

FREE

School News

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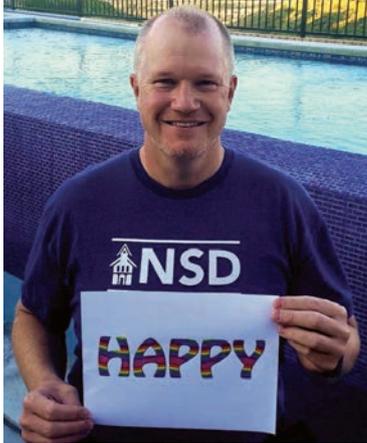
Covering the Newhall School District



Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2020

NSD Launches Distance Learning Program



SUPERINTENDENT

Distance Learning: Our New Normal

As you are aware, due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, NSD has decided to take the step of closing school for the remainder of the academic year. During this time of uncertainty, we would like you to know that we will be continuing to offer educational plans, activities, and assignments that extend your child's learning. Here is a brief summary of what your child should be experiencing each week:



Jeff Pelzel
Superintendent

1. Students should be accessing the Google Classroom created by your child's teacher each day.
2. Lessons in math and English language arts activities Monday-Thursday, science three days a week, and some social studies activities.
3. Students will be expected to complete 100 minutes of PE minutes each week (State required).
4. Students should continue to complete at least 5 DreamBox lessons each week.
5. Access to RAZ kids to support reading.
6. Access to art and music lessons as appropriate.
7. Daily check-ins from your child's teacher Monday-Thursday.
8. Daily attendance based on students participating in the assigned activities.
9. Pre-scheduled Friday morning support from teachers should your child need it.

Because this is uncharted territory for all of us, we are expecting there may be glitches along the way. We ask that you please be patient as we continue to work to figure this out. If you are having issues with technology, we encourage you to contact our technology support line at 661.291.4159 or email them at NSDsupport@newhallsd.com. Please know and understand that everyone we will be working hard behind the scenes to make this as beneficial and smooth as possible. If you have other questions about student services such as breakfast/lunch, internet access, etc., please reach out to your school principal for further information or support.

El Aprendizaje a Distancia: Nuestra Nueva Normalidad

Como saben, debido a la propagación del virus COVID-19, NSD ha decidido dar el paso de cerrar las escuelas por el resto del año académico. Durante este tiempo de incertidumbre, queremos que sepan que continuaremos ofreciendo planes educativos, actividades y tareas que enriquecen el aprendizaje de su hijo. Aquí hay un breve resumen de lo que su hijo debería experimentar cada semana:

1. Los estudiantes deberían acceder a "Google Classroom" creada por el/la maestro/a de su hijo cada día.
2. Lecciones de matemáticas y actividades de artes del lenguaje en inglés de lunes a jueves, ciencias tres días a la semana y algunas actividades de estudios sociales.
3. Se espera que los estudiantes completen 100 minutos de educación física cada semana (requerido por el estado).
4. Los estudiantes deben continuar completando por lo menos 5 lecciones de "DreamBox" cada semana.
5. Acceso a "RAZ Kids" para apoyar la lectura.
6. Acceso a clases de arte y música, según sea apropiado.
7. Reportarse diario con el/la maestro/a de su hijo de lunes a jueves.
8. Asistencia diaria basada en la participación de los estudiantes en las actividades asignadas.
9. Apoyo de los maestros los viernes por la mañana si su hijo lo necesita.

Debido a que este es un territorio desconocido para todos nosotros, esperamos que haya problemas técnicos en el camino. Les pedimos que por favor sean pacientes mientras seguimos trabajando para resolver esto. Si tiene problemas con la tecnología, le recomendamos que se comuníquese con nuestra línea de apoyo tecnológico al 661.291.4180 o envíeles un correo electrónico a NSDsupport@newhallsd.com. Por favor, sepan y entiendan que todos estaremos trabajando duro bajo cuerda para que esto sea lo más beneficioso y fácil posible. Si tiene otras preguntas sobre los servicios para estudiantes como el desayuno/almuerzo, acceso a internet, etc., por favor comuníquese con el/la directora/a de su escuela para más información o apoyo.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



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President



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Parents: A Child's First Teacher

It is a universal truth that parents are a child's first teacher, because what happens at home prior to entering kindergarten truly establishes a child's learning path. Even after a child enters school, their parents/caregivers remain their first teachers.

