

LAURENCE SCHOOL

Lightning Striker



Spring 2017

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The Cardboard Box Challenge

By Eric V.

Most likely if you are in third through sixth grade, you did something with the Cardboard Box Challenge. We have interviewed the person who brought it to Laurence, Mr. Hogenson.

Q: Where did you get the idea of the Cardboard Box Challenge?

A: Actually, Ms. Eaves has wanted to do it for a while. However, I came up with the idea of making STEAM an elective.

Q: Are you thinking of doing this next year?

A: Yes, but we will change it. We will make it new and exciting. We were thinking of doing an invention convention, where students have to invent something to help people. We are also thinking of doing a "Lego" design challenge.

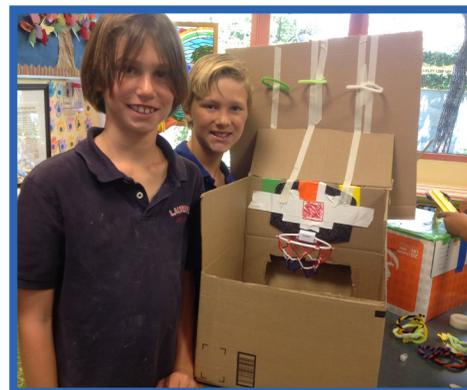
Q: Is this the first time doing this Challenge?

A: Yes, at Laurence. We did something at Brentwood, where students had to think of a STEAM project.

Q: What inspired you to extend the STEAM program?

A: STEAM is just a word for a project that you actually build. It helps students become engineers and helps solve the world's problems.

Q: How did you develop your interest



in STEAM?

A: My dad was a science teacher, and we decided to do science projects at home. Now that I have my own kids, I decided to do projects at home too. This would also apply to students deciding to do STEAM at home. My pet peeve is when kids say they are bored. They just have to find something to build.

Q: What is a kid friendly definition of STEAM?

A: STEAM is taking stuff and using your imagination to build something new and useful.

Q: How does the STEAM project enhance the curriculum? What is the benefit?

A: I think it is the other way around. The curriculum enhances STEAM.

Q: What is the difference between design thinking and the Cardboard Box Challenge?

A: Design thinking is a process in which you are helping people. In this challenge we are just making games, and we are having fun making stuff.

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Q: What has been your favorite STEAM project been?

A: I think that it is the fourth grade missions because they took social studies, technology, and math, all to make one building. It is a perfect mix.

Student Interviews:

Fifth graders Sam P. and Devin I.:

Q: What is your favorite part of the Cardboard Box Challenge been?

A: Getting to design our game, and in general it has been really fun.

Q: Can you explain what your project is?

A: We are recreating the game “Flappy Bird in a Box.” It is fully operable, you just need to click a button and the bird rises.

She Can Do it All! From the Yearbook to Volleyball, it's Rebekah



By Sierra S. and Zoe J.

Rebekah Wagner from the front office, or should I say Coach, wears many different hats. She can do everything from coaching volleyball to designing

the yearbook. Not only is she the volleyball coach for the 5th and 6th grade yellow teams, but she also works in the front office. I don't think anyone can top this!

Q: When did you start playing volleyball?

A: When I was in 5th Grade. I was number 4 in 6th grade, and I have always been 4 when I play volleyball.

Q: Who inspired you to play volleyball?

A: My high school volleyball coach played some volleyball, and he was also my math teacher. His name was Mr. Fedora. He was really fun to play volleyball with, and he was

a fun coach as well. He made me love the sport.

Q: How long have you been a volleyball coach at Laurence?

A: I have been a volleyball coach at Laurence for 10 years, and it will soon be 11.

Q: Where did you go to college to study Graphic Design?

A: I didn't. I went to the Masters College and studied Kinesiology because I wanted to be a P.E. teacher/coach.

Q: When did you get into Graphic Design?

A: At my last job, I was an office assistant and they needed a graphic designer. So I started working on it on my own. Then, when I came here, I told the administration that I wanted to do Graphic Design.

Q: Is Graphic Design the reason you started doing the Yearbook?

A: Yes because in the yearbook, I get to be really creative, design pages, and execute the Character Education theme.

