

FREE

# School News

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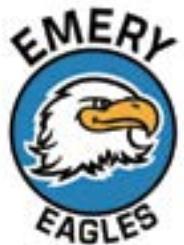
Covering the Buena Park School District



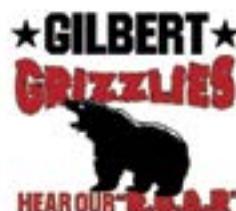
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November 2017–March 2018



## Focus On Student Achievement



Spanish & Korean Language Edition Available at: [www.BPSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.BPSD.k12.ca.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Greg Magnuson**  
Superintendent

### Focus On Student Achievement

We are pleased to share our second edition of the 2017–2018 Buena Park School District (BPSD) *School News Roll Call*. Through *School News Roll Call* and other communications, we continuously seek to keep our community members informed of our schools' activities and the accomplishments of our students and staff.

In this edition of *School News Roll Call*, we focus on student achievement. Each of our school principals has shared a brief story that conveys just a sample of their students' achievement and the success of the school's programs. Additionally, we highlight our programs and the accomplishments of our students, past and present, who have moved on to high school and colleges of distinction. As you will read, BPSD students are continuing to excel in both their academic work and development as responsible students and community members.

As we continue in this 2017–2018 school year, we are honored to not only have all seven of our schools recognized by the California Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Coalition for

implementing proven practices supporting safe and positive school campuses, but to have four schools newly upgraded to platinum, gold, and silver status.

Moreover, our progress in addressing the needs of students for college and career readiness and a technology-dependent future continues to be robust, with the commitment of our staff and the "future ready" modernization of another 60 classrooms at Gilbert and Whitaker Schools. In three short years, we have completed modernization of five of our seven schools. We look forward to completing schools six and seven (Corey and Beatty Schools) in the coming summer months.

In this and following editions of *School News Roll Call*, we will continue to tell the stories of our students, staff, and schools with the hope that you will become engaged with the work we so proudly perform across the Buena Park School District.

For all of us at BPSD, we are honored to serve the families of our school district and to share the achievements of our students and schools. I invite you to follow our daily activities, provide comments, and access information at: [www.Facebook.com/BuenaParkSchoolDistrict](http://www.Facebook.com/BuenaParkSchoolDistrict) and <http://www.bpsd.k12.ca.us>.

Buena Park School District offers  
safe and affordable child care at  
Beatty, Corey, Emery, and Pendleton Schools.

Child care is available before and after school.

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After school: \$135 every two weeks

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For more information, please contact  
Buena Park School District  
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or at [kc@bpsd.org](mailto:kc@bpsd.org)



# Celebrating Student Academic Success

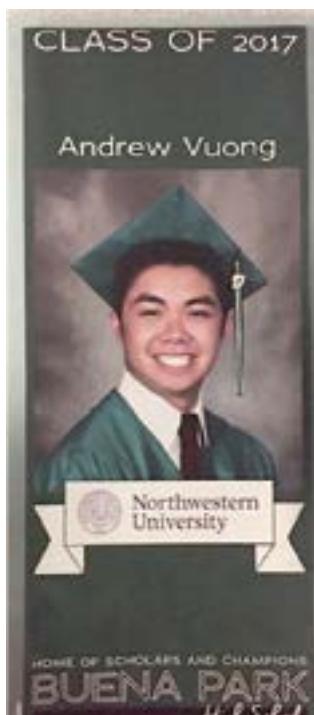
## Celebrating Student Academic Success

Each year, at each grade level, teachers in the Buena Park School District see the students they have come to know in the current school year be promoted from their care and guidance to a new grade level and group of teachers for the subsequent school year. Upon promotion from grade six, students matriculate from their feeder elementary school to Buena Park Junior High School to begin departmentalized classes for grade seven and eight, and to prepare for the future leap to high school.

As we prepare our youngsters and see them matriculate, particularly from BPJHS to high school, we take pride in their accomplishments and celebrate our graduates as they enter high schools of national distinction.

At the end of the 2016–17 school year, 496 students matriculated from Buena Park Junior High School. Out of these students, 170 received honor roll recognition and 78 received the coveted U.S. Department of Education President's Award for Educational Excellence. As further testament to their work and preparation, 97 percent of BPJHS graduates are attending nationally recognized high schools, including 21 percent at Troy and Sunny Hills high schools and 76 percent at Buena Park High School.

