

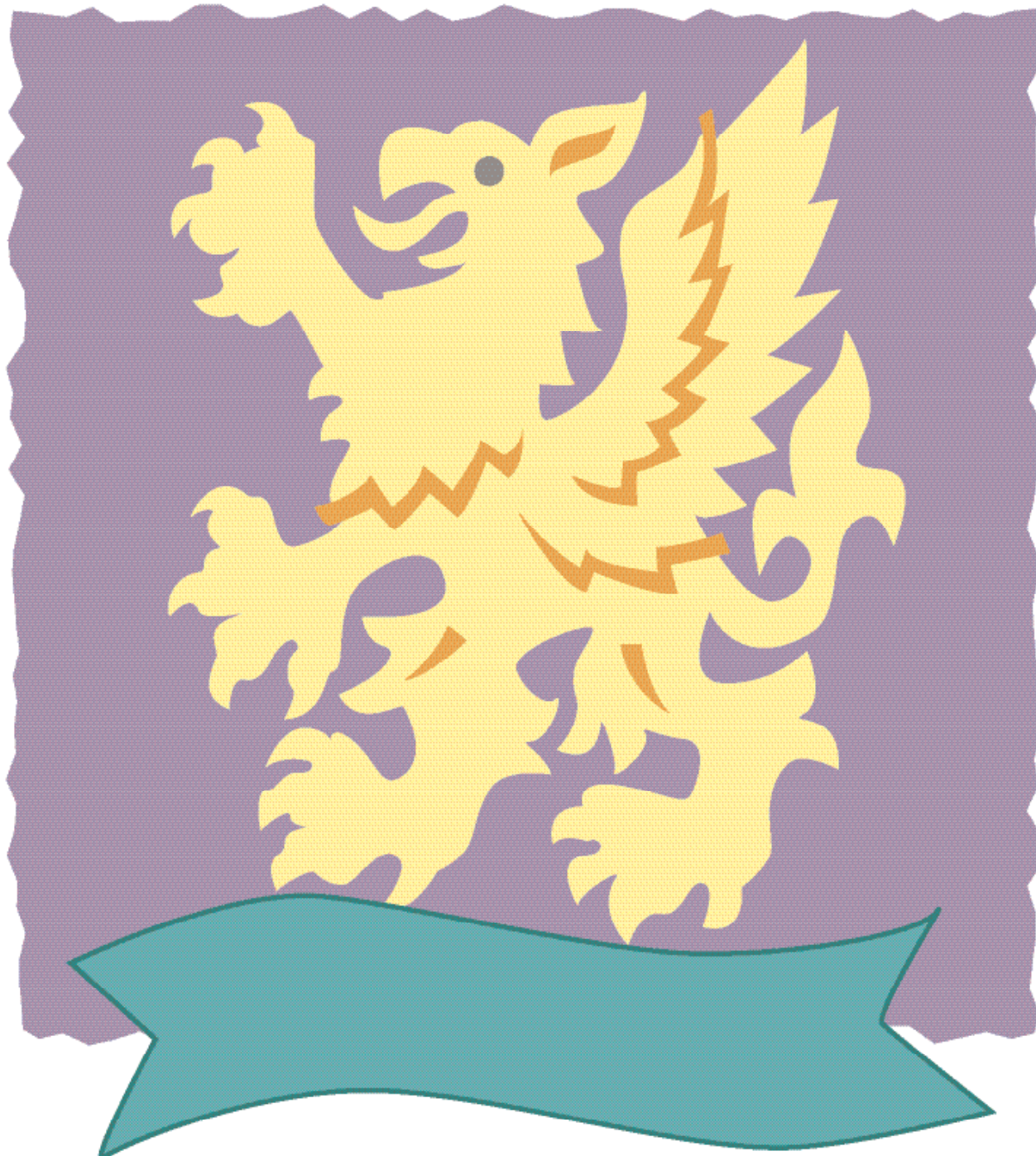
## Love Eternal

By Nick Smith  
 Armijo High School

My love is like a flame  
 That you ignited  
 with a spark  
 With just a whisper of  
 your name  
 It shines into the dark  
 Shining like a beacon's  
 light  
 Across the stormy sea  
 It will shine all through  
 the night  
 Until you are here again  
 with me  
 Lightning flashes in the  
 sky  
 Rain begins to pour  
 down  
 I will not worry or cry  
 Because this love will  
 not drown.  
 I gaze across the sea  
 As the raindrops are  
 wetting the sand  
 Oh, how I wish you were  
 here with me  
 To take you by the hand  
 To tell you I love you so  
 dear  
 How our love will always  
 last  
 How I love to hold you  
 near  
 How I love every  
 moment passed.  
 Bright as the lightening  
 that flashes  
 It is so very true  
 Powerful as the wave  
 that crashes  
 My love is for you.  
 The wind blows here and  
 there  
 The crash of a wave  
 Your gentle touch, your  
 soft hair  
 One more passionate  
 kiss I crave.  
 Let the winds blow  
 Let the sea do what it  
 may  
 My love will never go  
 It is here to stay.  
 A call to come near  
 To be by your side  
 It is your voice I hear  
 Calling across the tide.  
 When you are near  
 My heart begins to race  
 I love to have you near  
 To see your beautiful  
 face.  
 You are so special to me  
 I love you now and for  
 eternity.  
 My love for you deeper  
 than the sea.  
 I love you my dear, we  
 were meant to be.

The author was a senior  
 when this poem was submit-  
 ted to the Solano County  
 Reading Association competi-  
 tion in February 2007.

## The Griffin's Tale



## Seeking a different life

By Stephanie Wilkie  
 Browns Valley Elementary School

The griffin walks down a path  
 feeling very low.  
 He spreads his wings and  
 takes flight  
 Not knowing where to go.

The other creatures rejected  
 him  
 In the land he left behind.  
 But he hopes one day he'll  
 come across  
 A land with creatures of his  
 kind.

He looks ahead  
 At the distant land  
 And sees a shining  
 Rainbow band.

This must be the place,  
 The griffin thought  
 As he came in for a landing.  
 He would do as he was taught

And greet the creatures grand-  
 ly  
 As he turned a corner  
 Around a rock  
 What he saw was a complete  
 shock.

For what he saw  
 Were hundreds  
 No, thousands  
 Of griffins just like him.

The author was a fourth-grader when this poem was  
