

FREE

School News

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Covering the Buena Park School District



Volume 1, Issue 3 May 2017

Learning is Fun Inside and Outside of the Classroom



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Greg Magnuson
Superintendent

A Grand Opportunity Realized

As I write this article I reflect that we have just six weeks of the 2016-17 school year remaining. By the time you receive this publication students will be close to completing State tests, looking to the end of the school year and the Memorial Day holiday.

Each year the school year seems to accelerate, and this year has been no different. There is so much new activity and change occurring in both the California public education system, and our local school district. I continue to be awe struck at the terrific work of students and school staff as they adjust to the new teaching and learning standards, educational technology and computerized assessments.

At Buena Park School District, in recognition of the numerous new instructional programs, facilities and technology enhancements completed, or underway at our schools, our students and staff began the 2016-17 school year under the theme of "A Grand Opportunity." As you will see in the following pages, our Grand Opportunity is well on its way to being realized as we move toward the final weeks of this school year.

In this issue of the *Buena Park School District School News Roll Call*, I invite you to once again enjoy the many examples of our work with students and parents. Each

SUPERINTENDENT

of our Principals has selected an element of their school program to share with you. Additionally, from our District office, I invite you to catch-up with our new programs and continuing facilities modernization projects. Much has been accomplished this year, and more will be done before students return for the 2017-18 school year including: completion of our student iPad 1:1 rollout to provide all students access to digital content and 24/7 learning; curriculum enhancements for our students with special needs; the opening of new preschool classes to further support our youngest learners; and the upcoming Summer modernization of more than 60 classrooms at Gilbert and Whitaker Schools.

I am very proud of our work as we create 21st century learning conditions for students to ensure that they have the academic opportunities due to them, and support for success in high school, college and their chosen career.

For all of us at the Buena Park School District, it is not only our pleasure to share the stories of our students, parents and staff's work with you, it is an honor to serve the our community and fulfill the promise of Improving the Lives of Our Students and Families.

Find out more about the exciting programs at BPSD schools by following our daily activities at: www.Facebook.com/BuenaParkSchoolDistrict and on our website at: www.bpsd.k12.ca.us



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

We are at the end of another school year. As Superintendent Magnuson writes in his article on page 3, this has been a successful year at BPSD as they focused on their "Grand Opportunity" theme. Now with only weeks left in this school year the focus is on preparing for next year. It has been a privilege to publish the excellence from BPSD and we look forward to the exciting happenings next year.

In this issue, you will read about the importance of parent participation, STEM, celebrating Read Across America, Big and Little Buddies, and so much more...

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. I particularly enjoy your wonderful comments when you email your contest entries. The contests are open to all ages.

Our next issue is September 13 just in time to welcome a new school year.

Have a wonderful summer! Remember to include the library among your activities this summer.

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School News
Education + Communication = A Better Nation
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
BUENA PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*The Buena Park School District is offering
child care this summer at
Beatty School.*

Summer child care is available
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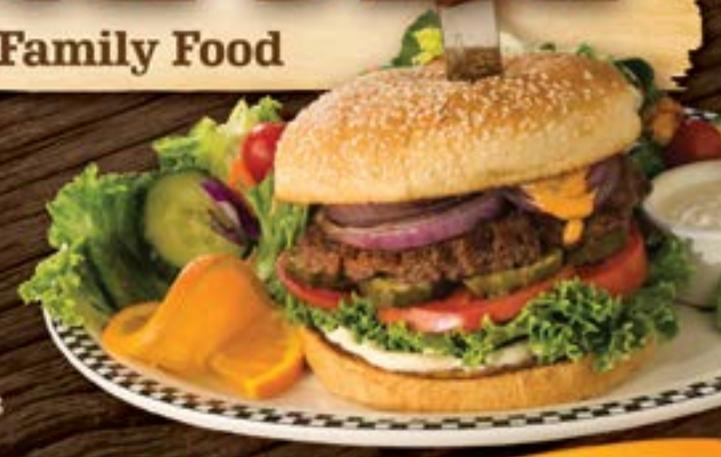
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Administrative Services

Modernization Update

It will be another summer of great progress to update our schools and provide greater capabilities for our students and staff members in Buena Park School District. In June, the district will issue the next planned series of general-obligation bonds in the amount of \$12.4 million to fund modernization of both Gilbert and Whitaker Elementary Schools.

