

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Garvey School District**



Volume 4, Issue 9

February 2023



# HELP YOUR CHILD BUILD A STRONG FINANCIAL FUTURE

The Membership benefits you enjoy can be shared with your kids. Find out all the ways we can help them establish good financial habits.<sup>1</sup>



**Richard B. and Family**  
Members since 1995

Learn more at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/youth](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/youth)

<sup>1</sup> Supporting documentation required. Junior Varsity Club Memberships (age 12 and under) require a parent/legal guardian joint owner on all shares; Varsity Club Memberships (age 13–17) require a parent/legal guardian joint owner on certain products and services.

Insured by NCUA.

**SCHOOLSFIRST**   
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Maureen  
Chin**  
*President*



**Bobbi  
Brusech**  
*Vice-President*



**Paul  
Duran**  
*Clerk*



**Ronald  
Trabanino**  
*Member*



**Andrew "Andy"  
Yam**  
*Member*

## Adventures on a Journey!



**Anita Chu**  
*Superintendent*

2023 marks a significant milestone in our adventures together!

### Adventures in **Achieving the Cradle to College Vision**

The Garvey community had an exciting dedication ceremony of the Marshall Early Education Center in December 2022. More than 200 parents, children, city officials, community partners, and staff joined this happy celebration as we dedicated a state-of-the-art facility to serving infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. The Center will play a significant role in realizing the District's cradle to college vision.



### Adventures in **Nurturing the Whole Child**

The new normal in the post-pandemic era has presented a concerning increase in social-emotional, mental, and behavioral challenges among students, particularly among the vulnerable populations.

To promote whole-child wellness, the District continues to expand our team of skilled behavioral, mental health and social-emotional staff to increase individualized support services. Additionally, the District has relaunched result-proven programs and introduced new research-based initiatives. Teachers, working in collaboration with counselors, continue to refine the implementation of the adopted social-emotional learning (SEL) programs. Schools are optimizing the purposefully designed "wellness center" to provide a physically and emotionally appealing environment for group and individual SEL activities, including counseling and mindfulness exercises. Psychologists are piloting a social-emotional learning screener to identify high-need students for timely intensive support services. Most excitingly, Garvey has just embarked on a journey to implement "Capturing Kids' Hearts," a research-based transformational process that focuses on social-emotional wellbeing.



### Adventures in **Serving the Whole Family**

Garvey understands the importance of family in fulfilling the mission of developing the whole child. We are expanding a variety of support services to nurture the whole family. With the partnership with community agencies, we offer ongoing parent education to build parent and family capacity in providing academic support at home, we conduct physical and mental health workshops to promote self-care practices as well as parents' understanding and skills in ensuring their children's wellness; we offer families on-campus health services, including vaccinations, dental services, and vision screening at the school-based clinic; we provide counseling services to assist families in addressing crisis situations; we gather physical resources for families in need. Garvey has embraced the whole family as important partners in our journey.



Despite the prevailing challenges, Garvey will continue to be a safe, happy, and vibrant haven where all students, parents, and staff can journey and grow together through inspiring, innovative, and impactful adventures.

Please visit our schools' and the District's websites at [www.gesd.us](http://www.gesd.us) to learn more about our programs and services in supporting our students, and community and partnership opportunities.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

Happy New Year! By now the new year is well underway. On page 3 Superintendent Chu brings you up-to-date on the District's Adventures Together.

In this issue you'll read articles ranging from holiday celebrations to the return of extracurricular activities.

We've included word search contest on page 8 (all ages may enter). Also, student book reviews are on page 16. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information.

Thank you for including School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is May 10.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
**GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

**COPY EDITORS:** 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  
562/493-3193

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

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Garvey School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



## Head Start / State Preschool

7424 Newmark St., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3396



**Dr. Sandra Gonzalez**  
Director

### Serving our Community's Youngest: Prenatal-to-5

The Child Development Program is thrilled to continue to expand program services in Early Head Start, allowing for a continuum of services to be offered for children ages birth-to-five and pregnant women. Early Head Start serves eligible pregnant women, infants, and toddlers by providing comprehensive services utilizing a research-based developmentally appropriate curriculum. Both home-based and center-based services are available. For home-

based services weekly individualized instruction is provided by a qualified teacher followed by group socializations. Socializations model a mini-classroom experience and include parent participation as an integral component of supporting the parent as their child's first teacher. The program is excited to soon be able to expand its center-based services at the Marshall Early Education Center. Early Head Start is an integral part of the program's vision, in addition to its Head Start and State Preschool Programs, to ensure that all children are school ready and have a strong foundation for a successful transition into kindergarten.



