

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newhall School District



Volume 3, Issue 11

May 2022



NSD Arts Programs in Action



Gone, But Not Forgotten

As I wrap up my final weeks in the Newhall School District, I am left to remember the many connections I have made within our school community. These past eight years have truly transformed my outlook on the possibilities in public education. When asked what makes the Newhall School District such a great place to work, the obvious answer is that it has all the essential organic ingredients (listed below) needed to make the very best school district not only in Santa Clarita, but also in California.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of dedicated, informed, and caring families
- 3 tablespoons of motivated, inspired, and friendly students
- 1 can of inspiring, committed, and talented teachers
- 16 oz bag of hard-working, selfless, and genuine classified staff
- 4 drops of results-oriented, warm, and compassionate school and district level leaders
- 5 supportive, focused, and compassionate Governing Board members

I am confident that the District will continue to cultivate and harvest these critical ingredients. If any one of these items are missing, it will not yield the hearty crops of students it has for the last 25 years plus. If everyone assumes positive intent and comes from a strengths-based approach when interacting with each other, I know that the future crops will create even greater yields. Best wishes and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this recipe for success during my eight years in the Newhall School District. I leave inspired!



Jeff Pelzel
Superintendent

Ido, Pero No Olvidado

Al terminar mis últimas semanas en el Distrito Escolar de Newhall, me queda recordar las muchas conexiones que he hecho dentro de nuestra comunidad escolar. Estos últimos ocho años han transformado verdaderamente mi perspectiva sobre las posibilidades de la educación pública. Cuando se me preguntó qué hace que el Distrito Escolar de Newhall sea un excelente lugar para trabajar, la respuesta obvia es que tiene todos los ingredientes orgánicos esenciales (enumerados a continuación) necesarios para hacer el mejor distrito escolar no solo en Santa Clarita, sino también en California.

Ingredientes

- 2 tazas de familias dedicadas, informadas y solidarias
- 3 cucharadas de estudiantes motivados, inspirados y amables
- 1 lata de maestros inspiradores, comprometidos y talentosos
- Bolsa de 16 oz de personal clasificado trabajadores, desinteresados y sinceros
- 4 gotas de líderes escolares y distritales orientados a los resultados, cordiales y compasivos
- 5 miembros de la Junta Directiva comprensivos, enfocados y compasivos

Estoy seguro que el Distrito continuará cultivando y cosechando estos ingredientes críticos. Si falta alguno de estos elementos, no producirá la abundante cosecha de estudiantes que ha tenido durante los últimos 25 años o más. Si todos asumen una intención positiva y provienen de un enfoque basado en las fortalezas cuando interactúan entre sí, estoy seguro de que las futuras cosechas generarán rendimientos aún mayores. Mis mejores deseos y gracias por permitirme ser parte de esta receta para el éxito durante mis ocho años en el Distrito Escolar de Newhall. ¡Me voy inspirado!



BOARD OF EDUCATION



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A Search for Our Next Superintendent has Started!

By Donna Rose, President Area 2

We will sadly say goodbye to our current Superintendent Jeff Pelzel on June 30, 2022, as he goes forward to a new path in his career. To find a new person to fill this role is the responsibility of the Governing Board and one of the most important functions of a board. You may have many questions on how this works which I will outline here, but many resources and links have also been placed on the district's website under a new tab "Superintendent Search".

There will be several phases, starting with the hiring of a search firm: Leadership Associates. They assist in a rigorous nationwide search of qualified candidates. Leadership Associates will collect input from stakeholders and community groups (including but not limited to employee groups, administrators, community leaders, parents, district organizations: PTA's, PTSA's, Foundations, School Site Councils, etc.). This outreach helps inform about the characteristics, skills, and desired traits for our next Superintendent.

The main phase will involve the advertising, recruitment, and reference checking to insure a pool of highly qualified candidates. The board meets (in a closed session) to review the applicants and choose who will be interviewed. This process, and the interview are conducted in closed session to protect the privacy of the candidates and the discussions of the board.

Once the board has selected a finalist (mid-June) the next phase is to validate the candidate, negotiate a contract, and confirm the applicant's acceptance. The Board will then approve of the candidate, announcing the terms of the new contract at a regular meeting in open session. This is scheduled for the June 28th meeting if all goes well! The goal is to have a new Superintendent in place for the 2022/23 school year.

