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PressFriends at Leland Street Elementary

By **Natalie O.**

At Leland Street Elementary School there is a program called PressFriends. I go to PressFriends. It is a good place to be. PressFriends is a program about writing. Since I have been there for two years, I have gotten better at writing and now my teacher, Mrs. Picazo, says that I am good at writing.

I love PressFriends because you get to be with different people and learn all about writing.

Students should join PressFriends because it is a good program and because they can learn about more about writing other than what they learn with their teachers. PressFriends is a good program for students.

The mentors that are in PressFriends are nice people. They help you correct your writing and they will help you learn more about writing.

The mentors that are in PressFriends are kind



to you and very funny. They are from local high schools.

Joining PressFriends is a good choice. A lot of students want to learn how to write, so this is an opportunity to have a program to show them how to write and learn more about writing.

Leland's Three Big Rules

By **Thalia F.**

At Leland Street Elementary School we have three big rules. The first is to be respectful. The second rule is to be responsible and the third is be safe. We have these rules to keep everyone safe.

Our Principal, Mrs. Caudill, is the best, and our Vice Principal is Mrs. Savage. They go to the yard sometimes to make sure we are being safe. Some people jump over

the benches and fall and hurt themselves.

We also learn not to talk to strangers even if they say that they want a kid to talk to or say they are

someone's parents, because you don't know who that person is. You should not take candy from a stranger because you don't know what is in the candy.



In school if you do something wrong like hit someone, you have to own up to it because you will be in more trouble if you do not.

Another example is if you call someone a bad name. You have to be responsible. If you are at an assembly, you should pay attention. If the teacher is speaking, you should listen. That is being respectful.

REPORTERS



Alexandra G.



Aminta L.



Angelina P.



Anthony L.



Brooklyn C.



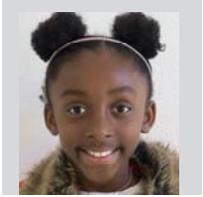
Carlos M.



Celena M.



Dezmond T.



Faith B.



Genesis S.



Geraldine S.



Guadalupe J.



Jonah H.



Julianna W.



Karla P.



LaTroyce T.



Maya N.



Natalie O.



Nevaeh C.



Noelani A.



Sindel-Dior C.



Sydney Z.



Thalia F.



Victoria G.



Zara M.

DO THE WRITE THING

Student Council at Leland

Student Council is very fun and a great opportunity. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Picazo are the teachers.

At the first session, we took a vote for the leaders. There is a President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, Military Representative, and a Class Representative.

Once we chose the jobs, the President led the meetings. Meetings were after school from 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm.

Student Council members hold the yearly pencil and candy gram school fundraisers and work at the assemblies for Student of the Month. They stand on the yard

where the assembly is held, volunteering their class time to hold the flag and pass out the awards.

There are rules. You cannot miss too much school, and if you have three strikes, you are out of Student Council.

You should give Student Council a try.

By Maya N.



Fitness Testing

There is a huge fitness test that includes push-ups, curl-ups, sit-ups, and an arm stretch. Fifth grade students trained especially hard for it. Some kids kind of like it, and I feel really happy and sad about it.

The kids who are not in fifth grade are really lucky because they do not have to do it. One time we had to run a mile because of the fitness test and my teacher said that the class had to beat their best time. I started

to run and on my fifth lap I could not run anymore because my ribs started to hurt, so I walked. When I made it to my teacher, my time was around six minutes. I thought I did really well.

By Aminta L.



Leland's Science Fair

Leland has a Science Fair where students in third grade and above participate. Topics included what melts an ice cube faster, on what surface does a lizard run faster, and what matter is.

When kids find out their topic, they give a teacher their name and

title. Kids have one month to figure out their project.

Everybody at our school turns in their project at a specific time or they are disqualified. Participants compete with other kids. There is a first, second, and third place winner, and a person who does not win but

still is honored!

At the Science Fair, you get to see other projects and try experiments in the auditorium. Each grade gets to go the Science Fair to see who won! After that, the winning students receive a medal to admire.

By Brooklyn C.



State Floats at Leland Street



Every year at Leland Street Elementary School, students below the fifth grade get to watch the fifth graders show off their state floats. A state float is a box that has items in it

that tell you about a state and cool information on it. Everyone gathers around the school yard and the fifth graders walk around the track and show their floats. Normally a float will have cool three-dimen-

sional pictures and items popping out of the box, such as a fake tree. The floats usually have state flowers or state birds and have facts on them. State floats are fun for all!

By Faith B.

Learning at Leland



Learning at Leland Street Elementary School involves many great activities. For example, Leland has Math Night, Literacy Night, Science Night, Back-to-School Night, and an Open House.

In all of these activities, we have fun things to do and we learn new things. During Math Night, teachers team up and show us cool games. At Literacy Night, if you go to a class with the book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, you will get to actually learn how to make oobleck.

Leland also has a Student Council, which is a group of kids who participate after school. They elect our representatives, and plan activities such as selling different items to get money to fund our school field trips. We learn how to work as an organization.

Leland also has robotics, which helps students learn more about electronics by making cool mini robots with a

program called Little Bits. We displayed our robotic inventions at San Pedro High, a great honor.

Leland has a Planetarium Club for sixth graders. The teacher, Mr. Miller, has his students make a planetarium. The Planetarium Club makes small models as well as larger ones.

At Leland we have learning programs like GAP (Gang Alternatives Program), where we learn say no to drugs and gangs,

Walk Through California, Walk Through the Revolutionary War and Walk Through the Ancient World, are programs to learn about history.

This year, the Leland Dragons got to experience the Great American Eclipse in August, and thanks to our principal, Mrs. Caudill, we had the opportunity to observe this event with special glasses and with our teachers.

Every grade gets to go on many field trips and we learn so much. It

is a tradition for Leland to go to the Nutcracker Ballet in December. This year the main field trips were going to the Mexican Navy Tall Ship called the Cuauhtemoc, visiting the Getty Museum and the Los Angeles Air Force Base, going on a sailboat trip, watching *The Jungle Book* movie, and visiting the Botanical Gardens.

One of my favorite programs this year is PressFriends, with a group of high school students who come and teach kids in our school about writing articles for a newspaper. At the end of PressFriends, the school students get a newspaper, filled with all the articles that Leland Dragons participating in the program wrote. The PressFriends program is so much fun, and because of it, I am writing this article.

Learning at Leland is awesome and a lot of fun. I convinced myself of it a long time ago and am glad I did.

By Geraldine S.

Leland's Latest News

Leland Street Elementary School has a program called Press-Friends. It is an after school program that meets in a computer lab most Thursdays. The student reporters work on articles for Leland's *Dragon Tales* newspaper.

The high schoolers help the students write their stories and reports. One of the high schoolers' name is Jiana and another one is named Amy. The cameraman's name is Preston. The program leader of the club at Leland is named

Alec. Some of the teachers' that help run the program are Mrs. Delgado, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Mrs. Picazo recently joined in to help out.

PressFriends is really fun.

By Genesis S.



