

## VALENCIA BAY-FARER



Written by students. Read by all.

Free to kids

## 2000 Years in the Future

by Julian Kleppe, age 8

Have you ever wondered about the future? What will the world be like in two thousand years? I don't know, but there are people who think about these things. I'm not one of them, which is why I called my friend Tracy Fieldestein. Tracy is a noted futurist. That is someone who writes and thinks about the future.

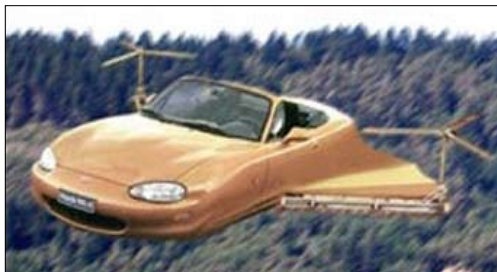
In the future there may just be one type of money in the world. Tracy says, "as long as there are people there will be money." Just like Europe ended up using only one form of currency, we may end up having one monetary system. We may not end up using the Euro two thousand years from now, but we will definitely have a singular world currency.

She asked me if it would be cool if

there were solar powered flying cars. My dad said "isn't it scary enough driving in San Francisco when the cars are on the ground?!" Tracy agreed, "People are lousy drivers."

Just as there will always be a traded currency, there will always be treasure. The question is, what will the treasure be? She told me how an original copy of Superman just sold for \$400,000. You could have a gold bracelet with precious stones and it's worth \$200,000, and a comic can be worth \$400,000. Then Tracy asks, "What is treasure?"

The future may be scary and there may even be monsters. We may make



Courtesy of smokingpancakes.blogspot.com

monsters like in *Jurassic Park*. Maybe we can combine a chicken and a woolly mammoth, a chicken mammoth. I asked Tracy whether there would be monsters in the future. "The human kind?" she replied, "probably. There are always people doing monstrous things."

Do you know what is going to happen in the future? I don't, but ask someone else; maybe they know.

## Oh No! School Budgets

by Andrea Rustrian, age 10

Many schools are in a crisis right now, and my own school Buena Vista Elementary, in San Francisco, is one of them. Because of the state budget crunch, my school is going to lose something that is very important to me – tutoring. There is some hope for the teachers at my school, but we still have very hard times at Buena Vista.

Across the state of California, el-

ementary schools are losing billions of dollars. Governor Schwarzenegger is cutting 42 billion dollars from the whole state budget and 7 billion from public schools. Many people at my school wonder why he is cutting school budgets instead of something else. California is already ranked 43rd in spending per student compared to the other 50 states.

Some of the things that are being cut at my school are tutoring, after school childcare, and school supplies. My friend is very sad about one of these things, which is tutoring. Laura, who is in fifth grade at my school said

that when the tutoring center was open "when I needed a lot of help, they helped me with everything, and I just got smarter and smarter."

She didn't need to go to tutoring

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*...and Much More!*

# Hope:

## A Journey from the Revolution to January 20, 2009

by Luis Arriaga, *age 10*

"We the people of the United States..." That is the beginning of our country's constitution. I took a journey in the winter of 2009 to the place where the constitution was made. I was studying our country's history. My mother thought of a trip to see and learn about the early historical sites and events that took place in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

We began our trip in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the city of brotherly love, where my niece Laura joined us from Texas. Philadelphia was the first capital of the United States. It was the home of Benjamin Franklin,

a commerce center, and one of the largest cities in the 13 colonies. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. The first site we saw was the Liberty Bell. It is a symbol of our country's freedom, but the bell was purchased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pennsylvania's Charter in 1750, years before the Revolution began. The bell cracked the first time it was rung. It used to hang in the tower of Independence Hall, but now it hangs across the street in the Liberty Bell Center. The bell is inscribed with the words "Proclaim Liberty thro' all the Land to all the Inhabitants thereof."

We took a tour of Independence Hall. When you stepped inside, it felt like you went back in time. The Constitutional Convention took place here. You can see the "Rising Sun" chair where George Washington sat during the Constitutional Convention. We also went to Congress Hall, the

meeting place of the first Congress. We sat in the seats where the House of Representatives met and visited the Senate chambers.

We went to City Tavern, a recreation of the 18th century inn where Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and other important people came to meet and discuss issues of the time. It was the site of the last meeting of the Constitutional Convention. George Washington was elected as leader of the Continental Army during the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Toward the end of the Revolutionary War, in the winter of 1777 to 1778, the Continental Army was badly defeated by the British, who had captured Philadelphia. Washington pulled his troops back to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for the winter. This was the first time the troops had all been together in one place.

