Monroe K-8 School

2nd Grade
   Daniel K. Ethridge
   Michael Martin
   Alejandro Rodarte

3rd Grade
   Christopher Caban
   Andrew Edwards
   Ashly Kloiber
   Crystal Torres

4th Grade
   Kayla Correa
   Victoria Russell
   Diana Saengdara
   Travis Tinklenberg

5th Grade
   Miranda L. Harvey
   Hannah Kyer
   Meagan Royce-Manning
   Alexandria Richardson
   Diana Sun

6th Grade
   Morgan Ashley Caban
   Megan Lopez
   Amber McLaughlin
7th Grade
Tracee Medina
Christina Nguyen
Jessica Sanchez
Rebecca Watkins
Aubray Zell

8th Grade
Shoshanna Payne
Melissa Prowant
Kerrin Stephan
Amanda Thyden
Don't you love that Lakewood is turning fifty? The safety here is wonderful. They have fire departments because if a house burns down, they come and save you. Here in Lakewood they have L.A. Sheriff's department. They're here to keep you safe from burglars, criminals, you name it, the sheriff's get them all. Plus in Lakewood they have homes fit for a king, in fact I even saw a house that looked like a castle. The parks are clean but the houses are cleaner. Boy, oh boy! If you like to shop, well this is the place for you-- the Lakewood Mall. All children who are listening try and stay home because the moms will shop, shop, shop until they will not stop. The libraries are fantastic. In the summer I bet I read a thousand million books from that place! The schools are safe, fun and the teachers are great. Out teacher at Monroe is Mrs. Reynolds. I think she is the best. I wish Lakewood a very happy birthday.

Happy Birthday Lakewood!
I like Lakewood because it has an Edwards Cinema and it has a shopping center. It has a Lakewood Mall with aJC Penny and a Mervyns. Lakewood has lots of schools. Lakewood has a fire department. Lakewood has a police station to keep us safe. The Lakewood Center has a Walmart, Ross, K.B. Toys, Lowes, Petsmart, In and Out, 3 Day Blinds, and a party supply store. Lakewood has a golf course. It has a lot of libraries. Lakewood has safe sidewalks and clean streets. Lakewood has lots of nice homes. It has a neat city hall next to my house. My house has new floors because Lakewood helped us do it and my mom’s brother did it. Every mall that Lakewood has is part of my life because that is the city I live in. The clothes that I wear are ones from Lakewood. My brother and sister live in Lakewood. I have my mom and dad that bought the house I live in, down the street because Lakewood is where I live. Lakewood is opening new stores and restaurants. My school is in Lakewood that’s why I am writing about Lakewood. It is fun because my grandma and grandpa might live across the street from my school. They might buy it in Lakewood.
What I like about Lakewood
Let me tell you about schools in Lakewood. Lakewood has a lot of great schools. I go to a school in Lakewood. It is called James Monroe Elem. I have a lot of friends there. The teachers make learning fun. I appreciate what custodians do at schools.

Now I'm going to tell you about the beauty. There are beautiful homes. Lakewood has pretty flowers, trees, and
the grass. Lakewood has clean streets. Lakewood is very clean. Cars and cars are shiny, clean too. The things they sell in stores are so pretty. The buildings are washed up. There are so many pretty things I want to take them all.

Now I'm going to tell you about safety. Firefighters save people from houses that are burning down. Hospitals are helpful for people that have heart attacks. Sheriffs help if
Someone tries to hurt you, you need to call 911 if you're in danger.

Come down to see what I mean. Lakewood is a great place to live.

Happy 50th Anniversary Lakewood!

Alejandro Rodarte
Monroe Elem.
Room 9
Grade 2
What I Like About Lakewood

I like Lakewood because it’s so well protected. I see police officers patrolling the neighborhoods all the time. When my sister and I are out taking my dog, Sammy, on a walk, I see signs that say “neighborhood watch”, which makes me feel safe. For example, when I was in first grade we had a lockdown because some bad guy came near the school, so we had to close the school while all the kids were in the school! There were helicopters and police officers all over the school. It was interesting but still kind of boring because we had to stay in the classrooms.

I also like Lakewood because it’s so clean. I think the reason for that is we have so many associations that help take care of the city. The Arbor Day presentations help teach kids how trees help clean the air in our city. We also have the Water Poster contest, which teaches us to not pollute the ocean or streams that lead to the ocean. I also like how all my neighbors keep their yards clean.

I’m part of a Lakewood Cub Scout pack. There’s a part of Cub Scouts that makes a scout complete and that’s neighborhood work, like picking up litter and cans and other trashy stuff. Our pack is trying to help the environment by recycling cans, bottle, and other things. A rule of Cub Scouts is to never pollute!

In my story I talked about how great Lakewood is. I’ve lived in Lakewood my whole life and I’ve learned many things in Lakewood. Lakewood is a very special place to live in and I think I’m lucky that I do. So, Happy 50th Birthday, Lakewood!
My Top Ten Reasons to Live in Lakewood

My first favorite thing about Lakewood is the parks. I like parks because there are lots of kids, fun games and crafts. My favorite park is San Martin because it's the closest one to my house and I can go there all by myself.

My second favorite thing about Lakewood is the schools because all my friends are there. You can learn new things each and everyday at school. The school library is a good place to check out books.

My third favorite thing about Lakewood is the sheriff department. The officers are brave, they are very strong and they make our lives safe. If there is every any trouble you can call on the sheriff.

My fourth favorite thing about Lakewood is the firefighters because they save us from flaming buildings. They are very strong and courageous. They keep us away from fires.

My fifth favorite about Lakewood is my teacher. My teacher this year is smart and funny and she has a lot of experience teaching school. She has taught many great things this year.

My sixth favorite thing about Lakewood is the swimming pools. When it is hot, it is fun to go swimming. It is fun to play in the water. And you can swim if you just want to have fun. There are always three or four lifeguards on duty to make sure that nobody gets hurt.

My seventh favorite thing about Lakewood is the shopping mall. I like malls because you can have fun there. You can look in stores and play in the arcade. There are a lot of people, decorations and music. The mall is always very exciting.

My eighth favorite thing about Lakewood is the stores. You can look in stores at the cool things. My three favorite stores are Sam Goody, Foot Locker and Foot Action.