Poetry Class

In Mr. Miller's class they have a poetry teacher named A.K. Toney. He teaches the class haikus, eight line poetry, and free verse poetry. He talks about how poetry helps people throughout life. Mr. Toney raps his poet-

ry. For example, there is this one poem about a school where there are no books and the kids are teaching themselves by the poetry on the walls. Mr. Toney also writes about his life. The class is going to make a

book full of poetry starting in April. Mr. Toney talks very loud but he teaches the students amazing things and important things in life, like how life is not going to be easy.

By Angelina P.



Student Led Conferences

Students of Leland Street Elementary School welcome their parents to campus during the parent conferences and show them all the great things they have learned while they were in school.

Recently, students

made a slideshow and a story about whether or not kids should have soda. When their parents came to school, they presented their project on soda.

They will also showed their parents their math and science

assignments, and their parents got to meet their children's teachers.

This was a fun experience for the students, teachers and parents.

By Karla P.



Mummifying a Fish



In Room 15 we mummified a fish. Our teacher, Mr. Miller, cut open a fish and removed its insides. He then stuffed the fish with tissue. Mr. Miller

taught us a Japanese art form where you put paint on the fish and print it on paper. He put baking soda in the fish and said that we could open it in 70

days, but the fish started to smell so Mr. Miller threw it away early. That is what happened in Room 15!

By Sindel Dior C.

Sixth Grade Science



In Room 15, Mr. Miller's class, the sixth graders worked on building a planetarium made from cardboard. They met every Wednesday from 2:30

pm to 3:30 pm.

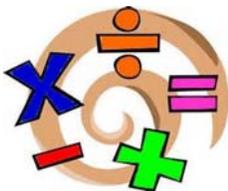
They planned to have multiple models and worked hard to build these for Leland Street Elementary School for

the Science Fair.

The sixth graders hoped that everyone enjoyed it.

By Guadalupe J.

School is the Best



In school we study science. It is the best because it is fun. For example, we get to combine liquids together.

In my class, we got to mix baking soda and vinegar together and it ex-

ploded. When we flipped the bag upside down it created gas. We screamed and I was shocked! That is why I love science!

However, math is so hard. My teacher tries to

make it harder. In the beginning of the year, math was easy and our class did well. Our teacher thought we needed more practice and made math harder.

By Noelani A.

Basketball



Basketball is a fun sport to play. It is fun because basketball players run, pass and dribble the ball, and shoot the ball. Players also make new friends while playing

the game and get to exercise too.

The shooter position is very easy. All that they have to do is practice shooting the ball at the backboard. Once they

have that down then they begin to hit the rim. After they get all of that down, they then try to shoot the ball in the hoop.

By Jonah H.

PressFriends

PressFriends is the best thing in school because it is better than geometry. Geometry is hard, and complicated.

In Geometry you have

to draw cubic shapes. Geometry is complicated because there are hard questions.

PressFriends is the best of all school activi-

ties. PressFriends is awesome because you can improve your writing and you can go to field trips.

By Carlos M.



What is Going on in School

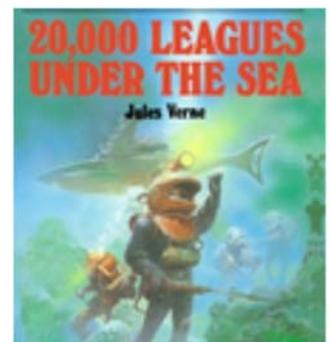
In Mrs. Delgado's class, we watched the movie *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*. The class read the book first before we

watched the movie.

In class we also do math. For some students math is hard and for others it is easy. We also read books and ro-

tated for science and social studies. This is what students did in Room 20.

By Sydney Z.



PressFriends is proud to sponsor Dragon Tales

PressFriends are middle and high school mentors who have been working with your after school newspaper club on *Leland's Dragon Tales* since February 2017.

PressFriends is all-volunteer and led by students.

PressFriends also works with 10 other programs and over 400 elementary students every year.

Dr. Rosalie, *Wild Kratts* and Marine Life



Dr. Rosalie del Rosario

On February 15th, a new visitor came to the PressFriends meeting. Everyone was wondering who she was.

When PressFriends started, she introduced herself as Dr. Rosalie del Rosario. She is a marine biologist and a policy advisor for NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) National Marine Fisheries Service. She also leads a program to conserve endangered marine species.

When Dr. del Rosario started talking about sea life, it started bringing back memories. I used to watch a show called "Wild Kratts" from kindergarten to third grade. I still watch it in my free time. I started remembering of all the episodes on ocean life and sea creatures. Eventually, I could tell my parents what kind of sea animal one was, and what animals usually lived in the ocean. Dr. del Rosario also talked to us about many different things she had laid out on the table in the front of our classroom. She brought interesting things to show us including a turtle (dead, of course) a pair of boots, and fur vests. She explained that the material



the boots were made out of was turtle skin. Poachers, or people who illegally kill animals, kill the turtles, and use their leather to make a variety of things, including boots, to sell.

We also studied a big brush-like material that is known as baleen. Baleen whales have baleen instead of teeth. Big whales like the blue whale have to have baleen in order to eat. When the whale is ready to eat, it opens its big mouth, and gets a mouth full of water. Then, the whale filters out all the water through the baleen, and the baleen traps little creatures, so the whale can have its food.

Next, Dr. del Rosario showed us cool whale teeth. She even brought one unidentified tooth. She said, marine biologists still didn't know what whale this particular tooth was from. She also showed us vests made out of seal skin.

Next, Dr. del Rosario showed us cool whale teeth. She even brought one unidentified tooth. She said, marine biologists still didn't know what whale this particular tooth was from. She also showed us vests made of seal skin.

Each person got to touch all the materials. The whale teeth were pretty heavy, and the baleen felt different. It felt rough at the bottom, but smooth on the inside and the outside. Then Dr. del Rosario explained the process of sea turtles hatching. I immediately recognized this from the *Wild Kratts*. I told her what I knew. The mother sea turtle comes and lays eggs on the beach. Then when the baby sea turtles hatch, they look for the light, because the light will always lead to the ocean. I also told her that only two or three out of at least twenty baby sea turtles live. The rest get eaten by predators such as seagulls and crabs.

Dr. del Rosario asked me where I learned all this. I told her about *Wild Kratts*. Because of her, I learned new things, and recalled my old memories.

By Geraldine S.



Marine Life Presentation

During the Marine Life Presentation we discussed how people are killing sea animals illegally and selling them. People have killed marine animals for their valuable properties such as pelts and teeth. People use pelts for clothes and blankets. Teeth were commonly used for jewelry and decoration. Turtles

were hunted for their shells and leather skin. The shells were polished for decoration and their skin was used for boots, which were very popular. Some of these items were so popular that some marine animals were nearly hunted into extinction. Sperm whales were hunted for the wax in their heads. People used the

wax as fuel for lanterns. It was so widely used that the whales were nearly hunted into extinction. However, people have started to take action to preserve the marine wildlife in the ocean. Hopefully the world will put a complete stop to the illegal poaching of marine animals.

By Sydney Z.



A Hawksbill Turtle

A hawksbill sea turtle is a turtle that is known for its narrow pointed beak and pretty patterned shell. The hawksbill turtle has lived

on earth for at least 100 million years but it is now endangered. Hawksbill turtles weigh 90 to 150 pounds. Their length is 30 to 35 inches. They live

in the coastal waters when they are older and they stay in the ocean when they are younger.

