

Peacock Press

December 2012

Volume 2, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Teacher of the Year	3
Tony Gayton	3
Susan Brooks	4
John Eberhard	4
Trent Waterson	5
U.S.S. Iowa	5
Vista Grande Festival	6
Lunada's Disaster Prep	6
Vista Grande Challenge	7
Silver Spur Challenge	7
Red Ribbon at Lunada	8
Healthy Silver Spur	8
Rancho Vista Fun	9
Cornerstone Gangnam	9
Montemalaga at Camp	10
Cornerstone Mock Vote	10
P. Vicente Ghouligrams	11
Soleado Halloween	11
Endeavour	12
RPV Dog Park	12
Dance 4 Oceans	13
Centinela Feed	13
Great Barrier Reef	14
Grand Canyon	14
Magic Mountain	15
Robie House	15
Oppa Gangnam Style	16
PSY's Gangnam Style	16
Lovable Hamsters	17
Christmas Trees	17
Rules Book Review	18
Westing Game Review	18
Wimpy Kid Third Wheel	19
Info Worm Cartoon	19
The Avengers Review	20
Marvel Studios	20
Hotel Transylvania	21
Hotel Transylvania	21
Sparrow Restaurant	22
Souplantation	22
PVPHS Principal Cress	24
PVPHS PressFriends	24

América Tropical

In 1932, one very talented Mexican Painter drew a mural on the wall of the building in Los Angeles. His name was David Alfaro Siqueiros, and he named his mural “América Tropical”. This beautiful mural ex-

pressed a strong political message about the freedom for the people of Mexican country and Native American people, so it was white-washed by the people who had power at that time and had been forgotten.

they also built the center itself to celebrate the reborn mural.

Michelle Garcia-Ortiz, who is working for El Pueblo, explained “during weekends, people usually have to wait in line, sometimes for one hour to see the mural”.

Inside the center, there is a mini-museum which shows reproduction process and information about the mural and the painter.

“The mural was the white-washed because the politicians who had power at that time did not want other people to

Continued on page 23



The Getty Conservation Institute invited the Peacock Press to the América Tropical Interpretive Center to see the restored mural. The City of Los Angeles and the Getty Conservation Institute were in charge of restoring the mural, and

Saving the Orangutans

You know how important it is to save our endangered wildlife. Well, one uncommon, endangered animal is the orangutan.

An orangutan is a large, hairy, and orange monkey. They live to be about 35-40 years old. The Peacock Press met up with Peninsula High School student, Sarah C., who is a Youth Ambassador for the Orang Utan Republik Foundation (www.orangutan-republik.org).

Sarah told the Peacock Press many things about these orangutans. These creatures live in Indonesia and Malaysia on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Here, there is amazing farmland and orangutans eat mainly fruits. That is why they live in this environment. Although, when farmers see the animals feeding on their crops, they must do

Continued on page 23





Abigail M.
Entertainment Rptr
Cornerstone



Aleksander M.
Reporter at Large
Palos Verdes



Alexandra Y.
Features Editor
Vista Grande



Alice M.
Reporter at Large
Vista Grande



Andrea L.
Reporter at Large
Montemalaga



Anna M.
Reporter at Large
Palos Verdes



Asumi S.
News Editor
Vista Grande



Carolina C.
Chief Editor
Lunada Bay



Caroline T.
News Reporter
Dapplegray



Diana K.
Chief Editor
Vista Grande



Drew S.
News Reporter
Silver Spur



Francesca M.
Sports Reporter
Mira Catalina



Hannah S.
Sports Editor
Soleado



Hattie S.
Chief Reporter
Rancho Vista



Isabelle W.
Chief Editor
Montemalaga



Jeannie-Rose M.
News Reporter
Lunada Bay



Jenna P.
Careers Editor
Montemalaga



Jessica H.
Chief Reporter
Soldeado



Josie B.
Features Editor
Lunada Bay



Judith P.
Entertainment Ed.
Cornerstone



Julianna P.
Entertainment Rptr
Mira Catalina



Justin A.
Science Editor
Vista Grande



Kai M.
Chief Reporter
Cornerstone



Kapil D.
Science Reporter
Cornerstone



Kaylin L.
Chief Reporter
Mira Catalina



Kristen M.
Entertainment Rptr
Point Vicente



Lauren C.
Entertainment Rptr
Point Vicente



Maddie Y.
Reporter at Large
Vista Grande



Melina D.
Chief Reporter
Silver Spur



Michaela L.
Features Editor
Montemalaga



Mikayla K.
News Editor
Silver Spur



Minji J.
Chief Editor
Point Vicente



Nicole S.
Reporter at Large
Vista Grande



Olivia S.
Careers Editor
Lunada Bay



Rachel M.
Reporter at Large
Vista Grande



Raza K.
News Editor
Montemalaga



Rhiannon P.
Entertainment Ed.
Lunada Bay



Ricardo P.
Features Editor
Dapplegray



Ronjini C.
Reporter at Large
Vista Grande



Rosalie B.
Entertainment Ed.
Montemalaga



Ryan P.
Sports Editor
Point Vicente



Sarah B.
Careers Editor
Soleado



Sydney L.
Reporter at Large
Montemalaga



Syris T.
Reporter at Large
Montemalaga



Terrie J.
News Reporter
Soleado



Thy D.
Entertainment Ed.
Soleado



Troy S.
Sports Editor
Cornerstone



Teacher of the Year at Dapplegray

Fourth graders at Dapplegray in Ms. Karen Clavadetscher's class are lucky to be with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club's Educator of the Year.

Ms. Clavadetscher's class, as well as all the other fourth grade teachers and students were very excited when they heard the news and swarmed into Ms. Clavadetscher's classroom when the announcement was made.

On the day of the announcement, Mr. Fred London, the principal of our

school, said, "Ms. Clavadetscher, can you teach all these kids?"

Ms. Clavadetscher replied, "Maybe if we all work on white boards,"

Then the students in her class knew something special was going to happen. Ms. Dodell, who nominated Ms. Clavadetscher started to cry since they've worked together for 10 years and are close friends, who enjoy laughter, and musicals.

Then Mr. London stated, "If anyone can do it, it's the Teacher of the Year."

Everyone in the room had a smile on their face. All the fourth grade teachers gave her a hug, and Mr. London gave a huge speech about how Ms. Clavadetscher got to Dapplegray.

After everyone was gone and Mr. London went back to his office, he announced it on the loudspeaker in to the whole school. I

Congratulations to Ms. Clavadetscher from everyone at the Peacock Press.

Caroline T.

News Reporter

Dapplegray



PALOS VERDES
PENINSULA
ROTARY
EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR

Really, you wrote that?

Tony Gayton is a screenwriter who wrote the movies *Salton Sea*, *Murder by Numbers*, and *Faster*. He also wrote the TV show *Hell on Wheels* and two music documentaries.

According to Tony Gayton, the best thing about being a screenwriter is that you get to use your imagination, but the downside of the career is that you work alone most of the time.

Gayton says to become an excellent writer you should read a lot of books, but if you are interested in becoming a screen writer, you should watch movies and TV shows as well.

Tony Gayton graciously answered some questions and gave a lot of information to Press Friends.

Peacock Press: Why did you decide to become a screenwriter?

Gayton: I have an active imagination. I went to Film School at USC and while I was there, I realized that I was good at writing.

Peacock Press: Who influenced you the most?

Gayton: Probably my high school English teacher, Mrs. Bring.

Peacock Press: When you write a movie or show do you have specific actors in mind?

Gayton: Sometimes, but not always.

Peacock Press: Where do your ideas come from? How do you brainstorm?

Tony: My ideas come from some weird place in my brain, movies, books, etc. I am inspired by everything around me like the people I meet and the places I go.

Peacock Press: Do you enjoy watching the movies or TV shows you've written?

Gayton: Not really, because all I notice are the mistakes.

