

THE OAK



The Los Encinos School Newspaper

"By kids, for kids."

Moochie on Wheels! by Stella, 4th

A mobile dairy farm came to Los Encinos and taught us about dairy products and healthy products!

The farm also brought a female cow named Moochie. The farm worker, Ms. Martinez, talked about all the different parts of Moochie and what she eats and how she eats. However, Moochie was in a truck so we could not pet her, but we could walk by and say, "hello."

Cows eat apples, corn, lettuce, bananas, and lots more fun foods! Moochie was such a fun cow, and I think we all learned a lot about her! Here's a fun fact: Did you know that cows have best friends? 🌿



Ms. Martinez shows us some of the foods cows love before giving them to Moochie to munch!



The Mobile Dairy Classroom, provided by the Dairy Council of California, gave two excellent presentations, one for grades K-3 and another for grades 4-6.



"Moochie" the cow greets the 5th graders. Cows are females who have already given birth to a calf. Females who have not yet given birth are known as heifers.

Build it Up, Let it Grow by Miles, 2nd

Recently, the 6th graders built a shade for the garden. It is located in the back of LES, near the teachers' parking lot.

I interviewed some 6th graders and found out that it took 3 weeks to build. The goal is to keep the plants from dying. They told me the most rewarding part was seeing it all done. They also told me it was really hard to move the plant beds. The shade is made

see **Build**, page 4



6th graders pose with their newly-built Garden Shade.

LES Takes Action!

K-3rd Community Engagement

by Cormac, 4th

At Los Encinos School, we always try to take action to help our community. Every grade does their own service learning project. In kinder they learn about people who are unhoused and learn the importance of *wants* versus *needs*, which is important in our school. Knowing that, each month they collect coins and then sort and count them. With this money, they go to Pavilions to buy items for LA Family Housing. Terry Lotka, from LA Family Housing, meets with the class earlier to share the needs of the residents.

In first grade, they make and pack lunches for the Hollywood Food Coalition. They pack PBJ sandwiches, water, juice, chips, sweet treats, and protein bars. They also decorate the bags.

In second grade, students collect food for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, or NHIFP. After sorting the food at school, they take a trip to NHIFP to stock shelves and pack bags for people who experience food insecurity.

In third grade, they go to the LA River and work with Friends of the LA River. They learn about native plants and catch macro invertebrates. They also study water samples and pollution.

The third graders sadly saw a lot of plastic in the river... So newly this year, third grade teamed up with Ridwell to collect plastic that can't be recycled. With that plastic, Ridwell uses it to make it into other things, like material for outside decks.

In conclusion, LES loves to help our community, no matter what grade you are in! 🌱



(above) Mrs. Miller helps her K students count and sort.



Terry Lotka (right) meets with kinder as Mrs. Vaisman keeps track of wants vs. needs on the anchor chart.



1st graders make PB&J sammys!



2nd graders collect non-perishables at the red gates.



3rd graders at Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park, studying the LA River.

Service Learning Starts Now

4th-6th Community Engagement

by Stella, 4th

This trimester, 4th grade went to TreePeople to plant trees for their service learning project. They learned about the soil and roots and how trees grow. They dug holes and worked together to put the trees in the holes, bury them and water them! 4th graders thought about this idea to plant trees instead of the Shade Sale because they were using too much paper. So, instead of taking from trees, they are giving!

In 5th grade, they went to a school called Para Los Niños in downtown LA. They read and played literature games with a group of kids that are not as fortunate as we are. The fifth graders then invited them to Encino Park and set up fun stations for them, like puppet making, mural painting, obstacle courses, nature paint, a chalk station, and many more fun activities!

In 6th grade, students thought about what they are passionate about and how they want to change the world. They worked in small groups to research organizations they could help. Once they selected their organizations, they held a Day of Service where they gave TED Talks to describe how everyone can help, and then oversaw activities so the rest of the grades could take action. 🌿



4th graders are digging it at TreePeople!



(above and below) 5th graders get to mentor their kindergarten buddies from Para Los Niños.



This group of 6th graders collected used sports equipment to donate, and oversaw cleaning them on their Day of Service.



