

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Vista Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 17

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2017

## Promoting College Awareness for All



Dr. Devin Vodicka

The graduating class of 2017 will be the first group eligible for the Vista Unified School District Guaranteed Admissions Agreement with California State University San Marcos.

We call this the “WAVE Pact” and there are strategies in place to ensure that all of our learners develop a culture of college awareness.

For example, at Monte Vista Elementary School every class has adopted a university. Students learn a school chant and basic facts about the university. College flags and symbols cover the campus and even kindergarten students can tell you why college is an important goal for their learning.

Every week students and staff are encouraged to wear college attire as part of “WAVE Pact Wednesdays.” In addition, all students in 7th and 10th grade complete field trips to local universities to become more comfortable in a higher education environment.

Vista Unified School District has also hired additional counselors at all middle schools to help students set a positive path for the future. We have also implemented new guidance software that allows students and their families to create multi-year plans and complete their college applications online.



2nd Grade Students at Monte Vista Elementary School

As a result of these efforts, we have seen an increase in the percentage of graduates that meet the “A-G” entrance requirements to apply directly to California State Universities and Universities of California. In fact, the percentage of graduates meeting these requirements has improved by almost 8% over the past two years. This is an excellent indicator of progress and I look forward to continued growth as we work together to expand opportunities for all students.

## VUSD Committed to Arts Education

By Carol Herrera, Vice-President Board of Education

Vista Unified School District is committed to providing a comprehensive arts program to all K-12 students in dance, music, theater and visual arts. This mission statement is provided to give the students of our district a blueprint toward achieving an exemplary standards-based visual and performing arts program.

Our three to five year plan is focused on student participation through enjoyable, creative experiences designed to raise student achievement. Our plan is developed with emphasis on equity and equal access for all students. Implementation of this lofty arts education program is so important that Trustees of VUSD Board in collaboration with administrators, teachers and community members have elevated the position of art education to a board goal. VUSD recognizes full implementation of the timeline may be challenged by the district’s overall financial obligations.

Perhaps, some families are not familiar with the progress that the district has made already toward the goal of music, art and dance for all students.



Presently, every school offers some core arts curricula. Rancho Buena Vista, for example, offers arts opportunities to 1097 students. Vista Magnet Middle School has 720 student participants. Arts offerings include digital media, video broadcasting, architectural design, ballet folklórico, jazz band, and conservatory dance. Many other classes are offered to interested students.

Partnerships with universities, community organizations and individuals support our arts program and are used as mentors. Professional art development through the partnership with San Diego Arts Empower Leadership, the San Diego Arts Network and Cal State San Marcos provides academic support.

Even if finances and materials may be limited, the Vista Unified School District remains committed to providing each student with a program in the arts that develops one’s creative interest. The board recognizes that there are more milestones to reach as we strive to become the model of educational excellence and innovation for all of our students. We are well on our way and progressing daily!



Not having a paycheck during the summer had been cataclysmic. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don't have to borrow for the summer."

**ARRONDA H.**

Intermediate School Teacher  
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# School News

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Covering the  
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 5th year publishing the excellence from the Vista Unified School District. There have been many changes in the classrooms, but the one constant is academic excellence. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Thank you for your comments when you email your contest answers. There are two contests in this issue to enjoy!

Our next issue is May 10.

## VUSD Innovation

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.vistausd.org

### Blueprint Connects Students to the World of Work

By Matt Doyle, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Innovation

The Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation has created an innovative partnership between Vista Unified, the Vista Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. The partnership is designed to develop Vista into a “Talent City,” where local students receive practical, hands-on experience in priority work sectors within the Vista business community. The first “talent experienship” was hosted by Solatube Inc. on December 6, 2016.

Talent Cities architect, Gerri Burton of New Learning Ventures, says “The issue of aligning education and employment is global. Countries around the world are addressing how to create talent readiness, ensure talent pipelines and promote lifelong learning. The goal is to provide students with a window into growing sectors, encourage a new conversation with family and community members, and grow the talent that businesses and entrepreneurs need as school-business partnership. In launching this program now, Vista serves as an international role model and in the months to come we hope to share this experience globally.”

Dubbed “talent experienships,” the event at Solatube, Inc., is the first in a series of opportunities for the district and the private sector to work together in building a Talent City in Vista. The overall goal is to build talent readiness aimed at graduating students that are immediately employable in careers aligned to the region’s priority sectors as defined by the San Diego Workforce Partnership: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Health Care, Information & Communication Technology, Life Sciences. Students are selected for an “experienship” based on their demonstration of the essential skills needed to be successful in the 21st century economy.

For more information and pilot updates, please visit the website: [www.vistausd.org/thoughtleadership](http://www.vistausd.org/thoughtleadership)



# Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson’s high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

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(photos not available at press time)

## City of Vista Office of the Mayor

200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1340 • www.cityofvista.com



**Judy Ritter**  
Mayor

### Healthy Lifestyles

I wish our VUSD students and their families a happy, healthy and successful 2017. I look forward to the many partnerships between the Vista Unified School District and the City that will provide a better city to students, their families, and the community.

The positive effects a healthy lifestyle creates in a community is near to my heart. The City has made great strides in investing in healthier and active lifestyles options for Vista residents this past year. The two new skate parks under construction will open in the summer and the new section of trail in Brengle Terrace Park has already opened. The nature trail is a key link in our citywide trail system and provides access to the existing trail from the west end of the park to Wildwood Park. Renovations on Bub Williamson Park are also underway. The City will continue to invest in healthier and active lifestyle options for Vista in this new year.

As we begin 2017, I look forward to the exciting challenges the year ahead will bring to Vista and especially to our senior high students. As always, please feel free to contact me at [info@cityofvista.com](mailto:info@cityofvista.com) with your suggestions about our City.

