

Covering the Burbank Unified School District

Volume 2, Issue 8

December 2017 / January 2018

Outdoor Science School Learning



Miller Elementary School Students Enjoy Outdoor Learning - Please see page 8.

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SUPERINTENDENT

Local Control and Accountability Plan



Matt Hill Superintendent

The major concept of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is that the state should set key priorities for all students, but that local decisions are more likely to benefit kids than a state-determined "one size-fits-all" approach. LCFF requires school district stakeholders to develop a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to spend the supplemental grant and base grant funding. Supplemental grant funding is used for

targeted programs for high need students (socioeconomic disadvantaged, English learners, foster youth, and homeless youth).

The LCAP is the District's strategic guiding document that is used to provide details regarding the District's actions and expenditures to support pupil outcomes and overall performance. The LCAP must describe goals and specific actions to achieve those goals for all pupils and each subgroup defined in Education Code. The district must adopt a three-year plan and update it annually according to the data results. The LCAP is intended to be a comprehensive planning tool. Each LCAP goal must be aligned to one or more of the eight state priorities. The

eight state priorities are as follows: Student Engagement, Other Student Outcomes, Parental Involvement, Access to a Broad Curriculum, Common Core State Standards, Basic Services, School Climate, and Student Achievement. There are three sections to the LCAP and each section contains guiding questions that must be addressed, as well. The three LCAP sections are Stakeholder Engagement; Goals and Progress Indicators; and Actions, Services, and Expenditures.

On November 2, the LCAP committee completed a thorough analysis of Goal 1: Improve Student Learning and Achievement for Targeted Subgroups of Students. The committee started the process by examining the budget for Goal 1. The budget was presented to show the comparison of what was spent last year and what was allocated for 2017-2018. Next, the committee looked at the metrics for Goal 1 to ensure that the items being funded in Goal 1 are showing measurable progress toward the goal. Lastly, the committee discussed the action items to determine whether the items in goal one should continue to be funded or if recommendations for changes to the goal should be made to the Board of Education.

On November 16, the committee examined Goal 2: Improve Student Learning and Achievement for All Students. The committee followed the same format of examining the budget, data, and action items culminating with recommendations for Goal 2. On December 21, the committee will end the fall semester with an examination of Goal 3: Continue to Align all Instruction and Learning to California State Standards.

Please join us for an upcoming meeting. For more information on the District's Local Control Accountability Plan and a full list of meeting dates, please visit the Local Control Accountability Plan page under "About BUSD" on our website: www.burbankusd.org

Board of Education



Steve Ferguson President



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Steve Frintner Member



Charlene Tabet Member







As this year comes to a close and

we look to a new year, I would like to

thank you for continuing to include

School News among your reading choices. Everyone has a vested

interest in public education and I consider it a privilage to publish

School News. There has never been

a more exciting time to be a student and a more challenging time to

Hill's message on page 3 brings you

In this issue you will read about

Communication/.Staying Connected.

students helping other and much more!

be an educator. Superintendent

up to date on the Local Control

Visual Arts in the classroom,

Accountability Plan.





Our next issue is February 14, 2018. Until then have Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



We are always mindful and grateful to our men and women in our armed services.



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Contest!

advertisers in this publication

These students are somewhere in this publication. When you find them, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Burbank in the subject line



Entries must be received by January 15, 2018 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

Disney Elementary School

1220 W. Orange Grove Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5385



Molly Hwang Principal

Dia De Los Muertos Ball

The Dia De Los Muertos Ball or the "Day of the Dead" Ball is a celebration in honor of Mexico's All Saints' Day, which celebrates the circle of life and provides a cultural experience for our entire Walt Disney school community.

For one special evening in October the Disney playground was transformed with colorful and vivid sights and sounds that

included lights, music, food, crafts, and artwork. There was an entertainment and refreshment station where the Plaza de la Raza dancers and Mariachi band performed and food could be purchased. There was a face painting station where you could paint your face into a traditional skull. Six craft stations provided various craft opportunities. The Disney garden was turned into a "cemetery" complete with an altar honoring Walt Disney himself.

For the second year in a row this spectacular evening was made possible by the Disney Booster Club. Disney Parent Volunteers, Walt Disney VoluntEars, and John Burroughs High School students provided the assistance needed to make this a true celebration of life!