Build continued from Front Page

with cloth and metal. Mr. Blanchard, the STEM teacher who oversaw the project, said, "It took a lot of teamwork, and there were over 2000 bolts and screws."

Even though there were 2000 screws, the sixth graders said that screwing them in was still the easiest part. I'm so happy to see the plants happy! 🌱



Mr. Blanchard's motto: Safety First.



The shade came with instructions that were sometimes hard to follow, said the sixth graders.



The shade helps plants in the garden boxes that have trouble thriving in constant, direct sunlight.

New Students!

More Fun! by Goldie, 1st

There are so many new kids at Los Encinos. I got to interview two of them that were part of *The Oak* with me, but they preferred to remain anonymous.

The Oak: How do you like your new school?

Student 1: I love my new school because there are a lot of kind people.

Student 2: I love my new school because it's been a great educational experience with so many kind friends.

The Oak: Was it easy to make new friends?

Student 1: Yes, because everyone is very nice and easy to talk to.

Student 2: Yes, because everyone gets along easily.

The Oak: What's your favorite specialist class?

Student 1: Art, because I love making new projects with my friends.

Student 2: PE, because I'm very active.

The Oak: Do you feel like you belong at Los Encinos?

Student 1: Yes, because there are so many different kinds of people.

Student 2: Yes, because all the people here let me in and let me be myself.

New students make our school better! 🌱



Go EagLES!

Orchestra Spotlight

Eleanor on Violin

by Lorna, 3rd

The Los Encinos orchestra just recently performed in the Hall. They played many songs, and some groups even sang! I had the opportunity to sit down with my friend and fellow 3rd grader, Eleanor, to interview her about her experience.

The Oak: How did it feel to be the youngest and only third grader in the advanced violin class with Mr. De Palma?

Eleanor: It felt very hard, but I also felt accomplished with the violin.

The Oak: When did you start learning violin, and what made you want to start?

Eleanor: I started learning violin when I was 6. When I was walking home with my mom after having sushi, I saw a poster advertising violin classes nearby. The minute I saw the poster, I knew I couldn't say no to that opportunity.

The Oak: Did you ever want to quit violin? And what convinced you to keep doing it?

Eleanor: I really wanted to quit violin when I was 8 because it kept getting harder and harder. My parents wanted me to keep going because almost my whole family loves classical music. So I kept going, and that was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

The Oak: How many times have you performed in public?

Eleanor: I've performed in public around 12 times. I mostly perform at churches with my orchestra group outside of school.

The Oak: Is there anybody you would like to thank?

Eleanor: Okay, I have lots of people to thank. First, I would like to thank Lorna for interviewing me. I would also like to thank my family for convincing me to keep playing violin. Thank you, Mr. De Palma, for letting me join the orchestra even though I'm younger, and for believing in me. And thank you to everyone who wants to start learning violin. It's never too early or too late to start.

Thank you, Eleanor, for letting me interview you. We are so excited for the next time you play at LES! 🌿



(above) Rehearsing with Mr. De Palma.



Eleanor performs with the orchestra for the whole school during an assembly.

Faculty-in-Focus

Going Fourth with Ms. Pinkus by Oona, 1st

I interviewed the 4th grade teacher, Ms. Pinkus. I've always wanted to interview her because I've always wanted to learn more about her.

The Oak: What is your favorite social studies topic so far?

Ms. Pinkus: My favorite topic this year is teaching the Gold Rush.

The Oak: What is your favorite class to teach?

Ms. Pinkus: My favorite class to teach is history because history is all one big story.

The Oak: How long have you been teaching fourth grade?

Ms. Pinkus: I have been teaching fourth grade for four years.

The Oak: Have you ever taught another grade?

Ms. Pinkus: Yes, I also taught fifth grade at another school one year. A fun fact is that I have taught a student named Nora every single year of my career so far. That's five years in row. And I'm pretty sure I will next year, too!

The Oak: What is your favorite thing to do when you're not teaching?

Ms. Pinkus: My favorite thing to do when I have free time is go to the beach, because it's the best place to read. I love to read books about families.

The Oak: What is your favorite book?