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Bold Butler

By Davis S., Sierra S., Sabrina S., and Devin S.

This year, a miracle came to Laurence. His name: Butler... Mr. Butler. The Gods came down and granted us a gift. Mr. Butler is the most unique teacher ever!

Q: What did you do before you came to Laurence?

A: I lived in New York and I taught 5th grade at Eastport Elementary for 13 years.

Q: What made you choose Laurence?

A: I really enjoyed the visits I had at Laurence before I took the job. Also, everyone was really nice to me.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I like to go to the beach, go hiking, and eating at local restaurants.

Q: What do you love most about Laurence?

A: I love that we switch classes, because I get to teach the whole grade.

Q: What's your favorite food and snack?

A: My favorite food is chicken, and my favorite snack is chips and guacamole.

Q: What do you do that other teachers don't?

A: I decorate the room heavily, I walk on desks, I play pop music, and I do house checks.

Q: What's your favorite grade to teach and why?

A: Fifth grade because fifth grade is one of the most important years.

Q: Do you like working with Mrs. Chen and Ms. Brager?

A: Yes, because we all get along really well!

Q: What's your favorite thing to do at school?

A: I love eating lunch and snack with the students, and going to Friday assembly.

Q: Why did you move to Los Angeles?

A: I moved because of the weather, and to start a school in Hollywood.



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Q: How many years have you worked at Laurence and what year did you start?

A: I started November of 2005, so it will be 12 years in November.

Q: How many times have you designed the yearbook?

A: I have designed the yearbook 7 times.

Q: Has your shoulder injury affected how you play Volleyball?

A: Yes, because I had shoulder surgery in November and didn't get to play volleyball for 5 months. Now I am doing physical therapy to strengthen my shoulder and keep playing.

Q: Who's your favorite volleyball player?

A: Misty May-Treanor is my favorite

volleyball player and she is my age as well.

She has been my inspiration my whole life as a volleyball player.

Wonderful Things You Wouldn't Think People Love

By Spencer G. and Jessie F.

We surveyed people about favorite things. The first question we asked was about their favorite theme park.

"Disneyland" - 70

"Universal Studios" - 38

"Legoland" - 38

"Magic Mountain" - 9

"Hurricane Harbor" - 9

Our next question was, "What is your favorite season?"

Summer: 65

Winter: 59

Fall: 19

Spring: 16

Our final question was, "What is your favorite Disney movie?"

"Zootopia" - 83

"Inside Out" - 31

"Finding Dory" - 27

"Monsters U" - 19

"Frozen" - 4

Super Shahmiri

By Ryan J. and Eric V.



Did you know that Mr. Shahmiri is the CFO of Laurence School? He loves the book "Don Quixote." Read the rest of the story to find more interesting facts about him.

Q: How long have you been working at Laurence?

A: I have been working here for nine years.

Q: Where did you work before Laurence?

A: At the University of Judaism.

Q: What is your favorite part about Laurence?

A: The fact that everyone is kind and smart every single day.

Q: What is your role in Laurence's financial future?

A: I am the chief financial officer at Laurence.

Q: What are your plans for the apartment building?

A: That is a long-term plan because we need a master plan to define the future of the school. It will eventually go away, but we don't know when or for what cause.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I read and play chess, but mostly read.

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: I like soccer because I grew up with it

and skiing because I love the snow.

Q: Did you have a role model?

A: Yes, my fourth grade teacher, because he taught me to read more and more.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: I like "History of the World," because it is so interesting and you can learn a lot from it.

Q: Do you have a wife? Children?

A: Yes, I have been married for 39 years and have a son who is 34 and is studying at CSUN. My daughter is 26 and is studying creative writing.

The Teacher Who Loves Long Division

By Spencer B. and Jake L.

Today we are going to interview a teacher in their second year of teaching at Laurence. As you may have guessed, it's Mr. Angeli.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Los Angeles, CA

Q: What is your favorite restaurant?

A: Dikouya because they have good food and I like Japanese food.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: Math, because I like to teach long division. I also like to help

kids figure out challenging math problems.

Q: In school what was your favorite subject?

A: Music

Q: What was the happiest moment of your life?

The Teacher Who Loves Long Divison (cont.)

