

38th Annual Awards

A Senior I Know

ESSAY CONTEST



Artist: Daniela Aboyte, Grade 5



ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE senior affairs

PROGRAM

Welcome

Steve Stucker, *Co-Anchor and Weatherman, Eyewitness News 4 Today*

Introduction of Speakers

Timothy M. Keller, *Mayor, City of Albuquerque*
Anna M. Sanchez, *Director, Department of Senior Affairs*

Introduction of Contest Planning Committee

Nikki Peone, *Recreation Division Manager, Department of Senior Affairs*
Julio Santisteban, *Senior Center Manager, Department of Senior Affairs*
Jenifer Gonzales, *Executive Assistant, Department of Senior Affairs*
Tomas Gallagher, *Multigenerational Center Supervisor*
Angel Montoya, *Multigenerational Center Manager*
Matthew McCoy, *Youth/Community Program Coordinator*
Ginger Grossetete, *Contest Originator, Community Volunteer*
Natasha Montoya, *Multigenerational Center Manager*
Gay Blech, *Community Volunteer*

Presentation of Awards

Director, Department of Senior Affairs
Albuquerque Public Schools

Sponsors

Boba Tea
Cool Springs
Cliff's Amusement Park
National Museum of Nuclear Science and History
NM Museum of Natural History and Science
NM United
Explora Science Center and Children's Museum
Doc Popcorn
K-5.0 Academy ABQ Karate
Donut Mart

Timothy M. Keller

Mayor, City of Albuquerque

Sarita Nair

Chief Administration Officer

Lawrence Rael

Chief Operations Officer

Anna M. Sanchez

Director, Department of Senior Affairs

Nikki Peone

Recreation Division Manager

City Councilors

District 1	Lan Sena	District 6	Pat Davis, (President)
District 2	Isaac Benton	District 7	Diane G. Gibson, (Vice President)
District 3	Klarissa J. Peña	District 8	Trudy Jones
District 4	Brook Bassan	District 9	Don Harris
District 5	Cynthia Borrego		

Bernalillo County Commissioners

District 1	Debbie O'Malley
District 2	Steven Michael Quezada
District 3	James Collie
District 4 (Chair)	Lonnie Talbert
District 5 (Vice Chair)	Charlene Pyskoty

If you would like more information about the "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest, contact Angel Montoya at 764-6475, Department of Senior Affairs, acmontoya@cabq.gov

38th Annual Awards

A Senior I Know

ESSAY CONTEST JUDGES



Ginger Grossetete

Chairperson

In 1981, I attended a workshop at the National Council on Aging annual conference that included information about a project whereby elementary students wrote compositions about seniors they knew.

I thought the idea had great potential and decided we could turn it into a contest in our local elementary schools. "A Senior I Know" was born.

The contest was launched in 1982 and was very well received. Since that time, an average of 3,000 students have participated each year.

The success of this project has been personally gratifying to me and I look forward each year to reading the amazing stories written by the winners. Let's hope the contest continues for another 36 years.

Ginger Grossetete, *Founder of "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest*



Carole Christensen

I grew up in New Mexico and graduated from UNM in 1960 with a BS in Elementary Education. So I have lived in Albuquerque for 60 years. I taught 6th grade at Aztec Elementary School/ for 3 years.

At that time 6th graders were still a part of the elementary school system. As a result, I taught all the subjects. I volunteered at my children's schools as a classroom helper and a library assistant. I have always enjoyed working with children. Watching them grow and develop is very rewarding.



Barbara Crawford

It is a real pleasure for me to be a judge for the Senior Essay Contest. My 30 years experience as a teacher in elementary education is rekindled when I open up each of the contestant's stories. I can tell how much they love this person

and that they are written from the heart. They prove to be an inspiration to me.



Linda Cummings -Orloski

I taught elementary school for 31 years. I began judging the "A Senior I Know" essay about eight years ago. Some writings are funny, some sad, but all are from the heart. I feel privileged to be part of this worthwhile project.



Sue Fickel

I have been a judge for the "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest for 20 years. I do enjoy getting the perspective of the students on what they think comprises "Senior Citizen" as I am in that category.

The stories are interesting, enlightening and in many cases amusing. I am a retired teacher, counselor and administrator from APS, and will look forward to judging in the future.



Judy Koskovich

I taught 1st Graders in APS for 33 years. Each year was delightful! READING and CREATIVE WRITING were my favorite "delights!" Watching those children realize they could read and write...

PRICELESS! Being able to continue seeing this "magical happening," by judging these "Senior Essays" for 16 years, is a great joy for me!



Sue Slankard

My name is Suzanne Slankard. I have lived in Albuquerque, NM for 40 years. I worked as a teacher, administrator, educational consultant and clinical supervisor at UNM in special education for a total of 39 years. I worked at the

elementary and middle school grade levels teaching both regular and special education. I was certified as a reading specialist in New Mexico. I taught Title 1 reading as well as special education students who were gifted and who had learning disabilities. My friend, Ginger Grossetete, invited me to be a judge. My favorite memory is taking a group of students from Cochiti Elementary school to compete in Future Problem Solving at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.



Marge Peters

I moved from Florida to Albuquerque 33 years ago and was employed by APS for 22 years. I taught kindergarten, third, and fourth grades, which entailed the full grade level curriculum.

I met Gay Blech when she taught at Oñate and was involved in this contest. She knew I would be interested in helping with it if ever the need arose.

My most memorable year teaching was the year I taught a third grade in which I had two visually impaired students and a German only speaker.



Kathleen Church

Volunteering as a docent after my retirement from high school administration, I discovered what joy elementary school children are. Now, as a senior myself, it is a pleasure to share for a moment the descriptions written by the children

about their special grandparent or other admired older person. I came to Albuquerque as a college student, and we have raised our children and retired here. This project is both fun and rewarding to be involved in now.



Elizabeth Wertheim

I first came to New Mexico in 1954 to attend UNM and, except for a few years that my husband's job took us elsewhere, have lived in my joyfully adopted state since. Though not a teacher, as many of the other judges have been, I was an English

literature major and am an avid reader. Because of this, I have an interest in how creative writing skills are being nurtured in our school children. It was a pleasure to be a judge for this fine project.

Savannah Caro, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 1

Name: Savannah Caro
Grade 1 Age 7 M or F
Teacher Rivard
School: Sandia Base Elem

Title: Me and My Nana

My Nana is very sick I
always help her she is the
best Nana she taught me
how to cook so every day
be for school I cook
breakfast for her because
she is sick and she
needs some one to help
her she was the best Nana
ever she is always
nice to me I love her
so much she is very
good at telling stories
and I like to make
cookies with her and
on Christmas we
made a cake and she
like to take me
to the zoo. She
likes to play with me.
one time she took
me to get ice cream.

Axel Slade, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 1

Name: Axel Slade

Grade 1st Age 7 M or F

Teacher Cicely Ryan

School: Sandia Base
Elementary

Title: MY GRAMO

My grapo favorite thing
to do was teach me. When I
was a baby I would visit him often.
My grampo died and I didn't get
to say good bye I cried a lot. I
miss him very much.

