

School News

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Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District



Volume 4, Issue 12

May 2022

Celebrating 2021-22



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The final edition of our PAUSD *Roll Call* for this school year is dedicated to site reflections related to the PAUSD Promise. We chose the word “promise” intentionally. It’s more than a strategic plan or contract. A promise is personal. It’s a commitment that is meant to be kept.

Our schools are rigorous and competitive... sometimes to a fault. It is important for us to remain focused and purposeful in the things we prioritize. For that reason, we have five priority goals heading into 2022-23. We will focus our efforts on the following:

Serve and Celebrate Others
Mental Health
Early Literacy
Equity and Excellence
Healthy Attendance

We are able to do special things in PAUSD due to the people who make it possible. Our staff is professional and dedicated. They are supported by an amazing community, including our partners from PTA and Partners in Education (PiE). Together, our parent organizations contribute nearly 50,000 volunteer hours and \$5 million to our operational budget to support high-priority areas.

PAUSD respects the journey as much as the destination. Please enjoy the summary of our progress this year and our plans to embrace a culture of continuous improvement together. We have many things to celebrate in 2021-22 and many reasons to be optimistic about our future together!

PAUSD Roll Call 的最终版本专门介绍与 PAUSD Promise 相关的学校反思。我们有意选择了“承诺”这个词。这不仅仅是一个战略计划或合同。承诺是个人的。这是一个注定要遵守的承诺。

我们的学校严谨且具有竞争力...有时也许过度。对我们来说，在我们优先考虑的事情上保持专注和有目的性是很重要的。因此，我们有五个优先目标进入2022-23年。我们将集中精力在以下方面：

服务和庆祝他人
心理健康
早期识字
公平与卓越
健康出勤率



Dr. Donald B. Austin
Superintendent
of Schools

La edición final de nuestro “PAUSD Roll Call” está dedicada a las reflexiones de nuestras escuelas relacionadas con la Promesa PAUSD. Elegimos la palabra “promesa” intencionalmente. Es más que un plan estratégico o un contrato. Una promesa es personal. Es un compromiso que debe cumplirse.

Nuestras escuelas son rigurosas y competitivas... a veces a una falta. Es importante para nosotros permanecer enfocados y con propósito en las cosas que priorizamos. Por esa razón, tenemos cinco objetivos prioritarios de cara a 2022-23. Centraremos nuestros esfuerzos en lo siguiente:

Servir y celebrar a los demás
Salud mental
Alfabetización temprana
Equidad y Excelencia
Asistencia saludable

Somos capaces de hacer cosas especiales en PAUSD debido a las personas que lo hacen posible. Nuestro personal es profesional y dedicado. Cuentan con el apoyo de una comunidad increíble, incluidos nuestros socios de PTA y Partners in Education (PiE). Juntas, nuestras organizaciones matrices contribuyen anualmente con 50,000 horas de voluntariado y \$5 millones a nuestro presupuesto operativo para apoyar áreas de alta prioridad.

PAUSD respeta el viaje tanto como el destino. Disfrute del resumen de nuestro progreso este año y nuestros planes para adoptar juntos una cultura de mejora continua. ¡Tenemos muchas cosas que celebrar en 2021-22 y muchas razones para ser optimistas sobre nuestro futuro juntos!

我们能够在PAUSD做特殊的事情，因为人们使它成为可能。我们的员工专业敬业。他们得到了一个了不起的社区的支持，包括我们来自PTA的合作伙伴和教育合作伙伴 (PiE)。我们的家长组织每年共贡献 50,000 个志愿者小时和 500 万美元的运营预算，以支持高度优先的领域。

PAUSD一样的尊重旅程和终点。请欣赏我们今年进展的总结，以及我们共同拥抱持续改进的文化。在2021-22年，我们有很多值得庆祝的事情，也有很多理由对我们共同的未来感到乐观！



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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Superintendent Austin begins this issue on page 3 with his message about the PAUSD Promise. Each school article highlights that Promise.

