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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 71

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

APRIL / MAY 2017

LAUSD 2017 Classified Employees of the Year

By Dr. Andrew Pulver, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

The cornerstone of Los Alamitos Unified School District's spirit of excellence is a team of highly skilled and passionate staff who are relentless about igniting unlimited possibilities for students.

Our classified employees are often our front-line and behind-the-scenes heroes, making seamless improvements to ensure students and teachers are well equipped to achieve excellence in Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts throughout the school year. We are proud to recognize our various classified employees of the year for 2017 who exemplify our outstanding staff.

Mara Catacutan, Attendance Accounting Technician

Mara Catacutan has been a remarkable Los Alamitos Unified School District employee and team member of the Business Services Department since 1998. Mara strives to master new programs and explore new ways to enhance current procedures. She has a positive attitude when interacting with staff in solving a variety of accounting and attendance related matters. She demonstrates superior organizational, computer, and people skills and always goes beyond what is needed to help everyone she encounters. As the District's Attendance Accounting Technician, Mara receives reviews and processes attendance data from all school sites; prepare statistical data; makes modifications and assures data is accurate for state submission. Additionally, she supports our parents and students



Mara Catacutan

by processing requests and payments for transportation along with a variety of other accounting and invoicing needs to support smooth operations throughout the District. Her skill level is only surpassed by her quiet and caring manner with which she approaches people. She goes above and beyond to help others and ensure every task is completed. Mara is truly an inspiration and is committed to excellence in everything she does to support our students, families and staff.

Mitch Banales, Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker

Highly skilled, dedicated, passionate, energetic, kind, humble and selfless describes Mitch Banales, Building and Grounds Worker for the Los Alamitos Unified School District. Mr. Banales is a problem solver and pays attention to the smallest details. Mitch is a positive role model for others in the District as he consistently goes above the call of duty. He displays initiative, is resourceful in his work and approaches each day with an open mind and positive attitude. His customer service skills are second to none and he works well in a team environment. In addition to being an exceptional employee, Mr. Banales has devoted his life to improving the working relationships and conditions for classified employees throughout Orange County and the State of California. Mitch is currently the CSEA Chapter President; a role he has honorably served for over eight years. Prior to that, he served as CSEA Chapter Vice President for seven years and has been a member of the CSEA Negotiations team for over 18 years. Mitch is an exceptional classified leader and is a great communicator. He always has both employee's and our students' best interest at heart. Mitch deals with employees and the community on a regular basis; and, in each case, he demonstrates kindness, compassion, and understanding while helping them.

Jeremy Ortiz, Information Systems Specialist

Jeremy is an extraordinary employee who embodies the characteristics that personify the Los Al Way. He is passionate toward supporting the District's goals and vision. Jeremy endlessly searches for innovative methods to improve



Mitch Banales



Jeremy Ortiz

technology needs, and works tirelessly to serve and support students and staff, far beyond his assigned responsibilities. As result of Jeremy's tenure with Los Alamitos, all school sites and District Offices have been revolutionized to implement cutting edge, state of the art technology including a cloud-based infrastructure for all employees and students. Within the past few years, Jeremy helped integrate Google Apps For Education (GAPE) with our Microsoft Active Directory, implemented a single sign on portal accessing applications and websites for all students and faculty on any device, assisted in the preparation of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, installed hardware, and conducted professional development for families, staff and students. Jeremy is All in, All the Time. He personifies excellent customer service skills, demonstrates a continuous calm demeanor, is a problem solver, has a positive attitude, and works tirelessly, ensuring students and faculty are well equipped to achieve excellence in our 4 A's - Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts.

2017 Seal Beach Lions Club Teachers of the Year



Dr. Sherry Kropp

Every year, the Seal Beach Lions Club recognizes one teacher from each school as a way to celebrate teaching and learning and the accomplishments of our amazing young people. Our students are thriving due, in large part, to our extremely talented and well-trained teachers. Our teachers attend professional development and collaborate with one another on a regular basis so that they can provide the very best education possible to our students. Here's to celebrating excellence in our classrooms across the District!



LAHS- Janelle Fox

Janelle is a game-changer when it comes to creating new strategies to teach math and to motivate students to engage in rigorous learning. She has a special way of connecting with all of her students and has built and sustains a student-centered classroom that is welcoming, safe, and collaborative. Janelle works tirelessly to ensure that all students have access to learning math and is one of the most giving teachers of her time and materials. She is an extraordinary teacher and leader across our District.



