



Dan F. Long NEWSPAPER

2022 2023
D E C E M B E R

NEW COURTYARD COMING SOON! INTERVIEW WITH MR. AUVENSHINE

We recently interviewed Mr. Auvenshine: the guy who sits out in the chair in our breezeway. He has been working in construction for 50 years. He has a degree in architecture and went to Texas Tech University. He choose construction as his career because his dad did construction as well. To become a manager of such a big project, he says you need to know how to read the blueprints and drawings, understand how the construction process works, have a general knowledge of what it takes, and have a good ability to work with people. He really enjoys this project because Mr. Sulak is a great, easy person to work with. They started working on our courtyard on June 1. They have minor details to finish up, but they should be all finished with our courtyard by Thanksgiving!

By: Ximena Herrera

Contributors

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Demario Jones
Cambraya Mask
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Milagro Olivares

INTERVIEW WITH PRINCIPAL LEON SULAK!

What do you enjoy most about being a principal?

"I find it most enjoyable getting to work with kids, getting to figure out how can I support the students, and how can I support teachers so that they have every resource and everything they need to be able to provide the best for the kids as well. The truth is I do miss teaching at times because I'm further removed from the classroom and I got into this business. I got into teaching, so that I could directly impact kids. I have a bigger impact now, but I don't get as one on one or work with kids as I wished. And that's a goal of mine."

If you had the option to work, what would it be outside of education?

"Construction. I love woodworking and I love construction. So I would probably like, you know that we have this awesome construction going down in the fine arts wing in the courtyard that fascinates me. They probably are tired of me being down there because I like being in their business. I love construction. So hands down would be constructed at some point somewhere."



By: Demario Jones
Milagro Olivares

THE COMPANION



KATIE ALENDER

The other orphans say Margot is lucky.

Lucky to survive the horrible accident that killed her family.

Lucky to have her own room because she wakes up screaming every night.

And finally, lucky to be chosen by a prestigious family to live at their remote country estate.

But it wasn't luck that made the Suttons rescue Margot from her bleak existence at the group home. Margot was handpicked to be a companion to their silent, mysterious daughter, Agatha. At first, helping with Agatha--and getting to know her handsome younger brother--seems much better than the group home. But soon, the isolated house begins playing tricks on Margot's mind, making her question everything she believes about the Suttons . . . and herself.

Margot's bad dreams may have stopped when she came to live with Agatha – but the real nightmare has just begun.

Though Mrs. Parker hasn't read "The Companion," she has been very curious about the book for a while. is it mystery or horror? Read it to find out!

"Excited to read this book next!" – Mrs. Parker



INTERVIEW WITH VONDA POSEY



What do you like about working here?

"What *do* I like about working here? I would say that I really love our teachers because they really do *just* want to do what's best for kids and I love our students, just the interactions between everyone."

What are the hardest challenges in your job?

"I don't think there's enough time to do all the things that I need to do. So I have to prioritize things and just take it one step at a time."

If you could work in a different position what would it be?

"I think I would be a librarian. I like to read. I like books!"

What was your college life like?

"My college life, that's an interesting question. I think like every college student I went to classes, I played [sports]. I also was in a band. I played in a band during the weekends."

(Did you know Ms. Posey played drums?)

Message from Ms. Posey to students!

"Always, *always* try your very best, even if it's hard or easy, just try your best and just remember that every day is a brand new day." By: Milagro Olivares

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 BB-GIRLS 8th vs. POLK BB-BOYS 8th AT POLK	2 PROGRESS REPORT 2B	3
4 TREE DRESSING DAY	5 BB-BOYS 7th vs. BUSH BB-GIRLS 7th AT BUSH	6 CHOIR WINTER CONCERT	7 ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT	8 BB-BOYS 8th vs. BUSH BB-GIRLS 8th AT BUSH	9	10 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
11	12 BB-BOYS 7th vs. BLALACK BB-GIRLS 7th AT BLALACK	13	14 BAND WINTER CONCERT	15 BB-BOYS 8th vs. BLALACK BB-GIRLS 8th AT BLALACK	16 END OF 2ND 9 WEEKS	17
18	19 CHRISTMAS BREAK	20 CHRISTMAS BREAK	21 CHRISTMAS BREAK	22 CHRISTMAS BREAK	23 CHRISTMAS BREAK	24 CHRISTMAS BREAK
25 CHRISTMAS!	26 CHRISTMAS BREAK	27 CHRISTMAS BREAK	28 CHRISTMAS BREAK	29 CHRISTMAS BREAK	30 CHRISTMAS BREAK	31 CHRISTMAS EVE

By Valerie Nanton

WHOSE BIRTHDAYS ARE GONNA BE CELEBRATED?

