

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

MAY 2017

## SUPERINTENDENT

### Reflecting On a Wonderful Year



Dr. Brad Mason

While spring is the season of renewal and new beginnings, in the Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD), spring is also the beginning of conclusions and celebrations. At the beginning of an academic year, it is frequently

perceived as a long-term endeavor, yet in reflection we usually wonder where the time has gone.

Our seniors, who are so excited to begin their next phase in life, will soon reflect on how extraordinarily fast their high school experience passed. No matter how challenged our teachers and support staff become by the end of an overwhelming semester, there is still that prevailing question: How did the year pass by so quickly?

I am very proud to be leading a group of fantastic teachers, support staff, and administrators in making such dynamic changes in all of our classrooms. Our teachers continue to move from a traditional model of relying on the teacher for all new information to a collaborative environment where students in our classrooms currently analyze and discuss world/societal problems while having access to the most up-to-date information available via the click of a button.

With the 2016–2017 school year coming to an end, it is a great time to acknowledge the enormous amount of hard work that has been put in by students, staff, and parents to make this school year a success. Students across the district have made great gains in their learning, which will prepare them for their upcoming future school experiences or career pathways. I am truly blessed and so proud to serve the community of Brea and remain committed to providing every single student with the best opportunities and experiences to succeed in college, career, and beyond. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care, and we look forward to a wonderful ending for this school year and a powerful start up for the new school year in August.

## Four BOUSD Schools are Recognized for High Achievement and Student Success



By Nichole Pichardo, Communications Specialist

The Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) is pleased to announce that Brea Olinda High School and Brea Junior High are among several hundred in the state being honored with the California Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program for making gains in implementing the academic and performance standards set by the State Board of Education. The state Department of Education created the award to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment, accountability and continuous improvement systems. The award rotates each year between elementary and secondary schools. Statewide, 477 campuses applied for the award, and 275 were selected. The procedure involved each school selecting a Model

Program/Practice to highlight their excellence and were judged on how it referenced the District's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and how it is distinguished from the district's model.

Additionally, Arovista Elementary School and Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration have been selected by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) as two of 1,866 public schools in California to receive the title of 2016 Honor Roll school. The Honor Roll is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and highlight successful practices that improve outcomes for students. Schools receiving this distinction from leaders in the

See **SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED** • Page 6

## Board of Education



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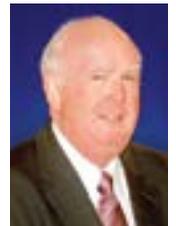
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Covering the BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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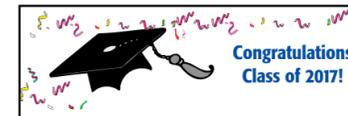
Kay Coop  
Founder/Publisher



It is the end of another successful school year for BOUSD. Thank you for including School News among your reading choices.

Be sure to include the library among your summer activities. We have included student book reviews on pages 8-11 to help with your selections.

Our next issue is September 20 just in time to welcome a new school year. Have a fun summer!



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## Arovista Elementary (K-6)

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • <http://arovista.bousd.us>



Karen VanDine  
Principal

### Great Ideas

One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.  
—John F. Kennedy

This famous quote epitomizes the essence of a very special group of fourth-grade students, the Idea Club. Arovista Elementary School's Idea Club started last year with three girls:

Kami, Aubrey, and Kaitlyn. They met regularly with Principal VanDine to tell her some great ideas they had for our school.

The club grew exponentially this year with the addition of several other fourth-grade students. They are a fantastic, civic-minded group of students that wants to make Arovista the best it can be. These students have come up with some great ideas that we have already implemented. Taco Tuesday, Environment Day (school clean up), Sparks of Love, a surprise birthday celebration for our administrative assistant, and music at recess are just a few of the changes we have made as a result of their input.

These student leaders truly are making their mark. One person certainly can make a difference!



## Brea Junior High School (7-8)

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • <http://bjhs.bousd.us>



**Kelly Kennedy**  
Principal

### California Gold Ribbon School

Brea Junior High School is pleased to announce our recognition as a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School. This recognition is one of the many ways that the California Department of Education celebrates outstanding educational programs and practices and we are honored to be recognized. Our application highlighted several new and exciting programs here at BJH including: our Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. program, our Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elective classes and our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) Club. We pride ourselves on being a strong, focused educational system that challenges itself to grow and evolve in order to provide the strongest learning community for our students. We are truly honored to receive this statewide California Gold Ribbon School recognition for our efforts. Go BJH Bobcats!



## Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • <http://bchs-bousd-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Eric Barrientos**  
Principal

### Awaiting Accreditation Status

Every six years, Brea Canyon High School engages in our Focus on Learning process to prepare for accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools of the Western Association of School and Colleges (ACS WASC), and the California Department of Education. This process helps Brea Canyon identify and implement school improvement needs, and supports accountability leading to an accreditation status from the ACS WASC.

Accreditation is integral to a school's perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and reassessment based upon student achievement. The 2016–2017 school year is once again time for our self-study report where we examine our improvements from the last six years, the strides we have made in meeting our action plan, and what gaps are still left in moving forward as an ACS WASC accredited school.

The ACS WASC Visiting Committee was welcomed to Brea Canyon High School in late March by our BCHS staff, which commenced the accreditation visit. Staff was soon joined by the BOUSD administrative cabinet, education board members, and BCHS parents and graduates. For three days the ACS WASC Visiting Committee gathered evidence, observed classrooms, met with focus groups, examined school processes, analyzed our self-study report, and ultimately deliberated their findings with a public readout open to any and all Brea Canyon High School stakeholders.

The Visiting Committee readout highlighted the family atmosphere and student-centered support we provide for our Coyotes on a daily basis. They recognized the practices of our teachers in differentiating instruction to meet the personalized learning needs of our students, and they also emphasized the safe and productive learning environment we strive to create here at Brea Canyon for all of our children.

As we wait for consideration from ACS WASC about our accreditation status, our BCHS staff, students, and community can feel confident that we will continue to strive for excellence in supporting every student and family member who walks through the gates of our Coyote Den.

## Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • <http://bohs.bousd.us>



**Jerry Halpin**  
Principal

### A Great List!

The 2016–17 school year has been another fantastic year for BOHS students and staff. Here are some of our students' outstanding accomplishments.

BOHS was selected as a California Gold Ribbon School after a visitation by staff members from the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), which validated the merits of the BOHS application.

The BOHS training program, helmed by head trainer Ken McCall, was recognized as one of the few National Safe School programs in the country and has earned a three-year accreditation with the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

BOHS teacher Kara Dietz was selected as the school's Teacher of the Year and will represent the entire district as the BOUSD Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dietz is a tireless worker for the school and runs the incredible Link Crew program and campus. She will be the teacher leader of the upcoming Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program during the upcoming school year.

The vaunted Ladycat girls' basketball team advanced to the state quarterfinals for the third consecutive year. The Ladycats won the State Championship in 2015–16 and finished as runner-up in 2014–15. Over the past 30 years, the Ladycats have won 10 state titles, the most of any high school girls' team in the state.

The boys' cross-country team finished as CIF runner-up and again advanced to the state championships, where they finished sixth. The boys' team was the back-to-back state champion and continued their recent tremendous history.

The BOHS Marching Band advanced to the state championships where they finished fourth in the state in their division. Vocal music's show-choir programs captured multiple festivals and competitions throughout Southern California.

During the spring semester, BOHS hosted its first unified sports competition in which able-bodied students participated in a lunchtime basketball game with their special-needs peers. The raucous event, co-sponsored by Special Olympics, featured a packed gym of enthusiastic supporters. It was a great start to what we hope will be an ongoing program.

## Brea Country Hills Elementary (K-6)

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • <http://countryhills.bousd.us>



**Trish Walsh**  
Principal

### Cougars are All-Around Wonderful!

At Brea Country Hills Elementary School, we care about educating the whole child, with students learning California standards as well as positive character education and social skills. We focus on Respect for ourselves, others and our school; Ownership of our actions and attitude; Achievement of academic and personal goals; Responsibility for making positive, safe choices (ROAR).

Students earn "cougariffs" for demonstrating these important traits and can be celebrated as Students of the Month. This year, students in every classroom have been chosen monthly for demonstrating the traits of responsibility, respect, caring, citizenship, fairness, trustworthiness, determination, sportsmanship, ownership, and achievement.

It is such a pleasure to celebrate with these students and their families at our monthly flag ceremonies and with various students in our weekly drawings. We are happy to see our Cougars becoming successful students, friends, and well-rounded citizens of Brea.

Go, Cougars!



## William E. Fanning Elementary (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • <http://fanning.bousd.us>



**Theresa Stevens**  
Principal

### Read Across America

"Never too old, too wacky, too wild to pick up a book and read with a child." This year celebrates Read Across America's 20th year as a special day to promote reading. This annual event takes place on Dr. Seuss's birthday to honor our beloved author who created rhyming and silly nonsense books to help give children what they need to be successful readers.

