

March 12, 2024

Travell eNews



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**** Grab Your Snack Bar Tickets ****
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by March 20****
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IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday March 25 - Monday, April 1: Spring Recess
*****Students Return Tuesday, April 2*****

Wednesday, April 10: No School, Eid-Al-Fitr



Thank
you

To everyone who helped make this year's Auction a tremendous success, we thank you on behalf of the students who will greatly benefit from continued enrichment programming and events!!

Thank you to our hardworking volunteers!!

Thank you to all who donated amazing items!!

And thank you to the guests who made the evening fun and exciting!

See you again in 2026!!!!



**COME JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING DIVERSE
CULTURES!**



**INTERNATIONAL
EXPO**

FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

**6PM PARADE OF NATIONS & LIVE
PERFORMANCES
7PM INTERNATIONAL SNACK BAR**

ADVOCATING, PROMOTING AND CELEBRATING DIVERSE CULTURES

TRAVELL.INTL.EXPO@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL SNACK BAR

WHAT IS IT?

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAMPLE DISHES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

WHEN AND WHERE IS IT?

RIGHT AFTER THE EXPO LIVE PERFORMANCES IN THE TIGER'S DEN (CAFETERIA)

WHAT KINDS OF FOOD WILL BE SOLD?

BAKED GOODS, RICE AND NOODLE DISHES, DESSERTS, ETC.!

HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

USE THE QR CODE BELOW OR
[HTTPS://INTERNATIONAL-EXPO-SNACK-BAR.CHEDDARUP.COM](https://international-expo-snack-bar.cheddarup.com)



HOW MANY TICKETS CAN I BUY?

20 MAX PER FAMILY VIA ONLINE. ADDITIONAL TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR ON MARCH 15TH!

WHERE DO I PICK UP MY TICKETS ONCE I ORDER THEM ONLINE?

MARCH 14TH 5-6PM TRAVELL LOBBY (OUTSIDE THE GYM)
MARCH 15TH 5-6PM TRAVELL LOBBY



Travell School
welcomes
Award Winning Author/Illustrator
John Parra



April 5, 2024

We are excited to announce that John Parra will visit with all K-2 students at Travell School on Friday, April 5, 2024. A resident of Queens, New York, he is an award-winning illustrator, fine artist, designer, author, and educator best known for his Latino themed children's picture books.

For his work, he has received many awards and accolades including Three American Library Association's Pura Belpré Honors. He has taught art at the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard, CA and regularly speaks as a visiting artist at schools and literary conferences across the country, advocating art and reading education.

John's artistic path began when he was growing up in Southern California, where he spent his days exploring and drawing. His Hispanic roots and heritage provided a rich cultural palette of inspiring imagery and customs. Mexican art and murals, folk art, science and nature, landscape designs, pop art, music, family characters and memories are all visual influences seen in his work.

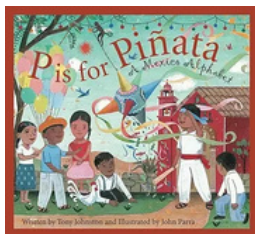
During school visits, he enjoys answering students' questions and making them laugh. For more information about the illustrator, his books and blog, visit www.johnparraart.com.

Author visits are a wonderful opportunity for young readers, writers, and artists to meet the creators of the books they read. Consider extending this learning experience through the purchase of an autographed book. (A percentage of the sales will benefit our school!)

This visit is made possible due to the generous support of the Travell HSA...many thanks!!

Book Orders are due Wednesday, March 20th

Order online at: <https://register.communitypass.net/ridgewood>



P is for Piñata: A Mexican Alphabet

Hardcover \$19

The country of Mexico has long been a popular travel destination. But there's much more to enjoy and appreciate than just sunshine and warm temperatures when exploring this region with its ancient history and proud traditions. Enjoy an A-Z tour of our neighbor to the south in P is for Piñata: A Mexico Alphabet. Young readers can visit the tomb of a Mayan king, experience the life of the vaquero (Mexican cowboy), attend the world-famous Ballet Folklórico de México, and sample the everyday treat that was once known as the "food of the gods." From folk art to famous people to the original "hot dog," the treasures of Mexico are revealed in P is for Piñata. Vibrant artwork perfectly captures the flavor, texture, and spirit of its landscape and culture.