We included student book reviews on page 16. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for

information. This is perfect timing while they are reading this summer.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 15 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is November 2nd. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices.



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Parent To Parent

Activities Away from Technology



Jodie Lynn

Q. My 10-year-old son only wants to stay indoors, play video games and eat chips and the like. He doesn't like sports. I'm trying to get him outdoors and moving but he complains about the heat. Any ideas on how to get him away from becoming a couch potato and away from the TV?

A. There are plenty of programs that your son might like such as swimming, drawing, painting, camping, making pottery, volunteering at a pet shelter, cooking, graphic design for kids, etc. The whole idea is to get him into a scheduled activity three to five days a week. Some of the facilities where the activities take place have lunch served to the kids. It's usually a pretty healthy one at that. They should give you a weekly copy of them. If not, ask for one. Some programs allow kids to bring their lunch. This means that he will be eating less of the bad things and more of the good. He might even decide that eating fruit is a good break from chips. If your son can find something he likes and can participate in it with a friend, he'll be more willing to stick with it, especially if there's no pressure to be a super star. This will also give him less time to play video games or to watch TV.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com

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Addison *Elementary School*

650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5935 • addison.pausd.org



Amanda Boyce
Principal

Addison: A Community Committed to Serving Others

What I've always loved about being an educator is that we move in cycles; there's beginnings, endings, and predictable patterns that occur throughout the year. When I think back to all the years I've been Addison's Principal, what is most evident is our community's dedication to serving others.

I want to recognize and acknowledge our vibrant and committed families. Their dedication to our school, whether it be on PTA, Site Council, event committees, or volunteering is unparalleled. I'm so grateful for your partnership and work to increase opportunities, enjoyment, and a strong sense of belonging at Addison.

When I think about the ways our staff provides service to others, I am overwhelmed by their generosity and tremendous work ethic. It was a collective effort that

involved many to create a vision for remodeling our school. As construction completed, we were faced with the pandemic. Despite the uncertainty and fears, staff returned to work and demonstrated resilience, patience, and perseverance as we grappled with learning model and health protocol changes. I am so proud of the efforts involved with launching the first PAUSD+ class and the steps it took to return to full time in-person instruction.

Finally, when I reflect on the frequent, consistent, and sometimes unnoticeable acts of kindness, I think of our students. Every day they offer a smile or hand when they notice a friend in need, work alongside peers who may be struggling, guide buddies in multi-age activities, and take the time to teach and/or cheer each other on in the playground. My favorite experiences are interacting with the students as I feel instantly uplifted observing the ways they demonstrate service to others. Addison School is a very special place that will continue to thrive due to the generous, committed, and thoughtful individuals across the community.

Barron Park *Elementary School*

800 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/858-0508 • barron.pausd.org



Judy Argumedo
Principal

Healthy Attendance for Barron Park

As I end my first year as Principal of Barron Park, I have been reflecting on the five priority goals, and they are all important. However, Healthy Attendance has risen in my mind as one of the top. As I interact with students on the playground and classrooms, I witness what motivates them to come to campus: field trips, interactive learning

at the Maker Space, clubs, spirit days, friends, games, Junior Museum lessons, and a caring staff. Barron Park is providing a well-rounded education. On March 29, fourth and fifth graders went to Coloma for a day. Parents told me their kids were so excited they woke up early or could not sleep. I went with the students and saw how a simple hike with classmates was motivating to learn about the gold rush era. The trip inspired me to ensure Barron Park continues to offer a high quality education.



Duveneck *Elementary School*

705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/322-5946 • duveneck.pausd.org



Leslie Crane
Principal

Service to Others: Partnership with Palo Alto High School Tutors

Everyone Can Be Great,
Because Everyone Can Serve.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Duveneck School has been honored this year to partner with Paly Tutors from the Child Development Class. These tutors supported our students in the classroom as well as helped out during lunch time, and playing games and activities.

