

# LORCA LIFE

Lorca News | Lorca Students | The Lorca Way

## Awards and Honors

We take a look at awards and honors received by Lorca students in Science, History, and Writing.

## Interview with Mrs. Cywrus

We have a sit down with our principal and discuss all things Lorca.

## Summer Trends

Not sure how to spend your summer? Lorca Life staff highlights Lorca's NEW Summer Reading Program, must watch blockbusters, and great books to pick up while on break.

## Class of 2015 Messages

Lorca graduates play it forward and write messages of advice to future Lorca students.



## Congrats Grads!

by Audie Presnell

As we wrap up another fantastic school year at Lorca, we would like to congratulate the Class of 2015. It seems like only yesterday that many of us entered the doors of Lorca as shy fourth graders unaware of what was in store for us. Fast forward five stressful, yet eventful years, we leave Lorca and head off in many new directions. New school, new friends, new memories await us, but we will always cherish our time at Lorca!



# A Conversation with Our Principal

by Audie Presnell, Destiny Reinhardt, & Ohla Olyynk

Q: "What drove you to become a school principal?"

A: "I only had one year as an assistant principal, mentored by my boss, he is the one that said I should become the next principal of Belding. I had never thought that I would become one until I was pushed by them."

Q: "What do you find difficult about your job?"

A: "It's not difficult, it just has challenging moments. I love my job. I'm always excited by the activities and the children. I have hiccups and bumps with students and teachers, that happens sometimes, but it's normal."

Q: "Thinking back to when you were a young girl, would your younger self ever envision you as a school principal years later? If not, what occupation did you originally desire?"

A: "My younger 8th grade self would never think to become a CPS principal, she probably would've talked me out of it, saying "What happened to being a teacher?". She'd be surprised that I left teaching."

Q: "What are some uplifts in work, throughout your day?"

A: "Pre-K and Kinder students always delight me, they are always so happy, and they see me as a rockstar; Seeing the teachers, and Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Rodriguez. They always make me laugh; Seeing advisory groups working on their team building exercises; Ms. Laino and Mr. Kimbrough always make me laugh with their responses; Anytime I give a tour to someone new to the building, and just watch them be in awe with our amazing building."

Q: "Does the 2015 graduating class bear a certain originality that differs from past graduating classes? If so, what do you think is a unique quality about the class of 2015 that would keep them in your memory for years to come?"

A: "Yes, I notice that the girls get a lot smarter with every new graduating class, I like the girl power that is dominating throughout the classes. I also like how everyone acts among one another with their peers, and younger students. With this graduating class, most students have been here since fourth or fifth grade; They have grown to love the school and teachers, as we have grown to love them."



Q: "What are some of your future goals for Lorca?"

A: "The new class is going to be more deliberate with science and math; We want to push technology, and STEAM; Algebra is going to have more and more kids passing and getting better; There will be more going on with the robotics club and coding. Also, we want to be pushing Lorca to start recycling, starting with the parents, and I want Lorca to become the first school in CPS with the green ribbon. Also, out of recycled items, we will create an ocean. We'll make a starfish out of newspaper for example, or what ever else we recycle."

Q: "How do you imagine Lorca 10 years from now?"

A: "I would say every child is going to be engaged in using a digital device like a Chromebook, phone, or I-Pad. I want the teacher voices to be the least voice heard, while the students have the biggest voice. I would also like to have robot gadgets throughout the building inspired by the robotics club."

Q: "If you could choose a different career path, what would it be?"

A: "FBI agent! I would've been a profiler."

Q: "What were you before you became a school principal?"

A: "I was an assistant principal one year and a high school teacher for 12 years."

Q: "What do you do in your free time outside of work?"

A: "Eat. I love food of all kinds, different kinds. Doesn't matter, I just love food, but in my dreams, I exercise, and then I get tired so I stop."

Q: "What's your favorite book or genre?"

A: "Well, I was a Harry Potter freak, I haven't read anything of fiction fantasy since. I don't really read anymore, unless I have to. Nonfiction would be my favorite genre, anything to do with business and leadership."

Q: "What's your favorite song, artist, or music genre?"

A: "I like christian rock, my favorite artist would be Barbra Streisand, followed by Bette Midler."