## Contest!

This chicken is two places in this publication. When you find it, email the page numbers to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put Vista in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2017  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



## Vista Education Foundation

236 E. Broadway, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-8268 • www.vistaedfoundation.org



### A Rewarding 2016

By Brad Peterson, President

The Vista Education Foundation (VEF) enjoyed a rewarding 2016. The VEF is an organization that supports the students and schools of Vista Unified School District. We focus on providing monetary support in the areas of art, technology, scholarships and internships.

In 2016 the VEF received grant requests from many schools in the district including: Casita, Vista High, Major General Murray, Grapevine, Rancho Minerva, Vista Visions Academy, VIDA, VAPA, Trade Tech High, Alta Vista and Mission Vista High. The money donated to these schools provided support for music programs (recorders, music, drums, guitars, ukuleles), art programs (art supplies, drying board, display cases, kilns, murals), gardening programs, digital photography equipment, video equipment, a 3D printer and biotechnical lab equipment. The VEF was also able to continue its support of the Vista Unified Art Festival by providing staging. We completed our first year of a partnership with the Moonlight Youth Theatre and supported over 30 student interns who gained experience in stage management, directing, costume design, lighting and make-up. At the end of the 2016 school year the VEF provided the six high schools in the district with over \$15,000.00 in scholarships for graduating seniors.

The Vista Education Foundation is excited to continue its support for VUSD into 2017. We will hold our annual fund raiser "Heroes of Vista" in April in conjunction with the Vista Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to receiving and approving new requests from all schools in the district.

Visit our website for more information. [www.vistaedfoundation.org](http://www.vistaedfoundation.org)

We will hold our annual fund raiser  
"Heroes of Vista"  
in April in conjunction with  
the Vista Chamber of Commerce.

## Vista Chamber of Commerce

127 Main St., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1122 • www.VistaChamber.org

### Chamber Launches Talent Cities

By Bret Schanzenbach, Chief Executive Officer

Business in the United States is currently experiencing what many are calling a "skills gap." What does that mean?

It means that what education is producing is not what companies need for future employees. To highlight this point, a survey was taken of all the presidents of universities around the country. They were asked one question: Are your graduating students ready to enter the work place when they graduate? Ninety-one percent answered "Yes." When the same question is asked of presidents of businesses who regularly hire recent graduates, only 11 percent answered "Yes."

We have a large disconnect here. To try and close the gap that currently exists, the United States Chamber of Commerce started the Talent Pipeline Management Initiative to bring business and education together at the same table. This is no small task. Last winter, the Vista Chamber of Commerce and Vista Unified School District went to a conference in Washington D.C. on this topic.

As an outgrowth of this conference, we held our first Talent Cities local event in December. We brought 25 eighth-grade students to a manufacturer in the Vista Business Park that makes natural daylighting systems. The students toured the facility and met with representatives on the manufacturing floor in engineering and sales and marketing.

This little pilot program was meant to broaden the students' horizons on possible job and career opportunities that exist right here in their own backyard. It was deemed a success by all involved.

This spring, we hope to expand it and bring 200 students through a similar experience, and next year we hope to bring 1,000 students through this program. It is a small step towards getting business and education to talk, but it is better than no step in that direction.

# Alamosa Park *Elementary*

5130 Alamosa Park Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/940-0700 • www.vistausd.org



**Cindy Anderson**  
*Principal*

## Students are Community Contributors

Alamosa Park is a Character Counts school, and students and staff live by its values. All of our students benefit from character education provided through the Character Counts program's six pillars: trust, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Each month at Alamosa Park, one citizenship pillar is focused on and celebrated. At the end of each month, individual students are recognized at an assembly for how they implemented the identified pillar.

Luann Engstrom's third-graders have taken the pillars of character and embedded them into a year-long project-based learning experience that turns individual students into community contributors. Students took time to research, talk with their families, and contact local agencies to understand the needs of the Alamosa Park community. Once students identified their individual passion, they planned and implemented ways to advertise the need, collect items, and then get them to the organizations. Projects included collecting socks, blankets, or coats so that others would not have to be cold this winter and gathering pet food and blankets for the animal shelters. One student collected pennies for a leukemia foundation, while another made sure that local families had food on their tables and toys for their children during the holidays.

These projects have empowered our students and created a mindset of "I can make a difference in my world." The benefits of this project-based learning model also complement classroom curriculum.

Alamosa Park students care about others in their community and are willing to take action to serve the common good. Research indicates that students as community contributors improve the school environment, strengthen families, builds community support, and increase academic achievement. We all know the proverb that it takes a village to raise a child. But in this case, how great is it that the children are willing and able to also take care of the village!

# Beaumont *Elementary*

550 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-4040 • www.vistausd.org



**David Moore**  
*Principal*

## Additional Science Opportunities

Mr. Thomas Lawrence, a teacher at Beaumont, has developed and implemented the Extended Learning Program (ELP) for our students here on campus. The goal of the program is to prepare students for participation in the VUSD STEM Fest on March 2, 2017.

# Alta Vista *High School*

1575 Bonair Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-3775 • www.vistausd.org



**Mike Sterner**  
*Principal*

## A New Greenhouse

At Alta Vista, we are excited to have a new Ecology class, and a working greenhouse! Richard

Osburn, a teacher at Alta Vista, has taken the time to plan a new class, and design a greenhouse. He then guided the students to help build the greenhouse, with the Vista Unified School District's help, and community help. All of this work has culminated in a class that teaches students how important keeping the environment in rhythm, and how important it is to them and their future. At Alta, we want students to understand how it takes everyone to keep the world green, and healthy. Thank you Mr. Osburn!



This six-week after-school program is available to our first- through fifth-graders, and will serve approximately 20 students per grade level. The focus of the program allows students to work on "MakerLab" projects that are aligned to the NGSS standards.

The ELP supplements the education that our students receive throughout the day by offering additional activities that are of high interest. It allows these students to develop their interest level in activities that may not be offered during the regular school day. The ELP also provides our students with multiple opportunities to become engaged in activities that can develop their critical thinking skills.

