

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Fullerton School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

## Solving Real-World Issues



Dr. Robert Pletka  
Superintendent

Fullerton School District students participating in the iPersonalize blended learning program have shown a high level of innovation and conceptual understanding through location-based learning (Think scavenger hunt meets geocaching!), as exemplified through reading and writing standards. Here is an example of a student's work to solve the problem of El Nino in our community.

"We propose a full-on body protection suit that is transparent and insulated. Therefore, it will keep you dry and warm at the same time. This body suit isn't just for your protection, but also your comfort. When received, it seems like a pillow, which keeps

your head warm because it is insulated. Using our amazing technology, you can turn it into a waterproof body suit that covers you front and back, head to toe. AND IT IS ALREADY INSULATED so it KEEPS YOU WARM!!! The suit has an inflatable tag for you to pull if the water level becomes too high to manage. That way, it is also like a life jacket. Our product is protected by an outer layer of silicone, which can withstand any puncturing objects.

"This invention protects people from harm in the heavy rain. Anyone can purchase these on Amazon. They would be provided to store owners through government funding for homeless people who could not afford to purchase them themselves. That way, people who are living on the street could go into a certain store and "rent" them for free. After the rain and floods pass, the suit will be returned to the shop by the renter.



This type of technology has already been used for the Olympic horseback riders. Under the gear the riders wear, they have an inflatable vest. The string to inflate it is attached to the horse, so if they fall off, the string will be pulled and it will inflate."

## Get Connected with FSD!

By Susan Cross Hume, CPA, CIA, CGMA  
Assistant Superintendent Business Services

It's important to us at FSD that you know what's going on at your student's school and at the District. Fortunately, it's easy to stay connected to FSD!

You can find a wealth of information about our schools and educational programs on the District's webpage ([www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org)), as well as all the latest news and events. Find links to student calendars, lunch menus, Board meeting agendas, employment opportunities, and much more. You can also access each school's individual website.

Many school sites are on social media. Look for them on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. At the District level, check out the Superintendent's Facebook page for news and pictures. Get breaking news, as well as announcements and updates, on our twitter feed: @Fullertonsd .

We also have an easily downloadable app which delivers instant access to information about the District and your student's school on your smart phone. It's available on the App Store and Google Play.

All sites offer PTA/site newsletters. These are full of good information about your student's school. *School News* is also distributed three times each school year and contains informative information on individual schools and Fullerton School District.

In the event of an emergency, all communication methods will be used, including robo-calls through our Blackboard Connect system. Therefore, it is very important to keep all of your contact phone numbers (home, cell, work) updated. Make sure we can get ahold of you if we need to.



@FullertonSD



Fullerton School District Superintendent

## The Lindamood-Bell Learning Centers

By Dr. Emy Flores,  
Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

The Fullerton School District strives to personalize education, because literacy is one of the greatest gifts that a person can receive.

We are faced with the challenge of ensuring that every child is given an opportunity to reach their full potential. This begins with a strong foundation in literacy. Our district has partnered with Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes to provide instruction and professional development at three different sites within the District.

Pacific Drive, Orangethorpe, and Valencia Park schools already operate reading clinics both during and after school for students who need additional support. These children have received up to 120 additional hours of supplementary instruction.

The Lindamood-Bell method addresses individual learning needs that focus on the processing necessary for good reading and comprehension skills. Based on various assessment results, our students have made continued growth on their overall reading achievement. We eagerly anticipate increased gains as they remain in the program for the rest of the year.

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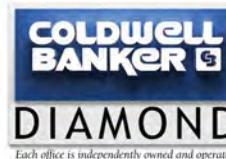
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# School News

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Covering the  
FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! By now your year is well underway and students are focused on their goals...and Spring Break!

The Superintendent's message on the front page is exciting. Our future is in good hands with innovative students looking to solve the world's problems. Imagination is more important than knowledge. It is the perfect time to be a student.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is March 2, 2016.

## Acacia Elementary

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Liz Leon**  
Principal

### Writer's Workshop

For the past two years, Acacia Elementary School teachers have fully implemented Writer's Workshop. Teachers naturally infuse the use of technology to enhance the writing practice. Applications are strategically used to personalize learning and deepen student abilities and their growth as 21st-century learners.

