

Student **Mia Joy DeRose** (takes Kindermusic and Piano Lessons at Music Institute of Long Island)

Our family lost everything in the flood, especially since it was a ranch with only one story. This included of course extreme structural damage to the house, but also we lost all furniture, clothing, toys, books, tools, audio and visual equipment, appliances, carpet & wood floors, washer/dryer, heating & hot water systems, etc. Flood insurance will only pay for attached items to the structure, but no personal items like furniture. Even our large backyard deck area is gone. We have been living place to place for the time being.

We recently purchased a piano for Mia, from a relative, which was originally Mia's great grandmothers and had great sentimental value to us. Needless to say, salt water (which was contaminated with oil and possibly sewage) did come up at least a foot on it. After the storm, but before the rip-out crew began to gut the house, my piano mover/repair/tuner man, came and took the piano away. We had to pay money for it to be moved and he said he has special treatment for the wood and strings to be repaired which we are not sure of the cost yet. All we know is the piano is safe somewhere.

All in all we are in dire straits trying to keep things as normal as possible for our lovely Mia Joy.

Thank you.

Student **Elizabeth Markov**

On the night of October 29, 2012 Hurricane Sandy hit New York City, which killed more than 100 people, left thousands of people without homes, more than 8 million of homes were left without power and heat.

We live in Brooklyn, near the shore on Sheepshead Bay. It's a nice family neighborhood where people enjoy life near the Sheepshead Bay canal. There are a lot of restaurants, shopping center, movie theater, businesses and private homes. Our home is located on East 19th Street and Voorhies Avenue It's three blocks away from water canal. We always thought that it's pretty safe to live here, but we were wrong!

We live in zone A, which was the zone of evacuation. We did not believe in warnings and stayed home at the ground floor apartment. While watching TV we heard some screams coming from the outside. When we came out we saw the water approaching our house, all neighbors were panicking, so did we. We grabbed the cat and ran upstairs, to the apartment that was still under renovation. The water was rising very fast, it was very scary. In about an hour the water covered the fences. Very, very scary, when you don't know what is going to happen next.

Everything inside the ground floor apartment was flooded. We had no electricity, no heat, no hot water for two weeks. This two weeks seemed like one long day of the disaster. We were breaking down and throwing out all furniture, clothes. Piano was a big loss. The car was flooded.

I would like to thank all the people for their help.

Thank God we are all alive.

Yelena Anoshina & Elizabeth Markov