Edison Elementary School

2110 W. Chestnut St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4644



Laura Flosi Principal

Fine Arts Wheel

This year at Edison Elementary School, we launched our new Fine Arts Wheel for every student in TK-5th grade. As part of this exciting new program, each student will have an opportunity to explore five fine art genres in addition to the

district-funded general music curriculum. Here are the track rotations for the year:

- TK/Kindergarten: Rhythm, Gardening, and Drama (10 weeks each)
- Grades 1-2: Theater, Recorder, and Cooking (10 weeks each)
- Grades 3-5: Improvisation, Ukulele, and Woodworking (6 weeks each)

All grades will participate in a seven-week dance program in the Spring Semester and ceramics in the fall. This curriculum will be taught during the school day on



Mondays and Fridays. The program is the first of its kind in the district for elementary school and was made possible with funding from our Booster and PTA organizations and the outstanding assistance of our parent volunteers.

Emerson Elementary School

720 E. Cypress Ave., Burbank, CA 91501 • 818/558-5419



Jennifer Kaitz Principal

Art is Alive!

For the past two years, all students at Emerson Elementary School have been receiving visual arts instruction aligned with California's visual art standards by Artist in Residence, William Loya. Mr. Loya develops and implements art instructional lessons with the intent of expanding students' knowledge of the elements of art and the principles of design.

Each class at Emerson receives four age-appropriate, standards-based art lessons which Mr. Loya provides utilizing a variety of materials for students to actively engage with to produce a beautiful piece of art. Mr. Loya instills a passion for art within his students and uses a variety of techniques to connect art to real life experiences. Thank you to Emerson STARS Booster Club and Burbank Arts for All for providing the funding for Mr. Loya to teach at Emerson.



Harte Elementary School

3200 W. Jeffries Ave., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5533



Martha Walter Principal

Hullabaloo at Harte

Bret Harte's PTA and Boosters work all year—not only by providing financial support for the school, but by making it a priority to host events that bring families and the community together. The biggest community event of the year is Halloween Hullabaloo. Kids in costume climbed and slid down the giant slide, played games for candy prizes, and had their faces painted to

transform into butterflies, dragons, and tigers. Families took Halloweenthemed photographs in the photo booth and made a wood craft to remember the night. For the brave, Castle Greystone loomed on the grass area. This haunted house has grown and developed over the years thanks to the creative and physical energy of many Bret Harte parents. Castle Greystone is such a compelling attraction that families and individuals come to see it from throughout the city. Food was provided by Rounds Hamburgers and the Taco Guy, while the bake sale offered treats of all kinds to enjoy at the event and to take home. Once again the Halloween Hullabaloo was a big success!

Other fun events sponsored by the PTA and Boosters include the Bookfair, Books and Burgers, Family Picnic, Variety Show, Spring Picnic and Movie Night, and the Fun Run. Bret Harte is fortunate to have such an active and dedicated base of parents. Parents in these organizations say they while they appreciate being able to help the school, the opportunity to work with and get to know other parents is priceless.



Jefferson Elementary School

1900 N. Sixth St., Burbank, CA 91504 • 818/558-4635



Sandra **DeBarros** Principal

A New Logo

What's missing at Jefferson Elementary School? Our school logo! About a year and a half ago, when the exterior of our school was repainted, we found ourselves in need of having our logo redesigned. Instead of reworking the old one, we agreed that perhaps it was time to create a more modern version of it. With the support of our PTA, one of our very

own talented Jefferson parents, Glenn Harmon, designed a 21st century version of President Thomas Jefferson. This redesigned logo is more vibrant and full of character. The new logo, featured as part of a large mural, depicts a wide-eyed Thomas Jefferson who is full of hope and dreams. Also included in the mural is our motto: Passion, Integrity, Perseverance—values



which we hope our students will pursue throughout their lives, not just in an academic setting, but in their own personal journeys as well.

McKinley Elementary School

349 W. Valencia Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5477



Liz Costella Principal

Havana Helping Others!

Fourth-grader Havana Varela was inspired by the stories of people who lost everything due to the hurricanes to help those in need. She decided that she would raise funds for hurricane relief by selling handmade bracelets. This decision led to the start of a project that has grown to include Havana's friends and grandmothers helping her make bracelets, and her mom mailing packages all

over the country to fill orders.