For example, students might use Popplet or iBrainstorm to organize their writing and Padlet to share their strategies with other student writers. They use Google Docs to begin drafting



and to house a collection of seed story ideas. Students can share their writing with peers and teachers for collaborative review and revision. In the final stages of the writing process, students demonstrate creative ownership over their writing using Pages. Students then layer in animation and audio-visual representation to enhance the audience's experience.

At the conclusion of a writing unit, celebrations happen, where students showcase their work.

## Beechwood

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Julie Graham**  
Principal

### Empowering Our Students

At Beechwood School we use technology to leverage critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. But with this technology comes a great responsibility for our students to become thoughtful consumers and producers in our digital world.

This year we have committed to becoming a Digital Citizenship Certified School. Teachers utilize a series of lessons to empower students to become responsible and ethical digital citizens. Each student is learning how to respect and protect themselves and

others in the digital world. As they progress through their grade levels, they also learn how to evaluate online resources to identify high-quality information and become conscientious about their digital footprints.

Partnering with parents is essential to developing safe, respectful, and responsible



students. Beechwood is hosting parent education nights so that our families can keep up with this fast-paced world. For more resources on how to reinforce digital citizenship at home, go to commonsensemedia.org.

## Commonwealth Elementary

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Anita Lomeli**  
Principal

### Camp iROAR!

Thanks to our generous friends at a local community church, this winter break was extra-special. During the second week of winter break, about 70 of our students had the opportunity to come back to school for three days and enjoy some fun activities to keep their imaginations, bodies and minds occupied. Volunteers from the community church donated their time, ideas and enthusiasm to offer classes in painting, computer programming, soccer skills, comic book design, arts and crafts, baking and singing. Special guests paid a visit, too! The Fullerton police and fire departments came out and thrilled our students. Anticipation was felt when students arrived each morning.

At the end of each day, campers shared with excitement all they had created and learned. Throughout the camp sessions, our schoolwide character traits of integrity, responsibility, accountability, organization and respectfulness were infused. Tiger pride and fun shined at Camp iROAR!



# Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Julie Brandon**  
Principal

## Making Valuable Connections

Helping students make connections across content standards is our school's goal for each classroom. Fern Drive's students are able to make these types of connections by learning how to organize their thinking process via Thinking Maps.

Research suggests that non-linguistic representations can directly impact student achievement. Thinking Maps can thus help our students visualize various thought processes to help solve problems.

The students are taught to use eight types of these maps, and each has its own specific function. Circle Maps help students create connections between words and ideas; Bubble Maps help students describe something; Double Bubble Maps and Multi Flow Maps help them compare and contrast; Tree Maps help with classification; Brace Maps address part-to-whole relationships; Flow Maps illustrate sequencing; and Bridge Maps illustrate concrete-to-abstract relationships such as analogies.

By learning to apply these specific maps, our students are soon able to make strong connections and help organize their thoughts.



# Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Juliene Lee**  
Principal

## Mathena Club

*By Jesus Uribe, Teacher – 7th- and 8th-Grade Mathematics*

Created by students at Robert C. Fisler School, Mathena promotes an enriching learning environment that fosters leadership and mathematical skills while promoting academic growth and teamwork. As a club, we encourage members to join competitions, challenge themselves in mathematics, and create interest in math. Our purpose is to spread mathematical enthusiasm throughout our school and cultivate leadership in students. Mathena's significance lies in our access to

competitions and our contribution to math awareness. We have participated in Mathcounts, Math League, and a math competition sponsored by a movie

theater chain. Aside from competitions we also hold our own activities, such as the Penny Pi Day challenge, which provides funds for teachers to purchase math supplies for classrooms. Recently, Mathena coordinated Math Carols, giving members an opportunity to spread holiday cheer and mathematical enthusiasm by singing well-known Christmas carols with altered lyrics that described mathematical concepts.

Mathena looks forward to encouraging students to be enthusiastic about math!



# Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Danielle Ramirez**  
Principal

## Working Collaboratively

Hermosa Drive is thrilled to be hosting its first Cardboard Challenge on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. This amazing "day of play" is inspired by the short film *Caine's Arcade*.

The global Cardboard Challenge is an annual event where children of all ages are invited to build anything that they can dream up by using cardboard and recycled materials, and their imaginations!



Our students will have several categories from which to choose: service machines, games, transportation, fashion/costumes, arts, communities, and instruments. We are also proud to be incorporating science, technology, robotics, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STREAM) into each of the classrooms as well.

Hermosa Drive is excited to be holding this Cardboard Challenge during National Engineer Week. Our students will also be working collaboratively to help plan, design, and engineer their innovative creations. As the wise Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

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located at 701 E Bastanchury Rd, Fullerton

Easter Breakfast served in the Parish Hall from 7 - 11 am  
Easter Worship at St. Paul at 8, 9:30 & 11 am

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## Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Jaime Ann Hopton**  
Principal

### The Sound of Music

The story of the Von Trapp family is being brought to life on stage at Golden Hill Elementary School. Produced by teachers and performed entirely by students, this classic Rogers & Hammerstein musical is the tale of a nun turned governess falling in love with a retired naval captain in Austria during Nazi occupation prior to World War II.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students auditioned and were selected based on performing arts criteria. They have been rehearsing

for weeks and will perform three matinees and two evening shows for a packed house. The powerhouse team of Mrs. Sylvester as the producer and director, Mrs. Murray as the assistant director, and Mr. Mankiewicz as the man behind the curtain will make each show a success.

Our talented Gators take to the stage at the end of February. We hope to see your face in the crowd when Golden Hill comes alive with the Sound of Music.



## Ladera Vista *Junior High School*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Randa Schmalfeld**  
Principal

### Arts Conservatory

The Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts After-School Conservatory Program, sponsored by the All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation, offers students an opportunity to extend their learning in the arts beyond the school day as they explore art, music, drama and dance in greater depth. Current class offerings in this new conservatory program include Advanced Art Journaling, Comedy Improvisation, Electric Guitar, Fused-Glass Jewelry, Songwriting, Stop-Motion Animation and Tap Dance.

These Arts Conservatory Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. The present conservatory session runs through March 24.

Generous support from the Fullerton School District Child Services Department helps to keep costs low while offering the highest-quality classes, which are taught by practicing artists and talented Ladera Vista teachers. LV students love the fun and camaraderie of Ladera Vista Arts Conservatory Classes!



## Laguna Road *Elementary*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Ryan Weiss-Wright**  
Principal

### Looking Forward to 2016

Laguna Road teachers and students are celebrating a successful first trimester! We have enjoyed academic achievement on the first set of benchmarks, and performing art achievement as many grade levels continue to work together on collaborative performances showcasing our many talents! Laguna Road is also starting a competitive Robotics Club, beginning practices in January. As usual, all Laguna Road students are working toward being their best, with teacher and parent support our school is excited about what 2016 has in store for everyone!

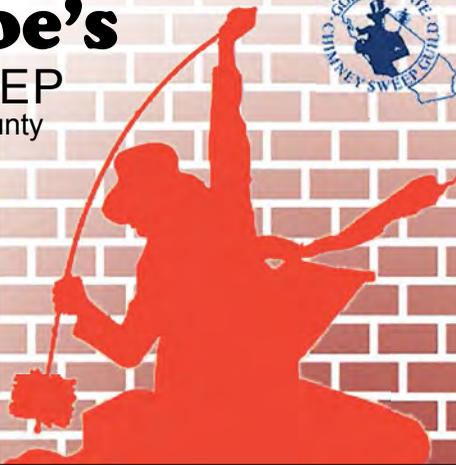


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## Maple *Elementary*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Susan Mercado**  
Principal

### Holiday Surprise from LOF!

What started out as a goal to provide 20 pairs of shoes for Maple students ended up as a gift of over 450 tennis shoes and socks for every child, thanks to the Leon Owens Foundation (LOF). LOF partnered with a shoe corporation, a food foundation, a restaurant and other donors for this surprise.

