

**Covering the Newhall School District** 

Volume 1, Issue 3 March / April 2020

# **Empowering Every Child Every Day:** "A Time for Change"



#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Jeff Pelzel

Superintendent

## Chronic Absenteeism: A Real Challenge for the Newhall School District

The increased emphasis on chronic absenteeism at the federal and state levels has put a premium on getting students to attend school. Students are considered chronically absent if they miss 10 percent of the school year. In the Newhall School District, that's 18 days, or about two days a month. Keep in mind; this is any combination of **excused or unexcused** absences. Often parents believe it is only unexcused absences that count, and that is no longer the case.

In the latest California School Dashboard data, the Newhall School District's rating dropped to an overall orange rating, requiring the District to take immediate action to improve the attendance at all of our schools. Last year, 392 students were identified as chronically absent, an increase of .7% from the previous year. Based on our current data, we have 349 students projected to fall into this category for the 2019-2020 school year. This data all tracks to lost learning opportunities and decreased funding for all students across the District. Last year, NSD lost just over \$2 million dollars in revenue due to attendance.

In today's classroom, student attendance is critical. Walk into any grade level and you will find students working in pairs or groups throughout the school day. Gone are the days of students working in isolated rows. Students depend on their thought partners to problem-solve, think critically, and collaborate. Taking an extended vacation or some long weekends here and there may not seem like much, but it impacts learning across the entire classroom.

Did you know that if you know your child is going to be absent for an extended period (more than 5 consecutive days), that you can inquire about **independent study** to gather the work ahead of time that your child will miss? If they complete the work before they return and submit it to the school, your child gets credit for the work and the district gets credit for attendance. We encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity! As always, we look forward to collaborating with you to ensure we are empowering your child every day.



If you would like to join our sales team working from your home, please contact Kay.

562-493-3193

kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

## Ausentismo Crónico: Un Verdadero Desafío para el Distrito Escolar Newhall

El mayor énfasis en el ausentismo crónico a nivel federal y estatal ha puesto una gran prioridad en lograr que los estudiantes asistan a la escuela. Se considera que los estudiantes están crónicamente ausentes si pierden el 10 por ciento del año escolar. En el Distrito Escolar Newhall, son 18 días, o aproximadamente dos días al mes. Tenga en cuenta; esta es cualquier combinación de **ausencias justificadas o injustificadas**. A menudo, los padres creen que sólo las ausencias injustificadas cuentan, y ese ya no es el caso.

En los últimos datos del Tablero Escolar de California, la calificación del Distrito Escolar Newhall bajó a una calificación general anaranjada, lo que requiere que el Distrito tome medidas inmediatas para mejorar la asistencia en todas nuestras escuelas. El año pasado, 392 estudiantes fueron identificados como crónicamente ausentes, un aumento de .7% del año anterior. Según nuestros datos actuales, tenemos proyectados 349 estudiantes que caerán en esta categoría para el año escolar 2019-2020. Estos datos nos indican que se han perdido oportunidades de aprendizaje y que han disminuido los fondos para todos los estudiantes del Distrito. El año pasado, NSD perdió un poco más de \$2 millones de dólares en ingresos debido a la asistencia.

En el salón de clases de hoy, la asistencia de los estudiantes es crítica. Entre a cualquier nivel de grado y encontrará a los estudiantes trabajando en parejas o en grupos a lo largo del día escolar. Los días en que los estudiantes trabajaban en filas aisladas han quedado atrás. Los estudiantes dependen de sus compañeros de pensamiento para resolver problemas, pensar críticamente y colaborar. Tomando unas vacaciones largas o algunos fines de semana largos aquí y allá puede no parecer mucho, pero afecta el aprendizaje en toda la clase.

¿Sabía usted que si sabe que su hijo/a va a estar ausente por un período prolongado (más de 5 días consecutivos), puede preguntar sobre el **estudio independiente** para recopilar con anticipación el trabajo que su hijo/a se perderá? Si completan el trabajo antes de regresar y lo presentan a la escuela, su hijo/a recibe crédito por el trabajo y el distrito recibe crédito por la asistencia. ¡Animamos a todas las familias a aprovechar esta oportunidad! Como siempre, esperamos colaborar con ustedes para asegurarnos de que estamos fortaleciendo a su hijo/a todos los días.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION



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#### School Board Works to **Create Health & Safety Plan**