Today, as we navigate through this pandemic, your role as your child's first teacher has never been more important! At this time you are asked to partner with your child's teacher to engage your children in learning that typically would be done in the traditional classroom setting.

The idea of teaching your child what is normally taught at school maybe overwhelming to some. The NSD has prepared resources and strategies for you that supports your role. Immediately, you can access "Distance Learning" at newhallschooldistrict.com. You will find parent and student training videos in English and Spanish. There are lessons for pre-schoolers, and there are art and music lessons and activities.

You are encouraged to reach out to your children's teacher and establish regular conversations. This gives you an opportunity to ask questions and discuss your student's learning. It is extremely important that your children log-in everyday, (attendance still counts), and they turn in their work. This is the process for teachers to assess your student's need(s). We must still prepare our students for entering the next grade level by learning the skills needed that is required of your children's current grade level.

For issues regarding your child's computer, the NSD offers tech support everyday from 7:30AM-7:30PM. The numbers are 661-291-4159, and for Spanish speakers, 661-291-4180. As always the NSD is your partner on your children's education journey. The NSD School Board values your partnership and recognizes the importance to ensure your continued support.



Sue Solomon
President

Los Padres: El Primer Maestro de un Niño

Es una verdad universal que los padres son el primer maestro de un niño, porque lo que sucede en casa antes de entrar al kinder realmente establece el camino de aprendizaje del niño. Incluso después de que un niño entra en la escuela, sus padres/guardianes siguen siendo sus primeros maestros.

¡Hoy, mientras navegamos por esta pandemia, su papel como primer maestro de su hijo nunca ha sido más importante! En este momento se le pide que colabore con el/la maestro/a de su hijo para participar en el aprendizaje que normalmente se llevaría a cabo en el salón tradicional.

La idea de enseñarle a su hijo lo que normalmente se enseña en la escuela puede ser pesado para algunos. NSD ha preparado recursos y estrategias para usted que apoyan su papel. Inmediatamente, puede acceder al "Aprendizaje a Distancia" en newhallschooldistrict.com. Encontrará videos de entrenamiento para padres y estudiantes en inglés y español. Hay lecciones preescolares, y hay lecciones y actividades de arte y música.

Se le recomienda comunicarse con el/la maestro/a de sus hijos y establecer conversaciones regulares. Esto le dará la oportunidad de hacer preguntas y discutir el aprendizaje de su estudiante. Es extremadamente importante que sus hijos inicien sesión todos los días, (la asistencia aún cuenta), y entreguen su trabajo. Este es el proceso para que los maestros evalúen las necesidades de sus estudiantes. Debemos preparar a nuestros estudiantes para entrar al próximo grado académico, aprendiendo las habilidades necesarias que se requieren para el grado actual de sus hijos.

Para asuntos relacionados con la computadora de su hijo, NSD ofrece apoyo técnico todos los días de 7:30AM-7:30PM. Los números son 661-291-4159, y para los hispanohablantes, 661-291-4180. Como siempre, NSD es su colaborador en el camino de la educación de sus hijos. La Junta Directiva de NSD valora su cooperación y reconoce la importancia de garantizar su apoyo continuo.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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During this coronavirus pandemic the Newhall School District quickly sprung into action implementing distance learning. Students embraced their new way of learning. Middle school students accepted the reality of not celebrating their graduation in the traditional sense. Parents were creative with ways to celebrate their child's birthdays and milestones. Unlike a fire or flood that devastates a community, this is a pandemic that has touched the entire world. Our lives have been changed forever in

ways we may not realize yet. After 9-11 taking our shoes off at an airport check-in and being screened has become normal. What will be the new normal? Will people stop shaking hands? Will more people work from home? Americans by nature are social people. We will figure out our normal. In the meantime, it is true we are all in this together.