Peacock Press: What is the favorite thing you've written?

Gayton: *Salton Sea* and *Hell on Wheels*.

Peacock Press: What is your least favorite?

Tony: All of the scripts I wrote that never got made.

Olivia S.

Careers Editor

Lunada Bay



Tony Gayton

An Interview with Susan Brooks



Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks is RPV's Councilwoman and former Mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes. She has been working as a Councilwoman since 1991. In 1989, Susan was appointed Planning Commissioner after fighting the Marine land closure. She witnessed rude and insulting Council members who had forgotten that their job was to be the servant to the People, not vice versa. That is when she first knew she wanted to become a Councilwoman.

Peacock Press: When did you become a Councilwoman and why?

Brooks: First time was in 1991, then again in 2011. To

improve the manner in which our City interacts with the public and to contribute for the greater good.

Peacock Press: What do you like best about being Councilwoman?

Brooks: Helping people get answers to their concerns rapidly and efficiently.

Peacock Press: What do you like least about being Councilwoman?

Brooks: Occasional lack of cooperation and too many chefs in the kitchen can make it difficult.

Peacock Press: If someone is interested in becoming a

Councilmember, what does he/she need to do/study?

Brooks: I would suggest becoming involved in a City Committee; we have several of them which report to the Council. Also, become an activist for a cause which will garner much support. Learn diplomacy skills through study, perhaps in political science classes.

We are blessed to live in a Paradise called Palos Verdes and to have such a great Councilwoman as Susan Brooks to help us enjoy it to the fullest!

*Sarah B.
Careers Editor
Soleado*

Who Keeps PVE Safe?



Andrea L. and PVE Police Chief John Eberhard

The residents of Palos Verdes Estates are lucky to have a lower crime rate than many other cities in the United States. Police Chief John Eberhard is our new Police Chief who started on October 1st of this year.

Chief Eberhard wanted to become a Police Chief because he grew up in this neighborhood. Since he has a deep connection with this community, he wants to do good things for it.

The job of a Police Chief is to set goals and directions for the entire Police Department. He spends a lot of time going to different meetings. The thing he likes most

about his job is the people in his department. He thinks it is a team effort. He likes working with the people in his department and in the community. Although it is not always easy and he has to go to many meetings, he likes everything about his job.

When asked what he would like to accomplish, Chief Eberhard said he wants to keep his department going in the right direction and to maintain the respect of the community. He wants to come up with programs aimed at helping the community.

The people who influenced Chief Eberhard the

most are his parents. They instilled in him morals, values, and ethics, such as treating people with respect and doing the right thing.

Chief Eberhard's favorite hobby is sports. He grew up playing sports and he likes watching sports events. He has a dog, a cat, and two guinea pigs.

Here are Police Chief Eberhard's suggestions for someone who wants to be a Police Officer. You have to stay out of trouble and live a good, clean life.

*Andrea L.
News Reporter
Montemalaga*

A Film Production Superhero

The Peacock Press spoke with Trent Waterson, who worked as assistant to the executive producer Patty Whitcher for Marvel's films, *Thor* and *The Avengers*.

Peacock Press: What makes Marvel characters so successful, both in comics and in film?

Waterson: I quickly realized that Marvel characters are so successful in both comics and film because they all have stories that, when stripped down, are relatable to the readers and audiences. *Thor* was a God of Asgard that needed to learn humility in order to be true to himself, his family and his realm. Steve Rogers was the guy who got picked on because

of his outward appearance even though he was the strongest and bravest soldier on the inside. These are connective themes that we all go through in the course of finding our identities and meaning through life.

Peacock Press: What problems does the creative team have when adapting comic books to film, particularly with comic book fans that know the characters so well?

Waterson: While we were filming, there were lots of bloggers and comic book fans online that began to post their ideas and hopes of what our films would be like. When we released the trailer for *Thor* or *The Avengers*, I could see comments with

fans' excitement and their interesting ideas about what was going to happen in the film. It's a great feeling working so hard to collaborate and watch a film come together knowing that there are so many people waiting to see it."

Peacock Press: Who is your favorite Marvel character?

Waterson: "I have come to love Steve Rogers. From the moment I saw him dive on the (fake) grenade during his military training, I realized I wanted to have a heart that was like his – to care for and save my fellow man."

*Kai M.
Chief Reporter
Cornerstone*



Trent Waterson

"The Big Stick"

Just around the corner is the U.S.S Iowa, a battleship. A.K.A. "The Big Stick."

The Iowa was commissioned in 1943 and decommissioned in 1990. One of its missions was the ambush on Japan. When Japan bombed the battleship, even though they hit the 16" gun, the men inside felt nothing at all because it was protected by 19.7" of armor.

An interesting fact of the U.S.S Iowa is that it has unmanned radar machine guns that are programmed to take out enemy aircrafts. It has three 16" triple main gun turrets, each with a barrel that is 66'8" long. The guns

were mainly to protect the battleship from enemy battleships. They are so strong that they could actually take out the Hollywood sign from where it's docked in San Pedro.

The battleship weighs 58,000 tons and is 887 ft. long. In the battleship, a mini community lies inside. There are barbers, cooks, maintenance, and of course, our brave heroes who work on this ship.

In the middle of the ship there's a room especially made for President Theodore Roosevelt when he was in a wheelchair. There was also a hallway that stretched as

long as a football field that connected to his room. Now in its new home in San Pedro, the heroes still work there and share their adventures they had on the Iowa. If you go there you might hear an interesting story and learn some cool facts about an important battleship in our history.

*Ricardo P.
Features Editor
Dapplegray*

The USS IOWA is located at Berth 87 at the Port of Los Angeles. For more information on visiting the Iowa, go to pacificbattleship.com.



Ricardo P. at the U.S.S. Iowa



The Fall Festival at Vista Grande

Wow! The Vista Grande Fall Festival flew by on October 21 this year. The festival, a tradition of Vista Grande for the past 50 years, happened this year on a bright Sunday afternoon. It was a grand success with about 600 people attending.

No one can have a festival without cotton candy, churros, hotdogs, hamburgers and popcorn!

“I know our festival is great and we have a lot of new vendors this year,” said Anna Park-Mar, the manager of the festival.

Delicious Vietnamese food from Sparrows and yummy yogurt from iBerries were here for the first time.

There were many activities that people enjoyed at the festival. You could win prizes and yummy treats at the games like the Balloon Pop and the Cake Walk, climb the Rock Wall, slide down the giant slide, get your face painted and much, much more! The all new Terror Truck made you jump out of your skin with its huge, flying airbags, terrifying dead bodies, ghostly goblins, and creepy bugs!

Parents were allowed to have fun too! They could sit back, relax, and enjoy coffee from Starbucks at the VG Café, another new addition this year. The VG Café also sold muffins, cinnamon rolls, and other baked goodies!

You could order a wristband for \$20 or buy tickets for \$1 each. If you want to have all this fun at the fantastic Fall Festival, don't forget to mark your calendars for October next year.

Hope to see you there!

*Ronjini C.
News Reporter
Vista Grande*

Preparing for Disasters at Lunada Bay



Last October Lunada Bay Elementary School participated in a disaster drill much like all schools in the state of California. The purpose of the drill was to practice safety and coordination during a disaster. A disaster could be an earthquake, a fire, or a lockdown.

During a drill students pretend there is an earthquake. Teachers taught kids to sit under their desks, cover their necks, and hold on to the desk legs.

Students had to climb under their desks so if any glass shattered or if any objects fell they would not get injured by the items falling.

They had to cover their neck because if they didn't they would get hit by some-

thing falling on their neck and might get paralyzed or severely injured.

They had to hold their desk leg otherwise it would shake and fall over on students' heads.

Throughout the state of California students and workers participated in disaster drills. It is important for all residents of California to know what to do in an event of an earthquake. In Palos Verdes, there are resources at the police station and fire department to help citizens of California to prepare for an earthquake.

