

School News

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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District



Volume 19, Issue 96

June 2022

Celebrating the Best of the Best!



Mrs. Angie Haas



Mr. Armando Gomez

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Celebrating the Best of the Best!



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

It's hard to believe that the 2021-22 school year has come to an end. I continue to be in awe of our Los Al USD teachers, support staff, families and community who come together to provide the absolute best education for our kids. One of the many highlights of serving as superintendent is having the honor of celebrating our highly dedicated and caring staff. So, it brings me great joy to shine a spotlight on our Los Alamitos Unified Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Angie Haas, kindergarten teacher at Hopkinson Elementary, and Classified Employee of the Year, Mr. Armando Gomez, District Database Specialist.



Mrs. Angie Haas

If you've been a resident of the Los Al USD community for any number of years, your own children or possibly even grandchildren, may have had the pleasure of being in her class. Mrs. Haas started her career here in Los Alamitos in 1997 and has been teaching in the district for the past 25 years. She brings joy, love, passion and a caring spirit to students, families and colleagues and is always willing to go out of her way to help students thrive. Her colleagues characterize her as a true example of a life-long learner, who takes instructional development to another level by constantly changing her lessons to implement ideas and give her students the best. During the pandemic when schools were closed, she hosted book read-alouds, dropped off special gifts on porches, and even made personal phone calls to encourage her students to stay on top of their learning. Mrs. Haas goes above and beyond for her students, families and colleagues. She works diligently to assure that her students are meeting grade level standards while also instilling a deep love of learning at an early age. She is artful in her craft by finding creative and imaginative ways to connect with students and support their developmental journey. Mrs. Haas has moved onto the 2023 Orange County Teacher of the Year award program where she is currently a semi-finalist.



Mr. Armando Gomez

Our District information technology team works to ensure that students, faculty and families are well equipped to achieve excellence in their "Four As" — Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts. This year, a fifth A could stand for Armando Gomez, who has been honored not only as our Los Al USD Classified Employee of the Year, but was also named an Orange County Classified Employee of the Year and one of nine California Classified Employees of the Year!

Mr. Gomez has been in his position for six years and is often overheard supporting students, parents and grandparents whose native language is Spanish through troubleshooting and navigating online learning platforms. He is also a dedicated father who finds time to attend family events and coach his children, and he often brings them to school and community events. Mr. Gomez was recently honored in Sacramento during Classified School Employees Week as a Classified Employee of the Year for the State of California.

We couldn't be more proud to celebrate Mrs. Haas, Mr. Gomez and all of our dedicated, caring and supportive Los Al USD staff.

School News

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Covering the
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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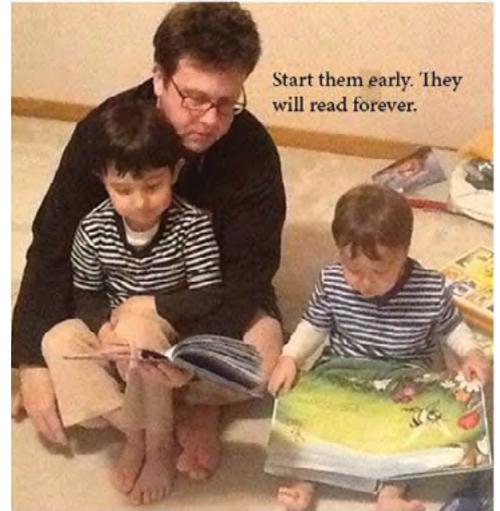
Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this school year comes to a close I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue our AHA Section on pages 14-19 includes information from the Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library, our popular student book reviews and choices of fun activities for your child for the summer. 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 doing their summer reading.

Our next issue is October 12.



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Tips to a Safe and Fun Summer!



Jennifer Rodriguez, BS, CIMI, CPST,
*injury prevention coordinator,
Injury Prevention Program,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital
Long Beach*

The summer season brings the hot sun, trips to the pool and beaches, and fireworks lighting up the night sky. This summer, keep these safety tips top of mind, so your family can enjoy the fun, while staying happy and healthy.

