



## La Paloma Math Teacher Makes The School Proud

By Savannah Brandt

Mrs. Burkholder said she was "crushed" when she lost her election to be part of Tucson's City Council.

Crushed, of course, didn't exactly mean defeated. She will be back.

Some time.

In fact, three days after the election, Mrs. Burkholder, met with her campaign manager and said she'd do it again.

"The process was very exciting but the day after (the result) I was crying," said Burkholder, a math teacher at La Paloma Central. "I was mad, then I was sad."

But because she won the Ward by votes but still lost the election it gave her hope. So, she will try again.

Before the election started, the Arizona Daily Star endorsed Mrs. Burkholder for the position, saying: "We believe she understands the role of an elected representative and is the best choice on Nov.3 for the southeast side job."

Many voters thought the same but she lost. "I worked very hard but I just couldn't win," she said.

But she loves politics so much that she'll try again. She had been the part of the Vail Unified School District board for 10 years. It went from below average to being one of the best in the state.

"I know what it takes," she said.

What does she like about being a teacher?

"I loved to give back to the people," she said.

If eventually elected how does she hope to help Tucson?

"By making courageous decisions," she said.

Until then - in trying to help the community - she will continue on at La Paloma's Central campus.

"I love that this school is character driven and that really matters to me," she said. ★



Mrs. Burkholder

## Lakeside Government Leaders

By David Andrade

### President

Alycia Ruffin ran unopposed for Student Council president. She is an eighth grader at Lakeside, and always has the student's interests at heart.

Alycia has been in student council since last year, and is always willing to help other students whether it's running a meeting or brainstorming new ideas for fundraisers. Alycia was also the winner of the Changemaker grant last school year, and is putting her energy and creativity into creating a safe outdoor space for students that need somewhere to relax after long days of learning.

### Vice President

Megan Rasey is the new vice president. She was the only seventh grader running for vice president out of four other candidates. All others were eighth graders. She says "even though I was the only seventh grader, I was not intimidated by the other eighth graders."

Megan is always saying how "I want to make a difference in the school."

She loves being involved in anything and everything she be involved in at the school. She said, "the only thing I was really nervous about was presenting my speech in front of the whole seventh and

eighth grade." One quick fact: Her whole life is revolved around soccer.

### Secretary

Seventh grader Maryah Brookins is the new secretary for La Paloma Lakeside. She ran unopposed.

Her favorite part of being a secretary is "taking notes and writing."

She said she is good for the job

because she works well with others.

Everyone wants to know what the secretary job is about.

"It's all about keeping track of the notes so we don't get confused with last week's things," she said.

### Treasurer

La Paloma Lakeside's new treasurer is Sabrina VonCannon

Sabrina VonCannon is more than happy to be the new student council treasurer after winning the election in October.

"I am really proud of becoming a helpful person," she said. She is a seventh grader.

She said in the interview that she joined student council because it was "a lot of fun."

She proved that by giving out lollipops to potential voters. Her campaign slogan was, "Don't be a sucker, Vote for Sabrina!"ers to me," she said. ★



(From Left to Right) Alycia Ruffin, Sabrina VonCannon, Megan Rasey and Maryah Brookins

## POET'S CORNER

### You Are

The one I love with all my might  
The one who helps me make things right  
The one I think of when I sleep at night  
The one I'm not giving up without a fight.

by Heaven Vargeson

### Mask

I look around and see smiles, hear laughs.  
I'm forced to smile with the crowd,  
hiding my pain.  
No one thinks much of it  
but could I say one thing?  
Maybe the person keeping you happy is the  
unhappiest person  
So I will continue wearing my mask;  
maybe one day I can take it off

by Anonymous



## Central's Government In Action

By Christopher Jones

**They are hopeful leaders** - the new student council of La Paloma Central.

Since the election, there has been a great amount of support La Paloma Central students have given to the winners of the recent election.