The excited students were greeted by several LOF board members including Dorothy Owens-Whitehurst and Shirley Owens-McClanahan, who had this “pair of shoes idea” last spring.

The boxes were taken off the truck and quickly set up in the multipurpose room, where Fullerton mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald joined corporation employees and organization members to help present them.

FSD superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka stopped by to thank LOF members, all former Maple students, for their generosity. Founder Mary Owens has been a Maple community partner for more than 20 years providing college and youth scholarships—and this year, a pair of shoes for every child!



## Orangethorpe *Elementary*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz**  
Principal

### No Turkeys We!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Orangethorpe’s Student Council decided to give back to the community through Giving Children Hope’s We’ve Got Your Back Food Drive this past November. This program supports school-age students through a weekend nutrition program. Students were asked to donate nonperishable food items to help families in need.

If we met our goal of 700 items, Orangethorpe’s principal, Dr. Ruiz, would dress up as a turkey. If they collected over 1,000, the assistant principal, Mrs. Wolf, would join in, too. Student Council members promoted the event through posters and

announcements and created a promotional video. Student Council promoted this event more than any other.

Students worked together to surpass our goal and collected 1,200 food items! Orangethorpe celebrated together knowing they helped many families this holiday season. Students were reminded of their accomplishment as they saw their two fearless leaders proudly dressed as turkeys!



## Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Rudy Torres**  
Principal

### Learning Invaluable Skills

The Nicolas Knights capture the excitement of gaming in a 21st-century blended learning environment through “iPersonalize.” This personalized approach to learning provides our students with a quest-based design that utilizes gaming structure.

In this blended learning environment, students complete educational gaming quests and are then rewarded with experience points, badges, pins, and other recognitions. Learning is personalized in the sense that the students move through each level at their own pace.

As students move on to new and more challenging quests, they consistently reflect upon these new levels of understanding on a learning scale until the standard is met, the mission project is complete, and success is celebrated.



Why personalized gaming? Students can learn invaluable skills such as perseverance, competence, knowledge, creative problem-solving, agency, and group cooperation in a safe and engaging environment. They walk away with a feeling of achievement, peer recognition, and sense of personal satisfaction.

Go, Knights!

## Pacific Drive *Elementary*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Yolanda Castillo**  
Principal

### Multi-Tiered Support System

Pacific Drive strives to meet the needs of all learners. One of our major initiatives this year is to combine the work of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) system and our RtI (Response to Intervention) system. The combination of these systems will create a pyramid of supports, commonly referred to as MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

MTSS focuses on aligning all of our site initiatives, supports and resources. It will continue to enable us to systematically address support for all students, including our higher-achieving students, while seeking and implementing appropriate research-based interventions for our struggling learners. This paradigm shift will ensure support for all of our students through intentional design and redesign of integrated services and supports. The Pacific Drive MTSS pyramid will allow us to continually improve processes at all levels of our school.



# Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Yolanda McComb**  
*Principal*

## Dual Language Immersion Program

Raymond School is proud to host our district's Dual Language Academy for the 2016–2017 school year for incoming kindergarten students. This dual language immersion program is a unique educational model,

where children learn to read, write, speak, and communicate in two languages: English and Spanish. Native speakers in both languages learn together beginning in kindergarten, and grade levels are added each subsequent school year up to sixth grade at Raymond and up to eighth grade in our district.

The mission of the Fullerton School District's Dual Language Academy is for all students to reach high levels of academic achievement, develop biliteracy and bilingualism, and cultivate the cross-cultural competencies needed to succeed in a multicultural society and global economy with the integration of 21st-century learning skills. Dual language immersion programs have become the fastest growing foreign language program in the U.S. for children.



# Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Sherry Dustin**  
*Principal*

## Parks Peace Poster Winner

The Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest was created in 1988 to give our young people an opportunity to express their feelings about world peace and share their visions.

For more than 25 years, middle school students from more than 100 countries have been participating in this contest. Each year our students have competed in the contest through our Art 2 elective class, and each year one student from the school wins a trophy for the best entry.