Sun Safety

- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside and continue to reapply every two hours. For infants, avoid using sunscreen and dress them in lightweight sun protective clothing that breathes and covers their arms and legs. For babies six to twelve months, apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher with broad spectrum protection.
- Dress kids in wide-brimmed hats.

Water Safety

- Never leave your child in the water without adult supervision, no matter how shallow the water.
- Enroll your child in formal swimming lessons to reduce the risk of drowning.
- Wear properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices, like life jackets.

Pedestrian Safety

- Look left-right-left and behind for traffic before crossing the road.
- Cross in marked crosswalks, at intersections or where drivers expect pedestrians.
- Walk focused and alert.

Bug Safety

- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water.
- The CDC recommendation for children older than 2-months-of-age is to use insect repellents containing 10% to 30% DEET, but do not use DEET on children younger than 2-months-old.
- When outside in the evenings, cover up with long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks.

Firework Safety

- Soak all fireworks before throwing them away.
- Keep sparklers away from your child's face, hair and clothing.

Have a safe and healthy summer!



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Two Kittens are Better than One

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

When people visit the shelter during kitten season, many of them are looking for one kitten. We tend to get pushback from adopters when we recommend two kittens. We are not trying to make more money or unload kittens, rather we suggests this for solid reasons.



One kitten can become lonely and bored. Two kittens will never be lonely. Two kittens will self train. Kittens learn by copying especially when it comes to using the litter box. They also help each other with grooming and washing up after meals. Two kittens will burn off excess energy. They will wear each other out allowing the owner to sit back and watch. Most of the time, fewer behavioral issues happen with two kittens. One kitten might just drive an older cat crazy. An established cat might accept two kittens rather than one. Two kittens will expend their energy with each other leaving the older cat time to relax in peace. In the end, two kittens will save two lives rather than one. Finally, let's not forget that two kittens can be so much fun and entertaining to watch!



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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Spreading Kindness and Inclusion

This year, we hosted Kindness week from May 23rd - May 27th at Hopkinson. We started off the week with a virtual assembly reading the book *Yellow!* On Tuesday, our 5th Grade Leadership Council hosted an event "Spreading Kindness like Confetti" and continued the week with sharing books, activities and examples on how we can spread kindness and foster inclusion for all.

In an effort to spread kindness among our school community, we encourage everyone to participate in multiple ways of spreading kindness. Our hope is that this serves as a lesson demonstrating the ease of increasing kindness in our world.

This project has served to support students during state testing, thank you teachers and staff for their amazing work, and bringing smiles to many. What our Huskies have discovered is that it is not only rewarding to receive kindness, but spreading kindness is even more gratifying.



Hopkinson students wearing Yellow for kindness on Monday.

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Amy Vento
Principal

Yellow Day At Lee

Our staff works hard every day to teach our students how to be inclusive and kind to others. On May 9, 2022, our community celebrated YELLOW DAY! This day reminds us to seek out and find people who make our days brighter just by being the kind people they are. Students were reminded that their words and actions have the power to “Turn Someone’s Gray Day YELLOW!”

Students wrote “Sunshine Grams” to share words of encouragement and support to others all around campus. All students and staff wore yellow to keep the conversation of compassion, acceptance, and kindness at the forefront of our minds. It was heartwarming to see the hugs, handshakes, and high-fives being shared between students and staff throughout the day. YELLOW DAY at Lee is a special tradition we look forward to each year!



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para Grupos!



**See our
ads on
pages 18-19**

Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4700 • lae.losal.org



Gary Willems
Principal

Yay, TEAM!

Since this is the last issue of *School News* for the year, I wanted to thank everyone in our community for making the best out of a very trying two years. LAE's theme this year was TEAM: "Together, Everyone Achieves More," and this was truly the case.

Last year posed many challenges with online learning and the cohort model in the mornings and afternoons. If your children received services last year, you could have been at LAE to pick up and drop them off up to six times a day. This year, we worked through COVID-19 cases and close contacts, and we did whatever it took to move our Tigers forward. I could not be prouder of our community and staff going above and beyond to ensure that our Tigers got the best social, emotional and academic education possible. We are truly "better together."

