



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](http://cabq.gov/seniors)

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# Message from Us

Dear Families,

Year after year, students across Albuquerque take the time to recognize an older adult who has made a difference in their lives. In celebration of Older Americans Month, the 44th annual “A Senior I Know” Essay Contest received more than 1,000 submissions from students in grades 1 through 5, a testament to the intergenerational relationships that shape our community.

A panel of retired educators and volunteers selected 30 essays and three works of student art that represent the most compelling submissions, each piece illustrating a unique relationship between a young person and the older adult who has left an indelible mark on their life. Together, these pieces show us that wisdom is passed down not through lectures but through presence, patience, and love.

To the students whose work appears in these pages, you did something worth celebrating: you put into words and images the gratitude, admiration, and quiet ways another person has changed your life. We hope the older adults you recognized feel as proud of your work as we do.

To the older adults honored here, thank you. The time you give, the stories you share, and the steady presence you offer to the children in your lives are a gift to this entire community.

As you read through these essays and artwork, we hope you are as moved as we are by how these students bring such care and thoughtfulness to honoring the older adults in their lives. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners, and thank you to every



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

student who participated! Your words and artwork beautifully capture the spirit of this contest, now in its 44th year, continuing to inspire generations to come together and share the warmth of storytelling.

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 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, Stephanie Fallon, 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.

**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 Oñate 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 Oñate. 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 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.

**LEADERSHIP**

**Timothy M. Keller,**

Mayor, City of Albuquerque



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**Anita Sterchi**

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 Oñate Elementary School for 20 years. I started as a volunteer when my children attended Oñate.

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.

**Stephanie Fallon, MD**

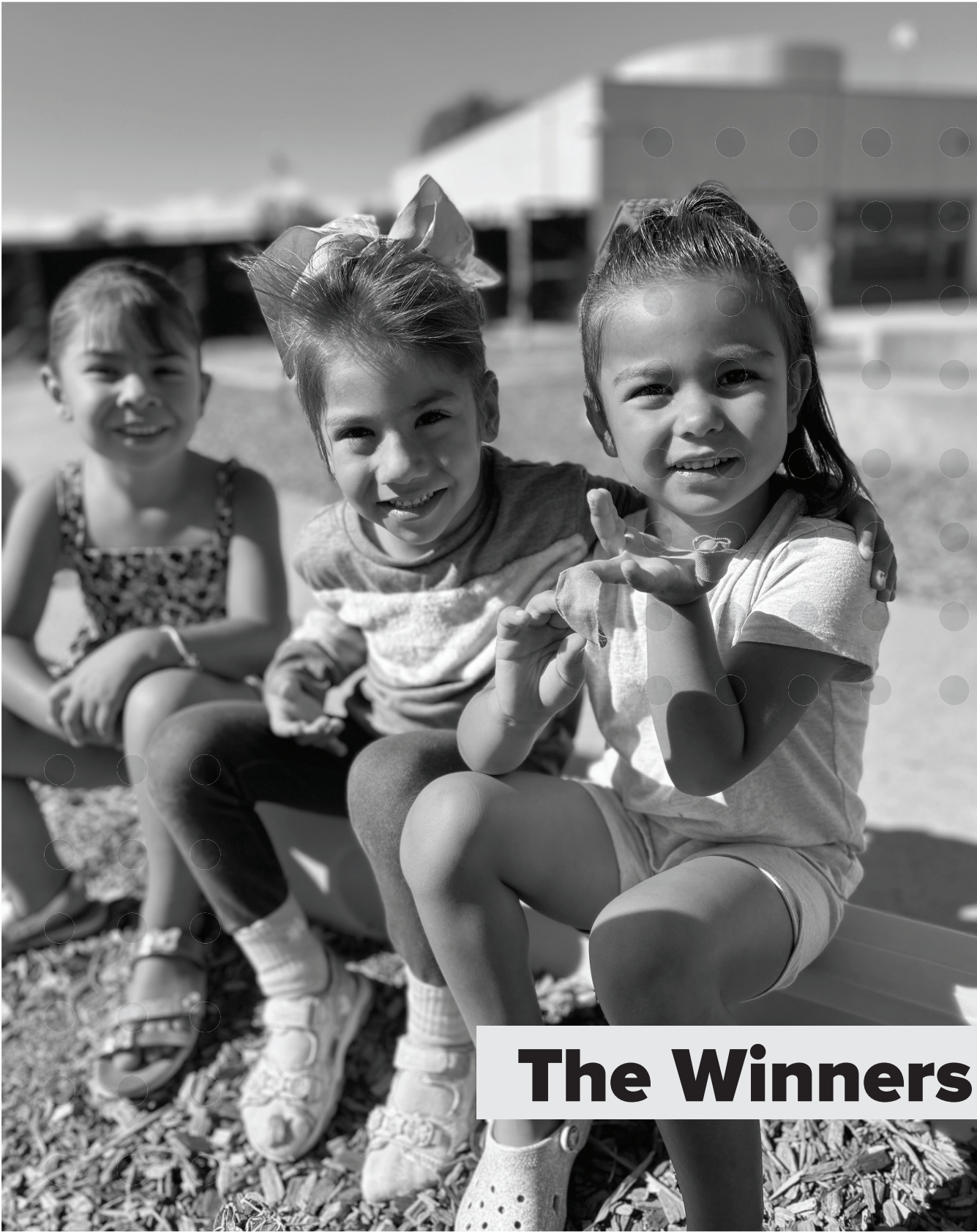
I moved to New Mexico from Iowa in 1987 to complete my residency in psychiatry.

I was an attending physician

at the Albuquerque VA and on faculty at UNM in the Dept of Psychiatry for 30 years. I got to teach medical students, resident physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, psychologists, and patients. I am now a reading

tutor through Oasis and am enchanted reading with second graders. What an honor to be able to read young students' essays about seniors and see the start of the path to lifelong learning!





**The Winners**

GRADE 01

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Haseya Myhre  
Grade: 1st Age: 7 M. or F. X  
Teacher: Ms. Lucero  
School: Holy Ghost Catholic School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Grandma Beverly



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**Above:** Haseya Myhre  
TEACHER: MS. LUCERO



2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Mila  
Grade 7s Age      M\_ or F X  
Teacher: Mrs. Arias Ms. Cleveland  
School: Albuquerque  
Email: congrate charter school

Title: MY NANA NATALIE

The best senior I know is my Nana. My Nana buy's me things I want. My Nana takes me and my cousin to the mall. she also takes me to Mc donald's. she usually orders a coke and chicken nuggets for her self. MY Nana Loves going to bingo at the casino. she has prisis like rugs and Pats. I LOVE spending the night with Nana she lives all the way in grants. It takes an hour to get there. The best thing about MY Nana is that she is helpful and kind.



