

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Torrance Unified School District

Volume 8, Issue 27

March–May 2021

A Year Later... Things are Looking a Little Bit Brighter



**Photo taken on March 1st at the George Mannon Aquatic Center,
on the first day TUSD started vaccinating employees.**

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT Meeting Final Challenges



Dr. Tim Stowe

Oh, what a year! The school year has had its set of challenges, and throughout, our staff members have worked tirelessly to offer high-quality instruction both online and in-person. From virtual STEAM fairs to talent shows, from Academic Decathlon to Science Olympiad competitions, teachers, support staff and administrators have found ways to keep students engaged and connected.

Recently, five of our middle schools were recognized as California Distinguished Schools: Bert Lynn, Calle Mayor, Casimir, Madrona and Richardson. We are extremely proud of their efforts to support student learning and well-being.

In preparation for the return of middle school and high school students, sites hosted campus tours and orientations for sixth- and ninth-graders. With a mix of excitement and

pre-first-day jitters, students met classmates, found their classrooms, and visited the library and other spaces on campus. The time on their campus prior to spring break is an opportunity for students to slowly transition back to in-person learning and new routines.

Once students return from spring break, there will be eight weeks of in-person instruction before the start of finals. The end of the school year is a critical time, especially for high school students with Advanced Placement exams starting in early May. With pandemic trends continuing in a positive direction, little by little, we are returning to some normalcy and hope to be able to start developing plans for end-of-the-year activities and celebrations.

For the up-to-date TUSD news and information, please visit us on our website.



Torrance Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/320-7232 • www.torranceeducationfoundation.org



Shireen Ossanlo
Executive Director

TEF is Raising Money for our Torrance Students and Schools!

This spring, the Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) will be awarding deserving seniors with college scholarships and donating to STEM initiatives and refillable water bottle stations at each TUSD campus. TEF is hosting the 13th annual South Bay Enrichment Academy this summer and will offer classes on campus and online for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Do you ever wonder how Torrance schools get funding for recourses and programs like STEM, robotics, academic decathlon, college scholarships, and on-campus refillable water bottle stations? These are just a few initiatives the Torrance Education Foundation helps fund through fundraisers like the TEF Annual Fundraising Event, Car Raffle, and Skechers Walk. The Torrance District placed FIRST for the 2021 Skechers Pier-to Pier Friendship Walk. Interim Superintendent Dr. Tim Stowe, TEF President Martha Deutsch, and TEF Executive Director Shireen Ossanlo accepted the Skechers check in February. Congratulations, Torrance students and schools!



TEF funded 2nd grade Drop Zone Projects during distance learning

<p>FRIDAY 21 May 6:00pm A Virtual Event</p>		<p><i>Separate but</i> Together, <i>We Support</i> TEF</p>
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Join the Torrance Education Foundation for a **Virtual Event** on **May 21st**, raising money for education.

TEF will host a virtual silent auction the week prior with fantastic items that everyone will enjoy.

The night of receive a delivered dinner for two from The Depot and watch our live auction, special performances, and 17th Anniversary Spectacular Car Raffle Drawing for a 2021 Lexus NX300H SUV! **Car Raffle tickets are on sale now for \$40.**

Call in to purchase your ticket over the phone at **310-320-7232**.

For more information on these fundraisers and how you can get involved in giving back to our community schools, visit **www.TEF4Kids.org/Events!**

Separate but Together, We Support TEF!

School News



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Covering the

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 8th year publishing the TUSD *School News*. Every year has been different with curriculum changes and technology updates; however, this year has included those changes plus the pandemic. In this issue you will read how the classroom activities reflected the challenges of distance learning and now the opening of schools.

I would like to give a special thank you to Tammy Khan, TUSD Public Information Officer. She is very patient and with so much going on she manages to seamlessly coordinate communication between the district and *School News*.

Be sure to see pages 24-28 for summer fun choices...the fun is back! Our next issue is May 26.

FUN

Please see
pages 24-28
Fun is back!!



SOUTH BAY PROMISE

Two Years Free College

The El Camino College **SOUTH BAY PROMISE** program provides an affordable pathway to college for students enrolling after high school. Students receive free enrollment for two years, priority registration and specialized support services.

Our steadfast commitment to student success continues in these unprecedented times. Visit www.elcamino.edu/SouthBayPromise for more information.

Application Deadline: **April 30, 2021**



Specialized Care for Delicate Hands



Anna Acosta, M.D.,
pediatric hand surgeon, Orthopedic Center, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

A jammed finger is one of the most common hand injuries a child can experience. It can occur not only in sports, but also during play or regular daily activities. A jammed finger is a condition that happens when the finger is quickly forced back into hyperextension. Sometimes a jammed finger is no big deal and can get better on its own. But other times there is a more serious and deeper injury that needs to be addressed in a timely manner.

A jammed finger causes a lot of swelling and often stiffness of the finger. Usually this is due to a ligament sprain or partial tear. However, sometimes it can be due to a complete ligament tear or even fracture of the bone or joint.

In most cases, a jammed finger will heal well with nonsurgical treatments. However, for the more serious injuries that include fractures, surgery may be required to realign the pieces of broken bone.

