

LAURENCE SCHOOL

Lightning Striker

Winter 2017

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Laurence Gets Even Greener!

By Davis M. and Sierra S.

Laurence is always changing. This year, when you drive to school, do you see a construction site? Well, inside the walls, a new parking lot is being built. We decided to ask Mrs. Wolke about this construction!

Q: Who made this decision?

A: The administration suggests ideas to the Board of Trustees, and then they decide. Then whatever and whenever they decide, is told back to the administration, and they choose what will happen next. So deciding what will happen to a property is a big process.

Q: What will it be, and will it stay that way?

A: At the moment they are going to make it a parking lot! Also, it will be really green, have loads of plants and trees, and make the school even more safe and viewable than ever. This is very symbolic. Laurence is all about going green and representing the "L", and this will make it clear to everyone. The parking is only phase one! Next year, they will decide if there will be a phase two.

Q: How many parking spaces?

A: There will be fifty to sixty spaces! Now it will be easy for parents to stay at assemblies, special events, and any other fun activities that they want to stay for.



Q: When was the property bought?

A: The property was bought in July of 2013. But it took about two years to decide what it would be. Then we decided it would be a parking lot.

Q: When will it be done?

A: We hope it will be done before the end of school. If earlier, we will be very happy!!

Q: Will there be more surprises?

A: They don't know yet, but if yes, they'll tell us!

Q: Will it effect us?

A: Yes, but for the better. The opening of the corner will be a big accomplishment for the school. This is because when people drive, and when you tell them we're at Woodman and Victory, they'll see green, and know where we are! So now, no need for phone-to-phone directions.



Q: In the future, will it help?

A: The administration thinks it will be a huge plus. We have this property, and they can find and park easier. It will make our events more populated and fun.

Q: Is the Woodman apartment a part of anything?

A: Yes, it is part of next year’s master planning! It will be big!

Q: What about Tequilas?

A: Mrs. Wolke is hoping that they can buy many other properties around us! But right now they’re concentrating on what they have.



Students Tour the L.A. Times

By Davis M.

On Friday, October 14, the newspaper elective had the opportunity to visit the Los Angeles Times! When we arrived, we got to walk around in the lobby for a while. We saw old editions of the paper, and the old printing machine they used called the Linotype. There were also beautiful murals on the walls, and a huge world globe. In addition, there was an eagle sculpture which is believed to be made by the man who sculpted Mount Rushmore.



Did you know that when the L.A. Times was founded, there was no San Fernando Valley? The L.A. Times was created in 1881. Right now, it’s 135 years old! That’s crazy! Next, we went to the editorial offices where there were at least 50 people in cubicles typing and working on the next day’s newspaper.

We also went to a mini-stage where they do their L.A. Times online broadcasts, including interviews with famous celebrities and athletes. We also saw an office where they come up with all their story ideas. They had all kinds of books on grammar, new words, and a style book, which tells them



what to call things and people. Every reporter must read it. We saw Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs. The Pulitzer Prize is an award given to the best stories and pictures in the world. We also saw their test kitchen, where they make food that they test for their food section. Overall, the trip was really amazing. We all loved the tour!



Happy Hogenson Dances His Way Into Laurence

By Muskaan S.

Who likes to play guitar and dance to music!? Mr. Hogenson! Mr. Hogenson, the director of third through sixth grades, is a great addition to Laurence’s administrative team. There are some pretty cool things that you probably don’t know about Mr. Hogenson. Let’s see what he says!

Q: How long have you taught?

A: I have been teaching for 15 years.

Q: Why did you make the transition from teaching to being an administrator?

A: I really like having a leadership role in the school, and I want to support teachers to be the best they can be.

Q: What is your favorite grade to teach?

A: My favorite grade to teach is fourth grade science.

Q: How long did you work at Brentwood and what grades did you teach there?

A: I worked at Brentwood for 13 years! I taught K-6 science for six years. I also taught middle school math and science for two years, and then I taught high school science for five years.

Q: How do you like working at Laurence so far?

A: I love it! I love the students and the parents and teachers are so nice! I also feel so lucky that I get to bring my son to Kindergarten every day.

