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Covering the Torrance Unified School District

Volume 8, Issue 30

December 2021–February 2022

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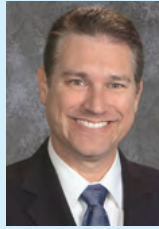
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Happy Holidays!

By Betty Lieu, President

As December comes to a close, I am grateful to all the students, parents, and certificated and classified employees who came together and helped one another during this challenging pandemic year. When I became president of the school board, I set a theme of “Resilience and Empathy” as qualities we want our students and faculty to develop, on top of the excellence in academics for which our district is known. I was also determined to reopen our schools for full-time, in person instruction as soon as possible. I am happy we accomplished our goals this year.

Our resilient students, teachers, administrators, paraeducators and other classified employees stood tall during these trying times. As a result of early planning and preparation, we were the first large school district in Los Angeles County to reopen for all grades. We were able to continue our athletic programs by carefully following county safety protocols. Despite having more than 23,000 students in our district, there were relatively few cases of COVID-19 infections in our schools. The work of every member of our TUSD community was recognized as we were honored with the title of Best in the South Bay 2021 by both the *Daily Breeze* and *Beach Reporter*.

I also prioritized mental health. The stress of dealing with a pandemic on top of all the other challenges that teachers and students may be facing can be overwhelming for some. Our district devoted more tools and resources

to address mental-health issues. If you believe your child may need assistance or if you are a teacher who needs assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our counselors. We stand ready to help.

We continued to lead in academic excellence. We were able to successfully open our first Spanish Dual-Language Immersion Program at two elementary schools. We expanded our partnership with El Camino Community College so that our students can receive both high school and college credits when they take certain community college classes. We added a new data-science math elective class and a new life-skills class that includes financial literacy. And we expanded our career technical-education programs to provide 16 different career pathways.

I also sought to increase public input and make the school board more accessible. We created a governance handbook so that our goals, priorities and rules are transparent. For members of the public who may be uncomfortable coming to board meetings in person, we made it possible for them to speak virtually to the board even though our meetings are in-person. For our PTA volunteers, we pushed to allow them to perform their essential tasks on campus. There were many other successful accomplishments. But one of the most important of all is that we were able to hire the best superintendent possible for our district, Dr. Timothy Stowe.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as president of the TUSD School Board.

Book Reviews,
Note-ables,
Word Search Contest
and activity choices
pages 26-31.

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School News

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As this year comes to a close the *School News* staff wish you and your loved ones Happy Holidays.

The Board of Education President, Betty Lieu, begins this issue on page 3 with her positive message. Throughout this issue as you read the articles you can feel the excitement of the teachers and students being back in the classrooms. You will read about

The Kindness Squad, the Run Under the Lights, a BARK Therapy Dog, Guided Reading, and so much more. Plan to settle into a comfy chair and enjoy reading awhile.

On pages 26 - 32 we have included a section of student book reviews and fun choices of activities from volleyball to soccer to music.

Our next issue is March 9, 2022.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



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Thank You for Walking in Support of the Torrance Education Foundation!

By Denise Mandel, Business Administrator

The 2021 Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk was held on Sunday, October 24. More than 4,328 parents, students, teachers, staff, and community members participated in the event to help raise money for Torrance Education Foundation (TEF).

This year's walk was a huge success, and we have you to thank! In total, more than \$176,500 was raised to support TEF's work.



Funds raised help us invest in Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) schools and create learning opportunities — including STEM and STEAM programming — for all TUSD students.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure we give our kids the best education possible. We genuinely appreciate your involvement.



We Still Need Your Help

If you missed out on the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk this year, it's not too late to support TEF!

We encourage you to make a gift to our Annual Campaign during this season of giving. Your support will help enrich the education of TUSD students.

Visit <https://www.tef4kids.org/donate/> or scan the QR code on this page to learn more about TEF's work and make your gift today.

On behalf of all the students we serve, thank you for your support. Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!



Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org



Terry Ragins
President

Supporting the Arts

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA), the group of Torrance PTA leaders responsible to support and oversee all thirty school PTAs in Torrance Unified School District, is nearly 10,000 members city-wide. TCPTA provides information, instruction, and training to PTAs and actively advocates for quality education and educational resources for students.

TCPTA runs Project HOPE (Helping Our People Everyday) that benefits needy youth and families across the district. The program coordinates community donations to provide food and personal care necessities in frequent care packages to 60+ families. Visit the TorranceCouncilofPTAs.org website to see the current list of items needed for Project HOPE and other worthwhile PTA programs. For Holiday gifting to the neediest students, both toys and gift cards were requested and then gifted forward.

TCPTA actively supports the arts across TUSD:

1.) Via the National PTA Reflections program. Original creative works were accepted at most schools, in the

categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Entries were judged, excellence awards determined, and exceptional entries forwarded for additional judging and recognition.

2.) Via the local Adventures in Art Program. Volunteers provide lessons on several hands-on art projects a year to most students in elementary and middle schools, and then display the creative results in an art show for all to appreciate.

Torrance PTAs are working hard to re-establish, slowly but surely, a 'safe,' effective, and welcomed presence of helpful volunteers on TUSD school campuses in the pandemic world. Most elementary school PTAs have re-opened their volunteer-run school libraries in their schools. The PTAs manage, fund, and operate these important literacy resources.

Finally, do remember that membership campaigns continue year round. Information about how to join any and all PTAs in TCPTA are on the TCPTA website.

Please consider joining...Join the nation's largest advocacy group!

Immunization is One of Best Means of Protection Against COVID-19 this Holiday Season



Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for children ages 5 - 11-years-old, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends everyone 5 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine.

You may have questions about the vaccine, and with holiday gatherings coming up, you may be wondering about the best way to keep your family healthy.

transmission to others, and helps prevent potential new variants. By vaccinating your child, you also are protecting individuals who are at higher risk from COVID, such as grandparents, who may have missed out on holiday gatherings last year.