## Arlene Bitely *Elementary School*

7501 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3318 • [bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Bonnie Landry**  
*Principal*

### **Bitely Bears ROAR!**

As the school year has progressed, the Bitely Bear community has been busy learning, building community, and having fun!

In December, our wonderful PTA organized our first annual Color Run, where students sought sponsors to help raise money for our PTA, and then on our field, ran several laps with our volunteers showering us with powder- ending the day with a wonderful rainbow-colored principal and student body! Our Bears managed to raise over \$8,900 to help support educational activities

and our teachers in the classroom. A big thank you to our PTA and to our fantastic students who worked hard to raise money and to finish those laps!

We also welcomed our TK and Kinder families to Bitely for a holiday performance from our littlest Bears. It was a packed house, with standing room only! The students did a fantastic job, and our teachers prepared them so well for a fun and enjoyable performance. Thanks so much to Ms. Leos, Ms. Nakamura, Ms. Wong and Ms. Hansen for putting together such a lovely experience. Thank you to our families for your support. We hope you had a great time.

We are looking forward to a wonderful spring together with our students and families. Thank you for your support!



**Students support each other during the PTA Color Run Fundraiser**

# Dewey Avenue *Elementary School*

525 E. Dewey Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/307-3341 • [dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Denise Williams**  
*Principal*

## **Dolphins on the Move!**

Dewey Elementary provides academic and social-emotional wellness programs for students to be actively involved in school. First of all, we offer during the day and after school intervention. Intervention targets academic support in Language Arts and Mathematics. Next, our school counselor provides SEL lessons to all classes which focuses on the development of understanding diversity, compassion and mindfulness. During lunch our students are invited to join the “Lunch Bunch” group in our Wellness Center to engage in various mindful activities. It also gives students an opportunity to socially interact with

others and make new friends. Students can also become involved in ASB. Our ASB program helps students develop leadership skills and responsibility while promoting school activities. Dewey Elementary also offers a Dual Language Spanish program. In this program students develop proficiency in English and Spanish. Additionally our students experience a third language enrichment, Chinese Mandarin.

Lastly, Dewey Elementary also offers an afterschool program called Woodcraft Rangers. In this program, students receive academic assistance, snacks and physical fitness activities. Woodcraft Rangers also provides enrichment clubs such as Junior Rangers, gardening, sports, dance, and robotics.



**Our dance team performing at our Winter Holiday Assembly.**

# Duff Language Magnet Academy

7830 Dorothy Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3344 • [duff.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://duff.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Benson Kwok**  
Principal

## Making Kindness the Norm

At Duff language magnet academy, we believe that our student's social and emotional development is as important as their academic success. This year, our staff members are excited to utilize a tier-one, evidenced-based, social-emotional learning curriculum designed to foster a culture of kindness. These activities, sponsored by The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, teach six core kindness concepts: Respect, Caring,

Inclusiveness, Integrity, Responsibility, and Courage. In addition, our counselor Mrs. Castro facilitates the "Second Step" program which provides a holistic approach to helping students express emotions, develop empathy, encourage positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Our principal, Dr. Kwok creates opportunities for students to develop leadership through the seven habits of

Leader in Me establishing a common language, essential to building a leadership culture. These tools enable us to focus on what kindness is, what it looks like at school, and how we as a community can make sure that we are kind to one another every day.

Our dual language plus program provides opportunities for students to develop cultural competence that reflects the diversity of our community. In addition to learning Mandarin, students make meaningful connections through the infusion of Spanish, and Latino visual and performing arts. Mr. Azzorin and a team of district VAPA teachers have been instrumental in bringing the Arts to the forefront of our developing STEAM school. Students show off their talents at our winter concert, the district gala, and our upcoming Lantern festival. Our program is characterized by a passion for the exploration of culture and takes pride in fostering a safe, friendly, and welcoming community.



Students rehearse "Feliz Navidad" for our winter performance.

# Ralph Waldo Emerson *Elementary School*

7544 E. Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3333 • [emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us)



## Closing the Gap: Emerson Elementary

Mrs. Karen Ventura, Intervention Teacher, has been closing the opportunity gaps for numerous at-risk Emerson Elementary students.

