

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Fullerton School District**



Volume 9, Issue 27

April 2022

## California League of Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year 2022



**Veronica Krause, Elementary School Teacher of the Year  
with Anthony Abney, Maple Elementary School Principal.  
(Please see page 2)**

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## California League of Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year 2022



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
*Superintendent*

Reminiscing about the champions and inspirations in her personal life and using that to impact her students is the makings of the California Leagues of Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year 2022. Fullerton School District is proud to announce that Maple School Teacher, Veronica Krause, has been selected for this special honor.

Ms. Krause, 3rd-grade teacher at Maple Elementary School, was chosen as California Elementary Educator of the Year by the California League of Schools at its annual conference in Monterey. Earlier this year, Ms. Krause was chosen as Elementary Educator of the Year for Region 11, which includes Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Ms. Krause was selected among all entries in the state of California and is in consideration for the national honor later this year.



Ms. Krause spoke about the importance of building trusting relationships with her students and families. She spoke about the impact of her champions, her parents and her teachers, who instilled in her the importance of working hard to achieve goals and helping others.

“I am thrilled that CLS chose Ms. Krause for this award, because she inspires the entire Maple Community each and every day. She is hardworking, caring, extremely talented, and she is on a mission to transform her students’ lives through education,” shared Maple School Principal, Anthony Abney.



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[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the  
**FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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562/493-3193

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Netragrednik

This school year is quickly coming to a close. It has been a challenging year for everyone, but we seem to be well on our way to a healthy summer.

Articles in this issue will make you want to be a student again. You will read about a Film Festival, Hockey Tournament, Jog-a-Thon, Coding, Science Fun and so much more...you might want to find a comfy chair and plan to read for awhile.

On pages 15 — 17 we have included our popular student book reviews to help with your child's summer reading choices. Music is the subject on pages 18-19. Be sure to enter the Seek 'n Find Contest on page 16 and see who won the

February Word Search Contest. Thank you for your nice comments when you email your answers. I can always tell when *School News* has been posted because the contest entries start appearing in my inbox.

Our next issue is October 5, 2022. Have a fun summer and be sure to include reading among your activity choices.



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# Educational Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Julienne Lee**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Life-Long Learning

Child Development Services in Fullerton School District will offer the following options in the 2022/23 school year:

- Part-time AM and PM sessions at Commonwealth, Hermosa, Maple, Orangethorpe, Pacific Drive, and Woodcrest
- Full-day/Full-year at Richman and Valencia Park
- Co-Teaching Classes at Pacific Drive and Orangethorpe

Preschool teachers at our schools integrate the Reggio Emilia philosophy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) concepts. The staff encourages students to use their creativity, imagination, and senses to express their ideas in personal and community contexts. This enthusiasm for knowledge, combined with the ability to experience project work will foster a predisposition for “life-long” learning. The goal of the preschool program is for all students to have a successful experience and achieve educational readiness skills in the most natural and inclusive environment. Preschoolers in our inclusive program will



**Students explore and engage through light and shadow in FSD Preschools.**

learn side-by-side, celebrating their similarities and their different abilities and cultures.

## Acacia Elementary School

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • [acacia.fullertonsd.org](http://acacia.fullertonsd.org)



**Rachel McCormick**  
Principal

## Principal for the Day

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a principal? At Acacia, 6th grader Jake and his sister Juliet got to experience exactly that as Principal for the Day. They began their day by visiting classrooms and leaving notes for the teachers.

After that they supervised recess and had a special lunch before going out to lunch duty. They both said that they enjoyed going through the classrooms, and seeing what the students were doing, but the highlight came at the end of the day. Jake stated that his wish as Principal, would be to play football. To help make that a reality, the football coach and several players from Troy High School came to Acacia to run a real football practice for Jake and his friends. Neither Jake or Juliet are if they want to be a principal when they grow up, but they had a great day acting as one.



