

# Stargazer Gazette

Volume 2

December 2011

Plaza Vista School  
Irvine Unified  
School District

## An Interview with Dr. Nakagawa

### Inside this issue:

Interview with Mrs. Weir & Miss Silva	2
Crazy Hair Day	2
Roller Hockey	3
Experiment & Recipe	3
Book Reviews	4
Comics	5-7
Canada—My Home	8

### Upcoming Dates:

- \* Vocal Concert—  
Thursday, December 15th
- \* Last Day of 2nd Quarter & Minimum Day—  
Friday, December 16th
- \* First Day of 3rd Quarter—  
Monday, January 9th

By: Amelie Phua

#### Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. This has been my 13th year at Plaza Vista.

#### Q. What is it like to move from 5th grade to 3rd grade?

A. Moving from 5th grade to 3rd grade was fun and scary at the same time. Now I know what it feels like for my students when they move on to the next grade level. I was excited about the new challenges from teaching a new grade (learning new curriculum and meeting new colleagues) but I was sad to leave my amazing teammates whom I have worked with for so many years and who are like my family. I was also worried that my new 3rd grade class wouldn't like me, so that was very scary. Luckily, I was given an amazing 3rd grade class and my students rock! Change is hard but what I have learned from moving from 5th grade to 3rd grade is that change is important. It is like the first time I tried snowboarding, I fell a lot (A LOT), but I kept getting back up and trying again, and

when I finally learned how to fly down that mountain on my snowboard, there was no other feeling like it in the world. Change forces you to grow as a person and it makes you stronger.

#### Q. Whom do you admire?

A. I really admire all the teachers at Plaza Vista School.

#### Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. My favorite hobbies are spending time with my family, reading, snowboarding, and sleeping.

#### Q. What is your favorite subject to teach?

A. My favorite subject to teach is definitely reading, there is nothing more powerful than words. I want to teach my students to explore new worlds in their imagination through reading. Words in a book can take you to the magical land of Narnia, through the woods with two redbone coon hounds in the Ozark Mountains, on an island hunting for wild dogs with Karana, or jumping to Conclusions with Milo, and as Charlotte spells in her web, books are T-E-R-R-I-F-I-C.

#### Q. What do you like most about Plaza Vista?

A. What I like most about Plaza Vista is that it feels like family here.

#### Q. If you had the power to help the school be a better place, what would it be?

A. It would probably be for every single student to have their very own iPads so they can like download books, search something up if they don't know it, and use them to check new things out.



## All About Lenore Weir, Third Grade Teacher

By: Andrew Kim  
(Interviewed by  
Chiharu Matsuoka)

Mrs. Weir started teaching in 1999 and still does today. She likes to teach Social Studies because the Native Americans are very interesting to her.



**Mrs. Weir is amazing!**

Ms. Weir likes to sing and go to Sequoia with her class. Ms. Weir became a teacher because she is from a family of teachers. She is a very good, nice, and fun teacher. Her hobbies are reading and hiking. She lives in Woodbridge with her son

Gary.

### Other Things About Lenore Weir

Favorite Color: Royal Blue

Favorite Holiday: Thanksgiving

What She Likes to Say: "What is most important is that you look with your heart."

## Miss Silva

By: Yunoka Nishi (Interviewed by  
Chiharu Matsuoka)

Miss Silva was my 3rd grade teacher. One thing that made me like her was that she didn't get grouchy, but when my class was in trouble, she warned us by using her nice and sweet voice. Also, whenever some-

one cries, she calms down the person who is crying and lets them walk through the hallway to relax. The characteristic that I like about her the most is that she is sweet! I

**"The characteristic that I like about her the most is that she is sweet!"**

heard that she was an awesome teacher. By the time I heard about her, I wanted to be in her class. I was really hoping to be in her class. Then, my wish came true! Whenever I see Miss Silva walking through the hallway, it reminds me of that story and when she taught me in 3rd grade. I also like Miss Silva because every day she is delightful.

## Crazy Hair Day

By: Maddie Knutson

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, was Crazy Hair Day. Lots of people participated in this school spirit event. One of the coolest hairstyles was done by Leigh Singh in Mr. Oldoerp's class. She had her hair sticking straight up! It was all braided up and held together with pipe clean-

ers. Mia Parker in Mrs. Benzie's class had her hair down with a bunch of flowers in it. It looked like a hat. Several boys sprayed hair color in their hair. One boy, Brad Nguyen in Mr. Oldoerp's class, wore a crazy big black wig. Thanks to everyone who participated in Crazy Hair Day!



