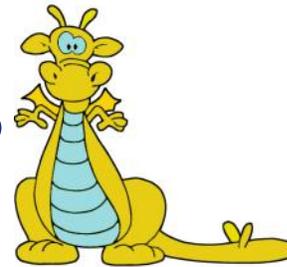


June 2011

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LA's BEST Times



LA's BEST Times at Terranea Resort

By Antonio S., Fourth Grade

The PressFriends Conference for Elementary Student Newspapers was held Sunday, May 15th, 2011 at the Terranea Resort in the city of Rancho Palos Verdes.

This is an annual event where reporters from different schools are invited, along with their high school mentors, to provide tips on writing better articles and becoming better journalists.

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LA's BEST Times Staff Advisor Cathy Villegas

KidType Off the Charts

By Melvin C., Fourth Grade

The LA's BEST Program had their semi-annual KidType Off Competition that took place at Harvard Elementary in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 4th, 2011. The KidType Off is a typing competition where the LA's BEST students who participate in the KidTech and KidType

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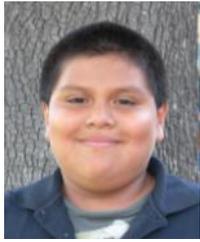


Brianna R.



Valeria M.

2010-11 News Staff



Abraham J.



Alberto M.



Alondra C.



Aureal B.



Brandon V.



Brianna R.



Darwin B.



Gabriel V.



Hector M.



Ileana A.



Jazmin D.



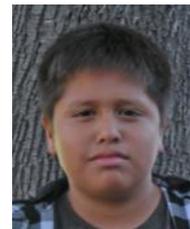
Jesus U.



Karla L.



Lizbeth R.



Mario M.



Melvin C.



Nerisa C.



Nia B.



Patricia G.



Priscilla D.



Raymond M.



Rudy G.



Taylor T.



Tre'von L.



Tyler T.



Valeria M.

The Utterly Fabulous Mrs. Ueda

By Priscilla D., Fifth Grade

Mrs. Nikki Ueda is not only a teacher here at 135th Street but also on the Advisory Board of PressFriends. We wanted to find out more about this amazing teacher.

LA's BEST Times:

What do you do for PressFriends and how did you get involved with the program?

Mrs. Ueda: Actually, my 12 year old daughter, Elena, was invited to be a

mentor for PressFriends. I would accompany her and drive other mentors mostly to 135th Street Elementary



Mrs. Ueda, Principal Camacho, and LAUSD District 8 Supt Michael Romero

School. I really like the concept of "kids helping kids" produce a newspaper for their school where they get experience writing and learning how to put out a school newspaper.

LA's BEST Times: Being a teacher, does your schedule get very busy?

Mrs. Ueda: Yes, my schedule does get very busy working full time,

Continued on page 11



Mrs. Nikki Ueda

South Bay Ballet's Coppelia

By Brianna R., Fifth Grade

Coppelia is a Comedic Ballet that is rated G, which means it's for the General Audience to watch.

The main actors and actresses are Delaney Zieg, who played Swanilda, John-Paul Simoens who played Franz, and Keiji Ino, who played Dr. Coppelius.

This Ballet takes place in a little village in Hungary. The story is about a girl named

Swanilda who is annoyed when her fiancé, Franz, seems more interested in reading books than in being with her. Later, she becomes jealous when she catches Franz flirting with Coppelia. What they don't know is that Coppelia is a doll.



Dr. Coppelius, a toymaker, who owns a workshop in the center of the town, created her, among other dolls. Dr.

Coppelius leaves his workshop for an evening stroll. Swanilda and her friends tease him, steal his key and enter the house. Dr. Coppelius realizes that he has lost his key and discovers that his door is open. He bursts into his workshop and finds Swanilda's friends, but not Swanilda, herself, who puts on Coppelia's clothes. Dr. Coppelius drives them all out

Continued on page 11





Looking Back at the 2010 World Cup

By Patricia G., Fifth Grade

The world's first international football match was played in Glasgow in 1872 between Scotland and England, which ended in a 0-0 draw.

