



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER GREETING

Dear Parents,

The year 2020 has been a unique one for everyone! Toilet paper is a treasure, facemasks are live safers, and human beings' endurance is definitely being tested! With all the craziness, I want to thank Ms. Ho, Ms. Simms, Ms. Melissa, and Ms. Veronica for helping all our teachers to learn digital technology. Anything is possible! As you know, we were able to have our science fair, recital, and even graduation to spot light our students' achievements. In addition, ARBORLAND IS STARTING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL. We have been preparing our junior high school for the whole school year and are delighted that it's happening. Our core values of safe environment, academic excellence, personalized learning, and sense of belonging will instill independence, knowledge, and compassion in all our students in both good times and challenging times.

Life is full of ups and downs. I have had and still have many sleepless nights throughout this Covid pandemic worrying about how our parents work while taking care of the children, how the teachers can continue effective instruction remotely and pay their bills, and most importantly, how the children can stay safe while continuously learning! Even the decision to keep the school open or shut down was overwhelmingly stressful. Experts could not answer my questions in a timely manner. Leaders in the field had different opinions. Tears and anxiety could not help with the situation. We cannot control the uncertainty and all the variables in front of us. What we can control is providing the best education opportunity to the students in a safe environment. So, we did just that. After two months of 5-day full time distant teaching, we re-opened in May 2020 to offer hybrid learning and have been offering both in-person and distant learning for the children.

Thank you very much for your understanding of the challenge before us. These are, perhaps, the most difficult times we have faced in many decades. Arborland is committed to stay true to our mission while protecting our students, teachers, parents, and our community. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with your child in-person and online.

With appreciation,
Dr. Sueling Chen
Principal



****What's the plan for fall?
Check out our FAQs on page 5
for details.****

www.arborland.com

First Day of School
Tuesday, August 11,
2020

Follow us!



Arborland Montessori



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ARBORLAND JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM

Ms. Ashley Simms

Hello, Arborland Family! Well, this program has been a long time coming and I am so thrilled to be a part of the Junior High Team alongside Ms. Melissa, Ms. Veronica, Dr. Chen, and of course our amazing administrative staff. The desire to be part of a Montessori Adolescent program has been a dream of mine since I started working here at Arborland Montessori and to be able to create this program along with my colleagues has been an amazing adventure so far. As many of you know, we formally announced the formation of our Junior High program at the Winter Recital in December of 2019. This may have come to some as a welcome surprise, but it was in fact the product of a long process of careful thought and planning. The subject was brought up several times in the past when our alumni and their parents were dissatisfied with their Junior High program. A few of our class 2020 parents started campaigning for us. Their loyal

support boosted us to seriously bring the subject to the table. We mapped out our mission statement, curriculum, service learning, career pathway components, our admissions procedure and purpose, elective possibilities, staffing opportunities, visiting other schools, and textbook research procedures. Our To Do list was first created and everyone industriously got to work. We did extensive research on textbooks and chose programs that would enable our students to be academically challenged, to build on what they had learned in their elementary years, and to prepare them to be academically confident going into the high school program of their choice.

Despite all of the challenges this year has thrown at us, the Junior High Team has worked together to research and develop the curriculum for our program, been on multiple visits to other junior high programs, set up student interviews to ensure that our students are dedicated to the program, garnered support from community leaders for the interview process and to form connections that will open up service learning possibilities, and confirmed the location of our new program. This summer, Ms. Melissa and I took a week-long full time intensive AMI Montessori Adolescent Teacher Workshop to brush up our knowledge. We were reminded of how Dr. Maria Montessori envisioned the Adolescent program and were inspired and further educated about these teenagers' Plane of Development that our students are moving into with the Junior High program. With the knowledge and understanding of the Adolescent mind and needs, Ms. Melissa and I are working hard to get the environment prepared for our incoming 7th graders. We are so excited to be working together to create a program that will connect the Adolescent to meaningful work that allows them to carry on the high academic expectations as well as gain independence and confidence in themselves. We aim to provide a program that values each student as a well-rounded individual who is capable of making choices that will contribute to their own learning and give back to their community.