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**Above:** Mila Enriquez

TEACHER: MS. ARIAS/MS. CLEVELAND

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Mila Enriquez  
Grade 1 Age 7 M or FX  
Teacher Ms. Arias/ Ms. Cleveland  
School: Albuquerque Collegiate  
Charter School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Nana Natalie



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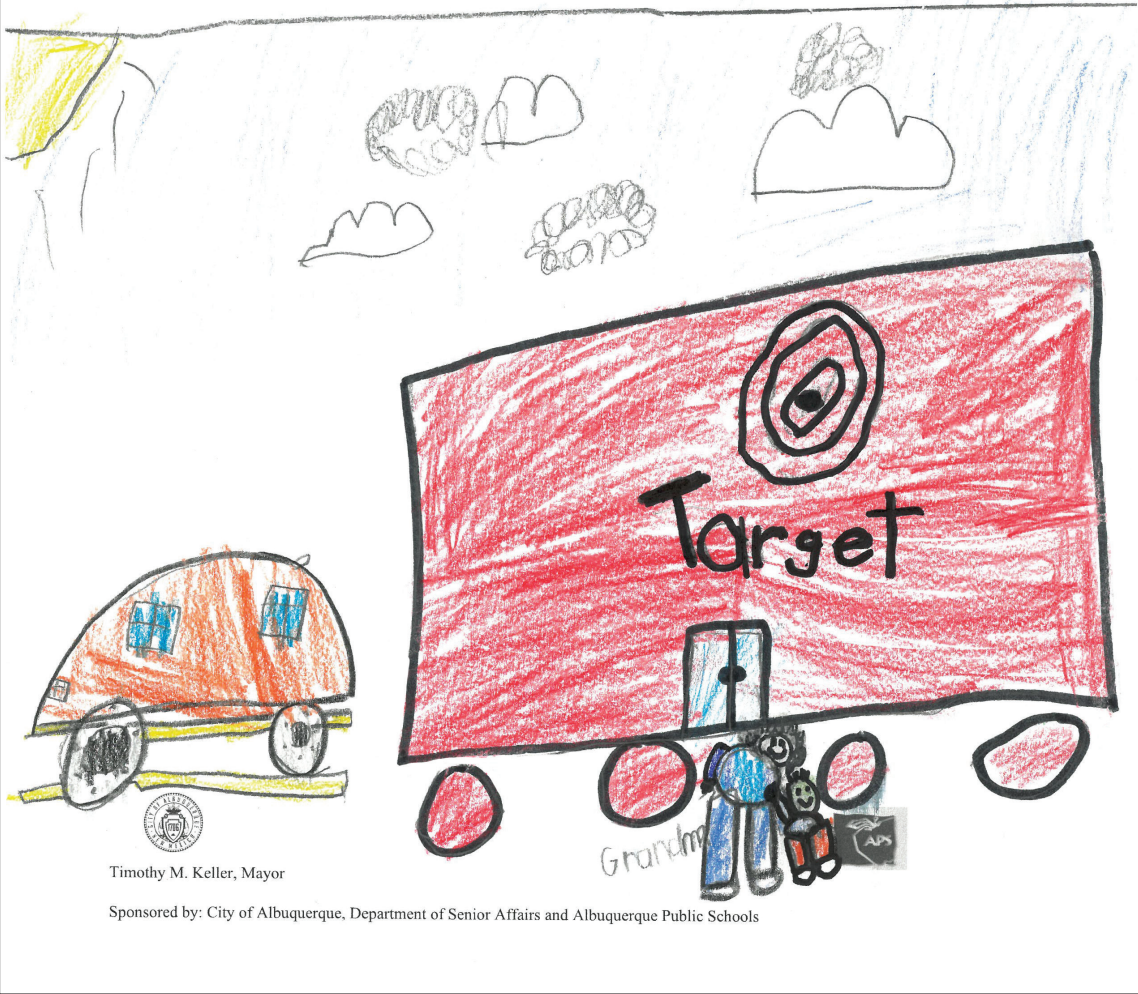
**Above:** Mila Enriquez (Continued)  
TEACHER: MS. ARIAS/MS. CLEVELAND



2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Nash Wilson  
Grade 1st Age 7 M  or F   
Teacher: Ms. Lucero  
School: Holy Ghost Catholic School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Me And Grandma



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**Above:** Nash Wilson (Continued)  
TEACHER: MS. LUCERO

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: *Olivianna Garcia*  
Grade 1 Age 6 M or F   
Teacher *Miss Helana Wiener*  
School: *N.S. la Conquistadora Academy*  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: *My Grandpa Gary*



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**Above:** Olivianna Garcia  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

**2026**  
**A Senior I Know Essay Contest**

Name: Olivianna Garcia  
 Grade 1 Age 6 M    or F   
 Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
 School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Grandpa Gary

My grandpa Gary is a wonderful grandpa. He is my mom's daddy. He is a nice grandpa.

Grandpa Gary loves to cook meat and make salad for me to eat. It is good. Sometimes I sleep over at my grandpa's house and sometimes I ride on his motor cycle. My grandpa tells jokes. My grandpa loves to watch football and likes to sleep. Sometimes I like to watch football with him and I like sleeping, too.

We both like animals. When Grandpa was little he tried to sneak puppies in his backpack to school. Then his teacher found out that there were puppies in his backpack. The teacher called his mom and Grandpa had to sit in the corner all day. Grandpa and us like to go camping in Red River for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It is fun with my grandpa. Grandpa Gary is the best grandpa I love him. Grandpa Gary is special. He always makes me laugh and I love him.



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**Above:** Olivianna Garcia (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. WIENER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Rocco Maez  
Grade 1 Age 6  M or  F  
Teacher: Miss Helena Wiener  
School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Grandpa

My Grandpa Maez is nice to me. Grandpa Peter is my dad's dad.

My Grandpa drives tractors up and down the ditches. I like to work with him. We pull weeds, make fires and clean all the trash in the yard. It is fun.

We like to color pictures together. We like to go to Taco Cabana together and eat and talk. My Grandpa likes Mexican food. I used to be scared of his dog, But he taught me how to not be afraid. I go with my grandpa to Trader Joe's and buy sourdough bread.



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**Above:** Rocco Maez  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER



2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Rocco Maez  
Grade 1 Age 6 M  or F   
Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
School: M.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Grandpa



**Above: Rocco Maez (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Valak Castillo  
 Grade 1st Age 6 M  or F   
 Teacher: Mrs. Shirley  
 School: Eugene Field  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Granddad  
My favorite senior is my  
grandma she is the best.  
she takes me to mikdos.  
she takes me to the stone  
she takes me to the park.  
she is the best.



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Above: Valak Castillo  
TEACHER: MRS. SHIRLEY

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Valak Castillo  
Grade: 1st Age 6 M  or F   
Teacher: Mrs Shirley  
School: Eugene Field  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Spaghetti



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**Above: Valak Castillo (Continued)**

TEACHER: MRS. SHIRLEY

GRADE 02

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Aldiza Gonzalez  
 Grade 2 Age 7 M\_ or F X  
 Teacher Mrs. Ibañez  
 School: Cochiti Elementary  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Nana

A Senior I Know is Rosalie Janet Astorga. I call her Nana. My Nana She was born in Socorro, now Mexico on September 7, 1953. Her favorite thing growing up was when she had P.E. Her friends were nice and funny. She liked sports a lot. My Nana's favorite hobbie was going to Wells park. They had all kinds of activities. She loved playing baseball. My Nana remembers that in 1963 Martin Luther King Jr gave a famous speech called I have a dream. Her favorite job growing up was working at a factory. If she could change one thing, she would try new things sooner and not be afraid because that helps you learn and grow. My Nana's greatest accomplishment is being a parent and mother. She is very proud of our family. That is a Senior I know.