**Jake and Juliet as Principals for the Day**

# Beechwood School

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • [beechwood.fullertonsd.org](http://beechwood.fullertonsd.org)



**Hannah Lim**  
Principal

## Robotics Club

Beechwood is full STEAM ahead this year in preparation for the upcoming FSD STEM Nation Competition on May 21, 2022. Earlier this year, we launched our Robotics club for grades Kindergarten through sixth grade, headed by our teacher coaches Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Cho, and Mrs. Lee. Tryouts were held in

February and we were amazed at the overwhelming response of students who wanted to be a part of the fun and learning. As the bi-weekly club practices progressed, our Bobcats were thrilled to be learning about drones, Cue Robots, Lego Spikes, Ozobots, and coding. In addition to learning the technical aspects, the students also worked on building critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity skills. Overall, the skills and memories they learned in this club will carry them through high school, career, and beyond. We cannot wait to see our Robotics Team show off what they have learned at FSD STEM Nation.



# Commonwealth Elementary School

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • [commonwealth.fullertonsd.org](http://commonwealth.fullertonsd.org)



**Anita Lomeli**  
Principal

## Games! Games! Games!

We all love to play games, and Commonwealth Tigers have been “showing their stripes” in math class using games as the strategy. Students are learning and demonstrating an understanding of concepts in math using games as both

a learning tool and as culminating activities. Our “Tiger Techs” are hard at work preparing a presentation for FSD Fest in April that will showcase these games and how they can be valuable learning experiences for students at all grade levels. Some high-tech options are using a Jeopardy-style practice session where teams compete to solve mixed number addition in an exciting and energetic collaborative game. Students learn not only the requisite math skills but also the skills

of working in a group and improving Social-Emotional strategies kids can use in all areas of school and in the future. We’re also using low tech options like cards and dice to make learning fun



## Fern Drive *Elementary School*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • [fern.fullertonsd.org](http://fern.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Julie Brandon**  
*Principal*

### Response to Intervention (RTI)

At Fern Drive, we are incredibly fortunate to have two coaches that provide Response to Intervention (RTI) services to students in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Response to Intervention is a three-tiered approach to early identification and support of

students with learning needs. At Fern Drive, this process begins the first day of school with high-quality instruction and universal screening for all students. RTI is a crucial part of student success at Fern Drive. Falcons receive daily targeted, specific instruction in skills they need to fine tune.

Student progress is carefully monitored, and teachers switch students based on progress approximately every eight weeks. In addition to doing these daily,

targeted rotations, our RtI coaches meet with students four times weekly to ensure that they are receiving targeted support with additional foundational skills. Falcons are soaring to new heights with extra support to build crucial foundational skills for success!



## Robert C. Fisler *School*

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • [fisler.fullertonsd.org](http://fisler.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Kimberly Benaraw**  
*Principal*

### Fisler Science Fun

Robert C. Fisler School students love science. Fisler's Annual Family Science Night event was an amazing event where families came out to enjoy a night of hands-on science exploration. This event was our first in person event and it was wonderful to see families come back on campus and enjoy a fun

night together. Families were able to visit 25 classrooms with fun science experiments and activities with teachers able to guide them in the experience. This was a great evening and we can't wait to do it next year!

We are also proud of our Fisler's Science Olympiad Middle School Team for finishing 5th overall in Southern California. We will be moving on to the State competition on April 2. Our students have worked hard all year long and we are excited for this upcoming opportunity to compete with the very best in the state! Go Navigators!



## Golden Hill *Elementary School*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • [golden.fullertonsd.org](http://golden.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Neil Anderson**  
*Principal*

### First Film Festival

On Friday, March 4, 2022, Golden Hill Elementary School held the first Golden Hill Film Festival! We had over 250 students create over 105

videos in four separate categories. Those categories were Biography/Documentary/PSA, Instructional and How to Films, Live Action, and Stop-motion/Animation.



We had students participate in grades TK-6!! From 5:00pm - 6:00pm, grade level videos were shown in four rooms (TK-2, 3-4, 5, 6), with 18 of our top films shown on our outdoor performance pavilion stage, on a beautiful night under the stars. This will hopefully become an annual event, especially as Golden Hill continues to fulfill its mission of becoming a true School of the Creative and Performing Arts.