Noah Browder, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 1

Name: Noah Browder

Grade 1st Age 6 M or F

Teacher Miss Keller

School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: My Grandpa

My Grandpa is awesome. He helps me with everything. He is very nice to me. My Grandpa is my dad's dad. He was born on April 9, 1955 in Gunnison, Colorado. He likes sports but he loves golf the most. He taught me how to play. He had to take a break from golf because he had cancer. I prayed for him and he got better. The doctors and the nurses helped him too. He went to my basketball game because he felt better. I was happy he came to my game and I thanked God for healing him. I love Grandpa!

Luke Downey, Holy Ghost Catholic School, Grade 1

Name: Luke Downey

Grade 1 Age 7 MX or F

Teacher Heidi Sims

School: Holy Ghost Cath. School

Title: I Love My Grandpa

I love my Grandpa. We

go to Houston, Texas to

visit him. He pushes me

in my peddle car. He gives

me fizzy water to drink.

He goes with us to museums.

This is why I love my

grandpa.

Amelia Reece, Holy Ghost Catholic School, Grade 1

Name: Amelia Reece

Grade 1 Age 7 M or F X

Teacher Heidi Sims

School: Holy Ghost Cath. School

Title: The Badlands

My whole family went

with my Grandma and

Grandpa to the Badlands.

We saw a lot of bison.

I liked it most of all

when a bison crossed

the road in front of

our car.

Then we went to

Mount Rushmore, and

stayed in a cabin. It

was a super great trip!

Julianna Gonzales, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 1

Name: Julianna

Grade 1 Age 6 M or F

Teacher Miss Keller

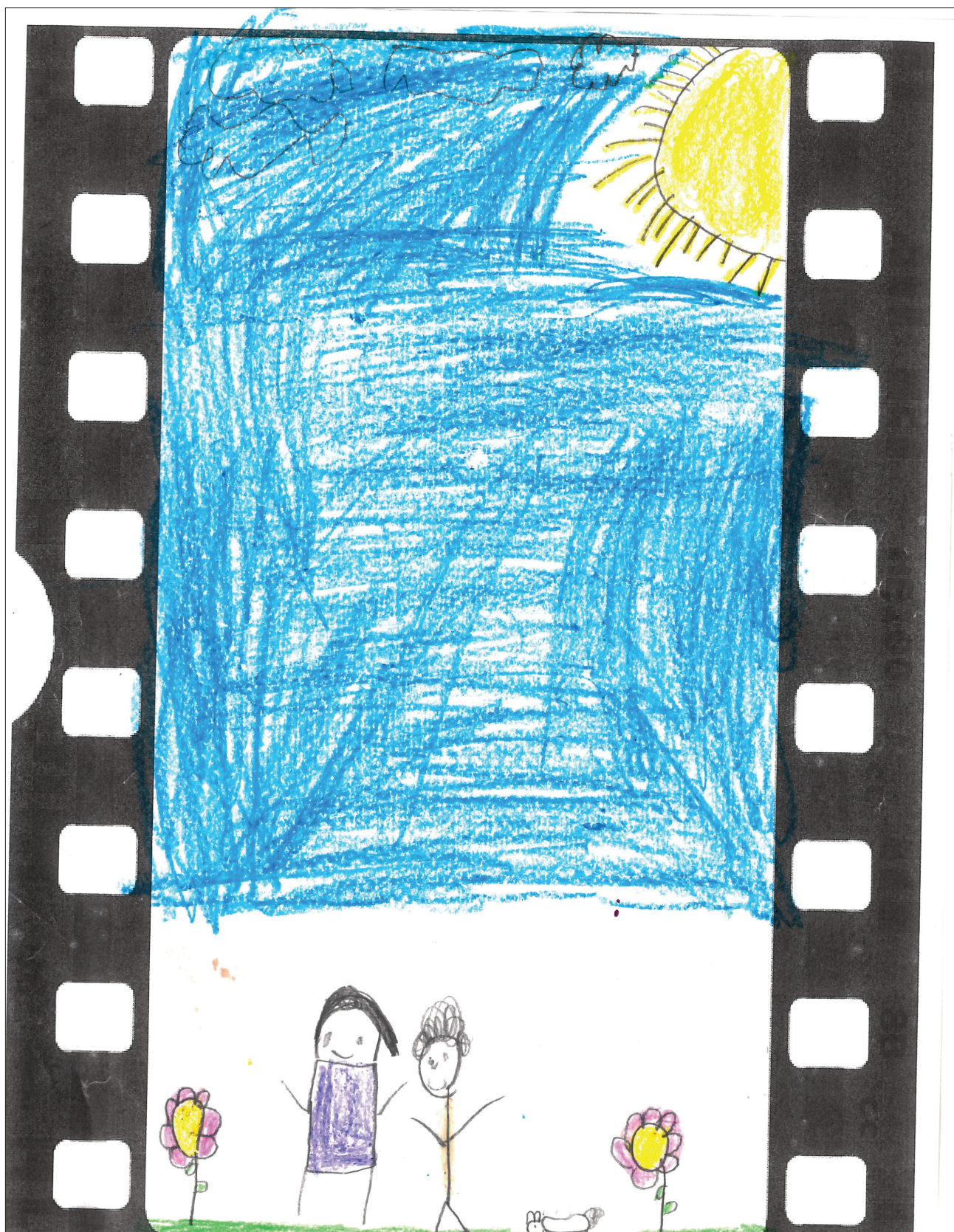
School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: BoMa

My BoMa lives in Milan, NM. She comes to Albuquerque to visit me and stay the night. Some times visit her on the week ends. Her name is Connie. Her birth day is March 27. She is so sweet. She taught me how to crochet. She has made me a doll, a bunny, a stocking, and a purse. I want to crochet like her one day. I love her so much. We play games, songs, and swim in the pool. She takes me shopping to get new things for me. My favorite food for her to cook is biscuits and gravy. We went on vacation to California together. Our favorite ride was the Guardians of the Galaxy. Our favorite thing to do together is take silly pictures. My BoMa is allways there for me. She never misses anything of mine. She always puts us first. She loves Butter Flier and her favorite color is blue.



Artist: Suvi Maerki-Dean Rivard, Grade 1



Artist: Isaac Santos Garcia, Grade 2

Destiny Herrera, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 2

Name: Destiny Herrera

Grade 2nd Age 7 M_ or FX

Teacher Ms. Kassetas

School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: My Loving Grandma

The senior I know is my Grandma Cleo. I love her so much! She listens to me and she spends time with me and my family. My favorite things to do with her are puzzles and drink coffee with her. I also like to paint our nails and take her for a walk in her wheelchair. Grandma is kind, sweet, and patient. She always has to spend time with us and her grand kids. Grandma had two strokes that made it hard to walk and to use her right arm. The strokes didn't stop her! She kept trying and helping others. Grandma was a teacher for 37 years and she taught 100s of students. Grandma likes to do puzzles and picture finds and drink coffee with her grand kids. I admire grandma so much because she is the strongest person I know. Every time she gets sick or hurt she works hard to get better even when it is painful. Grandma is amazing! That is the reason I chose this wonderful citizen. She is amazing. This is the reason I chose her and for spreading love around the world! I love you grandma!