One of the most memorable events this year was our tie dye activity. All our students were able to tie dye a t-shirt or bandana. As our students stepped up to the dye coloring stations, the Paly Tutors squirted the dye onto their shirts/bandanas, and were then



placed in bags with instructions on how to rinse and wash at home. The following Friday, we had a Tie Dye Spirit Day which we all wore our t-shirts and bandanas.

This partnership of high school students with elementary students is a prime example of the PAUSD Promise: Service to Others.



El Carmelo *Elementary School*

3024 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0960 • elcarmelo.pausd.org



Aleyda Barrera-Cruz
Principal

Supporting Our Students to Become Proficient Readers

One of our greatest commitments this year was to improve literacy outcomes for all our students, with a focus on Every Student Reads Initiative (ESRI) students. To close the achievement and opportunity gap in literacy, staff engaged in many different strategies, including participating in monthly Professional Learning Communities, doing inquiry cycles, implementing the Orton Gillingham reading

method, participating in data meetings to measure growth, and learning about the California EL Road Map.

One strategy staff committed to implementing was the creation of an identity bulletin board in each classroom. Students brought a variety of family pictures and the boards created a welcoming environment. A second strategy was an academic vocabulary chart based on the work from Dr. Kate Kinstella. Teachers introduce academic vocabulary prior to a lesson or unit of study by explicitly teaching the meaning of words, ways to use the words and representing the word in a picture.

Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-9810 • fletcher.pausd.org



Melissa Howell
Principal

Thankful

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

—Mahatma Gandhi, 1869

The end of the school year is right around the corner. As we move toward the finish line, I wanted to acknowledge and celebrate each other for all that has happened. I am thankful for a dedicated staff, that jumped right back into creating a new ‘normal’ for our students while navigating finding that new ‘normal’ for themselves. I am thankful to our students for bringing back the joy and laughter. Our students have been instrumental in helping to recreate spaces for all to enjoy. They participated in creating our new garden, letters to veterans, and making pet beds, to name a few. I am incredibly thankful for our families and our partnerships! Without them, we would not be able to accomplish and create some phenomenal projects and opportunities.



Creating Our Friendship Garden.

Escondido *Elementary School*

890 Escondido Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94305 • 650/856-1337 • escondido.pausd.org



Marcela Simoes de Carvalho
Principal

Celebrating the Escondido Staff

One of the five priority goals in PAUSD’s Promise is in Service to Others. Over the past two years, the Escondido staff has consistently met and exceeded expectations in this priority goal area.

During the 2020-21 school year, we shifted from distance learning to hybrid to a full return program. Escondido teachers maximized the expertise of instructional aides who worked with small groups.

Teachers provided students with intervention by ZOOM or in-person. We closed the school year being one of the first PAUSD schools to join the “full return” pilot. By April 2021, our school had the most classes come back to in-person learning. The Escondido staff were brave trailblazers. Some teachers had classrooms loaded to “normal” size or courageously powered through the entire 180 days in DL, keeping up with materials distributions every two weeks!

This year we rolled up our sleeves and tried something completely new. With a dedicated RTI/WIN block schedule and an expanded team, we built the plane as we flew it! It was hard, messy, and at times it was plain ugly when we adjusted mid-flight. We simultaneously ramped up our SEL, school-wide yoga, student-led Noon Clubs, PD (OG, TC Lab School, Equity), partnered with the junior museum and Playworks, and eight team members piloted new science or language arts programs. Throughout the year the Escondido staff has expertly kept 12 plates spinning in the air while wearing roller skates and made it look easy!

It’s hard to look back, yet rewarding. Our staff never gave up, and always believed in our mission to teach and support students. Their hard work has made an impactful and positive difference in the lives of students despite the challenges these past two years. We celebrate the Escondido staff, a community of “builders” in service of others.