Havana sells her bracelets for \$10 each on Facebook and Instagram. Up to this point, she has raised more than \$2,000. She donated to the American Red Cross through Amazon, as Amazon matched the funds that she raised. She also donated to a family friend who lost everything at the same time they are caring for their son who is battling cancer.

As Havana's sales continue, she and her family are looking for other organizations that give directly to families living in Puerto Rico. Her goal is to create a nonprofit called "Just Because" so that she can continue to help others. while also inspiring other kids like her to help people in need.



Happy Holidays from the School News Staff!

Miller Elementary School

720 E. Providencia Ave., Burbank, CA 91501 • 818/558-5460



Judy Hession *Principal*

Outdoor Science School Learning

Every year since 2003, 5th graders at Miller Elementary School graders head up to the mountains near Big Bear, California, for a four-day, three-night educational trip at Camp High Trails that allows students

to participate in a variety of experiences not available in the classroom.

Accompanied by the 5th grade teachers, students work with the camp's staff to learn science standards in an outdoor setting. Students go on hikes and discover things about their surrounding; learn about and handle snakes; build teamwork and critical thinking skills when they participate in the planned activities which include line dancing, archery, and rock climbing; and learn to problem solve through the challenge of an adventure course.

This year's Outdoor Science School was held in October and a total of 98 students participated. Assistant Principal Amy Wawrychuk and I had the opportunity to spend time with the students and we were both impressed by the trust and friendships that were established, how responsible the students were, and the confidence that our students gained from the many activities in which they participated. We look forward to continuing to offer this memorable outdoor science school learning to future 5th graders at Miller Elementary School.



Providencia Elementary School

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



Jennifer Culbertson Principal

Literature Week

Literature Week is an annual tradition at Providencia, and it is one of the most cherished weeks of the entire school year. During Literature Week both teachers and parents engage our students in activities that help foster

a lifelong love of reading and learning. On campus, students spend time doing reading activities with their "buddy" classrooms. Older students read stories to younger students and together they complete literature-based projects. Our older students love to help out and share their knowledge and expertise with their younger "buddies." The local Northwest Library opens its doors early for our students during Literature Week so that classes can take walking fieldtrips during the school day. This



is beneficial as many of our students are able to sign up for their own public library card and get to know the children's librarian personally.

During Literature Week, our PTA sponsors an assembly for all students and the Scholastic Book Fair is open to so that our students and families can purchase books to read. Finally, Literature Week culminates with our annual Community Read In. We invite parents, family members, district employees, and city officials to come to Providencia to read in classrooms throughout the morning. Each classroom gets to hear from at least four readers, and we always ask our visitors to share their love of reading and learning with our students. This year Superintendent Hill read to a group of 3rd graders. Ms. Lorenz's students loved having this "famous" reader visit their classroom. It was an experience that they will remember forever.

Roosevelt Elementary School

850 N. Cordova St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4668



Dr. Jennifer Meglemre Principal

New Playground

For most of the 2016-2017 school year, the students at Roosevelt Elementary stared longingly at a fenced off area of the playground, wondering when the new play structure would arrive. At the very

end of last school year, they were rewarded for their

patience with a beautiful new playground. Fourth and fifth graders were concerned that they would not get a chance to play on the structure because they have recess and lunch at Teddy Bear Park, so we created a special schedule for the last few weeks of school that allowed them to play on the upper playground. The new

structure has three main components with built-in shade and three fun slides. There is a giant rock that connects the three components, a climbing wall, and lots of different ways to get up and down the apparatus. A favorite for the kids are the monkey bars, but our parents are most pleased to see that the sand is gone and has been replaced with artificial turf!



Stevenson Elementary School

3333 Oak St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5522



Christina Desiderio Principal

Scoring a Story: Professional Development Sessions

The teaching staff at Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School has begun participating in four professional development sessions that will empower teachers to facilitate students scoring a story/concept. Teachers will create their own patterns and make choices about the elements of music to create their own original music that will pair with a story that is appropriate for their grade level.