McAULIFFE – Debra Kent

Debra is retiring after 28 years of exemplary service in our district. We will miss her outstanding skills and her expertise, as she has taught in almost every content area, including Language Arts, Math, Science, Drama, Yearbook, and PE. But, it is her heart, kindness, sense of humor, and service to others that we will miss most. In addition to all Debbie does at work, she is generous with her time within our community, as she is a long-standing Board Member for the Los Alamitos Youth Center.



OAK- Rachelle Randeem

Rachelle has worked tirelessly to build six award-winning choirs that serve hundreds of Oak students. She is an amazing example of what it means to reach every student, every day. Her inclusiveness and warmth have created a successful learning environment for all students. She teaches students how to sing, read music, dance, and build the fundamentals of being a scholar. We are grateful for all that Rachelle brings to the Oak Pride as well as within the community by bringing students to perform for others.



HOPKINSON – Catherine Turley

Cathy has taught for over 30 years and is, in one word, amazing! As a former Reading Recovery teacher, Cathy has helped countless students develop and master critical reading skills and a passion for literacy. Cathy always has a smile, wise story, or anecdote for those who are privileged enough to work with her. She has the unique gift of analyzing data and always places a broader perspective on the trainings teachers receive. Cathy is a cherished friend to those who know her well.



LAE – Marlea Gardea

If you can imagine a teacher enveloping a student with love and laughter, you are imagining Marlea. She draws students close to her and knows how to bring joy and fun to learning to help her students reach academic excellence, and she brightens up her colleagues' days with her humor and passion. Marlea is an excellent teacher who stops at nothing to ensure her students thrive every day. She goes above and beyond to make all things possible for students and exemplifies LAE's tiger spirit.



LEE – Kimri Vella

Kimri is an exceptional teacher and teammate to her grade level colleagues. She empowers staff members by opening her classroom and allowing colleagues to observe, collaborate, and grow their knowledge in District signature practices. She shows true GRIT and perseveres through difficult situations with a smile on her face, making students the number one priority. Kimri is a champion for all students and is a joy to work with. Her passion and collaborative nature are infectious and heartwarming.



McGAUGH – Nadia Williams

Nadia is an outstanding teacher, leader, and team player. She never hesitates to step in and help and support a child, a colleague, or an administrator. Nadia serves as McGaugh's Administrative TOSA and on their Leadership Team. She is highly respected by her peers, students, parents, and staff. Nadia strives for excellence in all that she does and makes those around her want to do more. Her positive attitude and energetic spirit are contagious, and her smile lights up a room. She is a true collaborator and connector.



ROSSMOOR – Tesia DiRoberto

Tesia is an inspiring teammate to her colleagues and is a great example of a teacher who goes above and beyond to support the growth of all Rossmoor Knights. She is currently the 4th grade level lead, serves on the School Leadership Team, is part of the PBIS implementation team, and helps lead the Knight Leadership and Peer Assistance groups. Tesia is always willing to share her knowledge with others at site and district workshops, and she is dedicated to bringing the very best teaching to her students.



WEAVER – Karrie Cook

Karrie touches the lives of many throughout the Weaver family as a Speech and Language Teacher. Not only does she provide corrective services for many students with speech needs, she also builds programs of support for students who demonstrate needs in social situations. Karrie's expertise fosters students' developmental needs so that they are prepared for academic success, and they love her teaching sessions. The progress they make and confidence they gain in her program are clearly evident.

Congratulations!

**Covering the
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Spring is in the air and the rains certainly helped boost the new growth everywhere. This is my favorite time of year with our wisteria cascading and birds chirping. And it is time to congratulate the teachers and classified employees of the year!

Our next issue is June 7 just in time to congratulate the graduates!



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Los Alamitos Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1210, Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/277-6876 • www.LAEF4kids.org



Record Fundraiser Benefits Students

By Carrie Logue, Executive Director

The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) crowned the King & Queen of Hearts on February 24. The Queen of Hearts is Kerrie DaVanon, Rossmoor resident and district parent, and the King of Hearts is Brian Leibl, Rossmoor resident and Los Alamitos High School parent. All eight Royal Court candidates ended their 10-week fundraising campaign with a grand fundraising total of \$180,000! This passed the previous record of \$110,000. Every dollar that each candidate raised counted as a vote, and DaVanon and Leibl were the top fundraisers.



