

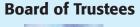
Volume 12, Issue 65

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Cristina Chiappe President





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Vicente

Bravo

Vice President



Luciano Aguilar Member



Dr. Eugene Krank Member

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

#### Every child deserves a chance to succeed! ;Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!

#### **Preschool Program**

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

#### Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.









#### The Benefits of Preschool

The most important years of a child's development is in the first five years of life. Children who receive a high-quality educational experience, in their early years, develop the skills necessary to succeed in life.

Children who are involved in preschool:

- Develop pre-reading, early writing, and math skills
- Enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- · Develop emotional behaviors and social skills

#### Los Beneficios de la Educación Preescolar

Los primeros cinco años de vida son los más importantes en el desarrollo del niño. Los niños que reciben una experiencia educativa de alta calidad, en sus primeros años, desarrollan las habilidades necesarias para triunfar en la vida.

Los niños que participan en la educación preescolar:

- Desarrollan habilidades en matemáticas, escritura y lectura temprana.
- Mejoran el pensamiento crítico y habilidades en resolución de problemas.
- Desarrollan habilidades sociales y comportamiento emocional.





HSD Preschool 13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 (310) 970-7550 Phone | (310) 970-7555 Fax





Dr. Helen E. Morgan Superintendent

Every year at this time we work with all of our educational partners to review, update, and revise our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). We solicit input from our parents, students, and labor partners to ensure all parties have a voice in how we are allocating resources to best serve our students. I am sure you have seen and, hopefully completed, the annual survey that assists us in this endeavor. I can assure you that we review all surveys and read all comments. While we are not able to implement all of the recommendations, we take them seriously and find ways to include the most often suggested into our plan.

#### **Our LCAP goals include:**

- Students will demonstrate increased levels of academic achievement
- Students will be actively engaged in their education and feel safe and supported while at school
- Families will be visible and valued partners in their children's education
- Students will have access to well-maintained school facilities, current standards-aligned instruction materials and programs, and a broad course of study that will serve to prepare them for college and career.

In order to achieve these goals, we have implemented a number of actions and services. These include:

- Literacy coaches, math coaches, and EL special projects teachers at each site
- Continued professional development for all staff
- Extended learning opportunities which include intersession, intervention, and tutoring
- Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) to support literacy, math, STEM, and parent outreach
- Standards-aligned instructional materials
- AVID at all middle schools
- An early literacy program available to the Hawthorne community (Footsteps2Brilliance)
- Intervention and enrichment programs in literacy and mathematics
- Counselors, deans, and social works to support all students
- Parent workshops
- Improved technology and technology support at all sites



Through our work with our education partners, the following are some proposed additional services we are planning for the upcoming LCAP:

- A focus on professional development to address challenging behaviors, co-teaching, and inclusion
- Additional counselors and social workers
- Learning Loss Mitigation (LLM) teachers and intervention supports
- Additional family outreach staff
- Mental health supports
- Extended STEM, GATE, and sports programs

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in providing a meaningful and engaging school experience for our students.



Dr. Helen E. Morgan Superintendent

Todos los años durante este tiempo trabajamos con nuestros socios de educación para examinar, actualizar y revisar nuestro Plan de Control y Responsabilidad Local (LCAP). Solicitamos las opiniones de nuestros padres, estudiantes y socios laborales para garantizar que todas las partes tengan voz sobre cómo estamos asignando recursos para servir mejor a nuestros estudiantes. Estoy segura de que han visto, y espero que hayan completado, la encuesta anual que nos ayuda en este esfuerzo. Puedo asegurarles que hemos revisado todas las encuestas y leído todos los comentarios. Aunque no podemos poner en práctica todas las recomendaciones, las tomamos en serio y encontramos maneras de incluir las que se sugieren con más frecuencia en nuestro plan.

#### Nuestros objetivos del LCAP incluyen:

- Los estudiantes demostrarán mayores niveles de rendimiento académico
- Los estudiantes participarán activamente en su educación y se sentirán seguros y apoyados mientras estén en la escuela
- Las familias serán interlocutores visibles y valiosas en la educación de sus hijos
- Los estudiantes tendrán acceso a instalaciones escolares buenas condiciones, materiales de instrucción y programas alineados a los estándares actuales, y un curso amplio de estudio que servirá para para la universidad y una profesión.

