Independent Advantage gives students the big picture when it comes to handling money. Through this four session class, students will learn how to:

- Balance a check book and stick to a budget
- Use credit wisely and plan for financial success

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www.IndependentAdvantage.org

Questions?
Call Joanna Tomlinson
(818) 846-1710 Ext. 310

www.GainFCU.com • (818) 846-1710
Students in the Burbank Unified School District are showing gains in the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) course completion rate for A through G. The 10 percentage point increase from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017 can be attributed to strategic planning through the District’s Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) process.

From the start of the LCAP process, the community of Burbank recognized the District had to be purposeful in addressing the low A-G completion rate. The LCAP committee reviewed multiple sources of data, including surveys, to determine how to address the student need. The District has a high graduation rate (over 93%), but not enough students graduating were eligible for a UC or CSU school. Upon study, it was identified that students were taking the right classes, but many were not able to pass the class with a “C” or better. Therefore, a plan was put in place to address that issue.

Initially, the focus of the LCAP Committee was on providing intervention for students to be better prepared to take college preparatory classes at the high school. To meet that need, middle schools began to implement academic intervention in both math and English for students who were underperforming. The interventions evolved over time to include reading and classes to deal with organization and executive functioning skills.

Secondly, through the LCAP process, the District has been able to provide a robust credit recovery summer school program for students which includes a limited number of opportunities for students to take classes for initial credit, as well. The District has expanded credit recovery by providing opportunities for students to make up classes during the regular school day using an online learning platform, including a 0 period class, which starts an hour before the normal school hour.

Thirdly, the LCAP committee committed to a middle school Spanish program. The program introduces 6th grade students to the Spanish language in a 10-week elective wheel. As the student matriculates to the 7th grade, they have the opportunity to take a semester-long Spanish class. Ultimately, these students can take a high school Spanish 1 class in the 8th grade and promote to the 9th grade where they begin high school taking Spanish 2.

Lastly, the District reevaluated the Geo Science class many freshmen normally take and updated the curriculum to produce a new course called Earth and Space Science. The new course has been approved by the University of California as a lab science, whereas the previous Geo Science class was only approved as an elective. The Earth and Space Science class has just been implemented for the 2018-2019 school year, so the District is hoping to see further gains in A through G completion rates in the near future.

While the increase in A through G rates affirms the work already done to address the issue, the District will remain focused on this area to ensure students have the opportunity to pursue college if they make the choice to attend.
Superintendent Dr. Hill begins this issue with his message on College Readiness. Education has made great strides to ensure attending college is possible for those students who wish to do so.

In this issue, you will read topics on family math and science nights, STEAM, career day, student council elections, promoting kindness and so much more.

As this year comes to a close I want to thank you for including School News among your reading choices and wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
December 2018 / January 2019

Edison Elementary School
1210 W. Orange Grove Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5385

Hands-On Family Science Night!

In October, Walt Disney Elementary School held our first ever Hands-On Family Science Night in order to pique our students’ interest in the scientific process and expand their knowledge of the Next Generation Science Standards.

The event was dreamt up by Disney’s fourth-grade Dual Immersion teacher, Hilde Garcia, and our Media Technician, Rosemary Morrison, who teamed up to plan this hands-on experience for all interested students and their families in grades K-5.

Eighteen hands-on stations were led by staff, parents, and community members. Interactive learning experiences with names like “Psychedelic Milk” to “Zip Lock Bags doing push-ups” to Oobleck (the Dr. Seuss science experiment) fascinated participants. There were Naked Eggs, exploding bags, and gassy balloons. It was messy. It was smelly. It was fun! Tables for exploration also included rock identifications, balancing objects, and microscope viewing.

Each student was provided with a Science Passport that allowed them to formulate predictions, document what they learned from the experiments, and record their thoughts. Parents enjoyed the experiments as much as the kids. Students collected stickers for their passport as they finished each stations.

