



The Green Dragon

By Amanda Ruiz



The Green Dragon is the school's new garden. Mrs. B. Alvarez, the art teacher, is in charge of gardening club. The Home Depot donated materials for the garden. The gardening club spent almost the whole day on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 planting and putting everything they needed. This is why I sat down with Mrs. B. Alvarez for an exclusive interview.

A.R.: Thank you for taking the time with me today to talk about gardening club and the reading garden.

First of all, how long have you been an art teacher at Doral Academy?

B.A.: About 2 years.

A.R.: Was the gardening club your idea or were you asked by someone else to run it?

B.A.: The gardening club was my idea from "The Fairchild Challenge Booklet 2009". Ms. Cuesta thought about the garden and we put our ideas together and we came up with both.

A.R.: How many members does the gardening club have?

B.A.: Exactly 21.

A.R.: If someone was interested in the gardening club who would they contact? What would they do?

B.A.: You would have to speak with me, Ms. B. Alvarez, during September of that school year. I will tell you that you would have to audition. The audition includes writing an ESSAY. I would choose the ESSAYS I think are good enough to make it in the gardening club.

A.R.: I notice when I get here in the morning there are members watering the reading garden.

B.A.: Yes they do water it everyday. Members of the gardening club have specific days to water it. They have a time in the morning when they are on duty. Also the water we use is reused water. In art class when we paint we use water in buckets. I try not to throw them out to use that water for the plants.

B.A.: In the audition I asked them to put a name they would like to use for the garden, a name for the garden.

Ms. Cuesta, Ms. Simon, and I looked through the ESSAYS to see which name is the best. Noelia Del Corral from Ms. Galdamez class chose the reading garden, we all thought it was the best.

A.R.: So the idea of the reading garden was for people to enjoy a book?

B.A.: Yes to read a book, magazine, to sketch, to experiment, maybe even just to enjoy the outdoors.

A.R.: Who donated the materials for the reading garden?

B.A.: Home Depot donated the materials.

A.R.: Who contacted Home Depot?

B.A.: Ms. Cuesta and a Parent In Action (PIA parent).

A.R.: What type of materials did they donate?

B.A.: Plants, soil, aprons, mulch, rakes, shovels, timber, benches, and stepping stones.

A.R.: Did the Home Depot workers help plant?

B.A.: Yes, they helped with the flower beds.

A.R.: How many plants did each gardening club member get to plant?

B.A.: About 2-3 plants.

A.R.: Who helped design the garden?

B.A.: Home Depot, myself, Fairchild Challenge Booklet 2009, administration, Ms. Curbela, PIA parent.

A.R.: Was there a specific theme?

B.A.: Yes, one part of the garden is Native Florida Plants. The other side is a butterfly garden.

A.R.: Did you draw out the idea before you planted?

B.A.: Yes we did we planned it out, we knew where everything was going.

A.R.: Who decided the different color of flowers and plants?

B.A.: Fairchild Challenge Booklet 2009 and Home Depot.

A.R.: Did the gardening club have an option of what plant to pick from?

B.A.: Yes they got to pick from 4 different plants called pentas, hibiscus, and milkweed.



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A.R.: Well I've seen the garden before but for readers that don't know, where exactly is the reading garden located?

B.A.: It is located in front of the lobby in the main entrance.

A.R.: Who came up with the location?

B.A.: Ms.Cuesta had been planning the gardening club and the reading club and everything since last Earth Day (April 22). Since I was chosen to run the gardening club I had to take a special workshop for a few weeks during the summer.

A.R.: When did you start the garden?

B.A.: We started planning on Earth Day (April 22). Construction started late September (Wednesday, September 23).

A.R.: How long did it take to complete the reading garden?

B.A.: Well, we are still adding more and more little by little.

A.R.: Are you satisfied with what you have so far?

B.A.: Yes I am so happy and excited to see them continue to grow more and more every day.

A.R.: What is the gardening club planning on doing next?

B.A.: We are planning to put cubbies on the edge of each windowsill for each class to do a science experiment or something else they would like to do that is educational. Each class should have a schedule with the days and times they are allowed to attend. Each grade will have a cubby.

A.R.: I want to thank you for taking the time with me today to answer these questions about the gardening club and the reading garden. I'm sure the readers will enjoy reading about your club. I would like to congratulate you on a beautiful garden!!!

Is there anything else you would like to say about the gardening club or the reading garden?

B.A.: Hopefully sometime in October I will be able to add a schoolnotes page all about the gardening club. You're very welcome, thank you so much!!!

Stay Green Tip

Don't know what to do with that extra scrap paper left over after you cut something out in class? Don't throw it away! Put it in your classroom's recycling bin!