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## Have a Buddy, Not a Bully

by Albert Liu, *age 9*

Bullying is natural but it leads to disastrous results. It leads to death and suicide. Bullying starts early, and when kids grow up, the bullying grows with them and when they grow up it's hard to change the bullying habit.

There are two types of bullying: internet bullying and school bullying. Internet bullying is like harsh emails, posting pictures of someone online, and hacking into computers. School bullying is more violent. It equals punching, kicking, and other physical harassment.

Bullying is illegal in many states but once the first person is bullied it's hard to avoid. That means Juvenile Hall should work harder. The harshest type of bullying is simply abusing animals. People don't like bullying but treat their pets harshly. They don't know they are being bullies by treating their pets harshly. 75% of schools in the world have had incidents on bullying and 50% of it is in the United States.

Bullying can go too far when people keep bullying through all their school years. They usually end up on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted list. This is the problem with public schools. They don't care, they put it aside, they only think about painting the classroom nice, pretty colors



Courtesy of [ajjohnson.org](http://ajjohnson.org).

instead of kids bullying and being bullied every single day. So, whenever you have a bully at your school, be sure you get a friend to watch your back.

## “Meh” is New

by Iris Morrell, age 9

Do you use the word “meh”? If not, then do you know what it means? The word “meh” recently made it into some dictionaries, but not all of them. Webster’s and Collins dictionaries don’t recognize the word. For a definition, we must consult the Orlann Dictionary, which defines the word as “the verbal equivalent of a shrug of the shoulders.” The word was added on April 27, 2003.

The word “meh” does not appear to be widely used or understood among young people, according to a survey of students at KBBS elementary and middle school. When asked, “Do you use the word ‘meh’? If not, then do you know what it means?”:

Two people said that they knew what the word means but didn’t use it;

Seven people said they didn’t know what it means and didn’t use it;

Two people said that they know what it means and use it; and

One person said they didn’t know what it means but used it.

I don’t think that the Orlann Dictionary’s definition is exactly right. What it means to me is that someone does not care or is not listening to the conversation at hand. I personally use the word “meh” when I don’t care about something. For example, say someone said “Hey, how are you doing?” and another person said, “meh.” That would be the correct usage of the word.

Meh is an awesome word because absolutely anyone can use it whenever they want.

A lot of people don’t believe in UFOs, but I do. Recent reports on UFOs showed me that UFOs do exist. I also interviewed someone I know who saw a UFO and she knows a man who saw lots of UFOs. In fact he is famous for seeing

so many UFO sightings. His name is Carlos Diaz and he lives in Mexico.

According to people who have seen them, they come out on cloudy nights. The other person I interviewed is named Quadeera Madyun and she lives in Oakland. She saw this triangular shape in the sky and it took off at light speed.

She knew it couldn’t be a plane

## Finding UFOs

by Hatuey Hernandez, age 9



Courtesy of xenophillus.wordpress.com

or helicopter because it was hovering in a circular movement. I personally believe this person; she is a part of my family and she has never lied to me. Carlos calls them ships of light because they have bright lights. Carlos and Quadeera’s descriptions were very similar. When it’s a cloudy night, sit down, look up and you might find a UFO.

**“School Budgets”**—continued from page 1  
anymore because it helped her with all her tests and all her grades. Laura thinks that the reason she got a scholarship to a private middle school was because of the great tutors. Now there will not be money to help other students like Laura.

Luckily teachers won’t be laid off in San Francisco because Mayor Gavin Newsom’s “rainy day fund” will help schools pay their teachers. My teacher Klaus has had to spend his own money on things like glue, paper, and scissors for my class. I’m very worried about what is going to happen to my school, and schools in California because of these cuts.



## The Incredible iPhone

by Roland Wang, age 9

The iPhone came out about four years ago. If you like cellphones, you should get an iPhone because it is better than a regular cellphone. There are many features of the iPhone that make it better than a regular cellphone. There is an iPod, Internet, E-mail, 3G Speed, and Maps with GPS. With all of these features you can do more stuff. With all of these features

in one place, now you don't have to get the separate things for each thing that is on the iPhone.

Isabelle, whose Dad owns an iPhone, told me why iPhones are cooler than regular cellphones. "There's a touch screen," Isabelle said. "It is faster than pressing buttons." Some people can't afford iPhones. The iPhone can cost \$199 or \$299. This is a lot of money for some people. The people who can afford the iPhone are people with good jobs such as doctors, architects, and writers.



People who can afford the iPhone choose it over a regular cellphone because you can do more stuff on it.

