

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



Volume 11, Issue 60

June 2021



Looking forward to the new school year, having all students attend all day, everyday!

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Every child deserves a chance to succeed!
¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!

Preschool Program

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.



The Benefits of Preschool

The most important years of a child's development is in the first five years of life. Children who receive a high-quality educational experience, in their early years, develop the skills necessary to succeed in life.

Children who are involved in preschool:

- Develop pre-reading, early writing, and math skills
- Enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop emotional behaviors and social skills

Los Beneficios de la Educación Preescolar

Los primeros cinco años de vida son los más importantes en el desarrollo del niño. Los niños que reciben una experiencia educativa de alta calidad, en sus primeros años, desarrollan las habilidades necesarias para triunfar en la vida.

Los niños que participan en la educación preescolar:

- Desarrollan habilidades en matemáticas, escritura y lectura temprana.
- Mejoran el pensamiento crítico y habilidades en resolución de problemas.
- Desarrollan habilidades sociales y comportamiento emocional.



HSD Preschool

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 970-7550 Phone | (310) 970-7555 Fax



The Close of a Memorable School Year

El Cierre de un año Escolar Memorable

The 2020-2021 school year will always be remembered as the year we had to close our schools due to a worldwide pandemic. It will be a year remembered for students, parents, and staff learning a new way of engaging in school. It was difficult on all involved, but we all persevered. We met the many challenges dealt to us head-on and found ways to move forward.

Despite the difficulties, there were some positive aspects to the situation. We all became more comfortable with technology and how to use it in our day-to-day routines.

It will now be a more integral part of what we do in classrooms, offices, and homes throughout our community. We all know that technology is an important part of our lives and being able to utilize these tools for instruction, meetings, and routine communication will serve to enhance our school and work well into the future. We also saw the resilience of

students, teachers, and parents in working through a “new normal.” I was so proud of the Hawthorne School District staff and their commitment to continuing our important work. It wasn’t always easy or comfortable, but we met the challenges.

While the pandemic is not over, we are on the path to recovery and normalcy. I have every intention of starting the new school year on a full-day, full-week schedule. We have numerous protocols in place to ensure a safe school and work environment. We will follow all of the requirements from the Department of Public Health in our classrooms and offices. Students will enjoy the ability to see their classmates, engage in activities with others in the same room, and continue to grow and thrive.

I want to thank all of our Hawthorne School District community for your dedication to our students, your commitment to doing what is required to help our students succeed, and your support throughout the last year. I am looking forward to August 2021 and seeing all of our students back on campus enjoying a true school experience!

I wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy summer!



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent



**Looking forward to the new school year,
having all students attend all day, everyday!**

El año escolar 2020-2021 siempre será recordado como el año en que tuvimos que cerrar nuestras escuelas debido a una pandemia mundial. Será un año recordado por los alumnos, los padres y el personal que aprendieron una nueva forma de participar en la escuela. Fue difícil para todos los implicados, pero todos perseveramos. Nos enfrentamos a los numerosos retos que se nos plantearon y encontramos la manera de seguir adelante.

A pesar de las dificultades, la situación tuvo algunos aspectos positivos. Todos nos sentimos más

cómodos con la tecnología y con cómo utilizarla en nuestras rutinas diarias. Ahora será una parte más integral de lo que hacemos en los salones de clase, las oficinas y los hogares de toda nuestra comunidad. Todos sabemos que la tecnología es una parte importante de nuestras vidas y ser capaces de utilizar estas herramientas para la enseñanza, las reuniones y la comunicación rutinaria servirá para mejorar nuestra escuela y nuestro trabajo en el futuro. También vimos la capacidad de recuperación de los alumnos, los maestros y los padres al trabajar en una

“nueva normalidad”. Me sentí muy orgullosa del personal del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne y de su compromiso para continuar con nuestro importante trabajo. No siempre fue fácil ni cómodo, pero superamos los desafíos.

