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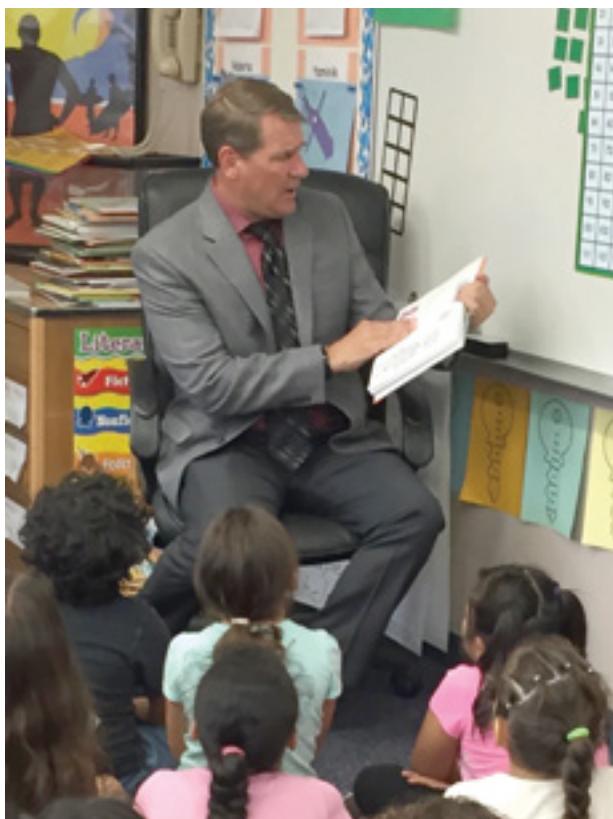
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

APRIL 2017

Recharge, Reflect, and Reinvigorate

By Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent

Spring break has come and gone, and summer vacation will be here before we know it. I am proud of all our students and staff and all of their accomplishments this school year. As we all take time over the summer to recharge and get ready for the next school year, I encourage everyone to take a moment to also reflect on all of the amazing achievements of the year. Whether it is a wonderful test score, an improved grade, or a personal achievement, we have all done something to be proud of.



The summer break is also an opportunity for each and every one of us to reinvigorate a curiosity or passion. We should all take a moment to enhance our knowledge. I encourage you to find a book or project for your child that reflects his or her passion and allows you to spend valuable time with your child. The return on this time investment will increase ten-fold as you continue to bond with your child and support his or her academic and intellectual growth.

It is with much gratitude that we thank you for allowing us to share in the life of your child.

Coded in Confidence

By Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent

Four Nicolas Junior High School (JHS) students recently received honorable mention recognition and a \$1,000 shared cash prize for developing a smartphone application as part of the 2016 Congressional App Challenge, co-chaired by U.S. Congressman Ed Royce. GoGuardian provided the cash prize to the Nicolas JHS students.



While Jocelyn Salas, Shelly Fonseca, Nevyta Patel, and Cassandra Hermosillo may have been taken by surprise by the amount of recognition their poisonous plant-identifying application garnered, what was even more surprising was how the experience of building the app impacted other areas of their lives. Nicolas Principal Robyn Clemente remarked, "I think all over, especially in the areas of math and language arts, they've improved." Speaking about the quartet's (comprised of three seventh-graders and one eighth-grader) newfound sense of confidence, she went on to say, "The way they stand and present themselves now, you can see that they can compete with the boys, they can compete with the teachers...they're not arrogant, they're just confident, and they know that there's nothing they can't do. They're proud of themselves, and they can handle any situation they're in."

While the group may seem unflappable now, they didn't start out so confident. Seventh-grader Cassandra Hermosillo recalled a time of unpredictability when first embarking on building the app. Speaking about the ratio of boys to girls within their coding class, taught by science teacher Rick Briggs, Cassandra recalls saying to her teammates, "Can we actually do this? I don't think we can do this...But the more we started [coding], the more we realized, 'Hey, it's pretty easy. We were in a class full of guys, and it goes to show that girls can do anything they put their mind to.'"

