

2010-2011

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Puja Vengadasalam Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist Puja Vengadasalam with teacher Margaret Gumina.

Puja Vengadasalam, Riley School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her illustrated journal of letters documenting a road trip with her family entitled, "My Best Road Trip," has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, Hometown Heros or to the *Observer* at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2011.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

My Best Road Trip

Written and Illustrated by Puja Vengadasalam

Journey Begins....
South Plainfield,
New Jersey
Dec. 26, 2009

Hi Katrina,

We are going on a road trip. I will send you postcards from every place I go. That way it will feel like you are coming too.

We are going to visit the Statue of Liberty tomorrow. It will be lots of fun.

Love, Puja

Ellis Island, New York
Dec. 27, 2009
Statute of Liberty

Dear Katrina,

The Statue of Liberty is so cool. I liked her blue-green robe. The best of all is the torch. It looks like golden fire.

It says she is a symbol of freedom. I think she's a symbol of America.

We are going to the city named after the first president next.

Your travel friend,
Puja

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 29, 2009
Washington Monument

Dear Friend,

I am in the city of museums.



P.S. We are going to the first president's home tomorrow.

Mount Vernon, Virginia
Dec. 31, 2009
George Washington's Home

Dear friend Katrina,

We went inside George Washington's house. It was awesome.

We saw lots of animals in the estate. We also watched some movies. I liked the one about the crossing and the war—we had pretend snow bubbles falling on us.

I feel so proud about being an American.

Love,
Puja

P.S. We are returning home tomorrow.

South Plainfield
New Jersey
Jan. 1, 2010

Dear Katrina,

We are HOME!!! It is good to be back.

Our road trip is over. It was so