

## **Hoover Middle School**

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

Melanie Aurelio  
Jessica Bardales  
Ryan de Castro  
Amanda Men  
Morgan Turner

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

Ashley Bardales  
Andy Gutierrez  
Mallory Meza  
Ashley Rice

Melanie Aurelio  
Hoover Middle School  
Ms. DuBois Rm 604  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### What I Like About Lakewood

Lakewood is a wonderful city to live in. There are many to visit, such as grocery stores like Albertsons, malls such as the Lakewood Mall, restaurants as in, Red Lobster, schools for example, Hoover Middle School and more. Lakewood is a lovely community and a very pleasant place to grow up in. I like Lakewood because it's where I feel free and when I'm here I feel more comfortable, and know that I'm at home. In this city I go around meeting new people, and several others get satisfying jobs, and good places to find homes where you can raise a family.

When I get up in the morning, I'm ready for a new day ahead of me. As I walk out the door, a cool breeze passes me by. I feel right at home.

It's a feeling that lets me know I belong here in Lakewood, and tells me I have something to be fond of. Lakewood has many interesting places all around as in parks. I like that Lakewood has various locations where they are possible to find because it makes the city simpler. Also, Lakewood has memorable sights such as, the fireworks they have for special anniversaries at the malls, and other memorable sights such as parks and libraries. They remind me of many things. Several of them remind me of my childhood. That's another reason why I like Lakewood. Many people here are very kind and considerate, and that sets a good example for others. Therefore, the people could change, because they have seen how others react around this city.

Melanie Aurelio

In Lakewood families grow up safely, and this city has people with good education, and can use their education here in Lakewood to help other people around us, and will make our community grow stronger. That's another reason why I'm fond of Lakewood. I like the people here in Lakewood because it makes this city whole. To see everyone work together to build up a strong society makes me glad. For example, the basketball, football soccer, and other sports teams, work together and help each other out.

I also like the school because it provides many students with education, and can make them know they can accomplish anything they want to do if they work hard at it. In addition, the schools here in the Lakewood and Long Beach district, have tried their best to fill the students with the right advise and skills. I attend Hoover Middle School, where I am proud to be here and learn. I like this school because here I could achieve my goals, and learn a lot more for the school years I have left till college.

Another thing I like about Lakewood are the stores. Whenever things are needed, the stores come in handy. If I need some sort of supplies, I like that Lakewood has markets and other stores where you can find the sorts of supplies you need. Or if I need to go shopping for clothes, and home needs, then the mall is always a perfect place to go. I just like Lakewood. I like it here, and I'm glad my family and I chose this place to live in. I think Lakewood is a wonderful municipality.

Bardales, Jessica

Period. 4

Hoover, 7th gr.

K-12 Writing Prompt  
Lakewood people we admire

"Don't Get Left Behind"

Through life we learn many lessons, but this one I will never forget. I didn't know what had happened until it hit me. What could I do to avoid repeating a grade? I couldn't even walk down a hall without having people laugh at me. It was time to change, but how? I asked myself so many times. That was the only thing I could focus on that day.

One day my teacher told me, "Don't get left behind, from now on I want you to try your best on every paper I give you. I'll give you extra credit until the end of the year. Whatever you do don't give up Jessica, I believe in you! You can do anything if you put your mind to it. Remember, anything is possible." These words, I will never forget.

From then on, I tried really hard. Sometimes I stayed up until 1200' clock at night with extra credit. Sometimes I wanted to give up, but I knew I couldn't. Somehow, deep inside, I knew he was depending on me. I've never tried so hard for something in my life. Sometimes I cried at night because I was so tired. I would sometimes wake up in the mornings at my desk with unfinished homework.

I will never forget my teacher. He pushed me all the way. I wish I could be like him someday. He had so much faith in me. What he told me that day, was the most important thing anyone has ever told me before. That's why I admire him so much. If I

Jessica Bardales

could, I would vote him the teacher of the year.

At the end of the year, I told him thanks for every thing he had done for me that year. If it wasn't for him, I would have failed a grade. The only thing I had to do is make it through summer school and I would be able to transfer to the next grade level. I will never forget him, for every thing he did for me, how could I. Out of all the people that I admire he would always be the first to come to mind, Mr.Garrison

Ryan de Castro

## LAKEWOOD PEOPLE WE ADMIRE

Dear Mr. Mayor,

The person I really admire is one of my good friends who is a thirteen-year-old girl who attends Hoover Middle School, her name is Sokara In. She is a very helpful person and she is very smart. She is also fun to be with because she makes up a lot of jokes and acts crazy too. She really knows how to have fun. Just like everyone else, she has some enemies too. I admire how she deals with her enemies. Rather than fighting or using fighting words, like cursing, she would rather leave it alone or even try to make up with that person.