With programs like this, our Beaumont students are definitely learning to persevere as critical thinkers!



## Bobier *Elementary*

220 W. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8501 • www.vistausd.org



**Dr. Jenifer Golden**  
*Principal*

### What's Next?

Mrs. Callahan and many teacher leaders have launched the "Project Lead the Way Launch Science" curriculum here at Bobier. PLTW is a program that provides K-5 students with activities designed to prepare them to solve real-world problems. Using the engineering design process, the program gives our students the opportunity to innovate, collaborate, and prepare for the STEM jobs that may be in their futures.

Mrs. Demirdjian helped us to win a grant from the San Diego Zoo on the Watershed Heroes Program and the Scripps Aquarium Squid Dissection Outreach program. It is aimed to educate, inspire, and empower our students to use watershed ecology and science, as well as program a hands-on approach to study the internal systems of squids and their specific functions.

As a Kindness Certified District, and a model of educational excellence and innovation, Bobier knows that encouraging its students to be compassionate and kind will, in turn, support them in becoming critical thinkers and collaborators. In January, we joined hundreds of other schools across the country to partake in the "Great Kindness Challenge 2017."

Last year the Bobier Bronco Random Act of Kindness was for "Coins for Kenya," where our students raised over \$2,000 to help build a school in Kenya. This year we will be collecting coins to help build a school in Pakistan. Congratulations too to Bobier Elementary and Mrs. Karlman's class for helping our students have nationally recognized growth in Achieve 3000, where the students are becoming more proficient readers. What's next at Bobier?

## Casita Center *Elementary*

260 Cedar Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-8442 • www.vistausd.org



**Laura Smith**  
*Principal*

### An International Impact

Natasha Seabrook-Rivera, a third-grade teacher at Casita Center, is helping educators all over the world prepare students for the future. Every three years, 72 countries administer the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to over half a million 15-year-olds in an effort to evaluate education systems worldwide. Students are tested in math, science, financial literacy, collaborative problem solving, and reading.

According to *Business Insider*, in 2015, the United States, which generally performs in the middle range, dropped 11 points in math and remained relatively flat in reading and science, while Singapore was rated at the top in all three areas. It is the goal of participating countries to change the way they teach in order to prepare students for workplace, society and political participation.

Over the past two years, Vista Unified School District has been part of an international action research project led by the Center for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) on behalf of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the writers of the PISA test. In December, 18 researchers and pedagogues from 11 countries gathered in Wales, United Kingdom to share, discuss, and give each other feedback on exemplar lessons and assessments designed to develop creativity and critical thinking in mathematics, science, music, visual arts, and interdisciplinary learning.

As the only classroom teacher at the workshop, Mrs. Seabrook-Rivera provided unique and valuable insight. During the workshop, Mrs. Seabrook-Rivera learned about school systems around the world and discovered what other countries were doing to foster critical and creative thinking. She met with Welsh government officials and discussed how they support their educational systems. Mrs. Seabrook-Rivera was honored to represent the district and the United States.

## Breeze Hill *Elementary*

1111 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92081 • 760/945-2373 • www.vistausd.org



**Rachel D'Ambrosio**  
*Principal*

### Dads of Great Students

With the addition of our parent liaison, Mrs. Rodriguez, we have been able to provide our families with more opportunities for volunteering and supporting their children's success. This year, Mrs. Rodriguez and our PTA implemented our WATCH Dads of Great Students (DOGS) program.

PTA representatives, including our Top DOG, Mr. Starritt, participated in training and implementation, with the support of Mrs. Rodriguez and our school staff. A WATCH DOGS launch event was held at Breeze Hill Elementary School, and more than 100 dads came to learn about the program. Dads are asked to commit to volunteering one day each school year, where they will be visible during arrival and dismissal, participate in classroom activities, and interact with students on the playground.



Our WATCH DOGS have become an integral part of our school community, and many volunteer for different events on campus. During the month of November, they assembled our reading tables and buddy benches on both playgrounds.

WATCH DOGS help to make Breeze Hill the best school in the universe!

## California Avenue

215 W. California Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-4870 • www.vistausd.org



**Rachel Schmidt**  
*Principal*

### Partnering with Parents

On one Friday morning each month, you'll find a group of parents in the California Avenue School Parent Resource Room. They meet together to learn new strategies for working with their children to improve communication, behavior, fine-motor skills, and a host of other skills.

During these monthly parent trainings, school staff members partner with parents to discuss and learn from one another about the needs of students in both the school and home/community settings. Often, staff specialists in the field, such as speech language pathologists, behavior specialists, and occupational therapists, share and dialog with parents. Other times, professionals from the community present information to the families. Some months, parents have opportunities to do make it/take it projects, which allow them to learn about and create materials for home.

Whatever the topic, the opportunity to regularly partner together is valuable for both teachers and parents as we strive to educate and nurture our youngest students.

## Empresa *Elementary*

4850 Avenida Empresa, Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-8454 • www.vistausd.org



**Dr. Cheree McKean**  
*Principal*

### 8th Annual Food Drive Helps the Community

December was definitely the season for giving at Empresa Elementary! Students came together to support Empresa 8th Annual Food Drive benefitting the Bread of Life Rescue Mission in Oceanside. Empresa's student council teamed with former alumni, Hunter Reinseth, to advertise and collect the donated items.

Over 2000 non-perishable food items were collected for the Bread of Life food pantry which serves approximately 10,000 people each month. When asked

how it felt to participate in the food drive, student council treasurer, Lexi McCauslin, said "It feels good knowing I helped someone in need who is less fortunate than I am."



**Success! Empresa students worked together to collect over 2000 cans for the annual food drive.**

## Grapevine *Elementary*

630 Grapevine Rd., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8329 • www.vistausd.org



**Rafael Olivade**  
*Principal*

### Enrichment for Parents and Students!

Our school offers so many engaging programs for parents and students to promote an enriching educational experience!