Leaders are readers, no doubt about that. Reading and learning really are the tickets to getting around the globe. To celebrate this event, our students wore their pajamas as they watched and listened to our honored guests. We were fortunate to have many members of our community; the mayor, police and fire chiefs, city council members, school board members, superintendents, administrators, local-business owners and many others joined us on this special day to share their love of reading with our students.





**Heather Bojorquez**  
Principal

**Innovation and Collaboration**

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration celebrates a year of change and forward thinking. In our one-to-one technology environment, all Leopards utilize an iPad, a Chromebook or both daily for research, learning apps, collaboration and project creation.

But innovation does not result from technology use alone. The 4Cs—creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication—are college- and career-readiness skills that we embed in all aspects of learning. From Project Based Learning to STEAM thinking in Makerspace, Leopards learn to be effective learners and positive citizens in all content areas.



**Laurel Leopard 4th grade collaborate and work together.**

Additionally, Leopard teaching staff collaborates in an environment that mirrors what we ask students to explore. They are dynamic professionals who embrace our magnet-school goals. Cheers to our Leopard teachers who challenge themselves to go above and beyond to offer a stimulating, supportive, creative and ever innovative learning environment for all students!



**Robert Rendon**  
Principal

**Showcasing Our Learning**

Open House is a wonderful time to show off all of the wonderful work that our Eagles have been doing throughout the year. Visitors to Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms were treated to newly hatched chicks, ducks, and many types of pond life. Kindergarten classrooms also displayed Cat in the Hat lessons and activities. Students created stories that parents were able to download using QR code readers.

Students in first grade studied fairy tales and created original fairy tales. They also displayed their knowledge of different countries throughout the world. They also used QR codes to display student learning.

Second-grade students displayed many different styles of writing, including creative poetry. They also share their three-dimensional dioramas. Third-graders displayed their math, social studies, writing, and science knowledge through the use of technology! Visitors also enjoyed their solar system mobiles.

Fourth-grade students presented California missions virtual tours on classroom computers. They also share their colorful social studies posters, math projects, "litter bugs," and geology projects. One fifth-grade class presented a National History Day showcase. Other classes showed off their 13 colonies graffiti wall and explained the beginnings of our country. Our fifth-grade Eagles also showed how they are preparing for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century careers through computer coding and robotics.

Sixth-grade classes presented algebra pyramids, ancient Greece QR codes, and character studies from "A Single Shard." Miss Ruddock's class invited all families to attend a safari adventure!

**SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED • From Page 1**

California academic and business communities have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. Brea Olinda Unified Superintendent Dr. Brad Mason congratulated the schools saying, "We are thrilled to receive these validations that are indicative of how hard our teachers, administrators and parent community work on behalf of the students in BOUSD. Our schools are exceptional. Our educators are inspired. Our students are driven. Our parents are supportive. Our staff is second to none."



**Daryn Coburn**  
Principal

**50 Years of Excellence**

Mariposa Elementary School is celebrating "50 Years of Excellence in Education." Our staff is excited to host a 50th Anniversary Reception and Reunion on May 18, 2017, the same night as

Open House. All alumni, retired teachers and staff, current employees, students, and Mariposa family members past and present are cordially invited.

We will have a slide show with music and photos from numerous decades, a memorabilia table, a quilt made from employee t-shirts, and 50th Anniversary items for sale, including a photo like the one attached to this article. Facebook has helped reconnect many folks. John Bryden and Becky Bryden Van Stryland, Mr. Howard Bryden's son and daughter, will be attending also. Their dad was principal at Mariposa for nearly 25 years. It is sure to be a remarkable evening, and we look forward to reminiscing and visiting with many special people.

Go, Monarchs!



**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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Brea Olinda in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2017**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- |              |           |                |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Carpool      | Future    | Reduce         |
| Compost      | Garden    | Renewable      |
| Conservation | Healthier | Resources      |
| Difference   | Impact    | Respect        |
| Eco Friendly | Low Waste | Responsibility |
| Efficient    | Planet    | Reuse          |
| Emissions    | Process   | Solar          |
| Energy       | Protect   |                |
| Environment  | Recycle   |                |

**Congratulations to Kyle Perlich**  
**Winner of our March Contest**





## Isabella's Book Review

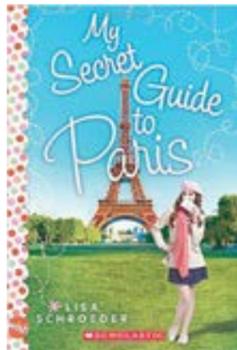
### An Emotional Book



*My Secret Guide to Paris* is a marvelous book written by Lisa Schroeder.

I would recommend having a box of tissues nearby because it is a very emotional book.

