

Laurence School Lightning Striker

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Newspaper Reporters

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World of Babies!

By Sofia B. and Peyton S.

Have you ever wondered how many teachers at school are pregnant or have wives that are pregnant? Right now, there are four Laurence School teachers who are expecting a new baby. We went behind the scenes and figured out very fun secrets. At the time of this interview, not everyone knew about these details.

The first person we interviewed was third grade teacher Mrs. Schliebe. She doesn't have any children yet, and she is having twins. The doctor said she will be due around April 10. She was hoping for a girl and a boy, and she got what she wanted! She is very excited and also nervous at the same time. One reason she is nervous is because she has a dog, and she is hoping the dog will be alright with the babies around

the house. Mrs. Schliebe is leaving school for about 2 1/2 months, but she told us that she will be coming back to Laurence next year! She is going to be an amazing mom!



The second person we interviewed was Mrs. Schwimer who teaches kindergarten. She had her first baby Jackson January 30, and he weighed 8 pounds, one ounce. She is happy it is a boy because her husband is a surfer, and as soon as the baby can walk, her husband is going to teach him how to surf.

Coach Servin's wife is having a baby too! He is very excited because he already has one child and he loves being a parent. He says, "Babies are the best treasure in the world." He would love a baby girl, but he doesn't know for sure if it will be a girl or boy. The baby is due April 16. Coach Servin is so good at sports, and from the videos of



his little boy kicking a soccer ball, we can tell that his son is already good at sports too.

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The Little Mermaid Swims on Down to Laurence



By Emery G.

I'm sure you've all heard of the movie "The Little Mermaid." This year at Laurence, stu-

dents are performing this play. The story is about a mermaid who just wants to follow her dreams, and she has many adventures along the way. I interviewed many different cast members that portray characters who are all completely different.

The first person that I interviewed was fourth grader Sophia B. She plays the role of one of Ariel's sisters. She got to do a lot of singing and

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What Drink does Your ^{Ja} Dehydration Desire?

By Michael G. and Alex M.

Since most of the students at Laurence play sports, we decided to do a drink survey of their favorite sports drinks. What are the favorite drinks that quench the thirst of Laurence students? Here were the results:

- * Gatorade: 20 votes
- * Water: 17 votes
- * Vitamin Water: 10 votes
- * Powerade: 3 votes

So the winner is Gatorade. If you log on to their website at www.gatorade.com, you can create your own digital gatorade bottle!



Mrs. Stange Returns to Laurence with Dramatic Flair

By Michael G. and Alex M.

We interviewed Mrs. Stange, the returning drama teacher, who is now, in addition to drama, the Performing Art Director and After School Enrichment Director. The after school program, under her guidance, now offers even more performing arts learning opportunities.

If you didn't know, Mrs. Stange taught when we were in kindergarten, which was four years ago! We thought of a few questions to ask this memorable drama teacher.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in

drama and why?

A: My favorite thing to do in drama is character development because you get to be someone else.

Q: Did you like drama when you were little? What was your favorite play?



A: I loved it. My mom and dad used to take me to theater. My favorite play is "All My Sons" by Arthur Miller.

Q: Who inspired you to be a drama teacher?

A: My grandmother inspired me to be a drama teacher because she taught children's theater and I wanted to do drama.

Also, Mrs. Stange has a new 22-month-old daughter named Hero. Her older son, Hudson, is in kindergarten here at Laurence. So now she has a son and daughter!

Goddess of the Sky

By Emery G.

"Noteworthy Entry" from *Skipping Stones Magazine*

You're running up the hill to say
hello

Even before I wake up I see
your round cheeks and your bright
smile

I can never frown when I see you
I could never look directly into
your eyes

Even if I wanted to



For your eyes are like weapons
Burning my eyes

But you're always right here
By my side

And that's the way I like it
And that's the way I want it

I reach my hand out to your hand
But you're too far away
But I don't mind
You're always there for me
Forever

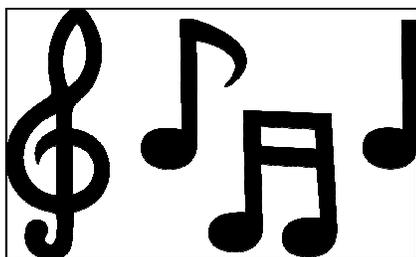
Mrs. Dale Strikes a Chord with Laurence Students

By Tanisha G.

Do you want to know more about our new music teacher? I interviewed Ms. Dale. I love how she teaches so I wanted to know about what happened before she came to Laurence.