This engaging event highlighted how fun science really can be, how science is all around us, and how household objects make for great learning experiences.

Students took home science buttons, planet pencils, and a certificate certifying them as Mad Scientists!

The night was preceded by school-wide science assemblies to highlight the scientific method and show students what resources where available to them. These science activities will culminate in a Science Fair for K-5 students. Students will then present their experiments to science professionals and awards will be presented in January of 2019.

Disney Eagles, we can’t wait to see where your creativity takes you!

Molly Hwang
Principal

Disney Elementary School
1210 W. Orange Grove Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5385

Family Math Night

Edison Elementary School hosted a Family Math Night in October. We wanted to incorporate a way for parents and their children can solve some tricky math problems together. We also wanted parents and students to know that math is much more than just computation. Some of the rotations that we offered were Math with Kinetic Sand (to practice important number skills in sensory play), Dozens of Dice (to use equal groups of dots to skip count), Pentaminos (to increase spatial-ability and mathematical reasoning skills), Set (to explore visual perception), What Could This Be (to explore fractions and area), and Breakout EDU!

The activities were led by teachers and were designed to challenge our TK through fifth grade students. There was an estimation game to start off the night. We asked participants to try to guess how many cooked spaghetti noodles were in a large jar. There were 1,065 and a guess by one of our third-grade students came within three, while one of our parents guessed a number only 66 from the correct answer. These guesses displayed great estimation skills!

Laura Flosi
Principal

Edison Elementary School
2110 W. Chestnut St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4644
Can You See the Leader in Me?

Emerson Elementary School held its first official Student Council election with third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students. Emerson’s fabulous fourth-grade teachers Lisa Carr, Ellen Dobbin, and Cagney Branam decided to give our upper-grade students a true experience of learning how to run a campaign and running for Student Council offices.

Those students who chose to run created slogans and inspiring posters which were posted around the campus prior to Emerson’s “Election Day.”

Ms. Carr, Ms. Dobbin, and Ms. Branam led a student council election assembly. All third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade classes met on the upper playground and were provided the opportunity to listen to their peers make speeches. The speeches focused on why each student decided to run for office, what he or she wanted to accomplish to help their school community, and why he or she was deserving of the other students’ support.

After the assembly was over, students went back to their classrooms and were provided ballots. All 10 classes of upper-grade students were allowed to vote for the following Student Council positions: President, Vice President, and Secretary. The winners were announced over the PA system after the ballots had been counted at the end of the day.

This process allowed students the opportunity to utilize leadership and communication skills in a meaningful, age-appropriate activity. This new election process at Emerson engaged students in the democratic process, which aligned with curriculum and enabled student to connect their school experience with the November mid-term election. After assuming office, we are pleased to announce that the Emerson Student Council is running smoothly with the elected officers being guided by committed teachers.

Harte Elementary School

Hot Wheels Teach Potential and Kinetic Energy

The fourth grade students have been immersing themselves in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) through use of the Hot Wheels curriculum, Speedometry™. Throughout the course of this unit, students have been learning about potential and kinetic energy, and exploring these concepts by building ramps to measure how energy and speed changes as the height and slope of the ramps change. The students collected and shared their data using bar graphs. They worked with partners to calculate averages to make generalizations about the data they had collected. The unit culminated in a final project that allowed students to apply their knowledge of the effects of various ramp and car features on the transfer of energy by designing, building, testing, and presenting the ultimate ramps.

One fourth-grade student reported with excitement, “I learned that the higher the angle of the ramp, the farther the car will go. We needed the ramp to make the car go the fastest. We had to keep testing and rebuilding to make the fastest track.” The students are engaged and enjoying every component of this STEAM unit.

