

Laurence School Lightning Striker

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Newspaper Reporters

Shaye G., Third Grade
Milla H., Third Grade
Elise K., Third Grade
Zoey R., Third Grade
Lowell B., Fourth Grade
Tanisha G., Fourth Grade
Emery G., Fourth Grade
Grant K., Fourth Grade
Claire S., Fourth Grade
Katie S., Sixth Grade

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Laurence School Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

By Katie S.

You all probably know that your Laurence School uniform shirt says "Est. 1953" in the corner of it. Well, this means, for those of you who don't know, that our school opened in 1953. Well, this 2012-2013 school year is our 60th!



Mr. Jacobson wanted to found Laurence School because he loved being around children.

garage. The whole upper campus (fifth grade, sixth grade, math lab, science lab) and the new field used to be apartment buildings. There were also only 10 children enrolled at the school. Mr. Jacobson himself taught those 10 kids math, reading, writing, art, and music.

By the 60's, there were around 50 students. In the 70's, the amount of kids from the last decade tripled. Laurence also changed its name to "Laurence 2000." Mr. Jacobson chose this name because he wanted to start thinking about the future. During the 80's, the number of students continued to increase, and our student body started becoming more diverse. In the 90's, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson launched the global educa-

Finally, in the 2000's, the school got the Internet! Then, the students could use the web, write papers on computers, and take pictures and upload them for viewing and sharing. In 2005, before anyone in the current K-6 grades was here, the upper campus, including the PAC, the computer lab, the library, the fifth and sixth grade classrooms, and even the Field of Dreams, was finally finished!

From 2005 to now, there have been many different renovations. The new Lightning Field, the new kindergarten rooms, the new Arts & Entertainment Alcove, and even the new first grade room were all built within the last two years. I think this coming decade will be very interesting and unique too!



I interviewed him and asked him about what the school was like that first year. He said that when the school initially started, there was one classroom, which is now a first grade class. The kindergarten and the new drama room were formerly a



tion program, and everyone got a pen-pal from a different country.

Breaking 27 Rocks at Laurence!

By Lowell B. and Tanisha G.

Who is Breaking 27? They are a band that put on a concert at Laurence in November to promote their anti-bullying message. Their motto is that you should not bully and instead stand up for others. These pint-size rockers hail from the Valley and range in age from 11-13. Max (11, drums), Edan (12, guitar), and Kailey (12, keyboards), who attended Laurence, started playing together in 2009. Charlotte (12, bass) joined the band in late 2010. After an enormous search, they found their singer, Sophie

(13, vocals). Breaking 27 has played gigs at the world-famous Roxy, The



Whisky, The Knitting Factory, The Cat Club, and many other venues. The chem-

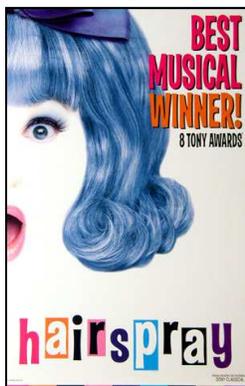
istry that these kids have is infectious!! Their individual love for music comes through in their playing!

By the band's own admission, their inspiration comes from The Beatles, Guns 'N Roses, Green Day, and many others. With the guidance and support of music producer and industry veteran, Mark "Muddy" Dutton, Breaking 27 is continuing to work on their original music in hopes of completing their first record! These kids are the real deal and ready to rock your world!

Good Morning, Hairspray!

By Katie S.

Did you watch the musical "Hairspray"? I know all of you have seen the posters around campus. The performance was held at the PAC on Jan. 24, 25, and 27.



In case you don't know, "Hairspray" takes place in the sixties. The "pleasantly plump" teenager, Tracy Turnblad, always watches "The Corny Collins Show" with her best friend, Penny. But then, when one of the dancers leave the show, there is an opening! Tracy tries out, but if she gets the job, she will make the snobby Amber furious.