## Hermosa Drive *Elementary School*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • [hermosa.fullertonsd.org](http://hermosa.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Caroline Llewellyn**  
*Principal*

### Jog-a-Thon

At Hermosa we love celebrating the whole child and making time for physical movement. Before spring break, our PTA sponsored Hermosa's annual jog-a-thon. First, we started with family dine-out nights at Fratellino's to "carbo-load" before the event. On Friday March 11th, parents came early to decorate the field, start the music,

and bring refreshments for our Hawks. During the event, the energy from the music and the parents cheering us on, kept our students running and enjoying the jog-a-thon. Every grade level participated in fundraising and jogging. We are so thankful for our outstanding PTA and community supporting our Hawks and sponsoring a fun event. We had a wonderful day outdoors, exercising, building community, and raising money for our school. Go, Hawks!



## Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • [ladera.fullertonsd.org](http://ladera.fullertonsd.org)



**Bill Lynch**  
Principal

### ***Curtains! A Musical Comedy Whodunnit***

Ladera Vista Junior High School for the Arts recently presented the Broadway musical, *Curtains!* with four performances April 7-8th, offering both matinee and evening shows. Our staff, parents and Fullerton community were treated to singing, dancing and

laughs in this heartfelt send up of musical theater itself. Our all-student backstage crew kept the production running while LVA is very fortunate to have a dedicated and involved group of parent volunteers to help support the production in all phases, including costume and set design.

The student cast and crew comes exclusively from Ladera Vista Productions (LVP), our musical theater production class. LVP also includes our “Triple Threat” students, which includes students who take a dance,

a choir, and a theater class in their student schedule. Students interested in joining the LVP program or other advanced performing arts electives can find information about auditions on our school website.



## Laguna Road *Elementary School*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • [laguna.fullertonsd.org](http://laguna.fullertonsd.org)



**Stephanie Guppy**  
Principal

### **Connecting with our Community**

The Laguna Road School vision strives for students to think creatively, take responsible risks, embrace diversity, and make impactful changes in their community through acts of public service and social responsibility. We create many opportunities throughout the year for students to apply their learning and create meaningful connections

with each other and their community. During the Great Kindness Challenge, our teachers partnered with a local business, and students wrote kindness notes that were displayed in the restaurant. Students were thrilled to come up with this creative idea to serve our local neighborhood. For Lunar New Year, students shared with their peers how their families celebrate. All

students dressed up in cultural outfits that day and proudly shared about their family heritage. Recently, we invited parents and community members for a “Day of the Reader” event. Students were given another opportunity to build relationships with those in the community, enjoying guest readers and creating opportunities for students to practice hosting. These events are some of the ways that we connect our students to one another and to their community.



## Maple *Elementary School*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • [maple.fullertonsd.org](http://maple.fullertonsd.org)



**Anthony Abney**  
*Principal*

### Maple Experiences are Back!

After a two-year hiatus, “Maple Experiences,” our 3-day, immersive science and environmental science experiences to Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) and Astrocamp are back and better than ever! Maple’s mission is to provide a world-class education to all its students through experiential learning. A cornerstone of this mission has been sending all of our 4th-, 5th-,

and 6th-grade students on these fantastic, rich, character-building experiences every year! Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have not been able to safely send our students on these amazing excursions. At CIMI, our 5th graders learn marine biology and ocean and island ecology through snorkeling, kayaking, and hands-on activities. At Astrocamp, our 4th and 6th graders learn astronomy, engineering, physics, and mountain/chaparral ecology through indoor and outdoor labs as well as high-powered telescopes.



## Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • [nicolas.fullertonsd.org](http://nicolas.fullertonsd.org)



**Mauricio Gormaz**  
*Principal*

### Exceptional Elective Opportunities

During the month of March, Nicolas Jr. High students and staff welcomed our incoming 7th graders to visit the Nicolas campus and to learn about the exceptional elective opportunities students will have. Mr. Gormaz, the Nicolas Principal, reminded all incoming students that they are special and have an

opportunity to develop their interests at Nicolas through an exceptional variety of elective classes. Advanced Coding, FESTO, Robotics, Drones, Dance, Strength and Conditioning, Digital Art Design, Band and many other electives are sure to inspire and promote a well-balanced education. The entire Nicolas school community took part in welcoming our incoming

students to ensure they felt welcomed and understand the many elective choices they have. Associated Student Body (ASB) students, Nicolas Ambassadors and the Dance team played a key role welcoming our new students to campus. No matter the elementary school they attend, they are now Knights and we look forward to having them join the Nicolas family!