Artist: Emili Aguilar, Grade 2

"Were having my 6th birthday and daddy is putting my face into my cake and my face is going allll the way down."



Artist: Emili Aguilar, Grade 2

Luke Elwood, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 2

Name: Luke Elwood

Grade 2 Age 8 M or F

Teacher Ms. Kassetas

School: Sandia Base

Title: The Most talented Grandpa
My Senior I know is My ^{on the}
Grandpa. My relationship with him ^{Planet} is he is my Grandpa. The things I do with him are ride kayaks also a tractor and ride horses. I would describe his personality as kind, loving, and amazing. My Grandpa has made the world a better place because he is a hard worker and he is kind. The hard thing my Grandpa had to overcome is the loss of his parents. The things that my grandpa does for fun are building with wood and taking care of the horses and kayaking. My Grandpa is the most loving Grandpa in the world! He is the best! I admire Grandpa so much because he has the best dogs in

Title: The Most Talented Grandpa
The world, He loves to spend ^{on the planet}
time with me.

Lilly Holmes, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 2

Name:	Lilly Holmes					
Grade	2nd	Age	8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	or F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	Mrs. McAllister					
School:	S.Y. Jackson					

Title: My Gooba!

In 1952 my Grandma's story started. When she was in 5th grade she had bad teacher who was discouraging. This stuck with her and when a doctor told her she might never have kids she decided to become a teacher so she could still be with kids and make learning fun.

She was the first person to hold me when I was born. That is her favorite memory of me. When I was one I went to Minnesota to visit her. I tried to say Grandma but it came out "Gooba", and it's been her name ever since.

I love that she's old but she's still spry. She chases me around and sprays me with the hose. She still makes learning fun as we do our favorite things like baking, hiking, and drawing. I hope she teaches me how to bake more things all by myself.

Name:	Zachary Varney			
Grade	2	Age	7	(M) or F
Teacher:	ms. Cherry Malague			
School:	Sombra del monte			

Title: Silver-hair With a heart of Gold

I met Grandma Jackie in my school. She came to help my teacher take care of us in our special Education classroom.

She is tall, caring and has a sweet calming voice. She wants us to call her ms. Jackie instead of Grandma Jackie. She is not so old, so it is okay to call her ms. Jackie. She comes to school with her sweet smile and her nice silver hair.

Ms. Jack helps me with school tasks when I am in special ed classroom as our volunteer. I wonder if she gets tired? I hope she is not.

She taught me how to be brave and have confidence in a crowd. She said to be always respectful and kind. Kindness makes people happy. I believe her.

The best thing that I heard from her is to never stop trying and to keep up the good work all the time.

I am so happy to meet Ms. Jackie because I know I have a grandma in school. I can talk about what I feel and be happy when she smiles.

I will not forget Ms. Jackie, the silver-haired grandma for making me feel cared and for telling me how brave I am even if I am still young. I will be happy when I grow up with kindness and respect to all. Thank you grandma Jackie!

(2)

Ellyanna Raddatz, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 2

Name: Ellyanna Raddatz

Grade 2nd Age 8 M or F X

Teacher Miss Swoboda

School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: Just Me and My Grandma

I love my Grandma very much. I do not get to see her often because she lives in Wisconsin and that makes me sad.

My Grandma is 66 years old. My grandma has had lots of jobs. She picked cherries, helped clean her aunt's house, watched her brothers and sister, picked strawberries and weeds at a strawberry farm. After she graduated she worked as a typist. She typed letters or notes and tape recorded messages on a typewriter. After she got married she was a stay at home mom and babysat children in her house. She also worked as an office receptionist.

When she was a child my Grandma liked living close to her cousins, playing sports, and skating with them. She liked going to her grandparents' farm and having bonfires, hiking and drinking from their creek. One time she was there she was playing tag with her cousin and ran to the house door and missed the knob and with her fist accidentally broke the window.