The World Cup is an international football competition that is played every four years. It starts with 32 teams compet-

ing for the title at venues within the host nation over a period of about a month. It takes three years to choose the teams that will compete in the next World Cup.

The 1930 FIFA World Cup was the first game. It took place in Uruguay from 13 July to 30 July 1930. There

was not a competition in 1942 or 1946 because of the Second World War.

The 2010 World Cup started on June 11, 2010 in South Africa and ended on July 11, 2010. The final was Spain vs. Netherland. Spain scored at the last minute before the game ended, winning 1-0. Iker Casillas was the goalkeeper who blocked all the shots. David Villa passed the ball to score the winning goal. Andre Iniesta scored the goal to win the game. Netherland received a metal and Spain received a big trophy and metals for the team players. ❖



Tech Deck Fun

By Rudy G. Fourth Grade, and Brandon V., Fifth Grade

Tech decks are like regular skate boards but smaller. Tech deck is the brand. They come in different styles and designs. They were created in the 1970s.

To use a Tech Deck you put your middle finger at the end of the board and your index finger in the middle. You can go to the Tech Deck website to learn tricks or you can make your own up. The

website is at tech-deck.com.

Tech Decks have become so popular that people have Tech Deck battles.

Boys and girls like to play with Tech Decks. You can purchase the Tech Decks at Target, Walmart, and Toys R Us. ❖



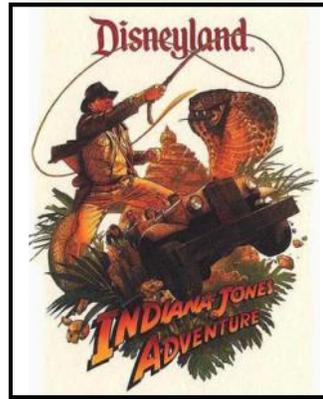
Disneyland

By Alondra C., Karla L., and Jazmin D., Fourth Grade

My family and I went to Disneyland. We stayed at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa.

The best part about going to Disneyland during the summer is being able to go into the pool.

A good place to eat is Catal Restaurant. Their food is delicious.



While we are at Disneyland we like to go on rides like Indiana Jones Adventure, the Disneyland Railroad, and other rides. It is expensive to go to Disneyland. My family and I drive there because we don't live far. Disneyland is a place for people of all ages. It is so much fun and a great way to spend time with your family. ❖



How to Become a CIA Agent

By Raymond M., Fifth Grade

What is the CIA? How do you become a CIA Agent? Many people would like to know.

The CIA, which stands for Central Intelligence Agency, is an independent US Government agency responsible for providing national security intelligence or information to the President, the National Security Council, and all other government officials who make and carry out US national security policy.

The Central Intelligence Agency was created in 1947 with the signing of the National Security Act by President Harry S. Truman.

The CIA is always looking for enthusiastic people with unquestioned integrity, strong interpersonal skills, excellent written and oral communication ability, and the desire to be a part of a mission that helps protect and secure our family, friends, and country.

If you're in high school or are a college student and have thought about a career at the CIA, concentrate on improving your communication skills, specifically in writing and in speaking. Foreign language skills are a big plus, and you should have a strong academic record and be a US citizen.

As part of the hiring process, all future employees must successfully complete medical and polygraph examinations, as well as a thorough background investigation. These tests are necessary because the CIA sets very high standards.

Once hired, all of their intelligence officers – no matter which office they work in – must continue to live up to those standards.

The CIA is a drug-free workplace and is proud to be an important part of the government's war on drugs. If you would like more information about the CIA, go to their website at www.cia.gov. ❖





The Frantic Rockers

By Priscilla D., Fifth Grade

Their album is called *Rocking All Night*. Their type of music is Rock and Roll.