These Hot Wheels tracks and cars are part of Bret Harte’s science lab. The lab supports students across all grade levels, and our kindergartners will be working with the cars and tracks later this year. Our goal is to pique student imagination and inquisitiveness as to how the world around them works, from playing with their toys, to riding a bike, to cooking and baking. Students are developing an appreciation for the fact that science is everywhere!
Full STEAM Ahead

Students have a new STEAM Lab! With the help of our booster organization we have been able to open a dedicated classroom for this purpose. What started as our Makerspace three years ago has now grown into a space filled with materials and supplies for designing, engineering, tinkering, and creating. Our boosters helped us purchase furniture to create the perfect space for our students.

STEAM lessons were developed to support the NGSS standards with an emphasis on the engineering design process. Shelves were filled with repurposed materials for students to use in creating their designs. Classrooms have been scheduled to visit the STEAM Lab during an eight-week rotation this semester with each class having an opportunity to visit the lab four times. Visits include science observations, science experiments, STEAM challenges, and Makerspace days. During lunch, fourth- and fifth-grade students have the opportunity to join clubs that hold their meetings in the lab. These include the Model Airplane Club, Lego Club, and Video Production Club.

Our future goals include continuing to purchase materials for our STEAM Lab as well as expanding the challenges which our students receive. Our mission is to guide students from play to purpose by harnessing student-driven creativity, innovation, and collaboration.

McKinley Elementary School

College Month

In November, we focus on college and career awareness at McKinley. Some of the experiences our students participate in include wearing college t-shirts each Friday, Career Day, Rivalry Day, and a fifth-grade field trip to the UCLA campus.

During Career Day more than 40 presenters visited McKinley to share information about their careers with our students. Each student in grades 1-5 attended three workshops with different presenters based on their area of interest, such as community helpers, health and medicine, science and technology, business, and technical traits. Presenters talked about their profession, gave students examples of skills needed, and allowed students to ask questions about their profession. Students really enjoyed hearing from Burbank City officials, doctors, engineers, authors, police officers, fire fighters, animators, hair and makeup artists, nurses, photographers, and many other guests.

Students also enjoyed a visit from Tommy Trojan and Traveler from USC for Rivalry Day. Students wore USC and UCLA gear and participated in relay races, games, and other competitions to show their spirit. Our final event was the fifth-grade field trip to UCLA. Students took a guided tour and got a little taste of life on a university campus.

Student participation in these fun activities exposes them to a wide variety of career options, shows them that their professional aspirations are attainable, and lets them know that college can be in their future.
Students Enjoy New “Free Little Library”

One of the ways that Joaquin Miller Elementary School has continued to inspire readers and build a sense of community is through the recent addition of our Free Little Library. The Free Little Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange program that was started in 2009 in Wisconsin. The program has grown over the years and, as of today, there are more than 60,000 registered Little Libraries in 80 countries around the world.

During the 2017-2018 school year, students from our Grade 4 and 5 Student Council and Grade 5 teacher and Student Council Coordinator, Melissa Pamperin, wrote a grant to get a Free Little Library at Miller. After some challenges with installation, students now have the opportunity to walk up to a small wooden box shaped like a schoolhouse in our Copeland Courtyard, select a book, read and return the book, and then select another. It is so wonderful to see our students show an interest and curiosity in reading various books and discussing what they read with other students at school.

Judy Hession
Principal

Providencia Elementary School
1919 N. Ontario St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5470

Junior Achievement

The fifth-grade students in Ms. Colvin-Marvin’s class participated in an amazing five-week experience called Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization that focuses on business and economic education around the world. Junior Achievement works in partnership with businesses that provide volunteers who visit classrooms to work alongside teachers to deliver a standards-based program focused on STEAM. Each week, science, technology, engineering, art, and/or mathematics plays an important part in the lesson or its extension activity.

The fifth-grade curriculum, called JA Our Nation, focuses on the standards of “work readiness” and provides practical information about America’s free market system. The program highlights the need for entrepreneurial and innovative thinking that is needed to meet the requirements of high-growth, high-demand careers. The key concepts of JA Our Nation include (1) identifying and understanding characteristics of a free market economy, (2) defining entrepreneurship and exploring innovation, (3) understanding the soft and hard skills needed in a variety of careers, (4) comparing career clusters, (5) exploring how the U.S. is tied to the global economy, and (6) learning how a sole proprietorship can grow into a corporation.