As the group became more confident in their abilities, it was evident that other areas of their lives began to flourish. The project opened up new interests for the girls that they never knew they had. "Last year the girls didn't like robotics, and they didn't like coding. But now, after building the app, they love it, and they're continuing on with it for next year," explained Clemente.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



It is very impressive to read the cover story about students developing a smartphone application. In this issue, you will also read more about Coding, STEM, the importance of parental and community volunteers in the classroom, and much more...

Our next issue is October 11 when we'll be back bringing you the excellence from the classrooms for a new school year. In the meantime, looking ahead congratulations to the Class of 2017 and have a wonderful summer.

Business Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7412 • www.fullertonsd.org

Fullerton Update



Susan Cross Hume,
CPA, CIA, CGMA
Assistant
Superintendent

Proposition 39 (Clean Energy Jobs Act) funding has made a big impact at Fullerton School District. In 2016, all school and support sites received long-lasting, energy efficient LED lighting to brighten up their exterior campuses. FSD's MPRs and gymnasiums are now equipped with networked thermostats to allow for optimal control and scheduling. Additionally, the Nutritional Center received new refrigeration equipment. In 2017, Parks Junior High School's existing HVAC system will be completely removed and replaced with a simpler system for FSD's staff to operate and maintain. This project will reduce Park's utility costs by a staggering 37% and, most importantly, improve student and teacher comfort.




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Acacia *Elementary*

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



Liz Leon
Principal

Achieving Our Goals

Great things have happened to validate the path that we are on as it relates to creating a good balance of academic rigor and social and emotional development.

Acacia was recently granted a rare and highly coveted second round of a teacher cohort through the Cotsen Foundation. The mission of the Cotsen Foundation for the art of teaching is to transform experienced and capable educators into gifted teachers. Seventy-nine Cotsen principals, district administrators, and teachers recently came to our school in January to observe technology integration because of how our students are demonstrating great strides in being ahead of the curve with 21st-century skills. For example, our teachers expose their students to technology tools that can enhance signature literacy best practices with the Reading and Writing Workshop. (Please visit our website <http://www.fullertonsd.org/acacia/> to see a great video documenting the event.)

Our Kindness Campaign, organized by student leadership, was a great event that reinforced our goal of sustaining a positive school climate. Students from across the school were given kindness coins in recognition of acts of kindness. We met our collective school goal and filled our bucket. As a result, we will soon have a special celebration of this achievement!

A wonderful layer to this campaign involved all of the Kindness Grams sold during lunch. The Grams were received with overwhelming success. The process exceeded our expectations too, with over 1,400 Grams distributed to the students!

These events set the momentum for other service learning projects in which our students are now engaged. This includes putting together sack lunches for the homeless and less-fortunate families, and setting up recess tutoring support for our primary students, led by their upper-grade buddies. We have so much to be proud of at Acacia!

Beechwood

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



Julie Graham
Principal

Celebrating Reading and Writing

Being a good writer and communicator is an essential skill in college and career. At Beechwood School, we strive to create a culture of published authors. Each student, from kindergarten through eighth grade, receives individualized instruction in the area of writing. Our teachers are specially trained to provide personalized coaching and strategies for writing success. We study published authors and employ the same strategies in our own pieces. Students learn to write for a variety of purposes and a variety of audiences. They learn to tell stories, share their opinions, and convey information.

In March, during Read Across America Week, we hosted our first annual writing celebration. Every student submitted an original piece of writing, which was displayed throughout our multi-purpose room. Peers from across all grade levels read the work of our authors and left encouraging feedback. In this way, students celebrated what it means to be an author!



Commonwealth *Elementary*

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



Anita Lomeli
Principal

A Family Affair!

With parent involvement a school is destined to thrive. This year, Commonwealth Elementary set out on a journey to increase its parent involvement by listening to the voices of our parents at PTA, ELAC, and School Site Council meetings and through a “focus-group” construct.

Our parents shared their interests, hopes, and ideas, and so new activities that can engage families in our school were born.

We kept many activities which have been favorites, such as Family Arts Night and Carnivals. However, new events brought a strong sense of community engagement.

