

FREE

School News

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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 70

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

Riding the Bus to School

By Dr. Sherry Kropp, Superintendent

Safety is the number one priority of the Los Alamitos Unified School District, and one way to increase student safety is to have them ride the bus to and from school.

We have a strong Transportation Department that provides bus services to all of our sites. We have added several new bus drivers this year and continue to add additional routes to make it even more convenient for our families. Our students like riding the bus with their friends, it reduces traffic on our roads, and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are one of the safest forms of transportation. In fact, school buses are seven times safer than passenger cars or light trucks.



Our bus drivers are also extremely competent and well-trained. They must have a commercial driver's license and a passenger endorsement along with special training. This includes how to safely load and unload the students, passenger management, and CPR. In addition, drivers must pass a background check, submit to DMV reporting, and periodically undergo re-certification through the California Highway Patrol.

Riding the school bus has never been more economical as the cost is "a buck a ride." All students are welcome to ride and parents can opt to purchase one way passes or semester passes. For more information, visit the Parent tab on our website at www.losal.org. Our drivers look forward to welcoming your students on the bus!



Meg Cutuli
President

Happy New Year to our students, staff, parents and community! As we pull out our new calendars and start to plan our year, our students and staff return to the classroom refreshed and ready to go! Teachers are looking at the educational goals for all our students and are working at top form to reach them. Students know the routine and what is expected of them. This partnership is the foundation of educational success for all.

This doesn't mean that from now until June, there is nothing but homework and projects. Our 5th grade students will be attending Outside Science School for a week in the mountains exploring nature and experiencing hands on science lessons. Our middle and high schools have plays, dance performances, choir shows and art exhibits planned. It is also competition season for our performing groups at the high school. And Spring sports! We can't forget them either! And all the clubs that we have at our middle and high schools are busy scheduling activities until the end of the school year.



for technology after they graduate from high school! But it is important to teach the proper use of technology and use it to enhance the learning experience. Making sure our students have an exposure to many types of devices and programs increases their adaptability for the future.

2017 is starting out as an exciting year for our schools and community! On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to wish you all Happy New Year and thank you all for the support that you give our children and schools.

Board of Education



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Los Alamitos Education Foundation



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

4th Annual Royal Court

By Carrie Logue, Executive Director

The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) announced the 4th annual King & Queen of Hearts Royal Court on December 15. The King and Queen will be crowned at the Royal Ball and Coronation gala on February 24 at The Grand in Long Beach. During these ten weeks, candidates will raise funds for LAEF and every dollar counts as a vote! Proceeds will support school STEAM Fairs (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Math) and another district-wide STEAM showcase on May 20.



Kerrie DaVanon, Joe Maggiore, Ginny Ferguson, Brian Leibl, Erin Kominsky, Jeffrey Blancq, Deb Machen and Tom Rowe.

The Queen candidates are Kerrie DaVanon of Happy Hour Fit Club, Ginny Ferguson of Watersafe Swim School, Principal Erin Kominsky of Oak Middle School, and Deb Machen of the Seal Beach Lions and Chamber. The King candidates are Jeffrey Blancq of New York Life, LAHS parent Brian Leibl, Joe Maggiore of Brew Kitchen Ale House, and Tom Rowe of The Abbey. To learn more, please visit LAEF4Kids.org/KingAndQueen.



This is our 14th year publishing the excellence from the Los Alamitos Unified School District. There have been many changes in the classrooms, but the constant is academic excellence. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

I always enjoy your comments when you email your contest answers. Marissa is now reviewing movies and Keira continues writing book reviews along with our syndicated student columnists.

Our next issue is April 5.

School News

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Covering the
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Seal Beach Animal Care Center

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

Do Cats Get Bored?

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Cats are known to be naturally inquisitive animals, and their senses are much more sensitive than those of humans. Indoor cats need to have their environment as stimulating as possible, or the chances of them becoming bored or frustrated are higher.

When cats are bored, they may become stressed and their behavior may result in destructive behavior. Cats may scratch furniture, urinate outside the litter box, and meow excessively. They may become overweight if they don't receive appropriate exercise, and they will overeat to fill their time.