Teachers will work as a group to practice ideas, and then do creative work in small groups, scoring individual parts of the story. The small group work gives teachers a chance to engage many of the speaking and listening aspects of Common Core, and as a group they are making choices about their musical elements. They will be asked to show evidence in the text of their story to drive their musical choices.

All aspects of the Visual and Performing Arts music standards are covered as teachers engage the playing of music, but also the literacy of music (reading and writing their own patterns). Along with the focus of building musical skills, teachers will also gain understanding

of the social-personal development that music making can facilitation (focus, teamwork, listening, etc.) and integrating through parallel processes between music and other curriculum areas (tracking, decoding).

Andrew Grueschow, a Los Angeles based percussionist with an interest in music the world over, will lead the professional development. He is a faculty member at the California Institute of the Arts, where he teaches African Music and Dance and courses in World Percussion. Andrew has extensive experience leading teacher professional development with the Music Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and through special projects such as the Music Learning National Consortium LLSN & TEAL.



Washington Elementary School

2322 N. Lincoln St., Burbank, CA 91504 • 818/558-5550



Brandi Young Principal

Dreaming Big at Washington

Washington Elementary School kicked off the month of October with its first and very memorable Career Fair for all Transitional

Kindergarten through 5th grade students! California is one of the 19 states that are working together with Partnerships for 21st Century Skills to promote real world 21st Century learning.

Students had an opportunity to select four to six different career stations to visit. Students learned about various vocations from a variety of local partners including a disc jockey from Power 106, a commercial talent agent, a computer and digital media expert, a real estate agent, two animators, media production employees, a rocket scientist from the Jet Propulsion Lab, and representatives from the Burbank Park and Recreation Department, the Burbank Forestry Services, Burbank Animal Control, the Burbank Police Department, and the Burbank Fire

Department. It was a win-win situation for students to have this enriching experience. They asked thoughtful questions and were excited to learn about these different career opportunities. Students walked away with a new awareness of how they can apply their skills in the future.



Toy Store Items—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.

BIKE **MARBLES DOLL CRAYON TRIKE PENS**

BOOK COMPUTER

LEGOS DOLLHOUSE

SOLDIERS BUGGY **BALLS** KITCHEN **BUBBLES TEA SET CROQUET BAT**

BLOCKS BALL GLOVE

KITES

Congratulations to

Bianca Chirrick and Lexi Rodriguez

Winners of our October Word Search Contest!

Entries must be received by January 15, 2018 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

В	U	G	G	Y	\$	R	C	Ε	X	J	Y	J	F	C
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Luther Middle School

3700 W. Jeffries Ave., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4646

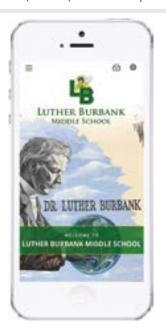


Dr. Oscar Macias Principal

Bridging the Communication Gap

American psychologist Rollo May once stated, "Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy, and mutual valuing." In an effort to build this understanding, intimacy, and mutual valuing

with families and the community, Luther Burbank Middle School has implemented a new mobile school app aimed at improving communication by helping parents, guardians, students, staff, and community members stay connected 24/7. The LBMS app is available on both Apple and Android phones and has several functions to help open the doors towards collaborative communication.



Through the app's various features, parents and guardians will be able to access the Aeries parent portal, excuse their child's absence, email a teacher or staff member, check the daily bulletin, receive push notifications, access the school calendar, view the principal's weekly message, make purchases through the web store, access the school's Facebook page, and much more. In addition, the app is able to provide a Spanish version of the interface.

At Luther, we look forward to building new avenues of communication with the community and making sure everyone in the Yellow Jacket Nation feels connected.

Jordan Middle School

420 S. Mariposa St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4622



Stacy Cashman Principal

Cougar Pride

This year all three middle schools created intramural basketball teams for boys and girls. Jordan, Muir, and Luther have enjoyed playing each other in an atmosphere of friendly competition and school spirit. It has been rewarding to watch our students demonstrate their skills on the court and model good sportsmanship and school pride.

We appreciate the staff and parents who have worked hard to make intramural sports a reality. We know that students excel and are more motivated when they are a part of a team or group. Our philosophy at Jordan has always been a whole child approach and we value participation in team sports because it teaches discipline, accountability, respect, and teamwork. Our students know that pride and respect are integral both on and off the court! Congratulations to our basketball teams and coaches on a fantastic season!