Q: Do you have any other children besides Charlie (who attends Laurence as a kindergartner)? If you do, what are their names and ages?

A: Yes. I have a little boy named Marcus and he is two years old.

Q: Where do you like to travel?

A: I love to travel to Montana because that is where I am from.

Q: What is your favorite food and why?

A: My favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs because my wife, Cat, makes the best sauce!

Q: What hobbies do you have outside of school?

A: I like to play guitar because I love songs. I also like to hike, camp, and swim.

Q: We heard that you love to dance. Why?

A: I love to dance because I can express myself and celebrate the music.



The Greatness of Ms. Cantrell

By Scarlett H. and Camryn I.

Did you hear Ms. Cantrell loves to dance and to teach math?

If you didn’t already know she loves to do that stuff, you are in for a treat. After you read this report you will know all about Ms. Cantrell!

Q: Are there any new activities in third grade?

A: The new activities in third grade are STEAM projects. STEAM projects relate to science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Q: Are there any new decorations in the classroom this year?

A: The new decoration in the classroom is the road journey. The road journey is when kids from 3B get to come up with things that help them be a better person.

Q: Do you like your class? Why?

A: I love my class because the students are kind and hardworking.

Q: What college did you go to?

A: The college that I went to was UCSD (University of California at San Diego).

Q: Do you have a degree in math?

A: Yes! I got my degree in college.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: This is my 5th year teaching.

Q: Where is your family from?

A: My family is from San Francisco. I moved to L.A. for a teaching job.

Q: We heard you like to dance. What is your favorite?

A: My favorite type of dance is ballet.

Q: How long have you been dancing? What other types of dances do you like?

A: I have been dancing for 20 years. I like contemporary, line-dancing, Jazz, Hip Hop, and all others.

Q: What else do you like to do?

A: Other hobbies I enjoy are working out with Ms. Schliebe and spending time with friends.

I hope you liked learning about Ms. Cantrell and this interview inspired you to learn about other teachers. Ms. Cantrell is a great teacher and an amazing everyday idol.

Birdie Saves the World

By: Coco D.

Baby 2 Baby is a charity in Los Angeles that helps kids in need of basic necessities. Second grader Birdie S. collected backpacks filled with everyday items like clothes, diapers, food, toiletries and hygiene products to help local kids in need. These products gave Baby 2 Baby kids much comfort.

Q: What made you think of the idea to donate backpacks to Baby 2 Baby and not some other charity?

A: My mom helped me think of the idea to donate to Baby 2 Baby. She supports the charity so I have a family connection.



Q: How many backpacks did you donate? How long have you been involved with Baby 2 Baby?

A: I donated 21 backpacks filled with necessities. I have been involved since I was 4 years old with my parents.

Q: What ages are the kids who received the backpacks?

A: They are babies to 12 years old and are at underprivileged homes.

Q: How did donating the backpacks make you feel?

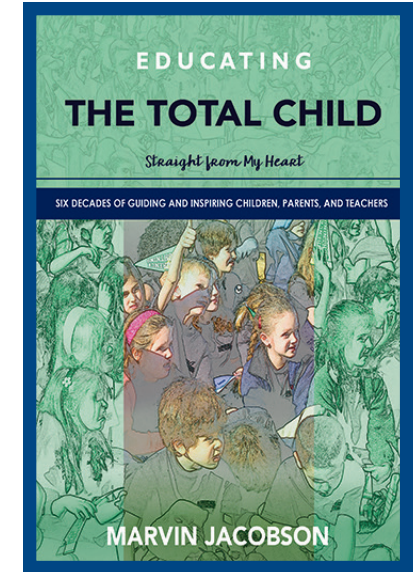
A: It made me feel good because I was doing something nice for other kids in my community.

There's A New Book In Town!

By Asher A. and Sammy S.

Have you ever wondered what Mr. Jacobson's new book is like? "Educating the Total Child: Straight from My Heart: Six Decades of Guiding and Inspiring Children, Parents, and Teachers." If you didn't know, Mr. Jacobson's book, which took six years to write, is already out and available for sale for \$25 in the front office. This book is going to raise money for the Jacobson Legacy Scholarship Fund.