 submitted in the Solano County Reading  
 Association contest in February 2007.

## She inspires

By Brandon Hollis-Yagi  
 Country High School

All I can hear is the pit-pat of rain-  
 drops falling around me. I pay no  
 attention to them however, because  
 the constant feeling of pain engulfs my  
 mind and body.

On the inside, I am screaming as loud  
 as I possibly can, but on the outside all  
 anyone will ever see is a big smile out-  
 stretched across my freckled face. It's  
 hard to confide in anyone about these  
 feelings being as I have moved nearly a  
 dozen times in the last eight years. So I  
 write.

Writing, in my opinion, will never be  
 enough. I'm still basically talking to  
 myself about the same things I have been  
 for the last four years: Heartache, loneli-  
 ness, and the constant phobia of feeling  
 unwanted cloud my mind and my judg-  
 ment.

Sometimes it's hard to look at people  
 without feeling like they wish I were  
 gone. Ot visa versa, and I am the one that  
 wishes I were gone.

So I write ... I write because at least  
 while I'm writing no one can tell me I am  
 doing anything wrong and there is no one  
 who wishes I were gone. But while I was  
 writing on that rainy day I saw Her. She's  
 an angel soaring high above me. I try to  
 embrace Her but she drifts away, so I sit  
 there on my lonely rock, in a field on that  
 rainy day and continue writing, but now I  
 write about Her.

I never knew her name and vaguely  
 remember her face because of the rain.  
 All I know is that she is easily the most  
 beautiful thing I have ever had the pleas-  
 ure of seeing in my entire life.

I watch as she soars higher and higher  
 until she is no more than a speck in the  
 clouds. A tear rolls down my face. Not  
 because I'm sad, but because I'm so  
 happy she made me feel even remotely  
 special for at least that one moment in  
 time.

Then, just when I think she is gone, I  
 feel a tap on my shoulder and I hear the  
 softest voice I have ever heard ask, "Why  
 are you crying?"

I want to turn to her and tell her how  
 grateful I am that she returned, but her  
 touch is so gentle and so pure that I can't  
 begin even to look over to face her nor  
 even speak as she gives me a reassuring  
 nudge to say, "It's OK, I understand," and  
 that's all I need to know. Just as I stom-  
 ach enough courage to just say, "screw it"  
 and turn around to face her, I wake up.