By Alexandra G.



Why Do People Kill Whales?

Whales are one of the sea mammals that are being killed by humans. They are one of the largest animals on Earth and the largest animal that lives in the ocean.

Whales are even bigger than some dinosaurs. Whales can weigh up to 150 tons and their length is up to 100 feet long. The humpback whales weigh up to 45 tons. Their length can be up to

15 feet.

Since whales are mammals, their babies drink milk and breathe air. Since they are not fish, they don't have gills. Whales live in a large group that is called a "pod." A baby whale is called a "calf."

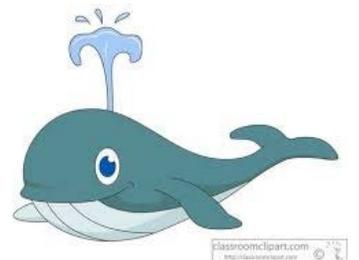
Whales are being killed by humans because humans want their meat, oil, and blubber.

Some people also kill

them for fun. Hunting for whales is called "whaling". In Iceland, it is not illegal to hunt whales like it is in the United States.

One benefit of making whaling illegal in the United States is that they become less endangered since fewer whales are being killed. Hopefully, we can help them become not endangered.

By Natalie O.



Sea Turtles



One thing about turtles is that they are endangered. People are actually killing turtles to make leather boots and other products. The mother turtle lays her eggs

and leaves them. Turtles dig holes to lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch they crawl their way back to the water. Sometimes the baby turtles do not make it, and they die. If they

make it, they are on their own. This is why people should protect sea turtles.

By Jonah H.

Marine Life Presentation



I think marine life is cool. What about you? I loved getting to see all the things that Dr. Del Rosario brought to Press-Friends. It was interesting to see the turtle and

the boots made out of turtle. It was very fun to see and I love turtles so much! One of the best things to learn about was the salmon life cycle. I also enjoyed seeing

the baleen and teeth from the whale and the jackets made from seal fur!

By Zara M.

Sea Lions and Why They Are Important



Seals and sea lions are not the same! A sea lion's diet includes squid, fish, salmon, hake, pacific whiting, anchovy, herring, rock fish, lamprey, dogfish, and market fish. The difference between sea lions and

seals is that sea lions bark loudly and can walk on land. Seals walk on their bellies. Sea lions, seals, and walrus are called pinnipeds which means "having feet with fins" in Latin. The sea lion's scientific name is

Otariinae. Fur seals live in the Northern Pacific, Asia, North and South America. They are really furry which is why Native Americans killed them for clothes. That is why sea lions are important.

By Genesis S.

Marine Life



I learned that you can make shoes out of a turtle skin. Turtles are in danger. They look like they have a lot of scales.

We also learned about whales. A fourteen year old whale learned how to say hello and a lot more. They also learned a lan-

guage and it was so amazing. Whales weigh a lot.

By Julianna W.

The Red Ear Slider Turtle

The red ear slider turtles are very aggressive. They need light, heat, food, and clean water. They hang upside down when they sleep. They move the rocks and

sleep under the filter or heater. They like to eat lettuce. Turtles dig because they get hungry or bored. They may be digging because they are looking for a spot to lay

there eggs. They like to play around in the water. Turtles are very interesting.

By Anthony L.



Marine Life

Turtles are endangered because they are being hunted down for their leather. Their leather is used for boots and their shell is used for decoration. Their shells feel pretty rough.

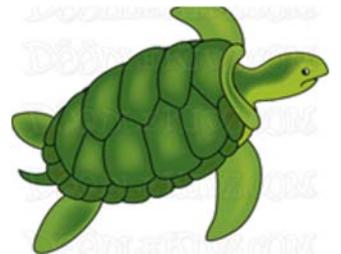
Sea lions' fur feels nice and they are hunted for their soft fur. Their fur is used for coats.

Sperm whales have teeth that are used for prey. Blue whale's baleen help them eat because

they do not have teeth.

There is a life cycle of a salmon. The salmon life cycle starts with an egg then becomes a little fish, and eventually a grown salmon.

By Carlos M.



SUMMER READING FUN

Here are some books you might want to look up at the library this summer. These books are listed on readbrightly.com as for advanced 4th and 5th grade readers.

The Alchemist by Michael Scott follows the adventures of Sophie and Josh as they track down the elixir of life.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke. Meggie's father has the ability to "read" characters from books into the real world, which leads to Meggie to challenge the evil ruler from another land.

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster. This follows Milo and the watchdog, Tock, and their escapades in the Lands Beyond.

The Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart. This is about four gifted kids on a secret mission to save the world.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett. This is a puzzle-filled mystery about two kids trying to track down an art thief.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. This is about two distinct but intertwining stories about Rose and Ben and their unique quests.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls. You'll like this book if you like emotion-filled stories.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams is a class sci-fi comedy book.

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan. This book weaves together three powerful stories from three different cities both before and after World War II.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin. Minli goes on an incredible journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis. This is a story of a middle-class black family who travel from Michigan to Birmingham in the middle of 1963.



BMW



BMW, also known as Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft, is based in Munich, Germany. It is a car company located in 140 countries. BMW also creates different types of models such as the BMW M4, i8, and

the M5. The BMW i8 is a hybrid sports car, which means it has a gasoline engine and an electric motor. It costs \$140,400 and produces 347 horsepower. Brandon Awadis, a famous YouTuber, owns an BMW i8. The

people who own BMWs are influential to the BMW community and the world in general. Because of these reasons, BMW are one of the most well known cars around the world.

By Carlos M.

Green Bay Packers



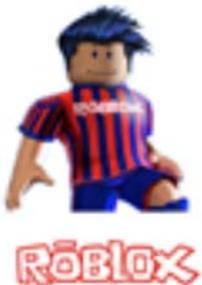
The Green Bay Packers are in the National Football Conference (NFC). The Packers have won four Super Bowls. They won their first Super Bowl in 1966, the second in 1967, as well as winning Super Bowls in 1996 and 2010. They have the second best

Quarterback (QB) Aaron Rodgers. Vince Lombardi is a legendary Packer coach. The NFL Super Bowl trophy is named the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The Green Bay Packers won seven games in the 2017 season. They saved 12 million dollars on running

back (RB) James Starks and cornerback Sam Shields (CB). The best player on the Green Bay Packers is QB Aaron Rodgers because he can throw the ball 79 yards across the football field!

By Anthony L.

Roblox is the Best



Roblox is one of the best games ever. Some people play Roblox and give the game a high rating because they love playing it. In Roblox you can play and make friends in the game. Players can join their friend's game and play

together. Kids of all ages can play Roblox because it is not inappropriate and there are no bad words. Kids become sad if they do not get to play Roblox. Some kids play Roblox and get Robux (the game's money) to buy clothes and

accessories in the game. Kids play Roblox because it is fun and entertaining. Some kids play it because they just want to be with their friends. That is why kids love Roblox.

By Natalie O.

El Grande Cantinflas

Families all over Mexico ran to their television sets for this man's movies. His name was Cantinflas, a well known and loved name around Mexico. Cantinflas' real name is Mario Fortino Alfonso Moreno Reyes, but people don't usually call him that. He was born on August 12, 1911 in Mexico City and died on April, 20 1993. Cantinflas was a great comedian in Hollywood.