“A Celebration of Peace” was the theme for this year's competition. Congratulations go to our 2016 Peace Poster Contest winner, Hansol Yoo. She was judged on her originality, artistic merit, and expression of theme. Thank you also to Aaron Beaver for your work with the students.

Hansol and her parents attended a recognition dinner at the local Lions Club in December. We are very proud of Hansol for her creativity, talent, and imagination.



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## Richman *Elementary*

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**Estella Grimm**  
Principal

### STEAM and Dream

Can elementary students really be scientists, computer programmers, engineers, artists, and mathematicians? Absolutely! In our recently opened Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and Dream Center for Creativity and Innovation, students can be any of these—and much more. How about actors, directors, movie producers, and editors? Indeed! What about inventors or innovators? Yes—and yes!

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For a tour, please call (714) 447-7745.

## Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Juleen Faur**  
Principal

### On the Boards!

Theater arts continue to be a rich tradition at Rolling Hills. Throughout the school year, students across grade levels and programs will have the opportunity to participate in a theater production. This tradition allows students to experience literature and drama in unique ways as both participants and audience.

Our first performance of the year included students from our ABC multiage program in the play Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock. Our second performance included our MP3 students in a compilation of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales. The students learned their lines, songs and choreography flawlessly. Currently, many of our fourth-grade and upper-MP3 4/5 classrooms are rehearsing for



a theatrical representation of Tom Sawyer. These students have completed reading the novel and are now learning how this literary work was turned into a play.

We applaud all our students' accomplishments and can't wait to see our next group up on stage!

## Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Paula Pitluk**  
Principal

### Master Mosaics

Sunset Lane is thrilled to have the opportunity to be the home of FSD's Master Mosaics Studio. Headed by artist and teacher Katherine England, the studio is a

creative after school hub for 5th and 6th graders from Sunset Lane as well as students from Parks Jr. High. These talented young artists have created and installed community art pieces in locations throughout the city, including St. Jude's Hospital, City Hall, and several Fullerton schools. Coming soon will be another heart for downtown Fullerton. In addition, several Sunset Lane classes have created mosaic pieces that bring color and beauty to our school environment. We are so proud of this talented and dedicated group of students.



# Valencia Park *Elementary*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Helene Morris**  
Principal

## Visiting Apple Headquarters

Valencia Park was one of 12 schools selected to participate in a national research initiative hosted by Apple.

In December, Principal Helene Morris headed to the Apple headquarters in Cupertino accompanied by Cotsen Mentor Kyle Myers and Education Innovation Specialist Pablo Diaz. Once there, this team of educators and specialists worked with top researchers like Dr. Ruben Puentedura – the author of the SAMR model – to help develop a research plan for evaluating and advancing technology and student-centered learning here at

Valencia Park.

While the visit to Apple headquarters, aptly named ‘What’s Next,’ spanned the course of three days, the research project will extend over the course of an entire year, complete with ongoing support from both Apple and top researchers. It will be exciting to share the research findings and technology innovation from this project with the entire Fullerton community, as well as educators from across the globe.



# Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • www.fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Hilda Flores**  
Principal

## Creating and Collaborating

Students in a kindergarten and fourth grade work together weekly as technology buddies. The goals of this project are to build technology skills in younger students, community on campus, and academic achievement, all through collaboration. Students work on a wide variety of projects in various content areas and utilize applications that focus on creation. Not only do the fourth-graders teach the kindergarteners, but the kindergarteners teach the fourth graders as well.

Our current project has students researching key environmental issues in California. They are presenting those issues and suggesting real-world solutions. Students create projects that modify or redefine what was possible in

the past. Students also engage in reflection, thinking about not only the process of working with their buddies but the strengths of their projects and how they might improve in the future. The focus is on creation for meaningful purposes and authentic audiences.



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## Smiles Ahead



Kate Karp

You may have heard the term *indie music* and not thought about the meaning because what's played on indie stations sounds so good. Accomplished indie musicians are in fact artists who opt to transport their performances to eager ears through small labels and the Internet instead of recording with big, largely commercial corporations. This gives these artists more room for creativity, self-expression and their own "heart." If you've heard bands like Wilco and Radiohead, you'll agree that it all works really well.