At Cafecitos, parents learn about topics like taxes, relaxation techniques and promoting wellness around a warm cup of Colombian coffee. The prestigious PIQE Institute offers sessions that help our parents better understand the path to success in the American school system. There is a special graduation ceremony at the end of the parent institute.

After school, our students have a new menu of extracurricular activities including soccer, martial arts, ballet folklórico and guitar through Kids' College, STEM Soccer and Soccer Unity Project. And we continue to provide great academic support with the Grizzly Den and the AM/PM programs.

All these opportunities for parents and students are provided in a positive and caring learning environment with an enthusiastic educational team committed to providing our families with the best education possible. Here's to a great 2017!

## Lake *Elementary*

4950 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/945-5300 • www.vistausd.org



**Krista Berntsen**  
*Principal*

### Wonder Lab

This year, thanks to a generous donation from our PTA, Lake has opened a maker lab that we lovingly call the "Wonder Lab." The lab houses everything a student could want to explore and create, from cotton balls to robotics kits. In rotations, the Wonder Lab is home to our art and coding teachers where they teach art and "tinker time." On weeks when the art and coding teachers are working in classrooms, the Wonder Lab is available to all teachers on campus to bring their classes.



Students have explored magnets, robotics, engineering, physics, art, and their own imaginations. They love to create and make their ideas come to life in this special space! The Wonder Lab is also a frequent home to parent, staff, and student club meetings. We are so thankful to have this amazing space at Lake this year!

## Foothill Oak *Elementary*

1370 Oak Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-3458 • www.vistausd.org



**Sandra Ceja**  
*Principal*

### Our Journey to Personalized Learning

Foothill Oak is proud to be in our first year as a VUSD Personal Learning Challenge School (PL)!

Ten of our teachers joined our PL Leadership Team to learn together and build an innovative, competency based learning pathway that is personalized for each student. Parents, teachers, and staff members have worked together to identify the academic, social-emotional, and learning outcomes that we would like to make sure our students attain before they leave us for middle school and beyond.

We have begun to build individual student profiles that show academic progress by using a variety of data sources to monitor and identify areas of strength and areas of need in order to help make adjustments in instruction. Our students are beginning to set personal learning goals and to monitor their progress towards them.

Our staff has also engaged in learning about a strengths-based approach, and they have identified and celebrated the strengths of our staff members. In the coming months, we will begin to help our students identify their strengths and interests so that they can become the stewards of their own learning.

Stay tuned as we build our vision for excellence and innovation through the PL Challenge!



# Hannalei *Elementary*

120 Hannalei Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6248 • www.vistausd.org



**Tracy Zachry**  
*Principal*

## Student Leaders

Hannalei Elementary School is building future leaders through our Student Leader Program. We have 40 fourth- and fifth-grade students who are collaborating, thinking critically, listening, solving problems, and persevering to make Hannalei a safe and fun

place to learn.

These students meet twice per month with faculty members Tanya Critser and Erin Taccian, who facilitate the program. The students use Character Counts as the base for all decisions. They run the Motivational Monday flag celebration, shelve books and read with younger children in the library, greet guests on campus, welcome new families, mediate on the playground, make announcements, and lead our flag salute daily with the office intercom. Additionally, these student leaders choose themes for spirit days, activities for Kindness Week and Red Ribbon Week, and help to organize Read Across America Day.

We are very proud of our students as they grow to become college and career ready.



# Madison *Middle School*

4930 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-0176 • www.vistausd.org



**Susan Ford**  
*Principal*

## Personal Learning Journey

In the last few years at Madison, our implementation of Common Core Standards has led to more student collaboration and critical thinking, and we have developed a STEM focus (science, technology, engineering, and math.) Now we are embarking on a personal learning journey leading to a teaching and learning approach in which students will be able to focus on their strengths, interests, and values. This year, a dedicated team of teachers is meeting weekly to create our innovation and personal learning plan. We are also including students and

parents in our planning process. Our innovation team recently participated in a Saturday retreat to plan our schedule and determine how we will personalize learning for our students. Our teachers and students are energized and excited about the opportunities for learning they will have in the coming school year.



**Madison student/teacher Innovation Team retreat**

# Maryland *Elementary*

700 North Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6675 • www.vistausd.org



**Carol McKane**  
*Principal*

## Students Create School Broadcasts

“Everybody standby...we begin rolling in 5,4,3,2,1...and action!” Student directors lead broadcast teams in the fully student-run Mako News studio at Maryland Elementary School. Broadcasts are planned, filmed, and edited by teams of students and viewed by the school community.

Student news crew members are learning valuable, lifelong skills. Performing in front of the camera hones the students’ communication and speaking skills. In addition, students develop a voice in their writing as they craft interesting scripts that capture the audience’s attention. And fifth-grader Brenda G. said, “Being on the news crew has made me a better, more confident speaker.”

All students enjoy watching the varied segments in the bi-monthly broadcasts. Regular features include a weather segment with real-time data

from Maryland’s own WeatherBug station, interviews with staff members, questions for students, and a joke of the week.

Broadcasts are posted on a YouTube channel for viewing. See for yourself at <https://goo.gl/5Jn4FN>.



## Mission Meadows *Elementary*

5657 Spur Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/630-7884 • www.vistausd.org



**Dr. Bill Porter**  
Principal

### Restorative Practices

Positive relationships matter, especially on a school campus. During the 2016–2017 school year, Mission Meadows Elementary School is embarking on a school-wide Restorative Practices discipline model in order to capture our students' hearts.