**Nicolas Knights welcome incoming 7th Graders!**

## Orangethorpe *Elementary School*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • [orangethorpe.fullertonsd.org](http://orangethorpe.fullertonsd.org)



**Deborah Bennett**  
*Principal*

### Read Across America Night

Read Across America week, February 28 – March 4 saw Orangethorpe students and staff participating

in reading activities while showing their school spirit. Crazy hairstyles, Superheroes, friend's day and rainbow colors were the norm throughout the week. The culminating event involved students wearing their pajamas and families joining us for an evening "Booknic". Families brought blankets, dinner and books and enjoyed each other's company sitting on the grass in the warm evening air. Activities available for families and students included, creating bookmarks, photo booth and a



book give-away and a fun time was had by all. The evening ended with cookies, hot chocolate, happy students and happy parents, which was a great event to wrap up Read Across America week.

## Pacific Drive *Elementary School*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • [pacific.fullertonsd.org](http://pacific.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Kelly Castillo**  
*Principal*

### Variables, Loops, and Sensors: 4th Graders Learn to Code Rollercoasters

Thanks to the generosity of the Fullerton Education Foundation, Pacific Drive fourth grade students participated in a one of a kind field trip to Knotts' Berry Farm. This experience connected directly with the coding skills

students apply in class as a part of the Pacific Drive Computer Science Pathway. On the trip, students spent the day with a PLC Programmer and a Functional Safety Engineer learning the ins and outs of their favorite rides, including the use of motors, sensors, and gyroscopes. Upon their return to school, students were able to put their new knowledge to use with their new Lego Spike Robot kits. With practice, they also have the opportunity to design and code their very own roller coasters. A great time was had by all. And of course, no trip to Knotts' would be complete without a few rounds of Ghost Rider!



**Inspired by Reshma Saujani, Founder of Girls Who Code, Pacific Drive Fourth Graders put the book "How to Code a Roller coaster" into action.**

## Parks Junior High School

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • [parks.fullertonsd.org](http://parks.fullertonsd.org)



**Laura Makely**  
Principal

### California School to Watch

Parks Junior High School was honored this month as a California School to Watch at the California League of Schools conference in Monterey. Fullerton School District Board President Beverly Berryman,

Superintendent Dr. Robert Pletka, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Julienne Lee accompanied the Parks team to celebrate the achievement. The conference featured guest speakers and breakout sessions on school culture, leadership, and education innovation hosted by school leaders from around the state. Principal Laura Makely and teachers Christina Chong and Van-Anh Vuong-Dac

were selected to present on the school's Tutorial program, leading a breakout session in which they shared best practices in the area of academic intervention.



## Raymond Elementary School

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • [raymond.fullertonsd.org](http://raymond.fullertonsd.org)



**Cristina Centeno**  
Principal

### Celebrating Black History Month

Each February, Raymond Elementary honors and celebrates Black History Month. Staff and students work to elevate experiences and learn about the contributions of our Black community. This year, we were privileged to have two guest speakers, Mrs. Juanita DeVaughn and Mrs. Brenda Darby, who shared their

stories on how and why they were a part of the Civil Rights Movement. Both lady leaders spoke to a few grade levels where they shared their memories of attending The March on Washington and hearing in person Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s memorable speech, "I have a Dream". They answered students' questions about their experiences, hopes, and dreams. Listening to Mrs. Juanita and Mrs. Brenda's words inspired our students to be kind, help others, and stand up for what you believe in.