Because the hand is such a delicate balance of working parts, even minor injuries may cause a significant decrease in hand function or changes in appearance. And because children's bones are still growing, they need specialized care from physicians and therapists who understand the complexities of a still growing body.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has an Orthopedic Center dedicated to treating orthopedic injuries and abnormalities in kids. We specialize in treating congenital and acquired hand and arm conditions and deformities, as well as the everyday kid injuries. Advanced surgical techniques are used to restore hand function and to correct hand and limb differences. We have a specialized team that includes a pediatric hand surgeon and pediatric hand therapists, that work together to create the best functional and cosmetic results for each child we see.

Learn more at millerchildrens.org/Orthopedics.



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • millerchildrens.org/Orthopedics



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Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org



Denise Spellman
President

Reflections Contest

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) is organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction to our units, leadership development, and coordination of the efforts of our units. In Torrance we oversee the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district.

Torrance Council of PTAs recently honored 86 students as council level winners in the Reflections Contest, a National PTA arts recognition and achievement program. Of those 68, 18 received Honorable Mention, 23 received Award of Merit, 27 Award of Excellence. 10 students received recognition from the Thirty-Third District PTA and of those, 3 students had their entries forwarded to California State PTA for judging.

On March 19th, TCPTA held their Annual Honorary Service Award Event, normally this event is celebrated in person but this year it was held virtually due to no in person gatherings. Honorary Service Awards are awarded throughout the year and designed as a unique way for PTA units, councils and districts to publicly acknowledge both individuals and organizations for outstanding community service to children and youth in a community. We were proud to honor 123 recipients this year.

PTA is proud to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

Adams Elementary

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • adams.tusd.org



Shayla Smith-Taranto
Principal



**Welcome back 3rd, 4th and 5th grade blended students!
4th grade teacher Mrs. Van Wie can't "mask" how excited she is!**

Anza Elementary

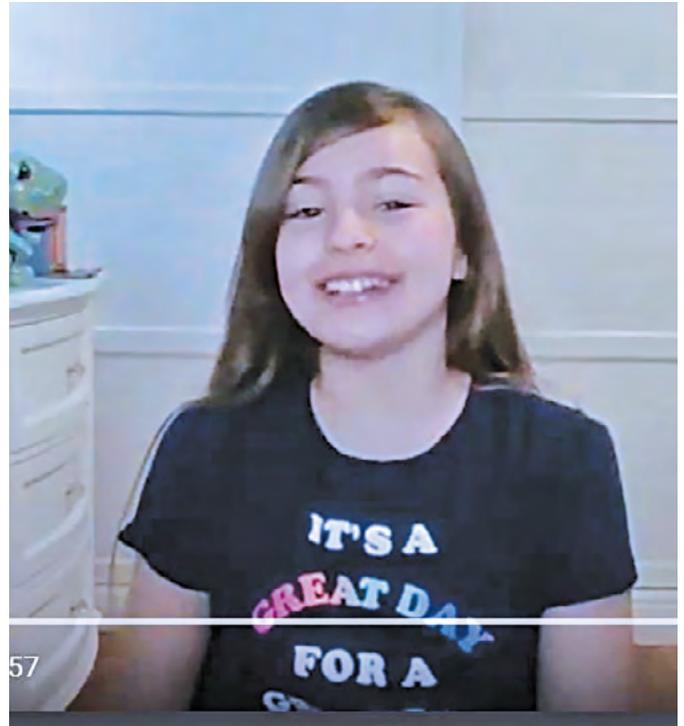
21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • anzaelementary.org



Barbara Marks
Principal

Character Counts

Anza's Character Counts Team is a team of leaders in the fifth grade who model and promote different important character traits every month in the Flag Assembly. Every week a student leader from the team creates a video of themselves sharing about a different aspect of an important character trait and what students can do to demonstrate this trait at school and at home.



Join Character Counts Leader Larissa and find out about being responsible!

This year's team has adapted to the virtual delivery system with gusto, recording videos on their own at home and broadcasting them to the whole school during virtual flag assembly. For the month of February, they challenged the Anza community to each aim for 25 smiles a day to promote good will and provide a personal benefit, because smiles increase happiness! For the month of February the theme was Caring and Kindness, and each week students suggested different ways to show caring and kindness to themselves and each other through the virtual environment. In March, the Character trait is Responsibility and student leader Larissa reminded students that when they show responsibility at school they may receive a SOAR card from their teachers or other school staff.

Arlington Elementary

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlington.tusd.org



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

Glad to Be Back

Arlington Superstars are jumping for joy, as our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders joined our youngest learners on campus this month. Our campus is busy and filled with laughter and interaction, socially-distanced, of course! Taking a stroll around the campus, I asked a few students what they love most about being in school. The majority of the answers

had to do with seeing their friends and teacher in person. Other students answered, "Reading real books that you can hold in your hands!" "Seeing your friends in real-life!", "Seeing my teacher!", "Not having to be home alone while mom and dad are at work", and "Being able to go outside and jump around without upsetting the neighbors in the apartment below!" Whatever the reason, we are glad they are back on campus and having fun learning! Welcome back, Superstars!



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Arnold *Elementary*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • arnold.tusd.org



Justine Lang
Principal

A School United

Over the last several months, students have returned to Arnold for in-person instruction. All Blended Learning K-5 students are now on campus in an am/pm model. With a little more than half our students back (301 have opted to stay in Distance

Learning), it is starting to feel more “normal” at Arnold. But having half the school at home means we must work extra hard to remain a united Arnold community. Our teachers, staff, students and parents have definitely risen to the challenge. Weekly virtual recess brings kids from both programs together. Fun virtual events like Movie Nights, Family Game Nights and our upcoming Variety Show have kept our Arnold PTA as busy as ever. Our teachers also collaborate weekly to share ideas and ensure that students

in both programs are covering the same curriculum and experiencing similar lessons. Despite being apart for the 2020-2021 school year, our Arnold family has proven to be strong, resilient, and definitely united.