Students played a board game called “Get the Job Done” in which they tracked the profits “gained” or “lost” based on what square they landed on—for example, “You learn from your mistakes. Earn 100 points for being adaptable,” or “You are texting with a friend during a business meeting. Lose 500 points.”

Room 19 parents are amazed that their children have come home talking about being an entrepreneur! We are truly impressed by the rigor of the curriculum and by our students’ willingness and ability to interpret the information with such enthusiasm. Thank you, Junior Achievement, for helping our students become future innovators and entrepreneurs!
Students Focus on Math Instruction and Seasonal Activities

Roosevelt Elementary School had a hugely successful first trimester filled with great instruction and fun activities. Our teachers joined other teachers throughout the District to focus on math instruction by building number sense through the use of manipulatives and visual tools as well as games and explorative activities. The students exhibited noticeable excitement as they remembered how much fun numbers can be—and we believe this will translate to more mathematically confident students. We have also found opportunities to share great online resources and easy-but-fun math games that parents can do with children at home to continue their learning beyond their time in the classroom.

Our school community has also come together for a number of celebrations including a literary-themed “Harry Potter Night,” our PTA Fall Festival, and Teddy Roosevelt’s 160th birthday celebration. We are looking forward to a number of fun events in the coming weeks including a book fair, holiday programs, and an Artist Assembly sponsored by our PTA. The second trimester is shaping up to be a great one at Roosevelt Elementary!

Matt Osmond
Principal
Roosevelt Elementary School
850 N. Cordova St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4668

Boo Bash

Boo Bash has been a Stevenson tradition that began 15 years ago. This PTA fundraising event has grown over the years, attracting community members and neighbors alike. Each year our creative parent volunteers and dedicated PTA members incorporate new and exciting activities. This year’s addition was the highly anticipated Pirates Maze. Our cherished Stevenson garden was transformed into an amazing array of lights, fog, fun, and fright. The Fifth Grade Haunted Hallway, a tradition at Stevenson for several years, returned in the form of the Fifth Grade Boo Bash Bayou. The hard working fifth graders, parents, and teachers transformed the entrance to the garden into a pirate’s paradise. We had at least 600 visits to last year’s haunted hallway. This year we exceeded that number by over 200 guests!

Thanks to the selfless work of all of our volunteers, The Pirates’ Maze encompassed the remainder of the garden with all plants, vegetables, and trees either incorporated into the maze or left intact. Tickets sold for the Pirates’ Maze help raise funds for Stevenson’s annual Fifth Grade OSS (Outdoor Science School) trip.

Other highlights of Boo Bash included a variety of great food options including treats from our bake sale, pumpkin carving contest, raffle ticket drawing, games, the bootique, where children can use their tokens to shop for fun prizes, and our very own DJ who provided fun tunes.

The entire Stevenson School Community loves Boo Bash and we look forward to its return next year with an even bigger and better Pirates’ Maze!

Christina Desiderio
Principal
Stevenson Elementary School
3333 Oak St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5522
Annual Family Fall Festival

Every year in late October, the George Washington Elementary School community gets together for an afternoon of autumn-inspired family fun, known as Washington’s Annual Family Fall Festival. This annual event features games, a cake walk, face painting, arts and crafts, food, beverages, opportunity raffle baskets, a spooky garden tour, and more!

On October 30, the Family Fall Festival was hosted by Washington’s dedicated teachers, staff members, and parents. Students and their families came dressed in their Halloween costumes. Our entire Washington community enjoyed games, treats, and even had an opportunity to drench their principal with water! There were a lot of laughs, fun, friendship, new memories, and fall festivities! It was a wonderful way to kick off the fall holiday season.

