

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 66

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

APRIL / MAY 2016

2016 Administrator of the Year

By Sherry Kropp, Superintendent

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr. Chris Vlasic has been selected as the 2016 Los Alamitos Unified School District Administrator of the Year. In every way imaginable, Chris is simply outstanding! In a very short time, Mr. Vlasic has transformed our practices and procedures for ensuring the best possible outcomes for students in the areas of attendance, health, welfare, and safety. Mr. Vlasic understands our core purpose of graduating students with unlimited possibilities, and this motivates him to create programs that keep students safe and able to perform at high levels.

Mr. Vlasic leads three very robust task force groups (Substance Abuse Prevention, Bullying Prevention, and Violence Response and Prevention), comprised of district and community representatives, that continually evaluate these programs and make improvements. His goal is to provide pathways for students to improve and demonstrate that they can learn from their mistakes, while being held accountable. Mr. Vlasic interfaces with our communities, Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, and Seal Beach, and has a strong working relationship with law enforcement and



Mr. Chris Vlasic, 2016 Administrator of the Year with his family.

local fire authorities. He works closely with our school resource officer to monitor student behavior and prevent more serious offenses.

In the area of student safety, Chris has implemented numerous improvements: Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) on all campuses; visitor management systems at all sites; protective safety window film on all windows; Lock Bloks® on all doors; and many more. He conducts a variety of trainings and drills for staff across every site, including violent intruder protocols, emergency disaster drills, campus supervisor trainings, and first aid and CPR training. Chris also facilitates evening training events for parents and families. Most notably, he has conducted numerous workshops on cyber safety and digital citizenship.

Most importantly, Chris is an outstanding leader and human being. He is a man of character, integrity, and humility. He is committed to the Los Al vision for all students and continually does excellent work to help create and foster ideal learning environments. It is an honor to work with Chris, and we are grateful that he is part of our Los Al family. Chris and his wife are also proud district parents, with two children who attend Los Alamitos Elementary School.

2016 Teacher of the Year

By Meg Cutuli, Board of Education Clerk

Every year, we participate in a national program that recognizes excellent teachers. Out of nearly 475 spectacular certificated teachers, we are only allowed to nominate one exemplary teacher from our district for this prestigious recognition. It gives me extreme pleasure to announce that the Los Alamitos Unified School District Teacher of the Year for 2016 is Mr. Bret Lynes!

Bret has been a beloved math and science teacher at McAuliffe Middle School for the past 17 years. He is an excellent teacher, role model, and man of character. Bret's passion for teaching makes learning approachable for students, especially with difficult content. He loves working with young people and truly ignites unlimited possibilities for the students in his care. Bret is masterful at the art and science of teaching! He embodies all of the characteristics that represent the Los Al Way and equally represents our outstanding teaching staff. He is smart, caring, positive, and a lifelong learner. He embraces all challenges that benefit students and works tirelessly to help every student be successful. Bret has an incredible sense of humor and works well with everyone he encounters. He is a man who acts with integrity, humility, and grace in everything he does.

Bret has taken on many leadership roles during his 17 years in Los Alamitos Unified, providing support to teachers, students, and administration. In addition to his regular teaching assignment, Bret serves as a sixth- through eighth-grade math Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) and participates on several committees throughout the district. He is a math team leader and has been a technology coordinator for McAuliffe Middle School. He has conducted various technology integration trainings for staff and is always willing to help others.



Mr. Bret Lynes, 2016 Teacher of the Year with students.

Bret lives in Los Alamitos with his wife, who also works for Los Alamitos Unified, and is a proud parent in our district, as his triplet daughters attend Lee Elementary School.

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*Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College*

I love this place!! My son needed to bring his ACT score up for the college baseball recruiting coach. The owner made me feel really good about the support he would receive, so I enrolled my son. Not only did he get a better score, he went up 11 points!!!
Denise Ortiz 2/2016

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Covering the
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations to the Teacher and Administrator of the Year!

By the time you finish this issue you will know about DEAR, STEAM, STEM, Pageant of the Arts, and much more.

We had a record number of entries in our Word Search Contest last issue and I especially enjoy the comments emailed. It is fun that families enjoy the contest together — open to all ages so enjoy!

The end of this school year is within sight and it seemed to go all too fast. Our next issue is June 1.