### *"Hope"—continued from page 1*

These troops needed to learn to work together and were trained in an area called the Grand Parade.

I stood overlooking the Grand Parade as snow fell all around me and I thought I could see the ghosts of the soldiers practicing in the field and could hear the guns firing. We drove on to Strasburg, Virginia, where we would stay at the Stanford home, a small farm, while we visited Washington D.C.

The next day was the inauguration and we were all set, snow pants and jackets, gloves, mittens, boots, and hot hands. We left the farm at 3:30am to catch our train into D.C. We got off the train in D.C. that morning at 5:45am. Way too early for me! It was 12 °F and that is really cold.

"We the People of the United States", an estimated 2 million of us, gathered here in Washington D.C. for this historic event. It was crowded; we felt like we were cattle being herded. When we got on the Mall there was hardly any space to move. We found a great spot to watch the inauguration. They set up large jumbotrons, like movie screens, on the Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol so

people could see and hear what was going on.

We sat down on the cold ground where we waited for the inauguration to start. They showed the concert that had taken place two days before at the Lincoln Memorial. People danced and sang to the music. Everyone was having a good time. We got so cold that we had to go inside the Smithsonian before the swearing in of President Obama.

People came from all over the country to see our first African-American President inaugurated. There were African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, Caucasians – people from every ethnic group. There were homeless and rich people, and all the people in between. People there felt a sense of hope and happiness, as if they were being rescued; someone had come to save them. People were kind and shared things like coffee, hot chocolate, snacks, flags, and cardboard to sit on. Even though everyone was happy, the Mall was disrespected. After the event, there was trash everywhere. People left behind hundreds of gloves, hats, blankets, and we even found a cell phone.

We walked along the Mall and saw the Capitol Building, Washington Monument, the reflecting pool, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial. We went to Arlington Cemetery the next day. We saw the graves of President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, Arlington House, and the Tomb of the Unknowns, where a changing of the guards and wreath laying ceremonies were taking place.

Driving through Arlington, it felt like we were driving through history – we got to see the memorials to honor the people who played a part in our country's history.

I did not get to walk along the wharfs of Boston or stand on the steps of Federal Hall in New York City where George Washington was inaugurated. I do want to plan a trip to see those things and go back through history once again. The inauguration of our first African-American President is an important piece of history I witnessed, and one trip I will never forget.

## Mc911

by Ben Siegel, *age 11*



On February 28, 2009, in Fort Pierce Florida at 2:52 pm, a woman named Latreasa Goodman, age 27, called 911 three times because she didn't get her 10 piece McNugget meal. Latreasa Goodman was not on drugs, and her reason for calling (other than not getting her McNuggets) is unknown. "The manager just took my money and won't give me my money back, trying to make me get something off the menu that I don't want," Goodman said.

According to the report, after police told Goodman the incident was not an emergency, Goodman replied, "This is an emergency. If I would have known they didn't have McNuggets, I wouldn't have given my money, and now she wants to give me a McDouble, but I don't want one. This is an emergency." Goodman told WPBF News 25 that she didn't "have a right to jump across the counter and snatch" the money, so she chose to handle it another way. Carlos Solorzano, operations manager for all McDonald's restaurants in Florida, issued a statement Tuesday apologizing for the inci-

dent.

"Satisfying each and every customer that visits our restaurants is very important to us," Solorzano said. "Regarding this isolated incident, we apologize for the inconvenience caused. In the event that we are unable to fill an order, a customer should be offered the choice of a full refund or alternative menu items. We regret that in this instance, that wasn't the case. We want to correct our mistake. We will be sending the customer her refund, along with an invitation to return for her original order, on us. We never want to disappoint a McNuggets fan or any McDonald's customer. Customer satisfaction is our top priority."

Goodman said she'll continue to go to McDonald's, but she also said she'd order with a little more caution next time.

"I'm not going and just giving up my money like that, no, but I'm going to ask them would they please check and see if they have what I want on the menu, and if they tell me yes, then I will order," she said.

"I ordered chicken nuggets. They don't have chicken nuggets, and so I told her, 'Just give me my money back,' and she tells me I have to pick something else off the menu. She is not going to give me my money back, and she don't have the right to take my money."

"When you feel that you've been mistreated or misused or robbed out of your money, you have the right to call 911," Goodman said. "That's the purpose of 911, so I thought."

## The Titanic

by Isabelle Calderon, *age 8*



Courtesy of [www.edinphoto.org.uk](http://www.edinphoto.org.uk)

Most people thought the Titanic was unsinkable. But they were wrong. The Titanic sank on April 14th, 1912. The Titanic had 20 lifeboats and 50,000 people.