The Newhall School Board has been working with administration to establish a Health & Safety Action Plan that has actions to support physical safety at school, and the social-emotional well-being of its students. In facilitating this work, the school board held a Special Study Session on Safety. Invited to participate were the district's parents, staff; Commander Robert Lewis of the LA County Sheriff's



**Sue Solomon** President

Department, the School Resource Officer, and the officer in charge of emergency training; also Sim PBK, the company the district hired to chart a new Facilities Master Plan which includes safety. Discussion centered on emergency response training for all staff, individual school site safety assessment through the eyes of law enforcement; and social, emotional health needs and supports. The conversation was comprehensive, valuable and significantly supported the Board's vision for writing a Health & Safety Plan.

The plan will contain immediate, intermediate, and long-range goals. Funding and need will determine a timeline. We look forward to partnering with the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, the City of Santa Clarita, our neighboring school districts, and various agencies within LA County to implement best practices.

With Safety and Student Wellness as top priorities for the school board, in the last two years the Board approved upgraded fencing at all 10 schools, hired a social worker, additional counselors, organized two family resources centers at 2 schools, and is engaged with community outreach organizations that ensure the health and wellbeing of foster, homeless, and low income-poverty families.

If you have suggestions, questions, or concerns regarding safety, or social emotional support, please contact your principal, Superintendent Jeff Pelzel, or any of the 5 school board members. We are all partners in ensuring that our students thrive and learn in safe schools.

#### La Junta Directiva Trabaja Para Crear un Plan de Saludy Seguridad

La Junta Directiva del Distrito Escolar Newhall ha estado colaborando con la administración para establecer un Plan de Acción de Salud y Seguridad que incorpora acciones para apoyar la seguridad física en la escuela y el bienestar socio-emocional de sus estudiantes. Para facilitar este trabajo, la Junta Directiva realizó una Sesión Especial de Estudio sobre Seguridad. Se invitó a participar a los padres del distrito, al personal, al Comandante Robert Lewis del Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Los Ángeles, el Oficial de Recursos Escolares y al Oficial a Cargo del Entrenamiento de Emergencia; también a Sim PBK, la compañía que el distrito contrató para trazar un nuevo Plan Maestro de Instalaciones que incluye la seguridad. La discusión se enfocó en a la capacitación de conducción defensiva y respuesta a emergencias para todo el personal, la evaluación de la seguridad de cada escuela a través de los ojos de las agencias policiales; y las necesidades y el apoyo de salud social y emocional. La conversación fue comprehensiva, valiosa y apoyó significativamente la visión de la Junta de formar un Plan de Salud y Seguridad.

El plan incluirá objetivos inmediatos, intermedios y de largo plazo. La financiación y la necesidad determinarán un calendario. Esperamos colaborar con el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Los Ángeles, la Ciudad de Santa Clarita, nuestros distritos escolares vecinos y varias agencias del Condado de Los Ángeles para implementar las mejores prácticas.

Con la seguridad y el bienestar de los estudiantes como prioridades principales de la Junta Directiva, en los últimos dos años la Junta aprobó modernizar las cercas en las 10 escuelas, contrató a un trabajador social y a consejeros adicionales, organizó dos centros de recursos familiares en 2 escuelas y ha colaborado con organizaciones de servicios comunitarios que aseguran la salud y el bienestar de las familias de acogida, sin hogar y con bajos ingresos.

Si tiene comentarios, preguntas o preocupaciones sobre la seguridad o apoyo emocional social, por favor comuníquese con su director/a, el Superintendente Jeff Pelzel, o a cualquiera de los 5 miembros de la Junta Directiva. Todos somos socios para asegurar que nuestros estudiantes prosperen y aprendan en escuelas seguras.



**Kay Coop** Founder/Publisher

Superintendent Pelzel begins this

issue with an important message

Thank you for your positive

responses to our first issue when you

emailed your contest entries. You will

find a new Word Search on page 11.

I received several requests for

additional copies of the issue. We do

regarding absenteeism.





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It is advertising that makes it possible for us to publish. If you are a business owner, please email me for information.

Have a fun Spring Break! Our next issue is May 30.