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL • MillerChildrens.org/Stramski

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)



Gary Feldman, M.D.
Medical Director,
Stramski
Children's
Developmental
Center

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common childhood brain disorders in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 11 percent of children 4 to 17 years of age have been diagnosed with ADHD as of 2011.

A child with ADHD might have trouble focusing on tasks or subjects because the part of their brain that controls attention is underactive and less mature compared to a child without ADHD. Common symptoms of ADHD include difficulty staying focused, difficulty controlling behavior and hyperactivity.

A child with ADHD might exhibit the following behaviors more often:

- Daydreaming • Squirming or fidgeting
- Forgetting or losing things frequently
- Having trouble taking turns • Talking too much



There's no way to tell if a child has ADHD from blood tests or other medical investigations. Doctors diagnose ADHD based on history, interviews and special evaluations — such as rating scales, computer-based assessments and learning tests.

If your child has ADHD, you can help by providing a more structured and predictable environment. For example, teach them to use checklists to help keep them on track.

Your child may be eligible for school-based support. In order to make sure that your child is receiving the proper attention at school, be sure to discuss their needs with their teacher or counselor.

If you have concerns about ADHD, you can take your child to a specialist such as a child psychiatrist, child psychologist or developmental pediatrician.

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Andres was a premature baby with developmental delays and started to show warning signs of autism. Concerned, his mom took him to the Stramski Children's Developmental Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. The Stramski Center experts specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and management of autism – and conduct research to best identify and treat all disorders on the autism spectrum. Today, Andres is continuing to improve and now spends his days focused on catching bubbles. *From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*

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Our specialty:
**Autism Spectrum
Disorders**

Andres' specialty:
Bubble Catcher



Andres, 2-years-old,
Miller Children's
Autism Patient

Language and Play



Kelly Rowe
*Child Development
Coordinator/
Early Learning
Specialist*

Play is a great context for facilitating language development in children, beginning at birth. When children play, they don't have to have a goal or end product in mind. They are in control, and can choose what to play with, what the rules are, and what activities are meaningful to them. Children like to play with adults who can play at their level.

During play, children practice their talking and learn language skills. They are free to experiment with words, and can practice words and phrases without worrying about making mistakes. Play helps children learn about symbols and get ready for reading. They learn that one object can be used to represent another, such as pretending that a block is a car. This helps them to understand that letters and words are also symbols, and that they can represent real objects, people, events, and ideas.

Play and early language grow together; symbolic play emerges around 12 to 15 months, which is about the same age that children first begin to use words. Using a toy for more than one action, for example – such as feeding a doll and then putting it to bed – occurs at the same time as the use of multi-word utterances, which is around two years of age.

Research also suggests that children learn best through interactive and exploratory play, not through direct instruction, or videos, TV, flashcards or push-button computer learning toys. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatricians and early childhood specialists all agree that children under two years of age should have no screen time at all. Children older than two should also have no more than two hours of screen time per day.

Studies have tracked educational TV and video use with language development. They have found a link between increased TV time and various developmental delays, language delays, and attention problems. It is not clear that TV or videos are a cause or an effect, nor that there are long-term effects; but the findings are very concerning. Even when media plays in the background, it can distract babies, toddlers, and preschoolers from the act of play, an activity known to have deep developmental benefits.

No one can spend 24 hours a day reading and playing with their child, and so it is totally acceptable to let your children play independently. It is a valuable time for them to learn how to solve problems, use their imaginations, think creatively, and keep entertained.

Screen-Free Week is from April 29 to May 5. Try turning off all of your devices during that week. Play and talk to your children and family instead!

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from April 29 to May 5.
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Los Alamitos Education Foundation

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LAEF
LOS ALAMITOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

King and Queen of Hearts Crowned

The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) crowned their King and Queen of Hearts on February 19. The Queen is Seal Beach Lion of the Year Adriana Preciado-Ziegenbusch, and the King is Matt Herrick of Southland Credit Union.

All seven Royal Court candidates ended their 10-week fundraising campaign at the Royal Ball and Coronation; the grand fundraising total was \$97,000! Every dollar that each candidate raised counted as a vote, and Preciado-Ziegenbusch and Herrick were the top fundraisers.



LAEF King of Hearts Matt Herrick and Queen of Hearts Adriana Preciado-Ziegenbusch

The 2015–2016 Royal Court members are Los Al Alumna Gina Biri, Dr. Sean Braithwaite, School Board Member Diana Hill, businessman Aaron Roberts, and Rossmoor Elementary School Principal Kiva Spiratos.