Now I'd like to take a moment to tell you a little bit about me. I fell in love with the Montessori philosophy of learning and with the amazing staff and parent community here at Arborland in the summer of 2005. I was newly enrolled in a Master's Program at the University of Phoenix to get my Master's of Education and California Teaching credential and I was looking for a job in the education community. I was honored that Dr. Chen had observed my progress and success as a summer teacher and offered me a position in the Upper Elementary program as an Assistant Teacher at our Valencia Campus. At the end of that year of incredible growth and learning, I was again honored to be asked by Dr. Chen and my mentor teacher, Ms. Foy, if I would be interested in taking Montessori Teacher Training for Upper Elementary. I eagerly agreed and spent the summer learning and being inspired by the theories and practical applications of Dr. Maria Montessori. Since the fall of 2005, I have been working with the Upper Elementary students in Classroom G in many capacities: assistant, team teacher, lead teacher, and it has become my second home. Having to pack up the memories and revisit the experiences of the last 15 years was rewarding and challenging at the same time. However, I know I am following in the footsteps of my mentor teacher who pioneered the Upper Elementary program in Room G just as I am now privileged to pioneer the Junior High program in room 103. There's even a full wall mirror, so I don't feel too homesick for Room G! This program is not built in isolation or by the hands of one person, our team has worked diligently together with energy, intelligence, and perseverance to prepare for this program and I can't wait for you all to see what our amazing Junior High students can do with the opportunities and learning we have prepared for them.



Ms. Noelle Ferrer

Hello! My name is Noelle Ferrer and I am joining the Arborland community as an Assistant Teacher in the upper elementary classroom at the Hughes campus. I am extremely grateful to be teaching at a school that truly believes in the potential of every individual child and I am excited to learn and grow with them. As an educator my hope is that students will experience my class as a place where they feel empowered to voice their unique thoughts and identify as someone who has the intelligence to engage in knowledge-making. I completed my Bachelors in English at the University of California, Santa Barbara and am currently working towards my Master's in Education, as well as my Single Subject Teaching Credential in English Language Arts. I have worked closely with students as a College and Career Advisor, an Instructional Aide, and a Student Teacher. I have also been involved in nonprofit work with the organization Cal-SOAP Santa Barbara where I assisted with programs aimed to help under-represented students find resources for college attendance pathways.



TEACHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Yuri Chang



Hello! My name is Ms. Yuri Chang. I am excited that our classroom G is relocated to Hughes Campus this school year and I will be team teaching with Ms. Melissa and Ms. Ho for the Upper Elementary Classroom this Fall. Just to share a little about myself—I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and moved here to California when I was 8 years old. I graduated from Calvin University (located in Grand Rapids, MI) in 2015 with a multiple subjects teaching credential and a B.A. in both Early Childhood and Elementary Education. While pursuing my teaching credentials, I was interning at a variety of schools (public, vate & charter) in addition to working as a part-time infant teacher at Gildden Woods Childcare Center. Soon after graduation, I started my teaching journey at Calvary Chapel Anaheim school as a 1st/2nd combination teacher. I also had the opportunity to work with students who struggle with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia as an educational therapist to strengthen their academic performance, easing their testing anxiety, and visual processing challenges at One Mind Learning Center in Newport Beach. This past school year, I had the opportunity to join the Arborland family as an upper elementary assistant teacher for classroom G at our Valencia Campus. Although I had taught at a variety of schools, I never quite experienced collaboration, support and encouragement like I do here at Arborland. This is true with what I observed in the classroom amongst the students as well. I remember my first week as an assistant in the upper elementary classroom thinking how remarkable it was to see so many different learners in one classroom working independently. Watching students take their curiosity and turn it into an experiment or research project is an amazing experience. Students at this age are starting to develop more independence both academically and socially. They are wrapping their minds around the question of morality and developing their sense of justice. My goal as a teacher is to provide support for these students and create a strong foundation that will set the student up for success. As Maria Montessori said, "The instructions of the teacher consist then merely in a hint, a touch— enough to give a start to the child. The rest develops of itself." Although I am a credentialed teacher, Montessori philosophy fascinates me. I want a strong foundation of the Montessori philosophy to assist my students. Thanks to Dr. Chen and Ms. Simm's support, I have been taking an upper elementary Montessori teacher certification course this summer and will continue training next summer for the lower elementary certification course as well. I am excited to implement what I learn this summer into the school year. I look forward to meeting you and your child. It is going to be a year filled with collaboration, learning, and fun-filled events. Have a wonderful rest of your summer break—see you soon!