I've interviewed some students who participated in the play. Delaney G., sixth grade, played Wilbur, who is Tracy Turnblad's dad. "I like acting because you get to be someone you're not," she says. Her favorite song is "You Can't Stop the Beat" because she thinks it is one of the most active songs in the musical. Delaney also says that she's seen the movie many times, and she couldn't wait until the student body could see

the performance. Another person in the show is Mica P., fourth grade. She is playing Little Inez. Mica loves acting because she thinks that "You get to let out your inner self." Her favorite song is "Welcome to the 60's." Even though she hasn't seen the movie, she wanted to do the play so she could try something new.

The last person I interviewed was Luke M., sixth grade. In this wonderful musical, Luke played Link, and he was very happy he got the role. His favorite song is "Good Morning, Baltimore." "Hairspray" was a very good and interesting play. I hope you made it to one of the great shows!

What's Hot and What's Not at the Movies?

By Zoey R.

The movie theaters are spilling out with creative and fun movies. There were some big hits in 2012. Popcorn is awesome, but the most popular three movies of 2012 according to 50 Laurence students are even hotter (and more scrumptious)!

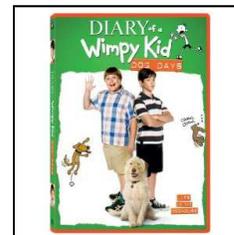
Hotel Transylvania: 18 votes



Wreck-It-Ralph: 17 votes



Diary of a Wimpy Kid Dog Days: 15 votes



Coach Servin is Servin' up a Good Interview

By Grant K.

You are about to hear some fun facts about one of our new coaches, Coach Servin. I decided to interview Coach Servin so everyone could get to know him better as he leads the Lightning to victory!

Q: Hello Coach Servin. How do you like Laurence so far?

A: Laurence is amazing. Laurence has great students, a wonderful staff, and I enjoy coming to work every day.

Q: What is your favorite part about Laurence?

A: My favorite part is coming to

school and playing with the students in P.E.

Q: Why is it your favorite part?

A: I love sports, and I think I help the students become better athletes and help them lead better lifestyles.

Q: Where did you work before you came to Laurence?

A: I worked at Chaminade High School in West Hills.

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: Soccer is my favorite because my father played in the pros.

Q: Did you coach any sports before

you came here? What is your favorite sport to coach?

A: I still coach club soccer, and it is my favorite.

Q: What do you do when you are not at Laurence?

A: I spend time with my family and my son, Julian Rio.



Do You Know Mrs. Rippee?

By Milla H.

I interviewed Mrs. Rippee because she is a new, excellent teacher. She teaches third grade, and I am in her class.

Q: Do you like to teach?

A: Yes, because I like to help people. I also like to share my knowledge with students.

Q: Do you like to teach third grade? Why?

A: Yes, because third graders have a lot to say, and it is a great age. They are also super creative.

Q: Did you study to be a teacher? How many years?

A: Yes, I studied at San Diego State. It took four years to get my B.A.. Then, my teaching credential took one year, and my Masters took three years.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: I like writing because I enjoy seeing all the creative material my students write about. So, I like creative and personal writing.



Q: Have you ever taught any other grade besides third? What is your favorite out of those?

A: Yes, I've taught kindergarten, first grade, and fifth grade. I liked kindergarten a lot because they are so excited to learn, and everything is new to them.

Q: Do you speak a different language? Where did you learn it?

A: I know a bit of Spanish. My husband taught me because he learned it in high school.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: My favorite food is pasta. I love Italian food!

Q: What was the name of the elementary school you went to when you were a kid? Where was it located?

A: It was called NESAs Elementary School, and it was in Tarzana.

It is fun having Mrs. Rippee as my teacher! I hope you feel better acquainted with her now too!

Ja

By Elise K.

Ms. Morris is my third grade teacher. She comes from London. I asked her some questions about how she likes teaching at Laurence and the difference between Laurence kids and those in London. I got some interesting answers.

Q. How was your life in London?

A. It was amazing! It was busy, exciting, and full of art and theater.

Q. How do you like teaching at Laurence?

A. I like it a lot. The best thing is the great families. They are so nice.

Q. What's different about teaching in the U.K than the U.S.A?

A. The accents are different. The words are different, too. You say "candy," we say "sweets." You say "oatmeal," and we say "porridge."