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#### Covering the **NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop 562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com **ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

562/493-3193

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder **Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



#### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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## Wiley Canyon PTA

https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com/domain/2475

#### Wiley Canyon PTA Recognized

The Wiley Canyon Elementary School (WC) PTA is an amazing group of families from different ethnicities, backgrounds, and traditions. Our PTA events and programs are well planned to benefit the diversity of students at Wiley Canyon. Every year Wiley Canyon PTA keeps the tradition of well-attended events that celebrate kindness, teamwork, education, and family, often advertising our events on our school fence with colorful cups. PTA activities are designed so students can enjoy time with families,

teachers, and their fellow students. Traditional events that our students, families, and staff are enthusiastic about include: Grandparents' Day, field trips, assemblies, Red Ribbon Week, our membership drive, the school yearbook, "smencil" and spirit wear sales, on-campus trick or treating, Movie Night, the Book Fair, Accelerated Reading, the Holiday Shop, Popcorn Day, APEX, the Father/Daughter Dance, and the Variety Show.



Wiley Wolf, our school mascot, arrives on campus before school to greet our students, teachers, parents, and staff. He promotes school spirit, so our Wiley Canyon family will thrive. We work hard to make sure our students have a happy place away from home. They arrive every day to school to see the hallways and multipurpose room decorated to reflect holidays, events, seasons, and lessons. This year our multipurpose room celebrates the artwork of every Wiley Canyon student.

Recently, our PTA was recognized by the California State PTA for the Best in Five Challenge as a result of having our highest membership total in the last five years. But we are not finished—there are more exciting things happening at Wiley Canyon, and our families, students, and teachers will continue to celebrate.

This is how we roll at the WC!

#### Dr. J. Michael McGrath Elementary

21501 Deputy Jake Dr., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4091 •www.mcgrathelementary.com



**Jennifer Boone** Principal

#### **Reclassification—the First Step!**

The Inaugural District Reclassification Ceremony held in February was absolutely inspiring! Students sang in English and Spanish and spoke about their school experience and their motivation to become bilingual.

Reclassification is the process and culmination of students who come to school speaking another language and

then become fully proficient in English. They are then reclassified to Fluent English Proficient in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. This is a huge accomplishment!

The most touching thing from the Newhall Inaugural Reclassification Ceremony was hearing the story of a young second-language learner, the trials she went through as a shy student, and the love and diligence of her mother. Her mother completed only third grade and did not speak English, but she ensured that her daughter read, went to the library, and was given the power to be anything she wanted to be. Mom knew the importance of education and instilled that in her daughter.

That now adult English learner was introduced—Daria Ramirez, assistant principal of McGrath Elementary School! Ms. Ramirez' mom spoke at the ceremony and brought tears to everyone's eyes. Ms. Ramirez is a beautiful reflection of her mother and our very own Newhall School District English-learner success story!



## Meadows Elementary

25577 N. Fedala Rd., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4050 • www.meadowselementary.com



Dr. Juliet Fine Principal

#### **Enriching Lives**

Meadows Elementary School believes in giving all students an opportunity to thrive and feel inspired. We also believe in maintaining strong parent involvement. This year we are introducing

a new STEAM/Makerspace-inspired lunchtime activity called "Cardboard Playground."

At Meadows, we are strongly inspired by the STEAM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and the Makerspace movement. With the Cardboard Playground, our students will have the opportunity to create, build, and collaborate through creative play.

This is an inclusive opportunity that allows all children to use their imaginations, work with one another, and create something completely new with cardboard and other reusable materials. It is also a parent volunteer-run activity inspired by the tinker and Makerspace movement.



Meadows also believes in stretching its students by bridging the real world to core academic content. In January, our entire school experienced the Ocean Outreach Program through the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Our classes were also able to take valuable and enriching field trips to our on-campus science lab, and visited the ocean.

In an interactive hands-

on experience, the students learned about what lives in the sea. They were also able to touch live sea animals, including starfish, crabs, lobsters, and sea turtles. They also learned about marine biology through the study of sea animal habitats, including tide pools.

The Meadows Foundation can bring these exciting experiences to our students thanks to the generous contributions from our parents. We are always inspired to enrich the lives of our students through these interactive experiences.

#### Newhall Elementary

24607 Walnut St., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4010 • www.newhallelementary.net



Jackie Tapia Principal

#### **English Proficiency**

In an emotional ceremony, 27 of our students were celebrated for reclassifying as English proficient. "I am thankful for my mom and my teacher because they always believed in me," said sixth-grader Stephanie Garcia Ortiz, one of the reclassified students.