Henry Loui, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 2

Name: Henry Loui

Grade 2 Age 8 M or F

Teacher Ms. My body

School: Shepherd Lutheran

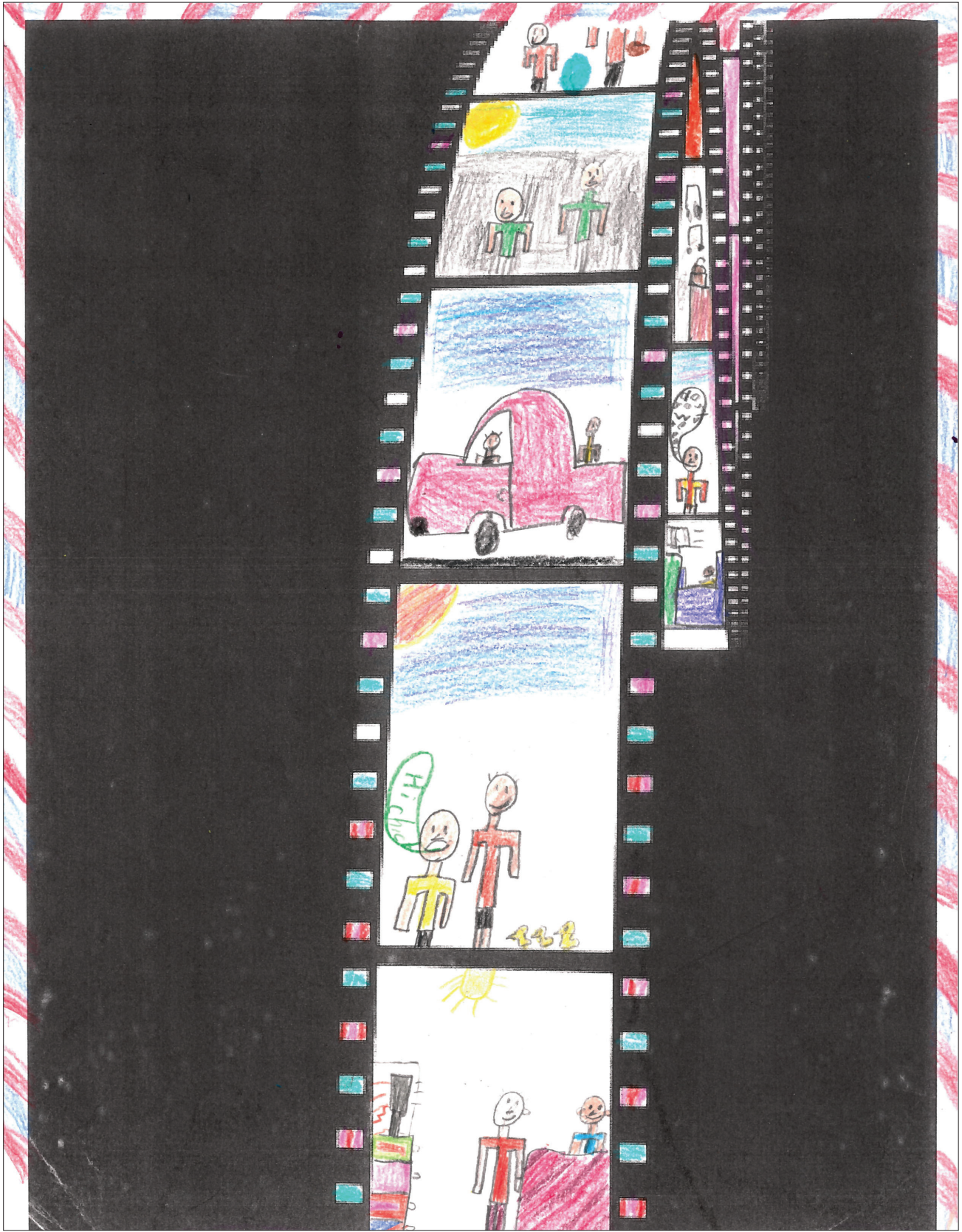
Title: My Best Friend, Mr. Harter

My best friend is Mr. Harter and he is 57 years old. He grew up on a farm in South Dakota. He has lived in Albuquerque 24 years. And he is a volunteer teacher at Shepherd Lutheran School.

When I was a kindergarten, Mr. Harter helped me learn about math, reading and science. He is one of my favorite teachers because he is very good at teaching the rules of school. I like how he gives the class gold stickers if the class behaves. Mr. Harter is great at keeping the class quiet, and teaches us about the Bible.

Mr. Harter and I have something in common: we both like plants! I have some plants and he has more too. Mr. Harter gave me some of his plants, and I also gave him a hamster. When I went to Mr. Harter's house for the Halloween party, I saw all his cool plants.

Mr. Harter is my best friend. It is fun to talk to him about his life. He is an excellent volunteer and teacher at my school. I am grateful for all he has done for me and the school.



Artist: Logon Barron, Grade 2



Artist: Madison, Grade 3

Wesley Carter, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 3

Name: Wesley Carter

Grade 3 Age 9 M or F

Teacher Mrs. Reyes

School: Sandia Base ES.

Title: The things me and my Aunt do.

I admire Aunt Hellen so much because she can give my whole family information and give you information. Aunt Hellen encouraged me to NEVER give up. Another thing my Aunt Hellen does is help learn how to plant. My Aunt Hellen helps me with my art's and crafts. My Aunt Hellen helps me with whatever.

One thing my Aunt Hellen is good at is encouraging people. My Aunt Hellen is the best at encouraging me. I never give up because of my Aunt Hellen. My Aunt Hellen finds out a way to help me no matter what. My Aunt Hellen, well she picks me up when I'm feeling down. I know how to plant thanks to Aunt Hellen. We taught other people how to plant. Like you have to have dirt, water, and sunlight. My Aunt taught me everything to know how to plant. My Aunt is helpful at helping.

My Aunt helps me make arts and crafts.

Title: The things me and my Aunt do.

Like she helps me with my paper people Like she knows all the steps to making paper people people.

Me and my Aunt Helen did Glassblowing Arts. In order to blow glass you have to put glass in the oven and you have turn the glass around so the glass doesn't break.

The three things I love most about my Aunt is that I love that she doesn't smoke anymore. The Second thing I love most about her is she lets me play on the frampoline. The last thing I love most about my Aunt is she lets me and my sister cook on the grill with her

2

Autumn Rivera, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 3

Name: Autumn Rivera

Grade 3rd Age 9 M or F

Teacher Ms. Gurule

School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: Joseph Delgado aka Papa My senior I know

This is a story about my Papa named Joseph Delgado, he lives in Guam. I admire my Papa so much because he has overcome lots of things in his life. One of the things he had to overcome was that he had a very painful foot injury. Because of the foot injury he had a lot of very painful surgeries in his foot. Once the surgeries were done and his foot healed he had to wear a certain type of shoe or else it hurt really bad. But this is one of the many things that he had to overcome. My Papa is also the most caring Papa in the world! He is caring because he gives money to the people in his family who need it. One time I had no money to fithe, but he gave me a couple of dollar bills. Also when my Papa came to visit for the week he did a lot of chores around the house! He wiped the table even though that was my job to do! He also did laundry for us! My Papa is also a hard working man. He worked at a couple of different jobs before he retired. One of those couple of jobs he worked at was in the Military, that's where he got his foot injury. Another job he worked at was homeland security. That's where he protects people at the airport before they go on their planes. Another thing I love about my Papa is that he always wants to spend time with his family. The funny thing is that he would say "where are we going next?" He's so funny! That's why I love him. Even one time he got what I wanted, a football and after I told him he wanted to buy it for me even though I refused! He is also really understanding. His son (My Dad) had plantar fasciitis like my Papa! When my dad told Papa my Papa understood because he had it too, but my Pap gave my dad advice on what shoes to wear. That is why I love my Papa so much because he is a strong man.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Julia Merrill, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 3

Name: Julia Merrill

Grade 3 Age 9 M or F

Teacher Mrs Balthaser Mrs McCallan

School: S.Y. Jackson

Title: Love From Grandma

"Hi Julia! come in come in!" I feel a deep warm hug. I love going to Grandma Van Orman's house. The way she treats me makes me feel loved, like I'm super special.

Grandma Van Orman does many kind things for others. First, she always remembers our birthdays by sending money in a card. Second, I like going to her house because she always has things for me to do, like toys, movies, crafts, candy, and books. I feel happy around her.

Grandma is way organized. She never prepares a meal halfway; everything is laid out perfectly. When we get to her house every room is ready for us: the bedroom, the bathroom, the play room, etc. She always plans ahead.

Most of all I love Grandma's kind words. She laughs at my jokes, never yells, and often talks to me about how I'm doing. She tells me she loves me through her words and actions.



Timothy Keller, Mayor

she has helped me to have
a happy life.



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Timothy Daniels, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 3

Name: Timothy Daniels

Grade 3 Age 8 M or F

Teacher Mrs McCallm Mrs Balthaser

School: S.Y. Jackson

Title: My Grandpa

My grandpa has inspired me to be a jet pilot. He loves planes and my grandpa spends a lot of time with me and teaches me all about flying. My grandpa was in the Navy and he flew f-8s. He says you have to be good at math, be in good condition, and you have to look good. He flew almost 1000 miles per hour and flew 50,000 feet high. His favorite part about flying was getting off the ship and the freedom. You're by your self and free like a bird. If you had to go potty on the plane it is tough luck. But you learn to not eat or drink much. Flying is hard on your eyes and ears. My grandpa spends a lot of time with me. And he is a really nice person. He supports me and teaches me about duty to God, the country, and family. I want to be a really good pilot like him someday, just like him.