Our Friends and Family Picnic was a huge success! The parents participated with their children in the classrooms for 30 minutes, and then joined them for a picnic lunch on the field. Our PEP Days (that’s “PE with Parents”) also take place every Friday for a certain grade level. The parents join their children in PE activities for a day. The smiles on the faces of our students, parents, and staff members are priceless!



Fern Drive *Elementary*

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



Dr. Julie Brandon
Principal

Our Littlest Students!

Transitional kindergarten is a special place where students explore and learn in a hands-on, discovery-based classroom environment. Here at Fern Drive, our transitional kindergarten classroom is rooted in Reggio Emilia principles. This educational philosophy believes that learning occurs best through an enriching student-interest-based, student-led curriculum.

Our littlest Falcons are nurtured and guided through the principles of community, responsibility and respect while learning developmentally appropriate curriculum. Students are encouraged to collaborate when working on projects that range in scope from arts, sketching, drawing and robotics to engineering! Students record success, take pictures, and share with their families each and every day! Parents comment on real-time academic achievements and provide feedback



throughout the day via the student blogs as well.

We are proud of our transitional-kindergarten students as they make great strides with their learning and creativity while we provide real-world hands-on experiences for them!

Robert C. Fisler

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



Julienne Lee
Principal

Progressive CompSci Pathways

Coding skills play a foundational role in understanding how to communicate with technologies that allow students to access opportunities in the computer science field. Fisler's focus is on utilizing coding for a greater purpose, which is to discover pathways towards a passion, accelerated academics or a future career.

Students embrace the design-thinking model by using their one-of-a-kind ideas to produce novel creations that have potential to change the world. In third grade, students are programming robots to complete search-and-rescue missions to detect structural damages in disaster sites. In fourth grade, students are using circuitry to program



interactive virtual poetry books. In fifth grade, students are programming social studies/science content in artificial intelligence, using a virtual personal assistant. At Fisler School, students become programmers, engineers, inventors and designers—specialist and leaders in their fields!

Thank you, Cod.Ed and FEF, for helping us support our vision!

Teachers See the Possibilities

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



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

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Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

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Danielle Ramirez
Principal

A Very Special Valentine

By Bridget McTague

At Hermosa Drive School, the heart of the school lies within the community. This Valentine's Day, students and staff chose to share their love outside the classroom with a family that truly needed it, Mr. and Mrs. Aagaard. Since 1963, the Aagaards have been an active family in the Hermosa community. Their four children all attended Hermosa Drive. Our school community promotes citizenship that fosters self-worth and celebrates diversity. In keeping with these school goals and our Choose

KIND campaign, sharing this experience on February 14 to honor Mr. and Mrs. Aagaard was an inspirational life lesson outside the classroom.

Last February, Paul Aagaard was diagnosed with normal pressure hydrocephalus and had to have surgery. Since surgery, Paul has had to relearn how to walk. The couple, along with their nurse, Mark, walk the Hermosa campus on a daily basis to help Paul grow stronger physically and emotionally.

As the Aagaards have walked the campus, they have become friends with the Hermosa school community. For Valentine's Day, all of the students and staff decorated the classroom windows and walls with posters, cards, balloons, and flowers to wish Paul and Marge a very special holiday. The students were so excited to make special cards of encouragement!

When the Aagaards arrived on campus that afternoon, they were absolutely stunned! Mrs. Aagaard stated, "I have not seen this much emotion from Paul since last year." They then continued their daily journey around campus, reading all of the well wishes that were displayed all over the school.

Golden Hill *Elementary*

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



Jaime Ann Hopton
Principal

The Color Run

Physical education blended with the arts on Friday, March 3 when the Golden Hill Education Foundation hosted their annual Fun Run with the theme of "Color Run." Every student had the opportunity to create the special artwork for our t-shirts, and the design by third-grader Owen Galicia won!

The students raised funds individually to earn a shirt with Owen's design, and 15 classes also hit a classroom goal and won neon sunglasses

to wear during the event. We had Color Run "zones" for students who had permission slips, and bracelets that allowed them to run through the color. There were also regular run zones for students trying to beat their personal best time and lap count and avoid the colored powder. The volunteers had sprayed colored powder out of giant ketchup-like bottles onto the children as they ran to the tunes of DJ Gary Chavez!