The band members' names are David, who's the singer and guitar player; Andrea, who plays the maracas; Louie, who plays the saxophone;

George, who plays the stand-up bass; Jesse, who plays the bass and sings; and Ernie, who plays the drums. My brother David Gutierrez is the songwriter, and band member Jesse DeLucas is also my brother.

The band started October 2010. They usually play at clubs and hotels in Las Vegas.

I think teenage girls and boys will like their music. They've met famous people like Chuck Berry, Chan Romero, and Jerry E. Lewis. ❖



Katheryn Hudson aka Katy Perry

By Nia B., Tyler T., and Taylor T., Fourth Grade

Katy Perry sings pop, pop rock, dance pop, and electro pop. Katy sang songs like California girls, Firework, and Teenage Dream. Katy Perry's parents are Mary Hudson and Keith Hudson. Her real name is Katheryn Hudson, but uses the name Katy Perry (her mother's maiden

name) because there is already an actress named Kate Hudson. Her birthday is on October 25, 1984. She lived in Santa Barbara, California and has a younger brother and an older sister. Katy Perry married Russell Brand on October 23, 2010, two days before her birthday.

The thing we love about her songs is that people of all ages can listen to them and most make you want to dance because they have a fun beat.

Katy Perry knows how to play the guitar and piano. She has won 11 awards. Katy Perry is a great singer and songwriter. ❖



The Terrific Taylor Swift

By Ileana A., Karla L., and Alondra C., Fourth Grade

Taylor Swift was born December 13, 1989 in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Andrea Gardner, a homemaker, and Scott Kingsley Swift, a stock broker. At age 11, Taylor Swift made her first trip to Nashville, hoping to obtain a record deal by distributing a

demo tape of her singing with karaoke songs. She gave a copy to every label on town, but was rejected.

After Taylor Swift returned to Pennsylvania, she was asked to sing at the U.S Open tennis tournament, where her rendition of the national anthem received much attention.

Taylor Swift is, now, a Singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, and actress. On November 2008, Taylor Swift released her second album, Fearless, and the recording earned Taylor Swift four Grammy Awards, including the Album of the Year, at the 52nd Grammy Awards. ❖

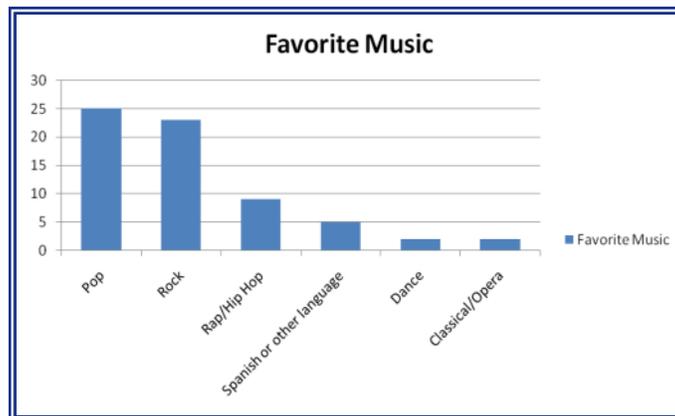
My Favorite Music

By Jesus U., Fourth Grade

Music is the art form of sound. Different types of music can change your mood. There are different types of music. Music is important to me because it makes me happy. I think music is important to other people because it makes them want to dance. I surveyed 63 LA's BEST students, boys and girls ages 5-11. I chose this group because we are in LA's Best together and it's easy access. I concluded that pop and rock are more popular in our pro-

gram because more people like them than other types of music. I would survey a different

group in the future to see if the results would be the same. My favorite music is pop. ❖



How to Make Chocolate Chip Cookies

By Nerisa C., Fourth Grade

I love chocolate chip cookies. They are my favorite type of cookies. I love these cookies because I love chocolate chips, and I love it when my mom bakes them. I found the recipe on WikiHow.

It's not healthy, but it's ok if you don't eat a lot of them. Make sure you have an adult to help you.

Instructions

First, make sure you have all the ingredients in the box to the right and then preheat your oven to 350°F.

