

Mayfair Middle School

7th Grade

Bolanos, Brittani
Browne, Brittany
Ferrer-Mostad, Joseph
Gomez, Steven
Nguyen, Martin
Quezada, Jasmine
Rodd, Angela
Seville, Vinci
Turner, Megan

8th Grade

Clarke, Holly
Downing, Alison
Holman, Maegan
Roserie, Lisha
Thompson, Leland
Vander Baan, Kailey

Lakewood People we Admire

The two cars didn't agree with each other and before anyone knew it, there was a huge crash! Within thirty seconds sirens were everywhere; police cars were screeching to stops. Stretchers were being pulled out of ambulances. Everyone was bustling. The three victims were being dragged out of the two cars. By now there was a lot of traffic. Frustration seemed to be felt everywhere. One of the people in the cars was Tina. Tina was a crossing guard for the school Stephen Foster. A paramedic picked up her limp hand and checked her pulse. She had departed the world forever.

Tina was an older woman of about forty or so. She was African-American. She had dark curly hair. She was very sweet and had many friends. She had twinkling eyes of laughter. She had a strong chin and medium-sized ears. Whenever I usually saw her she had a crossing guard vest on and a shiny red stop sign in her well-manicured fingers. She had lips that were large and sweet. Her teeth always showed a fun smile. You could tell that Tina had a good sense of humor because she would always stop my

friends and me and tell us funny jokes. I used to call them my “wake up in the morning jokes”. Sometimes she would run out of funny jokes, so my friends and I would tell her one.

Every morning at seven o'clock I would wake up and get ready within thirty minutes. Next I would walk to my friend's house and we'd meet the other girls that we walked with at the corner. Then we would all walk to the crosswalk where Tina was. Tina was always there to greet us with a healthy, and most definitely friendly, smile. Most of the time she was across the street on the other side of the crosswalk. Every morning she would see us, stand, and put up her red stop sign. She would always be careful and wait to walk to the middle of the crosswalk until there weren't very many cars coming. She would then beckon us to cross because all of the cars were stopped and it was safe for us to walk.

Many people loved Tina. She had many people who cared for her. A reason why people cared for her was because she cared about them. She obviously loved children and in return she got that love back. When she passed away, some of Tina's friends and family made a shrine for her. It was next to where she used to do her job as a crossing guard. There were candles

and pictures, flowers and letters. The letters were very sympathetic and sensitive.

I admire Tina because she did a dangerous, yet loving job. She loved to work as a crossing guard even though she probably did not get very much pay. She knew how to charm people with her dear and tender smile. She will be in Lakewood hearts forever and for always.

A Very Special Teacher in Lakewood

By Brittany Browne

7th Grade

Mayfair Middle School

When I was in the second grade, something special happened in the City of Lakewood, the Intensive Learning Center opened. My parents transferred me from the private school that I had been attending to the I.L.C. I was scared at first, because it was an academically challenging school. The school days were long and the summer vacation short, but I made many new friends and met many interesting teachers over the years.

One teacher stood out, Ms. Smith, my sixth grade teacher. Ms. Smith taught me that learning could be fun and she motivated me to learn things. She said that people learn in different ways and she knew how to teach me well. Ms. Smith introduced us to "birdwalking", where she would talk about one subject and slowly introduce an unrelated subject. This would make learning fun for me.

Ms. Smith is a very creative teacher. We would do art every week and she provided drawing books, art books and supplies. This gave me the opportunity to express my creativity. She had us participate in the bookmark drawing contest for the Lakewood Library. I was so happy when Ms. Smith informed me that my bookmark entry won first place. I was honored at a special ceremony. The mayor of Lakewood and other important people were there to congratulate the winners. I also entered the P.T.A. Reflections contest and my photo entry won first place for the district.

I will never forget some of the things that I did in sixth grade. One time the whole sixth grade went camping for a whole week at the

Thousand Pines outdoor school. On the evening of the night hike Ms. Smith came along we played games and studied nocturnal animals in the forest. \cong

^ together.

Ms. Smith planned many exciting trips with us. We visited the Science Center in Los Angeles and went on a boat trip in Long Beach. I especially enjoyed the fun filled day we had at Knott's Berry Farm. She also coordinated special activities like an Egyptian craft fair and lunch. She made plaster molds of each of our faces and turned them into Egyptian masks. Ms. Smith made learning about Egyptian history and other early civilizations exciting.

Not everything was fun and games. I was really struggling in math. She dedicated two days a week after school to tutor me and other kids on her own time. She has really made a difference in my life. If it weren't for her I could have been lost forever not knowing what direction to go in. It is because of Ms. Smith that the world of education is a little brighter. Ms. Smith taught me how important my future is.