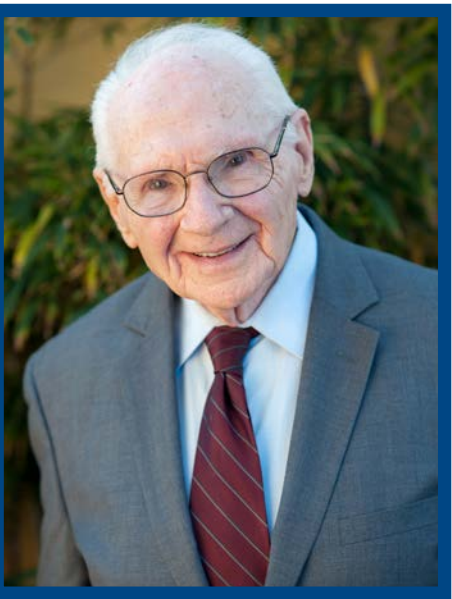
This book is about Mr. Jacobson's life in school and gives ideas to teachers and parents about how to be helpful with their homework.



Mr. Jacobson wanted to help parents help their children. He really hopes that parents, teachers, and families read the book.

"If you want to write a book then you have to think about something that you want to share and tell the world," Mr. Jacobson said.

Mr. Jacobson also knew that the elementary years for young children are a time when they could discover their own strengths and passions. Thank you for reading this, and we hope you get this book too!!



Make Sure To Join Newspaper Next Trimester For Many Fun Times!

General Woodward

By Ryan J. and Eric V.



There are many secrets about Mr. Woodward that we don't know. One of them is his many stories during the time he was in the army. Did you know that Mr. Woodward was in the army for four years? Start reading and you will find some facts about Laurence's new teacher.

Q: How did you get into photojournalism?

A: I got into photojournalism after I joined the army.

Q: How did you get into the army?

A: First I took a test called the ASVAB, and I scored very well so I could choose multiple jobs, but I chose to follow my passion to become a photojournalist.

Q: Were you in the battlefield taking photos?

A: Sometimes I was in a helicopter, but most of the times I was in gunfire. I went door to door searching for bad guys with soldiers.

Q: Did you ever feel scared being in the battlefield? Why?
A: Yes I was nervous when we invaded Iraq. They made us wear heavy jackets that made us very hot. I was carrying about 60 pounds overall.

Q: What was your favorite part about being in the army?

A: I liked knowing that I was serving my country and that I was making a difference. Everywhere I went people thanked me for freeing them from Saddam Hussein (the former president of Iraq).

Q: Did you do anything in between the army and Laurence?

A: Yes, I was a writer for a website and I was also a research analyst.

Q: Did you teach science at any other schools?

A: Yes I taught science at High Point Academy for second graders. Also, I taught at Harding Street Elementary for first graders.

Q: Are you liking Laurence so far?

A: I love it here because the school has incredible spirit!



Ice Cream, Ice Cream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

By Ryan J. and Eric V.

Sixty-three Laurence students on campus gave us their opinion about their favorite ice cream flavors. The results are Mint Chocolate Chip in first place with 23 votes, Chocolate in second place with 11 votes, and Vanilla in third place with 10 votes.

- Mint Chocolate Chip-23
- Chocolate-11
- Vanilla-10
- Cookie Dough-6
- Cookies and Cream-5
- Banana-2
- Coffee-2
- Chocolate Chip-2
- Strawberry-1
- Rocky Road-1



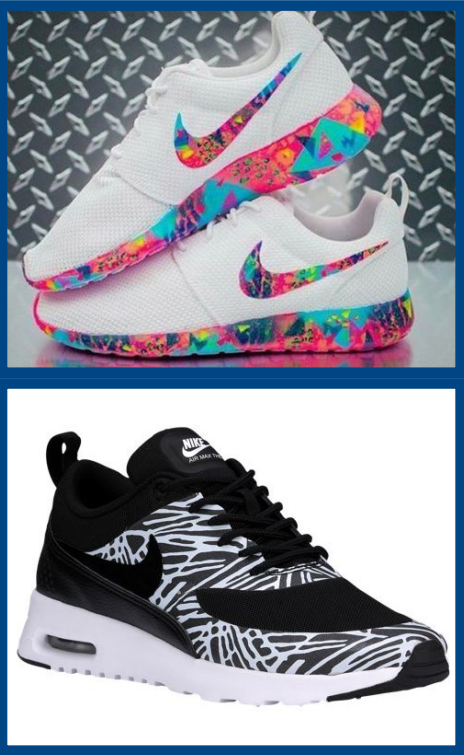
If the Shoe Fits Wear It...