Our next issue is September 16. Until then be healthy, be kind, be optimistic and have a fun summer!

#flattenthecurve

Valencia Valley PTA

<https://m.facebook.com/VVPTA/> • vvpta.fun@gmail.com

Celebrating Heroes

By Kelly Berry,
Valencia Valley PTA President

On the morning of November 8, 2019, we welcomed to campus students' family members and neighbors who are active military, veterans and first responders for a meet-and-greet in the library with a Gratitude Day Ceremony that followed. The honorees connected over shared stories and a delicious breakfast, while our students and staff, holding tightly to American flags, found their places on the outdoor basketball courts.

The bugle call, "To the Colors," played over the outdoor speakers signaling to the honorees, some in full regalia, that the Ceremony had begun. They made their way toward the sea of students ready to greet them with flags waving high. Pride was in the air as daughters and grand-daughters, sons and grand-sons made eye contact, blew kisses or gave quick hugs to their family heroes.



The Ceremony commenced with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The 2nd grade students sang patriotic songs, Mrs. Gaudette gave a heart-felt speech and PTA board member Miriam Young played a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the violin. The student council presented handmade cards to the honorees, with extra cards being donated to Operation Gratitude. As the event concluded, the honorees exited to sounds of "America The Beautiful" and loud applause.

The feelings of unity, respect and love were in abundance that morning. Teachers and parent volunteers teared up, students were enthusiastic, and the spirits of our honorees were lifted. Our school-community shared in a collective lesson that morning about the power of showing gratitude and passing on a love of community and country to the next generation. We look forward to the day that we can hold our next Gratitude Day Ceremony and envision essential workers as the newest group of included honorees.

Dr. J. Michael McGrath *Elementary*

21501 Deputy Jake Dr., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4091 • www.mcgrathelementary.com



Jennifer Boone
Principal

Cafeteria Crew Feeds Hearts and Bodies

There is a quiet group of caring and devoted staff that serve the McGrath students and families like no other...our amazing Cafeteria Crew!

This team arrives to work during the school year by 6:00 a.m. to prepare the hot meals that our children eat each day. They know the name of every student and just like you, they know exactly what they like or don't like to eat. Every day they look at the face of your child and will check-in with them. They know when they are "Hangry" and they know when they are sad. They share laughter and joy as they celebrate successes with them. Not only does our Cafeteria Crew feed our children's body and prepare them for learning, they also feed their heart with their caring.

With our new reality of Covid-19, our same crew comes to work each day to prepare breakfasts, lunches and now dinners for our children. All this is available from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily. We love our McGrath Cafeteria Crew and are thankful for them and all of their colleagues serving children in the Newhall School District.



Meadows *Elementary*

25577 N. Fedala Rd., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4050 • www.meadowselementary.com



Dr. Juliet Fine
Principal

Distance Learning

On April 13th, Distance Learning began for 700 Meadows students who engaged with 29 teachers. Teachers worked hard for the last few weeks to ensure every child received a warm welcome message and assignments that were engaging and accessible for all learners and families.

They focused on maintaining strong relationships with students during this time of social distancing. Students are now learning in Google Classroom and in this platform, some teachers use google meet to teach live lessons. Our teachers strive to maintain the relationships we have with families and students. It is impressive to see our community come together and support one another with patience, kindness and compassion. Our lead technology enthusiast, 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Dobry, technology staff member, Mrs. Valaika and Office Manager, Mrs. Wiggins have spent endless hours connecting with families and teachers to ensure everyone's success. This is an image of Meadows' Distance Learning.