Moreover, BPJHS alumni that graduated from high school in 2016–17 are to be applauded for their accomplishments, as they have applied to and are attending a wide variety of private and public colleges and universities.



## Honoring Our Alumni

In particular, we are proud to recognize two of our BPJHS Stallion alumni, Elena Felix and Andrew Vuong (BPJHS class of 2013), who following graduation from Buena Park High School in May, received academic scholarships and began their collegiate careers at Stanford University and Northwestern University, respectively.

In recounting his days at BPJHS Mr Vuong says: BPJHS helped me prepare for my future in several ways. . . more than academic tools, the school really gave

me the social skills that I needed for success. Buena Park Junior High School was always encouraging of a warm environment where the students, faculty, and staff could come together as a tight-knit community. I was able to work effectively with other students and I learned to clearly communicate my concerns to my teachers, skills that have continued to prove invaluable as time went on."

Ms. Felix commented, "Being a part of the Honors Academy at Buena Park Junior High gave me a wonderful support system that I was able to take with me to high school and beyond. The faculty across the campus and the friends that I made there pushed me to be my very best."

Ms. Felix and Mr. Vuong represent the level of success that is attainable by all BPSD students. We congratulate them and all BPSD alumni in their high school and collegiate careers.



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Member



Irene  
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Barbara  
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## Board of Education



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
**Netragrednik**

Superintendent Magnuson's message on page 2 is Focus On Student Achievement and it is hard to think of a better message. As you read the principal's messages it is evident the focus is consistent throughout the District. Students thrive on consistency both in the home and at school. Knowing what is expected of them and what the goals are make their chances for success that much greater.

Technology plays such an important role in all of our lives today. Please set an example for your precious children in your car and do not make your cell phone part of your driving. It seems so many messages are for teens to not

drive and text; however, it only takes five minutes driving on any street to see that is all ages of drivers texting and talking while driving. The little ones in their car seats are observant and we must all be responsible role models to break this deadly habit.

Our next issue is March 28, 2018. In the meantime, have a Happy Holiday season. We are always mindful and grateful to the men and women in our armed services especially at this time of year.



## Strong Leaders Transform Schools

At the growing Eastvale STEM Academy, high school students build knowledge in medical science and engineering within an innovative learning community guided by Kim Lu Lawe's leadership and vision.

Azusa Pacific's School of Education prepares educators like Kim to see and cultivate the potential in every student. Graduates go on to make a lasting difference as creative, collaborative professionals and dedicated advocates for those they serve.

Advance your calling with a master's or doctoral degree, credential, or certificate from a top Christian university and join a mentoring community of educators who will help you make an even greater impact.

**Now enrolling for three start dates throughout the year.  
Apply by April 4 and join us this summer!**



Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Covering the

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# Nutrition Influences Student Learning

By Richard Holash,

Assistant Superintendent – Administrative Services

The Buena Park School District (BPSD) Child Nutrition



Department provides healthy food options that meet or exceed federal and state meal standards throughout the day. Prior to school starting all seven school sites offer a healthy compliant breakfast. For those students who are not able to participate in before school breakfast a second chance breakfast is

offered during morning break. Lunch time offers students healthy choices including a salad bar which includes fruits and vegetables at every school site. Lunch meals is rounded out with a protein, whole grain and low-fat/fat free dairy. After school snack service provides a nutritional boost to children enrolled in after school activities.

Studies have shown that students who eat a nutritious, balanced diet are better prepared to learn and positively influence student's academic performance and behavior. Data suggests that with better nutrition students are better able to learn, students have fewer absences, and students' behavior improves, causing fewer disruptions in the classrooms.

## Improve Nutrition to Increase Brain Function —

There are a number of studies showing that improvements in nutrient intake can influence the cognitive ability and intelligence levels of school-aged children.

**Provide a Balanced Diet for Better Behaviors and Learning Environment —** Good nutrition helps students show up at school prepared to learn. Because improvement in nutrition make students healthier, students are likely to have fewer absences and attend class more frequently. Additionally, students' behavior may improve and cause fewer disruptions in the classroom, creating a better learning environment for each student in the class.

## Promote Diet Quality for Positive School Outcomes

—Sociologists and economists have looked more closely at the impact of student's diet and nutrition on academic and behavioral outcomes. Researchers generally find that a higher quality diet is associated with better performances on exams, and that programs focused on increasing students' health also show improvements in students' academic.

The BPSD Child Nutrition Department is proud to serve nutritious meals prior to school starting and throughout the day that helps influence student learning.