The Color Fun Run was a huge success!



Ladera Vista *Junior High School*

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



Randa Schmalfeld
Principal

Learning to Eat!

The Culinary Arts program at Ladera Vista offers our students a wealth of wonderful opportunities, and it also integrates a variety of academic content areas through fun and creative experiences.

Ladera Vista culinary arts teacher Kristin Montoya recently hosted her 22nd LV Chili Cookoff. Student teams from her advanced culinary class researched various types of chili, created their own chili recipes, and then prepared and promoted their dishes at a lunchtime tasting extravaganza, with each member of the Ladera Vista staff sampling and judging each of the six recipes.

Beginning next year, Ladera Vista will also offer an exciting new class called Arts, Culture, and Gastronomy! This class explores the areas of history, geography, climate, culture, and the arts, as well as their influence on food choices, food preparation, and food presentation. Students will have the opportunity to eat their way around the world and through history in this fun new double-period integrated class.



Laguna Road *Elementary*

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



Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright
Principal

Upcoming 6th Grade Play

Laguna Road is eagerly anticipating the opening of the annual 6th grade play. This year, the students are working hard on a production

of Aladdin, Jr. The 6th grade play is a culmination event for the students at Laguna Road who participate in performing arts every year, beginning in kindergarten. This invaluable exposure to the arts builds students' confidence, strengthens their communication skills, and develops their talents. Rehearsals are under way, and this year's 6th grade play will run during the evening on May 17th and 18th.



Maple *Elementary*

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



Susan Mercado
Principal

The Future Blooms

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope," recalled Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady. More than a half-century later, this statement truly represents the challenge and the courage that Maple School, established in 1924, embodies in its school experience for every student and their families every day. A visual representation is captured in a mosaic mural dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March. The plaque reads, "This mural is dedicated to the students, staff, families and the many community partners who support our school. The Future Blooms Here at Maple School!"



This gorgeous mural is located at the corner of Valencia Drive and Lemon Avenue. Thank you to All the Arts for All the Kids, Lauralyn Eschner, Katherine England and her team, the Master Mosaics Program at Sunset Lane and Parks Junior High School, and Maple School artists who made this project possible.

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Nicolas *Junior High School*

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



Robyn Clemente
Principal

STEM

Nicolas Junior High School is a comprehensive school serving 7th and 8th grade students. Nicolas focuses on STEM themes and teaching methodologies where all students are given the opportunity to engage in science, technology,

engineering and math across the curriculum. Nicolas offers five unique pathways: Design and Engineering, Robotics, Computer Science, Digital Media, and Performing Arts. The pathways allow for students to find their passion and take their learning to a more advanced level. Students also have a technologically enriched experience with our 1:1 iPad program. We offer students challenging Gate/Honors classes in Social Studies, Science, English Language Arts, and Math. We also offer Algebra and Geometry classes. Lastly, college credit is awarded to those that pass the Advanced Placement Computer Science Test.



Orangethorpe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz
Principal

We Have a Library!

An idea came to mind, and so Dr. Ruiz grabbed a little piece of paper and began sketching. Pretty soon her vision for a new library was born. And so after a whole year of fundraising, planning, cleaning, sorting, painting, and decorating, the Orangethorpe School Library opened for business!

Our students had a sneak peek the week before the big event. During the grand opening, every classroom was able to tune in through Google Hangouts. This special event was also kicked off by the Orangethorpe School Boy Scout Troop, who presented the colors with flair. VIPs from the Fullerton School District, the California State Senate and Assembly, the City of Fullerton, and the Leon Owen's Foundation joined in to make this event extra special.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all of the volunteers, Orangethorpe PTA, and the Library Committee for providing the labor and funding for this project.



Pacific Drive *Elementary*

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



Yolanda Castillo
Principal

The Why of Comp Sci – Opportunity Alert!

FACT: By 2020, it's estimated that California will need an additional 1.4 million computer science professionals.

FACT: Programming jobs are growing twice as fast as the national average of other careers.