My ninth favorite thing about Lakewood is the restaurants. You can choose from about 126 restaurants in Lakewood. It is fun eat at a
restaurants and talk to each other. And relax. My top three favorites are Boston Market, Sbaro's, and Fuddruckers.

My tenth favorite thing about Lakewood is all of the birds because they are very pretty and they sing a lot. And they are cool because they can fly. I wish I could fly. Even the birds like to live in Lakewood.

My eleventh favorite thing about Lakewood is the trees – they give shade, they give supplies like pencils and paper and they are nice to look at.

That's eleven things I like about Lakewood. But I could think of a thousand more. And there's no place else I'd rather live.
The Firemen of Lakewood

By Ashly Kloeber

Have you ever sat down and thought about how lucky we are to be protected by our firemen?

I mean these wonderful firemen are saving people everyday. Think about it like this they are taking a risk of losing their lives for us. Would you do that for someone else? I probably wouldn't. Plus when you have a problem all you have to do is dial 911 and they will be there in less than 5 minutes. Then a little while latter it's before you know it and your safe and sound with the rest of your family again. After that I think you should at least take a little while to thank them. Because first it takes them a long time to graduate fire school. Then they to take a big test to see if they can become a fireman. After that they have to leave their families for us. So at least once a week you should find the time to
Ashly Kloiber

thank them or even you could just pray for them to be safe. Don't you? So again just take the time maybe to thank them for saving you. So here is an example to just say like dear god thank you for sending the firemen to help all the people amen. I think they would really appreciate it.

I

[Heart]

Fireman
Dear Mayor,

I am writing you this letter to tell you about a person I admire very much in the city of Lakewood. Her name is Ms. Bulls. She is my 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Bulls is a wonderful person because she has taught me so many things I had trouble learning. For example, my reading level was below average when I first started 3rd grade and now my reading level has gone up. Ms. Bulls has so much patience. She takes time to explain things so that we understand what we are to do. The other subject that I had fun learning was math. Ms. Bulls makes each and every subject fun. Like our recent project was using fractions. I had lots of fun doing my fish tank, especially because my mother came to my class and helped me. But the most challenging to me was multiplication. But like I said, Ms. Bulls always has these wonderful ideas. She told us that when we know and pass all our multiplication tables we would make our own real ice cream sundaes. When I got home I was so excited I told my mom and dad, and we practiced every night and I finally passed. I'm so proud of myself. But I especially admire Ms. Bulls for being a good teacher to me and to all of my classmates. Thanks to Ms. Bulls I feel more confident to go to 4th grade. I will always admire Ms. Bulls.

Sincerely yours,

Crystal Torres
What I Like About Lakewood

Do you live in Lakewood? Do you know what Lakewood is like? This essay will tell you lots of things about Lakewood. When you read this, it will make you feel like you want to live in Lakewood.

Lakewood has lots of nature, mostly at all of its parks. Sometimes I see squirrels, maybe even possums. There are also plants, trees, or flowers. Nature is a wonderful part of Lakewood.

I also like the mall. It is fun to shop there. I like to shop for clothes. Sometimes I just look around with my mom. We sometimes stop and eat lunch there.

I like the schools there too. They are very secure. All Lakewood schools have uniforms. The schools are lots of fun. The schools are very clean, like Monroe.

I hope that you feel like you want to live in Lakewood. It is a nice, quiet, friendly town. There are many kinds of things to see and do. If you can't live here, please come and visit us.
May 9, 2003

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I'm a fourth grade student at Monroe K-8 in Lakewood. I am so happy to her that Lakewood is having its 50th anniversary. The person who is outstanding to me is my mom.

I choose my mom because she take all her time to get us ready for school. My mom takes all her time to pick us up from school and helps me with my homework. I really admire her because she is the best mom is the world to do all that for us.

Sincerely,

Victoria Russell
Dear Mr. Mayor,

I’m a fourth grade student at Monroe K-8 in Lakewood. My teacher is Mrs. Quinby. I am ten years old. I am happy that Lakewood is celebrating its 50th anniversary. I think that Mrs. Bowers, a teacher at Monroe K-8 is very special. Let me tell you why.

She might live in Lakewood. She has brown eyes. She probably has white hair. She is getting old. She’s pretty because she puts on brilliant makeup. Her lips are red, her skin is smooth. I admire her because when I was in first grade, she would always treat me like a wonderful and kind person. She would help me with reading and in math. Every time I had a fight, she would give me a chance. That’s what I liked about her. Every time in class, she would always tell me to do things like help her out, and she would have a smile on her face. She is kind, brilliant, and gentle. When you look in her eyes, you feel like you want to run up to her and hug her.

I will always remember her because I can’t forget about the good hugs she gave me. I can’t forget the time we spent together, how she taught me how to do math and spelling, and the smile she gave me.

Sincerely,

Diana Saengdara
Lakewood Community Member:  
**Mr. Larry Goemaat**  
By: Travis Tinklenberg  
4th Grade, Monroe Elementary

A person that I think has done a lot for our community is Mr. Larry Goemaat. He lives right here in Lakewood and has a real heart for people young and old.

Larry Goemaat has lived here in Lakewood for 37 years. He has been married to his wife Arlene for 38 years and has 3 kids. He is a strong Christian and attends Bellflower Brethren Church.

Larry has done a lot for his community. He was the coach for football, baseball and basketball at Mayfair Park in Lakewood for 15 years. He helps out at the Long Beach Rescue Mission by collecting food for the people that are in need. He visits the sick in many different hospitals and rest homes. Larry volunteers to help many people in need. Along with these things, he is a Sunday school teacher and a youth leader at church.

I admire Larry Goemaat because of all the work that he has done and the example that he shows me. He continues giving to the community and all the people around him, not because he has to, but because he loves helping others and serving the Lord.

Larry Goemaat is a man with a heart for the Lord and the people around him. He not only serves the City of Lakewood but also the cities around it. The Lakewood community is a better place to live because of Larry Goemaat and the work he has done.
Miranda Harvey
Monroe School
Mr. Kong
Grade 5
Room 13
50th Anniversary

I have not lived in Lakewood for a long time, but when I got here, I thought, “Wow, am I in heaven or what?” Everybody was so nice and caring.