¡Ha comenzado la búsqueda de nuestro próximo superintendente!

Tristemente, nos despediremos de nuestro actual Superintendente Jeff Pelzel el 30 de junio de 2022, ya que él sigue un nuevo camino en su carrera. Encontrar una nueva persona para llenar este papel es la responsabilidad de la Junta Directiva y una de las funciones más importantes de una junta. Es posible que tenga muchas preguntas sobre cómo funciona esto que describiré aquí, pero también se han colocado muchos recursos y enlaces en el sitio web del Distrito en una nueva pestaña "Búsqueda de Superintendente".

Habrà varias fases, comenzando con la contratación de una empresa de búsqueda: Leadership Associates. Ellos asisten en una rigurosa búsqueda a nivel nacional de candidatos calificados. Leadership Associates recogerá las aportaciones de las partes interesadas y los grupos de la comunidad (incluyendo, pero no limitado a los grupos de empleados, administradores, líderes de la comunidad, los padres, las organizaciones del distrito: PTA's, PTSA's, Fundaciones, Consejos Escolares, etc.). Este alcance ayuda a informar sobre las características, habilidades y cualidades deseados para nuestro próximo Superintendente.

La fase principal incluirá la publicidad, la contratación y la verificación de referencias para asegurar un grupo de candidatos altamente calificados. La Junta se reunirá (en una sesión cerrada) para revisar a los candidatos y elegir quién será entrevistado. Este proceso y la entrevista se llevan a cabo en sesión cerrada para proteger la privacidad de los candidatos y las discusiones de la Junta.

Una vez que la Junta ha seleccionado un finalista (a mediados de junio), la siguiente fase consiste en validar al candidato, negociar un contrato y confirmar la aceptación del candidato. La Junta luego aprobará al candidato, anunciando los términos del nuevo contrato en una reunión regular en sesión abierta. ¡Esto está programado para la reunión del 28 de junio si todo va bien! El objetivo es tener un nuevo Superintendente en lugar para el año escolar 2022/23.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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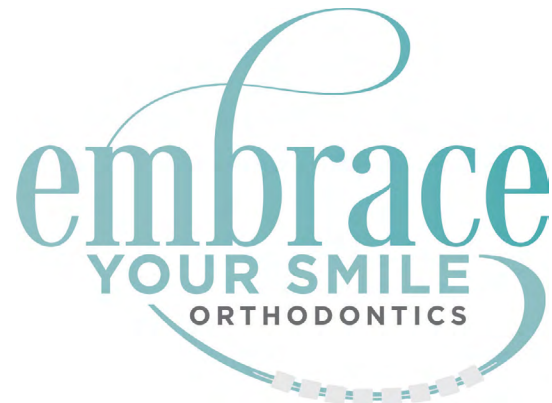
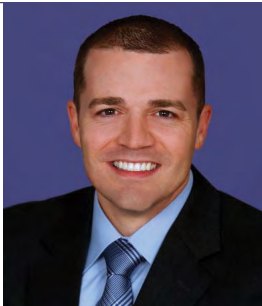
advertisers in this publication.

Superintendent Pelzel begins this issue with his farewell message on page 2. Personally, I would like to thank him for his dedication to education. It has been such a pleasure to publish his positive messages and I will miss his contagious enthusiasm.

On page 12 we have included our popular student book reviews to help with reading choices this summer. Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 11.

Have a fun, healthy summer and remember to include the library among your activity choices.

Our next issue is September 7.



