

May 15, 1998

Dear Harvard School's Trust,

Thank you for donating money to the third grade. On May 5th we went to the Boston Herald and took the Boston Underground tour. The Underground tour was fun. We did a lot of walking but we learned a lot. Did you know that the wooden carved pictures in the T station represent industries from the 1800's? For example, there was a picture of shoes that represents the big shoe industry in Boston.

Our tour guide said that a really sad thing happened on the old one person escalators. A girl was sitting on the escalator and her leg got caught in the space between the escalator and the railing. Her leg was ripped off.

The T colors were red, blue, orange and green. The red was for the crimson red of Harvard University, the blue was named because it went under the harbor, the orange line was named because it used to go under Orange St., and the green lined was named because it went to parks.

Do you know why the manhole covers are round? We do! Workers have to take out the manhole covers and work in the manholes. The manhole covers will not fall back in because all the sides are the same. Mrs. Moore said that Ninja Turtles would come out of the manholes. Before Boston was developed it was mostly swamp lands. Even buildings today are resting on wooden planks and water.

When we went to the Boston Herald our tour guide showed us the warehouse and he said there were about eight thousand newspapers in a crate that get shipped all over the country. When we went to the room with the printing presses our guide told us when the printing presses were about to be turned on a bell rang to warn people to put on their ear plugs. The presses sounded like trains running on the tracks.

In the layout room we saw the May 4th layout of the Boston Herald. Our guide let us read the funny pages. They were really funny. We learned that the funny pages didn't get written at the Herald. They were just purchased from individual comic artists.

On the second floor of the Herald our guide showed us the developing room and there was a one hour developing machine. Our guide also showed us a computer program that they use to change the picture into different shapes and sizes. They gave us printing plates that said, "WELCOME HARVARD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS." We hung the plates in our classes. I never knew newspapers could be so cool!

We learned enough to write a book about Boston. Unfortunately, Mrs. Babat said we're running out of time so we must end this letter. Thanks again, and we look forward to our Logan Airport trip in June.

Sincerely,
Matt Bohan,
Lydia Maurer,
Reed Harasimowicz, and
Derrin Jarvis
(third grade students on behalf of the third grade)