

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Fullerton School District**



Volume 8, Issue 24

April 2021

## FSD Executive Cabinet recognizes ERP Honor Roll Schools with a lunch treat



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## Seven Schools Named to Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
*Superintendent*

Seven schools in Fullerton School District have been named to the 2019-2020 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for their high achievement in student success. The program, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and districts that are improving student outcomes. Acacia, Beechwood, Robert C.

Fisler, and Laguna Road Schools were recognized at the Scholar Level and D. Russel Parks Junior High, Fern Drive, and Rolling Hills Schools were recognized at the Star level. These seven FSD schools are of the 2,568 public schools in California and 241 schools in Orange County to be recognized.

The Honor Roll is developed by Educational Results Partnership (ERP), a nonprofit organization that applies data science to help improve student outcomes and career readiness. ERP maintains the nation's largest database on student achievement and utilizes this data to identify

higher-performing schools and districts. Schools that receive the ERP Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

“Fullerton School District is honored to have seven schools recognized by educational and business leaders as ERP Honor Roll Schools,” said Dr. Robert Coghlan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. “We are continually striving to increase academic achievement and improve educational outcomes for all of our students. Our teachers and administrators are fully committed and we are thrilled to see their hard work and dedication produce such positive results.”

The ERP Honor Roll is the only school recognition program in California based solely on objective achievement data where schools don't know they've earned the honor until they are notified. ERP focuses on improving educational equity and promoting career readiness for all students, regardless of their family income, background or ZIP code.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

We are quickly nearing the end of this school year and this is our last issue until October. It has certainly been a year no one will forget and at the same time educators, parents and students have been innovative to cope both at school and at home. Some things have changed forever but one constant has been the importance of reading.

Many of the articles in this issue focus on the value of literacy highlighted by participating in the March Book Madness celebration.



We have included our popular student book reviews on pages 15 & 16. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing their favorite books, please email me for specifics.

Speaking of reading, thank you for being loyal readers of *School News*. As we have converted our publication to digital, we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is October. Have a wonderful summer!

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
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## Acacia Elementary

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Liz Leon**  
Principal

### Adopted Resolution

The FSD Board adopted a resolution that looks to implement greater sensitivity and personal understanding in an effort to embrace diversity and differences across FSD. With the support of the FSD School Board, Acacia is collaborating with other FSD school educators to learn about resources that are inclusive of all our diverse learners. We seek to enrich instruction throughout the entire year to portray the cultural and racial diversity of our society. Schools have created an implementation plan and at Acacia, we seek to develop positive self identity, build empathy, promote inclusion and enhance our classroom libraries to be representative of multicultural groups. We have started our journey by creating an alignment with Reader's Workshop, facilitating culturally relevant lessons specific to

Black History Month, increasing resources for read alouds, providing ongoing professional development, and creating an Acacia Virtual Library featuring culturally diverse books for student access to name a few.