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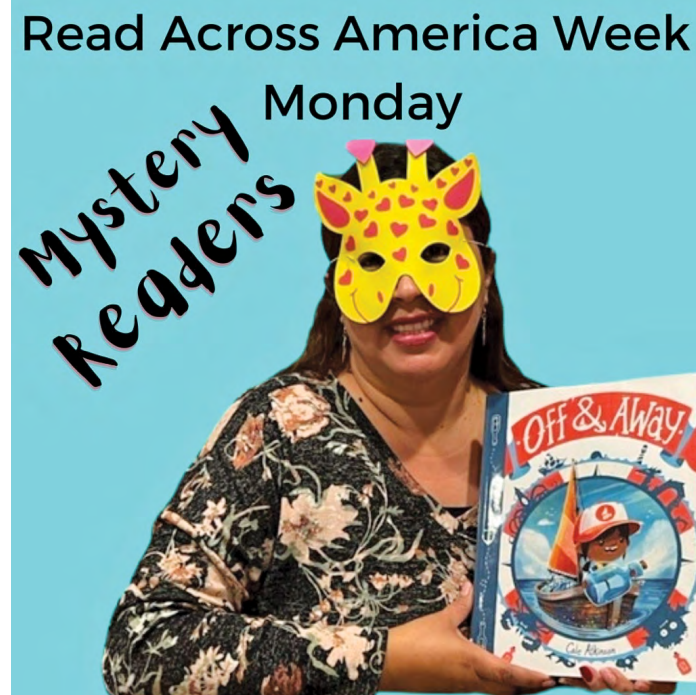
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Old Orchard PTO

Hoo is Reading that Book?

By Dora Wexler, Old Orchard PTO President

This year for Read Across America / Dr. Seuss Week the Old Orchard Owls were in for a fun surprise! Our dedicated parent volunteers created amazing door decorations, the students had an exciting read-a-thon with prizes and pizza parties, and for the first time ever...a Mystery Reader video series!



Our creative OOPTO parents Denise Hofmann and Michele Anderson decided to kick it up a notch this year by organizing a Mystery Reader video series. Each day during Read Across America week a new Mystery Reader read their favorite book and the video was shared via Parents Square.

Our students LOVED guessing who these masked readers were. One of the mystery readers even wore a wig!

OOPTO would like to thank our fabulous parent volunteers and our engaging Mystery Readers for making this year's Read Across America/ Dr. Seuss week a smashing success and a 'hoot' of a good time.



¿Quién es el Lector?

Por Dora Wexler, Presidente del PTO
de la Escuela Primaria, Old Orchard (OOPTO)



¡Este año para la Semana de la Lectura/Dr. Seuss, los Búhos de Old Orchard tuvieron una sorpresa divertida! Nuestros dedicados padres voluntarios crearon increíbles decoraciones para las puertas, los estudiantes tuvieron un emocionante maratón de

lectura con premios y fiestas con pizza, y por primera vez... ¡una serie de videos de "lectores anónimos!"

Nuestros padres creativos de OOPTO, Denise Hofmann y Michele Anderson, decidieron mejorar este año organizando una serie de videos de lectores anónimos. Cada día durante la Semana de la Lectura, un nuevo lector anónimo leyó su libro favorito y el video se compartió a través de Parents Square.

A nuestros estudiantes les ENCANTÓ adivinar quienes eran estos lectores enmascarados. ¡Uno de los lectores anónimo incluso usó una peluca!

OOPTO quisiera agradecer a nuestros fabulosos padres voluntarios y a nuestros lectores anónimos por hacer que La Semana de la Lectura/Dr. Seuss un gran éxito y un gran momento de diversión.

An advertisement for summer camp. It features a photo of a young girl with blonde pigtails reading a book, with colorful paint splashes (yellow, pink, blue) around her. The text 'Twist Kids' is in the top right corner. Below the photo, the text 'SUMMER CAMP DATES' is in bold. The dates are listed: June 27 - July 1, July 11- July 15, July 18 - July 22, and Aug. 1- Aug. 5. The time is 12:30-3pm, and the cost is \$35 per day. It also says 'Recommended ages 7 and up'. Below this, it says 'Each day includes Art Curriculum/ project' and 'Join all 5 days and receive a FREE Kids Camp tee shirt.' There is a QR code and the text 'Call for more details 661-414-6454'. Below the QR code, it says 'To register visit www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/santa-clarita'. At the bottom, it says 'PAINTING WITH A Twist' and 'We offer kids art classes every day'.

Dr. J. Michael McGrath *Elementary*

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



Jennifer Boone
Principal

Innovation and Creativity in the McGrath Maker Space

Engineering, design, creativity, innovation...welcome to the McGrath Maker Space! Maker Spaces are collaborative areas where students have tools to experiment.

