

# PV Kids News

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Spring 2010

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## ~~Zachary Gordon shines~~ <sup>survives</sup> as a Wimpy Kid

By Taylor W. and Tessa S.

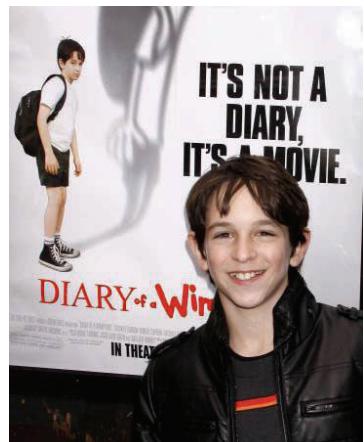
In the movie *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, Zachary Gordon stars as the main character, Greg Heffley. The movie is based on the book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, which is about Greg's life in middle school. Zachary Gordon told *PV Kids News* about the role he played in the movie and what it's like being on the set of a movie. This was one of his biggest roles, and

we also found out how he felt about getting the part.

### Zachary's Credits

Zachary Gordon won the Young Artists Award in the best supporting actor category for his performance in the movie, "Georgia Rule," starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. Since then, he's appeared in "National

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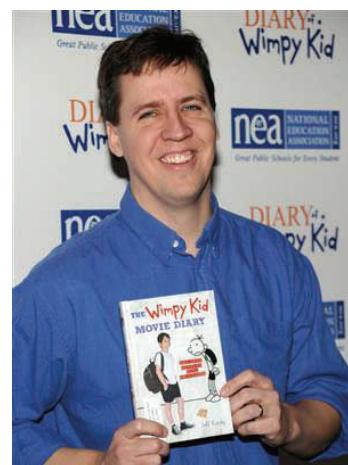


## Jeff Kinney Makes Wimpy Kids Cool

By Ashley T. and Tyler B.

In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the main character, Greg Heffley, thinks about how life is going to be someday when he's rich and famous. Well, that's exactly what the author of the *Wimpy Kid* series is—rich and famous! Jeff Kinney has sold over 28 million books, but we found that he's very down-to-earth and easy to talk to when *PV Kids News* interviewed him.

**Watch the PressFriends 2010 Summer Program Roundup on Cox Cable 33 and Verizon Channel 38 at 4 p.m. on May 10-16**



**PV Kids News:** Are you similar to the characters in your stories in any way or through any experiences?

**Jeff Kinney:** Yes, I think I have a little Greg in me. Greg is really a flawed person in a way, and he's kind of an exaggeration of my flaws.

*Continued on page 11*

# Make a Splash at the Library this Summer!

By Tessa S. and Clair D.

**A**re you wondering what to do this summer? Check out our local library! We found out that there are a lot of fun things to do at the library when we met with Marisa Perley, who is the Assistant Manager of the Young Readers Department for the Palos Verdes Library District.

**PV Kids News:** What programs do you have for kids at the library?

**Ms. Perley:** We do a lot of programs at the library—in the summer and all year round. The programs are free!

## Summer Reading Program

**PV Kids News:** What age groups are your programs for?

**Ms. Perley:** We do all age groups. We have a summer reading program for children from babies through high school. One program is for children up to fifth grade, and there is a program from fifth or sixth grade through high school. We give patches for completion of a certain number of minutes on the summer reading log. When you finish one log, you can get another, and then another. The sky's the limit!

**PV Kids News:** What is the importance of the summer reading program?

**Ms. Perley:** The importance is to keep children's minds active and engaged during the summer. Just like athletes have an off-season, so do children when they're not in school, and the summer reading program is just a fun way to keep children motivated and excited during the summer and to keep their minds working.

**PV Kids News:** When does the summer reading program start?

**Ms. Perley:** The summer reading program starts June 1 and you can start getting patches two weeks later. Once school is out, our program really takes off.

**PV Kids News:** What is the theme for the summer reading program?

**Ms. Perley:** The theme is Make a Splash This Summer At Your Library. You don't need to go to the beach to make a splash—you can make a splash right here in the library!

## Newswriting Camp

**Ms. Perley:** Tessa would you like to tell us more about the PressFriends newswriting camp?

**PressFriends:** Yes, we did a free summer newswriting camp at the library last summer and are going to do one here again in August. It's a one week camp, and we have a lot of fun activities. The kids learn about writing articles for a newspaper, and at the end of the camp, we publish the summer edition of *PV Kids News*. We'd like to give a special thanks to Mr. Barb (Young Reader's librarian who supervises the summer newswriting camp) for all his help here at the library.

