



THE BUZZ

The Learning Institute

December 15, 2009

Avani Reed takes VFW prize

TLI's Avani Reed has taken a prize in the 2009 Veterans of Foreign Wars The Patriot's Pen essay contest. Competing against over 200 middle school students, Avani won fourth place in the annual contest.

\$50

Writing an essay entitled, "When Is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?", Avani collected a trophy and a \$50 check at the awards banquet held recently. She attended with her mother and Ms.

Zander, head of TLI's Junior High program. The banquet was held at the local VFW headquarters in Phoenix.

Future Plans

Avani is excited about winning and plans to

enter again next year. Students achieving first place in either the high school or junior high division of the contest can go on to compete at the national level for a \$10,000 savings bond.



Important Events at TLI

- **A Music Celebration** in partnership with The Phoenix Conservatory of Music 5.30 p.m., Friday, December 18
- **Winter Vacation**—December 21—January 5. Please note that students return on Tuesday, 5 January, 2010
- **Report Cards** for Fall Semester released January 8.
- **Martin Luther King Holiday**—January 18

Tamales a holiday tradition in Phoenix

An important event in my life is when our family has a Christmas party. It is important because it's a religious holiday for us and also because we bake tamales and eat them together. It is a family tradition that happens every year, and this year won't be any different.

For the past 15 years of my life, I have been eating tamales for every Christmas. Tamales are a Mexican tradition. Most Mexicans I know eat tamales every Christmas, and this helps to make Christmas special.

By: Nancy Gonzales

Tamales can be traced back as early as 5000 BC. They served as a nutritious and portable food for Aztec, Mayan, and Incan warriors. In modern times, tamales have become a favorite holiday food in Mexico and many parts of the United States.

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2012 movie scares our reviewer

What is your greatest fear? A commonly known fear throughout mankind is the end of the world. Just like “The Day After Tomorrow”, where people predicted the world was going to enter another Ice Age. Now in the new movie “2012” the world is supposed to be destroyed by a number of catastrophic events because that’s when the Mayan calendar ends.

Director Roland Emmerich, also known from the production “The Patriot”, sets a life-like reaction of what is soon to come. Roland also got help from Harald Kloser to write the story of the movie and to try and set the best example of what is supposed to happen to the earth.

Starring John Cusack, who has been in countless good movies such as “Room 1408”, taking the lead

roll as a limousine driver who finds out about the world’s end before the public knows and tries to get him and his family to safety in the Himalayas where there is supposed to be a special ship designed to withstand everything.

The movie for me was thrilling excitement and I enjoyed it. The plot which focuses on how the scientists believe the Earth’s crust is supposed to shift and cause the earth to slowly replace the land and Polar ice caps was ingenious. There were, however, some parts that were too slow and caused me to get bored and annoyed. The drama and running away part got old and irritating. I would much rather see more destruction and special effects than see two people realize they screwed up a dozen times and make up.

The special effects were very

professional and greatly done. They made everything so real, like it was actually happening. The best destructive scene that will keep everyone on edge is when the Yellowstone National Park’s volcano erupts. The massive explosion was very well done, and the effects exceeded my expectations.

I give this movie a 4/5 stars rating and would strongly suggest this video to any one who enjoys destruction and violent movies. By: Tony Dell



TLI presents “A Music Celebration”

Vocal and instrumental performances will highlight TLI’s annual winter concert, entitled “A Music Celebration”.

On Friday, December 18, from 5.30 – 7.00 p.m. students from the elective music classes will be performing at TLI in conjunction with the Phoenix Conservatory of Music.

Under the direction of Mr. Jimmy Davis the students from Finding Your Voice will perform several pieces. The guitar classes will feature a variety of performances with the assistance of Mr. Craig Morby, the instructor from the Phoenix Conservatory of Music. These will include both traditional Christmas pieces like *Jingle Bells* and *Carol of the Bells* as well as contemporary pieces like *Come Together*, *Sleepwalk*, and *Angel Baby*.

Mr. Davis’ Garage Band classes will show off some of their multi-media projects using images as well as computer generated sound compositions. The Beginning Piano Class will perform as well.



Have you been naughty or nice?

Santa's elves are everywhere at this time of year finding out what people want for Christmas. At TLI it's no different, and *The Buzz* went out and about to find out what students would like to see under the tree for them. Let's hope Santa reads *The Buzz* – but then doesn't everyone?



Nico Ramon, 10th – “I want to spend time with my family and to see them happy.”

Kristen Gray, 11th – “I want some new jewelry and some new clothes as well.”