Arnold teachers and administrators welcome grades 3-5 with masked smiles.

Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayormiddleschool.org



Dave Mosley
Principal

Excited to Have Students Back

We hope you are all staying healthy and safe. We are extremely excited to have students back on our campus for in-person learning. There is something so great about hearing students laugh on campus, it truly does keep you young at heart.

We are also proud to announce that the school gymnasium has been completed and it looks awesome. The gymnasium will provide our students with a great opportunity to play both basketball and volleyball indoors and this would not have been possible without the community support and

the passage of Bond Measure T and U. We would like to thank you all for this wonderful addition to our campus. As you can see from the photo the gym looks great.



Carr Elementary

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



Katie Schenkelburg
Principal

Student Leadership Hosts College and Career Week!

Our Kind Cub Leadership group under the direction of our counselor Mrs. Spector, continued to show creativity to promote cohesiveness, school spirit and learning.

For example, even through distance learning, we were able to celebrate College and Career

week by exposing students to a variety of colleges and careers by having them participate in several activities created by our Kind Cubs: Jamboard, Kahoot, Bitmoji Classroom, themed games, etc. Our student leaders also worked hard to make this week fun for our students by promoting themed spirit days where students were encouraged to wear their favorite college's colors or dress like their future career. These

past months have taught us all to show gratitude and kindness and look at the positive side to our circumstances and find creative ways to celebrate our learning. The Kind Cubs have done so much to maintain our traditions in distance and hybrid learning to keep our school united in having fun!



Some of the Kind Cubs Leadership group during their weekly meeting where they organized our College and Career Spirit week (among other school wide activities)

Casimir Middle School

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



James Ashikawa
Interim Principal

Casimir's Extraordinary Artists

We are proud that Casimir middle school is committed to foster students' love for learning, and aspires for all students to achieve their full potential by balancing the Academics with the Arts - to be well rounded life-long learners. Even during these times of virtual learning, as you can see, students are having some of the most amazing learning experiences in Ms. Chelsea Keys' Art class.



LaShae Edwards created impressionism art using various brush strokes and colors to create texture.



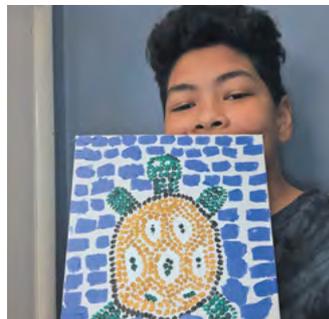
Akira Kotero displaying her take on Vincent vanGogh's "Sunflowers."



Ryan Afoa fills in negative space to make the color pop!



Jake Yokoyama painted this platypus using line and dot patterns inspired by Aboriginal art.



Lucas Blackwood showing off an original Aboriginal inspired turtle.



Kanda Palomino working on a Spiderman art piece for a superhero inspired project.

Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Edison Cares - Thank You Card Drive

At Edison we wanted to spread joy and gratitude by thanking our Front Line Workers. Students wrote thank you notes and drew pictures for the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who are working with Covid patients at the Torrance Memorial Hospital. The cards were delivered just in time for Valentine's Day. By doing this we were able to lift their spirits and let the Frontline workers know that Edison Elementary cares and we value their work.



Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



Michael Remland
Principal

Fernie Visits

The Fern Falcon mascot is affectionately known as “Fernie” in the Fern Elementary community. Fernie has been busy connecting and engaging with Fern students, families and our community over the last year. Fernie will visit Fern students and families who submit questions for Dr. Remland and Mr. Daugherty’s weekly SOAR assemblies. During these visits’ students receive a certificate and Fern Pin from Dr. Remland and get their picture taken with Fernie. So far Fernie has visited 38 Fern families, 15 Torrance businesses and five other Torrance schools to spread good will and community engagement. Fernie was even featured with a segment on the KCBS 2 evening news! All Fern students can submit a question to their teacher for our weekly assemblies, and if you do the next Fernie visit could be to your house! Fern Elementary.... together we SOAR!



Dr. Remland, Fernie the Fern Falcon and Julie from KCBS during a family visit!

Hickory Elementary

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



Maggie Mabery
Principal

Staying Connected No Matter the Distance

While it is not the same as being together, we are doing our best to provide opportunities for our Hickory Hound community to come together even if it's virtual.

Every Wednesday morning, more than 800 students log into Zoom to join our weekly virtual assembly. We begin each assembly event with a different class leading the entire student community in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students then show their school pride by singing the Hickory song.

Our students, teachers, and parents also look forward to recognizing the awesome students who have earned a "PAWs-itive Award" or "Hickory HOUND Award" for

displaying positive behaviors and making great choices. In addition, these recognized students also get invited to a virtual lunch or dance party with the principal for a special treat!

In December and January, the kindergarten and first-grade students got a chance to snuggle into bed early by listening to a bedtime story hosted by the principal. Our little Hickory Hounds have enjoyed receiving a strong sense of belonging and stability in these unsettling times through our special bedtime story readings.