Palos Verdes hasn't experienced any major earthquake in recent history. However, experts agree that a major earthquake some-

where in California is bound to happen sooner or later. Disaster drills are one way of preparing for a major earthquake. Getting tips and advice from a police station or fire department is a great way to prepare for an earthquake. Another way to prepare for an earthquake is to make a first aid kit including bandages, food, water and medicines.

Lunada Bay Elementary School's disaster drills are a useful way to practice for a real disaster. Even though Schools and businesses practice in October, it is good to practice all year around in case of an emergency.

*Josie B.
Features Editor
Lunada Bay*

Vista Grande's Team Kid Challenge

Let's go Team Kids! Everyone at Vista Grande is cheering for Team Kids. Team Kids is an organization made up of students who work together on activities that better the lives of others. It teaches the children that they have the power to make a difference.

Each month the students take part in a service project where they learn about leadership, community, and helping others through various "challenges." Fourth and fifth graders make up the Team Kids student council, but everyone can participate in the various challenges. One example of the Team Kids Challenge was Opera-

tion Gratitude, where students wrote letters and collected Halloween candy for the soldiers serving in our military. The Vista Grande Voyagers raised approximately 500 pounds of candy this year to send to service members all over the world.

The November Challenge is a food drive for the Rainbow Shelter, an organization to for victims of family violence.

During December, the challenge is a ball drive for the Boys and Girls Clubs in the Los Angeles area.

Last year, the Team Kids Challenge lasted one month. Since it was so successful, the Team Kids Challenge

will continue throughout the entire school year. At the end of the year, there is a Funfest, a festival that the Team Kids organize and put on to raise money for a selected charity.

The Team Kids student council is working hard to make this a great year. Good luck to Team Kids!

Alexandra Y.

*Features Editor
Vista Grande*



People will never know how far a little kindness will go . . .

These are the words of Rachel Joy Scott, a special person who lived her life with a positive attitude. She was a person who loved to make people feel better and liked being kind to others.

Rachel's Challenge is a program that teaches students how to live a life of purpose and to do acts of kindness to make our school a better place. For the second year, Silver Spur Elementary School has taken part in this program.

One of the goals of the program is to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. Silver Spur has started "Links of Kindness", a paper chain where students



or teachers who are seen doing acts of compassion will get a paper link to add to the kindness chains in their classrooms. An act of kindness can be being nice to others, having a positive attitude or helping people.

Towards the end of the school year, all the classrooms will link their chains together at a special assembly.

Program Coordinator, Shari Shigenaga said that the kindness chains made last year were long enough to go

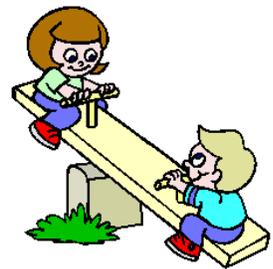
around the school's Multi-Purpose Room! This year, Silver Spur's goal is to make its kindness chains long enough to link with Montemalaga and Cornerstone Elementary Schools' chains.

Mrs. Shigenaga shared some examples of kindness going on in the school, including Kindergarten students who are making sure other students are not eating lunch alone.

Remember, one small act of kindness can go a long way!

Drew S.

*News Reporter
Silver Spur*





The Best of Me is Drug Free at Lunada Bay

Red Ribbon Week isn't about Crazy Hat Day or Fruity Friday, but about keeping your body healthy.

Lunada Bay Elementary School held Red Ribbon Week from October 22nd through October 26. For this annual national event, each student was given a red ribbon bracelet as a symbol to show that drugs don't make a person feel better and are harmful.

Everyone celebrated the week wearing red clothes. There were activities like Crazy Hat Day, Walking Wednesday, Project Angel Food, and Fruity Friday. The students learned about how

harmful alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs are to a person's body.

Some activities were favorites with students. For example, Lelonie, a fourth grader in Ms. Louise's class said, "Crazy Hat Day is my favorite of all the things we did," and Priscilla-Rose, a second grader in Ms. Castillo's class said, "I loved Fruity Friday."

When asked what they learned from Red Ribbon Week, most students said "Don't take drugs."

Some like Priscilla-Rose said, "You should keep yourself healthy and smoking turns your lungs black and

taking drugs can hurt your brain."

One of the most important activities of the week was Project Angel Food. Students collected coins for people with lung cancer.

Walking Wednesday made students aware of the importance of clean air.

All week, even on fun Crazy Hat Day, Lunada Bay students wore red ribbon bracelets to show their commitment to making their school—and all of America Drug-Free.

*Jeannie-Rose M.
News Reporter
Lunada Bay*

Playing for Health at Silver Spur

Healthy is the name of the game at Silver Spur Elementary! We celebrated a week full of smiles, healthy treats, fantastic exercises, and lots of laughter called Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is so awesome who wouldn't want to join in on the fun? The answer is no one! That is why the whole school is invited to participate.

This exciting event took place on October 8th through October 12th at the one and only Silver Spur Broncos campus.

Red Ribbon week isn't only about good exercise; it

is also about eating healthy and helping our earth. We are so lucky to have our very own thriving organic Silver Spur Garden! We plant fruits and vegetables.

Some volunteers' help with a program called Growing Great, which is a special class that students have to teach us about our body and its health.

Garden club is a club where we plant and harvest the Silver Spur garden.

Brooke C. of the garden club is in fourth grade and says her favorite part of garden club is planting carrots and harvesting figs.



We are thankful for are garden. It really completes Silver Spur and Red Ribbon Week. It is a hit.

*Mikayla K.
News Editor
Silver Spur*



A Great Year at Rancho Vista

This is a great start to a great year. Maybe you are making new friends or playing soccer. Maybe you're the class clown or totally straight forward. Whatever you are doing, you can have a great year if you really try.



The Peacock Press asked a few of the teachers at Rancho Vista what they thought would make this year a good year.

"Do you think we are going to have a good year?" the Peacock Press asked Mrs. Palmer, a fourth grade teacher at Rancho Vista.

"I do not think we are going to have a good year," Mrs. Palmer replied. "I think we are going to have an outstanding year."

Next, the Peacock Press asked Mrs. Debbie, Rancho

Vista's wonderful lunch lady for her opinion.

The Peacock Press asked, "How do you think this year is going to wind up?"

Mrs. Debbie answered, "Wonderful. You have a wonderful staff, a wonderful principal and awesome teachers."

The Peacock Press at Rancho Vista agrees. We will have a fantabulous year.

Hattie S.

*Chief Reporter
Rancho Vista*



Cornerstone Catches the Gangnam Craze

"Oppa Gangnam Style!"

Have you caught the Gangnam Style fever yet? Gangnam is a neighborhood in Seoul, Korea, that is known to have rich and classy people.

Some people try too hard to be "Gangnam" and boast about it. So, the song "Gangnam Style," is sort of making fun of those people.

The artist, PSY (Park Jae-Sang), only intended for South Koreans to watch his music video, so he put it on You Tube; but the whole world saw it and started the Gangnam Style buzz. The song became so popular that it was danced on talk shows, commercials, and sporting events with young and old alike using PSY's signature

moves. On You Tube, it got over a half a billion hits!

Year of Korea at Cornerstone

Coincidentally, this year at Cornerstone Elementary School, the students are celebrating the Year of Korea as their featured country of study. Everyone has been looking forward to learning about the culture of the people, but most of all, they are having fun with the "Gangnam Style."

In October, Cornerstone held its 20th Anniversary party at the school. In addition to a special ceremony honoring the teachers and alumni, there was music, an animal show, games, a police car, photo booth, and face painting.



The Year of Korea events included cultural dancers and musicians, Korean game booths, and food sampling. However, the most anticipated event was the Cornerstone moms' presentation of "Gangnam Style." It was the hit of the night!

People of all ages, races, and religion are actually having a fun time because of this song, and that's a style we all want to keep!