Sokara has attended the Gate program or ALPS program throughout her whole middle school life. I admire her intelligence and her motivation to do well in every single one of her classes. Although she doesn't have straight A's, she still continues to work really hard in every single one of her classes. She shows great consistency by keeping her grades at least at an A or a B. She has had all A's and B's throughout the whole semester and nothing lower than that. I admire this quality in her because she is a good example of a hard worker.

Sokara is also a tutor; she helps younger kids with their homework or other subjects they are struggling with. She also gets tutored even though her grades are good. She gets tutored after school Monday through Thursday, rather than go outside to play like everyone else. I admire these qualities of her because of her willingness to help other

Ryan de Castro

people in need. I also admire her sacrifices and efforts to bring her education level to its highest point by getting extra help.

I also cherish Sokara's social ability to have a lot of friends. A lot of people want to be her friend because of her great qualities. She would be more than happy to make a new friend. She is a fantastic friend to me and to all her other friends. She is that kind of person who would be there for you when you are down. Or if you were having a party, she would party with you and have fun with you.

Sokara is also very responsible. She is the oldest of two sisters and one brother. She makes sure they get to school on time and makes sure they have something to eat at dinner. Another thing that shows that she is responsible is that she never misses a homework assignment. No matter how much homework she has, she would not complain to the teacher about it. She would just do it with no complaints. She would stay up until whenever she needed to, just to complete an assignment to complete the assignments. She is responsible for her pets. She has five dogs she has to take care of. She cleans up after them when they used the restroom. She feeds them and takes care of them. She says that they are just like her siblings, always got to feed them, always got to clean up after them. I admire this quality in her because it shows good responsibility and inspires me to become a more responsible person.

Sokara In is the most admirable person I know. She shows great responsibility by taking care of her siblings, dogs, and completing all her homework assignments. She is a very intelligent person and very helpful. She has been accepted to the ALPS program and she is a tutor for younger kids. Most of all, I admire her ability to have a lot of friends. These are the reasons on why I really admire Sokara In.

Sincerely,

Ryan De Castro  
Hoover, 7th gr.

Amanda Men  
Hoover Middle School

*7th gr.*

### "Lakewood People We Admire"

Mr. Wiblemo, a computer teacher at Hoover Middle School, is a person I admire. He has taught at Hoover for 32 years. This is also the first year he has coordinated Hoover's yearbook, along with a group of his students.

Even though he lives in Seal Beach, he is still a part of the Lakewood community. He means a lot to the kids at school, especially because of his great sense of humor and his nice personality. Every morning he comes to school and is ready to teach with a positive attitude. Mr. Wiblemo teaches a lot of interesting things, and a lot of different ways of using the computer. He makes his classroom a fun and enjoyable atmosphere, but still a learning environment.

His full name is Andy Wiblemo, he grew up in Mitchell, South Dakota. He has one daughter and one son. His wife, Jean Wiblemo also helps out around Hoover. In his spare time he likes to exercise, read, and go on the computer.

Even though the things he does seem ordinary, that is what makes him an admirable person. He could truly be someone you could look up to in a respectable manner. I look at him as an admirable person because of what he does for us kids and for who he is as a person. You can always find him helping a teacher or a student, whether its involving a computer or a math problem.

Mr. Wiblemo, an ordinary teacher, at Hoover Middle School, is the person I admire. I'm glad I had an opportunity to get to know him. Who would have thought the person I admire would be a teacher at my school? Take the time to get to know your teachers, you might find them interesling.



## WHAT I LIKE ABOUT LAKEWOOD

Morgan Turner  
Per. 7  
Ms. DuBois  
Grade 7  
Hoover

What I like about Lakewood is its shops, schools, and sport programs.

The schools in Lakewood are good for education; they're in very good community, and in good location. Lakewood schools such as Riley, Madison, Holmes, and Hoover are in excellent locations. Hoover is right across the street from Lakewood Country Club where people go play golf. Riley is by a park. The teachers at Hoover are nice and they make your education fun. This is why I like the schools in Lakewood.