Just two days after the end of this school year, 31 classrooms at Gilbert and 23 classrooms at Whitaker will begin the modernization process. Each of the modernized classrooms will receive new furniture, carpeting, walls finishes, and ceiling, as well as an interactive projection system, with a 70-inch high-definition video display, an amplified sound system, and a consolidated control unit to support project-based, 21st-century learning.

Additionally, by the end of this summer, other less visible but still important projects will be completed, including: energy-saving lighting retrofits at all schools and the district office; select heating, ventilation, and air conditioning replacements; and new climate and exterior lighting control systems at all sites, including the district office.

The district's school modernization work follows on the heels of the June 3, 2014, Measure B general-obligation bond election, where district residents authorized up to \$71 million for school and classroom technology upgrades, as proposed in the district's Facilities Master Plan.

Following the election, the district issued \$19.2 million Series A bonds for long-term infrastructure improvements and Series B bonds for short-term, technology improvements. All of these funds have been expended in support of the Master Plan to modernize classrooms at Emery Elementary, Pendleton Elementary, and Buena Park Junior High Schools; complete playground safety projects at all schools; implement seismic safety upgrades at Beatty and Corey Elementary Schools; and upgrade district-wide network systems to support school safety and technology-based learning. Technology upgrades include new Internet phone systems, security cameras, and wireless access for all students and staff, with one-to-one digital tablets for all fourth- through eighth-grade students.

PreSchool

New Preschool Program

To compliment Transitional Kindergarten and Mommy and Me preschool options currently available to families, Buena Park School District (BPSD) celebrated the opening of its newest preschool program with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 28. Designed for children not yet eligible for Transitional Kindergarten and whose parent cannot accompany them to Mommy and Me preschool classes, BPSD now offers four half-day, state-licensed preschool classes at Pendleton and Whitaker Schools.

"Preschool is critical for many children to get a jump start in school," Superintendent Greg Magnuson said. "This program provides a third option in BPSD for students not yet kindergarten age to access preschool. This program will support more than 80 students a year as an additional preschool alternative."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony including parents, Governing Board members, city leaders, staff members, and community partners. Dr. Elizabeth Swift, the Buena Park mayor and a former BPSD School Board member, participated in the ceremony and offered certificates of



recognition to the district's Early Learning Program. The highlight of the event was the students singing "Good Morning" and alphabet songs to the audience. Finally, all guests had an opportunity to visit the classroom to see student learning in action.

Parents of children between the ages of three and four years old who are interested in BPSD's Early Learning Program preschool options may contact the district office at (714) 337-3828.

Student iPad Rollout

Student iPad Rollout Complete

Following the District iPad rollout to students in Grades 4-6 last year, and distribution of iPads to all Grade 7-8 students early this year, the District has completed purchase of iPads for student in all grades Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through Grade 3. For lower grades including the last distribution cycle completed in April for grades 2 & 3, more than 200 iPad Air 2 models with cases, sync cables, charging bricks, headphones, and TechTubs to store/charge the devices completed the District-wide rollout.

In just two years the BPSD as provided all students in Grade 4-8 with iPads for use both in school and at home.

For grades TK through 3, all students have access to iPads in the classroom in a "center-based" model where the equipment is rotated between students and available for use when they are on the school campus.

To ensure the highest level of security, BPSD manages access and use of every iPad through a centralized Mobile Device Manager (MDM). Additionally, through the MDM system BPSD's educational technology teams work with site administrators and teachers to provide "apps" for use in the classroom and software update as necessary.

Going forward the District looks to expand the 1:1 iPad program to provide students in 3rd grade opportunity for access at home as well as during the school day.



Special Education Unique Learning System

Special Education in Focus

"Everyone Can Learn" is the tagline for Unique Learning System (ULS), a comprehensive curriculum for students with significant disabilities. BPSD's special education teachers have been excited to attend training on this truly unique curriculum and, subsequently, provide their students access to the program. During the 2016/2017 school year, BPSD teachers have been able to fully implement the ULS curriculum for the District's elementary and junior high students with significant needs.

ULS is an online, standards-based set of interactive tools specifically designed for students with special needs to access grade level Common Core State Standards-aligned curriculum.

ULS curriculum provides students with rigorous, standards-based materials specifically designed to meet their instructional needs, whatever their current learning level might be. ULS contains online tracking to monitor progress on key standards, as well as the goals documented in the students' Individual Education Plan (IEP). Lesson



plans and materials address critical skills in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. A single lesson can be adapted to multiple levels to reach all students.