I will never forget sixth grade graduation. We practiced for weeks how to properly walk in and sit down. It was a lot of work. Ms. Smith was there at the podium to see me receive my diploma and that made it very special. I took photos with Ms. Smith at graduation that I will always treasure.

As you can tell, Ms. Smith is a wonderful teacher and I am very fortunate to have lived in Lakewood and had the chance to be in her class. Now it is 2003 and I am attending another Lakewood School, Mayfair Middle School. I am looking forward to having other teachers make an impact on my life like Ms. Smith has.

Lakewood People We Admire

Tina was a crossing guard for the last three years while I was at the Intensive Learning Center. Tina helped hundreds of kids cross Clark to get to their schools and their homes. Tina was a very special person who extended her actions in a warming way. She always met you with a smile and she learned everyone's name so that she could greet you properly. Tina had qualities that were so endearing; she was a treasure for the whole community.

At first glance, Tina was a very petite and not at all a threatening person. Her hair was curly and neat everyday. One day, she streaked her hair back into a ponytail. Even though she was aging everyday, she always looked the same, ageless, except on that day. That ponytail made her look even younger. When we found out she was 72, we almost fainted! Tina was only about four feet- ten inches tall, but believe me, that didn't prevent her from being the best crossing guard ever.

We were amazed to find out how seriously she took her job. She'd make sure every single car had stopped before we could get one foot on the street. To see her stop those cars was a sight to see. She'd prance straight to the middle of the road and would shake her stop sign as if she was choking it! Even if the cars were half way down the street, she'd yell at those cars until they came to a complete stop. Then she would calmly turn to us, smile like sunshine, and tell us to come along.

Tina was not only a crossing guard but also my friend. I would engage in conversations with her everyday. She would ask us about our day at school. She wanted to know what we were learning and what homework we had. She also worried about us like an old mother hen. She was always concerned about me carrying my saxophone and

Joseph Ferrer-Mostad
November 7, 2003

that my backpack was too heavy. She was the person to convince my mom to let me ride my bike to school. She told her that I was a good boy and responsible. "Besides," she said, "I'll watch over him everyday!" And, believe me, did she watch over me, and all "her kids" that crossed Clark Avenue or played in Mayfair Park.

I wasn't the only person to make friends with her though. My mom became a close friend and they would talk, but the people she enjoyed the most were my grandparents. While my grandparents were visiting, they would bring some lawn chairs and sit next to Tina and talk. My grandmother became especially close to Tina. She thought of Tina as the guardian angel over all the kids crossing Clark but especially of me, her grandson. She always brought Tina little gifts for the holidays, but the gift I remember the best was a little gold angel pin for Tina to pin on her fluorescent jacket. My grandmother said that Tina was our guardian angel but she wanted to be sure that Tina had a guardian angel for herself.

Tina was very sociable which fit her job extremely well in this case. She could talk to small kids, teenagers, young and old adults forever. Tragically, Tina was killed in a car accident during my sixth grade year. So far, I have never seen nor heard of a crossing guard so caring, and I fear I will never meet another as special as Tina again. She kept us safe and she loved us! God Bless You Tina! We will never forget you!

Susan Hart

The person who I have chosen is a fantastic, pleasant teacher. She worked at Mayfair Middle School for approximately 18 years but then transitioned to a 5th/6th grade teacher at Intensive Learning Center. Although a teacher gets to usually teach one grade, her marvelous skills persuaded the school to let her teach two grades. I was in both her 5th and 6th grade classes, and my academic and reality skills cubed itself through the two years. None of this would have been possible if it weren't for her understanding of where I stand, her rules and punishments, and most importantly the way she taught me.

Susan Hart had a great understanding of where I stand in my life at this point. She continuously lectured us that we are going through a stage of maturity, and the sooner we face the facts the better we will be. She explained what is going to happen in my near future, and the choices I make now will affect what happens. Besides telling what is to come, she explained she would be there for me as a guide for the many struggles we are soon to face. What I most remember is when she said she will lead me to the water, but I must drink from it.

In addition to her understandings, her rules and punishments enabled me to set out priorities and discipline. Like she said, crying will help forget what is happening, but the conflicts will still be there. At one point, I was denying to realize the truth and receiving unnecessary punishments: homework alerts, referrals, detentions etc... That's when she told me the obvious; you're a great student and can be greater once you bloom. From there, I realized what needs to be done if I want my goals achieved. Respected professionals like doctors or lawyers had to make many judgments and sacrifices just as I have to.

