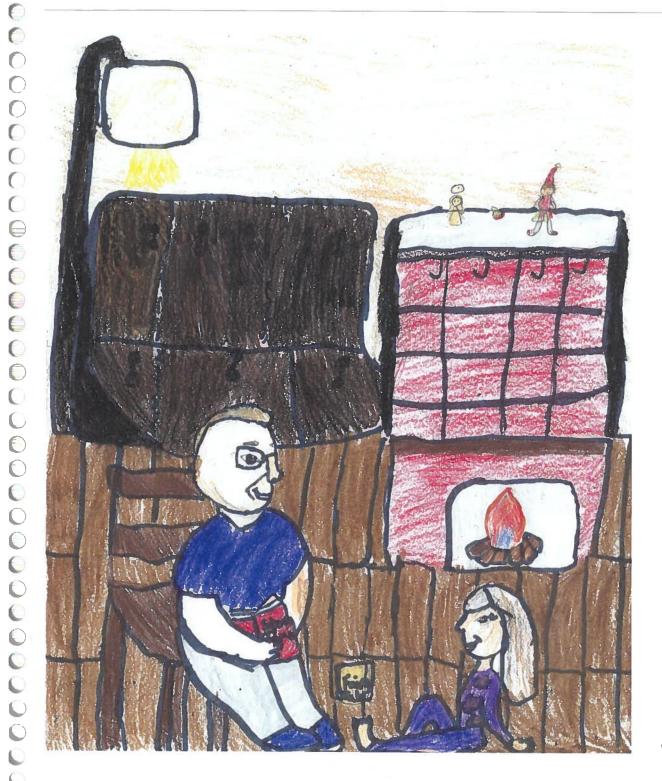


39TH ANNUAL

A Senior I Know Essay Contest



Left: First Place Winner, Izabella Delgado

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KELLER AND DIRECTOR SANCHEZ



TIMOTHY M. KELLER MAYOR, CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



ANNA M. SANCHEZ

Dear Albuquerque Residents,

For 39 years, the City of Albuquerque has joined Albuquerque Public Schools and the A Senior I Know committee in asking school-aged children in grades 1-5 to spend time learning about an important senior in their lives and then telling their story.

The A Senior I Know Essay Contest is an intergenerational activity that helps youth recognize the value of the older adults in their lives and showcase the importance of these relationships. During the pandemic, it became a great way to keep up a connection across generations, while helping develop writing skills.

We applaud the young writers who submitted more than 900 essays, during a pandemic no less! The collection showcased here are the best of the best in each grade category as selected by our esteemed judges. The stories are at turns funny, moving, poignant, and profound. They stand as testaments to important relationships that have impacted each student in a unique way.

Congratulations to these winners and thank you to the seniors in our community who take the time to pass down wisdom and support our City's youth.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR, The City of Albuquerque

ANNA M. SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR, The City Of Albuquerque Department Of Senior Affairs

Small Surchey

ESSAY CONTEST JUDGES



Ginger Grossetete

In 1981, I attended a workshop at the National Council on Aging annual conference that included information about a project whereby elementary students wrote compositions about

seniors they knew.

I thought the idea had great potential and decided we could turn it into a contest in our local elementary schools. "A Senior I Know" was born.

The contest was launched in 1982 and was very well received. Thousands of students have participated in the contest over the years and we have received numerous comments from teachers thanking us for providing the opportunity for their students to participate in this wonderful community project.

The success of this project has been personally gratifying to me and I look forward each year to reading the amazing stories written by the winners.

Let's hope the contest continues for another 36 years.

Ginger Grossetete, Founder of "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest.



Barbara Crawford

It is a real pleasure for me to be a judge for the Senior Essay Contest. My 30 years of experience as a teacher in elementary education is rekindled when I open up each of the contestant's stories.

I can tell how much they love this person and that they are written from the heart. They prove to be an inspiration to me.

"I can tell how much they love this person and that they are written from the heart."

> —Barbara Crawford, 2021 "A Senior I Know" Judge



Judy Koskovich

I taught 1st Graders in APS for 33 years. Each year was delightful! Reading and creative writing were my favorite "delights!"

Watching those children realize they could read and write... PRICELESS!

Being able to continue seeing this "magical happening," by judging these "Senior Essays" for over 16 years, is a great joy for me!



Suzanne Slankard

My name is Suzanne Slankard. I have lived in Albuquerque, NM for over 40 years.

I worked as a teacher, administrator, educational

consultant, and clinical supervisor at UNM in special education for a total of 39 years.

I worked at the elementary and middle school grade levels teaching both regular and special education.

I was certified as a reading specialist in New Mexico.

I taught Title 1 reading as well as special education

students who were gifted and who had learning disabilities. My friend, Ginger Grossetete, invited me to be a judge.

My favorite memory is taking group of students from Cochiti Elementary School to compete in Future Problem Solving at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.



Marge Peters

I moved from Florida to Albuquerque 33 years ago and was employed by APS for 22 years. I taught kindergarten, third, and fourth grades, which entailed the full grade level curriculum.

I met Gay Blech when she taught at Oñate and was involved in this contest.

She knew I would be interested in helping with it if ever the need arose.

My most memorable year teaching was the year I taught a third grade in which I had two visually impaired students and a German only speaker.



Elizabeth Wertheim

I first came to New Mexico in 1954 to attend UNM and, except for a few years that my husband's job took us elsewhere, have lived in my joyfully adopted state since.

Though not a teacher, as many of the other judges have been, I was an English literature major and am an avid reader.

Because of this, I have an interest in how creative writing skills are being nurtured in our school children.

It was a pleasure to be a judge for this fine project.

Leadership

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor, City of Albuquerque



Sarita Nair

Chief Administrative Officer

Lawrence Rael

Chief Operations Officer

Anna M. Sanchez

Director, Department of Senior Affairs

Nikki Peone

Recreation Division Manager, Department of Senior Affairs

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Benton

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District 4: Brook Bassan

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District 5: Cynthia Borrego

Harris

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District 4 Walt

O'Malley District 2: Steven Benson

Michael Quezada

District 5:

Vice Chair

Charlene Pyskoty Chair

District 3 Adriann

Barboa



Sue Fickle

I have been a judge for the "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest for 20 years.

I do enjoy getting the perspective of the students on what they think

comprises "Senior Citizen" as I am in that category.

The stories are interesting, enlightening and in many cases amusing. I am a retired teacher, counselor and administrator from APS, and will look forward to judging in the future.



Kathleen Church

Volunteering as a docent after my retirement from high school administration, I discovered what joy elementary school children are.

Now, as a senior myself, it is a pleasure to share for a moment the descriptions written by the children about their special grandparent or other admired older person.

I came to Albuquerque as a college student, and we have raised our children and retired here.

This project is both fun and rewarding to be involved in now.



Barbara Polka-Chenoweth

I am a rookie at judging this composition contest. Sue Fickel, a dear friend from church, asked me to partner with her this year.

Prior to moving to Albuquerque, I

was a substitute teacher and taught 5th and 6th grade

in Michigan, where I was raised. I also taught 2nd grade in Houston. In 1983, I was hired as a Cognitive Language Development teacher working with kindergarteners and 1st graders in Albuquerque. Later, this program became Early Childhood Literacy.

Eventually, I worked with 1st graders as a Reading Recovery teacher.

Before retiring after teaching for $36 \frac{1}{2}$ years, I worked with K-5 students in my role as a reading interventionist.

Carl Sagan said, "One of the greatest gifts adults can give—to their offspring and to their society—is to read to children."

It touches my heart to see my 15-month-old grandson looking at his board books concentrating on the pictures as he turns each page. He loves his books and having them read to him.



Linda Cummings-Orloski

I taught elementary school for 31 years. I began judging the "A Senior I Know" essay about eight years ago.

Some writings are funny, some sad, but all are from the heart. I feel privileged to be part of this worthwhile project.

"Some writings are funny, some sad, but all are from the heart."