At my old city they really didn’t care for anybody but themselves. There was a lot of trash around, and people eventually started picking it up. Although some just said, “It’s not my trash. Why should I pick it up?”

In Lakewood that is a way different story. Lots of people are willing to pick up trash. For instance, our schools in Lakewood are always helping this community to be a better place, and it is.

When my dad and I first moved here, we were going to meet all those in our new neighborhood. Right when we were about to leave, all of our neighbors were coming to meet us and make us feel welcomed.

I appreciate this city so much that I want to live here all of my life, so that I can be a part of this perfect, wonderful city. I think what you can have better in your city is nothing. It’s already the best.

Happy 50th anniversary!
Hannah Kycr  
Grade 5  
James Monroe School  

Why I Love Lakewood

Living in Lakewood is a dream come true! The city has a great atmosphere, wonderful schools, and dependable people. In the following essay, I will tell you why Lakewood is such a wonderful place to live.

Look around you! Clean parks, children playing sports, and great places to eat and shop. The city does not have any graffiti like other places. There is hardly any crime in the city of Lakewood. The atmosphere is amazing!

The educational opportunities are great. The children go to school and come back home grinning from ear to ear. Our teachers are very intelligent. I know that our learning excels because I have experienced it (I have gone from making mostly B’s to a straight A student in one year!). I am never bored; we always do activities to make learning even more fun!

Have you ever noticed that the people in Lakewood are very considerate? They are always there to lend a helping hand.
Neighbors are kind to each other and I feel safe. Most of my friends live in Lakewood and love it!

As you can see Lakewood is a great place to live and work. The atmosphere, the schools, and the people are a few of the great qualities that you will find in Lakewood.
My Home in Lakewood

You know what I love? Clothes, but I also love my home in Lakewood. Let's take a tour through Lakewood, it's differences and it's history.

The people and neighbors in Lakewood are as outstanding as everything else in the city. They are so very nice and helpful. The schools are educational and fun at the same time, like Monroe. The community is wonderful. It's so cool and unbelievable!

Lakewood is different in so many ways. As my family and I drive through other cities in California, we find so much trash, it could fill a truck! We are lucky to live in a clean and pretty city where everyone is friendly and helpful. Down here in Lakewood, it's clean, but we all pitch in to clean up our community. This requires a lot of effort and teamwork, which says a lot about our citizens. I think that is really cool!

The history in Lakewood is amazing! For instance, a man named John S. Todd had a vision for a municipal form of government. His
plan was to improve the way that city services worked. He felt like this would be better and would be more inexpensive. This experiment became known as the "Lakewood Plan." It was an amazing plan. It worked so well that almost every new city in Los Angeles County copied it for the next fifty years.

In conclusion, you can see that Lakewood is an amazing place to live. The city has good neighbors, nice schools, and it is clean. Lakewood also has some pretty cool history that makes it special. Don't take my word for it, come and see Lakewood for yourself.
Luxurious Lakewood

When you drive through Lakewood, you should feel safe and proud. In the following essay, I will tell you my view of Lakewood. These are the topics; no bad areas, the people are friendly, and we have good, maintained parks and recreation.

Driving through our town is quite nice because it is a great place to live. I never see poor people or people you want to be sad for on the street. There is no graffiti whenever I look out the car window (not at least on the buildings). Everyone takes pride in his or her homes, gardens, and lawns. But wait, read on!

In Lakewood, we have terrific neighbors. Most know and care for each other. For example, when my mother isn’t home I am watched over. We respect one another and we treat each other with courtesy. Plus, all of our friendly neighbors are busy, even the retired ones. They are always visiting someone.

Our town has wonderful places like the park. The parks have well-maintained grass and plants, safe, and there is never a lot of
trash scattered around. I think the reason we don't have gangs or graffiti in our town is the recreational activities. It takes your mind off gangs and being in those sorts of groups. When you live in Lakewood you should feel proud.

In conclusion, I believe Lakewood is the best town in Los Angeles County. The whole city we live in is a great place to have a domicile. You have got to admit most neighbors are really sweet and kind. Plus the recreational activities are so organized. As I sit in my home in Lakewood, I feel happy, safe, secure, and good. You should feel that way too.
My City, Lakewood

My city, Lakewood, is one of the best cities in California! I think this because Lakewood has an awesome history, good neighborhoods, and everyone is filled with pride.

Lakewood has a very interesting history. Before Lakewood became a city, there were good Native Americans. The Native Americans would gather acorns and edible grasses. They hunted deer and fished. They also took advantage of their climate and there source of fresh water. The land in the present city used to be a rancho. After World War II, land developers began to build what is now our beautiful city that everyone loves.

Lakewood has many great neighborhoods. For example, I live on Ostrom Avenue. Every day as I walk home from school, I notice that the streets and yards are clean. Everyone is very nice to one another. I see everybody, every day, always smiling, always
friendly. I remember when I was five or six years old, my neighbors invited me over to play exciting games. Everyone knows each other.

If you take a trip to Lakewood, you will find great pride. For instance, we received a letter asking people to hang a yellow ribbon up to show our pride for America. Up and down every street, all the houses displayed this yellow ribbon. Our citizens like to participate in the city’s special activities. You can go to parks and participate in arts and crafts. Sometimes the parks have a talent show and those are a lot of fun. The people in Lakewood enjoy helping people when they are free. Wherever you look in Lakewood, you always see them smiling for this awesome city.

Now you know this amazing city. It has an interesting history, good neighborhoods, and a lot of pride. Each day is new and waiting to happen. Each day is a mystery and I love it!
An Incredible Teacher

I would like to tell you about someone very special who works in Lakewood. This very special person happens to work at Monroe K-8 School. Her name is Mrs. Bethel, and she is an incredible teacher! There are a lot of good teachers, but she goes above and beyond with her teaching.

Although I had Mrs. Bethel in fourth grade, when I left her I felt like I was ready for middle school. She had very high expectations for us and she was strict, but she always had a positive attitude. One of the many things she taught us was good study habits. We learned how to take so many different kinds of notes. Mrs. Bethel also got me hooked on books. Before I was in her class, I used to dread reading. She taught me that there are a ton of great books and that reading is fun. She lent everyone a book called By the Great Horn Spoon! Every day we would read it as a class, and every day I couldn't wait to find out what happened next, so I bought the book! Thanks to Mrs. Bethel, I will stay up two hours past my bedtime to finish a great book!