Restorative Practices is an approach to school discipline focused on the needs of the victims, the offenders, and any witnesses of negative behavior incidents. This refreshed view of discipline differs significantly from the historically punitive approach, where the main objective is to punish the offender severely without any thought of repairing relationships between parties. Restorative Practices offers an opportunity to repair harm between the offender and the offended in order to build and sustain effective interpersonal relationships within the school community. Restorative Practices helps to improve positive relationships between all community members.

We are excited to use Restorative Practices to continue to make Mission Meadows a great place to learn!

## Mission Vista *High School*

1306 Melrose Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/758-6800 • www.vistausd.org



**Nicole Miller**  
Principal

### Great Harvest!

At the beginning of the spring term, we have a lot of fall accomplishments to celebrate.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment data indicated our students again scored top-county marks for English, with math not far behind. Athletes and teams participate in CIF post-season competitions in cross-country, girls' golf, field hockey and girls' volleyball. We hope to continue the trend through winter.

Our fall play, *Museum*, was recognized by the California Educational Theatre Association, and our students will perform a scene at the CETA Annual Conference.

Over 400 students earned a 4.0 or higher GPA, and over 70 percent of our students are enrolled in honors and advanced-placement courses. We continue to add courses and programs for our students, including the PLUS Program and CTE Pathways for medical and stage tech.



Twelve students were recognized by Project Lead the Way and the College Board, earning the AP+PLTW Student Recognition Credential. They'll be showcased in an upcoming issue of EdSource.

## Monte Vista *Elementary*

1720 Monte Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-0410 • www.vistausd.org



**Charlene Smith**  
Principal

### Bobcats are Leaders

Every student is a leader at Monte Vista Elementary!

This is the first year for full implementation of our "The Leader in Me" program, which is based upon Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Students from transitional kindergarten through the fifth grade each maintain personal leadership notebooks that detail their class and individual goals, and data graphs to show progress and celebrations.

Student ambassadors also greet visitors at the classroom doors. We have student communication leaders read the daily morning messages, and student representatives also share out at district committee meetings. It is common to hear even our youngest students remind each other to "Think Win-Win" (Habit # 4) to help solve conflicts on the playground.



The Leader in Me program has allowed our students to become more empowered based upon their own strengths. They have definitely been taking learning into their own hands. Monte Vista is living out its motto each day, as it truly is the place "Where Leaders Grow: College, Career, Life."

## Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/727-7284 • www.vistausd.org



**Chuck Schindler**  
Principal

### Ready for the Future

The arts program has been very active at RBV this fall, giving our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and extend their artistic expression. Our drama program's productions of *The Rise and Rise of Daniel Rocket* and *Madagascar* were spectacular, with *Madagascar* completing four matinees for many VUSD elementary students this year.

The RBV Marching Band and Color Guard also performed in the State Marching Band Competition, and were named the "KUSI Marching Band of the Year," for which they performed on the USS Midway in December.

RBV is excited to be moving towards more personalized learning for its students. To this end, one team of teachers is working with the eleventh-grade students in a one-to-one computer learning environment. In this program, students are able to have "choice and voice" with learning about the content in English and history. The goal of the program is to make learning relevant, and to give our students the opportunity to apply their learning to solving real-world problems. We look forward to expanding these opportunities to all students over the next several years.

Part of a student's education at RBV is building important character traits. RBV's "Respect the Ranch: Code of Conduct" emphasizes the traits of responsibility, integrity, and commitment. A different Code of Conduct is highlighted each month in the announcements, and staff members nominate students for "Respect the Ranch Recognition" when they exemplify these character traits. The Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct reminds students of what is meant by each word, and how these important traits will prepare them for success in college and a career.

Through our focus on arts, academics, personalized learning, and the Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct, all of our Longhorns will have the opportunity for a well-rounded education that prepares them for their future.

# Murray *High School*

215 N. Melrose, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-2502 • www.vistausd.org



**Chuck Hoover**  
*Principal*

## Mock Trial

In each of the past four years, with Mr. Seneris as their mentor, Murray High School students have participated in the California Mock Trial Program, a challenging statewide academic competition. This year, over 500 students in San Diego County and over 8,000 students statewide will participate.

Through performance-based education, the program furthers an understanding of the content and processes of our legal system; increases basic skills, analytical abilities, and self-confidence; and promotes cooperation among students of various cultures and interests. Trials are simulations of criminal cases, in which students portray each of the principals in the array of courtroom participants. Student teams study a hypothetical criminal case, conduct legal research, and receive guidance from volunteer attorney coaches in courtroom procedures and trial preparation, thus acquiring a working knowledge of our judicial system.

Murray students proudly represent VUSD in this competition against much larger public and private schools in the county.



# Olive *Elementary*

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-7129

www.vistausd.org



**Stephanie Vasquez**  
*Principal*

## Appreciating the Arts

Olive Elementary School offers a quality, standards-based, sequential elementary music program for all second- through fifth-grade learners under the direction of Jennifer Corso. Mrs. Corso has been teaching vocal music for Vista Unified School

District for eight years and has taught all grade levels, K–12. She is a graduate of California State University, San Marcos with certification in music education from San Diego State University.

Mrs. Corso shared, “Students are learning to be music readers as they use rhythmic and melodic notation to become literate. Our Falcons are exposed to several class instruments, including xylophones and drums, as well as an emphasis on vocal music using hand signs and solfege techniques.”

The Singing Falcons made their debut at this year’s Vista Festival of the Arts. The choir performs regularly at school events and spirit assemblies. The Singing Falcons also perform for some “Golden Falcons” at a neighboring senior center.



# Roosevelt *Middle School*

850 Sagewood Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/726-8003 • www.vistausd.org



**Elise Ochenduszk**  
*Principal*

## Creativity and Collaboration

The new year is off to a great start at RMS!

In January, we hosted our Ohio and Wisconsin COW colleagues on behalf of the USD. The COW Project (California, Ohio, Wisconsin) is a unique interstate, interdistrict, interdisciplinary, and competency based project that has one seventh-grade cohort (of seven science and social science teachers and 600 students) and one eighth-grade cohort (of six English and social studies teachers and 600 students) from the three states who work collaboratively on a common unit of study in each grade level.