Children 5 - 11 need to receive two doses of the vaccine 21 days apart. They will receive a dose that is one-third of the adult dose. Side effects of the vaccine may include a sore arm, redness and swelling, fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes, nausea and decreased appetite. Side effects are generally mild and only last a day or two.

It is safe for almost all children to get the vaccine. However, your child should not receive a vaccine if they have a known allergy to one of the vaccine's components. If they had a previous allergic reaction to a vaccine, consult with your pediatrician.

To find a vaccine clinic near you, visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.MyTurn.ca.gov).

The Benefits Outweigh the Risks

Even though COVID-19 doesn't cause symptomatic disease in as many children as adults, it's still important for children ages 5 - 11 to get vaccinated. The vaccine protects against COVID-19 and its complications, helps prevent



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Adams Elementary School

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • www.tusd.org/schools/adams



Shayla Smith-Taranto
Principal

Start with Hello

Start with Hello is an nationwide initiative that encourages individuals to look around and notice others who might be lonely and feeling isolated in our schools and communities and then be willing to do something about it. John Adams Elementary decided to take a small, but powerful step to promote a sense of belonging and connectedness for all students at our school. Students were asked to write something

positive or kind that they have observed or experienced at school. We hope to continue to find ways to make our school community a place where everyone feels safe and accepted.



Anza Elementary School

21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • www.tusd.org/schools/anza



Cathy Di Vincenzo
Principal

Anza's Kindness Squad

"The Kindness Squad" is a year round kindness based leadership program specially designed for our 5th grade Character Counts Team. They accept responsibility and commit to being a representative. The goal is to create a team of students with the sole purpose of inspiring and carrying out acts of kindness throughout our entire student body. Our Kindness Squad greets students

with signs, cheers, and smiles every Tuesday and Friday morning which makes others smile and be excited about school. Kids are the best at spreading joy and making people feel good in the simplest ways. This year more than ever, we all need some more positivity. Our students spread kindness through various activities throughout the year in addition to our morning greetings. It makes everyone appreciative of these positive moments. Students love this morning time where we bring smiles to our Anza community.



Arlington Elementary School

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • www.tusd.org/schools/arlington



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

Student Council

Arlington Elementary Superstar 4th and 5th graders recently completed their Student Council elections for our 2021-22 school year. There are 12 -5th grade and 9 -3rd grade members. Our Student Council members develop their leadership role in multiple ways.

Each Monday, members lead our all-school weekly spirit assembly spreading school news, reminding our student body of upcoming PTA events and spirit days. In addition, as older role models, the student council helps to reinforce our school rules of respect, responsibility, safety, and having fun while learning. Meeting weekly, our Student Council members collaborate as a team to plan upcoming school events.



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Arnold Elementary School

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • www.tusd.org/schools/arnold



Justine Lang
Principal

Fall Fun at Arnold

Our Arnold family is thrilled to be back together to enjoy some of the familiar activities that had to be done virtually a year ago. We are not just back in the classroom,

we are also back in our Science Lab making discoveries, back out at PE enjoying some competitive spirit, and back collaborating with our classmates as we celebrate our joy of learning.



Look at our Alleycat Spirit during our Fun Run!



Alleycats parading through the halls for our annual Halloween Parade!

We even had some of the Fall Fun that we are used to having, even if it looked a little different. At the Halloween Parade, our Alleycats paraded through the campus in costumes for all of their friends to see. A video of the festive event was then shared with families. Two weeks later, we had our annual Fun Run where we showed our school spirit and raised over \$28,000 to repair, replace and purchase new Chromebooks. This Fall has been great fun. Can't wait to see what Winter brings!



Look at our Alleycat Spirit during our Fun Run!



Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • www.tusd.org/schools/calle-mayor



Dave Mosley
Principal

Running Under the Lights

We are excited that our Calle Mayor students had the opportunity to participate in the Under the Lights: Middle School Mile Run. What is this awesome event? you might be asking yourself. This sporting event gave Calle Mayor students an opportunity to run against other middle school students in Torrance.

We would like to thank West High School for supporting this evening event. Calle

Mayor students thought that this event was a lot of fun, and they got to see and compete against some of their friends. We would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Fowler for assisting in organizing and training our students. It would not have been possible to have this event without them.

We are also excited to have another after-school club return to our campus. It is Woodshop, taught by our woodshop teacher, Mr. Randrup. This club focuses on developing skills and using tools to create cool projects out of wood. It truly is a lot of fun, so check it out!



Carr *Elementary School*

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • www.tusd.org/schools/carr



Katie Schenkelburg
Principal

Carr Cubs Love Science!

Our Cubs are excited about the upcoming STEAM Fair! We are hosting an Inventors Club which meets each week in our science lab to help students prepare their projects for our upcoming STEAM fair in early February.

This year, Carr is happy to participate in the TUSD's Invention Convention, in addition to our traditional STEAM Fair. Here students will be applying and practicing their science, technology,

engineering, and math skills, but will also be approaching their projects with a creative, or artistic, perspective. This perspective is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), where students are encouraged to focus not just on the results, but upon their process; one

that includes trial and error, divergent thinking, dynamic problem solving, and plenty of perseverance.

With the Invention Convention, we are encouraging our Cubs to explore their wonderings by answering questions such as what do you want to invent? What problem does this invention solve? Why is it important?

If the students would rather participate in the traditional STEAM Fair, our kindergarten and first-graders will create a counting collection and answer the following wonderings: What do I want to collect? What is the best way to organize my collection? Why is that the best way?

Our fourth- and fifth-grade students can explore experimental design by answering the following wonderings: What have I always wondered about, and what experiment can I create to learn more? We can't wait to see our student projects and their unique designs. Science rocks!

Casimir Middle School

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • www.tusd.org/schools/casimir



James Ashikawa
Principal

Students Win Top Honors at the “Run Under the Lights” Intermural Event!

There was an amazing turnout of talented students from all middle schools in TUSD at the first intermural middle school run event. Students raced and filled the evening air with dynamic energy and excitement as they sprinted for 1600 meters at the “Run Under the Lights” event.



Jacqueline Soto sprints through her final lap in the 7th Grade Girls 1600 Meter Run, as she goes on to WIN FIRST PLACE with an impressive time of 5:50!