FACT: In the Innovation Era, we integrate Ed Tech across the curriculum, to deepen learning, increase student engagement, and to provide personalized instruction.

FACT: Pacific Drive School, we have defined, aligned, and primed our "Road to Code."

FACT: In partnership with Fisler K-8, Nicolas Junior High, Code to the Future, and Cod.Ed, epic computer science learning pathways, are about to roll out.

FACT: As a Pacific Drive Dolphin, TK-6th Grade, students will build computer science skills, through a tiered pathway, embedded in the school day, and enriched after school.

PACIFIC DRIVE (COMP SCI) SUCCESS FORMULA
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+ (Robotics) + (Digital Simulation) + (Chess) + (Minecraft) EQUALS Deep Thinking, Problem Solving, Logic, and Real Applications



Raymond *Elementary*

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



Yolanda McComb
Principal

Partnerships Make a Difference!

Strong partnerships such as Fullerton Rotary, Troy High School, Fullerton College, and CSUF inspire children to succeed in a school community where everyone cares and is welcome to help. Fullerton Rotary has

been working with Raymond for 7 years. Through this partnership, Rotarians come to Raymond every Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. and read novels, in small groups of 2-3, with 30 identified 4th or 5th grade students weekly for 7 months of the school year. Troy High School, ROP Class, have also partnered with Raymond for 7 years. Through this partnership Troy has trained students in the teaching pathway and have sent many onto college to become teachers. These students, mostly seniors, are assigned in every Raymond classroom 3 mornings per week almost all year long. They work one on one or in small groups assisting children in reading or math. Partnerships do make a difference!



Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • www.fullertonsd.org



Estella Grimm
Principal

3-D Learning Enhancement!

Nothing brings on excitement like witnessing an artifact come to life in 3-D printed form.

“It’s so exciting to see what it winds up looking like!” squealed sixth-grader Madison.

Creating physical artifacts of items that students are studying makes learning much more relevant, and when students themselves are designing and creating these artifacts, the ownership of what they’re learning really takes off.

As part of their project-based learning, our students enter the 3-D lab located inside our STEAM and Dream Center for Creativity and Innovation and create their 3-D artifacts. Sixth-graders studying ancient civilization and their economy system have recently been printing their own coins.

“My favorite part is that we get to create our own coin and make it look however we want,” said Julissa.

Through 3-D printing, students are learning about scale and measurement, spatial relationships and characteristics of 3-D shapes while critically thinking, collaborating, communicating, creating and innovating. Wow!



Parks *Junior High School*

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



Sherry Dustin
Principal

Big-League Performance

Squeals of excitement rippled through the school band room as the director announced that a famous theme park had chosen Parks Jr. High School Orchestra to perform at the park in January after the band auditioned in October.

“Disney will pay for the student’s admission to come and perform,” said Mr. Boughtner, music teacher at Parks Jr. High School and other campuses in the district. “I am very proud of all our instrumental groups at Parks Jr. High. It’s always an honor when the kids are chosen to perform somewhere special like

Disneyland.”

The orchestra performed as part of the corporation’s Community Arts Showcase. This department reviews hundreds of auditions for a limited amount of performance opportunities. It is a highly competitive selection process.

This group is no stranger to performing for the community. Parks Jr. High Band and Orchestra recently performed at La Floresta, a new master-planned community in Brea, as part of their first annual holiday celebration. They were selected for their commitment to excellence in performance and community outreach.



Rolling Hills *Elementary*

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



Julieen Faur
Principal

Engaging in Reading

Read Across America made its yearly stop at Rolling Hills for a week beginning at the end of February. The week was filled with special guest readers, including Fullerton's own Battalion Chief Jamie Newton. Chief Newton took time away from his busy

schedule to read to our Roadrunners and express the importance of reading every day.

In addition to the chief, our Read Across America chairperson, Stacey Sebourn, took time to plan activities to engage our Roadrunners. The week's activities included a book-cover contest, a Dr. Seuss Crazy-Hat Day and a family "booknic" in which well over 400 of our families came to school to join our students to enjoy a family lunch along with a favorite book. Students, families and teachers had a blast, and enjoyed the beautiful weather and the brand-new Rolling Hills field, which just celebrated its grand reopening, thanks to all the hard work and effort of our Maintenance and Operations Department!



