



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

A Senior I Know

Essay Contest Winners

Department of Senior Affairs

Senior Info Line :: 505-764-6400

Citizen Contact Center :: 311 cabq.gov/seniors

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A Quick Message from Us

Dear Families,

For 43 years and counting, the City of Albuquerque has partnered with local schools to host the “A Senior I Know” Essay Contest, a celebration of the vital connections between generations. Through this community contest, elementary school students across Albuquerque have the opportunity to take the time to honor older adults who have made an impact on their lives, whether it’s a grandparent, a teacher, a neighbor, or family friend.

This year, over 800 students from grades 1 through 5 submitted essays, each one a heartfelt tribute to the wisdom, kindness, and guidance of an older adult they connected with. The 30 winning essays, selected by a dedicated committee of retired educators, reflect the deep appreciation our young writers have for the older adults who inspire and support them. These stories remind us of the importance of family, mentorship, and the traditions that connect us across generations.

To all the students who participated, thank you for sharing your words and your hearts. Your essays show us how the bonds we build with each other help shape who we are and who we aspire to be. To the older adults honored in these pages, thank you for your role in shaping the future by offering wisdom, encouragement, and care to



Top: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor, City of Albuquerque. **Above:** Anna Sanchez, Director, the Department of Senior Affairs. **Left:** local girls playing at a city facility.

the young people in your lives.

Congratulations to this year’s winners! Your words have the power to inspire, and we encourage you to continue telling stories that celebrate the people who make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Keller
Anna M. Sanchez

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 generations to come.

Sue Fickel

I have been a judge for the "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest for 28 years. I do enjoy getting the perspective of the students

Right (top row, from left to right): The Judges: Ginger Grossetete, Judy Koskovich, Anita Sterchi, Sue Fickel, Barbara Polka-Chenoweth, Marge Peters.

Right (bottom row): John Johnson, Carol Jenkins, Carol Johnson, Alicia Meade, and Arnie Tice.

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.

Carol Jenkins

I have lived in Albuquerque for 64 years. I was a teacher for 39 years total. I taught preschool through 4th grade, but most of my teaching was in kindergarten. I taught kindergarten for 29 years and loved it. My special memory is working with children in their "Squiggle Books." I loved to see their creations and hear their stories. I especially enjoyed their "invented" spelling as they learned to spell and write their own stories.

Carol Johnson

I was born in Albuquerque and have lived here most of my life. I taught elementary school for 27 years. The majority of the years were as a 2nd grade teacher, but I also taught kindergarten and 1st grade. I loved the smiles and hugs of the students. I enjoyed helping them learn and accomplish new things. Now that I am retired, the smiles and hugs come from my four grandchildren. I love spending time with them and watching them learn new things. I am blessed to have them in my life!

John Johnson

I have lived in Albuquerque most of my life since 1957. I taught for 18 years in Albuquerque Public Schools. I taught 5th grade which included all subjects. A special memory from my teaching days was when my 1994-1995 5th grade class organized a party at the gym several years after they left my school. Sixteen of the students attended, and they were still the same kind, caring people I remembered. It was like magic.

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!

Alicia Meade

I have lived in Albuquerque for 37 years. I moved here after college to begin my teaching career. I taught Special Education for 30 years. The last several years I worked primarily with 4th and 5th graders. I taught at Onate Elementary School my whole career, and was lucky to find a place that I could call “home” for that long. My own two children went to Onate. I retired in 2017 and now I am enjoying my retirement.

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.

Barbara Polka-Chenoweth

For several years, I have partnered with Sue Fickel to judge “A Senior I Know” essays. I have enjoyed reading about

LEADERSHIP**Timothy M. Keller,**

Mayor, City of
Albuquerque



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the people, mainly grandparents, who have played significant roles in these young writers' lives. The awards reception has been special for the winners, the families, and especially the seniors. After 30+ years, I retired from APS with many of those years focusing on early literacy development. The "aha moments" of young readers and writers were priceless.

Anita Sterch

As a volunteer and a retired adult educator, each year 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. I believe that recognition of seniors is important and that's the reason these essays are so special.

Arnie Tice

I was part of Onate Elementary School for 20 years. I started as a volunteer when my children attended Onate. I worked on staff for nine years, first as an educational assistant and then a teacher. I was fortunate to be able to teach kindergarten and then teach a second and third grade combination class. Working with children, raising children, and being around children always creates a plethora of memories. I am looking forward to reading the essays and participating as a judge.





The Winners

COURTESY OF CABQ

GRADE 01

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Cary Blackstone
Grade 1 Age 7 M ☒ or F ☐
Teacher: Jennifer Findell
School: Manzano Day School
Email: Cary@msfindell.com

Title: The Story of Grandpa Charlie
My favorite Senior Citizen is my grandpa Charlie. He is a special person to me. He loved me with all of his heart. He loved to bite. He gave the best smiles and the best hugs. He loved everyone that was around him, and he treated everyone nicely. He is an important person to me because he was such a nice person. Although I never got to meet him, I have heard about him. He was the best Senior Citizen I have heard about.

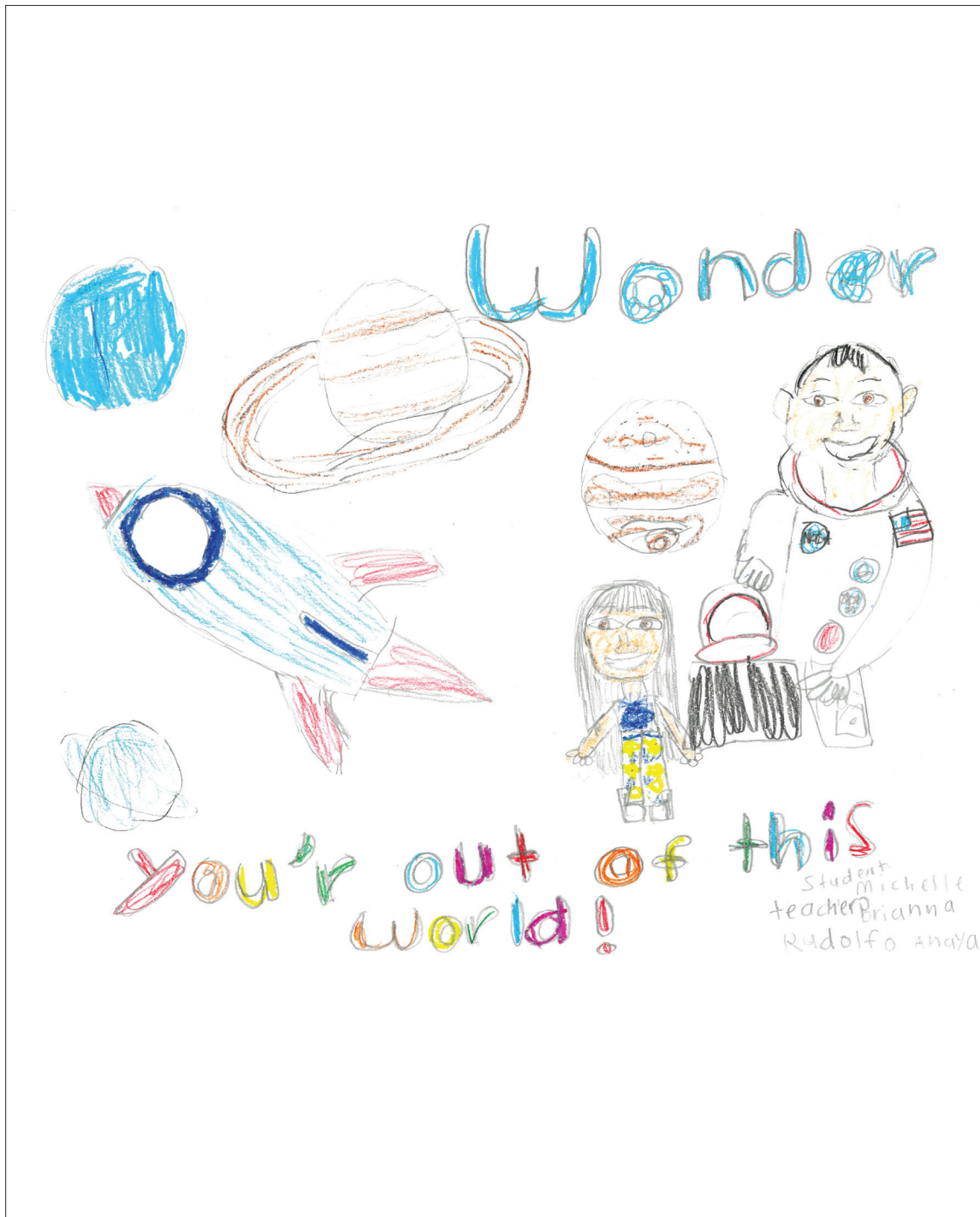


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Above: Cary Blackstone
TEACHER: MS. FINDELL





Above: Michelle Sanchez
TEACHER: MS. BURT, 4TH GRADE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Isabelle Carvajal-Valenzuela
Grade 1st Age 6 M or F X
Teacher Ms. Lucero
School: Holy Ghost Catholic school
Email:

Title: Granny Tee




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Above: Isabelle Carvajal-Valenzuela
TEACHER: MS. LUCERO

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Isabelle Carvajal-Valenzuela
 Grade 1st Age 6 M. or F X
 Teacher Ms. Lucero
 School: Holy Ghost Catholic
School
 Email:

Title: Granny Tee
 A senior I know is my grandma. She takes care of me when my mom has meetings. My granny eats ice cream. Her favorite is chocolate. She sometimes watches T.V with me. She takes me to Mc Donalds and I get chicken nuggets. She is the best grandma in the world. She is the best with me. She makes the best mac and cheese! I love granny.



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Above: Isabelle Carvajal-Valenzuela (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. LUCERO

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Julia Horch
 Grade 1st Age 7 M or F X
 Teacher Lisa Sebastian
 School: Manzano day school
 Email:

Title: A Senior Citizen I Know

A senior Citizen I know is my Grandma. She is 74. When I get there I hug my Grandma. Then I show her some of the amazing toys I brought. There are thousands of books there. Then I will hop onto the couch and read a couple pages or words. I like to find the cts with her. I might bounce on the bed. I can play dress up with her too. She alls e fruit names and I'll be silly. par. Sh gives me my favorite banana sheet and cooks me great dinners. That is very special. I love h r.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



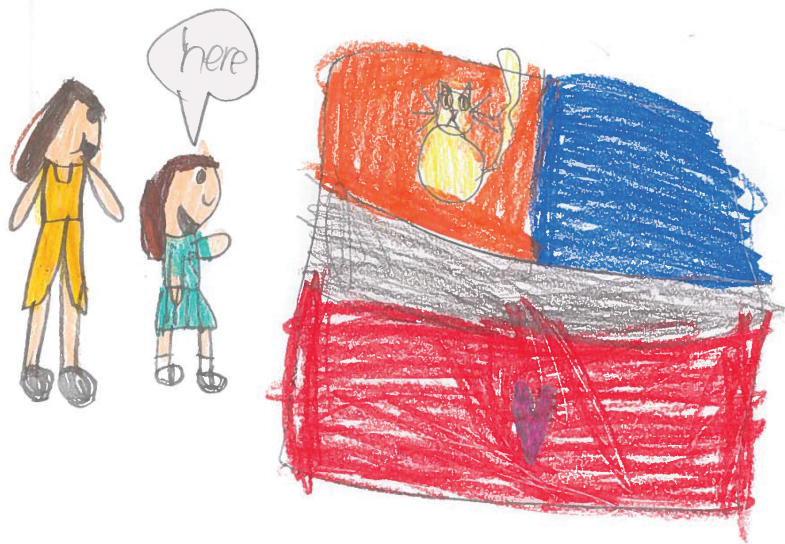
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Above: Julia Horch
 TEACHER: MS. SEBASTIAN

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Julia Horch
Grade: 1st Age: 7 M. or F. X
Teacher: Lisa Sebastian
School: Manzano Day School
Email: _____

Title: A Senior Citizen I Know



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Above: Julia Horch (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. SEBASTIAN

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Sara Koehle
Grade 1st Age 7 M_ or F ✓
Teacher McCallon
School: SYJ
Email:

Title: My Grandma

My Grandma's name is Adele Mary Koehler. She was born in 1950 in Ithaca NY. When she was 5 years old, she learned how to speak English. She played piano. She was a school librarian. She typed reports for other. Her favorite thing to do is cross



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Above: Sara Koehler

TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

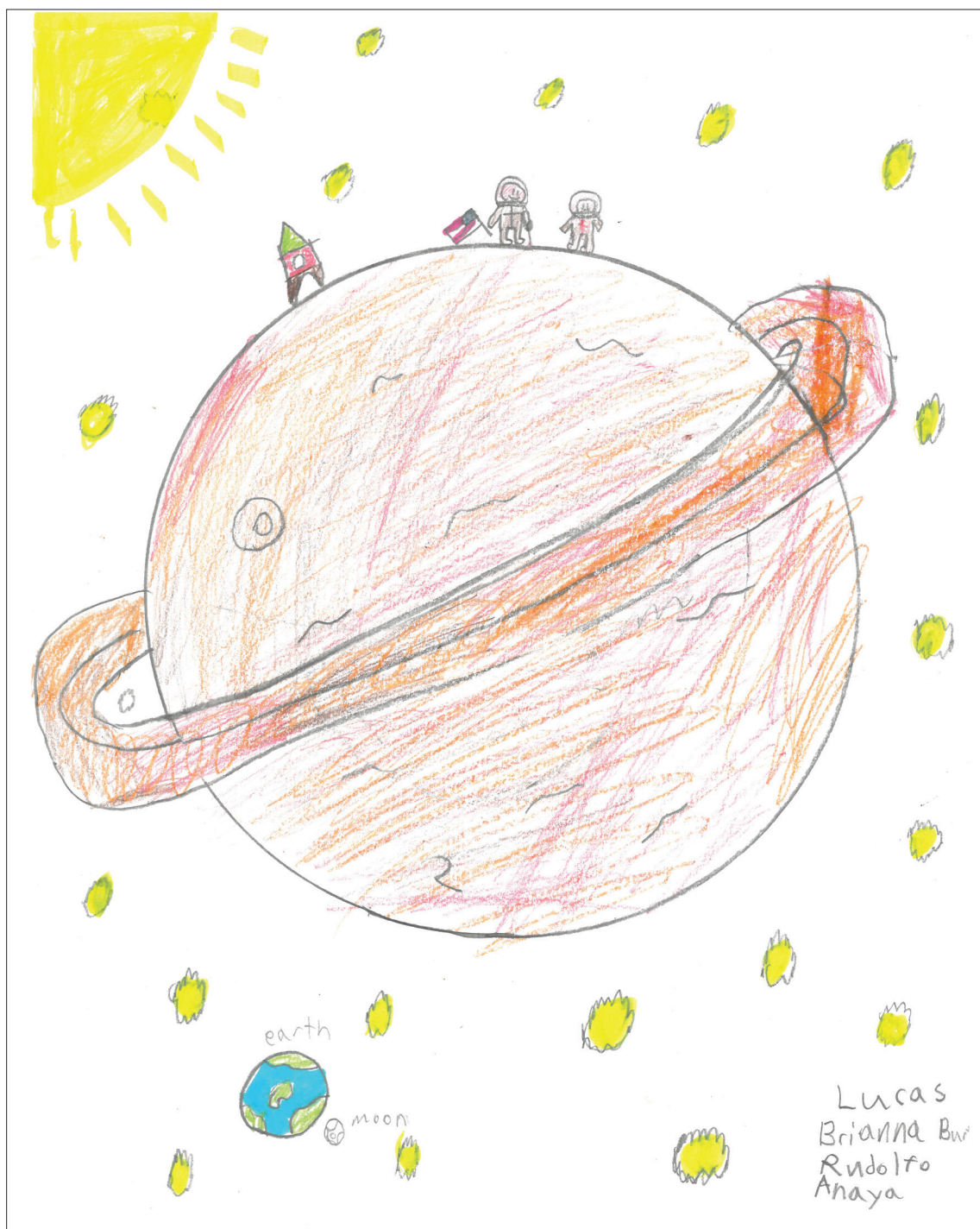
Name: Sara Koehler
Grade ____ Age ____ M_ or F_
Teacher _____
School: _____
Email: _____

Title: _____
Stich. I am learning how to
do cross stitching. I Love her.



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Above: Sara Koehler (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON



Above: Lucas Cordova
TEACHER: MS. BURT, 4TH GRADE

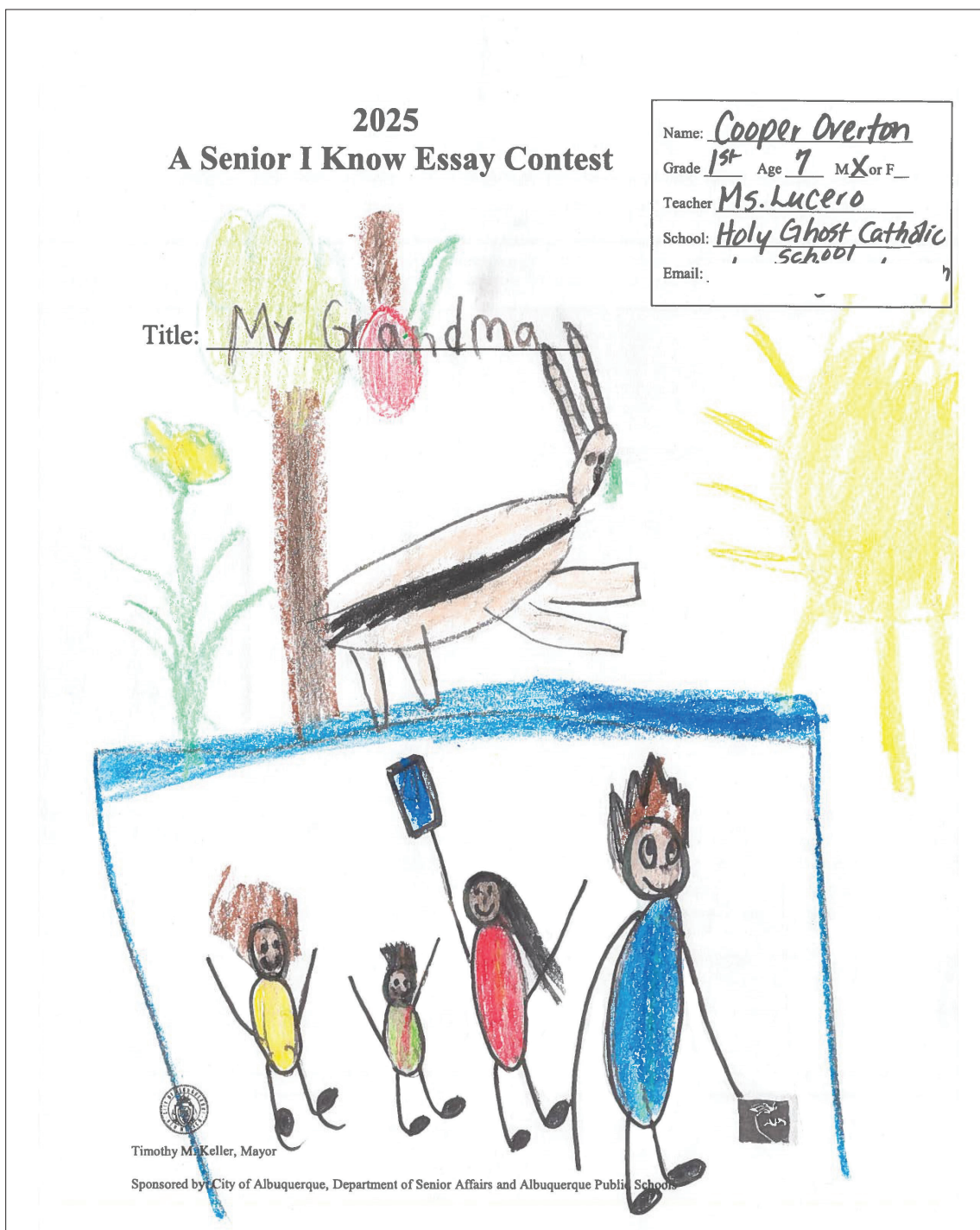
2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Noah Liechty
Grade:	1 Age 6 ✓
Teacher:	Mrs. McCallon
School:	SY Jackson
Email:	

Title: A Senior I Know

My grandma, Jaime Milford, is 57 years old. She was born on December 31, 1967. She has 6 pets; 3 dogs; London, Titan, Harley, 2 turtles, and 1 fish. She lives in Florida and has experienced many hurricanes. I talk to her everyday on video chat through our Alexa. My grandma and grandpa set up a new pool and I am looking forward to swimming in it when I go to Florida this summer. In 2023 I took a road trip, which took 2 days, to see my grandma. When we were there we went to Sebastian inlet, where I swam in the ocean and saw boats coming by. This was my first time swimming in the ocean. Grandma packed uncrustables for lunch and we brought the pool floats and tubes to the beach. We played kinetic sand. I love spending time with my grandma, I wish I lived closer to her.

Above: Noah Liechty
TEACHER: MRS. WOLF



Above: Cooper Overton
TEACHER: MS. LUCERO

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Cooper Overton
 Grade 1st Age 7 M X or F
 Teacher Ms. Lucero
 School: Holy Ghost Catholic
School
 Email:

Title:

My Grandma
A senior I know is my
grandma. Sometimes my
grandma makes a cake
and the type of cake
she makes is chocolate. Her
cake is very good.
On special days
she takes me and my
sister to get a
brand new toy and
if we're very good
she takes us for
ice cream but if we are
better than that she
will take us to
the Zoo. At the
Zoo we see oryx. Next,
she takes us to her
house. Then we get
to play board games.
Next we go upstairs
and watch tv and go to bed.
My grandma is the best!



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Above: Cooper Overton (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. LUCERO

GRADE 02

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Joy Brundage
Grade:	2 Age 7 M or F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	MS. Sharp
School:	Manzano Day School
Email:	

Title: My Grandad

My grandad Garland Ray Gregory is 88 years old. He was born in St. Louis Missouri in 1936 at the end of The Great Depression. It was a time in America when many families did not have enough money for food and clothes.

When grandad was growing up there was something called racial segregation. That means kids from different races could not go to school together. Also you had to live in a neighborhood with only people who looked like you.

Grandad went to the Air Force when he grew up. He is a military veteran that served his country. During grandad's life he saw good things happen like the Civil Rights Movement. The advice my grandad gave me was to get my education and do well in school. My grandad loves fruit and vegetables and walking. He is very healthy. He loves going to the farmer's market and so do I.



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Above: Joy Brundage

TEACHER: MS. SHARP

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Joy Brundage
Grade 2 Age 7 M or F ☒
Teacher MS. Sharp
School: Manzano Day School
Email:

Title: My Grandad
Soulard Farmer's Market
St. Louis, Missouri



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Above: Joy Brundage (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. SHARP

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Ethan Chapman
 Grade 2nd Age 7 M or F
 Teacher Ms. Chandler
 School: S. Y. Jackson
 Email:

Title: My Grandpa, A Great Citizen
My grandpa, Alfred Martinez
was born in Tacos, New Mexico on
February 14th, 1952. He has one brother
and three sisters. When he was little
he played with horned lizards that
hid in the sagebrush bushes in his
backyard. When he told me this it made
me happy because I love lizards too.
When my grandpa was 18 he joined
the United States Navy. He worked on the
USS Ticonderoga as an Eng. man. This means
that he fixed almost everything on the ship.
One amazing story he told me was that his ship
picked up the three astronauts from Apollo 16
that landed in the ocean.
When my grandpa left the Navy
he put what he learned on the ship to good
use. My grandpa worked as a machinist,
eventually starting his own business called Al's
Custom Machining. He married my grandma
Melinda and had two daughters, my mom
Melanie and my auntie Cheryl.



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Page 1 of 2

Above: Ethan Chapman
 TEACHER: MS. BONING

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Ethan Chapman
 Grade 2nd Age 7 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Ms. Chandler
 School: S.Y. Jackson
 Email: _____

Title: My Grandpa, A Great Citizen

This year my grandpa will turn 73. He is currently battling cancer in his esophagus. He has learned a lot in his life. I asked him what advice he would give his younger self. He said he would pay more attention in school and learn as much as he could. I plan on taking his advice. I enjoyed learning more about my grandpa!



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Page 2 of 2

Above: Ethan Chapman (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. BONING

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: ETHAN JOHNSON
Grade 2 Age 8 M X or F
Teacher PAQUIN
School: HOLY GHOST
Email:

Title: My Best Grampa
My Gramp grew up in Espanola
New Mexico. He spoke Spanish at home.
When growing up and English was
his second language. When my Grampa
was out of high school he drove a
semi truck and worked as a
diesel mechanic. My Grampa is a handyman
and he helps other people. My Grampa
likes to go to the beach and
exercise and he will meet other
people. He likes to go and look at
the river. Last year we took me to
cliff it was a blast. He likes pork chops
we like them with mash potatoes and
Gravy and with green beans. And one
year he took me to Santa Fe on the
rail road and took me to Mexico
where it was really fun. My Grampa
is the best.



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Above: Ethan Johnson
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Arabella Perry
 Grade 2nd Age 8 M or F X
 Teacher Chandler
 School: S. Y. Jackson
 Email:

Title: My favorite Senior and me!

I have a special Senior in my life. Their name is Erin Capit and she is my grandma. We have so much fun together and she teaches me a lot of things. I am so excited to tell you why she is my favorite Senior!

I like to call Erin Grandma. Grandma and I like to go skiing and swimming together. No matter the season we always have fun. My Grandma has been swimming since she was my age. My Grandma also enjoyed board games, whiffle ball and hide and seek as a child. She told me a story that when she was just a kid she had flown in chair plane for the first time. She was only 6 years old, how cool!

My Grandma said a lot has changed since she was a kid. For example, the prices of gas have changed. They went from 24 cents to 8 dollars a gallon (in California). Technology has changed. Nowadays, there are cell phones, computers and the internet. One more thing my grandma always tells me is that the world is always changing but I should just enjoy being a kid. Growing up happens fast is what she says, so I should have fun and play as much as I can. I think everyone should take this advice. She reminds me it's okay to be silly, laugh a lot and make up fun stories. When I'm with her, I feel like I can be myself and just have fun!



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I am so lucky to have Erin in my life. She is my favorite because she is kind, funny, loving and so creative. I hope she is in my life for a long long long time.

Above: Arabella Perry

TEACHER: MS. BAUMGARTNER

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Jacob Sehr
 Grade 2 Age 8 1/2 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Ms. Ortega
 School: Manzano Day School
 Email: _____

Title: Storytime with Grandpa

Steven Sehr is my 68 year old grandpa from Des Moines, Iowa born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. I have a lot of interesting stories that I can not wait to share with you. When I sat down to interview my grandpa, I thought I knew a lot about him. I quickly realized there was so much to learn. One thing I loved learning about was the student my grandpa was. I learned that me and my grandpa both love math and science. He is even a doctor now. The big difference between me and my grandpa is he talked a lot in class. I was also shocked and giggled a little to find out my grandpa was a class clown. Would you be shocked if your grandpa was a class clown?

My grandpa was fourteen years old when he got his first job. He washed dishes and cleaned tables at an International House. Pancakes. He liked what he was doing but he did not like the job because of his mean boss. He really liked his second job because his boss was kind. He got to meet lots of interesting people from all over the world, because customers came to buy appliances to bring back to their countries. One time a Russian astronaut came in to buy a toaster. He even got to deliver blenders to a cruise ship named Queen Elizabeth.

When I asked my grandpa what are some of the biggest changes he has seen he said, "Oh Jacob let's start small." Some of the biggest changes he has seen I wish we had now. My grandpa said everything happened in your neighborhood. There was

soda shops, pizza parlors, delis, schools, and kids playing everywhere. My grandpa's favorite game was stickball. I would love to grab a slice of pizza for 25¢ and hang out with my friends just like my grandpa used to do. I think it is special that everyone in the neighborhood looked out for each other. I would love to share one final thing about my grandpa. The best piece of advice my grandpa gave me was "to always be honest."

Above: Jacob Sehr
 TEACHER: MS. ORTEGA

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Jacob Sehr
Grade 2nd Age 8 1/2 M X or F
Teacher Ms. Ortega
School: Manzano Day School
Email:

Title: Storytime with Grandpa



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Above: Jacob Sehr (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. ORTEGA

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Arlene Valverde-Trevizo
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F ☒
Teacher Mrs. Ibañez
School: Cochiti Elementary
Email:

Title: All About my Ito



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Above: Arlene Valverde-Trevizo

TEACHER: MS. IBAÑEZ

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Arlene Valverde
 Grade Trevizo Age 8 M or F ✓
 Teacher Mrs. Ibañez
 School: Cochiti Elementary
 Email:

Title: All About my Ito

A senior I know is Uvaldo Trevizo, I call him Ito. He was born in Bachiniva chihuahua on November 1st, 1962. His favorite thing about school was Art and growing up, his friends were fun. My Ito liked playing marbles and baseball. He also liked to practice shooting with his sling shot and rideing horses for fun. His favorite job was construction and being a heavy maching operator. If my Ito could do something differently in his life he would workless, travel more, and enjoy life more. His greatest accomplishment was Becoming a U.S. citizen and being able to Provide a better future for my family. That is a senior I know.



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Above: Arlene Valverde- Trevizo (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. IBAÑEZ

GRADE 03

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Josiah Alvarez
Grade 3rd Age 9 Male
Teacher Nicole Sainte-Marie
School: Cochiti Elementary Schoo
Email:

Title: the senior.

The senior I know is my grandma Ramona. She was born on January 23rd 1947. She just turned 78 years old and was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She grew up in Old Town. She was raised by her parents, who are my great grandparents. She has two sisters and one brother. I chose my grandma because she is my favorite person.

My grandma is funny and we like to laugh at jokes. She makes my family smile. I admire my grandma because she is a strong and independent person. My grandma is kind, she has lots of friends and we all like to be around her. My best memory with my grandma is when we went to the zoo. Me and my grandma like the flamingos. Another memory that we have is when we had a water balloon fight

Above: Josiah Alvarez
TEACHER: MS. SAINTE-MARIE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Josiah Alvarez
Grade 3rd Age 9 Male
Teacher Nicole Sainte-Marie
School: Cochiti Elementary Schoo
Email:

outside at Easter. We had lots of fun. She also went in the swimming pool with me but she didn't know how to swim so I sat with her on the stairs. My grandma and I enjoy playing games. Our favorite board game is Monopoly. I always beat my Grandma . I chose my Grandma because she is my favorite Grandma. When I go visit her she takes good care of me. She has been here for me when I need her. I love my grandma very much. She is very special to me and my family. My Grandma is kind, loving and important in my life. I have the best grandma in the world.

Above: Josiah Alvarez (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. SAINTE-MARIE

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Nathan Brewer
 Grade 3 Age 9 M ✓ or F
 Teacher Ms. Chandler
 School: SY Jackson
 Email:

Title: Generous Grandad

My granddad's name is Thomas Mikulastik. He was born in Dallas, Texas on July 12, 1949. Granddad is the middle child of three children. His favorite color is camo green and his favorite food is Mexican. His favorite subject in school was biology. He was a landscape contractor for many years, but now he builds houses and sells them.

Grandad is the most generous person I know. He loves us so much that he was over the moon to come take care of me and my three siblings while my parents traveled for 12 days. When Grandad visits he likes watching our sports practices and games. He is always proud of us! When we go to his house in Rockport, Texas, we always ride in his boat off the coast of Texas. We go fishing and look for dolphins. He even lets me drive his boat sometimes!

At Christmas time, he sends us loving notes that inspire us. Sometimes Grandad



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Above: Nathan Brewer
 TEACHER: MS. CREPEAU

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Nathan Brewer
 Grade 3 Age 9 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Ms. Chandler
 School: 54 Jackson
 Email: _____

Title: Generous Grandad

sends us books that he writes and illustrates for us. They are amazing and we read them often.

When we turn 12, we each get to fly on a plane alone and go visit him! During our visit, we go to Houston and see fun places. I'm so excited to turn 12!

Grandad is my favorite senior citizen. He is generous with his love!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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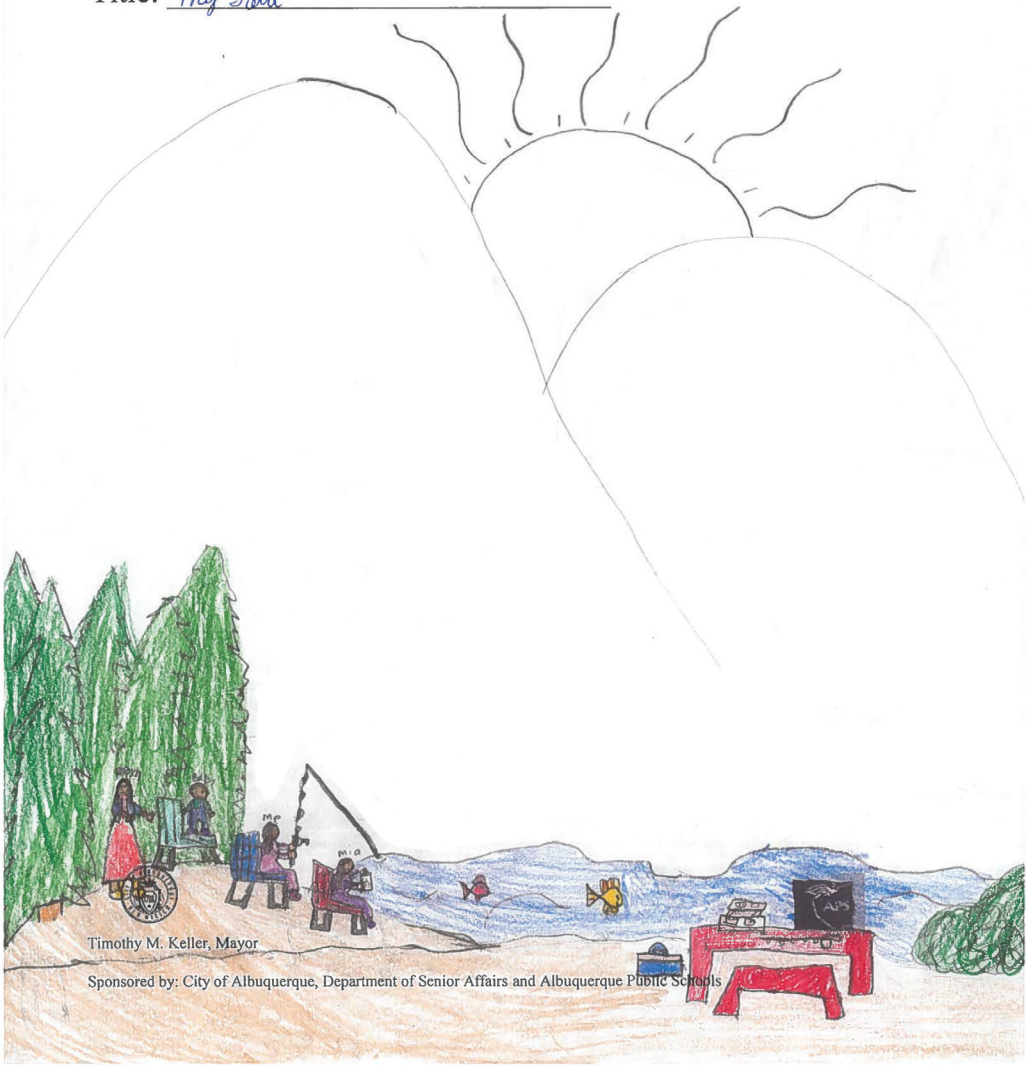
Above: Nathan Brewer (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. CREPEAU

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Alma Chavez ✓
Grade 2nd Age 9 M or F ✓
Teacher Mrs. Williams
School: Nuestra Senora de
Conquistadora Academy
Email:

Title: My Tata



Above: Alma Chavez (Continued)
TEACHER: MRS. WILLIAMS

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

2025
A Senior I Know Essay
Contest

Name: Liam Harrison Grade 3

Age 9 M x or F Teacher Mrs. Madden

School: Manzano Day School

Email:

Title: The Best Senior I know

A senior I know is my grandpa Gary Harrison. He is my dad’s dad. My grandpa Gary likes to play music, especially piano. He teaches me to play piano. He loves when I play for him and always helps me fix my mistakes when I play the wrong note. Sometimes he takes me to my piano lesson. He also makes really good food. He served in the military during the Vietnam war. He was mostly on a navy ship. He became a vegetarian because the meat on the ship was really disgusting. My grandpa can play all kinds of good songs. He can play the guitar, the piano, and the organ. He also likes to sing. My grandpa loves to hike. He was born in San Francisco, California and went to Stanford and got his PhD. He was a professor at UNM for many years. He likes to go hiking. He also wrote a book named “Western Literature.” He goes to Colorado to hike a lot. That is where his brother and sister live. He taught me and my brother to sing a song that he wrote and we made it on the radio! The song that we sang was called “ Run run Rudolph.” He likes to bake and one time he put green chile on apple pie and it was not a mistake! One time he gave me and my brother a bunch of coins and dollar bills from different countries. He got them as he traveled the world. He likes to swim and play with me and my brother. He goes to all of my baseball games no matter how far they are. He enjoys making soup. Thank you for reading my essay. My grandpa is really special to me. I hope he is special to you too.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Above: Liam Harrison
TEACHER: MS. MADDEN

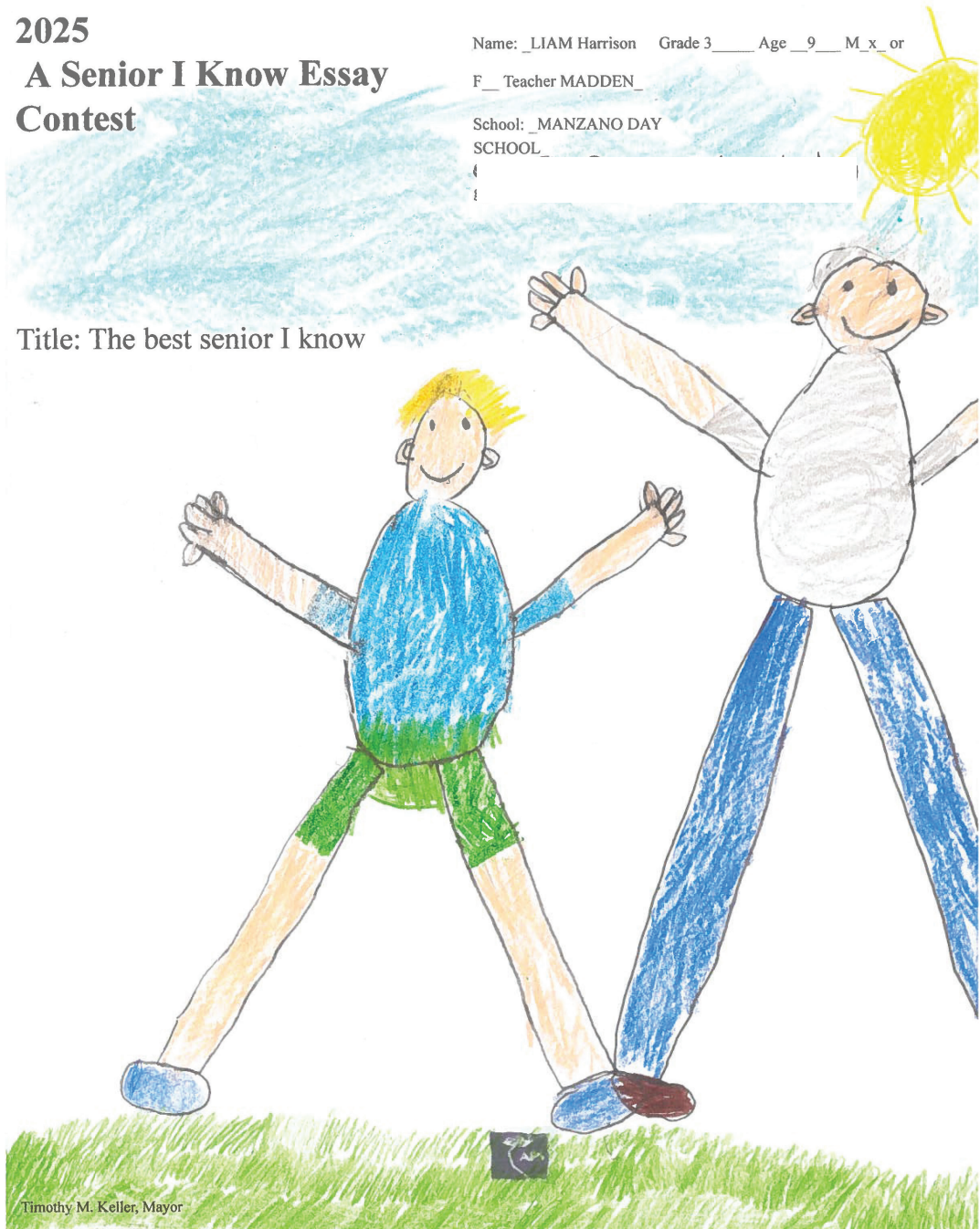
2025
A Senior I Know Essay
Contest

Name: LIAM Harrison Grade 3 Age 9 M x or

F Teacher MADDEN

School: MANZANO DAY
SCHOOL

Title: The best senior I know



Above: Liam Harrison (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. MADDEN

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Xiomara Huerta
 Grade 3rd Age 9
 M or F F
 Teacher: Mrs. Gabaldon
 School: Cochiti Elementary
 Email: _____

Title: A Senior I Know is
my uncle. His name is Melo. Melo was born in
Gallup New Mexico. Melo's parents chose his name
from one grandpa to another. My uncle's job is a city
of Aurora in Colorado. Melo did like his job. My uncle said
that school was k. Uncle Melo's favorite subject was
math. Melo's parents culture of my uncle's childhood
was Native American and a Indian dance. Uncle Melo went
to California for a trip when Melo was a kid. Melo did get
married and had 2 sons, 0 Grandchildren, and 0 Great-
grandchildren. My uncle's best part of his childhood is
playing in the mud. Uncle Melo's greatest accomplishment
was moving to Colorado. The three words to describe Melo
is a thinker, a listener and funny. My uncle's favorite
memory with me is me in his truck me telling how my
life is going. Melo said that children should use there
imagination. What my nle Melo miss most about
his childhood is being young. My unde is funny because
he tells me funny jokes there are so funny that
sometime I laugh so hard. He is so smart because
evertime I say a hard equation he answers in 5 secor



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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page 1 of 2

Above: Xiomara Huerta
 TEACHER: MRS. GABALDON

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Xiomara Huerta
 Grade: 3rd Age: 9
 M. or F. ✓
 Teacher: Mrs. Gabaldon
 School: Cochiti Elements
 Email: _____

Title:

Uncle Melo is friendly because when people fall down he helps them up. People love it when Melo helps them that they give him free food. Every time someone hears Melo says a funny joke people say "You should be a clown at the fair who tells funny jokes". Uncle Melo is so smart because he studies all the time. My best memory with my uncle is that I spend a whole day with him and my aunt. All three of us went to a resort for breakfast and I ate pancakes. After that we went to a store and got toys and some books. Then we played I spy with my little eye and then we played rock paper scissors. When we got hungry we ordered pizza. Then we went to the park for 10 minutes. Then we ate dinner. My uncle Melo and my auntie dropped me home. I chose Uncle Melo because he always believes in me and he always tells me to be kind. Another reason I chose him is because he is the best uncle I ever had. That is my story with my senior.



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page 2 of 2

Above: Xiomara Huerta (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. GABALDON

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Maya Merriam
 Grade 3rd Age 8 M or F ✓
 Teacher Mrs Smith
 School: SY Jackson
 Email:

Title: My Grandma

This is the story of how my grandma, Rosilinda Child immigrated here from the Philippines. She was born in the jungles of Cebu. Grandma grew up in a house with a dirt floor and a roof of coconut leaves. When she was a little girl she would see the airplanes in the sky and tell her siblings "I am going to ride one of those some day." which was silly because because her family could never afford an airplane ticket. In her twenties grandma met grandpa. He was stationed there with the airforce as a medical corpsman. Grandma was pregnant with my mommy when Mount Pinatubo erupted. Because of the eruption had to evacuate with the with the Military and grandma had to stay behind because it would it would take too long to do the paper work that let her move to the United States. Because grandpa left grandma had to deliver her baby alone, which was scary because she can't afford the hospital and the aunt that was with her wasn't helping. Eventually grandma moved to the United States to marry grandpa and get her wish of riding on an airplane. On the plane a couple tried to buy her baby but of course she said no. Grandma like driving better in America because the laws are safer she likes shopping better as well. It took along time for grandma to feel at home about two years but learning about american culture helped. In America grandma learned to be independent and to drive. Grandmas family in the Philippines is very happy even though they are poor early because of all of the support grandma shows. When grandma moved to the USA she had to take a citizenship test about US history it was hundred questions long, it was challenging. The most challenging question for her was "what were the original 13 colonies. She became an official citizen in 2008. She stills in touch with her family in the Philippines. When she moved calling was expensive so she would mostly write, but nowadays she calls. I hope you learned something about my grandma.



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Above: Maya Merriam

TEACHER: MRS. HEDGES

GRADE 04

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: David Carey
 Grade 4 Age 9 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Chandler
 School: S.J. Jackson
 Email: _____

Title: The Best Storyteller of All Time

My grandma, Eunice Mandeville, is THE BEST STORYTELLER EVER!!!!!!
Here are some of her stories...

The Beatles were her favorite band ever!! Her dad bought her and her friends a ticket to a Beatles concert, and they found a 20 dollar bill! But the moment they brought the drums out, ever one started screaming and she couldn't hear anything! And when she moved to Albuquerque, she wanted to try a tamale, so she got one. But she didn't know how to eat one, so she ate the corn husk. She said it tasted terrible.

She also didn't know her name! She thought it was Nicki. But then in kindergarten, they were taking attendance and the teacher said "Eunice Mandeville! Eunice Mandeville!" So she found out her name, but she didn't like it. So her parents asked the teacher to call her Nicki instead. And when Grandpa David and her were traveling around England for 6 months and had just graduated college, her sister Carol said they could live with her in Albuquerque. But then Carol moved away, so they stayed at the house until it sold, then they moved into an apartment.

Now that you have read the most awesome stories ever, you clearly agree that she is a great storyteller and she makes the best banana chocolate chip muffins ever.

Sincerely, David Carey

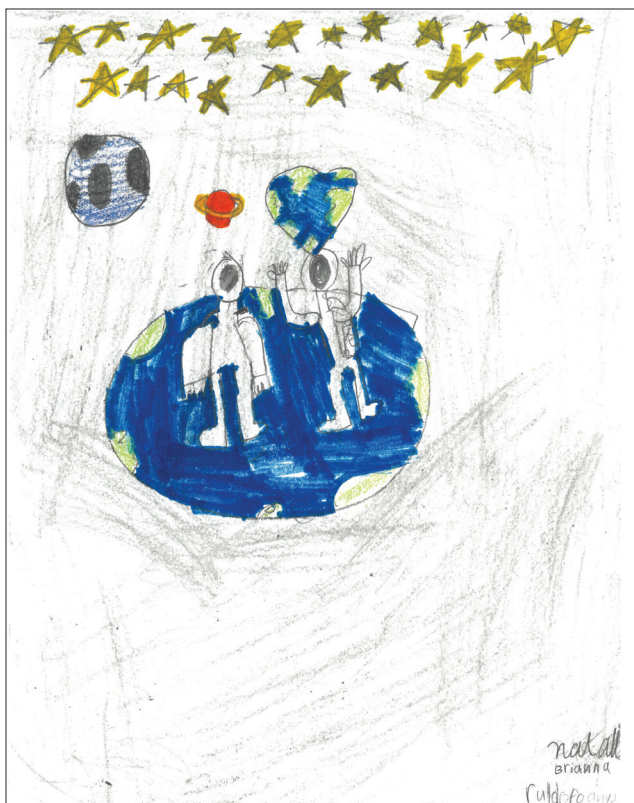


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Sponsored by: City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools

Above: David Carey

TEACHER: MS. MOWERY



Art Winners

Above: Natalie Lara, Dimitri Drury, Gerald Popoola, and Alexa Herrera. **Facing Page:** Aiden Gonzalez, Jeremiah Gutierrez, Mario Medrano, and Scarlet Martinez

TEACHERS: MS. BURT, MS. MASSEY, 4TH GRADE



2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

TITLE: i am writing about my grandma / mom

Name: Laynette Chavez
Grade 4th Age 9 Female
Teacher Nicole Sainte-Marie
School: Cochiti Elementary School
Email:

I am introducing you to my grandma Linda .I choose to write about her
because she tells me stories of how she grew up with her parents who are my great grandparents. I don't have great grandparents anymore .They passed away when My grandma was a little girl . My grandma and my grandparents lived in a country not a city They had chickens , pigs , and cows .They lived in a place called Hochheim, Texas . My great grandpa would milk the cows , my great grandma would bake bread and my grandma would gather the eggs . My grandma and my great grandparents lived where there were pecan trees and different berries , a large river and a lot of trees . My grandma would go pick berries and my great grandparents would make jelly from the berries . They would go to the river to catch fish and pick pecans . My great grandma would make candies with pecans . My grandma says they were the best candies in the world . My great grandma baked her own bread, so they had the fresh homemade jelly with the bread . Some of my best memories with my grandma is when we have picnics together , we both make things to take on our picnics . When the weather is too cold , or windy we have a picnic on our living room floor and pretend to be outside . We get an umbrella ready incase it rains outside. We have a lot of fun . One time my grandma tried to make us candy like my great grandma did for her , but it was a mess because she didn't know how , but it was still good . MY grandma made us homemade bread so we could eat with jelly. We sit on our blankets and tell each other stories . I chose my grandma Linda because she lived a little different than I have . My grandma loves me so much and became my mom. She has always taken care of me and makes sure I have everything a child should have which is love , respect and care . My grandma / mom says I need to study and stay in school so I can have an easier life than hers . She has shown me how



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Above: Laynette Chavez
TEACHER: MS. SAINTE-MARIE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

TITLE: i am writing about my grandma / mom

Name: Laynette Chavez
Grade 4th Age 9 Female
Teacher Nicole Sainte-Marie
School: Cochiti Elementary School
Email:

to respect everyone and to never give up on anything she says. If at first I can't do it I should try a little harder next time and I will be fine . I love my grandma / mom Linda . Thank you mom for all you do for me I love you .



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Above: Laynette Chavez (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. SAINTE-MARIE

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Shawn Johnson
 Grade 4 Age 10 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Mrs. Gurule
 School: Holy Ghost
 Email: _____

Title: Karen Johnson

Today I am writing about my grandma Karen Ann Faith Johnson. She was born in Raton, New Mexico. She was born on May 31, 1949. When she was born, homes were small and had a furnace with coal. Her house had a stove that stayed warm with coal, a washer that had a ringer to squeeze the water out, and she had to hang dry all her clothes. She also had a sink with one faucet, it was not fancy.

At her school, she had nuns and priests. She sat in rows of desks instead of sitting in random ways. Whenever a priest or nun entered they had to say, "good morning" or, "good afternoon." They never did projects and only used textbooks and workbooks. They got letter grades, which are different than the grades we get now. Nuns used a ruler, or belt, and even put them in the corner if someone got in trouble. When she was in middle school, John F. Kennedy was assassinated and people landed on the moon. After school, she played baseball and did 30 minutes of piano.



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Above: Shawn Johnson

TEACHER: MRS. GURULE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Shawn Johnson		
Grade	4	Age	10 M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or F <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	Mrs. Gurule		
School:	Holy Ghost School		
Email:			

Title: Karen Johnson

She is my favorite family member because she lets us sleep over at her house. She takes us shopping with her and lets me get books and toys. When we go over in the summer she lets us go in the pool with our cousin and helps me with my summer homework. She makes the best lunch and dinner. My favorite dinner is white rice.

Today I wrote about my grandma, because she is smart, funny, kind and always makes me laugh. She helps me with homework, and when I am going through hard times. I love her and she loves me. That's why I wrote about her.



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Above: Shawn Johnson (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. GURULE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Gretchen Musick-Long
Grade 4th Age 10 M ☒ or F ☐
Teacher Sra. Corona
School: Lien Aguas
Email:

Title: HG's bilingual Journey: Paso a Paso



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Above: Gretchen Musick-Long
TEACHER: MRS. CORONA

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Gretchen Musick-Long
 Grade 4 Age 10 M or F F
 Teacher Corona
 School: Cien Aguas
 Email: _____

Title: HG's bilingual journey: paso a paso

Have you helped someone learn a language? Well I have. She's my grandma, but she thinks "~~granda~~" is too uncool so we call her HG, which stands for "Homey Girl". One day, my mom said HG wanted to learn Spanish. I was in kindergarten. I know Spanish because I go to a bilingual school where they teach Spanish and English. So from then on we have read in Spanish.

It's hard to read a story in person. Because she ^{lives in} Carmel, Indiana. That's a 14 hour drive! We only see each other once per year. So we talk over Skype. And get the books over a website. My favorite books are a series called *Monstrous*. The books are mainly about life characters ^{who} have problems and help each other.

In 3rd grade, my school had a poetry club. At the almost end of the year we presented at the Hispanic Cultural Center. HG helped me memorize the poem. But I forgot that I had pens in my hair so I almost won 3rd place. The poem was about painting a picture of a valley.



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Above: Gretchen Musick-Long (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. CORONA

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

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

Title: continued from last page

H6 even went to costa rica with my family and me. Costa Rica's nation language is Spanish, so we got some practice in. We even got to pet there national animal, the oso perezoso or in English a sloth. After we left to go home, she stude ~~behide~~ to ateng spanish school. She learned so much there and she loved it.

My H6 is a good learner. In around 5 years she's learned a lot of Spanish. Think of what she can do in the next 2 years.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



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Above: Gretchen Musick-Long (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. CORONA

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Sreethan Reddy
 Grade 4 Age 10 M ☒ or F ☒
 Teacher Ms. Austin
 School: Manzano Day School
 Email: _____

Title: A Senior I Know ^{drg}
 Coach Steve Perea is one of the greatest coaches in my lifetime. He was born on October 15, 1965 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His father was in the navy but he retired and he worked at Ideal Cement a construction company. His mother was always staying at home, caring for him and his siblings. He had 2 brothers and 1 sister. The oldest was Michael Perea and the young was Lisa Perea.

In middle school, he was taught by a nun. A nun is a woman who pleads to sacrifice her life to religious orders. In high school, he succeeded because of the discipline from middle school.



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Above: Sreethan Guddeti

TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: _____
Grade ____ Age ____ M_ or F ____
Teacher _____
School: _____
Email: _____

Title: _____

He also started playing professional chess before he got into the military on January 11, 1983.

Coach Steve worked as a petroleum engineer. He worked his way up into a tank commander. Once he retired, he became a chess master. His passion was so that he could pass on his knowledge from professional chess and from the military to the next generation.

I met Coach Steve in first grade at Chess Club. From that day he has encouraged me to play and after a couple of



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Above: Sreethan Guddeti (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: _____
Grade _____ Age _____ M _____ or F _____
Teacher: _____
School: _____
Email: _____

Title: _____

years I improved my
rating. He has taught me
that chess helps with
academics, critical thinking,
and more. He has also
trained to go to Nationals
which inspired me to play
more chess. I would like to
thank him for his service
in the military and for
being my chess coach.



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Above: Sreethan Guddeti (Continued)
TEACHER: MS. AUSTIN

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Anelle-Rhône Spurgin
 Grade 4 Age 9 M or F
 Teacher Ms. Cervantes
 School: Manzano day school
 Email: _____

Title: The Adventures of Grandma Candie

My Great Grandma Candie was kinda a big deal, or at least to me. During her life she had many adventures. From growing up in a gold mining camp to sailing to Alaska in a 15 ft long boat. My Grandma always had a story to tell!

My Great Grandma grew up in a gold mining camp. The camp was located in Baldy, NM. During the time she spent there she went to a one room school house. Her mom was also her teacher. I think it would be fun to live mining camp because you could meet new friends and find out what new discoveries they find in the mine.

Her first adventure as an adult began in Los Alamos National Labs. She was file clerk and security check. What I think is the most exiting part was when Oppenheimer but she treated him like any other person when he checked in for work. You couldn't pass her not with out the proper clearance.

After she met my Great Granpa Daniel they sailed in a small boat with a big dog from California to Loring Alaska. The boat was only 15 ft long with a small motor. She lived in rural Alaska for many years. She chopped wood, hauled water and caught fish. My Grandma said it was realy cold but I think it would be great for



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



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Above: Anelle-Rhône Spurgin

TEACHER: MS. CERVANTES

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Ancelle-Rhône SpurginGrade 4 Age 9 M or FTeacher Ms. CervantesSchool: Manzano day school

Email: _____

Title: The Adventures of Grandma Candiesleding, sking, and ice skating.

In the 60s when she came back to NM she started her own small manufacturing company called Incienso de Santa Fe. The Famous NM artist Will Shuster originally created the design for the incense. In her small town of Cimmaron NM she took the idea and created a business that is still running today and is owned by her daughter My Granma Kelly.

As you can see my Grandma had the life of the century. She did a bunch of scary but exiting things. I wish I could do all these things in my life!!!



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



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Above: Anelle-Rhône Spurgin (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. CERVANTES



Above: Penelope Rivera
TEACHER: MS. MASSEY

GRADE 05

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Diego Aragón
 Grade 5th Age 10 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher Mrs Chandler
 School: S.Y. Jackson
 Email: _____

Title: Never Give Up

My Grandpa Aragón always worked hard even when he was young. When my grandpa was a boy, he had three ways of making money; he would sell asparagus from the local ditches, shine shoes and sell the Española Valley News. He would carry all these items with him. One day he walked into a restaurant to get some customers. He saw eight rough looking cowboys. Without hesitation, he went over to the cattle boss and said, "Hey, sir, would you like your boots shined?" The cowboy replied, "Heck no, cowboys don't shine their working boots." However, grandpa still had tricks up his sleeve and asked, "Well, can I sell you some asparagus?" The cowboy replied saying, "Heck no boy, by the time we get to Chama it'll be all wilted." But grandpa was determined to sell him something and said, "Well can I at least sell you a newspaper?" The cowboy said "Heck no boy, cowboys don't read!" Still grandpa said, "Well, sir, can you see okay?" The cowboy said, "Yeah I can see." So grandpa said, "Well there are some neat looking pictures you could look at." Realizing grandpa wouldn't give up the cowboy said laughing, "Well, I guess I can't get rid of ya, so just give me all the papers, I'll buy em from you." With that, the cowboy bought all of grandpa's newspapers. What I learned from my grandpa is to never give up. Also, that you should learn to work hard at a young age because you will benefit from it.



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Above: Diego Aragón

TEACHER: MR. VIGIL

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Claire Bryant		
Grade:	5	Age:	M or F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher:	Mrs. McCallon		
School:	SY Jackson		
Email:			

Title: My Grandma Terry

My grandma is a very nice lady. She was born in 1951 in Arkansas. Her mom sadly passed away when she was 3 and her and her dad, sister, and brothers moved to Oklahoma soon after. She got married to my grandpa when she was 21. Her favorite food is scallops and she loves to travel. Her favorite place she has been is Rome, Italy.

My grandma is super fun, kind, loving, sweet, and caring. As an example she has volunteered at a food pantry for multiple years.

I love to play cards with my grandma and she loves puzzles and taking walks. I have many great memories with her. Last year we went to the River of Lights. We drank hot cocoa and it was cold. We were bundled up, but it was fun to look at all of the lights. One of my best memories with her was when we spent the day together for her birthday. We went to the nail salon to get our nails done. She picked a beautiful red sparkly color and I picked pink. We were pampered. They massaged our legs, and used body scrub, and it was so relaxing. Next, we went to Fuddruggers in the mall for lunch. While we were eating we had a nice conversation. Then, we went to her house to play the game go fish. We decided to invite my grandpa. The first round I clobbered them, but the next round my grandpa won. I enjoy playing games with my grandma.

My grandma inspires me because she is kind, sweet, fun, loving, and awesome. I love my Grandma so much and could not imagine the world without her.



Bernice M. Kellum Mayor

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Above: Claire Bryant
TEACHER: MRS. BRUNTON

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Abby Cisneros-Young
 Grade 5 Age 11 M_ or F X
 Teacher Tanya Blais
 School: Alice King Community
 Email: _____

My Grandma

By Abby Cisneros-Young

When I think of a senior I think of warm blue eyes and short brown hair. I think of my grandma Peggy Young.

I am walking in the bitter winter from my car to her house, and when I walked inside and I am hit by a blast of hot air making my nose tingle. When I take a breath I can smell pasta simmering in a crockpot.

I can almost taste the pasta! I can hear the hubbub of chatter from the kitchen.

Before I can blink I walk over and embrace my grandma's warm, wet, kisses as she examines me, checking for injuries. Her voice is quiet and hard to understand but her eyes tell everything. She is expressing her fondness for me.

I want to do something memorable today with her. So, what was I to chose? My family and I ate dinner with my grandma and played a game.

We eat pasta around the table laughing and talking. I smile when my aunt forgets to give my grandma another scoop of her food. When my grandma glares at my aunt, every one laughs.

The most memorable event that day was a round of Uno! My whole family loves Uno, especially my grandma! I play on my grandma's team as we compete against one another. I let my grandma make the choices when it comes down to us to attack my brother. She puts down a Plus Four. She is ferocious, but in a kind way.

That is why my grandma is amazing. I know that if Uno was the only way to save the world, my grandma would easily save it!



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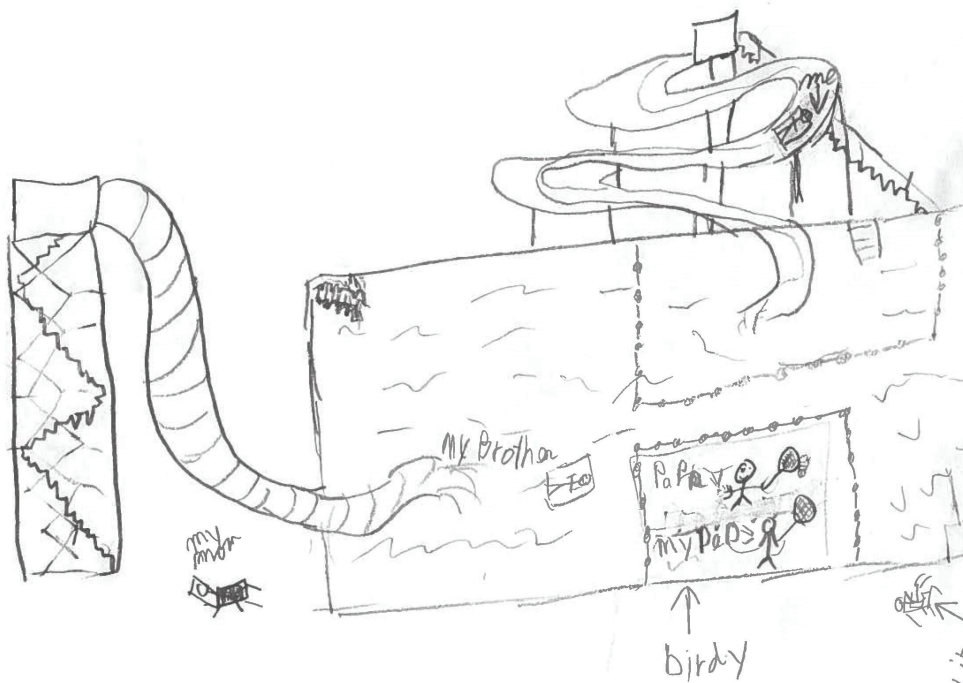
Above: Abby Cisneros-Young

TEACHER: MS. BLAIS

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tomás Griego
Grade 5th Age 11 M ☒ or F ☐
Teacher Miss Camille Bri
School: P.S. La Conquista
Email: academur

Title: The World's Greatest Papa



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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Above: Tomás Griego

TEACHER: MS. BRITE

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tomás Griego
 Grade 5 Age 11 M ☒ or F ☐
 Teacher: Miss Camille Brito
 School: N.S. La Conquistador
 Email: Academy

Title: The World's Greatest Papa

My Papa is a very intelligent man. He knows how to do almost everything. He can weld, he does auto mechanics, he owns small businesses; he makes delicious food. He is very smart and capable and I love learning from him.

My Papa Paul Zapp was born in Bakersfield California in 1957. He has been to many places in the U.S. He lives in Kansas. He has ten children and the second child is My Mom.

I have enjoyed traveling multiple places with him. We went to Morro Bay, California, where he attended high school. It was fun to see the ocean with him. Another time we went to Hot Springs with him.

My Papa is an amazing man. He is generous because he always helps people out. My Papa is very musical. He likes to sing and I think he sings wonderfully. My Papa also has a good sense of humor.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



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Above: Tomás Griego (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. BRITE

2025
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name:	Mikey phillips		
Grade	5	Age	10 M or F
Teacher	Melendrez		
School:	Eugenfeld		
Email:			

My Great Grandma

Title: _____

"Baba, can I take a nap in your bed?" When I ask my grandmother Baba if I can sleep in her room, she will usually tell me to go out and play. She was born on the Acoma Pueblo in November of 1952, but now she lives in Albuquerque. She still has a house on the pueblo that we visit during sacred times like Feast Days in September.

Baba means grandmother in Keresan, the language of Acoma Pueblo. My baba helps me learn the language because most of the elders can't speak English.

Acoma Pueblo is located just outside of Albuquerque, so that means she is from New Mexico. She was born in 1952, on November 16. Right now my Baba works at the Route 66 Casino doing laundry and making sure the linen is clean. She lost her husband and became a widow in 2011.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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

Above: Mikey Phillips (Sheldon Michel Jr. Phillips)

TEACHER: MS. MELENDREZ



Above: Ezekiel Luna
TEACHER: MS. GRACE | 5TH GRADE



Above: Aria Baloo
TEACHER: MS. BURT | 4TH GRADE

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

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	PAGE
Cary Blackstone	Manzano Day School	Ms. Findell	8
Isabelle Carvajal-Valenzuela	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Ms. Lucero	10-11
Julia Horch	Manzano Day School	Ms. Sebastian	12-13
Sara Koehler	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	14-15
Noah Liechty	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Worf	17
Cooper Overton	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Ms. Lucero	18-19

GRADE 2

Joy Brundage	Manzano Day School	Ms. Sharp	20-21
Ethan Chapman	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Boning	22-23
Ethan Johnson	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Paquin	24
Arabella Perry	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Baumgartner	25
Jacob Sehr	Manzano Day School	Ms. Ortega	26-27
Arlene Valverde-Trevizo	Cochiti Elementary	Ms. Ibañez	28-29

GRADE 3

Josiah Alvarez	Cochiti Elementary	Ms. Sainte-Marie	30-31
Nathan Brewer	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Crepeau	32-33
Alma Chavez	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Williams	34-35
Liam Harrison	Manzano Day School	Ms. Madden	36-37
Xiomara Huerta	Cochiti Elementary	Mrs. Gabaldon	38-39
Maya Merriam	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Hedges	40

GRADE 4

David Carey	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Ms. Mowery	41
Laynette Chavez	Cochiti Elementary	Ms. Sainte-Marie	44-45
Shawn Johnson	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mrs. Gurule	46-47
Gretchen Musick-Long	Cien Aguas International School	Mrs. Corona	48-50
Sreethan Guddeti	Manzano Day School	Ms. Austin	51-53

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

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER	PAGE
Anelle-Rhône Spurgin	Manzano Day School	Ms. Cervantes	54-55

GRADE 5

Diego Aragón	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mr. Vigil	57
Claire Bryant	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Brunton	58
Abby Cisneros-Young	Alice King Community School	Ms. Blais	59
Tomás Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Brite	60-61
Mikey Phillips (Sheldon Michel Phillips Jr.)	Eugene Field Elementary	Ms. Melendrez	62
McKinley Proctor	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Wood	63

**Winners
FRONT AND BACK COVERS**

Ezekiel Luna	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Grace	Cover
Aria Baloo	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	Back
Penelope Rivera	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Massey	56

**Other Featured Artists
(THROUGHOUT BOOKLET)**

Michelle Sanchez	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	9
Lucas Cordova	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	16
Alexa Herrera	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	42
Natalie Lara	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	42
Dmitri Alvare	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	42
Gerald Popoola	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Massey	42
Jeremiah Gutierrez	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	43
Mario Medrano	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	43
Scarlet Martinez	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	43
Aiden Gonzalez	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Burt	43
Dylan Drury	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary	Ms. Massey	43

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

The logo for Humana, featuring the word "Humana" in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

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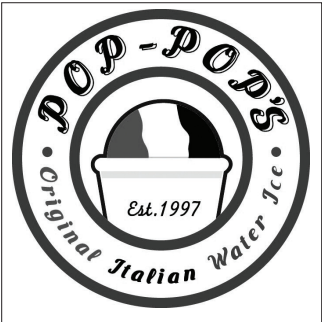


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BOBA TEA
COMPANY







Back Cover: Aria Baloo
TEACHER: MS. BURT | 4TH GRADE

Front Cover: Ezekiel Luna
TEACHER: MS. GRACE | 5TH GRADE

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

2025 A Senior I Know Essay Contest Winners
Department of Senior Affairs

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MAY 2025