



Volume 2 Issue 4

Frank Augustus Miller Middle School
17925 Krameria, Riverside CA 92504

News from the Nest

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Teacher Feature: Mr. Schanz

By Breejha Q.

This month's teacher feature is none other than eighth-grade history teacher, Mr. Schanz. Many don't know this; before he became a teacher, he played on a minor league baseball team. Maybe this explains why the students never seem to win at student-staff competitions. A fun-fact about him is this: during his baseball career he threw a no hitter during a game, but still lost. Usually, a perfect game by a pitcher means an easy vic-

tory. The fact that his team lost 1-0 makes for an ironic twist. His career as a teacher began 15 years ago in 1997, when he started out as a seventh grade history teacher. Two years later, he switched into the eighth grade history unit and has been teaching it ever since. One of his most embarrassing experiences as a teacher was when his pants ripped clean down the middle during his second year teaching. His favorite thing to do is

play baseball with his two sons, Kana and Kaizen.



Issa Badawiya - Macaw Super Star!

By Toni Marie S.

Seventh grader Issa Badawiya is competing in the Soccer Internationals this upcoming summer, representing USA in Warsaw, Poland. Playing soccer since the age of six, Badawiya has competed for almost six years. Recently moving to a new team last year ("Golden State" with coaches Josh Hernandez and Jose), they are now going into Internationals

against the countries of Ghana, England, Turkey, Brazil, and possibly additional teams.

Before reaching Internationals, Issa's team competed against New York, Arizona, New Jersey, Washington, and Texas. The Golden State team won its national tournament on October 23, leading them to the Internationals. The Volkswagen Juniors Masters World event will be held in Warsaw, Poland from May 30 to June 3 2012. Since Issa's team won the US National event, the members, including

18 members and two staff or coaches, will receive a "full expenses" paid trip. We are proud of you! Best wishes for success during the International competition!

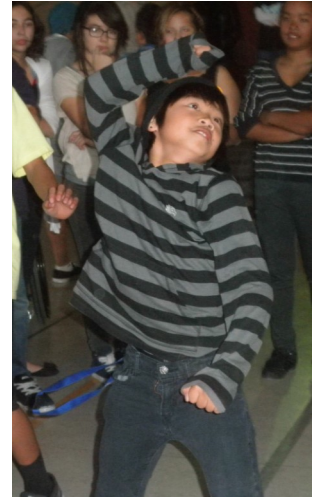


It's a Jungle in Here

By Derek Y.

The school dance took place in the gym in the late afternoon of Friday December 2nd and was a huge success. It was very fun in many ways. The music was loud and the D.J. played some of the best. We got to do the Cupid Shuffle and the Chah-Chah Slide together. The decorations that were made by ASB were

fantastic and made the gym look welcoming. The food station had pizza, water and candy bars. Thanks to Joseph in ASB for the idea for a jungle-themed dance.



Key Club Gets into the Holiday Spirit

By Torrin D.

This year the Key Club, run by Mrs. Lowery, was into the holiday spirit and sent letters from Santa to kids at Beatty Elementary School who had written to Santa. All of the children who wrote these cards were part of a second-language program to help improve writing and English skills. Key Club also gave presents to less fortunate kids who live in the Genesis House. Key Club bought toys, clothes, and shoes for the kids.

Thanks to Key Club, more children were happy during the Christmas season. Let's all be thankful for what we have. Thanks Key Club!



Avid Students of the Month: Jane Jeong and Jenna Ethridge

by *Toni Marie S.*

We had the pleasure of interviewing the students selected for for the honor of AVID student of the month.

1. Has AVID helped you a lot?

Jane J. - Yes, it helps me keep organized and it also helps me review before tests since my notes are in order and organized.

Jenna E.- AVID has given me better study habits and better organization skills. These help me get better grades and do better at tests.

2. What do you do in AVID?

Jane J.- Most of the time we take notes, but we also do activities such as philosophical chairs and Socratic seminars. Basically, what we do in seminars and philosophical chairs is counter-argue . We are given a topic, we then go against other opinions.



Jenna E.- Every Tuesday and Thursday, we have tutorials. We each bring a question and present it in the group. We also have seminars

where we counter-argue about our opinions.

3. How is AVID supposed to benefit you?

Jane J.- AVID prepares you for college by keeping you in the habits of being more organized. It also gets us used to other kinds of study habits.

Jenna E.- AVID prepares you for college, basically by improving your habits at school.

4. What do you like most about AVID?

Jane J.- What I like most about AVID is team work

and it gets us more prepared on what is expected in the college life.