Aunque la pandemia no ha terminado, estamos en el camino de la recuperación y la normalidad. Tengo toda la intención de empezar el nuevo curso escolar con un horario de jornada y semana completas. Contamos con numerosos protocolos para garantizar un entorno escolar y laboral seguro. Seguiremos todos los requisitos del Departamento de Salud Pública en nuestros salones de clase y oficinas. Los alumnos disfrutarán de la posibilidad de ver a sus compañeros de clase, participar en actividades con otros en el mismo salón, y seguir creciendo y prosperando.

Quiero agradecer a toda la comunidad del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne por su dedicación a nuestros alumnos, su compromiso de hacer lo que se requiere para ayudar a nuestros alumnos a tener éxito, y su apoyo durante el último año. Estoy deseando que llegue agosto de 2021 y ver a todos nuestros alumnos de vuelta en el campus disfrutando de una verdadera experiencia escolar.

¡Les deseo a todos un verano seguro, feliz y saludable!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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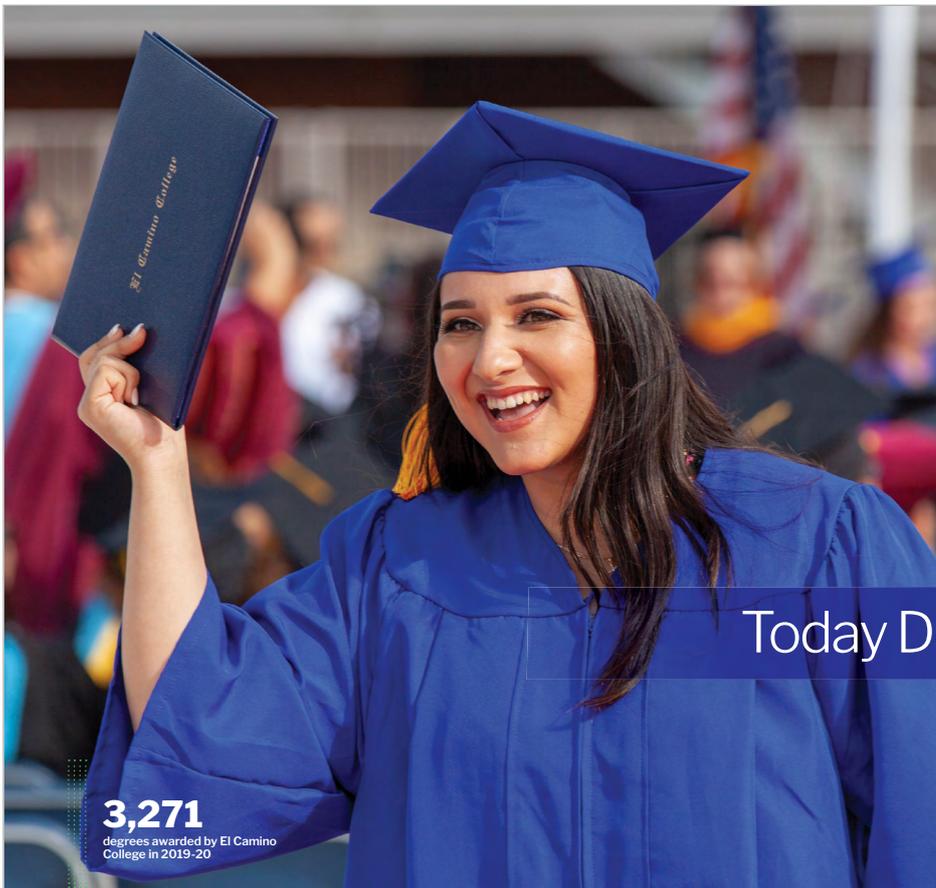
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This issue begins with Dr. Morgan's message on page 3. During this challenging year she highlights there were many positives. Just when students were encouraged to spend less screen time it became necessary to spend more screen time with Distance Learning. As we learn throughout life there are always exceptions to the rules.

Please remember to include reading in your summer activities. On page 12 are four student book reviews to help with your choices.

We look forward to continuing to bring you digital issues in the Fall. Our next issue is September 15.

Have a fun summer!