I am so very proud of our Hickory family, and the efforts we are making to stay connected during these challenging times. I think it is so important for us to create opportunities to come together and celebrate our friendship and our community.



J.H. Hull Middle School

2080 W. 231st St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



Patty Girgis
Principal

JH Hull Middle School Reopens for Students

Torrance Unified School District announced that all secondary schools will reopen their campuses to their students on Thursday, March 25th, the Hull faculty and staff have been feverishly getting ready for our students to return to school in person. As the school prepares for students to return observing all LA County Department of Public Health health and safety protocols,

teachers have been setting up their rooms for their students to walk through their doors on March 25th. The Honorary award-winning faculty and staff here at Hull is excited and thrilled to see all of our students who have chosen to return to campus! Welcome back Hull Hawks!



Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



Yvonne Marin
Principal

An Amazing Office Staff

Our school office staff at Jefferson is the best! They have been here with us day-in day-out while our doors have been closed to our student population. Mrs. Dungy and Mrs. Paredes are our school secretaries and they have been answering phones and helping parents and students with attendance and technical issues with online classes. They often come up with out of the box solutions

for keeping students and their families up and running with their academics. Mrs. Heather Greenfield is our health clerk. She has been making sure all our students have current immunization records on file and that their health information is accurate in PowerSchool. Mrs. Greenfield also has been organizing all student cumulative records so they are easy to look through for teachers, the counselor, and administration. We could not run the school without our amazing office staff! Special thanks to Mrs. Dungy, Mrs. Paredes and Mrs. Greenfield!



LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



Dr. Teresa Lanphere
Principal

Literacy starts early at LAUNCH

This month at LAUNCH we celebrated Dr. Suess's birthday with a special virtual Dr. Seuss assembly with our own Miss Nina sharing a special story with all of our students either longing in with their class at LAUNCH, their virtual class with their LAUNCH peers or from home with their parents. We also used this celebration to put our focus on the importance in reading for

our young students and kicked off our annual PTA Read a Thon. The PTA is running this event for the month of March to help keep our students in the habit of reading with their families as well as have a way to raise funds for the school. Each week the PTA is sending out information electronically to families which highlights a fun book they can read with their child. The Read a Thon has become a great tradition at LAUNCH that we hope to continue for many years to come as it helps build literacy skills in our young readers.

Lincoln *Elementary*

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Traditions Reimagined

This unconventional school year brought with it the need to reinvent and reimagine some of our long held traditions. This is certainly the case for school sites as we've had to adjust our methods for how to meaningfully capture this year's events and activities in our annual yearbooks.

To assist with making their last year at Lincoln a memorable one, our fifth graders were given the choice to create a self-portrait for this year's school photo. Miss Diya Sindol really exercised her creative chops with this lovely self image she drew. Her work is a wonderful example of how young people, when given the opportunity, rise to the occasion. She, along with all of our Lincoln Lions have met the unique challenges of this school year with grace and open mindedness. Our future is in good hands!



Lynn *Middle School*

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

A Mind-Bending Achievement

Pop quiz: Which after-school club spends hours building the speed and endurance necessary to win a series of fierce competitions using pencils and paper?

If you guessed Bert Lynn's Competitive Mathematics team, you would be correct. Join us as we celebrate our team's chapter competition win. We are very pleased to announce that three of our team's students qualified for the Chapter Invitational!

MATHCOUNTS is a national competition built upon a series of four-hour events at the school, chapter, state, and national levels. Each competition begins with a "Sprint

Round." Imagine completing 30 complex math problems without a calculator in 40 minutes. This is followed by a "Target Round" which moves beyond difficult, allowing the calculators to solve eight complex word problems in six minutes.

The Team Round has students working collaboratively to solve 10 mind-bending word problems within 20 minutes. Finally, the top 10 students then compete in a head-to-head competition to solve a series of problems accurately within 45 seconds.

Congratulations go to the following students: Sue-Yen Chin (eighth grade), who qualified with a fifth place overall in the chapter; and Anthony Ge (sixth grade) and Mason Tsai (sixth grade), who both qualified by scoring in the top 20 percent in our South Bay chapter.