Newhall *Elementary*

24607 Walnut St., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4010 • www.newhallelementary.net



Jackie Tapia
Principal

We're All in This Together

The theme “We’re All in This Together!” was inspired by Newhall Elementary sixth-grade students at the beginning of this school year. The students took the theme to heart and encouraged each other to meet their fundraising goals for their end-of-year activities. Now that our building is closed, the class of 2020’s theme, “We’re All in This Together!” has provided hope to our community as we open our school virtually for Distance Learning. The first week of April, we delivered hundreds of devices for all of our students. As we follow “Safer at Home” orders, our staff continues to learn about how to serve each student virtually. We hope that our sixth-grade students understand how much confidence and encouragement they have contributed during these unimaginable times. We plan to turn this challenge into something that makes our community, families, and ourselves stronger because “We’re All In This Together!” Go Eagles!



Oak Hills *Elementary*

26730 Old Rock Rd., Valencia, CA 91381 • 661/291-4100 • www.oakhillsschool.com



Wendy Maxwell
Principal

Alumni Give Back

Justin Jang, a senior at West Ranch High School and on his way to Duke University in the Fall asked to meet with Principal Wendy Maxwell three years ago about bringing Code Buddy to Oak Hills as an after school enrichment class. After working out logistics with the district, the class was piloted that Spring and has been offered once in the Fall and once in the Spring since then.

Justin comments about his program, “The premise behind the coding after-school program that I taught is to give children the opportunity to learn the basics of computer science, hoping to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills for them to use in the future, especially since computer science is taking the world by storm. Using my general knowledge of computer science,

I teach the class fundamental coding concepts and how they apply to the real world, and the students practice those concepts through the free and easily accessible [code.org](https://www.code.org) website. Every class, I am dedicated towards helping each student grasp each coding concept so that when they leave elementary school, they can try more hands-on projects in higher education having already built a basic coding foundation. During class, I try to throw in some fun activities that connect to the concepts I am teaching in class to keep everyone engaged, and it is a great experience to see everyone working together to solve the problems I give them in class. Growing up, I did not have the chance to learn computer science, so once I learned the foundations in high school, I made it my goal to give elementary school students the opportunity that I never had, and I am so glad to see how far that mission has come!”

Old Orchard *Elementary*

25141 N Avenida Rondel, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4040 • www.oldorchardelementary.com



Ken Hintz
Principal

Old Orchard Flag Ceremonies

For years, Old Orchard has been celebrating America and our Pillars of Character in a special way. Eight times a year parents, staff, and children gather on the schoolyard around the American and California flag. Flagbearers from each class form a circle around the flags at the center of our Flag ceremony circle. As an Old Orchard family, we begin with the pledge of

Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Then we sing our theme song and recite our PBIS pledge. After celebrating our wonderful country, we celebrate our students that have modeled one of the eight character traits each month. The Pillars of Character are: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Students are awarded with a certificate of achievement and a gift certificate at a local restaurant. As we continue school through distance learning, we are encouraging families to do the pledge daily and share their experiences with us!



Peachland *Elementary*

24800 Peachland Ave., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4020 • www.peachlandelementary.net



Diana Stenroos
Principal

The Super Powers of a Super Student

Growing up, we all look up to those Super Heroes that we see in theme parks, in movies and in books. Many of us spend Halloweens dressed up as one of them or pretend in “play battles” that we are just like them conquering the problems of the world.

Let’s take, for example, the Hulk who displays his super strength, or Spider-Man who can shoot custom webs that allow him to jump and leap, or Iron Man who wears multiple powered armor suits and has genius-level intellect. I’ll bet if you ask any kid, they would love to spend a day in their shoes but there are so many more we haven’t even mentioned yet. Some could dream to be Thor who has extraordinary strength and resistance to injury, the Flash who has superhuman speed, the Wolverine who has the healing factor and superhuman strength, or Captain American who

has superior reaction time and phenomenal endurance. And let’s not forget the ladies because they save the world too, like Wonder Woman who has the power of flight to help her.