Ms. Kimberly Garcia



My name is Maestra Kim. As some of you know, I am the dual language immersion program Spanish teacher and have been teaching under Maestra Michelle at Arborland for 3 years. I received my Bachelor Degree from California State University, Fullerton in Child and Adolescent Development in 2016. Maestra Michelle has been my biggest motivator. She inspired me to pursue Montessori teacher training. With her encouragement and Dr. Chen's support, I attended the Montessori Teacher Training program offered at UC Irvine during the 2019-2020 school year. I am beyond happy and excited to say that I have officially completed the program and received my Montessori teaching credential this summer! From the beginning, I knew that this program was not something to be taken lightly. What is normally a 2-year program is condensed into 10 months, which was a little overwhelming. However, the amount of support I received from Dr. Chen, my fellow teachers, family and friends was reason enough to keep me going strong. The work was challenging and intensive, but very much worth it. My classmates and instructors were nothing short of amazing. The director of the program was always there to help and spread her immense knowledge. I learned so much about what Montessori education is and how I can implement the philosophy at Arborland. Thank you, Maestra Michelle, for always bringing the children and I such joy inside and outside of the classroom. To this day, she continues to encourage me to be the best version of myself and is always there for me. I hope to continue learning through her footsteps and become a great Montessori Directress like her. My take away from the training program is the depth and great work behind Maria Montessori's profound philosophy and the approach of how to teach children to become independent and strong leaders. I am truly excited to begin co-teaching alongside Maestra Michelle this upcoming 2020-2021 school year. I look forward to working with all the children and putting forth the education I absorbed from the training program!

Ms. Veronica Chen



Over the summer, I had two big surprises: My husband and I are excited to be expecting twice the fun in November 2020!

Ms. Monessa Pelayo



The start of the school year will be a busy one, since I am expecting a baby boy on August 12!

FALL FAQs

Q: Are you taking students on campus for in-person learning?

- Yes! We follow the CDC's guidelines and have been open for in-person learning since summer for junior high, elementary, primary, toddlers, and infants for 5-day in-person learning. We understand this is a fluid situation. If CDC shuts us down, then the in-person learning will turn into remote learning.

Q: Are you taking students for remote learning?

- It will depend on the age of the students due to their maturity. We offer full time remote learning for junior high, and elementary students. We also offer part time remote learning for primary students with one daily 30 minutes 3-student small group and one daily 30 minutes whole class group to meet the intellectual and social needs of the students.

Q: If public school offers 2 days remote and 2 days in person, will Arborland follow that?

- No, Arborland believes in consistency. Therefore, we offer the choice to parents to have either 5-day in-person or 5-day remote programs.

Q: If I choose in-person now, may I change it to remote later?

- Yes, if your child is enrolled in our junior high or elementary programs, our teachers will prepare the students with technology skills in case we are locked down again.

Q: If I choose remote now, may I change it to in-person later?

- For junior high and elementary students, we have reserved physical seats in the classroom for the remote students; therefore, there is no problem. For primary students, it will depend on our space availability.

Q: I am a returning Arborland student and received an email in March 2020 regarding tuition credit. How do I use it?

- Credits from March 30, 2020, have been posted to your ProCare account. When you sign up for a new or continuing program, the credits will be calculated into your upcoming payments.

Q: What are Arborland's safety procedures?

- All parents and employees are required to fill out a questionnaire to screen for COVID19 before returning to school
- Face masks are required at all time while on campus (except for children 2 and under)
- Sick people must stay home
- Temperatures are taken before entering campus
- Social distance is required at all times on campus
- All students are asked to wash hands properly upon arrival, before food, after restrooms, and after outdoor activities
- Students are asked to bring personal learning materials. School materials will only be shared after the teacher disinfects the materials

Q: Does my child have to wear a mask the whole time?

- Wearing a mask is for your child's safety, other children's safety, our staff safety and for the safety of our community. Teachers will also be using both indoor and outdoor spaces to give lessons. We are always happy to work with parents and students to meet the students' needs, while maintaining safety for our school community.

Q: Will class sizes be limited? If so, to how many per classroom?