Our specialty:

Gastroenterology   Tummy Time

Our specialists are the leaders  
in children's health care.

As an infant, Parker struggled to gain weight. He was referred to pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Robert Tran, at the Children's Specialty Center in Irvine. Dr. Tran diagnosed Parker with cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system – and was the culprit of Parker's failure to thrive. In the first week under Dr. Tran's care, Parker gained 1 lb. – a significant accomplishment. Now, he's growing strong and mastering the art of tummy time.

Parker's specialty:



Parker, 7-months-old,  
Miller Children's  
Gastrointestinal Patient

  
**MemorialCare™**  
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Hospital Long Beach

Specialized care. Just for kids.

[MillerChildrens.org/GI](http://MillerChildrens.org/GI) | 800-MEMORIAL

# Educational Services

6885 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8412

## Buena Park School District Early Learning Programs

Nationally, children who do not have access to high quality early learning opportunities and experiences are:

- 25% more likely to drop out of high school.
- 40% more likely to become a teen parent.
- 50% more likely to be placed in special education.
- 60% more likely to never attend college.
- 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

A Pre-Kindergarten Task Force of interdisciplinary scientists reviewed the evidence on the impact of state-funded pre-kindergarten programs. In 2017, key findings from the report "The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects" included:

- While all students benefit from preschool, poor and disadvantaged students often make the most gains.
- Children who are dual-language learners show relatively large benefits from preschool education.
- Children attending a diverse array of state and school district preschool programs more ready for school at the end of their preschool year than children who did not attend preschool.



The Buena Park School District offers a variety of high quality early learning programs to lay the foundation for children's long-term success. We use the California Preschool Foundations and Curriculum Framework to guide our early learning programs by focusing on social-emotional development, language and literacy, English language development, mathematics, visual and performing arts, physical development, health, science, and history-social science. Our early learning philosophy consists of the following beliefs and expectations:

- We believe children learn through authentic, developmentally appropriate academic learning experiences and opportunities.
- We expand and build the whole child through all developmental domains of learning, such as social/emotional, physical, language, and cognitive skills.
- We also believe families are the children's first teachers and impacts their life-long growth and development.
- We honor the families as partners in the children's learning process.
- We strive to foster and support the children's cultures and languages as they are essential to the children's well-being.

Buena Park School District has many different high quality early learning programs and resources that meet the needs of our diverse community: State Preschool, Parent Participation Preschool, Inclusion Preschool, Licensed Exempt Preschool Outreach, Learning Links, and Footsteps2Brilliance. If you are interested in learning more about our early learning programs, please contact [\(714\) 337-3828](tel:(714)337-3828).

## Supporting Students with Technology

The Buena Park School District has had a great start to the school year. With technology readily available to students and teachers, learning has taken on new directions. This year teachers are using GoFormative as a formative assessment tool. GoFormative has given teachers a way to efficiently and instantly engage their students on an individual level, and teachers are getting value by understanding the data trends that GoFormative provides them. As part of the District's Classroom Without Limits initiative, every student from grades four through eight has an iPad that they use at school and take home with them. Buena Park School District is committed to supporting students and is providing them access to classroom and curriculum content from anywhere and anytime. With devices in students' hands, the State tests are no longer a problem to take. Students can now take these State tests on their iPads.



# Gordon H. Beatty (K—6)

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



**Seri Hwang**  
Principal

**Building Academic Experience**  
Beatty School is preparing for the 2017–2018 Buena Park School District Spelling Bee for our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students. We have three winners and an alternate winner at each of the three grade levels who will represent Beatty School in the district competition on November 30. The Spelling Bee is a perfect example of how our students and staff planned, practiced, and achieved a set goal through cooperation and determination.

In October, our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade teachers informed students of the expectations for the standardized Scripps National Spelling Bee procedures and guidelines, and generated contestants from each class to compete in the Beatty School Spelling Bees. These students, led by a group of teacher-volunteers, began to discover and analyze the types of words used in the national spelling bee. They learned and practiced word origins, parts of speech, definitions, and how words are formed in language, or morphology. All of these contribute to the questions contestants are able to ask at the competition.



The school spelling bees took place on October 20. Each of the grade levels delivered an intense and exciting competition which mirrored the experience of the district bee. Winners were recognized at our monthly school-wide flag assembly where we were able to celebrate their accomplishment as a school community.

One of our sixth-grade winners, Aiden Ko, shared that, “After the Spelling Bee, I realized that everything comes from grit. You work hard for that one event and it pays off, it feels great. It was a huge achievement for me.”