Abigail M.

*Entertainment Reporter
Cornerstone*



Outdoor Science School



On October 2, 2012, the fifth graders at Montemalaga Elementary School went to the Los Angeles County Department of Education’s Outdoor Science School at Blue Sky Meadow, located near Big Bear City, for three nights and four days.

The students learned that the Jeffrey Pine’s bark smells like vanilla. One of the favorite parts was the hike each day which took at least one to seven hours. The naturalist would stop once a while to tell them about the nature around us.

The Peacock Press interviewed 5th grade Monte-

malaga science teacher Mr. Wells.

Peacock Press: Did you enjoy the field trip?

Wells: Yes, I loved the field trip. I liked how the students got to do science out in the real world instead of in a textbook.

Peacock Press: Would you go back again?

Wells: Yes, I will go back again because I get a new set of kids to meet with. I like to see the mountains while hiking up them.



All the fifth graders had a great time at the Outdoor Science School and wish we could go back again too.

*Michaela L.
Features Editor
Montemalaga*

All About Prop. 37 and the Right to Know



Before the Mock Election at Cornerstone Elementary, the upper grades knew how they were going to vote for president and state assembly. But voting on proposition 37 was another story. This was a hard decision for students to make.

Proposition 37 required labeling on food packages for genetically modified ingredients.



Before the mock elections, students were arguing loudly about the pros and cons of Prop 37. A fourth grader, Liam B. who supported Prop 37 said that he wants to know if there is *Bacillus thuringiensis* or B.t. genes in his food.

Other students who were against Prop 37 said that genetic engineering is helpful. B.t. genes make corn crops resistant to insects. Other genes make crops drought resistant. Also, labeling will make food cost more.

Genetically engineered food is not generally harmful to eat. It’s a simple question but it

snowballed into a big deal on campus.

The Voting Results

In the end, Prop 37 passed at Cornerstone but it didn’t do so well at the polls. California voters did not vote for the proposition requiring labeling of genetically altered foods.

If Prop 37 had passed, would students have experienced an increase in their lunch prices in exchange for information about the genes in their food?

Although Prop 37 was defeated in the November elections, it is sure to turn up again in some fashion.

*Kapil D.
Science Reporter
Cornerstone*

Yum, Point Vicente Ghouligrams!

Ghouligrams are a great way to donate money to the school, surprise friends to make them happy, and celebrate the season!

Ghouligrams are the annual Halloweenesque lollipops sold in October that everyone looks forward to giving and receiving at Point Vicente Elementary.

Mrs. Weiss, the organizer of this program, provided us with a lot of information including how much ghouligrams cost, what the money is used for, and the various tasty flavors. She said, "We made the price \$1, so people will buy many Ghouligrams and help raise a lot of money for great activities during the school year." Some of the

activities that the proceeds from the Ghouligrams will help provide include science programs, beautification of the school, technology, and other student council activities.

We asked Vincent K., a 4th grader at Point Vicente, if he liked giving Ghouligrams to his friends. He answered, "Ya! Of course!"



Ghouligrams are great to give! I'm giving some to my friends Kai and Nikita."

Jennifer K., also a 4th grader at Pointe Vicente, enthusiastically agreed that she liked giving Ghouligrams to her friends.

Ghouligrams are not limited to students at school. Ghouligrams could be purchased for teachers as well. Jennifer said that she also loves donating Ghouligrams to the military.

We hope you supported your school, brought joy to your friends, and bought Ghouligrams this year!

Lauren C.

*Entertainment Reporter
Pointe Vicente*



A Spook-tacular Day at Soleado

Do any of you know why Halloween was made? Well, if you don't know, great! Here, you will learn all about Halloween.

Halloween is always on October 31st. Halloween is a holiday that is well-known around her world. Three very

common activities that people do on Halloween is wear costumes, trick-or-treat, and carve pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns.

Halloween Costumes

Many people say they are going to be witches for Halloween. It is a very popular costume. A cute costume is a candy corn witch. Costumes are very important so many people buy them. A lot of stores sell out of costumes.



Halloween Parade

Soleado has a Halloween parade every year, and all of the students are in the parade. It is very exciting and very fun to see all the kids in their costumes.

Have you started thinking about your costume for next year yet? What do you like best about Halloween—the costumes, trick-or-treating, or carving pumpkins?

It would be fun if Halloween lasted forever. And that's because it is the best holiday!

Terrie J.

*News Reporter
Soleado*





Justin A. in front of the Endeavour

The Marvelous Endeavour

People of all ages, let us blast off into a world of adventure. The Endeavour was one of NASA’s amazing space shuttles.

In the 1980s, an unnamed space shuttle was finally finished and was ready to earn a name. A competition was set up for people to come up with a name for the shuttle. Kids in elementary schools had the opportunity of a lifetime to name the space shuttle. President George H. W. Bush drew the winning name, “Endeavour.”

Endeavour was NASA’s youngest member of its family of space shuttles. It had a 19 year flight career, logged nearly 123 million miles in space, and zipped around the earth more than 4,600 times!

Also, Endeavour flew a total of 25 missions in space.

A Tribute to Challenger

Endeavour was made out of the last space shuttle, Challenger, which was lost in the January 1986 accident. When the Challenger was ready to blast off into space, one of the side rockets sprang a leak. When the shuttle took off, the running gas on the side caught on fire and lit the whole inside of the side rocket. Then, the whole rocket exploded in front of everyone when the shuttle hit the atmosphere.

NASA didn’t give up though. They found remains of the exploded shuttle and turned the remains of the Challenger into the Endeav-

our. The recycling of the Challenger saved NASA \$1.7 billion dollars!

Endeavour’s second flight, “STS-47 Mission,” in 1992 made history because of the crew. The crew featured the first African-American woman to fly in space, Mae Jepsen, the first Japanese astronaut, Mamoru Mohri, and the first married couple, Mark Lee and Jan Davis.

On its 25th mission, the Endeavour flew on the back of a plane to be carried all the way from Florida to California, so the Endeavour can retire at the California Science Center. Go see the exhibit. It’s awesome!

*Justin A.
Science Editor
Vista Grande*

New Dog Park in PV

A half-acre plot of land near Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall has been turned into a temporary off-leash Dog Park. Rancho Caninos Dog Park is located behind the tennis courts in Point Vicente Park/Civic Center at 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard and was opened on November 8th.

With its small size and only temporary status, it falls short of what dog park supporters have spent years lobbying for on the Hill, but for now it will do.

“We know it’s on the lower end of the size for a dog park,” said Carolyn

Petru, deputy city manager, “But this was one area where it wasn’t going to interfere with any other use.”

Rancho Caninos Dog Park is level, has easy access, and includes several trees for shade.

“I think it’s going to be pretty nice.,” Petru said.

Rancho Caninos Dog Park has water stations and seating areas, as well as restrooms. Wood chips are used as ground cover and the park includes separate spaces for large and small dogs, along with separate double gate entrances for each

side. The hours for use of the dog park are one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Dog owners can bring a maximum of two dogs inside the dog park area, and they must clean up after their dogs. All dogs must wear a current license and vaccination tags. The owner must remain with their dogs.

Establishing an off-leash dog park on the Palos Verdes Peninsula has been a lifetime goal for many of the areas dog owners.

*Caroline C.
Chief Editor
Lunada Bay*



Dance for the Sea

The name of the dance is “Thriller”, a Michael Jackson creation, and the dance company is *Thrill the World South Bay*. The purpose of the dance was to raise awareness of trash pollution in the ocean.

This recent performance of “Thriller” was given on Saturday, October 27 at the Promenade of the Peninsula in Rolling Hills Estates. The dancers included about 15 to 20 children, ranging in age

from six to fourteen, who danced to the Michael Jackson tune in costumes they created themselves. The only stipulation on costume design was that they had to be made entirely from trash!