- Our class sizes will have fewer students to allow for social distancing. Since everyone is expected to maintain social distance, it will depend on the classroom size. Our largest classrooms will have 20 students maximum with two teachers. Of course, our smaller classrooms will have less students and ensure for social distance. Our teacher-student ratio does not change with the classroom capacity changes.

Q: How is the 2020-2021 classroom arrangement different from previous years?

- With COVID 19 pandemic, we have measured all classrooms and decreased the number of students per classroom to allow for social distance. We are creating small classes to minimize potential virus exposure.

Q: How do you maintain a mixed age education in a small class size situation?

- It is a challenge to have small class size and want the mixed age dynamics. Fortunately, we are able to accomplish this in all our primary classrooms. In our elementary classrooms, since the students are more mature, they will have opportunities to interact with other grade levels through devices and teachers.

Q: Are you offering an after school study hall program for public school students?

- Not in the 2020-2021 school year. In order to minimize virus exposure, we will not be offering study hall programs for public school students.

Q: Are we expecting a full class for (teacher)? Have all the students registered?

- It depends on the class. Some of our classes are at their capacity already, and some classes still have openings. This is a challenging situation for everyone. Many parents are still trying to figure out their options.

Q: What after school optional programs are open in fall?

- At this time, we have opened tennis and private music lessons. Please stay tuned for more!

Q: Will there be holiday childcare offered this year?

- Not in the 2020-2021 school year. On the holidays that Arborland closes, we will be deep cleaning the school.

ROOM 206'S CHARACTER SKETCHES

Olivia Kang, age 13

"Hi! I'm Aubrey. Do you want to play?" is what my little sister normally says when she is somewhere and meeting someone new. If you can't say yes to the innocent, bubbly tone, you'll definitely be able to when you see the wide smile on her cute, round face. Aubrey is your typical 8-year-old girl who loves life and is great at getting along with other girls her age.

She is almost always very happy, and it doesn't take much to keep her that way. Aubrey just wants attention, and when she gets it, she can be one of the most adorable, playful kids you meet. The only thing that can get her to show her ugly side is homework, but that doesn't come out often. Aubrey also likes Shopkins, American Girl dolls, unicorns, and pretty much everything pink and happy. Oftentimes, she likes playing with these dolls with her friends, even if they can't be together in person. She could be doing a video call, and still have plenty of fun with her toys and friends.

Aubrey hardly tries to be something she is not, and is very loyal to those close to her. She doesn't hold anything back, whether it be in an imaginative way, or just when talking to people. This sometimes can be a bad thing, such as when she throws fits, but other times, her imagination and verbal input can run wild and be lots of fun. People who don't know my sister well might say she is annoying and bossy. But once you get to know her, Aubrey can be one of the best children to spend time with.

Blen Zekarias-Dammena, age 12

"I love you to the moon and back," is a common quote that my mom says to my family. My mom is the kindest, most caring, and most wonderful person in the world. She cares for everyone, even if she doesn't know them. Everybody loves my mom, and I understand why, because she is a wonderful and caring person.

I spend lots of time with my mom. I am thankful for my mom because she takes care of me and my family. We all appreciate having her in our lives. My mom is also very funny. Every day, she makes funny jokes and they always crack us up. My mom also cooks amazing food for my family, too.

I don't know what my family would be without my mom. She is the most amazing person to me. I love my mom so much, and I don't know what I would do without her.



Chloe Chow, age 12

"Hey ya'll!" That is something my friend Sophie would probably say to greet a group of people. The way she says it, you would know she is energetic right from the beginning. She's never tired out, and loves to talk and play. She has dark brown hair, black eyes, and a beauty spot under her right eye.

"Come onnn, Chloe!" She yelled. We're running up a dirt trail that trails into a forest in Canada, and my brother, Kai, and her brother, Alex, are in front of us. We're playing hide and seek from the parents, who are way behind us, and we're looking for a good spot to hide. Sophie finally chooses a spot for us to hide in, and we get under the bushes. We watch our parents walk by, not noticing us. Sophie starts to laugh, and they turn around at the noise. We freeze where we are, because we know they can see us. Then we sprint in front of them, Sophie in front of me and Kai and Alex behind us. We ran until we rounded a corner, and then hid somewhere else. Another time we visited them in Canada, we played Minecraft on their extra TV. We played from 3 to 6 PM straight. Then we went outside and played catch. She was not tired, and her fingers weren't sore while we used chopsticks to eat sushi her dad picked up on the way home.