A: Graduating from Columbia University for grad school.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Playing guitar, playing and watching soccer, and reading comic books.

Q: Do you have any siblings? If so what are their names?

A: I have two brothers. Carlos, my oldest brother, is 32 and Brian, my youngest brother, is 22.

Q: What was your favorite soccer game you ever went to?

A: L.A. Galaxy vs. Barcelona because I saw Messi and David Beckham score a goal. Also, I had seats behind the Barcelona goalie Viktor Valves. I saw Messi, Ibrahimovic, and Tori.

Q: What are your plans for the summer?

A: I am going to Japan for two weeks. There I will see temples, cities, and sports.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Griezmann because he makes plays to score goals. He is also a good role model, and always does his best.



NEWS, NEWS, AND MORE NEWS!

By Hannah C. and Sabrina S.

Sierra S. and Sammy S. landed in the student newspaper world. They do so much every Friday that if they didn't come one Friday, we would have no newspaper. Sierra and Sammy are just spectacular writers and editors.

(5th Grader) Sammy S:

Q: Why are you so involved/attracted with the newspaper? What makes it fun?

A: I like being in the newspaper so much because it's fun to design the newspaper. I kind of like the editing part if the formatting is already correct. I don't mind the spelling errors.

Q: What is the hardest thing about designing?

A: It is hard to start working with InDesign. When something goes wrong with it, it affects the whole project. However, it is fun to be creative and learn more about new teachers and things happening at Laurence.

Q: Do you think you will continue to be in newspaper in middle school, high school, and college?

A: I think I will continue in newspaper if I am able to do so.

Q: What is your favorite story that you have edited this year?

A: My favorite story that I have edited was "Bold Butler" because of the intro. The intro was very funny and interesting.

(5th Grader) Sierra S:

Q: Why are you so involved/attract-

ed to the student newspaper? What makes it fun?

A: Ever since third grade, I have enjoyed the subjects, reading, and writing. I loved the idea of being in the newspaper because I get to interview people and see what is happening. It is so fun because I get to write about Laurence and awesome teachers.

Q: Do you think you will continue to be in newspaper in middle school, high school, and college?

A: I would be interested in being in newspaper until 12th grade because of the writing part.



Top-Fidgets

By Kingston R. and Zoe J.

Have you heard about fidget things, like fidget cubes, fidget spinners, and slime? Almost three quarters of the school has one of these, and are playing with them a lot!

"Slime" - 65

"Fidget cube" - 35

"Fidget spinner" - 3

"Stress ball" - 28

"Silly puddy" - 24

"Fidget die" - 7



Well, it looks like most people like slime! Do you have any of these?



The Wonderfulness of Mrs. Chen

By Jack S. and Aubrey C.

Mrs. Chen is a very bright and energetic person, and a thoughtful teacher. She has the nicest children, who also go to Laurence. Her children are Ollie and J.T. Ollie is in kindergarten and J.T. is in 1st grade. She has a great sense of humor and loves her students!

Q: Why did you start teaching? How were you inspired?

A: When I was in fifth grade I knew I wanted to be a fifth grade teacher. My students make my dream come true every day.

Q: What is your favorite sport to play and watch?

A: I personally don't like playing sports, but I love watching my kids play sports. Right now their favorite sports to play are basketball, flag football, and soccer.

Q: Where did you grow up? Do you miss it? Why or Why not?

A: I grew up in a small town in Virginia. I moved to Los Angeles when I was 11. I miss Virginia, but I love L.A. a lot too.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

A: My favorite subject to teach is reading because I have the best students in my reading group.

Q: Do you like dogs and puppies? If so what kind?

A: I love dogs and puppies. My favorite is my sister's Golden Doodle.

Q: Do you have a pet? If so what is it? If not what do you want?

A: I have two baby fish. I do not want any other animals because it's too much work to take care of the animals.

Q: What is your favorite food? Why?

A: My favorite food is sushi. I love sushi because there is no other more amazing food than sushi.

Pop! Pop! Pop! The Sweet's Won't Stop!

By Sierra S., Sabrina S., and Devin S.