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**Above:** Alaiza Gonzalez  
 TEACHER: MS. IBAÑEZ

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Alaiza Gonzalez  
Grade 2 Age 7 M\_ or FX  
Teacher Mrs. Ibañez  
School: Cochiti Elementary  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: M. y Nana



**Above:** Alaiza Gonzalez (Continued)  
TEACHER: MS. IBAÑEZ

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Iker Soto  
Grade 2 Age 8 M  or F   
Teacher Mrs. Gonzalez  
School: Cochiti  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: A Senior I know is Hilario Soto Galvan



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**Above:** Iker Soto  
TEACHER: MRS. GONZALEZ

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Iker Soto  
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F M  
Teacher S. Gonzalez  
School: Cochiti  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** A Senior I know is Hilario Soto Galvan  
but I call him Buele. He was Mexico  
November 12 of 1968. His favorite thing  
about school was math class. My friends were  
cool. My Buele favorite games was to  
play soccer and top games. He like to go  
to the river and swim. The most memorable  
event when he was growing up was mothers Day  
because he would stay in school all day and sing  
las Marianitas to all the moms. His favorite  
job when he was growing up was to take care  
of the animals at El Rancho. If he could do  
one thing different in his life was to be  
able to go to school more to get a degree  
and be an architect. His greatest  
achievement in life was and is still being  
able to provide for family. These are  
the reasons why Hilario Soto Galvan is  
the best Senior I know.



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**Above:** Iker Soto (Continued)

TEACHER: MRS. GONZALEZ

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: James Rowe  
Grade 2 Age 8 M or F  
Teacher A. Paquin  
School: Holy Ghost  
Email:

Title: My Wonderful Grandpa  
I am going to talk about how my  
Grandpa served in World War  
2. He was the no. 1 man for the  
military. He past away when I was  
in kinder garden. He did not die of a  
gun. He died of old age. He did not fire  
a gun but he still had one. He did not  
fight in the war. He did not see many  
bad guys. He sent a lot of mail. After  
he served he still had high school there  
so now he became a soldier. One day he  
got drafted. His letter said your hired.  
In his house I see a triangular shape  
flag. In kinder he died I went to the  
funeral. It was sad I visited him a lot  
some times Grandpa let me shave him.  
In his time it was fun to go for  
Christmas eve, easter and he loved  
serving in the U.S. military. He loved me  
and my Mom and Dad. What  
he loved most was us coming over.  
He loved to give us candy. The end.



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



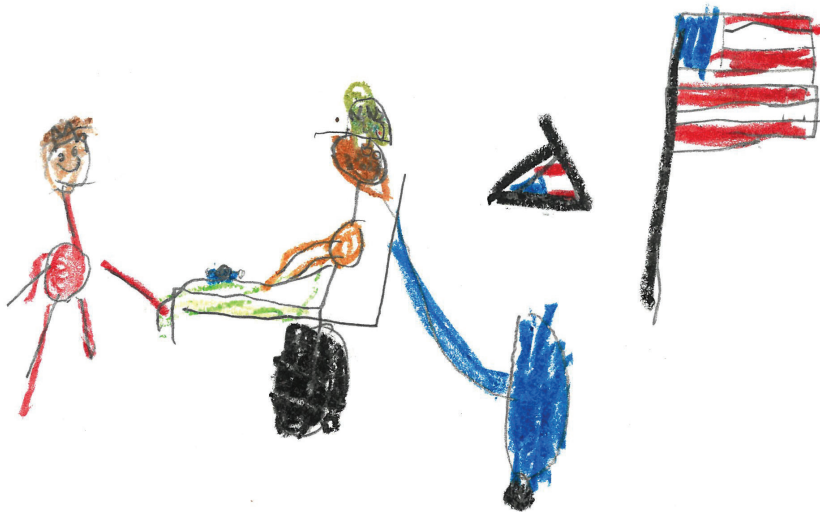
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Above: James Rowe  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: James Rowe  
Grade 2 Age 8 M  or F   
Teacher A. Paquin  
School: Holy Ghost  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Wonderfull Grandpa  
Robert + Bala



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**Above:** James Rowe (Continued)  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

**2026**  
**A Senior I Know Essay Contest**

Name: Kyree Garcia  
 Grade 2 Age 8 M  or F   
 Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
 School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** My Special Grandma Tina

My grandma is Named Tina Vigil.  
I love my grandma so much.  
She is my mom's Mom. My grandma told me a  
funny story about her. One time when she was a  
little girl on April Fool's Day, she switched out  
the sugar with salt. Then, her sister went to  
put some sugar in her cereal. But her cereal  
had salt. That was funny. My grandma  
has two dogs. Their name are Harley and  
Louis. I like them. She has six children two  
girl and four boys. My grandma works  
for New Mexico Gas Company. I like  
Grandma to read me books. I like spending  
time with her. We eat popcorn together.  
We like making homemade tortillas together.  
They taste so good. We like going to the  
store together. We shop for clothes when I  
sleep over at her house. We like cooking  
together. We watch movies together.  
My grandma likes to go to Red River to  
camp with me and all her grandchildren.  
I like going there too with grandma. It is fun.



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**Above:** Kyree Garcia  
 TEACHER: MS. WIENER



2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

My Special Grandma Tina

Title: Baking

Name: Kyree Garcia  
 Grade 2 Age 8 M  or F   
 Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
 School: U.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Above:** Kyree Garcia (Continued)  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

2026

A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Marcel Griego  
Grade 2 Age 7 M  or F   
Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Wonderful Grandma

My grandma is a wonderful one. Grandma's name is Rose Zapp. She has ten children. My mom is her second child. Grandma and I like to spend time together. My grandma was born in Minnesota. She grew up in Powers Lake, North Dakota. On my grandma's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, July 22, 1969, the astronauts landed on the moon for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. She went to her neighbors and saw that on the television. My grandma lives in Kansas. She works at a health food store and helps people keep healthy. Her favorite place to travel is to our house to see me and my sisters and brothers and mom and dad. We both like to do puzzles. Her favorite color is blue, so is mine. My grandma and I like to tell



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**Above:** Marcel Griego  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Marcel Griego  
Grade 2 Age 7 M  or F   
Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
School: M.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Wonderful Grandma  
jokes together. I like to call  
Grandma and tell her jokes  
and laugh with her. When  
Grandma comes to our house,  
she likes to take me to shop at  
thrift stores. That is fun!  
In June, all my aunts, uncles  
and cousins will get together  
at Grandma's house. 63 people  
will be there! I can't wait  
to see Grandma then. My  
Grandma is special because  
she helps me a lot. I like  
it when we visit each  
other and talk on the phone. I  
am glad I have a grandma  
like her.



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**Above: Marcel Griego (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Marcel Griego  
Grade 2 Age 7 M  or F   
Teacher Miss Helana Wiener  
School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Wonderful Grandma



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**Above: Marcel Griego (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MS. WIENER

**2026**  
**A Senior I Know Essay Contest**

Name: TIANA FACKELMAN  
 Grade 2 Age 7 M\_ or F\_ X  
 Teacher A. PAQUIN  
 School: HOLY GHOST  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** My Abuela Mi Abuela

My Abuela speaks Spanish  
But I communicate in English.  
She knows a little bit of  
English but gets confused with other  
words that she doesn't know. She makes  
the best food ever. My personal  
favorite is a foot of a chicken, those  
are so good the palm is my favorite  
part. She plays with me and when  
I fall she laughs and I like  
that she is happy. I find  
nuts and there is something in there  
that is fresh or hot, usually it  
is fresh but sometimes it's hot.  
When airplanes pass my abuela  
would point them to me and  
say "by plane." when she  
watered the plant I pretend that  
it is a giant wave going over  
the plants. two years ago  
My Abuela had two dresses  
and were very pretty



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**Above:** Tiana Fackelman  
 TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tiana Fackelman  
Grade 2 Age 7 M\_ or F X  
Teacher: A. Paquin  
School: Holy Ghost  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Abuela

A B WE I AS ARE  
BEST



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**Above:** Tiana Fackelman (Continued)  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

GRADE 03

## 2026 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Arabella PerryGrade 3 Age 9 M    or F   Teacher Mrs ChandlerSchool: S.Y. Jackson

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** My loving Lolly ♥

I'm writing my essay about my Lolly. My Lolly's real name is Holly. My Lolly is my-mom's mom. She is special to me because when I was 6 years old she taught me how to sew and she has been there for me since the moment I was born (literally).