Students involved in the COW Project are afforded a personal approach to learning, one where they are challenged to deepen their knowledge on a topic of their choosing. They then utilize 21st-century skills to demonstrating mastery of their topic through a creative project of their own making, while also collaborating with students from across the country.

These student projects will be presented at the end of the school year. Stay tuned for more great news about the COW Project, and our remarkable teachers and students!



# Temple Heights *Elementary*

1550 Temple Heights Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/631-6242 • www.vistausd.org



**Kim Morton**  
*Principal*

## Girls On the Run

For the first time this fall, Temple Heights partnered with “Girls on The Run” (GOTR). Girls on the Run is a life-changing program that encourages girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through

running. The group’s goal is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident by using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

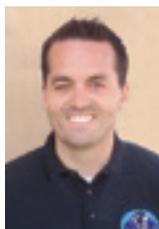


Girls on The Run was a hit at Temple Heights! Our runners trained for a 5K event with self-esteem enhancing and uplifting group discussions, active games, and workouts. Throughout the process, the 15 girls on our team gained self-confidence and started meaningful friendships.

The program culminated on December 4 with a celebratory 5K in San Diego. Crossing the finish line that day was a memory that none of us will forget! GOTR was so well received that we will continue the program this spring.

# Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

2245 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-4500 • www.vistausd.org



**Ben Gaines**  
*Principal*

## Digital Design and 3d Printing

This past fall, the Rancho Minerva Printing Bulls were challenged with creating a part for a camping tent that didn’t exist. Students collaborated with a customer who needed a part to keep her tent up. Working with student design engineers in Mrs. Santangelo’s Digital Design class, students created and 3d Printed the part. It turns out the part held up perfectly even through high winds. As a result, the RMMS Printing Bulls are receiving orders from around the country. Students at RMMS experience more than just school, they are making an impact in the real world. To see the full story, visit <https://vimeo.com/194415520>

## School News

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# Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

600 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/941-0880 • www.vistausd.org



**Catina Hancock**  
Principal

## Learning Comes Alive!

Exciting things are happening at Vista Academy, an International Baccalaureate Candidate School. Our students receive specialized instruction in drama, music, dance and visual art every week in addition to a rigorous inquiry-based cross-disciplinary curriculum. As one of Vista's newest Personal Learning Challenge Schools, we are excited to offer students more individualized instruction and choice in their learning, encouraging them to focus on their strengths and passions. Students are supported with flexible learning environments, a



## Communicating Learning with Technology

Wonder Lab where they can build and create, and many after-school enrichment activities such as Ballet Folklórico and Lego Robotics.

# Vista *Adult Transition Center*

325 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/758-3400 • www.vistausd.org



**Chris Altona**  
Principal

## A Lifetime of Dedication

At a recent meeting, the staff of Vista Adult Transition Center lined up according to how long each member had been at the site. The most recent hires were on one end of the room, and the most tenured were on the opposite side.

VATC until a few years ago was Sierra Vista High School, and many of our staff members were there during that time. It was an interesting and telling vision of our history. Recently, we had a teacher retire, and he'd spent his entire career at SVHS/VATC—34 years at the same school site. On the other end of the scale

were employees who had just started three days before. There were clumps of employees in several spots on the human timeline who represented the ebbs and flow of our hiring- and student-population changes.

At this time, our most senior employee is a gentleman named Bill Delaney, who has been with us for 32 years. Mr. Delaney is a homegrown professional, having graduated from Vista High School. He is, in fact, the storied and celebrated quarterback of VHS's football team—he's a genuine local hero! More importantly to VUSD, Mr. Delaney has worked tirelessly with our students with exceptional needs. He is a go-to employee when students have behavioral issues. His ability to nurture and educate young adults with profound social/emotional challenges is at least as famous as his high school quarterbacking!

We want to thank and congratulate this true gentleman's lifetime of dedication to the young people with special needs of North San Diego County.

# VIDA *Vista Innovation & Design Academy*

740 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-7115 • www.vistausd.org



**Dr. Eric Chagala**  
Principal

## Internships

Vista Innovation and Design Academy (VIDA) focuses on inspiring students to investigate their own personal strengths, interests, and values in order to become successful individuals in our global society. However, this mission goes beyond just VIDA.

A year ago, Vista High student Sabrina James' strengths, interests, and values brought her to VIDA for a deep dive into the educational community to help her gain empathy. The experiences she had not only inspired her to become an educator, they also gave her the idea to develop an internship program for those high school students throughout the district who are considering teaching as a profession, while also providing some much-needed support for our at-risk and struggling students.

Having someone close in age to assist our struggling students helped to improve their willingness to reach out and ask for help. A small group of students built such a strong bond with her that she is now the representative of a sister group that mentors them to reach their potential. The impacts that this program has had on her and the students are now expanding to help others. For instance, in January, the Vista Innovation and Design Academy welcomed its second high school intern, Ivorie Webb.

At VIDA, we say, "Make it happen!" because nothing happens with an idea if the dedication and passion aren't behind it. This program serves as a prime example of where student agency and a deep understanding of your strengths, interests, and values can take you.

# Vista *High School*

1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5611 • www.vistausd.org



**Anthony Barela**  
Principal

## Super Year Behind and Ahead

Happy New Year! We are in full swing with the start of the second semester. I wanted to relate some of the highlights from the year thus far.

VHS hosted the XQ Super School Bus Tour in November. The event was attended by dignitaries from around the nation to highlight VHS at the epicenter of educational change reform. As part of the change reform, VHS had two students visit Washington D.C. and spend three days with Secretary of Education John King.

Continuing to showcase excellence, the VHS marching band finished first in their division for the entire state of California and earned a championship medal! The boys' water polo team earned a CIF Open Division Championship, and their head coach, Dave Spence, was named the CIF model coach of the year.