**Mrs. Juanita and Mrs. Brenda sharing their stories of The March on Washington in 1963.**

## Richman *Elementary School*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • [richman.fullertonsd.org](http://richman.fullertonsd.org)



**Kristen Holm**  
Principal

### Richman Reading Olympics

Second and third grade students participated in the 1st Annual Reading Olympics in response to Dr. Pletka's 60-day Warp Speed Challenge! The Reading Olympics kicked off in November with iReady goal-setting. The classroom teachers were joined by a team including Ms. Holm, Principal, Mrs. Gaer, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Hartgrave, Reading Rti Coach, teachers and support staff. For the

next 60 days, the team provided 20-minute rotations of strategic, guided-reading instruction to all 105 students every day. The students read highly-engaging, diverse, and authentic texts and the lessons were differentiated based on the students' needs. At the closing ceremony, parents watched as the students were awarded a certificate and a gold medal in front of the brand-new Richman Racers mural. As a result of their hard work, these outstanding 2nd and 3rd graders increased their iReady scores by a total of 3,660 points! Way to go, Racers! We are proud of you!



**Richman Reading Olympians improved 3,660 points on their overall iReady Reading Scores.**

## Rolling Hills *Elementary School*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • [rolling.fullertonsd.org](http://rolling.fullertonsd.org)



**Juleen Faur**  
Principal

### The Arts take Center STAGE

The long tradition of musical theater has returned this Spring to Rolling Hills. Our youngest thespians to the stage performed a rousing rendition of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, where our transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students stole the show with their roles as the cow, sheep, and the hip hop bunnies! Our 3rd-6th grade students are next up with the STAGE performance of

*A Year of Frog and Toad*. Performances of *A Year of Frog and Toad* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* were directed by our very own Mrs. Sapien and Mrs. Hogerhuis, who continue to be dedicated to our theater arts programs. Congratulations go out to all the students and staff who participated! This long-standing partnership with the district's All the Arts program allows us to offer robust after-school musical theater, art, photography, and music programs each year. We look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come!

## Sunset Lane *Elementary School*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • [sunset.fullertonsd.org](http://sunset.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Tracy Gyurina**  
*Principal*

### Annual Hockey Tournament

For the first time in three years, Fullerton School District was able to host its annual hockey tournament, and our students were so excited to participate. Sunset Lane's hockey team consisted of both fourth and fifth grade students that were dedicated, fierce, and persistent throughout the competition. Coach Konrad began the journey of creating our hockey team by introducing the sport

as part of his physical education instruction. Students that found they had a passion and interest in playing hockey were then able to try out for the team. Watching the students work together as team, demonstrate their enthusiasm for the sport, and have the courage to try something new was inspiring. Parents and staff created an enthusiastic cheering section for our students and we were able to celebrate together our fourth place victory out of eighteen teams. We couldn't be prouder of our Sunset Lane hockey team. Go Seahawks!



**Sunset Lane's amazingly fierce hockey team.**

## Valencia Park *Elementary School*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • [valencia.fullertonsd.org](http://valencia.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Guillermo Muñoz**  
*Principal*

### Breakfast, Blankets and Books

When you walk the hallways of Valencia Park, you can hear books being read from every classroom at all times of the day. Our teachers and students value the importance of literacy and wanted to share it with our VP families. On Read Across America Day, we opened our gates to VP families to join us for "Breakfast, Blankets and Books!" This one hour event, brought over 100 families

together on the field to enjoy reading books together with their students. Spread across a blanket you could find—yummy snacks, good books, and smiling families. The RAA/RTI team challenged all students to write book titles of stories they were reading on colorful Post-its and fill in the word READ. In true LION fashion, VP students stepped up and filled the letters with book titles. This was just the first of many family, fun-filled events to come!



# Woodcrest Elementary School

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • [woodcrest.fullertonisd.org](http://woodcrest.fullertonisd.org)



**Rochelle Wolf**  
Principal

## 6th Grade Science Camp

Our 6th graders went to camp for the first time in over 15 years, thanks to fundraising and generosity of our community partners. Students in Mrs. Bergen's and Mr. Nunez' class took a boat from Long Beach to the Catalina

Island Marine Institute. They were immersed in science as soon as they stepped off the board. They participated in an ecology hike, squid dissection, invertebrates and shark labs, where they got to pet actual sharks. They participated in team building activities such as low and high ropes, and rock climbing. Campers did an orientation snorkel, where students saw a variety of local fish. Students also learned how to kayak and spent a couple of hours in the beautiful ocean. The

last night, we had a campfire, with storytelling, skits, and smores. An added bonus were the spectacular stars we could see. Truly a magical trip!



