

## How to Keep Up Good Grades

By SYDNEY ZAJEC

All kids are busy after school with their after extracurricular activities. How do all these kids keep up with their grades, meeting their Advanced Reading (AR) and Advanced Math (AM) goals? My older sister Makena Zajec plays volleyball and basketball and maintains all A's. She does this by reading every day for 30 minutes, including the weekends. She makes good use of her time when given the opportunity to do homework during school. She also plans out her tests so that she studies pieces at a time. She stays after school and gets help when she needs it and always does extra credit. That is really important, "ALWAYS DO THE EXTRA CREDIT!"

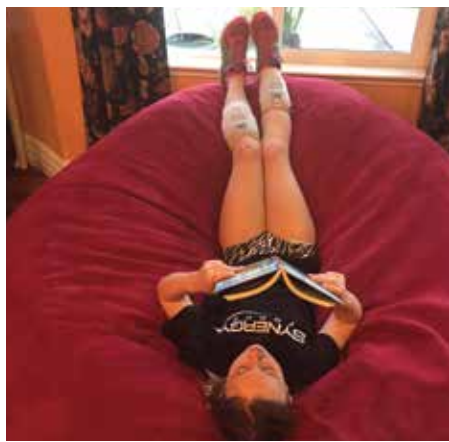
Lily Zajec, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader here at Sierra, has to work very hard to keep her grades up. She says having an orga-

nized binder is a must and knowing when the test dates are keeps her on track.

Some tips for good study habits that will help you to always have good grades are:

1. Time yourself and read every day

and summarize what you have read. This way you will get 100% on you AR quizzes.



Reading 30 minutes a day is part of good grades.

Image courtesy the Zajec family.

2. Study spelling words in chunks.
3. Keep up with your AM by doing a small packet over the weekend at times.
4. Exercise to increase your memory.
5. Eat a healthy snack before doing homework or studying.
6. Get enough sleep – go to bed the same time every night.
7. If you have a lot of homework write a "To Do List" and do one thing at a time.

## Meet the Teacher: Ms. Julie Budge

By JENNA DWILLIS

I have interviewed a wonderful kindergarten teacher named Ms. Budge. Ms. Budge has worked at Sierra for 14 years. This educator's favorite part of working at Sierra Elementary is the fun students and working with other nice teachers. The hobby she likes to do outside of school is to go shopping, especially for shoes at the store D.S.W.

What made her become a teacher is when she had an amazing teacher in fifth grade and wanted to become a



teacher herself. Ms. Budge's favorite trip she went on is when she went to Boston to watch the Boston Red Socks play. The lovely lady's favorite book is The Secret by Rhonda Byrne because the book teaches that the way you think changes your life. I think the kindergarten kids are really lucky to have this pretty lady as a teacher. Thank you for all you do and happy Valentine's Day, Ms. Budge!

## The Sierra Shark Bits Team Is Graduating this Spring!

Do you have what it takes to be the new Editor-In-Chief?

Does your family want to be a publisher?

It's time for the current Shark Bits team to step aside and let a new team take over. We need your help to keep this student-run paper going!

Want to know more about what it takes to be the editor of Shark Bits and how publishing works each month? Email us for all the details at [sharknewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sharknewspaper@gmail.com).

We'll sit side-by-side for the last couple issues to make sure the transition is smooth and easy. We know you are up for the challenge!

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**March Fiction Contest Topic:**  
 "Spring Silliness & Surprises"  
 Submit your story to the office or email it to [sharknewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sharknewspaper@gmail.com) to be entered into the contest. Winners' stories will be printed in the February Shark Bits.  
**Deadline: February 18<sup>th</sup>**

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## Happy Valentine's Day!

By BRINLEY KELLY

Have you noticed at the stores lately that there are a lot of red and pink heart decorations? That is because it is almost Valentine's Day! I am so excited! There are many fun and exciting ways to celebrate this romantic holiday. I asked some of our Sierra Students what they will be doing to make Valentine's Day special and here are some of the things they said. Clara Smith in 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going to make cards for her family. Isabella Reich-



Hearts to you this Valentine's Day!

stein in 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going to make her parents breakfast in bed. Karlee Snow in 4<sup>th</sup> grade is

continued on page 3

Image courtesy the Kelly family.