**Crazy Hair Day!**

## Plaza Vista Student Involved in Roller Hockey at "The Rinks"

By: Marissa Fukunaga

Kameron Shahabi is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy in Miss Click's class. He plays and practices roller hockey at *The Rinks of Irvine*. His team name is Plaza Vista Stars. Kameron is #27. On his team are three other 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys: Brian Wong #8, Sander Willard #9, and Ieu McKenzie #44.

Q: Who is your coach?

A: Greg Martin

Q: What's the most fun part about playing?

A: The team always fools around.

Q: Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

A: I would recommend it because it helps you develop physical skills and keeps you active.

Q: How long have you been playing?

A: Three years.

Q: Why did you do hockey in the first place?

A: Brian (PV student) did it and said it was fun.

Q: In all of the years you have been playing hockey, what is your great-

est achievement?

A: Winning a tournament.

Q: What is your goal for hockey?

A: To have fun!



## Creative Balloon Filling Science Experiment

By: Rohan Gorajia

Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vinegar

Baking soda

Funnel

Empty bottle with a narrow neck

Balloon

Directions:

Using a piece of paper as a funnel, pour

baking soda in the balloon.

Using the funnel pour about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cup of vinegar into the bottle.

Stretch the neck of the balloon over the bottle. **CAUTION: Make sure that the balloon is firmly on the neck of the bottle.**

Empty all the baking soda from the balloon into the bottle.

Stand back as your balloon fills itself up.



## Peanut Butter Ball Recipe

By: Maddie Knutson

Here is a great recipe to make when friends come over to study or play. Just make sure no one is allergic to peanuts!

### Peanut Butter Balls

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

1/2 cup honey

2/3 cup nonfat instant powdered milk

Put the peanut butter, honey, and powdered milk into a small bowl. Stir together. Chill mixture in the refrigerator for 2 hours. Gently shape the dough into walnut-size balls in the palms of your hands. Refrigerate the balls in a container with a lid until you want to serve

them. You can eat them as they are or dipped in melted chocolate. Yum!



## Jurassic Park, by Michael Crichton



Review written by:

Mohana Seelan

**Summary:** John Hammod is a showman with the ultimate show. Thanks to extended technology and an enormous amount of money, his park is ready to open; a few snags away from perfection. The problems go from a small inconvenience to a full-fledged crisis. Crichton has captured the essence of technology going wild in a book with dinosaurs hiding behind any corner. In addi-

tion to Tyrannosaurus Rex and raptors, there are other carnivores to worry about, including Pterodactyls and Compsognathus. A seductive, exciting read which shows the true danger of tampering with nature.

**Opinion:** Jurassic Park is filled to the brim with dinosaurs, small or big. The beginning was very interesting because the discovery of mysterious, genetically deformed animals was intriguing. The plot thickened and the final lesson learned was fantastic. The only minus to

this book is that the ending did not feel as satisfying as I felt it should have been.

### Praise for Jurassic Park:

“A tornado-paced tale....

Fast, furious and suspenseful...

A vastly entertaining science thriller...

A sure-fire bestseller.”

– Kirkus Reviews

## The Son of Neptune, by Rick Riordan



Review written by: Mohana Seelan

**Summary:** Percy's decision to go the Roman camp becomes a launching point for introducing the Roman demigods and initiating a new quest. Although Percy has lost most of his memory, Annabeth is still sharp in his mind. He now faces a trial of acceptance – if he shows weakness, it might cost him his life. Hazel is a determined to let go of

her past and start a new life. Her curse doesn't make her new life any easier. Frank arrived at the camp and was immediately labeled as a failure. The death of his mother is still branded in his mind. The gods believe Frank is the most powerful of the seven in the Great Prophecy, but first Frank needs to believe it himself.

**Opinion** – The Son of Neptune starts

off as exciting and refreshing. The characters are introduced but not as emotionally and needed. As the story progresses, Frank starts to believe in himself more. I felt as if the battles all ended the same way and there was no true strategy to each one. The end was satisfying enough, yet Percy is not mentioned as much as in the Lost Hero. I believe that the Lost Hero and the Percy Jackson and the Olympians were much more satisfying compared to this book.

