



2 KOOL 4 SKOOL
PAGE 2



A NIGHT OUT ON THE
TOWN
PAGE 3



IN THE SCIENCE
CLASSROOM
PAGE 4



LORCA BASKETBALL
BACK PAGE

LORCA LIFE



Lorca Students Lead the Way by Emily Mendoza

KABOOM! For the first time, Lorca Elementary student council members are publishing their very own newspaper! We are very excited and proud to introduce to you, student body and staff, the very first issue of *Lorca Life*! In this issue and many more to come, Lorca students will highlight and report on news relevant to Lorca, the community, and school events. You might read about events like Science Fair, activities in the classroom, updates about sports and clubs, or any variety of stories that we as Lorca students care about. In addition to this, we will review movies, books, music, video games and even include an advice column. From time to time, we will also highlight the great work of our teachers and our students.

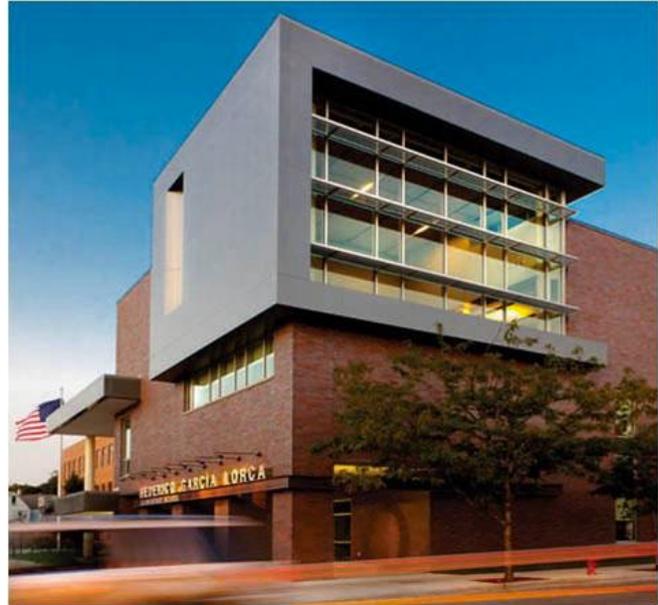
A big shout out to all the student council members and staff who worked tirelessly to publish this issue. We hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed putting it all together. Happy reading and GO LORCA!

Lorca Life is
Lorca's very first
student
newspaper!

Lorca Levels Up by Andy Deleon and Pedro Guzman

As many of you have heard, Lorca is now a Level 1+ school. As a Level 1+ school we are considered one of the top schools in the city. We achieved this status due to tremendous student growth on the NWEA MAP test, school cleanliness, attendance rates, and other data regarding school culture and climate.

Mrs. Cyrwus was not surprised by this rating and accredits it to the hard work of our students and the great instruction of our teachers. Way to go Orcas! Give yourself a round of applause, but keep in mind that we should continue to strive to be the best and maintain this ranking. Go LORCA!



2 Kool 4 Skool by Edgar Castillo and Andy Deleon

On Tuesday, January 6, many students took joy in the news that school would be closed due to the extreme cold front that hit Chicago. It was later announced that schools would remain closed the following day giving students a two day break from school. The decision to close school sparked a debate with students, parents and staff alike.

Some students agreed with the decision to close school on very cold days. According to seventh grader, Karla Lopez Romero, "It's too cold outside to get to school and people can get really sick." Other students have a different opinion. Miriam Eligio, seventh grader, stated "Kids don't know how important their education is. Many students are missing out on opportunities when school is closed."



Parents were also split on the decision. Some parents had concerns about their children getting sick or getting to school safe and welcomed the decision to close schools. Other parents felt that school closings are a huge inconvenience since they must make plans to change work schedules or find supervision for their children.

Keep in mind, that for every day cancelled CPS plans to make up these days later in the year. This could mean more school days added in June or shifting previously scheduled days off into days of student attendance. Stay tuned for CPS's decision.

A Night Out on the Town

by Andrea Hernandez and Guadalupe Perez

On November 11th, 2014, the 8th graders took a field trip to Steppenwolf Theater in pursuit of a visual alternative to the novel, *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell. A modern day allegory based on the rise of communist rule in Soviet Russia, both novel and play center around a group of farm animals rebelling against humans and taking control of a farm. For a play that many said was going to be boring and a waste of a Saturday evening, it turned out to be a phenomenal theatrical extravaganza.