Q: Why did you choose to teach music?

A: I always loved music when I was younger. I used to play teacher in my room when I was a little girl.



Q: So far, do you like teaching music

at Laurence School?

A: Yes, I love the students at Laurence.



Q: What did you do before you came here? How long did you teach?

A: Before I came here I taught guitar, piano and voice for four years.

Q: What is your favorite instrument? How long have you played it?

A: My favorite instrument is the ukelele which I have played for 6 years.

Q: What is your favorite song? A: My favorite song is anything by Madi Diaz.

Q: Do you have any siblings?

A: I have an older brother Ben who is also a musician.

Q: Where were you born? When did you move out to California?

A: I was born in Beaver Creek, Ohio. I then moved to California two years ago.

The students love Ms. Dale. She lets us play many instruments, plays many games with us, and we do many singing exercises. She also has great taste in songs!

It's All Fun and Games at Gamestar Mechanic Elective

By Emery G.

I have explored the amazing elective of Gamestar Mechanic. Before I started learning about the elective, I interviewed Ms. Eaves to find out a little bit about her background. Ms. Eaves used to teach at St. Matthew's Parish in Pacific Palisades. She was a tech coordinator for **16 years!** She came to Laurence because it was time for a change, she loved the school, and there was a new job opening here.

One fun fact about her is that she is the mom of two identical twin ten-year-old boys. She started teaching technology in 1993. It was fascinating to learn about her.

I have experienced what it is like to

be in this elective because when I went to report on it, I got to go on the Gamestar Mechanic website, played their game, helped the students in the elective beat levels, and so much more. I even learned how to create a game from fifth grader, Olek Z. At first, he didn't exactly know what to do, but after he made the first game, he did a really incredible job. He made a SUPER hard game for me to play, but I completed it!

"I like to create games, because I can do whatever I want to do," Olek told me.

A fourth grade student, Sam C., just moved into this elective, and he thinks that it's the best elective in the school. He said, "This elective makes my imagination run free!"

Ms. Eaves does not have this elective just to play fun games. It teaches students about creativity, and teamwork, since they're always working together to help each other out. They can also make progress at their own rate. I saw some people on level one, and some people on level ten. The most important thing is that they have fun learning. I agree with Ms. Eaves that this is an amazing elective!



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Poetry Corner by Lightning Staff

Nature By Sofia B.

The dark brown branches swaying in the cool wind
The smell of bright red roses dancing in the wind
The howling sound of the wind calling for me
The ocean waves crashing on the smooth sand

The baby birds chirping for some more food
The bees buzzing around the pink flowers



The clouds moving very slowly as they grow bigger
The animals scurrying on the damp ground
The bugs digging into the wet dirt
Oh nature, what would we do without you?

The Secret of the Dandelion By Peyton S.



Illustrator or author,
Watch a child pick up the dandelion and make a wish,
Feel the wind lift the dandelion off the ground,
And see its petals fly through the air,
Fly, Fly, Fly,
Dandelion Oh, Dandelion, what a beauty you are

Dandelion Oh, Dandelion what a beauty
You are deep in the grass where the roots of trees grow is the stem of the dandelion, inspiring an artist,

The Ocean By Michael G.

As the waves crash against the sacred rocks
As the waves crash against the sacred ocean rocks
As all the lustrous fish swim right under you
As the sun shines on the beautiful water
As the sand tickles under your feet when you are swimming
You are in the ocean



The Sun By Alexander M.

The enchanting sun dreams of what it is like to be shivering in the pure white snow

The glimmering sun remembers when it first got created out of magical gases

The twinkling sun moves, rotating swiftly around the center of the undisturbed galaxy

The revolving sun promises to bring warmth, happiness, and light to the peaceful earth that depends on the sun

The harmonious sun vacations around in space looking at its brothers hundreds of millions of miles away

The out of this world sun is a sign of light, hope, and joy



Dreamland, By Adeline G.

Where I go
When the sun comes down
Is to dreamland.
There I can do what I want,
Be what I am,
And see what I can't see in the day.
I can have visions
Of my future
And do things I would never be able to do during the day.
There I love
And I love there.

Recycling Frenzy Strikes Laurence

By Adeline G.

Have you seen the new trash cans around campus? Have you ever wondered about what people thought about them? Well, I interviewed some kids on campus and they told me what they thought about our new program.

Ryan M., 5th grade

Q: What do you think about the new sustainability program?