Another winner, Eric Um, said, “After the Spelling Bee, I felt relieved and proud. Pressure breaks people, but if you survive, what comes out is a diamond. It was hard, but it was all worth it.” Amber Lee agreed. “I felt nervous and it was intense,” she said. “But a tree needs to strive through the hard days, and never give up from making something magnificent...” We are proud of the wonderful participants who gave it their all!

They were, for the fourth grade: 1st, Giselle Ko; 2nd, Dyna Acklin; 3rd, Carlos Luquin; Alt., Ethan Goettman. For the fifth grade: 1st, Joshua Lee; 2nd, Elena Vasquez; 3rd, Brian Lee; Alt., Emmary Woolley. For the sixth grade: 1st, Amber Lee; 2nd, Aiden Ko; 3rd, Eric Um; Alt., Erik Choi.

# Buena Park Junior High (7—8)

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



**Erik Bagger**  
Principal

## Engagement and Achievement

Part of our mission at Buena Park Junior High School is to ensure that our students can achieve academic success. Last year we saw them reach some incredible milestones. For instance, BPJH offered an elective class to prepare a number of students for the AP Computer Science “A” exam.

This is college-level material where students can learn to code with Javascript. The skills learned in this class can prepare them to become software developers and computer science engineers.

The students took this rigorous college-level test at the end of last year, and three of them earned computer science college credit while still in the eighth grade! These students have now gone on to high school to participate in other computer science programs, and will no doubt be the next generation of amazing programmers.

Additionally, we also offer a competitive speech and debate elective which can prepare



students for careers in law, journalism, research, and communications. We compete with 20 other schools in the Orange County Debate League, primarily with private schools but also with some public ones.

Our students have won a number of overall school championship awards in this League. Last year we had the highest finish of an individual team, with three students placing second out of 80 Orange County teams. This three-student team faced off with the competition in a final round debate, losing narrowly to the eventual champions. These students are well on their way to academic success.

This year we will be continuing to ensure that our students can reach academic success with the addition of the Academic Pentathlon. This is where students can compete in multiple academic subjects and test their abilities against other students at the same grade level. We are also expanding the number of teams competing in Robot Nation this year by adding a sixth-grade team from our Early Middle School STEM Academy.

There is no shortage of ways to engage our students in academics at Buena Park Junior High.

## Arthur F. Corey (K—6)

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



### We Like Math!

As I was talking to students about math in a fifth-grade classroom, one student immediately said, "Math is my favorite subject because it's fun." The student sitting next to her agreed and further explained, "I like solving the problem in more than one way. It makes the problems easier if I can solve them the way that makes sense to me." Not only do our students find math enjoyable but they are also excelling at it.

When I was in school, it would have been rare to have a group of students describe math as fun and easy to understand. Mathematics instruction has changed from focusing predominately on computation to a focus on a much deeper level of understanding. This shift began four years ago at Corey School, and we are seeing student achievement rising. The results for our end-of-year summative assessments show the following gains over two years: 12 percent in the understanding of concepts and procedures, 9 percent in skills of problem solving and 7 percent in communicating reasoning. Additionally, our

beginning-of-the-year school math assessment showed that less than 9 percent of our students scored in the below-grade-level range.

### Sharing Success!

These results are definitely visible in the classroom. Similar to what fifth-grade students told me, the majority of students in a second-grade class shared that they loved math. Then, I watched as the second-graders engaged in collaborative work to tackle a problem that required the application of both basic computation and problem solving. I saw students using different strategies to solve problems, and I heard them asking others to explain how they came up with their answer. I also witnessed excitement involving high fives and huge smiles as students realized they had successfully solved the problem together.

The enthusiasm for learning that I witness across our school does not happen by accident. It occurs because we have a common vision: "Corey School is a safe community where all students are challenged to achieve their highest potential: academically, artistically and socially while embracing diversity and developing strength of character." And we are living it!

## Charles G. Emery (K—6)

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



### Real-World Learning

Students at Charles G. Emery School participate in a variety of different activities and Project Based Learning (PBL) experiences that promote 21st-century skills and college and career readiness. One such PBL experience, produced by sixth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students from Mr. Little's class, involved research, development, and reflection. The goal was to create a persuasive commercial for an upcoming Emery School event. One group focused on increasing sales for the Roller Skating Party.