By Jocie A.

Since the students at Laurence wear a school uniform, one of the ways the kids express themselves is with their shoes. So I decided to find out the most popular brand. Nike won... so just do it!

- 1. Nike - 35 votes
- 2. Adidas - 13 votes
- 3. Skechers - 7 votes
- 4. Vans - 5 votes

Nike is going to rule the school until... there is a shoe that does your homework for you.



The Amazing Chess Club

By Eric V.

Do you like chess? Then the chess club is the place for you! In the chess club, you can learn many new things about chess and you can have so much fun too. At chess club, you can play an ordinary game of chess or you can just hang out and do fun chess puzzles. Also, just to note, the person who teaches the class is a master at chess. In chess, you can be rated a master if your rating is over 2200. If you don't know what a chess rating is, it is a way you can compare how good you are with other people. The higher your rating is the better you are at chess. To get a rating you must go to a chess tournament. We have interviewed this amazing chess master who teaches the club. His name is Alen.

Q: How long have you been teaching chess? How long have you been teaching at Laurence?
A: Outside of Laurence 10 years and at Laurence about 2 years.

Q: How long have you been playing chess? When did you start going to tournaments?
A: I started playing chess at 5 and I started going to tournaments at 7.

Q: What is your favorite part of chess? Why do you like it?

A: The strategy. I also like that there is no luck involved.

Q: What is your favorite opening move? Why do you like it?
A: I like Sicilian because there are a lot of tactics involved and exciting variations.

Q: Have you ever won a tournament in nationals?
A: Yes, 5 times!

Q: Who taught you how to play chess?
A: My father.

Q: Do you not like anything in chess?
A: No, I love everything about chess.

Q: How old were you when you got your rating? How long have you been a chess master?
A: I was 7 at my first tournament, and I've been a chess master for a few years.



Ms. Eaves' Elective!

By Asher A. and Sammy S.

Hello fellow students! Read on to find out about the elective, Gamestar Mechanic. Gamestar Mechanic is a website that lets you build and play your own video games. We interviewed four girls to find out how they felt about the elective. We also asked the boys what they would rate the elective on a scale of 1-10. It was unanimous, a 10!

Q: What is your favorite game that you play in Gamestar Mechanic?
A: We really like making our own games and then playing them.

Q: Would you recommend this elective to other girls? Why or why not?
A: Yes, we would recommend it to other girls. You get to make your own games and do whatever you want.

Q: Do you think that other girls would like this elective?
A: I hope. It is soooooo fun!

Q: Why did you choose this elective instead of the other ones?
A: When Ms. Eaves talked about it at the elective assembly, we thought it would be interesting and fun. We wanted to try something new.

Q: What would you rate this elective on a scale of 1-10?
A: 10 out of 10

Q: What gave you the motivation to join this elective?
A: We wanted to try something that girls wouldn't usually do, and we love technology.



POETRY PLACE

Edited By Fiona and Alison S.

I Am Thankful

By Fiona S.

I am glad. Glad to be able to hear the music that circulates through the air, wherever I am.

I hear the colors that speak to the world, and to me, with all their feelings and soft yet clear words.

I see the waves that crash against the grains of sand, their seafoam dancing in the winds.

I am grateful for the trees that surround us and protect us, caring for us and providing for us.

I make the small things bigger, the big things smaller and whisper a quiet, "You're welcome," to all those who noticed the change but do not notice me.

I dream of lands of magic and prophesies, places with adventures and fairy tales, the ones that come in a few pages or the tap of a button.

