

# Digital projects replacing the old overheads

**By Alex Dernoncourt and Stephanie Wilkie**  
**First place, News Writing**  
**Division: 3-4 Grade**

Digital projectors are in ... overheads are old school, literally! Why? So teachers can access the Internet as a teaching aid, and project it larger so the whole class can see.

They hook up to teachers' laptops and desktop computers and project what's on the computer.

All sixth-grade classes at Browns Valley Elementary School have their projectors mounted to the ceiling. But some third- and fifth-grade classrooms have portable ones

to use.

Eleven digital projectors were bought for the use by our teachers.

"I love it mounted on the ceiling because it doesn't get in anybody's way," says Evangelina Harrison, a sixth-grade teacher at Browns Valley Elementary. "It doesn't take up space and it can't get broken."

Natalie Scoles, a sixth-grade teacher, says, "I use it to show videos, display assignments, Web sites and pictures. I use it almost daily and what I like best about it is that it is easy for all students to see because the screen is so big and it has so many different uses."

The entire cost for the digital projector, mounting and a 50-foot cable was \$750 per

classroom. Each sixth-grade classroom in the Vacaville Unified School District, along with the science and social studies classes at Vaca Pena and Jepson middle schools, received the projectors, courtesy of the Buck Foundation, according to our school district technology director, Jim Wasielewski.

Lori Neuland, a fifth-grade teacher says, "I love it for the BrainPop movies. Those are great and we usually take the quiz together at the end. We've seen some (movies) for math, science and English. I've also shown some short videos and movies because they are visual, and that seems automatically more interesting to me."

BrainPop is a fun Web site for kids to learn through entertaining movies

and quizzes.

Mayra Flores, a sixth-grade student at Browns Valley Elementary, says her class uses the digital projector to watch BrainPop and online movies.

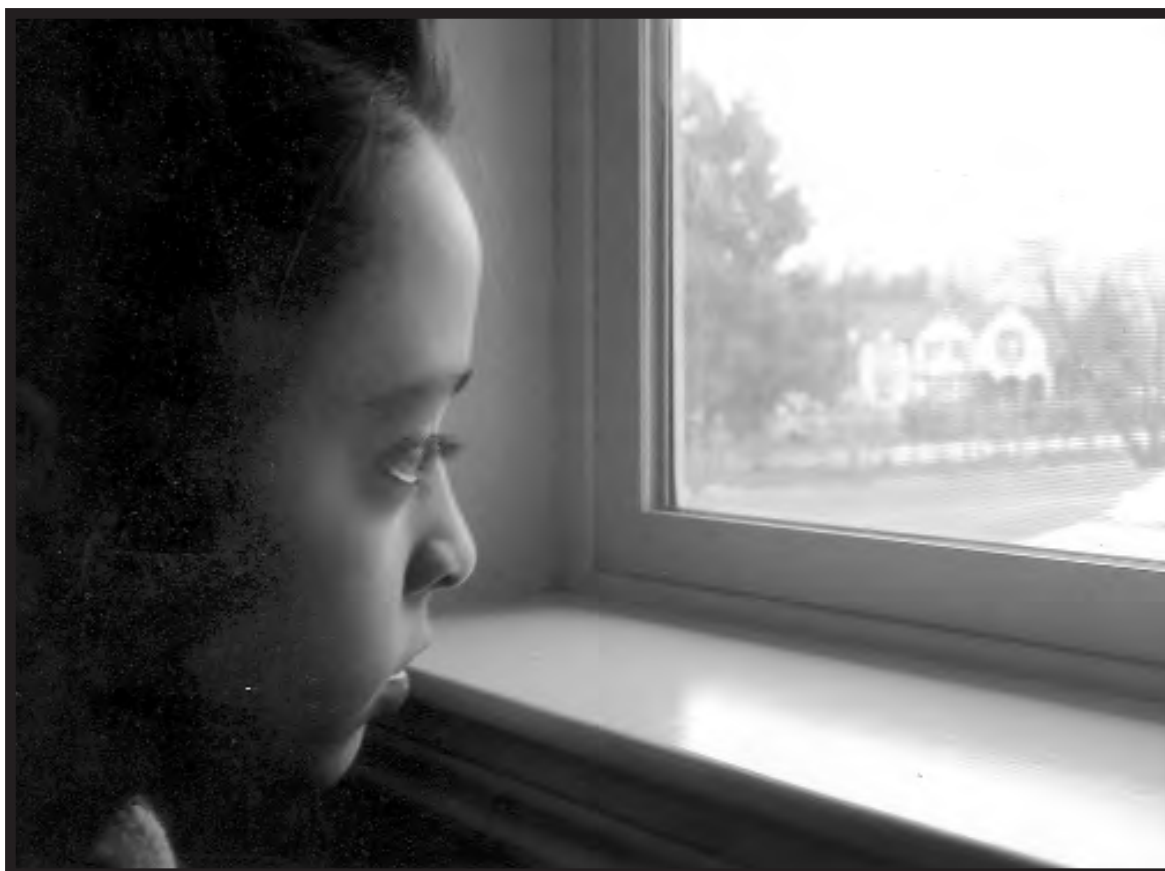
"It's way more convenient to have it mounted to the ceiling, and we use it once a week for quizzes and slideshows," says Vince Blake, a student in Kim Campbell's class.

