

## Pharmacist to Professor

By Adan Lopez, Edna Pena, Marely Meza, Michelle Lopez, Lupe Vazquez, Destiny Garcia

Have you ever wondered what a doctor in philosophy does?

On November 14, 2017, the Migrant Journalism class from Alila Elementary School in Earlimart, California, traveled to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles to interview Dr. Gisela O'Brien, Ph.D., author of (Journalism for English Learners). We interviewed Dr. O'Brien about her college and career experiences. She also shared what it means to be a Ph.D.

Dr. O'Brien told us that her grandfather only had an elementary education, but he was a great reader. Her grandfather learned so much, even though he did not have a degree. Her grandfather along with her parents inspired her to go to college. "College was

never a question," said Dr. O'Brien. She knew she was going to college; she just had to choose where she wanted to study.

When we asked Dr. O'Brien about her path from college to career, she said, "So, the first thing that you have to do is finish high school. My degree is in biology from UCLA, because I wanted to be a pharmacist." She actually worked in a hospital laboratory looking at blood. She said, "...and then I changed my major and went into education." She got a master's degree at the State University Los Angeles, which took two years and then she got a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California.

Dr. O'Brien has a Ph.D. after her name. She explained what a Ph.D. means. It means she has a doctorate in philosophy in a field

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Migrant Journalism students from Alila Elementary School in Earlimart, California, with Dr. Gisela O'Brien at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, November 14, 2017.

## A Trip to Loyola Marymount

By Ruby Cueva, Rubi Ayon, Gonzalo Sanchez, Rogelio Torres, Sofia Sanchez, Blanca Iazaga, Elina Acol, Angelina Valdovinos, Yadira Carillo

Earlimart Elementary Journalism Club went to Loyola Marymount University on November 14, 2017, to visit the school and interview Nidia Hernandez, a research associate for the Center for Equity

for English Learners to learn about college.

Earlimart Elementary School, Alila School, Palo Verde, and the Migrant teachers went on this trip. We went to Loyola Marymount

University to practice our interview skills, have fun, learn about the university, and learn about college. We learned where students stay at the university. Another big thing we did on the trip was we ate lunch in the cafeteria where students eat. We visited the bookstore to buy some goodies. Another interesting thing was we saw the beautiful ocean view. We learned that there's a gym on the side of the college. All students had fun visiting Loyola Marymount University.

If you are wondering about the person that we interviewed, the answer is she is research associate named Nidia Hernandez. Nida was born in Mexico and came to the U.S when she was five years old. She told us her parents helped inspire her to go to college. She saw her parents work a lot and wanted to help at the age of 15. In addition, she went to San Diego State University when she was at the age of 18. She also received her master's degree. Nidia also has a twin sister that went to college and are also best friends. One thing about Nida is she loves to read and write. Nidia's favorite game is soccer.

Her favorite subjects are writing, science, and math. Her goal is to help create more services for more people. She loves to be part of programs that help schools.

We also learned from Nidia what you need to go to college. If you are wondering what you need to go to college, the answer is you need to be prepared. One big thing to know is that you have to finish High School. In addition, you have to be very involved in high school and you have to apply for college. Nidia said people in high school help you to go to college. In college you could take a lot of fun classes like art. Another big thing to know about college is you could do clubs like a book club. You can wear any clothes as long as you are comfortable. Some activities that you can do are play sports and join clubs.

One big thing to know about going to college is that you have to be motivated, read a lot, and study a lot. One thing that Nidia said is that her parents inspired her to go to college. She wanted to help her parents. People like going to

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Students at Earlimart Elementary enjoy Loyola Marymount Campus

## Experiencing a technology hub in the Central Valley

By Erick Ayon, Crystal Sanchez, Emmanuel Hernandez, Brandon Vega, and Bryan Vega

Do you want to work at a fun technology driven facility? On October 26, we visited Bitwise Industries in Fresno. We went to learn about the company. While there we met with Victor Perez. He is one of their developers.