Our students recently took the end-of-the-year state testing, CAASPP testing, for the first time. This will show where we can target academic needs for next year. Thanks to the community's generous donations, the Friends of LAE (FLAE) donated \$18,000 for targeted interventions for this school year and the 2022–23 school year. This allowed us to run small-group instruction during the school day as well as after-school interventions for our Tigers. In addition, the district added another elementary mental-health counselor, making a total of three new positions in the last two years, to be able to offer mental-health support two and a half days a week next year at LAE.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you for your dedication, hard work and perseverance in moving LAE forward through the pandemic!



Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 W. Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • lahs.losal.org



Christiana Kraus
Principal

One-to-One Chromebooks

As we near the end of the 2021–22 school year, we want to thank our Los Alamitos High School community for your continued support. The close of the school year is filled with celebrations and events honoring our students. At the same time, it is when we as a school community assess our schoolwide needs and improvements in preparation for the upcoming school year.

While the past few years have certainly been full of ups and downs as well as many uncertainties and changes, one thing that has not changed is our unwavering commitment to nurturing, supporting and providing a first-class education for every student.

As an LAHS community, our jobs are dedicated to assessing the needs of all our students. In working closely with district and site leadership and with our Board of Education as well as in response to community and stakeholder feedback, we are thrilled to announce that beginning in the 2022–23 school year, Los Alamitos High School will transition from a bring-your-own-device program to a one-to-one device school. This means that every student in grades nine through 12 will be issued a Chromebook for their use at school as well as at home, just like textbook distribution.

The one-to-one program is highly beneficial to our students and staff as more and more curriculum resources move to digital platforms. It also affords teachers the ability to differentiate more effectively and proactively, based on individual student needs, and ensure equity and access for all students.

McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • mcgaugh.losal.org



Dr. Issaic Gates
Principal

Prestigious Award

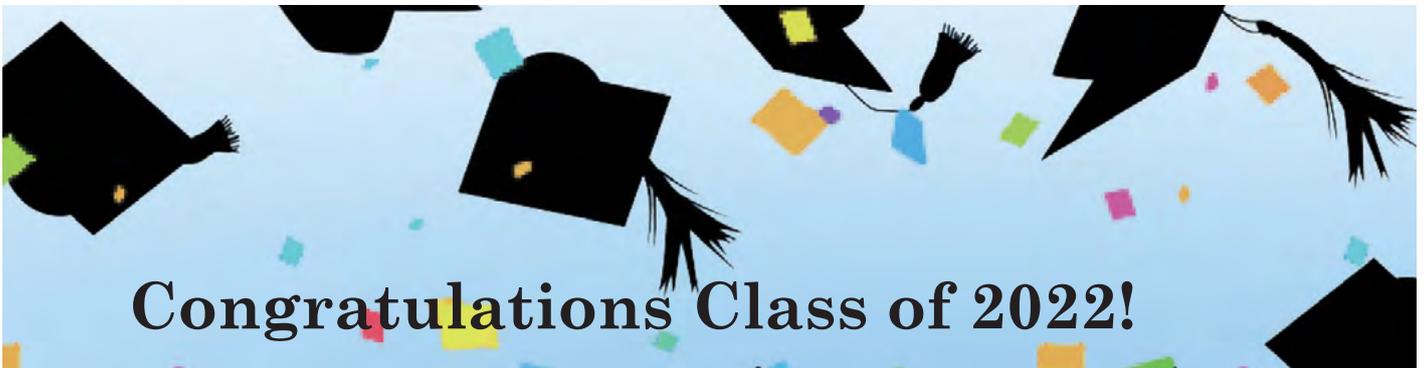
McGaugh Elementary School has been named a California Pivotal Practice Program (CAPP) awardee—a pretty prestigious award! The CAPP program is being utilized by California in 2022 in place of the California Distinguished Schools program. Because of the significant impact the pandemic has had on everyone, particularly students, McGaugh's educational community

has worked hard to support students in regaining and managing being mentally healthy and well-balanced—so much, in fact, that we elected to highlight this work as our pivotal practice work that we implemented during the pandemic to support students' social-emotional well-being.