Be sure to keep your cats safe. Check for plants that may be poisonous. Make sure that cords are secure and out of sight or wrapped with a protective covering. Put away anything that you think your cats might get into during your absence. Make sure that windows and screens are secure in case your cats see activity outside that he or she might like to join in on.

Keep your indoor cats happy by having things in your home to keep them busy. A cat tree is a must, along with various cat toys as long as the toys are safe. Spend time playing with your cats by using interactive toys such as the mouse catcher. Store the interactive toy once you are done playing. Your cats will be excited when they see you open the door where it is stored.

Help your cats feel secure in their home, and you'll have happy cats for a long time to come.



Barefoot Injuries



Dr. Doug Richie

Now that the barefoot running craze has ended, it is time to focus on injuries which can occur in the house while standing or walking barefoot. Yes, a large number of foot conditions can be directly attributed to a lifestyle of being barefoot in the home.

Many people prefer being barefoot in their house. Some discard their dirty shoes at the front door for hygiene purposes hoping to keep germs from spreading into their home. Others just want to get their hot tired feet out of their shoes to breathe after a long day at work. This all makes sense except for the fact that our feet may not like being exposed to prolonged standing on hard floors in the home setting without the protection of a shoe.

Metatarsal bruises, nerve injuries, arch strain, heel bruises and Achilles tendon strain are just a few problems which can arise from standing and walking barefoot on hard floors in the home setting. Even on padded carpet, there can be strain of supportive tendons and ligaments in people who have weak feet and require the support of a shoe.

A good compromise is switching to supportive sandals to wear in the house. There are many "healthy sandals" on the market today which combine padding, arch support and a heel raise to decrease strain on the Achilles and arch of the foot. If these sandals are worn only as a "home shoe" they stay clean, while protecting your feet and providing many of the benefits of being barefoot.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 33 years. He is Past President of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves on the medical staff for Long Beach State Athletics.

A large number of foot conditions can be directly attributed to a lifestyle of being barefoot in the home.

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From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.

Josue's specialty:

Drummer Boy

**Josue, 4-years-old,
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Pediatric Heart Patient**



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Negative Effects of Energy Drinks



Saar Danon, M.D.
medical director,
Pediatric
Cardiology and
Congenital
Cardiac
Catheterization,
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Energy drinks have rapidly become a go-to beverage for teens – according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, energy drinks are the most popular dietary supplement consumed by teens and young adults in the United States.

They may not understand, however, the harm energy drinks can have on their developing bodies. Here's what you and your teen need to know about energy drinks and their long-term effects:

- Almost one third of teens between the ages of 12 and 17-years old consume energy drinks regularly.
- Large amounts of caffeine may harm children's still-developing cardiovascular and nervous systems. A 24 oz. energy drink may contain the same amount of caffeine in four or five cups of coffee.
- According to the American Heart Association, drinking a single 16 oz. energy drink boosts blood pressure and stress hormone responses in young, healthy adults. These changes can lead to an abnormal, irregular heartbeat or even sudden cardiac death.
- Energy drinks may cause heart problems that develop later into adulthood, despite not being immediately present during adolescence.

Energy drinks should not be considered a healthy beverage option for children or young adults. If your teen is looking for a boost of energy, recommend a healthier option, like exercising, stretching or drinking a fruit-filled smoothie.

The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach provides total care for pediatric and young adult patients with congenital or acquired heart disease. Learn more at MillerChildrens.org/Heart.



Hopkinson Elementary

12582 Kensington Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4500 • www.losal.org



Très Bien, Mes Enfants!

In January, the Los Alamitos High School French Honors Society hosted French Activities Day for Hopkinson's Kids Korner. The high school students organized three stations that allowed 60 of our Huskies to learn numbers 1–10, colors and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," all in French!

All of the activities provided opportunities for our Huskies to collaborate, communicate, critically think and intake new knowledge. The activities were engaging. All students left the activity centers with smiles. After the French Activities Day, we have a lot of Huskies interested in learning French!

Hopkinson students had so much fun learning from Griffins. They were inspired and looked up to the high school students with great admiration. At Hopkinson, we appreciate and foster all connections between Huskies and Griffins. These connections provide experiences that inspire students' love of learning and of our community. These connections create memories for our Huskies that last a lifetime.