People called him the "Charlie Chaplin of Mexico." He has been in over 30 black and white movies. Cantinflas tried a few professions before finding his true passion, including medicine and professional boxing. He tried dancing, which led him to acting. Cantinflas starred in *El Bolero de Raquel*, his first film to be distributed in the United States by Columbia Pictures. In 1956,

Cantinflas received a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy for *Around the World in 80 Days*. This was a big achievement. The year it came out, it made \$42 million and in 2013 it made \$355 million. As a result, Cantinflas became the world's best paid actor. He got his own star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

By Guadalupe J.



Different Types of Soda

Coke, Sprite, Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper are all very popular sodas around the world. Almost everyone has tried these things. A 20 ounce bottle of soda has approximately 39 grams of sugar.

Coke was made in May 8, 1886 in Atlanta,

Georgia made by a person named John Pemberton. He failed at being a pharmacist. He made a lot of medicine but it did not make a lot of money.

Coke has eight different flavors. Fanta Klare Zitronen was renamed

Sprite in 1968. Dr. Pepper was made in a drug store in Waco, Texas. Pepsi was first named Brad's Drink when it was made in North Carolina.

Sodas have brought joy to the world.

By Zara M.



Horses

Horses are really fun to learn about because they can do a lot of strange things and they come in a variety of colors. They are fun to do tricks with and ride. For example, they could fall asleep while standing up. Horses can open the

stalls for other horses around them. Also, horses' teeth never stop growing. There is at least 58,000,000 horses in the world. There are 17 colors of horses which are chestnut, sorrel, black, brown, gray, bay, palomino, buckskin,

cremello, perlino, white, dun, red dun, grullo, red roan, bay roan and blue roan. You can teach your horses to bow, smile and jump. So in conclusion, horses are really fun to study.

By Karla P.



King Cobras



The largest a King Cobra can get is 18 ½ feet and the average size is 13 feet in length. They are largest cobra out of all the species of cobras. The King Cobra has one of longest forked tongues of all snake species. They

also use their tongues to smell all around them. King Cobras can identify if a prey is coming from 300 feet away. They are also known for their really good eye vision. King Cobras are mainly found in India and around Asia. King Co-

bras like to stay close to bodies of water. They are mostly found in unusual places. They will do most of their hunting at night.

By Jonah H.

Potatoes



Other than potatoes' great taste, potatoes also have many health benefits. Potatoes are a great source of vitamin B6, potassium, and vitamin C. While potatoes are good for you, they can also cause blood sugar levels to rise quickly. A lot

of foods are made of potatoes such as potato chips, potato salad, and french fries. People can also bake potatoes. Potatoes are a vegetable, but they have a lot of starch which makes them very similar to pasta and rice. The word

potato comes from the Spanish word "patata." Potato plants are pollinated by bumblebees. There are many different types of potatoes, such as the Yukon and the Fingerling potato.

By Sindel Dior-C.

Komodo Dragons



Komodo dragons eat meat like wild pigs, deer, water buffalo and dead fish. They eat almost anything that is meat. Komodo dragons are large green lizards

that are 10 feet tall and about 157 pounds when they are adults. The girls lay eggs and when the eggs hatch, the mom dies and the babies are on their own. Other

Komodo dragons eat the baby Komodo dragons when the babies don't grow.

By Noelani A.

The Grammys

On January 28, 2018, the Grammys took place at the Madison Square Garden in New York. Bruno Mars took home six Grammys because of his album *24k Magic*. Kesha performed her song, *Praying*, with women who were victims of abuse. Cardi B performed *Finesse* with Bruno Mars.

She did not win any Grammys but later she posted on Twitter that she was so happy that she got to sing with Mars. She said that if one day he needed a kidney she would be happy to donate. The winner of Best Pop Vocal Album award was Ed Sheeran's album, *Divide*. He also won

award for the Best Pop Solo with his song *Shape of You*. Shakira's *El Dora-do* won the Grammy for the Best Latin Album. Alessia Cara was named the Best New Artist. These artists are all so talented and they are changing the history of music.

By Genesis S.



Mackenzie Ziegler

Mackenzie Ziegler is a really famous person. Mackenzie is famous because she was on a show called *Dance Moms*, where she was one of the few dancers. She is the youngest in her family.

Another interesting fact about Mackenzie Ziegler is that she also has two half brothers from her father's last marriage and step sister from her mom's last marriage. Ziegler used to play soccer, and she loves

peanut and butter jelly sandwiches. A weird and surprising fact about Ziegler is that when she was born her original name was Taylor but two days later her parents changed it to Mackenzie.

By Nevaeh C.



White Siberian Tigers

The White Siberian Tiger's color is due to a genetic defect that makes them lack orange pigment. White Siberian Tigers can be found in Asian countries such as

China and India. White Siberian Tigers grow faster and weigh more than regular tigers. Males weigh up to 200 to 230 kilograms and grow up to three meters in length.

Some people may want a White Siberian Tiger as a pet but they are dangerous by the age of six months. .

By Alexandra G.



Unicorns



Most people have heard of the mystical unicorn. You cannot hunt unicorns without an official Unicorn Hunting License. Unicorns do not have wings. If a unicorn and Pegasus mate, they will become “flying unicorns.” Anyone who touches a pure unicorn

will experience happiness for the rest of life. Unicorn horns were sold in pharmacies to cure severe illness in the United Kingdom in the 1700s. Unicorns mainly eat hay cupcakes but also absorb nutrients from the sun. The eyes of real unicorns are sky blue or purple.

Fake unicorns have brown, yellow, green, or black eyes. Only real unicorns have blue or white fur. Unicorns live in families of four or five. When unicorns meet, they travel for a few weeks together and then they go their separate ways.

By Maya N.

Bringing Toys To School



Kids should bring their toys to school because it is boring to play in the same areas, it does not leave kids sitting alone, and it would be fun for them to bring their own items!

They should bring their toys because it is boring to play in the same areas. Kids always have to play basketball or kickball all the time. It is fun to have something new.

Kids should bring their toys to school because it doesn't leave you sitting alone. A lot of kids sit on the bench alone with nothing to do. They can't even bring class items outside. If they bring their own toys to school they could hang out with people and play with them! Kids would be having fun with their toys and there would be smiles everywhere! Everyone would

socialize, share and play with each other. Kids in every grade would be able to play and not be bored with toys to keep them company. In conclusion, kids should bring their toys to school because it's boring to play in the same areas, it doesn't leave kids sitting alone, and it would be fun!

By Brooklyn C.

The Doge



Everyone knows the doge. It is the cutest tiny and lazy dog in the meme world. But no one has ever questioned what breed he is. He is a special type of breed. He is a Shiba Inu, a very old

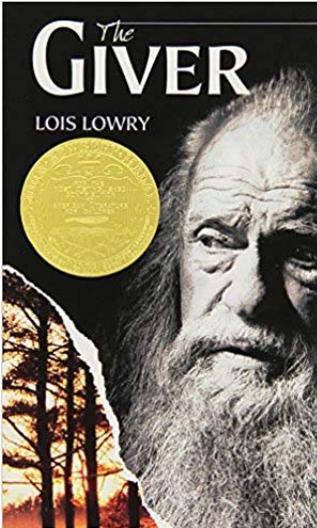
and wise type of dog breed. Most people want a doge because of its stretchy cheeks or because they want to have a very popular but cute and funny puppy. The doge is a very cute

and chubby breed. He has a weird fluffy looking haircut. The year the cute little doge became popular was 2013.