## Beechwood

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • fullertonsd.org

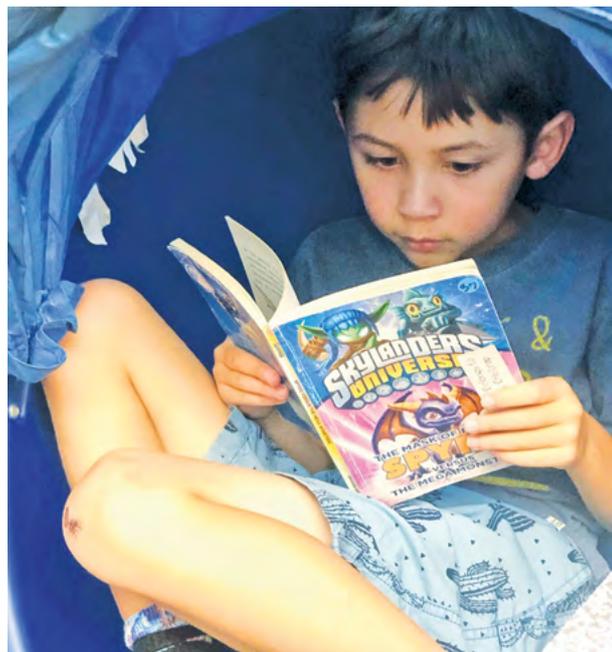


**Dr. Julie Graham**  
Principal

### The Value of Literacy

At Beechwood School, we value literacy as a means to equip, enrich, and empower students. Each year, students look forward to participating in the March Book Madness celebration. This year, both students on campus and students who are learning virtually from home enjoyed reading and discussing 16 different titles. These titles are arranged in an online bracket-style tournament that matches books in one-on-one "games." Every class then participates by voting for their favorite books on a Google Form until we reach a schoolwide favorite. This year's curated list of titles celebrates the uniqueness of each child and the diversity of our community.

In addition to sharing these titles, students enjoyed being able to give book recommendations from their own lists of favorites to their peers. One student recommended his favorite book because he got lost in the imaginary world and it "opened up his mind." We hosted 4 dress up days to make reading fun. Students followed the dress-up themes: words are powerful, reading rocks, today a reader-tomorrow a leader, and reading gives you superpowers. We also had a schoolwide book reading challenge where students logged their reading minutes to reach our ambitious school goal. As a celebration of meeting those minutes, there was a basketball shootout between administration and teachers! Literacy not only enriches a student's life, but it creates opportunities for them to develop skills for future success.



## Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • fullertonsd.org



**Anita Lomeli**  
*Principal*

### Appreciating Contributions

At Commonwealth Elementary, students are encouraged to be confident in themselves, purposeful in their work, and honorable in their deeds. Black History Month proved to be an awesome way to learn and connect with persons, historical events, and triumphs that demonstrated to our

students many examples of courage, bravery, discipline,

innovation, and talent. From the moment students walked onto campus, they were immersed in a variety of music from various genres created and/or popularized by African American singers and musicians, such as Jazz, Motown, and Hip Hop. In the classroom, teachers delivered lessons that showcased the African American experience across a myriad of learning opportunities. Students learned about African American “Greats” and “Firsts” such as Jackie Robinson, Amanda Gorman, Charles Henry Turner and Madam C J Walker.

The influence African American contributions have made to our lives and country are incredible. We learned to appreciate the importance of the achievements and connected the preparation, perseverance, and reaction, often in the face of adversity, to our own life journey. In this way, our Tigers find inspiration to lead their lives with confidence, purpose, and honor thanks to the example set forth by those we celebrated during Black History Month.



## Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Julie Brandon**  
*Principal*

### Honoree

Fern Drive Elementary School is honored to have been honored as one of 241 schools in Orange County as receiving the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll at the Star Level. Schools that receive the ERP Honor Roll award have demonstrated high levels of academic achievement, academic improvement

over time and a visible reduction in achievement gaps among student cohorts. We credit this huge distinction to the hard work of teachers rigorously implementing the Marzano framework. Fern Drive certified as a level three Marzano site in mid-2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. Teachers have been deeply involved with training over the last four years leading to certification in the following areas: Safe and Collaborative School Culture (Lvl 1), Effective Teaching in Every Classroom (Lvl 2) and Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (Lvl 3). We also credit our highly successful Response to Intervention program that targets literacy needs of our most struggling students.



# Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • fullertonsd.org



**Kimberly Benaraw**  
Principal

## Annual Science Night

Every year Fisler School, with sponsorship from the Fisler Foundation For the Advancement of Science & Technology (FFAST), holds an Annual Science Night for our school community where families experience different hands on science concepts. In light

of our unique circumstances, we had to creatively plan for a “Hands-On” Family Science Night during Covid times. Our middle school science teacher, our Fisler Foundation, and a former Fisler student working on her Girl Scout Gold Award, collaboratively created a Science Week where students could experience the wonders of science at home. A free bag of supplies were provided so students could fully engage in the science experiments. The former Fisler high school student

gathered a team of students to compile supply kits and make “How To” movies that included the science behind the activity while FFAST provided a web page of resources. Our Fisler community had a great time!



## Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • fullertonsd.org



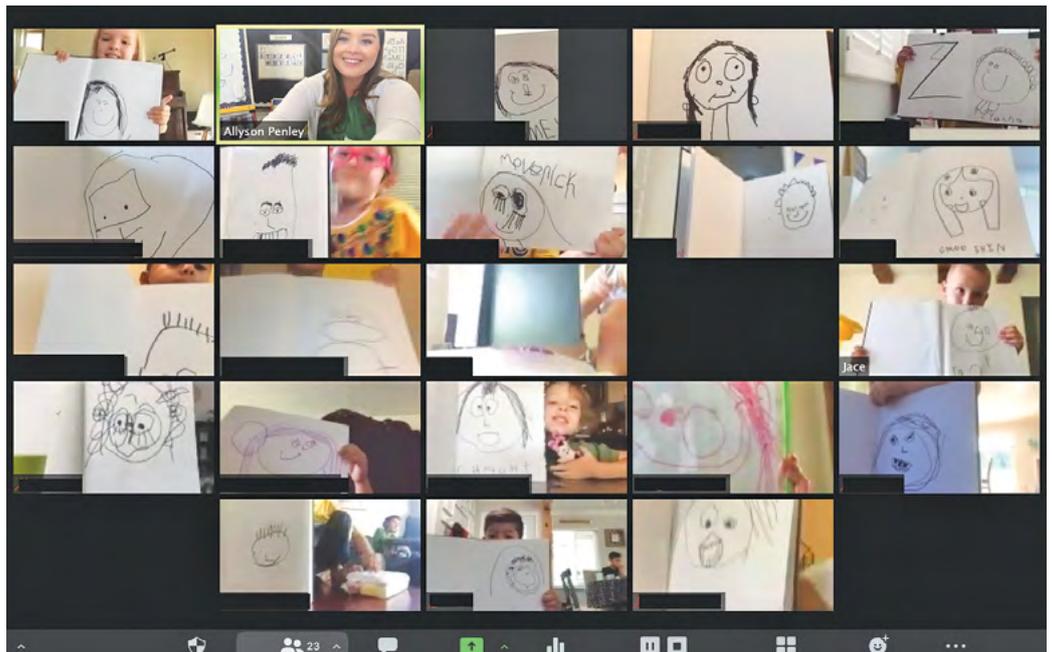
**Katrina Piche**  
Principal

## Transitional Kindergarten at Golden Hill

Golden Hill’s Transitional Kindergarten class has been doing remarkable things this school year! Despite distant and hybrid learning, Mrs. Penley’s class of 32 is continuing to grow academically,

socially, physically, and emotionally. Some highlights from this year include introducing in-person PE to students on campus, using breakout rooms on Zoom to play and socialize with friends from class, and having daily dance parties wherever we are Zooming in from to keep learning fun. These young Gators have quickly learned how to safely socially distance and how

to wear a mask correctly. For most of these students, this is their first experience with school, and they are proving to us that they are resilient and still excited to learn no matter what the learning platform looks like.



# Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Danielle Ramirez**  
*Principal*

## Thank You PTA

Hermosa Drive's PTA has worked incredibly hard this year under these uncertain circumstances to maintain normalcy and build community with our families. On March 4th and 5th, PTA sponsored our annual Jog-a-thon. Normally this is our school's largest fundraiser, but this year looked a little different. PTA set-up two "carb-loading" fundraiser nights at Fratellino's in Brea. PTA created a neighborhood route for all our distance learning students to run. Coach Bautista and Mr. Mariano created four tracks on campus for all our cohorts to safely run during PE. They played upbeat music and encouraged the students the entire time. Finally, PTA donated refreshments for the students to enjoy after their big run. All in all, PTA did a HAWKtastic job with this year's jog-a-thon!



# Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • fullertonsd.org



**Bill Lynch**  
*Principal*

## Congrats to our Finalists

Three students from Ladera Vista JHS of the Arts have been selected as finalists for the 22nd Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest offered through the Rogers Center for Holocaust Education at Chapman University.