Ms. Pinkus: My favorite book is *Esperanza Rising* because it talks a lot about courage.

The Oak: What is something exciting that is going on in your life?

Ms. Pinkus: I am getting married this summer, on July 18th, to Noah Michels, which is pronounced 'Michael's,' like the store!

I enjoyed talking with Ms. Pinkus, and I can't wait to have her as my teacher. Also, she is getting married on my birthday! 🌿



Ms. Pinkus helps students prepare for the ERB testing.



Ms. Pinkus leads a book talk about *Esperanza Rising*.



Ms. Pinkus and her fiancé, Noah Michels. He works in the tech industry.

Faculty-in-Focus

Lucky Lopez by Theo, 4th

I interviewed our fourth grade assistant teacher, Mr. Lopez, and here's what I learned about him!

The Oak: What has been your favorite social studies unit so far?

Mr. Lopez: I think that would be the Native American art we made from the mission.

The Oak: What is your favorite book?

Mr. Lopez: I really liked when we read *Gold Rush Girl* because it has a lot of adventure.

The Oak: What is your favorite project so far?

Mr. Lopez: The Boom Town Project when we made miniature boom towns was challenging and fun.

The Oak: What was your favorite class when you were little?

Mr. Lopez: I've always enjoyed art because I like being creative.

The Oak: How many years have you been at LES?

Mr. Lopez: This is my third year. Wow, time flies when you're having fun!

The Oak: Where were you born?

Mr. Lopez: Hidalgo, Mexico. It's in the center of the country, just north of Mexico City.

The Oak: Have you ever taught any other class besides fourth grade?

Mr. Lopez: Yes, I've assisted 2nd, 4th, STEM, and art.

The Oak: What is your favorite thing about LES?

Mr. Lopez: That's easy. My co-workers and my students, because everybody is so nice and kind.

The Oak: Thank you very much!

Mr. Lopez: You are very welcome! 🌿



Mr. Lopez helps students with their Native American art.



A wall across from the 4th grade classroom features the Boom Town replicas they made.



Mr. Lopez and Ms. Pinkus pose with some hats they found during the 4th grade's Halloween Costume Drive.

Virtues & Values

JANUARY

Empathetic Empathy

by Archie, 3rd

Empathy means looking out for someone even if you are not that close with them. Empathy means looking out for someone if they fall down. You should have empathy because if you did not, you would be mean. I like empathy because you should always look out for people. You should use empathy because it can make people feel good. Empathy can show you care about them. I hope you liked learning about empathy! 🌱

MARCH

The Confession of Courage

by Millie, 2nd

Courage is what you need when you are about to go on stage or down a tall water slide or even just doing something new! You can recognize it as that little feeling that feels like bravery and proudness. This is what courage feels like. Personally, I have courage before any big moment. Courage helps me push through and have fun.

Q&A with *The Oak* staff about Courage:

The Oak: Describe a time you had courage.

Miles, 2nd: I had courage getting my Invisalign.

Cormac, 4th: I had courage when I did my first cliff jump.

Mrs. Vaisman: I showed courage when I did a speech in front of about 200 people.

Ms. Pinkus: I showed courage when I was in my first year of teaching and was the youngest teacher. 🌱

FEBRUARY

Kindness

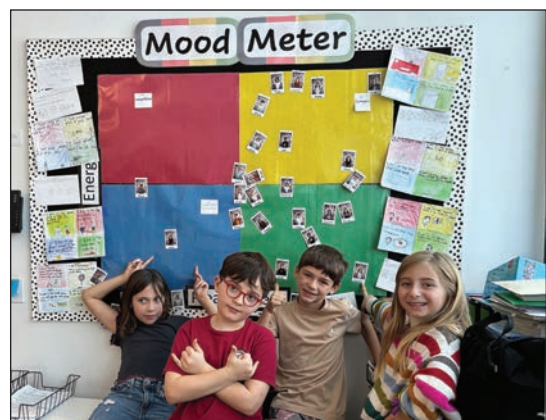
by Lorna, 3rd

All the way back in February, the V&V was Kindness. To me, kindness means to always be there for your friends and do favors for people even if they don't ask. It's important to be kind because without kindness, everybody would always be mean to each other. Also, there would be nobody who cared at all for each other. One time I was kind was when my mom was really tired, and I cleaned out and redecorated the entire guinea pig cage. Another time someone was kind to me was when I was REALLY hungry when me and my friends were at YADA because I forgot to bring a snack and Nora gave me one of her snacks. 🌱