A: I think it's great because our school has always been green and now we're just going greener.

Maggie F., 5th grade

Q: Do you think this program is a good idea?

A: Yes, because it shows we are going green, even though we are already green.

Katelyn W., 5th grade

Q: Do you think there are other things we can do to make the world a better place?

A: Yes, because we can pick up trash and be everyday heroes. We can also recycle and compost more in the world.

Dillan R., 4th grade

Q: What do you think about the small green trash can in your classroom?

A: I think it is a great way to recycle, compost, and throw away trash.

Ellie G., 1st grade

Q: Do you think there are other ways to make the world a better place?

A: To pick up trash, not litter, not smoke and not make factories that give out smoke.

Kate K., 1st grade

Q: What do you think about the new sustainability program?



A: I think it's a good idea because we are making the world a greener place, and I don't want trash all over.

Riley R., 5th grade

Q: What do you think about the small green trash can in your trash can in your classroom?

A: I think that it is a great way to help the earth and take our actions into consideration.

Ms. Eaves

Q: What do you think about the small green trash can in your classroom?

A: I think it's cute. I forget mine is there. In the computer lab we produce a lot of paper waste because you need to remember to pick up your paper. Otherwise it goes in recycling.

Mrs. Brager:

Q: Do you think the sustainability program is a good idea?

A: Absolutely, it's a great idea! You're never too young to learn how to do recycling, saving the planet, keeping your area clean whether it is at the lunch area or in the art room. We like to do a lot of sustainability projects, so we reuse our scraps.

Mr. Stern:

Q: What happens in the Green Cup recycling challenge?

A: In the recycling challenge, we compete against the other private schools and the school that shows the most improvement wins. Then the kids at that school get to make a video about recycling.

There is so much more you could learn about the trash cans. If you want to know ask Mr. Stern. So Go Global, Go Green and recycle at Laurence!

Who do Laurence Students Like Better: Cats or Dogs?

By Sofia B. and Peyton S.

Have you ever wondered how many people like dogs or cats? We made a survey on how many people have or like cats or dogs. We also asked them why they like cats or dogs and students chose their favorites.

We surveyed 92 Laurence students,

and dogs won by 4 votes! The dogs got 48 votes while the cats got 44. Some students like dogs more than cats because they are cute, friendly and loving. Others think dogs are supportive, protective and smart. People also thought cats were adorable, fluffy and soft. But altogether dogs and cats are both unique and loving.



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Football Makes a Big Pass on the 4th Grade Football Team

By Michael G. and Alex M.

We interviewed the 4th grade football team during their last football game against John Thomas Dye. We thought that it would be nice since it was their last 4th grade football game. We asked some of the players some questions.

Charlie S.- Q: What is your favorite part of Laurence football?

A: Having fun, scoring points, and playing with my friends.



Beck W.- Q: Why did you want to be on the Laurence football team?

A: Because I love football, love sports, and can't wait to win.

Andrew H.- Q: What is your favorite position to play?

A: Running Back.



Zachary D.- Q: How does it feel to score a touchdown?

A: Feels great, and I love to help the

team get a victory.

Benjamin H.- Q: Are you nervous for your final game today?

A: Well, maybe a little hoping to win.

Well in the end Laurence lost. But, they still had a great season with a final record of 3-3. They had a lot of fun. You can see some of the awesome action photos we got from the game.



Laurence Students are Happy for Holidays

By Adeline G. and Tanisha G.

We interviewed 50 students about their favorite holiday. The tallies show that the favorite holiday is ... Christmas!

Here are the results:

Christmas: 28

Halloween: 13

Hanukah: 4

Thanksgiving: 2

Other: 2

Easter: 1



Fourth of July, New Years, and Passover didn't get any tallies, but I'm sure they're loved too.

The Little Mermaid Swims on Down to Laurence

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dancing which was very fun for her. She always gets to share her ideas. One thing that she really loves to do is help design the set.

The next person I interviewed was sixth grader Immi S. She plays the main character Ariel. It is not as stressful for her as you would imagine a lead to be. In fact, she thinks it is loads of fun. She loves interacting with different people and making new friends. "I hope to do and learn more as I'm progressing," Immi

told me.



After interviewing Immi, I got to interview sixth grader Julia S. because she plays Ursula. She thinks it's a fun and creative part. She absolutely LOVES working with other people. There are so many possibilities of how you choose to play your

part.