Being a super hero is not just for these fictional characters. The Newhall School District is full of Super Hero Students who are persevering through the tough times of Covid-19. During this time, they are learning about the superpowers of endurance, commitment, and self-care. Together, our teachers and students are committing to work in their Google classrooms and enduring in daily learning assignments. We are taking care of each other both physically and mentally by keeping our minds and bodies healthy.

Just like Batman who has no superhuman powers, but instead uses his high tech gear and high intelligence, students in the Newhall School District are becoming Superheroes. They are learning with high tech gear and building their intelligence. GO NSD!

Pico Canyon *Elementary*

25255 Pico Canyon Rd., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.picoelementary.com



Tammi Rainville
Principal

We Value our School Newspaper Club

One of the many ways we build lasting relationships with our students at Pico is through enriching, before and after-school opportunities. Our upper grade students are invited each year to write and to publish their own school newspaper twice a year. Sure, students are readily familiar these days with posting on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter; however, there are many reasons to keep student newspapers going in our schools.

The P.C. Times is published entirely by students under the leadership of four of our upper grade teachers at Pico Canyon. Students must submit an application in order to participate, composing short essays about what makes them a good candidate for being a part of the newspaper team and about what they hope to learn or accomplish. Our latest edition of the *P.C. Times* includes a Celebrity Spotlight, Jokes, Opinions, Book and/or Movie Reviews, School News, Seasonal Information, Staff Highlights, and

Trends. Technology changes allow our writers to publish both online and in print for each grade level and classroom on our campus.

Our head editors, Mrs. Susino and Mrs. Eifert report that, "Students involved in the publication of *The P.C. Times* hope to inform, entertain, excite, and engage their readers." Our students learn about management, meeting deadlines, and communicating well with one another. Our student writers really learn about what is happening on our campus and they help to relay this to the student body as a whole.

Finally, values and ethics are a part of the curriculum on all school campuses. Student writers learn, first-hand, about values and journalistic ethics when working on our school newspaper. Students learn from their mistakes as they endeavor to write on a variety of topics. We know that our students will forever treasure life-lessons that are learned as they work side-by-side our teacher leaders! Please visit <http://www.picoelementary.com/> to view the latest version of *The P.C. Times*.

Stevenson Ranch *Elementary*

25820 N Carroll Ln., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.stevensonranchschool.com



Chad Rose
title

Planning for 2020-2021

Each school year brings with it the opportunity to do things even better than the year before. Just like students, adults learn from the experiences of the school year. January marks the beginning of the planning for a new school year. Enrollment opens, we start projecting the number of classes, and a task list is generated to ensure that all elements of a smooth school year are thought

of. Calendars are looked at, programs and events reflected upon, and budgets are analyzed. When looking at current offerings we evaluate if the financial investment of school funds in a program provides valuable experiences for students, supporting and enriching learning as intended.

As we look to the 2020-2021 academic year, Stevenson Ranch School is planning to continue its student support systems of having two part-time teachers, each assigned to three grade levels, four days per week, working with

select student groups. These two dynamic individuals provide students with learning opportunities that support classroom lessons, revisit concepts from previous learning, and break down assignments into step-by-step tasks for those that need it. In addition, these two teachers will provide school wide enrichment through our Innovations program.

Our active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is also planning. A new board has been elected, and they already have developed a tentative schedule of family events that can be found on our school website calendar (www.stevensonranchschool.com).

One of the goals for 2020-2021 is to expand our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program. Our committee will be meeting to expand on current ideas to engage students even more in participating in the positive atmosphere of our school. It is amazing to think that all this is going on while students, teachers, and administrators are still in session, and focused on the current school year.