Following these characteristics, she had a marvelous way of teaching. She explained the difficult algebraic problems like explaining simple addition. Thanks to her expanded vocabulary she worded what she said very clearly and understandingly. When we were doing 8th grade literature circles, her directions -once again- made it simple to do. Her style of teaching was very relative to middle school style. At first, I was struggling but she pulled me up the mountain, and together we succeeded. In appreciation to Mrs. Hart, I have won the President's Award for Academic Excellence (with Mr. Bush's official signature and a pin).

Susan Hart's understanding of my position, her discipline, and exceptional teaching has helped me succeed to this point. I was gifted to have a teacher as wonderful as Mrs. Hart and will remember her when I have achieved my goals. I am currently in Algebra 1 and have Honors Science, English, and World History with an average G.P.A of 4.0. My vocabulary has surprised many of my teachers. I want to thank my old teacher, Mrs. Hart, for being the greatest teacher a student can ask for.

Your Best Student,

Steven Gomez

Lakewood Essay- Someone I Admire

I admire Mr. Savee, my algebra teacher. Mr. Savee is one of the best teachers I have had this year. Not only is he a great algebra teacher, he is one of my favorite teachers at Mayfair Middle/High school, and these are my reasons why.

Mr. Savee is a wonderful algebra teacher. He makes his classes enjoyable and not too difficult. His lessons are effective and he teaches them well. The lessons are quite easy to understand after he explains them. Mr. Savee also tries to find an easy way of figuring out math problems quicker without going through a lot of trouble and he teaches us ways to understand algebra better. He also makes sure we ask questions about the lesson until we truly understand it and can tackle the problems that go with the lesson.

Not only is Mr. Savee a terrific algebra teacher, he is funny too. He occasionally says funny things that make us laugh. His good sense of humor makes learning fun, not boring as to the point when all the students are struck with ennui. With a great algebra teacher who is smart and funny, who can ask for a better teacher?

As a student, I say that Mr. Savee is one of the best algebra teachers ever. He is not too strict, yet not too lenient so everyone plays around every day. His methods of teaching are spectacular, and his sense of humor keeps everybody in class happy. I like and approve how he helps not only the whole class, but sometimes gives you individual help in algebra. You can even stay after school on Mondays and Wednesdays for extra algebra help.

Mr. Savee even has his own website that tells you the homework of the day! He also gave us the name of a website that helps us on the odd problems directly from the math book! They

are great websites, and I am thankful to Mr. Savee for telling us about his website and the math help website.

Algebra is now one of my favorite periods at school. I look forward to algebra almost everyday, and I like it a whole lot better than physical education! All the people who never had Mr. Savee as an algebra teacher just lost an opportunity at a great teacher and a friend. Mr. Savee is a terrific teacher, and anyone else who has Mr. Savee for algebra will probably agree with me too.

Now you know how I feel about Mr. Savee. I feel that he is an outstanding teacher and I congratulate him on his success at teaching students algebra through his many years of teaching here at Mayfair School. His vast knowledge of algebra will help us students to be successful in the field of algebra and I praise him for that. He makes algebra fun, even though it can be quite complicated at times. Mr. Savee makes it better though, by teaching us methods of solving algebra problems and how to remember the way to solve them. Once again, I thank Mr. Savee for all of the hard work that he has done to help me and others to become successful in the "world of algebra," as Mr. Savee calls it.

What I Like About Lakewood

By Jasmine Quezada

11/09/2003

Period 2/3

Lakewood is a wonderful city full of opportunities for people of all ages. There are high-class education, art groups, and appreciation for dance, music, and acting. What I like most about Lakewood, however, is its sports opportunities. Organizations such as LYS (Lakewood Youth Sports) and AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) are examples of the athletic Lakewood has for its youth. Sports in Lakewood help keep us, the children of the city, healthy, happy, safe, and able to choose our future.

Everyone wants children to be healthy. The sports programs in Lakewood allow us to be so. Sports such as soccer, baseball, softball, volley tennis, football, and basketball are played at Lakewood parks. An even wider variety of sports are played at Lakewood schools. Not very many other cities can allow people to play these sports, which is kind of like robbing their ability to be healthy. Besides being beneficial to a young athlete's health, Lakewood sports organizations charge very little if at all. This makes more and more people want to join these sports, keeping the sports going and improving. There's no real excuse for not playing sports if you live in Lakewood, because it's so easy to find a sport and benefit from it.