I am appreciative of the ones who care for me, for us, and for the world that has taken, surely, a small trip down the wrong pathway.

I understand the soft caressing of the breeze that gossips faintly about the latest news.

The trees that love us; our families. The waves that dance; our talents.



The colors; our emotions.
The magic; our fantasies.
The pathways; our world.
The big things,
the small things;
our changes.
The music; our voices.





I hope that the people of the world will
Live
Love
Continue
Dream
Pursue

I wish for the happiness of the ones that are lost in the thick cloud of dust that we managed to avoid.

I draw the wishes that I make,
and the wishes of others.

I write the love of the world, the love of the people and animals, plants, and living things.

I am thankful for all that I have,
all that I will have,
and all that our world has.

POETRY PLACE		
Edited By Fiona and Alison S.		
Lowman Reflection	Souls	
By Gus M.	By Alison S.	
Anxiety, Meeting Jonathan, Anxiety, washed away to sea, Indecision, What to play Throw, catch, sprint, mime? Chose to throw, catch Go for a run, Mime, Do it all, Curiosity, What to do Drums, tambourine, shaker, piano? Chose to play the drums, tambourine, and shaker Laughing, grinning Giving hugs and kisses, Calls of mom, dad! Excitement, Wheelchair racing, Win after win, Jonathan grinning in excitement, Kicking his feet back and forth to go faster, Then, it was over Time to go, To leave Laurence, Boarding bus, A long line allow us to say our goodbyes, Farewell, Jonathan, I have learned so much.	Soul’s art plays out like a song Not always in the way you expect, though. It can be in the stroke Of a paintbrush, Or the jingle Of a two triangled star on a chain. It can be tapping of keys, or the snap of a camera. A strum on a guitar, Or perhaps simply words. It can even be a paperclip. When you feel it, When you really, really feel it, You can tell when a soul is there, You can try to touch them, And you can feel millions of them, You try to sense them, And they are there. Just inside a paper clip. You feel them crashing into you, around you. Crashing into everything Whoever said souls Had to be gentle? Some of them are. Some of them float Through the air in the wind And some of them stay where they are	Something keeping them, Something they don’t just know yet what is Perhaps what they really are weighed down by what Will happen in another life, Their other life, Or their friend’s life, Or just someone they don’t know at all. A paintbrush. A computer. A camera. A guitar. A necklace. A paper clip. And that something is something important To ourselves, And important to everyone else.
		
Apples		
By Shayna B.		
Oh, apples They stand out compared to other fruits among them A taste of crisp, crunchy love The pure sweetness of juice exploding in your mouth Pick them when they are ripe And best when fresh from a tree Munch on them Chew on them Do anything you want with them Make them into apple cider Fizzling in your mouth Shape them into apple smiles Cut them into little pieces Taste their sweet, tangy, or sour flavor Green, red, and yellow Tart like Granny Smith Sweet like Gala, and Fuji Don’t let them roll away!		
		
Imagination in Senses Poem		
By Shayna B.		
Using your imagination can be so fun If you use your senses Hear, smell, touch, see, and taste There will be no time to waste You can hear the deep rumbling roar of fire breathing dragons And the soft, light clicking of unicorns’ hoofs on the ground Trees and plants will speak our language and nobody will ever yell or fight You can smell the sweetest smells With the scent of roses mixed inside Can touch the softest things Softer than the blanket a baby is wrapped in when it is just born You can see the world of Candy Land With lollipops as flowers and gumdrops as morning dew You can taste the scrumptious flavor of a food not yet invented Or the freshest fruit picked off a tree a few seconds ago The possibilities are endless with senses and imagination		
What Shines? Boomshines!!		
By Ruby S.		
Ms. Eaves saw a student that beat a high score in the game Boomshine. Boomshine is a strategy and timing game. You get scored by how many circles tap in a certain amount of time from one circle to another. It was created by Danny Miller. Ms. Eaves saw third grader Ronan L. get an amazing score of 579 in		
		
		
Boomshine. She has never seen anything like this before and she was so impressed that she sug- gested we interview him:		
Q: How did it feel to get the high score? A: I felt like I was on top of the world!		
Q: How did you celebrate this accomplishment? A: I took a picture.		
Q: Did you try to do this? A: I tried to just get enough to get a good score.		
Q: Have you ever beaten any other scores? A: I try but I haven’t because I have never done this before.		
Q: Do you think anyone else could beat your score? A: No one can ever beat me because I put in a lot of effort and strategy.		
Q: Do you love this game ? A: Yes, because I beat the high score!		