Students are able to take apart and put together items to explore and

tinker. Whether students are designing cars, testing electrical circuits or building cities from cardboard, the McGrath Maker Space allows students to use their natural curiosity, combined with what they have learned to become problem solvers and build their skills. The space creates enthusiasm for reading and research.

In June, McGrath students will take part in the first Science, Technology, Engineering and

Math (STEM) problem, the Egg Drop Challenge. The challenge is for students to design a carrier or contraption that will protect a raw egg dropping from approximately 25 feet. The materials will be recyclables combined with ideas that are fostered in the McGrath Maker Space. Hands-on and integrated learning, the key to fun at school!



Meadows *Elementary*

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



Janette Van Gelderen
Principal

Enrichment Program

If you were to take a peek into the Meadows Science Lab on a Monday after school, you might just see a small group of robots heading your way. The Meadows Foundation sponsors our school Lego Robotics Program and has been offering this enrichment opportunity for the past five years. Following the FIRST LEGO League program, sixth grade students engage

STEM learning and exploration missions with a heavy emphasis on the programming aspects of Lego Robotics. Students team up together to be critical thinkers and problem solvers as they navigate how to first build and then program Lego robots. As students build their capacity in programming their robots, they complete and compete in a variety of missions. Throughout the sessions, students not only develop their skills, they learn the value of collaboration and perseverance. Mrs. Dobry, one of Meadows' teachers and robotics facilitators shared that students learn so much as they persevere when attempting to program a new mission.



Newhall *Elementary*

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



Jackie Tapia
Principal

What I Need (WIN) time

This school year Newhall Elementary has focused on providing quality reading instruction for all students. We took a deep dive into our data, evaluated our knowledge on early foundational reading skills, followed a solid universal and diagnostic assessment system,

and implemented data-driven small groups reading instruction - What I Need (WIN) time. The implementation of all of these actions has been transformational for dozens of students, today we want to share Bryan's story. His first day of first grade was this August, in fact, it was his first day of school - ever. Bryan knew no letter names or sounds and had very weak phonological skills. After 4 Cycles of WIN time, he has mastered the letter names and sounds and has developed strong phonological and phonemic awareness. Bryan now reads 30 words per minute and is on track to becoming a lifelong reader!



Old Orchard *Elementary*

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



Daria Ramirez
Principal

Bringing Back the Sense of Community

The ease in Covid restrictions has slowly brought back that sense of community and "normalcy" to Old Orchard. When we create opportunities for families to be on campus it supports students' connectedness to school. This year, we have hosted a number of in-person events to connect students, families, and staff.

Our trimester awards assemblies and student performances, like our 4th grade

Wax Museum, our 6th grade Hip Hop dance, and our Orchestra Showcase, have allowed us to come together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments of our Owls. Our wonderful PTO has also supported our community-building efforts by sponsoring school-wide assemblies, family events, and door decorating contests for Red Ribbon Week and Read Across America. Parent volunteers have also sponsored fun grade level events, like our 5th grade Colonial Day and our 6th grade Minute to Win It. These are the events that become great memories for our students!





Wendy Maxwell
Principal

Butterflies

Thanks to our Oak Hills Foundation, our kindergarten students were able to engage in the metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies this spring. The kits, which included a tent and a cup of baby caterpillars that just hatched from their eggs, arrived. They were so tiny! The caterpillars ate brown sugar at

the bottom of their cup and had grown a little bit by the very next day.

They continued to grow and looked fuzzy and spiky. While the caterpillars were eating and growing, students could observe little balls on the bottom of the cup, called frass, or waste. The caterpillars began to make their chrysalides, and they hung from the lid, forming their chrysalides. The teacher removed the lid from the cup once all of the chrysalides had formed. The caterpillars metamorphosed inside the chrysalides.



Once they were formed, each butterfly broke out of its chrysalis and dried its wings. The students put orange slices in the tent. The butterflies used their proboscises to drink the sweet juice from the oranges.

The students observed the entire process and drew their observations on a chart. They also labeled all the parts of a butterfly and learned about their life cycle. They used academic vocabulary to label the parts. At the end of the process, the students all went out to the grass and released the butterflies to their natural habitat.