Mrs. Bethel is very big on building self-esteem. She does this by having her fourth grade classes perform for the school. The first time our class performed, it was not for the whole school. We just wore Halloween masks and sang Halloween songs to the kindergarten classes. But the second time, we did a Christmas program and the whole school came. We acted out How the Grinch Stole Christmas. One of my favorite songs that we sang after the play was Mrs. Bethel's version of Jingle Bells. The other performance was like a review of different times in California's history. We sang songs about pioneers and about Spanish sailors, and we even sang a song in Spanish. At the very end, we did square dancing, which we had been practicing for months. Mrs. Bethel was even able to get our parents on stage to dance too. That was hilarious!

Mrs. Bethel always tries to make school fun. I remember when the class was getting bored with science; she found a way to make it extremely interesting. She brought out a bowl of green, smelly goo. She told us that it was called "obleck". It was supposedly part of an ocean on a newly discovered planet.
She said that her husband, who is a scientist, was able to get this "obleck" for us. Now we were only in fourth grade so we believed it! We studied it and had so much fun. A few days later, once we were done studying it, we were told that there was no new planet, no new ocean, and that "obleck" was simply a mixture of starch, water, and green food coloring. She did all of this to prove that science was fun; she was right!

Mrs. Bethel also made history exciting. When we were studying the Gold Rush, she filled a plastic pool with water, sand, and Fool's Gold. We got to go panning for gold! When we were learning about ranchos, we actually built a replica of a house on a rancho. To decorate it, we made candles, paper flowers, tin punches, and braided ropes. It was so much fun!

Mrs. Bethel is in charge of our school's monthly morning meeting. On the first Thursday of every month the whole school gathers outside in the morning. We sing a patriotic song and discuss the attribute of the month. Then we listen to Mrs. Bethel and the principal make announcements about upcoming events and hand out awards for Good Citizens and other contests. Mrs. Bethel leads all of this. She is very good at it, too.

I was very lucky to have Mrs. Bethel as my fourth grade teacher. She has made a very big difference in how well I do in school. If it weren't for her, I would not be such a good reader. She also helped me with my spelling and writing. She taught me that you can have fun while learning a lot, too. The great thing is that she's now teaching seventh grade, so I'll have her again next year!
What I Like About Lakewood

What do I like about Lakewood? I like the park system because it is really neat. There are about ten parks in Lakewood, and they are all named after someone or something that helped shape Lakewood.

The parks Del Valle, Mae Boyar, Mayfair, San Martin, and Monte Verde all have important backgrounds and information about them and how they were created.

Mae Boyar Park was named after Louis Boyer's wife, Mae Boyar. He was one of the developers of Lakewood, along with Mark Taper and Ben Weingart. Boyar Park was opened in 1959. The park is kind of different from the other parks in Lakewood: it has a bridge connecting the two parts so people can go back and forth between the baseball fields to the basketball courts.

Mayfair Park was opened to the public in 1951. It got its name from the Mayfair district, which is what they used to call the area long time ago. The park is really neat because it has a really large pool. I used to take swimming lessons there. My mother grew up around the park, and she used to take swimming lessons there too. A long time ago, Mom went to Mayfair's Tot Lot. My Grandma was the president of Tot Lot when my was a little girl.

San Martin Park was named after a national hero of Argentina and Chile who was a statesman and a soldier; his name was Jose San Martin. San Martin Park was opened in 1957. It is also known as the Pumpkin Park because of the pumpkin stage coach that is at the corner of Candlewood and Dunrobin. I play basketball at this park, and I also have soccer practices there. When I was a little girl I went to Tot Lot at this park while Mayfair Park was getting new playground equipment.
Monte Verde Park was built in 1967. It was built on the west side of the San Gabriel River. The park is a private park only for Lakewood residents that have a special permit to enter the park. In 2001 the park had improvements made. It is now very beautiful with a lodge called Vista Lodge and a trail that goes around the park. My mom used to spend the night at this park when she was in Girl Scouts. I have also spent the night at Monte Verde a couple times.

On May 3, 2003, I attended the dedication of the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail. I saw the mayor of Lakewood and some city officials on that day. We were among the first to walk on the new trail. I felt very proud and excited to be able to attend this special event.

I really like living in the city of Lakewood because of the community service. The parks are a major part of that service. They are really beautiful with green grass and lots of trees. "The city has not changed that much," says my mom. "I guess that we are starting a tradition in our family."

When I grow up, I will live in Lakewood too. My family will spend lots of time in the Lakewood parks, continuing our tradition.
Fourth Generation of Lakewood Living

My family has lived in Lakewood since 1953. My great grandma and grandpa watched their Carson Park home being built back in 1953. Their 3 bedroom 1 bath home at 6637 Fairmen that was once a beet field was finally ready for them to move in.

My grandma, Janice Hall, was 13 years old when they moved in to their Lakewood home from Compton. She soon started what then was called Lakewood Jr. High School in 1953. From there she went on to Jordan High School in 1955. At that time it was the closest high school. One year later Millikan High School was built and was opened. My grandma Janice attended Millikan High for her junior year in 1956-1957. In 1957 Lakewood High School was born and Lakewood Jr. High became Bancroft Jr. High. My grandma attended Lakewood High for her senior year and was the first graduating class for Lakewood High School...The Class of 1958!

In the late 50's to early 60's my school, Monroe K-8 School was built. It was directly across the street from my great-grandma's house on Fairmen. My Uncle Rick was the first in the family to attend Monroe in 1963, followed by my mom in 1968, my Uncle Eddie in 1973, and finally my Uncle Jeff in 1974. They all went to Monroe!

When my great-grandma passed away, her family sold her house of 35 years. Very sad day. My parents moved to Palmdale in 1988. They thought life would be better out there in the desert. I was born in 1991 and by my first birthday we were living in Lakewood again!