The night started out feeling weird. Coming to school on a cold Saturday night and wearing fancy clothes felt sort of odd. But sitting for ninety minutes with no intermission was worth coming out to experience such an excellent play. The night ended up being a complete success!



Lorca Goes International

by Selena Gonzalez and Ashley Gonzales



In November, Lorca held its second annual Multicultural Event that showcased various cultures represented by Lorca's families and the community. Those in attendance got to sample foods from various cultures and witnessed many dances from many different countries. The event was sponsored by Ms. Delgado, Mr. Davila, and Ms. Donahue.

The event started with performances by students, parents, and other performance groups. Performances included a traditional Mariachi singer from Mexico, a Filipino dance group, a large musical ensemble representing

Puerto Rico. Other performers from places like Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Poland also shared the stage. Afterwards, all were invited to the cafeteria to share in many of the delicious dishes prepared by those in attendance. The food was phenomenal and the conversations had made this event a huge success. Can't wait to see you all there next year!

IN THE CLASSROOM

Well's World by Julisa Monroy and Brenda Sotelo

Mr. Wells, the 5/6 grade science teacher, has worked at Lorca since our open in 2010. He worked at Belding Elementary before he came to Lorca. He decided to start teaching because working at a summer camp when he was younger was his favorite job. The grade levels he has always taught are 5th and 6th grade which is an age group he enjoys teaching. Mr. Wells enjoys teaching science because he likes how in science class there is never just one answer.

Mr. Wells started teaching in 2008. He has been teaching for 7 years now, (thats a lot of years). Mr. Wells is 29 years old. Some of his interests include floor hockey, basketball, and long walks on the beach. Mr. Wells also coaches the 7/8 boys basketball team this year with Mr. Cartagena. Mr. Wells says that "The current 7th Grade was the best class he ever taught" (his original words).



Ratios by Edgar Castillo

In math we have been learning about ratios and how we are able to use them to solve difficult problems such as, finding the height of a large building or other object. Often buildings have to be measured, but instead of bringing a tape measure down from the top to the bottom you can use a different method. If the sun is out, the building will of course cast a shadow. So depending on the time of day a shadow is a certain times larger or smaller than the original figure. By figuring out how much smaller or larger the shadow is, you can find out the height of the original figure.

For example, if a flagpole is 9 feet high and the shadow is 3 feet tall that means the ratio of height to shadow is 3:1. This means for every three feet the flagpole is the shadow is 1 foot tall. So if you measure a building at the same time of day and the shadow is lets say 120 feet. The only thing you would need to do is multiply the shadow height by 3 according to the height to shadow ratio of 3:1. So at the end the building is 360 feet. No tape measuring necessary.

All About O'Neill

by Olha Oliynyk and Audie Presnell

I: When did you begin wanting to become a teacher?

O: "Well, I've always wanted to become a teacher, ever since I was 2 or 3, I'd line up my stuffed animals and pretend to teach them."

I: Why did you choose to teach science, and before that math?

O: "Math is the easiest subject, you always have a solution, you're either right or wrong, you know. As for science, I actually didn't think of teaching that until college, my teacher one day just said 'oh this is cool' and we just kind of got into the subject, and she explained to me how math is a part of science, and then I started to love science just as much as math."

I: Did you ever think of teaching younger classes?

O: "No, just big kids. I like the fact that they have their own opinions, you can have a debate with them, see what they think about what they're learning, and they are more mature."

I: What are certain parts of science, or math where you get nervous?

O: "Well, I love teaching algebra, and I'm not so fond of geometry, yet I wouldn't say I get nervous while teaching it, it's science where I get a bit afraid, yet it's simply because of all the chemicals, I don't want my students getting hurt while doing an experiment, there might be an accident, and we don't want that."

I: Where there any other subjects you would like to teach, other than science and math?

O: "No, I don't think so, I am qualified to teach all subjects, yet I think I will stick to science and math. I've taught reading before, and I guess it was okay, yet I've never taught social studies, only when I was a substitute, and it was maybe once or twice, and I can't say that I loved it to be honest."