I know that Lolly grew up in Dallas, Texas in the 1960s. Her favorite games were hopscotch, red rover and doge ball. She also had a dog named Peaches.

She got a job at a pie shop where she learned that some people put cheese on their apple pie. I know it sounds disgusting but (this is true!) my mom likes it!

One of the hardest things my Lolly has ever done was to move away from me. She got over it by having phone calls with me almost every day. This shows me how much she loves me.

One thing Lolly has learned in life is that having faith is free. Some advice that she gave me is to never ever let ANYONE squash your dreams. I think all kids around the world should take this advice to heart because your dreams can change the world.

My Lolly wants to be remembered as the fun, funny, loving and clown like Lolly. To me she is all of those things and more. I'm lucky to have my Lolly and her influences in my life. I will always remember her




Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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**Above:** Arabella Perry  
TEACHER: MRS. CHANDLER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Arabella Perry  
Grade 3 Age 9 M    or F X  
Teacher Mrs. Chandler  
School: S.V. Jackson  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: MY Loving Lolly 



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**Above:** Arabella Perry (Continued)  
TEACHER: MRS. CHANDLER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Joseph Griego  
 Grade 3 Age 9 M  or F   
 Teacher Miss Sarver  
 School: N.S. La Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Godfather



*Getting christmas trees.*



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

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**Above: Joseph Griego**  
TEACHER: MS. SARVER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Joseph Griego  
 Grade 3 Age 9 M or F  
 Teacher Miss Sarver  
 School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Godfather

Have you ever known a special person that you call your Uncle, but he not really your Uncle? I do, and I'd like to tell you about him. He is my Godfather. I call him "Uncle Bill" but his real name is "Mr. William Le Ferre."

Uncle Bill was born on May 10, 1965 in Canton, New York. He told me things about growing up in New York. When he was still young there were no fences between houses and he could play with his friends like it was a big park. Once when he was about nine, he jumped off his roof and tried to use his bedsheet as a parachute. It was a failure. He told me, "Don't go jumping off roofs!" As a child, he delivered newspapers and he also shoveled snow.

His favorite thing is his dog Ava. His favorite colors are yellow and blue and his favorite food is whatever is put before him.

What I think is so special about him is he always tells me about geology and rockets.

He always brings me to get Christmas trees and we normally get to play in the snow together!



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**Above:** Joseph Griego (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. SARVER



2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Joy Brundage  
Grade 3 Age 8 M. or F.   
Teacher Claire Nenner  
School: Manzano Day School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Aunt Diana

My Aunt Diana Lynn Gregory, is 70 years old. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, March 14, 1956. As a kid, on Saturdays she loved going to bible school. She won prizes for memorizing all the books of the Bible. Her favorite subject in school was reading. She learned new words that helped her speak better. Because she was a strong reader, she was able to become a tutor in the eighth grade. She helped underprivileged children learn how to read. A special accomplishment is that she was her high school valedictorian, number one out of 450 students.

Aunt Diana received a scholarship to Boston University to study business. She became an influential woman in Corporate America. She broke the glass ceiling in the beverage industry. That means she achieved things that nobody thought a Black woman could do.

After she retired, she started a nonprofit focused on Senior Citizens and veterans. It's called Gregory's Fresh Market. It brings a mobile fresh produce market to low-income Senior Communities and veterans. My Aunt Diana is a senior citizen who is making a difference in the life of other seniors and honoring our veterans.



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**Above:** Joy Brundage  
TEACHER: MS. NENNINGER

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Joy Brundage  
 Grade 3 Age 8 M\_ or F   
 Teacher Claire Nenninger  
 School: Manzano Day School  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Aunt Diana



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**Above:** Joy Brundage (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. NENNINGER



# Art Winners





2026

A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: JULIANNA GOMEZ-LOPEZ  
Grade 3 Age 8 M or F K  
Teacher A. PAQUIN  
School: HOLY GHOST  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Wonderful Grandma  
My grandma is Mexican, her name is Alma, she makes very yummy food! My grandma is very kind, if I do something bad she doesn't get mad, she just tells me to stop. My grandma is 71 years old, she has 6 grandchildren including me and my sister. I am very picky and my grandma's food is one of the only foods that I like. She makes me tortillas, and soup and something with wacado but I don't know what it is. She also makes me bread with butter. My grandma was born in 1955 according to my brain. She always makes my life way easier and I love that about her. My grandma has 3 kids including my Mom. My grandma has short hair, she dyes her hair orange. I love my grandma because she is very playful and she teaches me a lot of stuff like pronouncing Spanish way better. My grandma is very loving and sweet. My grandma buys me a lot of toys that are very fun and I always use them. My grandma could probably be a dog because of how good she cooks.



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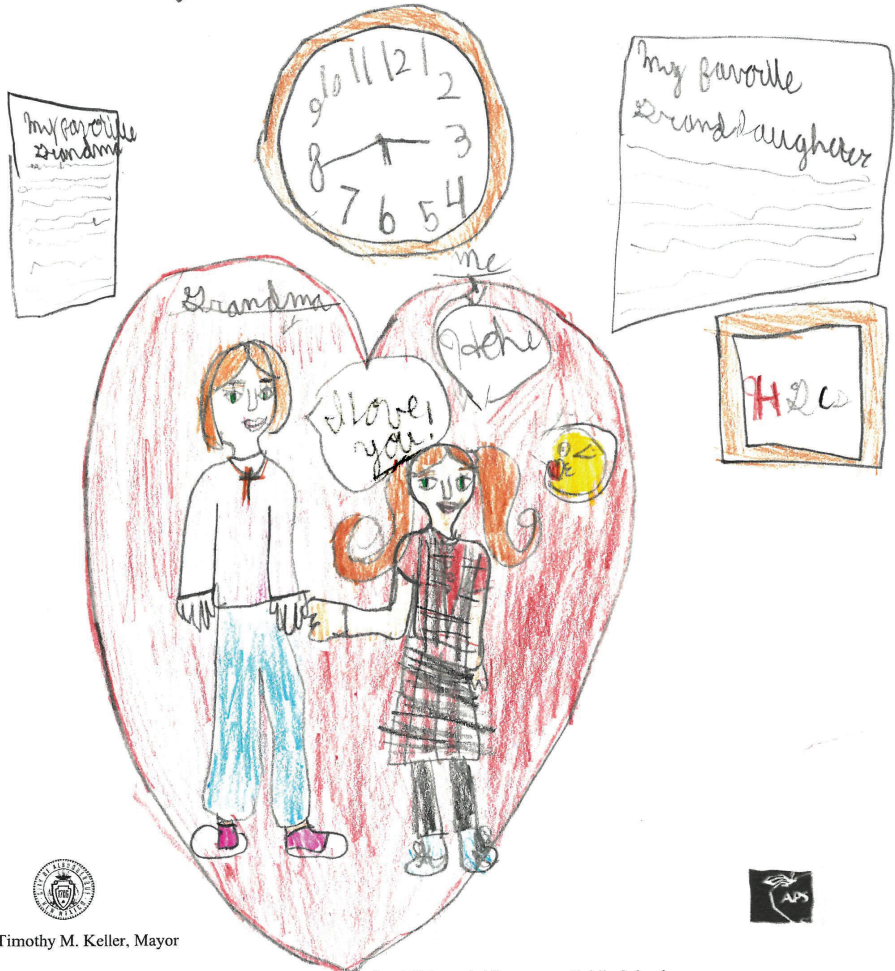
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Above: Julianna Gomez-Lopez  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Juliana Gomez-Lopez  
 Grade 3 Age 8 M\_ or FX  
 Teacher: A. Paquin  
 School: Holy Ghost  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My wonderful Grandma