Students, teachers and parents are all aware of the opportunities reclassification before junior high school offers. "I am

thankful to be recognized in this ceremony as a good student," expressed fourth-grader Diana Mata.

Our students know that the criteria for reclassification is challenging. They need to demonstrate proficiency in the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC), meet academic progress measures in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), and be recommended by their teachers.

At the end of the ceremony, third-grader Melany Fentanes summarized the experience in a way that warmed our hearts: "When I grow up, I want to be a teacher because I want to teach students how to learn."

Congratulations to all of our reclassified students!



#### Old Orchard Elementary

25141 N Avenida Rondel, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4040 • www.oldorchardelementary.com



**Ken Hintz** *Principal* 

#### **PBIS Game Room**

Old Orchard Elementary School has embraced PBIS implementation by awarding OWLS tickets to students for modeling OWLS habits and positive behavior. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework to create safer and more effective schools for students. OWLS tickets can be used to purchase items at our PBIS student store or for an entry ticket to our PBIS Game Room.

Our PBIS Game Room is spectacular. Students are able to play arcade-size games such as alley roll-ball, air hockey, electronic indoor basketball and football toss and on a full-size foosball table. Laughter can be heard down the hall when students play in our PBIS room.

We also have board games to choose from and tabletop games such as pocket golf. You can hear crashing blocks, laughter and cheers when a student or a staff member wins in one of those games. We love our PBIS Game Room!



#### Oak Hills Elementary

26730 Old Rock Rd., Valencia, CA 91381 • 661/291-4100 • www.oakhillsschool.com



**Wendy Maxwell** Principal

#### **National Blue Ribbon Award**

At Oak Hills Elementary School, we are incredibly honored to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award for 2019. This award, which is annually given to less than 420 schools across the United States, is based on a school's overall academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups. Representatives of our school traveled to Washington D.C. to accept the award.

The National Blue Ribbon Award reflects the tireless efforts of teachers, staff, and community of Oak Hills, who all continually work together to ensure the success of our students. It is through a spirit of collaboration and a shared sense of leadership that all students on campus feel supported in their learning and are able to thrive academically, socially, and beyond.

We also wish to congratulate both Stevenson Ranch Elementary School and Pico Canyon Elementary School, who were also honored with the National Blue Ribbon Award this year.



#### Peachland Elementary

24800 Peachland Ave., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4020 • www.peachlandelementary.net



**Diana Stenroos** Principal

#### **Road to Robotics**

Peachland Elementary School is proud to offer a robotics learning opportunity for our third- through fifth-grade students each spring. New participants learn about how and why various robots may be used in real life workplaces as they learn to program a robot to mimic workplace robots. Continuing participants explore more advanced programming and building.

Each year, our fall team of 10 students participates in robotic tournaments. These tournaments have three main components: the robot game, core values, and project. In the robot game, teams have two and one-half minutes to successfully complete preprogrammed, autonomous robot tasks on a game table. Second, teams must present how they have incorporated core values as a team and shared them with others outside of robotics. Last, the team identifies a real-world problem related to a theme, creates an innovative solution, discusses it with experts, and presents a solution to a panel of judges.

This year, the theme was City Shapers. Our team determined that the bicycle route to Peachland School was unsafe. The team elicited the help of parents in order to determine the need for a bike path, additional crosswalks, and flashing lights for safety and to eliminate some of the blind spots for both riders and drivers on the path to Peachland. The team met with the district's director of safety, the city's director of public works, and traffic engineers.

In November, the team competed against 28 other schools at the qualifying tournament. They placed second in core values and were selected as one of four teams to move on to the championship tournament. Here, the team placed first in their project presentation.

Congratulations, Peachland Robotics!

#### Pico Canyon Elementary

25255 Pico Canyon Rd., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.picoelementary.com



**Tammi Rainville** *Principal* 

#### **Our Huskies Learn to Code**

Our Pico Canyon students participate in a program called First Lego League (FLL), thanks to lead teacher Mr. Bryan Eifert. Mr. Eifert began teaching robotics as an extracurricular program in 2006, back when there were 8,800 teams nationally who explored nanotechnology. Currently there are 35,140 FLL teams across the globe.

Each year, Pico Canyon Robotics selects two teams to participate in the program. The teams then practice "gracious professionalism," which is a part of the ethos of FLL. This is simply a way of encouraging high-quality work, emphasizing the value of others, and respecting individuals and the community. With gracious professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.