Meta Moment

by Theo, 4th

A Meta Moment is when you pause to take a moment to think about who your best self is before you react to a big feeling that you are having. Step one, take a moment and think. Step two, choose a strategy that works best for you to use. Step three, think about who is your best self before you respond. Finally, respond in a way that shows your best self! The Meta Moment is important because if you don't know how to take one, it could break friendships. 🌱



3rd graders use their Mood Meter to improve emotional regulation throughout the day.

Community News

Happy Harvest

by Millie, 2nd

In the fall, LES holds a Harvest Festival and family & friends are invited. It starts after lunch time with group dancing. First, you dance with a classmate then with your visitor. We always do the Virginia Reel, but there is one dance that is different every time! This year, we did the Tinkling (the national dance of the Philippines). After the dancing, there is a table with pie, apple cider, and other sweets. Then you can go home.

I interviewed three students about the Harvest Festival.

The Oak: What was your favorite part?

Student 1: Being with friends.

The Oak: What was your favorite food?

Student 2: Pie and cider.

The Oak: How fun was it, 1 to 10?

Student 3: 9 out of 10.

Please join us for our next Happy Harvest!
Thank You. 🍃



(above) Parents join the dance.
(left) Just desserts!

Safety First

by Miles, 2nd

“Pick up your trash and make sure to use soap!” That’s what all teachers say. And I believe it! I mean, germs spread really fast. Which is why I’m writing this article. People leave trash everywhere, and guess who has to pick it up? THE TEACHERS! This is a real problem, but we can fix it by picking up our trash the first time without being reminded. Leaving trash on the ground is bad for the environment. Plus, it doesn’t look good. Thank you. 🍃

Classroom Shares

by Elle, 1st

Every year, each grade level does a share. A share is sort of like a presentation for parents, usually held at the end of March. The topics show what the kids have been learning. Kindergarteners learned all about transportation. First-graders learned about insects, second-graders learned about family and identity, third-graders learned about Native Americans, and fourth-graders learned about the Gold Rush. Fifth-graders created a Colonial Village, and sixth-graders shared about their service-learning and Ancient Egypt.

I interviewed a first-grader named Ada.

The Oak: What was the topic of your share?

Ada: The topic of our share was insects.

The Oak: How fun was your share?

Ada: I liked it because it was fun and I loved the project we made.

The Oak: Did you like making the art for your share?

Ada: I really loved it because my favorite subject is art.

The Oak: Did you feel embarrassed doing your share? Sometimes I feel embarrassed when I talk in front of people.

Ada: Yes, because I felt scared because I didn't know all the parents.

The Oak: Are you excited for your next share?

Ada: I am, because I like acting a little.

We had a lot of fun! We got to study with our family and friends during the share. I picked this topic because my share was special to me. 🌿



(above and below) 1st grade parents, grandparents, and special friends get to see the culmination of this trimester's work.





(above) 6th graders display their ocean-themed cardboard structures ready for papier-mâché.



(above and below) 3rd graders are making water snakes for their Art Show exhibit.



(above) A few of the finished pieces you can expect to see at the Art Show!

Ocean Art: The Los Encinos Art Show

by Neave, 1st

Every year there is an Art Show at school. This year the theme is the Ocean because our school-wide theme is Exploring Diverse Systems and Structures.

Every grade is working on different parts of the ocean. The 6th graders are making papier-mâché animals. Kindergarten is making jelly fish and other small things. First grade is making coral out of sticks and foam. Second grade is making clay fish. Third grade is making sea snakes out of paint, tin foil, and papier-mâché. Fourth grade is making starfish made of a cardboard base, crumbled paper, and papier-mâché. 5th is making papier-mâché turtles.