Sophie is a ball of energy. She is one of my best friends, and entertaining. She is very funny, silly, and lively. I like Sophie because she is funny, and I'm never bored with her around!



ELEMENTARY BUSINESS EXPO

What's your business?



SLURP IT!

Our ramen will make you feel warm inside when it's cold outside.

Slurp It! - Olivia Kang, age 13



Kalle's Stickers - Kalani Lodrigueza, age 12

Comic Week

By: Maxwell



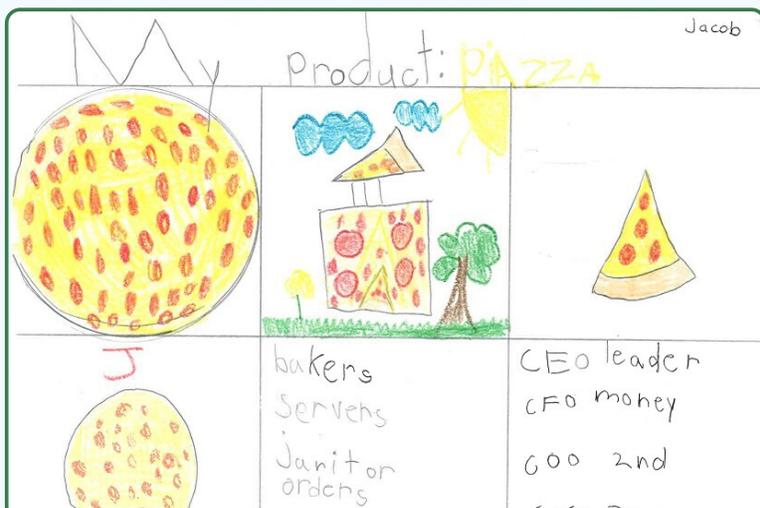
Comic Week - Maxwell Osterwald, age 10



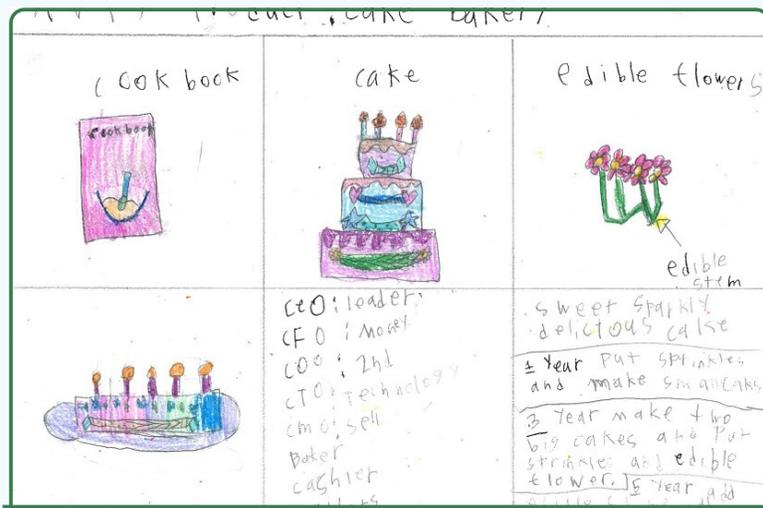
My business is called Aubrey's A G D Hotel