Bitwise is a technology driven facility and don't worry if you don't know about coding. If you go to Bitwise, they would teach you about coding. There is a gym in the building and a movie theater. They have a cool facility. They have walls that people can write on. Bitwise wanted to create a place where people could come and learn about technology while being in a friendly environment. Bitwise is organized into Hashtag, Geekwise, and Shift3. Hashtag offers workspace and



meeting facilities. There are 170 companies that meet there. Geekwise is their school that offers coding among other classes. Shift3 creates apps for companies. Bitwise has become a place to learn about coding. Their building

is located in downtown Fresno. It used to be a car lot, but they have already outgrown it and have added more facilities.

Victor Perez came to Geekwise to

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### Developing a college-going culture

In conjunction with the rigorous migrant academic extended day services, the Tulare County Migrant Education Program in Region VIII is intentional in giving students hands-on college awareness experiences and highly supports partnerships with universities. Migrant staff work hard at developing a

college-going culture. The goal is for every migrant student to know that they can and will be college bound.

It was important to include the following articles depicting 3rd-5th grade Migrant Journalism Students as they began their interviews at the visiting universities.



# Bitwise: An opportunity for the valley

By Yutciry Delgado, Nurh Natalie Reyes, Claudia Gomez, Elber Barco Gomes and Alison Barcenas

On October 26, 2017, third and fourth grade students: Yutciry Delgado, Nurh Natalie Reyes, and Claudia Gomez had the opportunity to interview Marketing Director Angelica Cano from Bitwise Industries. Not only did we get to interview an amazing person but we learned about a place we never knew existed! Bitwise Industries is located at 700 Van Ness Ave in Fresno. It is a cool place both inside and out and there is more going on in this building than you can imagine. Our interview was held in the

theater. After learning some background information on Bitwise, we were introduced to Angelica Cano. When asked what the most exciting part of her job was she stated, "It's kind of coming to work each day. You really never know what can happen." Angelica has been in marketing for about seven years if you count the time she worked at Fresno State as a communications person and has been at Bitwise for about six weeks. When Angelica was asked what Bitwise Industries was she replied, "That's a question I'm still trying to figure out. It's a lot of different things like Hashtag, Geekwise Academy, Shift3 through technology, but it's also



Waukena students learn about jobs at Bitwise.



part of a goal and mission that everyone from any walk of life can feel welcome in this building and that they have the ability to get involved in the things that we are doing. If they want to take a class to learn how to build a website they are welcome. If they have no experience they are welcome.

Wherever they come from they are welcome. So to me Bitwise is really sort of a mission to keep doing good things. Extending technology in this region and doing good." Angelica got her inspiration from a movie called "Almost Famous." She wanted to be a music journalist so she

started writing and DJ'd at the Fresno State stations. It was a lot of fun learning about Angelica Cano and her very interesting job. If you're ever in Fresno, Bitwise Industries is a place worth visiting.

# Superheroes at Tulare Fire Station #61

By Karina Canchola, Jasmin Munguia, Jesus Gonzalez, and Jose Rodriguez

Wow, we got to meet real superheroes today and see them in action! Our Migrant Program organized a 911 trip to our local fire department and it was "hot"! By

able to do it properly. We had the pleasure to meet some of the team assigned to Station #61 and they informed us of what it takes to become a firefighter. First, you must have a love for what you do. It takes hard work, time and effort, and dedication. These men and women live at the station for several days out of the



Palo Verde students learn about becoming firefighters!



hot, we mean, it was awesome. We had the pleasure of visiting Fire Station #61 in Tulare. While at the station, we were able to tour the grounds, explore the fire engines, and familiarize ourselves with the proper way to hold, aim, and shoot the water out of the fire hose, which by the way, is very heavy. It takes strength and technique to be

week and they are away from their families. Because they are away, they form a second family with their coworkers and they enjoy being together. There is a wonderful sense of bond and friendship when you are around them. You can tell they truly appreciate each other and respect what they each have to offer to the job.