LAEF President Sean Payne remarked, “I am amazed by the continued success of the King and Queen of Hearts. This will benefit all students, as the proceeds support our STEAM Fairs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) on all campuses, and the district-wide STEAM showcase.”

For additional information on the LAEF, please call (562) 799-4700, ext. 80424; or visit www.LAEF4Kids.org.

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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Hopkinson’s Got Talent

On Friday, March 11, 113 Hopkinson Elementary School Huskies took the stage to showcase their various talents at our annual talent show, “Hopkinson’s Got Talent.” Students in kindergarten through fifth grade participated in over 60 acts, performing various talents including dance, musical instruments, vocal pieces, martial arts, and more.

The fifth-grade leadership students planned and hosted the event in an effort to raise scholarship funds for their fourth-grade peers. All of the proceeds support Hopkinson’s fourth-grade Sacramento experience.

The Hopkinson chorus performed the opening and closing numbers. At the close, all Huskies were asked to join the chorus and sing “Los Al’s the Place to Be” together. It was an amazing evening that highlighted students and our commitment to activities and the arts. So much talent was present! We are so proud of our Huskies!



Hopkinson Chorus opening the show

Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



Amy Laughlin
Principal

Curious About STEAM

Lee Elementary School works hard to integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) initiatives into our everyday activities. Students engaged in captivating activities during Family Science Night. We partnered with Growing Up STEM, a student organization at Los Alamitos High School, to teach science experiments and build interest in science and engineering. Lee students worked with the Los Al students to design and build marshmallow structures, create lava lamps, and produce exploding chemical reactions!

Recently, students also participated in Modeling Monday math activities. Fourth- and fifth-graders worked together to solve engaging, collaborative, real-life problems. Students are required to use mathematical models to demonstrate their reasoning.

We have had an overwhelming response to our upcoming STEAM Fair, sponsored by Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF). Students’ curiosity and enthusiasm for science is at an all-time high, and we couldn’t be more excited!



Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

DEAR Day and Read Across America

Given the opportunity to lead, Los Alamitos Elementary School's Student Ambassadors created a memorable day on March 3, as the leadership team sponsored Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Day and the Read Across America celebration.

Student leaders played a significant role in planning and implementing the events of the day. They began by creating and sending invitations to various community members with the goal of strengthening local partnerships. On the day of the event, the ambassadors welcomed each community guest individually and presented them at the school-wide kick-off ceremony in the morning.

Guest readers were escorted to each classroom to read favorite books to students. They included leaders from the city of Los Alamitos, the Los Alamitos Police Department, the Los Alamitos Unified School District, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations and members of our own school community.

The day culminated with family and friends joining all students to read picnic-style on the school grounds.



Los Alamitos *High School*

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



Dr. Brandon Martinez
Principal

Spring Events

Los Alamitos High School is gearing up for its AP testing, with a record number of students registering for 29 different exams. Over 1,900 exams will be administered.

Our College and Career Center hosted the annual Mentor Breakfast. This event provides students with an opportunity to meet with a professional from a career field that they are interested in pursuing. This year's keynote speaker was the Mayor of the City of Long Beach.

Our Model United Nations continues to do well, winning several awards during the last few competitions. The boys' basketball program had a fantastic season too, reaching the state regional semifinals. The boys' soccer team was also very successful in the state quarterfinals. All of our spring sports are off to a great start!

The Los Al Show Choir continues to impress, being named grand champion in two of its last three competitions. The Los Al Cheer Team recently won the nationals, and the Song Team won the worlds. The Los Alamitos Education Foundation is also holding a six-week SAT prep class taught by one of our English teachers. More than 180 students are attending.

We are looking forward to a successful spring season in academics, athletics, activities, and arts. We actively support our students and teachers as they explore unlimited possibilities.



Ryan Houston, Derek Fordham, Miguel Huralde



It's Snowing



Sea of Blue

McAuliffe *Middle School*

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



Ann Allen
Principal

Generous Hearts

The administration and staff at McAuliffe Middle School encourage all students to participate in a variety of community-service activities throughout the school year. One of the most popular is the Pennies for Patients program, which supports fundraising to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

Students donate coins in their first-period classes to help families pay for medicines and fund research for a cure. Under the leadership of our Associated Student Body (ASB), this year we surpassed our school-wide goal and raised over \$7,000 in donations! Seventeen classes raised over \$100, eight classes over \$200, four classes over \$500, and one class over \$1,000! The top class has been awarded a pasta party.