James Benavidez, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 3

Name: James Benavidez

Grade 3 Age 8 M or F

Teacher Miss Suoboda

School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: Bup

My senior essay is about my grandpa's. His name is Larry Benavidez. I've heard lots of stories, but my grandpa's is my favorite. My grandpa went to the original Albuquerque High School. He was on the wrestling team. He was a great wrestler. He won the state championship in 1973. He was my hero. After high school my grandpa moved to California. My grandpa told me that he went to the beach and staying in one day in California. My grandpa met my grandma in California and got married. They moved back to Albuquerque and started a family. My grandpa enjoyed Albuquerque very much. We would go to the North East heights and ride the train. We would go to the North Valley, and take a drive to Tingley and stop by and feed the birds. One of my favorite things to do with my grandpa was to take a drive through Rio Grande Blvd from Alameda to Graceros. My grandpa has such a big family and my grandpa has so many friends. Everyone loved my grandpa. If anyone ever needed help you can count on my grandpa. My grandpa was really good at sports he can do basketball, baseball, golfing, fishing, and wrestling. When I was with my grandpa he told me I can do anything just like him. He did say that I would be a great wrestler too. I'm really not sure what sport I want to play, but I hope I can play all sports like my grandpa. My grandpa would call me Bup. He also called my dad too. I really like that name because that is my nickname. My brother and I now call each other Bup, just like my dad and grandpa did. I love my grandpa so very much, he is my hero.



Artist: Christopher Decker, Grade 3



Artist: Angelina Quintana, Grade 3



Artist: Rosalynn Martin, Grade 4

Evelyn Gibbs, Manzano Day School, Grade 3

Name: Evelyn Gibbs

Grade 3 Age 9 M or F ✓

Teacher Tina Vigil

School: Manzano Day School

Title: My Grandma Eileen

The senior I have chosen is my grandma Eileen Lujan. She was born on December 22, 1952 in Taos, NM. My grandma is 67 and goes out to gather wood for her woodstoves, which are in her home at the Taos Pueblo. She was the first in her family to graduate from college! Grandma speaks fluent Tiwa (our native language) and dances, she also speaks fluent English. My grandma and I have had some great times together! She taught me some Tiwa, but just the basics like *taa* means thank you and that I should call her *Theetoo*, because it means grandma. We have gone on hikes together on their land. Sometimes she spoils me! My Grandma Eileen is amazing and I love her very much!

Cyrus Weigand, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 4

Name: Cyrus Wiegand

Grade: 4 Age 9 M or F

Teacher: Kaitlyn Heironimus

School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: The Adventures of Rose

Let me introduce My Grandma Rose, she is my wonder. She has been through a lot. You've got to meet her. I admire her so much that I would do anything for her. Rose's favorite hobby is sewing. She used to just stare at the sewing machine. Rose loved it! She used to copy her mom a lot when sewing. She watched her mom for HOURS. She loved making blankets that were purple. She sews every day; it reminds her of her mom.

Rose was a tomboy when she was younger. One thing she did was get in a big truck tire and roll down any hill she could find. She rolled in her dad's tire. She never remembers getting hurt, but she also got in trouble every time she did that! Her dog would chase after her in the tire. Afterwards, she would be laughing so much she could not breath at all.

If she could go back in time, she would go to a great and wonderful time. She would want to wake up on Christmas day and open her presents, even though her mom and dad were not wealthy. She loved the presents and she cried in happiness. She got one or two things, but she was still happy. She thought it was not about presents, but it was about family memories and fun.

She has been to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Greece, Italy, France, England, Spain, Cypress, Turkey, Yemen, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Mexico, China, Hong Kong and more. She fought in WWI and WWII. I love her because she is a part of my heart.

Dasha Ayala, Sandia Base Elementary School, Grade 4

Name: Dasha Ayala

Grade 4th Age _____ M ___ or F X

Teacher: Angela Stoltenberg

School: Sandia Base Elementary School

Title: My Favorite Senior in the World

You've got to meet Beligica she is a 9/11 and cancer survivor! My grandma overcame kidney cancer by going to the hospital and getting her kidney removed. She worked at a place called Baby Tugs which was near the World Trade Center so she witnessed 9/11. She was the second oldest of her siblings so she shared lots of responsibility with her mother.

My grandmother worked at a place named Baby Tugs and it was a place to make baby clothes. My grandma worked at was near the world trade center. On the tragic day of 9/11 my grandmother was working at Baby Tugs. When the first plane hit the Twin Tower many did not notice but a few did. When the second plane crashed into the other tower there was a huge panic in the place and many ran out my grandma ran home. A few days after it the business shut down.

When the place my grandma worked at shut down she got kidney cancer. In the course of the sickness she became ill and my family and I became frightened for her health. My grandmother finally went to the hospital and had surgery to get her kidney removed.

When my grandmother was a child she was the second oldest out of her siblings so she had to take care of them. She played lots of games with them. She had to take care of three kids which was a lot of hard work.

In conclusion, I think Beligica is a very strong woman because she survived cancer and 9/11. By surviving such hard times she has proven how strong she is. I admire her because of what she has survived.

Necia Gallegos, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 4

Name:	Necia Gallegos					
Grade	4	Age	9	M	or F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	Mrs. McCallister + Mrs. Balhasea					
School:	S.Y. JACKSON					

Title: My amazing grandma

My grandma, Margaret Lopez-Coplan has known me since I was 15 minutes old. She is my dad's mom. She retired from her job so she could take care of my brother Zenin and I while my parents work. I love going to her house, she has great snacks and she is really nice. When I was a baby, she says we liked to watch 'Classical Baby' together. She says I took my first steps at her house. She said when I couldn't sleep, she would put me in my car seat and drive until I fell asleep. She said I also learned the alphabet at her house and we played games on her Ipad together. We went to a lot of museums and to the River Of Lights. One Thanksgiving, we made a gingerbread house together and a birthday cake for my mom. She let me add the sprinkles. We've gone shopping together many, many times. My grandma loves to shop. She teaches me responsibility, how to be respectful to people, and how to be kind and understanding. She takes care of me when my parents are on business trips. She always makes me the best dinners and she has fresh fruit ready for me when I go to her house. She's taught me how to cook and clean up after myself. She picks me up after school and takes me to her house while my parents work. My grandma loves me very much and I love her.

Dylan McCrory, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 4

Name:	Dylan McCrory					
Grade	4 th	Age	10	M	or	F
Teacher	Mrs McCollax	Mrs. Balthaser				
School:	S.Y. Jackson					

Title: I Love You to The Moon and Back

This is a story about my Grandma and me. My Grandma often invites us to her house for fantastic sleepovers. When I get to her house I set my bag on a bench in the front of her house. Normally my sisters go and watch the T.V. while I have long talks with my Grandma.

Her name is Teresa Haring and I think she has a name that I will love until I die. What I talk to her about is all kinds of my favorite sciences and laugh a lot. I talk to her about Deoxyribonucleic Acid or DNA for short and that is always fun. Sometimes I test her though. She was an elementary school teacher so that is why I like to test her.