Elaine Suyeyoshi setting a great pace in the Girls 7th Grade 1600 Meter Run!



The Super Casimir Running Team: Stephanie Soto, Jacqueline Soto, Elaine Suyeyoshi, Mr. Brian Fladeland (Coach) and Kyle Shin.



Stephanie Soto zooms off the starting line in the Girl’s 8th grade 1600 Meter run to finish with an impressive 6:17 time and wins 4th place!



Kyle Shin proudly representing Casimir with an impressive time of 8:08 – Go Kyle!

Edison Elementary School

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • www.tusd.org/schools/edison



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

WOOF, WOOF!

Meet Barnaby, a trained dog that loves children and loves to listen to children read to him. Barnaby is a BARK Therapy Dog that works at Edison every week for about two hours. His job



is to listen to stories while he lies down or cuddles up with a student who reads to him. Students are given a few books at their reading level to read to Barnaby. His owner Stacy, was a classroom teacher prior to retiring so she asks great questions while the student is reading to the him. She asks questions that invoke critical thinking, predicting and inference skills using tools including picture cues, language, and questions about characters. This fun time with Barnaby supports reading skills that make students strong readers.

Students are always excited to read to Barnaby, and they love to read to him just as much as he loves listening to them.

Fern Elementary School

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • www.tusd.org/schools/fern



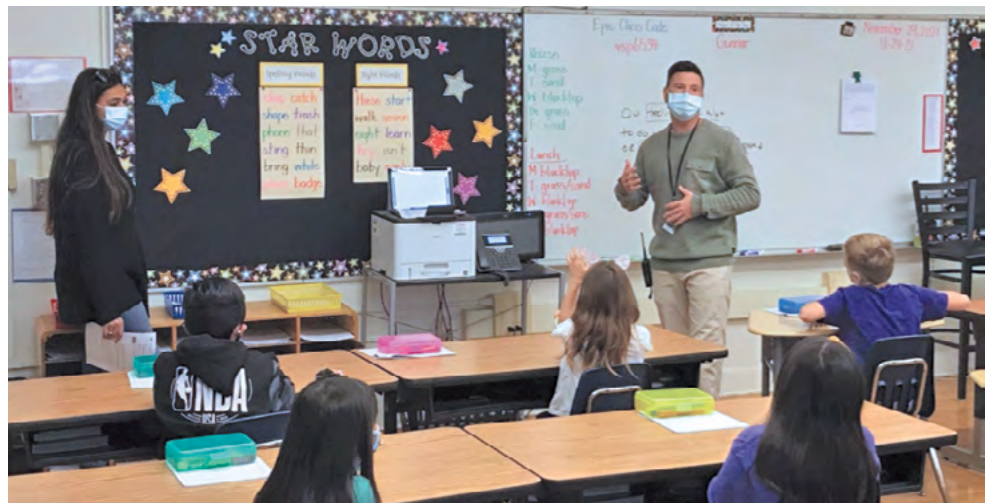
Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Social Emotional Learning and Support on the Fern Campus

Fern Elementary School and the Torrance Unified School District has made it a priority to build our students' academic skills as well as support their emotional health. Our full time Counselor, Mr. Daugherty is in his fourth year here at Fern and has developed lasting

relationships with our students and families. These relationships have been extremely important as students, parents and staff have had to work through some difficult emotions as we have all transitioned back to full time school. This year Mr. Daugherty has been supported in providing coping skills and support for students with the addition of our Social Emotional Instructional Aide, Ms. Aaila Arshad.

In addition to supporting students when needed Ms. Arshad and Mr. Daugherty take a proactive approach to well-being and provide Second Step Social Emotional Learning curriculum instruction to every classroom. Working together, and being proactive Ms. Arshad and Mr. Daugherty are helping all of our Fern Falcons SOAR!



Mr. Daugherty and Ms. Arshad providing a Second Step Social Emotional Learning Lesson to Mrs. Smith's second grade classroom.

Hickory Elementary School

2800 W. 227th St, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • www.tusd.org/schools/hickory



Maggie Mabery
Principal

Second Step SEL

Hickory continues to develop a sustainable program that supports our student's mental health. Our school counselor Ms. Nava, interns and instructional assistant Mr. Baba meet each week with all kindergarten through fifth grade students

to discuss coping skills and

address Social Emotional Learning to be successful at Hickory now that we are open to all students again. The program that is being provided is called "Second Step SEL". Second Step SEL is interactive and teaches students the skills they need to be successful in school. With each unit, students build self-regulation, social-emotional skills that support their



academic achievement, and prevent them from engaging in any hurtful behaviors. Students improve their ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems here at Hickory and beyond. Socially and emotionally competent students feel more connected to school and to their peers, thus creating a healthy, safe, and respectful school climate for all our learners.

J.H. Hull Middle School

2080 W. 231st St, Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • www.tusd.org/schools/hull



Patty Girgis
Principal

Hull Athletics and Cornhole!

*By Kim Lee,
Assistant Principal*

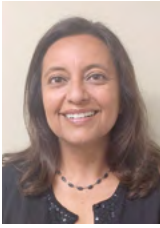
Hull Athletics started the year with our first cornhole tournament. Students in all grades were able to sign up in teams of two through the Hull Athletics link in Schoology. Hull co-athletic directors Mr. Wes Black and Ms. Wendy Wilson put the brackets together with over thirty-five teams and collected the cornhole sets on loan from Hull staff to get the lunch time competition under way. Each day at lunch you would see teams competing in the courtyard with an audience full of students and staff enjoying the competition. The finals were held on Friday, November 5th with Team Activities taking the title of 2021 Hull Cornhole Champions. We are all looking forward to the competition returning next year, Go Hull Hawks!



Mr. Black, Co-Athletic Director, supervising warm-ups as students prepare for the Cornhole tournament.

Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • www.tusd.org/schools/jefferson



Yvonne Marin
Principal

A Busy Fall Season

At Jefferson, we have many opportunities for our students to participate in activities. We recognize that during the months our doors were closed our students were missing this vital time to connect with one another and our staff members and also engage in enriching activities.