Colorful arrangements of tin cans, cardboard, and other forms of refuse were on display. The dance itself followed the zombie routine originally used by Jackson, with weird jerky movements and vacuous expressions on

the dancers’ faces portraying zombies come back to life. The performance was given on an open air stage near the ice skating rink, with passersby stopping to watch the spectacle free of charge.

The dance was eye-catching and colorful, entertaining for spectators, and loads of fun for the performers.

Two performances were given and additional activities followed the performances, including a raffle, a dance contest and a fashion show of trash costumes.

The affair was produced by Bill MacDonald, an independent producer/director of Sea Pulse films, under the logo “Dance 4 Oceans – Save the Ocean from Plastic Pollution.” The dance choreographer was Kanna Jones. Performances are given semiannually on a coordinated world-wide basis.

*Kristen M.
Entertainment Reporter
Pointe Vicente*

THRILLER



A Day at Centinela Feed

Four years ago, a lucky man named Jimmy Mejia was hired to work at Centinela Feed & Pet Supplies, a local pet store. His job duties include stocking shelves, working the cash register, and helping customers. Jimmy decided to work at Centinela Feed because he was looking for a job and likes animals.

Jimmy stated that the hardest part of his job is find-

ing the right thing for the pets, for example, foods and medicines that do not cause allergies.

Jimmy said “the most unusual pet I’ve seen in the store was a snake.”

According to Jimmy, the busiest time of the year is around the holidays.

He proclaimed that Centinela Feed is very safe for his co-workers because all employees were trained when to

pet animals and when not to pet animals.

His favorite part of the job is having the pride and joy of knowing that he has helped animals in need.

Jimmy continues to work at the pet store and hopes to keep his job for a long time because he loves animals.

*Jenna P.
Careers Editor
Montemalaga*





The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is around 500,000 years old. The reef began to form during the Last Glacial Maximum and is comprised of over nine hundred individual islands.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the “Seven Natural Wonders of the World” and can be seen from outer space. This great reef supports ten percent of the world’s total fish species along with a vast amount of other life forms. Thirty species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, more than fifteen hundred fish species, about five thousand species of mollusks, seventeen species of sea snake, and six species of turtles such as the leather-back sea turtle.

The Great Barrier Reef is also home to two hundred and fifteen species of birds

that visit the reef to nest or roost. The Great Barrier Reef is larger than the size of Italy. No wonder it is home to so many unique creatures.

Coral reefs are created by a process called “spawning”. This process happens when coral releases eggs and sperm into the ocean approximately ten to twelve days after a full moon.

These reefs are vital to the survival of several endangered species. Recently the reefs have come under attack from a marine organism named The Crown of Thorns Sea Star. This is the reefs’ greatest enemy because it eats coral polyps.

The Great Barrier Reef’s fame draws another enemy, people! Two million visitors every year which generates six billion dollars in annual revenue are a concern. Such

intense tourism might be harming the fragile reefs. Pollution is always a threat to the delicate reefs.

Oil spills can be fatal and littering as well. Water quality is a major factor in pollution. How you ask? During floods, runoff containing fertilizer and pesticides pour into the reef’s waters, damaging its delicate ecosystem. The coastal wetlands act as a natural filter for toxins but these wetlands have decreased by over fifty percent, according to the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Program.

We have an opportunity to bring awareness to this problem and protect Mother Nature’s gift to us all.

*Syris T.
Environmental Reporter
Montemalaga*

Visit the Grand Canyon



Have you ever seen the Grand Canyon in Arizona? If you haven't, you should go. Most people would recommend it to kids eight and older.

What is the Grand Canyon? The Grand Canyon is a huge, rocky canyon formed by rivers long ago. The amazing landmark is about one mile deep and about two miles wide.

There are cool shuttle buses that take you around the Grand Canyon area. The

bus stops at several different places around the canyon. When you arrive at a stop, you can get off and enjoy the sights and take pictures as well. For example, there is one stop where you can see part of the long Colorado River at the very bottom of the canyon. If you are quiet enough, you can hear the rushing river.

At another stop, you can get off and there will be a gift shop, a place to view the Grand Canyon from another

angle, and a small snack bar with basic items like ice cream bars, Gatorade, pretzels, and water of course.

When your Grand Canyon visit comes to an end, and your shuttle is on its way to the starting point, if you are lucky, you can see some deer or elk out the window. The Grand Canyon is a must see for you and your family!

*Julianna P.
Entertainment Reporter
Mira Catalina*

Magic Mountain

Magic Mountain is the place to have the time of your life! The theme park has some of the biggest rollercoasters ever to exist!

The Rides

One of scariest rides of them all is, *The Colossus*, it is very shaky and scary. It even looks old. You need to be brave to ride it.

Another big ride is *The Scream!* *The Scream* has lots of loops, it even goes upside down! It looks super cool, but it is very high off the ground!

If you are not feeling so brave, *The Ninja* moves su-

per-fast, but it is not as fast as the others. Riders sit in a chair with their feet dangling towards the ground. It is scary to look down, so don't try it!

Don't worry, there are also smaller rides for those not yet ready for the big rollercoasters. If you are under fifty or forty-eight inches tall, you can only go on a few rides, but the little kids can also go to Bugs Bunny Land to do the smaller rollercoasters. There, you will find the teacups, a ball pit where you shoot balls at people and even a merry-go-round.

The Food

There are also lots of places to eat, too. There are ice cream shops, French fry stands, bakeries with sandwiches and salads. There are little shops to get souvenirs. Here's the best part, there is an awesome candy shop with huge lollipops where you can stop on your way out!

And More . . .

Hurricane Harbor, the water park, is next door and is great on hot days. It gets crowded, so go early.

*Sydney L.
Reporter at Large
Montemalaga*



The Robie House in Chicago

In the mystery novel called *The Wright 3*, three kids save an important monument from being torn down. The book talks about a popular landmark in the 1900s.

Robie House History

This famous building is the Robie House. It is located in Hyde Park, Chicago. It was built for Fredrick C. Robie and his family. Robie paid \$13,500 for the 0.3 acres of land, and hired architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design it for him. The Robie House measures 9,062 square feet whereas the average home in the United States is 2,300sqf.

It was designed between 1908 and 1909. Fredrick's house became famous in the 1900s because it was ahead

of its time, and the style was completely new. The style Wright chose was called "Prairie style," which is an architectural style that looks like a vast prairie landscape.

Mysteries and Myths

Strange happenings have also occurred behind the detailed windows of the house. All of the owners of the house have been mysteriously involved with death. The Robies only stayed for fourteen months due to the death of Fredrick's father and financial problems which occurred afterward.

David Lee Taylor, president of the advertising company Taylor-Critchfield Co. bought the house from Robie in 1911. He died in less than a year.

The last family to live in the home were the Wilbers. They had two daughters and the oldest died in 1916. Is the home haunted?

In 1957, it was planned for demolition but real estate developer William Zeckendorf came to the rescue and bought it. In 1963, he donated it to the University of Chicago.

For lovers of the mystery behind the home, there is a Lego model of the Robie House available for sale.

The Robie House will always be remembered as one of the most treasured monuments in the U.S. for its interesting history and beauty.

*Melina D.
Chief Reporter
Silver Spur*





Gangnam Style Comes to America

Have you ever heard of a song called Gangnam Style? Well if you said “yes,” you’re one of almost a billion people who heard it too.

Gangnam Style is the most watched K-pop music video. K-pop means Korean pop or Korean popular music. K-pop falls into different music genres like dance, electronic, electro pop, hip hop, and rock.

Gangnam Style is also the 3rd most watched music video out of all genres. Gangnam Style was released on July 15, 2012. On September 17, 2012 the song was nominated best video 2012 MTV Europe Music Awards, and on September 20, 2012 Gangnam Style was

recognized by Guinness World Record as the most-liked video in YouTube history.

Gangnam Style is popular because the horse trot dance is so different, unique, and funny.