At El Camino, you can find the path that's right for you. We'll help you build a future you and your family will be proud of. Learn more at www.elcamino.edu/summer.

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Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



LaTima Jones
Principal

Soaring with Distance Learning

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) provided a hands-on learning experience and fostered students' love for STEM during distance learning. Eighth-grade students learned about flight by researching its history. They learned about aerodynamics by creating straw jets and paper planes from the comfort of their homes. Students also learned about nanotechnology by creating their own virtual billboard or infomercial. Our eighth-graders thrived despite the limitations of distance learning.

Thanks to the Google Meet Breakout-Rooms and email, seventh-graders found ways to collaborate. For Energy and the Environment, students learned about our current energy crises. The unit concluded with the Renewable Energy Fair in which the sixth-grade PLTW students were invited to participate virtually. Seventh-graders were able to showcase their prototypes and share their research. It was a great experience!

In the Medical Detectives module, students were introduced to the medical field by diagnosing a patient's

illness and providing them with the correct treatment plan. Students are looking forward to the next lesson in which they will learn about the human brain and see a virtual sheep-brain dissection.

The sixth-grade PLTW class embraced the challenges of distance learning and found solutions as engineers. They learned about the basics of design and modeling when they created the tallest-possible tower using only cardboard, paper and materials from home. They learned how to measure, read blueprints, and create a skimmer out of paper. They dabbled in the arts by drawing one-point perspectives, multiview sketches of plastic construction blocks, and three-dimensional drawings on Kami. They are ending the year strong by learning how to code using a simulator on Microsoft Makecode in the Innovators and Makers module. They have used Tinkercad to create three-dimensional projects and have created flowcharts for their coding.

All of our students and teachers have persevered through the use of the online platform to create an impactful STEM experience for all.

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • www.hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Mike Goldstein
Principal

Employees of the Year!

It's my pleasure to recognize the Eucalyptus Employees of the Year for 2020-21!

Blanca Aguilar, our attendance clerk, was hired by the district in 1990 and is finishing her 31st year as a proud Koala. Keeping track of attendance was one of many difficult challenges during distance learning, and Mrs. Aguilar was a superstar, supporting all of our teachers and families in this enormous task. She is also the first to volunteer to translate, walk a student to class, deliver something to a room, or greet you with a smile.

Stephanie Rodriguez is currently a fourth-grade teacher and has taught second, third and fifth grades since we hired her in 2015. Ms. Rodriguez is involved in just about everything we do at Eucalyptus. She's an elected member of the School Site Council, a team member of the Reciprocal Learning Project, which addresses equity issues



Stephanie Rodriguez



Blanca Aguilar

in schools; oversees GATE (gifted and talented students); and helped create a professional-development program called 3T's: Teachers Teach Teachers!

On behalf of Koala Nation, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Aguilar and Ms. Rodriguez as Eucalyptus 2021 Employees of the Year!

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones
Principal

Project Lead The Way

When Hawthorne Middle School started using Project Lead The Way (PLTW) almost three years ago, the 100 percent hands-on activity lessons based in STEM were a perfect match to integrate into our Common Core curriculum and business academy. But when the pandemic started, we needed to get creative in order to deliver the courses that depend so much on our students actually

sitting in a classroom in teams while solving problems with hand-held technology.

“The first thing you think when you’re told you have to do distance learning is, ‘There’s no way we can teach these courses,’” said John Gutierrez, an HMS teacher who is in his second year of teaching PLTW. “But thanks to support from the administration and the District Office, everyone was able to put their heads together and figure out a way to

deliver the material so that our students could get the most out of the courses.”

But what really helped was PLTW creating distance learning opportunities for many of the sections in each course. These ranged from podcasts and online learning “quests” to guides for students to write out the solutions to their problems and deliver them to their class in an online meeting.

A “Chromebook Guide” made it easy for students to solve most of the tech issues on their own, and the modules that used to be done in class were revamped for at-home learning. Our students were also able to test the apps they created by using an online “emulator” rather than the school’s own tablets.

Mr. Gutierrez will be finishing the second and last course this year, and will soon be working with business teacher Mr. Gaxiola to turn their app ideas into business plans for a Shark Tank type of competition.

Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620 • www.hawthornemsa.org



Esau Berumen
Principal

HMSA’s School Year during the Pandemic

By Chris Jahnke, English Teacher

No one was prepared for last spring, but HMSA was ready for the fall. In retrospect it sounds simple: an email was sent that laptops would be picked up, zoom links would be distributed, classes would meet online, and “google classrooms” would become the new meeting places. Then school

began, teachers were introduced, goals were set, materials were studied, assignments were explained, classmates were heard, lectures were given, topics were researched, discussions were had, tests were taken, papers were written and presentations were, well, presented. Sure, our collective lives were rocked and our home/school lives were merged, but we greet the summer with another California



Distinguished School award, another mention in *US News and World Report*, a thriving AP program, a fresh 6-year WASC accreditation, and our biggest senior class ever on tap for this fall. We remain exceptionally grateful for the efforts of Aviator students, parents, and staff, especially this year.

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Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



Josh Godin
Principal

Staff Appreciation Week

Everyone likes to feel appreciated! At Jefferson, the staff's hard work and perseverance have not gone unnoticed!

Staff Appreciation Week took place in May. All of the staff at Jefferson has persevered for over a year dealing with the COVID environment. It has been tough for all staff members, but each one has worked super-hard to make sure we are all safe

and families are getting what they need—whether it be information or food, we haven't stopped working!

So, during Staff Appreciation Week, parents and students brought amazing gifts and wonderfully worded cards for our staff. Staff members were all given a catered lunch, individually boxed, from a Long Beach restaurant,

and gift cards from a coffee shop or specific teacher-related gifts were also presented. Along with the tangible gifts that were given to staff, teachers received messages virtually from other staff members and mainly from students. A Jamboard was created, and students and some staff members left video messages for teachers, thanking them for everything that they do and letting them know how much they appreciate them.

Knowing that Staff Appreciation Week has passed doesn't mean that you can't continue to heap praise upon our staff at Jefferson! Everyone has been doing more than their job duties specify, and I could not be prouder of how they have handled it. So, when you see one of our staff members, make sure to say a few kind words to them for all of their hard work. We couldn't be prouder of how all the Jefferson Eagle staff have come together over the past year. You are very much appreciated and loved.

Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



Marisa Stewart
Principal

Glad to be Back!

Teachers and students at Kornblum School are so happy to be back on campus together! The Kornblum family is starting to get back to normal. Teachers are thrilled to be able to offer in-person instruction. They are happy to be able to have their classrooms filled with students and to be able to teach them in person.

Some quotes from teachers:

"I have been able to hear my students speak and participate when I wasn't able to, while they were online."

"I had no idea that Melanie was such a great reader until

she was in person! She never read to me like that when we were distanced."

"My heart is full, I feel like I can make deeper connections with my students. I love having them in person!"

There is an understanding that we will be starting next school year behind due to the time we missed with our students this year. However, we are ready for the challenge and know that once we are all back in person, all day, everyday, that we can get them back to where we need them to be.

It is an honor to work with the talented, selfless, dedicated staff at Kornblum School. Let's go Cardinals! We can do it!





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Jefferson School
Kornblum School
Ramona School
Prairie Vista MS

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Washington School
York School
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Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

New Beginnings

It's a natural feeling, as we approach the end of the school year, to experience some mixed emotions of both joy and sadness. We are excited to begin summer vacation, but we will also miss seeing students and colleagues each day.

The eighth-grade promotion ceremony can also seem bittersweet. It is both a celebration and goodbye, as the students with whom we have come to know so well turn the page to the next chapter of their lives. This year we must also say farewell to a few staff members. Mrs. King, our esteemed math teacher, who after 20 years will be retiring. Also Mr. Paterson, our assistant principal, who will now be the principal of York Elementary School next year.

So to Mr. Paterson, Mrs. King, and all the students who are moving on, we want to wish you congratulations, much success, and happiness. Have an awesome summer!