Para lograr estos objetivos, hemos implementado una serie de acciones y servicios. Éstos incluyen:

- Entrenadores de alfabetización, entrenadores de matemáticas y maestros de proyectos especiales de los aprendices de inglés en cada sitio escolar
- Desarrollo profesional continuo para todo el personal
- Oportunidades de aprendizaje extendidas la cuales incluyen intercesión, intervención y tutoría
- Maestros en Asignación Especial (TOSA, por sus siglas en inglés) para apoyar la alfabetización, las matemáticas, STEM y Alcance Familiar
- Materiales de instrucción alineados a los estándares
- Programa de AVID en todas las escuelas secundarias
- Un programa de alfabetización temprana disponible para la comunidad de Hawthorne (Footsteps2Brilliance)
- Programas de intervención y enriquecimiento en alfabetización y matemáticas
- Consejeros, decanos y trabajadores sociales para apoyar a todos los estudiantes
- Talleres para padres
- Mejoramiento en la tecnología y apoyo tecnológico en todos los sitios.

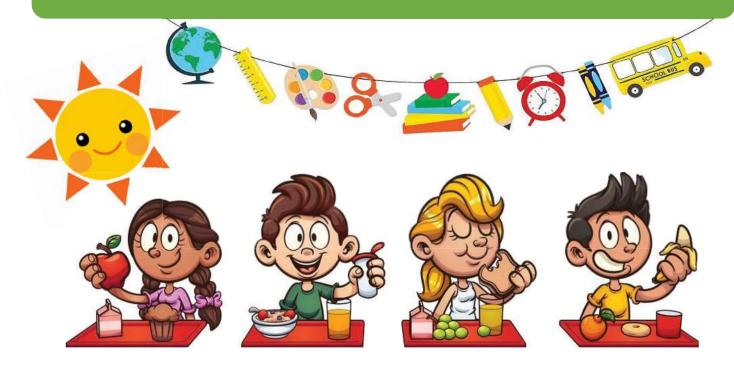


Por medio de nuestro trabajo con nuestros socios de educación, los siguientes son algunos de los servicios adicionales propuestos que estamos planeando para el próximo LCAP:

- Un enfoque en el desarrollo profesional para abordar los comportamientos desafiantes, enseñanza conjunta y la inclusión
- Consejeros y trabajadores sociales adicionales
- Maestros de Mitigación de Pérdida del Aprendizaje (LLM) y apoyos de intervención
- Personal adicional de alcance familiar
- Apoyo a la salud mental
- Programas extendidos de STEM, GATE Y deportes

Les damos las gracias por su apoyo continuo y colaboración para proporcionar una experiencia escolar significativa e interesante a nuestros estudiantes.

# **HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# No time for breakfast at home?

We've made it easy for your student to enjoy a healthy breakfast at school. School breakfast is proven to improve student behavior, test scores and attendance, so don't let your student miss out on the most important meal of the school day! BREAKFAST IS SERVED IN THE CLASSROOM ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF A WELL-BALANCED SCHOOL BREAKFAST – FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS

# Visit www.family.titank12.com to learn what's on the menu.



Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

This year is quickly coming to a close and you will read in the articles in this issue the students are focused on their academic goals.

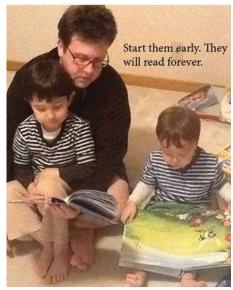
Dr. Morgan begins this issue with her informative message about the LCAP Goals.

We have included our popular student book reviews on pages 14 & 16. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 13 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is June 8.

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com **Covering the** HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# Our Promise. Your Future.



# Does Your Child have Allergies... Or is it a Cold? Here's How to Find Out.



Inderpal Randhawa, M.D., medical director, Children's Pulmonary Institute, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach



May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month and it's around the time you start seeing running noses and itchy eyes. But is it a cold or allergies? Here are some tips to figure it out:

- Check the mucus, allergies tend to be thin and clear. Colds tend to be yellow or green and thick.
- Allergies tend to come on suddenly when your child is exposed to a trigger and lasts a while. Cold symptoms often start gradually and are done within two weeks.
- Typically, a fever won't be present in allergies, but colds come with a low-grade fever.
- If your child has watery or itchy eyes, it might be an allergic reaction. Watery and itchy eyes aren't usually a cold symptom.

The symptoms and severity of allergies varies in children. Ranging from minor irritation to anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

The <u>Allergy Program</u> at the <u>Children's Pulmonary</u> <u>Institute</u> at <u>MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's</u> <u>Hospital Long Beach</u> pediatric allergists use allergy tests to identify allergens that may be causing your child's allergies. The allergy tests performed are:

- Skin Prick Testing
- Intradermal Allergy Testing
- Patch Allergy Testing
- Serum Allergy Testing (Blood Testing)

From the results of these tests our pediatric allergists can decide what type of medications or treatments, if any, may be needed. While allergies can't be cured, treatments can help relieve allergy symptoms and induce tolerance.