I personally could not feel any better than how happy I feel when I'm tearing down the soccer field with the ball. I just feel so energetic and free and full of life. If I feel like this, then there must be many more kids who feel the same way when they're playing their favorite sport. Lakewood sports allow kids to feel this burst of energy; they allow kids to be happy. Seeing a community being happy is what makes people admire a city. After a while, the happiness that came from playing sports would spread to everyone, and every person in the city would be happy. Just cheering at youth sports events shows happiness in Lakewood. Lakewood sports are some of the things that bring the people of this wonderful city together.

In "bad" areas, people commit crimes and acts of unkindness during their free time. The sports in Lakewood keep these acts from happening. Instead of stealing, Lakewood kids are at the park hitting home runs. Instead of vandalizing, children are learning how to head in goals. Where there are no sports, stealing and vandalism do occur. That's why I'm happy there are sports in Lakewood, because it keeps our people safe, not only from crimes but also from committing them. Lakewood sports help keep this city looking and feeling entirely safe.

Many of the star athletes we see today probably participated in after school sports in their communities. They possibly went from a little baseball group to the professional teams. If these

athletes were able to spark their careers in their own cities, why can't we? There are probably hundreds of kids in Lakewood who for sure have a career in the sports that they played at parks or at their schools. Because not everyone is capable of being a surgeon or a psychologist, it is important for communities to provide other opportunities for their youth. People who run the sports organizations in Lakewood make sure there are good coaches and instructors to provide excellent sport experiences for Lakewood's children. These efforts will ensure that some kids from Lakewood will one day be at the top like the star athletes of today.

I am proud to live in a city that shows its appreciation for sports by allowing its children to play them. To show my appreciation for Lakewood's sports programs, I am involved in the sports that I can play. So many other cities do not encourage sports, and I'm very glad Lakewood does the opposite. Because of the sports established in Lakewood today, the future generations will be able to take advantage of sports as well. The city of Lakewood must be honored hundreds of times in order to show that its people appreciate what has been done to keep us doing sports.

People We Admire in Lakewood

I have only been going to school at Mayfair Middle School for a couple of months, and I already have my favorite teacher picked out. I have two older sisters, and they both loved being in her class. She teaches advanced seventh grade English and history. I would consider her as a friend as well as a teacher. Her name is Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Smith is an excellent role model for every child she teaches. She is always on task in the classroom. We do our part and she does hers. She is at school teaching us every single day which shows a sign that she is committed to her work and to her students. She is independent and knows what is going on. We have to write an essay for science and English as a major part of our grade for both classes. I have a substitute teacher for science because my regular teacher is having a baby. Our substitute was kind of confused about what we had to do, and Mrs. Smith told her as a friend trying to help her out.

I would say that Mrs. Smith is more of a friend to her class than just a teacher. While she does a lot to be a great teacher, you know when you have a personal problem Mrs. Smith is a person to go talk to. She is caring, understanding, and just plain nice. A couple of years ago when my older sister was in Mrs. Smith's class, she was having a problem with a girl that beat her up in fourth grade. My sister had not seen this girl for about three years, and when she got to middle school, the girl was back to haunt her. My sister was very worried, and Mrs. Smith actually noticed that she was not acting like herself. Mrs. Smith did a little investigation to find out what was going on and actually took care of the problem without making my sister look like a snitch. When I got to Mrs. Smith's class, I could tell right away that if I had a problem, she would be the one I

would go to. If more teachers made friends with their students, school would be a fun and exciting place to go. Some kids think of school as a county jail where the teachers are the gatekeepers. But if more and more teachers started acting like Mrs. Smith, hopefully kids would change their minds about school being a jail.

Mrs. Smith makes two periods of school enjoyable for me. She interacts with students and makes boring subjects fun. For example, to learn a little more about the African religion and art, we are making masks that the Africans probably used to contact the spirits of ancestors. Reading the history book was kind of boring, and this activity is making it much simpler to understand. Most teachers do not want to take the time to get the supplies and deal with the mess. The projects are fun, and teach us important facts in a memorable way. This way of teaching helps us learn and remember things without even realizing it.

Mrs. Smith is an excellent, wonderful, and exciting teacher to have at Mayfair. She is always on task in class and is a wonderful role model. She makes learning the boring subjects exciting and fun. She is a friend to all of her students which I think makes up an excellent teacher. I wish every middle school student could have had her as a teacher because she is one of my most favorite teachers I have ever had.

11/7/03
Pet 2/3
Venci Sevilla

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT LAKEWOOD

There are many people in Lakewood who are special and cannot think or act correctly. Let's just say they're handicap people. Because of this, the people of Lakewood have sponsored the Lakewood Health Center for this occasion. What I like about this city is that they care for others and try to provide and help them in many ways. They ensure that the people of Lakewood will meet their goals and do what is right. For these special people, however, Lakewood has shown a tremendous love and care by providing them such a place to live.