Put the flour, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl

and gently mix the dry ingredients together.

Beat the butter in a large bowl. Add the brown sugar and white sugar and mix. Add the vanilla, and milk. When those are completely mixed together, add the eggs and mix again until completely combined ("wet" ingredients).

Slowly add the dry ingredients from the medium bowl to the wet ingredients in the large bowl, mixing until the ingredients are totally combined. At this point you should have a sort of thick cookie dough.

Add chocolate chips. Mix together.

Scoop up a golf ball size amount of dough with a spoon and drop in onto a cookie sheet. Leave at least an inch of space between the cookies because they'll spread out when they cook. You can usually fit 12 cookies on a cookie sheet at a time.

Put the cookies in the oven and bake for about 10-14 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and let the cookies rest on the pan for 3-4 minutes. Using a spatula, lift cookies off onto wax paper or a cooling rack. Let cool for about 5 more minutes.

Eat and enjoy with your family and a glass of milk! ❖

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of butter (2 sticks)
- 3/4 cup of packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup of granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. Vanilla extract (optional)
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/4 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 cups of chocolate chips
- 1 cup of milk



The Forbidden Kingdom

By Abraham J., Fifth Grade

The *Forbidden Kingdom* is a movie about an ancient kingdom in China. It was written by John Fusco and directed by Rob Minkoff.

The main characters are Jackie Chan, Jet Lee Michel Angarano, Collin Chou, Liu Yifei, Li Bingbing, and Morgan Benoit.

This movie takes place in south Boston and in China. The traveler is woken up in ancient China. When a village is under attack by armored soldiers, who were looking for the golden staff. The golden staff's owner is the monkey king. The monkey king is captured by the Jade Warlord.

Then the traveler finds Lu Yan (Jackie Chan). The traveler and Lu Yan fight the Jade Warlord's soldiers. That's when the traveler finds out that Lu Yan is an immortal.

Finally, the monkey king is free from the stature. This movie is in blu ray and DVD. It is rated PG-13. ❖



Dragonball Evolution

By Gabriel V., Fourth Grade

Dragonball: Evolution is a movie based on the cartoon series, Dragon Ball

Dragon Ball is about a boy who has to collect seven magical orbs, or dragonballs. The

dragonballs give you unlimited power.

The movie came out in 2009. It was directed by James Wong and produced by Stephen Chow. The main characters are

Goku (Justin Chatwin), Master Roshi (Yun-Fat Chow), Bulma (Emmy Rossum), and Lord Piccolo (James Marsters). The movie is rated PG. I love the movie more than the cartoon. ❖



Go Geta

By Tre'von L., Fourth Grade

Dragon Ball is a cartoon that takes place in 761 AD, and is about a boy named Goku who has a tail of a monkey and fights in martial arts competitions. He tries to find the 7 dragon balls. If he finds the dragon balls he gets wishes.

Some of his enemies become his allies.

The main characters are Goku, Vegeta, Picalo, Crilon, and Gogeta. The story was written and illustrated by Akira Toriyama.

I like it when Goku and

Vegeta turn super sayian because their hair turns blonde and their powers become stronger.

There are video games and dvds about the show. It is for people ages 9 and up, who like action and martial arts. ❖

Video Games and Systems

By Mario M., Fifth Grade

There have been lots of game systems like Nintendo 64, Game Boy Advance, and the Wii. There are also games like Little Big Planet 2, Call of Duty: Black Ops, Halo: Reach, and Rock Band 3. But the real question is which is a better game console and which is a better video game.

One of the really cool games on the PlayStation Network is Little Big Planet 2 because it has features on the game that keep getting updated. There is always something new.

Lots of the most recent video games have really good graphics.

Halo Reach is about guys

that battle space monsters in space, and they protect the universe from total destruction, but since the Halo games are in a series, each game has a different story plot.

Call of Duty: Black Ops is about the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis involving Cuba, The Soviet Union, Russia, and USA. Something cool about Call of Duty: Black Ops is that you can play online with other players.