"How lucky are we to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." - W.P



Mr. Paterson and Mrs. King say goodbye to PVMS.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



Dr. Patricia Ray
Principal

A Positive Impact

We implemented Project Lead The Way (PLTW) in 2018-2019 because we knew that PLTW provides students with a rich STEM education that is engaging, and it also creates strong 21st-century learners. The program was taught in English in only two kindergarten classrooms that year.

The following year PLTW made their modules available in Spanish, which allowed us to grow our program and include students in our Two-Way Bilingual Immersion (TWBI) program. In the 2019-2020 school year, we expanded the PLTW program and had one English PLTW teacher and one Spanish PLTW teacher in the kindergarten, second, and fourth grades.

The students in both English and Spanish PLTW classes were engaged, worked in a collaborative environment, and were eager to participate. Kindergarten student Isaiah told

us, "This is awesome! Me gusta construir cosas y usar un blueprint." This was back when his class was building their *Three Little Pig* houses last year.

This year we trained four additional teachers, and will now be able to offer PLTW to all of our kindergarten classes next year.

PLTW has ignited a spark as students are now immersed in dialogue, navigate through the engineering design process, and work on communication and team-building skills as they complete their activities, challenges, and projects. In just a short amount of time we have seen the positive impact that these PLTW resources have had on our students. It's more than just excitement, too. The children are so proud when they converse about their projects to their classmates and teacher.

We look forward to growing the PLTW program at our school and observe the impact that our students will have in our community and the world!

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



Maritza Cruz-Brown
Principal

Focus on the Positive

Our students, staff, families and Washington community continue to remain optimistic as we approach the end of a school year like no other. Many would say that this academic school year has been a “roller coaster.” Admittedly, there have been ups and downs. I choose to focus on the positives.

For example, our students have never been this technologically advanced. This year, they mastered all components of the Google platform. They know how to join a Google Meet for synchronous learning and electronically submit classroom assignments. They have also learned how to maintain their own Google Drive and navigate throughout the different applications for learning.

Our teaching staff has also enhanced its technological skills. The way staff members deliver a lesson will never be the same! They have more tools on their “teaching belts” than ever before! They know how to use a variety of applications to enhance lessons and everyday instruction. For example, they know how to use Pear Deck and Jamboard as formative assessment tools. They use Kami to model how to annotate and type on actual documents. They are now able to monitor students’ access to apps through Blocksi as a way to ensure that students maintain their focus on learning.

I am very proud of all the learning that has taken place by students and staff. As Washington Wildcats, we look forward to continuing learning and perfecting skills as we continue to ride the roller coaster.

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



Jessica Moore
Principal

Game On!

By Theresa Chappell, Literacy Coach

How do you host “Family Literacy Night” during a hybrid instructional school year? You simply turn learning into a virtual game! Typically at York, we invite our students and their families to join us in the cafeteria for Family Literacy Night. However, in these unique times of hybrid learning, we have been very creative in our delivery of literacy activities while continuing to make “Family Literacy Night” fun and engaging for everyone.

Using a virtual game platform, York teachers and staff organized a remote “Family Literacy Night” on May 13th. Teachers and other staff members prepared mini-lessons on various language arts topics, followed by multiple interactive virtual games.

Each mini-lesson and game emphasized specific ELA topics such as phonics, grammar, and comprehension, and each Google Meets classroom was assigned a specific grade level. Students and their family members joined a Google Meets classroom to learn and play games that promoted a friendly competition among players and teams.

The success of this event was measured by engagement, interaction, laughter, and fun. In fact, one of the students in the fifth-grade classroom summarized it perfectly when he said, “I never knew learning language arts online with my friends could be this much fun.”

York’s Family Literacy Night was a great reminder that we are still a community even if we are not together physically.

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



Matt Rohrer
Principal

Building Community Partnerships

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges for Zela Davis Elementary. Despite these challenges, the Hawthorne School District and Zela Davis remained committed to maintaining its exceptional

programs. In addition to creating quality online and in-person learning experiences for our students, Zela Davis strived to support and expand our unique STEM programs and community partnerships.