If becoming a firefighter is something that you are interested in, you must first be 18 years old. Not all departments require a college education, but if you are interested in moving up in the ranks, one is necessary. Although college is not always required, much training is. Firefighters are always in "school" because they are constantly training or taking classes to learn new techniques to fight fires and protect lives. Fires, like

people, change, so firefighters must always be ready. There have been many improvements through the years with their clothing, equipment, materials, and even how to approach a fire. This type of job requires a lot of communication, too. One thing we learned from each firefighter we spoke to was how much they love their jobs and how much they love helping other people. All of the firefighters stated that helping people is the best part

of their jobs, and we are so thankful for that. In closing, we would like to thank all service men and women for putting their lives on the line for each one of us, but we especially want to give a special shout out to Firefighters Guinn, Lopez, and Dugay at Station #61 in Tulare for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend with us. You are truly appreciated and you are our superheroes!





# A veteran farmworker

*By Alejandra Santillan*

Although Catalina Lopez attended school in Mexico and in the United States, at 31 years old, she has worked in the fields for over 15 years. Lopez began labor work at the young age of 15. She said she considers herself an experienced farm worker because she has done different kinds of field work. Lopez has labored in the fields alongside with her family for many years, and continues to do so. She told us that at times she travels an hour to reach the job destination.

Depending where the job is located, on some days she will travel further than hour. Lopez said that in some cases, the rancher might offer housing if the job is more than a day's drive. Lopez also told us that some of the contractors are nice while others can be mean or rude to the workers. With a desolate look on her face, Lopez articulated an incident to us when a contractor was being unfair to the working crew. The workers, as well as Lopez, felt bad because they questioned the injustices of these contractors. We asked her how she felt about the cause

that Cesar Chavez carried out for the sake of the farm workers, or campesinos as they are referred to in Spanish. She said that Cesar Chavez demanded higher pay and better working conditions, like supplying workers with restrooms and breaks from the ranchers. She pointed out that Chavez did a lot of good things for the farm workers. She told us, "Chavez fought for equality, and I am happy that he is recognized on his birthday because he fought for all the farm workers, the campesinos."



# No one can take your education away

*By Viviriana Carranza and Omar Santillan*

Officer Denise Benavidez sat eagerly at our side as we started our interview. She responded with a smile as we asked questions regarding her job as a probation officer. For us that was an indication that she really enjoys her job. We started our interview by asking Officer Benavidez what inspired her

to choose the career as a probation officer. She told us that she had a brother who she looked up to. Her brother had mentioned to her that he wanted to be a police officer. Being the role model that he was for his sister, she decided to become a police officer as well. So she went to college and took criminology classes. She studied crime and why people commit them. Benavidez,

who has been a probation officer for seven years, enjoys her job very much and told us that her favorite aspect of her job is going to schools and working with students like us and making an impact. Teaching the GREAT program, which focuses on respect, communication, and anger management, is one of the best things she does well with students. She also told us that she likes being around other officers because they learn from each other. Officer Benavidez said her supervisor is very understanding and very encouraging. But the best part of her job is coming out and meeting students like us. We also wanted to know what it takes to be a probation officer. She said that before becoming a probation officer she had to do an internship in Madera County where she shadowed and observed other probation officers. She referred to these officers as seasoned officers or as she explained, these are officers who have been working for a long time. Officer Benavidez told us how she observed and asked these experienced officers questions, which gave her the idea of what a probation officer does. After finishing college and completing her internship, she knew the time had come for her to take the responsibilities and duties of a probation

officer. Gesturing with a fisted hand, she said, "I had my education done and ready to get my hands dirty." Officer Benavidez comes from a family of strict parents, who taught her the value of education at a very young age. She still remembers her parents telling her that education is something no one can take away from you. She knew they were right because she learned as a student from elementary school to high school that if she really applied herself, and put her mind to it, she could really get things done. An honor student since she started elementary school is part of Officer Benavidez's pride. Tapping her shoulders, she told us how proud she felt graduating from college with a great point average. Although, she says she's an adult and still attending school, she never forgets her parent's advice, which is why she has set herself a goal. Officer Benavidez' goal is to finish her master's degree in 2018. She told us this is a very important goal for her and if she continues to work towards it she will achieve it. With a firm voice she reminded us, "Remember, if all of you apply yourself and put your mind to it, you can achieve your goals too. And don't forget that no one can take your education away."