Sunset Lane *Elementary*

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



Dr. Tracy Gyurina
Principal

Perfecting Reading Skills

Sunset Lane Elementary School is excited to announce our new after-school program called Academic Success Center (ASC).

The Academic Success Center is a fun and enriching reading program that focuses on our students' individual areas of need in phonics, vocabulary, and reading

comprehension. ASC is designed for our fifth- and sixth-grade students so that they will gain confidence in their reading abilities and can receive additional support to prepare for upcoming district benchmarks and state testing.

The program is free of charge for participating students, and it includes snacks, physical brain breaks, and various incentives, as well as a culminating celebration.

Students will be engaged in relevant and meaningful learning activities throughout the weekly two-hour program as they perfect the craft of reading. Special thanks goes to Michelle Aleong and Kay Worthington for their dedication to ASC, and for their collaborative efforts to ensure that the academic needs of our Sunset Lane students are being met.



Woodcrest *Elementary*

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



Rochelle Wolf
Principal

Graduation Day

March 8, 2017 was a proud day for the Wildcats. That's when 20 of our parents (and one grandparent) graduated from the School Smarts Parent Education Classes.

School Smarts is a program through the PTA which focuses on empowering parents to become advocates for their children's education. In this class our parents learned about the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), how to navigate through the educational system from Pre-K through Grade 12, the Common Core Standards, and standardized tests such as the CELDT and CAASPP. The parents also learned about college requirements, as well as information on financial aid.

The program's goal was for Woodcrest parents to become informed stakeholders at our school. Students were also on hand to celebrate their parents' accomplishments. One daughter said that it made her proud of her mom to see her get her certificate on stage. Seeing all of those bright faces on our stage only proves that it is never too late to learn!



CODED IN CONFIDENCE • From Page 1

Nevya Patel was excited that she got to learn the coding language JavaScript for the app challenge and remarked, "I can't wait to learn more... We enjoyed it because it was something new."

As part of the handful of girls working in their school's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) lab, most of the group plans to continue taking classes geared toward technology. While discussing their coding class, eighth-grader Jocelyn Salas stated that she, "would be interested in taking more classes in high school." Fellow team member Shelly Fonseca explained that the experience "opened up job opportunities because now we have experience. I feel more confident going into the Advanced Placement test and more confident going into high school."

With the Congressional App Challenge already under their belts, the girls seem poised for success as they prepare to take their Advancement Placement test for their coding class. As witnessed by Clemente and other teachers, the group's overall academics have been measurably improved as a direct result of their newfound confidence. Clemente proudly boasted, "You see a trend of their grades going up. Specifically, one of the students brought her grades up from Cs and Ds to As and Bs." She explained, "As the confidence level goes up, the grades follow." Clemente recalls that last year one of the students could barely face a crowd when public speaking. Now, she can stand up and talk to anybody. Even as the group continues to gain recognition based on their app-building accomplishment, they continue to improve their public-speaking skills. Jocelyn remarked that they "were very shy at first, but now in interviews we get out there and we start talking more." In addition to public speaking, the girls learned a valuable lesson about working closely in a small group. "We learned about teamwork and how to put things into sections, and then bring it all together as a team and not just as one person," Cassandra explained, gleaming with team pride.

By the end of the school year, the group will receive a Pathway Medal for coding based on their accomplishments. They are part of the first group ever to receive the medal.

Valencia Park *Elementary*

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Helene Morris
Principal

Team Research Showcased

In January, Principal Helene Morris and second-grade teachers Caroline Boehm, Jenny Mortensen, and Julie Rezvani traveled to Apple headquarters in Cupertino to present the results of a year-long research project to top researchers and schools throughout the nation.

This research project focused on the following question: How will a stronger focus on student-centered learning increase student engagement? The second-grade team used passion projects to drive student-centered learning, and also utilized an instructional cycle of building background gathering, researching, planning, creating, and sharing.