Q: "What are some lessons that you have learned from your students throughout your years of being a principal?"

A: "How to have fun, I am not really a fun person. How to use more technology, I have also learned some Algebra."

Q: What has been your favorite things/ highlights about this years graduating class?

A: "I like science and math being their strengths, and the sport strengths shown by the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. The boys also winning back the Pulaski Cup. Lastly, the musical talent."

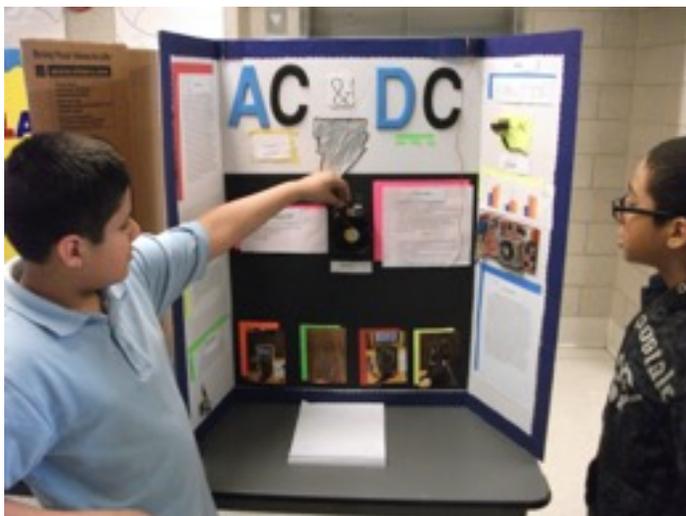
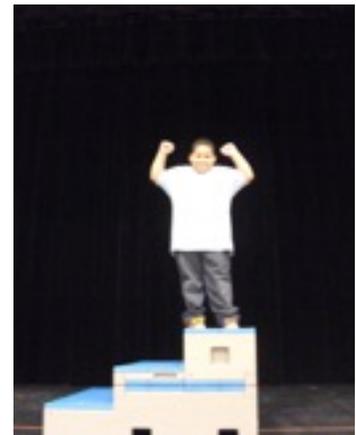
# Lorca Scientists Shine

by Rachel Nacipucha

Congratulations to all the students who worked hard this year on their Science Fair projects! From topics on vision to electricity, metals to density, and chemistry to architecture or engineering, many creative projects were demonstrated at Science night. All the hard work and dedication that many students demonstrated paid off. Much time was given to the students, their projects reflecting this. Our Lorca scientists were given their time to shine!

**Honors go to...**

Pre-K	Room 122
Kindergarten	Room 123
1st Grade	Room 118
2nd Grade	Room 218
3rd Grade	Room 224
4th Grade	Room 223
5th Grade	1st Place: Prea Silao 2nd Place: Sofia Escamilla 3rd Place: Arlene Guzman
6th Grade	1st Place: Stephen Chavez 2nd Place: Itzel Chavero/Wendy Quizhpi 3rd Place: Isaac Calvez
7th Grade	1st Place: Mario Gjini 2nd Place: Maricela Rodriguez 3rd Place: Erika Huerta
8th Grade	1st Place: Antbony Reyes & Anthony Berdeja 2nd Place: Paulina Martinez & Audie Presnell 3rd Place: Brisa Garcia & Ohla Oliynyk



## Student Spotlight: Edgar Castillo & History Fair Honors

by Pedro Guzman & Jennifer Varela

As many of you know Edgar Castillo, 7th grader, became a great Lorca representative when his history fair project sent him to Springfield. His journey there not only included his participation in Lorca's History Fair but also in the history fair at Lane Tech High School. The project revolved around Chicago and he chose to focus on the I&M Canal.

In his own words he explains how his hard work eventually paid off when he was given the experience of going to Springfield and enjoying himself. His hard work and research not only proved his intelligence, but also truly showed what he's capable of doing. We sat down with Edgar and asked him questions, this is what he answered:

I: What is the I&M Canal?

