

Welcome Back to School Sierra Sharks!

By CONNER BROWN

The new school year has started with a lot of changes. New teachers have joined Sierra: Mrs. Shirhall in K/1, Ms. Brown in 5th grade, and Mrs. Edwards in K/1 with Mrs. Anderson. We'll also have two new Spanish teachers—so far Ms. Batistoni has joined us to teach the primary grades.

Our principal's name even changed. Ms. Gilman is now Mrs. Anderson because she got married this summer. Congratulations!

Mrs. Anderson also has a new secretary. Her name is Mrs. Navarre. Everyone should stop by and say hi to her because her favorite thing so far about being at Sierra is visiting with the kids.

If you haven't noticed, there are new trees by the office. The old ones were diseased and needed to be cut

down. Now there are new crepe myrtle trees that were chosen because they are colorful.

Recess is also changing. This year, students eat at the snack area to help our custodian Mr. Stan keep the playground clean. We also have a new rack for organizing playground equipment. Students can play with balls, hula hoops, jump ropes, and cones. When recess is over, we need to make sure to put everything back on the rack. And after lunch, students can sign up to be on Mr. Stan's Green Team to help pick up trash and keep our school clean.

There are even new things to do after school too. For example, there's a French Club if you want to learn another language. Or there's Intellibricks, which is LEGO robotics.

With all these changes, this year at Sierra Elementary will be fantastic!

Meet the Teacher: Mrs. Johnson

By ELLA ROSENBLATT

One of the most dedicated teachers here at Sierra Elementary is Mrs. Lisa Johnson. Mrs. Johnson has been teaching here at Sierra for about 13 years! Over the years, Mrs. Johnson has taught K-1, 2nd, and 3rd grade.

She is currently teaching K-1. The reason Mrs. Johnson loves K-1 is because she loves helping kids read, and try to open that book for the first time. Mrs. Johnson has expectations for her class. She wants them to begin a lifelong love of learning that will stay with them forever.

Some hobbies Mrs. Johnson has outside of school are reading, scrapbooking, and spending time with her daughters, Shelby and Sydney. What she loves most about Sierra is

it is an inquiry-based school and the teachers try to challenge children to be creative thinkers. Lastly, she loves her class because they are excited to learn about new things.



Photo courtesy Sierra Elementary web site

The New York Times Children's Best Seller List

In the spirit of starting the year off strong on our quest to "Read 40," following are the current top 6 best sellers for middle grade children. Check out New York Times Best Sellers online for additional lists.

- 1 **WONDER**, by R. J. Palacio. (Knopf Doubleday Publishing.) A boy with a facial deformity enters a mainstream school. (Ages 8 to 12)
- 2 **PERCY JACKSON'S GREEK GODS**, by Rick Riordan. Illustrated by John Rocco. (Disney Publishing Worldwide.) The title hero offers a personal tour of the pantheon. (Ages 10 to 14)
- 3 **A LONG WALK TO WATER**, by Linda Sue Park. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing.) A Sudanese tale of survival. (Ages 10 to 14)
- 4 **THE CARE AND KEEPING OF YOU 1**, by Valorie Schaefer. Illustrated by Josee Masse. (American Girl Publishing.) The changing body. (Ages 8 to 12)
- 5 **OUT OF MY MIND**, by Sharon M. Draper. (Simon & Schuster.) A brilliant girl with cerebral palsy longs for a way to speak. (Ages 10 to 13)
- 6 **STAR WARS: JEDI ACADEMY, RETURN OF THE PADAWAN**, by Jeffrey Brown. (Scholastic.) A boy begins his second year of training. (Ages 8 to 12)

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November Fiction Contest Topic:
"How I got it to rain!"
Submit your story to the office or email it to sharknewspaper@gmail.com to be entered into the contest. Winners' stories will be printed in the November Shark Bits.
Deadline: October 10th

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Sierra Elementary FUNd RUN!

By BIANCA WELCH

Hello Sierra sharks this is Bianca Welch and I am so excited to be writing this article for you! October 3rd is the big day of the FUNd RUN. Our whole entire school will be participating. The FUNd RUN is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Last year we raised close to \$27,000. This year we hope to top that number.

There are several changes to how the FUNd RUN will work this year. In previous years students raised money by having sponsors pay them for the number of laps they ran. This



The new graphic for the FUNd RUN t-shirts.

year we will still be running but we'll be cruising around the track in celebration of our fundraising

continued on page 3

October Brain Teaser

You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

Know the answer? Email us at sharknewspaper@gmail.com to be entered in the drawing to be this month's brain teaser champ!

Shark Fun Facts!