This tip has been brought to you by the Recycling Club

Doral Academy Raises Money for a Good Cause

Written By: Andrea Jara and Nicole Trino

The United Way is a very helpful program to help people with little money. Our school collects money to help them live their lives. Doral Academy is doing their best to help by donating money to the charity. Spirit week is one way to help United Way. Our school is trying to raise more than two thousand dollars, more than last year. If your parents don't have the time to give you money you could still help, by looking for loose change in your house. Ms.Krome is helping us collect money. We did an interview with her to find out more.

Q: For what cause is the money that we are collecting?

A: To help poor people.

Q: What inspired you to collect money for United Way?

A: I want to help people in need.



Q: How much money do you want to collect?

A: About 2,000 dollars.

Q: Do you think that the donation of the students will be enough money to reach our goal?

A: All the help of the students is enough , we'll sure reach it to our goal.

Q: Do you think the parents will want to donate money too?

A: If the parents can.

Q: Is the program "United Way" national?

A: Yes.



Q: Do you think that the students will learn something from the program?

A: I think that the students will learn how to raise money like we're doing here in the school.

Q: If you were a girl in our school, how much will you give?

A: All that I could to the school.



Teacher's Corner

Special Edition

Written By: Laura Trombini



In this special edition of *Teacher's Corner*, get to know our school's administration!

You all know our principal and assistant principal, Ms. Cuesta and Ms. Simon. But did you know that Ms. Cuesta was an art teacher? Or that Ms. Simon was a reading coach???

Get all the facts of my interview here.

Ms.Cuesta

Q: What is your full name?

A: Eleonora Cuesta

Q: Where are you from?

A: Havana, Cuba

Q: How long have you been principal of our school?

A: about 1 year and 2 months

Q: What is your experience?

A: I was assistant principal of Doral academy middle school for 5 years, and I was also an art teacher.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: I like art, ceramics, and mountain biking and painting

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: It depended every year on my teachers

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Good Night Moon, which I read to my daughter

Q: If you were not principal, what other career could you have chosen?

A: I would have been an architect

Q: If you were a superhero, which one would you be?

A: Elastic woman

Q: Why?

A: Because she was able to be a mom and a hero at the same time

Q: If you could make a change in the world, what would it be?

A: I would stop wars

Q: What was the most rewarding moment of your career?

A: There are many, but they mostly have to do with touching students lives, especially moments you do not expect. I had a student a couple of years ago who was very quiet. About two weeks ago, that student sent me an e-mail saying how much she loved my classes. She must be about twenty-two years old by now.

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

A: Somewhere with my family, helping children grow, and also working with children.

Now, I will do a "think quick" section of the interview. I will say a word, and you will tell me the first thing that comes into you head.

Word: dog A: Lassie (the movie)

Word: sport A: football or soccer

Word: chocolate A: dark

Word: work A: Doral Academy

Word: color A: blue

Word: boss A: Academica

Word: movies A: Pretty Woman

Word: happiness A: healthy family

Word: students A: Doral Academy students

Word: family A: family (when I hear the word *family*, I think about *my* family)

Word: money A: nice to have

Word: television (T.V.) A: do not watch much of it

Ms.Simon

Q: What is your full name?

A: Elizabeth Simon

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born in Miami, my mother is from Costa Rica, and my father is from Cuba

Q: How long have you been assistant principal of our school?

A: I started last year (2008)

Q: What is your experience?

A: I graduated in 1997(Bachelors Elementary education), worked in 3 different schools as a teacher, was a reading coach for 2 ½ years, and I was assistant principal of a different school

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: riding my bike, and going to the pool

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Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: math

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Thank you Mr. Falkner, by Patricia Polako

Q: If you were not assistant principal, what other career could you have chosen?

A: pediatric nurse

Q: If you were a superhero, which one would you be?

A: Super girl

Q: why?

A: I would be able to fly and be strong

Q: If you could make a change in the world, what would it be?

A: to help people who cannot help themselves

Q: What was the most rewarding moment of your career?

A: anytime that I help a child feel confident

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

A: principal at a school

Now, I will do a "think quick" section of the interview. I will say a word, and you will tell me the first thing that comes into you head.

Word: dog A: Astra (my dog)

Word: sport A: volleyball

Word: chocolate A: Godiva

Word: work A: Doral

Word: color A: blue

Word: boss A: Ms. Cuesta

Word: movies A: Tinkerbell

Word: happiness A: my girls

Word: students A: Carlos

Word: family A: sisters

Word: money A: lots

Word: television (T.V.) A: Grey's Anatomy (watched last night)

Check back next issue to get to know another teacher from our school!