## Riddle of the Week

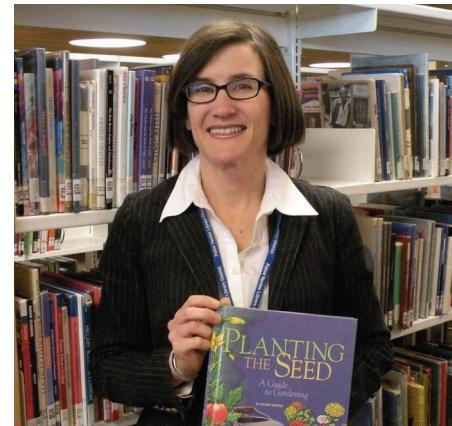
**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about the Riddle of the Week program?

**Ms. Perley:** We have the Riddle of the Week again this summer. Every week, the riddle changes, and if you answer it, you get a prize.

## Other Summer Programs

**PV Kids News:** How many programs do you have during the summer?

**Ms. Perley:** This year, we have 27 summer programs and they will be



happening at all three branches—the Malaga Cove Library, the Miraleste Library and the Peninsula Center Library.

So we hope to see everyone here this summer, whether it's the Malaga Cove, Peninsula Center, or Miraleste library, there will lots of fun things to do like magicians and PressFriends, so please make a splash and come to the library!

## Some Other Kids' Summer Programs at the Library

**Storytime**—The Library hosts daily storytime programs.

**Tuesday Crafts**—There are fun craft programs on Tuesdays at the Peninsula Center Library

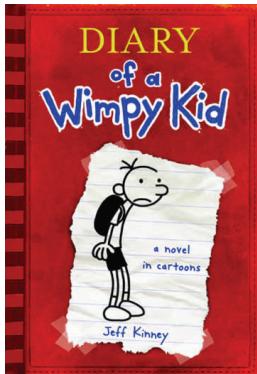
**Tuesday Showcase**—The Library has a fun variety of programs and guest presenters from the Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Maritime Museum, and many more.

**Friday Films**—On Friday afternoons, the Library will show popular movies like Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Flushed Away, Happy Feet, and many more in the Peninsula Center Storytime room.

## Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a cool summer read

The *Diary of Wimpy Kid* is one of my favorite books. I read each book in the series, but the first book is my favorite. The books are written as the diary of the main character, Greg Heffley, and includes Greg's doodling—which is some great cartooning by the author, Jeff Kinney.

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is about Greg starting middle school and wanting to be popular. But instead, he learns the hard way to be himself and not worry about being popular.



Greg isn't the nicest character, and he sometimes puts his best friend Rowley in bad situations. Rowley is a free-minded character who doesn't care what people think. He doesn't care if his clothes are cool or about acting cool, so Greg wants to change him.

Greg also has a horrible older brother named Rodrick, who is always beating up on Greg and getting him into trouble. But the situations are funny.

Greg sometimes does the same thing Rodrick does to him to his younger brother Manny. He doesn't beat up

Manny but he makes up stories to scare Manny.

The book is really funny because things never turn out the way that Greg would like them to do, but it's easy to relate to Greg, because some of the things that happened to Greg could happen in real life. By the end of the book Greg realizes that his friendship with Rowley is important and he was better off being himself.

All of the books in the *Wimpy Kid* series are great, and they are the favorite of many of my friends in 4th through 7th grade.

*Marie C.*

## What's Your Favorite Book?

### Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

In Judy Blume's book, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, the main character, Peter Hatcher, is a fourth grader that has a big problem in the form of his younger brother Fudge. Fudge is Peter's little three-year-old brother that gets into trouble in a number of ways, but Peter seems to always gets blamed.

In the book, some of the ways Fudge gets in trouble is a disastrous third birthday party, knocking out his two front teeth in the park, and even swallowing Peter's pet turtle. This book gives you the chance to experience the strange life of the Hatcher family and all the mischief that Fudge gets him-

self, and Peter into. Blume's book is a great book for a younger audience that will keep you entertained the whole summer.

*Luke S.*

### Eragon

My favorite book is the Eragon series by Christopher Paolini. The book is about a teenager, Eragon, who finds a dragon egg and cares for it until it hatches. He takes care of it and trains it so he can ride the dragon. Eragon has plans to overthrow the evil king.