The Art Show will be held in the outdoor classroom. 🌿

(Ed. Note: The Art Show is scheduled to be held the week of May 18th, after this issue of The Oak goes to press. Look for photos of the show on our social media, see back page.)



Ms. Bruce (left) and Miss Alexa (right) help 3rd graders with their papier-mâché forms.

After School Enrichment

Dungeons & Dragons

by Archie, 3rd

Every Tuesday after school, I go with Mr. De Palma to Play Dungeons & Dragons. I play with Ramsey, 5th grade, Nora 4th grade, and Sabine, 4th. In the class, we fight demogorgons who have crazy heads, demodogs that are baby demodogs, and travelers.

In the class I am a wizard, Ramsey is a cleric, Nora is a rogue, and Sabine is a fighter. The wizard's powers are spells, the cleric's powers are spells and weapons, the rogue's powers are weapons and being sneaky, and finally the fighter's powers are weapons.

Mr. De Palma, the dungeon master, chooses the story, so we don't know what the story will be!
I LOVE D&D SO MUCH.

A D&D interview with Mr. De Palma:

The Oak: Why did you choose to teach D&D to the kids?

Mr. De Palma: I chose to teach the class because I wanted to do a fun class.

The Oak: How long did it take you to plan the campaign?

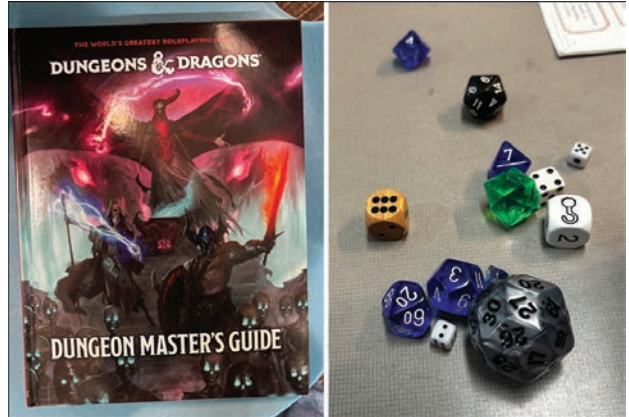
Mr. De Palma: It took me a few hours to plan the campaign.

The Oak: Are you excited to play D&D with the kids?

Mr. De Palma: I am super excited to play D&D with the kids and see where it leads.

The Oak: How long have you been playing for?

Mr. De Palma: I was introduced in seventh grade in a Latin class and have been playing for eighteen years. 🌿



Sports


All About the LES Basketball Team

by Ace, 1st

At LES, there are different ways to get involved with basketball! The fourth and fifth graders have their own team, the sixth graders have their own team, and the younger students get to do basketball enrichment called Junior Basketball League.

The basketball season starts and ends with the inner squad. The inner squad is when 4th and 5th graders play 6th graders. This is a good way to get practice playing against bigger kids. Each basketball team has about 10 players.

Another fun event during basketball season is the Faculty vs. Student Game. This is a special game that always happens before spring break. The faculty plays against the main league and the other students watch and cheer everyone on!

The main league is the LES basketball team that plays against other schools. Go Eagles! 



(above) Mrs. Reinfeld faces a 6th grader as Coach Terry starts the tip-off for the Faculty vs. Student game.



(above) Junior Eagles with Coach Michael



Eagles Team Blue



Eagles Team White

Eagle Days

Eagle Days Reach Even Greater Heights

by Levi, 3rd

Eagle Days happen twice a year. One week is set aside for students to pick two classes each, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

I sat down with Wolfe in 3rd grade. Wolfe chose Outdoor Cooking as an Eagle Day activity. One thing he enjoyed was cooking and eating the things he made. Some things he learned included starting fires and safety stuff.

Wolfe picked this class because he did a version of it last time.

If Wolfe could create his own class, he said it would be Soccer Eagle Days because his friends would probably join.

Outdoor Cooking is only one Eagle Days' class. There are many other classes, such as, Recess Games Around the World, Rock On Iron On, Roller Coaster Mania, and Fairy Gardens. 🌿

Magical Fairy Gardens

by Bella, 1st

One Eagle Days' class is Fairy Garden! In Fairy Garden we went on a nature walk and we collected material that fell on the ground. Then we put the stuff in a bag and let it dry. Then we made fairy houses and decorated it with pens and markers and some dried flowers that we collected.