Fairmeadow *Elementary*

500 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0845 • fairmeadow.pausd.org



Iris Wong
Principal

Year End Reflections

As I reflect on the 2021-22 school year for Fairmeadow, the first thoughts that come to mind are perseverance and connectivity. Despite starting off the year with some uncertainties, the Fairmeadow staff and community continued to

persevere through the updates in protocols/guidelines that were necessary to keep us healthy and present. This was the year where we especially focused on community building and connecting with each other. Fairmeadow PTA and staff worked hard to establish programs that fostered relationship building, including social emotional and mental health supports. Our programs and events also focused on how we could bring our families, community, students, and staff back together. Our creative thinking allowed us to participate in annual programs as well as new ones, such as the Kindness Challenge. We are truly grateful for the opportunities made available to Firebirds that helped build a sense of community and student connection.



Greendell *School*

4120 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-0833 • greendell.pausd.org



Shannon Coleman
Principal

Together Again at Greendell School

We started our school year at Greendell by welcoming back our students to in-person learning. Our families diligently followed the health and safety protocols and waited patiently to return on campus. Now that spring is here

and the restrictions have eased, we are thrilled to celebrate events as a school community again! A perfect example of this was our annual Young Athletes Day – Special Olympics program. We held the event after two years off



The Adapted PE Team: Angel Sheridan, Malcolm Lane & Roxanne Koopman



Parachute Fun



Home Run!

and the children were so proud to show their families and friends their skills at: basketball, soccer, parachute games, obstacle course, bowling, catching, throwing and hitting the ball. Thank you to the Adapted Physical Education team for making sports so fun. So many of our Greendell families volunteered and made the day special for all of our Greendell athletes. We missed sharing moments like these with our families and are so happy to have you back!

Frank S. Greene Jr. Middle School

750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/494-8120 • greene.pausd.org



Sebastian Benavidez
Principal

Greene's Student Wellness Center

Spring brought the official opening of Greene Middle School's Student Wellness Center. This warm, inviting space is open for students every day at lunchtime, staffed by our counseling team. On any given day, students can be found taking advantage of the space, whether lounging on comfy beanbags and reading, doing some mindful coloring, or gathering with a group of friends



to play a classic board game or Bingo! Our Wellness Center provides a haven for students away from the energetic bustle of the schoolyard. As it grows and expands into the 2022-23 school year, we plan to increase our mental health and wellness offerings to include guided art, yoga and mindfulness practices, as well as increasing the hours it is available as a safe space for students to decompress.



Henry M. Gunn High School

780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/354-8200 • gunn.pausd.org



Wendy Stratton
Principal

Gunn Students Lead the Way!

Based on survey results from their first equity leadership training, Gunn students found great value spending time developing their competency and confidence to engage in discussions about race. Having opportunities to listen and learn from peers in which race impacts

their experience was most powerful. Following the first full day workshop held in February, 95% of the (one hundred plus) participants expressed an interest in attending the follow up workshop taking place on April 22. The trainings, led by Dr. Lori Watson (aka "Dr. Law") will continue into the 2022-23 school year. Dr. Law "provides people with tools to engage in conversations about race." She believes "if we start to talk to each other and not stay racially isolated, then we will start to see some changes in our society." Creating a safe space for open dialogue about race seems to meet a critical need for the students of Gunn.



Herbert Hoover *Elementary School*

445 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/320-8106 • hoover.pausd.org



Jim Sherman
Principal

Service to Others at Hoover

The past two years have been challenging for everyone, but what has come out of this is a school community even stronger than before. One of our five priority goals this year is Service to Others, and all of us took this goal to heart.

We saw a need to bring parents together around students coming back in person.

When we spoke of the need for parents to help make this transition back to school smoother, one of our wonderful parents, Mabel Yiu who is an LMFT, really stepped up. She and I presented a webinar to our parents and families called, “Helping Kids Succeed with In-Person Learning.” Her desire to help provide service to others inspired her to give back. Mabel truly inspired all of us!