I like the books because they are descriptive and funny. The adventures are exciting with nonstop action. My favorite part is when Eragon is training with an elderly man and they travel all around the

kingdom. Once I finish each book in the series, I can hardly wait to start the next book and can hardly wait until the next one is available!

*Matthew M.*

### Maximum Ride

My favorite book is *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson. It is a series of six science fiction/fantasy books. It's my favorite book, because it is an adventure-filled, action-packed book that includes characters with wings! I love the six main characters: Max, Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Angel, and Gassy in their wild escape from the evil half-human/half-wolf Erasers.

*Elisabeth D.*

Email us about your favorite book at [info@pressfriends.org](mailto:info@pressfriends.org).

## A New Twist on Monopoly

By Naoya O.

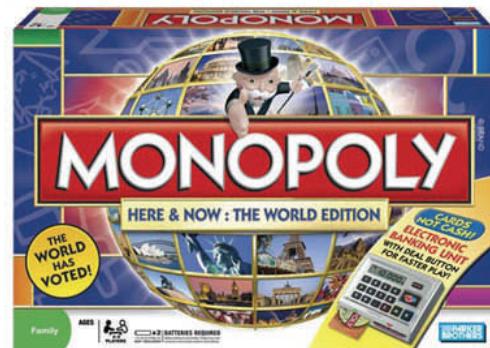
**T**he game Monopoly Here and Now: The World Edition brings a new twist to an old classic. The board game, updated in 2008 by Hasbro, retails for \$30.00.

This updated game is played basically the same as the classic Monopoly with a few twists. The biggest new feature is that players use electronically calculated debit cards instead of paper money. The advantage is that the game moves much quicker, but from my mom's point of view, this is a disadvantage because kids do not get practice counting money.

Another change is that all the original properties have been replaced by worldwide cities. These cities

were voted upon and decided online by people worldwide. On the game board, each city is paired with a representative photo.

Another difference is that the mover pieces have been changed. A total of 24 movers have been designed to represent six continents. Of those, the six movers included in each game set have been randomly selected, one from each continent. Included in my set are a Chinese dragon (Asia), a Canadian Mountie (North America), an Inca mask (South America), a London cab (Europe), a Safari hat (Africa), and a kangaroo (Australia). You won't know which movers you will get until you open the box.



Anyone age 8 to adult will absolutely love Monopoly Here & Now: The World Edition. If you ask me whether or not to buy it, I say "Buy it".

*Printed with permission of the Roadrunner Reporter*

## Saddle Up This Summer!

By Tessa S.

**D**o you want to learn to ride? PV Kids News talked to horse trainer Lisa Baldwin about her training programs (for more info, email her at [high-heelss@earthlink.net](mailto:high-heelss@earthlink.net)).

**PV Kids News:** How long have you been giving equestrian lessons?

**Ms. Baldwin:** I've been giving lessons about ten years in this area.

**PV Kids News:** What kinds of classes do you offer?

**Ms. Baldwin:** I offer all kinds of classes, from age 5 doing a walk-trot all the way up to the 3'6" jumpers, so I offer all levels. I have a very good friend, Linda Cooper, who is Maverick Farms at Peter Webber stables, and she does a pony camp, which is also for the young ones.



**PV Kids News:** What horse shows do you recommend?

**Ms. Baldwin:** The Peter Webber Show is a new show, and it's a fabulous show for beginner riders. It's very inexpensive and allows new riders to get their feet wet and experience what horse shows are really about. It's what we call a schooling show. ETI (Equestrian

Trails, Inc.) horse shows are a step above that. If we go to any of the rated shows, it's usually outside of the area, but we do have two rated shows at Ernie Howlett Park—Las Amigas and Portuguese Bend.

**PV Kids News:** What is your favorite thing about giving horseback riding lessons?

**Ms. Baldwin:** I thoroughly enjoy seeing my kids smile and enjoy themselves. And it thrills me to watch them grow as riders and become more proficient in their riding.

We asked one of Ms. Baldwin's students, Caroline, for her advice to kids starting horseback riding lessons. "Just smile and have fun and listen to your trainer!"

# Summer at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

By Taylor H.

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium offers a lot of fun programs for kids. PV Kids News spoke with the director of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Mike Schaad, to find out more about what the Cabrillo has in store.

## Meet the Grunion

**PV Kids News:** What type of programs do you have on this spring for kids?

**Mr. Schaad:** In the spring time, it's really Grunion Time around the Aquarium. We try to encourage people to think about those crazy fish that come out of the water at night and lay their eggs, and it's fun to watch. They come out late at night, so it's a fun family get-together. We call these are *Meet the Grunion* program, and more information on these program are at [cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org).