BY: Aubrey Kang

AGD Hotel - Aubrey Kang, age 8



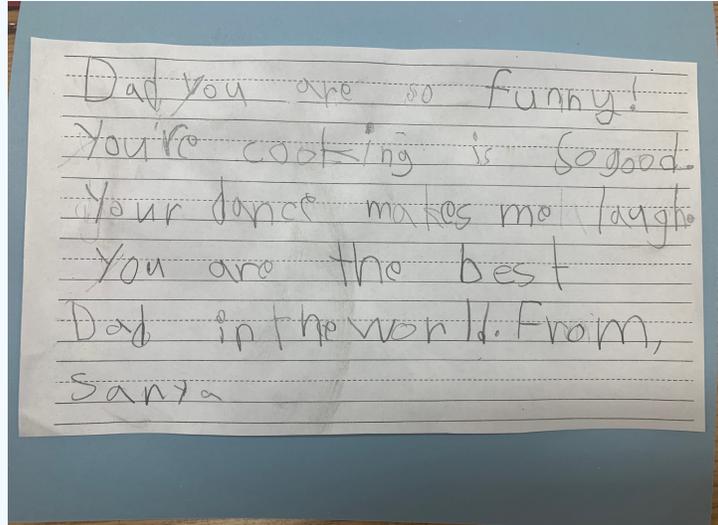
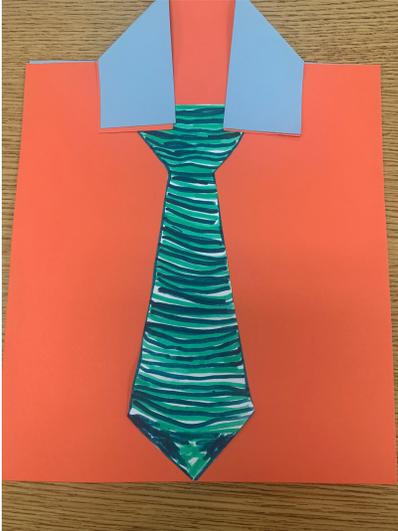
Jacob Teeter, age 5



Claire Chang, age 7

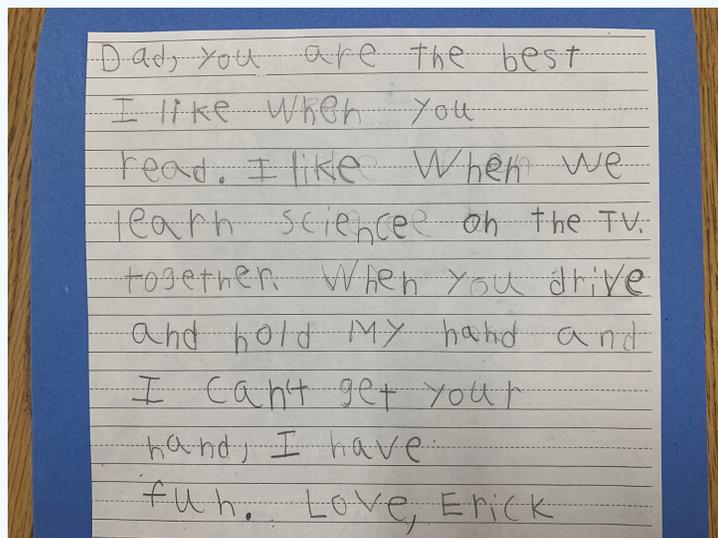
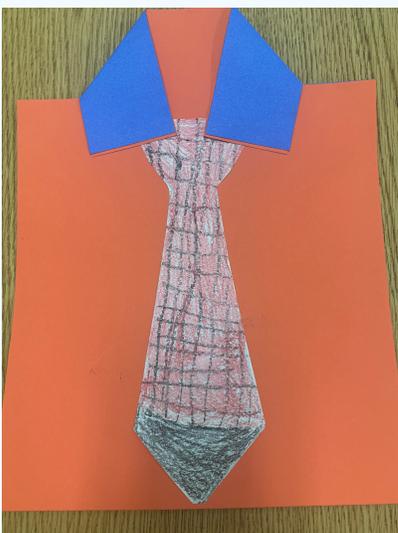
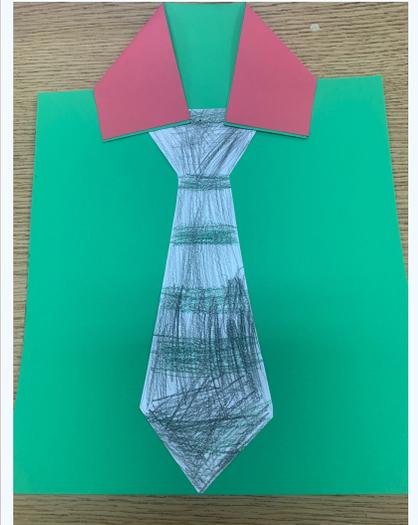
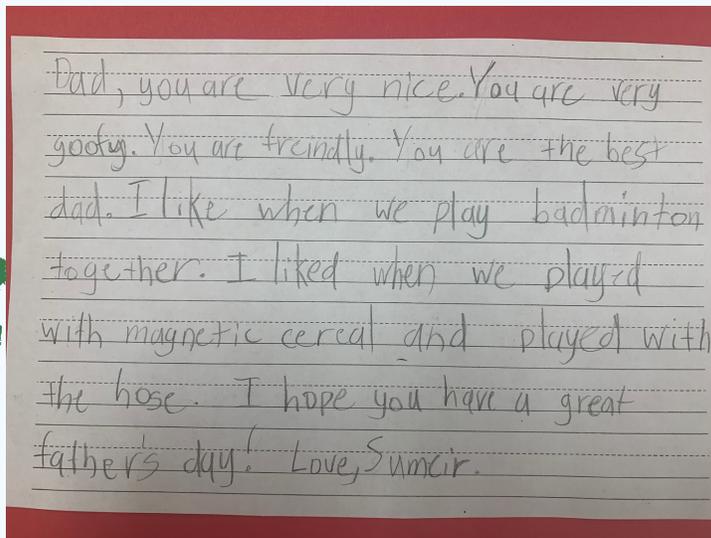
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

