

GOOD EATS AT JOE'S



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Saeb "Joe" Ziadeh shows off his signature French dip sandwich lunch at Joe's Buffet, 834 Texas St., in Fairfield.

Buffet rocks the restaurant world

By Stacey Preston
Third Place, Opinion Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

Which restaurant is the best in Fairfield? It is obviously Joe's Buffet.

Joe's Buffet specializes in homemade sandwiches. It is a family owned business, located in the heart of old downtown Fairfield.

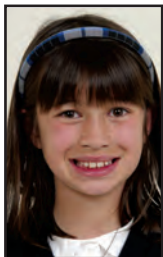
One reason I love going to Joe's is because it is real food and not junky food from fast food restaurants. Another reason is that it has great service. It has the nicest people in there and that lights me up.

In Joe's, you can see the food being made because it happens right in front of you. There are many varieties you can

choose from, like: a big, juicy pastrami sandwich, a delicious barbecue sandwich, and there are delightful mashed potatoes. Those are just my favorite kinds of foods.

There is also my favorite seat in there: it is near a big window facing the traffic and other restaurants. If a restaurant tried to compete with Joe's Buffet, let's just say they would not last that long.

When I was a kid, I always used to ride my bike to Joe's with my dad. Also, whenever I go there, Joe always shakes my hand and greets me. He knows his customers. He isn't just an owner, he is a



Preston

friend. That is what makes a great owner.

I always used to eat the mashed potatoes, but when my taste changed, all I was eating was sandwiches. These sandwiches weren't the puny sandwiches you find in other restaurants.

My dad can barely put his own mouth over the sandwich, it is so thick and full of juicy goodness.

I have been going to Joe's all my life, so I recommend that if you are going to visit Fairfield, you should come down to Joe's Buffet. You will be satisfied.

The author was a fifth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this was submitted in February 2008.

Living with my mother, the teacher

By Rachel Lee
Honorable Mention, Feature Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

It's not always fun to have your mom as one of the most popular teachers at your school.

Lots of times when we are out running errands, one of her former students will shout, "Hi, Mrs. Lee!" and after a while it gets pretty annoying. Sometimes they will come over and talk to her for a long time.

My mom loves it, especially when she has not seen them in a long time.

My mom, Charmaine Lee, likes being a mother to Tim and me. She also loves to watch us grow up and listen to what we teach her about being kids and herself.

As a family we like to go to the movies, swim, read, do projects, hang out, and of course go on vacation. Also, she loves chocolate so much that her favorite movie has something to do about chocolate. It is called "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

"Who doesn't like a movie about chocolate?" she asks.

Her favorite book is "The Three Questions," by Jon J. Muth.

She was born in Pennsylvania but then grew up in San Jose, with five siblings, four sisters and one brother named Van, who is the youngest. Her sister's names are Gretchen, Cynthia, Melanie and Aleta.

She was not always a mom. She started teaching in 1990 at Markham Elementary, seven years before I was born. Then she moved to Browns Valley so she could be part of the year-round program.

She does not prefer the traditional schedule; she likes year-round. At Markham she taught a kindergarten-first-grade combo and fifth-grade. At Browns Valley, she taught a fifth-sixth combo class and sixth-grade. Mrs. Lee has taught for 17 years.

Now and until she retires, she hopes to teach kindergarten with teacher Anne Novello.

She says, "I like building the foundation of learning." Those are the two sides of my mom.

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

People all too willing to pay high prices for drinks

By Erin Dallenbach
Second Place, Opinion Writing
Division: 7-8 Grade

The price that people pay for Starbucks' drinks can be ridiculous. When people have a coffee once a day, it becomes addicting. It is also expensive.

If you really think about it, paying around \$4 every morning for coffee may not seem like much, but what about \$120 a month? This is enough money to buy a good

quality cell phone.

You could also use \$120 toward something good like gas or food. Not only does buying a Starbucks' drink become expensive, but it is not healthy for you. A coffee is not as many calories as a smoothie with caffeine, but plain coffee is still addicting.

Starbucks' smoothies can have as many as 500 calories each. When you order a drink such as a Grande Double Chocolate Chip Frappuchino with whipped cream, you will get approximately 510 calories. This is

