

HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Student offers a magical tour

By Hannah Stadnick
 Second Place,
 Feature Writing
 Division: Middle School

Hey, I'm here to talk to you about my favorite place in the world. Well, it's a beautiful and wonderful place!

You walk through the gated blue park gates, waiting in line to get your park ticket stamped. You can already hear the F.P. Ripley train triumphing its stentorian horn. You can already smell the smells of churros and popcorn cooking in their qualified machines, the screams of kids of every age riding the colossal Matterhorn 14 stories above Fantasyland.

Do you have an idea where this place is? Yeah, it's Disneyland. I go there every Easter and it sure seems to get better every time I go. You can go too, so put on your Mickey Mouse ears, wind up your camera and get ready to explore "The Happiest Place on Earth."

First, let's take a walk through Main Street. Here there's no way you can't visit the delicious bakeries, elegant, magical and delicious ice cream shops.

Wherever you go, Main Street is sure to please you. As you get to the end of Main Street, you will find the miracle hub, where all the entrances to the different lands are located.

Go left and enter Adventureland. Here you will traverse the hot sands of the Middle East (Aladdin's Oasis), the tropic splendor of Polynesia (Enchanted Tiki Room), the vastness of Africa (Tarzan's Tree House), the exotic rivers of the world (Jungle Cruise) and the archeological ruins of Asia (Indiana Jones).

After that exciting journey, let's go to Frontierland.

The breathtaking sight of the Mark Twain Riverboat is sure to catch your eye.

"Here we experience the colorful drama of Frontier America in the exciting days of the covered wagon and stagecoach, the advent of the railroad and the romantic riverboat. Walt Disney once commented, "Here you're also sure to find pleasure in the Big Thunder Mountain



Courtesy photo

Student author Hannah Stadnick and her furry friend, Pluto, pose for a photo in Disneyland.

Railroad, also known as the wildest ride in the wilderness."

So, now, let's take a walk through the mysterious and adventurous New Orleans square. Here you can set sail with the wildest crew that ever sacked the Spanish Main, the Pirates of the Caribbean.

After that scalawaggin' adventure, you can go to the Haunted Mansion, where you're sure to find the home of 999 frightfully funny ghosts. Well wasn't that fun!

Now let's take a trip to Zip-a-dee-do-dah Country. This is my land in Disneyland and also home to my favorite ride in the world: Splash Mountain.

Here you will take a trip down a 52-foot 45-degree and 40 mph plunge into the watery briar patch below. Or,

if that's too intense, you can either ride a relaxing Pooh Bear ride through the Hundred Acre Woods, or take a brave trip in a canoe in Davy Crockett's Explorer canoes.

After that, take a trip to the most magical place in Disneyland, Fantasyland. You can visit Neverland and soar through the world of Dumbo; journey with little Alice in Alice in Wonderland or travel the road to Pleasure Island with Pinocchio.

"Here is a world of hopes and dreams," Walt Disney stated on opening day.

After that, we'll visit Toon Town. You can ride the Gadget Go coaster, bounce in Goofy's bouncehouse, meet Minnie, Mickey, Donald and Chip 'n' Dale in their colorful houses, ride in a spinning cartoon ride known as Roger Rabbit's Cartoon Spin or even

just relax in the Jolly Trolley.

And now, last but not least, you can visit the future in Tomorrowland.

Here you can ride the Astro Orbiter, watch a 3-D movie in "Honey I Shrank the Kids," play games from the future, and ride an amazing ride called Star Tours.

Now before we leave and go back to our comfy, warm and decorative hotel room, my family's favorite thing to do is ride Small World.

With its wonderful music and lights, it is calming and relaxing.

Thank you so much for visiting Disneyland Park. I hope that you can really come and see this truly, wonderful and magical land.

The author was a seventh-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

THE TEST of TIME

Students learn importance of good study skills

By Shareen Persons
 Honorable mention, News Writing
 Division: High School

When it comes to studying, some students just don't use their time wisely.

Jose Carreno, Class of '09, admitted, "I usually get sidetracked by playing video games, Myspace, texting and talking on the phone."

Good study skills and use of time are essential for doing well in school. Students around school have found some helpful ways in which this can be achieved.

It's important to have good study techniques to do well on tests. "A good study technique I use is taking Cornell style notes for each of my core classes," said Edieson Espiritu, Class of '09.

The Cornell method of note taking is useful in jotting down key points and important definitions from lectures, so that way you can reference back to them before a test.

Faith Ndama, Class of '10, said, "You should review the notes taken in class and also the section the notes are on." She explained rereading

material in the text is helpful, and it's better to review five to 10 minutes a day than to try to cram everything the night before a test.

With the homework load some students get in all of their classes, sometimes everything assigned can't be done in a day.

It's important for students to schedule their week. Stephanie Liew, Class of '10, said, "When it comes down to homework, I do what I think is most important first. By important, I mean whichever assignment is due first." She also recommended keeping an organized planner and writing down all work assigned for each class, so important test dates and assignments will not be forgotten.

Many students balance school and homework with extracurricular activities such as sports. "Use all of your off-time on a given day to get everything done, and give yourself around 45 minutes every other day to take care of daily schoolwork," said Pierce Roberts of the Armijo Waterpolo team.

