

# **DeMille Middle School**

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Kimberly Herrera

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Wilfred Salvador

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Krista Acosta

Kaitlynn Estes

Herrera, Kimberly  
DeMille Middle School  
6th grade

I am proud to live in Lakewood because they care about the teens that live there. I know it is hard to find fun things to do at night that are safe for kids my age. Many places are set up for older teens that drive not kids my age. Kids like to have fun things to do that keep them out of trouble. I like to have places to go that I can be with my friends.

The city of Lakewood offers many programs for the youth of its community. Through the Lakewood youth center you can do many activities. They have a game room, homework assistance, and chess club that are offered on a weekly basis. Some of the special events they have for teens and pre-teens are teen coffee night and Totally Friday Night, these are happening once or twice a month.

My favorite activity that Lakewood Youth Center offers is Totally Friday Night. An abbreviation for Totally Friday Night is TFN. This program is a place where pre-teens can have fun with their friends. It happens on Friday nights and starts at 7 pm and lasts till 10 pm. We have to get in line at 5:30 and they let the first 400 kids in. Even in line I have fun sitting around talking to my friends. Once you are in the youth center there are workers that watch the front door making sure nobody comes in who should not and they do not let us leave until 10 pm unless a parent is there to pick them up at the door. When we leave at night the Lakewood sheriff is usually there making sure we are safe.

It's a very big place; you can hang out outside or inside. Outside there is a bon fire and benches. Inside there is a snack bar, tables to eat at, a game room, and a dance floor. There is a D.J. that plays really loud music, and all around the place there are people that work at TFN making sure everyone is safe and doing things that are safe. They make sure you are not harming any of the equipment or doing bad stuff. If you do something real bad they have you go to the office, if it's bad enough they call your parents.

TFN has themes when you go. There is stuff like football night and basketball night and when it is close to a certain holiday that holiday is the theme. When it is stuff like a sports night there is an activity outside which is the sport that the theme is. The dance floor is always crowded; you can barely walk through sometimes! It gets really hot on the dance floor. TFN workers walk around the dance floor and make sure you aren't doing anything inappropriate.

Kimberly Herrera

TFN gives my friends and me a place to go where we can be away from our parents but still in a safe environment. TFN helps keep kids off the streets where they can get into trouble with the police. I think kids get into trouble when they get bored and are left on their own to find something to do. I am lucky to live in Lakewood where they care enough about their youth to have special programs for teens. These programs not only keep us busy they allow us to have fun.

Salvador, Wilfred  
DeMille Middle School  
Ms. Turansky Room #401  
Grade 7

## What I Like About Lakewood

There are many things that I like about the city of Lakewood. I like the neighborhoods, the malls and many other things that are in Lakewood. Lakewood is a fun place for both old and young. Lakewood city is my favorite city, I think that it's very fun in Lakewood.

One of the things that I like about the city of Lakewood is the residential area. My neighborhood is a very nice place. There are people that I can have fun with, they are also very nice people. When I'm bored, sometimes I go out and play with my friends that live on my street. My neighbor is the same age as I am and he has three brothers and sisters that are very nice and respectful. We will ride our bikes, play football, basketball, and even baseball. Sometimes my friends and I go to the park and can have even more fun there. My neighbors are very nice and fun.

My favorite thing about Lakewood is Lakewood mall. Lakewood mall is a fun place where I can just hang out with my friends and have a good time. I like the food that they sell in the mall. I always like to eat at the new Lakewood food court because they have a wide selection to choose from. They have pizza, chicken, Chinese food and ice cold drinks. I have lots of cousins, and when Christmas comes, I have to go to the mall so that I can get many things like clothes, video games, and even more things. I like to go to the arcade and play games at the mall. When I'm with my friends I can just have fun at Lakewood mall.

In Lakewood, I like to go to the park with my cousins and friends and play basketball, and other sports. There are many activities that you can do in the parks. You can also volunteer and clean the parks and help run the activities at the park. At the park I can bike and we also have many parties at the park and play sports and eat.

One of the most favorite things about Lakewood City is that it is always being kept clean and nice. The roads don't have potholes like other cities. Many Lakewood citizens help and try to keep the city clean. I also like that the city of Lakewood has much security. There aren't many gangs in the city of Lakewood than other cities. Lakewood is a nice place that people can live in peace thanks to the people who run the city. I hope that Lakewood can be this way for many years.

Lakewood is the city I live in. The city of Lakewood is a great place. I hope that it stays this way forever. I think that Lakewood is a fun place where many people can live in peace and quiet. I love the neighborhood that I live in and hope that many other people that live in my neighborhood do too. Lakewood City is a kind and fun place, it's the place that you can live your life forever.