PSY is the singer of Gangnam Style. He is a South Korean rapper. PSY is a songwriter, rapper, dancer, and record producer. His real name is Park Jae-Sang. He made songs before, but they were only famous in Korea.

Oppa Gangnam Style

Have you ever wondered what Oppa Gangnam Style means? Part of the lyrics “Oppa Gangnam Style” means big brother downtown style. Oppa means brother or

big brother. Gangnam is the Gangnam District in Seoul, which is a wealthy, trendy and fancy area to live, and you already know what “style” means.

PSY has said, “The people who actually live in Gangnam District don’t admit it or brag about it but the wannabees are the ones who lie and say they live in Gangnam District.”

Have you seen anybody do the horse trot dance before and you’re thinking “what are they doing?” Well, now you know and you can dance with them and be cool too.

*Isabelle W.
Chief Editor
Montemalaga*



Park Jae-Sang

Pump Up the Volume with Gangnam Style

Gangnam Style is a tune out of this world! These lyrics will catch your attention and make you want to get up and dance. This catchy hit is pop, so it’s very upbeat.

The Singer PSY

The recording artist and writer of this fabulous song “Gangnam Style” is Park Jae -Sang, a South Korean singer. His stage name is PSY which stands for psycho.

This hit song writer was born on December 31, 1977 in South Korea. He is 37 and hobbies include travel-

ing, dancing, and dressing up super crazy. He was born poor, but grew up to be a famous singer called PSY.

PSY released his first album in 2001 called “PSY from PSYcho World.” His sixth and latest album, “PSY Six (Six Rules), part one,” became Number One instantaneously.

Our Review

What does the world think of this fabulous tune? Personally this song is awesome and very catchy and flowing. His signature horse move is part of his outra-

geous music video. This hit is a phenomenon and got over 400,000,000 views on YouTube! Girls and boys of all ages will love to dance to this song.

PSY wrote Gangnam Style at age 37 and has become a phenomenon. This extreme song will blow your mind from beginning to end.

Gangnam Style is the world’s greatest hit in the United States of America today. So pump up the volume with Gangnam Style!

*Rhiannon P.
Entertainment Editor
Lunada Bay*

Caring for a Happy, Healthy Hamster

The hamster is a popular pet for kids and doesn't need much care. Here are some tips for caring for this cute creature.

When choosing a pet hamster, go to a pet store or place that is reliable. Make sure the hamster you want looks healthy (a good sign of a healthy hamster is if its eyes look lively and shiny).

Hamster Home

When housing a hamster, make sure the cage has no



openings or cracks because hamsters are known for being escape artists. Avoid double cages with drop downs which may lead to broken limbs or other serious injuries. The cage should be big enough and have toys for the hamster to play with.

Hamster Food

When feeding hamsters, make sure to feed them a balanced diet. Some great foods to feed hamsters are: lettuce, bananas, berries, apples, carrots, mealworms, broccoli, pasta, white bread, cherry tomatoes, and chicken. Treats such as raisins or sunflower seeds are not an everyday thing, but could help if a hamster escapes. Make sure to give

hamsters hard things to gnaw on such as corn on the cob or a seed mix. Also make sure the hamster's dish always has food in it.

Hamster Fun

Last, but not least, make sure the hamster has fun things to play with such as a classic exercise wheel, paper towel rolls, tissue boxes, balls that it can run in, and shoe boxes. Change the toys in the cage daily, so the hamster doesn't get bored.

You should now have a happy, healthy hamster. To read more about hamsters, get the book *The Hamster* by Betsy Sikora Siino.

*Nicole S.
Pet Care Reporter
Vista Grande*



Oh Christmas Tree

You may think Christmas trees are plentiful everywhere, but they're actually not. Once you cut them down it takes 9-11 years to grow a new one just the right size for your house. Of course, people need to find seeds to grow Christmas trees and that's not easy either. Not all plant stores sell them.

If you want to find a Christmas tree you would usually buy it in a pot for you. Then the next year and the next, you can reuse that

same tree over and over again. When it grows too big for your house you can plant it in your yard.



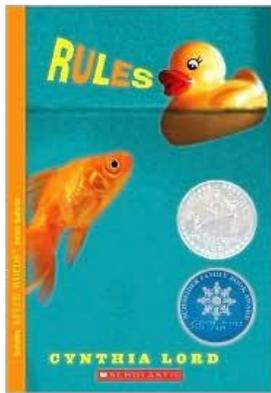
You should not cut down trees because they produce air for us to breathe. When you cut down a Christmas tree you could be cutting down a home for an animal. That one tree will help the world by going green instead of cutting down trees for Christmas.

So give a present to the world! You can make a big difference!

*Thy D.
Entertainment Editor
Soleado*



Rules, Rules!



If you like reading books, then you will not want to miss a book called *Rules* by Cynthia Lord. This book has won nine incredible medals, including the Newbery Honor Medal and The Schneider Family Book Award.

Rules is about a 12 year old girl named Catherine who has an eight year old brother named David who is autistic. David goes to a class called OT to help stimulate his brain. There, Catherine meets this boy named Jason who is paralyzed. Soon Catherine realized Jason cannot speak, but he can hear perfectly. He

used a communication book and tapped certain words to form a sentence.

Soon Catherine has a new neighbor named Kristi. Her friendship with Kristi causes drama between Jason, Kristi, and Kristi's new boyfriend Ryan.

Rules is an amazing book, and it would probably be a fantastic movie! It would be a fantastic movie because it has a ton of dramatic parts and it has a great moral.

This book is for ages eight to 12 plus, and is great for both boys and girls!

In the end, *Rules* makes the book worth reading. To

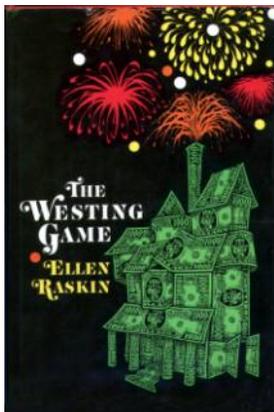


Author Cynthia Lord

find out what happens in the end, you will have to read the book! You will not be disappointed!

*Jessica H.
Chief Reporter
Soleado*

The Westing Game



A perfect mystery for those cool weather days when the sun goes down early is *The Westing Game*. The book is written by Ellen Raskin.

The Westing Game is about a wealthy businessman, Sam Westing, who predicts his own death. He thinks the killer is one of

sixteen people who live or work at his apartment building. He makes them heirs to his \$200 million dollars, but only if they can find his killer. He gives them clues from his will and the Westing Game begins.

One interesting character in the story is a thirteen year old girl named Turtle Wexler. Her mother does not think she is so great and likes her beautiful older sister more. However, Turtle is brave, smart, and adventurous. She plays a big role in solving the mystery.

The book is good because it is full of surprises. The characters are not whom they seem to be and Mr. Westing



plays them like pieces in a chess game.

Who killed Mr. Westing? Who will win the game? You will need to read this Newbery Medal book to find out! Girls and boys, ages 9-14, will like this book.

*Kaylin L.
Chief Reporter
Mira Catalina*



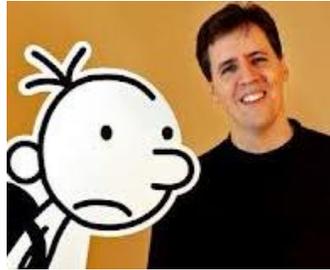
Author Ellen Raskin

Diary of a Wimpy Kid—The Third Wheel

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid—The Third Wheel* by Jeff Kinney came out on November 14, 2012. It was a great success and many people ordered it before it came out, because they were fans of the other books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.

This book is about how Greg Heffley (who is in middle-school) tries to find a partner for the Valentine's Day Dance. Will Greg find a partner in time for the big dance?

