

December 2011

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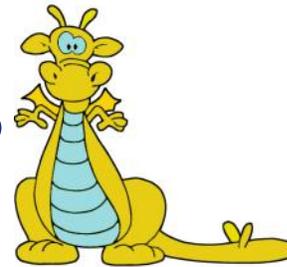
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LA's BEST Times



LA's BEST Times sees *Alvin* at Fox Studios

By LA's BEST Times news staff and PressFriends

On December 10th, LA's BEST Times news reporters boarded a bus to go to Fox Studios to see a pre-release screening of *Alvin and the Chipmunks—Chipwrecked*.

The movie has lots of fun, action, drama, music, dancing and, of course, the Chipmunks and Chipettes. The movie was released on December 16th, and it's a fun way to spend the afternoon with your family. ❖



LA'S BEST Times news reporters at Fox Studios

Harvest of the Month

By Alberto M. and Michael C.

The Harvest of the Month program has been made to keep us healthy. The vegetables we receive grow naturally in local areas. Every month classes get a box with root vegetables, vegetables that come from the ground. When we get the box we can use the contents in everything from soup to smoothies. We can get car-

rots, turnips, jicama, and parsnips.

People work hard so we can get the food we need to stay healthy. Everyone wants us to get enough energy to survive. Teachers help us be healthy and stay strong by giving us time to exercise and providing the vegetables we eat during lunch. The kids goal is to get enough vegetables, fruit



and exercise to survive. We wrote this article because we want all kids to stay healthy and strong every day. ❖

2010-11 News Staff



Alberto M.



Aleida



Alondra C.



Andrea



Anna



Brandon A.



Cristal P.



Destiny C.



Erik



Gabriel V.



Ileana A.



Jazmin D.



Jesus U.



Karla L.



Melvin C.



Michael C.



Nerisa C.



Robert



Tre'von L.



Vanessa

Not pictured: Ana I., Brayon L., Rudy G.

Alvin and the Chipmunks—Chipwrecked

By Alberto M., Nerisa C., and PressFriends

A *lvin and the Chipmunks Chipwrecked* is a movie that your whole family should go to see. It is rated G, so everyone will like the movie, from the youngest kid to your grandparent.

In *Alvin and the Chipmunks Chipwrecked*, the Chipmunks and Chipettes go on a cruise,

but due to Alvin's antics are stranded on an island. Dave goes looking for them too, and they all have a lot of fun adventures on the island. There is a lot of great songs and dancing too.

One of the funniest scenes in the movie is when the Chipmunks and Chipettes

fight for one mango. Another fun scene is where the Chipettes have a dance-off on the cruise ship. There are also exciting scenes at the end of the movie, but we don't want to give away the story!

This movie a great way to spend the Christmas break with your family! ❖



Meet Alvin's Producers

By Alberto M, Nerisa C., and PressFriends

LA's BEST Times attended the press junket for *Alvin and the Chipmunks Chipwrecked* at the Four Seasons hotel in Beverly Hills. We interviewed the producers of the movie, Ross Bagdasarian and Janice Karman, who were the voices of the Chipmunks and Chipettes in the cartoons, and who own the characters. Mr. Bagdasarian's dad was the one who created the Chipmunks.

LA's BEST Times: What is the hardest part of your job?

Janice Karman: Making sure that the characters are represented correctly, so that [the audience] likes the characters, especially Alvin. We have to make sure that Alvin doesn't

get too bratty. Alvin is always making trouble, but at the end he still has a good heart. We also need to make sure that the girls aren't mean spirited. Brittany can be superficial but she still has a good heart so it's so important that our characters are represented right and that you like them and that can be a difficult process.

Ross Bagdasarian: You know that when you go to a movie, Theodore is going to be this really nice, wonderful character. What if you went to see the movie and all of a sudden Theodore goes, "Hey, give me that!" and isn't the nice character you expect? You'd say, "that's not Theodore," so our job as owners of the character and as the producers of the

movie is to make sure that each of the characters is doing things like ... that is the Theodore that we know.