By Genesis S.

Lois Lowry

Lois Lowry is a famous author. She wrote *The Giver*, *Number of the Stars*, and *Gathering Blue*. *The Giver* and *Number of the Stars* won the



John Newbery Medal.

Lowry was born on March 20, 1937 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She has two other siblings: her older sister, Helen, and her younger brother, Jon. Her dad was an army dentist, so she traveled a lot when she was young. Lois started elementary school in New York and she finished it in Pennsylvania. When the war started and her dad went overseas, she moved to Tokyo and finished middle school there. Lois finished high school in New York City and then went to Brown University.

Lois married at age 19 to a naval officer named Donald Lowry. She had two daughters and two sons. Her children grew up in Maine. Lois went back to college and attended University of Southern Maine. She then started professionally writing. In 1977, Lois and her husband split and then she married Martin Small. In 2011, Martin passed away. Now Lois lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts by herself with a Tibetan Terrier named Alfie and a cat named Lulu.



By Angelina P.

Jim Thorpe in *Undefeated*

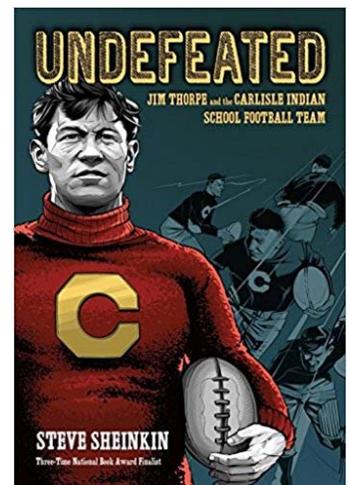
Undefeated was written by Steve Sheinkin, a three-time National Book Award finalist. It is about one of the greatest football players and athletes, Jim Thorpe, and is



inspirational. Thorpe was an American athlete and Olympic Medalist in the early 1900s, and the first Native American to win a Gold medal. When Thorpe and the football coach Pop Warner met, they forged one of the best football teams in American football history. Warner, Thorpe, and the Carlisle Indians, are known as “the team that invented football.” *Undefeated* isn’t just about Jim Thorpe, it is also about The Carlisle School, which

tried to change Native American lives by teaching them white culture. Children were removed from their homes to attend schools to change their customs and civilization, a clear example of racism at the time. Warner, Thorpe and the team managed to change the way football was seen at that time and still today. They opened the doors for the Native American athletes and together they made history.

By Geraldine S.



So Cal Vocals Performance



Nina is a 19-year-old young lady who is in the So Cal Vocals singing group at USC. Her parents are both into music. Her dad was in a rock band and her mom is in opera. When she was little, Nina looked up to Beyoncé, Tori Kelly, Jen-

nifer Hudson, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and more. Beyoncé is her favorite singer.

Nina practices two hours every day. She started singing 18 years ago, and she started in a cappella one year ago. Her favorite movie is Coco. She said if

she was a big hit she would want to win a Grammy. She loves to sing because she says it is therapeutic and it releases strength. Nina loves to sing and is so happy to be in So Cal Vocals.

By Genesis S.

An Amazing Voice/Person



Nina Nelson

Nina is one of the So Cal Vocals. She is 19 years old. She started singing with the So Cal Vocals group when she was 18 years old. All of the people who saw Nina sing thought she was amazing. What inspired Nina to sing was growing up with her parents and always listening to music. Her favorite singers are

Beyoncé and Billie Holiday. In my opinion, Nina's singing is way better than Beyoncé's singing. The So Cal Vocals favorite performances were when they sang in front of Barack Obama and Taylor Swift. Nina says the So Cal Vocals vote on their songs. She also mentioned that she didn't get accepted to the

So Cal Vocals the first time so she applied again. A couple of fun facts about Nina are that she is from San Francisco, she was born in 1998, and she loves songs by someone named Yebba. Nina is an amazing singer and person is because she gave other people advice about singing.

By Nevaeh C.

The Day Nina Became a Singer



Nina is a girl who is 19 years old. She was born in 1998 and lived in San Francisco. Nina's mom was an opera singer and Nina's father is a rock star. Nina and her a cappella group practice for two hours a day, even when they are not working on

something important.

Nina likes to act and she was in the top five finalists for the role of Moana in the Disney movie. She was very happy about that. Nina said to "Try new things" when you are going to sing a song.

Nina is a fan of girl singers and groups. Nina

likes to sing. Nina is in her second year at USC. Nina sang "Love on the Brain" for her first audition. She was contacted by "The Voice" on television. Even though Nina is young she has come a long way for her years.

By Celena M.

The Amazing So Cal Vocals

Have you ever heard of the So Cal Vocals? Well, they are only the greatest a cappella group in singing history! Nina, a member, says she loves the whole experience of being in the group. Her favorite part is everything! She practices two hours per day. Her most favorite performance was for Barack

Obama and Taylor Swift. The So Cal Vocals even got a selfie with Michelle Obama! This a cappella group sings up to 20-40 performances each year. The So Cal Vocals pick their songs by suggesting songs by name and voting. Nina has been singing for 18 years. Her favorite memory in So Cal Vocals

was singing for a surprise at a Sweet 16. She likes to act in her free time. Her favorite movies are *The Changeling* and *Coco*. She is very talented and was one of the top five singers picked to play the voice of Moana. Now that is a very amazing talent!

By Maya N.



The Local So Cal Vocal Member

The definition of an amazing singer is Nina! Nina has such a beautiful voice. She is in the So Cal Vocals. She inspired me to sing and when I grow up to try out for the So Cal Vocals.

She put a lot of years and practice into being a great singer, and she turned out to be more than a great singer! I feel like whoever listens to Nina will be super inspired just like I was. I

was truly inspired and I want to work harder to become like Nina! I feel like she can win anything with her voice. I think she's a HUGE inspiration! I hope you do too!

By Sindel Dior-C.



Nina's Singing Sensation

Nina is a young singer whom I interviewed at the University of Southern California. Nina started singing when she was one year old. Nina is 19 years old, so she started singing 18 years ago. One of the songs she loved to sing with her group was "Heard It Through the Grapevine." Nina wants to do art and music when

she graduates from USC. Nina also sings solo by herself. She has been studying psychology. Nina's favorite singer is Beyoncé, to whom she looks for inspiration. Nina's advice to young singers is to drink a lot of water and don't sing in the wrong tone. She said that singers who want to get into So Cal Vocals should be yourself and

put in hard work. Nina told us that when she auditioned for So Cal Vocals she didn't get in at first but she kept trying and put in hard work and she made it the next year she tried out. We asked Nina how many performances So Cal Vocals do every year and she said 20-40. Wow.

By LaTroyce T.