Nora's grandma is always talking about taking a trip to Paris. The author shows the picture of the



loving relationship Nora and her grandmother

Sylvia have and of the trip they plan to take to Paris. The first chapter is very emotional as Nora feels like she is walking on clouds when suddenly they disappear along with her grandma after a tragic accident. Grandma created a treasure hunt for Nora and she decides to go to Paris to find the treasure her grandma left her. So, will Nora's mom come on the trip? Will Nora find the treasure her Grandma left? What will it be?

The author is very good at creating feelings for the characters and making them very sweet. I would rate this book five stars. It is a great book and I loved it.

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.

## Alana's Book Review

### 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 Abbas

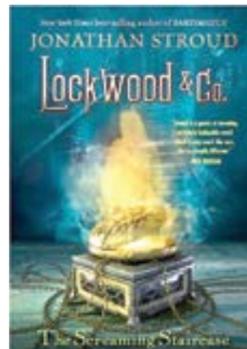
### A Creepy and Fun Read



*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?

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

### Sticks and Stones



Author: Abby Cooper

Elyse started middle school with her best friend Jeg, with a tiny fear. A condition that occurs whenever someone says anything about her (good or bad!) it appears on her skin. It gets worse as Jeg is whisked away by the mean girls and she is suddenly all alone. That is, until blue notes started showing up in random places. Written by an anonymous person who wants to help, Elyse is motivated to put herself out there and try for her grade's most-wanted position, Explorer Leader; the person who is in charge of the biggest trip of the year. If she wins and the students all have fun, the compliments would look (and feel!) good, don't you think?

I give this book four and a half bookworms, because this story is really inspiring. The main character shows not only how to deal with bullies, but how to move on from mistakes.



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.

First we learn to read...  
Then we read to learn.



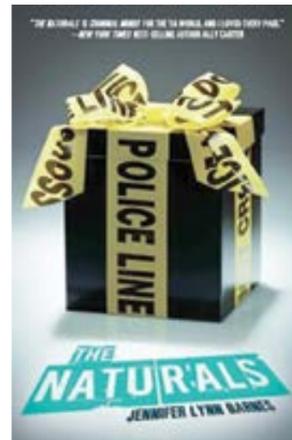
## Book Review By Katrina

### A Gripping Crime Novel



*The Naturals* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes is a book about a team of teenagers brought together because of their unique talents. But unlike other books, their talents aren't supernatural. Talents like profiling just by looking at someone, being a human

lie detector and managing to remember stats just to name a few came naturally. Now, this team of teens must solve cold cases that not even the finest CIA members could. Even with an unknown murderer on the loose. This book is filled with snarky comments, obsessive mystery and a writing style that cannot be matched. Honestly I couldn't stop reading this book until the very end, hungry to learn the murderer's identity. The characters are developed, the plot moves at a perfect speed and you find yourself holding your breath with every page. If you're looking from a gripping crime novel, then this is for you! I rate this book 5 out of 5 medals.



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.

## Christina's Book Review

### Captivating to Read



*Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Lost Souls*, written by Liz Kessler, is about the main character Emily, who keeps seeing a mysterious ship appearing and disappearing without a trace, only at certain hours each day, growing fainter each time. Emily and her friends try to figure out the

mystery behind it, and the closest they could get to solving it is that a similar looking ship had recently disappeared with all its passengers on board. Later Emily finds herself near the ship and bravely accepts the challenge to solve its mystery once and for all. She meets people having a good time, without any care in the world about their past. Emily comes to realize that these people are the missing passengers of the missing ship and that they had their memories of the past slowly erased, and now they are stuck on this ship that is temporarily suspended in between our world and Atlantis. Emily only has a few hours to save the doomed passengers before they are all trapped in another dimension forever. With quick thinking Emily manages to find a way to save everybody and reunite them with their families.

I liked this book a lot. The story unfolded smoothly and was very captivating to read, keeping me guessing and worrying along the way with the main character. The suspense is great and the story itself is mind-boggling.

I rate this book 5 out of 5, with five being the best.



Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

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# Brea Olinda Unified School District



## Now Enrolling! School Age and Teen Programs

BOUSD's Before and After School programs offer a safe place for students and include homework assistance, enrichment activities, indoor play and outdoor recreation. Programs are located at every elementary school and Brea Junior High School. All program centers open at 7:00 a.m. each day and are open until the start of the school day. Sites reopen at school dismissal and remain open until 6:00 p.m. TK/Kindergarten Connection wrap-around programs compliment the traditional school day and provide a full day learning program for all of its participants and is also offered at each campus.