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**Above:** Julianna Gomez-Lopez (Continued)  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Katie Ashbaugh  
 Grade 3rd Age 8 M or F (F)  
 Teacher Ms. Freedman  
 School: Manzano day school  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Flamenco Family

Miss Eva Encinas is the founder of the National Institute of Flamenco where I take Flamenco dance lessons. She was my teacher in my flamenco class starting in 2024. Heres a little bit about miss Eva. She started dancing wt the age of three. Her mom and her cousins danced flamenco. She copied her mom, because she wanted to be just like her. When Eva was 11, her mom put her in the front of younger kids classes. Because she had been dancing flamenco a long time, kids started asking her questions like "is this a planta of a galea". It felt natural to her so she wanted to be a teacher. Years later, Eva went to a ballet collage. She thought about the great childhood she had dancing flamenco, and there were not many childrens flamenco classes. She wanted kids to have the opportunity to learn flamenco. Now many kids in New Mexico look up to her because she let them have a chance. I look up to her because she teaches me to focus and she made me a good flamenco dancer. Eva makes me feel strong and powerful when I dance. She inspires me to be a better dancer and be a leader in my classes. When

I dance in a performance and help lead others, it makes me feel proud and makes miss Eva happy. When I go to flamenco class it feels like I am going to spend time with a second family. Miss Eva brings everyone together, and makes it feel like a family not just a →



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Above: Katie Ashbaugh  
TEACHER: MS. FREEDMAN

# 2026 A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ M\_ or F\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 community. Miss Eva encourages me and makes me want  
 to get better. I'd like to be a part of nina's dance  
 company) and I'd like to get good enough to teach flamenco  
 myself one day.



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**Above:** Katie Ashbaugh (Continued)  
 TEACHER: MS. FREEDMAN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: NATHAN OSIAS  
Grade 3 Age 9 M/K or F  
Teacher A. PAQUIN  
School: HOLY GHOST  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My grandpa Jose

A Senior I Know is my grandpa. My grandpa's name is Jose and my grandpa's age is 85 or 86. My grandpa was in the San Diego Navy. Also my grandpa fought in the Vietnam war. My grandpa was born in January 15 1940. Also my grandpa was born in the Philippines in Asia. A sad thing about my grandpa is that my grandpa's dad left him when he was five years old. Also my grandpa helped my dad build my dad's basketball court. Also my grandpa grew up playing basketball when he was young. Also my grandpa loves to watch tv right now. Also my grandpa sometimes comes to visit Albuquerque New Mexico. My grandpa speaks tagalog and english. My grandpa loves to watch the N.B.A his favorite team is the Chicago Bulls and player J. Jordan.



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Above: Nathan Osias  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Nathan Osias  
Grade 3 Age 9 M X or F  
Teacher A. Paquin  
School: Holy Ghost  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My grandpa Jose