The GREAT camp at the Sequoia National Park with Freedom students.

# Thinking out of the box

*By Luis Miguel and Alizah Alva*

As a reading specialist, Maria Valdez told us that she always has to think out of the box. Besides following a teacher's manual, she has to think outside the box so she can bring her own ideas and creativity to her lessons so the students' learning process can be more effective. She explained how she takes her time developing any lesson plan. Valdez has to make sure that she has all the materials needed for her instruction. Most importantly, she previews the most essential standards she needs to teach her students. She

also questions what the key standards are. From there she develops her lesson based on the standards, and organizes it based on the most important standards for each grade level. She also shared an experience in which she had to adapt her teaching method to meet the students' needs effectively. She said one of the things that she does to meet her students' needs is to differentiate her instruction, which means creating the best learning instruction so it makes sense to the student. But before she does this, Valdez needs to make sure she knows their educational level. She also uses a lot of scaffolding to make sure

the students understand what she's trying to teach them. She said she's also targeting that specific level. Aside from planning and organizing lessons, knowing and understanding their culture helps Valdez understand the students' needs. She told us that in past she did home visits to help her understand where the student is coming from, which helped her teaching and in the deliverance of her instruction. We wanted to close the interview with Valdez by asking her to share with us what the key to success when communicating with the public is. She said we must make sure we communicate to make our

point, and to be clear what we are trying to get across. In a firm voice, she said, "Most importantly, make sure they understand what you are saying, asking, or want from them."



Mrs. Valdez enjoys teaching the Journalism students.

## TECHNOLOGY

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learn about androids, but Geekwise wasn't

offering any courses on androids. Instead Victor ended up taking classes at Geekwise. Then Victor decided to stay and work at Bitwise. Victor enjoys making games and coding. He likes what the facility of-

fers. He likes that there is a cafe, gym, and theater. He likes that it feels like a community. Victor's life is an example of someone who follows their dreams. He was in the Migrant Program when he was younger. He went to Fresno State to become a civil engineer, but he changed his major to computer science. He ended up enjoying coding and has made it his job. Some people come to Bitwise to get educated. Others come for a beautiful modern place to work in Fresno. They have desks and tables so people can come and use their place to meet. People come to Bitwise to learn technology and build robots. People also learn to code. If you want to learn about coding you can start by practicing playing with Legos. Math and writing will help you to prepare for a future in technology. Don't let other people stop you. Just keep going! Do not be discouraged! Follow your dreams. If coding is your dream, you will know that

you can come to Bitwise.



## PROFESSOR

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which is not medicine or law. For example, her doctorate is in education and her research

is in how students learn a second language. Dr. O'Brien started out on a journey to become a pharmacist, but her passion led her another path. She started out

in the medical field, but ended up as an education major. Even though she changed her mind, she still completed her degree and never lost sight of her education goals.

## LOYOLA

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college because they can pick their own classes. The last thing I learn is that you

need to work hard to go to college and stay in college. We learned that everyone can go to college if they are motivated. As long as you read a lot and study a lot you can go to college.



# Our educational trip to Loyola Marymount University

Students from Palo Verde School visit and interview Angela Castandeda at LMU

By Karina Canchola and Jose Rodriguez

Did you know that learning can be fun? Well, it's true. Not only can it be fun, but it can be beautiful, too. We had the pleasure of visiting Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Westchester, which is located west of Los Angeles. It's nothing short of the perfect location. LMU is located on top of a hill overlooking the city to the east and the ocean to the west. It truly is the most amazing site. The campus was absolutely breathtaking and the architectural design of the educational building was unlike anything we have ever seen. It was truly a magical place. It made us want to stay and explore every corner of the building. The atmosphere was so warm and welcoming and every person we encountered made us feel at home. Not once did we feel we didn't belong. During our visit, we had the

and she oversees many administrative tasks for her staff. She preps for both staff and students, oversees several budgets, plans trips, along with several other responsibilities that her job entails. When asked if there is anything about her current position that she would like changed, Angela was quick to respond with a "no". She believes she has the perfect job and gets to work with an amazing team. After meeting her staff and coworkers, we have to agree with her because they were all so kind and welcoming when we arrived and met with them. Angela graduated from LMU with a degree in Business Administration and has been at her current position for almost six years. She applied for the job because she loved her experience as a student and wanted to continue to be a part of LMU. Her professors, whom she admires and respects so much, are now her coworkers.