Josh Slone, 9th – “I’m hoping for skates and a new bike.”

Angel Pereida, 12th – “I want a better car and winter gloves!”

Christina Cliché, 9 – “I want a laptop and also a new iPod...and I want to see my brother.”

Tony Dell, 11th – “I want a Harley Davidson motorcycle and a Lamborghini.”

Brandon Quiroz, 10th – “I want a bike and an art set.”

Romio Archuleta, 11th – “I want a new tattoo and some new shoes.”

Roger Love, 12th – “I’d like two shock collars so I can train my dog and I’d like a Viper as well.”

By: Haley Lyman

Q&A with the students

Name: Christina Cliché

Q: Do you like art class?

A: Yes I love it.

Grade: Ninth

Q: What do you think of the new art teacher?

A: I like him a lot.

Q: What inspired you to do this drawing?

A: My brother actually inspired me; he’s an artist too.

Q: What is your favorite subject?

A: Math.

Q: Do you want to be an artist when you are older?

A: No, I want to be a vet.

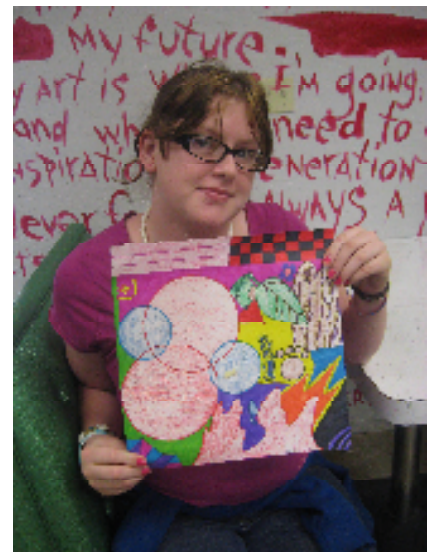
Q: What is your favorite drawing that you drew yourself?

A: I drew Tweety bird, and I have to say it’s my favorite.

Q: How long have you been drawing?

A: Since I was nine years old.

By: Courtney Hart



What's in your stocking? An all action Call to Duty!



One of the most anticipated games released just in time for the Christmas season is the much hyped, and much ridiculed, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2.

When considering this [first-person shooter video game](#) for your Christmas stocking there are good and bad points to think about. First and foremost is the single-player experience. One of the main selling points of the Call of Duty world is that campaign mode is back ... and it's intense. You will instantly get a sense of just how far the improved engine

has come when you're thrown into the streets of Rio de Janeiro, the mountains of Russia, the dusty roads of Afghanistan, and other unexpected locales.

On the visual side of things, Modern Warfare 2 is an obvious step up over Call of Duty 4 and World at War, with complex terrain in the environments, weather effects, destructible objects, and the overall sense of action and chaos that comes with so many visual improvements. This only complemented further by the increased attention to sound design, with the effects of many returning weapons being re-recorded. Modern Warfare 2 feels like

an action movie through and through.

Where Modern Warfare 2's campaign drops the ball; however, is in its actual storytelling. With no historic reference point (as in other Call of Duty games) it's up to the Infinity Ward to not only put players in the moment, but also to develop the world around those moments. That's one area where Modern Warfare 2 could have used more polish time or specific direction to set it right.

Events fly by, the story is told only through lead screens or in-game via NPC (Non-Player Controlled) chatter (usually amidst firefights. Here reading text isn't exactly a priority one, and the story is so over-the-top that you will often find yourself catching your breath after a mission, feeling like you had fun, and then trying to figure out what you just did in the context of the story. But that can actually be fun.

By: Jimmy Koehler

TLI's "Cat in a Hat" visits St. Joseph's

For the second year running students from TLI will be visiting the Pediatric Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital with their presentation of Dr. Seuss' "Cat in a Hat."

This classic children's nonsense adventures feature the destructive and hilarious adventures of The Cat when he visits Sally and her brother while their Mom is away. The children are trapped inside the house on a rainy day, but the visiting Cat knows how to make things interesting. Chaos reigns!

The animated reading is narrated by Courtney Hart with the Cats played by Terrecita Hernandez, Gabe Alvarado, Caitlyn Boardman, Laura Valdez, Roger Love, Brenda Sanchez, and Zane Zeiss. The roles of Thing 1 and Thing 2 are taken by Dallas Fletcher and Jimmy Koehler. The cast is supported backstage by Cyenne Jenkins and Ms. Mary.

The 15-minutes presentation was a hit last year with the children and is a performed by the Graduating Class of 2010.



Dallas Fletcher flies his kite as Thing 2