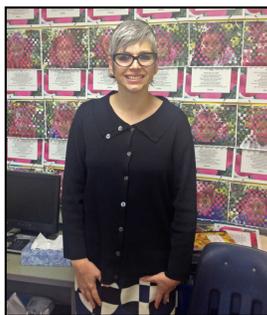
Q. Why do you like teaching here?

All About Ms. Morris

A: I like teaching here because my class' sister school is in England. My students get to learn history about the place where I was born.

Q. Do you notice anything different between London kids and L.A kids?

A. The class I taught in London had students from many different cultures - a big variety.



Q. When you were a kid did you want to be a teacher when you grew up?

A. I did not want to be a teacher. I wanted to be a veterinarian and a flight attendant. In the end, I decided to be a teacher because I wanted to make a difference.

Q. How does teaching affect your life?

A. My job is different every day. I would not want to work in a factory or an ice cream place because they do the same thing every day. But as a teacher, I could be grading seat work or teaching math, teaching social studies and global education, going to assemblies, attending an author presentation, and watching my students have fun.

Q. Were you nervous to teach third grade?

A. No, I wasn't. Third graders have a reputation as being a bit more independent and are still excited about learning.

Q. How long have you lived here?

A. I have been in America for 11 years. I have lived here a very long time.

I think Ms. Morris is a great teacher, and I can't wait to learn more about her and London as my third grade career continues.

Who Did our School Vote For?

By Lowell B. and Tanisha G.

In October, we went around campus to ask who Laurence students hoped would win the 2012 presidential election. The two candidates running for office were Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. When he was 10, he started fifth grade at Puna-hou School (our kindergartner's sister school last year!). Obama has been married to Michelle Obama since 1992.

Mitt Romney was born on March 12,

1947 in Detroit, Michigan. As a kid, Romney went to the Vaughn School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He has been married to Ann Romney since 1969.

Out of the 126 children polled, Barack Obama received 105 votes, and Mitt Romney earned 21 votes.

In the school-wide election on November 6, 80% of the votes were for Obama, and 20% were for Romney. Obama also won the real presidential election by roughly 2% popular-vote margin and 33 electoral votes—64 more than Romney secured.

Obama



Romney



Ja

THESE GIRLS CAN WIN!

By Shaye G.

As you know, our sixth grade kids won the great Bedazzled and Golden Bucket by beating the sixth graders at VBS in football! This is the inside scoop about the Bedazzled Bucket from the girls' perspective. Some people were surprised we won because nerves were running so high on game day. Not only did we win, but we also broke a school record for the most points scored for the Bedazzled Bucket. The final score was 28 - 14!

Our upper class girls spent three days preparing for the big game. They were nervous, but the boys were very confident that they would take home the trophy. During P.E., the girls practiced their positions and

some plays that they would do. The coaches were very supportive and helped the girls learn a lot in a short amount of time.

It was wet and cold the night of the game. The girls were scared at first, but they got more confident after the first play because it went well. Eventually, they dominated the game, and they were amazing. The crowd went wild when the girls won. Our team was jumping up and down

and screaming at the top of their lungs! They felt so happy because their hard work had paid off. It was a great memory for our girls to have from their last year at Laurence.



Who is "Art"astic?

By Zoey R.

Mr. Manise is "art"astic! I interviewed him to see why he likes to do art. He gave some interesting answers. People should know that he is a fascinating teacher who has taught at Laurence for 19 years.



Q: What is your favorite kind of art?
A: My favorite kind of artwork to do is clay work. I likes to mush my fingers in the clay.

Q: What is your favorite kind of art tool to use?
A: Again, I love the pottery wheel.

Q: Why did you become an art teacher?
A: I became an art teacher because I am obsessed with art. I enjoy drawing perspective and free drawing.

Q: Do you like crayons or markers better?
A: I prefer markers. Marker ink is easier to see.

Q: What is your favorite sport to watch?