## Science at the Seashore

**PV Kids News:** What type of programs do you have on this summer?

**Mr. Schaad:** Summertime is always a fun time at the Aquarium. It's great for us to have kids come and visit but to stay for the whole week. They're here from 8 or 9 o'clock to noon or so, and it's called *Science at the Seashore* and the programs are grade-specific and include titles such as *Crab Shells and Native Tales* for Grades 3 through 4,



Mike Schaad

we have another one called *Galloping Snails and other Fishy Tales* and that's for grade 1 through 2, we have another one called *Ichthyology and Other Slimy Words* and that's for grades 5 through 6.

Then we have not to forget those high school and junior high school students. We have *Marine Sci High* for grades 9 through 12 and *Wet Tech* for grades 7 through 9.

Finally, for the tiny kids, we have a program called *Tales Between the Tides*. This session is for ages 3 to 5 years old.

## Summer Docent Programs

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about your summer docent programs?

**Mr. Schaad:** We have free docent-led tours for groups that want to come to visit the museum. In the fall and winter, adults lead the tours. In the summer, those docents are students.

In July, the docents are junior high school docents. The students are taught how to be a docent in one week and then for the month of July, they are the touring docents.

In the month of August, we have our senior high school students

that come in and get the training like the junior high school students do and then they are the docents.

We are very proud of all our docents, and they are really a very special part of our program at the Aquarium, and we are very appreciative of all their hard work.

## Sea Ranger Program

**PV Kids News:** What if students want to continue to help during the school year?

**Mr. Schaad:** We have our Sea Ranger program. Students from the fifth grade and up can become volunteer naturalists in our Sea Ranger Program and after participating in a training program can volunteer in different educational activities at the Cabrillo.

## Join the Aquarium

**Mr. Schaad:** People can find out more about our programs by becoming members of the Aquarium. They get quarterly calendars with all this information sent to their home and also Tidelines, a publication that tells about what is going at the Aquarium and in our oceans.

These are all activities to get people involved in the Aquarium and to come to the Aquarium. We are very much a community aquarium, and we are very family-oriented. We try to keep our programs as affordable as possible so that more people can learn about the ocean, because that's honestly what it's about—if you learn about the ocean, the more likely you are to take care of it.

*The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Drive, San Pedro, CA 90731. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or check [www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org).*

## Take the Stage at the Norris this Summer!

By Clair D. and Tessa S.

If you're interested in theater, the Norris Theatre has some great summer programs. PV Kids News talked to Diane Slome, who is the Director for Marketing for the Norris Center for the Performing Arts.

### Camp Curtain Call

**PV Kids News:** What types of programs are the Norris offering this summer?

**Mrs. Slome:** Coming up this summer, we have our popular Camp Curtain Call program. Camp Curtain Call is offering two camps this summer geared towards elementary aged students. The first camp is called *Willy Wonka's Golden Ticket*, and it's a two-week camp from 9 o'clock to one o'clock from June 14th through 25th.

The next is *Tangled Twisted Tales* which has various vignettes from popular children's stories. These include *Aladdin*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *101 Dalmations*, *Pinocchio*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. This camp runs from July 19th through July 30th.

I have two people here who have done the camps, Chloe and Sabine. Chloe has done Camp Curtain Call.

**PV Kids News:** Chloe, what was your favorite Camp Curtain Call program?

**Chloe:** The Seuss one. I liked it because my favorite book from Dr. Seuss is the Cat in the Hat, so that's why.

### Musical Boot Camp

**PV Kids News:** Sabine, what was your favorite program?

**Sabine:** My favorite program was Musical Boot Camp, because we learned a lot of interesting things, from acting to singing to dancing, and it was a really fun meeting new

people and putting on a show after a 2-3 week rehearsal process. It was great, and I recommend it to everyone.

### Audition-based Shows

**PV Kids News:** Mrs. Slome, what other programs do you have this summer?

**Mrs. Slome:** In addition to the two camps, we also have shows that we do that are audition-based. In May, we have auditions for three shows we are doing this summer, the first one is *Sweet Charity*, which is geared towards middle school, high school and college students. We are ending the summer with the musical *Thirteen*, which is really popular in New York and geared towards middle school and high school students, and we have *Honk* which is the story of the Ugly Duckling. *Honk* is a darling story, which is geared towards children in elementary school, probably from 7 or 8 through 8th grade.