We will begin tours for prospective parents in January and will also continue to run XQ focus groups. Please check our website for details. I would like to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a wonderful 2017! We are Vista every day!



# Vista Magnet *Middle School*

151 Escondido Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5766 • www.vistausd.org



**Anne Green**  
*Principal*

## Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

The eighth-grade Vipers are responding to the challenge posed by their teachers in September to “be epic!” Students captured the Vista Magnet Middle School (VMMS) vision of service in action with two annual events: Awareness Week and Drive Week.

Using the design cycle of investigation, planning, creating, and evaluating, students engage in personalized community projects relating to causes which ignite their passions. After researching global and local “real world” problems, including homelessness, juvenile diabetes, animal abuse, drought, and substance abuse, they designed awareness campaigns to spread the word during Awareness Week.



A week later, students went a step further with Drive Week, when they collected donations to deliver to local charity organizations representing the causes they have embraced. So, when you see students trudging to school laden with winter coats, books, canned food, and supplies for animals, you will know our VMMS students are indeed epic!

# Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.ctevista.org



**Kelly McKinney**  
*Coordinator CTE*

## Looking to the Future

Happy New Year! The 2016–2017 year will be one of new ideas, faces, and continuing success as we prepare our students for college and career.

CTE is happy to announce that we have added a counselor on special assignment to our team. Michael Gomez has been a counselor at VHS for the last two years, and he brings site and college experience to the position. Michael will work with the CTE team as we develop a five-year plan for the program. Included in the plan will be an expansion of our courses that have the UC a-g designation and articulation with community colleges.

In the 2014–2015 school year, ten CTE courses in the VUSD were approved by the UC system. This number has more than doubled to 23 in the 2016–2017 school year, and our teachers are currently evaluating the courses to submit for approval for next year. In addition to the UC approval, many of our courses were articulated with Palomar and Mira Costa Colleges, with work in progress for an articulation with Grossmont College.

What this means is that students who meet the requirements of the course with a “B” grade or better are eligible to receive high school and college credit for it. A list of articulated courses can be found on the Palomar and Mira Costa websites. The value of a Career Technical Education is even more important now as we prepare our students for the careers of the future.

# Vista Visions *Academy*

305 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-4785 • http://vva.vistausd.org/



**Dr. Erin English**  
*Principal*

## All About Our Program

Vista Visions Academy (VVA) is a VUSD School of Choice for students in grades 6–12. VVA is located across the street from Vista High School and offers small class sizes, a program similar to a charter school’s, personalized learning and innovative projects. Our A–G high school program is UC accredited and WASC approved. Students who graduate from our program have been accepted into the best colleges in the country. If you would like any information about VVA, please visit our website.



Our school is a draw for families looking for an academic program that prepares their children to understand the world around them. At VVA, we are involved in projects in which we interact with students from other countries, as with Global Nomads; engineering, as in the Visionaries Club; and hands-on science projects. Our students get to know their strengths, motivations and passions so they can lead a life that is fulfilling and productive.

# Vista Adult School

510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • www.vistaadultschool.org



**Liz O'Shea-West**  
*Principal*

## Student Transition Center

At Vista Adult School, it is our mission to prepare all students for achieving their career, academic and personal goals. We are focused on increasing the quantity and quality of student-support services available. We have a Student Transition Center (STC) that provides tutoring, access to technology, and support services from credentialed staff. The STC is a great place to get information and resources on careers, colleges and community programs.

The STC also provides numerous informative presentations on campus that cover a wide array of topics of interest to our students. They include the Vista Sheriff’s Department for discussing personal and automobile safety, Palomar College for reviewing their enrollment process and programs, and Community Housing Works Financial Fitness Workshop, aimed at teaching students how to set financial goals, decrease debt, and protect their identity. An open computer lab is also available to students and is staffed with teachers who are proficient in many software programs used by students. Students can use the lab to access the Internet, complete assignments, create resumes, apply for jobs, take typing tests, and research careers.

We have been fortunate to bring Eryn Kjelland, a credentialed counselor, on board this year.

“As the support counselor, I assist students in working through their barriers to learning,” Ms. Kjelland said. “I am excited to help students succeed on their path and reach their academic goals.”

Ms. Kjelland also provides drop-in counseling hours to assist students who may be struggling or need referrals to community resources as well as workshops designed to help students succeed in school and career. We additionally have three program coordinators serving students through a variety of services that include academic planning and guidance, career exploration and placement, Department of Rehabilitation services and transition services. VAS is WASC accredited and a member of the Education to Career Network.

## The Rocket Went Up!



Kate Karp

Educational rock band The Deedle Deedle Dees have swept out the corners where the history texts are stacked and come up with *The Rocket Went Up!*, a CD that will introduce you and the children in your life to people, animals and other things that may but briefly have



touched your radar. And if you or your child's teacher is developing research skills, every subject in the compilation will jump up and yip, "Pick me!" "No, me!"

You've heard of the Boston Tea Party, but what about the Boston Molasses Flood? Yes, it really happened, and no one was happy except for maybe the pancake houses. Everyone's familiar with Thomas Edison, but did you know about his association with Nikola Tesla? Yes, boys and girls, there was an actual person who came before the car, and you can compare both him and Edison in this pun-filled rap. There's a hilarious love song to pi. It goes on forever in all its irrational emotion. Even Typhoid Mary has a moment—was she guilty, or was she made a scapegoat? And for any of us who's felt different from others—and haven't we all at one time or another—there's "This Is for You."

The musical accompaniment is varied and masterful: Bob Dylan-style folk with a talking bridge, ragtime piano, rap—at least one genre for everyone. So rev up your search engines for a good hunt through all the twists, bends and corners of our world's history and culture!

