

THE OAK



The Los Encinos School Newspaper

"By kids, for kids."

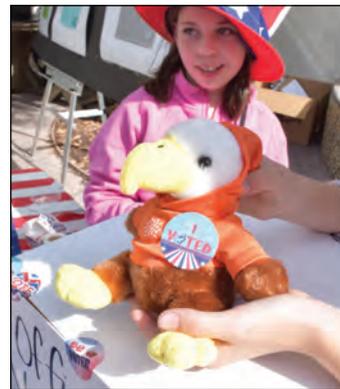
T-Shirt Elections

by Magnus, 4th

On Tuesday, November 5th, the 5th graders organized an election to choose a new field trip shirt! There were 3 T-shirts designed by parents at Los Encinos School. Students voted at recess and lunch.

I interviewed a 5th-grader about the T-shirt Election. The election is like a real election, but for field trip T-shirts. This was on a Tuesday, the same as the election of the USA for propositions, congress, senators, and the president. It was hot. I voted for the gray T-shirt. I did this at snack time so I could vote, then interview a 5th-grader. This was a quick interview that I wrote down in my journal.

see **Elections**, page 6



Letter from the Editor

by Zelda, 6th

Creating this seventh issue of *The Oak* was a different and enjoyable experience. We tried something new and put it together during Eagle Days as one of the many classes LES students could sign up for (read more about Eagle Days on page 3). It was helpful that everyone joined us during this new program because we could work through problems and figure out what we wanted this issue of *The Oak* to look like together. Five kids took the Eagle Days class, including me, and we did an incredible job putting it together as a team. I think this issue came out well – it is well-written and a joy to read, and I am very, very proud of all the people who worked on it. I can't wait for the next issue and hope you all sign up! 🌱



Wonderment & Curiosity in the Natural World

by Olivia, 3rd

This year, the school-wide theme is *Wonderment and Curiosity in the Natural World*. To start off this theme, the whole school went to the California Science Center (see article below). 1st and 4th graders went to Tree People to learn about this theme. Third-graders are working in the LES garden by planting poppies with the kindergarteners. In 4th grade, students are focusing on California regions and Native American folk tales. In 6th grade, they looked at what wonder means to them. All of this ties into the theme, *Wonderment and Curiosity in the Natural World*. What does this theme mean to you? 🌿



A Whale of a Time

by Zelda, 6th

On August 30, the whole school went to the California Science Center. It was very exciting, and we went to the Science Center because of the connection to the theme of the year, *Wonderment and Curiosity in the Natural World*. Buses lined the street waiting to take us to the Science Center. The fifth- and first-graders got to ride the bus and go through the exhibits together. The kindergarteners went with the sixth-graders, and we had a great time. We started our tour with an amazing IMAX movie called *Blue Whale 3D*. The movie followed a scientific expedition to find blue whales off the Seychelles Islands. After that, there were so many exhibits to explore. One

of my favorites was *Face Your Fears* where you got to stick your hand in the boxes that supposedly had the thing you feared in it. Another exhibit that we did was the *Touch Tanks*. Here, we got to touch sea creatures. One of the other exhibits was *Fire Safety*. It was a great experience that helped teach us about fire safety.

Overall, it was a very special day because the whole school got to go on a field trip together. I think it was a fun learning experience that we all enjoyed. 🌿



Something New: Eagle Days

by Zelda, 6th

This November, we started something new. It is called Eagle Days. Students in 1st-6th grade were given the choice to choose two elective classes that they wanted to take part in. Then, for a whole week, their schedules were altered slightly so they could participate in these new electives, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Every class had kids from different grades. Here is what some of the people working on the *Oak News* (which is also an Eagle Days elective) thought of the new idea:

“It’s a fun, joyful experience to learn different things.”

– Riley, 4th

“I think it’s pretty good because we get to do comics or the news and write stuff. I got to draw a comic and I also liked doing the interviews.”

– Magnus, 4th

“I love having the chance to work with students across grade levels and hear different opinions and see different working styles. Working with new students only makes me a stronger teacher.”

– Ms. Pinkus

“Eagle Days is a wonderful opportunity for both teachers and students! I am enjoying working on something I am passionate about with students from all grade levels. Eagle Days allows me to get to know students in a new way.”