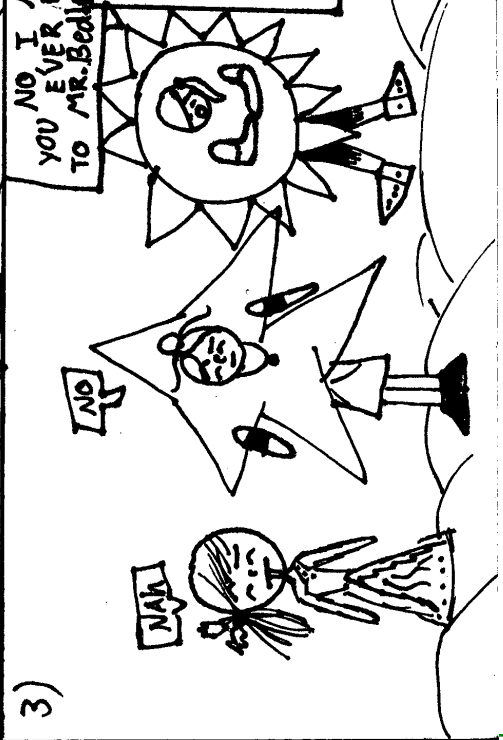
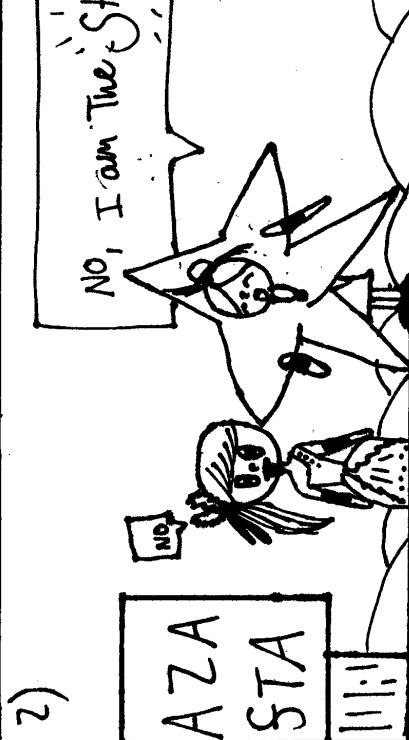
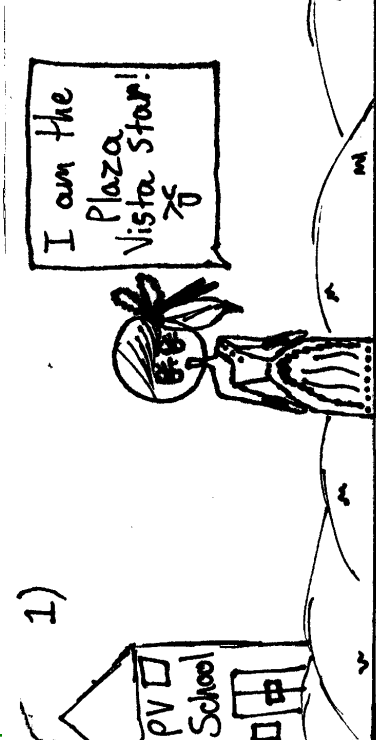
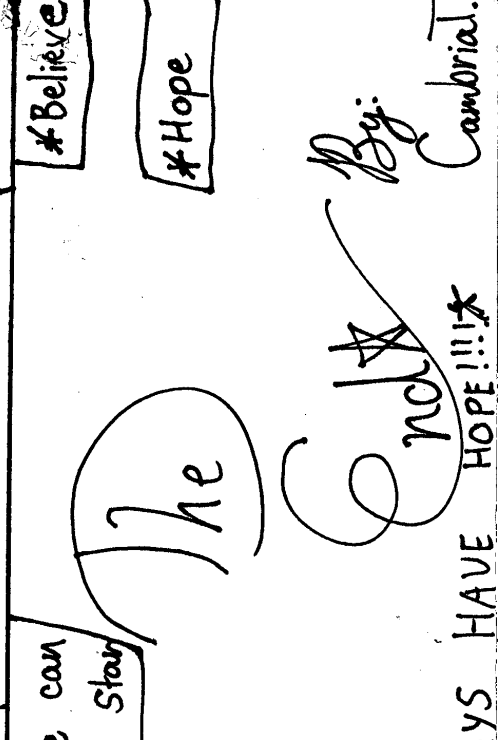