Waiting for the Biblioburro

Hardcover \$19

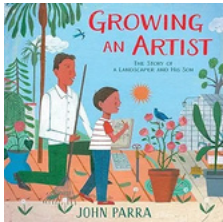
Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros—all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own. Inspired by the heroic efforts of real-life librarian Luis Soriano, award-winning picture book creators Monica Brown and John Parra introduce readers to the mobile library that journeys over mountains and through valleys to bring literacy and culture to rural Colombia, and to the children who wait for the BiblioBurro.



Little LIBRARIES, Big HEROES

Hardcover \$18

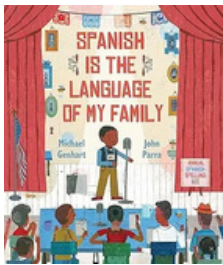
Todd and his friends love heroes. But in school, Todd doesn't feel heroic. Reading is hard for him, and he gets scolded for asking too many questions. How will he ever become the kind of hero he admires? Featuring stunning illustrations that celebrate the diversity of the Little Free Library movement, here is the story of how its founder, Todd Bol, became a literacy superhero. Thanks to Todd and thousands of volunteers—many of whom are kids—millions of books have been enjoyed around the world.



Growing an Artist: The Story of a Landscaper and His Son

Hardcover \$19

Today is a big day—the first time Juanito gets to help his papi on the job as a landscape architect! Throughout the day, Juanito sketches anything that catches his eye: a nest full of baby birds, a nursery with row upon row of plants and flowers, and more. Father and son travel from house to house, pruning, weeding, mowing, and turning overgrown and chaotic yards into beautiful spaces. A few of the clients don't appreciate Papi's hard work, like Juanito's classmate who pretends not to see him. But Papi always feels pride in owning his own business and in a job well done. And at the end of the day, Juanito may get the chance to turn his artistic eye toward landscape design—just like his papi.



Spanish is the Language of My Family

Hardcover \$19

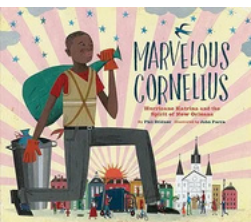
As a boy prepares for his school's Spanish spelling bee, he asks his grandmother for help with some of the words he doesn't know how to spell yet. When she studies with him, she tells him how different things were back when she was a girl, when she was only allowed to speak English in school. This only inspires him to study even harder and make his family proud. Based on stories author Michael Genhart heard from his mother as a child, *Spanish is the Language of My Family* is about the joy of sharing cultural heritage with our families, inspired by the generations of Latino people who were punished for speaking Spanish and the many ways new generations are rejuvenating the language.



Gracias /Thanks

Hardcover \$20

There are so many things to be thankful for. For one young boy, it's flying ladybugs, splashing ocean waves, a best friend, Dad's thick chocolate syrup, and much more. Straight from the heart of a child flows this lighthearted bilingual celebration of family, friendship, and fun. Come share the joy, and think about all the things for which you can say, "¡Gracias!Thanks!"



Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans

Hardcover \$17

In New Orleans, there lived a man who saw the streets as his calling, and he swept them clean. He danced up one avenue and down another and everyone danced along. The old ladies whistled and whirled. The old men hooted and hollered. The barbers, bead twirlers, and beignet bakers bounded behind that one-man parade. But then came the rising Mississippi—and a storm greater than anyone had seen before. In this heartwarming book about a real garbage man, Phil Bildner and John Parra tell the inspiring story of a humble man and the heroic difference he made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Questions? Contact Christina Morbelli at christinamorbelli@hotmail.com or 602.466.8697



Join us Wednesday, March 20th at 8:00pm for our next Virtual Coffee Chat, which, as always, will include an open Q&A and opportunity to discuss all things special education with other parents.