It was a close race on who won, but no matter who won, we will always be the great kids that we are. We will always cheer on the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Once our school found out who our council was, we knew that this year was going to be a great year for all of us.

### President

Garret Newell is the new president. He said he will focus on helping kids being active with their school work.

"I want all these kids to get their confidence up," he said. "All these people that voted for me, I promise I will be the best leader and support them the best I can."

### Vice President

Max Vogt takes the spot as most well-dressed vice president in LPA history although Max feels as though he does not deserve to be Vice President.

"I'm proud, but not as proud as I would be as if I was opposed," he said.

Max said he is thinking about helping the school through a number of fund raisers, so you will be seeing more of those.

### Treasurer

It seems to run in the Vogt family. The treasurer this year will be Maci Vogt, Max's sister. She too ran opposed. Yet, she still gave a motivating speech.

"I just want to improve everything overall," she said.

Since her brother was Treasurer last year she feels like she should do the same.

It's all about what matters. Some of you might be thinking these people are

just another batch of kids for this year but it's not at all like that. It might seem like this is going to be another boring school year with boring homework, schoolwork, and studying but the thing is, this year is going to be a fantastic year because of what these amazing students are doing for us and this school.

### Secretary

Elise Weber is the new secretary.

So remember what is important, what MATTERS is the others around you. Remember to respect your surroundings because that is what these "kids" are doing and that's what you should do too.

BE KIND. ★



Garret Newell

## Patriots Football Finished Strong In 2015

By Cam'ron Thompson

**La Paloma football coach** James Lawwill and his Patriots had a pretty good 2015 season. They reached the state semi finals in Phoenix but lost to American Leadership Academy in the state semi-finals.

"Our plan for each season, is to improve each week and to be playing our best football at the end of the season," coach Lawwill said.

The Patriots did just that. They finished 5-4 overall but won three straight before losing in the semi-finals.

Coach Lawwill wants his team to concentrate on agility drills to build up speed and strength in each player. He also emphasizes on proper tackling and blocking techniques. That coaching and teaching worked well this season. Five students

from La Paloma Lakeside were on the tackle football team, joining Central to make this year's team a success.

Fulbert Afi, a La Paloma Lakeside player, said playing for the team "was all around fun." And, that's from tackling people to practicing to keeping fit. La Paloma players said they felt their coach "is a good, experienced tough coach who pushes us to our limits and makes us put 110 percent into our work."

That news should please coach Lawwill.

"Our relationship with our players is the typical coach and player relationship," coach Lawwill said. "Sometimes, you need to be the father figure and sometimes you just need to be like a friend who cares. What is important is the respect

that is shared between the player and coach."

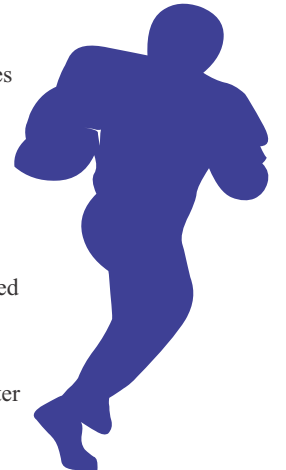
Coach Lawwill has coached for three decades and has worked with the middle school age group the last two years.

"It has been a new and rewarding experience," said coach Lawwill.

He also wants parents and kids to know "we try to monitor our players with weekly grade reports, however eligibility continues to be a problem in the new millennium. Most players need to focus a lot harder on their academics and classroom behavior."

As for next year, he expects big things.

"We only had four eighth graders on our roster of 24 players so we have the potential to be very competitive next year," he said. ★



## Volleyball Team Has A Nice Season To Build On

by Annabell Parmenter

### La Paloma Academy's volleyball coach

Coach Johnson realized she wanted to be a coach a while back after working at a summer camp. Now she gets that chance with the Patriots.

"I really like working with kids and playing sports," Coach Johnson said.

Johnson and the volleyball team recently completed their season, finishing second in their tournament.