Nina Nelson

Nina Nelson



Nina Nelson

At USC there is a really special a cappella group known as the So Cal Vocals. PressFriends got the opportunity to interview one of the members, Nina Nelson. Nina is a 19-year-old USC student. She has been singing for 18 years. Her

favorite song to sing in the So Cal Vocals is *Attention* by Charlie Puth. Nina even sings solos. She also loves acting and has auditioned for many television shows. She got to the top five trying out for the movie *Moana*. Nina's favorite artists are Beyoncé and

Billie Holliday. When Nina auditioned for the So Cal Vocals she sang *Love on the Brain* by Rihanna. Nina performed for PressFriends and she nailed it. Hearing Nina sing was an experience we will never forget!

By Guadalupe J.

Nina's Life



Nina's life started in 1998 in San Francisco. She loves Yebba and wants to perform for her. Nina and her group the So Cal Vocals performed for Taylor Swift and Barack Obama. Nina auditions for movies and television

shows too. Fun fact: she was in the final five for the role of Moana. Nina has been in USC for two years. She joined a cappella after getting in on her second try. She does 20-40 performances every year. Nina likes the song *Still in*

Love and auditioned using *Love on the Brain*. For singing, Nina says "Just Do It!" She wants to continue to do music in her life. That is the end of the story about Nina!

By Zara M.

Nina Sings all her Life



Nina loves to sing. Nina went to a girl's birthday party. The birthday girl did not know Nina was coming. The birthday girl is Nina's number one fan. Nina goes to USC. he is a great singer. She started to sing because her mom was a singer and her dad was a

singer so she knew she could be a singer too. Nina has sung every year for 18 years. She sings solo sometimes. Nina sang for PressFriends today with her friends. Nina is nice and has long hair in a bun. She is in college. Nina was wearing a red USC t-shirt. Ni-

na sang to us again in our classroom. Nina is so good at singing. She was wearing earrings. Nina looks nice. When you are in college you can be a singer. Nina is a nice singer.

By Victoria G.

So Cal Vocals

When you think of So Cal Vocals who do think of? Well, I think of Nina Nelson. Nina is an amazing singer. She started singing 18 years ago, which is as long as she can remember. She likes being in So Cal Vocals because you don't have to major in singing

to join. Nina's favorite song is *Magnets* by Lorde and *Disclosure*. Her two favorite singers are Beyoncé and Billie Holliday. Nina's advice to people who want to join So Cal Vocals is to just do it and never stop. She is studying theatre and psychology. Her

advice to singers about vocal health is to stay hydrated. Her favorite memory about So Cal Vocals is when she surprised a fan for her 16th birthday. That is why Nina Nelson is an amazing singer.

By Angelina P.



How Fake News Is Ruining Real News

Ethical journalists told us that social media is doubted. Newspapers thought they would take over, but social media came up with You Tube, Twitter, and a lot of other websites. Social media was the one to take over. There was a fake story

put on social media saying there was a big flood with sharks swimming on a highway. It freaked everyone out but it was all fake news. Millions of people believed it! The way to figure out if it's fake news or not is to go to Google and search to check. So-

cial media can give us so much information by just a touch of a finger. We need to promise that we won't just believe fake news. We should Google it and really find out if it is fake.

By LaTroyce T.



The Truth Behind Fake News

Did you know people make fake news? Do you know what fake news is? False news is when people make news that isn't true. Did you also know people photo shop? Once there was a photo of a shark in the highway and some peo-

ple thought it was real. They posted it on Instagram, Twitter and other social media sites. That isn't good because a lot of people will be confused. People will think something else and vote the opposite, causing arguments and crazy-

ness. The internet cannot be controlled. There are postings about blue whales that are not true and some have been killed. Fake news can cause many problems.

By Aminta L.



Alyssa Lyon talked about fake news.

Rockets



Daniel Depew

Today I'm going to talk about Daniel Depew's presentation about rockets. He described what a rocket is. He told us about Newton's third law: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. He also told us

about chemistry building blocks of matter: Atoms make up everything. If you have a lot of H₂O you can make a liquid. Daniel also talked about rocket fuels. Ionic liquids stay in the liquid phase. Different combinations of

cations and anions are possible. Daniel said when he was little he loved space and rockets. Atoms go with nuclear atoms and make molecules.

By Sydney Z.

Social Media Warning!



Alyssa Lyon

Remember that printed paper everyone used to read, the newspaper? Everybody used to get all of their information from the newspaper! Nowadays people get all of their information from social media, television and other devices. Two out of every ten adults read the newspaper, while other parents get their news from

social media. Who provided all of this information? Alyssa Lyon knows when she sees fake news. Alyssa notices that when a celebrity says "Buy this, it's good," then people buy it! If celebrities are encouraging people to buy their products, they get paid more. Since Alyssa is an educated student and is intelligent, she knows

what is fake. She is also wise and knows it is not just the creators, it is also the readers who need to pay attention to know what they are working on, and get their information correct. Alyssa is one of the reasons why people are noticing fake news and making a change for newspapers!

By Brooklyn C.

People Should Save Water!



Avanti Baroni

Do you know that average Americans use up to 80 to 100 gallons of water a day? Some kids in other parts of the world have to wake up very early and walk eight miles to get their family water. We are very lucky to have water that

is clean! Some parts of the world don't have access to clean water. Some ways to save water are to brush your teeth without the water running, scrub the dishes and then rinse them, and take a quick shower. An example of wasting water

is having your sprinkler on when it is raining. Water comes from aqueducts, rain water and mountains.

In conclusion, I think people should save water.

By Thalia F.

Social Media: Is it Good? Bad? Or Ugly?

We don't know what we put on social media these days. In my opinion, social media can have good uses. You just have to be smart in its uses, and post things that are healthy. If it's private, don't post it. Alyssa Lyon was our speaker at USC. She spoke about Ethical Journalism. She explained how, in social

media, there can be "fake news." Our parents always tell us social media is bad, but actually 2/3 of all adults use social media. Social media has global engagement, and is highly interactive. If someone posts something wrong, then sooner or later the whole world can see it. We as writers have to be like detec-

tives, to see if we can spot fake news. It is up to the users to spot fake news, and try to stop it. Spiderman quote: "With great power comes great responsibilities." I believe this because, what you post is your responsibility. Only you have the power to control what you post on social media.

By Geraldine S.



Alyssa Lyon

What is Social Media?

What is social media? Well, social media is websites like Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and more. Alyssa Lyon will tell you all about social media.

Alyssa discovered that not all pictures or news are true. Some

people do cyberbullying on social media. The topic is important because she is discovering things that people don't know about social media.

Alyssa is a student who goes to USC for graduate school. She will tell you a lot of things

about social media. She said that in 2017, two-thirds of adults got their news from social media. She knows all about social media. Just go ask Alyssa and she will tell you all the secrets.

By Natalie O.



Water

Avanti Baroni and Hason Khan talked about water. Water is important. Water comes from mountains. Water also comes from aqueducts. Do you want to know what drought means? It is when we

lose a lot of water. If you drink water that is old you can get very sick. Potable means safe to drink. If you have a family of four you are using 400 gallons of water on average. One person uses 80 to 100 gallons

of water. Consumption means to use water.

I learned a lot from these speakers, it was very interesting to learn all about water.

By Julianna W.