## FSD Distance Learning

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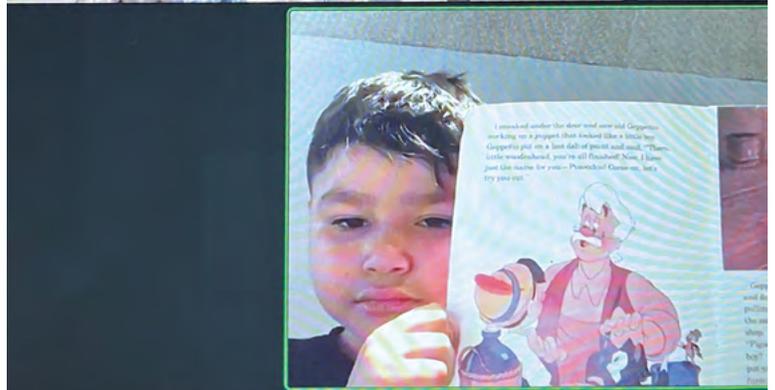


**Robin Mundschau**  
Interim Principal

## Relationships and Reading Skills

FSD Distance Learning has been working to support students building relationships and reading skills. One way this is being done is by Buddy Reading. Our Kindergarten students and our 3rd grade students have buddied up and are reading together via Zoom. Mrs. Kim and Mrs. Culhane have coordinated and worked together to create a great opportunity for

students to interact with one another and learn from each other in a safe and collaborative environment. With great excitement and anticipation, our 3rd grade students have individually prepared books to read to their Kindergarten buddies each week. One of Mrs. Culhan'es Kindergarten students said "I love my buddy! She was kind and nice just like me!" Buddy Reading has supported our 3rd grade students in taking ownership of their fluency growth and leadership skills while empowering our Kindergarteners to ask questions and give feedback on their buddy's books. Students have enjoyed this opportunity to read and share with each other.



# Daniel's Review



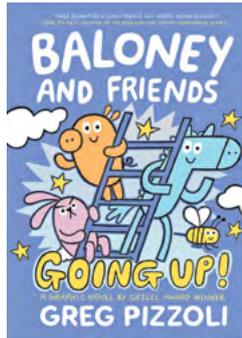
**Daniel H.**

## Funny Friends!

Title: *Baloney and Friends: Going Up!*

Author: Greg Pizzoli

Baloney the pig and his friends Peanut the horse, Bizz the bee, and Krabbit the crabby rabbit do funny



things and have fun in the many short stories of this second book of the Baloney and Friends series! You'll laugh about the things they do, like finding a lost sneeze, using a ladder, and appreciating trees.

My favorite story is when Baloney and his friends make up a silly theme song for their group and everyone helps out in their own way. Baloney is my favorite character because he is a good friend. I felt happy when I read this book and I think you should read it too!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.



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## David's Review



David H.

### The Aliens

Title: *We're Not From Here*

Author: Geoff Rodkey

*We're Not From Here* is about a kid named Lan and his family who travel from their human colony on Mars to a faraway planet Choom



to start a new human population. Unfortunately, once they get there, the aliens on Choom tell them to leave immediately. Now they have a big problem that they have to figure out because they don't have enough fuel in their spaceship to go back to Mars. What do they do? Read and find out! I really liked this book and I recommend that you should read this book too if you like action, suspense, and humor.

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

## Kailani's Review

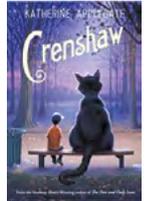


Kailani T.

### An Imaginary Friend

*Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate

*Applegate* is about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson's dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move from place to place.



When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson's life whenever Jackson needs help.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they're imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

# FUTURE ROYAL DISCOVERY DAY

Sunday, May 1  
Starting at 12:30 pm  
@ Rosary Academy

Is your daughter interested in learning more about Rosary Academy and experiencing an all-girl high school environment?