It left from England and was going to New York. The Titanic crashed into an iceberg. Only 705 people got on a lifeboat. Some people had to jump off. Luckily, the people on lifeboats got saved by another ship. Ruth, a young girl, was a survivor on the Titanic. She had to hurry to get on a life boat. She couldn't even get her luggage. In the lifeboat, there were many other people who needed to escape. They sat in the lifeboats and waited to be rescued.

1,517 people died on the Titanic. It was very tragic and sad. Luckily, Ruth survived and can tell people her story. Many other people who survived tell their stories so people can remember the Titanic and that no more ships will sink like it.

## The 60s: A Decade of Diverse Dress

by Laila Zaidi, age 9

The early sixties were full of funkiness, the middle of the sixties were Mod, and the late sixties were the hippies' time to shine.

The early sixties were the most different from the rest. The gloves and hats would match the outfit. The bright colors of the dresses and the shortness gave it the early sixties look. The most popular dresses were belted. They had the shortest hair. The jackets would match the dress but sometimes there was a mix-match.

The funky coats and high heels were ideal for a winter day. Lace was the magic touch for most dresses but on others this may not have been the case. Dresses with short straps were for outdoors. Sometimes boots went over the ankle. There was a collar that you would wear that was called a dickie. It was really a usual collar but it was from the sixties. The last thing I will tell you is that the best and skinniest model of



Sixties Fashion Icon Twiggy  
Courtesy of [www.fashionation.files.wordpress.com](http://www.fashionation.files.wordpress.com)  
the sixties was Twiggy!

The middle of the sixties were very exciting. The beehive hair style was pretty popular and skirts that went higher than the waist. The polkadot was the ultimate design and the ultimate shirt was the turtleneck. High heels were the shoes you would wear to the many parties, meetings and other events.

The jewelry included brooches, necklaces, bracelets, and hair pins. The swimsuits were very different in shape in that now you can wear a two piece but back then you would wear a

one piece. High socks were worn for warmth but most people didn't wear them. Ties and ribbons were worn at the top of dresses. Last of all the middle of the sixties was called "mod" because that is short for modern.

In the late sixties, when hippies were popular around town, you would wear very different things. Long hair and long dresses was the ideal hippie look. The beads and headbands were great for hanging with your fellow hippies. Bangles and big thick shoes called platforms made the outfit just right. Clogs and sandals were in style. Spaghetti straps were worn with many colorful shirts and dresses.

The hippies were all about love and peace so they would tie-dye and paint all their shirts and dresses with hearts and flowers and many more designs. To give an interesting and concluding fact on hippies, it would be that you would not use a car. Instead, you would use a bus or a van with many colors and shapes of the hippie style.

The funkiness, modernness, and hippish times were all bottled up into the sixties.

## Fan Favorites from Baseball

by Tiana Kujawski, age 9

I am a baseball fan. I root for both the Cubs and the Giants. When I walk into the ballpark, I smell garlic fries, hot dogs, and pizza. When the game starts, all of a sudden I start hearing cheers, boos, and shouts. I see people rushing around the ballpark to get to their seats. Lately, I hear adults talking about the economy, so I talked to baseball fans about their favorite team and how they afford tickets. Right now, a lot of people don't go as often as



Courtesy of [www.1up.com](http://www.1up.com)

they used to. This year, tickets to single Giants' games range in cost from \$8-\$41 and season Giants' tickets range in cost from \$672-\$3,444.

I spoke to Terese Lawler of San Francisco, whose favorite team is the Giants. She likes them because of the way they play. She was born here and when

she was little, her dad took her to games. At the games, she watches the action and discusses it with her friends. "If I talk about anything else, the game gets boring," says Terese. She used to go to about 20 games a year, and now she only goes to about five or seven. Even though the food there smells delicious, she brings her own food to save money. Terese also likes the Cubs and, from the American League, she likes the Tigers and Indians. Unfortunately, it costs too much to go and see her other teams play.

Jerry Trigg of Illinois also like the Cubs because he is from Chicago and he is able

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## All About Twins

by Emmeline Lin, *age 8*



Most twins are born after about 37 weeks. When the mother gives birth, it will not be difficult if the twins are small because the smaller the twins are, the easier they can get out. Some doctors slap the baby's butt and the baby starts to cry. In the USA, 31 of about 1000 women give birth to twins. At birth twins typically weigh between 10 and 13 pounds together, only if they eat a lot of milk.

Babies have very soft skin. Sometimes they have big eyes. Sometimes people say they are cute. Twins are born as mammals but they are not really animals—they only have hair. Twins are born very lazy but when they grow up they are very helpful. Sometimes when the mother's tummy does not hurt, she might think that there's only one, but later when she finds out there are two, she will have to prepare double the stuff.