Brandi Young
Principal
Washington Elementary School
2322 N. Lincoln St., Burbank, CA 91504 • 818/558-5550

Road Trip—Word Search Contest

Rules!  One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Burbank in the subject line.

Entries must be received by January 15, 2019
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

MAPS          SUNGLASSES
BLANKET       WATER
GPS           SUNSCREEN
PILLOW        CLOTHING
MOTEL         CELL PHONE
HUMOR         RADIO
HOTEL         MONEY
CAMERA        FLASHLIGHT
CAR GAMES     CREDIT CAR
BOOTS         SPARE TIRE
SNACKS

Congratulations to
Jessica Guyon and Geneva Wyatt
Winner of our October Word Search Contests!
State Senator Bob Hertzberg Visits

In October the Luther Middle School community was delighted to welcome State Senator Bob Hertzberg to our campus. Senator Hertzberg was here to congratulate the school for winning a grant from the Chuck Lorre Family Foundation to support the school’s STEM program. This program includes an Introduction to Engineering class for our sixth-graders and a year-long Exploring Engineering class for our seventh- and eighth-graders. Those classes are taught by Jessica Schackne, who also teaches sixth-grade science.

Luther also has a Z-Space computer lab, equipped with 16 computers that give our learners the chance to design and build 3-D models and combine their scientific and creative interests. Students use the computers as part of their science curriculum; students who want to learn more are also able to take STEM classes after school and over the summer.

Senator Hertzberg spent time talking to the engineering students and seeing all of the projects they are working on, including electrical engineering projects, bridge building, and robotics. Additionally, he found time to visit some eighth-grade social studies classes and share some of his experiences working in both state and federal government. Overall, Senator Hertzberg was impressed with how enthusiastic our Luther learners were and how much he enjoyed spending time in their classrooms. The Luther Community thanks Senator Hertzberg for taking time to visit and learn what is happening at our wonderful school.

Dr. Oscar Macias
Principal
Luther Middle School
3700 W. Jeffries Ave., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4646

Career Day

Professionals from the fields of medicine, entertainment, and municipal government shared information about their jobs during Career Day in November. All of our students cycled through three presentations in different locations around Jordan Middle School.

At the lower field, Burbank Police Officers Karel Castro and Angela Burrows brought a police car and Fire Battalion Chief Tray White spoke about a career with the Burbank Fire Department. Other local government employees, Michael Singhanate, a lifeguard with Parks and Recreation; Jeffrey Musich from Burbank Public Services; and Ron Takiguchi, a Community Development Director, all spoke about working for the City of Burbank.

In the gymnasium, Darrin Goss, COO; Carol Granados, Hospitality Services Director; and Alexander Nury, Information Technology from the Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center spoke about the wide variety of careers available in the medical field.

In their final rotation, students learned about careers in the media from JD Black, Vice President of Marketing at Amazon Film; Chris Jampol, grip; Jason Huber, actor; Amy Smeed, animator; and Lily LaRocco, Vice President of Technical Services at Warner Bros. We are so grateful to all the professionals who gave their time to come and speak to our students and to Linda Walmsley and Hallie Fleishman for helping us organize our very successful Career Day.

Dr. Jennifer Meglemre
Principal
Jordan Middle School
420 S. Mariposa St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4622
Celebrating Kindness

Each October we celebrate Kindness Month. As a school community, we believe that while academics are extremely important, it is even more important that we help our students to be good people. A part of this is the shared belief that everyone needs to be kind to one another and that students and staff regularly performing random acts of kindness is one of the ways that Muir can be “better than ever.” Our counseling staff took the lead in promoting kindness by including daily kindness messages to students, putting up signage, wearing T-shirts related to the kindness campaign, and creating a different activity every week for students.

To kick off the month, every classroom decorated their door with an image of kindness. The decorating of the doors allowed each class to discuss how they view kindness and what they could do through their design to promote kindness on the campus. The results were bold and beautiful messages of kindness throughout John Muir.