Jenna E. What I like about AVID is that it had helps keep me be more organized. I like the tutorials since they help me understand subjects better.

Seen in the Library



Miscellaneous:

- Posters of RUSD School Board members reading their favorite books.

Books:

- All five books of the *Fablehaven* series by Brandon Mull.
- *The End of Time* from the *Books of Umber* series by P.W. Cantonese.

- *A Deadly Game of Magic* by Joan Lowery Nixon.

“Nixon keeps the suspense cooking on all four burners” (School Library Journal).

- From the Newbery Medal-winning author of *Kira-Kira: A Million Shades of Gray* by Cynthia Kadohata.
- *Pieces of Georgia* by Jen Bryant. “A remarkable book” (School Library Journal)

Check out any of these great books! You'll be glad you did.

Have You Ordered Your Yearbook Yet?

There is still time to purchase a yearbook. The cost is \$35. You can add your name and picture on the front cover for an additional \$10. All yearbooks purchased on Spirit Day will have the student's name and portrait on the cover. The deadline for purchasing yearbook with your name on the cover is February 1st.

Don't wait until the last minute to buy your yearbook. Last year we did not have enough yearbooks for students who procrastinated.

Not sure if you purchased a yearbook on Spirit Day? Go to Room 708 and check the list in the window. If you want to order a yearbook, see Mrs. Blasjo in Room 708 or you can turn in your money to the office. Be sure to include your FULL NAME and STUDENT ID.

Don't delay – get your yearbook today!



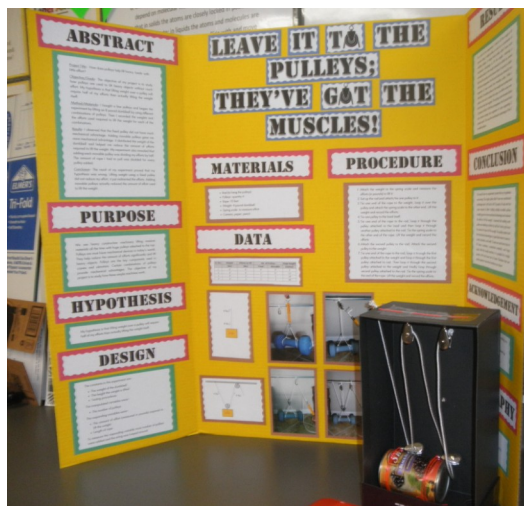
Science Fair

by-Mithila M.

This year, all of the 8th graders were required to do a science project. Students had 4 choices: a science demo, a science fair project, or 2 astronomy surveys (celestial and moon phase observations). Many students did the science demo and the science fair project, and they impressed their teachers! We interviewed Mr. Luchsinger, one of the

8th grade science teachers, and got to know what he thought about the projects. Mr. Luchsinger explained to us that science projects are one of the things that can start a discovery in science-that spark an interest, which sets up some students for the future. He also said that the simple and brilliant ideas that students come up with are the ones that excite him the most. So if you want to do a Newton's cradle, or the blow dryer-ping pong ball projects, try to make them different and unique. Mr. Luchsinger told us that his favorite science demo was built by **Christine Dean** and **Trevor Mattson**. They made a Van De Graff, which is a device that if you touch, your hair stands up. His favorite science fair project was made by **Bryan Simpson**, and the title was "How Light is Slowed Down in Different Mediums". Many students who completed the science fair projects will go on to the District Science Fair,

which is another level of science fair where kids from all over the district compete. If students win, they will go on even higher to the Inland Empire Science Fair, and maybe even the State Science Fair! So, if there ever comes a time where you must make a science project or demo, remember to make it "simple and brilliant" and you will definitely impress your teachers (and get a good grade)!

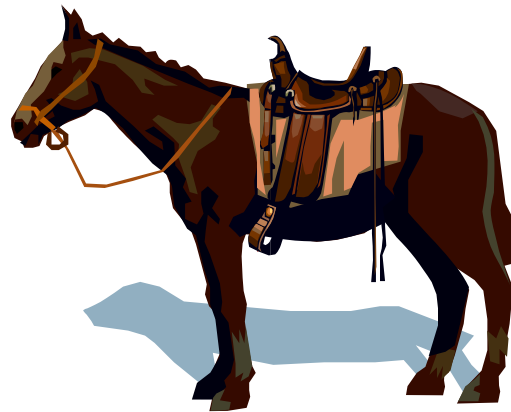


Interesting Facts

By Shelby T.