Students first met with their "clients," the party coordinator and administrators, to review criteria and gather information to develop their commercial. Working within time constraints, students created storyboards and developed interesting, informative, persuasive commercials that were shared schoolwide. One student stated, "We knew the video needed to be relatable and enjoyable while making the best use of time." Once the commercials were finalized, they planned and implemented their classroom presentations.



Once final sales were tallied, the students administered a self-developed, post-commercial survey to gather data and measure the effectiveness of their ads. Using mathematical reasoning and critical thinking, they concluded the overall results

demonstrated a measurable increase in participation amongst the Emery School student body. This data was collected and presented to school leaders in a business-like meeting.

This project integrated a wide variety of purpose and skills. The students worked collaboratively to develop and create effective advertising. They responded to the varying demands of audience, task, and purpose while using technology and digital media to strategically communicate and critique the effectiveness of their work.

## Carl E. Gilbert (K—6)

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



### Students Lead Success

Students at Gilbert Elementary are thrilled with the access that Buena Park's Classroom Without Limits technology program offers them to stretch their learning beyond basic textbook instruction. One student that is flourishing in this environment is sixth-grader Efrain Tepozotlan. Efrain is a

great example of the students that our school produces. His teachers are pleased with how he is developing into a confident and caring young man. This year's teacher, Mr. Magnin, finds that Efrain, like many of his classmates, has become passionate about taking the heart of a lesson, digging deep into the lesson topic to do the research that expands his learning beyond the lesson's objectives.

When asked about his favorite subject in school, Efrain's face lights up as he begins talking about social studies.

"I like learning about early humans and their adaptations to different parts of the earth," he said. He



**Russell Harrison**  
Principal

went on to share about how the new software from Discovery Education on his school iPad allows him to go deeper.

"Say you are interested in Neanderthals," Efrain said. "You just search the software, and there are lots of videos and articles to learn more." It's not surprising to hear that Efrain is considering a future in archeology.

As a well-rounded student,

Efrain plays club soccer in Anaheim outside school hours and in a Sunday league here in Buena Park. He is active and well liked by his peers, who find him "kind and helpful." What does he like best about Gilbert Elementary?

"Everybody is respectful," Efrain said. "Kids don't bully here."

And what could make our school better?

"I'd like Chinese food even more often on our school lunch menu," he said.

I'm sure that is something we could all dig into, and we are proud to have Efrain and his classmates leading the way at Gilbert School.

## Toy Store Items—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 Buena Park in the subject line.

BIKE	MARBLES
DOLL	CRAYON
TRIKE	PENS
BOOK	COMPUTER
LEGOS	DOLLHOUSE
SOLDIERS	BUGGY
BALLS	KITCHEN
BUBBLES	TEA SET
CROQUET	BAT
BLOCKS	BALL GLOVE
KITES	

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



**Congratulations to Marcus Gallardo**  
Winner of our September Word Search Contest!

## Mabel L. Pendleton (K—6)

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



**Richard Rodriguez**  
Principal

### Panther Pride

A walk through the halls of Pendleton Elementary School reveals a bounty of joy and pride in the accomplishments of our students and our teachers. Panther Pride is more than just a slogan: it represents the deliberate and conscious effort on the part of our school community to expect the very highest levels of success and achievement from our students. It also expresses the work ethic, determination and perseverance that everyone must draw upon to realize this goal.

Nowhere is this spirit illustrated more clearly than in the spotlighting of two outstanding students who are achieving at the highest levels and demonstrating the drive and motivation of our student population.



**Sung Kyung**

Sung Kyung (Bible) Kim is eight years old and in the third grade. Already, she is making huge strides in all areas of academics, receiving the highest achievement score on the latest district benchmark score for English language arts. In addition, Sung received one of the highest scores on the benchmark test in math. Her favorite free-choice activity is reading. She enjoys reading

chapter books, such as the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. She loves reading both in and out of class. She loves history books and will read for hours at a time. Sung is a dedicated and high-achieving student who, in addition to her studies at Pendleton, attends school on the weekends. While only eight years old, this student is fully bilingual. Sung truly enjoys being a student and is making great strides in her education. She says likes coming to Pendleton School because she likes her teacher and learning new things every day. Her career goal is to become a nurse so she can help her family and others. Her advice to her schoolmates is to keep learning and never give up.