Each Robotics team identifies a local, national, or global issue or problem, and then works collaboratively with their teammates to create a solution that is based upon a global theme. The students also design, build, and program EV3

Lego robots that can perform missions on the competition field. At these competitions, teams share their problem/solution with experts such as NASA astronauts and JPL and Boeing engineers, to name just a few. They also compete in 5+ robot performance rounds, and can meet other young students from around the world.

This year's FLL theme was "City Shaper." Our Cyber Huskies and Robo Huskies worked collaboratively to build an autonomous robot using engineering and coding concepts. The robot was tasked with accomplishing as many "missions" or challenges as possible within a given amount of time.

Our teams first identified the physical and social problems that our community deals with during expansion, building, and growth. The students then worked together to innovate and solve these problems, while also sharing creative "City Shaper" solutions with local authorities and other teams at the tournament competitions.

Mr. Eifert proudly reports that, "Our students are constantly challenged to think creatively, work together as a team to overcome obstacles, and develop their self-esteem and confidence as leaders!"

#### Stevenson Ranch Elementary

25820 N Carroll Ln., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.stevensonranchschool.com



Chad Rose Principal

#### **Good Attendance is Key**

Attendance in school prepares students for success in life. It is the foundation for the building of healthy habits that our children will carry with them into their adult life. Children learn best from their teachers when they are in school and hands- on with their learning.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that students with poor attendance from as early as kindergarten have a higher rate of poor achievement, and a higher rate of dropping out of high school (NCES, February 2009). Even with the best teacher, students who are not in school are at a clear disadvantage in their learning.

All of our children must attend school every day unless they are seriously ill. It is important for parents to communicate with the school office if their child is going to be absent for an unavoidable extended length of time.



To acknowledge good attendance, each class competes to host the Monthly Traveling Attendance Trophy, earned by the class with the highest, in-seat and on-time, attendance rating.

There are alternative study options that can be implemented to help support our students in the learning process if they are unavoidably out of school. Stevenson Ranch is piloting a Saturday instructional program that allows our students to make up for one day of absence. This educational opportunity reinforces the importance of regular school attendance, and will help our students make up for their missed learning.

#### Valencia Valley Elementary

23601 Carrizo Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4060 • www.valenciavalleyelementary.com



**Amy Gaudette** Principal

#### It's Cool to be Kind

During the last week of January, our Valencia Valley students joined more than 24,000 others schools by participating in the "Great Kindness Challenge," as set forth by the organization Kids for Peace. Our school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team and our PTA both planned various activities during the week to encourage more kindness at school and at home.

Each day of this week the staff members rewarded our students with raffle tickets for demonstrating activities under the themes of Manners Monday. Teamwork Tuesday, We Matter Wednesday, Thank-You Thursday, and Friendship Friday. Students won special prizes in different drawings. Homework was also replaced by Kindness Menus, where the students could choose different acts of kindness to perform at school, home, or out in the world.

The PTA members also wrote positive messages on over 1,000 "Pay it Forward Post-Its," which were later "sprinkled like confetti" over the campus for our students to take and keep, or share with someone else.



To close out the week, "Vic the Viking" joined our students on the yard at brunch on Friday for some great music, as well as special photo opportunities with our "Be the 'I' in Kind" sign. The Great Kindness Challenge helped show our Vikings just how cool it is to be kind!

#### Wiley Canyon Elementary

24240 W La Glorita Circle, Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4030 • www.wileycanyonelementary.com



Tim Lankford Principal

#### **Partnership Offers Opportunity**

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Newhall School District and College of the Canyons, parents at Wiley Canyon Elementary School were provided this year with the opportunity to take English as a second language classes on-

site at Wilev Canyon. We're now in our

second semester, and an increasing number of parents have committed to taking classes Monday through Thursday for two and a half hours a day. As parents bring their children to school, they too are now taking classes.

Many parents were unaware or unable to attend classes at College of the Canyons and are pleased that this class is now available in their community. Parents have shared that this experience has been a great opportunity. They have also commented that having the class at their children's school site is both convenient and meaningful, as everyone is involved in the process of learning.

We look forward to continuing this ongoing effort to support the needs of our families.



#### B is for Book

**Bailey** 

#### A Legendary Read

Legend by Marie Lu is a dystopia that includes lots of action and unlikely romances.