pleasure of meeting and interviewing Angela Castaneda. Angela is the CEEL Coordinator (Center for Equality for English Learners)

She stated that they are all great instructors, very caring, and have created a peaceful environment. Although her parents are her

number one influence, her coworkers inspire her just as much. When asked who she would like to be for one day, she responded with, "That's a great question, that's a hard question, but if I could be anyone for a day, I think I would be my boss, Dr. Magaly Lavadenz. She is someone who inspires me, has so much passion for what she does, has the opportunity to travel, and most of all, she is an advocate for ELD (English Language Development), so yes, I'd like to be her for one day." Angela's rapport with her coworkers and students, including us, made us think that maybe we would like to be HER for one day. Angela is amazing! In closing, we would like to

thank Angela for her warm welcome, taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with us, and for

also being an inspiration to us and demonstrating that learning really can be fun.



# A hangout with Mr. Patterson

By Yadira Carrillo, Blanca Izazaga, Gonzalo Sanchez, Ruby Cueva

Trimester. The whole school voted for him to earn the award. Mr. Patterson came to Room 40 on October 24, 2017, to tell us how he became a teacher. For example, he had to go to a lot of colleges, Eastern Oregon, Kings River, West Hills College, and Fresno State. One big thing to know is that Mr. Patterson told us that he became a teacher after teaching in Ecuador. He then became a teacher in 2003. One thing he told us that he loves to learn from other teachers. He came to tell us how to be prepared to be a teacher. He also came to tell us that it is hard work being a teacher. One big thing to know is that Mr. Patterson said that you learn to be a teacher everyday by trying new things. He also told us that he has worked

at different schools. His last his job was working at Alila before coming to Earlimart Elementary. He also likes to teach third grade because they are still sweet unlike the older kids that have an attitude. Mr. Patterson worked at Starbucks before becoming a teacher. Mr. Patterson said, "In college I worked at Starbucks making coffee like the people you see at Starbucks." He is awesome because he can make any drink at Starbucks. Mr. Patterson told us that he likes to work with kids because they're fun to teach. He likes to learn from other teachers for kids could learn. He loves summers off to be lazy. These are some of the things that Mr. Patterson told us about



Yadira, Blanca, Gonzalo, and Ruby spend some time with Mr. Patterson how to be prepared for going to college and becoming a teacher. Mr. Patterson is very nice and an awesome third-grade teacher.

# Discouraging words become inspiring words

By Dayanara Torres and Xiomara Rivera

"You are not smart enough, or have the grades to go to college," were the words that inspired Freedom Elementary counselor Cristal Villalobos to pursue a career working with children. Mrs. Villalobos told us she never forgets the high school counselor's discouraging words. Now, as a school counselor,

she tells students that they can do whatever they want to do. Villalobos also said that because she has been a counselor for four years and a social worker for ten, she feels very confident talking to students and people in general. She pointed out to us that the most important aspect of her job is the relationship between her and us, the stu-



Journalism students enjoy their conversation with Mrs. Villalobos.



# Fresno State University in Visalia

By Adolfo Becerra, Uriel Becerra, Julisa Calderon, Prisma Montes, Idaly Figueroa, Jason Figueroa and Zeltzin Rodriguez

**Did you know that Fresno State is in Visalia?** On November 1, 2017, we went to Fresno State University to interview Shirlene Major. It is in Visalia on the campus of COS (College of the Sequoias) it opened in October 2016, but they have been in the valley for over 20 years. We went there to learn about the college, classes that you could take there and how to get a degree. The degrees that you can get there are BA (bachelor's degree) in Liberal Studies (to be a teacher) and BA in Business Administration. You can also finish your credentials

there so that you can become a teacher.