*"Rosary has shaped me into a fearless, confident, and determined young woman" -Annabella B. '23*

[WWW.ROSARYACADEMY.ORG/FUTUREROYAL](http://WWW.ROSARYACADEMY.ORG/FUTUREROYAL)

## Contest!

This chicken is somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put Fullerton in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by July 15, 2022  
From the correct entries, we will draw one winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to Anna & Noah Yam**  
Winners of the February Word Search Contest!

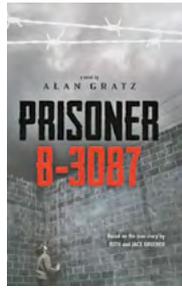
## Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

### True Courage

Based on the true story of Jack Gruener, *Prisoner B-3087*, a beautifully written realistic novel by Alan Gratz, describes a young Jewish boy's life which slowly breaks apart as Nazi soldiers invade his



city. On top of being snatched from his home and forced to work in 10 concentration camps, Yanek Gruener persevered through his hardships by never relinquishing his drive to survive. For example, even when Gruener suffered the pain of starvation and being tattooed, he did not flinch nor express his despair. In the end, he was rescued and reconnected with his neighbors and relatives by the American army; the story teaches readers about determination and self-control. Readers who enjoy sorrowful war tales will enjoy this historical fiction. I am reminded to have a heart of gratitude and to remain strong in challenging times.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.

## Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

### Love and Courage

Title: *Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere*

Author: Julie T. Lamana  
Alex, Betsy, Donna, Elsa, and Fiona. Do you know what these are? They are not the names of my friends. They are all hurricane's names. This



book is about a girl and her family who lived in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans where 'Hurricane Katrina' hit.

Armani Curtis is waiting for her 10th birthday. She is very excited for her birthday and looking forward to it. It seems that everything goes well. However, Hurricane Katrina hits her town on her birthday. What will happen to her and her family? Can she go through with this hard time? What do the boots in the book cover mean for her?

This is a realistic fiction story for upper graders. As you read the book, I am sure that you can find yourself cheering for Armani.

Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.



# CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Commuter & Overnight Options!*

**Instrumental Camp**  
June 13–17, 2022

**Choral Camp**  
June 20–24, 2022

**Registration ends May 1, 2022**

Sign up at [Chapman.edu/summer-music-camp](https://Chapman.edu/summer-music-camp)



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## Music in History

By D. H. Coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. [www.HistoryDepot.com](http://www.HistoryDepot.com)



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## Note-ables



### 'Strawberry Band,' The Story Pirates

When you were little, did you write songs and stories with dreams of publication?

Too bad the Story Pirates weren't around then. These artists and educators take silly stories that children

make up and turn them into even sillier songs and videos. Piracy? Nah—they make a child's dream real!

*The Strawberry Band* is the most recent of the Pirates' compilations. The title song, based on a story written by a 5-year-old, introduces the band and teaches young listeners what a concept album is: a group of songs connected by a theme, "some more so than others," but you'd be correct in saying that the whole idea is spending your childhood in the best possible way.



"Weird Sisters" celebrates being different yet fabulous enough for others to emulate and to brush off bullies. "Glowy and the Friend Adventure" tells of a whale, lonely in his sea mansion, who finds a friend who's just right. "Fun Crazy Weird Hair Store" has a cautionary subtext: check the prices before pulling out your credit card and paying five thousand million dollars.

The music is wonderful and no mere afterthought. "Glowy," enhanced by Marile Bildsten's trombone, will be an earworm forever; the haunting melody of "Blue Night" would be perfect for a jazz concert.

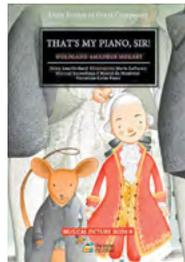
Read the [original stories here](#). If you know any young authors who'd like to submit their own works, [here's the place](#).

Ah, the innocent silliness of youth! If we only could have boarded that pirate ship back then . . .