Madrona *Middle School*

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • madrona.tusd.org

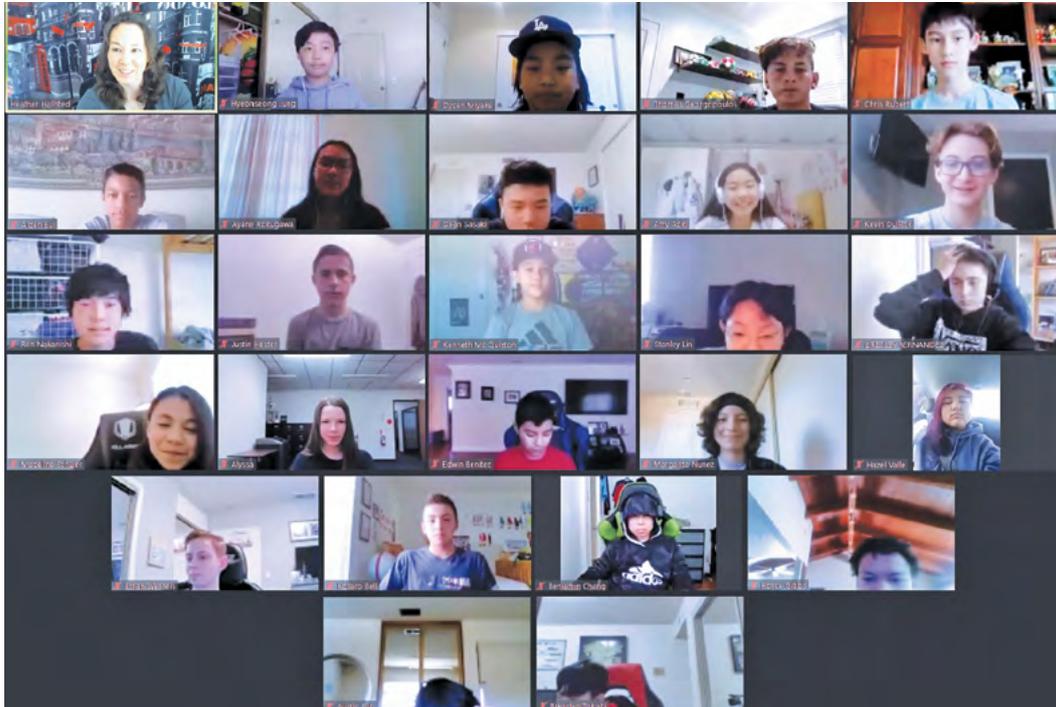


Jeffrey Nielsen
Principal

Regional Science Olympiad

Madrona Middle School is proud to announce our students' achievements at the recent Regional Science Olympiad virtual tournament. Madrona placed 7th overall and are practicing to compete at the State Level.

Congratulations to our student medalists: 5th Place Density Lab, Kevin Dullack and Ethan Wessels; 2nd Place Digital Structures, Kevin Dullack; 5th Place Experiment and Data Analysis, Justin Hester and Ayane Rokugawa; 6th Place Fossils - Donnie Keech and Kenneth McQuiston; 6th Place Machines, Kevin Dullack and Justin Hester; 6th Meteorology, Kotaro Bell and Aiden Bui; 5th Water Quality, Aiden Bui and Ryan Torii.



Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



Lisa Nunes
Principal

Return to Campus

As we begin to move towards the reopening of school it is with much joy we welcome our students and staff back. It has been a year full of flexibility, understanding and grace. Through these qualities we have continued to deliver the guaranteed and viable curriculum our teachers and staff tirelessly work daily to help best support our Mustangs. As we welcome the return

of our blended learners, we look forward to the sounds of students, sites of the smiles of their eyes and connecting with our Mustang family. A huge heart of gratitude to our staff, students and families for their contributions through these times. This picture reflects hope. We too have hope for the future as we move forward in the reopening of our campus.



North High School

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • northhighschool.org



Chris Sheck
Principal

Our Reflective Journey

Washington Irving is quoted as saying “Great minds have purposes, others have wishes.” Wow, this makes one pause and take a deep breath! The recent closure of our schools for over a year has brought to light many components of student culture, mental health and well-being that might have otherwise been masked by our typical school day. This insight has delivered us a moment of clarity in our journey to develop the minds of our NHS students into being “great.”

This new lens brings with it a refreshed focus on the many cultures that coexist in our classrooms. Gender, age, orientation, ethnicity and religion are just a few of the diverse cultures that our teachers and students experience every day. Our renewed efforts are now moving us into

an examination of deep culture at North High and action steps that professionally develop and support our NHS teachers and staff. By the end of March, every teacher will have completed a full-day professional-learning experience centered on culturally responsive teaching and learning, the focus of which is the validation and affirmation of the home culture and language for the purposes of building and bridging our students to success.

Through this learning experience, our NHS teachers learned that diversity, equity and cultural responsiveness are not interchangeable terms. Just because we are diverse and equitable does not mean that we are being responsive. Therefore, becoming culturally responsive means going where the students stand culturally and linguistically for the purpose of bringing them where they need to be academically. Our commitment is to recognize and embrace the many cultures represented at North High for the purpose of developing great minds!

Richardson Middle School

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org



Tayo Balogun
Principal

Richardson Rattlesnake are Resilient!

We are continuing to find innovative ways to celebrate our students. In February, we were able to distribute over 50 yard signs to our Student of the Month recipients. The feedback from the families was extremely positive and prompted us to create another opportunity to “see” our students. In March, we organized a Winter Wonderland pick up where students and their families drove by the campus and were able to wave to teachers and receive a little treat. Our students really seemed to enjoy the experience.



Our amazing leadership class kicked off Say Something Week with a variety of fun activities. Student were able to dress up for each day of the week and participate in virtual games at lunch time. We are proud to announces the following winners for the Say Something Creative Contest winners: Khushee Totla, Clara Gerlach, Jamie Lim, Luciana Pandolfo, Devine Manning & Ellie Pizer.



Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



Christie Forshey
Principal

100th Day of School

Riviera Kindergarteners & Teachers celebrate the 100th Day of School dressed as 100-year olds! No offense to the 97,000 centenarians in the United States or 573,000 worldwide! Just a bit of fun for our young Roadrunners!