**Who can get into this college?** "Anyone can get into college as long as they have the desire and the will," said Shirlene. The qualification to get into this school is that you have to have a 2.5 GPA to transfer from COS. The students that attend there are between the ages of 17-18 and up. To apply you go to FresnoState.edu. You can also go to the web site to know more about the school and apply for scholarships. There are hundreds of scholarships.

**What are the student's favorite classes?** The student's favorite classes are Psych 169,



Soc Sci 110, Soc Sci 180, and English Lit. The most popular class is Psych 169. The students need 64 units to graduate from the Fresno State Campus. It takes four years to graduate from a University and a total of 120-124 units. The cost of this college is \$5,000-\$6,000 a year. It can be about \$3,000 per semester if you take 12 units. To pay for college you can apply for scholarships. Scholarships are a way to get free money to pay for your college.

**Why go to Fresno State?** It is not in Fresno it is in Visalia which is easier for you to get to. You can save on gas by

going to Visalia. There is a more diverse faculty there: that means there are a lot of different people and classes there to choose from. A lot of people from the valley go to school there. It is convenient because COS is right there next to it.

Shirlene Majors said, "I love the students; they keep me young." She works here because she is from the valley and went to school there. She went to school in Fresno and she wanted to give back to the students. She is now there to inspire students to get their education. Come see Shirlene at Fresno State in Visalia to get your degree!

# From the dental office to the classroom

By Thalia Hernandez

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, I talked to Mrs. Padilla. She was my Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Padilla is a kindergarten teacher at Pixley Elementary School. Roxanne Padilla worked at a dental office for 28 years. She decided to go back to school to become a teacher. Mrs. Padilla attended Fresno Pacific University and got her degree in Early Childhood Development. Then she continued to work on her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She became a teacher because she loves to teach others and enjoys learning.

Mrs. Padilla is a mom of three grown children. She likes chocolate cake and in her free time enjoys reading. Her favorite holiday is Easter because she enjoys attending church with her family. Then she hosts an Easter egg hunt and her family plays games together. She said that her favorite gift has been a pair of cowboy boots. I liked writing a story about my kindergarten teacher and learning more about her.



## WORDS

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dents. One of the coolest things she likes about her job is spending time with us during recess, asking about our day, or if we have any issues with friends. Helping a lot of students, she claims, is the best thing about being a counselor. Of course, an award

she received when she first graduated from college confirms her dedication to helping children. Proudly, Mrs. Villalobos told us about her first job as a therapist when she first graduated from college. Her job was to train staff, and on her second year as a trainer she received an award as The Most Improved Therapist. Then Mrs. Villalobos explained to us how she

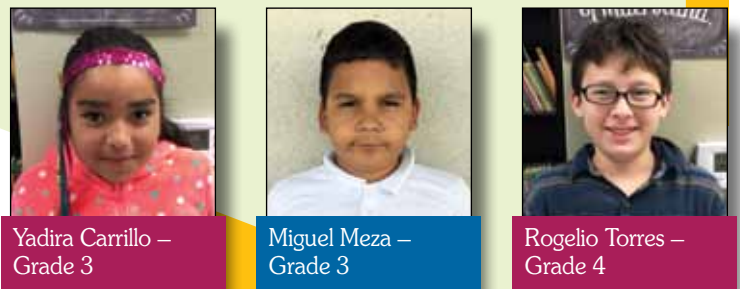
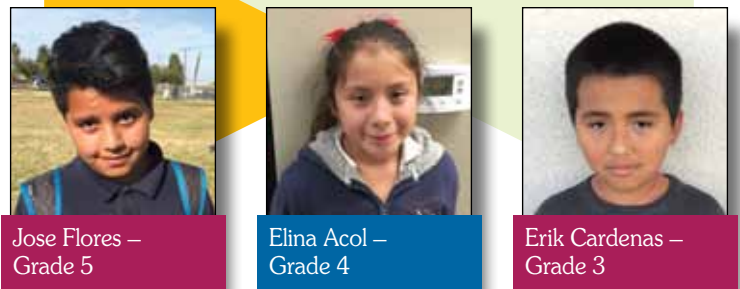
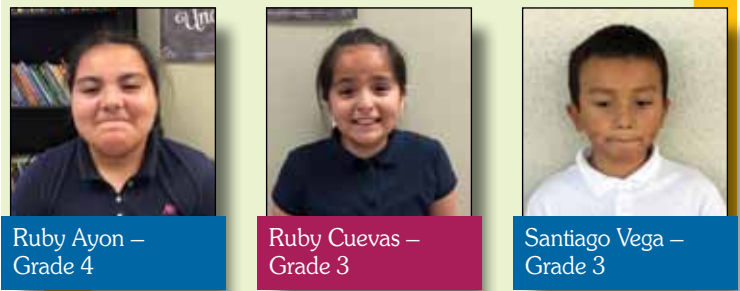
deals with at-risk students. According to her, we are all going through something different in our lives, so her approach would be different depending on each student. If it is a behavior issue, Mrs. Villalobos asks the student questions about what's going on in their life. But if a student is sad, her approach would be different, because she needs to find out what is causing