We now have 85 students participating in volleyball camp with three staff members.

We also offer a running club where students can train for district-wide fun runs. Our library is open after school daily until 4 p.m. for our students to connect with the

librarian, work on assignments, or do the weekly Novel Craft on Wednesdays. Our Spanish teacher organized the recent Dia de los Muertos family event that showcased student projects, folklore dancers, Mexican sweet bread, and mariachi music.

The JMS student council is planning a Club Rush event for all student-driven clubs to be showcased, with most of them meeting during the lunch recess. The California Junior Scholarship Federation also recently organized a canned food drive, and is working on a toy drive in partnership with TFD. We look forward to offering many more fun activities for our students!



LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • www.tusd.org/schools/launch



Dr. Teresa Lanphere
Principal

Fall Fling Event

The fall has been a busy time for the preschool students at LAUNCH. Students are all back in the swing of school in person and learning news skills each day. This year we were able to have a special Fall Fling event for students only on campus so that they could dress up in

their costumes for Halloween, visit our own pumpkin patch and do a parade for their friends and staff. It was nice to see students being able to do some of the fun things we used to do at school while still maintaining a safe and positive environment for them on our campus. We appreciate the support that our staff, PTA, and parents continue to provide for our students to thrive and grow at school. As we are coming to the close of the 2021 year, we are eager to see the continued changes and growth our students will experience in 2022.



Lincoln *Elementary School*

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • www.tusd.org/schools/lincoln



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Halloween Costume Showcase

With schools still very much immersed in the process of reworking, reinventing, and reimagining how to continue to bring quality learning and enriching experiences to students in the wake of our March 2020 school closure, Lincoln has found

ways to breathe new life into old traditions. This school year we held our inaugural Halloween Costume Showcase which was live streamed for all of our families and friends to watch and share in the festivities remotely. Different from a parade, our showcase was more of a fashion event. Each student and staff member had an opportunity to “walk the costume catwalk” displaying their crazy, creepy, and classy costume

creations. Everything and everyone from robots, to rock stars, to Robin Hoods made an appearance at this exciting and entertaining event. A truly wonderful time was had by folks both near and far!



Lynn Middle School

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • www.tusd.org/schools/bertlynn



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Tutorial Time and Clubs

First quarter down! We are approaching “normal” with expanded tutorial support and club opportunities for Bert Lynn Middle School students.

Prior to the pandemic, our learning community developed a daily schedule that affords our students and teachers the gift of time within the instructional day, specifically a 30-minute period we call Tutorial Time.

While 30 minutes does not sound like a lot of time, one might be surprised by the activity and student choice produced as our campus springs into action.

Key to our Tutorial Time is a fundamental commitment to provide small-group learning opportunities to students seeking help with essential-learning targets. For example, many students utilize this time to clarify complex concepts

in mathematics, or some students drop in on writing workshops for help on project reports.

While our Tutorial Time is important to supporting student learning, it has also opened up opportunities to offer additional enrichment choices during the instructional day. This is a very exciting opportunity for our students and staff to offer small three-to-six-week exploratory modules. Historically, our students were limited to one elective per day, but our daily schedule now provides students with additional enrichment choices that include Minecraft Club, esports, flag football, Bert Lynn Cricket, jazz band, journalism. Student Council, Junior Scholarship, Run Club, Mathematics Team practice time, keyboarding and chess. Additional modules under development include electronics, Chemistry Through Cooking, and Podcasting 101.

As we continue our work, we are reminded of our school’s motto: “Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!”

Madrona Middle School

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • www.tusd.org/schools/madrona



Jeffrey Nielsen
Principal

Mile Run Under the Lights

West High School hosted a middle school fun run on Tuesday, November 16th for all Torrance Unified middle school students. Madrona middle school was so excited to attend and sent 37 runners to the event. Athletic director, Andrew Waldschmidt, and coaches Larson Estefan and Liam Gachuz, advertised and helped students train for four

weeks leading up to the event. Madrona’s cross country team practices each Wednesday after school and the extra practice really paid off. Madrona is home to two winners of the 6 races that were held. Leah Sasaki finished first in the 6th grade girls race and Sophia Wessels finished first in the 8th grade girls race. Congratulations to Leah and Sophia! Congrats also to Konomi Rokugawa, Michael Roosa, Sophie Salinas, and Logan Cole who all finished in the top 5 in their races. Go Wildcats!



Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • www.tusd.org/schools/magruder



Lisa Nunes
Principal

After-School Supports

As we have returned to the campus for in-person classes, our Mustangs also have extended opportunities each day of the week to get extra support in the areas of math, English, and work completion. With 10 support sessions throughout the week, our amazing staff members can extend their work days to help students attain academic success.

Our students are enrolled in these after-school support efforts on either a short- or long-term basis, depending

upon their needs as assessed and monitored each month by our teaching team. Our Mustangs are very fortunate to have such avenues of academic support, and we are working hard to ensure that they can all reach their potential.

These supports are a part of the “School Plan for Student Achievement,” a document created by our faculty, staff, and parents to ensure that the children can have the best experience possible. We want to thank all of our teachers for their dedication to these programs, and to our parents for supporting their students and encouraging active participation in the learning process!

North *High School*

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • www.tusd.org/schools/north-high-school



Chris Sheck
Principal

Early College

Studies indicate that students are significantly more likely to enroll in college and earn a college degree after participating in an Early College program. We are very proud to share that North High School has been chosen to begin an Early College program on our campus for the 2022-2023 school year.

Currently, over 175 of our NHS students are enrolled in El Camino dual-enrollment classes, which include classes in our four-class engineering pathway, English (ECC 1A and 1C), and sports therapy. Becoming an Early College campus will take our current dual-enrollment program to new heights! Over the course of their four years, our students will earn credits that meet TUSD graduation requirements, while also earning transferable “general education” college credits as part of their high school class schedule.

