T E S T

By Bevy. L
Miriam. T
Sara. H
Jordyn. H

Today we taste tested different school snacks. We tasted a variety of snacks and rated each snack from 1 to 10.

Of all the snacks, our favorites were the Yoo-hoos. We went crazy with the Yoo-hoos.

Everyone rated the Yoo-hoos a 10. The cheesy crackers got 6's. Most of the Larabar ratings were high 8's. According to the first graders, the lemon Larabars were the best, "but don't eat too much or you'll get a tummyache."

The pretzels got low 9's. The fig bars averaged 7.5. None of the big kids tasted the pouches. But the first graders did. The first pouch was blended. The second pouch had little balls. The third pouch was not liked by anyone. According to the 1st graders, "the third pouch was kinda for babies."

We hope our grading helps you pack some great school snacks! This concludes our homeschool snack review.