Under the guidance of Mme. Blake at Ladera Vista JHS of the Arts, Lydia and Violet have been selected as finalists in the prose category and Rhiannon has been

selected as a film finalist for the contest theme of "Sharing Strength, Sustaining Humanity." These talented students have been selected from over 5,000 entries submitted from 12 countries.

Two students from Ladera Vista JHS of the arts were selected as winners. Violet was awarded second place overall in the middle school division for her prose submission based on testimony of Rosette Fischer and Rhiannon was awarded second place overall in the middle school division for her film submission based on testimony of Engelina Billauer.

## Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts 22nd Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest Finalists



**Violet**



**Rhiannon**



**Lydia**

# Laguna Road *Elementary*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • fullertonsd.org

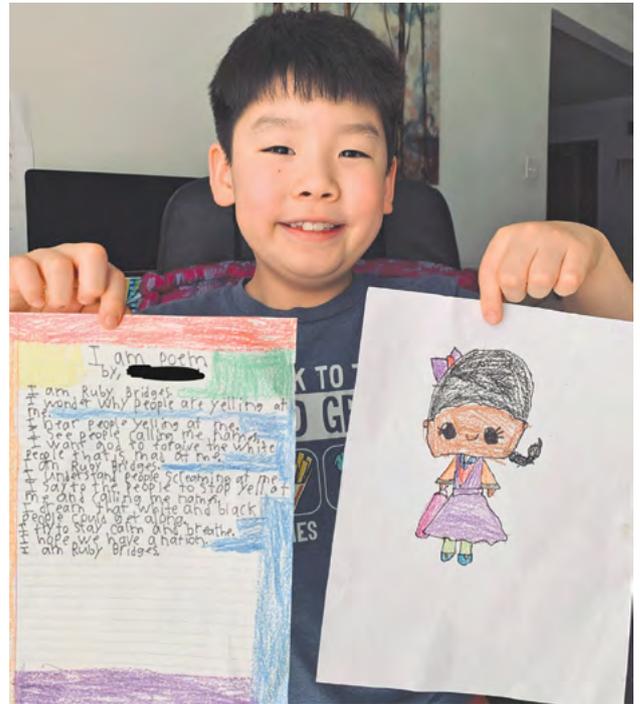


**Dr. Cindy Bak**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Black History Month!

Laguna Road students were excited to explore the stories of important African American heroes during Black History Month! Our students learned about the life and legacy of change makers such as Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr. and trailblazers such as Bessie Coleman and Lois Mailou Jones. Our second graders took a deep dive into studying the historical importance and impact of Ruby

Bridges, the first African American child to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School. They studied both primary and secondary sources to learn about her experiences with empathy and understanding. After their study, they stepped into Ruby's shoes and wrote an "I am" poem from her perspective. The poems and portraits of Ruby Bridges reflected heartfelt responses and a deep appreciation for her courage in the face of adversity. During a classroom discussion, a second grader excitedly shared her connection, "Ruby Bridges is just like Martin Luther King Jr. She fought with love, not with hate."



## Maple *Elementary*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • fullertonsd.org



**Anthony Abney**  
*Principal*

## Deepening Our Understanding of Culturally-Responsive Education

Maple has been a leader for culturally responsive education in Fullerton. Three years ago, we replaced all of the current classroom libraries with high-interest, culturally relevant libraries curated by Teachers College at Columbia University. We wanted our students to see themselves

in the heroes and heroines in the novels and informational books they were reading in class as well as in the picture books the teacher was reading out loud. We believe that representation matters, and students will love reading and school even more when they can relate to the characters and see themselves in the books and the topics they are learning about. At the same time, we began celebrating large-scale cultural events a few times a year at Maple, such as Dia de los Muertos and Lunar New Year.

Starting in January, in an effort to deepen our understanding of culturally responsive education and the students we serve, Maple's faculty designed a fully-integrated Black History Month experience for our students and families, which was implemented throughout February. Students read about, wrote about, created art about, and studied African American leaders and trailblazers, artists and musicians, boundary-breaking athletes, and scientists and inventors. Our month culminated with a "Reimagined Book Cover Contest," in which students picked their favorite book from Black History Month and reimagined and created a new cover based on what they felt was the

most moving part of the book.

