

Laurence School Lightning Striker

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Newspaper Reporters

Kyle R., Third Grade

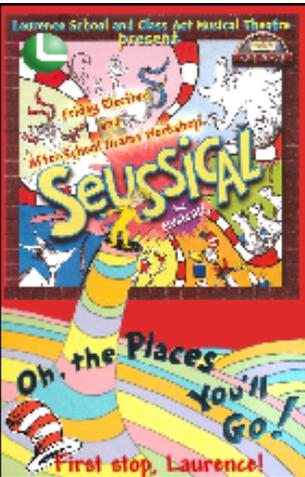
Ian F., Fourth Grade

Ashley G., Fourth Grade

Lianna S., Fourth Grade

Courtney S., Fourth
Grade

Jared B., Fifth Grade



Jonny G., Fifth Grade

Daniel N., Fifth Grade

Faculty Advisers

Mrs. Milman

Mr. Nairin

Copy Editor

Miss Greenwood

Dr. Seuss- Now a Laurence Headliner!!

By Courtney S. and Ashley G.

What do *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *Oh, the Places We'll Go* all have in common? They are stories by the legendary author and writer, Dr. Seuss. All of these stories and more will be coming to our Laurence stage in the upcoming "Seussical" production, which is based on various Dr. Seuss works.

I interviewed one star performer, fourth grader, Drew K.

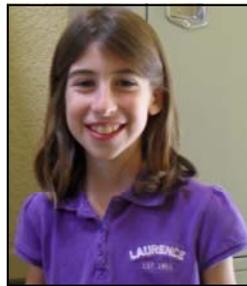
Q: How do you feel about the performing arts teachers directing the play?

A: I love the teachers and their personalities. They are so much fun to be around. They make learning our lines and our play fun. They have so much person-

ality, which really makes us want to do well for them.

Q: What is your part?

A: I play Mr. Mayor, who is Jojo's father. It is very fun to have one of the main parts in the play. I really feel like I am important,



and if I don't do my job well, the play won't be a major success.

Q: Who are the main characters?

A: The main characters are Horton, Cat in the Hat, and Jojo. Jojo plays a major role and an important part in the play. That's

why it is fun to play this character.

Drew has told me she can't wait for the play. We can't wait either—we think it will be great!

Performances will be held on January 26th at 1:00 P.M. for kindergarten through second graders, on January 27th at 1:00 P.M. for third through sixth graders, and over the weekend on January 27th at 5:30 P.M. and on January 29th at 4:00 P.M. for Laurence families and friends.

There are two different casts—the Red Fish, Blue Fish Cast, which will be performing on Thursday at 1:00 P.M. and on Friday at 5:30 P.M., and the One Fish, Two Fish cast, which will be performing on Friday at 1:00 P.M. and on Sunday at 4:00 P.M. Weekend tickets are available online at: www.ClassActTheatre.tix.com.

STUDENT POEM AWARDED IN "A CELEBRATION OF POETS"

A big congratulations goes out to fifth grader, Jordan G., whose poem, "Campfire" was named one of the ten best poems in the U.S. and Canada for fourth through sixth graders. It appeared in the anthology, *A Celebration of Poets*, released in November of 2011. The following is the winning entry:

"Campfire"

The stars glisten like candles lighting up the whole night sky.

Singing songs in beautiful harmony to the delightful sound of the guitar.

Laughing and smiling as we devour crisp s'mores, instantly melting in our mouths.

Listening to sweet melodies of the night, as the fire continues its florescent spark.

Night crickets chirp their tunes, nuzzled safely in green blades of grass, away from the flames.

Family and friends, snuggling together, surrounding the warm, bright, crackling fire.

Gazing up at the moon, looking to the perfect night sky, a simple hope and a prayer that the summer never comes to an end.

MR. NAIRIN STARS IN ROOM 11

By Jonny G.

Did you know that Laurence now has its first male classroom teacher in more than ten years? Well, if you don't know, then you haven't met our new fourth grade teacher, Mr. Nairin, who, before coming to Laurence, taught fifth grade at Castle Bay Elementary School in Porter Ranch.

Mr. Nairin has some great qualities as a teacher, so I decided to interview him as well as some of his students.



Mr. Nairin:

Q: How was your summer?

A: It was absolutely wonderful. I was a director at a summer day camp, and I went to London for a week with my wife.

Q: Did you have many teacher friends at your old school?

A: Yes, I still have teacher friends [there], and I stay in touch with them because my kids still

go to school there.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: I have three wonderful and incredible boys. Their names are Dylan (7), Brandon (5), and Carson (2.5).

Q: For how long have you been married, and what is your wife's name?

A: I have been married for nine years. My wife's name is Amy.

Q: What is it like to have kids at home?

A: It is lots of fun and very busy to have kids at home. They are very active in baseball, soccer, and basketball. We are constantly running all around with them.