Krista Acosta  
DeMille Middle School  
May 13, 2003

## Living in Lakewood

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, " Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." The city of Lakewood is proof of this statement. It can be proud of the quality of living it has enthusiastically achieved for its citizens. Living in Lakewood for thirteen years has been a tremendous experience. The clean surroundings, the comforts, and the friendliness of the people, have made living here an unforgettable experience.

When I was small, my family and I always took evening walks after dinner. We enjoyed Lakewood's refreshing environment: the dancing June bugs in June, the block parties lit by colorful fireworks in July, the rolling leaves in August, the exciting Halloween festivals in the park in October, and the glittering lights of Christmas in December. Throughout the years, we felt comfortable and secure in our neighborhood.

Lakewood's many parks and recreational centers create a place for both adults and children to enjoy a wide variety of activities. The programs offered through the parks and recreation centers inspire children, boost the confidence of adults to tackle new challenges, and give newcomers to the city a chance to meet new friends. From athletic events to artistic endeavors, Lakewood helps our adults to express their thoughts and ideas and encourages children to develop their skills.

In the last fifty years, Lakewood has undergone many changes to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The Lakewood Center Mall, the many grocery stores, the movie theaters, and the hospital are a few of the amenities Lakewood has developed to

Krista Acosta

make life easier. With everything so close, these facilities save time and make life simpler.

Not only does Lakewood have a wonderful environment, it also has wonderful people. One person who exemplifies the community is my dad, Charles Acosta, the co-principal of Lakewood High School. He has made an extraordinary effort to help make the school and the community a fun and safe environment from his welcoming "good mornings" to picking up litter on and off campus. He always has a grand smile when he helps other people.

Not only does my dad do his part to make Lakewood a wonderful place to live, our police and firemen also help to create a safe and secure city. Our police are on duty at almost every public event. Our fire department's responds to problems quickly and efficiently. It is satisfying to know these people make our community a better place in which to live.

Throughout my years of living in Lakewood, it has been a pleasure to live in such a wonderful community. Lakewood is an outstanding example of what a city should be. Living in Lakewood gives me great pride in being part of its city.

Estes, Kaitlynn  
DeMille Middle School  
May 13, 2003

## What I Like About Lakewood

Lakewood is the only place I have ever called "home." My parents brought me home from the hospital in June of 1989. We lived in a three bedroom home at that time. In December of 1991, we moved to 4723 Conquista Avenue near Palo Verde and Del Amo, where we still reside today. Lakewood, my hometown, has much to offer families. First of all, Lakewood is a very safe place to live. Secondly, Lakewood is an extremely clean and well-kept town. Last, but certainly not least, Lakewood is a place that provides many activities for families and children.

Safety and security are important to all, especially to the people of Lakewood. We look out for each other here. A fire station is close by, even though I have never had to call them. Theft and burglary are not problems here. I see police cars patrolling the city to protect our citizens and solve any problems. I go to sleep at night feeling secure. Lakewood is even a safe place for my two dogs. When I leave for school, I know that my house and my dogs will be safe and sound.

When my family takes evening walks, we always see clean streets and sidewalks. People take care of their yards and homes, which enhances the beauty of our neighborhood. When we drive around town, I notice the immaculate buildings and well-kept streets. Obviously, people here really care about Lakewood's appearance.

Finally, Lakewood is a place for the family. My town provides parks, activities and programs that promote family unity. I have always participated in many sports, and I still remember playing T-ball with my brother at Del Valle Park. I have wonderful

Kaitlynn Estes

memories of my teammates and all the games we used to play in Lakewood parks. I still play softball and basketball in the sports leagues sponsored by the Lakewood Parks and Recreation. When I was younger, my dad, a teacher, took the whole family to the park almost every day during the summers. We swung on the swings, played tetherball, slid down the slides, and just ran around and had fun. After working up a good thirst, my dad always took us for a nice, cold slurpee! Of course, I have always enjoyed and still delight in the Lakewood Center Mall where there are wonderful shops and good restaurants. In Lakewood, there is always somewhere fun to go or something fun to do.

In conclusion, Lakewood is a wonderful city in which to grow up. This is where I want to raise my family because it provides many activities and places to go. Not only is it a fun place to live, it is also a very caring community where people are concerned about their neighbors and their town. Lakewood always finds a way to improve its environment and maintain its streets. It shows that Lakewood is a great community that provides family activities and a clean and safe environment. I am proud to call Lakewood my home.