Dr. Ramon Miramontes notes that "BPSD teachers have spent the majority of the school year developing a pacing guide to align ULS with the District's general education curriculum to ensure comprehensive instruction in Common Core State Standards. This ongoing effort will result in explicit units of study organized by grade level to enhance the quality of instruction and learning for our special needs students. With ULS Buena Park School District staff continues our charge to "Improve the lives of ALL students and families."

Gordon H. Beatty (K—6)

8201 Country Club Dr., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/523-1160



Seri Hwang
Principal

Outdoor Learning

Learning happens everywhere, and for five days, 130 sixth-grade Beatty School students had a memorable experience at Outdoor Science School at Camp Pali, which is located in the San Bernardino Mountains. For many of our sixth-grade students, it was their first time not only being away from their parents and family, but also seeing real snow and exploring the forest.

Students were able to extend their learning beyond classroom walls through Camp Pali's customized education program, which includes outdoor education, science, and leadership. Throughout the week, students were challenged to step outside of their comfort zone to gain a deeper connection to the natural world, which many have rarely encountered.

They hiked through the forest with experienced and knowledgeable guides to explore the ecosystem and participate in hands-on science activities. More specifically, students engaged in deep learning experiences in forensics, geology, and biology that ignited their curiosity. Through



group cooperation and team-building activities, students gained leadership and interpersonal skills. The highlight of the week was the high ropes course, where students were inspired to master a unique challenge, overcome their fears, and build confidence, all in a safe and positive environment.

One of our sixth-grade students, Akul Vohra, summed up the experience by saying, "Science camp was an extraordinary opportunity that filled the atmosphere with thrilling life lessons."

Arthur F. Corey (K—6)

7351 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8389



Valerie Connolly
Principal

A Family Affair

Providing opportunities for families to spend quality time together is important at Corey School. Thanks to the dedication of the Corey School PTA and staff members, there have been several recent events for families, at which students, siblings, and parents have come together, participating in activities and meeting others in our school community.



In order to promote a love of astronomy, the Orange County Astronomers visited Corey Sand and brought several high-powered telescopes. Each telescope displayed a different celestial body, such as the moon, other planets, and various constellations. It was both a fun and educational evening.

"It was so exciting to see the moon close up. I have only seen pictures in a book—until tonight," said a fourth-grade student. Her mom added, "This is an amazing experience for the entire family."

Understanding the importance of promoting healthy habits, both fitness and fund-raising were the focus of our second annual Color-a-Thon. Participants were blasted with colored cornstarch as they ran the track. After the run, families enjoyed music and games hosted by a disc jockey, who focused on encouraging families to dance and play together.

On St. Patrick's Day, families spent the evening playing BINGO and earning prizes. The cafeteria was filled with a buzz of excitement as people anxiously waited for the next number to be called.

"I loved playing BINGO and being able to have my parents meet my friends," explained a sixth-grade student.

At Corey, we are proud to support student and family activities throughout the school year. It is wonderful witnessing the connections formed in our school community.



Buena Park Junior High (7—8)

6931 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8491



Erik Bagger
Principal

Champions In and Out of the Classroom

This year, the Buena Park Junior High School (BPJHS) theme has been "A Year of Accomplishments." As we near the end of the school year, I can report that we have had some tremendous accomplishments both inside and outside of the classroom.

In the classroom, our students' overall grade-point averages are up in all categories from last year. In the third quarter of this year, 627 students have earned grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher. Of that group, 405 students have achieved honors level, with grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher, and 202 students are carrying perfect 4.0 grade-point averages, which is designated as high honors. In addition, we've seen an increase in student achievement on our end-of-the-year state assessment of 14 points in language arts and five points in mathematics.

Outside of the classroom, our speech and debate team won the Orange County Debate League Championship. Our advanced robotics team competed in Robot Nation and finished in the top three out of 20 schools in the categories of line following and Sumo wrestling. In our athletics program, our athletes won league championships in basketball and football.

We accomplished a total transformation of our school, with 36 brand-new, 21st-century classrooms, integrated 1,000 digital tablets in a one-to-one environment to support our Classrooms Without Limits Initiative. We also launched an online newspaper at BPJHStallion.com along with a daily morning news program.

Our teachers are championing the integration of a new online learning platform called Canvas, and it is already making a huge impact on student achievement at our school. Once the program is fully integrated, students will be able to review the day's lesson after school and access all the material they may need online with their tablets. This will extend the learning time from six and a half hours five days a week to 24 hours seven days a week. Now that's Classrooms Without Limits!

All of our effort is supported by the assistance of many outstanding parent volunteers, several of whom have successfully transitioned our parent group to an official Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). The BPJH PTSA has already created new opportunities for our students through new fund-raising options and recognition programs.