It is gratifying for everyone involved and wonderful to see another example of McAuliffe students working on the behalf of others with generous hearts.



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McGaugh *Elementary*

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Dr. Jerry Gargus
Principal

Pageant of the Arts

Springtime at McGaugh Elementary School is a great experience for students—excellent teaching and learning, parent conferences, Outdoor Science School for fifth-graders, and, of course, our Pageant of the Arts.

This year at the pageant, we are celebrating Argentinian master Antonio Berni and three of his masterpieces, “La Gallina Cienga (Blind Man’s Bluff),” “Juanito Laguna Remontando su Barrilete (Juanito Laguna Flying a Kite),” and “Juanito Laguna con una Mariposa (Juanito Laguna with a Butterfly).” All year

long, our first- through fifth-grade students have been working hard to recreate these beautiful works of art on a scale befitting the McGaugh stage. A number of our fifth-grade students have also been busy learning a special dance, which was originally choreographed and musically scored to accompany the Berni pieces.

This will be McGaugh’s 34th consecutive year of presenting the Pageant of the Arts for the community. It will definitely be a special evening as we celebrate the arts through the performances of our amazingly talented students. In addition, we will be remembering one of the Pageant founders, Lois Cohn, whom we lost earlier this year. Plans are in the works to dedicate a special plaque in her honor, which will permanently be on display in the McGaugh Media Center.

Rossmoor *Elementary*

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



Kiva Spiratos
Principal

Rossmoor’s 27th Annual Variety Show

Rossmoor Elementary School is proud to celebrate its 27th annual Variety Show, showcasing talented, creative, witty acts of student creativity. The Rossmoor Variety Show began in 1989 with students appearing on our school stage. The event has evolved over the decades into a PTA sponsored, parent organized production of vision, creativity, humor, instrumental performance, vocals, magic tricks, skits, parody of pop culture, and more. The children are so imaginative and innovative in their ideas to collaborate with friends for fun. This year Rossmoor

Knights showcased teachers line dancing, kinder kiddos couples dancing, card tricks, skits, dancing with friends, gymnastics, vocals, comedic jesters, solo instrumentalists, rhythm, blues and more! We are grateful for our dedicated parents who scheduled peer rehearsals, and most of all, to our parents who worked back stage and organized the event. Rossmoor Knights, do it right, because of our amazing parent volunteers.



These TK and kinder Rossmoor Knights performed a couples dancing role polished to perfection!

Oak *Middle School*

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



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Spotlight On Science

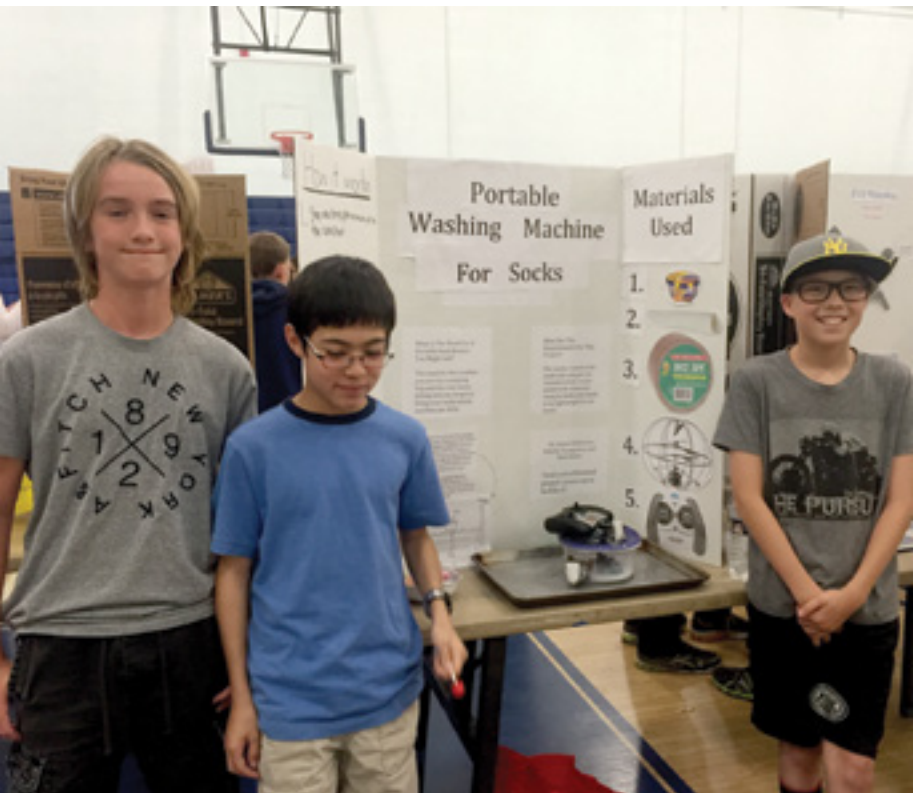
The study of science at Oak Middle School involves a wide variety of rigorous experiences, including collaborative hands-on learning activities that can make the subject come alive.