And if you and the children around you also know the names Okee Dokee Brothers, Rissi Palmer, the Pop-Ups and the 10 other artists and bands on this new multigenre collection, you'll also agree that a flourishing, delightful bunch of indie artists exists for the very young. *Smiles Ahead* is a project of Mighty Mo Productions, a small label founded by award-winning children's entertainer Jim "Mr. Stinky Feet" Cosgrove, who appears in this collection as a producer only. This happy, tuneful CD includes songs that all children will enjoy and that could also be on your own hit parade. Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, aka King of Kid Hop, raps about self-confidence in the hippy-hoppy "You're It." Grandparents and sixties-music aficionados will recall the English Invasion in The Verve Pipes' "Get Happy." Spring and bluegrass go together, and the Okee Dokee Brothers pair them well on "Walking with Spring." And Brady Rhymer and the Little Band That Could have the best CD opener ever—the catchy "Jump Up."

There are definitely smiles ahead for everyone here!

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

## Interesting!



Lucy Davis

*Finally*

Author: Wendy Mass

Rory begins getting rid of the things that remind her of being a kid. She throws out her stuffed bear, Throckmorton, tears down Snoopy posters from her walls, and other things all because she can't wait until she's twelve. She has a list of exactly what she wants to do when she is twelve. Ride an upside down roller coaster, wear makeup, get a cell phone, and the list goes on and on. But everything changes when she is saved from a drain pipe.

This is a story about a girl that wants to grow up too fast. Throughout the story she experiences things that help her realize that maybe being a kid a little longer isn't such a bad thing after all.

I give this book four bookworms out of five. It's a good book. However, I wasn't rushing home to read it every day.



Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

# Lacrosse—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 Fullerton in the subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2016.  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| ATTACK      | HEAD        | SCORE      |
| CLEATS      | HELMETS     | SHAFT      |
| COACH       | MIDDIES     | SIDE LINES |
| CREASE      | MOUTH GUARD | STICK      |
| DEFENSE     | NET         | TEAMS      |
| FIELD       | PLAYERS     | UNIFORMS   |
| GOAL KEEPER | RULES       |            |

Congratulations to **Lauren Houch**  
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!

### Word Search by Kai Coop

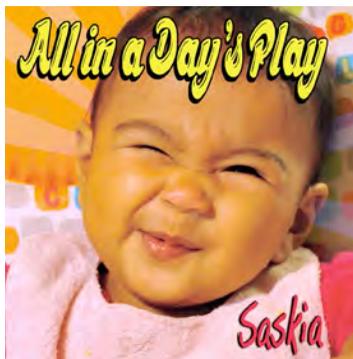


# Using Music to Teach



Saskia Garel

As a parent, if you're like me, you obsess about your child being ahead of the curve when it comes to learning everything from reading and writing to potty training and manners. You also want to ensure that any obstacle they face will be easily overcome with the skills you provide them with. In my experience, music has been my greatest collaborator. Not only in the "play classical music for my baby to make him a genius" kind of way, but actually using music to teach any type of information or skill. With my son, I would put on a one-woman show at mealtime, playtime, bedtime and basically every time in between. Yes, it was a bit or a lot excessive, but I just didn't want him to struggle or be bored and uninspired. I wanted to stimulate his little brain and expose him to everything.



What I began to notice was that he had an unbelievable ability to learn and retain information because of the songs I entertained him with. By utilizing the combination of lyrics, rhythm and melody, music can aid in the learning experience. Tristan could spell his name as early as he could talk because I taught him the letters in his name to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. At Tristan's daycare, I remember other parents marveling over his ability to recite, not only our home phone number but our cell numbers and his address—in case he ever got lost or separated from us in a crowd. At 6, he was one of the few people in his Scouts Troop that knew the entire pledge by heart by the second meeting, all because I put a melody to it...and to this day he remembers it verbatim, without even having to sing it.