Diane Slome with Chloe and Sabine

### Summer Multimedia Camp

**Mrs. Slome:** Sabine touched on our summer Musical Boot Camp, but we also have a multimedia one

where you can learn film and also a dance program. Students learn all aspects of making a film, including film history, screenwriting, and even marketing of films.

### Fall, winter & spring

**PV Kids News:** What kinds of programs do you have at the Norris after the summer?

**Mrs. Slome:** We have several different types of programs. We have classes in the fall, spring and winter seasons for ages 4 all the way through adults where we have dancing, singing, acting, and audition courses.

I think that what is unique about the Norris is the faculty that we bring in. For example, for *Dear Edwina*, our director is Valerie Rachelle, who has a Masters degree and many professional performances, and some of our past shows had directors with Broadway experience. The training you get at the Norris is the same caliber as training that adults get in the shows you see downtown or on Broadway.

### Professional Shows

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about some of the shows that the Norris puts on?

**Mrs. Slome:** In addition to the classes we offer, we have live, professional shows. We have a three play series and the one in May is called the *Marvelous Wonderettes*, which is like a 1960's high school prom that is sung and danced on stage. We have Cabaret Jazz and other concerts as well. We also have a rental facility, so we're excited to have this available to our community here and to students like you.

For more info: [www.norristheatre.org](http://www.norristheatre.org)

# Rockin' Summer in Rolling Hills Estates

By Luke S.

The City of Rolling Hills Estates has a full roster of summer programs for both residents and non-residents. PV Kids News talked to the City's Community Services Director, Andy Clark, about these program.

## Tennis Camp

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about the tennis camp that you have in the summer?

**Mr. Clark:** That will be coming up in the August, and it runs from Mondays through Thursdays and is for kids of all ages, and we'll work with some adults. The camp is held at the Ernie Howlett Park Tennis Center.

## Pony Camp

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about the summer pony camp?

**Mr. Clark:** Yes, it is probably our most popular program. We have two camps, one for ages 3 to 5, we call that *Wee Tots Camp*, and we have our regular camp, for kids ages 7 through 12, and that's at the Peter Webber Center. You have your choice of morning classes or afternoon. We have morning classes run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and students come Monday through Friday for five days. You could also come Monday through Friday in the afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. Both levels of Pony Camp are offered all summer. We start the week of the 14th of June and go through Labor Day.

## Taekwondo

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us about the City's new Taekwondo Program?

**Mr. Clark:** This is a class we offer. We partner with the U.S. Rolling Hills Taekwondo studio near Bristol Farms, and they are offering entry-

level classes, for ages 3 to 4, 5 to 14, and 15 years to adult.

After you finish a class, if you would like to advance to the higher level, you have can continue training with the U.S. Rolling Hills Taekwondo studio, but the courses we are offering are the beginning entry-level classes.

## Ukulele and Guitar classes

**PV Kids News:** Are there any other programs that kids might be interested in?

**Mr. Clark:** We have lots of things coming up for summer. We have ukulele and guitar classes, something unique and new for us. Students need to have their own guitar.

## Roadrunners Camp

**Mr. Clark:** This year, another new camp is the Roadrunners Track and Field camp up at the Peninsula High School. This will be for elementary, junior high, and senior high school students and will be a one week camp .

## Learn to Ice Skate

**Mr. Clark:** We are also working with the Ice Chalet, and we have learn-to-skate programs. This is an 8-week beginner ice skating program, and there are classes for tots (aged 3 to 5 years), youth (aged 6 to 12 years), and beginning hockey classes for ages 6 to 12.

## Traditional programs

**PV Kids News:** What kind of programs does the City offer during the school year?

**Mr. Clark:** We have our pintsize sports program that introduces preschool and elementary school kids to a variety of sports—soccer, hockey, basketball and T-ball.



Andy Clark

The City offers tennis lessons at the RHE Tennis Club at Ernie Howlett Park. The lessons run for eight weeks, and we offer three different levels. We also offer beginning golf lessons at the Los Verdes Golf Course, as well a beginning equestrian class at the RHE Equestrian Center.

## George F. Canyon Nature Center

**Mr. Clark:** We do have a lot going on at the Nature Center. We have a variety of walks such as bird walks and the first Saturday nature walks. We also have night hikes that are pretty cool; they are held during the full moon nights each month.