Muir Middle School

1111 N. Kenneth Rd., Burbank, CA 91504 • 818/558-5320



Dr. Greg Miller Principal

John Muir welcomes JPL Scientists and **Engineers for STEM Outreach Event**

On October 13, John Muir Middle School welcomed 15 guests from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), including seven scientists and engineers. The scientists and engineers spoke to more

than 400 students about

topics ranging from Exoplanets to the possible existence of water on Europa to Space Fabric Fashion and Engineering. There were also sessions focused on different spacecraft, like the Venus Lander, Curiosity Rover, and the Juno Spacecraft. Students were able to rotate through different sessions and hear from at least three of the seven speakers.

JPL also brought in items from past and current spacecraft and created an interactive space for students. In addition, they allowed students to lay down and have a working rover drive over them. A definite highlight of the day was the

15-foot-high inflatable planetarium that enabled more than 600 students to travel through the galaxy and visit their favorite planet. The hope is that these scientists sparked an interest in many future scientists.



Burbank High School

902 N. Third St., Burbank, CA 91502 • 818/558-4700



Dr. Michael **Bertram** Principal

Raising Awareness in October!

October was all about awareness at Burbank High School!

On October 4 Burbank High School participated in Bike/ Walk to School Day. Bike/Walk to School Day is an annual

event to raise awareness regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety. We joined together with other schools across the District and the country to also celebrate and promote physical fitness. The Burbank Transportation Organization graciously provided shirts for our staff and students to wear that day. This was a fun event for all involved!

We also participated in Red Ribbon Week during the week of October 16-20. Red Ribbon Week



is celebrated districtwide and focuses on drug prevention. Our ASB students held a lunchtime activity in the quad each day for students to pledge that they will keep their paws off drugs. Every student that made the pledge received a free wristband to wear with pride. They also held a fun dunking contest on the last day called "Dunk on Drugs." Staff also got involved by wearing the same wristbands.

We are so proud of our students and staff and their dedication to advocacy and awareness. It truly is great to be a bulldog!

Burroughs High School

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



Deborah Madrigal Principal

Working Together

No matter where you go within the Burbank Unified School District you will see everyone working together to ensure all students get the best educational experience possible. Students from John Burroughs High School frequently volunteer and participate in events at the elementary and middle schools. You will find John Burroughs students coaching, tutoring,

and mentoring students at our elementary and middle schools. Recently our ASB President, Louie Kahn, the ASB President from Burbank High School, Melanie Ohanian, and the President of the Burbank Teachers Association, Diana Abasta, joined together to help Roosevelt Elementary celebrate Presidents Day. Roosevelt Elementary students learned how they can become leaders within their school and as they move through their education at Burbank Unified School District. It was great to see leaders from both high schools and a representative from our teachers union working together to motivate, educate, and inspire our elementary students.



Monterey High School

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



Ann Brooks Principal

There's More to School than Just Textbooks

Students at Monterey High School are focused on making up credits, with some students even trying to graduate early! However, school is not just books and assignments with deadlines. Monterey High School staff host a number of clubs, all of which are initiated by students, that expand students' horizons allowing them to

pursue hobbies such as music and art, physical fitness, and personal development through yoga and hiking. The Hiking Club, our latest edition, has scheduled hikes at Wildwood Canyon, Stough Canyon, and Brand Park. Students were walking around school today talking about yesterday afternoon's hike. The Art Club delves into additional art activities and visits a variety of museums to experience different media. The Yoga Club focuses on yoga positions, breathing, and relaxation. This year our Music Club has split into two for a battle of the bands. We are looking forward to their performance.

Another growth area for Monterey High School students is in Leadership. Our Associated Student Body (ASB) brings a variety of activities to campus, holding fundraisers



to support them. Some of these students also assist with campus events and welcome visitors and provide them with campus tours. Monterey High School also has a Key Club, which is a service organization in conjunction with the Burbank Chapter of Kiwanis. These students attend a variety of activities through the year to help out the community, such as cleaning up the Free Dental Clinic property, participating in the Relay for Life, and helping out at local charity events.

Monterey High School staff strive to provide experiences for student academic and personal development and success. We are eager to see what students are interested in next!