LA's BEST Times: Did you have the idea for the movie?
Ross Bagdasarian: No, the best idea I had was marrying Janice, because she's got such great ideas about what's right for these characters to do. While the idea of the title and being on an island wasn't her idea, all the ideas—about what the characters are going to be doing, creating the character where Simon gets bit by a spider and afterwards turns into Simone the French adventurer—Janice came up with all those things, so my biggest contribution was marrying a smart woman. ❖





LA's BEST Times meet actor Jason Lee

By Alberto M, Nerisa C., and PressFriends

Jason Lee has played in a lot of movies and used to be a professional skateboarder. He's also a dad, with a son that likes Alvin and the Chipmunks too.

LA's BEST Times: In the film, there is a big log that the Chipmunks and Dave have to cross. Was it a real log?

Jason Lee: It was this really cool big metal hydraulic thing,

covered with moss. I had to wear a harness with cables in case I fell off the log, but luckily I didn't. At the end of the movie, the computer wipes out the cables so you don't see them.



LA's BEST Times: In the movie, you fly on a glider. Were you really on a glider?

Jason Lee: We were really attached to a hang glider that was attached to a pulley system way up in the warehouse where we filmed. It was pulled us back and up, and we were really high up. It was a little scary! ❖



Behind the Scenes with Alvin Director Mike Mitchell

By Alberto M., Nerisa C., and PressFriends

LA's BEST Times got to interview the director of *Alvin & the Chipmunks Chipwrecked*, Mike Mitchell, and find out more about the filming of the movie.

LA's BEST Times: How much was filmed on location and how much in the studio?

Mike Mitchell: We got to spend a couple of weeks in Hawaii - fantastic. We shot on the beach, in Hawaii, and the zip line stuff and the waterfall

was all in Hawaii. We were in an area called Turtle Bay, and we made sure we did not harm any of the turtles that were around.

Right after that, the producer said we have to go on a cruise ship, so we sailed on a cruise ship for four days. It was a real working cruise ship and there were other people on it, so when we got to the big dance number - the people on the cruise helped us out by pretending to be people dancing

and singing with the Chipmunks and Chipettes.

LA's BEST Times: Where was the studio location?

Mike Mitchell: When we did our studio set, it was in Canada, which was really weird because we were filming a hot hot jungle scene but we were in cold, cold Canada. You feel like you're in a jungle all day long and then you go outside and there's snow. It's the weirdest thing in the world. ❖

Red Ribbon Week

By Ana I., Karla L., and Ileana A.

LA's *BEST Times* interviewed our Wellness Coordinator, Ms. Elizabeth Munoz about 135th Street Elementary School's Red Ribbon Week.

LA's BEST Times: What is Red Ribbon Week?

Munoz: It about being drug free.

LA's BEST Times: Why is Red Ribbon week important in our school?

Munoz: To teach kids how to stay away from drugs.

LA's BEST Times: Why is it called Red Ribbon week?

Munoz: It all started with Enrique (Kiki) Camarena who was a drug enforcement officer who was killed by the Mexican drug cartel because he was investigating a multiple billion drug trafficking operation in 1985. The parents in Virginia

and Illinois were so upset that they started an anti-drug campaign called the Red Ribbon Week. Everybody wore red ribbons to show how tired they are about having drugs in their communities.

LA's BEST Times: Why do people care about it?

Munoz: Because it educates our future.

LA's BEST Times: When was Red Ribbon week started in our school?

Munoz: It started in 2003 and is celebrated the last week of October every year.

This was our schedule for Red Ribbon Week in October 2011.

Monday of Red Ribbon Week was "Sock it to Drugs" Day where everyone dressed in silly socks and students learn the Red Ribbon Week

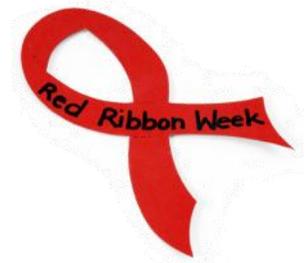
and sign the Red Ribbon Week banner.