Doral Academy Hispanic

Celebration!

Written By: Valeria Ortiz



Doral Academy celebrates the Hispanic Heritage because it's the time to remember and enjoy the Hispanic culture. It is a time for friends and families to share a piece of their traditions, their food and their language. It is also the time for students to be creative and have fun participating in this celebration. It is the time for all of us to keep in mind how important this celebration is, to know who we are and where we come from. Now you think about it do you like Hispanic heritage or not?



Now here is an interview with the Spanish teacher, Ms.Caminos

Reporter: *Why is it important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage?*

Teacher: *I think this celebration is important because it's a way to keep alive the Hispanic culture!*

Reporter: *How do you think students receive this celebration?*

Teacher: *I think they receive it with enthusiasm and joy!*

Reporter: *What is your role for this celebration?*

Teacher: *My role is to organize the celebration and the fair where the students' work is showed!*

Reporter: *Do you think some students forget their culture?*

Teacher: *I think some students do forget their culture and that's why this celebration is important!*

Reporter: *How do you see the reaction of some students about the Spanish language?*

Teacher: *I think that the reaction of students is joy and ready to learn Spanish!*

Reporter: *What recommendations do you give to students about this celebration?*

Teacher: *I recommend participation, support, and sharing cultures with others!*

Reporter: *Do you think students appreciate your work?*

Teacher: *I think they do due to the enthusiasm and participation they showed!*



Thanks for reading this article!





THE TRICK OR TREAT THIEF

By
Sean Marcelin

It had been the best Halloween ever! I was dressed as a magician and went trick-or-treating for hours with my best friends. Then me and my three friends, Jose, Mario, and Christopher, went to my house for my Halloween party. We walked inside and went to pour out our candy and see what we got. We all sat in a row. Jose went first, then Mario. When it was my turn to see what my candy was, I poured out what was in my jack-o-lantern basket, but the only things that came out were rocks!

"Nobody is leaving until you guys tell me who took my candy and replaced it with rocks!"

Right when I said that, Jose spoke up. He said "What makes you think that it was one of us?"

I replied to that question without even thinking, "Uh, apparently you were all with me the whole time when it happened!" I said.

"Well, if you think it was one of us, then you're crazy." Mario said.

"Mario's right. I mean, like we're your best friends. We would never do that." Christopher said.

"EVERYBODY LINE UP!" I screamed at the top of my lungs.

They all did so. Jose was wearing a Goth costume with a black basket with white fabric on it. Christopher was dressed like a soldier, holding his candy container shaped like a jack-o-lantern. Mario was wearing a zombie costume and carrying a black silk bag.

Everyone looked innocent, but it HAD to be one of them. They were with me the whole time. We didn't hang out with anybody else. WHY would anybody want my candy? I don't think Jose did it because that would be too harsh for a nice guy like him to do. It couldn't have been Mario because he had less candy in his bag than I did. If he stole it, he would have more. It could have been Christopher, but I didn't have any proof.

How did someone steal all the candy in my bag and replace it with rocks, without me feeling a thing? I had my basket in my hand the whole time! Actually, I did put the basket down at one point to pick up my top hat when it fell. Maybe that's when they did it. I looked again at my three friends with a curious glance.

Wait a minute! Christopher had the same bag as me! Maybe he did it! "Christopher, I want to talk to you in private" I said.

"O.K, sure," he said.

"You're the one taking my candy!" I said loud enough so everyone could hear.

"What? You're crazy!" he said.

"After trick-or-treating at Mrs. Willaker's house, you knocked off my hat to distract me as you switched your basket with mine. We have the same jack-o-lantern baskets. You switched your basket filled with rocks, and you took mine that was filled with candy. That's the only way someone could have done it," I said.

"Prove it," Christopher said.

"I can prove it. Mrs. Willaker is the only house in my neighborhood that gives away 'Twix' bars, and I got the last one. None of you got one. I bet if I searched through your bag, I would find the 'Twix' bar," I said.

I walked toward his bag and I searched through it...I found the 'Twix.' I showed it to everybody there. "Christopher, get out of here!" I said as I led him out the door. I grabbed my bag and swore to never again go trick-or-treating with that trick-or-treat thief.

Trick or Treat Ghost & Goblins

Here are some safety tips for a safe HALLOWEEN

Written By: Tomas Echeverria



- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries after dark.
- Take along money for a phone call in case of an emergency.
- Wear identification that's easy to read.
- Always trick or treat in groups, accompanied by an adult.
- Only visit well lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.
- Don't enter any houses unless you know the people.
- Carry a spare Halloween bag -- in case yours breaks or you fill your original one.
- Don't approach unfamiliar pets and animals.
- Don't cut across yards and stay out of back yards
- Never accept rides from strangers.
- Respect other people and their property.
- Be polite and say "thank you."
- Do not eat candy that has loose wrappings, is unwrapped, has puncture holes, or is homemade.