**LAEF King of Hearts Brian Leibl and
Queen of Hearts Kerrie DaVanon**

The 2016-17 Queen Royal Court members are Ginny Ferguson, Erin Kominsky and Deb Machen. The King Royal Court members are Jeffrey Blancq, Joe Maggiore, and Tom Rowe.

LAEF President Sean Payne said, "I am truly amazed by the ongoing success of King and Queen of Hearts campaign. This will continue to benefit all students through our STEAM Initiative, which provides instruction and fairs on all campuses, and the district-wide STEAM showcase on May 20 at LAHS. It also supports Media Center teachers at all elementary schools and seed funds to enhance STEAM learning all year long."



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Seal Beach Animal Care Center

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Double Purrs

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Many potential adopters of cats enter shelters wanting one cat. They think that having two companion animals is double work and double expense. Adopting a bonded pair can actually end up being less work because they will play and keep one another company when you leave home. You will feed them at the same time and still clean the litter box with one or two kitties. It's easier to adopt a bonded pair because there would be a special introduction process if you were to adopt a second cat at a later date.



Sometimes bringing in another cat later may not be an easy process. Children in a household can learn lessons by helping to maintain the bond between the two animals and witness the love and loyalty they offer each other.

When you adopt a bonded pair, you are giving two best friends a loving, forever home together.

LAUSD Child Development Center

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Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten



Kelly Rowe
Child Development
Coordinator /
Early Learning
Specialist

Going to elementary school for the first time can be a big change in a child's life. It is only natural that a child may be anxious or concerned about starting this journey in their life. In order to do this with success, a child must be able to:

- Make the shift from dependency upon parents and the home to dependency upon peers and other adults. This means that the kindergartener must allow other people to meet many of their needs and to relate to them in a meaningful manner. How easily this task is mastered depends in large measure upon how secure and trusting his early relationships have been and how supportive parents have been about this new venture.
- Manage separation anxiety. For most children this is accomplished with a minimum of anxiety or distress. For others, however, the threat of the loss of mother or father is terribly frightening and extremely stressful. Separation anxiety is one of the most painful experiences a child and parents can have.
- Learn to accept the authority of other adults, namely the teacher, principal and other support personnel in the school. This acceptance is made easier if the child has had a healthy dose of basic trust through his or her early relationships with other adults.

The parents' responsibility to support their child to deal effectively with this new school experience by:

- Treating going to school as part of the normal course of events. Don't give the impression that there is any choice about whether to attend school or not. Children will often say "I'm not going." Or "They can't make me." Respond to these types of comments calmly and reassuringly. Let your child know that you understand their concerns about this new situation, but that you know that they will be able to handle it-and that all children have to go to school.
- Not allowing older children to frighten or tease the younger child with tales of how awful school is. If necessary, speak with older children privately about their responsibility in helping the younger child go to school without fear. Try to make the older children your allies.
- Answering all questions honestly about school and what to expect. Tell your child the length of time at school, the days they will attend, how they will get back and forth to school. A child may be anxious and knowing these details will help them handle the stress involved. Working parents should make sure the child knows the arrangements for before and after school care.

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Dulling the Pain of a Headache



Naser Elbalalesy, M.D.
pediatric
neurologist,
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Nearly two out of three children will have a headache by age 15. Headaches are one of the most common reasons for pain, missed school days and visits to the doctor. During a headache, your child may experience a dull pain around the front, top, back and sides of their head.

Headaches in kids can be either "primary," such as a migraine, or "secondary" to an exhaustive list of conditions that could be as simple as a nasal sinus infection or as serious as a brain tumor. A detailed history and examination is critical to differentiate different headaches.

While it's not possible to prevent all headaches, making sure your child avoids identified triggers, stays well hydrated, maintains a well-balanced diet and keeps a regular sleep schedule will help reduce their frequency and severity and also will optimize the response to other treatments, if needed.