## City Contacts

**PV Kids News:** How can people get more information on these programs and sign up for them?

**Mr. Clark:** If people are interested in learning more, then they can call me at City Hall at 310-377-1577 and then hit extension 109. You can always Google "Rolling Hills Estates" and our city website will come up, and you can click on the link ([www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us](http://www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us)) to get info too.

## PV Cheer and Song Brings Home the Gold!

By Bethan S.

Cheer and song girl programs are growing in popularity, and PV Kids News spoke to Kristi Emenwein, director of the PV Cheer and Song program that is part of the Pop Warner football program.

**PV Kids News:** Can you tell us a little bit about PV Cheer and everything they do?

**Ms. Emenwein:** PV Cheer has a program that starts in August and continues through late November, early August. Currently, we are part of the new conference called the Pop Warner Southern California Conference, covering the Torrance, Redondo Beach, Palos



Verdes and Crenshaw areas. We are also joined with Pop Warner National to give us many opportunities to go on to regional and national competitions. Our cheer program offers youths from K through 8th grade, and we've now actually opened it up to 9th graders to have an opportunity to cheer or do song year round.

**PV Kids News:** So can you tell us more about the competitions and commitment level of this year round activity?

**Ms. Emenwein:** The commitment level varies from the age

group that they are involved in but traditionally in the month of August we practice 3-5 days a week, 2-3 hours a day, and our games begin in September, so the girls are actually practicing 6-10 hours a week and then games on Saturday. We continue on to a competition which begins at the end of October with our regionals, which this year will be in Tucson, Arizona, which will be exciting. The girls not only learn cheer and half time routines, they also practice a competition routine.

If you are interested in cheer or song, check out PV Cheer. You learn a lot, have a lot of fun, and make friends that last a lifetime.

For more info: [www.pvfootball.org](http://www.pvfootball.org).



## Coming Soon at the Movies

There are lots of good movies coming out soon, and here are some of them. These movies haven't been rated yet.

### Shrek Forever After

The new *Shrek* movie is coming out on May 21, and in this movie, Shrek makes a deal with Rumpelstiltskin and finds himself in another version of Far Far Away where he and Fiona have never met. It's up to Shrek to set things right.

### Karate Kid

In this version of the *Karate Kid*, the Karate Kid is a 12-year old who moves to China. He ends up bullied

by one of the kids in his class, so the maintenance man, played by Jackie Chan, teaches him kung fu. The release date is June 11.

### Toy Story 3

*Toy Story 3* is going to come out June 18th in 3D and at IMAX theaters. It's due to be as much fun as *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2*, but 3D makes it even better!

### Despicable Me

*Despicable Me* is an animated film that is coming out July 9th in 3D, and it's about a guy who wants to steal the moon. It sounds like it'll be fun with a lot of spy gadgets.

### Sorcerer's Apprentice

This new Disney movie is scheduled for release on July 16th. It is about a master sorcerer who lives in New York City who is trying to defend the city from a bad guy. He recruits an apprentice to help him. This promises to be funny as well as having a lot of action.

### Cats & Dogs: The Revenge Of Kitty Galore

This movie is due out in theaters on July 30th. Cats and dogs join arms to fight Kitty Galore, a former spy for a cat spy agency who now wants the world for herself. This movie combines live action and animation.

## Sing Your Heart Out This Summer

By Clair D. and Tessa S.

**D**o you love singing around the house—or maybe you already are singing on the stage. It's both fun and helpful to go to a voice teacher, and we're lucky to have lots of good vocal coaches in Palos Verdes. One of the popular local vocal coaches is Debby Barri. PV News interviewed her to find out how voice lessons are run and whether they might be right for you.

**PV Kids News:** When did you first decide to give singing lessons?

**Mrs. Barri:** I've been teaching ever since I got out of college, but only in Palos Verdes for the last nine months. I've been teaching singing, song interpretation, and vocal coaching.

**PV Kids News:** Why did you decide to start teaching voice in Palos Verdes?

**Mrs. Barri:** I started about 9 months ago teaching in Palos Verdes, because I was encouraged by my husband to follow my dream and to share my love of musical theater with talented middle school and high school and even younger students, and I've been fortunate to be able to do that.

**PV Kids News:** What do you do in a typical singing lesson?

**Mrs. Barri:** I have students who take for 30 minutes and students who take for a full hour. If a student is working for an upcoming audition, we work on picking out music that would be appropriate to the characters and the show that they are auditioning for.