My parents rented houses in all areas of Lakewood for six years. In 1998 my mom found the perfect home in the Carson Park area not far from my great-grandma's house; it was just south of Monroe School. I am the third generation to attend Lakewood schools. I went to Cleveland Elementary for kindergarten and then started Monroe in the first grade. I am now in the sixth grade. Ironically, one of my best friends, Courtney, lives in my great-
grandma's old house (the one my grandma and mom grew up in). What are the odds of this ever happening? We had a new neighbor move in next door about two years ago, and it turns out he knew my Uncle Eddie and my mom from grammar schools they attended. Small world... but that's Lakewood! No one ever leaves!

My Grandma Jan will be attending her 40th Lakewood High School reunion this June. I look forward to attending Lakewood High School in 2009.

I love this city for its beauty and the community involvement. The street we live on is the best of all Lakewood. Every 4th of July and New Year's Eve, we have a block party. All 50 houses on our street get together, and we have FUN! We play games, have contests, and get to know all our new neighbors. Our street has had a co-ed softball team, the "Monogram Mudslickers".

At the end of this month they are starting a summer bowling league, organized by our street. We love our neighbors and most important WE LOVE LAKewood!

Who knows, maybe I'll settle down in Lakewood like the three generations before me did.

Amber McLaughlin
Monroe K-8
Mrs. Roberts, Room 27
6th Grade
I Admire Benny Woods

There is an amazing and caring person that I know and his name is Benny Woods. He works as a crossing guard in Lakewood. You're probably thinking that being a crossing guard is not an important job, but it truly is a very important job. Mr. Woods is a seventy-year-old man who has been doing this for at least three years now. Everyday he crosses many children and people across a busy four-way intersection. He told us that there has never been an accident there; I was glad to hear that. I don't think he has ever missed a day yet. Mr. Woods works Monday through Friday. He is a cute old gray haired man. He is African American, is very tall, and in great shape. He told us that he is getting pretty tired but that won't stop him. He wants to keep all the kids safe from danger.

People are always waving hi and bye to him and thanking him for doing such a great job. People also stop and talk to him for a while because he is very friendly. Many people give Mr. Woods gifts to show how much they appreciate him and the work he does. Mr. Woods says he loves his job and all the kids too. He is truly a caring and kind-hearted man. We see him every morning on our way to and from school. He always has a twinkle in his eyes that shows how much he cares. His smile will fill your heart. My grandma always talks to him. She thinks that he is a nice and sweet person. He is pretty funny too. He tells us some hilarious jokes; they make us laugh until our eyes tear.

I have met other crossing guards before, but none of them are like our Mr. Woods. He takes great pride in what he does and takes care of all of us everyday. I know he must love and enjoy what he does because he is always out there in the crazy weather. Whether it is pouring rain, scorching hot, or even cold and windy, we can always count on Mr. Woods to be there and keep us safe.

Mr. Woods makes a real difference in our lives and in Lakewood. I admire him very much because he keeps all of us safe and happy. So, if you ever see
Mr. Benny Woods, please wave and say hi and thank him. I know it would really make him feel very special, and it would also touch his heart.

I would just like to say something to Mr. Woods, "You are truly the number one crossing guard in Lakewood; I know everyone else feels the same way. I'd like to thank you too. Keep up the great work. We will miss you this summer. I hope that you will be coming back next year to keep us all safe."

Justine Rentfrow
Monroe K-8
Mrs. Roberts, Room 27
6th Grade
Lakewood: The Place to Live

Exactly what comes to your mind when you think of Lakewood? Pride comes to my mind. I have much pride in the city of Lakewood even though I do not live within the city limits. Most of my pride resides in my school, but little bits of my pride branch off of it. For instance, there are parks, such as Mayfair and May Boyer with activities for their communities. Besides the parks, there is a convenient shopping center known as the Lakewood Mall. In addition, the city is a safe haven and many people want to grow up in Lakewood and even raise their own children in this neighborhood.

I have been going to Monroe K-8 school, located within Lakewood, ever since kindergarten. For a grand total of eight years. Throughout all of those eight years, my school has kept me feeling safe and comfortable at all times. I have felt so safe and comfortable all those years because Lakewood is such a pleasant and relaxing city to be a part of. Nothing dangerous ever really happens anywhere near my school and that makes me want to show my pride because I have chosen such a great city to be apart of and a really great school to attend. On the other hand, Monroe is not the only school located in this neighborhood. Another school, Cleveland, also has the safety and comfort of the city.

The Lakewood Mall is a family place with shops the whole family can enjoy. We should be proud of the Lakewood Mall because it gives children a place to go without getting into trouble. Also, the Lakewood Mall brings revenue to the city.

Community parks, such as Mayfair and May Boyer, have activities for everyone, in and out of the city, to enjoy. Mayfair Park has tennis courts, picnic areas, and swimming classes for all those who live within this neighborhood, and for those who don't, to enjoy. May Boyer Park has basketball courts, a playground, luncheon places, and wide open spaces people can go to and enjoy.
themselves. Lakewood's community should be thankful and proud to have places like these.

Lakewood is a small city and yet many people still love it. Lakewood is such a humble and pleasant place to be that people, young and old, like living here. For example, many of my closest friends, and their older friends, have found the comforts of home in this little city. Even people, like myself, who live in another city would like to move to this neighborhood because of its peace. In addition to all of the people who would like to live in Lakewood, tourists would say that Lakewood looks like a great place to live. People of Lakewood should show their pride because they live in such a safe community. Some other people are less fortunate and have to live in places where violent things are always happening.

The safety, activities, and humbleness of this city make Lakewood such an appealing place to all who have visited, and those who live there. Obviously, Lakewood has much to be proud of.
Why I Love Lakewood

I have lived in Lakewood now, for 3 years. And in those 3 years, I’ve accomplished many things. I have a good education, made new friends, and am especially proud of living in a safe community.

Before I came to Lakewood, I lived in Signal Hill and was also bored there. The reason we had moved to Lakewood was because my brother was going into high school and my parents wanted a bigger house for six. When I came into Lakewood, I didn’t know anyone, nor did I know anything about Lakewood. But now, I have tons of friends and I know that Lakewood is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

I am also very proud that I go to school at James Monroe. It had helped me get a good education. It had help me learn more and taught me the important things in life. Each and every teacher taught me at least something in life. My sixth grade teacher taught me if I read more, I’ll learn more. My math teacher taught me if I do well now, I will do well later on. I am very thankful for every teacher that I have had.