Migraine headaches in particular can be triggered by a variety of factors, including:

- Dehydration
- Irregular eating
- Inadequate physical activity and exercise
- Poor sleep hygiene or habits
- Emotional problems, such as a big life change like social and family problems
- School-related stress (whether academic, sports-related or personal problems)
- Weather changes
- Certain foods, drinks and odors



If your child continues to experience recurrent and worsening headaches or pain in the head area that is not responding to the usual measures directed by your primary care physician, your child may be suffering from a primary headache such as a migraine, or from one of the secondary headaches.



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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Class Act!

Huskies have thoroughly enjoyed their third year with Class Act, a program of a symphonic orchestra. This year, Class Act has explored the work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

This year's Hopkinson musician, violist Carolyn Riley, introduced our students to the 2016–17 composer of the year, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. She hosted lessons for every class and exposed students to music, tone, tempo and more.

In March, we invited all families to join us for an evening at the symphony. This private concert for Hopkinson families is one of the components of the Class Act program. The 45-minute concert at McGaugh is themed “On the Red Carpet.” Children come dressed up, and the PTA hosts a professional photographer that takes a photo of all families that attend.

Class Act works to increase awareness of and involvement with symphonic music for elementary school students, their families and educators. We are so proud and appreciative of this extraordinary partnership!



Lee *Elementary*

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Amy Laughlin
Principal

We Read Voraciously!

Creating a literacy-rich environment that promotes strong, capable readers who read widely to build vocabulary, content knowledge and schemata is what we strive to accomplish at Lee. Recently, the community at Lee celebrated the gift of

reading during Read Across America. At this time, classes were challenged to set and meet a rigorous reading goal. Students at Lee read over 102,000 minutes within the first week! We honored the hard work Lee families committed to at home as they encouraged our literacy activities. Families joined our students and staff for Read on the Green, where families brought books to read aloud to their children on our grassy fields.

Visit Lee, and you will see high-quality, interesting classroom libraries. We are currently looking to build those libraries with nonfiction text to support the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards. Establishing voracious, lifelong readers doesn't just happen—it takes a schoolwide culture to reach that goal.



Los Alamitos *Elementary*

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Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

DEAR Day and Read Across America

The Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) Student Ambassadors created a memorable day on March 1 for the Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Day and Read Across America celebration.

Student leaders created invitations for community members with the goal of strengthening local partnerships. On the day of the event, the ambassadors welcomed the community guests and presented them at the school-wide kickoff ceremony.

Guest readers were also on hand to witness a special reveal as the Cat in the Hat popped out to reward students for reaching 117 percent of the reading goal. Guests were then escorted to classrooms to read favorite books to students. Guests included leaders from the city of Los Alamitos, the Los Alamitos Police Department, the Los Alamitos Unified School District, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the LAE school community.

The day culminated with family and friends reading picnic-style with students.



Guest readers, Ambassadors, and the Cat in the Hat at LAE for DEAR Day

Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losal.org



Dr. Brandon Martinez
Principal

Champions in All Ways!

After a 13-year hiatus, Los Alamitos High returned to competing in the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD), in Division 3. This year's theme was "World War II." The Griffins earned 33 individual medals for placing in the top five in each subject area—one student placed in the Division's top 10

individual overall, took third place for the Super Quiz, and won first place overall for Division 3.

Winter Athletics' successful season saw Sunset League titles for boys' and girls' basketball, and girls' water polo. The teams joined boys' and girls' soccer and individual wrestlers in the CIF Southern Section Playoffs.

Our Jazz Band auditioned for and was accepted to the Monterey Jazz Festival. Show Choir swept the Burbank High School competition and continues their season leading to nationals in Chicago this year.

For the seventh consecutive year, Los Al made the College Board Honor Roll as only one of four U.S. schools to receive the honor seven years running.

We're really excited for the rest of the semester!



McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losal.org



Ann Allen
Principal

Career Café

It is never too early to get students thinking about careers! At McAuliffe we encourage all students to learn about a wide variety of careers that they may be interested in through our Career Café program. Beginning in September, members of our community graciously volunteer

their time presenting highlights of their work to students during both lunches. This year alone staff and students have attended presentations by a veterinarian, coroner, podiatrist, costume designer, attorney, cosmetologist, police officer and firefighter. One of our most popular speakers was John Wright, an engineer who has been one of the planners for the Mars Exploration Rover missions for many years. Students were mesmerized by his presentation! A big thanks to Mrs. Jean Foley, counselor, who created and continues to support our Career Café program.



McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



Roni Ellis
Principal

Leading the Way

The McGaugh School community is proud of its many outstanding teachers. This winter two of them have been

recognized as exceptional.

On one Friday afternoon in March, fifth-grade teacher Nadia Williams was announced as the Seal Beach Lions Club Teacher of the Year. Nadia was selected by her peers, and several of them immediately had exciting things to say about her. "Outstanding leader and peer; always the first to step up and support," said one. "Nadia strives for excellence, her energy and positive attitude are contagious!"

Mrs. Cheryl Smith, a second-grade teacher, was recently recognized as the "Special Needs Educator of the Year" by Parenting OC Magazine. As one fellow teacher remarked on hearing the news, "So amazing! So giving! McGaugh is lucky to have Cheryl serving our kids and making us a better staff!" Cheryl's nomination was announced at a Sea Lions Assembly, with our staff and students cheering her on.

The students of McGaugh are in great hands with these two outstanding teachers.



Nadia Williams was recently selected by the McGaugh staff as the Seal Beach Lions Club Teacher of the Year!



Cheryl Smith, pictured with Principal Roni Ellis and Assistant Principal Teri Malpass, was selected as the Parenting OC Magazine Special Needs Educator of the Year.

Oak *Middle School*

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Celebrating Kindness

Oak Middle School recently celebrated Kindness Week, which was created to build positive social interactions, both on our campus and in the community. Students wore green on Tuesday to “pay it forward.” Kindness cards were distributed that encouraged students to give someone a compliment. These cards were traded throughout the day to spread positivity.

On Wednesday, students wore neon colors to “brighten someone’s day.” Special neon notes of encouragement were placed

on each locker. On Friday, teachers and staff welcomed students to school with balloons and signs to let them know that they are loved and valued. Students were beaming with smiles.

Associated Student Body sponsored a lunch on the lawn for parents and students to celebrate kindness. Students, staff members, and our community shared in the celebration of kindness with a reminder to keep the positivity going.

Hear us roar, Oak Lions!



Rossmoor *Elementary*

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • www.losal.org



Amy Belsha
Principal

Rossmoor’s Got Talent

Our Rossmoor Elementary School Knights had a blast performing in our 28th annual variety show on February 25. Each year our Knights have the opportunity to show off their talents and unique skills!

We had incredible jesters that hosted the show and kept the audience intrigued. The parents and community members who attended were blown away by their talent and creativity! Some of the acts included magic tricks, solo singing performances, an “America’s Got Talent” skit, tap dancing, ballet, and a “So You Think You Can Dance” skit. Even some of our brave teachers and staff led a surprise act—a performance of the Jackson 5’s “ABC!”

All proceeds from the show support the Sacramento Experience for our fourth-grade Knights. I would like to personally thank all the participants, dedicated volunteers, and staff who worked together to put on such an outstanding event. It is absolutely heartwarming to see our community come together to support one another!



Rhythmic Gymnastic Hoop Routine performed fourth grader Sarah Yoon

Weaver *Elementary*

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**Robert
Briggerman**
Principal

Walking Through the American Revolution

Providing opportunities for students to experience and live their learning is exciting and engaging.

Recently, 5th grade students at Weaver had the opportunity to “live” the American Revolution through games, songs, and reenacting the events through an incredible program from California Weekly Explorer, Inc. In this American Revolution walk through, students became experts on famous events, historical figures, and relevant vocabulary.

The walk-through was facilitated by an animated and trained presenter who guided students through historical events with dynamic, kid-friendly stories and activities.+ Parents also joined the presentation to participate in their children’s learning and expertise. Through their research and preparation for this program, students learn and are able to articulate about the key issues of the American Revolution and the bigger ideas of liberty, patriotism, and sovereignty.



City of Seal Beach Police Department

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Springtime! Sun, Fun and...Safety!



Dave Barr
Corporal

As we enter springtime set aside a few moments to take care of a few things concerning the safety of you and your family.

The National Safety Council recommends every family have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members to make sure they know what to do.