Earlier this year, she said she felt her team would reach the title game because "we have a good team this year."

Her confidence was correct. ★



La Paloma volleyball Team



## Mr. Watins - Living the Dream

By Cam'ron Thompson

Mr. Sean Watins wanted to be a stuntman when he grew up. Or a soldier in the military. He's into action.

Now, he's a principal at La Paloma Academy Lakeside. But he's had the best of all worlds as a teacher, administrator, kind-of stuntman and military man.

"The only reason I do this is because I love the kids," said Watins, 44. "No day is the same as the last."

He's been the principal for two years and is in his 13th year in the district. He worked his way up through the teaching business with the attitude of -- "Tell me what you need done and I'll do it. They opened up a new school and I said I'd do it."

And now he's here on the eastside helping kids, assisting teachers and soothing parents.

He had been an assistant principal for a few years and then "they asked me if I'd do it and I said yes. I felt I was ready. I was hoping for something like this."

It's not easy.

"I deal with upset teachers, upset parents and I do a lot of paperwork," he said. "But I get out of my office a lot."

He does have help with what he says is "the very best and most awesome administration team" around.

They meet every Friday to discuss school stuff. There are six administrators.

"I don't make any decision without them," he said. "I could have an idea and be 90 percent sure and they sometimes end up changing my mind."

It's a job he loves and is built for. It wasn't his first choice. He wanted to be a stuntman so he could be do a lot of activities outdoors. He likes to ride quads and get on his mountain bike. He enjoys the clean air.

"I get to live my dream ... just on weekends," he said, smiling. He's 44 years old.

He also was able to live a dream by joining the army, staying with it for three years.

"I wanted to join so I can get money for college," he said. "I wanted to do one tour. That was my plan."

It worked out well.

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said.

It as if he had become a stuntman in it. Again, it was a win-win. ★



Mr Watins

## Things To Do... Clubs!

### Yearbook Club

By Paolethe Amador  
and Katelyn LaCoy

The most dreaded time of the year for everyone is picture day!

Thankfully, we all have a savior - the yearbook club. Their job is to take everyone in the school and put them into one book known as the yearbook. The yearbook club is for all and any eighth grader who wants to participate.

Mrs. Dailey is in charge of this club and has been since 2000 at two campuses: Lakeside and Central. She has plenty of years of experience. If you are an eighth grader who wants to join, all you have to do is show up to a training meeting. Yearbook will be starting in about the middle of

second quarter. It will be held on Wednesdays after school in the computer lab.

Don't worry, there is no limit on how many students can join. Mrs. Dailey is the main leader, but she has help from other teachers. Two of the yearbook club members will also be leaders. They are called editors. The other jobs in the club consist of the order of pages, the page designs and the photos. It takes about a whole quarter to finish a yearbook.

Mrs. Dailey loves the yearbook club.



### Adventure Club

By Alaina Blackmon

For 7th and 8th graders at La Paloma Academy Central, Mrs. Burkholder is bringing a fun club -- It's the Adventure Club! There will be games, field trips and much much more. Come after school every fifth Wednesday at 1:45 p.m. We are accepting parents and teachers because we will need chaperones when we take trips outside of campus. We are also accepting donations that will help us with field trips.

To find out more about the exciting Adventure Club please see Mrs. Burkholder

### Harvest Fest

By Elizabeth M. Peters

It looks like there was a lot of fun at the annual Harvest Fest.

There always is. In late October, it was held again at La Paloma Lakeside.

There were jumping castles, a haunted hallway, dunk tank and game contests.

Some of the events for Harvest Fest were located in the gym, the 4th grade hallway and outside.

There was food and drinks available. There were treasure maps.

The school Harvest Fest was a safe way to enjoy the harvest season with your family.

Mrs. Margie said the Harvest Fest and the turn were great, the people had a good time. We raised a total of \$2,777. ★

## Wanna Be A Poet And Really Didn't Know It?

By Andrew Cox

Have you ever wanted to learn about famous writers and poets that have lived through the ages? Or have wanted to learn how to create your own poems?