On Tuesday, it was "United We Stand for a Drug Free Land!" Students wore red, white, and blue and discussed unity and inclusion of all races, cultures, and religions.

On Wednesday, it was "I Have the Power to be Drug Free!" Students dressed in a super hero T-shirt or in a superhero costume. Then, on Thursday, we focused on "Drugs Don't Make Sense! Dress Up:

Friday was "Too SMART to Start" day, and kids dressed up in anything that made them look and feel smart, like glasses, suit and tie, college sweatshirt, or college t-shirt. The activity on this day was to discuss careers and college options.

Make sure you say "no" to drugs any week of the year. ❖



Game Stop

By Rodolfo (Rudy) G.

The name of the store is Game Stop. You can find this store at many malls. You can buy the Xbox Live and other systems. You can

also buy games. Game Stop gets the games first, so you can pre-order the new games.

This store is for the people who are into games. Many

people go to Game Stop. I love Game Stop. I also love that you can get gift cards; which make a great gift for most kids. ❖

GameStop
power to the players™



Helena is a student at Godolphin & Latymer school in London

From our London Correspondent

On the start of the new School Year

By Helena C.

In the UK, the school year always starts in early September. This means that it is officially autumn when the school year begins. Slightly depressing, but it means that we're not ever in the middle of a major heat wave when we're sitting at our desk. Not that we ever are in the middle of a major heat wave. I'm sure you'll have heard about the notorious British weather. As a native, I can tell you it's not as bad as it's cracked up to be, but even so you very rarely get temperatures above thirty degrees [Centigrade or 86 degrees Fahrenheit], even in August.

The first day of school is not very eventful. In England, we only have three stages of school: primary school (age 4-

11), secondary school (age 11-18) and then optional university. I am in Year 8- the equivalent of seventh grade in America- but this is my second year at secondary school so I am already fairly well informed as to how everything works.

Last year, on my first ever day of secondary school, we split into teams and sent running wildly round the school filling out a quiz. I think the purpose of this was to help us memorise the layout of the school—they didn't make it very clear—and for some of us it worked; but for me, not so much. My primary school was extremely small so it took awhile for me to adjust.

This year I start a new subject—Spanish. You cannot quit any subject until GCSE

level (GSCEs are a qualification, one for each subject- a bit like individual middle school diplomas for maths, English, Spanish, etc.) which isn't until Year 11 (tenth grade for you) so that means this year I am taking maths, English, chemistry, physics, biology, French, Spanish, Latin, drama, ICT, Cooking, History, Geography, Art, Philosophy, Design Technology, PSHE, Music, and Sport—nineteen subjects in all. As you can imagine, this makes for quite a packed timetable.

In two years I will have to learn either Russian or Italian, but apart from that there will be no changes to my timetable for the next three years.

Be grateful for the American system. ❖



Blake Griffin

By Melvin C.

Blake Griffin is a basketball player that plays for the Los Angeles Clippers. He is a Power Forward. He's from Oklahoma. He started playing

with the Clippers since 2009. He was in dunk competitions since he was in college. He won a trophy for the slam dunk competition. He was

the first person to slam dunk over a car. He was the Rookie of the Year in 2011.❖

Comic Books

By Alberto M.

I like comic books a lot because of their awesome pictures and make believe stories. There are sad, action, mystery, and other comic books made by all kinds of people and kids.

People and kids make these comic books because they want to interest us persons. People make comic books so they can get money to buy food, books,

and even paper to make other comic books for us. Also people and kids get interested by these comic books and they also get interested by old comic books.

Comics are kind of good to the world because some persons like comic books while others hate comic books.

My favorite comic books are the ones I write. My favor-

ite comic book that I made is K.N.D the attack of Skele-doom part one. K.N.D stands for "kids next door." There's a lot of action and people have super powers in the comic.

The comic book also has battles in it. Every time I'm making a comic book, I get an idea and start making a new one. I hope you will check out some comic books even mine!❖



How to Make Peanut Butter Brownies

By Nerisa C.