A: I like to watch hockey. (I already knew this because he loves to say "Go hockey.")

Q: What is you favorite food?
A: My favorite food is Indian food. I know a couple of Indian Americans who make real authentic dishes.

Q: How long have you taught?
A: I have taught for 20 years total. I love to teach at Laurence and hope to continue here for a long time.

If you love art class and want to spend even more time being artistic and getting to know Mr. Manise, you should think about joining his elective when you are in the upper elementary grades!

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DO YOU REALLY KNOW MRS. SHLIEBE?

By Zoey R.

I decided to interview Mrs. Shliebe because she is a fun and creative teacher. Also, this is her first year as a lead classroom teacher in third grade.

Q: Why did you start teaching at Laurence?

A: I started teaching because I love



the smiles and the hugs from kids. Also, I like to help students learn about new things.

Q: How did you find Laurence?

A: Mr. Stern called me up one day and asked if I would want a teaching job here. I replied "Yes!" and also mentioned that all the members of

my family are teachers!

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Kansas where Dorothy from *The Wizard from Oz* was born. I was actually Dorothy in a parade.

Q: Do you speak a different language?

A: I speak French and Spanish. Hola and adios. Bonjour and au revoir.

Q: What is your favorite board game?

A: My favorite board game is Clue. (When I interviewed Mrs. Shliebe, I could see Clue sitting on her shelf.)

Q: Who did you vote for?

A: I voted for Barak Obama (I think that is a good choice) because I thought he would be a better president than Mitt Romney.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: My favorite subjects to teach are math and reading.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Mexican food is my favorite. I like tortillas, rice, chicken, salsa, chips, beans, and burritos. I like food with a spicy touch.

Q: How do you remember all the stuff you teach?

A: I have to get out my Writers' Workshop notebook and write some notes down. I also have to practice and practice and practice.

Q: Have you ever taught any other grade than third?

A: I've taught first and second grade. I had fun in those grades and now am up for the challenge of third grade!

I really do not want to leave third grade because Mrs. Schliebe is such a good teacher!

Minecraft Voted Favorite Video Game

By Claire S. and Emery G.

Have you ever wondered what your classmate's favorite video game is? We did a survey among 58 third - sixth graders to find out, and here are the results:

Minecraft	34
Club Penguin	14
Webkinz	8
Epic Mickey	2



Now, we're going to tell you about the game that was voted the favorite: Minecraft! Emery and I play Minecraft, and we think it's really fun. Apparently so do many other people!

Minecraft is about little people living in a little world made of blocks. You can do so many things. You can change what you look like, go in different worlds, build, and so much more!



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Kings Win Their First Stanley Cup

By Grant K.

In the summer of 2012, the Los Angeles Kings won their first National Hockey League Stanley Cup in the history of the LA Kings. From the goal by Jarret Stoll to the one by Dustin Penner, the road to victory was very exciting.

The playoff tree for the Kings started against the Vancouver Canucks. The puck was a like a bullet piercing the air when the Kings defeated the Canucks with a wicked wristshot by Jarret Stoll. The St. Louis Blues were their next opponent. The Kings were up by three games.

The next game was at The Staples Center. Would the Kings sweep the series? Yes, they would! The Kings won the series 4-0. Next, were the Phoenix Coyotes. They are a great team. The fifth game was brutal, but with one minute left, the Kings' Dustin Penner got the puck in the net. Then, they were off to the finals. The Los Angeles Kings and The New Jersey Devils faced each other in the Stanley Cup Finals! It was game six, and the Kings were up with a score of 6-1! 5 seconds, 4 seconds, 3 seconds, 2 seconds, 1 second... The Los Angeles Kings won the Stanley Cup!



The Mystery of the Games

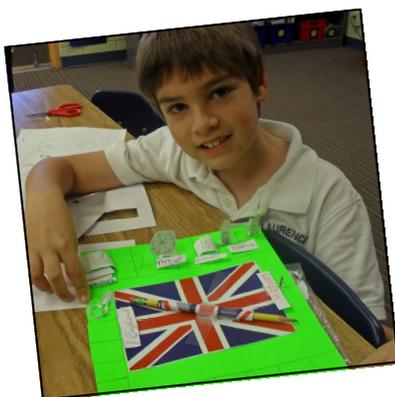
By Shaye G.