Twins are not always easy to have in your tummy. Sometimes when the mother eats she might not divide the food equally and the twins might kick her tummy. If a mom smokes when a baby is in her tummy, the baby can become weak. The baby can go blind, have a heart attack, or get a broken bone. The baby can even be sick and die early. These problems cause death.

If you are a twin, sometimes you may be glad because when you're bored you will always have someone to play with. Sometimes you might not wish you had a twin because your twin might fight with you, or your twin might be identical. If you are a bigger twin, it still doesn't mean you have to boss the smaller twin.

Twins often like the same things, the same foods, to go to the same places and to have fun together. Sometimes twins never get along with each other, but later

on they will. Some children wish they had a twin, because twins are very helpful to their parents. Having a twin might be the best thing in the world. People say twins are lucky because they are really lucky. Twins might be cool because they could help each other with their homework if they need help.

Not all twins look alike. Sometimes when babies are born from the same mother at the same time one baby might look like the dad and the other one might look like the mom. Identical twins can have similar characteristics and personalities even when they grow up.

When these twins see home movies from when they are little they might get a little confused about who is who. When twins share a room and don't take care of it they could make a big mess and get in trouble. Sometimes twins grow up together and leave each other when they grow up. Sometimes twins are born together but when they are a few months older they might have to leave each other.

Twins and triplets both make history. Cavemen had never seen twins before, so they knew nothing about them. Probably the first people to have twins were the colonists. Twins are named after the word "two" because twins were born as two babies. When twins were born in the olden days, people hired midwives to come home and help with the birth of the babies. When the first twins were born, there was a feast that celebrated them.

Twins are not prehistoric because they come from the olden days but live in the present. In the olden days in Egypt when the first twins were born, everyone would praise the sun as a god for the gift of the twins.

## Peruvian Food

by Marco Ponce, *age 10*

Do you like Peruvian food? If you do, come to Limon. It's a small restaurant in the Mission District that serves good stuff like ceviche, a seafood appetizer, lomo saltado, a chicken and rice dish, and a savory roasted chicken with french fries. Peruvian food features a wide range of spicy sauces in green, yellow and orange.

Every Saturday the older crowd streams in and orders from a wide selection of entrees, including a lamb with a cilantro sauce. Limon also has good drinks like chicha morada, a sweet-flavored, purple-colored corn drink.

If you want to know this recipe, here it is:

### CHICHA MORADA:

#### Ingredients:

- 1.5 lb purple corn
- Peelings from 2 lb cooking apples
- Peelings from 1 large pineapple
- 4 key limes
- 1 cup sugar or to taste
- 4 whole cloves

#### Preparation:

Bring to a boil the well washed apples and pineapple peelings, red corn and cloves with 3 quarts water. Simmer for half an hour. Strain.

Repeat simmering process with same ingredients and 3 quarts clean water. Strain and mix both liquids. Add sugar and lemon juice. Serve chilled.

**Note:** Add sugar to key lime to beverage only when ready to use. Before adding sugar and key it can be kept in

## Sharks and Why We Should Train Them

by Rosalyn Wang, *age 9*



People are afraid of sharks because sharks bite and have scary sharp teeth. They are fast swimmers and they are fast enough to bite other sharks too. They look scary because of their sharp teeth and their wide mouths. Could

sharks be trained not to bite people?

Some people think that sharks can be trained and some people think that they cannot be trained. Some people think that sharks cannot be trained because they have small brains. One person said on the Internet, "Sharks have a really tiny brains and only respond to minimal operate conditioning so they wouldn't be able to do tricks." Therefore, sharks cannot be trained not to bite people.

Other people think that sharks can be trained. The aquarium staff is achieving success in training sharks. People can dance on the shark while the shark stays calm. In this case, sharks could be trained not to bite.

I wish all sharks didn't bite. I hope all of them can be trained.

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### "Baseball" — *continued from page 1*

to watch them the most, so he grew to like them. At games, he gets a hot dog, keeps one eye on the game, and tries to figure out what the coach is saying to the players. To be able to afford this, he only goes twice a year. Another team he likes is the Cincinnati Reds.

Another Cubs fan is Marty Kujawski of San Francisco. He grew up in Chicago and his whole family likes the Chicago Cubs. He is also an avid watcher of Giants' games. He watches every minute of the game and gets a hot dog and a Coca-Cola. Sometimes he goes on the upper deck. His friend has season tickets for the Giants and sometimes he gets free tickets. He also gets other, cheaper seats sometimes. He has always been a Cubs fan, but he likes the Giants a bit as well.