Effective culturally responsive teaching and learning doesn't happen overnight; however, our students and community deserve the effort, and we are committed to continually improving our practices.



## Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • fullertonsd.org



**Robyn Clemente**  
*Principal*

### Podcasting Addition to Spanish Pathways

Are you interested in baking, cars, travel, interviews, makeup tutorials, or scary stories? So are our Knights!

The Nicolas Spanish for Spanish Speakers class is in full swing developing

a series of podcasts centered around student interests. These engaging episodes are researched, scripted, and presented en español! That's right, you can enjoy these student productions in Spanish.

Here are a few examples of our Nicolas Junior High Podcasts. Looking to achieve those perfect smokey eyes? Listen to "Maquillaje con Karina", where Karina will help you navigate through the products and steps in achieving the perfect look for any occasion. "Historias de viaje" engages listeners with interesting stories based on people's travels. If serious dialogue is more your taste, sit down with Isaac in



"Entrevistas con Isaac" where Isaac interviews community members about important topics and issues.

As you can see, our interests at Nicolas are diverse and our Knights are applying their knowledge to communicate what they care about with their community.

You can listen to our episodes at [bit.ly/vidales\\_podcast](https://bit.ly/vidales_podcast)

## Orangethorpe *Elementary*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Ginger Frady**  
*Principal*

### Project Curiosity

Orangethorpe is home to Project Curiosity: The Art and Science of Nature, a unique schoolwide program that infuses the Next Generation Science Standards and Visual

Arts. We examine nature, study environmentalism, and pursue conservationism. The photo above was taken on February 12, 2020, during our Waste Characterization Study. The Fullerton School District's Maintenance and Operation department worked in collaboration with Republic Services to facilitate this hands-on learning opportunity for Orangethorpe students. Sixth-grade sorted waste that had been generated by the entire school the previous day. First grade looked at the waste from lunch and collected data to support their zero-waste lunch and composting



project. Third grade studied the waste that gave them insight into ways we can reduce, reuse, and recycle school-wide. This experience was quite memorable. Students and staff still talk about it a year later! Seeing the trash generated in a day certainly increased everyone's curiosity!

## Pacific Drive *Elementary*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Kelly Castillo**  
*Principal*

### **Something for Everyone**

We have something for everyone at Pacific Drive Elementary School, including our families! In the month of February Pacific Drive conducted a 4 week parenting series. In partnership with The Priority Center, we hosted the School Readiness Program for parents, families, and community members. The series covered topics such as the power of positive parenting, working through disobedience, coping with stress, and raising resilient children. Workshops were conducted via zoom and were free to everyone. In addition, participants also had the opportunity to learn about the School Readiness Program which provides developmental assessments to families that have concerns about their children's development and/or behavior. The entire program was a success, and seeing so many Dolphin parents attend the Zoom made it all the more worthwhile. We are so

grateful for the dedication and support of Hilda Shimizu, our Social Services Assistant, for connecting this valuable community resource to our parents.



## Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • fullertonsd.org



**Laura Makely**  
*Principal*

### **Baba the Storyteller**

Parks Junior High proudly celebrated Black History Month in February. Our teachers designed and presented lessons in all content areas related to the contributions of Black Americans and our morning announcements featured daily facts related to notable Black Americans' accomplishments in the areas of medicine, literature, politics, music, history, science, and sports. As a culminating event, we proudly welcomed our friend, Baba the Storyteller, for a virtual assembly. Baba is known as a "griot", and is one of the few recognized U.S.-born practitioners of Jaliyaa, the West African art of storytelling. Accompanied by the music he plays on his kora, Baba weaves profound tales that speak to the human spirit and connect us through enduring, relatable themes such as overcoming adversity, self-reliance, and kindness. Similar to Aesop's Fables, Baba's stories entertain and inspire, and encourage

all of us to look inside of ourselves to find and share our humanity. The virtual assembly format allowed many of our students' parents to watch along with them at home, making this event a shared, memorable experience in the arts for several Parks families.



## Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • fullertonsd.org



**Cristina Centeno**  
Principal

### Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Raymond Elementary is a proud partner of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Together, we've provided and continue to offer our students a mentorship program. We understand the importance of connection and social interaction during a time when we are encouraged to social distance. Throughout the pandemic, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters have maintained connection with our Raymond families by providing support and resources such as food assistance. Students and Mentors meet on a bi-weekly basis for one hour as a group virtually and provide 1:1 virtual mentorship before and after session. During the virtual sessions, they focus on social emotional learning and self-efficacy. A space is provided for our Bigs

and Littles to feel supported and feel comfortable sharing how they are feeling.

During the month of February, they celebrated Black History Month alongside Raymond by having rich dialogues surrounding inspirational Black American Icons. For the month of March, the celebration of American history continues with Women's History Month. The virtual sessions consist of conversation and other activities.

It is ensured that our Bigs and Littles have fun and learn while learning about the world around them. Some activities include, virtual scavenger hunt and Pet Show and Tell. Despite transitioning into a virtual setting, our matches remained engaged and excited to have the program continue to be a part of their lives. We are so thankful to have this support from our local community mentors.

## Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • fullertonsd.org



**Kristen Holm**  
Principal

### Empowering Students with Books

Richman Elementary recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of learning. We want our students to feel empowered by seeing themselves in books and expand their world view by seeing people who are different from themselves represented in books.

A teacher read the book, *All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed*

*Everything.* While reading the story one student could be heard shouting on Zoom, "That's Me! Can you hear me? That's me!" She asked the teacher if she could share her story and what it was like to have cerebral palsy. Her friends in class were so inspired by her story they sent her personal messages. One student wrote, "Thank you for being so strong and sharing your story, you are heard and admired. It takes a lot of courage to share your story. I want you to know you are not alone, we are all here for you because that's what we do in this school. Keep thriving and achieving your dreams because I believe in you."



## Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • fullertonsd.org



**Juleen Faur**  
*Principal*

### Spring Traditions Continue

Read Across America made its yearly stop at Rolling Hills during the week of March 1st to March 5th. The week was filled activities that included a district wide zoom read aloud, the kick-off to the annual March Book Madness voting

and competition and amazing California Young Reader Medal read aloud by Mrs. Weatrowski. The voting continues as the book titles narrow down to the final two titles and the eventual winner in two weeks! Check out the March Book Madness website to join in on the fun!

In addition to our Read Across America school-wide traditions two of our Roadrunner communities have been working hard on Virtual Spring Musical

productions of 13 colonies which are always crowd favorites! While these may not be exactly the same, we continue to find innovative ways to keep the lifelong traditions that our students look forward to!



## Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Tracy Gyurina**  
*Principal*

### Raising a Community of Learners

Sunset Lane is committed to honoring and celebrating all student experiences on our campus. We want to embed culturally responsive teaching practices into our curriculum so

that our students see both their value and the value of others in the classroom. Our Seahawk community is diverse and we have much to learn from one another's stories, backgrounds, cultures, and histories. Our goal at Sunset Lane is to raise a community of learners that will show kindness toward one another and advocate for all, thus creating a culture of empathy, compassion, understanding, and kindness.

Celebrating Black History Month in February was part of our commitment to ensuring that all students feel included and appreciated. Students in TK-6th grade were engaged



**Our third grade classrooms wove kindness into their celebrations of Black History Month.**

in a multitude of activities that honored and celebrated the achievements and history of Black people. Students were immersed in rich literature discussions while learning about Black athletes, authors, inventors, explorers, history makers, and more. Our Seahawks were excited to learn so much as we valued and incorporated students' cultures and experiences into our instruction.