The shops in Lakewood have just the things you're looking for, only sometimes. The Lakewood mall is a great place to go to, especially on a shopping spree. They just finished construction by putting a food court and a lot of other stores. They have grocery stores and fast food restaurants, and also restaurants. They're building new restaurants. My personal favorite is Souplantation a very good buffet. Lakewood mall has lots of places where you can get your hair and nails done, when you want to get a new makeover. Their department stores are open later then the mall is usually open, but they have nice clothes and cookware.

The sport programs in Lakewood are very fun. Pop Warner Football is for kids that are very young and doesn't have a school tackle team. Even though NJB is for Long Beach, but plenty of kids from Lakewood still join the National Junior Basketball League. NJB is a basketball league that is good for kids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Lakewood's baseball leagues are so big because so many kids participate in the sport baseball. I only participated in NJB because I like basketball and it's very fun. NJB is a fun basketball league if you're a boy you will playing boys from Long Beach/Lakewood and if you don't have enough boys teams in your division you will play other boy teams out of the city of Lakewood. Girls will play other Lakewood girls teams; however, they will also play teams out of the Lakewood/Long Beach area, such as Huntington Beach, Cypress, Cerritos, and other cities.

Morgan Turner

Lakewood also has excellent swim teams, for instance the Lakewood Aquatics. They have mainly girls on swim teams, but also good boys. They have tremendous divers and very fast swimmers. The Lakewood community doesn't only attract the swimmers, but also the coaches. The coaches come here because of our nice community and as well like to teach swimmers how to swim and dive and all the other good stuff.

Lakewood is in an ideal spot that is close to great vacation places, such as Carlsbad, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Palms Springs, Beverly Hills, and Hollywood, all are within two hours. If you like skiing in the snow then Big Bear is within an hour. If you want to have some fun with your family and friends you should go to Knott's Berry Farm, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Disneyland, Legoland, and the LA Zoo are all within an hour. Some people consider Lakewood as Long Beach because they are so close to each other.

I'm proud to be apart of the city Lakewood because it has a lot of nice people, schools, community, and is in a good area for vacations. I hear lots of people saying that Lakewood has excellent sport programs and has great schools for children education. I think those people are right because I love the environment that I live in, especially by the golf course. Lakewood is the best place to stay, learn, and have fun...

Bardales, Ashley

5-8-03

Per-4

Hoover, 8th gr.

## Someone to Admire

Many people today admire everyday people whether it be a classmate, teacher, or even a brother or sister. Whoever it may be we admire these people for their actions or words they speak that are inspiring. I remember my inspiration. It was about two years ago when I joined a girls' basketball team; that's when I met coach Val. I did not know it then, but now I know that she is definitely someone to admire.

Coach Val was very caring and was always thinking about others. She volunteered to be a coach <sup>at Belvedere park.</sup> That might not seem like much but it was because it was very time consuming and she wasn't paid for it. Most people can not even find the time for that, but somehow she did. She could have spent her time on herself but she choose to spend it on being a sports team coach, my coach. She always showed up fo revery game and practice with a smile on her face that showed even without words that she was glad to be our coach.

Throughout the season she was always cheerful and enthusiastic. The team always had our bad times and our good, even through that she was always still there to tell us "you'll do better next time" or "great job guys." She always knew just what to say even when the team was winning or losing. She always pushed us to win but was there when we lost. She always used to tell us "If we lost, we lost as a team and if we won, we won as a team.

She was not just a our coach, but more importantly a friend. She was a friend to all of us. When ever a teammate was having trouble , whether it was inside or outside the court, she always someone to turn to. Most of the coaches I had before were just coaches, but coach Val wasn't like any of the coaches that I had before. She could always put a smile on all of our faces followed by laughter.

We won the city- champions for Lakewood that season, but not because she taught us how to play, but of her guidance and the experiences she shared with us along the way that inspired us to push ourselves. The season was over, but her friendship will last forever and the wisdom she shared has taught me a lifetime of lessons, and because of that she is definitely someone to admire.

Hoover, 8<sup>th</sup> gr.  
Andy Gutierrez  
5-12-03  
Per. 2

That's cool! I think I'll buy it. What I like about Lakewood is going to the mall. Don't you? It's a good way to have fun. Then after the mall you can go check out the CD's at the record store. Then we'll eat. At night we can go to the movies. This is what I like to do when I have a chance.