As part of this program, we hope to offer the following opportunities to the NHS students who participate in this program:

- 1) Earn an Associate’s of Arts degree from El Camino College upon high school graduation;
- 2) Complete a series of courses to satisfy most of the freshman/sophomore general education (GE) requirements before transferring to UC as part of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC);
- 3) Take Early College/dual enrollment classes when space is available, to earn college credits before graduating from NHS.

As mentioned, Early College provides an opportunity for students to earn an associate’s degree or up to two years of college credits toward a bachelor’s degree in high school—at no cost to students. That’s a savings of over \$70,000. We are thrilled to be chosen as a site for this program beginning next school year, and look forward to supporting our students’ ability to earn college credit while attending North High. Go, Saxons!



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Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • www.tusd.org/schools/richardson



Tayo Balogun
Principal

Annual Club Rush Event

Happy Holiday season from Richardson Middle School. Right before Thanksgiving break, we hosted our annual Club Rush event. Club Rush is a day where students browsed and possibly join the student lead clubs that we have on campus. During lunch time, tables were set up with students and their teacher advisors, to provide interested students with information on the clubs that range in interest from pop culture to making origami. Many of these clubs will meet in December during lunch time.



Due to the success of our kickball tournament, we are in the midst of a lunchtime volleyball series. Over 20 student teams signed up to show off their bumping and serving skills. The victor will hopefully be crowned before winter break.

Lastly, we are fortunate to bring back our winter music concert. Under the tutelage of Ms. Karrie Willett, students showcased their vocal and musical talents to their friends and families in this outdoor concert. We are proud of our students' artistic abilities.

Riviera *Elementary School*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • www.tusd.org/schools/riviera



Christie Forshey
Principal

Riviera Vocal Music Instruction Begins!

Riviera students are excited to begin vocal music instruction in Riviera's outdoor classroom!

The office staff also enjoys being serenaded every Thursday and Friday as classes meet in front of the office.

K-5 music is under the direction of Mrs. Laura Savitz and is funded by the Riviera PTA.



Students in grades 2-5 can also join the Riviera Chorus. Chorus will begin after Winter Break.

Seaside *Elementary*

4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • www.tusd.org/schools/seaside



Ellen Harrison
Principal

Fall Fun at Seaside

During the months of October and November we had several exciting activities take place at Seaside. In October, with the help of our PTA, we had our first family night

Seaside Spooky Family Night took place virtually. The evening started with a read-a-loud, and then our families logged into the Zoom Room for a fun activity. The

families made potions, grew a ghost, erupted a pumpkin volcano, made beautiful spider web art, and created a catapult to launch candy! We had over 100 Seaside Dolphins participate.

In November, our third-graders presented at a Veterans Day assembly. They not only sang patriotic songs but also taught us about the importance of all the veterans in our country.

The last week of November was Seaside's Gratitude Week. This week we focused on gratitude. It was a period of reflection on all that we have to be thankful for, and the positive impact that gratitude has on our lives. Throughout the week, our students participated in daily activities that focused on gratitude. We created gratitude paper chains, wrote letters of thanks to the community, and decorated the walkways with chalk art and words of thanks.



Shery *High School*

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • www.tusd.org/schools/shery



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

A Very Special Occasion

One of our favorite traditions that we celebrate every quarter at Shery High is our Student of the Quarter Luncheon. We had to stop this event in March of 2020 due to the pandemic, and we made a slight change to bring it outside to our great grass area where every student and their family had their own table.

For this honor, every teacher, as well as our principal and counselor, can pick a student who has stood out for that quarter. It can be a student who had perfect attendance and excelled academically, or it might be one who made a huge improvement in their attendance and/or work production. It might also be a student who contributes to class discussions every day to help enrich our learning.

The students and parents then join us for a special lunch where each teacher shares why they chose that particular individual. In recognition, we give each student a Shery High hoodie and certificate.



For many of our students and parents, this is the first time that they have been recognized like this at school. It is so great to see the expressions of pride in the faces of both the parents and students.

South High School

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • www.tusd.org/schools/shs



Michelle Fournier
Principal

Canned Food Drive

SHS ASB enlisted the help of our 6 feeder schools and absolutely smashed our old record of 24,279 cans collected in a single year with a whopping 28,000 collected this year! Thank you to every student, parent and community member who worked so hard on this great project!



Torrance Elementary

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Overall Well-Being Prioritized

At Torrance Elementary, the overall well-being of our students is a top priority. To ensure a smooth transition back to in-person instruction after a very challenging year, we've added a full-time school counselor to our team, allowing us to expand social-emotional and mental-health supports provided to students.



School counselor, Mrs. Julie Dysim, at her student self-referral mailbox for drop-in counseling.

Schoolwide social-emotional learning lessons are being delivered across all grades in every classroom through the Second Step Program. The lessons focus on important skills that include emotional regulation, empathy and problem solving. Our counselor also delivers targeted lessons on bullying prevention, stress and anxiety management, peer relations and coping skills.

We're offering a variety of small-group counseling opportunities as well. We recently finished our first round of groups on motivation, grief and loss, and friendship. Additional small groups will be offered continuously throughout the school year.

For students in need of additional support, wellness check-ins and individual counseling are available. We've also implemented a student self-referral system to reassure students that the counselor is available daily. Students fill out a slip and drop it off in the counselor's mailbox any time they need support.

Expanding our mental-health services this year ensures that students' social-emotional needs remain a top priority.

Torrance High School

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • www.tusd.org/schools/torrance-high-school



Karim Girgis
Principal

Getting on Track

There is a great deal to be grateful for at Torrance High. The recent Homecoming Dance had record numbers as our students danced under the stars to two DJs. We have concluded our ninth Canned Food Drive with another 10,000+ donations from our students and the community. The students and staff members are also working very hard to navigate what is now the new normal, and I could not be more proud of their efforts.

Our band and colorguard finished second in regionals, the football team reached the second round of CIF playoffs, and at the time of this writing, both of our cross country teams are preparing for the CIF finals.

Girls volleyball captured its first CIF title in nearly 30 years, taking down Chino Hills in a five-set thriller. Congratulations goes to Coach Richell Squire, her staff, and especially to our girls, who showed a great deal of determination to take the title! They also went undefeated in Pioneer League play before falling short in the second round of the state playoffs.