Valencia Valley *Elementary*

23601 Carrizo Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4060 • www.valenciavalleyelementary.com



Amy Gaudette
Principal

Viking Pride

We talk about “Viking Pride” at Valencia Valley... we say it together at assemblies, I sign my communications with it. But what is it? What are the Viking qualities we at VV possess that instill such pride?

Vikings are Curious

We have questions...a thirst for knowledge. We want to know how things work and to drive down to solutions to problems. When scientists explore in the lab, when sixth graders work through the productive struggle of College Preparatory Mathematics exploration.

Vikings are Determined

We expect failure...failure is our First Attempt In Learning. We work hard for our growth and we put the effort in to succeed. When the first grader meets his fluency goal, when the RSP student meets her IEP goal.



perseveres and shines bright with Viking Pride!

Vikings are Adventurous

We try new things and take risks. When the third grader decides to participate in the Variety Show after being a spectator for years, when the poet enters the Reflections Contest.

Vikings Care for Their People

We put kindness first and support all families. When the kindergartener walks an injured friend to the office, when the community donates to support a family in need.

While this school year was filled with unusual challenges- wildfires, school violence, a pandemic- it was definitely a year to see what happens when our community

Wiley Canyon *Elementary*

24240 W La Gloria Circle, Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4030 • www.wileycanyonelementary.com



Tim Lankford
Principal

Community and Reading Come Together

Working with our school wide community is an essential component to the ongoing success of all students here at Wiley Canyon. The staff work with members of our community to create unforgettable moments students will cherish for a lifetime. This year the Read Across America activities provided an opportunity for students in each grade to engage in shared readings and Storytime facilitated by members of our community. The theme for this year was “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers”. Guests included local business owners, authors and the Newhall School District Board President Sue Solomon. Everyone was excited to come and share their love for reading with our students. Throughout the week, students discussed the stories shared and books they were reading with their peers. The week ended with



students coming to school dressed up as their favorite character. Our Read Across America activities served as a wonderful reminder for our students of how reading can be an awesome and memorable experience.

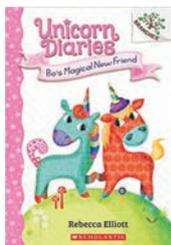
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Magical New Best Friend

Unicorn Diaries, Bo's Magical New Friend, is 1 of the 4 books in *Unicorn Diaries* chapter book series written by Rebecca Elliot.



Bo (Rainbow Tinseltail) lives in Sparklegrove Forest where lots of other magical creatures live. Bo is a unicorn with a wish power who can grant one wish weekly. Bo doesn't have a best friend, but she wishes she does. Although Bo is a wish unicorn, she wants to find her best friend naturally without using her magical power. One twinkly night, a unicorn was born. Bo thought maybe this new unicorn could be her best friend. You have to read this book to see if Bo's wish came true. Reading Bo's diary makes me feel like I'm one of the unicorns at Sparklegrove School. The daily journal takes me through the magical journey in Sparklegrove Forest. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves magical powers and unicorns.

Kailani is a 2nd grader. When not playing with or reading to her baby brother, Kailani enjoys coloring and drawing. Her favorite weekend activities are ballet, hula, and musical theater.

Ethan's Review

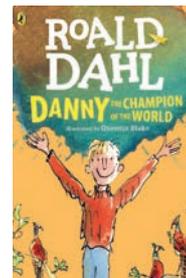


Ethan H.

The Deep, Dark Secret

Danny, The Champion of the World
By Roald Dahl

Danny is a little boy who lives in an old, rusty, broken-down carriage at a filling station with his dad. His mom died when he was very young. Danny



has always admired his dad's strength and bravery. He always looked forward to his dad's stories about a Big Friendly Giant that captures and bottles dreams because it sparked his imagination. Danny woke up one night and discovered that his dad was not home. He went outside to look for him and saw a shadowy figure moving on the street. It was his dad! Danny finds out about a deep, dark secret his father had. Read *Danny, The Champion of the World* to find out what happened next! I loved reading this book because it was filled with action.