Well, if you go to Miss K's after-school club called Sin Fronteras from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. you can do all of that and more. The class or club happens every other Tuesday.

It's then you can learn and create literature. You can also learn how writing has done so much in history so much so you may not have noticed. When learning the effects in history, here are some of the important topics we have learned: Shakespeare, Beowulf, Epic poems, Greek mythology and much more.

Also, if you aren't into all the history you are allowed your own space to create and share your own poems and your own short stories.

And, if you don't like that you can also make and share your own comics or just anything you want to create.

Miss K will be more than happy to peer edit it and read anything you create.

I sat down with Miss K to discuss the class.

Q: What is the overall topic that we discuss in Sin Fronteras?

A: "Presently, literary movements and this will shift in to writing literature and poetry afterwards."

Q: Why did you want to create sin Fronteras?

A: "I wanted to create this club to offer students a creative space and an opportunity to learn literature that we can't go as into depth with in class."

Q: Why did you pick the name Sin Fronteras?

A: "I chose the name because it means 'without borders' which is exactly the type of creative writing I like to support; this includes any topic, any emotion, and in any language." ★



Miss K



## Reading Field Trip

Everyone was filled with excitement for the trip to Mt. Lemmon. People were trying to get on the van as quickly as possible. When we were all set up and ready to go everyone was rushing to get the best seat in the van, by a window or by a friend.

Personally, I didn't get the seat I wanted, but it was fine. When we got on the road we put on the radio, it was very funny when a lot of people started to jam out while we were looking at the scenery. It was like that almost the entire trip because if they weren't singing they were talking. After about 30 minutes, we were on top of the mountain. We were all excited until something unexpected happened, the gates to the campsite were

closed ... so we got our stuff and started hiking.

It was actually nice to look at the scenery, but it was a half mile walk while we were holding supplies in 50 to 60 degree weather. When we finally arrived at the camp, it was time to start a fire.

Miss K made a fire and we all surrounded it trying to get warm. Those who weren't cold decided to climb a large hill. It was fun to see the beautiful scenery at the top.

After we were done climbing the hill, Mr. JR took most of us to the lake. It was beautiful looking at the wilderness around us. Some of us decided to play around while others just looked around.

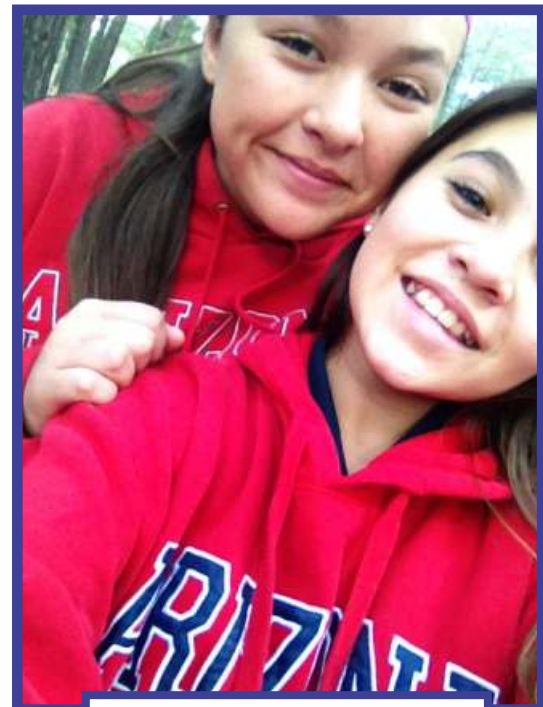
When we were done we went back to the camp where we had lots of hot chocolate.

The freshly boiled water from the fire was what made the hot chocolate so good.

We continued to have a good time until it dark. And that's when we started to recite our poems. While the students were finishing their poems - which were all amazing - we had s'mores. Some of us had the s'mores while we recited the poems.