I am so proud of the hard work of our students, teachers, staff members, and parents in helping us to become champions. As we look forward, I know that the BPJHS school community will continue to accomplish great things.

Charles G. Emery (K—6)

8600 Somerset St., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-5134



Julie Linnecke
Principal

Experiencing STEM through NGSS

Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated: "In the next decade, the number of jobs requiring highly technical skills is expected to outpace other occupations...The Next Generation Science Standards will help students achieve real-world practical skills so they can help maintain California's economic and technological leadership in the world."



At Charles G. Emery School, students are excited to experience the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in their classrooms. Teachers plan and guide students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects requiring them to use conceptual thinking about science.

In recent weeks, several classes have performed

experiments to explore how energy can make things move, discovered the mechanism by which their muscles control their bones, developed a robotic finger, and designed roller coasters to study forces and motion.

A fifth-grade student said, "I like to experience science rather than just read and write about it." These activities provide a foundation that will engage and inspire students, while also allowing them to learn science by doing science.

In addition to increasing student engagement in science, the three dimensions of NGSS learning—science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts—we can see that students are building deeper connections in their learning.



Carl E. Gilbert (K—6)

7255 8th St., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/522-7281



Russell Harrison
Principal

A Celebration of Reading Success

Gilbert School is committed to the Buena Park School District vision that “all children will read at grade level by third grade.” Through exceptional language arts instruction and the integration of technology and software such as Footsteps 2 Brilliance, our teachers are seeing huge growth in reading across all



As a culminating celebration for our students’ literacy success, Gilbert proudly hosted its second annual Read Across America Family Picnic. Many distinguished guests in our community accepted the invitation to join us as we publicly recognized

the power and joy of reading. I was overwhelmed by the support of the mayor of Buena Park, our chief of police, firefighters, local pilots, animal rescue workers, Buena Park Reserve Officers Training Corps, and many others, all of whom gave of their time to join us in commending our students for putting literacy first. Families enjoyed the chance to explore fire engines and police cars, sit in the pilot’s seat of a helicopter, handle rare reptiles, and navigate flying drones through an obstacle course.

Rhonda Martinez, the co-president of our PTO, shared, “The picnic was especially great because it brought the community together to celebrate the achievement of the school and students. My family still talks about the celebration and can’t wait until next year.”

grade levels. As literacy is an ever-present priority, Gilbert continues a long-standing tradition of emphasizing the joy and importance of reading during the months of February and March, all leading up to Read Across America Week.

For well over a decade, Gilbert School’s reading program has promoted a movement of independent reading, where teachers and parents work together to make literacy a priority for all students. Students are encouraged to increase their at-home reading and meet their personal reading goals. Reading spirit shirts are earned and worn with pride every Friday as we proclaim our community’s love for books. This year, I am proud to share that over 600 Grizzlies met this outstanding goal.

Mabel L. Pendleton (K—6)

7101 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-8568



Kelly Love
Interim Principal

Parent Power

Pendleton School is incredibly fortunate to have a robust and supportive group of parents. Under the leadership of Mrs. Barbara Ioannou, our PTA has increased its presence on campus over the last two years by doubling the Executive Board and increasing the number of extracurricular activities on campus.

Parents, students, and teachers alike were excited about the experience and are looking forward to next year’s encore. One Pendleton parent, Mrs. Cheryl Arnoco, said, “It feels like we’re joining together as a Pendleton family: parents, students, and staff all feeling the comradery.”

PTA also dedicated hours of preparation and service to provide the Pendleton community with a carnival on Saturday, March 18. The carnival was well attended by families and community members. It was incredible to see so many families connecting with each other, eating hot dogs, playing games, and making crafts. I am so appreciative of all the fun and community building our PTA provides for our families.

Mrs. Catherine Alba summed it up nicely: “The talent show and carnival were excellent examples of how the PTA is not just about fund-raising. They bring families and staff together, plus they provide opportunities for students to explore their ‘fun’ side.”



James A. Whitaker (K—6)

8401 Montana Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-9770



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Big and Little Buddies

Whitaker School continues to support and motivate students in the area of reading. This year, Whitaker’s Big Buddy and Little Buddy Program has created a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate that “readers are leaders.”

Currently, we have over 40 students participating in this program. Fifth- and sixth-grade students (big buddies) work with first- and second-grade students (little buddies) twice a week to read together. Activities include modeling “what good readers do” and practicing strategies.