Seaside *Elementary*

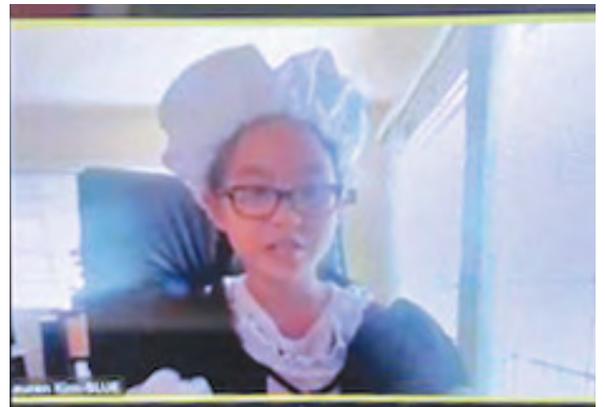
4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



Ellen Harrison
Principal

Welcome Back!

We now have all Tk-5th grade Blended Learning students back on campus! It has been so fun to see them learn and grow. All of our 5th grade students were able to experience a Walk Through the American Revolution. Students actively participated in a lively retelling of our nation's beginnings through the use of games, music, and storytelling.



Shery High School

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Back to Campus

Shery High School is excitedly waiting for the return of its students on Thursday, March 25th. It has been a long, lonely year of not seeing their faces on campus!

The students in the Blended program will begin coming back on campus two days a week for instruction. Cohort A will attend on Mondays and Fridays, and Cohort B will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in the Distance program will continue to attend their classes virtually from home. Our teachers are preparing to teach concurrently, which means that while they will have students in front of them in the classroom, they will also be streaming to the rest of the class through their Google Classroom.

Teaching the classes this way means that the students will receive direct instruction every day of the week. The students will be led through interactive lessons in which



the work is completed while they are in class with their teachers.

Embedding the work in the lessons will help our students learn and engage in every class period.

South High School

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



Michelle Fournier
Principal

Strength in the Face of Adversity

This is the most exciting *School News* I have written in over a year... South High is reopening! And while campus has been physically closed this past year, our Spartan Spirit has remained

very much alive! Never ones to give in or feel defeated, our students stepped up and found ways to virtually continue their activities and competitions; some even creating healthy ways to remain active even while attending classes online! Take a look at the inspirational story of one of South High's very own.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/innovative-torrance-high-school-student-creates-treadmill-desk>. Congratulations to our entire Spartan Community for displaying exceptional resilience and strength in the face of adversity.



Mikaela Lippon

Torrance *Elementary*

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Owl Pellets Spark Win

During a season when the school hallways had been practically empty and virtual learning was a struggle for most students, the district science team provided a ray of sunshine. In January, when school had been shut down yet again and virtual learning seemed like it might never end, the district science team announced that they were putting together a live owl-pellet

dissection for the fifth grade.

The science team worked out all of the logistics from beginning to end, including delivering the owl-pellet kits to each elementary school. The organization and execution made this a very enjoyable experience for the teachers and students. Once the students picked up their owl pellet kits, the excitement in their virtual class meetings was palpable. Days leading up to the experiment were filled with discussion involving the owl pellets: Who would lead the dissection? What schools would be attending? Would they be able to see their friends? What would they find when they cut up the owl pellet?

The hope of learning in a hands-on way cultivated an engagement that often seemed lost in virtual learning. The live dissection lived up to the hype, and students were engaged and consumed by the experiment. As stated by Kurt Vonnegut, "Science is the magic that works." In this situation, science was the magic that sparked enjoyment in learning once again!

Torrance Elementary sincerely thanks the science team and everyone involved in bringing this experiment to life!



Students from the learning pod participating in the live dissection

Torrance *High School*

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



Karim Girgis
Principal

Quarantine Court

We were very pleased to honor our "Quarantine Court" in February. The class of 2021 has been dealt a very tough hand our staff and ASB worked hard to create a special opportunity for some members of the class. Upperclassmen voted for the

court a.k.a. our top ten after the senior class selected the TOP 30. Typically, this event occurs as part of our Homecoming celebration but due to COVID we pushed it as far as we could. TOP 30 members were delivered congratulatory flower leis and snack baskets by members of the staff and the TOP 10 were invited to campus for the crowning of the King and Queen. Our Queen is Jenna Irasusta, Senior Class President, who is a member of both NHS & CSF and the track team. Our King is Jason Buentgen, Human Relations President and captain of both the water polo and swim teams.



Our administration would like to thank our faculty, staff and most importantly our students for their efforts and dedication during this unprecedented time!
TARTARPRIDE

Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

Meeting a Challenge

Torrance Adult School (TAS) provides educational services to the community. Whether face-to-face or online, we are very proud of the achievements of our students.

Carolina Heluy de Castro arrived in the United States a year and a half ago and decided to pursue the ambitious goal of validating her bachelor's degree in nursing sciences from her country. She believed this to be a time-consuming and arduous process that would require a lot of studying and patience. One of the most difficult steps in this process



TAS's Carolina Heluy de Castro,
Level 6 ESL Student

was to achieve a high score and pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. Studying English as a second language at TAS, Ms. Heluy de Castro was able to pass the TOEFL exam, which covers reading, listening, speaking and writing.

Although challenging, Ms. Heluy de Castro believes that effective communication is the basis of many professions and that communicating fluidly and correctly opens the doors to many more opportunities. She is extremely grateful to TAS, the ESL program and the instructors, and she continues to progress towards her goal.

Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



Sandy Skora
Principal

Thank You Food Service

This school year has been an interesting one. One in which changes have been a common occurrence. Something that has been constant this year is our hard working food service workers. At Towers, Dolores Nieto and Lori Valot work tirelessly in the cafeteria to provide daily breakfast and lunch

to our students. Peeking into our kitchen we can find them packing grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches for our kids. Not only do they provide 7 days a week of grab-and-go meals but they also provide hot meals for our YMCA students and those that are on campus all day. In addition, they do all this with smiles on their faces and a positive attitude. We wish to thank them for all they do for our school and helping to keep our children fed!



Victor Elementary

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



Bill Baker
Principal

Congratulations Honorary Service Awards Recipients

Victor enthusiastically recognizes our teachers, staff, and volunteers who go above and beyond in helping our students and community. This year's recipients of our PTA's Honorary Service Awards are: Victor Custodian Rudolph Casillas, PTA

President and parent volunteer, Ashley Elrod, parent volunteer Rebecca Yuan, community member David Lombard, and Victor teacher extraordinaire, Mr. Jeff Jennewein. Whether they are working hard to keep our school safe and clean, running enriching programs that benefit our students, offering free technology to teachers and seniors, or engaging our students with rigorous and relevant lessons, these extraordinary people help make our school and community a fantastic place to live and learn. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.



Top Left: Mrs. Rebecca Yuan, Left Middle: Mr. Rudolph Casillas, Bottom Left: Mr. David Lombard, Top Right: Mr. Jeff Jennewein, Bottom Right: Mrs. Ashley Elrod,

Walteria Elementary

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



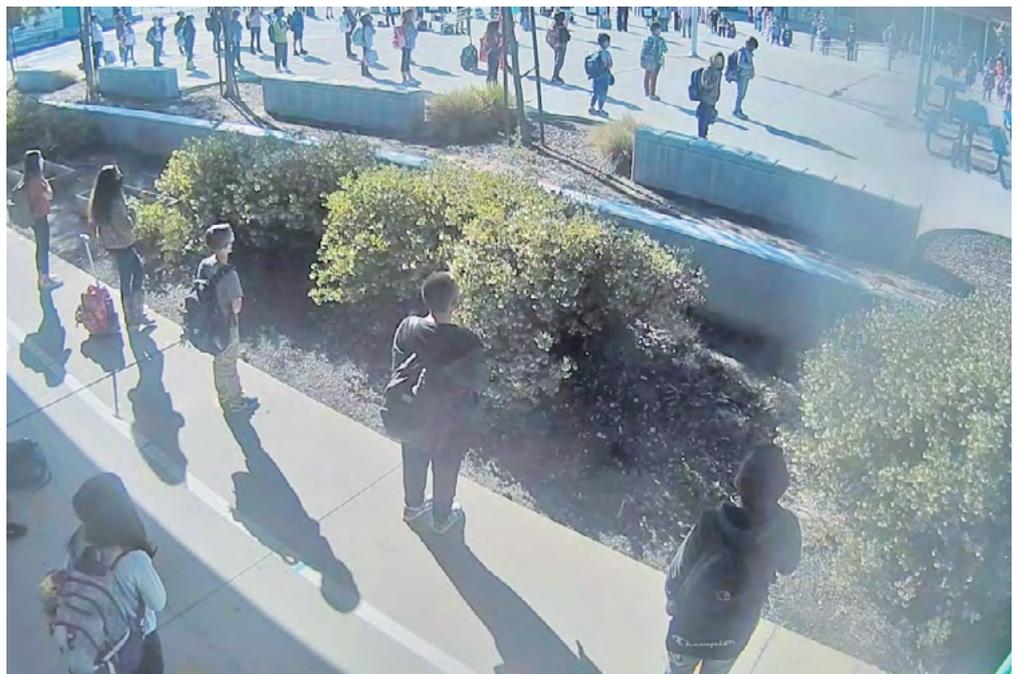
Dr. Efen Ponce
Principal

A Return Line No Other

Thanks to the hard work by our Board of Education, our staff, and our families, we can finally say that our school is fully open for the 2021 school year. On March 4th, Walteria and the rest of the TUSD

Elementary Schools opened their gates to the final group of students- our wonderful 3rd through 5th graders. As the gates opened and we got to see the smiles on our oldest children, one could clearly see that we had made the right decision in bringing this group of students back to school. I am proud to say that we have actively sought ways to make the best out of this academic year. Ultimately, our children

want to be at school and they are happy to abide by the DPH rules to do so. Having our students back on campus is a sign that we are finally in the home stretch!



West High School

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299 • whs.tusd.org



Jenna Murata
Principal

Celebrating the Arts!

In keeping with tradition, our Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) department presented their annual Fine Arts Assembly to celebrate and promote the incredible talents of our West High artists. The virtual assembly included performances from the past

and present including our band, choirs, dance, drill and all-male team, play production, and visual arts. As a California Exemplary Arts Education School, we are proud of our students who have figured out creative ways to share their talents from home while our campus has been closed. We are especially grateful for the passion and dedication of our VPA teachers who have

worked tirelessly to orchestrate innovative ways to teach and coach their artists in their virtual classrooms. We are looking forward to upcoming opportunities for our artistic groups to share in-person, socially distanced performances with their peers as we welcome our students back to campus this month!



West High's award-winning Play Production program performed Avenue Q in the fall of 2019.

Wood Elementary

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Welcome Back!

What a great day for our blended Woodchucks! On March 4, Wood Elementary welcomed back our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

Miss Yamamoto's door was decorated to welcome back her students

Miss Yamamoto led her third graders on their first day of in person instruction this year. Wood Elementary is so excited to have all of our blended cohorts back on campus.