June is what is considered a "prodigy." She is smart, agile, and ready for anything. Her country's



response to this is money, luxury, and a high class life. Living secretly in the slums of the same country is Day. Day is a criminal who has yet to be caught by the Republic. Like June, he's incredibly agile and intelligent. When Day kills June's brother, June vows to get revenge. She indeed finds him, but her intuitive gut nags her. Suddenly, secrets come to the light and June must ask herself, what is the right decision? Who should she fight for? Is Day really who she thought he was?

This book is crafted well in every way. Lu uses a variety of language that creates vivid images. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.

#### Katie's Review



Katie C.

#### **Daydreamer**

Title: Words with Wings Author: Nikki Grimes Gabby is what you would call a daydreamer. She always seemed to be in her own world and sometimes it got her in trouble. Daydreaming



was a way to escape from her parents' arguments. She daydreamed at home,

at school, everywhere — until it became a way of life. She seemed to meet everyone that discouraged her dreams, until she meets a new teacher. This new teacher shows her that her dreams can help her, that they can spark imagination and cause her to create great things. Gabby finally realizes that rather than daydreaming everything, she can WRITE. This book is a collection of poems that shows the mental growth of a girl who was lost in her own world.

Katie is in 10th grade. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to the kids who want to find more good books.

#### Manhar's Book Review

on what happens when you don't do

your home assignments in a timely

grader, goes through a big problem

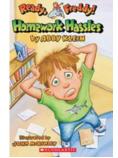
fashion. Freddy Thresher, a first

Manhar M.

#### **Doing Homework**

Homework Hassles (Ready, Freddy!-Series 3) by Abby Klein

I was recently introduced to the book series of "Ready, Freddy!" and this is my favorite book so far. This book focuses



when his teacher wants the class to do reports on nocturnal animals. He couldn't find an animal until the last moment. He went overboard with his research and got himself into trouble. The book includes exciting twists and turns in the story. The conversation of Freddy and his friends reminds me of my own conversations in the class. I couldn't stop reading the book to find out if Freddy completed his assignment on the due date. I also learned the value of friends and family through this book.

Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

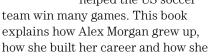
#### Jenna's Review

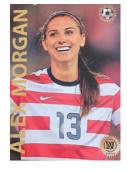


Jenna C.

#### A Soccer Hero

Title: Alex Morgan Do you know who Alex Morgan is? Alex Morgan is a famous soccer player for the United States Women's National Team. She helped the US soccer





became famous. There are fun facts about Alex Morgan including her personal life, her published books, her favorites, and what she likes to do when she is not playing soccer. Additionally, this book includes US Women's soccer history such as the World Cup and Olympics. It also talks about some soccer heroes. Interestingly, this book also has a board game on the last page for readers to play. I especially like this book because there are multiple realistic photos. I recommend this book to people who like soccer and Alex Morgan.

Jenna is a 4th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

#### Tyson's Book Review

**Tyson** 

#### **Never Give Up**

Touchdown Kid by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam, A



well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is

good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read Touchdown Kid. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!

Tyson is an athletic 6th grader who loves basketball, soccer, and volleyball. His favorite subjects are P.E. and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of his 3 guinea pigs with his brother. He looks forward to going to Lakers games with his dad.

#### Isabella's Book Review



## **Truly Inspiring and Touching**

Heidi by Johanna Spyri Heidi is a sweet young girl that is taken to live with her sour uncle. While Heidi



Isabella A.

resides in the Alps, she meets the young shepherd who loves food.

Heidi loves the Swiss Alps but is suddenly sold to a wealthy family in Germany. She is to be friends with Clara, a girl who is paralyzed and is lonely.

On a guest to attempt to see the Alps in a German city, Clara and Heidi escape from the house, landing Heidi in deep trouble. Heidi is sad and attempts to run away. When she is caught and denied permission to return home, Heidi becomes depressed.

When Heidi begins to sleepwalk and go outside at night, the doctor says it is because of her depression. The doctor savs that she needs to go home.

Will Heidi be allowed to go home? Or will she find a home in Clara's house?

I would Give Heidi 5 stars. I hung on to every word and anticipated every page

Isabella is a 7th grader and just published her first short story in a school anthology of young authors after winning first prize with her work. She rates books on a 5 star scale.

#### **Novelist –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 Newhall in the subject line.

Entries must be received by April 30, 2020 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

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**IDEAS IMAGINATION** 

Congratulations to Daniel Farago Winner of our November Word Search Contest!

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