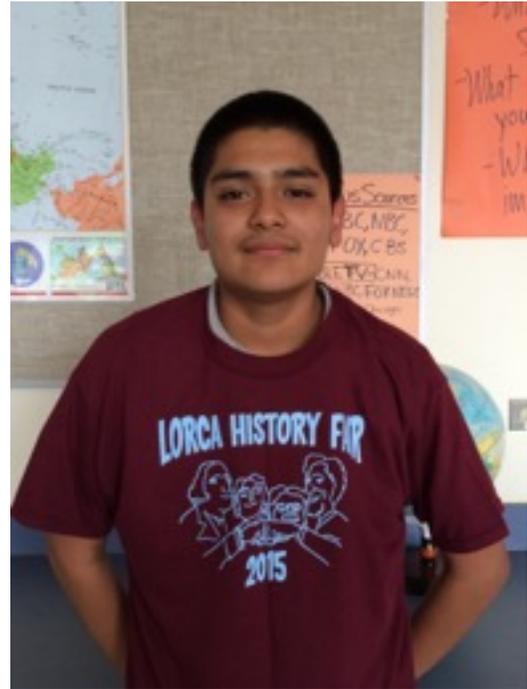
E: *A canal that ran from the Illinois River to Lake Michigan. It's main purpose was transportation and trade.*

I: Describe your experience going to Lane.

E: *Fun, mostly because Isis convinced us to roam around the school to explore. We ran through the halls, as well as walked around the Lane Tech garden. A Planet Earth movie was playing in the auditorium and kept us entertained while we waited for our interviews. By we, I mean me and the participating contestants from Lorca (Jason, Aurora, Isis, Jailene, and Carlos).*

I: How was it going to Springfield. Explain.

E: *Exciting, although, the trip there was boring and long. Once I arrived, I was informed that website contestants only had to attend the Open Ceremony, where contestants would receive their ribbons and had the rest of the day free to explore our state's capitol, Springfield. While there I attended the Lincoln presidential library and later went back to the closing ceremony. And that was my day.*



### Congratulations to all the history fair honorees...

- 5th Michael Walker - Columbus(3rd Place)  
Nayeli Maldonado - Hernan Cortez (2nd Place)  
**Samantha Moreno - Squanto(1st Place)**
- 6th Pablo Deleon - Pompeii (3rd Place)  
Stephen Chavez - The Great Sphinx (2nd Place)  
**Wendy Quizphi - Hatshepsut (1st Place)**
- 7th Erika Huerta - 1919 Race Riot (3rd Place)  
Lizbeth Fajardo & Connie Gonzalez - Prohibition (2nd Place)  
**Edgar Castillo - I & M Canal (1st Place)**
- 8th Jason Hernandez, Carlos Montufar, & Aurora Reyes - Iroquois Theater Fire (3rd Place)  
Evelyn Contreras, Guadalupe Perez, & Jailene Serrano - World's Fair (2nd Place)  
**Isis Gomez - Haymarket Tragedy (1st Place)**

# Red Carpet Writers

by Ohla Olynyk and Destiny Reinhardt

Congratulations to all the Pulitzer Awards nominees and winners of 2015. We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication contributed by all the winners, as well as the nominees. They were the stars of the night, and the title is well deserved with their amazing stories and illustrations.

With the red carpet rolled out, V.I.P. seating, and an audience with killer style; the night was a blast. A highlight of the night was not just the award giving to our nominees, but also Mr.



Cartagena, or as some may call him, Mr. C, receiving his Lifetime Achievement award. As most may know, while Mr.C was accepting his award, Mr. Rodenburg gave a speech that he put together to show his, as well as the student's appreciation. You deserve it! Last but not least, let's take a moment to remember our second graders, who performed well-coordinated, as well as catchy dances, instructed by Ms. Mason. Once again, we applaud the winners, nominees, and the presenters of the night. You guys made it a night to remember.



