

Learning Territory

Learning Without Limits College Preparatory Elementary School Newsletter



Learning Without Limits 5th-graders Shania, Jamya, Harold and Fabian

I'm Going to Miss the Entire School!

5th-Grade Leaders Reflect on Learning Without Limits

When Learning Without Limits (LWL) 5th-graders Fabian, Harold, Jamya, and Shania sat down for this *Learning Territory* interview, they had a lot on their mind. For starters, minutes earlier Principal Leo Fuchs had kissed a cow as part of his promise to LWL 4th-graders for reading 2,500 books this year. But weighing on them more was the reality that they had just a few days left at a school they loved.

As Jamya put it when she introduced herself, "There's a lot going on in my

head right now." Among the thoughts were memories of her first days on campus after transferring to LWL in 4th grade. "What I liked right away about LWL is that when I came here, everyone welcomed me with open arms," says Jamya.

"The teachers here, they care about you and support you and love you and they want you to succeed," says fellow 5th-grader Harold as he reflects on his journey through the grades. "When I was in 3rd grade, Mr. Herrera helped me get to the 4th. When I was in 4th, Ms. Carrillo helped me get to 5th. Now in 5th, Ms. Alconcher has helped me get ready for middle school."

"Ms. Alconcher pushed us and pushed us," agrees Jamya. "She has always been there for us, helping us with homework and tutoring

to get us prepared for 6th grade." Fabian feels similarly about his teacher, Emily Rosa. "Ms. Rosa challenges us to do things until we can perfectly understand them," he says. "She likes us to do even better on the subject even if we already know it, so that we're ready for what we're going to study in 6th grade," adds Fabian's classmate Shania. "All the teachers here have helped me raise my learning level higher."

Harold says social studies has emerged as one of his favorite subjects. "It's about ancient times," he says, "about the people who were alive before we were born and how they lived." Shania favors art and science: "If you don't feel like talking, you can draw it and express yourself that way," she reflects. "And in science you get to do experiments and all sorts of fun stuff."

Summer 2011

2035 40th Ave. • Oakland, CA 94601 • 510-879-1282
Leo Fuchs, Principal • leo.fuchs@ousd.k12.ca.us • www.lwlelementary.org



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Jamya puts in a word for Greek mythology, which she enjoys “because it tells us about different points of view on how the earth began,” she says. “My favorite subject, like Jamya, is Greek mythology,” reflects Fabian. “But I like ELA (English Language Arts) too, because you learn how to use the correct grammar and tenses.

“I’m going to miss the entire school,” Fabian continues. “I’m going to miss how nice all the people here are, and how all the teachers were the best.”

While sad about leaving, the departing 5th-graders are optimistic about middle school, and take solace knowing that Learning Without Limits is never far away. “Yes, yes, yes!” replies Shania when asked if she’ll come back to visit. “Definitely,” agrees Fabian. “We’ll visit everyone in the new building!” (See “New Building” box below.) “I’m going to miss everybody,” says Jamya, “but I plan to come back and tutor the younger kids.”

Clockwise from left:

Principal Fuchs kissing a cow as the 4th-graders’ Reading Challenge reward; Mayor Jean Quan with the LWL drum team performing at the Oakland Target Grand Opening; 5th-grader Tahir with LWL’s trophy after our chess team’s “three-peat” as Oakland Chess Champions

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SUPPORT LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS!

Facing unprecedented budget cuts of \$150,000 heading into 2011-12, we must fundraise to continue offering the programs that allow our students to excel. Art materials, music supplies, and inspiring field trips to museums and concerts fall outside our shrinking budget as a California public school.

YOU CAN HELP!

Consider supporting our arts programs with a one-time or recurring tax-deductible donation. Visit www.oaklandschoolsfoundation.org (designating “Learning Without Limits”) or send a check to “OSF/LWL,” P.O. Box 20238, Oakland, CA 94620.

OPENING FALL 2011: OUR NEW BUILDING



Learning Without Limits’ new building is nearing completion, and this fall our scholars will begin learning without limits on a fully modernized campus! (Visit www.lwlelementary.org to see an architect’s rendering.)

If you’re a parent interested in enrolling your student at LWL, there may be spaces left. Please call 510-879-1282 to set up a visit and discuss enrolling your child at LWL.

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