The movies aren't just about seeing a movie. It's also about the SWEETS! What's your favorite snack? Well, we found out! The option for the best sweet snacks at the movies were: ICEES, Milk Duds, Hershey's, Reese's Pieces, pretzels, soft drinks, Sour Patches, popcorn, Edamovie (edamame for the movies), M&M's, Skittles, Junior Mints, and Dibs.

We asked 81 people, and most said popcorn.

- "Popcorn" - 33
- "Sour Patch" - 10
- "ICEES" - 10
- "M&M's" - 6
- "Skittles" - 6
- "Milk Duds" - 5
- "Junior Mints" - 3
- "Dibs" - 3
- "Hershey's" - 2
- "Reese's Pieces" - 2

All We do is Argue

By Jocie A.

The Debate Team is an elective that is run by fifth grade teachers Mrs. Chen and Mr. Butler. Do you like to argue? If you answered yes, then read this interview with Mrs. Chen.

Q: How do you come up with the topics that you debate? What specific topics are you currently debating?

A: The students discuss what to debate. A specific topic we are discussing is, "Is golf a sport?"

Q: Why did you decide to make the debate elective and why should kids join?

A: Debate is an important skill in life.

Q: What do you do every week? What activities do you do to prepare them for the debates?

A: Every week, the Debate Team does different activities. We are practicing and using computers, and we are reading a book about how to be on a debate team.

Q: Are you going to any competitions? If yes, where are they?

A: The Debate Team hopes to go to competitions next year.

Q: How many kids are on the Debate Team?

A: There are 14 5th graders on the Debate Team.

Q: What does a debater have to do to be successful?

A: A successful debater has to be articulate, convincing, and a team player.



The Amazing Mrs. Greenberg

By Ava B.

I interviewed Mrs. Greenberg, the wonderful second grade teacher. I wanted to ask her about her life and what she likes to do. I also asked what she did before she came to Laurence.

Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: My favorite animal is an elephant because I loved watching them when I went to Africa.

Q: When and where did you go for a trip?

A: I went to Africa in June of 2015. I went on a safari in Tanzania.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,"

because I'd love to spend the day in a real candy factory!

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: The L.A. Dodgers because I was born and raised in Los Angeles!

Q: How long have you been working at Laurence? Where did you work before Laurence?

A: This is my third year at Laurence. Before, I worked at a school called Albert Einstein Academy Elementary School and I taught first grade.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Sushi... I like the spicy tuna or halibut

Q: What is your favorite book? Why?

A: I like "The Fantastic Flying Books" by Mr. Morris Lessmore because they show how stones can take you to wonderful places. Also, the illustrations are beautiful.

Q: Why do you like working at Laurence?

A: I love the warm and kind community here!

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach and why?

A: Reading – because I enjoy watching my students develop their own love of books and reading.

California Missions and More



By Spencer B., Alec A., and Jake L.

As you may know on May 17th and 18th, the 4th Grade performed a play about the California missions. The play was performed in the music room. It was 45 minutes long, and was practiced for several weeks. The main parts were JB (director) played by Addison K. and Charlotte A., and Johnson (assistant director) played by Colin S. and Rowan C. We all had a great time. Also, the parents loved the play. We had really amazing props, such as sugar cubes, mini American

flags, "picks and gold," Minerva's seal, and the California flag. We also had costumes that included swords, fish hats, quail hats, western hats, Spanish explorers' hats, an acorn hat, a bear costume, squirrel costumes, and a leather bag with a "dead squirrel" inside. We thank the performing arts team and Mr. Nairin for taking on the responsibility for directing the play.

The Ball Brothers: Overrated? Or Under Appreciated?

By Alec A.

The Ball Brothers. Right now they're the kings of basketball and are shocking the world. But are the brothers really as good as they sound? Let's take a look into their stats to actually see how good they are.

First, let's start with LiAngelo Ball. At Chino Hills High School, LiAngelo averaged 51 points per game! He won the California State Championship in 2015 and 2016 with his brother Lamelo. But weirdly he is the least famous Ball brother! So right

now, it's safe to say that he is definitely under appreciated.

Next is Lamelo Ball, who scored 92 points from cherry picking the whole game. He didn't play one second of defense and people still called him a star!