Interesting facts

- In the state of New York, the punishment for jumping off a building is death.
- In Riverside, California it is illegal to walk down the street with lunch in your hand during the hours of 11:00a.m-1:00p.m.
- 8.3% of all people in the world are left-handed.
- The fattest man in the world weighs 1,225 lbs.
- Pickleball is named after a dog.
- Some glue is made out of horse fat.



Loch Ness Monster: Real or Not?

By : Issac Nunez



Over the years, many people have reported sighting an extraordinary beast which is better known

as *The Loch Ness Monster*. It is said that the monster lives in the waters of the Loch. It is said that Saint Columba first encountered the beast, and not only that, he commanded it. Scientists claim the monster is just a simple basking shark, a seal, or a school of otters. So what do you think about the Loch Ness Monster: a real

monster in the Loch or just a myth and a story that survived through the generations? You can find more information about the beast in books in our school library—Call Number 001.944.

Guinness World Records 2012

By Breejha Q.

2012 is here at last, and surprisingly, the Guinness Book of World Records is already out. Some truly fantastic feats have been accomplished this year. For example, the record for most tattooed man is Lucky Diamond Rich, with 100%

full body coverage. The lowest limbo measurement for a female is 8.5 inches, and was attained by Shemika Charles. The largest ice cream cone is 9 feet and 2.6 inches tall. Nick Wallenda has bicycled over a tightrope 238 feet off the ground. Pretty wild!



Parent/Student Book Club

by *Emma M.*

Have you ever wondered what a book club is like? The book club here at FAMMS is an easy and fun way to share your opinion on books you might not have chosen for yourself. By choosing the genres of books you don't normally read, you are exposed to new authors, topics, and writing styles. So far this year



the FAMMS book club has read *Firegirl* by Tony Abbott and *Cracker* by Cynthia Kadohata. After reading the assigned book, you and your parent will meet once a month at the FAMMS library to discuss your thoughts and opinions about the book with your peers. It is very interesting to find out if others viewed the book as you did. Did they like the book? What did they think of the main character in the story? Was the ending what everyone expected? Did the parents and the students see the book in the same light? Being in a book club is a wonderful experience and really worthwhile.

Note: We are currently reading *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Con-



ner. Our next meeting is February 9th at 7:00 in the library. Come join us!

We Are United

By *Breejha Q.*

Walking around campus, you'll notice tight groups of kids. Each group has their own category for people who are in it, jocks, computer nerds, African-Americans, Mexicans, etc. Usually, unspoken requirements are needed to be a part of that group. However, have you ever thought of expanding those requirements? Allowing kids from other groups, or who have no group, to sit at your table? Just because you don't know each other doesn't mean that they are uncool or stupid. You may find a new best friend, right under your nose.

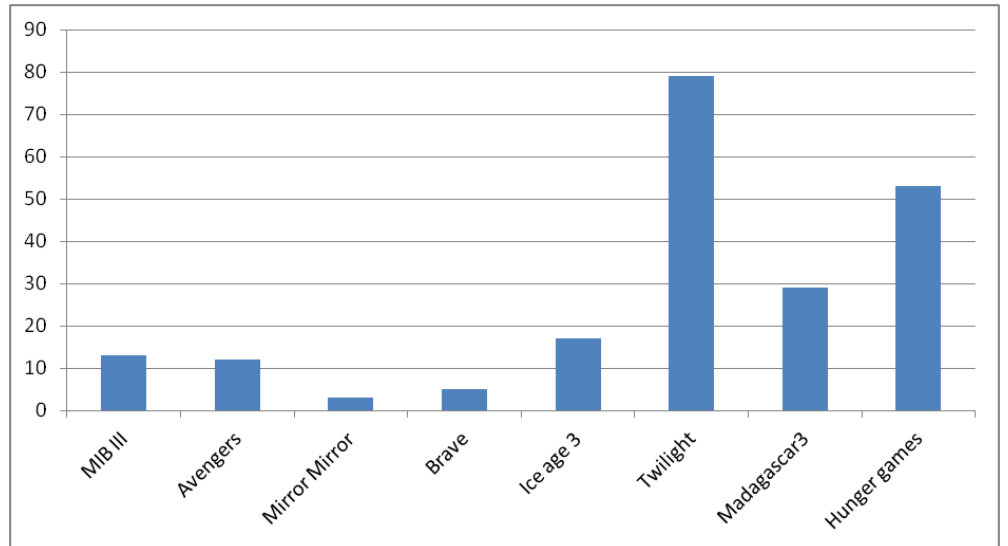
There is no guarantee that the friendship will work, but reaching out to others is a great way to meet new people. Don't let your ego or reputation stand in your way.



Poll Results: Movies!