Save the date for our fourth Information Meeting of the school year on Thursday, April 11th at 9:30am at the Education Center.

At this meeting, the SEPAG membership will vote on a proposed slate of Executive Board members for the 2024-25 school year. Stay tuned for more information next month about the slate and the presentation topic for the meeting.

FAQ

for Ridgewood SEPAG Sensory-Friendly Dinners



What is a Ridgewood SEPAG sensory-friendly dinner?

A sensory-friendly dinner is a time for families and friends to eat out at a local restaurant. Consider this your typical dining experience, except that special care has been taken to provide a lower-sensory atmosphere, such as turning down or off overhead music, as well as a judgment-free experience, including dining with families who have similar support needs and being served by staff who are prepared ahead of time on the general needs of our community. Food and checks are expedited, and our Ridgewood STEPSS students (ages 18-21 years) often provide activities to keep kids entertained during brief waiting periods. Although we can't guarantee 100% satisfaction, we do hope these thoughtful adjustments help you have a great experience out with your loved ones.



Why is the Ridgewood SEPAG doing this for our community?

The Ridgewood SEPAG, in conjunction with Ridgewood Village Council and support from Access Ridgewood members, are providing this much needed service because we all need to feel seen and included. Many families never take what they see as a risk to eat out, either because they worry about their child's unpredictable behavior at a restaurant or because they've tried in the past but had a negative experience for any number of reasons. Our goal is for you to release yourself and your family of the pressure, help you access a delicious meal at a local restaurant, and be exactly who you are: a valued member of our diverse and powerful community.



If my child is struggling (e.g., not staying in their seat/at the table, not keeping noise levels down), do I need to leave?

You may of course pick up your check and excuse yourself anytime. However, we hope that you trust you're in a safe space among families who understand the difference between disrespect and impulses.



Do I need to make a reservation with the restaurant to attend?

No. However, you should reserve a spot on the Ridgewood SEPAG Eventbrite for the particular dinner so that the restaurant can anticipate how many families to expect throughout our designated window. Once the event has been arranged by the Ridgewood SEPAG with the restaurant, we will distribute a flyer that includes the restaurant name and address, timeframe, and a link/QR code to the Eventbrite reservation site.



How much do I pay?

There is no fee to RSVP for the event, and pPayment is made at the end of your meal in a typical restaurant-patron transaction. You simply pay for what you eat!



Is there a way to stay informed about upcoming sensory-friendly dinners?

The Ridgewood SEPAG's goal is to host one sensory-friendly dinner per month during the school year, and perhaps during the summer as well. All families on the Ridgewood SEPAG email list (i.e., families whose Ridgewood students receive services under an IEP or 504 Plan) will receive notifications about the dinners through emails and the Ridgewood SEPAG monthly newsletter. Others may "follow" the Ridgewood SEPAG on Eventbrite, to be alerted about upcoming dinners.



Where can I submit feedback?

We are eager to hear all feedback that families have about our sensory-friendly dinners. If your family's needs were not adequately met by the set-up of the event, we would love to hear from you so we can make our future dinners more accommodating for your family and others. Also, if there were aspects of the event that worked well for your family, we'd like to hear about that, too, so we can continue those accommodations. Any and all thoughts are welcome and can be shared by emailing us at contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org.