Hason Khan



Avanti Baroni

The World of Water

Our water comes from rain, snow, mountains and rivers. An average person drinks about 80 to 100 gallons of water a day. In 2015, 99 percent of the United States population had access to water. However, water prices in Ameri-

ca are increasing. Kids in Africa have to wake up early, walk three miles to get water and then walk back holding eight gallons of water. The water that the kids in Africa often get is actually dirty water. They can get sick from drinking the dirty water.

Some important terms about water are consumption (to use), reservoirs (where water is stored), drought (not a lot of water) and potable (safe to drink). This is why we should save water.

By Jonah H.

The Wonders of Water



Our water comes from rain water, snow and mountains. They store water in reservoirs. Californians use about 85 gallons of water a day! You use water for your showers, sinks, hoses, dishwashers, toilet and more. Nearly 2.1 billion

people globally lack access to water. 4.4 billion people lack access to sanitation. You can get sick by drinking dirty salt water. Potable water is safe to drink. To save water you can turn off the water when you brush your teeth and

take shorter showers. Those are good ways to save water in your home. In Los Angeles we get our water from the L.A. Aqueduct. That is why water is so important to the world.

By Anthony L.

Washing Water



The word consumption means to use, so for water it means to drink or use water. People use water to take showers and baths every day, and to use the faucet and

brush their teeth. Aqueducts are tunnels where water comes from. Water is from an aqueduct so that is where clean water comes from. It also comes from rain.

Clean water also comes from icebergs melting and going into the tunnels.

By Alexandra G.

Save the H2O

I think kids should save water because that's how we take baths, showers, how you clean and how you drink. Avanti and Hason told us that they want us to save water. This is the reason why we should save water: so some kids can

use it to clean themselves and drink. If we don't save water we can get less water to use to do things. If we get rain it's a good thing but if we get only a little bit of rain people in Africa barely get water. If you want to save water take short

baths and take a three-minute shower. If you save water you can save the world. Here's why: when you save water you help people's lives. If you water your plants, water them for five minutes a day or less.

By Dezmond T.



Hason Khan

Water

Currently 99% of the United States population has access to water (2015). But water prices are increasing. Fact: water must be potable or safe in order to drink it. Basically water can become dirty like ocean water and if you

drink dirty water you will get sick. That means that the 2.1 billion people who lack water have poor access to clean water and fresh water. Most water we drink comes from water sources like ponds. Playtime or recess for children who lack access

to water means having to walk three miles and back to get possibly dirty water. We are lucky because we are able to access water by turning a knob.

By Faith B.



Water

Water is always needed in life. Did you know the average American uses 80 to 100 gallons of water per day? In Africa children have to wake up at 3:00 a.m. to get water (4-8 gallons) for their day and carry it back home, and then go to school. Many kids in Africa don't go to school. They stay home to get more water and then rest after getting the water

because they are too sore to go to school. Currently, 99% of the US population has access to water (in 2015). That means only 1% of the US population has no water.

By Karla P.

Saving water is like saving the world. Saving the water is a great thing, you can become a hero. If you save water you can also save

others' lives, animals and plants. If you're with me say Splash! Now I didn't get my evidence by myself, I had a speaker who talked about saving water and I took notes. Let's move on to the topic of access to water. Where I live, Los Angeles, is where the worst drought is. Saving water is very important.

By Carlos M.



The First Sight



In *Shrek the Musical*, Shrek climbed Fiona's tall big tower. It seemed like he was in pain. He finally made it. He took a big breath. Fiona pretended to fake sleep. He sighed. He bashed her head on a pillow. She

woke up. Fiona wakes up and gives Shrek a tissue of some sort. "I give you this token for your bravery," says happy Fiona. Shrek grabs it and wipes his sweaty parts and says thank you. The dragon roars!

"You didn't slay the dragon," yells Fiona. "Not yet," said Shrek. Then they defeated the dragon, she was still alive. Then they walked along to finish their adventure back to the castle.

By Karla P.

The Mystery?

Who were the characters in *Shrek the Musical*? What I mean by that is who are Princess Fiona, Shrek, Donkey and Lord Farquaad? I liked the play because it

was funny. What I like is when Shrek and Fiona had a gas and burp contest. It was pretty funny. What I also liked was when Lord Farquaad's dad came and he was

like a little kid. It was super funny. My last part that I liked was when Shrek and Fiona got married.

By Nevaeh C.



Shrek the Musical

Shrek the Musical was amazing. I loved when Lord Farquaad married Fiona. I also loved the gas scene when Shrek and Fiona were blowing gas at each other. I think that was one of the funniest parts.

My favorite character was Donkey because of how he was getting on Shrek's nerves. I also liked when they all came out to sing. That was beautiful. But it wasn't so beautiful when the huge dragon witch (who Donkey said was his wife) chased Lord Farquaad

backstage and Lord Farquaad's crown came flying out. I felt so bad for Lord Farquaad.

Geraldine's favorite part of the musical was at the beginning when Shrek and Fiona didn't have a good relationship and how at the end they have a good relationship.

Her favorite character was Donkey because he was funny. Her favorite part of the scene "I Got You Beat" was even though Fiona was a princess it shows that girls can do what boys do.

Sindel's favorite part

of the musical was that the characters' voices were very beautiful. Her favorite character was Donkey because he was funny. She also liked Lord Farquaad because he was funny and short so she felt like she was tall.

Lupita's favorite part of the musical was how funny and creative they were. Her favorite character was Lord Farquaad because of the way he talked.

I think that *Shrek* was overall a great musical.

By LaTroyce T.



Laughs with Shrek and Fiona

My favorite scene in *Shrek the Musical* was when Shrek and Fiona sang “I Think I Got You Beat.” It was different compared to the other scenes and it was funny seeing Shrek and Fiona fighting about who had it worse. For example, when Fiona says she was locked in a tower for 20 years, then Shrek says he was kicked out of his

home on his birthday when he turned seven. What I enjoyed was how it was more like whose life was the saddest but when they thought they were winning they sounded more and more happy. I wanted to see what other people’s favorite parts were too. Geraldine really liked that in the scene Fiona doesn’t act like a posh princess. Instead,

Fiona is competitive, funny and kind. Geraldine says that is what makes Fiona and Shrek’s friendship so interesting. Sindel’s favorite part of the scene was when they sang and their voices overlapped. I recommend this musical to everyone because it is funny and creative.

By Guadalupe J.

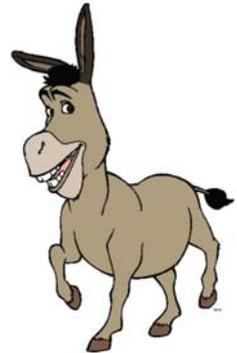


Beating the Beats

Shrek the Musical was great! I liked the vocals, actors, snacks and the theater, but that’s just to name a few! My favorite scene was when Shrek and Fiona sang “I Think I Got You Beat.” It was funny, entertaining and their voices were beautiful. My favorite characters were Fiona, Shrek, and Donkey. Fiona

and Shrek had an argument, but in singing. Some reasons why I love the scene are the vocals, they were strong and beautiful. It was also funny, when Shrek and Fiona started a gas match. I interviewed my friends Lupita, Geraldine and LaTroyce. Lupita said, “I liked how they battled to see whose life

was worse, it was really funny!” Geraldine said, “The Princess, Fiona, did something un-princessy and passed gas, and it made it funny!” LaTroyce said, “It was funny, I forgot what that song is.” I would recommend this show to my family and friends! You should see it too!