Peachland *Elementary*

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



Diana Stenroos
Principal

Why Physical Education is Important to our Roadrunners

In addition to helping students grow academically, the state requires students in fifth grade to take part in a physical education test (PFT). The goal of this test is to help students in starting life-long habits of regular physical activity. We have been lucky this year to not only have PE with our classroom teachers, but the district has also

provided PE lessons once a week with the YMCA. Through all of our programs, we are helping students create these health habits and prepare them for their fifth grade testing.

The PFT requires students to take part in five different activities: a one-mile run to check aerobic capacity, curl ups for abdominal strength and endurance, a trunk lift to test trunk extensor strength, push ups to see upper body strength and a sit and reach which assesses flexibility. We are proud of all the hard work that our students and teachers have put in to prepare.



Pico Canyon *Elementary*

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



Tammi Rainville
Principal

Math Enrichment

Every August, the Pico Canyon office is abuzz—phones ringing off the hook, parents calling and wondering, “When is dismissal?” “Where are the drop-off/pickup locations?” and for sixth-grade parents, “When will Mr. Eifert’s Algebra Enrichment class begin?”

Students and parents alike have learned of this outstanding enrichment opportunity that Bryan Eifert provides for all interested sixth-graders, beginning in January each year. His lifelong love of math prompted him to begin the Algebra Enrichment class in 2008, which was hosted before school in his classroom. Algebra is now so popular that Mr. Eifert had to move the class to an after-school session in the MPR.

The benefits for the students are immense. From those seeking extra support in mastering and building upon the

sixth-grade algebra standards to those who wish to prepare for placement in Accelerated Math 7 in junior high, there is a seat for any student willing to put in the extra hard work and dedication to push themselves to the next level in their math competency.

Mr. Eifert has a mathematical mind and a heart that seeks to share his wealth of knowledge with anyone who is eager to learn. No matter what level of understanding the students walk in with, they all leave with the same gained sense of confidence in their math skills. It is an environment where the students are safe to take risks, and they feel accomplished after tackling challenging problems. From outside the MPR, the sounds coming from within are reminiscent of an exciting school assembly—laughing, cheering and moments of silent concentration. However, upon entering, it becomes clear that the commotion is coming from a diverse group of scholars sharing a common interest: their love of math!

Stevenson Ranch *Elementary*

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



Tim Lankford
Principal

"An Illusion in Space"

The visual arts program at Stevenson Ranch Elementary School offers students in grades 3 through 6 the opportunity to engage in a design process to create and make connections to the real world. On Thursday, May 21st, 3rd graders were moved through a sequence of activities, facilitated by the district art teacher, Mrs. Kim Ferguson to create a desert landscape. The title of the piece, "An Illusion in Space". Students took a 2-dimensional design they created and made it 3-dimensional, giving the illusion of seeing into the distance. As part of this creative process the teacher led a thought-provoking discussion to stimulate students' imaginations. Students had the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and the teacher as they designed and refined their pieces. The art program is a critical a part of our overall instructional program as it enhances students critical thinking skills and has positively impacted student achievement in all academic areas.



Valencia Valley *Elementary*

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



Amy Gaudette
Principal

Scrambled Science

Valencia Valley held our first annual Egg Drop this year to kick off the Science Fair! Students who chose to participate were tasked with engineering a 10"x10"x10" protective container with a maximum weight of 2.5 pounds to house an uncooked egg. The containers were dropped from the multipurpose room stage at 10 feet. The surviving eggs were then dropped from the school roof and judged using specific criteria, including donning school colors. The top contestants from each grade level earned a trophy and moved on to the slingshot challenge, when Monica Gasparyan was announced the overall winner. Monica won the golden egg!

We look forward to celebrating our Science Fair scientists on May 4th and 5th. Students are working on experiments or research and display projects. Those who wish to be judged can earn a ribbon and the projects will be on display for Open House.



Donovan Brienik celebrated his egg surviving the first drop.

Wiley Canyon *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Stacy
Williamson**
Principal

Respect, Responsibility, and Results

The PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) team at Wiley Canyon has been busy leading a Spring Refresher for our students about the importance of the 3Rs: Respect, Responsibility, and Results.

After reviewing our school-wide behavior expectations with a creative, student-made video, counselors Mrs.

