

# Committed to the Pledge



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Eden Cayabyab's essay about her commitment to the Pledge of Allegiance earned her a first-place opinion writing honor in the Campus Star contest.

# Students choose to be healthy

By Veronica Meredith  
 Third Place (Tie),  
 News Writing  
 Division: 5-6 Grade

Running, jumping, and eating a healthy diet. Is this part of your daily plan? Browns Valley has a Wellness Club that can help you stay healthy.

The State Superintendent of Public Schools Jack O'Connell stated, "It is time to promote health and fitness in our schools."

The Wellness Club idea has been set up in schools around California. Valerie Rogers, principal of Browns Valley School, hopes that our school will have a full running path in the future. Last year kids tried dancing for the Wellness Club, but teachers found it disruptive.

Fifth- and sixth-grade teachers Cindy Martin and Jennifer Stanley are working with their classes to make a program work at our school. Mrs. Martin's class is running every morning.

"The Wellness Committee is a group of kids helping teach others how to be healthy," said Kim Campbell.

Madison Webber, a fifth-grader, said, "We walk around and tell people stuff like, 'Eat your vegetables!'"

The Wellness Club is a part of our school that fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders can participate in. You have to commit to doing it all year.

Mrs. Rogers will advertise the Wellness Club, so that you can sign up too!

The author was a student at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February.

# Student believes in the 'under God' passage

By Eden Cayabyab  
 First Place, Opinion Writing  
 Division: 3-4 Grade

Americans have said the Pledge of Allegiance since it was written in 1892. More than 12 million school children recited the pledge in schools across the nation for the first time in October 1892.

I am troubled about what I hear from news-casts and from newspapers, which a few people and groups want the phrase "under God" deleted.

The Pledge has been changed three times and the final change was made official by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 14, 1954. He authorized to add "under God" to confirm America's heritage and future in religious faith. He approved the addition of "under God"

to "constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war," according to President Eisenhower.

I am completely against removing that specific phrase because I do believe in recognizing that we are one "under God." One nation, held together by the belief of its people in God.

In my innocence of not knowing anything other than believing in God, I am biased in keeping "under God" in the pledge.

I believe in saying "under God" in reciting the pledge as part of daily school activity, in light of the Supreme Court ruling that children attending schools could not be forced to recite the pledge.

So students who do not want to recite the pledge in schools already have a choice not to

do it. They also have a choice to say "under God" in reciting the pledge in school. But removing the phrase would force the students to omit "under God," giving them no choice.

President Eisenhower words said, "our most powerful resource" is that we are under the Divine providence of God. I totally agree with him.

The pledge should continue to have the words "under God" as our American heritage and tradition, building on trusting God to guide our nation and its citizens. Let us fight to keep the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The author was a fourth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted to the Campus Star competition in February 2008.

# Cousin is master

By Spencer Reed  
 Third Place, News Writing  
 Division: 3-4 Grade

Did you know my cousin is an archery master? Well he is. He got started by participating in National Archery through his school's program. The school brought equipment and instruction in as part of their P.E. class, and all students got to participate. Meanwhile, the P.E. teacher was watching to see which students performed well.

She created two teams of 20 good shooters each and took both teams to the state competition in Columbus, Ohio. One of these teams placed third in the state and received an invitation to compete in the national archery competition.

The national competition was very tough! David, my cousin, placed 69th in the nation in his division. He did warmups the night before the national competition. David completed three competitions, and they are his in-school tryouts, the state archery competition in Ohio and last but not least the biggest of them all, the

National Archery Competition in Lexington, Ky.

His favorite parts of being an archery master are the recognition, building a skill, and having fun shooting. My cousin continues to build his skills at each of his practices and competitions. I can't wait to see how he does in the next nationals, when he competes individually.

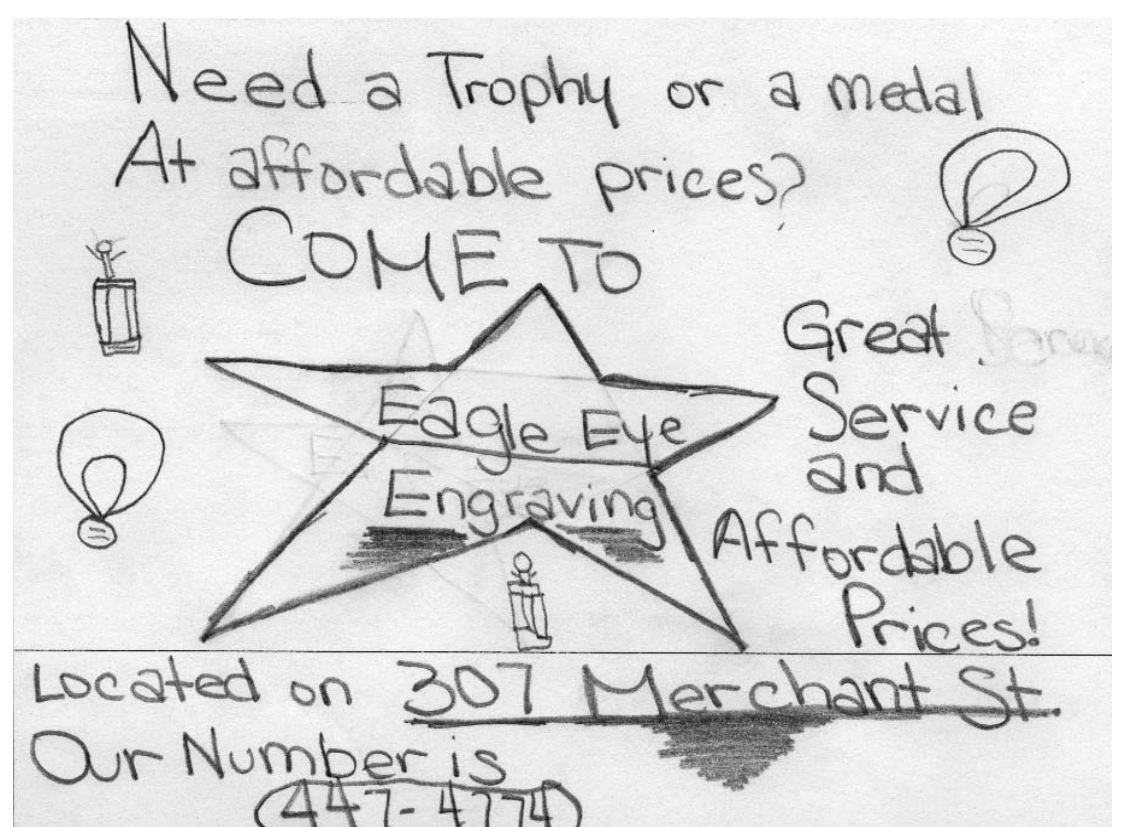
The author was a fourth-grader at Dan O. Root II Elementary when this was entered in February 2008.

## Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Live Music Center by Parker Lopez earned the Alamo Elementary School student an honorable mention in the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism contest. Parker was a fifth-grader in Mrs. Dahl's classroom when this was submitted in February 2008.

## Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Eagle Eye Engraving by Christien Amber Arguel earned the Crescent Elementary School student an honorable mention in the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism contest. Christien was a fifth-grader in Mrs. Lopez's classroom when this was submitted in February 2008.