

## Junior high writer joins Reporter online

By Diane Barney/Editor

The Reporter's world of bloggers just got a little bigger.

Today we add "Cat on the Prowl," by seventh-grade Vaca Peña Middle School student Lindsay Kitamura.

Lindsay, who has already won a number of writing awards during her short literary career, promises to use her Web log (or blog, for short) to take Reporter readers into the hallways of Vaca Peña Middle School for an inside look from the perspective of a student.

"I am excited to share news about the latest school activities and my opinions about life as a pre-teen," she said.

Some of the topics she plans to write about include the first school dance, the

adventure of lunchtime and A-period P.E.

The avid reader and writer will be known as simply Lindsay K. online. Her essay, "Pity Me," written from the perspective of a feline with an attitude earned an award in the Solano County Reading Association and was recently featured on The Word page.

Lindsay lists reading, talking with friends and listening to her iPod as her favorite hobbies.

She is also a big Harry Potter fan and plans to participate in Vacaville's final Harry Potter Trivia Tournament Oct. 25 at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre. The nonprofit fundraiser for local literacy programs allows students to show off their knowledge of the popular

book series by J.K. Rowling.

Lindsay also enjoys getting involved in activities that protect the environment.

"Last month I participated in the Coastal Clean Up at Vaca Pena, picking up trash along the bike trails, streams and parks," she said.

She plays the violin in the school orchestra and plans to participate in the music department fundraiser, the Vaca Pena Performathon in late October.

Readers can find her blog on www.TheReporter.com — just click on BlogCentral, right under the news label on the left-hand side.

The author is editor of The Reporter.



Lindsay K.'s new online blog, "Cat on the Prowl" debuts online today.

### Want to be a blogger?

Lindsay K. is not The Reporter's only youthful blogger. Our online site — www.TheReporter.com — already features seven college bloggers who file weekly reports from around the state and the country.

The Reporter is open to hosting more student blogs, especially by high school students from Vacaville, Travis, Dixon and Fairfield-Suisun school districts. If you are interested, or know someone who is, e-mail dbarney@thereporter.com.

Bloggers must commit to e-mailing weekly reports. Content must be appropriate to our family-oriented audience.

Questions? Call Editor Diane Barney at 453-8149.



Joel Rosenbaum/The Reporter

Tristan Nortier-Tilly (left) a student at Notre Dame School and Tyler Vineyard, a student at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield at the Lagoon Valley Park.

## Don't build housing in lovely valley

Tristan Nortier-Tilly  
Honorable Mention, Feature Writing  
Division: Grades 5-6

In late November, my mom and dad woke my sister and me up at 6 a.m. to go on a run/bike ride at Lagoon Valley. It was cold, foggy and dark. We met some friends, Ellen Lippolis, Richard Burke and Lynn Burke, at the trailhead. All of us ran/biked on an oval-shaped path in the spillover area where we ran and biked eight laps around. I watched the sun come up turning the clouds pink and orange. It was beautiful.

Then we ran/biked up a steep hill and went around the Lagoon twice. My sister and I dropped our bikes and watched the turtles, egrets, ducks and geese. It was an amazing experience.

Unfortunately, the city of Vacaville is going to allow houses to be built in Lagoon Valley, which will prevent me and others from having this experience. If the city goes through with this plan, not only will we lose a place for recreation and animal habitats will be destroyed, but also it will lead to crowds and traffic problems.

In the Lagoon Valley there is an archery range, a frisbee golf course, a dog park and a remote control aircraft area. As I've described, the Lagoon Valley is a wonderful place for recreation. There are also dozens of trails for running, dog walking, horseback riding and bike riding. The annual Lagoon Valley Run (Loop the Lagoon) is a great fundraiser and also very fun for the citizens of Vacaville.

Also, there is a lot of wildlife in the Lagoon Valley. These animals and their habitats will be in danger if we build houses. For example, the turtles that live around and in the creek that runs out of the lagoon will not have a very happy life with suburbs around it. Neither will the fish, birds and other animals.

If they develop houses in the Lagoon Valley, there will be many crowds all over the area so we will have to make better roads and bridges, which will cost a lot of money. Increased traffic may cause accidents. Besides, I see houses for sale all over town, so why do we need more?

Most of the City Council members say developing Lagoon Valley is what's best for the next generation. I, as a member of the next generation, say, "LEAVE LAGOON VALLEY AS IT IS." I would like the citizens of Vacaville to have a chance at my experience. It is healthy, amazing and fun. We will be taking a step in the right direction to protect wildlife and prove that we humans can think about other species as well as ourselves by not destroying another big habitat. So let's help conserve and protect the Lagoon Valley.

The author was a fifth-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this story was submitted in February 2007.

## City should leave the park alone

By Tyler Vineyard  
Honorable mention,  
Opinion Writing  
Division: Grades 7-8

Lagoon Valley Park is one extraordinary place.

Everything you could ever think of is at this park, but the city is planning to develop a residential area around the lake. The city should not do any residential developing because this recreational facility brings people together and has such a variety of wildlife. The park is one of the cleanest places in the city and is a historical area.

The hiking trails are at least five miles encircling the park and people come to run and hike. The park also hosts runs and bike races, which raise money for worthy causes. People take their dogs to one of the only enclosed dog parks in the Fair-

field and Vacaville area located at Lagoon Valley park. The dog park is a great place for the dogs to go play and run around with other dogs. Many people, including my family, love to take advantage of these opportunities.

The park is full of wildlife that you don't see very often in the city. The park is home to coyotes, deer, ducks, pelicans, foxes, snakes, turtles, and sometimes mountain lions. The deer, coyote, foxes, and mountain lions roam the hills where people can hike and see them in their own natural environment. In the summer you see the snakes and turtles out minding their own business. There are also lots of ducks and pelicans just enjoying the lake. If there was a residential area at Lagoon Valley Park, the animals might be roaming around residents yards, destroying lawns, and making people angry.

The environment has the most out-

standing characteristics about the park. The lack of litter and smog is extraordinary in itself. The most amazing sight at the park is the view. When you are up on top of the hills, you can see for miles. One more characteristic is the garden. A few years ago, trustees established a garden of native plants, shrubs, and trees that are all drought-tolerant. Some of the plants are manzanita, daisies, and tons of red-wood trees.

The city would have to be crazy to build a residential area here because it is such a popular place to go to. With all the animals, hiking, walking, history, and environment, the city should just leave Lagoon Valley Park alone.

The author was an eighth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this article was submitted in February.

## Meet the Students of Reporter U

Blogs written by local students @ college campuses around the country

### MEET OUR COLLEGE BLOGGERS:



Michael Sean Carpenter, aka Sean Flood, is a 2004 Vacaville High School graduate who is attending San Francisco State University this fall.



Jarni Crabtree is a Fairfield High School graduate who is majoring in literary journalism at UC Irvine.



Aaron Crawford, a student at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., is a graduate of Will C. Wood High School.



Chad Golden, a 2005 Vacaville High graduate, is junior at California State University, Chico double majoring in construction management and concrete industry management.



Jonathan Lord, a Buckingham Charter Magnet High graduate, is majoring in music at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California.



Noren Shoyeb is a 2007 graduate from Will C. Wood high who is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in mathematics at UC Davis.



Courtney Innes is a sophomore at Brigham Young University and a Will C. Wood graduate.

Find it @ <http://blogcentral.thereporter.com/reporteru>