

Gramps' return made his day

By Misty Aguilera and Amber Shryack
 Third Place, News Writing Division: 4-6 Grade

Tyler Davis, 8, a student at Browns Valley Elementary School, had a big surprise on Oct. 25.

Tyler's grandfather, who had returned from the war in Iraq, came and visited Tyler in the middle of class in Room 12, Michelle Cooley's classroom.

For Tyler, it was shocking to see his grandfather back so early. Tyler stated that he was happy when his grandpa came into the classroom.

But he wasn't the only one. Malina Bailey, 7, said that she was also very happy. "He was nice to everyone and was still in his suit!"

Mrs. Cooley, a second-grade teacher, recalled she knew this was going to happen. She was let in on the little secret.

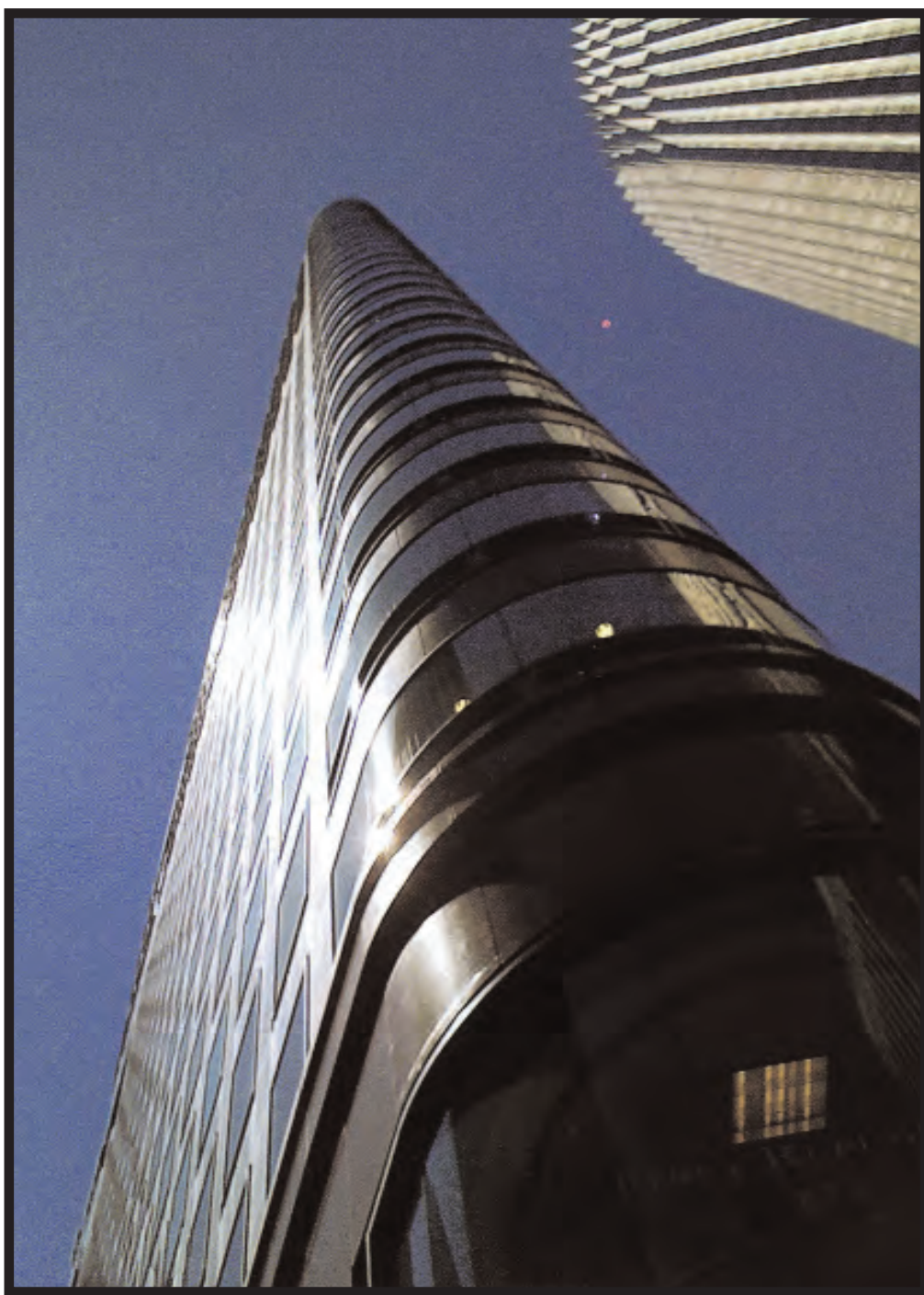
"Tyler's parents told me that Tyler's grandpa was coming to class to visit Tyler and the kids," Mrs. Cooley said.