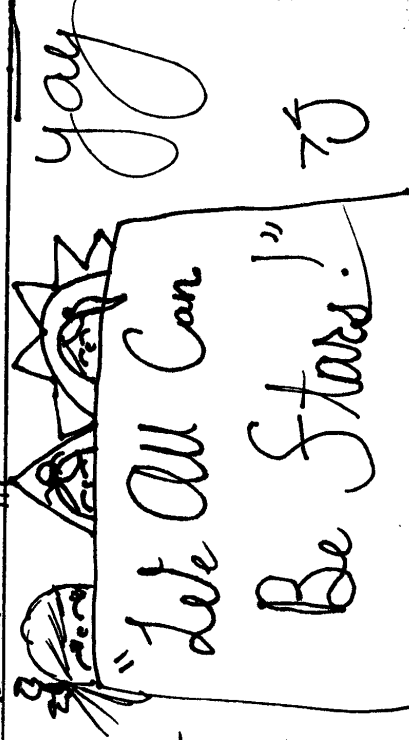
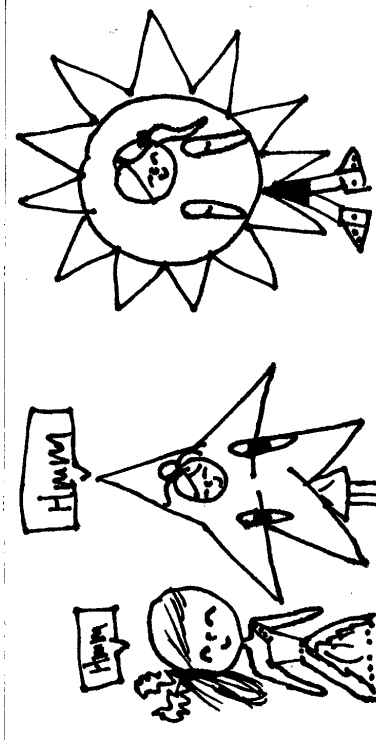
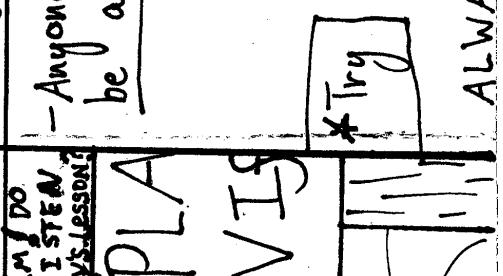
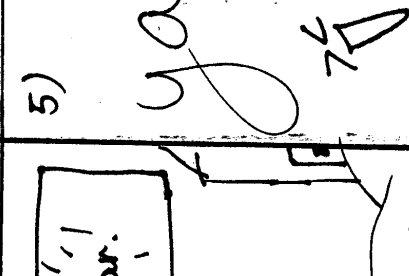