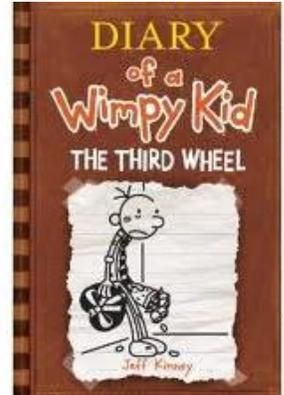
Find out by reading the 7th book of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. The book is funny and suspenseful and you won't be able to put it



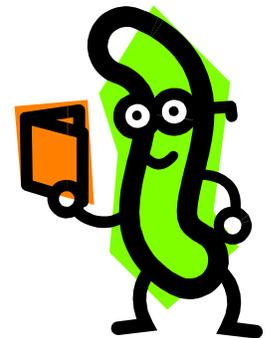
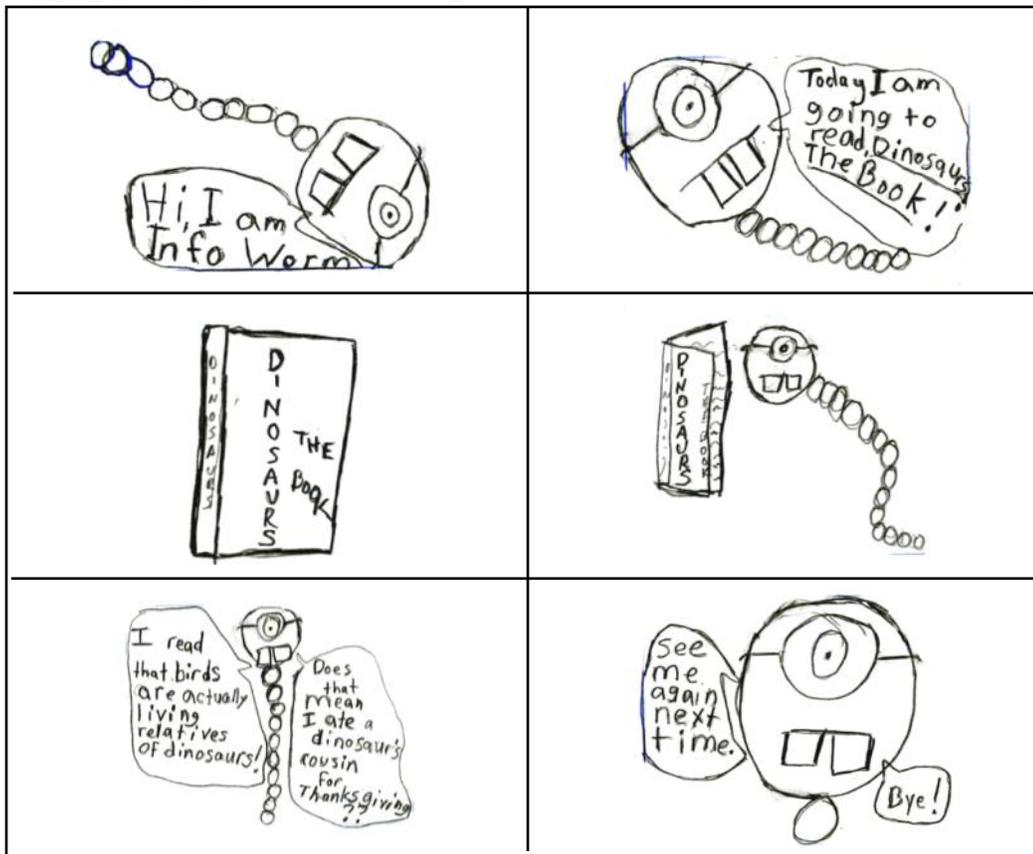
Author Jeff Kinney

down. The cartoons, as always, make the book different from other books and keep you hooked and laughing. Once you do finish it, I don't think you will have to wait long for a new one. Jeff Kinney has plans to write even more! Don't miss out and read *The Third Wheel* now. You will not be disappointed.

Anna M.
Book Review Reporter
Palos Verdes At Large



Info Worm by Aleksander M.





Action, Adventure, Teamwork!

What new hot movie has action, adventure, and teamwork that came out last summer? That’s right! Marvel’s *The Avengers*!

Marvel’s *The Avengers* is filled with many Marvel super heroes joining together to save the planet from evil Loki, Thor’s brother, and an out-of-control energy source he steals for himself called Tesseract (TES-uh-RAY). Loki, if he returns it to his planet, will receive an army to conquer the Earth for his home planet, Asgard.

To protect the Earth, Captain America, Thor, Iron Man, Hawkeye, The Hulk, and for some girl-power,

Natasha Romanoff, otherwise known as the famous Black Widow, join together to save the planet and get Loki back to Asgard. Will they succeed? Watch the movie to find out!

The Reviews

The reviews on Rotten Tomatoes (rottentomatoes.com) give *The Avengers* a positive rating. 96% of the reviewers enjoyed the movie.

Blu-ray reviews (blu-ray.com) said it was the 2012 biggest hit, the 3rd highest grossing film domestically and worldwide, highest entertaining blockbuster,

and each movie gets better.

For Your Enjoyment

You can now buy the film on DVD in 3D, Blu-Ray, regular DVD, and Digital Copy. If you’d like all four, you can buy the Four Disc Pack.

Remember to have your parents’ or adults’ approval because this film is PG-13 and has some adult language and action that may be too intense for some children.

So sit back and enjoy Marvel’s *The Avengers* in your own family room today!

Hannah S.
Sports Editor
Soleado

Avengers Assemble...in the South Bay



Spiderman once said, “With great power comes great responsibility. This is my gift, my curse.” Marvel Studios, located in Manhattan Beach, has the power to turn the Marvel comic book characters into film superheroes and super villains and has the responsibility to make amazing films, especially for audiences who are comic book fans. Films like *Iron Man*, *Iron Man 2*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Thor*, *Captain America: The First Avengers* and Marvel’s *The Avengers* have done just that.

The new age of Marvel films started when The Walt Disney Company bought Marvel



Entertainment, LLC for \$4.24 billion. Marvel Studios is responsible for the “Marvel Cinematic Universe” which is the fictional environment that the Marvel characters inhabit. The first movies produced and filmed at the new studios were *Iron Man* and *The Incredible*

Hulk, both blockbusters that made over \$585 million (*Iron Man*) and \$263 million (*The Incredible Hulk*). Films now in production include *Iron Man 3* and *Thor: The Dark World*.

Kai M.
Chief Reporter
Cornerstone

3 out of 4 Stars for Hotel Transylvania

On September 28, 2012, *Hotel Transylvania* opened in theaters.

The Story

The film tells the story of a modern day Dracula, played by Adam Sandler, who owns a hotel just for monsters to get away from the human world.

In the story of this over-protective father, his daughter Mavis, played by Selena Gomez, just wants to explore the world outside of the hotel. Dracula excitedly plans a big party for Mavis' 118th birthday, until an unexpected human guest, Johnny, played by Andy Samberg, shows up

just in time to ruin the whole thing.

Humans are not allowed, so under Dracula's guidance, Johnny blends in by dressing up as a monster in order for him to make it out of the hotel unnoticed. His plan almost works, but there's just one problem, Mavis falls in love with Johnny and Dracula's world is turned upside down.

The Reviews

According to Rotten Tomatoes critics, *Hotel Transylvania* was given a 44% approval score, with some critics saying it "lacked humor and originality".

Michael O'Sullivan of the Washington Post stated, "*Hotel Transylvania* may offer a perfectly fine Halloween themed getaway for young kids, but there aren't many amenities for Mom and Dad."

In addition, Claudia Puig of USA Today thought that the movie borrowed some ideas from "the far more clever, *Monsters Inc.*"

Although the reviews mentioned were not that great, in my opinion, I thought the movie was funny and entertaining for all ages.

Rosalie B.