Next, we did the gardens and added moss and little creatures. We also added mushrooms and little seeds. One part of gardens that I love is we get to help fairies.

I love Fairy Gardens because it is fun! We are adding fairies to our gardens and seeds to the back parking lot to bring more fairies to school. 🌿



(above right) Mr. Beckmann, Mr. Myers, and Mr. J oversee deep-fried banana-making and chili.



(above left) Mrs. Nelson helps the fairy builders find natural materials outside.



Eagle Days

The Petting Zoo that Came to Los Encinos by Goldie, 1st

A petting zoo came to Los Encinos school!

Each grade got to pet sheep, cows, pigs, ducks, donkeys, and bunnies. The petting zoo came because Kindergarten does not get Eagle Days, so their teachers wanted to do something special.

I loved the petting zoo because I really liked the animals, especially the sheep. 🌿

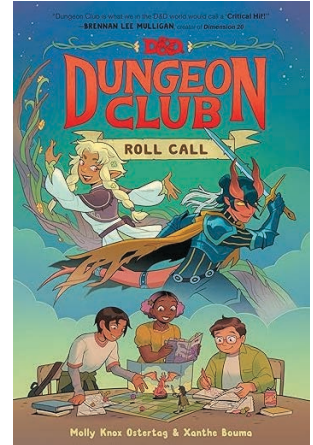


Book Reviews

Dungeon Club by Archie, 3rd

Dungeon Club is a trilogy by Lee Knox Ostertag. It is about two girls named Olivia and Jess. They love playing D&D just the two of them. Then one day, Olivia wants to let more people join them. But Jess does not want more people to join.

I like the book because it helps you learn how to handle difficult situations in high school and it is okay to do some nerdy things, too. My review is 10 out of 10 stars. 🌿



The Wild Robot by Levi, 3rd

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (Book 1) is about a robot named Roz who gets stranded on an island. At first, all the animals think she's a monster. Then they become good friends halfway through the book. Then Roz finds a little baby duck and names him Brightbill.

Robots try to take Roz back to the city to become a robot servant and wipe her memory of the woods. Then all the animals fight back to take her back to the woods. Right when they thought they won, Roz gets taken back to the city for good.

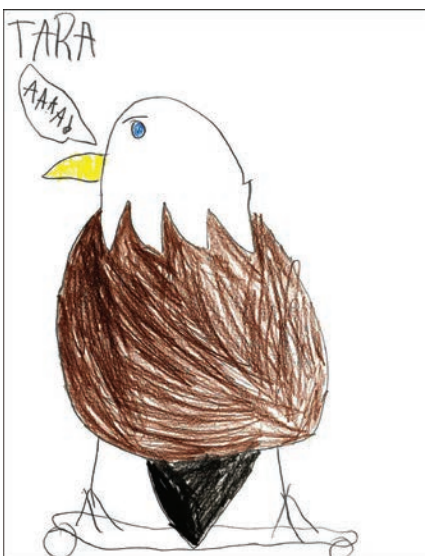
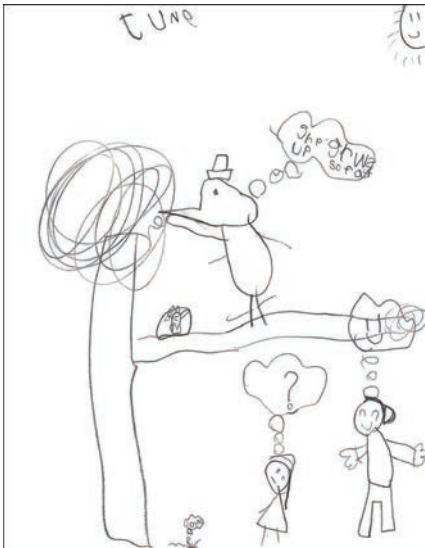
In the next book, Roz escapes the city and goes back to her home in the forest. In my opinion it is a 10/10 book series. I definitely recommend it for you all to read. 🌿



Kindergarten Everests



Kindergarten Everests



Fun & Games

(Solutions on back page.)