You see, my Mom works there because she too, cares about these people and wants to help them. I have visited her work at the Lakewood Health Center where she works as a nurse. When I was there I got to see many of these people on wheel chairs or some staggering as they walk, but each one of them has a helper. My mom is one of those helpers and she showed me her patient. His name is Roy and I talked awhile, we got to know each other very well. His disability was that he usually forgets about things and that was why he was brought here because he might leave the stove on and burn the whole house he had. This is what they thought Roy could have done. Anyways, Roy also has some great talents like how he beat me and all the other guys in chess. Later on, I said good-bye to Roy after teaching him how to do my secret handshake that I use with my friends. This is how many of the people there are treated and I have pride that this wonderful city of Lakewood is doing this to help them.

Another reason why I am proud to be in Lakewood is they turn their genius towards the children. An example is that when the students need to research, Lakewood has provided them with libraries and places to get information. When a student has problems in school or at home, they could talk to a counselor or a teacher to discuss this. Lakewood has thought of everything from games to educational things for children and others. I am proud that this city has also cared about children by setting up activities and doing all that is done.

The city and people of Lakewood has proved to be a wonderful and caring community and will strive to do more for us. I am very proud to be part of a successful city like this one that will live to be caring and strong for many generations to come. I would like to try to express my pride in Lakewood, but it is so overcoming that I just gaze and wonder how much this city has done and provided for us. To live in Lakewood is like talking to your neighbors like brothers and sisters and helping one another in unison. Thank you so much and may God bless this city for all that they have done.

Megan Turner
November 10, 2003
Period 2, 3

Candle Memories

On September eleventh two-thousand and one the terrorists cruelly attacked our majestic Twin Towers, the wonderful Pentagon, and almost the historical White House. America was greatly distressed, including Lakewood. In order to mourn for our countries' loss and those who died, we had a candle ceremony. It was held on Friday in which President George W. Bush declared a national prayer day. On that night, we had a ceremony with candles and our friends, neighbors and loved ones. Strangers and enemies put aside their differences and mourned together for their fellow country men and women. This was a very memorable moment in my life, and I still have the candle stub.

When it was dark, my loving family and many of our Lakewood neighbors went to city hall wearing red, white, and blue. My mom, dad, brother, sister and I went. Our close neighbors such as the McDougals, Rudolphs, Wilkes and the Whiteheads went proudly as Americans to mourn for our countries loss. Many patriotic songs and California songs were sung proudly by the singers and the audience. The mayor gave a long reassuring speech to all that attended. Prayers went out to the families that lost loved ones, friends of the people who were killed and injured, newly married victims and the children that were left orphans. My family and friends occupied a piece of ground located by a small tree. The grown-ups were extremely somber, but we kids still did not

realize the importance of this attack. We knew that thousands of people lost their lives, and America would not let the terrorist win. We were playing with the lit candle and trying to keep it lit. The wind had picked up and we tried to shelter the flame. We ran around trying to find someone to relight our candle when it blew out. We stood tall as we tried to keep the candles from blowing out, for this was a symbol of hope. I was nine at the time, and now that I am older, I understand the situation more clearly and mourn the recent deaths and injuries in the current war.

I have already said that I kept my last candle. I probably lit ten. We all watched the burning hot wax, and I can still remember the ceremony. When I reflect on this, I am always proud how Lakewood embraced this situation. I am quite sure that my younger brother and sister still remember this event, even though they were eight and five years old. It was a bonding time for neighbors, loved ones, friends and strangers, and a wonderful time for the community of Lakewood to come together. This was very special occurrence in Lakewood because a nine year old girl deemed it to be a very memorable day in her life. I am thankful this event brought our community and country together and I will cherish that day forever. Many generations will hear about that day that brought humanity together to mourn a common loss.

5838 Graywood Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712
November 9, 2003

Mr. D. J. Waldie
Public Information Officer
City of Lakewood
5050 Clark Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712

Dear Mr. Waldie:

I think that you are the person who best represents what Lakewood is today. You were born in Lakewood and you have lived here your whole life. Your parents bought a house in 1946 (the one you grew up in) on Graywood Ave., and that is the same house you are living in today. You work for the City of Lakewood as the Public Information Officer (PIO).

You have written a book called *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*, about Lakewood and its history throughout the years. Your writing style and the accurate description of the community has made this book famous all over the country. As a PIO you have to answer questions every day about Lakewood and write speeches for the mayor. Thank you for following the advice of your friends and capturing this information into the book.