And lastly, we have Lonzo Ball. At UCLA, he averages 14 points and 7 assists per game, and is the league leader in assists. The strange part is that he is

compared to Stephen Curry. The problem is that he averaged 25 points and 4 assists in college unlike Lonzo's 14 points and 7 assists. So we can conclude that they might be stars or busts, but either way they were stars at one point.

A New Masterpiece has Arrived at Laurence: Ms. Wedemeyer

By Eva S. and Maya S.

Did you know that Ms. Wedemeyer started doing art when she was 7 years old? This encouraged her to do art the rest of her life, and now she has graced Laurence with her imagination and artistic skills as one of our new art teachers.

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

A: I worked at a museum, the Los Angeles Academy of Art.

Q: When did you start doing art?

A: I was very young. My mom would always have us painting. She made us do art classes. I was in second grade and around the age of 7.

Q: When were you born and where? Where did you grow up?

A: I was born and grew up in San Francisco. I was born on May 11, 1992, at 12:00 p.m.

Q: Why did you start to like art?

A: When I was little I loved picture books. I would make my own books of pictures. My mom would write them.

Q: You do a lot of art based on cultures and artists. Why?

A: I liked learning about people through objects. You can learn about the way people lived through the art objects they created, and it's sort of a way to go back in time. So I like art class to sort of take adventures to other cultures, and to focus on different artists to think about how things are in other places or in different times.

Q: What is your favorite type of art?

A: It is so hard to choose, but my two top favorite types of art have to be ancient scroll art and installation art. Scroll artwork is where you can roll something. So I love the idea of artwork you can just roll up and travel with, and then unroll again, and when it opens up, it is so long. The other type of artwork I love is installation art because installation art allows for you to be a part of it. A piece of art where you can just go inside like a museum or art exhibit, and all of a sudden you are a piece of the artwork as well.

Q: What is your favorite art project you have given to the Laurence students?

A: My favorite art project that I have given to the Laurence students was making the Antonio Guadi clay projects with first grade, and making the life-size mural with 5th grade. Also, making miniature museum exhibits with 6th grade.

Q: Is there a reason why you want to work at a school? If yes, why?

A: The reason why I love working with students, especially at Laurence, is that I'm constantly hearing new ideas from my students, so no matter what art period we're discussing and no matter what prior knowledge I have, I am always learning new things by the observations that the students are giving me. The students' artwork really inspires me too.

Q: Why did you come to Laurence?

A: I was teaching after school printmaking, and I really liked talking with the students. And



when I visited Laurence, I really liked it. Also, I really liked the students and the environment, and I started talking with the art teachers who taught them, and they asked me if I was looking to work in a school longer and I said, "Yes, I'd love to." Well, I was asked later that summer if I was looking for a school year job, not just afterschool but all day. I said, "Yes, absolutely, I would love to." So I prefer to work with these different grade levels.

Q: Where is your favorite place to do art?

A: At home, I have an art studio. It is in my backyard. It is like a mini green house, and I love to do my art inside of it.



Happy Harmon

By Alexa B.

It was so fun having Mrs. Harmon as my second grade teacher, and so I wanted to interview about her school and home life. Did you know that Mrs. Harmon had a baby boy named Grady on May 30?

Q: How long have you been working at Laurence?

A: I have been working at Laurence for 10 years.

Q: What grade do you most enjoy teaching and why?

A: I love second grade because it is the perfect age. They are still young.

Q: Have you taught at any other schools? If so, how do they compare to Laurence?

A: I have taught at Roscomare Elementary, but nothing beats Laurence.

Q: What has been your best experience at Laurence?

A: Getting to teach so many of Laurence's students.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach and why?

A: I love teaching reading because we have fun and interesting discussions.



Q. Why do you like teaching?

A. Because I love working with kids.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "Sleepless in Seattle."

Q. Why is this your favorite movie?

A: It is my favorite movie because it is a great story of love and romance. I also like the actor Tom Hanks.

Q. Last summer did you do anything special?

A: Last summer, I went to the Baltimore Estates in Nashville, N.C. I had to walk in the pouring rain.

Q. What is your favorite sport?

A. I really like baseball.

Q. What do you like about baseball?

A. I like the feeling of hitting the ball with a bat.

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. I LOVE ravioli!