Q: How does it feel to teach at a new school?

A: It feels good, and it is a new start for me and my teaching career. Coming from a public school for 12 years, it is nice to come to a school in which the class sizes are smaller.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I went to Lanai Road School through second grade, Stephen S. Wise Temple through ninth grade, and Birmingham High School through twelfth grade. After high school, I went to CSUN.

Q: How was your first day at Laurence ?

A: It went very smoothly for me, and it was great. The students and staff were very welcoming to me. It was also wonderful meeting

all of the parents.

Q: What do you think about our newspaper?

A: To me, the newspaper is very exciting.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do related to the newspaper?

A: My favorite thing to do in newspaper is to read student writing. I also like to learn new things about the school and to work with Mrs. Milman. It's fun to see the newspaper [through] from the beginning to the end [and to see the finished] product.

Q: How do you like your new classroom?

A: I like my classroom because it is new and fresh. I love the seating arrangement, my students, and my colleague, Ms. Heckendorn.

Now you know all there is to know about our new Laurence addition. Here is what some of his students in room 11 are saying about him.

Lianna S. - He is nice, caring, and never makes people stay in during P.E.

Ashley G. - He is a nice teacher, and he is very smart.

Ty G. - He is nice and very funny.

Mr. Nairin is a great addition to the Laurence family!

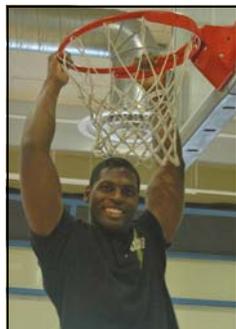
Who is the Tallest Teacher at Laurence School?

By Lianna S.

Did you know that Coach Riley is 6'6" tall, has a foot size of 15, and hands that are over eight inches long? Well, now you do!

Coach Riley enjoys many activities, such as basketball, coaching, teaching, and helping kids become leaders. He also coaches fourth grade girls' basketball and fourth grade boys' football. This is his first year as a P.E. teacher at Laurence School, but as you might remember, he started here in November of 2010, as an afterschool coach.

Coach Riley is from Kansas City but has lived in Chatsworth for the past year. He went to college at North Dakota State University, where he played both basketball and football. He even played in many championship games, including



in the NCAA tournament against Kansas.

Riley has many hobbies, including playing video games. One of his favorite games is the Sims3. He also has a pet bird named Zazu.

You might be surprised to learn that The Lion King is Riley's favorite movie and that Think and Grow Rich, by Napoleon Hill, is his favorite book.

We say Kansas City's loss is Laurence's gain! Go Riley!

THE TOUR TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

By Ian F.

Did you know that the L.A. Times' newspaper plant is the biggest one in the United States? For the first time ever at Laurence School, students from the newspaper elective got to visit the Times. Here is what we discovered.



We learned that the printing building has huge, twenty-one-year-old robots that carry all of the paper rolls and that get repaired in a "hospital" by the paper's mechanics when they're broken. Each of these paper rolls costs over \$800, and some of these rolls weigh two and a half tons!

Some other fun facts—every paper has some printing mistakes, only black, yellow, blue, and red ink are used in the printing process, and a colored ad on a weekday can cost more than \$12,000! Another staggering figure—it costs over \$22,000,000 a year to employ all of the workers at the Times. Also fascinating to note is that the paper has its very own font and that it was originally called

the "Los Angeles Daily Times."

If you want to see ten papers being printed a minute, sign up for the newspaper elective next trimester and visit the Times for yourself!



ONE TALENTED FOURTH GRADER

By Lianna S.

Do you know which fourth grader wants to be a jazz musician?

William S. does! He plays the alto saxophone, which is smaller than a tenor sax but bigger than a soprano one. His hero is famous jazz musician, Charlie "Bird" Parker, who has a jazz club in New York named after him.

William also loves sports. He plays fourth grade football here and loves it a lot. With a strong team behind him, he had a successful season.

While at home, William likes to play baseball, football, and hockey with his dad. His favorite baseball team is the Yankees, and his favorite football team is the Green Bay Packers. William wants to be in the Laurence Hall of



Fame by playing three sports every year until he graduates. He has been playing sports for two years thus far, so he is certainly on his way!

Knee boarding is one of William's out-of-school hobbies. To play, place your knees on a board and get pulled by a boat. William spends part of his summers participating in this sport he loves each year. Another one of William's hobbies is building. Last year, he built a chicken coop for our Laurence chickens. It should come as no surprise then that William hopes to be an engineer someday.

William is one talented kid. I look forward to seeing what becomes of him in the future.

The Wheels on the Laurence Bus Go Round and Round

By Daniel N. and Jared B.

One of our school's newer services is the bus. On any given day, between ten and twenty students can be found traveling on either the Hancock Park or Beverly Hills bus.