Yukon Elementary

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



Elaine Wassil
Principal

Welcome Back

Coming back to campus means all the excitement can finally begin:

Dr. Seuss magic, pajama day, not to mention, lots of fun on our new completely renovated playground.

But really, I would have to say what counted most was the joy of seeing their teacher in person, with feet! And let's face it, best of all was seeing their friends again.

It is so wonderful to hear the laughter on campus again, and to see the children so full of spirit and spunk.

Thanks to Yukon's terrific staff and wonderful community the children enter the campus in a matter of minutes. They keep their distance respectfully and head right to their classroom.

Right now, their only complaint is "Why can't we stay longer?" Well, the pandemic has changed the world indeed!

But lots of good will, patience and hard work has kept Yukon together and thriving. It can only get better!



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 Please put Torrance 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 April 30, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.



Congratulations to *Katoya Tyiska*
Winner of our December Word Search Contest!

MASKS ARE REQUIRED AND ALL COVID PROTOCOLS WILL BE FOLLOWED

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FRAM Youth Director

tino@framsoccer.com

SEAN LOCKHART

Club Director of Coaching

sean@framsoccer.com

MIZZY

Technical Director

mizzy@framsoccer.com

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Jenna's Review



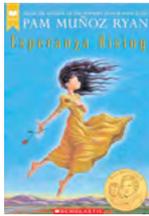
Jenna C.

Riches to Rags

Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be rich almost your whole life then become poor all of a sudden? Well this is the story of a girl named Esperanza. She used to live a luxurious life but one day when her father died everything went downhill. Esperanza's Uncle asked Esperanza's mother for a hand in marriage, of course she denied but then Esperanza's Uncle wasn't expecting that answer. Later one night her uncle set their nice house on fire! Then, Esperanza's mother accepted the proposal. But, something no one knew was Esperanza's mother planned an escape for California where they were free. They managed to escape secretly with a few friends, leaving her grandmother behind. They later landed in California in a camp that provided food and a place to stay as long as they worked. But, a few months later her mother got sick! Do you think Esperanza can save up enough money to bring her grandma? Do you think her mother will survive? I give this book 5 out of 5.



Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.



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Katie's Review



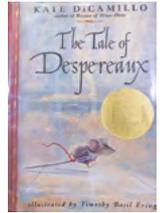
Katie C.

An Adventurous Mouse

Title: *The Tale of Despereaux*

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Have you ever felt like an outsider? Or like someone who didn't fit in? That's exactly how Despereaux, the tiny mouse with large ears, felt like in his family of mice. He



learns to read (which is forbidden) instead of eating books, and despite the consequences he faces, he continues to stay curious and explore the human world that has been largely left untouched for many years. Once he meets Princess Pea, he realizes that humans aren't as bad or dangerous as the mice claim to be. Rather, he wants to get to know them more and be able to live harmoniously with them, as they had once done before. In multiple adventures and close scares, Despereaux, accompanied by his companions, set out to rescue the princess from the danger that awaits. Will he be able to save her and unite the mice and humans? Read to find out! If you enjoy reading adventurous books, I recommend this book to you.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Yoona's Review



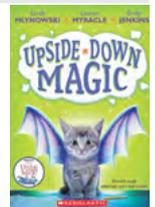
Yoona C.

Magic goes...

Title: *Upside-Down Magic*

Author: Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins

This book is a book where magic is real. A girl named



Nory Horace lived with her father, sister, and brother. Nory was a fluxer. Fluxers turn into animals. Every single time she wanted to become an animal she would have turned into that animal, but the other half would be another animal. When she turned into those things she would cause a lot of problems. Nory wanted to get to Sage Academy but she failed. After that her Aunt comes and takes Nory to Upside-Down School. Upside-Down School is a school where people go if they have Upside-Down magic. She enjoys Upside-Down school but she wants to be normal still. She then uses a box to help her and Elliot get out of Upside-Down School. She succeeds but she starts thinking how she is going to miss Upside-Down magic and her friends. Will Nory leave the school or not?

Yoona is a 3rd grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys singing and listening to music.

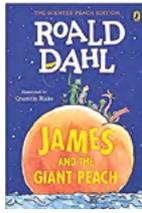
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Whoa, a Giant Peach!

James and the Giant Peach is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about James, an orphan boy who was forced to live with his wicked aunts after he lost his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident. One day,



James received a bag of magic crystals from an old man. The man said these crystals would change his life forever. James accidentally spilled the crystals on his aunts' peach tree. The peach fruit kept growing bigger and bigger. It grew big enough for James to fit inside. From that point on, his adventure began.

The story is magical and suspenseful. Reading this book taught me the importance of friendship and having hopes and dreams. I recommend this book for anyone who loves magic and mystery. Since this book is not very warm and fuzzy, it may be best for kids who can separate facts and fiction or younger kids to read with parents.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

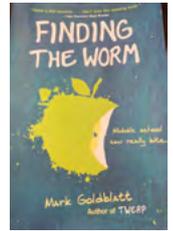
Sean's Book Review



Sean

Middle School Can Change Your Life

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt, is about a 7th grader, Julian Twerski, who attends McMasters Middle School. There, 9th graders are a real problem, as they are the bullies. Julian is seen



admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no. This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, Twerp. In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read Twerp before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

South End

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