Our PTA members, who always provide service to others, went the extra mile in finding Maribel Ramirez,

a wellness coach, who presented at a virtual principal’s coffee about parent anxiety. It had been difficult transitioning having kids at home and changing work schedules just to have it change back again. We really needed Maribel!

Just think of the service to others provided by the many volunteer parents and community members who helped clean desks and classrooms. We even had parents from other schools who were here to help in any way they could. Simply amazing!

The countless hours our community and incredible staff have given to others this year is remarkable. Because of our dedicated volunteers in the morning; those making sure library books are on the shelves ready to go; our ABC readers who help ensure a safe and calm school climate; the teachers who organize spirit days and provide assistance to children after school; and the parents who organize fun lunchtime activities, Service to Others is stronger than ever at Hoover!

Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

480 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-5188 • jls.pausd.org



Chris Grierson
Principal

Mental Health

As we approach the end of the year, we have much to celebrate: Our students have accomplished a lot of learning, and all of us have survived a very different school year! Sometimes having something positive to

look forward to helps us get through stressful times. “Wellness Wednesdays” is an approach JLS has used to invite students and staff to connect with others in simple and fun ways during lunch. These might be through games, such as the “Connect-4 Challenge” or a recent “Skittles Conversation,” or a service project for neighbors in our community. Sometimes we are fortunate to have visitors, such as having seven service dogs visit our campus. It’s often in these small moments that people relax, smile, and laugh together. The positive energy that comes from these activities is a good reminder for why we belong at JLS: It’s because we enjoy being together.



Juana Briones *Elementary School*

4100 Orme St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0877 • briones.pausd.org



Kathryn Bimpson
Principal

Reflections on a Remarkable Year

Reflecting on yet another unprecedented year, I am in awe of the resilience and dedication of our entire Briones community. We have pivoted and collaborated to resolve challenges and changes in health protocols and accommodate the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students as they transition back to in-person learning. Our staff has focused on building trusting relationships with our students in order



Student Chalk Drawing 21-22

to cultivate social/emotional and academic growth. Our families and staff have rallied around each other as the trials, tribulations, and celebrations that life brings continue through the pandemic, and our extraordinary students have shown up, eager to learn, resolve challenges, and connect with their peers, staff, and school again. Our focus on relationships, community, and inclusion supports our mental health equity, and service to others goals. I am honored to be part of the Briones community!



Rainbow Over Briones!

Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 • 650/856-1622 • www.lmnixon.org



Amy Sheward
Principal

End of Year Reflections

As the end of the school year nears, we celebrate our growth and the special connections we have made.

Nixon teachers have always had a passion for literacy instruction, and this year was no exception. To boost our instruction, all K-3 teachers and specialists were trained in and implemented Orton-Gillingham methods and strategies to support foundational literacy skills. Teachers focused on literacy instruction, assessment, and supporting English Learners on each of our three professional development days and during teacher meetings. As we've learned and grown, so have our students.

We hope you will also reflect on how your students grew this year. Growth is not only measured in test scores and progress reports. It is also measured



1st grade student authors a book review.

by the relationships formed and the kindness spread throughout the year. And there were many connections made and much kindness spread at Nixon!

Ohlone *Elementary School*

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-1726 • ohlone.pausd.org



Dawn Yoshinaga
Principal

Positive Steps

Ohlone students are celebrated for their creativity, initiation, and advocacy. Students understand their value in their community and the impact of their voice. This year, Ohlone students initiated a special project that supports two of our critical district priority goals – Service to Others and Mental Health.

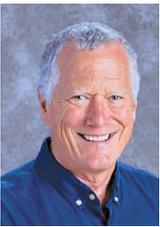
The Ohlone Guides are fifth graders who support their school community through

service and special projects that create a positive and inclusive school climate. Mental health is a priority, and students wanted to create a visible reminder that celebrates, validates, and inspires their peers.