I live on Graywood Ave. and when I was little Mrs. Gloria Santavicca, my neighbor, pointed you out to me. She said you were "Mr. Lakewood." She said that you were on television and that you knew many things about Lakewood. Over the years I have watched you walk by our house in the morning on your way to work. I also watch you walk home in the evenings. When I was younger I was too shy to talk to you, but now we say "hi" to each other.

You told me that you have worked for the City of Lakewood for 26 years because it is a good place to work. The thing you like best about it is that it is a living, growing, changing community. You have been a part of this change. It has changed a lot since you were a kid. I have seen the growing changes in the Lakewood Mall, which was built when you were one year old. Mayfair Park is now much better than it use to be. I like the improvements at the Iacoboni Library. It is easier to go there to find resources for my school reports.

I also love Lakewood. I have lived on Graywood Ave. my whole life too. Over the summer I go to Mayfair Pool and do Jr. Lifeguards every morning. I went to Stephen Foster Elementary School and they have added another building in the past year. I love going to the movies and going to the mall with my friends. I like how Candlewood has so

many restaurants on it, that if you want something you can have it because it is probably there!

I want to thank you for coming to the award ceremony where I received an award for the Lakewood water conservation poster contest. The theme was "Unite to Save Water" and I won 1st place for the 6th grade. I even got my picture taken with Mayor Van Nostran and the other winners.

In my mind you are the person who best represents what Lakewood is today. You have been a big help to the community for all the years you have been here. Your job as a PIO along with writing articles and speeches for other people that need your special knowledge about Lakewood is much admired. Your book shared with the world what a nice place this is. It is especially appreciated as Lakewood nears its 50th birthday. It is fun to think that I live on the same street as you. I have grown up and watched you walk to and from work many times. Thank you once again for everything you have done for Lakewood. You have made this community much nicer.

Sincerely Your Neighbor,

Holly Clarke
Holly Clarke

What makes me proud of Lakewood is attending TFN or Totally Friday Nights. I think it is so tremendous on how Lakewood member's put together an event for kids to have fun at. Many teens come from different cities to enjoy a Friday night away from the stress of school. Some schools give kids too much homework and it overwhelms them. They don't have time to enjoy themselves. Also since there are a lot of supervision kids' parents will let them go freely. That's a plus!

I just wanted to give a wonderful thank you to those who set up TFN every other week. TFN can help some not so popular kids come out, be open and meet other kids. I think that will help their self-esteem. TFN is a place where kids can do basically what ever they want. Spending time at TFN can make a kids' life more interesting.

Some of the activities that are held at TFN are different contests, dances and field trips. Having this variety of dances can make TFN more fun. Also if someone doesn't like a certain activity, then the next time they come they'll be a different one to choose. For that special intelligent person that makes up the different activities, thank you for your thoughts. You are pretty considerate to take care and make life fun for us kids.

Examples of some activities are when we went to Knott's Scary Farm. Knott's was so fun and well planned out. It only cost twenty-five dollars, which saved me a lot of money. My parents and I really appreciate that. Another activity was when we had the Halloween costume contest. Many people participated in this contest because they like to be in fun contests that have competition.

There are different people that work at the TFN nights. There is the DJ who is very cool because he/she lets us request the songs we want to hear. They also have every type of music you could think of. Then there are the supervisors who watch to make sure everything goes as planned. Next, there could be an officer who makes sure nothing unsafe happens or gets out of control. Finally, there are the food makers/dealers. They BAR-B-Q wonderful foods for us and there are also people who pass out candy for cheap prices.

TFN is at the Lakewood City Hall building at DelValle Park. One of the rooms is a game room, which has Nintendo, T.V's, and pool tables. Another room is for the dancing, which is where people party. The next room is a " Hang- out" room for people who don't feel like dancing at the moment. Outside is where people eat or cool-off or "hang- out". In the last room is where kids can buy candy or use

the restrooms.

In conclusion, I am very proud of Lakewood and it's many team members. I would also like to give a wonderful thank you to the janitors and official helpers. They take time out of their day to come and clean up after us or "protect" us at TFN or Totally Friday Nights.

By: Alison Downing
Period 6 English P4
11-10-03 100

Maegan Holman
Ms. Swieck
Room 204
Grade 8th

Lakewood “Tomorrow’s City Today”

I am proud of the city I live in. Lakewood is full of many wonderful opportunities, such as the senior centers, parks and recreation, and the endless list of classes it offers. They have classes for children, teens, adults, seniors, and even dogs! Lakewood also provides its residents with protection. No wonder they call Lakewood “tomorrow’s city today.”