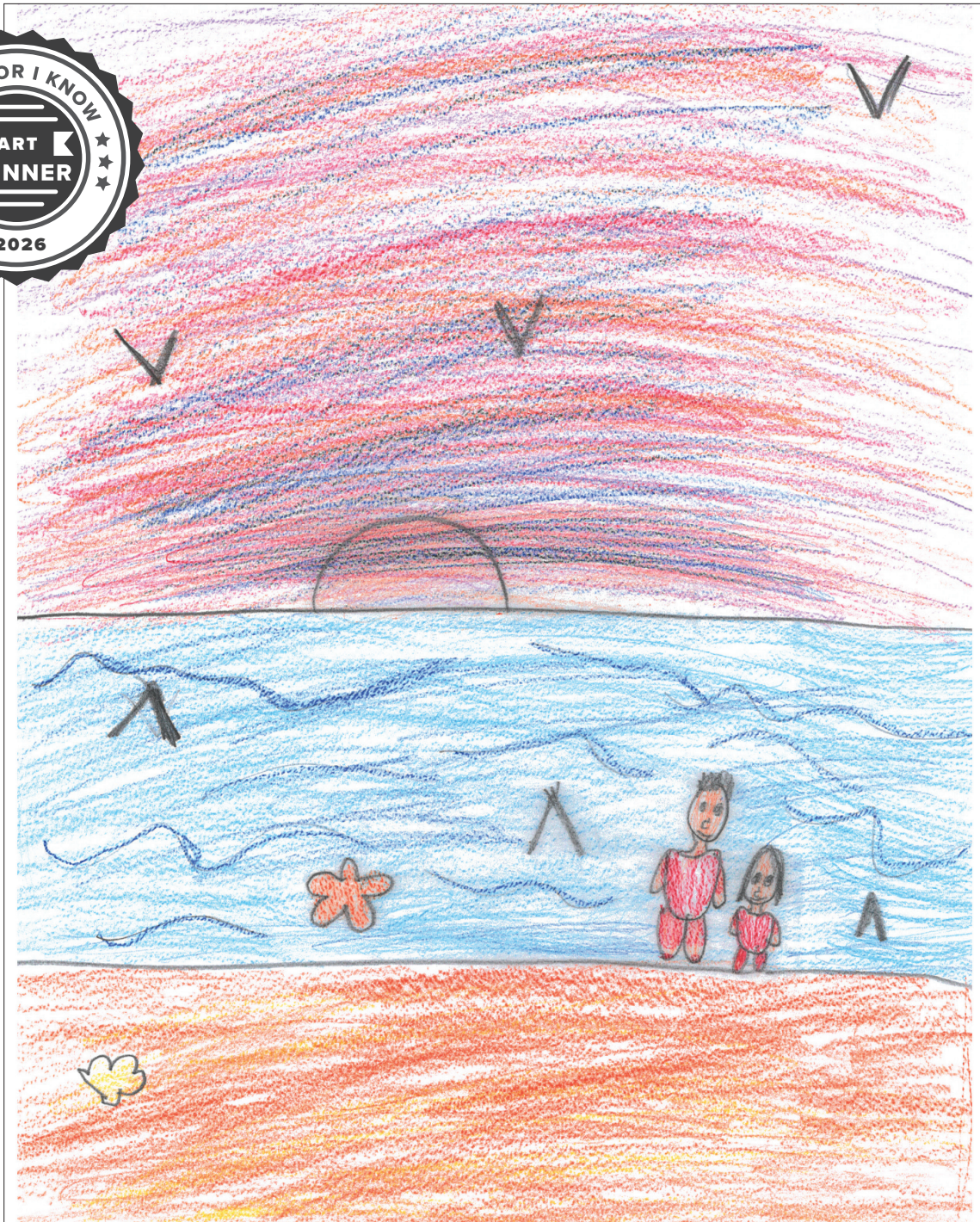


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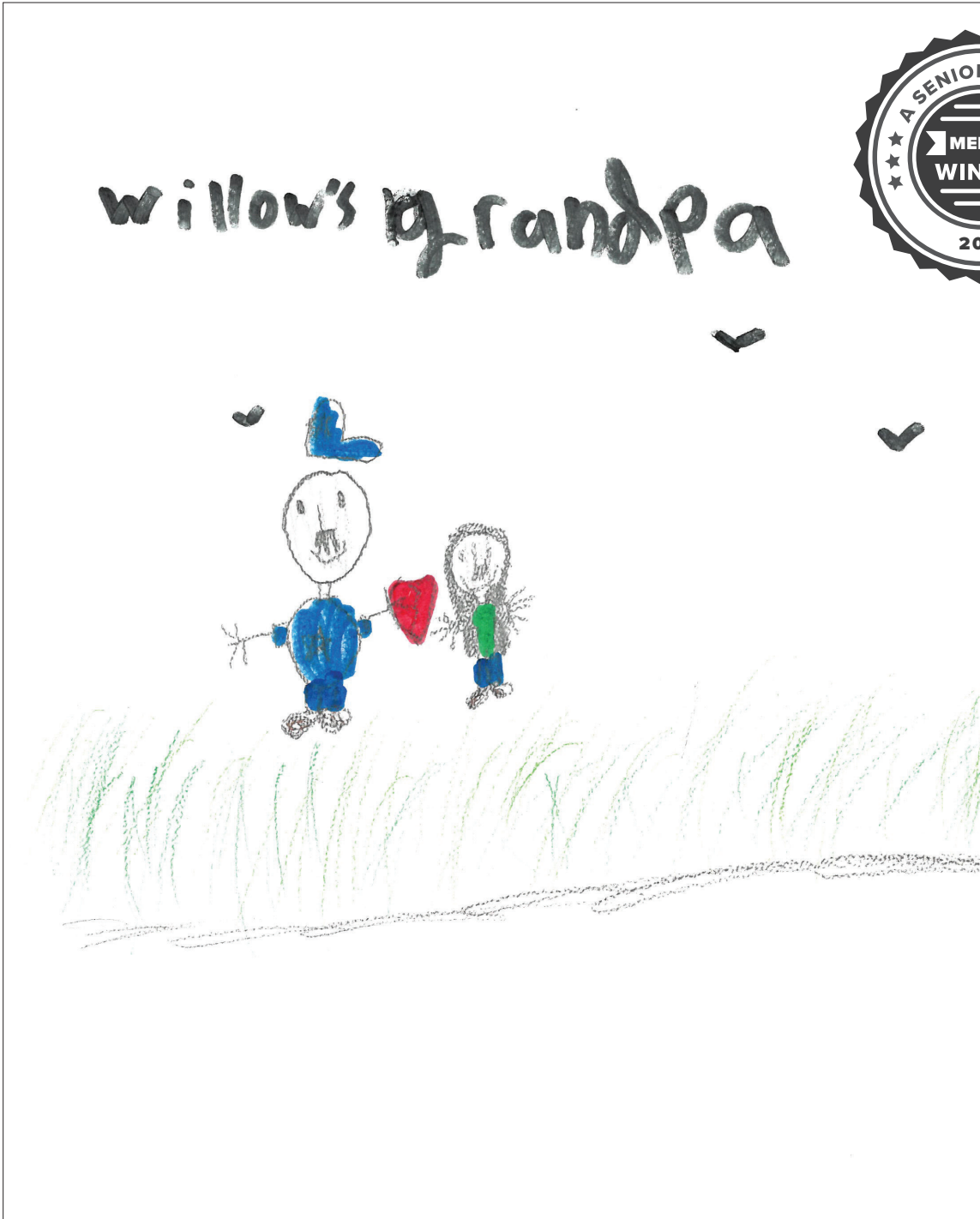
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**Above: Nathan Osias (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MR. PAQUIN



**Above:** Aveah Mayorga  
TEACHER: MRS. MAGALI



**Above:** Willow Velasquez  
TEACHER: MRS. VANDERLIP

GRADE 04

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Annabelle Ayers  
 Grade 4 Age 9 M\_ or F   
 Teacher: Mrs. McCallon  
 School: SY Jackson Elem  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: The face behind SY Jackson

A senior I know

A senior that I know is Jack Vermilion, but he is better known as Mr. Vermillion. He is the principal of my school, SY Jackson Elementary. He is known as one of the most respected and well known principals of Albuquerque Public Schools. Mr. Vermillion means a lot to me because he has helped me be a better student since my first year of elementary school and has also encouraged me to stand up for people who are being bullied. I first met Jack when I was little, I was only 3 when my parents first met him at the church that me and my family went to when I was younger. My Dad noticed him and then befriended him because they were on the same serve team. Mr. Vermillion has won several awards and plaques! Jack is not just a principal he's been a mentor and face of SY. Jackson. He has also created several pledges to stop bullying at SY. Jackson . The most respected thing he is always doing is actually listening to students just like he would to any other adult. He believes that kids aren't just small weak humans with no ideas. In fact he pays attention and also uses students' ideas, and that really makes the school a better place to learn at.

I love going to SY. Jackson because the school has the best possible principal.



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**Above:** Annabelle Ayers  
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Jaxon Martinez  
 Grade 4 Age 9 M  or F   
 Teacher Miss Brock  
 School: Shepherd Lutheran  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My neighbor Tony

My neighbor Tony was born on August 5 1944 and he was born in the city of Santa Fe New Mexico. The schools he attended were Five Points elementary in 1-4 grade. He also went to Saint Anne's and Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic school 5-10. He also went to Saint Pius High school but graduated from Marzano High school. He went to college at Saint Joseph and graduated in 1970. He started working at Albuquerque National Bank in 1968. He then went to work for First National Bank and retired in 2013 to take care of his mom. He also opened a commercial cleaning company which he run for 20 years. He moved into his house in 1975 and still lives there to this day. He has been married 58 years and has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. In 2006 he had a heart attack and needed triple bypass surgery. In 2025 he beat prostate cancer. He cleans out yards and he is really nice and he always looks out for strangers. Today he is 82 years old and looks and acts very healthy. I found out he likes candy bars too.

The end.



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**Above:** Jaxon Martinez  
TEACHER: MS. BROCK

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Miles Cobb  
Grade: 4 Age 10 M  or F   
Teacher: Cervantes  
School: Manzano Bay School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Great Aunt Julia

My Great Aunt Julia is the best! She is creative, kind and funny. She lives on a ranch in Colorado. One of my favorite things I've done with her is when we built a bench together. She is great at building things, and working with her hands. While we were building the bench, she taught me how to use power tools. For example, a giant saw, and a power sander! We made the bench out of wood, then when we were finished, we spray painted it blue and yellow. She has also worked so many jobs for example, she owned her own bakery, she worked at a rock quarry, and drove a semi truck. When she was growing up, she was one of seven siblings living on a ranch in Colorado including my grandma. I am really



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Above: Miles Cobb  
TEACHER: MRS. CERVANTES

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: milesCobb  
 Grade \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ M\_\_ or F\_\_  
 Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3

**Title:** happy my Great aunt Julia is  
part of my family. She has  
lived so many lives!



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**Above:** Miles Cobb (Continued)  
TEACHER: MRS. CERVANTES

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Noelle Cloyes  
 Grade 4th Age 9 M  or F   
 Teacher Ms. Vigil  
 School: Manzano Day School  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: A Senior I Know

A special senior I know was important to our community before I knew him. He is my grampa, Bill, but I call him my "Papa." He used to be a figure that was important to many people in New Mexico, and now he is most important to me.