And while we're somewhere in between the beginning and the end of the pandemic, we are continuing the work of supporting students in regaining and maintaining

being mentally healthy and well-balanced. McGaugh uses wellness counselors and a youth behavioral military and family life counselor (MFLC) to provide non-medical support to eligible faculty, staff, parents and children. The counselors observe, participate, and engage in activities with students, providing coaching, guidance and modeling behavior-management techniques for staff and parents. In addition, McGaugh's wellness counselors offer individual and group counseling and social-emotional classroom lessons for students that need an extra layer of support to access school. Using these supports, we have provided our school's community the opportunity to continue the conversations regarding how to best assist children in getting back on track academically, staying healthy, and remaining well-balanced students.

As principal, I couldn't be prouder of our work, and I'm confident that we will continue this work in the new school year.



McAuliffe Middle School

4112 W. Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • mcauliffe.losal.org

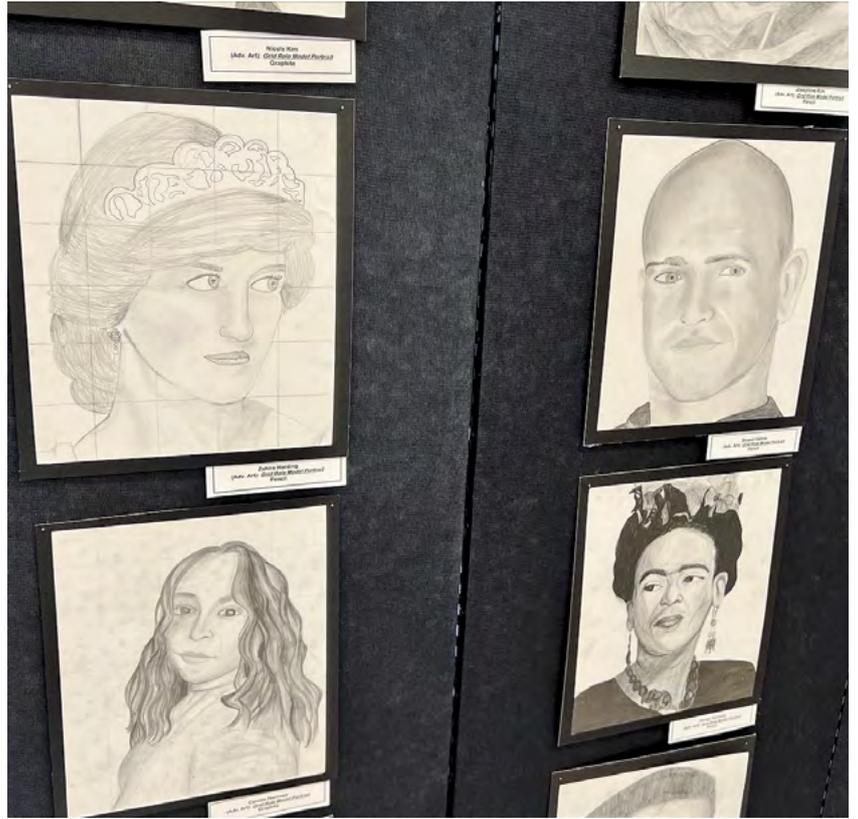
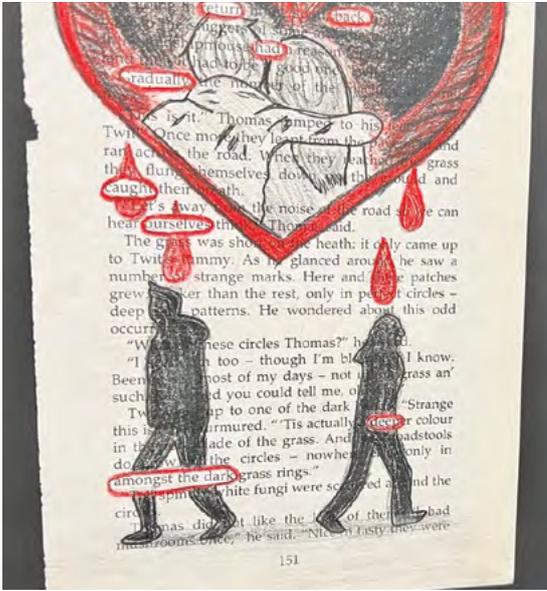


Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright
Principal

McAuliffe Celebrates Visual Art!