Some people, like myself, can't live without video games, so instead of drugs and alcohol, we are addicted to video games.

Video games are not cheap. A new video game like Call Of

Duty : Black Ops costs, approximately, \$60.00. There are stores that sell, not only new games, but pre-owned ones, too. They are a little cheaper when they are pre-owned, for example, instead of paying \$60.00 for a new game, you might be able to purchase a pre-owned one for \$55.00. You never know when a store can have deals that allow you to purchase a game at an even cheaper price.

There are game magazines that tell you about new video games and new game systems. Some games are a little violent, so make sure you have your parent's permission before you play. ❖



Party with Mario

By Alberto M., Fourth Grade

Mario Party is a party video game series that up to four people can play on the Wii or DS.

The game is like a real party only there's dice blocks that float in the air that you have to hit to get a number. The number you get from the dice will determine how many spaces you move on blue, red, green, or on black or orange spaces.

The blue spaces give you three coins and the red spaces take away three coins.

If you hit a green space there is a possibility something good or bad can happen. You never know.

The black spaces are Bowser spaces. You should stay away from them because Bowser does something bad to you.



There's a shop on the party board. The shop gives you items you can use to get the star. You have to collect the most stars to win.

When you win one game you have to defeat a boss.

Their five different bosses. The Pira Plant, Hammer Bro, Dry Bones, Kamic, and of course, Bowser. ❖





iPad2: The Revolution

By Aureal B., Valeria M., and Lizbeth R., Fifth Grade

The iPad 2 is a great invention. The inventor of the iPad 1 and the iPad 2 is Steve Jobs of Apple, Inc. The iPad 2 was released in March of 2011.

Here are 3 reasons why we think the iPad 2 is important: it has better internet connec-

tion; it comes with more apps; and it can hold more pictures.

There might be more studies done on the iPad 2 to make it better. They might even come out with an iPad 3. They might change some things about it to make it better.

The iPad 2 is bigger and better than the iPod and iPod Touch. A lot of people think it works better. It is larger than the iPod, iPod Touch, and iPhone. The iPad 2 comes in 16GB, 32 GB, and 64 GB models. ❖



Goosebumps Horrorland

By Hector M., Fifth Grade

Goosebumps Horrorland is a place created by R.L.Stine. R.L.Stine is the person who created *Goosebumps*, the funny series *Rotten School*, and *Fear Street*.

Goosebumps Horrorland is a book series. Horrorland is an amusement park prison. The Horrorland workers are called Horrors. Guests think Horrors are people in costumes, but Horrors are not human.

The rides are dangerous at Horrorland. From the Scorpion Speedway to the Ferris Squeal, Horrorland's rides and games are all too scary. For example, the Doom Slide is a giant building with 10 slides. 9 slides are normal, but 1 slide slides you forever, to your doom.

Another attraction is Wolfsbane Forest. When the sun goes down werewolves

start to appear. The Horrors lock the gate around the forest to keep werewolves in and the guests are trapped in the forest with the animals.

In addition to the books, there are online games at *EnterHorrorland.com* and a Horrorland video game. Would you want to be in Horrorland? ❖



PressFriends is pleased to sponsor the printing costs of this issue. PressFriends are middle and high school mentors who work with your news reporters on the school newspaper. Our motto is—*Making Friends While Making Writing Fun!*

PressFriends is a project of Community Partners, a duly registered public charity under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mrs. Nikki Ueda

Continued from page 3

being a mother of three, and volunteering for PressFriends. However, we tend to make time for those things that are important to us.

LA's BEST Times: What is the best and worst part of working with PressFriends?

Mrs. Ueda: The best part of the job is finding out how excited and motivated you all are in participating in PressFriends. I love reading the school newspaper and seeing what a wonderful job you do with Ms. Villegas there to motivate and guide you. Another favorite thing about PressFriends is the other opportunities that our students are offered, such as the Annual Conference at the Terranea Resort, the opportunity to interview REAL celebrities, and

the experience to dabble in journalism.