This year, the Ohlone Guides worked on the Positive Steps Project. Affirming statements were presented to students and staff for a vote. The Ohlone Guides added these statements to each stair so that students (and staff) remembered that they are special, extraordinary, and brave people who are loved and cared for each time they walk up the stairs. Truly inspiring!

Palo Alto *Adult School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3752 • paadultschool.org



Tom Keating
Principal

Promoting Health and Wellness

Palo Alto Adult School is happy our English as a Second Language (ESL) and community education programs are back. The ESL program reinstated the student tutoring program face-to-face.

The majority of the courses are now being offered in person. Our long-established woodworking, upholstery, and World Languages courses are thriving. Last week, we offered a new session, “Learn About Teaching an Adult School Class,” to recruit prospective instructors and answer questions.



The adult school partnered with PAUSD to offer a series of complimentary classes to District staff to promote health and well-being. Staff enthusiastically participated in Belgium chocolate making and Zumba courses. We plan to add a series of nature hikes and a book club to round out the school year.

Lastly, I am pleased to share the return of our performing arts programs. The performances were outstanding and the community members in attendance were thrilled to enjoy live entertainment again.

Palo Alto *High School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3701 • www.paly.net



Brent Kline
Principal

Proud and Memorable Moment

After spring break, students from the Paly Rise Task Force facilitated presentations to 9th, 10th and 11th graders about healthy relationships. The students, in collaboration

with Engagement Manager Sheridan Riolo from One Love, created lessons focusing on creating activities and discussion questions that would be impactful. Sheridan Riolo shared that “the students from Rise were amazing partners in the entire process—openly offering their time, perspectives and hard work for months to ensure that these presentations happened and that they were successful in engaging students in meaningful discussions around healthy relationships.”

Students put a large amount of work reviewing the material, putting together the presentations, recruiting student presenters, and handling logistics. Public speaking for anyone can be anxiety-invoking and facilitating discussions on relationships can



Kyla Schwarzbach and Alison Xiong,
Rise Task Force Executive Board Members, during a 9th grade presentation.

be sensitive and tricky. Having over forty students willing to facilitate these discussions was an extremely proud and memorable moment.

Palo Verde *Elementary School*

3450 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-1672 • paloverde.pausd.org



Annora Lee
Principal

District Goals and Palo Verde

I am incredibly proud of the time and energy our students and staff have invested in PAUSD’s five priority goal areas. While I’m confident you would find elements of each in any given year, the level of intentionality and focus towards equity, mental health, service to others, attendance, and literacy that occurred after our full return to school has been nothing short of inspiring.

On any given day, in any given classroom, teachers work tirelessly to integrate elements of our District goals in to their curricular plans. Their thoughtful planning makes for rich, meaningful experiences in the classroom. Students study and apply their learning to real world situations. They engage in respectful discourse around relevant,

thought-provoking topics. They relish in mentorship and service opportunities, often at the expense of their own free time. Our students are justice and equity-oriented. They care deeply about their class and school, and actively use the language and lessons taught in our social-emotional programs to protect and nurture it.

As we finish these final weeks of school, I feel such gratitude for the many, many individuals who helped make our return to campus such a smooth and memorable journey. For those who helped to make school feel “normal,” even while navigating through the effects of COVID-19. For the teachers who found creative and novel ways to infuse levity and joy into days jam-packed with academic lessons. I’m grateful for how far we’ve come, and I’m looking forward to carrying that momentum in to the coming year.

Walter Hays *Elementary School*

1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



Mary Bussmann
Principal

Service to Others

Service to Others, one of the PAUSD Priorities for the 2021-22 school year, has held great meaning for the students at Walter Hays. Our school's last three Core Values of the school year: Empathy, Inclusion and Cooperation embrace caring, including and working together in a positive spirit for the good of the community. Through these

experiences and work with these particular core values students understand the importance of stepping out from their individual needs to see and respond to support others. This is a significant time of growth for our children as they learn to observe members of their family, peers, and the community to consider how their actions can make a positive impact for others.