Tyler said that he felt good about seeing his grandpa. He added, "We had fun after school and we went to BJ's and ate some food."

Tyler said every moment he and his grandpa were together they had fun.

The author was a fifth-grader at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

SCRAPING SKY



San Francisco's towering cityscape

This image of a building towering toward the skyline in San Francisco's skyscraping jungle caught the eye of photographer Christina Centron, of Buckingham Charter Magnet High School. The image earned her an honorable mention in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition in the photojournalism category. Christina was a student in Mrs. McGee's class as a freshman when this was submitted in February 2008.

Juniors bump their way to upend seniors

Wood volleyball offers lots of drama

By Bijan Emaldi
 Honorable Mention, News Writing Division: High School

On Thursday, Dec. 13, in the school gym there was anxiety between the juniors and seniors because they were waiting for the Bump, Set, SPIKE volleyball game.

The seniors rushed onto the court thinking that this was going to be a piece of cake. Well, they had a BIG surprise coming their way.

The juniors paraded in wearing gold uniforms, which were purposely torn up. The seniors wore clean blue uniforms, which were not cut at all.

In the first round, the juniors scored first. The crowd roared with excitement at the sight of the first score of the game.

For awhile, the juniors stayed ahead of the seniors, but the seniors managed to catch up to their opponents. Within three minutes of the first round, the juniors were ahead 7-5. Had the seniors lost their edge? Or were they just warming up?

The juniors managed to stay ahead for a long time; within six minutes of the opening serve they were ahead 14-7. Seniors called time-out after the juniors scored their 15th point.

After the huddle, the senior's performance seemed to grow. Within 10 minutes of Round 1, the seniors had tied it up 20-20.

After that it didn't take long for the seniors to take victory in Round 1 with a close-score of 26-24. Even though the seniors had taken Round 1, it was still difficult to predict the champion.

Round 2 began and the juniors scored first again. The juniors made consistent points for a while. Within three minutes of Round 2, the score was 6-1, juniors leading. The seniors trailed by 4-5 points, but it soon came up to 7 or 8 points after a few minutes. But the juniors broke

through the ranks, and soon they were ahead by 10 points. At the 15-minute mark of Round 2, the seniors held only half the points as the juniors had, with a score of 22-11. Soon the juniors had won Round 2 with an indisputable score of 25-12.

The final round began. The seniors stole victory in Round 1, and the juniors made their enemies eat failure in Round 2. And now the moment of truth had come. The final round was here.

Once again the juniors scored first, but the seniors were right behind them as they came up with a 3-to-1 lead very quickly. Even more stunning was how the seniors were able to bring up a 7-to-1 lead within the first three minutes. The stunned juniors call a time-out.

The seniors scored points quickly but the juniors came up with a 7-8 score with the seniors leading. Within 10 minutes of Round 3, the score was 10-9. The seniors were behind now. The juniors scored a point with an awe-inspiring strike that ricocheted off the ground and flew high into the audience. Now the score was 14-13 with the juniors leading.

A senior thought he has the perfect strike and he reached for it, thinking he would tie up the score to a dead-heat 14-14, but he hit the ball too hard, and it went out of bounds.

A junior with a good eye signaled not to hit the ball, and it hit out of bounds. The referee signals a point for the juniors and everyone screams! JUNIORS WIN! JUNIORS WIN!

The juniors gathered around and did that crazy dance, and the stunned seniors, who were clearly angry tried to talk the referee into thinking that the ball was fair but to no avail. The juniors won and that was that.

The author was a freshman at Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

Novel Knowledge motivates readers

By Jake Fetters
 Honorable Mention, News Writing Division: 5-6 Grade

There are 26 teams and 104 students competing in Novel Knowledge this year at Browns Valley Elementary School.

The students' first job was to gather a group of four friends to build a team, brainstorm a dynamic team name, and sign the team up at the library. Teams decide what book each member will read before the competition in spring.