Jokes & Riddles

by Bella (1st)

1. What wave can you not surf on?
2. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?

by Neave (1st)

3. Riddle:
The bus driver is you. At the first stop, 1 person gets off. At the second stop, 3 people get off. At the third stop, 5 people get off. At the fourth stop, 6 people get off. How old is the bus driver?

by Stella (4th)

4. What do you call a huge pile of cats?
5. How do you make a witch itch?
6. How did the baby ducks get out of their shells?
7. Riddle:
A cowboy came in on Friday, stayed for 3 days, and left on Friday. How is that possible?



Un-Scramble It!

by Goldie (1st) and Ace (1st)

(Unscramble the words and then use the circled letters to answer the riddle.)

Y T O _____

I S S _____

S E T T _____

H A T C C _____ _____

Why do tailors make great comedians?



by Goldie 1st and Ace 1st

Because they have everyone in _____!

Fun & Games

(Solutions on back page.)

Word Search by Bella, 1st

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | X | C | E | L | I | E | N | T | S | | |
| A | B | V | Q | O | C | E | Q | U | R | V | |
| U | I | E | C | U | Y | S | S | X | Q | S | W |
| C | G | R | F | R | X | S | Y | J | T | U | X |
| B | K | E | E | A | W | E | S | O | M | E | A |
| E | I | S | B | Q | B | Y | N | Q | E | S | D |
| F | T | T | C | E | K | Q | E | V | T | W | X |
| G | S | O | M | N | I | G | R | H | A | Y | H |
| H | R | Y | P | Q | H | T | U | C | P | S | B |
| Q | I | G | K | I | D | U | C | H | N | A | C |
| Q | P | O | N | M | N | V | E | Q | O | D | E |
| R | S | T | T | E | E | P | S | E | R | S | T |
| U | V | W | X | Y | S | H | S | H | U | V | W |
| C | H | G | H | X | S | Y | H | S | A | B | X |
| A | D | C | X | Y | S | U | Q | Y | A | S | Y |

Everest
 Excellent
 Courage
 I.e.s.
 awesome

Secure
 respect
 metaphor
 Joy
 kindness

The Oak Staff (+ Fun Facts)

Cormac, 4th: I love to cliff jump and play tennis.
 Stella, 4th: I play with my 3 dogs and dance.
 Theo, 4th: I love to play baseball and golf.
 Archie, 3rd: I like watching hockey with my dad and reading books.
 Levi, 3rd: I like playing Fortnite and sports.
 Lorna, 3rd: I have 10 pets: 4 tarantulas, 4 dogs, and 2 guinea pigs
 Miles, 2nd: I have a fish named Cat Valentine.
 Millie, 2nd: When I need time to myself I jump on the trampoline.

Ace, 1st: I'm the best tennis player in my clinic for my age group.
 Bella, 1st: I have two cats named Arthur and Coco.
 Elle, 1st: I love spending time with my family.
 Goldie, 1st: I am starting to learn to sew.
 Neave, 1st: I have 8 pets: 1 dog, 1 chameleon, and 6 fish.
 Oona, 1st: During my free time, I skateboard and read books.

Faculty Advisors

Ms. Pinkus
 Mrs. Vaisman
 Mr. Falk

Founder

Zelda Bleiweiss '25



SOLUTIONS

Jokes (page 18):

1. What wave can you not surf on?
 Answer: A microwave.
2. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?
 Answer: In case he got a hole in one.
3. How old is the bus driver?
 The bus driver is as old as you.
4. What do you call a huge pile of cats?
 Answer: A meow-ntain.
5. How do you make a witch itch?
 Answer: Take out the W.
6. How do baby ducks get out of their shells?
 Answer: They follow the eggs-it sign.
7. How is that possible?
 Answer: The horse's name is Friday.

Joke Scramble (page 18):

TOY, SIS, TEST, CATCH
 Because they always leave everyone in
STITCHES!

Word Search (page 19):



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