From Classroom E



**Sanya Sheth,
age 6**

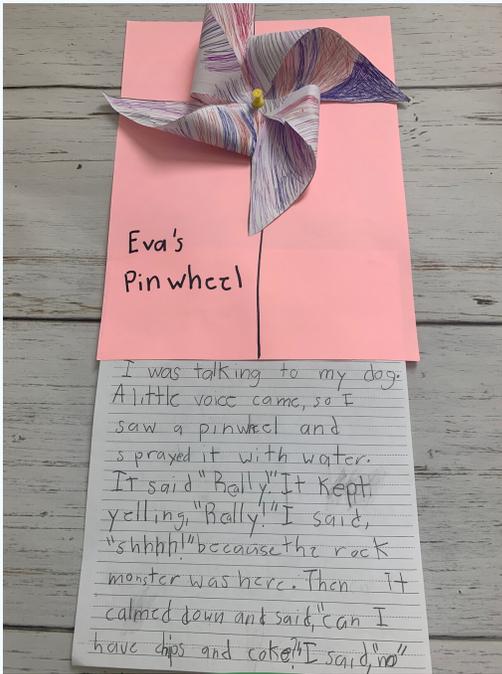
**Sumeir
Jawandha, age
7**



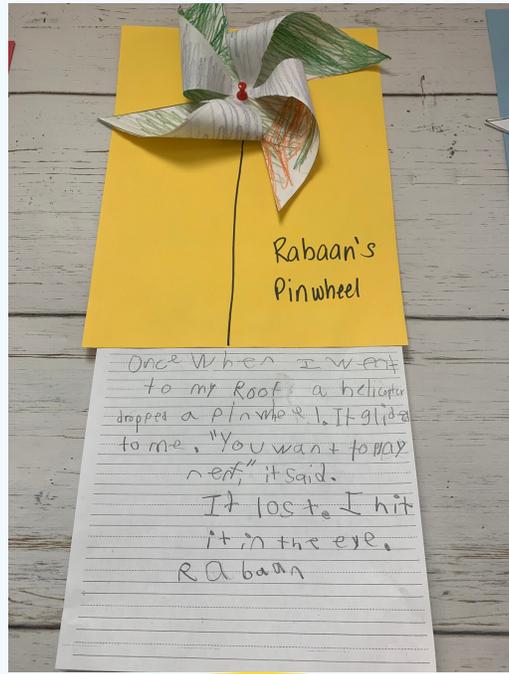
**Erick Teng, age
6**

STUDENT'S WORK

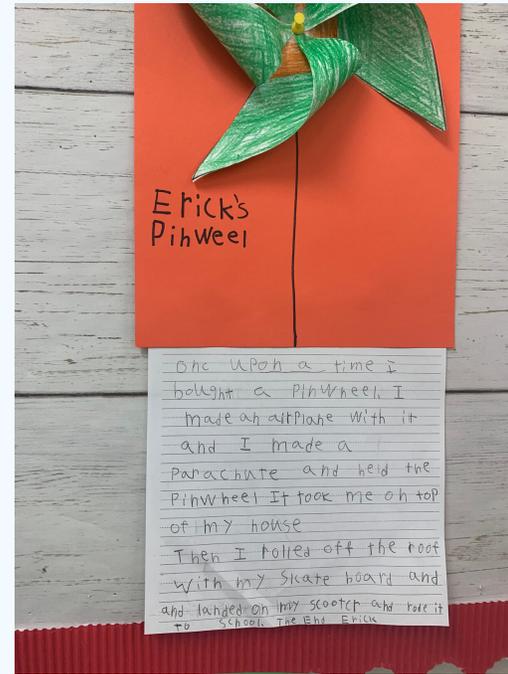
Pinwheel Writing