Who Runs the World?
By: Sierra S. and Jesse F.
We know about Coaches Redmond, Ross, Servin, and Recker. But what about the female in the group? Coach Laolagi! She is an amazing basketball player, and can beat any other coach in it! I wouldn't challenge her in a basketball game! It's Coach Laolagi!
Q: How many years have you coached at Laurence? A: This is my 5th year coaching basketball at Laurence, and it has been amazing!
Q: How many championships/divisions at Laurence have you won? A: At Laurence I have won 6 divisions, and 2 championships! -WOW!
Q: What teams do you coach? A: I am currently coaching 4, 5, and 6 yellow girls basketball. I also coach 5 and 6 yellow boys' basketball. Volleyball as well.
Q: How many seasons have you gone undefeated? A: 20 seasons. It was awesome!
Q: How does it feel being the only female coach in the office currently? A: It's a blast. I love working with my P.E. team, and enjoy being a positive role model for the girls at school.




Q: Are you better than all the boys at basketball?
A: Yes, it's obvious!



Q: What is the highest scoring basketball game you have coached?
A: Boys: 53-51. Girls: 38-4. These were both amazing games, and I couldn't be more proud of them!


Q: What do you like to do outside of school? What are your hobbies?
A: Coaching, Coaching, and um yah coaching. I love to hang out with my dog Captain America. I also referee.

Q: Do you have another favorite sport besides basketball?
A: I played soccer before I played basketball.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? What's your favorite team in the NBA?
A: Shaq. Lakers because of Shaq.

Q: Is basketball your favorite sport to watch? A: Yes. It's a super fun sport to watch because I also love to play it.
Q: Is basketball your #1 sport? A: Yes. But like I said before I also played soccer.
Q: What's your favorite sports/sports team outside of basketball? A: My favorite sport besides basketball is college football and my team is the UCLA Bruins.
Q: Is there another sport that you enjoy playing or watching? A: No, basketball is #1.
Q: How did you get to play basketball? When did you find out it was your passion? A: I found out in high school. I didn't have a good coach. My coach inspired me to learn more about the game. I started coaching my little sister's basketball team when she was 16, at Balboa Sports Center. I've been coaching ever since. I made most of my friends growing up playing basketball.


Laurence Loves Music
By Eric V. and Ryan J.
The students of Laurence are constantly singing songs and humming them. We wanted to know who really was the most popular at Laurence. We found out that Taylor Swift is the most loved singer. Here are our results...
Taylor Swift: 13 Justin Timberlake: 9 Justin Bieber: 8 Michael Jackson: 8 Twenty-One Pilots: 6 Adele: 6
 

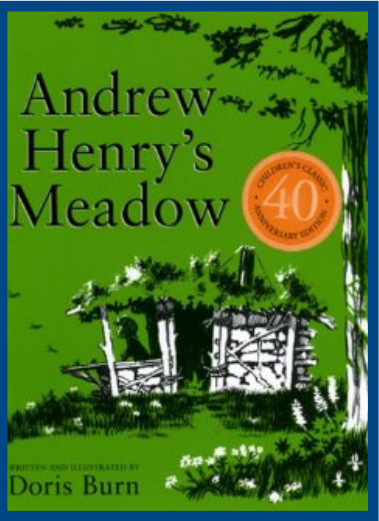

Librarian Levin to the Rescue
Coco D. and Kate B.
Since our old librarian had to move, Mrs. Levin came to the rescue! In addition to being an amazing librarian, Mrs. Levin also owns an ice-cream store with her husband. To learn more read this story about Mrs. Levin.
Q: What were you before you were a librarian here at Laurence? A: I was a librarian at Thousand Oaks public library for 8 years.
Q: What made you want to become a librarian here? A: I love reading books, and working with children so it is a perfect combo!!
Q: What school did you work at before Laurence? A: I was a librarian at Crane Country Day School.