This is a recipe on how to make peanut butter brownies. Here are the ingredients for the brownies.

Ingredients

You will need 1 box of Betty Crocker Original Supreme Premium brownie mix, water, and vegetable oil [the amount is on the box]. You also need 1/3 cup packed brown sugar, 1/3 cup crunchy peanut butter, and 1 egg.

Here are the ingredients for the peanut butter frosting. You need 2/3 cup Betty Crocker Rich and Creamy vanilla frosting, 1/4 cup peanut butter, and 1 to 2 teaspoons of milk.

Instructions

First, heat your oven up to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

Grease the bottom of a 9-inch square pan with shortening spray or cooking spray.

Make the brownie batter as directed on the box. Spread 3/4 of the brownie batter in the pan. Set any left over batter aside.

Next, in a small bowl, mix the brown sugar, 1/3 cup of peanut butter, and the egg. Spoon the peanut butter mixture by tablespoonfuls onto the brownie batter. Top the batter with random tablespoonfuls of the left over brownie batter. Cut through the brownie batter several

times with a knife. Then, bake the brownie batter from 40 to 45 minutes or insert a toothpick 2 inches from the side of the pan and see if the toothpick comes out clean or at least almost clean. After that, cool the brownies completely, for about 1 1/2 hours.

Finally, in a medium bowl, mix all of the frosting ingredients with a spoon until it is smooth and spreadable. Spread the frosting over the brownies. Then, cut them into 5 by 4 rows.

Now, you can enjoy a nice plate of peanut butter brownies! ❖





The Scores of our School

By Ileana A., Alondra C., and PressFriends

At the end of school last year, 135th Street Elementary School took the CST tests. CST stands for California Standardized Testing. These tests are part of a state-



wide program and are specifically designed for California.

The purpose of the CST tests is to see how much progress students have made toward reaching California's academic standards. These adopted standards are what the kids should know and be able to do in the English-language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science.

135th Street School's scores improved on the CST

tests. The scores went up by 89 points. Many people were involved with that improvement.

The students were asked who helps them the most and their response was "our teachers, the teachers' assistants, parents and all the rest of the staff".

While the community is excited about the achievement of bringing their CST scores up by 89 points, they still will try to beat last year's score on this years tests. ❖



Fashion Life!

By Cristal P. and PressFriends

Fashion is a big part of people's life. Some girls like to wear earrings and nail polish.

Nail Polish

It gets to the point where some almost never go out of their house without wearing nail polish. Nail polish is a fashion accessory that is an important part of life. It always makes nails look interesting.

Clothes

Another big part of fashion life is clothes. Many people

love clothes; it is the best thing for them. The best kinds of stores are the ones that have many children clothes. Stores like that are Macy's, Old Navy, JC Penny, and Children's Place.

A reason to shop at Macy's is because it has many clothes that people love, like dresses and jeans.

JC Penny is popular because it has beautiful shirts and skirts. Some girls might not really like skirts but others might just love how it looks on them.

Jewelry

A final part of fashion life is jewelry. There are many places to shop for jewelry. Some favorites are Macy's and JC Penny for jewelry. Sometimes people spend fifteen

dollars on jewelry. A jewelry accessory that is fun to put on is a necklace.

When worn, necklaces look very pretty.

There are many aspects of fashion that people love. ❖



The Smurfs Are Back

By Brayan L.

The main characters are played by well known stars, Clumsy is played by Anton Yelchin Wolfgang Punk, Gutsy's voice is that of Alon Cumming, Smerfete is better known as Katy Perry, and last but not least Grouchy is played by George Lopez. Raja Gosnell has directed an entertaining film that is for the whole

family. Every one that watches The Smurfs is ensured to laugh, relax, or even cry. On July 29, 2011 2008 Warner Bros. theaters released their first season. My favorite character has to be Grouchy because he is played by the hilarious and forever entertaining George Lopez. Grouchy has never helped anyone with any-

thing, like when Clumsy needed to be saved, but he was mad at him for getting him stuck in our world rather than their own. The best part is near the end when Gargamell is defeated by a simple car accident, and the Smurfs are blessed with happiness.