I: If not a teacher, what type of profession would you choose?

O: "Well, I would most likely become an accountant, yet I do want to be published, it could be something as small as an article, or something like a book."

Eighth Graders Make Gel in Science Lab

by Julian Morales

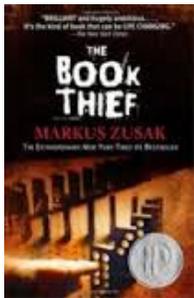
In science class (Room 200) the 8th graders made a gel called Polyester Gel which is made using two liquids, sodium borate and polyvinyl alcohol (or PVA for short). While both sodium borate and polyvinyl alcohol are liquids, the gel is a slimy, bouncy solid. A polymer is usually a plastic, It's also linked with 1,000-10,000 monomers in a certain way. The gel is also a compound, a substance that has two or more elements. The gel is a dull, glassy color, it is also a bit sticky. These polyesters are used for everyday items like erasers, pillows, paint, and even clothes! The 8th grade students liked the experiment. Some said that the experiment was fascinating, fun, and exciting!

ENTERTAINMENT

MUST READS

The Book Thief by Anthony Reyes

The Book Thief takes place in pre-WWII, and eventually leads its way to WWII. No, its not a war book. This book is about a girl named Liesel. Liesel is living in Nazi Germany, and she try's to adapt to her new life. Liesel gets made fun of due to the fact she's illiterate. She soon tries, in a desperate attempt, to learn reading and writing. She resorts to stealing books because her foster parents can't afford them. This book will keep you hooked if you're into WWII history. It's also very informational when describing the past, involving an interesting 3rd person view from death himself. You will get to enjoy Liesel and her best friend, Rudy, as they go out and act like the mischievous kids they are, all

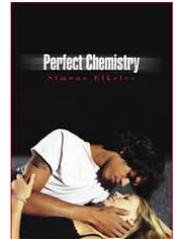


the while there lives are being controlled by Der Fuhrer.(Hitler). Rating: 5 Out Of 5 Stars

Perfect Chemistry

by Destiny Reinhardt and Jasinaremi Robledo

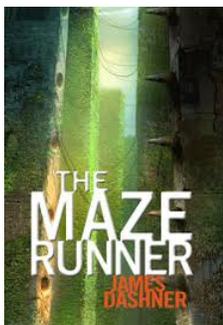
If you are looking for some romance, a glass of cliché, and a touch of cheesy, we have the book for you. *Perfect Chemistry* by Simon Elkeles gives a perspective of the life of a young Latino boy involved with a gang, who supposedly has “undeniably good looks” that makes him seem like a “runaway model”. Add a blonde rich girl who has a social status way higher than his, and you’ve got yourself a forbidden romance, with a seemingly terrible partnership for chemistry, literally. Like any cliché story, first comes the hate, then the unanticipated love. It was definitely a match not made in heaven. Everyone thought they were destined not to work out. Will their love prevail?



AT THE BOX OFFICE

Dare to Go In by Aurora Reyes

The young adult best-seller, *The Maze Runner*, is now available on Blu Ray and DVD. The movie follows, main character, Thomas, played by Teen Wolf's Dylan O'Brien, as he wakes up in a box that takes him to a place called the Glade, Thomas realizes that his past is a blur. He remembers his name and nothing else. He later finds out that the Glade is surrounded by a maze. It opens in the morning and closes in the afternoon to keep them safe from the horrifying Grievors. Will Thomas find a way out or end up as a victim of the Grievors? Tune in to find out!



Guardians of the Galaxy

by Guadalupe Perez

Based on the not so popular Marvel comic, comes a much more popular Marvel movie. Guardians of the Galaxy stars Chris Pratt as Peter Quill/Starlord. A space thief, who, beyond accusations, isn't a bad guy. We follow him around on his journey as he, along with his gang of fellow space thieves, Rocket, Groot, Gamora, and Drax try to protect the mystical orb which holds much more power than anyone ever expected. He must protect the orb to protect the galaxy. A great movie, with great characters, funny plot, and a great soundtrack. This movie is now available on Blu Ray and DVD, it is a definite must for anyone, marvel fan or not.