Q. How often do you eat ravioli and what goes best with it?

A. I eat it two times a month with meat sauce and parmesan cheese.

Q. What is your favorite drink?

A. Coco-Cola is something that quenches my thirst and it's tasty.

Q. What is your favorite dessert?

A. Some of them are Sprinkles, cupcakes, and SusieCakes.

Q. Are you married or do you have kids?

A. I am married to my husband Gray, and we just had our first baby boy.



Teacher's Pet?

By Natasha C.

Everyone loves pets right? Most students don't know if their teacher has a pet or not, and even if they do, they don't seem to know a whole lot about that pet. Well this story is all about teachers and their pets!

Most people know that Ms. Green loves cats, but did you know she actually has 7 of her own? She says that her oldest cat is 18 and her name is Scruffy.

What about Ms. McGinnis? Does she have a pet? Yes, she does! She has a dog named Melon that she found trapped in an abandoned property. She thinks that Melon is about 5 years old, but she isn't entirely sure. She also isn't sure of Melon's breed.

It seems that pets are very popular when it comes to the performing arts teachers. Both Mrs. Stange and Mr. Woolner have pets! Mrs. Stange has two female cats that she let her kids name, and Mr. Woolner has two Huskies!

So if all those teachers have pets, what about Mrs. Levin? She actually does have a pet! She has a little Corgi and she says that it is the cutest dog in the world.

What about Mrs. Ward? She loves animals, right? So does she have a pet at home? She actually has two. She has two dogs and they are both rescues.

OK, if all those teachers have pets, what about the art room teacher Mrs. Lu? Well, she actually does have a pet! She has an adorable dog named Moby.

So, if teachers have pets, what about people in the front office? Maria actually does have a dog. Its name is Molly. It is a rescue dog and is about two or three years old.

Slimey Slime

Maya K. and Kate K.

We all know slime is all the rage these days. Whether people love making it or are obsessed with playing with it, everyone has a different stand on it. That's why we thought it would be interesting to ask students and teachers alike what they think about this new slimey phenomenon. Here are some memorable and hilarious quotes people said about slime.

Hannah C: "Slime is super fun to play with!"

Chase D: "Slime is squishy!"

Oliver P: "Slime is taking over the world!"

Scarlett H: "Slime burns you."

Ellie P: "Slime makes no sense!"

Evelyn G: "Slime ruined my dress!"

Josie W: "I think slime is powder, glue, and green paint!"

Mrs. Wolke: "Anything you can play with is good for you."

Natasha C: "I've never made it. Don't hate me."

Sloane T: "It's bad and funny. It's.... bunny. Yeah."

Spencer B: "It's ugly."

Colin S: "It's melted orange Martians! Aahh! Hairy! Goopy!"

No matter if people are annoyed by it or are addicted to it, we found a lot of these quotes interesting and hope you are amused by these ridiculous sayings too.



Make sure to join the Newspaper Elective next year to write stories and have lots of snacks.

The Tech Insiders



By Alec A.

You think you all know the tech team? You're wrong! Read this interview and you will get the inside on the tech insiders.

Jesus:

Q: What do you do for the school?

A: I fix the Internet and bugs in the system, and help assist Mrs. Eaves with technology.

Q: What do you do when you're not at school?

A: I like to play video games, and I also like to ride my bike.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I like to travel.

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: It's between cats and dogs.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: L.A. Valley College.

Q: How do you work with the other tech associates?

A: They are all great and really fun to be with.

Marco:

Q: What do you do for the school?

A: I run the servers and help Mrs. Eaves with the printer.

Q: What do you do when you're not at school?

A: I like to bike, play video games and walk my dog.

Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: It's between cats and dogs, but I like dogs a little better.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: UC Berkely.

Q: How do you work with the other tech associates?

A: I work really well with them. They are all really cool.

Buddy Wins!

By Kingston R.

Did you know our school got a new chameleon? What do you think would be a good name for it? We surveyed Laurence students to find out, and there is no better name than Buddy.

“Buddy”- 30
“Target”- 6
“Toby”- 5
“Cam”- 3
“Kecleon”- 2

Courage Poem

By Maya K.