**Dr. Alberto Alvarez**  
Interim Principal

Through the intervention classes, Mrs. Ventura has been able to address students' academic and socio-emotional needs. By consistently reviewing student data, Mrs. Ventura is able to tailor interventions for each student. This practice of continuous refinement has allowed her to be intentional and strategic in designing approaches to address the various student needs effectively.



**Mrs Karen Ventura, Intervention Teacher**

Because of her intentionality and strategic planning, nearly all students receiving interventions have grown academically and socially. Some students have produced gains of up to 2 years! To illustrate the power of these targeted and tailored interventions in phonics, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, one of our students, previously labeled as a bully and demonstrating negative behaviors, has produced great gains in academics. These victories have motivated this student to become more engaged in school, improved self-perception and has allowed him to see himself as a positive citizen and an Emerson scholar. During an interview with the student, the student stated "I love this class because I learned how to write "friend"." The success that this student has experienced translated into other successes. For example, the student has "graduated" from Speech and Language Services. His confidence in his abilities have enabled him to do better academically and his confidence has grown tremendously. Because of this growth, his reputation of being a "bully" has shifted to one of being a kind, caring and giving individual.

## Fun Things and Places—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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Garvey in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2023**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| CARNIVAL  | CAMP      |
| HOME      | SEASHORE  |
| SCHOOL    | FARM      |
| PARK      | ZOO       |
| SLIDES    | HIKE      |
| SWINGS    | BIKE RIDE |
| ROAD TRIP | REUNION   |
| PARTY     | CRUISE    |
| MOVIE     | SKATING   |
| POOL      | VIDEOS    |
| FOREST    |           |



Congratulations to **Max Ma**

Winner of our November Word Search Contest!

# Richard Garvey *Intermediate School*

2720 N. Jackson Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3385 • [garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**David Alarcon**  
*Principal*

## Return of Extracurricular Activities

Garvey Intermediate has seen a return to normalcy following the pandemic in regards to our extracurricular activities. Many of our clubs have returned in full capacity. Associated Student Body (ASB) has returned to hosting dances for our students. The Halloween Dance was well attended and they plan on hosting the Valentine's Dance in February. ASB also successfully held the

World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser that earned money for the promotion and promotion activities that we anticipate having at the end of the school year.

Other clubs, like the Science Club, will be participating in Science Olympiad and a number of other events this year. Band is also back to hosting performances like Choir and Band performances with our annual Talent Show coming in February. History Day is also returning after a hiatus. The team will compete in the county level in

the upcoming months. We have also started a new Lego Club that meets weekly at lunch to promote building and engineering through collaboration.

Academically, Garvey's AVID class which focuses on college readiness, has participated in a college field trip for the first time in 3 years. Both our 7th and 8th grade AVID classes visited USC and are planning a trip to UCLA in March. These field trips allow our students to get a better understanding of the college experience and hopefully inspire our students to pursue a higher education.

We have also seen a full return to our intramural sports program. Last year, we were able to have a basketball and volleyball tournament, but this year we also plan to return our badminton and soccer tournaments.

All of these extracurricular activities allow us to educate the whole child and give students an opportunity to find passions outside of the classroom. We look forward to students participating in all that Garvey Intermediate has to offer!



**Garvey Intermediate's Lego Club**

# Hillcrest Elementary School

795 Pepper St., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3371 • [hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Laura Quintana**  
*Principal*

## Student Leadership and Husky Culture

Hillcrest Elementary is committed to building leadership skills in all students and growing leaders that will change the world. Through our Leader in Me and PBIS programs, 7 Habits leadership curriculum, and student clubs, Huskies are encouraged to take risks, engage in student choice, and learn to lead by the example of the teachers and staff. We use student leadership roles

(ASB, Lighthouse Kids, Husky Ambassadors) to foster shared leadership. The Husky Ambassadors Club gives students the opportunity to be leaders in all sorts of capacities. Our 36 Ambassadors meet with the Counselor and Principal to discuss leadership roles, receive training, and to build relationships with peers. Ambassadors support younger students in the cafeteria, read to Kinder students, participate on Safety Patrol, are responsible for playground equipment, greet students, assist the Health Team, and help the leadership environment to be visible.