As a result of this research project and instructional cycle, student-directed learning has increased dramatically from zero to 52 percent, and student collaboration has increased from two to 43 percent.



This research was also showcased at the Fullerton School District's Innovation Experience. The second-grade team will continue this work by developing rubrics, sharing information with a wider audience, and engaging students in real-life experiences.



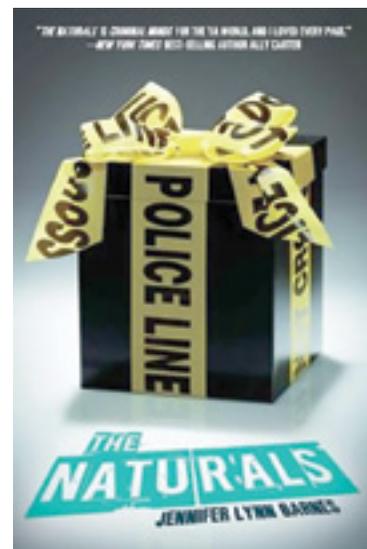
Book Review By Katrina

A Gripping Crime Novel



Katrina D.

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 for 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 the books from 1 to 5 medals with 5 being the best.

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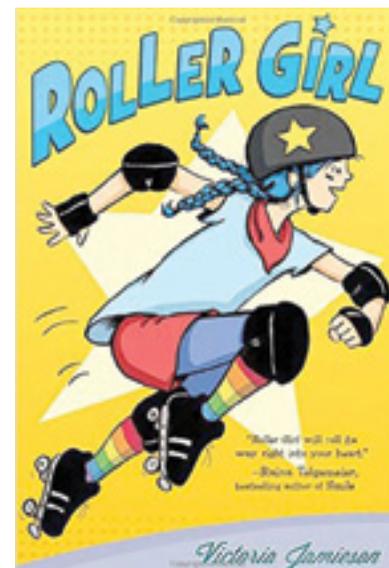
Book Review by Abbas

Amazing Graphic Novel



Abbas D.

Roller Girl is a graphic novel by Victoria Jamieson. This book is about a girl named Astrid and her best friend Nicole. One day the girls go to a roller derby. Astrid later on begs her mom to go to roller derby camp and her mother agrees by signing her up. Astrid is elated and hopes her best friend will sign up too. Nicole signs up for dance class instead. This turns her summer upside down. Astrid's nemesis Rachel is now friends with Astrid because they're taking the same dance class. Rachel is a mean girl who keeps pressuring Nicole to stop being friends with Astrid. How will Astrid survive the summer without Nicole? This book is an amazing novel because it made me feel like branching out and trying new things can lead to new friendships. This book is great for people who love graphic novels and skating. Will Astrid continue her roller derby fame? I rate this book 5 out of 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.

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A Story with Deep Meaning Side Stories



Christina J.

By Lloyd Alexander

The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen is a story about a Prince who, following the advice of a wise old man named Master Wu, sets off to deliver six specially chosen items to give to the King of an amazing Kingdom. Master Wu chooses some strange, random items as gifts: an iron sword, a leather saddle, a wooden flute, a



bronze bowl, a sandalwood box, and a kite. But, there is a reason he chooses these gifts. They are all magical, and they are all eventually needed, not to give to the King, but to hand out, one by one, to other people to help these people with their struggles, which creates interesting separate stories about what the receivers of these items do with their new magical power. For instance, the sandalwood box contains a special ink with which the artist using it can draw objects and animals that come to life though the canvass and it helped the artist earn his living and improve his life. The kite in the shape of a bird allows the person holding it to fly, and it helped a girl fly away at the hour of grave danger! And at the end of the story the Prince learns that there is no King of an amazing Kingdom, and the purpose of his journey was to help his people and see life outside of the castle walls. I liked that the story was written in a way similar to classic Chinese literature and has deep meanings in each of its side stories, that all reconnect to the main story.

I give this story 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 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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Vote for Women!



Jenna C.