Los Alamitos Elementary

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



Orange County STEM Showcase

After a rigorous selection process, fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Fielden and the Los Alamitos Elementary fifth-grade students were selected to present at the Orange County Department of Education's STEM Showcase on February 4. Emie Fell, Tim Kang, Amaiya Infante, and Melanie Mena represented LAE's fifth-grade students as they guided the attendees in using robots to code, problem solve, and learn about concepts in mathematics, social studies, and science.

Their presentation, entitled *Ozobots across the Curriculum*, included a demonstration about how Ozobots (robots) are programmed to trace the flow of blood traveling through the heart and lungs to the rest of the human body, making sure to pause at the atrioventricular and mitral valves to simulate the opening and closing of the valves.



LAE's OCDE STEM Showcase representatives
Amaiya Infante, Melanie Mena, Tim Kang and Emie Fell

Lee Elementary

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



Peace Makers

During our recess at Lee you will find many upper-grade students milling around the kindergarten and first- and second-grade playgrounds. You know that they belong there though because they are wearing an official looking bright-yellow vest and carrying clipboards, and they are greeted by our students and teachers alike. If asked, they would tell you that they are Lee's "Peace Makers" there to help the younger students solve problems that might arise on the playground.

The fourth-grade Peace Maker trainees participate in conflict management and are mentored by the fifth-grade Peace Makers. When a Peace Maker discovers a student experiencing a conflict, they follow a script that helps

them assist the younger students in coming to their own resolutions. Important pieces of the script allow each person to speak in turn, express what the problem is as they see it, express their emotions, and then compose a solution to the problem.

Peace Makers are teaching our youngest Leos how to communicate effectively to help solve problems.



Lee Peace Makers helping young students

Los Alamitos High School

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



A Fantastic Year

Los Alamitos High School had a solid finish to its fall athletics, as many teams and individuals made it into CIF Playoffs, including football, girls volleyball, girls cross country, and girls golf, among others. Winter sports are underway with every sport ranked as a team or with individuals in the Top 10 in Orange County.

Our teachers are currently launching the spring focus of Connected Learning around the College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading, Writing, and Listening. This cross-disciplinary initiative involves teachers from multiple disciplines, and it leverages both traditional and new media/technology approaches to teaching and learning.

Students in the Los Al Japanese Program had a special opportunity to learn about Japanese culture. Japanese teacher Mrs. Tomomi Takeuchi applied for and won a Japanese Enrichment Grant that allowed students to participate in a program called "New Year Celebration—Let's Make Rice Cakes." The students learned about and actually made traditional Japanese rice cakes or mocha.

Additionally, four Los Al Marching Band students participated in the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. This was the second year in a row that Los Al had students selected for this honor, making it a total of seven students over the past two years. The program has been around for over a decade, and culminates in the U.S. Army All-American Football Bowl that features the top high school football players from across the United States, and the top marching band students.

We have had a fantastic school year so far, and look forward to an even better 2017.

McAuliffe Middle School

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



Granting Wishes

Close your eyes and make a wish! It is a favorite childhood memory for many of us. But the lives of some children have been bruised by the difficult journey of a life-threatening illness.

McAuliffe Middle School, in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, has already made one child's wish come true. This was accomplished by the club raising \$5,000 in donations, hosting a variety of activities on campus, and celebrating student birthdays on our school marque.

In November, this deserving young woman visited our campus to talk to our students and thank them for granting her wish! And on January 3, 2017, due to their outstanding work, McAuliffe was honored at the Foundation's Orange County Winter Leadership Summit.

Due to the exemplary efforts and commitment of the club and their advisor, Ms. Valerie Miller, we have collected over \$2,500 in donations, and will hopefully be able to grant another child's wish before the end of the school year!



Our Make-A-Wish club with the girl who received her wish.

Oak Middle School

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720

562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



Successful Science Olympiad!

In January, Oak Middle School's Science Olympiad Team competed in the invitational competition at Kraemer Middle School in Placentia. This was their first completion of the year as they prepare for regionals. There were 44 teams that took part in the competition from around the nation. One team even traveled from Hawaii for the big event!