—Linda Cummings-Orloski, 2021 "A Senior I Know" Judge



Carole Christensen
I grew up in New
Mexico and graduated
from UNM in 1960 with
a BS in Elementary
Education. So I have
lived in Albuquerque

for 60 years. I taught 6th grade at Aztec Elementary School for 3 years.

At that time 6th graders were still a part of the elementary school system. As a result, I taught all the subjects. I volunteered at my children's schools as a classroom helper and a library assistant.

I have always enjoyed working with children. Watching them grow and develop is very rewarding.



Marilyn Ortman I taught elementary school in APS for 22 years.

About 10 years into my teaching, one of my

students won the contest and I remember I was so proud of her. Unfortunately, Marilyn has retired from the project effective this year, but the Department of Senior Affairs and Ginger Grossetete would like to thank Marilyn for her dedication since 2002 as a judge for this contest.

"When I retired, I jumped at the chance to be a judge for the contest and I have enjoyed doing the judging ever since."

-Marilyn Ortman





IN MEMORIAM

Merilyn Humphries-Fish February 9, 1935—January 31, 2021

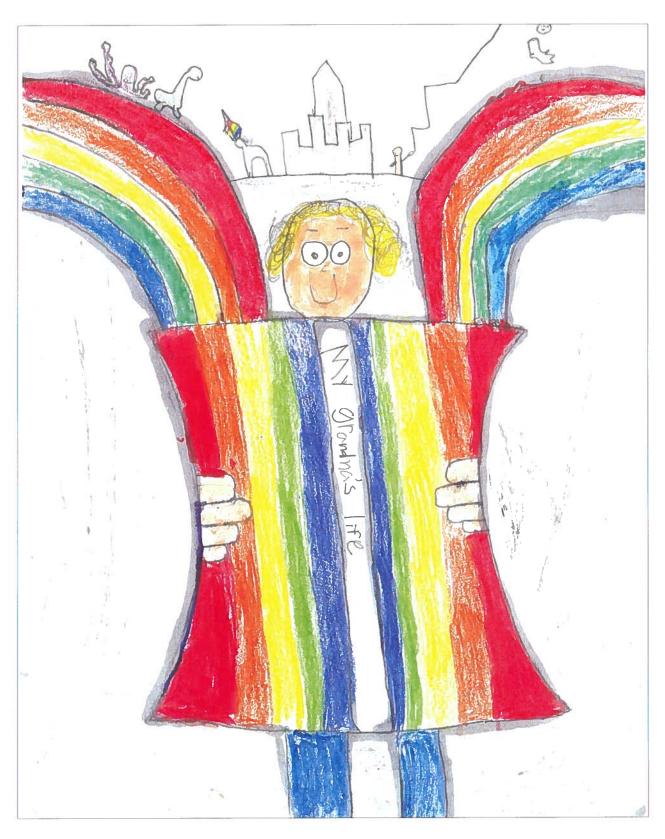
Merilyn served as A Senior I Know judge for 23 years. Merilyn earned a bachelors degree in art education from Wright State University in Dayton OH and later attended The University of New Mexico where she earned her masters degree in special education.

A Senior I Know founder and friend of Merilyn, Ginger Gossetete stated "She was always enthusiastic and looked forward to participating these many years".

Thank you Merilyn for your many years of dedication to this wonderful program.

"I've been pleased to serve as a judge in the Senior Essay Contest, evaluating the essays about seniors written by young students. Their loving and compelling words were a joy for me to read."

-Merilyn Fish



Name: Reilly-Jeth Golf Grade 1st Age La M or For Teacher MS, Keller School: Shepherd Lutherun

	. 48
Title: MYM & M Q	
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Shellloved to Blyon, Texas.	8
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married tomy Bunka They	
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Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: <u>Camden Weatherspoun</u>
Grade 15t Age <u>(o</u> M/orF_
Teacher <u>MS. Christine Parsen</u>
School: <u>Montessori One Academy</u>

Title: My Deamama



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

L'AN

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: <u>Camden Weatherspun</u>
Grade 1st Age <u>Lo M</u>orF_
Teacher <u>MS. Christine Parson</u>
School: <u>Montessori Oir Academy</u>

The services I know

It my grandma,

Tickeria. One of

the slivings I like

always I ship

grandma is the

com play the reverser.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Name: <u>Canden Weatherspoon</u>

Grade 1st Age <u>6 M vorf</u>

Teacher MS, Christine Parson

School: <u>Montessori</u> One Academy

Title:
and helps me with
legos and sametimes
with nearl. She is
relived, she is
sirty-ferrer. I park
clother and my
nightlight and computer



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Name: <u>Camden Weatherspoon</u>

Grade 15T Age 6 M/orF

Teacher M3 Christine Parson

School: <u>Montessori</u> One Academy

Title:
and headphones
and watch movies
and est proposer
when I sleep at her
hour she helps me
with math. When we
watch sorowies, she



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Name: <u>Camden Weatherspoon</u>

Grade 1st Age <u>(a M</u>orF_

Teacher <u>MS. Christine Parsin</u>

School: <u>Mintessii One Araki</u>ny

Title:	
lets mae have camely.	_
We stay up to 10:0	
04/1:00: I wake	
up at 5:00 in the	
mountagandget	<u> </u>
fire hours of slep.	
Them she takesime	



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

a to

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Name: Camden Weatherspoon
Grade 1st Age 6 M or F
Teacher Ms Christine Parson
School: Montesson One Academy

Title:			
tog	st par	ncokes.	
	The	end.	



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Name: Standard Age (C	M or F	J
Teacher Monica	Garcia-Roch	
School: Mimbres	School Unm	

Fille Mr. hast sound Nami Tlove her so much!	
Title: My best Friend Nani I love her so much! I'm writing about my. Nani. She is 80 years old but she is still full of life. She loves to smile, laugh, and watch Cartoms with me. During the holidays we like to bake cookies. I like spending. Christme with her. She likes looking at the Christmes tree. like I do. We like opening our gifts.	
is 80 years old but she is still full of	_
life. She loves to smile, laugh, and watch	-
Cartoons with me. During the holidays we	- ~ (
with her. She likes looking at the Christmas tree	<i>پد</i> ل _
like I do. We like opening our gifts.	_
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Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Heidi Rivera	
Grade_1 Age_7 M or F_x_	
Teacher _Ms. Anne Watkins	
School: Montessori One Elementary Academy	

Title: _My grandma____

I call my grandma Nani. She cooks all the time for me and my family. My favorite meals that my grandma cooks are stake veggies and mashed potato. My grandma is 62 years old. My grandma used to be a reservation agent with an airline. She is from Argentina. She teaches me how to speak Spanish. I know how to say hi bye water and a lot more. My grandma's name is lily. She has a dog named Chikie. Chickie is all so from Argentina. Chickie is so cute. My grandma and grandpa are moving to Florida. So I am going to be super sad. But they are going to visit a lot. I am so happy that they are going to visit. I love going to their condo. but I can not wait to swim in the sea. my grandma's family lives in new jersey. my grandma was12 years old moved to the U.S.A. She is so nice. She helps clean the hose a lot. at my grandma's place in Florida me and my brother are going to have bunkbeds. I am excited to sleep in a bunkbed.