Shrek the Musical

My favorite parts of *Shrek the Musical* were when Shrek and all his other friends start singing all together and a bunch of fairy tale characters just jump on the stage and start sing-

ing all together out of nowhere. One reason I liked that part was because they all sang together. It was so sweet how all the good fairy tale characters sang together in harmony. Lastly, I liked the

singing because it was so loud and you could hear it across the room. I liked Princess Fiona and the three little pigs and bears.

By Faith B.



Shrek the Musical



Shrek the Musical was a funny and interesting musical. The funniest part was when Shrek and Lord Farquaad were arguing. They had their funny moments and sad moments. My favorite character is the Donkey. The

Donkey did the most comedy in every scene. My favorite scene is when the Donkey keeps on begging to go with Shrek to save the Princess. I liked that scene because the Donkey was even holding onto Shrek's leg and would nev-

er let go until Shrek said yes. I feel like the actor for the Donkey did the same voice of the Donkey and the Donkey did the same things as the Donkey in the movie.

By Jonah H.

Shrek Theatre

The best part about Shrek the Musical was when Lord Farquaad was saying "Um" because the way he said it I just laughed a lot and because he said it a lot. I

also liked the part when Shrek and Fiona were passing gas and burping because they were doing it together and going back and forth as best as they could. In the end

it was so cool because everyone in the show came out and sang all together. It was so cute.

By Aminta L.



The Best Play Ever

The best part of Shrek the Musical was when the pigs got kicked out of their home and then Shrek helped everyone get their home back. I liked this scene because Shrek went to Lord

Farquaad and helped them get their homes back and it was so nice of him. When Shrek got there, Lord Farquaad made him save the Princess so she could become his girl and he could

be King. When Shrek saved the Princess he gave her to Lord Farquaad and then after that he had feelings for her. Then they fell in love.

By Dezmond T.

Meeting the Donkey

In Shrek the Musical, Donkey, Shrek, and knights were all in the scene when Donkey and Shrek meet. I liked the Donkey in that scene because he was pretty funny. Shrek was looking at

his map until he heard screaming. Then Donkey showed up from running away from the knights. Then Shrek scared the knights away saying "Boo." Then the knights ran. Donkey thanked

Shrek and started to like him! Donkey pleaded to stay and sang a song. Shrek said yes Donkey could stay, and that was it.

By Brooklyn C.



Donkey and Dragon

In *Shrek the Musical*, Donkey and Dragon were funny. After Donkey went into the mysterious room, Dragon saw him and wanted to love Donkey. She later imprisoned him because he wanted to leave the pal-

ace. Dragon said that all the people go there to find the Princess and do not find her. I asked my friend Natalie and she said her favorite scene was when Donkey tried to run from the Dragon. I asked my friend Brooklyn

what her favorite scene was and she said when the Donkey started screaming. I would definitely recommend this musical to someone for a good laugh.

By Maya N.



Shrek

This year, PressFriends went on a field trip to go see *Shrek the Musical*. It is such a privilege to be able to be in Press-Friends, and enjoy all of the cool field trips and activities.

The main characters in the play were Shrek, Fiona, Pinocchio, Lord Farquaad, and Donkey. My favorite character was Donkey because he is light-hearted, has a world

of his own, and isn't really ever worried or stressed (unless it involves a dragon).

My favorite scene in the play was when Fiona was singing in "I Know It's Today."

The other Press-Friends members liked it too. LaTroyce believes that it was mesmerizing, and that the vocals of all three girls were "lit."

Lupita thought it was

interesting because every time Fiona turned around the castle, there was a new or older Fiona, and at the end all three Fionas come together and sing.

All in all, *Shrek* was fun, creative, mesmerizing, and interesting. I thank PressFriends and Mrs. Lee for taking us.

By Geraldine S.



Shrek Jr.

I think that *Shrek the Musical* was very entertaining and fun. My favorite scene in the play was when Shrek was getting Princess Fiona out of her castle. The characters in my favorite scene are Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, and Dragon. My favorite

character is Fiona. I liked the scene because it was very funny. Fiona was mad because Shrek did not kiss her.

By Zara M

My favorite part in *Shrek the Musical* was when Shrek found

Fiona and they were having a gas and burp battle. It also was funny when they were singing with Lord Farquaad. I liked the show!

By Julianna W.



The Musical



I think you should go to *Shrek the Musical*. I liked the three little pigs and Princess Fiona when she was seven years old to teenage to adult. Shrek was seven years old when he left his mom. Lord Farquaad was a man on his knees with fake legs. Donkey was a funny man in a fur suit. There were little kids dressed up as old people. When Shrek rescues

Princess Fiona, Donkey was waiting for him. The dragon came and they started to sing that Donkey was going to stay in the dungeon. The dragon was cool.

I liked when Shrek and Fiona were singing about their sad childhood and saying "I think I had it worse than you." In the middle of the song Shrek passed gas. Then they had a gas and burping

contest. When Fiona went in the cave she turned into an ogre. Then Donkey asked Shrek what would he be if he could pick? Shrek denied it at first. Fiona sang in the cave and Shrek sang it next to Donkey.

At the end Fiona decided to marry Shrek and showed herself as an ogre. I hope you get to see the show!

By Thalia F.



Lord Farquaad's Marriage

The characters from my favorite scene in *Shrek the Musical* are Lord Farquaad, Shrek, Fiona, the priest, and all the fairy tale characters and the Dragon. Lord Farquaad and Donkey and the Dragon are my

favorite characters in this scene. Lord Farquaad was getting married to Fiona still not knowing that she turned into an ogre. Shrek and the fairy tale characters came to ruin the wedding. Fiona ran away

and came back as an ogre. Lord Farquaad looked disgusted and he left her. The Dragon came and chased him. Shrek and Fiona kissed and The End.

By Genesis S.

Shrek the Musical



The reasons why I loved *Shrek the Musical* are because it had a lot of drama, it was funny, and sad. The best part about it was when Shrek met Donkey and they became best friends. Shrek did not like Donkey at first but

Donkey liked Shrek. Those are the reasons why I think this part of the play was the best of the best.

By Celena M.

My favorite scene in *Shrek the Musical* is when Shrek searches

and finds Fiona. My favorite character is Shrek. What happens in this scene is Shrek goes a long way to find Fiona. He goes to see and save Fiona. I like this scene because he goes a long way and he sees Fiona.

By Victoria G.

The Donkey Was Here

The characters in my favorite scene from *Shrek the Musical* were Shrek, Donkey, Fiona and Gingerbread Man. My favorite character was the Donkey. I liked the scene when the Donkey

found Shrek. One, I like the scene because the Donkey was funny. The second reason I like the scene is because the Donkey was cute. The last reason is because the Donkey was getting

chased by the guard. I will recommend this musical to other families because it is not a bad musical. My friend liked it when the guards were chasing the Donkey.

By Natalie O.



Leland Dragon Tales reporters received trophies for achievement at PressFriends' 9th Annual Conference for Elementary Student Newspapers at Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach.



Leland Dragon Tales reporters at *Shrek Jr.*, the musical, at the Armstrong Theatre in Torrance with other Press-Friends schools..



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