Carson and Mr. Norberg created a PBIS quiz for the students to complete. Everyone with the correct answers got a chance to win fun raffle prizes. And, to thank our teachers for all of their support, the PBIS team also surprised our staff members by bringing the “Woot Woot Wagon” to each classroom filled with snacks and drinks for them to enjoy.

The PBIS team has also been announcing weekly Shout Outs over the intercom on Fridays to recognize those students and staff members who are going above and beyond on campus. During April, the PBIS team also led demonstrations of our favorite playground games, such as handball and tetherball, to promote more playground fun and participation. It is



wonderful to see how PBIS is helping to create a positive learning environment for everyone here at Wiley Canyon!

Summer Fun–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.

BEACH	CHATTING
HIKING	ROAD TRIP
WALKING	HANGING OUT
JOGGING	SWIMMING
RUNNING	DIVING
READING	WATCH TV
TEXTING	IPAD
SKATING	GAMES
PICNIC	INSTAGRAM
SURFING	GEO CACHING
SHOPPING	

Entries must be received by July 15, 2022

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

T	B	X	A	Q	A	P	V	M	B	A	V	X
A	Z	G	G	I	F	I	A	U	N	T	Y	L
I	I	G	N	I	F	R	U	S	H	B	B	N
T	F	A	I	I	G	T	E	C	C	M	E	H
T	I	M	T	A	D	D	T	V	Q	O	A	G
F	N	E	T	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	C	E
P	O	S	A	E	W	O	E	J	D	I	H	O
W	N	R	H	J	X	R	O	R	N	P	K	C
I	A	U	C	O	G	T	U	C	A	A	D	A
A	G	L	Z	G	P	N	I	Y	G	D	E	C
O	C	Y	K	G	N	P	G	N	I	K	I	H
A	N	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	B	I	I
G	B	I	N	N	N	V	G	N	Z	O	D	N
Z	I	G	W	G	I	G	Y	X	G	A	I	G
T	M	O	H	D	Y	J	D	Q	E	W	F	S

Congratulations to **Elliot Jackson
Winner of our March Word Search Contest!**

Daniel's Review



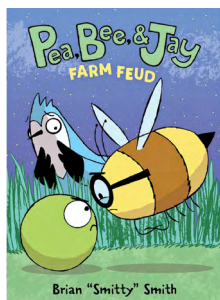
Daniel H.

Best Friends Forever?

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

Author: Brian "Smitty" Smith

Best friends Pea (a pea), Bee (a bee), and Jay (a bird) are back in this fourth book of the Pea, Bee, & Jay series! Pea



and Bee are arguing so Jay decides to go find new best friends. Then Pea and Bee try to find new best friends too. At the same time, there is a hungry snake who wants to eat them all! I really liked this funny book with cute characters who are silly and have good hearts. Read this book to find out what happens to them and also to learn the lesson that you should never forget about the friends you have.

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

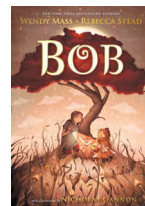
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Who is BOB?

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



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

This book is sweet, emotional, and magical with a touch of suspense. I also learned more about friendship from the book. I give this book 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Jenna's Review



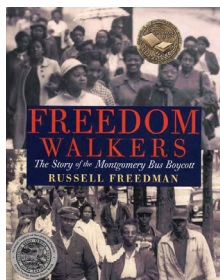
Jenna C.

Boycott of the Century

Title: *Freedom Walkers*

Author: Russell Freedman

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



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

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

David's Review



David H.

A Tortoise and Love

Title: *Esio Trot*

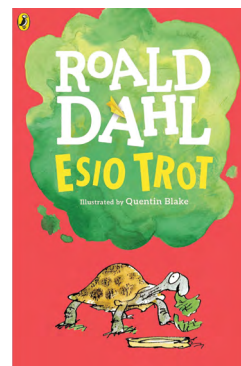
Author: Roald Dahl

Esio Trot is about

a very shy man named Mr. Hoppy and the woman he likes, Mrs. Silver.

Mrs. Silver loves her

beloved pet tortoise Alfie and will do anything to make him grow. Mr. Hoppy comes up with a clever plan to make Alfie bigger and have Mrs. Silver fall in love with him. Read this book to find out what happens and if his plan works. I liked this story so much that I've read it multiple times! If you like tortoises and a little bit of love, you should definitely read this book.



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