This May, McAuliffe students in grades 6, 7, and 8 were able to showcase their artwork at McAuliffe's First Annual Art Gallery Night. Students have been busy creating unique and original designs ranging from 3D creations to self portraits. Students have been diligent in creating art pieces that

represent who they are as artists. This night was filled with awards and recognition, special visitors, and celebrations for all who joined!



Oak Middle School

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • oak.losal.org



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Lunch on the Lawn

Bringing our school community together is one of our core values at Oak Middle School. Several times each year, we offer an opportunity for parents and family friends to join our students for “lunch on the lawn.”

This is a great way to get together and share a meal, while helping to strengthen bonds between Middle School families and our school community. The joy on our students faces let us all know that this is a moment that is cherished by all. Students are not only delighted to receive

a special burger or pizza, but they are also elated to have those they love on campus. At Oak, we invite our parents and friends to join us and celebrate the small moments together. Thank you for making our lunch on the lawn such a beautiful tradition at Oak Middle School. Hear us Roar!



Rossmoor Elementary

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • rossmoor.losal.org



Amy Coltey
Principal

Campout Returns!

Rossmoor Campout is a fun tradition that was able to return once again this school year! Our Rossmoor PTA put on a successful 2022 Campout on Friday, May 20.

After school on Friday, families gathered on the Rossmoor field with their tents, sleeping bags, snacks and camping gear. Many families attended for the evening to enjoy the festivities before it got too dark. However, families also had the option to camp overnight and enjoy breakfast in the morning before they packed up. A shout-out to our wonderful volunteers and Brett Lorber, our PTA Campout chairperson, who organized an incredible event. Our Knights loved having the freedom to dance around the field and play with their peers as they enjoyed the fun events planned for the evening. Students loved the DJ and danced the night away. Some went to the craft station to decorate and assemble lanterns to use in the evening as it became darker, and of course, there was a delicious snack station and pizza for dinner as well!

As I walked around in the evening and said hello to all our families, it warmed my heart to see our community gathered together, enjoying catching up and listening to the laughter of our students as they had the times of their lives. What a great event, and it was so nice to bring it back for the 2022 school year! Thank you for this experience, Rossmoor PTA!





Dr. Todd Schmidt
Principal

STEAM Fair

One of the most enjoyable things about transitioning from COVID has been the return of various long time traditions and events. Such is the case with the Weaver STEAM Fair. Organized by our own Dr. Darielle Tom, and in partnership with the Los Alamitos Educational Foundation (LAEF), over 80 students had the chance to explore and pursue a project that showcased a passion or a curiosity for one of

the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.). Students in grades K-5 then showcased their learning and shared their projects with our entire school community. Participants beamed with pride as they highlighted robotics, the solar system, and even telaidoscopes! It was an amazing day that was both inspirational as well as instructional! Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up, as well as to the entire #WeAreWeaver community for supporting and encouraging these future innovators and creators!



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Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Best Friends Forever?

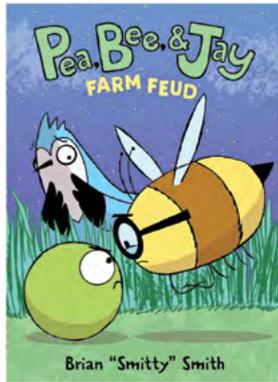
Title: *Pea, Bee, & Jay: Farm Feud*

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.