A typical lesson would be a little bit of warm up, then working on learning the actual song, and finally, the bulk of the lesson is

spent on song interpretation, and actually performing the song. We stage the song, and we make sure the performer is connecting with the song emotionally from the standpoint of both the character and as a performer.

**PV Kids News:** What age groups do you give lessons to?

**Mrs. Barri:** I have all ages. I have kids as young as 9 and right now all the way up to high school, but I also have a dad who is interested in voice lessons and will be starting soon. So no age limit.



**PV Kids News:** How did you get started with your love of music?

**Mrs. Barri:** Well, it's sort of an interesting story, at least I think so. When I was six years old, I went with my mother to buy tickets to see Fiddler on the Roof in Philadelphia, and I snuck into the theater without her knowing and watched a little bit of the song which I now know is *Matchmaker, Matchmaker*, and I remember going "Oh my goodness, what was that I saw!"

When we got home, my mother played the record for me, and I

must have listened to it a thousand times. From there, I learned more shows and more shows. I did shows from the time I was in elementary school. I did shows all through junior high school, high school, and I was a theater major in college,

I was very lucky that, right out of college, I auditioned for a show and got an equity card—that is the actor's union, and I also did theme park shows like at Six Flags. I was very lucky to perform in some national tours and just have such a love and a passion for musical theater, that I love sharing it. That is the biggest perk of my job.

**PV Kids News:** What advice would you give to kids that are interested in taking singing?

**Mrs. Barri:** My advice is that if you even have a hint that you would like to try it, you have to just go for it. You should find a teacher who can help you, find some material, and you should go to as many auditions as possible even if you think I could never get in there, they're only going to take older kids, or they are only looking for boys for this part. It doesn't matter, go and audition, and you have to remember that it's your audition, you are in charge, and you have to follow your heart and follow your dreams and if that is what you want to do, you just have to go out there and do it.



For more info,  
email [darindebby@yahoo.com](mailto:darindebby@yahoo.com).

## Zachary Gordon

*Continued from page 1*

Treasure: Book of Secrets" and "The Brothers Bloom." He also does voiceovers on several Nickelodeon's shows, and he'll be the voice of Papi Jr. in "Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2."



### Life as a Wimpy Kid

**PV Kids News:** What was your favorite scene to act out in the movie?

**Zachary Gordon:** My favorite scene was one they cut out. There's a scene where I'm walking with kindergarteners, and I see the bad people's car. I look where to hide them, and I see a construction site. Unfortunately, you know how Greg thinks; he shoves them in a hole that is muddy and full of water. When I'm about to put the last kid in the hole, I see a kid stranded and I go in slow motion to get the kid. I was asked if I wanted to use a puppet or something that was light, but I said "nah, I'll carry the kid." And I did. Too bad that they cut out my strong man scene!

**PV Kids News:** Did you go to school or have a tutor while making the movie?

**Zachary Gordon:** While making the movie, we didn't have time to hang out or play. We had to go school. We didn't have a break, but I think it was a price worth paying. We had to go to school 3 hours a day, every day, even on our days off and on weekends.

**PV Kids News:** What was the hardest thing to do when you were playing the character Greg?

**Zachary Gordon:** Probably getting into the character of Greg, because I'm almost the complete opposite of him. I had to read the book several times, and I had to imagine how Greg would deal with the situations in the script.

**PV Kids News:** You said that you were almost the exact opposite of Greg, but are there any similarities?

**Zachary Gordon:** We both are starting the first year of middle school, but I actually had to miss the first two months of mine filming this movie, so I was completely terrified my first day at middle school. We also share having older brothers. Greg only has one, but I have two older brothers, so I have twice the pain.

**PV Kids News:** What is it like to play different parts in a lot of different movies?

**Zachary Gordon:** It's pretty cool. It's cool to be in this business, but it's a pretty weird feeling seeing yourself on the big screen a few times or seeing yourself on a TV show. But it's a weird feeling that I would trade a lot of things for.

**PV Kids News:** What did you do to prepare to play the role of Greg?

**Zachary Gordon:** I had to read the book a few times, and I had to memorize a lot of lines for the script. It would take me an hour just to memorize the one or two scenes that I would do each day.

**PV Kids News:** What is the hardest part about being an actor at your age?

**Zachary Gordon:** Probably all the competition you have at each audition. You aren't the only kid going out for a role. They were hundreds or thousands of kids auditioning for the role of Greg. There were kids in high school, kids in middle school, kids who were really young, and I got the role, which I was pretty psyched about. It was an unreal experience that I feel fortunate to have had.