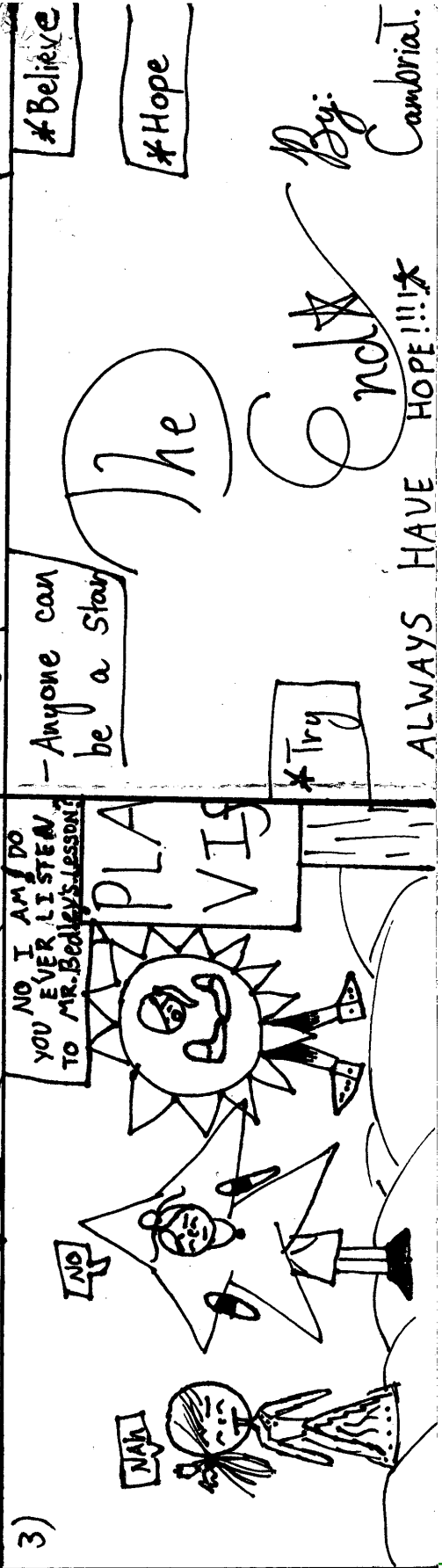
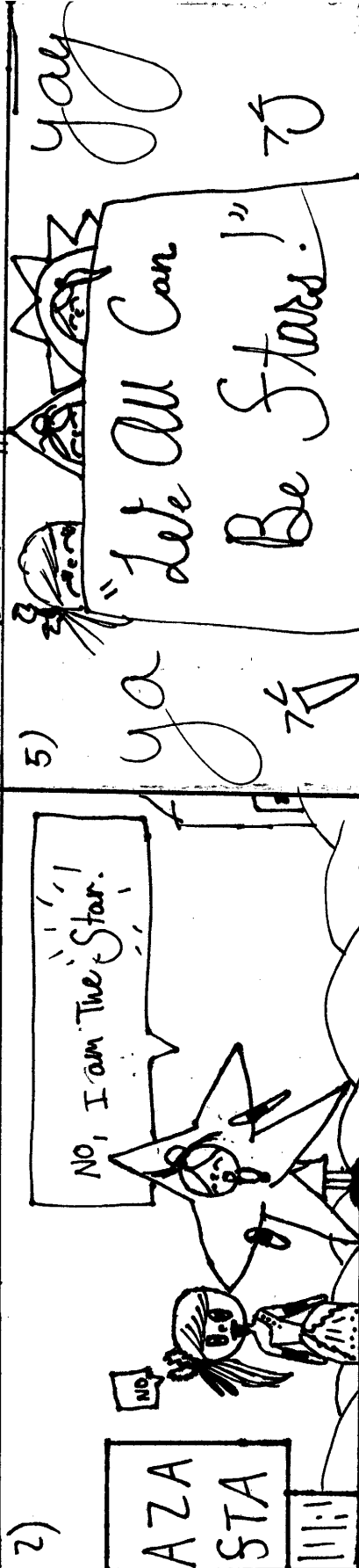
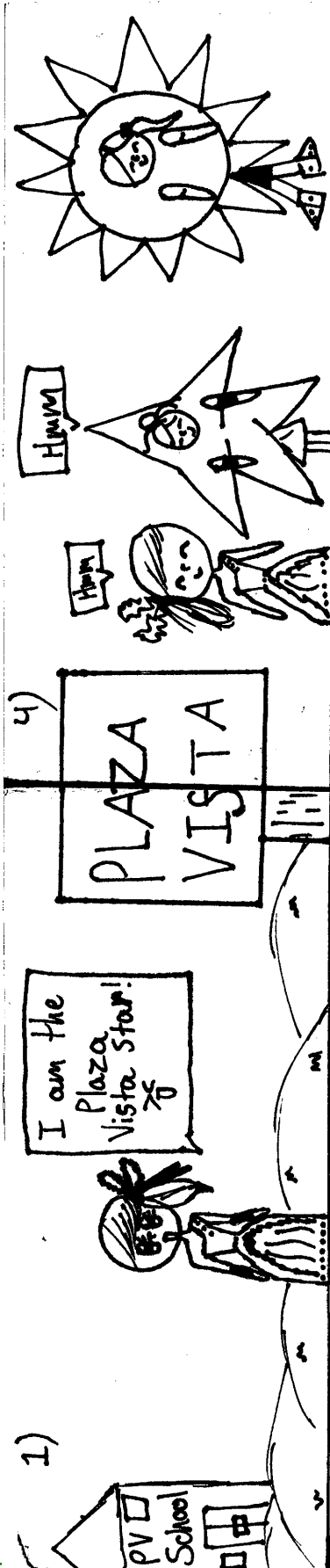
## Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley

Review written by: Selah Tully

Is Frankenstein actually mean? In Mary Shelley's classic book you'll find out. This book shares the characteristics of love, friendship, and the one always thought of—horror. Victor Frankenstein begins creating his giant monster as a project. Dur-

ing these stressful months he does not eat or sleep. When the huge monster is completed, he finds it horrifying and dashes for the door. Does Frankenstein find his “father”? And is he actually mean?





By: Cambriat.

# The Snowball Fight

By:  
Rachel  
O.

On a  
saturday  
morning...

Come  
girls.



Do we  
really  
have to  
do this?

But  
why?

Yes,  
we have  
to.

Ha!

Piff!

Ow!



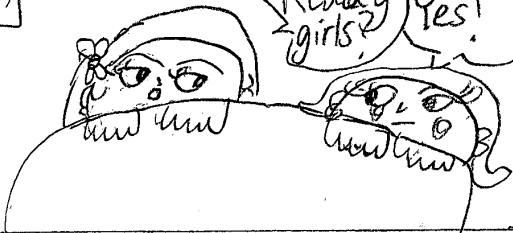
Because  
the boys,  
they will  
battle until  
they win.



I hope  
the girl  
team wins  
this snow  
ball fight.

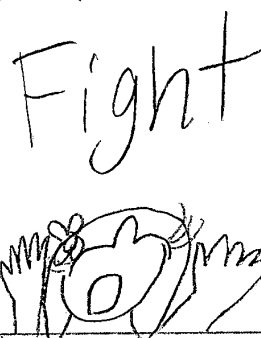


5 min.  
later...



Ready  
girls?

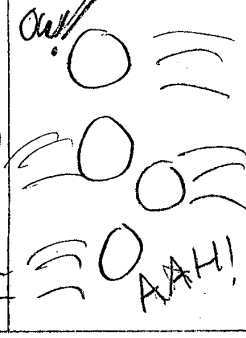
Gulp!  
Yes!



Fight!!



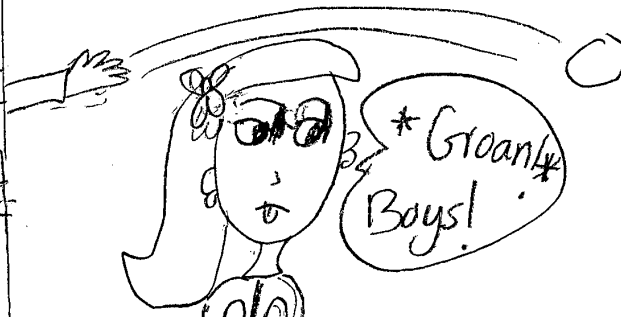
Gahh!



AAH!