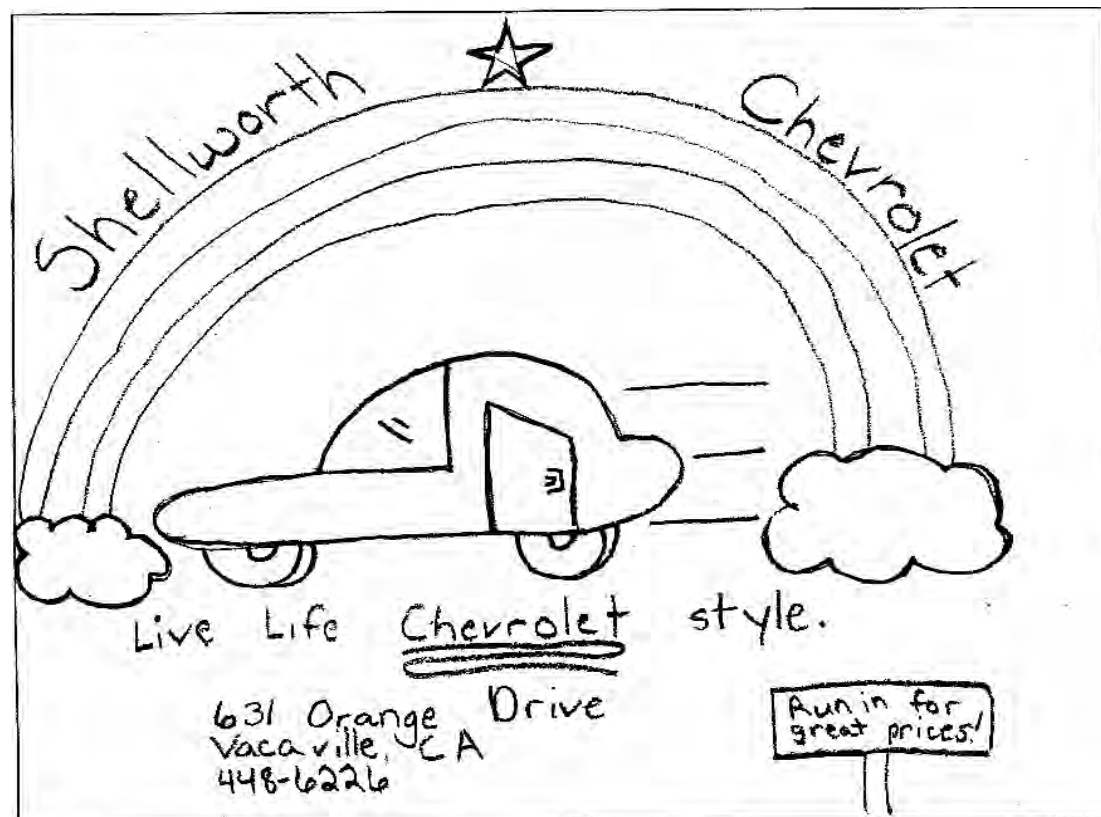
To sum it all up he said, "If you do sports and want to do well in school, you got to be ahead of your game."

The author was a junior at Armijo High School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

"I usually get sidetracked by playing video games, Myspace, texting and talking on the phone."

— Jose Carreno Rodriguez High School Class of '09

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Shellworth Chevrolet, designed by Judah Benson, earned the student an honorable mention in the design-an-ad competition of The Reporter's student journalism contest. Judah was a fourth-grader in Mrs. Carlson's classroom at Hemlock Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

Puzzles, Games winner

CALIFORNIA CITIES

K	O	Y	H	I	Y	A	B	A	G	E	D	O	B
S	S	P	R	V	D	N	A	L	K	A	O	C	G
A	O	A	L	X	O	G	E	I	D	N	A	S	M
C	A	L	N	O	D	A	M	C	I	H	T	I	Z
R	K	O	O	T	S	V	P	S	X	W	S	C	F
A	R	N	J	A	A	A	U	A	O	R	I	N	F
M	A	G	E	E	N	C	N	Y	N	K	V	A	A
E	H	B	L	C	J	A	R	G	H	L	O	R	I
N	D	E	L	V	O	V	X	U	E	Z	I	F	R
T	R	A	A	P	S	I	O	K	Z	L	R	N	F
O	L	C	V	W	E	L	J	I	R	E	E	A	I
N	E	H	M	E	L	L	A	D	A	V	I	S	E
C	A	R	B	A	K	E	R	S	F	I	E	L	D

Bakersfield - Bodega Bay - Davis - Fairfield - Long Beach
 Los Angeles - Napa - Oakland - Rio Vista - Sacramento
 Santa Cruz - San Diego - San Francisco - San Jose - Vallejo
 Vacaville

California cities are honored in this word search puzzle designed by Destiny Dunham, who was a fourth-grader when this entry was submitted in the 3-4 grade division of the puzzles and games category of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Destiny was a student in Mrs. Carlson's classroom at Hemlock Elementary School in Vacaville and earned an honorable mention for her efforts.