When we finish our talks I go join my sisters watching the T.V. which always has Disney Junior on while we're there. After watching the shows on Disney Junior we have dinner. Once while my parents were away, I stayed at her house and we had lasagna on the back porch. We stay up late and watch a few more shows and do fun projects. When we go to bed she always reads us a book. The next morning I wake up and then quietly sneak around. I am stopped by Grandma's two adorable, very loud schnauzers, Rosie and Bailey, which wake everybody up. Normally I wake up first, then Aria my three year old sister, and finally, Brielle my seven year old sister.

When Grandma wakes up for breakfast she makes scrumptious, fluffy scrambled eggs and crispy bacon. Before my Grandma's sister, Aunt Pat, sadly passed away in 2017, she went with Brielle to get doughnuts. My Grandma will forever be a part of my childhood and life forever. I love her to the moon and back. She taught me that phrase and always tells me it.

Emaline Miller, Shepherd Lutheran, Grade 4

Name: Emaline Miller

Grade 4th Age M or F X

Teacher Ms. Raddatz

School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: My Grandma Meier

I love my Grandma Meier. She lives in Sun City, Arizona on a golf course. There is a pond out back where we go and feed ducks. She has a grapefruit tree in her backyard. The grapefruit are so sweet that you don't even have to put sugar on them.

When I go to her house she always has my favorite candy. It is Twizzlers. She also has a big tub with jets where I can take bubble baths. I really enjoy visiting her house.

My grandma visited us for Christmas. She had just switched to a smart phone. She complained that Verizon made her get rid of her flip phone, but she ended up not minding too much. We got a puzzle to do as a family, but she had plenty of games on her phone to keep her busy.

My grandma has six kids. My mom is the youngest so she gets spoiled. I don't mind it at all because my grandma spoils me too.

Joshua Vallez, St. Mary's Catholic School, Grade 4

Name: Joshua Vallez

Grade 4 Age 10 M or F

Teacher Mrs. Roxanne Encinas

School: St. Mary's Catholic Sch.

Title: A Senior I know

My Grandpa Arturo was born in 1929 in Valencia, New Mexico. He was delivered at home and not at the hospital. Because there were no hospitals. He grew up with eight brothers on a farm where he took care of cows, calves and horses. He has a memory of feeding them when he was eight years old.

Growing up my Grandpa went to school where his friends gave him a nickname of Art. His favorite subject in school was math. He didn't like English.

As my Grandpa got older he joined the air force. He served four years. He served his duty in the Philippines, South Korea and Alaska. His fondest memory was in Antonio to Los Angeles. Going to combat training was

the hardest part of participating in the Air force. My grandpa's first job was a thirteen through twenty nine mechanic in the Air force. And then he worked with the military police service. Once he completed his first job as a mechanic at Kirtland Air force base he enjoyed fixing vehicles.

My grandpa was never political but he considers World War II to be the most important war fought during his lifetime. He remembers the sad day September 11th. My grandpa got married in the Catholic Church and had six kids. Four girls and two boys. He was a hard worker and today he works fruit trees and alot of grass. He likes working on his yard alot. That was the senior I know.



Artist: Izabella Delgado Stoltenberg, Grade 4



Artist: Lysandro Armendariz, Grade 5

Jordyn Caintic, Holy Ghost Catholic School, Grade 5

Name: Jordyn Caintic
Grade 5th Age 11 M or F ✓
Teacher Mrs. Riner
School: Holy Ghost Catholic School

Title: My Bai

The Senior Citizen I'm writing about is my Grandmother. My grandmother Bai means "grandma" in the over 100 dialects in the Philippines. She was born in the Philippines in 1953 and migrated to the US in 1994.

Bai went to East Central Elementary School. In middle school, she went to Saint John Cathedral School. Although she had my mom before finishing college, she pursued her Bachelor's degree in Business Management at Saint Louis University and her Masters in Business Administration at Union Christian College, where she became a member of the Board of Trustees.

Growing up, Bai loved bowling. She also worked as a statistician. Later on she became a college professor and a business woman. She also owned 3 shops. She's a very hard worker. Bai and Solo had 4 children to raise. Her favorite job was being a teacher because she was able to help others learn. Coming to the United States, Bai didn't stop educating herself. She studied to be a Social Worker and got her second master's degree.

Title: My Bai (continued)

She became an active officer and board of directors of the Filipino American Foundation of NM. She is serving again as their President. With this responsibility she was able to get grants for various activities of the foundation which included scholarship for college students. She loves having gatherings at her house. I came to her house and she leads prayer for those who have lost their loved ones. She is also an active member of her church.

When I grow up, I also want to be a teacher to share my knowledge to other people. My grandma's quote is, "Education is the best investment." Her quote as a mom is, "Love your children the best that you can." And her quote as Bai is, "My grandchildren are my inspiration." Little does she know that she is my inspiration. I'll always love my Bai with all my heart.

Leah Dye, Griegos Elementary School, Grade 5

Name:

Leah Dye

Grade

5

Age

10

M

or

F

✓

Teacher

K. Sawyer

School:

Griegos Elem

Nana

Do you have a grandmother who owns more than twenty chickens? Well, I do. My grandmother, who I call Nana does. Nana is the best because she is a great gardener, cares about animals, and has an outdoorsy personality and adventurous spirit.

First, Nana is the best because she is a great gardener. She grows tomatoes, lettuce, radishes, and tons of wildflowers! I have great memories of her and my mom slicing vegetables and making a salad with me for dinner. Her salads are stunning because of the delicious homegrown ingredients.

Second, Nana cares about animals. A few years ago, she adopted a stray black female cat and named her Mamasita. Mamasita had kittens. Nana had to give them to the shelter when they were just itty-bitty things. One of them, named Emerald, stayed at my Nana's house because we couldn't catch her to bring her to the shelter. She gave birth to kittens of her own. Those three kitties were Tubby, Luna, and Sky. Nana decided to keep those sweet little babies as her own.

Lastly, Nana has an outdoorsy personality and adventurous spirit. Some grandmas might prefer to be inside a warm house by the fire knitting a hat for their grandchild, but my Nana prefers to be out picking pecans in a field on her farm or outside on a hike to a waterfall. She's always ready to go outside and enjoy the fresh sunshine!

I love my Nana. She is always kind and generous to any person or creature in need. Most of all, I love her because she is my grandmother. My Nana.

Sienna Espinoza, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 5

Name: Sienna Espinoza
Grade 5th Age 10 M or (F)
Teacher Mrs. McCallen & Mrs. Balhazer
School: S.Y. Jackson

A friend at Fishback

This year I am going to write about my dance studio owner Ms. Kathy. I have known Ms. Kathy since I was three years old. She was my very first ballet teacher. Every holiday after we performed Ms. Kathy would gather all the dance students and sing us a song. She is the most caring and cheerful person I have ever met. Recently, I got very sick and was put in the hospital for a week. Ms. Kathy came and visited me twice. She brought me an ornament, a pointe shoe keychain, and a stained glass project. When she was there visiting she brought up my spirits and encouraged me to get well. She told me that when I came back to dance she would be there for me. She also said "if I needed to talk to her she would listen to me and give me advice." Ms. Kathy has inspired me to be the best person I can be and to continue dance through middle and high school. In conclusion Ms. Kathy has always been there for me in the good or bad times of my life. In the end, I will always know that I have a friend in her.