Community Day School

223 E. Santa Anita Ave., Burbank, CA 91502 • 818/558-4693



Chris Krohn Administrator

Walk/Bike to School Day

Burbank Community Day School is committed to promoting programs that not only benefit their students but have a positive impact in the city of Burbank. On October 4, the students and staff of Burbank Community Day School took part in the annual Walk/Bike to School event, which encourages an environmentally friendly way to commute. This program not only brought

the community together by drawing awareness to the importance of physical activity, but also gave real world skills to its students.

A tradition at Burbank Community Day School, this year's Walk/Bike to School event was again managed by its students, who worked in conjunction with volunteers from the Bike Angels, a local organization dedicated to donating new and used bicycles for underprivileged children. Starting in September, the students and volunteers worked together to repair and maintain nearly three dozen bicycles and helmets that were provided by the Bike Angels.

On the morning of the event, the students and staff assembled in the school guad with their bikes and helmets and at 8:30 the caravan of bikes left the campus, traveling down Verdugo Road to Front Street. Led by Principal Christine Krohn, who zipped along on her electric bicycle, the school crossed the train tracks en route to Chandler Avenue. Once the school arrived at the start of the Chandler Bike path, everyone gathered for a group picture then made it as far as Hollywood Way before turning around and heading back to campus. Upon their return, the riders were rewarded with breakfast burritos, fruit, juice, and strawberry cake provided by the Culinary Arts Class. All in all, this year's Walk/Bike to School event at Burbank Community Day School was a tremendous success.



Burbank Adult School

3811 W. Allen Ave, Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4611



Emilio Urioste Director

Exciting Things are Happening at FACTS!

FACTS (Foothill Area Community Transition Services) offers an intensive, highly individualized program designed for students who need modified academic instruction, functional academic, social skills, communication training, and community-based instruction. We focus on four different domains: Functional Academics (functional reading and math related to community literacy, money math



skills including budgeting at the grocery store, reading maps and bus schedules, use of technology, and work schedules); Domestic (instruction to allow students more independence

in home/personal management, food preparation, housekeeping skills, nutrition, personal health, and responsibility); Community (acquiring real-life work experience both paid and unpaid working with typical peers in real life work settings, taking college level classes, participating in recreational/leisure activities with friends out in the community on evenings, weekends, and holidays); and Vocational (job skills training in the community with staff support in which students learn life and job skills—including resume writing and completing job applications—to maintain gainful employment when they leave the FACTS program at age 22).

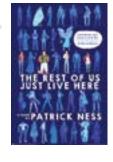
We are proud to announce that FACTS students were recently featured in the L.A. family housing newsletter and the program has been recognized for its volunteer efforts for the past 22 years. We have also added two new work sites this year: the Community Distribution Center (food bank) where students learn skills related to working in a grocery store and the Children's hospital thrift shop, where students are learn important skills related to organization and what it takes to run a retail store. We are looking forward to an exciting year at FACTS and making the most of these new opportunities to help our students achieve and thrive!

Book Review By Katrina



A Realistic Read

The Rest of Us Just Live Here is about characters who aren't heroes or villains, simply side characters. Told from the perspective of Mikey, a senior who's struggling



Katrina D.

with the threat of life after high school, we see there are two types of students in his town. There are the 'indie kids', with strange names like Satchel who end up saving the world from a zombie apocalypse or a vampire takeover. Then there are kids who observe, but never really take part. Kids like Mikey, his sister and friends who are going through difficult things without the supernatural factor. Patrick Ness explores the real life situations that teenagers face today, from eating disorders to having to leave all your friends for a different country and how these side characters still manage to deal with their problems in a heroic way. Though dusted with supernatural twists, this book is a realistic read for teenagers who are looking for a quirky book. I give this book 3 out of 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.



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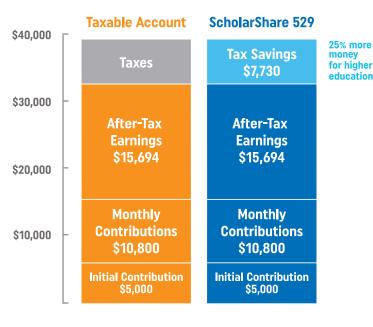
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