When my papa was Chief District Court judge, his job was to be serious and fair. Now he chooses to be funny, cool, and an amazing grandpa, which he accomplishes every time I see him (which is very often).

I am a competitive gymnast and both of my parents work. The only way I can get to gymnastics every day, with our busy schedules is with help. My papa has chosen to help us. He picks me and my brothers up from school, and brings us snacks and treats before gymnastics. Without him I would not be able to do the sport that I love.

When my papa was my age, before he was my papa, he grew up on a military base. He spent part of elementary school in Panama, and then on Kirkland Air Force in Albuquerque. He and his parents and three brothers moved 14 times in the first 17 years of his life! His father was a colonel in the army, so they were constantly moving.



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**Above:** Noelle Cloyes  
 TEACHER: MS. VIGIL

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Noelle Cloyes  
 Grade \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ M\_ or F \_\_\_\_  
 Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: A Senior I Know Part 2.

He ended up finishing high school in Albuquerque and went to college and law school at UNM. While he was on the bench he was awarded the Outstanding Judge Award from the Albuquerque Bar Association, as well as the Judicial Recognition Award from the American Bar Association Commission on lawyer assistance programs. He has always been highly respected in the New Mexico Law Community.

My papa is a special senior I know. He has done so much for New Mexico, and also for me and my family. He is the best!!! He makes life more fun.



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**Above: Noelle Cloyes (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MS. VIGIL

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Noelle Cloyes  
Grade 4 Age 9 M\_ or F   
Teacher: Mrs. Vigil  
School: Manzano day School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: A Senior I Know



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**Above:** Noelle Cloyes (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. VIGIL

**Name:** Xiomara Huerta  
**Grade:** 4th  
**Gender:** Female  
**Teacher:** Cleland  
**School:** Cochiti Elementary  
**Title:** A Senior I Know

A senior I know is my nana. She was born in Rehoboth, NM in 1948. A fun fact about my nana is that her birthday is in May and she will be 78 years old in May. She is 77 years old. Her name is Eleanor; her name was from her godmother because her name was Eleanor.

My nana's job is a homemaker her whole life. My Nana's grandma had eight brothers and no sisters, and she always wanted a sister. My nana said that school was good for her, her mother was involved and she graduated high school. Otherwise school was great. My Nana said her favorite subjects were lunch, sports, and math.

Her cultures from her mom and dad are her mom is native american which was Laguna and her dad was native and that was Isleta. Her favorite trip was to live in Albuquerque because they lived in Gallup, NM.

My nana did get married and had one son, and two daughters. She has one grandchild, and 14 great-grandchildren. Her husband died in 2023 because of cancer. My Nana's favorite childhood memory was to have one big beautiful family. My nana's accomplishment is having a big beautiful family.

Three words to subscribe to my nana are happy, funny, and loving. Her favorite memory with me was when I lived with her. If she wanted to change the world into a better place, she would have everybody become more peaceful with each other because people are a little bit rough with each other. My nana misses her childhood growing up with her friends because some of them have passed away. She is always a strong person even though she is going through some bad things. I have the best nana ever. That is my senior I know.

**Above:** Xiomara Huerta

TEACHER: MS. CLELAND

**2026**  
**A Senior I Know Essay Contest**

Name: Max Martinez  
Grade 4 Age 10 DU or F  
Teacher: Ms. Vigil  
School: MDS  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** My Nana Pauline  
My Nana Pauline is a Senior I know. She is 77 years old and lives in Albuquerque. My Nana grew up in Colorado and held many jobs over the years. She was a maid invail co. she was a secretary at the university and a secretary for the volunteer fire. Department is Guadalupe, NM for 25 years. she did a lot of different things in her life but if you ask her the most important job in this world is being a mother and her nob us job is being a Nana. she raised my mom, Sonia, and my tid, LOFI Ana. Even though my Nana did not have a lot growing up, she always knew education was important. she would always tell my mom and Tid and it is something me, my brother, and my big cousin hear all the time too! My Nana is also the best cook and always makes food for us and spoils us with cookies and treats. I love my Nana and she makes me feel loved and special. She is a treasure to our family. The other thing I admire



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**Above:** Max Martinez  
TEACHER: MS. VIGIL

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ M\_\_ or F\_\_  
 Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

about my Nana's her kindness and generosity.  
 she and my Gramps Francisco visit elderly  
 people they know and take them food.  
 They like to visit and keep them company.  
 They are good role models and like to  
 give us advice on life. She shows love by  
 helping people and spending time with  
 family. I am proud of my Nana and  
 she means the world to me.



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**Above: Max Martinez (Continued)**  
TEACHER: MS. VIGIL



**2026**  
**A Senior I Know Essay Contest**

Name: Benjamin Novak  
 Grade 5 Age 11 M  or F   
 Teacher Mrs. McCallon  
 School: SY Jackson  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### My Damah

A senior I know is my grandma. We call her Damah, because when my older cousin was little she couldn't say Grandma so she called her Damah and it stuck. Damah is important to me because she is funny and a little crazy. Every summer we go down to Elephant Butte Lake. They have a house there. Two years ago we found a super good restaurant and it's on the lake. It's a burger joint.

Something me and my Damah like to do is go to the rail yard Market. We like it because it has cool little shops and good food too. We've been going there for about 5 years now. Another special thing we've been doing all my life is going to the park by her house. In the summer we like to pick blackberries and raspberries from her garden and go swimming in her pool. She has the best pool because it has a diving board.

For the last 2 years she's been taking me to school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Also once a month she takes me to Starbucks before school. Something special she's been getting me my whole life is Tic Tacs. She likes to spoil my brother, my cousins and me. That's not why I love her, I love her because she is my family. One of the funniest memories I have at the lake is there was a bat in the boat once and we were all freaking out. The way we got the bat out was my Grandpa shouted out and my Damah was screaming the whole time.

I am very happy that my Damah is a very important person in my life. I hope we can have many more fun and funny adventures in the future.

**Above:** Benjamin Novak  
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON

2026

A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Diego Linares  
Grade 5th Age 10 M or F  
Teacher: Ellen Madden  
School: Manzano Day School  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A senior I know is my Grandma Isabel. She enjoys many things such as (oldplay) (mostly "Viva La Vida") and even such things like helping my brother and I do chores. She also hates things like her name, which is why she changed it to Isabel.

First, the reason helping us so much with chores is basically just to spend time with her grandchildren. Ok I'll admit it is also so then I can continue playing my video games. It is basically a win win for both of us.

Even all the small periods of time I get with her feel heartwarming. Her favorite song is "Viva La Vida" by (oldplay). She loved it so much she even asked me to learn it on piano (which I did). When she recently came to visit, I played it for her.

My grandma Isabel changed her name because her name was actually Zoila. Isabel and Zoila sounds like "Soy la" which in Spanish means "I'm the". She said that it could be "I'm the one who cooks, cleans, etc." This is why she goes by her middle name.