Oak's students have been practicing all year and gave up numerous hours and days over winter break to make sure they were ready for the competition. After 10 hours of competition, Oak had medaled in three different categories. They won a medal in the Anatomy and Physiology competition, the Wind Power competition and the Disease Detectives competition. This truly was a team effort among the teachers, students and parents who all took time away from their breaks to make this an amazing event.

Congratulations to all the students on the Oak Science Olympiad Team! You showed that hard work and dedication can accomplish amazing things. We are proud of you!



Oak Science Olympiad Team

McGaugh Elementary

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



Hear and Soul Award

Students at McGaugh Elementary are recognized monthly by their proud principal and teachers in the academic areas of Reading, Writing, and Math. Students who show tremendous effort are awarded the Heart and Soul Award and students who exemplify outstanding citizenship, responsibility, respect, and persistence are recognized with the



**Mrs. Francisco with 3rd grade student
Cameron Gill**



**Mr. Ray Crutcher with 2nd grade student
Paloma Sanabria**

coveted Seal of Approval Award given to students in grades TK through five. Students are selected monthly and are announced at a schoolwide assembly. Parents are invited to attend the assemblies and surprise their children when they are announced. The pictures are just a sample of our outstanding students and their teachers at our holiday assembly in December.

Weaver Elementary

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losal.org



Project Lead the Way

By Dr. Darielle Tom, Media Center Specialist and TOSA

Weaver is launching a unique opportunity for its students. They will be participating in activity, project and problem based learning through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW classrooms launch critical thinking skills, challenges students to learn from their mistakes, integrates technology and encourages them to work together to solve problems. For example, 3rd grade students must move a 600 lb. tiger across a moat. They first build a simple machine, then a complex machine to complete the task. The curriculum is aligned to Common Core Math and English State Standards as well as Next Generation Science Standards. The purpose is to teach students to be adaptive problem solvers and provide for the critical thinking skills needed in a 21st century global community. The curriculum offers students with real world experiences and allows them to acquire the skills for future jobs that may not currently exist.



**Students problem solve in the Media Center
Vex IQ kits ' from PLTW.**

Rossmoor Elementary

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720

562/799-4520 • www.losal.org



Student Leaders

Our fourth- and fifth-grade Rossmoor Elementary School Knights are given opportunities to be involved in leadership opportunities. Our Knights look forward to joining leadership, a service group that gives students opportunities to serve our school community while showcasing their leadership skills. Teachers Ms. DiRoberto and Mrs.

Grimaud facilitate the leadership group and the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) group.

Our leadership students shared, "We love to help all Rossmoor Knights! We get to know our younger students, help them solve their problems, and teach them our school rules."

Our Knights nominate their peers who are seen as leaders on campus. These students are given the honor by their peers to join PAL and expand their leadership skills. Some leadership positions include valet morning drop off, media center assistants, and recess conflict managers.

Our leadership and PAL students work hard to model a growth mindset and set positive examples that they will nurture throughout their educational journey.



Fourth Grade Leadership Knights: Ava Teague, Avery Colbert, Natalie Meyer, Antonius (Ben) Vandermost, Jack Humphries, Dublynn Schuck, and Aubrey Smith

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2017 Goal: A Year of Reading



Sean Whittle
Branch Manager

With the ushering in of a new year, many people make resolutions. Lose weight and exercise. Reconnect with friends. Etc. I want to purpose to you as a resolution that you share in our staff theme for OC Public Libraries in 2017. The theme is "A Year of Reading". Each staff member at their own pace and in their own way will take up being intentional about reading. It may be a goal to read from various genres, especially ones outside of your usual ones. Another idea is to read one book a month. There are many ways to join us. And don't shy away from using a format that works for you such as print or electronic.

Now the key to setting goals is to make them S-M-A-R-T, so you have the best chance of achieving your goals. This means that your goal is specific. "I want to read more books" is not specific. "I want to read one book a month" is specific. Your goal will be measureable. "I want to be nice" can't be measured. "I will do one act of spontaneous kindness a week" is measurable. This will be your goal, and not somebody else's goal. It will be realistic. Set a goal that is challenging but within your grasp. Finally, your goal will be time-bound. Our theme spans 2017, but your goal can be broken down into days, weeks, or months. Lastly, write down the goal. You can keep it personal, or post in a prominent place as encouragement.