In the Novel Knowledge competition, students answer four rounds of written questions about each novel. The competition dates are March 17-21. Each team will read eight books.

The top three winning teams will be rewarded at each site. The No. 1 team will compete against other schools participating in Novel Knowledge.

The kids who won last year at our school also won for the whole Vacaville Unified School District. Their names are Heley St. George, Natasha Panattoni, Logan Dosker and Kelly

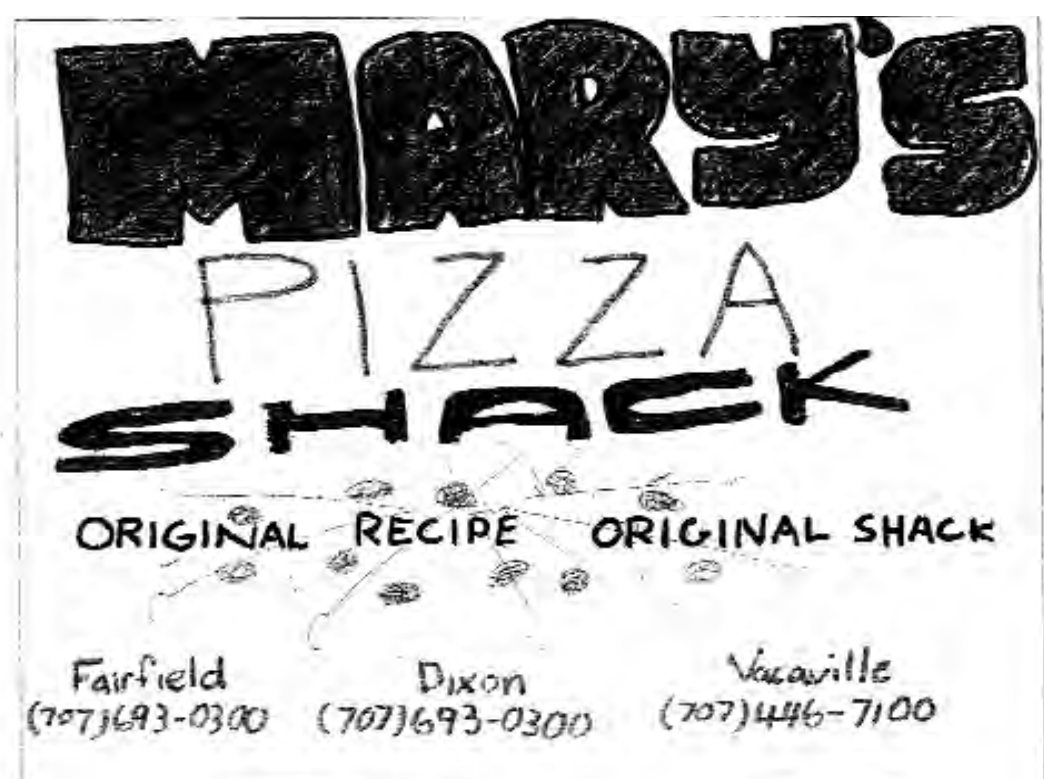
Smith. These students are sixth-graders at our school this year.

Aaron Lane, a fifth-grader, thinks that Novel Knowledge is good because it is a good way to motivate kids to read more books.

Mrs. Ortiz said she likes Novel Knowledge better than Battle of the Books, the former reading contest.

The author was a fifth-grader at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement featuring Mary's Pizza Shack earned David Panduro a third-place award in the middle school division of the Design-an-Ad category in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. David was an eighth-grader in Mrs. Thompson's classroom at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this advertisement was submitted to the competition in February 2008.

Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

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 lpaweyepatchwag
 ewsgregoryllojty
 greenteethreet
 landlubbersbtso
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A Pirate's Life for Me
 Word search:
 scurvy dog
 green teeth
 Jolly Roger
 treasure
 grub
 swab the deck
 eye patch
 walk the plank
 one eyed Willie
 skull
 ahoy there
 landlubber
 avast
 map
 wooden leg
 Blackbeard
 pirates
 crossbones
 shiver me timbers
 rum
 matey
 parrots
 Jack Sparrow
 Booty

This word search puzzle, "A Pirates Life for Me," by Rylee Englehardt-King earned the third-grader a third-place award in the 3-4 grade division of the puzzles and games category in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. The Rylee was in Laurie Brunke's Class at Foxboro Elementary School when this was submitted in February 2008.