TECH NEWS

You and This Army by Edgar Castillo and Carlos Montufar

Most people have heard about or seen a commercial advertising the popular online game, *Clash of Clans*. It was one of the most popular games in 2013. The game was developed by Supercell and was released on August 2, 2012. It is available on Android and iOS devices. Now for those of you who don't know what *Clash of Clans* is, we'll break it down for you. The main objective of the game is to make your defense methods as strong as possible in order to protect your money and your HQ (Head Quarters) which happens to be your town hall and the heart of your base from other players. The game has been rated a 4.5 out of 5 by Apple and Google play. We highly recommend this game. It's full of adventure, and makes you think outside the box in order to figure new ways to defend your town and it's people. If you are looking for a new challenge or even a new way to procrastinate from your homework, try *Clash of Clans*.



MUSIC

1989 by Karla Lopez Romero and Linda Hernandez

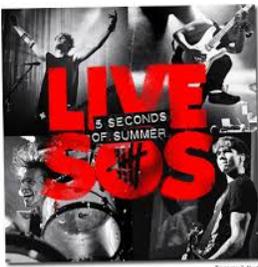
Taylor Swift has stepped up her game and transitioned from a country artist to a big time pop star. Her most recent album is 1989. According to Rolling Stones, "When it comes to Taylor Swift and super catchy 80's pop gloss, too much is never enough". So far, Swift has had three hits which are "Blank Space", "Style," and "Shake It Off." Our rating for 1989 is 4 out of 5 stars.



Everything Sounds Better Live

by Jennifer Varela

LiveSOS by 5 Seconds of Summer. This fascinating album was created by the boys of 5 Seconds of Summer. After the huge success on their first self titled album "5 Seconds of Summer", the success with this album was inevitable. The boys decided they wanted something that would capture the experience of seeing them live and in concert to connect with their fans more. They recorded audio from different performances in places they've performed such as the famous indoor arena, The Forum in LA. They obviously pleased many people especially their fans, including myself. They had tracks like 'Amnesia' and 'She Looks So Perfect'. Usually their work really pleases me and this album was no exception. I'd give 5 out of 5 stars to 5SOS.



DEBATE

Right Direction = One Direction by Olha Oliynyk

One Direction is a British boy band, created by Simon Cowell in July of 2010. After their formation they have reached great success, and for the past few years, they have earned more than a few awards, and way more than a few fans. Even though they are a great success, there are people who would argue that 5SOS, also known as Five Seconds of Summer, is way better than One Direction. In my personal opinion, 5SOS is far off from 1D. One Direction might not be a “punk rock” band, they’re more of a pop band, but they do care about their fans, in my opinion more than 5SOS. I like the fact that they don’t let others control their choices, and their family, friends, and fans mean a lot to them. One Direction is growing up, and we, just like our love for them is growing as well. Yet, if you think about it, it’s a matter of opinion, there are some 1D fans who are also 5SOS fans, personally, I would never pick 5SOS over 1D.



Who Doesn’t Love Summer

by Emily Mendoza

Many people tend to argue about which band is better, One Direction or 5SOS...but honestly, “Who Doesn’t Love Summer”? There’s a fine line between 1D and 5SOS, although some might not agree, in my opinion 5 Seconds Of Summer is way better, there are



many things that separate both bands from being “alike” things like how 5SOS, unlike 1D isn’t really a pop band, they’re more “punk rock”. Personally, I like how they don’t want to be like anyone else, and they stay true to themselves instead of letting fame get to them. 5SOS sticks to what they believe in, they’re different and they treat their fans like family. They’re just truly amazing and I’m sorry to all the directioners out there. Unlike 1D, 5SOS doesn’t let money or fame control what they choose to do. I couldn’t care less about what you think, 5SoS FOR LIFE, I mean come on “Who Doesn’t Love Summer”?