Around America To Win The Vote
By Mara Rockcliff

Illustrator: Hadley Hooper

On April 6, 1916, a yellow car with two smiling women and a very cute kitten left New York. The women were Nell and Alice. They were planning to drive through all the states. They wanted to prove that women could do anything through this journey. They said, "Votes for women!" to people

they met. Once when they were crossing a road, they had a horse who didn't let them pass. Nell gave a yellow flower which stands for Votes for Women. And the horse moved away. They travelled and travelled and had lots of adventures! On September 30, 1916, they finally arrived back in New York. They travelled 10,000 miles! They had a celebration with a yellow cake and on the top it said Votes for Women. I like this book because it is a true story about two brave women. The drawings are interesting too.



Jenna is a first grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. She likes happy ending stories. She likes art, dance and soccer.

An Enjoyable Read

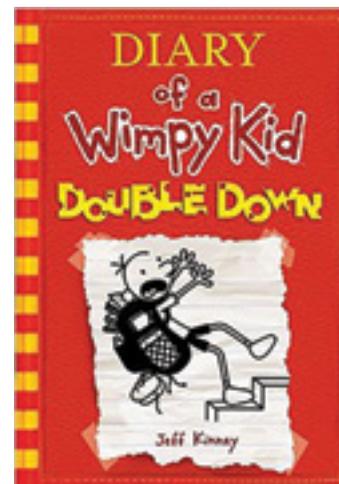


Courtney M.

The book I read was *Double Down*, and I enjoyed the book! Greg's class did a balloon experiment where they wrote a letter and tied it to a balloon, and then they released them. Greg's got the farthest of them all in the class. But it was also close to Halloween, so the reward for the balloon experiment was a huge jar of candy corn, so Greg had to win the jar of candy corn.

Later that night, Greg and Rowley made their costume. It was a two-headed monster. The next night was the big Halloween party that everybody goes to. Continuing on, tonight was the big Halloween party, so Greg and Rowley got ready for the party. His mom loves to embarrass Greg, so she brought some family fun homemade games from a magazine, and everyone ended up loving the party games!

By the way, I rate this book 5!



Courtney likes to play softball, football, and plans to try 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.

We Love Our Dogs 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 Fullerton 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 for all ages.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Akita | Dalmatian | Puli |
| Basenji | Doberman | Rottweiler |
| Beagle | Great Dane | Saint Bernard |
| Bloodhound | Labrador Retriever | Samoyed |
| Boxer | Malamute | Shiba Inu |
| Bulldog | Mastiff | Shih Tzu |
| Chihuahua | Pinscher | Siberian Husky |
| Chow Chow | Poodle | Weimaraner |
| Collie | Pug | Xoloitzcuintli |



Congratulations to Alex Park
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!

Will the Cave People's Plan Work?

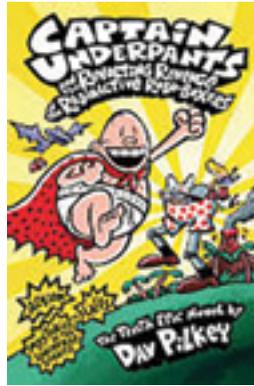


Michael H.

Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of The Radioactive Robo-Boxers by Dav Pilkey.

Tippy Tinkletrousers had destroyed the world. Tippy made sure that George and Harold had never turned Mr. Krupp into Captain Underpants. But Tippy decided it was a mistake, so he went back in time to fix everything and destroy Captain Underpants. Tippy met up with George, Harold, and Mr. Krupp. He had a time machine, so he took them to the dinosaur age where he detonated a bomb, that had blasted all of them to the middle of the ocean. Then right before they sunk Tippy set his time machine to go back to the time of the cavemen. Then he figured out Captain Underpants weakness, water! So he trapped Mr. Krupp under a waterfall. Then Tippy found George and Harold. He was about to squeeze them to death, but they came across cavemen. Unfortunately for Tippy, they escaped. Then George and Harold made a comic book on the rock walls to make the cave people unafraid of Tippy. Then the cave people made a plan to stop Tippy. Will the cave people's plan to stop Tippy work? Will Captain Underpants be destroyed?

I give this book 5 *****. This book was exciting and funny and I think everyone will enjoy reading it



Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

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