By identifying the allergen, changes can be made in the child's home and living space to potentially improve their health.

To learn more visit millerchildrens.org/allergy.

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



# We're on Kevin's level at the **highest level**.

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#### Access to elite care. When you need it.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach



800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | millerchildrens.org/Elite

# Bud Carson Middle School

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



#### **Students STEM at Lunch**

Bud Carson Middle School has recently launched monthly STEM program activities during lunch facilitated by our STEM Coach, Dr. Barajas. The support activities are co-facilitated by our School Counselor, Ms. Hart. The activities are intended to engage students and allow them to utilize

LaTima Jones Principal

the skills that students develop in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The 'STEM at lunch' programming offers the following benefits:

- Facilitates student engagement
- Allows student(s) to develop rapport/relationships with staff
- Provides the opportunity for healthy competition and overcoming challenges
- Enhances critical thinking and problem solving

In March, students participated in a challenge to build a tower with cups and wooden tongue depressors and then balance a car on the top of the tower. Students competed to build the highest tower that also created the most stability to balance the car. The students were excited to participate.



**BCMS STEM at lunch** 

# Eucalyptus Elementary

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • euc-hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



#### Congratulations, Mrs. Kurisaki! By Barb Mensinaer-

Eucalyptus Special Projects Teacher

We are so happy for Mrs. Kurisaki as she concludes her teaching career but so sad for Koala Nation as we say goodbye to one of the best! Mrs. Kurisaki grew up in the South Bay and attended UCLA for both her bachelor's and master's degrees. While teaching at Eucalyptus, Mrs. Kurisaki got married to

Mike Goldstein Principal

Lance, and their family grew to include daughters Kacie and Krista. Mrs. Kurisaki loves traveling to Hawaii and keeps that island feeling alive by dancing with a local hula group.

Mrs. Kurisaki began teaching at Eucalyptus School in September 1985 with a second/third combination class. The next year, she was assigned to a third-grade class and has been at this grade level ever since. Mrs. Kurisaki is a dedicated teacher with high expectations for all her students. Most days, she is the first one here and one of the last to leave. We are all better teachers because of her dedication to this profession.

Thank you, Mrs. Kurisaki, for 37 years of teaching. Remember, once a Koala, always a Koala!



# Hawthorne Math & Science Academy 4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8184 • <u>www.hawthornemsa.org</u>



Esau Berumen

Principal

#### **Students Prevail at Competition!**

By Melanie Fuentes, HMSA MESA President Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) is a college-andcareer-prep engine that propels student diversity and achievement in science, technology, engineering and math. HMSA MESA students worked for over three months on exciting and authentic teambased projects that culminated in the Pre-

MESA day competition held at USC in March. This was the first year the competition was held in person after two years of virtual events. HMSA student teams' hard work in preparation for the event paid off, and six teams placed first, second or third throughout various competitions.

One competition that was new to Pre-MESA Day this year was Moon Base. Students had to create a moon-base structure completely out of cardboard and without using any glue or adhesives to hold it together. The amount of creativity and innovation throughout all the teams' moon bases was outstanding! Freshmen Tolu, Chika and Dennery took first place in the Innovative Design Award for the Moon Base Competition, and Kathy, Hamza and Maaz took third place. Those same teams also placed second and third in the impact ratio score for the Moon Base competition. The impact ratio is determined by the weight of the moon base and the maximum height of impact the structure withheld.

Sophomores Hardeep and Israel received the Innovative Design Award and third place in Farthest Distance for the Cargo Glider event. Jenny, Siutiti and Kimora placed second in the MESA Machine Overall Team Score Award and took home the Innovative Design Award. Guadalupe and Vanessa placed second in the Think Tank competition in which students created a presentation and designed a solution to one of society's current issues.

The competition was a huge success for HMSA MESA students, and they are already using what we learned this year to better prepare ourselves for next year!

#### Hawthorne Middle School

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones Principal

#### May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

We all can agree the pandemic has taken a significant toll on the health and well-being of our children, specifically as it relates to mental health. At HMS our students' health and safety is very important

to us. To best support our students and demonstrate healthy ways to take care of themselves, HMS has taken a thoughtful approach to recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month throughout the month of May. Every Wednesday during lunch, students can participate in fit and fun activities that promote overall health and wellness. Teachers have volunteered to lead students through engaging activities such as: an obstacle course, yoga, journaling and creating their own delicious smoothie. Our hope is that students walk away knowing it is important to take care of themselves, learn a new healthy coping strategy and that they can have fun in the process!