I love my grandma my grandma loves me.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name: Toma's GRIEGO

Grade | Age 7 MV or F_

Teacher HELENA VU

School: LA CONQUISTA DORA ACADEMY

Title: The ricest & randoma
grandway in the world. She is
my dards man.
fives near our house and she
I a us go to her house a late Its
meat hat she never moved in
mor than fifty years and that
It Grandman house, I like to
It Grandman house, I like to play
forth her old tay that my dod fraged with Then my sisten was born, strandma took me
was born Arandma took me
la sleep over at her house.
and I like to below her work cutting
lown trees and feeding her sheep my
sisters do raking with I reason may I some time
help her crush cans because she works

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent



Name: Toma's GRIEGO

Grade Age 7 MVorF

Teacher HELENA VU

School: LA CONQUISTADORA

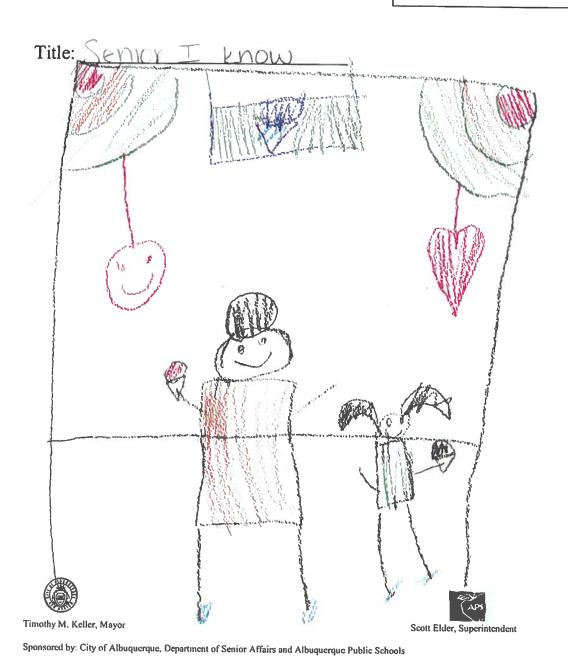
ACADEMY

Title: (The nicest Grandma, continued)
very paid to crush cans to give to the
receing place.
If rondma never golasla out
lithdays and she always gives
his a product she take us to school
That good because then we are in time.
nice grandma like mine.
nice grandma like mine.
5

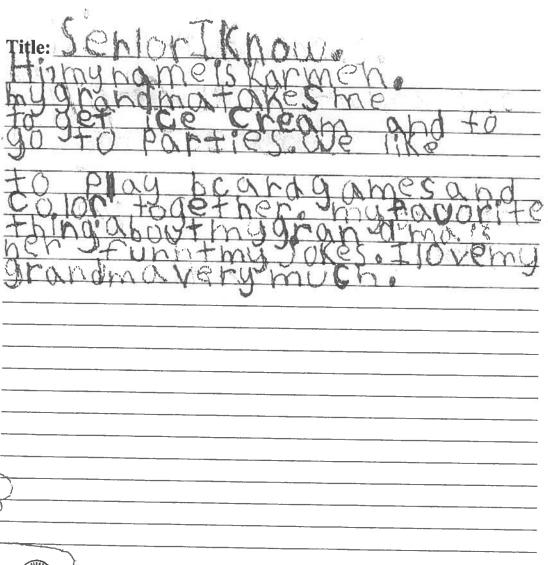
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent





Name: KAYMEN VERO Grade Age W M or FY Teacher MS. BYEWEY School: E.G. ROSS

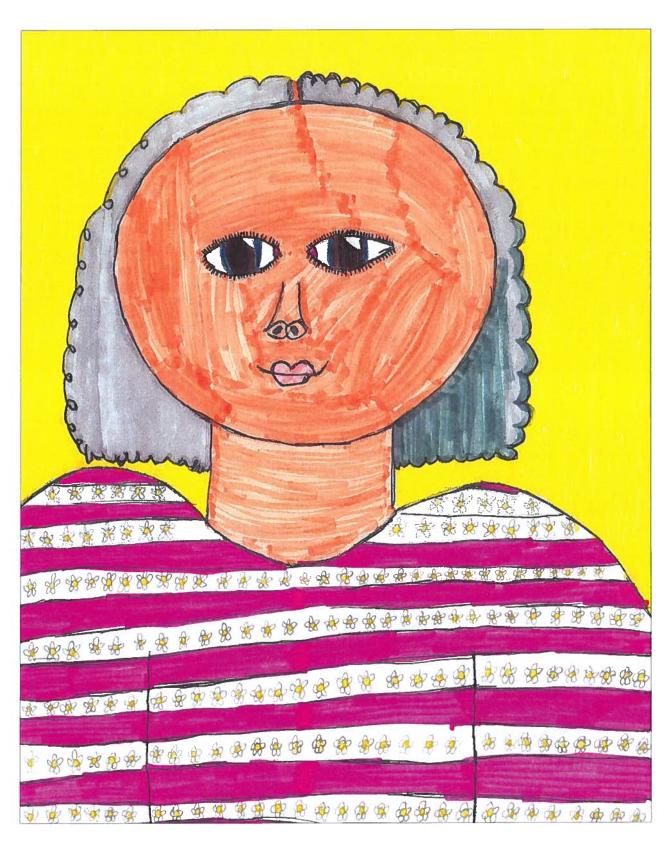




Timothy M. Keller Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent





Name: Julidand O.

Grade 2nd Age 7 M or F F

Teacher MISSSWODODO

School: She Phero

Title: Ny (Francha 5 / ite.

I have a francha she is nice it all her gand and short. She taught me how to bake swader cookits.

She Rakes them knows engten, when she bakes a coke, she let a territe it. when I go were to her house we watch movies to get he profund Last christ has a hos gama & know it correspond to me the Movies to not chis peter Raboit go Last christ has a hos gama & know it corresponds to ment of the she was a hos from to go in the five the places he is fended special Rock in the River where she likes to swim. She has two Dogs hamed coco and sopia. Coco is a pap: Hongho sopia is a pomeranian sommatakes heroirs with her every where she has two sisters hamed linda and Esther Lee my Gama has three kids named Richard, vanessa and marks what me I want to go over I mall ways he leo med she all ways cooks pine her has plant all ways invites us over she likes for me to he pher Plantseeds in her trees to ke pher gander Pretty.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Maranda Wheelock
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F./
Teacher Christine Rowson
School: Mantesborr one

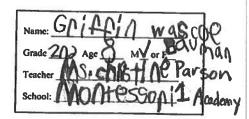
'Th
Title: Heand my gramma.
Title. 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11
My gramma lives on an Island in Maine My gramma was born in Melarose Where she also
Mry gramma was born in Melarose Where she also
11 7 3
what to school on summer vacation she went to
illy Island. When she had my morn and my one
tour aunt the had to get a job! No ishe worked on a labour
Goods she hould 60 sound I obster tooks the most
interesting place she ever went to war an Island, 500
miles and of the month hale so entities to the lead
and the state of the book of the book
are will assure to an my man but not this years
because of covid. My genormmos eveliered in the yearing
fall and O wrater and the usts I have bur mourne
lawns in the summer in witter spering and foll the waster
TV and late not very tasty food.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent



Title: POPO OND IS reditly full and helpful I like to Pilly With him. he brings us to the Playaround. Also, he brings us to the cream parton. He likes to wash peoples cars. He likes to read he is my partonite grandrang. I love him.	?(1+,

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: NOAh B

Grade 2 Age 7 M or F

Teacher No SWODOA

School: Shope No Luther

Title:
4 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
THE MERE DURYON HEL SPING FROM A FAIL.
Now she 36 etting better. Fler Name is
Tirabeth. She is MAried to MY PAPA AND HIS
NAME IS MINI MAKES
TOLO LOCK SPADIOTIFICAN MONT POLICE
Dest pright ANO MICAL DULLS
IN THE WOLLD. SHE IS ALWAY) CLEANING
THE NOUSE WHENEVER MY MOM AVOIT
90 OVER IT SXNOTTS STRATE TO CAN'T
WAIT TILL She is FULLY hoaled so she
CAN DIAY OCCOR NATIONAL AND ADDING CLO
Uh DES TIMI BAGIO L'EDAG HEI TENETA
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD GO
WITH OUT HOPE DNE JAY I SYOW
UP to b JUST AS GOOLY AS HOPE
011 10 0 001)1 /13 000=7 /13



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Suvi Mderki-Dear
Grade Age 7 M or F
Teacher Mc Lean
School: Sandia Base