The FEMA website has a guide for creating a family emergency plan <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1802-25045-8711/familyemergencyplan.pdf> Additionally, FEMA advises an emergency kit should include one gallon per day of water for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines. FEMA website for a guide on creating an emergency supply kit is https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390846764394-dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/checklist_2014.pdf

Also, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12th and it's an excellent opportunity, and reminder, to take care of a few other safety minded responsibilities...Reset clocks; Replace clock batteries; Put new batteries in all flashlights; Replace smoke alarm batteries; Replace carbon monoxide detector batteries; Test all smoke alarms; Test all carbon monoxide alarms; Refresh emergency water supply; Verify fire extinguishers – green on dial; Rotate emergency food supply; Replenish first-aid kits; Update emergency contact phone numbers; Change furnace filter; Reduce and secure hazardous materials in home and garage; Update personal property inventory; Confirm safety of and access to important personal documents; Update prescription medications; Verify insurance coverage; Secure water heater, appliances, book shelves; Check all door and window locks for proper operation; Verify all outside lights and motion sensors work properly; Verify surge protectors on all sensitive electronic equipment.



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Michael H. *Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of The Radioactive Robo-Boxers* by Dav Pilkey.

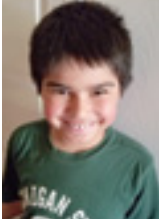
Tippy Tinkletrousers had destroyed the world. Tippy made sure that George and Harold had never turned Mr. Krupp into Captain Underpants. But Tippy decided it was a mistake, so he went back in time to fix everything and destroy Captain Underpants. Tippy met up with George, Harold, and Mr. Krupp. He had a time machine, so he took them to the dinosaur age where he detonated a bomb, that had blasted all of them to the middle of the ocean. Then right before they sunk Tippy set his time machine to go back to the time of the cavemen. Then he figured out Captain Underpants weakness, water! So he trapped Mr. Krupp under a waterfall. Then Tippy found George and Harold. He was about to squeeze them to death, but they came across cavemen. Unfortunately for Tippy, they escaped. Then George and Harold made a comic book on the rock walls to make the cave people unafraid of Tippy. Then the cave people made a plan to stop Tippy. Will the cave people's plan to stop Tippy work? Will Captain Underpants be destroyed?

I give this book 5 *****. This book was exciting and funny and I think everyone will enjoy reading it



Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

Amazing Graphic Novel



Abbas D. *Roller Girl* is a graphic novel by Victoria Jamieson. This book is about a girl named Astrid and her best friend Nicole. One day the girls go to a roller derby. Astrid later on begs her mom to go to roller derby camp and her mother agrees by signing her up. Astrid is elated and hopes her best friend will sign up too. Nicole signs up for dance class instead. This turns her summer upside down. Astrid's nemesis Rachel is now friends with Astrid because they're taking the same dance class. Rachel is a mean girl who keeps pressuring Nicole to stop being friends with Astrid. How will Astrid survive the summer without Nicole? This book is an amazing novel because it made me feel like branching out and trying new things can lead to new friendships. This book is great for people who love graphic novels and skating. Will Astrid continue her roller derby fame? I rate this book 5 out of 5 smiley faces.



Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

We Love Our Dogs Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put LAUSD in the subject line

Entries must be received by April 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages..

Akita	Dalmatian	Puli
Basenji	Doberman	Rottweiler
Beagle	Great Dane	Saint Bernard
Bloodhound	Labrador Retriever	Samoyed
Boxer	Malamute	Shiba Inu
Bulldog	Mastiff	Shih Tzu
Chihuahua	Pinscher	Siberian Husky
Chow Chow	Poodle	Weimaraner
Collie	Pug	Xoloitzcuintli

Congratulations to Liz Gladinus
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!

S	I	B	E	R	I	A	N	H	U	S	K	Y	G	N
A	L	A	K	I	T	A	S	A	M	O	Y	E	D	T
I	T	S	X	P	L	D	O	B	E	R	M	A	N	X
N	N	E	C	G	P	U	G	O	D	L	L	U	B	S
T	I	N	H	R	G	I	P	N	Q	M	S	E	N	C
B	U	J	O	E	E	A	U	H	A	U	H	I	H	C
E	C	I	W	A	R	O	T	T	W	E	I	L	E	R
R	Z	R	C	T	H	M	I	S	M	M	H	L	L	E
N	T	P	H	D	H	A	U	H	A	A	T	O	G	H
A	I	K	O	A	N	H	F	I	L	S	Z	C	A	C
R	O	O	W	N	X	R	L	B	A	T	U	W	E	S
D	L	O	R	E	N	A	R	A	M	I	E	W	B	N
B	O	X	E	R	H	U	J	I	U	F	Z	S	K	I
B	X	R	R	U	B	J	E	N	T	F	Y	A	T	P
Z	G	Z	T	F	R	X	S	U	E	L	D	O	O	P