Artist: Eiel Rodriguez, Grade 5

Anderson Tompkins, S.Y. Jackson Elementary School, Grade 5

Name: Anderson Tompkins

Grade 5th Age 11 M or F

Teacher Mrs. McCollon & Mrs. Bathurst

School: S.Y. Jackson

Title: One bowl of kindness.

The senior I'm writing about is my grandma Zolia. She is from Lima, Peru. My grandma loves to cook. In fact, she doesn't just cook for herself, she shares the food with others. My grandma Zolia cooks for neighbors, family members, and other people. Sometimes, when a new neighbor moves in, my grandma Zolia cooks food for them to welcome the new neighbor.

One time my grandma Zolia was really sick. The neighbors were worried so they gave her food for almost a whole month until she got better. My grandma Zolia has a good talent for cooking. So she shared her talent with neighbors and family members. That is why I titled this essay "One bowl of kindness."

Since my grandma has a talent and shares it, I could to. I'm good at drawing, I like to make comics and give them to my friends. I'm also thinking of doing art lessons when I get older. My grandma Zolia has inspired me to share your talents with other people. My grandma Zolia also gave food to other people with kindness and love. And other people can do that to.

Hannah Opel, Manzano School, Grade 5

Name: Hannah Opel
Grade: 5 Age: 10 Female
Teacher: Ms. Kraemer
School: Manzano Day School

Title: Birds

Her laugh is the sound of a beautiful, colorful finch soaring in the sky, chirping delightfully. When she whistles, it is the song of a cockatiel, so shrill, so beautiful. Her soft voice is the wind behind the bird fluttering in the air. Her heart is the size of an ostrich egg. Her hugs are as warm as eggs being warmed by their mother. Her eyes are green like a parakeet perching on a tree. Her skin is as soft as the feel of an Emu's feather. She is as active as a roadrunner, always on the move. Her personality is like a guinea hen, very warmhearted and kind. Her home is like an eagle's nest, so warm and cozy. My grandma reminds me of a bird, but to me she is the most magnificent bird of all.

Ben Tsethlikai, St. Mary's Catholic School, Grade 5

Name: Ben Tsethlikai

Grade 5 Age 10 M or F

Teacher Mrs. Johnna Simrell

School: St. Mary's Catholic Sch.

Title: My Grandma Josephine

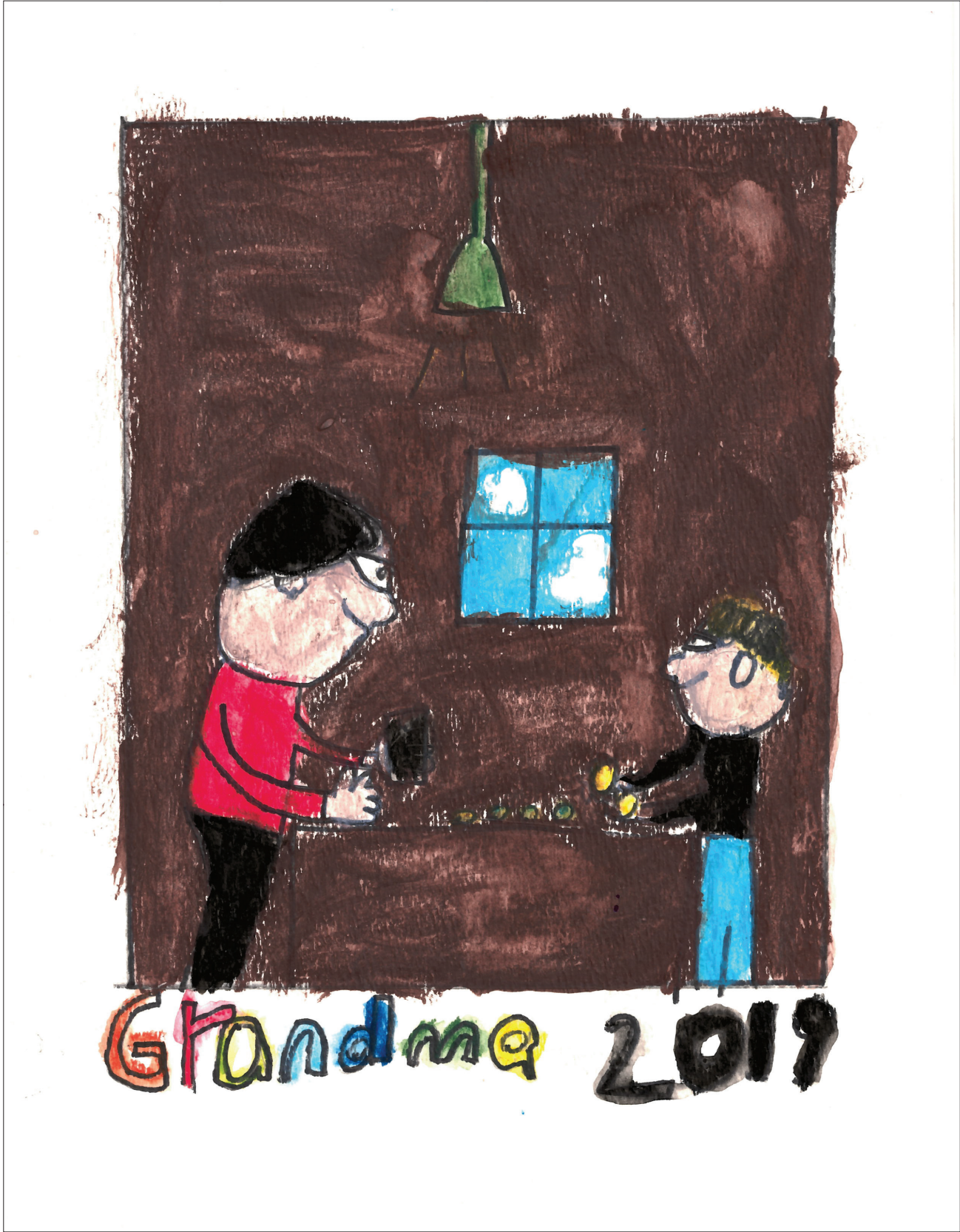
My grandma's name is Josephine Aurora Montoya. She has seen many changes growing up since 1935. She is surprised how much technology has advanced since she was a kid. Her clan in my pueblo is yellow bird shield and she is eighty-four years old. My grandma has been married to my grandpa for sixty one years, and they are the longest married couple in Sandia. She has four kids, and my mom is the youngest.

She spoke only Tiwa (my native language) until she was five years old. When she was a kid she had no electricity or running water, so she had to haul firewood for a woodstove and fill two giant buckets for water - one for drinking, one for washing. She knocked down her grandma's house and rebuilt it with running water and electricity. She went to BIA Sandia Day School in Bernalillo and ABC. She has had many jobs, including stenographer and working in agriculture.