Title: The senior I know
The senior I know is
Grandma Dorothy. My relationship with
her is great grandmant chose her
because she is wise and
Kind and is an incredible person. She's also A HUGE GB Packers
The court dates of where deposite and the property and the court of th
tan! A challenge grandma Dorothy has overcome is the Great
Depression, plus her little sister
died in a car crash. She is
inspirational because she is
turning one-hundred! My great
grandma borothy has overcome a
lot in her long lite: My
tavorite memory is when
we celebrated our birthdays
night. When we did that, she
was turning ninty-pight That is
my favortie memory with her
She lives in Green Bay in an
apartment In her back yard she has



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name:			
Grade	_ Age	M or F	1
	15 160		
School: S	andia	Base	
	SICH	THAILA	

Title:	×			• 4
figh. That Grandma amazing	15	where	She	lives.
Grandma	Doroth senior	y is	the	most
amazing	5€nior	T	Know!	
			a Tala diseast same markets	or the second
	*		6	
				<u> </u>
			*	
	<u></u>			



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name: VCh O Ba Ca

Grade Age M Vor F

Teacher TE Ch Ba Ca

School: HCh I C S L DOG

Title: 11/2 My air repper
French trong Idon at 9166 I dredon
that the number 1 turns into a chile peopler
That's decause I am steep the at my thing house
the world the mi marche developme in Karen
Hami was a green to clumb she can am chila
Departs of mellit would be work.
Hami like K-DOD SIEK + CHADA SAR ICO
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Day Hitar Law ob Youther Moen Lamat
19166 On Weather days we do not back in Kova
Hami Nas II II- & FIFTY day INF draw
Sometima differentia in a Not in I shid.
My dami- wa sust New Maxio to help.
tak me tak like the boxbour that my
Hani alcohe but I liv Hanile



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Tycho Baca
Grade: 2 Age 7 M√F_
Teacher: Helen Baca
School: Homeschool

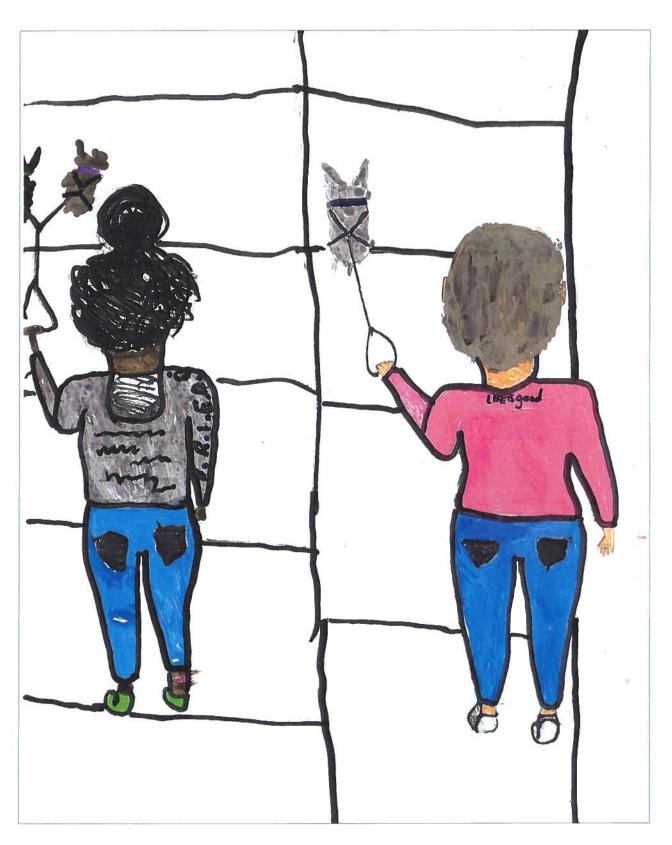
2021 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Title: The Magic Pepper

Every time I sleep at 9166 I dream that the number 1 turns into a chile pepper. That's because I am sleeping at my Hami's house. She is from Korea which is all the way across the world. Hami means Grandma in Korean. Hami has a green thumb and she can grow chile peppers so well it must be magic.

Hami likes K-pop even though she is a senior citizen. K-pop started in Korea and I play it for her on Youtube. When I am at 9166 on Wednesday we do art. Back in Korea Hami was in art school. Every day we draw something different using watercolors.

My Hami moved to New Mexico to help take care of me. I am starting to learn Korean thanks to her. I don't like the peppers that my Hami grows but I love my Hami.





Name: ZOIE HICKMAN

Grade 3 Age 8 M or FX

Teacher Mrs. Reyes

School: Sandia Base Elem

Title: __The Most Beautiful Grandmother in the World_

_The senior I know is Bertha Hickman and she is the most beautiful Great Grandmother in the world. You've got to meet her because she is awesome! I admire her because she is very nice and her food is good. The hard thing she had to overcome was the loss of her son. The things she likes to do for fun is going fishing, games, and collecting figurines and rocks.

I wish you could meet her because she is awesome. She is awesome because every time we go to her house, she lets me play on her computer and cooks me food. She lets me watch on her tv and lets me play outside. She also lets me lay in her bed when I'm tired of playing outside.

I love going to her house because she is nice and her food is good. I like her macaroni and cheese and her biscuits. I also admire her because she allows me to come over to her house. The last time we went to her house we had a party. I'm ready to go back to her house.

The sad thing is she had to go through losing her son. I hope she's feeling better about the loss. I hope that she does not have to go through it again. I wish I could meet him.

She likes to play games on her computer and go fishing when the weather is warm. In her storage shed there are a lot of fishing rods. She also



Timothy M. Keller Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name: Zole Hkkman

Grade 3 Age 8 M or FX

Teacher MS. Theyes

School: Sandia Bose Elem

likes to collect rocks. When she goes fishing, she collects seashells. She has a lot of figurines in her house that she collected.

The first thing that I love about my favorite senior citizen is the figurines in her house. The second thing that I love about my favorite senior citizen is how she always cooks for me when I ask. The third thing that I love about my favorite senior citizen is that she lets me lay in her bed.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Name: Afril James

Grade 31d Age 9 M or FX

Teacher Ms. Swobeda

School: Shefferd 1 utheran

Title: (Y) To Million Lite

My Cramima Was horn in Sprkane, Washington. I was home to mountains, liver lakes, and hightees. When she was little, she played king of the mountain, Old witch Hozel, and statue. They played the games an the Church steps Shehadll brothers and sisters.

One time when she was 4 and her sister was five, They vent outside to elay and decided to make mud fies. They got eggs from the chicker confound mixed them into the mod. They got in a lot of trouble with their man and dad because they used real eggs. When Grandma was thirteen, they moved to a farm. It was very cold and the girls lived in a bus so e cause there was only a croof; no floors, no wills The first day they built a hig from out of firewood for the walls and the floor. They had not bely stave that they built a fire in to keep the mount. Their bothroom was an outhouse outside. For the sire wood they want into the mountains to get logs. A tractical and cut down frees. They went with her dad to the mountains to get logs. A tractical in a half inch as ice as the inside windows. In the spring time they got cows, Pizs, chickens, goate, and horses, Grandma leaved how to milk cours and feel haby class the kids and Grand pa Pete huilt the house, the hand the wiphoechanger. Grandma grew up and had I kids. Their names were! Haurah, Sarah, Wary Abi, leke peter, and paul. She got married to Grandfa Byrd.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Luke Boyd

Grade 3rd Age g (AT) or F

Teacher Jena Sullins

School: Georgia O'Keeffe

Title: My Neighbor

The senior I am writing about is my neighbor John Kailey. I know John by walking his dog. John is tall, has blue eyes, white hair and a nice smile. He is funny and often has a joke or a riddle for me. He used to ride his bike a lot and would alway ask my dad to fix it. When I was seven, John challenged me to swim across our neighborhood pool underwater. It took me all summer, but when I did he gave me a big mint chocolate ice cream. When John hurt his back, I told him I could walk his little dog, Jo Jo, and take out his trash. It is important to help neighbors. John has a hard time walking now and I know that it hard. I like John because he always says kind words to me and my brother and really everyone else. John is a good neighbor.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name Mia Noelder
Grade 3rd Age 9 M OFF
Teacher Jena Sullins
School: Georgia O'Keeffe

	Uncle Sean's Story	
Title:		

I am choosing to write about my uncle and his name is Shaun. I chose to write about him because he is a very important person in my life. He is very sweet, kind and loving. He is also giving. He is paralayzed from chin toe. He is in a wheelchair and he cannot move. But he does not let that ruin his life which makes me so happy. He says that you can't go back in life so he learned a lesson. I'm so happy because he has a positive attitude and is positive and kind to others.