Spirit of Hollywood Comes to Life



Marissa Aldegarie

I’ve just seen the movie La La Land and it is a spectacular classic movie. This is not just any old musical, but the soaring and lasting love will put a huge smile on your face. The thrilling jazz-pop numbers will leave you in awe while the love of the characters will melt you in your seat! The main characters Mia (Emma Stone), a very talented aspiring actress and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) a skillful pianist who’s passionate about jazz music go through up’s and downs balancing their personal relationship and pursuing their dream career. This film took place in Hollywood Hills and used 40 destinations to complete the movie. I enjoyed watching this movie because it brought a smile to my face and created a happy vibe with it’s opening scene. This was one of my favorite parts because I enjoyed the singing and dancing. I would recommend this movie if you enjoy musicals. This movie deserves a 5/5 because it inspired me to follow my dreams of acting.



Marissa is a 7th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

Keira’s Book Nook

Is Hitler The Enemy?



Keira

My Brother’s Secret
By Dan Smith

This unbelievable, resplendent, captivating and emotional book shows how you can tell who to trust. Karl, like all good German boys is training to be in the Hitler Youth. However, his older brother Stefan wants nothing to do with it. When their father is killed Karl’s faith in Hitler is shaken. He is filled with questions that need to be answered. Is Hitler a hero or deleterious villain? Karl soon finds out as he becomes involved in a rebellion against the Nazis. I couldn’t put down this 293 page action packed book. I would recommend it for 3rd-7th graders. I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.



Keira Fukuwa is a fifth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys jazz dance, art, crafts and traveling. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 being the highest.

Andys Book Corner

Always Friends

Harry Potter—the boy who lived, Ron Weasley—the cowardly friend, Hermione Granger—the smartest girl at Hogwarts: These three become best of friends and go through many death-defying adventures, but in the end they all make it together as friends. They have their fights here and there, but then again who doesn’t! One of the main points in this story is friendship because although they have fights they’re always a team whether it’s to find out what Draco Malfoy is up to or to face Voldemort. I rate this story 5 out of 5 because it can relate a lot with our daily lives. It relates with us because we can all act like Harry and his friends sometimes, even with our friends and family! I recommend these books to all people who want a magical adventure and a lot of action!



Andrew C. is a 5th grader and when he’s not practicing boxing he enjoys playing video games. He will rate books on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.



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- Captains of Industry
- Progressives
- The Gilded Age
- The Great War
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- Present

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Gamification



Sean Whittle
Branch Manager

I recently viewed a video by Yu-kai Chou, a specialist in the theories of gamification. The basic idea of gamification is how to take something most people view as dreary or dull and make it fun by adding elements of gaming. Seek out his videos and website by searching his name above and “gamification” for more information. Below is a synopsis of the main motivations he has described. When designing curriculum or working with a student to complete homework, you can start with a motivation that you think would be successful, and try to design elements of it into your approach, and perhaps have more success.

Here are the 8 Core Drives, as he describes them. 1) Epic meaning and calling : You believe you are participating in something greater than yourself or have been “chosen” to take the action. 2) Development and accomplishment : You strive to make progress, develop skills, and achieve mastery. 3) Empowerment of creativity and feedback : You are engaged in a creative process where you repeatedly figure new things out and try different combinations. 4) Ownership and possession : You are motivated by the feeling of owning or controlling something. The fact that you have feelings of ownership makes you value it more. 5) Social influence and relatedness : You are motivated by the desire to belong. This incorporates all the social elements that motivate people, including mentorship, social acceptance, companionship, and even competition and envy. 6) Scarcity and impatience : You want something because it is extremely rare, exclusive, or immediately unattainable. 7) Unpredictability and curiosity : You are constantly engaged because you don’t know what will happen next. 8) Loss and avoidance : You avoid something negative from happening.

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