– Ms. Vaisman 🍃



Book Reviews

Jujutsu Kaisen 23 by Magnus, 4th

I recently read *Jujutsu Kaisen 23*. It's about a boy named Yuji Itadori who finds himself a target of the angel, someone who lives in Kuruso, a girl in something called the culling game. Sukuna, one who lives in Yuji, warns him of this. Meanwhile the main villain Kenjaku stumbles into where

Tengen is, a very strong Jj sorcerer, and finds Choso, a Death Painting Womb, and they clash! Then, a special grade sorcerer finds Kenjaku and fights him! Special is the highest rank. Who will win? You'll have to read the book to find out! 🌸



Fish in a Tree by Zelda, 6th

The book that I chose to do my book review on is called *Fish in a Tree*. *Fish in A Tree* is about a girl named Ally who has a lot of trouble in school. She can't read or write, she is in sixth grade, and she thinks that she is stupid. However, she just struggles with dyslexia and she doesn't know until her

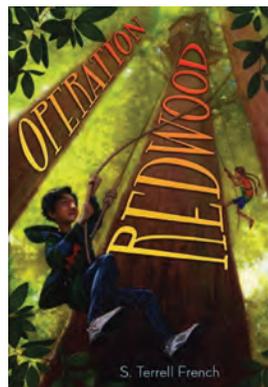
teacher helps her with it. I would give this book a 10 out of 10 because I feel like it is a perfect length, and it just makes you feel good. I would recommend this book to people who like heartwarming stories and strong friendships. I love this book and I think that you should read it. 🌸



Operation Redwood by Riley, 4th

Fourth grade read a book called *Operation Redwood* by S.Terrell French. It is about a boy named Julian who is trying to save the Redwoods in California that his uncle is trying to cut down. I recommend this book for people who have a passion about trees,

as well as secret operations that can change your life. The message of this book is to always stand up for what is right. This book also has themes of protection, sadness, and the element of SURPRISE!!! I hope you read this book and love it as much as I do! 🌸



Book Reviews

Smile by Olivia, 3rd

The book that I read was *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier. It is based upon a true story. Raina is the main character and she had an accident. She was running to her house and knocked out her two front teeth! She struggles with a new school, bullies, boys, and dental drama. Having to deal with headgear in high school doesn't seem

that fun, right? Will Raina survive high school? Find out in *Smile*. I would give this book a ten out of ten because it is talking about struggling in life and how big stuff happens to people, and most importantly, how they are going to find a way out. I recommend this book to intense readers who like drama. Check it out in your local library! 🌿



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Day Camp Grades 1-9
 On the campus of Los Encinos School in Encino.
WWW.LES.CAMP

EARLY-BIRD PRICING!
 to be offered soon!

 The advertisement features a green background with a collage of circular photos showing children engaged in various activities at Camp Los Encinos. The photos include children reading books, a large group of children sitting on the grass, a child holding a small object, a child climbing a slide, a child with face paint, and a child holding a drink. The text is arranged around these photos, providing details about the camp dates, pricing, and location.

4th Grade Goes to Disneyland (but not really, it was California Adventure) by Riley, 4th

Fourth grade went on a field trip to California Adventure, but it wasn't all fun and rides!

We went to learn about John Muir, Cesar Chavez, Amelia Earhart, and Levi Strauss. Did you know that California Adventure is shaped like California? And, of course, fourth-grade got to ride rides!

Fourth-graders also got to be part of the Immersive Storytelling program where we were given the opportunity to design our own amusement parks using fabric, tiles, and much more!!! After the field trip, it was night-time, and a couple of us needed a nap!

This field trip taught me that when you are doing immersive storytelling, you have to look at the visitor's point of view. 🌸



Elections continued from Page 1

Q: Who decided it would be a T-shirt election?

A: Mr. Myers.

Q: How do you make sure no one votes twice?

A: There is a number. (No more than 182 votes!)

Q: What is the most difficult part of running an election?

A: The lines.

Q: What is your favorite T-shirt?

A: The green one.

Q: What are you curious about in this election?

A: How it plays out.

Q: Who do you think will win the election?

A: Shoo-shoo.