## The writing nominees include (**Winners in bold**)...

Kindergarten: Anamaria Espinoza, Amayra Maynard, **Jaden Vargas**

First Grade: Joel Aguilar, **Bianka Golanka**, Anthony Osario

Second Grade: Jennifer Alvarez, **Mariana Flores**, Madeline Juarez

Third Grade: Kasandra Facio, **Amy Gualpa**, Leo Nguyen

Fourth Grade: Jasmine Nieto, **John Quizhpi**, Sabrina Soto

Fifth Grade: **Dafne Mancilla**, Amy Ochoa, Prea Silao

Sixth Grade: Brian Deleon, **William Gualpa**, Jackie Nacipucha

Seventh Grade: **Edgar Castillo**, Ashley Gonzales, Erica Huerta

Eighth Grade: Olha Olynyk, **Guadalupe Perez**, Jasinaremi Robledo

## The illustration nominees include (**Winners in bold**)...

Kindergarten-Third: Madeline Juarez, **Nayeli Martinez**, Karen Salazar

Fourth-Eighth: Roami Gonzalez, **Jackie Nacipucha**, Prea Silao



## Book Buddies Bond

by Jennifer Varela



This year Lorca middle schoolers continued the tradition of “Book Buddies”! Lorca eighth graders paired up with first graders while seventh graders partnered up with second grade. This took place towards the end of the day during the 7/8th advisory. Older students helped the younger students read and engage in activities that benefit them academically

and socially. The students are paired up and are able to interact with the little ones. By doing so it helps the little ones better understand the material that they are currently learning, and it also increases their communication skills by interacting with older kids. It also helps the 7/8th graders learn to be good role models and mentors. Keep up the good work Orcas!



## Planting the Way, Lorca Goes Green

by Anthony Reyes



This Spring, the Lorca garden was planted with many plants and vegetables to bring life to our garden. Our very own Resident Principal, Ms. Laino, played a large role in the garden project. There were many volunteers helping beautify the school. These volunteers included part of the NCLB parent group, the LSC members, Mr. Candia, Ms. McVeigh, and Lorca students. The school has also partnered with Christy Webber Landscaping to help with the project. Be on the lookout for first signs of life over the coming weeks. And remember everyone, stay off those planters!

Looking Towards Summer

# Lorca's NEW Summer Reading Challenge

by Guadalupe Perez

We are so excited to launch our 1<sup>st</sup> Lorca Summer Reading Challenge! This is a reading program designed specifically for Lorca students to ensure reading is happening all year round. After reading, students will be required to complete a book log that consists of a few questions. Book logs will

be sent home with each student along with a FREE BOOK! Yeah, you read that right! All Lorca students will receive a FREE BOOK! Extra book logs can be picked up outside of Lorca's main entrance. All students who complete the challenge will get a week of dress down days in October along with entry to win other prizes. Happy READING!

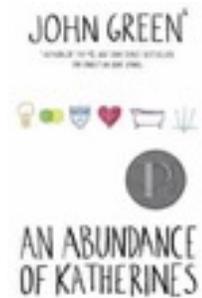
**What are the goals for Lorca's Summer Reading Challenge?**

Kindergarten-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	10 books
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 books or 700 pages
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1000 pages

## Book Reviews

### An Abundance of Katherines by John Green

by Destiny Reinhardt & Jasinaremi Robledo



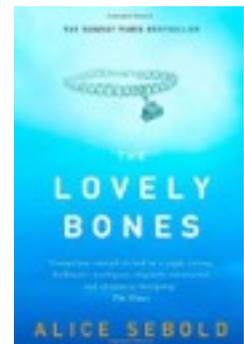
Colin is a child prodigy. The boy with high expectations and a love for anagrams. The boy who likes the name Katherine a little too much, that it becomes an obsession. After being dumped by his nineteenth girlfriend named Katherine, Colin embarks on a journey with his best friend Hassan. Its just a trip, right? But who knew

that one trip would leave Colin and Hassan in countless awkward situations. Colin's failing love life leaves a mystery to him, to the point he believes there must be an equation as to why he gets dumped continuously by Katherines, and throughout the book, that's the one problem he just can't find the answer to.

### The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

by Destiny Reinhardt & Jasinaremi Robledo

Susie Salmon. She's a fourteen year old girl, already introduced dead. After being brutally murdered she finds herself in a different situation. What is there to be expected? Is she a ghost? Is she to stand by forever, watching humans grow and die? Susie Salmon finds herself in heaven, watching over her grief stricken family, and her killer. She faces the challenge of deciding to contemplate on her thirst for revenge and her desire for her family to heal. The story is a summer must read.