Courage is not your strength,
but the ungiven fighting part of you
Courage is that part that bubbles and bubbles,
a friend of Fearless
Courage is your singing self,
lamenting for bravery and strength
Courage is the fragment of you that appears to be small and jagged,
but roars like a lion
Courage represents resilience and the fact that your soaring heart is a returning boomerang
Courage is the piece that taunts you to be distinguished and different
Courage is now your strength
The newly chosen fighting part of you

CHECKMATE!

By Sabrina S. and Hannah C.

Alec A. and Eric V. are some of the most skillful chess players at Laurence. Both started at a young age and have continued to grow. They win many tournaments for the Laurence chess team. They have been instrumental in helping the team make it to Nationals.

4th Grader Alec A:

Q: How many tournaments have you been to? Which was the most fun?

A: I have been to eight tournaments. The most fun was Super Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee. This was the most fun because we had harder opponents and we learned a lot.

Q: How long have you been playing chess?

A: I have been playing chess since I was in Kindergarten. I really started to get into it in the fourth grade.

Q: Will you continue when you are older?

A: Definitely! Other than playing basketball, chess is my favorite hobby. I spend at least 2 hours everyday playing chess.

Q: What is your favorite chess piece?

A: My favorite chess piece is the bishop. This piece moves on the diagonal axis. This is my favorite piece because many people trade it early in the game, but if you keep it until the end, it is very helpful.

Fifth Grader Eric V:

Q: How many tournaments have you been to? Which was the most fun?

A: I have been to 12 tournaments so far. The most fun was my first tournament because I got first place. It was very special to me.

Q: How long have you been playing chess?

A: I have been playing since I was four years old. Playing since I was four has really made me become a better player.

Q: Will you continue when you are older?

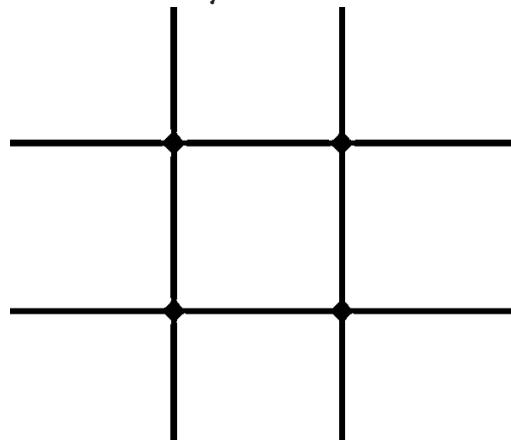
A: For sure! When I get older, I think that I will be such an amazing chess player and hope to play harder opponents that will make it more challenging for me.

Q: What is your favorite chess piece?

A: My favorite piece is the pawn because it starts out small and powerless, and then when it gets to the end of the board, it grows to be one of the strongest pieces.



Tic-Tac-Toe
by Ellie P.



From England to Laurence



By Sabrina S. and Hannah C.

This year a new teacher came to Laurence. Her name...Mrs. Crossman. She moved from England to New York, and is now here in the awesome Laurence family. She is very interesting and fun to work with!

Q: Where are you from and what did you enjoy about your hometown?

A: I am from Exeter, England. I enjoyed visiting my family because they lived close by. Now that I moved, I cannot see my family as much.

Q: Where did you go to school as a child? What was your favorite part?

A: I went to Westholme School. My favorite part was the pool because

swimming was my greatest passion. I also joined the swim team.

Q: What made you want to move to Los Angeles?

A: I moved from New York about 11 months ago. I was tired of the cold and I wanted to move closer to the beach.

Q: Have you taught at a different school other than Laurence? If so, what school and what grade?

A: I taught at Cathedral School in New York. I taught fourth grade for a long time. I also enjoyed teaching math.

Q: What made you choose to teach at Laurence?

A: I visited last April and loved the school. The faculty and staff are very nice. I also like that there is a lot of outdoor space because in New York, there isn't a lot of room to run around.

Q: What is your dream grade to teach? Why?

A: My dream grade to teach would be anywhere between 3rd and 6th grade. They all have different personalities and are fun to be around.

Q: Has everyone warmly welcomed you?

A: 100%. Every person smiled and welcomed me greatly. The kids were very positive and kind.

Q: What subjects do you teach? Do you teach any other grades other than 6th grade at Laurence?