My uncle always wants to play a chess game with my brother. They alway play board games and I move the pieces for him. My uncle is always trying to help me solve my problems.

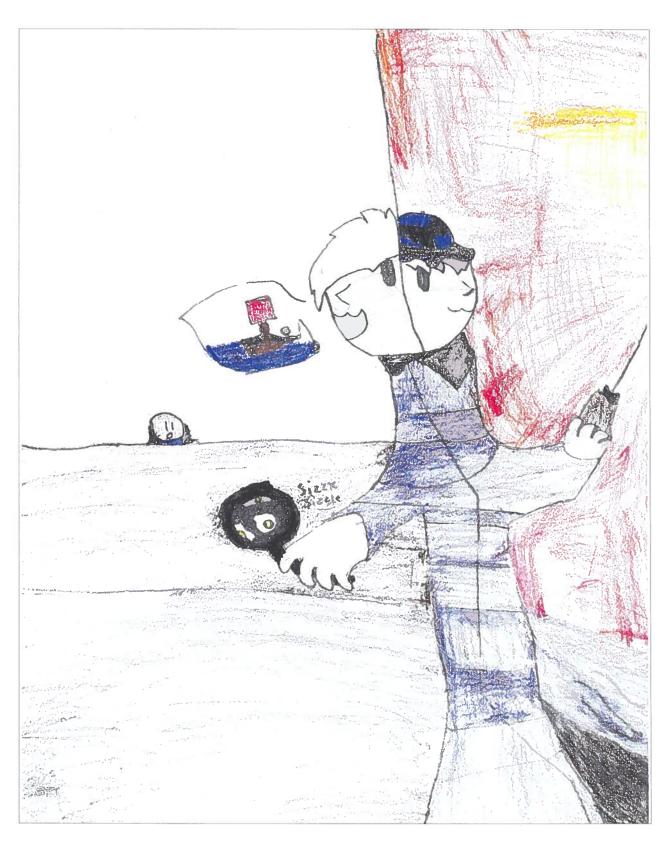
One thing that inspires me is my uncle says that you need to be aware in life, that is the one thing that caused his accident. It inspires me that he does not get angry and take it out on others. He says you could be walking and fall into a big hole so you need to be aware.

My uncle needs help getting up in the morning and he has a caregiver that helps him take showers. My uncle is so special, I love him so much. He is the best uncle in the whole universe.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Roedy, Superintendent



Name: Liam P. Ringenoldus

Grade 3rd Age 9 MX or F

Teacher Mrs. Rodgers

School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: The Best Qua'ah

I admire my Qua'ah so much because he loves me, I love him, and he fought for our country. Tommy Canyon is my Qua'ah. Qua'ah is Hopi for Grandpa. My Qua'ah is a fun, creative, and exciting guy. Some hard things he had to overcome was that he had to learn English in school and when he was in the military he had to be gone a lot. He likes to be outside and do a lot of hunting.

Tommy Canyon is my Qua'ah and he is Hopi. The word Qua'ah is how to say Grandpa in Hopi. My Qua'ah is my mom's father. He was born in Arizona. My Qua'ah lives on the Hopi Reservation. Tommy Canyon speaks both Hopi and English. My Qua'ah goes to a lot of Hopi ceremonies. Another thing that I think is cool is that I can experience a lot of my Hopi side all because of my mom and my Qua'ah.

My Qua'ah is cool and he has an exciting imagination. Before my Qua'ah goes hunting he needs to know how he is going to find the elk, deer, or whatever he is hunting. Then he needs to imagine how he is going to cook the meat. Some of the people that my Qua'ah met at work became his hunting friends. I think that it is cool that my Qua'ah get to meet a lot of people at the store that he works at.

My Qua'ah had to overcome a lot of hard things in his life. My Qua'ah had to learn English in school because he only spoke Hopi. When he was in the military he had to be gone a long time for his job. My Qua'ah was not able to be there when my mom was born because he was working in the military. Recently my Qua'ah had to stay away from my So'oh, my Grandma, because she had COVID-19.

In his free time my Qua'ah likes to be outside. My Qua'ah likes to go hunting during hunting season.

My Qua'ah like to just sit outside and be in nature. His favorite thing to do is watch the hummingbirds.

Tommy likes to take care of his garden and his field. He grows corn, squash, watermelon, beans and tomatoes.

What I love about my Qua'ah is that he loves me. When I was a little boy my Qua'ah would sing Hopi songs to me so I would fall asleep. Most of all my Qua'ah always makes time for me. That is why I



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name: Liam P. Ringenoldus

Grade 3rd Age 9 M X or F_

Teacher Mrs. Rodgers

School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: The Best Qua'ah
chose my Qua'ah for my "Senior I Know".



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

Name: Samiran Hemman

Grade 3 Age 8 M or F_

Teacher Ms. Anne Walking

School: Munited Samiran

Scott Elder, Superintendent

Title: My grandma My grandma is Merlin. She is 69 years old. Why grandma lives in India. I call my grandma Nani. Before I was born my Noni came from India to Albun vergue to take care of my mom. The flight was 17 hours long!
when I was born ing Nani came to the
and I sleep with him every night
legs strong In the evening she would give me
Potched to an something fundy happend. When magandon Stepped outside the back yard
the does not some water. I locked
to get back in the bossesse It was hillings
(a)

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Name:			_
Grade	Age	M or F	_
Teacher			-
School:			_

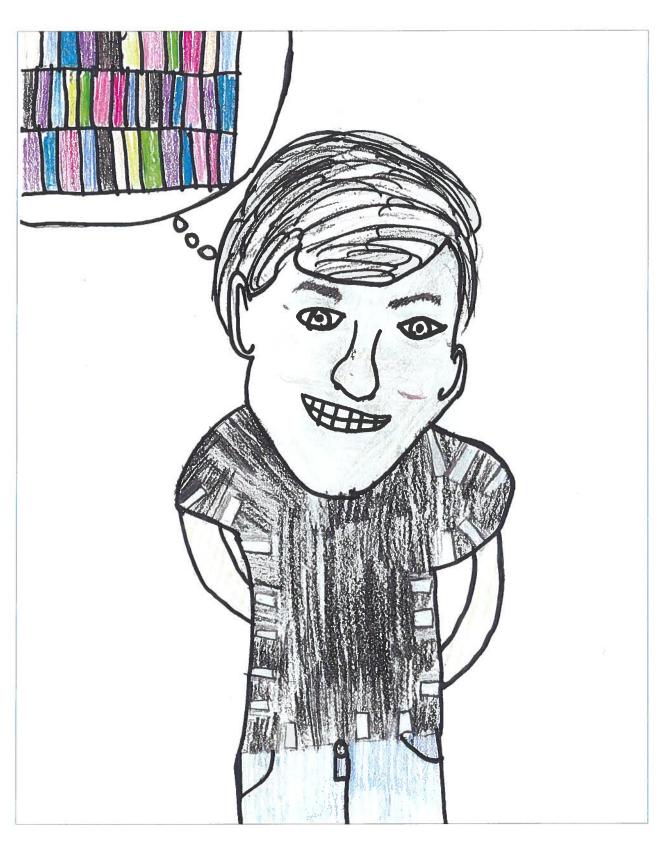
Title:
A few weeks later we went to Hawaii. My
according bought me floats with grabe on the
for one week. When I was 4 we went to the sandicas 200. We saw a lot ar animals.
for one week. When I was 4 we went to
The Sandiego 200. We saw a lot or animals.
When I was I my grandma was going to come to visit us but because of covid she couldn't
VISIT US but because of COVIA She couldn't
She still calls me every day, just recently
the 15 a Lhasa. Tove my grandmy and will
never forget about here I miss my grandma
Alot. She makes the best Barana Pancakes
The state of the s