Among the various aspects of the noble mission of the Library, fostering a community of readers is one of our most valued goals. Join us in 2017 to make this more and more a reality. Happy Reading!



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FREE Class for all 2nd Graders on March 27th

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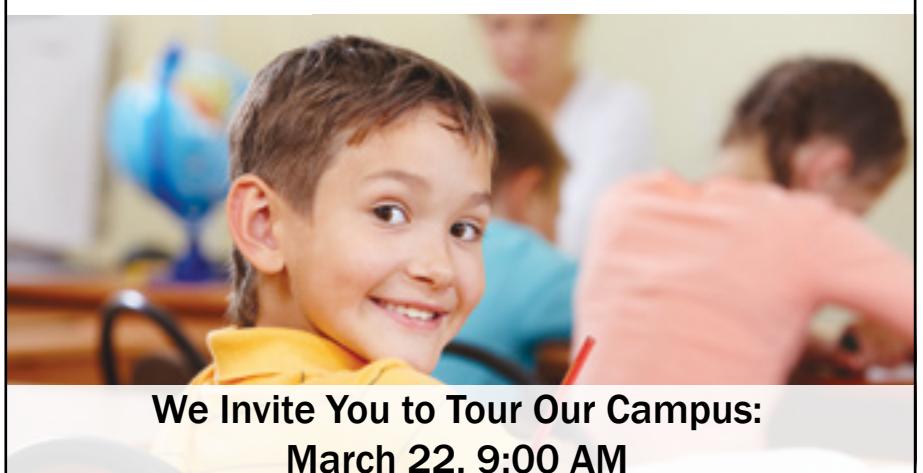


OF LONG BEACH

• 2nd-5th.....4:30 p.m.
• 6th-8th.....6:15 p.m.
• 9th-12th.....8:00 p.m.
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Alana's Book Review

SWAY

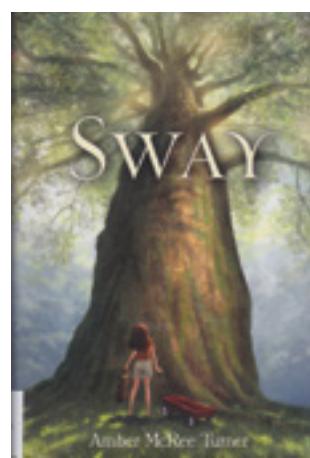


Alana F.

Cass Nordenhauer is a young girl whose ultimate dream is to be a volunteer for the Southern Mobile Aid Response Team alongside her mom, Toodi. So when Toodi finally returns home from a rescue mission, Cass is ecstatic to see her again. But after a confusing conversation with Cass' dad, Toodi drives away in tears and Cass' dream is seemingly squashed. Afterwards, Cass' dad decides that he and Cass should go on an adventure together, and the pair hit the road to explore the countryside. Along the way, Cass' dad introduces her to Sway, a seemingly magical power which can change the way that one thinks in a matter of seconds. With the power of Sway, can Cass find a way for her family to be reunited, or will any memories of a stable life be forever lost to the wind?

I enjoyed this book immensely and would give it five out of five stars because I really appreciate how countless youth nowadays could relate to Cass and her home situation.

Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.



Lucy's Book Review

The World From Up Here



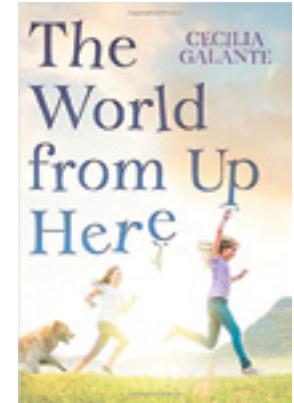
Lucy Davis

Author: Cecilia Galante

Wren Baker has never been brave. She hasn't ever stepped out of her comfort zone, or done something risky and unpredictable.