**Ambassadors ready to plan & organize.**



# Monterey Vista *Elementary School*

901 E. Graves Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3300 • [mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Hing Chow**  
*Principal*

## Programs Return for 2022-2023 School Year

Monterey Vista has programs that honors and invites community members to enhance student learning and parental involvement. For this school year, we are so happy to have some of these activities such as Halloween Parade, Book Fairs and

Winter Program return to our school community once again. One event which Monterey Vista would like to highlight is our Veteran's Day Program. We did not have a complete program with students singing, Color Guard and the Veterans present, but there were students who sang patriotic songs, learned about the meaning and history of Veteran's Day and why this special day is celebrated.



**Students and Staff Celebrating Veteran's Day.**

# Eldridge Rice *Elementary School*

2150 N. Angelus Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3348 • [rice.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://rice.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Judy Gonzales**  
*Principal*

## Ending 2022 with a Bang!

Happy New Year to All! At Rice Elementary, we ended 2022 with a whirlwind of celebrations to recognize our students' accomplishments. We began with our end-of-trimester awards rally. Our students proudly wore their college shirts as they waved their college flag, shouted out their class college cheer, and supported each other. Students received awards for their attendance, iReady success, English Language Arts, Math, English Language Development, most improved and Reading Counts. The fun continued with our 2-6th grade VAPA, visual and performing arts, music concert. The students were able to showcase what they had learned in their music classes under the direction of our dedicated VAPA teachers. It was great to see the complexity of the skills increase as the grades went up.

The Polar Express then stopped at Rice, and the students in grades preschool-2 and Mr. Kenny's fifth/

sixth-grade class showed off their magnificent singing and dancing skills. Our Winter Wonderland show was a great success thanks to the dedication of our teachers! Seeing the children thrive as their parents looked on and cheered them on was so wonderful.

If that wasn't enough, we continued on with our PBIS book raffle. We celebrated great behavior while promoting literacy. The completed PBIS stamp cards were used as raffle tickets, and students got to pick a book of their choice. The children had so much fun picking from hundreds of books that were purchased and donated to this worthy cause.

To top off our crazy, fun week of celebrations, we ended with our Reflex Math ice cream sundae party. The students who reached 100% fluency on either the addition and subtraction or multiplication and division facts on our Reflex math program were able to pick from a variety of toppings, whip cream, and of course, a cherry on top. We look forward to many more wonderful celebrations in 2023 as our Rice Rockets aim for the stars!



**Mrs. Quiroz's 6th Grade Class Showcasing their musical skills thanks to Mr. Wagner and Mr. Drange.**



**Mrs. Jameson and Mrs. Villarroel's 2nd Grade Polar Express Performance.**

# George I. Sanchez *Elementary School*

8470 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3368 • [sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Gabriela Benitez**  
*Principal*

## Sanchez has Genius

As we close out 2022 and enter the year of the Rabbit, a year that promises longevity, peace and prosperity, we are hopeful for another great year.

Student leaders are actively participating in our signature programs led by dedicated and forward thinking staff.

The AVID leadership team led us in a successful PD back in November generating interest toward our school's college and career readiness goals. Their hard work paid off as we proudly welcome first and second grade classrooms to our team. We could not have grown without the leadership of Mrs. Escalante, Mrs. Perez and Mr. Guerrero.

Chess Club kicked off in October thanks to our committed counselor, Mr. Escobedo. Students look forward to practicing their skills or learning new ones with the guidance of 6<sup>th</sup> grade expert players who facilitate the games at recess.

The return of our broadcast news show Good Day Eagles is on the horizon and we look forward to bringing new components to the show that originally started in 2020, but was short-lived due to the pandemic.

Speaking of new components, ASB proudly welcomes 14 new members from the primary that have formed Jr. ASB. These little ones have enjoyed accepting their new role as school leaders and I could not be more proud of their concerted efforts.

Tech Crew is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and is now led by our talented Library Media Tech, Mr. Manny. This leadership group continues to contribute to our signature programs and culture. Their creativity is limitless and their Haunted Maze at our Reading Circus was proof of it.

It is evident that our students hold the confidence to lead in various capacities when given the opportunity to demonstrate success. Sanchez's collective vision includes continuously providing those opportunities for years to come.