My grandparents came to this great city in the fifties. My father’s parents were the original owners of the house I live in today. My parents were born and raised in the city of Lakewood. My father attended Esther Lindstrom and both of my parents are graduates of Mayfair High. I attended Esther Lindstrom and am currently at Mayfair Middle School. My sister is attending kindergarten at Esther Lindstrom. My sister and I were born and raised here also, and although we are young, we are not about to leave. That is how attached to the city we are.

Lakewood offers a vast variety of classes. When I was younger, I took ballet, tap, soccer, swimming, and gymnastics. More recently, I have taken a cooking class, a babysitting course, and a Spanish class. Besides these, Lakewood offers a variety of

sports, camps, and miscellaneous classes. These youth classes are offered to kids ages one to eighteen.

Lakewood also offers classes for adults and seniors. For adults, they have sports, dance classes, yoga classes, and exercise classes. For seniors, they have meals on wheels, dance classes, and bus transportation. They also have senior centers that have daily meals, they have needlework classes, and even free flu shots. For all ages, Lakewood offers safety classes and travel programs. The city also offers dog obedience classes. Lakewood offers fun recreation and classes for people of all ages.

Lakewood also is a great safety provider. Lakewood was one of the first cities to have a program called Lakewood Sky Night. Lakewood also was one of the first cities to contract it's law enforcement, fire department, and street sweepers, instead of providing their own. Lakewood has a low crime rate and it's own Neighborhood Watch program. Lakewood is a very safe city.

The Lakewood Mall celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Since 1952, a year before Lakewood became a city, the Lakewood mall has been a wonderful place to shop, eat at, or hang out at. Although the creators of one of the nation's first malls were confident that the mall would be a success, the Los Angeles county planners had their doubts. The county planners insisted that the mall have streets with names running through it. If the center was not successful, the mall could be demolished and more homes could be built. Lakewood mall, which started out as an outdoor mall, soon

became a great investment for Lakewood. As you can see, our now indoor mall is still standing and prospering today.

In my opinion, Lakewood is a fine city. Although it has changed a lot since it first became a city, Lakewood will always stay a great city. Thank you Lakewood for providing your residents with protection, recreation, and a fantastic fifty years. Happy fiftieth anniversary Lakewood!

Lakewood's Past and Present

The City we now know as Lakewood is one city in southern California that we are, and should be proud of. The development of this community is remarkable because only a few hundred years ago, it was a vast rancho which once belonged to an honorable retired soldier in the Spanish Army named Manuel Nieto. In 1774, 300,000 acres of land was granted to Nieto. Part of Nieto's land was passed onto his descendants Rafaela Cota and Juan Jose Nieto. Rafaela received her portion as her dowry after she married an American merchant Jonathan Temple and Juan Jose Nieto also received a portion of land which was passed to Abel Sterns, an enterprising American.

Many changes were yet to be made in southern California for California became a state in 1850. This was followed by the drought of 1862-64 which killed a large quantity of cattle herds. Due to this event the Sterns and the Temples were forced to sell their land at an under valued price. The new owners later sold their farmland to William Clark of Montana for \$350,000. The Clark family began growing sugar beets, alfalfa, and hay on their newly acquired land. The members of the Clark family later formed the Montana Land Company in 1904. The company later began planning a housing development in 1928. A few houses were later built, but the Great Depression of the 1930s reduced sales drastically bringing it to a complete halt before there were more than one hundred residents.

Another event which led to change in and around Lakewood was World War II. At the end of this World War tens of thousands of veterans and the families were in need of homes and wanted to live in southern California. The Montana Land Company

negotiated with the Lakewood Park Co operation to sell 3,500 acres of land for \$9 million dollars to build houses for these families. Young families were able to purchase homes ranging from \$7,500 to \$9,500 and veterans were allowed to buy homes for no money down and monthly mortgage payments of \$50.

Today, Lakewood has a lot to be proud of ranging from great schools, a safe community, clean environment, large libraries and a shopping centre which was once listed as "the largest establishment of its kind" in the Guinness Book of World Records. The oldest public building in Lakewood is the Lakewood Golf Course Clubhouse which was completed in 1933. The city is run from an administration building which was built on Clark Avenue in 1958. Before this, the city was run from a storefront office in the Lakewood Centre Mall.

For the past 50 years, Lakewood's motto has been "Tomorrow's City Today." Lakewood has many accomplishments and one of the greatest and most important is keeping a community safe for its residents. This city has proven that it is capable of doing such for there are aerial patrols and many other safety programs successfully functioning. Due to these safety measures, crime statistics show a 20% decrease in auto theft, a 34% decrease in residential burglaries, 28 % decrease in commercial burglaries, and 29% decrease in crimes against other persons.

To be able to share the 50th Anniversary with such a community is a blessing and honor for Lakewood is a very interesting city with an incredible past, a successful present, and hopefully a fruitful future.

Leland Thompson
Period 3
November 11, 2003

Dear Mr. Mayor,

First of all I would like to say that I think the city of Lakewood is a wonderful place and very pleasant to live in. There are so many wonderful people that live here it was hard to choose who to write about, but I finally came to the decision of my eighth grade English teacher, Mrs. Swieck. Not only is she a wonderful person she is a great teacher as well. Her teachings are some of the most important things that you will learn in school, and some of the most fun. We learn things, that, if it were not for her class, we would learn how to do for much, much longer, like writing a real research paper. She teaches about the parts of speech, spelling, grammar, and even some history. We read all sorts of books like The Diary of Anne Frank, Alicia My Story, and The Giver. Reading these books makes the class n\much more fun and when class is fun it is easier to learn in. The books also give you something to do at home instead of watching TV or surfing the net. More than once I have finished a school book of my own free will instead of going outside with my friends or watching TV. The class is a lot more interesting, and challenging than most.

Mrs. Swieck is a really great person and teacher. She is not the kind of teacher who drones on and on until you no longer care if you live or die, in fact she is quite the opposite. She is interesting, funny, and has a good way of teaching. She really seems to care how each student is doing and wants to help them succeed. She knows how to best help people, and uses this ability to help herself and others, resulting in all but the laziest of kids getting a B or better. Another reason I admire Mrs. Swieck is she really knows

how to get stuff done quickly and accurately. She is always prompt about getting our papers or tests back to us, and never takes too long to grade our homework. Even after that she still has time to plan lessons for the day or think of a new project or report. After doing all that I am surprised she has any time for herself. I am sure that all her other students feel the same way about her as I do because she is such a great teacher and person. When I think of all the people in the city of Lakewood the person that stands out the most in my mind as a role model and outstanding person is my favorite teacher, Mrs. Swieck.

Sincerely,

Leland Thompson

The Line between Nice and Great

Period 6
11/12/03
Kailey VanderBaan

What makes a place change from to a "nice city" to a "great city"? What is that little thing that changes the city for the better? Some people might tell you that it is the houses in the city. Are they splendid, or just nice? Others would tell you that it is the low violence level of the city. But if a city were almost a "great city", then it would already have a low violence level. Still people might say that the city would be very clean, and have little pollution. Some of these things are vital to a great city, but in reality, it seems that a "great city" comes from the heart. Those people that work hard to make people feel that they belong- the people that accept and encourage everybody to be who they are- are the ones who make Lakewood a better city.

Just a simple, "Hey guys, what's up?" has the ability to make a person feel welcome and accepted. Juanita, a school custodian at Mayfair High School, is a perfect example of this. Juanita often spends her time in the girl's locker room, making sure all goes smoothly. She is there to unlock a girl's locker if they need it unlocked. But Juanita doesn't do it warily; she does it with a kindness that so many people don't have. Sometimes the girl's locker room is locked when the girls need to get in. The girls tend to hit the door in their impatience to go into the locker room. But Juanita comes out and doesn't scold, but instead says, "Sorry, I didn't hear you." Juanita isn't just the school janitor to most of the girls at Mayfair; she is a friend. Juanita is one of those people that make Lakewood cross the lines between a "great city", and a "nice city."

As Juanita has made me feel welcome, I'm sure she has done so to many other girls at Mayfair. My admiration for Juanita comes from my heart. Juanita deserves everybody's admiration. When Juanita says something, you feel singled out, in a positive

perspective. Yet Juanita seems to be able to make everybody feel special, not just a few people. Juanita does her work, and does it with her whole heart. I don't know if she ever gets tired of her job, but if she does she does a good job at hiding it. Juanita does not seem the type to complain, but instead she tries to find a way to be a positive influence.

I admire Juanita for her ability to be a positive influence. I know that it is a task that is easier said than done. Lakewood is made a "great city" by people like Juanita who go above and beyond their call of duty. They not only do their job, but they do it with a friendly attitude. Everybody should strive to have such an outlook as Juanita does; it would make the world a better place. By making a person feel better, Juanita makes Lakewood a better place. By doing her job optimistically, Juanita makes Lakewood shine. People like Juanita are those few people that make Lakewood a "great city".