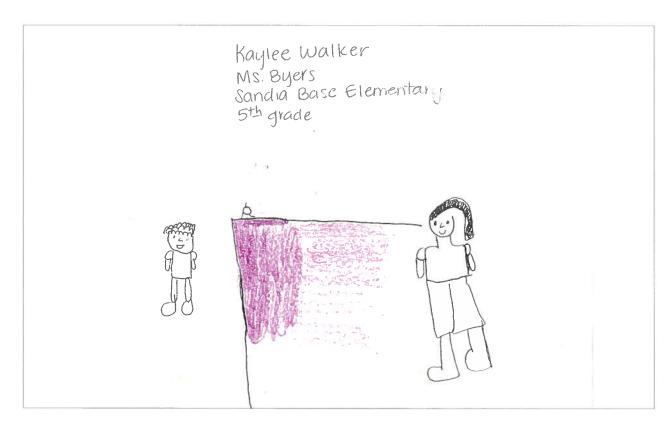


Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent







Name: Tahi_Toya	
Grade4th Age _10M_X_ or F	
Teacher Angela Stoltenberg	
School: Sandia Base ES	

Title: Grandma Gina, My Special Senior

A senior I know is my grandma, Regina Jaramillo, and her nickname is Gina. Grandma Gina is seventy-three years old and lives in Isleta Pueblo. She has two children, John and Tricia, and seven grandchildren, Fox, Leighann, Mikayla, Juanita, Taylor, Lane and myself. My grandma's favorite foods are posole and oven bread, but she also enjoys Almond Joy and Juicy Fruit as her sweet treats. In my grandma's free time, she likes to relax and play Word Jam on her phone.

Grandma Gina is retired from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), Bureau of Indian Affairs. There, she worked as a Library Technician for almost 20 years and often worked late hours to keep the library open for students that lived on campus. My grandma also worked at Albuquerque Area Office and Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc., as a coder in finance, where she entered invoices into a computer. When asked who my grandma's favorite grandchild is, she said Tahi! Grandma and I like to watch movies, eat, and relax.

Grandma Gina's most memorable moment in history was when John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. My grandma was in high school at the time and heard the sad news when she was in P.E. class. Grandma's personal memorable event happened on July 16, 1970, when she married my Grandpa Johnny, who was from Jemez Pueblo. Grandma Gina's proudest moment was October 1, 2010, when I was born as a special birthday gift to my mom! In December 2010, my grandma retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and that was her greatest accomplishment.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Name: Isaiah Baawhama
Grade 4 Age 4 MyorF

Teacher Christine Parson

School: Mentessori acadeay inc

Title: My Crabdna
My Grandma is an hice. We have daily vidro calls. We talk about backs together. I also ask her how her day was. Whenever she visits she brings us cookies she made she is very kind and generous. She gives us really cool gifts. Normally she comes for the holidays but in this crozy time she calls us virtually. That is why I love my Grabdua.



Raquel Roody, Superintendent

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Name: Isabelle Sebastian
Grade 4 Age 10 M or F./
Teacher Gemma Petersen
School: La Conquistadora Academy

Title: My Grandma
My story is about my Grandona, Luida
Hausard. My Grandma is 78! She always
Makes my family delicious pel when she
The special things that we do together age lake tooking and slay a board game.
The special things that we do together
age take tooking and clay a board game.
All laught une to un akt angenticad. Her
My Grandma in auxil James Haywood the
it smal bout been like having a fourm.
My Grandina inquired James Hamand the
lives wery close to one, she only three winetes
lives very close to eme, she only three mutes
Blanding in from Chat.
The makes the best strawberry cake Here
backyard has lots of birds. He husband
not my Dianalpa, grown domatace. I think
I have one of the brit thankman ever!
v

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

Sponsor Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools



Name: Zinnia Dumm

Grade 4 Age 9 M or F N

Teacher Ms. Saver

School: Grieges Elem.

A Senior I Know By Zinnia Dumm

Do you have a great aunt who lives halfway across the country from you? Well, I do. She is my aunt Adair. I love her so much. I picked Aunt Adair for my Senior Citizen I Know essay because she's artistic, kind, and really fun to be around.

First, my Aunt Adair is artistic. She wears clothes that look like a butterfly, colorful and flowing. Her house is filled with art such as pottery, landscapes, and watercolors. But her favorite is abstract paintings because she likes the colors. This is why I think she is creative.

Second, my aunt is kind. She makes me happy when I am sad. She listens to me. She invites us over to her house and laughs with us. One time, she invited me and my sister Posey to stay overnight with her. There, we played board games with her and drank tea out of a cow teapot. I felt happy when she was kind to me.

Lastly, she is fun to be with. She tells great stories. She always tells lots of jokes such as, "WHY DIDN'T THE SKELETON CROSS THE ROAD? BECAUSE THEY HAD NO GUTS". Also, she takes us to visit new places and buys us cool t-shirts. One of my favorites places was when we went to Sedona where we explored the shops in town.

As you can see, my Aunt Adair is amazing! I wish I could see her more. She's very creative, always kind, and one of the most fun people I know.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Name: _Amelie Mutidjo

Grade 4 Age 9 M_ or FX
Teacher Mrs. McCallon Mrs.Balthaser

School: SY Jackson

Title: My Grandpa

My Grandpa is a great person. He used to be an artist, football player and he used to be in the Air Force. I love going to visit him and my grandma in Arizona but this year we couldn't because of Covid-19. My grandpa still did fun stuff with me though. He sent me some art supplies and started giving me lessons through FaceTime. My grandpa is really funny but he can also be kind of "lazy" says my mom and grandma. He loves football so much that he wants, "to increase his internet speed because of the TV" we asked him why because he already has a higher speed than us and we have four computers running all one day, he said It's because he likes to keep all three TV's on so he doesn't miss anything in his football games. Now we joke about it. But luckily my grandma said she was able to talk him out of it.

One of my favorite things about my grandpa is his art. He can do some amazing things with a paint brush and paint or a pencil and paper. He likes water colors but he really enjoys sculptures. He gave me lessons on water colors and sent me some. He also got me a watercolor book that teaches me different brush techniques. Now if I have a question about any type of art he can help me. He sent me watercolor brushes, paper and a pallet box. Then he showed me how to use each one and how to blend different colors.

I want to be like my grandpa when I grow up. I want to be able to do amazing art and help our country to be a better place like he did.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Dawian Bollar
Grade 4 Age 10 My or F
Teacher MtC. Both
School: hadgin