Ridgewood SEPAG

Formerly the Learning Services Home & School Association

www.RidgewoodSEPAG.org • contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org

Updated January 2024

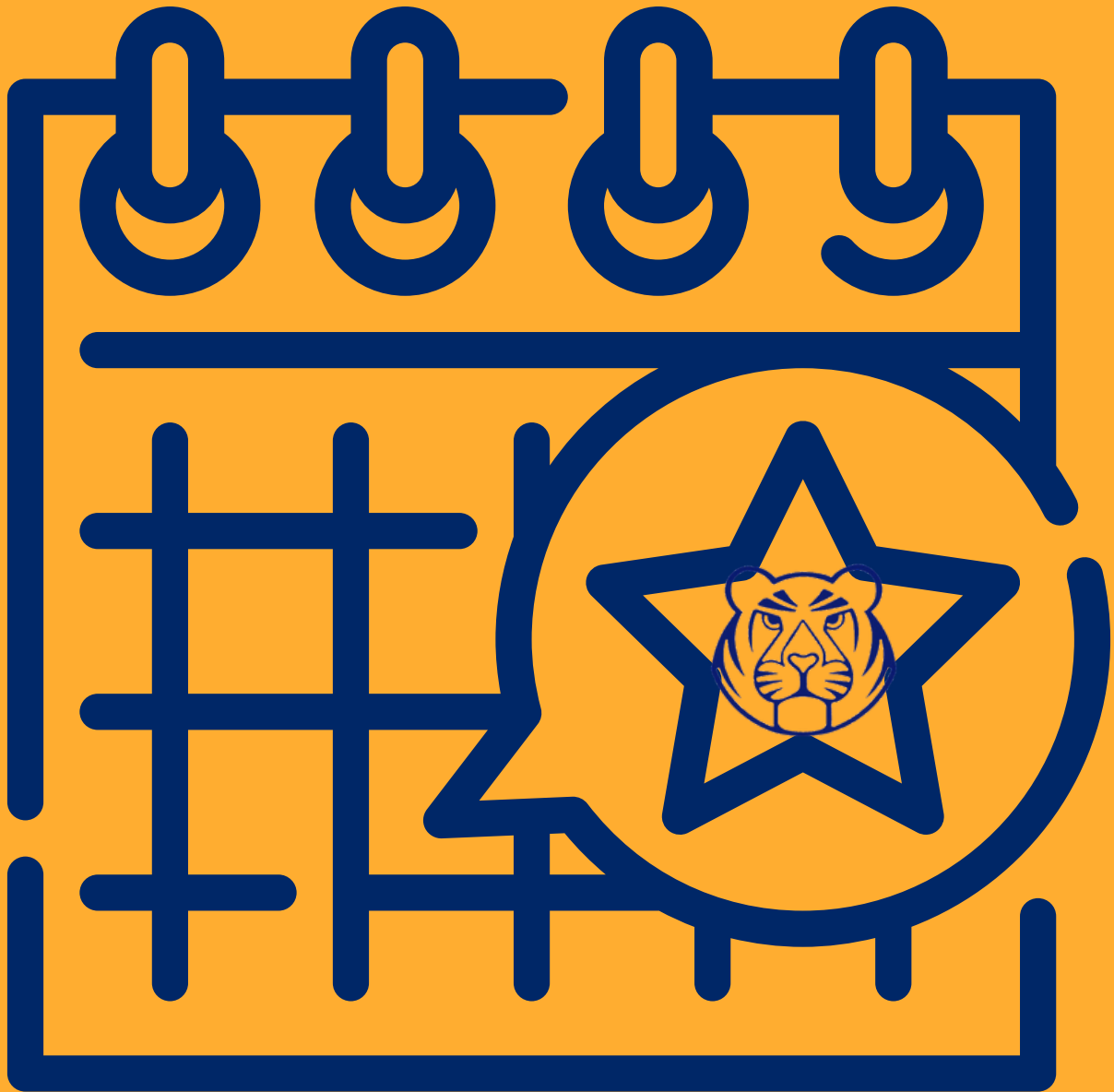
yearbook

**SUBMIT PHOTOS
FOR THE 2023-2024
YEARBOOK!**

*First Day of School, Back to School BBQ...
let's make memories!*

Travellyearbookphotos@gmail.com





Be sure to check the GroupSpot calendar feed for important dates such as General HSA meetings, no-school-days, deadlines, etc.