**ASB and Jr. ASB demonstrating the various programs they lead at Sanchez.**

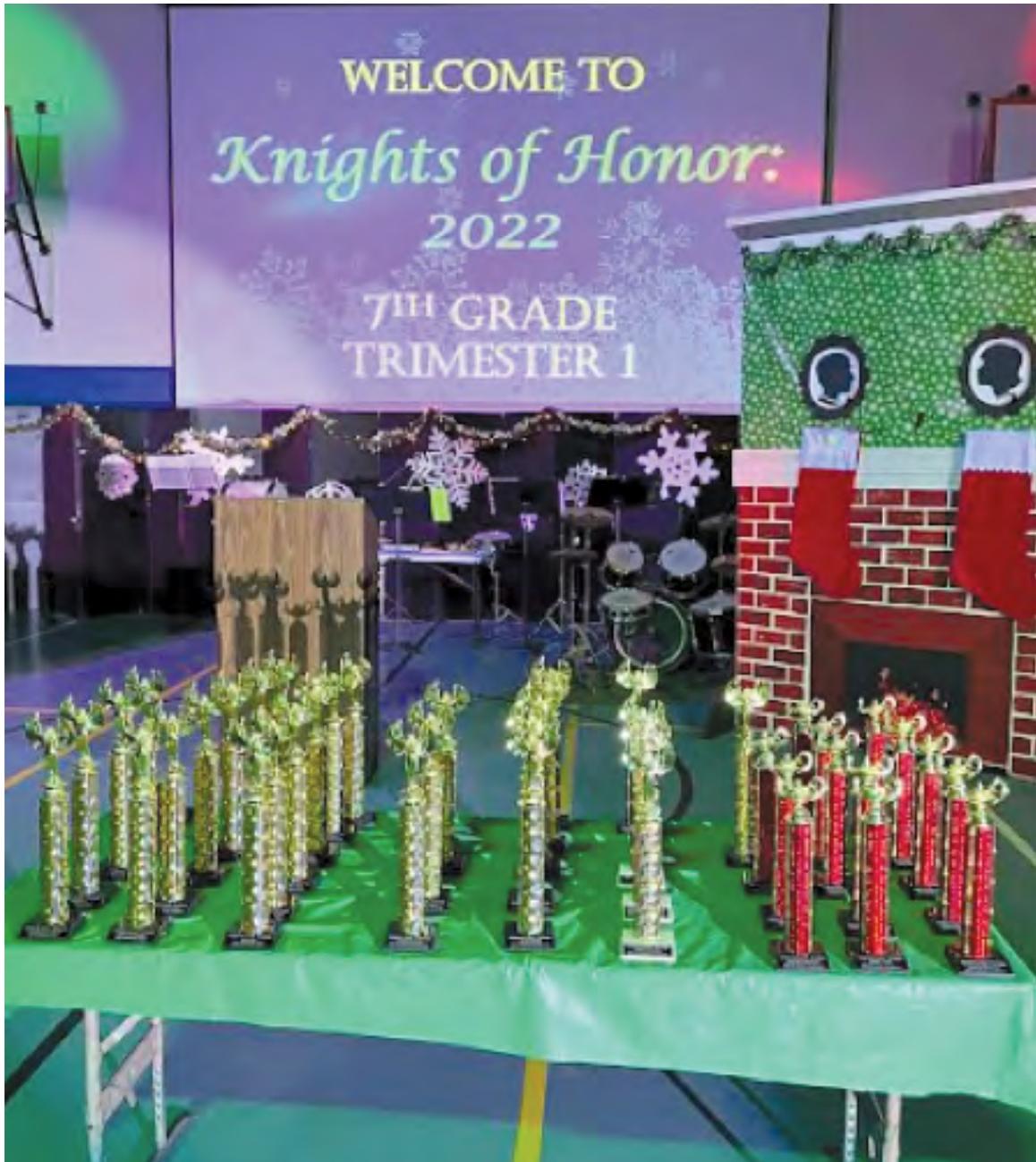


**Dr. Robert Boyd III**  
*Principal*

### **A Special Night Honoring our Temple Knights**

As we continue our journey to normalcy at Temple Intermediate School, we are gradually seeing the return of our traditions that have made us a special place to so many. Prior to 2019, we had the opportunity to come together at the end of each trimester in celebration of our students who excelled in the areas of Academics, Citizenship and Overall Effort. We call this celebration “Knights of Honor”.

Students are selected by teachers to receive awards in recognition of Academic Excellence, Outstanding Citizenship, and Exemplary Effort. On this special night, students are called before an audience of their peers and families to receive a trophy and to pose for pictures. On December 15, 2022, we saw the return of the Knights of Honor Ceremony at Temple Intermediate, and it was nothing less than spectacular! We look forward to the return of more of our Temple traditions in the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.