Lakewood is a special part of me because every year we have a Halloween celebration on my block and I help out every Halloween. It’s kind of like a tradition you can say. It’s really fun because after you’re done helping out, you get a really good feeling out of it. Plus, you meet new people every year.

Lakewood is a small, but secure community. In 1953, a man decided to manage their own city. After a vote in 1954 that gave a strong majority for independence, Lakewood incorporated. When Lakewood became a city on April 16, 1954, it was the first California city to incorporate since 1939. Lakewood was the nation’s first contract city, which is an enforceable agreement; covenant.

Lakewood will always be a part of my life. I am very happy that we moved to Lakewood because if we haven’t I wouldn’t be where I am; with a good education, great friends and a wonderful school.
My Experience Lakewood

A 50 years has gone by Lakewood has only gotten better. From the time it was built till now, it has only gotten cleaner safer, and more fun to be a part of. When the whole city started Ben Weingart, Louis bayer, and Mark Taper were the one to develop plans to make this wonderful city as it is.

When you drive or walk in Lakewood you don’t see much trash. That’s only true because neighbors of Lakewood help clean up. If you go to L.A. you see trash and graffiti. Our city does not have this. Why you make ask? It’s because our city has more neighbors that care than other who don’t. Like me! Once in a while I volunteer at school or at parks to help out. Which is something everyone should do to make Lakewood even better.

Isn’t it better to be safe than sorry? Here in Lakewood there is no being sorry, because it doesn’t matter where you are you’re always safe. There are no gangs, violence, or crazy driving. Another safety issue is on holidays like the 4th of July the city agrees to close some streets to make them safer due to resident petitions. So the city cares for it’s people too!

Being safe, having a clean environment is part of the it, but what about having fun? From sports teams to camps Lakewood is all about having fun. At parks they have special classes for adults and kids. For kids there are teams like soccer, baseball, and cheer leading there is also dance classes for kids too. Adults have special classes like fitness classes, dance classes, and craft classes. Joining a team is so much fun! Going to dance
class is another great experience for anyone and everyone. When it's hot out go to the pool and jump in. Lakewood is full of fun for everyone!

Growing up in Lakewood has been an experience of a lifetime and I can see why we moved here. Along with my friends and family we all agree that the past 7 years have been the best yet. So remember it doesn't matter where you are, whether it is on your block, at the mall, or on a busy street, Lakewood is a pretty cool place if you ask me!
It is hard to believe that this fine city we call Lakewood was once just open fields. When the Lakewood Park People bought all of the land from the Montana Land Co., trees were planted, grass was grown, and 18,000 new homes were built. In the beginning, many people thought Lakewood would become a slum within the next five years, but here we are fifty years later, and still standing strong. We can thank Mr. John Todd for that, he was considered the “father” of Lakewood. Mr. John Todd was a Lakewood City Attorney that had magnificent ideas on how a city should work. Lakewood became California’s sixteenth city. Many different people wanted to live in Lakewood. People from all over the world came to live Lakewood, and all of those cultures together, had to learn how to work as a community for the sake of Lakewood. Most of the individuals that moved to Lakewood, were from the Midwest, places such as Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, etc. Sixty families moved into Lakewood homes every day. I highly doubt anyone regrets moving to Lakewood, I know I don’t!

Today most feel safe in Lakewood. There are over four hundred neighborhood watch groups. My family and I have been residents of Lakewood for fifteen years. I think one of the reasons we live in Lakewood is because of its reduced crime rates. I often see many people walking their pets, at ten o’clock at night, sometimes even later! They don’t seem to worry about the fact that they are walking in the dark, in the middle of the night, when anything could happen! One of the reasons Lakewood is so safe is because of helicopters. Many people think that helicopters only fly around at night when something’s wrong, but actually Lakewood was the first city to use helicopters at night to keep people safe, and make sure that everyone is snug at home without a worry in their heads.

Parks and Recreation programs can keep kids and adults busy year round. As a matter a fact, these programs played a big part in the wholesome up-bringing of many children in Lakewood today, and fifty years ago. There are many events to choose from, like baseball, soccer, and many other sports, pottery, sewing (for kids and adults), taking a dance class, etc. Even I have participated in the Parks and Recreation programs. I have taken sewing classes, swimming classes, and ice skating. It’s a great way to spend your free time all year round.

One of the actions that made Lakewood what it is today is its workers. Most of the men in Lakewood were employed by Douglas Aircraft, and 90% of the men were also veterans. The Lakewood Mall was the best idea anyone could possible think of. The Lakewood Mall gave a portion of the sales tax from their sales to Lakewood, and made us able to buy better things to help our community, such as parkway trees, and fixing annoying potholes.

When I was a little girl, I could play in the front yard without my parents having to worry. I can walk to and from school without having to constantly look over my shoulder for danger. In Lakewood, pretty much everyone looks out for each other. I have lived in Lakewood my whole life, and I hope to raise my family here too.
Special thanks to the Jacobson Library for the use of its video tape titled, "It's a Wonderful Town." It was very useful and interesting!
Pride in Lakewood

Why do I have so much pride in Lakewood? This question can be answered many different ways. Answers that come to mind are the community activities it provides, the homey feeling in its neighborhoods, the wide range of schools it has, the low crime rate, and the shopping and business opportunities. Most of all my pride for Lakewood lies in these five things.

Examples of community activities that Lakewood provides are all the parks and leagues that adults and children can participate in. One park in Lakewood that has bike paths, playgrounds, pools, basketball courts, tennis courts, and baseball fields is Mayfair Park. Other community activities in Lakewood are the summer and after school activities that Lakewood offers free of charge. Lakewood is also caring about senior citizens and has many senior citizen programs. My pride is due to all these generous and beautiful places that Lakewood gives to the community.

In Lakewood there is a wide range of schools to choose from that have a variety of electives such as languages, journalism, orchestra, chorus, and many others. There are also after school sports, and academic programs. I have much pride in my school because I believe I would not do as well if it wasn’t for these academic programs. Another thing at every school there are specialists that help students that are falling behind. Also the equipment that Lakewood’s schools have; such as computers, shovels for the garden, and physical fitness equipment, and also give students a well rounded education.