The worst part is driving all the way home (about 30 minutes) after work and picking up the mentors to drive all the way back to 135th, especially on a Friday.

LA's BEST Times: How did you feel about joining the Press Friends Advisory Board?

Mrs. Ueda: When I was invited to become an Advisory Board member, I was very



Son Charlie Ueda and Marie Bartz taking a PE break at the PressFriends conference

honored. PressFriends is such a worthwhile and well-run non-profit organization. It is growing at such a fast rate, that it has been difficult to add all the schools that want to join.

LA's BEST Times: Do you know where we will have our next annual conference?

Mrs. Ueda: Well, there is talk of taking all of our reporters to Knotts Berry Farm next year. PressFriends did that last year and the kids had so much fun! We want Press-

Friends to not only be productive, but fun for all of you, too! You should be rewarded for all of your hard work!"

Mrs. Ueda does a lot for PressFriends and for 135th Street. I think she is a very nice and generous person. ❖



Daughter Elena Ueda (center) with PressFriends mentors

South Bay Ballet's Coppelia

Continued from page 3

except Swanilda, who is disguised as the doll and pretends to come to life, which makes Dr. Coppelius happy. Later, Dr. Coppelius finds out he has been tricked. The people gather for Swanilda and Franz's wedding, but Dr. Cop-

pelius, upset with the trickery and the mayhem that ruined his workshop, arrives and tries to break up the festivities. But villagers celebrate the happy outcome. The first year this Ballet was performed was in 1870 in Paris.

Coppelia was so beautiful. I love it because I liked the way they were silent and acting like mimes.

This is a ballet that people of all ages can enjoy. ❖





PressFriends Conference at Terranea

Continued from Page 1

There were interactive sessions, for example, about animals, food, and fossils, just to name a few.

Awards were given to the PressFriends reporters, school staff, high school mentors, and city officials.

I wanted to cover this event to share our experience with our entire school, to motivate them to want to be in Press-

Friends or to become great journalists in the future. I, also, interviewed three students who were present at the conference, so they could share their thoughts about the event.

Damani Lewis, a fifth grader, said "It was cool because the mentors were funny. The resort, also, had a beautiful view of the ocean."

Priscilla DeLucas, who also is in fifth grade, said, "It was awesome. It was so fancy and sophisticated. I liked the mentors because they were really nice."

Fifth Grader Raymond Menefee said, "I liked the beach view and the huge chocolate chip cookie they gave us for lunch. Everything was nice." ❖

PressFriends Blog

The PressFriends blog is now online at pressfriends.tumblr.com/



KidType Off

Continued from page 1

programs show their speed and accuracy skills. A total of 32 students competed, including our own Valeria Morales and Brianna Reyes, both 5th graders. The competition consisted on a 10 minute practice round and two 10 minute rounds. The first three places won an IBM laptop. Valeria Morales ended up in 6th place, and Brianna Reyes won 1st place. *LA's BEST Times* interviewed Brianna Reyes about the competition.

LA's BEST Times: Who inspired you to enter the competition?

Brianna: The LA's BEST Staff.

LA's BEST Times: What did you expect out of the competition?

Brianna: I thought I was going to have to speak in front of everyone.

LA's BEST Times: How did you prepare for the competition?

Brianna: I practiced my typing on TTL3(Type to Learn 3).

LA's BEST Times: Were you nervous?

Brianna: Yes, because I did not think I was going to win.

LA's Best Times: How did you feel when you won?

Brianna: I was so excited because there were 32 students and I was in 1st place.

LA's Best Times: How did your family feel about you entering the competition and, later, winning?

Brianna: I was so nervous, but my family wanted me to compete. When I won, my family was so happy.

LA's BEST Times: Would you do it again?

Brianna: Yes, because I know I type fast. ❖

Remember to Recycle This Paper When You Are Done With It