It seems the teacher's minds have been taken over by the sleek look of the digital projector. Poor overheads ... we may never see them again!

*The authors are fifth-graders in Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville..*

## Memories of the past

This photograph of a pensive Alex Knott was taken Feb. 2, 2008, by Alyssa Herwatt, a seventh-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield. The black-and-white image was considered strong enough by to place second in the middle school division of the Campus Star student journalism competition in the category of photojournalism. Alyssa is a student in Karen Dietrich's classroom.



## Today's teens rocking out to sounds of '70s

**By Chris Turley**  
**Third Place, Feature Writing**  
**Division: High School**

The 1970s are back. At least it would seem that way by the Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath found on students' iPods. So, what's up with that? Why do so many of today's teens like music from their parents' generation?

"I like '70s heavy metal because it's not screamo," says senior Eric Gassar, who added that some of his favorite bands are Iron Maiden, Led Zeppelin, and Black Sabbath. Technology teacher Mike Sagan has a theory about why today's kids are gravitating toward the genre.

"Seventies rock is the purist form of real rock 'n' roll. Take any '60s pop-rock out, and you get to the '70s and have people playing from the heart."

Mr. Sagan says that he mostly got into heavy metal in 1987, but got into '70s heavy metal — what he calls the true metal — later on. He loves it and totally understands why most students like '70s rock.

"I listen to '70s heavy metal because the sound is pure," said one student who asked to remain anonymous. "My mom and dad enjoy the genre of music. I also play guitar and drums and the sound of Black Sabbath is

my primary influence."

A number of Rodriguez High School students play guitar. Many have delighted in discovering how to play the riffs of the 1973 Deep Purple classic, "Smoke on the Water."

Senior Rob Sanguinet says that he enjoys '70s heavy metal because, "(It was) more about the music, you know? It was about having a good time. It didn't matter about what kind of rock and roll it was. And because the riffs were sick!" Rob enjoys listening to Iron Maiden.

Senior Justin Kisle is also a '70s metal fan.

"The feeling you get comes from having the noise coming together and creating one powerful sound. And also it was loud because it had a meaning. It was meant to say something about the world today and about the life of the artist. It wasn't loud for the sake of being loud."

Justin likes to listen to bands such as Quiet Riot, CCR, Black Sabbath, AC/DC, Iron Maiden, and Judas Priest. Move over hip hop, rap, and country, '70s metal is taking a spot at the table. Teens do listen to music that is from the '70s.

*The author is a senior in Becky Bowen's classroom at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield.*

## Dad manages the temperature

**By Ashley DelCore**  
**Second Place, News Writing**  
**Division: 3-4 Grade**

There are many kinds of engineers. There are mechanical engineers, electrical engineers and even civil engineers to name just a few. My dad is a mechanical engineer. Mechanical engineers are responsible for designing things we use every day.

I think that my dad has a very important job. One of the things that my dad does is try to keep buildings like schools, offices and even hospitals just the right temperature. My dad designs heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems. In other words, my dad designs heaters and air conditioners. On average it takes my dad about six months to finish an assignment. It may take even more

### Engineer designs heat, air systems

time or less time. Just think, if we did not have engineers, there would be no air conditioners or heaters to keep us cool in the summer or warm in the winter. There would not be very happy people in the world if we did not have engineers. For example, if someone was in the hospital and they were cold and frail in bed, they would definitely want to be warmer. As you can see my dad's job is very important.

My dad really enjoys his job. He likes to work with people and he likes to solve their problems. For example, one time the system he designed didn't fit because there wasn't enough room and something

was in the way, but my dad didn't realize it until the very end. Another time, the systems made more noise than they were supposed to and he had to figure out why. He solved these problems by working with other engineers. Then they had to work as a team to get the job done. Then at last they solved the problem.