their sadness. This is why her goal is to do the best she can as a counselor helping students. However, besides being a caring counselor, she also reminded us that part of her goal is taking care of her own children and family because they are just as important to her. She concluded our interview by saying, "My goal is to be the best counselor and mom."

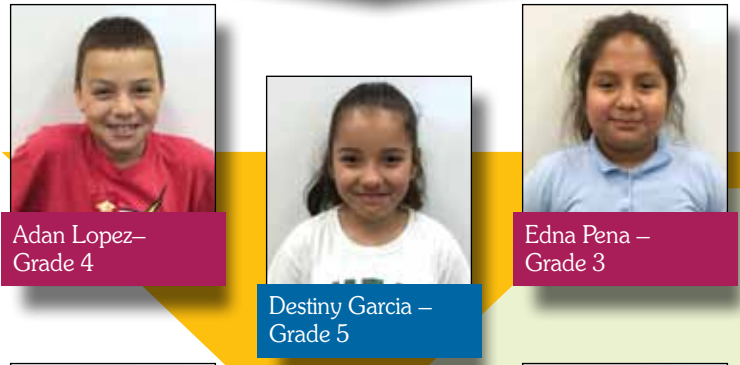


# Meet Our Journalists

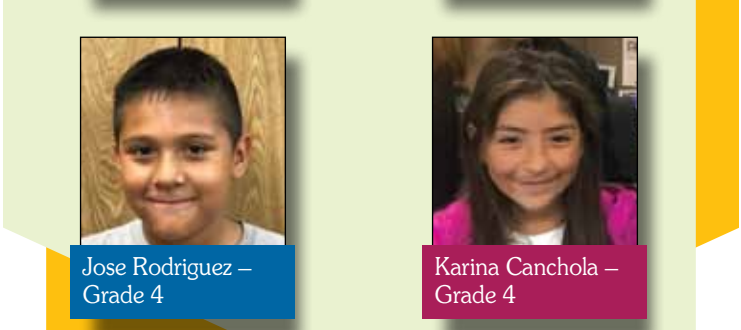
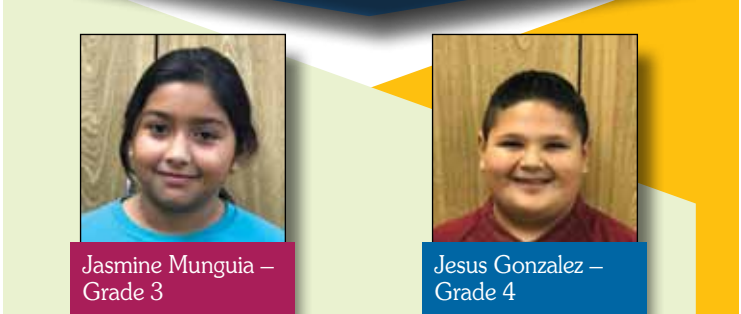
**Earlimart School District**  
**Earlimart Elementary School**  
A hangout with Mr. Patterson  
A trip to Loyola Marymount