Q: Why is it important to wear matching T-shirts on field trips?

A: To see if anyone is lost.

And that's all of the Qs and As from our 5th-grader. The most interesting part, for me, was learning that lines were the most difficult part of running an election.

And now the results are in! The GRAY T-SHIRT won with 70 votes! With the blue T-shirt closely following with 69 votes.

Thanks for voting! 🌸



SPORTS by Cormac, 3rd

I sat down with Coach Terry to learn more about the LES soccer team! The team has fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. They practice once a week with games on Wednesdays. Go Eagles!

Q: How many wins does the soccer team have?

A: We currently have four wins and one loss with two more games to play.

Q: Where does the team practice?

A: They practice on the blacktop.

Q: How do you get everyone to work as a team?

A: Cooperation is key. And practice, practice, practice!

Q: How do you inspire your team?

A: I tell them to work hard and have fun.

I hope the Eagles will continue to win, but mostly have fun!

[Ed. Note: The Eagles finished the season with a record of 5-2.] 🏆



Virtues & Values

Wonder (Sept.)

by Zelda, 6th

By definition, wonder means: a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inapplicable. To me, wonder means to think about something that you may not know a lot about. If you never wonder about anything then you may never learn and reach your full potential. "The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder." This is a quote about wonder, and I believe that this quote means that it takes a very smart person to wonder. It also shows that wondering is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength.



[Ed. Note: Each month, we feature one "double-V" that each grade can focus on in age-appropriate ways. Here are the first four of the school year.]

Generosity (Oct.)

by Cormac, 3rd

"Give more than you take, and you'll get more than you give." Generosity is giving time and love to the people that give us the same kindness back. One way you can show generosity is by spending time with your friends to show how much you care about them.



Leadership (Nov.)

by Olivia, 3rd

Leadership means the ability of a person to guide other people. A good leader is someone who's kind to other people and makes them feel like they belong. Great leaders lead people, not themselves, and think about the people they are leading. A good leader takes responsibility and tells the truth. Some ways a student can be a good leader at Los Encinos School is to be a buddy and lead younger students and always be themselves.



Creativity (Dec.)

by Riley, 4th

Creativity means to be creative with your art, mind, or anything really! Creativity is very important in life because if you get bored, you can use your creativity to keep you busy. I personally like to read chapter books, with no pictures, so I use my creativity to imagine what everything looks like! "I use my creativity to make fun lessons for my students," shared Ms. Pinkus, 4th grade teacher.



Leadership Through Service

Thank You for Your Service

LES Students Give Back to the Veterans

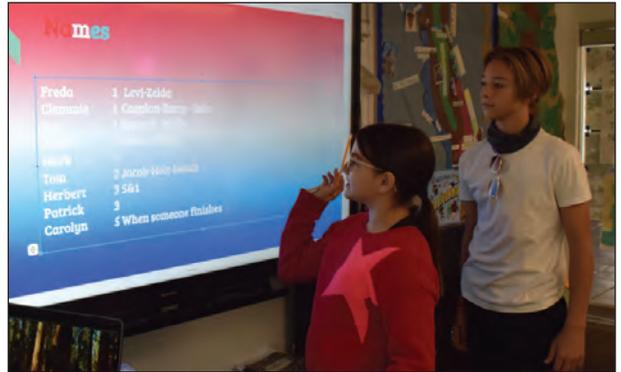
by Zelda, 6th

Once a month, we have Care Families when the students meet in multi-grade groups that are led by a pair of sixth-graders. There's always an exciting activity, and it helps to teach the sixth-graders leadership skills.

In November, the Care Family theme revolved around Veterans' Day. The sixth-graders did research and found a wonderful organization called Meals On Wheels. Meals On Wheels provides nutritious meals, friendly visits, and other services to help people live independently.

During the Care Family meetings, we made care packages that included soup and crackers, and everyone wrote a personalized card to the veteran who would be receiving the goodies.

We gave all the packages to Meals on Wheels for delivery, and I have a very strong feeling that we made them very happy! 🌿



Enrichment Q&A

Gabe the Great by Riley, 4th

I sat down with Gabe the Great, an enrichment teacher. His class is on Monday and he teaches magic. Here are some of the Qs and As that I asked and he answered.