I recommend this book to people who like suspense and mystery.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

CAMPING—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 Newhall in the subject line.

MAP	FOOD
BOOTS	SNACK
JACKETS	BEDROLL
COMPASS	MATCHES
GPS	FLASHLIGHT
BACKPACK	FLARES
THERMOS	CELLPHONE
KNIFE	CAMERA
TENT	BUGSPRAY
BLANKET	COT
WATER	

Entries must be received by June 30, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 Gift Card to Barnes & Noble.



**Congratulations to
Callan and Tadd Lennington**

Winners of our March Word Search Contest!

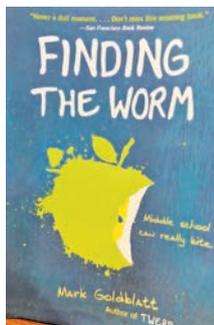
Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Every Day is a Gift

"*Finding The Worm*" by Mark Goldblatt is a great book that tells the troubles of Julian Twerski. Julian is just entering middle school in 7th grade and he



goes through crazy adventures that make you smile. You'll be attached to the Thirty-Fourth Avenue Gang while going through the book. *Finding The Worm* has twists and turns that you would never expect. Mark Goldblatt does an outstanding job in hooking the reader. I'm usually not the biggest reader, but after reading this book, I want more of what Mark Goldblatt writes. This book is the continuation of the first book, *Twerp*, but you don't have to read the first to read the second. This is probably one of the best books I have ever read, and I give it a 10 out of 10.

I hope you will enjoy reading this awesome book!

Tyson is an athletic 6th grader who loves basketball, soccer, and volleyball. His favorite subjects are P.E. and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of his 3 guinea pigs with his brother. He looks forward to going to Lakers games with his dad.

Sean's Book Review



Sean

Finding Your True Identity

If you don't know anything about Greek Mythology, but you have a desire to, Percy Jackson *The Lightning Thief* is a great book to get started!



This is Rick Riordan's first book in his Percy Jackson mythology series. Even if you already know about Greek mythology, this is an exceptional book that will keep you hooked. It's a great read with lots of detail and fun information. In here, you'll get introduced to Percy Jackson, a 12 year-old demigod (child of a god and a mortal) and is the son of the powerful sea god, Poseidon. The book is about how Percy discovered his identity and finds new friends and has crazy adventures along the way. It has action, suspense, and always makes you want to keep reading. When I first read this book 2 years ago, I was hooked and could not put it down even to this day!

Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik's Cubes), watching Rubik's Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.

Yoona's Review



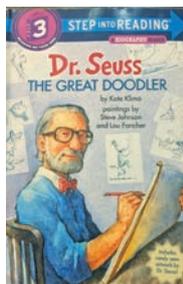
Yoona C.

Dr. Seuss' Life

Title: *Dr. Seuss The Great Doodler*

Author: Kate Klimo

Have you read any Dr. Seuss books? Dr. Seuss was actually called Ted. His mother read to him a lot when he was young. Ted also



liked to doodle. He doodled pictures of animals. After college, he worked on a humor magazine. He signed his drawings with just his middle name: Seuss. He wrote his first book titled *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street!* When Ted was having trouble with a story, he wore wacky hats to think better. Ted wanted to write a book using 225 simple words. Do you know what this book is? It is the *Cat in the Hat!* I like this book because I can find many facts about Dr. Seuss and learn about how his books were created. This book also includes rarely seen artwork by Dr. Seuss. I recommend this book to kids who are interested in Dr. Seuss and his books.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to create stories as well.

B is for Book



Bailey

Life is Numbers

Rated by Melissa Grey is an intriguing, mystery like book.