**Brenda Salgado**

Brenda Salgado has been attending Pendleton since kindergarten. She is 11 years old and is in the sixth grade. She is one of the highest achieving students on campus. She received the second highest scores on our district's benchmark test in English language arts. In addition, her scores on California's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests indicate that she is exceeding the

standards for English language arts. Brenda reported that her interests are wide and varied. Her favorite school-based activities are reading and writing. She likes to read fictional stories from the school library and is currently making her way through a fictional chapter book on about the life of a student in junior high school. She is interested in writing and participates in the school's Writer's Workshop program. While Brenda works hard on the writing assignments that she receives at school, she also likes to write for enjoyment. She is an aspiring author and is getting ready to publish a story online. In addition, she enjoys dancing to hip-hop music and spending time with her family. Her goal is to attend University of California, Irvine and become a doctor to help her family and others. Her advice to her schoolmates is to follow your heart and dreams, but do your homework.

Like Sung and Brenda, Panther Pride students are charting a path to the future. Visit our Web site and learn more about how to get involved in Pendleton School events and join our dynamic community of learners.



**Join Our Sales Team!** If you have extra time during the day, perhaps you would like to join our sales team working from your home.

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# James A. Whitaker (K—6)

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



**José Alarcon**  
Principal

## Students Reach for the Stars

Student achievement is our top priority here at James A. Whitaker School. We know that if our students are successful in school they will likely be successful in the future.

Both summative (state) assessments and formative (district and school-based) assessments are used to determine student progress and plan instructional direction.

Whitaker School's statewide summative assessments demonstrate good progress in English language arts and math at most grade levels.

The spring 2017 state assessments reflect the following improvements: a 15 percent increase at third-grade "Percent Met" and "Percent Exceeded" in English Language Arts standards; a 14 percent increase at sixth-grade "Percent Met" and "Percent Exceeded" in English language arts standards; a 13 percent increase at third-grade "Percent Met" and "Percent Exceeded" in mathematics standards; and a 20 percent increase at sixth-grade "Percent Met" and "Percent Exceeded" in mathematics standards. In addition, the state test for English learners reflects that 70 Whitaker School English learner students met their annual growth goal, and 38 English learner students attained proficiency.

In addition to the state assessments, our district assessments also provide information useful to determine student instructional needs. A great example of early literacy success is found in the DIBELS assessment. This reading assessment reflects that 66 percent of Whitaker School's second-grade students are at or above benchmark in reading.

The teachers at Whitaker School have shared the following student achievement success stories: kindergarten is making progress with many students blending words using the sounds they have learned, and the first-grade teachers report that some students have moved from Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) 2 -1 0. With this significant increase, these students have exited intervention. Second-grade teachers report that many students are improving reading fluency and building reading stamina with continuous and varied reading experiences.

A third-grade teacher shared that a student who did not like to read at the beginning of the year now loves to

read. The teacher provided extra support in class, and dad is now taking her to the library. Fourth-grade teachers are also reporting that more students are making connections in their learning. Both fifth- and sixth-grade students are working hard on complex math problems to prepare for Buena Park Junior High School.

Systems in place at Whitaker School to support students include daily checking for understanding, varied instructional strategies, and classroom assessments. Our Whitaker morning block of time is strictly devoted to literacy, mathematics, and problem-solving. Our school-based team analyzes student progress and determines specific interventions to support identified students.



But what about the high achievers at Whitaker School? Our teachers provide differentiated instruction at a high level, as well as enrichment classes throughout the year.

Our theme this year is "Reach for the Stars." We are proud of our students and families. We know that this partnership with our families is an essential ingredient for success. Whitaker School students are encouraged to aim high and be persistent as they "Reach for the Stars" in all that they do!

## 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.

## Jenna's Review

### Who is SAMOO?



Author: Javaka Steptoe

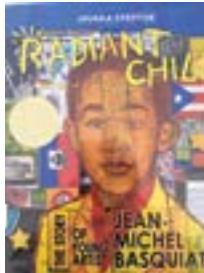
There was a little boy who wanted to be a famous artist. He drew from morning to night until he made a masterpiece. His drawings were not clean but still beautiful. His mother lay

down on the floor with him drawing pictures. One day, he had a car accident.

He was afraid but his mom read books with pictures of bones, skulls and other body parts. Then he was no longer afraid. He learned that art had a healing power. He became a teenager and went to New York City. There he drew a lot of collages, spray-painted the walls and signed the name "SAMOO". Everybody wanted to know "Who is SAMOO?" People loved his radiant and wild art.

I like this book because the illustrations are bright and interesting. It also tells you how Jean-Michel Basquiat became famous. I recommend this book to children who want to be famous artists.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.



Jenna C.