## Full Day and Part Day Preschool

BOUSD's Early Learning Program was created to provide an enriched environment for early-aged children with benefits to their intellectual, physical, emotional and social development. State Preschool (income qualifying program) and Fee-Based programs are designed for potty-trained 3- and 4-year olds and are held at Arovista, Country Hills, Laurel, Mariposa, and Olinda. Full time and Part time options are available.

## Seasonal Day Camps

Full day camp programs are offered during the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer breaks. Weekly tuition includes on site activities and off site field trips.



## Registration/Information

For more information, please contact the Child Development Services Administrative Office at (714) 990-7527.

## Michael's Book Review

### The Missing Mitt



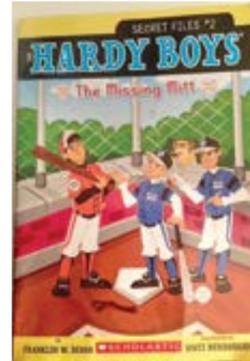
Michael H.

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.



## Kan's Noveldom

### A Classic Tale of Intrigue

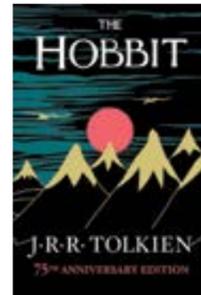


Kan S.

*The Hobbit: Or There and Back Again, a Hobbit's Tale*  
By J.R.R. Tolkien

Welcome to Middle-Earth, a fantastical land of graceful elves, hardy dwarves, and peace-loving hobbits in their hobbit-holes. J.R.R. Tolkien draws readers into a masterful fairy-tale, following the perilous adventure (aided by luck) undertaken by a quiet-desiring hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, snatched from his second breakfast—whose journey, internal and external, is central—as he joins forces with wizard Gandalf and the 13-dwarf company of Thorin, a mighty dwarf determined to reclaim his conquered home of Erebor. Across dangerous Wilderland, friend and foe, therein lies their destination, Erebor; they must liberate it from their archenemy, Smaug, the Fire-Drake. Full of intense force and simple luck, Tolkien sets the foundation for a modern fairy-story. A classic tale of intrigue with a nail-biting Quest, outdoing any expectation, globally successful and immensely entertaining, the novel has rightly earned its full 10 stars, navigating the reader throughout the landscape with both pure bravery and tremendous luck.

Kan is a seventh-grader who enjoys life at its fullest, most prominent, of feeling the thrill of vivacity run through him. With a passion for Tolkien, learning (of all subjects, particularly math and English), activity, politics, and commerce, he presses on through his existence with vigor, as a peacock would displaying its pulchritudinous plumage. Ten is his utmost book-score, and one the lowliest.



## Keira's Book Nook

### Is Hitler The Enemy?



Keira

*My Brother's Secret*  
By Dan Smith

This unbelievable, resplendent, captivating and emotional book shows how you can tell who to trust. Karl, like all good German boys is training to be in the Hitler Youth. However, his older brother Stefan wants nothing to do with it. When their father is killed Karl's faith in Hitler is shaken. He is filled with questions that need to be answered. Is Hitler a hero or deleterious villain? Karl soon finds out as he becomes involved in a rebellion against the Nazis. I couldn't put down this 293 page action packed book. I would recommend it for 3rd-7th graders. 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.



## Naomi's Book Review

### A Magical Box



Naomi

*The Secret Kingdom*  
by Rosie Banks is a book full of mystery, suspense, adventure, thrills and excitement.

This book is about three girls called Jasmine, Ellie and Summer who found a magical box that gave them a riddle. That the girls couldn't solve. Therefore the box sent the three girls to another world where they saw fairies, kings, queens, and trolls. Where they also went through different stages in weather. After going through all that adventure the three girls solved the riddle. Then the box sent the three girls back home. Where they made sure to put the box in a safe place where no one could ever find it again.

I give this book 5 stars because it is interesting and has many different scenes that just make me want to keep reading it over and over again. This is why I recommend this book to everyone.

Naomi is a fourth grader that enjoys reading and writing. But aside from her joy of reading she loves to play the piano, drawing, coloring and be involved in any school event. She rates her book from 1-5 stars with 5 being the highest.



## Courtney's Book Review

### A Real Adventure Book



Courtney M.

*The Lightning Thief*  
by Rick Riordan

If you want adventure, you should really think about reading this book. Have you ever been the new kid at a school or camp? Percy Jackson knows how that feels. Percy Jackson goes on a very interesting quest with his two friends just so he can save his mom from Hades, the God of the underworld. I'm rating this book a big 5.

Courtney likes to play softball, football, and volleyball. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.



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