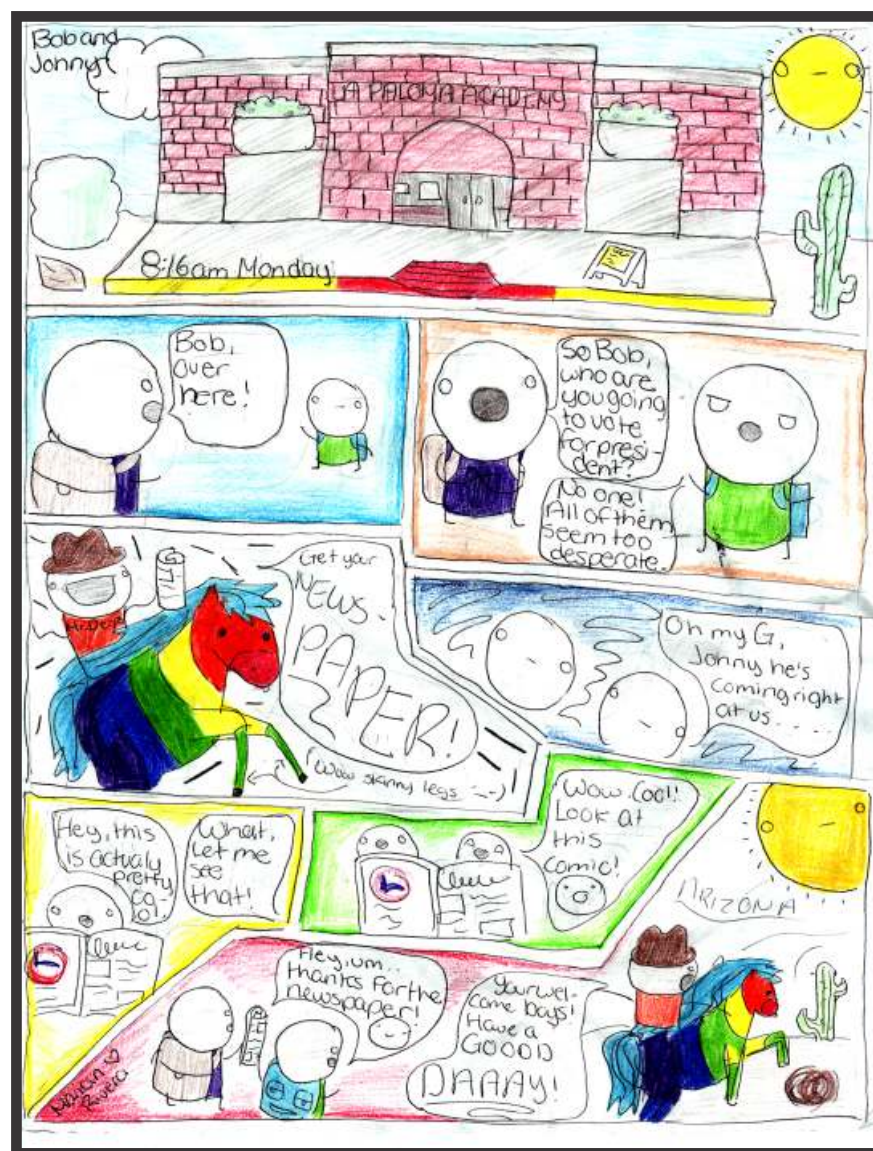
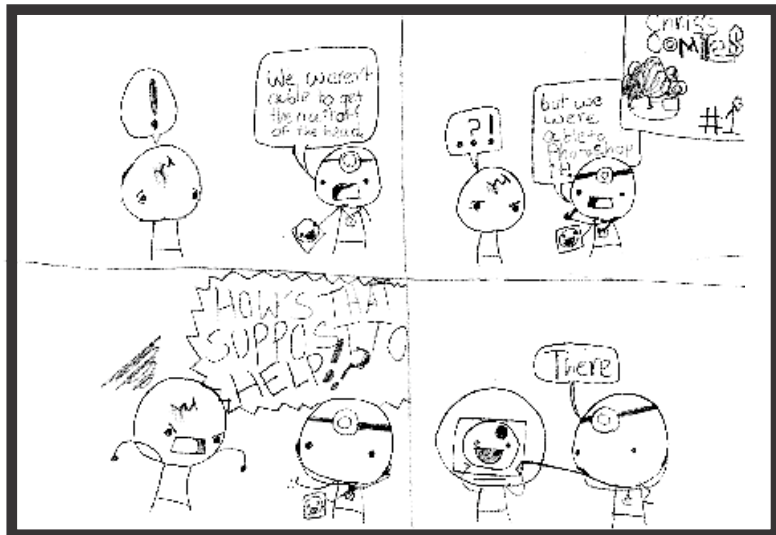
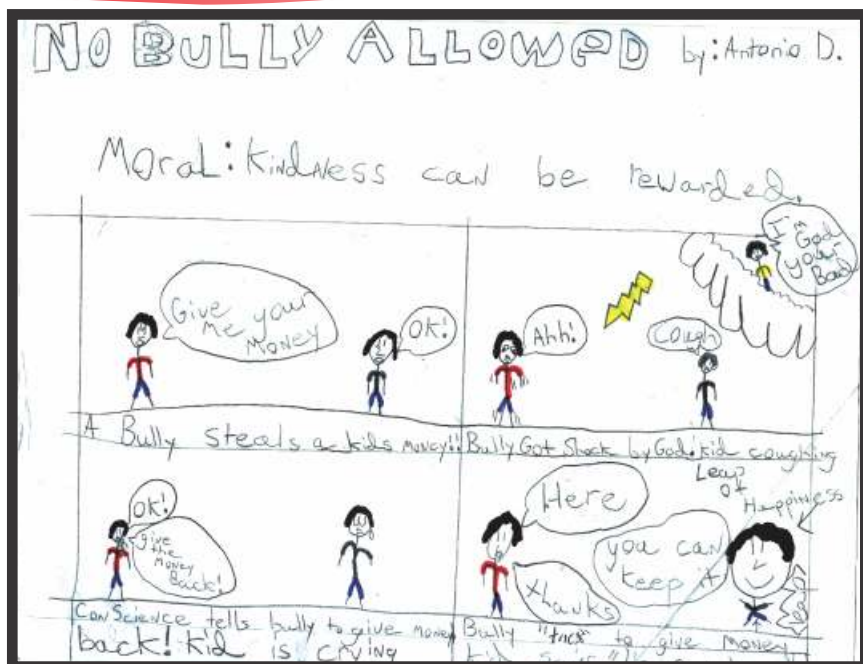
When we were all done with everything we packed up and hiked back to the van and returned home. I can't wait to go again. ★

By Andrew Cox



Laritza Bustimonte and Kaela Barr

## The Funnies



Patriot Times is brought to you by some hard-working and creative students who attend La Paloma Academy campuses at Central and Lakeside. It's a joint effort to let their students and parents know what's going on at school.

The newspaper is done with the assistance of two equally dedicated teachers who care about the success of their students.

Thanks for all their input and with helping motivate the kids.

They are: Miss Lee, a 7th/8th grade writing teacher at La Paloma Lakeside. She's been at Lakeside for two different years teaching different grade levels. The Newspaper Club is made up of some of my strongest writing students, and we are happy to share our campus news with you!

Miss K is a 7th and 8th teacher who instructs language arts and has an after-school writing and poetry club (Sin Fronteras). I strive to create an academic environment where reading is not only a window into fictional adventures and literary elements, but also a space to explore talents for creative expression and scholarly endeavor.

Thanks Photographers  
Ethan Shooshtar  
Robert Allen  
Diana Bondy  
Adriana Balderama  
Azaria Suero-Davis ★