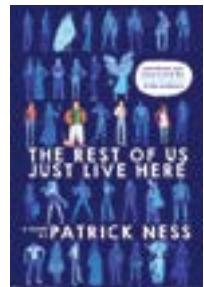
## Book Review By Katrina



### A Realistic Read

*The Rest of Us Just*

*Live Here* is about characters who aren't heroes or villains, simply side characters. Told from the perspective of Mikey, a senior who's struggling with the threat of life



Katrina D.

after high school, we see there are two types of students in his town. There are the 'indie kids', with strange names like Satchel who end up saving the world from a zombie apocalypse or a vampire takeover. Then there are kids who observe, but never really take part. Kids like Mikey, his sister and friends who are going through difficult things without the supernatural factor. Patrick Ness explores the real life situations that teenagers face today, from eating disorders to having to leave all your friends for a different country and how these side characters still manage to deal with their problems in a heroic way. Though dusted with supernatural twists, this book is a realistic read for teenagers who are looking for a quirky book. I give this book 3 out of 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth 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 book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

## Katie's Review

### A Heartfelt Book

The book *Love What Matters* is a heartfelt book filled with different perspectives. Each story is a twist of something new. They are all everyday problems that we think about—homelessness, loneliness, sicknesses



Katie C.

and more. But instead of just thinking about it, the people in this book take action. Tears, laughs, smiles—that is what this book is about. The internal connections that pull us towards the story are amazing. The humor of a mom driving chopped celery to her son at school, a child no longer feeling like an outcast because of his birthmark—this is all love. This book gave me a lot to think about, and I definitely recommend it. *Love What Matters* is like a ball of emotions that you can unravel, each story representing something special. I give this book a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

## Christina's BookReview



### A Dangerous Secret

*Belly Up* is a book by Stuart Gibbs. It is the story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo. Everyone seems convinced that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on. While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book out of 5 stars

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. 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).

## Keira's Book Nook



### A Brilliant Fantasy of Adventure

*Time Stoppers - Quest for the Golden Arrow* by Carrie Jones

Welcome to a land of friends, stubborn grandparents and elves. In this emotional book the author draws readers into an amazing fairy tale. (I laughed and cried a lot!) Aided by luck, a quiet desiring Annie joins forces with the enemies of The Raiff. The company of a mighty arrow helps them cross dangerous lands. Full of intense force and simple luck, this is an intriguing book. Carrie Jones uses outstanding vocabulary such as moseyed. However, I thought it ended too abruptly. I recommend this book series for fourth to eighth graders to read. I can't wait to read the next book! (This book is such a page turner!) I rate this book 4 apples.

Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.

## Isabella's Book Review



### A Magical Book

*The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis is about Polly, Digory and the witch. One afternoon they meet at Digory's uncle's room who gives Polly a ring. Polly grabs it and disappears. To save her, Digory touches a ring.



Isabella A.

Once with Polly they explore Charn. Digory rings a bell, awakening the queen of Charn. The two did not like her and try to escape, but the witch clings on them. She thinks she is the queen of England and gives orders. Polly and Digory use their rings to return to Charn; only it wasn't Charn anymore. It was a dark place with a lion that as he sang, created things. It was, Narnia. Would they ever get out of Narnia? What would happen to the witch? Read on to find out.

I rate this book 4 of 5 stars because it truly is captivating

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

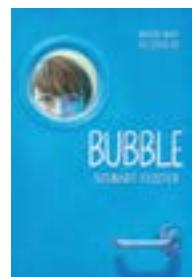
## Lucy's Book Review



### Funny and Honest

Author: Stewart Foster

Joe has been in the hospital due to his SCID. Trapped in a bubble, as he would say. Everything has to be exactly as instructed: air purity, foods in foil, and not being able to go outside. He passes much of his time with comic-book superheroes, his imagination, and his best friend Henry.



Lucy Davis

But that changes when he meets a new nurse, Amir. He 'borrows' twelve TVs for his room, and might be able to do the impossible — allow Joe to be outside.

When Joe is able to step into the outside world and pop his bubble, change hits him hard in ways he never expected. Will these changes help life take a turn for the better?

I liked this book because it was funny and honest. At first, it reminded me of another story (*Everything, Everything*) but soon was good and true in its own way. I give it three and a half bookworms.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

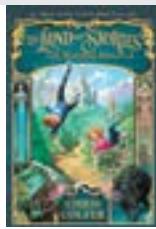
## Victoria's Review



### Amazing Adventures

*The Land of Stories* by

Chris Colfer is a fantasy/fiction novel about twins named Alex and Conner who get trapped in the *Land of Stories*, a book that their grandmother gave



to them. They go through many adventures all trying to get back to earth to their mom.