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**February Brain Teaser**  
*I have holes in my top and bottom, my left and right, and in the middle. But I still hold water. What am I?*  
**Know the answer?** Email us at [sharknewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sharknewspaper@gmail.com) to be entered in the drawing to be this month's brain teaser champ!  
**William Baglietto and Shane,** both in Mr. Patten's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, correctly answered 'uncopyrightable' (a 15-letter word) for last month's riddle:  
*What is the longest word without any repeated letters?*  
 Last month's teaser from Riddles Brain Teasers

## IB Profile – Principled

By ISABELLA JARAMILLO

Hello Sierra Sharks! Have you ever wondered what ‘principled’ means and how to be principled? From the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme we know that being principled means that the person acts with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. A principled person takes responsibility for his or her actions and accepts the consequences.

My sister Katherine who is in 5th grade says being principled means to follow the rules and don’t do bad things. An example of being principled is helping to clean up your community every so often because it is the right thing

to do. That is what the Green team does at our school during lunch recess. My classmate Maddie K. is principled by being focused in class and not talking when the teacher is talking unless she is allowed to.

There are many ways we demonstrate being principled every day. It can be as simple as cleaning up after yourself at lunch time. Or it can be in the form of helping your community by participating in your church’s toy drive by donating a toy. Or if there is a canned food drive then participate

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) learner profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond academic success.

From [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

by helping and buying some food. So if there is anyone in need at school or in your community then be principled and help them!

In addition to being principled, the International Baccalaureate Programmes strive to help students achieve the characteristics of nine other learner profiles including: inquirer, knowledgeable, thinker,

communicator, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, and reflective. The attitudes that we develop from these learner profiles will help us to become internationally-minded people who care about our communities – but it all starts here at Sierra!


Sponsored by the Welch Family

**Auction tickets are available online:**

[ses.rocklinusd.org/PTC/Sierras-Auction/index.html](http://ses.rocklinusd.org/PTC/Sierras-Auction/index.html)

*International Baccalaureate Corner*

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) aims to help students develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need to excel not only in their studies, but also in their personal growth.



## Valentine’s Day (cont’d)

going to make cupcakes for her family. Cassidy Kelly in 1<sup>st</sup> grade is going to make cards for her cousins. David Hurren in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is going to do an art project for his grandma. Tavis Adamson in 4<sup>th</sup> grade is going to give his mom a present. I’m going to make my parents breakfast and make Valentine’s Day cards for my sisters.

Do you know why we even celebrate Valentine’s Day? One reason is because the Romans believed that on Valentine’s Day, Cupid would shoot magic arrows at people. These magic arrows would make a person fall in love with the first person they see. Valentine’s Day was named after a Catholic Saint named Valentine. King Henry the VII

declared February 14<sup>th</sup> to be Valentine’s Day in 1537. We’ve been celebrating this holiday for a LONG time.

At school during first recess, you will be able to buy candy grams for 50 cents. They will be delivered to your friends or to people you admire. Some classes will be having Valentine’s Day parties and will be giving out valentines to their classmates. What are you doing for Valentine’s day? Do something fun. And do something special for someone. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Want to send a shout-out? Contact us at [sharknewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sharknewspaper@gmail.com)

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Happy Valentine’s Day to students, teachers, staff, and family at Sierra Elementary!

Thank you to all the fantastic student writers who have contributed to Shark Bits over the last two years!




**SAVE THE DATE**

For Sierra Elementary’s Annual School Auction

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**  
5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Granite Bay Country Club  
9600 Golf Club Drive  
Granite Bay, Ca

**Cocktails, Seated Dinner, Silent & Live Auctions**

Proceeds from this GREAT night are designated for our IB program and technology.

For more information and to RSVP visit [ses.rocklinusd.org](http://ses.rocklinusd.org)

## What’s Happening ~ February 2015

- Talent Show Tryout (1:30-4:30pm) ..... Monday, February 2*
- 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent IB Tour & Info Session (8-10am) ..... Wed., February 4*
- Family Reading Night (6-7pm) ..... Wednesday, February 4*
- PTC General Meeting (6-7:30pm)..... Wednesday, February 4*
- Mugs & Muffins - Anderson’s M&M’s.....Friday, February 6*
- President’s Day - Lincoln (no school).....Friday, February 13*
- President’s Day - Washington (no school) ..... Monday, February 16*
- Academic Talent Search Test - 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades (8-9am) ..... Wed., February 18*
- Site Council (4-5:30pm)..... Wednesday, February 18*
- Kindergarten Parent Info Night (6-7pm)..... Thursday, February 19*
- Kindergarten Registration Begins (9-10am).....Friday, February 20*
- PTC Auction (5-10pm).....Saturday, February 28*

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