My Grandma Isabel does all these things to spend time with us, but the secret is we

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**Above:** Diego Linares  
TEACHER: MS. MADDEN

like spending time with her too. She is kind and caring, and that is why I chose to write about her is the senior I know.

█  
**Above:** Diego Linares (Continued)

TEACHER: MS. MADDEN





2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tatiana Griego  
Grade 5 Age 11 M or FX  
Teacher Mrs. Meccia  
School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Favorite Mail-worker

A survivor of Hurricane Katrina, a very generous man, a postal service man, and a friendly neighbor: Mr. Stanley Perret is all of these things. I enjoy having Mr. Perret over because he brings unique stories and I enjoy his company.

When I was younger, Mr. Perret invited my siblings and me to his house. We ate kiwis, sat in the shade of his porch, and I looked up wondering why he had plants growing on top of his porch. This was when I realized he was such a kind, generous and friendly man full of interesting stories.

Mr. Perret's birthday is March 17. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. He grew up in Louisiana and enjoyed playing baseball with the other children of the neighborhood, he also had fun playing hide-and-seek. He enjoyed going to his parents' summer-house in Waveland, Mississippi.

When Mrs. Perret told me about the exciting story of ~~How~~ Hurricane Katrina, he told me this: "I saw the water rushing down the street and I was lucky because my house was about 5 feet above all the other houses. I was talking to my sister Joan



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**Above:** Tatiana Griego  
TEACHER: MRS. MECCIA

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tatiana Griego  
 Grade 5 Age 11 M or F K  
 Teacher Mrs. Meccia  
 School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Favorite Mail-worker (Cont.)

at the time, and then I had to hang up so I said, 'This 'foam, the water is rushing down the street, I have to go now, goodbye.'  
And then I got ready for the storm. I watched as the water crept under the door and floorboards. I went to my neighbor's abandoned auto shop and I stayed in the apartment above it. However the wind had blown off the roof so I slept under the stars. While I was up there I thought how lucky I was, because 85% percent of the city was 20 feet underwater! This was one of the most incredible stories I have ever heard!

Mr. Perret once told me he had never had a latte, I then made him his first, and guess what? He liked it! I like having Mr. Perret over because he always brings unique food. My favorite part is the joy he brings with him. Mr. Perret is an incredible man and I am very glad to to know a man like that!

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



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**Above:** Tatiana Griego (Continued)  
TEACHER: MRS. MECCIA

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tatiana Griego  
Grade: 5 Age: 11 M\_ or F: X  
Teacher: Mrs. Meccia  
School: N.S. la Conquistadora Academy  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: My Favourite Mail-worker



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**Above:** Tatiana Griego (Continued)  
TEACHER: MRS. MECCIA



**Above:** Nellie Silentwalker  
TEACHER: MR. ZIMPLEMAN

2026  
A Senior I Know Essay Contest

Name: Tracy Tibi  
Grade 5 Age 11 M\_ or F   
Teacher Mrs. McCallon  
School: SY Jackson  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior I Know

This essay is about a senior I know who is my great-aunt. Her name is Celestine, but we call her Mami. That means grandma in french. She is actually my mom's aunt. She just turned 58 on January 29th, and she lives in forthworth, Texas. She has 4 kids. Her first one is a girl and she will graduate from medical school in May. Her second child is a lawyer and she lives in forthworth with her husband. Her last kids are twins (boy and girl); the girl is an engineer in architecture and the boy is working on getting his master in bio-medical. My family and I go to my great-aunt's house to visit almost every year for Christmas. When there, she makes our favorite meals. She also makes sure that we are comfortable and that everything is fine. Sometimes my sisters and I help her make food for the family. We would also go out and do fun activities together. She always helped my family by taking care of us and other cousins. She has been to my house multiple times as well. My great-aunt is special to me because she was there when my little sister was born and gave my mom the support she needed. She still does, though! So, that is why I love her so much and she is so important to me.

**Above:** Tracy Tibi  
TEACHER: MRS. MCCALLON



**A Senior I Know Winner List**

**GRADE 1**

<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Valak Castillo	Eugene Field Elementary School	Mrs. Shirley	19-20
Mila Enriquez	Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School	Ms. Arias Ms. Cleveland	10-11
Olivianna Garcia	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Wiener	14-15
Rocco Maez	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Wiener	16-18
Haseya Myhre	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Ms. Lucero	8-9
Nash Wilson	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Ms. Lucero	12-13

**GRADE 2**

Tiana Fackelman	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Paquin	33-34
Kyree Garcia	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Wiener	27-29
Alaiza Gonzalez	Cochiti Elementary	Ms. Ibañez	21-22
Marcel Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Wiener	30-32
James Rowe	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Paquin	25-26
Iker Soto	Cochiti Elementary	Mrs. Gonzalez	23-24

**GRADE 3**

Katie Ashbaugh	Manzano Day School	Ms. Freedman	46-47
Joy Brundage	Manzano Day School	Ms. Nenninger	40-41
Julianna Gomez-Lopez	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Paquin	44-45
Joseph Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Ms. Sarver	37-39
Nathan Osias	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Paquin	48-49
Arabella Pery	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. Chandler	35-36

**GRADE 4**

Annabelle Ayers	S. Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	52
Noelle Cloyes	Manzano Day School	Ms. Vigil	56-58

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

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Miles Cobb	Manzano Day School	Mrs. Cervantes	54-55
Xiomara Huerta	Cochiti Elementary	Ms. Cleland	59
Jaxon Martinez	Shepherd Lutheran School	Ms. Brock	53
Max Martinez	Manzano Day School	Ms. Vigil	60-61

**GRADE 5**

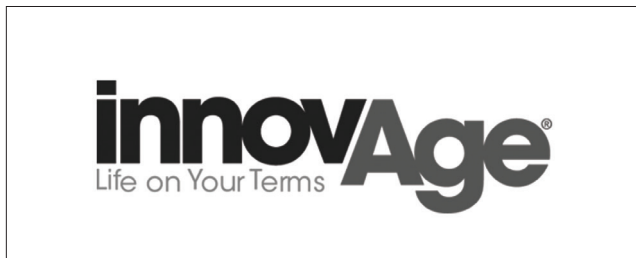
Laing Diesel	Shepherd Lutheran School	Ms. Brock	67
Tatiana Griego	Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy	Mrs. Meccia	68-69
Alyssa Kitchen	Holy Ghost Catholic School	Mr. Chacon	62
Diego Linares	Manzano Day School	Ms. Madden	64-65
Benjamin Novak	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	63
Tracy Tibi	S.Y. Jackson Elementary	Mrs. McCallon	72

**Winners  
FRONT AND BACK COVERS**

<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Nellie Silentwalker	Dennis Chavez Elementary School	Mr. Zimpleman	Cover, 71
Aveah Mayorga	Edmund G. Ross Elementary School	Mrs. Magali	Back, 50
Willow Velasquez	Edmund G. Ross Elementary School	Mrs. Vanderlip	51

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# PRESBYTERIAN





**Back Cover:** Aveah Mayorga  
TEACHER: MRS. MAGALI | 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

**Front Cover:** Nellie Silentwalker  
TEACHER: MR. ZIMPLEMAN | 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

**2026 A Senior I Know Essay Contest Winners**  
*Department of Senior Affairs*

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Citizen Contact Center: 311

**APRIL 2026**