A: I filled in for Mrs. Prescott in fourth grade. I teach social studies for sixth grade. I am a substitute teacher and teach fourth grade math.

Q: What makes Laurence special to you?

A: The kids have positive energy and I love that the motto is "Keep Kind in Mind."

Q: Will you plan on staying for another year?

A: Yes! I am hoping to work with the whole community of different grades.

New Words, New Era

By Maya K. and Kate K.

We all know and agree that words are a way of life. Writers, lawyers, and many more people have careers that revolve around our language.

Though new words can cause countless problems, many people are amused and enjoy new dictionary additions. We did a survey of 87 people to see what people's favorite

new slang words are. Here are the results:

"Bish-bash-bosh": 18

"Funner": 26

"Y'all": 18

"YOLO": 25

It is super easy to submit your own new word into the dictionary, and we hope this has inspired you to believe in the power of words.





Sports Spotlight

By Eric V.

We have brought back a classic story... Sports Spotlight! Last year we interviewed four fourth graders. Guess what we are doing this year? We decided to interview fourth graders Colin S., Jake L., Jack L., and Spencer B.

1. What is your favorite sport? Why?
2. What is your favorite sports team? Why?
3. What is your sport to watch? Why?
4. Who is you favorite player? Why?
5. How old were you when you started to play sports?
6. If you could switch bodies with a player, who would that player be?
7. What was your favorite world cup? Why?
8. What was your favorite Super Bowl?
9. What was your favorite Olympics?
10. If you could switch two players who would they be?

Colin S.

1. Basketball because I don't really like anything else.
2. The Warriors because my uncle was born in Oakland
3. Basketball it is my favorite sport to play.
4. Steph Curry because he is awesome.
5. I was seven years old.
6. Curry because he is young and awesome.

7. I don't know because I don't really like soccer.
8. The Broncos versus Panthers because no expected the Broncos to win.
9. 2016 because it was really cool.
10. Russle Westbrook and John Wall.

Jake L.

1. Soccer because I tried it when I was four and have loved it ever since.
2. Barcelona because I watched one game and loved it a lot.
3. Soccer because it inspires me, and I love watching my team win.
4. Messi is my favorite player because I think he is the best player in the world, and he is on my team.
5. I have been playing since I was 6 years old.
6. Messi because I would be the best player in the world, and I would be rich.
7. 2000 because Argentina won.
8. 2016 because the Broncos won
9. I don't know
10. Messi and Bale because then Real Madrid will finally be better than Barcelona.

Jack L.

1. Soccer because it is fun, and I enjoy playing it.
2. Barcelona because my favorite player is on it.
3. Basketball because it is cool seeing the players dunk.
4. Neymar because he plays like plays like Pelé.
5. I was two years old.
6. Neymar because he is my favorite player, and he has cool cars.
7. 2010 because that was the first time Spain won.
8. The Seahawks vs. Broncos because I have never seen a team dominate in a Super Bowl.
9. 2016 because the USA won lots

of medals.

10. I would switch Inesta for Ronaldo because Inesta is getting old and Ronaldo is better than Inesta.

Spencer B.

1. Lacrosse because it is a fast paced game, and it is fun to score a goal.
2. New York Lizards because they have my favorite players who are Rob Pinnel and Paul Rabil.
3. Football because my favorite team is the Seattle Seahawks.
4. Since I was 5.
5. Marshawn Lynch because he once broke 5 tackles and scored a touchdown off of that rush.
6. Lynch because I would be one of the best running backs ever.
7. 2014 because two of my favorite teams played each other.
8. 2014 because my favorite team beat my enemy team.
9. 2016 because the US won a lot of medals.
10. Pique and Ronaldo because it would improve both teams by a lot.

What's Your Favorite Vegetable?

By Sloane T. and Maya K.

In order to promote healthy eating at Laurence, "Lightning Striker" reporters interviewed a mix of staff and students, totaling 67 people. We asked them what the hottest veggie was and these are the results!

- "Green beans" - 16
- "Salad" - 14
- "Carrots" - 14
- "Too many favorites" - 14
- "Broccoli" - 9



Well, it worked and congratulations for being healthy, Laurence School!