Title: MI Drah! Parents

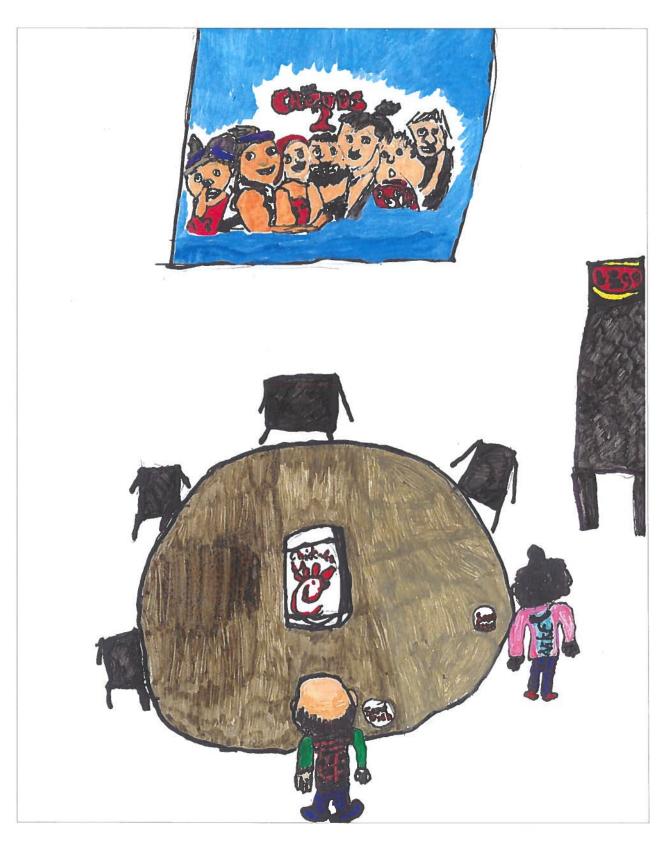
One thing I leaths from my grand laters
is they are really nice. Incytre asso so
locative they have that with shoot they know and
they go to church Ewitch is good by the way).
They are good friends of mine, my granima
She doesn't have work I think so she tokes care
at her house and my granita works some where
but I know he has a workship they know a
lot whou god so they trach me about him
and his toky They go to church to learn about
god and it you want to learn the truth I
think i'm gotting tiled of it. Ohe thing
that was intrasting was heaven und heak heave
is a happy flace where god and abases we but
you can only go there is you're good and heat is
a evil place what I think my grand later his were
trying to tell me is to be good at had tings will
happen.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Ilian Brown yers andia Base Elementary



Name: Autumn Badonie

Grade 5th Age 11 M_ or F_X_

Teacher Mrs. Lowther

School: Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School

Title: A senior I know

The senior I know is my grandpa, Truman Badonie. He was born in Tohatchi, NM. His birthday is on February, 11, 1959. He will be turning 62 next month. He has two siblings a brother and sister. His brother has past away. My grandpa was raised by his grandmother, Evelyn Badonie when he was two years old. His mother past on from an illness. He never knew his father. His mother Loretta Badonie was a caretaker. His Grandmother was a homemaker. A homemaker is who takes care of the home and takes care of the livestock.

My grandpa Truman completed high school but never went to college. He helped take care of the livestock with his grandmother. In high school my grandpa did not have any internet or electronics. My grandpas favorite subject was math because he likes working with numbers. Truman participated in rodeo. In rodeo he did bullriding, saddle bronoc, and team roping. He was very good in each of his events which helped support his grandmother. Aside from going to school and rodeo events he had daily chores, which were herding sheep and taking care of livestock. My grandpa woke up early in the morning, to let the sheep out and graze. As well as, feeding the horses and rounding up the cattle by gaving them vaccine, branding, and eartagging. My grandpa Truman continues to do his daily chores to this day.

My grandpa currently works at Ch'ooshgai Community School in Tohatchi, NM, as a facility maintenance staff. His most greatest accomplishment is his current job, because he can provide for his family and livestock. In conclusion I admire my grandpa, because he knows alot about livestock, he is a hard worker and has great horsemanship skills.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: _ Kiaräh Braziel

Grade _ 5th_ Age _ 10 _ M _ or F_x_

Teacher _ Sherry Haworth ____

School: The Montessori Elementary School

Title: ____Grandpa with the Cowboy Hat

My grandpa is very special to me because he always lets me know that he loves me. He has impacted my life by teaching me about the sense of family, and that family always cares for each other. My grandpa is very wonderful because he is always there for me, no matter what. Plus, he always loves me for who I am.

Growing up in New York, I always looked forward to my grandpa's visits from New Mexico. When my grandpa would arrive in New York from Albuquerque, he always stepped out of the taxi wearing a cowboy hat and cowboy boots! When he reached my front door, he would scoop me up in his arms and give me a great big hug. Then, he would let me wear his cowboy hat and his cowboy boots, so that I could play "horsey" around the house.

My grandpa is a very kind hearted man, with a full head of long silver hair that shimmers in the sunlight. His eyes are hazel, with a bit of emerald green that changes color. Back in the day, his hair was as straight as a horse's mane with a little curl in it. His feet were too large for any shoes to fit. His body was as flexible as a rubber band, and his legs were as fast as "The Flash".

My grandpa inspired me, when he taught me that it's okay to be different. Just like when he travels everywhere, wearing his cowboy hat and his cowboy boots. In fact, he told me that our differences are what makes us special. My grandpa is an example to follow, because he is always himself, and he is a brave individual.

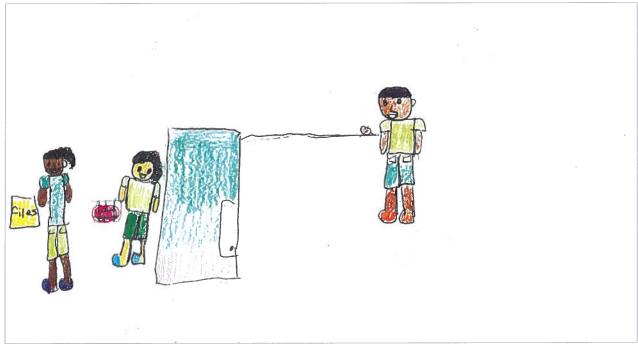


Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Raquel Reedy, Superintendent





Name: Noah Keilbarth

Grade 5th Age 10 M X or F

Teacher Erica Finnegan

School: Double Eagle Elementary

Title: The Best Boppa Ever

Our elders might be the oldest people we know, but they reward us with some of the best memories we could hope for. My Boppa has created so many memories for me. When I think of my Boppa four words come to mind: silly, generous and thoughtful, and charitable.

My Boppa is always trying to be silly. One morning while I was at his house eating breakfast he said he won a competition in New York for making french toast. He said the judges jumped out of their chairs and said, "This is the most exceptional french toast ever, Gregory!" Also, whenever I am trying to concentrate on something, he tries to tell me a joke or tickle me. The silliest thing he says is when we watch Nebraska football games. He starts with, "Back in my times I was the best Quarterback in Nebraska." Mind you, my Boppa is 5'5!

My Boppa is also very generous and thoughtful. He works hard to get my siblings and I wonderful gifts, and he ALWAYS makes me my favorite ice cream when I stay over at his house. Boppa knows that I enjoy my talks with him, so whenever I spend the night, he makes an effort to take a walk with me so he and I can discuss what is going on in my life and in the world.

Finally, my Boppa is super charitable. He believes in helping children, and works hard so that children do not have to pay to get support after losing someone they love. This year for his birthday, rather than getting something for himself, he wanted us to give to charity. My boppa shows me how important it is to be someone who helps others.

My boppa is someone I look up to. He teaches me to be a little more silly, generous and thoughtful, and most importantly, charitable. He is someone I always enjoy spending time with, and I love him very much.







Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

Name: Isahel Gringo
Grade 5 Age 10 M or F./
Teacher Sarah Young
School: La Conquistadora Academy

Title: My Papa
Title Tig . april
Papa tapp is my granolpa. He lives in
Saint Marys, Kansas, I want to write about him
because he is always trying to do things for people.
The always makes me happy with his jokes and
songs.
Papa was born in Bakersfield, a sunny town i
California on July 13, 1957. as a child he tried to be a good loy.
With his brothers he played basketball, wiffleball, swam in
summer, did homework, and went to the park and rook his like
When he was sixteen his family moved to Cayucos, Colifornia.
Papa got married in 1979 in Powers Lake, North Daksta.
There, in Stanley, North Dukota, my mom was born, In North
Dakota Papa worked at a Diesel Repair Shop. In 1985 he
moved to Hansas, where he and his family lived in a rental
apartment. He then moved to I daho for six months, then
moved back to Kansas where he now lives in a nice, big
house.
Line, his family had a cute bird named I windsles. One time
Twinkles was in its cage while my Papa was working on

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

Spons and Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools



Name: Isabel Griego

Grade 5 Age 10 M or F V

Teacher Sarah Young

School: La Conquistadora Academy

Title: My Papa (continued)
a car-Papa did not know this but bad gases were coming
out of the car, laga, after a while, noticed that Twinkles was
dying! Then Papa realized that poisonous gases were coming from
the car. Papa took Twinkles and saved it, Twinkles had saved
Papa and Papa had saved I winkles. The gas station closed in
1991. Grandma and Papa now own Zapas Health Food Store which
they opened in 1999. They also own a laundromet next also
to their shop.
To their shop. Now Papa swims in summer, maken people happy
and how people over whenever, especially my cousing. I
love my dear Papa very much and love spending time
with him.