Classroom teachers were able to incorporate Project Lead The Way into our virtual learning environment to create an engaging problem-based learning



experience. Additionally, we were able to re-start our Girls In Engineering program with the help of SpaceX engineers. Our incredible students were tasked with creating a space vehicle that must be able to move and transport water. Students worked collaboratively with the engineers and Ms. Franklin, our STEM teacher, over several virtual sessions to create their working models.

In an exciting new development, Zela Davis has begun to engage in virtual sessions with the United States Space Force. Officers have interacted with our students to explore the importance of STEM education and its contribution to the mission of the Space Force. Zela Davis is proud to make this new connection and looks forward to working with the Space Force next year!

Daniel's Review



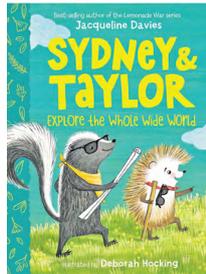
Daniel H.

Cute Friends' Adventure

Title: *Sydney & Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World*

Author: Jacqueline Davies

Do you ever feel like you want to go on a big adventure? The best friends in this book do and they go on one together.



Sydney, a skunk, and his best friend Taylor, a hedgehog, live together in a cozy burrow. One day, they decide to leave their home for the first time ever to go on an expedition to places unknown in the outside world. Along the way, they discover new things and meet different animals. They also run into some problems, but they help each other out and make things better.

This book teaches you that friends help each other and no matter how much fun you have in new places, home is always the best place to be!

Daniel is in first grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

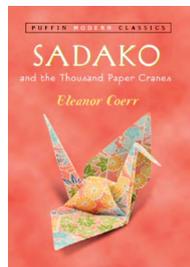
Sadako's Wish

Title: *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*

Author: Eleanor Coerr

Have you ever heard about the myth of one thousand paper cranes?

This story is based on the real story of Sadako



Sasaki and the thousand paper cranes. Sadako loved running. However, she got the atomic disease, and she couldn't run anymore. One day, her friend, Chizuko, showed her how to make a paper crane and said, "If a sick person folds one thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again." She gave Sadako the paper crane that she folded as the first one. Then, she decided to make one thousand paper cranes to make her well. Did she fold one thousand paper cranes? Did her wish come true? This book is not only about Sadako's story, but also about the horrors and tragedy of war. This is a touching and inspirational story. If you are interested in her story, I recommend this book.

Taegyong K. is a 5th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to play video games, board games, and badminton. She would like to be a person who is kind and helps others.

David's Review



David H.

Save Little Claws!

Title: *The Animal Rescue Agency #1: Case File: Little Claws*

Author: Eliot Schrefer

If you love animals like I do, you should definitely read this book.

Esquire Fox and Mr.

Pepper the rooster run the

Animal Rescue Agency, which rescues animals in trouble all around the world.

Little Claws, a cute polar bear cub, is stranded on an iceberg that is floating away from his mom, Big Claws. This dangerous situation is caused by a man in a white fur hat. Big Claws contacts the Animal Rescue Agency for help. Join Esquire Fox and Mr. Pepper on their daring adventure to discover WHO the man in the white hat is, WHAT he wants to do, and find out if Little Claws gets reunited with his mom.

You'll love reading this exciting book!



David is in third grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Favorite Tree House Adventure

Monday with a Mad

Genius by Mary Pope Osborne

is the 10th book in the series

Magic Tree House. It is about

two siblings of Frog Creek,

Pennsylvania (Jack and

Annie) who go back in time by

the magic tree house. Their

mission is to help a magician named Merlin of Camelot find the secret of happiness. During the journey, the siblings travel to Florence, Italy and meet Leonardo DaVinci in the 1500s. Jack and Annie watch DaVinci fly the Great Bird and finish the Mona Lisa painting.

This was a fun book to read. The story is full of excitement and interesting information. I learned about Mona Lisa and Leonardo DaVinci. Reading that DaVinci was also an inventor, architect, stage and costume designer, horseman, chef, geologist, and botanist was fascinating. My favorite parts are when Jack and Annie figured out the secret of happiness and that DaVinci was also a horseman. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves adventures.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