The city Lakewood has homey neighborhoods and beautiful streets. I myself live in Lakewood and know others that do and everybody agrees that all their neighbors are like family because of this lovely community. Every house was built in the 50’s and are well landscaped with roomy backyards and many rooms. Because of these things I am proud to live in Lakewood.

In Lakewood there is a large mall where adults and children can shop. This mall has many arcades, clothes stores, Marry-go-rounds, and a food court with many different restaurants in it that make fresh food. Also at the Lakewood Mall there is state of the art security system. There are cameras in each parking lot and the monitors are reviewed by security guards within
the mall and report any crimes to sheriffs over radio. This helps to keep shoppers feeling safe.

Lakewood takes pride in being a city with a very low crime rate. This is due to hard working sheriffs and the neighborhood watch program. The neighborhood watch program is set up with one house in the neighborhood being the block captain. The Sheriff department notifies the block captain of any crimes or people to be watching out for and the captain informs the neighborhood what to look out for. There are signs posted in neighborhoods participating in the neighborhood watch program.

I am glad to be able to live in such a great city and would like to add that everybody I know has something good to say about Lakewood even if they don't live in Lakewood.
Lakewood

The land that is now the city of Lakewood was part of 500,000 acres of land that belonged to Manuel Neto, a retired Spanish soldier. His ranch extended from the San Gabriel River to the Santa Ana River and from the foothills to the ocean. Rafaelita Cota, a descendant of Neto, married an American merchant, Jonathan Temple and received the part of his land we know as Rancho Los Corridos as a wedding dowry. Rancho Los Alamitos, the portion of the land that belonged to Neto's son, Juan Jose passed to Abel Stearns.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in 1847, giving all but the northernmost reaches of Arizona to America. Gold was discovered a year later, and within 2 years, California became the 31st state to join the Union. Temple and Stearns sold their land for less than seventy-five cents an acre after the drought of 1862-64 killed off most of the cattle. The ranches were purchased by the Flint and Bixby brothers who used the land to raise sheep for wool. The Bixbys bought the Flint's land and sold 7,000 acres to William Clark in 1897 for $350,000.

The Clark family began a housing development in 1928. They also used the land for growing sugar beets and hay. During WWII, Boeing bought some of the land to build houses for its workers. 3,500 acres of land were purchased for $9,000,000 in 1949 to create a housing development. The houses were built on an assembly line, with approximately 560 houses started each week.

Louis Boyar, one of the men who later formed the Lakewood Park Corporation, began creating his city in the late 1930s, many years before Ben Welington purchased the last of the Montana Ranch from the Clark family. Boyar's plan included several improvements that were novel, such as street lights with underground wiring, parkway dividers to separate residential streets from the major highways, and many parks for the residents to use and enjoy.

Lakewood Park was a significant part of the development of the city and was listed in The Guinness Book of World Records as one point as being the largest shopping center on the west coast. In 1949, the May Company department store chain became the major store in the proposed shopping center. The original center was not enclosed and you walked outside to go from store to store.

When the needs of Lakewood's residents grew, so did the city. Lakewood took over the Park, Recreation, and Parkway District and created a city department for recreation in 1957 and also purchased the privately owned Lakewood Water and Power Company to provide water to the west side of the city. Ten years later, the city annexed the unincorporated county area east of the San Gabriel River, bringing more land and people into Lakewood.

The City of Lakewood has grown and changed since its early days. The shopping center that was once the largest on the west coast now has double the amount of stores and two movie theaters. The small grocery stores throughout the city are now supermarkets that are anchor stores for small shopping centers. There are 33 schools divided between four school districts, and a dream of having our own Lakewood school district one day. Yet in spite of the growth and a current population of around 82,000, Lakewood has managed to keep its small-town friendliness and charm, and remains a wonderful place to live.
Lakewood Essay

A lot of people who have never been to the Long Beach area have never heard of this little city called Lakewood. For me, this city has been my home for twelve of fourteen years of my life. In this great city, I go to Monroe K-8 school and am involved in many sports and programs. I am also a member of my school's middle school student council.

There are many great schools in the Lakewood area. My school, Monroe, has very high academic standards and testing scores. We also have some very good sports team. The school I am planning to go to next year is Lakewood High School. There are many great programs and sports programs there too. I know some people who go there already, and they enjoy going there. I also know some people who go to other high schools in the district, such as Wilson and Millikan, with high standards and great sports programs that they enjoy.

There are also great recreational leagues in the Lakewood area. I belong to leagues such as Heartwell Bobby Sox and the Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization. Also, there is a recreational program at Long Beach City College during the summer that my dad teaches tennis at. My sister and I go there and play sports such as tennis, racquetball, volleyball, golf, softball, soccer and swimming. There are also other sports at Long Beach City College and in recreational leagues, such as football and cheerleading. Also, at my school, I play soccer, volleyball and basketball. There is also track and football at my school. A lot of students come to the games not only to cheer on our teams, but also to socialize with others from their schools and from other schools.

I am in the student council in my school. I know some other people who are great leaders at my school and at some other schools. If there are that many great leaders just at my school, in the middle school, not even including the elementary that are great leaders already, I think that that is
a good sign for the future leadership of this city. I think that we will have a
great leader very soon in our future. Also, with this new leader, we will
probably have a great city, even better than the one that we have now.

I am very happy living in this small, wonderful city. Sometimes some
of the decisions that are made do not make me happy, like when there is
work done on many main streets at the same time. Also, I get angry when
and if they close the parks because of rain or because they are fixing part
of it. I know they are making it better for us, but I, like some of my other
friends, am very impatient. However, this is where I have lived for most of
my life, so I know which other streets to travel on and other parks to go to.
This city also offers fun places to go, like the YMCA, so I know I will always
have some place to go to have fun. This is why this city is so great! There is
always something you can do.
What I like about Lakewood

Why do I love to live in Lakewood? I love Lakewood because you have so much stuff to do. The people are friendly and your school is close. Lakewood is not a big city or a small city. It’s just right!

I have lived in Lakewood for 14 years, (all my life.) I go to school down the block. I go to Monroe K-8 School. I’ve been there for 9 years. (since kindergarten.) I am in eighth grade, my last year! Yea!! All my relatives live here. It’s great because I could see them whenever I want. My neighbors have lived in Lakewood for all their lives. Everyone knows everyone. It’s cool! Lakewood is a great city...