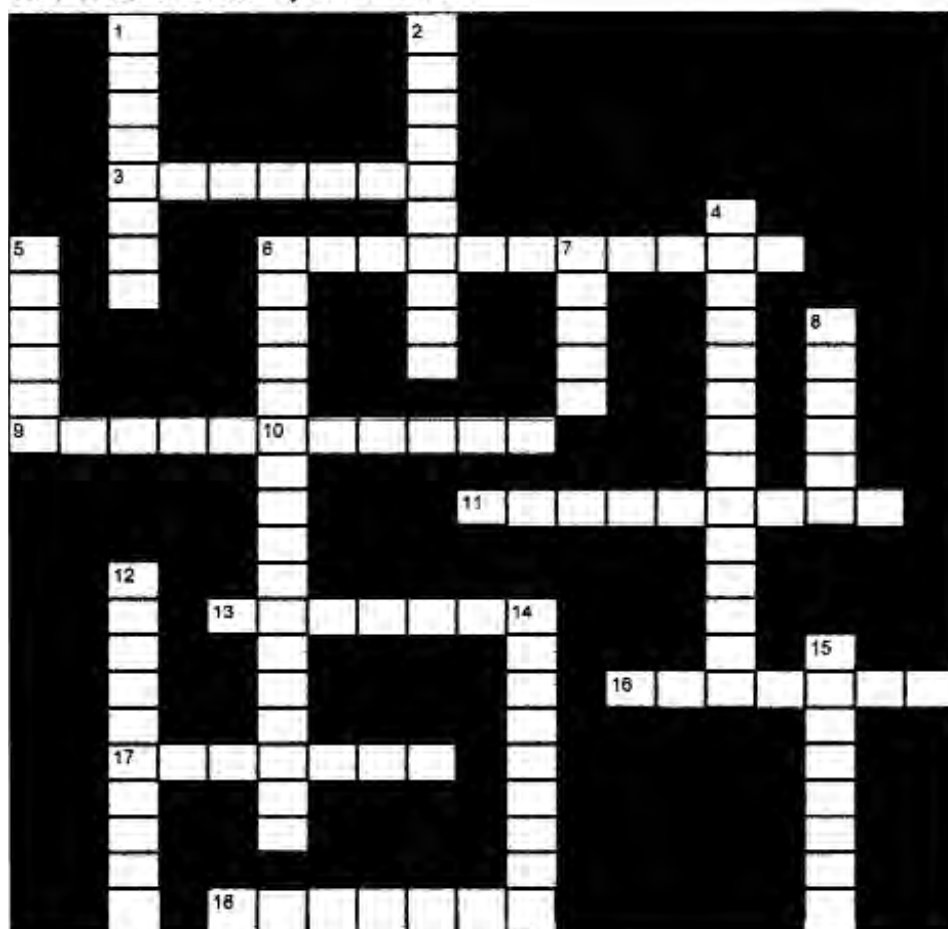
Now I think you understand the importance of my dad's job.

Without him, we wouldn't have heaters which keep us warm in the winter or air conditioning that keeps us cool in the summer. He helps people with their problems and makes them happy. I love my dad, the outstanding, loveable, hardworking dad that he is.

*The author is a third-grader at Foxboro Elementary School in Vacaville.*

## Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

**NUT TREE STORES** By Lauren Freese



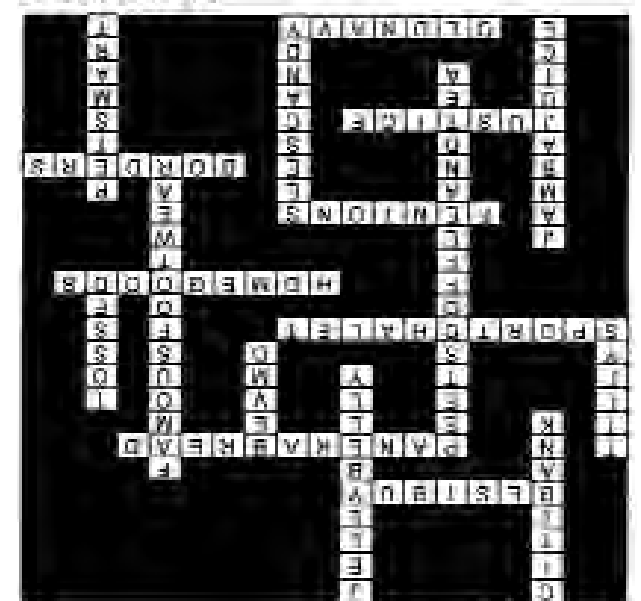
### ACROSS

3. Finest Purchase
6. Doughy and Delicious
9. Game House
11. Casa Buenos
13. This creamery can only be found in Vacaville. and Oakland
16. Edges
17. "... and \_\_\_\_\_ for all."
18. Aged Blue

### DOWN

1. Big Town Depository
2. Jam Stomach
4. Popular Shoe
5. Belonging to the actress Meg
6. Magic Dragon's Place for Beverages.
7. Drink Store
8. Threw
12. Blended Boost
14. Watches Sweets
15. Animal intelligence

### SOLUTION



This crossword puzzle, which poses clever clues to Nut Tree store names by Lauren Freese won the sixth-grader a first-place honor in the games and puzzles category of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition in the 5-6 grade division. Lauren is a student in Mrs. Mraz and Miss Battiste's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville..