



Cover: D'macia Polzin
GRADE 05 TEACHER: MS. KATJA

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR AFFAIRS

A Senior I Know Essay Winners

Contact Information

Department of Senior Affairs
Senior Info Line: 505-764-6400
Citizen Contact Center: 311
cabq.gov/seniors

2
0
2
3

Table of Contents

3	FROM US
4	MEET OUR JUDGES
7	THE WINNERS
64	WINNERS LIST
66	OUR SPONSORS



Left: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor, City of Albuquerque. **Right:** Anna Sanchez, Director, the Department of Senior Affairs.

From Us

A Message from Mayor Tim Keller and Department of Senior Affairs Director Anna Sanchez

Congratulations Albuquerque families!

Every year, the City of Albuquerque and Department of Senior Affairs looks forward to partnering with Albuquerque Public Schools and the dedicated “A Senior I Know” volunteer committee for this inspiring tradition. During Older Americans Month, elementary students are encouraged to choose an older adult they admire and write an essay telling their story.

We are extremely pleased to present the winning entries from this year’s 41st Annual “A Senior I Know” Essay Contest, which serve as a testament to the value of intergenerational relationships between youth and older adults. The positive impact of these relationships on our community cannot be overstated, and it’s a tradition we hope to see continue for many more years to come.

In addition to helping students develop their writing skills, this project demonstrates just how important the cross-generational exchange of personal experience, knowledge, and history truly is, while at the same time making us laugh, warming our hearts, and even deepening our perspectives.

By inspiring children to ask questions and learn from the older adults in their lives, our goal is to help foster connections between

generations that bring us together and ultimately create a stronger Albuquerque for us all.

We applaud the young writers who submitted more than 1,100 essays to this year’s contest—and a huge thank you to the committee of retired educators tasked with selecting the winners!

We appreciate the support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico for their contributions and commitment to this event.

Congratulations to the winners showcased here, and thank you to all those who helped make this beloved Albuquerque tradition possible through the sharing of their time and treasured wisdom.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor and
Anna M. Sanchez, Director
Department of Senior Affairs



Meet Our Judges

Get to know our judges.

Ginger Grossetete

FOUNDER OF "A SENIOR I KNOW" ESSAY CONTEST

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 40 years.

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

Right (from left to right): The Judges: Ginger Grossetete, Barbara Crawford, Judy Koskovich, Suzanne Slankard, Marge Peters, Elizabeth Wertheim, Sue Fickle, Kathleen Church, Carole Christensen, Barbara Polka-Chenoweth and Anita Sterchi.

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.

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 over 30 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.

Sue Fickle

I have been a judge for the “A Senior I Know” Essay Contest for over 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

LEADERSHIP

Timothy M. Keller,
*Mayor, City
of Albuquerque*



Lawrence Rael
Chief Operations Officer

Kata Sandoval
Chief of Staff

Anna M. Sanchez
Director, Department
of Senior Affairs

Angel Montoya
Recreation Division Manager,
Department of Senior Affairs

CITY COUNCILORS

District 1: Louie Sanchez

District 2: Isaac Benton

District 3: Klarissa Peña

District 4: Brook Bassan

District 5: Dan Lewis

District 6: Pat Davis

District 7: Tammy Fiebelkorn

District 8: Trudy Jones

District 9: Renée Grout

**BERNALILLO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

District 1: Debbie O’Malley

District 2: Steven Michael Quezada
(Vice Chair)

District 3: Adriann Barboa

District 4: Walt Benson

District 5: Charlene Pyskoty (Chair)

CABQ.GOV

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

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 kindergartners 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 ½ 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.”

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 over 60 years.

I taught 6th grade at Aztec



Elementary School for three 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.

Anita Sterchi

As a new volunteer and a

retired adult educator, I look forward to reading essays about seniors. For 37 years I taught various computer courses and Business English/ Business Writing courses in the Business Department at TVI/ CNM. One rewarding aspect of my career was observing students obtain good jobs from the skills they learned in the classroom.

Recognition of seniors is important, and that’s the reason these essays are special!



The Winners

Aria

GRADE 01

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Andrin Fieber
Grade 1st Age 7 M or F
Teacher Donna Berardinelli
School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: MY Grandma



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Andrin Fieber
TEACHER: MS. BERARDINELLI

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Colin Wilde
Grade 1 Age 7 MX or F
Teacher Mrs. Valenzuela
School: Holy Ghost Catholic School

Title: Grandparents
Once my grandparents had a show ball fight with me. It was so fun that one of the older kids was making a video of it on their phone. My grandparents were throwing the show balls but they lost the show ball fight. It was crazy fun.
My grandpa takes us to fun places like the butterfly museum and the dinosaur museum. We went on a scavenger hunt to find gnomes. My grandma is a great baker. She makes delicious pumpkin pie for me to eat. My grandpa gives me chocolate beans when I go to see him. My grandparents are fun and they make me happy.

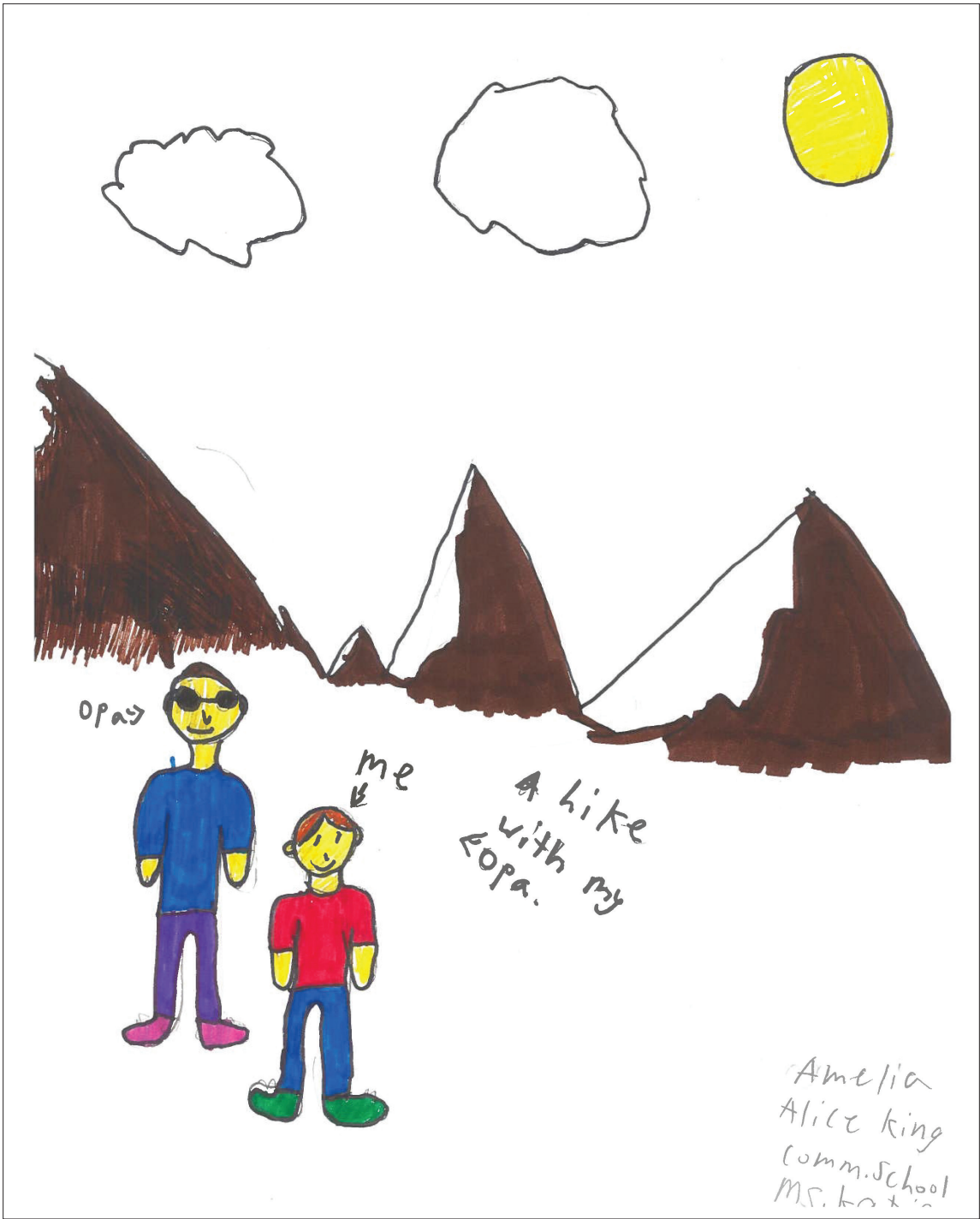


Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Colin Wilde
TEACHER: MRS. VALENZUELA



Above: Ameila Meiser
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

Name: Gavin Hightower Date: 11/11/23 ^{1st grad}
Marzano Day School

A Senior Citizen I Know

A Senior citizen I know is
my great grandpa. He loved
to have candy. He lived in
New Mexico. He passed away
and he used to let us
have candy all the time.
His favorite thing was candy. He
was on my dad's side when
he was alive he made me
feel spoiled and loved.

Above: Gavin Hightower
TEACHER: MS. FONSECA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Anugya Suman
Grade:	1 Age 6 M or F X
Teacher:	Mrs. Valenzuela
School:	Holy Ghost Catholic School

Title: Grandparents

Baba and Thathi I like when you love me you play with me and show me pictures and talk to me I haven't seen you in a long time. I would like to visit you in Nepal when I come to Nepal I would like to talk to you and go get ice cream I would like to learn about Nepal and what you do out in your place. I would like to share about my school and what I do like PE and recess.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Anugya Suman
TEACHER: MRS. VALENZUELA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: KENNEDI GARCIA
Grade 1 Age 6 M_ or F ✓
Teacher MRS. E. GRIEGO
School: N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA
ACADEMY

Title: my kind Nina



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Kennedi Garcia
TEACHER: MRS. GRIEGO

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	KENNEDI GARCIA				
Grade:	1	Age:	6	M or F:	✓
Teacher:	MRS. E GRIEGO				
School:	N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY				

Title: My kind nina
 My nina, loves tulips and she loves
 blue like me. She is mom's mom,
 Her name is Tina Vigil. She
 helps us by doing things like
 giving me wings for my angel
 costume and things for the muller
 baby.

Everytime she picks me up
 from school, she brings me stuff
 from Sonic or somewhere good.
 She works at a school. She helps
 the principal. She love cantelope
 and crab legs
 and madras. Grandpa said she
 loves when I went to Uncle Jack's
 game.
 Her birthday is on April 18.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Kennedi Garcia (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. GRIEGO

Name: Phoebe Peña Date: 1/11/23 ^{1st grade}
Manzano Day School

A Senior Citizen I Know

A senior citizen I know is my
grandma Kalleen. She is my
mom's mom. She is very funny.
She is always smiling. She is
short. She lives in Illinois.
She loves my house and me.
When I see her I feel funny.
When I see her I also

Above: Phobe Peña
TEACHER: MS. FONSECA

feet loved. She visits 3
days a year every April.
We visit her 5-7 days every
August. The flowers in her
backyard are beautiful. Last time
we were there she gave
us vanilla ice cream with
chocolate syrup and rainbow
sprinkles.

Above: Phobe Peña (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. FONSECA

GRADE 02

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Chiara Roehl
Grade 2 Age 8 M or FX
Teacher Tesa
School: Manzano Day School

Title: Surviving The War

Queen Penny I



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Chiara Roehl
TEACHER: MS. HERING

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Chiara Roehl
 Grade 2nd Age 8 M. or F. X
 Teacher: Tesa Hering
 School: Manzano Day School

Title: Surviving The War

I interviewed Penafor Macahilig Pardee. She is my Grandmother's sister. She was born on February 27, 1930 in Banga, Aklan, Philippines. She is 93 years old. Penafor was 11 years old when World War II started. She had to pack her clothes in a bamboo suit case. She had to hide in a mountain where the Japanese couldn't find her. Penafor hid her money in the hem of her skirt. For water they had to wait for the Japanese leave. Penafor would collect coconuts to drink the juice. The river water was dirty so they couldn't drink from the river for food. She ate rice and bits of salt from salt rocks when the Japanese left Banga, all the houses were burnt the family had to live in a Nipa Hut. Where my Uncle Carlo and Aunt Therese were born. After the war she went to college in a different town. Penafor was crowned Queen of her university at age 20.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Chiara Roehl (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. HERING

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: GILBERT BACA
Grade 2 Age 7 M or F
Teacher MRS. E. GRIEGO
School: N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY

Title: My Gramma

My Gramma's name is Mary Lou Madrid I call her Nana. She is my mom's mom. I love my Nana because she makes breakfast when she comes over to our house and because she loves me.

My Nana's birthday is March 13th. She had 5 brothers and 5 sisters. She liked being 70 or 8 years old because she had a lot of friends and played sports and she spent time with her cousins. That sounds like a lot of fun. Her favorite food is red enchiladas. She loves to paint. Her best days of her life was when she got married and had children. She said she wants to be a good influence on other people. When she was young, she went hiking with her parents in the Sandia mountains. She learned a lot from her parents.

Her first job was at a 5 and 10. One day, her boss's coat got stolen by someone. Then she ran and chased the thief and got the coat back. I think that was brave.

My Nana loves me.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Gilbert Baca
TEACHER: MRS. GRIEGO

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Leanni Mai
Grade	2 nd Age 7 M_ or F_
Teacher	Ms. Smith
School:	St. Jackson

Title: All about my kind Great Grandma

A senior I know is my Great Grandma. She lives in Vietnam. She is 81 years old. I love her because she is nice, kind and helpful.

The first time I saw her in person was during summer break. While I was there, I had lots of fun with her. She loves animals. She used to have a farm with cows, pigs, ducks, and chickens. She retired, so the farm was closed.

She has two cute dogs. Their names are Su and Yang. She loves to tell me all about Vietnam. I love to tell her all about my life in Albuquerque. She cooks great foods that I love to eat. I went on a road trip with her and the entire family. It was a vacation in a vacation! My Great Grandma loves everyone and everyone loves her because she is very funny and caring. She teaches me and my sister how to speak Vietnamese.

I miss her a lot. I wish I will have another trip to visit her on next summer. I wish she is always healthy and happy. I love to see her smile on video chat every week. I love her, that's why I chose my Great Grandma for a senior I know.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Leanni Mai
TEACHER: MS. SMITH

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: TATIANA GRIEGO
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F V
Teacher MRS. E. GRIEGO
School: N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA
ACADEMY

PAGE 1

Title: My Loving Grandma
My Grandma loves my family a lot, even more than a lot. She loves us so much! Her name is Doris Kay Griego. She is my dad's mom. She is 77 and her birthday is August 4th. Her favorite color is green and her favorite food is New Mexican food even though she likes everything.
She lived in Wyoming when she was little. Grandma had 7 siblings. She went to Centre Butte School. It was a tiny school. She had to walk 1/2 mile to the edge of their property for school.
When she was little, she made mud pies. She played with Pinto bean cattle and stick horses herding them.
In Wyoming, they got a lot of snow. Her family only had one pair of skis. When it was Grandma's turn, she skied down the hill behind the house. This pig was roaming around. Grandma said her skis went right under a big fat pig. Then the pig sat down on her. She thought this wasn't funny then.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Tatiana Griego
TEACHER: MRS. GRIEGO

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	TATIANA GRIEGO.					
Grade:	2	Age:	8	M	or F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	MRS. E GRIEGO					
School:	N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY					

PAGE 2

Title: *My Loving Grandma(ont).*
but now we can laugh about it.
When we go to Grandma's house, she gives us
cookies, I sometimes help her feed her animals
and I push cars with her. Sometimes, I like
with her. I play there, too, with my
four brothers and three sisters. It is so fun
when I go to her house.
Grandma is a very generous person. She
makes jam, jelly, pies and apple butter. She
shares all that with our family and a lot of
people. I love my Grandma so much I
bet you would like her if she was your
grandma.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Tatiana Griego (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. GRIEGO

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Zach Taylor
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F M
Teacher: Laura Smith
School: SJT

Title: Banana Nana

My Senior I Know is my Nana Marie. She is 69 years old and lives in Chattanooga, TN. I love her a lot because whenever I visit she takes care of me and makes sure I have lots of fun. Some of my favorite things to do with my nana are going swimming, going to the jump park and playing card and board games.

My Nana Marie takes me swimming at her neighbor's house. When I was little she would catch me as I jumped in and taught me how to float on my back. My nana enjoyed swimming as a kid too and was even a swimming instructor and lifeguard!

My Nana Marie likes to take me, my brother and sister to the jump park to watch us play. She's too scared to jump on the trampolines.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

①

Above: Zach Taylor
TEACHER: MS. SMITH

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Zach Taylor				
Grade:	2	Age:	8	M or F:	
Teacher:	Laura Smith				
School:	SYJ				

Title: Banana Nana

With us, she's afraid she might get hurt. Swinging was one of her favorite activities as a kid. I like to swing too!

My favorite games to play with my Nana are Uno, Blink, Trivial Pursuit, and Sorry. I like to play these games with her because they are simple. My Nana's favorite game growing up was Candyland. My Nana Marie is very special to me and it turns out that I have a lot of the same interests that she did growing up.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

(2)

Above: Zach Taylor (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. SMITH

GRADE 03

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Adele Koehler
 Grade 3rd Age 9 M_ or F
 Teacher Mrs. McCallon
 School: SP Jackson

Title: My Ông

My Ông's name is Cac Thanh Le. In his job he is a pediatrician. He likes being a doctor because he likes helping people. He was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. His family had lived there for 3 generations. He lived there until he was 29 years old. He had to move to Vietnam because the cambodian people were killing the Vietnamese people. During the Vietnam war Ông was a medical doctor. He was a doctor in 1975. In the beginning of March in 1975 in Quang Trung, Ông and his unit were camping. Ông woke up early and exercised. Then he went to wash his face. While he was doing that he heard an explosion and saw black smoke in the same spot he was camping. He went back and saw his nurse (50 meters away). His nurse had blood coming out of his arm. He used a compression bandage for the nurse. The nurse went to a field hospital. Ông was still sleeping he would of died. Later in March Vietnamese communists invaded South Vietnam. The night before, they invaded the city. The way to the south was blocked. The only way there was by the beach, where the south Vietnamese Navy was waiting for Ông and the army. The enemy was shelling the beach so the boats could not land. People had to swim to the boats. They had to swim about 1/4 of a mile. The boats took Ông to Vung Tau



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Adele Koehler
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: CALLUM NYLIN
Grade 3 Age 8 M or F
Teacher MCCALLON
School: SY JACKSON

Title: The Amasing Grammy

A really great senior I know is
grammy. Grammy is my moms's mom and
her real name is Cindy Johnson. She lives near
me in Arizona with her husband Bruce
my papa. She has two cool cats named
Buddy and Tux.

What makes her so special to me
is that she is fun. She is fun because
we make jokes together and
laugh. She always tickles me. She also
plays games like sorry and Jenga with
me. She loves to bake me treats like
chocolate chip pancakes and pumpkin
pie.

My Grammy is important to me
because she loves to laugh with me and
have fun with me. She is great!
me. We both love each other. When I am
away from her house, I miss her telling
me silly animal stories in the mornings.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

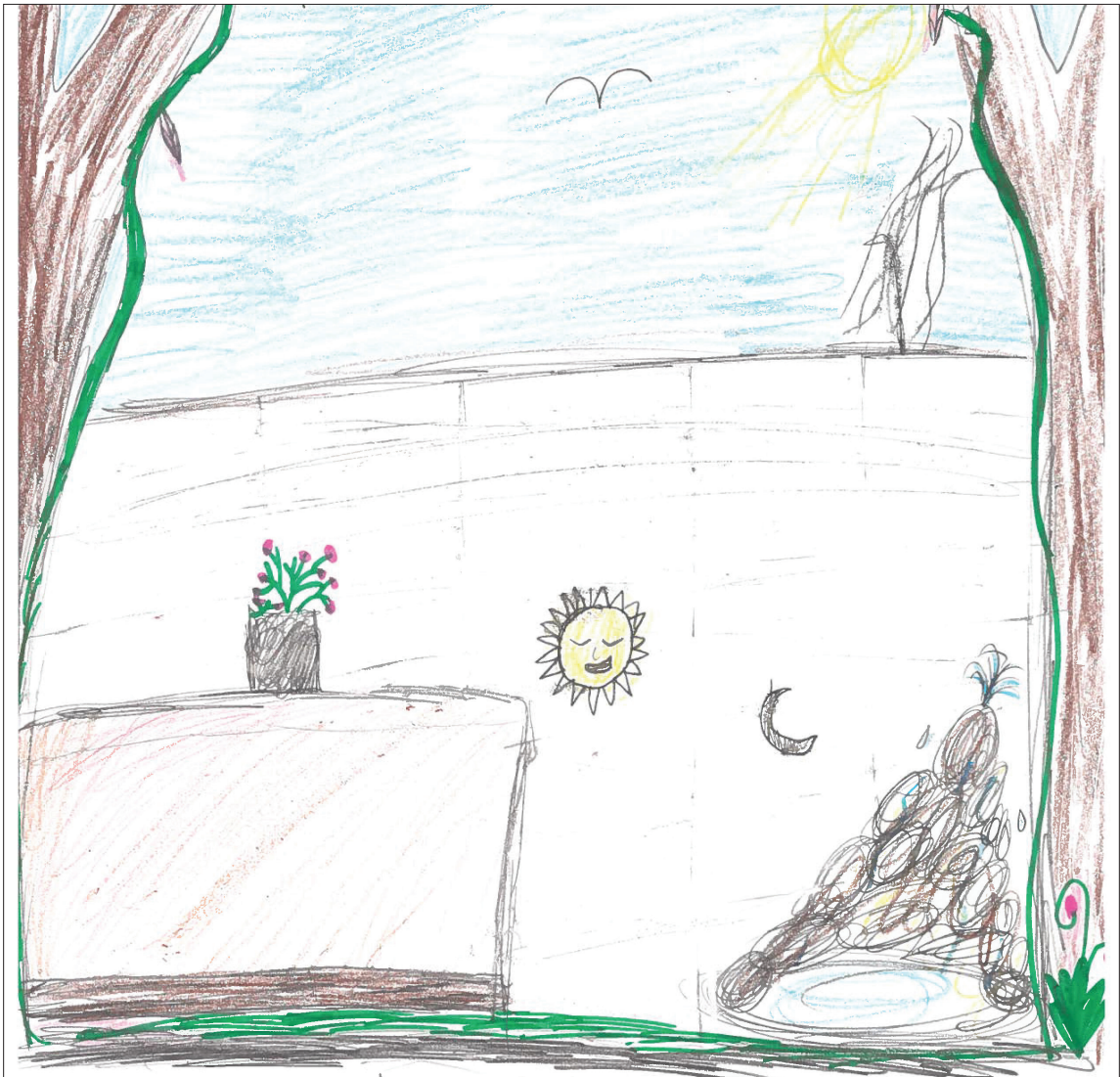


Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Callum Nylin

TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON



This is my gradmas backyard,
she tells me storys from
her childhood and they're
very intresting.

MS. Katja
Alice King
comm. School
Chole Lopez

Above: Chole Lopez
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Mei Aversa
Grade 3 Age 9 M_ or FR
Teacher Mrs. Martin
School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: My amazing grandpa!

I love him so much and I think he is really funny. He was born on February 14, 1949 in Hiroshima, Japan. One of the major historical events that occurred in his life time was the Okinawa reversion from the United States of America. My grandpa loves to listen to 60's, 70's music. His name is Etugio. My grandpa is a very kind person.

My grandpa is so nice. I love the grapes he grows. He thinks it's important to take care of your health from a young age. Grandpa says that doesn't only mean eating right, but also sitting with good posture and always brushing your teeth. When grandpa was young, he enjoyed Sho-gi, Japanese chess and played everyday. Grandpa says to live in the moment and enjoy it. He feels kids today are lacking "real" experiences. He says it's nice to have these technologies, but kids need more hands on interactions and experiences.

I learned a lot from interviewing my grandpa. My grandpa said to take good care of your life. I will try to



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Mei Aversa
TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN

2023 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Mei Aversa
 Grade 3 Age 9 M_ or F_V
 Teacher Mrs. Martin
 School: Sandia Base Elementary

Title: _____
follow his advice. Over all, I think he is the best
grandpa ever!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Mei Aversa (Continued)
 TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Paloma Miller
Grade:	3rd Age 9 M or F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	Genise Comstock
School:	Mangano Day School

Title: Ina Miller

Ina Miller grew up in Brooklyn, and was alive in world war II. Her father was an air raid warden and many people were injured by air raids. She remembers that they had air raid drills. Everyone would be assigned a number and then be taken home, Ina's number was 32. She remembers that she would walk to school and get home for lunch. She also remembers that once she finished lunch her mother would give her a penny and Ina would go to the candy shop. Her family was not huge, she was the only child. She had a mom and a dad. She had a grandpa on her mom's side and a grandma and a grandpa on her dad's side. Her grandma and grandpa on her dad's side were illiterate. She said "I remember my grandma was really short and I was pretty tall. I remember she'd get up on her toes and put my head on her shoulders and say 'could I see shoes and hold a bike side?'"

In summer she used to camp for two months. It was easier to go to camp than it was to stay home because of polio. She went to public school until 9th grade. When she went to high school, she had to take a train to school in high school. After high school, Ina went to the University of Michigan. She studied French, Spanish, Math. In college she met her husband. Her husband was in the Korean war. So, she went back to the University of Michigan for her masters and when she would come with that she went to the University of New Mexico for her second masters in counseling. Later she had two daughters. Also today at the age of ninety she still connects with many people including kids from Afghanistan.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

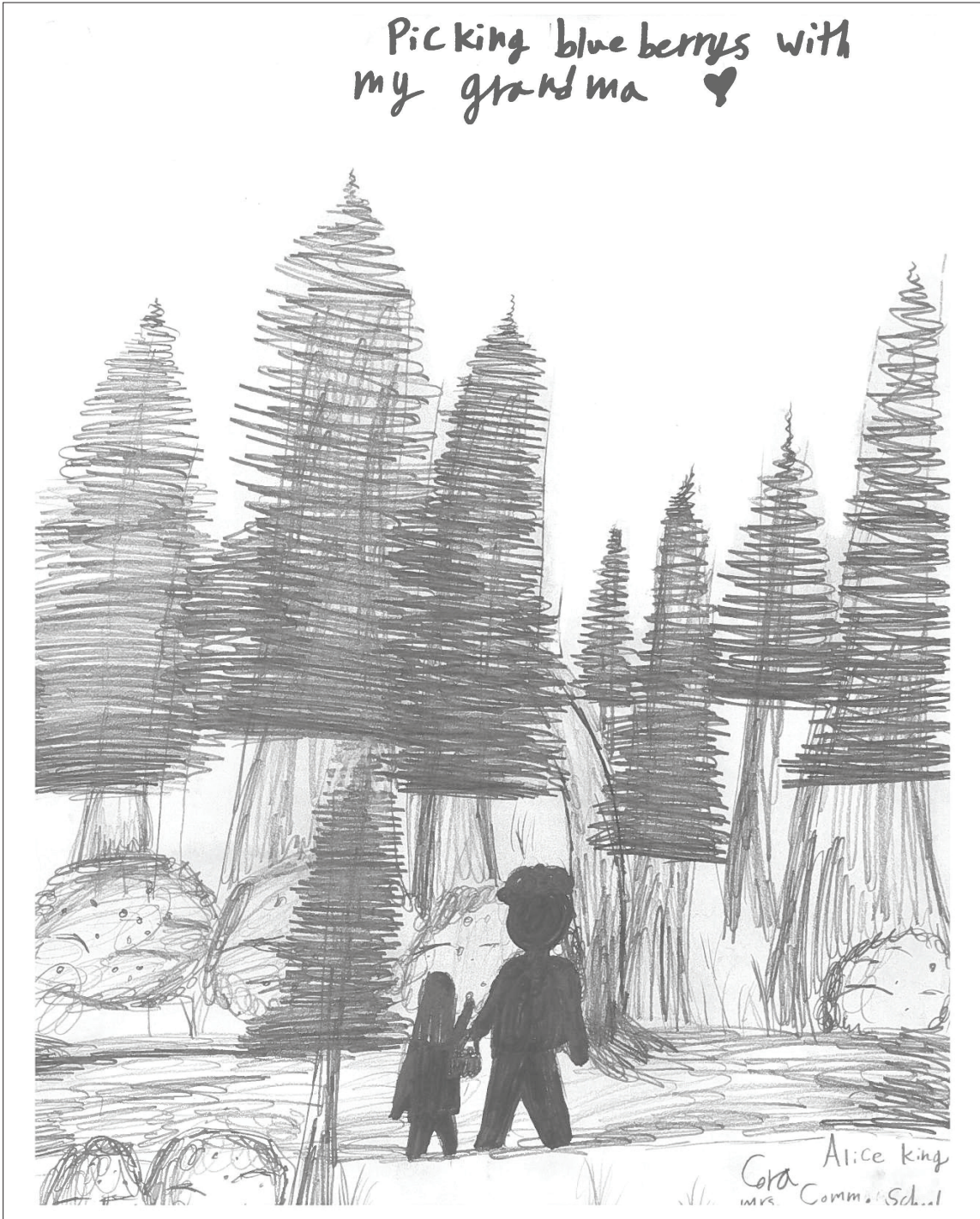
JPE & ND



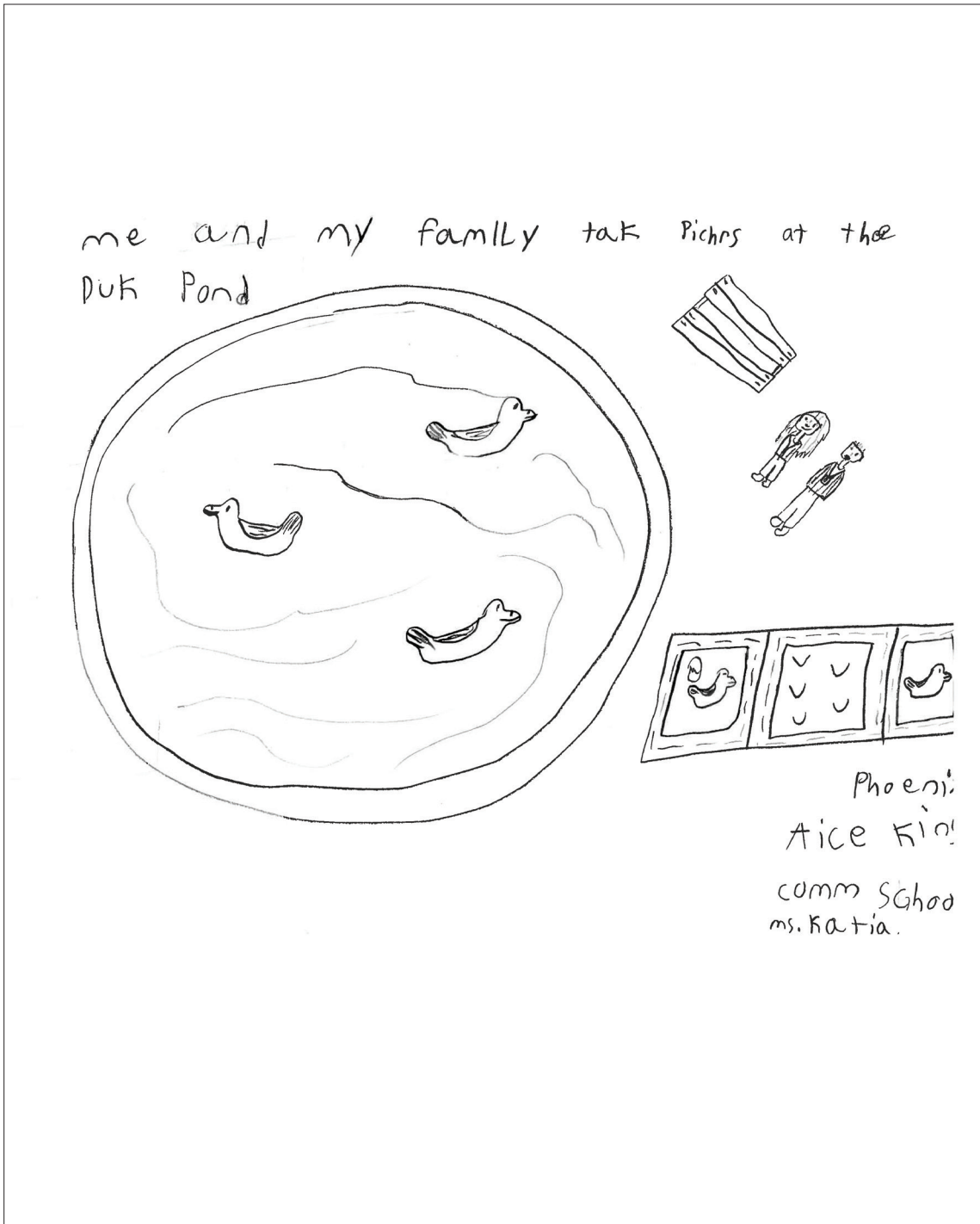
Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Paloma Miller
TEACHER: MRS. COMSTOCK



Above: Cora Pousen
TEACHER: MS. KATJA



Above: Phoenix Loomis
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: TOMÁS GRIEGO
Grade 3 Age 9 M/V or F
Teacher MRS. M. VALENZUELA
School: N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA
ACADEMY

Title: Mrs. Pucetti



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Tomás Greigo
TEACHER: MRS. VALENZUELA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: TOMÁS GRIEGO.
 Grade 3 Age 9 M or F
 Teacher MRS. M. VALENZUELA
 School: N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA
ACADEMY

PAGE 1

Title: Mrs. Pucetti

Mrs. Pucetti is a very good friend of my dad and mom. She is a hard-working lady and I like working with her.

She is 60 and her birthday is on April 10, four days after mine. She is an immigration officer, helping people to become citizens of the U.S.A.

Mrs. Pucetti is funny. She jokes about having "tornado hair." She says she likes to take "pyromaniacs to her land near home. (Those pyromaniacs are my brother and I.)

She has a million projects because she likes to repurpose things. She loves New Mexico. She has traveled to many of the old mission churches in New Mexico. Her favorite food is sushi. She makes very good brownies that I love to eat.

Mrs. Pucetti is a very interesting lady. She lived in many different countries like Venezuela, Bolivia, Taiwan, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Japan.

She told me a funny story from when she was my age. She often spoke Spanish with her family. One day she was in Mexico and there were cows



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Tomás Greigo (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. VALENZUELA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: <u>TOMÁS GRIEGO .</u>
Grade <u>3</u> Age <u>9</u> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or F <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher <u>MRS. M. VALENZUELA</u>
School: <u>N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY</u>

PAGE 2

Title: Mrs. Pucetti

by the road. A cow licked her on the face. She was scared and started crying. She said "La vaca me picó" which means "the cow stung me." She said this because she didn't know the right word in Spanish. Her dad started laughing.

I am glad that Mrs. Pucetti is my friend. I am very thankful for her!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Tomás Greigo (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. VALENZUELA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Vidit Rai
Grade:	3
Age:	9
M or F:	M
Teacher:	Mrs. Kraemer
School:	Manzano Dqx School

Title: My Grandfather

In a small village in India on Dec 11, 1918 Satya Prakash Rai was born to Mrs. N. Devi. This is the story of my Grand pa. His parents were poor farmers. He helped them in the farms after school. Life was hard without money. At the age of seventeen it became hard to continue education due to poverty. He had to drop out of school. To get a job, he moved to New Delhi, which is the capital of India. He lived in a small room with no furniture. He slept on a pile of newspapers to keep himself warm in the winters. He did odd jobs, saved some money and bought a typewriter. He learnt stenography and got a job.

In 1970 he got married to my Grandma. 8 years later my dad was born. My Grand pa loves his family. He worked two jobs to provide for family. He made sure both of his kids got educated and became successful. He tries to help everyone. His favorite hobby is gardening. He still works and walks 5 miles everyday.

From his life I have learnt to never give up. He calls me every week and encourages me to learn.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Vidit Rai

TEACHER: MRS. KRAEMER



Above: Tyler Hammond
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

GRADE 04

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Charlotte Galvis
Grade 4 Age 9 M or F
Teacher Mr. Austin
School: Manzanito School

Title: _____



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Charlotte Galvis
TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Charlotte Galvis
Grade 4 Age 9 M or F
Teacher M.S. Austin
School: Manzano Day School

Title: The Old and Creaky party pooper

Introducing... the Old and Creaky Party Pooper! At least that what he calls himself, anyway. But to me, he's just my grandpa, Stephen (or Stevie for short). Stevie lives in Santa Fe and manages Rob and Charlie's Bike Shop. He has a long white beard and the kindest eyes you will ever see. Stevie is generous, super smart, funny, and always has a positive attitude. He truly is an inspiring guy.

Stevie is warmhearted and caring. He makes balloon animals for every single birthday party. One time, Stevie made a balloon dress that took 4 hours! Stevie is also an animal lover. He has a dog named Chewy. He takes Chewy everywhere. But Stevie doesn't just love Chewy, he loves all dogs. When Stevie sees a dog on the street, he has only one thing on his mind. That is to drop everything and go pet that dog.

Not only is Stevie kind, he also is involved in EVERYTHING! Stevie spends every holiday with my family. On Christmas, we wear matching pj's and volunteer at a soup kitchen. For Easter, Stevie sets up an Easter egg hunt for my cousin and I. Because Stevie is an "old and creaky party pooper" he normally goes to bed →



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Charlotte Galvis (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Charlotte Galvis
Grade 4 Age 9 M or F
Teacher M.S. Austin
School: Manzanita School

Title: The old and Creaky Party Pooper
really early. So on New Year's Eve we watch the Times Square
Ball Drop on TV while playing yabtzee, so he can
go to bed at 10 p.m.
Stevie may be a "Old and Creaky Party Pooper"
but he is as smart as a dolphin and has the energy
of a Lion. He never graduated from collage, but was
dreaming about it his whole life. In the last 10 years he got not one,
not two, but three Collage degrees! He started at 55 with an associates
degree, then at 62 he got his Bachelor's in Accounting and at
65 he finally graduated with his Master's Degree in Finance. This
inspires me to never give up on my dreams and to never stop trying
to reach them. So he set up a Collage fund for my Cousin and I.
There you have it, the best Grandpa in the world! I'm so lucky
to have a kind, funny, and super smart grandpa who is always there
for me. Although he is an Old and Creaky party pooper, he is
my Grandpa and will always have a place in my heart.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Charlotte Galvis (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2023 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: <u>Owen Winter</u>
Grade <u>4</u> Age <u>9</u> M <u>X</u> or F <u> </u>
Teacher <u>Mrs. Smith</u>
School: <u>SY Jackson</u>

Title: My Forever Friend Tom

Do you know Tom Rubin? Tom is a real-life Santa here in Albuquerque. Tom, our neighbor, brings joy to others just like Santa! When I walk by Tom's house at Christmas time it brings me joy to see his vivid decorations. The ginormous tree in his living room can be seen through the front window. All of the branches are engulfed with colored lights. Every year Tom uses four to five thousand lights on the tree. While his Christmas tree is shining like a star, Tom's five blowup are also a sight to see. A polar bear, penguins, Santa, humungous candy canes, and the Grinch are scattered around his front yard. By the number of cars that slow down to enjoy his display, I know I am not the only one delighted by Tom's Christmas spirit.

Maple syrup. Whipped cream. Ice cream for breakfast. The thing that Tom does that brings me the most joy is filling me up with sugar. Every time I have breakfast at Tom's house I know what's on the menu: blueberry waffles with an excessive amount of syrup. To give me a sugar high, some days Tom gives me a shot of whipped cream straight into my gaping mouth. "Yummmmm!" My mouth salivates just thinking about it. On my birthday, Tom and his wife Cathy brought me to The Paleta Bar to celebrate with ice cream. Since I was too full from dinner, Tom asked me, "Do you want to save it for breakfast?" "Ice cream for breakfast!? Any day!" In my opinion, you can never have too much sugar. Clearly, Tom agrees.

Tom has taught me that age doesn't matter when it comes to friendship. Tom is truly the best senior I know.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Owen Winter
TEACHER: MRS. SMITH

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	<u>Nilchil Roy</u>						
Grade:	<u>4th</u>	Age:	<u>9</u>	M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	<u>Mrs. James</u>						
School:	<u>Manzano Day School</u> <u>(MDS)</u>						

Title: The game of war.

Salutations! My name is Nilchil Roy. For my essay, I will be writing about my chess coach. His name is Oren Stevenson.

My coach served in the U.S. on an aircraft carrier. He served during a war, but wasn't in battle. He earned the Vietnam service medal and the National service medal. He was 18 years old when he started his service in the military. I was 1963. He was honorably discharged in 1967 at the age of 22. He served on the U.S.S. Hornet, anti-submarine warfare carrier. His main job was to latch submarines. Everyone had 5 inch guns.

He started teaching me chess when I was 6. I am 9 and a half now, so that means that he has been teaching me for 3 and a half years. I think he is funny because he comes up with jokes every time he comes over. He teaches chess really well and talks about focus. He also talks about self-discipline. I enjoy playing chess because it uses your brain and is all about strategy. Chess also helps me focus because if you make a wrong move, it could cost you the game. Chess is challenging.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Nilchil Roy
TEACHER: MRS. JAMES

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	<u>Nilchil Roy</u>
Grade:	<u>4th</u> Age <u>9</u> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or F <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	<u>Mrs. James</u>
School:	<u>Manzano Day School (MDS)</u>

Title: The game of war.
 because threats are very common in chess and are some-
 times hard to catch.
 My coach is always taking care of his wife, Gale, because
 she has Pulmonary Hypertension, which is a disease
 of the lungs. My dad is a doctor, and coach is always
 talking to my dad about how to help her.
 That's all I have to say. Cheerio!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Nilchil Roy (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. JAMES

2023

A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Zoey Lovato
Grade 4th Age 9 M or F V
Teacher: Mrs. Smith
School: S. Y. Jackson

Title: My Grandma Carol Lovato

My grandma was born in Frankfurt, Germany, on November 15, 1949, and was adopted by an American military family and was raised in Columbus, Georgia where she went to Benning's Hills Elementary school. She was a majorette in middle school. She played with her band on national T.V. for a college football game. In 1971 she moved to California. Then she met my grandpa Larry Lovato at Henshaw's Barber Shop. She got her own barber shop in Arcadia, California. Then she gave birth to my aunt Amber in 1975. In 1980 she gave birth to my dad Matt. In 1987 they moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was a barber ever since she moved to Albuquerque and now she is semi-retired and lives with my dad and I. She is a big part in my life now that she lives with us. I'm glad that she is healthy and I get to see her so often.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Zoey Lovato
TEACHER: MRS. SMITH



Above: Cienna Castillo
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Tristan Churilla		
Grade	4	Age	9 M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or F <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	Mrs. Riley		
School:	Sandia Base Elementary		

Title: My Senior I Know

The senior I interviewed is my grandma and her name is Cathy Churilla. She is 61 years old; she was born on March 21, 1961. She was born and still lives in Detroit, Michigan. The relationship she has with us is that me and Lorelei are her grandkids. Our dad is Cathy's son. Her husband is her definition of a hero because he saved people from fires. He is my hero too. His name is Gerry Churilla. He is mine and my sister's Papa.

The advice Cathy liked to give the younger generation is to eat healthy. She warns me to stay away from drugs and cigarettes and she is serious! My grandma suggests that I spend more time not fighting with my sister.

A major historical event that happened in Cathy's lifetime was COVID-19 because it changed how we talk to people. It affected Cathy personally because she missed saying bye to her coworkers and I think that is very sad.

Cathy says that the advantages she thinks of being a senior citizen is getting specials at restaurants. The disadvantages of being a senior citizen is not being able to do fun things often.

Cathy sees families changing in today's society by not spending quality time together and that makes her and me sad. My grandma is so thoughtful because she gave me this wonderful advice for this essay and I love her.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Tristan Churilla

TEACHER: MRS. RILEY

2023 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Veronica AyalaGrade 4 Age 10 M or F Teacher Mrs. RodgersSchool: Sandia Base ElementaryTitle: Senior Citizen

My Senior Citizen is Sandra but I call her Abuela, she was born on July 26, 1958 in Cataño, Puerto Rico. They chose the name Sandra from a friend. My Abuela is on my mom's side of the family. My Abuela is kind, sweet, and works hard.

Next, my Abuela's definition of a hero is someone that is kind, brave, noble, good with people and animals, and cares for the world. She considers her father like a hero because he was the kind of person everyone loved. He was a Merchant Marine who traveled the world during the war.

Third, my Abuela has a heirloom that is a crucifix necklace passed down from her mother. My Abuela has both happy and sad memories. Her happy memory is playing with her dolls. Her sad memory was when her grandmother died. She was afraid of the dark. And she felt proud when she became a pharmacist.

Fourth, Vietnam war, Beatles, first man on the moon, computers, a lot of discoveries change in the world to make life easier. She has to learn to use this technology to survive.

Finally, at first I had to do this, I didn't want to do this, but now I learned stuff about my Abuela feelings or her life that I did not know. It told me more about my Abuela. I don't see her that much so I am proud to learn more about my family and Abuela. Thank you for sending about my Abuela and my family heirloom.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Veronica Ayala

TEACHER: MRS. RODGERS

GRADE 05

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Christian Northup
Grade 5th Age 10 M/ or F
Teacher Miss Martindale
School: Shepherd Lutheran

Title: My Grandpas Wonderful Life

I know I am supposed to write about a senior I know, but what is a senior? A senior citizen, or the majority of the world to me, with is a senior tone. So I chose to write about someone who is very kind, loving, inspiring, and important. When I am done, I'd like you to guess who this senior is to me. So this person was born in Coos Bay, North Dakota, 1961 to an airforce pilot and a Japanese descendent. This person is one of six siblings that range from Arizona to Vermont. If I'd have to guess, this is why this person chose to be a truck driver and drive the 48 connecting states year around. If my parents and brothers and sisters lived every where, I'd get me CDL to visit them for free. The person is a father to three with have a total of five among them, with are his very loved grandkids. This senior taught his kids and grandkids many things such as boating, traveling, and fishing, with happen to be one of his favorite things to do.

I remember when the senior and I went fishing in lake Sakakawen. It was a moment with him that I never forgot. The person helped me reel in the rod when I had trouble. The senior was very patient all in all. He was there to experience my first fish on North Korea pit.

This senior loves to travel any beautiful country. This person has lived in many different states in his life, from living in waco Texas as a young adult, to living back to North Dakota, but in Minot. This senior comes to visit us in ABix New Mexico every winter for the holiday season. In conclusion, this senior is my Grandpa James. I love to about, fish, and travel with my grandpa. He is the best grandpa I have.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Christian Northup
TEACHER: MS. MARTINDALE

Eating Cookies with Grandma



ms. Katja
D'macia
Alice King
COMM, Sokol.

Above: D'macia Polzin
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Alyssa Quintana
Grade 5 Age 10 M_ or F
Teacher Mr. Dietz
School: Sandia Base Elementary

A Senior I Know

My step grandfather's name is Steve. He was born in Albuquerque in 1956. He believes that a hero is someone who does the right thing even when everyone else says they don't agree. An advantage of being a senior is that he gets to help others by using the experience and knowledge he has gained throughout the years. Steve says that being a nice person, always doing what is right and helping others in need is the best advice he can give.

Some memorable aspects of Steve's childhood are: When he was 12, his father bought him a little motorcycle that he rode around in the mesa and when he was 15 years old he worked on his Uncle's ranch, branding cattle, riding horses, preparing the ranch house and climbing the mountain. The type of entertainment he enjoyed when he was young was watching Star Trek, the Outer Limits, and other Science Fiction movies.

Steve says that the most significant changes in society throughout his lifetime is that the education of students is becoming a negative thing because children are getting very little exposure to reality through hands-on experiences. He says education has become sedentary - movies and computers do not help develop good work ethic and working with others. The one rule of life that he lives by and that has guided his actions is that he loves and obeys God and cares about others as he cares about himself. The best gift he has ever received is the gift from God of knowing how to survive and enjoy camping in all kinds of weather, especially snow storms- he loves it! If Steve had a chance to do something that he has not yet done it would be to go sailing at Cochiti Lake on a sailboat. A funny memory from his childhood is that there were neighborhood snowball fights and even the parents would join in.

A proud memory from his childhood is that he played Robin Hood in a family/neighborhood kid production in his backyard and all the neighborhood families came to see it. Steve says that looking back as a young adult he wishes he had known that the more he learned to do for himself others can't take away from him. Steve says that a special heirloom passed down to him is a special rifle that his great grandfather used on his ranch when he was running cattle in Oklahoma and Texas. It is pretty beaten up and he can just imagine how his great grandfather used it to keep the wild animals away from the cattle. Steve's most memorable event is playing monopoly with me, my sisters and my grandma on game night. He also likes to tell cool stories about his lifetime. my Grandma, me and my sisters



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Alyssa Quintana
TEACHER: MR. DIETZ

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: _____
Grade _____ Age _____ M_ or F_
Teacher _____
School: _____

would go for a walk past a wall of names of people that were in the Navy, and his name is on there. He loves taking us camping and I love nature. I also love to go to the little lake at a camping place called Coyote Creek. They have huge leaves! Steve is a very interesting person. That is why I chose him for this essay!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Alyssa Quintana (Continued)
TEACHER: MR. DIETZ

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Thomas Quirk
Grade 5th Age 10 M X or F
Teacher Mrs. Brenda McCallon
School: S.Y. Jackson Elem.

Title: A Truly Wonderful Neighbor

If I could keep one thing in the world the same forever, it would be my awesome neighbor who brings joy with everything he does, Mr. Fred Mowrer. Mr. Fred is many things: kind, generous, and caring, to name a few. He is a former runner, but a long battle with sickness *almost* stopped him. This persevering man with an incredible handlebar mustache who has known me all my life still takes walks as often as he can.

Multiple times we have been making dinner and -DING DONG- surprise! Standing at the door is none other than Mr. Fred, two large steaming boxes of Dion's pizza neatly tucked in his arms, just for us. It always makes me feel so warm inside when he does this. This incredible lawyer also keeps his yard in BEAUTIFUL shape and, to clean minor things up in others' yards, he sprays weed killer and picks up weeds all around the block.

Also, I must mention that Mr. Fred is a successful car collector. Currently, he has a Corvette and a Jaguar, both of which he keeps in good shape. I love seeing him take these amazing cars out for a spin. However, his most notable personality traits are his random acts of kindness. I could go on forever about ways Mr. Fred has positively affected me. Probably the most impactful thing he has done is that after seeing the neighborhood kids, my brothers and I playing out in our street, he bought us some neon yellow turtles urging drivers to slow down. He is always doing things like that to keep us safe. To sum it up, he is a great role model and try as I might, I will never be able to express my gratitude for having him as a neighbor.



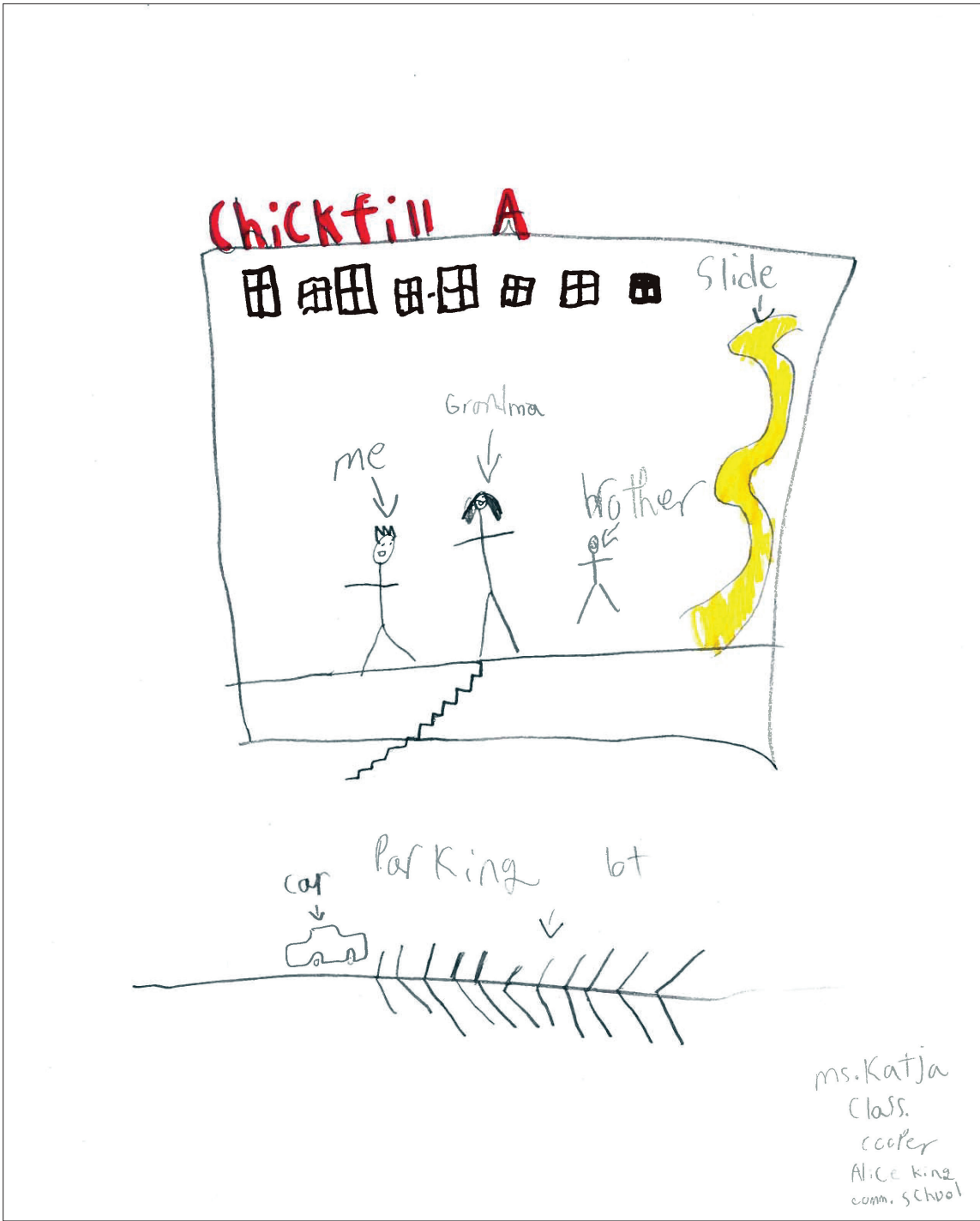
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Thomas Quirk
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON



Above: Cooper Gustafson
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2022
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Lillian Holmes
Grade 5 Age 11 M_ or F F
Teacher Mrs. McCallon
School: Sy Jackson
Elementary School

Title: A White Haired Angel

My great grandmother Flo Bergh or, "G.Gma" was a ~~courageous~~ ~~wonderful~~ woman. She had already had a stroke by the time that I met her, but I do remember her always being very friendly and incredibly kind. My most endearing memory with her is when me, my brother, my mom and my grandma visited her in the nursing home. I remember the nurses bringing her on to the second floor, and being so nervous to see her. I knew she was sick and delicate so I was nervous when she came out. She reached out her shaky, wrinkled hand and touched my soft, warm one. "Sunny?" She asked. I understood that G.Gma was referring to my mother. At the time I had looked like her. "No Grandma," my mom replied. "That's Lilly." The day carried on almost uneventfully for the rest of the visit. She let me and my brother pet her stuffed animal cat. We tried a puzzle but couldn't figure it out. At the end though, I felt closer to her than ever.



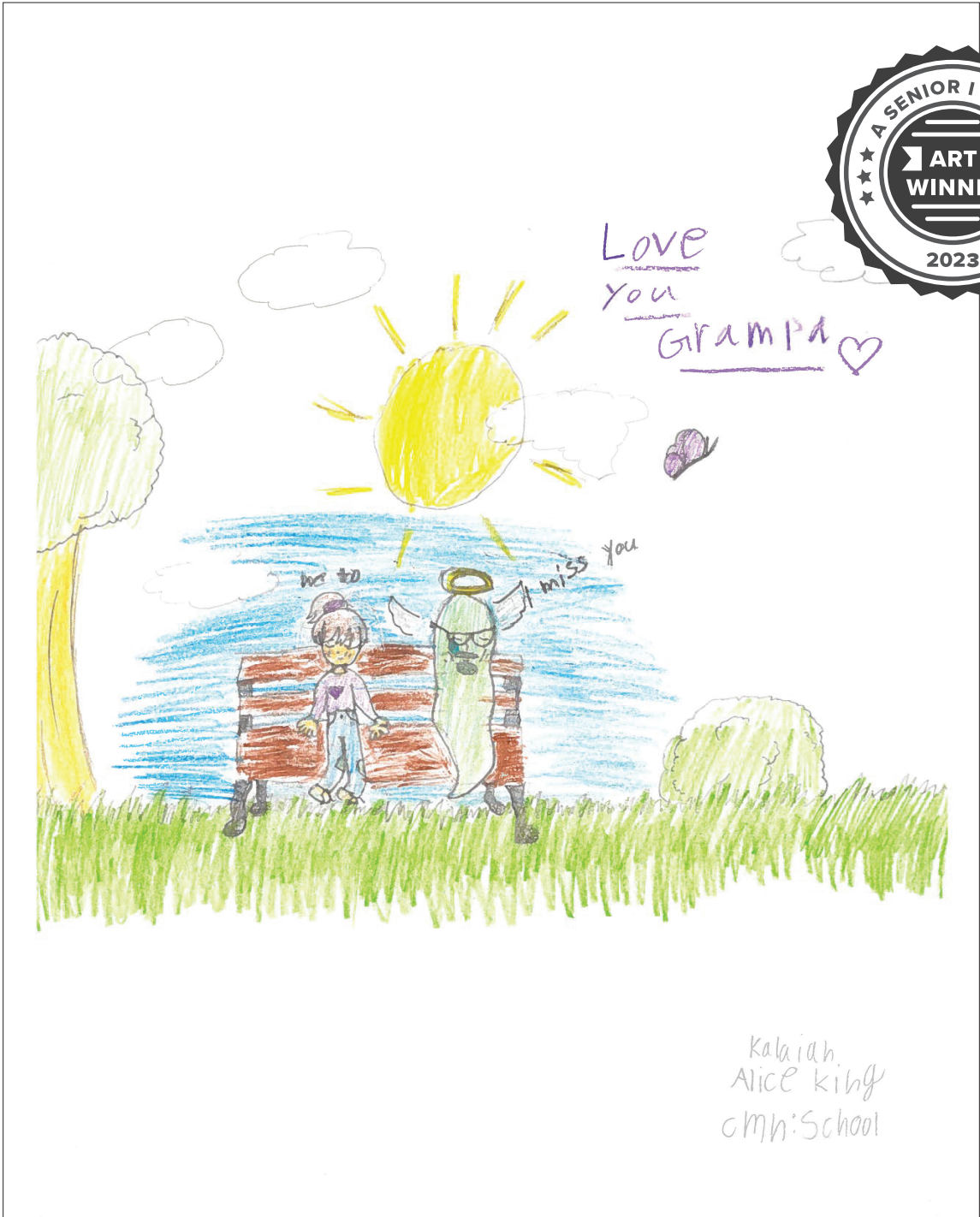
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Lillian Holmes
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON



Above: Kalaiah Gallegos
TEACHER: MS. KATJA


A Senior I Know
My Thai Grandma
By Haley Carter

Do you know someone named Lum? Well, I sure do. She is my lovely grandma! She has so many fantastic facts about her. My grandma loves cooking, she is from Thailand, and she loves gardening.

Since my grandma is Thai, she makes a lot of delicious goods from her home. Here's a funny story! The last time I visited her house, it was pretty late because it was a long ride, since they live in Florida. The minute we entered the house she offered me rice and mangos! We hadn't even put our luggage down, it was pretty funny. Everyone was like "LUM!" I think that was her way of telling us she loved us.

Secondly, my grandma is from Thailand so it is nice to experience something different when we see her. She misses her home and we do hope to visit Thailand someday. Now here are some interesting facts about the place. Thailand has so MANY bugs! When sleeping, you have to have this net around you so nothing bites you. The kids out there are happy with anything! They play with dirt and they are still very happy. You have to bathe with a bucket and water. Yup! you heard me.

Lastly, my grandma absolutely loves watering and taking care of her plants just outside the house. Sometimes we even see frogs sitting


Above: Haley Carter
TEACHER: MS. SAUER

on the window sill or on the kitchen table. She has many wonderful flowers and plants. If you were to walk up to her house, you would be amazed at how many there are, especially since they are all in such good shape.

As you can see, my grandma is the most wonderful and awesome person to ever exist. Tell me about yours!



██████████
Above: Haley Carter (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. SAUER

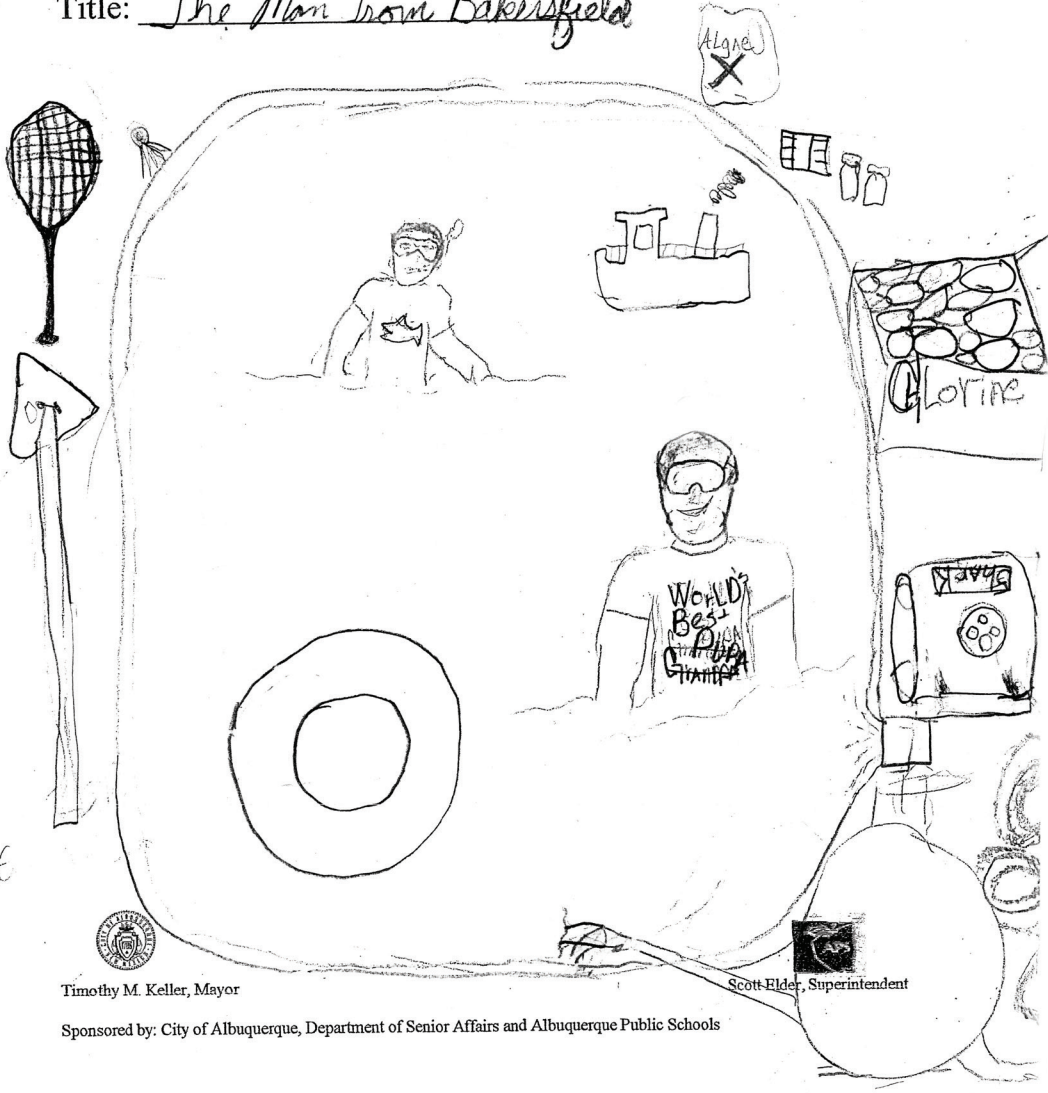


Above: Aria Lawson
TEACHER: MS. KATJA

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	SANTIAGO M.A. GRIEGO		
Grade:	5	Age:	10 M [✓] or F
Teacher:	MISS J. MADDEFORD		
School:	N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY		

Title: The Man from Bakersfield



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Santiago M.A. Griego
TEACHER: MS. MADDEFORD

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: <u>SANTIAGO M.A. GRIEGO</u>
Grade <u>5</u> Age <u>10</u> <u>MV</u> or <u>F</u>
Teacher <u>MISS J. MADDEFORD</u>
School: <u>N.S. LA CONQUISTADORA ACADEMY</u>

PAGE 1

Title: The Man From Bakersfield

Do you know a Polish-American who owned a gas station, an auto mechanic shop, a laundromat, and a health food store, who is currently starting a pizzeria, and who was a policeman for a short time in North Dakota? I do. He is my grandpa. I call him Papa.

He was born on July 13, 1957 in Bakersfield, California of Polish-Canadian parents. He had two sisters and three brothers I love to hear about his life.

Once, when Papa was a little boy, he was inside his house when he heard a loud "CRACK." He looked out the window and saw his pool had split apart. His sisters and his father were sitting at the bottom of a waterless pool. There were a good four inches of water in the back yard. He learned then that rust in a pool can lead to a disaster!

I spent last summer with him in St. Mary's, Kansas on Highway 24 where he lives. He did many interesting things with me including welding, auto mechanics, lawn mowing, cleaning an algae-infested pool and fixing a John Deere mower.

Once we traveled to the tiny town of Huntsville, Missouri, to tour my uncle's car home. Papa also taught me how to fix bikes. Last summer, I learned so much from him.

My Grandpa is so talented. He makes the best pizza in the world. If you tasted it, you'd definitely agree.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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

Above: Santiago M.A. Griego (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. MADDEFORD

2023
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: SANTIAGO M.A. GRIEGO
Grade 5 Age 10 M/V or F
Teacher MISS J. MADDEFORD
School: U.S. LA CONQUISTADORA
ACADEMY

PAGE 2

Title: The Man from Bakersfield (cont.)

Papa is quite an amazing man! Although he is 64, he still
does the work of a 40 year old. I appreciate how much he has
taught me and I hope I can spend the summer with him again.
Let if you knew him, you'd like him, too.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



Scott Elder, Superintendent

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



Above: Santiago M.A. Griego (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. MADDEFORD

**A Senior I Know Winner List
GRADE 1**

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	PAGE
Anugya Suman	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Valenzuela	13
Andrin Fiber	Sandia Base Elementary	Ms. Berardinelli	08-09
Colin Wilde	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Valenzuela	10
Gavin Hightower	Manzano Day School	Ms. Fonseca	12
Kennedi Garcia	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Griego	14-15
Phoebe Peña	Manzano Day School	Ms. Fonseca	16-17

GRADE 2

Chiara Roehl	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Hering	18-19
Gilbert Baca	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Griego	20
Leann Mai	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Smith	21
Tatiana Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Griego	22-23
Zach Taylor	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Smith	24-25

GRADE 3

Adele Koehler	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	26-27
Callum Nylin	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	28
Mei Aversa	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Martin	30-31
Paloma Miller	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Comstock	32
Tomás Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Valenzuela	35-37
Vidit Rai	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Kraemer	38

GRADE 4

Charlotte Galvis	Manzano Day School	Ms. Austin	40-42
Nilchil Roy	Manzano Day School	Mrs. James	44-45

**A Senior I Know Winner List
GRADE 4 (CONTINUED)**

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	PAGE
Owen Winter	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Smith	43
Tristan Churilla	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Riley	48
Veronica Ayala	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. Rodgers	49
Zoey Lovato	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Smith	46

GRADE 5

Alyssa Quintana	Sandia Base Elementary	Mr. Dietz	52-53
Christian Northup	Shepherd Lutheran School	Ms. Martindale	50
Haley Carter	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Sauer	58-59
Lillian Holmes	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	56
Santiago M.A. Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Maddeford	61-63
Thomas Quirk	Sandia Base Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	54

Art Winners

FRONT AND BACK COVERS

D'macia Polzin	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	51
Kalaiah Gallegos	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	57

Other Featured Artists

Amelia Meiser	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	11
Aria Lawson	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	60
Cienna Castillo	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	47
Chloe Lopez	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	29
Cooper Gustafson	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	55
Cora Pousen	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	33
Phoenix Loomis	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	34
Tyler Hammond	Alice King Community School	Ms. Katja	39

Our Sponsors

Here's to our partners, who made this contest possible.







Back Cover: Kalaiah Gallegos
 GRADE 05 TEACHER: MS. KATJA

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

2023 A Senior I Know Essay Contest Winners
Department of Senior Affairs

Angel Montoya
P: 505-768-3862
E: acmontoya@cabq.gov
 Citizen Contact Center: 311



MAY 2023