



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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## CONGRESSMAN JONAH RYAN VISITS KEENE ELEMENTARY

By Robby Esterbrook, 4th grade

Mr. Jonah Ryan, who is in Congress, is a very tall man who gets angry sometimes. He visited our 4th-grade classroom at Keene Elementary last week to talk about being in the government and then I interviewed him for this article for the Keene Elementary News newspaper. This is the interview. He had two other grownups with him, a fat one and thin weird one. I think they are in government too. When Mr. Ryan wasn't looking they would laugh at him and make faces.

R: What's it like being in government?

J: That's a dumb question. Ask a different question.

R: How tall are you?

J: Okay, I'm gonna answer the first question. Being in government is very hard but very important. I do a lot of powerful things to make laws and spend money. People should vote for me because I do good things for New Hampshire, and I'm very smart.

R: Do you think there is too much homework?

J: No. I didn't like homework when I was your age, but I did it anyway, and now I'm in government, so homework ended up being good to do.

R: I don't like homework. Why did our hamster die?

J: I don't know. Hamsters die, that's just a thing that happens. Like grandparents.

R: What?!

J: Never mind that. I didn't say that.

R: Is my Grammy going to die?

J: No. I misspoke. Your Grammy's going to be fine.



*Congressman Jonah Ryan Illustration by Aiden Bixby, Grade 2*

R: Why did you say that then?

J: Let's talk about something else. Stop crying. Please don't put that last part in this article. Ben, make sure that doesn't go in the article.

B: I can't do that, Jonah. We have a thing called the First Amendment.

R: What's the First Amendment?

J: I'm going to have to look that up and get back to you.

R: Do you remember when you bumped your head on the lamp when you came in the room?

J: Yes. Please ask questions about government things.

R: It was funny.

J: It was funny to you, because you're a kid, and kids think stupid things are funny.

R: Those two other grownups were laughing.

J: I think they were coughing. They work for me, and they know that if they laughed at me, I could fire them.

R: You went pee in the boys' room before. I saw you there.

J: I know that. Don't put that in your article.

R: While you were peeing you made a fart.

J: That's something that people do while they pee, but it's not something you put in articles.

R: What foods do you like to eat?

J: I like pizza and spaghetti with meatballs and French fries.

R: Those are things kids like.

J: That doesn't mean I can't like them too. I like them in a grownup way.

R: What did you just do with your nose?

J: I brushed it with my hand. Please ask questions about government.

R: You picked your nose.

J: No, I brushed it with my hand.

R: I can see booger on your hand.

J: That's a mole. It's not nice to make fun of people who have moles. I had cancer.

R: You just wiped the booger on the desk. That's Mrs. Friedus's desk. She's gonna be mad at you.

J: Can we have another kid interview me?

R: No, I won the grammar bee so I get to interview you.

J: Aren't you supposed to have a list of smart questions to ask, instead of about farts and nose picking and your Grammy?

R: Okay, here's a question from the list the teacher made: How can New Hampshire provide services to depressed rural counties without instituting a tax on W2 income or raising the existing taxes on dividend and other investment income?

J: Okay, forget it, no more questions from the list. Put the list away. Let's talk about pizza some more. What kind of pizza do you like?

R: Cheese?

J: Do you mean you like extra cheese, or just you like the kind with only cheese?

R: I don't know. What's it like being in the government?

J: It's very hard and difficult. All your parents should vote for me. I need to stop this interview to go back to Washington and do more Congress stuff.

R: Thank you, Mr. Ryan for visiting Keene Elementary and doing this interview.

J: Thank you for having me.

(Mr. Ryans standed up here and bumped his head on the lamp again. He said a word I didn't know and everybody laughed.)