We interviewed seven kindergarten through fifth grade student riders regarding their experiences.

We found that the majority of the students liked it, but some were bored because there is not much to do. We asked them about the possibility of reading or socializing with

friends. Some said that when they read, they get carsick, and others said that after a few days, they know everything there is to know about everybody! We also asked them if they would enjoy themselves more with some sort of entertainment on the bus, and everyone said, "Yes!"

Second grader, Jake J. explained, "I like the bus because you talk to old friends and make new ones. It also makes the ride feel shorter." Before a holiday weekend, Jake's friend, Teddy R., added, "I wish we had school on Monday so I could see my driver. I like him a lot."

We personally think the bus is a great idea because it helps busy, working parents get



their kids to school on time. And, although our students would like some entertainment, they are already receiving the gift of getting to school on time, so we think that's enough for now! Got Bus? Yes!

BOOKS FOR EVERY GRADE!

By Jared B.

There is no friend as loyal as a book.

-Ernest Hemingway

I happen to agree with Mr. Hemingway, so, I chose some books at different reading levels to tickle your reading bones. Find a nice beanbag, get a cup of water, and dig into your new book.

First Grade: *Roscoe Riley Rules*

Join Roscoe as he annoys his sister, glues his classmates to their seats, and generally gets in trouble. This book will have you in stitches by the end of the first chapter.

Second Grade: *Ribsy*

Henry and he Ribsy are best pals or as close to best pals as a boy and his dog can be. But, what happens when Ribsy gets lost, and drives off in the wrong car? Find out in this very fun, adventure-packed read-aloud.

Third Grade: *The Name of This Book is Secret*

When Cass, a want-to-be-survivalist, and Max-Earnest, a boy driven by logic, discover The

Symphony of Smells, they are thrown head-first into a quest about a dead magician's diary and the secret to immortality. Read on as they meet the evil doctor and his equally sinister wife, Mrs. Mauvais, and fight to stop them both from world domination.



Fourth Grade: *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*

Jack, a small nobody, gets stranded on a remote island after a terrible shipwreck. The only things there to keep him safe is a sheepdog. Even after its owner dies, Jack remains faithful and protects the sheep from the evil Fangos—sheepdogs that have turned against the other sheep and are constantly plotting raids against them.

Fifth Grade: *Eragon*

A young farm boy named Eragon finds a mysterious stone in the mountains. A dragon he later names Saphira hatches from the stone, which was really an egg. When the evil King Galbatorix finds out about Eragon and his dragon, he sends his servants, the Ra'zac, after him in an effort to capture the boy and his pet. Eragon and Saphira are forced to flee from their hometown and decide to search for the Varden, a group of rebels who want to see the downfall of Galbatorix.

Sixth: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

This book begins with construction workers arriving at Arthur Dent's house, in order to demolish it to make way for a freeway bypass. Arthur's friend, Ford Prefect, arrives while Arthur is lying in front of the bulldozers, to keep a construction team from tearing it down. Ford tries to explain to Arthur that he is actually an alien from a planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse and that the Earth is about to be destroyed. As it turns out, the Vogons, an alien race, intend to destroy Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Read on to see what unfolds.

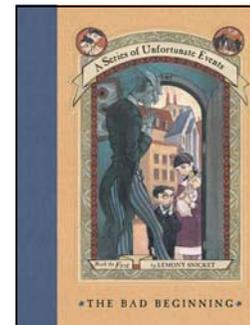
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

By Ian F.

Have you ever had a series of unfortunate events happen to you? If yes, then you'd love these books by Lemony Snicket. *A Series of Unfortunate Events* is about the Baudelaire orphans and the adventures that unfold while they're living with their relatives. In the first book, their parents die, and their house is demolished, so they go to live with their relative, Count Olaf. He sneakily tries to obtain the Baudelaire fortune, and a series of unfortunate events begin to unfold for the siblings.

In every book except for the first one, Count Olaf disguises himself. In the second book, he pretends to take care of the Baudelaire orphans as a character named Stephano.

If you want to know what happens next, read the series. I recommend it because it is suspense and interest factor.



“FUN WITH FOOD” IS FUN!

By Kyle R.

Have you heard about the new food-related craze that is happening after school? If you haven't, you are missing out on the most delectable feast you could ever imagine. The new after school class—“Fun with Food”—taught by my mom, Pam, really is incredible. If you take this class, you will get the opportunity to make ice cream, pasta, mini chicken legs, rice, and lots more to whet

your appetite each and every Thursday. Not surprisingly, the class takes place in



the kitchen.

I took the first class and thought the food we made was really delicious. My favorite part was when we made ice cream.

“Fun with Food” is exactly what the title says it is—the most fun that anyone can have with food. I hope that you get the opportunity to participate in this wonderful class!