### Little Stories of Great Composers Series

What better way to introduce children to great composers than with beautifully illustrated storybooks coupled with recordings of read-alouds and enhanced by tidbits of Tchaikovsky, morsels of Mozart and little Vivaldi victuals? Even better, a cheese-and-music-loving mouse narrates the tales!

Minim is the fly on the wall—rather, the mouse in the house—who gives young listeners slices of the composers' lives as he scrounges for slices of cheddar. In "A Delicious Taste of Mozzarella!," Minim slips out of a crack in the wall to eavesdrop on "Uncle Petya" surprising his niece and nephew with a gift: a musical score. The children are at first disappointed; then, their uncle teaches them how to play the composition on the piano. They realize how music can bestow magic on the spirit. Uncle Peta is, of course, Pyotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky.



In "That's My Piano, Sir!" Minim is hoping for leftover goodies after voyagers leave a boat on a busy dock. A sudden crash shatters the briny air. An exhausted dockworker has dropped a huge crate, which turns out to be a folded piano. The customs officer is cranky and not in the mood for any tomfoolery until a nicely dressed, polite child says, "That's my piano, sir!" The lad sits down, plays, and charms away everyone's ill humor with "A Little Night Music." Minim finds his cheese, and we discover Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart!

Concert pianist Ana Gerhard authored the books, and Marie Lafrance illustrated them. Canadian stage actor Colm Feore was the cultured voice of Minim, and Canadian chamber music orchestra I Musici de Montreal played the score. A wonderful introduction to great composers and, as Minim shows, just what the spirit needs today!

### Finding Friends

Oran Etkin's latest collection is more than a trip around the world in music. With "Finding Friends," listeners take an actual journey to six countries—the Czech Republic, Zimbabwe, China, Turkey, Russia and Japan—where Etkin and his instruments actually visited for this project. There, they'll hear unspeakably beautiful and catchy, upbeat songs performed in both English and the native languages.

The collection was originally recorded with an adult audience in mind, but Etkin soon realized that the music would appeal to children as well. He and the musicians in each country overdubbed conversational introductions to the songs and taught a few words of the native languages—another attraction for parents and educators.



If you find learning words in other languages fascinating, wait until you meet all the instruments. Etkin's clarinet, the feature character, bears the name—what else—Clara Net. You're likely familiar with accordions, drums and bass clarinets, one of which is Clara's big brother. But what's a cimbalom, or an mbira? Can an erhu—a two-stringed Chinese fiddle—pack the same resonance as its four-stringed U.S. cousin? Listen and engage.

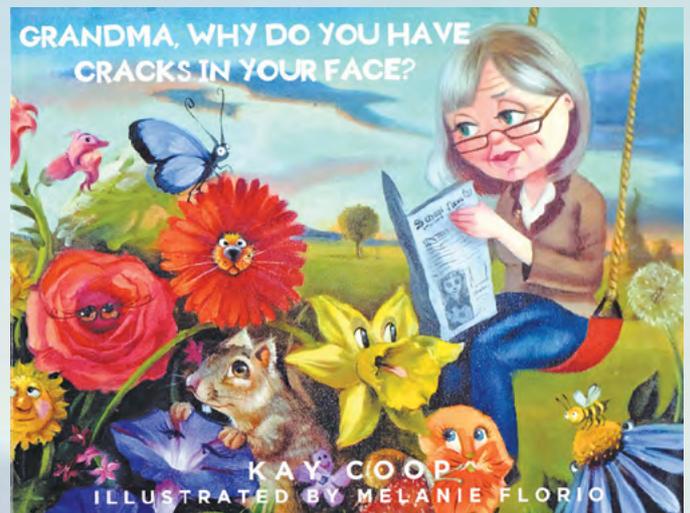
Depending on your national origin or culture, you may recognize a few of the songs and appreciate the arrangements, like the surprising Latin beat of the Czech song "Chaye Shukariye" or the jazz flavor that Clara Net added to the Yiddish chicken soup of "Tumbalalaika." The big takeaway is, however, the appreciation of diversity in our common language: music.

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



# Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



NOW AVAILABLE ON  
**AMAZON &  
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*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.