It has been the same with my daughter, Mixie. Since I witnessed the power of music and the fantastic effects it had on my son's learning, I added to our repertoire. At two years old she can read phonetically as I never sang the ABC song to her in the traditional way. I sang it to her phonetically so when she sees a letter, instead of saying its name, she says its sound. If I show her a three-letter word like CAT, she basically sounds it out right away instead of having to discern that the letter C makes the CUH sound. I went as far as to make up songs that highlight sight words, letter blending, prefixes and suffixes. Even as they grow older the songs that I created for them as babies remain ingrained in their little heads. They never suspected that they were learning.

So, try music the next time you want to teach your child anything at all. You can use traditional melodies with your own words or make up your own tunes altogether. I promise you, you don't have to have a beautiful singing voice or impeccable rhythm...you just have to be enthusiastic and fun. A little tip: record yourself so you don't forget the wonderful creations you dream up! I did just that and put together a CD of 24 songs that I sing to my kids all the time. It's called *All in a Day's Play* and is available on iTunes and CD Baby.

BTW, Tristan is now 8 and hasn't conquered eating over his plate. I'm convinced there is just no song for that unfortunately, unless you count "Eat the Crumbs Right off the Floor" sung to the tune of Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes!!

Saskia Garel is a Mom/Singer/Songwriter/Author/Artist  
Please visit [www.saskiagarel.net](http://www.saskiagarel.net)

# Music in History

By D. H. Coop

I remember my first years in school with finger painting, drawing and music. The class would listen and sing songs together, playing with blocks wrapped in sandpaper and striking triangles and other instruments to accompany our songs. My teachers exposed us to classical music with the *Surprise Symphony*, explaining the story behind it. Then around third grade, the art and music stopped, the students with the best voices joined choir, and those interested in art took art classes. What I liked about the art and music were the stories behind their creation.

Later as I became an adult, I started to notice that some of the songs I sang in school were tunes that were reworked. In the 1960s, my uncle could not believe what they had done to "I'm Going to Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter" from the 1930s. Some of the rewrites were unknown to my generation, such as "A Paper of Pins" from the colonial days that was redone as "The Bus Stop Song" and "Mockingbird," about the price of love. Then with rock 'n' roll came the civil rights movement.

Music before rock 'n' roll fell into groups. At the top was popular music and classical that was mainstream. All other ethnic music was called race music. Elvis changed the music world in the 1950s. Yet he was not the first. Back in the 1840s, Louis Moreau Gottschalk introduced a sound that mixed European and African slave sounds from the parks of New Orleans. "Le Banjo" is Gottschalk's attempt to make the piano sound like the banjo, an instrument developed by slaves. That sound can be found in Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," which seems to be a favorite melody of ice cream trucks. Joplin's sound became known as ragtime, and it turned into jazz, which spread out of the South into cities in the North after the Great War.

Aaron Copeland took the sound and introduced it into classical and big bands, which turned it into swing. After World War II, big bands fell out of popularity. Bill Haley and the Comets hit the stage with "Rock Around the Clock," which brings us back to Elvis the King.

Elvis is not the one I want to use to demonstrate the value of music in history, although he played a major role. Instead, I want to mention Johnny Cash and his influence on country music. Country music groups before Cash did not include a drum player. Cash's songs all sounded the same to me. Then I learned the stories behind some of his songs. "I Walk the Line" introduced the drum into country music. He made the drum sound by placing a piece of sandpaper under the strings of his guitar. Then with "Ring of Fire," he introduced the Mexican trumpet into country music.

Rock 'n' roll went on to play a very important part in the civil rights movement and the Cold War. Rock 'n' roll went to the Soviet Union, where individuals cut tracks on x-ray plates to copy songs of the Beatles and others from the West. Then during the protests in the 1990s in China, Cui Jian sang "Yi Wu Suoyou" ("Nothing to My Name") in rock 'n' roll. In this country, Billy Joel's "Allentown" as well as his "We Didn't Start the Fire" is an indictment against the Greatest Generation for broken promises.

So the next time you hear a song, it may not be just a tune and words. It may be social change, protest, a story, just entertainment or part of the historical picture.

D.H.Coop is a retired History teacher. During teaching career highlights included: Teaching A.P. U.S. History, International Baccalaureate European and World History. He used music and the arts to motivate students to be interested in history





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