*Thanks to Anjulee Alvares at Fox and to contributions from the Roosevelt Times, Roadrunner Reporter, and The Roar and to the assistance of Roosevelt Elementary in Lawndale, Rancho Vista Elementary in Rolling Hills Estates, Lincoln Elementary in Burlingame, and Miraleste Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes.*



## Jeff Kinney

*Continued from page 1*

**PV Kids News:** Which book from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series is your favorite? Who is your favorite character?

**Jeff Kinney:** My favorite book is the first one, because before I had that one published, I hadn't had any success getting my cartoons read. I like Greg, but I like Rowley a lot. He's a pure kid, and he's not rushed to grow up, and I wish more kids were like him.

**PV Kids News:** Were you thrilled when you were asked about making your book into a movie?

**Jeff Kinney:** I felt a little nervous at first, because I wanted to make sure my books and my characters made the jump from the page to the screen really well, and so I was involved with the movie making from the beginning to the end to make sure that Greg, Rowley, and all of his friends were like the book characters when they were put on the screen.

**PV Kids News:** When did you first come up with the idea of writing a book about a wimpy kid in middle school?

**Jeff Kinney:** I first came up with the idea in January of 1998, a month and a half before Zach Gordon was born.

**PV Kids News:** Was writing always your favorite thing to do?

**Jeff Kinney:** No. Writing was always hard for me. It's still very hard for me. But I like being done with writing. I like feeling like I've accomplished something.

I do like drawing, but not when I'm drawing under a deadline.

**PV Kids News:** What is your favorite book or author, besides your own?

**Jeff Kinney:** When I was a kid, I really liked Judy Blume. She wrote stories that I could really relate to and that I felt were really funny.

**PV Kids News:** What character in the Wimpy Kid series is your favorite?

**Jeff Kinney:** I like Greg and Rowley, but I think Manny [Greg's younger brother who is still a toddler] is kind of fun, because I do a lot with him even though he can only say a little. He's like an evil genius.

**PV Kids News:** Was it hard writing sequels to Diary of a Wimpy Kid?

**Jeff Kinney:** Yes, I always found writing to be hard. I work really hard at it. I spend four hours coming up with each one joke, so it takes me a really long time to write each one of these books.

**PV Kids News:** How did you come up with the title, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*?

**Jeff Kinney:** I wanted to come up with a character who was imperfect, and I wanted to let you know up front that he was flawed. I think there are plenty of kids' characters that always do the right thing and are sort of heroes and miniature adults, and I wanted to create a kid who was really a kid.

**PV Kids News:** Are you working on any other book projects?

**Jeff Kinney:** I'm starting to think of some, and I'm asking myself what I'm going to do after *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. I'm not really sure. So, it will be interesting to see what happens next.

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Robert Capron (Rowley), Jeff Kinney, and Zachary Gordon (Greg)

## PRESSFRIENDS SUMMER NEWSWRITING CAMP

Join us on August 2, 3, 4, and 6 for a free summer newswriting camp for elementary school kids at the Peninsula Center Library. The camp will be held from 9:30-11:30 each day and there will be a reception for parents to view the summer edition of PV Kids News on the last day of camp.

**Space is limited, so register now, by contacting  
PressFriends at [info@PressFriends.org](mailto:info@PressFriends.org)**

*PressFriends are Palos Verdes middle and high school students who work with higher need elementary schools, helping them start and run their own student newspapers. PressFriends also work with PV elementary schools to help them start their own student newspapers and run this annual summer newswriting camp at the library. We also co-sponsor, with the Palos Verdes Library District, a kids' community newspaper, called PV Kids News, which is published three times a year—in the fall and spring, and as part of the summer newswriting camp.*

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### Submit Your Articles to PV Kids News!

PressFriends is a community service group formed by and run by kids for kids. Our mission is to make writing fun for elementary school kids while creating friendships among kids from diverse backgrounds.

During the school year, we mentor elementary schools to help them start their own elementary school newspapers.

We also are publishing *PV Kids News* three times a year, co-sponsored by the Palos Verdes Library District, and we welcome your articles!

We are looking for articles that are 150-250 words, and kids of any age can submit articles as long as the subject is appropriate for elementary school kids.

Our next summer issue has a deadline of July 31 if you are not in our summer newswriting camp. Most of the articles will come from our newswriting camp, but if you can't make it, please have your parent email your article to [info@pressfriends.org](mailto:info@pressfriends.org).

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