Our students' demonstration of care and service at the elementary level are the building blocks them to learn to make significant contribution to their community and world. We are growing the leaders of tomorrow!



Leadership 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 Palo Alto in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2022

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished | Organized |
| Caring | Powerful |
| Confident | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model |
| Drive | Strong Willed |
| Enthusiastic | Suitable |
| Focused | Teamwork |
| Independent | Trustworthy |
| Initiative | Understanding |
| Intelligent | |

**Congratulations to *Emi Caroselli*
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!**

Y	O	G	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	H	F	T	L
Q	T	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	X	T	U
G	N	I	R	A	C	V	G	D	T	F	B	D	N	F
D	E	D	L	D	R	I	V	E	U	A	A	E	E	R
Z	L	N	X	I	J	T	F	C	J	Y	C	Z	G	E
P	C	A	E	L	B	A	T	I	U	S	C	I	I	W
D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	L	O
I	B	S	X	G	W	T	S	U	F	B	M	A	L	P
A	B	R	Q	V	J	I	Z	N	M	I	P	G	E	D
T	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	O	K	L	R	T	N
P	I	D	P	K	R	I	G	S	T	P	I	O	N	L
E	I	N	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	I	C
T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	H	E	K	F
T	S	T	R	O	N	G	W	I	L	L	E	D	R	T
V	G	O	Y	N	R	O	L	E	M	O	D	E	L	D

Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

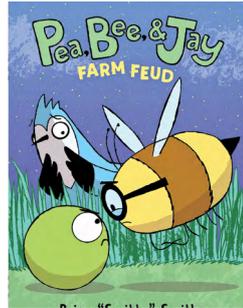
Best Friends Forever?

Title: *Pea, Bee, & Jay: Farm Feud*

Author: Brian "Smitty" Smith

Best friends

Pea (a pea), Bee (a bee), and Jay (a bird) are back in this fourth book of the Pea, Bee, & Jay



series! Pea and Bee are arguing so Jay decides to go find new best friends. Then Pea and Bee try to find new best friends too. At the same time, there is a hungry snake who wants to eat them all! I really liked this funny book with cute characters who are silly and have good hearts. Read this book to find out what happens to them and also to learn the lesson that you should never forget about the friends you have.

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.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Greek Mythology—Modernized

Title: *Percy Jackson Series*

Author: Rick Riordan

Looking to find a new series? Learn more about mythology in a modernized, contemporary way?

Read the Percy Jackson series! Sure to be a thriller for all, this book wraps up Greek Mythology into books that are relatable, well written, and captivating. Take adventures down this mystical world—where time can be frozen, powers are held, and the globe is held under the fist of Mount Olympus: the home of the gods. Perhaps you resonate most with the children of the sea god Poseidon, or the goddess of wisdom Athena. This series was my favorite to read and is still just as entertaining. I give it a 5 out of 5 stars



Katie is a senior 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.

Taeyoung's Book Review



Taeyoung 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.



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

David's Review



David H.

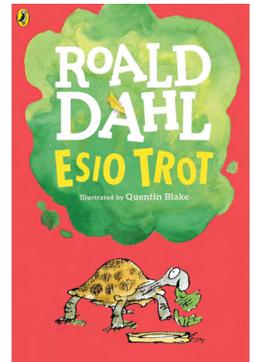
A Tortoise and Love

Title: *Esio Trot*

Author: Roald Dahl

Esio Trot is about

a very shy man named Mr. Hoppy and the woman he likes, Mrs. Silver. Mrs. Silver loves her beloved pet tortoise Alfie and will do anything to make him grow. Mr. Hoppy comes up with a clever plan to make Alfie bigger and have Mrs. Silver fall in love with him. Read this book to find out what happens and if his plan works. I liked this story so much that I've read it multiple times! If you like tortoises and a little bit of love, you should definitely read this book.



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.

Have fun reading!