# Jefferson Elementary

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



**Growth Mindset** 

Albert Einstein once said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." This is called having a growth mindset.

Josh Godin Principal

Jefferson has been practicing a growth mindset with our students. Our staff has been trying to ingrain in them that mistakes shouldn't be viewed as negative but are good things because they help us learn and grow.

So many of our students are scared to make mistakes, and this hinders their educational growth. Our school recently hosted a Growth Mindset Mission, which is a livestreaming, all-school event. A very engaging performer led our students on an interactive educational journey filled with storytelling, illusions, yo-yo tricks and humor. We use the acronym NED to remind students about a character named NED, who gives positive messages to inspire students, promote academic achievement, and support our school goals. NED stands for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. The event presented our students with other examples of having a growth mindset but in a fun, goofy way. Students were able to get yo-yos with inspirational quotes or acronyms on them. This way, they can talk with friends and family about what the yo-yo represents. Jefferson students have been hearing the NED message throughout the year, and now they have an object to help them to remember the message.

Students have also been listening to "The Power of Yet," which is a song about not giving up—instead, stay positive and say, "I haven't gotten it *yet*."

With all of these different ways that students have been presented for a growth mindset, we are hoping that they aren't as scared to make mistakes but instead will learn from them and focus on effort and never giving up.

# Kornblum Elementary

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



#### The Parents are Back!

Kornblum School is thrilled to have had our first in-person parent meeting of the school year. In April we had our first Coffee with the Principal. These are informal parent meetings where parents are able to speak to the principal and other school staff. At this coffee with the principal all of the support staff had a chance to meet with parents and share ideas.

Marisa Stewart Principal

The partnership with the families and school staff has always been a high priority for Kornblum School. This has been difficult to maintain at a distance due to the current climate. We look forward to welcoming families back on campus for our wonderful parent events that Kornblum School is known for. The 2022-23 School Year should bring with it more normalcy. But for now, we are happy to have had the opportunity to have this event. Even our mascot Cardinal came out for the fun!



# Prairie Vista Middle School

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



Wendy Ostensen

Principal

#### **MESA at PVMS**

MESA (Math, Science, Engineering Achievement) is an academic preparation program that is run through California's Universities. Students are provided with the skills necessary to enroll as STEM majors in higher education through hands-on STEM activities. These activities include competitions at various levels, academic support, and community building opportunities. This year, students from all 3 of our grade levels participated in the Pre-MESA day competition at USC. Our students competed in the Cargo Glider, (6th graders John Hess and Belen C.), Moon Base (6th graders Heydi Rivera. and Melanie Salas), and MESA Machine (7th and 8th graders Anthony Garcia, Michael Moreno, and George Sandoval) events. These students placed first at USC which allowed them to participate at UCLA regionals this past April. These students placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in their events. Ms. Dedmon and Ms. Suarez worked with our MESA students and inspired them in their achievements. Way to go PVMS!!!



Students and teachers proudly represent PVMS at the MESA UCLA regionals!

#### Ramona Elementary

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



#### How does our garden grow?

After being neglected for two years during the pandemic, our garden is coming back to life. Gary Johnson is a parent volunteer at Ramona who enlisted the help of some of his co-workers at SoCalGas to help get our garden ready for planting. This group provided many

Dr. Patricia Ray Principal

hours of physical labor to clear out the weeds and unusable dirt so that students could begin planting.

After we returned from Spring Break, classes have been visiting our garden and working with two amazing gardeners, Danielle Marquez and Coral Hernandez. They have been facilitating lessons on planting seeds and seedlings. They have also been teaching students how to maintain the garden.

Visiting and working in the garden provides children the opportunity to make connections to the science concepts they are learning about in the classroom. Classes will return to the garden soon to see the literal fruits and vegetables of their labor.



### Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



#### **Expression through Art**

At Washington School, our Wildcats are exploring and discovering the power of their own creativity. Students in grades TK-

second are participating in Secrets of the Heart, which is a 27-week art program that explores art through emotions and feelings.

Maritza **Cruz-Brown** Principal

Students are taught to engage and practice their

own creativity and choices in everyday life by showing kindness, empathy and compassion toward one another. In this program, students also incorporate academic learning through art.