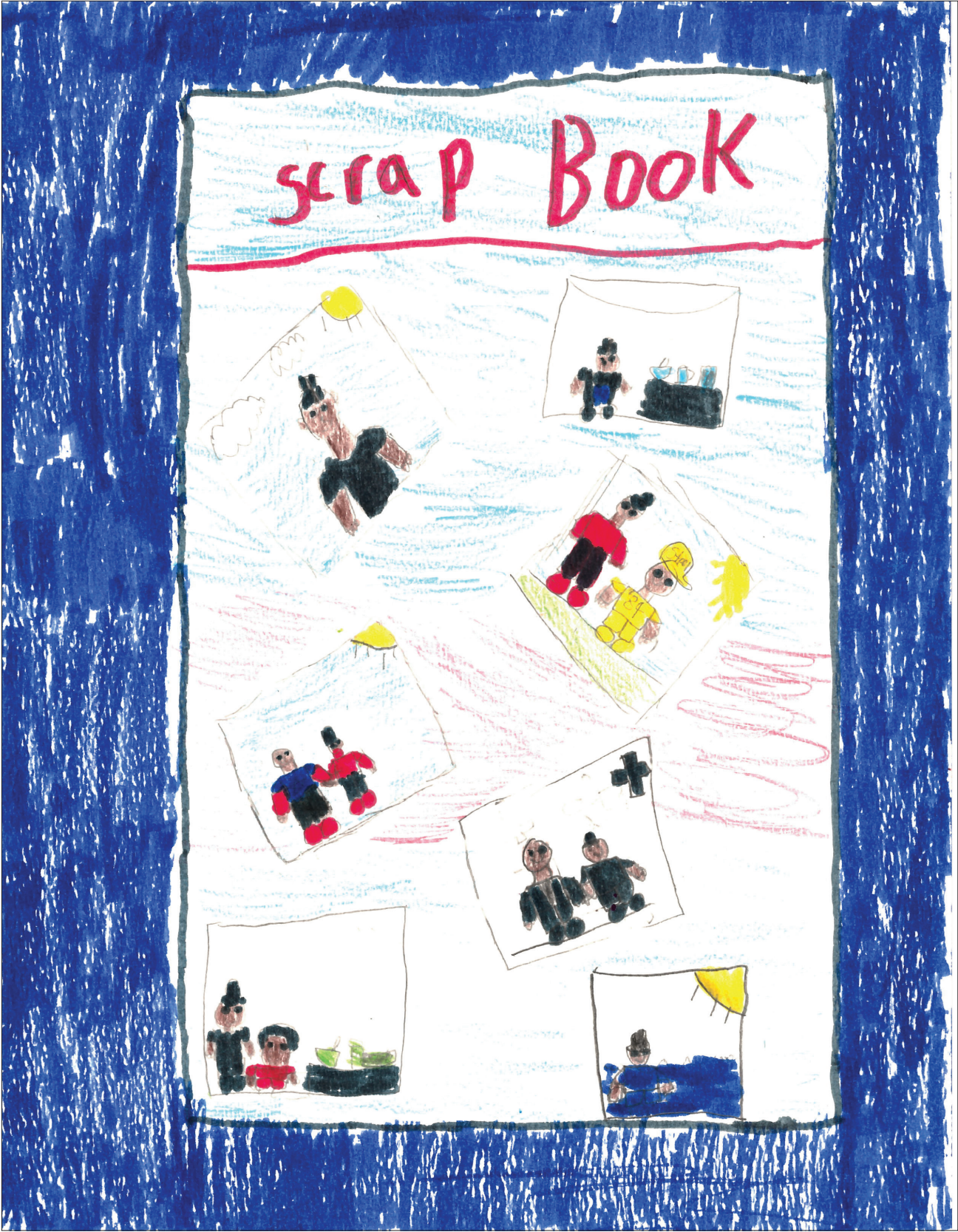
Everyday she would wake up and do chores before she went to school. When she got back she would do some more chores like milking cows and watering the gardens, and then study or do homework. Sometimes she would help people clean or she would play outside.

The first TV to come to the community was a small screen big box TV. The owner of the TV would put it at the window so all the kids could gather around and watch it. Her first phone was a flip phone. She used to ride in a wagon pulled by horses.

At eighty-four years old, she is an amazing grandma. She now works as a Tiwa teacher with my mom. She teaches children from birth to five years old. She is a grandma of nine and a great grandma of seven.



Artist: Caiden Brandt, Grade 5



Artist: Curtis Ryan, Grade 5

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS



Be one with fun.



iexplora!

Ideas You Can Touch
Ideas que puedes tocar



38th Annual Awards

A Senior I Know

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	PRINCIPAL
Grade 1			
Savannah Caro	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Rivard	Jude Garcia
Axel Slade	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Ryan	Jude Garcia
Luke Downey	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Sims	Douglas Wine
Amelia Reece	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Sims	Douglas Wine
Noah Browder	Shepherd Lutheran	Ms. Keller	Benjamin Raddatz
Julianna Gonzales	Shepherd Lutheran	Ms. Keller	Benjamin Raddatz
Grade 2			
Destiny Herrera	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Kassetas	Jude Garcia
Luke Elwood	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Kassetas	Jude Garcia
Lilly Holmes	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Zachary Varney	Sombra del Monte	Ms. Malaque	Heather Hinde
Ellyanna Raddatz	Shepherd Lutheran	Ms. Swoboda	Benjamin Raddatz
Henry Loui	Shepherd Lutheran	Ms. Swoboda	Benjamin Raddatz
Grade 3			
Wesley Carter	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Reyes	Jude Garcia
Autumn Rivera	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Gurule	Jude Garcia
Julia Merrill	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Timothy Daniels	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
James Benavidez	Shepherd Lutheran	Ms. Swoboda	Benjamin Raddatz
Evelyn Gibbs	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Vigil	Cathy Hubbard
Grade 4			
Cyrus Wiegand	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Heironimus	Jude Garcia
Dasha Ayala	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Stoltenberg	Jude Garcia
Necia Gallegos	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Dylan McCrory	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Joshua Vallez	St. Mary's Catholic School	Mrs. Encinias	Rebecca Maestas-Sanchez
Emaline Miller	Shepherd Lutheran	Mr. Raddatz	Benjamin Raddatz
Grade 5			
Jordyn Caintic	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Rivera	Douglas Wine
Leah Dye	Griegos Elementary	Mrs. Sauer	Rita Martinez
Sienna Espinoza	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Anderson Tompkins	S.Y. Jackson	Mrs. McCallon & Mrs. Balthaser	Jack Vermillion
Hannah Opel	Manzano Day School	Ms. Kraemer	Cathy Hubbard
Ben Tsethlikai	St. Mary's Catholic School	Mrs. Simrell	Rebecca Maestas-Sanchez
Cover Art			
Daniela Aboyte	Sandia Base Elementary	April Gallagher	Jude Garcia
Back cover Art			
Myra Imam	Sandia Base Elementary	April Gallagher	Jude Garcia



Artist: Myra Imam, Grade 5