Our Oak students are engaged in applying science to real-world problems. In the sixth grade, students build structures that must withstand a simulated earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. In the seventh grade, students apply their knowledge of infectious disease and how it relates to the spread of serious viruses such as Ebola and Zika.



In the eighth grade, students utilize the science of physics and engineering to design, build, and race CO2 cartridge-powered rocket cars. Specific data was used to measure and graph the relationship between mass, force, and velocity.

Over 100 students participated in our school-wide STEAM Fair in February. In addition, our recent Science Olympiad team had 15 members who competed at UC Irvine in the regional science Olympiad event. Hear us Roar!





Robert Briggerman
Principal

Learning Science Together

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) spiral so that students are re-exposed to curriculum multiple times throughout their K–12 educational experience. This has provided a recent opportunity for the Oak seventh-graders in Ms. Morgan Martin’s science classes to come to Weaver School and teach various lessons on body systems to our first- and third-grade students.

The Oak students prepared one-hour lessons and delivered this content to our Weaver students through games, activities, and strategies, such as the depth and complexity prompts which support a deeper understanding of the subject. This helped to support student exposure to the different functions of the body, which included the cardiovascular, skeletal, respiratory, digestive, and immune systems.



Research shows that students are reinforced by teaching the subject matter to others. This was a beneficial learning experience for both Oak and Weaver.

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Indoors vs Outdoors for Cats

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Like many cat lovers, you have thought about letting your cat outdoors. You feel guilty that you are depriving your family pet of fresh air, grass and sunshine. You feel that the cat gets bored and desires to go out. The next thing you know, you have allowed the cat outdoors and another type of guilt builds when he or she is hit by a car, mistreated by other people, or attacked by another cat or, even worse, by a coyote.

Indoor cats do get bored, but you can change that by doing things in the house for them. Try hiding cat treats around the house and allow them time to find them. Make sure that your cat has a cat tree or some type of cat perch so that he or she can view the outdoors through a window and see what is happening there. If your cat is amenable to another cat, adopt a buddy for him or her. This will help to entertain both of them during the time that you are away.



Some indoor cats become overweight, but to help avoid this, try measuring the food and providing playtime on a regular basis. You can also purchase a Kitty Kong hollow cat toy and stuff it with treats and food to make your cat work for it! Make sure that your kitty has several scratchers in varying positions around the house.

A lot can happen to your pet even within a small radius from your house. If you want your pet to enjoy the outdoors safely, try harness training or build an enclosed cattery. Make the indoor environment as interesting as the outdoors, and be vigilant about preventing attempted escapes.

Girl Scout Troop 602

Thank You for Supporting Us!



Marissa Aldegarie

By Marissa Aldegarie

In the last few months, you probably have seen Girl Scouts pulling their wagons full of cookies or at your local stores selling them. Selling Girl Scout Cookies is much more than a money-earning activity. The Girl Scout cookie program teaches the 5 Skills to help us grow and prepare for the future. The 5 Skills are goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

Every year, the local radio stations help support our Girl Scout Cookie program by talking about our cookies and having contests. We decided to visit and thank Ellen K from KOST 103.5 and Valentine in the Morning from 104.3 MyFM. They showed us how they run their radio program and allowed us to speak on the air to thank everyone for supporting Girl Scouts. They also gave us a tour of their radio stations. It was exciting to meet them in person!



104.3 MyFM DJ's: Kevin, Valentine, & Jill.
Troop 602: Marissa, Phoebe, Summer, Payton & Savannah



Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • www.ocpl.org

The Benefits of Teen Volunteering



Sean Whittle
Branch Manager

One of the ways that we are able to complete our work at the library is through teen volunteers. Almost every day we have teenagers from ages 12 to 17 come help us with shelving items, organizing the shelves, and assisting us with Storytime crafts and other miscellaneous duties.