In third through fifth grades, students participate in a similar art program, Art to Grow On, where they are currently discovering the power of creativity via the lens of Pablo Picasso. Students are learning about Picasso and viewing images painted by the artist. Students use their imagination to create their own self-portraits, Picasso style. Students use self-expression by cutting, gluing, and producing their own colorful images of themselves. The students realize that their own faces can serve as canvases for many different styles of expression.



#### York Elementary

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdyork.org



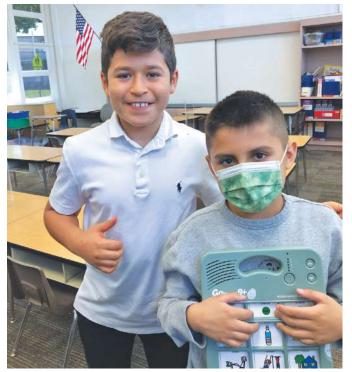
#### **Special Friends**

Recently, two exceptional students, named Adrian and Derek, came together to make something them can tell you that they are both pretty amazing. Adrian is a fourth grader in Ms. Twaddle's class. He is

John Paterson Principal

wonderful happen. Anyone who knows extraordinarily kind, helpful, and

smart. He also happens to use a GoTalk device to help him communicate. This augmentative/ alternative communication (AAC) device lets you record specific words or phrases onto it, so that its user can essentially speak by pressing buttons. Derek is a 5th grader, in Ms. Johnson's class. He is great at math and sports, and he volunteered to record his voice onto Adrian's AAC device. Now, Adrian has a voice to use in class and with all his friends. It's a pretty great story, but it doesn't end there. You see, now that they are friends, each time York has a Friendship Club meeting, these two can hang out together and talk. It's just one of many fantastic moments happening each day at York School.



**Derek Flores and Adrian Rivera** 

### Zela Davis Elementary

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



#### **CA Pivotal Practices Award**

Zela Davis is proud to announce that our school was awarded the 2022 California Pivotal Practices Award

Matt Rohrer Principal

from the California Department of Education.

The California Pivotal Practices Award is being utilized by California in 2022 in place of the California Distinguished Schools (DS) Program. It celebrates schools and districts that implemented an innovative

practice during the 2020-21 school year when California required schools to offer distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Zela Davis was recognized for our exceptional Social Emotional Learning/Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Some of our outstanding practices included: Positive Office Referrals, ongoing professional development for staff provided by the district. site-based use of the School Resource Officer as an intervention group leader, and parent/school communication.

Winning this award would not be possible without our awesome school staff, parental support, and, of course, our extraordinary students!

We hope this award brings pride to our school, families, and community.

# **Curious George Goes to the Zoo–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 Hawthorne 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.

Amazing	Leaves	L	I	F	D	R	V	Ρ	Ρ	D	Y	L	F	G	F	н
Animals	Park	L	U	F	В	Е	L	Е	А	V	Е	S	S	L	Х	Е
Climbed	Party	Ν	S	F	U	Ρ	В	Ν	Е	R	Т	Q	Q	В	Z	А
Curious	Rhino	F Q	P W	W A	R	E E	C R	M	L	H D	к С	M	Z B	V	Y	D Q
Danced	Water	P	VV I	D	D	ĸ	D	P	G	L	G	Q	C	т В	A	U
Fun	Wild	D	S	w	С	0	Ρ	Ν	W	1	С	0	L	F	G	A
George	Wonderful	Е	U	н	В	0	1	В	0	W	R	Ρ	W	Μ	Е	R
Giraffe	Zoo	Y	н	G	V	Z	M	N	S	w	U	A	J	J	0	Т
		F	S F	L M	A	M H	L L	N	A T	U C	C R	R	F	L F	R G	E R
Headquarters	Zookeeper	N	A	Y	R	w	0	Y	A	x	L	Y	F	S	E	S
Hippo				÷	08080					100.000	_			-	_	



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# Taegyoung's Book Review



#### 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



Taegyoung K.

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.

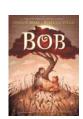
Taegyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

# Kailani's Review



#### 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



FREE

**Enjoy!** 

**History Buffs** 

Kailani T.

1111 I. J

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.

# Tegan's Book Review

#### **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

Tegan

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.



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# David's Review



# 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

David H.

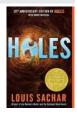
beloved pet tortoise Alfie and will do anything to make him grow. Mr. Hoppy comes up with a clever plan to make Alfie bigger and have Mrs. Silver fall in love with him. Read this book to find out what happens and if his plan works. I

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.

#### **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



Yoona C.

Yoona's Review

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.

## Jenna's Review



#### **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

Jenna C.

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

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.

## 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.