In Lakewood you can go to the malls, you can play sports and you can hang out with your friends. At the malls you can go shopping. They have the best stores! You also can take pictures, see movies and eat food. If you love sports, Lakewood has great sports. They have one of the best sports leagues. The coaching is great. I play club soccer and it’s really fun. I played volleyball and track for my school. I had a good time. In Lakewood, you can ride your bike or walk around the neighborhood without worrying. It is SO safe. You can meet your friends and walk around. The people are so kind! They would say hi and things like that. They are really friendly. That’s why I love Lakewood.

Lakewood schools are some of the best. They have great teachers and you can learn a lot. The kids are friendly and are ready to learn. The high schools are in good shape and they are safe. The academics are some of the best. Lakewood schools have lots of field trips. My school went to
Medieval Times, museums, colleges, parks and we have lots of dances. We always have a blast! Lakewood schools are great and I always have fun.

In Lakewood I love to hang out with my friends. We love to go to the malls or watch some baseball games. We also love to go to the parks. The parks are so cool! They have walkways and hills to play on. They build a new park like every six months. I love to baby-sit. It is so much fun because the kids look up to you. It means a lot to me. Also, I love to play soccer with my friends. That is always fun! When I was little I loved taking pictures with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. They would bring their crew like the elves. You would take pictures in the malls or even McDonalds! Right now it is big again. All the little kids love it. It is a blast taking pictures with them. I just love to hang around with my friends in Lakewood.

Lakewood is a great place to live. They have everything for you. Even dances! That's why I love Lakewood. I would never move from this place...

Go Lakewood!
What I like About Lakewood

I think that the question to this essay should be what don’t I like about Lakewood, but then I would be turning in an empty piece of paper. So, Lakewood began as a small city of a few hundred people interested in growing oranges and other fruits. A few years after it settled, the citizens began planting orange groves. Lakewood rapidly became known for its fruit. Its population started growing and the few hundred people that lived here became a few thousand. As people moved into Lakewood, the groves began turning into homes and neighborhoods, and the orange groves slowly became obsolete. Today, Lakewood is a small, often called a “sleepy” community, nestled in Long Beach. There are still some reminders of “Old Lakewood”. Many street signs have the last names of people significant in the history of Lakewood. Parks are named after founding people or people who have contributed greatly to Lakewood’s success. Lakewood takes pride in its citizens and does all it can to make life in Lakewood comfortable.

Lakewood is located right by Long Beach nestled between it, Hawaiian Gardens, Cerritos, and Bellflower. Unlike Long Beach, Lakewood is smaller and doesn’t have the same big-city problems Long Beach has to deal with. Lakewood is filled with people who have been here for a long time. Many of my friends have parents who grew up in Lakewood. There is a lot of pride in the people who have grown up here and are now raising their own children here. Many of my neighbors have been living in the same homes since they were originally built in the 1950’s. My house was built in 1953 and has had only four owners. My neighbors on one side have lived here 47 years! That’s a long time in one place. They must love Lakewood! Many of the newer families in our neighborhood are kids who have grown up here and are starting their own families. People know each other and like to spend time together. There are lots of block parties and neighborhood barbecues.

Lakewood is a very “together” city meaning that there is not a lot of crime or the sense of feeling unsafe. People are neighborly and truly care about one another. It’s a city trying to stay small enough that people like it, but it keeps growing! Lakewood Sheriffs visit schools, talk to you at the mall, wave from their cars and make you feel secure. Sometimes I hear the helicopters up in the sky at night, and I get a little scared. But I know that they are just up there trying to keep us all safe. Mostly, I don’t hear a lot of sirens in Lakewood.

There are many activities here in Lakewood, and I have had the privilege to experience some of them. I have attended Lakewood’s schools, been in their sports programs, taken some of their recreational classes, visited their many beautiful parks, ridden along their bike paths, shopped at their mall, visited places with their city-organized tours, and I have loved every minute of it!!! The teachers at the schools really and truly want you to receive the best education possible and that is what they give. In elementary school the teachers focus and make you understand the basics of math, English, science and how to keep yourself healthy (hygiene and brushing your teeth etc.) They also emphasize
the importance of community. We had projects that would take us out into the neighborhoods and learn about our environment and our neighbors. In middle school they increase the difficulty of the curriculum and continue to help you when it is needed. Students write many, many essays on history, English, science, and about being physically fit. When you advance on to high school students are given more freedom, yet still watched and given a wonderful education. In the high schools they have about six to eight classes daily and are given homework daily as well. In both middle and high school, students are encouraged to participate in community service programs. The main goal of this program is to get the students involved with their community. If you can get a student to take pride in their neighborhood and community, that is one less student who will vandalize or harm your city. Community service helps on all sides. Students learn to be a part of the community and the person receiving the help benefits by having help. This is one of Lakewood’s “high points”- their schooling.

When I go walking around the neighborhood with my friends or to the mall or to a park, my mother feels safe...as do I. I don’t think that I need to look back every couple of steps to make sure that I am safe because Lakewood has proven itself to be one of the safest places that I know of. I just love that feeling...I can go to sleep at night knowing that the next day is going to be just as wonderful as the day before. Neighbors look out for neighbors and their kids. There are lots of block parties and neighborhood activities. Schools have carnivals or family days. Members of the community are invited to participate in garden care, fixing schools, or taking care of the elderly. The city plans bus trips to places like the Getty Museum. Residents sign up and can enjoy a pleasant day away from home. There are Teen Nights, Mommy and Me programs, swim clubs, art classes, dog obedience classes, gymnastics, YMCA, and so much more! If you want to volunteer or just have fun, there is a program in Lakewood for you.

We are here today to honor this city, yet we all honor Lakewood in our own way every day, if it is by going to work, going to school, or giving of ourselves. Some people work in Lakewood government, some volunteer in senior homes or hospitals. Even something as small as throwing away your trash when you are done helps Lakewood. We should all try to help keep our community great, clean and looking as nice as it does today! If we all do our little parts to help each day then we should all be proud of Lakewood and all of our fellow citizens! We all help make Lakewood a great place to live!