Q: How do you feel when teaching all of these students?

A: I feel happy and proud, because I love working with students.

Q: Why do you like magic?

A: It gives me a chance to show off my skills and perform.

Q: How did you start magic?

A: I learned from my own teacher.

Q: Did you like magic when you were a kid?

A: I loved magic! I loved anything related to magic.

Q: Did you perform magic when you were a kid?

A: I didn't really perform magic when I was a kid. I did practice dancing, though.

Thanks for a magical interview, Gabe the Great! 🌸



Enrichment Q&A

P-Jay Days by Olivia, 3rd

I talked to P-Jay Fidler, our digital art enrichment teacher and LES parent!

Q: How long have you been doing art for?

A: I've been doing art my whole life and 20 years professionally.

Q: When you were a kid, did you do this level of art?

A: No, I've always drawn, and I went to ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena.

Q: What's your favorite brush in Procreate?

A: Syrup.

Q: What's the advantage of working in digital art, rather than IRL (in real life) art?

A: In digital art, you can do multiple layers that are non-destructive, so if you erase something you can go back. But if you paint over it, it's gone.

Q: Do you like to draw for fun?

A: Yes, I like to draw in the morning and night.

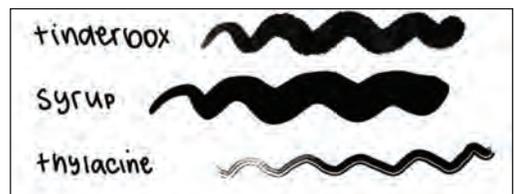
Q: Who's your favorite artist?

A: The Flemish painters of the 15th to 17th centuries.

Q: How long have you had your beard?

A: 14 years.

Thank you, P-Jay, for inspiring students! 🌿



(above: Flemish painter Tobias Verhaecht's "Alpine Landscape" ca. 1600-1615)

Faculty in Focus

Mr. De Palma, Music

by Zelda, 6th

The Oak: At what age did you start to play and like music?

Mr. De Palma: I started playing exactly 20 years ago. I want to say I was 8 years old. It was summer camp and I took piano lessons there and it just kind of stuck with me. I liked it, and once I got to middle school I started learning other instruments, too, and adding things. That is how I got into music.

The Oak: What is the biggest difference between teaching at Los Encinos School and teaching at your previous school?

Mr. De Palma: I would say the biggest difference between teaching here and other places is the size of the school. At LES, the small classroom size allows us to get to know each other really well and be a tighter community.

The Oak: Who is your favorite musician and why?

Mr. De Palma: My favorite musician is a guy named Chris Thile. He is a mandolin player and the reason I like him so much is that he's just really, really good. He's pretty much the best who's ever played the instrument. He also plays all of these different genres and loves exploring. He plays Bluegrass Jazz and he plays Rock. He's a musician who's really inspiring to me.

The Oak: What is your favorite type of music?

Mr. De Palma: My favorite type of music is jazz because of all the improvisation. Jazz, to me, is the most true to a musician, and it's also just the most fun, in my mind.

The Oak: What is your favorite instrument?

Mr. De Palma: I love all the instruments for many different reasons. I'd say piano is really my first love. That's what I started with, you get to play all of those different notes and it has such a wide range that's really fun. Drums

see **Music**, page 18



Rehearsing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" for an upcoming assembly.



(above: Chris Thile, Google Images)



Ukelele is just one of the 14 instruments Mr. De Palma can play.

Faculty in Focus

Mrs. Lewis, Math

by Olivia, 3rd, and Cormac, 3rd

We sat down with Mrs. Lewis, the new math teacher at LES, to learn more about her!

The Oak: How long have you been teaching math?

Mrs. Lewis: For 19 years.

The Oak: Were you always a math teacher?

Mrs. Lewis: I was a regular classroom teacher for 10 years.

The Oak: What's the hardest thing to teach, and why?

Mrs. Lewis: Word problems, because you first really have to understand the math information.

The Oak: Was math ever hard for you when you were a kid?

Mrs. Lewis: Some parts of it, yes.

The Oak: Did you ever have any hobbies when you were a kid?

Mrs. Lewis: I did! Soccer and dance.

The Oak: Why do you think math is so important?