That all changes when her mother is put in the hospital, and Wren doesn't even know why. Her dad seems to cover everything up, and he sends her to live with her aunt and "perfect" cousin, Sliver. Soon after her move, everything she's doing is dangerous, from riding a spooked horse to trekking up a seemingly haunted mountain. To top it off, what was supposed to be research for a history project turns into one of the most scary experiences of her life. Throughout her adventures, Wren is learning more about her own past than she ever thought she would.

Cecilia Galante's novel is fantastic, and I give it five bookworms out of five for its suspense and thoughtfulness.



Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Weather Words 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 March 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BAROMETER	FROST	STEGER
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CELSIUS	HUMIDITY	SWARTHOUT
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CLOUD	HYDROMETER	THERMOMETER
CUMULUS	ICE STORM	THUNDERSTORM
CYCLONE	MIST	TORNADO
DEW	RAIN	TRAUBEL
DUST STORM	SLEET	TYphoon
FAHRENHEIT	SNOW	VANILLA
FOG	SQUALL	



Congratulations to Artem Shatalov Winner of the December Word Search Contest!

Isabella's Book Review

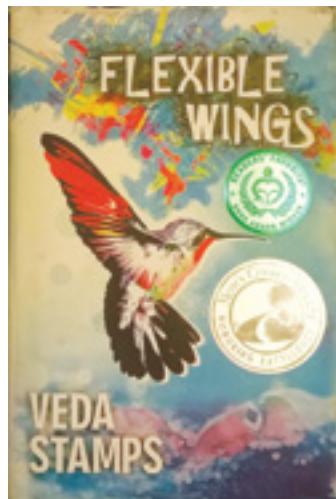
A Page-Turner



Isabella A. *Flexible Wings* is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breath because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!

I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a 10 year old who enjoys reading and writing fiction novels based on true events. Her latest collection of short stories is based on the mischievous adventures with her 9 year old sister. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.



Keira's Book Nook

An Emotional Book

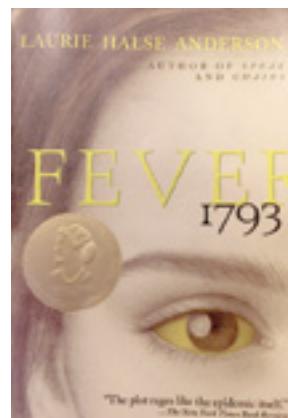


Keira *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

This epic book tells what living under the shadow of death is like in the year 1793. Maddie Cook spends her time helping at her family's coffee shop until yellow fever comes. Destroying everything Maddie knows, the fever continues on until it's every person for himself/herself.

Until everyone flees and there's no cure... until people get left on the sidewalk to rot... until race doesn't matter... until there is hope and health!

The characters provoked sadness and joy in me as I was reading this story. So, read this emotion filled book and love it like I did. It won an award from the National Library Association.



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.



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Marissa's Movie Mentions

Action Packed Movie



Marissa Aldegarie

Over the winter break I went to see the movie, *Rogue One* on the opening day. This movie is a pre-cursor to the original *Star Wars* movie. Former scientist of the Galactic Empire, Galen Erso, did not realize his invention was going to be used for evil purposes so therefore he escaped to hide on a peaceful farm where he started his family. When the evil Commander Orson Krennic finds Galen, he takes him against his will to continue making the Death Star. His daughter, Jyn went hiding and was raised by Saw Gerrera. Years later, Jyn creates a group of rebels to find the plans to destroy the Death Star that her dad was forced to continue making. Little did the Empire know that Galen created a flaw in its design so it could be destroyed later and save many planets and lives. I feel that the moral of the story is you should always fight for what's right even if you have to face many enemies. I enjoyed this movie because it's action packed with many special effects such as CGI and has a great story line. I would rate this movie a 4 out of 5. *Star Wars* fans will not be disappointed.

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.

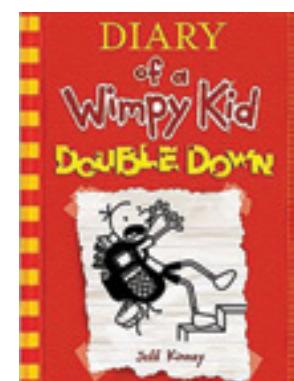
Michael's Book Review

A Hilarious Book



Michael H.

Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family is secretly a bunch of robots, and worries that what his mom said about his nana watching over him since she died is literally true. His mom thinks video games and TV are turning his brain into mush. She tells him to explore his "creative side."



This is all happening near Halloween and Greg feels like frights are coming his way from every direction. He joins the band. That would make his mom happy and he would be invited to the Halloween party. Going to the party he freaks out when he realizes his mom isn't just dropping him off she plans on staying. Will she embarrass Greg and ruin his whole plan?

I give this book 5 stars although it didn't have a main story line it was hilarious and can't wait to read the next one.

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.



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Diverse Learning Environments



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

In 1943, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez did what many Orange County families do each year — they sought to enroll their children in their neighborhood school.

But they were turned away from 17th Street School in Westminster and directed instead to a less desirable campus serving students of Mexican descent. Whites attend one campus, the family was told; those with darker complexions and Mexican surnames must go to another.

Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez did not accept this premise.

They joined forces with four other Orange County families and took legal action on behalf of 5,000 boys and girls who were unjustly channeled into segregated schools in the 1940s. Following a groundbreaking 1946 victory in the U.S. District Court, the case was appealed to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the ruling on April 14, 1947.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the resolution to Mendez et al v. Westminster, which had profound ramifications not just for Orange County but our entire nation. Indeed, it laid the foundation for the monumental Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, with the United States Supreme Court declaring once and for all that segregated schools were in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The Mendez case is worthy of commemoration for reasons that go beyond merely acknowledging a past injustice. This case should be celebrated as an affirmation of our values, including our commitment to providing universal access to public schools that are safe, equitable and staffed with high-quality educators. It should further remind us of our role to protect those student populations with the greatest needs, including those most vulnerable to shifting political winds and ill-considered policy decisions.

Seventy years after winning their landmark case, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez are no longer with us, but Sylvia Mendez, who was just 9 at the time she and brothers Geronimo and Gonzalo were denied entry into school, continues to speak about her family's extraordinary stance. And in Orange County, the Mendez' legacy is everywhere.

Our schools — more than 600 in total — are diverse learning environments that promote inclusivity and tolerance along with rigorous instruction geared toward college and career readiness. Each day, teachers, administrators and staff at these sites welcome half a million students of all backgrounds, and the Orange County Department of Education supports their work.

The story of Mendez et al v. Westminster offers proof that status quo isn't our preordained path, and that courage and persistence in the face of entrenched biases can yield positive change. More important, the 500,000 children who show up at our schools each morning — some defying tough odds to do so — remind us daily of our responsibility to advocate powerfully on behalf of all Orange County students.



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Be a Volunteer



Dave Barr
Corporal

The Seal Beach Police Department has a robust volunteer corps that is always looking for new members. As a community we can never be too prepared or have too much help. Whether young or young at heart consider giving some of your time to better our community through one of our volunteer teams.

Volunteers in Police Service, or VIPS, program; our most visible volunteer group is readily identified by their distinctive white uniform shirts and infectious smiles. They staff the Seal Beach Pier Police Sub-Station, act as city ambassadors, answer general questions from the public and walk Main Street helping all feel welcome. They also conduct vacation checks to provide additional visibility around town.

Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, program; comprised of volunteers from all walks of life. The team serves as a vital resource that can be called upon to assist the city and region in times of local need or large scale natural disaster or other significant event where their skills and training would benefit the community. Visit <https://westcountycacert.samariteam.com/> for more information.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES, team; these folks are often referred to as Ham Radio operators. This dedicated group will be the vital lifeline of agency communication in the event conventional systems are compromised. They work behind the scenes conducting regular drills and exercises to ensure they are at their best when things in our community are likely at their worst. Visit <http://races41.org/> for additional information.

We also have our Explorer Post for young men and women ages 14 (having completed 8th grade) to 18 years of age. This program offers these soon to be adults various training, activities and experiences. It helps them pursue their special interests, to grow and develop. They also mature into caring and responsible adults who learn about interdependence as it relates to their personal relationships and the community.

As you can see there are many ways everyone, anyone, can give back to the community we all care about.

Please visit <http://www.sealbeachca.gov/Departments/Police/Volunteer-Programs> for more information.

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