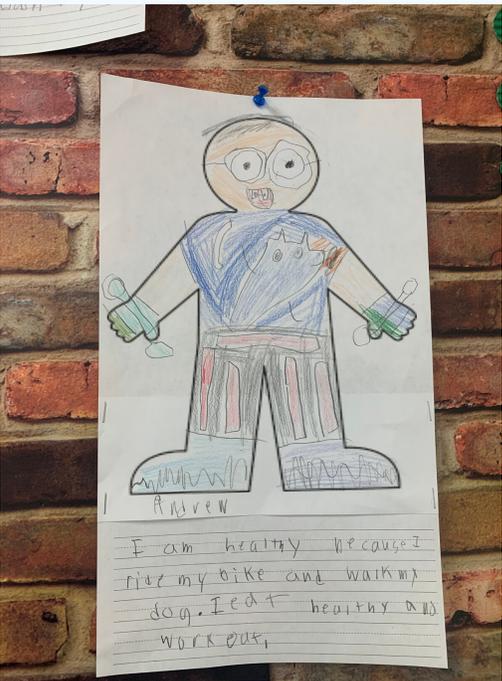
Eva Abbott, age 6



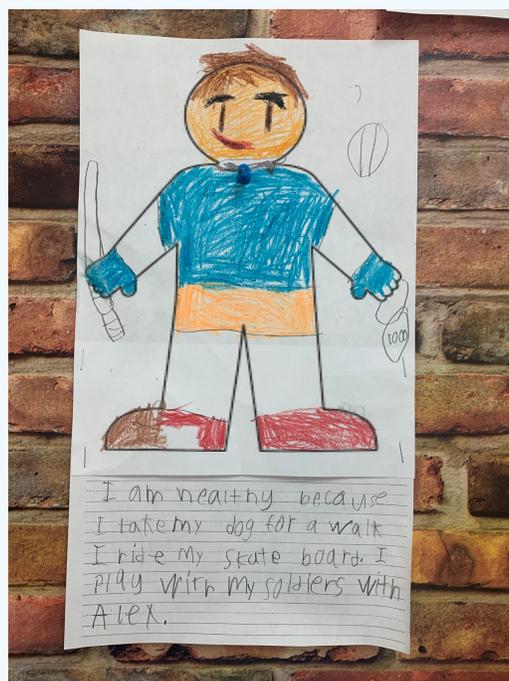
Rabaan Jawandha, age 7



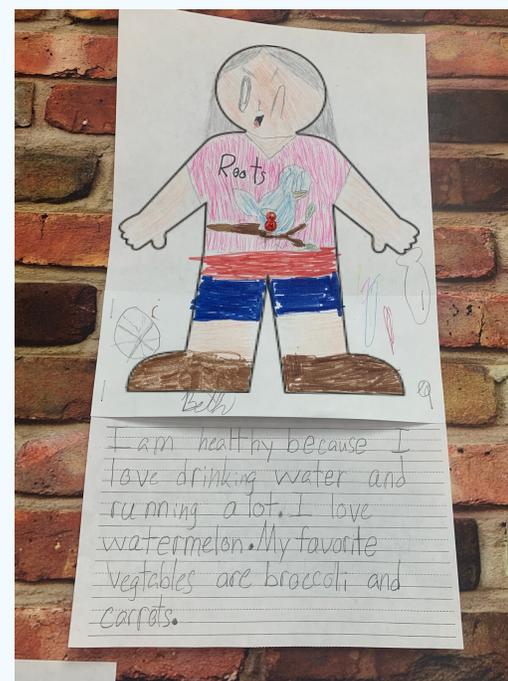
Jake Narahara, age 6



Andrew Wilson, age 8



Jack Fields, age 7



Beth Camarena, age 8

SUMMER OF FUN!



SUMMER OF FUN!