Entertainment Editor

Montemalaga



Hotel Transylvania

Hotel Transylvania is an animated movie about Dracula, who tries to run a hotel that is hidden from humans. Humans have to walk through skeletons that pop out of tombstones, mummies that attack and more scary creatures to get to the hotel.

Dracula has a daughter named Mavis. It is her 118th birthday so he invites all of their friends to the hotel to celebrate. All Mavis wants to do is see the world but her dad thinks it is not safe because of the humans. Mavis's mom was killed by humans when Mavis was a baby.

Mavis's mom gave Dracula a present to give to

Mavis when she turned 118. Her mom gave her a book about how Dracula and Mavis's mom met. At the end, the book said that Mavis would find her first love on her 118th birthday.

One day a human, Jonathan, comes to the hotel. Dracula quickly paints Jonathan to look like Frankenstein so the monsters don't know there is a human in the hotel.

Jonathan and Mavis, Dracula's daughter, fall in love. Dracula does not approve of them going out so he insists that Jonathan leave the hotel. On Jonathan's way out, Mavis asks Jonathan to stay. The two watch the sunrise from the top of

the roof but when Jonathan falls through the roof, he is discovered by Dracula.

Dracula disguises Jonathan as his party planner but makes him leave again.

You will enjoy watching the ending to find out if Mavis and Jonathan find true love.

The actors for the voices are Selena Gomez (Mavis), Adam Sandler (Dracula) and Andy Samberg (Jonathan). The movie is rated PG. Both kids and parents will enjoy watching *Hotel Transylvania*.

Rachel M.

Entertainment Reporter

Vista Grande





Sparrow

Have you ever been to Sparrow? It is a family-run Vietnamese restaurant.

The owners, Lynn and Vince MacNguyen, started this business as an investment, and because Lynn is a good cook. Their two kids go to Ridgecrest and Peninsula High School.

The MacNguyens named the restaurant “Sparrow” after a Vietnamese movie. Also, when Vince was growing up in Vietnam, there were a lot of sparrows, so the name reminds him of Vietnam.

Menu Favorites

The most popular dish there is the noodle soup, also

called “pho” (pronounced “fuh”).

Another favorite is the “banh mi.” It is a sandwich with French bread, cucumber, pork or chicken, cilantro, carrot, and jalapeno. The bread is crunchy, the pork is flavorful, and the cucumber is juicy.

To top off the delicious sandwich, people like a Vietnamese iced lemonade. Its ingredients are Sprite, fresh lemon, and ice. They like it because it has a lemon-lime flavor and it is bubbly.

Fly Now to Sparrow

Sparrow has been open for eight months. The restaurant is located at 550 Deep Val-



Banh Mi

ley Drive in the Promenade next to iBerries. The phone number is 310-377-6400.

When you go, you should bring \$5-9 per person. It is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Go to Sparrow because the food is great and the service is too!

Maddie Y.

*Reporter at Large
Vista Grande*

Souptastic!

Mmm! That chili from the soup and pasta bar just filled me up. Absolutely loved the hints of spicy peppers and soft kidney beans.

A place where you can taste this wonderful soup is at Souplantation. Not only is there soup and pasta bar, but there is a salad bar, mini bakery, fruit selections, and even an ice-cream machine.

The Salad Bar

The salad bar comes with many choices of different prepared salads, or you can

concoct your own salad from scratch with fresh assortments of greens, toppings, and dressings.

The Bakery

In their mini bakery, many people recommend the pizza bread and garlic bread because they are freshly made and you can feel the delicious warmth as you sink your teeth into the bread with their special ingredients. The bakery has many other sumptuous selections such as muffins, cookies and brownies.

Desserts

Also, you cannot forget about the table with fruits, jello, and different mousse that tastes out of this world with fruits. You’d probably visit the ice-cream machine just to fill up your tummy. There are two original flavors, vanilla and chocolate or combination of two flavors swirled together, which you can top off with choices of peanuts, sprinkles, caramel, or chocolate sauce.

When you visit the spectacular Souplantation, you’ll no doubt say, “it’s Souptastic and more!”

Diana K.

*Chief Editor
Vista Grande*





21309 S Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503
M-Th: 11-9; F-Sat: 11-10; Sun: 9-9

América Tropical

Continued from page 1

see it because it made a political statement and could have been influential” Ms. Garcia-Ortiz said.

You view the mural from the second floor of the América Tropical Interpretive Center. The mural itself is on another building across the street. The mural size is very large—19.7 feet by 98.4 feet. People can see and enjoy the whole mural because of the distance.

In the mural, there is a jungle which has many branches overlapping and creating a powerful image. At the bottom, there is a pre-Columbian statue and a figure on a double cross. A North American Eagle is attacking the figure.

Even though the painting is faded and there is some distance between you and mural, you still can feel the power and energy from it.

On the day of our visit, there was a festival and an opera written by Oliver Mayer and composer David Conte that was inspired by Siqueiros' story. People enjoyed a good, sunny Los Angeles day in complete freedom. That is what the painter, David Alfaro Siqueiros, might have dreamed of.

*Asumi S.
News Editor
Vista Grande*



David Alfaro Siqueiros

Saving the Orangutans

Continued from page 1

something to stop them. As a result, farmers feel the need to injure them or even kill them.

Another reason the orangutan population is decreasing is because when they are babies, they are very cute. That is why humans take them as their own and raise them. They are cute at first, but what happens when they get old enough to need a larger, more natural environment? Owners are forced to

give them their freedom and let them go. Soon, the orangutan must survive in the wild without any training from their mothers. Would you be able to survive like that?

Normally, orangutans live with their mothers until they are about 9 years old. All those years, mothers must teach their offspring how to be safe in the jungle, especially since orangutans do not live or travel in groups.

There are only 50,000 orangutans today. Compared to the world population of humans, that is not a lot. To help save these monkeys. You can find out more at www.orangutanrepublik.org. Remember, one person can make a big difference for our endangered wildlife.

*Ryan P.
Sports Editor
Point Vicente*



Special Mother's Day issue of PV Kids News

Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders are invited to join PressFriends for our FREE Winter Workshop at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library. Write an article about your favorite story about your mom and be published in our special Mother's Day edition of PV Kids News. Sign up at tinyurl.com/pvkidsjan2013.



Mitzi Cress

Letter from PVPHS Principal, Mitzi Cress

Congratulations to the Peacock Press editors and reporters and the PVPHS Press Friends Club on their December issue of the Peacock Press. Peninsula High School is honored to be a participant in this outstanding project that has brought elementary schools throughout the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District together for the purpose of creating a twice a year newspaper written “by kids, for kids.”

Writing is fun and creating such an impressive newspaper is a source of pride for both the elementary school participants and the high school mentors. They have worked together as a team, and developed leadership abilities and organizational skills that will serve them well in all their future endeavors.

An elementary student working with a high school student is the perfect collaborative project. Fourth

and fifth grade students have improved their writing, reporting, and editing skills; while high school students have had an opportunity to develop mentoring skills. Hopefully some of the names you read in the bylines will be the future writers and editors of “The Pen” newspaper. It truly has been a win/win situation for everyone involved.

Congratulations on a fabulous issue!

Mitzi Cress

Letter from PVPHS PressFriends Club



The PVPHS PressFriends club would like to congratulate the 2012-13 editorial staff of the Peacock Press for doing a great job with their first issue, and to thank their parents for their support.

For this issue, we appreciate the special invitation

from the Getty Conservation Institute and playwright Oliver Mayer to attend the América Tropical festivities and to experience the América Tropical opera. Mr. Mayer wrote the libretto.

We’d like to thank the PVHS PressFriends Club and Mira Costa High School

PressFriends Club for all their help with mentoring.

Finally, a very big thanks to our principal, Mitzi Cress, and to our wonderful advisor, Lisa Dohren, who gives us both support and inspiration.

Luke Southwell

Co-President

PVPHS PressFriends Club