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

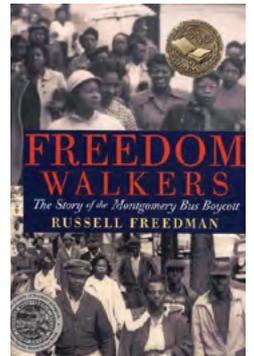
Boycott of the Century

Title: *Freedom Walkers*

Author: Russell Freedman

The bus. The bus is the place where many Civil right movements have started. Buses are more influential than some books.

Could you believe, back then, MLK didn't know he was going to make one of the most popular speeches throughout history? Did you know John Lewis didn't know he was going to work with a bunch of different races and be treated equally? Did you know Claudette Colvin didn't know she was going to start a bus boycott? These all happened because they didn't know what was going to happen but they did it anyway and most importantly, somehow connected to the bus. I recommend this book to people who want to stand up for what's right.



Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.





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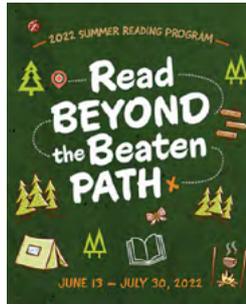


Cassandra Sargent
Branch Manager

Summer Reading

Sign up for Summer Reading beginning June 13th - July 31st at <https://ocpl.beanstack.org/reader365>

In Branch: Weekly passive activities with prizes during SRP



Best Bubbles Parties

Best Bubble Learning awakens kids' curiosity to dig deeper and discover new things. We investigate properties of Bubbles and the joy of science in a fun and interactive show! Tuesday, July 5 at 3:30pm

Wild Wonders (performer)

Tuesday, July 26 at 3pm
Take a walk on the wild side with live animal ambassadors from all over the world. Discover amazing facts about these unique animals and their homes!

Discovery Club

STEAM program intended for ages 5-10 where we get creative with fun projects!
Thursdays at 4pm
June 23, July 14, August 11

Mad Science

Mad Science workshops and shows are an ideal way to reinforce core science concepts. Interactive workshops are aligned to STEM objectives. Fascinating science shows will entertain the whole family.
Tuesday, June 14 at 3pm

Tiny Art Show

August — Pick up a mini canvas starting August 1st, and return by the end of the month to be featured in our Tiny Art Exhibit. Use any medium you like, paint, marker, watercolor, crayon to create your masterpiece!

Harry Potter Celebration

Monday, August 1st at 4:00 pm

Summertime Fun in Los Alamitos!



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Summer Parks Program
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Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Who is BOB?

Bob by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead is a magical fiction about a girl who helps an old friend find home. Olivia (Livy) is 10 years old when she travels to Australia to visit her grandmother she hasn't seen in 5 years. Livy doesn't



remember much from her last visit to grandma's, but when she sees Bob, she has a feeling she may have known him. Bob is a short greenish creature in a chicken suit. He doesn't know who he is. He doesn't remember anything about his family or where he came from. When Livy was 5, she promised she would help him find home. Bob has been waiting in her closet at grandma's house for Livy's return ever since. Livy and Bob become closer friends as they try to unravel the mystery of where Bob came from.

This book is sweet, emotional, and magical with a touch of suspense. I also learned more about friendship from the book. I give this book 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.

David's Review



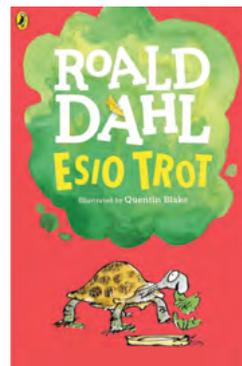
David H.

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.



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Katie's Review



Katie C.

Greek Mythology—Modernized

Title: *Percy Jackson Series*

Author: Rick Riordan

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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.

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

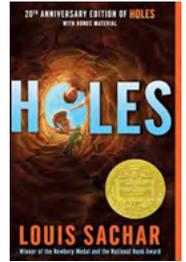
Holes of Everything

Title: *Holes*

Author: Louis Sachar

This book has lots of themes like friendship and more! The main character of this book is Stanley. He was a 14 year old boy with no friends. He was bullied

at school. He goes to a horrible camp just because he did “something” without any evidence. The horrible thing about the camp is you have to dig very big holes. I mean big. The worst part, it's in the desert. You might think you could just have water to survive, but you have limited amounts of water! Stanley finally gets friends in the camp! He makes deals and has fun with his friends, although some “friends” turn out to be fake. He does get in trouble lots of times in the camp still without evidence. He experienced lots of hardships, but he survived. Yes, the camp was horrible, but there were some good parts! Find out what happens next!



Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

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.

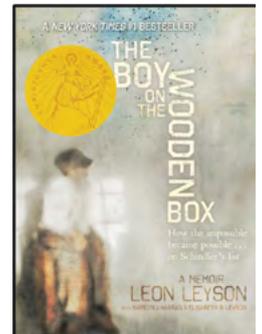


Tegan

Moments of Hope

In this tragic but wonderful story, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, author Leon Leyson shares his emotions of fear, confusion, and anger. With his early

childhood shattering into pieces as he is taken away and transported to a fatal concentration camp, separated from his friends and relatives. However, even as depression and pain surrounds his life, Leyson experiences unforgettable moments of hope that are unexpectedly injected, reminding me that through this pandemic that I am fortunate to have friends, family, and freedom. A bonus was reading that Leyson had lived his last few years in Fullerton, making me feel connected to his story more.



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



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*Plus pizza delivery charge.

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- 1 Ice Cream Cup

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*Minimum of 10 people & advance reservations required.

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- 3 Hours Unlimited Use of All Rides and Miniature Golf
- 10 Arcade Tokens

*Minimum of 10 people & reservations required.

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*Minimum of 10 people, deposit & advance reservations required.
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- 2 pedazos de pizza (Pepperoni o Queso)
- 1 refresco de 12 oz

Esta Oferta Se Termina 12-31-22.



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Sampler

- 18 hoyos de Mini Golf
- 1 atracción de su elección

**Mínimo de 10 personas se requiere reservación*



Requisitos de altura:

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- Cada Persona recibe:**
- 2 Pedazos de Pizza (Pepperoni o Queso)
 - 1 Refresco y Helado



**Mínimo de 10 personas se requiere reservación y depósito.*

**Se cobra por el envío de pizza.*

Golf Fun Pack

- 1 Juego de Mini Golf
- 1 Refresco
- 1 Helado



**Mínimo de 10 personas se requiere reservación*

3 Horas Ilimitadas

- 3 horas de uso Ilimitado de todas las atracciones mas un juego de Mini Golf
- 10 fichas

**Mínimo de 10 personas se requiere reservación.*

Grupos 50+ solo pagan \$23.00 pp



PIZZA MEGA BLAST

- 2 horas Ilimitadas de todas las atracciones y un juego de golf
- 2 pedazos de pizza (Pepperoni o Queso), 1 refresco y helado
- 10 fichas



**Mínimo de 10 personas se requiere reservación y depósito*

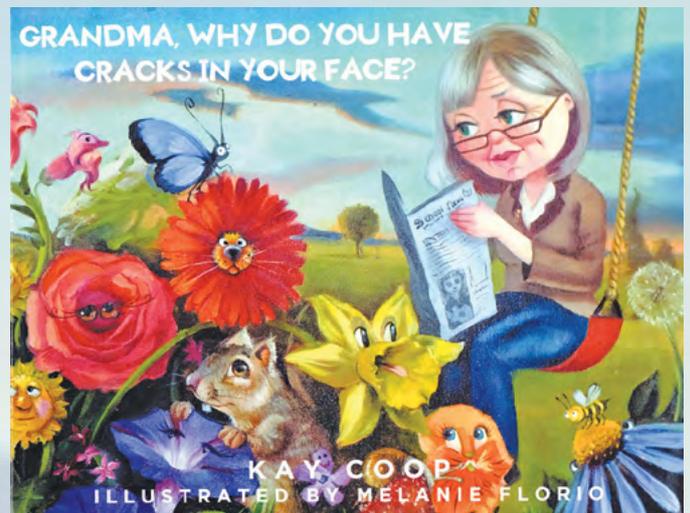
**Se cobra por el envío de pizza.*

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