## The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

by Destiny Reinhardt & Jasinaremi Robledo



"Eyes are the window to the soul" is the message that drives Hinton throughout the book. Ponyboy has lived his life on the streets, out with his brothers Sodapop and Darrel, growing up being in the lower class of "Greasers" with his best friend Johnny. When war starts uprising between the Socs and the Greasers, things get tough for the Curtis family,

as well as everyone involved in this war between these two social classes. Besides the wealth that divides them, they have all experienced the feeling of loss and pain, but many fail to realize that or understand the blurred lines a little too late. Join these outsiders on their journey as they face the loss of loved ones, denial, and find out who will overcome the obstacles, and who will succumb to grief and fall into the oblivion of hopelessness.

## Paper Town by John Green

by Destiny Reinhardt & Jasinaremi Robledo

Margo loves mysteries. To the point she becomes one. Margo and Quentin have been neighbors for many years. After Margo is found to have disappeared, she leads Quentin on an adventurous night time journey, leaving behind little codes and messages. Leaving a series of clues that only Quentin can decipher. The mystery of Margo's disappearance leaves Quentin and his sharp-witted friends on an adventurous night of new experiences and things they have never expected to happen, just to find the mysterious Margo.



## Summer Block Busters

### Jurassic World

by Andy Deleon



Roarrrrr.! Are you ready for some action, adventure, and a whole lot of CGI. Well you're in for a treat with the new movie coming out named, Jurassic World, a famous series that involves dinosaurs going on a rampage. However, this time a new king of dinosaur has been genetically made

by scientists to make the world famous T-rex look like an overgrown chihuahua. Many fans of this franchise will crowd into the movie theater when it comes out on June 12. It is estimated to make 100 million in the first week!

### Minions

by Destiny Reinhardt & Jasinaremi Robledo

Minions. Evolving from once being a single celled yellow organism at the beginning of time, minions have lived to serve as their purpose in life. But usually find themselves serving unsuccessful master, from the dawn of time, a t-rex, to serving Napoleon. Without anyone to serve, the minions fall in depression as they find themselves not serving anyone. Now meet Kevin.

He has a plan. A plan which will make the minions have a purpose, have a something to serve. With his pals Stuart and Bob, Kevin will try to find a evil master/boss to serve. Join the adventure of meeting Stuart, Kevin, and Bob. With their adventurous adventure.



## 8th Graders Take a Tour of Chicago

by Guadalupe Perez

On May 29th, Lorca eighth graders went on their longly awaited class trip. With an agenda packed with familiar, yet unexpected sights, there was fun and laughter at every turn. The trip began at the Chicago History Museum where everyone got an inside view of Chicago through the ages. It continued as the eighth graders were dropped off next to the Art Institute, groups were allowed to roam free in the Chicago Loop for over an hour with their respective chaperones. Even with the slight showers, no one's spirits lowered. Whether it was playing in the rain near "the bean", or trying to



escape it by getting free ponchos at Garrett's popcorn, there is no doubt that everyone enjoyed this portion of the trip. One of the last locations was the most anticipated for students, Navy Pier! Students were allowed to roam the Pier and explore all it has to offer. The students got the freedom to go on rides, traverse the maze, play games and eat food of their choosing. They finished off the trip by taking a peaceful, yet highly entertaining and informative, Shoreline boat tour on the Chicago River. This trip was, by far, one of the best experiences and surely one that this years graduates will remember.





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## 8th Grade Messages

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"Como mi perro siempre dice"  
"Be selfish with reason"  
- Guadalupe Perez

As a wise man once said "If you think about it too much the brain named itself" \(-\_-)/  
- Jason Hernandez

"Time goes by fast.  
Each passing moment we take for granted, appreciate each second as if it were your last. Make the best out of your life. Make memories, overwhelm yourself with them, and don't take any of them for granted. Learn from them, and keep them in your memory for the rest of your lives."  
-Destiny Reinhardt

"We don't remember days, we remember moments" so don't overthink anything, and just live in the moment.  
- Olha Oliynyk

"Life is hard...I guess. So might as well overcome it before you start to hate it."  
-Jazzy Robledo

"Even though struggles will come, your decisions to overcome these struggles affect your future. Choose what's best for yourself."  
- Rachel Nacipucha

"Graduation is an exciting time. It's both an ending and a beginning. It's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future."  
-Andrea Hernandez

If you try hard and put enough effort into your work, you will succeed. Also, you don't have to do what everyone else is doing, just be yourself.  
-Jennifer Varela