The mall is a great way to spend some time shopping and meeting people. I like going to the mall to shop with people. There's good stores like Hot Topic, Spencer's and Sam Goody. I like going to Hot Topic to buy some clothes. I like going to Spencer's to see and buy some novelty toy's. I like going to Sam Goody and The Warehouse to buy CD's and look at some DVD's.

The food in restaurants are good. I like eating at Arby's, OutBack SteakHouse, McDonald's, Burger King, Winnershnitzel's and other store's. The food in Lakewood is good. They have a good variety of foods. The fast food restaurants are almost never crowded. There's some good snack shop's in the mall like Wetzel Pretzel, Cinnabun and a cookie shop.

The theater is a good hang-out-spot. You can go with your friends. There's a lot of movies to choose from. They're always playing the good, up-to-date

Andy Gutierrez

movies instead of the old movies. It's never crowded. They have good seats and it's always clean. They have good service and a good snack shop.

There's many places you can go to in Lakewood. The mall is the main place to go to. If you get hungry afterwards you can eat at a fast food restaurant. Then, later you can go to the theater. That's what I like about Lakewood.

Dear Mayor,

There are many great and outstanding people in this city of Lakewood, but the groups of people I admire the most are the crossing guards. If it weren't for them young children couldn't get across the street safely, nobody would be there to stop traffic when needed. The crossing guards are always on duty. Rain or shine. I'm not sure if they get paid enough, or for that matter even get paid at all. There is a lot of pressure relying on that job. One example is knowing when to cross the street, and knowing how to get the children or adults across. Going at the wrong time can be dangerous, plus knowing that your life is at risk and the people following behind you. I have lived in Lakewood for almost nine years and the schools I have attended have crossing guards, one in particular, his name is Art. Art works on the corner of Riley Elementary, and I have seen him there everyday. He is kind to everyone who walks by. I see him on the corner everyday, rain or shine. Even if it started to hail and he was very sick I know that he will be there. I hope that he gets a good pay for his job, because he deserves it. I'd like everyone to know the commitment Art and all the other crossing guards put into their job. Because this particular group of people don't get enough recognition for what they do. Its not as easy as you think, and I want everyone to know that. I hope you agree with me and give the crossing guards the recognition they deserve.

Sincerely,

Mallory Meza

Hoover, 8<sup>th</sup> gr.



Ashley Rice  
Period 2  
May 13, 2003

### What I like About Lakewood

Hoover, 8th gr.

I have lived in Lakewood for half of my life and the one place that makes me like this city so much is The Pacific Theaters. I like the Pacific Theaters so much because they are clean, they show all of the new movies, and the employees are always nice and helpful. If there is one place Lakewood should never change, it is the Pacific Theaters. I'd prefer to go to those theaters more than any other one. One other reason I like it is because it is close to my house too.

Every time I go to the Pacific Theaters, they are almost always clean. When I go into the bathrooms, they are always stocked with all of its needed supplies, it smells fresh and the stalls are overall clean. I don't have to hold my breath because it stinks so bad like some other bathrooms I've been to and that is something I hate to have to deal with. When I go into the room where the movie is playing, I don't have to worry about stepping in gum or on a sticky floor or on left over popcorn. Anywhere I go in the theater is clean and that makes me want to come back to that theater. That is why I like it so much.

When I go to the Pacific Theaters to see a movie, they are always playing the newest movies that have come out. There are some other theaters I've gone to that have played all the old movies, but not the Pacific Theaters. Every new movie that comes out, they are playing it. Another thing I like about them is when they do play a movie, they don't play it for like a week and then get rid of it. They play it for a couple a weeks before a new movie takes it's place and that gives people time to see it. That is why I like the Pacific Theaters.

If there is one thing I can't stand to deal with at the movies, it's rude employees, but I don't have to worry about that at the Pacific Theaters. They always sound professional and friendly. If I ask a question, they are always willing to help me and I like nice employees. There are other places where the employees are rude, not helpful, and shouldn't be working somewhere where they have to deal with customers. At the Pacific Theaters, no matter how the employees are feeling, they put their problems aside and nicely help their customers. That is another reason why I like the Pacific Theaters. Another reason you can tell it's a good theater is it is always crowded when new movies are showing there, so that must say something good about the theater.

As you can conclude, the Pacific Theaters are one of my favorite places to go. Whenever I want to see a movie, that is the first place to go. They are very

Ashley Rice

clean, the employees are nice and helpful, and they show all the new movies, not to mention they are in walking distance from my house. I will always go to that theater as long as they never change. I am proud to say Lakewood has one positive attraction to its citizen.