As I lay there in bed thinking about  
 this recurring dream I have had many  
 nights before, I realize that this angelic  
 woman is my guardian telling me to stay  
 strong and live my life to fight the good  
 fight. She doesn't have to say that she is,  
 but I know it's true in my heart. So I get  
 up and start off my day by smiling  
 because I'm actually happy, and by writ-  
 ing.

The author was a senior at Country High  
 School when this was submitted in the  
 Solano County Reading Association  
 competition in February 2007.



BY MARILYNN ANDERSON

Where are we going with sum-  
 mertime? Kids want to talk  
 about it! They have plenty of  
 ideas and life topics to explore  
 in today's Link column. What's  
 happening in your neighbor-  
 hood? Is the high price of  
 everything keeping you from  
 exploring? We're looking for  
 suggestions for having fun  
 close to home. If individuals or  
 groups wish to participate in  
 our Link, contact me at:  
 rdand@netscape.com. What  
 are you doing this summer, far  
 or near?

## Spend the summer exploring

I'll be playing a lot of football this sum-  
 mer so that I can play for Vacaville High  
 in the fall. One of the best things about  
 summer football practices is the friend-  
 ships and bonds that you make with  
 other players. Can you guess what the  
 worst thing is about practicing in the  
 summer? YES! It can get very hot.

Dylan Davis, Grade 12, Vacaville High

There's a park near my house where my  
 twin brother, Antonio, and I go to play.  
 It's a really good place for playing tag  
 because it's so big. I wish that the park  
 had one of those spin and walk play  
 things like we had in kindergarten. The  
 park belongs to everybody and it's fun  
 to go there.

Maya Hernandez, Grade 2,  
 Browns Valley

I hope to get more practice using my  
 voice and music so that I can someday  
 use this talent for doing something  
 important and special.

Jasmen Perkins, Buckingham High

One of the best school field trips we  
 had in the past was going to the Jelly  
 Belly Factory in Fairfield. Families can  
 go on tours there, and it's fun to take  
 visitors there during the summer. The  
 Jelly Belly Factory is very, very clean and  
 it smells delicious! Yes, I have favorite  
 flavors, but there are so MANY, it's hard  
 to decide.

Melinda Meng, Grade 6, Orchard

Music is a wonderful way to create  
 something that may open doors to  
 many kinds of creativity. Music has the  
 power to reach a person in the deepest  
 part of their soul and allows expression  
 in fascinating ways. Music is very close  
 to my heart, and I enjoy sharing it with  
 others.

Holly Stell, Grade 11,  
 Buckingham High

I'm going to paint! I like to draw pic-  
 tures of my mommy and daddy and my  
 sister and me, and I color them. My  
 favorite color is red. We're going camp-

ing at Collins Lake and we will sleep in  
 our motor home. I'm going to take my  
 bike and I'll ride it around in circles in a  
 safe place where there aren't any cars.

Dylan Moseley, Age 3, Kiddy Academy

I'm going to Nanny Betty's house in  
 Florida. I get to fly in an airplane! I'll  
 take my toy phone with me. We might  
 go to Disney World if we have time.

Emeryn Grace Smoak, Kindergarten  
 graduate, Vacaville Christian School

This summer I'm going to play and go  
 camping and swimming. We'll camp at  
 Lake Solano. Look! See my Cinderella  
 toy? I like Cinderella best.

Macy Vandenberg, Age 2

We'll be going to the pool and the park  
 and having fun. I like to watch kid  
 shows on TV, like Sesame Street. Best  
 of all, I love books...all kinds of books.

Hanna, age 2

I hope to get another dog to join my  
 Lhasa Apso pet. You know the old

excuse, "My dog ate my homework?"  
 Well, my Lhasa Apso, Bella, ate my  
 spelling list. The paper was on the little  
 coffee table and Bella jumped from the  
 couch to the coffee table because she  
 likes to chew on paper. Bella is two  
 years old, so she should know better.  
 She thinks she is a person. Bella  
 doesn't sit on her hind legs... she sits  
 on her bottom with her little legs out to  
 the side.

Taylor Garant, Grade 5, Browns Valley

I am going to Lake Berryessa with my  
 friend, Luke. We're going to sleep in a  
 tent and go fishing with my dad. I've  
 been fishing before, but I haven't ever  
 caught anything.

Joseph Bouwman, Grade 4, Alamo

I bought a city bus pass for teens, for  
 \$20 that lets me go anywhere in town  
 as often as I want until the end of  
 August. You can call City Coach at 449-  
 6000 to ask about it.

Jason, Will C. Wood