As for our Kindness Month weekly activities, during the first week of October, our students wrote kindness notes to the fifth-grade students at our four feeder elementary schools: Emerson, Miller, Jefferson, and Washington. We then had our ASB students who had attended those schools visit the classes to deliver the notes and tell the students about the importance of being kind. The next week, students were able to write kind messages on post-it notes that were then posted around the campus—on lockers, in bathrooms, and in the hallways. During the third week, students wrote kind notes to their friends or to school staff members. Finally, during the fourth week, we provided rocks and paint for students to design rocks with messages of kindness on them. Those rocks were then placed in areas across the campus. All in all, it was a great month of celebrating the importance of being kind.

Focus on Safety and Security

Our new entrance camera/buzzer system started in October. The system was installed this year in an effort to make BHS a more secure and safe environment for our students and employees. Please be aware that the front door will be locked daily at 8:00 am and will remain locked for the rest of the day. To enter the office, each visitor will need to buzz in at the camera located to the right of the main double doors. So far, we have had a positive response and school staff members appreciate everyone’s cooperation.

On October 18, BHS participated in the “Great ShakeOut.” Living in California, it is important to participate in these types of drills. Great ShakeOut earthquake drills are an opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes: “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” This was a great time to train new staff on what to do in the event of an earthquake. Staff completed a mock search and rescue, students participated as victims, and we were able to inventory our emergency supplies.
Covering the Burbank Unified School District

Burroughs High School
1920 Clark St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4777

Calligraphy: The Stroke of a Pen

There is both interest and intrigue in Calligraphy, a visual art related to writing. Contemporary calligraphic practice can be defined as “the art of giving form to signs in an expressive, harmonious, and skillful manner.” As a form of writing it has maintained its appearance in a wide variety of forms and uses.

Studio Art Teacher Jeannette Elliott began her summer quarter teaching basic handwriting (remember cursive?!) This instruction naturally led into calligraphy. The students learned about its roots in Indian, Persian, and Islamic cultures, and its various uses up to the present. This form of art was so popular in Ms. Elliott’s class that she has now taught the unit in three sections of Studio Art.

When the quarter ended, many of the students requested to continue the class. In order to do more advanced calligraphy, however, the students required a variety of tools they did not have. Through donations, new dip pens, brush pens, pen nibs, real calligraphy paper, and ink were purchased. In order for dip pens to function best, calligraphy easels are required. Ms. Elliott worked during the weekends to build 22 calligraphy easels and brought them in for her students.

Students learned basic italic and cursive writing and are now working on an elegant Copperplate Script, Chancery Italic, and Old English. The students wish to continue building their skills and, next quarter, they will learn how to design and paint illuminated letters with gold ink and paint. Stop by to check out their work in Monterey’s display case!

Monterey High School
1915 Monterey Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5455

Promoting Kindness

We are all about promoting and celebrating kindness. This year we set aside two full weeks for school activities and events centered on the theme of “standing up” for those who need a champion.

Recently, students participated in our first Kindness Week of the year, which included school-wide assemblies delivered by Teen Truth and No Girl Left Behind. Throughout the week students celebrated random acts of kindness and organized groups to improve their school community.

There was a different theme for each day to recognize the diversity of our campus. For example, Monday was “I stand up for myself,” Tuesday was “I stand up for my teachers,” Wednesday, was “I stand up for friends,” Thursday was “I stand up for love”, and Friday was “I stand up for my school” day. This year, we even revisited our Kindness Week theme with an inspirational performance by multiple Grammy Award nominee Khalid.

Ann Brooks
Principal

Deborah Madrigal
Principal

Maria Trejo
The Five Boxing Wizards Jump

December 2018 / January 2019 13
**Motivating Students**

In School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), many schools are seeking ways to reward students in ways that provide recognition and attention from peers and adults without costing much money. At Burbank Community Day School, each teacher and staff member celebrates a monthly Fun Friday w/ our students.

This is a part of the Positive Behavior Intervention Support model. Our Associated Student Body is responsible for providing activities for the student body. At each grading mark, students with 3.0 GPA or higher are celebrated and honored with a gift certificate or a pizza party. At the 10-week grading period, the ASB lead a musical chairs games, Mummy Wrap, and a water balloon toss game. Students who win the games receive an entry to a raffle to be able to Pie the Principal. At CDS we are committed to providing our students with the skills they need to be productive members of society...We R.I.S.E Up!

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**Preparing Students for Citizenship**

The programs offered at Burbank Adult School are designed to meet the needs of our community. One of the programs of which we are proudest is ESL Citizenship Preparation. Students who enroll in the course will undergo preparation for the naturalization process, which includes the interview.

The focus of the class is on the N-400 application questions along with a review of U.S. History and U.S. Government. Students also strengthen their reading and writing skills, which are critical in successfully passing the naturalization exam. Another part of the course covers interview and public speaking skills. Topics such as appropriate attire, body language, and interpersonal communication are presented. This past summer a Burbank Adult School student who had been enrolled in the course went through the naturalization process, passed the exam, and participated in a citizenship ceremony. His achievement and willingness to share his experience with others is prompting more students to pursue the attainment of U.S. citizenship and become active participants in the democratic process.

The course starts again this spring semester and runs on Saturdays from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There is no fee for the course and students can register online at: https://bas.asapconnected.com
**Book Review By Katrina**

**Dark Twist**

*Vicious* by V.E. Schwab is a dark twist on superheroes and super villain origins. The story focuses Eli and Victor, two college friends who couldn't be more different, as they work together to explore and explain EOs or Extra Ordinary people. People with unusual abilities like super strength or metal manipulation. But when Victor proposes they try to make themselves extra Ordinary too, their dreams, futures and very lives spiral out of control. Now flipping between ten years ago and now, Eli and Victor must finally confront each other and settle the score once and for all. Filled with betrayal, murder and a glass of chocolate milk, this book will make you question the fine and often blurred line of heroism and villainy. Schwab is a diabolical genius of a writer with a gift for storytelling and anyone who loves heroes, villains and superpowers will adore this book. Katrina rates this book five out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is an 11th grader who loves to write stories, sketch and lose herself in good books. Katrina hopes to publish a book, research genetics, and animate a cartoon in her lifetime. Katrina will rate the books between 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

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**Richard’s Book Review**

**Sibling Rivalry**

*The Lemonade War*

By Jacqueline Davis

The is a book about the difficulties of a brother/sister relationship. The older brother Evan and his younger sister Jessie are complete opposites of each other. The brother is people-smart and the sister is math-smart. They start a competition on who could make the most money selling lemonade after Evan gets mad that Jessie is going to skip a grade and be in the same class with him. He feels that not only his kid sister is too smart for her age, but being in the same class with him she will embarrass him in front of his friends. The battle is on! However, after all this they both end up learning a good lesson about the undeniable value of teamwork. I like this book because it kind of relates to me and my sister. We often disagree with each other, but we always work better together. I give this book 4 out 5 stars.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

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**Christina’s Book Review**

**Politely Funny**

*How Rude!: The Teen Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Grossing People Out*

By Alex J. Packer, Ph.D

The book title is self-explanatory. Hands down, this was one of the most enjoyable, fun, informational, entertaining, captivating book I have ever read. “Good manners don’t cost anything. You can have the BEST for free.” You can look up a specific topic or read the whole thing for all-around understanding of manners. So, why choose good manners? I will answer with one quote from the book: “We used to spend every Christmas with my aunt. I was always nasty, bored and annoying brat. When she died, I lost out on her $1,000,000 will.” There are manners for behaving with friends, parents, teachers, employers and much more. The best part is that the book demonstrates how good manners bring you many benefits (for instance, get you a job or get help from teaches) versus how bad manners are detrimental to your life. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars. 465 pages, but what a worthy reading!

Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studentreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

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