In between these adventures, the twins go through different realms: The Elf Empire, The Northern Kingdom, The Eastern Kingdom, The Dwarf Forests, The Red Riding Hood Kingdom, The Corner Kingdom and much more. They also meet Disney Princes and Princesses who become their best friends. In the end, Alex and Conner realize they are stronger than they once thought.

How did they get trapped? How do they escape? What do they experience in each realm? All of these questions will be answered once you read this amazing adventure! I give this book a "5 out of 5 Smiles."

Victoria Lowe is a 7th grade student. She loves school and enjoys spending time with her friends. Victoria's favorite kinds of books have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with "Smiles." Victoria has an affinity for singing, loves musical theatre and is a member of the South Bay Children's Choir.

## Sophie's Choice



### Hurricane

By: Nicholas Edwards

Have you ever experienced or seen a hurricane? Well twelve year old Emily has. In this book, *Dog Whisperer:*



*Storm Warning*, Emily and her dog Zack experience a hurricane in Maine...it is not typical for the state of Maine to have

hurricanes. Emily and her pet dog Zack don't have the typical kid/dog relationship. Emily and Zack can read each other's minds! Zack has the ability to know when people are in trouble, and Emily can read his mind through images! When a hurricane warning is issued, everyone in Emily's town prepares for what could be a horrible hurricane! The hurricane happens at the worst possible time, when Emily was at school. Everyone has tried to be prepared since it was issued on the weather channel. But they are let out early at school, and her parents aren't with her when she goes to the protective center. Emily's parents assume Emily went to the protective center, but what they don't expect is what happens to them on their way to pick up Emily from the protective center. Even though Emily and her dog Zack can read minds, they cannot read into the future? Who will help Emily's town survive the hurricane?

Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.

## Rabina's Review



### A Book with a Purposeful Moral

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* {

By: James L. Swanson

People seemed so bright to the new leadership but, after the Civil War, everything had changed.

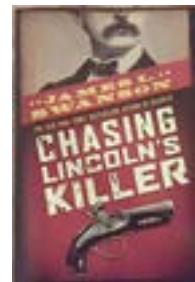
A few men were furious about the South's loss.

They had decided it is time for revenge.

John Wilkes Booth and his crew were planning to plant a bullet in President

Lincoln's head for months after the Civil War.

On April 14th, 1865 the bullet finally flew, causing President Lincoln's death. After that, a new trial began, chasing John Wilkes Booth.



Rabina K.

This book shows the reader that there are more than one perspective, so one should never make assumptions based on an incomplete story. The author unearths the truth about John Wilkes Booth's motive to kill the president. With the facts and personal opinions provided by the author in the story, I think this book will surely make the reader think. I give this book nine out of ten stars.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing, she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.

## Richard's BookReview

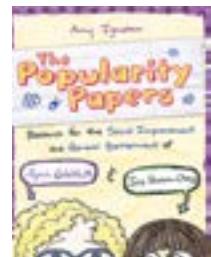


### Funny Book with a Message

*The Popularity*

*Papers* is a book by Amy Ignatow. It's written like a diary by two middle school girl authors Lydia and Julie writing about their "observations" and

very funny results on their attempts



to be popular. They go through many things to be popular, trying and failing in a funny way at hair bleaching, joining the popular sports teams, and even pretending to like boys, which really backfires, and many other things, too. The results are funny, unpredictable, but don't make them popular. They learned in the end that it's important to be yourself and be liked by your friends, not the people who everyone says are cool and popular. This is a really funny book written and drawn in a way I would have done with markers, pens and pencils, and the story is relatable in the way that they work so hard to be liked and noticed.

I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.



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

ARRONDA H.

Intermediate School Teacher  
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This hypothetical example assumes a \$5,000 initial deposit, \$50 per month subsequent deposit for 18 years and 7% annual ROI. Tax calculations assume the maximum federal tax capital gains tax rate of 20% and the maximum CA marginal tax rate of 13%. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect past performance or guarantee future performance of the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan or investment portfolios offered through the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan. These illustrative results also do not reflect any reduction for expenses. At the end of the accumulation period, the taxable account would be worth \$31,494. The ScholarShare 529 account would be worth 25% more than that amount, or \$39,224.

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