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

## Kubo and the Two Strings



Marissa Aldegarie

*Kubo and the Two Strings*, rated PG, is a fantasy action adventure film directed by Travis Knight, written by Marc Haimes and Chris Butler, and produced by Laika. The film features the voices of Art Parkinson, Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, George Takei and Rooney Mara.

I have recently seen this movie which is very action packed and good for the family with kids over 10. This movie stars Kubo, a young boy who lives with his ill mother, in a cave on top of the mountain. Every day he goes to a nearby village to tell stories by magically using origami that moves by listening to music played from Kubo's instrument. He lives a fairly peaceful life until he accidentally summons a vengeful spirit from the past. As he runs from the evil, he is accompanied by a monkey and a beetle while they battle the Moon King and his mother's sisters.



What I liked about the movie is it was very mysterious and full of action. What I did not like was it left the viewer confused due to a lot of different stories that made up this movie. Therefore, it would be hard for a younger viewer to follow this movie. Overall it was a movie about heroism, love and forgiveness. I would give this movie a 3 out of a 5.

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.

# 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Vista 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      | STEBER       |
| BLIZZARD   | HAIL       | STEVENS      |
| CELSIUS    | HUMIDITY   | SWARTHOUT    |
| CIRRUS     | HURRICANE  | TEBALDI      |
| CLOUD      | HYDROMETER | THERMOMETER  |
| CUMULUS    | ICE STORM  | THUNDERSTORM |
| CYCLONE    | MIST       | TORNADO      |
| DEW        | RAIN       | TRAUBEL      |
| DUST STORM | SLEET      | TYPHOON      |
| FAHRENHEIT | SNOW       | VANILLA      |
| FOG        | SQUALL     |              |

**Congratulations to **Lauren Eades**  
Winner of the November Contest!**

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D E C E L S I U S Z R U Q B D
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## Richard's Book Review

### Fun Campy Story

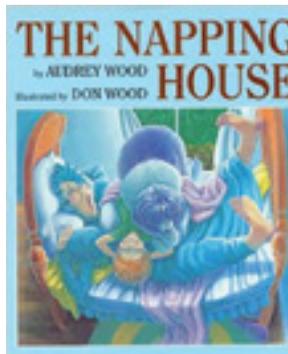


Richard J.

*The Napping House*

By Audrey Wood

The characters of the rhyming story of *The Napping House* are the Granny, the Child, the Dog, the Cat, the Mouse and the Flea. One rainy, lazy day all the people and animals in the house climb into grandma's bed and fall asleep, one after another, stacked on top of each other. Then, while everybody is fast asleep, one character — the Wakeful Flea ends up rudely waking everybody up! It bites the Mouse, who scares the Cat, who claws the Dog, who thumps the Child, who bumps the Granny, who breaks the bed, so that nobody is sleeping or napping in the Napping House anymore! The style of this story is similar to the rhyming story of *The House That Jack Built*. I liked this campy story and with its many pictures on every page by Don Wood. It is a fun, colorful and easy book to read.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

## Keira's Book Nook

### Man's Best Friend

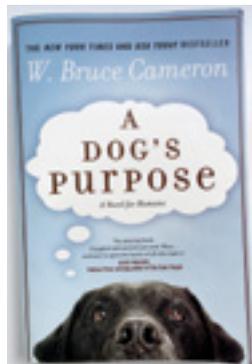


Keira

*A Dog's Purpose*

By W. Bruce Cameron

This remarkable story is about a dog who was reborn as a golden-haired puppy. Bailey tries to find his purpose in life, which leads him to an eight-year-old boy named Ethan. During his life with Ethan he learns to be good. "Good dog, Bailey." This is one of the most important sentences Bailey has ever known. However, this is not the end of Bailey's journey. When he is reborn yet again he wonders when he will find his full purpose. By the way, this is a story for humans from a dog's point of view. It describes the unbreakable bonds between humans and dogs. This is a great book, and I could read it over and over again! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.



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

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info@sumdiceyfun.com

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## Isabella's Book Review

### Second Book of this Series



Isabella A.

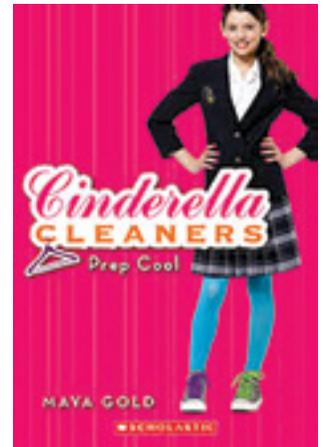
*Cinderella Cleaners: Prep Cool*

is written by Maya Gold and is the second book of the series. Diana helps her dad at the dry cleaners and she didn't like it, but now she's okay with it. When Will, a student, from their school, invites them to go to one of his concerts, Diana's best friend, Jess, gets her cell phone stolen! In order to get it back, Diana must sneak onto campus, but how?

A student from the school takes her uniform to be cleaned. Diana decides to sneak in wearing the uniform. But the trouble is sneaking into the thieves' dorm, stealing it back, and making it back out unnoticed. She meets new friends who are willing to help. Will Diana be able to steal the phone back and get out of campus without being caught? Or will she end up failing miserably?

I would rate this book three and a half stars because while it is rather fun and interesting, sometimes it can be dull and under descriptive. It also shows bad habits.

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.



## Michael's Book Review

### The Missing Mitt



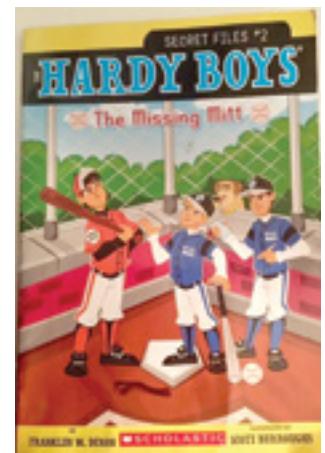
Michael H.

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

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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