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent



Name: _	Harlow	H.
Grade _	5 Age 11	MX or F_
Teacher	MILPA	lar
School:	MINIE	

Title: M. Auntie Evelya

We walled into Auntie Evalif garden and heard the Sound of her friend Playing Her comes the sun in his electric further We jumped over the religion of him of the orange flowers I would havely see the hand through sun flowers that were talker through the Auntie Evelia Cord decorated the fabric Me and Auntie Evel a danced to the masic.

Evelia Cobor is my great aunt he one; to
make art grow plants and make music. She
also has adog named Tupac who escapes from
the year very often. She pans for some of My activities
like tarate, violin, and swimming. She is even
an austral winning austroc'Sady. I could not
interview her because she is in sehoh. She
does not last long because she tends to escape.
The dosen't call as when she escaped
we usually have to learn that she escaped
from a tamily member. I dan't know why or
how she escapes, though.



Timothy M. Keller, Manage

Raquel Roedy, Superintendent

2021 Name: Harlow H. A Senior I Know Essay Contest Grade S Age 11 MX or F_ Teacher Mr. Lealar Manzaro Mesa Title: My Muntie Evelia Timothy M. Keller, Mayor Requel Recely, Superintenden

Name: _	+	15	100	1	1.
Grade _	5	Age	1,1	_ M_	or F_
Teacher	M	Jal	- Cr	F-1	ar
School:	M	M	2.5		

Title: My Auntie Evel, a Pt.2

She also lites to dance and sing, and she even knows spanish! She has friends that are great massicians and affists, whenever I go to her house she shows me all of her art and I usually explore the sungle that is her back yard. She was also a school teacher and loves to tell stories. All of her art has something to do with her family. The is about 80-year-old now and still loves her crazy gorden parties. Usually, her musical friends go to the farties and Play song for us. We donce around and sometimes get lost in her garden. A course of years ago, she lead us into a hald parch in a deep part of her garden and sevened a glass table with lickurer of all my family members within it.

The is an amazing laby to a mire that she loves wildlife and she is not scared to do anything. She can be a but will at firmer but love.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Requel Recely, Superintendent

(15. Army

Name: Beckett Coob

Grade 5th Age 11 M X of

Teacher Mrs. Lowther

School; Georgia O Keeffe Elementary School

Title: The One And Only Pop

Charlie Bursi, otherwise known as "Pop" or my grandfather. He was born on December 1st, 1951. He had no siblings. His dad was a butcher while his mom was a housewife and sometimes built airplanes.

His school was very different than ours now. There weren't electronic devices. Communication was through letters or direct contact. Communication was slower making it harder to contact people.

In school Charlie's favorite subject was math. He was super good with numbers. This was helpful for him because he ended up being a computer programer and that allowed him more success in his job. In high school, Charlie wanted to work in the army until one day he was hit in the ear by a football and lost hearing in one ear. This blocked Charlie from being able to join the army.

When Charlie was younger he would mow lawns in the summer for extra money and did yard work. Charlie's first job was delivering groceries. He would wear a white store apron and deliver groceries on his bike to people in his neighborhood where his dad worked. He went to college then attended a computer school so he could become a computer programmer.

He married a woman named Teresa who was the love of his life. Charlie and Teresa had 3 wonderful kids named Laura, Linda, and Lisa. Charlie felt like marrying Teresa and having 3 children was his greatest accomplishment ever. When his kids grew up, all of them got married. He has 6 amazing and cool grandchildren along with 2 granddogs.

Charlie is an amazing person! He always takes time to spend with his family and grandkids. He is the best grandpa a grandkid could ever want. I hope one day I will be like him. This is what I admire about Charlie!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Raquel Reedy, Superintendent

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THE WINNERS

GRADE 1

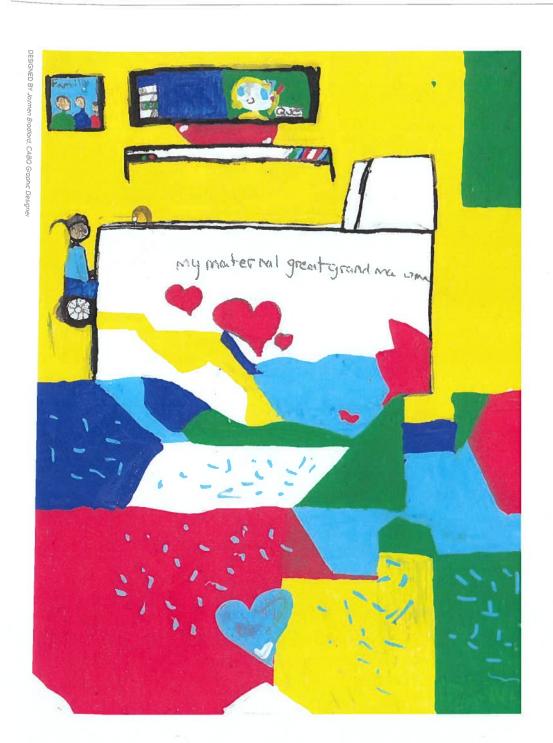
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER
Reilly Garcia	Shephard Lutheran Elementary	Ms. Keller
Karmen Yepa	EG Ross Elementary	Ms. Brewer
Heidi Rivera	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Watkins
Tomás Griego	La Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Vu
Samuel Brady	Mimbres School UNM	Mrs. Garcia-Roach
Camden Weatherspoon	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Parson
	GRADE 2	
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER
Tycho Baca	Homeschool	Mrs. Baca
Suvi Maerki-Dean	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. McLean
Griffin Wascoe-Bauman	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Parson
Noah Browder	Shephard Lutheran Elementary	Ms. Swoboda
Miranda Wheelock	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Parson
Julianna Gonzales	Shephard Lutheran Elementary	Ms. Swoboda
	GRADE 3	
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER
Zoie Hickman	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Reyes
Liam Ringenoldus	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Rodgers
Samiran Hemmady	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Watkins

Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary

Ms. Sullins

Mia Noelder

	GRADE 3 (CONTINUED)		
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	
Luke Boyd	Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Ms. Sullins	
April James	Sheppard Lutheran Elementary	Ms. Swoboda	
	GRADE 4		
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	
Damian Bollar	Hodgins Elementary	Mrs. Born	
Isaiah Beauchamp	Montessori One Academy	Ms. Parson	
Tahi Toya	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Stoltenberg	
Amelie Mutidjo	SY Jackson	Mrs. McCallon/Mrs. Balthase	
Zinnia Dumm	Griegos Elementary	Ms. Sauer	
Isabelle Sebastian	La Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Peterson	
	GRADE 5		
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	
Harlow Hovey	Manzano Mesa Elementary	Ms. Leflar	
Isabel Griego	La Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Young	
Noah Keilbarth	Double Eagle Elementary	Ms. Finnegan	
Kiarah Braziel	Montessori Elementary	Ms. Haworth	
Autumn Badonie	Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Mrs. Lowther	
Beckett Cobb	Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Mrs. Lowther	
	ART WINNERS		
STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	
Izabella Delgado	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Gallagher	
Sophia Ciecarelli	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Hudson	



ONE ALBUQUE RQUE

DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR AFFAIRS

2021 A SENIOR I KNOW ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Contact

Angel Montoya acmontoya@cabq.gov

P: (505) 764-6475 **W:** cabq.gov/seniors

Citizen Contact Center: 311

0

Left: Second Place Winner, Sophia Ciecarelli