Party with Mario

By Jesus U.

Mario Kart Double Dash is a video game. The object of the game is you have to be the first one to finish the race. Some of the characters are Baby Mario, Baby Peach, Yoshi, Toad, and Donkey Kong. I like this game because you can play online and can

battle your friends. You play this game using GameCube and Wii.

Mario Kart Double Dash came out the year 2003. The game is popular because most people love to play the game. The fastest car is Peach's car because the motor is big.

The slowest car is Wario because his motor is little.

The most powerful tool is the rocket, because it's the fastest.

You should play this game because it's exciting and you can play it online. ❖

Wii Wonderful

By Gabriel V.

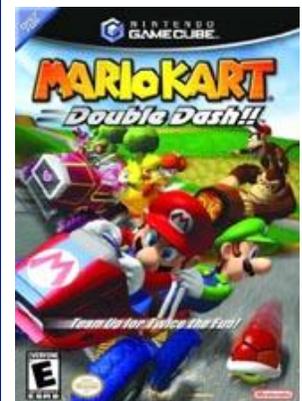
The Wii is the first Nintendo console that uses CDs. It has a remote controller that uses infrared detection. You can play with other players if you connect the Wii to the internet. It is compatible with the GameCube if you have a GameCube controller.

You can also connect it to the Nintendo DS wirelessly.

I think it is a cool product, because it has many fun games. It's also good for exercising, because most of the games keep you moving. I think these are better than regular games, because those other

games can make you gain weight if you sit and play all day.

I think boys and girls will like the Wii because it has games for everyone. It's also good for adults because it has exercise games. ❖





Victoria Justice

By Ileana A. and Alondra C.

Victoria Justice is an amazing person because she can sing, dance, and act. Victoria is the leading actress on the current Nickelodeon show, *Victorious*. She has also been featured on different shows like *True Jackson VP*, *The Troop*, *The Penguins of Madagascar*, *iCarly*, *Brain Surge*, and on a

movie that is called *The Boy Who Cried Werewolf*. She is such a role model, because she is confident and determined.

Her birthday is on February 19, 1995 and she was born in Hollywood, Florida. She started her acting career when she was 10 years old. She has also sang songs

called *Make it Shine*, *Freak the Freak Out*, *Beggin' on your Knees*, *Best Friend's Brother*, *I Want You Back*, and *All I want is Everything*, and I recommend you watch it because it also contains some very good life lessons. ❖



Skateboard Legend: Tony Hawk

By Tre'von L.

If you are as into skateboarding as I am, you have probably heard of the ultimate legend Anthony Hawk (better known as Tony Hawk).

Tony Hawk was born on May 12, 1968. His nickname was "The Birdman". He was born in Carlsbad, California, but was raised in San Diego, California.

Tony Hawk was the first skater to land a 900. He turned into a pro when he was 14 years old. He was the world champion for skating for 12 years in a row.

Tony Hawk has video games where he is the character that skates and you control him. On his game, "Tony Hawk: Ride" you have a skate-

board-shaped controller that you ride.

He came out in many shows, including kids shows, like *Zeke and Luther* and *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*.

I think that Tony Hawk is awesome because he is one of the best skateboarders in the world! ❖



Miranda Cosgrove

By Karla L. and Jazmin D.

Miranda Taylor Cosgrove was born on May 14, 1993. Miranda is an American actress and pop recording artist. Her career began at the age of three where she participated in television

commercials. Miranda's first television appearance was in 2001 as a 5 year old. Miranda was in a Nickelodeon show called *Drake and Josh*. In the show her character's name was Megan. She was meant to

her brother's Drake and Josh. She continued working for Nickelodeon in *iCarly*. Miranda is a famous character in *iCarly*. Kids like watching her because her shows are funny. ❖

Alvin Press Conference and Screening Photo Journal



Happy Holidays from PressFriends



PressFriends



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making writing fun*

PressFriends Student
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2011-12

Super Stick Saves the Day



By: Antonio Solis

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