Softball coach Jay O'Neill is a Giants

fan. He likes them because he admires some of the players. At the games he bonds with his friends. He also likes the Red Sox because they are his hometown team. He doesn't go to games very often, but when he does go, he saves money to get good seats. He's been playing baseball all his life.

Another Giants fan is Sika Klynstra of San Francisco. He likes the Giants because he loved them when he was little and his dad took him to games. At the game, he gets hot dogs and fries, and he watches the game. He doesn't like any other team and his favorite player on the Giants will always be Barry Bonds. To save money, he only goes to a couple of games a year.

If you are a baseball fan that loves going to games, these are some ways you can save money and still afford to go.

## Llamas are Becoming Extinct

by Marco Ponce, *age 10*



Courtesy of [animalsneedkisses.wordpress.com](http://animalsneedkisses.wordpress.com)

Do you like llamas? If you do, you should go to Machu Pichu where they rescue them and let them walk all over the place.

Llamas are interesting animals. When you look at them, they look into your eyes and look like they want to talk to you. These llamas are well attended by their owners in Peru.

I feel bad for llamas, even though they stink with their poop in their homes. Have you ever smelled llamas? They smell like dung. Llamas are good pets, but too bad for them they are getting killed with bows and arrows. You can make an arrow string with the hamstring of a llama.

According to [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), the following characteristics apply especially to llamas: "Dentition of adults:—incisors 1/3 canines 1/1, premolars 2/2, molars 3/2; total 32. In the upper jaw there is a compressed, sharp, pointed lanariform incisor near the hinder edge of the premaxilla, followed in the male at least by a moderate-sized, pointed, curved spank canine in the anterior part of the maxilla."

Llamas are well socialized and trained, and help their owner's with their chores. Llamas are very social herd animals, however, and do sometimes spit at each other as a way of disciplining lower-ranked llamas in the herd.

## Raging Rivers and Disastrous Dams

by Emma Sanford, *age 9*

Do you care about rivers in California? Patrick McCully does. For the last 15 years, Patrick McCully, the executive director of International Rivers, has helped to raise money, organize campaigns, and make sure people do what they say they will do. In his job, he makes sure things are legal, and he does a lot of work in general. In his job he travels a lot. Most recently, he went to Brussels, London and New York.

McCully states that there are a lot of problems with rivers in California. People are consuming too much water (taking more water than they need). Water is needed in agriculture too. There is a lot of

pollution on this Earth (isn't there?) and fish are not living naturally.

Patrick says that dams are very bad for the environment because they change the natural flow and features of the rivers. They change the temperature and chemistry of the water and they block the path of fish and other animals who live in the rivers. Dams can make some species extinct. In addition, dams are unattractive to humans.

Hydro-electricity is bad for the environment because it is based on dams. The action of the water going down the dam generates electricity. Hydro-electricity can be bad, but small dams are okay. There are new ways of creating hydro-electricity without dams. The new hydro-electricity uses small turbines, like windmills, underwater.

How can people save water? People



can do easy things like not keeping the tap on while brushing teeth or washing dishes. You can take shorter showers, get a water-efficient showerhead and/or toilet. In your garden you should use less water. Instead of planting roses, which need more water, plant cacti, Mediterranean plants, and other plants that don't need so much water. You can save your bathwater or dishwater to water your plants.

The river project may be a hard one to solve, yet not impossible to solve. For more information, go to [www.internationalrivers.com](http://www.internationalrivers.com).

## The Amazon: Big, Alive, and Precious

by Claire Lin, *age 8*

Have you ever wondered who named the Amazon jungle? It was Francisco de Orellana, a Spanish explorer. He was the first explorer to navigate the entire Amazon River in 1542.

The Amazon jungle is a forest of nature. The oxygen is clean and fresh. Sometimes there can be a lot of moisture in the air, and when that happens, the people call the Amazon jungle the Cloud Forest. The Amazon jungle can be hot, sometimes reaching one hundred degrees or more. The waterfalls are the most beautiful on earth.

When you go through the river, be sure to keep your eyes open: some type of dangerous wild animal will pop in front of your face. Very strange animals live in the Amazon. Sloths live in the Amazon! Strange or mysterious plants live in the Amazon. Scientists hope that these plants

don't cause serious diseases. The tallest trees are called the canopy. Monkeys and birds live in the canopy.

The ground of the Amazon jungle is all green. The temperature is not even eighty degrees. The temperature is like that because the tall trees blocks the sun's light. A little bit of sunlight can be shown, but there is less than ten percent shining through the branches.