Blubber Buck Wednesdays
March 18
April 1 and 15

Upcoming Student Council
Theme Days
March 13 - Disney Day
March 27 - Superhero Day

ADVICE

Q: “ I have a friend she is off and on with me, we really don't talk a lot and I want to be close again. What should I do?
-Anonymous

A: Dear Anonymous,

There are many possible ways your situation can be handled. First off, I think that you need to understand what the issue is, why is she ignoring you. Ask her as to why she does not want to talk to you. Maybe she is just changing and wants to make new friends. She might want to find new things to do in her life. Find out if there is a deeper issue going on, maybe something is going on with her. All she might need is space. If you are a true friend then she is going to come to you. That might just be the problem, probably she wants time alone to find herself, give her time and when the time is right she'll talk to you, laugh at your jokes and create new memories with you. If this advice doesn't work for you, I'm sorry but just remember that friends do come and go.

-Lorca Life Advisors

Need Advice?

The Lorca Life advisors are here to help!
Place any of your questions or concerns in
the blue drop box located in the library!

Self, Others, School (S.O.S.) by Stephanie Panico

Lorca school has started something new this year when it comes to promoting a more positive school environment. Students were asked to think about how they can show respect for our self, others, and school. Here are some of the tips that the students came up with:

Self

Respect yourself
Always be positive
Try your hardest at school
Don't harm your self
Take care of things you have
Be appreciative
Always smile at the world

Others

Treat others with respect
Be helpful
Be respectful
Be nice to people
Say hello
Say thank you
Say excuse me

School

Help keep school clean
Help clean the cafeteria
Keep your locker clean
Wear the uniform required
Follow the rules
Respect the garden
Throw garbage in trashcan

SPORTS

Dodging Blocks & Making Shots

by Andrea Hernandez and Jailene Serrano

With a new year, comes new coach, Ms. Gerbec, who has the 7th & 8th grade girls basketball team playing exceptionally well. Led by third year player, Julissa Gonzalez (7th), fourth year player, Andrea Hernandez (8th), and new comer Azul Ortiz (8th) the girls are undefeated and looking to do damage in the playoffs. According to many of the players, communication is the most important part of the game and the girls really proved this. Having to yell at each other was no longer an issue, most of the communication became mental.



7th/8th grade Lorca boys made the best out of their season. Although most games were won, the boys unfortunately did not make it to the playoffs. This team was led by Omar Zayas (8th) and Dominic Saez (7th) who always gave the inspiration and pick me ups to their teammates. This team improved a lot this year. While welcoming the 7th graders this year, the 8th grade boys created a new bond seen and witnessed on the court. While dealing with some off the court issues like players being dropped from the roster and limited practice time, the boys still succeeded. One highlight of the season was the boys win against

Reilly by a 7 point margin. The boys started slow, gave up an early lead, and had to come from behind to win. This bodes well for hope of winning the Pulaski Cup back this year.

5/6 Players Ball All Day, Everyday by Jacqueline Pena

The 5/6th girls basketball team, coached by Ms. Morgan, and led by Marian Rodriguez have had a wonderful season. Throughout the season the girls have only lost one game. Although it was a difficult decision choosing 15 players, Ms. Morgan chose wisely. The girls excitement and playing has not only brought the girls together as a team, but together as a family that can count on each other. To playoffs they go!



The 5/6th boys basketball team, coached by Mr. Wells & Mr. Cartagena, and by led David Rojo had a challenging year. The outcome wasn't as wished, but led to a lot of growth for this years players. They won twice, but unfortunately loss four times. Hopefully these losses will inspire the boys to step up their game for next year.



Fall Sports Teams



Coming Soon!
Spring Sports
5/6 & 7/8 Girls Fast-Pitch
7/8 Boys Softball
7/8 Boys Volleyball
7/8 Co-Ed Track & Field

LORCA LIFE STAFF

Edgar Castillo

Andrea Hernandez

Julian Morales

Anthony Reyes

Evelyn Contreras

Jason Hernandez

Rachel Nacipucha

Aurora Reyes

Andy Deleon

Linda Hernandez

Olha Oliynyk

Jasinaremi Robledo

Ashley Gonzales

Karla Lopez-Romero

Stephanie Panico

Jailene Serrano

Connie Gonzalez

Paulina Martinez

Jacqueline Pena

Brenda Sotelo

Selena Gonzalez

Emily Mendoza

Guadalupe Perez

Jennifer Varela

Isis Gomez

Julisa Monroy

Audie Presnell

Pedro Guzman

Carlos Montufar

Destiny Reinhardt