**Earlimart School District**  
**Alila School**  
Pharmacist to Professor



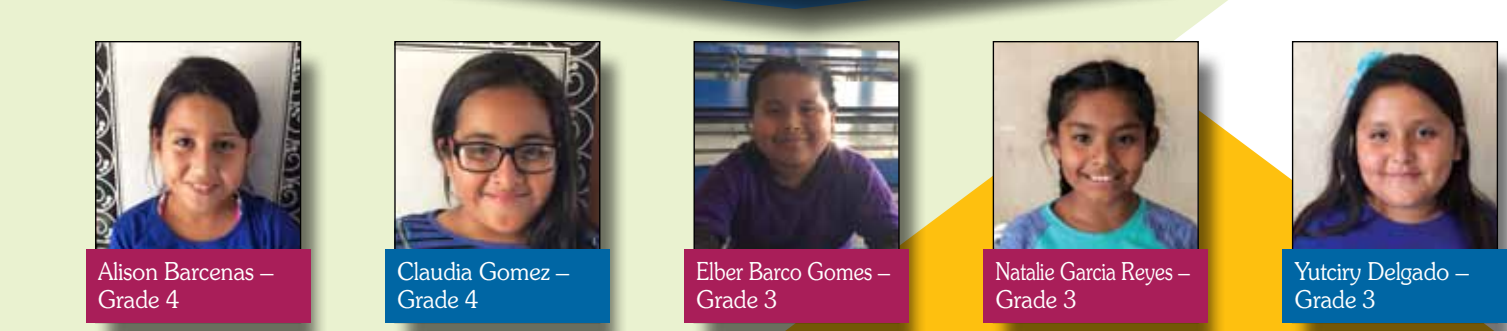
**Palo Verde Union School District**  
Our educational trip to Loyola Marymount University  
Superheroes at Tulare Fire Station #61



**Farmersville Unified School District**  
**Freedom Elementary**  
Discouraging words become inspiring words  
A veteran farmworker  
No one can take your education away  
Thinking out of the box



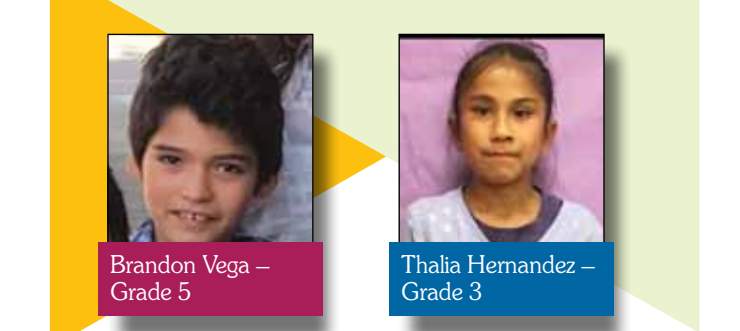
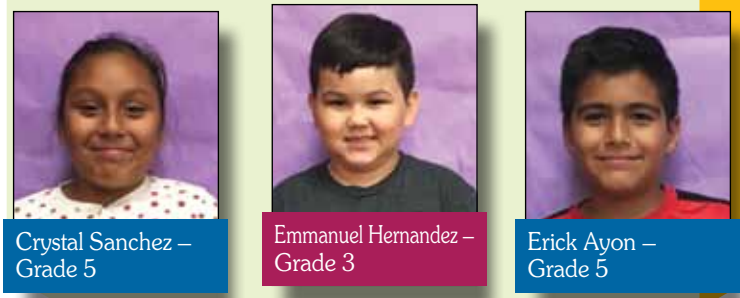
**Waukena Joint Union School District**  
Bitwise: An opportunity for the valley



**Tipton Elementary School District**  
Fresno State University in Visalia



**Pixley Union School District**  
From the dental office to the classroom  
Experiencing a technology hub in the Central Valley



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Our Migrant children thank all of you and appreciate you taking the time to lend a helping hand. As a result of everyone's efforts, we may see these students as future journalists.