There is also a forest in the Amazon. The trees are so tall. Most of the forest is tangled up, and ferns or other plants spread over it. It would be hard for people to walk in the forest, and you might get lost. Once you get in the forest, you will be dizzy. The trees are as tall as skyscrapers. There are many other plants, too. This forest is a rain forest. There are about twelve



to fifteen different species of trees.

The Amazon forest is near the Amazon River. The Amazon river is ten times the length of Texas. The air is very humid.

The Yanomami live in the Amazon jungle. They grow sweet potatoes and bananas and gather mushrooms, berries, and honey. They eat monkeys, tapirs, and insects. Yanomami are good at fishing. They live in huts made out of leaves. They sleep in braided hammocks. When they hunt, they use bows and arrows. They also use blowpipes.

The people who came after the Yanomami were explorers. Many of these explorers became famous, including the most famous one, who was the Spanish explorer, Francisco de Orellana, who named the Amazon jungle.

And now, some people are starting to cut down the trees. They are killing nature. The trees are cut down to create space for fields. The Amazon jungle is a precious treasure to the earth. We should keep the Amazon jungle safe.

## Grand Theft Childhood

by Isaiah Bryant-Martinez, *age 10*

Should kids be able to play violent video games? I think it depends. Sometimes it's not even about the game it's about how much money it costs. Companies expect people to buy \$60 and \$70 video games. People are getting laid off and video game companies want them to buy stuff like this.

Half of the people out there are kids and the games are too violent. Me, I'm not going to do anything like play with guns, but I see little kids acting like they are killing somebody. I love video games but I can't love them if I can't play them. I'm not going to lie, I do like playing games that are violent, but I'd rather play a game that's kid friendly.

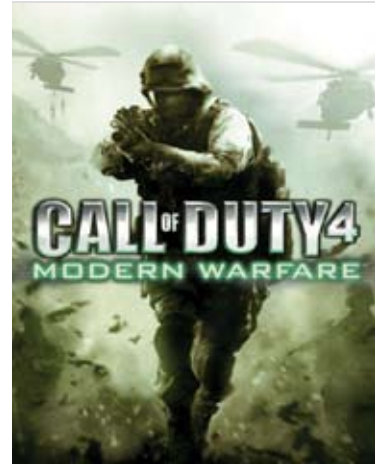
Some people don't want to pay so much money so they sell chips to people, and I don't mean tortilla chips. I mean computer chips. These kind of people hate the government for raising the prices of video games. After you have a chip you can buy games for about \$3. I interviewed my friend John Robertson. He is a P.E. (physical education) teacher. I asked him how he feels about the prices of video games. He said, "I don't think the prices are good, but you got to remember that

someone makes those games for a living." I also asked him if he could make a kid-friendly-fun video game, would he make it? He responded, "Uuuuhhh-hhhh yeah."

Politicians say video games are as bad as guns and narcotics, and they are spending billions to prove it. I don't agree all that much that video games are as bad as narcotics and guns, but I believe it sometimes because many video games have all that stuff inside them. Video games teach kids that it's okay to play with guns or do drugs, and people say that they're not going to let their little kid, or little cousin, play the game, but watching it being played is just as bad as playing.

Video game companies expect parents to spend \$60-\$70 on video games that are teaching their kids to play with guns and drugs. I understand that it's bad to play these games but some people have issues that make them do stuff after games like that. Playing games are a release of their anger, and then they take out their anger in real life and think it is like playing a video game until it actually happens.

I like playing video games a lot, but



Courtesy of [www.1up.com](http://www.1up.com)

when it comes to using all the money I make in a year, sometimes I spend it on one game...and then there goes all my money. I try to buy games that are not violent but when violent games are advertised on commercials on kid's stations and they show you the preview, they tell kids that they should do it: jump on walls, kill somebody without having to do it in real life. I'll keep on trying to buy games that are fun for kids, but this problem is not going to go away soon.

## An Interview with Mary Deveroux

by Emma Sanford, *age 9*

Mary Deveroux doesn't cook every day, although she does prepare food every day. Her favorite food to prepare is blueberry nectarine crumble. Mary says that she's still learning to

cook. Mary's mother taught her the basics. Mary learned healthy and fancy recipes from cooking shows. Mary's response to my question, "Why do you enjoy cooking?" was this: "It's creative - like art, painting and sculpting. It's a creative process. Each time it comes out a little differently, it pleases you." Mary D. enjoys simple, not "fancy French recipes". Her dishes contain fresh

ingredients and not too many. "I don't like fancy French sauces and stuff," she says. She likes it simple but tasty. There's a lot of things she can't eat, but a lot of food that she needs. In her thirties, for example, she didn't cook a lot, she went out more. When she was forty and had cancer, she cooked more. "I'm on a diet for life", she says. Mary is a cancer survivor.