Have a happy and healthy holiday season. Tartar Pride!



Torrance Adult School

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tusd.org/tas



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

Mental Health Awareness

Torrance Adult School's Student Support Services team has done a tremendous job in increasing mental health awareness and resources for students. From surveys, the team observed that students were experiencing higher levels of stress, anxiety, and other conditions that can affect

their well-being and ability to learn. Throughout Fall 2021, the team increased its counseling services and made mental health workshops, such as the Stress Reduction Workshop, a key part of its programming. It has also taken a more holistic approach in providing resources that address and affect mental health through the Annual Resource Week that focused on food, housing, healthcare and employment.

Students can access video recordings of the workshops and additional information through the TAS YouTube Channel, the Counselor Corner website, and in person counseling. Due to a positive response from students, the team plans to continue to address mental health challenges and increase awareness.



Mental Health Workshops available to Adult Education Students.

Towers Elementary

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • www.tusd.org/schools/towers



Seunghee Kim
Principal

Guided Reading

Our Towers Timberwolves have nicely settled into their daily routines and learning experiences. There is nothing that deters our mission to ensure all students are engaged in rigorous and meaningful education opportunities here at Towers.

This year our teachers are committed to having our students read at their grade levels through Guided Reading. All Towers students read in a small-group setting in which a teacher supports each reader's development. Through Guided Reading, students learn how to engage in every facet of the reading process and apply that literacy power to all instructional contexts. It is such a joy to see our students

get excited about reading and feel accomplished after they read a book. Thanks to our amazing teachers who never cease to look for creative ways to engage students in learning despite the challenges our Towers students continue to soar in literacy and develop the love of reading.



Our 2nd grade students engaged in Guide Reading

Victor Elementary

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • www.tusd.org/schools/victor



WTIS at Work to Prevent Bullying

Victor Elementary takes a strong stance against bullying. This year we have

coordinated with West High School's CSF to provide anti-bullying lessons to all our Victor Vikings. Here they are teaching our Kindergarten students WTIS strategies (walk away, ignore, talk it out and seek help) to prevent bullying! Thank you West High CSF!

Bill Baker
Principal



Walteria Elementary

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.tusd.org/schools/walteria



The Stars are the Limit!

Recently, our 5th graders were led through a live experience by a Museum Guide and a Telescope Demonstrator from Griffith Observatory.

The program introduced our fifth graders to the idea that they are all observers on Earth. They were

able to learn about telescopes and what we have learned through their use. The online surveys, questions, and visuals presented to the students were incredibly engaging; giving the kids something to talk about as they went about their day. The program sets out to, "ensure that kids in LA County from all backgrounds, including those most underrepresented in STEM career fields, have access to STEM education at a young age." It aims to reach every 5th grader in L.A.

Dr. Efren Ponce
Principal

County, and our young Wildcats were eager to participate. Many are already looking forward to the next module. Walteria highly recommends taking advantage of this program through the Griffith Observatory!





Jenna Murata
Principal

Club Rush!

Our fall Club Rush was filled with energy and excitement! Our Warriors gathered information on academic clubs, culture clubs, service clubs, and special interest clubs. From the Math Club to the Black Culture Club to the Environmental Club and the Art Club, there is a place for everyone.

Our school mission is to create a collaborative community where all students engage in a caring and rigorous learning environment to acquire essential skills and maximize their potential to become effective contributors to society. West High clubs create this collaborative community and provide opportunities for all students to achieve our mission. Already this year, our Friendship Club has actively participated in the Skechers Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk, our Future Business Leaders of America have won awards at the Leadership Development Institute, our Tutorial Club has hosted peer tutoring sessions, and our American Red Cross Club is preparing to host a Blood Drive!



Our clubs hosted information booths to share about their clubs and recruit new members!



Wood Elementary

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • www.tusd.org/schools/wood



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

National Author's Day

Wood Elementary teachers are excited to be going through Writer's Workshop training this year. National Author's Day was November 1, 2021. Wood third graders celebrated by sharing their final Writer's Workshop stories. Wood Elementary is full of authors!



Yukon Elementary

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • www.tusd.org/schools/yukon



Elaine Wassil
Principal

Huskies are Bucket Fillers!

Here's a competition that everybody wins! Huskies are filling their class bucket with kind words and deeds. Each class is doing their best to fill their bucket and hoping their class gets the most kind deeds and words but

whatever class that turns out to be our Huskies are sharing bucket filling tips--ways to help each other be kind and helpful. They are learning the key to being happy is the choices that they make... that means filling another Huskies bucket and being part of creating a school that is a great place to learn. Our school counselor, Mrs. Kerri Matineau, is busy letting us know every day just how each

class is doing. Already we have "water drops" that say, "I invited someone to sit with us at lunch who was sitting all alone." "I told a kid in my class, "You sure run fast!" Already, we're all winning!





David's Review



David H.

One Big Puzzle

Title: *Holes*

Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it's really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of "holes" in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a "Mom, I know it's bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?" type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!



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.

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

Countless Wishes

Book Title: *Wish*

Author: Barbara O'Connor

Have you ever been sent somewhere without your parents? Have you had so many wishes you would just wish would come true? I read a book called *Wish*. The main character is named Charlemagne Reese, Charlie for short. Charlie and her family lived in Raleigh. Her mom and dad fought a lot. Charlie's dad fought so much, it led to him going to jail. Her mom just lay in bed all the time in the darkness. Charlie also had a sister named Jackie. Her family wasn't working out, so Charlie had to go to her mom's sister, Bertha and Bertha's husband, Gus. Charlie made wishes lots of times-making a wish at 11:11, when she finds a four-leaf clover, etc. At the end she gets letters from her mom and dad, who never did so before. What do you think the letter says? Will it make Charlie feel something?



Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

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Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

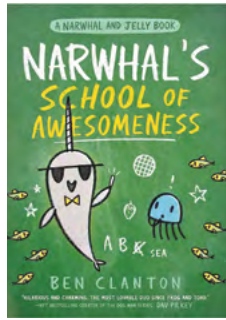
Waffleomatics

Title: *Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton
Narwhal the

narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to

school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Waffleomatics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!



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.

Tegan's Book Review

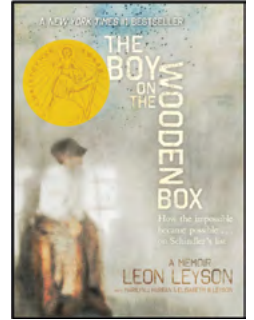


Tegan

Moments of Hope

In this tragic but wonderful story, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, author Leon Leyson shares his emotions of fear, confusion, and anger. With his early

childhood shattering into pieces as he is taken away and transported to a fatal concentration camp, separated from his friends and relatives. However, even as depression and pain surrounds his life, Leyson experiences unforgettable moments of hope that are unexpectedly injected, reminding me that through this pandemic that I am fortunate to have friends, family, and freedom. A bonus was reading that Leyson had lived his last few years in Fullerton, making me feel connected to his story more.



Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.

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Boys & Girls Age Group 2010-2008

WEDNESDAYS
JANUARY 05
& JANUARY 12

AGE	2010	4:30P-5:45P	TIME
	2009	6:00P-7:15P	
	2008	7:30P-8:45P	

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Technical Director
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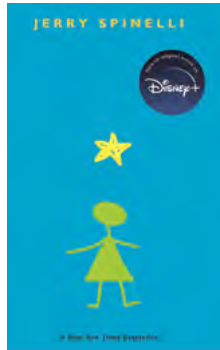
Jenna's Review



Carry Us Away

Book Title: *Stargirl*
Author: Jerry Spinelli

Change is a big word and is something a lot of people do so that others will like them. Stargirl is a character that



Jenna C. differs from everybody else. Leo the narrator always tells himself that Stargirl is weird but, do you think that? Your opinion may change throughout the book because of Stargirl's choices. Stargirl is new to the school and catches attention quickly for being unique such as singing with her ukulele in the cafeteria. She becomes the good luck charm at the football game because she starts singing which motivates the players to try harder. She becomes the Queen of the school, but does she maintain her popularity with her quirkiness? Read to find out!

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

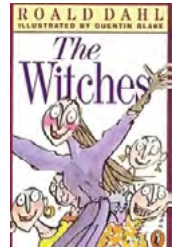
Katie's Review



Witch is Which?

Book Title: *The Witches*
Author: Roald Dahl

Think of a group of women, gathering to speak at a convention in a hotel. Nothing out of the ordinary--except they wear wigs and gloves, don't



have toes, and turn children into rats. That is the premise of "*The Witches*," by Roald Dahl. In this fantastical story about witches who hate children, there is no end to your imagination. From the drawn out, shrill voices of the vicious women to the very magical potions they concoct, there is no doubt that you will find the missing piece to all the supernatural myths of the world. A grandson is warned from a very young age about these mystical, mysterious women--but can he face the dangers that creep upon him? If you like a suspenseful story, "*The Witches*" is a perfect book for you.

Katie is a senior 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.

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FRAM 2022 SEASON TRYOUTS
Boys & Girls Age Group 2016-2011

SATURDAY JANUARY 08

AGE	TIME
2016/15	9:00A-10:15A
2014	10:30A-11:45A
2013	12:00P-1:15P
2012	1:30P-2:45P
2011	3:00P-4:15P

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Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Do You Have An Imaginary Friend?

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate is about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson's dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move from place to place.



When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson's life whenever Jackson needs help.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they're imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 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.

Taegyong's Book Review

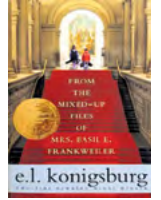


Taegyong K.

Hideout at the Museum

Title: *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Author: E. L. Konigsburg

What do you think that the museum is for? There is a girl who thinks a museum is good for hiding. Claudia Kincaid has complaints about



her responsibilities at home and the things that make her uncomfortable. She decides to run away from home and makes a plan to go to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York to hide so that nobody can find her. She leaves home and takes one of her brothers, Jamie, because he has some money that she needs to go there. Finally, Claudia and Jamie enter the museum and find a place to hide. Now, they start their adventure at the museum.

Can they keep hiding at the museum? Or will they get caught by the guards? What will happen to them at the museum? This book will lead you into the mysteries and adventures. Let's dive into it.

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

Milestones and Firsts—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 Torrance in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2022**

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

BIRTH	RECITAL
KISS	CAR
HIGH SCHOOL	DISNEYLAND
GRADUATION	TRAVEL
COLLEGE	AIRPLANE RIDE
DATE	BALLOON RIDE
LOVE	CRUISE
ENGAGEMENT	FIRST TOOTH
MARRIAGE	
HOUSE	



Note-ables

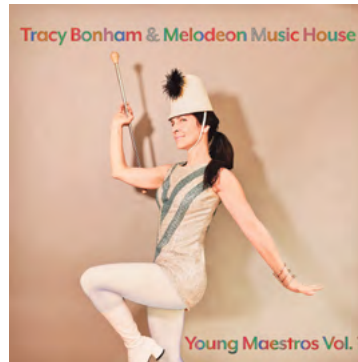


Kate Karp

Young Maestros

Tracy Bonham's Grammy-nominated compositions might be familiar to some—Google “Mother Mother” if you've never heard it—but her gifts extend on beyond “Billboard.” Her classical training and devotion to developing a passion for music in very young children created the [Melodeon Music House Curriculum](#), which teaches music fundamentals to preschool youngsters.

You don't need a spoonful of sugar to get children interested in music, but Bonham knows a most delightful way anyhow. “Young Maestros,” a collection of songs and games from Melodeon, opens with “Me Symphony,” in which Bonham laments how she misplaced her instruments everywhere—her tuba in Aruba, her shaker in Jamaica. But hey, she has her fingers, mouth, nose, feet and a beat as substitutes! Take heed, teachers and parents—there's a great maps lesson in there.