The final person that I interviewed was fifth grader Katelyn W. She plays multiple parts. Her favorite part to play is the chef. "It is very fun yet confusing to play multiple parts," said Katelyn. It is very hard to play multiple parts, and I look up to her for doing so.

After finding out more about the play, I am more excited than ever. I can't wait to see it! The show will run February 20, 21, and 23 in the PAC.

Rainbow Loom Hooks all the Children at Laurence School

By Michael G. and Peyton S.

Do you know who invented Rainbow Loom and why? If not, you are about to find out! Recently, a man named Choon Ng had an inspiration from his daughters to make Rainbow Loom. His daughters are the ones that taught Choon how to make a bracelet. Choon wanted to im-



press his daughters so he made Rainbow Loom. He invented a lot of the different Rainbow Loom designs such as the hexafish and the double X, and many, many more.

Do you know how to make those bracelets? Do you like Rainbow Loom? We decided to interview Laurence students to find out. Did you know that more than 3 million Rainbow Loom kits have been sold worldwide? At Laurence, everywhere you look you will find at least one rubber band on the floor. In our survey of 102 students, we discovered there are 82 people who like Rainbow Loom and 20 who don't.

We think Rainbow Loom can keep kids off electronics and use their brains and motor skills at the same time!



The Spectacular Destiny

By Tanisha G. and Cameron S.

The fabulous Destiny G. can do many interesting hobbies like art, trapeezing, and modeling. She is 11 years old, and she is in 5th grade. She has a sister, Mysteri, in fourth grade, and a two-year-old brother Cross. We interviewed her about her many exciting interests:

ART

Q: What inspired you to draw, and what age did you start drawing?

A: I just use my imagination and some of nature. I started drawing at about age 2.

Q: What do you draw?

A: I draw different things like, mythical creatures, nature and mostly animals. But if I have to, I can draw people, but I am not the best at it.

Q: What do you like to draw the most?

A: I like to draw mythical creatures the most.

TRAPEEZING

Q: When did you start it?

A: I started at about age 8.

Q: What is it?

A: It is like gymnastics in the air with a bar. It is really fun.

Q: What do you like about it?

A: I like it because you get to feel free to do whatever you want and whenever you accomplish something, you get to do it without fear.



MODELING

Q: What kind of modeling do you do? What age did you start modeling?

A: I model for magazines, and sometimes posters. I started at age 9.

Q: Do you like modeling?

A: Yes. I love it because you feel like you are a special person, and you are the one who people want to model for them.



World of Babies (cont'd)

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He turned two in January. We think the new baby will be a great athlete also.

Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Chen just had a Valentine's baby! The baby was born on Valentine's Day! She had a girl, and she's really going to enjoy it because she already has two

boys. She named her baby girl Parker. We think that name is pretty. She said she is going to come back to school next year.

We hope you enjoyed our article and now you know secrets that we have revealed! When you see the teachers that are having a baby, say "Congratulations!"



4th Grade Dominates Nationwide WordMasters Challenge

By Kyra B. and Aden S.

For the first time ever, the fourth grade students at Laurence School clinched first place in the WordMasters Challenge™, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually. Laurence beat out 185 fourth grade teams in the difficult Blue Division.

The fourth graders studied a group of challenging above-grade-level vocabulary words. This tough competition helps students learn to solve analogies.

Mr. Jacobson visited both fourth grade classrooms to congratulate them on their great achievement and to present them with a special award certificate. He told the fourth graders, if you have a goal and want to reach it, you have to practice. Fourth grade practiced every day at school and at home, becoming very confident, and achieved their goal.

"Your achievement in learning and excelling in analogies has

earned you first prize in a nationwide contest of all fourth graders who participated in WordMasters. Congratulations!" said Mr. Jacobson.

"I am very proud of the entire 4th grade for this amazing accomplishment. They are truly Word MASTERS!" said fourth grade teacher Ms. Green.

We went around asking fourth graders how they felt about earning 1st place in the WordMasters Challenge. Congratulations to everyone for their teamwork!

"I am really glad we got a good score in WordMasters. I worked really hard and I'm glad I got a good score."

- Charlie S.

"WordMasters is challenging and fun. I wasn't surprised because our grade worked really hard."

- Elise K.

"I was really happy and surprised when we got 1st place. I know everyone worked hard and the result of working hard is getting a good score. I worked really hard, and I am happy with the score I got. I know we will do well on the next challenge!

- Grant B

"I felt elated about the WordMasters Challenge because it was the 1st time Laurence School won 1st place in the challenge. We got a great score of 194 out of 200 points."

- Ben H.