The Dragon Funnies



Written and Illustrated by Nicole Trino



Written and Illustrated by Valeria Ortiz

Did You Know?!

Written By Lily Marcelin

- Did you know that a cat has 32 muscles in each ear?
- An iguana can stay underwater for 28 minutes!
- Can you believe giraffes have 21 inch long tongues?
- Did you know that a shrimp's heart is in its head?
- A hippo can open its mouth 4 feet wide!
- A humming bird weighs less than a penny!
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes!
- Can you believe a hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute? Wow!
- A mole can dig a 300 foot hole in just one night!
- I never knew there were so many cool facts about animals!

Word Search

E V D S P H S L N W H O L R F Z
 S C H R U G G A T X V K N P E Q
 S K F L R F X G O I V U E K N E
 T P H T G A Y D P L M L R F C X
 A L D E S A N U D H E C H P H O
 O P P C Z S O N S N A U G S R Y
 H T T K L D T G P O A F N I Y L
 S E F H N U N Z R G R H O G J T
 S E E G J I R N G I I Y S C N U N
 R G A D K Q G C R R E B C K E E
 C O S G G G U H S L V N O T J C
 O G M W I D H E T A E R N N V S
 S B M L O E S S E S O R T R R A
 V I Y R D R A G O N S T N O B L
 R I K O O C D D S V S F C O A O
 N L E H S E X S T T F A K T L H

castles, dragons, knights, swords, horses, kings, queens



Meet Our Star Reporters

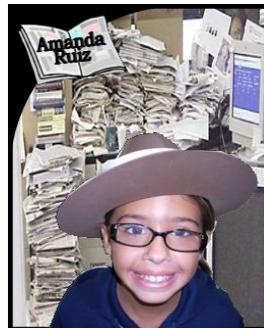
I have decided to be in the newspaper club because when I was a little boy my dad used to read to me a fairy tale every night. I was amused by them and they persuaded me to do many things, but the one that amused me the most was "The King of the Ball". Michael Jordan was my hero. I always wanted to be a basketball player. It was a great game that made me feel special. Ever since, I wanted to persuade other people so they will think the person who wrote it is a hero.



Hi I'm Valeria and I love to write. One of the things that inspired me to become a writer was that we should share our ideas with many different people. Also I think that this is a great experience for a student like me that is very creative. Writing is great!



I wanted to be a part of the newspaper club because when I write I feel like I am somewhere else faraway. I hope you feel the same way I do, when you read my writing. Each and every time I write, it's like going back in time and watching it all happen again. When I write it's like painting a picture except in words. My colors are like the words that make my master piece better. The details is the magical touch that make it spectacular. That is why I, Nicole Trino, wanted to be a part of the newspaper club.



I decided to be in newspaper club because I think it would be great to write to the whole school. It would be a magnificent thing to be a reporter or maybe even a journalist when I grow up. This would help me to become a journalist or reporter when I grow up.



I'm Lily Marcelin. I would love to be a reporter when I grow up so I joined the *Dragon's Tale*. I thought it would be really fun to be a part of the newspaper. One other reason I love to be in the *Dragon's Tale* is because my whole family thinks I'm a really good writer. I also love to write.



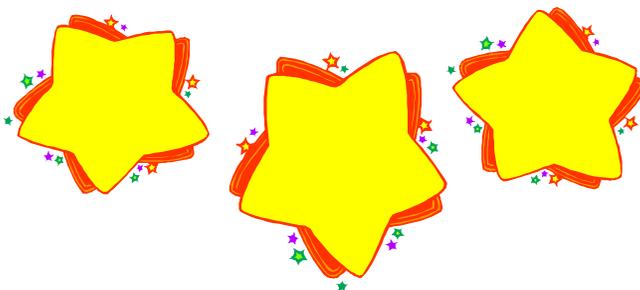
I decided to be in the *Dragon's Tale* newspaper club because a famous writer named R.L. Stine inspired me to become a famous writer like him someday at this age, and because I love to report for people through the paper so that other people like me, learn about the teachers, and the students that go to this school today.



Hi, my name is Laura Trombini, and I wanted to be a writer for *The Dragon's Tale* because that's what I want to do when I grow up. I would like to be a reporter, and the school newspaper is a good start. And the best part is, the whole school can read what I write.



I wanted to be a part of the newspaper club because I want to have more experience being a reporter when I grow up. I want to tell you about the places where I go as a reporter.



See you next issue!