Big buddies use the following directives with their little buddies. First, look at the picture. Next, get your mouth ready and say the first sound. Then, stretch out each letter and put the sounds together. Try to reread the sentence, thinking about what would make sense. Flip the vowel sound, trying long and short sounds. Then carefully read all the parts of the word.

So far, our program is showing great success. Big buddies are proud of the improvements of their little



buddies. “My buddy reads better than when she first started?” shared one big buddy. Another added, “The ‘D’ books are now easy for my buddy. He has moved up to level ‘E’ books.” Another big buddy noted, “I now know a lot of the little kids on the playground because of my little buddy.” Still others shared, “My buddy has become my friend” and “His reading pace is really good.”

I am so pleased with the progress of this program and our students. It is our hope to expand this program next year to include more grade levels and offer leading students the opportunity to mentor younger students in the critical skill of reading. Clearly, nothing is as exciting as seeing the pride on the faces of the buddies as they tackle new books together.

Reading buddies prove that readers are leaders!

Going Green! Word 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 Buena Park in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
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| Difference | Impact | Respect |
| Eco Friendly | Low Waste | Responsibility |
| Efficient | Planet | Reuse |
| Emissions | Process | Solar |
| Energy | Protect | |
| Environment | Recycle | |

Congratulations to:
Rosario Fuller
Winner of our last issue Word Search Contest!

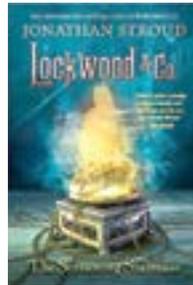


Book Review by Abbas



A Creepy and Fun Read

Lockwood & Co. by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?



Abbas D. This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.

Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

Lucy's Book Review



The Other Boy

Author: M.G. Hennessey
What if your brain and heart didn't match the way your body looked?

Shane Woods is a normal sixth grade boy. He loves baseball, video games, and has a crush on his classmate, Madeline.



But Shane has a secret, and his biggest fear is that someone at his new school finds out, especially because he came to this school for a clean slate.

When troubles begin at school, he becomes uneasy. Will his secret get out? To add to his troubles, he wants to start taking medication to change his body - but his parents haven't totally agreed.

Through all the mayhem, Shane realizes that through life, the people who truly care about you stick by your side. This inspiring story is about finding the courage to express your true self against a sometimes cruel world. This is a brilliant read that definitely deserves five bookworms.

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.

Alana's BookReview



Alana F.

Wonder

By: Raquel J. Palacio
At first, the Pullman family doesn't seem that different. Two kids, mom, dad, drama, fights, Star Wars infatuations- what could be different? The answer is simple- Auggie.



August Pullman is the younger of the Pullman children. Since he was born, Auggie has been different- to put it simply, his face doesn't look "normal". Auggie knows this- in fact, he's known it from a young age. But when Auggie is sent to school with other kids for the first time, will any innocence he has be shattered? Will he only witness from his peers evil and rejection, or will he receive the acceptance he deserves?

I'd give this book five stars because it really speaks to people nowadays. This book is sure to tug at your heartstrings more than a few times, and can teach anyone a thing or two about loving others no matter what

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.

Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

Captivating Read

Born Wicked by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by a



group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Born in the Deep Woods

Red Yarn, alter-ego of performer and songwriter Andy Furgeson, has recorded the third element in his his Deep Woods Trilogy. Deep Woods is Red's own conception of a



charmingly primal place where woodland animals dwell— an earthly, loamy, good place to live. Each song was either written by Red or adapted from traditional folk tunes, all featuring animals and performed by Red and his wife, Jessie Eller Isaacs and a bucolic multi-instrumental band.

Deep Woods doesn't have the vibe of a traditional children's collection. In contrast to lighter songs associated with young music, it sings something deep and rooted. Red's musical background grew from those roots— authentic country, bluegrass, blues and heartland rock 'n' roll are woven with the lyrics and stitch together a warm, tuneful quilt. The title ballad lets the tortoise and the hare of the fable poetically tell their own story as turtle and rabbit. The traditional "Mockingbird" transforms into a Bo Diddley ditty with a toss of Elvis pepper and a pinch of Ray Charles salt. "Old Mother Goose" is given a new pair of dancin' shoes, and "Frog Went A-Courtin'" hops to a different beat. "Little Baby Born Today" is an old-style Bob Dylan tribute to new life and mothers, particularly Eller-Isaacs, who was pregnant with the couple's second child when it was recorded. The CD's lyric booklet bears some of the most beautiful, evocative illustrations seen in a music collection or anywhere else.

If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

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

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