Q: How long have you been a librarian?
A: Over 20 years!!

Q: What do you do in your free time?
A: I work at Little Calf Creamery, the ice cream store I own with my husband.

Q: What gave you the idea to work at Laurence as a librarian?
A: I saw it was advertised and wanted to go back to what I do best-teaching kids.

Q: What are your three favorite books?
A: Andrew Henry's "Meadow," "Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters" by Lesley M.M. Blume, and "Someday" by Alison McGhee.



Neat and Nutty Nairin

By Stella B.S.

I hope you like fourth grade because you are going to be there for an entire year. Mr. Nairin moved from fifth to fourth grade and he has brought a lot of fun to the grade. Read on to find some entertaining facts.

Q: I heard you like to dance. How is your dancing?

A: I am a horrible dancer, but I do it for fun, and I'm never embarrassed.

Q: What is your favorite song to dance to?

A: The YMCA is amazing and I just love dancing to it.

Q: Do you have a good singing voice?

A: No. I love to sing though. I like to sing because I like making people happy.

Q: Do your children sing?

A: My oldest son Dylan is a good singer and actor.

Q: Where do all three of your kids go to school?

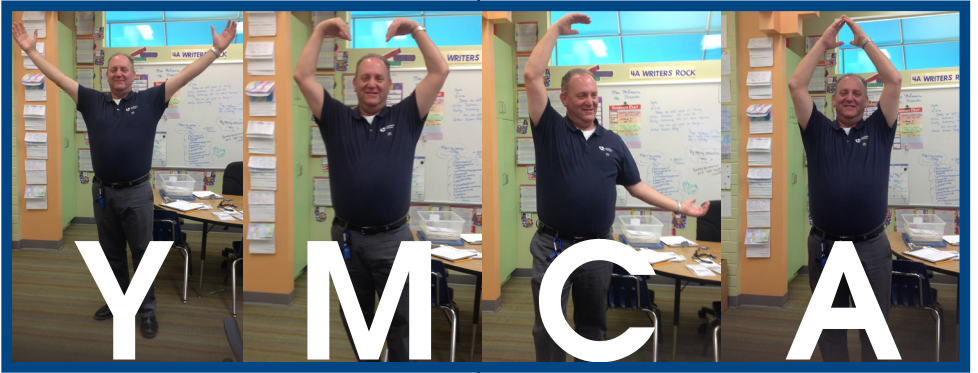
A: Porter Ranch Community School.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Los Angeles, California, and I'm happy that I was born here.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Porter Ranch, home of the famous gas leak.



Q: What are all three of your kids' names?

A: Dylan who is 12 and is in 7th grade, Brandon who is 10 and is in 5th grade, and Carson who is 7 and is in 2nd grade.

Q: Do you have any siblings?

A: I have two older brothers. Their names are Brian and Jeff. We all love each other very much. Brian has two boys and one girl and Jeff has one boy and one girl.

Q: Is there something special you like to do at home or with your family?

A: I like to coach my sons' sports teams, which are baseball and basketball. I also like to watch T.V. with my family. I am always fun and happy when I am with my family.

Q: What were your favorite shows as a kid?

A: My favorite shows as a kid were "Happy Days" and "The Jeffersons." I think they were very funny and exciting.

Q: What are your favorite shows as a grownup?

A: My favorite shows as a grownup are "Big Brother," "Survivor," "Amazing Race," "The Goldbergs," and "Prison Break." They are all fun to watch.

Q: Do you like working in a different classroom?

A: I really enjoy my new classroom. I like my new team, and new grade level. I think it is great that I can shake it up a little.

Q: Are you happy that you transferred classrooms?

A: I am thrilled to have a classroom like his new one. I like having a new workspace and a new environment.

Q: How many students are in your class?

A: There are 21 students in my class. I like all the students in my class and especially their different personalities.

Q: Do you like working in fourth grade?

A: Fourth and fifth grade are my favorite grades to teach. I really enjoy the fourth-grade curriculum.