# The Magic of Harry Potter

by Jenna Fenstermaker, age 9



Known worldwide, Harry Potter is a series of seven books. The first book was published on June 30, 1997. I don't know why J.K. Rowling, the author, wrote them, but I still loved the books.

I recommend the Harry Potter series because I like magic and action, such as the graveyard scene in the fourth book. You should read them in order so they

will make sense. If you like magic, this is the series for you.

Emma Sanford enjoys Harry Potter because it is different from other magic books. "It has kids instead of old dudes," Emma says. I agree because I have never read anything like Harry Potter before, and I think it does have more kids. I think more kids makes it a kid book, and more adults makes it an adult book.

I also interviewed Tiana Kujawski. She says her favorite book in the series is the fourth because she likes the tri-wizard tournament. Her favorite character is Dobby, the squeaky house elf. She also thinks she's most like Fred and George Weasley because they are jokesters. She also believes in magic because she says she believes pretty much everything.

I am a big fan of Harry Potter because it is an awesome series. Most of my friends like it and you will too.

## Harry Potter: Movie vs. Book

by Stella Jones, age 10

Here is the difference between the Harry Potter movies and books:

The movies about Harry Potter are very different from the books. They are different because in the third movie Harry should already know the Patronus charm, but he doesn't. Draco, Crabbe, and Goyle get mixed up, Harry does the Patronus Charm on them and they fly back. I loved reading that. They get 50 points taken away from Slytherin. They hated Harry and his guts, plus they hated Gryffindor. I've only seen the fifth and third movies. Movie five is super sad.

The books are very sad. In the seventh, I cried when people died (with the ex-



ception of people who were big do dos). In the first book I got so bored that I put the book down for awhile (actually it was like a month or two). Personally my favorite ones were the fourth and seventh books. The only thing I didn't like about the seventh book was that so many people died. The thing I liked about it was that at last there was peace between Harry and Draco. If I tell you any more I will tell you the ending, but believe me, it is a great series!!!

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### ABOUT 826

826 is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

## India Collides on Valencia Street

by Laila Zaidi, age 9

Are you looking for good Indian restaurants? I think I might have your solution! These are a few Indian restaurants I went to and liked. I went because I thought of comparing restaurants with similar food to see which one is better. I found out that my favorite was Al Hamra, Majoraja, and Udupi Palace was Majoraja and I recommend you try these restaurants too.

### Al Hamra

The first thing I noticed when I went to Alhama was the decor. It wasn't very fancy but ideal. The best thing about this restaurant was its prices. I had also gobi, rice, haan, lentils, and spinach with

many spices. It tasted great. I would give it four stars. My recommendation to the restaurant is to make it more decorative. It was nothing more, nothing less than what I expected.

### Maharaja

In Maharaja I noticed its great sense of decoration and its cleanliness. The food made my mouth water. There were many beautiful paintings. Its service was very fast and even though I didn't have anything to do it was very fast. The price wasn't cheap or expensive but forty-four dollars for four dishes. They were very nice and gave me a free mango lassi. I would recommend this restaurant to you.

### Udupi Palace

The southern Indian restaurant Udupi palace was very well decorated with marble tables, very nice glasses, and pretty plates. The food was presented in a very nice way but the taste was not what I expected. The pancakes were sour, the rice was buttery, and I didn't exactly like the tamarind rice. The restaurant was pretty busy so the service was slow. They didn't treat kids in special way but in a normal way. We ordered more than we did at the other two restaurants so the bill was 55 dollars. It was overall an ok restaurant.



Courtesy of [whatsforlunchhoney.blogspot.com](http://whatsforlunchhoney.blogspot.com)

Column1	Al hamra north	Majoraja	Udupi Palace
Décor	wasn't very fancy **	very nice paintings ***	Marble tables, nice glasses, nice plates ****
Cleanliness	ok **	clean ***	very clean ****
Presentation	good ***	good (made my mouth water) ****	really good ****
Taste	what I expected ****	very good ****	not very nice. Sour pancakes, buttery rice, yucky tamarind rice **
Service	fact: people that got in after got served before ***	great fast service ****	busy restaurant, slow service ***
Price for 4 dishes	Cheap \$33 *****	good \$44 ***	alright ***
Kid Friendliness	not mean, not too nice **	free mango lassi ***	normal ***
Final Results	good ***	I would recommend ****	different ***