By **Torrin D.**

Here are the results of a poll given to students in 7th period teachers; the poll asked what movie each student was looking forward to seeing. *Twilight* was the most popular, followed by *The Hunger Games* and *Madagascar 3*.



Our School's Connection to the Mission Inn

Interesting Facts about the Mission Inn.

Many of you already know that our school was named in honor of Frank Augustus Miller, builder of the Mission Inn, but some things that you might not have known are:

Our school was modeled after the Mission Inn.

The symbol many of you see on trash cans or sign at our school is that of a Raincross; you see this sign because it is the official symbol of Riverside. Frank Miller designed the Riverside raincross symbol

The Miller family acquired more than 800 bells from all over the world and there are still 500 in the museum collection today.

Frank Augustus Miller's granddaughters, Isabella and Helen Hutchings, collected Japanese and Austrian dolls as children.

Frank Miller was very interested in items created by the Native Americans.

When President Taft came to Riverside

in 1909, Miller had a special chair made for him. The chair is very large and is able to hold over 300 lbs. This chair is still in the Mission Inn today in one of the main lobbies where you are allowed to sit in it!

Members of the Miller family were very interested in aviation and were instrumental in getting March Air Force

Base to locate in Riverside.

Since citrus was the main industry in Riverside earlier in time, almost all streets near the Mission Inn are named after citrus fruits such as Lemon, Lime, and Orange.



New Year's Resolutions

By Toni Marie S.

Shyanne H. –“ Being nicer to people, earning better grades at school, and doing better at gymnastics”

Hannah L. –“ Be a vegetarian and stop hitting my friends”

Cathy D. – “Stop hitting my friends, less procrastination, and run a mile under 6 minutes”

Kevin C. –“ Fewer racism jokes “

Jonah E. –“Get to know more people and make more videos”

Elmar A. –“ Less gaming during the weekends, go on a diet, get better grades”

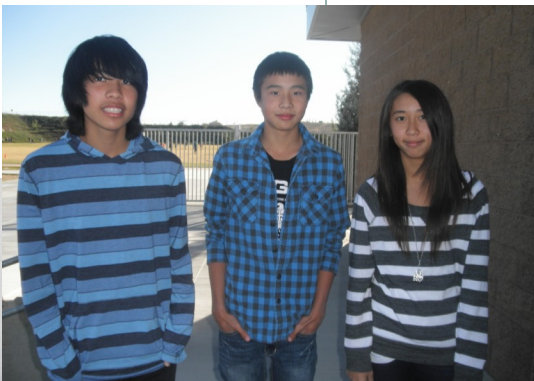
Andrew B. –“ Wrestling in Martin Luther King high school, more lean and physically fit. “

Xavier P. –“ Water polo in King high school, eat dinner with my family, work on my 8 pack and lightshows”

Alan M. –“ More respect towards the elderly and help more people”

Aldo M. –“ Earn better grades at school and try my best in everything”

(Pictured are those interviewed for the Resolution article.)



Guess Who? Contest #1

By Emma M.

Likes cotton candy
My favorite color is green
My maiden name is Chaney
I worked at Air force Village West

Guess Who? Contest #2

By Derek Youngstrom.

My favorite candy is chocolate,
I have 2 sons and 1 daughter,
I have 1 son in Korea, 1 son in Washington D.C., and my daughter is in London. Who am I? (Hint: I teach at F.A.M.M.S.)

Enter to Win!

To win a GIANT candy bar, place your guesses in the boxes in the library. Remember to label your sheet Contest 1 or Contest 2. Winners will be selected randomly from the winning entries.

Student Art Show to be Held on January 30

Parents, Family, Faculty, Staff
and Friends

Frank Augustus Miller

After School Art Class Show

January 30th

from 2:15 – 4:15

Art room #704

Drop in any time and stay as long as you like.

The students will be working while you are here. You will have the opportunity to see and speak to them about their sketchbooks, homework and current projects.

Light refreshments will be served

The following students are **After School Art** participants: **7th grade** – Jessica Blasjo, Kayla Bondar, Bryanna Caloca, Erik Chen, Kyras Dames, Jenah Espino, Andrew Funkhouser, Nora Elatar, Ryan Herndon, Rachel Kinane, Avery Martinez, Liam McAbee, Emma McComb, Rose Musarra, Cynthia Sanchez, Jonathan Shi, Sheldon Toribio. **8th grade** – Muna Abuhijleh, Jillian Barnes, Victoria Briese, Cathy Ding, Laura Greene, Dani Logan, Emily Moorman, Bailey Powell, Alyssa VanSlyke