Ms. Bush (12/6) Ms. Ferrales (12/19)
 Ms. Nequin (12/10) Ms. Washington (12/22)
 Mr. Quintana (12/10) Ms. Perez (12/24)
 Mr. Young (12/18) Mr. S. Miller (12/27)
 Coach Walker (12/18) Coach Pesek (12/28)

By Valeria Fuentes

SPORTS

NOVEMBER	JANUARY
14 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE Girls-Blalack @ Long Boys-Long @ Blalack B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	9 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Perry @ Long Boys-Long @ Perry B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
17 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGE Girls-Blalack @ Long Boys-Long @ Blalack B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	12 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Perry @ Long Boys-Long @ Perry B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
28 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls- Polk @ Long Boys- Long @ Polk B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	18 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Field @ Long Boys- Long @ Field B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
DECEMBER	FEBRUARY
1 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls - Polk @ Long Boys - Long @ Polk B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	19 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Field @ Long Boys- Long @ Field B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
5 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls - Long @ Bush Boys - Bush @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	23 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Long @ Polk Boys-Polk @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
8 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls - Long @ Bush Boys - Bush @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	26 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Long @ Polk Boys-Polk @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
12 7TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls - Long @ Blalack Boys - Blalack @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	30 7TH AND 8TH GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Bush @ Long Boys-Long @ Bush A-team ONLY 7th-5:30pm 8th-6:30pm
15 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls- Long @ Blalack Boys- Blalack @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30	3 8TH-GRADE BASKETBALL GAME Girls-Long @ Polk Boys-Polk @ Long B-team-5:30 A-team-6:30
	4 7A TEAM TOURNAMENT time- TBA location-TBA

END OF SEASON

By Ismeray Zarate



Fun Factoids about our School Staff!!



- Our librarian Mrs. Parker made it to the semi finals in a jeopardy audition.
- Mrs. Orrell (a 7th Grade Language arts teacher) helped give scuba diving lessons
- Mr. Adamo (our head band director) has been a vegetarian for 23 years.
- Officer Carter was in the army for 12 years.
- Nurse Robinson gives CPR lessons.
- Mrs. Lopez (a 6th grade reading teacher) taught theater for 9 years.
- Mrs. Maldonado bought her first house at the age of 24!
- Mrs. Bolden was valedictorian of her graduating class.
- Mrs. Peek (an 8th Grade math teacher) still has two baby teeth!
- Ms. Kingsley (a 6th grade math teacher) travels world wide to coach and play roller derby.

By: Roshael Caruajulca



**HERE'S OUR FALCON IN ACTION
AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP
FOOTBALL GAME.**

Long ago in a middle school back in the 80s, Dan F. Long's mascot was named Freddy the Falcon. In an effort to change the name to a more friendly one, several names were kicked around. As you know in our last newspaper, which was our first, we included the name Fernanda the Falcon for our school mascot. After the newspaper was published, we found out that Fernanda is not the name of our school mascot. ¿If it's not Fernanda, what is it?

Our official mascot name is now Frankie the Falcon. This is because we do not know the gender of our falcon, nor that of the person who is wearing the costume. Frankie is a name that works for both boys and girls.

So, now next time you see our mascot you will know it's not Fernanda; it's Frankie!

SCAN THESE QR CODES!



By: Cambraya Mask

FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS ALL

AROUND THE WORLD

By: Precious Agbe

Germany (Saint Nicholas' Day)

Nicholas travels by donkey in the middle of the night on December 6th and leaves little treats like coins, chocolate, oranges and toys in the shoes of good children all over Germany. He also visits children in schools in exchange for sweets and a small present, each child must recite a poem, sing a song, or draw a picture

Iceland (The Yule Lads)

In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, 13 tricky troll-like characters come out to play in Iceland and visit the children all around the country. For each night of Yuletide, children place their best shoes by the window and a Yule Lad leaves gifts for nice kids and rotting potatoes for the naughty ones.

Japan (Kentucky Fried Chicken Dinner)

Christmas has never been a big deal in Japan. Aside from a few small traditions such as gift-giving and light displays, Christmas remains largely a novelty in the country. However, a new, quirky "tradition" has emerged in recent years, a Christmas feast of the Colonel's very own Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Toronto (Cavalcade of Lights)

In wintry, wonderful Toronto the annual Cavalcade of Lights marks the official start to the holiday season. The Square and Christmas tree are illuminated by more than 300,000 energy-efficient LED lights that shine from dusk until 11 pm until the New Year. On top of that, you'll get to witness spectacular fireworks shows and engage in some outdoor ice skating.

Austria (Krampus)

A beast-like creature that roams city streets frightening kids and punishing the bad ones. IN the first week of December, young men dress up as the krampus (especially on the eve of st. Nicholas day) frightening children with clattering chains and bells

Colombia (Day of the Little Candles)

Little Candles' Day (Día de las Velitas) marks the start of the Christmas Season across Columbia. In honor of the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception, people place candles and paper lanterns in their windows, balconies and front yards. The tradition of candles has grown, and now entire towns and cities across the country are lit up with elaborate displays.