**Knights of Honor trophies polished and ready to go!**

# Frances Willard *Elementary School*

3152 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3375 • [willard.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://willard.garvey.k12.ca.us)



## Celebrating Bringing Joy Back to the Holiday Season!

This year our PTA, ASB and staff have been amazing partners at Willard Elementary. As we know, all of us have experienced difficult times over the

last two or more years. Some of us have experienced or know someone who has experienced: loss of job and income, illness, lack of basic needs, loneliness, sadness, loss of a loved one and the list goes on. People's hearts have been weighed down with so much. We wanted to turn a corner in this with the Willard community so our focus this year has been to bring back joy to our students, families and staff. Through PTA and ASB, we have had amazing events and celebrations during this Holiday season. ASB planned a fun-filled "Spirit Week" with crazy hair day, ugly sweater day and pajama day. The students were full of laughter and joy participating. PTA supported our door decorating contest and our students used their creativity to design festive doors (and some won pizza or nachos! Who doesn't smile when they win food!). Our PTA served treats at our Holiday Show that was packed with families and friends taking in the splendor of our students and staff singing holiday songs. Also, PTA arranged and coordinated



"Pictures with Santa". Each class had their picture with Santa Claus and parents purchased individual pictures too with Santa (can you name which GESD staff got their picture with Santa?). Teachers and staff participated in a Holiday Cookie sharing event (filled with lots of calories!). All of these events created multiple opportunities for smiles, laughter and happiness. All of this brought back something that many of us have missed these last couple years: joy in the Holiday season and joy for our students, families, staff and community we serve at Willard.



A little bit of Willard's joyful holiday



## David's Review



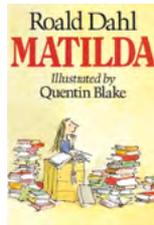
David H.

### Smart and Funny

Title: *Matilda*

Author: Roald Dahl

Matilda is a book about an intelligent girl whose parents neglect her. When she starts going to school, she meets a nice and caring teacher, Miss Honey. Matilda



later discovers that she has a special talent. What is her special talent? You should read the book not just to find out but also if you want to laugh! The things that Matilda does throughout the book were funny and the author's writing is hilarious. This is one of my favorite books and I'm sure it will be yours too!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

## Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

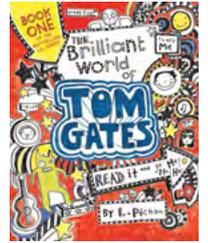
### Very Funny Book!

Title: *The Brilliant*

*World of Tom Gates*

Author: Liz Pichon

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is about a boy named Tom. Tom and his best friend Derek are in a band called Dog Zombies



and they both want to go to a Dude3 concert but Tom has many silly problems to deal with. Read this book to see what happens and to laugh out loud! This book is very funny and has really funny pictures. I loved this book and can't wait to read the other books in this series!

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

## Taegyong's Book Review



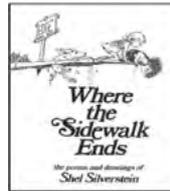
Taegyong K.

### Make-Believe World

Title: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*

Author: Shel Silverstein

I'll give you a moment to think about it. Where else will you find a boy who ate the world, or a world with flying shoes? Well of course not here, but it exists in Shel Silverstein's



"Where the Sidewalk Ends". A book full to the brim with poems. Don't get me wrong. They're not just a handful of boring words, they have a meaning of their own. Some teach you lessons, some are intriguing, and others are there for the good old laugh out loud. But whichever one you read; they all have something to enjoy. The illustrations on some of them are spot on, showing the reader what this poem has in store for them. There are no boundaries of imagination in these poems, the only way is up. So, if you're looking for the next sister auction or some diamond gardens, look no further than this book.

Taegyong K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

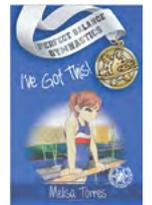
## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### Hard work and Dedication

"I've Got This!" is book 1 of 8 in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series* by Melissa Torres. The story is about Trista Thompson, a young tumbler who has just moved to Utah and wants to join a



competitive gymnastics team. Since she is great at tumbling, she believes she can quickly and easily learn all gymnastics skills. Can she learn gymnastics skills quickly? What does it take for Trista to be part of the team? Will she be good enough to join the team?

I like all of the books in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series*, especially this one. As a competitive gymnast, reading this book at the start of my new gymnastics season encourages me to try new skills and work harder to improve my existing skills. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves gymnastics or wants to explore the world of gymnasts.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