Bonham puts the “fun” in “fundamentals” with “Beats to a Measure,” a pleasant, rapid-fire lesson in rhythm. “All the Blackbirds” gives flight to the black keys, and “Feelin' Pretty Major” explains major and minor keys and how the upbeat feel of the former and the mournfulness of the latter comprise the music of life.

“Background Singers” is my personal favorite. Like the documentary “Twenty Feet from Stardom,” it pays homage to the unsung singers who provide the

bones and body of a song. “Background Singers” tells what happens when a lead singer is unkind and unappreciative to them. Let's say that she learns about harmony the hard way!

The final track on the collection is “A Song Without an Ending,” only 32 seconds long with an abrupt stop, but no satisfactory end. Bonham seems to be telling the Young Maestros, “You pick up from here!”

Can You Feel It?

Can You Feel It? is a collection of original songs about natural science, played simply and organically. Banjo, bass, steel guitar, drums and keyboard blend with Jessa Campbell's lilting voice as she sings to both young people and adults about sun and shadow, a salmon's circular journey from birth to spawning adulthood, burrowing mammals, fractals...

Wait—*fractals*?

Yes, fractals. And alevins, bract, trillium and frass. *Can You Feel It?* doesn't play cute with science. The selections enchantingly introduce science vocabulary without being didactic or windy. They sneak up on anthropomorphism but don't diminish or trivialize the concepts through fantasy. “Waltz of the Trillium and Ant,” for instance, encapsulates the natural partnership of flower structure, ant colonies, pollination and germination in a



waltz melody. It's like a fairy tale, but the sprites are unarguably real. “Mole in the Ground,” written in the Appalachian mountain tune manner, speeds up or slows down each verse depending on the pace of each animal.

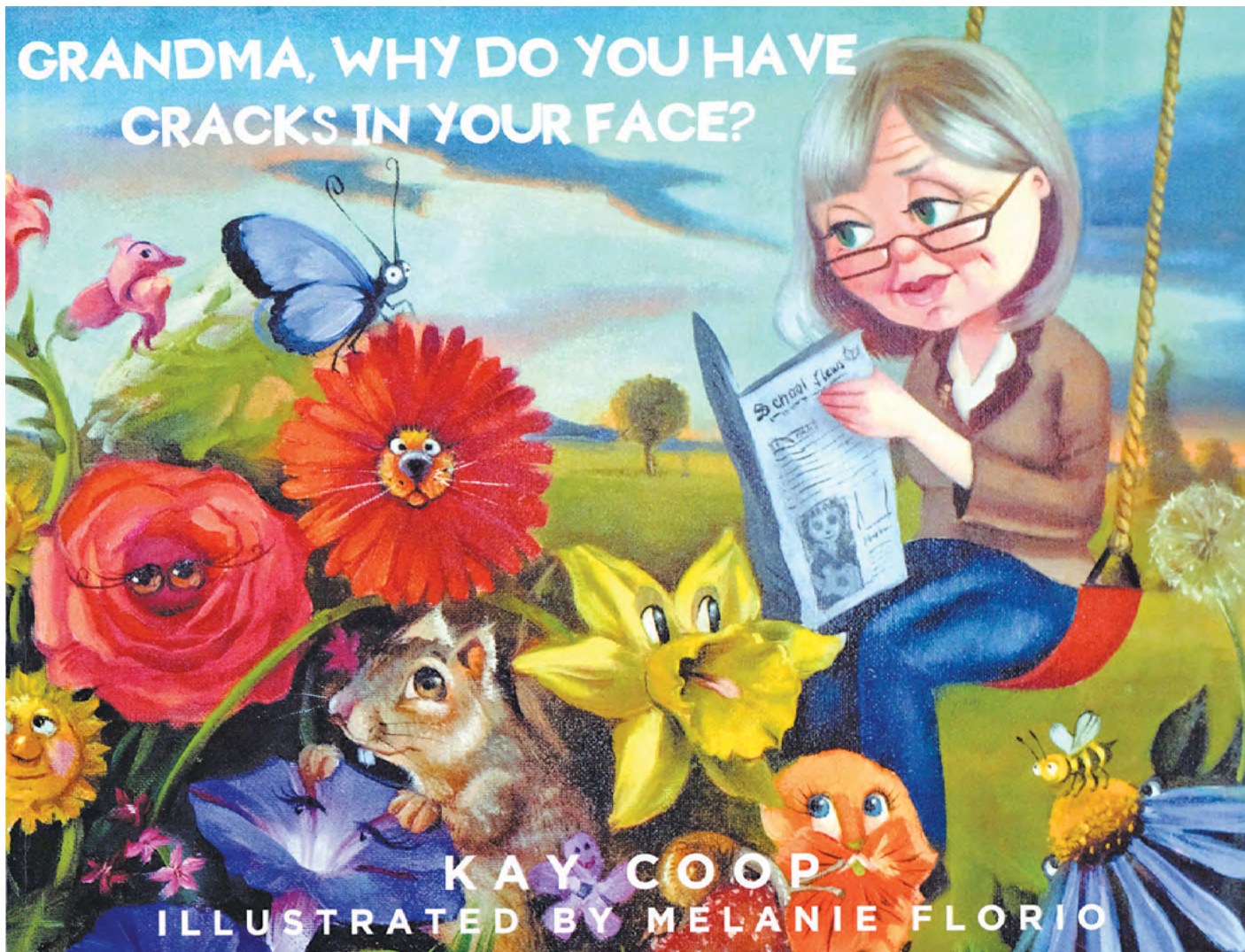
The title song has a silent tone and focuses on feeling instead of sound. The listener can feel the waves as the salmon roll from freshwater to saltwater and back, changing from alevin to smolt to adult. The bouncy “T-Rex in the Forest” begs to be acted out by children

who'll enjoy snoring like a prehistoric reptile. “How I Love You, Sun” is a worthy love song to the star that gives light, energy and life to everything on Earth.

How Campbell manages to pack so many ideas about each topic into every song without cramming it all in is a marvel, like her subjects themselves.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

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