You may know Mr. Nairin and Mrs. Schliebe, but do you know about their elective? I decided to interview them because they both had game-related electives, and I thought it would be fun if we could compare how they are different. Have fun reading!

Q: Mr. Nairin, can you tell me about your elective Festival of Games?

A: Students have to solve brain teasers. I use household items like bowls and cups and think of games to play with them.

Q: How did you get inspired to make this elective?



A: Well, because I always loved all those reality game shows. I like those cool

“Minute to Win It” shows. I thought it would be fun for the kids to do it too.

Q: Do the kids get to vote on the games you bring?

A: Not really, I just bring the games from home, and they get to pick one that they like.

Q: Do they just play games in your elective?

A: They play games and socialize with their friends. They can also play on the computer or play brain teasers on the board.

Q: How long does it take to complete these games?

A: I bring hard games and brain teasers. It takes a good amount of time. It usually takes 10-15 minutes to play each game.

And now we're going to see how Mrs. Schliebe's game elective, Build a Board Game, compares to Mr. Nairin's elective.

Q: Mrs. Schliebe, can you tell me about your elective?

A: In my elective, we usually focus on making the games instead of playing them. The kids make the board games first, and then they get to play with the games they made.

Q: Is there a certain way that the students get inspired to make their games?

A: They are inspired by their families or just really liking different games and playing them a lot.

Q: How do they make the games?

A: I put posters out, and there are different colors to choose from. They can pick out a poster, and they print the things they need on the computer or build things out of paper.

I interviewed third grader, Michael G., about how he made his board game, England Run.

Q: How did you come up with this idea?

A: My mom inspired me because she is from England, and because our class, 3A, is studying England. Also, I really love England.

Ja

Fifth Grader Explores Israel

By Emery G.

This summer, fifth grader, Courtney S., went to explore the land of Israel for her cousin's bat mitzvah. A bat mitzvah is when a Jewish girl turns 13 and is considered a woman. She makes speeches in Hebrew and is called to the Torah to read.

Courtney said it was very hot in Israel, and she did many things with animals. In a town called Haifa, she milked a goat and rode camels. Though she said

the camels smelled like wet dog, she still had fun!



Courtney and her family also floated in the Dead Sea. On one of the days she was there, she dug for pottery. She went deep down into a cave that was 33 feet deep, and she found pottery from 2,000 years ago. They called it "the pottery of day."

Courtney and her family had loads of fun, but there is no place like home. If you want to talk to her about her vacation, go to the fifth grade classroom. I hope you'll all visit Israel soon!

The Mystery of the Specialist Subjects

By Tanisha G. and Lowell B.

There are so many subjects at Laurence beyond reading and math. All of them are interesting, but we wanted to do a survey about the specialist subjects. We asked 92 students from third – sixth grades the same question: what is your favorite specialist subject? We surveyed the students about the following

choices: computers, art, library, and music.

Our results were:

Art – 57
Computers – 22
Library – 8
Music – 5
Total – 92

"Art is fun because you get to express your feelings in your drawings using your imagination. Keep drawing and **HAVE FUN!**" said fourth grader Lexie B.



Favorite Zoo Animals

By Claire S.

When you are at the zoo, do you wonder which people like best— hippos, monkeys, or penguins? Well, do! I surveyed 51 students at school. Do you want to know what they said? These are my survey results:

Penguins—21
Monkeys—16
Hippos—14

Most students like penguins best!



What is Your Favorite Candy?

By Zoey R.

Halloween was so fun this year! All the students collected so much candy! Kids were spotted eating M&Ms, Starburst, Twix, and Milky Way bars around school. But, the students I surveyed did not choose those as their favorite candy. The most loved sugary treat was the Kit Kat. Check out the other two most popular choices!

Kit Kats—31
Hershey Bars—20
Gummy Bears—9