When summer comes, we also take on a larger load of teenagers to help us with the Summer Reading Program. Finally, we have a group of teens who assist us with a program of reading to children called "Big Buddies & Books." They provide a kind of mentorship to these children to help model reading in a fun way.

Volunteering gives teens an opportunity to give back to the community. It can give them a sense of fulfillment and joy, help develop their resumes for college and jobs, offer practical experience, and even (at times) give them a chance to take on stronger leadership roles.

With this in mind, we would like to extend an invitation to our local teenagers to come by the library and take part in the new Teen Advisory Board that we are developing. This group will serve to advise the library and help us become more responsive to the needs and interests of this particular age group. In addition, these members can also brainstorm program ideas to help bring them to reality.

Local teens can offer their own unique talents. Helping out is a fun way to contribute to your community, spend time with others in your age group, and explore ideas together. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Katie Dietzman, our children's librarian, at 562-430-1048, or at Katie.Dietzman@occr.ocgov.com.

Contest!!

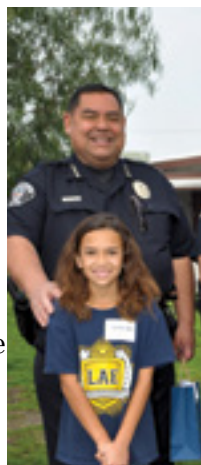
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page number to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put LAUSD in the the subject line.

Your entry must be received by May 5, 2016.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to Nick & Grace Galluccio
winners of the February Word Search!



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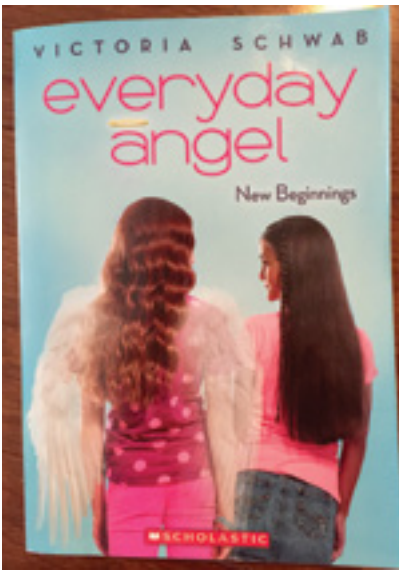
First Book of a Series



Keira

Everyday Angel: New Beginnings By Victoria Schwab

This great emotion filled book is about two girls named Aria (a guardian angel) and Gabby Torres (whose brother is sick). Gabby is so worried about school, because she doesn't want anyone to discover her secret life. Then, Aria shows up! Aria knows exactly how to help make Gabby feel better. Gabby is a normal girl except for the fact she keeps half her life a secret—even from her mom! This book talks about why sometimes it's good to reveal your secrets. It's an example of how difficult things in your life don't have to be negative. Gabby is so worried about her brother that she forgets who she is. The story is about problems and solutions that came for Gabby in seventh grade. I can't wait to read the second book! I rate this book 5 apples.



Keira Fukuwa is a fourth grader at Los Alamitos Elementary. Besides reading, she enjoys soccer, jazz dance, crafts and cooking. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 the best.

Note-ables

Owl Singalong



Kate Karp

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.



The album was inspired by Raffi's little grandniece, Lucie, and her owl stuffed toy and also by the chorus of live hooting critters in his backyard. Those birds open the title song, a jaunty little melody inviting us to sing along. Choruses of human children and one or two adults join in on standards such as "The More We Sing Together" and other beloved songs that he's monkeyed—or verb-formed other animal species—with: "The Lion Pokey" and "The Dog on the Bus" are rendered with Raffi's brand of gentle silliness that has always endeared him to children.

Raffi presents his versatile voice in so many different ways, whether it's imitating a gruff lion, crooning like Rudy Vallee on "See the Moon," or entertaining with Pete Seeger's celebrated retelling of the South African folktale "Abiyoyo."

And as always, Raffi will leave gentle lessons for little Belugas and Grads of any age: "Green Dream" is his wish for the future for all his young listeners. And from "I'm Not Small": "I carry the world on my back. When it turns, I'll turn, too."

So simple, so wise, and so very Raffi.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



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