Mrs. Lewis: Math teaches you to think critically and it helps you work through problems.

The Oak: Which math subject do you like the most?

Mrs. Lewis: Algebra. 🍀



Mrs. Lewis clearly enjoys her work.



Using a rekenrek (above) to help young students visualize and learn important principles.



Mrs. Lewis demonstrates an example of a math lesson to parents at a recent PA Meeting.

Faculty in Focus

Ms. Bruce, Art

by Riley, 4th, and Magnus, 4th

We sat down with our new and fantastic art teacher! Here is what she had to say...

The Oak: How long have you been teaching art?

Ms. Bruce: 8 years.

The Oak: Did you like art when you were a kid, and why?

Ms. Bruce: Yes, I did. It was something where I could be my true self and succeed and also use my imagination.

The Oak: Do you have a favorite part of teaching?

Ms. Bruce: My favorite part is seeing students trust themselves because I can see their creativity bloom.

The Oak: What is your favorite type of art to do?

Ms. Bruce: I love working with oil paints because they are vibrant and beautiful to look at.

The Oak: Who is your favorite professional artist, and why?

Ms. Bruce: Kehinde Wiley, because I love how he represents his culture, identity, and humanity.

The Oak: How did you paint the mural on the art room wall? What was the process?

Ms. Bruce: The process included several steps:

1. Looking up reference photos;
2. Picking out stuff I liked from those photos;
3. Sketching designs on paper;
4. Sketching on the wall using a ladder;
5. Painting!

I started with the sky and wanted to quit because it was scary, but I kept going, adding the leopard and flamingo – and I'm not done yet.

Thanks, Ms. Bruce! We can't wait to see your finished project! 🌿



Ms. Bruce demonstrates polka dot art with the fifth-graders.



(above: Kehinde Wiley, Google Images)



Spooky Halloween Festival: A Success

by Riley, 4th, and Olivia, 3rd

On October 31st, over 180 kids came to LES dressed up. It was Halloween!!! After all of the grades came to the grass and 5th and 6th graders found their buddies, the parade began. After the parade, kids could go to the carnival which included snacks and games.

After the Halloween parade, the sixth-grade's haunted house was open. The theme was, "Forgotten Fairy Tales!" Walking into the haunted house, I said, "Hey, stop throwing beans at me!" It was amazing.

I loved the energy and the theme was on point. This year was my favorite. Good job, 6th grade! 🍁



Currently Trending

Not All Heroes Serve Crepes by Riley, 4th, and Olivia, 3rd

Recently, LES introduced a new hot lunch vendor: Hero Eats. Here is one student from each grade who was asked the question, "How much do you like the new hot lunch vendor and why?"

Morgan, in Kindergarten, said he loves the Mac and Cheese and would rate the new vendor 10/10.

Sophia, in 1st grade, loves the burritos and rates Hero Eats 8/10.

Eleanor, in 2nd grade, said her favorite dish is sushi and would rate the new hot lunch 9/10.

Saige, in 3rd grade, says she loves the pasta. She gives the new vendor 7/10.

Cassia, 4th grade, said she likes the vendor because it has different food options every day.

Nora P., in 5th grade, said she likes the new vendor because the food is so much better, and the people who serve the food are very nice.

Hannah N., in 6th grade, said she really likes the new vendor because it is very sophisticated and delicious. She does not like that there is only one line.

There are so many other yummy foods to try, like fajita bowls, bolognese, tomato soup and grilled cheese, and bao buns. Sign up for Hero Eats today! 🌿



Comics

Gaming by Magnus, 4th



Arts

Everest by Kindergarteners



by Kirk



by Juliette



by Morgan



by Goldie



by Poppy



by Bella



by Lucas



by Emery



by Sophia



by Levi



by Oona

Music continued from Page 12

are also really fun, you get to hit things. Bass makes you feel really powerful because you're the foundation of the band. The mandolin is fun to play fast, so I love it, too. Asking me to choose a favorite instrument is a great question without a simple answer! I have a love for every instrument for different reasons. 🌿