## Valencia Park *Elementary*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz**  
*Principal*

### Creative Ways to Engage Learning

At Valencia Park, when students work hard at being a L.I.O.N (Lead Responsibly, Interact Respectfully, Overly Ready, and Navigate Safely), we celebrate. This year, with the pandemic and safety guidelines in place, our PBIS committee had to be more creative in finding ways to engage learning and to reward our hybrid and virtual learners. With Roary's RV (Reward Vehicle), our hybrid students are able to redeem their hard-earned LION points for prizes. This mobile incentive cart comes to the students during recess time and they get to choose from a variety of items ranging from markers and slime to backpacks and spirit wear t-shirts. For our virtual learners, they have the same opportunity to redeem their LION points for prizes through Roary's Virtual Store. Students shop online and orders are ready for pick up every Wednesday, after school. The response has been positive and our students are very proud to be VP Lions!



**Roary is excited to share the RV (Reward Vehicle) with the well-deserved students.**

## Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • fullertonsd.org



**Rochelle Wolf**  
*Principal*

### Coffee Anyone?

If you work at a school, chances are you need coffee. At Woodcrest, we never fear because the Mad Hatter Cafe is here! The students in Ms. Somoza's 5th/6th grades class offer coffee service to our employees every Friday. The coffee beans are purchased from an establishment in Huntington Beach owned by a former educational specialist and behavior specialist that employs individuals with special needs. Our students measure ingredients, collect money, and deliver to the employees who ordered. The menu offers two choices of coffee, two types of teas and Mad Hatter Cafe shirts. All COVID safety measures are followed. The cafe offers

opportunities for students to work on their math skills, as well as their communication and customer service skills. Students even made a commercial that is played during our morning announcements. All monies raised go to support activities in Ms. Somoza's class.



## Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

### Magic goes...

Title: *Upside-Down Magic*  
Author: Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins



This book is a book where magic is real. A girl named Nory Horace lived with her father, sister, and brother. Nory was a fluxer. Fluxers turn into animals. Every single time she wanted to become an animal she would have turned into that animal, but the other half would be another animal. When she turned into those things she would cause a lot of problems. Nory wanted to get to Sage Academy but she failed. After that her Aunt comes and takes Nory to Upside-Down School. Upside-Down School is a school where people go if they have Upside-Down magic. She enjoys Upside-Down school but she wants to be normal still. She then uses a box to help her and Elliot get out of Upside-Down School. She succeeds but she starts thinking how she is going to miss Upside-Down magic and her friends. Will Nory leave the school or not?

Yoona is a 3rd grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys singing and listening to music.

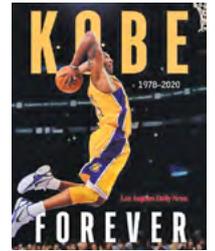
## Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

### A Legend Remembered

By: Los Angeles Daily News  
*Kobe Forever* is a book with many articles about Kobe Bryant from the Los Angeles Daily News. This book is more of a tribute to his sad death in January 2020. If you



want to know more about his history to appreciate what he has done, this is the book for you. You can learn cool things about him such as how he won 5 NBA championships or how he dropped 60 points on his last game against the Utah Jazz. I felt like I really knew how he became such a good player over the years and how he had to climb over big obstacles to achieve his goal as an NBA legend. *Kobe Forever* is a book I truly recommend for basketball or non-basketball players to appreciate what he has done and how much he meant to the world. I hope you find how great Kobe was.

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to play with his dog and meeting new neighborhood friends!

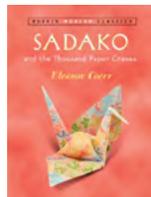
## Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

### Sadako's Wish

Title: *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*  
Author: Eleanor Coerr



Have you ever heard about the myth of one thousand paper cranes? This story is based on the real story of Sadako Sasaki and the thousand paper cranes. Sadako loved running. However, she got the atomic disease, and she couldn't run anymore. One day, her friend, Chizuko, showed her how to make a paper crane and said, "If a sick person folds one thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again." She gave Sadako the paper crane that she folded as the first one. Then, she decided to make one thousand paper cranes to make her well. Did she fold one thousand paper cranes? Did her wish come true? This book is not only about Sadako's story, but also about the horrors and tragedy of war. This is a touching and inspirational story. If you are interested in her story, I recommend this book.

Taegyong K. is a 5th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to play video games, board games, and badminton. She would like to be a person who is kind and helps others.