In this society, it truly matters what people think because every person has a "rating." Their rating



reflects just about everything, from if they have a good job, to if they said "thank you" to the waiter. The future of every individual lies on their rating. When someone vandalizes Maplethorpe Academy with red paint reading "THE RATINGS ARE NOT REAL," it will bring these six students together, Bex, Tamsin, Hana, Chase, Noah, and Javier. Although they have absolutely nothing in common, they thrive together! But will they be enough to solve the mystery and conclude the corruption of their society?

This dystopia depicts a possible reality that will keep the reader thinking days after finishing the book. I have read the book several times and it still fascinates me. I rate it 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.

The Study of History

History tells who we are and about our connections to the past. Those connections tie us together today with a common identity.

“Once a Marine, Always a Marine” is not a title. It is a shared experience that all Marines have been through. Part of the Marine boot camp is the learning of the traditions and history of the Marine Corps. It is that shared experience of the past that connects all Marines together today. This is one example of the value of history.

The study of history has changed over the last half-century in American schools. Rather than focusing on the values of the American ideal, the focus has been to address the negative and to separate historical events. The “melting pot” has been replaced by the “quilted patchwork.” This new identification shifted the idea that new groups no longer need to be integrated into the American ideal framework of a common culture.

People come to this country, or any country, for opportunity. That opportunity might be for the “three G’s”—god, gold and glory—but behind each of these are the desire for and the opportunity to practice religion, become rich, or obtain fame. The English colonies provided a fertile region for the opportunities to grow. The colonies threw off the past and created a new culture that has grown into the ideals that were stated in the Declaration of Independence.

Each new immigrant group was met with hostility. Germans were called “clodhoppers” and depicted as apes. Other groups met with the same reactions and name calling as Germans immigrants faced. Assimilation took time, and within four to five generations, the original language was forgotten along with many cultural traits.

Today, most individuals whose ancestors came here from Europe four or five generations ago cannot tell what their nation of origin was without mentioning more than one country. The melting pot normally took four or five generations to assimilate. Africans, Asians and Native Americans were excluded from the basic ideals of the Declaration of Independence at the time. Yet that document had the seeds to change over time. Looking at the South Carolina State Legislature debate on public education during reconstruction after the Civil War, one sees that former slaves and freed men and women were making the same arguments that the founding fathers made in 1775 about individual rights. They often quoted the founding fathers. They did not come to these ideas independently but through the study of history.

Today, the focus on history is on the horrors of slavery and treatment of immigrants. History seems to ignore the part played in the emancipation and freedoms gained by those groups using the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution to gain those rights. For example, most high school students of American history never hear that slaves did go to court to win their freedom before the famous Dred Scott case. Slaves going to court won their cases about 50% of the time before Dred Scott. Bridget “Biddy” Mason won her case (*Mason v. Smith* 1856) in California and became a wealthy person selling real estate in Los Angeles. She helped start the AME Church.

All Americans today are better off under the U.S. Constitution than they were in the past. Yet there appears to be a strong belief that the nation is worse off under the Constitution. The negative focus on history reinforces this belief in spite of the facts. One study suggests that Hispanic assimilation was taking place within two to three generations. Many third-generation children of immigrants have lost most of their native Spanish language.

Replacing the melting pot with the quilt created the shift from assimilation into one common culture to separate cultures living side by side with little in common. Before the 1960s, everyone read the Dick and Jane Books in their early years whether they were in New York or California. Foreign languages were an academic requirement to broaden the learning experience—Latin, German, French and Spanish. Today, foreign language is offered more for social engineering to preserve a cultural identity.

Social engineering has divided the study of history into specific groups that isolate historical understanding of events: black history, Hispanic history, women’s history, and recently, gender-identification history. Yet if you walk into any of these classes, you will not see a broad cross-section of groups. The students that sit in the class are there because they identify or they have been required to take the class as a graduation requirement. The same could be said of a history class.

However, a history class has a larger goal than to reinforce a cultural identity. A United States history class is an attempt to mold individuals into American citizens with a common history using the same pattern that the Marine Corps employs to individuals from every walk of life and cultures into U.S. Marines.