Mr. De Palma's band at the Harvest Festival

Puzzles

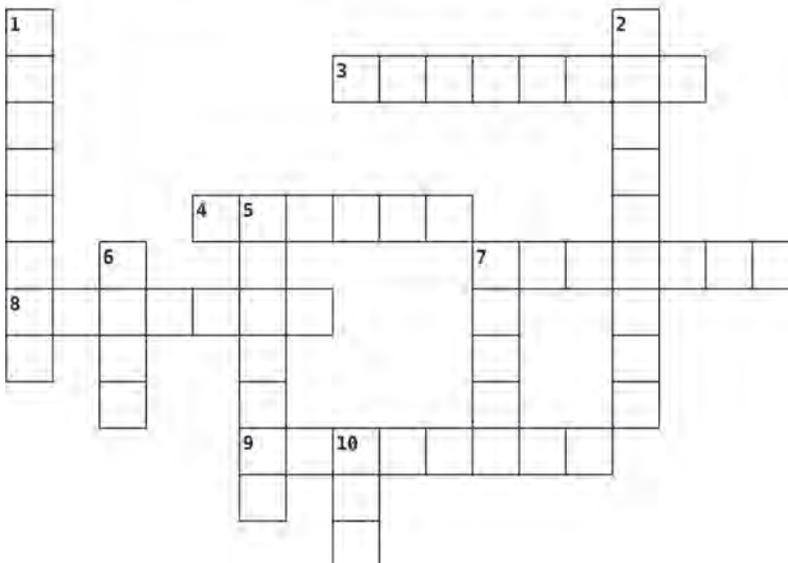
(Solutions on back page)

LES Word Search by Cormac, 3rd



- GENEROSITY
- LEADERSHIP
- MATH
- ASSEMBLY
- ELECTION
- CREATIVITY
- SIGNLANGUAGE
- BUDDIES
- VOTING
- ART
- EAGLEDAYS
- FRIENDSHIP
- STUDENTS
- SCIENCE
- WONDER

LES Crossword Puzzle by Riley, 4th



DOWN

1. "Settle down ____!" (pupils)
2. Teachers can usually be found here
5. Our mascot
6. A class that often adds up
7. You eat yummy food at this time
10. A tree in our school (and also this newspaper)

ACROSS

3. Our head of school
4. A time to play
7. Place that smells like books
8. Ms. Marshall, for one
9. The squirrel

The Oak Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Zelda, 6th

Feature Writing

Cormac, 3rd
Magnus, 4th
Olivia, 3rd
Riley, 4th

Everest Drawings (by kindergarteners)

Emery, Bella,
Goldie, Juliette,
Kirk, Levi, Lucas,
Morgan, Oona,
Poppy, Sophia

Faculty Advisors

Ms. Pinkus
Mrs. Vaisman
Mr. Falk

Bios

Zelda is in sixth grade. She loves editing *The Oak*, but in her free time, she is a competitive rock climber. She also plays piano and loves listening to Beethoven while she works.

Cormac lives in a house with love and care from his family. He lives in LA with his sisters, brother, Mom, Dad, and two puppies, Gozy and Beans. He loves to read and play with his sisters on his own time. Some of his favorite hobbies are tennis, reading, playing guitar, and biking. His favorite subject in school is math.

Magnus is a writer for *The Oak* newspaper. He was born in California, but both his parents are from New Jersey. When he gets home from school, he likes to play with his dogs. Magnus likes making comic books because it is fun and he enjoys doing art.

Olivia is a 3rd grader at Los Encinos School. When she's not writing for *The Oak* newspaper, Olivia is doing gymnastics, writing, or reading. She also enjoys digital art, magic, and sewing. She is 9 years old.

Riley is a fourth grader who loves to read, draw, play Minecraft, and spend time with her dog, Rocky. She also enjoys solving puzzles. She is in her third year with *The Oak* newspaper. She also is talented at photography.



SOLUTIONS

Crossword (page 19):

LES Crossword Puzzle
SOLUTION



Word Search (page 19):

LES Word Search



- GENEROSITY
- LEADERSHIP
- PATH
- ASSEMBLY
- ELECTION
- CREATIVITY
- SIGNAL LANGUAGE
- BUDDIES
- VOTING
- ART
- EAGLEDAYS
- FRIENDSHIP
- STUDENT'S
- SCIENCE
- WONDER

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