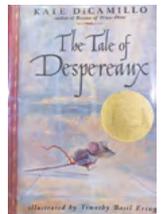
## Katie's Review



Katie C.

### An Adventurous Mouse

Title: *The Tale of Despereaux*  
Author: Kate DiCamillo



Have you ever felt like an outsider? Or like someone who didn't fit in? That's exactly how Despereaux, the tiny mouse with large ears, felt like in his family of mice. He learns to read (which is forbidden) instead of eating books, and despite the consequences he faces, he continues to stay curious and explore the human world that has been largely left untouched for many years. Once he meets Princess Pea, he realizes that humans aren't as bad or dangerous as the mice claim to be. Rather, he wants to get to know them more and be able to live harmoniously with them, as they had once done before. In multiple adventures and close scares, Despereaux, accompanied by his companions, set out to rescue the princess from the danger that awaits. Will he be able to save her and unite the mice and humans? Read to find out! If you enjoy reading adventurous books, I recommend this book to you.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

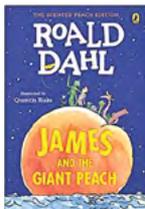
## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Whoa, a Giant Peach!

*James and the Giant Peach* is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about James, an orphan boy who was forced to live with his wicked aunts after he lost his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident. One day,



James received a bag of magic crystals from an old man. The man said these crystals would change his life forever. James accidentally spilled the crystals on his aunts' peach tree. The peach fruit kept growing bigger and bigger. It grew big enough for James to fit inside. From that point on, his adventure began.

The story is magical and suspenseful. Reading this book taught me the importance of friendship and having hopes and dreams. I recommend this book for anyone who loves magic and mystery. Since this book is not very warm and fuzzy, it may be best for kids who can separate facts and fiction or younger kids to read with parents.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

### Funny and Silly

Title: *Cat Kid Comic Club*

Author: Dav Pilkey

Do you like funny and silly books? If you do, you will love *Cat Kid Comic Club* because it's about Li'l Petey from the Dog Man series and this book will make you laugh!



Li'l Petey starts the Cat Kid Comic Club where he and his friend, Molly the tadpole, teach their friends how to make comics.

My favorite part of the book is the show and tell party where everyone in the club shows the comics that they created. Everyone agrees that it's okay to make mistakes because you can always improve yourself.

You should read this book because it is a funny book that has no scary parts, no violence, and teaches a good lesson. The author also uses silly words and pictures in this book. I read this book very quickly with a smile on my face and you will too!

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

## David's Review



**David H.**

### Funny Mystery Book

Title: *The Boxcar Children #157 – Science Fair Sabotage*

Author: Gertrude Chandler Warner

Would you like to read a funny mystery book? If so, you should read *Boxcar Children #157 Science Fair Sabotage*.



The main characters are siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden. Henry is calm, Jessie is curious, Violet likes photography, and Benny loves food.

Jessie is doing a science fair project on pollution and finds that the stream she's studying is shrinking but can't figure out why. The plot is tricky but the kids work together to solve the mystery. You have to pay attention to the story and details, but if you do, it's worth it because you get to solve the mystery and feel good about yourself!

I liked the book because the author wrote the book in a witty and funny way that makes you feel like you're right there with the Alden kids.

If you love puzzles like I do, this is the book for you!

David is in third grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### Riches to Rags

Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be rich almost your whole life then become poor all of a sudden? Well this is the story of a girl named Esperanza. She used to live a luxurious life



but one day when her father died everything went downhill. Esperanza's Uncle asked Esperanza's mother for a hand in marriage, of course she denied but then Esperanza's Uncle wasn't expecting that answer. Later one night her uncle set their nice house on fire! Then, Esperanza's mother accepted the proposal. But, something no one knew was Esperanza's mother planned an escape for California where they were free. They managed to escape secretly with a few friends, leaving her grandmother behind. They later landed in California in a camp that provided food and a place to stay as long as they worked. But, a few months later her mother got sick! Do you think Esperanza can save up enough money to bring her grandma? Do you think her mother will survive? I give this book 5 out of 5.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.