- ★ There are over 400 different species of sharks
- ★ Baby sharks are called pups
- ★ A shark can hear a fish in the water more than a million miles away
- ★ New research shows that sharks may be colorblind

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Sierra Students' Summer Adventures: Near & Far

By CARINA GEIST

School is back in again and the Sierra Sharks students bring many stories of their summertime adventures. Some students traveled to far away countries, some went to Disney Land, and some just relaxed at home. Everyone seemed to have a good and relaxing summer—even though it might not have felt long enough!

Some 6th graders went to other states this summer. Emmy Fowler, in Mrs. Hildebrand's class, went to Arkansas for a family reunion, and Natalie Hogenboom, also in Mrs. Hildebrand's class, went to Hawaii. Some students, including me, went as far as other countries! I went to France and England (see inset photo of a château near



Château de Beynac, Beynac-et-Cazenac, France

Photo courtesy the Geist Family

is more fun than going far away.

Did you know that kids lose about two to three months of the previous year's learning over the

summertime? That's why it is important to study hard and to do all your school work to gain it all back. Say good-bye to the summer and turn your school brains back on because school is in session!

where my family and I stayed in the South of France), Claire Chanter went to Cancun, Mexico, and Alexis Caretti went to the Philippines. Some kindergarten and 1st grade students went to different places as well. Marina, a 1st grader in Ms. Budge's class, went to San Diego. Logan, who is also in Ms. Budge's class, played a lot of soccer and went to Clear Lake, and a bunch of students at Sierra just stayed home, swam, and played with their friends. Sometimes just staying at home

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Congratulations Sierra Teachers!

Jeri Farmer
2013-2014
Employee of the Year

Nell Hildebrand
2013-2014
Teacher Who Makes a Difference

International Baccalaureate Corner

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.



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Happy 6th Birthday Andrew!
Love, Mom & Dad

Hey sixth graders – Have a blast at
Walker Creek Camp this month!

Happy 7th birthday Blake Jahani-
Welch, we love you!!

FUNd Run (continued)

success instead of counting laps.

Each student who raises \$100 will have a chance to win their class prize basket, which is worth over \$250, and will also be entered into the drawing for the grand prize of a \$300 dollar Apple gift card. Remember each extra \$100 raised gets an extra raffle ticket. Money raised at the FUNd RUN provides funding for our highly sought after International Baccalaureate program and also for things like VAPA, Spanish, technology and much more.

I am excited to announce that the Cap City stunt team will be our entertainers this year. They are BMX bike riders who do incredible stunts off half pipes.

Each student will receive a cool FUNd RUN t-shirt, otter pops, and each student will receive a free

yogurt coupon from Big Spoon yogurt.

This day is about being active, hanging out with friends, listening to cool music, enjoying amazing entertainment, and most of all showing off our fundraising skills. I can't wait for our school-wide celebration!

Don't forget it's also a great day to invite family to come and have a picnic lunch with you. They can even run around the track with you if they want.

Lastly I want to thank our local sponsors and our family sponsors: Mrs. Lisa Zeng, Mrs. Sana Kheiri and my amazing mom Betsy Welch for making this fun fundraiser happen.

Want to send a shout-out?
Contact us at
sharknewspaper@gmail.com

A Message from the Principal



Happy September Sierra Sharks! This year is already off to a great start. At the beginning of every school year, we can set new goals for ourselves. As I have walked through your classrooms this year, I am impressed with the hard work you are showing.

This month, I encourage you to set a goal for yourself and share it with your parents/guardians, your teacher, and your friends. When we share our goals with others, we are more likely to reach them, because we are supported by those around us.

One goal we set as a school is to accept Rachel's Challenge. Thank you all for accepting Rachel's Challenge of being kind and compassionate to each other. Make sure to fill out a chain link whenever you witness kindness or spread compassion. I know kindness will spread throughout our community like a Chain Reaction!

Your principal, Mrs. Anderson

What's Happening ~ October 2014

Family Reading Night (6pm)..... Wednesday, October 1
PTC Meeting (6pm)..... Wednesday, October 1
Cross Country Meets..... Thursday, October 2, 16, 23, and 30
Fund Run Friday, October 3
Big Spoon Yogurt (2:20pm) Friday, October 3 and 17
GATE Testing Grades 2-6 (8am) Wednesday, October 8
Anderson's M&M's (8am) Friday, October 10
Walker Creek Field Trip Monday-Friday, October 13-17
Site Council (4pm) Wednesday, October 15
Fund Run Lunch with Principal Anderson Friday, October 17
Sierra Fall Carnival..... Friday, October 24
Phil Tulga Music Assembly..... Wednesday, October 29

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