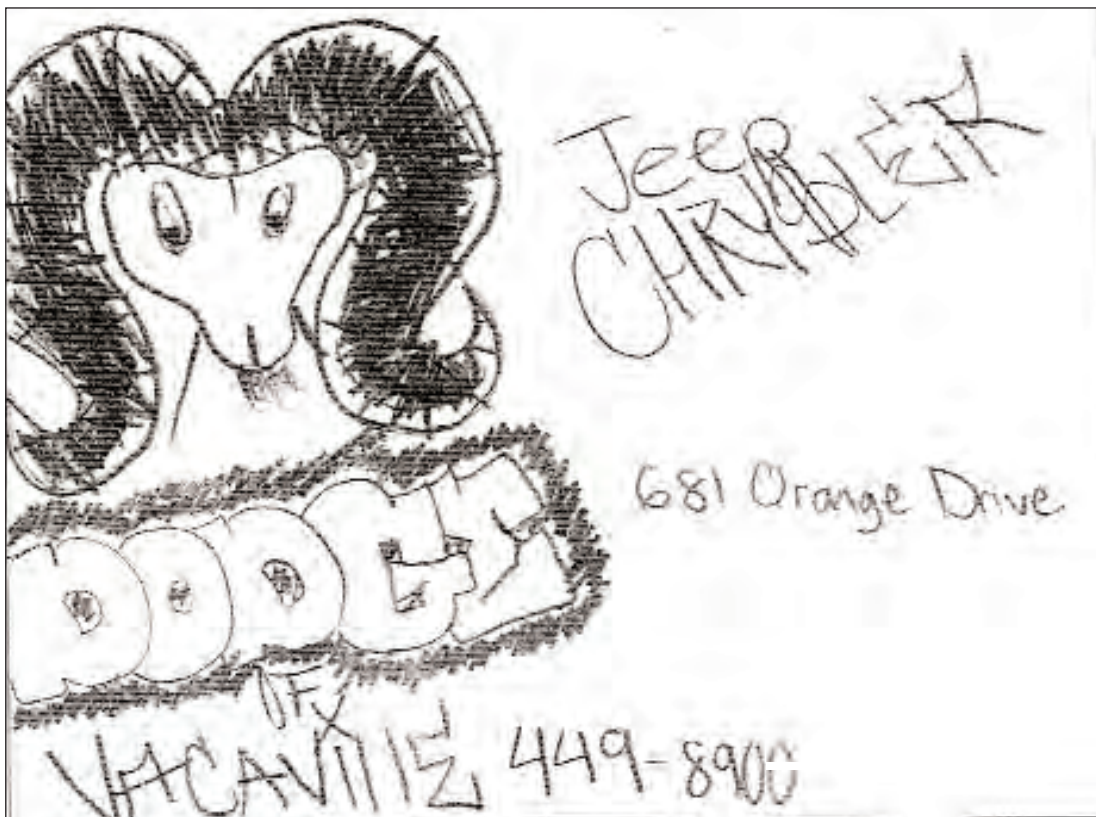
about one-third of the calories that an average woman should consume in one day. Drinking something with so much sugar and fat is a horrible habit to take part in every morning.

I am not saying that I disagree with people having a Starbucks' coffee every so often, but I do not like the fact that people drink so many calories every day. There are so many breakfast foods that are healthy and nutritious and that have far fewer calories.

I don't like the fact that people have become so addicted to things as simple as Starbucks' drinks. This upsets me because you can easily buy other breakfast foods to eat and yet people still buy Starbucks' drinks. I hope people will eventually not be so addicted to Starbucks and will buy healthier breakfast foods.

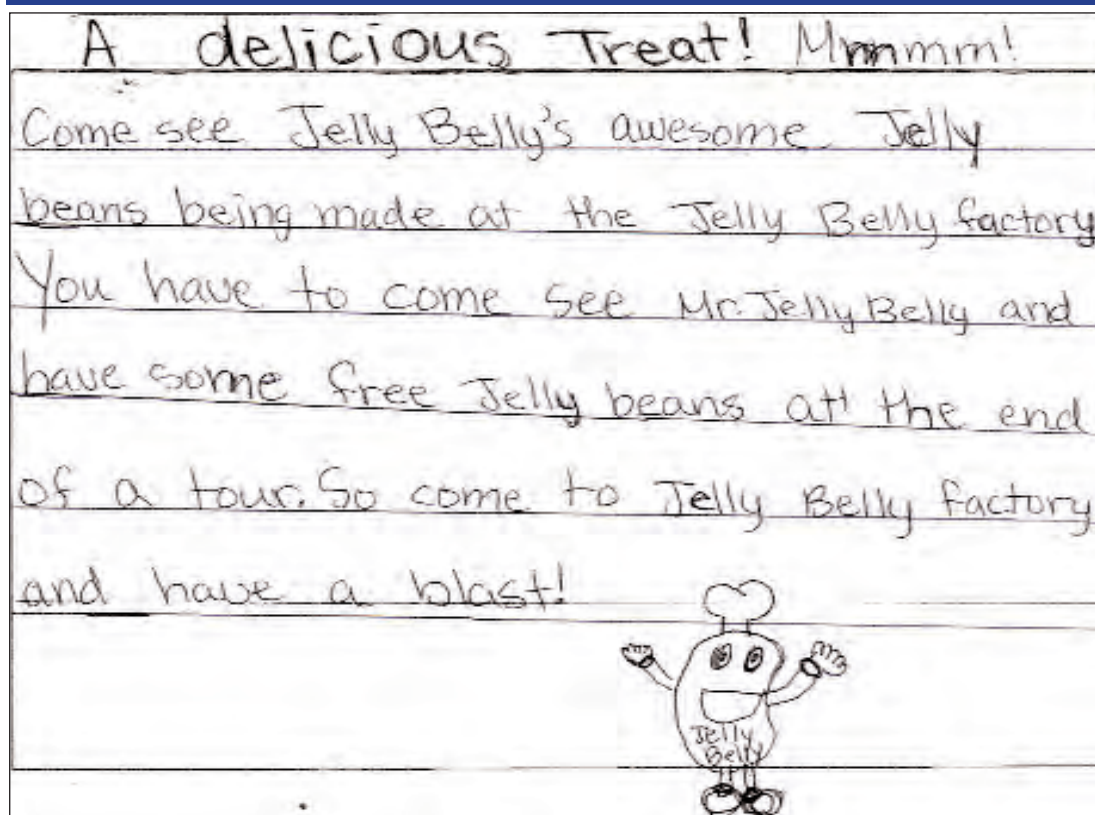
The author was a seventh-grader at Vacaville Christian School when this was submitted in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Dodge Chrysler-Jeep of Vacaville, designed by Europe Nguyen, earned an honorable mention in the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Europe was a senior at Country High School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Jelly Belly, designed by Maria Flores, earned her an honorable mention in the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Maria was a fourth-grader at Cleo Gordon Elementary School in Fairfield when she submitted this in February 2008.