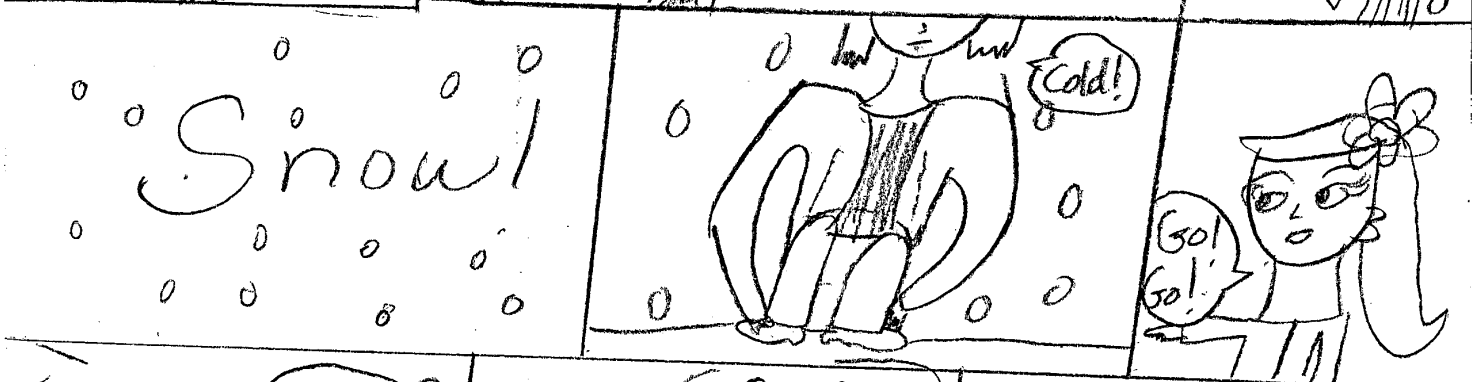
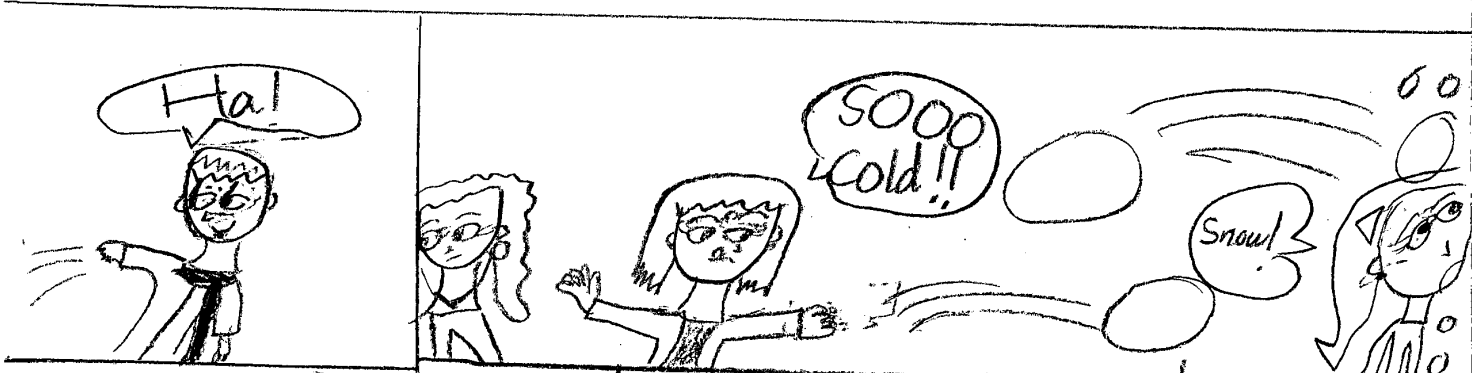
AAH!



\*Groan\*  
Boys!

Continued on back →

Continued ↓



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**Plaza Vista Stars Show P.R.I.D.E.!**

We're on the Web  
at [www.iusd.org/pv/](http://www.iusd.org/pv/)



**Stargazer Gazette**

Dear Plaza Vista Students,  
If you are interested in submitting articles, artwork, recipes, interviews, poetry, book or movie reviews or anything else to the *Stargazer Gazette*, contact the Plaza Vista Principal, Heather Phillips, at [hphillip@iusd.org](mailto:hphillip@iusd.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
The *Stargazer Gazette* Reporters

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## Canada—My Home by: Catherine Hu

There was a time when I lived in the country north of the U.S. There was a time when I thought I would live there forever. Until one frosty day in November, my mom told me we were moving from Canada to the U.S. I was already living in the warmer region of Canada and I was moving to Southern California, which of course as you can imagine, is very hot.

On December 31, 2010, I stepped onto the plane that would change my life forever. What was I to do? I couldn't just run off, where would I stay? I'm not a college student; I was a perfectly normal 8 year old child and sensible enough to know not to go running off. As I sat down onto my chair, uncomfortably, one because I hate

airplanes, (I never liked any type of transportation) and two, because I would miss my old life. When the plane landed, I knew it was time to say good-bye to my old life. Even though I had some very embarrassing moments and now I could have a fresh start, most of me didn't want to leave the warm fireplace, the chilly winters, the breezy falls, and my home—my life.

The world and atmosphere almost immediately changed as soon as I got off the plane. We went on a shuttle bus, rented a car, bought some take-out, and headed to the hotel. On January 2, 2011, I moved into an apartment. It was not very big compared to my old house, oh well. Too bad I had to take a test to be enrolled to

school, the test wasn't that hard, or super easy. There is always good and bad news to a situation. The bad news is that who knew there was going to be a test? Life's like a rollercoaster that you ride on with your eyes closed. No one is going to tell you what's going to happen on a rollercoaster, if it's going to do a loop or if it's going to go a very steep downhill path. Good news is that I have new friends on this (very crazy) rollercoaster life. I'm now in 4<sup>th</sup> grade (time seems to fly when you're in school) I'm ready to have some adventures, and many lessons. I'm hoping all this hard work soon pays off, so I can go to college and hopefully land a successful job and go back to Canada someday....

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